

linkup

June 2022

ADDIS ABABA

12

Eyosiyas Ayalew (Tomas)

The man who started a
new era in Ethiopian digital
content

ReadUp

Just another City
Make Your Next Travel
through Books

WhatsUp

Atmosphere
The new Place in Town

DressUp

Shopping in the Clouds



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From the Editor

The Ethiopian year is winding down; we only have a quarter of the year left to complete everything we said we would for the year. Maybe it's time to put that event concept you have into action. It's time to start that new habit you've been wanting to cultivate. As the Ethiopian rainy season approaches, we are witnessing the last of the city's sunny-season outdoor activities; take advantage of them while they last.

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Courtesy of Comedian Tomas



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LinkUp Brief

Linkup Staff Writer

May 2022



Atmosphere Kicks off to a Warm, Soft Opening

Atmosphere, Linkup Addis's newest open multipurpose venue, had its soft opening on Thursday, May 19, 2022. The venue, which has eight major sections including The Slope, a street-side mini-event venue, an outdoor bar, a shopping floor and an art gallery, received a warm welcome from the creative community in attendance. Atmosphere is expected to transform the event and creative sectors in Addis Ababa with several cultural and entertainment activities spread over the coming months.



A Month of Awards in Addis

It was a month of awards in Addis, with two major annual awards happening during the month. Guma Awards took place at Ethiopian Skylight Hotel on Thursday, 19 2022, with the who's-who of the Ethiopian creative sector in attendance. Another major award, Leza, also happened in May at Hilton Hotel.



Addis Buzzed with Events of Scale

May saw an incredible lineup of large-scale events attended by thousands of people. Diamond Platnumz performed at Gofere Afrobeat Fest, at Ghion Hotel, and Zoya at Greek Club on the same night as Zelan Festival (which took place on April 30th, 2022). The following week, Dawit Tsigie performed live for the first time in nearly five years in front of thousands of people at Mechare Meda. The month also had Sami Dan's Sibat concert at Hotel De Leopold and Ephrem Tamiru's Abren Concert at Ghion.



Accessories

Gabriella Hilawe

If you are looking for beautiful and trending jewelry pieces that reflect the best in you, you must check out Yedesh Essentials. Committed to make their pieces accessible to anyone in the city, Yedesh effectively combine their customers' desires with their own taste to curate gold-plated versions of these pieces.

You can visit their Instagram page to place your order, and guess what, they have free delivery anywhere in Addis.



Instagram

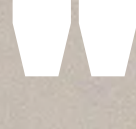
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Photo by: Abinet Teshome



You're never fully dressed without Yedesh jewelry



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Mado Hotel Greens Restaurant

Ephrata Kibru

On the way to Atlas from Bole Medhaniealem sits Mado Hotel, and on its first floor lies "Greens Restaurant," a proudly organic establishment that is the subject of this month's review. A foot inside the premises reveals a classy interior. There is nothing over the top - the design is chic, impeccable, and accommodates an ornate finishing touch. Once settled into my seat, I found the ambiance even more inviting, and I would later find myself hard-pressed to leave.

Although ripe with different meal options, 'greens' had two popular combinations - the "Greens Combination" and "Ye Beteseb Gebeta". Seeing as we were only a table of three, we went ahead

with the first option because the second accommodated between 10 and 12 diners.

Before our main dish came out, some chicken noodle soup made its way to our table. It was a thin soup that featured some superb spinach and leek. The chicken itself was very soft and savory from the stock it was in. The garlic bread that came with the soup was perfectly complementary. All in all, it was a great start.

Soon after we finished our starters, the colorful 'Greens Combination', a meal consisting of chicken, beef, Nile perch, and various other vegetable dishes, lay before us. It sat at 90 cm long and was a sight to behold. I loaded a portion of each



The salad was the first to make its way down my gut and it would also be the last, for that first bite convinced me the it was worth savoring until the very end.



Photo by: Hermella Hailu



meal onto my plate and proceeded to dig in. The salad was the first to make its way down my gut, and it would also be the last, for that first bite convinced me that it was worth savoring until the very end. The salad itself was, of course, made from the freshest of lettuce and the juiciest of tomatoes, but what ultimately made them shine was the dressing they came in. Said dressing was a thick paste which, in addition to avocado, included mango, which added sweetness I didn't know I wanted.

I next tried some of the grilled chicken and beef fillet alongside some broccoli. The chicken was well cooked yet maintained a soft texture, successfully avoiding the rubbery-ness that could easily come from overcooking. Although the chicken was flavorful, it couldn't compete with the beef fillet, which was juicy on another level. The tenderness of the cut was highlighted by how the meat was prepared. It was a delight. The broccoli was a simple side dish - it was boiled and seasoned adequately, complementing both meat dishes very well.

Once done tasting the chicken and beef, I tried the two different types of Nile Perch dishes presented before me. Both were grilled, but one was

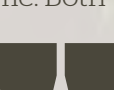
prepared with salsa and the other was seasoned more lightly. The first was very soft and malleable, with a pleasant lemony tang and a slight spicy undercurrent. Its inviting reddish hue was highlighted even more by the dried red peppers that adorned the meal. The second, on the other hand, was predictably much more plain. Although the superb grilling the Nile Perch received was still evident, the meal did benefit from my mixing some of the salad dressing into my bites. The eggplants I chose to enjoy with the fish were also well prepared, which surprised me as I don't really like eggplants outside of moussakas.

After clearing the Nile perch, I helped myself to some beef patties and roasted potatoes. The patties were, like every other meat present, soft. But unlike the others, this one incorporated ginger - a choice that added an interesting spiciness to the taste. The roasted potatoes I enjoyed with the patties were also a delight. Roasted potatoes are almost always going to be inoffensive as it would be quite difficult to go wrong with them, but I could still say the ones I had fell on the better side of the spectrum. They were quite pleasant.

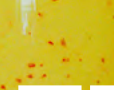
After helping myself to a plateful of the

"Greens Combination," I washed it all down with some mango juice. It was bright and yellowish in appearance, but the addition of some flakes of apple skin in the juice gave it some delicious looking spots of red. As for the taste, it was quite fresh and sweet - although not so sweet that it would be considered saccharine. It was, all in all, a delight.

And just like that, my stay at Greens Restaurant was over. However, I had already planned on coming back, this time with a group of my friends instead. I was thinking of either repeating the "Greens Combination" or trying the "Ye Beteseb Gebeta". Either way, my satisfaction is guaranteed. And if you choose to heed my recommendation, yours will be as well. Space for the pizzeria, but customers can sit wherever they please within the hotel to enjoy their pizza. Here's how my tasting adventure went.



The chicken was well cooked yet maintained a soft texture, successfully avoiding the rubbery-ness that could easily come from overcooking.



Soon after we finished our starters, the colorful 'Greens Combination', a meal consisting of Chicken, Beef, Nile Perch, and various other vegetable dishes, lay before us. It sat 90 cms long and was a sight to behold.



Photo by: Hermella Hailu

Photo by: Hermella Hailu

ThumbsUp

Eyasu A. Ashenafi

Multi-Purpose Venue Atmosphere

Atmosphere is a creative hub where self-expression, culture, and art are celebrated. It is a place where people from all walks of life gather and find a reason to celebrate life, establish and nurture relationships, explore opportunities, and share memories.

**Atmo
SPHERE**

Contact Information

Instagram: @atmosphere_251
Phone Number: +251993932116
+251911760603
Location: Bole Atlas, Ghana St. Beside Romel Electrical Equipment.



Entertainment

Wakanda Ultra Lounge

Wakanda's concept represents the future of Africa, a continent advanced with technology and riches. The consumer also relates Wakanda to a feel-good factor, and they want to aim to create that feeling through the design, look, and entertainment provided at Wakanda.



Contact Information

Facebook: @Wakanda Ultra-Lounge
Instagram: @wakanda_ultra_lounge
Phone Number: +251 983 838005
+251 933 903857
Location: 327/1 Mickey Leland Street
Addis Ababa
Website: www.wakandaloungeaddis.com



Co-Working Space

CoSpace!

While workspace trends come and go, one thing that does not change is the impact that the workspace environment has on professionals' health and wellbeing. A quality workspace design leads to a less stressful and more productive atmosphere.

CoSpace was designed considering the WELL Building Standard, which focuses on seven concepts of building performance: air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort, and mind.

Proceed to use their space with the knowledge that it was created with your well-being in mind.



CO SPACE
work, your way

Contact Information

Facebook: @Cospaceethiopia
Instagram: @cospaceethiopia
Location: Bole, Bahar Building, 3rd floor,
Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.





ATMOSPHERE PRESENTS

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Atmosphere

Eyosiyas Ayalew Comedian Tomas

LinkUp Staff Writer

Do you consider yourself a content creator, a comedian or an entertainer?

I have always wanted to become an established standup comedian, which I am still working on. I have always wanted to build a one-hour or so long material for a stand up. But, as they say, you have to first live to talk about things. When ideas come to my mind that crack up both myself and people around me, I put it out there for people to consume, but in a situation where I have not yet produced a one or two hour long material, I would rather refer to myself as a content creator. I am working to officially become a comedian.

Why did you pick the name Tomas?

You know, 80% of my life I lived in Hawassa, where there are a lot of interesting people with funny characters. When it started it was just with my friends where we would have an imaginary person where we would impersonate him in different scenarios. And looking for an easy, relatable name, we ended up picking Tomas. Whenever we were having some good time we started going like 'it's Tomas time', and it somehow grew in me as a character. The name has become such a household name that even my dad calls me Tomas these days.

Do you sometimes think about changing your name for good?

Yeah, who knows. I would turn around more for Tomas than Eyosiyas, so who knows...

If you had to look, which part of your work do you think made the biggest impact and shift in your career?

I think there have been three major parts in my career. The first phase was the audio time during the bluetooth era. It was when people

“**My first hit in comedy was when I heard my voice in random people's phones.**”

used to share audio's via bluetooth, and my first hit in comedy was when I heard my voice in random people's phones, and I couldn't tell them it was me. That was a big step for me because it told me that people might enjoy my content.

The second one is the filter faces where I used to make filter faces with different characters (which added a great spice to my content). The face filter brought characters that people really connected to.

The third was the Sitigeref track. There is a cultural trend that people say 'yihenin sitigeref tawerawaleh' and that really showed me that you can make impactful social commentaries without being too serious.

Given that your fame has grown rapidly, how do you deal with the popularity?

It spices up my life. You know everyone has some crazy/fun element in their personality and when they see me, that personality usually surfaces. In a place like Ethiopia, where people are not comfortable showing their emotions, it is a blessing to have people express their emotions around me. Even at concerts and performances where I am a bit tired, it gives me energy to see people's love for what I do. I also sometimes see people sending me comments and

messages where they sound like they are hating on what I do and my character, and all it takes is sending them a DM with a good sense of humor, and they wouldn't be haters anymore. It shows you that negative comments are not entirely negatively charged inside-out. And as they say, if everyone loves what you do, it means there is something wrong with you.

You have apparently created a great impact among your audience, what is the end game for you? What is the big picture?

I am now working on NFTs and I am also coming up with a YouTube content that will engage people at an even better level. The other project I have is the stand-up comedy material which needs a bit of time. Our local audience is one that is hard to entertain easily so I am working hard on my material. I am working hard on NFTs, and I am the first artist to sell NFTs.

When you started out, you were relatively unknown and had more freedom as to how you acted and said things. With your growing fame, how has your responsibility changed?

When I started with the audios and videos, it was the way I acted with my friends. However, as my content grew popular, my responsibility has definitely changed. That

responsibility is not only about my original content, but also contents other people create. I have had a few troubles in the past because people produce memes with my face in them, and some people think I actually said that.

On the other hand, people loved my content because of its freedom, and though I can't have as much freedom as I used to have, I try to make it open and free as I can.

Do you consider yourself a person who has shaped the Ethiopian online influencer market?

I think I did influence the market. I see content creators and comedians putting content online and I can see that I have given them some motivation.

What frustrates you as a popular figure?

One of the frustrating as a content creator is when you produce a same (or almost the same) quality content as you put in the past but people just don't get it. The other frustration is when people use my face for inappropriate content like racial content especially in memes. Once I made a music about election and it was turned to look like it was too much politics where it seemed like I was trying to put some message about some people in prison. That frustrated me a little bit.

“**I have had a few troubles in the past because people produce memes with my face in them, and some people think I actually said that.**”

You are now based in Finland; are you gone for good?

A few weeks ago, we launched I first came for vacation, but I wanted some concentration time and wanted to fix some logistical issues like credit cards so I can properly monetize my content. I have not been monetizing on the internet because my biggest focus was getting my content out there. The face filter brought characters that people really connected to. My content has mostly been available on Instagram. I also want to explore other ways of monetization. Working on all these, I might stay here for a year or two.

Aren't you afraid of losing relevance by staying too far for too long?

I think creators who travel abroad to stay there should work harder than usual not to engage with their audience. As a creator, what I never want is to come back home where everyone has moved on and my content does not have relevance anymore. I am working hard on that.

How old are you now?

I turned 30 a couple of months ago.

We know you are good friends with

ROPHNAN, do you plan to produce some collaborative works together?

ROPHNAN is like a brother to me more than a friend. He is a person who tells me right there when my content is not funny. We have a music video coming out around end of June, and I think that will be the next big thing.

Are you planning any shows any time soon?

There is this Habesha Restaurant in Helsinki and I am thinking to do a stand-up comedy show there. I will keep doing my work on social media.

“**We have a music video coming out around end of June, and I think that will be the next big thing.**”

Shopping in the Clouds

Atula Abadi

Remember the days when people took salt, pelts and animal teeth to flea markets? Surprisingly, the purpose of those teeth, pelts, and salt is not a sale or a purchase, but rather an exchange. A system of barter that kept us going until the first ego-maniac king or queen decided to stamp their faces on coins and spread them across their land. Like a dog pissing on a tree and declaring it his “property” for literally no reason other than.... DOG. Of course, in 2022, you COULD go to the market with some salt, exotic animal skins, and teeth, but you will be arrested and then beaten, faster than you can say “God bless the Queen.” No, no, we don’t even use paper money these days. It’s all done online, you see. E-Commerce. And with the futile hope of saving us all from a vicious beating at the local flea market, here are the top five e-commerce sites in Africa.

Konga, Nigeria



Konga, a Nigerian eCommerce platform founded in 2012, offers a third-party online marketplace. They deliver products to customers all over Nigeria and close neighbors, and their stipulated delivery time is: Lagos 2-5 days, Rivers 3-7 days, Abuja 3-8 days, and other states 4-9 days. Their categories are varied enough for pretty much any customer, and they even feature a first-party direct store spanning various categories, including consumer electronics, fashion, home appliances, books, children's items, and personal care products. Are you in or around Nigeria? Give them a shout.

Jumia, Multiple Nations

Currently operating in over 10 African countries, including Egypt, Tunisia, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, and more, Jumia is one of the largest e-commerce companies in Africa. Jumia is one of the biggest e-commerce companies in Africa, with around 31.8 million visits per month. It is also the largest market in Nigeria, which provides 26% of its monthly traffic. Products sold there may include décor items, groceries, clothes, electronics, books, and health and beauty products. It is so influential, in fact, that Jumia's wide reach in Africa has made it known as "the Amazon of Africa."



Kilimall, Kenya

An African eCommerce company currently operating in Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria. Kilimall was founded in Kenya in 2014. Kilimall operates two main eCommerce operations, namely online shopping, where local companies sell their products on the platform with global shipping, and product sourcing, where Kilimall sources products that are not available locally and delivers them to its customers. Kilimall also offers its merchants free warehousing in Nairobi, from where sold goods are transported by a fleet of motorcycles and vehicles. With a reach of over 500 shop owners and merchants, Kilimall is a rapidly rising name in the e-commerce game.



Afrikrea, Global

An online marketplace dealing in African fashion, arts, and crafts, Afrikrea has a range of products that include fine art, fabrics, jewelry, bags, etc. It serves clients in over 100 countries globally and has over 5000 shops. Afrikrea has been praised time and time again for their fast delivery, good quality items, reasonable prices, and excellent customer service. However, like any large shopping venture, there are a few negative reviews regarding orders gone wrong and the seller's inability to send return shipping labels. Regardless, Afrikrea's online store has over 250,000 visitors every month and is highly recommended.



Takealot, South Africa

Takealot is an online retailer mostly focused on electronics. It is a place for shoppers who seek a convenient and simplified online shopping experience. The site has been around for over a decade, and its extensive catalogue and wide range of entertainment products give it a distinct advantage. Customers can look at and perhaps even purchase anything from books to games, computers and TVs. Following a 100 million dollar investment from Tiger Global in 2014, in April of 2017, Takealot scored a significant investment of over US \$69 million from Naspers, one of Africa's biggest digital companies. Takealot is going for gold, and we will surely be hearing about them more and more.



Atmosphere

The New Cultural and Creative Hub in Addis

Amanu Teriessa

In an ever-swelling city like Addis, where millions of young people migrate from all corners, there is an ever-increasing fusion and merger of cultures and creativity, and the need for spaces that comfortably accommodate cultural and artistic expressions is often poorly satisfied. The few venues in the city that qualify for all these traits are either too small or not diversified enough to accommodate a wide range of artistic, creative, and cultural expressions and events. It is against this background of Addis's cultural scene that Atmosphere has launched.

When I first received an invitation to attend the soft launch of this new multipurpose space around Atlas Hotel on Ghana Street, I wasn't sure what to expect, and I set my expectations as low as I could, thinking I

might be in for some level of disappointment given how hyped up places usually get, especially when they open. And I was definitely not very ready for what awaited.

As I approached the venue, which is located just a few meters along the road to St. Urael church from Atlas Hotel, warm string lights and a colorful drive way up a sloppy asphalt gate told me I was there. The main gate of the compound leads into the parking (Park-King), an outdoor space with a tiki bar, and Wanderlust, a mobile restaurant that serves burgers and sandwiches—extremely tasty burgers and sandwiches. I was greeted by several familiar faces in the Ethiopian creative sector engaged in warm conversations, sipping

As I approached the venue which is located just a few meters along the road to St. Urael church from Atlas Hotel, warm string lights and a colorful drive way up a sloppy asphalt gate told me I was there.

Photo by: Amanuel Asfaw



cocktails and beer, and taking bites from Wanderlust's menu. The soft, yet extremely warm, Amapiantune playing in the background gave the entire place a soft, yet extremely warm vibe. The furnishing lends the place a down-to-earth, inviting feel.

Having met a few old friends and catching up after some time apart, I walked into the main building, which sits to the right of Park-King. The building is divided into five separate units, and the building greets people with a lot of warmth emanating from it. The brown wooden floor, the pallet-turned-sofa furniture, and a 90-degree street view match perfectly with the wooden bar, creating a cozy working atmosphere. The room serves as a bar and restaurant, making it convenient for work, social meet-ups, and/or a great evening chill.

Up on the first floor sits the artisan shopping area. Divided into six open shops, separated merely by color codes, the shopping area mainly features artisanal and handmade

items in a month-or-two-long standing bazaar. To the left of the shopping area is the humus bar, which has yet to open its doors to visitors. The second floor of the building boasts a beautifully set gallery and an indoor event venue alongside a recording studio.

The young, energetic lady who was facilitating my visit to Atmosphere explained that the venue is currently designing multiple events and content to take place at the venue throughout the month, and she also underlined that the venue is open for event organizers and performers to host their events. From the cozy outdoor event space to the cozy indoor bar and the gallery, I have found Atmosphere to be exactly what Addis needs to help build its cultural and creative industries. And I can't wait to see what will happen at this wonderful place. Memorable experience, and I would implore anyone to go visit and have a green afternoon.

The second floor of the building boasts beautifully setup gallery and indoor event venue alongside a recording studio.



Photo by: Amanuel Asfaw

Folks Who Sang

Alula Abadi

A form of contemporary music, folk is a genre that is western both in sound and content. Every story had a feel of rhythmic story telling of the ups and downs of working class folk. Commonly, the topics involve the plight of the common people. And topics like depression, oppression, and war were often discussed. In fact, regardless of instrumentation and musicality, as folk music grew and progressed, it became more of a vessel of storytelling than anything else. And while trials and tribulations are mostly the way of the folk, early and traditional folk music are commonly associated with folklore. The tales of stars selling their souls and of a devil stalking the woods of Jersey (the Jersey devil) were delivered beautifully through the superstitious words and twanging cords of this genre.

Be that as it may, there is a strong patriotic component to the music, as it is largely associated with the national culture rather than the artistic elite. Many string instruments, like the acoustic guitars, banjo, fiddle, and accordion, have been used with a storytelling voice, and some performers even went for authentic and exotic lap string instruments like the dulcimer and the zither.

Specifically, the acoustic guitar and zither were favorites among the earliest folk musicians, including Woody Guthrie, Jimmie Rogers, and Pete Seeger. This was big, of course, since Woody Guthrie in the 1930s is often seen as the first significant contributor to the genre. His earliest works focused on the

The 30s started with a bang for folk music, but it was the 60s and 70s that saw most of its development...



...As folk music grew and progressed, it became more a vessel of storytelling than anything else.

plight of the working class in the Dust Bowl Midwest (Dust Bowl farmers). And owing to the nationalist tendencies of folk music, Woody and his music were largely associated with socialism, communism, and just generally left-wing political tendencies.

The 30s started with a bang for folk music, but it was the 60s and 70s that saw most of its development and recognition among a new group of the masses. And sure enough, traditional American folk music started to blend with mainstream recorded pop music, and the music of the folk revival became empathetic narrative pop music. Since then, community-aspired genres like hip-hop and punk have evolved from this combination of folk and pop.

Folk is one of the most rapidly evolving genres in music. In fact, it is so quick and impactful that any artist that is seen phasing through multiple styles with a story and a string instrument is referred to as folky. But perhaps the strangest aspect of this genre is how it managed to start in the 30s and went on to be infused into every form of music involved in storytelling. No one turns down a good story. Stories are common. They are like rivers or sun shine, a common ground. And human beings have sat around fires telling stories for literally centuries, and it is this common ground which I think has kept the folk alive and singing.



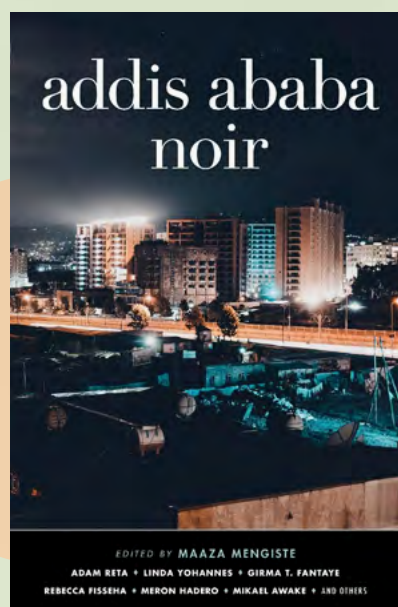
Just Another City

Haben Woldu

Thanks to technology, traveling has never been easier, both in the literal and non-literal sense. These days, we can travel with our imagination from one part of the globe to another with the help of tools like webcams, streaming services, and even our phones. Books have always been great travel companions too. There is nothing better than reading a good book to pass the time and keep your brain occupied during a long trip.

So here is a list of books to read to travel around the world while relaxing comfortably on your sofa. I hope the list of four books will help you daydream about your next trip and ignite the wanderlust in all of us!

1. Addis Ababa Noir by Meaza Mengistu | Addis Abeba

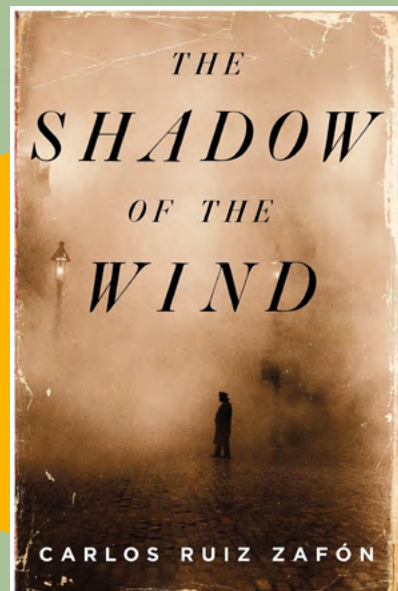


Perhaps because I was born in Addis, perhaps because I spent my formative years in Addis, perhaps because I made my lifelong friendships here, Addis holds a special place in my heart. I have traveled widely and fallen in love with so many cities, and yet not one city pulls at my heartstrings the way Addis does. It is only fitting that my first book recommendation is set in this magical city that I now get to call home again after two decades away. I adore this bustling and ever-changing city, despite its crazy traffic, unreliable power, scarcity of water, pollution, and high population density.

"Addis Noir" is a wonderful introduction to this sprawling city of millions of plus-inhabitants and a real melting pot of cultures. The book is divided into four sections: Past Hauntings; Translations of Grief; Madness Descends; and Police and Thieves. While I enjoyed all of the stories, some in particular stayed with me long after I finished the book. I truly enjoyed "A Double Edged Inheritance" by Hannah Giorgis and "Ostrich" by Rebecca Fisseha. Like myself, these are stories of women who lived abroad and who returned to Ethiopia with questions whose answers are entangled with their own histories and those of the countries they left and came back to. Despite the varied and distinct voices in these pages, no single book can contain all of the wonderful, intriguing, vexing complexities of Addis Ababa. What you will read are stories by some of Ethiopia's most talented writers living in the country and abroad.

Musical Pairing: *"Addis Ababa Bete" by the late Alemayehu Eshete is a great accompaniment for this collection of stories, as much like the book, the song is a love letter to Addis Ababa!*

2. The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón | Barcelona

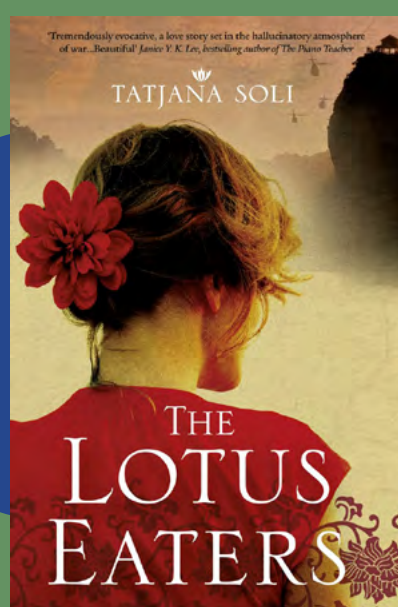


When I visited in 2017, the city of Barcelona embraced me with open arms. I loved its positive and open vibe, beautiful mountains and nature, the people, and most importantly, the amazing food. For good reason, artists like Picasso and Gaud are likely to come to mind when thinking of Barcelona, and for good reason. Gaud's distinct architectural style is woven into the city of Barcelona and is so much fun to explore at your own pace. Inspired by nature, his often-colorful work twists and turns throughout the city, making it a living museum on its own.

This novel combines mystery, a love for books, and secrets of the city of Barcelona, among its beautiful modernist buildings and dilapidated post-war streets. The owner of a second-hand bookshop leads his 11-year-old son to an elegant but decadent Catalan capital in search of the "Cemetery of Forgotten Books," then finds himself with one different from the others—a "cursed" book that governs and changes the course of the narrated facts.

Musical Pairing: *Much like the book, the song "Barcelona" by Ed Sheeran is an ode to the great city's vibrant history and culture.*

3. The Lotus Eater by Tatjana Soli | Ho Chi Minh



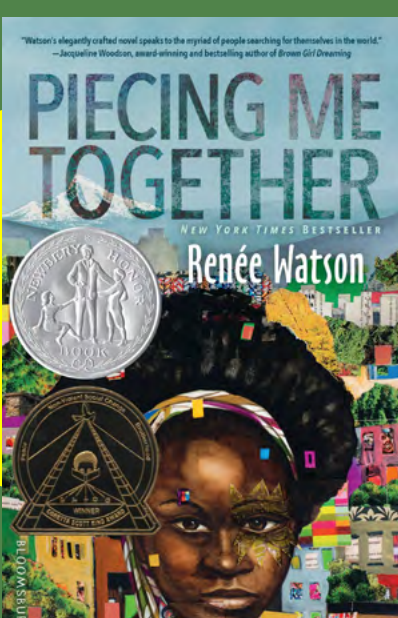
"The Lotus Eater" is set in Ho Chi Minh City, AKA Saigon. A beautiful love story that starts with the fall of Saigon. Two lovers make their way through the streets, desperately trying to catch one of the last planes out. Helen Adams, a photojournalist, must leave behind a war she has become addicted to and a devastated country she has come to love. Linh, her lover, must grapple with his own conflicting loyalties to the woman he loves and his country.

Betrayal and self-sacrifice follow, echoing the pattern of their relationship over the war-torn years, and with jaded, cynical, larger-than-life war correspondent Sam Darrow, spurred on by the need to get the truth about the war out to an international audience and the immense personal cost this carries, Sam and Helen's passionate and all-consuming love is tested to the limit.

Ho Chi Minh City is Vietnam at its most dizzying: a high-octane city of commerce and culture that has driven the country forward with its pulsating energy. It is a chaotic whirl, and visitors cannot help but be hauled along for the ride. I visited this lovely city when I was in grad school and would definitely recommend it for all that it has to offer. I traveled solo and felt super safe and free the whole week I was there.

Musical Pairing: *Jazz nights are a big part of Ho Chi Minh city's nightlife and what better song to go with this book than a song by the Jazz legend herself Billie Holiday. "Blue Moon" is a Billie Holiday classic that I can listen to over and over.*

4. Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson | Portland, OR



Portland is a city I called home for two decades of my life. I can sum up my feelings for Portland as "a thin line between like and dislike". There is so much to like and so much to dislike about this city. The best part of this city, perhaps, is the people that reside in it. I have met some of the most incredible, amazing, and kindest souls in Portland. Set in Portland, "Piecing Me Together" is such a moving book by Renee Watson.

Renee Watson's new young-adult novel's protagonist, Jade, makes art collages to process her experiences at home in Northeast Portland, as a black student on scholarship at a mostly white private high school, in a mentorship program she reluctantly joined, and in a new friendship with a white girl, and she does so without the standard love interest and focused on her own future. In Jade, the reader can see their authentic self and that they do not have to conform to societal norms. We all don't have to come from a traditional family to find success. We don't have to act and look a certain way. We can piece together our lives and be someone we can be proud of.

Fun Fact: *Renee Watson and I attended Jefferson High School in Portland.*

Musical Pairing: *Lizzo's "Good as Hell" is such a powerful song and should be an anthem for all those who are struggling with self love and self acceptance.*

Addis Arts Karta

In partnership with Link Up Addis, the “Addis Arts Karta” brings together user-friendly information about the exciting network of galleries and craft stores based in the city of Addis Ababa.

The 25 locations listed here can be easily found on googlemaps and have regular opening hours. First launched in 2019, the “Addis Arts Karta” is an ongoing initiative which aims to contribute to the growing cultural economy of Addis Ababa, facilitating information for visitors and fostering connections between art lovers and artists.

Enjoy!

Comments or suggestions?
Email addisartskarta@gmail.com

Concept: Adriana Telles Ribeiro
Design: Nadezhda Bobyleva



LOCATIONS

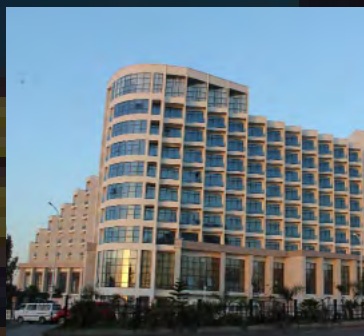
- 1** Zoma Museum
Area: Mekanisa, Vatican Embassy
Tuesday – Sunday, 10 AM – 8 PM
T: + 251 118354262
+ 251 941246180
- 2** Sabahar Crafts
Area: Old Airport
Monday – Friday, 8:30 – 5 PM,
Saturday 10 AM – 5PM
T: +251 11 321 5112/3
- 3** Laphto Art Gallery
Area: Mekanisa
Wednesday – Monday, 10 AM – 6 PM
T: +251 93 971 2314
- 4** LeLa Gallery
Area: Old Airport, Golf Club
Wednesday – Sunday, 10 AM – 6 PM
T: +251 11 653 6506/ 91 130 0756
- 5** St. George Gallery
Area: Arada
Monday – Saturday, 9 AM – 1 PM,
2:30 PM – 6:30 PM
T: +251 11 551 0983
- 6** St. George Gallery Interior&Decor
Area: Kazanchis
Monday – Saturday, 9 AM – 1 PM, 2:30
PM – 6:30 PM
T: +251 11 551 0983
- 7** Guramayne Art Center
Area: Piassa
Tuesday – Sunday, 10 AM – 7 PM or
by appointment
- 8** Fendika Gallery
Area: Kazanchis
Monday – Sunday, 13 PM – 6PM,
21 PM – 4 AM
T: +251 91 154 7577
- 9** Makush Gallery
Area: Bole, Airport Road
Monday – Sunday, 9 AM – 9 PM
T: +251 11 552 6848/11 552 6855
- 10** Sabegn Concept Space
Area: Bole Mehanemalem
Monday – Saturday, 10 AM – 8PM,
Sunday 10 AM – 5PM
T: +251 92 913 1940
- 11** Addis Fine Arts
Area: Atlas
Tuesday – Saturday, 10 AM – 6 PM
T: +251 91 342 6553
- 12** Selam Crafts
Area: Bole Mehanemalem
Monday – Saturday, 9 AM – 6PM
T: +251 91 152 9682
- 13** Muya Ethiopia
Area: Mennen
Monday – Saturday, 8 AM – 5 PM
T: + 251 11 123 4015
- 14** Entoto Beth Artisan
Area: Mennen
Monday - Friday 8 AM - 5 PM
T: +251 11 896 5097
- 15** Entoto Beth Artisan
Area: Bole EU Road
Monday – Saturday, 8 AM – 5 PM
Saturday – 8 AM – 12 PM
- 16** African Mosaique
Area: Yeka Shola
Monday -Saturday, 9 AM-5 PM
T: +251978110451/By appointment
- 17** Red Door
Area: Lancha
By appointment
T: + 251 912802149
- 18** Medemer Maas
Area: Goma Kuteba
Monday -Saturday, 10 AM - 6 PM
or by appointment
T: +251 91 250 7811
- 19** Moa Anbessa Art Studio Gallery
Area: Kazanchis
By appointment
T: + 251 91 186 4677
- 20** Entoto Fine Arts Center
Area: Entoto Park
Tuesday -Sunday, 9h30AM - 4 PM
- 21** Allé School of Fine Arts and Design Gallery
Area: Addis Ababa University
Monday-Friday, 9AM - 5PM
T: +251 11 123 2832
- 22** Modern Art Gebre Kristos Desta Gallery
Area: Addis Ababa University
Friday - Wednesday, 9 AM - 5PM
T: +251 11 122 1695
- 23** Alliance Ethio-Française Gallery
Area: Piassa
Monday - Saturday 9 AM - 6 PM
T: +251 91 124 7354
- 24** Hanubet Hamek Design
Open daily 10 AM - 6 PM
T: + 251 98 217 6367
- 25** Blue Hen
Area: Sarbet
Tuesday-Sunday 9AM - 7 PM
T: +251 94 597 5050

Hotels in Addis



Sheraton Addis: Luxury Collection

Location: Taytu Street
Contact No: +251 11 517 1717
Website: <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/addlc-sheraton-addis-luxury-collection-hotel-addis-ababa/>
Star: ★★★★★



Ethiopian Skylight Hotel

Location: Taytu Street
Email: reservation@ethiopianskylighthotel.com
Contact No: +251 11 6818181 or +251 11 6176389
Star: ★★★★★



Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa

Location: Meskel Square
Contact No: +251 11 517 1234
Website: www.hyatt.com
Star: ★★★★★



Best Western Plus Addis Ababa

Location: Namibia Street (Across Morning Star Mall)
Contact No: +251 11 667 1414
Website: www.bwplusaddisababa.com
Star: ★★★★★



Hilton Hotel: Addis Ababa

Location: Minilik II Street
Contact No: +251 11 517 0000
Website: addisababa.hilton.com
Star: ★★★★★



Ramada Hotel

Location: Africa Street
Contact No: +251 11 639 3131
Website: <https://www.ramadaaddis.com/>
Star: ★★★★★



Intercontinental Hotel

Location: Kazanchis
Contact No: +251 11 518 0444
Website: <http://intercontinentaladdis.com/>
Star: ★★★★★



Capital Hotel and Spa

Location: Haile G/silassie Avenue
Contact No: +251 11 639 3907
Website: <https://capitalhotelandspa.com/>
Star: ★★★★★



Golden Tulip

Location: Bole Road
Contact No: +251 11 618 3333
Website: <https://addis-ababa.goldentulip.com/>
Star: ★★★★★



Sapphire Addis

Location: Namibia Street
Contact No: +251 639 3907
Website: <https://www.sapphireaddishotel.com/>
Star: ★★★★★

Cafe & Pastries

Your choices for the best Ethiopian Coffee Experience



Tomocca

Location: Namibia Street (Next to Bole Medhaniealem), Piassa Across Eliana Hotel
Contact No: +251 93 007 8086
Closes at: 8:00PM
Customer Rating: 4.8/5



Cascara Coffee & Cocktails

Location: Meskel Square (Inside Hyatt Regency)
Contact No: +251 11 517 1234
Closes at: 12:00AM
Customer Rating: 5.0/5



Chaka Coffee

Location: Africa Avenue
Contact No: +251 91 120 2888
Closes at: 9:00PM
Customer Rating: 4.4/5



Bilos Cafe & Pastry

Location: Next to Millennium Hall
Contact No: +251 93 003 3177
Closes at: 8:30PM
Customer Rating: 4.4/5



Tryst Addis

Location: Olympia (on the way from Dembel City Center to Bambis)
Contact No: +251 94 406 1818
Closes at: 7:00PM
Customer Rating: 4.4/5



Bake and Brew

Location: Bole, in front of Tele next to Rungo liquor store
Contact No: +251 11 835 9698
 +251 91 015 1248
Closes at: 8:00PM
Website: bakeandbrewaddis.com
Customer Rating: 4.3/5



Dumerso Coffee

Location: South Africa Street (Bisrate Gabriel)
Contact No: +251 320 3973
Closes at: 8:30PM
Customer Rating: 4.8/5



YA Coffee Roasters

Location: CMC Road, Next to Gesund Cardiac Hospital
Contact No: +251 92 795 7171
Closes at: -
Customer Rating: 4.9/5



Feresula Coffee

Location: Africa Street
Contact No: +251 96 641 1151
Closes at: 6:00pm
Customer Rating: 5.0/5

Coworking Spaces

Affordable spaces for startups looking for spaces to work and for business people in Addis for a short or long-term stay



iceaddis

Location: Bole, Near Hayat Hospital, Zewdu Bldg. 5th floor

Contact: www.iceaddis.com
contact@iceaddis.com
 +251 11 667 4804

Services: High speed wifi, standing desks, bean bags, printer, scanner, projector, microphone, kitchen, free parking

Starting Rates: 380ETB/day



Blue Space

Location: Namibia Street, Grace Plaza 4th Floor, near Atlas Hotel

Contact: www.bluespace.work
info@bluespace.work

Services: High speed wifi, working desks, printer, scanner, projector, relax zone, kitchen

Starting Rates: 350ETB/day



Xhub Addis

Location: Cameroon Street, Morning Star Mall 5th Floor

Contact: <http://xhubaddis.com/working/>
info@xhubaddis.com
 +251 911 701 361

Services: Wifi, free photocopy/print (30 pages)

Starting Rates: 250ETB/day



Abro Coworking Space

Location: Namibia Street

Contact: <https://abro-co-working-space.business.site/>
 +251 911 11 0742

Services: Wifi, photocopy/print, desk, chair

Starting Rates: 250ETB/day

Restaurants

If you are thinking to explore international and cultural cuisine Addis has to offer, here are a few you may consider.

Italian restaurants



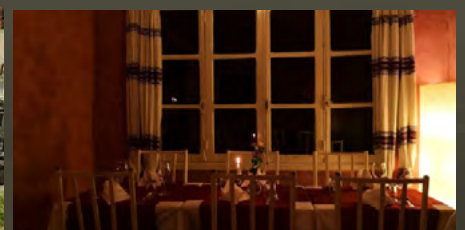
Agnese Restaurant

Location: Old Airport
Contact: +251 98 048 3824



Castelli Italian Restaurant

Location: Piassa, Mahatma-Gandhi Street, in front of Mohamud Music Shop
Contact: +251 11 557 1757



Mama Mia Italian Restaurant

Location: Next to Mele Zenawi Foundation, DAR Sahara Street
Contact: +251 92 900 2218



Bella Pizza & Pasta

Location: Bole Medhanielem, Near Abyssinia Mall
Contact: +251 94 141 5422



Dok Restaurant

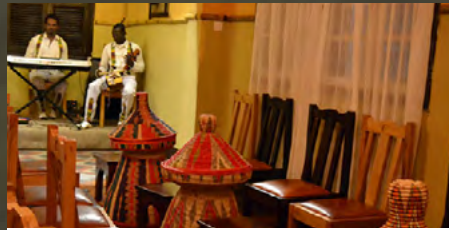
Location: Next to Bole Medhanielem Church on Cameroon Street between Zemen Bank & Abyssinia Bank
Contact: +251 95 399 2126
Working Hours: Mon - Sun: 08:00 am - 12:00 pm
Website: www.dokrestaurantaddis.com/
Email: dokrestaurant1@gmail.com

Ethiopian Cultural restaurants



Yod Abyssinia Cultural Restaurant

Location: Carl Square, Sar Bet
Contact: +2516612985
Known for: Ethiopian food, cultural performances



Dashen Traditional Restaurant

Location: DAR Sahara Street, Near Swedish Community School
Contact: +251 91 120 1723
Known for: Cozy atmosphere, cultural performances



Fendika Cultural Center

Location: Kazanchis
Contact: +251 91 154 7577
Known for: Exceptional jazz and Ethiopian Azmaris



Desalech Kitfo

Location: Africa Avenue, behind Skylight Hotel
Contact: +251 91 123 1859
Known for: Ethiopian traditional Kitfo (minced meat)



Totot

Location: Anbessa Garage, In Front of World Vision, Bole Sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Contact: +251 646 0718
Contact: totottraditionalrestaurant.com



2000 Habesha Cultural Restaurant

Location: Namibia St. on the way to Atlas, in front of Romie Burger
Contact: +251 91 151 2590
Website: 2000habesha.com

Middle Eastern & Mediterranean restaurants



Bait Al Mandi

Location: Mickey Leland/ EU Street
Contact: +251 91 151 8903
Known for: Middle Eastern Mediterranean Cuisine



The Kitchen

Location: Meskel Square, Inside Hyatt Regency
Contact: +251 11 517 1234
Known for: Mediterranean Cuisine



Aladdin Restaurant

Location: Off Bole Road, near Japanese Embassy Residence
Contact: +251 11 6614109
Known for: Arabian Cuisine



Istanbul Restaurant

Location: Cameroon Street, across Ukrainian Embassy
Contact: +251 910 17 4728
Known for: Turkish cuisine

Modern Restaurants



Golden Plate Restaurant

Location: Abssinia Building, 1st floor Cameroon St
Contact: +251 95 225 5555
Website: goldencatering.net

Marketing Companies in Addis



Profit Marketing Solutions

Location: Cameroon Street, Gulf Aziz Building, 2nd Floor
Contact No: +251 953 42 77 97
info@profit.com



Ttree Advertising

Location: Cape Verde Street, KT Building, 3rd Floor
Contact No: +251 118 21 2112
info@ttreeadvertising.com
ttreeadvertising.com



251 Communications

Location: Gabon Street, Aster Plaza, 3rd Floor
Contact No: +251 116 63 0182
info@251communications.com
<https://251communications.com>



Spotlight Ethiopia

Location: Africa Avenue, DH Geda Tower, 7th Floor
Contact No: +251 913 98 6445
<https://spotlightplc.com>



Zeleman Communications

Location: Africa Avenue, Snap Plaza, Snap Plaza, 10th floor
Contact No: +251 116 63 2800
info@zeleman.com
<https://zeleman.com>



Cactus Communications

Location: Africa Avenue, Bedesta Building, 4th floor
Contact No: +251 115 54 4901
info@cactusethiopia.com
<http://cactusethiopia.com/>



Berry Advertising

Location: Cameroon Street, Gulf Aziz Building, 3rd Floor
Contact No: +251 930 07 8086
www.berryethiopia.com



Eternal Media & Communication

Location: Gabon Street, Aster Plaza
Contact No: +251 114 70 3039
info@eternalmedia.com
<https://eternal-media.com>



Orangeswitch Creative Agency

Location: Bole Medhanealem, WoldeFikir Building, 3rd Floor
Contact No: +251 116 723 030
Email: Hello@orangeswitch.com
Website: www.orangeswitch.com

Parks & Museums in Addis



Zoma Museum

Location: Mekanisa, Near Abo Church

Contact No: <https://www.zomamuseum.org/>

Feature: Landscaping, gardens, antique shop



Addis Ababa Museum

Location: Meskel Square

Contact No: <http://www.addisababa.gov.et/de/web/guest/museums#3>

Feature: Museum, Restaurant, Panoramic View of Meskel Square



Unity Park

Location: Inside Ethiopian National Palace

Contact No: unitypark.et

Feature: Historical palaces, Zoo, cultural museum, restaurants



African Unbound

Location: Off Churchill Road (On the way to National Palace)

Contact No: <https://africaunboundmuseum.com/>

Feature: African Arts



Entoto Park

Location: Entoto Hills

Contact No: -

Feature: Bicycle and track, reading benches, camping site, restaurants, panoramic view of Addis Ababa

Leather shops in Addis

The leather industry in Addis is thriving with countless local and international leather lines. Here are a few.



Kuncho Design

Website: <https://www.kunchodesign.com/>

Contact: kunchodesign@gmail.com
+251 96 799 5384



Undken- Made in Ethiopia

Website: <http://www.undken.com/>

Contact: +251 912 75 2524



Meron Addis Ababa

Website: <https://www.meronaddisababa.com/>

Contact: info@meronaddisababa.com
+251 911 12 2108



Zaaf Collection

Website: <https://www.zaafcollection.com/>

Contact: +251 910 14 9965

Electronics stores



HEY Online market

Known for: Phones, computers, cameras and other electronic devices retail

Location: Bole Medehanealem, Hidmona Bulding Ground floor #12

Contact No: +251 95 396 4175



Ramanet Computer Solutions

Known for: electronics retail, accessories, maintenance

Location: Bole Road DH Geda Tower G Floor, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and DH Geda Mezanine floor Office #2

Contact No: +251 92 234 3536, +251 91 121 3566



Bino Tech Store

Known for: electronics retail, accessories, maintenance

Location: Bole Medehanealem, Berhane Adere Building 1st floor #119 floor #12

Contact No: +251 91 181 1446



Yonas Mobile

Known for: mobile maintenance and Unlocking service provider in Ethiopia. loaded with dedicated mobile engineers.

Location: Awlo Buisness center First floor office #102

Contact No: +251 91 191 1111

Medical Centers

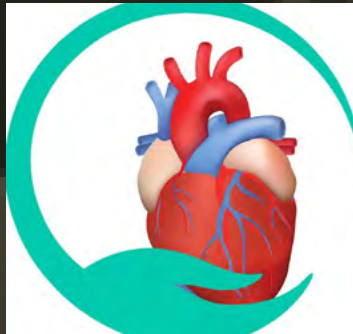


Washington Medical Center

Location: Bole, In front of Rwanda Embassy

Contact No: +251939515151/+251939525252

Email: frontdesk@wmcethiopia.com



Addis Cardiac Hospital

Location: Bole Ring Road in front of Ethiopian Airlines Head Quarters

Contact No: +25116634720/40/41

Email: info@addiscardiac.com



Nordic Medical Centre (NMC)

Location: Around Rwanda Embassy, in front of Tizeze hotel

Contact No: 8901 or +251929105653

Email: reception@nordicmedicalcentre.com



Bethzatha General Hospital

Location: Next to Addis Ababa Stadium

Contact No: 7477 or +251115514141



MCM General Hospital

Location: Wereda 14, Gerji, Bole Sub-City
Contact No: (Ethiopia) +251116292963
 (S.Korea) +82269309555
Email: msmcmet@gmail.com



Landmark General Hospital

Location: Mozambique St, Kirkos
 Subcity
Contact No: +251115525463
Email: contact@landmarkhospital.et



Droga Physiotherapy Specialty Clinic

Bole Branch: Next to Japan Embassy
Contact No: +251116687006
 +251974959595
Email: info@drogaphysiotherapy.com

Cinemas



Vamdas Entertainment

Location: Megenagna, next to Panorama hotel
Contact No: +251910878248
 +251118678098



Alem Cinema

Location: Africa Avenue
Contact No: +251986959595
Website: www.alemcinema.com



Century Cinema

Location: Gurd Shola
Contact No: +251987202020
Website: www.centurymalladdis.com



Gast Cinema

Location: CMC, in front of St. Michael Church
Contact No: +251930113388
Email: www.cinema.gastmall.com

Ride Hauling Apps



ZayRide

Location: Bole Mafi Mall
#602, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Call Center: 6303
Telephone: +251116 721 052
Website: www.zayride.com/
Email: info@zayride.com



Seregela (All Women Drivers)

Location: Merkeb Plaza, 5th Floor,
Bole, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

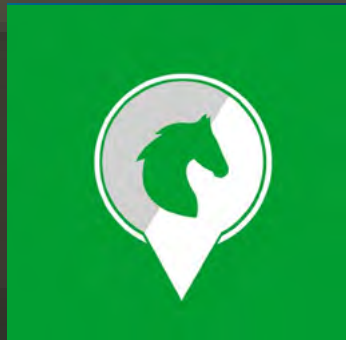
Call Center: 7878
Telephone: +251 11 557 3640/43/44
Website: [www.seregelagroup.com/](http://www.seregelagroup.com/services/)
Email: hello@seregelagroup.com



Ride

Location: Shekinah Bldg 4th floor,
Bole, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Call Center: 8294
Website: www.ride8294.com
Email: Support@ride8294.com



Feres

Location: Getu Commercial
Business Center, Airport Road,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telephone: +25190 704 0404
Call Center: 6090
Website: www.feres.et
Email: info@feres.et



WEZ Ride

Location: Raksym Plaza, Bole
Medhanealem, Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia, ET

Website: www.wez.et

Apartments

La villa Apartments

Location: Around Urael Church,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Telephone: +251 97 289 8989



Red Door Apartments

Location: Wello sefer Ethio-China
friendship road, KADCO Group
No.2 Building 1st floor

Line Number: +25111 443 0597
Phone number: +251 98 396 9696
3640/43/44
Email: info@Reddoor.et



Zen Apartments

Location: Olympia/Kasanchis-
Kirkos Wereda 01 House Nb 200
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telephone: +251 980 193313
+251 91140 2093

Website: <http://www.zenapartmentsaddis.com/>
Email: zenaparts@gmail.com



Noah Real Estate

Location: Abyssinia Plaza, 12th
Floor in Bole Right beside Bole
Medhaniealem Church

Telephone: 6100
+25194 911 1111

Website: <http://www.noahrealestateplc.com/>