

Somalia



Somalia is located on the eastern coast of Africa, just north of the Equator. The capital city is Mogadishu. Somalia covers an area of 246,199 square miles (637,658 square kilometers) and has a population of approximately 91.01 million people. The country gets its name from the predominant Somali ethnic group.

Somalia's tallest mountain is Mount Shimbiris, while the longest river is the Shebelle River. The largest city is Mogadishu.

The country is made up of six federal member states. It shares borders with Djibouti to the northwest, Ethiopia to the west, and Kenya to the southwest.

The current President of Somalia is Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

The Somali flag features a white, five-pointed star on a light blue background. The star represents unity, and the blue color symbolizes the sky.

Historically, Somalia has been home to ancient human settlements and powerful sultanates before being colonized by European powers.

Famous people from Somalia include the supermodel Iman, model and activist Waris Dirie, and human rights advocate Hawa Ahmed. The majority of the population practices Islam, and the official language is Somali, though Arabic is also widely spoken.

Popular Somali foods include *sambusa* (fried pastry), *canjeer* (flatbread), *basto* (rice), *malawax* (pancakes), *sabayed* (fried dough), and various rice dishes.

Traditional Somali attire is worn during cultural and festive occasions.

The folk music of Somalia is known as *Halimo*, and the popular traditional dance is called *Dhaanto*.

Independence Day is an important national holiday in Somalia.

One famous landmark is the Mogadishu Lighthouse.

