

## HARAR & DIRE DAWA – WALLED CITY & HYENA TRADITION

### OVERVIEW

Harar Jugol, the fortified historic town in eastern Ethiopia, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site famed for its dense urban fabric, shrines, and mosques. Nearby Dire Dawa serves as a transport gateway. Harar's evening hyena-feeding tradition and coffee culture add to its distinct character.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- City Walls & Gates: The Jugol wall encircles the old town; five historic gates organize access to compact lanes of colorful houses.
- Mosques & Shrines: The town hosts dozens of mosques and shrines; the urban plan preserves sacred sites and domestic compounds.
- Hyena Feeding: At designated spots outside the old town trenches, keepers interact with urban hyenas at night—an unusual, photogenic cultural practice.
- Coffee Heritage: Eastern highlands are part of Ethiopia's coffee heartland; sample fresh-roasted beans and local sweets.

### 1–3 DAY PLANS

- One Day: Morning old-town wander with a licensed guide; visit city museum and typical courtyard home; sunset viewpoints; evening hyena-feeding.
- Two Days: Add shrine circuit and craft cooperatives; day trip to Dire Dawa markets and the old railway buildings.
- Three Days: Add visits to surrounding villages and coffee farms; slow explorations of the gates and residential quarters.

### PRACTICALS

- Access: Flights connect Addis Ababa to Dire Dawa, with road transfer to Harar; some flights operate to Harar's small airport (check current schedules).
- Etiquette: Dress modestly near mosques and shrines; ask before photographing people.
- Seasonality: Eastern highlands are generally drier than the central highlands; rains are more localized—nights can be cool at altitude.

### SOURCES SUMMARY

Urban-heritage facts are based on UNESCO's Harar Jugol listing; the hyena-feeding tradition is documented in regional cultural and travel literature.