

# Eritrea

**Continent:** Africa

**Languages Spoken:** Tigrinya, Arabic, English, Saho, Tigre

**Population:** 3,600,000

**Currency:** Eritrean nakfa (ERN)

**Area:** 117,600

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Asmara', 'writeup': 'The capital city known for its well-preserved Italian colonial modernist architecture, a UNESCO World Heritage site.'}
- {'name': 'Massawa', 'writeup': 'A historic port city on the Red Sea with Ottoman and Italian architectural influences.'}
- {'name': 'Dahlak Archipelago', 'writeup': 'A group of islands in the Red Sea famous for marine biodiversity and diving spots.'}
- {'name': 'Keren', 'writeup': 'The second-largest city, known for its vibrant markets and nearby historical battle sites.'}
- {'name': 'Nakfa', 'writeup': 'A town symbolic for its role in the Eritrean War of Independence.'}

## Head of State / Government:

Isaias Afwerki (President)

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Independence Day', 'writeup': "Celebrated on May 24th, marking Eritrea's independence from Ethiopia in 1993."}
- {'name': 'Meskel', 'writeup': 'An important religious festival celebrated by Eritrean Orthodox Christians commemorating the discovery of the True Cross.'}
- {'name': 'Eid al-Fitr', 'writeup': "A significant Islamic holiday marking the end of Ramadan, celebrated by Eritrea's Muslim population."}

## Food & Cuisine:

Eritrean cuisine features injera (a sourdough flatbread) served with spicy stews called tsebhi, often made with meat, lentils, or vegetables, reflecting a blend of African and Middle Eastern culinary traditions.

## Brief History:

Eritrea was an Italian colony from the late 19th century until World War II, then administered by Britain before being federated with Ethiopia in 1952. After a 30-year war of independence, Eritrea gained sovereignty in 1993. The country has since faced political challenges and conflicts, including a border war with Ethiopia.

## Important People:

- Isaias Afwerki - First and current President of Eritrea
- Hamid Idris Awate - Leader of the Eritrean armed struggle for independence
- Bereket Habte Selassie - Eritrean scholar and political figure

**Current Conflicts:**

Tense relations and occasional border disputes with Ethiopia persist despite a 2018 peace agreement; internal political repression and human rights concerns are also reported.

**Youtube Links:**

- Eritrea: The Hidden Gem of the Horn of Africa
- Asmara: A Modernist City Frozen in Time
- Exploring the Dahlak Archipelago - Eritrea's Red Sea Paradise
- Eritrea's Struggle for Independence and Nation Building
- Traditional Eritrean Food and Culture