

# Somalia

**Continent:** Africa

**Languages Spoken:** Somali, Arabic, English, Italian

**Population:** 17,000,000

**Currency:** Somali shilling (SOS)

**Area:** 637,657

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Laas Geel', 'writeup': 'Ancient cave paintings dating back over 5,000 years, showcasing early African rock art.'}
- {'name': "Arba'a Rukun Mosque", 'writeup': 'One of the oldest mosques in Mogadishu, reflecting Islamic architecture and history.'}
- {'name': 'Mogadishu Cathedral', 'writeup': "A historic cathedral built during Italian colonial rule, symbolizing Somalia's diverse heritage."}

## Head of State / Government:

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Eid al-Fitr', 'writeup': 'A major Islamic festival marking the end of Ramadan, celebrated with prayers, feasts, and community gatherings.'}
- {'name': 'Somali Independence Day', 'writeup': 'Celebrated on July 1st, commemorating the unification of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland in 1960.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Somali cuisine features a blend of Middle Eastern and African flavors, with staple dishes like camel meat, rice, and flatbread, often spiced with cumin, coriander, and cardamom.

## Brief History:

Somalia has a rich history as a center of ancient trade and Islamic culture. It was colonized by Italy and Britain before gaining independence in 1960. The country has faced civil war and instability since the 1990s but continues efforts toward peace and development.

## Important People:

- Siad Barre - Former military dictator
- Hassan Sheikh Mohamud - Current President
- Asha Haji Elmi - Peace activist and politician

## Current Conflicts:

Ongoing conflict with militant group Al-Shabaab, political instability, and regional disputes continue to affect Somalia's security and development.

## Youtube Links:

- Discovering Somalia: History and Culture
- Somalia's Struggle for Peace and Stability
- Exploring Mogadishu: Somalia's Capital City
- Traditional Somali Cuisine and Food Culture
- The Impact of Al-Shabaab in Somalia