

ERITREA



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++291

Ministry of Tourism: PO Box 1010, Asmara Tel: (1)-126-997 Fax: (1)-126-949

Capital: Asmara **Time:** GMT + 3

Background: Eritrea was awarded to Ethiopia in 1952 as part of a federation. Ethiopia's annexation of Eritrea as a province 10 years later sparked a 30-year struggle for independence that ended in 1991 with Eritrean rebels defeating governmental forces; independence was overwhelmingly approved in a 1993 referendum. A border war with Ethiopia that erupted in 1998 remains unresolved.

Location: Eastern Africa, bordering the Red Sea, between Djibouti and Sudan

Map References: Africa

Area: total: 121,320 sq km land: 121,320 sq km water: 0 sq km

Climate: hot, dry desert strip along Red Sea coast; cooler and wetter in the central highlands (up to 61 cm of rainfall annually); semiarid in western hills and lowlands; rainfall heaviest during June-September except in coastal desert

Terrain: dominated by extension of Ethiopian north-south trending highlands, descending on the east to a coastal desert plain, on the northwest to hilly terrain and on the southwest to flat-to-rolling plains

Natural Resources: gold, potash, zinc, copper, salt, possibly oil and natural gas, fish

Population: 4,135,933 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Eritrean(s) adjective: Eritrean

Ethnic Groups: ethnic Tigrinya 50%, Tigre and Kunama 40%, Afar 4%, Saho (Red Sea coast dwellers) 3%

Religions: Muslim, Coptic Christian, Roman Catholic, Protestant

Languages: Afar, Amharic, Arabic, Tigre and Kunama, Tigrinya, other Cushitic languages

Economy: With independence from Ethiopia on 24 May 1993, Eritrea faced the economic problems of a small, desperately poor country. The economy is largely based on subsistence agriculture, with 80% of the population involved in farming and herding. The small industrial sector consists mainly of light industries with outmoded technologies. Domestic output (GDP) is substantially augmented by worker remittances from abroad. Government revenues come from custom duties and taxes on income and sales. Road construction is a top domestic priority. In the long term, Eritrea may benefit from the development of offshore oil, offshore fishing, and tourism. Eritrea's economic future depends on its ability to master fundamental social and economic problems, e.g., by reducing illiteracy, promoting job creation, expanding technical training, attracting foreign investment, and streamlining the bureaucracy. The most immediate threat to the economy, however, is the possible expansion of the border conflict with Ethiopia, which broke out in May 1998. The hostilities have drained away substantial resources vital to Eritrea's economic development.

Industries: food processing, beverages, clothing and textiles

Currency: 1 nafka = 100 cents

Railways: total: 317 km narrow gauge: 317 km 0.950-m gauge (1999) note: links Ak'ordat and Asmara with the port of Massawa; nonoperational since 1978 except for about a 5 km stretch that was reopened in Massawa in 1994; rehabilitation of the remainder and of the rolling stock is under way

Highways: total: 4,010 km paved: 874 km unpaved: 3,136 km (1996 est.)

Ports and Harbors: Assab (Aseb), Massawa (Mits'iwa)

Airports: 21 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 3 over 3,047 m: 2 2,438 to 3,047 m: 1 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 18 over 3,047 m: 2 2,438 to 3,047 m: 2 1,524 to 2,437 m: 6 914 to 1,523 m: 6 under 914 m: 2 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all.

Duty Free: goods permitted: 200 cigarettes or 20 cigars or 250g of tobacco, 1 litre of alcoholic beverage.

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from infected areas. Malaria risk. Hepatitis A and E are present. Hepatitis B is hyperendemic. Rabies is present. All water should be regarded as potentially contaminated.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

ASMARA

ALBERGO ITALIA, Tel:0029 1 1 120740, Fax:0029 1 1 126993, info@albergoitaliaasmara.com, <http://www.albergoitaliaasmara.com/eng.html>

BERHE AIBA HOTEL, Tel:2911 186097, Fax:2911 186066, hurui72@yahoo.com

CRYSTAL HOTEL, Central Zone, South-East 01, Bihat Street No. 1713 Telephone: (00) (291-1) 120944, Fax:(00) (291-1) 200911, E-mail: reservation@crystalhoteleritrea.com info@crystalhoteleritrea.com, P.O. Box 5287, Asmara, Eritrea

DAHLAK HOTEL, Tel:00291 1 552782, info@grandhoteldahlak.com, <http://www.grandhoteldahlak.com>

EMBASOIRAHOTEL, Belize St.175, P.O.Box 181, Tel: 00291 1 123222, Fax: 00291 1 122595, E-mail: embasoirah@tse.com.er, Web site: www.embasoirahotel.com

EXPO HOTEL, Tel:2911 184242, Fax:2911 186714, expohotel@ets.com.er, www.expohotelasmara.com

HOTEL ASMARA PALACE, Tel:291 1 153700, info@hap.com.er, <http://www.hotelasmarapalace.com>

INTERCONTINENTAL, ASMARA, WARSAY AVENUE ASMARA, 00000 ERITREA, Hotel Front Desk: 291-1-150400 | Hotel Fax: 291-1-150401, WEB site: www.intercontinental.com

LION HOTEL, Tel:291 1 151226, info@asmaralionhotel.com, <http://www.asmera.nl/Lion%20Hotel%20Asmara%20Eritrea.png>

MIDIAN HOTEL, Tel:2911 126232, Fax:2911 114006, <http://www.midianh.com.er>

NYALA HOTEL, Tel:2911 123 111, Fax:2911 122 914, navahotel@tse.com.er

SAVANNA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, Tel:2911 116183, Fax:2911 202 146, savanna@tse.com.er

SUNSHINE HOTEL, Bidho St. # 76 Asmara, Eritrea, East Africa. P.O.Box: 3406, Tel: 291-1-127880/ 127882/ 127874, Fax: 291-1-127866, Email: contact@sunshineasmara.com

RESTAURANTS & BARS

ASMARA

SWEET ASMARA CAFÉ, Tel:2911120020, Fax:291 125435 Harnet, <http://sweetasmaracafe.com>

MASSAWA

DAHLAK HOTEL, Tel:00291 1 552782, info@grandhoteldahlak.com, <http://www.grandhoteldahlak.com>

SALAAM RESTAURANT, 1504 West Lake Ave, Gurgussum Beach Area, Massawa, Tel:291 0 7 767 575



AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

ASMARA AIRPORT, Eritrea, PO Box 252, Asmara, Tel: +291 (0)1 181822, +291 (0)1 182899, Fax: +291 (0)1 181825,

ERITREAN AIRLINES, 89 Harnet Avenue, P.O.Box 222, Asmara, Eritrea Tel:291-1-125500/01 Fax:291-1-125465, Web site: www.flyeritrea.com