

# SOMALI



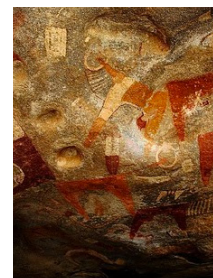
**FAST FACTS**

**SOMALIA**

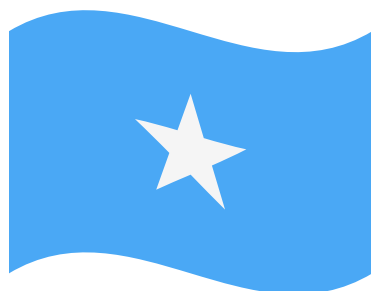
**Capital:** Mogadishu  
**Currency:** Somali Shillings  
**Anthem:** "Soomaaliyeey Toosoow"  
**Official languages:** Somali, Arabic  
**Area:** 246,201 sq miles  
**Demonym(s):** Somali

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- ★ Somalia is home to the world's largest camel population. Camels and other livestock provide livelihoods for nearly 60 percent of the Somali people - this is because the camel provides meat, milk, transportation, income and status for those who own one.
- ★ The Las Geel cave formations near Hargeisa, Somaliland, have some of the Horn of Africa's most ancient cave paintings. The paintings, which depict cattle in ceremonial robes, a domesticated dog, giraffes and humans, date between 9,000 and 3,000 years BC.



**FLAG STORY**



- **Blue** was inspired by the flag of the United Nations, which helped the nation transition to independence. In more recent years, the colour blue is said to symbolise the surrounding Indian Ocean and the blue sky above.
- **White five-pointed star** is known as the Star of Unity. The points of the star represent the areas where native Somalis resided.

- ★ England's first female Muslim football referee is from Somalia. Jawahir Roble used to live in Mogadishu but now referees football matches in Northwest London.
- ★ Somalia's coastline stretches 3,025 km and is the longest coastline in mainland Africa

**LET'S TALK FOOD!**

It may surprise many to know that **Spaghetti Bolognese** (known by natives as **Baasto iyo Sugo Hilib Shiidan**) is the national dish.

**HOW DO YOU SAY HELLO?**



Somali



Arabic  
(pronounced 'ahlan')

**FAMOUS FIGURES**



**Barkhad Abdi**  
Actor and Director



**Nimco Happy**  
Singer