



US State Dept Travel Advisory

The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens exercise increased caution in Eritrea due to travel restrictions, limited consular assistance, landmines, and wrongful detentions. Consult its website via the link below for updates to travel advisories and statements on safety, security, local laws, and special circumstances in this country.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

Passport/Visa Requirements

US citizens should make sure their passport will not expire for at least 6 months after they enter the country even if they do not intend to stay that long. They should also make sure they have at least 2 blank pages in their passport for any entry stamp and or visa that will be required. A visa is required. US citizens will need to get in touch with the country's embassy or nearest consulate to obtain a visa prior to visiting the country.

US Embassy/Consulate

[291] (1) 120004; US Embassy Asmara, 179 Alaa Street, Asmara, Eritrea; <https://er.usembassy.gov/>; consularasmara@state.gov

LGBTQ+ Travelers

When venturing abroad, LGBTQIA+ travelers can face unique challenges since laws, attitudes, and legal protections vary from country to country. Consult the website via the link below to learn what precautions to take before and during your trip.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/lgbtqi.html>

Telephone Code

291

Local Emergency Phone

Police 113; Medical Emergencies 114; Fire & Rescue 116

Vaccinations

The CDC and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for Eritrea: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, yellow fever, rabies, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia and influenza. <http://www.who.int/>

Climate

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

Currency (Code)

Nakfa (ERN)

Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

230 V / 50 Hz / plug types(s): C, L



Type C



Type L

Major Languages

Trigrinya, Arabic, English, Tigre, Kunama, Afar, other Cushitic languages

Major Religions

Sunni Muslim, Coptic Christian, Roman Catholic, Protestant

Time Difference

UTC+3 (8 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Potable Water

Opt for bottled water

International Driving Permit

Suggested

Road Driving Side

Right



Tourist Destinations

Asmara (includes St. Mariam Cathedral, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Kulafah Al Rashidin Mosque); Dahlak Marine National Park

Major Sports

Soccer, cycling, volleyball

Cultural Practices

Unlike in western countries where raised eyebrows indicate puzzlement, in Eritrea they signal affirmation or approval.

Tipping Guidelines

Tipping up to 10% of the bill in restaurants is appreciated, but not always expected; this amount may sometimes be included as a service charge. Tipping taxi drivers is uncommon.

Souvenirs

Tigrinya netsela cotton shawls/scarves, gold and silver jewelry, religious artifacts, pottery, baskets

Traditional Cuisine

Zigini — a spicy meat stew made with Berbere spices and eaten with a type of flatbread called injera

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