

## Debanma Eritrea!

Eritrea is a country situated in the Horn of Africa, bordering the Sudan in the west, Ethiopia in the south, Djibouti in the southeast and the Red Sea in the east. It has a coastal line of over 1000 km along the Red Sea.

Eritrea has a long history and it is a place where the Greek merchants visited frequently to buy precious materials such as ivory, scents, spices and other precious materials. The name Eritrea is derived from Greek word and it means 'red'. The ports of Adulis and Beylul (near where Massawa is located today) being the most famous ports and centre of trade during that time.

The Ottoman Turks also ruled Eritrea and some of the very old and historic buildings, for instance; mosques, in Massawa and Keren are influenced by the Turkish architectural design. Eritrea was again a land of many civilisations. The lowlands and the highlands of Eritrea are very rich in old history; however, much of its history is yet to be discovered.

In the late 19th century, it became an Italian colony until the end of the Second World War and transferred to the British military administration followed by Ethiopian occupation and has recently emerged from a 30-year war of liberation (1961 - 1991) against the Ethiopian occupation. It has a population of about 3.5 million with nine ethnic groups.

Temperatures: Eritrea enjoys a Mediterranean type of climate in the highlands which is temperate (in 20's °Celsius) and gets hotter as you travel to the lowlands from the capital Asmara.

Main cities and towns include: Asmara – the capital, Keren, Massawa, Assab, Adi Keih, Dekamare, Menderfera, Agordat, Nakfa, Barentu, Tesenei, Karoa, Adi Ugri, Segeneiti, Afabet, Hagad, Elabere'd and some new towns are now emerging fast.

Tallest mountain: Ambasoira

Main Rivers: Mereb Setit, Gash, Barka, Anseba, Humbol ..etc.

People: There are nine ethnic Groups and they are (in alphabetical order): Afar, Blin, Hidareb, Kunama, Nara, Rashaida, Saho, Tigre and Tigrigna.

This website is dedicated to the Blin ethnic group and is aimed in enhancing the culture, traditions, language, folklore and other social and cultural aspects of this group.

