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Traveler's Guide to **Somalia**

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Preparing for Your Trip

Tips on Packing



Clothing

Pack lightweight, breathable clothing for the hot climate. Ensure you have modest attire suitable for local customs, such as long skirts or pants and long-sleeved shirts. A light jacket or sweater is useful for cooler evenings

Travel Essentials

Don't forget your passport, visa, travel insurance, and photocopies of important documents. Bring a sturdy, comfortable backpack for day trips.



Personal Items

Bring toiletries, a reusable water bottle, and any other personal care items you might need. It's also advisable to carry a hat, sunglasses, and a scarf or shawl for sun protection and to respect local customs.

Forms and Documents

Passport and Visa

Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months from your date of entry. Apply for a visa in advance, as visa on arrival might not be available.

Vaccination Records

Check required vaccinations for Somalia and carry a copy of your vaccination certificate. Common vaccinations include Hepatitis A and B, Typhoid, Yellow Fever, and routine vaccines.

Travel Insurance

Highly recommended for health coverage and trip protection. Ensure it covers medical evacuation.

Invitation letter

The letter should explicitly state that the recipient is being invited to attend the event or function.



Converter/Adapter

Somalia uses Type C (Europlug) and Type F (Schuko) electrical outlets with a standard voltage of 220V. Bring a universal adapter and a voltage converter if your devices do not support 220V. It's also helpful to have a portable power bank.



Currency

The official currency is the Somali Shilling (SOS), but it's advisable to carry only U.S. dollar or EURO which are acceptable in Somali markets. Debit cards are accepted in larger establishments, but cash is essential for daily use. ATMs are available, but not widespread, so plan accordingly.



Arriving at **Aden Adde International Airport**

Staying Healthy

- ▶ Drink bottled or filtered water to avoid waterborne illnesses. Avoid ice in drinks unless you're sure it's made from purified water.
- ▶ Eat at reputable restaurants and avoid street food to reduce the risk of foodborne diseases. Ensure food is thoroughly cooked and served hot.
- ▶ Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer to prevent the spread of germs.

Staying Safe

- ▶ Follow local advice on safety and security. Be aware of your surroundings and avoid displaying valuables in public.
- ▶ Avoid traveling alone at night and be cautious in unfamiliar areas. Stick to well-lit and populated areas.
- ▶ Keep your valuables secure and be aware of your surroundings at all times. Use hotel safes for passports, money, and other important items.
- ▶ Stay informed about the local security situation through reliable sources and adhere to any advisories issued by local authorities or your embassy.



Local Cultural Guidance



Greetings

A common greeting is "**As-Salaam-Alaikum**" (Peace be upon you). It's polite to respond with "**Wa-Alaikum-Sa-laam**" (And peace be upon you too). Handshakes are common, but between men and women, it is customary to place the hand over the heart instead.



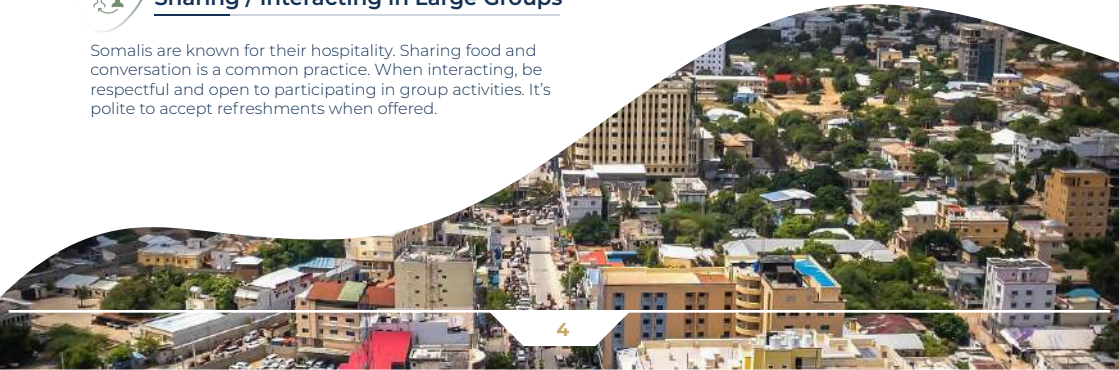
Relationship to Time

Time in Somalia is more flexible compared to Western standards. Be patient and allow extra time for appointments and meetings. Punctuality is respected but not always strictly adhered to.



Sharing / Interacting in Large Groups

Somalis are known for their hospitality. Sharing food and conversation is a common practice. When interacting, be respectful and open to participating in group activities. It's polite to accept refreshments when offered.





Pharmacies

In Mogadishu, there are several pharmacies where you can buy over-the-counter medications. Notably, **Shifaa Pharmacy** and **Gacal Polyclinic Center** are well-known. It's recommended that you bring an ample supply of any necessary prescription medications, along with the actual prescription.



Shifaa Pharmacy



Gacal Polyclinic Center

Hospitals



Dr. Sumait Hospital



Banadir Hospital



Digfer Hospital



Kalkaal Hospital

Benadir Mall

Benadir Mall provides a convenient shopping experience with a variety of stores and services. It is known for its clean and modern environment, making it a favorite among shoppers.



Location: Zoobe Junction, Mogadishu

Features: Supermarket, clothing stores, beauty salons, cafes, banking services.

Opening Hours: 8 AM - 11 PM daily.

Hayat Market

Hayat Market is a bustling shopping destination known for its variety of goods and vibrant atmosphere. It is a great place to experience local commerce and find unique items.



Location: Taleh, Hodan District, Mogadishu.

Features: Fresh produce, spices, traditional clothing, household items, small eateries.

Opening Hours: 7 AM - 1:00 AM daily



Shopping Tips



Bargaining

While malls typically have fixed prices, in smaller shops and markets, bargaining is common and expected.

Payment Methods

Most malls accept both cash and credit cards. It's advisable to carry some local currency for smaller purchases.



Safety

Always keep an eye on your belongings and be cautious of your surroundings, especially in crowded areas.

Useful Apps



RIKAAB (Food Delivery and Rides)

Provides food delivery and ride-hailing services. Download and set up the app before arrival for convenience. It's similar to Uber or Lyft, making it easy to get around the city.



WAAFI

A comprehensive app for mobile money transfers, bill payments, and other financial services. It's widely used in Somalia and can be very handy for everyday transactions.



Premier Wallet

Another useful app for mobile payments and managing finances while in Somalia. It offers similar functionalities to WAAFI and is a reliable option for handling money matters.

Mobile Money and SIM Card



Mobile Money

Mobile money is widely used in Somalia for various transactions, including paying bills, buying goods, and transferring money. Services like EVC, WAAFI and Premier Wallet are popular and can be easily set up once you have a local SIM card. These platforms offer secure and convenient ways to handle financial transactions without the need for a traditional bank account.



SIM Card

Upon arrival, you can purchase a local SIM card from one of the major telecom providers such as Hormuud, Somtel, or Golis. These SIM cards can be obtained at the airport or from various retail outlets across the city. It's recommended to carry a copy of your passport for registration purposes.



Mobile Plans

Various prepaid plans are available, offering a combination of voice, text, and data services. Choose a plan that best suits your communication needs. Local SIM cards provide affordable rates for both local and international calls.



Internet Access

Mobile data services are widely available, and 4G coverage is common in Mogadishu. Ensure your phone is unlocked and compatible with local networks.







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