

AFGHANISTAN

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++93**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Chara-e-Malik Asqhar, Kabul, Afghanistan Tel 25541 or 25341

Capital: Kabul **Time:** GMT + 4 ½

Background: Afghanistan was invaded and occupied by the Soviet Union in 1979. The USSR was forced to withdraw 10 years later by anti-communist mujahidin forces supplied and trained by the US, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and others. Fighting subsequently continued among the various mujahidin factions, but the fundamentalist Islamic Taliban movement has been able to seize most of the country. In addition to the continuing civil strife, the country suffers from enormous poverty, a crumbling infrastructure, and widespread live mines.

Location: Southern Asia, north and west of Pakistan, east of Iran

Area: total: 652,000 sq km land: 652,000 sq km water: 0 sq km

Climate: arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers

Terrain: mostly rugged mountains; plains in north and southwest

Natural Resources: natural gas, petroleum, coal, copper, chromite, talc, barites, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, salt, precious and semiprecious stones

Population: 25,838,797 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Afghan(s) adjective: Afghan

Economy: Afghanistan is an extremely poor, landlocked country, highly dependent on farming and livestock raising (sheep and goats). Economic considerations have played second fiddle to political and military upheavals during two decades of war, including the nearly 10-year Soviet military occupation (which ended 15 February 1989). During that conflict one-third of the population fled the country, with Pakistan and Iran sheltering a combined peak of more than 6 million refugees. In early 1999, 1.2 million Afghan refugees remained in Pakistan and about 1.4 million in Iran. Gross domestic product has fallen substantially over the past 20 years because of the loss of labor and capital and the disruption of trade and transport. The majority of the population continues to suffer from insufficient food, clothing, housing, and medical care. Inflation remains a serious problem throughout the country. International aid can deal with only a fraction of the humanitarian problem, let alone promote economic development. The economic situation did not improve in 1998-99, as internal civil strife continued, hampering both domestic economic policies and international aid efforts. Numerical data are likely to be either unavailable or unreliable. Afghanistan was by far the largest producer of opium poppies in 1999, and narcotics trafficking is a major source of revenue.

Industries: small-scale production of textiles, soap, furniture, shoes, fertilizer, and cement; handwoven carpets; natural gas, oil, coal, copper

Currency: 1 afghani (AF) = 100 pils

Railways: total: 24.6 km broad gauge: 9.6 km 1.524-m gauge from Gushgy (Turkmenistan) to Towraghondi; 15 km 1.524-m gauge from Termiz (Uzbekistan) to Kheyraabad transshipment point on south bank of Amu Darya

Highways: total: 21,000 km paved: 2,793 km unpaved: 18,207 km (1998 est.)

Waterways: 1,200 km; chiefly Amu Darya, which handles vessels up to about 500 DWT

Ports and Harbors: Kheyraabad, Shir Khan

Airports: 46 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 14 over 3,047 m: 3 2,438 to 3,047 m: 4 1,524 to 2,437 m: 4 914 to 1,523 m: 1 under 914 m: 2 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 32 2,438 to 3,047 m: 5 1,524 to 2,437 m: 13 914 to 1,523 m: 3 under 914 m: 11 (1999 est.)

Airlines:

Visa: required by all. Women should be appropriately dressed.

Duty Free: permitted goods: A reasonable amount of tobacco products, any amount of perfume.

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers arriving from endemic or infected areas. Malaria risk. All water should be regarded as potentially contaminated

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

BAMIYAN

BAMIYAN HOTEL, Bamiyan, Afghanistan, 2365 Bamiyan, Afghanistan, Tel: +93 0123568741

KABUL

ARIA GUEST HOUSE, In Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul, Afghanistan, Tel: +93 (0) 5 102 095 774

BAMIYAN HOTEL Ansari Wat Kabul Afghanistan Tel +93 253 53

HOTEL METROPOLE, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi. Tel: 021-5661886/5216113. Fax: 021-5661886, Kabul, Afghanistan

KANDAHAR HOTEL Kandahar c/o Ansari Watt Kabul, Afghanistan, Tel: +9322058 GOOD TOURIST HOTEL

MUSTAFA HOTEL, Kabul, Afghanistan, phone: 0093 70276021, e-mail: mustafa_hotel@hotmail.com, www.mustafahotel.com

PARK HOTEL Mohd. Jar Khan Watt PO Box 3201 Kabul Tel +9325202/25204 Cable PARKHOTEL

SPINZAR HOTEL Mohd Jan Khan Watt KABUL AFGANISTAN .—TEL: +9322961

YAMA Timur Shah Park KABUL AFGANISTAN .— TEL: +9326509

KANDAHAR

AHMAD SHAH HOTEL Kandahar, Afghanistan, Tel +932839 Swimming Pool Camping GOOD TOURIST HOTEL

Intercontinental Hotel

Bagh-e-Bala Road

Po box 562

Kabul

Tel 0093 20 2201321



www. www.intercontinentalkabul.com

Anyone looking at this hotel from the outside might be forgiven for thinking that he is not in Afghanistan at all. But if he has been to this fascinating and dramatic country before and tried the hotel services, he would agree that the Kabul intercontinental hotel was very badly needed. The interior of this modern hotel is far more attractive than its façade, with plenty of room to move about, very handsome public rooms and some very nice décor touches which do have an Afghan influence. Bedrooms are a very good size, extremely functional and one's apartment has everything one would expect from an international hotel chain. The staff are shy, dignified and helpful and occasionally nonplussed by foreign languages, but the management is there to help and the food is good. Amenities include: 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 6 shops, swimming pool, gardens 300 staff, room service (0600-0000). Orientation facing city and mountains and within easy walking distance from shops

TOURIST OFFICES INFO.

KABUL**AFGHAN TOURIST ORGANIZATION (ATO)**

Asmale Watt, Shar-e-Nau

P.O. Box 281

TEL: +93 075- 2016907

Kabul, Afghanistan

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AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

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