Pakistan is a country in [South Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia). With a population exceeding [180 million people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Pakistan), it is the sixth [most populous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population) country in the world. The capital is Islamabad; the largest city is Karachi. Languages are English and Urdu.

Located at the crossroads of the strategically important regions of South Asia, Central Asia and Western Asia, Pakistan has a 1,046-kilometre (650 mi) coastline along the [Arabian Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea) and the [Gulf of Oman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_of_Oman) in the south and is bordered by [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) to the east, [Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) to the west and north, [Iran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran) to the southwest and [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) in the far northeast.

It is separated from [Tajikistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajikistan) by Afghanistan's narrow [Wakhan Corridor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakhan_Corridor) in the north, and also shares a [marine border](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_border) with [Oman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oman).

Pakistan was [created in 1947](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Independence_Act_1947) as an independent nation for Muslims from the regions in the east and west of India where there was a Muslim majority. Pakistan adopted a [new constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) in 1956, becoming an [Islamic republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_republic). A [civil war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh_Liberation_War) in 1971 resulted in the secession of [East Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Pakistan) as the new country of [Bangladesh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh).

Pakistan has a strong army, navy and air force. They are the largest troop contributors to UN peacekeeping missions.

Pakistan is divided into three major geographic areas: the northern highlands, the [Indus River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indus_River) plain and the Balochistan Plateau. The northern highlands contain the mountain ranges which contain some of the world's highest peaks, including five peaks over 8,000 metres or 26,250 feet, which attract adventurers and mountaineers from all over the world, notably [K2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K2) (8,611 m or 28,251 ft) and [Nanga Parbat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanga_Parbat) (8,126 m or 26,660 ft).

The Balochistan Plateau lies in the west and the [Thar Desert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thar_Desert) in the east. The 1,609 km (1,000 mi) Indus River and its tributaries flow through the country from the Kashmir region to the Arabian Sea.

K2 is the second highest mountain in the world.

Because Pakistan has lots of different geography, there are lots of different animals that live there.

Around 668 bird species are found there:[[148]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan#cite_note-wwf11-149)[[149]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan#cite_note-bio-150) [crows](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crow), [sparrows](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sparrow), [mynas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acridotheres), [hawks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawk), [falcons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon), and [eagles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eagles).

[Markhor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markhor), Pakistan's national animal[[144]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan" \l "cite_note-symbol-145)

The southern plains are home to [mongooses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongoose), [civets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civet), hares, the [Asiatic jackal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asiatic_jackal), the [Indian pangolin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_pangolin), the [jungle cat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jungle_cat) and the [desert cat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desert_cat).

There are [mugger crocodiles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mugger_crocodile) in the Indus, and [wild boar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wild_boar), deer, [porcupines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porcupine) and small rodents are common in the surrounding areas. The sandy scrublands of central Pakistan are home to Asiatic jackals, [striped hyenas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Striped_hyena), wildcats and [leopards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopards).[[152]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan#cite_note-sheet-153)[[153]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan#cite_note-animal-154)

A wide variety of animals live in the mountainous north, including the [Marco Polo sheep](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marco_Polo_sheep), the [urial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urial) (a subspecies of wild sheep), [Markhor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markhor) and [Ibex](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibex) goats, the [Asian black bear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_black_bear) and the [Himalayan brown bear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himalayan_brown_bear). Among the rare animals found in the area are the [snow leopard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snow_leopard),[[155]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan#cite_note-wwf-156) the [Asiatic cheetah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asiatic_cheetah)[[157]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan#cite_note-158) and the blind [Indus river dolphin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indus_river_dolphin), of which there are believed to be about 1,100 remaining, protected at the Indus River Dolphin Reserve in Sindh.

Food is like India – curry, masala, tandoori, rice, spices. [Lassi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lassi) is a traditional drink in the Punjab region. Black tea with milk and sugar is [popular throughout Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistani_tea_culture) and is taken daily by most of the population.