



Culture of Baluchistan

The Baloch are a semi nomadic people (they travel with their herds on a seasonal basis but also have a home area where they grow some food crops). They live in the southern mountains and coastal regions of South

borderlands.
homeland is
Pakistan,

Afghanistan.
opposite to
perception

Baluchistan is
lands,
mountains,
full of
crafts.

is one of the
and crafts
the females.
known for its



Asia's western
Their traditional
divided among

Iran, and

Baloch culture is
the general

about it. Though
an area of barren
deserts and

the Baloch culture is
traditions, arts and
Balochi embroidery

most popular arts
which are done by
Baluchistan is also

tribes and festivals.

Another distinct feature of Baloch culture is the storytelling tradition. Poets and story tellers are highly respected in Baloch culture.

History

In 1843, the frontier of British India bordered Baluchistan. By the early twentieth century, the British had control over much of the region. The British Province of Baluchistan passed to Pakistan when that country came into being in 1947. Pakistan also inherited the problems of the region. Opposition to the central government led to brutal battles with the Pakistani military in the mid-1970s. The military bombed villages and civilians in an effort to subdue the Baloch rebels. Today, the Baloch see themselves as a neglected minority in a country whose government is controlled by non-Baloch ethnic groups such as the Punjabis.

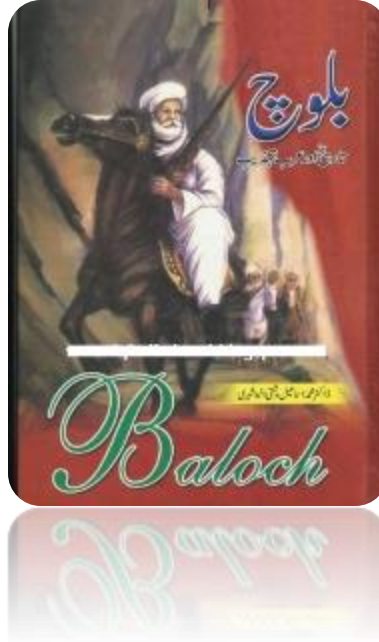




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Literature

The Balochi Academy, Quetta is an oldest registered literary and cultural body with a mandate for promotion of Balochi language, art and culture and also interacting with other regional languages. The Academy is run by volunteer-members, having no political or religious affiliations.



In this direction appreciable efforts were made by some Baloch intellectuals in the last years the fifth decade of the last century when they ventured to establish an institution named Balochi Academy, prime object of which was to develop and boost Balochi language, literature, culture and civilization.

Music

Balochi music (or Baluchi music) refers to music performed by the Baloch people in Baluchistan, southern Oman, some parts of Afghanistan and Middle East. Baluchi music is very rich and played with



varieties of traditional instruments. Due to their demographics and strong cultural values, the Baluch people have been able to keep their rich traditional heritage alive. The art of playing double flute is traditional to Baluch and can be seen in many parts of present-day Baluch geography. One of the most famous Balochi artist is Rostam Mirlashari who is known as the "prince of Balochi music".

Ustad Mumtaz Sabzal, a globally known Banjo player



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Dance

Dances performed by Baluch people:

Do-Chapi

An ancient Persian dance mostly performed by forming a circle by a group of people, dancing and clapping. Do-Chapi almost always includes Surna and Dohol.



Lewa

Lewa is also a Baluchi dance of Sheedi origin, performed mostly by a group of people in a circle with hand movements. Lewa almost always includes a Surna and Dohol.

SPORTS

Popular games include chauk, a type of checkers played with wooden pieces on a cloth divided into squares. Moves are directed by six or seven cowrie shells, thrown onto the ground like dice.

Ji, a game of tag, is played by village boys and young men. Games such as wrestling and horse racing are useful in developing the skills that young men will need for warfare. Shooting and hunting are favorite pastimes among the wealthier people. Card games and gambling are also popular among some groups.

Balochi Cultural Day

Baloch culture was developed some 1,400 years back and the people of Baloch community are patriotic but deprived of their rights. Pakistani government is depriving Baloch community from basic facilities and rights to Baloch nation but the Baloch patriotic struggling for their rights. Baloch community in



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Baluchistan and in Karachi celebrate their culture and exhibit it different heritage on the 2nd of March on Baloch Cultural Day. 2 March Balochi culture day has a deep historical Background.



FOOD

Prominent Baloch dishes such as the lamb-skewed Sajji have gained massive popularity among different parts of Pakistan, including the food hubs of Karachi and Lahore.



Kaak, a rock-hard prepared bread, is also a notable dish. Dampukht is also a Balochi dish which is prepared with meat and it is cooked in fats.



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Khaddi Kabbab is a dish in which Baluchistani cook a whole lamb or goat over a fire. Usually there is raw rice in the stomach of the lamb and the rice is cooked by the fats of the lamb. The lamb is cooked over a fire. A large number of Baloch people living on the coastal belt eat fish in their own style.



CLOTHING

Traditional clothing for the Baloch man is a long, loose shirt (jamag or kurta) that reaches below the knees, worn with baggy trousers (salwar), and a turban (pag). The turban is a long cloth wound around a turban cap on the head. Leather shoes or palm-leaf sandals are worn. A shawl or wrap (chaddar) provides extra warmth in winter but can also be used as a towel, sash, or head cloth; it can be used to carry things.



Women wear a long shift (pashk) reaching to the ankles, with a wrap used to cover the head, shoulders, and upper body. The wearing of trousers under the shift has been restricted to women of high status. Women wear an assortment of jewelry, including rings (nose rings, earrings, rings on fingers and toes), necklaces, bracelets, and hair ornaments. Jewelry is made of gold or silver, depending on what a person can afford.