**Kirthar National Park**

**📖 History:**

**Kirthar National Park, established in 1974, is one of the largest national parks of Pakistan and the very first to be recognized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Located in the Sindh province, the park stretches across the districts of Karachi, Jamshoro, and Dadu. Its creation was aimed at protecting the unique landscape of the Kirthar Mountain Range, conserving rare wildlife species, and preserving the cultural heritage of ancient settlements scattered within the park**

**Historically, this region has been home to nomadic tribes and pastoral communities who have lived in close connection with nature for centuries. Ancient ruins, graves, and forts scattered throughout the park highlight its cultural significance. The park became internationally known when it was included in the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, recognizing both its ecological and historical importance.**

**📏 Area:**

**Kirthar National Park spans an impressive 3,087 square kilometers (approximately 1,192 square miles), making it the second largest national park in Pakistan after Hingol National Park. The landscape consists of rugged mountains, arid valleys, seasonal streams, and rocky plateaus. The altitude varies from 500 meters to over 2,100 meters, creating diverse habitats for flora and fauna. The vastness of the park allows for a wide range of ecosystems, from dry deserts to greener pockets along riverbeds, supporting a unique blend of biodiversity.**

**🏞 Facilities:**

**1. Visitor Rest Houses & Campsites**– – The Sindh Wildlife Department manages several rest houses including Karchat, Khar, and Hub Dam Rest Houses, providing basic accommodation for tourists.

**2. Jeep Safari Routes**– – The park has designated jeep tracks, allowing visitors to explore deep into the rugged mountain terrain and spot wildlife.

**3. Guided Tours & Rangers**– – Park rangers and guides assist tourists in exploring key sites, ensuring safety and a richer experience.

**4. Wildlife Viewing**– – Several watchtowers and open areas allow visitors to observe animals like Sindh Ibex, Urial, Chinkara gazelle, and Leopards.

**5. Cultural Heritage Sites**– – Tourists can visit ancient ruins, burial sites, and forts located within the park boundaries, adding a historical dimension to the trip.

**6. Educational & Research Opportunities**– – Universities and research institutions often collaborate with the park for wildlife research, environmental studies, and ecological monitoring.

**7. Eco-Tourism & Trekking**– – – The park encourages eco-tourism with trekking trails for hikers who wish to explore its mountains on foot.

**🐆 Animals:**

**Sindh Ibex: Wild goat with curved horns, expert at climbing cliffs.**

**Urial: Wild sheep with spiraled horns, found in rocky hills.**

**Chinkara: Graceful gazelle, fast runner of deserts and plains.**

**Striped Hyena: Shy scavenger with striped coat and strong jaws.**

**Indian Wolf: Lean predator, hunts in packs across open grasslands.**

**Caracal: Medium cat with long tufted ears and powerful leaps.**

**Jungle Cat: Slender wild cat, active in grasslands and wetlands.**

**Hedgehog: Small nocturnal mammal, protected by sharp spines.**

**🐦 Birds:**

**Houbara Bustard: Rare desert bird, symbol of conservation and migration.**

**Chukar Partridge: Hardy game bird with bold stripes and red beak.**

**Black Partridge: Ground-dwelling bird with striking dark plumage.**

**Doves: Gentle birds with soft coos, symbols of peace.**

**Pigeons: Common flyers, skilled navigators in open skies.**

**Eagles: Large raptors with sharp talons and powerful flight.**

**Falcons: Swift hunters, famous for speed and aerial dives.**

**Vultures: Scavenging birds with bald heads and wide wings.**

**Larks: Small birds known for cheerful songs in fields.**

**Shrikes: Predatory songbirds, perch hunters with hooked beaks.**

**Sandgrouse: Desert birds with fast flight and water-carrying feathers.**

**Owls: Nocturnal raptors with big eyes and silent flight.**

**Contact Info:**

**📍 Location: Jamshoro & Karachi districts, Sindh**

**☎️ Phone: +92 22 921 0607 (Sindh Wildlife Department)**

**📧 Email: info@sindhwildlife.org.pk**