

Afghanistan

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Dari, Pashto

Population: 40,000,000

Currency: Afghani (AFN)

Area: 652,230

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Minaret of Jam', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site, this 12th-century minaret is notable for its intricate brickwork and historical significance.'}
- {'name': 'Bamiyan Buddhas (site)', 'writeup': 'Once home to giant Buddha statues carved into cliffs, destroyed in 2001, the site remains culturally and historically important.'}
- {'name': 'Band-e Amir National Park', 'writeup': 'Afghanistan's first national park, known for its stunning series of deep blue lakes separated by natural dams.'}

Head of State / Government:

Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Nowruz', 'writeup': 'Persian New Year celebrated on the spring equinox with traditional music, dance, and family gatherings.'}
- {'name': 'Eid al-Fitr', 'writeup': 'A major Islamic festival marking the end of Ramadan, celebrated with prayers, feasts, and charity.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Afghan cuisine features rice dishes like Kabuli pulao, rich stews, flatbreads, and kebabs, reflecting Central Asian and Middle Eastern influences.

Brief History:

Afghanistan has a history as a crossroads of civilizations, influenced by Persian, Greek, Mongol, and Islamic empires. It has experienced prolonged conflict, including Soviet invasion, civil war, Taliban rule, and recent international military involvement.

Important People:

- Ahmad Shah Durrani - founder of modern Afghanistan
- Hamid Karzai - former president
- Malala Yousafzai - education activist (Pashtun heritage)

Current Conflicts:

Ongoing internal conflicts involving Taliban governance, resistance groups, and regional instability continue to affect security and humanitarian conditions.

Youtube Links:

- Afghanistan: A Historical Overview
- Culture and Traditions of Afghanistan
- Travel Guide to Afghanistan's Landmarks
- Afghan Cuisine: Traditional Dishes Explained
- Current Situation and Challenges in Afghanistan