



# Pakistan

*Joined the Commonwealth 1947 - visited by the Queen in 1997*



**Pakistan is an Asian nation bordering the Arabian Sea**

Pop: (2013) 182,143,000      Capital: Islamabad      Area: 796,095 sq km

Pakistan's far north includes part of the Himalayan range including K-2 the world's second highest mountain. 35 peaks are over 7,320m. This is a region of glaciers, lakes and green valleys with high mountain passes such as the famous Khyber Pass, 56 km long. Further south, eastern Pakistan is drained by the River Indus and its tributaries whose fertile plains are important for agriculture and subsistence farming. The high Balochistan plateau lies to the west. The south-east stretches into the Thar desert.

This geography results in variations of climate from that of extreme temperatures in the mountainous north to the hot, monsoonal coast. The vegetation also reflects these differences. The mountains contain black Himalayan bears, musk deer, ibex, leopards and the very rare snow-leopard. The delta of the Indus is home to crocodiles, pythons and wild boar. Endangered green turtles visit the coast.

Agricultural products are important but there is a heavy reliance on oil and natural gas.

*The Khyber Pass links Pakistan with Afghanistan*

