



**HIGHLIGHTS OF BALUCHISTAN**  
**HISTORICAL CITIES & BALOCH NOMADIC TRIBES**

November 26 - December 09, 2024  
Led by Tour Manager, Nancy Weber

*Baluchistan offers an unparalleled opportunity to satisfy your thirst for adventure. Imagine traversing rugged landscapes, witnessing dramatic natural wonders, and immersing yourself in the rich tapestry of local cultures. This is your chance to escape the well-trodden path and set foot in a land where few others have ventured before. Venture deep into the heart of Baluchistan, and you will discover a tapestry of vibrant cultures, each with its unique traditions and warm hospitality. Engage with the Baloch people, renowned for their rich history and exquisite craftsmanship. Discover the Hidden Gems of Baluchistan: A Journey into the Unknown.*

*Prepare to be captivated by the untouched beauty of Baluchistan. From its breathtaking coastal stretches to its majestic mountain ranges, Baluchistan boasts a diverse terrain that will leave you spellbound. Explore the stunning Makran Coast, renowned for its pristine beaches and a paradise for fishing and water sports enthusiasts. Trek along the awe-inspiring peaks of the Ras Koh and Central Baluchistan mountains, where the rugged landscape rewards the bold with unparalleled panoramic views.*

**Ihab Zaki**  
Managing Director

**Tuesday, November 26**

**Arrive in Karachi (PAKISTAN)**



Upon arrival in **Karachi**, meet and transfer to *Pearl Continental Hotel* or similar for check-in and have some rest. Meet for lunch and later head to visit the **Mohatta Palace Museum** near Clifton Beach, where unique collections of art and textiles are on display. The Mohatta Palace was built in 1927 by Shivratn Chandraratan Mohatta, a Hindu Marwari merchant from modern-day Rajasthan in India. After separation, the palace became the state's property and initially housed Pakistan's foreign affairs office when Karachi was the capital of Pakistan. After the capital was moved to Islamabad, the palace became the private residence of Fatima Jinnah, a Pakistani dental surgeon, political leader, and one of the founders of Pakistan. Later, the Sindh government converted it into a museum and meticulously restored it to its former glory. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(D)**

**Note: Standard check-in time is 3:00 pm. If you arrive on November 25 or in the early morning of November 26, an extra hotel night needs to be booked.**

**Wednesday, November 27**

**Karachi**



After breakfast, begin the tour of **Karachi** with a visit to the **Mausoleum of Muhammad Ali Jinnah**, the founder of Pakistan. Then continue to the **National Museum of Pakistan** with its numerous galleries. The museum features many artifacts, including objects from the pre and ancient history of the region (5000 to 1500 BC). After lunch, visit the **Saddar Bazaar** (Empress Market) & Zainab Market. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Thursday, November 28**

**Karachi - Ormara (5 hrs.)**



Begin the day with a drive to Ormara following the route taken by Alexander the Great back from India over 2300 years ago, head to visit **Hingol National Park**, the largest in Pakistan. The park is famous for the mud volcanoes, rugged rock formations and it's Hindu temple. Then continue the drive to **Ormara** and upon arrival, transfer to *Ormara Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Friday, November 29**

**Ormara - Gwadar**



Begin the day with a drive to **Gwadar**, an important fishing (sardines & sharks) and trade center. Upon arrival, head to visit **Shahi bazaar**, one of the oldest markets in Balochistan and it has been a public place dating back a few centuries. It is located along a narrow street. Also, visit the **Corniche**, where we may get the opportunity to see some of the traditional ship building. After the visit, transfer to *Pearl Continental Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Saturday, November 30**

**Gwadar (Pasni) - Ormara (2.5 hrs.)**



Enjoy an early breakfast and then drive to **Pasni**, a major coastal city of Baluchistan and the starting point for our trip to **Astola Island**. Board a chartered boat to Astola, a stunningly beautiful uninhabited island off the coast of Baluchistan. Spend the day on Astola Island, exploring its natural sights and chilling at the beach. After the island experience, return back to Makran Coast and head back to the *Hotel* in Ormara for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Sunday, December 01**

**Ormara - Khuzdar (6.5hrs.)**



Enjoy an early breakfast then begin the drive to **Khuzdar**, via Makran Coastal highway (N-10) & Regional cooperation for development highway. Enroute visit Gondari caves, 11 miles north-west of Las Bela, at Gandakahar, near the ruins of an ancient town. So far no one knows clearly about this site. There are many myths and stories. Until the century this part was also under Buddhist influence and same with these caves show definite Buddhist characteristics. According to another source, Journal of the Society for South Asian Studies, the site cannot be conclusively linked to Buddhist heritage, it is links with other civilizations too. Upon arrival, transfer to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Monday, December 02**

**Kuzdar**



Begin the day with an excursion to **Moola Chatok** (2.5 hrs.) situated in the middle of the Khuzdar District in Baluchistan and 65 miles north-east of Khuzdar. The area is surrounded by rocky cliffs and mountains. As a sub-thesis, Moola is said to be home to the Hidden Saint —

where locals built a shrine for Pir Chattal, the biggest pir of Balochistan at one of the water pools in the area. The fish harboring these pools swim back and forth from the shrine as if to protect it. Enjoy a picnic lunch and enjoy the scenery and then return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, December 03**

**Kuzdar - Quetta (4.5 hrs.)**



Enjoy an early breakfast and begin the drive to **Quetta** via Regional Cooperation for Development Hwy. En route, stop in the city of **Kalat**, famous for the **Meeri Fort** which overlooks the city then continue the drive to **Quetta**, and head to visit the friendliest Bazaar in Asia and bustling bazaar which are **Suraj Ganj** and **Liaqat Bazaars**, where people from around country come to do business, then transfer to the *Hotel* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Wednesday, December 04**

**Quetta (Ziarat)**



After breakfast, begin the drive to **Ziarat** for a visit. It is famous for being the second largest Juniper forest in the world. It was the summer residence of the chief commissioner of Baluchistan, and sanatorium for the European troops. After the visit, return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Thursday, December 05**

**Quetta - Sukkur (5.5 hrs.)**



Begin the day with a drive to Sibi through the Bolan Pass via N-65. Head to visit the **Sibi Mela**, a place where tribesmen flock from all over Baluchistan, parts of Sind, and Punjab bring their animals and trade. The salient features of this "Mela" are horse and cattle and cultural shows, tent pegging, camel races, animal markets, and exhibitions of handicrafts, tribal dresses, and folk dances. Continue the drive to Sukkur via N-65/AH2 and upon arrival, transfer to the *Hotel* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Friday, December 06**

**Sukkur - Larkana**



Begin the day with a drive to **Kot Deji** archaeological site and visit the famous **fort** of the state of Khairpur. This site stands on one of the rare outcroppings of limestone part of the Rohri Hills to the north. The site dates from 3500 to 2500 BC and has two distinct parts. Excavation of the upper level revealed pottery of the Harappan civilization, while the lower levels exposed evidence of an unknown pre-Harappan culture, designated as Kot Deji. Later explore the famous archaeological site of **Mohenjo-Daro**, one of the most important archaeological sites in South Asia and one of the best preserved and restored prehistoric sites in the world. Built in 2500BC, it was one of the largest settlements of the ancient Indus Valley and concurrent with ancient Egypt and Minoan Crete. The site was first excavated by the Indian Archaeological Survey team under Sir John Marshall in 1922 and 1931, and then by Sir Mortimer Wheeler in 1947. Now in the hands of the Pakistan Archaeological Survey team and

supported by UNESCO, the site is excellently presented. Tour the great **bath**, the **granary**, the **College square** and **Pillared Hall**, **private homes**, and the **Mohenjo-Daro Museum**. Transfer to *Sambara Inn* or similar for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Saturday, December 07**

**Larkana - Hayderabad**



After breakfast, begin the drive to **Larkana** and head to visit the impressive **Shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar**, as the 13th century Sufi saint and religious poet Syed Usman Marvandi was known. His writings are still celebrated in present-day Pakistan and Afghanistan. Transfer to *Indus Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner & overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Sunday, December 08**

**Hayderabad - Karachi**



After breakfast, begin the drive to **Karachi**, stopping en route at **Thatta**, the medieval capital of Sindh. Visit the 17th-century **Grand Mosque of Shah Jahan**, a gift he made in recognition of the hospitality he received in Thatta while seeking refuge from his father, Jahangir. The mosque is a contemporary of Shah Jahan's famous Taj Mahal in Agra, India. Visit the **Historical Monuments** at Makli, one of Pakistan's most visually stunning archaeological sites. Covering over 9.3 miles and said to contain over one million tombs, it is considered the world's largest necropolis. Tour the **tombs of Jam Nizamuddin, Isa Khan Tarkhan, Jan Baba, and Diwan Shurfa Khan**. Finally, visit the **Chokondhi** to view the tombs that are thought to be from the 13th - 16th century and are attributed to the Jokhio and Baluch tribes. These superbly carved sandstone tombs are built out of rectangular slabs placed one on top of the other in a pyramidal fashion, some reaching 13 feet in height. They stretch for several miles along a low ridge with two large domed mausoleums in the center. This style of tomb is found only in the Sindh and Baluchistan provinces, particularly along the coast of Makran, and their intricate designs are still applied to the textiles, pottery, jewelry, and woodcarving in those regions. Return to the *PC Continental Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Monday, December 09**

**Karachi - USA**



Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the **US**. **(B)**

*"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".*

**Tour Note:** The visa process will typically be commenced in mid-May, as it usually requires approximately five months to secure all the necessary approvals.

**Tour Cost (Land Only): \$6,795.00**

*Per person sharing in double occupancy*

**Single Supplement: \$995.00**

*Price based on group size minimum of 6 participants and maximum of 10 participants*

**Trip Grade: III Lodging Level: \*\*\_\*\*\*\***

*She traveled on our first STS North Caucasus adventure in 2017 - she was so happy to see and experience Chechnya and Dagestan finally! Nancy has been managing a few of our tours, and she enjoys visiting off-the-beaten-track places the most, especially those countries that see very few tourists/travelers. She is thrilled to lead our groups to these beautiful parts of the world and is excited to introduce their fascinating culture, people, and unmatched hospitality. She has been rated so highly by our travelers as a kind and efficient coordinator and does a superb job ensuring the smoothness of these programs.*

**Your Tour Manager, Nancy Weber...** Nancy loves to travel, learn languages, people, and sparkling wines! Nancy worked in the chemical industry in the US and Canada, and she lived in Jordan and Iraq for eight years, working as a training consultant and as Iraq's Country Director for an NGO. She speaks Arabic and a few other languages. Moreover, she loves the Middle East and genuinely appreciates the people and culture in that part of the world. Nancy also lived and worked in Russia for four years as a business training consultant. She speaks Russian, is passionate about Russia, and adores the people living there.

**Tour Includes:**

- Airport/Hotel/Airport transfers.
- Accommodation in *Hotels* mentioned or similar.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Travel by modern & air-conditioned motor coach.
- Sightseeing in each city as per the itinerary.
- Escort of lecturer throughout the trip (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).
- Service of Gov't licensed experienced and English-speaking guide.
- Entry fees to Museums, forts and National Park Areas or any taxes, and any other applicable taxes on any service.
- Visa support letter and approval.
- Bottled water on touring days.

**Tour does not include:**

- International Airfare USA - Karachi - USA.
- Pakistan Visa Fee (approx. \$160.00 - subject to change).
- Beverages with or without meals.
- Gratuities to guide, drivers, porters, restaurant staff, porters, etc.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, emails, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on scheduled flights/tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Travel protection insurance (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED).

**Trip Grade**

**III Challenging:** Parts of the trip are physically challenging, involve some hiking on unpaved terrain or in sand. There may be long drives on rough roads; weather conditions with high heat (in the 90's). You may have simple picnic lunches, primitive bathroom facilities along the road and remoteness from modern towns or cities.

**Lodging Level:**

**\*\*\_\*\*\*\* Basic to Superior** - Lodges and hotels with additional amenities, refined service, and comfort level acceptable to western standards (2 or 4 stars in some small cities and a few 5 stars-luxury properties in the larger cities.)

