

AFGHANISTAN
POSTCARDS FROM AFGHANISTAN
by Bruno Zanzottera





Bamyan Province - Overview of mud villages in the Bamyan region, where stood the famous statues of the Buddhas destroyed by the Taliban in 2001 at the time of their first seizure of power in Afghanistan.

A PEOPLE IN SEARCH OF A FUTURE AFTER 40 YEARS OF WAR

After 40 years of war, four years of drought, and more than a year after the Taliban seized power, the situation in Afghanistan gives great cause for concern. According to estimates by UNHCR and the World Food Programme, 24 million people are in need of vital humanitarian aid, the unemployment rate has reached 98%, and often those who do have jobs haven't received a paycheck in months. The situation is even more dire for women who, despite numerous assurances from the new government, are subjected to increasingly severe restrictions. They are effectively living

in a giant prison and their main objective is survival. And yet, in spite of all this, there is perhaps one slightly positive development to report: the population is tired of endless wars, and these days the roads are relatively safe. And so, Afghans have begun to travel, in some cases for tourism. This reportage, which covers several provinces of Afghanistan, offers a series of images – we can even call them postcards – of a country that has a great will to live. This in spite of a despotic regime that does not believe in governing a population, so much as dominating it.



Kabul - Young photographers wait for visitors to take portraits of them on Bibi Mahro hill from which there is a view of central Kabul.

Bamyan - A tank left over from the Soviet invasion abandoned in a field on the outskirts of Bamyan and painted in a fanciful manner.





Badakshan province - A flock of sheep belonging to a family of Kuchi herders is travelling to the Shiwa pastures in the northern province of Badakshan. Families used to stay in the highlands until the end of September but now they begin to depart at the end of July and the beginning of August due to the exhaustion of the pastures.



Bamiyan - Young people from the Hazara ethnic group, of Turkish-Mongolian origin and Shiite religion are visiting the caves of Bamiyan where the famous statues of the Buddhas stood. They were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001 at the time of their first seizure of power in Afghanistan.



Kabul - Shiite women of Hazara ethnicity go to the mosque for Ashura celebrations, the most important Shiite religious ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the death of their third Imam, Hussein Ibn 'Ali.

Bandi Amir National Park - Bandi Amir Lake nestled in a desert landscape in Bamyān province





Kabul - Taliban flag sellers in front of the walls of the former US embassy in Kabul.



Feyzabad - A flock of sheep of Kuchi shepherds on transhumance between the Shiva Plateau and the Kunduz province passes through the town of Feyzabad.



Bamiyan - Young Hazara girls, an ethnic group of Turkish-Mongolian origin and Shia religion, are visiting the caves of Bamiyan where stood the famous statues of the Buddhas destroyed by the Taliban in 2001 at the time of their first seizure of power in Afghanistan.

Kabul - An overview of the Sakhi area where there is an important Shiite mosque frequented by the Hazara ethnic group.





Kunduz province - A warning to careless drivers along the road between the northern province of Kunduz and Kabul.



Laghman Province - Dawlai (right) and another young Kuchi shepherd move every year with their families between Laghman and Kabul provinces. Now the land on which they take their flocks to graze in summer is disputed by farmers.

Kunduz province - Bismillah, a young Kuchi herder, poses on his father's motorbike. His family spends many months of the year in a semi-desert area in the province of Kunduz. The lack of available water means they sometimes have to purchase it from water trucks and build small artificial ponds in which to store it.





Kabul Province - A brick factory on the outskirts of Kabul.



Bamyan - A traditional healer with a live pelican on the roof of his car.



Bandi Amir National Park - Young Hazara girls, an ethnic group of Turkish-Mongolian origin and Shia religion, enjoy a boat trip on Lake Bandi Amir in Bamyān province. Because of the very long war, for many people this is the first year they have been able to travel outside their city.

Badakshan Province - Overview of the Kokcha River and the mountains of the Badakshan region.





Bamyan Province - An ice cream seller in the middle of nowhere.



Bamyan Province - A painting of a tropical landscape on the back of a truck.

Badakshan Province - A Kuchi cemetery in the mountains of the Shiwa pastures





Kabul - A family is visiting the mausoleum of Bābur, the first Mughal Emperor located in the gardens dedicated to him.



Kabul province - These two Kuchi women go every day to a well to collect water for the family. Because of the drought in recent years the women must travel ever-longer distances, sometimes up to a few hours, to fetch the water their families need.

Kunduz province - A young dromedary with its parents in the province of Kunduz. In recent years, due to war and drought, many families have had to sell most of their dromedaries.



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