

THE DESERTS OF PAKISTAN

Thar (Sindh)

The Thar Desert (Hindi: also known as the Great Indian Desert, is a large, arid region in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. With an area of more than 200,000 sq. km., (140,000 sq. mi.) it is world's seventeenth largest desert. It lies mostly in the Indian state of Rajasthan, and extends into the southern portion of Haryana and Punjab states and into northern Gujarat state. In Pakistan, the desert covers eastern Sindh province and the southeastern portion of Pakistan's Punjab province. The Cholistan Desert adjoins the Thar Desert spreading into Pakistani Punjab province.

The Thar Desert is bounded on the northwest by the Sutlej River, on the east by the Aravalli Range, on the south by the salt marsh known as the Rann of Kutch (parts of which are sometimes included in the Thar), and on the west by the Indus River. Its boundary to the large thorny steppe to the north is ill-defined. Depending on what areas are included or excluded, the nominal size of the Thar can vary significantly.

Cholistan (Punjab)

The word Cholistan is derived from the Turkish word Chol, which means Desert. Cholistan thus means Land of the Desert. The people of Cholistan lead a semi-nomadic life, moving from one place to another in search of water and fodder for their animals. The dry bed of the Hakra River runs through the area, along which many settlements of the Indus Valley Civilisation have been found.

Thal (Punjab)

The Thal desert is situated in Punjab, Pakistan. It is vast area mainly between the Jhelum and Sindh rivers near the Pothohar Plateau. Its total length from north to south is 190 miles, and its maximum breadth is 70 miles while minimum breadth is 20 miles. This region is divided into the districts of Bhakkar, Khushab, Mianwali, Jhang, Layyah, and Muzaffargarh. Its part in Jhang is on the left bank bank of the river Jhelum. Geographically, it resembles the deserts of Cholistan and Thar. main town of Thal are Mankera, Hyderabad Thal, Dullewala, Piplan, Kundiyan, Koat Aazam, Saraui Muhajir, Mehmood Shaheed Thal, Rang Pur, Jandan Wala, Mari Shah Sakhira, Noor Pur Thal, and Muzafar Garh. Very deprived area from all perspectives. Educational facilities are as low as one can expect. Villages having population of 10 thousands people are more are striving for high schools. Situation becomes more worse in case of female education.



Indus Valley Desert (Punjab)

The Indus Valley Desert is a desert ecoregion of northern Pakistan. The Indus Valley desert covers an area of 19,500 square kilometers (7,500 square miles) in northwestern Punjab Province, lying between the Chenab and Indus rivers. The Indus Valley Desert is drier and less hospitable than the Northwestern thorn scrub forests that surround it.

Kharan Desert (Balochistan)

Kharan Desert) is a desert located in Kharan District, Balochistan, Pakistan. Pakistan's second nuclear test were performed in the Kharan desert in 1998 May 30 of a miniaturised device yielding 60 percent of the Ras Koh Hills tests.