

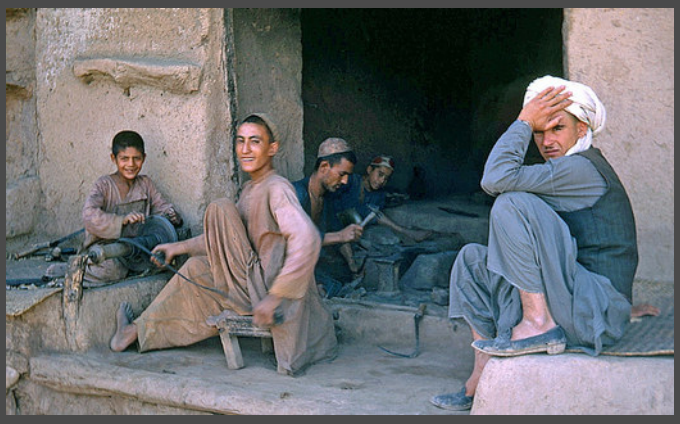





Vintage Photographs from a Golden Age of Travel

Jean-Claude Latombe





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This book is a repository of photographs I took on various trips during a period I consider my golden age of travel, primarily between 1967 and 1973. At that time, I was young and daring, I had plenty of free time during the summers, long-haul flights were available at reasonable price, and vast swathes of the world were still virtually untouched by tourism. More importantly, for many of the regions I chose to visit, advance information was scarce, if any. Unlike today, photos from all corners of the globe were not available. So, travels had to be somewhat exploratory and were tremendous sources of discovery and excitement. Furthermore, there was mutual curiosity between the locals I encountered and me: I was a novelty to them, as much as they were to me.

After 1973, I traveled much less for more than two decades. Then, my new trips were focused on mountaineering. Traveling far away from home was the "cherry on the cake", but not the main motivation. Instead, the breathtaking beauty of the landscapes and the physical challenges were the sources of my enthusiasm. After 2015, my trips became more diverse again, but the magic of the 1967-1973 years was largely gone.

I selected the photographs for this book from a large collection of 36mm slides, color negatives, black&white negatives, and color prints, many of which had been untouched for years. I scanned them and discarded scans whose quality was beyond repair. I edited the remaining ones, removing spots and marks not present in the original photographs and adjusting their sharpness, contrast, and colors. I then made a final selection. Nevertheless, most of the pictures in this book still have washed-out colors and blurred contrasts, with details sometimes difficult to grasp. In a way, this "patina" reinforces the fact that they depict scenes from a bygone past.

Brief introductions to the trips during which the photographs were taken:

- United States, 1967, pages 4-6.
In 1967-1973 I was living in France. This was my first solo trip outside Europe. I traveled across the US during most of the summer of 1967, using the famous Greyhound "99 Days for $99" pass. Unfortunately, very few photos remain from this trip.

- Mexico, 1967 and 1971, pages 7-38.
I visited parts of Mexico in 1967 as an extension of my trip to the US. I returned to Mexico in the summer of 1971, mainly to visit its southern states.

- Guatemala, 1971, pages 39-53.
I went to Guatemala in the summer of 1971 in combination with Mexico.

- Morocco, 1968, pages 54-61.
This was my first trip to Morocco. Since then Morocco has become one of my favorite destinations. I traveled there more than 20 times, mainly for hiking in its gorgeous mountains and desert.

- Turkey, 1968 and 1970, pages 62-70.
In 1968, I traveled with a friend through Turkey, Iran, Kuweit, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, entirely by bus. In 1970, one of

my brothers, a friend, and I traveled by car (a Renault 4L) from France to Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and back.

- Iran, 1968, 1970, and 1974, pages 71-95.
See previous paragraph on Turkey. I also returned briefly to Iran in 1974, to visit Shiraz. At the time of those three trips, Iran was still ruled by Shah Reza Pahlavi.

- Lebanon, 1968, pages 96-97.
See previous paragraph on Turkey.

- Syria, 1968, pages 98-99.
See previous paragraph on Turkey.

- Jordan, 1968, pages 100-101.
See previous paragraph on Turkey.

- Iraq, 1968, page 102.
See previous paragraph on Turkey.

- Kuweit, 1968, page 103.
See previous paragraph on Turkey.

- Egypt, 1969, pages 104-121.
During the summer of 1969, I traveled to Egypt, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. At that time, Egypt was ruled by Gamal Abdel Nasser, who had led the Egyptian revolution of 1952 that toppled King Farouk. I took a boat from Marseille to Alexandria, trains from Alexandria to Cairo, Luxor, and Aswan, a boat on Lake Nasser from Aswan to Wadi Halfa in Sudan, trains from Wadi Halfa to Khartoum and Kosti, a boat on the White Nile from Kosti to Juba in south Sudan, and a plane to Entebbe/Kampala in Uganda. Then I hitchhiked in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. I flew back from Nairobi to France. I had initially planned to travel overland from Juba to Uganda, but the Sudanese police in Juba would not let me, despite a permit I had got in Khartoum. Most of the photos I retrieved from this trip are from Egypt and Sudan. The other few are only from Kenya.

- Sudan, 1969, pages 122-133.
See previous paragraph on Egypt.

- Kenya, 1969, pages 134-135.
See previous paragraph on Egypt.

- Pakistan, 1970, pages 136-157.
See previous paragraph on Turkey.

- Afghanistan, 1970, pages 158-193.
See previous paragraph on Turkey. In 1970, Afghanistan was ruled by King Zahir Shah.

- Indonesia, 1972, pages 194-225.
During the summer of 1972, I traveled to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia. My main goal was to visit Sulawesi, a destination I chose simply because the island's octopus shape intrigued me. I first flew to Bangkok. Then I took a train from Bangkok to Singapore, a plane from Singapore to Jakarka, a train from Jakarta to Surabaya, and a cargo ship from Surabaya to Ujung Pandang (now Makassar), in southwest Sulawesi. I spent a few days in and around Ujung Pandang, where I learned about the Toraja people living in central Sulawesi and their unique traditions. This led me to trek alone across Toraja country, from Mamasa to Palopo, with a long stay in and around Rantepao. On my way back to Bangkok via the same route, I spent several days in Singapore and Penang (in Malaysia), and then two weeks in Thailand. Unfortunately, I couldn't retrieve any photos of Penang.

- Singapore, 1972, pages 226-233.
See previous paragraph on Indonesia.

- Thailand, 1972, pages 234-243.
See previous paragraph on Indonesia.

- Ethiopia, 1973, pages 244-297.
I traveled to Ethiopia during the summer of 1973 with almost no prior knowledge of the country, except that it was ruled by Emperor

Haile Selassie. My goal was to cross the Danakil desert on foot, one of the hottest places on earth, especially in summer. With a lot of patience (obtaining a permit) and luck (meeting a Danakil chief), I succeeded. I still believe that I am one of the few outsiders (perhaps the only one) to have done a month-long traverse on foot of this desert with only three Danakil companions, a camel, and a donkey, and no motorized support. While waiting for my permit in Mekele (the capital of the province of Tigray) I learned about the rock-hewn churches of Tigray, then little known outside Ethiopia. After returning from the Danakil desert, I visited several of these churches (all on foot). I rounded out my trip with a trek in the Simien mountains (which I only heard about while in Ethiopia) and a short excursion to the port of Massawa on the Red Sea, which was still part of Ethiopia in 1973.

- Algeria, 1973, pages 298-309.
I made two relatively short trips to Algeria in 1973. In the spring, I went hiking around Chott el Hodna, a shallow saline lake, about 200km southeast of Algiers. My goal was to train for my forthcoming trip to the Danakil desert in Ethiopia. I returned to Algeria in December, first to the Tassili n'Aijer, north of Djanet in the Sahara desert, about 1500km south of Algiers, then to the Mzab region, on the northern edge of the Sahara, about 475km south of Algiers. The Mzab region is home to unique fortified towns, the ksour.

The following two trips were made after 1973, but they share characteristics with my travels of 1968-1973.

- Nepal, 1979, pages 310-315.
I went to Nepal in 1979 with a group of French mountaineers to trek in the Solo-Khumbu region, from Lukla to Kala Pathar (5644m), an easy summit facing Everest. Nepal was still a kingdom, ruled by King Birendra. It had not yet been invaded by tourists and trekkers. Kathmandu and its valley had retained most their ancestral character. During this trip, I discovered the thrill of high-altitude hiking amidst towering glaciated peaks.

- Indonesia, 1994, pages 316-329.
In the spring of 1994 I went trekkimg in the highlands of Irian Jaya (now called Papua), the easternmost province of Indonesia. Before this trip, I had heard about the Papuan people and their minimalist dress code, but this was about all I knew. I had one goal: to complete a long trek, but I had no clear idea how and where to achieve it it. I flew to Jayapura, the capital of Irian Jaya. There, I obtained a permit to go to the Baliem Valley in central Irian Jaya. I flew to Wamena, the main settlement in this valley. It took me a little time to find a Papuan guide who spoke some English and was willing to take me out of the valley on a multi-week trek. We hired three porters, bought food and gear, and set out on a memorable journey. However, this trek left me with the bitter aftertaste of having witnessed a way of life whose end was near, not at the will of the Papuans, but because of external political, economic, demographic and religious pressures.

Jean-Claude Latombe
Stanford, July 2025

1967: United States



View over San Francisco and the Bay Bridge.

Cable car in San Francisco.





Street scenes in San Francisco.





Las vegas Strip.

Street in Seattle, with the Space Needle in the background.



1967 & 1971: Mexico



Paseo de la Reforma, Mexico City.

Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City.





Cathedral, Mexico City.

Basílica de Guadalupe, Mexico City.





Danza de los Voladores (Dance of the Flyers), Mexico City.



Pyramids of Teotihuacán, state of Mexico.





Pyramid and sculpture in Teotihuacán.





Statues of Toltec warriors on a pyramid in the archeological site of Tula, state of Hidalgo.







Other views of the Toltec statues in Tula.



Villas in Acapulco.





Plaza de Armas, Veracruz.

Fish catch, Veracruz.

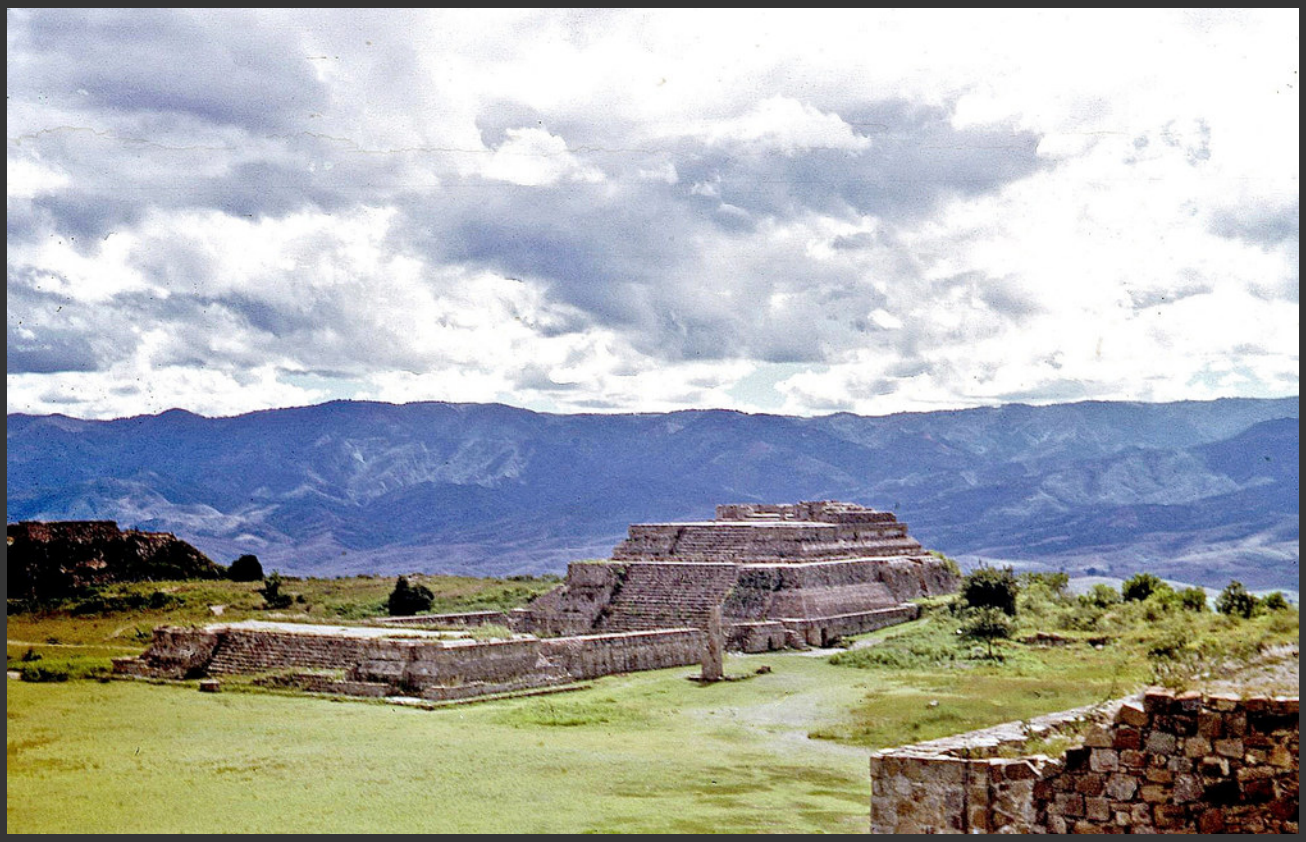




Basílica de la Soledad, Oaxaca City.

Templo de San Domingo de Guzmán, Oaxaca City.





Pyramids in Monte Albán, state of Oaxaca.





Carved stone slab in Monte Albán.



"Conquest slabs" in Monte Albán.



Zapotec palace of Mitla, state of Oaxaca.





Iglesia de San Pablo Apostol in Mitla.

Me with two friendly ladies in southern Mexico.





Markets in southern Mexico.





Market in southern Mexico.



Cathedral of San Cristobal de Las Casas and the adjacent Plaza 31 de Marzo, state of Chiapas.





Templo de San Juan, Chamula, state of Chiapas.

Market scene in the highlands of Chiapas.





Market scenes in the highlands of Chiapas.





Market scenes in the highlands of Chiapas.





Market scenes in the highlands of Chiapas.





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Market scene in the highlands of Chiapas.



Market scene in the highlands of Chiapas.



Tzotzil men in the highlands of Chiapas.



Lagunas de Montebello, southern Chiapas.

Maya stele lying in the forest, southern Chiapas.





Maya steles lying in the forest, southern Chapias.



1971: Guatemala



Village above lake Atitlán.

Maya women and their children near lake Atitlán.





Market scenes in villages around lake Atitlán.





Cathedral of Guatemala City.

National Palace on Plaza Major, Guatemala City.





Street in Guatemala City.

Railway from Guatemala City to Puerto Barrios.





Rainy day in Puerto Barrios.

Shop in Puerto Barrios.





Bus station in Puerto Barrios.

Bus station between Puerto Barrios and lake Izabal.





Lake Izabal seen from San Felipe de Lara.

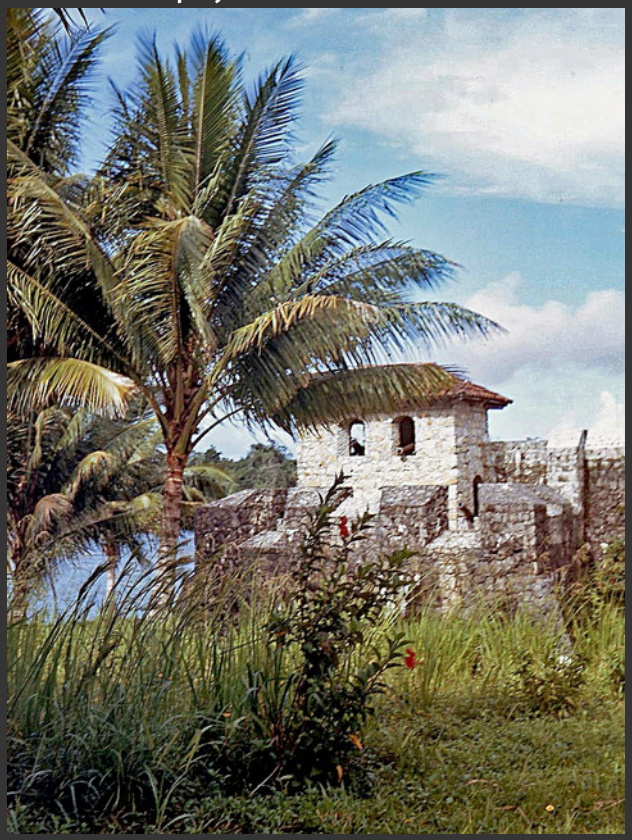
House near lake Izabal.





Castillo de San Felipe de Lara at the northern tip of lake Izabal.







Ferry across Rio Dulce toward Flores and Tikal.

Part of the ancient Maya city of Tikal.





Temple I on the main plaza of Tikal.



Another view of Temple I in Tikal.

View from the top of Temple I.





Carving of Chac, the Maya god of rain, in Tikal.



Town of Flores built on a small island in lake Petén Itzá.



Flores (on the right of the photo) seen from a hill south of lake Petén Itzá.



Sunset over lake Petén Itzá.



Communal wash house near lake Petén Itzá.

DC3 aircraft landing at the airport of Flores.





Airport of Flores.

Loading the DC3 before returning to Guatemala City.



1968: Morocco



Bab Marhouk, a 13th-century gate of Fes.

Bab Bou Jeloud, another gate of Fes built in 1913.

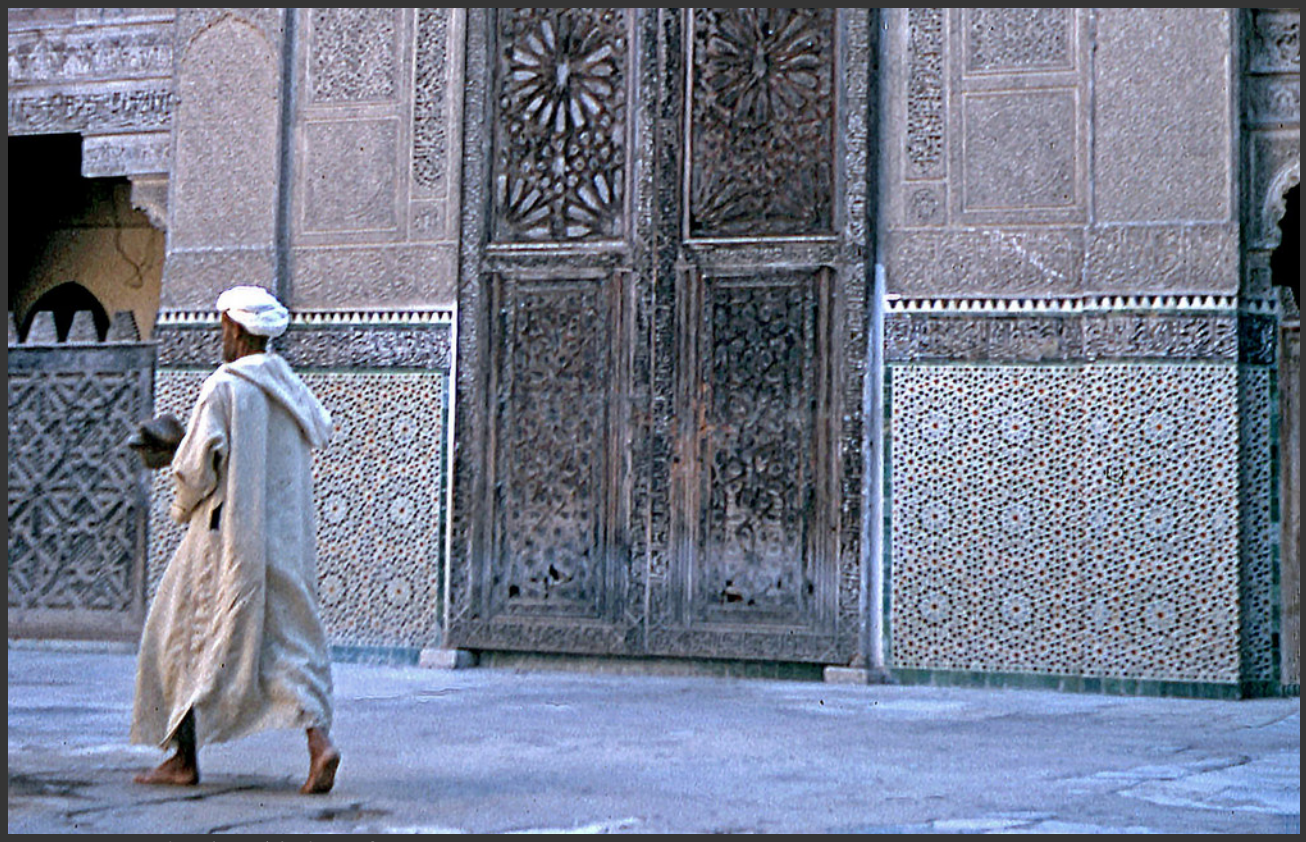




The Nejjarine fountain in the old city of Fes.

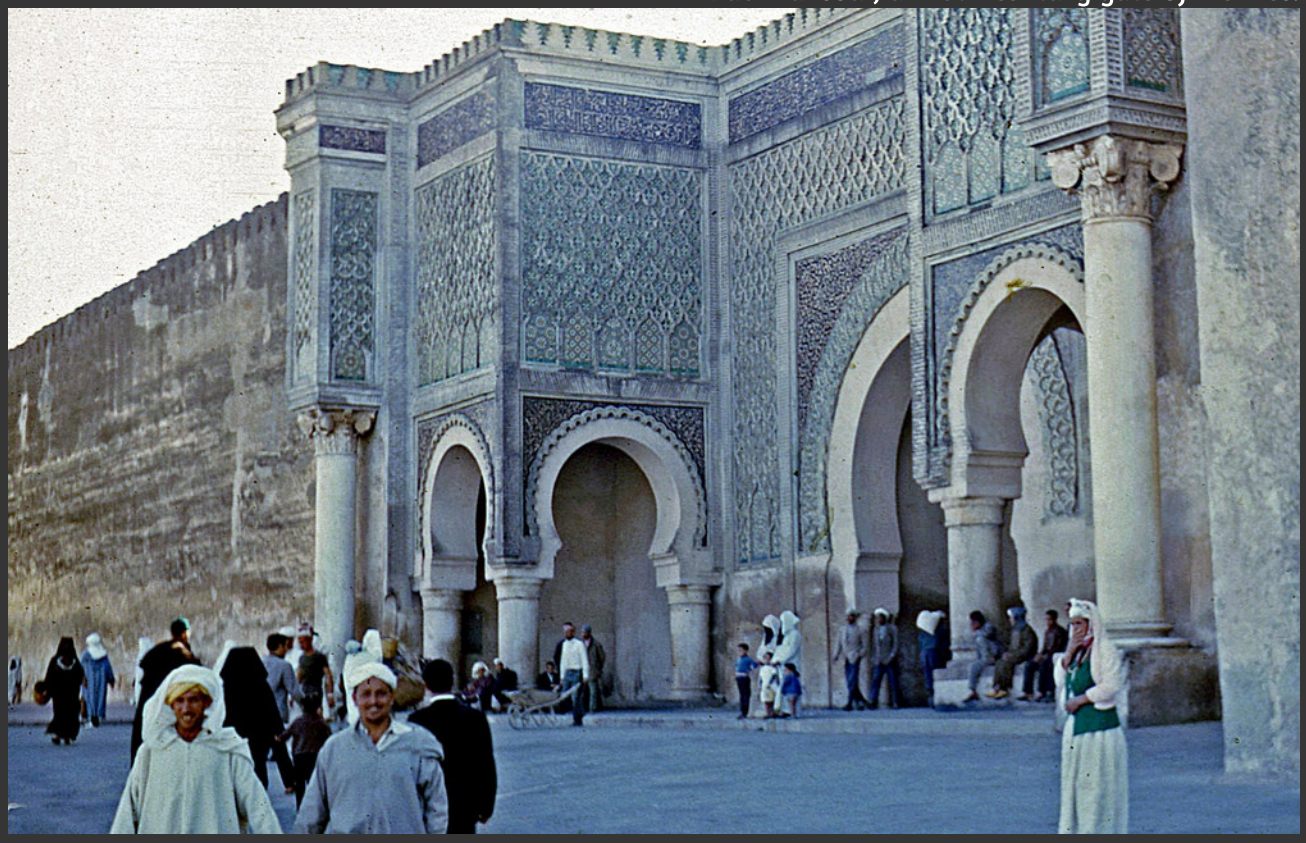


Street scene in the old city of Fes.



Street scene in the old city of Fes.

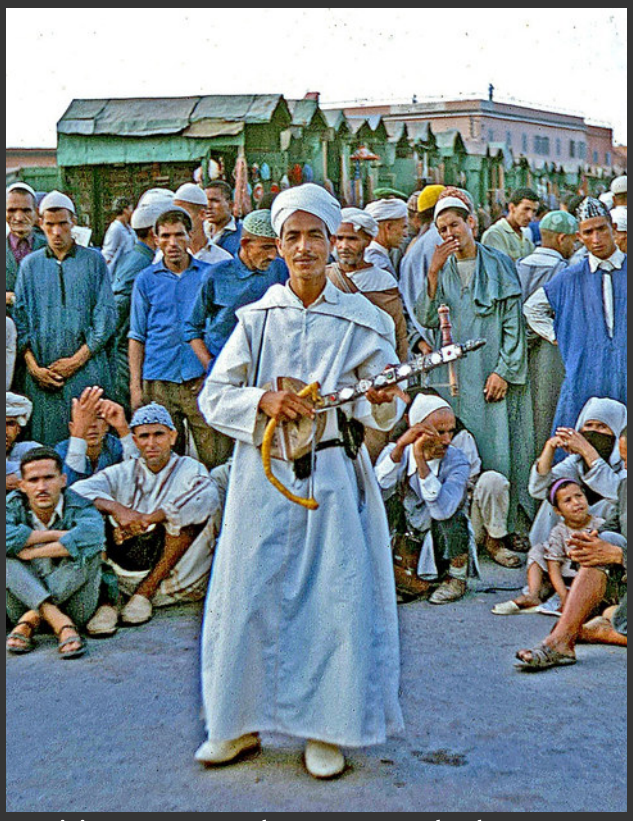
Bab Mansour, an 18th-century gate of Meknes.





Crowds watching performers and musicians on the Jemaa el-Fnaa square of Marrakesh.





Musician at Jemaa el-Fnaa, Marrakesh.



The Koutoubia (minaret) at sunset, Marrakesh.





In the narrow streets of the medina of Marrakesh.



Ksar (fortified village) of Ait Benhaddou.

Picture of the Moroccan south.





Souq in Rissani.

Kasbah in southern Morocco.



1968 & 1970: Turkey



Harbor scene in Istanbul.

The Bosphorus seen from the Topkapi palace.





Haghia Sophia, Istanbul.

Blue Mosque, Istanbul.





Entrance of Topkapi palace, Istanbul.

Street in Istanbul.





On the ferry across the Bosphorus, Istanbul.

Bay of Alanya.





Street scenes in eastern Turkey.







Scenes of eastern Turkey.





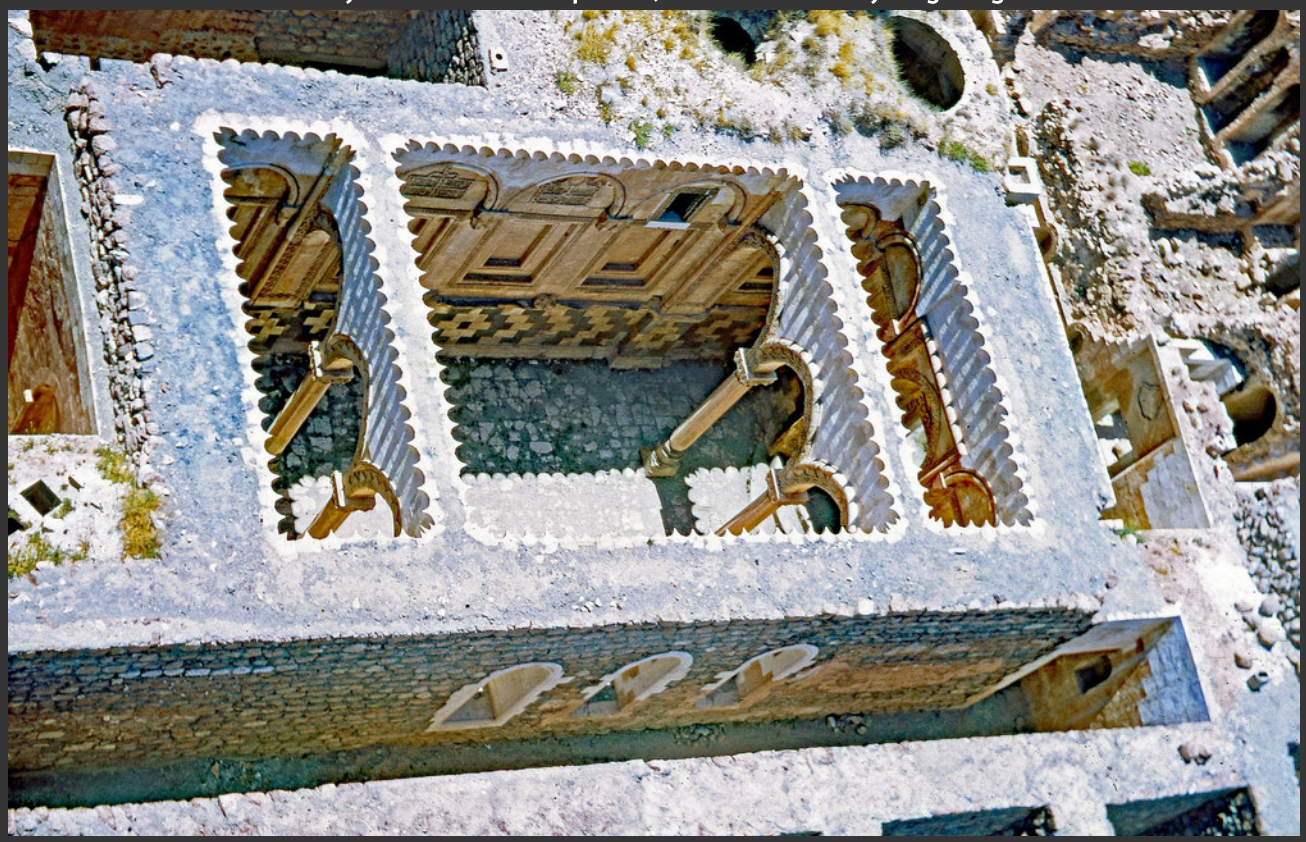
Mount Ararat.

Ancient fortress of Eski Beyazit.





Views of the Ishak Pasha palace, near the town of Dogubayazit.





Slaughter of goat and sheep on the shores of the Black Sea in northern Turkey.



1968, 1970 & 1974: Iran



Landscapes of northern Iran.





Street in Tehran.

Golestan palace, Tehran.



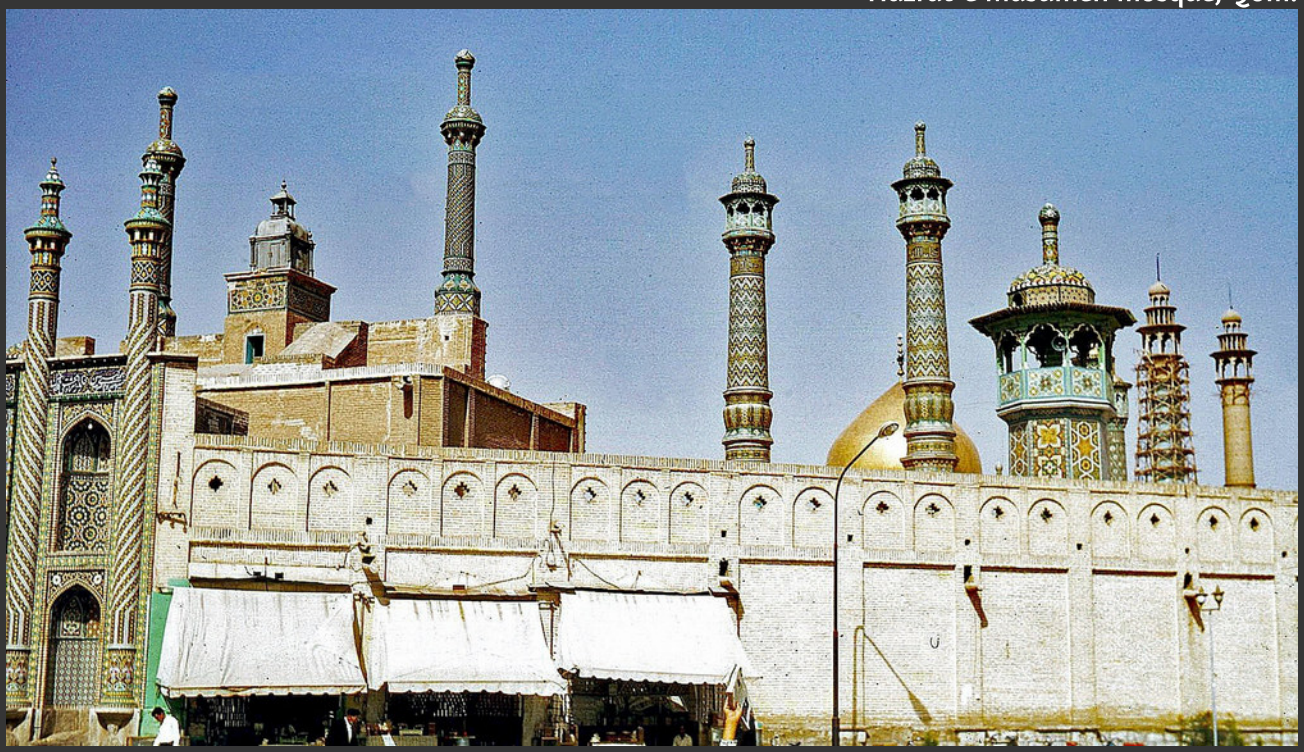


Old tower of Gonbad-e Qabos, northeast Iran.



12th-century minaret of Jameh Mosque, Saveh.

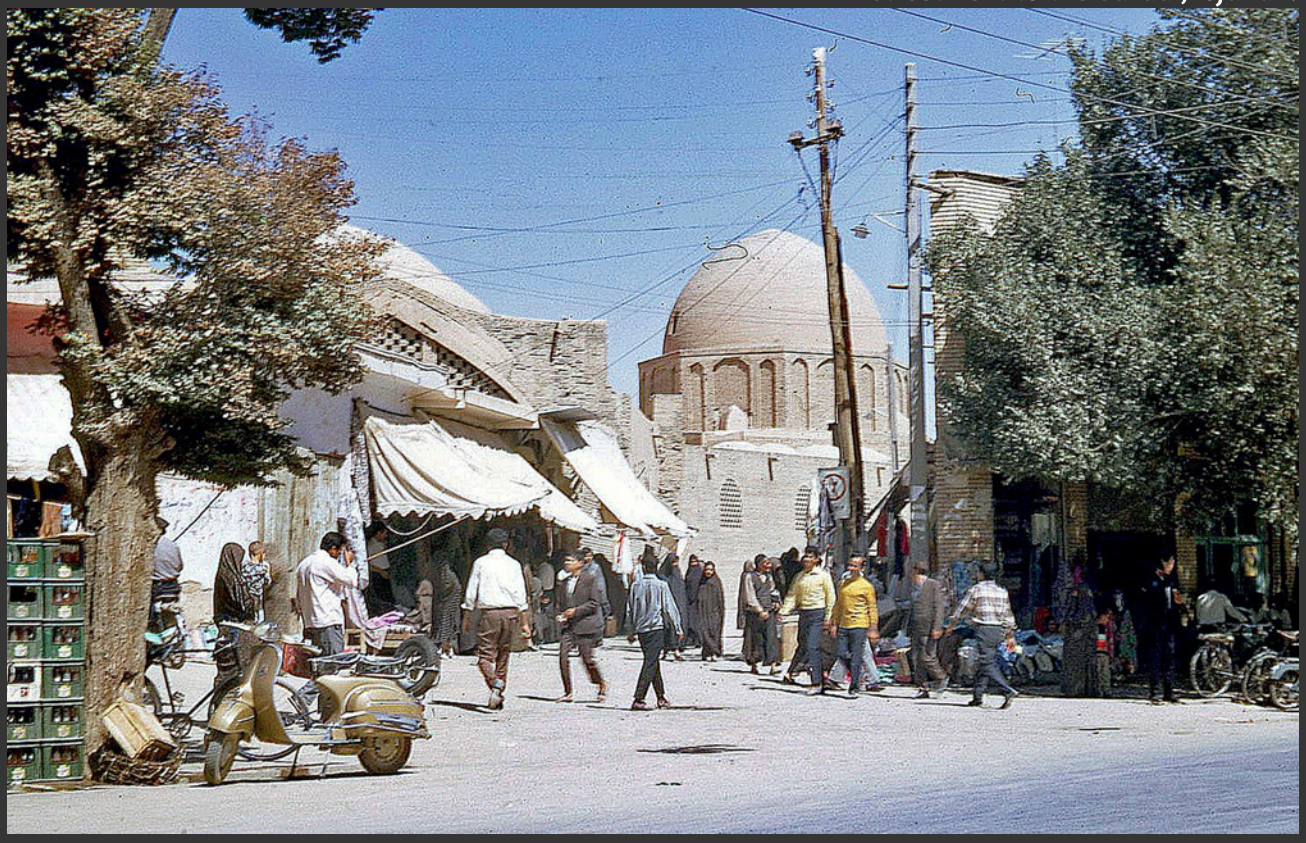
Hazrat-e Masumeh mosque, Qom.





Imam Reza shrine, Mashad.

Street next to the bazaar, Isfahan.





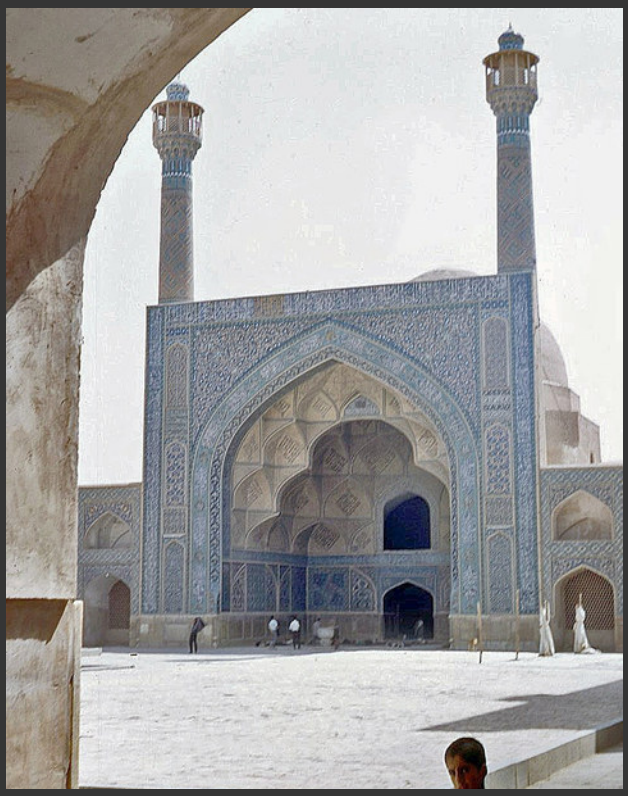
Khaju bridge over the Zayandeh river, Isfahan.





Naqsh-e Jahan square, Isfahan.





North iwan of Jameh mosque, Isfahan.



Darb-i Imam, Isfahan.

West iwan of Jameh mosque, Isfahan.





Inner courtyard of Darb-i Imam, Isfahan.

Safavid stone statue of a lion with a man head in its mouth, Darb-i-Iman, Isfahan.





Armenian Vank cathedral, Isfahan.



Minaret of the Ali mosque, Isfahan.

Gate of All Nations, Persepolis.





Tachara palace, Persepolis

Bas-relief in Persepolis.

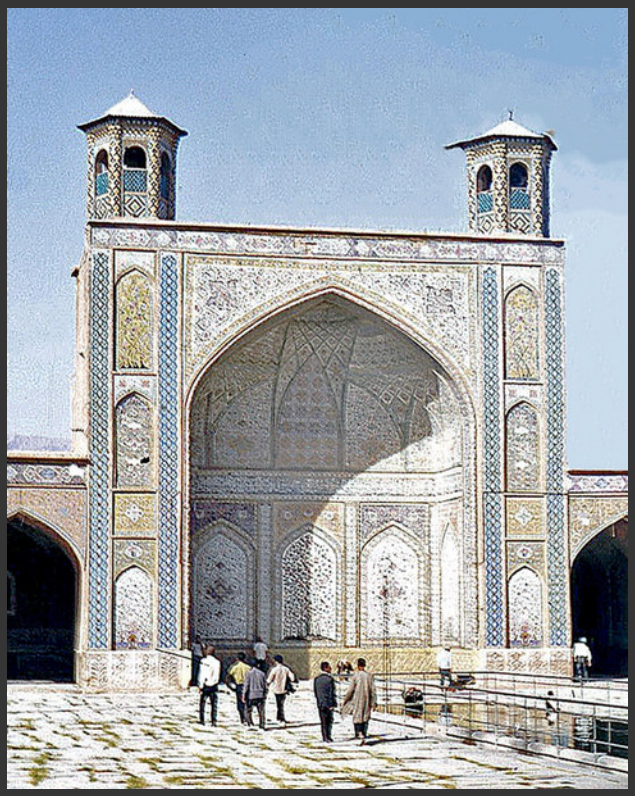




Statue of a griffin, a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of an eagle, Persepolis.



Tomb, Naqsh-e Rostam.



Vakil mosque, Shiraz.

Interior of the Vakil mosque, Shiraz.





Shah Cheragh shrine, Shiraz.





Views over the old city of Yazd. The chimney-looking towers above the roofs are wind catchers called bagdirs. They have been used for centuries to cool houses during the summer months. Hot air from outside is captured by the wind catchers and funneled to the basements of the houses, where it is cooled down in contact with water. The cooled air is then redirected upward into the houses.



Old buildings outside the center of Yazd (note the "yakhchal" at the center-right of the picture).





Better view of the Yakhchal, an ancient ice house partially built underground with thick walls and a sun-reflecting roof. During winters it was filled with blocks of ice brought from high mountains south of Yazd. Ice survived inside the yakhchal throughout most of the hot summers.

Zoroastrian Tower of Silence (Dakhma), Yazd.





Jameh mosque, Yazd.



Man standing next to a nakhl, a wooden structure carried out during Shia religious rituals, Yazd.

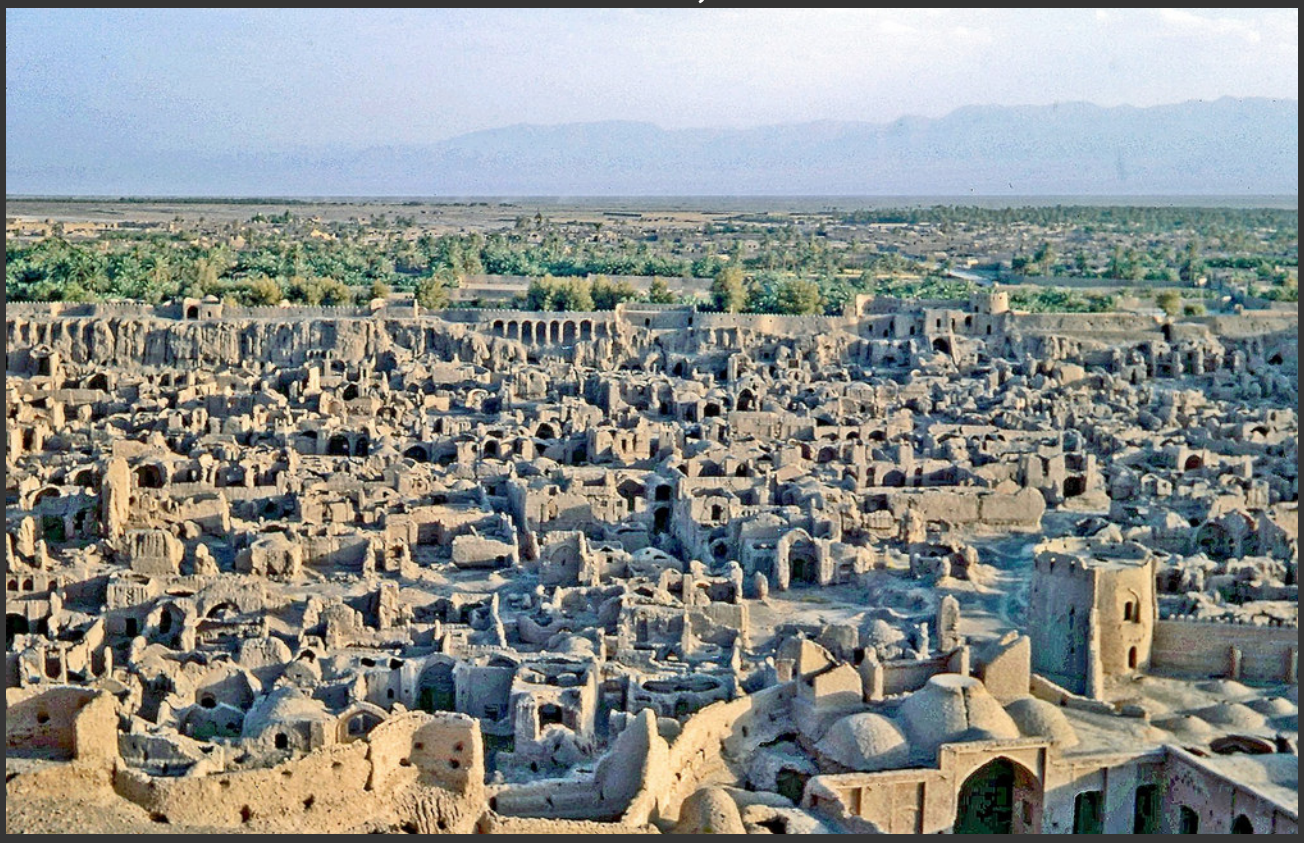


Views of the ancient city of Bam in southern Iran.





Other views of Bam.





Pictures of southern Iran, between Bam and Zahedan.





The Renault 4L used for the 1970 trip, in southern Iran.

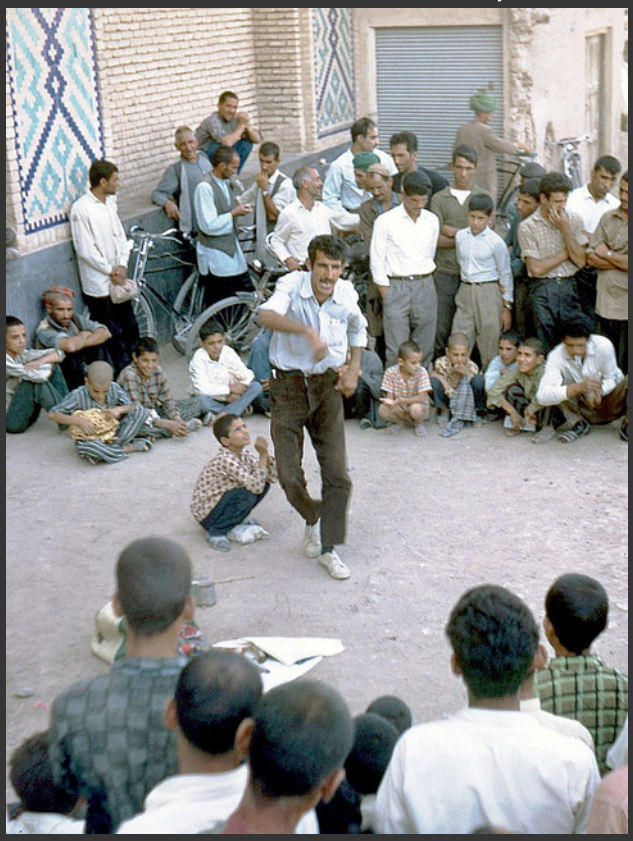
Picture taken from the Renault 4L in southern Iran.







People in various towns of Iran.









Bakery and butcher's shop somewhere in Iran.





Woodworker and barber somewhere in Iran.



1968: Lebanon



Cedars on the slopes of the Mount Lebanon range.

View over the town of Bsharri in the Qadish valley.





Sidon's Sea Castle built by the crusaders in the 13th century.

Portion of the temple of Bacchus in Baalbek.



1968: Syria



In a street of Damas.

View from the Krak des Chevaliers.





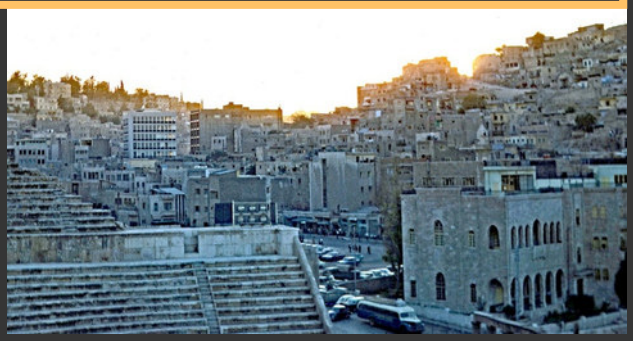
Inside the Krak des Chevaliers.



1968: Jordan



King Talal street and minaret of the Grand Husseini mosque, Amman.



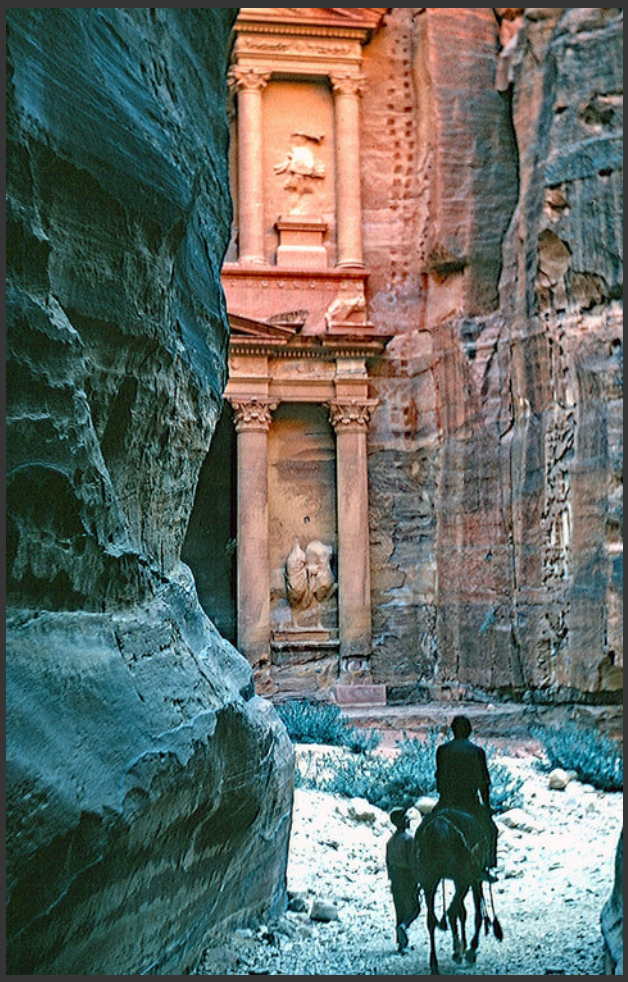
View over Amman at sunrise.

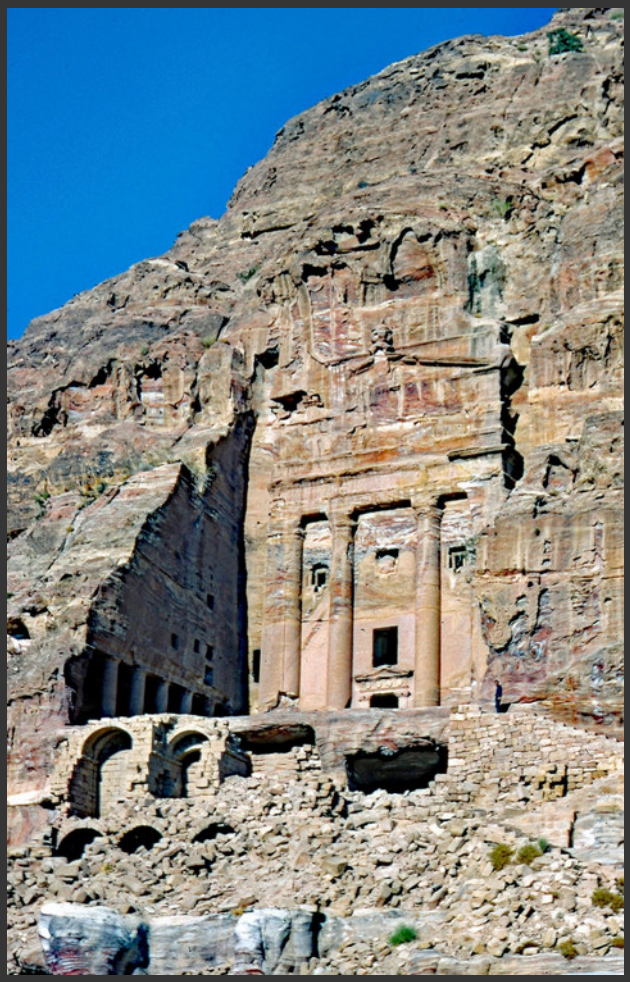


Roman theater, Amman.

Colonnaded street and oval forum of the ancient Greco-Roman city of Jerash.







Views of the ancient Nabataean city of Petra.



1968: Iraq



Streets of Baghdad with big American cars.



1968: Kuweit



Downtown Kuweit City, where oil was almost free.

Arch-shaped gate with uniformed guards.



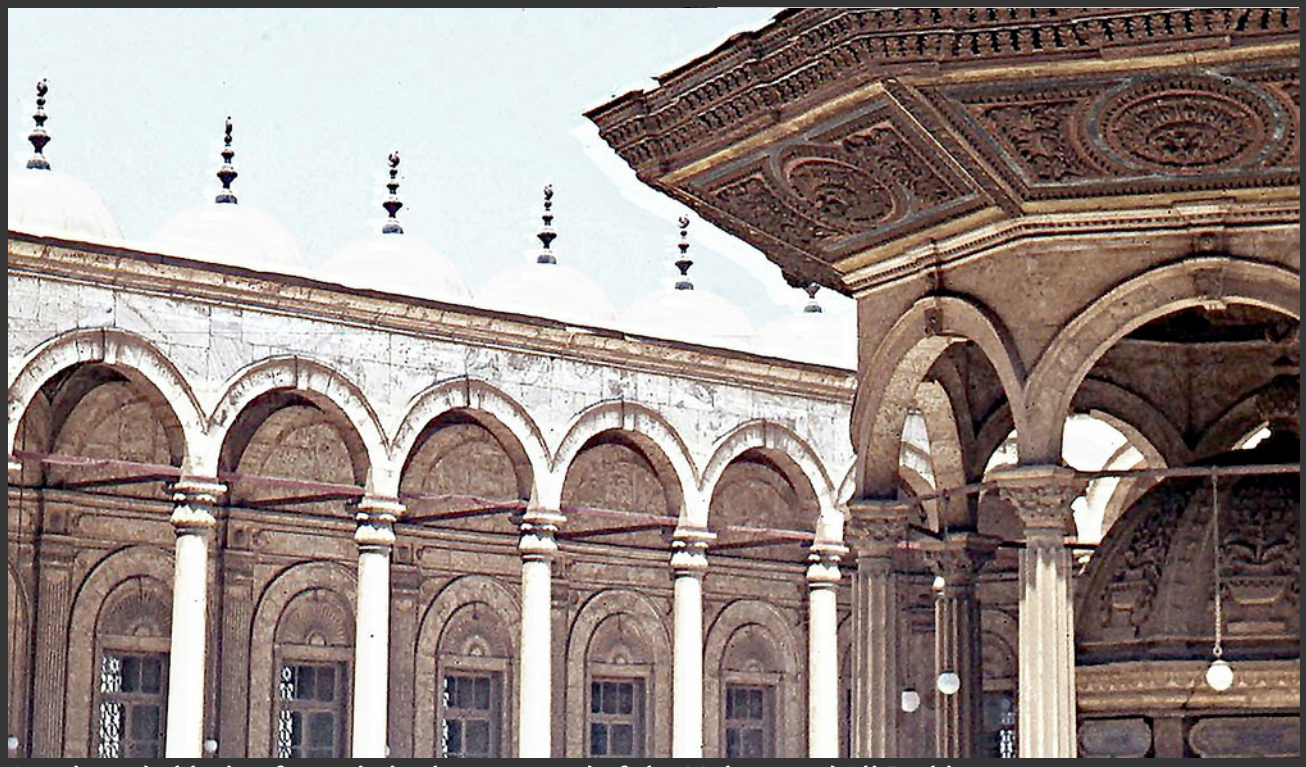
1969: Egypt



View over Cairo from the Citadel, with a minaret of the Sultan Hassan mosque visible on the left.

The Muhammad Ali Pasha mosque in the Citadel.



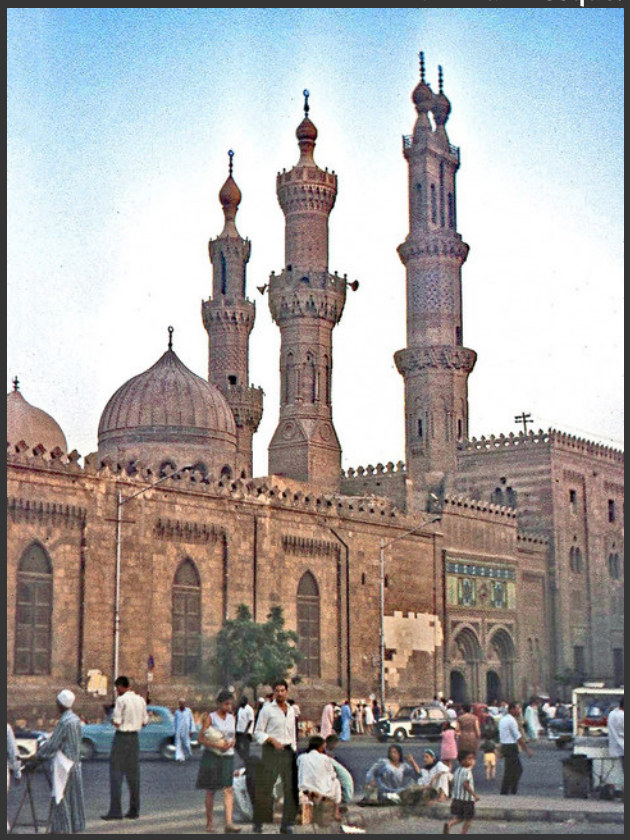


Arcade and ablution fountain in the courtyard of the Muhammad Ali Pashi mosque.

The Sultan Hassan mosque (left) and the Al Rifa'i mosque (right).



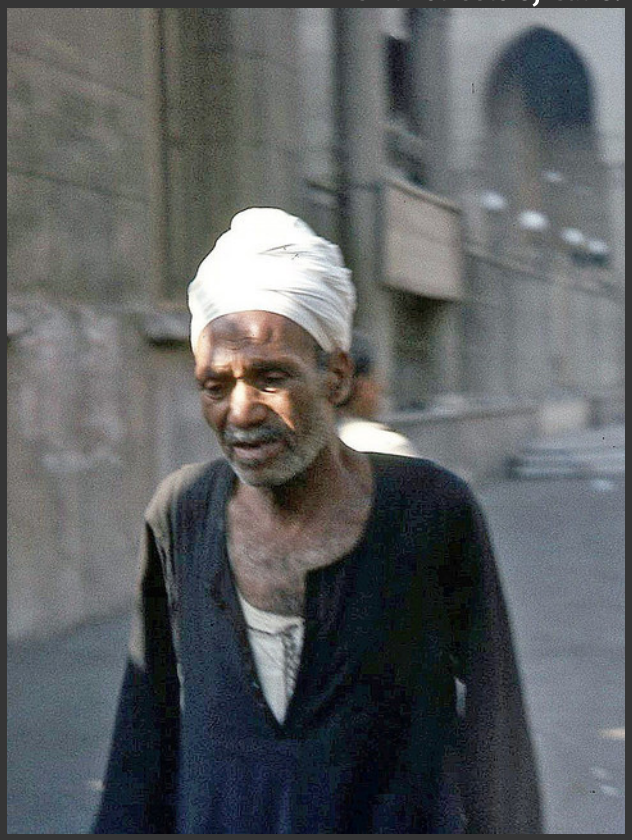
Al-Azhar mosque.





Courtyard of the Al-Azhar university.





Men in streets of Cairo.



Small shops in a square of Cairo.

Street food vendor in Cairo.





In a street of Cairo.

Hotel Bel Air, my residence in Cairo.



Pro-Palestinian posters on walls in Cairo.





Two friends in Cairo, here on the banks of the Nile, with the Delta Barrage in the background.

Birthday party at a friend's home.





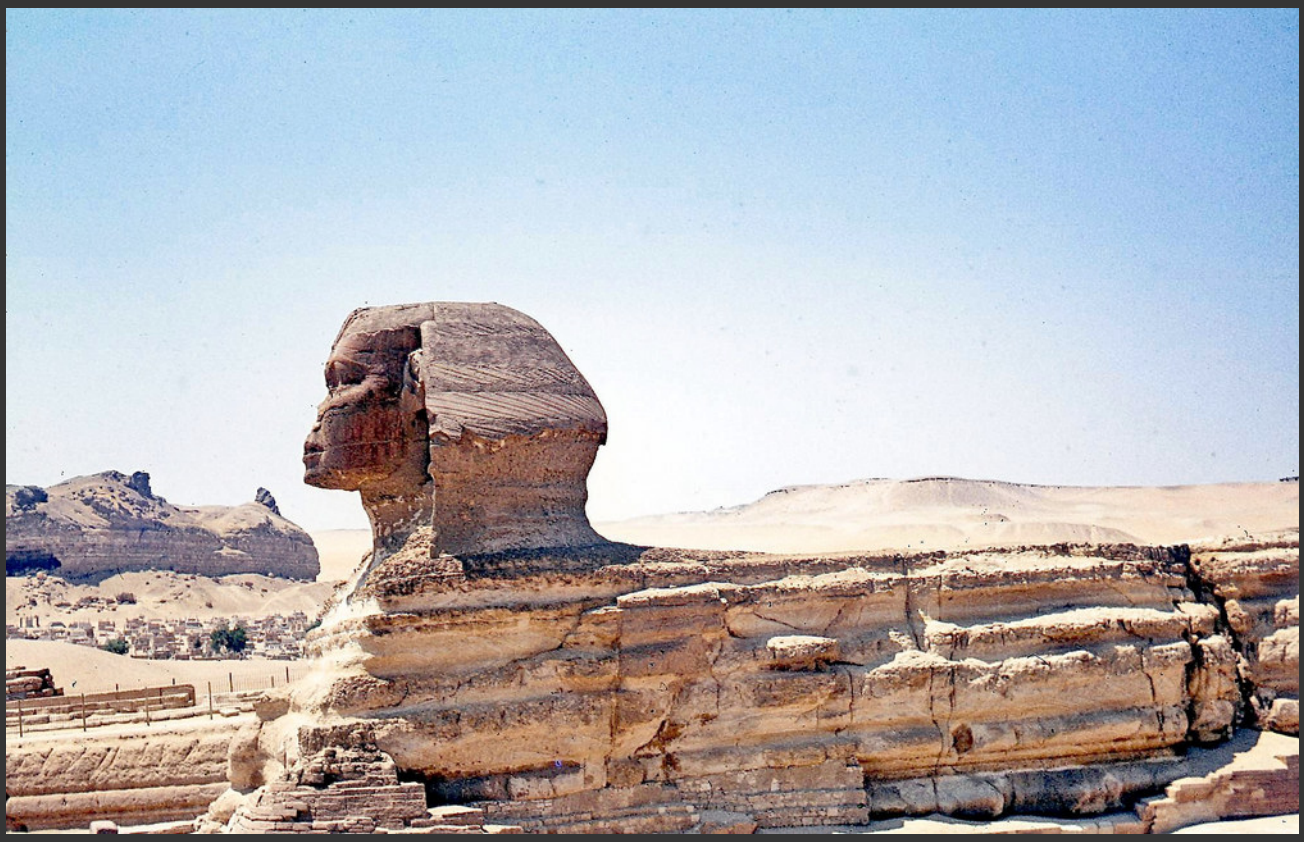
Views of the Nile near Cairo.





Views of the Nile near Cairo.





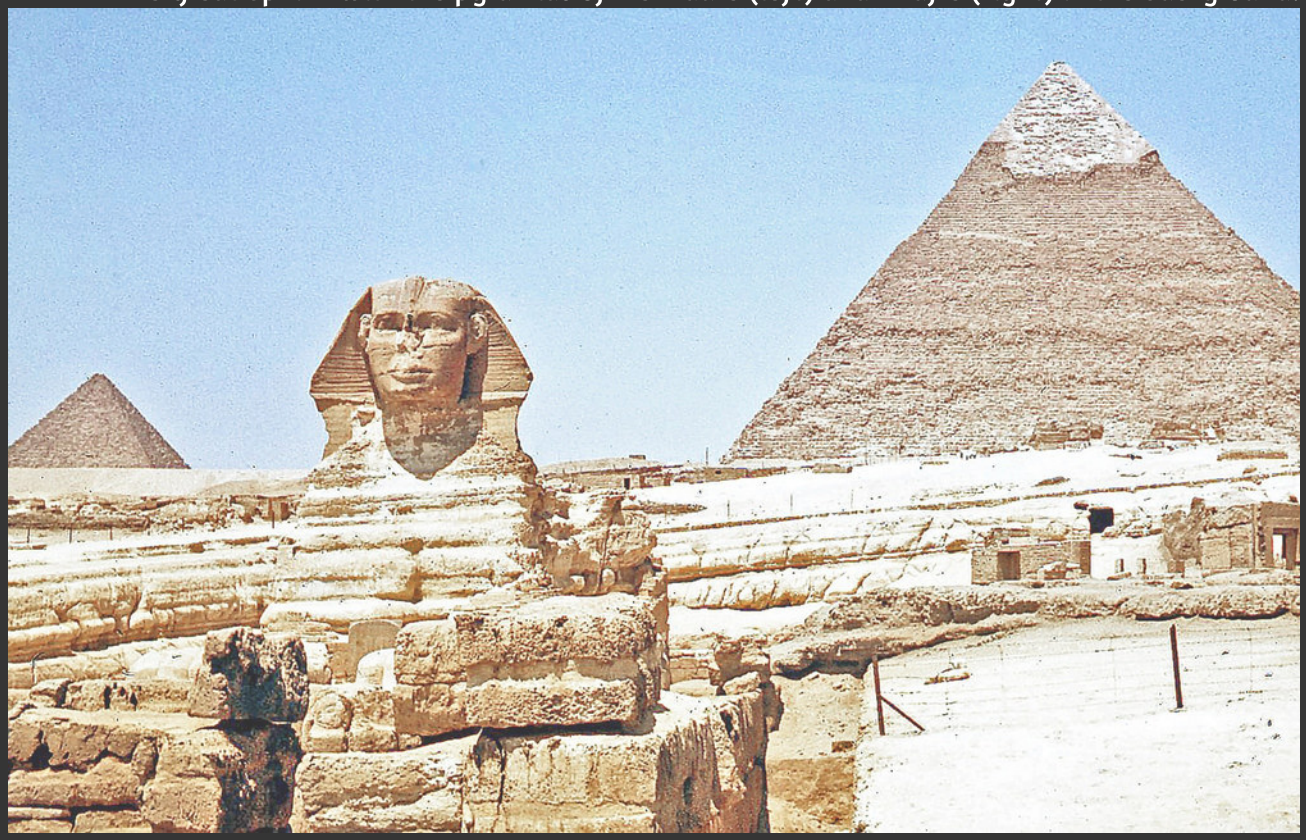
Views of the Great Sphinx on the plateau of Giza.





Me with a friend (in red shirt) posing before the Spinx.

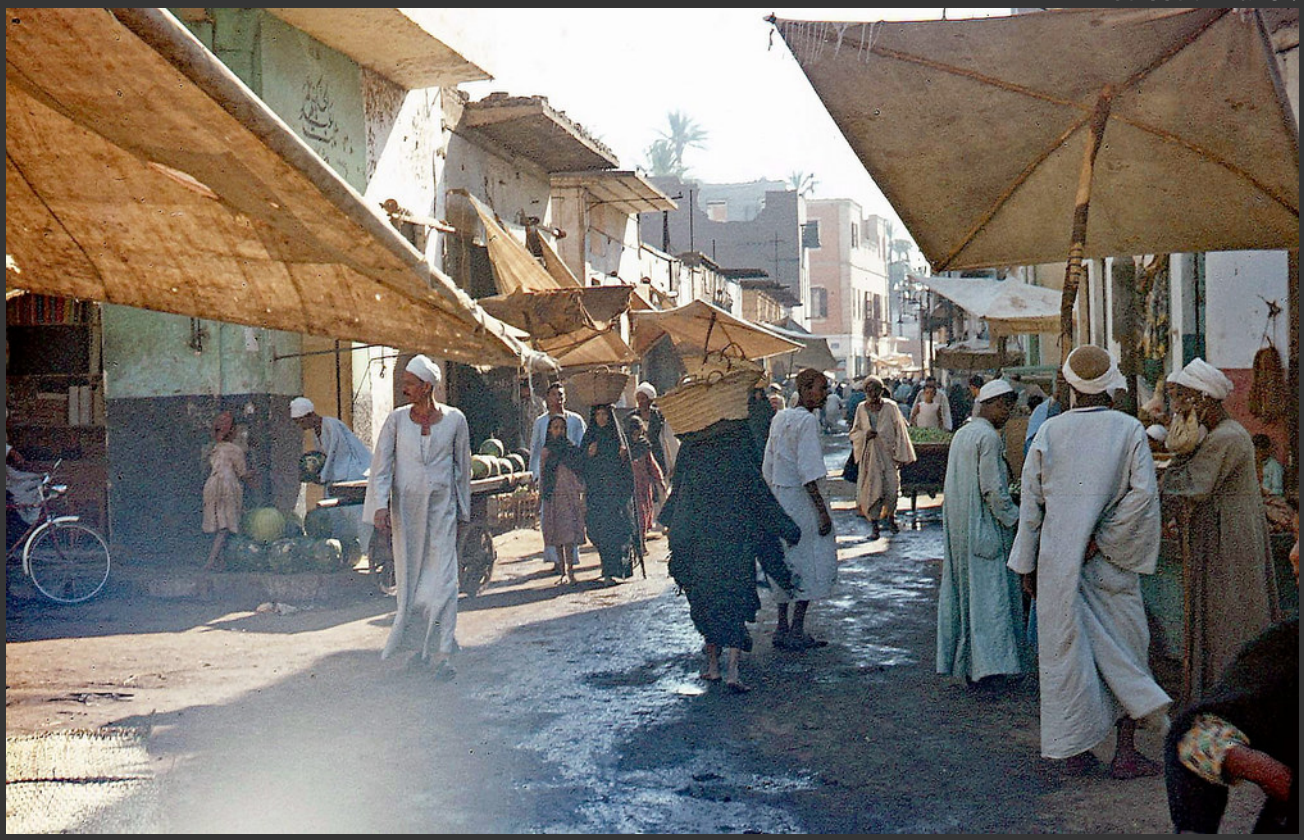
The Great Sphinx with the pyramids of Menkaure (left) and Khafre (right) in the background.





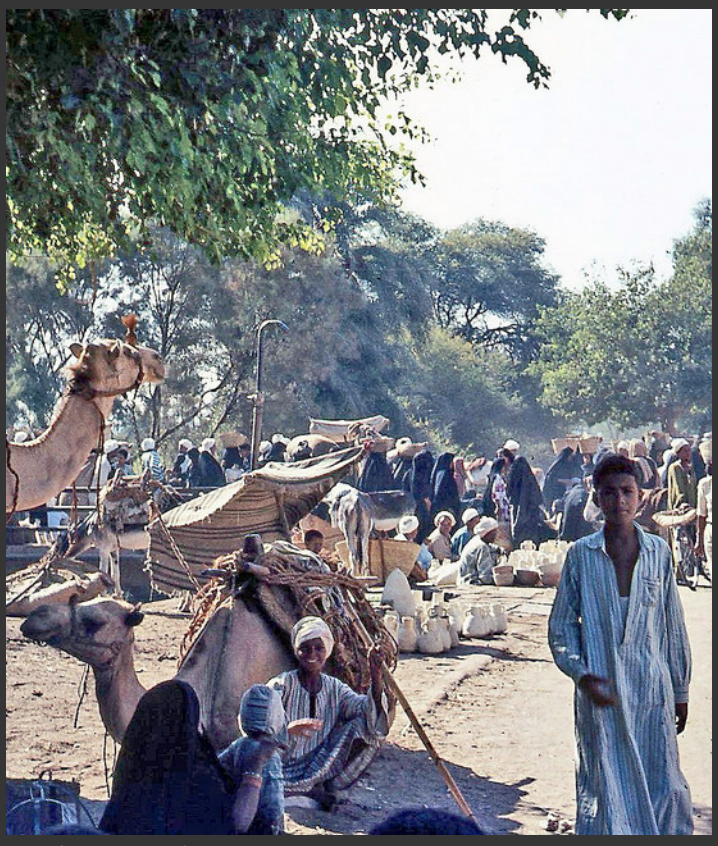
Pyramid of Khafre.

Street in Luxor.





Street in Luxor.



Market scene in Luxor.

Another market scene in Luxor.





Views of the Nile around Luxor.





Views of the Nile around Luxor.

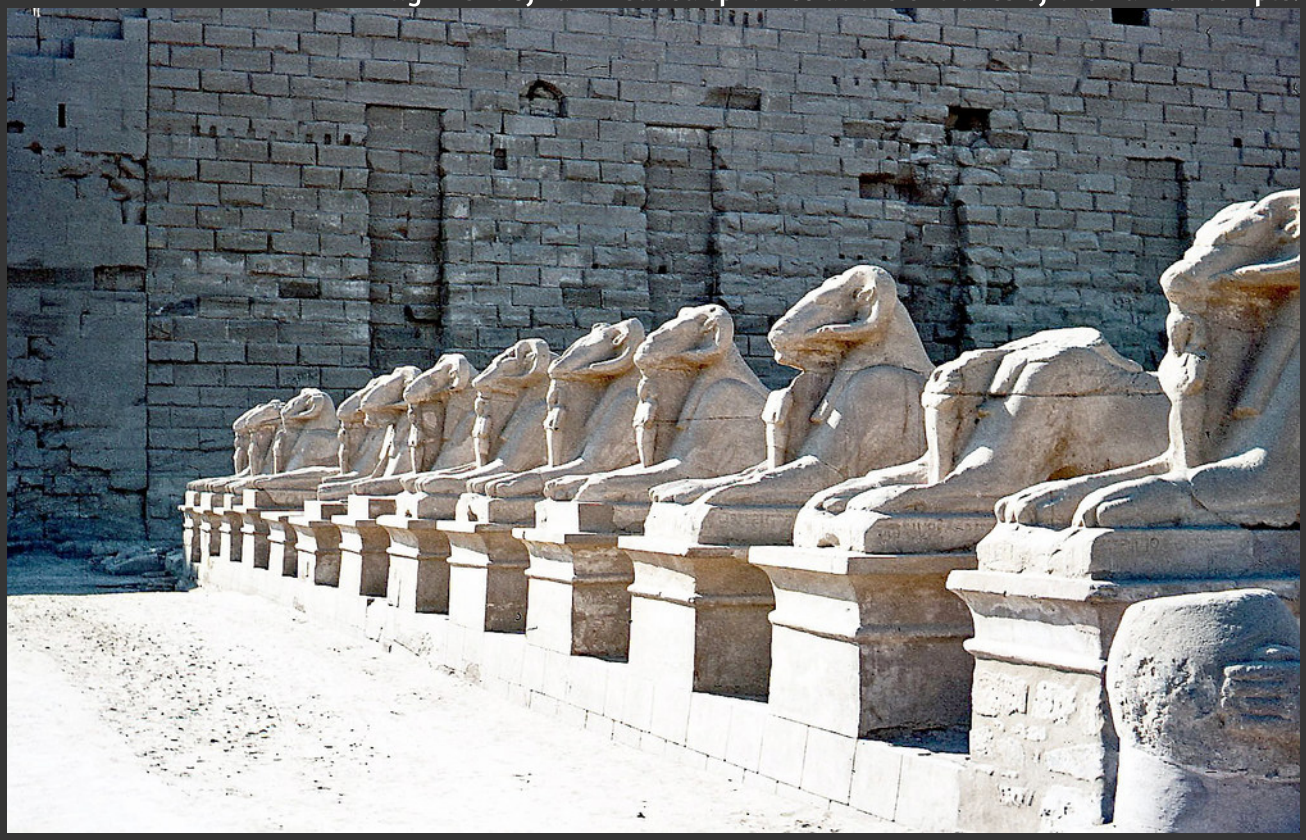






Luxor temple.

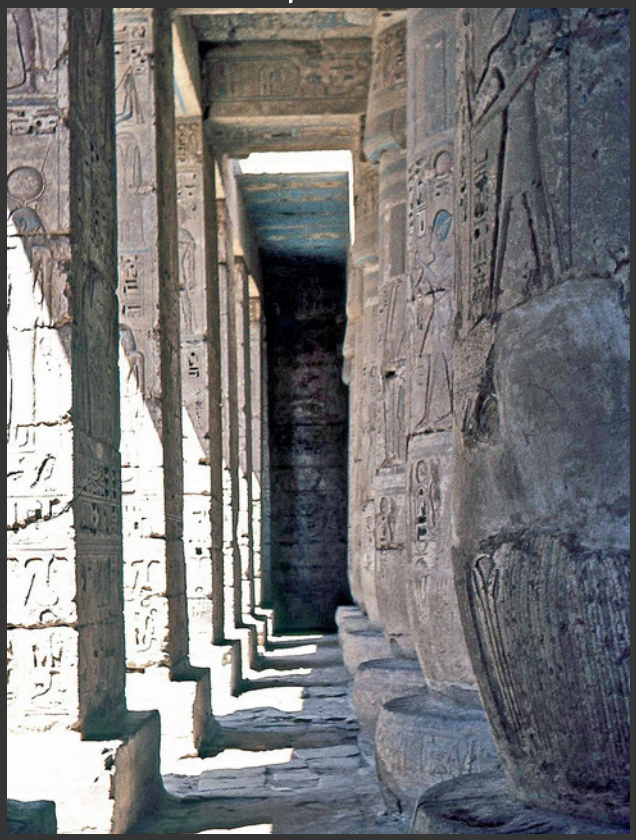
Alignment of ram-headed sphinxes at the entrance of the Karnak temple.

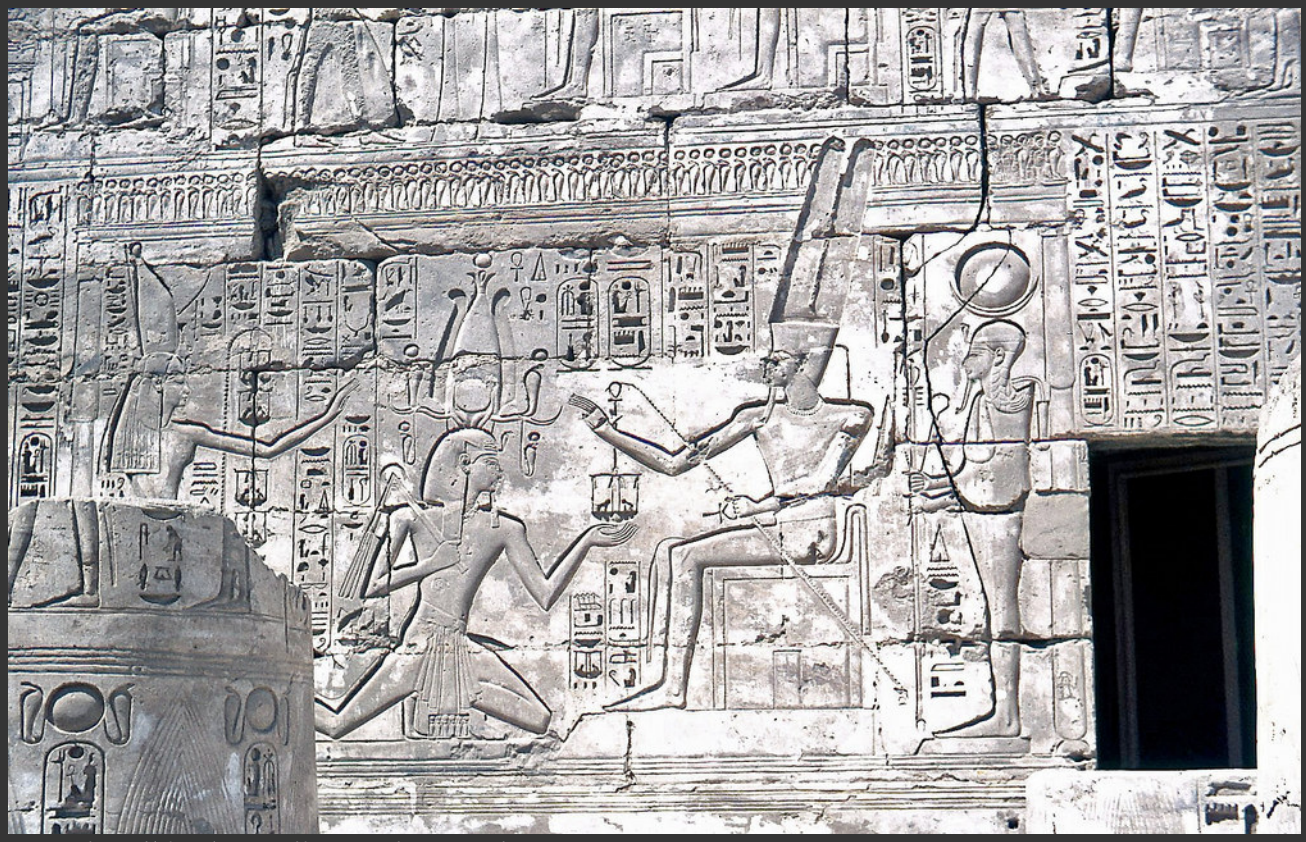




Carved columns and walls in the Medinet Habu temple.







Carved wall in the Medinet Habu temple.

Colossi of Memnon (18m in height).





Me on a donkey above the Nile valley.

View from the train to Aswan, in southern Egypt, on my way to Sudan.



1969: Sudan



On the boat from Aswan to Wadi Halfa in Sudan, on Lake Nasser. The boat is actually an assembly of 5 or 6 smaller boats, one providing propulsion, the others equipped with passenger cabins.







Arrival in Wadi Halfa, a desolate place on the southern shores of Lake Nasser.





Train toward Khartoum at Wadi Halfa.

The desert of Nubia seen from the train.
Across the desert the train was very slow, perhaps not faster than a running man.





Train station in Khartoum.

Fruit stand in Khartoum.





Man drinking tea in Khartoum.



Policeman in Khartoum.

Street scene in Omdurman.





Street scenes in Omdurman, a city across the White Nile from Khartoum.





In Wad Madani, a town on the Blue Nile southeast of Khartoum.





Demonstration of the effectiveness of an amulet bracelet against scorpion stings, in Wad Madani.

Views (5 photos) from the boat on the White Nile between the towns of Kosti and Juba.
Like the one on Lake Nasser (see page 122), this boat is an assembly of several small boats.
The White Nile flows through a flat marsh land with no clear river banks. Due to frequent rains, it carries large amounts of vegetation, which sometimes completely surround the boat.





Views from the boat between the towns of Kosti and Juba.





Views from the boat between the towns of Kosti and Juba.





Villages further south on the shores of the White Nile.





Streets of Juba.



1969: Kenya



Fort Jesus in Mombasa.

A dhow, a traditional sailing boat for trade along the East African coast, here north of Mombasa.





Along the coast of the Indian Ocean, north of Mombasa.



1970: Pakistan



Our Renaut 4L cooling down, in the Balochistan desert, in southwestern Pakistan.

Nomad camp along the road in Balochistan.

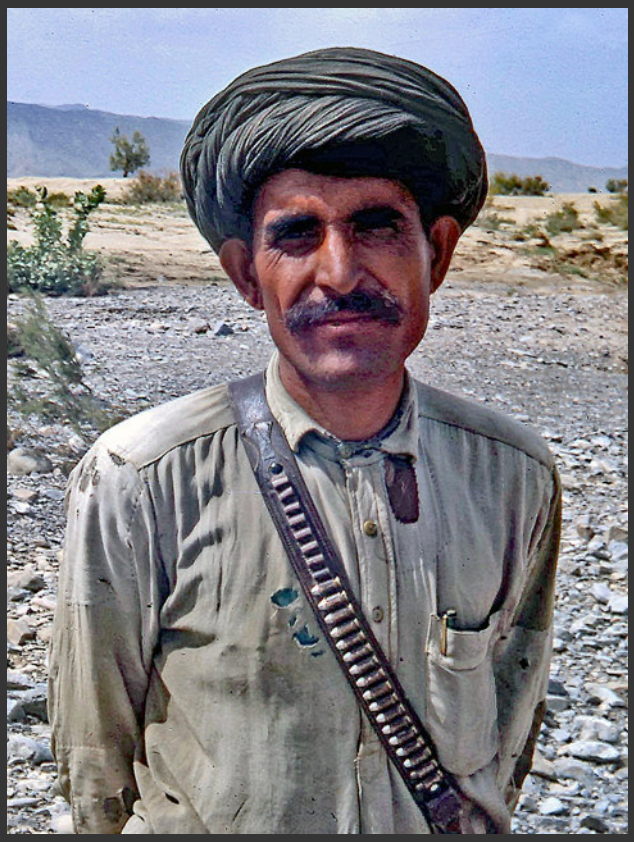




Camels along the road in Balochistan.

Bus in the Sulaiman mountains.

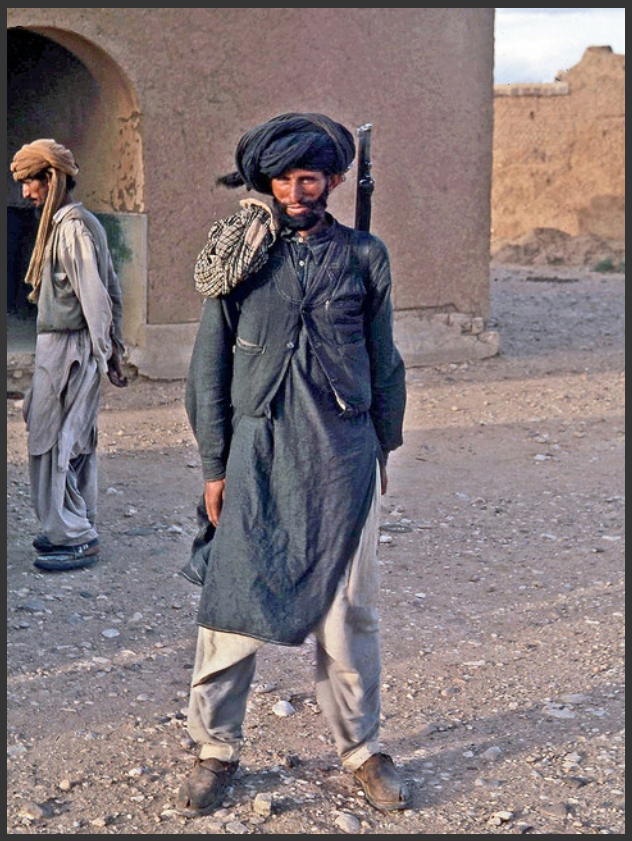






Men in and around the Sulaiman mountains.









People in the Indus valley.







Wrestling competition in the Indus valley.

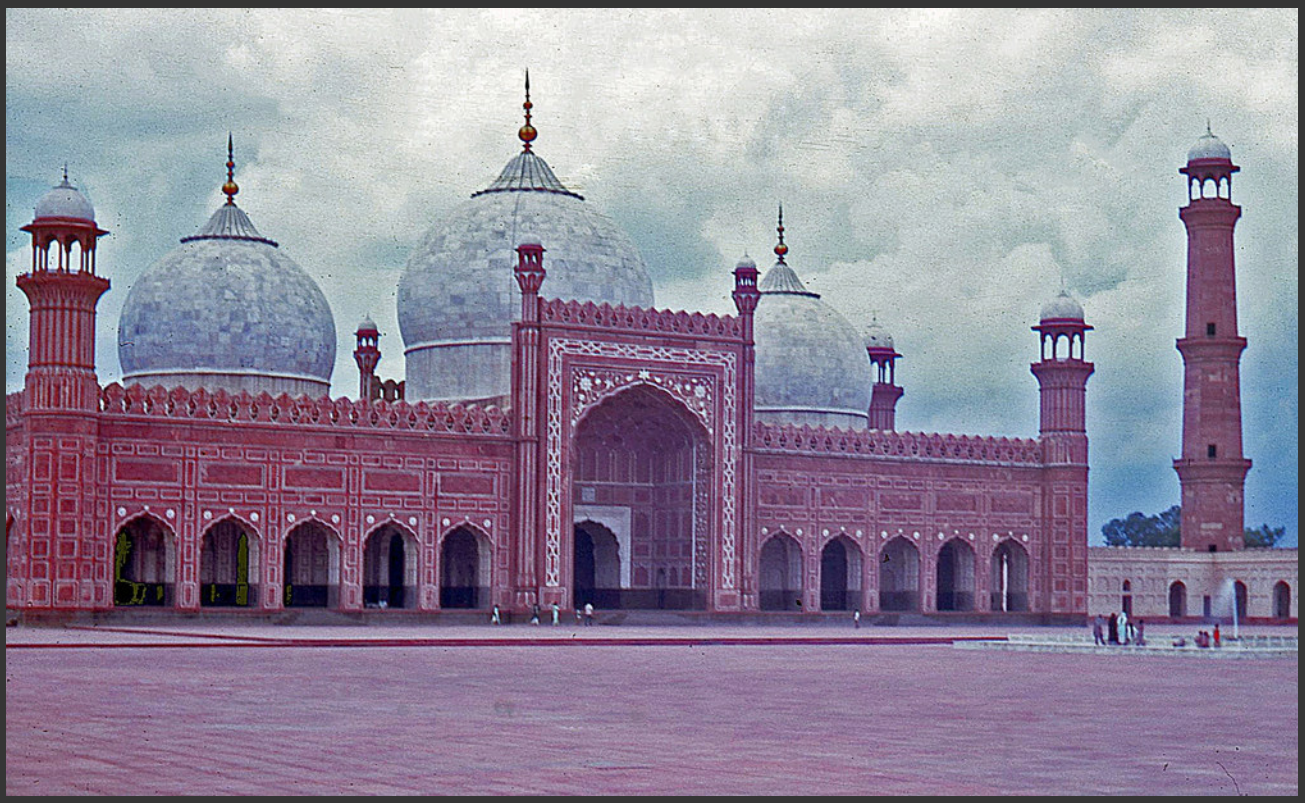




Village in the Indus valley.

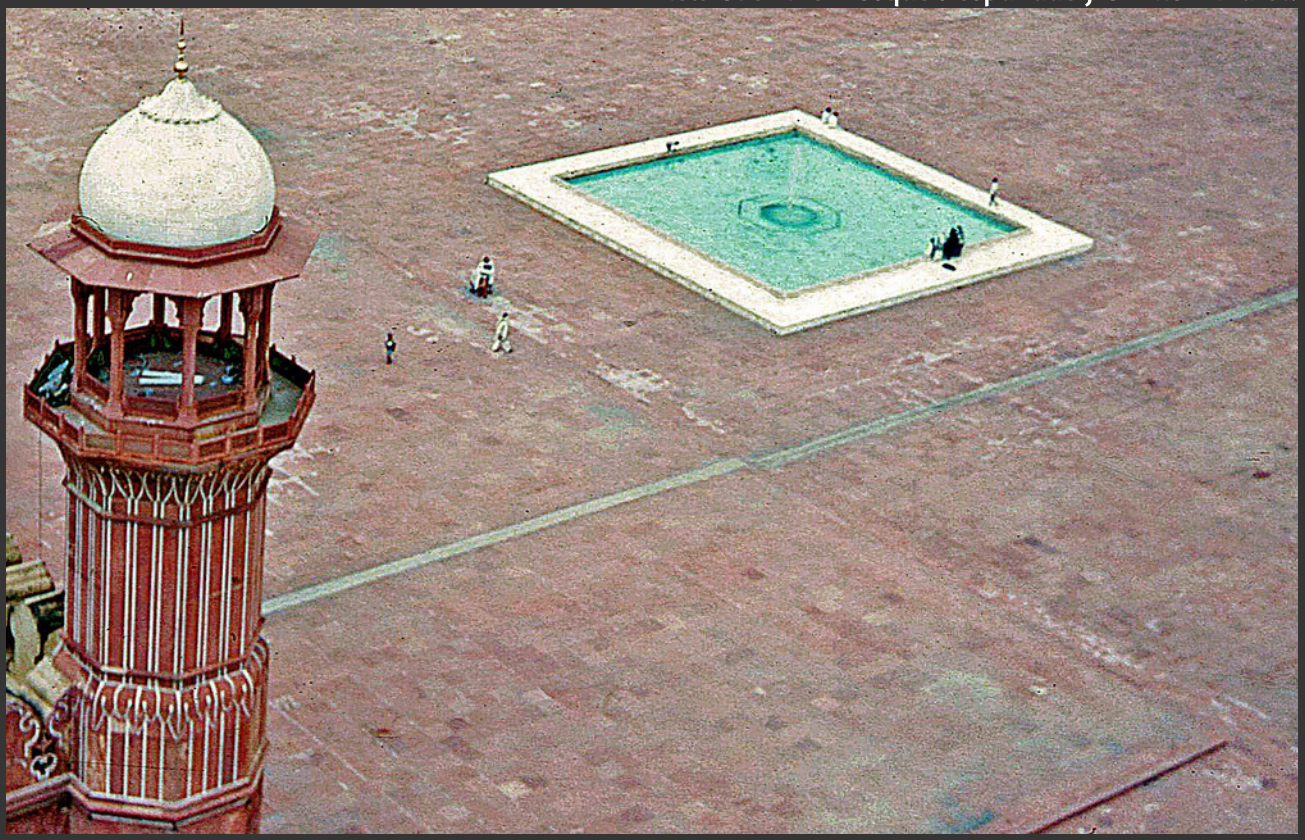
Shalimar gardens in Lahore. They were created in the mid-17th century during the reign of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.

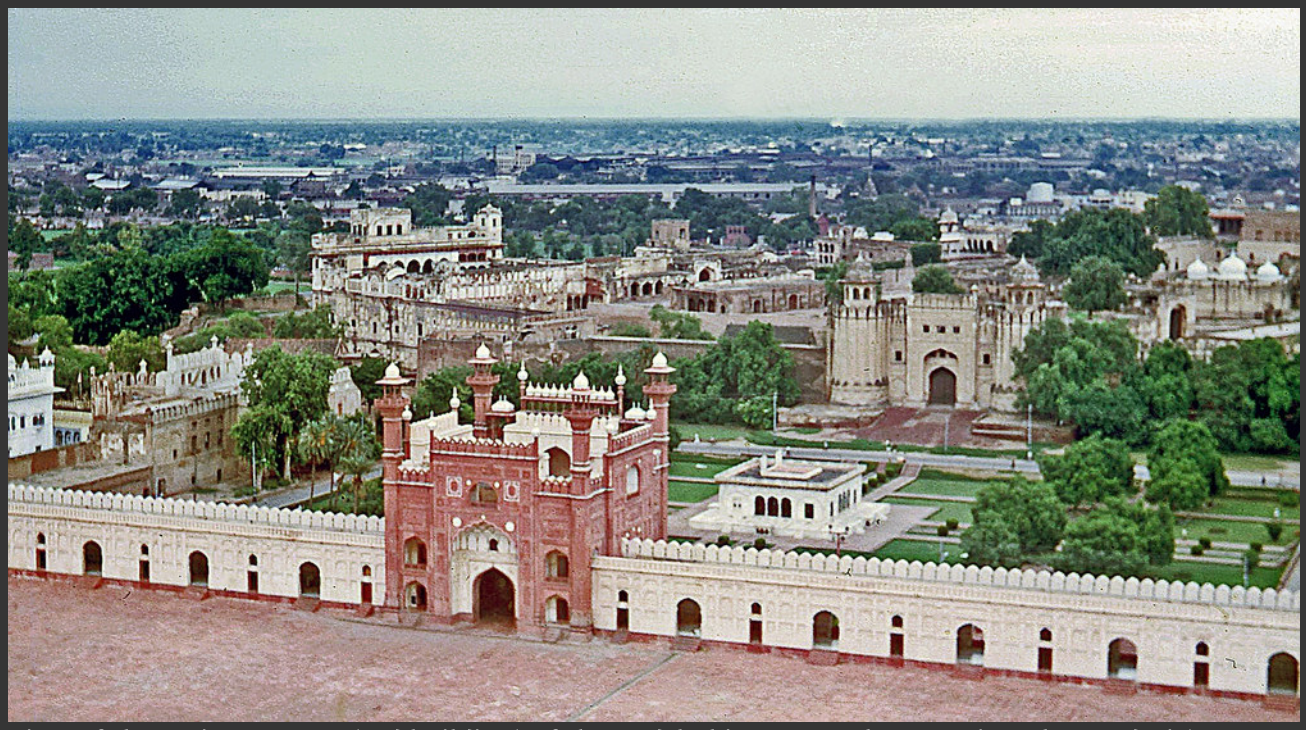




Badshahi mosque in Lahore, seen from its large espanade.

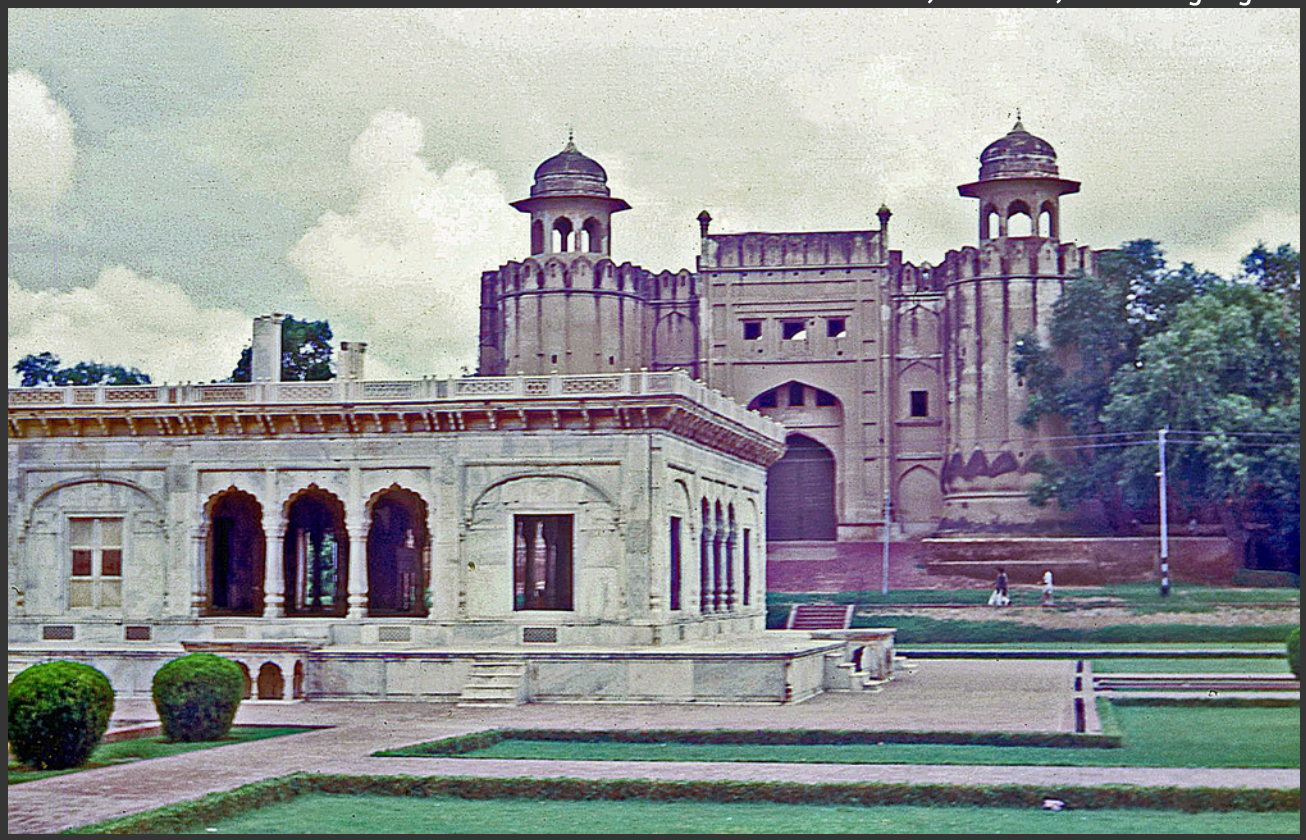
View over the mosque's espanade from its minaret.

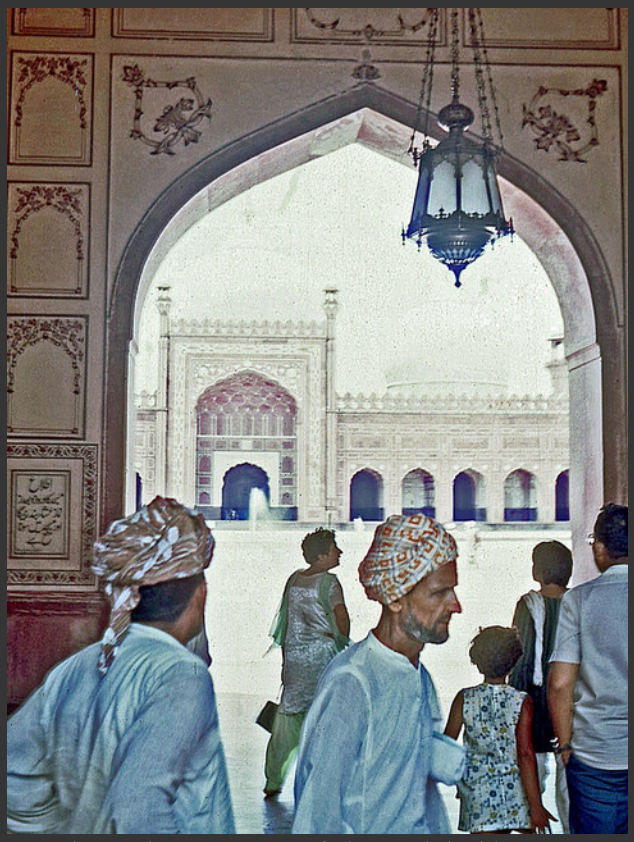




View of the main entrance (red building) of the Badshahi mosque, the Hazuri Bagh Baradari (see photo below), and the massive Alamgiri gate of the Lahore Fort.

The Hazuri Bagh Baradari, a square white-marble pavilion with twelve arched doors and, behind it, the Alamgiri gate.



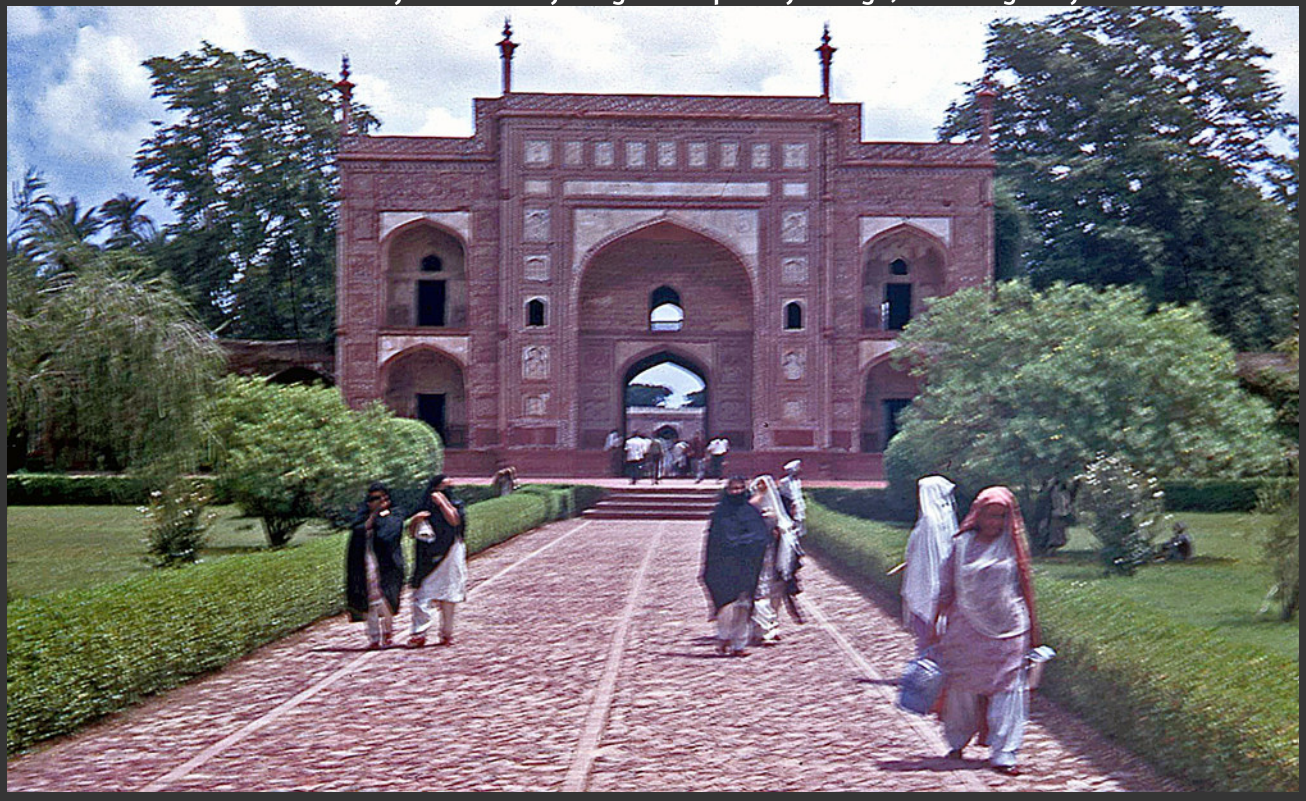


People at the entrance of the Badshahi mosque.



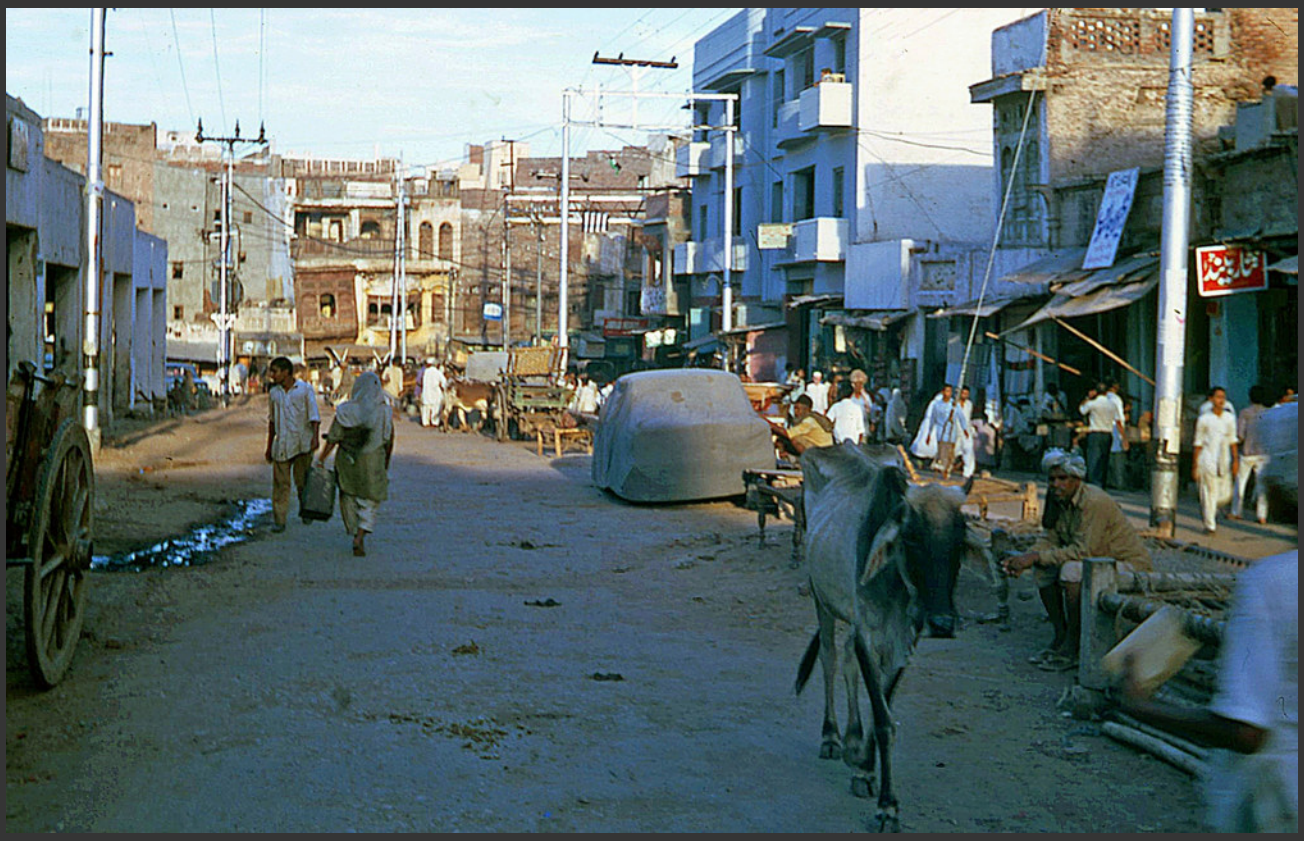
Wazir Khan mosque in Lahore.

Entrance of the tomb of Mughal emperor Jahangir, who reigned from 1605 to 1627.



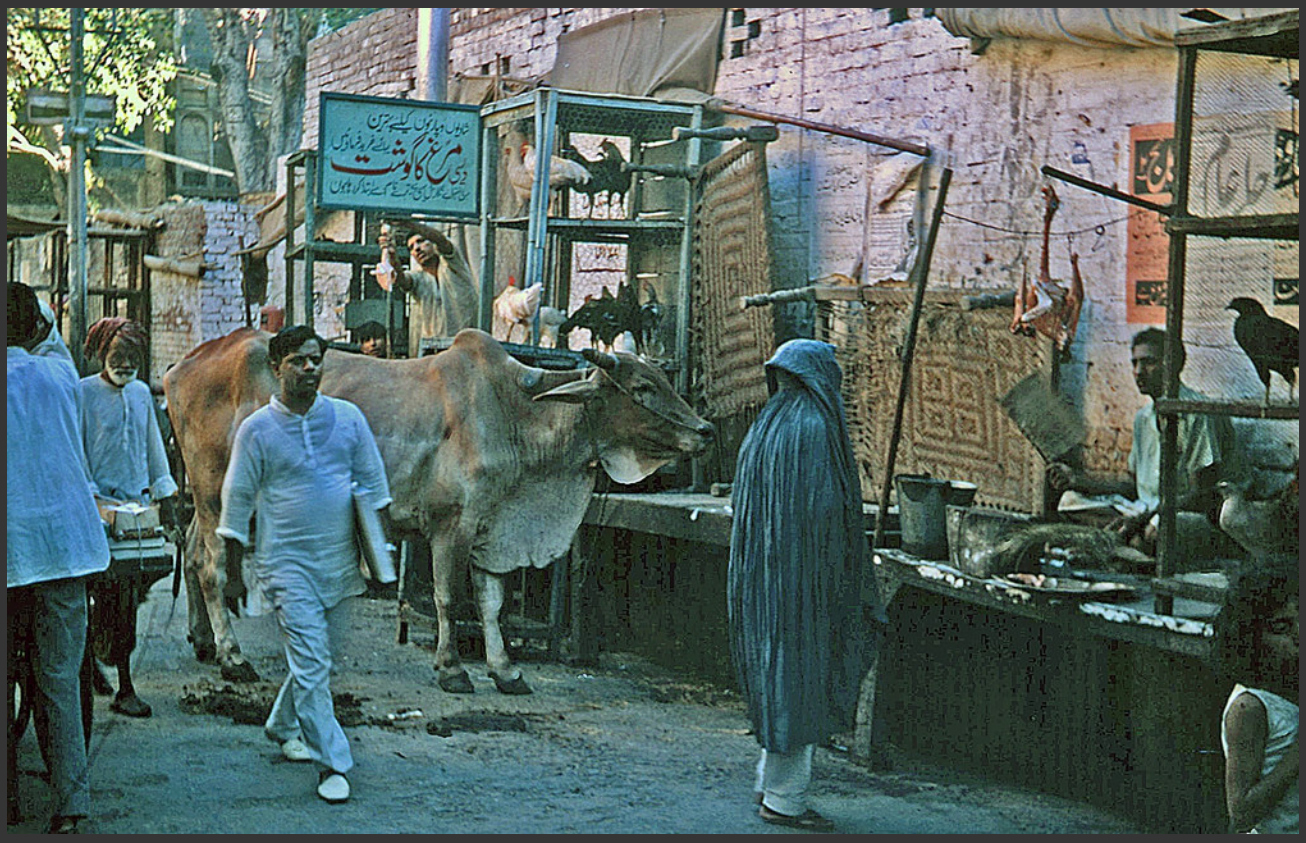


Street scenes in Lahore.





Street scenes in Lahore.





Street scenes in Lahore.





Street scenes in Lahore.





Boy in Lahore.



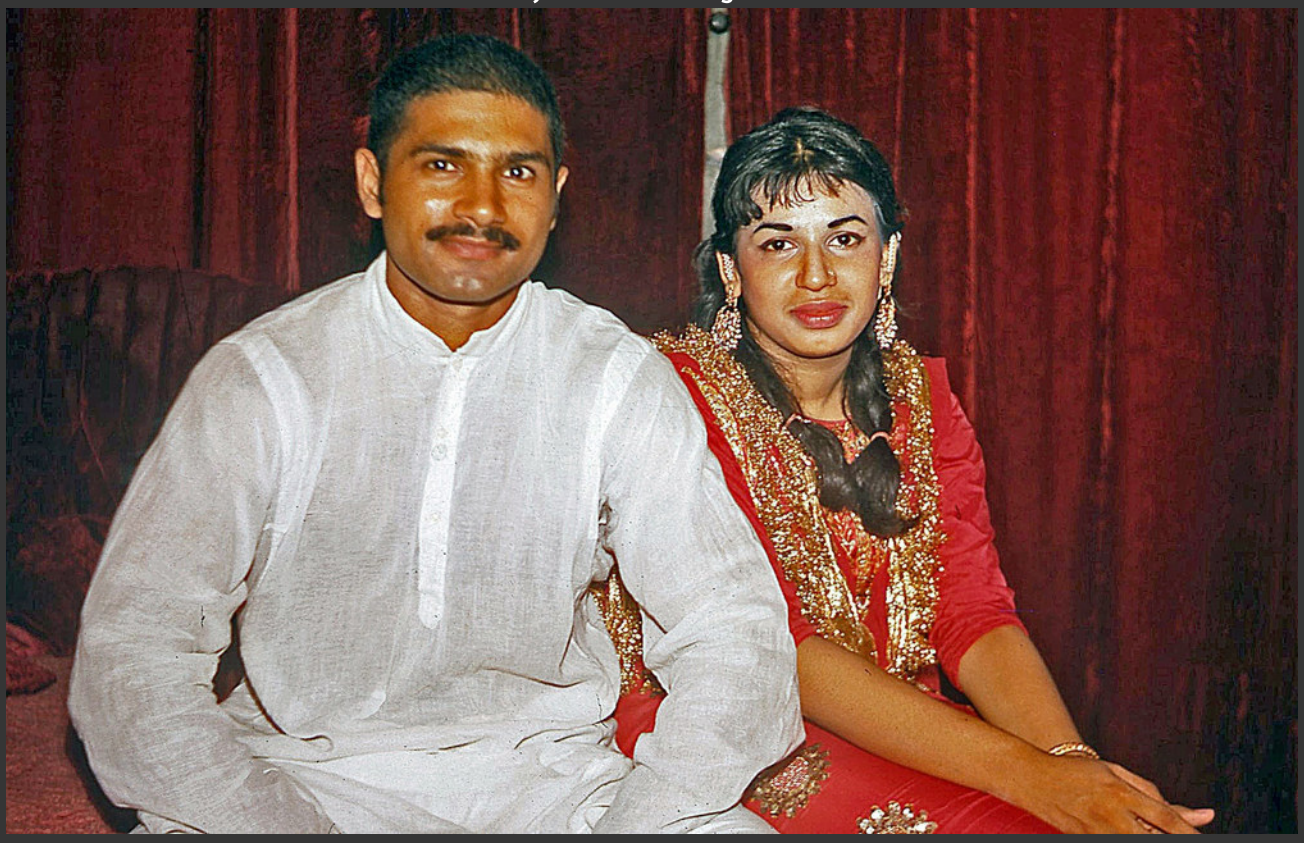


Scenes from a wedding in Lahore.





Scenes from a wedding in Lahore.





Scenes from a wedding in Lahore.





The two photos below show Buddhist ruins in Sirkap, an ancient city next to present-day Taxila. They date back to the ancient Gandhara civilization that covered northwest Pakistan and northeast Afghanistan in the 1st to 5th centuries.



Structure called the Double-Headed Eagle shrine.

The Dharmarajika stupa.





In the northern mountains, in the Kaghan valley, on the way to Babusar pass.

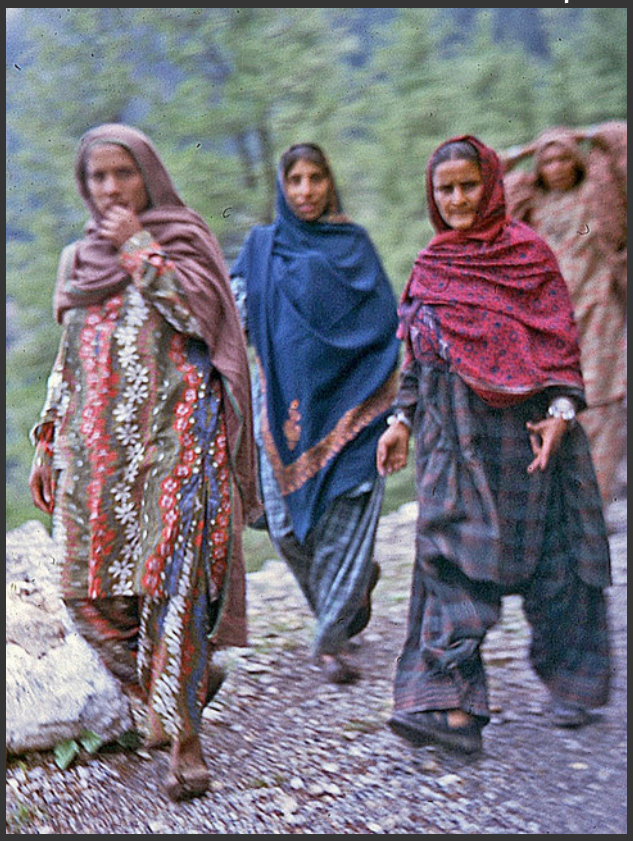




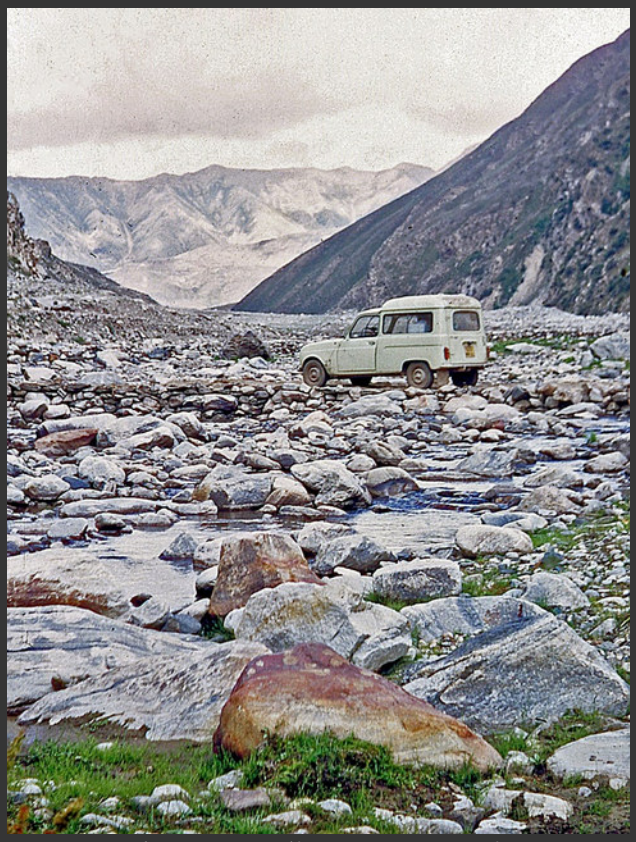




Further up in the Kaghan valley.







Our Renault 4L struggling to ccross a river.



Local people repairing the "road" across a river.

With two Swiss (and their Land Rover) and locals at Babusar pass (4175m).





View of Nanga Parbat (8126m) from Babusar pass.

Shagai fort located below the Khyber pass, west of Peshawar, near the border with Afghanistan. It was built in 1927 by the British military to monitor the pass.



1970: Afghanistan



Our Renault 4L at a gas station.

View over Kabul.





Kabul river.

Street scene in Kabul.





Street scenes in Kabul.





Street scenes in Kabul.



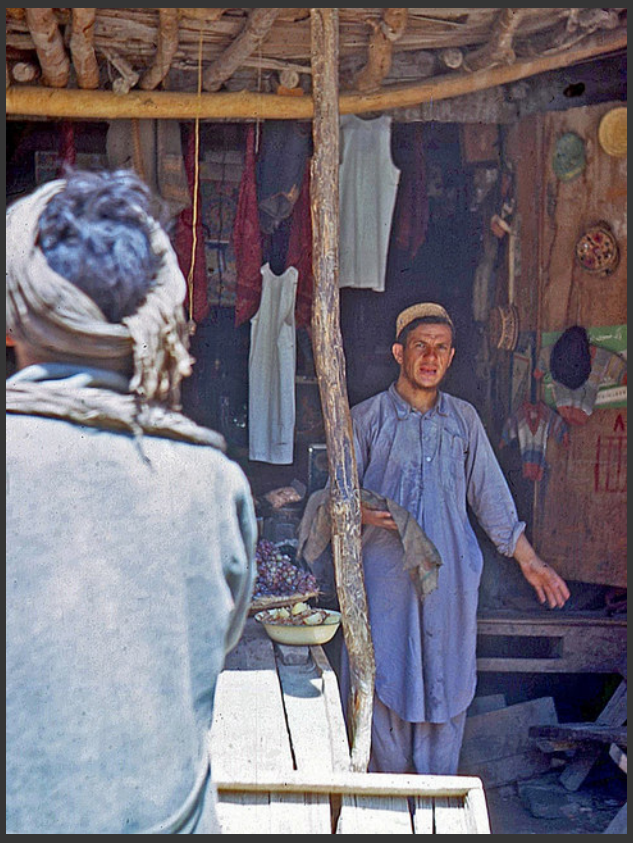


Street scenes in Kabul.





Street scenes in Kabul.







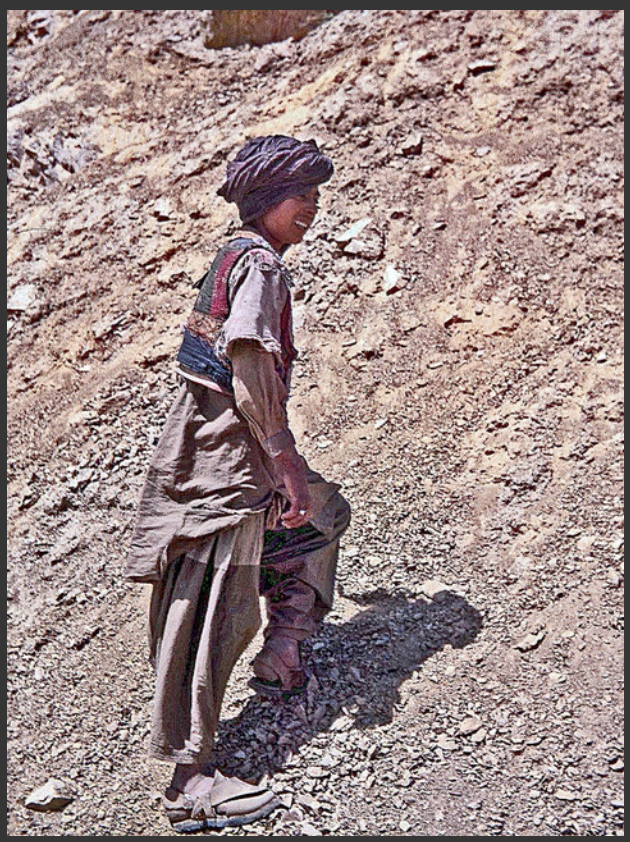
Celebration of Afghan Independence Day in Kabul.





Along the road from Kabul to Bamiyan. It crosses two passes, Unai (3300m) and Hajigak (3700m), which give access to Hazarajat, the home of the Hazara people, whose "capital" is Bamiyan.







Camels and donkeys in a caravan of traders on the way to Bamiyan.

Shahr-e Zuhak, also known as the Red City, an ancient fortified city on top of a red bluff overlooking the confluence of the Bamiyan, Hajigak, and Shikari rivers, 15km east of Bamyan.





Fortified farm.

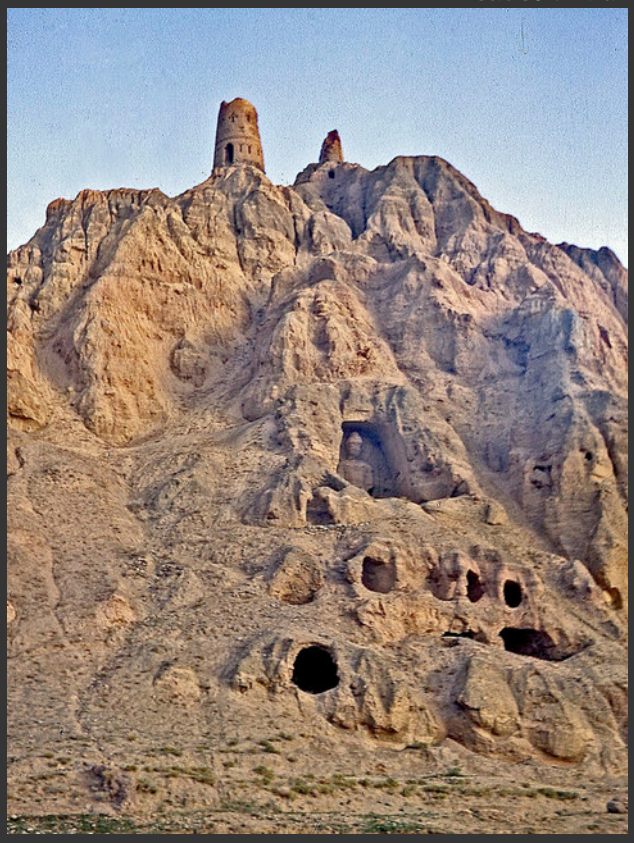
Inside a fortified farm.





View of the Bamiyan valley, the heart of Hazarajat. The sandstone cliff in the background was home to large Buddha statues carved in the 6th century. (Years later, in March 2001, they would be blown to pieces by the Talibans.) Note the fortified farms on the left and right of the photo.

Caves in Bamiyan. One houses a statue of Buddha, shown below.







The tallest (53m) statue of Buddha in Bamiyan.



The tall Buddha statue seen from its base.

Frescos on the vault above the statue's head.





Hazara women near Bamiyan.





Magnificent Bandi-Amir lakes, 55km west of Bamiyan.





Bandi-Amir lakes.





Bandi-Amir lakes.





Bandi-Amir lakes.

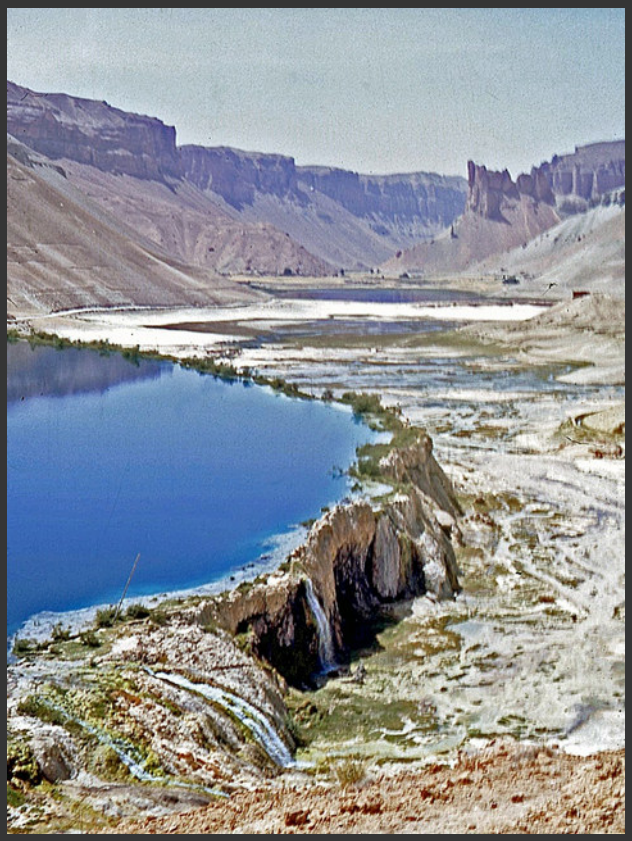






Bandi-Amir lakes.







In the village of Tashkurgan, an ancient caravan city, in northern Afghanistan.





Traditional shops in Tashkurgan.





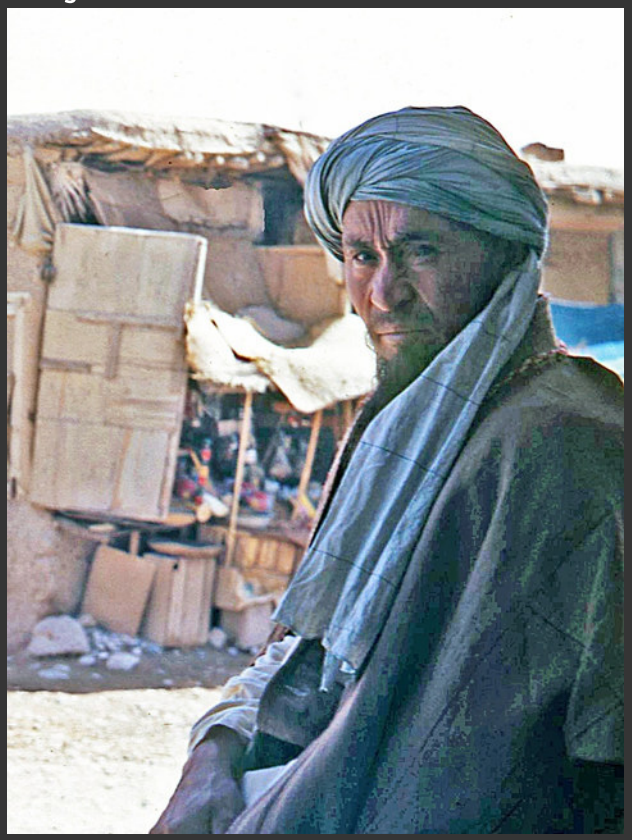
Traditional shops in Tashkurgan.





People in Tashkurgan.

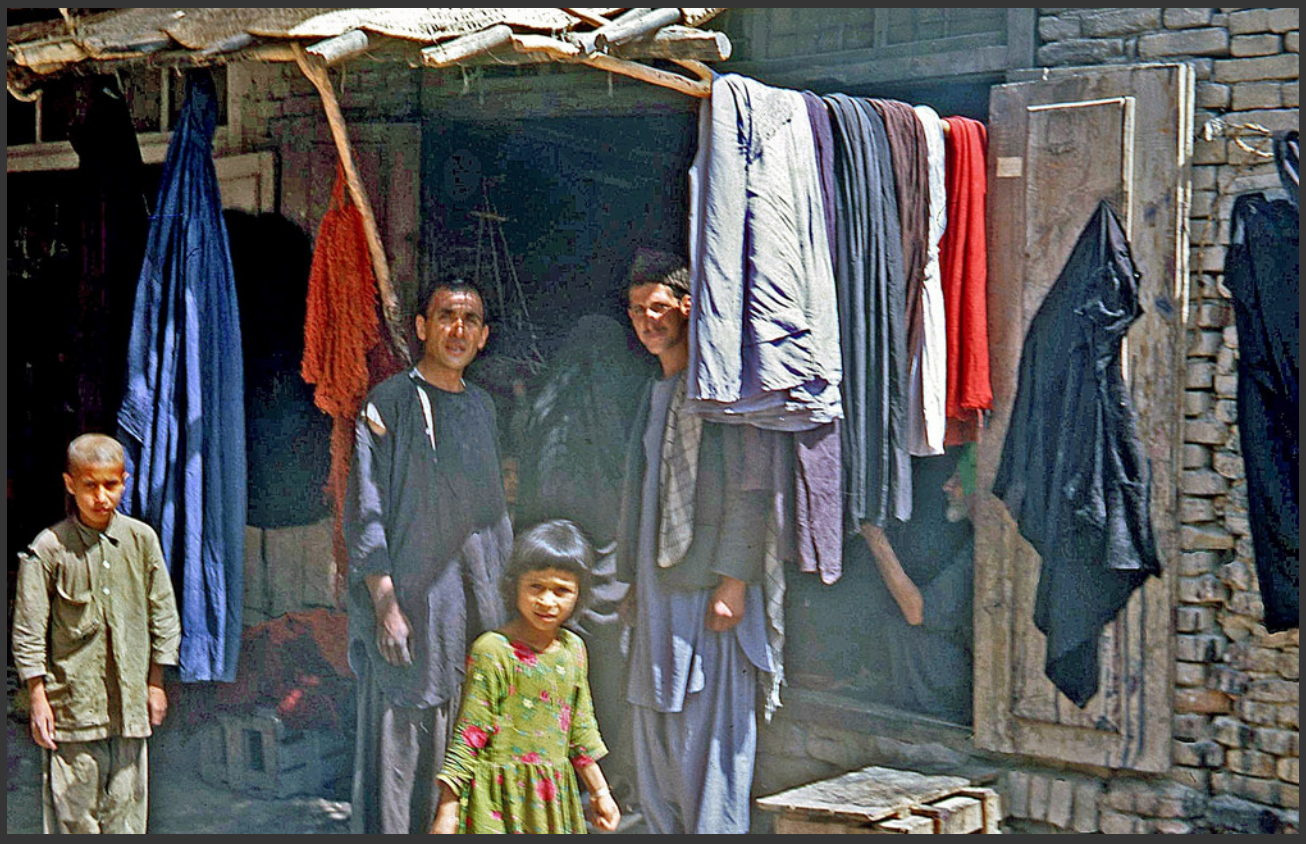






Street scenes in Mazar-i-Sharif.





Street scenes in Mazar-i-Sharif.





Street scenes in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Blue Mosque in Mazar-i-Sharif.





Blue Mosque in Mazar-i-Sharif.





Well at the Blue Mosque of Mazar-i-Sharif.



Above and below:
Shrine of Khwaja Abu Nasr-i-Parsa in Balkh.





Woman in southern Afghanistan.

Market scene in southern Afghanistan.





Market scenes in southern Afghanistan.

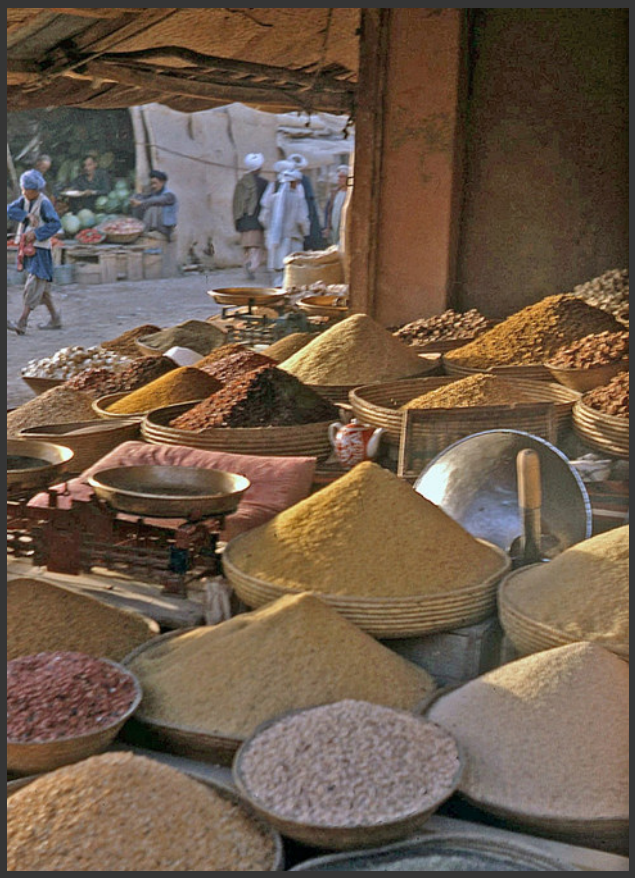




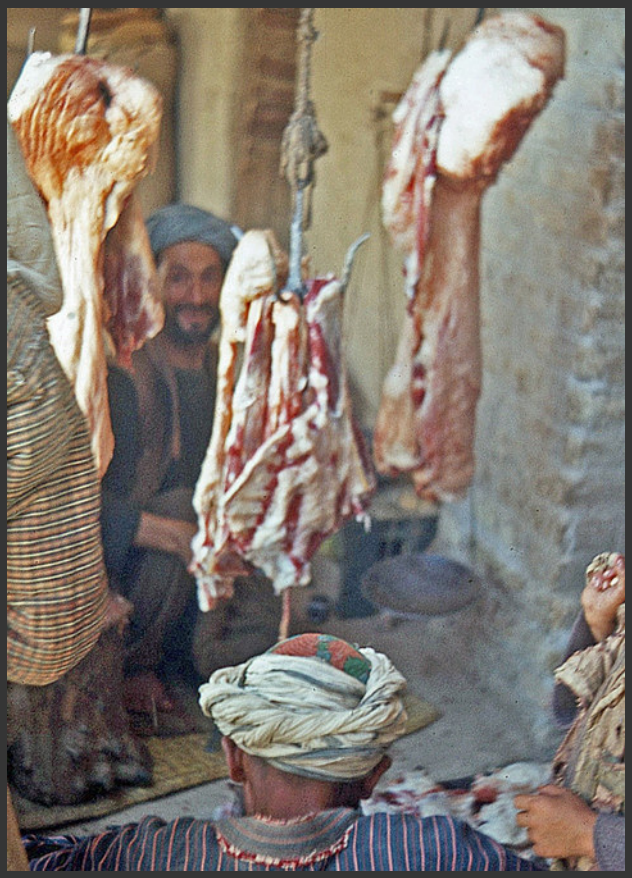
Crowd entertainer in southern Afghanistan.

Jewelry sellers.





Spice and grain shop.



Butcher shop.

Boilermakers.





Chaikhana (tea-house) in Herat.





Above and below (left): 15th-century Masjid-i Jami in Herat.

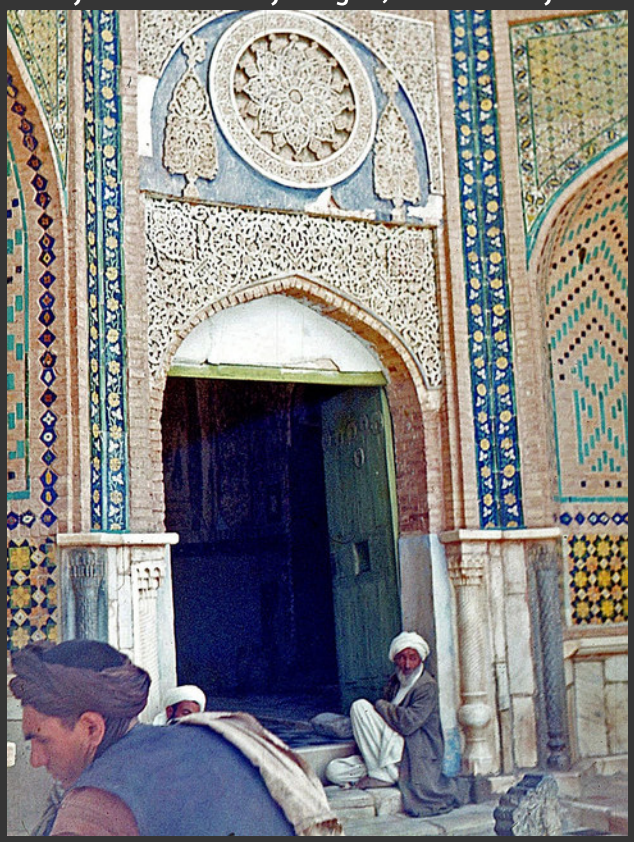


Woman in Herat.





Above and below-left: 15th-century shrine of Khwaja Abdullah in Gazargah, northeast of Herat.



Below-right: Minaret (~55m high) in the 15th-century Musalla complex of Gawhar Shad.





Old windmills with vertical blades turning around a vertical shaft, near Herat.



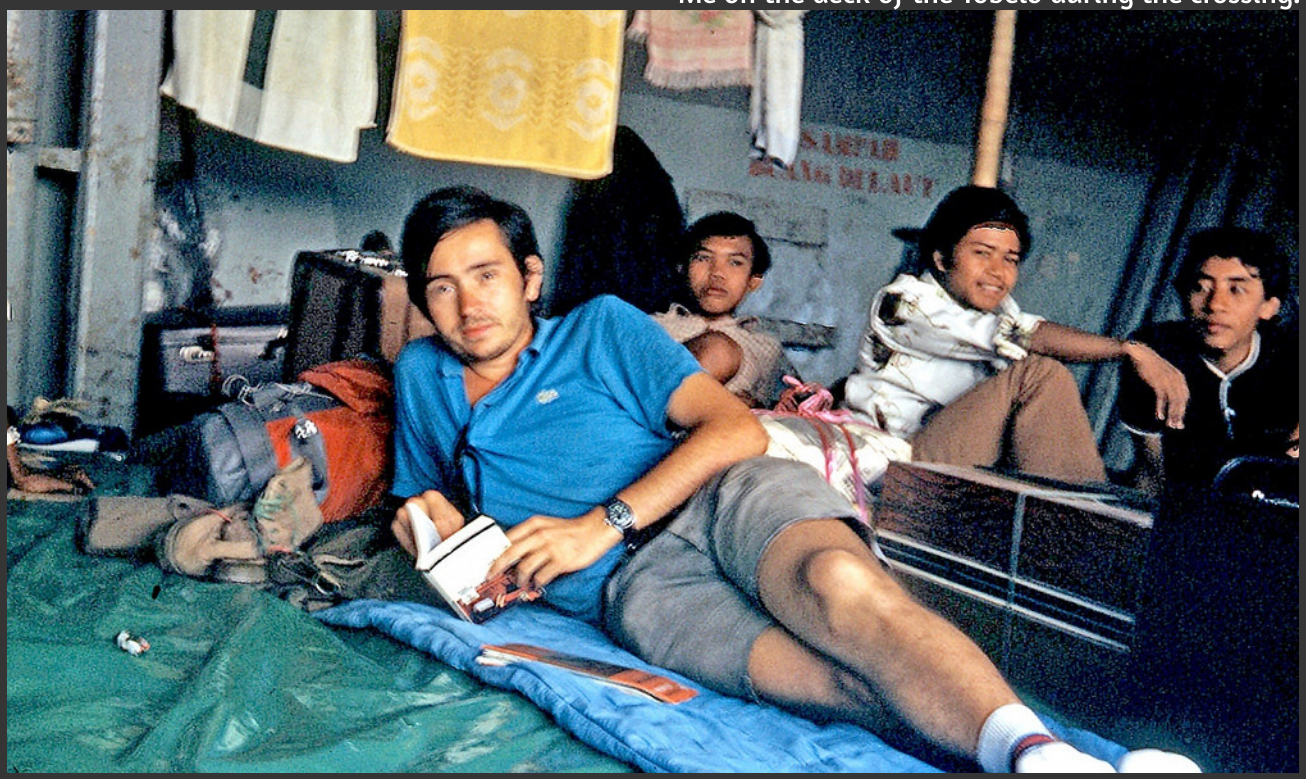
Citadel.

1972: Indonesia (Sulawesi)



The Tobelo, the cargo ship that took me from Surabaya in Java to Ujung Pandang (renamed Makassar in 1999) in southwest Sulawesi.

Me on the deck of the Tobelo during the crossing.





Sailboats, called "pinisi", in the port of Ujung Pandang.
These are the traditional boats of the Bugis sailors of south Sulawei.







Bugis sailboats in the port and off the coast of Ujung Pandang.







Small boats used for coastal transportation around Ujung Pandang.




Fishermen and their creative fishing nets in Ujung Pandang.

Street scene in Ujung Pandang.



Fort Rotterdam,
a 17th-century Dutch fort, in Ujung Pandang.



Tombs in the cemetery of the Kings of Tallo, near Ujung Pandang.






Restaurant along the road between Ujung Pandang and Polewali.

Main street of Polewali.





Dried fish stall at the Polewali fish market.

Ship under construction in Polewal.





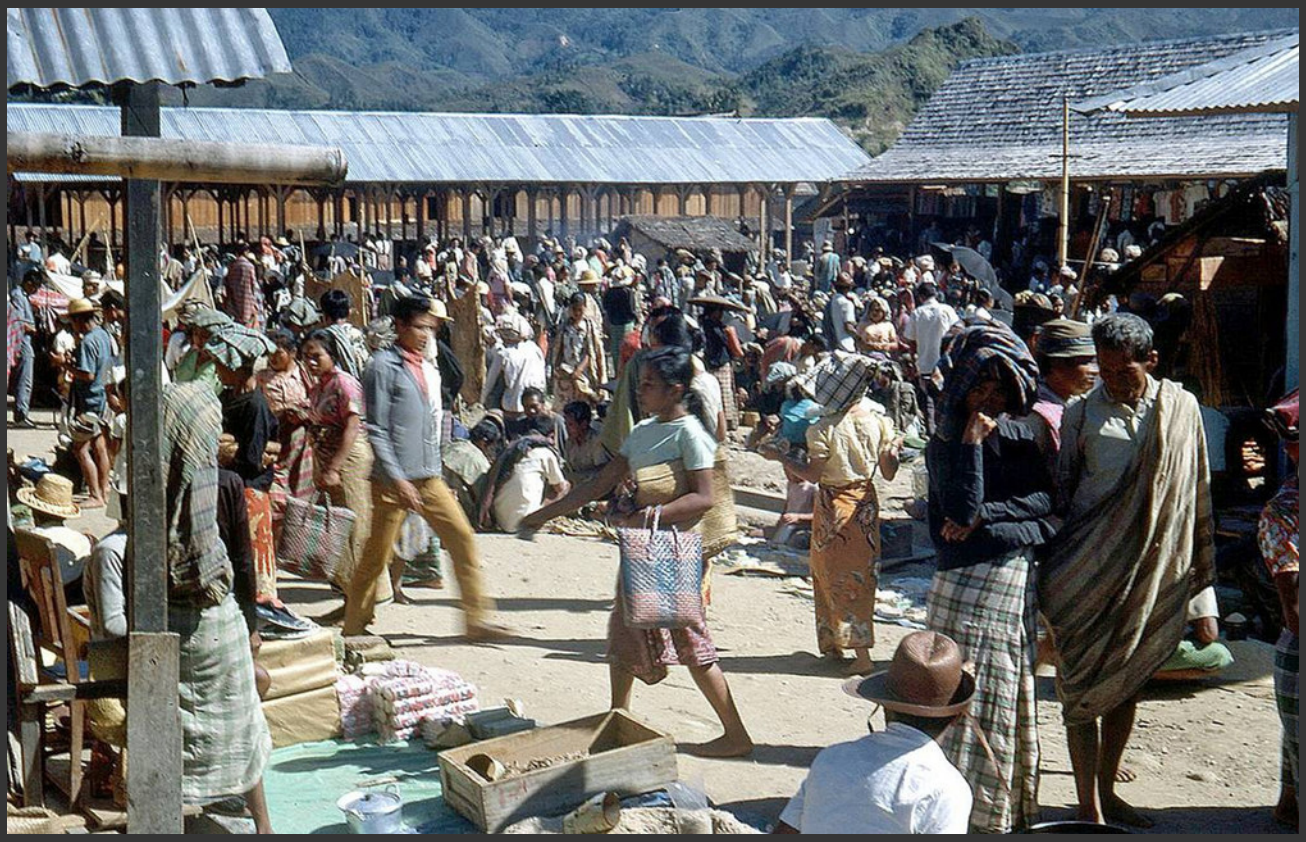
Along the road between Polewali and Mamasa.





People in their houses in Mamasa.





Market day in Mamasa.





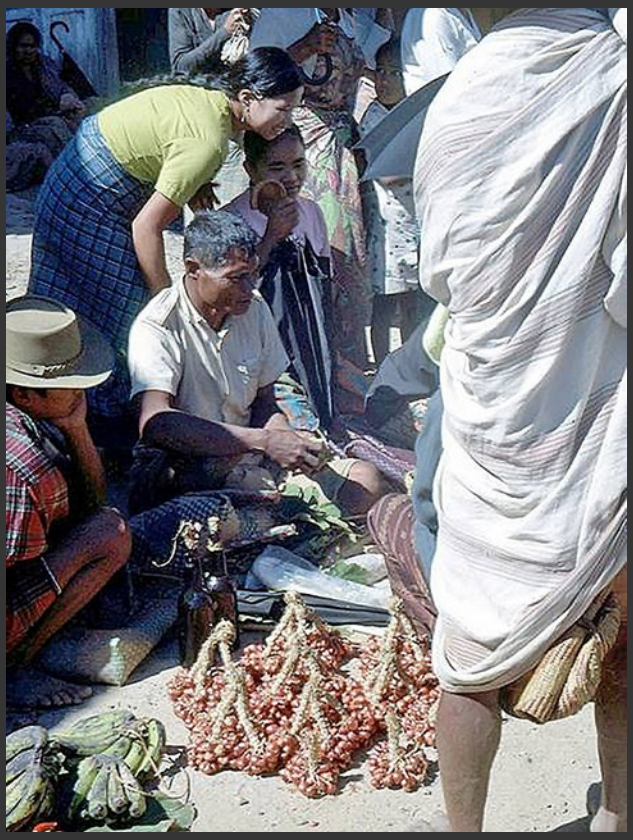
Market day in Mamasa.

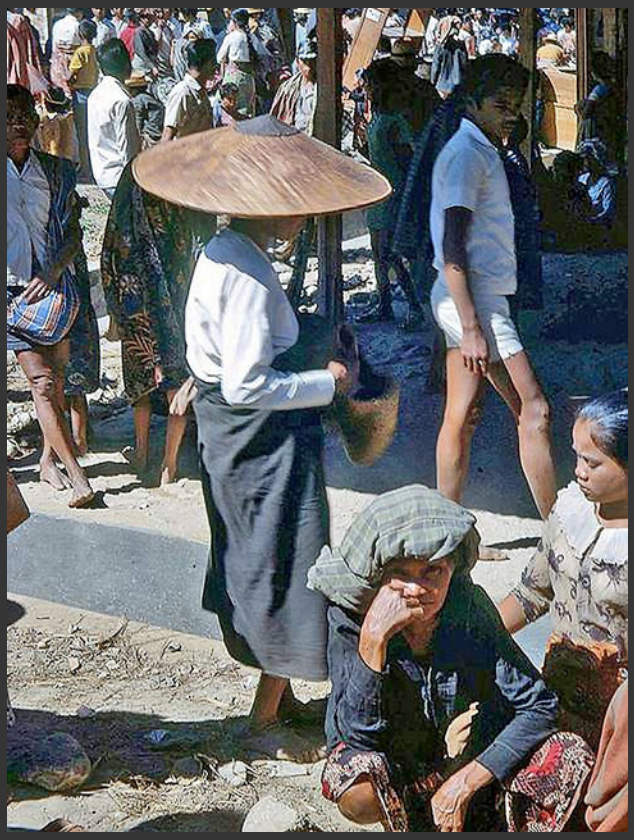




Market day in Mamasa.

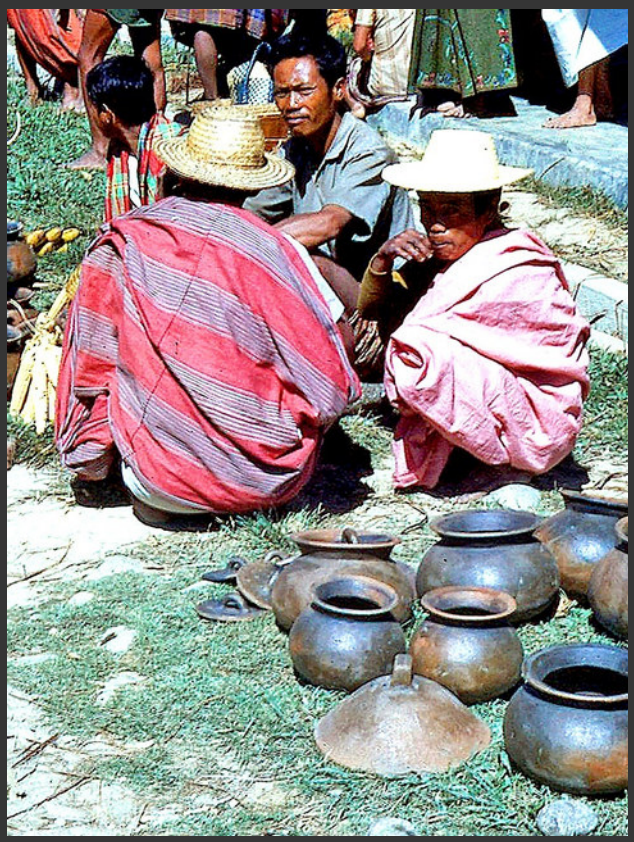






Market day in Mamasa.







Market day in Mamasa.

Soccer match in Mamasa.





Landscapes around Mamasa.





Landscapes around Mamasa.





Toraja village along the trail between Mamasa and Rantepao.

Market scene in a village along the trail. Note the distinctive hat worn by women in this region.





Rice fields near Rantepao.





Narrow bamboo bridges.



Toraja houses.

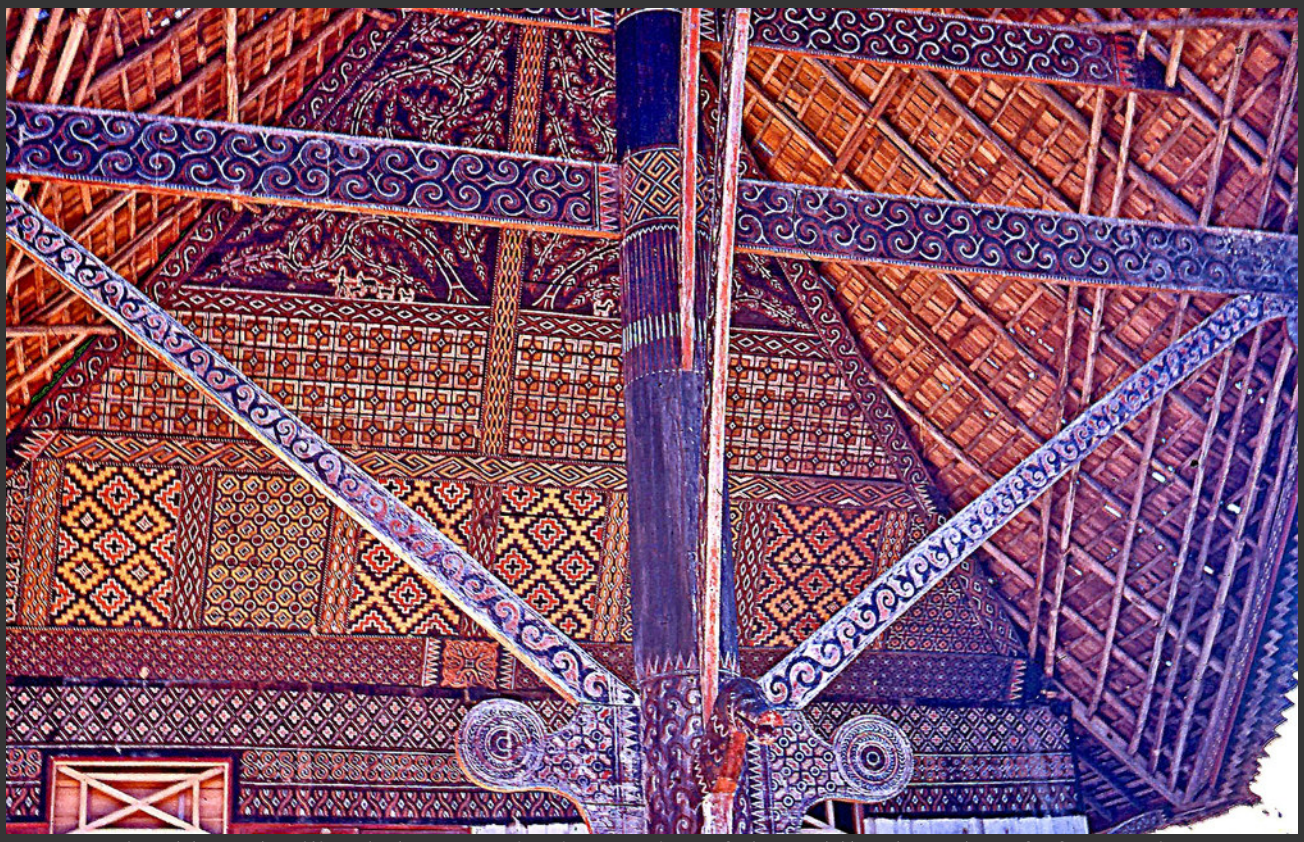




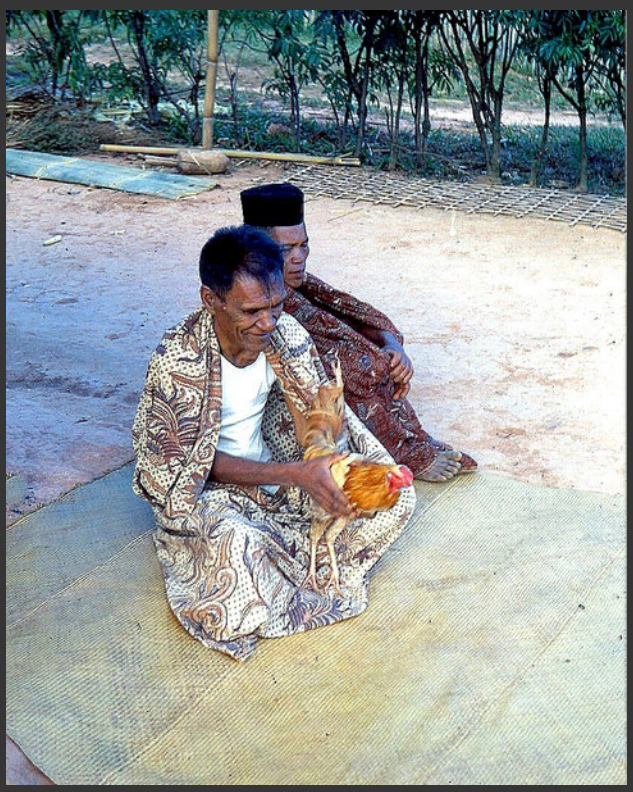


Toraja houses, called Tongkonan.





Decorated gable and ceiling below a projecting section of the saddle-shaped roof of a Tongkonan.



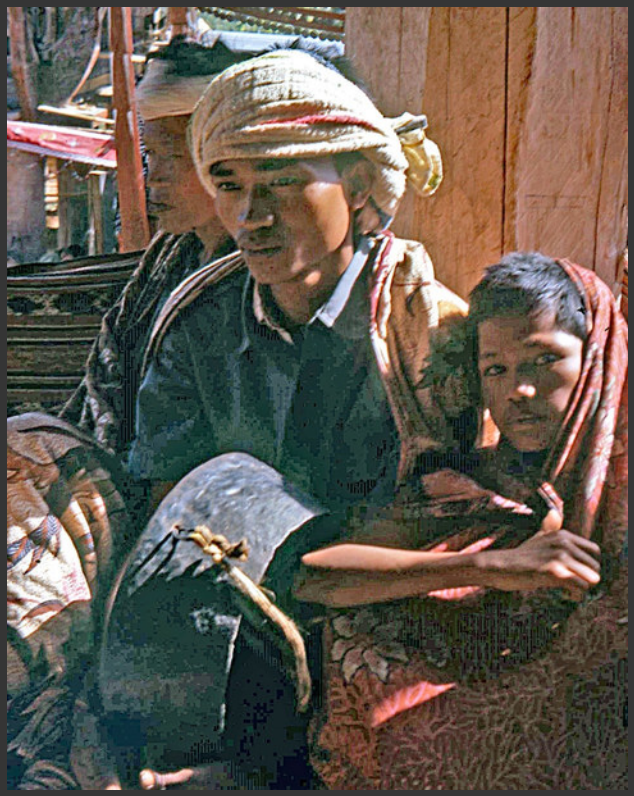
Cockfighting in Rantepao.





This page and 7 next pages:
Toraja funeral ceremony.

Coffin of the deceased exposed in front of a Tongkonan.



Musician at the ceremony.

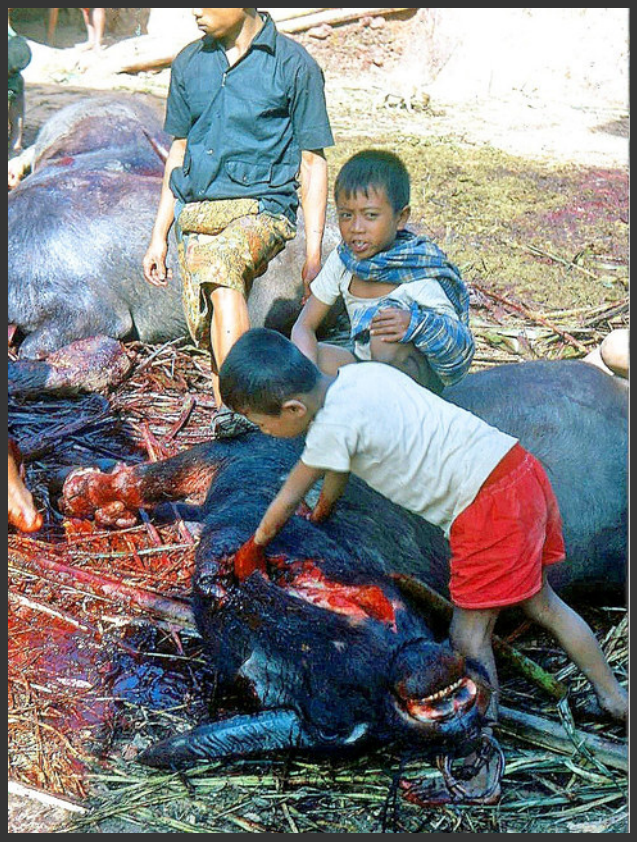




Slaughter of water buffalos below the coffin.





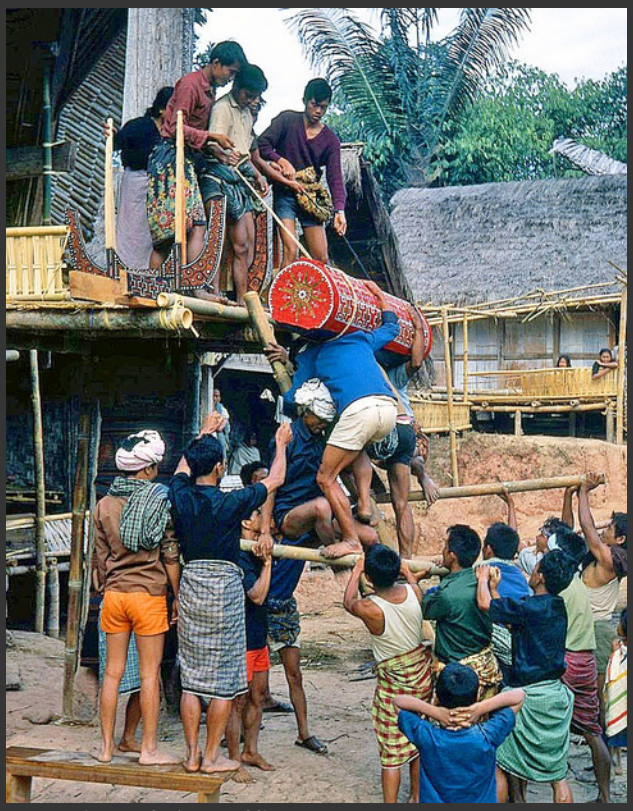


Slaughter of water buffalos below the coffin.





Slaughter of water buffalos below the coffin.



Lowering of the coffin.

Ceremony around the coffin.





Ceremonial dance with the coffin.

Funeral procession to the burial site.





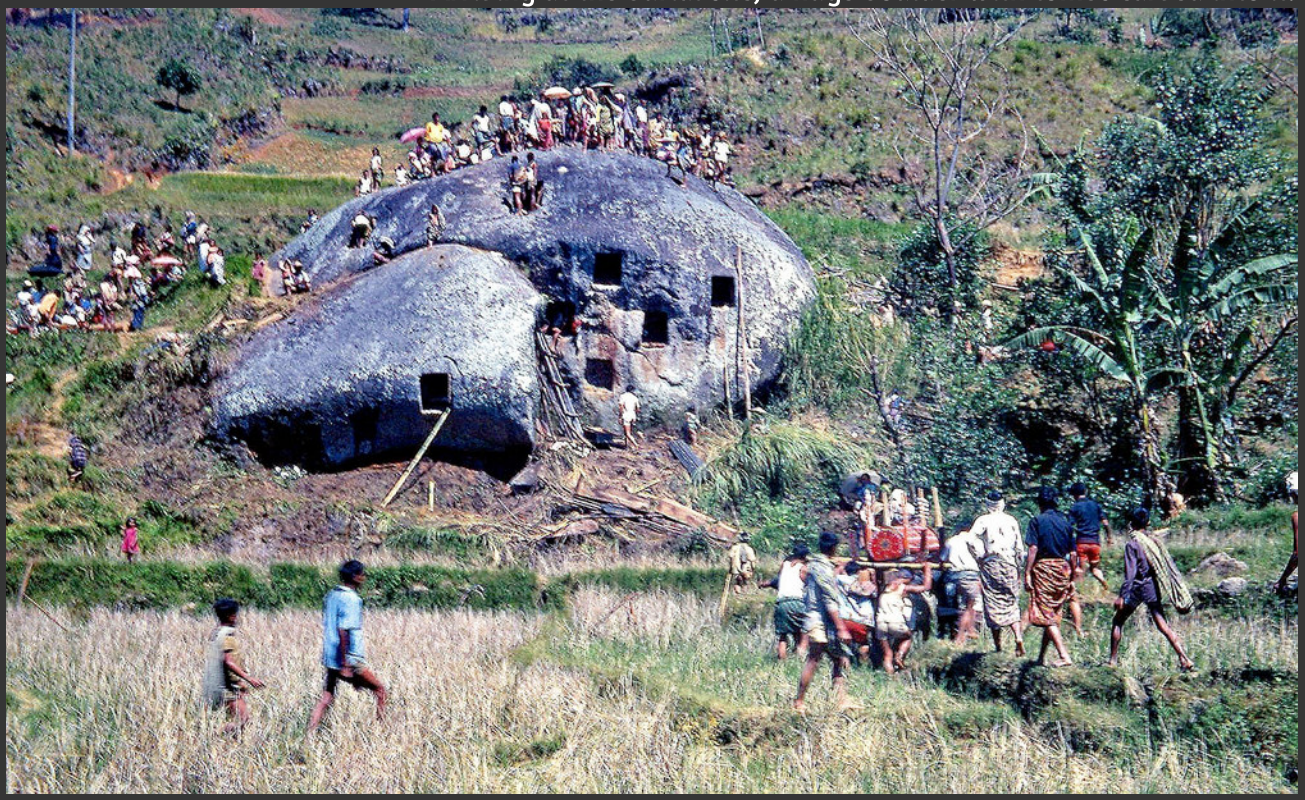
Ceremonial combination of dance and simulated fight on the way to the burial site.





More ceremonial dance and simulated fight.

Arriving at the burial site, a huge boulder with tombs carved into it.



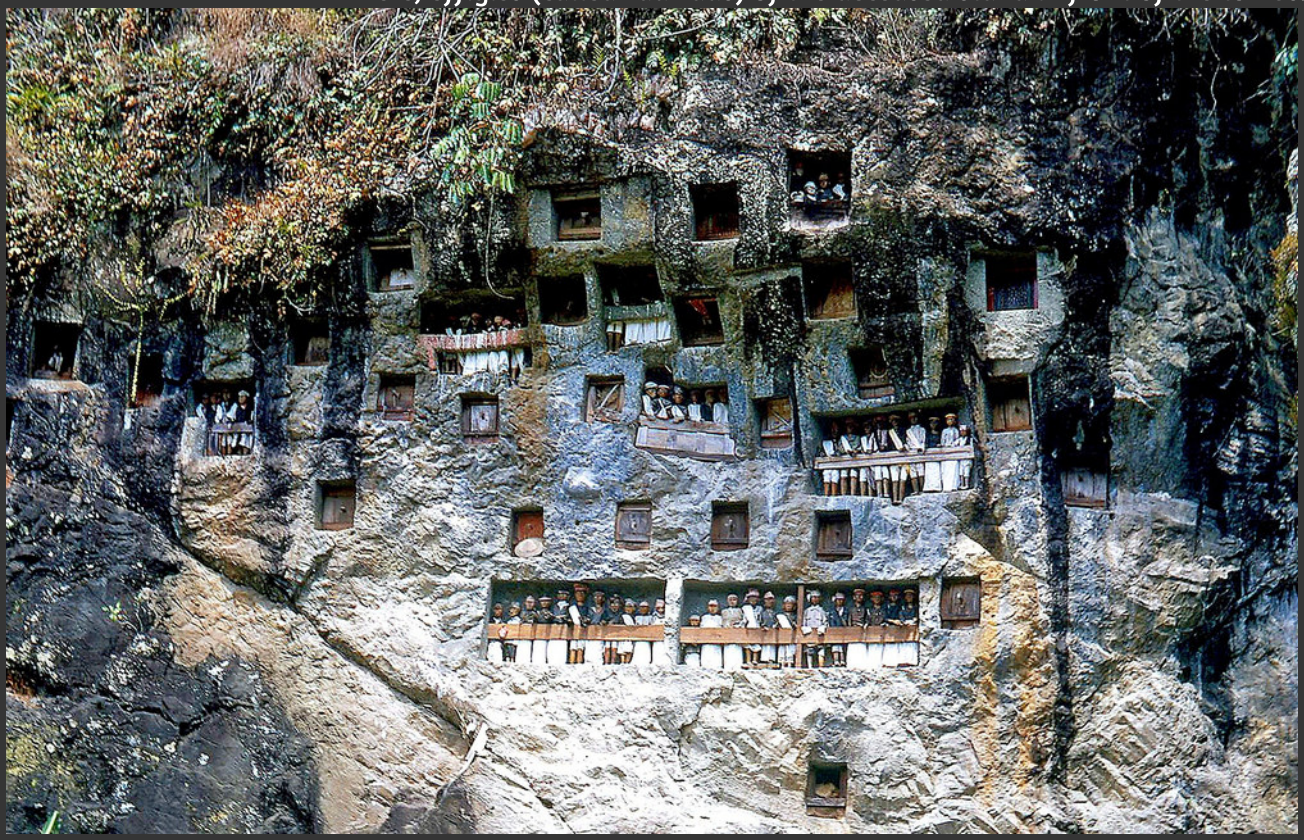


Last ceremony before the burial.



Placing the deceased to rest into a tomb.

Another Toraja burial site near Rantepao, in Lemo.
Here, effigies (called Tau-Taus) of the deceased stand in front of the tombs.



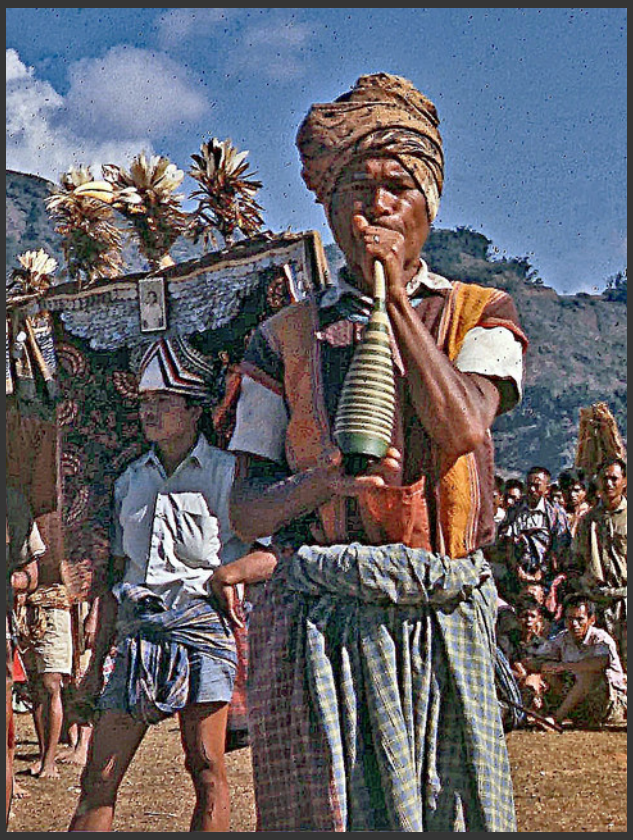


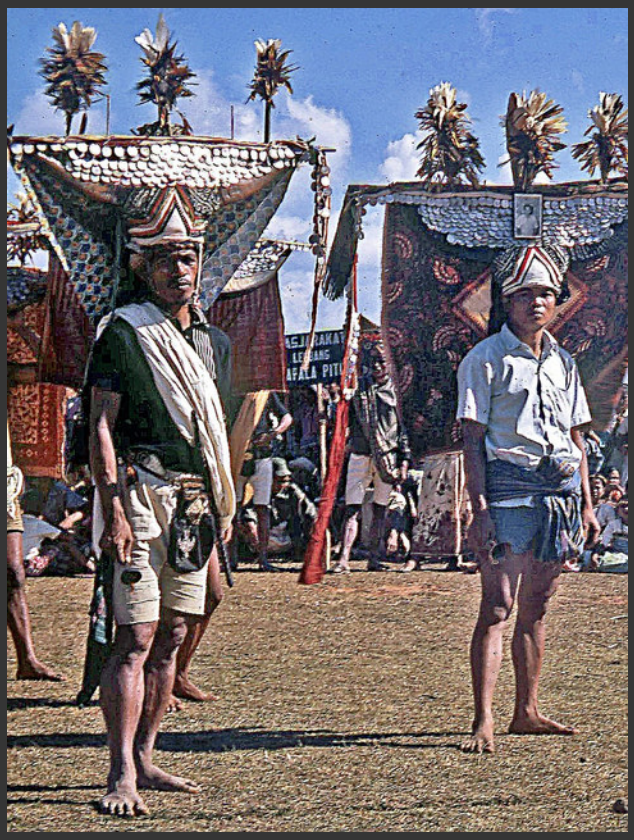
Another Toraja burial site near Rantepao, in Londa. Here, the coffins are stacked on the ledge of a cliff. The tau-taus stand on a covered balcony, built precariously against the cliff.





Toraja festival near Rantepao.







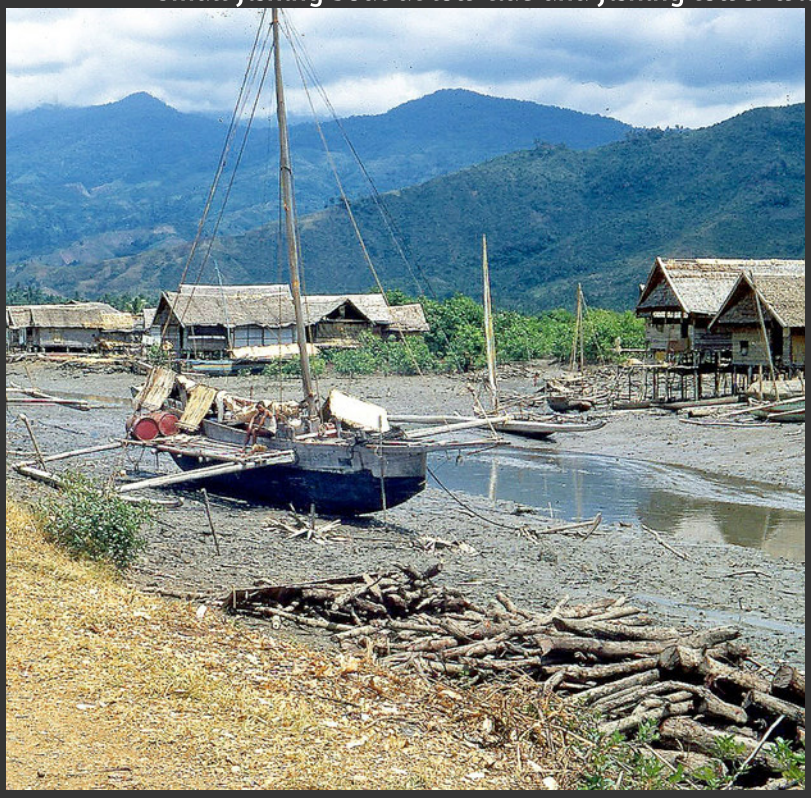
Group photos of villagers, near Rantepao.





Villagers celebrating an event, near Rantepao.

Small fishing boat at low tide and fishing tower with a net, in Palopo, on the gulf of Boni.





1972: Singapore



Sampans on the Singapore river.





Sampans on the Singapore river.





Sampans on the Singapore river and in the harbour.





Streets in Singapore's Chinatown.







Streets in Singapore's Chinatown.









Streets in Singapore's Chinatown.





Street theaters in Singapore's Chinatown.





Night markets.



1972: Thailand



Streets in Bangkok.





Flooded street in Bangkok.

Sampans on the Chao Praya river in Bankok.





Wat Ratchanatdaram (Buddhist temple) in Bangkok.

Statues of guardians at Wat Pho (Buddhist temple) in Bangkok.







The Wat Mahathat (13-14th centuries) in Sukhotai, the former capital of the Sukhothai Kingdom.







Buddhist statues in Sukhotai.









Buddhist statues in Sukhotai.





Hand of a Buddha statue in Sukhotai.

Wat Si Sawai, a Hindu shrine dedicated to Vishnu dating from the 12-13th centuries, in Sukhotai.







Woman and man near Chiang Mai.





Wat Chian Man in Chiang Mai.

Standing Buddha statue known as Phra Chao Attarot, at Wat Chedi Luang in Chiang Mai. It was cast in the 14th century.



Buddhist monk performing rituals in a temple of Chiang Mai.





Buddha statue at Wat Phra Singh in Chiang Mai.

1973: Ethiopia



Market between Wukro (in Tigray) and Berahle (in Afar).





Market between Wukro and Berahle. Note the salt blocks in the photo below:
they were brought by caravans from lake Assale (see page 267).





Women in the market between Wukro and Berahle.





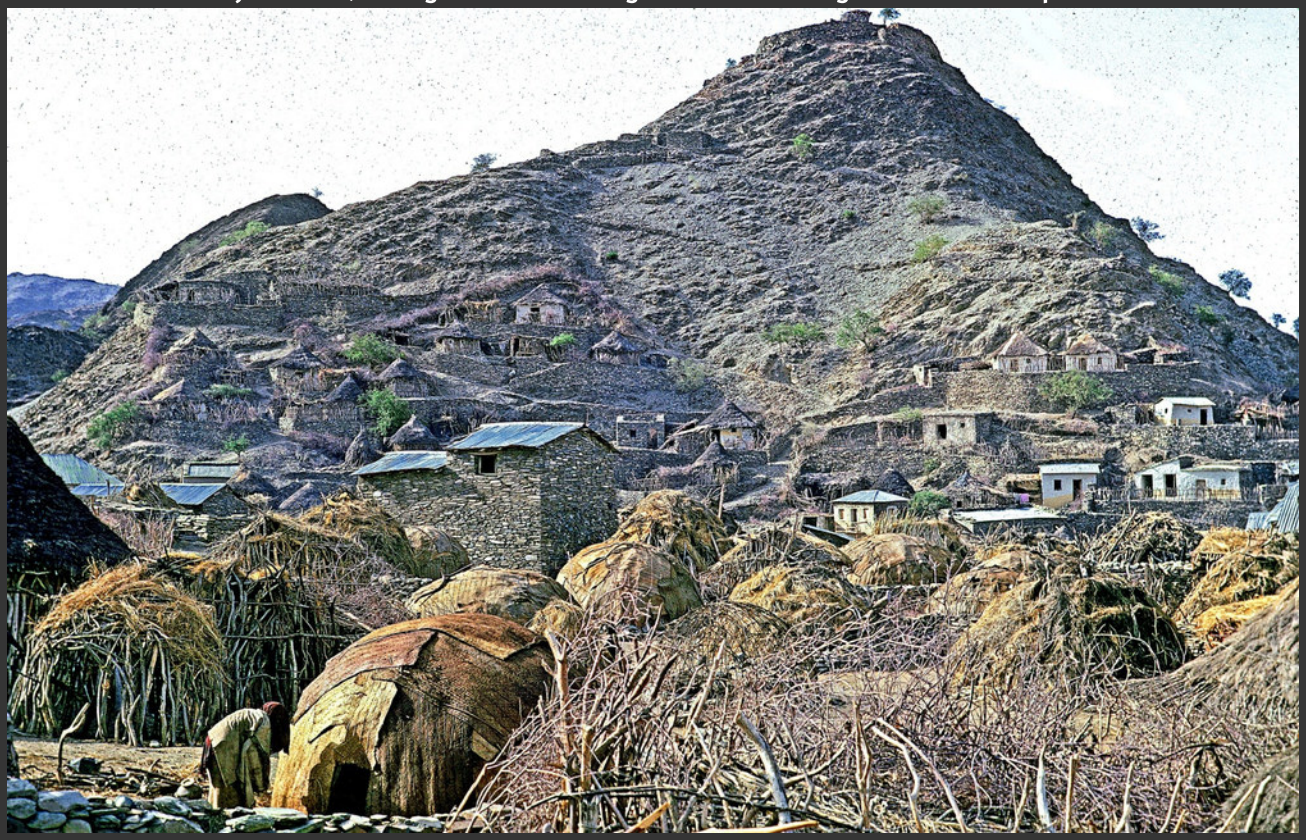
Man and child in the market between Wukro and Berahle.

Valley below the escarpment between the high plateau of Tigray and the Danakil depression.





Views of Berahle, a large Danakil village. Most dwellings are dome-shapedl huts.





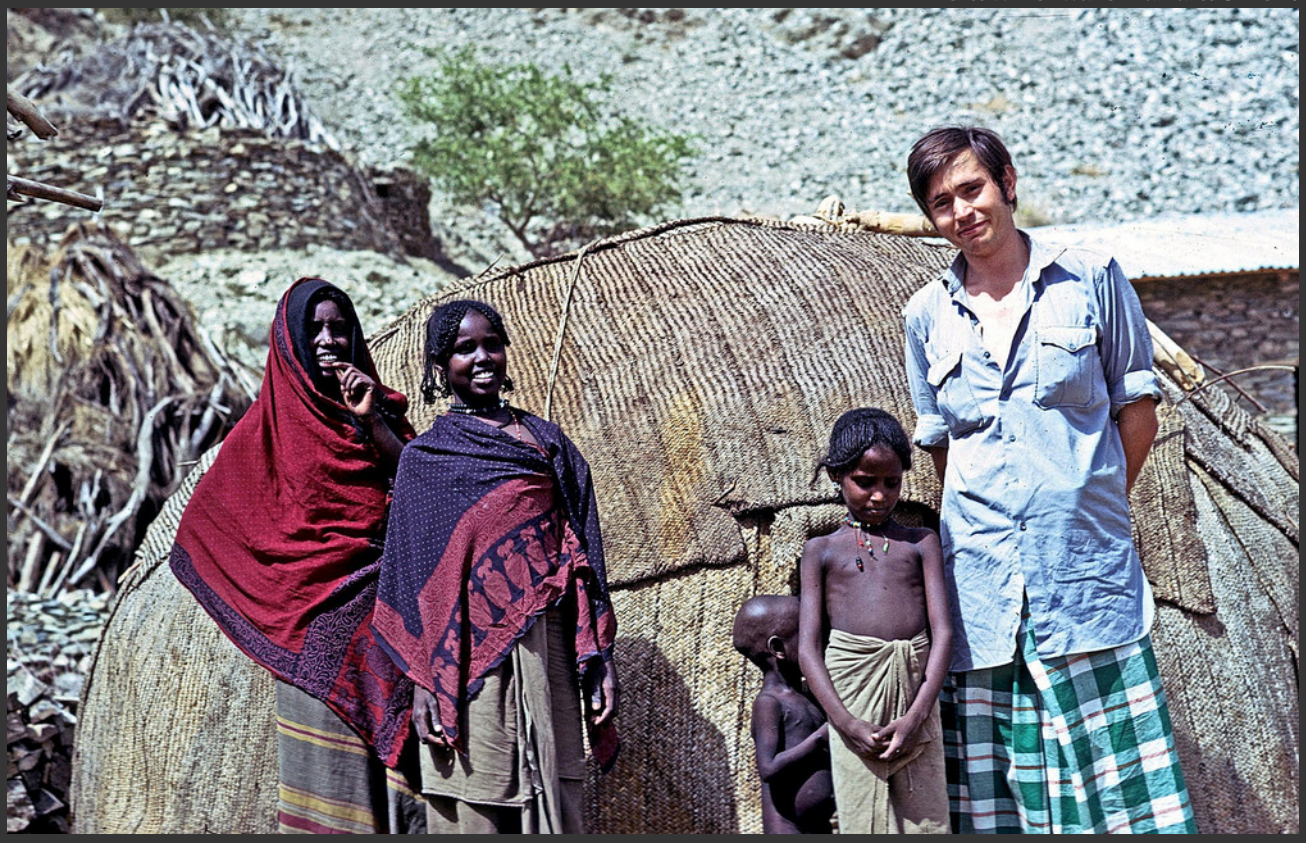
Huts and people in Berahle. Huts consist of an inner frame and a covering of woven mats. The frame is made by interlacing curved branches roughly along radial and circular lines.





Two women standing at the entrance of a hut.

Me with children and women.





Women in a hut.





Women drawing water from the Berahle's well.





Danakil women.







Danakil women.







Caravan of camels leaving Berahle and heading toward lake Assale.

Loading our camel in Berahle, for the crossing of the Danakil desert.
I had three Danakil companions for this long hike (including the two whose faces are visible in the photo below). I had purchased a camel and a donkey (more versatile on rough terrain) to carry our loads, as well as two goats (food that didn't need to be carried).





Typical landscapes after leaving Berahle towards the Erta Ale volcano,
several days of hiking from Berahle.









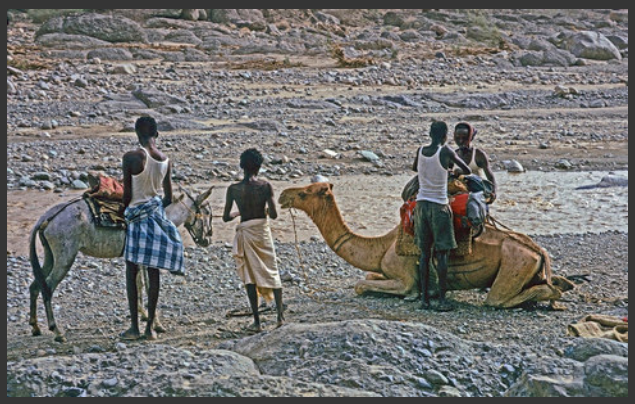


Graves along the way.

Thanks to the rainy summer season on the Tigray highlands, we crossed a few streams, which brought us welcome water. However, the heavy rains in the highlands sometimes caused rapid and dangerous flooding (photo at the bottom right of the page).











Danakil porridge. Easy and fast to prepare. We ate a lot of it.

My companions enjoying it.





Bread was made by forming a ball of dough around a preheated stone and placing it next to glowing ashes.

Man under a tree, with the Erta Ale volcano in the background.






Plain at the base of the Erta Ale volcano.
It was partially flooded by rains falling on the highlands to the west.






Crater of Erta Ale (elevation: 613m).






After climbing Erta Ale, we moved north toward lake Assale. For a few days, we crossed an area partially covered with shrubs and sparsely populated by herders.

Curious herders looking at one of my basic camps without tent.





At another camp further north.





As we got closer to lake Assale, the landscape became more arid, with a few small oases, some inhabited, where we set camps and replenished our reserves of water.



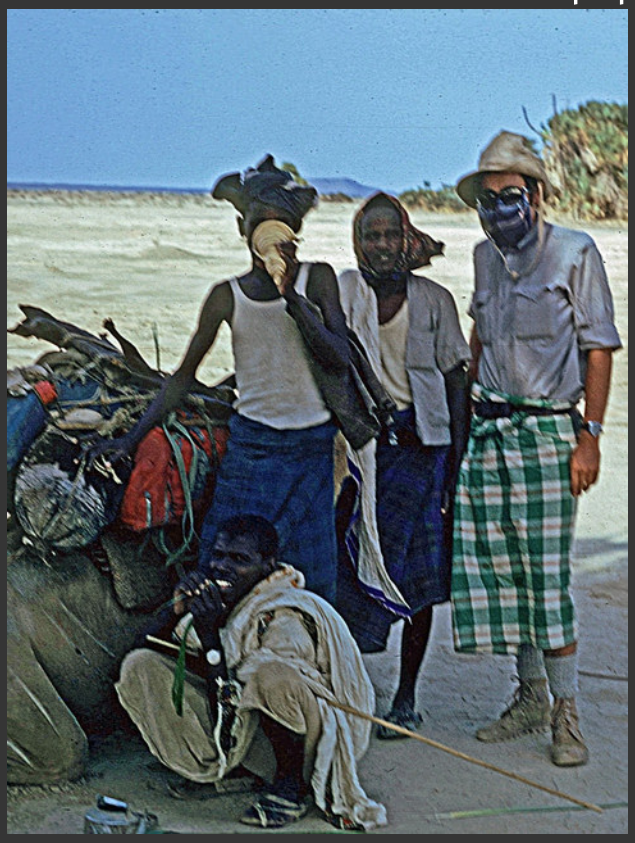


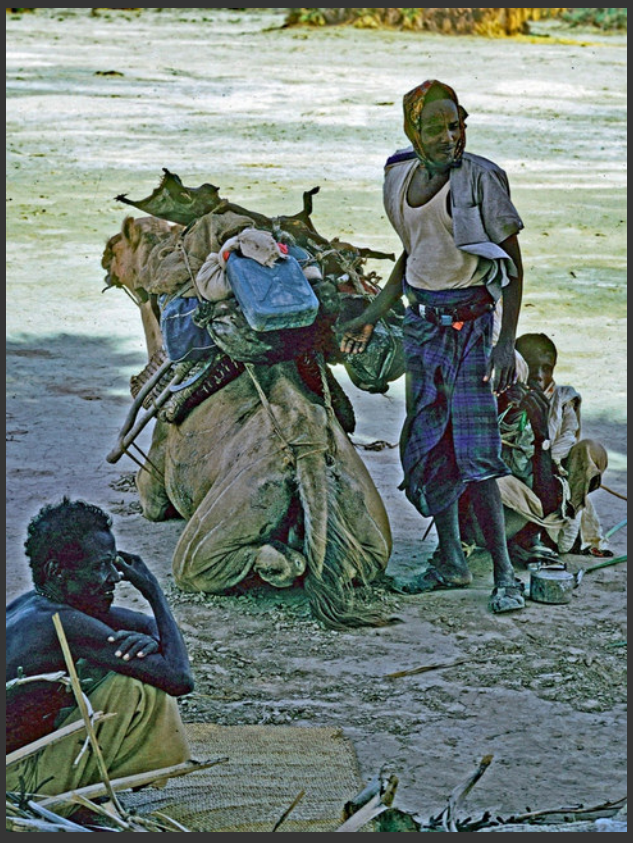
People in an oasis.





With people in an oasis.



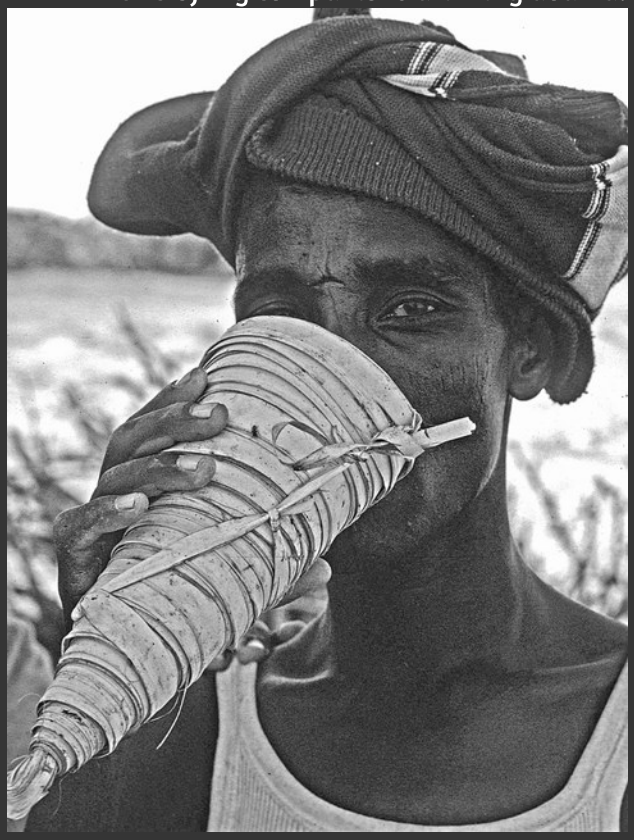




Above and below: Man collecting "douma",
a lightly fermented palm tree sap.



One of my companions drinking douma.











Salt mining at the lake Assale, a hypersaline lake located 120m below sea level.





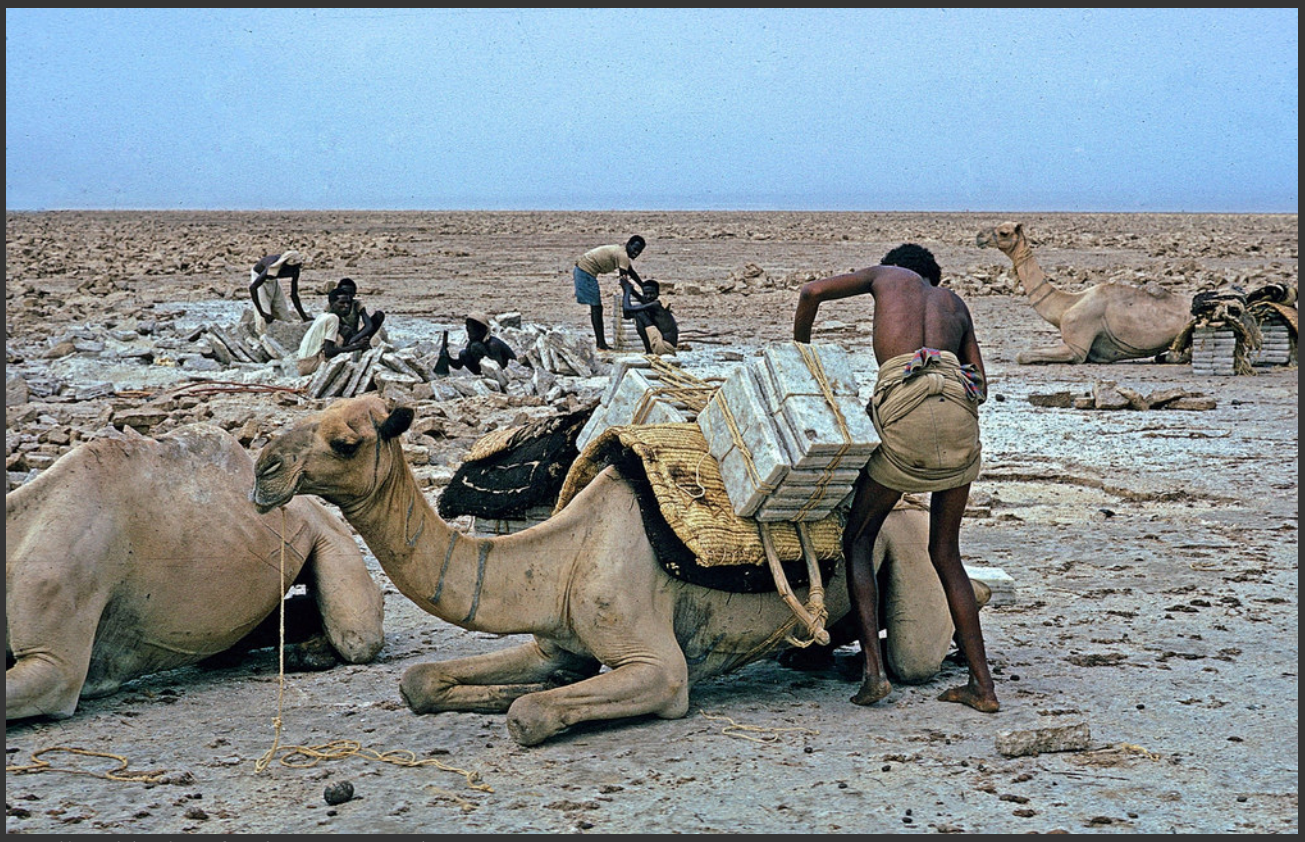
Salt mining at lake Assale.





Salt mining at lake Assale.





Loading blocks of salt on a camel.

Caravan of camels loaded with salt leaving lake Assale.





Across the dry portion of lake Assale toward Dallol.





Reaching Dallol.







Landscapes of the highlands of Tigray.





Landscapes of the highlands of Tigray.








Landscapes of the highlands of Tigray.





On the Tigrayan plateau: farmland (above) and man with cattle (below).





Farms on the Tigrayan plateau.





Farms on the Tigrayan plateau.





Inside a farm: injera (flatbread made from teff) being cooked and ready to eat.





Tigrayan woman and girl.





Market scenes in Tigray.





Market scenes in Tigray.





Market scenes in Tigray.





Market scenes in Tigray.





Priest in Tigray.

Priest at the entrance of a rock-hewn church.





Priests at the entrance of a rock-hewn church.

Priest next to lithophones (stone bells).





Site of the rock-hewn church of Maryam Korkor.

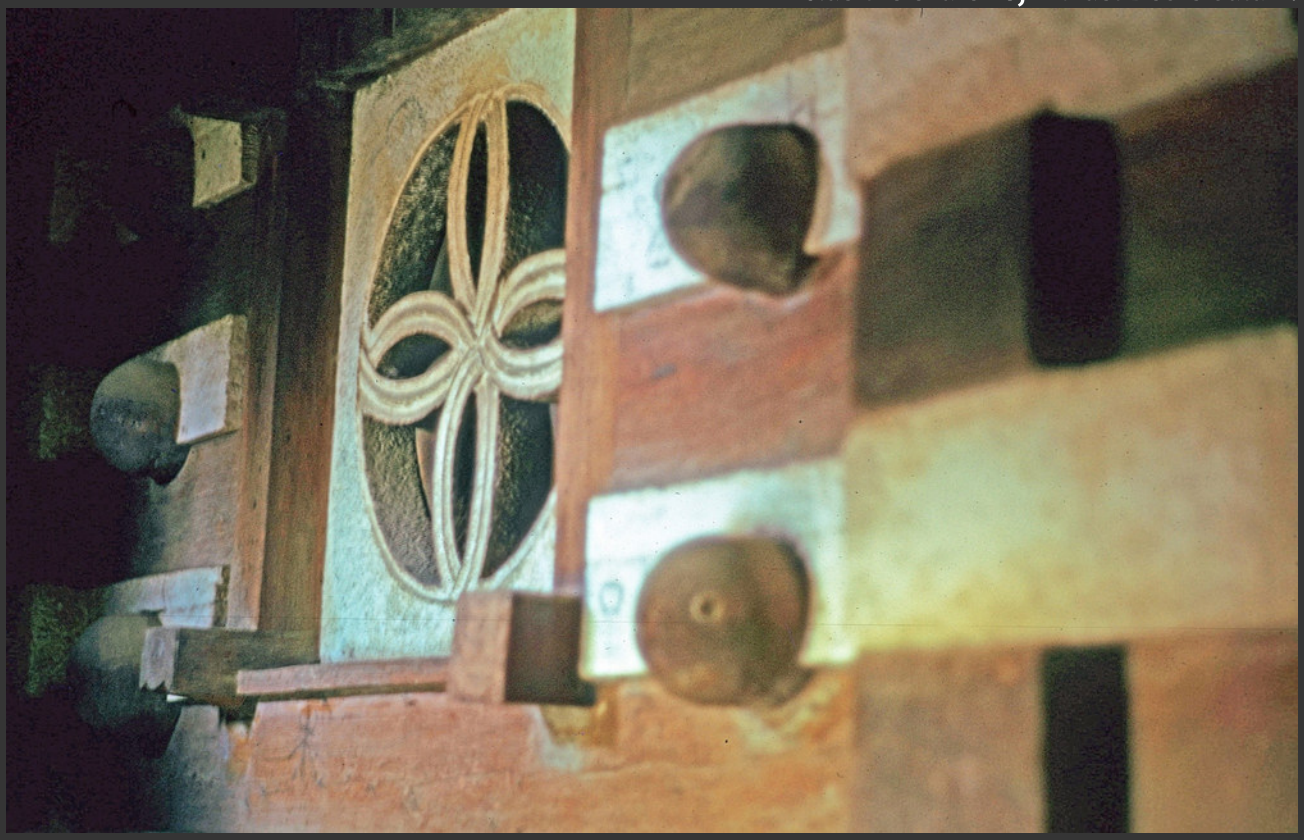
Rock-hewn church of Wukro Chirkos.





Rock-hewn church of Mikael Debre Salam.

Inside the church of Mikael Debre Salam.







Site (left photo) and access (right photo) of the rock-hewn church of Abune Yemata Guh.

Painting showing nine apostles on the dome inside the church of Abune Yemata Guh.





Illustrated bible, paintings, and rock carvings inside various rock-hewn churches.











People heading to a religious ceremony.

People outside a church.





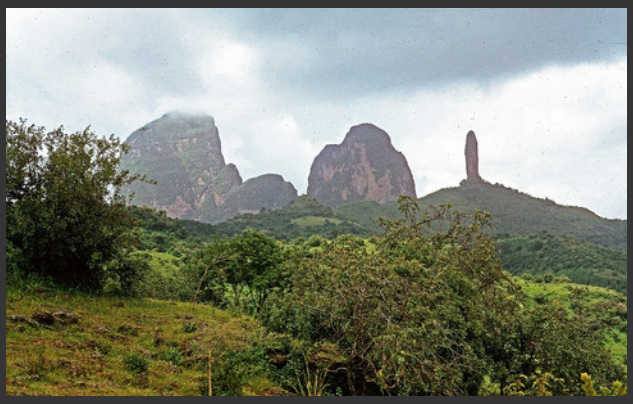
Men meeting in a cave and drinking tella (fermented barley) after a religious celebration.





Landscapes of the Semien mountains (northern Ethiopia).





Landscapes of the Semien mountains.








Huts and people in the Semien mountains.





People in the Semien mountains.





Men in the Semien mountains.





Port of Massawa on the Red Sea.
(In 1973, all of present-day Eritrea, including Massawa, was part of Ethiopia.)



1973: Algeria



Landscapes around Chott el Hodna, a shallow saline lake, about 200km southeast of Algiers.





One of my "camps" near Chott el Hodna.







Bright surface of Chott el Hodna.





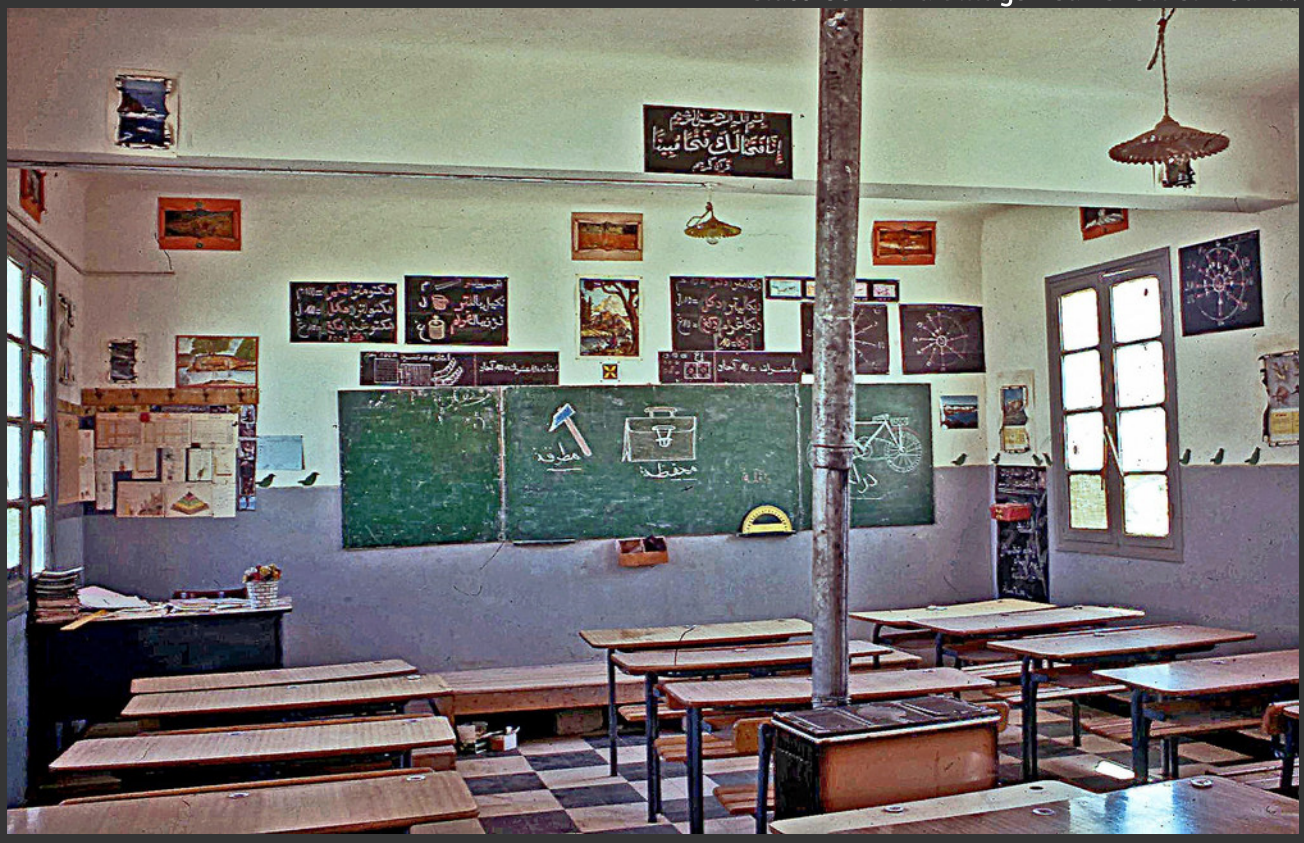


Oases near Chott el Hodna.





Classroom in a village near Chott el Hodna.





Roman town of Timgad, founded by emperor Trajan around 100CE.





In the market square (Azghar Oughame) of Ghardaia,
the main town of the Mzab region (northern Sahara).





Two of the five fortified towns (ksour) of the Mzab region: Ben Isguen (above) and Ghardaia (below).





Another view of Ben Isguen.

Interior of a mosque.







Streets in ksour of Mzab.







Plane landing in Djanet (southeastern Algeria).

On the road between the airport and the town of Djanet.





Views of Djanet.





In the Tassili n'Aijer north of Djanet.





In the Tassili n'Aijer north of Djanet.

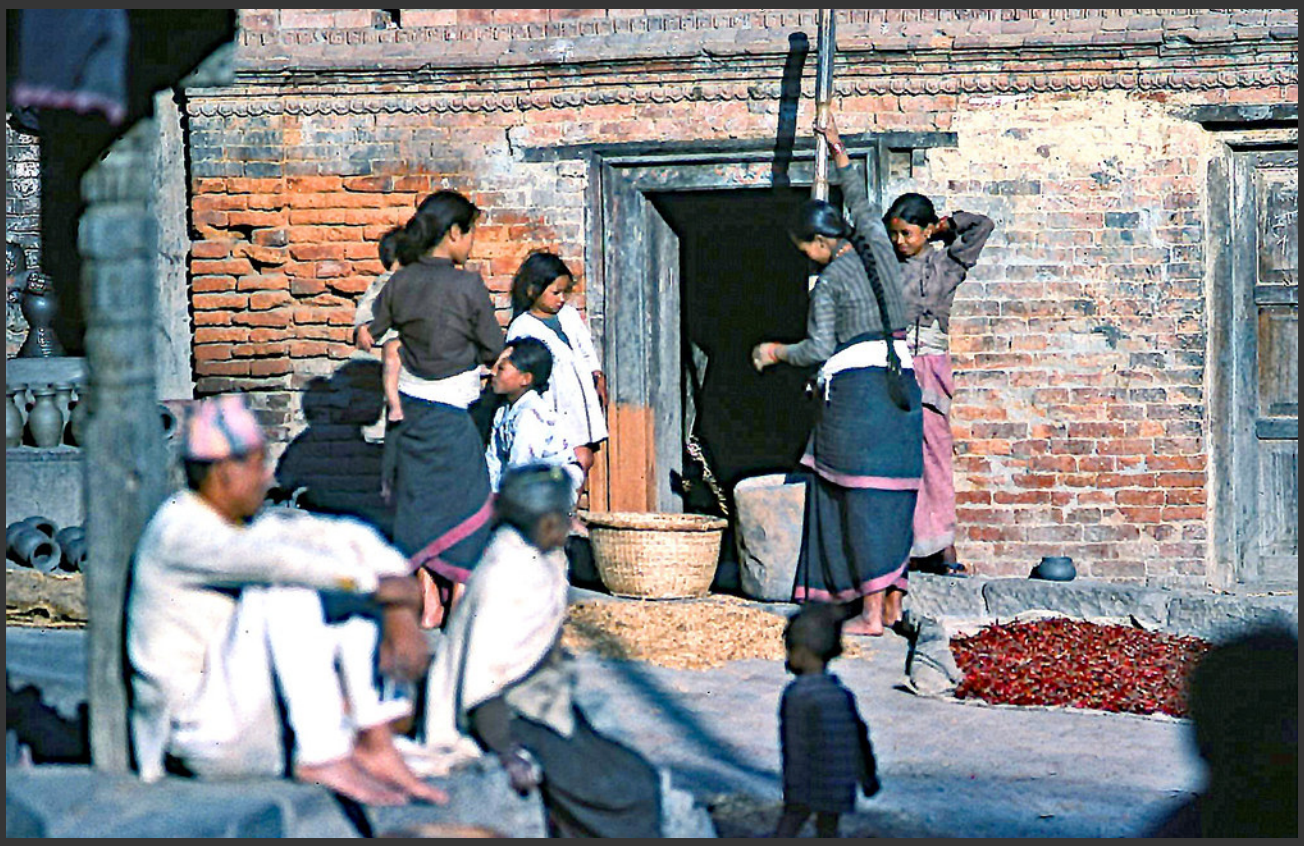


1979: Nepal



Street scenes in Kathmandu.





Street scene in Kathmandu.

Large red brick house in Kathmandu.





Tiled roofs of houses in Kathmandu.

Pagoda-style roof of a temple in Kathmandu.



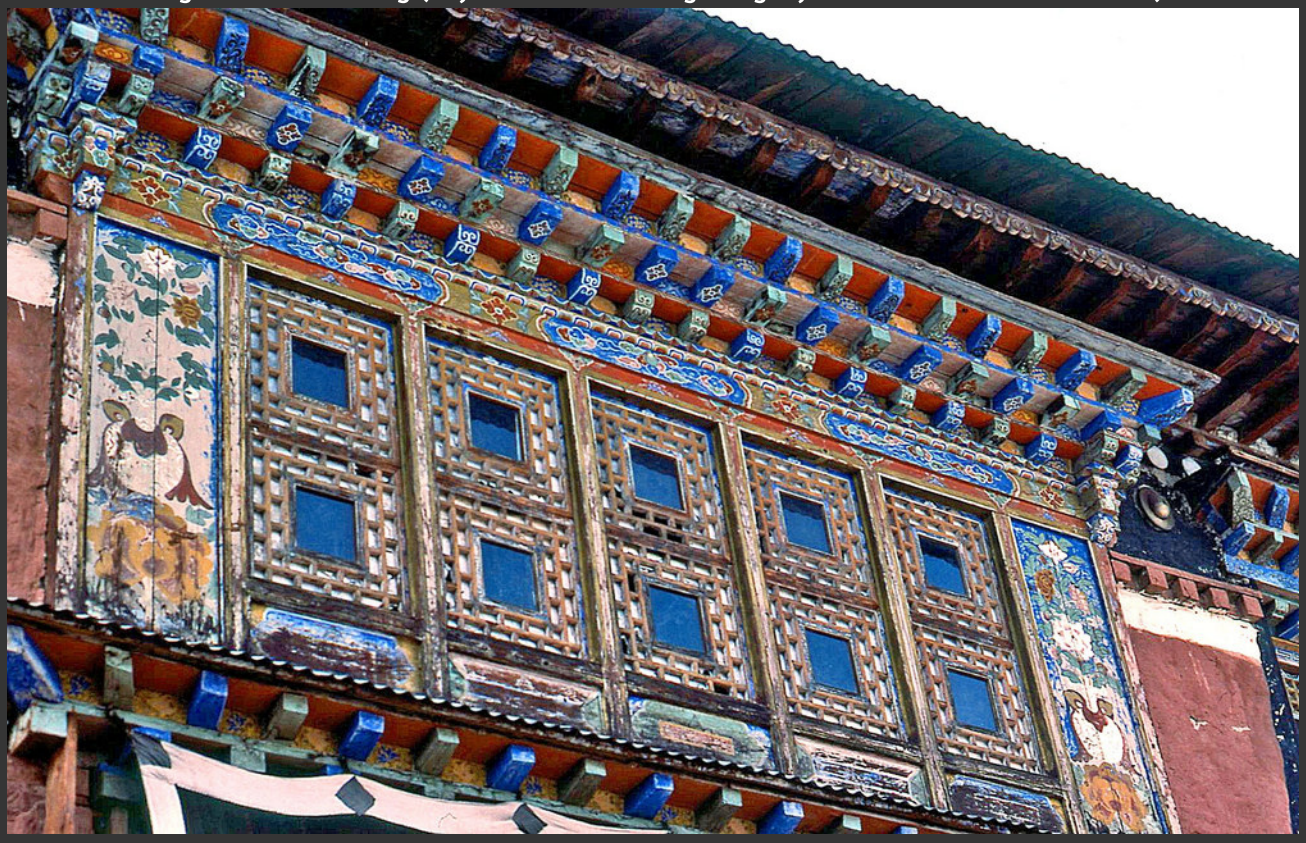


Planes landing and taking off from Lukla airstrip (still unpaved in 1979).





Tengboche monastery (before it was destroyed by a fire in 1989 and later rebuilt).





In Pheriche, with Thamserku (6608m) and Kangteka (6585m) in the background.

Lobuche (6119m), on the right, seen from Pheriche.



1994: Indonesia (Irian Jaya)

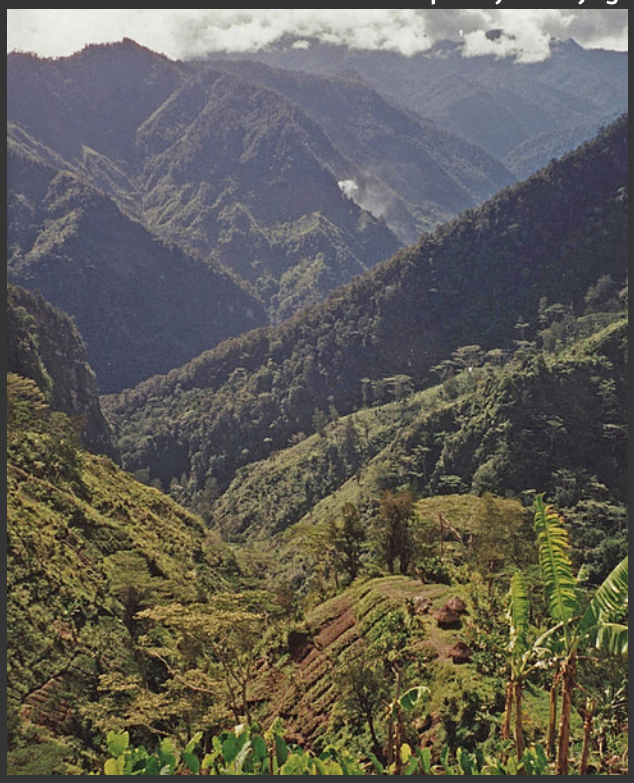








Landscapes of Irian Jaya, east of the Baliem valley.







Landscapes above 3000m east of the Baliem valley, with my Papuan companions on this trek.











Terraced farming.

Groups of huts.





Other groups of huts.





Me with Papuans.

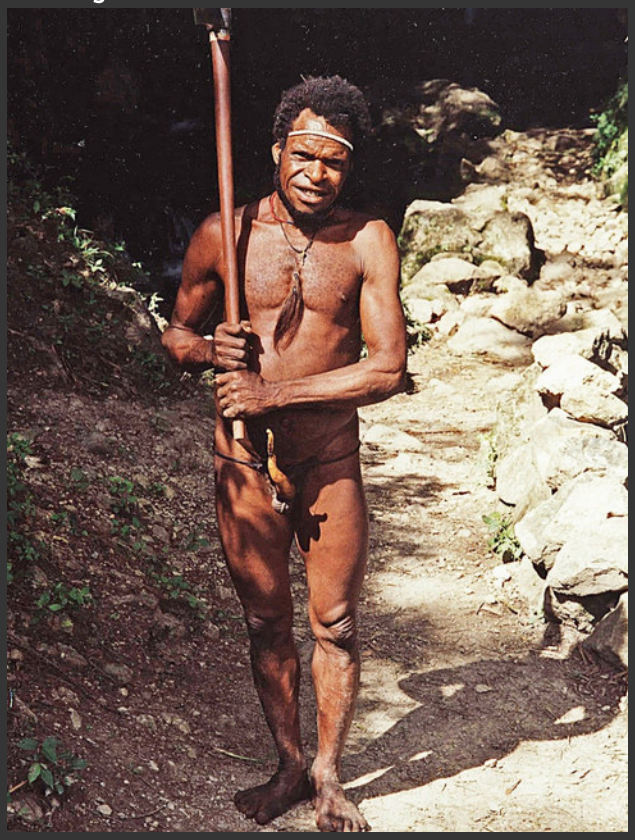
Papuans encountered during the trek.





Papuans encountered during the trek.







Papuans encountered during the trek.

Market in Angguruk.





Market in Angguruk (located 60km east of the Baliem valley).





Market in Angguruk.

People next to the Angguruk airstrip. (Note the small plane ready to take off.)





Two of my camps during the trek.





Typical muddy trail during the trek.

Bridge only made of lianas and branches.





Bridge only made of lianas and branches.







Ascent of a cliff on a precarious "ladder".



View of the "ladder" from above.

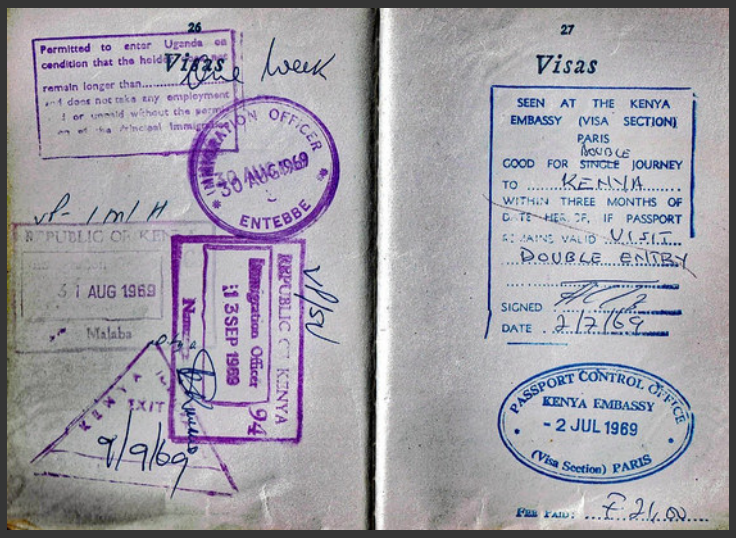


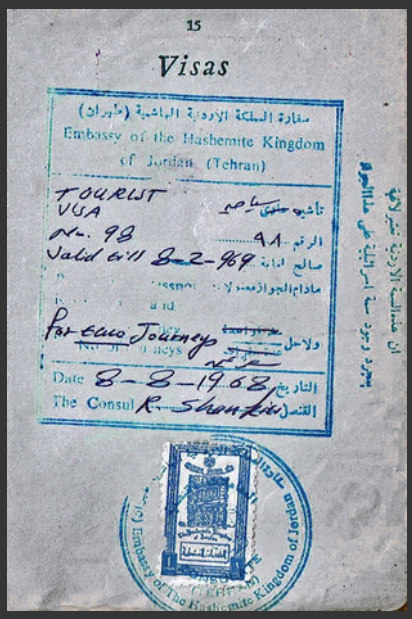


One of my companions during the trek.













11

This visa is considered invalid for entry into Iraq if the holder obtains an Israel visa on his passport

Visas

Bearer should register with the Residence Dept. within fifteen days of his arrival.

Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in PARIS

CONSULAR SECTION

ENTRY VISA

No. 1376

Date 18/7/1968

Valid for three months

Allowed to stay 3 months

Number of journeys One

Summer Holiday / Tourism / Visit

Allowed to stay one month without registration

Consul A. SAFAR

16

SEEN AT THE PASSPORT CONTROL OFFICE NAIROBI, KENYA

Visas

GOOD FOR SINGLE JOURNEY TO TANZANIA WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DATE HEREOF, IF PASSPORT REMAINS VALID VISIT

SIGNED

DATE 3 SEP 1969

REPUBLIC OF KENYA Immigration Officer 11 - 3 SEP 1969

FEE PAID 30/-

This visa is considered void if bearer obtained an Israeli visa on his passport

Kuwait State Embassy TEHRAN

Entry Visa

No. 5375

Date 10.8.68

Good for single

Journays Within 3

Months of date

Passport remain valid

And one week Stay

Ref. TEHRAN

CONSUL

A. H. AL-MAHMEED

Jean Claude LATOMBE

26

Visas

Permitted to enter Uganda on condition that the holder does not remain longer than One week and does not take any employment and or unpaid without the permission of the Principal Immigration

IMMIGRATION OFFICER 30 AUG 1969 ENTEBBE

REPUBLIC OF KENYA 31 AUG 1969 Malaba

REPUBLIC OF KENYA Immigration Officer 13 SEP 1969 94

EXIT 9/9/69

27

Visas

SEEN AT THE KENYA EMBASSY (VISA SECTION) PARIS

GOOD FOR DOUBLE JOURNEY TO KENYA WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DATE HEREOF, IF PASSPORT REMAINS VALID VISIT DOUBLE ENTRY

SIGNED

DATE 2/7/69

PASSPORT CONTROL OFFICE KENYA EMBASSY - 2 JUL 1969 (Visa Section) PARIS

FEE PAID: F 21,00

15

Visas

سفارة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية (طهران)

Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Tehran)

TOURIST VISA

No. 98

Valid till 8-2-969

For two Journeys

Date 8-8-1968

The Consul R. Shaukiri

23

Visas

سفارة الجمهورية العربية المتحدة بباريس

AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE ARABE UNIE A PARIS

SECTION DES VISAS

Visa d'Entrée No. 3467

Nom et Prénoms Latombe Jean C

Délivré le 2-6-69

Expire le 1-9-69

Nombre d'Entrées : Une seule - Deux

Durée du Séjour 114 Mois

Motif du Voyage Tourisme / Affaires / Travail

Droits Perçus L.R. / Frs 35.50

Le Consul Général

12

Visas

BANGKOK AIRPORT THAILAND, PERMITTED TO STAY 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ARRIVAL; HOLDER MUST LEAVE THE KINGDOM NOT LATER THAN 26 AUG 1972

UNLESS PREVIOUS APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION HAS BEEN MADE IN PERSON TO THE LOCAL IMMIGRATION OFFICE, OFFENDERS WILL BE PROSECUTED

SIGNED IMMIGRATION OFFICER 27 JUL 1972

30 X 72

TRANSIT PASS

MALAYSIA IMMIGRATION PADANG BESAR 30 JUL 1972

Permitted to enter Malaysia and remain until 6 AUG 1972

13

Visas

27 JUL 1972

TOURIST VISA

JOURNEY PERFORMED

SEEN AT THE ROYAL THAI EMBASSY ROME

No. 830/2515

Good for double journey (s) to Thailand

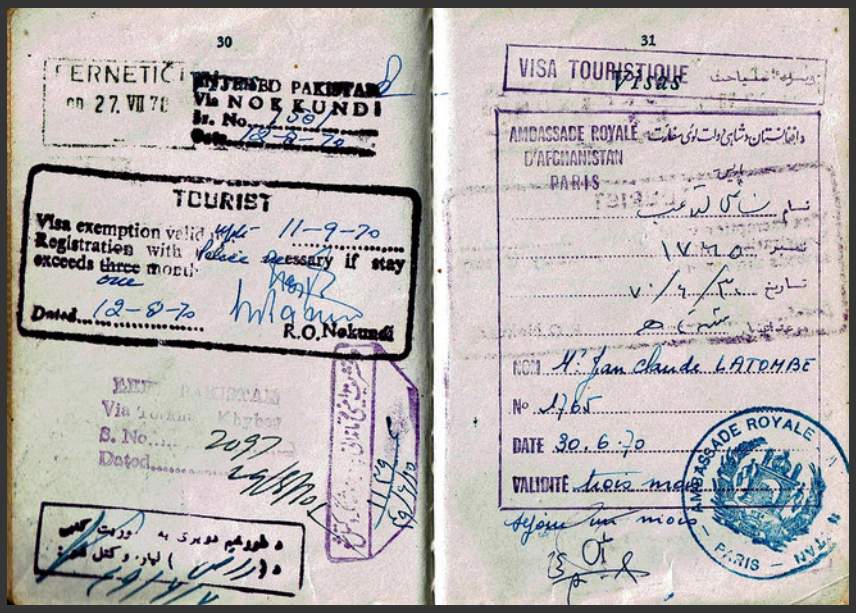
This visa must be utilized before October 2, 1972

if passport remains valid

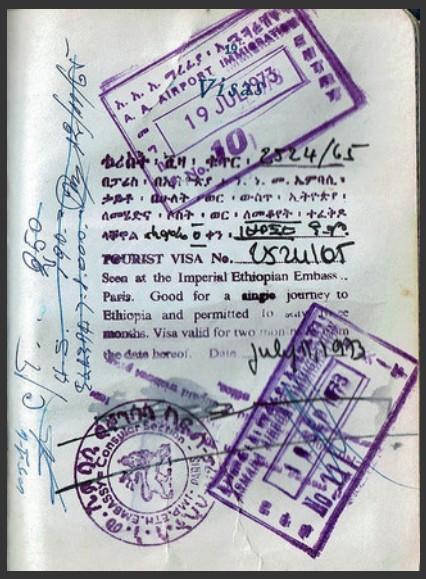
(Signed)

Date July 3, 1972

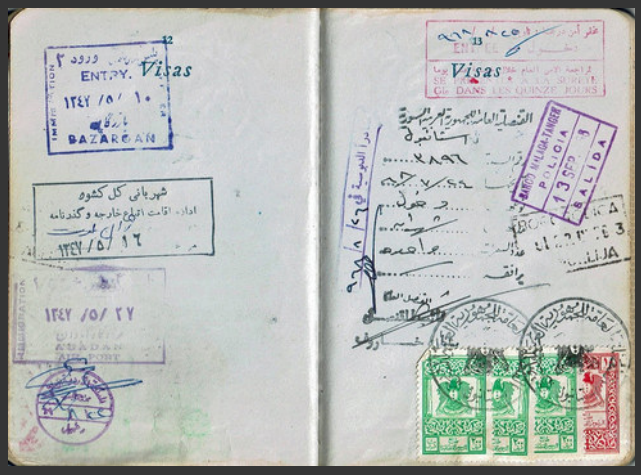
ROYAL THAI EMBASSY

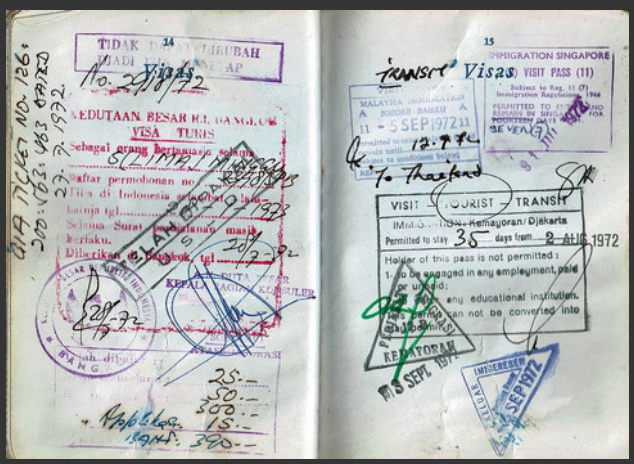

30
PERNETIC
ON 27. VII 70
EMBASSY PAKISTAN
Via NOKKUNDI
Sr. No. 1501
Date 12-8-70
TOURIST
Visa exemption valid 11-9-70
Registration with Police necessary if stay exceeds three months
Dated 12-8-70
R.O. Nokundi
EMBASSY PAKISTAN
Via Torkham Khyber
S. No. 2097
Dated 29/8/70
31
VISA TOURISTIQUE
Visas
AMBASSADE ROYALE D'AFGHANISTAN
PARIS
NOM M. Jan Claude LATOMBE
No 1765
DATE 30.6.70
VALIDITÉ trois mois
AMBASSADE ROYALE
PARIS


20
Visas
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE LA SURETÉ GÉNÉRALE
A ABBOUDIYÉ
Nom et prénom
No. du visa 127
Genre du visa Transit
Nombre de voyages une seule
Motifs Tourisme
Date de délivrance 26/9/68
Date d'expiration 3/9/68
Droits perçus 560 p.l.
3/9/68


Visas
A. A. AIRPORT IMMIGRATION
19 JUL 1973
No. 10
TOURIST VISA No. 0524/65
Seen at the Imperial Ethiopian Embassy Paris. Good for a single journey to Ethiopia and permitted to stay three months. Visa valid for two months from the date hereof. Date July 19 1973
Consular Section
No. 22


24
Visas
SEEN at the British Consulate General
MARSEILLES
Good for a single journey to
UGANDA
within THREE months of date hereof if passport remains valid.
VISIT
not exceeding two months
(Signed)
Date
BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL
MARSEILLES
DIPLOMATIC SERVICE
25
Visas
6 AUG 1969
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN
Paris
Consular Section Paris
Visa n° 6/125
Date of issue 30-6-69
Valid for departure
Within 2 Months
N° of journeys One
Period of stay One month
Purpose of visit Touristic visit
Fees collected 29F15
AGENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN


12
ENTRY. Visas
BAZARGAN
13
Visas
DANS LES QUINZE JOURS
BANCO MALIGA-TANGER
POLICIA
SALIDA


14
TIDAK DIBATAL DIRUBAH
Visas
No. 29/8/72
KEDUTAAN BESAR R.I. BANGKOK
VISA TURIS
Sebagai orang bertamasia selama
Daftar permohonan no.
Tiba di Indonesia selambat lamanya
Lainja tgl.
Selama Surat perjalanan masih berlaku.
Diberikan di Bangkok tgl.
KEPALA BAGIAN KONSULER
25.-
50.-
300.-
15.-
390.-
15
IMMIGRATION SINGAPORE
Visas
TRANSIT
VISIT PASS (11)
MALAYSIA IMMIGRATION
11 - 5 SEP 1972
To Thailand
VISIT - TOURIST - TRANSIT
IMMIGRATION Kemayoran/Djakarta
Permitted to stay 35 days from 2 AUG 1972
Holder of this pass is not permitted:
1. to be engaged in any employment, paid or unpaid;
2. to enter any educational institution.
This permit can not be converted into any permit.
KEMAYORAN
3 SEP 1972
IMMIGRATION
SEP 1972

Ma liberté
Longtemps je t'ai gardée
Comme une perle rare
Ma liberté
C'est toi qui m'as aidé
A larguer les amarres
Pour aller n'importe où
Pour aller jusqu'au bout
Des chemins de fortune
Pour cueillir en rêvant
Une rose des vents
Sur un rayon de lune

My freedom
I have long kept you
Like a rare pearl
My freedom
It is you who helped me
Shed my anchors
To go anywhere
To go to the end
Of the paths of fortune
To pick while dreaming
A rose of the winds
On a moonbeam

First stanza of the song *Ma liberté* of Georges Moustaki (1934-2013).
Moustaki was born in Alexandria, Egypt, from Romaniote Jewish parents, themselves originally from the Greek island of Corfu.
He learned French in Egypt and moved to Paris at age 17.
He became a French citizen in 1985.
His song *Ma liberté* was released in 1969, the year of my long summer trip to Egypt, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.
More than 50 years later, it still resonates in my head.















