

Pakistan & the Maldives



Adventure combined
with beach vacation
February, 1990



Karachi, Pakistan

We lived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia during the years 1989-1991. As you might remember, this was during the Gulf-war, hence we needed to get away as often as possible. In February, 1990, my pregnant wife and I decided to go to the Maldives with a stop-over in Pakistan. Hence a combination of a little adventure and some relaxing time on the beach at a resort on the Island of Maldives.

We would have loved to see more of Pakistan, but being six months pregnant we settled on four days in Karachi. What an amazing city this huge city really is. Have not seen any city where the streets are filled with cars, buses, bicycles and people all seemingly working quite well. The air is blue from all the fumes of pollution. The latest census (2020) estimates some 230 million people, whereas it was ca: 110 million back when we travelled (1990), and only Allah knows how many of these live in Karachi.

Sitting in a small restaurant having lunch I look out the window, and what do I see. A man walking down the street with a big bear on a leash. I could not believe my eyes at first, but sure enough. He was probably on his way to the beach to make some money showing off a few tricks with his bear.



A man with his bear comes walking down the street...

In the searing heat of Karachi and highly pregnant wife, we decide to move around in taxis rather than by foot. Not that any are airconditioned back in the 90-ies, but still. There are many photo opportunities all around the city.



Cockfighting and Cobra vs. Mungo

Big groups gather around and the bets are high.....



Down by the beach, there seems to be all possible activities going on, especially on a Sunday. There are all sorts of performances. There are people only going to the beach to swim (naturally fully clothed, mixed with guys doing weightlifting, Cock-fighting with bets. There are

particularly two activities which catches my attention; One Cockfight on life and death with high bets involved, and one classical fight Cobra vs. Mungo. At the Cockfight, many have gathered to watch and big bundles of cash is changing hands. It turns out to be a bloody fight, where the loser has to be put to

Many people gather at the beach.



We visit mosques, walk around the bazaars in the market district. There is a lot to see and discover. We try some of the food at the small food stalls, since we can't resist the good smell. We realize that 3 days is not enough to explore this metropolis. The lasting impression is Chaos, fumes, poverty and people everywhere



A sinking paradise...

A couple of years ago, the president of the Maldives, at an environmental conference announced, the country would be below water in 50-100 years due to the ongoing Global warming.



The republic of Maldives is the small country in the north Indian Ocean consisting of 26 atolls with almost 1200 Islands, of which some 200 are inhabited. The capital is Malé with a population of some 110,000 inhabitants. The country only has some 300,000 people in total. Tourism, fishing and some agriculture are the main sources of revenues.

We flew into Malé and then continued by boat to the Island where we would spend our next 8 days. Many of these islands are so small that it is possible to walk around them in an hour or two. The sandy beaches and the snorkeling out on the reefs are magnificent and the main attraction of course. I also took some scubadiving lessons on the reef. Tove, being six months pregnant was snorkeling, floating on a mattress and enjoyed this as well. Our bungalow was of high standard but the food got to be a bit repetitive after a while. Now other choices of restaurants on the small Island. A bonus is to be able to dine on the beach during the sunset. This is a honeymoon destination primarily, and after a week you have counted all the leaves on the palm trees.

