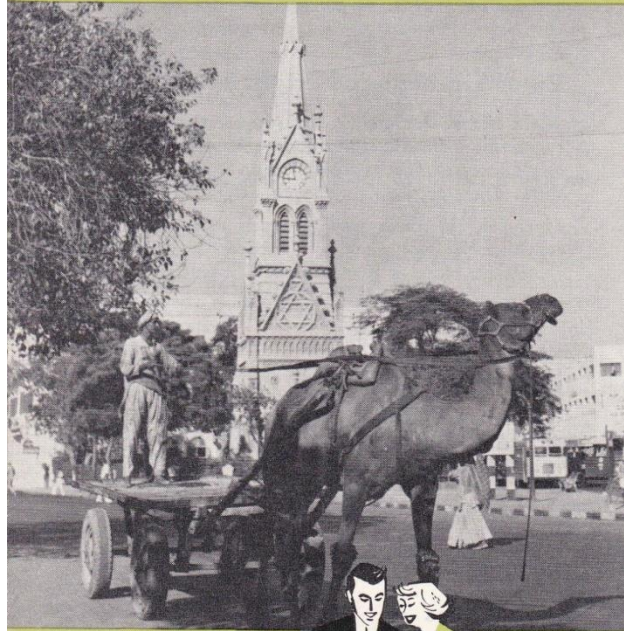


SAS CITY PORTRAITS

Karachi

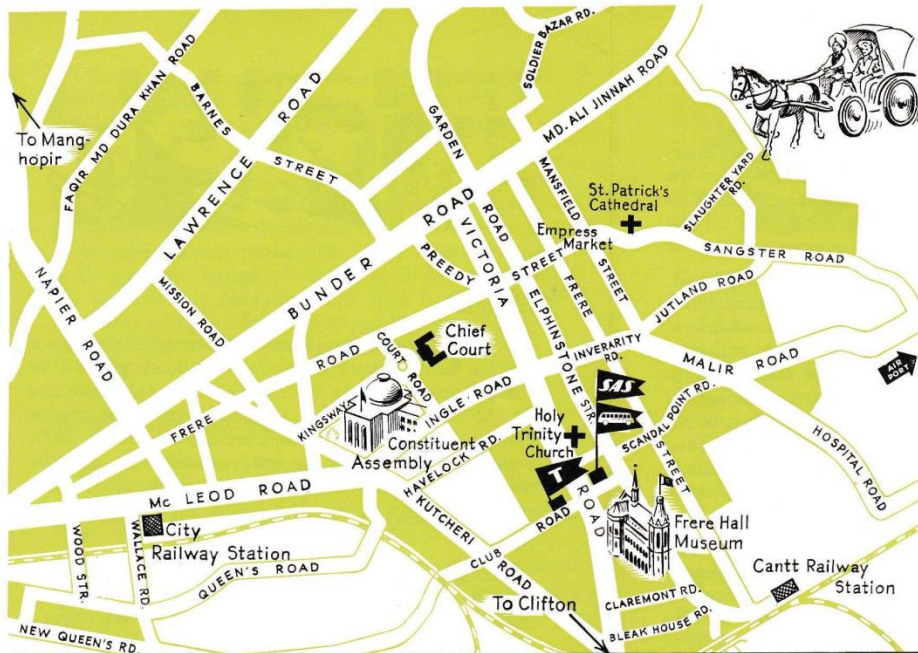
SAS



Merry Weather Tower



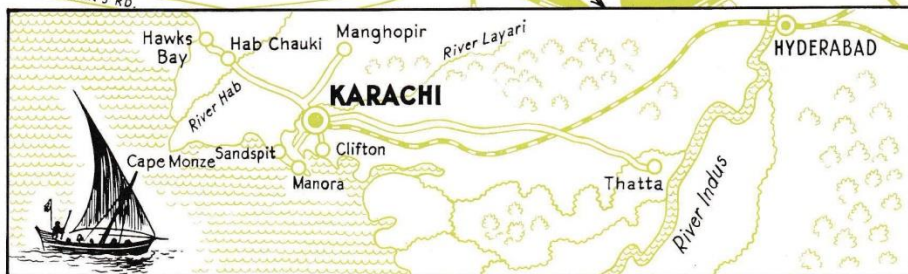
SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES SYSTEM






One Hour's Walk Around Karachi

When you leave the SAS office you are on Victoria Road which will lead you past the President's house and Holy Trinity Church to the Ilaco House Building. Continuing along Victoria Road and having passed the Paradise Cinema, you come to the junction of Victoria Road, Preedy Street and Frere Road.

Turn right and follow the tram lines and bus route to the heart of the city. Leaving the tram lines, turn around the Parisian Restaurant corner and center Elphinstone Street, Karachi's main shopping area. Here you will find the best shops in the city, with some very distinguished carpet stores and antique dealers. Before you reach the end of the street, make a small detour to the Bohri Bazaar. If you have time and patience, you may be able to make a fine bargain. The Bohri Bazaar has three streets leading back to Elphinstone Street. Walk to the Electric House Corner. From here it is but a few minutes' walk back to the Hotel Metropole and the SAS office.



Key to the Map:

-  The SAS Ticket Office and Air Terminal:
-  Hotel Metropole Building, Club Road.
Telephone: 52092 and 53034.
-  Tourist Information Office:
Tourist Bureau, Government of Pakistan,
Central Hotel, Club Road. Telephone 50119.

Your First Hour in Karachi

After your aircraft has landed, the SAS Ground Hostess will greet you and accompany you to the airport building. If you are in transit you may leave your baggage behind, either at the SAS airport office or — if there are dutiable goods in your suitcase — at the customs office. There is no charge for this service.

The SAS coach awaits passengers outside the airport building and takes you, free of charge, to the SAS city terminal in the Hotel Metropole, right in the center of the city. Taxis are also available at the airport; the charge for a taxi to a Karachi hotel is between Rs. 10.00 and 15.00 depending on the distance.

Foreign currency may be changed either at the branch office of the National Bank of Pakistan at the airport, or at any leading hotel. The monetary unit is the Pakistan rupee, divided into 16 annas and subdivided into 12 pies — a small denomination which you will rarely see. One £ sterling is equivalent to approximately Rs. 13-5-0 and one US dollar is worth about Rs. 4-11-0. If you have not reserved hotel accommodations before your arrival the SAS staff will assist you, but it would be wise to book rooms in advance if possible.

It is important to reconfirm your booking for the flight by which you intend leaving Karachi. You may do this either at the SAS airport office or at the city terminal.

KARACHI

The thriving and bustling city of Karachi gained international recognition and prominence in 1947, at the time of the partition of the Indian sub-continent. With the establishment of Pakistan, this lively city on the Indus river became its capital and entered a period of explosive expansion in population.

Karachi's recent development, and the pace with which it is growing provide you with an exciting and unique opportunity to see a capital in the making, and they also give Karachi an air of vitality and activity which cannot fail to impress you. Sophisticated pleasures are available in the form of fine restaurants with dancing, both in the city itself and along the famous Clifton Beach Promenade. Modern shops offer an excellent selection of merchandise, and there is really good deep-sea fishing off the coast.

On the other hand, you will see camel or donkey carts side by side with scooter taxis, cycle rickshaws, horse-drawn cabs and the latest model cars. In the bustling downtown mêlée you are apt to come across fortune tellers, snake charmers and bazaar hawkers as well as construction workers, diplomats, sailors from the merchant fleets of the world and prosperous business men, for Karachi has a fine natural harbor and is rapidly becoming a thriving industrial center.

From this, you can see that a visit to Karachi offers variety and color; the fast tempo of modern life or the leisurely ways to the ancient East are yours to choose from, and whichever way you pace yourself, you'll find it interesting.



Hotels

The three first-class hotels are the Metropole, the Palace and the Beach Luxury Hotel. In these hotels you will be charged approximately Rs. 22-0-0 for a single room and Rs. 32-0-0 to 44-0-0 for a double room with private bath and full board. Bed and breakfast rates are 25 % lower but, since there are few restaurants in Karachi, most visitors prefer to take their meals at their hotels.

There is an extra charge of Rs. 10.00 for air-conditioned rooms.

If you select a second-class hotel, you should note that they do not come up to the standard of second-class hotels in some other parts of the world. At the Central Hotel the charge for a single room with private bath is Rs. 18.00 with board while the Taj Hotel quotes full pension rates at Rs. 16.00 for a single room with private bath. Neither of these hotels offer air-conditioned rooms at present.

While an ordinary hotel room may generally be obtained on 72 hours' notice, air-conditioned rooms are hard to get. Your SAS office or travel agency at home can make reservations for you, or you may send a cable request to SAS in Karachi.

Note: Voltage in Karachi hotels is 220 A.C., 60 cycles.

Restaurants and Food

The most popular national dish is *Biryani*, i.e. rice cooked with spiced meat or chicken and potatoes. It tastes much like curried rice. If you want something milder try sweetened *Zarda*, another rice dish. This is not mixed with meat or vegetables, and is not spiced, but flavored with saffron. If you don't mind spicy food, you will like *Qourma*, chopped meat cooked in spices and served with a strong gravy. It is usually eaten with *Chappati* (Pakistani bread). *Firmi* is a fine dessert made of grated rice cooked in milk and flavored with rose or fruit syrups. The average price for any of these is from Rs. 1/8 to Rs. 2/8.

All leading hotels and restaurants serve alcoholic beverages. The favorite soft drink is *Sherbet*, fruit syrup served with ice water or soda water. Tea is served at all hours.

Two good western-style restaurants are Le Gourmet in the Palace Hotel, and the Shezan. Both are air-conditioned and serve lunch and dinner. There are also three good Chinese restaurants. Local restaurants normally are open throughout the day up to midnight, while the western-style restaurants are open from 9 AM to 11 PM or midnight. Lunch is served between 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM while tea time is around 4 PM.

Entertainment and Night Life

Night life in the western sense is not extensive in Karachi, but there are many good cinemas, and occasionally an amateur society will put on a play or a variety show. There are no permanent theaters, ballet or opera.

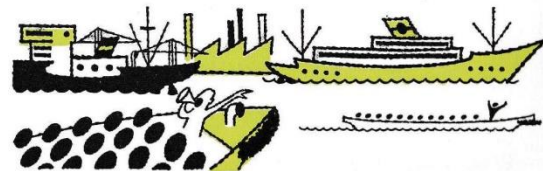
However, the three leading hotels offer dancing and sometimes a floor show or a cabaret. The Gourmet of the Palace Hotel is generally the best in this respect.

Sights

Karachi, being a comparatively new metropolis, has few historical monuments but it has many other attractions, and arrangements can be made for a three hours' sightseeing tour by car at a charge of Rs. 52/- for three persons or less. Excursion tours of longer duration may be arranged on request with a 48 hours' notice.

Excursions

You might enjoy a week-end visit to *Hawks Bay*, 15 miles from Karachi, or at *Baleji*, which is perhaps the prettiest of all of Karachi's beaches, although one should be aware that the strong under-current may sometimes be a little dangerous for swimming, especially in the monsoon season.



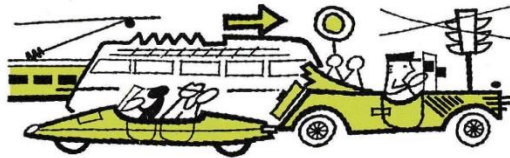
Sandspit and *Manora* are very popular holiday resorts which can be reached by road. A permit must be obtained from Naval Headquarters for the use of this road; however, it is more pleasant to go to these places by boats manned by experienced local seamen. It is an interesting trip, completely safe and comfortable.

Another interesting excursion takes you to *Manghopir* and *Bund Murad Khan*. At Manghopir the main attractions are the hot sulphur springs and a basin full of crocodiles. There are over a hundred of them and the oldest is said to be over 100 years old. Near the basin is the tomb of Pir Mongho Sultan who, according to legend, tamed the two crocodiles whose progeny you see in the basin today.

Landhi, the new and thriving industrial city, has a good hotel with a swimming pool.

Tbatta, the city of the Mirs, is another interesting excursion objective, with its fine old stone buildings. If you extend this trip 12 miles (20 kms.) to the Indus River, you'll see the genuine rural life of Pakistan.

If you are interested in any of these excursions let the SAS office assist you with your booking through one of the accredited travel bureaus.



Transportation

Trams and buses are usually very crowded and most foreign visitors prefer to use taxis (Rs. -/8/- per mile), baby taxis (Rs. -/6/- per mile), or motor rickshaws (Rs. -/4/- per mile). Motor rickshaws are speedy and convenient. In all these cases the fare is metered. Cycle rickshaws are also available, but we do not recommend them. For an evening ride in the city, by all means take a carriage. The normal charge is Rs. 2/- per hour, within the city area and rate cards are displayed.

Shopping

This is one of Karachi's brightest attractions. There is a wide choice of lovely handicrafts, including Persian and Kashmir carpets, furs, silver and brass, carved wooden boxes, painted furniture, embroidery, brocades and camel-skin lamp shades, just to mention a few.

The main shopping streets are Elphinstone Street and Victoria Road. At the entrance to Elphinstone Street you will find the Kashmir Art Emporium where you can buy woolen shawls and other handicraft articles



from Kashmir. For local handcraft products, visit the Small Industries Corporation Shop on the corner of Victoria Road and Preedy Street, or the All Pakistan Women's Association shop in the Ilaco House Building on Victoria Road, where you can purchase Persian, Royal Bokhara and locally woven rugs and carpets from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 5000/- according to size and quality.

For smaller gifts most visitors go to the Bohri Bazaar off Elphinstone Street. Goods are cheaper here than in the larger shops.

Official business hours are from 9 AM to 1 PM and from 3 PM to 8 PM. Many Moslem shops close for a half day on Fridays and more are closed on Sundays.

Tipping

Tipping is not obligatory and, therefore, is entirely at the visitor's discretion. Hotel bills normally include a service charge of 10 % and it is customary to give a rupee or two to porters and room servants prior to departure. A tip of 10 % is customary in restaurants. Cinema ushers are not tipped at all.

Taxi drivers and hairdressers are not usually tipped.



Climate and Clothing

Due to its geographical situation, Karachi has only two seasons, summer and winter. Summer begins in March and lasts until the end of November. It is usually hot and dry with average temperatures from 85° F to 95° F (29° C to 35° C). The remaining months of the year comprise the winter season when temperatures are somewhat cooler.



During summer gentlemen are advised to bring linen or Palmbeach suits, preferably not white since the dust and heat make them hard to keep clean. Ladies may wear linen, rayon or cotton.

Gabardine or light woolen suits are appropriate winter wear for men. Dinner jackets and black trousers should be brought. For formal occasions in summer, men wear white sharkskin or linen jackets and black trousers. Ladies' winter wear should include light woolen frocks. All first-class hotels will arrange for 24-hour laundry and dry-cleaning service.

Local Courtesies and Customs

Religion plays an important part in Pakistani life. The Moslems offer prayers five times a day, no matter where they may be. Do not disturb or photograph them at this time; do not photograph women wearing a *Burqa* (veil which covers her body and face), and do not stare at them. Shaking hands is not observed here, especially when greeting a Moslem lady. Although Pakistani women are usually shy and reserved, do not mistake this for lack of courtesy or regard them as unfriendly. They are, in fact, very charming and hospitable.

Public Holidays

Most of the Moslem holidays are moveable from year to year, but there are some fixed holidays, as listed below:

March 23 — Pakistan Day; June 30 — Bank Holiday; August 14 — Independence Day; October 27 — Revolution Day; December 25 — Christmas and Quaid-e-Azam's birthday; December 31 — Bank Holiday.

The most important Moslem holidays are Jumatul-wida (1 day, early April), Id-ul-Fitr (2 days, early April), Id-ul-Azha (2 days, second week in June), Muharram (1 day, second week of July), Id-i-milad-un-nabi (1 day, second week in September). These holidays are observed in West and East Pakistan. In East Pakistan Durga Puja (4 days, second week in October) is also observed, as is the Nauroze, or Parsi New Year (September 1) in Karachi. All Sundays are public holidays, and Fridays are half-working days.



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at Every City on SAS Routes . . .*

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