

## Definition:

A sandy or stony landscape which experiences low levels of rainfall and high temperatures.

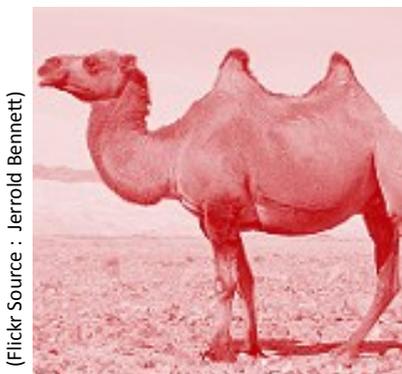
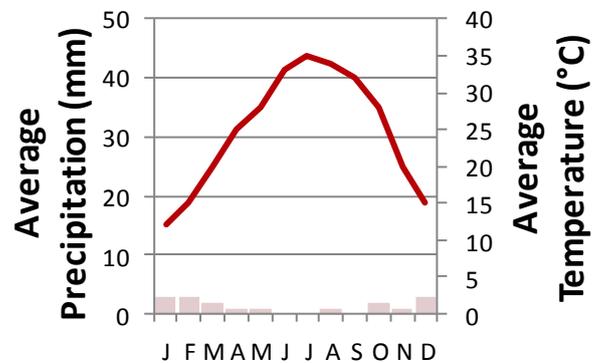
## Location

- Hot deserts are found between 15° and 30° North and South of the Equator.
- They are usually found north or south of tropical rainforests, in zones of high pressure.



## Climate

- Deserts have a large daily temperature range. Daytime temperatures can be as high as 50°C, while at night temperatures can drop below 0°C.
- Deserts receive very low levels of precipitation, less than 250mm a year. The rainfall is also very unreliable.



(Flickr Source : Jerrold Bennett)

A Camel

## Examples of Flora

- Cacti are probably the most common vegetation found in the desert and come in many different forms.
- Joshua Trees and Brittle Bushes are also common.

## Examples of Fauna

- Hooved mammals like camels and some species of antelope can be found.
- There are also many species of insects and reptiles.

## Conservation

Deserts might be thought of as vast wildernesses seemingly untouched by humans. However, they have experienced significant levels of species loss as a result of habitat loss, and growing human uses of desert areas such as for the extraction of minerals and other resources.

### Conservation strategies include:

- Creating parks and reserves to protect areas of desert such as Mojave National Preserve.
- Limiting the area of desert that is converted to irrigated farmland.
- Encouraging existing farms to use sustainable practices such as using manure as fertilizer.



(Flickr Source : Anna)

The Sahara Desert