



ANDKŪY

ANDKŪY, a commercial town in northwestern Afghanistan (35°56' north latitude and 65°08' east longitude). It lies 330 m above sea level on the Andkūy river, at the southern edge of the Qara Qūm desert and 30 km from the Āmū Daryā (Oxus), which forms the frontier between Afghanistan and the USSR. A population of 30,000 includes Turkmans, Paštūns, Tājīks, Hazārs, Uzbeks, and others. Referred to as Antkōḍ (*Ḥodūd al-‘ālam*, p. 98, tr. Minorsky, pp. 107, 336) Ankōḍ (Eṣṭaqrī, pp. 270-71; cf. al-Noḵḍ in Ṭabarī, II, p. 1566), and Andaḵūd (Moqaddasī, p. 347; Yāqūt, I, p. 372), Andkūy was long an assembly point for caravans beading north to B u khara. According to Eṣṭaqrī medieval Andkūy was a district with Oštorj as its town. The modern town, near the extensive ruins of its predecessor, is a market center, especially for Turkman (so-called B u khara) rugs, Karakul skins, wool, and hides, and a minor silk weaving center. Located on an unpaved section of the major highway circling the country, the town may be bypassed by a new and shorter route. A diesel plant supplies limited electrical power, and a plant for fleshing, drying and bailing Karakul skins operates from mid-March until mid-June. Agriculture is limited by the scarcity of water, and the principal local activity is the raising of sheep and cattle. The town lacks architectural monuments surviving from earlier periods of its history; contemporary houses are crowned by mud-brick domes.



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