

CAMELIDAE

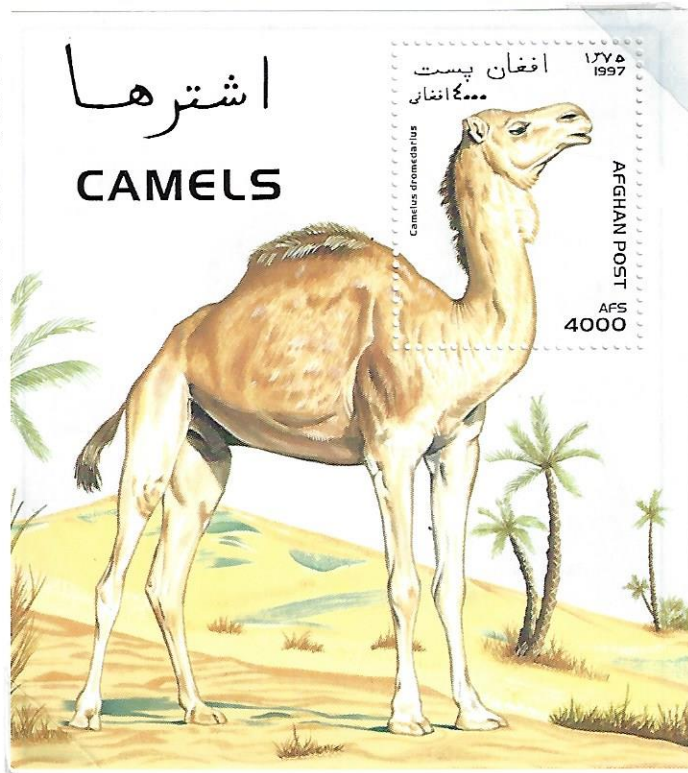
Past, Present, and Future

The Family *Camelidae* contains all extinct and extant species of Camels. Camelidae could be considered one of the strangest families in the animal kingdom. This exhibit explores modern Camel species, their origins, traits, usages by humans, philatelic significance and the future.

The family Camelidae first appeared in the evolutionary record about 40 million years ago. This was a small grazing animal about 11 inches tall, which was similar to contemporary grazing species. The members of modern Camelidae belong to Sub-Family *Camelinae*. The Sub-Family has evolved into two tribes, *Camelini* and *Lamini*. Tribe *Lamini* are indigenous to the New World and Tribe *Camelini* to the Old World. Tribe *Lamini* contains four species: **Vicuña**, **Alpaca**, **Guanaco**, and **Llama**. Tribe *Camelini* contains three species: **Wild Bactrian**, **Domestic Bactrian** and **Dromedary Camels**.



Probotherium Wilsoni was an ancient family member of *Camelinae*. From *P. Wilsoni*, evolved *Alticamelus* or *Aepycamelus*, the last common ancestor of all *Camelini* and *Lamini*. *Alticamelus* may have looked similar to the Cenozoic mammal *Marauquenía* (*Macrauchenia Ptachonica*).



This Afghan 1997 *Souvenir Sheet* (above right) was once listed as Scott #1437, now mentioned only in the End Notes. Afghani Postal Administration President, Mavlavi Allahdad Balkhi, identifies this and all issues dated after 1989 to be fake stamps.



Folded Letter depicting Dromedary and her Calf nursing