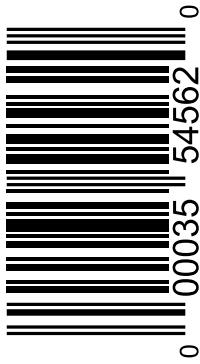


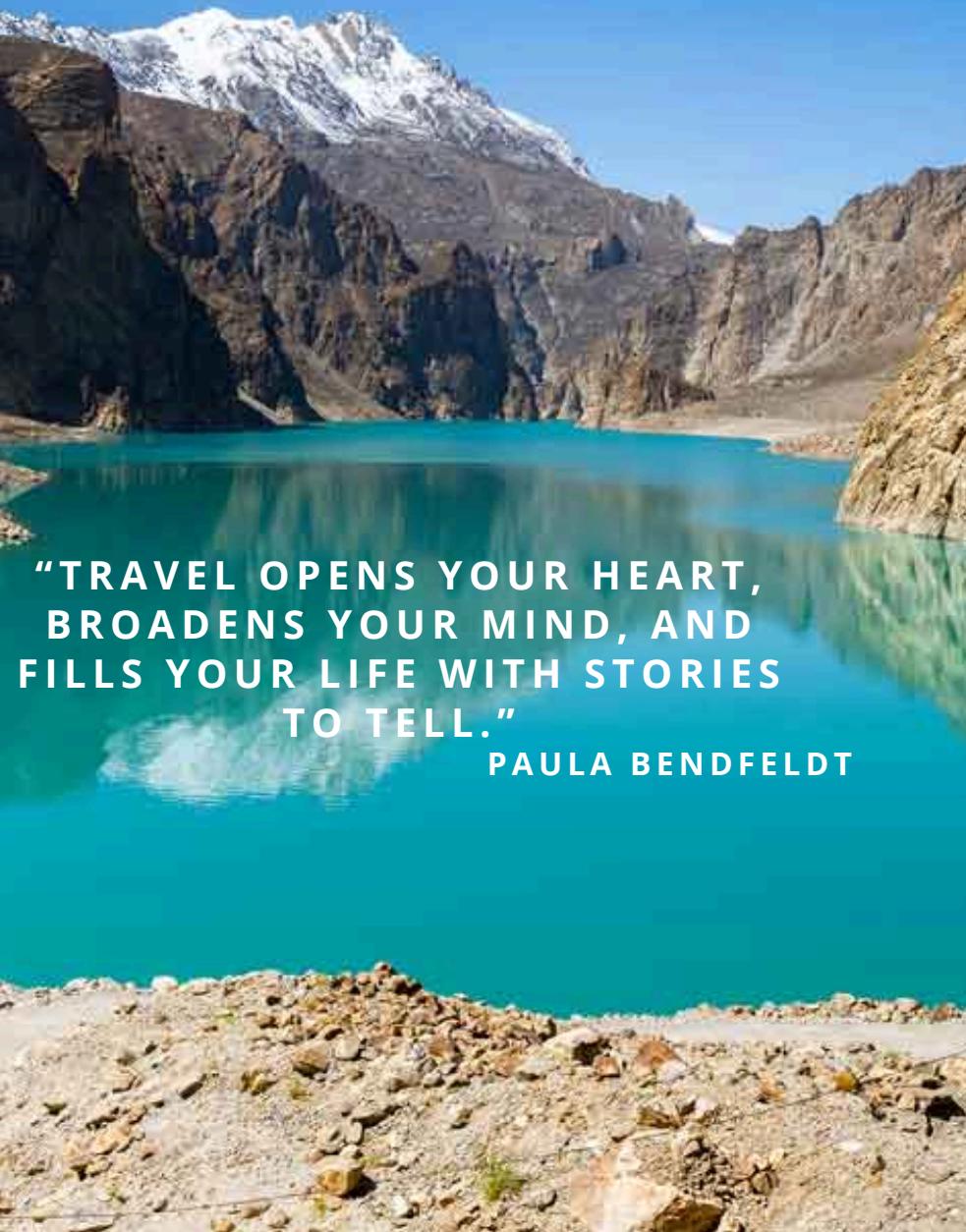
JOURNEY

NO.3



OCTOBER, 2024
ISSUE NO. 01

DISCOVERING PAKISTAN'S HIDDEN GEMS



"TRAVEL OPENS YOUR HEART,
BROADENS YOUR MIND, AND
FILLS YOUR LIFE WITH STORIES
TO TELL."

PAULA BENDFELDT



CONTENTS

NO.3

PAGE 3

INTRODUCTION TO THE JOURNEY THEME

- Brief overview of the concept of "journey" in travel.
- Importance of exploring one's own country and connecting with nature and culture.

PAGE 4

EXPLORING NORTHERN PAKISTAN

- Highlight places like Skardu, Naran, and Kaghan.
- Activities: Trekking, sightseeing, and adventure sports.
- Short travel itineraries for visitors.

PAGE 6

FEATURED DESTINATION: HUNZA VALLEY

- Description: Majestic landscapes, rich culture, and welcoming people.
- Key Attractions: Karimabad, Baltit Fort, Attabad Lake.
- Images: Scenic views, local markets.

PAGE 7

EXPLORING NORTHERN PAKISTAN

- Lahore: Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort, and Shalimar Gardens.
- Islamabad: Faisal Mosque, Daman-e-Koh, and Lok Virsa Museum.
- Brief historical context and significance.

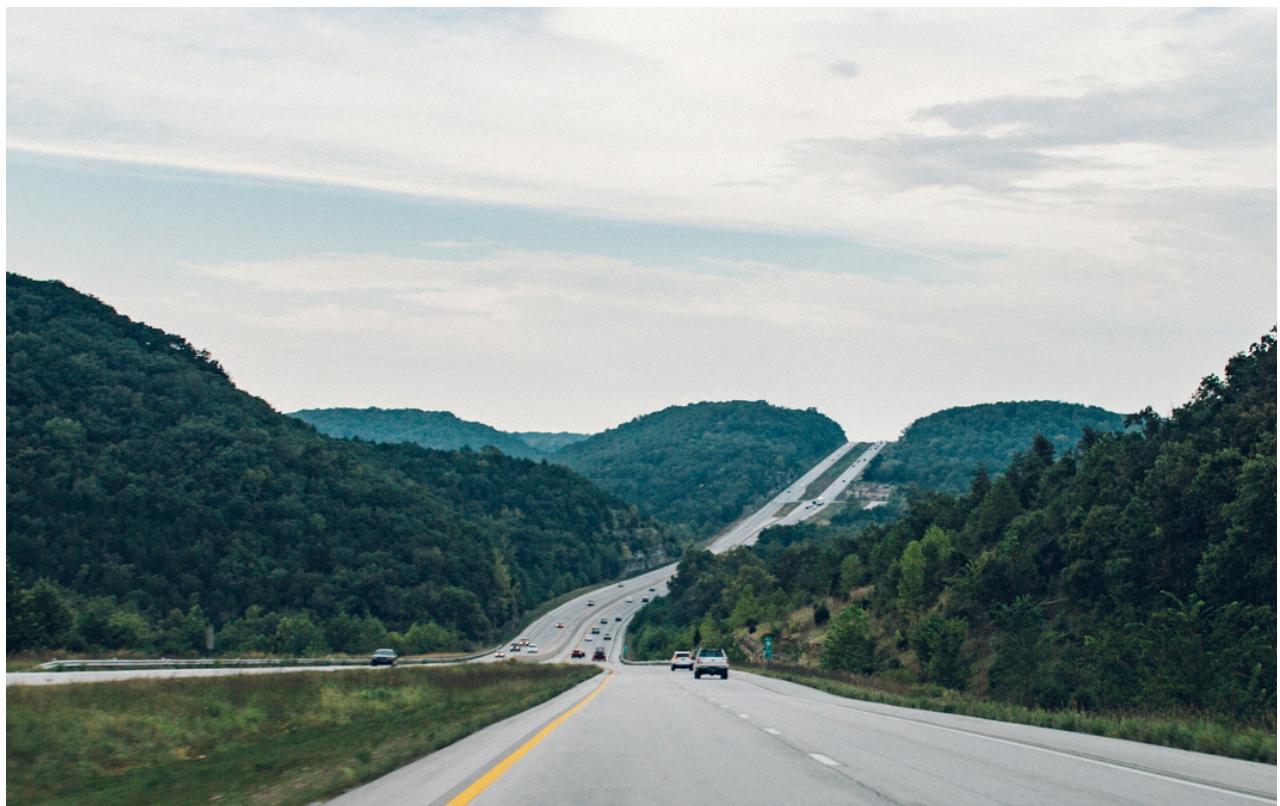
JOURNEY IN TRAVEL

The concept of "journey" in travel extends beyond mere movement from one place to another; it encompasses personal growth, self-discovery, and the experiences that shape us along the way.

Each journey invites us to step outside our comfort zones, encounter new perspectives, and create lasting memories. Whether it's an adventure through rugged landscapes or a cultural exploration of vibrant cities, every journey contributes to our understanding of the world and ourselves.

Importance of Exploring One's Own Country

Exploring one's own country allows travelers to connect deeply with their roots, culture, and heritage. It fosters a sense of pride and appreciation for local traditions, landscapes, and histories. By immersing themselves in familiar yet often overlooked surroundings, travelers can discover hidden gems and gain a new appreciation for the beauty that exists close to home. Additionally, connecting with nature through outdoor adventures or serene landscapes promotes well-being, offering a chance to rejuvenate both physically and mentally. Ultimately, these experiences strengthen our bonds with our communities and inspire a deeper respect for the environment and culture we inhabit.



TOURIST DESTINATIONS

Arankhel

, a picturesque village in Neelum Valley, is celebrated for its stunning natural beauty and vibrant greenery. Nestled among towering mountains

Ratti gali lake

Ratti Galli Lake, nestled in the stunning Neelum Valley of Azad Kashmir, is a breathtaking alpine lake famous for its vibrant turquoise waters and picturesque surroundings. Surrounded by lush green meadows and majestic mountains



Leepa Valley,

located in the northern regions of Pakistan, is a hidden gem renowned for its lush green landscapes and stunning terraced fields. Surrounded by majestic mountains and crystal-clear streams it offers a serene escape for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike. The valley's charming wooden houses and rich cultural heritage add to its allure,

TOURIST DESTINATIONS



Sightseeing tourism

Sightseeing tourism is an excellent choice for those who want to learn more about the culture and history of different countries. Many travel companies offer various excursions that allow you to visit museums, iconic places and attractions. Among the most popular places for sightseeing holidays

Muzaffrabad AJK

Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, is a vibrant city nestled at the confluence of the Neelum and Jhelum Rivers. Rich in history and culture, it serves as a gateway to the stunning landscapes of the region, with attractions like the historic Red Fort (Chak Fort) and the picturesque Pir Chinasi hilltop nearby.

Peer chanasi, Azad kashmir

Peer Chanasi is a stunning hilltop located near Muzaffarabad in Azad Kashmir, renowned for its breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and mountains. Standing at an elevation of around 2,800 meters, it offers visitors a serene escape with lush green meadows and vibrant wildflowers, making it a popular spot for picnics and photography.

Cruise tourism

Cruise tourism is an excellent choice for those who want to travel around many countries and cities while on board a comfortable ship. Cruises offer various itineraries that allow you to visit different countries and cities.



TIPS EXPERIENCED TRAVELERS

1. Plan ahead

Before setting off, research your destination thoroughly. Understand local customs, best times to visit, and must-see attractions. This preparation will help you maximize your experience.

2. Study the local culture

Experienced travelers know that learning about local culture is one of the most important aspects of traveling. This allows you to understand local traditions, customs and behavior, which helps to avoid conflicts and unpleasant situations.

3. Be prepared for changes in plans

Traveling is not always a predictable activity, so experienced travelers know that it is necessary to be prepared for changes in plans. This may be due to weather conditions, transport problems or other factors. The main thing is not to panic and find solutions in any situation.



TRAVELER INTERVIEWS: EXPLORING PAKISTAN

Interview 1: Sarah, Adventure Enthusiast Location: Hunza Valley

Q: What drew you to Hunza Valley?

A: I was captivated by the stunning landscapes and rich culture. I'd heard so much about the hospitality of the people, and it truly exceeded my expectations.

Q: What was the highlight of your trip?

A: Trekking to Rakaposhi Base Camp was unforgettable! The views were absolutely breathtaking, and standing in front of such a majestic mountain felt surreal.

Q: Any tips for future travelers?

A: Definitely try the local apricots—they're the best I've ever tasted! Also, take your time to explore the local villages; each one has its own unique charm.



Interview 3: Fatima, Nature Lover Location: Neelum Valley

Q: What inspired your visit to Neelum Valley?

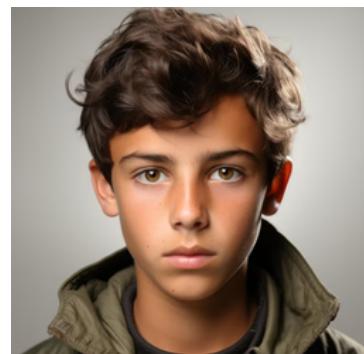
A: I've always loved nature, and Neelum Valley's lush landscapes and tranquil lakes seemed like the perfect escape.

Q: What was the highlight of your trip?

A: Ratti Galli Lake was the most beautiful place I've ever seen. The color of the water was mesmerizing, and the hike to get there was just as rewarding.

Q: Any tips for travelers heading to Neelum Valley?

A: Bring a good pair of hiking boots and be prepared for varying weather. Also, try to connect with local guides—they can show you hidden spots that aren't in the guidebooks.



Interview 4: Bilal, History Buff Location:

Muzaffarabad

Q: What were you hoping to find in Muzaffarabad?

A: I wanted to explore the historical sites and understand more about the region's history and its significance.

Q: What was your favorite part of the trip?

A: Visiting the Red Fort was definitely a highlight. The views of the rivers from there are stunning, and I loved learning about its history.

Q: Any advice for future visitors?

A: Spend some time talking to locals; they have fascinating stories and insights about the area. And don't miss out on trying the local cuisine—it's delicious!



HISTORICAL SITES: LAHORE AND ISLAMABAD

The Badshahi Mosque

, located in Lahore, Pakistan, is one of the largest and most magnificent mosques in the world. Constructed in 1673 during the reign of Emperor Aurangzeb, it is a stunning example of Mughal architecture, showcasing intricate red sandstone and marble work. The mosque features an impressive courtyard that can accommodate thousands of worshippers, and its grand minarets rise majestically against the skyline.



The Faisal Mosque,

located in Islamabad, is one of the largest mosques in Pakistan and an iconic symbol of the city. Completed in 1986, it was designed by the Turkish architect Vedat Dalokay and features a unique contemporary design that resembles a desert tent, reflecting the nomadic culture of the region.

The Lahore Museum

is a museum located in Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan. Founded in 1865 at a smaller location and opened in 1894 at its current location on The Mall in Lahore during the British colonial period, Lahore Museum is Pakistan's largest museum, as well as one of its most visited ones.



COASTAL RETREATS: KARACHI AND GWADAR

Karachi

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and economic hub, boasts a vibrant coastal scene with numerous attractions for beach lovers and adventure seekers.

- Clifton Beach: One of the most popular beaches in Karachi, Clifton Beach offers a lively atmosphere with camel rides, street food, and picturesque sunsets. It's a great spot for families and friends to relax and enjoy the sea breeze.
- Manora Island: Accessible by a short boat ride, Manora Island is a tranquil escape from the city. Visitors can enjoy pristine beaches, lush greenery, and historical sites like the Manora Fort. It's perfect for picnics and exploring nature.
- Hawksbay Beach: Known for its wide sandy shores and clear waters, Hawksbay is ideal for swimming and beach sports. The area is also famous for its turtle nesting sites, making it a unique destination for wildlife enthusiasts.



Gwadar

Gwadar, located on the southwestern coast of Balochistan, is emerging as a prime tourist destination known for its stunning landscapes and serene beaches.

- Gwadar Beach: This beautiful beach features golden sands and calm waters, perfect for a relaxing day by the sea. The sunset views are breathtaking, making it a popular spot for evening strolls and photography.
- Hammerhead: Known for its unique geological formation, Hammerhead is a spectacular viewpoint that offers panoramic views of the surrounding sea and mountains. It's an ideal spot for nature lovers and adventure seekers.

CULINARY JOURNEY: TRADITIONAL PAKISTANI CUISINE

Pakistani cuisine is a rich tapestry of flavors, aromas, and culinary traditions, reflecting the diverse cultures and regions of the country. Each dish tells a story, combining spices, herbs, and local ingredients to create mouthwatering meals that are both comforting and celebratory.

Key Dishes to Try

1. Biryani: A fragrant rice dish layered with marinated meat (often chicken, beef, or mutton), spices, and sometimes vegetables. Each region has its own twist on biryani, with Karachi biryani being particularly famous for its spicy kick.
2. Nihari: A slow-cooked stew made with tender meat, typically enjoyed as a breakfast dish. The rich flavors come from a blend of spices, and it's often served with naan or paratha.
3. Karahi: A popular dish made in a wok-like vessel of the same name. It typically features meat (chicken or mutton) cooked with tomatoes, green chilies, and various spices, resulting in a flavorful and hearty meal.
4. Chapli Kebab: Originating from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, these minced meat patties are spiced with herbs and fried to perfection. They are often served with yogurt sauce and naan, making for a delightful street food experience.
5. Haleem: A rich, savory porridge made from wheat, barley, lentils, and meat, slow-cooked for hours to achieve a creamy texture. Haleem is particularly popular during Ramadan and is often served with garnishes like fried onions and fresh herbs.



HOTELS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

When exploring the diverse landscapes and rich culture of Pakistan, having the right accommodation can enhance your travel experience. Here's a guide to some of the top hotels and unique stays across key destinations.

Islamabad

1. Serena Hotel

- A luxury hotel known for its elegant architecture and lush gardens. Offers modern amenities, fine dining, and easy access to the city's attractions.

2. Margalla Hotel

- Centrally located, this hotel offers comfortable rooms with stunning views of the Margalla Hills. It's a popular choice for both business and leisure travelers.

Lahore

1. Pearl Continental Hotel

- A five-star hotel that combines luxury with local culture. Features upscale dining options, a spa, and easy access to historical sites like the Badshahi Mosque.

2. Hotel One

- A budget-friendly option providing comfortable accommodations and a cozy atmosphere. It's well-located for exploring Lahore's vibrant markets and eateries.

Karachi

1. Mövenpick Hotel Karachi

- A luxurious hotel offering a range of dining options, a pool, and wellness facilities. It's ideal for business travelers and those seeking comfort in the city.

2. Beach Luxury Hotel

- Situated along the coast, this hotel offers stunning sea views and a relaxed atmosphere. Guests can enjoy access to the beach and recreational activities.

CONCLUSION: EMBRACING THE JOURNEY

Traveling through Pakistan is not just about visiting new places; it's about embracing the journey itself—experiencing the rich tapestry of culture, history, and natural beauty that this remarkable country has to offer. Each destination, from the majestic peaks of the north to the vibrant streets of Lahore and the serene beaches of Gwadar, presents an opportunity for discovery and connection.

As you navigate through the diverse landscapes and engage with local communities, you'll find that every interaction and every meal tells a story. The warmth and hospitality of the Pakistani people enrich your travels, making each moment memorable. Whether you're savoring traditional cuisine, exploring historical landmarks, or trekking through breathtaking scenery, these experiences shape not only your understanding of Pakistan but also your perspective on life.

Ultimately, embracing the journey means being open to new experiences and learning from each step along the way. It invites you to reflect on your own personal journey, celebrating the moments that challenge you and those that inspire you. As you venture into the heart of Pakistan, may you find joy in every discovery and create lasting memories that resonate long after your journey concludes.



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

- **Ajwa Sadheer** – Editor and Compiler
 - Responsible for creating and organizing the content of the magazine, ensuring a cohesive and engaging narrative that highlights the beauty and diversity of Pakistan.
- **Khansa Kaleem** – Research Contributor
 - Provided valuable information and insights on various tourist destinations, enriching the content of the magazine.
- **Zartasha Shabbir** – Research Contributor
 - Assisted in gathering information about traditional cuisine and local experiences, enhancing the culinary section.
- **Alishba Mughal** – Research Contributor
 - Helped compile information on accommodations and travel tips, ensuring practical resources for travelers.
- **Zainab Malik** –Research Contributor
 - Analyzed and organized the gathered information, ensuring accuracy and relevance throughout the magazine.
- **Atiqa Manahil** –Research Contributor
 - Assisted in gathering information about traditional cuisine and local experiences, enhancing the culinary section