



Land and People of Pakistan

The Muslim World¹

The Muslim world is vast and immense mass of land. It spreads from West Africa to Southern Philippines to Pacific. Its northern limit touches the Volga in Russia while southern frontiers touch Mozambique in southeast Africa on the Indian Ocean. In China, in addition to Sinkiang, Muslims are in substantial numbers, in the provinces bordering Burma and in districts around Peking. The total population of the Muslim world is around one billion.

Geography

Geography is the study of man's natural environment and how it influences his social and cultural development. Geography concerning the territorial boundary of a state covers the study of the region, mountain, desert, sea, plain and rivers.

The Geography of Pakistan is a profound blend of landscapes varying from plains to deserts, forests, hills, and plateaus ranging from the coastal areas of the Arabian Sea in the south to the mountains of the Karakoram Range in the north. There are green mountains and dry mountains, land rich for cultivating, and waterfalls.

Regions²

Pakistan is comprised of four provinces, i.e. Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK, Former N.W.F.P), and Baluchistan. Moreover, Kashmir (Disputed territory) Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Gilgit-Baltistan are also part of Pakistan.

Pakistan is the 36th largest nation by total area. It is bordered by Afghanistan, Iran, India, and China. Pakistan is also very close to Tajikistan, separated by the Wakhan Corridor. Pakistan is strategically located between the regions of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. This prime location – combined with varied natural resources, diverse geography, and exciting environment – makes Pakistan a unique country.

Also, Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world to have every kind of geological structure. The geography of Pakistan is a blend of landscapes such as plains, deserts, forests, hills, and plateaus. There are coastal areas along the Arabian Sea and mountains of the Karakoram Range in the northern part of Pakistan. Moreover, there are green as well as dry

¹ www.pakhistory.com

² www.insider.pk

mountains in Pakistan. It has also got a vast tract of land rich for cultivating, and abundant waterfalls.

Mountains³

There are four mountain ranges in Pakistan namely, Himalaya, Karakorum, Hindukush and Sul-e-man Range. Due to their very high altitudes and sub-zero temperatures, these mountainous regions are also one of the most heavily glaciated parts of the world outside the Polar Regions. It consists of numerous ice glaciers including the world second and third longest glaciers, i.e., the Siachen Glacier (70 km) and the Biafo Glacier (63 km).

Himalayan Range:⁴

The Western Himalayan Range is situated in Kashmir valley and Northern Pakistan to the south and east of Indus river and is Dominated by Nanga Parbat, Pakistan's 2nd and world's 9th highest, is considered as one of the most difficult and dangerous to climb, nick named as Killer Mountain. In local language it is called "deo mir". It is situated in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Karakoram Range:

Karakoram means black stone. It is believed to be the north western extension of the greater Himalayan range, covering the borders between Pakistan, India and China, in the regions of Gilgit-Baltistan (Pakistan), Ladakh (India), and Xinjiang region, (China). The range is about 500 km (311 mile) in length.

Hindu Kush:

The Hindu Kush is an 800 km long mountain range that stretches between central Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. The highest point in the Hindu Kush is Tirich Mir (7,708 m or 25,289 ft.) in Chitral district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The mountain range separates Central Asia from South Asia. Numerous high passes ("kotal") transect the mountains, forming a strategically important network for the transit of caravans. The most important mountain pass is the Salang Pass, Tangi Gharu and Khyber Pass Chitral is considered to be the pinnacle of the Hindu Kush region. High peaks, as well as countless passes and massive glaciers, are located in this region.

Suleiman Range:

Pakistan's forth major mountain range is the Suleiman range. It emerges in the south western region of the country, mostly covering Baluchistan Province. However, the mountain range is quite different in character from the northern mountains as it is less precipitous, extremely steep, and with medium elevations. The highest peak is Takht-i-Suleiman rising 3,487 meters above sea level.

³ www.pakistantoursguide.pk

⁴ <https://www.slideshare.net/AyeshaShoukat99/mountains-in-pakistan>