

Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation

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<p>HISTORY OF ISLAMABAD</p> <p>The twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad lie against the backdrop of Margalla Hills on the Pothohar Plateau. On the basis of archaeological discoveries, archaeologists believe that a distinct culture flourished on this plateau as far back as 300,000 years. Based upon the stone implements found in Soan Valley, researchers have revealed various aspects of activities of the primitive human being. The earliest tools struck from large pebbles have been named as "Pre-Soan". The later tools have been named as "Early-Soan" and "Late-Soan", when better and finer tools were made during Paleolithic period. In the new Stone Age known as Neolithic Culture (10,000 to 5,000 BC), finer and polished stone tools made by early human beings have been discovered near Khanpur and some Neolithic burial of long Homo Sapiens near Rawat. These discoveries are comparable to "Cromerian" tools of Paleolithic period discovered in Europe. Serai Khola, located 03 Kms southwest of Bhir Mound, is considered as the earliest settlement of Taxila. The discovery of stone celts, chert blades, cores, stone arrow heads, scrapers, terra-cotta animals and female figurines, clay bangles, stone and paste beads, copper pins and wide range of pottery has pushed the history of Taxila from 600 BC to 3000 BC. Three cultural sequences, namely, historic at top, Kot Dijian in the middle and Late Neolithic at the bottom have been discovered at Serai Khola.</p> <p>The material remains found on the site of the city of Rawalpindi prove the existence of a Buddhist establishment contemporary to Taxila but less celebrated than its neighbour. It appears that the ancient city went into oblivion as a result of the Hun devastation. The first Muslim invader, Mahmood of Ghazni (979-1030AD), gifted the ruined city to a Gakhar Chief, Kai Gohar. The town, being on invaders' route, could not prosper and remained deserted until Jhanda Khan, another Gakhar Chief, restored it and gave the name of Rawalpindi in 1493 AD. Rawalpindi remained under the rule of Gakkars till Sikhs defeated Mughal Khan, the last Gakhar ruler, in 1765 AD. Sikhs invited traders from other places to settle here. This brought the city into prominence. Sikhs lost the city to British in 1849 AD. It then became the HQ of British Army and they established a cantonment south of the old city. In 1879, the Punjab Northern Railway was extended to Rawalpindi but the train service was formally inaugurated on January 01, 1886. Over the years, Rawalpindi and Islamabad retained its traditional flavour. Pakistan's new capital, Islamabad, being the twin city of Rawalpindi, equally shares the same archaeological and historical background.</p> <p>WHAT TO SEE</p> <p>HISTORY OF ISLAMABAD</p> <p>The Pakistan Monument is a National Monument and heritage museum located on the western Shakarpur Hill in Islamabad, Pakistan. The monument was constructed to symbolize the unity of the Pakistani people. It is dedicated to the People of Pakistan who sacrificed their TODAY for a better TOMORROW. Its elevation makes the monument visible from across the Islamabad-Rawalpindi metropolitan area and is a popular tourist destination. The design of the monument is rooted in the rich</p>	<p>ISLAMABAD MUSEUM</p> <p>The Islamabad Museum is an institution of the Federal Department of Archaeology and Museums, Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, and National Heritage, and is located at Attock Avenue, Sector G-5, Islamabad. The Museum opened in September of 2002. The Museum depicts Pakistan's history through artefacts displayed in chronological order, including one of the earliest man-made tools dating back 2 million years, collected from Soan Valley, nine thousand years old objects from Mehrgarh (Balochistan), artefacts of the world-famous Indus Valley civilization, and statutory of Gandhara Civilization. The antiquity represents the Gandhara Grave Culture, Kot Diji, Bhanbhore, Thatta, and other regional civilizations tell the tale of man's evolution. Through the exhibition of artefacts and works of art, an effort has been made to trace the history of Pakistan's changing cultures and civilizations. (Tel: 051-9221325)</p>	<p>SHAH FAISAL MOSQUE ISLAMABAD</p> <p>This beautiful mosque was designed by renowned Turkish Architect, Vedat Dolokay and named after the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. It is spread over 189,705 sq. metres with 88 meters high minarets and 40 meters high main prayer hall. The main prayer hall can accommodate 10,000 persons while the covered porticos and verandahs can take over 24,000 worshippers. The main courtyard has space for 40,000 people.</p> <p>GOLRA SHARIF</p> <p>The shrine of Syed Meher Ali Shah of Golra Sharif is located 18 km from Rawalpindi, in sector E-11 of Islamabad. He was descendant of a Syed family and had links with Syed Abdul Odir Gilani of Baghdad. Born in 1859, he preached and spread the message of Islam during the turbulent times in South Asia. He wrote beautiful prose and poetry in Persian, Arabic and Punjabi languages, mostly in praise of God and Muhammad (peace be upon him). He died on May 11, 1937. His mausoleum was recently reconstructed comprising of a dome, and a high minaret of marble.</p> <p>BARI IMAM</p> <p>Noorpur Shah, a village situated at the foot of Margallah Hills, near Quaid-e-Azam University, is famous for the mirror-studded shrine of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Kozmi, popularly known as Bari Imam. The shrine was originally built on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. The death anniversary (Urs) of Bari Imam is</p>	<p>extent, due to steep hills. The course will lead you to the viewpoint and is about a 30-50 min. track. After the viewpoint you can continue on for another easy-going 45-60 minutes trek and reach Pir Sohawa, where you can choose from 2 restaurants for food, The Monal and Lo Montano. In totality, it is approximately one hour thirty minutes trek.</p> <p>TREK NO. 4</p> <p>Trail No. 4 is the link between Trail 3 and 5.</p> <p>TREK NO. 5</p> <p>Begins from Margalla Road in sector F-5, people find it easier to climb. The trails 3 and 5 run parallel upto some distance, and is connected via trail 4 at certain points. The trail 5 will lead you to the top of Pir Sohawa road. You can switch trail 3 to 5 by walking on extra distance of 1.5 Kms. The estimated time to cover the distance on the trail is about 2.5-3.5 hours.</p> <p>TREK NO. 6</p> <p>This trail is sparingly used as the entrance is not known to many people. It starts from the back of the Faisal Mosque in Sector E7, near tree planting Project sign is polled. Trails will run you through a valley along a well defined route that guides you to the top terminal of the Pir Sohawa road. The trail has a track for mountain bikes, and a birdwatching point.</p> <p>DAMON-E-KOH</p> <p>Damon-e-Koh and Pir Sohawa offers panoramic view of Islamabad. The place is ideal for afternoon and evening outing with family and friends.</p>	<p>FATIMA JINNAH PARK</p> <p>The entire sector of F-9 has been developed as an attractive urban park, which has a profusion of lakes, rock gardens, aquariums, fountains etc. It has been named after Miss Fatima Jinnah, sister of the founder of Pakistan.</p> <p>ROSE AND JASMINE GARDEN</p> <p>This 20.360 sq. meters rose garden is famous for its roses. It has 250 different varieties of roses as well as a dozen types of Jasmines. Flower shows are occasionally held here, particularly during spring.</p>	<p>JINNAH CONVENTION CENTRE</p> <p>Jinnah Convention Centre (also known as National Convention Centre) is an exhibition and convention centre based in Islamabad. It is named after Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The convention centre was inaugurated in 1997 at the First Extraordinary Summit of OIC.</p> <p>ISLAMABAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</p> <p>Islamabad International Airport is the main airport serving the Islamabad-Rawalpindi Metropolitan Area and suburbs. It is built 20 km west of the two cities near Kashmir Highway and Motorway Interchange. It was opened on 1st May 2018 and operated by Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority. It is hub for Pakistan International & domestic air lines. (Website: www.islamabadairport.com.pk)</p> <p>WHERE TO STAY</p> <p>Islamabad is a heaven for expatriates and in order to cater for the large community, the city has some of the finest 3-star, 4-star and 5-star hotels in the country. (Website: www.dts.gov.pk)</p> <p>Marriott</p> <p>11</p>
<p>GENERAL INFORMATION</p> <p>Location: Islamabad - The Capital of Pakistan Area: 906.50 square kilometers Elevation: 2 million feet Climate: Islamabad receives dry subtropical climate, with hot summers and cool winters. Language: Urdu is the national language, but Punjabi, Pashto, Balochi, Sindhi and Pahari are also widely spoken in the city.</p>	<p>Mughal Architecture of the Subcontinent. The resultant petal-shaped structure emphasizes the importance of unity & togetherness of the people of Pakistan.</p> <p>Four Large petals represent each of the four cultures, The Punjabi, The Balochi, The Sindhi & The Pakhtun. The three smaller petals represent: Minorities, Azad Kashmir & The tribal areas. All seven petals, though independent of each other, stand together in Unison to form the Nation of Pakistan.</p> <p>SAIDPUR VILLAGE</p> <p>Saidpur, famous for its pottery, is part of Islamabad today. It is located off the Hill Road to the east of Damon-e-Koh. Sultan Said Khan son of Sultan Sarang Khan founded Saidpur. He gave his daughter in marriage to Mughal Prince Soleim who later became Emperor Jahangir. The village has been preserved as heritage of Islamabad.</p> <p>LOK VIRSA HERITAGE MUSEUM</p> <p>With a covered area of 60,000 sqft, the Lok Virsa Heritage Museum is Pakistan's first museum of ethnology that presents the history and living traditions of the people of Pakistan in a chronological sequence. It offers an enchanting journey through</p>	<p>PAKISTAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY</p> <p>Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) is located at Garden Avenue, Shakarpur, Islamabad and welcomes the visitors to its dynamic exhibits, displays and dioramas. The Museum has four divisions: Botanical Sciences, Earth Sciences, Zoological Sciences and Public Services. The first three divisions are responsible for the collection, preservation, identification, and research of Pakistan's plant, fossil, and mineral resources, respectively, while the latter is in charge of mass education and popularisation of natural history through various displays, exhibits, and dioramas. Museum remains open from Monday to Friday 08:30 AM to 05:30 PM, and timings for Saturday and Sunday are 09:30AM to 05:30PM.</p> <p>GOLRA RAILWAY MUSEUM</p> <p>The Golra Sharif Railway Museum, also known as Pakistan Railways Heritage Museum, is more than simply a museum of trains. It contributes significantly to the gathering, preservation, and understanding of Pakistan's rich railway culture. It enables visitors to observe and analyse authentic bits of history, from the sparkling locomotives to historical print materials (such as passenger tickets and manuals). Although the museum had welcomed visitors since September 2003, the formal inauguration took place in March 2007. The museum is housed in the former waiting area of the Golra Railway Station, which is intact in its original configuration. Items from the past 150 years, spanning over 100 years of the subcontinent, are on exhibit in two adjacent rooms.</p>	<p>MARGALLA HILLS NATIONAL PARK</p> <p>Trek No. 1</p> <p>It will lead you to the top terminal of the Pir Sohawa road, in more or less two hours. Upon extending the walkway, you will reach Monal Restaurant in twenty minutes.</p> <p>Trek No. 2</p> <p>Starts out just above the Pir Sohawa, the point located near Islamabad Zoo. It is 1 to 1.5 hours walk and leads you to Damon-e-Koh viewpoint. You can move it beyond this spot upward to the cactus ridge.</p> <p>Trek No. 3</p> <p>The most famous and old hiking track of Islamabad. It starts from the Margalla road sector F-6. The trail is exhausting to some</p> <p>LAKE VIEW PARK</p> <p>A visit to the Lake View Park in Islamabad is a perfect way to spend a wonderful afternoon with friends and family. The Lake View Park is situated at a distance of about eight kilometers from Zero Point and is a marvelous partnership between man and nature. Lush green lawns, sprawling gardens, beautifully manicured flowerbeds, a shimmering lake, gazebos, botanical gardens and a boating jetty, all are the highly welcoming attractions of the park. It also offers facilities like an amphitheater, skating rink, small food courts and a children area that guarantees hours of enjoyable activities for the whole family.</p> <p>RAWAL LAKE</p> <p>PAK-CHINA FRIENDSHIP CENTRE</p> <p>Rawal Lake in Pakistan is an artificial reservoir provides the water needs for the cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Kurang River along with some other small streams coming from Margalla Hills have been set to form this artificial lake which covers an area of 8.8 sq. km. Rawal Lake is located within an isolated section of the Village Malpur, Bani Gala and Margalla Hills National Park.</p> <p>SIMLY DAM</p> <p>The Jinnah Stadium is a multi-purpose stadium in Islamabad. It is currently used mostly for football matches. The stadium built back in 1970s, was renovated and used for SAF games in 2004 has a capacity of 80,000 people.</p> <p>It hosted South Asian Games 2004, South Asian Football Federation Gold Cup's semi-finals, finals and SAFF Women's Championship and Quaid-e-Azam Inter Provincial Youth games in 2016 and 2017.</p> <p>ISLAMABAD SPORTS COMPLEX</p> <p>RAWAL LAKE</p> <p>PAK-CHINA FRIENDSHIP CENTRE</p> <p>Simly Dam is on 80 meters (260 ft) high earthen embankment dam on the Soan River, 30 kilometers (19 m) east of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. It is the largest reservoir of drinking water for people living in Islamabad. The water stored in this dam is fed by the melting snow & natural springs of Murree hills. It was developed by the Capital Development Authority and completed in 1983.</p> <p>BLUE AREA</p> <p>The commercial hub of the city, and technically the "Central Business District" of Islamabad, Blue Area stretches across a range of more than 2 kilometers. The area contains shops and businesses of all kinds, from doctor's clinics to laboratories, eateries and novelty electronics items.</p> <p>TOURIST FACILITATION CENTER (TFC)</p> <p>PTDC has two Tourist Facilitation Center (TFC) located at F-6 Super Market in Islamabad and other is located at Islamabad International Airport (IIAP). TFC at F-6 Morkaz is open from 07:30am to 03:30pm from Monday to Friday. Tel: +92-51-9204027</p> <p>INFORMATION CENTER</p> <p>12</p>		

