



PAKISTAN TOURISM GUIDE

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Welcome to Pakistan

Pakistan, with the world's oldest civilization, exotic mountain beauty and splendid seasonal variety, has immense tourist potential. The sacred religious places, which spread throughout the country, make Pakistan an attractive place for a variety of people and religions. The tourism assets of Pakistan include a coastal zone spreading over one thousand kilometers along the Arabian Sea offering long term development potential for beach resorts, diversified natural deserts in the south and beautiful hill stations and valleys in the north. It has also great potential for tourism sports like mountaineering and trekking. The relics of the Indus Civilization in the south, Gandhara Civilization in the north and the great heritage of Mughals in Punjab are exceptional cultural assets of Pakistan.

In 2010, Lonely Planet termed Pakistan "tourism's 'next big thing' for more years than we care to remember". Pakistan was ranked The Best Holiday Destination for 2020 and was also declared the third-highest potential adventure destination in the world for 2020. As security in the country improves, tourism increases; in two years, it has increased by more than 300%. The Pakistani government has launched online visa services for 175 countries and 50 countries were offered visa on arrival, making a visit to Pakistan easier.

In 2018, the British Backpacker Society ranked Pakistan the world's top adventure travel destination, describing the country as "one of the friendliest countries on earth, with mountain scenery that is beyond anyone's wildest imagination". Forbes ranked Pakistan as one of the 'coolest places' to visit in 2019. The World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report placed Pakistan in the top 25 per cent of global destinations for its World Heritage sites, which range from the mangroves in the Indus Delta to the Indus Valley Civilization sites including Mohenjo-daro and Harappa.

According to the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2017, the direct contribution of travel and tourism to Pakistan's GDP in 2015 was US\$328.3 million, constituting 2.8% of the total GDP. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, the direct contribution of travel and tourism to Pakistan's GDP in 2016 was US\$7.6 billion (PKR 793.0 billion), constituting 2.7% of the total GDP. By 2025, the government predicts tourism will contribute Rs1 trillion (US\$6.2 billion) to the Pakistani economy.

In 2013, 565,212 tourists visited Pakistan, contributing \$298 million; these figures have since risen to over 6.6 million tourists in 2018. By comparison, Pakistan's domestic tourism industry is estimated at 50 million tourists who travel in the country on short trips usually between May to August. The largest inflow of tourists is from the United Kingdom, followed by United States, India and China.



DIVERSE COLOURS OF TOURISM

Adventure Tourism (Sightseeing)

With a landscape blessed with the mightiest mountain ranges, snaking rivers of incredible speed and grand valleys, Pakistan is the ultimate destination for adventure travel. From glacier trekking and mountaineering to rock climbing and rafting, there are plenty of ways for thrill seekers to get their adrenaline fix. We have gathered the best tours that will appease the most adventurous of the travelers.

- ❖ Mountaineering expeditions
- ❖ Skiing
- ❖ White water rafting, canoeing and kayaking
- ❖ Rock Climbing
- ❖ Cycling from KKH Hunza to China
- ❖ Trekking

Conventional Tourism (Festivals, Sports, Traditions)

- **Sibi Festival:** (February) At Sibi (Balouchistan). Traditional sports, handicrafts exhibition, folk music and dances.
- **Sindh Horse & Cattle Show:** (February) At Jacobabad (Sindh). Similar activities as in Sibi Festival.
- **Jashan-e-Larkana:** (February) At Larkana (Sindh). Traditional sports, exhibition of handicrafts, folk music and dances.
- **Basant** With the advent of spring Basant Festival is celebrated with pomp and show in mid-February every year in Lahore. In other words this is the spring festival.
- **Nauroze:** (March) Celebrated only in Gilgit, Hunza, Skardu and Chitral. Polo, foot-ball, volley-ball and hockey matches, folk dances and music.
- **Mela Chiraghan (Festival of lamps):**(Last week of March) Held for 01 week outside Shalimar Gardens, Lahore.
- **Horse & Cattle Show:** (End of March till 1st week of April). At Dera Ismail Khan. Local games, folk dances, music, cattle races and exhibition of local handicrafts.
- **Jashan-e-Shikarpur:** (In April for 01 week) At Shikarpur, Sindh. Cultural activities, local sports and handicrafts exhibition.
- **Joshi or Chilimjusht:** (14-15 May) Kalash festival of welcoming spring, held in Kalash Valleys near Chitral. Folk dances, music and exchange of dishes.

- **Shandur Polo Festival**

Traditional polo tournament between the teams of Chitral and Gilgit is being held on the highest polo ground of the world - The Shandur Pass (Chitral district). Allied activities include fold music, folk dances and other competitions. A tent village along Shandur Lake will be set up in cooperation with the local administration.

- **Utchal:** (15-16 July)

A harvest festival, celebrated by Kalash people in Kalash Valleys, Chitral.

- **Phool:** (20 - 25 September)

Held in Kalash Valleys near Chitral. Reaping grapes and walnuts, dancing and singing.

- **Lok Mela:** (1st week of October, for one week)

Folk Festival held at Islamabad. Folk Music, songs, music contests, folk dances, craftsmen at work, exhibition and sale of handicrafts. The festival presents a unique opportunity to watch the culture and craft of the whole country at one place.

- **Chowmas:** (18-21 October)

Held in Kalash Valleys near Chitral. Welcoming of winter with first snow-fall.

Activities restrict to indoor.

- **Karakoram Car Rally:**

- A colorful closing/award giving ceremony was held in Hunza Valley. Prizes, shields, certificates were distributed among the ralliers. SAF-International Karakoram Car Rally was also planned for year 2001, but it was postponed. International Karakoram Car Rally has been proposed to be held during the month of November in 2002 as part of the International Year of Mountains celebrations

Religious Tourism

Pakistan is an especially important site for both Sikh and Buddhist tourists. At one point, Punjab was the centre of the only Sikh empire in history. Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Baba Guru Nanak, is one of the holiest sites for Sikhs, with the potential to attract as many pilgrims as the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Yet, barely 6,000 Indian Sikhs visit Pakistan, in contrast to over 50 million that visit the Golden Temple — just 120 kilometres away from Nankana Sahab — each year (this includes multiple visits from the same visitors).

The number of pilgrims coming to Pakistan each year and where they stay is controlled and managed for political and security reasons by the state, albeit with fewer restrictions on diaspora Sikhs as compared to Indian Sikhs. According to survey data, a whopping 83pc of the eight million diaspora Sikhs living outside India have shown interest in visiting Pakistan. In addition, 79pc of the 20 million Indian Sikhs expressed an interest in visiting Pakistan. In sharp contrast, just 10pc had actually come to the country.



Nankana Sahib

Similarly, Buddhist tourism has an estimated market of 500 million Buddhists across the world. Pakistan's Gandhara region comprising Mardan, Taxila and Swat holds a special place for them. Korean Buddhists in particular trace their religious origin to the area that is now Pakistan, where Korean monk Hyecho travelled 1,300 years ago.

Just recently, a 48-feet-long Buddha was also unearthed in Haripur, making it the world's oldest sleeping Buddha statue. Takht-i-Bahi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the sites in northern Punjab alone have the potential to attract a major proportion of the 50 million Mahayana Buddhists in Korea, China and Japan.

A 2016 Gallup survey of the Buddhist population across a selected pool of countries identified 58 million "interested visitors" of which 5pc (2.9 million) were "likely to visit" Pakistan

Archaeological Tourism

Pakistan possesses remains of several ancient civilizations. The most famous is Indus Valley Civilization which dates to 3,000 BC. However, due to investigations in Balouchistan the remains of Mehrgarh have stretched the antiquity even further back in time to 5,000 BC. The most famous sites of Indus Valley Civilization are Moenjoaro (Sindh) and Harrappa (Punjab).

The other famous ancient sites are evidence of Buddhist civilization that flourished in this land. There are several of them and are found in the northern part of Pakistan. They are situated in Taxila (Punjab) and Takht-e- Bahi (NWFP). (HunzaExplorers.com)

PEAKS

Pakistan is home to 108 peaks above 7,000 metres and probably as many peaks above 6,000 m. There is no count of the peaks above 5,000 and 4,000 m. Five of the 14 highest independent peaks in the world (the eight-thousanders) are in Pakistan (four of which lie in the surroundings of Concordia; the confluence of Baltoro Glacier and Godwin Austen Glacier).



K2 (Karakoram 2)

- K2 also known as Mount Godwin-Austen or Chhogori, at 8,611 metres (28,251 ft) above sea level, is the second highest mountain in the world, after Mount Everest at 8,848 metres (29,029 ft). It is located on the China–Pakistan border between Baltistan in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of northern Pakistan, and the Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County of Xinjiang, China. K2 is the highest point of the Karakoram range and the highest point in both Pakistan and Xinjiang.



Broad Peak

- Broad Peak is the 12th highest mountain in the world at 8,047 metres (26,401 ft) above sea level. The literal translation of "Broad Peak" to Falchan Kangri is not used among the Balti people. The English name was introduced in 1892 by the British explorer Martin Conway, in reference to the similarly named Breithorn in the Alps



Gasherbrum I

- Gasherbrum I surveyed as K5 and also known as Hidden Peak, is the 11th highest mountain in the world at 8,080 metres (26,510 ft) above sea level. It is located on the Pakistan–Chinese border and Xinjiang region of China. Gasherbrum I is part of the Gasherbrum massif, located in the Karakoram region of the Himalaya. Gasherbrum is often claimed to mean "Shining Wall", presumably a reference to the highly visible face of the neighboring peak Gasherbrum IV; but in fact it comes from "rgasha" (beautiful) + "brum" (mountain) in Balti, hence it actually means "beautiful mountain."



Gasherbrum II

- Gasherbrum II surveyed as K4, is the 13th highest mountain in the world at 8,035 metres (26,362 ft) above sea level. It is the third-highest peak of the Gasherbrum massif, and is located in the Karakoram, on the border between Gilgit-Baltistan province, Pakistan, and Xinjiang, China. The mountain was first climbed on July 7, 1956, by an Austrian expedition which included Fritz Moravec, Josef Larch, and Hans Willenpart.



Nanga Parbat

- Nanga Parbat locally known as Diamer, is the ninth highest mountain in the world at 8,126 metres (26,660 ft) above sea level. Located in the Diamer District of Pakistan's Gilgit Baltistan region, Nanga Parbat is the western anchor of the Himalayas. The name Nanga Parbat is derived from the Sanskrit words nagna and parvata which together mean "Naked Mountain". The mountain is locally known by its Tibetan name Diamer or Deo Mir, meaning "huge mountain".

FESTIVALS



Desert Safari Jeep Rally

- Cholistan Desert Jeep Rally started back in 2005. The event portrays a softer and positive image of Pakistan abroad. The rally covers three districts of Punjab including Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalnagar and Bahawalpur. The prime objective to hold this event in the majestic desert of Cholistan is to show outside world its history and rich culture and open this area as Winter Tourist Destination.



Mango Festival Mirpurkhas

- The annual three-day National Mango Fruit Festival held at Mirpurkhas every year. In the festival mangoes from more than 400 orchards of Sindh are displayed. The district is known for its mangoes in the world and has been organising Mango Festival for the past 54 years. Mango is the King of all fruits whose production is higher in Sindh than other provinces. The main purpose of festival is to promote the local production.



Sibi Mela

- Sibi lies 163 Kms. – 3 hrs. drive to the South East of Quetta at the mouth of the famous “Bolan Pass”. Sibi is famous for SIBI MELA, where tribesmen flock from all over Baluchistan, parts of Sind and Punjab with their animals. The salient features of this “Mela” are horse and cattle and cultural shows, tent pegging, camel races, animal markets and exhibitions of handicrafts, tribal dresses and folk dances.



Shandur Polo Festival

- Passion for Polo will be the highest on the world’s highest Polo ground. Every year, Shandur (3,734 meters) invites visitors to experience a traditional polo tournament between the teams of Chitral and Gilgit from 7th to 9th July. The festival also includes folk music, folk dance, traditional sports and a camping village is be set up on the Pass. The version of game played at Shandur Top has attained legendary status.

PAKISTANI CUISINE

Pakistani National Cuisine is the inheritor of Muslim Culinary Traditions and known for having aromatic and sometimes spicy flavors. Pakistani Cuisine is divided into a wider range of Regional Cuisine. i.e. Punjabi Cuisine, Sindhi Cuisine, Pashtun Cuisine, Balochi Cuisine, Hunza Diet, Kashmiri Cuisine and Balti Food.



**Punjabi
Cuisine**



Sindhi Cuisine



**Pashtun
Cuisine**



**Balouchi
Cuisine**



**Kashmiri
Cuisine**



**Gilgit-
Baltistani
Cuisine**

PAKISTANI MUSIC



Folk / Classical Music

- The devotional form of music most commonly founded in the Sufi Culture in South Asia. Sufi Music originated from the inspirational work of Sufi Poets like Rumi, Bulleh Shah and others. Distinct musical styles, singing and ceremonies have emerged over time, often unique to the local culture, but all unified under the purpose of creating this altered state of spiritual awareness.



Regional Music

- Regional Music in Pakistan gives a huge diversity to music and traditions of different regions in Pakistan as all regions have variety of people and tribes talk in many different languages. Famous singers include Alam Lohar from Punjab, Allan Fakir from Sindh, Zarsanga from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Chanal Zahri from Balochistan and Shahid Akhtar Qalandar from Hunza, GB.



Sufism

- Sufism has an exceptional official rule as one of the most important genres of music in Pakistan. The purpose is get the artist and audience closer to Allah by repeating the trance-like words. It has many forms like Qawwali, Ghazal etc. performed by various artists in Pakistan i.e. Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Abida Parveen and Shazia Khushk and others.



Popular Music

- Pakistani pop is a mixture of traditional Pakistani classical music and western influences of jazz, rock and roll, hip hop and disco sung in various languages of Pakistan, including Urdu. Pakistani pop musicians like Ahmed Rushdi, Nazia Hassan & Zeb Hassan, Atif Aslam and others have achieved an influential following and popularity in neighboring countries.

RICH REGIONS OF PAKISTAN



Punjab

- Punjab is Pakistan's second largest province by area, and it is the most populated province, with rich culture & history.
[\(Read More\)](#)



Sindh

- Sindh is in the southeast of the country, and the historical home of the Sindhi people. Sindh has Pakistan's second largest economy, while its provincial capital Karachi is Pakistan's largest city and financial hub.
[\(Read more\)](#)



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

- Beautiful province is located in the northwestern region of the country along the international border with Afghanistan. (Read more)



Balouchistan

- It is the largest province in terms of land area, forming the southwestern region of the country, but is the least populated. Its provincial capital and largest city is Quetta. (Read more)



Azad Kashmir

- Azad Kashmir is Administrative region of Pakistan situated in Northern part of the country. The northern part of Azad Jammu and Kashmir encompasses the lower part of the Himalayas, including Jamgarh Peak (15,531 feet [4,734 meters]). (Read more)



Gilgit-Baltistan

- Gilgit-Baltistan is administrative unit of Pakistan situated in the Northern Part of the country. It is one of the best tourist spots in Pakistan. Gilgit-Baltistan is home to five of the "eight-thousanders" and to more than fifty peaks above 7,000 meters (23,000 ft). Gilgit and Skardu are the two main hubs for expeditions to those mountains. (Read more)

PUNJAB



"Where Nature blends with History"

Punjab the land of “Five waters” is Pakistan’s most populous province with Lahore its capital. Punjab has been inhabited since ancient times. The Indus Valley Civilization, dating to 2600 BCE, was first discovered at Harappa. Punjab is home to Taxila, which is considered as the oldest university in the world. In 326 BCE, Alexander the Great defeated King Porus at the Battle of the Hydaspes. The Arab empire conquered Punjab in the 8th century CE. Later, it was invaded and conquered by the Ghaznavids, Ghurids, Delhi Sultanate, Mughals, Durranis and the Sikhs. The province has been strongly influenced by Sufism, with numerous Sufi shrines spread across Punjab which attract millions of devotees annually. The founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak, was born in the Punjab town of Nankana Sahib. Punjab is also the site of the Katas Raj Temple, which features prominently in Hindu mythology. [READ MORE>>](#)

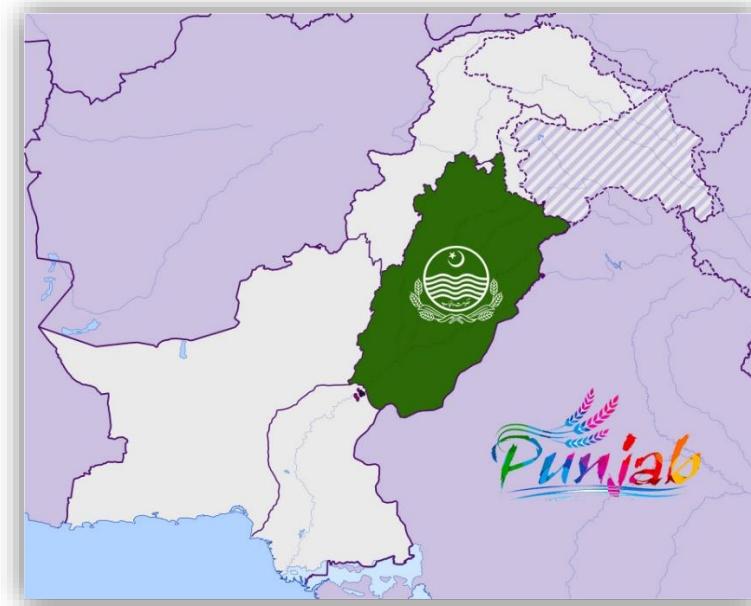


The Most Populace Province!

Punjab is the lifeline of Pakistan. To the North of the Punjab is the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province and the Federal capital area of Islamabad, to the North-East is Azad Kashmir, to its South-East is India (Indian Punjab & Rajasthan), to the South-West is the province of Sindh while to the West are Baluchistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). All the major rivers of the country namely Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, & Sutlej flow through this province. According to the 1998 census, the population of the province is 7,25,85,000. It contains several major cities of the country: Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Multan and Gujranwala.



Map of The Punjab!



ECONOMY: QUICK STATS

Punjab economy is mainly agricultural, although industry makes a substantial contribution. The province is playing a leading role in agricultural production. It contributes about 68% to the annual food grain production in the country. 51 million acres of land is cultivated in the province. Cotton and rice are important crops. They are the cash crops that contribute substantially to the national exchequer.

Punjab has also more than 48 thousand industrial units. The small and cottage industries are in abundance. There are 39,033 small and cottage industrial units. The number of textile units is 11,820. The ginning industries are 6,778. There are 6,355 units for processing of agricultural raw materials including food and feed industries. Lahore and Gujranwala Divisions have the largest concentration of small light engineering units. The district of Sialkot excels in sports goods, surgical instruments and cutlery goods. Punjab is also a mineral rich province with extensive mineral deposits of coal, rock-salt, dolomite, and gypsum, silica-sand.

Country	Pakistan (Province)
Capital	Lahore
Language	Punjabi, Saraiki, Urdu, Pothohari
Area	205,344 km ² (79,284 sq mi)
Time zone	UTC+05:00 (PST)
ISO 3166 code	PK-PB
Divisions	09
Districts	36
Tehsils	146
Coordinates	31°N 72°E
Visa Info	e-visa system and up to 176 nationalities

People and Culture

Originally belonging to the Aryan stock, the people of Punjab are descendants of the Iranians, Turks, Afghans and Arabs who came individually or in groups. The people of Punjab ethnically belong to a pluralistic pattern of life but they have a common identity. They have one common faith, Islam, and they proudly share its glorious traditions in their thought and conduct. In their religious sensibility, in folklore, in regional and domestic culture and in their hopes and aspirations the people have a common identity.



MULTAN-THE SPIRITUAL DESTINATION

Offers some of the most majestic, spellbinding sites. [READ MORE>>](#)

Punjab Tourism

Punjab is known for its ancient cultural heritage as well as its religious diversity. Lahore is the Cultural Heart of Pakistan. The Mughal Empire left behind the Lahore Fort and Shalimar Gardens which are now recognized World Heritage Sites. The Walled City of Lahore is loaded with unique cultural sites. The Samadhi of Ranjit Singh and Hazuri Bagh Baradari are prime example of Sikh architecture. Data Darbar is the major spiritual site. Rawalpindi is known to be a famous hill station stop for tourists before setting out to Murree, Bhurban, Patriata, Northern Areas, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. The Rohtas Fort near Jhelum is a major fort built by Sher Shah Suri is a World Heritage Site. The Khewra Salt Mines is another major tourist attraction as its one of the oldest mines in South Asia. The city of Nankana Sahib is birthplace of the founder of Sikhism. Multan is known for its mausoleums of saints. The city of Bahawalpur is located near the Cholistan Desert. The Derawar Fort is the site for the annual Cholistan Jeep Rally. The city is also near the ancient site of Uch Sharif which was once a Delhi Sultanate stronghold. The Noor Mahal, Sadiq Ghar Palace, Darbar Mall are large palaces built during the reign of the Nawabs. The Lal Suhanra National Park is a major zoological garden on the outskirts of the city.



Minar-e-Pakistan Lahore



Patriata Murree



Darbar Mehal Bahawalpur



Railway Bridge Mianwali

Places of Interest

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

1. Ancient Indus Valley Civilization, Harappa (2600 TO 1700 B.C)
2. Gandhara Civilization, Taxila, 3000 years old archaeological site

HISTORICAL SITES

- Lahore Fort & Shalimar Gardens
- Walled City of Lahore
- Minar-e-Pakistan, Lahore
- Lahore Railway Station (1861)
- The Quaid e Azam Library (1864)
- Govt. College Lahore (1877)
- Hazuri Bagh Baradari (1818)
- Haveli of Nau Nihal Singh
- Chauburji 1646CE
- The Lahore High Court
- Wazir Khan Baradari
- Gul Begum Bagh Garden (1850s)
- Sher Singh Baradari (1840s)
- Nawankot Monuments (1646)
- Kos Minar (built early 17th century)
- Kamran's Baradari Lahore
- Rohtas Fort Jehlum
- Tilla Jogian, Jehlum
- Monument of Alexander, the Great, Jehlum
- Al Beruni Radius Heritage Trail
- Nandana Fort /Temple Jehlum
- Fort Kohna Multan,
- Clock Tower Multan
- Sun Temple of Mulasthana (Multan)
- Noor Mehal, Bahawalpur
- Darbar Hall, Bahawalpur
- Gulzar Palace, Bahawalpur
- Central Library, Bahawalpur
- Pattan Minara, Rahim Yar Khan
- Derawar Fort Bahawalpur.
- Rawalpindi Railway Station 1881.
- Tench Bhatta, Rawalpindi.
- Hindu temple Nurshingh Phowar, Khushab
- Hindu Shahi Amb Temples, Khushab
- Tulajha Fort, Khushab
- The ruins of Akrand Fort, Khushab
- 10th Century Hindu Temple Sakesar, Khushab
- Remains of 'Rani wala mehal', Khushab
- Daip Shareef, Khushab
- Dulmial Village, Chakwal
- Katas Raj Temples, Chakwal
- Malot Fort, Chakwal
- Clock Tower, Faisalabad
- Hiran Minar, Sheikhupura
- Sheikhupura Fort
- Attock Fort, Attock
- Railway Station 1880, Attock Khurd

SPIRITUAL DESTINATIONS

- Shrine of two Muslim Martyrs at Kallar Kahar
- Shrine of Syed Abul Hassan Bin Usman Bin Ali Al-Hajweri Lahore
- Shrine of Shah Jamal Lahore
- Shrine of Hazrat Shrine of Mian Mir, Lahore
- Shrine of Hazrat Syed Miran Hussain Zanjani, Lahore
- Shrine of Bibi Pakdaman Lahore
- Shrine of Hazrat Shah Rukan-e-Alam, Multan
- Shrine of Bahauddin Zakariya, Multan
- Hazrat Pir Shah Shamsuddin Sabzwari Multani
- Hazrat Muhammad Shah Yusaf Gardezi, Multan
- Shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed, Multan
- Bibi Pak Daman Tomb, Multan
- Shrine of Bibi Jawindi, Uch Sharif
- Hazrat Fariduddin Masud Ganjshakar, Pakpattan
- Shrine of Sultan Bahoo, Shorekot
- Shrine of Hazrat Syed Ahmad Sultan Sakhi Sarwar, DG Khan
- Shrine of Hazrat Khawaja Ghulam Farid, Rajanpur
- Tomb of Malik Ayaz Slave from Georgia, the first Muslim Governor of Lahore
- The mausoleum of Slave Sultan, Qutubuddin Aibak's (1150-1210 CE)

- The Historic Tomb of Ali Mardan Khan.
- Anarkali Mausoleum, A token of Love
- Tomb of Asif Khan
- Tomb of Dai Anga
- Tomb of Jahangir
- Tomb of Nadira Begum
- Tomb of Nur Jahan
- The Tomb of Dr. Allama Iqbal
- Tomb of Zaib Un Nisa, Multan Road, Lahore
- Buddu Tomb (built mid 17th-century)
- Cypress Tomb (Sarvwala Maqbara) (built mid-18th century)
- Dai Anga Mosque (built 1635)
- Nawab Nusrat Khan's Tomb: A hidden gem
- Prince Pervez Tomb (built early 16th century)
- Tomb of Mian Nawab Khan (1670s)
- Khwaja Mehmud Tomb (built mid 17th-century)
- Khan-e-Jahan Bahadur Kokaltash Tomb (built ~1697)
- Samadhi of Ranjit Singh Lahore
- Christ Church Rawalpindi 1852
- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Lahore
- St. Mary's Cathedral, Multan
- St. Paul's Church Rawalpindi
- The Holy Trinity Church Murree
- Katas Raj Temple Chakwal
- Sikh Gurdwaras in Punjab

NATURE DESTINATIONS

- Murree. Rawalpindi
- Kotli Sattian
- Kallar Kahar, Chakwal
- Fort Munroe, DG Khan
- Koh-e-Suleman, DG Khan
- Soon Valley, Khushab

MUSEUMS

- Lahore Museum Lahore
- Fakir Khana Museum Lahore
- Pakistan Army Museum Rawalpindi
- Javed Manzil, Lahore
- Bahawalpur Museum
- Taxila Museum
- Army Museum Lahore
- Harappa Museum
- Multan Museum
- Lyallpur Museum, Faisalabad
- Kallar Kahar Museum
- Ram Pyari Museum Gujrat

*Visit our Museum Section in Civilization Tab
& Pages in category "Museums in Punjab, Pakistan"*

Unique Culture and Cuisine

The local cuisine of Punjab is heavily influenced by the agriculture and farming lifestyle prevalent from the times of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization. Locally grown staple foods form the major part of the local cuisine. Distinctively Punjabi cuisine is known for its rich, buttery flavours along with the extensive vegetarian and meat dishes. In addition to that Punjab has a very rich cultural traditions. [READ MORE>>](#)



Punjab Tourism App

Download Punjab Tourism Application

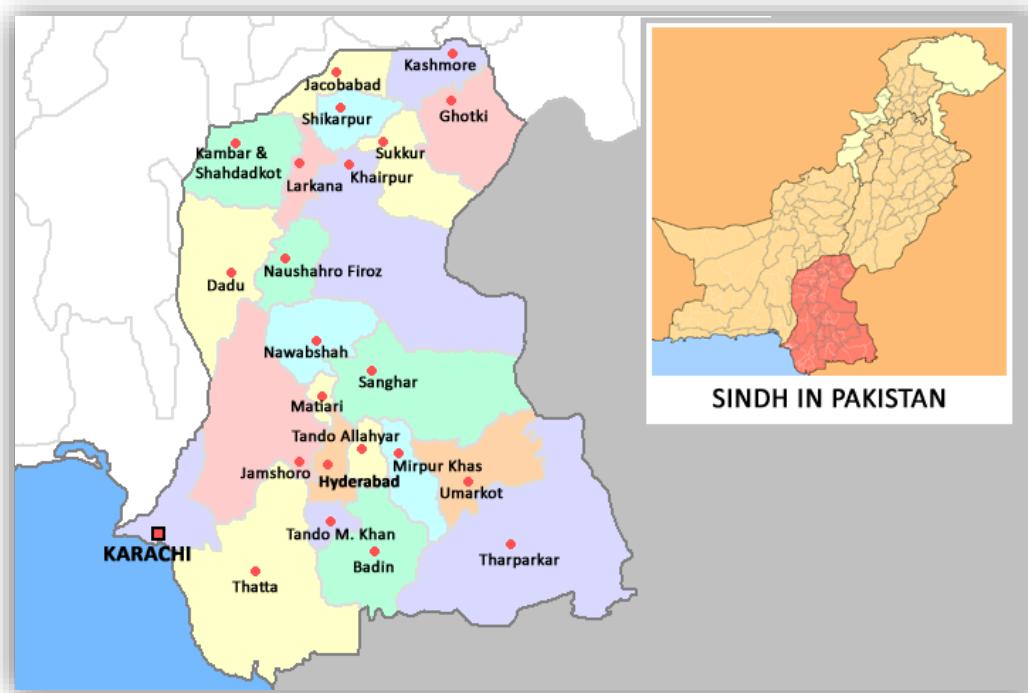
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SINDH

Welcome to Sindh, the Cradle of Civilizations

Sindh, where history lingers hand time wishes to rest its tired feet. The history of this ancient land has been written and rewritten, leaving visible traces to be admired everywhere. It is the land which attracted the refugees, the saints and also the armies & generals from many parts of world. History witnesses the invasion of Alexander the Great, the conquest of Muslims and wars with Persian Empire. It is the lands are host to millions of migratory waterfowl. Its coastline has forests of mangroves and natural & busy seaport of Karachi. The Sindhan Sea provides wonderful opportunities for water sports and its sun-kissed beaches invite you with open arms throughout the year. An exhilarating experience of visit to this Land can make pleasure and celebration. This website provides the salient features of Sindh to come and visit here. You are invited by us. (More at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpBwI2e2qr7iOv4bFj5dGew>)

Map of Sindh



Explore the beauty of Sindh

Karachi

Karachi is the capital and the metropolis city of Sindh. It is the stock and trade of Pakistan. It is located on the eastern coastline of the Arabian Sea. It is one of the revenue generating hubs of the nation. It is also bestowed with the largest seaport in the country. Karachi populace is remarked as different strokes due to their liveliness and busy life round the clock. The pace of life is more hurried and social norms are far more liberal than elsewhere in Pakistan. Karachi city is also remembered as the City of Lights and the City of Quaid and the city that never sleeps. Karachi is an enormous city and gets hands on many attractive sites to amuse one, such as museums, colonial buildings, landmarks, beeches, islands, parks, wildlife clubs, shopping malls and many other mesmerizing tourist points. Karachi is a city of never ending festivity.



Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi

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National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi

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Quaid-e-Azam House Museum, Karachi

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Wazir Mansion Museum, Karachi [READ MORE>>](#)



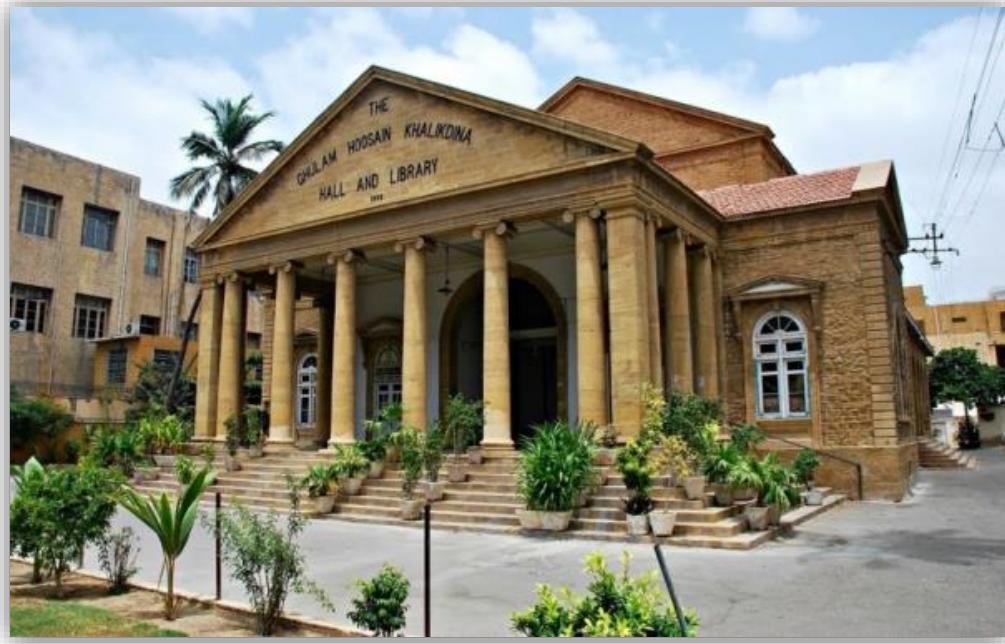
Baloch Graveyard (Lakho Shaikh) Karachi [READ MORE>>](#)



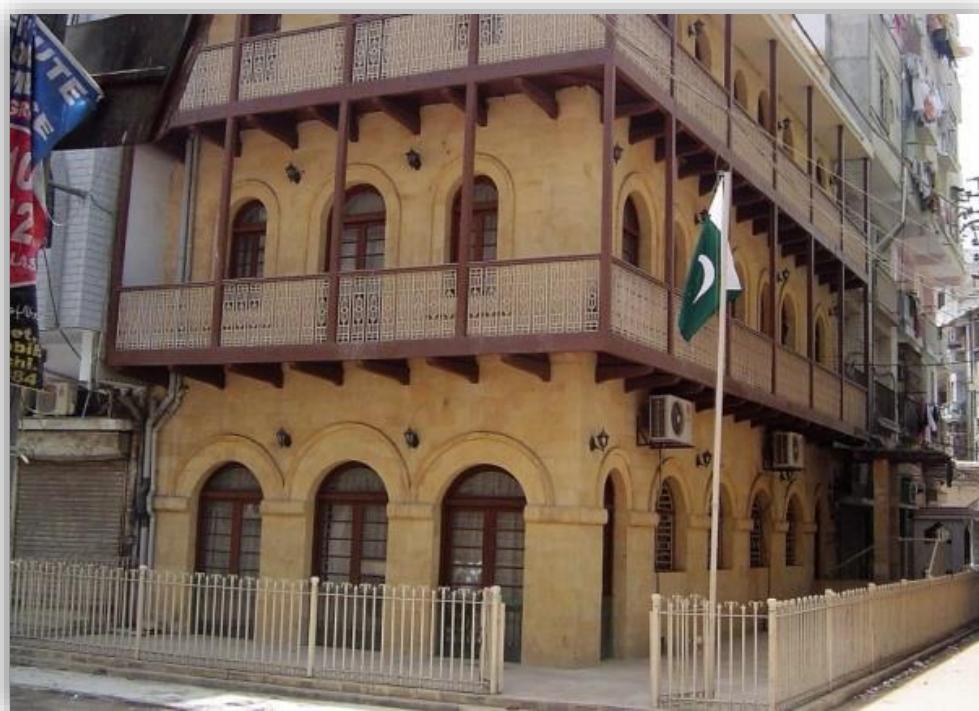
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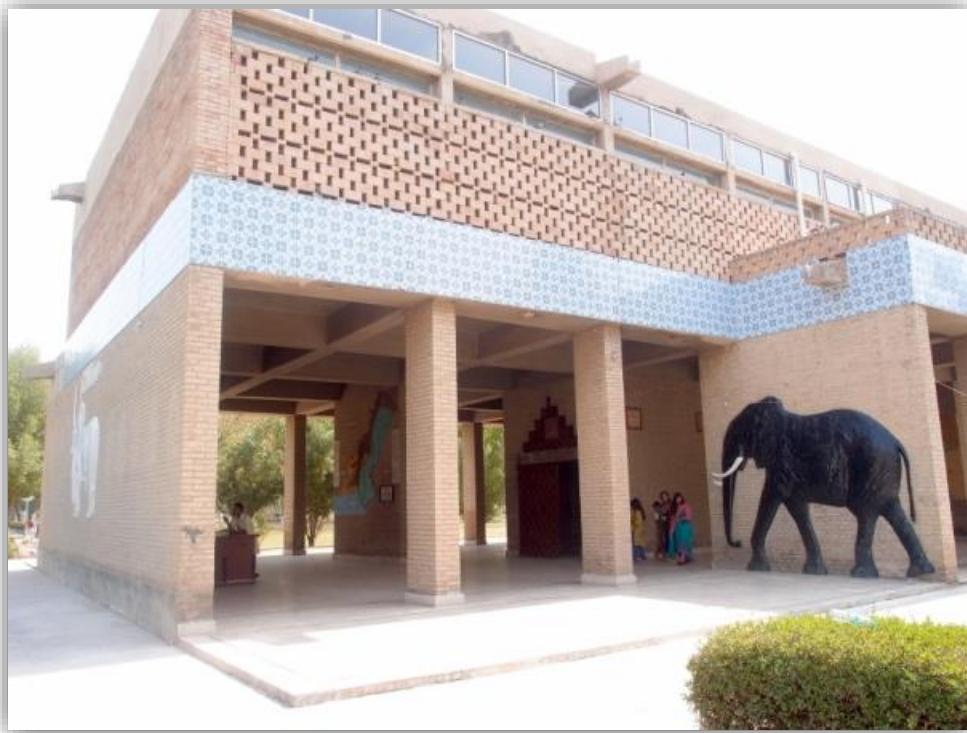
Wazir Mansion, Karachi [READ MORE>>](#)



Chaukandi Tombs, Karachi [READ MORE>>](#)

Larkana

Larkana is the 17th largest city in Pakistan. It is located at 40 miles to the south of district Shikarpur and 36 miles to the northeast of district Dadu. The historical name of Larkana was Chandka. Larkana was given the status of district during the British Rule. Larkana city put forth its political, cultural and economic importance during the era of Kalhoras between 1701 to 1783. Larkana has the privilege of being one of the oldest civilizations of the world, the Indus Valley Civilization. Mohen jo Daro `the mound of Dead``is designated as UNESCO world Heritage Sites are located 32 km away from the city centre on the west bank of Indus River.



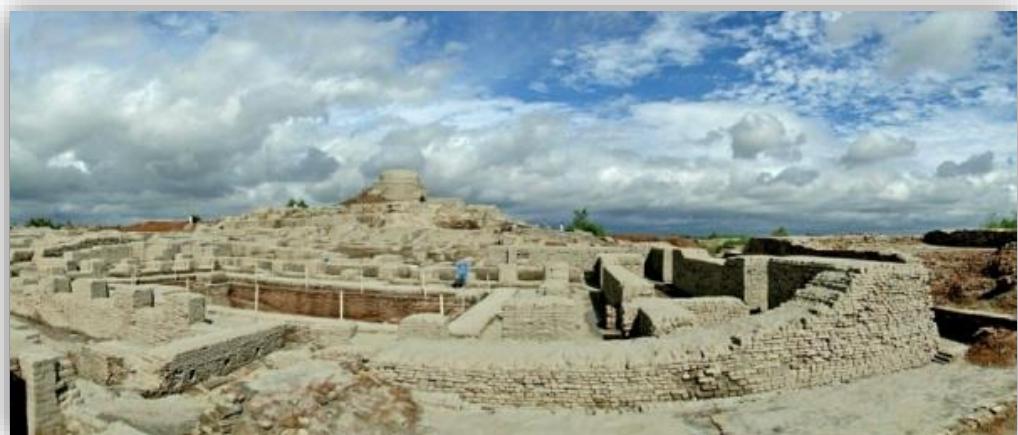
Archaeological Museum Mohenjo Daro, Larkana [READ MORE>>](#)



Square Tower, Larkana [READ MORE>>](#)



Tajjar Building, Larkana [READ MORE>>](#)



Mohenjodaro, Larakana [READ MORE>>](#)



Dhamrao jo Daro (Three groups of Mounds), Larkana [READ MORE>>](#)



Jukhar Mound, Larkana [READ MORE>>](#)



Buddhist Stupa Monastery and Pre-historic Remains underneath

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Buddhist Stupa and Pre-historic Remains around Mohenjodaro

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Shah Baharo Tomb, Larkana [READ MORE>>](#)

Dadu

Dadu is a remarkable district of Sindh. The eminent tourist attractions in Dadu include Gorakh Hill Station, appraised as the “Murree of Sindh”, Jamia Masjid Khudabad and Khirthar Mountains.



Jamia Mosque Khudabad, Dadu [READ MORE>>](#)



Wahi Pandhi Archeological Mound, Johi, District Dadu [READ MORE>>](#)



Ali Murad Village Mound, Johi, District Dadu [READ MORE>>](#)



Piyaro ji Mari (Gazi Shah Mound), Johi, District Dadu [READ MORE>>](#)



Pandhi Wahi (Mounds), Dadu [READ MORE>>](#)



Tomb of Mian Yar Muhammad Kalhoro [READ MORE>>](#)

Matiari

Historically, Matiari district holds the honour to be ruled over by one of the prominent dynasties such as the Soomras, the Summas, the Arghuns , the Kalhoras and the Talpurs at Sindh. At the time of independence of Pakistan, in 1947, district Matiari was a taluka of district Hyderabad until in 2005, when it was given the status of a district. This region gave rise to a number of religious scholars, intellectuals, poets, who spread the essence of their knowledge all over the subcontinent. Matiari is the domain of famous Saint and religious poet of Sindh, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai.



Shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai [READ MORE>>](#)



Cultural Museum, Bhitshah [READ MORE>>](#)



Hala Monuments (Mirs Tombs), Matiari [READ MORE>>](#)

Thatta

Thatta city ostensibly reveals mystic lineages of the unique culture and tradition of Sindh. It is presumed as the Rome of Pakistan. Thatta is outlandish town, utterly 98 KM to the east of Karachi. It represents one of the fascinating architecture and historical monuments like Makli Hills, the largest necropolis in the world, which spreads over an area of 10 square km. The building at Makli seems increasingly apparent and the monument of imperceptible heritage. United Nations World heritage Site regards Makli Hill as unequivocal and exorbitant architecture as viewed on Tombs there. It accommodates approximately 500,000 tombs; each tomb is itself manifestation of this magnificent architecture. It is now reckoned as UNISCO Heritage Site. Despite the dereliction, however many historical accounts speak of how people's dedication to the shrines never diminished. Another appealing monument which exist there is the mosque of Shah Jahan, which possess 100 domes also enlisted in the UNISCO heritage Site. Bhambhore is situated at the distance of 64 km towards the east of Karachi, in Hyderabad district of Sindh. It is located on the north bank of Gharo Creek, near Indian Ocean in Pakistan. Bhambhore represents the exemplary glimpse of grand cultural heritage. Bhambhore was the capital of a Chief Bamboo Raja around the 10th century and was named after him. Archaeological work reveals the distinguished impression from 1st to

13th century. The city is well known for the folk love story of legends Sussui and Punhon. Keenjhar Lake is also considered as the Kalri Lake. It is placed in district Thatta, Sindh. Keenjhar Lake is at distance of 122 km from Karachi. The lake stretched out 24 km in length and 6 km in width. Roughly its depth from the surface can be measured as 26 feet. The Indus River flows adjoining to the Keenjhar Lake. This lake is one of the facets of the miracles of nature. Keenjhar Lake is the home to many species of birds, such as gees, cormorants, gulls, ducks, flamingos, coots and so forth.



Keenjhar Lake [READ MORE>>](#)



Haleji Lake, Thatta [READ MORE>>](#)



Archaeological Museum Bhanbhore, Thatta

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Maqam Qadam Shah Graveyard, Village Raj Malik

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Soonda Graveyard, Thatta [READ MORE>>](#)



Graveyard Makli Hill, Thatta [READ MORE>>](#)



Kalan Kot, Thatta [READ MORE>>](#)



Old Jamia Masjid, Makli Thatta [READ MORE>>](#)



Nawab Ameer Khani Mosque [READ MORE>>](#)



Dabgir Mosque, Thatta [READ MORE>>](#)



Shah Jahan Mosque (Jamia Masjid), Thatta [READ MORE>>](#)



Banbhore, Sindh [READ MORE>>](#)



Tomb of Shaikh Hamad Jamali, Makli Thatta [READ MORE>>](#)



Brick Tomb Near the Tomb of Aulia Pir, Makli Thatta [READ MORE>>](#)



Tomb of Amir Sultan Mohammad s/o Amir Hajika, Makli - Thatta

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Tomb of Sultan Ibrahim [READ MORE>>](#)



Tomb and compound wall of the yellow Stone, Makli - Thatta

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Tomb of Mirza Tughral Baig [READ MORE>>](#)



Tomb of Mirza Jani & Mirza Ghazi Baig

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Tomb of Mirza Essa Khan Tarkhan (The younger), Thatta [READ MORE>>](#)



Tomb of Mubarak Khan S/O Jam Nizamuddin

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Tomb of Sister Fateh Khan

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Historical Building with two domes, Thatta

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Jam Nizamuddin's Tomb Makli, Thatta

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Tomb of Nawab Shurfa Khan, Thatta

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Hyderabad

Hyderabad is the second largest city of Sindh Province. The city was conquered by Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro upon the ruins of a Mauryan fishing village along the coast of the Indus River. Formerly, Hyderabad was known as Neroon Kot. Hyderabad city is rich in culture, traditions and history due to the fact that it lies alongside the River Indus. This city used to be renowned as the “Paris of India” due to the belief that the streets of the city were washed each morning with clean drinking water from the River Indus. Hyderabad now is a significant commercial and cultural center and serves as the passage between the rural and urban Sindh. A visitor coming to this city, can find one of the noteworthy sights, which include Pucco Kilo, Tombs of Talpurs, Mirs, and Kalhora Rulers, Hyderabad Gymkhana which is the main social club of the city. Beautifully preserved with the culture and tradition of Sindh, a museum has been established, which reflects the heritage and background of Indus Valley Civilization. Other prominent sights include River Indus, Bridge of Jamshoro, Gold Building, which is circular in shape. Rani Bagh, a park named after the Queen Victoria, Resham Gali and Shahi Bazar. The unusual thing about Hyderabad city is a road called as” Thandi Sarraak”, which means cold street, where air pressure remains very high.



Sindh Provincial Museum, Hyderabad [READ MORE>>](#)



**Historical Tower inside Pacca Fort (Now used as New Water Tank),
Hyderabad** [READ MORE>>](#)



Old Offices and Tajar (Treasury) of Mir's, Hyderabad
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Haram of Talpur Mirs, inside Pucca Fort, Hyderabad [READ MORE>>](#)



Boundary wall of Pucca Fort Hyderabad

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Hingorani Mariyoon, Tando Fazal - Hyderabad

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Tombs of Talpurs (Meeran Ja Qubba), Hyderabad

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Tomb of Sarfaraz Khan Kalhoro, Hyderabad [READ MORE>>](#)



Tomb of Mian Ghulam Nabi Kalhoro, Hyderabad

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Tomb of Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro

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Sukkur

Sukkur is the third largest city in Sindh province; Located at the bank of River Indus. Formerly Sukkur was named as Aror or Bakhar, but later given the name Sukkur which means superiority in Sindhi. The cultural spots and bazaars in Sukkur show how rich it is in Sindhi culture, and they are the most prominent attractions of the city.



Sadh Belo (Island of Indus)

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Stone Tool Factory (Prehistoric), Rohri Sukkur

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Lansdowne Bridge (Cantilever Bridge) Sukkur

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Satyan jo Than Rohri, Sukkur

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OM Kanhiya Lal Cottage Rohri, Sukkur

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Bakhar Fort (Island), Sukkur

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Lakhian jo Daro, SITE, Sukkur

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Mir Masum's Minar, Sukkur [READ MORE>>](#)

Tharparkar

The Tharparkar district occurs in the south east of Sindh. It is believed to be one of the 29 districts of the Sindh Province of Pakistan. More than 90% of the people live in more than 200 villages. The Headquarters of the Thar is known as Mithi. A very large area of Tharparkar constitutes of the Thar Desert. The thari life is full of adventures for visitors where they explore the indigenous cultures, traditions and lifestyles. It's a little paradise on earth. Visitors can meet and interact with community and enjoy local hospitality and enjoy the unique treasures.



Karoonjhar Mountains

[READ MORE>>](#)



Gori Temple, Tharparkar

[READ MORE>>](#)



Jain Temple Virwah, Tharparkar

[READ MORE>>](#)



Naukot Fort, Tharparkar

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Bhodesar Mosque, Tharparkar

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KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Nature, hospitality and culture in perfect harmony

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is located in the north-west region of Pakistan. It is known as the tourist hotspot for adventurers and explorers. The province has a varied landscape ranging from rugged mountains, valleys, hills and dense agricultural farms. The region is well known for its ancestral roots. There are a number of Buddhist archaeological sites from the Gandhara civilisation such as Takht Bhai and Pushkalavati. There are a number of other Buddhist and Hindu archaeological sites including Bala Hisar Fort, Butkara Stupa, Kanishka stupa, Chakdara, Panjkora Valley and Sehri Bahlol.



Mahabat Khan Mosque in Peshawar



Bala Hissar Fort in Peshawar

Peshawar is the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The city is home to a number of sites including Bala Hisar Fort, Peshawar Museum, archaeological site of Gor Khuttree, Mohabbat Khan Mosque, old city of Sethi Mohallah, Jamrud Fort, the Sphola Stupa and the most famous market of Qissa Khawani. The city of Dera Ismail Khan is known to be the entrance into the province from Punjab and Balouchistan . The city is famous for its Hindu ruins at Kafir Kot. The Buddhist ruins at Shahbaz Garhi are also famous in the city of Mardan. Heading towards North, the region of Swat valley comes, which is a lush green paradise for the travelers, full of charming and picturesque spots like Marghazar, Miandam, Malam Jabba, Gabina Jabba, Jarogo Waterfall and Kalam sub valley are worth seen areas.



Saiful Muluk, Kaghan Valley



Kumrat Valley, Dir



Gabina Jabba, Swat Valley

One of the most important cities in the province is Mansehra. The city is a major stop for tourists setting out to the Northern Areas and Azad Kashmir. The city is connected by the famous Karakoram Highway which ends up in China. Along the route there are several stops including the Kaghan Valley, Balakot, Naran, Shogran, Lake Saiful Mulook and Babusar Top. There are also several other sites within the province which attract a large number of tourist every year including Ayubia, Batkhela, Chakdara, Saidu Sharif, Kalam Valley and Hindu Kush mountain range in Chitral.[1]

There are also several mountain passes that run through the province. One of the most famous is the Khyber Pass which links Afghanistan with Pakistan. The trade route sees a large number of trucks and lorries importing and exporting goods in and out of the region. The Babusar Pass is another mountain pass connecting the Thak Nala with Chilas on the Karakorum Highway. The Lowari Pass is another pass which connects Chitral with Dir via the Lowari Tunnel. The highest mountain pass in Pakistan is Shandur Pass which connects Chitral to Gilgit and is known as the Roof of the World. The pass is the center of three mountain ranges – Hindu Kush, Pamir and Karakoram.

Valleys

- Chitral Valley
- Kaghan Valley
- Kalam Valley
- Kumrat Valley
- Swat Valley

National Parks

- Broghil Valley National Park
- Chitral National Park
- Lulusar-Dudipatsar National Park
- Saiful Muluk National Park
- Sheikh Buddin National Park

Historic Places

- Bala Hissar Fort
- Chitral Fort

Lakes

The following are the accessible lakes:

- Ansoo Lake
- Daral Lake
- Dudipatsar
- Kundol Lake
- Mahodand Lake
- Jabba Zomalu Lake
- Katora Lake
- Lake Saiful Muluk
- Lulusar
- Pyala Lake
- Mahabat Khan Mosque
- Kafir Kot
- Khyber Pass
- Takht-i-Bahi

Gallery



Takht-i-Bahi



Shogran, Kaghan Valley



Kafirkot



Kalam valley



The famous Khyber steam train safari



Swat Valley



Jahaz Banda, Kumrat Valley



Miandam Swat Valley

BALOUCHISTAN

Tourism in Balouchistan is a developing industry, and is overseen by the Tourism Directorate under the Government of Balouchistan. Balouchistan is known for its long coastal belt and few of the World's most beautiful sightseeing landmarks which extends from Karachi through Sonmiani, Ormara, Kalmat, Pasni, Gwadar, Jiwani and all the way up to Iran. It is also popular for its hill tops and rugged mountainous terrain.



Quaid-e-Azam Residence, Ziarat

Geography

Balouchistan is the largest province of Pakistan. Comprising 44% of the country's land mass. It traces its history from times immemorial when it was inhabited by Stone Age hunters. According to French Archaeologist Professor Jarrige, by 6,000 BC farmers on the Bolan River were cultivating barley, wheat and dates using floodwater and storing their surplus in large mud bins. The people here were growing cotton and making pottery. Before the birth of Christ, it had commerce and trade links with ancient civilization of Babylon through Iran and into the valleys of Tigris and Euphrates. Alexander the Great (326 BC) had an encounter with the Sibia tribe of Balouchistan. Muhammad Bin Qasim (711 AD) and Mahmood Ghaznavi (11th century AD) also invaded Balouchistan resulting in the development of Muslim character. Even today most tribal people of this province resemble Arabs and the inhabitants can be quite a fascinating subject of study by anthropologists.



Quetta , Balouchistan in winter

Quetta is the capital city of Balouchistan and an important cultural centre in the region with its diverse landmarks; the port of city of Gwadar is a quickly developing town that aims to serve as a key hub of future industrial and shipping activity. The desert safari of Taftan, the ferry service of Gwadar, the parks and restaurants in Chaman and the hotels, resorts, and open recreation spots in Jiwani, Pasni, Ormara, Ziarat and Zarghoon provide a diverse blend to the tourist experience in Balouchistan.

Climate of Balouchistan

The climate of the upper highlands is characterized by very cold winters and warm summers. Winters of the lower highlands vary from extremely cold in the northern districts to mild conditions closer to the Makran coast. Summers are hot and dry. The arid zones of Chaghi and Kharan districts are extremely hot in summer. The plain areas are also very hot in summer with temperatures rising as high as 120 degrees F (50 degrees C). Winters are mild on the plains with the temperature, never falling below the freezing point.

Rainfall

Average annual precipitation in Balouchistan varies from 2 to 20 inches (50 to 500 mm). Maximum precipitation falls in the northeastern areas with annual average rainfall ranging from 8 to 20 inches (200 to 500 mm). It decreases in the south and the eastern parts and is minimum in Naukundi. Kharan and Dalbandin area, rainfall ranges between 1 and 2 inches (25 to 50mm). Evaporation rates are higher than the precipitation and generally vary from 72 to 76 inches (1830 1930 mm) per annum.

Rivers and streams



Canyons at the national park



Makran Coastal Highway



Astola Island

All rivers and streams are part of three major drainage systems. Coastal drainage system is characterized by small, ephemeral streams and hill torrents. Rivers and streams that do not possess any significant perennial flow constitute Inland system that dominates the central and northwestern area of the province. Nari, Kaha and Gaj rivers are part of Indus drainage system located in the northeastern margins of the province. The flow in rivers is typified by spring runoff and occasional flash floods. The rivers beds are dry and look like small streams. Stream gradients are high and the rate of run off is very rapid. The Zhob River Basin drains towards the northeast into the Gomal River which ultimately

joins the Indus River. Streams along the border of Punjab and Sindh provinces flow toward the east and southeast into the Indus River. Central and western Balouchistan drains towards the south and the southwest into the Arabian Sea. Some areas located in districts Chaghi, Kharan, and Panjgur drain into playa lakes, locally called " Hamun" such as Humun-e-Lora and Hamun-e-Mashkel etc.



Hanna Lake, Quetta

Culture and Heritage

People

A number of tribes constitute to make people of Balouchistan. Three major tribes are Baloch (Baloch & Brahvi) and Pashtoon. The Balochi speaking tribes include Rind, Lashar, Marri, Jamot, Ahmedzai, Bugti Domki, Magsi, Kenazai, Khosa, Rakhshani, Dashti, Umrani, Noshewani, Gichki, Buledi, Notazai, Sanjarani, Meerwani, Zahrozai, langove, kenazai and Khidai. Each tribe is further sub-divided into various branches. The tribal chief is called Sardar while head of sub-tribe is known as Malik, Takari or Mir. Sardars and Maliks are members of district and other local Jirgas according to their status. The Baloch, believed to have originally come from Arabia or Asia Minor, can be divided into two branches: the Sulemani and Mekrani as distinct from the Brahvis who mostly concentrate in central Balouchistan. Among the eighteen major Baloch tribes, Bugtis and Marris are the principal ones who are settled in the buttresses of the Sulemania. The Talpur of Sind also claim their Baloch origin.

Festivals

There are religious and social festivals celebrated by the people of Balouchistan. Two major religious festivals are Eid-ul-Azha and Eid-ul-Fiter. On these festivals people adorn their houses, wear new dresses, cook special dishes and visit each other. Eid-Meladun-Nabi is another religious festival. It is a celebration of the Holy Prophet's birthday. Numerous colorful social festivals are also source of jubilation. Sibi festival that traces its roots to Mehergar, an archeological site of ancient human civilization, attracts

people from across the country. It is attended by common folks, ministers and other government officials. Folk music performance, cultural dances, handicrafts stalls, cattle shows and a number of other amusing activities present a perfect riot of color. Buzkashi is a peculiar festival showing valor of Balochistan people. It is celebrated on horse-back by two teams that use their skills to snatch a goat from each other.

Five-day Sibi Mela



Sibi Mela is a cultural festival has been organised over the past several centuries, since the 15th century. Thousands of Baluchi tribesmen used to gather along with their animals in mid-February. This tradition still carries on. Tribesmen flock from all over Baluchistan, parts of Sindh and Punjab with their animals.

Scores of events including a flower show, fireworks, national songs contest, folk dance, tent pegging, motorcycle jumps and horse dances are part of the festival. Agriculture and industrial exhibition are also part of the festival. An exhibition of beautiful and rare animals is held for the attraction of participants. Local artists and those from other parts of the country also performs during the festival. Local and provincial dignitaries also attend the event among others. More than 3,000 Frontier Constabulary, police and other security officials are posted for the security of the Mela.

Places of interest

(Click on the name of the places to read more.)

Astola Island

- Spin Karaiz Lake
- Wali Tangi Dam
- Karkhsa Park Quetta

Bolan Pass

- Zardalo
- Sandeman Tangi
- Pir Ghais

Makran Coastal Highway

- Gwadar
- Hanna Lake
- Hingol National Park
- Hazarganj-Chiltan National Park
- Jiwani Coastal Wetland
- Juniperus macropoda
- Khuzdar
- Lahoot Lamakan
- Kund Malir

Quetta

- Mehrgarh
- Moola Chotok
- Urak Valley

Ziarat

- Ziarat Juniper Forest
- Hinglaj Mata Temples

AZAD KASHMIR

Dream Destination

Azad Kashmir is administrative region of Pakistan situated in northern part of the country. The northern part of Azad Jammu and Kashmir encompasses the lower part of the Himalayas, including Jamgarh Peak (15,531 feet, or 4,734 meters). However, Sarwali peak in the Neelum Valley is the highest peak in the state.[1] Fertile, green, mountainous valleys are characteristic of Azad Kashmir's geography, making it one of the most beautiful regions on the subcontinent

The southern parts of Azad Kashmir including Bhimber, Mirpur and Kotli districts has extremely hot weather in summers and moderate cold weather in winters. It receives rains mostly in monsoon weather.



Paddy field in Leepa Valley

In the central and northern parts of state weather remains moderate hot in summers and very cold and chilly in winter. Snow fall also occurs there in December and January.

This region receives rainfall in both winters and summers. Muzaffarabad and Pattan are among the wettest areas of the state. Throughout most of the region, the average rainfall exceeds 1400 mm, with the highest average rainfall occurring near Muzaffarabad (around 1800 mm). During summer, monsoon floods of the Jhelum and Leepa River are common, due to high rainfall and melting snow.

Places to Visit

- Ganga Choti
- Neelum Valley
- Sharda
- Arang Kel

Valleys

- Bandala Valley
 - Jhelum Valley
- (Kashmir)
- Kas Chanatar
 - Leepa Valley
 - Neelum Valley
 - Samahn Valley
 - Bagh Valley

Rivers

- Jhelum River
- Neelum River
- Poonch River
- Shingo River

Lakes

- Chitta Katha Lake
- Baghsar Lake
- Chotagala Lake
- Ganga Lake
- Ratti Gali Lake
- Saral Lake
- Shounter Lake
- Subri Lake

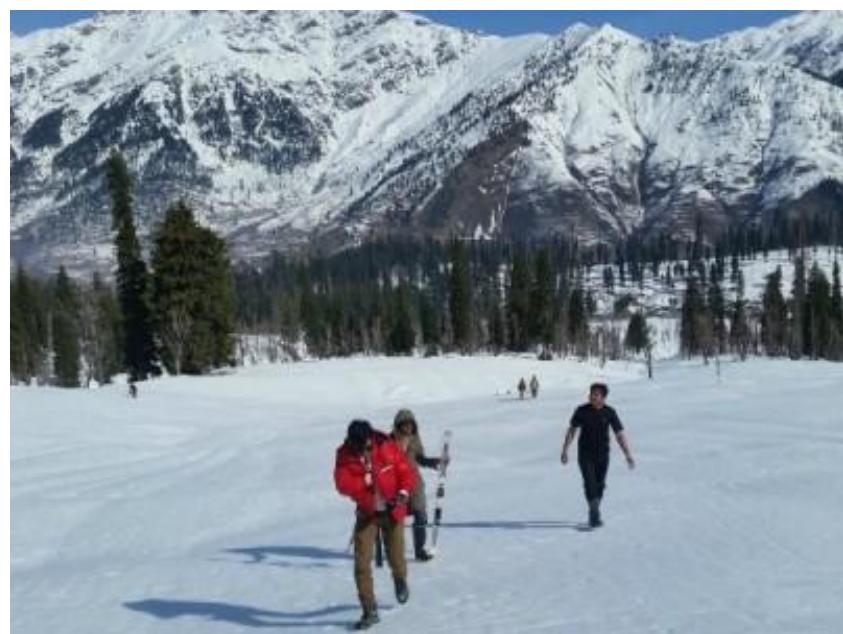
Adventure Tourism in Azad Kashmir

PARAGLIDING:



SKIING:

It's a wonderful place for skiing with a beautiful view!



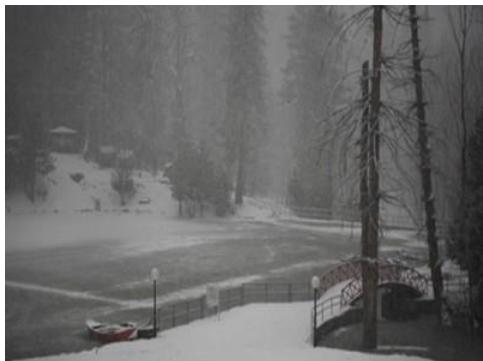
WHITE WATER RAFTING:



SNOW EXPEDITIONS:



*Gallery: Peak of Scenic Beauty!***BAGH****BANJOSA**

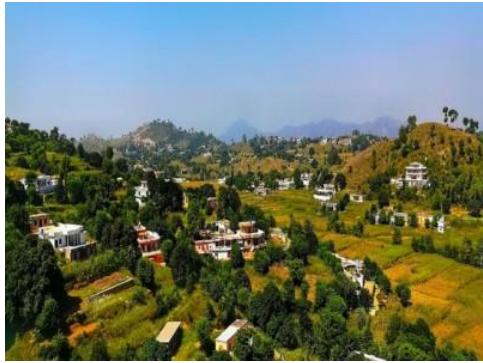


BHIMBER

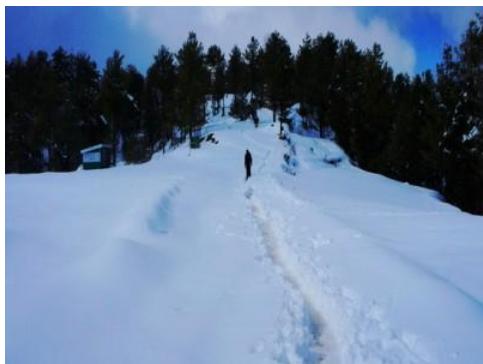




SAAD ABAD BHIMBER



DANNA POTHI MEER KHAN



GILGIT-BALTISTAN

Heaven on Earth

Tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan, an administrative unit of Pakistan, focuses on the mountains. Gilgit-Baltistan borders Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province to the west, a small portion of the Wakhan Corridor of Afghanistan to the north, Xinjiang, China to the northeast, the Indian territory Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to the southeast, and the Pakistani-administered state of Azad Kashmir to the south.

Gilgit-Baltistan is home to five of the "eight-thousanders" and to more than fifty peaks above 7,000 metres (23,000 ft). Gilgit-Astore and Skardu are the three main hubs for expeditions to those mountains. The region is home to some of the world's highest mountain ranges. The main ranges are the Karakoram and the western Himalayas. The Pamir Mountains are to the north, and the Hindu Kush lies to the west. Amongst the highest mountains are K2 (Mount Godwin-Austen) and Nanga Parbat, the latter being one of the most feared mountains in the world.

Three of the world's longest glaciers outside the Polar Regions are found in Gilgit-Baltistan: the Biafo Glacier, the Baltoro Glacier, and the Batura Glacier. There are, in addition, several high-altitude lakes in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Karakoram Highway

The Karakoram Highway is the major highway of Gilgit-Baltistan, which connects the region with the rest of Pakistan to the south and with China at its north end. It is highest paved road in world is sometimes termed as the "8th Wonder of World."

Major valleys

Gilgit Baltistan is home of world highest and beautiful valleys. These include Ghancha, Shiger, Astore Valley, Gilgit, Ghizer Valley, Hunza Valley, Skardu and Nagar Valley.

Hunza Valley

Hunza Valley is considered one of the most beautiful valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan. It consists of Upper Hunza, Central Hunza, and Lower Hunza. Karimabad is the major city of the valley and has all facilities for mountaineers and tourists.[2] The popularity of the

Hunza Valley and the amount of tourism there is due in part to its relative accessibility and proximity to the Karakoram Highway.[3]

Major tourist attractions in Hunza are:

Attabad Lake - A major lake of Hunza Valley. It was created following a landslide at Hunza River near Attabad village on 4 January 2010. The resulting damming of the river caused the lake to slowly form, submerging several villages and displacing up to 6,000 people.[4]

Baltit Fort - An old medieval fort located in Karimabad. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.[5]

Hussaini Suspension Bridge - A long wooden suspension bridge over Hunza River near Husaaini village. It is sometimes referred locally to as the "Indiana Jones Bridge" It is termed as one of the most dangerous bridges in the world.[6]

Khunjerab Pass - At 4,693 meters, this is the highest border crossing in the world. It is also the only modern crossing on the China-Pakistan border. Most tourists visit on a daytrip from Hunza to see the border and then leave. The surrounding area is also a part of the Khunjerab National Park, which was set up to protect local, endangered wildlife, specifically the Marco Polo sheep.[7]

Skardu Valley

Skardu Valley is located at confluence of Indus and shiger rivers surrounded by majestic peaks of Karakoram.

Lakes

- Sheosar Lake in Deosai National Park, Skardu
- Satpara sar Lake in Skardu, Baltistan
- Katzura sar Lake in Skardu, Baltistan
- Katpana Lake in Skardu, Baltistan
- Zharba Tso Lake in Shigar, Baltistan
- Phoroq Tso Lake in Skardu, Baltistan
- Lake Kharfak in Gangche, Baltistan
- Sozung Lake in Thalay Valley, Baltistan
- Byarsa Tso Lake in Gultari, Astore
- Borith Lake in Gojal, upper Hunza, Gilgit
- Rama sar Lake near Astore
- Rush sar Lake near Nagar, Gilgit

- Karambar sar Lake at Kromber Pass Ishkoman Valley, Ghizer
- Barodaroksh Lake in Bar Valley, Nagar
- Ghorashi Lake in Ghandus Valley, Kharmang
- Attabad Lake, Hunza
- Khalti Lake, Gupis-Yasin District

Mountains

Eight-thousanders

- K2 (Mount Godwin Austin/Chogori)
- Nanga Parbat
- Gasherbrum I
- Broad Peak
- Gasherbrum II

Seven-thousanders

- Gasherbrum III
- Gasherbrum IV
- Masherbrum (K1)
- Rakaposhi
- Saltoro Kangri (K10)

Gallery:



K2 as seen from Concordia



Nanga Parbat from Fairy Meadows

Satpara Lake, Skardu, in 2002



Attabad Lake, Hunza

LISTS

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Name	Region	Period	UNESCO data
Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro	Sindh, Pakistan	26th century BC to 19th century BC	138; 1980; ii, iii
Taxila	Near modern Taxila, in Punjab, Pakistan	5th century BC to 2nd century AD	139; 1980; iii, vi
Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Sahr-i-Bahlol	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan	1st century	140; 1980; iv

Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore	Punjab, Pakistan	1556	171; 1981; i, ii, iii
Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta	Sindh, Pakistan	14th century to 18th century	143; 1981; iii
Rohtas Fort	Punjab, Pakistan	1541	586; 1997; ii, iv

Tentative list for Heritage Sites

In 2004, the Ministry of Tourism pushed forward for new sites in Pakistan to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In total, 26 sites are awaiting to be categorised as of 2016 which include

- Badshahi Mosque, Lahore – mosque built in 1673 during Mugal Empire
- Shah Jahan Mosque, Thatta – mosque built in 1647 by Shah Jahan
- Wazir Khan Mosque, Lahore – mosque built in 1635 by Shah Jahan
- Tomb of Jahangir, Tomb of Asif Khan and Akbari Sarai Gateway in Lahore – mausoleum built in 1637
- Tomb of Bibi Jawindi, Baha'al-Halim and Ustead, Mosque of Jalaluddin Bukhari, Uch Sharif – five monuments of historical figures
- Tomb of Shah Rukn-e-Alam, Multan – tomb for Sufi Shah Rukn-e-Alam
- Chaukhandi Tombs, Karachi – tombs built during Mughal Empire
- Central Karakoram National Park – largest protected area in northern Pakistan
- Deosai National Park – a high-altitude alpine plain and a national park in Gilgit-Baltistan
- Hingol National Park – a national park in Balouchistan
- Hiran Minar and Tank, Sheikhupura – built by Mughal Emperor, Jahangir in 1606
- Mehrgarh, Balouchistan – one of the oldest Neolithic ruins and archaeological sites
- Rehman Dheri, Dera Ismail Khan – historical ruins of Indus Valley Civilization
- Harappa, Punjab – historical ruins of the Bronze Age

- Katas Raj Temples – temples near Chakwal which are attributed to Hindu Shahis Eras dating from about 615–950 CE
- Nagar parkar Cultural Landscape – an important center of Jain religion and culture in Sindh
- Mansehra Rock Edicts, Mansehra – earliest writings of the 3rd century BC
- Ranigat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – archaeological remains of a Buddhist monastic complex
- Shahbazgarhi Rock Edicts, Mardan – inscriptions of the Mauryan emperor, Ashoka
- Baltit Fort, Hunza Valley – Tibetan-style fort built in the 13th century
- Derawar Fort and the forts of Cholistan Desert – located in Punjab
- Ranikot Fort, Dadu – one of the largest forts in the world
- Port of Banbhore – archaeological site of historical port city on the Indus River
- The Salt Range and Khewra Salt Mine – the second largest and oldest salt mine in the world
- Karez System – in Balouchistan
- Ziarat Juniper Forest – a juniper forest in Ziarat, Balouchistan .

List of Major Tourism Attractions

Archaeological Museums:

- ❖ Archaeological Museum of Balouchistan , Off: Fatima Jinnah Road, Quetta.
- ❖ Archaeological Museum Banbhore, Thatta.
- ❖ Archaeological Museum Harappa, Distt. Sahiwal.
- ❖ Archaeological Museum Moenjodaro, Distt Larkana.
- ❖ Archaeological Museum Saidu Sharif, Swat.
- ❖ Archaeological Museum Taxila, District Rawalpindi.
- ❖ Archaeological Museum Umerkot, Distt Tharparkar.
- ❖ National Museum of Pakistan, Burns Gardens, Karachi.
- ❖ Sibi Museum, Sibi.

University Museums:

- ❖ Archaeological Museum, Department of History, Karachi University.
- ❖ Archaeological Museum, Department of Archaeology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro.
- ❖ Archaeological Museum, University of Peshawar.

- ❖ Command and Staff College Museum, Staff College Road, Quetta.
- ❖ Geological Survey of Pakistan Museum, University of Balouchistan , Quetta.

Provincial Museums:

- ❖ Allama Iqbal Museum, Lahore.
- ❖ Armoury Museum and Sikh Gallery Old Fort, Lahore.
- ❖ Atiyya Faizi Art Gallery, Ingle Road, Karachi.
- ❖ Bahawalpur Museum, Bahawalpur,
- ❖ Bhitshah Cultural Museum, Hala, Matiari, Sindh.
- ❖ Chughtai Museum, Lahore.
- ❖ Dir Museum, Chakdara, Dir,
- ❖ Faqir Khana Museum, Lahore.
- ❖ Industrial and Commercial Museum, Lahore.
- ❖ Lahore Museum, Lahore.
- ❖ Mughal Museum, Old Fort, Lahore.
- ❖ Mangla Dam Museum, Mangla.
- ❖ National Museum of Natural History, Islamabad.
- ❖ Pakistan Air Force Museum, Peshawar.
- ❖ Pakistan Army Museum, Rawalpindi.
- ❖ Pakistan Folk Art Museum, Islamabad.
- ❖ Pakistan Forest Museum, Peshawar.
- ❖ Pakistan Navy Museum, Karachi.
- ❖ Peshawar Museum, Peshawar.
- ❖ Quaid-e-Azam, Birth Place Museum, Kharadar, Karachi.
- ❖ Quaid-e-Azam's Relics Museum, Karachi.
- ❖ Shakir Ali residence Museum, Lahore.
- ❖ Sindh Provincial Museum, Hyderabad.
- ❖ Talpur House Museum, Hyderabad.

Historical Places

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Wazir Mansion, Karachi. ❖ Quaid-e-Azam Mazar, Karachi. ❖ Kotri Barrage, Hyderabad. ❖ Hyderabad Fort, Hyderabad. ❖ Kot Diji, Khairpur. ❖ Lloyd Barrage, Sukkur ❖ Lansdown Bridge, Sukkur/Rohri. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Minaret of Masum Shah, Sukkur. ❖ Sattein Jo Aastan (Place of seven female friends), ❖ Sukkur. ❖ Sadh Belo (Hindu Pilgrimage Area) Sukkur. ❖ Makli Hills, Thatta. |
|--|---|

- ❖ Badshahi Mosque, Lahore.
- ❖ Lahore Fort, Lahore.
- ❖ Minar-e-Pakistan, Lahore.
- ❖ Fort Mounde Shahid, Bahawalpur
- ❖ Derawar Fort, Bahawalpur
- ❖ Fort Munro, D.G. Khan.
- ❖ Rohtas Fort, Jehlum
- ❖ Balahisar Fort, Peshawar.
- ❖ Kharfocho Fort, Khaplu, Ghanche.
- ❖ Hunza Fort, Hunza

National Parks:

- Kirther National Park, Dadu.
- Hazarganji Chiltan National Park.
- Karkhasa Park.
- Dhrun, Balouchistan .
- Hingol, Balouchistan .
- Zoological Garden, Bahawalpur.
- Lal Suhana National Park, Bahawalpur.
- Shalamar Garden, Lahore.
- Jallo Park, Lahore.
- Changa Manga Park, Lahore.
- Kallar Kahar Park, Chakwal.
- Ayub National Park, Rawalpindi.
- Chattar Park, Islamabad.
- Margallah Hills, Islamabad.

Muslim Shrines:

- Abdullah Shah Ghazi, Karachi.
- Sachal Sar Mast, Draza Sharif, Khairpur.
- Bhitshah, Hala, Matiari.
- Sehwan Sharif, Dadu.
- Uch Sharif, Bhawalpur.
- Shah Rukan-e-Alam, Multan.
- Baha-ud-Din Zakaria, Multan.
- Shah Shams Tabrez, Multan.
- Data Ganj Bakhsh, Lahore.

- Khunjerab, Northern Areas.

Passes

- Lak Pass (Kalat & Quetta)
- Bolan Pass (Sibi & Quetta)
- Khojak Pass (Pak - Afghan Border)
- Khyber Pass (Pak - Afghan Border)
- Khunjerab Pass (Pak - China Border)
- Darra (Kohat Pass)
- Babusar Pass (Kaghan – Gilgit)

Beaches:

- Hawkes Bay, Karachi. Sandspit, Karachi.
- Paradise Point, Karachi. Clifton, Karachi.
- French (Haji Abdullah Goth), Karachi.
- Gadani – Balouchistan

Deserts:

- Cholistan, Punjab. Thar, Sindh
- Thal, Punjab Sehan, Balouchistan

Non-Muslim Shrines

Hindu Shrines

- Temple at Katas
- Temple at Makot
- Siv Ganga Temple
- Temple of Hinglaj, Balouchistan

Buddhist Shrines

- Taxila
- Peshawar
- Charsada
- Swat
- Gilgit
- Hunza
- Skardu

Sikh Shrines Gurdwaras

- Nankana Sahib
- Rohri Sahib
- Punja Sahib, Hasanabdal.

Famous Hill Stations & Mountain Valleys:

- Murree Islamabad, Abbottabad & AJK. 2,290
- Ayubia Islamabad, via Murree & abbottabad,400
- Thandiani Abbottabad 2,500
- Kaghan Valley Balakot, Mansehra 2,134
- Swat Valley Peshawar/Islamabad 900-2,100
- Hunza Valley Peshawar/Islamabad 2,440
- Gilgit Valley Peshawar/Islamabad 1,454
- Chitral Valley Peshawar/Islamabad. 1,300
- Skardu Peshawar/Islamabad 2,440
- Ziarat Quetta & Loralai 2,450

Major Peaks of Pakistan

- Chogori/K-2 8,611 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Nanga Parbat 8,125 Himalayas Diamer Diamer
- Gasherbrum No.1/ Hidden Peak 8,068 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Falchan Kangri/Broad Peak 8,047 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Gasherbrum No. II 8,035 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Broad Peak Middle/Central 8,016 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Gasherbrum No.III 7,952 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu

- Gasherbrum No. IV 7,925 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Distaghil Sar Main 7,885 Karakoram Hispar Gilgit
- Kunyang Chhish/Main 7,852 Karakoram Hispar Gilgit
- Masherbrum NE/(K-1) 7,821 Karakoram Bagrot Gilgit
- Masherbrum 7,806 Karakoram Bagrot Gilgit
- Rakaposhi 7,788 Karakoram Bagrot Gilgit
- Batura No.1 7,785 Karakoram Batura Mustagh Gilgit
- Batura II 7,762 Karakoram Batura Mustagh Gilgit
- Distaghil Sar No.II 7,760 Karakoram Hispar Gilgit
- Kanjut Sar No. I 7,760 Karakoram Hispar Gilgit
- Masherbrum W 7,750 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Saltoro Kangri No.1 7,742 Karakoram Soltoro Gaunche
- Batura III 7,729 Karakoram Batura Mustagh Gilgit
- Trivor/Peak No. 8 7,720 Karakoram Hispar Gilgit
- Tirich Mir (Main) 7,708 Hindukush Hindukush Chitral
- Saltoro Kangri II 7,706 Karakoram Soltoro Gaunche
- Chhaltoro Gang R 1 N 7,705 Karakoram Soltoro Gaunche
- Distaghil Sar (E) 7,700 Karakoram Hispar Gilgit
- Tirich Mir (East) 7,692 Hindukush Hindukush Chitral
- Saser Kangri 1 7,672 Karakoram Siachen(disputed) Gaunche
- Chogolisa No. 1 SW/E 7,665 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Chogolisa No. II/NE 7,654 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Yukshin Garden Sar 7,641 Karakoram Hispar Gilgit
- Kunyang Chhich (S) 7,620 Karakoram Hispar Gilgit
- Shispore Sar 7,611 Karakoram Batura Mustagh Gilgit
- Batura IV 7,594 Karakoram Batura Mustagh Gilgit
- Broad Peak (N) 7,550 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Skyang Kangri No. 1 7,544 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Batura V 7,531 Karakoram Batura Mustagh Gilgit
- Yakshin Gardaan No.1 7,530 Karakoram Hispar Gilgit
- Mamostong Kangri 7,516 Karakoram Soltoro Gaunche
- Saser Kangri E 7,513 Karakoram Siachen(disputed) Gaunche
- Tirich Mir (West II) 7,500 Hindukush Hindukush Chitral
- Skyang Kangri No. II 7,500 Karakoram Boltoro Skardu
- Kunyang Chhish (W) 7,500 Karakoram Hispar Gilgit
- Saser Kangri II W 7,500 Karakoram Siachen(disputed) Gaunche

Skiing Resorts and Areas

- Malam Jabba ski resort
- Naltar ski resort

- Nathia Gali
- Shimshal
- Rattu
- Astore

Valleys

- Astore Valley
- Bagrot Valley
- Chitral Valley
- Hunza Valley
- Indus Valley
- Leepa Valley
- Kaghan Valley
- Kalasha Valleys
- Khaplu Valley
- Kumrat Valley
- Neelam Valley
- Naltar Valley
- Skardu Valley
- Swat Valley
- Yasin Valley

Waterfalls

- Dhani Waterfall
- Chotok Waterfalls
- Jarogo Waterfall
- Manthokha Waterfall
- Sajikot Waterfall
- Shingrai Waterfall
- Pir Ghaib Waterfall
- Hanna-Urak Waterfall
- Neela Sandh Waterfall

Lakes

- Attabad Lake
- Ansoo Lake
- Banjosa Lake
- Chitta Katha Lake
- Dudipatsar Lake
- Hana Lake
- Karambar Lake
- Mahodand Lake
- Manchar Lake
- Pyala Lake
- Rush Lake
- Saiful Muluk
- Shangrila Lake
- Shounter Lake
- Sheosar Lake



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Tourism in Pakistan





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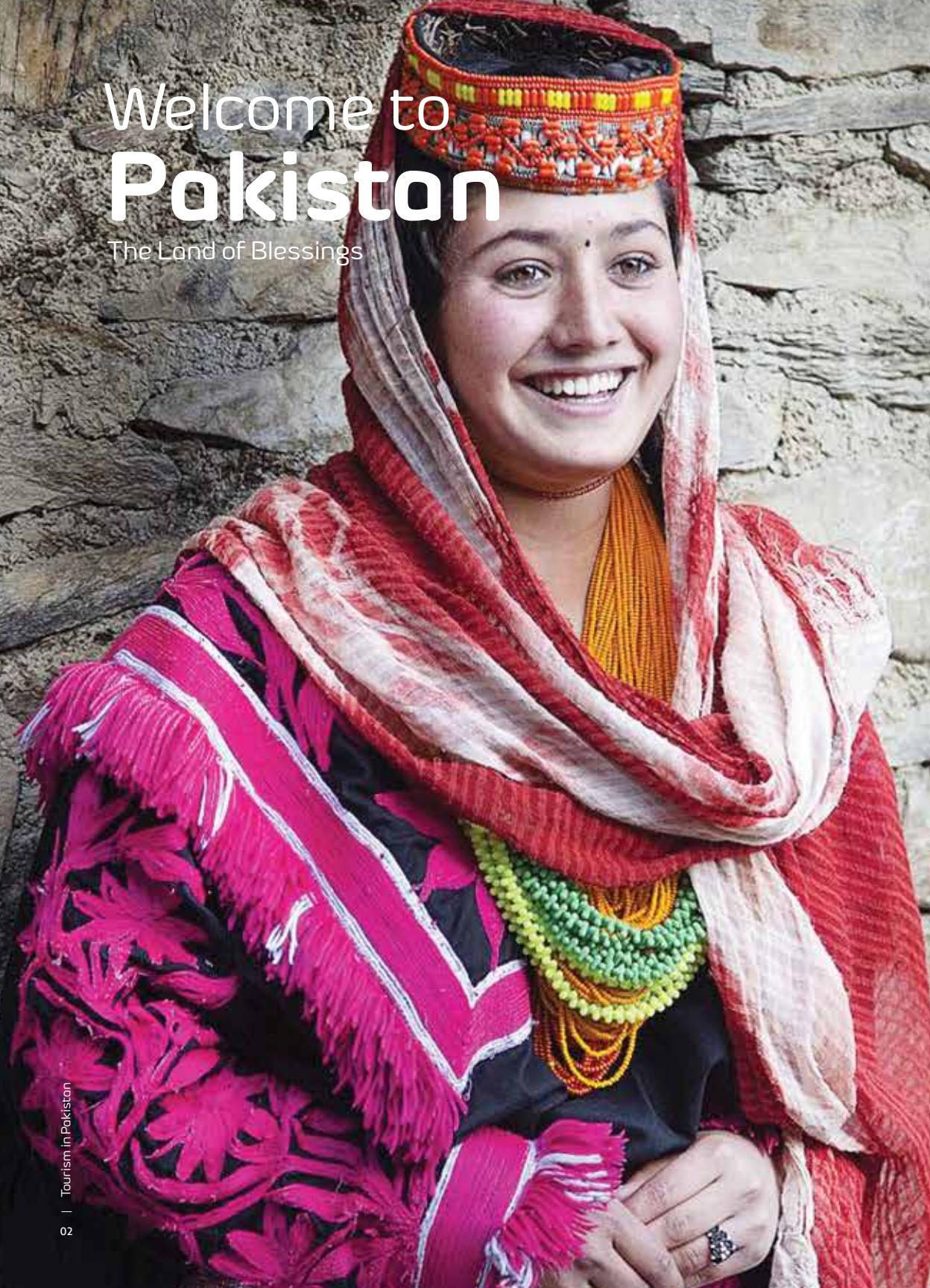
An Initiative of the Government of Pakistan
Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation

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Welcome to Pakistan

The Land of Blessings





Pakistan, is located in South Asia and is bordered by India to the east, Afghanistan to the west, Iran to the southwest and China in the northeast; together with a 1,048 kilometres long coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the South. It is home to a number of civilizations of which the Indus Valley is the most famous where; Buddhism has flourished in present days in different geographical areas of Pakistan.

There are the oldest and most vulnerable Buddhist sites in the sub-continent. After the decline of Buddhism and the revival of Hinduism, the areas became the theatre of Hindu monuments. The Indus Valley civilization provides a very large source of religious attractions that are extremely useful in the development of religious tourism, it is probably the most notable religious asset of the country. Pakistan's culture is a melting pot of Indian, Persian, Afghan, Central Asian, South Asian, and Western Asian influences. Pakistan encompasses a rich variety of landscapes. It is home to a multitude of beautiful plains, deserts, forests, hills, mountains, plateaus, and coastal lines.



Pakistan is the only country in the world where three famous mountain ranges meet: the Himalayas, the Karakoram, and the Hindukush range. As a result, a multitude of breath-taking peaks including K2, the second highest mountain in the world, offer the possibility of adventure for mountain climbers and trekkers alike. And for a bargain hunter, Pakistan is a shopper's paradise, noted for luxurious hand knotted carpets, brassware, onyx, copperware, and a range of cultural handicrafts.

Pakistan's tourism potential was recently featured on CNN and in Forbes Magazine while the award-winning travel magazine Conde Nast Traveller declared Pakistan as one of the "Best Holiday Destinations" and British Backpacker's Society described Pakistan as one of the 'friendliest countries on earth with mountain scenery that is beyond anyone's wildest imagination'. Geographically, Pakistan is divided into four provinces: Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh; along with two autonomous territories of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and one federal territory known as Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Each province and territory are unique; with its own brand, people and culture. Thus, attracting visitors from all walks of life.

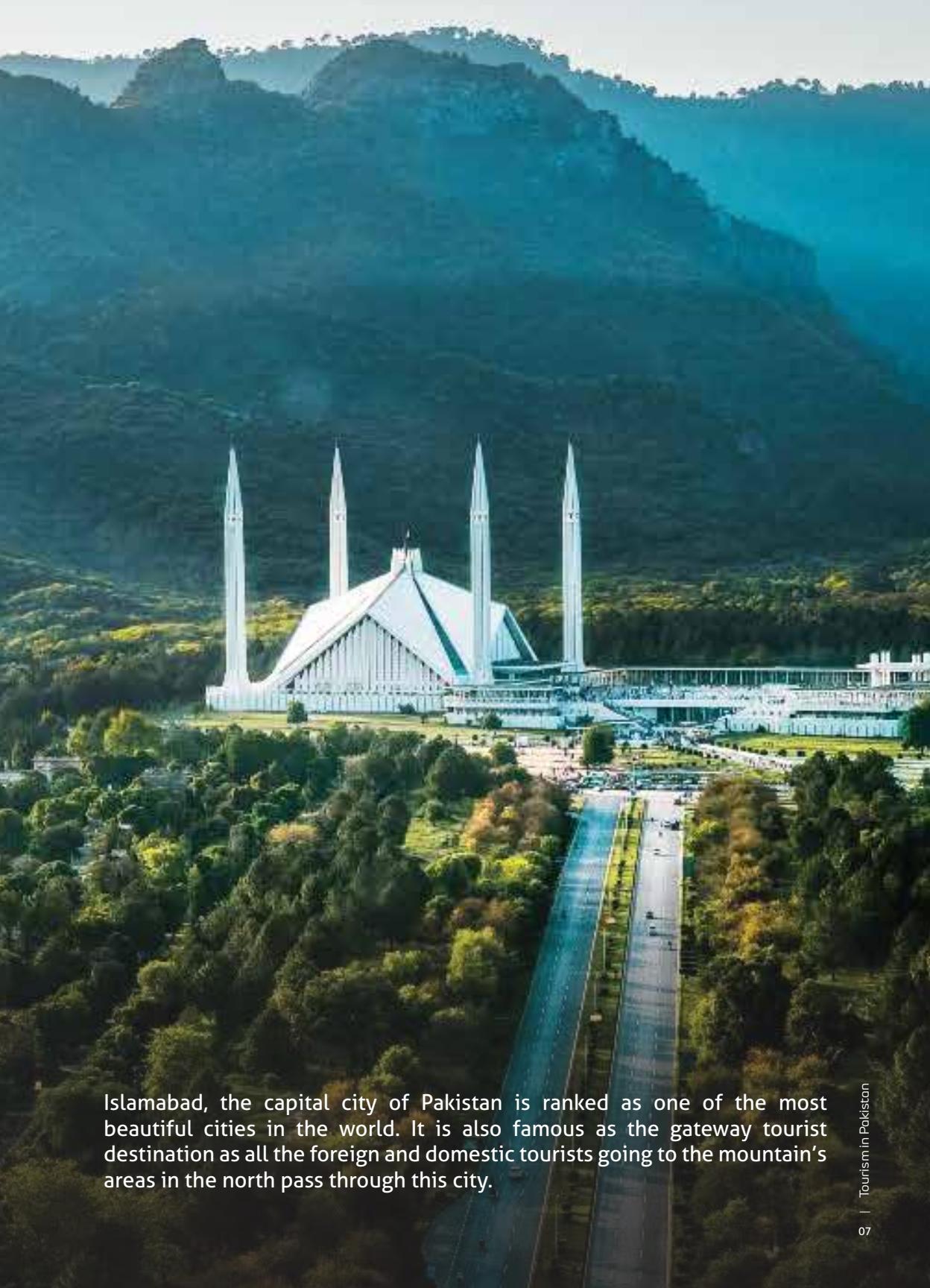
Map of Pakistan



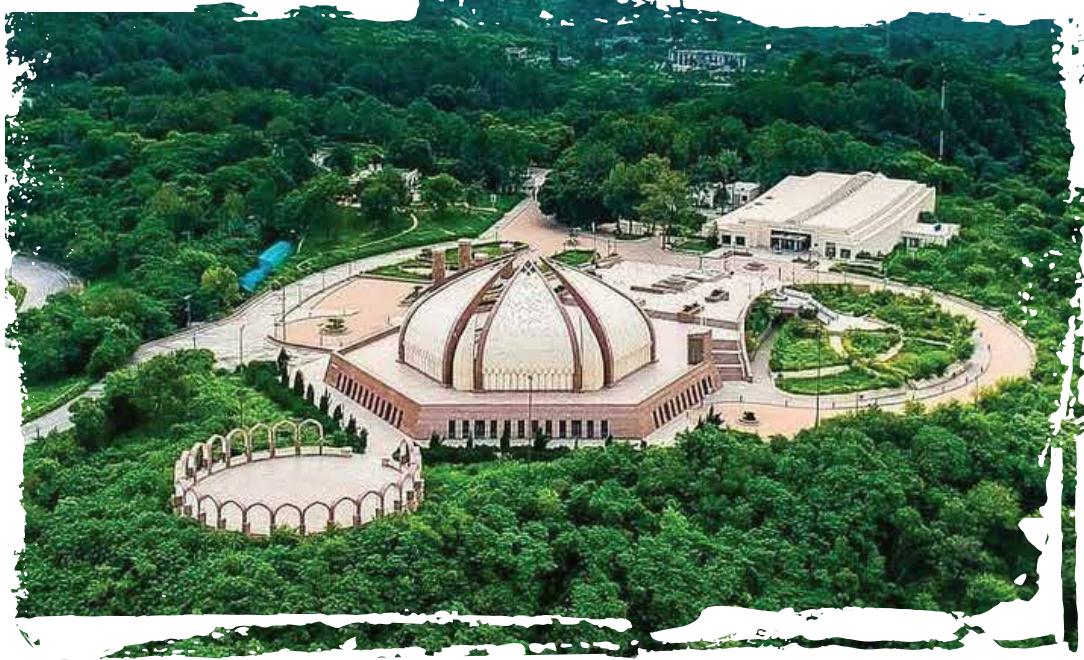
Capital Territory **Islamabad**

The Second Most Beautiful Capital in the world
and The Second Most Safest City in South Asia





Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan is ranked as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is also famous as the gateway tourist destination as all the foreign and domestic tourists going to the mountain's areas in the north pass through this city.



The city of Islamabad was built in 1960 to replace Karachi as the new capital of Pakistan, which it has been since 1963. Due to Islamabad's proximity to Rawalpindi, they are considered sister cities. The area where Islamabad is located has a history going back to the earliest human habitations in Asia. The city is famous for its lush green landscape and is often referred to by its nickname 'The Green City'. It includes number of city parks, green belts and walkways. The city of Islamabad is also home to several landmarks, including the Faisal Mosque, which is one of the largest mosques in South Asia, and the fourth largest in the world. Other landmarks include the Pakistan Monument and Democracy Square. There are many other sites of tourist interest and outdoor activities to enjoy in the city, such as Lok Virsa, Museum of Natural History, Damn-e-Koh, Pir Sohawa, Rawal Lake, Simli Dam Lake, Japanese Garden, F9- Park, Rose and Jasmine Garden, Sports Complex, Shah Allah Ditta Cave, Saidpur village, Shahdara, Bari Imam, Lake View Park and different hiking trails in Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).



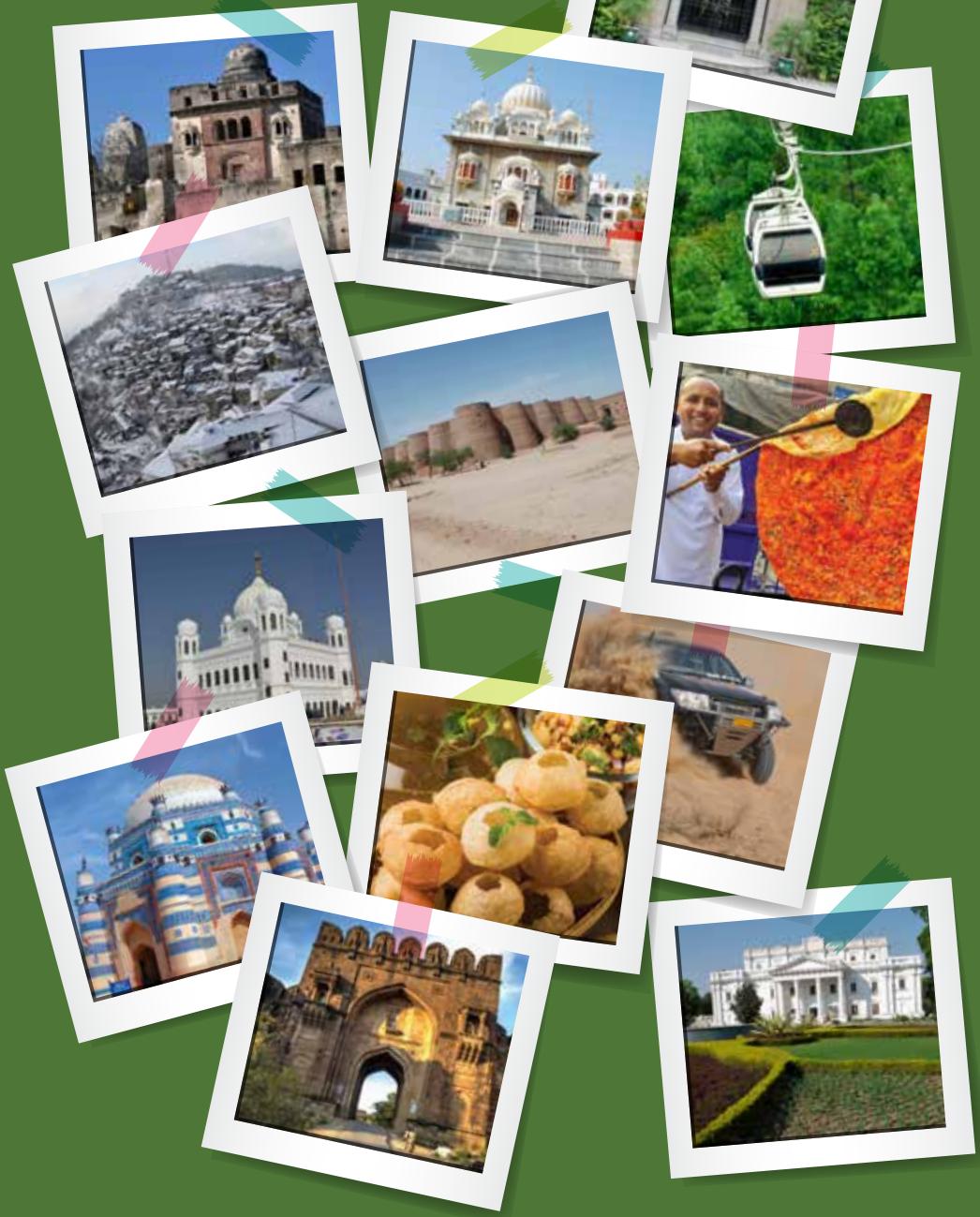
MHNP provides a beautiful backdrop to the landscape of this city. The park includes the Margalla Hills, which form's the foothills of the Himalayas, along with Shakarparian Park and Rawal Lake. Tilla Charouni with a height of 1604m is highest point in the park. Margalla Hills are a popular tourist destination, with Daman-e-Koh and Pir Sohawa serving as popular hill stations, while Shakarparian Cultural Complex and Lake View Park are popular picnic spots. The park is rich in biodiversity, especially rich in Sino-Himalayan fauna, most notably grey goral, barking deer and the Leopard. The MHNP is home to around 600 plant species, 402 bird varieties, 38 mammals and 27 species of reptiles.

Islamabad is the gateway to many popular tourist destinations in the northern areas of Pakistan. There are many tourist destinations around Islamabad within few hours' drive. Famous hill stations of Murree, Nathiagali, Ayubia, Bhurban and Lehtrar Valley are within the reach of one and half hour drive. Historical sites of Taxila, Rohtas Fort, Rawat Fort, Tilla Jogian, Wah Garden, Katas Raj, Khewra, Malot, Hund, Attock, Hassanabdal and some other sites are also within the range of few hours' drive.



Province **Punjab**

The Land of Five Rivers



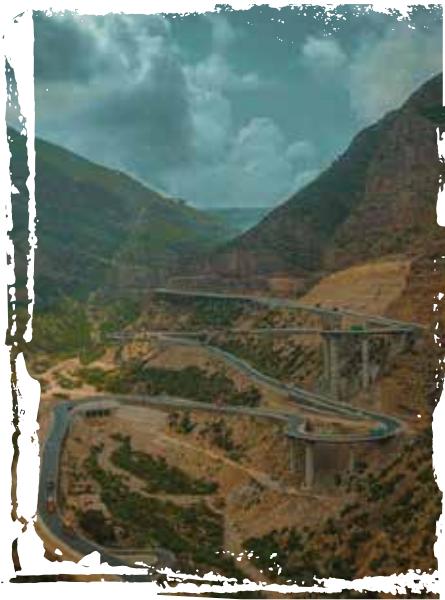


One of the most industrialised and populous provinces of Pakistan, Punjab encapsulates both, the old and the new. While preserving cultural heritage and folklore that lay deeply embedded in ancient cities, monuments, and structures, built during the reign of the Mughals, Sikhs and the East India Company. Punjab is the poster child for post-colonial modernisation, and what it means to live a fast life of convenience and luxury.



The name of Pakistan's most densely populated province is an amalgamation of the Persian words panj (five) and āb (water). Making it known as 'The Land of Five Rivers'. The name signifies the five rivers, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej that serve as lifelines of the land, making Punjab highly fertile and rich.

Geographically, it is a land of contrasts. From the fertile plains of the Indus River and its tributaries to the sand dunes of the Cholistan Desert; from the verdant beauty of pine covered Murree Hills in the foothills of Himalayas to the amazing lunar landscape of Salt Range. It also includes the mountainous areas in the west, like the Koh-e-Suliman Range in the southwestern part of the province. Fort Munro is also a popular hill station among the people of south Punjab.



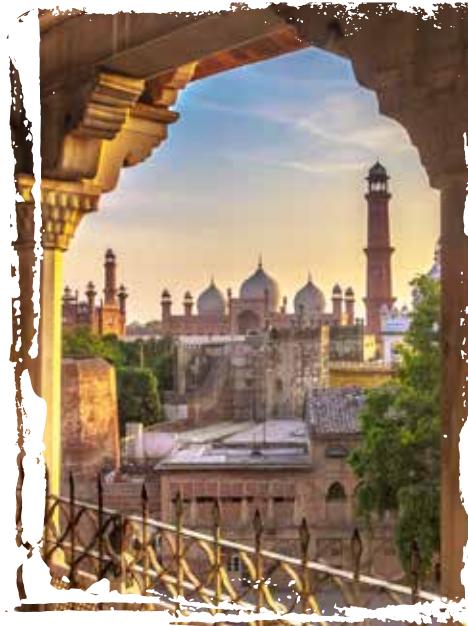


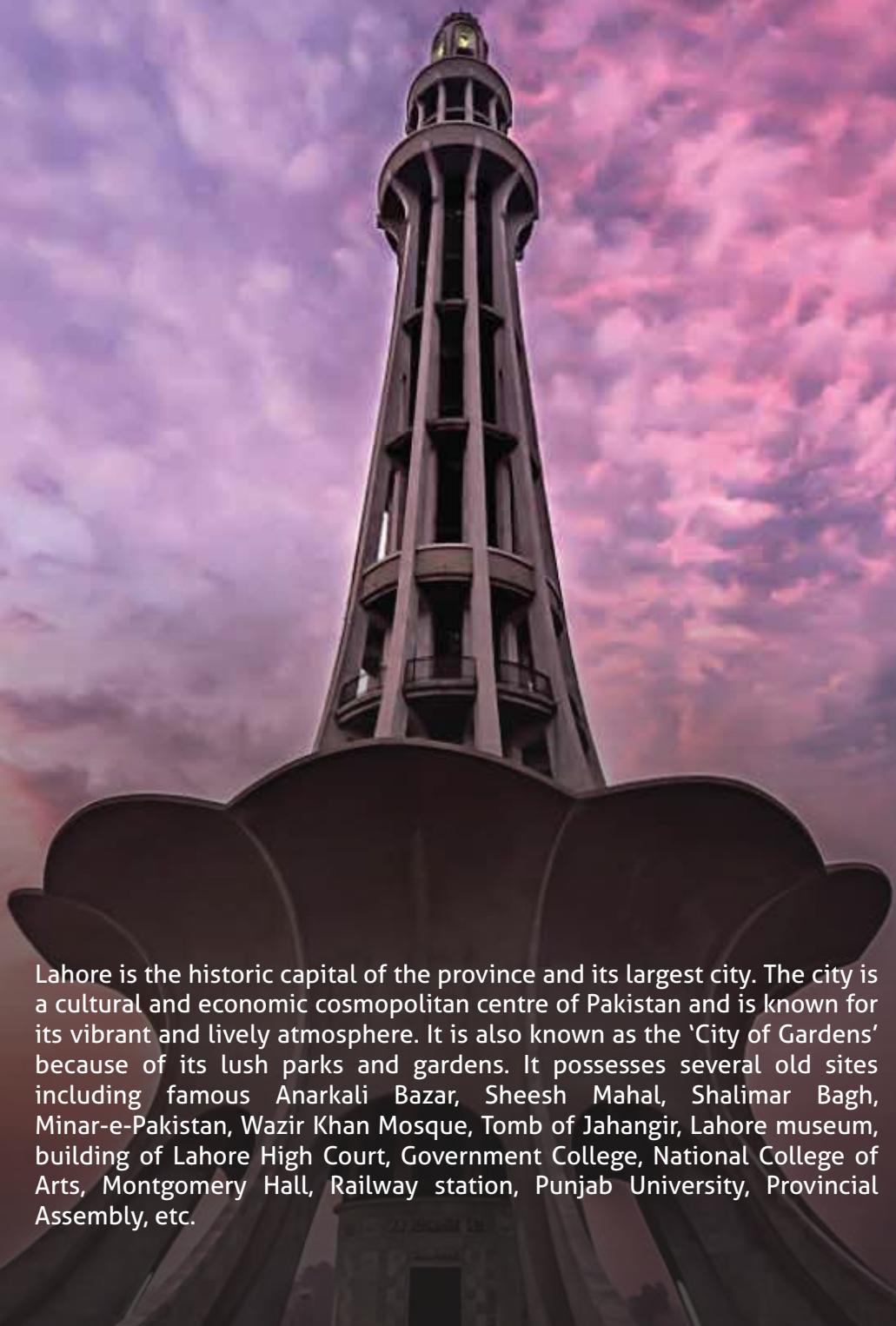
Moreover, Punjab is the time capsule of the subcontinent. The history of Punjab dates to the Indus Valley Civilisation, which was the bronze age of South Asia, when the fertile plains of Indus were inhabited circa 5500 BCE. The region has been conquered and ruled by many different empires since. Therefore, it has pieces from different time periods, regions, cultures, and ruling empires. It is also home to Taxila, the site which is considered by many as the world's oldest university.





Punjab is home to many different religious and archaeological sites. Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur is also a main attraction point for Sikhs and tourists alike; for it is the world's largest Gurdwara. Gurdwara Janam Asthan is another notable site as the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, was believed to be born there. The province also is the site for numerous tombs and shrines. One of the most famous shrines includes the Shrine of Shah Yusuf Gardezi in Multan. Therefore, the history, culture and complexity of this region is vast.



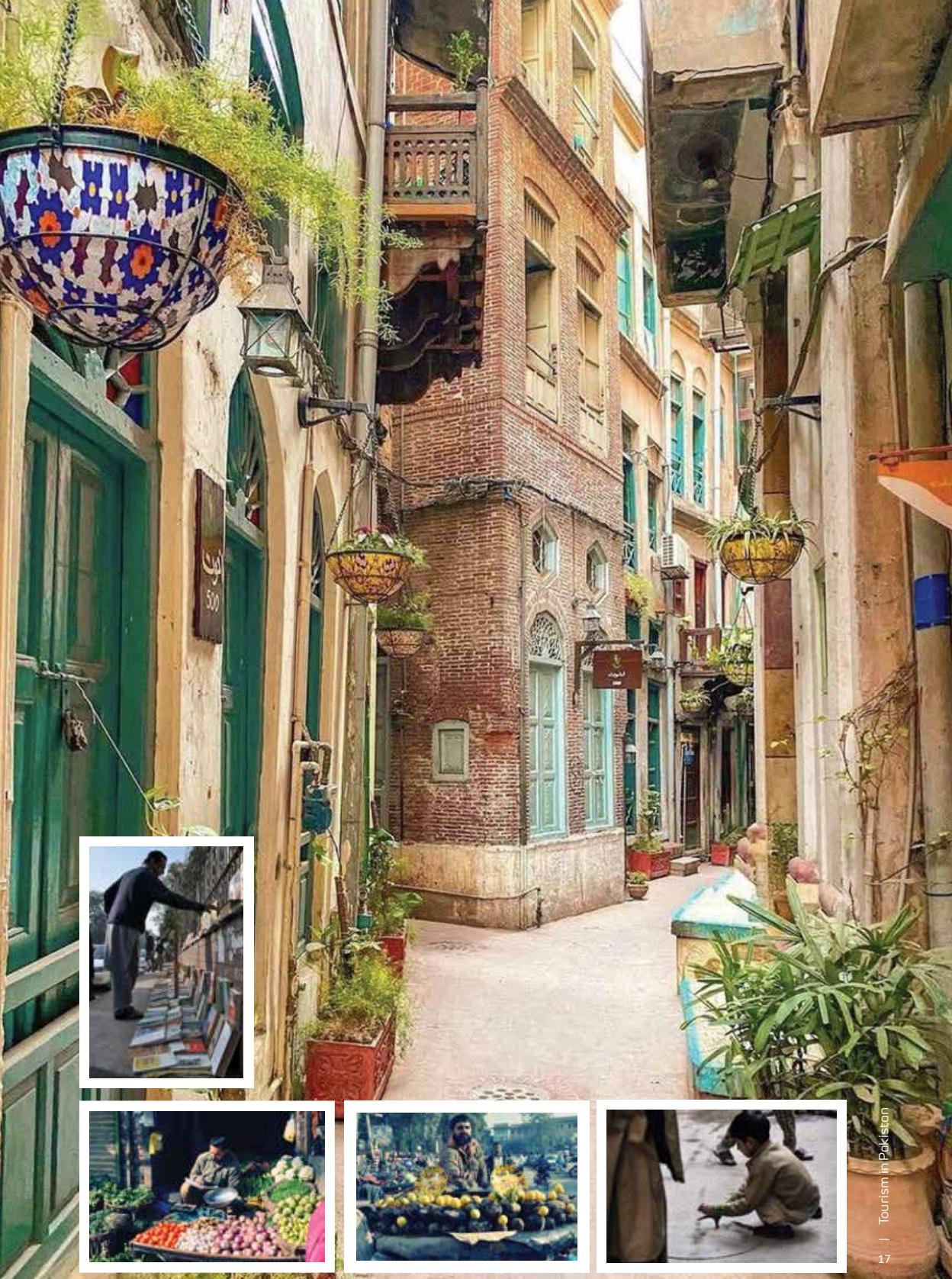


Lahore is the historic capital of the province and its largest city. The city is a cultural and economic cosmopolitan centre of Pakistan and is known for its vibrant and lively atmosphere. It is also known as the 'City of Gardens' because of its lush parks and gardens. It possesses several old sites including famous Anarkali Bazar, Sheesh Mahal, Shalimar Bagh, Minar-e-Pakistan, Wazir Khan Mosque, Tomb of Jahangir, Lahore museum, building of Lahore High Court, Government College, National College of Arts, Montgomery Hall, Railway station, Punjab University, Provincial Assembly, etc.



One of the many gems of Punjab lies deep within Lahore. Lahore has an old city area, known as the 'Walled City' or simply, 'old Lahore'. This area is home to important and world famous historical and heritage sites such as Wazir Khan mosque, Shahi Qila (Lahore fort) and Shahi Hammam; two recognised UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Other major tourist attractions of Punjab include Patriata (New Murree) Bhurban, Upper Topa and Lower Topa Murree, Raja Bazar and Saddar Bazar Rawalpindi, Hussain Agahi Bazar Multan, Tomb of Shah Rukn-e-Alam, Shah Shams Sabzwari, Bahauddin Zakariya and Fort Kohna Qasim Multan, the various sites at Taxila, spread over a large area including Bhir Mound (The oldest city of Taxila) Dharmarajika Buddhist Stupa and Monastery. Harappa represents the other key city of Indus Valley Civilization. Fort. Al-Biruni mentioned Nandana as a great centre of learning in a hill fortress on the eastern most part of the Salt Range. Lal Sohanra National Park, Uchh Sharif, Desert Branch canal, Noor Mahal, Darbar Mahal, Gulzar Mahal, A historic Darawar Fort in Bahawalpur. Kzewra Salt Mines, the ancient Hindu Katas Raj temples, Mausoleum of Sheikh Rukn-e-Alam in Multan and Data Darbar, the largest Sufi shrine in South Asia, etc.

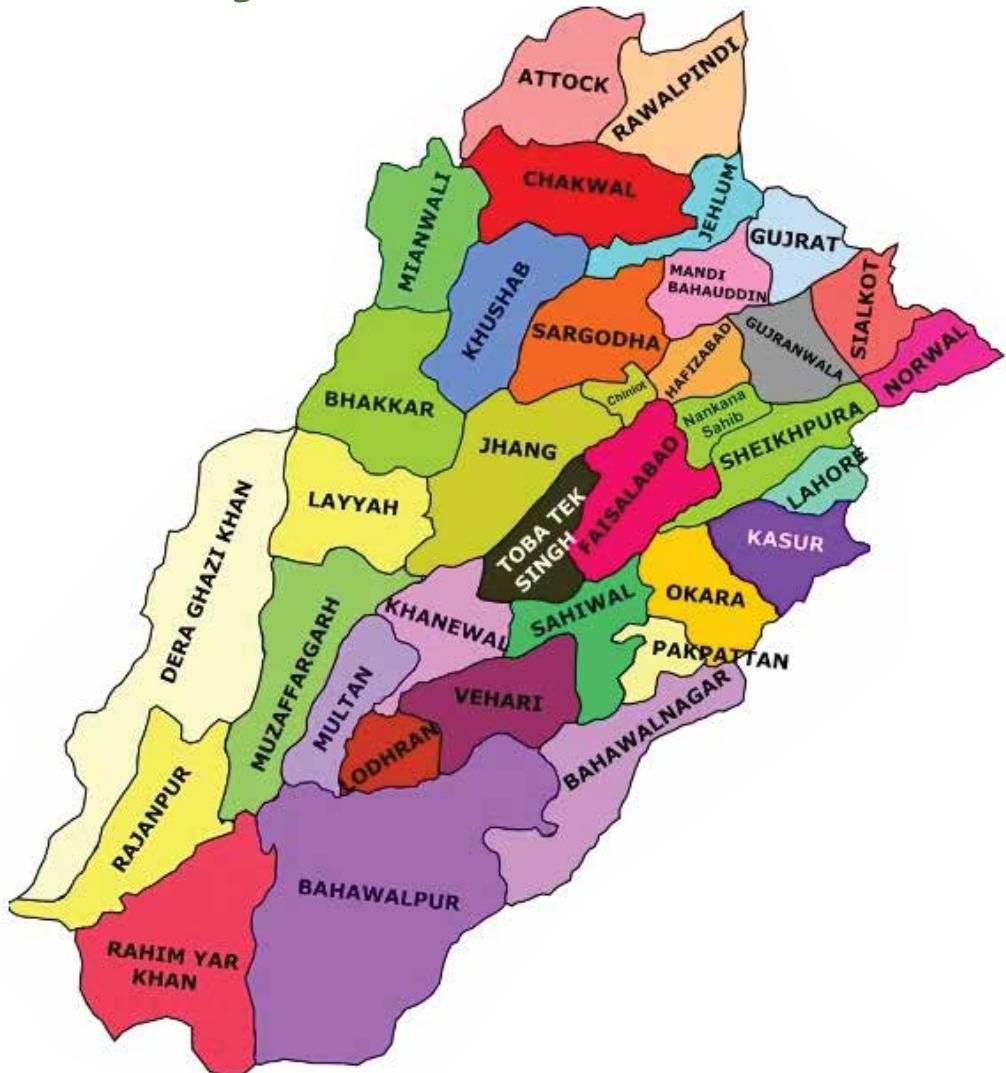


Major Attractions

Punjab

- 01- Ancient Temple - Sialkot
- 02- Attock Bridge - Attock
- 03- Attock Fort - Attock
- 04- Badshahi Mosque - Lahore
- 05- Bhumman Shah - Okara
- 06- Bullay Shah Shrine - Kasur
- 07- Changa Manga Forest - Kasur
- 08- Cholistan Desert - South Punjab
- 09- Chakwal Canyons - Chakwal
- 10- Clock Tower - Multan
- 11- Clock Tower - Faisalabad
- 12- Darbar Mahal - Bahawalpur
- 13- Derawer Fort - Derawar
- 14- Fort Munro Steel Bridges - DGK
- 15- Ganda Sighwala Border - Kasur
- 16- GPO - Murree
- 17- Gulzar Mahal - Bahawalpur
- 18- Gurudwara Sacha Sauda - Faroqabad
- 19- Gurudwara Chakki Sahib - Eminabad
- 20- Gurudwara Rori Sahib - Eminabad
- 21- Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib
- 22- Gurdwara Janam Asthan - N.S.
- 23- Gurudwara Guru Ramdas - Lahore
- 24- Gurdwara Nankana Sahib -N.S.
- 25- Harrappa Ruins - Sahiwal
- 26- Hiran Minar - Sheikhupura
- 27- Kallar kahar - Chakwal
- 28- Kala Bagh dam - Mianwali
- 29- Katas Raj Temple - Chakwal
- 30- Khewra Salt Mine - Pind dadan khan
- 31- Lahore Fort - Lahore
- 32- Lal Suhanra Park - Bahawalpur
- 33- Minar-e-Pakistan - Lahore
- 34- Namal University - Mianwali
- 35- Namal Lake - Mianwali
- 36- Nawab of Kala bagh House
- 37- Neela Sand- Kotli Sattian
- 38- Noor Mahal - Bahawalpur
- 39- Old Fort - Multan
- 40- Patriata Chairlift & Cable Car
- 41- Panjnad - South Punjab
- 42- Panja Sahib - Hasan abdal
- 43- Rohtas Fort - Jehlum
- 44- Safari Train - Murree
- 45- Samadhi of Ranjit Singh - Lhr
- 46- Shalamar Garden - Lahore
- 47- Sadiq Garh Mahal - Bahawalpur
- 48- Shah Rukn e Alam -Multan
- 49- Shrine of Baba Farid Gunj - PP
- 50- Sher Shah Suri Mosque - Bhera
- 51- Shrine of Sultan Bahu - Jhang
- 52- Swaik Lake - Chakwal
- 53- Taxila Museum - Taxila
- 54- Tomb of Ghazi Khan - DGK
- 55- Tomb of Heer Ranjha - Jhang
- 56- Tilla Jogian - Jhelum
- 57- Uch Sharif - Bahawalpur
- 58- Uchali Lake - Khushab
- 59- Wagha Border - Lahore

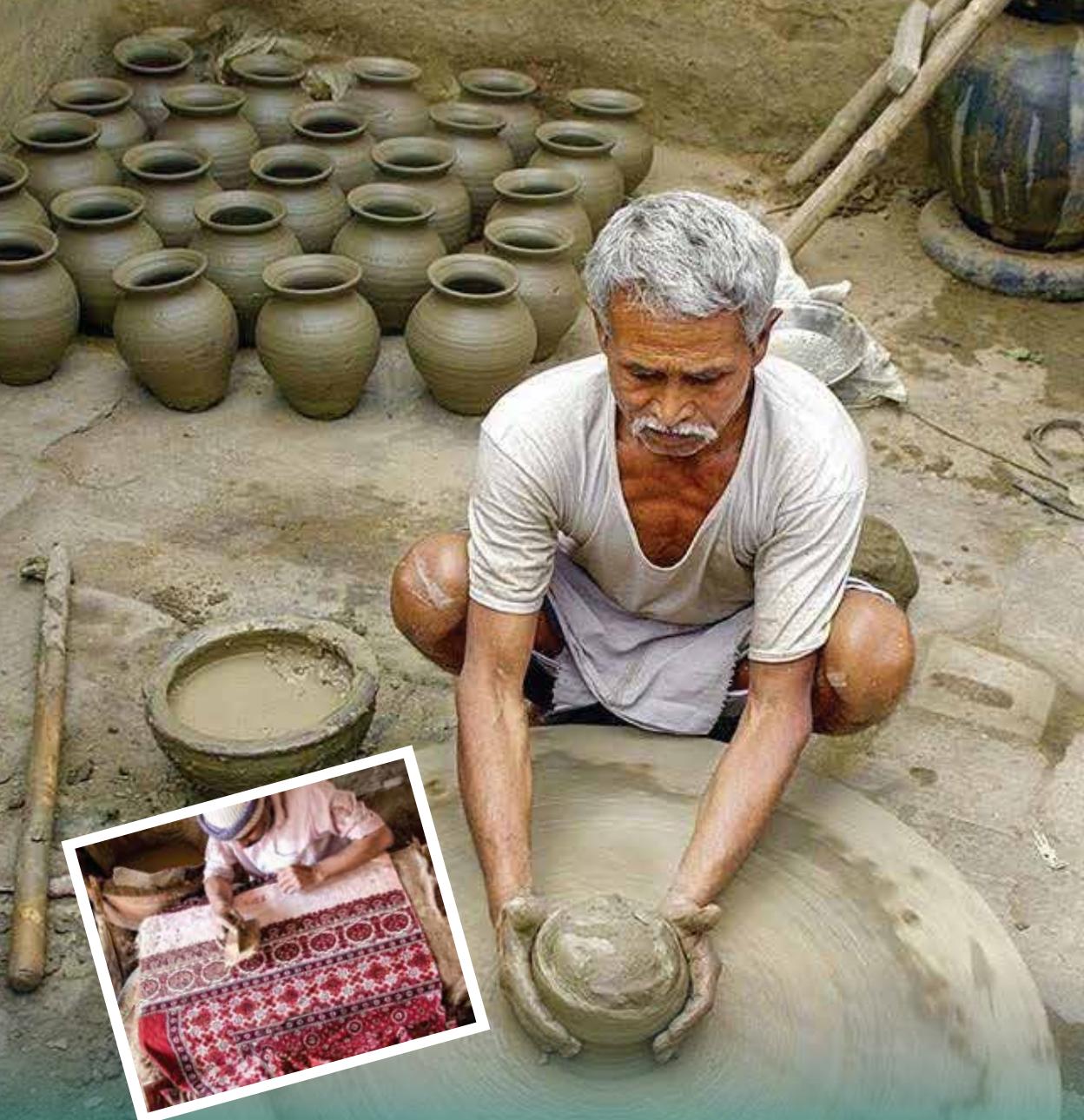
Map of **Punjab**



Province **Sindh**

The Cradle of Civilizations

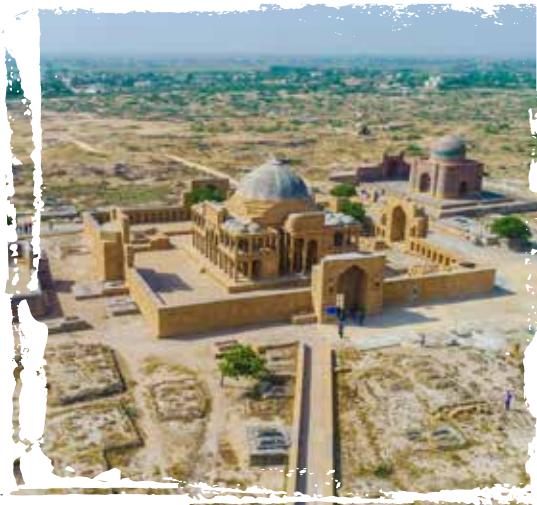




Located in the southeast of the country and bordered by Balochistan, Punjab, the Arabian Sea and the Indian states of Gujarat and Rajasthan lies the province of Sindh - the historical home to the Sindhi people. As second most populous province of Pakistan, it is known as Bab-ul-Islam which translates to the 'Gateway of Islam'. This name found itself fused to Sindh because it saw the first spread of Islam into South Asia. As a result, Sindh became known for its distinct culture which is heavily influenced by Sufism an important part of the Sindhi identity, for both Muslims and Hindus.



Sindh has several important and world-famous Sufi shrines located throughout the province which attract millions of devotees each year. A few of which include: the shrines of Abdullah Shah Ghazi, Sufi Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, and Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. Moreover, Sindh is also home to the largest number of Hindu residents in Pakistan, along with a number of Hindu temples.



Shri Laxmi Narayan Mandir, a Hindu temple, was constructed around 200 years ago and is an important worshiping site for the Hindus of the local community. Other famous temples include Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and Shri Varun Dev Mandir, all of which attract Hindu pilgrims and tourists alike,



exemplifying the religious diversity in the province. Sindh has its own distinct culture and traditions, stemming from one of the world's oldest civilisations, the Indus Valley Civilisation. It is home to some of the most prominent historical tourist spots: the ruins of Mohenjo-daro near the city of Larkana, which is also a UNESCO world heritage site. Another renowned UNESCO world heritage site is 'Makli Necropolis, known as one of the world's largest funerary sites, housing 500,000 to a million tombs over a course of 400 years. Islamic architecture is also quite prominent in the province with the Shahjahan Mosque in Thatta built by the Mughal emperor Shahjahan.



Karachi

Any conversation regarding the diversity of Pakistan is incomplete without mentioning

Karachi, the former capital of Pakistan and the current capital of Sindh. Karachi is the most populous and modern city of Pakistan. A large chunk of the population is descendants of those who migrated to Pakistan from India after 1947. Known as the "City of Lights", it is the cosmopolitan hub of Pakistan. It lives and breathes with a style of its own. Thriving at the edge of the famous 90km coastline, it operates the largest and busiest ports in the country. The coastline is known for its beautiful public and private beaches, fresh seafood and the coastal highway drive. Mohatta Palace museum provides the opportunity to immerse yourself in the Indo-Saracenic architecture, while Frere Hall hosts several festivals and exhibitions portraying the history, culture and traditions of the region. The beautiful mausoleum of Muhammad Ali Jinnah – the founding father of Pakistan is the most prominent tourist site of Karachi. Karachi is a great place for shopping, number of shopping malls and colourful bazars offer great opportunity to the people who love shopping. Karachi has a tropical and mild climate almost all year round. A trip to Pakistan is incomplete without experiencing the fast paced and rejuvenating atmosphere of Karachi.

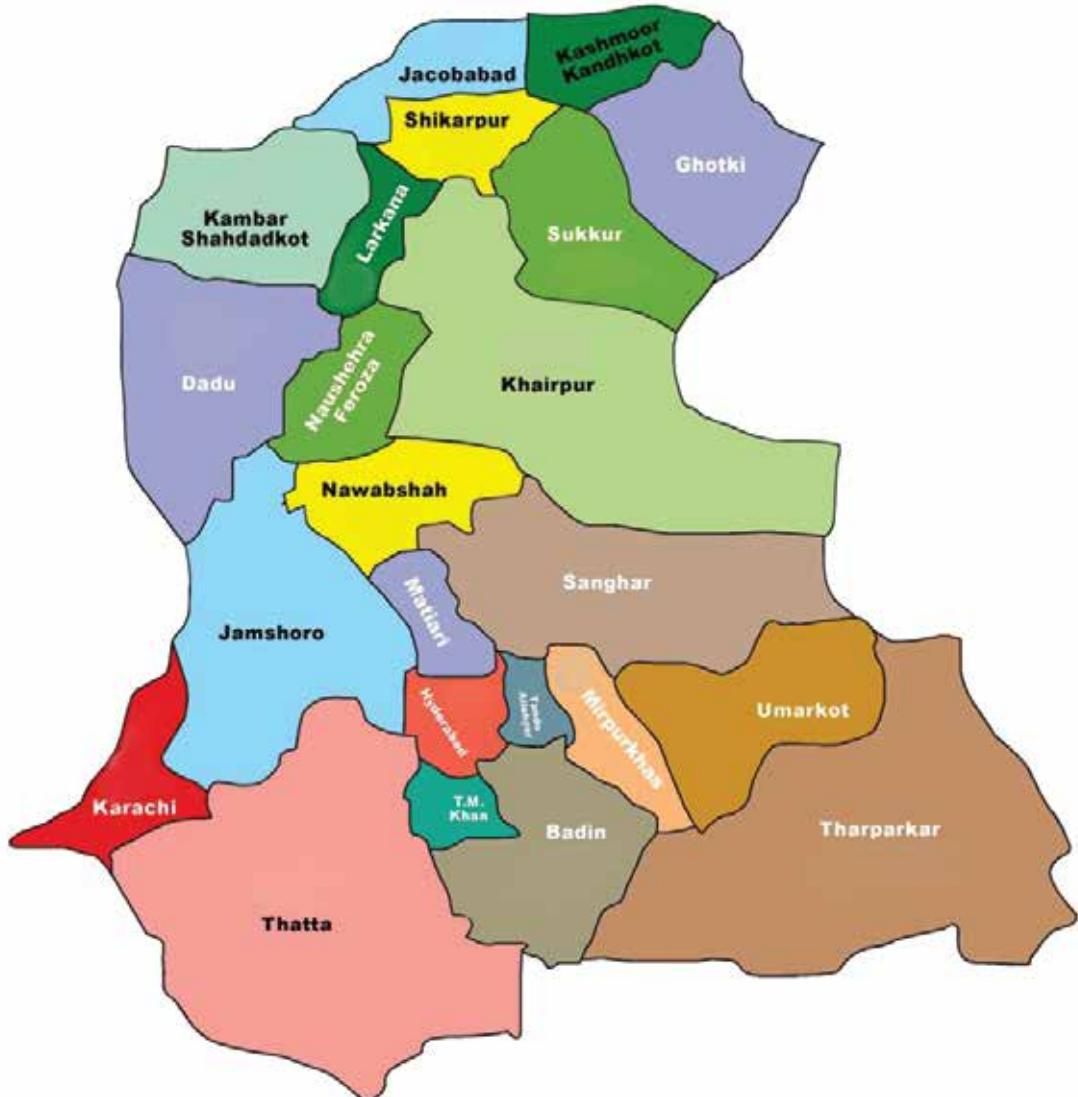


Major Attractions

Sindh

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01- Buddhist Stupa Thul Mir Rukan | 20- Quid-e-Azam House Museum |
| 02- Diji ji Takri | 21- RaniKot (Fort) |
| 03- Faiz Mahal | 22- Sadh belo (island of indus) |
| 04- Fort of Kotdiji | 23- Sehwan Fort |
| 05- Frere Hall | 24- Shrine of Laki Shah Sadar |
| 06- Ghazi Shah Mound | 25- Shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar |
| 07- Gori Temple | 26- Sindh Provincial Museum |
| 08- Historical Tower Pacca Fort | 27- Square Tower Larkana |
| 09- Hingorani Mariyoon | 28- Soonda Graveyard |
| 10- Jamia Masjid Khudabad | 29- Thar Desert |
| 11- Jain Temple Virwah | 30- Tomb of Mian Noor M. Kalhoro |
| 12- Karoonjhar Mountains | 31- Tomb of Quaid-e-Azam |
| 13- Kirthar Mountains | 32- Umerkot Fort Umerkot |
| 14- Makli Graveyard | 33- Wazir Mansion Museum |
| 15- Manchar Lake | |
| 16- Mohenjo Daro | |
| 17- Mohatta Palace | |
| 18- National Museum of Pakistan | |
| 19- Naukot Fort | |

Map of Sindh



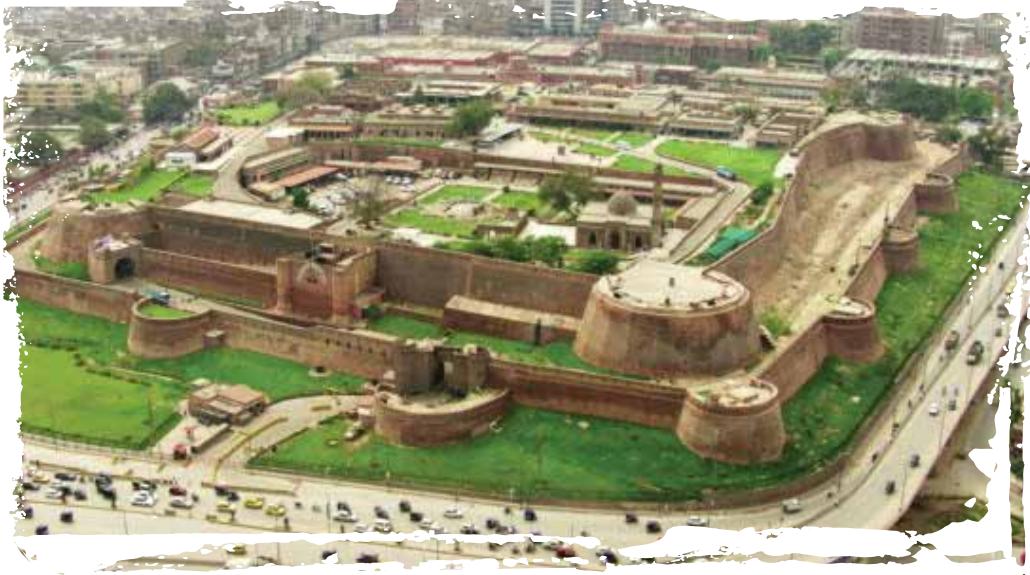
Province **Khyber** **Pakhtunkhwa**

Mesmerizing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa





Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, formerly the North-West Frontier Province, or NWFP, runs for over 110 kilometres along the border with Afghanistan. It is the third-largest province of Pakistan in terms of population and economy. Peshawar is the provincial capital, and the heart of the province is the fertile Vale of Peshawar, which is watered by the Kabul and Swat rivers. The Gandhara civilization, which reached its zenith between the first and fifth centuries AD, had one of its cores over the modern KP province. Peshawar is rich with historic and archaeological sites.



The Khyber Pass linking Pakistan to Afghanistan is perhaps the province's best-known feature, though it was little used in prehistoric times, and even centuries later was considered too narrow and easily ambushed a route. It was not until the 1st Century AD when the powerful Kushans invaded

Gandhara and pacified the area, that the Khyber, the most direct route from Kabul to Peshawar, became popular as a safe trade route. Peshawar (pronounced Pe-SHAH-wur), the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is a frontier town, the meeting place of the subcontinent and Central Asia. It is among the oldest living cities in this part of Asia—the place where ancient traditions jostle with those of today, and



where the bazaar in the old city has changed little in the last hundred years. Peshawar is known for historic and archaeological sites including Islamia College, Peshawar Museum, Bala Hisar Fort, Gor Khatri, Sethi houses, Cunningham Clock tower, Khyber Bazar, The British Cantonment, Mahabat Khan Mosque, Tomb of Nawab Said Khan & Kotla Mohsin Khan.

The legendary Khyber Pass, the most famous pass in the world, guards the entrance to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. No other pass in the world has possessed such strategic importance or retains so many historic associations and romance as this gateway. In this rugged terrain of slate and rock, the actual strategies of the 19th century 'Great Game' of imperial conquest between Britain and Russia were played out. On this fabled route, 'every rock, every hill' has its story. Sipping tea in the ancient bazaars of Peshawar is a unique experience.





The ruins of Takht-e-Bahi, put on UNESCO's World Heritage List, are remains of an ancient Buddhist monastery dating back to the 1st century AD.

The enigmatic Kalash tribe is a dweller of the last mountain enclave of pagan tribal people in one of the remotest parts of Pakistan. The Shandur polo ground offers tabled mountain polo on the highest polo field on earth.





In the southern region of the province, the oldest city of Dera Ismail Khan is located which is known to be the entrance to the province from Punjab and Balochistan. The city is famous for its Hindu ruins at Kafir Kot. The region also offers exquisite pieces of local handicrafts to be made by the hands of skilful artists. The landscape of the region is what it is largely praised for. The terrain consists of mountain ranges, undulating sub montane areas, and plains surrounded by hills. In the north, the mountain ranges generally run north-south, The Hindu Kush region in the north has the highest mountains peaks such as Tirich Mir, which rises to 25,230 feet (7,890 meters). To the south lie the rugged basins of the Panjkora, Swat,



and Kandia rivers. Swat possesses several tourist attractions like Malam Jabba Resort, Mahodhand Lake, Kundol Lake, White Palace, Swat Museum, Utror, Daral Lake, Shingardar Stupa, Amlukdara-Stupa,



Mehmood Ghaznavi Masjid, Madyan Bridge, Fort of Raja-Gera, etc. Located in the foothills of Lowari Pass and adjacent to Swat Valley, Dir is another destination filled with a number of tourist attractions Such as Kumrat Valley, Panjkora River, Katora Lake, Jahaz Banda, Badgoi





Major Attractions

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Peshawar

1. Bala Hisar Fort
2. Islamia College
3. Peshawar Museum
4. Gor Khatri
5. Sehti House
6. Cunningham Clock Tower
7. Khyber Bazar
8. The British Cantonment
9. Mahabat Khan Mosque
10. Tomb of Nawab Sayid
11. Kotla Monsin Khan
12. Qissa Khwani Bazar (Market)

Khyber (newly merged district)

1. Bab-e-Khyber
2. Jamrud Fort
3. Khyber Pass
4. Ali Masjid
5. Khyber Rifle Mess

Swat Valley

1. Gabin Jabba
2. Malam Jabba Ski Resoprt
3. Behrain
4. Mankial
5. Kalam
6. Mahodand Lake
7. Kundol Lake
8. White Palace
9. Swat Museum
10. Utror, Daral Lake
11. Shingardar Stupa
12. Amlukdara-Stupa
13. Mahmood Ghaznavi Masjid
14. Madyan Bridge
15. Fort of Raja-Gera
16. Chukail Banda
17. Mastij Lake

Upper Dir

1. Kumrat Valley
2. Panjkora River
3. Thal Mosque
4. Katora Lake
5. Jahaz Banda
6. Badgoi Pass
7. Lowarl Pass

Chitral Valley

1. Kalash Valley
2. Kalash Museum
3. Chitral Gol National Park
4. Madaklasht
5. Golain Gol
6. Terichmir Peak
7. Qaqlasht Meadows
8. Broghil Valley
9. Karambar Lake
10. Shandur Polo ground
11. Shandur Lake
12. Snowghar Valley
13. Garam Chishma (Hot water springs)

Kaghan Valley

1. Thanddiani
2. Shogran
3. Sharan
4. Lake Saif ul Maluk
5. Ansoo Lake
6. Batakundi
7. Jalkhad
8. Babusar

9. Dudipatsar Lake
10. Dana Meadows
11. Satsiri Mala
12. Supat Valley
13. Maheen Lake

Galiyat

1. Nathiagali
2. Changlagali
3. Dongagali
4. Khanspur
5. Baragali
6. Thandiani



Map of **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**



Province **Balochistan**

The Land of Beauty





In the south west of the country lies a sprawl of over 347,000 square kilometres. A sparsely populated, mineral rich land gifted with some of the most unique landscapes in Pakistan, this largely undiscovered region beckons to people at home and abroad to come and unveil its many mysteries. This is the province of Balochistan.

The name of Pakistan's largest province, by area, literally translates to "Land of the Baloch", being home to the proud Baloch, Pashtoon and Hazara. From the mountains of Suleman range of Zhob to the beaches of Gwadar, the native people connection to this land has withstood several conquests and onslaughts, hence preserving much of the native culture of the Baloch and Pashtoon culture and tradition from outside influence. In the north of province are the proud Pashtoon areas adjoining the Pakhtoonkhwa province.

Many marvels lie across and deep beneath this land. Discovered here was the skeleton of the Balochitherium or the 'Beast of Balochistan', the largest land mammal in the world that once roamed the then green fields. In addition to fossils, lie many rich minerals and gems like copper, chromite and iron, to name a few.



Balochistan prides of being the land of 'Mehrgarh', the second most ancient civilisation of the world, nearly 7000 years old. It is widely believed to be the forerunner to the Indus Valley civilisation. Nearby lies the Bolan Pass, once a gateway to the Indian subcontinent used by traders, travelling from southern and eastern Iran to Hindustan of that time. These sites serve as a living testament to the history of this region. The Hinglaj temple



Quetta, lying at the mouth of the Bolan Pass, is the capital of the province and its largest city. Here in the North, one finds a stark contrast to the heat and barrenness that dominates much of the province. Blessed with large swathes of junipers lie cities such as Ziarat, a beautiful retreat. The juniper forests here are considered among the oldest in the world.

While largely Sunni Muslim, Balochistan also hosts religious minorities such as the Hazaras, Zikris and a small number of Hindus that annually convene for the largest Hindu pilgrimage in Pakistan, the Hinglaj Yatra. The Hinglaj temple, nestled in the canyons of Hingol National Park, hosts nearly 250,000 Hindu pilgrims every spring.





On its coast, Balochistan offers a plethora of natural wonders. The landscape includes 750km of pristine beaches, sand dunes, rock pools, waterfalls, date forests, mud volcanoes and more untouched tourist places. The Makran Coastal Highway has opened this coast for investors and tourists alike. It takes one across stunning wind sculpted rock formations near the Hingol National Park, including Pakistan's natural mud 'Sphinx' and a huge elegant sculpture dubbed the Princess of Hope by Angelina Jolie. This follows pristine beaches including Kund Malir, Spat, Daran and other hidden, untouched coves of splendour. Gwadar, the jewel in the Balochistan coast, is a hammerhead jutting into the Arabian Sea.





Another flawless gem lies a few hours off the coast. Pakistan's first protected marine area, the Astola Island, is home to several interesting species, including the endangered green turtle, which nests on Astola's stunning beaches. En-route, one can gaze at schools of dolphin swimming across the turquoise waters.

Balochistan being the largest province possesses the largest and most diverse tourists attraction places as Pir Ghaib Falls, in Bolan Pass near Mehargarh, the archaeological site; Moola Chitok, in village Moola in Khuzdar; Quaid-e-Azam Residency, Ziarat, near Quetta to the north; the Hannah Jheel, Quetta; Hingol National Park; Kund Malir Beach; Pir Chattal Noorani, Gandhawa, Jhal Magsi; Astola Island, Gwadar/Pasni, Jhal Magsi; the Kharan Desert; newly established Gwadar Cricket Stadium, etc.

Nearby coast is the Bela ancient caves of Gondrani, which according to local folklore date back to the Buddhist period or even from the time of Solomon.

From the famous festival of Sibi to relishing the sajji meat and rock bread, Balochistan keeps one engaged and truly mesmerised.

Major Attractions

Balochistan

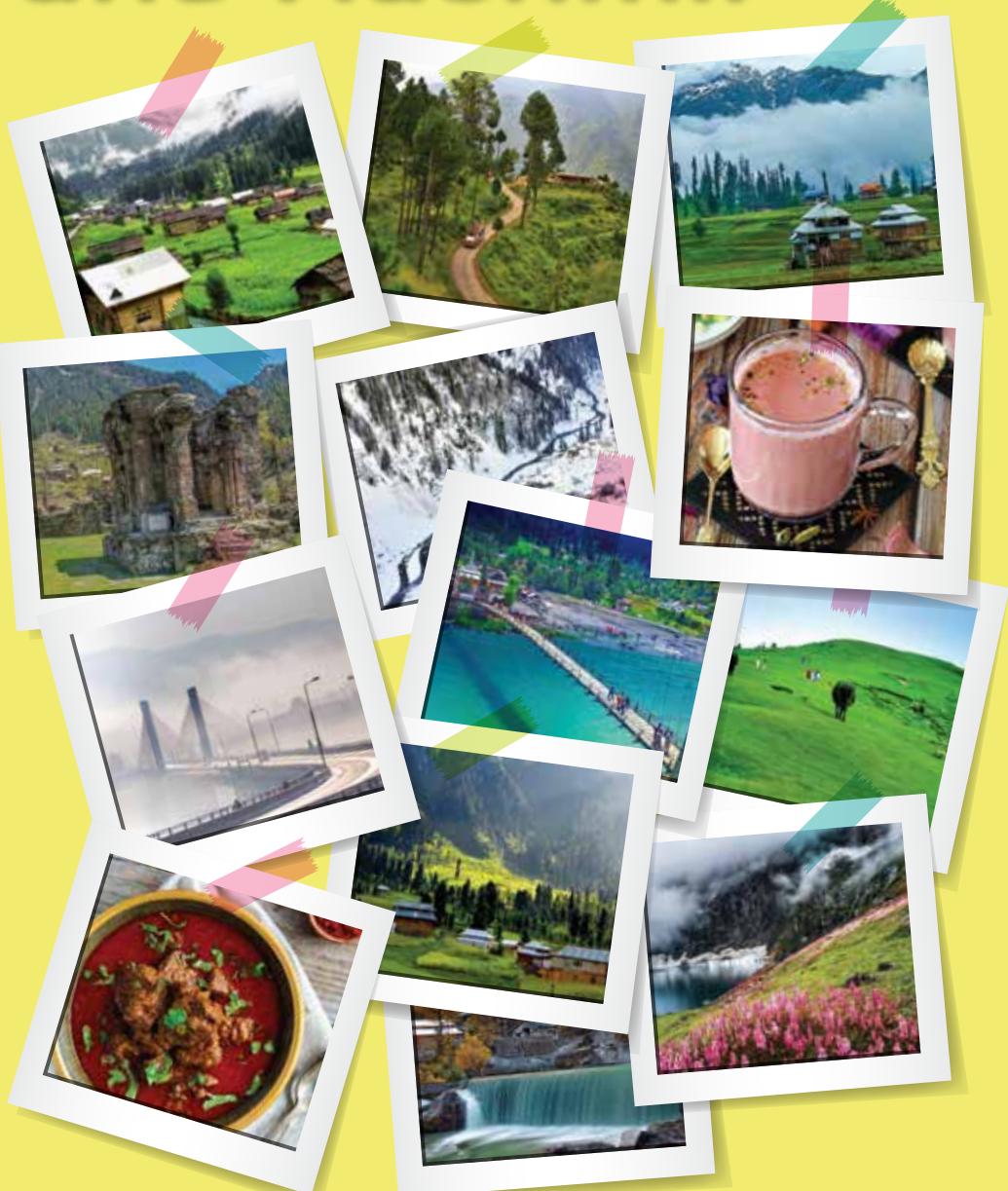
- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 01- Astola Island | 20- Ormara |
| 02- Chotok Waterfalls | 21- Hinglaj Mata Mandir |
| 03- Gwadar/Pasni | 22- Bolan Pass |
| 04- Gwadar Cricket Stadium | 23- Chiltan Hazarganj National Park |
| 05- Hingol National Park | 24- Mehar Garh |
| 06- Kund Malir Beach | 25- Sibi |
| 07- Khuzdar | 26- Panjgur |
| 08- Magsi | |
| 09- Moola Chotok | |
| 10- Pir Chattal Noorani Gandhawa | |
| 11- Phir Ghaib Falls | |
| 12- Quaid-e-Azam Residency, Ziarat | |
| 13- The Bolan Pass | |
| 14- The Princess of Hope | |
| 15- The Kharan Desert | |
| 16- The Hannah Jheel | |
| 17- Waadi-e-Bolan | |
| 18- Quetta | |
| 19- Jiwani | |

Map of **Balochistan**



Voice of Mountains

Azad Jammu and Kashmir





Bordering Punjab province to the south and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the west, lies the mesmerising, scenic region of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, abbreviated as AJK. It is a self-governing jurisdiction that spans across an area of 13,297 square kilometres and is the Pakistani-administered portion of Kashmir, lying west of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



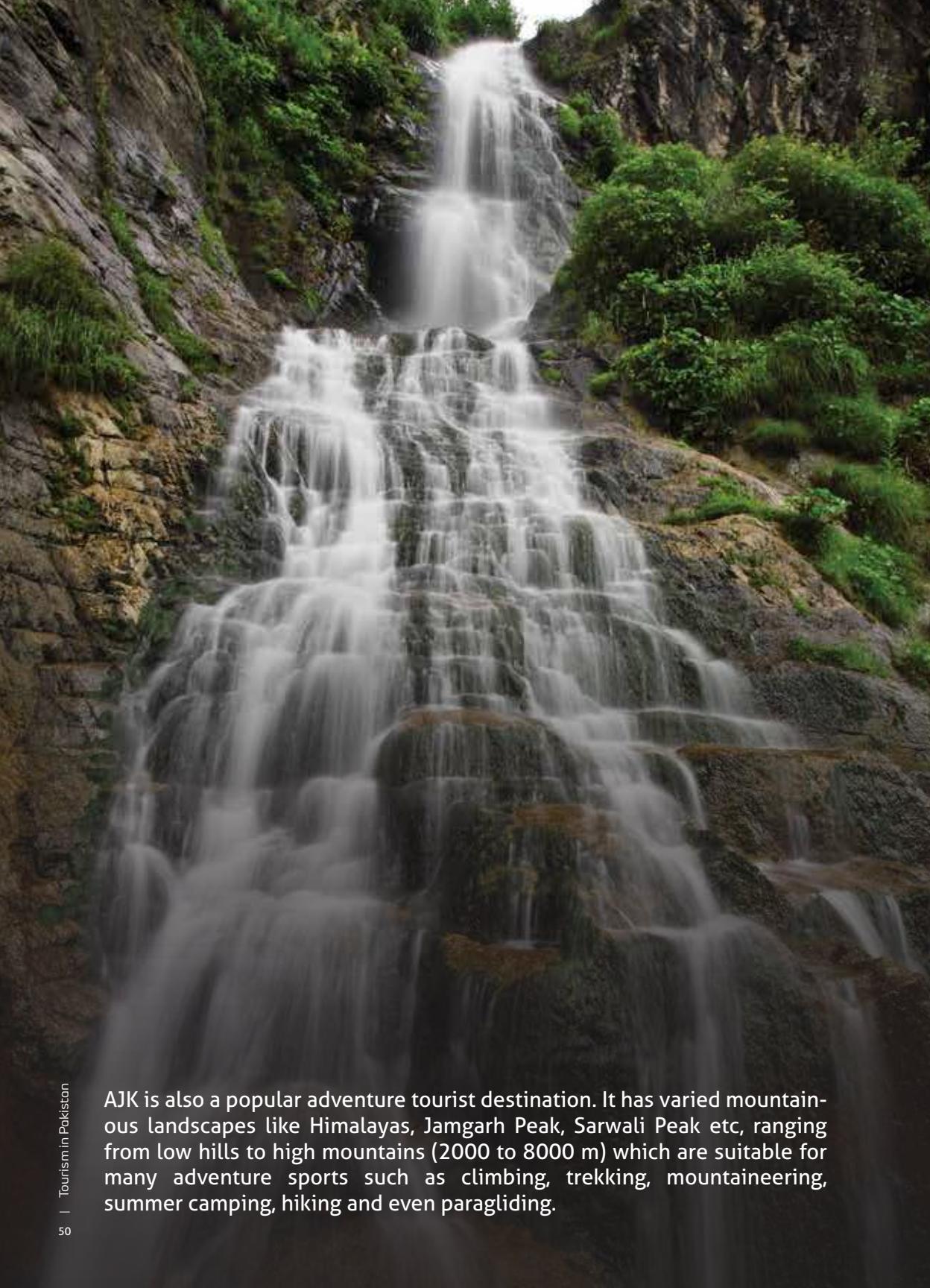
AJK modern, mineral rich, lush green city is located within the mountains, at the confluence of Jhelum and Neelum river. It is close to many tourist attractions such as Peer Chinasi, the Red Fort, and the Kohala Bridge etc.

AJK is famous for beautiful lakes such as Ratti Gali, Shounter and Chitta Khata etc, making AJK a popular leisure and adventure tourist destination.



Moreover, AJK is known for its valleys, plateaus, forests, streams, snow-capped peaks, and lush green mountain ranges. Often dubbed as 'Heaven on Earth', it is one of the most popular tourist and leisure destinations. Hari Parbat and Toli Peer are among the eminent mountain peaks.





AJK is also a popular adventure tourist destination. It has varied mountainous landscapes like Himalayas, Jamgarh Peak, Sarwali Peak etc, ranging from low hills to high mountains (2000 to 8000 m) which are suitable for many adventure sports such as climbing, trekking, mountaineering, summer camping, hiking and even paragliding.

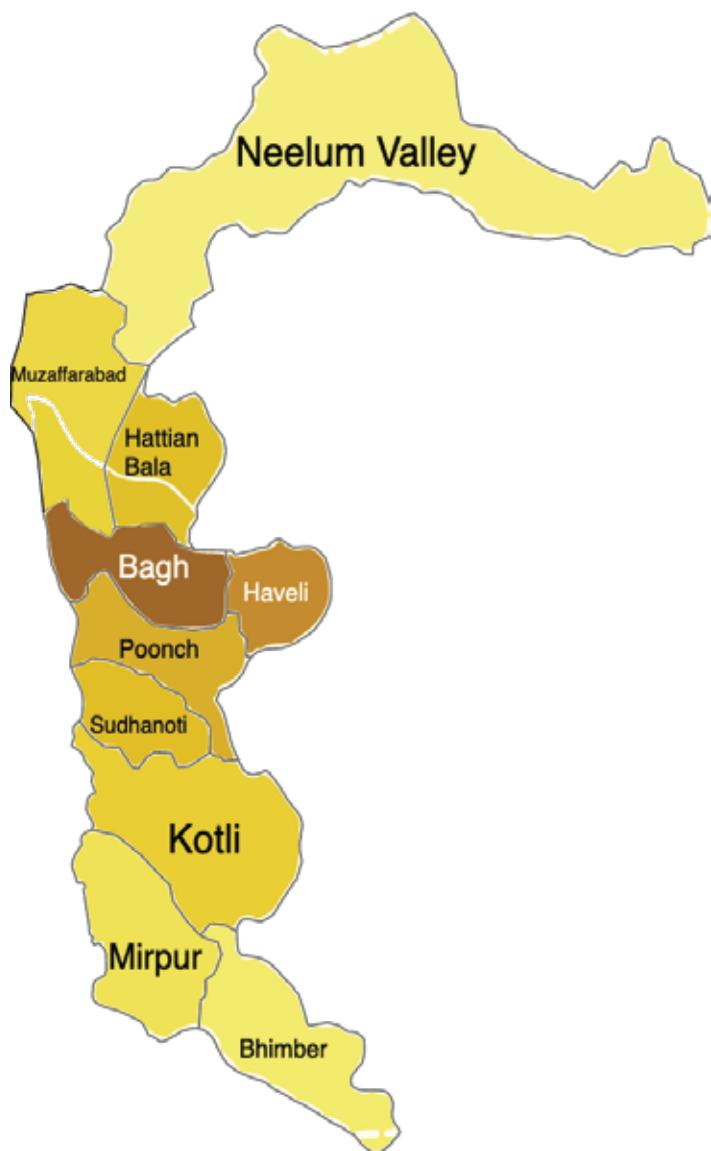


Major Attractions

Azad Jammu and Kashmir

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 01- Banjosa | 20- Baboom Valley |
| 02- Chattar, Muzaffarabad | 21- Sudhan Gali |
| 03- Jogran Nullah, Neelum Valley | 22- Ganga Choti |
| 04- Kel, Neelum Valley | 23- Bagh |
| 05- Kharigaam | 24- Lasdana |
| 06- Kutton | 25- Tatla Pani |
| 07- Leepa Valley | 26- Kotli |
| 08- Mangla Fort Mirpur | 27- Mirpur |
| 09- Neelum Valley | 28- Pir Chanasi |
| 10- Nakot, Leepa Valley | 29- Mangla Lake |
| 11- Old Hindu Temple, Sharda | 30- Saurahi |
| 12- Palandri | 31- Ramkot Fort |
| 13- Ratti Gali Lake | 32- Baghsar Fort |
| 14- Shaunter Valley | |
| 15- Sehnsa Valley, District Kotli | |
| 16- Taabut, Neelum Valley | |
| 17- Arang Kel | |
| 18- Toli pir | |
| 19 - Chita Katha Lake | |

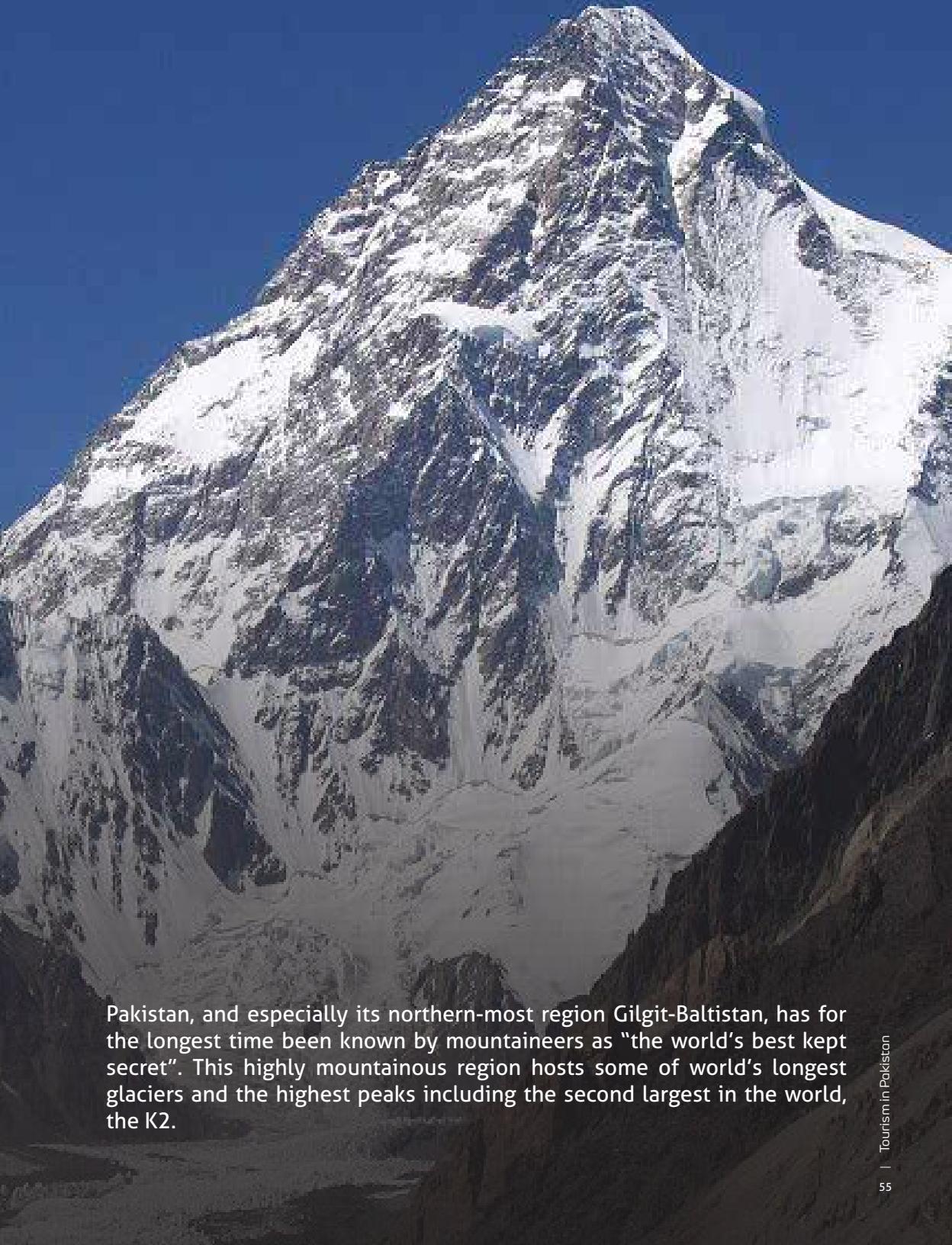
Map of Azad Jammu and Kashmir



North Pakistan Gilgit Baltistan

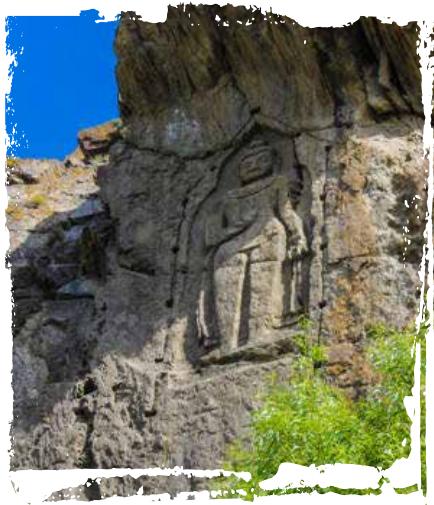
Jewel of Pakistan



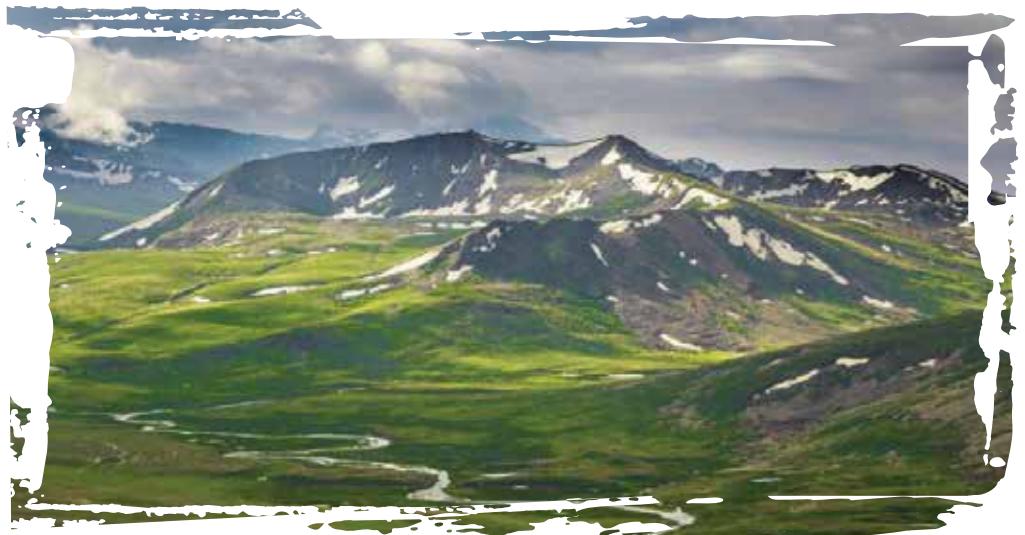


Pakistan, and especially its northern-most region Gilgit-Baltistan, has for the longest time been known by mountaineers as "the world's best kept secret". This highly mountainous region hosts some of world's longest glaciers and the highest peaks including the second largest in the world, the K2.

From the 1970s onwards, the Karakoram Highway, yet another wonder, gave new life to the region. An adventure in its own right, the ride along this impressive highway takes travellers on a journey starting in the plains of the Punjab, crossing Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, following the Indus River and leading up to



the northern border with China and beyond. Dotted with heritage of universal significance and included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites tentative list, the valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan possess places that demonstrate and preserve the magnificence of past rulers and serve as reminders of the traditions and culture that once dominated these lands.

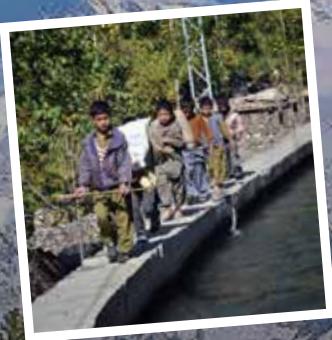






Ambitious climbers attempt to summit the five eight-thousanders, out of fourteen worldwide, every year. Deosai, the "Land of the Giants", is the second highest plateau on earth and a surreal sight plucked straight out of a camper's dream. There, Sheosar Lake is just one of the many spellbinding lakes of the region, along with Upper and Lower Kachura Lakes in Skardu, Khalti Lake in Ghizer and the famously turquoise Attaabadi Lake in Upper Hunza – the former two, beautiful aftermaths of recent devastating landslides.





The attractions of Gilgit-Baltistan are not just built around scenic landscapes. A popular tradition of Gilgit-Baltistan includes the "king of games": the world's highest, annual freestyle mountain polo event in Shandur, where Gilgit-Baltistan competes against the traditional sporting arch-rival Chitral (KPK).

Home to several ethnic groups, sects and languages, Gilgit-Baltistan is also one of the most diverse regions in the country, in which each community kept their specific traditions intact for the longest time. With a literacy rate of 72%, Gilgit-Baltistan's population is also highly educated. Women in Gilgit-Baltistan partake in embroidery, carpet-weaving, craftsmanship, agriculture and are seen running small enterprises. Crafts that use natural dyes, wool and gems that sit in silver rings present ample opportunity for tourist to take home beautiful and valuable local souvenirs.

As the evenings come alive with the sound of local music, tourists can feast on Chapshoro, a meat-filled bread specialty of Nager, Dawdo, a local noodle soup popular all over the region, or buckwheat pancakes dipped in apricot oil. This land and its richly flavoured cuisine offer more than just food for consumption, it offers food for the soul.

Major Attractions

Gilgit Baltistan

- 01. Andra Poyega Hunza
- 02. Basho Forest Skardu
- 03. Bagrote Valley Gilgit
- 04. Bilamik Skardu
- 05. Chitrong Hot Spring Shigar
- 06. Donsa Valley Skardu
- 07. Deosai National Park
- 08. Derlay Lake Astore
- 09. Dainter Bar valley nagar
- 10. Gulkin Village Hunza
- 11. Hushy Valley Ghanche
- 12. Hoper Valley Nagar
- 13. Husani Suspension Bridge Hunza
- 14. Iskoman Valley Ghizer.
- 15. Jhabazo Lake Shigar
- 16. Jutial Nalah Gilgit
- 17. Karamber lake Ghizer
- 18. Khukush lake Ghizer
- 19. Kahmosh Absar Kaharmang
- 20. Khalti Lake Ghizer
- 21. Katpana Desert Skardu
- 22. Kargaha Buddha Gilgit
- 23. Kachali Lake Minapin Nagar
- 24. Lamsa Rock Carvings Shigar
- 25. Musbrum Valley Ghanche
- 26. Montokaha Water fall Karmang
- 27. Manthal Budah Rocks Skardu
- 28. Mamobar Nagar
- 29. Parishing Astore
- 30. Phander Valley Ghizer
- 31. Puol Road Gilgit
- 32. Passu Coens Hunza
- 33. Rakaposhi Vase Camp Nagar
- 34. Rama Meadows Astore
- 35. Shiosar Lake
- 36. Shimshal Valley Hunza
- 37. Sailing Ghanche
- 38. Tarishing Astore
- 39. Twin Bridges Gilgit
- 40. Ultar Meadows Hunza
- 41. Upper Kachura Skardu
- 42. Central Karakoram National Park
- 43. Nanga Parbat National Park
- 44. Khunjerab National Park

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