**[National Park](https://abdirinfo.com/national-parks-the-guardians-of-the-wild/)**

A national park is not like a citypark or public garden with fenced boundaries and having play grounds, picnic spots, jogging and walking tracks etc. Rather it is a reserve of land usually declared and owned by a national government, meant for the protection and preservation of the outstanding scenery, natural landscape, majestic and awe inspiring  places, natural flora and fauna in natural state and protected from hunting, cutting of vegetation, developmental activities and pollution.

**National Parks in Pakistan**

There are now 6,555 national parks worldwide and 21 exist in Pakistan representing different ecological regions of the country and covering about 29,589 km², about 3 % of the total area (10,060,96 km²) of the country. A century after the establishment of first national park, Lal Sohanra National Park was the first to be established in Pakistan in  1972. The largest national park is the Northeast Greenland National Park,  located in Greenland and covering an area of 972,000 km².minimum required area for a national park is 1000 acre (04 km²) and such a  
national park exists in Pakistan that is ToliPir National Park located inPoonch district of AJ&K. National  parks in Pakistan are;

01. Margallah Hills National Park: Islamabad, established 1980, area 15,883 ha.  
02. Hazarganji Chiltan National Park: Balochistan, established 1980, area 15,555 ha.  
03. Hingol National Park: Balochistan, established 1997, area 6, 19,043 ha.  
04. Kirthar National Park: Sindh, established 1974, area 3, 08,733 ha.  
05. Ayubia National Park: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, established 1984, area 3,122 ha.  
06. Chitral Gol National Park: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, established 1984, area 7,750 ha.  
07. Sheikh Badin National Park: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, established 1999, area 15,540 ha.  
08. Saiful Maluk National Park: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, established 2003, area 12,026 ha.  
09. Lulosar Dodipat National Park: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, established 2003, area 75,058 ha.  
10. Broghil Valley National Park: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, established August 25, 2010, Area 134,744 ha.  
11. Khunjerab National Park: Gilgit-Baltistan, established 1975, area 2, 27,143 ha.  
12. Hunderab Shandoor National Park: Gilgit-Baltistan, established 1993, area 1, 65,000 ha.  
13. Deosai National Park: Gilgit-Baltistan, established 1993, area 3, 63,600 ha.  
14. Central Karakoram National Park: Gilgit-Baltistan, established 1993, area 9, 73,845 ha.  
15. Qurumber National Park: Gilgit-Baltistan, established August 2, 2011, area 74,000 ha.  
16. Machhiara National Park: AJ & K, established 1996, area 13,532 ha.  
17. Ghamot National Park: AJ & K, established 2004, area 27,271 ha.  
18. Pir Lasoorha National Park: AJ & K, established 2005, area 1,580 ha.  
19. Toli Pir National Park: AJ & K, established 2005, area 1,000 ha.  
20. Musk Deer Gorez National Park: AJ & K, established 2007, area 52,815 ha.  
21. Deva Vatala National Park: AJ & K, established 2007, area 2,993 ha.  
22. Poonch River Mahaseer National Park: AJ & K, established 2011  
23. Lal Suhanra National Park: Punjab, established 1972, area 51,368 ha.  
24. Chinji National Park: Punjab, established 1987, area 6, 097 ha.  
25. Kala Chitta National Park: Punjab, established Dec. 2008, area 36,965 ha.  
26. Murree-Kotli Sattian-Kahuta National Park: Punjab, established Sep. 2009

**Purpose and Objectives of National Parks**

Protection of biodiversity is the main purpose for the establishment of a national park however, being biologically, geologically and culturally important, the national parks also serve to cater for education, recreation and scientific purposes for the public. People visit the parks to see and share the wonders of their land and to learn about the forces and the people who have shaped it through the centuries. Outstanding scenery, majestic places, natural flora and fauna in natural state renders positive impacts on visitors’ mind thus helping divert a nation’s attitude towards a healthy tract. National parks ensure the preservation of national natural heritage, culture and monuments, and present them to the public.