

Pakistan:

The Land With a History of Five Millenniums

Islamabad - Islamic Tourism



Faisal Mosque

مسجد فیصل

The story of Pakistan divides into six distinct periods: prehistory; the ancient empires, from about 3000 B.C. to the sixth century A.D.; the coming of Islam, from 711 A.D. to the late 14th century; the Mughals period, from 1526 to the 18th century, the British period, from the mid 18th century to 1947 and Pakistan since Independence on the August 14, 1947. Pakistan is strategically placed at the crossroads of Asia; where the road from China to the Mediterranean meets the route from India to Central Asia. For thousands of years, this junction has been a melting pot of diverse cultures, attracting traders and adventurers, pilgrims and holy men.

Pakistan is on the main trade route and tourist path to China and Central Asia. The old silk routes have reopened. The spectacular Karakoram Highway threads its way through the Himalaya, Karakoram and Pamir mountains, and enters China over the 4,733 meters (15,528 feet) Khunjerab Pass, one of the highest metal border crossings in the world. Pakistan is also a gateway to the new Republics of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

Pakistan is the land of the Indus River, which flows through the country for 2,500 kms. (1,600 miles) from the Himalayan and Karakoram mountain ranges to the Arabian Sea. It is a land of snow-covered peaks and burning deserts, of fertile mountain valleys and irrigated plains. It is inhabited by some 146 million people belonging to many ethnic groups speaking over 20 different languages and dialects and wearing distinctive

costumes, but all united by the Islamic faith and Pakistani nationhood.

For any visitor, Pakistan has a wealth of attractions: its 5000 years history is richly illustrated by archaeological sites and imposing monuments scattered all over the country. Brick cities from the Indus Civilization, which flourished from the third to the middle of the second millennium B.C. Stand beside Buddhist ruins contemporaneous with the birth of ➤



City Tourism

Christianity. Magnificent Muslim tombs from the 12th century stand side by side with the palaces, mosques and forts of the Mughals emperors of the 16th and 17th centuries.

The country's main cities reflect the many influences, both historical and modern, that have made Pakistan what it is today. Lahore is the cultural centre of the country, with an elegant core of Mughal architecture embellished by the flowery exuberance of the British Empire. Peshawar, on the North-West Frontier with Afghanistan, is a city straight out of the Arabian Nights, with tribesmen in turbans nonchalantly carrying rifles through the colourful bazaars. Islamabad, the federal capital, is a modern garden city planned by M/s Constantinou Doxiadis, a Greek Town Planner Firm in 1960. Quetta the capital of the largest province of Pakistan which can rightly be called the fruit basket of Pakistan and finally, bustling Karachi, the largest and the most populous city of Pakistan, is a huge international port, industrial and financial centre.

This is a region of the world which is open to the experienced trekker and



Royal Fort, Lahore

القلعة الملكية في لاهور

mountaineer backed up by a team of porters. The awesome Karakoram Mountains are easily reached by the Karakoram Highway, locally known as the KKH which links Pakistan with China. Even to the seasoned traveler, the first sight of the Karakoram is overwhelming. The range contains most of the highest peaks in the world. You are surrounded by snow-capped mountains over 18,000 feet, beautiful valleys containing Pakistan's

spectacular wildlife. A journey up the KKH takes the visitor under the brooding mass of Nanga Parbat, the glittering Rakaposhi which dominates the Hunza valley, and the icy desolation of Baltoro glacier. The road runs alongside the River Indus for 243 kms. clinging to almost sheer rock faces in places following the ancient Silk Route from China to the subcontinent.

The inspiration for Hilton's Shangri-la, it is not difficult to see why the region is attracting those who seek a change from the stresses of the 21st century. For the all round naturalist this is a place full of surprise and changing delights.

The superb alpine pastures, for the most part free from human habitation, within easy walking distance for the moderately fit, offer days of excitement. Above 6,000 feet, flowers, butterflies and birds abound. Sadly, gone are the days when the magnificent mountain goats and sheep could easily be seen. Now the aspiring photographer must shoulder ➤

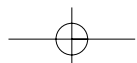
Come to ...

Nature **History** **Music** **Culture**

... Come to Pakistan

اهلاً وسهلاً
السياحة الباكستانية

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City Tourism



Ayub Nation Park متنزه أيوب الوطني في راولبندی



Naulakha Pavilion, Lahore قبة نولاخا في قلعة لاهور



A motel at Kalam, Swat بيت للسياح في كلم، سوات

The botanist can spend hours happily searching the forest, ravines clothed in ferns and mosses for flowers and plants normally seen only in specialist garden centres. One hour's drive from the capital city of Islamabad, the Murree Hills, geologically part of the Western Himalayas, offer the naturalist a wide variety of habitats from dense pine forests bisected by tumbling streams, the home of Whistling Thrushes and River Chats, to alpine meadows frequently swept by low cloud driven up valleys that stretch like fingers in all directions. Numerous paths cross and re-cross the hillsides linking one hill resort with another small motels cater adequately for the visitor.

his equipment to more remote valleys to find the Marco Polo Sheep or Ibex. However, the smaller mammals are still there. For the bird-watchers the mountain forests are a source of the familiar and of new bird species.

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Northern Pakistan is best visited during the summer months. In the far north most of the snow has melted from the passes and the glacier tails have retreated to allow transport to remote parts of the

region. However, the noontime temperatures in the sun may climb to a sizzling 100 F in the barren valleys. But above 8,000 feet the air remains temperately cool.

The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, a National Tourist Organization has made tremendous developments in the hospitality sector with the establishment of a chain of Motels in the Northern Areas of Pakistan. These accommodate tourists both foreigners and domestic alike. Their Motels in the North and in the South are located in the most scenic spots, affording visitors an opportunity to vacation in areas where they can experience the traditional heritage of

our country while indulging in such activities as mountain climbing, trekking, trout fishing, boating, hiking or communing with nature.

The Corporation also prints tourism related literature in English and other languages. Todate, PTDC's publications have been produced in French, German, Arabic, Japanese and Chinese languages and are available on request, free of cost. The PTDC has 18 Tourist Information Centres all over Pakistan that guide individual tourists and groups and distribute promotional material on Pakistan as a tourist destination to local and foreign tourists. ■

For more information and planning your trip to Pakistan, please Write to:
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Or contact any Pakistan Embassy or Pakistan International Airlines nearest to you.