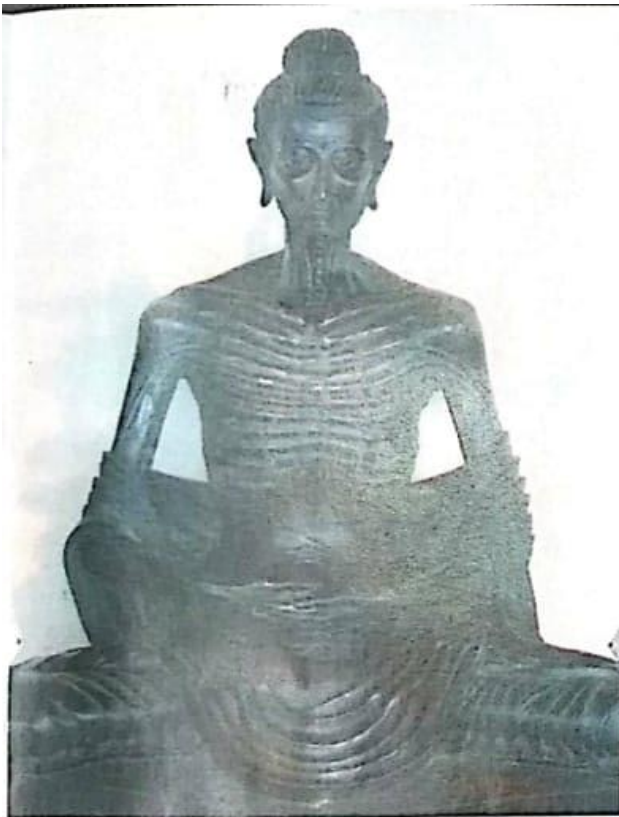


Interesting Facts About Pakistan

- 04th Largest Cotton producer in the world
- 03rd largest cotton consumer & exporter
- 08th Largest Wheat producer
- 04th Largest Milk producer
- 04th Largest Dates producer
- 04th Largest Apricot producer
- 11th Largest Rice producer
- 04th Largest Mango producer
- 02nd largest salt reserves in the world
- 05th largest copper reserves in the world
- 05th largest coal reserves in the world
- 05th largest gold reserves in the world
- 09th Largest Subtropical Desert in the World (Thar Desert)
- Gwadar is the world's largest deep sea port
- Korakoram Highway is highest paved international road
- K-2 (Korakorum-2) is the second highest peak in the world with the height of 8611 m.
- Khewra is the Second largest Salt Mines in the world
- Shandoor, Gilgit is the highest Polo Ground in the world
- World's Largest Irrigation System
- Himalayas, the Highest Mountain ranges of world
- Largest Ambulance Network in the world (Edhi)
- Pakistan produces more than 50% of footballs in the world
- Pakistan has World 7th largest Pool of Scientists and Engineers
- Pakistan has the honor to be world Champion in Cricket, Hockey, Snooker, Squash and Bridge simultaneously
- Jahangir Khan won 10 British open in a row (1982-1991) which is a world record
- Jahangir Khan remained unbeaten for five years in which he won 555 matches without a single loss which is a world record
- Jansher Khan won a record total of eight World Open titles
- The most men's squash world championship team titles are won by Pakistan, in 1977, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, and 1993.
- Pakistan won hockey world cup 4 times which is a world record up till now
- Pakistan plays 6 final of hockey world cup which is also a world record
- Sohail Abbas is the holder of the world record for the most goals scored (274) in international competition
- Ali Moeen Nawazish, First Pakistani students who made World Record and got 47 A's in 'O' & 'A' level
- Pakistani scientist Abdus Salam got Nobel Prize in Physics (Stockholm, Sweden 1979)
- Dr Atta ur Rehman is the first Muslim scientist to receive the UNESCO Science Prize (1999)
- Benazir Bhutto is the First Muslim Woman Prime Minister in the world
- Dr. Fehmida Mirza is the First Woman Speaker of parliament
- Malala Yousafzai is the Youngest female Nobel Peace Prize winner in the world
- Samina Baig is the youngest Muslim Woman to climb Mount Everest
- Namira Saleem is First Pakistani Astronaut
- Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy is First Pakistani Woman who won Oscar Award
- Hina Rabbani Khar is Pakistan's first woman Foreign Minister





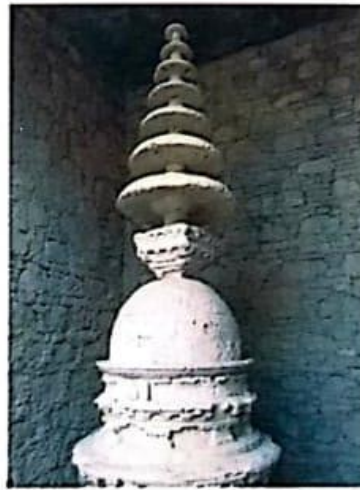
BUDDHIST HERITAGE OF PAKISTAN

Pakistan has been cradle of Buddhist art and culture and the second holy land of Buddhism for well over a thousand years. The religious faith has marked the most significant epoch in the history of the cultural and social evolution in the subcontinent. Indeed, it has been one of the greatest spiritual experiences the world has ever seen and which have left behind one of the finest manifestation in the domain of art and culture.

The advent and development of Buddhism owes a great deal to the ancient land of Pakistan. It was here that the religious activities reached its climax through well-organized missionaries and ultimately made it a world religion.

The land of Gandhara where the celebrated faith evolved, is more or less a triangle about 100 kilometers across east to west and 70 kilometers from north to south, on the west of the Indus river. It is surrounded on three sides by mountains. It covers the vast areas of today's Peshawar valley, the hilly tracts of Swat (Udyana), Buner and the Taxila valley.

Buddhism left a monumental and rich legacy of art and architecture in Pakistan. Despite the vagaries of centuries, the Gandhara region preserved a lot of the heritage in craft and art. Much of this legacy is visible even today in Pakistan.



WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan is a melting pot of cultures and civilizations. It has a rich cultural heritage. Each conqueror, traveler and sage has left behind an imprint that added a step to the cultural evolution of this region.



Chandan Wali Gate Rohtas Fort

Rohtas Fort was built in the 1540s by Sher Shah Suri. The fort was subsequently extended by Mughal Emperor Akbar. The walls, more than forty feet thick in places, enclose an area of 260 acres. Rohtas Fort was inscribed in the World List of Heritage Sites in 1997.



Shahi Gate Rohtas Fort

Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro



Harappa and Moenjodaro were part of the Indus Valley Civilization, which flourished over 4,500 years ago. One of the best-known sculptures from Moenjodaro is a bust known as the 'King Priest'.

"The Great Bath" at Moenjodaro.

According to archaeologists the "Great Bath" was used for religious or ceremonial purposes. In the background is a Buddhist stupa built about 2000 years ago with stones from the ruined city. The archaeological ruins at Moenjodaro were inscribed in the list of World Heritage Sites in 1980.



Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Neighbouring City Remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol

Statue of Buddha
from Court of
Mahyabodhi in
Takht-i-Bahi

Located near the city of Mardan, Takht-i-Bahi was unearthed in early 20th century. In 1980 it was included in the UNESCO World Heritage list as the largest Buddhist remains in Gandhara. The remains at "Sahr-i-Bahlol" located in the south of Takht-i-Bahi also date back to the same period.



Takht-i-Bahi contains the remains of a famous Buddhist monastery. The archaeological remains of Takht-i-Bahi are some of the most astounding, exciting and imposing relics of Buddhism in Pakistan, dating back from 2nd to 5th century A.D. In 1980 they were included in the UNESCO World Heritage list as the largest Buddhist remains in Gandhara.



TAXILA

Taxila illustrates the different stages in the development of ancient city on the Indus. Taxila was inscribed in the World Heritage list in 1980.

The Lahore Fort and the Shalimar Gardens
These two remnants of the Mughal era were inscribed together in the list of World Heritage Sites in 1981.



The Mosaic Work at Shalimar Gardens



The Shalimar Garden was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.

Shish Mahal, or Palace of Mirrors, stands in the north of the fort. The roofs are embellished with thousands of tiny mirrors reflecting the best of a traditional craft of "Shishgari" from Punjab. Shish Mahal was built as an official residence for the empress of Shah Jahan.



Historical Monuments of Thatta

Thatta's, ancient burial ground on Makli Hills. Intricately carved sandstone monuments are a feature of this site. The symbols on the graves depict gender. A woman's grave is adorned with jewellery whereas a man's grave is adorned with warriors on horseback. Thatta Monuments were inscribed in the list of World Heritage Sites of Pakistan in 1981.



Makli Sindh

Makli is situated a few kilometres outside Thatta, once a city of great strategic importance that prospered until the Indus River changed its course away towards the east. It is believed that the necropolis grew around the tomb of a 14th century Sufi saint, Hamad Jamal.



One of the largest necropolis in the world, where many of the graves are adorned with Quranic inscriptions.

