

## Introduction to Pakistan

Pakistan emerged on the world map as an independent sovereign state in August 1947, as a result of the division of the British Empire. With a land area of 881,888 sq. km, its population stands at nearly 210 million (2017 Census of Pakistan). Historically, this is one of the most ancient lands known to man. Its cities flourished before Babylon was built; its people practiced the art of good living and citizenship before the celebrated ancient Greeks.

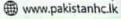
The region fraces its history back to at least 7000 to 9000 BC with the Mehergarh civilization. Next prominent traces were found 2,500 years before Christ, when a highly developed civilization flourished in the Indus Valley. Excavations at Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Kot Diji have brought to light evidence of an advanced civilization flourishing here even in most ancient times. Around 1,500 B.C. the Aryans conquered this region and slowly pushed the inhabitants further east, towards the Ganges Valley. Later, the Persians occupied the northern regions in 5th century B.C. The Greeks came in 327 B.C. under Alexander of Macedonia, and ran through the region like a whirlwind. In 712 A.D. the Arabs, led by Mohammed Bin Qasim, landed somewhere near what is now Karachi, and ruled the lower half of Pakistan for two hundred years. During this time Islam took root and influenced the life, culture and traditions of the inhabitants of the region.



High Commission of Pakistan, Sri Lanka

No. 42 & 44, Bullers Lane, Colombo 7.

Pakistan High Commission Colombo



## Interesting Facts About Pakistan

- O4th Largest Cotton producer in the world
- O3<sup>th</sup> largest cotton consumer 8 exporter
- O8<sup>th</sup> Largest Wheat producer
- O4<sup>th</sup> Largest Milk producer
- O4<sup>th</sup> Largest Dates producer
- O4<sup>th</sup> Largest Apricot producer
- II<sup>th</sup> Largest Rice producer
- O4<sup>th</sup> Largest Mango producer
- O2<sup>™</sup> largest salt reserves in the world
- O5<sup>th</sup> largest copper reserves in the world
- O5<sup>th</sup> largest coal reserves in the world
- O5<sup>th</sup> largest gold reserves in the world
- O9<sup>th</sup> 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 Nobal 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.





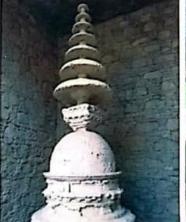


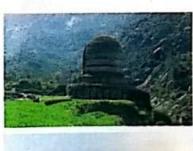


















Pakistan is a melting pot of cultures and civilizations It has a rich cultural heritage.

Each conqueror, traveler and sage has left behind an imprint that added a step to the cultural evolution of this region.



Status of Buddha

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Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and

Verghbouring City Remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol

ocated near the city of Mardan, Takht Bahi was unearthed in early 20th century in 1980 it was induded in the UNESCO World Heritage list as the largest Buddhist remains in Gandhara. The remains at "Satir-+Bahlot" located in the south of Takht Bahi also date back to the same period.



Takht Bahi contains the remains of a famous Buddhist monastery. The archaeological remains of Takhit 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



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 Shalmar Garden was built by Mughal Emperor Shah

Shish Mahal, or Palace of Mirrors, stands in the north of the fort. The roofs are embelished 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.



axia illustrates the different stages in the development of ancient city on the indus Taxila was inscribed in the World Heritage

Chandan Wall Gate Rohtas Fort

Rohtas Fort was built in the 1540s by Sher Shah Suri. The fort was subsequently extended by Mughail Emperor Akbar, The walls, more than forty feet thick in places, enclose an area of 250 acres. Rothas Fort was inscribed in the World List of Heritage Stee in 1997.

Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro



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

"The Great Bath" at Moenjodaro.

Schall Gate

Rohtas Fort

According to archaeologists the "Great Bath" was used for religious or ceremo nial purposes. In the background is a Buddhist stupe witt about 2000 years ago with stones from the ruined city.

The archaeological ruins at Moenjodaro were insoline in the list of World Hentage Sites in 1950.

BALOCHISTAN

Lahore Fort Lahore Fort is the only monument in Pakistan that represents a complete history of Mughal architecture, as it was renovated, added to and improved upon by subsequent Mughat rulers. after Emperor Akbar

Alampri Gate is presently the main entrance of the fort. It was built by Emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir in 1673-74 AD

PUNJAB

Makli Sindh

Makb 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 Jamali.

largest necropolis in the world, in many of the graves are adorned with Quramic inscriptions

SINDH

Historical Monuments of Thatta Thatta's, ancient burial ground on Makii 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.

