ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Indus Domes, Deserts & Islamabad

COUNTRY(IES)	Pakistan
TOUR TYPE	Small Group
TRANSPORT	A/C car/landcruiser
GROUP SIZE	Min: 2 | Max: 16
DURATION	17 days
STARTS	Karachi, Pakistan
ENDS	Islamabad, Pakistan
MEALS	Breakfasts - 16, Lunches - 15, Dinners - 15

TOUR ROUTE MAP **17 Days**



ROUTE: **Karachi** (Start) → **Hyderabad** → **Sehw N** → **Garhi Khuda Bakhsh** → **Sadhu Bela Mandir Sukkur** → **Sukkur** → **Bhong** → **Bahawalpur** → **Multan** → **Lahore** → **Rawalpindi** → **Islamabad** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Karachi, Manchar Lake, Hyderabad, Mohenjo-Daro, Sukkur, Cholistan Desert, Derawar Fort, Bahawalpur, Lahore, Islamabad, Taxila, Rawalpindi

Itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive in Karachi. Afternoon city tour

Meet on arrival at Karachi Airport and transfer to the hotel before setting out on the city sightseeing. Time at the National Museum provides historical and cultural context before visits to the planned shrine and mausoleum locations. The day later moves towards Clifton Beach or the Manghopir hot sulphur springs, creating a varied introduction to Karachi through history, city life and coastal surroundings.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrive at Karachi Airport**
  Arrive in Karachi and complete formalities at the international airport. Meet your local team and start your journey into the cultural heart of Pakistan.

- **Drive from Karachi Airport to Karachi City Hotel**
  Travel from Karachi Airport into the city and check in at your hotel. Enjoy some time to rest and settle in before your sightseeing begins.
- **City Tour of Karachi**
  Explore Karachi on a guided city tour, visiting highlights such as the National Museum, Sufi shrines and the Mohammad Ali Jinnah Mausoleum. End the day at coastal spots like Clifton Beach or the Manghopir hot springs, seeing how modern life and history blend in Pakistan's largest city.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Karachi hotel	None	Extra night in Karachi - pre-tour (EXPAKS), Guide & Transport for extra day - Karachi (EXPAGK), Single room supplement (CADD17N)

DAY 2 To Hyderabad via Chaukundi, Thatta, Makli Hills & Kinjhar Lake

Travel from Karachi into Sindh's historic heart, visiting the carved Chaukundi Tombs before continuing to Thatta for the Shah Jahan Mosque. Explore Makli Necropolis, one of the world's largest burial grounds, then stop at Kinjhar Lake for a quieter natural setting. The day concludes with the onward drive to Hyderabad after a varied journey through architecture, history and landscape.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Karachi to Chaukundi Tombs**
  Depart Karachi and head toward the historic Chaukundi Tombs on the outskirts of the city. The drive takes you from busy urban streets into quieter rural surroundings.
- **Explore Chaukundi Tombs**
  Visit the Chaukundi Tombs, renowned for their finely carved sandstone graves. Admire the unique geometric designs and inscriptions that tell stories of the region's early Islamic heritage.
- **Drive from Chaukundi Tombs to Shah Jahan Mosque (Thatta)**
  Continue your journey toward the historic town of Thatta. Pass through villages and farmland on the way to one of Pakistan's most beautiful mosques.
- **Explore Shah Jahan Mosque in Thatta**
  Explore the Shah Jahan Mosque in Thatta, famed for its brickwork and blue tile decoration. Learn how this Mughal-era masterpiece reflects the architectural legacy of Emperor Shah Jahan.
- **Drive from Shah Jahan Mosque to Makli Necropolis**
  Travel a short distance from Thatta up to the Makli Hills. The landscape shifts to a plateau dotted with domes and tombs as you approach the necropolis.
- **Explore Makli Necropolis**
  Walk through Makli Necropolis, one of the largest graveyards in the world and a UNESCO-listed site. The richly decorated tombs and mausoleums showcase centuries of changing styles and dynasties.

- **Drive from Makli Necropolis to Kinjhar Lake**
  Leave the hills of Makli and drive toward the wetlands of Kinjhar Lake. The road leads through rural landscapes toward the lakeshore.
- **Explore Kinjhar Lake Wildlife Sanctuary**
  Visit Kinjhar Lake, a Ramsar-listed freshwater lake important for migratory birds and local fishing communities. Enjoy the peaceful views and look out for flocks of ducks, herons and other wetland species.
- **Drive from Kinjhar Lake to Hyderabad**
  Continue your drive to Hyderabad, one of Sindh's key cultural centres. Arrive in the city and settle into your hotel after a full day of varied sightseeing.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Hyderabad hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 3 Learn about local industries in Hyderabad, Hala & Bhit Shah

From Hyderabad, visit Hala to explore traditional handicraft workshops and pottery studios that preserve long-established artisanal skills. Continue to Bhit Shah for the shrine of Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, followed by an introduction to local ajrak production. The return to Hyderabad completes a cultural circuit focused on craftsmanship, faith and regional identity.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Hyderabad to Hala**
  Depart Hyderabad and travel to the nearby town of Hala, known for its traditional crafts. The drive takes you through semi-rural Sindhi landscapes dotted with small communities.
- **Visit Hala Handicraft Workshops and Pottery**
  Visit family-run workshops in Hala to see glazed ceramics, tiles and terracotta pieces being made. Learn about the Kashi Kari style and try your hand at shaping clay in a pottery session.
- **Drive from Hala to Bhit Shah**
  Continue from Hala to the nearby town of Bhit Shah, an important spiritual and cultural centre. The short drive keeps you within the Sindhi heartland.
- **Visit Bhit Shah Shrine and Ajrak Workshops**
  Visit the shrine of the Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai in Bhit Shah and learn about his influence on Sindhi culture. Nearby, discover how Ajrak textiles are block-printed and dyed using age-old techniques.
- **Drive from Bhit Shah to Hyderabad**
  Return to Hyderabad after a full day exploring local industries and shrines. Enjoy time at your hotel to relax and reflect on the region's rich craft heritage.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Hyderabad hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 4 'The Great Wall of Sindh' - Ranikot Fort. Drive to Sehwan.

Travel from Hyderabad to Ranikot Fort, a vast historic fortification set among the rugged hills of central Sindh. After exploring the site, continue to Sehwan, an important centre of pilgrimage, for a visit to the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar. The journey brings together large-scale defensive architecture, dramatic landscapes and the enduring influence of Sufi devotion in the region.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Hyderabad to Ranikot Fort**
  Leave Hyderabad and drive toward Ranikot Fort in the surrounding hills. The route leads into more rugged terrain as the massive walls of the fort come into view.
- **Explore Ranikot Fort in Great Wall of Sindh**
  Explore Ranikot Fort, often called the Great Wall of Sindh due to its vast circuit of walls and bastions. Walk along sections of the ramparts and take in panoramic views of the arid landscape.
- **Drive from Ranikot Fort to Sehwan**
  Depart Ranikot Fort and travel to Sehwan, an important pilgrimage town. The drive brings you back toward the Indus plains and the lively streets of Sehwan.
- **Explore Lal Shahbaz Qalandar Shrine in Sehwan**
  Visit the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, a revered 13th-century Sufi saint. Experience the atmosphere of devotion as pilgrims come to pay their respects at this colourful complex.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sehwan hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 5 Visit the Mohanas Tribe and incredible Mohenjo Daro

From Sehwan, travel to Manchar Lake, where the traditional livelihoods of the Mohana community are closely linked with the water and its seasonal changes. Continue to Mohenjo Daro, whose carefully planned streets and archaeological remains reveal the sophistication of the Indus Valley civilisation. The day concludes with the onward drive to Larkana after two contrasting cultural and historic experiences.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Sehwan to Manchar Lake**
  Leave Sehwan and drive to Manchar Lake, one of Pakistan's largest freshwater lakes. Pass through rural villages and irrigated fields along the way.
- **Visit Manchar Lake and Mohana Community**
  Spend time at Manchar Lake with members of the Mohana community, who traditionally live and fish from houseboats. Learn how their livelihoods are tied to the lake and how they work with cormorants and herons to catch fish.

- **Drive from Manchar Lake to Mohenjo Daro**
  Travel from Manchar Lake toward the archaeological site of Mohenjo Daro. The drive crosses the plains of Sindh as you approach one of the key cities of the Indus civilisation.
- **Explore Mohenjo Daro Archaeological Site**
  Explore the ruins of Mohenjo Daro, a UNESCO World Heritage site and major centre of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization. Walk among the streets, brick houses and public structures that reveal advanced town planning from over 4,000 years ago.
- **Drive from Mohenjo Daro to Larkana**
  After visiting the ruins, drive to nearby Larkana for the night. Arrive at your hotel and rest after a day of archaeological discovery.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Larkana hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 6 Exploring Larkana and Kot Diji Fort

Travel through northern Sindh to the Bhutto Family Mausoleum at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, reflecting an important chapter in Pakistan's modern political history. Continue to Kot Diji Fort and its historic fortified setting before travelling onward to Sukkur. The day connects modern political memory with older settlement heritage and the strategic landscapes of the Indus corridor.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Bhutto Family Mausoleum in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh**
  Visit the Bhutto Family Mausoleum near Larkana, final resting place of several prominent Pakistani leaders. See the grand structure and learn about the political legacy of the Bhutto family.
- **Drive from Larkana to Kot Diji Fort**
  Depart Larkana and head toward Kot Diji Fort on the edge of the Rohri Hills. The journey takes you deeper into the historic landscape of Sindh.
- **Explore Kot Diji Fort Archaeological Site**
  Explore Kot Diji Fort, a pre-Indus and Harappan site crowned by an impressive fortification. Walk among the remaining walls and learn how the site links earlier settlements to later Indus culture.
- **Travel from Kot Diji Fort to Sukkur**
  Drive onward to Sukkur on the Indus River. Arrive in the city and check in at your hotel in time for dinner and rest.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sukkur hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 7 Sadhu Belo Temple, Visit the Indus Dolphin Conservation Centre

The day explores Sukkur's spiritual and river heritage, beginning at the Sadhu Belo Island Temples, a Hindu pilgrimage site located on the Indus. A boat ride offers a different view of the city before a visit to the Indus Dolphin Conservation Centre introduces efforts to protect the river's wildlife. The experience concludes at Masoon Shah Jo Minaro Tower with elevated views across Sukkur.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Sadhu Belo Island Temples**
  Take a boat to Sadhu Belo Island on the Indus River to visit its revered Hindu temples. Discover how this spiritual site serves pilgrims from across the region.
- **Boat Ride on Indus River at Sukkur**
  Enjoy a scenic boat ride on the Indus River around Sukkur, viewing river islands and local life along the banks. Keep watch for birdlife and activity on the water.
- **Explore Indus Dolphin Conservation Centre in Sukkur**
  Visit the Indus Dolphin Conservation Centre to learn about efforts to protect the endangered Indus River dolphin. Hear how conservation work, research and community involvement aim to safeguard this rare species.
- **Explore Masoon Shah Jo Minaro Tower in Sukkur**
  Climb Masoon Shah Jo Minaro, once Sukkur's highest viewpoint. From the top, enjoy sweeping views over the city and river before returning to your hotel.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sukkur hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 8 Drive to Bahawalpur via Bhong Mosque

Travel north from Sukkur towards Bahawalpur, pausing at Bhong Mosque, a richly decorated religious landmark known for its craftsmanship and architectural style. After the visit, continue across southern Punjab towards Bahawalpur. The day blends overland travel with an important cultural stop and marks the transition from the Indus River region into the former princely state.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Sukkur to Bhong Mosque**
  Depart Sukkur and drive toward Bhong Mosque in rural Punjab. The route passes through agricultural land and small settlements.
- **Explore Bhong Mosque**
  Visit Bhong Mosque, famed for its intricate decoration that blends influences from Pakistan, Iran, Spain and Turkey. Learn how the mosque's long construction earned it an Aga Khan Award for Architecture.
- **Drive from Bhong Mosque to Bahawalpur**
  Continue to Bahawalpur, former capital of a princely state. Arrive and settle into your hotel in this historically

rich city.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Bahawalpur hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 9 Cholistan Desert, Derawar Fort and Tombs of the Nawabs of Bahawalpur

The route through the Cholistan Desert takes in Derawar Fort, Derawar Mosque and the tombs of the Nawabs of Bahawalpur before continuing to Uch Sharif and the Bibi Jawindi Tomb. Desert fortifications, princely history and Sufi heritage provide the main themes. Return to Bahawalpur after the final sacred monument visit.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Bhong Mosque to Bahawalpur**
  Continue to Bahawalpur, former capital of a princely state. Arrive and settle into your hotel in this historically rich city.
- **Explore Derawar Fort in Cholistan Desert**
  Visit Derawar Fort, an imposing desert fortress with massive circular bastions. Walk around its outer walls and learn about its role in guarding caravan routes and local territory.
- **Explore Derawar Mosque in Cholistan Desert**
  Stop at the nearby Derawar Mosque, whose white domes echo Mughal-era design. Admire its symmetry and peaceful setting just in front of the fort.
- **Visit Tombs of Nawabs of Bahawalpur – Royal Graveyard**
  Explore the royal graveyard of the Abbasi family, where the Nawabs of Bahawalpur are buried in ornate mausoleums. The site offers insight into the region’s princely past and funerary architecture.
- **Drive from Derawar to Uch Sharif**
  Depart the desert fort area and drive toward Uch Sharif, an important historic town. The route passes through more settled agricultural areas.
- **Explore Bibi Jawindi Tomb in Uch Sharif**
  Visit the Bibi Jawindi Tomb in Uch Sharif, noted for its glazed tilework and distinctive blue-and-white decoration. Learn about its religious significance and the challenges of preserving this fragile monument.
- **Drive from Uch Sharif to Bahawalpur**
  Return to Bahawalpur after your visits in the Cholistan region. Arrive back at your hotel for dinner and an evening at leisure.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Bahawalpur hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 10

Exploring the former Princely State of Bahawalpur. Drive to Multan

Spend time sightseeing in Bahawalpur with visits to its palaces, mosque and museum before leaving the city for Multan. The exact names of the individual buildings are not supplied, so no unsupported sites have been added. The second part of the day is devoted to the road transfer across southern Punjab. Arrival in Multan marks the end of the scheduled activities after the heritage-focused morning and onward journey.

ACTIVITIES

- **Bahawalpur City Tour – Palaces, Mosque and Museum**
  Explore Bahawalpur on a city tour, visiting landmarks such as Nur Mahal, local mosques, the museum and the bazaar. Learn how the former princely state's rulers shaped the city's architecture and culture.
- **Drive from Bahawalpur to Multan**
  Leave Bahawalpur and drive to Multan, known as the city of saints. Arrive in Multan and check in to your hotel for the night.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Multan hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 11

Multan, the city of saints, mystics and shrines

The day explores Multan's religious and cultural heritage through visits to its renowned Sufi shrines, long associated with the city's spiritual identity. Time in the bazaars introduces everyday traditions of trade and craftsmanship before a visit to Eidgah Mosque. The experience brings together sacred architecture, local commerce and the historic character of one of South Asia's oldest cities.

ACTIVITIES

- **Multan City Tour – Shrines, Bazaar and Eidgah Mosque**
  Discover Multan's spiritual and craft heritage by visiting shrines decorated with blue tiles, the old city bazaar and the historic Eidgah Mosque. See artisans at work and experience the city's strong devotional atmosphere.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Multan hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 12

Visit Harappa en-route to Lahore

From Multan, the journey reaches Harappa, an important archaeological site associated with the Indus Valley civilisation. Its surviving remains provide insight into the planning, trade and organisation of one of South Asia's

earliest urban societies. Continue east towards Lahore, moving from ancient archaeological heritage towards a city shaped by numerous later periods of history.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Multan to Harappa Archaeological Site**
  Depart Multan and drive to the archaeological site of Harappa. Travel through rural Punjab on your way to this ancient Indus Valley settlement.
- **Explore Harappa Archaeological Site**
  Visit the ruins of Harappa, another key centre of the Indus Valley Civilization. Explore foundations of houses, streets and public buildings that reveal an advanced urban culture dating back millennia.
- **Drive from Harappa to Lahore**
  Continue your journey from Harappa to Lahore, Punjab's vibrant capital. Arrive in Lahore and settle into your hotel ahead of the next day's sightseeing.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Lahore hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 13 Begin exploring the city of Lahore

Explore Lahore's historic core with visits to Lahore Fort and the Badshahi Mosque, followed by Jahangir's Tomb and the Lahore Museum. Together, the sites provide a broad introduction to Mughal architecture, funerary design, art and regional history. The day concludes in the Old City food street, where traditional cuisine and evening activity contrast with the city's monumental heritage.

ACTIVITIES

- **Visit Lahore Fort**
  Visit Lahore Fort, a UNESCO-listed complex of palaces, courtyards and gateways reflecting Mughal power. Explore its key sections and enjoy views toward the old city.
- **Explore Badshahi Mosque in Lahore**
  Explore Badshahi Mosque, one of the world's largest mosques, with its vast courtyard and red sandstone walls. Learn how it symbolised Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's reign and still anchors Lahore's skyline.
- **Explore Jahangir's Tomb in Lahore**
  Visit the tomb of Emperor Jahangir set in formal gardens across the river from Lahore. Admire the marble inlay and painted decoration that mark this important Mughal mausoleum.
- **Explore Lahore Museum**
  Explore Lahore Museum, whose collections span Gandharan sculpture, manuscripts and Islamic art. Gain a broader view of the region's history and cultural layers.
- **Enjoy a Lahore Old City Food Street Experience**
  Spend the evening in Lahore's old city food street sampling local dishes. Enjoy the lively atmosphere as families and friends gather to dine beneath historic façades.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Lahore hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 14

Old Walled City of Lahore and the Wagah Border Ceremony

Explore Lahore's Old Walled City on foot, moving through historic streets before visiting Shahi Hamam and Wazir Khan Mosque, both notable examples of Mughal-era architecture and decoration. Later, travel to the Wagah Border for the evening flag-lowering ceremony. The day links Lahore's architectural heritage and living street culture with contemporary national pageantry.

ACTIVITIES

- **Walking Tour of Old Walled City of Lahore**
  Take a walking tour through the Old Walled City of Lahore, following narrow, dimly lit alleys from Sarafa Bazaar to Kashmiri Bazaar, where brass inlay work and local handicrafts are found in abundance. See brassware, textiles and craftsmanship as daily life unfolds around historic buildings.
- **Explore Shahi Hamam in Lahore**
  Visit the restored Shahi Hamam, a Mughal-era royal bathhouse with preserved frescoes and domed ceilings. Learn how it once served travellers and dignitaries entering the city.
- **Explore Wazir Khan Mosque in Lahore**
  Explore Wazir Khan Mosque, famed for its intricate tilework and richly painted interiors. Step into its courtyard and appreciate the craftsmanship that makes it one of Lahore's most beautiful mosques.
- **Wagah Border Flag Lowering Ceremony Experience**
  Travel to the Wagah border to watch the daily flag-lowering ceremony between Pakistan and India. Experience the choreographed military display and crowd energy that mark this long-running ritual.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Lahore hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 15

To Islamabad via the Rohtas Fort & Khewra Salt Mine

Travel north from Lahore to Rohtas Fort and explore the massive defensive complex associated with the Sur Empire and control of important regional routes. Continue to Khewra Salt Mine and enter its underground environment before travelling onwards to Islamabad. Free time after arrival provides a relaxed introduction to the capital’s more planned atmosphere after a day combining military history, geology and long-distance road travel.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Lahore City Hotel to Rohtas Fort**
  Leave Lahore and drive toward Rohtas Fort along the historic Grand Trunk Road. Watch the scenery change

from dense city streets to rolling Punjabi countryside.

- **Explore Rohtas Fort**
  Visit Rohtas Fort, a vast 16th-century stronghold built by Sher Shah Suri to control key routes and local tribes. Walk its massive gateways and ramparts and see why it is considered one of South Asia's most impressive hill forts.
- **Drive from Rohtas Fort to Khewra Salt Mine**
  Continue your journey from Rohtas toward the Khewra Salt Mine area. The drive follows roads through small towns and rocky low hills.
- **Explore Khewra Salt Mine**
  Take a guided visit inside Khewra Salt Mine, travelling by small train into a network of underground chambers. See coloured salt formations, man-made salt sculptures and the unique underground mosque carved from salt rock.
- **Drive from Khewra Salt Mine to Islamabad**
  Drive from the salt range toward Pakistan's modern capital, Islamabad. Arrive in the city and transfer to your hotel for the night.
- **Free Time in Islamabad**
  Spend free time in Islamabad before departure. Relax at the hotel or explore the city independently.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Islamabad hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 16 Tours of Islamabad, Taxila and Rawalpindi

Explore Islamabad and Rawalpindi on a combined city tour, contrasting the capital's planned layout with the busier streets of its historic twin city. Visits to Daman-e-Koh and Shah Faisal Mosque introduce key landmarks before the journey continues to Taxila Museum and Jaulian Monastery. The day links contemporary Pakistan with the archaeological heritage of the ancient Gandhara region.

ACTIVITIES

- **Islamabad and Rawalpindi City Tour**
  Explore Islamabad and nearby Rawalpindi on a full-day guided tour, contrasting the planned modern capital with the older bazaar districts. Learn how the twin cities function together as Pakistan's administrative and commercial centre.
- **Explore Daman in e-Koh Viewpoint – Islamabad**
  Visit Daman-e-Koh in the Margalla Hills for panoramic views over Islamabad. Enjoy the cooler air and see how the city is laid out beneath the surrounding ridges.
- **Explore Shah Faisal Mosque in Islamabad**
  Visit Shah Faisal Mosque, an iconic contemporary mosque with soaring minarets and a vast prayer hall. Discover how its design blends modern architecture with traditional Islamic elements.

- **Visit Rawalpindi Old City and Bazaar**
  Explore the old city of Rawalpindi with its tight lanes and busy markets. Browse for textiles, spices and everyday goods while experiencing the atmosphere of a traditional Punjabi bazaar.
- **Drive from Islamabad to Taxila**
  Drive from Islamabad to the nearby historic city of Taxila. The short journey leads into one of South Asia's key archaeological regions.
- **Explore Taxila Museum**
  Visit the Taxila Museum to see sculptures and artefacts from the Gandhara period. Gain an overview of the region's rich Buddhist and cultural heritage.
- **Explore Jaulian Monastery in Taxila**
  Explore the hilltop ruins of Jaulian Monastery near Taxila, once a thriving Buddhist learning centre. Walk around the stupas and monastic cells and imagine daily life here two millennia ago.
- **Drive from Taxila to Islamabad**
  Return from Taxila to Islamabad after a day of sightseeing. Arrive back at your hotel to relax and prepare for departure.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Islamabad hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 17 — Transfer to Islamabad Airport for departure

Free time in Islamabad provides a relaxed final period to enjoy the capital independently before departure. Travellers may use the time to explore its green spaces, cafés or quieter urban areas at their own pace. A scheduled transfer then connects the city hotel with Islamabad Airport, providing a straightforward conclusion and an orderly transition to the onward journey.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Islamabad**
  Spend free time in Islamabad before departure. Relax at the hotel or explore the city independently.
- **Drive from Islamabad City Hotel to Islamabad Airport**
  Transfer from your Islamabad hotel to the international airport in good time for your departure. Your driver will assist with timings and luggage.
- **Depart from Islamabad Airport**
  Depart Islamabad as your tour ends. Check in for your onward or homeward flight.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
N/A	Breakfast	Extra night in Islamabad - post-tour (EXPAIE), Guide & Transport for extra day - Islamabad (EXPAGI)

INCLUDED

- Accommodation - 3 to 5-star hotels & guesthouses
- Karachi city and surroundings tour (1 full day)
- Manghopir Sufi Shrine and hot sulphur springs
- Ajrak factory visit (traditional block printed cloth)
- Boating with the Mohanas tribe on Manchar Lake
- Boat safari to Sukkur island
- Sadu Bela - Hindu Temple
- Derawar Fort
- Multan city tour
- Harappa archaeological site
- Rohtas Fort
- Lahore city tour (2 full days)
- Islamabad city tour
- Taxila museum
- Shan Faisal Mosque
- Letter of Invitation and general visa advice
- Pakistani clothes (Shalwaar Chemise)
- Airport transfers
- Meals - 3 meals per day
- Tea & Coffee morning & afternoon
- All transport
- English speaking guide

EXCLUDED

- Visas
- Optional Excursions as listed in the Pre-Departure Information
- Flights
- Airport Taxes & Transfers
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Drinks
- Tips

Tour Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements , full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Extra night in Islamabad - post-tour (EXPAIE) *Min numbers: 1*

This option adds an extra night in Islamabad to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Single room supplements apply.

Extra night in Karachi - pre-tour (EXPAKS)

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra night in Karachi to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing. Single room supplements apply.

Note - if you book extra nights with us, you will also need to add the option to book a guide and vehicle for your extra day. If you don't want to include this, then unfortunately we are not able to arrange your extra night hotel or arrival transfer. Instead you would make these arrangements yourself, and make your own way to the start hotel on Day 1.

Guide & Transport for extra day - Islamabad (EXPAGI)

Min numbers: 1

If you will be adding extra nights to either end of your tour in Pakistan with us, then you may also wish to book a guide and vehicle for your extra day.
This option provides that guide and vehicle for you in Islamabad. The guide will also accompany you on your arrival or departure airport transfer.
Solo traveller supplements apply.

Guide & Transport for extra day - Karachi (EXPAGK)

Min numbers: 1

If you will be adding extra nights to either end of your tour in Pakistan with us, then our policy is that we will also always provide you with a guide and vehicle for the extra day.
This option provides that guide and vehicle for you in Karachi and is required for each extra night you may add, unless you have a flight arrival time after 3pm or flight departure time before midday. The guide will also accompany you on your arrival or departure airport transfer.
Solo traveller supplements apply.

Important Notes

1 Accommodation

This tour uses comfortable 3 to 4-star hotel and guesthouse accommodation. Please check the accommodations tab for examples of the properties normally used on this tour.
Accommodation is based on a twin-share basis, with single room supplements available if you would like to guarantee yourself a single room throughout the tour.

2 Transport

In Southern Pakistan we normally use a car or 4x4 (Land Cruiser or similar) with air conditioning, though the exact vehicle used will be determined by the final size of the group.

3 Transfers

This tour includes your arrival and departure airport transfers and all other transfers throughout the itinerary. You will be provided with detailed information fo where to meet our representative in the airport, as well as a local contact telephone number and our own 24-hour emergency phone number, when we send you your final tour voucher approximately two weeks before your departure.

If your flight arrives in the early hours of the morning, you may like to book an extra night in the hotel so a bed is available for you to get some rest and sleep before the tour starts. Subject to your arrival time, you may be able to rest in the reception area of the hotel until your room is avaliable (we will aim to help you check in early, but this will be subject to the hotel's occupancy - standard check in times are 2-3pm).

4 Joining on Day 1

This trip starts with an afternoon tour of Karachi on Day 1. We normally meet in the hotel at 1.30pm and leave at 2pm - this will be confirmed by our representative if we pick you up from the airport, or by a notice in the hotel reception if you are making your own arrangements to get to the hotel. If your flight arrives after around 11am on Day 1 you will miss this afternoon tour. Extra nights are available in the same tour hotel if morning arrival flights are not convenient for your dates or departure airport. During this first meeting with the guide, we will also collect a photocopy of your passport information page and your travel insurance policy details.

5 Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. There's no point in us providing great guides if you've got to peer over 30-40 shoulders to see them! So, we set our Pakistan small-group departures to have a maximum of 16 travellers. The minimum group size is 2.

In Pakistan we provide a fully trained, local English-speaking tour leader/driver to accompany our groups. Additional specialist local guides may be used for some of the sightseeing tours and activities included in the tour.

At Encounters Travel we have a policy of aiming to use only local Pakistani guides and reps wherever possible. We feel this provide support to the local population and economy and also gives you the best experience of the country

and the sites you are seeing.

6 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

7 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.
We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

8 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.
The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.

- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

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9 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

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10 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you

can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.

Covid-19

Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.

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11 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

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12 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can't fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon's efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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13 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of

accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

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14 Security

Generally Pakistani people are some of the friendliest on earth, but all major cities have their share of petty crime (just like our cities!) and sensible precautions need to be taken. Wearing expensive looking jewellery, watches and carrying cameras, will draw unnecessary attention to you. Leave valuables such as passports, excess money etc in your hotel safe (we recommend carrying a copy of your passport details page at all times). You may find a simple money belt is more discrete than a bag. Always be aware of your surroundings and when approached by people you do not know, use your common sense. At night in cities it's best to use a taxi, rather than walking around the streets. Single women in particular need to be careful & we would suggest that it is safer to be in a group.

FCDO Advice - The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) offer country-specific advice, regarding not only security but also entry regulations, local laws and customs and health. We strongly recommend all travellers visit the FCO website, or the equivalent in their home country, to familiarise themselves with local conditions and potential issues in the countries they plan to visit before committing to a trip with us.

As an adventure tour operator, some of our trips will travel to areas that are rarely-visited and occasionally attract negative publicity. We are not in the business of taking our travellers or indeed staff to regions that we consider dangerous and the safety of all who travel with us is always our main priority. However, as a discerning customer we understand you will want to be aware of any risks before travelling. We liaise with the FCDO on specific regions or areas as necessary, as well as monitoring open media outlets and political risk resources, and speaking to our contacts on the ground.

In some rare cases, our trips may have to travel through areas against which the FCDO either ‘advise against all but essential travel’ or ‘advise against all travel’. When our trips travel through these areas we will carry out all due diligence and notify you in advance. This advice can change without notice. In these instances you will need to ensure you have full and comprehensive travel insurance that includes cover for these areas – some policies will exclude them. We are able to recommend additional cover, if required. It may also be required that you read and sign a short information sheet confirming you have been advised of the risks and agree to travel contrary to the FCDO advice.

If you have any questions at all about the safety or security of your trip, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to discuss your trip in more detail.

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15 Climate

With its geographical spread from the Arabian Sea to the heights of the Karakorum and Himalayan mountains, Pakistan has an extreme of weather conditions.

The areas we visit in the north are generally only passable during the summer months from June to October. Temperatures can be as high as 40 degrees during the day at lower altitudes, while cooler but with a powerful sun at altitude. At night, especially from September, temperatures can drop to sub zero. Flooding is possible and thunderstorms can be heavy during July and August, but this is still most definitely the best time of year to visit!

For our tours in the southern half of the country we prefer to travel between October and April, as it is the drier season and the temperature is a little cooler in the evenings. You should still expect high temperatures and some hot, humid days and nights.

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16 Tipping

Tipping is often expected and relied upon. It is often more than a reward for services well done, but, as wages are extremely low, it is an accepted means of supplementing an income. If you would like to leave a tip for any activity/individual, you could organise this as a group and give a tip at the end. Your guide will be able to advise and will sometimes leave tips for your local restaurant meals, as part of your trip price.

Because it can be difficult to know what to tip, and because it has such importance in some areas both economically and culturally, there may be times and activities for which your guide will make it clear what level of tipping is 'customary/expected'. This is motivated by the knowledge of how important tipping can be, and the offence or confusion that can be caused when local people are tipped poorly. In the end, tipping remains at the discretion of the individual and their budget, but our guides will continue to advise on normal or average rates, and we would ask you to carefully consider the economic or personal impact of being seen as 'under tipping'. We know that many who travel with us are on a tight budget, but ask you to consider that many local people face financial hardship, and also work very hard to try to give you unrivalled service/experiences.

In the past we have been asked by travellers about tipping your guide. If you choose to do this, it would be budgeted separately from the above. Our guides work very hard at making your trip a great travel experience. Working overseas can often be challenging and they are pretty much on call for you 24 hours a day, so it's appreciated as a thank you for hard work and good service, but of course not mandatory or expected. Our suggestion is to budget around US$3 to US$6 per person per day, again subject to your budget and your satisfaction with the service provided.

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17 Money

The currency unit for Pakistan is the Pakistani Ruppe (Rs, or PKR).

As a general rule it is best to bring your spending money in a combination of cash US dollars, pre-paid travel currency cards and debit/credit cards. Make sure that all your notes are in good condition. Old, torn or marked notes are often refused by the banks and shops**.**

Spending Money

From past trips and traveller feedback we would recommend changing US$100 to US$150 (or GBP equivalent) to

local currency while you are in Islamabad. This will pay for any extra drinks, snacks and a few souvenirs during the trip. Peronal spending habits and budgets can vary greatly from person to person, but generally there isn't a lot to spend your money on during our Pakistan tours as most things are already included.
If you plan on buying more expensive souvenirs, such as a carpet, then budget for this separately. US Dollars would be the best currency for this.

Changing money

Change your money only at banks, hotels, airports or forex bureaus. It is illegal to change money on the street, and people offering this service may be opportunistic thieves or undercover police. Your guide will advise you where & when you can change money & with what means. It is also a good idea to have a small CASH emergency fund, to allow for the unexpected.

Credit & Debit Cards

If you are intending using your credit or debit card, we suggest taking more than one card with you as you may find that your card is not accepted in the first ATM you try. Visa or Mastercard are preferred rather than American Express. We recommend that you inform your bank that you will be using your card abroad to avoid it being blocked.

Pre-Paid Travel Currency Cards

These cards are similar to normal Credit and Debit cards but they can be pre loaded with cash before you travel with a set amount allowing you to withdraw this cash using the card at normal ATMs. It is a more secure way to access cash on your trip, but again do not rely on these as your sole means of funds on a trip. Several banks and companies now offer these cards, but be sure to look into the rates for withdrawing cash when making your decision. When using these cards abroad you will use them to withdraw the local currency from an ATM and not the currency that you loaded onto the card.

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18 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions. In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Pakistan: Additional vaccinations: Diptheria, Hepatitis A, Polio, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Yellow fever rules for India are quite complicated and lengthy. Please read the WHO guidance.

Malaria: Vaccinations are not available against Malaria, which is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can be very serious and sometimes fatal. You should avoid mosquito bites by covering up bare skin with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers and applying insect repellents to exposed skin. When necessary, sleep under a mosquito net. Mosquitoes are most active during and after sunset. You should consult with your GP/medical practitioner/travel clinic about the most appropriate malaria prophylactic medication to take for the regions you are visiting. In general Malaria is present throughout the year in all areas of Pakistan below 2000m except the Punjab

and the city of Karachi. Risk is highest in rural areas from July to December. Areas of high risk include much of the south, and western part of the country including Chitral. Areas of low risk include the northern mountains and Eastern areas. Here malaria prophylactics are often not advised for short trips.

Yellow Fever: This disease is spread by infected mosquitoes that bite during the day. A Yellow Fever Certificate of vacinnation may be required as a condition of entry depending on which country you are arriving from, or that you have travelled or transitted through recently (including connecting flights with stopovers of over 12 hours). You can view this US CDC information about where the virus is present and follow the links to further information detailing which countries need you to have a Yellow Fever vaccination as part of their entry requirements. Please ensure you have this certificate with you and to hand if necessary.

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disabilities that you may have.

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19 Altitude Sickness

This is caused by thin air (due to lack of oxygen) and can affect anyone arriving at high altitude (above 3000mtrs). The symptoms are headaches, dizziness, shortage of breath and possibly nausea. To avoid this or alleviate the symptoms it is important to make a point to acclimatize by arriving into a high altitude destination a few days early and make sure you do not over exert yourself, rest for a few hours, avoid drinking alcohol, smoking, large meals and drink plenty of water.

As our tours in northern Pakistan travel by land (as opposed to flying into a high altitude location) we should acclimatise gradually, and so avoid the risks of mountain sickness. If you do have any symptoms you should discuss these with your guide who will be able to make adjustments to your itinerary if necessary.

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20 Passports and Visas

Your passport expiry date must be at least 6 months after your time in Pakistan finishes. Do not bring a full or almost expired passport. We also recommend you have a machine-readable passport - ff you have an old-style manually issued passport you should replace this with a new machine-readable passport before you travel.

All nationalities will need to arrange their Pakistan tourist visa in advance via the new streamlined process which can be accessed at - Visa Prior to Arrival Website

As of 1st January 2026, the Pakistan Government suspended their free visa on arrival programme which was previously in place for 126 countries, as a result of this change, all tourists now need to apply for their visa prior to arrival in Pakistan, using the following link - Visa Prior to Arrival Website. We will provide you with a 'Letter of Invitation' (LOI) which will be required during your application. We will require a scanned copy of your passport to issue the invitiation letter.

You should apply for your visa at least one month before you are due to arrive to allow for processing time and possible checks.

The information below is to be used only as a guide and may change without prior notice. It is advisable to contact the relevant embassy in plenty of time before the trip departs to check the current visa requirements**.** It is **your responsibility** to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require.

21 International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don’t include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we’ll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour. Our Pakistan tours start and finish at either Islamabad airport (ISB) or Karachi airport (KHI).

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.

Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines may be more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

22 Time

Pakistan Standard Time is GMT/UTC + 5. Daylight saving time is not applied.

23 Voltage

In Pakistan, sockets are mainly two or three round pronged and 230 volts / 50Hz (Type C,D). Type C plugs with 2 round pins should fit in nearly all sockets.

Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard UK-European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are sometimes available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already but cannot be guaranteed.

If you have US appliances (110 volts) you may need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

24 What to take

Luggage: Whatever you're doing in Pakistan, you'll find that large rigid wheeled suitcases are cumbersome - you may be able to wheel them inside the airport and your hotel, but due to the condition of roads and pavements that's often about it. As many of our tours involve a degree of adventurous activity, we strongly advise you to bring a more practical bag for these i.e. a rucksack or holdall. These are also much easier to fit into vehicles like jeeps than rigid suitcases. If you are trekking, or doing a lot of travel throughout the country, then as little as possible is the basic message. A rucksack or holdall (50-70 liter approx.) for your main luggage, and a daypack for you to use during the day should be plenty. The trekking included on our standard tours in Pakistan is all done as single day treks, so your main luggage will be left behind in the hotel or in the vehicle. So, you'll just need to take a daypack with things you'll need during the day. Do bring one big enough to carry waterproofs and extra clothing as the weather can change quickly in the mountains.

Luggage limits: Most international airlines allow 20-23kg per person of hold luggage. Domestic flights often have smaller allowances around 15kg. As airline rules vary we recommend that you take no more than 20kg of luggage if your tour just includes international flights, and no more than 15kg if there are any domestic flights included in your itinerary. Please ask us for details if you are unsure. Any excess baggage fees will be your responsibility to cover. Most airlines allow between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage so we suggest that you take no more than 5kg unless you have confirmed that your airline(s) will allow more than this.

If you are doing any overnight treks with us, we ask that you keep the weight of your main bag that the porter will carry to a maximum of 12.5kg. This then allows the porter to carry up to 2 bags, and a maximum of 25kg.

Clothing & Climate: Pakistan has a climate that ranges widely depending on when you visit, and where you are visiting.
June to August - monsoon season - please make sure you bring waterproof clothing. While the rains are not as persistent in the mountains, there may well be heavy showers and thunderstorms.
September - If you are travelling in northern Pakistan in September, ensure you pack extra warm clothing as it can get very cold at night.

At the start of the tour you will be given 2 x Shalwaar Chemise, which are worn by the local people. You don’t have to wear these, but we find they are very comfortable and you will blend in more and be appreciated and accepted more freely by the locals. There is room to wear trousers or shorts / T shirts / shirts / blouses underneath when the weather gets cold. Moderate and modest dress is the order of the day wherever we go.

Women will be required to wear head scarves, long sleeves and either loose fitting ankle length skirts or pants. Your guide can advice more on which areas you are travelling through which may be more strict or relaxed about dress codes for women. Men should also be conservatively dressed and will need long trousers and long sleeved shirts. Both men and women will need to wear covered shoes in certain areas. Shorts are generally not considered acceptable for males or females throughout Pakistan and we have only included them on the list for use underneath your Shalwaar Chemise.

All tours: We recommend that you bring a refillable water bottle, sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries (including tampons if required as these can be hard to find in the country), money belt, small torch, camera & charger, plug adaptor.

Whilst trekking:

Suggested Clothing and equipment: Strong hiking boots or walking shoes that you have broken in; lightweight waterproof and windproof jacket; (waterproof gaiters, waterproof over trousers - these are only necessary on some treks in some seasons - contact us for further info if required); 3 or 4 t-shirts; several pairs of light socks; 2 pairs of heavier woollen socks; underwear including thermals; warm hat and gloves; swimwear; pair of lightweight trousers; pair of shorts; 1 fleece or warm jumper and 1 sweatshirt. Also, sunglasses, torch and batteries, toiletries (include a lighter to burn toilet paper), bring biodegradable shampoo & soap, towel, blister kit, money belt and any personal medication you might require. Remember, Lots of layers are the key to staying warm and comfortable. Also, keeping your feet comfortable and healthy makes a huge difference to how you enjoy your trek. So, bring waterproof boots/walking shoes and plenty of pairs of socks so you can change them regularly.

Day Packs and Main luggage: You will want a sturdy and comfortable daypack to carry your day-to-day items with you while you are walking (waterproofs, clothes you may change in and out of regularly, drinks, snacks, camera). On any multi-day treks you will also need a sturdy holdall or backpack for your main luggage. Your porters or ponies will carry this for you, so suitcases are not appropriate. They may leave earlier than you, and may not walk with you throughout the entire day, so bear in mind that you won't have access to this luggage all the time - you need to ensure you are carrying everything you require during the days walk in your daypack. You can leave luggage behind in storage at your hotel so you don't need to take everything with you on the trek.
