

Pakistan Grand Heritage Journey

A 16-day passage through Gandhara, Mughal capitals, Sufi cities, desert forts and the Indus Civilisation—from Islamabad and Peshawar to Lahore, Multan, Mohenjo-daro and Karachi.

Duration	Journey style	UNESCO sites	Best season
16 days / 15 nights	Private cultural immersion	Six properties or components	October–March

Departures and indicative price

06–21 February 2027 | EP-015 | Registering interest

06–21 November 2027 | EP-015 | Registering interest

04–19 December 2027 | EP-015 | Registering interest

USD 1,500–2,500 per person, twin-sharing basis

Journey overview

This cross-country journey follows Pakistan’s layered history from the Buddhist learning centres of Gandhara to Mughal Lahore, the Sufi architecture of Multan, the desert strongholds of Cholistan and the planned cities of the Indus Civilisation.

It connects six UNESCO World Heritage properties or components: Taxila, the Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi, Rohtas Fort, Lahore Fort and Shalimar Gardens, Mohenjo-daro, and the Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta. The route also makes room for living culture—old bazaars, shrines, crafts, river landscapes and regional communities—not only monuments.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1 Arrival in Islamabad

540 m · Airport transfer · Easy

Airport reception and private transfer to the hotel. The evening briefing introduces the route, regional customs, photography guidance and the historical timeline ahead.

DAY 2 Taxila and Islamabad

Approx. 80 km return · 5–7 hours visiting

Explore Taxila, inscribed by UNESCO in 1980. Its archaeological landscape records successive settlements at Bhir Mound, Sirkap and Sirsukh, together with Buddhist monasteries such as Jaulian. Return for selected Islamabad landmarks.

DAY 3 Islamabad to Peshawar

Approx. 185 km · 3–4 hours driving

Drive west to Peshawar, one of South Asia’s oldest living cities. Walk through the historic core around Qissa Khwani Bazaar, visit the Peshawar Museum when open and observe the city’s long relationship with the Khyber trade routes.

DAY 4 Takht-i-Bahi and return to Islamabad

Approx. 330 km total · 6–8 hours driving and visiting

Visit the Buddhist monastic complex of Takht-i-Bahi, founded in the early first century CE and inscribed by UNESCO in 1980 with the neighbouring remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol. Return to Islamabad after the site visit.

DAY 5 Islamabad to Lahore via Rohtas Fort

Approx. 410 km · 7–9 hours with visit

Travel south to Rohtas Fort, built from 1541 under Sher Shah Suri to control the strategic route between the Indus and Punjab. UNESCO inscribed the largely intact military complex in 1997. Continue to Lahore.

DAY 6 Lahore Fort, Badshahi Mosque and Walled City

Full day · Extensive walking · Easy–moderate

Enter Lahore’s Mughal heart through the Fort, whose major surviving palaces span the reigns of Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan. Visit the Badshahi Mosque, completed in 1673 under Aurangzeb, and walk through the gates, bazaars and architectural layers of the Walled City.

DAY 7 Shalimar Gardens and Mughal tombs

Full day · Urban driving and walking

Explore the Shalimar Gardens, created for Shah Jahan in 1641–42 and inscribed with Lahore Fort in 1981. Continue to the tomb of Emperor Jahangir at Shahdara and selected cultural or craft stops according to opening days.

DAY 8 Lahore to Multan via Harappa

Approx. 390 km · 7–8 hours with visit

Drive south and stop at Harappa, a major Indus Civilisation settlement occupied in the third millennium BCE. Its museum and excavated areas introduce the urban culture that flourished across the Indus basin before continuing to Multan.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 9 Multan’s Sufi heritage

Full day · City walking and short drives

Visit the shrines of Bahauddin Zakariya and Shah Rukn-e-Alam, whose monumental tomb was completed in the early fourteenth century. Explore the old city, its gates, bazaars and blue pottery traditions with respectful timing around prayers and local gatherings.

DAY 10 Multan to Bahawalpur via Uch Sharif

Approx. 220 km · 5–7 hours with visits

Travel across South Punjab to Uch Sharif, associated with medieval scholarship and Sufi lineages. Visit the historic tomb complex before continuing to Bahawalpur, capital of the former princely state.

DAY 11 Cholistan and Derawar Fort

Approx. 200 km return · Desert roads · Full day

Enter the Cholistan Desert to see the forty-bastioned silhouette of Derawar Fort. The present structure was taken and rebuilt by the Abbasi rulers of Bahawalpur in the eighteenth century. Visit the royal necropolis and desert communities where access permits.

DAY 12 Bahawalpur to Sukkur

Approx. 430 km · 7–9 hours driving

Cross from Punjab into Sindh, following the wider Indus corridor toward Sukkur. Stops are selected for safe driving hours, river views and regional context.

DAY 13 Sukkur to Mohenjo-daro and Larkana

Approx. 230 km · 5–7 hours with visit

Visit Mohenjo-daro, built around 2500 BCE and inscribed by UNESCO in 1980. Its gridded streets, wells, drainage and monumental Great Bath reveal the sophisticated planning of one of the world’s earliest major urban societies.

DAY 14 Larkana to Hyderabad via Bhit Shah

Approx. 320 km · 6–8 hours with visit

Drive south through the Indus plain to Bhit Shah, the shrine town of the Sindhi Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai (1689–1752). Continue to Hyderabad after time for the shrine, music traditions when available and local crafts.

DAY 15 Makli, Thatta and Karachi

Approx. 200 km · 6–8 hours with visits

Walk among the monuments of Makli, a vast funerary landscape developed between the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries and inscribed by UNESCO in 1981. Visit Thatta’s Shah Jahan Mosque, completed in the seventeenth century, then continue to Karachi.

DAY 16 Karachi and departure

City exploration · Airport transfer

According to flight time, visit selected landmarks such as Mazar-e-Quaid, Mohatta Palace, Frere Hall or the old port districts before the private airport transfer. An additional Karachi night can be arranged for a fuller city experience.



Accommodation plan

15 nights. Twin-sharing accommodation along the stated route. Exact properties, rooming and camp arrangements follow the written proposal.

Journey profile

- Activity: See day-by-day activity notes
- Region or style: Private cultural immersion
- Best season: October–March
- Daily detail: Driving, walking and altitude notes appear in the day cards above.

Included

- Private transportation with fuel throughout the route
- Airport transfers in Islamabad and Karachi
- Accommodation on twin-sharing basis
- Experienced driver and cultural guide
- Entrance tickets to listed heritage sites and museums
- Tolls, parking and local coordination
- Visa-supporting documentation
- Mineral water in the vehicle

Not included

- All meals and beverages
- International and domestic flights; booking assistance is available
- Pakistan visa fee
- Travel and medical insurance
- Camera or filming fees charged separately at sites
- Tips, laundry, telephone use and personal expenses
- Costs caused by delays, closures or itinerary changes beyond our control

Best time and arrival planning

Best time: October to March offers the most comfortable conditions across Punjab and Sindh. December and January can be cool or foggy in Punjab, while Karachi remains milder. April and September are possible but warmer; May through August can be extremely hot.

Access: Arrive at Islamabad International Airport and depart from Karachi. The route is intentionally one-way to avoid repeating long driving sectors. International flights should be booked with a sensible arrival margin.

Dress and etiquette: Modest clothing is appropriate at mosques and shrines. Shoes are removed in sacred areas, and a head covering is recommended for women. Photography may be restricted during prayers or at sensitive locations.

Plan this journey

Share your dates, group size and travel interests. We will confirm arrangements and send a written proposal. Enquire at experiencepak.com/plan-your-journey/