



The Complete Pakistan Travel Guide

Everything you need to know before and during your trip –
visas, cities, culture, food, safety, packing, itineraries, and
essential Urdu for travelers.

urdubuddy.com

Learn Urdu. Travel Pakistan. Connect with people.

25 Sections

Contents

A complete roadmap from planning your trip to leaving Pakistan.

01 Before You Travel

03 Best Time to Visit

05 Accommodation

07 Language & Communication

09 Internet & Mobile SIM

11 Health & Medical Preparation

13 Emergency Information

15 Photography & Social Media

17 Northern Pakistan Travel Tips

19 Family Travel

21 Responsible Tourism

23 Money & Tipping

25 Experience Pakistan, Don't Just Visit It

02 Where to Go in Pakistan

04 Transportation

06 Pakistani Food Guide

08 Culture & Etiquette

10 Electricity

12 Safety

14 Shopping

16 Adventure & Outdoor Travel

18 Religious & Historical Tourism

20 Women Travelers

22 What to Pack

24 Sample Itineraries

01



Before You Travel

Visa & Entry Requirements

- Check whether you need a visa
- Apply through Pakistan's official online visa system where applicable
- Check passport validity requirements
- Keep copies of your passport, visa and important documents
- Check entry requirements before departure — rules can change



Choosing Your Airport

Major international entry points include Islamabad International Airport, Lahore Airport, Karachi Airport, Peshawar Airport, Multan Airport and Sialkot Airport. Choose your arrival airport according to your itinerary.



Budget & Money

Learn about the Pakistani Rupee (PKR), cash vs. cards, ATMs, currency exchange, daily travel budget, hotel costs, food costs, transportation costs, tipping and bargaining.

Keep some Pakistani rupees in cash, particularly when traveling outside major cities.

02



Where to Go in Pakistan



Islamabad — first-time visitors

Faisal Mosque, Pakistan Monument, Daman-e-Koh, Margalla Hills, Lok Virsa Museum, Rawal Lake



Lahore — history, culture & food

Lahore Fort, Badshahi Mosque, Wazir Khan Mosque, Old Lahore, Lahore Museum, Food Street, Anarkali Bazaar



Gilgit-Baltistan — mountain scenery

Hunza, Karimabad, Attabad Lake, Passu, Khunjerab Pass, Gilgit, Skardu, Deosai, Shigar, Khaplu, Fairy Meadows



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Swat, Kalam, Malam Jabba, Naran, Kaghan, Chitral, Kalash Valleys, Kumrat Valley



Sindh

Karachi, Mohenjo-daro, Makli, Thatta, Thar Desert, Gorakh Hill



Balochistan

Quetta, Ziarat, Hingol National Park, Kund Malir, Ormara, Gwadar



Punjab

Lahore, Multan, Bahawalpur, Uch Sharif, Derawar Fort, Cholistan Desert

03



Best Time to Visit

Pakistan has dramatically different climates depending on the region and season.

Spring — March to May

Good for many cities and valleys.

Summer — June to August

Excellent for many northern mountain destinations, while much of the plains can be extremely hot.

Autumn — September to November

Excellent for many regions, with beautiful landscapes and pleasant temperatures.

Winter — December to February

Good for cities and some southern destinations; northern mountain areas can experience heavy snow and road closures.

Always check current weather and road conditions before traveling to mountainous areas.

04



Transportation

Domestic Flights

Useful for long distances such as Islamabad → Skardu, Islamabad → Gilgit, Karachi → Lahore, and Islamabad → Karachi.

Trains

Pakistan Railways connects many major cities.

Buses

Long-distance bus services are available between many cities.

Taxis & Ride-Hailing

Major cities have taxi and ride-hailing options.

Private Driver

A private car and driver can be particularly useful for family trips, Northern Pakistan, and multi-day trips on local roads.

Motorcycles

Popular for independent travelers, but mountain roads require additional care and experience.

05



Accommodation

Options

- Luxury hotels
- International-standard hotels
- Local hotels
- Guesthouses
- Resorts
- Hostels
- Homestays
- Mountain lodges
- Camps

Before Booking, Check

- Location
- Reviews
- Heating/AC
- Hot water
- Wi-Fi
- Electricity backup
- Parking
- Security
- Cancellation policy

**Must-Try Foods**

- Biryani
- Nihari
- Chicken Karahi
- Mutton Karahi
- Seekh Kebab
- Chapli Kebab
- Haleem
- Pulao
- Daal
- Paratha
- Samosa
- Pakora
- Chaat

Drinks

- Chai
- Doodh Patti
- Lassi
- Sugarcane juice
- Fresh juices

Food Safety

- Drink safe water
- Be cautious with raw food
- Choose busy restaurants with good hygiene
- Wash hands before eating
- Introduce unfamiliar spicy foods gradually



Pakistan is multilingual. Urdu is the national language and is extremely useful for travelers. English is commonly understood in many tourist, business and educated settings, while regional languages include Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, Saraiki and others.

Essential Urdu for Travelers

ENGLISH	ROMAN URDU	URDU
Hello	Assalam-o-Alaikum	السلام علیکم
Thank you	Shukriya	شکریہ
Please	Meherbani	مہربانی
Yes / No	Jee / Haan · Nahin	جی / ہاں · نہیں
How are you?	Aap kaise hain?	آپ کیسے ہیں؟
How much is this?	Yeh kitne ka hai?	یہ کتنے کا ہے؟
Where is this?	Yeh kahan hai?	یہ کہاں ہے؟
I don't understand	Mujhe samajh nahi aa rahi	مجھے سمجھ نہیں آرہی
Please help me	Meherbani karke meri madad karein	مہربانی کر کے میری مدد کریں
I need a taxi	Mujhe taxi chahiye	مجھے ٹیکسی چاہیے

This is where Urdu Buddy offers a dedicated Travel Urdu Course — practical phrases for every stage of your trip.



Dress

Modest clothing is generally appreciated, especially in conservative areas and religious places.

Mosques

Remove your shoes where required, dress appropriately, follow local instructions, and ask before taking photographs.

Photography

Always be respectful when photographing people.

Greetings & Hospitality

A friendly greeting goes a long way. Pakistanis are famous for hospitality — you may receive invitations for tea, food or conversation.

09 Internet & Mobile SIM

Travelers may need a local SIM/eSIM, mobile data, Wi-Fi, offline maps and translation apps.

Bring an unlocked phone if you plan to use a local SIM.

10 Electricity

Pakistan generally uses 230V electricity and Type C/D plugs. International travelers should bring a suitable travel adapter. Power outages can occur in some areas, so a power bank can be very useful.

11 Health & Medical Preparation

- Bring regular medicines
- Keep medicines in original packaging
- Carry basic first-aid supplies
- Consider travel insurance
- Know your emergency contacts
- Check current health recommendations for your destinations

For remote mountain areas, medical facilities may be limited, so preparation is especially important.

12 Safety

Pakistan is a large and diverse country, and conditions vary considerably by region. Travelers should:

- Check current government travel advisories
- Follow local authorities' instructions
- Avoid restricted areas
- Keep valuables secure
- Use reputable transportation
- Share your itinerary with someone you trust
- Avoid traveling alone in unfamiliar remote areas at night
- Check road conditions before mountain journeys

13



Emergency Information

Keep important numbers and contacts available, including police, ambulance, fire service, your country's embassy/consulate, your hotel, tour operator and local guide.

Save important information offline in case you lose internet access.

14



Shopping

Popular things to buy include handicrafts, traditional clothing, shawls, carpets, pottery, ajrak, Pakistani truck-art items, dry fruits, local spices and souvenirs.

In traditional markets, bargaining may be normal, but always remain polite.

15



Photography & Social Media

Pakistan offers incredible photography opportunities — mountains, lakes, forts, mosques, markets, deserts, historic streets and local culture.

Some locations may restrict photography. Always follow posted rules and local instructions.

16



Adventure & Outdoor Travel

Pakistan is excellent for hiking, trekking, camping, mountaineering, skiing, rafting, jeep trips, fishing, photography and motorbike tours.

For challenging treks and remote regions, use an experienced local guide and check permits, weather and route conditions.

17



Northern Pakistan Travel Tips

Northern Pakistan is beautiful — but mountain travel requires preparation. Remember:

- Roads can be narrow and difficult
- Weather can change quickly
- Landslides can affect routes
- Some areas have limited mobile coverage
- Fuel and ATMs may be limited — carry cash
- Carry warm clothing even when the departure city is hot
- Don't rely entirely on Google Maps in remote areas
- Allow extra time for road journeys

18



Religious & Historical Tourism

Pakistan has important Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh heritage, along with ancient archaeological sites, Mughal architecture and colonial-era buildings.

Major historical attractions include Lahore Fort, Badshahi Mosque, Taxila, Mohenjo-daro, Makli and many others.

19



Family Travel

Families should consider child-friendly hotels, shorter travel days, reliable transportation, access to medical facilities, weather, food preferences, car seats where available, and rest stops.

Northern mountain journeys can be long, so plan accordingly.

20



Women Travelers

- Dress according to local norms
- Use reputable accommodation and transportation
- Take extra care when traveling alone in unfamiliar areas
- Keep emergency contacts available
- Check current local conditions before visiting remote regions

21



Responsible Tourism

- Don't litter
- Respect local communities
- Don't damage historical sites
- Respect religious places
- Ask before photographing people
- Protect wildlife and nature
- Support local businesses

22



What to Pack

Essentials

- Passport
- Visa documents
- Travel insurance
- Phone & charger
- Power bank
- Universal adapter
- Cash / cards
- Copies of documents

Clothing (Northern Areas)

- Warm layers
- Waterproof jacket
- Comfortable shoes
- Gloves / hat

Useful Items

- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Reusable bottle
- First-aid kit
- Personal medicines
- Offline maps
- Backpack
- Torch/flashlight

23



Money & Tipping

Pakistan uses the Pakistani Rupee (PKR). Keep some cash for small shops, local transport, rural areas, markets, tips, and places where cards aren't accepted.

Tipping practices vary by situation. In restaurants and tourism services, a modest tip for good service is generally appreciated.

24



Sample Itineraries

7 Days — First Visit

Islamabad → Lahore → Islamabad

10 Days — Culture + Mountains

Islamabad → Lahore → Hunza → Islamabad

14 Days — Northern Pakistan

Islamabad → Naran/Kaghan → Gilgit → Hunza → Islamabad

14 Days — History + Culture

Karachi → Lahore → Islamabad → Taxila

21 Days — Grand Pakistan Journey

Karachi → Lahore → Islamabad → Swat → Hunza → Skardu

Routes should always be adjusted according to season, weather, road conditions and current local conditions.

25



Experience Pakistan, Don't Just Visit It

The best Pakistan experience isn't only about visiting famous attractions.

- Learn some Urdu
- Talk to local people
- Drink chai
- Eat local food
- Visit local markets
- Travel by road
- Explore historic cities
- Experience Pakistani hospitality



Travel Pakistan with Urdu Buddy

Learn Urdu. Travel Pakistan. Connect with people.

With Urdu Buddy, international travelers can learn practical Urdu before their trip, understand Pakistani culture, communicate with locals, and get guidance for traveling around Pakistan.

urdubuddy.com