



Taking you on a life changing adventure in Pakistan

Tribes of Hindukush Tour

10th May / 18th August 2024

LET US HELP YOU CREATE A LIFE CHANGING HOLIDAY



The company came into fruition in 2018 as my desire to put Pakistan on peoples radar for the right reasons. I wanted to show people Pakistan through my eyes as I know the country has a plethora of beauty, culture, culinary delights & hospitality to offer those seeking something off the beaten track.

It is also my way of giving back to the people of Pakistan & doing my bit as a Pakistani overseas, which is why a strong emphasis of my itineraries involve working with local boutique hotels and local businesses so that the common man / woman in Pakistan benefits from the tourism I bring in. This also provides you with the most authentic holiday.





OUR SERVICE

Apart from flights, we take care of everything. Our specialism lies in the creation & development of authentic, cultural holidays in Pakistan from the North to the South, whether its food, nature, culture, history or golf you enjoy, we have it all covered.

Once you arrive at the airport in Pakistan, you become our guests and our responsibility. We have everything covered from hotels, transportation to all the excursions & guides, so you can just focus on taking pictures, chatting to the locals & basically having a great time. All of our guides have over 20 years experience on the ground and great knowledge about the sites they take you to but also off the beaten track activities like watching truck art being painted on the trucks.

We are proud to be recognised for this & have won 5 awards related to best Pakistan Experience service provider by SME news, best customer service & Adventure Tour Agency of the Year for 3 years running by Prestige Awards.

It's your holiday so our team go above and beyond, our goal is to ensure that we make it the most memorable experience for you & that you leave the country as brand ambassadors of Pakistan, telling the world how welcoming & culturally rich Pakistan is.

TRIBES OF HINDUKUSH



Embark on this spectacular voyage at Islamabad, the political and administrative city of Pakistan. Guarded by Hindukush, Chitral is home to Bumburet valley which is home to the people of Kailash.

The people of Kailash are an indigenous tribe, who are considered to be descendants of Alexander the Great. Blonde hair and blue eyed, their culture is full of festivities which sit around the 4 seasons.

Kalasha women usually wear long black robes, often embroidered with cowrie shells. For this reason, they are known in Chitral as "the Black Kafirs". Men have adopted the Pakistani shalwar kameez, while children wear small versions of adult clothing after the age of four.

This tour also takes you to Peshawar, the oldest city in the region and one full of culture, history & hospitality.

From Peshawar we take you to the city which truly never sleeps, which is Lahore. Lahore is a nation of food lovers, where you can enjoy street food, word food & some incredible fine dining experiences. It is also home to some of the most iconic buildings & architecture from the Walled City of Lahore to the Badshahi mosque.

PROPOSAL COST

BASED ON 14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS

Group Size	Based on Deluxe Hotels	Based on Semi-Deluxe Hotels
2	£4,761 PP	£3702 PP
4	£4264 PP	£3202 pp
6	£3870 PP	£2777 pp
Early Check in	£310	£175

COST INCLUDES:-

- Hotel Accommodation based on single room for each passenger
- Meals (Breakfasts)
- English speaking tour guide
- Air-conditioned private car throughout the trip
- Air conditioned transportation throughout the trip
- Entrance fees to the archaeological sites and museums
- Tips at hotels / restaurant
- Mineral water (1 bottle of 1.5l per day)
- Portage at hotels

COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:-

- International flights
- All items of personal nature such as telephone calls, mini bar and other Beverages
- Lunches & dinners
- Other than above mentioned
- Day use rooms if incase of flight delayed or cancellation
- Tips for Guide & Drivers

Examples of standard of hotels used:

DELUXE - SERENA, HINDUKUSH HEIGHTS

SEMI DELUXE - BEST WESTERN ISLAMABAD

A full list will be provided upon payment of a deposit

TRIBES OF HINDUKUSH

DAY-1 ISLAMABAD

Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan located within the federal Islamabad Capital Territory, built during the 1960s to replace Karachi as Pakistan's capital. The city's master-plan divides the city into eight zones, including administrative, diplomatic enclave, residential areas, educational sectors, industrial sectors, commercial areas, and rural and green areas. The city is known for the presence of several parks and forests, including the Margalla Hills National Park and Shakarparian Park. The city is home of several landmarks, including the Faisal Mosque, one of the largest mosque in South Asia and the fourth largest in the world. Other landmarks include the Pakistan's National Monument and Democracy Square.

DAY-2 ISLAMABAD – SWAT

Islamabad – Saidu Sharif Swat: 245 kms/3.4 hours' drive

The valley is 3250ft above sea level

Drive to Saidu Sharif Swat via a visit to Shingardar Stupa, Amluk Dara Stupa & Najigram Stupa. After lunch visit Swat Museum & Butkara.

Today's visits/activities include

- Shingardar Stupa
- Amluk Dara Stupa
- Najigram Stupa
- Swat Museum
- Butkara

DAY-3 SWAT

Full day exploring the archeological sites of Swat.

We shall be visiting the most important sites in the area although there are hundreds of sites having equal importance.

Butkara:

The Buddhist sacred precinct of Bukhara identified as the monastery of Ta-Lo, mentioned by Sung Yun (520 AD) visited and described by the Chinese Buddhist pilgrims of the 5th, 6th and 7th centuries AC lies at the eastern end of the ancient capital of Udyana Meng-Chich-Li, present Mingawara. The main Stupa stands in the middle, around it are crowded monuments Stupas, Viharas and columns, on the Northern side stands a great building and further to the north and west the inhabited area. The Great Stupa under event five reconstruction, each new one incasing the older from 3rd century B.C down to 10th century A.D.

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DAY-3 SWAT CONTINUED

AMLUK DARA STUPA:

The stupa of Amlukdara is situated about 2km on the north of Nawagai village in the beautiful small valley of Amlukdara, on the main road to Buner. One is required to walk about 1km through the village in order to reach the site.

The high stupa stands prominently visible from the surrounding area, naturally sheltered by the great Mount Elum. The stupa is raised on a magnificent square plinth with base moulding in torus and Scotia pattern, measures 34 meters in diameter. The height of the square shape base plinth is about 4 meters.

We will try to visit maximum sites as some of them are below mentioned.

- Shingardar Stupa
- Nemogram
- Najigram Stupa & Monastery
- Janabad Seated Buddha
- Barikot and many more.

DAY-4 SWAT - CHITRAL

Drive to Chitral, an isolated valley among the Hindu Kush mountains, a small valley that is overshadowed by the Trichmir Mountain, 25,230 feet high, and divided into two sub-sections by the rapid flowing Mastuj River. The city acts as a base for many trekking and hiking expeditions, and its pure mountain air attracts many who wish to relax. The Kafir valleys provide an interesting diversion for the locals consider the Kafirs as heathen and totally unacceptable, for they are unbelievers. The hot sulphur springs close to the city are well known for their healing abilities and attract a good many who wish to be cured from varied ailments ranging from migraines to sterility.

DAY-5 DRIVE TO RAMBUR & BUMBURET TO EXPLORE THE VALLEYS

The Kailash, are a Dardic indigenous people residing in the Chitral District of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. They speak the Kailasha language, from the Dardic family of the Indo-Aryan branch, and are considered a unique tribe among the Indo-Aryan peoples of Pakistan. The neighboring Nuristani people of the adjacent Nuristan (historically known as Kafiristan) province of Afghanistan once practiced the same polytheistic religion as the Kailash. By the late 19th century much of Nuristan had been converted to Islam, although some evidence has shown the people continued to practice their customs. Over the years, the Nuristan region has also been the site of numerous war activities that has led to the death of many endemic Nuristanis and has seen an inflow of surrounding Afghans to claim the vacant region, who have since admixed with the remaining natives. The people of Kailash have maintained their own separate cultural and traditions even today.

TRIBES OF HINDUKUSH

DAY-6 KAILASH VALLEY:

We have a full day to discover the unique culture of Kailash valley. The three valleys of Birir, Bumburet and Rumber are on the edge of the monsoon belt, so the vegetation is dense, with giant walnut trees and fruit trees draped in grapevines overhanging swiftly flowing streams, Fields on the valley floor grow wheat, barely vegetables and fodder, and the steep 3000m ridges between the valleys are clothed in evergreen forest right to the top. Bumburet is the largest and most commercialized of the tree Kailash valleys. The people of Kailash have maintained their own separate cultural and traditions even today.

DAY-7 DRIVE TO PESHAWAR VIA TAKT-E-BHAI

Drive to Peshawar en-route visit to Takht-e-Bhai, the Buddhist monastic complex of Takht-i-Bahi (Throne of Origins) is situated on top of a 152 m high hill, about 80 km from Peshawar and 16 km north-west of the city of Mardan. It was founded in the early 1st century AD, and was successively occupied and expanded from that time until it fell into disuse through the discontinuation of charitable endowments in modern times. Owing to its location on the crest of a hill, it escaped the invasions of the Huns and other antagonistic peoples, leaving it today with much of its original character intact. The name Takht-i-Bahi derives from the spring on the hilltop and is literally translated as 'Spring Throne'.

Later drive to Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (formerly known as the North-West Frontier Province), and the administrative centre and economic hub for the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan. Peshawar is situated in a large valley near the eastern end of the Khyber Pass, close to the Pak-Afghan border. Known as "City on the Frontier", Peshawar's strategic location on the crossroads of Central Asia and South Asia has made it one of the most culturally vibrant and lively cities in the greater region. Peshawar is irrigated by various canals of the Kabul River and by its right tributary, the Bara River. Peshawar has now evolved into one of Pakistan's most ethnically and linguistically diverse cities.

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DAY-8 PESHAWAR

Peshawar Museum was built in 1906-07 in the memory of Queen Victoria. The two-story building features an amalgamation of British, South Asian, Hindu, Buddhist and Mughal Islamic architectural styles. The Peshawar Museum has the most important and largest collection of Gandhara Art in the world. The Buddha life story in stone is beautifully carved with all details. You can find there different types of the relic caskets, stupa, models of schist and bronze along with life size Buddha Statues, skillfully carved and beautifully balanced masterpieces of Gandhara Art. There is also very impressive brass statue of Queen Victoria sitting on the throne.

Mahabhar Khan's Mosque the only Mughal era mosque in Peshawar which survived the depredations of the Sikhs, though the Top domes of the minarets were destroyed by the Sikh rulers, which were later on rebuilt by Britishers. It was built in the seventeenth century (1670 AD) and it is named after Mahabat Khan Mirza Lerharsib who twice governed Peshawar under Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb. It is a classic example of Mughal architecture with a central open courtyard and a prayer hall covered by the three fluted domes. Adjacent to the entrance to the mosque, an ancient doorway leads into a large courtyard surrounded by a three storey gallery. You can climb to the roof of this three storied complex to get a superb view down into the courtyard of the mosque. Its open courtyard has an ablution pool in the middle and a single row of rooms around the sides. The prayer hall occupies the west side flanked by two tall minarets. The interior of the prayer hall is sheltered beneath three low fluted domes and is beautifully painted with various floral and geometric designs. It is a worthy visiting place in Peshawar especially for the ones having interest in Mughal Architecture. Extending from west to east in the heart of the city is the romantic 'Street of Story-tellers' - the Qissa Khawani Bazaar. In olden days, this was the site of a camping ground for caravans and military adventures, where professional story-tellers recited ballads and tales of war and love to throngs of traders and soldiers. Today the story-tellers are gone but the atmosphere lingers on. Bearded tribesmen bargain with city traders over endless cups of green tea. Fruit stalls look like small colourful pyramids.

DAY-9 DRIVE TO ISLAMABAD EN-ROUTE VISIT TO TAXILA

Drive to Islamabad en-route visit to Taxila museum we visit Taxila Museum and Julian. Steeped deep in history, the excavations at Taxila take you back 2,500 years into the world of Buddha, Alexander, Asoka and of course the Emperor Kanishka whose imprints are visible to this day. It is here that you find endless images of Buddha. You find these in stone and in stucco. Important stages of Buddha's life are depicted in the numerous panels that have been uncovered here. This great man of peace is depicted in exquisitely carved sculptures and statues glorifying him and his life. Each one of these sculptures is a collector's pride. Later drive to Islamabad for overnight in hotel.

TRIBES OF HINDUKUSH

DAY-10 ISLAMABAD - LAHORE

Islamabad - Katas Raj Temple: 100 kms / 2.5 hours' drive

Katas Raj Temple-Khewra Salt Mines: 20 kms / 50 minutes' drive

Khewra Salt Mines – Lahore: 245 kms/4 hours' drive

Early start today's visits/stops/activities include

- Katas Raj Temple
- Khewra Salt Mines- Asia's biggest and world second largest salt mines

DAY-11 LAHORE

Full day city tour of Lahore.

Today's visits/stops/activities include

- Lahore's walled city
- Lahore Fort
- Badshahi Masjid
- Lahore museum
- Badshahi mosque
- Lahore museum (optional)
- anarkali bazaar

DAY-12 LAHORE

Full day city tour of Lahore including flag ceremony at Pakistan-India border.

Today's visits/stops/activities include

- Mausoleums of Jahangir & Noor Jahan in Lahore (if not visited on day-3)
- Visit Masjid Wazir Khan
- Shahi Hamam
- Visit Shalimar Garden (optional)
- Experience the flag ceremony at the Wagah Border

DAY-13 LAHORE TO ISLAMABAD

Lahore - Rhotas Fort: 214km, 4 hours drive

Rohtas Fort - Islamabad: 115km, 2 hours drive

Drive from Lahore to Islamabad visiting Rhotas fort on route. If you have the energy spend the evening visiting Monal to enjoy the panoramic views of Islamabad and the local cuisine. a popular place for locals.

DAY 14 - DEPARTURE

We will arrange for the airport transfers

SOME TESTIMONIALS FROM PREVIOUS CLIENTS



Kathy Montgomery

11th November 2023

...I loved just about everything in my tour, the guide was very knowledgeable & extremely flexible in catering for my needs...thank you Saadia for putting so much effort in planning my itinerary & managing the components. It has been a truly memorable trip in which I have learned so much about the history & customs....



Paul & Tara

13th October 2023

One of the best holidays we've had, it was lovely not to see so many other foreigners but what threw us was the hospitality of the people of Pakistan. Peshawar despite being a place advised against travel by the FCO was one of our favourites because of the rich culture and warmth of the people.



Nathan Hale

May, 2023

The service was excellent, due to the flooding in Pakistan in 2022, I decided to postpone my trip to 2023 only 6 weeks before my travel date. Saadia and her team were very accommodating & were able to do this without making a fuss or any penalties....

I love the Trucks in Pakistan and even got to ride in one..

FAQ

- Is Pakistan safe to travel to?

In the main Pakistan is a safe country to travel around, there are some random incidents but this is like anywhere in the world these days. On a day to day basis it is safe to get around especially key cities like Islamabad & Lahore. Like any country one must be vigilant, our team is always aware of the situation so if precautionary measures need to take place these are implemented.

- What do I need to wear?

You can wear western clothes as a woman or man. However it must be remembered that Pakistan is a muslim country so clothes should generally be loose, 3/4 arm length sleeves, skirts or dresses should be below the knees. Hair does not have to be covered except when entering places of worship. Shoes should also be taken off when entering a mosque. For the North it is best to dress with layers, for Islamabad & Peshawar their seasons follow the UK and temperatures do get cold Oct - March so warm attire is recommended.

- How much money do I need to take?

Eating out & shopping in the main in Pakistan is cheap, particularly at the moment when the currency is so weak. £3 will get you a 3 course meal at a very nice restaurant.

- What's the weather like?

The weather in Sindh, from Multan down to Karachi tends to be hot all year around. The best time to visit this region is Nov - Feb. The Northern areas of Pakistan get very cold with temperatures dropping below freezing. The best to visit this part is April - October. Islamabad, Lahore & Peshawar tend to have similar seasons to the UK, with the need of a coat or cardigan in the winters.

- What's the local currency?

The local currency is Pakistan Rupees, our guide will arrange to take you to a local Bureau De Exchange where you can exchange your currency and get the best rates. We will also help you get a local SIM which you can use throughout your trip to ensure you remain connected without paying exuberant international charges.

NEXT STEPS

- A follow up telephone call to take you through the itinerary
- A deposit of £500 if further work is required to fine tune the itinerary, this will be deducted of the final invoice. We continue to work on the itinerary until you are happy with it.
- Deposit of 50% to be paid once happy with the itinerary or we can arrange an instalment plan of 4 payments, if time permits. Final payment would be due 8 weeks before your departure date.
- We would provide you with all the documentation you would need for your visa application which is all done online now and takes 2-3 weeks to process. This would be provided after the 50% deposit payment.
- 3 weeks before your travel date we could create a whatsapp group made up of you, me and the team in Pakistan so that you can greet each other before your arrival in Pakistan. I would be contactable throughout your time in Pakistan, should a need arise for you to contact me, such as any changes in plan to due to ill health or change in interest once in the country. However rest assure that the team are very well versed to help you with all of these aspects.
- I will share video links of vloggers who have covered some of these areas to help you get excited about what awaits you, if you wish, some people prefer to discover themselves.