

Pakistan's

Sikh Heritage Trail



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Sikh Heritage Trail

Pakistan hosts holiest places of Sikh religion and has been a place of pilgrimage since independence. According to various reports around eighty percent of Sikh shrines and Sikh heritage sites are located in Pakistan. Baba Guru Nanak Dev Jee spent last 18 years of his life at Kartarpur; it is also the Gurdwara where Baba Guru Nanak Dev Jee himself bestowed Gur Gadi to 2nd Guru Angad Dev Jee. At the time of partition of subcontinent in 1947, more than 2 million Sikhs inhabited the cities in the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa such as Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Peshawar.

Five most important pilgrimage sites of Sikh religion located in Pakistan include the birthplace of Baba Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikh religion who was born in 1469 in Nankana Sahib district, Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hasan Abdal, where the handprint of Guru Nanak is believed to be imprinted on a boulder at the monastery, Gurdwara Dera Sahib Jee near Lahore fort where 5th Guru Arjan Dev Jee died in 1606, Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Jee Kartarpur where Guru Nanak Dev Jee settled and assembled the Sikh community after the missionary travel. Samadhi of Ranjit Singh in Lahore is also an important Sikh heritage.

Government of Pakistan is undertaking all possible steps to preserve the Sikh holy sites, restore and renovate them to facilitate the pilgrims from across the world. The Kartarpur Corridor was constructed in a record time in 2019 and Sikh pilgrims are facilitated to visit it by easing the border crossing and provision of e-visa facilitation. Various Sikh holy days are celebrated officially in Pakistan with great respect and zeal. The government of Pakistan plans to continue undertaking steps that facilitate Sikhs from across the world to visit their worship places and perform their religious duties. For the convenience of visitors interested to explore the Sikh Heritage, we have developed two trails. Some of the most important sites on these heritage trails are mentioned on next pages.

Sikh Heritage Trail # 1 (Starting from Islamabad)

1. Gurdwara Sri Chowah Sahib Jee (Rahtas Fort)
2. Tilla Jogian (Salt Range Jhelum)
3. Gurdwara Panja Sahib Jee (Hassan Abdal)

Sikh Heritage Trail # 2 (Starting from Lahore)

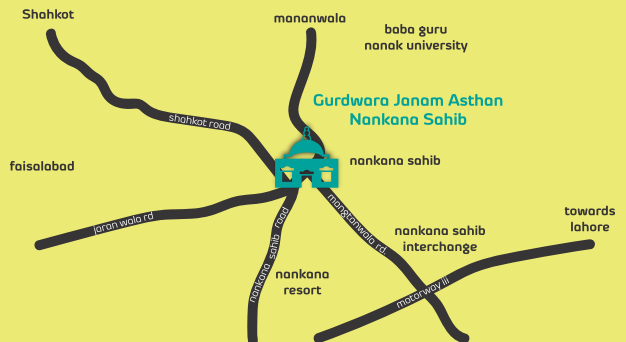
1. Gurdwara Janam Asthan (Nankana Sahib)
2. Gurdwara Janam Asthan Guru Ram Das (Lahore)
3. Gurdwara Dera Sahib Jee (Lahore)
4. Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Jee (Kartarpur)
5. Gurdwara Rori Sahib Jee (Gujranwala)
6. Gurdwara Chakki Sahib Jee (Gujranwala)
7. Gurdwara Sacha Sauda (Ferozqabad)





1. GURDWARA JANAM ASTHAN

Baba Guru Nanak Dev Jee (1469-1539) the founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus, was born in a village known as Talwandi Rai-bhoe, the present Nankana Sahib. His birth is celebrated worldwide as Guru Nanak Gurpurab on Kartik Pooranmashi, the full-moon day in the month of Katak, October-November.



Nankana Sahib is a city and capital of Nankana Sahib District in the Punjab province of Pakistan, 91km from Lahore. There are about 6 more gurdwaras around the main gurdwara of Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib.

Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib, is a highly revered gurdwara that was built at the site where the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, was believed to be born.

Location: Nankana Sahib - Punjab



2. GURDWARA JANAM ASTHAN GURU RAM DAS JEE

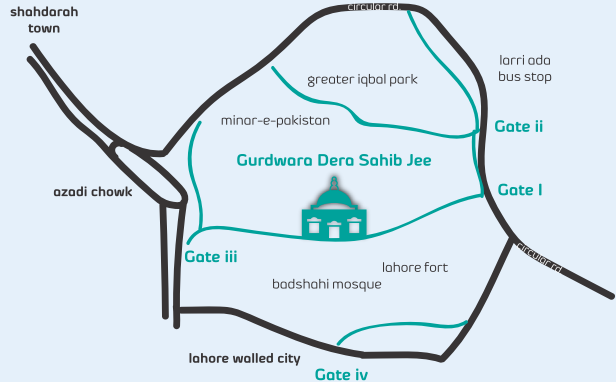
The Janam Asthan Guru Ram Das Jee is a Gurdwara in Lahore, Pakistan. The gurdwara was built atop the site traditionally believed to be the location of the birth place and childhood home of Guru Ram Das, the 4th Sikh Guru. The gurdwara is located in the Chuna mandi Bazar in the Walled City of Lahore, near the Lahore Fort, and Begum Shahi Mosque.



Location: Chuna Mandi Bazar, Lahore - Punjab

3. GURDWARA DERA SAHIB JEE

Gurdwara Dera Sahib Jee is a Sikh temple, located just outside the Walled City of Lahore and is part of an ensemble of monuments which includes the Lahore Fort, Samadhi of Ranjit Singh, Hazuri Bagh quadrangle, Roshnai Gate, and the Badshahi Mosque which commemorates the spot where the 5th Guru of Sikhism, Arjan Dev, died in 1606.



Location: Near Lahore Fort, Lahore – Punjab

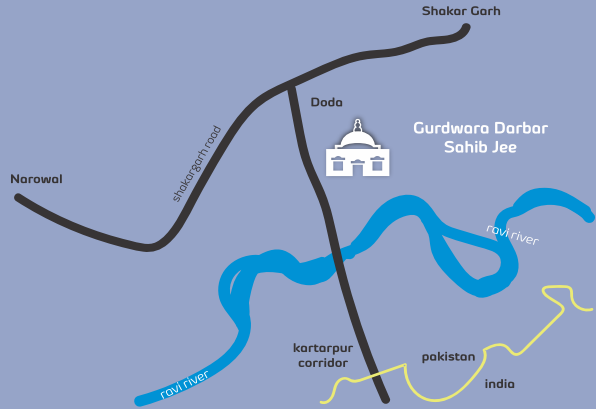


4. GURDWARA DARBAR SAHIB JEE

Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Jee Kartarpur also called Kartarpur Sahib Jee is a gurdwara, in Kartarpur, Narowal District. It is built on the historic site where Guru Nanak Jee settled and assembled the Sikh commune after his missionary travels.

The present gurdwara was built on the site where Guru Nanak died, on 22nd September 1539.

Location: Kartarpur, Narowal – Punjab

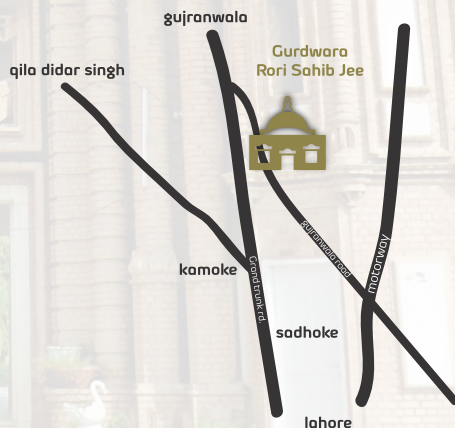




5. GURDWARA RORI SAHIB JEE

Gurdwara Rori Sahib Jee is in present day Eminabad; an old town about 55 kilometers North of Lahore. This area has three important historical shrines of the Sikhs Religion- Gurdwara Rori Shahib Jee, Gurdwara Chakki Sahib Jee and Gurdwara Khuhi Bhai Lalo Jee. Gurdwara Rori Shahib Jee is the sacred shrine which marks the sight where, according to tradition, Guru Nanak after the destruction of the town had stayed with Bhai Lalo. Here the Guru had to sit and lie on hard bed of pebbles. The present gurdwara stands on the same place.

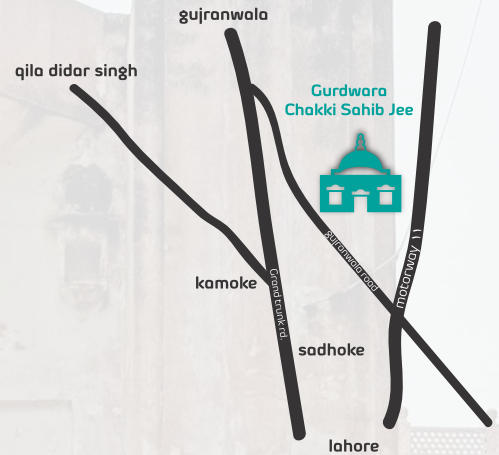
Location: Eminabad, Gujranwala - Punjab



6. GURDWARA CHAKKI SAHIB JEE

Gurdwara Chakki Sahib Jee, at Eminabad is located where a large millstone chakkis was kept. In the Janamsakhis, it is mentioned that Nanak Dev was taken as a prisoner along with thousands of his fellow countrymen. Baba Jee was, along with many of his fellow prisoners forced to grind corns with hand-driven millstones. His captors were surprised to see that the millstone used by Guru Nanak was turning by itself as he sang songs to the glory of one God.

Location: Eminabad, Gujranwala – Punjab

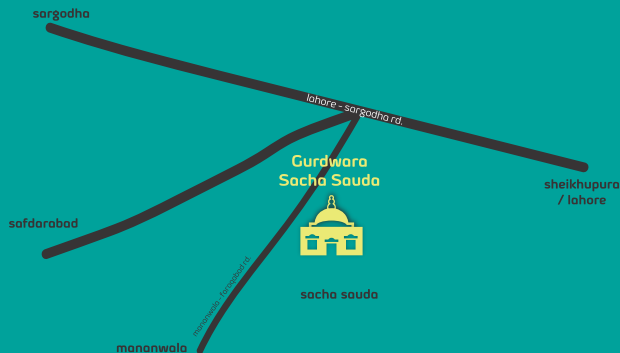




7. GURDWARA SACHA SAUDA

Gurdwara sachu sauda is situated in Farooqabad, Sheikhpura Punjab. Guru Nanak as a young man was sent by his father Mehta Kalu to instill a sense of business in his son.

Along the way to his destination, the young Nanank came across some sadhus who were hungry and without food. The guru to be decided to use the sum his father had given him (a sum of Rs. 20) to provide meal, a langar for the sadhus. Returning home without any purchases Mehta Kalu was very annoyed. But young Nanak explained to his father, who saw that he had done a very good deal, feeding the starving sadhus, and gaining the best profit one could gain from the money. On the stop where Guru Nanak Dev Jee fed the sadhus now stands a magnificent, beautiful gurdwara that was built by Mahraja Ranjeet Singh, on the pattern of a fortress.



Location: Farooqabad, Sheikhpura - Punjab



8. GURDWARA SRI CHOWA SAHIB JEE

The Gurdwara Chowa Sahib Jee, located close to Rohtas Fort - a UNESCO world heritage site. The sacred site of Gurdwara Sri Chowa Sahib Jee is showing its splendour outside Kabuli Darwaza (gate) of Rohtas Fort. Jagat Guru Nanak Sahib Jee arrived here from Tilla Jogian. At that time the place was unpopulated. Guru Nanak Jee started a water spring using his stick.

A water spring is called 'Chowa' hence this place was called 'Chowa Sahib'. Later Sher Shah built a magnificent fort and the Gurdwara was the outside Kabuli gate.

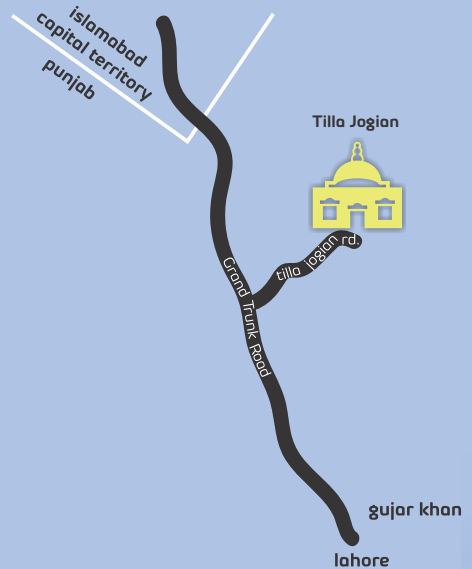
The present building was constructed in **1834** at the command of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The Gurdwara presents fascinating natural beauty surrounded by Ghan Nadi, fort, large trees and underbrush.



9. TILLA JOGIAN

Tilla Jogian is the highest peak in the Eastern Salt Range. At **975 meters (3200 ft)** above sea level, it is about **25 km** to the west of Jhelum City and **10 km** west of the model village of Khukha. The view from the top of Tilla is highly rewarding. Rohtas Fort is located to the east of Tilla Jogian at a distance of about **7 km** from Dina, a rapidly expanding town on the Grand Trunk Road. Established in the **1st century BCE** by the Guru Goraknath, the founder of the sect of Kanphatta (pierced ears) jogis, it lived for a full two millennia before it was finally abandoned in **1947** following the greatest transmigration in human history.

The site is also important in Sikhism for its association with the founder of Sikh faith, Baba Guru Nanak, who meditated here for **40 days** in early **1500s**. Later, Maharaja Ranjit Singh commemorated the visit of Guru Nanak Dev Jee with construction of a stone-lined pond and also constructed a small monument to mark the exact spot at which Baba Guru Nanak is said to have usually meditated.



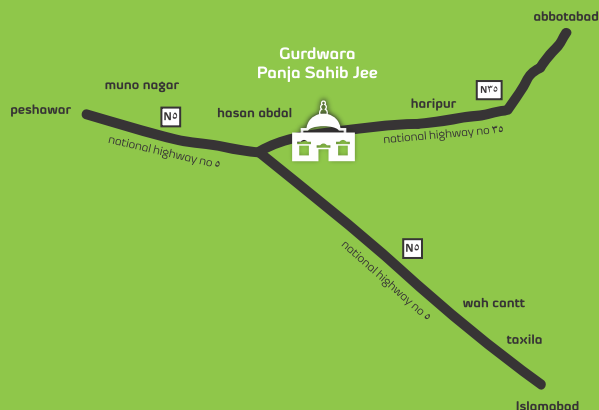
10. GURDWARA PANJA SAHIB JEE

Gurdwara Panja Sahib Jee is a famous gurdwara located near Islamabad, Hasan Abdal.

The shrine is considered to be particularly important as the handprint of the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, is believed to be imprinted on a boulder at the gurdawara.

This holy and revered place was named Panja Sahib Jee by Hari Singh Nalwa, the most famous general of the Kingdom of the Sikhs. He is credited with having built the first gurdwara at this place.

Location: Hasan Abdal, Attock - Punjab



Sikh Festivals/Occasions

No.	Name of Festival / Place of Main Ceremony
1.	Baisakhi Festival-Gurdwara Punja Sahib, Hassanabdal
2.	Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjun Dev Jee – Lahore
3.	Death Anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh – Lahore
4.	Birthday Celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev Jee – Nankana Sahib

Other Famous Gurdwaras



Gurdwara Laloo De Khooi (Gurdwara Khuhi Bhai Lalo Jee)
Gujranwala



Gurdwara Bhai Karam Singh Jee
Jhelum



Gurdwara Mata Sahib Kaur Jee
Rohtas Fort, Jhelum



Gurdwara Bair Sahib Jee (Baba Beri Jee or Baba Bair Jee)
Sialkot



Gurdwara Makhdoom Pur Pahoran (Tulamba sahib Jee)
Tulamba, Multan



Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh Jee
Peshawar



Gurdwara Bhai Biba Singh Jee
Peshawar



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