

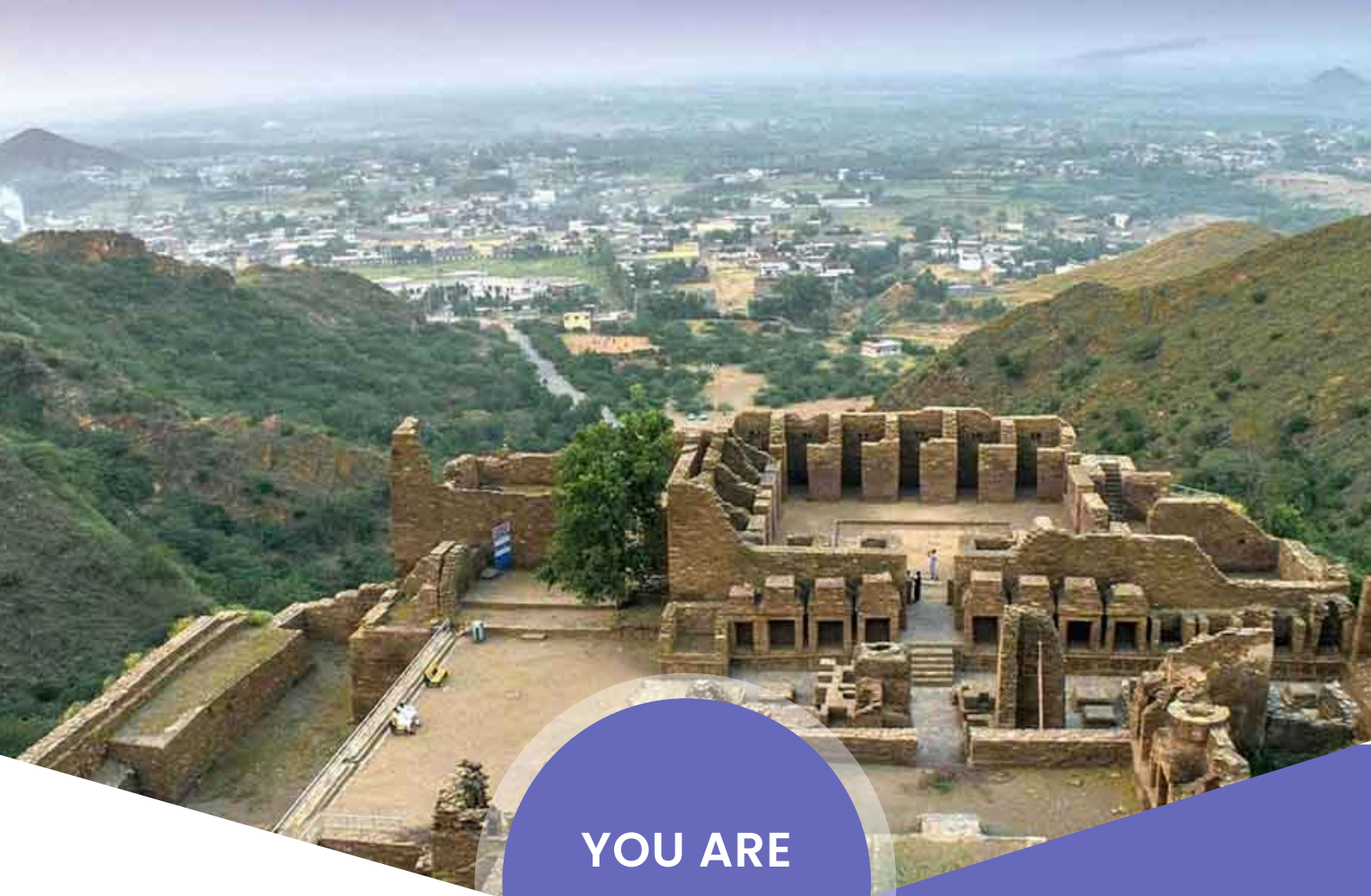
Gandhara Civilization

2026-27 EDITION



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SCAN NOW



**YOU ARE
WELCOME**

ABOUT Gandhara:

The Gandhara civilization flourished in northern Pakistan from the 1st century BCE to the 7th century CE, blending Greco-Roman, Persian, and Indian influences, especially in Buddhist art. Key centers like Taxila and Peshawar were Buddhist hubs under the Kushan Empire. The civilization declined after the Huns' invasions, with its Buddhist heritage fading. Today, its archaeological sites in Pakistan are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

TRAVELPAKISTANI

Travel Pakistani is a platform that brings hosts and customers together. It is a community of explorers and creative people who want to share their passion, knowledge & experience with others.

Travel Pakistani is an online marketplace where tour operators and hosts can sell their tours directly to customers. You can select from hundreds of packages or request a customized tour based on your needs and budget.

ITINERARY

Day 1

1 Departure for Taxila:

Depart early from Islamabad to Taxila (1-1.5 hours by car).
Visit the Taxila Museum and explore Gandhara art.
Explore the Dharmarajika Stupa, Taxila ruins, and Sirkap site.
Visit the Jaulian Monastery and nearby ancient ruins.
Shop for handicrafts, then return to Islamabad.
Overnight stay at a hotel.



Day 2

2 Travel to Takht-i-Bahi:

Travel to Takht-i-Bahi in Mardan via M1 (2.5 hours).
Visit the well-preserved Buddhist monastery with a guided tour.
Enjoy hilltop views and explore nearby ancient sites.
Depart for Peshawar.
Overnight stay in Peshawar.



Day 3

3 Explore Peshawar:

Visit Peshawar Museum for Gandharan art and historical artifacts.
Explore Qissa Khwani Bazaar, shop for crafts, and enjoy street food.
Visit Peshawar Fort and Mahabat Khan Mosque.
Drive to Swat.
Overnight stay in Swat.



Day 4

4 Explore Swat Museum:

Visit Swat Museum in the morning and explore outdoor artifacts.
Explore 3,000 artifacts, including jewelry, weapons, and pottery.
Visit the Gandhara Gallery and coin collection.
Enjoy traditional Pakistani cuisine at the museum restaurant.
Explore the Islamic gallery and museum garden.
Return to the hotel for an overnight stay in Swat.



Day 5

5 Visit White Palace and Saidu Sharif:

Visit White Palace.
Explore the White Palace in Marghazar.
The palace is set in a beautiful garden and provides historical insights.
Visit to Saidu Sharif
Visit Swat Bazar & do shopping.
Departure for Islamabad.
End of beautiful journey.



PLACES TO VISIT

Taxila and its ruins:

Taxila, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Pakistan, is an ancient city with a history going back to the 6th century BCE. It was a major center for Buddhist learning and cultural exchange. The well-preserved ruins, including the Dharmarajika Stupa, Sirkap, and Jaulian Monastery, offer a glimpse into the city's rich past, showcasing ancient stupas, monasteries, and old cities like Sirkap and Sirsukh.



Takht-i-Bahi:

Takht-i-Bahi, near Mardan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, is a well-preserved Buddhist monastery dating back to the 1st century CE. This hilltop complex includes stupas, monastic cells, meditation rooms, and an assembly hall, reflecting its importance as a center for Buddhist learning during the Kushan Empire. Rediscovered in the 19th century, it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offering insights into ancient monastic life and Gandhara art.



Mardan and Mardan Museum:

Mardan, a city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, is known for its rich cultural history and connection to the ancient Gandhara civilization. It's a key urban center with a mix of modern and traditional Pashtun culture. The Mardan Museum, established in 1991, displays artifacts from the Gandhara period, including sculptures and coins, offering insights into the region's Buddhist heritage and diverse history.



Peshawar and Peshawar Museum:

Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, is an ancient city with over 2,000 years of history and a key trade hub near the Khyber Pass. It has been influenced by various civilizations, including Persian, Greek, Buddhist, Hindu, and Islamic. The Peshawar Museum, established in 1907, features one of the world's largest collections of Gandhara Buddhist art, including statues and relics, as well as items from the Islamic period. The museum, set in a distinctive Victorian-era building, provides a comprehensive look at the region's rich cultural and historical heritage.



Swat and Swat Museum:

Swat, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, is a beautiful valley known for its green landscapes, mountains, and rich history. It's often called the "Switzerland of the East" and has ancient sites like Butkara Stupa. The Swat Museum, established in 1959 in Saidu Sharif, displays artifacts from the Gandhara civilization, including Buddhist sculptures and coins. The museum highlights Swat's importance as a center of Buddhist culture and offers insights into its diverse past.



Fizagat Park:

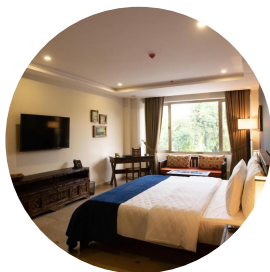
Fizagat Park is a beautiful green space along the Swat River, perfect for picnics, leisurely walks, and enjoying nature. Being near the Swat Museum, it's convenient to visit Fizagat Park during your exploration of Mingora and its nearby attractions.



HOTELS

Roomy Signature Hotel

Located in F-6, Roomy Signature Hotel in Islamabad is the ideal hotel stay for families and solo travelers alike. From thematically designed rooms to a central location preserving the peace and vibrancy of the city, Roomy Signature Hotel offers the perfect home base to those searching for the best hotels in Islamabad.



Grand Islamabad Hotel

The Grand Islamabad Hotel, located 10 km from Shah Faisal Mosque, offers 3-star accommodations with a garden, free parking, a terrace, and a restaurant. The hotel features free WiFi, room service, a 24-hour front desk, and family rooms. Each room includes air conditioning, a flat-screen TV, a desk, a private bathroom, a balcony, and a wardrobe.



Peshawar Serena hotel

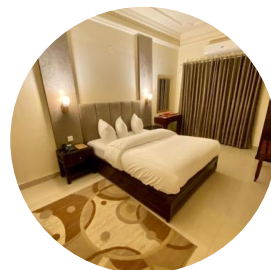
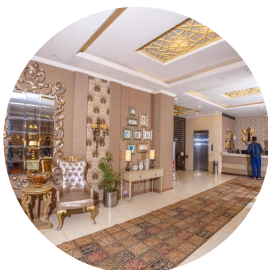
Peshawar Serena Hotel offers a luxurious retreat with elegant decor, spacious rooms, and top-notch amenities for a comfortable stay. Dining options serve delectable cuisine, complemented by excellent service from attentive staff. Its convenient location caters to both business and leisure travelers. Experience a memorable stay at Peshawar Serena Hotel.



HOTELS

Shelton Rezidor

This beautiful hotel, located in the heart of Peshawar City, offers an amazing atmosphere and a neat, clean environment. It boasts a spacious parking area and a particularly stunning lawn. Well-equipped and managed by the Shelton Group, it provides an exceptional place to stay.



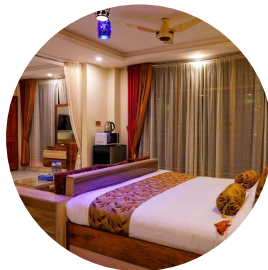
Swat Palace

Swat Palace Hotel is a 4 star hotel which offers best services to customers. It has various categories of rooms, free wifi, shared lounge, free parking for customers and more to offer. 24 hour front desk with room service. Hotel is conveniently situated on bypass road.



Swat Hilton

Swat Hilton is a three star hotel which offers luxury rooms with balconies, garden and free parking. Rooms are neat and equipped with wardrobes and LEDs. It has 24 hour front desk and room service, easily accessible on bypass road.



Top Eateries Around Key Attractions

Near Taxila Museum:



Discover a range of local eateries near the Taxila Museum that bring Pakistani cuisine to life. Savor delicious kababs, biryani, and traditional dishes at places like Dreamland Restaurant, Asagnaio Restaurant, and Bismillah Punjab Hazara Hotel. For a more casual bite, roadside dhabas along GT Road offer authentic Pakistani meals that are perfect for a quick stop.

Near Peshawar Museum:



Namak Mandi

Namak Mandi is renowned for its authentic Pashtun cuisine, particularly its mouthwatering meat dishes like lamb and chicken kababs. You can explore multiple restaurants here, each offering genuine Pashtun flavors.



Food Street of Qissa Khwani Bazaar

In Peshawar's old city, there's a famous food street with many restaurants offering local treats like chapli kababs, tikkas, pulao, and traditional sweets such as Peshawari ice cream.



Khyber Dodai

This restaurant near the Peshawar Museum serves a variety of Pashtun dishes, such as Kabuli pulao, Karahi, and grilled meats. The atmosphere is traditional, and the food is full of flavor.



Jalil Kabab House

Jalil Kabab House is well-known for its tasty kababs, especially the chapli kababs, making it a favorite among those who love meat. They also offer a range of other Pashtun dishes.



Peshawari Falooda:

It is a sweet and refreshing dessert made with vermicelli noodles, milk, rose syrup, basil seeds, and ice cream. Peshawari Falooda is typically served in tall glasses with layers of different ingredients. It is a perfect treat for hot summer days and is commonly found in local sweet shops and restaurants in Peshawar.

Top Eateries Around Key Attractions

Near Swat Museum:



Mingora Food Street

It's close by Swat Museum and has lots of local spots where you can try Pashtun dishes like kababs and pulao. Like best are Hujra Restaurant Swat , Food Bank, Podina Restaurant and china town.



Local Restaurants in Saidu Sharif

You can find eateries in Saidu Sharif serving Pashtun specialties like pulao and Karahi like Food Bank Swat, Sherin Huts, Hammad Chapli Kabab etc.



Fizagat Park Food Stalls

After visiting the museum, you can visit fizagat beautiful park and you can check out the food stalls at Fizagat Park for quick snacks like Relax Food Point, G qurban restaurant and Al Jazeera Hotel & Restaurant etc.

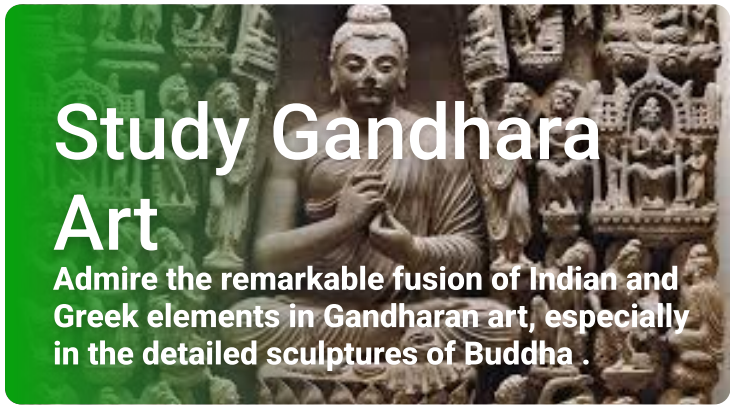
Embrace The Great Outdoor

Find Your Next Adventure in Gandhara Civilization:



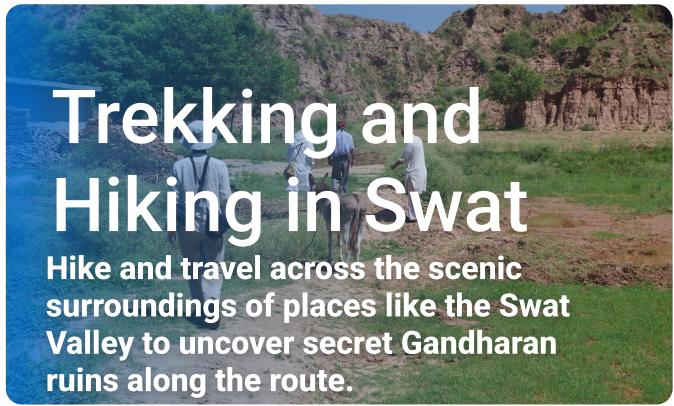
Visit Archaeological Sites

Explore nearby archaeological sites like Taxila and Takht-i-Bahi to uncover the rich history and culture of ancient Gandhara.



Study Gandhara Art

Admire the remarkable fusion of Indian and Greek elements in Gandharan art, especially in the detailed sculptures of Buddha.



Trekking and Hiking in Swat

Hike and travel across the scenic surroundings of places like the Swat Valley to uncover secret Gandharan ruins along the route.



Explore Mingora and Saidu Sharif

Stroll through Mingora Bazaar for local crafts and visit Saidu Sharif to explore its historical buildings.



Capture Scenic Views

Take photographs of the stunning landscapes, historical sites, and vibrant markets to create lasting memories of your visit.

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