



PAKISTAN

6 days Swat Valley (Bhuddist/Ghandara Tour)

Islamabad, Swat, Peshawar, Taxila

Day 1 Islamabad

Receive at Islamabad international airport. Overnight. (dinner at food street)

Day 2 Taxila

Drive to Taxila to visit museum/Dharmarajika/Julian. The city dates back to the Gandhara period and contains the ruins of the Gandhāran city of Takṣaśilā which was an important Hindu and Buddhist centre, and is still considered a place of religious and historical sanctity in those traditions. Julian. Jaulian are the ruins of an ancient buddhistic monastery The Ruins The ruins at Jaulian date from the fifth century. Dharmarajika is a large Buddhist stupa in the area of Taxila, . It is thought that it was established by the Maurya emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century. After lunch we shall drive towards Peshawar city overnight .

Day 3 Peshawar

Sightseeing of Peshawar visiting the rich museum, which houses treasures of the Gandhara period. Proceed to old Peshawar through the Kabuli Gate - one of the sixteen - to the Qissa Khawani bazaar, "the street of story tellers", and witness unusual and unforgettable sights. We will also visit the coppersmith's bazaar, which flourished from the 1st century B.C. to the 5th century A.D. Continue to Mahabat Khan's mosque, built in 1670 by the Governor of Peshawar under Moghal Emperor Shah Jahan. Overnight in Peshawar.

Day 4 Swat Valley

After an early breakfast leave for Charsadda. Charsadda, one of the most important sites of Asia, is represented by a group of imposing mounds, 30 kms. Northeast of Peshawar. The site has been identified as "Pushklatwati" the pre-Kushan Capital of Gandhara. After visiting the site we continue to Jamal Ghari, Chanako Dheri & Trali. Jamal Ghari, site situated next to Charsadda, has the remains of a stupa and a monastery, surrounded by chapels.

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Chanako Dheri, site near Jamal Ghari, meaning "Glazing Mounds". Chinese pilgrims Hsuan Tsang visited this place in 630 A.D. Trail, situated about 2 kms. East of Jamal Ghari. This site has a monastery and a stupa. After visiting these sites drive to Takht Bhai and hike (5 minutes) up to the monastery. Takht Bhai, situated atop 160 meters high hill, are the remains of a Buddhist Monastery, about 80 kms. from Peshawar. UNESCO has declared Takht Bhai as the World Heritage Site. Take picnic lunch there and then depart for Mardan and Shahbaz Ghari. Visit Ashoka's rock edicts. Shahbaz Garhi, The small village of Shahbaz Ghari was the site of the ancient city of Varusha. There are Ashoka's edicts (2nd century B.C.) in Kharoshti script of Gandhara, inscribed on two large boulders, on the edge of a hill - south of the village. Continue drive to Swat. Overnight in Swat.

Day 5 Swat Valley

Full day excursion of Swat valley visiting Madyan and Bahrain, Butkara Stupa, Swat Museum, Murghazar, Mingora Bazar etc. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 6 Islamabad - Airport

After breakfast drive back to Islamabad. PM - Visit Faisal mosque at Islamabad, Islamabad Sightseeing/Shopping + Dinner, transfer to airport in the evening for flight to destination.