



Photo: Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

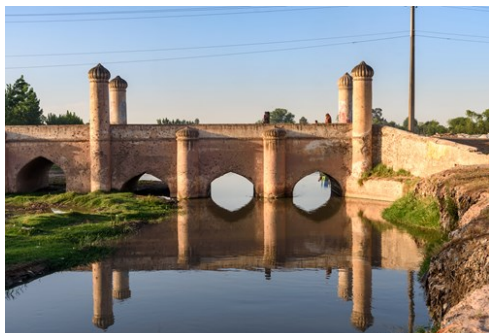


Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

Historically an important trading centre, Peshawar sits not far from the Khyber Pass, once part of the legendary Silk Route, and an important gateway to the Indian subcontinent travelled by prominent conquerors and explorers. Things remain volatile in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa border province, of which Peshawar is the capital, but recent trends seem to indicate a decline in criminality and a budding resurgence of urban life.



Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com



Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

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The splendid Mahabat Khan Mosque is a fine example of 17th century Mughal ar...



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The Sethi Mohallah area within the walls of Peshawar's old town contains rar...



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The imposing fort was once the seat of Afghan Durrani royals; ownership was ...

THE CITY



Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

Some say Pakistan is one of the most fascinating places in the world, others (including governments worldwide, at the time of writing) caution against all but essential travel to the country, and its northern regions in particular. Regardless of which school of thought you adhere to, taking necessary precautions and remaining vigilant at all times is prerequisite, and staying up-to-speed with recent developments as they appear in the media is of high importance. Having a local guide to show you around is best, and in some cases an armed guard is assigned to foreign visitors to ensure extra security.

The areas of Peshawar of most interest to foreign visitors are the Old Town, University Town, and British Cantonment (with Saddar Road), the last two separated from each other by a railway constructed by the British post-1850. The central square of town is known as Chowk Yadgar, or "remembrance square", located inside the old walled city of Peshawar and sitting at the heart of Peshawar's many roads and bazaars. Peshawar is also known as the birthplace of the Pakistani answer to Hollywood - Pollywood -, but remaining movie theatres where these films are screened are, unfortunately, few and far between, due to bombings carried out by Islamists deeming the films unruly.

DO & SEE



Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

Given that most city exploration is done during daylight hours, there is plenty to easily fill a space of a few days. Apart from the must-dos of Peshawar Museum and the Old Town, one unusual attraction is the 1920s Khyber Railway, trips on which are only possible by prior appointment. Depending on their planned time of travel, adventure-seekers might want to look into visiting one of the notorious gun factories in the outlying Tribal Areas (or the infamous Darra Adam Khel), but doing so outside of a guided tour can be highly dangerous and is strongly advised against.

Peshawar Museum



Nowhere else in the world is there a collection of Gandharan art more extensive than that of the Peshawar Museum, housed inside an attractive Victorian building (much of the Gandharan section was closed for renovations as of fall 2017, so do give a call prior to visiting).

Photo: Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Saddar Rd, Peshawar

Opening hours: Sat-Thurs 8.30am-12.30am

Phone: +92 91 9210985

Islamia College



The grounds of beautiful Islamia College are open to the public, allowing anyone to enjoy the glory of its Victorian architecture and tranquil, green premises. It is a reputable academic institution, too, and one important enough to be displayed on the 1000 Pakistani Rupees banknote.

Photo: Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

Address: College Rd Hawal, Srinagar

Phone: +91 194 242 6819

Internet: www.islamiacollege.edu.in

Mahabat Khan Mosque



The splendid Mahabat Khan Mosque is a fine example of 17th century Mughal architecture, with its ornate interior and courtyard water reservoir especially inviting to visitors. Entry is allowed, and private tour guides offer their services at a moderate fee.

Photo: Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ander Sher Bazaar, Peshawar

Sethi Street



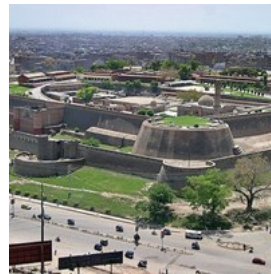
The Sethi Mohallah area within the walls of Peshawar's old town contains rare examples of Central Asian-inspired architecture, building constructed by the once prosperous trader family. The intricate woodwork and carvings, along with ornamental interiors and stained glass windows and ceilings, make for a

fascinating look around (mind that most houses are now privately owned).

Photo: Ibrahim Zauq/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Sethial St, Peshawar

Bala Hisar Fort



The imposing fort was once the seat of Afghan Durrani royals; ownership was transferred to the Sikhs in the 19th century, the fort eventually being rebuilt by Britain to achieve the look it has today. Bala Hisar now houses the paramilitary forces of Pakistan (which makes a look inside problematic), but an on-site museum is open to the public.

Photo: NoahOmarY/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

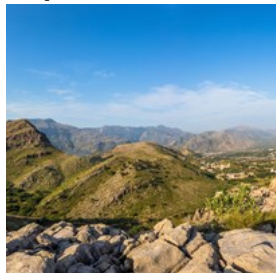
Cunningham Clocktower



The Cunningham Clocktower, known locally as "Ghanta Ghar", lies a mere couple of hundred metres away from the city's busy centre, Chowk Yadgar. It was inaugurated in 1900, to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of British queen Victoria. The Kalyan Bazar road that runs from here is lined with interesting examples of old merchant dwellings.

Photo: Khalid Mahmood/Shutterstock.com(image cropped)

Khyber Pass



Security is of concern at present and trips to the Khyber Pass are best left for a better time (check official safety advice at your planned time of travel), but do seize the opportunity when the opportunity comes. The pass has long been a gateway to South Asia (part of the ancient Silk Route), travelled by merchants, explorers and conquerors, the likes of Alexander the Great and Mughals, a channel that now connects Pakistan to the troubled Afghan territories via Torkham. Michni Checkpoint is as far as most visitors can count on getting.

Photo: Awais khan/Shutterstock.com

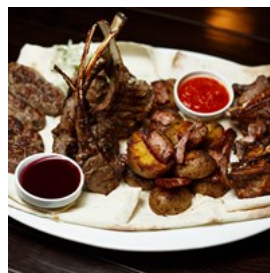
DINING



Santhosh Varghese/Shutterstock.com

Meat is an essential constituent of Peshawari dining, which comes in two main configurations: as tikka (barbecue) or karahi (a variety of spicy curry). A common way to order is to select the variety and amount of meat, and have it cooked in your presence. Other typical regional dishes include chapli kebab (and other sorts of grilled meats), fried fish, rice-based Kabuli palaw, and further Pashtun specialties. If you're sensitive to spice, make sure to indicate your desired levels of heat when placing an order.

Habibi



For a BBQ feast the region is know for, try the excellent Habibi, whose best offering is a special BBQ platter (the full version serves a party of 4 or 5, while the 1/2 is enough to feed a couple), which includes a variety of chicken, mutton, and fish dishes, as well as the Afghani rice-based speciality kabuli palaw.

Photo: Yurii Rakovskyi/Shutterstock.com

Address: Phase-III Chowk, Peshawar

Opening hours: Daily 11am-11.50pm

Phone: +92 91 5701818

Internet: www.habibirestaurantnbarbq.com

Shiraz Ronaq



The restaurant is a longtime local favourite, enjoyed especially by large parties and families for its spacious setup. Dinners are the busiest time, with a varied buffet of Pakistani, Afghani, and even Chinese dishes. Book a table in advance to ensure seating.

Photo: LElik83/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1 Saddar Rd, Peshawar

Opening hours: Daily 12.30-3.30pm, 7.30-10.30pm

Phone: +92 91 5284201

Internet: www.shiraz.pk

Charasi Tikka



Meat is ordered by the kilo at this reputable Old Town establishment, diners' selection then sent straight to the open kitchen to be cooked to their liking before their very eyes. Transparency

is certainly part of the appeal, and so is the traditional ambience and authentic cuisine of Peshawar, where meats are cooked on low heat.

Photo: Amith Nag/Shutterstock.com
Address: Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Namak Mandi Rd, Peshawar
Opening hours: Daily 11am-11pm
Phone: +92 300 5922978
More Info: Further location on University Road

Hong Kong



The longest-standing Chinese restaurant in town is an unpretentious eatery and a family favourite. The menu is dazzlingly extensive, with

forty-eight varieties of soup alone, and a further many noodle, rice, and meat dishes. Prices are reasonable and seating ample.

Photo: jenwong/Shutterstock.com
Address: 24, D The Mall, Mall Rd, Peshawar
Opening hours: Daily 11.30am-3pm & 6.30-10.30pm
Phone: +92 91 5284166

Bukhara



The rooftop barbecue restaurant is one of the finest dining establishments in the entire city, offering panoramic views, live

music, and traditional floor seating for those who prefer it. Both a la carte and buffet service are available. Prices are higher than at most local establishments, which means there are rarely too many diners.

Photo: jaboo2foto/Shutterstock.com
Address: Khyber Rd, Peshawar
Phone: +92 91 111 505 505
Internet: www.pchotels.com/pcpeshawar/en/dining/bukhara-restaurant-peshawar.html

More Info: Rooftop of the Pearl Continental Hotel

CAFES



successo images/Shutterstock.com

Green tea (or kahwah) is the Peshawari beverage of choice. The age-old recipe dictates that tea be brewed in a large copper container (samovar), with spices like saffron, cinnamon and cardamom added for fragrance and flavor. Nowadays, liberties are often taken with the original recipe, but drinking kahwah remains an indispensable tradition. Another noteworthy treat is the falooda, a sweet dessert drink prepared with rose syrup, basil, jello bits and milk.

Cafe Crunch



Cafe Crunch is a pleasant surprise - unlike at many other city eateries, guests are welcome to linger for longer than the exact amount of time it takes to

finish a meal, which is great news for those who happen to love the breezy courtyard. The menu lists a selection of meals and snacks, including the recommended steaks and pizza, as well as desserts and soft drinks. There is live music in the evenings.

Photo: Elena Elisseeva/Shutterstock.com
Address: N Canal Rd, Peshawar
Opening hours: Daily 11am-11.30pm
Phone: +92 91 5701061

More Info: Frontier Women University Town Campus

Chief Burger



One of the very first fast casual restaurants in Peshawar, Chief Burger is still going strong years after its opening, serving good quality, inexpensive

casual meals, with burgers and pizza at the forefront, and other offerings including steaks, salads, soups, and dessert.

Photo: SerbBgd/Shutterstock.com
Address: University Rd, Peshawar
Opening hours: Daily 10am-12am
Phone: +92 91 5844788
Internet: www.chief.com.pk

Jan's Deli



Jan's is a pleasant University Town area spot for casual meals (they serve everything from burgers to steak and pasta) or coffee breaks,

with enticing, scrumptious cakes displayed at the shop front. The set meals are of great value, and highly recommended.

Photo: CandyBox Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: Circular Lane, Iqra Chowk, University Town, Peshawar
Opening hours: Daily 11.30am-11pm
Phone: +92 91 5701687

Mr. Cod

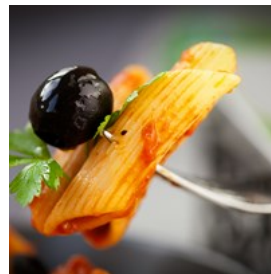


Mr. Cod is a local take on the traditional UK fish and chip shop, with a fast food menu that includes fish burgers, deep-fried prawns, chicken rice, and

fish tikka, all of which come as part of great value combo meals with fries. The breakfast special includes an egg muffin sandwich, red beans, salad, and a hot beverage.

Photo: Olexiy Bayev/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3-A Park Ave, Iqra Chowk, University Rd, Peshawar
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11am-1am, Sun 11am-12am
Phone: +92 91 5843048
Internet: www.mrcodpakistan.com
More Info: Bhattani Plaza

Cafe de Milano



The Italian bakery and restaurant Cafe de Milano occupies the basement of Aman Center in the Main University Road (use the Telenor

office as a reference point). Many come here for the scrumptious cakes, but meals like steaks, barbecue, seafood, and even Thai and Chinese dishes are served.

Photo: mythja/Shutterstock.com
Address: University Rd, Peshawar
Phone: +92 91 58 440 44
More Info: Delivery free of charge

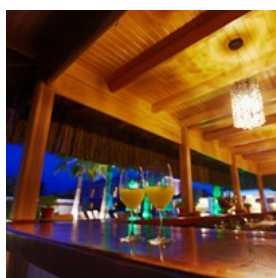
NIGHTLIFE



Deivukas999/Shutterstock.com

There admittedly isn't much in the way of nightlife in Peshawar, and precaution must be taken if you do venture outside after dark (foreign visitors are often advised against it). The city's most common evening pastime is dining, with many restaurants staying open until late in the night (many also serve shisha). The sale and consumption of alcohol is forbidden in all of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, although underground booze-fuelled parties do take place, but information about those is, understandably, hard to come by, and admittance is by personal invitation only.

Pearl Continental Hotel



The Pearl Continental is one of the very few places in Peshawar that serve alcoholic drinks to non-Muslim foreigners, including beer produced by Pakistan's longest standing Murree Brewery. The dining offer is extensive, and includes Italian and Chinese cuisines, as well as a rooftop barbecue restaurant. Live music and shows set the scene on occasion.

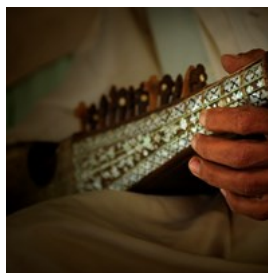
Photo: AdaCo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Khyber Rd, Peshawar

Phone: +92 91 111 505 505

Internet: www.pchotels.com/pcpeshawar

Nishtar Hall

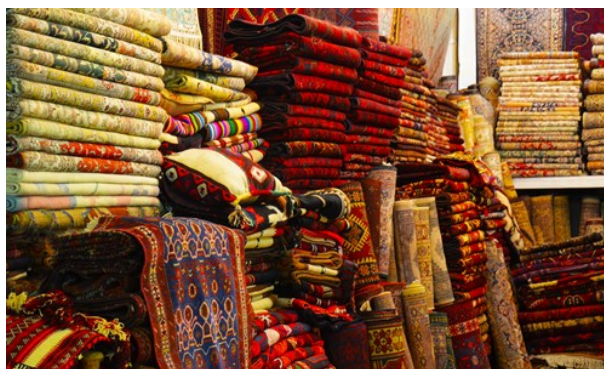


The recently revamped Nishtar Hall is a cultural centre aimed at preservation of the Pashtun traditions and art. Plays and musical performances marked it being re-opened in 2016 after forced shut down nearly a decade prior; exhibitions and other cultural events are hosted here on a regular basis.

Photo: Rylan K. Albright (U.S. armed forces)/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Saddar Rd, Peshawar

SHOPPING



Mohammad Ali Photography/Shutterstock.com

Shopping is an art form in Peshawar, where avid bargain-hunters will feel right at home. Haggling is well-expected at markets (initial prices can be easily brought down by at least a third), and is even acceptable at some shops where prices appear to be fixed. Items to look out for include traditional chapli sandals, Afghani pakol (wool hats), pottery, brass and copper wares, quality fabrics, woven rugs, and more. Note that some areas, such as the Smugglers' Market, are best visited with a local guide.

Saddar Bazaar



A city's busiest shopping area across Pakistan and India is often known as "saddar", Peshawar being no exception. The array of shops and vendors is simply staggering, and may prove overwhelming to the unprepared visitor, so do consider hiring a local guide. Hagglng is acceptable at both markets and stores.

Photo: Umair Mohsin/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)
Address: Saddar Rd, Peshawar

Deans Shopping Mall



If taking to the shopping streets proves overwhelming, Deans is a viable alternative: much less hectic and plenty more organised, one of the city's largest shopping centres houses thousands of shops selling everything under the sun, from quality fabrics to electronics.

Photo: Amlan Mathur/Shutterstock.com
Address: Saddar Rd, Peshawar
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9.30am-10pm

Street of Storytellers



The part of Khyber Bazaar known as Qissa Khawani, or the "street of storytellers", is where traders and travellers of olde shared tales of grand adventures in foreign lands - hence the poetic nickname. Much has changed since, but Qissa Khawani remains a vibrant market street, where clothing, teas, spices, crockery and metal housewear are still sold.

Photo: Corrado Baratta/Shutterstock.com
Address: Qissa Khawani, Peshawar

Ander Sher Bazaar



Best known as the place to get quality jewellery (including pieces featuring authentic precious stones), Ander Sher is a popular market with an abundant offering of various ornaments - and not only. A separate section within specialises in items of gold. Custom-made pieces may be ordered.

Photo: Olena Z/Shutterstock.com
Address: Qadimi Shehr, Peshawar
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm
Phone: +92 300 9336999

Smugglers' Bazaar



The Karkhano Market has gained notoriety for the weapons and opiates sold in its closed-off-to-foreigners far end; venturing here without a trusted guide is an endeavour we do not endorse. The sprawling shopping area leading up to here, however, can be visited freely, although remaining vigilant at all times is essential.

Photo: Corrado Baratta/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jamrud Rd, Peshawar
Opening hours: Sat-Thurs 9am-6pm
Phone: +92 331 9131818

TOURIST INFORMATION



Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

Safety



Multiple terrorist attacks have been carried out in Pakistan in recent years, including at places of interest attractive to tourists like markets,

cinemas, restaurants, and other places known to be frequented by foreigners. This applies to Peshawar especially, partly due to the city's proximity to the Afghanistan border and lawless Tribal Areas, through which guns and drugs are known to flow freely.

At the time of writing (early 2018) all but essential travel to Peshawar is advised against. Threat of terrorist attacks and kidnappings is imminent, and solo exploration, particularly for female travellers, is not recommended, and strongly advised against after sundown. Modesty in dress is advised, which implies loose-fitting clothing that covers shoulders and legs.

Photo: Victor Z

Passport / Visa



Most travellers will need to apply for an entry visa via one of Pakistan's diplomatic missions. Visa on arrival may be issued in certain cases, but only

applies to a selected number of nationalities, and only for visitors travelling as part of an organised tour group or on business. Visa-free entry is granted to nationals of the Maldives, Nepal, Samoa, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago.

Indian residents are subject to extra regulations and are not issued tourist visas, but may enter the country on a different type of visa. Citizens of India, along with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Israel, Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia and Uganda are required to register with the police upon arrival.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Bacha Khan International Airport



The Bacha Khan International Airport (formerly Peshawar International Airport) is one of the busiest air hubs in the country. It

services multiple destinations within Pakistan and abroad.

The airport is located a short drive away from the city centre. It is possible to hire a rental car or taxi upon arrival.

Afridi Rent a Car

Concourse Hall & Car Parking Area

PABX BKIAP: +9291 9211525

Photo: Juan Garces

Internet: www.peshawarairport.com.pk

Best Time to Visit



In terms of weather, the months that boast most comfortable temperatures are late spring's April and May, as well as early autumn's September and

October. As for the safety situation, it can change and deteriorate quickly, so doing research immediately prior to travel is absolutely essential.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Public Transport



While the rapid transit system for Peshawar remains under construction (as of early 2018), the best way to get around town on the cheap

is by manoeuvrable auto-rickshaws. Public busses are advised against, being overcrowded and rather inefficient.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



The taxi hiring app Careem operates in Pakistan. Insaf Cabs +92 91 5811101

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Pharmacy



Time's Pharmacy
Spogmay plaza,
Univeristy Town,
Peshawar Mon-Sat
9am-11.45pm, Sun
11am-11.45pm Al-Syed

Pharmacy

Old Jamrud Rd, Peshawar
+92 333 9104919
Mon-Sat 9am-11pm, Sun 5-11pm

Pharma 7

Namak Mandi Rd, Peshawar
Mon 8am-12am, Tue-Sat 24 hours, Sun 12-8am
+92 345 9037355

Photo: Gemma Garner

Post



For shipping valuables, there are private delivery services such as DHL (1080 Saddar Rd). Pakistan General Post Office

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Saddar Rd, Peshawar
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-4pm
Phone: +92 91 9211642
Internet: www.pakpost.gov.pk

Telephone



+92 (Pakistan country code) 91 (Peshawar area code)

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



230 V, 50Hz "Euro" plugs
type C and three round
pin type D plugs used

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

1.97 million (2017)

Currency

Pakistani rupee

Newspapers

Daily Pakistan
The Frontier Post

Emergency numbers

Ambulance 115
Fire 16
Police 15

Tourist information

TCKP Tourist Information Center
Saddar Rd, Peshawar (at the Peshawar Museum), Pakistan

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm
Phone: +92 91 9213762