



# Lahore

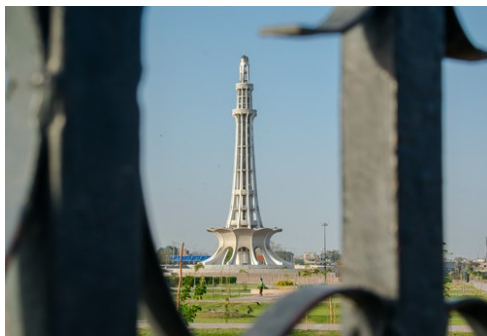
Photo: M.Ashar/Shutterstock.com



Burhan Ay/Shutterstock.com

As Pakistan longs for a surge of international visitors, its second city – Lahore – sits at the gates, prepared to swing them open at first notice. The capital of Punjab and recognised cultural centre of the country, Lahore holds some rare remnants of Mughal rule, Pakistan's largest number of academic institutions, splendid gardens, and endless culinary delights, living up to its reputation of a gastronomic paradise.

*NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit [ArrivalGuides.com](http://ArrivalGuides.com)*



lazy.lad/Shutterstock



Homo Cosmicos/Shutterstock.com

## QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller  
Are You Based on  
Your Travel IQ?*

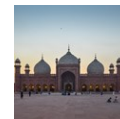
**TAKE THE QUIZ**

### Top 5



#### Lahore Fort

Once the residence of great Mughal royals, the fort calls for a slow-paced e...



#### Badshahi Mosque

The splendid Badshahi Mosque ranks among the world's largest, and the city o...



#### Shalimar Gardens

The only remaining example of quintessentially Mughal-era planning, Shalimar...



#### Lahore Museum

The splendid Lahore Museum offers fascinating insight into the rich history ...



#### Lahore Zoo & Safari Park

Animal-lovers and those travelling with children should try and write the La...



## THE CITY



Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

The city core is contained within the walls of the Lahore Fort, built by the Mughal emperor Akbar in the late 16th century, and further extended by subsequent rulers. Although most of the old city attractions can be explored on foot, those who venture elsewhere will need to secure efficient transportation, as most other attractions are set far apart from one another. Lahore has recently launched its first red double-decker sightseeing bus, whose entire route takes an approximate 2 hours to complete, and includes stops at the city's most prominent sights, such as the Badshahi Mosque, the Minar-e-Pakistan independence monument, and a few others.

## DO & SEE



Shahid Khan/Shutterstock.com

Start your tour of Lahore inside the old walled city, a historic and relatively compact area that's easy to get around on foot. Some of Lahore's major attractions, such as the Lahore Fort and

Badshahi Mosque, with the nearby new Food Street (in Fort Road) are located here, at the heart of the sprawling greater city, which holds further sights and experiences.

### Lahore Fort



Once the residence of great Mughal royals, the fort calls for a slow-paced examination of its grounds, believed to contain some of Lahore's most ancient relics. Taking a guided tour is highly recommended (prices and duration negotiable). On-site museums include an armoury and painting exhibitions, along with a Mughal Gallery containing artefacts dating back to the era.

Photo: Burhan Ay/Shutterstock.com

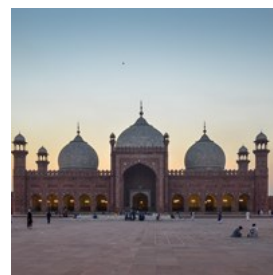
Address: Fort Rd, Lahore

Opening hours: Daily 7am-6pm

Phone: +92 323 8816326

More Info: UNESCO World Heritage Site

### Badshahi Mosque



The splendid Badshahi Mosque ranks among the world's largest, and the city of Lahore's finest attractions. Apart from elaborate decor and architectural detail, mosque grounds contain the Tomb of Allama Iqbal, a prominent Pakistani philosopher and poet. It's beautifully illuminated at night; look over from the top floor of a restaurant in nearby Food Street.

Photo: Burhan Ay/Shutterstock.com

Opening hours: Sunrise - sunset



### Shalimar Gardens



The only remaining example of quintessentially Mughal-era planning, Shalimar Gardens were designed with the

intention of forging a perfect cohabiting space for humans and elements of nature. Centuries later, the gardens remain a potent visitor attraction.

Photo: Ali imran se/Shutterstock.com (image cropped)  
Address: Grand Trunk Rd, Lahore

### Lahore Museum

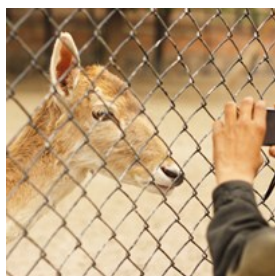


The splendid Lahore Museum offers fascinating insight into the rich history of the Indian subcontinent. Artefacts and displays

date back to the earliest findings of early pre-historic times all the way through to the late 20th century, including Gandharan, Mughal, Sikh, and British relics.

Photo: Guilhem Vellut/Flickr (image cropped)  
Address: Mall Rd, Lahore  
Opening hours: Sat-Thurs 9am-4pm  
Phone: +92 42 99211819  
Internet: www.lahoremuseum.gov.pk

### Lahore Zoo & Safari Park



Animal-lovers and those travelling with children should try and write the Lahore Zoo into their itinerary. Its variety of animal species is among the widest on the subcontinent, including tigers, lions, hippos, crocodiles, and a great many birds. The drive-through safari park on the southern

edge of town provides a further glimpse of animal life.

Photo: Aleem Zahid Khan/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 90 Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam, Mall Rd, Lahore  
Opening hours: Daily 9am-7pm  
Phone: +92 42 36314684  
Internet: www.lahorezoo.com.pk  
Email: lahorezoolahore@gmail.com

### Tomb of Jahangir



The tomb of Mughal emperor Jahangir is a majestic work of architecture, commissioned by his son Shah Jahan in memory of

his late father. The complex is known especially for its intricate detail which includes ornate frescoes, carved marble, and mosaics of semi-precious stone known as "pietra dura" style.

Photo: maidah\_maha/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Lahore Fort, Lahore  
Opening hours: Daily 8am-5pm

### DINING



Santhosh Varghese/Shutterstock.com

The province of Punjab is known for its especially abundant culinary offerings, and Lahore in particular is heralded as a hot spot for gastronomy. Some of the dishes you'll certainly encounter on restaurant menus include all manner of meat grills and kebabs, spicy chicken

karahi and Lahori, along with a variety of further chicken dishes, and deep-fried goodies sold off street sides. To acquaint yourself with local dining culture, begin at the new Food Street nearby the Lahore Fort, eventually working your way down to Anarkali Bazaar.

### Monal

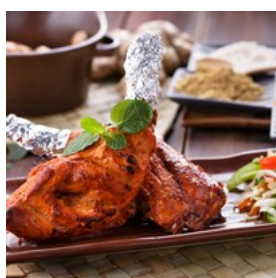


Rooftop Monal commands sweeping views of Lahore, all the while offering discerning guests a lengthy menu of Pakistani and Continental

dishes. The daily dinner buffet (6.45-11pm) is a real hit, followed closely by Sunday brunch (10.30am-2pm) and "high tea" on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons.

Photo: mohsin\_gfx/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Liberty Gulberg Roundabout, Lahore  
Opening hours: Daily 11am-1am  
Phone: +92 42 35789823  
Internet: www.lahore.themonal.com  
Email: monallahore@gmail.com  
More Info: Park and Ride Plaza

### Andaaz



It doesn't get much better than this on the Lahore dining scene: set inside the old walled city, Andaaz offers seating on an airy terrace

overlooking the splendid Badshahi Mosque, which lights up beautifully at night. The menu centres on cuisine from the subcontinent, featuring a variety of karahi (thick curry) and tandoori dishes.

Photo: Odua Images/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Fort Rd, Lahore  
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 7pm-12am

Phone: +92 322 4346666  
Internet: www.andaazrestaurant.com  
Email: pr@andaazrestaurant.com

### Options

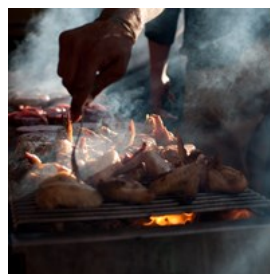


Options delivers on its promise of manifold dining choices, with offerings of an incredible six different world cuisines (Pakistani,

Iranian, and Chinese - to name a few), as well as an on-site bakery and cafe. The establishment is extremely popular, with ample seating.

Photo: wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 8 Aibak Block, Garden Heights, New Garden Town, Lahore  
Opening hours: Daily 12pm-12am  
Phone: +92 42 35941909  
Internet: www.options.pk

### Bundu Khan



For a proper barbecue feast, try the local favourite Bundu Khan, praised for its juicy mutton and chicken grills, flavourful karahi and

tikka, and other desi dishes (do not skip on the naan bread!). Prices are more than reasonable.

Photo: jbutcher/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Fortress Stadium Circular Rd, Lahore  
Opening hours: Daily 11am-1am  
Phone: +92 42 36667319  
Internet: www.bundukhan.pk

### Spice Bazaar



Take advantage of the intimate outdoor courtyard seating and tuck into delectable barbecue specialities (get the mixed grill platter to

share among several diners), or come for the popular Sunday brunch (10am-3pm), a family favourite. Stop by the on-site dessert shop for take-away goodies.

Photo: Ksenija Toyechkina/Shutterstock.com

Address: MM Alam Rd, Tipu Rd, Lahore

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-12am

Phone: +92 42 35759015

Internet: [www.spicebazaar.pk](http://www.spicebazaar.pk)

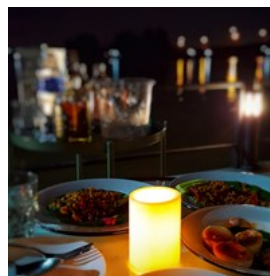
### CAFES



*successo images/Shutterstock.com*

High tea and Sunday brunch are big at Lahore cafes, the latter immensely popular with local families. An attractive spot for an outing is never too far away, regardless of which part of the city you find yourself in, which includes locales serving Punjab specialities and Continental foods.

### Cooco's Den



Cooco's is a gem of a cafe set within arm's reach from the Fort and Lahore's fabulous Badshahi Mosque (visible clearly from the terrace).

The cafe is best known for its scrumptious chicken tawa, cooked with tomatoes and an aromatic spice mix, served with fresh naan bread.

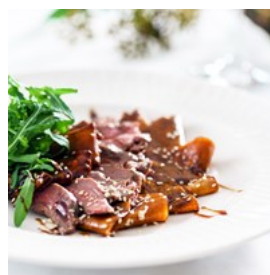
Photo: MP kullimratchai/Shutterstock.com

Address: Roshan Gate, 2168/A Food Street Fort Road, Lahore

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-1am

Phone: +92 300 9472407

### The Pantry



Do not be deterred by the cafe's location on shopping mall premises: fame of The Pantry's fabulous salads has travelled all across town,

bringing in a steady flow of return customers. While you're there, do not skip on the delectable cheesecake and/or other desserts in the glass display.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com

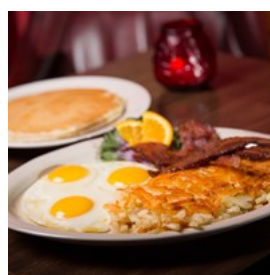
Address: Main Blvd Gulberg 3, Lahore

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10.30pm

Phone: +92 42 35790127

More Info: Shop No. 10, Mall - 1

### Freddy's Cafe



This well-located, retro-style cafe is a popular city meeting point, and one that offers an abundant selection of local and international

dishes. The menu features classic burgers and



fries, Afghani specialities, seafood, pasta, and steaks served sizzling in the skillet.

Photo: PeterVandenbelt/Shutterstock.com

Address: 12C MM Alam Rd, Lahore

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-12am

Phone: +92 42 35754416

### Coffee, Tea & Company



One of the pioneers of its time, Coffee, Tea & Company remains an excellent spot for breakfast and high tea in Lahore. The menu

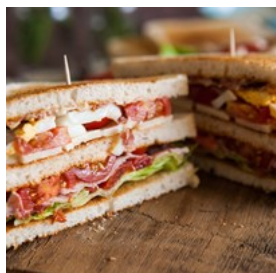
features dishes of Continental and international cuisine (including some loose interpretations of Mexican), along with atypical desserts such as deep-fried chocolate bars.

Photo: Ksenija Toyechkina/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mian Mehmood Ali Kasoori Rd, Lahore

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-2am

### The Delicatessen by Cosa Nostra



This hip little spot is known for its original salads and sandwiches (particularly the toasted variety), as well as sweet and savoury crepes,

soups, meat grills, and a plethora of cakes and desserts. The value for money is decent, and the ambience inviting.

Photo: Simone van den Berg/Shutterstock.com

Address: 94 Fashion Ave, Lahore

Opening hours: Daily 9am-11pm

Phone: +92 42 35790081

More Info: Shop No. 1

## NIGHTLIFE



solarseven/Shutterstock.com

Alcohol consumption by Muslims is illegal in Pakistan, which means the only places that potentially serve drinks to non-Muslim foreign visitors are upscale hotels such as the Pearl Continental. Instead of bars and clubs, nightlife in Lahore centres around dining, and its popular food streets really come alive as the sun sets.

### Zouk



This longstanding, fine cafe has loyally served generations of Lahore natives, and continues doing so to-date. The menu consists of

primarily Continental and international specialities, including burgers, steaks, pasta, Asian noodles. What makes it especially attractive come sundown is the music, which ranges from traditional to popular western hits.

Photo: Robyn Mackenzie/Shutterstock.com

Address: MM Alam Rd, Lahore

Opening hours: Daily 12.30pm-1am

Phone: +92 42 35750272

Internet: [www.cafezouk.com](http://www.cafezouk.com)

### Peeru's Cafe



Adjacent to the only museum of puppetry in the country, Peeru's is a very special establishment with an elaborate decor like none other. Quirky artwork adorns the walls, and every Thursday through Sunday night sees a live band perform music of a different cultural tradition (e.g. sufi and ghazal).

Photo: Jayakumar/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Green Acres Main Rd, Lahore  
Phone: +92 300 8432626  
Email: peerus.cafe@rafipeer.org  
More Info: Greenb Acres Farm Housing Society

### Food Streets



The foodie city of Lahore keeps going come sundown, and some of the best places to head to experience its vibrancy are the so-called "food streets", of which there are two most popular: the older one, located in Gawalmandi, and the new, pedestrian-only Fort Road, a stone's throw away from the fort and famous Badshahi Mosque.

Photo: Mariam88/Shutterstock.com

### Alhamra Cultural Complex



The brainchild of Lahore Art Council operates as a cultural centre open to the public, whose sole goal is preserving and showcasing the country's artistic heritage. There is a permanent art gallery on-site, but the main attraction is the

open-air theatre that regularly plays host musical and theatrical shows, as well as other cultural evenings.

Photo: MITO SettembreMusica/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)  
Address: 68 Mall Rd, Lahore  
Phone: +92 42 99200917  
Internet: [www.lac.punjab.gov.pk](http://www.lac.punjab.gov.pk)

## SHOPPING



Jon Naustdalslid/Shutterstock.com

Shopping opportunities are abundant in Lahore; in fact, entire city neighbourhoods are taken over by stores and vendors peddling all manner of goods. Items worth purchasing include gold, silver and precious stone jewellery, silk and textiles, carpets, pashminas, leather goods (including footwear), spices and cooking paraphernalia, and more. Remember to haggle, for prices are rarely fixed outside of major modern shopping malls.

### Anarkali Bazaar



The sprawling Anarkali Bazaar is one of the oldest and best-known shopping neighbourhoods in Lahore. Come here if not for the traditional garb and jewellery, then to experience local flavour at its most vibrant and, at times, most hectic. There is plenty of street food to be had off

the sides of shopping arteries.

Photo: Faraz Hyder Jafri/Shutterstock.com

### Fortress Stadium & Square Mall



Now here's a stadium like none other you've had the luck to experience - it teems with visitors day and night, with no sporting events in sight

on most occasions. More of a shopping and entertainment complex, Fortress Stadium and the adjacent Fortress Square Mall contain an abundance of stores, ample dining joints, along with a cinema and children's entertainment centre.

Photo: chainarong06/Shutterstock.com

Address: Aziz Bhatti Rd, Lahore

Phone: +92 42 111 778 273

Internet: [www.fortresssquare.com](http://www.fortresssquare.com)

### Emporium Mall



Bring plenty of time when headed to the Emporium Mall, for its shopping toils aren't easily escaped.

Apart from ample local and international-brand

stores and restaurants, the mall contains a cinema and kids' entertainment centres. Daily visitors number in the tens of thousands, so peak hours (weekdays after 5pm) and weekends might be best avoided.

Photo: kikovic/Shutterstock.com

Address: Abdul Haque Rd, Johar Town, Lahore

Opening hours: Daily 11am-11pm

Phone: +92 42 32592000

Internet: [www.nishatemporium.com](http://www.nishatemporium.com)

### Liberty Market



This horseshoe-shaped market is another Lahore shopping and entertainment hot spot, with an especially large offering of women's garb, jewellery, perfumes and cosmetics, as well as an abundance of dining spots, street food vendors, and ice cream parlours.

Photo: Burhan Ay/Shutterstock.com

Address: Noor Jehan Rd, Gulberg, Lahore

### Hafeez Center



The mecca for electronics, Hafeez Center houses all retailers for computers, mobile phones, and other devices and appliances imaginable, and offers effective maintenance and repair services. Hagglng is acceptable, and most outlets will accept cash payments only.

Photo: Baevskiy Dmitry/Shutterstock.com

Address: Main Blvd Gulberg, Lahore

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11am-10pm

Phone: +92 42 35871266

Internet: [www.hafeezcentre.biz](http://www.hafeezcentre.biz)



## TOURIST INFORMATION



Mohammad Ali Photography/Shutterstock.com

### 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

### Airport



The city of Lahore is served by Allama Iqbal International Airport. Getting to and from here is possible by public transport (there are two

bus routes that run through the city and have stops at the airport; check the website for detailed schedules). Another convenient option, aside from official taxi, are the auto-hiring apps Uber and Careem, its Asian equivalent.

The official following taxi companies service the airport:

Metro Radio Cab  
Concourse Hall, Lahore Airport  
+92 42 111 222 787  
[www.metrocab.com.pk](http://www.metrocab.com.pk)

City Radio Cab  
Concourse Hall, Lahore Airport  
+92 21 111 111 129  
[cityradiocab@hotmail.com](mailto:cityradiocab@hotmail.com)

Photo: Juan Garces  
Phone: +92 42 99031000  
Internet: [www.lahoreairport.com.pk](http://www.lahoreairport.com.pk)

### Best Time to Visit



As a general rule, the summer months of May through August are best avoided, for this period is both the hottest (often uncomfortably so) and

most humid (especially in August and September). Most religious celebrations take place between November and January, so plan accordingly depending on whether or not you would like to coincide with those. Winter and

early spring are best in terms of temperatures, with degrees rarely going into the negatives.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

## Public Transport



Although the walled city is entirely walkable, getting to locations across town might require using public transport. The Lahore

Metrobus line connects the city's north to south, from Shahdara Terminal to Gajjumata Terminal (tickets may be purchased at vending machines at bus stops). If speed is of priority, taking an official taxi or qingqi (small auto rickshaw) may be your best bet.

There is also a red double-decker sightseeing bus whose route includes stops at most of Lahore's attractions. The entire loop takes approximately 2 hours to complete.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

## Taxi



Taxis may be pre-ordered over the phone, and there are multiple carries. Ride hiring apps like Uber and Careem are also used widely. ataxi Park +92 42

111 961 961

[www.ataxi.com.pk](http://www.ataxi.com.pk)

Euro Taxi

+92 42 35972017

Photo: ArrivalGuides

## Pharmacy



Pharmacies are scattered in abundance throughout the city. Servaid Pharmacy 24/7 Model Town Circular Road, Lahore +92 42 111 626

364

[www.servaid.com.pk](http://www.servaid.com.pk)

Photo: Gemma Garner/Shutterstock.com

## Post

General Post Office:



Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Mall Rd & McLeod Rd, Lahore

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-9pm

Phone: +92 42 111 111 117

## Telephone

+92 Pakistan country code 42 Lahore city code



Photo: Jardson Almeida

## Electricity



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



Photo: Stirling Tschan

**Population**

11.13 million (2017)

**Currency**

Pakistani rupee

**Newspapers**

Daily Pakistan  
The Frontier Post

**Emergency numbers**

Ambulance 115

Fire 16

Police 15

**Tourist information**

19-Fareed Tower, Temple Road, Lahore

+92 42 37116625

[tourdpak@yahoo.com](mailto:tourdpak@yahoo.com)

Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore

+92 42 99240021