



Karachi

Photo: Mohammad Ali Photography/Shutterstock.com



Faz Mavic/Shutterstock.com

A cosmopolitan melting pot of Eastern and Western influences, ethnicities and cultures, Karachi will enrapture all those who visit. With the warm waters of the Arabian sea lapping at its shores, a breathtaking mix of architectural styles and the warm welcoming hospitality of its people, Karachi will uplift the spirits and animate you with a glow that gives credence to its nickname as the "City of Lights."



Corrado Baratta/Shutterstock.com



Mohammad Ali Photography/Shutterstock.com

QUIZ

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

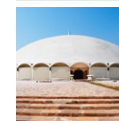
TAKE THE QUIZ

Top 5



Quaid Mausoleum

Karachi's most prominent landmark is a memorial to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali...



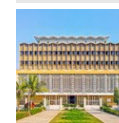
Tuba Mosque

5,000 worshippers can fit into this splendid white marble mosque, which is, ...



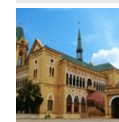
Mohatta Palace Museum

This spectacular 1920s palace, once officially belonging to the country's go...



National Museum of Pakistan

The National Museum provides an excellent insight into the history of the re...



Karachi's Victorian Archit...

The best places to admire the splendid monuments of the colonial era are Ibr...



THE CITY



Mohammad Ali Photography/Shutterstock.com

Saddar, the commercial heart of the city, is where visitors will undoubtedly be drawn to. The wide boulevards and narrow side streets are home to all manner of markets and bazaars where you will find Karachi street life at its most vibrant. Along Zaibunnisa Street there are also some fine examples of Victorian architecture, a relic from colonial times, whilst on MA Jinnah Road you will find Karachi's most famous landmark: the Quaid Mausoleum. Saddar is also a good place to head if you're looking for budget accommodation; for cheap eats, head to the famous Burns Road.

South of Saddar, hugging the coastline, are the upmarket neighbourhoods of Clifton and DHA (Defence Housing Association). Clifton's marine promenade is a popular evening hangout for Karachiites, who come to eat at the numerous restaurants dotting the boatyard, or simply just to walk and talk, all while admiring one of the world's tallest water fountains. In the adjoining neighbourhood of DHA, Zamzama Boulevard has a range of designer boutiques, coffee shops and stylish restaurants that attract a well-heeled crowd.

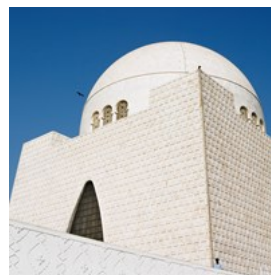
DO & SEE



Dmitry Pichugin/Shutterstock.com

There is plenty to see in sprawling Karachi, the financial first city of Pakistan and a fascinating melting pot of cultures. Most visitor attractions are concentrated in the southern district, while the outlying beaches and islands make for excellent short trips out of the city. If you're keen on learning more about the city's history, museums like the National Museum of Pakistan and Mohatta Palace Museum are ones not to be missed.

Quaid Mausoleum



Karachi's most prominent landmark is a memorial to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder and first head of state of Pakistan. The mausoleum is where Pakistan's great leader remains buried, making the location of immense historical significance to the local populace.

Photo: Dmitry Pichugin/Shutterstock.com

Address: Muhammad Ali Jinnah Road, Karachi

Phone: +92 21 99230172

Tuba Mosque



5,000 worshippers can fit into this splendid white marble mosque, which is, reportedly, the biggest single-domed mosque in the world. Please bear in mind that visits may only be arranged by prior appointment (only male visitors allowed).

Photo: Dmitry Pichugin/Shutterstock.com
Address: Old Korangi Road, Karachi
Phone: +92 332 5175360

Mohatta Palace Museum



This spectacular 1920s palace, once officially belonging to the country's government, is now a museum showcasing the cultural heritage and narrating the history of Pakistan via a few dozen galleries belonging to its jurisdiction to-date. Check the website for current exhibitions.

Photo: Mohammad Ali Photography/Shutterstock.com
Address: 7 Hatim Alvi Road, Clifton
Phone: +92 21 583 7669
Internet: www.mohattapalacemuseum.com

National Museum of Pakistan



The National Museum provides an excellent insight into the history of the region. Although the maintenance does leave some to be desired, the museum does contain a collection of 58,000 old coins, hundreds of well-preserved sculptures and other interesting artefacts dating back to various points in Pakistan's history.

Photo: Siddiqi/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Pakistan
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9am-5pm, Wed closed
Phone: +92 21 99212839
Internet: national-museum-of-pakistan.business.site

Karachi's Victorian Architecture



The best places to admire the splendid monuments of the colonial era are Ibrahim Ismail Chundrigar Road, Zaib-un-Nissa Street and M.A.Jinnah Road. Be sure to check out Liaqat Hall on Abdullah Haroon Road, the Empress Market, and the Karachi Port Trust building.

Photo: Mohammad Ali Photography/Shutterstock.com

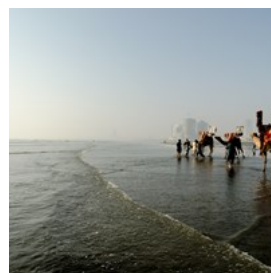
Chaukundi



East of Karachi lie the Chaukundi tombs, a vast Islamic burial ground full of incredibly ornate tombs that date back to somewhere during the 15th through 18th centuries. The sandstone structures are believed to be a burial site for the late Jokhio tribe members.

Photo: Adnan Arain/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)
Address: Port Qasim Road, Karachi
More Info: National Highway 27 km East of Karachi

Beaches



Escape the heat of the city and catch the breeze at one of the nearby beaches. The best ones are Sandspit Hawkes Bay, Clifton Beach, French Beach (privately owned, with clear water) and Paradise Point, with its scenic rock jutting out into the Arabian Sea. Camel rides are available

for entertainment.

Photo: Arfan Mahmood/Shutterstock.com

Pakistan Air Force Museum (PAF)



The museum adjacent to an actual Pakistan Air Force base in Faisal is Karachi's prime attraction for aviation enthusiasts and not only:

the grounds contain an extensive collection of military aircraft (some even open to be looked inside of), and a small amusement park operates on-site.

Photo: Miansari66/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: Shahra-e-Faisal, Karachi

Opening hours: Daily 8.30am-10pm, Fri 3-10pm

Phone: +92 321 3294000

Internet: www.pafmuseum.com.pk

More Info: PAF Faisal Air Base

DINING



Paul Krugloff/Shutterstock.com

Eating in Karachi is a gourmet's dream, with a seemingly endless selection of eateries: from the cosmopolitan finery of upmarket restaurants to the traditional delights served by street vendors. Among the most popular local dishes are nihari, a stew made from beef or lamb, and biryani; these are almost always accompanied by a variety of breads such as naan, paratha or

chapati. After a rich, spicy meal it's always nice to refresh the palate with one of the traditional desserts, a particular Pakistani favourite being kulfi (a variety of ice cream). Don't forget to bring cash, as restaurants outside of the city centre may not take cards.

The Pakistani



The Pakistani is located at the swanky Movenpick Hotel. They offer delicious Pakistani cuisine (grills and curries) in a sumptuous

setting, with live entertainment of traditional song and chefs at work accompanying evening dining. No alcohol served.

Photo: Simon Booth/Shutterstock.com

Address: Club Road, Saddar, Karachi

Opening hours: Daily 7.30pm-12.30am

Phone: +92 21 563 3333

Internet: <https://www.movenpick.com/en/asia/pakistan/karachi/hotel-karachi/restaurants/restaurants/the-pakistani>

More Info: Movenpick Hotel

Fujiyama



An excellent Japanese restaurant serving some of the best sushi and sashimi in Pakistan - and beyond. You will find Fujiyama at the top floor

of the Avari Towers, offering sweeping views of the city. Some dishes are cooked teppanyaki-style, guests watching the chef work before their eyes.

Photo: E_Sh/Shutterstock.com

Address: Fatima Jinnah Road, Saddar, Karachi

Phone: +92 21 111 282 747

Internet: www.avari.com

More Info: Avari Towers

Dynasty



Exquisite Szechuan food served in imperial Chinese surroundings. On the menu you will find everyone's favourite dim sum, spicy Szechuan

dishes, classic Cantonese creations, and much more. The restaurant is open for both lunch and dinner.

Photo: leungchopan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Fatima Jinnah Road, Saddar, Karachi

Phone: +92 21 111 282 747

Internet:

<http://www.avari.com/property/avari-towers/dining/dynasty>

More Info: Avari Towers

LaL Qila



Atmospheric restaurant set in a Mughal-style red fort, serving an excellent, abundant buffet that allows you to try a range of traditional dishes in

one meal. The selection on offer is truly incredible, with an impressive variety of desserts accompanying the varied mains.

Photo: dotshock/Shutterstock.com

Address: 10/A, M.A.C.H.S Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi

Phone: +92 21 452 9493

Internet: www.lalqila.com

Bar-B-Q Tonight



One of the most popular restaurants in Karachi serving a fabulous assortment of Pakistani dishes, Afghani and Middle Eastern

specialities, barbecued meats and seafood dishes. There is a dinner buffet on Mondays and

Wednesdays, and a seafood buffet on Tuesdays and Thursdays (7.30pm-midnight).

Photo: Elena Dijour/Shutterstock.com

Address: Boating Basin, Clifton

Opening hours: Daily 1pm-1am

Phone: +92 21 111 227 111

Internet: www.bbqtonight.com

Email: nfo@bbqtonight.com

More Info: Block 5

Burns Road & Boat Basin



For cheap and delicious traditional Pakistani cuisine head down to Burns Road. Every night legions of food vendors take to the street to sell

their delicious, freshly cooked-on-the-spot delicacies. Boat Basin, in Clifton, is a building complex housing a plethora of international restaurants.

Photo: Mariam88/Shutterstock.com

Address: Burns Road, Karachi

Student Biryani



Another long-established Karachi restaurant serving delicious biryani and nihari dishes is Student Biryani, a budget eatery that long has been

enjoyed by students and otherwise. They offer a comfortable dining experience and quality service.

Photo: espies/Shutterstock.com

Address: ZC-57 Katrak Road, Saddar, Karachi

Phone: +92 21 111 111 778

Internet: www.studentbiryani.com

Email: info@studentbiryani.com

CAFES



espies/Shutterstock.com

After a long day of sightseeing it can be nice to sit down in a cafe and relax with a cup of tea or coffee. You will notice that the city has plenty of cafes to choose from, due to the flourishing cafe culture of Karachi. You will find places offering tasty ice creams, hot beverages, and delicious pastries.

Cafe Flo



Looking for something other than Asian flavours? Then try this excellent bistro that serves a range of gourmet dishes of the

French cuisine. Tables are laid with crisp white table cloths, each graced with fresh flowers. Seating available in the outdoor courtyard.

Photo: *cobraphotography/Shutterstock.com*

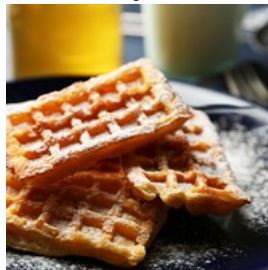
Address: Chartered Accountants Avenue, Karachi

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-12am

Phone: +92 21 587 7498

Email: cfkarachi@gmail.com

The Hot Spot



The Hot Spot is a funky hangout place whose walls are adorned with humorous signs and posters of Bollywood horror movies. They serve a delicious array of snacks and treats (freshly baked waffles, anyone?), coffee and ice creams.

Photo: *Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com*

Address: 33rd Street, Tauheed Commercial Area, DHA 5, Karachi

Phone: +92 21 35294720

Internet: www.thehotspotcafe.net

More Info: Plot 8-C

Gelato Affair



Gelato Affair is a great cafe, serving the very best of Italian ice cream and a great selection of coffees. They also serve an impressive selection of scrumptious cakes, like chocolate chip cake and strawberry delight cake.

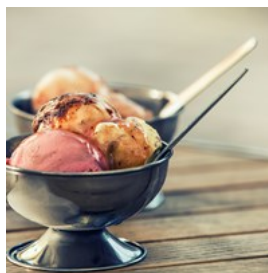
Photo: *A3pfamily/Shutterstock.com*

Address: 148/1 Mubarak Shaheed Road, Karachi

Opening hours: Daily 3pm-1am

Phone: +92 21 343 846 38

Peshawari Ice Cream Parlour



Peshawari Ice Cream is the oldest ice cream parlour in Karachi, and, with that, one of the most popular. The parlour's own flavour, "Peshawari", is so well-liked that other city ice cream parlours have picked up and now sell it at businesses of their own.

Photo: Marian Weyo/Shutterstock.com
Address: Preedy Street, Saddar, Karachi
Opening hours: Daily 10am-3am
Phone: +92 21 32225142
More Info: Shop 7

Baloch Ice Cream



This well-liked ice cream parlour offers a substantial selection of reasonably priced, high-quality ice creams. Be sure to try their

falooda, a traditional Pakistani dessert drink that often comes topped with a scoop of ice cream. They also offer many delicious milkshakes. There are several locations across town.

Photo: successo images/Shutterstock.com
Address: Bank Road, Karachi
Opening hours: Dailt 12pm-12am
Phone: +92 21 34811857

NIGHTLIFE



Deivukas999/Shutterstock.com

Nightlife in Karachi centres around dining, and restaurants tend to keep to late opening hours. Alcohol sale and consumption aren't legally allowed in Pakistan, so alcohol-free drinks, such as teas and juices, tend to substitute wine and beer during evening outings. Parties involving alcoholic drinks do happen, but these are largely kept hidden, and information about when and where they take place can only be obtained by

word of mouth. Non-Muslim foreign visitors may be served alcohol at some high-end hotels.

Fanoos



What's special about this particular lounge are its round-the-clock working hours, which means that the finest coffee and desserts are available to hotel guests and outside visitors at any hour of day or night. Live bands occasionally perform at Fanoos.

Photo: Baimieng/Shutterstock.com
Address: Club Road, Karachi
Phone: +92 21 356 333 33
More Info: Movenpick Hotel

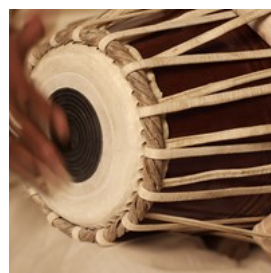
Ramada Plaza Karachi



Along with extensive dining facilities, the Ramada Plaza Hotel boasts one of the most atmospheric evening dining experiences in Karachi: a poolside, open-air barbecue restaurant. The on-site Opera Cafe works on a 24/7 basis.

Photo: IVASHstudio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Star Avenue Terminal 1, Karachi
Phone: +92 21 99242600
Internet: www.ramadaplazakarachi.com/web/restaurants

Dumpukht



With evening entertainment often centred around restaurants (rather than bars or night clubs), some dining establishments grow to become known as hot spots. Dumpukht

makes that list for music played live by bands and performers on a daily basis, between 8 and 11pm.

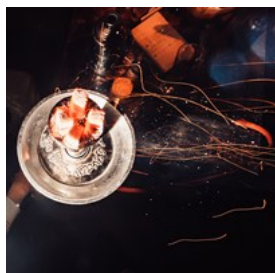
Photo: India Picture/Shutterstock.com

Address: 9 Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi

Phone: +92 21 35680111

More Info: Marriott Hotel; for phone calls, ext. 2201

Roadside Cafe



An atmospheric cafe and young locals' favourite hangout location, the Roadside Cafe is a rare find. Images of world celebrities adorn the

walls, and vibes are relaxed. Seating available both inside and in the outdoor patio. The menu is varied, and includes meals and drinks, as well as shisha.

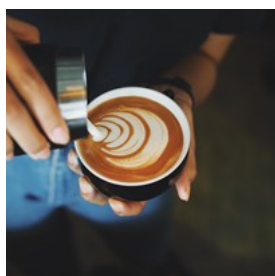
Photo: Anna Berdnik/Shutterstock.com

Address: Nehr-e-Khayyam Street, Clifton, Karachi

Opening hours: Daily 5pm-12am

Phone: +92 21 35869778

Sattar Buksh



Its logo not-so-vaguely reminiscent of a different worldwide coffee shop chain with a similar-sounding name, Sattar Buksh is, however,

entirely original in its concept. It's a rather popular evening (and daytime) hangout spot that serves an international menu of dishes and offers shisha.

Photo: StudioByTheSea/Shutterstock.com

Address: F73/1 Clifton Block 4, Karachi

Phone: +92 307 5805912

Internet: www.sattarbuksh.com

Email: info@sattarbuksh.com

SHOPPING



Corrado Baratta/Shutterstock.com

Saddar, the old area of the city, is home to a number of markets. Zainab Market and Bhori Bazaar are full of stalls selling handcrafted items such as woodwork, clothes, and leather garments. For jewellery, head for Sarafa Bazaar, which is a gold and silver market, whilst the Empress food market is great for spices and is worth a trip for the atmosphere alone. Aside from the souks, Zaibunnisa Street is lined with fashionable boutiques and jewellers, whilst Tariq Road in the neighbouring PECHS district has much of the same.

Need a new carpet for the living room? Then head down to Abdullah Haroon Road, where you can pick up quality new or antique carpets from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. If the thought of haggling leaves you in a cold sweat, head to the Clifton and DHA areas, where you will find a number of malls which provide a range of brand name outlets in air-conditioned surroundings.

Zaibunnisa Street



One of the cities liveliest arteries, the Zaibunnisa Street has historically been a bustling commercial centre, lined with all manner of shops and old colonial buildings. The street remains a

prime shopping location today, with outlets selling higher-end clothing, shoes, jewellery, and more.

Photo: Amlan Mathur/Shutterstock.com

Address: Zaibunnisa Street, Karachi

Zainab Market



The maze of Zainab Market is primarily known for selling cheap export-quality clothing, originally manufactured for reputable

international brands. Clothing items on sale are overwhelmingly without fault, but did not quite make the cut to be shipped on to overseas distributors. Leather, woven rugs, shawls, jewellery, spices, and many further goods are sold here - remember to haggle.

Photo: DESIGNFACTS/Shutterstock.com

Address: Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi

Phone: +92 332 3644348

Dolmen Mall



When it comes to shopping centres, the Dolmen Mall in Clifton knows no competition. It's a one-stop shopping location for clothing,

shoes, accessories, and even groceries. A few local and international store brands are represented, including the well-known British retailer Debenhams. There is a food court and children's entertainment centre on-site.

Photo: kikovic/Shutterstock.com

Address: The Harbour Front, HC-3, Block-4, Marine Drive, Clifton, Karachi

Phone: +92 21 111 362 111

Internet: www.dolmengroup.com

Empress Market



The Empress market's story dates back to the times of the British Raj, when it was first inaugurated and named after the then-empress Queen Victoria. It remains in operation today, and is a busy marketplace selling all manner of produce, including that which isn't in stock at markets elsewhere in the city.

Photo: K_Boonnitrod/Shutterstock.com

Address: Saddar Bazar Quarters, Karachi

Opening hours: Daily 7am-11pm

Phone: +92 313 8908443

Lucky One Mall



The shopping hot spot of the city's north is Lucky One Mall, an enormous shopping complex that ranks among the largest in the world. Apart from an abundance of retailers, the mall also houses a two-storey theme park for visitors of all ages, as well as an outdoor food street with a variety of restaurants.

Photo: Yummy pic/Shutterstock.com

Address: LA-2/B, Block 21, Rashid Minhas Road, Karachi

Phone: +92 21 36321311

Internet: www.luckyone.com.pk

More Info: Opposite UBL Sports Complex

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 Jinnah International Airport lies 15 km northeast of the city. Taxis are always available for hire outside the arrivals building. It takes

approximately 25 minutes to travel from the airport to downtown Karachi. Agree on the price before boarding the cab, and familiarise yourself with the average fare at your time of travelling.

A bus runs from dusk to dawn every 30 minutes. The journey takes approximately 50 minutes, but heavy traffic may extend this time.

Photo: Juan Garces

Phone: +92 21 34579126

Internet: www.karachiairport.com.pk

Best Time to Visit



The best times to visit Karachi are either at the very start of the summer monsoon season (in July), or during the winter months, from December

to February. Mind that due to its waterside location, Karachi maintains rather high humidity levels throughout the year. The summer months, from roughly May to September, tend to get quite hot, temperatures sometimes reaching highs of up to 45°C.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Public Transport



South District, in which they are not allowed.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

While busses are best avoided, auto-rickshaws may be a budget alternative to those, and can be hired anywhere in Karachi except for the

Taxi



intend to use these.

Convenient, metered, private taxis also operate around the city. Some of these include:

White Cab

+92 21 111 789 786

Metro Radio Cab

+92 21 111 222 787

Photo: ArrivalGuides

The black-and-yellow taxis do not use meter, so agree on the price in advance and enquire at your hotel about approximate fares if you

Post



designated for local or international post in English.

Karachi City G.P.O:

For secure and fast shipments, use private postage operators. Pakistan Post mail boxes are colour-coded, and indicate whether they are

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Talpur Road, Karachi

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-9pm

Phone: +92 21 99217251

Internet: www.pakpost.gov.pk

Pharmacy



NIBD Pharmacy Sir Shah
Muhammad Suleman Rd,
Karachi +92 21
34821502 Open 24/7

Photo: Gemma Garner

Telephone



Country code: +92 Area
code: (0)21

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



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

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

17 million (2017)

Currency

1 PKR = 100 paisa

Opening hours

Weeks in the Middle East run from Sunday to Thursday, but many businesses remain open on Friday and Saturday.

Newspapers

The Dawn (Karachi-based, English-language)

The News (Karachi-based, English Language)
Jang (Karachi-based Urdu Language)
Express (Karachi-based Urdu Language)

Emergency numbers

Police: 15
Ambulance: 115
Fire: 16

Tourist information

PTDC Tourist Information Centre,
Shafi Chambers, Club Road, Saddar
Tel: + 92 21 9202971
www.tourism.gov.pk

