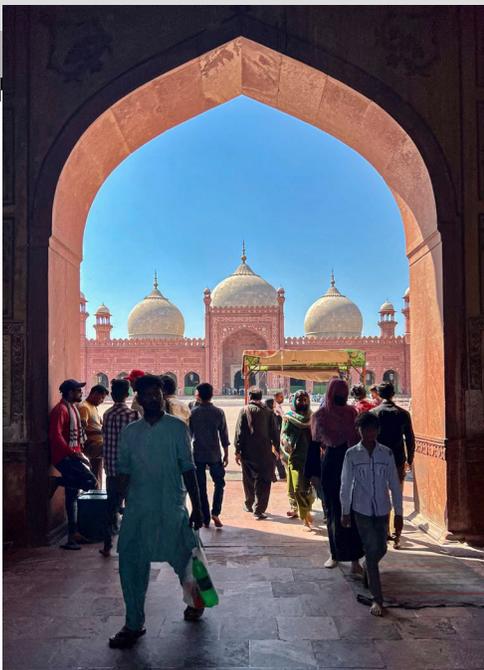


# Pakistan



A revisit after +30 years. This time the northern parts...

October 2022



## Revisiting Pakistan

Flight from Stockholm via Istanbul to Lahore with early morning arrival 05:00 AM. Our promised pick-up did not show up on time. Always annoying when you arrive after a long flight and your trip-organizer is not delivering. 1 hour later he eventually turned up and drove us to our **hotel – Saffron Dor – in Lahore**. We checked in and slept a few hours to catch up before starting on our full day of sightseeing. Kausar Hussain, our guide and organizer met-up at the hotel and took us first to **Badshahi Mosque and the famous Lahore Fort**, adjacent to each other in the center of Lahore. Both places were very nice to visit, and we got some good photos. I was surprised by the so few foreign tourists visiting. We were asked to pose with many people for selfies.

Kausar brought us to lunch at Salt & Pepper – a good choice. **The late afternoon was set for the famous Wagah border and the Flag lowering ceremony**. We had good seats and stayed during sunset to watch this old ceremony and tradition at the Pakistani - Indian border.

We had dinner at, as Kausar explained – the best street chicken restaurant in town. We were quite exhausted by the time we got back to our hotel and slept through then night.

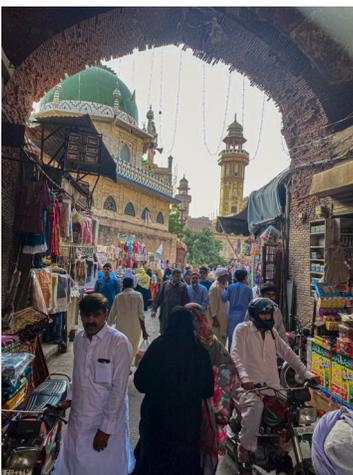
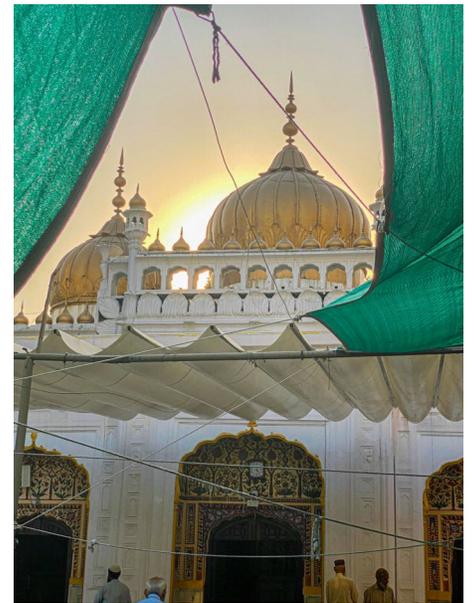


## Lahore



A packed day with tons of things to do and see of old Lahore. We started out at the lovely **Shalimar Gardens** and went on to visit **Jehnagirs tomb outside of Lahore**. We had a little bit of trouble finding this place, but eventually did so. We stopped and photographed along the way, as I always do. We found a huge crowd of a Muslim extremist group and photographed them as they paraded along the streets.

Back in Lahore for **lunch at Butt Barbeque**, also famous for its good food and for customers picking out their own live roosters. **The afternoon was spent in the Bazaar area of Lahore**. We visited some picturesque parts of Lahore. There is a couple of streets where **street-doctors, dentists** and god only knows different practitioners lined up to take patients. We also met the "Professor" who cures everything from Corona to helping customers with Penis enlargements – yes you heard right. Got some good photos from this part. We stopped and had tea at one of the **traditional teahouses in the old alleyways**. **Wazid Khan Mausoleum** and the **Golden Mosque** was lovely to see. We also went through the **bird market and spice market and much, much more**.

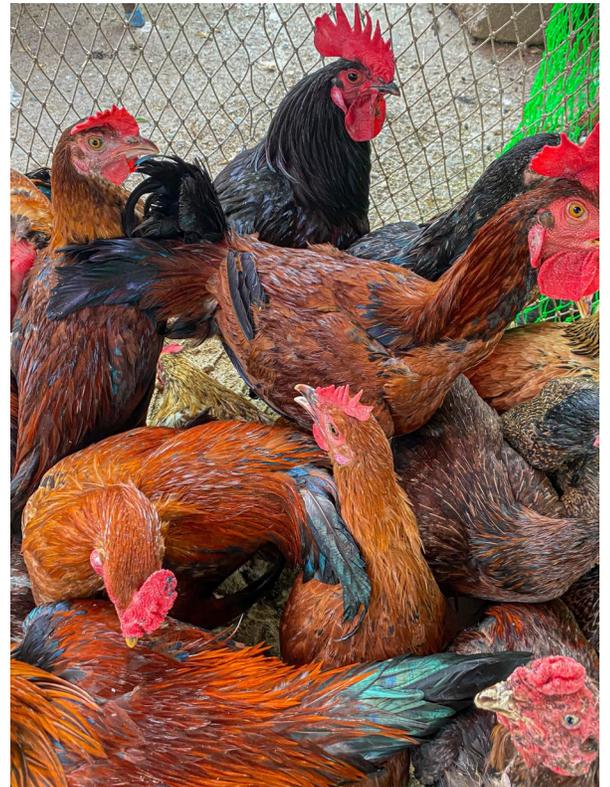


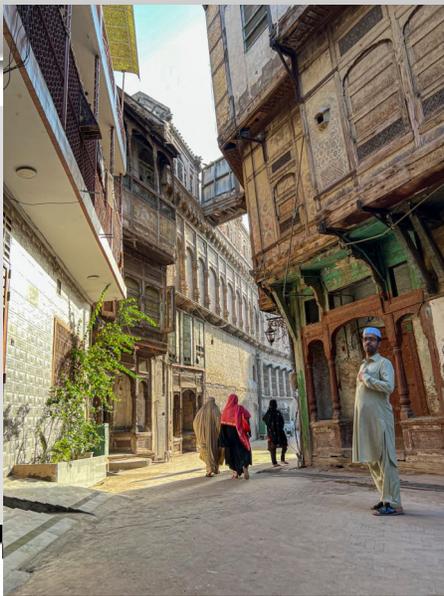


## Lahore to Peshawar

We started out early to drive all the way to Peshawar. They said it would take 5-6 hours, but it took more like 10 hours. We only arrive just in time for dinner. **We did make a stop at Rohtas fort** along the way. This 16<sup>th</sup> century fortress near the city of Dina in the Punjab province. The fort is one of the most formidable in the subcontinent. The fort was never taken by force and has remained remarkably intact. It was built by the Afghan warlord Sher Shah Suri and is today a UNESCO world heritage site.

We had some good food at a restaurant in the city center of Peshawar with Kausar and his friend Prince Mahir. Another traveler, Pierre Depont, also joined us for dinner. He as on occasions worked as a guide for YPT. We stayed at the Empire Hotel in Peshawar.





## Peshawar

We were able to sleep a little bit longer than 05:00 AM as we decided to start the day at 09:00. Our first task was to get to **the Afghanistan consulate in Peshawar and apply for our Afghan visa**. This, with the help of our fixer – Prince Mahir – took no longer than 2 hours in total. The cost was 80 \$ for the visa and 35 \$ for the fixer and quick deliver. It can otherwise take a couple of days.

We then met up with Kausar Hussain and went to the old city and the Bazaar area of Peshawar. We covered **the Mahabat Khan mosque, the Cunningham clock** and made a stop at one of many old tea houses. The afternoon was spend **exploring the Caravanserai, Andar Shehr, the Kabul Gate, the lovely Sethi House, Gor Khatri, Cowk Yadgar and Qissa Khwani**. Qissa Khwani is the local name for “The story tellers street”. This is where travelers from near and far met up in the old days and spend a few nights before continuing their trips – and then also sharing stories from their travels. So, as you can gather, we had quite a busy day with so much to see and explore.





## Peshawar & Islamabad (II)

We had our flight in the early afternoon to Kabul from Islamabad but wanted to see a few things before leaving. We covered the **King Faisal Mosque** and some monuments from the look-out hill. The highlight of the morning was however a visit to the **Truck painting site**. This is where they decorate their trucks. Very interesting to see.

