**Administrative Division of Pakistan**

The administrative units of Pakistan consist of four provinces ([Balochistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan), [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa), [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan), and [Sindh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindh)), two autonomous territories ([Azad Jammu and Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azad_Kashmir), [Gilgit-Baltistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilgit-Baltistan" \o "Gilgit-Baltistan)) and one federal territory ([Islamabad Capital Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamabad_Capital_Territory)). Each province and territory is subdivided into [divisions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divisions_of_Pakistan), which are further subdivided into [districts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Pakistan), which are further subdivided into [tehsils,](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tehsil" \o "Tehsil) which are further subdivided into [union councils](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_councils_of_Pakistan).

The diagram below outlines the six tiers of government:

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|  |  | **Country** (i.e. [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan)) | | | |
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|  |  | **Province** (e.g. [Punjab Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan)) | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | [**Division**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divisions_of_Pakistan) (e.g. [Rawalpindi Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rawalpindi_Division)) | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Pakistan) (e.g. [Jhelum District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jhelum_District)) | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | [**Tehsil**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tehsil) (e.g. [Sohawa Tehsil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sohawa_Tehsil" \o "Sohawa Tehsil)) | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | [**Union Council**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_councils_of_Pakistan) (e.g. [Domeli UC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domeli" \o "Domeli)) | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Balochistan**

It is one of the four [provinces of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan). It is the largest province in terms of land area, forming the southwestern region of the country, but is the least populated. Its provincial capital and largest city is [Quetta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quetta).

Balochistan shares borders with [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan) and the [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa) to the northeast, [Sindh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindh) to the east and southeast, the [Arabian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea) to the south, [Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran) to the west and [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) to the north and northwest.

The main ethnic groups in the province are the [Baloch people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baloch_people" \o "Baloch people) and the [Pashtuns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pashtuns" \o "Pashtuns), who constitute 52% and 36% of the population respectively (according to the preliminary 2011 census). The remaining 12% comprises smaller communities of [Brahuis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brahui_people" \o "Brahui people), [Hazaras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazaras" \o "Hazaras) along with other settlers such as [Sindhis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindhis" \o "Sindhis), [Punjabis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjabis), [Uzbeks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uzbeks) and [Turkmens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmens). The name "[Balochistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan)" means "the land of the Baloch". Largely underdeveloped, its [provincial economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Balochistan,_Pakistan) is dominated by natural resources, especially its [natural gas fields](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_and_Gas_Development_Company), estimated to have sufficient capacity to supply Pakistan's demands over the medium to long term. Aside from Quetta, the second-largest city of the province is [Turbat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turbat" \o "Turbat) in the south, while another area of major economic importance is [Gwadar Port](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwadar_Port" \o "Gwadar Port) on the Arabian Sea.

Balochistan is noted for its [unique culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Balochistan) and extremely dry [desert climate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_deserts_of_Pakistan)

**Gilgit Baltistan**

formerly known as the Northern Areas, is a region administered by [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) as an [administrative territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autonomous_administrative_division), and constituting the northern portion of the larger [Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir) region which has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947, and between India and China from somewhat later. It is the northernmost [territory administered](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan) by [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan). It borders [Azad Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azad_Kashmir) to the south, the province of [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa) to the west, the [Wakhan Corridor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakhan_Corridor" \o "Wakhan Corridor) of [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) to the north, the [Xinjiang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xinjiang) region of [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China), to the east and northeast, and the Indian-administered union territories [Jammu and Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir_(union_territory)) and [Ladakh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladakh" \o "Ladakh) to the southeast.

Gilgit-Baltistan is part of the greater [Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir) region, which is the subject of [a long-running conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir_conflict) between Pakistan and India. The territory shares a border with [Azad Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azad_Kashmir), together with which it is referred to by the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) and other international organisations as "[Pakistan administered Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_administered_Kashmir)".Gilgit-Baltistan is six times the size of Azad Kashmir. The territory also borders Indian-administered union territories [Jammu and Kashmir (union territory)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir_(union_territory)) and [Ladakh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladakh" \o "Ladakh) to the south and is separated from it by the [Line of Control](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Line_of_Control), the de facto border between India and Pakistan.

**. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

formerly known as the [North-West Frontier Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North-West_Frontier_Province) (NWFP) is one of the [four administrative provinces of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Provinces_(Pakistan)), located in the [northwestern region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Pakistan) of the country along the [International border](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durand_Line) with [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan).

It was previously known as the [North-West Frontier Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North-West_Frontier_Province) until 2010 when the name was changed to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by the [18th Amendment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/18th_Amendment_to_the_Constitution_of_Pakistan) to Pakistan's [Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) and is known colloquially by [various other names](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Names_of_Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the [third-largest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Census) province of Pakistan by the size of both population and economy, though it is geographically the smallest of four. Within Pakistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa shares a border with [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan), [Balochistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan), [Azad Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azad_Kashmir), [Gilgit-Baltistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilgit-Baltistan" \o "Gilgit-Baltistan) and [Islamabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamabad_Capital_Territory). It is home to 17.9% of [Pakistan's total population](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Pakistan), with the majority of the province's inhabitants being Pashtuns and [Hindko speakers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindko" \o "Hindko).

The province is the site of the ancient kingdom [Gandhara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gandhara" \o "Gandhara), including the ruins of its capital [Pushkalavati](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushkalavati" \o "Pushkalavati) near modern-day [Charsadda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charsadda" \o "Charsadda). Once a stronghold of Buddhism, the history of the region was characterized by frequent invasions by various empires due to its geographical proximity to the [Khyber Pass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pass)

**Punjab:**

Punjab is [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan)'s most populous [province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan), with an estimated population of 110,012,442 as of 2017. Forming the bulk of the transnational [Punjab region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab_region), it is bordered by the Pakistani provinces of [Sindh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindh), [Balochistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan), and [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa), the enclave of [Islamabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamabad_Capital_Territory), and [Azad Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azad_Kashmir). It also shares borders with the Indian states of [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab,_India), [Rajasthan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajasthan), and the Indian-administered territory of [Jammu and Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir_(union_territory)). The [capital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provincial_capitals) is [Lahore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahore), a cultural, historical, economic and cosmopolitan centre of Pakistan where [the country's cinema industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lollywood), and much of its [fashion industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fashion_industry), are based.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan#cite_note-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan#cite_note-5)

Punjab has been inhabited since ancient times. The [Indus Valley Civilization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indus_Valley_Civilization), dating to 2600 BCE, was first discovered at [Harappa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harappa). Punjab features heavily in the Hindu epic poem, the [Mahabharata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahabharata), and is home to [Taxila](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxila_(modern)" \o "Taxila (modern)), site of what is considered by many to be the oldest university in the world. In 326 BCE, [Alexander the Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) defeated [King Porus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Porus) at the [Battle of the Hydaspes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Hydaspes) near [Mong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mong,_Punjab" \o "Mong, Punjab), Punjab. The [Umayyad empire conquered Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_conquests_on_the_Indian_subcontinent#Umayyad_expansion_in_Al_Hind) in the 8th century CE. In the subsequent centuries, Punjab was invaded and conquered by the [Ghaznavids](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghaznavids" \o "Ghaznavids), [Ghurids](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghurid_dynasty" \o "Ghurid dynasty), [Delhi Sultanate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi_Sultanate), [Mughals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Empire" \o "Mughal Empire), [Durranis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durrani_Empire" \o "Durrani Empire) and the [Sikhs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sikh_Empire). Punjab reached the height of its splendour during the reign of the [Mughal Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Empire" \o "Mughal Empire), which for a time ruled from Lahore. During the 18th century, [Nader Shah's invasion of the Mughal Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nader_Shah%27s_invasion_of_the_Mughal_Empire) caused Mughal authority in the Punjab to fall apart and it thus fell into chaos. The Durrani Afghans under [Ahmad Shah Durrani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmad_Shah_Durrani) wrested control of Punjab but lost it to the Sikhs after a successful rebellion which allowed Sikh armies to claim Lahore in 1759. The [Sikh Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sikh_Empire) was established in 1799 under the rule of [Ranjit Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranjit_Singh" \o "Ranjit Singh) with his capital based in Lahore, until its defeat by the [British](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire). Punjab was central to the independence movements of both [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) and [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan), with Lahore being site of both the [Declaration of Indian Independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purna_Swaraj), and the [resolution calling for the establishment of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahore_Resolution). The province was formed when the [Punjab province of British India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab_Province_(British_India)) was divided along religious boundaries in 1947 by the [Radcliffe Line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radcliffe_Line) after [Partition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_of_British_India)

**Sindh:**

Sindh  is one of the four [provinces of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan). Located in the southeast of the country, it is the historical home of the [Sindhi people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindhis). Sindh is the third largest province of Pakistan by area, and second largest province by population after [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan). Sindh is bordered by [Balochistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan_(Pakistan)) province to the west, and Punjab province to the north. Sindh also borders the Indian states of [Gujarat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gujarat) and [Rajasthan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajasthan) to the east, and [Arabian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea) to the south. Sindh's landscape consists mostly of [alluvial plains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alluvial_plain) flanking the [Indus River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indus_River), the [Thar desert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thar_Desert" \o "Thar Desert) in the eastern portion of the province closest to the border with India, and the [Kirthar Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirthar_Mountains" \o "Kirthar Mountains) in the western part of Sindh.

Sindh has Pakistan's [second largest economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Sindh), while its provincial capital [Karachi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karachi) is [Pakistan's largest city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_cities_in_Pakistan) and financial hub, and hosts the headquarters of several [multinational banks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banking_in_Pakistan). Sindh is home to a large portion of Pakistan's industrial sector and contains two of Pakistan's commercial seaports, [Port Bin Qasim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Bin_Qasim) and the [Karachi Port](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_of_Karachi). The remainder of Sindh has an agriculture based economy, and produces fruits, food consumer items, and vegetables for the consumption of other parts of the country.

Sindh is known for its [distinct culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindhi_culture) which is strongly influenced by [Sufism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism_in_Sindh), an important marker of Sindhi identity for both [Hindus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindus) (Sindh has Pakistan's highest percentage of Hindu residents) and [Muslims](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslims) in the province. Several important [Sufi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism) shrines are located throughout the province which attract millions of annual devotees.

**Islamabad Capital Territory**

is the only [federal territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan) of [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan). Located in north-central Pakistan between the provinces of [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan) and [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa), it includes the country's federal capital [Islamabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamabad). The territory is represented in the [National Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Pakistan) constituencies