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# STFP Bulletin



*STFP promotes tourism practices that are environmentally sustainable, economically beneficial to the local communities, and educational experience for tourists.*

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## Weekend Trip to Mela Chanan Pir "The Mystic Saint of Cholistan Desert"

The Mela of Channan Pir began at the shrine of Channan Pir in the moonlight near Yazman, about 65 km south of Bahawalpur on the threshold of Cholistan. The mela held in five consecutive Thursdays, attracts a large number of devotees from across the desert, Kahrore Pucca, Liaquatpur, Rahim Yar Khan and Multan.

The nomads of Cholistan dressed in their colorful attire, travel long distances on their camel caravans to pay homage at the shrine of Chanan Pir. The saint desired, not to build a shrine over his grave but to leave it open, shaped like a sand dune. According to a legend, Jahania Jahan Gashat, the wandering Durwaish of Uchh, predicted to the Maharaja of Jaiselmair that he would get a son, who would convert to Islam and become a famous saint. True to the prediction the prince converted to Islam and became the patron saint of Cholistan. The nomads believe that, "Sohna Chanan Pir Deway Putter Tey Kheer" The saint bestows sons and milk, the most valuable treasures for the desert dwellers.

In this trip you will visit the colorful annual festival of Chanan Pir, Bhawalpur, Derawar Fort in Cholistan Desert, Uch Sharif and Multan.

**Date:** 15-17 March

**Days:** Friday to Sunday

**Duration:** 3 days

**Departure Time:** 0800 hrs

**Base:** Lahore

**Per head Fee:** Rs. 9,900/-

**Booking Deadline:** 10 March

To register for this trip please send us an email at: [stfpak.info@gmail.com](mailto:stfpak.info@gmail.com)

For further information contact: Rauf Ahmed at 0300-4550435 and Arif Tufail at 051-2612448, 0345-8566048



## Hiking Trip To Margalla Hills National Park

Margalla Hills National Park is an ideal place for short hiking trips in winter. We will visit the MHNP information center and get a briefing about the rich flora and fauna of this National park. After that we will start our hike on the trail-5 which passes through the valley of Dara Jangla. We will continue through the narrow gorge, cross a small stream and a spring, and after about two hours we will reach the Pir Sohawa road. After taking a break for lunch we will walk down to Saidpur using another trail. Walking time is about 4 to 5 hours. The first half of the hike is climb to the top of the ridge and can be strenuous for novices or people who have not hiked before. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water bottle, snacks and lunch pack.

**Date:** 23 March

**Days:** Saturday

**Duration:** 1 day

**Departure Time:** 0800 hrs

**Base:** Islamabad

**Per head Fee:** Rs. 200/-

**Booking Deadline:** 19 March

To register for this trip please send us an email at: [stfpak.info@gmail.com](mailto:stfpak.info@gmail.com)

For further information contact: Arif Tufail at 051-2612448, 0345-8566048

"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

**Mark Twain**

***Field trips are also open for your family members and friends, so you are welcome to invite them on these trips with prior intimation to the concerned staff of STFP at the time of signing up. Minimum group size for each trip is 8 persons.***

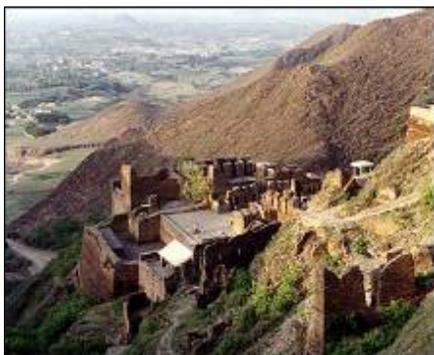


## Day Trip To Takht-e-Bahi Buddhist Monastery



Takht-e-Bahi Buddhist monastery is one of the most impressive and well preserved pieces of Gandhara architecture in Pakistan. It is situated 14 km northwest of Mardan on the road to Swat (2 ½ hour drive from Islamabad). The reputation of Takht-e-Bahi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is based partially on the extraordinarily good state of preservation and partially on its glorious location. The site itself is located on the northern flanks of a rocky spur rising 150 meters (500 ft) above the plains.

On a clear day you can see across the plains as far as Peshawar on one side, and the Malakand pass and the Swat hills on the other. The monastery and stupas were founded in the 1st. Century AD and abandoned in the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. You may also enjoy the famous local cuisine of “chapli kabab” and tandoori nan from one of the famous kabab shops in Takht-e-Bahi bazaar.



We have planned an exploratory day trip in collaboration with TCKP. Booking will be made on first come first served basis so don't wait for the deadline date and immediately call STFP office and book your seat. The trip involve some easy hiking to reach to the view points on the top of the hill so wear good comfortable walking shoes.

**Date:** 31 March

**Days:** Sunday

**Duration:** 1 day

**Departure Time:** 0800 hrs

**Base:** Islamabad

**Per head Fee:** Rs. 1700/-

**Booking Deadline:** 26 March

To register for this trip please send us an email at: [stfpak.info@gmail.com](mailto:stfpak.info@gmail.com)

For further information contact: Arif Tufail at 051-2612448, 0345-8566048



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See us at:

[www.stfp.org](http://www.stfp.org)



World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. In 2013, in reflection of the **International Year of Water Cooperation**, World Water Day is also dedicated to the theme of cooperation around water.

Tourism is a major consumer of water, including in parts of the world where it is becoming increasingly scarce. Climate change is causing rainfall patterns to become unpredictable, while poverty and lack of infrastructure means many communities struggle to access sufficient water for their daily needs. Contrast this to the luxury of tourist hotels and resorts, where water flows on tap in every room, laundry is cleaned almost daily, and swimming pools entice holidaymakers for a relaxing dip.

On this International World Water Day, Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan recommends the holidaymakers to remain water aware while on holiday. Some tips for a water friendly holiday include:

- Take a shower instead of a bath. This uses about a third of the amount of water.
- Opt in to towel and sheet re-use schemes and report dripping taps.
- Turn off the water while lathering the soap, brushing teeth or shaving. A running tap uses 6 liters of water a minute.
- Ask your hotel what it's doing to save water and find out about the water situation in the area where you're staying

For more information on this topic please send us an email at: [stfpak@gmail.com](mailto:stfpak@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events

- Earth Day Tree Plantation Event - Islamabad (22 April)
- Weekend Trip to Banjosa Lake, Azad Kashmir (27-28 April)
- One Day Hiking Trip to Mukshpuri Top, Nathiagali (21 April)

"Success doesn't come to you, you go to it."

*Marva Collins*

*Your participation in our trips, expeditions and knowledge sharing events provide support to STFP's mission of increasing awareness through exploration, environmental education, exchange of ideas and research work.*