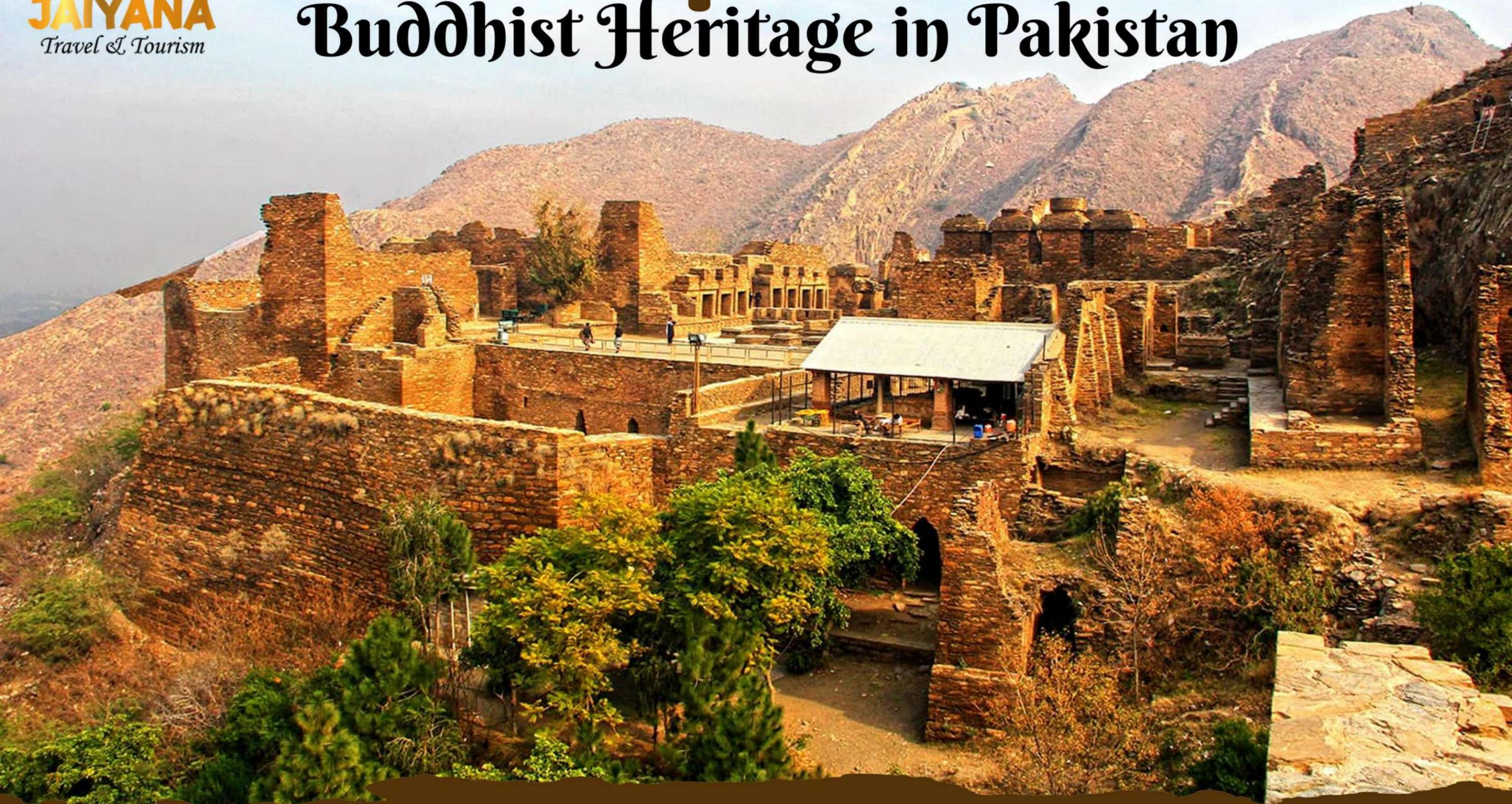


Explore Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan



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Taxila

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Dharmarajika Stupa

The Dharmarajika Stupa, located in Taxila, Pakistan, is one of the most significant and ancient Buddhist monuments in South Asia. Built in the 3rd century BCE during the reign of Emperor Ashoka, this stupa is believed to enshrine relics of the Buddha, making it a revered pilgrimage site for Buddhists. The structure reflects classic Gandhara architecture, combining Hellenistic and Indian styles, and is surrounded by smaller stupas, monasteries, and votive shrines. The site offers deep insights into the spread of Buddhism in the region and stands as a symbol of peace, spirituality, and cultural heritage.



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Sirkap, Taxila

Sirkap is an ancient city near Taxila, founded around 180BCE by the Indo-Greek king Demetrius. Built in a Greek grid pattern, it features remains of Buddhist stupas, Jain temples, and Hellenistic architecture, including the famous Double-Headed Eagle Stupa. Excavations reveal layers of Greek, Scythian, Parthian, and Kushan influences, showcasing its rich multicultural history.



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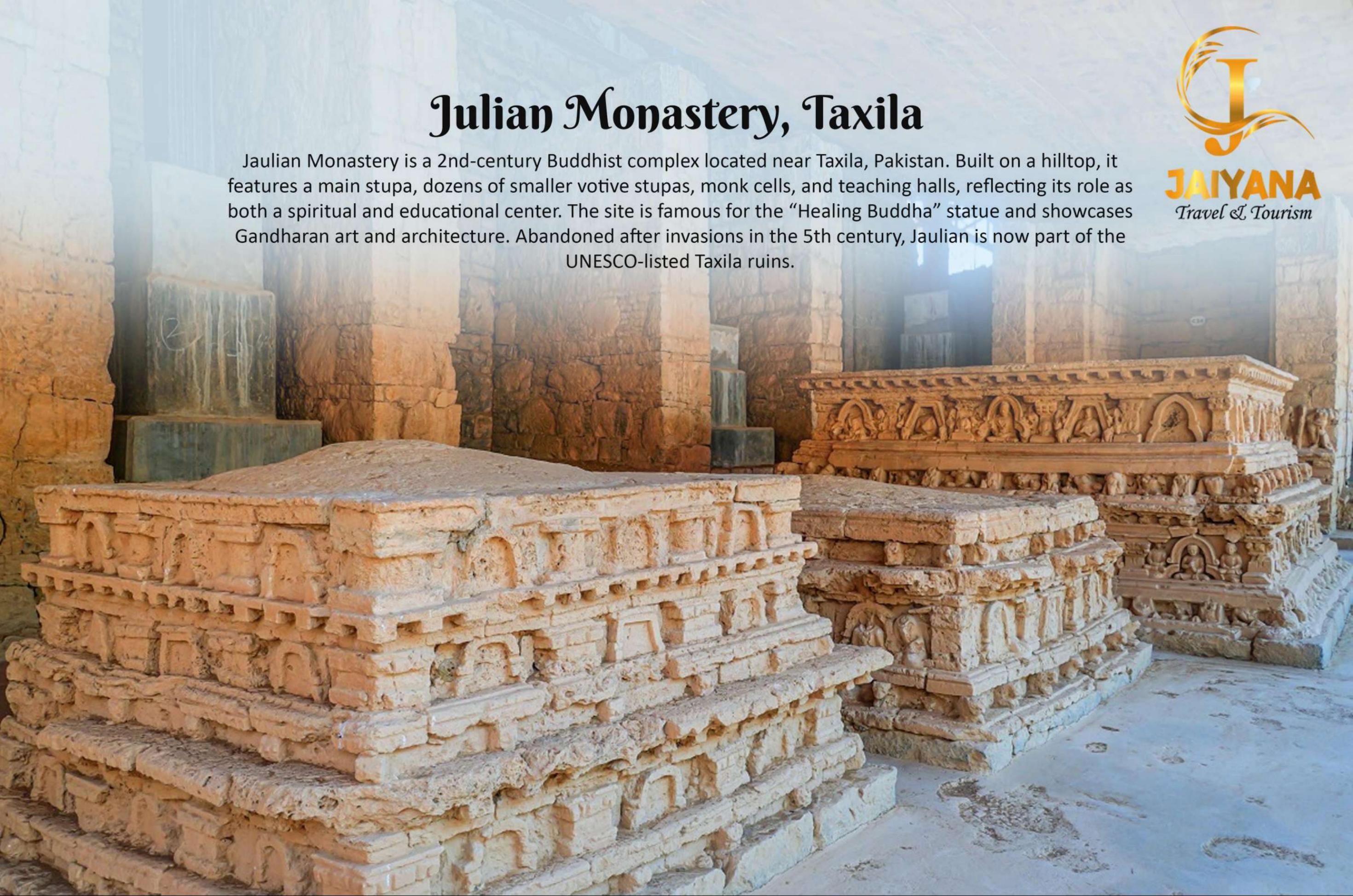
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Julian Monastery, Taxila

Jaulian Monastery is a 2nd-century Buddhist complex located near Taxila, Pakistan. Built on a hilltop, it features a main stupa, dozens of smaller votive stupas, monk cells, and teaching halls, reflecting its role as both a spiritual and educational center. The site is famous for the “Healing Buddha” statue and showcases Gandharan art and architecture. Abandoned after invasions in the 5th century, Jaulian is now part of the UNESCO-listed Taxila ruins.



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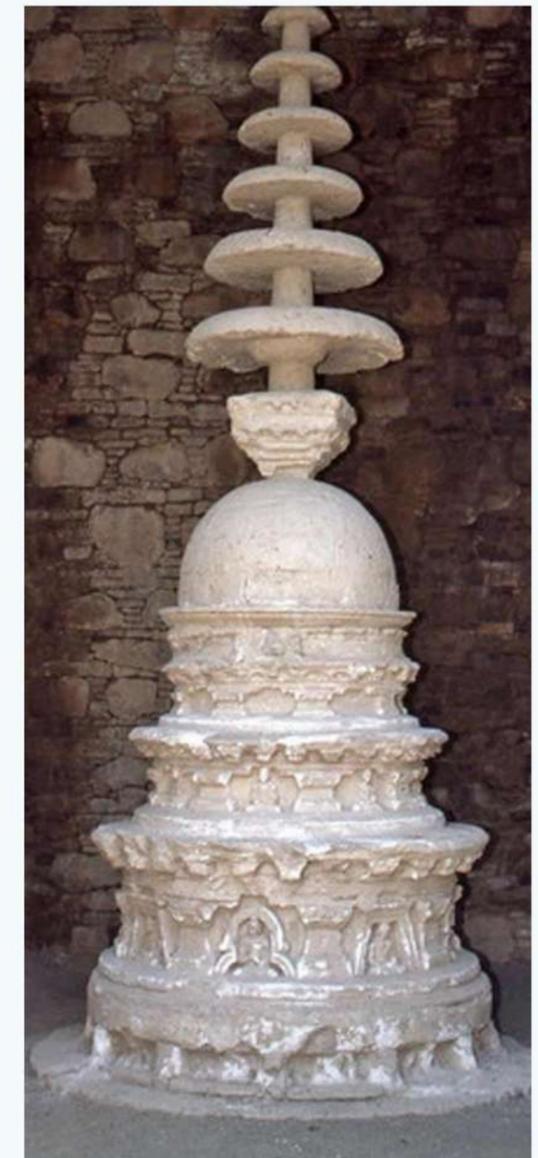
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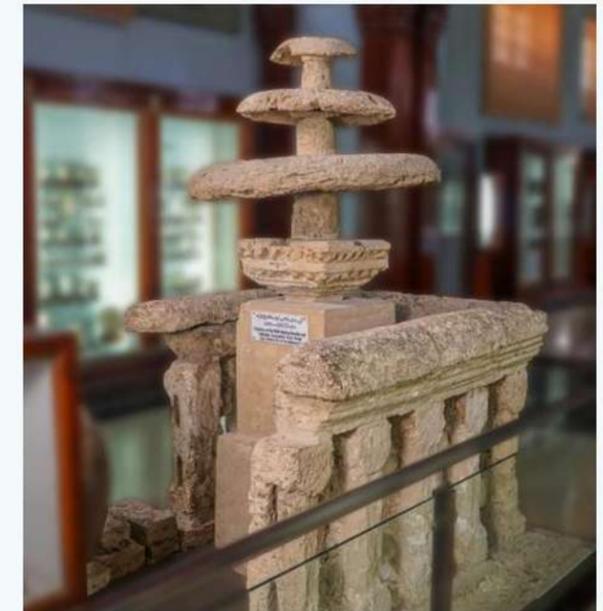
Mohra Moradu Monastery

Mora Moradu is a small Buddhist site near Taxila, dating back to the Kushan period. It features votive stupas and monk cells, reflecting the spiritual and architectural heritage of the Gandhara civilization. Surrounded by peaceful natural surroundings, Mora Moradu was likely used by monks for learning and spiritual practices. The site offers valuable insights into the religious and cultural life of the Gandhara civilization and is an important part of Pakistan's Buddhist heritage.



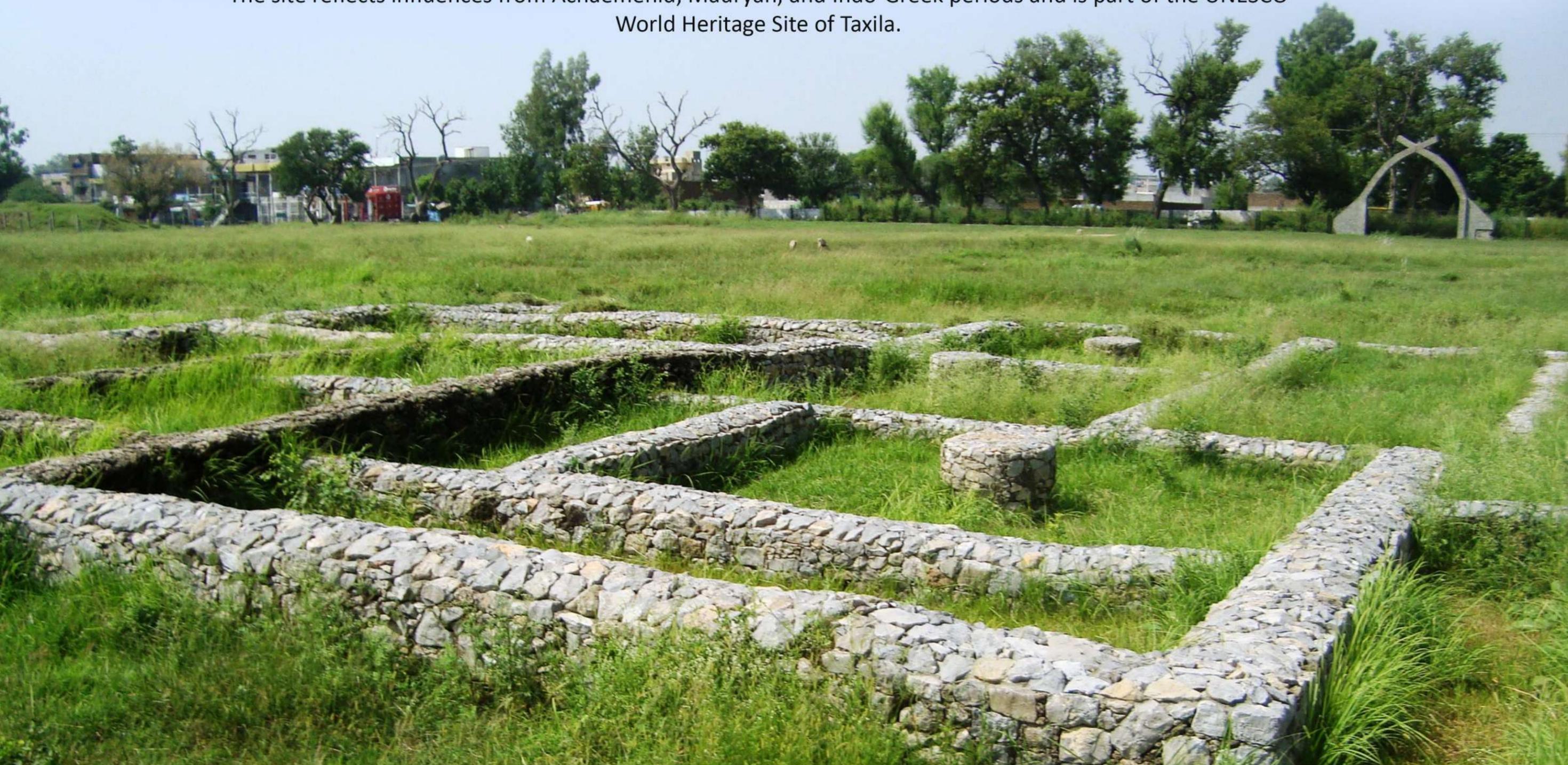
Taxila Museum

Taxila Museum is one of Pakistan's most important archaeological museums, located near the ancient ruins of Taxila. It houses a rich collection of artifacts from the Gandhara civilization, including sculptures, coins, jewelry, and tools dating back to the 1st to 7th centuries CE. The museum offers deep insights into Buddhist art, culture, and the daily life of ancient Taxila.



Bhir Mound, Taxila

Bhir Mound is the oldest settlement of ancient Taxila, dating from the 6th to 2nd century BCE. Excavated by Sir John Marshall, it shows early urban planning with narrow streets, stone houses, and drainage systems. The site reflects influences from Achaemenid, Mauryan, and Indo-Greek periods and is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Taxila.



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Maithriya
Bodhisattva Maithriya
with three worshippers.
1st century A.D.
Exc. 1912

Peshawar Museum

The Peshawar Museum, located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is one of the most important museums in South Asia for Gandhāra Buddhist art. It holds the world's largest collection of Gandhāran sculptures, many of which depict the life of the Buddha, Bodhisattvas, and ancient monastic scenes.



Sawat

In the Silence of the Mountains, Echoes of Enlightenment



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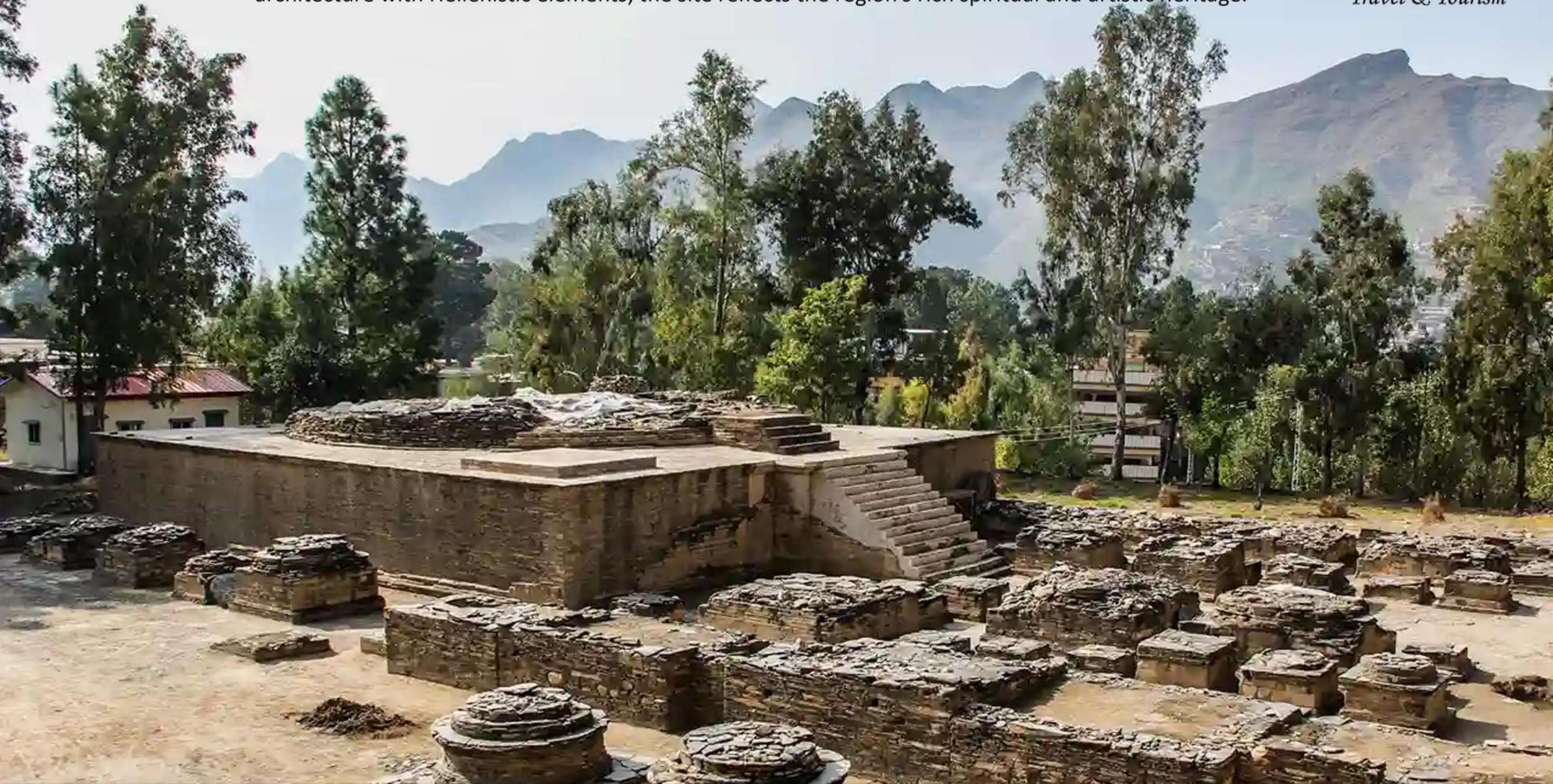
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Saidu Sharif Stupa, Swat

Saidu Sharif Stupa is a historic Buddhist site in Swat Valley, dating from the 1st to 5th century CE. Built on two terraces, it includes a main stupa, smaller stupas, and a monastery with monk cells. Known for its Gandharan architecture with Hellenistic elements, the site reflects the region's rich spiritual and artistic heritage.



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Amluk-Dara Stupa, Swat

Amluk-Dara Stupa is a well-preserved 3rd-century CE Buddhist monument in Swat Valley. Built on a large square base with a tiered cylindrical drum and dome, it reflects Gandharan architecture. First recorded by Aurel Stein, it's a key symbol of the region's ancient Buddhist heritage.



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Nemogram Stupa, Swat

Nemogram Stupa is a 2nd–3rd century CE Buddhist site in Swat Valley, featuring three main stupas, 56 smaller ones, and a monastery. Excavated in the 1960s, it reflects Gandharan art and Kushan-era spirituality. Many artifacts from the site are displayed in the Swat Museum.



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Shingardar Stupa, Swat

Shingardar (Shingardara) Stupa is a towering Buddhist monument from the 2nd–4th century CE located just northeast of Barikot in Swat Valley. Believed to enshrine relics brought by King Uttarasena, the stupa stands on a square plinth with a cylindrical drum and dome reaching about 27 m high, built from large stone blocks and slate layers . Despite local stone robbery, its Greek influenced pilasters and architectural details remain visible . A Buddhist settlement once lay around it, now partially covered by modern homes



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Abba Sahib Cheena Stupa

Abba Sahib Cheena is a large 1st–3rd century CE Buddhist site in Swat Valley, featuring main stupas, votive stupas, monk cells, and frescoes. It is the largest Kushan-era complex in the region, showcasing Gandharan art and architecture in a scenic mountain setting.



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Gumbat-Balo Stupa, Swat

Gumbat-Balo (also known as Gumbatuna Stupa) is a notable 1st–2nd century CE Buddhist shrine in Swat Valley's Kandak Valley, south of Barikot. Its centerpiece is a unique double-domed cupola set on a square podium, surrounded by over 20 votive stupas and a monastery making it one of the best-preserved stupas in Gandhara. Excavated in 1930 by Stein and restored after 2011, the site blends architectural sophistication with serene mountain views, offering a vivid glimpse into early Buddhist monastic life in the region.



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Jahanabad Buddha

The Jahanabad Buddha is a large 7th-century rock carving in Swat Valley, Pakistan. Standing about 7 meters tall, it is a symbol of the region's rich Gandhāra Buddhist heritage. Although damaged in the early 2000s, it was beautifully restored and now stands as a sign of peace and resilience, attracting both pilgrims and history lovers.



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Ghalegay Buddha

The Ghalegay Buddha is an ancient rock-carved image of the Buddha located near the village of Ghalegay in Swat Valley, Pakistan. Dating back to the Gandhāra period, this sculpture reflects the region's strong Buddhist legacy. Though not as large as the Jahanabad Buddha, it holds great historical and spiritual significance as part of Swat's rich Buddhist landscape



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Gogdara Swat

Gogdara, located near Barikot in Swat Valley, is an important Buddhist rock carving site from the Gandhāra period. The site features a unique collection of ancient petroglyphs, including images of Buddha, stupas, animals, hunting scenes, and even early carvings of wheels and chariots. These carvings reflect not only religious symbolism but also daily life and cultural practices of the time



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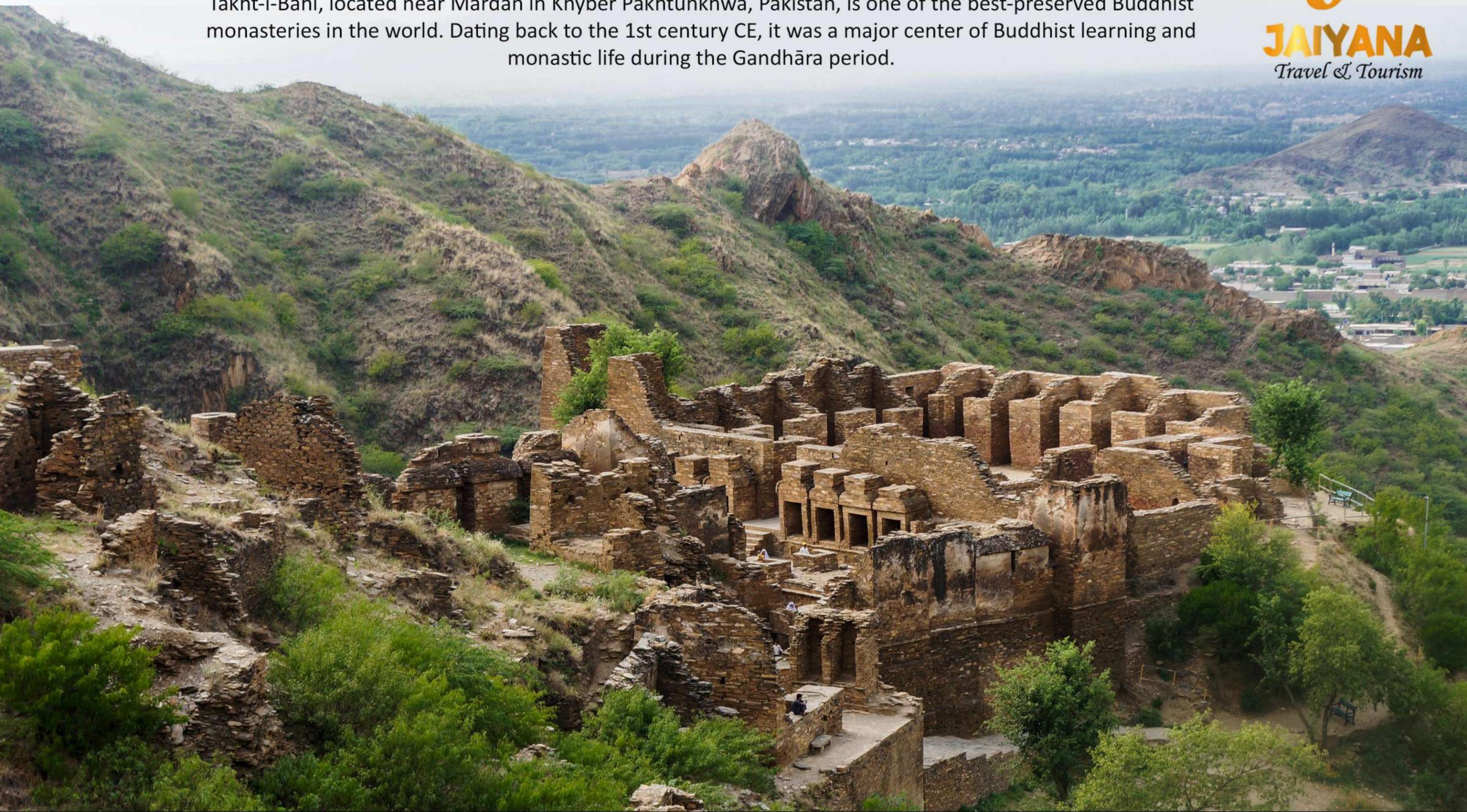
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Takht-i-Bahi, Mardan

Takht-i-Bahi, located near Mardan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, is one of the best-preserved Buddhist monasteries in the world. Dating back to the 1st century CE, it was a major center of Buddhist learning and monastic life during the Gandhāra period.



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Gilgit - Baltistan

Peace Flows Like a River in the Buddhist Trails of Gilgit Baltistan



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Manthal Buddha

The Manthal Buddha Rock near Skardu is a 7th-century carving of a seated Buddha on a granite boulder. It reflects the region's rich Buddhist heritage and was once part of ancient pilgrimage routes. Surrounded by mountains, it stands as a peaceful symbol of Skardu's spiritual past and artistic legacy.



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Shatial Rock Carving

The Shatial Rock Carvings. Dating back to the 1st millennium CE, these ancient carvings include Buddhist stupas, inscriptions, and animal figures, marking the region's importance on the old Silk Route. Once a sacred stop for pilgrims and traders, Shatial today invites explorers to reconnect with Pakistan's forgotten Buddhist past



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The Kargah Buddha

The Kargah Buddha is a magnificent 7th-century rock-carved image of the Buddha, located near Gilgit city in Gilgit-Baltistan. Etched into a cliff face about 50 feet high, this serene standing Buddha figure reflects the strong Buddhist influence in the region during the Gandhāra and Silk Route era. Surrounded by mountains and river valleys, the site served as a spiritual marker for travelers and pilgrims. Today, the Kargah Buddha stands as a powerful symbol of peace, history, and the Buddhist legacy in northern Pakistan.



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Thalpan Petroglyphs

The Thalpan Petroglyphs, located near the town of Chilas along the Karakoram Highway, are one of the largest collections of ancient rock carvings in Pakistan. Carved into boulders and cliffs, these petroglyphs date back to 1st millennium BCE to early centuries CE and include Buddhist stupas, inscriptions in Kharosthi and Brahmi scripts, animal figures, and symbols used by traders, pilgrims, and monks who once traveled the ancient Silk Road.



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