



## SOUTHERN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA The land of Cultural Heritage

The southern region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, comprises of Kohat, Karak, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Tank and Dera Ismail Khan districts and adjoining tribal territories. The area has Kurram, Tochi and Gomal Valleys and also rivers by the same names, besides the Indus River flowing all along its eastern border. The area has seen many ups and downs because many invaders passed through the passes, and marched on Hindustan. The ruling dynasties have therefore, left many visible marks in the area, which are of interest to historians, tourists and researchers. All the places and sites have been described in alphabetical order for easy reference.

### ADH-FORT

The Adh-e-Samut Fort is located in the middle of the mountains north of Nusrat Khel village on Kohat Hangu road. It is about ten kilometers away from Kohat. A greenspot with a spring gives away, the location of the fort. The fort was built by Raja Adh in about 4th century BC. From the ruins and massive walls, one can judge that the fort must have been very big. There are two ancient caves in the fort area, with salt columns.

### AKAL GARH FORT AT DERA ISMAIL KHAN

The Sikhs built many forts in the Frontier, one of which was Akal-Garh Fort of Dera Ismail Khan. It is now known as Iqbal Garh Fort. This mud fort built by Nao Nihal Singh in 1836 and was further improved by the British. Situated north-west of the city, the fort has the shrine of a famous saint, just outside the main gate.

### KOTAL PARK KOHAT

While traveling from Kohat towards Peshawar, one passes by the new township and then the road enters the mountains near a police post. About one kilometer away, one can see a large enclosed area having a thick forest. This is the Kotal Park. Besides many trees, it has cages, where rare birds and pheasants have been kept. Deers also roam about in the Park. The place is an ideal spot nature lovers.

### LAKKI

The town of Lakki was founded as Ihsanpur by Fateh Khan Tiwana in 1844. The town was shifted to its present location in 1864. It derives its present name from Diwan Lakki Mal of the Sikhs. It is an important trading centre and headquarters of District Lakki Marwat. The population comprises mainly of Marwats and also includes Mina Khel, Khoidad Khel and Syed Khel.

### SAMANA FORT

Samana is over 7000 feet high on a ridge near Hangu in Kohat district. In 1891, the British built a fort and a Hill station here. It has Government summer offices and rest houses also, it is an excellent spot and gives a beautiful view of the area around.

### SHAKARDARA

It is an old town on the Kohat-Kalabagh road. A closeby mountain was very sacred to the Hindus. It is said that probably Changez Khan chased Prince Jalalud Din Khwarizm Shah in 1320 AD on this route towards Dhim Kot was a crossing place on the Indus River near Mari Indus. There are many old graveyards, shrines and serais on this route.

### SHEIKH BADIN

This is a 4516 feet high mountain, situated 64 miles south of Bannu and 45 miles from Dera Ismail Khan. It is first occupied as a sanatorium in 1860. It can be converted into a beautiful Hill Resort for the people of the southern region. There is a shrine of a saint on top of the mountain.

### TANDA DAM AND WILDLIFE

Tanda Dam is located about 10 kilometers away from Kohat. A Dam has been constructed at a narrow point in the catchment area, where a huge reservoir of water has been created. The wooded hills around the lake have been converted into a Wildlife Reserve. Tanda Dam has rest house that require booking in advance. From here, a panoramic view of Kohat City and environs can be obtained.

### BAHADUR KHEL SALT MINES

While traveling from Kohat to Bannu, one passes through a tunnel near Bahadur Khel Village. This is the area with huge salt deposits. These salt mines are visible from the road and can be approached easily.

### BANNU CITY AND FORT

Bannu is an old town west of the Tochi Valley. The old town was surrounded by a high mud wall, having gates in all directions. The Sikhs built a fort here, which was named as Dilip Garh or Dilip Nagar after Maharajah Dilip Singh. This is the biggest Sikh fort in the frontier, with mud walls and bastions. The British had named the town as Edwardsabad and a British Cemetery exists in the Cantonment area. The Airport known as Islam Bibi Airport was named after the Hindu girl, who converted to Islam in the mid 1930s. The ancient site of Akra is located in the district.

### BARAN DAM AND KURRAM GARHI SCHEME

Baran Dam has been constructed on Baran nala near Bannu. A big lake has thus been created. There are rest houses near the Dam, which required prior booking close-by is the Kurram Garhi Headworks on Kurram River. The water is used for irrigation and power generation.

### BUDDHIST ROAD TO KOHAT

While traveling from Peshawar to Kohat one passes through Dara Adam Khel and

### TANK FORT

The town of Tank is about 65 kilometers away from Dera Ismail Khan. This big trading center has a large ruined mud fort constructed by Sarwar Khan in early 19th century AD. Sir Henry Durand, the lieutenant Governor of the then Punjab Province was killed here in 1870, while sitting on an elephant and trying to pass through one of the gateways.

(Research and Script by major (Retd) Muhammad Nawaz Khan)



through the Kohat Tunnel. From here a modern road takes one towards Kohat. A winding track leads to a wooded enclosure at the foot of the mountains. This is the Buddhist road, about two thousand year old, which was used for centuries, till the latest road was constructed.

### DERA ISMAIL KHAN

This is one of the biggest and most important cities of the Southern region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Situated on the Western bank of the Indus River, the old city used to be surrounded by a mud wall having ten gates. Some of the gates are known as Imaman Wala, Topanwala, Thatharanwala and Powindah Seraiwala. The city is a trading centre and famous for wood and embroidery works. The city was founded by Malik Suhail Baloch in the 15th century AD and he named it after one of his sons. Rehman Dheri, a site of Indus Civilisation is located in the district.

### KAFIR KOT

The Kafir Kot temples are located near Bilot in the Dera Ismail Khan district on Chashma road. The Hindu temples were built in the 4th century BC. The construction work speaks of an excellent architecture of those times. Unfortunately these splendid monuments of the past have not been preserved well.

### KARAK

It is the Headquarters of the Karak District. It can be approached both from Banda Daud and Sur Daag on the Kohat - Bannu road. The area is mainly inhabited by Khattaks and has vast salt deposits.

Tourism Corporation  
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

### BACKGROUND:

In 1991, the then Government of NWFP created Sarhad Tourism Corporation (Now Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) to promote tourism in the Province. This decision was taken on recognition of the enormous potential for economic development through environmental tourism based on the diverse landscape, rich culture and pristine ecological resources of the province. Duties and function of TCKP are being monitored and regulated through a Board of Directors headed by the Minister for Tourism as Chairman, BoDs, TCKP.

### MISSION STATEMENT/RATIONALE OF TCKP

"To achieve sustainable tourism developments a bottom-up approach would be adopted to encourage local, regional and multinational investments in the tourism sector"

## TOURISM CORPORATION KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

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### KOHAT PASS

Forty kilometers south of Peshawar is the Kohat pass, which is famous for Arms Factories. It is inhabited by Adam Khel Afridis. The Arms manufacturing has sufficiently developed over the past 130 years all and all types of modern weapons are manufactured here. The Kohat Pass has "Spin Thana" or Aimal Chabutra at one end and Handyside Memorial at the other. There also exist a fossilized channel of ancient times near Akhorwal. Bosti Khel Village to which Ajab Khan Afridi belonged, is also situated here at the farthest end. A levy post, named after Mollie Ellis, also exists in the pass.

### KOHAT TOWN AND FORT

Kohat town was founded by Raja Kohat in 4th century BC. It saw many ups and downs in history. The Sikhs built a fort here, which was modified by the British and stands magnificently in the heart of the town. On one side of the fort are the famous Jangal Khel springs, with banyan trees around. Just outside the fort are a boulder, well and vih-gah (meditation place) associated with Hazrat Syed Abdullah Haji Bahadar Kohati (RA). He lived in the times of Aurangzeb Alamgir and his shrine is located inside the city. There is also a grand mosque near the shrine. The shrine of another Holy man Hazrat Bona Pir (RA) is situated north of Kohat town at the foot of the hills and is visible from miles away. There is also a perennial spring near the shrine.



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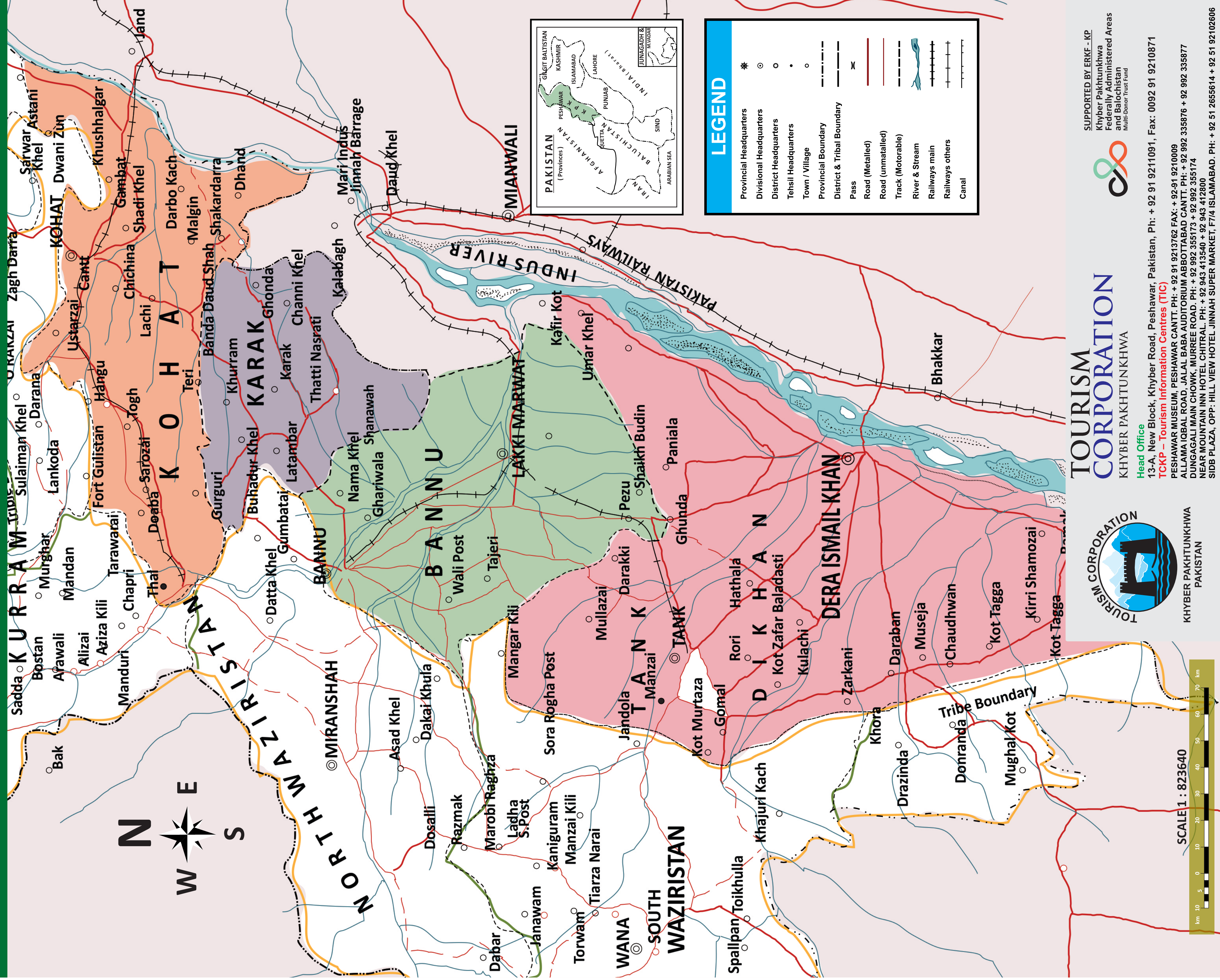
**map OF SOUTHERN AREAS**  
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

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**TOURISM CORPORATION**  
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# SOUTHERN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PAKISTAN



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