



Badshahi Mosque image courtesy of wasiff

14th International Biennale Association Annual General Assembly and Regional Meeting for Asia and Indian Ocean Littoral in Lahore

Lahore Biennale Foundation
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iba
International
Biennial
Association



**LAHORE
BIENNALE
FOUNDATION**

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About Lahore

Lahore is at least 2,000 years old, a city of gardens carrying the majesty of time – layered with cultural and political movements and shifts, and at its heart, an enduring Sufi spirit woven into its streets and shrines and its music. Long celebrated as a city of poets and writers, and recognised by UNESCO as a City of Literature, Lahore carries that inheritance visibly alive today – in a growing constellation of galleries, public art spaces, literary festivals, and biennales that have made it one of South Asia's most vital contemporary cultural centres.

Yet Lahore's truest signature has always been its people. Generations of history live here not only in monuments, but in daily life – in the courtyard of a shrine on a Thursday night, in a bookshop where an evening's conversation extends beyond its opening hours, in the unhurried rhythm of a city in no rush to prove itself. The city receives its visitors with a warmth that is neither performed nor incidental, but seems to belong to the place itself.

There is an old Punjabi saying: *Jinne Lahore nahi vekhya, o jamya hi nahi* – *whoever has not seen Lahore has not truly lived*. Poets have spent generations trying to capture what that means. The city, characteristically, has never sat still long enough to let them.



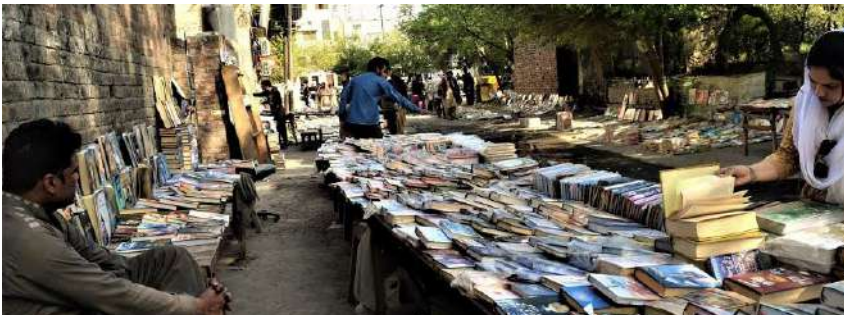
Badshahi Mosque & Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh image courtesy of Zill Niazi



National College of Arts: Founded 1875 as the Mayo School of Industrial Arts. One of the oldest and most distinguished art institutions in Asia – the origin point of Pakistani modernism, training generations of painters, architects, designers, and printmakers.



Lahore Museum stands as one of South Asia's foremost repositories of civilizational memory, tracing the region's layered heritage over the various civilizations and colonial histories that have collectively shaped the material and spiritual heritage of modern Pakistan.



Sunday Book Bazaar the Sunday Book Bazaar near Urdu Bazaar is Lahore's most beloved secondhand book market, where people come weekly in search of rare finds and first editions.



Anarkali Bazaar

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Travel and Getting Around

For the duration of the Biennale inauguration programme, complimentary public transport will be provided by the Lahore Biennale Foundation to move delegates between venues and exhibition sites.

Getting Around Lahore

Lahore has a growing public transport network alongside a range of convenient options for getting around the city. **The Orange Line Metro Train** – Pakistan's first urban metro – connects key areas of the city and is a fast, affordable, and air-conditioned option for longer journeys. For shorter distances, ride-hailing apps including **Yango** and **InDrive** operate widely across Lahore and are a reliable and easy way to navigate the city. Traditional auto-rickshaws remain a ubiquitous and characterful way to move through the older parts of the city, particularly the Walled City and its surrounding neighbourhoods, where larger vehicles may struggle with the narrow lanes. Delegates are advised to have the local currency, Pakistani Rupees (PKR), on hand for rickshaws and smaller vendors, though most ride-hailing services allow cashless payment through the app.

Saniya's Cultural Express

For end-to-end travel facilitation – including airport transfers, accommodation, and in-city logistics – delegates are welcome to contact Sania Cultural Express, our trusted travel partner of seven years and a familiar presence across the past three editions of the Lahore Biennale.

<https://www.instagram.com/saniyasce19>
saniyasce@gmail.com

Big Sky

For those wishing to explore Pakistan beyond Lahore – whether the mountains of the north, the desert landscapes of Cholistan, Buddhist sites or the heritage cities of Sindh and Punjab – we recommend getting in touch with Big Sky, specialists in cultural and adventure travel across the country.

<https://www.instagram.com/thebigskyadventures>
Thebigskyadventures@gmail.com

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Recommended Hotels



The Fred Hotel

85 Ghalib Road, Gulberg, 54000 Lahore, Pakistan

For booking and reservation, visit The Fred Hotel

<https://www.thefredhotel.com/>.



The Nishat Hotel

1. 9A Gulberg III, Mian Mehmood Ali Kasuri Road, Gulberg, 54660 Lahore, Pakistan

For booking and reservations, visit <https://nishathotels.com/>.

2. Abdul Haque Road, Johar Town, 54600 Lahore, Pakistan

For booking and reservations, visit <https://nishathotels.com/>.



Four Points by Sheraton Lahore

25-Egerton Road, 54000 Lahore, Pakistan

For booking and reservation, visit

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/lhefp-four-points-lahore>.



Avari Lahore Hotel

87 - Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam, 54000 Lahore, Pakistan

For booking and reservations, visit [https://avari.com/..](https://avari.com/)



Best Western Premier Hotel Gulberg Lahore

110 MM Alam Road Gulberg 3, Gulberg, 54660 Lahore, Pakistan

For booking and reservations, visit [BOOKING.COM](https://www.booking.com)



Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore

Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam, The Mall, 54000 Lahore, Pakistan

For booking and reservation, visit

<https://www.pchotels.com/hotel-and-resort/pearl-continental-hotel-lahore>.



The Residency Hotel

39/A, Gulberg V, Off Zafar Ali Road,, Gulberg, Lahore, Pakistan, 54660

For booking and reservations, visit <https://rh.com.pk/>.



Avari Xpress Gulberg (Economic)

Main Boulevard Gulberg 14-K, Gulberg, 54000 Lahore, Pakistan

Economic & Central. **Special discount for Biennale guests**

For bookings and reservations, visit <https://avari.com/avari-xpress-gulberg-lahore/>.

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Restaurants

Pakistani

- **Andaaz** - on Food Street next to Lahore Fort, overlooking the grand domes of the Badshahi Mosque,
- **Haveli** - also overlooking the grand domes of the Badshahi Mosque
- **FortVista Eatery** - Food Street venue offering views of Fort and Badshahi Mosque
- **The Lost Tribe** - Shinwari (northern Pakistani) cuisine, non spicy, and absolutely delicious! (also a rooftop location in Gulberg, close to Avari and Hotel Indigo) Must orders: lamb ribs, rosh namkeen, Kabuli pulao
- **Bundu Khan** -reliable chain serving grilled meats and popular desi dishes, multiple locations
- **Heera Charcha** - informal restaurant popular with locals
- **Junoon** - Desi with Arabic touches
- **Master Biryani** - chain popular for their namesake biryanis
- **Monal** - restaurant with view overlooking Lahore
- **MST** - highly touted restaurant
- **Spice Bazaar** - popular restaurant serving mix of desi and non-desi options
- **The Skye** - rooftop restaurant in the Hotel Indigo, serving Muglahi
- **Salt n Pepper** - chain serving desi, desi Chinese, and burger & sandwich options
- **Salt n Pepper Village** - recommended by the LB04 team
- **Baranh** - recommended by the LB04 team
- **Bagh the Desi Experience** - recommended by the LB04 team

Non Desi

- **Solli's Pizza** - contender for best pizza in Lahore
- **Rina's Kitchenette** - good mix of non-desi options, including sandwiches, salads, burgers, and main course offerings
- **For the Table** - Rina's smaller, but just as delicious, sibling
- **Paola's Cosa Nostra** - spacious Italian restaurant, a local favorite
- **Grains and Greens** - vegetarian-friendly casual eats
- **Inka** - Continental dining at the Polo Club, with indoor and outdoor seating
- **Rare** - steaks and pizza
- **Amú** - Upscale European cuisine
- **Fuoco** - European and Italian offerings at this upscale dining establishment
- **FRED** - fusion offerings from Food, Research, Experience, and Design
- **Bistro 201** - rooftop dining serving a mix of options
- **Fujiyama** - sushi and other Japanese options inside the Avari Hotel
- **Kyoto** - upscale restaurant off the Mall Road, serving sushi and teppanyaki
- **Sumo** - sushi and cooked offerings with nice interior
- **Bamboo Union** - desi style pan-Asian restaurant
- **Binie House** - Korean cuisine served in a private kitchen
- **China Beef Ramen** - hand-pulled noodles, dumplings, and more, run by muslim Chinese
- **Dan Dan** - sleek Chinese restaurant with hotpot and desi Chinese options
- **Lanzhou Lamian** - delicious soups, dumplings, and desi and non-desi Chinese offerings run by a Pakistani who's worked in China, with outdoor seating
- **Yu Long Restaurant** - Chinese-owned restaurant serving Shandong and other specialties (farther out)

Coffee Shops

- **Third Culture Coffee** - well-considered coffee purveyors, with multiple locations
- **OD** - local donut chain
- **Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf** - branch of international chain in multi-storied building
- **Double Shot** - a popular chain serving gourmet brews
- **Remix** - one of the newer coffee shops
- **Karak Khel** - chai and kehwa (green tea) in a nice outdoor setting

Bakeries & Sweets

- **Emaan Dhaka Sweets** - South Asian sweets
- **Khalifa Bakers** - established in 1925, known for its nan khatai biscuits
- **GoFlour** - artisanal bakery training younger women and serving breakfast and brunch options
- **Crumbs the Bakers** - serving different gourmet breads and light meals
- **Baked** - sweet and savory offerings includes pastries, cakes, and sandwiches, even pasta
- **Layers** - cakes and desserts

Useful Information

Tourist Information

Lahore Tourism (Official Punjab Tourism Website)
Lahore Biennale Foundation (lahorebiennale.org)

Passport and Visa

All international visitors must hold a valid passport and obtain a visa before entering Pakistan. Most nationalities can apply online through Pakistan's official e-Visa portal. Certain countries are eligible for visa on arrival. We recommend checking the official Pakistan Immigration website for current eligibility, processing times, and application details well in advance of travel. The LBF office is happy to facilitate in this matter (hospitality.lbf@gmail.com)

Weather and Climate

March is one of the finest times to visit Lahore, Pakistan. Spring in Lahore is mild and beautiful, with average temperatures between 15°C and 27°C (59–80°F), clear skies (no smog), and the city's trees and gardens in full bloom. Visitors are advised to bring light layers for cooler evenings.

Time Zone

Lahore operates on Pakistan Standard Time (PST), which is UTC+5. Pakistan does not observe daylight saving time, so this remains consistent throughout your visit.

Plugs and Electricity

Pakistan uses plug types C, D, and G, with a standard voltage of 220–230V and frequency of 50Hz. Visitors from most countries will require an adapter. Adapters are available at airports, hotels, and local markets.

Currency and Credit Cards

The currency is the Pakistani Rupee (PKR). Credit and Debit cards are accepted at all major hotels, restaurants, and retail outlets, while cash also remains widely used across the city. ATMs are readily available throughout the city, and currency exchange services can be found at the airport and in major commercial areas.

Emergency

Police: 15
Rescue and Ambulance: 1122
Fire: 16v

For any queries please feel free to reach us at hospitality.lbf@gmail.com