

THE TUK TUK CHALLENGE

PAKISTAN 2024:

KASHMIR VALLEY (AJK)

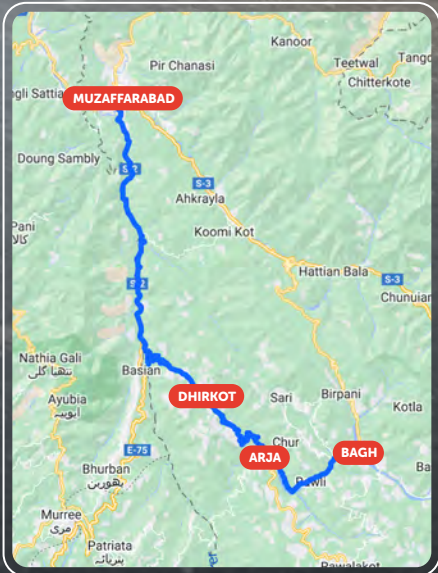
14TH – 22ND SEPTEMBER 2024

DRIVE A TUK-TUK (AUTO RICKSHAW) ACROSS PAKISTAN & THEN HAND IT
OVER TO A NEEDY FAMILY FOR THEIR INCOME GENERATION MEANS

TEAMMC

THE ITINERARY

DAY	TRAVELLING FROM	TRAVELLING TO	TOTAL DISTANCE	
DAY ONE SAT 14 TH SEPT	Arrival	Islamabad	-	Participants arrive at Islamabad International Airport and transfer to the hotel. Dinner for early arrivals.
DAY TWO SUN 15 TH SEPT	Islamabad	Muzaffarabad	By Coach/ Bus	Travel from Islamabad to Muzaffarabad, explore the city's beauty, historical, and cultural sites.
DAY THREE MON 16 TH SEPT	Muzaffarabad	Training Site	30 minutes drive	Morning and afternoon Tuk-Tuk training sessions. Stay in Muzaffarabad.
DAY FOUR TUE 17 TH SEPT	Muzaffarabad	Dhirkot	57 km	Drive Tuk-Tuks to Dhirkot, visit Government Middle School Chmayati, and stay overnight in Dhirkot.
DAY FIVE WED 18 TH SEPT	Dhirkot	Bagh	40 km	Tuk-Tuk drive to Bagh, visits to Rural Health Centre Gaziabad and Government High School Mukhyala, night stay in Bagh.
DAY SIX THU 19 TH SEPT	-	Bagh Exploration	-	Tuk-Tuk free day. Visit local landscapes, Ganga Chotti, and participate in local activities. Stay in Bagh.
DAY SEVEN FRI 20 TH SEPT	Bagh	Arja	32 km	Drive Tuk-Tuks to Arja, handing over ceremony of Tuk-Tuks to beneficiaries, and departure to Islamabad in the evening.
DAY EIGHT SAT 21 ST SEPT	-	Islamabad	-	Free day in Islamabad with suggested itineraries including visits to Faisal Mosque, Daman-e-Koh, Pakistan Monument, and other attractions. Stay in Islamabad.
DAY NINE SUN 22 ND SEPT	Islamabad	Departure	-	Check out from the hotel, end of the trip, participants can return home or continue their travels.



KEY FACTS

Registration Fee:

£450 - This includes all costs within Pakistan (hotels, food, accommodation and airport transfers).

Fundraising Target:

£1,200 individually (or **£2,400** as a group of two). This will be used to fund the purchase of a rickshaw and support our Children of the World campaign.

What's not included in the registration fee:

International UK-Pakistan return flights, visa fees, PCR test if required.



INTRODUCTION

Prepare yourselves!

The allure of Azad Jammu Kashmir resides in its harmonious fusion of natural scenery, cultural richness, biodiversity and traditional lifestyles. Exploring these villages by a Tuk-Tuk will immerse you in the enchanting natural beauty, will let you experience the warmth of the local culture and appreciate the remarkable diversity of flora and fauna that Azad Jammu Kashmir offers.

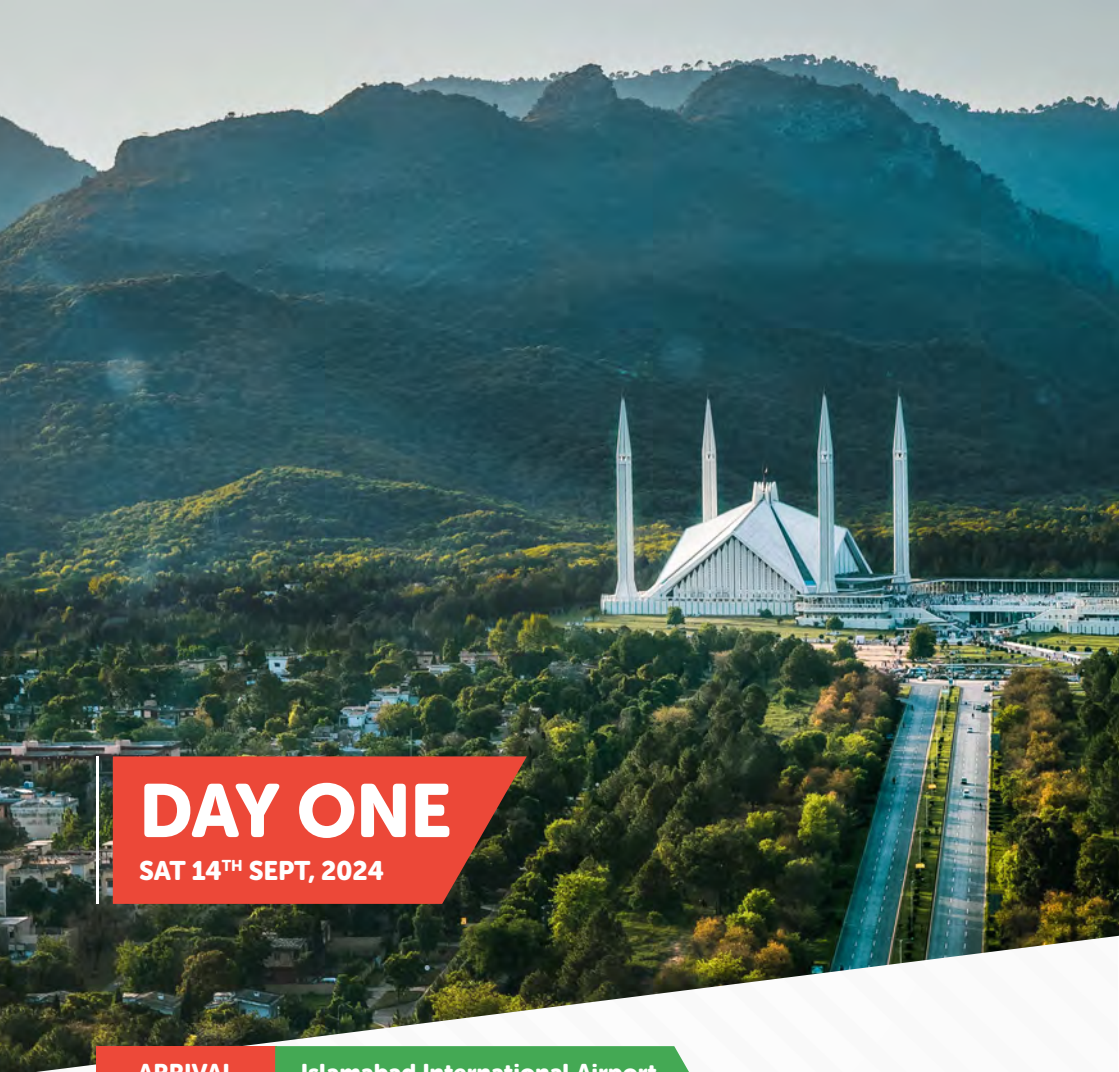
Driving an auto rickshaw is not only a fun and unique way to sample local life but also a means to truly experience it by meeting local inhabitants who adhere to traditional customs, rituals and craftsmanship passed down through generations. The villagers' warmth and hospitality enhance the cultural experience's charm. The villages in the Kashmir valley are cradled between the majestic Himalayan and Karakoram mountain ranges, providing awe-inspiring vistas. The valleys boast lush green fields, rolling hills and cascading waterfalls, crafting a serene and tranquil ambiance ideal for soaking in the region's natural splendour.

The Tuk-Tuk Challenge in Kashmir presents a mix of cultural immersion, personalised exploration, and genuine experiences, making it a truly distinct and unforgettable method to discover the region's beauty and allure. Driving a rickshaw engages all your senses, allowing you to feel the gentle breeze, hear the ambient sounds, smell the fragrances of flowers or local cuisine, and see the vibrant colours of the landscapes. This multisensory journey fosters lasting memories and a deeper bond with the destination.

The Kashmir Valley boasts a rich and diverse cultural heritage, with the local Kashmiris embodying a unique mix of customs, traditions and culinary delights. The valley is celebrated for its traditional handicrafts, including Pashmina shawls, Kashmiri carpets and wooden carvings.

You will also enjoy the local cuisine, known for its rich flavours and aromatic spices. Some notable dishes include Rogan Josh (a flavourful lamb curry), Yakhni (a yogurt-based curry), Wazwan (a multi-course meal) and Kashmiri Pulao (a fragrant rice dish). The traditional Kashmiri tea, Kahwa, is a must-try. The auto rickshaws, quintessentially South Asian, allow you to embrace Kashmiri ancient culture and heritage while simultaneously elevating your adrenaline.





DAY ONE

SAT 14TH SEPT, 2024

ARRIVAL

Islamabad International Airport

Pakistan (Participants are requested to reach latest by midnight).

Transfer to hotel will be provided.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel / Twin Sharing Room

Dinner in one of Islamabad's traditional restaurants for participants who arrive by 7pm

DAY TWO

SUN 15TH SEPT, 2024

07:00-08:00

Breakfast in the hotel

Participants will be briefed about the Tuk-Tuk Challenge.

Luggage: Participants will be permitted to take one suitcase per person along with them throughout the trip. Any excess luggage that you bring which is not required for the trip can remain behind at the Islamabad Hotel and can be collected at the end of the trip.



08:30-12:30

Travelling from Islamabad to Muzaffarabad by Coach/Bus

12:30-14:30

Arrival in Hotel and Lunch

Muzaffarabad in Kashmir is known for its breath-taking beauty and rich cultural landscape. The city is surrounded by majestic mountains, lush green valleys and the beautiful Jhelum River flowing through it. Muzaffarabad is also home to various historical and cultural sites, including the Red Fort, Pir Chinasi Shrine and Neelum Valley, which offers a glimpse into the region's vibrant heritage. The combination of its natural beauty and cultural treasures make Muzaffarabad a truly enchanting destination.

15:00-19:00

Free time to explore Muzaffarabad and we will have dinner in one of the traditional Kashmiri restaurants.

About a hundred years ago, Muzaffarabad was the shahi kinsfolk and had a wealthy Kashmiri culture. A number of ruins of the shahi kinsfolk still exist today like Red Fort Muzaffarabad, Kashmiri Wazwan Food places, Kulcha (Bakery Item), Kashmiri Handicrafts (Shawls, Rugs, wood Crafts, Paper Work). Handicrafts sites are additionally serving native artisans to sell their products online.

Jalalabad Garden a lovely garden that is found within the centre of town. It's one of the most attractive traveller sites in Muzaffarabad among locals.

Muzaffarabad is renowned not only for its natural and spectacularly beautiful landscapes but also for its religious and holy sites, including the shrine of the Sufi saint, Sain Saheli Sarkar. This shrine stands as one of the most revered places in Muzaffarabad, attracting a large number of devotees from far and wide across the country.

The Red Fort, also known as Rutta Qila in Muzaffarabad, showcases bright and glossy signs of historical significance. It is a beautiful tourist destination nestled among lush mountains, and its proximity to the shrine and the Neelum River enhances its marvelous beauty.

20:00

Dinner and Sleep





DAY THREE

MON 16TH SEPT, 2024

07:00-08:00

Breakfast in the hotel

08:00-08:30

Coach drive to the training site (Roughly 30 minutes)



09:00-13:00

Tuk-Tuk Training: Tuk-Tuk Orientation & getting to know your beneficiary

This time is dedicated to getting to know your Tuk-Tuk. An experienced instructor will be providing you training for driving your Tuk-Tuk and you will have enough time to practice newly learnt skills on a slightly hilly and plain areas for preparation of the coming days of driving the Tuk-Tuk.

13:00-15:00

Lunch

15:00-17:00

Another training session in the afternoon to get a better understanding of the roads and Tuk-Tuk vehicle before leaving for Muzaffarabad.

19:00-20:00

Dinner and leisure time to give an early start the next morning

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel / Twin Sharing Room / Muzaffarabad

DAY FOUR

TUE 17TH SEPT, 2024



06:30-08:00

Breakfast in the hotel and check out

08:00-12:30

Departure with Tuk-Tuks to Dhirkot, Total Distance: 57 KM with a stop-over at Government Boys School Chamyati.

You will be driving along the Neelum River, offering breath-taking views of the surrounding mountains and lush green valleys. You will pass through picturesque villages, terraced fields and forests, creating a picturesque landscape. The gushing sound of the river and the cool breeze will add to the overall experience. The route includes several suspension bridges that cross over the river, providing a unique and thrilling experience as you drive across them.

Overall, the journey from Muzaffarabad to Dhirkot along the river offers a mix of natural beauty, cultural experiences and scenic vistas that will make your travel memorable.

12:30-14:30

Visit Government Middle School Chmayati (constructed by Muslim Charity) and Lunch with the villagers

Chamyati is a village in Bagh District, Azad Kashmir. Chamyati is situated nearby to Dhirkot and was 90% destroyed in the 2005 Earthquake. Muslim Charity supported the community through the construction of Government Middle School and we will be able to see the thriving community in lush green areas on the foothill of the Himalayas (Lesser Himalayas) range. You will be able to interact with students and villagers while having lunch.

15:00-17:00

End of First Day of driving and Night Stay in Dhirkot

We will arrive in Dhirkot and stay the night after dinner and prepare for the next day's journey.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel / Twin Room



DAY FIVE

WED 18TH SEPT, 2024

07:00-08:30

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out

Enjoy the breath-taking view of the sunrise in Dhirkot while having your breakfast and enjoying the morning breeze and calmness of this small town located in the foothills of Himalaya.



8:30-09:30

Tuk-Tuk Drive to Bagh (40 kilometres) with visits to Muslim Charity Constructed Rural Health Centre and completed Government High School Mukhyala (Partially funded by Muslim Charity).

Drive your Tuk-Tuk to one of the most scenic roads in Azad Jammu and Kashmir for visiting the Rural Health Centre Gaziabad and Government High School Mukhyala.

09:30-11:30

Rural Health Centre Gaziabad

Rural Health Centre Gaziabad is newly constructed with the support of the donors of Muslim Charity. The Rural Health Centre is located on the road and nestled among many villages and is the only health facility for the population within a 25 kilometre radius. We will be meeting the friendly staff and will be meeting the local population and take part in the inauguration of the Rural Health Centre.

11:30-14:30

Government High School Mukhyala

Government High School Mukhyala was initiated by the community many years ago and was incomplete due to a lack of resources with the government and community. Muslim Charity supported the school and completed the building. Today, there are more than 300 students receiving education and working towards a better future. We will also have lunch with the communities in Mukhyala.

14:30-18:00

Tuk-Tuk Drive to Bagh for the night stay

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel / Twin Room / Night Stay





DAY SIX

THU 19TH SEPT, 2024

Today is a Tuk-Tuk Free day and we will be visiting some of the marvellous lower Himalaya landscape and Ganga Chotti (a hill with 9400 ft elevation) and travel via a combination of Coach and Jeeps (4x4's).

07:00-08:00

Breakfast in the Hotel

Bagh is blessed with breath-taking landscapes, including lush green valleys, crystal-clear streams and snow-capped mountains. The region is surrounded by the magnificent Pir Panjal Range, which adds to its scenic charm. Bagh Fort, also known as Khoi Ratta Fort, is a historical landmark that dates back to the Mughal era.

It is a well-preserved structure that showcases the architectural brilliance of that time. Bagh is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including various species of birds, deer and butterflies. The region has several wildlife sanctuaries and parks, such as the Neelum Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, where visitors can spot these beautiful creatures.



09:00-10:00

Travel by Coach to Seri Parian (Fairy Tale Village), and visit the Muslim Charity supported Government Middle School and meet the vibrant Community.

10:00-12:30

Inauguration Ceremony of School

12:30-13:00

Travel to Suthen Gali by Coach

Sudhan Gali is a picturesque hill station in Bagh, known for its scenic beauty and cool climate. It offers panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and valleys, making it a perfect spot for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. From here we will be travelling further to Ganga Chotti (Peak) via local Jeep (4x4) vehicles.

13:30-16:30

Travelling by Jeeps (4x4 vehicles) to Basecamp of Ganaga Chotti from Suthen Galli jeeps we will have some steep ascents to reach the base camp of Ganga Chotti (Ganga Peak) with Lunch on the Lush Green Lawns.

16:30-17:30

Back to Hotel in Bagh and Night Stay

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel / Twin Room





DAY SEVEN

FRI 20TH SEPT, 2024

07:00-08:00

Breakfast in the Hotel

08:00-09:00

Check out and getting ready for Tuk-Tuks to Arja

09:00-13:00

Driving Tuk-Tuks to Arja (32 kilometres)

The scenic route will take you through beautiful villages, lush green valleys and mountains. As you leave Bagh, you will pass through several villages that dot the landscape. These villages are nestled amidst the mountains and offer a glimpse into the local culture and way of life. The villages are surrounded by terraced fields and orchards, adding to the natural charm.

The locals here are known for their warm hospitality, and you can experience the authentic rural life of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. You will pass through Sudhnoti, Kohi Ratta to arrive in Arja. Since the 2005 Earthquake, Muslim Charity has established a charitable hospital along with many income generation projects for the families and constructed government schools and mosques for the communities.

13:30-17:00

Handing Over Ceremony of Tuk-Tuks to Beneficiaries

After arriving at the Muslim Charity funded Hospital in Arja, we will handing over the Tuk-Tuks to beneficiaries in a small ceremony before our departure back to Islamabad.

17:30-23:00

Departure to Islamabad with dinner at a road side hotel

We will be travelling back to Islamabad via coach and check in to the hotel. Welcome to Urban Islamabad, one of the most amazing cities in the world. It's incredibly busy at all times, hustle and bustle everywhere. It's a large city which seems to be expanding all the time. The number of shops is incredible. From malls to street markets, Islamabad has something for all budgets.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel / Twin Room





DAY EIGHT

SAT 21ST SEPT, 2024

07:00-10:00

Breakfast in the Hotel

This day is totally free and we have the following suggestions for you to spend the day by your own.

IF YOU'RE PLANNING A ONE-DAY TOUR IN ISLAMABAD, HERE'S A SUGGESTED ITINERARY:

- 1** Start your day with a visit to Faisal Mosque, one of the largest mosques in the world. Enjoy the beautiful architecture and serene atmosphere.
- 2** Head over to Daman-e-Koh, a hilltop viewpoint that offers breath-taking panoramic views of Islamabad. Take in the scenic beauty of the city and capture some memorable photos.
- 3** Visit the Pakistan Monument, a symbol of national unity. Explore the museum inside the monument to learn about Pakistan's history and culture.
- 4** Have lunch at a local restaurant and try some traditional Pakistani cuisine. You can find a variety of options in the F-7 or F-6 sectors.
- 5** Explore the Lok Virsa Museum, which showcases the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan. Admire the traditional crafts, music and art exhibits.
- 6** Take a stroll in the beautiful Shakarparian Park, located near the Pakistan Monument. Enjoy the lush green surroundings and relax in the peaceful environment.
- 7** Visit Rawal Lake, a popular recreational spot in Islamabad. Take a boat ride or enjoy a leisurely walk along the lake's promenade. You can also have tea or snacks at the nearby restaurants.
- 8** End your day with a visit to Centaurus Mall, one of the largest shopping malls in Islamabad. Explore the various shops, dine at a restaurant, or watch a movie at the cinema.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel / Twin Room



DAY NINE

SUN 22^{NJ} SEPT, 2024

07:00-10:00

Breakfast in the Hotel

Check out from the hotel and you can return home or your onwards travels. Check-out is at 12:00 mid-day and this would be the day you can book your return flights back to the UK.

Important Note: The above itinerary is what we have planned but it is subject to change due to unforeseen or other circumstances. We will update participants if any changes occur in the itinerary.

FAQS

Do I need a driving license?

Yes. You will need a full UK driving license if you want to drive in Pakistan. You can still participate and support the team but you must have at least 2 drivers in your team.

Will I be insured?

Your vehicle will be insured during your challenge but this does not cover any loss or injury. We strongly recommend that you take out personal travel insurance to cover any loss or injury during this period.

Do I need to be part of a team or can I register on my own?

We recommend that you get a team of 2 together to make it easier to allocate a vehicle to each team. If you would like to participate but don't have a team, please get in touch with us and we can put you in a team of 2 with another participant.

Will we have support while in Pakistan?

The challenge is fully supported with expert staff on hand to advise, guide and support where required. We will also have a support vehicle should there be any breakdowns or emergencies that we need to deal with.

Do we need any Rickshaw / Tuk-Tuk training?

We will keep a small space where you can add your team's name and logo. Please get in touch with us so we can help with logo design and templates.

Will you provide maps?

Yes. We will have maps and use Sat Nav for directions. We will also travel in small groups to make sure we can help each other along the way.

Visa Applications

We will advise you how to make the application and furnish you with all the paperwork necessary to apply. However, we cannot control the visa process or influence any decisions the Pakistani Embassy makes. We advise that you apply in good time and speak to us prior to applying. We cannot also be responsible for any loss you may incur in the process such as flights, visa fees, or any other expenses related to this trip.

Can I extend my stay?

Yes. You will book your own flight but please make sure you do not arrange any personal travels or commitments within the tour dates.

Is this challenge just for the boys?

No. We have many sisters that take part too. You can come as a mixed group or as a single-sex group. Everyone is welcome.

