

NARAN: THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND ENCHANTING PLACE IN KAGHAN VALLEY, PAKISTAN: MUNIR DAR



The author Munir Dar is a Publisher & Chief Editor of the Weekly "Layalpur Post" in Toronto Ontario, Canada. Currently, he is residing in Toronto Canada. He is also the Publisher and Chief Editor of the Weekly "Layalpur Post" in Faisalabad, Pakistan. He possesses an M. Sc. (Hons.) degree, is an Immigration Consultant (Graduate) from CDI College North York, Toronto Canada and a Paralegal (Graduate) from Humber College (North) Toronto Ontario, Canada. The author is interested in global politics, and social economic developments with a special focus on Pakistan. He can be reached at +1-437-237-1014, layalpurpost@gmail.com or munirdar41@gmail.com

Toronto Canada, (LPC): Naran is the most beautiful and enchanting place in Kaghan Valley. The distance from Mansehra to Naran is 122 kilometres, and from Kaghan to Naran is only 23 kilometres. Located at an altitude of 7,904 feet above sea level, 10 kilometres from Naran is the bowl-shaped lake "Saif-ul-Muluk," adorned with deep blue-green water, situated at an altitude of 10,500 feet above sea level.

The captivating view of this lake captures hearts. The love story of Prince Saif-ul-Muluk and Fairy Badi-ul-Jamal also blossomed here. After an adventurous one-hour jeep ride, the mesmerizing blue waters of the mythical and magical lake surrounded by mountains and the pleasant scenery around it captivate visitors.



Our country, with its unique geographical features, is very fertile in terms of tourism. These beautiful valleys spread between the highest mountains of Pakistan hold many treasures for tourism enthusiasts. The magical mountain ranges like the Himalayas, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush are considered a paradise for tourists, mountaineers, and those interested in ancient culture and heritage.

Along with the abundance of natural resources, there is no shortage of natural scenery, including towering snow-capped mountains, glacial lakes at their feet, gushing waterfalls, dense forests, and emerald lakes with blue waters, roaring streams, and melodious rivers. However, the existence of this most beautiful lake in Asia is now under threat as its diameter is rapidly decreasing.

Experts say that due to the carelessness of tourists, its natural beauty was already at risk, but now its very existence is in danger due to heavy rains. Experts say that every year, due to the debris from the surrounding high mountains brought by heavy rains, the diameter of the lake is rapidly decreasing.

Soil and stones from the mountains are falling into the lake, and immediate attention is needed to address this issue. Experts have expressed concern that if the debris entering Lake Saif-ul-Muluk is not stopped, the lake's water could overflow during heavy rains, causing damage to the town and market of Naran. The increasing crowd and pollution in Kaghan have dimmed the charm of its magical lakes.

A whole market has sprung up on the lake's shore in the style of a slum, where tourists are sold items at high prices without any regulation. People escaping the crowded markets of densely populated cities in the summer do not find refuge here either, as hundreds of jeeps have established a monopoly on the road. Jeep drivers charge 2,000 rupees for the 9-kilometer journey from Naran to the lake.

Visitors wait for their turn to cross the bridge at the lake's mouth. Everywhere, people can be seen taking pictures and selfies. The largest lake in Kaghan Valley, Lulusar, located 48 kilometres from Naran, is in almost the same condition.

Temporary stalls selling fritters and samosas on the shores of Lulusar have become an eyesore of the lake's natural beauty. The Chief Minister's Advisor on Tourism, Culture, and Archaeology, Zahid Chun Zaid, said that the Naran Valley, especially the mythical Lake Saif-ul-Muluk, is Pakistan's most important tourist center with international significance.



Ensuring the management of more than 400,000 tourists and the cleanliness of most areas of the valley during Eid-ul-Adha is a commendable achievement of the Kaghan Development Authority. The authority has kept all tourist spots in Naran Valley clean and provided excellent facilities to tourists.

He expressed at the inauguration ceremony of the green belt constructed by the Kaghan Development Authority for the convenience of tourists and addressing the officials of the local hotel association and area dignitaries. On this occasion, he also announced the installation of two solar tube wells to address the drinking water problems in Naran.

The ceremony was attended by MPA Munir Hussain Laghmani Advocate, Director General Kaghan Development Authority Shabbir Khan, Deputy Director Amin-ul-Hassan, Assistant Directors Nauman Khan, Zahoor Khan, Asad Khan, hotel association officials Seth Matiullah, Sarwar Khan, Muhammad Farooq, Yasir Haroon, Ashfaq Ahmed, Hassan Deen, Anwar Lala, and a large number of dignitaries.

The Advisor on Tourism said that the Kaghan Development Authority Board would be made more active. He clarified that no construction would be allowed without map approval, and encroachments would be dealt with strictly. Regarding some issues and demands of hotel owners, Zahid Chun Zaid assured that environmental and public-friendly constitutional amendments would be made in the KDA Board's laws to provide facilities and incentives to hotel owners.

Zahid Chun Zaid announced the provision of an ambulance in Naran for the convenience of tourists, the approval of 3 million funds for the repair of the Souch Bridge, and the provision of a rented building or transfer to an alternative school for the Girls School Naran.

On this occasion, Member Provincial Assembly Munir Hussain Laghmani Advocate appreciated the services of the Advisor on Tourism, saying that due to better arrangements, tourists did not face any problems this season. He said that our government aims to promote the tourism industry and develop these tourist spots.

Earlier, he inaugurated the green belt under the Kaghan Development Authority, where tourists can enjoy the beautiful scenery of Naran Valley while sitting in the cool breeze and open air on the banks of the Kunhar River. The General Manager of the Tourism and Culture Authority,

The Lamchar, Sajakot, Noori, Chajian Haripur, Jarogo Swat, Lanch Dir, and Umbrella Abbottabad waterfalls are being prepared to promote environmental tourism. Tourist spots, jeep tracks, and roads are being prepared to connect the waterfalls of Abbottabad, Haripur, and Mansehra. To reduce the burden of tourists in Galyat, Kaghan, Naran, Kalam, Malam Jabba, and Dir, jeepable tracks are being constructed in 15 areas at an estimated cost of 500 million rupees, and camping pods are also being set up nearby.

Similarly, more than 19 hotels/motels of PTDC, including Gharam Chashma, Pir Mufliht, Boni, Kalash in Chitral, Osho Kalam, Mankial, Saidu Sharif, Miandam in Swat, Balakot Mansehra, Ayubia Abbottabad, have been opened for tourists.



A pilot project, integrated tourism zones would be developed first in Ghanool with a proposed cost of 5.5 billion rupees and in Mankial with an estimated cost of 2.9 billion rupees to promote sustainable tourism. Rules and regulations for Mankial and Ghanool ITZs have been prepared, which will be completed on the pattern of ITZs in Malaysia and Indonesia.

These integrated tourism zones (ITZs) are expected to create 200,000 direct and indirect job opportunities and attract an investment of 2.8 billion US dollars.

The feasibility of the cable car project from Dir Upper to Madaklasht Chitral has been completed, and its financing will be done through the World Bank Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Project (KITE).

These positive steps by the government will help increase tourism revenue and promote Pakistan's soft image as a tourism-loving country.