

## Multan

One of the oldest cities in the world, Multan was conquered along with Sindh by Muhammad bin Qasim in 712 AD. It is commonly known as 'Madinat-ul-Auliya' (the city of Saints) due to a large number of Sufi saints associated with the city. Famous attractions include Mausoleums of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria Multani, Hazrat Shah Rukn-e-Alam, Shah Shams Sabzwari and Shah Gardez, Multan Fort, Eid Gaah Mosque, Multan Museum and Multan Cricket Stadium. The city is also believed to be the birthplace of Farid ud Deen Ganj Shakar (commonly known as Baba Farid). Multan is famous for its crops including wheat, cotton, sugarcane, guavas, pomegranates and particularly mangoes, as well as the popular '*Sohan Halwa*' a dessert.

Multan has gradually attained the position of an influential political, commercial and industrial Centre which boasts of a wide range of industries including sugar, fertilizer, cosmetics, glass manufacturing, cotton, large textile units, flour and oil mills and large-scale power generation projects. It is also famous for its handicrafts (carpets and ceramics) as well as cottage industries. Some main industries include:

- Pakarab Fertilizers Company
- Three Stars Hosiery Mills
- Hussain Industries
- Hafeez Ghee and General Mills
- Rubber and Plastic industries
- Mehr Dastgir Group of Industries
- Mahmood group of industries
- Sandhu Textiles.
- Sunrays Textile Mills Ltd (Indus Group of Companies)
- Muzammil Traders (Home Textiles Manufacturers & Exporters)

The area around the city is a flat plain and is ideal for agriculture, with many citrus and mango farms. There are many canals that cut across the Multan District, providing water from nearby farms. This makes the land very fertile. Multan produces one of the best *mangoes* in the world. There are many varieties of mangoes being produced and mango farms are undoubtedly the most common sight in the suburbs of Multan. The hot weather and abundant well irrigated fertile land assures unprecedented taste for these mangoes. Chaunsa, Langra, Anwar ratol, Dusairi, Fajri, Desi and Sindhri are some of the many mango varieties currently being cultivated in Multan. The mangoes produced here are probably the sweetest on the globe and a large portion of the cultivation is exported to many different countries including America, England, Canada, Saudia Arabia and Japan.

Multan is one of the hottest cities of the country. It features an arid climate with very hot summers and cold winters. The city witnesses some of the most extreme temperatures in the country.

Multan Office started its operations in a rented building at Hussain Agahi, Multan in 1979. With the passage of time and enhancement of services, the office shifted to its new building situated at LMQ Road, Multan on November 2, 1998. The premises of the Bank also consist of a beautiful Auditorium with a capacity of 518 seats which was inaugurated by Dr. Ishrat Hussain, the then Governor State Bank of Pakistan on March 11, 2005.