In Pakistan a wildlife sanctuary is an area set aside for the protection of wildlife. Public access is prohibited or regulated and no exploitation of forest is allowed. A Game Reserve is an area where shooting and hunting of wild animals is regulated under permit. The number of shoots allowed in reserves varies, and is determined by provincial governments.

The following are the major Wildlife Sanctuaries/Game Reserves of Pakistan:

1. Kilik/Mintaka game reserve
2. Tooshi game reserve
3. Kargah wildlife sanctuary
4. Naltar wildlife sanctuary
5. Astor wildlife sanctuary
6. Baltistan wildlife sanctuary
7. Chasma and Taunsa barrage dolphin reserve
8. Cholistan wildlife sanctuary
9. Sukkur and Guddu barrage dolphin reserve
10. Nara desert wildlife sanctuary
11. Hub dam wildlife sanctuary
12. Mahal kohistan wildlife sanctuary
13. Runn of Kutch wildlife sanctuary

Please click on the yellow buttons on the map to access each sanctuary/game reserve information.
Wildlife Sanctuaries PK

Astor Wildlife Sanctuary:

• **Astor Wildlife Sanctuary** covers 416 sq km on the north side of the Astor Valley from the junction with the Indus River to the confluence with the Parashing Gah (John Mock). This area contains a small population of the Astor Markhor (C. falconeri falconeri).

• **Baltistan Wildlife Sanctuary** covers 415 sq km in Baltistan, contiguous with the Astor Wildlife Sanctuary to its south and east. It lies south of the Indus River, between Rondu and Shengus villages (John Mock). Important wildlife includes Snow Leopard, Brown Bear, Lynx, Tibetan wolf, Tibetan fox, Markhor, Blue sheep and Asiatic ibex.

• **Cholistan Wildlife Sanctuary:** The Cholistan desert area in the south eastern portion of the province of Punjab contains some of the most rare and interesting wildlife in Pakistan. Some of the rare animals of this region are Desert wolf (rare), Indian fox, Red fox, Jackal, Small Indian civet, Small Indian mongoose, Indian grey mongoose, Indian desert cat, Jungle cat, Caracal cat, Chinkara gazelle, Blackbuck, Nilgai antelope, Houbara bustard, Peregrine falcon, Saker falcon, Black backed vulture, Indian cobra, Monitor lizard, Saw scaled viper and Russells viper.
**Wildlife Sanctuaries PK cont**

- **Mahal Kohistan Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated in the south of Kirthar National Park. Wildlife includes Common fox, Jackal, Jungle Cat, Chinkara Gazelle, Urial, Monitor Lizard and Indian cobra.

- **Hub Dam wild life sanctuary**: Hub dam is Pakistan's third largest dam. This dam is situated in the north of Karachi bordering the Kirthar National Park. A large water storage reservoir constructed in 1981 on the Hub River, in a region of arid plains and low stony hills. Much of the shoreline is steeply shelving and stony, but there are many shallow bays and small islands. The greater part of the reservoir (in Balochistan) is unprotected; the eastern shore and area south of the Dam (in Sindh) are protected in the Kirthar National Park and Hub Dam Wildlife Sanctuary, respectively. The lake formed by the dam covers an area of 32 square miles and is an ideal place for bird watching. There is plenty of waterfowl in the lake, both resident and migratory. The surrounding hills are the home of Urial, Sind wild goat, Chinkara gazelle, Wolf, Jackal, Common fox, Pangolin and numerous other birds and reptiles.

- **Kargah Wildlife Sanctuary** covers 445 sq km of the Kargah Valley just five km north-west of Gilgit (John Mock). This area contains a small population of the Astor Markhor. The current population is inbetween 75-150 (Roberts/Hess).
Wildlife Sanctuaries PK cont

• Naltar Wildlife Sanctuary covers 273 sq km of the Naltar Valley to its juncture with the Hunza River, and is contiguous with the Pakora and Sherqila Game Reserves (John Mock). A small population of Astor Markhor is found here.

• Nara Desert wildlife Sanctuary: The Nara desert provides refugee to a large number of wildlife in Sind province. The Nara Canal Area, a chain of some 200 small, permanent and seasonal, freshwater, brackish and saline lakes and marshes stretching for about 150 km along either side of the Nara Canal from Sorah in the north to Sanghar in the south is known to be of great importance for wintering waterfowl and other wildlife, but few surveys and censuses have been carried out, except at a few of the southernmost lakes. The largest population of the endangered Mugger Crocodile in Pakistan is found here. Other animal life includes Jackal, Fox, Pangolin, Honey Badger and Wolf.

• Chasma and Taunsa Barrage Dolphin Sanctuary:

• The Chashma and Taunsa Barrage are declared Wildlife Sanctuaries by the Punjab government. A very important breeding, staging and wintering area for a wide variety of waterfowl, including at least one threatened species (Marmaronetta angustirostris). Mid-winter waterfowl counts in recent years have regularly exceeded 20,000 birds. The endangered Indus Dolphin (Platanista indi) occurs in the river both upstream and downstream of the barrage. Since the 1970s, the population of the Indus Dolphin has significantly increased here.
The Chashama and Taunsa Barrage are declared Wildlife Sanctuaries by the Punjab government. A very important breeding, staging and wintering area for a wide variety of waterfowl, including at least one threatened species (Marmaronetta angustirostris). Mid-winter waterfowl counts in recent years have regularly exceeded 20,000 birds. The endangered Indus Dolphin (Platanista indi) occurs in the river both upstream and downstream of the barrage. Since the 1970s, the population of the Indus Dolphin has significantly increased here.

Rann of Kutch Wildlife Sanctuary: The Rann of Kutch wildlife sanctuary lies in the southeast of the province Sind bordering India. The marshy Rann of Kutch and its surrounding desert area in Sindh is one of the most potential habitat for numbers of animal and birds in the province. This area is known to be a breeding ground for Flamingoes and staging ground for Pelicans, Cranes, Storks and many species of waterfowl and also important site for animals like Wild Ass, Blue bull, Chinkara and Desert wolf, which have been sighted regularly. This area used to have the only population of the Indian Wild Ass or Onager in Pakistan. Unfortunately they are thought to have been exterminated. Nilgai may be found here.
Wildlife Sanctuaries / games reserves of Pakistan

Click on the yellow buttons to access each sanctuary/game reserve information.
Wildlife Sanctuaries PK cont

• Sukkur and Guddu Barrage Dolphin Reserve: This dolphin reserve was declared a reserve for the Indus Dolphin in 1974. A stretch of about 135 km of the Indus River from Sukkur Barrage upstream to Guddu Barrage. The Reserve includes the full width of the river when in spate and a strip of land three miles wide on either side of the river. The river area between Sukkur and Guddu barrage contains the largest population of the endangered Indus Blind River Dolphin, which is endemic to Pakistan. The population has risen steadily due to the effort of WWF-Pakistan and Sind Wildlife Board. Numbers are thought to be inbetween 400-500.

• Tooshi Game Reserve, along the paved road to Garam Chashma in Chitral's Lutkho district, covers 1000 hectares and is proposed to be reclassified as a wildlife sanctuary, as it has a large (about 160) and readily viewable markhor population. The markhor are best seen along the road at dusk. The jeep ride is just 20 minutes from Chitral town. (Information by John Mock).

• Kilik/Mintaka Game Reserve:

• Kilik/Mintaka Game Reserve lies along the border with China, east of the KKH and the Khunjerab National Park. It includes 65,000 hectares of important Marco Polo sheep habitat, and is closed to foreigners (information by John Mock).
What are sanctuaries

A place of refuge or safety.
Immunity from arrest.
An animal sanctuary is a facility where animals are brought to live and be protected for the rest of their lives. Unlike animal shelters, sanctuaries do not seek to place animals with individuals or groups, instead maintaining each animal until his or her natural death. In some cases, an establishment may have characteristics of both a sanctuary and a shelter; for instance, some animals may be in residence temporarily until a good home is found and others may be permanent residents. The mission of sanctuaries is generally to be safe havens, where the animals receive the best care that the sanctuaries can provide. Animals are not bought, sold, or traded, nor are they used for animal testing. The resident animals are given the opportunity to behave as naturally as possible in a protective environment.

What distinguishes a sanctuary from other institutions is the philosophy that the residents come first. In a sanctuary, every action is scrutinized for any trace of human benefit at the expense of non-human residents. Sanctuaries act on behalf of the animals, and the caregivers work under the notion that all animals in the sanctuary, human and non-human, are of equal importance.
Animal sanctuaries cont...

A sanctuary is not open to the public in the sense of a zoo; that is, the public is not allowed unescorted access to any part of the facility. A sanctuary tries not to allow any activity that would place the animals in an unduly stressful situation.

One of the most important missions of sanctuaries, beyond caring for the animals, is educating the public. The ultimate goal of a sanctuary should be to change the way that humans think of, and treat, non-human animals.

There are several national and international organizations that have taken the responsibility of supervising numerous systems of non-profit animal sanctuaries in order to provide a general system for sanctuaries to follow. Among them, The American Sanctuary Association monitors and aids in various facilities to care for exotic wildlife. Their accredited facilities conform to high standards and rigid application processes to ensure that the animals under their care are enthusiastically cared for and maintained.
List of sanctuaries in Pakistan

Wildlife sanctuaries

- Argam Basti Wildlife Sanctuary
- Astore Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bajwat Wildlife Sanctuary
- Baltistan Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bijoro Chach Wildlife Sanctuary
- Borraka Wildlife Sanctuary
- Buzi Makola Wildlife Sanctuary
- Chashma and Taunsa Barrage Dolphin Sanctuary
- Chorani Wildlife Sanctuary
- Cholistan Wildlife Sanctuary
- Chumbi Surla Wildlife Sanctuary
- Cut Munarki Chach Wildlife Sanctuary
- Daphar Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dhoung Block Wildlife Sanctuary
- Drigh Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dureji Wildlife Sanctuary
- Ghondak Dhono Wildlife Sanctuary
- Gullel Kohri Wildlife Sanctuary
- Gulsher Dhand Wildlife Sanctuary
- Hub Dam Wildlife Sanctuary
- Hadero Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
- Haleji Wildlife Sanctuary
- Haleji Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
- Islamabad Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kachau Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kargah Wildlife Sanctuary
- Khadi Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kharar Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
- Khat Dhorro Wildlife Sanctuary
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Kinjhar Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
Koh-e-Geish Wildlife Sanctuary
Kolwah Kap Wildlife Sanctuary
Kot Dinghano Wildlife Sanctuary
Lakhi Wildlife Sanctuary
Lehri Nature Park
Mahal Kohistan Wildlife Sanctuary
Majiran Wildlife Sanctuary
Manglot Wildlife Sanctuary
Manshi Wildlife Sanctuary
Maslakh Wildlife Sanctuary
Miani Dhand Wildlife Sanctuary
Mohabat Doro Wildlife Sanctuary
Munarki Wildlife Sanctuary
Naltar Wildlife Sanctuary
Nara Desert Wildlife Sanctuary
Nemat Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
Norange Wildlife Sanctuary
Raghai Rakhshan Wildlife
Sanctuary
Ras Koh Wildlife Sanctuary
Rasool Barrage Wildlife Sanctuary
Rann of Kutch Wildlife Sanctuary
Sadnani Wildlife Sanctuary
Salkhala Wildlife Sanctuary
Salpara Wildlife Sanctuary
Samno Dhand Wildlife Sanctuary
Sasnamana Wildlife Sanctuary
Shah Lando Wildlife Sanctuary
Shashan Wildlife Sanctuary
Sheikh Buddin Wildlife Sanctuary
Sodhi Wildlife Sanctuary
Takkar Wildlife Sanctuary
Tauns Barrage Wildlife Sanctuary
Ziarat Juniper Wildlife Sanctuary

See also
Game res
Wild life sanctuaries

Astore
Bajwat
Baltistan
Chashma Lake
Cholistan
Chumbi Surla
Hab Dam
Lehri Nature Park
Naltar
Nara Desert
Runn of Kutch