

## Module South Asia

Topic Content: Cultural Influences of India, Pakistan, and the Himalayas

Cultural Influences of India, Pakistan, and the Himalayas

# Cultural Influences

## INDIA, PAKISTAN, AND THE HIMALAYAS



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**Menu**

# INDIA, PAKISTAN, AND THE HIMALAYAS



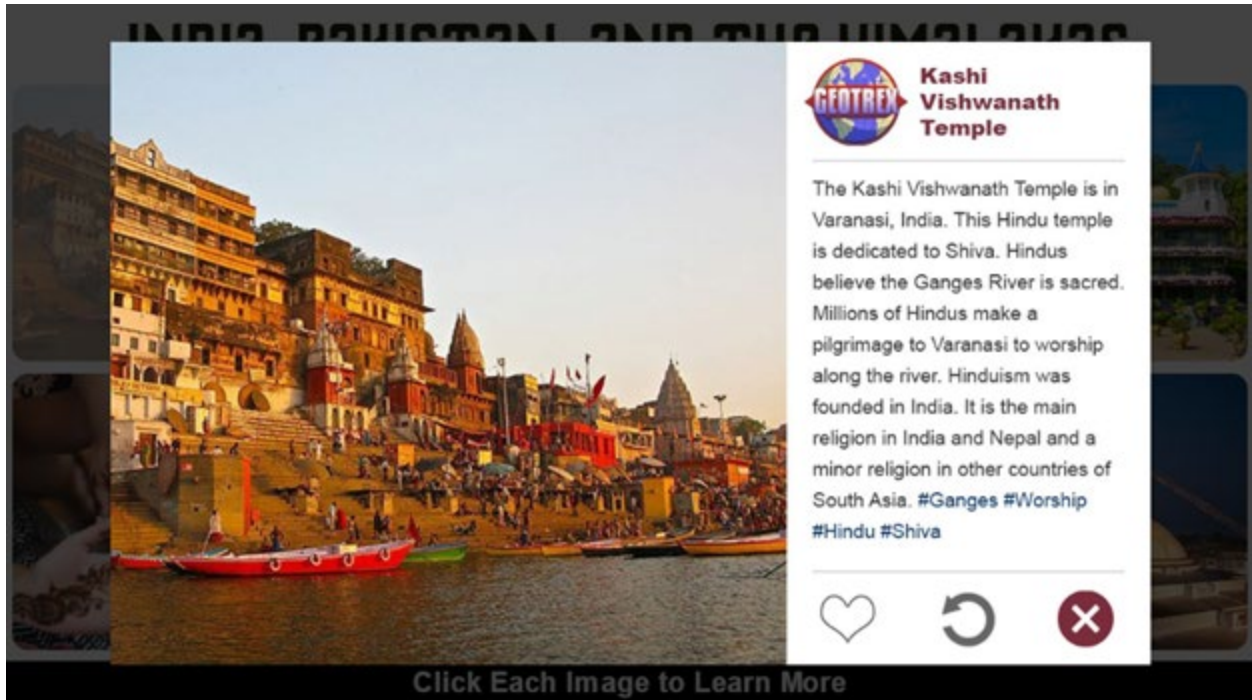
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#### Kashi Vishwanath Temple



The Kashi Vishwanath Temple is in Varanasi, India. This Hindu temple is dedicated to Shiva. Hindus believe the Ganges River is sacred. Millions of Hindus make a pilgrimage to Varanasi to worship along the river. Hinduism was founded in India. It is the main religion in India and Nepal and a minor religion in other countries of South Asia.

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#### Ganges River

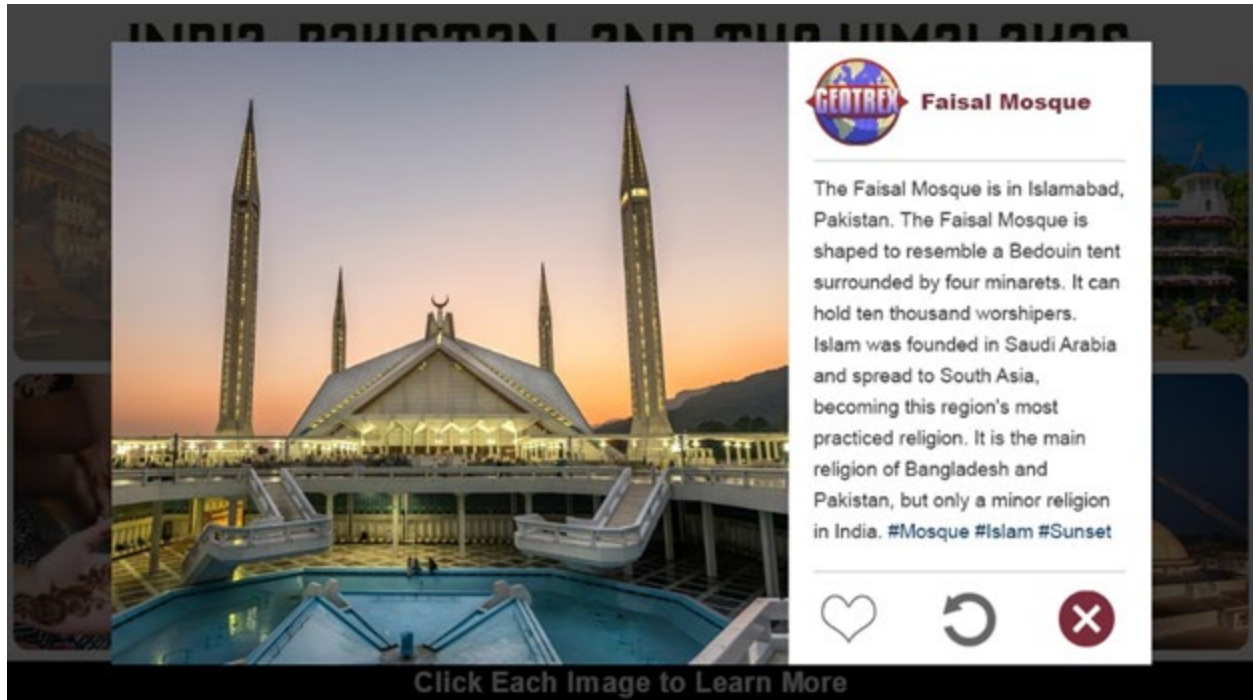


The Ganges River is located in the plains of northern India. It is considered a holy river for Hindus. The Ganges is relatively slow and short, but it sustains hundreds of millions of people. The city of Varanasi is on the banks of the Ganges River. Millions of people come to the city to bathe in the Ganges' water. Today, the river is heavily polluted.

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#### Faisal Mosque



The Faisal Mosque is in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Faisal Mosque is shaped to resemble a Bedouin tent surrounded by four minarets. It can hold ten thousand worshippers. Islam was founded in Saudi Arabia and spread to South Asia, becoming this region's most practiced religion. It is the main religion of Bangladesh and Pakistan, but only a minor religion in India.

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#### Dambulla Cave Temple

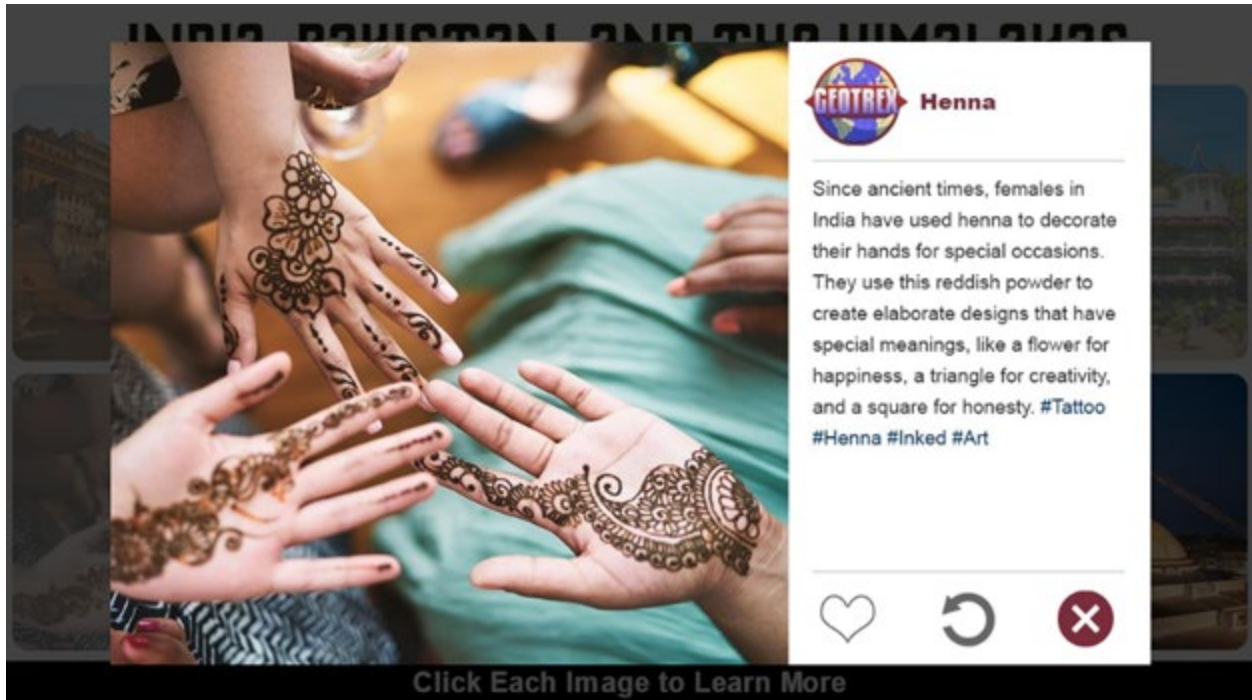


The Dambulla Cave Temple is the biggest cave temple in Sri Lanka. There are more than eighty caves that depict Buddha through statues, paintings, and carvings. Although Buddhism was founded in India, only about two percent of South Asians are followers today. Buddhism is the main religion in Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

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#### Henna

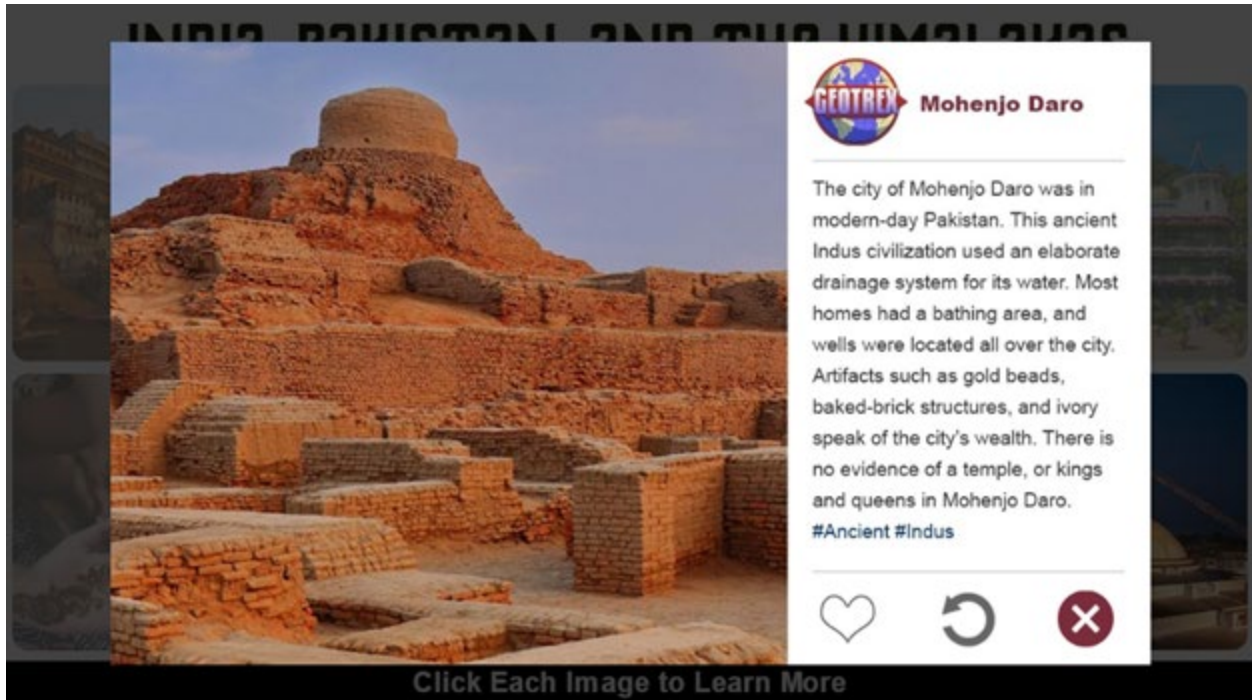


Since ancient times, females in India have used henna to decorate their hands for special occasions. They use this reddish powder to create elaborate designs that have special meanings, like a flower for happiness, a triangle for creativity, and a square for honesty.

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#### Mohenjo Daro



The city of Mohenjo Daro was in modern-day Pakistan. This ancient Indus civilization used an elaborate drainage system for its water. Most homes had a bathing area, and wells were located all over the city. Artifacts such as gold beads, baked-brick structures, and ivory speak of the city's wealth. There is no evidence of a temple, or kings and queens in Mohenjo Daro.



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#### Taj Mahal



**GOTREX** Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal is located in Agra, India. This huge mausoleum, constructed of white marble and semi-precious stones, was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. It took twenty years to complete. Architectural influences come from India, Persia, and Islam. A high central dome is surrounded by four smaller ones and four minarets. Verses of the Qur'an are inscribed on the arched entrances. #Amazing

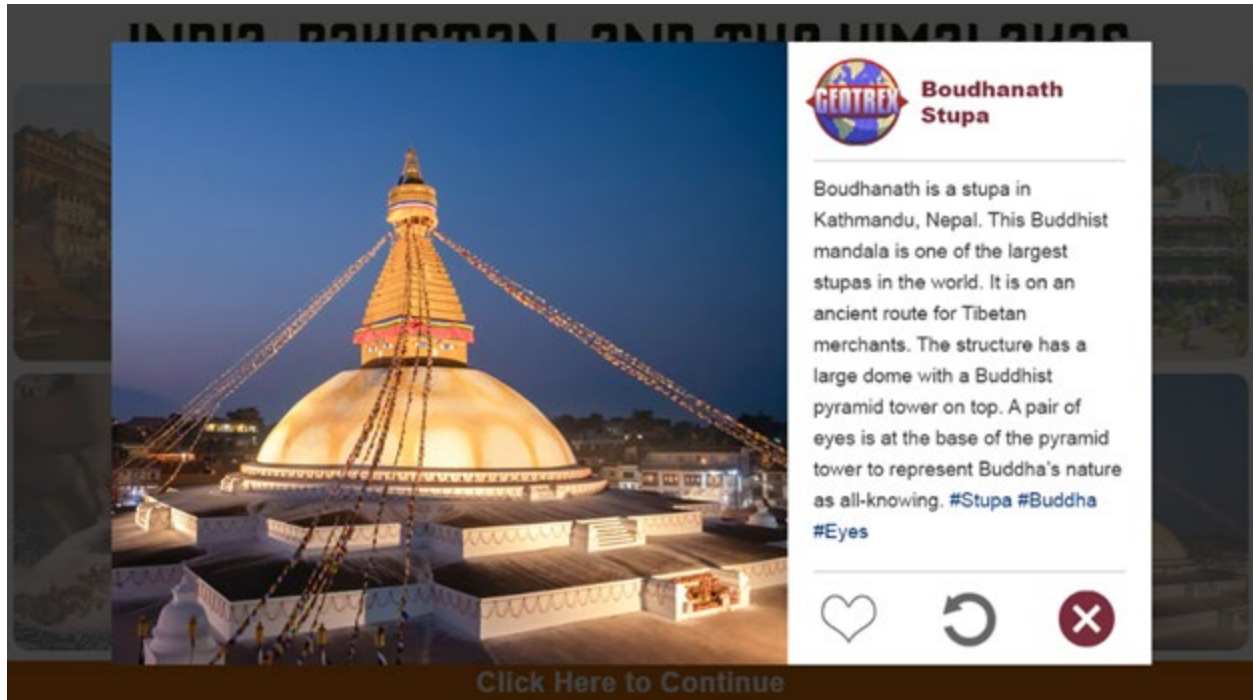
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#### Boudhanath Stupa



Boudhanath is a stupa in Kathmandu, Nepal. This Buddhist mandala is one of the largest stupas in the world. It is on an ancient route for Tibetan merchants. The structure has a large dome with a Buddhist pyramid tower on top. A pair of eyes is at the base of the pyramid tower to represent Buddha's nature as all-knowing.