

Pakistan: Hiking the Hunza Valley

AN ACTIVE CULTURAL JOURNEY IN THE KARAKORAM WITH PAUL AMSTUTZ



Wilderness Travel

Overview



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 17 days
Arrive: Islamabad, Pakistan
Depart: Islamabad, Pakistan
Lodging: 16 nights hotels
Meals: All meals included
Activity: Hiking & Trekking, Cultural, Limited Edition

Trip Level: 1 2 ③ 4 5 6

Moderate to strenuous hikes, 3-5 miles most days, often on rocky surfaces, altitudes of 7,000 to 10,000 feet, rugged road travel

QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!

800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy spectacular views of Rakaposhi (25,551'), star of the Hunza Valley skyline
- Meet the friendly people of Hunza in their mountain villages
- Visit the fairytale castle of Baltit, a Hunza landmark
- Hike trails below Rakaposhi Base Camp and up to Hunza's high glaciers
- Explore the traditional Balti village of Khaplu on the Shyok River
- Travel the Karakoram Highway linking northern Pakistan and China
- Stay in comfortable hotels and guest houses with history and character—no camping!

Introduction



LIMITED EDITION ADVENTURES

This is a Limited Edition adventure—which means a unique trip we've never run before or offer only every few years. Led by our most experienced Trip Leaders, these journeys often take place in remote destinations with only the most basic infrastructure for tourism. If you see a Limited Edition trip scheduled for this year, now is the time to sign up, as spaces fill very early and the trip may not be back for a while! Planned daily activities and actual timings may vary due to local conditions or the discretion of your Trip Leader—it is important to bring your spirit of adventure for these special exploratory journeys!

TRIP DATES

September 14-30, 2024
October 2-18, 2024

September 7-23, 2025
September 28-October 14, 2025

Northern Pakistan's vast northern realm, Gilgit-Baltistan, is home to three major mountain ranges—the Himalayas, Karakoram, and the Hindu Kush. Nestled here among soaring Karakoram peaks is the legendary Hunza Valley, home to Rakaposhi (25,551'), one of the highest mountains in the world, along with traditional villages, iconic forts, a historic mosque, Buddhist archaeological sites, and some of the most welcoming people in the world. We'll hike the best trails, visit local homes, and watch a spectacular Karakoram sunset at 10,000 feet. Before we explore Hunza, we'll spend a few days enjoying the peaceful Balti village of Khaplu, set in a sublime setting reminiscent of the Tibetan Plateau.

Itinerary



DAY 1 ISLAMABAD

Arrive at the Islamabad International Airport, where you are met for transfer to the Islamabad Serena Hotel, set on 14 acres of gardens. We gather for a trip orientation and Welcome Dinner at the hotel this evening.

Should you wish to arrive in Islamabad early to rest up from jet lag and enjoy the city, we are happy to book extra hotel nights for you at our group hotel (an “on your own” expense).

Overnight: Islamabad Serena

The Islamabad Serena, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, is tucked into a peaceful, 14-acre garden setting between the Margalla Hills and Rawal Lake, framed by Islamic architecture and al fresco terraces and pavilions. The hotel has five restaurants, from casual to fine dining, and the Maisha Spa and fitness center.

Meals: D

Itinerary



Overnight: Serena Khaplu Palace

Located in the charming village of Khaplu, the Serena Khaplu Palace is a unique heritage hotel created by the restoration of Khaplu's 19th century Raja Palace. There are 21 guest rooms, each one a bit different and decorated with local fabrics and artifacts. The property has beautiful gardens with fruit trees. Balti, Pakistani, and international cuisine is served in the window-lined dining room.

Meals: B, L, D

Flying Time: 1 hour

Driving Time: 3 hours

DAY 2 FLY TO SKARDU / KHAPLU / KHAPLU FORT

One of the most scenic mountain flights in the world brings us to the remote city of Skardu (8,202') in Baltistan, the northernmost province of Pakistan. On a cloud-free day, passengers on this flight are treated to views of some of the highest mountains in the world, including Nanga Parbat, (26,660') Rakaposhi (25,551'), and K2 (28,251'), the second highest peak in the world, all towering above other summits of the Karakoram and Hindu Kush. Skardu is set in a valley where the Indus and Shigar rivers converge in a vast and arid setting reminiscent of the Tibetan Plateau. We board our vehicles here for a drive along the Shyok River to the peaceful village of Khaplu (8,727'). Our hotel in Khaplu is the Serena Khaplu Palace, a 19th century fortress-palace now converted into a boutique hotel, with restoration work done by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC). With its blend of Tibetan, Balti, and Mughal styles, the fortress-palace is an architectural heritage site. Historically, Khaplu was a small kingdom ruled until relatively recently by a hereditary Raja. The kingdom was well known in the 17th and 18th centuries for its close family ties with the royal family of Ladakh.

Internal Flight Note: This mountain flight operates regularly but there is a small chance it could be canceled if there is poor weather in Skardu. In that case, we will drive to Gilgit, with an overnight en route, skipping the Skardu portion of the trip to make the most of our time in Hunza.

Itinerary



Overnight: Serena Khaplu Palace

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 4 miles, 2 hours, 650'
ascent / descent

DAY 3 EXPLORE KHAPLU / CHAQCHAN MOSQUE

Set on the banks of the turquoise Shyok River and flanked by apricot and apple orchards, the sleepy village of Khaplu is a true mountain oasis. Today we'll explore the village and visit the 700-year-old Chaqchan Mosque, a quaint wooden building dating to the era when Islam arrived in Baltistan from Kashmir, supplanting the previous Tibetan Buddhist faith from neighboring Ladakh. Later we'll hike up to a high vantage point to see the ruins of a castle once owned by Khaplu's royal family. After lunch, we hike back to the village along a hand-dug water channel. These channels carry water from melting glaciers and are vital for the village's crop irrigation and drinking water.

Itinerary



DAY 4 GILGIT

Today we'll have a long but very scenic drive along the steep gorge of the Indus River to Gilgit (4,929'), capital of the Gilgit-Baltistan province. The road first contours along the curving edge of the steep Rondu Gorge then continues on the smoother Karakoram Highway to Gilgit, set along the Gilgit River and once a stop on the Silk Road. After checking into our hotel, we'll stretch our legs on a walk to a juniper forest on the outskirts of the city.

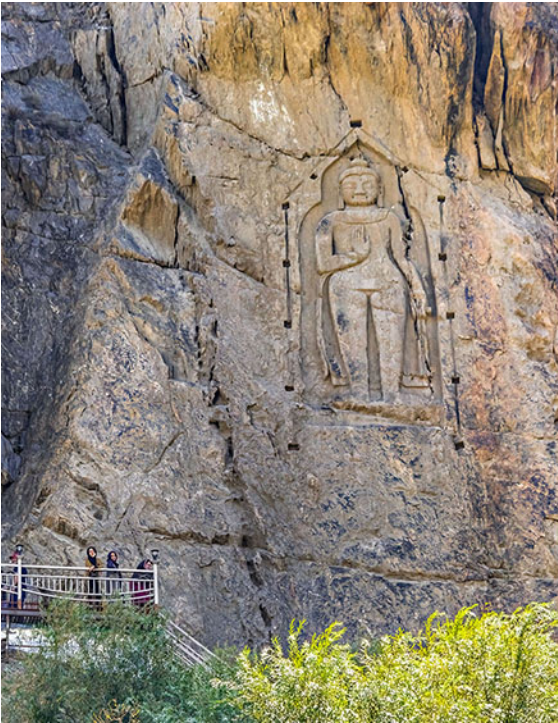
Overnight: Gilgit Serena Hotel

With spacious gardens and stunning views of Rakaposhi, the Gilgit Serena Hotel is a delightful retreat. The restaurant serves Pakistani, Continental, and Chinese cuisine as well as authentic local specialties. The breakfast buffet offers a wide variety of choices, including fresh-off-the-tree apricots, cherries, mulberries, and strawberries (in season) from the hotel's orchards.

Meals: B, L, D

Driving Time: 7-8 hours

Itinerary



Overnight: Gilgit Serena Hotel

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 7.5 miles, 4-5 hours, 650' ascent / descent

DAY 5 HIKE TO THE KARGAH BUDDHA

Starting right from our hotel, we'll hike into the Kargah Valley on a path along a water channel. Historically, this valley was a center for Tibetan Buddhism and traces of Buddhist monuments are scattered throughout it, including the Kargah Buddha, a carved image of a standing Buddha some 50 feet high and thought to date to the 7th century. Along the way, we pass through the traditional villages of Napura, Barmus, and Kargah, walk among orchards of fig, apricot, and apple, then walk back to central Gilgit town. There are spectacular views en route of the surrounding mountains and glaciers. Today's hike is long, but fairly level, and perfect for helping us acclimatize for our hikes in Hunza and Nagar in the next few days. The most notable Karakoram peaks in view today are Rakaposhi (25,551') and Haramosh (24,308'). We'll enjoy a picnic lunch along the way. Tonight we have a BBQ dinner in the hotel's garden.

Itinerary



Overnight: Dumani Nagar Hotel and Resort

Nestled in the Hunza Valley with magnificent views of Rakaposhi stands the wonderful mountain lodge of Dumani Nagar Hotel and Resort. Guest rooms are spacious and comfortable, with small sitting areas, closets, tiled bathrooms, and private balconies featuring impressive woodwork. The hotel has a hearty breakfast buffet and there is a cherry and apricot garden that adds to the charm of the area.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 2 miles, 1.5 hours, 250' ascent / descent

Driving Time: 2 hours

DAY 6 MINAPIN VILLAGE / NAGAR VALLEY

The Karakoram Highway (KKH) is an 890-mile-long highway built in the 1970s to connect the Gilgit-Baltistan region with the ancient Silk Road cities of China. This morning we'll drive a stretch of the KKH to Minapin (7,200') in the former princely state of Nagar. Minapin village is famous for its idyllic setting—right at the base of two of the Karakoram's most beautiful mountains, Rakaposhi and Diran (25,518'), the two connected by a huge rock wall perpetually covered by snow and ice. Rakaposhi, with its sheer 16,400-foot rise from base to summit, is a stunning sight here. After checking in at the Diran Resort Hotel, we'll have lunch, explore the village, meet some of its residents, and enjoy the marvelous mountain vistas. Before dinner, we'll have an introduction to the fascinating history of Nagar and Hunza, two former princely states.

Itinerary



Overnight: Dumani Nagar Hotel and Resort

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 7.5 miles, 5-7 hours, 2,000' ascent / descent (can be shortened)

DAY 7 RAKAPOSHI BASE CAMP HIKE / HAPAKUIN MEADOWS

Today we make a day-long hike from Minapin, right at the base of two of the Karakoram's most beautiful mountains, Rakaposhi (25,551') and Diran (25,518'). We follow the trail that eventually leads to Rakaposhi Base Camp, but our destination is Hapakuin Meadows (9,200'). The trail is steep and follows a mountain stream that bubbles down from the Rakaposhi and Diran glaciers. We'll start around 8:00am and won't return until the late afternoon, with a packed lunch en route. The hike is steep compared to our previous walks, but we will have staff with us who can accompany any trip member back to our hotel if they don't want to hike all the way to Hapakuin.

Itinerary



Overnight: Serena Altit Fort Residence

Set at the foot of the 1,100-year-old Altit Fort, the Residence features 16 well-appointed guest rooms built using traditional construction techniques and natural materials such as stone, wood, and limestone instead of concrete. The common areas are appointed with heritage artifacts from the Mir of Hunza's family, and the restaurant has a wonderful panorama across the Hunza Valley.

Meals: B, L, D

Driving Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 8 HUNZA VALLEY

Today we head into the renowned Hunza Valley, as fascinating culturally as it is scenically. We'll check into our hotel, the Serena Altit Fort Residence in the town of Karimabad (8,200'), Hunza's "capital." After a visit to the Altit Fort and the Baltit bazaar, we'll be welcomed into a local home for lunch. Later we'll explore the Karimabad bazaar, the place to buy traditional embroidered caps, handmade carpets, and handwoven shawls as well as items made with semi-precious gemstones. Not until the 1970s, when the modern Karakoram Highway was created, was access to Hunza's valleys by car even possible, and Upper Hunza was until as recently as 1974 ruled by its hereditary Mir (king). The Mirs of Hunza were a powerful dynasty that ruled for over 700 years, with Baltit Fort as their royal residence. The fort was abandoned in 1945, restored in the 1980s by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) and turned into a museum in 1996. It has a commanding position on a hilltop overlooking the valley, with stunning views from the terrace at the top.

Itinerary



Overnight: Serena Altit Fort Residence

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 7 miles, 4-5 hours, minimal ascent / descent

DAY 9 WATER CHANNEL WALK / HUNZA VALLEY

We head out for one of the most scenic walks of the trip today, starting near the Baltit Fort and walking along the Barber Water Channel, built to carry water down from the Ultar Glacier. We'll take one of the uppermost water channels for our walk, moving from east to west and crossing through three villages. As we walk, we'll savor views over the magnificent Hunza and Nagar valleys, with a picnic lunch en route. Many of Hunza's water channels were built centuries ago, hand-cut through the sheer rocky cliffs and mountain slopes to catch the abundant water that flows down from Hunza's glaciers and snow-covered peaks. Without these channels, Hunza would be a high mountain desert because of the absence of rainfall. The walk is mostly on a flat path accessible by vehicle, so anyone who wishes to shorten the walk can be taken back to our hotel.

Itinerary



DAY 10 UPPER HUNZA / EAGLE'S NEST TO ALTI SAT

Heading up the Karakoram Highway, we drive to Duiker (9,186'), one of the highest villages in Hunza, and check in to our hotel, the Hotel Eagle's Nest, which has spectacular views over the whole valley. We'll start our hike from here, following a trail up to Alti Sat (10,000') for dramatic Karakoram panoramas, with a picnic lunch en route. At dinner tonight, we'll be able to watch one of the most beautiful sunsets imaginable from our hotel. The sunset-viewing ridge is known as Noor-e-Toq ("The Ridge of Light").

Overnight: Hotel Eagle's Nest

Family-run since 1994, when it was founded as a campsite, the Eagle's Nest is a half-hour drive from the main Hunza Valley in a high mountain location famous for its breathtaking sunrise and sunset views of Rakaposhi. The hotel has 30 simple rooms, 2 restaurants, an open terrace, a fruit orchard, and incomparable Karakoram views.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 1 mile, 2.5 hours, 700' ascent / descent

Driving Time: 1 hour

Itinerary



Overnight: Silk Route Lodge

With its exceptionally friendly and welcoming staff, the 22-room Silk Route Lodge truly feels like a home away from home. Comfortable guest rooms have views of either the mountains or garden, and the restaurant serves food fresh from their farm and orchard.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 6.5 miles, 3 hours, 2,200' ascent / descent

Driving Time: 1 hour

DAY 11 UPPER HUNZA / BORITH LAKE / PASSU GLACIER / PASSU

Further up the valley on the Karakoram Highway, we reach Borith Lake, a serene saline lake formed by the seeping water of glacial moraines. With a packed lunch, we hike from the lake up to the Passu Glacier (8,530'), where we are rewarded with incredible Karakoram grandeur that includes the towering ice peak of Shishper (24,970') and the 10-mile-long Ghulking Glacier to the northwest. After our hike, we'll walk back along the KKH to a small restaurant to freshen up before driving to our hotel, the Silk Route Lodge in the village of Gulmit.

Itinerary



Overnight: Silk Route Lodge

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 5 miles, 5 hours, 900'-1,400' ascent / descent (depending on hiking option)

Driving Details: 1.5 hours

DAY 12 YUNZ VALLEY / BATURA GLACIER

We'll start this thrilling hike right from our hotel as we head up to the new village of Janabad, then along the moraine of the Batura Glacier. We continue higher up to the Yunz Valley and the shepherds' hut at Yunzben, where we enjoy breathtaking views along the 35-mile-long Batura Glacier, flanked by massive Karakoram giants. It is one of the longest glaciers outside the Polar Regions. The hike is strenuous, but worthwhile for the views. Those who want a challenge can continue the hike higher up, and those who want an easier day can shorten the hike to return to the hotel with one of our support staff and enjoy time to visit the friendly people and kids of the village of Janabad.

Itinerary



Overnight: Gilgit Serena Hotel

With spacious gardens and stunning views of Rakaposhi, the Gilgit Serena Hotel is a delightful retreat. The restaurant serves Pakistani, Continental, and Chinese cuisine as well as authentic local specialties. The breakfast buffet offers a wide variety of choices, including fresh-off-the-tree apricots, cherries, mulberries, and strawberries (in season) from the hotel's orchards.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 9.5 miles, 6 hours, minimal ascent / descent (shorter option available)

Driving Time: 3 hours

DAY 13 HUNZA SUSPENSION BRIDGE / ATTABAD LAKE BOAT RIDE / GILGIT

From Passu, we'll hike down to the Hunza Gorge this morning to see Hunza's famous hanging bridges. These unique bridges are long, swaying constructions of rope and wooden slats that span the deep Hunza River gorge. Local people still use them to get to the other side of the valley. Those of us who want to can walk across the bridge (about 40 minutes), then walk through the summer village of Zarabad on the other side, recrossing the river via another bridge. Both bridges are among the most photographed in Hunza. Those who don't want to walk on the bridges can enjoy visiting the friendly local villages. Further down the valley, we'll take a boat ride on turquoise Attabad Lake. The lake was formed on January 4, 2010, when a large land mass crashed down into the Hunza River, blocking the river's flow for several months. Tragically, several lives were lost and many upstream villages were submerged. Within a record period of time, Chinese engineers built a tunnel through the debris and reopened the road. The lake is large and spectacular and has become a tourist attraction. We'll continue down to Gilgit for an overnight at the Serena Hotel.

Itinerary



DAY 14 SKARDU

We head back to Skardu, arriving in time for lunch at our hotel, the Shangrila Resort (7,381'). In the afternoon, we can visit Kachura Lake, Pakistan's highest natural freshwater lake.

Overnight: Shangrila Resort

The lakeside Shangrila Resort, opened in 1983, was the first-ever resort hotel established for tourism in Baltistan. Guest rooms are clean and comfortable and there are magnificent gardens as well as mountain views.

Meals: B, L, D

Driving Time: 4 hours

Itinerary



Overnight: Islamabad Serena

The Islamabad Serena, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, is tucked into a peaceful, 14-acre garden setting between the Margalla Hills and Rawal Lake, framed by Islamic architecture and al fresco terraces and pavilions. The hotel has five restaurants, from casual to fine dining, and the Maisha Spa and fitness center.

Meals: B, L, D

Flying Time: 1 hour

DAYS 15-16 FLY TO ISLAMABAD AND EXPLORE

Transfer to Skardu International Airport, fly to Islamabad (weather permitting), and check into the Serena Hotel. The afternoon is at leisure for shopping.

On Day 16, we'll explore Islamabad, including visits to the Lok Virsa Museum and Shah Faisal Mosque. In the afternoon, we head up into the Margalla Hills for our festive Farewell Lunch at the Monal Restaurant overlooking the city.

Meals: B

DAY 17 DEPART

Transfer to the airport for departure on homeward-bound flights.

Pricing

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy

2024

\$9,195 (12-14 members)

\$9,695 (9-13 members)

\$10,295 (6-8 members)

Single supplement: \$1,225

Internal airfare: \$260 (subject to change)

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

PAYMENT TERMS

\$600 due at time of reservation

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No Charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in hotels, lodges, and forts
- All meals
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)
- Visa fees

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Arrival & Meeting Place

Islamabad, Pakistan

Suggested Airport: Islamabad International Airport (ISB)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, by 2:00 pm

Meeting Place: A complimentary transfer is provided from the Benazir Bhutto International Airport to the Islamabad Serena Hotel. A Wilderness Travel representative will meet you outside the customs area and will be holding a Wilderness Travel sign or a sign with your name on it. An orientation meeting and Welcome Dinner will take place on the evening of Day 1 in the hotel. Please note that check-in at the hotel begins at 2 pm.

DEPARTURE

Islamabad, Pakistan

Suggested Airport: Islamabad International Airport (ISB)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 17, anytime

A complimentary transfer will be provided from the Islamabad Serena Hotel to the airport. Please note that check-out time is 12:00 pm.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Islamabad.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit wildernesstravel.com/leaders.



PAUL AMSTUTZ

Paul Amstutz, who started guiding for WT in 1995, has spent years traveling, including guiding WT trips in such far-flung locales as Nepal, Tibet, Mali, and Pakistan, with annual journeys on the Silk Road through China and Pakistan. A science and ecology teacher by training, Paul taught math and science at the Yosemite Park High School and Middle School for two decades and is now a full-time naturalist guide with the Yosemite Conservancy.

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a **Level 3+, Moderate**, according to our trip rating system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 6-7 hours a day on uneven surfaces. Day hikes and cultural exploration are our focus of the trip, with alternative or abridged hiking options available on many days. Much of the trip takes place at higher altitudes, with a maximum of roughly 10,000 feet. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

Average Hiking Day

- 5 miles
- 4 hours
- 1,100' ascent/descent
- Altitudes range 7,000-10,000 feet

Challenge Days

- Day 7: 3.5 miles, 6-7 hours, 3,100' ascent/descent
- Day 11: 6.5 miles, 3 hours, 2,200' ascent/descent

TERRAIN

At lower elevations, the trails are usually packed dirt, but at higher elevations, they are often much rockier, with occasional sections of rock and loose scree. For the most part, you can hike at your own speed, and on the most challenging days we may offer shortened options for those who wish to turn back early.

GETTING IN SHAPE

We strongly urge you to train for your trip, as your enjoyment will be highly dependent on your level of fitness. The best training for a hike is to hike, especially over hills or rough terrain. Next best are running, swimming, bicycling, or other cardiovascular exercises. Stair-climbing machines are excellent preparation for hiking uphill. Your feet should also be well prepared—make sure your hiking boots are sturdy, comfortable, and thoroughly broken-in. Some people experience a few problems when they first reach high altitude—slight headaches and sleeplessness are the most common symptoms.

WEATHER

Considering that most of Hunza is mountainous terrain above 6,500 feet in altitude, the climate is very mild. Spring and fall are ideal times to visit Hunza, with spring offering the bloom of apple and apricot orchards and autumn bringing vibrant tones of orange, red, and yellow to the trees, making it one of the most picturesque times of year. Hunza's climate is a great contrast to the rest of Pakistan, which can be very hot between spring and fall.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The hotels we use on this trip are the best available accommodations. They have comfortable rooms with en suite bathrooms. Many hotels on this trip are operated by Serena, a chain known for its quality service. In addition, Serena hotels are under the umbrella of the Aga Khan Foundation for Economic Development (AKFED), with profits from hotels and other commercial entities going to hundreds of schools, health centers, and hospitals in Africa, Asia, and Central Asia. Our accommodation in Khaplu is a historic fortress carefully restored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), with hotel profits given to local community organizations.

What to Expect

CUISINE Hunza's cuisine is simple and fresh and includes such specialties as gyalang, a round, stretchy wheat bread served in a stack and typically dipped in apricot oil or butter from local cows. Chapsuro is a pie filled with minced beef or mutton, onions, and spices such as coriander, chilies, and tomatoes. Hunza's ghilmindi dish is a kind of tortilla with cheese-yogurt filling, and local wheat chapatis are often served stuffed with cheese and spices. Our hotels will also serve a range of continental cuisine. Pakistan's cuisine in general is similar to that of India.

TRANSPORTATION We travel in Toyota Land Cruisers in the Hunza Valley, which work well on rough mountain roads as well as the paved highways we cross throughout the higher elevation. Our vehicles will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack for items you need during the day (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.). Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle (or remain at the hotel if we are not transferring that day).

HIKING DETAILS BY DAY				DRIVING DETAILS
DAY	MILES	HOURS	ELEV. ASCENT/DESCENT	HOURS
2				3 hours / Flying time: 1 hour
3	4 miles	2 hours	650' ascent / descent	
4				7-8 hours
5	7.5 miles	4-5 hours	650' ascent / descent	
6	2 miles	1.5 hours	250' ascent / descent	2 hours
7	7.5 miles	5-7 hours	2,000' ascent / descent	
8				1.5 hours
9	7 miles	4-5 hours	minimal ascent / descent	
10	1 mile	2.5 hours	700' ascent / descent	1 hour
11	6.5 miles	4-5 hours	2,200' ascent / descent	1 hour
12	5 miles	5 hours	1,000-1,500' ascent / descent	1.5 hours
13	9.5 miles	6 hours	minimal ascent / descent	3 hours
14				4 hours
15				Flying time: 1 hour

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Hunza	34/18	39/22	50/32	62/42	71/50	81/57	86/62	85/62	76/53	64/42	52/31	39/23
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Hunza	.19	.39	.59	.78	1.18	1.77	1.57	1.77	.98	.39	.31	.07

Additional Information

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at info@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us.

ABOUT NEW TRIPS

This is a new adventure and one that we are particularly excited about offering. However, as with all new departures, flexibility and a spirit of adventure are always appreciated! Activities are described in the itinerary but they can vary, sometimes considerably, depending on weather conditions, the group, and other factors.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
+ KLEEN KANTEEN 27OZ WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at wildtrav.com/resources/toucan-club.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

- World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner
- Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row
- Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*
- Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner
- 50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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