



**SERENA HOTELS**  
SAFARI LODGES • HOTELS • RESORTS

Spellbinding ESCAPES

## **YOUR KARAKORAM HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE**

A short journey through the Karakoram (Gilgit, Hunza & Naltar Valley)! – 6 days / 5 nights





**EXPERIENCE SERENA HOTELS. EXPERIENCE GILGIT-BALTISTAN**

**NAME:** The best of the Karakoram – a short journey through Gilgit, Hunza & Naltar Valley  
**LENGTH OF TIME:** 6 days / 5 nights plus 2 optional nights at the Islamabad Serena Hotel  
**BEST TIME TO TRAVEL:** Anytime from March through to November!

| Day | Destination / Drive time  | Accommodation Details  | Activities & Highlights  | Optional Experiences Plus Our Top Tips!   | Visual Reflection  |
|-----|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1   | <b>Gilgit to Karimabad – Central Hunza</b><br>(50 minute scenic flight and 3 ½ hours drive) | <b>Hunza Baltit Inn</b><br>(Full board) – Standard Room<br><a href="#">Click here</a> for more information<br><br><b>Supplement:</b><br>Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the three luxury tents. | Get your camera’s charged and ready for a journey of awe inspiring scenery.<br><br>Journey along the famous <b>Karakoram Highway (KKH)</b> with its breathtaking scenery.<br><br>Soak up the magnificent valley of Karimabad over a delicious lunch at <b>Hunza Baltit Inn</b> .<br><br>A step back in time – explore the UNESCO award winning 700-year-old <b>Baltit Fort</b> .<br><br>Walk the cobbled streets of Baltit & Karimabad. Support local enterprises and purchase local dried fruit & nuts, honey, handicrafts, carpets and a whole lot more. | <b>Top Tip #1:</b> Ask for a seat on the right hand side of the plane for best photo opportunities.<br><br><b>Top Tip #2:</b> Request room number 301 & 302 (they are two of the bigger ones) or alternatively request one of the luxury tents – they have fantastic views!<br><br><b>Top Tip #3:</b> Request for your driver to stop at the Rakaposhi view point – another brilliant photo opportunity and perfect spot for a mid morning chai / tea.  | <br>Incredible vistas along the KKH<br><br>Views of Rakaposhi      |
| 2   | <b>Karimabad</b>  | <b>Hunza Baltit Inn</b><br>(Full board) – Standard Room<br><a href="#">Click here</a> for more information<br><br><b>Supplement:</b><br>Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the three luxury tents. | <b>Altit Fort</b> – wander around the historical village of Altit & explore this beautifully restored fort.<br><br>Enjoy traditional Hunza food in Altit Fort’s ancient <b>Kha Basi garden</b> - abundant with apricot trees.<br><br>Head to the charming hamlet of <b>Duikar</b> – watch the sunset over Rakaposhi, Golden Peak, Diran, Lady Finger & Ultar peaks.  | For those feeling energetic consider the 2 ½ hour return walk up to <b>Queen Victoria’s monument</b> or a stroll along Karimabad’s historical <b>Samarqand Cohal</b> (200 years old water channel and 10 kilometer long) running with ice-cold glacier water and lined with poplar trees.<br><br><b>Top Tip #4:</b> The people of Central Hunza speak Brushhashki – practice it if you can.<br>Hello <i>Assalamu Alikum</i><br>Goodbye <i>Khuda Say Hawala</i><br>How are you? <i>Bey Hall bi la</i><br>Thank you <i>Ju Na</i><br>How much is it? <i>Goosai baroomar bi</i> | <br>View of Golden Peak from Duikar<br><br>Sunset on Ultar Peak |

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| 3   | <b>Gulmit &amp; Husseini, Gojal Valley</b><br>(Full Day Trip) | <b>Hunza Baltit Inn</b><br>(Full board) – Standard Room<br><a href="#">Click here</a> for more information<br><br><b>Supplement:</b><br>Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the three luxury tents.  | An early start today!<br><br><b>Travel by boat across Attabad lake</b> – created in 2010 by the devastating landslide this 26km long lake offers an amazing experience with incredible scenery.<br><br>First stop Gulmit in the <b>Gojal Valley</b> - surrounded by mountains, glaciers & Attabad lake.<br><br><b>Al Aryn community School</b> - the first school in Pakistan to focus on preserving the linguistic heritage of the area teaching the local Wakhi language.<br><br>Visit the 700 year old winter residence of the ruling Mir of Hunza, now home to a women’s carpet weaving initiative.<br><br>Lunch at the picturesque <b>Borith Lake</b> with views of <b>Utar Peak</b> (6,735m)<br>Afternoon walk to view <b>Passu Glacier</b> .<br><br>Back to Karimabad. | <b>Top Tip #5:</b> Learn a little bit of Wakhi before you arrive. The locals & school children will really appreciate it. Here is a start:<br>Hello <i>Assalamu Alikum</i><br>Goodbye <i>Ye bafe borni</i><br>How are you? <i>Cheez boli</i><br>Thank you <i>Shoboshe</i><br>How much is it? <i>Yem mi Xhomrer</i><br><br><b>Top Tip #6:</b> If you have any spare books (English or Urdu) the library & students of Al Aryn school would be hugely grateful.<br><br><b>Top Tip #7:</b> For the more energetic head up to the site and ruins of Ondra Fort and walk across the Ghulkin / Black Glacier to Borith Lake (3 hour trip incl. 1 ½ hours hike)<br><br><b>Top Tip #8:</b> Bring something warm & water proof – on the return trip the wind on the lake picks up and it can be very chilly and sometimes wet. | <br>Attabad Lake – created in 2010<br><br>Passu Glacier |
| 4   | <b>Gilgit</b><br>(3 hours drive)                              | <b>Gilgit Serena Hotel (GSH)</b><br>(Full board) – Standard Room<br><a href="#">Click here</a> for more information<br><br><b>Supplement:</b><br>Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the two suites. | On return to Gilgit visit <b>Ganish Village</b> – the oldest & first settlement on the Silk Road in Hunza. Beautifully restored by the Aga Khan Cultural Services Pakistan.<br><br><b>The Sacred Rocks of Hunza</b> – famous archeological site recording 2000 years of travels along the Silk Road to and from China. The inscriptions are in Kharoshthi, Brahmi, Gupta, Sogdian & Tibetan and depict many an Ibex.<br><br>Drive back to Gilgit along the KKH and arrive in time for a late lunch.<br><br><b>7<sup>th</sup> century Kargah Buddha rock carving</b> – Gilgit’s most famous attraction.<br><br>Explore <b>Gilgit Bazaar</b> – the well known Chinese market & local handicrafts markets  | If you wish to stretch your legs & breathe in the fresh mountain air walk along the water channel high above the city of Gilgit – an easy walk with incredible views over the entire valley (2 to 3 hour easy walk).<br><br><b>Top Tip #9:</b> Learn a few words of Shina – the local language.<br>Hello <i>Assalamu Alikum</i><br>Goodbye <i>Khuda yar</i><br>How are you? <i>Jek Hall ban</i><br>Thank you <i>Ju nu</i><br>How much is it? <i>Anu Kachak kay han</i><br><br><b>Top Tip #10:</b> Watch a spot of Polo – Game of the Kings! Played in Gilgit during the summer and at the famous Shandur Polo Tournament – ask us for the dates!  | <br>Sacred Rocks, Hunza<br><br>Gilgit Valley         |

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| 5   | <b>Naltar Valley</b><br>(Full day Trip) | <b>Gilgit Serena Hotel (GSH)</b><br>(Full board) – Standard Room<br><a href="#">Click here</a> for more information  | Famous for its alpine meadows, yaks, ski resort & potatoes – the <b>Naltar Valley</b> is the perfect day trip.<br><br>Walks, picnics & many a photo opportunity. | <b>Top Tip #11:</b> If you want to escape the crowds in Summer take a small walk for 30 to 40 minutes up the ski slope and find yourself a superb picnic spot.  | <br>Naltar Valley                                |
| 6   | <b>Islamabad</b><br>(50 minute flight)  | Homeward bound!<br>Or perhaps you would like to stay on and explore Beautiful Baltistan with Serena Hotels.<br><br>How about staying in the recently renovated Khaplu Palace & Residence or in the historical Shigar Fort Residence?<br><br>We can tailor make an experience of a life time that you will never forget.<br>Just let us know!<br><br>How about staying a night in the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Ask about our city tours! | It is time to leave the incredible Karakoram!  | <b>Top Tip #12:</b> Ask to sit on the left hand side of the aero plane – it is the best side to take pics of the over 8,000 meters <b>Nanga Parbat</b> and the mountainous wonderland below you. Up, up and away! | <br>A mountainous wonderland from the aeroplane. |

### OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL TRIPS:

Consider extending your stay to explore more of **Beautiful Gilgit-Baltistan**.

- ✓ **Hopper Valley** - add 1 day extra
- ✓ **Ghizer Valley** - add 1 day extra
- ✓ **The best of Beautiful Baltistan** – add 10 days (Refer to our Beautiful Baltistan Experience)
- ✓ **Ghizer Valley, Mastuj & Chitral** - add 5 days extra (Refer to our Hindukush Experience)

### SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE BOOKS TO READ BEFORE OR DURING YOUR TRIP:

- ✓ *Language Hunting in the Karakoram* by E.O Lorimer
- ✓ *Karakoram in Transition: Culture, Development, and Ecology in the Hunza Valley* by Hermann Kreutzmann
- ✓ *The Making of a Frontier: Five Years' Experiences and Adventures in Gilgit, Hunza, Nagar, Chitral, and the Eastern Hindu-Kush* by George Algernon
- ✓ *Cooking in Hunza* by Marta Luchsinger, Julie Flowerday, Mareille Paley & Matthieu Paley. The book is available at the Gilgit Serena Hotel, Hunza Baltit Inn, Altit Fort
- ✓ *The Great Game* by Peter Hopkirk
- ✓ *Pakistan Trekking Guide: Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush* by Isobel Shaw



Along the Karakoram Highway



Gilgit Serena Hotel



7<sup>th</sup> century Kargah Buddha rock carving, Gilgit



Standard Room – Serena Gilgit Hotel



Lady Finger, Hunza



Boating on Attabad Lake to Gulmit, Gojal Valley



School boys in traditional Wakhi Costume



The watcher at Altit Fort, Hunza



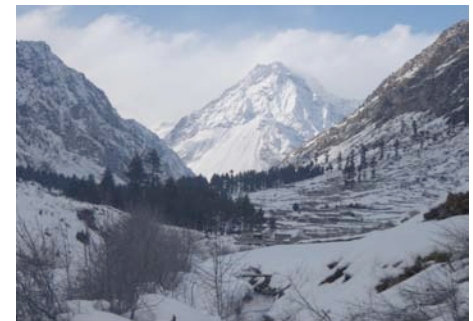
Award winning Baltit Fort



Stunning scenery of the Karakoram Highway



Naltar Valley Ski Slopes in Summer



Naltar Valley in the winter months

To book your Karakoram Experience call us on +92 (051) 111-133-133 or email at [holidays@serena.com.pk](mailto:holidays@serena.com.pk)  
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