



SERENA HOTELS
SAFARI LODGES • HOTELS • RESORTS

Spellbinding ESCAPES

OUR RECOMMENDED HIKES IN GILGIT-BALTISTAN

Capturing the best hikes in Gilgit-Baltistan: From a few hours to a few days.



EXPERIENCE SERENA HOTELS. EXPERIENCE GILGIT-BALTISTAN

SUMMARY:

The following table gives you a summary of all the hikes we recommend in the Gilgit-Baltistan ranging from a few hours to a few days. We realize that these are not all the hikes available in Gilgit-Baltistan however have chosen these due to their beauty and popularity. Full details are given below. For those people who want longer and/or more adventurous treks let us know and we can assist you organizing a hike that best suits you.

Area:	Hike Name:	No. of Hours / Days	Grade	Summary
Khaplu & Shigar	Thalley La to Shigar Fort This walk can also be done in the opposite direction starting or finishing at either Shigar Fort Residence or Khaplu Palace & Residence. A fantastic walk that connects both of our superb heritage boutique hotels.	3 days / 3 nights camping	Easy	Our most popular & most recommended trek! Known as one of the most beautiful treks in Baltistan this 3 day easy hike takes you through green pastured meadows abundant with summer wild flowers, Marmots & Markhor, shepherd herds and glacial streams.
Deosai Plains	Barapani to Malik Pass	2 days / 2 nights camping	Medium	A spectacular hike in the Deosai Plain with great views of K2 in clear weather.
Gilgit	Gilgit Water Channel Walk to Kargah Buddah	2 to 3 hours one way	Easy	An easy walk with incredible views over the entire Gilgit valley
	Jutial Nallah Hike	2 to 6 hours return	Easy to Medium	A walk along the river and up a steep gorge to coniferous forest and pastureland.
	Fairy Meadows	3 days / 2 nights camping	Medium	One of our most popular treks in this area! Incredible scenery. Trek up to Nanga Parbat Base Camp. Start & finish at Gilgit Serena Hotel.
Hunza & Nagar	Queen Victoria Monument	2 to 3 hours return	Easy	A monument to Queen Victoria erected in 1870 by Nazim Khan, the ruler of Hunza. Start from Hunza Baltit Inn.
	Black / Ghulkin Glacier to Borith Lake (incl. Passu Glacier)	4 to 5 hours one way	Medium	Hike to the site & ruins of Ondra Fort. Spectacular views down the valley, over Attabad Lake and across the incredible Karakoram mountain range.
	Altit Fort to Duikar	5 hours return	Medium	Walk up to an altitude of 3,000m to Hunza's highest village Duikar. Pass through cheerful hamlets and steep terraced fields.
	Hopper Valley	7 hours return	Medium to Difficult	Cross Hopper Glacier and climb to Hander. You will get incredible views of Miar glacier, Miar peak and Molobiting peak 7,458m.
	Rakaposhi Base Camp	4 days / 3 nights camping	Medium	Rakaposhi base camp trek is one of the easiest & most popular camping treks in the Nagar Valley. You will get fantastic views of Rakaposhi and Diran Peaks as well as incredible views of the adjoining Tagaphari glacier.

SHIGAR & KHAPLU AREA:

Spellbinding ESCAPES

TREK #1

NAME: Thalley La
LENGTH OF TIME: 3 days / 3 nights camping
DIFFICULTY: Easy
BEST TIME TO TRAVEL: June to August

Known as one of the most beautiful treks in Baltistan this 3 day easy hike takes you through green pastured meadows abundant with summer wild flowers, Marmots & Markhor, shepherd herds and glacial streams.

Day 1: Drive from Khaplu Palace & Residence to Thalley Broq (1 ½ hours) – the summer camp of the farmers from this valley. Camp in either a tent or choose the Home-stay option and experience village life.

Day 2: Trek over the Thalley La (pass) at 4,578m. Trek 4 to 5 hrs. Camp.

Day 3: Hike through green pastured meadows. Trek 4 to 5 hrs. Camp.

Day 4: Trek to Shigar Fort Residence (4 to 5 hrs) for a much deserved hot shower!

This trek can be done in reverse starting from Shigar Fort Residence and finishing it in Thalley Valley. From Thalley Valley you will be transported 1 ½ hours to Khaplu Palace & Residence.

DEOSAI PLAINS:

TREK #1

NAME: Sheoshar Lake to Ali Malik Pass
LENGTH OF TIME: 3 days / 2 nights
DIFFICULTY: Medium to Difficult due to altitude
BEST TIME TO TRAVEL: Mid July to Mid August

This walk enables you to get close to nature and explore the Deosai Plains - This plain offers a variety of 150 species of vegetation including different wild flowers and herbs in its midst, there is a Lake “Sheosar” surrounded with colorful flowers which give magnificent view. It is also a natural habitat of Brown Bear, Golden Marmots, different birds and other wildlife.

Day 1: Drive to the world's world's 2nd highest plateau – the Deosai Plains from either Shigar Fort Residence (5 hours) or Khaplu Palace & Residence (7 ½ hours). Camp at the beautiful Sheoshar Lake.

Day 2: Start early and trek from Sheoshar Lake up to Ali Malik Pass (4,082m) via Shatung La – 7 hour hike. Late afternoon and early morning you will get incredible views of K2 (weather depending). Camp overnight.

Day 3: Trek from Ali Malik Pass to Bara pani campsite (5 hours). Enjoy some fly fishing for those trout fishing enthusiasts. Camp overnight.

Day 4: Drive back to Shigar Fort Residence (5 hours).

GILGIT AREA:

TREK #1

NAME: Gilgit Water Channel Walk to Kargah Buddah
LENGTH OF TIME: 2 to 3 hours
DIFFICULTY: Easy
BEST TIME TO TRAVEL: Anytime of the year

Stretch your legs & breathe in the fresh mountain air along the water channel high above the city of Gilgit – an easy walk with incredible views over the entire valley. Take a short diversion 30 minutes and climb to see the victory monument of Taj Mughul - an Ismaili ruler from Badakhshan who came to Gilgit Baltistan during the midst of 13th century AD. Monument of Taj Mughal was constructed about 700 years ago. A memorial tower was built by his soldiers on the south mountain of Khomar and Jutial at an altitude of 1,000 ft above Gilgit town. Come back down from the monument and commence walking along the water channel until you reach the 7th century Kargah Buddha rock carving – Gilgit’s most famous attraction.

The Kargah Buddha a rock carving is located beside the Kargah Nallah just 12 km’s or a 30 minute drive from the Gilgit Serena Hotel.

Just short of Baseen village walk up the jeep track about 1 km to a bridge and then cross the Kargah Nallah. From here you can see the Buddha halfway up the cliff face on your left. The figure is about three meters tall and looks down protectively over Gilgit. In 1938-39 just 400m from the Buddah amonastery and 3 stupas, were excavated following the discovery of so-called Gilgit manuscripts in 1931. The local legend about the Buddha tells of a man-devouring an ogress called Yakhshini who lived at Kargah. The village asked a passing saint to help them get rid of her. The saint succeeded in pinning the ogress on the rock and told the village that she would be unable to escape during his lifetime or even following his death, if the villagers buried him at the foot of the rock. The people immediately killed the saint and buried him as instructed.

TREK #2

NAME: Jutial Nallah Hike
LENGTH OF TIME: 2 to 6 hours
DIFFICULTY: Easy to medium
BEST TIME TO TRAVEL: Anytime of the year. Best walked in the late afternoon / evening time.

The Jutial Nallah (stream) walk is directly behind the Gilgit Serena Hotel. Like most valleys in Gilgit the Jutial Nallah has a very narrow mouth. A 6 km walk along the stream through the steep sided gorge takes you to coniferous forest and pastureland.

Start by following the irrigation channel behind the Gilgit Serena Hotel to the left cliff face, then take the goat path into the gorge keeping to the right of the stream. It takes about 1 hour along the stream and 2 hours up the valley on way – depending on how long you wish to walk the total time varies from 2 to 6 hours return. You will need to take plenty of water and some snacks.

TREK #3

NAME: Fairy Meadows (For the best views of Nanga Parbat)
LENGTH OF TIME: 3 days (2 nights camping) from Gilgit
DIFFICULTY: Medium

From Gilgit we drive 2 hours to reach the Raikot bridge from where the rough jeep road of about 1 hour leads up to Tato. From Tato the vehicle road ends and you will trek 2 hours further along the track through lush green pasture and dense pine tree forests until you reach Fairy Meadows. Once you are in Fairy Meadows, you will feel like you are in heaven! The region is called Fairy Meadows following an ancient myth where it is believed that the area was once inhabited by Fairies. The following day you will trek up to Bayal on a lush green trail and pitch your tents for an afternoon of relaxation. For the more strenuous you can commence the ascent to base camp which is 6 hours one way. Spend your day exploring the site with picturesque views of Nanga Parbat and surroundings.

Day 1: Drive from Gilgit to Tato Valley (5 hours) and then trek from Tato to Fairy Meadows (2 hours). Camp or choose to stay in one of the cabins.

Day 2: Day hike to Bayal or Nanga Parbat Base Camp, back to campsite at Fairy Meadows. Trek 8 hrs return. Camp or choose to stay in one of the cabins.

Day 3: Trek to Tato (2 hrs) and drive to Gilgit Serena Hotel for a much deserved hot shower! (5 hrs drive)

For those wanting to spend time relaxing at Fairy Meadows & soaking in the incredible scenery we recommend adding an extra day.

HUNZA AREA:

TREK #1

NAME: Queen Victoria Monument
LENGTH OF TIME: 2 to 2 ½ hours return
DIFFICULTY: Easy
BEST TIME TO HIKE: March to November – Ideal either early morning or early evening.

At the top of the rock face behind the town of Karimabad there is a monument to Queen Victoria erected in 1870 by Nazim Khan, the ruler of Hunza. You depart from Hunza Baltit Inn and take the water channel path above the old polo ground. Five minutes out, cross the channel and climb stone steps beside an old watchtower. After a 1 to 1 ½ hrs you will reach the Queen Victoria Monument. At the top of the village, scramble to a small cliff with some very large boulders. Go straight up to the base of the cliff before crossing over to the monument: avoid a diagonal crossing of the face because the top Ultar water channel spills down on it and you will get very wet!

TREK #2

NAME: Black / Ghulkin Glacier to Borith Lake (incl. Passu Glacier)
LENGTH OF TIME: 4 to 5 hours
DIFFICULTY: Medium
BEST TIME TO HIKE: March to November

This day hikes starts from Hunza Baltit Inn where you will drive to 40 to 60 minutes to the point where you commence your cross by boat of the Attabad Lake. to Gulmit for 1 ½ hours. From Gulmit town we drive 20 minutes to Kamaris and then hike 30 minutes to the site & ruins of Ondra Fort located high above the old settlement of Gulmit. Although the fort is a complete ruin this walk is well worth it as you will have the most spectacular views down the valley, over Attabad Lake and across the incredible Karakoram mountain range. From Kamaris we visit the village of Ghulkin and continue across the Black Glacier to Borith Lake (2 hour hike). Lunch at the picturesque Borith Lake with views of Ultar Peak (6,735m). Transfer into a vehicle and drive 15 minutes to Borith Bala where you will walk for 1 ½ hrs return walk to an excellent view point of the Passu Glacier. For those not wanting to visit Ondra Fort you can drive 45 minutes from Gulmit to Ghulkin village and commence walking across the Black glacier. Return to Hunza Baltit Inn.

TREK #3

NAME: Altit Fort to Duikar
LENGTH OF TIME: 5 hours return trek or 2 ½ hours trek one way. For those only walking one way you will take a 30 minute Jeep ride either up or down
DIFFICULTY: Medium
BEST TIME TO HIKE: 15th July to 15th September (Sunrise or Sunset)

This is a wonderful walk up to an altitude of 3,000m to Hunza's highest village Duikar. The walk starts from the historical Altit Fort and takes you across the Ultar River, up a steep hill and across to the village of Rahimabad. You will pass through cheerful hamlets and gravity defying terraced fields. From Rahimabad you continue up the steep valley through summer pastures to Duikar where you will be rewarded with awe inspiring 360 views of the Karakoram Mountain range including Rakaposhi, Golden Peak, Diran, Lady Finger & Ultar peaks. Return to Hunza Baltit Inn.

TREK #4

NAME: Hopper Valley
LENGTH OF TIME: 7 hours return
DIFFICULTY: Medium to Difficult (only difficult because of the length of time not the steepness of the terrain)
BEST TIME TO HIKE: 15th July to 15th September

A fantastic days trek in the summer and early autumn. To start this walk you will drive 1 ½ hours from Hunza Baltit Inn to the village of Hopper. Hopper is located at the base of the Hopper Glacier – the fastest moving glacier in the world! You will cross the glacier and climb to the village of Shishkin and onto Hander. From Hander you will get incredible views of Miar glacier, Miar peak and Molobiting peak 7,458m. Return to Hunza Baltit Inn in the evening.

TREK #5

NAME: Rakaposhi Base Camp
LENGTH OF TIME: 4 days (3 nights camping)
DIFFICULTY: Moderate
BEST TIME TO HIKE: May to November

Rakaposhi base camp trek is one of the easiest camping treks in the Nagar Valley. You will get fantastic views of Rakaposhi and Diran Peaks as well as incredible views of the adjoining Tagaphari glacier. The campsite is located on summer pasture land which was once a polo ground. There is also a fantastic side trek from base camp to Diran base camp along the back of Rakaposhi – well recommended.

Day 1: From Hunza Baltit Inn we drive to Minapin Village in the Nagar Valley (approx. 1 hour). From here you start trekking uphill to Hapakun which is at an elevation of 3,400m (3 to 4 hrs). Camp over night.

Day 2: From Hapakun we trek to also known as Rakaposhi Base Camp at an elevation of 3,780m (3 hrs). From base camp you will get magnificent views of Rakaposhi and Diran. Camp overnight.

Day 3: Today we do an optional side trek from Rakaposhi Base Camp to Diran Base Camp located at an altitude of 3,650m. (5 hours return). Camp overnight.

Day 4: Walk back down to Minapin (5 hours). Be picked up and transferred to either Serena Gilgit Hotel (3 hrs drive) or back to Hunza Baltit Inn (1 hrs drive)



Along the Karakoram Highway



Gilgit Water Channel Walk



View of Nanga Parbat from Fairy Meadows



Passu Glacier



Deosai Plains



Boating on Attabad Lake to Gulmit, Gojal Valley



Borith Lake



Hopper Glacier



View of Diran Mountain from Hapukan



Sheoshar Lake, Deosai Plains



Rakaposhi Mountain



Rakaposhi Base Camp Campsite

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