



SERENA HOTELS
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Spellbinding ESCAPES

YOUR NORTHERN PAKISTAN HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE


The best of Northern Pakistan: a journey through the Hindukush, the Karakoram & the Himalayas!
12 days / 11 nights







EXPERIENCE SERENA HOTELS. EXPERIENCE GILGIT-BALTISTAN

NAME: The best of Northern Pakistan – a journey through the Hindukush, the Karakoram and the Himalayas
LENGTH OF TIME: 12 days / 11 nights with options to spend 2 nights in the Islamabad Serena Hotel
BEST TIME TO TRAVEL: Anytime from April through to November!

Day	Destination / Drive time	Accommodation Details	Activities & Highlights	Optional Experiences Plus Our Top Tips!	Visual Reflection
1	Chitral (50 minute scenic flight or a 12 hour drive)	Hindu Kush Heights (Full board) – Standard Room Click here for more information	<p>Welcome to Chitral one of the oldest princely states of the sub continent!</p> <p>Be greeted by members of the Royal ruling family – The Katoors.</p> <p>Arrive in time for a late breakfast and take in the breathtaking views of the Chitral Valley.</p> <p>Explore the sites, culture & history of Chitral</p> <p>Chitral Fort – the fortified residence and the seat of power for the Katoor Dynasty. Learn about the siege of Chitral in 1895 and its role in the Great Game!</p> <p>Chitral Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology and polo ground.</p> <p>Wander Chitral Bazaar and purchase one of the local topi's or some local Chitrali Patti!</p> <p>An evening spotting Markhor along the Chitral River.</p>	<p>Top Tip #1: Learn a few words of Khowar – the local language. Hello <i>Assalamu Alikum</i> Goodbye <i>Khuda Yar</i> How are you? <i>Tu Kcha Asus</i> Thank you <i>Ta Shukuria</i> How much is it? <i>Haya Kandoria</i></p> <p>Top Tip #2: Purchase some dried fruits and nuts from the Bazaar – ideal snacks for your car journey's through Northern Pakistan.</p> <p>Top Tip #3: Ask about the revival of Chitral's embroidery artisans. Visit the women's social enterprise called MOGH – an initiative started by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme.</p> <p>Visit the old summer palace of the Raja of Chitral or go for a trek in the Alpine Chitral National Park.</p>	 <p>Views of Tirichmir (7,706m) - the highest in the Hindukush mountain range.</p>  <p>A Markhor watches over the valley</p>
2	Kailash Valley / Chitral (4 hour return drive)	Hindu Kush Heights (Full board) – Standard Room Click here for more information	<p>Visit the Kalash tribe in the Bumbaret valley - learn about their unique religion, customs and the distinct role women play.</p> <p>Kalash Cultural Museum. Built by the Greeks in 2005 in an effort to keep alive the cultural heritage of this unique but slowly diminishing tribe.</p> <p>Visit a Kalashi school and the local cemetery.</p>	<p>Top Tip #4: Inquire about the exact dates of the Kalash Festivals. An amazing time to visit the valley is during the Chilamjusht, Phool, Chawas and Utchal festivals.</p> <p>Optional trip: Visit Garam Chasma Hot Springs well known for their healing affects on skin and general body ailments. The valley was the historical route leading to the Lapis Lazuli mines of Badakshan in Afghanistan.</p>	 <p>A Kalash family – Bumbaret Valley</p>

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3	Mastuj (4 hours drive)	Mastuj Fort (Full board) – Chalets Click here for more information	Enjoy the orchards of Mastuj - famous for its apples, apricots & pears. And also enjoy the Ulmulk royal family hospitality - they serve some of the most delicious organically grown food in Pakistan. Historical walk through the old Fort and farm of the Ulmulk family.	Top Tip #5: The gardens of Mastuj fort are absolutely beautiful – the perfect place to truly relax in this little bit of paradise. Top Tip #6: Try their paratha with homemade cheese, honey & mint – super delicious! For those people who love trekking consider doing the incredible 5 day trek across the Shah Jinali Pass or the 2 day trek from Mastuj to Shandur!	 Picking fresh apricots from Mastuj Fort garden
4	Shandur Pass to Khalti Lake (5 hours)	PTDC Motel, Khalti (Full board) – Standard Room	Drive across the mighty lush green Shandur Pass and down through the Phandar Valley ending up at Khalti Lake – a large natural lake formed after major flooding in the 1980. Phandar is a small village also known as little Kashmir. A great place to stop to swim or fish and enjoy total serenity. Khalti is joined from the south by emerald green Bathraiz River flowing from Swat Kohistan. This was one of the main routes that Buddhist pilgrims used on their journeys from China to Gandhara in Swat. Historically it was also the access point for invading armies from Chitral to the Kingdoms of the North.	If travelling during the famous Shandur Polo Tournament, spend a day at the world's highest polo tournament. Not to be missed! For the more adventurous try a night camping at Langer (just 5km from Shandur Pass.) Langer is abundant with fresh springs, a river stocked with trout and lush green meadows surrounded by snow capped peaks! Top Tip #7: Make sure your camera batteries are fully charged – the scenery is out of this world!	 The mighty Shandur Pass (3,100m)  Camping at Langer.
5	Ghizer Valley to Gilgit (8 hours)	Gilgit Serena Hotel (GSH) (Full board) – Standard Room Click here for more information Supplement: Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the two suites.	Visit Gupis Fort – built by the British in the 1940's to defend the Russians. Take a drive through the Yasin Valley or otherwise known as Warshigum by the locals. The Ghizer Valley & in particular its capital Garkuch are considered the gateway to central Asia. Rich history, incredible scenery, fantastic fishing and delicious trout!	Add an extra day or two to exploring the Ishkoman Valley. The valley divides the Karakoram range from the Hindukush range. Inquire about one of the five amazing treks in this area. Top Tip #8: Try your hand at catching a fresh trout. Ask one of the locals to cook it for you. And don't forget if you want to cast your rod you will need to get a fishing license. Top Tip #9: As you drive along the river keep an eye out for the gold panners of Gilgit Baltistan.	 Ghizer Valley – fancy some fishing?

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6	Gilgit (5 hours)	Gilgit Serena Hotel (Full board) – Standard Room Click here for more information Supplement: Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the two suites.	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 (2 to 3 hours easy walk). Victory monument of Taj Mughul - an Ismaili ruler from Badakhshan who came to Gilgit Baltistan during the midst of 13 th century AD. 7 th century Kargah Buddha rock carving – Gilgit’s most famous attraction. Explore Gilgit Bazaar – the well known Chinese market & local handicrafts markets	Top Tip #10: Learn a few words of Shina – the local language. Hello <i>Assalamu Alikum</i> Goodbye <i>Khuda yar</i> How are you? <i>Jek Hall ban</i> Thank you <i>Ju nu</i> How much is it? <i>Anu Kachak kay ban</i>	 Views of Rakaposhi from GSH  Gilgit Valley
7	Karimabad – Central Hunza (3 ½ hour drive)	Hunza Baltit Inn (Full board) – Standard Room Click here for more information Supplement: Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the three luxury tents.	Journey along the famous Karakoram Highway (KKH) with its breathtaking scenery. Soak up the magnificent valley of Karimabad over a delicious lunch at Hunza Baltit Inn. A step back in time – explore the UNESCO award winning 700 year old Baltit Fort. Walk the cobbled streets of Baltit & Karimabad. Support local enterprises and purchase local dried fruit & nuts, honey, handicrafts, carpets and a whole lot more.	Top Tip #11: Request room number 302 (it’s one of the bigger ones) or alternatively request one of the luxury tents – they have fantastic views! Top Tip #12: Request for your driver to stop at the Rakaposhi view point – another brilliant photo opportunity and perfect spot for a mid morning chai / tea.	 Incredible vistas along the KKH

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8	Gulmit & Husseini, Gojal Valley (Full Day Trip)	Hunza Baltit Inn (Full board) – Standard Room Click here for more information Supplement: Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the three luxury tents.	An early start today! Travel by boat across Attabad lake – created in 2010 by the devastating landslide this 26km long lake offers an amazing experience with incredible scenery. First stop Gulmit in the Gojal Valley - surrounded by mountains, glaciers & Attabad lake. Al Aryn community School - the first school in Pakistan to focus on preserving the linguistic heritage of the area teaching the local Wakhi language. Visit the 700 year old winter residence of the ruling Mir of Hunza , now home to a women's carpet weaving initiative. Lunch at the picturesque Borith Lake with views of Ultar Peak (6,735m) Afternoon walk to view Passu Glacier . Back to Karimabad.	Top Tip #13: Learn a little bit of Wakhi before you arrive. The locals & school children will really appreciate it. Here is a start: Hello <i>Assalamu Alikum</i> Goodbye <i>Ye bafe borni</i> How are you? <i>Cheez holi</i> Thank you <i>Shoboshe</i> How much is it? <i>Yem mi Xhomrer</i> Top Tip #14: If you have any spare books (English or Urdu) the library & students of Al Aryn school would be hugely appreciative. Top Tip #15: For the more energetic head up to the site & ruins of Ondra Fort and walk across the Ghulkin / Black Glacier to Borith Lake (3 hour trip incl. 1 ½ hours hike) Top Tip #16: 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.	 Attabad Lake – created in 2010  Passu Glacier
9	Hopper Valley, Nagar Valley (3 hour return drive)	Hunza Baltit Inn (Full board) – Standard Room Click here for more information Supplement: Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the three luxury tents.	Drive to the picturesque Hopper Valley – the valley of peaks, torrents & glaciers. Take a small hike across the fastest moving glacier in world! Hopper Glacier is also known as Balta or Kapple Glacier. Picnic lunch with views of the glacier & pyramid shaped Diran Peak (7,266m) . Altit Fort – wander around the historical village of Altit & explore this beautifully restored fort. Head to the charming hamlet of Duikar – watch the sunset over Rakaposhi, Golden Peak, Diran, Lady Finger & Ultar peaks .	No time for anything else today! Top Tip #17: The people of Hopper speak Brushhashki – practice it if you can. Hello <i>Assalamu Alikum</i> Goodbye <i>Khuda Say Hawala</i> How are you? <i>Bey Hall bi la</i> Thank you <i>Ju Na</i> How much is it? <i>Goosai baroomar bi</i> Top Tip #18: Take some money with you to purchase some great semi precious stone necklaces from the locals of Hopper.	 Hopper Glacier  View from Eagles Rock of Golden Peak, Duikar

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10	Gilgit (3 ½ hour's drive)	Gilgit Serena Hotel (GSH) (Full board) – Standard Room Click here for more information Supplement: Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the two suites.	On return to Gilgit visit Ganish Village – the oldest & first settlement on the Silk Road in Hunza. Beautifully restored by the Aga Khan Cultural Services Pakistan. The Sacred Rocks of Hunza – famous archeological site recording 2000 years of travels along the Silk Road to and from China. The inscriptions are in Kharaoshti, Brahmi, Gupta, Sogdian & Tibetan and depict many an Ibx. Drive back to Gilgit along the KKH and arrive in time for a late lunch. Afternoon of leisure.	Top Tip #19: Ask for a tour of the village by the local musician & historian guide. Consider giving a small contribution to the village of Ganish to assist them preserve their heritage.	 Looking up to Rakaposhi Base Camp
11	Naltar Valley (Full day Trip)	Gilgit Serena Hotel (GSH) (Full board) – Standard Room Click here for more information	Famous for its alpine meadows, yaks, ski resort & potatoes – the Naltar Valley is the perfect day trip. Walks, picnics & many a photo opportunity.	Top Tip #20: 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.	 Naltar Valley
12	Islamabad (50 minute flight)	Homeward bound! Or perhaps you would like to stay on and explore Beautiful Baltistan with Serena Hotels. How about staying in the recently renovated Khaplu Palace & Residence or in the historical Shigar Fort Residence? We can tailor make an experience of a life time that you will never forget. Just let us know! How about staying a night in the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Ask about our city tours!	It is time to leave the Northern Pakistan!	Up, up and away!	 A mountainous wonderland from the aeroplane.

LET THE PICTURES DO THE TALKING

Spellbinding ESCAPES



The picturesque Chitral Valley



View from your room at HinduKush Heights



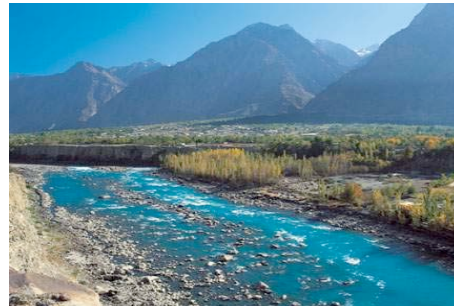
Gate of the Chitral Fort – the old royal seat of the Ulmulk family



Mastuj Fort



Shandur Pass & Lake



Phander, Ghizer Valley



Trout fishing, Khalti Lake



Gilgit Serena Hotel



Along the Karakoram Highway



Boating on Attabad Lake to Gulmit, Gojal Valley



Award winning Baltit Fort



Lady Finger, Hunza

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