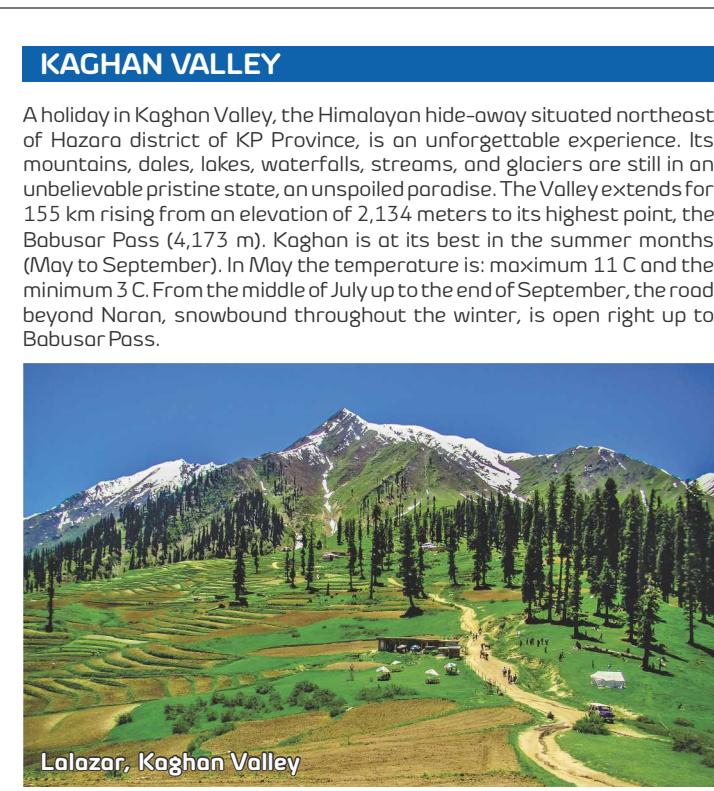
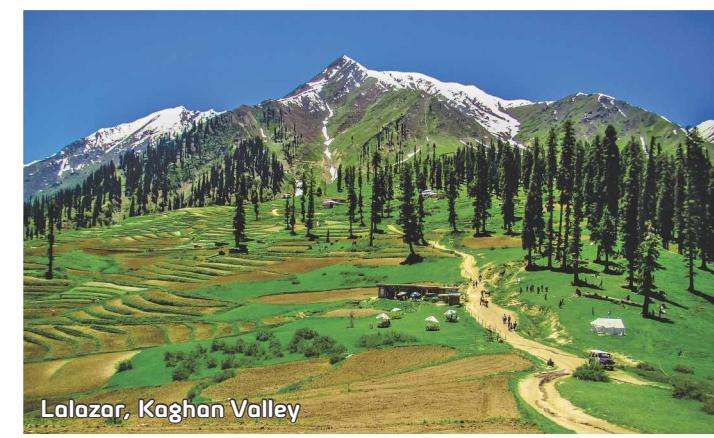


**NORTHERN PAKISTAN**  The Northern Area of Pakistan is the most spectacular and fascinating region of Pakistan. Here, world's three famous mountain ranges meet - the Himalayas, the Karakoram and the Hindu Kush. The whole Northern Pakistan is like a paradise for mountaineers, climbers, trekkers, hikers, and anglers.  **The Karakoram:** The historic **Karakoram Pass** (5,575 m), an ancient trading route between the Northern Pakistan and Xinjiang (China), gives its name to the range west of it that forms the watershed between the Indus and the Central Asian deserts. The eastern boundary of the **Karakoram** is the upper Shyok River from where it extends over 322 km westwards to the Kunzum river and the Hindu Kush range; to the north the Shaksam tributary of the Yorkand River and to the south, the Indus bounds the Karakoram. Here, the Nanga Parbat (8,126 meters) mossif is the western anchor of the great Himalayan range which stretches in one arc 24,124 km east to Burma, a boundary and barrier, "the razor's edge" which for centuries has determined the destiny of South Asia. Such is the setting of the **Karakoram Range**, this remnant of a primeval ice age, "the third pole", with extensive glacier systems and the greatest concentration of lofty mountains in the world.  **Aerial view of Central Karakoram**	**Mountaineering and Trekking**  Since 1954, when the Karakoram Range of Pakistan was opened to expeditions for climbing and trekking, the mountains and glaciers of the north have become an international playground. There are hundreds of peaks still lying un-climbed. This is a great challenge for mountaineers and climbers the world over.  **How to get a permit for mountaineering/trekking**  All applications for mountaineering and trekking permits have been linked with the visa application. Those who wish to obtain a permit will first submit an application for a visa. Please visit the online visa portal <https://visa.ndra.gov.pk>  **Mountaineering**  In the ice categories, choose mountaineering if the peak of your choice is 6500m or higher.  After submitting your visa application the following with a licensed tour operator in Pakistan. The tour operator will process your permit application with the concerned authority. Documents required for the process of mountaineering/trekking include:   - Visa application form (fully filled by foreign climber(s) - Mountaineering permit application - Nomination list of members of the expedition (Annexure-B) - Route map/approach route of the proposed peak - Passport copies of the participants/expedition member(s) - CV of Expedition member(s)   The tour company will submit the above and other required documents to the concerned authority for a mountaineering permit. After the security clearance, royalty fees and environment fees will be deposited by your local Tour Company in Pakistan.  Note: the minimum processing time for a mountaineering permit is 30 days but it is advised to submit an application at least 45 days in advance.  **Trekking**  There are two category trekking routes in Pakistan that foreign visitors are allowed to visit. For trekking routes in restricted areas, a trekking permit is required. While applying for a visa, please choose a restricted area if the intended trekking route is a restricted area. Or choose an open area if the intended route is in an open zone. If you are climbing a peak which is less than 6500m, you will need to choose trekking category in the visa application. Note that no permit is required if you are climbing a peak below 6500m in an open area as permit existing policy.  **Highest Peaks:** Of the fourteen over 8,000 m peaks on earth, four occupy an area known as the head of Baltistan. Their sharp, craggy shapes in shades of colors provide a tremendous contrast which defies description. These are K-2 (8,611 m - world's 2nd highest); the undisputed monarch of the range, **Broad Peak** (8,047 m) - massive and ugly; **Gasherbrum-I** (8,068 m) and **Gasherbrum-II** (8,035 m) - in their eternal embrace lies Herman Buhl; the first man to climb Nanga Parbat; the **Cathedrals of Baltoro** with their great knife-edge ridges; the sky cleaving monoliths of **Trango Towers** and the most beautiful of all - the Peak of Perfection - **Paityu**, (6,600 m) first climbed by a Pakistani expedition in 1977. There are scores of over 7,000 m high peaks in the Karakoram Range and hundreds of nameless summits below 6,000 meters, mere points on the map. In the **Lesser Karakoram** there are equally great peaks such as **Rakaposhi** (7,788 m), the mounted giant in Nigar and Hunza Valleys. Its north face is fantastically precipice - 5,791 meters of plunging snow and ice. The **Hindukush** is also a mountain vastness containing hundreds of peaks, many above 7,000 meters including **Trichim** (7,705 m) that is the highest point of the range. The western bostion of the **Himalayas** is **Nanga Parbat** (8,126 m), once deemed as the "Killer Mountain", but climbed many times by various expeditions since the first ascents.  **Longest Glaciers:** Some of the longest glaciers outside polar region flow in the Karakorams. The **Sichoan** glacier is 75 km long. The **Hispur** (52 m) joins the **Biafo** or the Hispar Lo (5,154 m) to form a 116 km long ice corridor. The **Batura** is 58 km in length. But the most outstanding of these rivers of ice is the **Baltoro** (62 km). This mighty glacier, fed by some tributaries, constitutes a surface area of 1,219 sq. km. Seen from a distance, Baltoro appears smooth and beautiful but in fact it is a chaotic tumbling mass of rock and ice, troughs and hillocks and the debris of centuries. It is a unique, remote corner of earth. Here, in a frozen wilderness of cogs, cornices and crevasses, rise towering spires of granite, great snowy peaks with fluted icy ridges and pinnacles that pierce the sky.  **The Silk Route & The Karakoram Highway**  For many centuries, caravans have braved these tortuous mountains treading precariously along paths providing shortcuts between the great towns of Central Asia and the rich markets of South Asia. However, the trails were hazardous, angry rivers horrifying to contemplate, and the Nature's storms caused even the most intrepid to quail on the high passes and in the desolate gorges. In 1947, travel in and out of the Northern Pakistan could have been described almost as it had been 15 centuries earlier by the Chinese pilgrim **Po Hien** in 400 AD: "The way is difficult and rugged, running along a bank exceedingly precipitous. When one approaches the edge of it, his eyes become unsteady, and if wishes to go forward in the same direction, there is no place on which he can place his foot, and beneath are the waters of the river called the Indus". Thus, the traders of old had travelled over this route for centuries and carried silk, cotton, wool, gold, silver, and spices from South Asia. A fantastic and unforgettable spectacle is the passage of the highway along the Baltoro glacier, rated as the world's seventh largest glacier. The Khunjerab Pass, which the highway crosses, and the nearby Mintyak Pass, lie estride the fabulous ancient Silk Route that led from Europe to Asia and over which history's most famous tourists once travelled. These include the Venetian trader Marco Polo, after whom has been named the wild **Marco Polo** sheep, in the 13th century, the Chinese Monk Po Hien in the 4th century and the Central Asian historian, Abu Rehan Al-Beruni in the 11th century.  **Karakoram Highway**  provides the pathway to expeditions for almost all peaks in Gilgit-Baltistan. Kashmir and several peaks in Xinjiang, China. The region is home to some of the world's largest glaciers like the Baltoro and Siachen. What was once an important "Silk Road" route which used to link the Indian sub-continent with China, is today considered the 8th wonder of the world, since the altitude and the hard conditions in which it was built made it become an architectural masterpiece. It took 20 years to complete. The highway runs about 1,300km (800 miles) from Abbottabad in Pakistan to Kashgar in China, connecting the two neighbors across the Karakoram mountain ranges and includes the highest border crossing in the world: Khunjerab Pass at an elevation of 4,714 meters (15,466 feet). KKH has attracted travelers from all over the world for decades; not only because it is the highest paved road in the world (4,800m at **Khunjerab Pass**) but also because it goes through the three greatest mountain ranges on Earth: the Himalayas, the Karakoram and the Hindu Kush. The Karakoram Highway is one of the most scenic roads in the world. You can ascend a mountain 8,000 meters high, Nanga Parbat, from the window of your car. The Karakoram Road is, definitely, the most epic road trip ever. Travelling along the Karakoram Highway is like going on a journey through several tiny countries, whose inhabitants will bless you with their hospitality. For information and booking, please visit [www.ntco.gov.pk](http://www.ntco.gov.pk) / [www.bookkaru.com](http://www.bookkaru.com) / [www.bookme.pk](http://www.bookme.pk) / [www.tourism.gov.pk](http://www.tourism.gov.pk)  **Mountain Royalty Fees for Foreign Climbers**	Sr.	Height of Mountain	Royalty Fee for Max 07 Members Group- US \$	For each additional member (exceeding 07 members)- US \$		-----	--------------------	---	--		1	8611-K (K-2)	US \$ 12,000.00	US \$ 3,000.00		2	8001-8500m	US \$ 9,500.00	US \$ 3,000.00		3	7501-8000m	US \$ 4,000.00	US \$ 1,000.00		4	7001-7500m	US \$ 2,500.00	US \$ 500.00		5	6501-7000m	US \$ 1,500.00	US \$ 300.00		6	Upto 6500m	Free	Free	**Mountain Royalty Fees for Pakistani Climbers**	Sr.	Height of Mountain	Per Person		-----	--------------------	------------		1	8611m (K-2)	Rs. 30,000		2	8001-8500m	Rs. 25,000		3	7501-8000m	Rs. 20,000		4	7001-7500m	Rs. 15,000		5	6501-7000m	Rs. 10,000		6	Upto 6500m	Free	**Environment Fees**	Sr.	Visitors' category/Zone	Per Person Environment Fee USD \$		-----	--	-----------------------------------		1	Foreign Expedition in the restricted zones (for all peaks above 6500m)	US \$ 200 per person per peak		2	Foreign Expeditions in open zones (for all peaks above 6500m)	US \$ 150 per person per peak		3	Foreign Trekkers in the restricted zones	US \$ 180.00 per person per trek		4	Foreign Trekkers in the open zones	US \$ 60.00 per person per trek		5	Pakistan National Expeditions (for all peaks)	Rs. 300/- per person per peak	**Note:** Locals residing in CKNP buffer zone, stakeholders, researchers and students are exempted from the fees	**Issues of Mountaineering/Trekking Permits:**  Affair receives of all clearances from concerned departments, Department of Tourism Gilgit-Baltistan issues permits after completion of following codal forms by the concerned tour operator:   - Depositing of prescribed roalty/environment fee - Application to issue permit - Mountaineering expedition members insurance/undertaking by tour operator assuring rescue operation funds. - Tourist guide /Liaison Officer insurance and porter & insurance   Information regarding the status of applications, while they are being processed can be obtained from **Department of Tourism Gilgit-Baltistan, Evacuee Trust Complex, F-5/1, Islamabad, (+92-51-2726976)**  **WHAT TO DO:**  **WHAT TO SEE:**  **GILGIT, GHIZER & DIAMER**  Gilgit is situated at an elevation of 1,454 meters along the banks of Gilgit River, quaint little town of Gilgit has spectacular scenic beauty. For centuries, it had been the capital of various dynasties. Its history goes well beyond 6th century AD. The town is irrigated by a network of canals fed by mountain streams. Peak tourist season is from April to October though you can visit the valley round the year. The maximum temperature in May is 33 °C and the minimum 16 °C and in September, maximum 28 °C and minimum 11°C.  **WHAT TO SEE?**  **KARIMABAD:** The former capital of Hunza offers awe-inspiring panorama of high peaks including Rakaposhi (7,788 m), Spantik (Golden Peak - 7,027 m), Diran (7,266 m), Ultar (7,388 m) and Bublimut (Lady Finger - 6,000 m). The snows of Rakaposhi glitter in the moonlight, producing a sense of mystery and awe. The area is accessible by road from Gilgit (112 km) or by air. **BALTIT FORT & MONUMENT & ULTAR GLACIER:** The fairytale-like castle of Baltit, above Karimabad, is a Hunza landmark built about 600 years ago. Stilted on massive legs, its wooden bay windows look out over the valley. Originally, it was used as the residence of the Mirs (the title of the former rulers) of Hunza. It has been restored to its original glory and is being looked after by Baltit Heritage Trust. Just above Baltit Fort, to the west of Ultar glacier, a monument associated with Mir Nasir Khan's coronation as Mir of Hunza by the British (1891) can be seen. Ultar Peak with its glacier are looming high over Karimabad. There is one and two days trek to the glacier. Please take along a local guide. **ALIT FORT & DUKIAR:** This 800 years old fort is situated in village Altit, about 3 km from Karimabad. The fort has been built on a sheer rock cliff that falls 300 meters into the Hunza River. Dukiar is a high summer village above the valley, north of Altit Village. Approachable by jeep, Dukiar offers excellent views of the valley and the surrounding peaks especially at the time of sunrise and sunset. **MONUMENTS & CEMETERIES:** Built in 1962, Independence Monument is a tribute to the heroes of liberation movement of 1947-48. A victory monument of Taj Mughal, built 700 years ago, is 30 km away from Gilgit town. **NATRO VALLEY:** Two rock arches drop from Gilgit to Natro town. **NAKHONI:** Annual polo tournament for the adventure lovers and sportsmen, ANGLISH, polo and lakes of Gilgit. **SHANDUR POLO:** Shandur polo festival with the participation of Hunza, Kharo, Shandur Lake, Astor, Lulusar and Lake Dodpatzar in Kaghan Valley. Swat, River and Mahendro Lake in Swat Valley. Gilgit River, Phander Lake, Hendrab Lake (along the Gilgit-Shandur Road); Chitral River, Phander Lake, Hendrab Lake, Astor River and Rama Lake in Astar Valley; Sodara & Kochura Lakes in Skardu Valley etc. The fishing season lasts from April to September, and permits are available from the local Fisheries Department. **SKIING:** Ski facilities are available at Malam Jabba (Swat Valley), Naltar (near Gilgit) and Kalabagh (Nathialog). Annual ski tournament is organized by Pakistan Ski Federation at Malam Jabba in February. **POLO:** It is the favorite sport in Northern Areas, which originated here. It is more rugged, free-style version than the sedate variety known in the plains. A polo tournament is held in Gilgit from 1-7 November. However, position for Polo remains the highest on the world's highest Polo ground. Every year, **Shandur Polo Festival** (3,700 meters) invites visitors to experience a traditional polo tournament between the teams of Chitral and Gilgit from 7th to 9th July. The festival also includes folk music, folk dance, traditional sports, and a camping village set up on the pass.  **BALTISTAN**  Skardu capital of Baltistan is perched 2,438 meters above sea level in the heart of the great peaks of the Karakoram. Balti people are a mixture of Tibetan and Kyrgyz stock and speak Balti, an ancient form of Tibetan. The fishing season starts from April to September. Skardu is surrounded by steep, rocky mountains and is a mix of traditional and modern life. Due to the similarity of its culture, lifestyle and architecture with Tibet, Baltistan is also known as the "Tibet-e-Khursi" (Little Tibet). It borders on the Chinese province of Xinjiang and Indian-occupied  **ASTOR & RAMA LAKE:** In ancient times, Astor was a major town in the region. It is about 100 km from Gilgit town. It makes six kilometers to the town of the Valley. It is about 100 km from Gilgit town, while other important towns are situated along the KKH, including Gulmit (25 km short of Karimabad), with superb views of Rakaposhi. Naltar Valley's economy is based on agriculture. Wheat, potato and fruits like apples, apricot, cherries, mulberries, etc. are grown abundantly. Spring of Naltar (March-April) is lovely and there are trekking routes along Bular, Barpu and Hapar glaciars. Important peaks seen from Naltar Valley are Rakaposhi (7,788 m), Diron (7,266 m), Ultar (7,388 m), Gulmit (7,458 m), Spantik (7,027 m).  **YASIN VALLEY:** Yasin, the main town of the valley, lies east of Ishkoman at altitude of 2,750 m above sea level. People of Yasin speak Brushyki and Khwar languages. Until the 20th century, Yasin was an important kingdom controlling the shortest and easiest route between the Oxus and the Indus rivers. Phander is 16 hours' drive from Gilgit, and a recommended overnight stop enroute to Chitral. There is another lake called Hendrab, further west up a side valley. Both the lakes offer excellent trout fishing opportunities. From here, one can also do white water rafting down the Gilgit River.  **CHILAS:** District headquarter of Diamer, Chilas is situated along the Karakoram Highway 150 km short of Gilgit. There are hundreds of ancient rock carvings and inscriptions in and around Chilas, which depict its cultural and strategic importance even in pre-Buddhist period. One of these rock carvings is down a steep trek to the south bank of the Indus River. Another group of these rocks are near Tholan Bridge post Chilas. A jeep trek connects Chilas with Koghan Valley via Bobusar Pass (4,173 m). **ASTOR & RAMA LAKE:** In ancient times, Astor was a major town in the region. It is about 100 km from Gilgit town. It makes six kilometers to the town of the Valley. It is about 100 km from Gilgit town, while other important towns are situated along the KKH, including Gulmit (25 km short of Karimabad), with superb views of Rakaposhi. Naltar Valley's economy is based on agriculture. Wheat, potato and fruits like apples, apricot, cherries, mulberries, etc. are grown abundantly. Spring of Naltar (March-April) is lovely and there are trekking routes along Bular, Barpu and Hapar glaciars. Important peaks seen from Naltar Valley are Rakaposhi (7,788 m), Diron (7,266 m), Ultar (7,388 m), Gulmit (7,458 m), Spantik (7,027 m).  **WHAT TO SEE?**  **KHORPOCHI FORT:** Skardu has an ancient Fort known as Khorpoche Fort (King of Forts) situated on a hill overlooking the town. It was constructed by Ali Shah Khan Anchan, who ruled over Baltistan till the end of the 16th century. **BUDDHHA ROCK CARVINGS:** Dating back to 8th century AD, a huge Buddha figure surrounded by small Bodhisattvas is carved on a rock, three kilometers from Skardu across Sodara Nullah on Skardu-Dodpatzar Road. Numerous smaller figures are carved on rocks along Kachura Lake. Some rock carvings and discards of monasteries near Perkuwa (Mahdi Abad) Nalch are also found.  **LOVELY LAKES:** Upper Kachura (3.4 km), Lower Kachura (Shongra) - 30 km, Lake and Sodara (8 km) Lake, are very famous for fishing and boating. **SHICAR VALLEY:** The gateway to the great mountain peaks of the Karakoram, Gasherbrum-II is only 23 km away from Skardu via jeep road. Shigar valley's gentle, irrigated slopes are filled with terraces of wheat, maize, and barley. Its orchards of apricots, mulberries, peaches, plums, pears, apples, and nuts are unique to Baltistan. The wooden mosque in the middle of the town was built by Kashmiri carpenters several hundred years ago. There is the ex-Raja's old Fort and Palace in the village. **KHAPLU VALLEY:** This beautiful valley of the Shyok River is 103 km east of Skardu. Khaplu is the starting point for most trekking and climbing expeditions. Many famous mountains such as Masherbrum, Sotora, Sia Kangri, K-6, K-7 are located here. Choghan Pass is one of the earliest passes in Baltistan (1504 AD), attributed to Syed Ali Hamandi. There is a Roja of Khaplu and remains of Thorsikhar Fort. **Sorrang-e-Dera:** Skardu is an extreme sporting event with colorful attractions and festivities in the serene, breathtaking and culturally rich District Skardu in October.  **HOW TO GET THERE?**  By Air: PIA operate flights from major cities of Pakistan to Gilgit (subject to good weather). The air journey is full of thrills and would itself be regarded as the highlight of the visit. ([www.piacom.com.pk](http://www.piacom.com.pk))  **By Road:** Gilgit is also accessible from Islamabad/Rawalpindi via Karakoram Highway (KKH). Rawalpindi to Gilgit via Swat is 704 km and takes 19 hours by bus/van. Rawalpindi to Gilgit via Bobusar Pass 535 km, 21 hours by jeep. Regular bus and van services operate on the Karakoram Highway between Rawalpindi and Gilgit via Besham. The main bus terminal of NATCO & other private bus lines is at Pariwad General Bus Stand, Rawalpindi. ([www.ntco.gov.pk](http://www.ntco.gov.pk)/[www.bookkaru.com](http://www.bookkaru.com)/[www.bookme.pk](http://www.bookme.pk)/[www.tourism.gov.pk](http://www.tourism.gov.pk))  **WHERE TO STAY:**  From Government Rest-Houses, there are a number of comfortably furnished and reasonably priced hotels are available for stay. ([www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com)/[www.bookme.pk](http://www.bookme.pk)/[www.tourism.gov.pk](http://www.tourism.gov.pk))  **HUNZI, NAGAR & GOJAL**  The visitors to Hunza are overwhelmed by the rugged charm, the fragrant breeze singing through graceful Poplar trees and the velvet-like green carpet of wheed fields, set against the background of snow-covered mountains. Situated at an elevation of 2,438 meters. Hunza Valley's tourist season is from April to October. The temperature in May is maximum 27 °C and minimum 14 °C. The October temperature are: maximum 10 °C and minimum 0 °C. Majority of the people of Hunza are Ismaili Muslims, followers of His Holiness the Aga Khan. The local language is Brushski. Urdu and English are also understood by most of people.  **KALASH VALLEY:** One of the major attractions of Chitral is the Kalash Valley - the home of Kalash or "Wearers of the Black Robes", a primitive pagan tribe. Legends say that five soldiers of the legions of Alexander the Great settled in the Kalash Valley. Over 3,000 strong Kalash live in the valley of Birir, Bumburet and Rambur, south of Chitral. **Bumburet**, the largest and the most picturesque valley of the Kalash, is 40 km from Chitral and is connected by a jeep road. Birir, 34 km away is accessible by a jeep road. **Rambur** is 32 km from Chitral. **PERMITS:** The foreigner tourists are allowed to visit Kalash Valleys with permit which are issued by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority. **KALASH FESTIVAL:** Chitrali or Joshi (14th and 15th May): This festival is held in late May when the girls pick the first flowers. The days are marked by dancing and the people visit each other and exchange milk, cheese, yogurt and flowers. **UTCHAL (mid July):** Two days of celebration mark the harvest of wheat and barley. There is much singing, dancing and feasting. **PHOOL (20th to 25th September):** This festival celebrates the opening of the grape and walnut harvests. **CHOWMAS (18th to 21st December):** This is the winter festival celebrated to welcome the new year. The people remain indoors, feasting and drinking until the elders, who sit on hill-tops to watch the sun reach its orbit, declare the arrival of the new year. Everyone then lights the torches and performs the commemorative dance, goat sacrifice is carried out.  **HOW TO GET THERE**  By Air: PIA operate flights from major cities of Pakistan to Chitral (subject to good weather). The air journey is full of thrills and would itself be regarded as the highlight of the visit. ([www.piacom.com.pk](http://www.piacom.com.pk))  **By Road:** Chitral is accessible from Peshawar by 363 km road that goes via Malakand, Dir, and the 3,118 meters high Lowari Pass. The pass is open during summer months only i.e., from June to mid November. It may even closed earlier due to snowfall. ([www.bookkaru.com](http://www.bookkaru.com)/[www.bookme.pk](http://www.bookme.pk)/[www.tourism.gov.pk](http://www.tourism.gov.pk))  **WHERE TO STAY:** There are reasonably priced private hotels are available for stay. ([www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com)/[www.bookme.pk](http://www.bookme.pk)/[www.tourism.gov.pk](http://www.tourism.gov.pk))  **SWAT VALLEY**  The lush-green valley of Swat, also known as the "Switzerland" of Pakistan because of its snow-capped mountains and beautiful scenery, rushing streams, icy-cold lakes, fruit-laden orchards, and flower-decked slopes is ideal for holiday



#### KAGHAN VALLEY

A holiday in Kaghan Valley, the Himalayan hide-away situated northeast of Hazara district of KP Province, is an unforgettable experience. Its mountains, dales, lakes, waterfalls, streams, and glaciers are still in an unbelievable pristine state, an unspoiled paradise. The Valley extends for 155 km from an elevation of 2,134 meters to its highest point, the Nanga Parbat (8,134 m). Kaghan is open for tourists from May to October (May to September). In May the temperature is maximum 11°C and the minimum 3°C. From the middle of July up to the end of September, the road beyond Naran, snowbound throughout the winter, is open right up to Babusar Pass.



**WHAT TO SEE?**  
MUZAFFARABAD: The capital of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir is situated at the confluence of the Jhelum & Neelum rivers. It is 138 kms from Rawalpindi and about 76 kms from Abbottabad. The present name of Muzaffarabad has been given to it after the name of Sultan Muzaffar Khan, a chief of Bambu Dynasty (1652). There are two forts, namely Red & Black Fort, situated on the opposite sides of river Neelum. The Neelum river streams through the town, joins river Jhelum at Domel and plays a dominant role in the micro climate of Muzaffarabad. It is easily accessible through Islamabad - Murree - Muzaffarabad Express Road (E-75). Places of interest in and around Muzaffarabad are Pir Channos, Shheed Gali and Patika. **NEELUM VALLEY:** About 240 kilometers long Muzaffarabad. Running parallel to the Kaghan Valley, it is separated from it by snow covered peaks, some over 5000 meters above sea level. Excellent scenic beauty, panoramic view, towering hills on both sides of the noisy Neelum river, lush green forests, enchanting streams, high altitude lakes and attractive surroundings make the valley a dream come true. Places of interest in Neelum Valley are Kundal Shahi, Kutton, Toli, Jhalak, Amroha, Kora, Deraura, Shandoor. **JHELUM VALLEY:** The cutting river flows through from Esani to Bagh, between the high green mountains of this valley and joins the river Neelum at Domel near Muzaffarabad. A 50 Km long metalled road runs along the river Jhelum from Muzaffarabad to Chokothi, close to line of control (LOC). Places of interest in Jhelum Valley include: Gorhi Doppatta, Chirori, Chakothi, Chikkar, Loon Bagia, and Dungion & Donna. **LEEA VALLEY:** This is the most fascinating & loveliest valley. A metalled road branches off from Leela from Nally, 45 kms from Muzaffarabad, climbs over the Resham Gali (3,200 m) and then descends to 1,677 m on the other side into the Leela Valley. The valley remains open for domestic tourists from May to November. **Places of tourist interest in this valley are:** Leela, Doo Khan, Chonnoni etc. **POONCH & SUDHNOTI:** Places of interest in both of

**HOW TO GET THERE:** Kaghan Valley is accessible by road from Rawalpindi/Islamabad and Peshawar. The Kaghan Valley is blocked at the end by high mountains but a pass leads the jeepable road snakes over into Chiles Valley. This is 4,173 m high Babusar Pass, which commands the whole Kaghan panorama as well as gives you, on a clear day, glimpses of Nanga Parbat (the Naked Mountain) glistening at 8,126 m. Transport can be availed by Rawalpindi (Firozabad/Pirwadhi) bus terminal ([www.bookkari.com](http://www.bookkari.com) / [www.bookme.pk](http://www.bookme.pk) / [www.tourism.gov.pk](http://www.tourism.gov.pk))

**WHERE TO STAY:** There are many luxury and moderately priced hotels, motels, in Kaghan Valley at Balakot, Shogran, Kaghan, and Naran. ([www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com) / [www.bookme.pk](http://www.bookme.pk) / [www.tourism.gov.pk](http://www.tourism.gov.pk))

#### AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) is very rich in natural beauty. Its snow-covered peaks, dense forests, winding rivers, turbulent foaming streams, sweet-scented valleys, velvet green plateaus and climate varying from arctic to tropical, all join together to make it an excellent tourist attraction. Valleys like Neelum, Jhelum, Leela, Rawalakot, Banjosa, Samjhni & Baghseri unfold delightful scenic beauty and provide a feast of pleasure to a discerning tourist's eyes. Azad Kashmir is also blessed with a varied mountainous landscape ranging from low hills to high mountains (2000 to 6000 m) most suitable for adventure sports like



**WHAT TO SEE?**  
**MUZAFFARABAD:** The capital of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir is situated at the confluence of the Jhelum & Neelum rivers. It is 138 kms from Rawalpindi and about 76 kms from Abbottabad. The present name of Muzaffarabad has been given to it after the name of Sultan Muzaffar Khan, a chief of Bambu Dynasty (1652). There are two forts, namely Red & Black Fort, situated on the opposite sides of river Neelum. The Neelum river streams through the town, joins river Jhelum at Domel and plays a dominant role in the micro climate of Muzaffarabad. It is easily accessible through Islamabad - Murree - Muzaffarabad Express Road (E-75). Places of interest in and around Muzaffarabad are Pir Channos, Shheed Gali and Patika. **NEELUM VALLEY:** About 240 kilometers long Muzaffarabad. Running parallel to the Kaghan Valley, it is separated from it by snow covered peaks, some over 5000 meters above sea level. Excellent scenic beauty, panoramic view, towering hills on both sides of the noisy Neelum river, lush green forests, enchanting streams, high altitude lakes and attractive surroundings make the valley a dream come true. Places of interest in Neelum Valley are Kundal Shahi, Kutton, Toli, Jhalak, Amroha, Kora, Deraura, Shandoor. **JHELUM VALLEY:** The cutting river flows through from Esani to Bagh, between the high green mountains of this valley and joins the river Neelum at Domel near Muzaffarabad. A 50 Km long metalled road runs along the river Jhelum from Muzaffarabad to Chokothi, close to line of control (LOC). Places of interest in Jhelum Valley include: Gorhi Doppatta, Chirori, Chakothi, Chikkar, Loon Bagia, and Dungion & Donna. **LEEA VALLEY:** This is the most fascinating & loveliest valley. A metalled road branches off from Leela from Nally, 45 kms from Muzaffarabad, climbs over the Resham Gali (3,200 m) and then descends to 1,677 m on the other side into the Leela Valley. The valley remains open for domestic tourists from May to November. **Places of tourist interest in this valley are:** Leela, Doo Khan, Chonnoni etc. **POONCH & SUDHNOTI:** Places of interest in both of

climbing, trekking, mountaineering, summer camping and hiking in the lake and hear the local legend about Prince of Maluk who fell in love with a fair, Further there are ancient woodland villages, Battal, Indi, Buruwat, Bisedi, Cittidis and Lalazar. At a distance of 19 km from Naran, Lalazar is unique place for a day excursion by jeep. **LOVELY LAKES & MEADOWS:** The Valley extends for 155 km from an elevation of 2,134 meters to its highest point, the Nanga Parbat (8,134 m). Kaghan is open for tourists from May to October (May to September). In May the temperature is maximum 11°C and the minimum 3°C. From the middle of July up to the end of September, the road beyond Naran, snowbound throughout the winter, is open right up to Babusar Pass.

**WHERE TO STAY:** There are luxury and moderately priced hotels, motels, and rest houses in tourist destination areas of AJK ([www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com) / [www.bookme.pk](http://www.bookme.pk) / [www.tourism.gov.pk](http://www.tourism.gov.pk))

**DO'S AND DON'TS:**

▪ Please do not photograph military installations and major bridges  
▪ Women of Pakistan do not like to be photographed without their permission  
▪ Please do not travel at night on mountain roads, and do not swim in the fast-flowing rivers & streams  
▪ Kindly dress yourself modestly and respect local culture, traditions and social norms  
▪ Please take-off your shoes and cover your head when visiting mosques, temples, or Churches  
▪ Please seek permission and update from local Police Station. Camping sites & hotel reservations before traveling  
▪ Get first-hand information about road condition  
▪ Support the community by purchasing local handicrafts  
▪ Keep your national ID card / passport along with you  
▪ Engage local guide to get best experience of tourist destinations  
▪ Do not harm the environment, flora and fauna  
▪ Avoid excessive breaks while driving at Babusar, Deosai and Khunjerab  
▪ Dispose of your litter properly and leave the campsite clean  
▪ Cooperate with Tourist Police

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

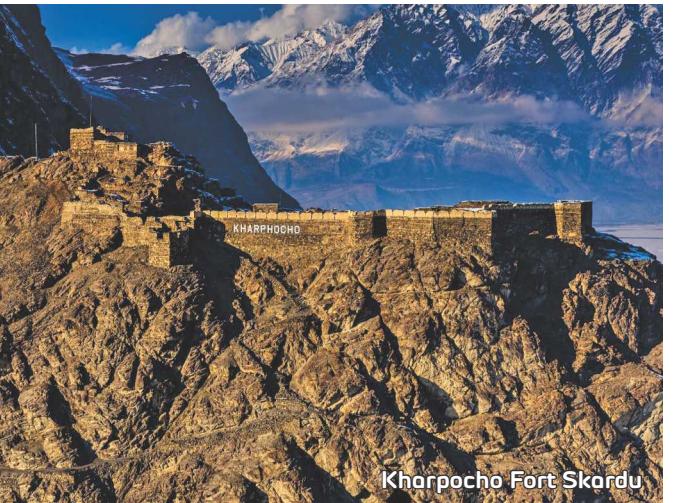
##### WHAT TO BUY

In northern areas of Pakistan, you can buy Patti (hand-woven woolen cloth), jackets, waistcoats and traditional caps which are very popular among travelers. Other interesting items are silk woolen cloths, woolen shawls, woodcarving, Papier Mache, rugs, traditional hats for women, silver ornaments & jewelry, precious/semi-precious stones (ruby, garnet, topaz, emerald and different types of crystals etc.) wooden spoons, embroidery, shawls, honey, almond oil, apricot oil, dry & fresh fruits (walnuts, almonds, mulberry, apples, apricots, peaches, grapes etc.)

##### COMMUNICATION:

Almost all the places in the Northern Pakistan and Azad Kashmir are linked by telephone with the rest of the country and the outside world. Some of the area codes are follow:

Location	Area Code
Gilgit	05811
Hunza	05831
Sost	05813
Skardu	05831
Saidu Sharif	0946
Chitral	0943
Besham	0996
Kalam	0946
Bomboret	0943
Khaplu	05816



Khorpocho Fort Skardu

Important Links:
Federal Tourism Department / Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC): <a href="http://www.tourism.gov.pk">www.tourism.gov.pk</a>
Tourism Department Punjab: <a href="http://www.tdcg.gov.pk">www.tdcg.gov.pk</a>
Tourism Department Sindh: <a href="http://www.stdc.gov.pk">www.stdc.gov.pk</a>
Tourism Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP): <a href="http://www.kptourism.com">www.kptourism.com</a>
Tourism Department Gilgit Baltistan (GB): <a href="http://www.visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk">www.visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk</a>
Tourism Department Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK): <a href="http://www.visitajk.gov.pk">www.visitajk.gov.pk</a>
Tourism Department Bolochistan: <a href="http://www.tourismbolochistan.gov.pk">www.tourismbolochistan.gov.pk</a>
Online Visa Application: <a href="http://www.visit.nadra.gov.pk">www.visit.nadra.gov.pk</a> /list-of-touroperators
List of Peaks: <a href="http://www.visit.nadra.gov.pk/list-of-peaks">www.visit.nadra.gov.pk/list-of-peaks</a>
List of Treks: <a href="http://www.visit.nadra.gov.pk/list-of-treks">www.visit.nadra.gov.pk/list-of-treks</a>
Useful Publications: <a href="http://www.tourism.gov.pk/publications.html">www.tourism.gov.pk/publications.html</a>
Useful Publications: <a href="http://www.stdp.org/publications">www.stdp.org/publications</a>
Pakistan International Airlines (PIA): <a href="http://www.piac.com">www.piac.com</a>
Pakistan Railways: <a href="http://www.pakrail.com">www.pakrail.com</a>
Hotels Booking: <a href="http://www.booking.com">www.booking.com</a>
Buses & Hotels Booking: <a href="http://www.bookme.pk">www.bookme.pk</a>
Buses & Events Booking: <a href="http://www.bookkari.com">www.bookkari.com</a>

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS
PTDC Tourist Information Centre (TIC): +92-51-9204027
National Emergency Helpline: 911
Police Emergency: 15
Tourism Helpline: 1422
PIA Flight Inquiry: 114
Pakistan Railways Inquiry: 117
Rescue Emergency Service: 1122
Fire Brigade Number: 16
Edhi Ambulance: 115
Child Missing/Complaint & Response Centre: 1138
Mobile Snatched/Stolen/Lost Mobile: 1102
National Highways & Motorway Police: 130
Pakistan Meteorological Department: +92-51-925036727

