

Best Hotels in Chitral for deluxe type:

1. Hindukush Heights

Hindukush Heights is a family-run hotel that focuses on the uplift of the local community and its surroundings by taking active measures toward social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

Built by a local workforce over a 5 year period, primarily using materials sourced in Chitral; those self-same local workers were then given the opportunity to be retrained as service staff at the hotel. The emotional bond of these local Chitralis with Hindukush Heights has been the foundation upon which our success is based.

Contacts and Address of Hindukush Heights Hotel:

Address

Hindukush Heights

Gankorini, Chitral, 64000

Hotel RESERVATION

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Tel: +92 344 9700800

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For Hindukush Express Bus Booking

Tel: +92 300 0341203

2.

Experiences in Chitral?

Originally envisioned as a convenient disembarkation point for passengers using the Hindukush Express to Chitral; the Sarai was expanded into a comfortable eight-bed motel complete with ensuite bathrooms, and a restaurant with a view of the mighty Tirich Mir (7660m).

The Hindukush Sarai is powered by its own Solar PV Panels and does not suffer from the regular electricity outages seen in most parts of Chitral. The Sarai also boasts a fresh spring water source, which is backed up by its own wells and directly connected to the aquifer from where it can source water all year round. It is favorably located in Chitral Cantonment, opposite the Chitral Scout's Military Hospital.

Owned by Hindukush Heights, the Sarai maintains the high standards of its parent company; always offering affordability, comfort, and convenience to weary travellers. A discount of 10% on room rates is available to all passengers of the Hindukush Express.

We curate bespoke group tours, adventure holidays, pony treks, yoga retreats and visits to local festivals in the Hindukush region of Northern Pakistan. This area is

breathhtakingly beautiful and diverse, with a spirit of hospitality unlike any other. This is custom designed travel, with an emphasis on traditional Pakistani hospitality; comfort, empathy and friendliness.

Our clients always depart with extraordinary memories, refreshed and revitalized; having experienced the region from all angles and content with their time having been well spent. Our services provide a personalized experience from the moment of your initial enquiry, until well after you're back home from a memorable holiday.

Our trips are customized and thoughtfully crafted; with everything carefully orchestrated to the tiniest detail without any hidden costs.

A clear understanding of your travel companions and all their requirements enables us to piece together a unique itinerary, specially tailored for you. If you have a particular need or goal that should be fulfilled from this experience, we'll ensure our full support in helping you achieve that.

Once we're familiar with your specific travel needs; an open exchange of ideas, and the provision of finer details will enable us to arrive at the perfect itinerary for you. Then it's our responsibility to deliver on our commitment to you as seamlessly as possible.

A trip to Chitral is not complete without a visit to one of the three Kalash valleys (Bhumburet, Rhumbur, Birir). A day trip to the Kalash Valley of Bhumburet can be arranged by Hindukush Heights to meet with an ancient pagan tribe that is now highly endangered. Only some three thousand inhabitants of this tribe remain.

The Greeks claim that this tribe is descended from Alexander the Great's army. You will visit with Kalash families in their homes, holy temple and museum; while strolling through their valley and enjoying their generous hospitality.

Experience the Kalash Spring Festival happening this year from 13th to 17th May 2024. Join us for a celebration of tradition, harmony, and the vibrant spirit of the Kalash people.

Pakistan's national animal, the Markhor is a shy and reclusive creature. A near endangered species, they are found in remote and difficult to access mountain ranges across the northwest of Pakistan. The Tooshi Game Reserve is home to a large and growing population of Astor Markhor, with at least 120 specimens at last count. Tooshi is a mere twenty minutes' drive from HKH, where you can view this rare and majestic creature with its corkscrew horns; in its natural habitat from the banks of the Lutkho River.

Shandur Polo Festival, A Spectacle of Culture and Sport!

The tournament is held at Shandur Top, the highest polo field in the world at 3,700 meters (the pass itself is at 3,800 meters). The festival includes folk music and dancing, while a large camping village of polo enthusiasts, adventurers and supporters also adds to the atmosphere for the duration of the tournament. During the early 20th century, the British colonial rulers of India were the patrons of the game. In 1935, the British Political Agent,

Major A.H. Cobb commissioned a polo field at Shandur, which came to be known as “Mas Junali” in the local Khowar language; the “Moon Polo field”. Cobb then encouraged the people of Chitral and Gilgit, quite often at odds, to settle their differences through an annual polo fixture, now known as the Shandur Polo Festival. Mas Junali became a venue of conflict resolution between the people of Chitral and Gilgit; while the three-day Shandur Polo Festival has developed steadily in recent years into the massive celebration of mountain polo that it is today.

Chitral and Gilgit have always played the game of polo closest to its original form. Each team has six players. The match is divided into two halves of 25 minutes, with a 10-minute interval. Only 1 polo pony is permitted per player, and if a player or pony leaves the field injured, the opposing team also reduces its strength by 1 player. A fresh polo pony may not be introduced into the game, as that will prove to be a distinct advantage.

The field measures about 200 meters by 56 meters (a normal polo field is about 270m by 150m), with 60 cm high stone walls running the length of the field on both sides instead of boards. Players rarely wear helmets, the horses’ legs often have no bandages, and very few mallets have proper grips or straps.

In order to decide the final teams to play at the Shandur Polo Festival, preliminary matches are played both in Chitral and Gilgit; from which the best horses and players are chosen for the final games by the local juries. Free-style mountain polo is arguably polo in its purest form. This version of the game played at Shandur-Top has attained legendary status and is of great interest to international and domestic adventure tourists alike. There are no umpires and everything goes. The rules are: There are no rules!

In “The Roof of the World” Amin/Willeys/Tetley write: “by comparison, an American Wild West rodeo might pass for choir practice.”

No hit-ins! If the ball runs out over the back line, the goal-judge immediately launches another ball towards the middle of the field and the game carries on. If a player scores a goal, the goal-judge gives him a ball to hold in his right hand while also carrying the mallet. The player must then gallop down the side of the field, and at the halfway line chuck the ball in the air and strike it. Hit or miss, the game continues, but if he scores, he gets to do it again. This is known as the “tumbuk”; truly a privilege to witness if it sails through the goal! Yet there is a certain method to all the madness; it’s an extremely strategic sport! Man-marking is just as important as in any other form of polo. It’s also interesting to note how team members take turns in giving their mounts periodic breaks while the game carries on. They care very deeply for their entire pony string of ONE, which they maintain at great expense and sacrifice!

This year’s shandur polo festival is going to be held on the 28th, 29th and 30th of June 2024.

Chitral’s main cultural attractions are a short drive from the hotel. This small town boasts a rather well-stocked little museum, a traditional polo field still in active service, an early 20th century mosque built by the Mehtar Shuja Ul Mulk as well as an incredibly well preserved late medieval era fort which was the site of the infamous Siege of Chitral. Chitral is also

home to a traditional Central Asian bazaar and still maintains the old fashioned charm of a Silk Road market town.

Garam Chashma (The Hot Springs) is a 2 hour drive from Hindukush Heights. The town is famous for its Sulphur springs which are supposed have various healing properties.

Immerse yourselves in the swimming pool of Injigaan Hotel. This pool is filled with hot Sulphur spring water. Hot springs are a rich source of Sulphur and the healing benefits include treating skin irritations and infections such as rashes and eczema. Those with arthritis may find pain relief from taking a soothing soak in the hot Sulphur pool.

Formerly a hunting reserve for the Chitrali Royal Family, Gol National Park spreads across 8,000 hectares of diverse mountain terrain including glaciers and forests. The park holds the largest population of the Astor Markhor in the world. The Siberian Ibex, Black Bear, Tibetan Wolf, Red Fox, and Himalayan Otter are also found in the park.

Cleanse your Mind, Body, and Soul through a Yoga Retreat in the magical mountains of the Hindukush. You will have the unique opportunity to cleanse your body of toxins and recharge your mind in the serenity of nature at its best.

Take time out of your daily routine to spend 5 days in the holistic setting of the luxurious Hindukush Heights Hotel.

Immerse yourself in a period of Yoga practice, time in nature, detoxing and nurturing yourself with delicately prepared, homegrown food and relaxation.

Yoga retreats are offered at different times in this year. Next one 13th to 17th May 2024.

Chitral is a trekker's paradise. From leisurely mountain trails near the hotel to more challenging treks at high altitudes; there are a variety of choices available for the intrepid traveler. We provide our guests with guides and equipment for campsites if needed.

Chitral has a larger variety of medium-range treks to choose from than any other part of Pakistan including Gilgit and Baltistan.

These treks go over mountain passes connecting the numerous valleys inside the large district of Chitral. Some of them also connect with the Ghizer and Ishkoman valleys of GB. These valleys are home to a very friendly and hospitable population; who not only receive visitors happily but also share their meager resources open-heartedly.

The trekking season starts as early as mid-March, for passes below 8000ft; continuing as late as September and possibly October, for passes above 14000ft. None of these treks pose any technical difficulty and can be endured by those with some outdoor exposure; with average fitness and stamina.

“Stay Grounded in Comfort – The Fokker Friendship Experience”

The Fokker Friendship restaurant was the brainchild of Hindukush Heights founder, Siraj UIMulk. A former PIA and Army Aviation Pilot, Siraj began flying fixed wing and rotary aircraft in his teens.

In 2004, a Fokker F-27 crash landed in Chitral with no casualties, and was subsequently grounded and decommissioned by PIA. Mr. UIMulk acquired the aircraft from PIA, and has now built a full service restaurant with the aircraft as its star feature.

A hot favourite among locals and visitors alike, the restaurant serves both local and western fare; while offering a charming and rustic dining environment for its clientele.

The Fokker Friendship also offers a twin occupancy en suite room for short- term stays.

Please contact (0943) 413150 for more information

Hiking & Camping Tours in Chitral

Broghil Valley National Park is located in the extreme northern reaches of the [Upper Chitral District](#) of [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](#), [Pakistan](#), close to the [Afghan-Pakistan border](#)

Broghil Valley National Park abbreviated as BVNP, lies 250 kilometres (160 mi) from the main city of Chitral[6] and is the northernmost valley within the Upper Chitral district. Broghil Valley borders the Gilgit Baltistan on the Afghan Wakhan corridor, which stretches between Tajikistan and Pakistan.

The area is mostly mountainous. The elevation of the national park ranges from 3,217 m (10,554 ft) to 5,696 m (18,688 ft) above the sea level.[7] The terrain is undulating with mountains, grassy plains, and valleys. It includes almost 3,400 ha of peatlands and lakes.[8] The valley features around 30 freshwater lakes and is surrounded by glaciers and mountains.

The remote location of the Broghil Valley makes it a hard-to-reach the tourist destination. Many communities in Broghil lack access to basic facilities and services. The annual Broghil Festival attracts visitors,[9] however it lacks basic road and hospitality infrastructure. Attendees enjoy attractions and activities such as yak polo

and exhibitions of woolen handicrafts, accompanied by traditional food and music.[10] However, a recently constructed 32 km (20 mi) road connects Kishmanja village of the park to other villages such as Pechus and Vedin Khot and other areas.

Overview Broghil National Park (BNP) encompasses the Broghil valley and a small part of the Yarkhun valley. It has a number of peatland areas. Broghil is in a strategic location: it borders the Wakhan Strip of Afghanistan and is connected to Afghanistan in the northwest via the famous Broghil and Darwaza passes. Located above 3,000 masl, BNP has relatively harsh climatic conditions. The valley is globally significant role as the gateway of the Indus flyway for birds migrating to South Asia. People Wakhi Flora Pastures consist of grasslands, sparse grasses and trees, and peatlands. A survey identified 93 species of higher plants belonging to 40 families and 75 genera. Plant communities in the Broghil valley include small herb community and General features Country: Pakistan, Chitral District Date of establishment: 2010 Area: 1,348 km² Geographic location: Latitude: 36°45'N; Longitude: 73°30'E IUCN category: NA peatland-fen community. The flora is dominated by Haemicryptophytes and Chaemiphytes. Some rare and narrow endemic flora have been recently reported in the national park. Forests are limited, consisting mainly of birch, poplar, juniper, willow, and small shrubs. The valley is rich in medicinal plants, with more than 80 recorded species. Fauna Alpine pastures and rocky slopes are interspersed with wetlands providing a congenial habitat for many mammals, some endangered, such as snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), urial (*Ovis orientalis*), Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), red fox (*Vulpus vulpus*), long-tailed marmot (*Marmota caudata*), and lynx (*Felis lynx*). Bird species include ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Himalayan snowcock (*Tetraogallus himalayensis*), chukar (*Alectoris chukar*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), alpine chough (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*) and snow pigeon (*Columba leuconota*). Threats *f* Excessive use of peatlands leading to loss of habitat for key wildlife. *f* Reduced productivity of grazing lands and decline in wildlife due to poaching and competition with livestock. *f* Habitat loss due to destruction and habitat degradation

Rumbur Valley - Exploring the Jewel of Kalash

The Kalash People and Culture

Rumbur Valley is home to the indigenous Kalash people, renowned for their distinctive culture, customs, and religious practices. Believed to be descendants of Alexander the Great's soldiers, the Kalash have managed to preserve their ancient

traditions amidst the modern world. Their vibrant festivals, elaborate costumes, and captivating music and dance make an integral part of their cultural heritage.

Festivals and Celebrations

One of the highlights of visiting Rumbur Valley is experiencing the Kalash festivals. The Kalash people celebrate several unique festivals throughout the year, such as the Chilimjusht (spring festival), Uchau (harvest festival), and Choimus (winter festival). These festivities are a riot of color, with the Kalash men and women dressed in traditional attire, singing and dancing to the beat of drums. Visitors may have the opportunity to witness these joyous celebrations and immerse themselves in the vibrant atmosphere.

Scenic Beauty

Rumbur Valley is blessed with awe-inspiring natural beauty. Surrounded by towering mountains, lush green meadows, and crystal-clear streams, the valley offers stunning panoramic views at every turn. The picturesque landscapes provide a perfect backdrop for trekking, hiking, and nature walks, allowing visitors to explore the valley's hidden treasures.

Kalash Villages and Hospitality

Rumbur Valley is dotted with traditional Kalash villages, each with a distinct charm. The villages are characterized by unique architectural designs, with intricately carved wooden houses adorned with colorful motifs. The Kalash people are known for their warm hospitality, welcoming visitors into their homes, offering traditional food, and sharing stories about their culture and history.

Preserving Cultural Heritage

Efforts have been made to preserve the rich cultural heritage of Rumbur Valley and the Kalash people. Local organizations and government initiatives focus on promoting sustainable tourism, encouraging visitors to respect the customs and traditions of the Kalash community. These efforts ensure that the cultural integrity of the Kalash Valley is upheld, providing an authentic and respectful experience for tourists.

Conclusion

Rumbur Valley offers a captivating journey into the ancient world of the Kalash people. With its unique culture, stunning landscapes, and warm hospitality, it is a destination that leaves a lasting impression on every visitor. Exploring Rumbur Valley allows you to witness a way of life that has remained relatively unchanged for centuries, providing an invaluable opportunity to connect with a rich cultural heritage. As you immerse yourself in the vibrant festivals, breathtaking scenery, and warm

embrace of the Kalash community, Rumbur Valley will undoubtedly leave you with memories that will endure for a lifetime.

Bumburet Valley - A Breathtaking Valley in Chitral

Bumburet is the largest valley of Kalasha Desh in Chitral District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the province of Pakistan. This valley is home to the Kalash people, an ethnic minority group who practice a unique polytheistic religion. The valley offers stunning views of snow-capped mountains and lush green forests, with rich culture and history.

The Bumburet Valley is known for its breathtaking scenery and mountain treks. Visitors can explore the numerous villages connected by small dirt tracks, where they will be welcomed with the traditional hospitality of the local people. They can also contribute to old conventional activities such as milking cows, tending to animals, and enjoying a delicious meal of local produce.

For those looking for adventure, the Bumburet Valley is famous for many amazing activities, including trekking, horseback riding, and climbing. There are also many rivers and lakes for fishing and swimming. No matter what your interests are, you're sure to find something to do in this stunning region.

Beyond its spectacular natural beauty and outdoor activities, the Bumburet Valley is known for its rich culture and religious diversity. The Kalash people of the valley have maintained their practices, language, and beliefs while living in harmony with people of other faiths. Visitors can contribute to traditional festivals, communicate with locals, and even learn ancient dances.

The Bumburet Valley is an amazing place to visit and explore, filled with spectacular sights, thrilling adventures, and unforgettable experiences. No matter what kind of vacation you are looking for, you will find something to love in this incredible region of Pakistan.

Their population is rapidly declining. As of 2019, only 37 households that exist in Bumburet Valley still follow traditional practices.

Birir Valley - A Hidden Gem in the Heart of Chitral

Nestled in the heart of the Karakoram Range in Pakistan lies the beautiful Birir Valley. This lesser-known valley is part of the trio of valleys that form the Chitral District, the other two being Bumburet and Rumbur. Despite its relatively unexplored status, Birir Valley offers an exotic blend of natural beauty, historical significance, and rich cultural heritage.

Natural Beauty

Birir Valley is a spectacle of untouched beauty. The valley has lush green landscapes, pristine water streams, and abundant wildlife. The towering snow-capped peaks of the Karakoram Range provide a breathtaking backdrop to the valley, while the dense forests of deodar, pine, and walnut trees add to its picturesque beauty. The valley blooms in different shades throughout the year – the soft pinks of peach blossoms in spring, the vibrant greens of summer, the golden hues of autumn, and the mesmerizing whites of winter.

The valley boasts some of the most diverse flora and fauna. It is a paradise for nature enthusiasts and bird watchers, as it hosts several species of birds, including eagles, hawks, and sparrows. The region has unique wildlife like snow leopards, Himalayan brown bears, and ibex.

Historical Significance

Beyond its natural allure, Birir Valley is steeped in historical significance. The valley is home to the Kalash people, an indigenous community known for its unique culture and traditions. The Kalash people are believed to be descendants of Alexander the Great's soldiers, and their customs, language, and dress are distinct from the surrounding communities.

The remnants of ancient civilizations are scattered throughout the valley. These include centuries-old wooden mosques, fortresses, and watchtowers. The valley's architecture is fascinating, featuring intricate woodwork and unique construction techniques that have withstood the test of time.

Culture and Traditions

The heart of Birir Valley lies in its vibrant culture. The people of Kalash despite their small numbers, have managed to preserve their unique culture and traditions. They

celebrate several festivals throughout the year, the most famous being the Chilam Joshi festival in spring, a celebration of life, music, and dance.

The local cuisine is another aspect of the valley's cultural richness. The food is primarily organic, with dishes made from locally grown crops and livestock. The most popular dishes include Shisarooti, a traditional bread, and Palao, a meat and rice dish. Homemade dairy products like cheese and butter are also a main part of their diet.

Adventure and Trekking

For adventure seekers, Birir Valley has much to offer. It serves as the starting point for several trekking routes, leading to some of the highest peaks of the Karakoram Range. The treks vary in difficulty, offering something for both seasoned trekkers and beginners.

The valley's terrain is ideal for adventure activities like fishing, camping, and horse riding. Its untouched landscapes and serene surroundings make it a perfect place for stargazing, away from the city's light pollution.

Conclusion

The Birir Valley is a hidden gem, offering a glimpse into a unique and vibrant culture and breathtaking natural beauty. Those willing to venture off the beaten path must visit Birir Valley. The valley offers an unforgettable experience that will leave travelers with cherished memories and a deep appreciation for the beauty and diversity of Pakistan.

Chitral Fort

The Chitral Fort is a fortification in Chitral town, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The fort is situated on the banks of the Chitral River. The fort has a commanding position on the river and is believed to have been built in 1774 during the reign of Mohtaram Shah Katur II and restored in 1911 by His Highness Sir Shuja ul-Mulk. The compound used to house the barracks of the guards of Mehtar of Chitral.

The fort was declared as the personal property of the last ruler of Chitral following the merger of Chitral State in 1969. It is now occupied by the current ceremonial Mehtar, Fateh-ul-Mulk Ali Nasir who has renovated the old Darbar Hall and staterooms following damage sustained during the earthquake of 2015.

The Chitral Fort is a fortification in Chitral town, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.[1] The fort is situated on the banks of the Chitral River. Chitral Fort, City of Chitral was

constructed by Maharaja of Parmar Rajputs, before the 3rd century, which occupied the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. In the 3rd century AD, Kanishka, the ruler of the Kushan Empire, occupied Chitral. In the 4th century AD, the Chinese overran the valley. Raees rule over Chitral began in 1320 and came to an end in the 15th century. From 1571 onwards Chitral was the capital of the princely state of Chitral under the rule of the Katur Dynasty[2].

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Chitral Expedition

Chitral Fort in 1895

The Chitral Expedition was a military expedition in 1895 sent by the British authorities to relieve the fort which was under siege after a local coup. After the death of the old ruler, power changed hands several times. An intervening British force of about 400 men was besieged in the fort until it was relieved by two expeditions, a small one from Gilgit and a larger one from Peshawar

Chitral Gol National Park

Chitral Gol National Park was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1979 and a National Park in 1984. This 7750-hectare area lies just west of the Town of Chitral, encompassing the watershed of Chitral Gol.

Chitral Gol National Park is surrounded by high Hindukush peaks and is a habitat of a number of wildlife like Kashmir Markhor, Ibex, Snow Leopard, Lynx, Chakor, Ram Chakor, Pheasant and a large variety of birds and wild animals. National bird of Pakistan, Chakor, National animal of Pakistan, Markhor, National flower Jasmin and National Tree, Diyar are also found in Chitral Gol National Park.