

KACHAN VALLEY

Holiday in Kachan Valley, the Himalayan hide-away situated northeast of Hozoro district of KP Province, is an unforgettable experience. Its mountains, doles, lakes, waterfalls, streams, and glaciers are still in an unbelivable pristine state, an unspoiled paradise. The Valley extends for 155 km rising from an elevation of 2,154 meters to its highest point, the Babusar Pass (4,173 m). Kachan is at its best in the summer months (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 Noran, snowbound throughout the winter, is open right up to Babusar Pass.



Lalazar, Kachan Valley

mountains - 5,291 m). You can go fishing or boating in the lake and hear the local legend about Prince Saiful Moluk who fell in love with a fairy. Further up are quaint woodland villages, Battakundi, Buruwai, Bosal, Gittidos and Lalazar. At a distance of 19 km from Noran, Lalazar is unique place for a day excursion, by jeep. **LOVELY LAKES & MEADOWS:** If you love hiking, trekking, or fishing, then Kachan Valley is like heaven. There are many lakes and meadows high up in the mountains waiting for you. Some of them are: Lake Lulusor, Lake Dodpatson, Donna Meadows, Sharor, Sri Poya, Makra Peak, Malika Parbat, and Musa Ka Musala (Prayer Mat of Prophet Moses).

HOW TO GET THERE: Kachan Valley is accessible by road from Rawalpindi/Islamabad and Peshawar. The Kachan Valley is blocked at the end by high mountains but a pass lets the jeepable road snakes over into Chilos Valley. This is a 1,73 m high Babusar Pass, which commands the whole Kachan panorama as well as gives you, on a clear day, glimpses of Nango Parbat (the Noker Mountain) glistening at 8,126 m. Transport can be availed by Rawalpindi (Faizabad/Pirwadhai) bus terminal. (www.bookkoru.com / www.bookme.pk / www.tourism.gov.pk)

WHERE TO STAY: There are many luxury and moderately priced hotels, motels in Kachan Valley at Balakot, Shogran, Kachan, and Noran. (www.booking.com / www.bookme.pk / 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, Leepo, Rawalakot, Banjosa, Samohi & Boghsar 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 climbing, trekking, mountaineering, summer camping and hiking. Blessed with river & streams, it offers great potential for white water sports, especially rafting, canoeing and kayaking. Azad Kashmir has a varied wildlife including Leopard, Himalayan Bear, Ibex, Grey Goral, Musk Deer, Koshmir Stag, Monal Pheasant, Western Tragopan, Snow Pheasant, Red-led Partridge (Chakor), Black Koklas Pheasant, Peacock, Eagle, Dusk Markhor etc.

WHAT TO SEE?

KAGHAN & NARAN: Kaghan Village has given its name to the whole Valley. It's 64 km from Balakot at an altitude of 2,039 m. Noran is the main tourist attraction of the valley. It is linked with Balakot by 88 km long metalled road. It takes 4 hours by car to reach Noran. Noran serves as a base for the whole valley. From here, you can ride jeep or horse or hike to several picturesque lakes, valleys, and peaks. The journey through the valley by the side of Kunhar river is indeed a unique experience.

SIRAN VALLEY: It is accessible through KKH via Shinkriki. There is a jeep trek form Daddar along the Siran River to Jabori (Forest Rest House), Nodi (Rest House) and to Sharor in Kachan Valley. **LAKE SAIFUL MALUK & LAZAR:** Lake Saiful Muluk has a touch of the unreal about it, nestled 3,206 meters high in the shadow of the Malika Parbat (Queen of the



Chitto Katho Lake

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 Bomba 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 are: Pir Chonnis, Shehend Gal and Potika. **NEELUM VALLEY:** About 240 kilometers long picturesque Neelum Valley is situated to the North & North East of Muzaffarabad. Running parallel to the Kachan 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, Salkholo, Athmaqan, Karen, Dowarion, Sharda & Kel. **JHELUM VALLEY:** The curling river flows through from East to West between the high green mountain of this valley and joins the river Neelum at Domel near Muzaffarabad. A 59 Km long metalled road runs along the river Jhelum from Muzaffarabad to Chakothi close to line of control (LOC). Places of interest: Jhelum Valley include: Gorha Dapota, Chinar, Chakothi, Chikkar, Loon Bogia, and Dungan & Donna. **LEEPA VALLEY:** This is the most fascinating & loveliest valley. A metalled road branches off for Leepa from Nally, 45 kms from Muzaffarabad, climbs over the Reshian Goli (3,200 m) and then descends to 1,677 m on the other side into the Leepa Valley. The valley remains open for domestic tourists from May to November. **Places of tourist interest in this valley are:** Leepa, Dao Khan, Chonanion etc. **POONCH & SUDHNOTI:** Places of interest in both of

these districts are: Rowalakot, Poniola, Bonjosa, Chottogola, Koyion, Ghorimor, Tatta Poni, Pullondri, Tarorkhal, Alibod etc. **BAGH & KOTL:** District Bagh, is rich in variegated natural beauty. Bagh, Dhierkot, Sudhan Gal, Hanse Chowki, Neela Butt, Los Donna, Mohammud Gal, Sudhan Gal, Kohatu, Hovally and Gangotri are the main attractions. Kotli is located at a distance of 141 kms from Rawalpindi/ Islamabad via Sehnsa, Holar and Kohatu. It is linked with Mirpur by two metalled roads, one via Rajdhani (90 kms) and the other via Chorholi. It is also directly linked with Rowalakot via Trorkhal (82 kms). Places of interest are: Teendo, Hajabod, Khoiratta, Fethpur, Korela Moljan etc. **MIRPUR & BHIMBER:** It is situated at an elevation of 459 m. It is linked with G.T. Road ot Dina, a small town about 15 kms short of Jhelum city. The construction of Mangla Dam converted the old Mirpur town into a big artificial lake and effected a population of about 50,000. But it paved the way for existing new Mirpur town situated on the bank of Mangla Lake. The city is well planned and buildings are mostly of modern design. Mirpur has developed into an industrial city very rapidly. Places of interest around Mirpur are: Mangla Dam, Ramkot Fort etc. Bhimber was mentioned by Mughal Emperor, "Jahangir" in his book "Luzi-e-Johangir". It falls on the route that was followed by the Mughals for their frequent visits to the Kashmari Valley. Bhimber town is located at a distance of 50 kms from Mirpur and 166 kms from Rawalpindi. Places of interest are: Bosphor, Jandi Chontora etc. **PERMITS:** Domestic tourists can visit Azad Jammu & Kashmir without any restriction. However, they are advised to keep their identity with them. Foreign tourists are only allowed to visit following places with permit: Dhierkot, Rowalakot, Chotta gal, Chikkor, Dookhan, Mongla, Sehnsa, and Holar. Permits are issued by the Department of tourism AJK at Muzaffarabad (www.ojktourism.gov.pk) +92-5822-921421).

WHERE TO STAY: There are luxury and moderately priced hotels, motels, and rest houses in tourist destination areas of AJ&K (www.booking.com / www.bookme.pk / www.tourism.gov.pk)

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT TO BUY

In northern areas of Pakistan, you can buy Patti (hand-woven woolen cloth), jackets, woolcoats and traditional caps which are very popular among travellers. Other interesting items are silk woolen cloths, woolen shawls, wood carving, Papier Moshie, 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, peers, 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
Bumboret	0943
Khoplu	05816



Khorpocho Fort Skardu

- Important Links:**
- Federal Tourism Department / Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC): www.tourism.gov.pk
 - Tourism Department Punjab: www.tdcg.gov.pk
 - Tourism Department Sindh: www.stdc.gov.pk
 - Tourism Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP): www.kptourism.com
 - Tourism Department Gilgit-Baltistan (GB): www.visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk
 - Tourism Department Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK): www.ojktourism.gov.pk
 - Tourism Department Balochistan: www.tourismbalochistan.gov.pk
 - Online Visa Application: www.visa.nadra.gov.pk/list-of-peaks
 - List of Peaks: www.visa.nadra.gov.pk/list-of-treks
 - Useful Publications: www.tourism.gov.pk/publications.html
 - Useful Publications: www.stdp.org/publications
 - Pakistan International Airlines (PIA): www.piacom.com
 - Hotels Booking: www.booking.com
 - Buses & Hotels Booking: www.bookme.pk
 - Buses & Events Booking: www.bookkoru.com

- IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**
- PTD 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 Free Ambulance: 115
 - Child Missing Complaint & Response Centre: 1138
 - Mobile Snatched/Stolen/Lost/Mobile: 1102
 - National Highways & Motorway Police: 130
 - Pakistan Meteorological Department: +92-51-9250367 27

