



Pakistan Panorama



PAKISTAN PANORAMA

MOUNTAINS, CULTURE & ADVENTURE AWAIT

14 DAYS

VIBRANT CULTURE & MAJESTIC PEAKS

 **DEPARTS FROM:**
ISLAMABAD

GROUP MAX

8 PEOPLE



PHYSICAL LEVEL

MORE ADVENTUROUS

Pakistan is a land of unparalleled beauty, cultural richness, and warm and welcoming people. This perfect-time-of-year odyssey offers a truly immersive travel experience. Think palaces, forts, mosques, lakes, tribal villages, and monuments - all within an astonishing world of towering peaks, deep valleys and glacial wonderlands.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Manthal Buddha Rock
- Khaplu Palace and Fort
- Hushe Valley
- Shigar Fort
- Amburiq Mosque
- Three Mountains Lookout
- Gilgit Bazaar
- Altit & Baltit Forts
- Karimabad Ancient Village
- Hopper Glacier
- Duikar Lookout at Sunset
- Attabad Lake Cruise
- Gulmit Women's Weaving Centre
- Gulmit Traditional House Visit
- Passu Village Walk
- Hussaini Suspension Bridge
- Shimshal Valley
- Local Family Lunch Gulmit
- Islamabad Faisal Mosque
- Lok Virsa Cultural Museum
- Pakistan Monument
- Islamabad Truck Art Workshops

MEET YOUR HOST



Every Byroads tour is supported by an experienced Byroads Escort - a true travel professional with a genuine passion for travel and people. They take care of all the nitty-gritty details to ensure your trip runs smoothly - and you can focus on enjoying the moment.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: MON 21JUN27 - ISLAMABAD

Arrive at Islamabad International Airport and transfer to your hotel in Pakistan's modern capital. Take time to unwind after your journey and settle into your surroundings. In the evening, meet your fellow travellers for a pre-departure briefing—an ideal chance to get to know the group and gain insights into the extraordinary adventure ahead.

The 108 Hotel (or similar)

DAY 2: TUE 22JUN27 - ISLAMABAD - SKARDU - KHAPLU

Start your journey with one of the most scenic flights on earth, soaring from Islamabad to Skardu over a jaw-dropping panorama of the Himalaya and Karakoram ranges. On arrival, stretch your legs with a visit to the ancient Buddhist rock carvings at Manthal—an evocative link to the region's pre-Islamic history. Then follow the Shyok River, a tributary of the Indus, through a dramatic mountain corridor to the remote town of Khaplu. Here, explore the beautifully restored Khaplu Fort, once the residence of local royalty and now a charming heritage hotel. Absorb the rich history and intricate architecture before enjoying a peaceful evening in this atmospheric setting. (B)

Serena Khaplu Palace Hotel (or similar)

DAY 3: WED 23JUN27 - KHAPLU - HUSHE VALLEY - KHAPLU

Venture into the stunning wilderness of the Hushe Valley, a hidden paradise nestled at the edge of the Karakoram. Drive past cascading streams, fields of apricot trees, and glaciated peaks as you make your way into this pristine and rarely visited corner of Pakistan. On arrival, enjoy a gentle walk around Hushe village—a real highlight of the day. Here, you'll meet the warm-hearted locals, witness the simple and traditional Balti life up close, and soak in the serene pace of this remote mountain community. Surrounded by some of the world's highest mountains, including peaks that tower above 6,000 metres, Hushe offers breathtaking scenery and a sense of profound stillness. Return to your palace hotel in Khaplu in the late afternoon, the crisp mountain air lingering in your lungs. (B)

Serena Khaplu Palace Hotel (or similar)

DAY 4: THU 24JUN27 - KHAPLU - SHIGAR

This morning, set out on a scenic drive deeper into the heart of Baltistan, arriving in the tranquil town of Shigar. Set on the banks of the Shigar River, this enchanting place is the starting point for expeditions to some of the world's highest peaks, including the mighty K2. Wander through the historic old quarter, where Tibetan-influenced stone houses and narrow alleyways evoke centuries of tradition. Later, visit the beautifully preserved Shigar Fort, a 400-year-old palace turned heritage hotel that seamlessly blends local architecture with modern comforts. Staying here is more than accommodation—it's an immersion into the region's soulful past. (B)

Serena Fort Residence (or similar)

DAY 5: FRI 25JUN27 - SHIGAR - GILGIT

Today's drive is nothing short of epic, as you journey west through starkly beautiful mountain terrain along the confluence of the Indus and Gilgit Rivers. En route, pause at a remarkable geographical landmark where three colossal mountain ranges—the Himalaya, the Karakoram, and the Hindu Kush—converge in a dramatic collision of stone and sky. This is one of the few places on Earth where such giants meet. Continue to Gilgit, a lively frontier town that once served as a vital hub along the ancient Silk Road. Arrive and settle into your hotel, surrounded by views of rugged peaks and steep river valleys. (B)

Ramada Gilgit (or similar)

ITINERARY

DAY 6: SAT 26JUN27 – GILGIT – GANISH VILLAGE – KARIMABAD

Today you enter the mythical Hunza Valley, where snow-covered peaks rise above fertile terraces and glacial rivers carve deep gorges. En route, glimpse remnants of the ancient Silk Road, where stone-paved caravan trails cling to sheer mountainsides—silent witnesses to centuries of trade and cultural exchange between East and West. Admire the towering Rakaposhi, one of the world's highest peaks, and pause for a scenic tea break, sipping traditional Pakistani milk tea while taking in the full majesty of this 7,788-metre giant. Later, visit timeless Ganish village—Hunza's oldest settlement—renowned for its wooden mosques, ancient shrines, and defensive watchtowers. Continue to the picturesque village of Karimabad and step inside Baltit Fort, a 700-year-old architectural marvel perched dramatically on a rocky spur. Once the seat of Hunza's rulers, the fort's wooden balconies and defensive design reflect a rich confluence of Tibetan and Kashmiri influences. From its ramparts, take in sweeping views of the valley below before settling into your hotel. (B)

Roomy Daastaan (or similar)

DAY 7: SUN 27JUN27 – HUNZA VALLEY AND KARIMABAD

Step back in time as you explore more of the captivating Hunza Valley. Begin with a drive to the surreal Hopper Glacier, where shifting rivers of ice carve their way through stark mountains and vibrant summer meadows—a dramatic and otherworldly sight. On your return, visit Altit Fort, the older of Hunza's two iconic fortresses. Carefully restored, this 900-year-old stronghold offers a glimpse into the valley's ancient past, with commanding views over the Hunza River and lush terraced fields below. In the late afternoon, ascend to Duikar, the highest village in Hunza at nearly 2,850 metres. From this lofty vantage point, gaze out over a staggering mountain panorama—on a clear day, up to 12 snow-capped peaks pierce the horizon. As the sun dips below the jagged ridgelines, the mountains ignite in a blaze of gold and crimson—an unforgettable finale to a day steeped in natural and cultural wonder. (B)

Roomy Daastaan (or similar)

DAY 8: MON 28JUN27 – KARIMABAD – UPPER HUNZA VALLEY – PASSU

Set out into Upper Hunza, beginning with a boat ride across dazzling Attabad Lake—formed in 2010 after a massive landslide dammed the Hunza River, creating this striking turquoise expanse. Visit the charming village of Gulmit to explore the traditional 'Old House' and watch local women weaving vibrant carpets. For the adventurous, walk the thrilling Hussaini Suspension Bridge. Later marvel at the jagged spires of the Passu Cones before strolling through Passu's apricot and cherry orchards. Tonight, sleep beneath the silent majesty of the cones themselves. (B)

Sarai Silk Route Hotel (or similar)

DAY 9: TUE 29JUN27 – PASSU – SHIMSHAL VALLEY – SHIMSHAL VILLAGE

Buckle in for an exhilarating 4WD drive deep into the Shimshal Valley—Pakistan's most remote high-altitude settlement and known as the 'Valley of Mountaineers.' This rugged landscape, flanked by soaring peaks and glacier-fed rivers, is home to a resilient community that thrives in one of the world's most isolated environments. Share a traditional meal with a local family and gain insights into their unique way of life—shaped by centuries of adaptation to the valley's dramatic natural surroundings. This rare cultural encounter offers an unforgettable glimpse into life on the edge of the Karakoram. Check in to our simple mountain hotel for the night. (B, L)

Shimshal Lodge (or similar)

DAY 10: WED 30JUN27 – SHIMSHAL VILLAGE TO KARIMABAD

Follow the twisting road back through Shimshal's dramatic terrain, where every turn reveals breathtaking scenery—snow-capped peaks, deep gorges, and wild river valleys. Reconnect with the fabled Karakoram Highway, a vital artery of the ancient Silk Road and one of the world's highest paved roads. Continue your journey through spectacular mountain landscapes before stopping to enjoy a hearty traditional lunch with a welcoming local family—a chance to savour regional flavours and warm hospitality. Arrive back in the village of Karimabad in the late afternoon, where you'll spend your final night in Hunza, surrounded by towering peaks that rise over 7,000 metres. Let the mountain magic linger. (B,L)

Roomy Daastaan (or similar)

ITINERARY

DAY 11: THU 1JUL27 – KARIMABAD TO GILGIT

Enjoy a relaxed morning for last-minute shopping in Karimabad's charming bazaar, perhaps picking up local handicrafts or Hunza apricot products. Then follow the Karakoram Highway back to Gilgit. On arrival, check in at your hotel and then there's time to explore the bustling local market, where vendors sell everything from gemstones and spices to wool shawls and dried fruit. Tonight is your final night in the mountains. (B)

Ramada Gilgit (or similar)

DAY 12: FRI 2JUL27 – GILGIT TO ISLAMABAD

Take a final look at the mountains as you board your flight to Islamabad, where the rugged splendour of the north gives way to the polished energy of the capital. Today's activities will depend on flight schedules, but there should be time to further explore the city. Perhaps visit one of Islamabad's leafy parks, enjoy a stroll through a quiet neighbourhood market, or relax at your hotel and reflect on your journey through the high mountains and valleys of the north. (B)

DAY 13: SAT 3JUL27 JUN – ISLAMABAD

Dive into Pakistan's rich heritage with a full morning of sightseeing. Begin at the striking Faisal Mosque—one of the largest in the world—whose tent-like design is an icon of modern Islamic architecture. Then visit the Pakistan Monument, a symbolic tribute to the nation's diverse cultures. Continue to the Lok Virsa Museum, where vibrant exhibits bring Pakistan's living traditions and folk heritage to life. Cap the day with a visit to a truck art workshop, where colourful trucks are hand-painted in dazzling detail—a joyful expression of creativity and national pride. The afternoon is then yours to discover Islamabad's upscale shopping districts, browse for unique textiles, spices or handcrafted souvenirs, or simply unwind in your comfortable hotel. The city's modernity contrasts sharply with the mountain villages you've come to know—yet offers its own delights. (B)

The 108 Hotel (or similar)

DAY 14: SUN 4JUL27 – ISLAMABAD

Your journey concludes after breakfast. Taxis to the airport are readily available, or Byroads can arrange a private transfer upon request. As you depart, carry with you memories of mountain majesty, warm hospitality, and the untamed spirit of Pakistan. (B)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Domestic flights in Pakistan are occasionally subject to delays. If your travel plans allow, Byroads recommends adding an extra night in Islamabad at the end of your tour as a precaution. We also suggest booking an international airfare that allows flexible changes without significant penalties, in case of schedule disruptions.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

GUIDES

- ✓ Byroads tour host and national and local guides

TRANSPORT

- ✓ Arrival transfer, Airconditioned 4WD Wagons (max of 3 passengers per 4WD), 2 domestic flights, boat

ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ 13 nights (3 to 4-star hotel average)

MEALS

- ✓ 13 breakfasts, 2 lunches

TICKETS

- ✓ Entrance fees to indicated sites

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

We'd love to do it all for you. But there are a few things you'll need to arrange yourself. This includes your:

- Visa
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Departure transfer
- International flights
- Additional meals and drinks
- Cash for tipping kitty
- Optional tours
- Spending of a personal nature
- Laundry



GETTING THERE: FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

There are no direct flights from Australia to Islamabad, but Thai International fly via Bangkok, or Emirates, Qatar or Etihad Airlines fly via the Gulf. You can book your flights online or via your travel agent.

Visas are required for Australians and most other nationalities

Your arrival transfer is included in your tour cost – however, your departure transfer is not. This can be arranged upon request.

ACCOMMODATION

Byroads accommodation is a destination unto itself. We choose our hotels carefully to ensure a seamless transition from your day exploring to a night of relaxation. Think traditional architecture blended with modern comforts – and plenty of views.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



Serena Kaphlu Palace

A unique heritage boutique hotel providing guests the opportunity to experience the original architecture of a mid-19th century Palace. It has modern amenities and a wonderful restaurant.



Serena Shiga Fort Hotel

This heritage hotel offers guests the opportunity to stay in the grounds of an authentic 17th century Raja Fort-Palace. The hotel is located in the heart of Shiga village.



Roomy Daastan, Hunza

Perfectly located in Karimabad to enjoy the stunning views of the surrounding mountains. This 3+ stars hotel features a large terrace, restaurant and comfortable, well appointed rooms.

THE FINER DETAILS

DATES AND PRICES

DATE	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
21 June 2027	*4785 USD	*1100USD
*2027 Provisional Price Due to the volatility of international currencies, trip fees are calculated in USD. However, you will be charged in Australian dollars. Currency conversion is based on Westpac Banking Corporation's buying rate on your balance due date.		

Additional expenses

Tipping is customary, so please allow extra funds for the tipping kitty. This will pay your local and national guides, drivers and porters.

MEALS

13 breakfasts and 1 lunch are included. Elsewhere, you can enjoy the delicious variety of local food on offer. Meals are not at all expensive, and US 20-25 per day is a reasonable budget for meals, drinks and snacks not included.

DOCUMENTATION

Once we've received your final payment, we'll post you a comprehensive field guide. It's a physical document you can keep handy to inform your travels. It also includes all relevant tour and accommodation information you need to book your visa.

VISAS

Visas are required for most nationalities, including Australians and New Zealanders. Visas can be obtained on-line and Byroads will provide you with the information required to complete the application process.

READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS?



BOOK ONLINE NOW

(available 24/7)

Or visit: www.byroads.com.au/portfolio_page/byroads-booking-form/



Got questions? Contact us at travel@byroads.com.au