Majestrek

Hunza & Skardu Blossom · 10 days

Following the Bloom



From £2,000

per person, all-inclusive from Islamabad, based on 2 travelling.

Overview

An April journey that follows the apricot and cherry blossom from Hunza into Baltistan. You fly to Skardu and go straight on to Hunza, where the terraces of Karimabad usually flower earlier, then cross to Shigar and Khaplu as their orchards come into bloom. The only Skardu night is at the end, before the flight home.

Day by day

Day 1: Arrive in Islamabad

You're met at Islamabad International Airport and taken to your hotel. Later, visit the Faisal Mosque and Daman-e-Koh at sunset, or take a gentle spring walk in the Margalla Hills.

Day 2: Fly to Skardu and on to Hunza

Weather permitting, take the early flight to Skardu and continue the same day to Hunza, pausing at the Rakaposhi viewpoint as time allows. Settle in at Eagle's Nest in Duikar, above the blossoming terraces of Karimabad.

Day 3: Karimabad, Baltit and Altit in blossom

Start with sunrise over the blossom and peaks at Duikar. Spend the morning at Baltit Fort and the terraced orchards below it, then walk down the orchard lanes to Altit village and fort.

Day 4: Nagar Valley and Hopper Glacier

Cross the river to the quieter Nagar Valley, where the orchards flower with Rakaposhi as the backdrop, and continue to Hopper for a short walk to view the glacier. Stop at the women-run cafés of Karimabad on the way back.

Day 5: Upper Hunza

Drive to Attabad Lake and the higher villages of Gulmit and Ghulkin, where the blossom often holds after central Hunza has turned green. Continue to the Passu Cones and the Hussaini suspension bridge, with a walk to Borith Lake as an option.

Day 6: To Shigar via the Kachura lakes

A long, scenic drive back to Baltistan, stopping where three mountain ranges meet and at the Kachura lakes framed by orchards. Settle into the Shigar Fort, with an evening walk in its garden or the Hashopi orchards.

Day 7: Khaplu, the valley of gardens

Drive east along the Shyok to Khaplu, which flowers later than Skardu, with a village lunch in Yugo and a stop at the Manthokha Waterfall. Explore Khaplu Palace, its orchards and the Chaqchan Mosque.

Day 8: Machulo, Haldi and Skardu

After an early walk in the Khaplu orchards and the villages of Machulo and Haldi, drive back to Skardu. Finish the day with an orchard walk in Nangsoq, the organic village behind Kharpocho Fort.

Day 9: Fly to Islamabad

Weather permitting, take the morning flight back to Islamabad. In the afternoon, visit the Pakistan Monument and the Lok Virsa Heritage Museum.

Day 10: Spare day in Islamabad and fly home

This day is held in reserve in case weather delays the Skardu flight. If everything has run to plan, visit Taxila or walk in the Margalla Hills before your transfer to the airport.

What's included

- Return flights between Islamabad and Skardu
- Boutique hotels throughout: four nights at Eagle's Nest in Hunza, one at Serena Shigar Fort, one at Serena Khaplu Palace, one in a boutique hotel in Skardu and two in Islamabad
- All meals, from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 10
- Private 4x4 with an experienced driver, and all airport transfers
- Professional English-speaking guide throughout
- Entry tickets, permits and park fees
- The spare day in Islamabad

Not included

- International flights
- Pakistan visa
- Travel insurance
- Tips