Masherbrum & Charakusa · 11 days

Beneath K1, Towards K7



From £2,200

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

Overview

Two remote valleys at the head of Hushe: one below Masherbrum (K1), and the Charakusa, with its granite walls of K6 and K7. After a night in Skardu, you drive to Hushe and walk through summer pastures to Masherbrum Advance Base Camp, then cross to Saitcho for a day in the Charakusa Valley.

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 have dinner in Saidpur Village.

Day 2: Fly to Skardu

Weather permitting, fly over the Himalaya and Karakoram to Skardu (2,230 m). An easy walk up to Kharpocho Fort helps you adjust to the altitude, followed by a full kit check with your guide.

Day 3: Drive to Hushe via Khaplu

Drive along the Shyok River to Hushe, about five hours, stopping at Khaplu Palace, the Chaqchan Mosque and the Haldi Cones viewpoint. The last stretch brings Masherbrum into view; tonight is in a village guesthouse.

Day 4: Trek to Dumsum or Farbixang

The trek begins through meadows and shepherd settlements, about 3 to 4 hours. Depending on pace, camp at Dumsum (3,300 m) below Double Peak, or at Farbixang (3,400 m) facing Masherbrum.

Day 5: Trek to Brumbruma

Climb gradually through wildflower slopes to Brumbruma near the Masherbrum Glacier, with views of Masherbrum and a glacial lake at the foot of the ice. The moraine viewpoint above camp is worth the short climb.

Day 6: Masherbrum Advance Base Camp

Rise early for sunrise over the Karakoram, then cross the moraine to Masherbrum Advance Base Camp (4,200 m) before returning to Brumbruma, about 7 to 8 hours in all. Look out for marmots and eagles.

Day 7: Over to Saitcho

Leave the Masherbrum side and trek over to Saitcho, the gateway to the Charakusa Valley. Camp near the meeting of the rivers.

Day 8: Charakusa Valley towards K6 and K7

A day hike up the Charakusa Valley towards the granite walls of K6 and K7, returning to Saitcho. Go as far as time allows, or rest at camp.

Day 9: Walk out and drive to Skardu

Walk out to Hushe and drive back to Skardu, stopping in Khaplu for Balti tea in the palace courtyard. Browse the Skardu markets for gemstones and crafts in the evening.

Day 10: 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 11: 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
- A boutique hotel in Skardu (two nights), a village guesthouse in Hushe (one night) and two nights in Islamabad
- Five nights' camping with sleeping tents and mattresses
- All meals, from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 11
- Private 4x4 with an experienced driver, and all airport transfers
- Professional English-speaking guide throughout
- A full camp crew, including cook, porters and pack animals, with a mess tent and a private toilet tent at every camp
- Trekking permits, park fees and any scouts required
- Entry tickets
- The spare day in Islamabad

Not included

- International flights
- Pakistan visa
- Travel insurance
- Tips
- Sleeping bag and personal trekking gear