Majestrek

Skardu & Hunza · 10 days

Silk Road Valleys



From £2,000

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

Overview

Two of the great valleys of the Karakoram in one journey. You fly to Skardu and go straight on to Hunza for four nights among its forts, orchards and high villages, then return to Baltistan for three nights in Skardu, with days in Khaplu and Shigar. In autumn the same route runs through golden poplars and harvest colour.

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 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. Watch the sunset over Rakaposhi and Golden Peak from Eagle's Nest.

Day 3: Karimabad, Baltit and Altit

A day of Hunza's heritage: Baltit and Altit forts and the old village of Ganish, back at Eagle's Nest for sunset. Or take a half-day hike to the Ultar meadow.

Day 4: Upper Hunza

Drive into Upper Hunza for Attabad Lake, the Passu Cones and the Hussaini suspension bridge. Add a walk to Borith Lake or onto the Passu Glacier.

Day 5: Khunjerab Pass or Hopper Glacier

Choose the Khunjerab Pass, the highest paved border crossing in the world, or the quieter Nagar Valley and a short walk to view the Hopper Glacier. Finish in the women-run cafés and craft centres of Karimabad.

Day 6: Back to Skardu via the Kachura lakes

A long, scenic drive back to Baltistan, stopping where the Karakoram, Himalaya and Hindu Kush meet, and at Lower and Upper Kachura lakes. Settle into Skardu for three nights.

Day 7: Khaplu and Yugo

Travel east to Khaplu for Khaplu Palace and its museum and the Chaqchan Mosque, with a village lunch in Yugo and the Manthokha Waterfall on the way back. A short hike to Thoksi Khar is an option.

Day 8: Shigar Valley

Visit the restored Shigar Fort, the Amburiq Mosque and its old khanqah, walk through the Hashopi orchards and see Blind Lake. End with sunset over the Sarfaranga cold desert.

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.

In autumn: the same route, with sunrise over the gold terraces of Karimabad, Gulmit and Passu in colour, and Shigar's orchards turning gold. Khunjerab is offered weather permitting, with Nagar and Hopper as the alternative. Nights are at or below freezing by late October.

What's included

- Return flights between Islamabad and Skardu
- Boutique hotels throughout: four nights at Eagle's Nest in Hunza, three 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, including the Khunjerab Pass
- The spare day in Islamabad

Not included

- International flights
- Pakistan visa
- Travel insurance
- Tips