

West Indus Trails

Baltistan, Chitral, Shandur Polo Tournament, Hunza • Discovery • 18 Days

Join us for this stunningly scenic safari across the Hindu Kush from Chitral to Hunza . Commence midst the pandemonium of historic Lahore with its spectacular Moghul heritage then travel the historic Grand Trunk Road to Rawalpindi-Islamabad. Fly to colourful Chitral and explore the mysterious Kalash Valleys before joining the locals at the outrageously authentic Shandur Pass Polo festival. Wind through the breathtaking gorges and valleys of the Hindu Raj to the spectacular mountain kingdom of Hunza. At Karimabad spend a few cruisy days and a bit of easy walking midst the high peaks and easy going people of this spectacular region. We have a short programme in Baltistan, 'little Tibet' in Pakistan before flying out to Islamabad and concluding.



West Indus Trails TRIP DETAILS

2010 Departures

Escorted Small group

- 1st July - 18th July

Trip Price : NZD4900pp

Private Departures

- June
- August
- September

Trip Price : Price on application

Private departures do not coincide with the Shandur Polo Tournament

Trip Length: 18 Days

Activity Type: Discovery

Link to China Beyond
the Wall

WHATS INVOLVED IN THIS ITINERARY

• ROUTE

Includes Lahore, Rawalpindi-Islamabad, Chitral, Kalash Valleys, Shandur Polo Festival, Gilgit, Hunza, Skardu.

This journey is by air conditioned coach and 4x4 soft top jeep for the overland crossing of the Hindu Raj mountains from Chitral to Gilgit, Hunza and Skardu. 2 nights fully supported camping (one at Shandur pass (3810m) for the Polo final). There are plenty of options for walks and leisure time along the way and some optional day walks at Karimabad and are included.

• GROUP SIZE and ESCORTS

The maximum group size is 12 people. This itinerary is accompanied by Saeed Jan, our Gilgit based partner

Private departures may either be fully or partially escorted by our local guides depending on your preference.

• ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable tourist standard hotels and guesthouses (en suite).

There are 2 nights 'fully supported' camping

Single room supplement To be confirmed

• INCLUSIONS

Our group departure prices are fully inclusive. Meals, local flights, road and rail transportation, entries and transfers are included. There are no hidden costs, no supplementary extras and no add-ons apply to any of the services associated with the advertised programme once it commences.

Meal plans for Private departures are flexible.



Itinerary at a Glance :

01-July-10 Arrive Lahore

Arrive in Lahore and transfer to hotel.

02-July-10 Lahore

Full day sightseeing including Lahore Fort, Badshahi Mosque, Delhi Gate Bazaar and Shalimar Gardens.

03-July-10 To Islamabad

This morning we are off up the Grand Trunk Road for the journey to Rawalpindi-Islamabad. Arrive in Islamabad PM and late PM make a short sightseeing tour.



04-July-10 To Chitral

This morning we take a flight across the HinduKush mountains to Chitral. PM a short tour of Chitral and then free time to explore the Bazaar.

05-July-10 To Kalash Valleys

Today drive by 4X4 soft top jeep to Bumburet Valley. Time this afternoon for a brief exploration and village visit.

06-July-10 Kalash Valley

Today we have a full day to explore the Bumburet valley and walk in the upper meadows. Picnic lunch and leisurely stroll home.

07-July-10 To Chitral

Return to Chitral today. PM visit to Chitral Gol National Park for a spot of wildlife watching in the expectation that we will find Makor in an easily accessible spot.

08-July-10 To Mastuj

We are off up valley today on the drive to Mastuj on the historic caravan route between Afghanistan and Kashmir. High mountains along the Hindu kush and rugged valleys will dominate the scenery today.

09-July-10 to camp site Shandur Pass

We head into the Hindu Raj mountains on route to the polo grounds at Shandur Pass. The plateau at Shandur will be a hive of activity as Chitralis and Gilgitis barrack for their respective heroes on the polo grounds. Today we can catch the B final.

10-July-10 Shandur Pass

It will be all go today as VIPs arrive by helicopter and Chitrali dancers swirl in the build up to the A final. At the end of the day prancing mounts, skirling pipes and injured pride will triumph up here above 3000m at the highest polo ground in the world.

11-July-10 To Phander Lake

With the competition decided tired mounts make the leisurely trek back to Gilgit and we too will follow the crowd as far as Phander Lake.

12-July-10 To Gilgit

Its just a short drive down to Gilgit today. We'll check into the hotel, freshen up then set out to explore the historic town of Gilgit.

13-July-10 To Karimabad

This morning we are off up the Hunza Valley to idyllic Karimabad set high in an amphitheatre amid the icy summits of the Karakoram mountains.

14-July-10 Karimabad

An easy day at Karimabad today. First up with a wander in the bazaar and a visit to the historic Baltit Fort. PM take an easy walk by the water channel paths to visit Thread-net Hunza women's cooperative.

15-July-10 Karimabad

Today we plan to visit Altit village and fort, take the jeeps up to Eagles nest for sunset and dinner and generally relax at Karimabad.

16-July-10 To Gilgit

Leisurely departure from Karimabad and return to Gilgit via Chalt and Nomal.

17-July-10 To Skardu

We will be on the road to Skardu for most of the day. The road winds up the impressive Indus gorges to reach the extensive flood plain of the Indus River and the one time Tibetan enclave of Skardu.

18-July-10 To Islamabad - conclude

AM flight to Islamabad and PM transfer to the airport.