

SHANDUR POLO AND CHITRAL - PAKISTAN

- DURATION – 19 days
- COMMENCE – 30th June / CONCLUDE – 18th July
- PRICE pp share twin
2paxNZD4150; 3>4paxNZD3680; 5>6pax/NZD3500
prices current at the time of publication (09/02/2009)
- INCLUDES – Quality tourist class guest houses/hotels on twin share, all meals, all entries, all flights/ road transport, fully supported camping at Shandur, professional English speaking escort.
- ROUTE – **Lahore, Islamabad, Chitral, Kalash Valleys, Mastuj, Shandur Pass, Gilgit, Karimabad, Skardu, Islamabad.**

Participate in the riotous festivities of the Shandur Polo tournament so aptly documented in Michael Palin's Himalaya series and discover the serenity of Hunza on this 19 day exploration of Pakistan's northern Areas and historic Chitral and the mysterious Kalash valleys.

30 June 2009 arrive Lahore
Met and transfer to Hotel

1 July 2009 Lahore
Sightseeing in Lahore, including Lahore Fort and Badshahi Mosque. Lahore Museum and to Wagah for the sunset border closing ceremony.

2 July 2009 Drive to Islamabad
Drive via Grand Trunk Road to Islamabad (4hrs). Visit Lok Versa (heritage museum) and Shah Faisal mosque.

3 July 2009 Flight to Chitral
Early flight over the Hindu Kush to Chitral. Rest of day to explore the town area

4 July 2009 Drive to Bumberet
Morning in Chitral. Afternoon drive (2 hrs) to the Kalash valleys and Bumboret Valley.

5 July 2009 Bumberet
Full day for easy walks in this beautiful valley

6 July 2009 Return to Chitral
Drive back to Chitral, rest of day free time in Chitral to walk in the town and bazaar.

7 July 2009 Drive to Mastuj
Depart for the historic fort of Mastuj at the junction of the Hindu Kush and Hindu Raj mountains.

8 July 2009 Drive to Shandur - B team final
This morning climb to the Shandur Pass in time to watch the Polo final of the B teams. Visit the festival site and set up camp site alongside the lake.

9 July 2009 Shandur Polo Final
The day of the final. After the dancers, drummers and bagpipe bands have performed, the game will be officially started. Overnight camp.

10 July 2009 Drive to Phander Lake
Pack up the camp site and drive down valley to Phander Lake.

11 July 2009 Drive to Gilgit
Drive along the Ghiza Valley passing through the villages of Gupis and Gakuch to Gilgit.

12 July 2009 Drive to Karimabad
Morning drive north to Karimabad (2-3hrs) in the heart of the Karakoram mountains. Afternoon in Karimabad to walk around the village located in an amphitheatre surrounded by high peaks.

13 July 2009 Karimabad
Leisurely day around the village of Karimabad. Time to visit Baltit Fort, the local bazaar and just enjoy the mountain views. Visit Eagles Next this evening for spectacular sunset views.

14 July 2009 Karimabad
An easy walk to Aliabad or more strenuous walk above the village to Ultar meadows.

15 July 2009 Drive to Gilgit
Morning drive to Gilgit, after lunch visit Gilgit bazaar and Kargah standing Buddha.

16 July 2009 Drive to Skardu
Depart Gilgit for the 170km drive to Skardu, capital of Baltistan. Our route takes us down valley to the confluence of the Hunza and Indus rivers then up the Indus gorges to Skardu

17 July 2009 Fly to Islamabad
This morning visit the 17th century Fort before transferring to the airport for midday flight to Islamabad.

18 July 2009 depart
Transfer to airport for departure flight.