

SKARDU

S U M M E R E D I T I O N

May – September, 2022



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SCAN NOW



**YOU ARE
WELCOME**

ABOUT SKARDU

In the extreme north of Pakistan, Skardu the central valley of Gilgit-Baltistan, is an epitome of beauty, serenity and wilderness.

Paths to some of the world's highest mountains that includes K2, K3, and Gasherbrum; all are connected through this valley.

These towering mountains attract thousands of climbers from all over the world each year; some have even lost their lives in efforts to summit these steep climbs.

Apart from its incomparable cluster of mountain peaks and glaciers Baltistan's five valleys, - Shigar, Skardu, Khaplu, Rondu and Kharmang are noted for their luscious peaches, apricots, apples and pears.

TRAVELPAKISTANI

Travel Pakistani is a platform that brings hosts and customers together. It is a community of explorers and creative people who want to share their passion, knowledge & experience with others.

Travelpakistani is an online marketplace where tour operators and hosts can sell their tours directly to customers. You can select from hundreds of packages or request a customized tour based on your needs and budget.

ITINERARY

Day 1

1 Departure from Islamabad for Chilas

Departure from Islamabad for Chilas 3:00 am.
Travel through Hazara Motorway and Balakot.
Stopover at Balakot near River Kunhar and Kawai Waterfall.
Arrival in Naran Photography, Sightseeing.
Continue for Chilas via Lulusar Lake and Babusar Pass.
Arrival in Chilas.
Overnight stay in Chilas.



Day 2

2 Departure for Skardu

Breakfast.
Travel via Jaglot and Astak.
Arrival in Skardu and transfer to hotel.
Visit Shangrila Lake and
Upper Kachura Lake (If time allows otherwise on last day)
Photography and Sightseeing.
Enjoy boating in Upper Kachura Lake.
Overnight stay near Shangrila Lake.



Day 3

3 Departure for Shigar Valley

Breakfast.
Stopover for photography at Cold Desert.
Witness scenic Blind Lake from distance.
Drive to Shigar.
Visit old town Shigar and famous Shigar fort (built in 17th century by the Raja of Amacha Dynasty of Shigar).
Leisure time in the peaceful lawn of Shigar fort.
Visit Amburiq Mosque (one of the oldest in Baltistan).
Drive back to Skardu.
Overnight in Shigar / Skardu.



Day 4

4 Drive to Khaplu

Breakfast.
Drive to Khaplu.
Stopover at confluence point of river Shyok River and Indus.
Visit Manthoka Waterfall.
Sightseeing near-by waterfall.
Drive to Khaplu.
Visit old town of Khaplu and famous Khaplu fort (built in the mid-19th century).
Visit 600 years old famous Chaqchan Mosque.
Drive back to Skardu.
Overnight in Shigar / Skardu.



Day 5

5 Departure for Deosai Plains

Breakfast.
Stopover at scenic Sadpara Lake.
Photography and Sightseeing.
Continue for Deosai Plains.
Visit Deosai top, Bara Pani and majestic Sheosar Lake.
Spend leisure time at Sheosar Lake and enjoy views of Nanga Parbat at distance.
Drive back to Skardu by evening.
Overnight in Shigar / Skardu.



Day 6

6 Departure for Chilas

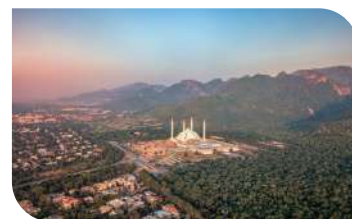
Breakfast.
Travel through Astak and Jaglot.
Arrival in Chilas.
Transfer to hotel.
Overnight stay in Chilas.



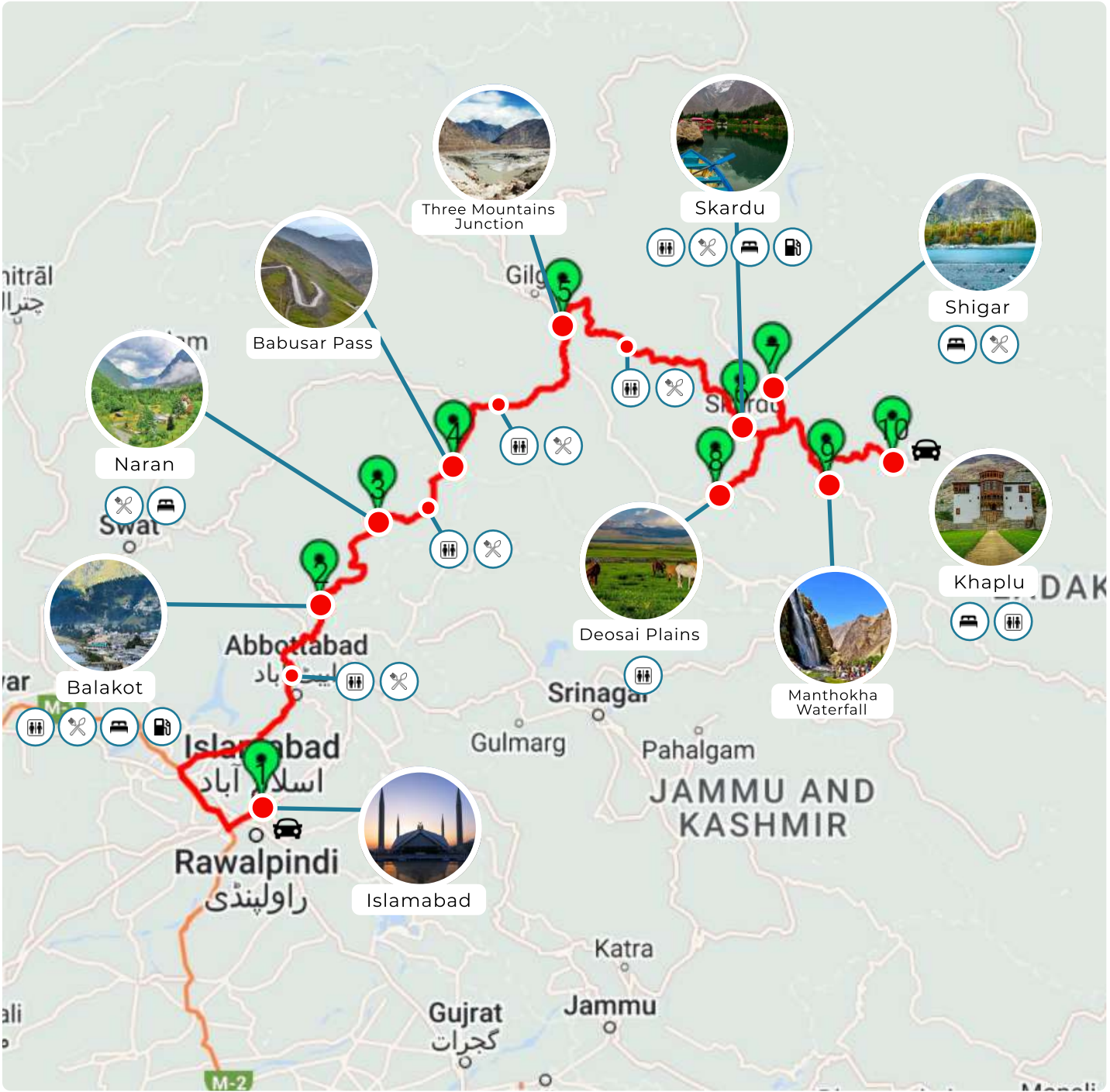
Day 7

7 Departure for Islamabad

Breakfast.
Travel through Babusar Pass, Lulusar Lake and Naran.
Stopovers on the way for Sightseeing and Photography.
Arrival in Islamabad.
End of services.



ITINERARY MAP



- Washroom
- Food
- Accommodation
- Fuel

PLACES TO VISIT

Lower Kachura Lake:

The Lower Kachura Lake also known as Shangrila Lake is one of two Kachura Lakes in Skardu. It belongs to the Shangrila Resort, the most famous hotel complex in Skardu. During spring many exotic and colourful flowers adorn its banks, while peach, apricot and apple trees are laden with blossoms in April. Shangrila Lake is located at a drive of about 20 minutes from Skardu. It is a popular tourist destination.



Upper Kachura Lake:

Upper Kachura Lake draws visitors to its clear water and mountain vistas. An average summer water temperature of 15C (59F) might make the lake too cold for swimming, but trekking and fishing are prime activities. Upper Kachura lake is a miracle of nature, peace and tranquility keeps one spell bound. Recreation sports at Upper Kachura Lake encompass trekking, trout fishing, and Himalaya mountaineering.



Kharpoch Fort:

Kharpoch fort means The king of Forts is a fort in Skardu city. The fort was built by the king Ali Sher Khan Anchan in the end of the sixteenth century. The route leading to the fort, nowadays, is not very easy. One has to climb for an hour from the heart of Skardu to the mountain top where the fort is located. The ancient structure has dozens of rooms, small and large, and a large area covered by a boundary wall.



Shigar Valley:

In the Skardu Mountains, the beautiful Shigar Valley sits. This valley is known for its history, culture, and traditions. The best historical attraction in the valley is the famous Shigar Fort, which dates back to the 17th century. Shigar Fort has also been awarded a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In addition, there are many places to visit and experience in Shigar Valley, such as Jarbazo (Blind) Lake & old wooden mosque.



Khaplu Fort:

Khaplu is an old fort and palace located in Khaplu, in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan. The Fort, considered an architectural heritage and a tourist attraction, was built in the mid-19th century, replacing an earlier fort located nearby. It served as a royal residence for the Raja of Khaplu. The palace now houses a hotel operated by Serena and a museum depicting the history and culture of Baltistan.



Katpana Desert:

Katpana Desert is the world's highest desert in Skardu, Gilgit Baltistan. The high sand dunes of Katpana has given it the name of the cold desert. As you move from West Pakistan to North the topography is very pleasing. Katpana desert has stunned the visitors with its high altitude and strong winds hitting the dunes hard. The granules of sand in Katpana desert are white, not yellow which has marked this desert as a wonder on earth.



Shyok River:

The Shyok, a wild River which rises in the Rimo Glacier which is one of the branches of the Siachen Glacier in the Karakoram and is one of the biggest Glacial systems in the Trans Himalayas. The Glacier is more famous for the dubious distinction of being the highest battlefield in the World. That the name of this River rising from this Glacier means "The River of Death".



PLACES TO VISIT

Chaqchan Mosque:

The Chaqchan Mosque is a mosque located in the city of Khaplu, in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of northern Pakistan. Dating from 1370, the mosque is one of the oldest in the region, and dates from the time when the area's populace converted masses from Buddhism to Islam. The mosque's design is heavily influenced by architecture from the Kashmir Valley, and was likely also built by Kashmiri craftsmen.



Manthoka Waterfall:

Manthokha waterfall is a beautiful waterfall located in Manthokha village Kharmang District, Gilgit Baltistan, Northern Areas of Pakistan. The waterfall is about 180 feet above the ground and is approximately 40 kilometers away from Skardu city. One has to Go on a link road from Skardu-Kargil road to reach this waterfall. On the east side of this stream is Madhupur village of the Kharmang District.



Deosai National Park:

The Deosai National Park is situated at the junction of three important Mountain ranges, western Himalayas, the Ladakh and Zaskar. Deosai plains is divided as Bara and small Deosai. This jeep road crosses the plains and goes down into Astore valley in the West through Sheosar pass near sheosar lake. Bara Deosai is the main stronghold of the Brown Bear. It is also on the tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites.



Basho valley:

Basho valley Skardu is about 3.5 hours of travel distance from Skardu. The total distance of this rough and tough road is 11 km. Traveling through this road is an amalgam of life risk and full of adventure. The best places to visit at Basho Valley Skardu are: Basho Meadows, Chocolate Rock Basho, Basho waterfall Skardu.



Sheosar Lake:

Sheosar is one of the highest altitude lake of the world. it is reported to be 2.3km long and is in the beautiful deosai plains.. The lake reflects different patterns with changing seasons. Sheosar Lake either ice covered or filled with greenery is a refreshing for tourists. It is also popular for a calm and peaceful atmosphere within the endless plains of colorful flowers. Wild animals and birds can also be observed there.



Khamosh Waterfall:

'Khamosh Waterfall', which means Silent Waterfall is one of the greatest tourist attractions. The waterfall is characterized by its fresh sparkly water which falls from a great height. The Mountains surrounding it give the tourist a great opportunity to tourist hike and find new angles to sightsee. The rocky terrain near the waterfall provides a mating spot for several fishes which can be seen in the waterfall.



Organic Village:

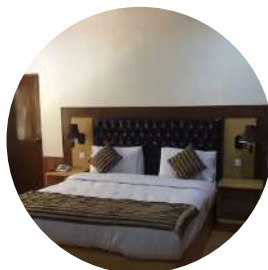
A unique small village in Baltistan towards the north of Skardu city is known as Organic village Skardu. Located at a distance of only 3 km away from Skardu city. This beautiful small village is famous for its pure climate and flora. The organic village has a unique identity throughout Baltistan for its purity. The lifestyle and farming here are still on old-fashions. The windmill is still in use here.



HOTELS

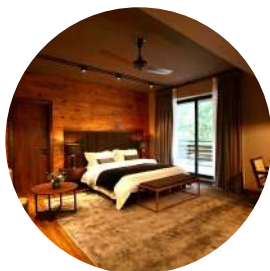
Shangrila Resort:

Shangrila Resort Skardu, also known as “Heaven on Earth”, is nestled amongst some of the world’s highest peaks. It encircles the heart shaped “Kachura Lake” and is surrounded by fruit laden orchards and flower filled gardens. Shangrila Hotel Resorts offers 60 spacious rooms which are uniquely designed to include luxurious amenities. All our cottages have private balconies overlooking the Kachura Lake.



Byarsa Hotel:

A very lavish hotel at Kachura Skardu with all 3-star amenities, a Mountain view, and 5 minutes walk from Kachura Lake, Byarsa Hotel Skardu is among one of the finest hotels in Skardu. The property features a garden, as well as a terrace. The property provides a 24-hour front desk. The daily breakfast offers continental, buffet or Asian options.



Serena Khaplu Palace:

Serena Khaplu Palace is certainly the finest surviving example of a Royal Residence in Baltistan. Each room at this hotel is air conditioned and is fitted with a flat-screen TV. Some units feature a seating area where you can relax. Certain units have views of the mountains or lake. All rooms come with a private bathroom fitted with a shower. For your comfort, you will find bath robes and slippers.



HOTELS

Hotel Himalaya:

Hotel Himalaya is a medium range hotel with 16 rooms. Hotel Himalaya Skardu provides luxurious accommodation featuring a wide area of lawn, restaurant and outdoor BBQ facilities. It is a 3-star hotel with free valet parking and 24-hour business center. Along with a restaurant, this smoke-free hotel has a bar/lounge and a 24-hour business center.



Serena Shigar Fort:

Serena Shigar Fort is situated in Baltistan, Pakistan. Known as Fong-Khar, which in the local language means the "Palace on the Rock," the hotel is located along the legendary route to K-2, the world's second highest mountain.

Serena Shigar Fort is set in Shigar and also provides a garden and a terrace. Among the facilities of this property are a restaurant, a 24-hour front desk and room service, along with free WiFi throughout the property.



Space Hotel Shigar:

Space Hotel Shigar offers a garden. Featuring a 24-hour front desk, this property also has a restaurant and a terrace. Every room is fitted with a balcony with views of the garden. All units at the hotel are equipped with a seating area, a flat-screen TV and a safety deposit box. The private bathroom is equipped with a shower, slippers and free toiletries. Skardu is 16 km from Space Hotel Shigar.



Balay:



Balay is a thick, broth-like soup made of homemade chewy noodles mixed with chunks of goat meat and dipped in a rich goat broth. It is served at the start of a traditional Baltistan meal in the Skardu Valley. Being a cold mountain, nothing is warmer and filling than soup when it's cold outside. Prague of water, Baltistan's soup is known as Balay, thick and meaty, and eaten almost like a sauce. In addition to the goat broth that forms the flavor and base, there are plenty of chewy noodles and small pieces of meat. This is a great way to start a traditional Baltistan meal in Skardu.

Prapu:



Prapu is a noodle dish thickened with almonds that have been ground to a powder. The noodles are hand-made using wheat flour, then boiled until soft. When ready, they are covered in a thick paste which includes ground walnuts and pressed apricot oil, and the whole pot is then seasoned with local herbs.

Gyal:



These are some of the most popular dishes from the Baltistan era. A unique yet delicious combination of simple wheat cakes and vegetable oil. Gyal has a delicious smoky flavour and is cooked on a metal plate, usually over a wood-burning stove or stove. There are different types of Gyal in Skardu Valley, made from brown or red buckwheat. Hidden in honey, these cakes are served with apricot oil, apricot jam, or almond and nut cream.

Mamtu:



Mamtu is bright flour dumplings stuffed with lamb or beef and spicy side dishes. It is made through a long cooking process in which steam is used instead of fire. Steamed water slowly cooks delicious meatballs. mamtu (dumpling) is a steamed dish containing minced meat (mutton, beef), onions, peppers, and garlic, steamed for several hours in a multi-layered steamer. It comes with its own sauce and toppings. The minced meat and all the spices are welcome, then steamed on the ground and served with a mixture of vinegar and various spices, it is delicious.

Marzan:



This is a winter sweet made from buckwheat flour. Residents of Skardu Valley eat it on special occasions. Marzan is a sticky bulgur paste with pure apricot oil. Place a bowl of pure vegetable oil on top of a small pile of shredded apricots, but add a little dry dough. The texture of wheat is very similar to its appearance, almost like flour or cookie dough. Marzan is so simple, yet satisfying, almost like the cold weather of this amazing Ethiopian food. This food provides a lot of energy for people who traditionally exercise year-round in the Baltistan Mountains.

Boiled Goat:



Goat is cooked with small veggies like onions and carrots, but with a little more spice and seasoning. It still comes with bones and buffet cuts. The cooked meat is tender, but it also has the muscular strength of goat meat. Nothing can beat the taste of domestic animals with farm meat. The whole goat is first seasoned with spices and salt. Therefore, it is cooked with vegetables such as carrots and onions. The meat is still attached to the bone. Eating a whole goat this way is a very special occasion, and every bite of the goat meat is very valuable and enjoyable.

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