YOUR KARAKORAM HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE
A short journey through the Karakoram (Gilgit, Hunza & Naltar Valley)! – 6 days / 5 nights

EXPERIENCE SERENA HOTELS. EXPERIENCE GILGIT-BALTISTAN
# The best of the Karakoram – a short journey through Gilgit, Hunza & Naltar Valley

**NAME:** The best of the Karakoram – a short journey through Gilgit, Hunza & Naltar Valley  
**LENGTH OF TIME:** 6 days / 5 nights plus 2 optional nights at the Islamabad Serena Hotel  
**BEST TIME TO TRAVEL:** Anytime from March through to November!

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| 1   | Gilgit to Karimabad – Central Hunza (50 minute scenic flight and 3 ½ hours drive) | Hunza Baltit Inn  
(Full board) – Standard Room  
[Click here](#) for more information  
Supplement: Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the three luxury tents. | Get your camera’s charged and ready for a journey of awe inspiring scenery.  
Journey along the famous Karakoram Highway (KKH) with its breathtaking scenery.  
Soak up the magnificent valley of Karimabad over a delicious lunch at Hunza Baltit Inn.  
A step back in time – explore the UNESCO award winning 700-year-old Baltit Fort.  
Walk the cobbled streets of Baltit & Karimabad.  
Support local enterprises and purchase local dried fruit & nuts, honey, handicrafts, carpets and a whole lot more. | Top Tip #1: Ask for a seat on the right hand side of the plane for best photo opportunities.  
Top Tip #2: Request room number 301 & 302 (they are two of the bigger ones) or alternatively request one of the luxury tents – they have fantastic views!  
Top Tip #3: Request for your driver to stop at the Rakaposhi viewpoint – another brilliant photo opportunity and perfect spot for a mid morning chai / tea. | Incredible vistas along the KKH  
[View of Golden Peak](#) from Duikar  
[Sunset on Ultar Peak](#)  
[View of Rakaposhi](#)  
[Incredible vistas along the KKH](#)  
[Views of Rakaposhi](#)  
[View of Golden Peak from Duikar](#)  
[Sunset on Ultar Peak](#)  |
| 2   | Karimabad                  | Hunza Baltit Inn  
(Full board) – Standard Room  
[Click here](#) for more information  
Supplement: Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the three luxury tents. | Altit Fort – wander around the historical village of Altit & explore this beautifully restored fort.  
Enjoy traditional Hunza food in Altit Fort’s ancient Kha Basi garden - abundant with apricot trees.  
Head to the charming hamlet of Duikar – watch the sunset over Rakaposhi, Golden Peak, Diran, Lady Finger & Ultar peaks. | For those feeling energetic consider the 2 ½ hour return walk up to Queen Victoria’s monument or a stroll along Karimabad’s historical Samarqand Cohal (200 years old water channel and 10 kilometer long) running with ice-cold glacier water and lined with poplar trees.  
**Top Tip #4:** The people of Central Hunza speak Brushashki – practice it if you can.  
Hello  
Assalamu Alkhum |  
Goodbye  
Khuda Say Hawala  
How are you?  
Bey Hall bi la  
Thank you  
Ja Na  
How much is it?  
Goosai baroomar bi |  
[View of Golden Peak from Duikar](#)  
[Sunset on Ultar Peak](#)  
[View of Golden Peak from Duikar](#)  
[Sunset on Ultar Peak](#)  |
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<td>Gulmit &amp; Husseini, Gojal Valley (Full Day Trip)</td>
<td>Hunza Baltit Inn (Full board) – Standard Room</td>
<td>An early start today! <strong>Travel by boat across Attabad lake</strong> – created in 2010 by the devastating landslide this 26km long lake offers an amazing experience with incredible scenery. First stop Gulmit in the <strong>Gojal Valley</strong> - surrounded by mountains, glaciers &amp; Attabad lake. <strong>Al Amyn community School</strong> – the first school in Pakistan to focus on preserving the linguistic heritage of the area teaching the local Wakhi language. Visit the 700 year old winter residence of the ruling Mir of Hunza, now home to a women’s carpet weaving initiative. Lunch at the picturesque <strong>Borith Lake</strong> with views of <strong>Ultar Peak</strong> (6,735m) Afternoon walk to view <strong>Passu Glacier</strong>. Back to Karimabad.</td>
<td><strong>Top Tip #5:</strong> Learn a little bit of Wakhi before you arrive. The locals &amp; school children will really appreciate it. Here is a start: Hello <em>Assalamu Alikum</em> Goodbye <em>Ye bafe borni</em> How are you? <em>Cheeg badi</em> Thank you <em>Shakhsate</em> How much is it? <em>Yem mi Xhomrer</em> <strong>Top Tip #6:</strong> If you have any spare books (English or Urdu) the library &amp; students of Al Amyn school would be hugely grateful. <strong>Top Tip #7:</strong> For the more energetic head up to the site and ruins of Ondra Fort and walk across the Ghulkin / Black Glacier to Borith Lake (3 hour trip incl. 1 ½ hours hike) <strong>Top Tip #8:</strong> Bring something warm &amp; water proof – on the return trip the wind on the lake picks up and it can be very chilly and sometimes wet.</td>
<td><strong>Attabad Lake – created in 2010</strong></td>
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<td>Supplement: Upgrade yourself to a deluxe room or really spoil yourself and take one of the three luxury tents.</td>
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<td>Gilgit (3 hours drive)</td>
<td>Gilgit Serena Hotel (GSH) (Full board) – Standard Room</td>
<td>On return to Gilgit visit <strong>Ganish Village</strong> – the oldest &amp; first settlement on the Silk Road in Hunza. Beautifully restored by the Aga Khan Cultural Services Pakistan. <strong>The Sacred Rocks of Hunza</strong> – famous archaeological site recording 2000 years of travels along the Silk Road to and from China. The inscriptions are in Kharoshthi, Brahmi, Gupta, Sogdian &amp; Tibetan and depict many an Ibex. Drive back to Gilgit along the KKH and arrive in time for a late lunch. <strong>7th century Kargah Buddha rock carving</strong> – Gilgit’s most famous attraction. <strong>Explore Gilgit Bazaar</strong> – the well known Chinese market &amp; local handicrafts markets</td>
<td>If you wish to stretch your legs &amp; breathe in the fresh mountain air walk along the water channel high above the city of Gilgit – an easy walk with incredible views over the entire valley (2 to 3 hour easy walk). <strong>Top Tip #9:</strong> Learn a few words of Shina – the local language. Hello <em>Assalamu Alikum</em> Goodbye <em>Khuda yar</em> How are you? <em>Jok Hall bao</em> Thank you <em>Je na</em> How much is it? <em>Ana Kachak kay han</em> <strong>Top Tip #10:</strong> Watch a spot of Polo – Game of the Kings! Played in Gilgit during the summer and at the famous Shandur Polo Tournament – ask us for the dates!</td>
<td><strong>Sacred Rocks, Hunza</strong></td>
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<td>Naltar Valley (Full day Trip)</td>
<td>Gilgit Serena Hotel (GSH) (Full board) – Standard Room</td>
<td>Famous for its alpine meadows, yaks, ski resort &amp; potatoes – the <strong>Naltar Valley</strong> is the perfect day trip. Walks, picnics &amp; many a photo opportunity.</td>
<td><strong>Top Tip #11:</strong> If you want to escape the crowds in Summer take a small walk for 30 to 40 minutes up the ski slope and find yourself a superb picnic spot.</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Naltar Valley" /></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Islamabad (50 minute flight)</td>
<td>Homeward bound! Or perhaps you would like to stay on and explore Beautiful Baltistan with Serena Hotels. How about staying in the recently renovated Khaplu Palace &amp; Residence or in the historical Shigar Fort Residence? We can tailor make an experience of a life time that you will never forget. Just let us know! How about staying a night in the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Ask about our city tours!</td>
<td>It is time to leave the incredible Karakoram!</td>
<td><strong>Top Tip #12:</strong> Ask to sit on the left hand side of the aeroplane – it is the best side to take pics of the over 8,000 meters <strong>Nanga Parbat</strong> and the mountainous wonderland below you. Up, up and away!</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="A mountainous wonderland from the aeroplane." /></td>
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**OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL TRIPS:**

- **Hopper Valley** - add 1 day extra
- **Ghizer Valley** - add 1 day extra
- **The best of Beautiful Baltistan** – add 10 days (Refer to our Beautiful Baltistan Experience)
- **Ghizer Valley, Mastuj & Chitral** - add 5 days extra (Refer to our Hindukush Experience)

**SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE BOOKS TO READ BEFORE OR DURING YOUR TRIP:**

- **Language Hunting in the Karakoram** by E.O Lorimer
- **Karakoram in Transition: Culture, Development, and Ecology in the Hunza Valley** by Hermann Kreutzmann
- **The Making of a Frontier: Five Years' Experiences and Adventures in Gilgit, Hunza, Nagar, Chitral, and the Eastern Hindukush** by George Algernon
- **Cooking in Hunza** by Marta Luchsinger, Julie Flowerday, Mareille Paley & Matthieu Paley. The book is available at the Gilgit Serena Hotel, Hunza Baltit Inn, Altit Fort
- **The Great Game** by Peter Hopkirk
- **Pakistan Trekking Guide: Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindukush** by Isobel Shaw
Along the Karakoram Highway
Gilgit Serena Hotel
7th century Kargah Buddha rock carving, Gilgit
Standard Room – Serena Gilgit Hotel
Lady Finger, Hunza
Boating on Attabad Lake to Gulmit, Gojal Valley
School boys in traditional Wakhi Costume
The watcher at Altit Fort, Hunza
Award winning Baltit Fort
Stunning scenery of the Karakoram Highway
Naltar Valley Ski Slopes in Summer
Naltar Valley in the winter months

To book your Karakoram Experience call us on +92 (051) 111-133-133 or email at holidays@serena.com.pk
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