

# Peshawar, Chitral & the Kalash Valleys

Gandharan archaeology, historic bazaars, mountain roads and respectful encounters with the living cultures of Chitral and Kalash.

| Duration | Activity | Highest overnight | Best season |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 days / 11 nights | 2–3 of 5 | Chitral · approx. 1,500 m | May–October |

## Departures and indicative price

10–21 May 2027 | EP-006 | Registering interest

7–18 June 2027 | EP-006 | Registering interest

6–17 September 2027 | EP-006 | Registering interest

4–15 October 2027 | EP-006 | Registering interest

**USD 1,500–2,500 per person, based on two people sharing**

## Journey overview

This journey links Takht-i-Bahi and Peshawar with Chitral and the Kalash valleys. It moves from Buddhist archaeology and historic urban life into highland communities whose languages, beliefs, architecture and seasonal traditions require careful, respectful engagement.

Visits depend on current official guidance, local consent, road conditions and community events. The itinerary never treats homes, ceremonies or people as displays; photography is always by permission.

## Day-by-day itinerary

### DAY 1 Arrival in Islamabad

**Altitude 540 m · Transfer 30–45 min · Activity easy**

Private arrival transfer, rest and an evening briefing covering the route, current access guidance, road conditions, photography and responsible engagement in the Kalash valleys.

### DAY 2 Islamabad to Takht-i-Bahi and Peshawar

**Approx. 220 km · Driving 5–7 hrs with visit · Walking 2–3 hrs**

Travel northwest to Takht-i-Bahi, a Buddhist monastic complex founded in the early first century CE and developed over several centuries. Continue to Peshawar for the first of two nights.

UNESCO status: the Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and neighbouring City Remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage property in 1980.

### DAY 3 Historic Peshawar

**Altitude about 330 m · Driving light · Walking 3–5 hrs**

Explore Peshawar Museum, historic bazaars and selected old-city architecture with a locally informed guide. The precise route is adjusted around traffic, opening hours and current access guidance.

### DAY 4 Peshawar to Chitral

**Approx. 360 km · Driving 9–11 hrs · Mountain highway · Activity moderate**

A long overland day through the Lowari Tunnel into Chitral. Frequent comfort stops and daylight planning are built into the sector; road works or weather can extend the journey.

### DAY 5 Chitral town and valley

**Altitude about 1,500 m · Local driving 1–3 hrs · Walking 2–4 hrs**

Explore Chitral’s bazaar, riverside setting, Shahi Mosque and selected viewpoints. Chitral Fort is viewed or visited only when permission is available; access is never guaranteed.

### DAY 6 Chitral to Bumburet

**Driving 2–4 hrs · Narrow mountain roads · Walking 1–2 hrs**

Travel into the Kalash valleys and settle in Bumburet. A local guide introduces community etiquette, settlement patterns and the relationship between cultivated terraces, sacred spaces and seasonal life.

## Day-by-day itinerary

### DAY 7 Bumburet and Rumbur

**Driving 2–3 hrs · Walking 3–5 hrs · Uneven village paths**

Visit Bumburet and Rumbur through flexible village walks. Conversations, museums or household visits occur only through appropriate local arrangements and consent. Photography is never assumed.

### DAY 8 Kalash cultural landscape

**Driving flexible · Walking 2–4 hrs · Activity easy–moderate**

A second day allows slower interpretation of local architecture, agriculture, craft and belief. The program responds to community events and may avoid sensitive spaces or ceremonies.

UNESCO clarification: the Kalash valleys are not an inscribed UNESCO World Heritage property. Individual cultural practices may have separate intangible-heritage recognition, which is distinct from World Heritage status.

### DAY 9 Kalash valleys to Chitral

**Driving 2–4 hrs · Activity easy**

Return to Chitral with selected landscape stops and time for rest before the onward sector.

### DAY 10 Chitral to Islamabad

**Flight about 1 hr when operating · Road alternative 10–13 hrs**

Use the weather-dependent flight when scheduled and operating. If it is cancelled or unavailable, the journey returns overland with timing and the following day adjusted. Domestic airfare is excluded, but booking assistance is available.

### DAY 11 Taxila

**Driving 2–3 hrs return · Walking 2–4 hrs · Activity easy**

Visit Taxila Museum and selected archaeological components such as Dharmarajika or Jaulian according to opening and access. Taxila was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage property in 1980.

### DAY 12 Islamabad departure

**Airport transfer 30–45 min · Activity easy**

Private transfer to Islamabad airport for the onward flight.



## Accommodation plan

Eleven nights in carefully selected hotels and locally appropriate mountain accommodation on a twin-sharing basis. Standards are simpler in the Kalash valleys.

Islamabad | 3 nights
Peshawar | 2 nights
Chitral | 3 nights
Kalash valleys | 3 nights

## Journey profile

Reference | EP-006
Edition | 2027.1
Format | Private or scheduled cultural journey
Activity | 2–3 of 5
Transport | Private road vehicle; conditional flight
Best season | May to October

## Included

- 11 nights in twin-sharing accommodation
- Private transportation with fuel, tolls, parking and driver expenses
- Experienced English-speaking guide or guide-driver
- Appropriate local guidance in the Kalash valleys
- Airport transfers connected to the itinerary
- Guided heritage, archaeological and cultural visits described
- Entrance fees to listed monuments and museums where charged
- Pakistan visa-support or invitation letter
- Applicable government taxes and service charges

## Not Included

- International and domestic airfare; booking assistance is available
- Pakistan visa fee
- Travel and medical insurance
- All meals and beverages
- Personal expenses and hotel extras
- Tips and gratuities
- Optional activities or permissions not listed
- Disruption costs caused by weather, road, flight or access changes
- Anything not expressly listed under Services Included

## Plan this journey

Share your dates, group size and travel interests. We will confirm arrangements and send a written proposal. Enquire at experiencepak.com/plan-your-journey/