

Experience Pakistan

EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS ACROSS PAKISTAN

Pakistan Mountain Giants Photography Expedition

EXPERIENCE PAKISTAN · EP-018

Journey at a glance

A 16-day photography expedition from Nanga Parbat and Rakaposhi to Diran, Ultar and the Passu Cones—combining road-supported mountain journeys with purposeful trekking and patient light.

Duration	Activity	Highest sleep	Best season
16 days / 15 nights	Challenging · 4 of 5	Approx. 3,450 m	June–September



Rakaposhi's glacier amphitheatre from the Minapin trail.

Departures & price

Dates	Reference	Status
19 June–04 July 2027	EP-018	Registering interest
04–19 September 2027	EP-018	Registering interest

Private dates can be requested within the recommended season, subject to Babusar Pass, trails, weather and accommodation.

Final pricing depends on group size, camping support, hotels and operating dates.

Price: USD 1,500–2,500 per person, twin-sharing basis

Journey overview

This expedition is built around the great road-accessible and trekking landscapes of the western Himalaya and Karakoram: the north face of 8,126-metre Nanga Parbat from Fairy Meadows and Beyal, the enormous rise of 7,788-metre Rakaposhi above Nagar, and the sculpted peaks and glaciers of Hunza and Gojal.

It does not claim road views of K2. Instead, it concentrates on mountains that can be photographed meaningfully within this route, using repeat dawn and evening sessions, trail-based viewpoints and local flexibility.

Route: Islamabad - Naran - Babusar - Fairy Meadows - Beyal - Gilgit - Minapin - Hapakun - Taghafari - Karimabad - Hopper - Gulmit - Ghulkin - Hussaini - Passu

The journey in detail

Arrival in Islamabad

540 m · Airport transfer · Easy

Airport reception, hotel transfer and expedition briefing covering route contingencies, trekking equipment, tripod use, cold protection, batteries, porter loads and mountain safety.

Islamabad to Naran

Approx. 280 km · Drive 6–8 hrs · Mountain road

Drive through Mansehra and Balakot into the Kaghan Valley. Selected stops introduce river and forest landscapes without compromising safe arrival. If Babusar Pass is closed, the expedition uses the Karakoram Highway via Bisham and the sequence is adjusted.

Naran to Fairy Meadows

2,500–3,300 m · Drive 5–7 hrs · Jeep 1.5–2 hrs · Hike 2–3 hrs

Cross 4,173-metre Babusar Pass when open, descend to Raikot Bridge and take local 4WD vehicles to Tattu. Hike through forest to Fairy Meadows for the first evening view of Nanga Parbat.

Fairy Meadows and Beyal viewpoint

3,300–3,667 m · Hike 5–7 hrs return · Moderate

Begin before sunrise, then follow the forest trail to Beyal for closer views of Nanga Parbat's north face and Raikot Glacier. Return with time to rest before a second golden-hour session.

Nanga Parbat base camp or repeat-light day

Up to approx. 3,967 m · Hike 7–9 hrs · Challenging

Strong hikers may continue toward the north-face base camp with a qualified local guide. Others remain around Beyal and Fairy Meadows for slower photography. Conditions, fitness and group safety determine the final plan.

Fairy Meadows to Gilgit

Hike 2–3 hrs · Jeep 1.5–2 hrs · Drive 2–3 hrs

Make a final dawn session, descend to Tattu, return by jeep to Raikot and continue along the Indus to Gilgit for showers, equipment care and recovery.

Gilgit to Minapin

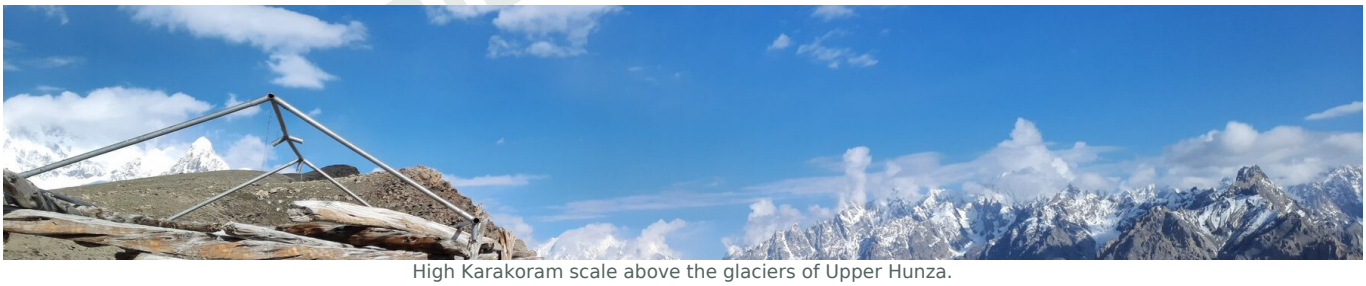
Approx. 90 km · Drive 2–3 hrs · Easy

Follow the Karakoram Highway into Nagar beneath Rakaposhi. Use the afternoon for village, orchard and mountain studies in Minapin and prepare trekking loads.

Minapin to Hapakun

2,012–2,800 m · Hike 4–6 hrs · Moderate–challenging

Climb through cultivated slopes and forest to Hapakun camp. Porter-supported loads allow photographers to carry only essential equipment. Evening light is used for forest edges and emerging Rakaposhi views.



High Karakoram scale above the glaciers of Upper Hunza.

Taghafari and Rakaposhi glacier amphitheatre

Up to approx. 3,450 m · Hike 5–7 hrs return · Challenging

Ascend toward Taghafari for sweeping views of Rakaposhi, Diran and the Minapin Glacier. Timing prioritises safe trail movement while preserving late light where conditions permit, then return to camp.

Descend to Minapin and continue to Karimabad

Hike 3–4 hrs · Drive 1–2 hrs · Moderate

Descend to Minapin, reunite with the vehicle and cross into Central Hunza. Settle in Karimabad and use any remaining light for a gentle village session.

Central Hunza and Duikar light

2,400–2,850 m · Short drives · Walking 2–4 hrs

Photograph Baltit, Altit and the cultivated valley beneath Ultar, Ladyfinger and Rakaposhi. Finish at Duikar or another elevated viewpoint selected for cloud, clarity and wind.

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Nagar and Hopper Glacier

2,500–2,800 m · Drive 3–5 hrs · Walking 1–3 hrs

Cross to Hopper for debris-covered glacier forms, terraced settlements and complementary views of the Hunza peaks. Return after a carefully selected afternoon or sunset session.

Karimabad to Gulmit and Ghulkin

2,440–2,800 m · Drive 2–3 hrs · Walking 2–4 hrs

Follow Attabad Lake into Gojal and work through Gulmit and Ghulkin, using village fields, stone walls and irrigation channels as foregrounds beneath the Karakoram.

Hussaini, Borith and Passu

2,500–2,900 m · Flexible driving · Walking 2–4 hrs

Photograph Hussaini bridge in its wider landscape, Borith Lake, glacier viewpoints and the Passu Cones. The day is arranged around the best combination of wind, reflections, cloud and evening light.

Passu sunrise and return to Gilgit

Approx. 145 km · Drive 4–6 hrs plus stops

Begin beneath Tupopdan, the Passu Cones, then return south with selective stops around Attabad and the Rakaposhi corridor. Arrive in Gilgit before night for onward preparations.

Fly to Islamabad and departure arrangements

Flight about 1 hr · Weather dependent

Fly to Islamabad when scheduled. The Karakoram Highway is the overland contingency if flights do not operate. An additional Islamabad buffer night is strongly recommended before an international departure.

What is planned and what is included.

Accommodation plan

15 nights. Twin-sharing accommodation along the stated route. Exact properties, rooming and camp arrangements follow the written proposal.

Journey profile

- Activity: Challenging · 4 of 5
- Region or style: Pakistan
- Best season: June–September
- Daily detail: Driving, walking and altitude notes appear in the day cards above.

What is included and excluded

Services included

- Hotel, cabin and camping accommodation on twin-sharing basis
- Private transportation with fuel, tolls and driver expenses
- Local 4WD vehicles between Raikot Bridge and Tattu
- Experienced English-speaking guide and qualified local trekking guides
- Porter-supported trekking arrangements on the listed trails
- Camping equipment and camp staff where required

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- Airport transfers connected to the itinerary
- Entrance fees to listed attractions
- Visa-support documentation
- Applicable government taxes and service charges

Services not included

- All meals and beverages
- International and domestic flights; booking assistance is available
- Pakistan visa fee
- Travel, medical, evacuation and camera-equipment insurance
- Personal trekking clothing, footwear and camera equipment
- Excess porter weight and excess airline baggage
- Tips, gratuities and personal expenses
- Costs caused by flight disruption, road closure or weather
- Anything not expressly listed under Services included

Fitness, access and equipment

Fitness: This expedition includes consecutive mountain hikes on uneven trails. Participants should train for sustained uphill and downhill walking while carrying a daypack. The Nanga Parbat base-camp extension is optional and condition-dependent.

Photography: Bring a stable but portable tripod, rain protection, lens cloths, spare batteries, enough storage and a comfortable camera-carrying system. Telephoto lenses help compress peaks; wider lenses suit glaciers, forests and night skies.

Season: June to September generally provides trail and Babusar access, but monsoon cloud can affect parts of the Himalaya in July and August. September often brings clearer air and cooler nights.

Flights and buffers: Gilgit flights are weather dependent. The itinerary includes an overland contingency, and an Islamabad buffer night before international departure is strongly recommended.

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Explore Pakistan’s mountains in another way

Fairy Meadows, Nanga Parbat & Deosai · Rakaposhi Base Camp Trek · Hunza Autumn Photography Journey

Plan this private journey

Tell us your dates, group size and preferred accommodation. We will confirm services and send a written proposal.

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