

JAVID HAMID

Greetings!

Thank you for approaching Khwaab by Commuovere for your travels! We are delighted to have you onboard with us.

You will find below an initial proposal for your perusal - including an itinerary, travel, weather, and accommodation information and options.

Regards,

Team Khwaab

ISLAMABAD TO KASHGAR - 20 DAYS THROUGH HIGH-MOUNTAIN ASIA

Some journeys move through a country. This one moves through several thousand years of it.

The road north from Islamabad begins in the plains where Alexander's armies once turned back, and where the Buddhist stupas of Taxila still stand as evidence of a world once fluent in Greek, Persian, and Sanskrit at once. It runs through Peshawar, a city that has absorbed every empire that has passed through it – Gandharan, Persian, Mughal, Sikh, colonial, and now contemporary – without losing the thread of any of them. Qissa Khwani Bazaar, the Storytellers' Market, still lives up to its name.

From there the route climbs into Swat, where Buddhist stupas and rock carvings mark what was once one of the great monastic landscapes of the ancient world, and further still into Chitral, where the Kalasha valleys hold onto a culture found nowhere else on earth. This is Silk Route country in the truest sense – not a metaphor, but the actual roads merchants and monks once used to move between the Indian subcontinent and Central Asia.

Then the mountains take over. Skardu and Baltistan open the high-altitude half of the journey – a wide valley of the Indus ringed by mountains so large they rearrange your sense of scale. From there the road turns to Fairy Meadows, offering the closest most travelers will ever stand to Nanga Parbat, the ninth-highest mountain on earth. Hunza closes the Pakistani leg: forts above the Hunza River, turquoise lakes formed by landslides, and villages where the Karakoram, Pamir, and Himalaya converge in a single view.

The journey ends, fittingly, at a border – Khunjerab Pass, one of the highest paved crossings in the world, and the gateway into Kashgar and China's western frontier.

This is not a trip that moves quickly. It is built for mornings that begin without urgency, and for the kind of travel where the drive itself is as much the point as the destination at the end of it.

What this journey offers:

- Twenty days across six regions, from the plains of Punjab to the high passes of the Karakoram
- Gandharan and Buddhist heritage as a continuous thread tracing the Silk Route's oldest chapter
- Peshawar's layered history in a single day, from Gor Khatri to Qissa Khwani
- The Kalasha valleys, a culture unlike anywhere else on the route
- A trek to Nanga Parbat Base Camp, brought within reach without requiring mountaineering experience
- Baltistan's opening landscapes and Hunza's fortified villages, bookending the high-altitude core of the trip
- Two nights in most places, with room to breathe rather than a trip in constant motion





ISLAMABAD TO KASHGAR

Trip summary: 19 nights and 20 days

BRIEF ITINERARY:

- **1 September - Islamabad to Peshawar via Taxila**

08:00 AM: Departure from Islamabad
09:00 AM: Dharmarajika Stupa and Monastery
10:30 AM: Taxila Museum
12:00 PM: Sirkap Palace
01:00 PM: Jaulian Buddhist Stupa and Monastery
05:00 PM: Arrival in Peshawar

- **2 September - Peshawar and surroundings**

10:00 AM: Peshawar Museum
12:00 PM: Gor Khatri
01:00 PM: Sethi House
02:00 PM: Mahabat Khan Mosque
03:00 PM: Qissa Khwani Bazaar
08:00 PM: Dinner

- **3 September - Peshawar to Mingora via Takht-i-Bahi**

09:00 AM: Departure from Peshawar
11:00 AM: Takht-i-Bahi Monastery
01:00 PM: Sahr-i-Bahlol
05:30 PM: Arrival in Mingora

- **4 September - Ancient sites of the Swat Valley**

10:00 AM: Ghalegay Buddha and Shingardar Stupa
11:30 AM: Butkara I Archaeological Site
12:30 PM: Butkara III Archaeological Site
02:00 PM: Swat Museum
04:00 PM: Saidu Sharif Stupa
08:00 PM: Dinner

- **5 September - Malam Jabba Day Trip**

09:00 AM: Departure from Mingora
09:30 AM: Jehanabad Buddha
11:30 AM: Arrival at Malam Jabba
06:00 PM: Departure from Malam Jabba
08:00 PM: Arrival in Mingora

- **6 September - Mingora to Chitral**

08:00 AM: Departure from Mingora
01:00 PM: Dir Fort
04:00 PM: Drosh Fort
06:30 PM: Arrival in Chitral



ISLAMABAD TO KASHGAR

BRIEF ITINERARY:

- **7 September - Kalasha Valleys**

8:00 AM: Departure from Chitral
10:00 AM: Arrival in Bumburet
4:00 PM: Departure from Bumburet
06:00 PM: Arrival in Chitral

- **8 September - Chitral City and surroundings**

11:00 AM: Chitral Fort
12:00 PM: Shahi (Central) Mosque
01:00 PM: Chitral Gol National Park (Birmoghlasht Summer Palace and surroundings)
08:00 PM: Dinner

- **9 September - Chitral to Islamabad**

Early Morning: Departure flight from Chitral
Late Morning: Arriving flight to Islamabad
Optional visits: Shah Allah Ditta Caves, Saidpur Village (Ram Mandir), Shrine of Bari Imam, Shrine of Pir Mehr Ali Shah, Pir Sohawa

- **10 September - Islamabad to Skardu**

Early Morning: Departing flight from Islamabad
Late Morning: Arriving flight to Skardu
02:00 PM: Manthal Buddha Rock
03:00 PM: Satpara Lake

- **11 September - Skardu to Gilgit**

09:00 AM: Departure from Skardu
10:00 AM: Kachura Lakes
02:00 PM: Astak Nala
05:30 PM: Arrival in Gilgit. Optional visit to Kargah Buddha

- **12 September - Gilgit to Fairy Meadows**

08:00 AM: Departure from Gilgit
10:30 AM: Stop at Raikot Bridge. Board vehicles.
01:30 PM: Stop at Tatto. Begin trek.
04:30 PM: Arrival at Fairy Meadows



ISLAMABAD TO KASHGAR

BRIEF ITINERARY:

- **13 September - Nanga Parbat Base Camp Trek**

07:00 AM: Begin trek from Fairy Meadows
09:00 AM: Stop at Beyal Camp
10:30 AM: Stop at Nanga Parbat Viewpoint
12:00 PM: Visit Nanga Parbat Base Camp
01:00 PM: Begin return
04:00 PM: Stop at Beyal Camp
06:00 PM: Arrival at Fairy Meadows

- **14 September - Fairy Meadows Free Day**

Fairy Meadows leisure day

- **15 September - Fairy Meadows to Hunza**

08:00 AM: Begin trek from Fairy Meadows
11:00 AM: Stop at Tatto. Board jeeps.
02:00 PM: Stop at Raikot Bridge. Board vehicles.
03:30 PM: Stop at Danyore
05:00 PM: Ghulmet
06:00 PM: Arrival in Karimabad

- **16 September - Central Hunza**

12:00 PM: Baltit Fort
03:00 PM: Altit Fort
05:00 PM: Duiker Hill (Eagle's Nest)
Evening to night (open-ended): Karimabad Bazaar

- **17 September - Karimabad to Borith Lake**

12:00 PM: Karimabad
01:30 PM: Attabad Lake
03:30 PM: Gulmit / Ghulkin

- **18 September - Gojal surroundings**

10:00 AM: Hussaini (Hussaini Suspension Bridge)
11:00 AM: Zarabad and Khurramabad
02:00 PM: Passu (Passu Cones Viewpoint, Passu Suspension Bridge, Rainbow Bridge)
05:00 PM: Gulmit / Ghulkin



ISLAMABAD TO KASHGAR

BRIEF ITINERARY:

- **19 September - Upper Gojal**

09:00 AM: Departure from Gulmit / Ghulkin

12:30 PM: Visit Misgar (Kalam Darchi Fort)

05:00 PM: Arrival in Sost

- **20 September - Border crossing**

Sost (on to Kashgar)



TRAVEL BREAKDOWN

Vehicle (standard sedan / crossover): used for the majority of the route.

Exceptions are listed ahead.

- Islamabad - Peshawar (via Taxila): ~4-5 hrs driving + site stops
- Peshawar - Mingora / Malam Jabba (via Takht-i-Bahi): ~5-6 hrs driving + site stops
- Mingora - Chitral: ~8 hrs / Malam Jabba - Chitral: ~10 hrs
- Chitral - Bumburet (Kalash): ~2 hrs each way
- Skardu - Gilgit: ~6-7 hrs
- Gilgit - Raikot Bridge: ~2.5 hrs
- Raikot Bridge - Karimabad: ~4 hrs
- Karimabad - Gulmit / Ghulkin: ~1.5-2 hrs
- Gulmit / Ghulkin - Sost (via Misgar): ~8 hrs

4x4 jeep / SUV required:

- Raikot Bridge-Tatto loop: ~2-3 hrs each way
- *Deosai (add-on): ~3 hrs each way*
- *Basho (add-on): ~1-2 hrs each way*

Trek on-foot:

- Tatto to Fairy Meadows loop: ~3-4 hrs each way
- Fairy Meadows-Beyal Camp-Nanga Parbat Base Camp loop: ~5 hrs each way
- *Ultr Meadows (add-on): ~4-5 hrs uphill, ~2-3 hrs downhill*

Flights:

- Chitral to Islamabad: ~1 hr flight
- Islamabad to Skardu: ~1 hr flight
 - *Both flights are weather-dependent*

Border crossing: Sost - Khunjerab Pass - Kashgar (*details to be updated*)

FOOD ALONG THE WAY

Islamabad

As a planned capital built in the 1960s, Islamabad doesn't have a single native cuisine of its own – instead, it draws in the best of everywhere else in the country. Punjabi karahi and Peshawari-style barbecue both have a strong presence here, alongside a newer wave of contemporary Pakistani restaurants reinterpreting traditional dishes. F-6/F-7 and the Blue Area host much of the city's higher-end dining, while Melody Market and G-9 offer more casual, local-favorite spots. Worth eating well here before the trip properly begins – the food only gets more specialized, and in places more limited, from this point on.

Our Top Picks:

- The Carnivore
- La Terrazza
- Tuscany Courtyard
- Zamana Restaurant
- Street 1 Cafe
- Des Pardes Restaurant
- Savour Foods
- 1969 Restaurant
- Bar B. Q. Tonight



Chicken karahi and naan

Peshawar

Peshawar's food culture is inseparable from its identity as an overland trading city – centuries of Central Asian, Afghan, and Mughal influence converge in its kitchens. The signature dish is Peshawari karahi: mutton or chicken cooked with almost nothing but tomato, ginger, and green chili, letting the meat itself carry the dish. Namkeen (salted) tikka, cooked without the usual spice-heavy marinade, is a Peshawar specialty rarely found elsewhere. Chapli kebab – a flattened, spiced ground-meat patty, said to originate in Charsadda near Peshawar – is claimed proudly as a Pashtun dish, distinct from kebabs elsewhere in the country. Qissa Khwani Bazaar remains the best place to experience all of this at once: tandoors going from morning to night, kebab stalls, and naan pulled fresh and eaten immediately, standing, the way it's meant to be.

Our Top Picks:

- Monal Peshawar
- Shiraz Ronaq
- Chief Burger
- Nisar Charsi Tikka



Chapli kebab



FOOD ALONG THE WAY

Swat

Swat's food carries the same Pashtun/Khyber Pakhtunkhwa foundations as Peshawar - tandoor bread, karahi, grilled meats - but at a noticeably slower, more domestic register, reflecting the valley's agrarian rather than trading-city character. Trout from Swat's rivers, where available, is a genuine local specialty worth seeking out specifically, distinct from the meat-forward cuisine found elsewhere on this leg. Mingora's older bazaar areas are the best place to find home-style cooking rather than restaurant fare.

Our Top Picks:

- The Vintage Home
- Hujra Restaurant
- Khumaryaan Grill



Trout fish

Chitral

Geographically and culturally closer to Central Asia and the Pamirs than to the plains of Pakistan, Chitral's food reflects that isolation. Wheat, walnut, and dairy dominate rather than rice or heavy meat dishes. Tsalimuchi - a layered, griddle-cooked flatbread, sometimes filled with greens or walnut - is a Chitrali specialty worth trying specifically here, since it's rarely found outside the region. Shapik and other local breads follow a similar tradition. The Kalasha valleys carry their own further distinct food culture within Chitral district - a reminder that this isn't simply "Chitrali food," but multiple food traditions sitting close together, echoing the same cultural layering found throughout this journey.

Our Top Picks:

- Al Bustan Restaurant
- Kai Café
- Fokker Friendship Restaurant



Tsalimuchi

Baltistan

Balti cuisine draws heavily on Tibetan and Ladakhi roots, a reminder that Baltistan's cultural orientation historically ran toward the Tibetan plateau as much as toward Pakistan proper. Apricots are the defining ingredient of the region - fresh in summer, dried and stored through winter, and used in both sweet and savory dishes in a way that surprises most first-time visitors. Paya cha (butter tea, salted rather than sweet) is a genuinely different experience from tea anywhere else on the route, and worth trying at least once. Skardu's bazaar in September sits at the tail end of apricot season, offering a good window to experience it firsthand.

Our Top Picks:

- Shahi Dewan
- MFC
- Deewan-e-Khas
- Yak Grill Skardu
- Cafe de North



Mamtu



FOOD ALONG THE WAY

Gilgit

Sitting at the confluence of several cultural regions, Gilgit's food reflects that crossroads position – Shina, Burusho, Balti, Central Asian, and Punjabi influences all present, without one dominating. The valley is well known for its fruit, particularly in late summer and early autumn – apples, apricots, and mulberries all feature. Gilgit town's bazaar is a good stop for fruit specifically, timed well with a September visit.

Our Top Picks:

- Dawat Restaurant
- Mawaid
- Dumani
- Cafe 1972
- Paradise Grill



Khubani (dried apricots)

Fairy Meadows

Food here is shaped entirely by access rather than tradition – everything arrives by jeep or on foot, so the offering is simple: packet noodles, dal, rice, roti, and whatever vegetables and meat made the trip up. It's not a culinary destination in itself, but there's a particular satisfaction to a hot meal here that's earned by the trek – part of the experience rather than a letdown after the more distinctive food elsewhere on the route.

Central Hunza

Hunza has one of the most distinct food identities in the entire region. Apricot oil replaces regular cooking oil in many traditional dishes. Chapshoro – a large, flattened bread stuffed with minced meat and onion, then baked and cut into wedges – is the valley's signature savory dish and worth seeking out specifically here. Diram phitti, a local flatbread, and various apricot-based dishes and preserves reflect the valley's orchard economy. Mulberries, fresh and dried, are everywhere in season. Karimabad's cafés – a number of them run with a self-consciously modern, traveler-oriented sensibility – also offer some of the best casual dining on the whole route, a good contrast to the more traditional eating found in Peshawar or Chitral.

Our Top Picks:

- Hidden Paradise Hunza
- Pizza Pamir
- Gingerfort Cafe
- The2Magpies
- Cafe Culture Hunza
- Osho Maraka
- Khao Pulao
- Dawat-e-Hunza
- Hunza Food Pavilion
- Treehouse Cafe



Chapshoro



FOOD ALONG THE WAY

Upper Hunza (Gojal)

Moving further up the valley into Gojal, the cultural and culinary character shifts again – this is Wakhi territory, linguistically and culturally distinct from Central Hunza's Burushaski-speaking population. Food here leans further toward what the high, harsh terrain can sustain: hearty grain and dairy-based dishes suited to the altitude and short growing season. Passu and the villages around Borith Lake are good places to encounter this more clearly than in the more touristed Karimabad stretch.

Our Top Picks:

- Moksha Cafe
- The Springbok Cafe
- Moksha Resort Cafe
- Pamirian Coffee
- Bozlanj Cafe
- Khanabadosh Baithak
- Yak Grill Passu
- Pizvaan
- Glacier Breeze
- Cafe de Passu



Ghilmindi



WEATHER ALONG THE WAY

September marks the tail end of summer across most of the route – clear skies and comfortable days lower down, sliding into genuine autumn cold as the altitude climbs. Layering is the operating principle for this entire trip: a warm morning in Skardu and a cold night in Fairy Meadows can be less than 48 hours apart.

Region	Day Temp.	Night Temp.	Conditions	What to Wear
Islamabad / Peshawar	32–35°C	22–24°C	Warm, occasional showers	Light, breathable clothing
Swat	26–28°C	14–16°C	Cool, clear	Light layers, jackets for evenings
Malam Jabba	16–19°C	5–8°C	Cool	Light layers, warm jackets for evenings
Chitral	24–27°C	10–12°C	Dry, sunny	Layers, warm jacket for evenings
Baltistan	22–25°C	6–9°C	Dry, strong sun, windy	Sun protection by day, warm layer at night
Gilgit	27–32°C	15–20°C	Dry, strong sun, windy	Sun protection by day, warm layer at night
Fairy Meadows	15–18°C	–2–5°C	Cold, can feel colder in wind	Thermal layers, insulated jacket, gloves, warm hat
Central Hunza	20–23°C	10–12°C	Mild, dry, clear	Light layers, jackets for evenings
Gulmit / Ghulkin / Sost	16–19°C	5–8°C	Cool	Light layers, warm jackets for evenings
Khunjerab Pass	–2–5°C	–10–0°C	Cold, windy, high-altitude	Full cold-weather kit



GALLERY



Dharmarajika Stupa, Taxila, Rawalpindi District - one of the earliest Buddhist sites in the subcontinent, dating to the reign of Ashoka.



Gor Khatri, Peshawar - a single site layered with Pushkalavati-era, Mughal, and Sikh history.



Takht-i-Bahi Monastery, Mardan District - one of the best-preserved Buddhist monastic complexes from the Gandhara era, perched on a hilltop above the plains



Qissa Khwani Bazaar, Peshawar - the Storytellers' Market, alive with tandoors and trade since the Silk Route era.



Mahabat Khan Mosque, Peshawar - Mughal-era architecture at the heart of the old city



GALLERY



Jehanabad Buddha, Manglawar, Swat District - the largest rock carving of a seated Buddha in Swat, dating back roughly 1,500 years



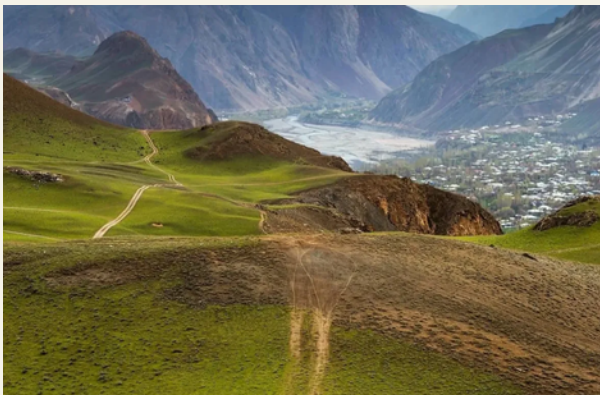
Butkara Stupa, Mingora, Swat District - among the most significant Buddhist archaeological sites in the region.



Malam Jabba, Swat District - a hill station offering cooler air and mountain views above the valley



Drosh Fort, Lower Chitral District - a former British-era garrison fort guarding the historic route between Chitral and the lowlands



Qaqlasht Meadows, Chitral District - a high-altitude plateau with sweeping mountain views.



Kalasha Valleys, Lower Chitral District - home to a culture and belief system found nowhere else on earth



GALLERY



Skardu (from Kharpocho Fort) - a wide valley of the Indus ringed by mountains that rearrange your sense of scale



Kachura Lakes, Roundu District - glacier-fed lakes known for their striking turquoise color



Three Mountain Junction Viewpoint, Gilgit District - the point where the Karakoram, Himalaya, and Hindukush ranges meet in a single view



Gilgit city - the historic capital of Gilgit-Baltistan, long a crossroads of trade between Central and South Asia



Nanga Parbat and Fairy Meadows, Diamer District - the closest most travelers will ever stand to the world's ninth-highest mountain



Baltit Fort, Hunza District - a centuries-old fort overlooking the Hunza Valley



GALLERY



Attabad Lake, Hunza District - a striking turquoise lake formed by a 2010 landslide



Passu Cones, Hunza District - jagged peaks that are among the most photographed in the Karakoram



Hussaini Suspension Bridge, Hunza District - one of the most dramatic suspension bridge crossings in the world



Borith Lake, Hunza District - a quiet, high-altitude lake framed by glaciers



Misgar Valley, Hunza District - a remote high valley near the Chinese border, home to Pakistan's northernmost fort



Khunjerab Pass, Hunza District and Taxkorgan County, Xinjiang, China - the highest paved international border crossing in the world



PAYMENT TERMS:

- 50% advance to be paid as confirmation
- Khwaab by Commuovere will not pay for external activities like jetskiing boating, horse and camel riding, etc.
- 50% remaining is to be paid 20 days prior to the event.

REFUND POLICY:

- 20 days prior or earlier - 70%
- 15 days prior - 60%
- 10 days prior - 20%
- 7 days or less - 0%
- Transportation tickets are non-refundable

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Bank transfer
- Cash
- Easy Paisa

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS :

- Bank Name: Standard Chartered Bank
- Account Name: Muhammad Hunain
- Account Number: PK04 SCBL 0000 0017 2340 8001

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Prices quoted upon finalisation are guaranteed for 3 days from the date of proposal, after which they are subject to reconfirmation.
- Stated prices are based on prevailing fuel prices at the time of quotation; charges may fluctuate accordingly.
- The charges are subject to change based on the number of participants confirmed at the time of booking.
- Every member should carry their CNIC if applicable.
- Khwaab by Commuovere is not responsible for personal injuries, accidents, or loss of any personal / valuable items.
- No refunds for members leaving mid-trip, or for natural disasters/unforeseen circumstances (weather, landslides, vehicle issues, etc.).
- Khwaab by Commuovere can change terms and conditions at any time without prior notice.
- Personal weapons are strictly prohibited.

