

# Shimshal Pass Trek Pakistan

📍 Shimshal Pass, Shimshal Pass



Embark on the Shimshal Pass Trek - 2025/26, one of the most remote, high-altitude trekking adventures in Pakistan's Karakoram region. This 16-day expedition takes you deep into the Shimshal Valley—revered as the "Valley of Mountaineers"—and through the breathtaking Shimshal Pamir pastures located near the borders of Afghanistan and China.

Starting from Islamabad and traveling through the scenic Hunza Valley, the journey features a mix of cultural exploration and extreme wilderness. The trek begins from Shimshal Village, leading you across suspension bridges, rugged ridgelines, glacial rivers, and finally, into the high-altitude Shimshal Pamirs, grazing lands used by the indigenous Wakhi people for centuries.

This trek rewards the physically fit and culturally curious. Towering peaks like Minglik Sar (6,050m) and Yazghil Sar, wide alpine valleys, shimmering lakes, and some of the most untouched terrain on Earth await. Along the way, trekkers camp under stars at elevations over 4,000 meters, interact with local herders, and witness a way of life that has remained unchanged for generations.

Whether you're a seasoned trekker or a determined adventurer seeking Pakistan's hidden treasures, the Shimshal Pass Trek is an experience of raw beauty, solitude, and human connection.

## Tour Facts

Group Size:  
**12 people**

Language:  
**English**

Duration:  
**16 Days**

Tour Type:  
**continuous**

## Tour Itinerary

### Day 1 : Arrival in Islamabad

- Arrival at Islamabad International Airport
- Airport pickup and hotel transfer
- Rest day to recover from international travel

Our team will warmly receive you at the airport with a personalized welcome sign. After transferring to your hotel, take the day to relax, explore the local neighborhood, or prepare your gear for the adventure ahead. If you arrive early, optional local sightseeing can be arranged.

### Day 2 : Fly to Gilgit & Drive to Hunza

- Early morning flight to Gilgit (weather dependent)
- Pickup at Gilgit airport and road journey to Hunza
- Stop at Rakaposhi Viewpoint
- Hotel transfer in Karimabad, Hunza

Take a scenic flight over the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges (subject to weather). From Gilgit, travel along the Karakoram Highway to the heart of Hunza. Stop for photos at the Rakaposhi Glacier viewpoint, and enjoy a relaxing evening surrounded by towering peaks. Altitude: 2,300m

**Note:** If flights are canceled, an overland journey will be arranged.

### Day 3 : Acclimatization & Gear Prep in Hunza

- Visit Altit & Baltit Forts or explore Karimabad
- Acclimatization hike to Queen Elizabeth Viewpoint
- Final gear checks & optional shopping with support staff

Spend the day adjusting to altitude and exploring Hunza's heritage. In the afternoon, hike up to the Queen Elizabeth Viewpoint for stunning panoramic views of Ultar Sar, Ladyfinger Peak, and Rakaposhi. Our team will assist with final trekking preparations.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Hunza

### Day 4 : Jeep Ride to Shimshal Valley

- 3-4 hour jeep ride via Passu to Shimshal Valley
- Travel on the infamous Shimshal Road, carved into rock walls
- Arrival at Shimshal Village & guesthouse check-in

- Local lunch and rest

Today's journey is a thrill in itself. Depart the Karakoram Highway at Passu and brace for a white-knuckle jeep ride along narrow, winding cliff roads beside the Shimshal River. Arrive in the isolated and beautiful Shimshal village by afternoon, meet your porters, and get ready for tomorrow's trek.

## **Day 5 : Trek Begins - Shimshal to Parian Sar**

- Cross the Shimshal River to reach Pamirthung
- Trek through steep rocky trails and past Yazghil Glacier
- Suspension bridge crossing
- Continue to Garsar, and finally camp at Parian Sar

Your adventure begins in full force with a 7-hour trek. The trail climbs gradually through the arid gorges of the Upper Hunza, with unforgettable views of glaciers and barren beauty. Lunch is served mid-day, and your first camp is set near a shepherd's hut at Parian Sar (3,500m).

## **Day 6 : Parian Sar to Shuijrab**

- Early morning start from Parian Sar
- Trek through rolling hills and glacial terrain
- Gradual gain in elevation with changing alpine scenery
- Arrival at Shuijrab Camp (4,490m) by afternoon

This stage of the journey takes you higher into the wilderness. The trail alternates between inclines and flat segments, with occasional glacier crossings. The landscape becomes increasingly wild, offering rare views of marmots and golden eagles. At 4,490 meters, Shuijrab is your gateway to the Shimshal Pamirs.

Trekking Time: ~7 hours

Altitude Gain: ~1,000m

## **Day 7 : Shuijrab to Shimshal Pamir - Lakeside Camp**

- Slow and steady ascent to Shimshal Pamir Plateau
- Arrival at Pamir Lakes (approx. 4,800m)
- Set up camp near shimmering glacial lakes
- Optional acclimatization walk or wildlife spotting

The trail opens into the high-altitude grazing lands known as Shimshal Pamir—used by Wakhi herders for generations. As you reach the lakes, surrounded by snowy ridges and yaks grazing on wind-swept grass, the sense of remoteness is absolute. The night sky here is a treasure in itself.

Trekking Time: ~5 hours

Altitude Gain: ~300m

## **Day 8 : Rest Day at Pamir Lakes**

- Acclimatization and exploration at 4,800m

- Short hike to Shwerth Summer Settlement
- Cultural interaction with local herders
- Optional climb for sunrise views of Minglik Sar

Spend the day absorbing the tranquility of the Shimshal Pamirs. Visit Shwerth, the highest summer settlement in Pakistan, and learn about the traditional ways of life. This day also offers a buffer for acclimatization before your descent, reducing the risk of altitude-related issues.

**Altitude:** ~4,800m

**Activity Level:** Easy, optional hike

## Day 9 : Pamir to Parian Sar (Return Trek)

- Descend from Shimshal Pamir to Parian Sar
- Follow the same route back, now easier downhill
- Lunch at scenic rest stops
- Camp near Parian Sar huts

After your high-altitude experience, you begin descending toward civilization. The descent to Parian Sar offers different perspectives of the dramatic terrain. Wildflowers and clearer views enhance the journey back.

**Trekking Time:** ~6 hours

**Altitude Loss:** ~700m

## Day 10 : Parian Sar to Garsar Huts

- Trek back down through Garsar meadows
- Gentle descent through alpine ridges
- Picnic lunch with views of Yazghil Sar
- Camp near Garsar Shepherd Huts

Today's trek is a peaceful descent through fertile pastures and yak grazing lands. The changing light over the glacier and surrounding peaks makes for beautiful photography and moments of solitude.

**Trekking Time:** ~4 hours

**Altitude:** ~3,500m

## Day 11 : Garsar to Shimshal Village

- Final trekking leg through Shimshal Gorge
- Scenic walk back to Shimshal Valley
- Celebrate successful trek completion with your team
- Overnight stay at a cozy Shimshal Guest House

Today marks the last leg of your high-altitude journey. After a relaxed descent of about 1.5 hours, you return to the warm hospitality of Shimshal. A celebratory meal and storytelling with your guides and porters create a fitting end to the wilderness adventure.

**Trekking Time:** ~1.5 hours  
**Altitude:** ~3,100m

## Day 12 : Jeep Ride from Shimshal to Karimabad (Hunza)

- Thrilling return via the Shimshal Road
- Travel alongside the Passu Cones and Gojal Valley
- Arrival in Karimabad and hotel check-in
- Explore the tourist bazaar, try local food, shop souvenirs

Experience one last adrenaline-fueled jeep ride along the legendary Shimshal Road, then transition back to the comforts of civilization in Karimabad, Hunza's cultural hub. Enjoy your evening at leisure—perhaps sampling Hunza walnut cake or traditional cuisine.

**Drive Time:** ~5 hours

## Day 13 : Explore Hunza - Return to Gilgit

- Morning sightseeing in Hunza (optional)
- Visit Altit Fort, Baltit Fort, or Duikar Viewpoint
- Drive to Gilgit for overnight stay

Make the most of your final morning in the magical Hunza Valley. Explore ancient forts, stroll through stone alleys, or catch sunrise at Duikar, famed for its panoramic view of six 7,000m+ peaks. Later in the afternoon, drive back to Gilgit for your return flight.

## Day 14 : Fly to Islamabad

- Morning flight from Gilgit to Islamabad
- Hotel transfer and optional city tour
- Visit Faisal Mosque, Lok Virsa Museum, or Pakistan Monument
- Farewell dinner at Monal Restaurant overlooking the capital

After the mountains, experience the rhythm of Pakistan's capital city. Take an optional city tour or relax at your hotel. Dinner at Monal, perched on the Margalla Hills, offers unforgettable night views of Islamabad.

**Note:** In case of flight cancellation, overland transport will be arranged.

## Day 15 : Contingency / Rest Day in Islamabad

- Reserved for delayed flights or road disruptions
- Optional excursions to Rawalpindi, Taxila, or Saidpur Village
- Relaxation or souvenir shopping. A flexible day in case of schedule disruptions. If everything is on track, use the time to visit heritage sites or unwind before your international departure.

## Day 16 : Fly Back Home

- Hotel check-out after breakfast
- Airport drop-off and final goodbyes

As your unforgettable journey through the Shimshal Pass and Pamirs concludes, take home memories of crystal air, ancient trails, and high-altitude solitude that few on Earth will ever know.