

2023 Northern Pakistan in Autumn

+ Islamabad & Lahore (16days / 14 nights)

This unique Northern Pakistan autumn tour will take you to the beautiful valley of Northern Pakistan at the time of the year when it looks its best. Autumn is a time when the landscape of **Northern Pakistan** looks like a painting, the trees throughout the valley, where poplar, mulberry, apricot, peach, apple, and plum trees burst out into a colourful riot with orange, rust, and red hues. The calm weather with bracing provides the best view of the surrounding mountains.

Including in the itinerary, you will have a mild taste of the capital city of Pakistan, **Islamabad** and the vibrant city of **Lahore** – exudes culture at every corner.



DAY 01 20 Oct	KUALA LUMPUR – ISLAMABAD TG 416 KULBKK 1305 1410 TG 349 BKK ISB 1845 2220 Arrival Islamabad Meet & Greet by our friendly local guide & his assistant. Drive to north of Islamabad to Abbottabad to overnite. Overnite @ Abbottabad Hotel One
DAY 02 21 Oct	ABBOTTABAD – GILGIT Drive to Gilgit on the Karakoram Highway Packed lunch Most of the journey today would be on the great Karakoram Highway, considered to be the 8th wonder of the world.  It is a long drive (avg 12 hours) through scenic mountains, villages, passing through small street bazaar like Pattan & Batgram. Going through slowly these busy street bazaars on your coach is quite interesting.

	We will need to go through the Tourist Information Registration Process near to CHILAS police check point. Dinner at a local restaurant upon along the way. Overnite @ Hotel Serena Gilgit (considered a local 5* resort)
DAY 03 22Oct	GILGIT – ATTABAD LAKE / Ghulkin village After breakfast, we will drive towards the upper Hunza Photo-stop at the remaining of OLD SILK Road Chalt and the 7th highest mountain in Pakistan and 27th in the world – the famous Mt RAKAPOSHI from view points.  Continue the drive to upper Hunza . Lunch @ a local village homestay (our operator’s parents’ house up in the mountain, accessible only by 4WD. After lunch, continue to explore the village of Ghulkin, Gulmit + Passu Glazier Dinner @ Khunjerav café with fried fish. Arrive Attabad Famree Resort, over looking the Attabad Lake to overnite. Hotel Famree Resort (considered local 5* resort)
DAY 04 23 Oct	ATTABAD – SOST - KHUNJERAB PASS – PASSU – HUNZA (Karimabad) Morning – <i>optional</i> : for you to take a 20 min boat ride in Attabad lake, near to your hotel on your own expenses. Today, we shall drive to the Khunjerab Pass (4693m)– the border between Pakistan & China), passing thru’ the landport town of SOST.  Photo stop along the way @ Passu and take a challenge walk across the Hussaini suspension footbridge on the return journey from Khunjerab Pass.



Continue to drive to **Karimabad** (central HUNZA)
 Dinner @ the hotel restaurant.
 Hotel Roomy Dastan, Karimabad (a nice resort with great view)

DAY 05
 24 Oct

Hunza

We will have a full day to explore the beautiful central HUNZA.

Spend some time at **Hooper Glazier + Nagar Valley**

The Hooper is the main village of Nagar Valley and is one of the most scenic part of the Nagar Valley. **Hooper village** is the home of the Spantik and Hooper Glacier....we will take a mild hike to view the Hooper Glacier.



Hotel Roomy Dastan, Karimabad

DAY 06
 25 Oct

Hunza – Duikar (Eagle Nest)

Today we shall explore the other part of central HUNZA.

A visit to **Baitit Fort** will give you an insight of the Kingdom of Hunza.



Take a walk into the **Karimabad Bazaar** where we will have a local lunch at a stall along the bazaar (local pizza)

	Photo-stop @ Altit Fort +the Royal Garden.  Drive up to Duikar, take a mild hike to the top to admire the surrounding peaks + watching the setting sun over the snow-capped mountains (subject to weather). Overnite @ Eagle Nest, Duikar
DAY 07 26 Oct	DUIKAR – GILGIT- GUPIS (Ghizer Valley) Early morning, from your hotel to watch the rising sun over the snow-capped mountains OR you may hike up again to the top to take a better view over HUNZA valley in the morning light..... After breakfast, check out and we shall drive to Gilgit . Lunch @ Gilgit town.  Take a scenic drive to Gupis with photo stops along the way / Bridge / Villages / River Dinner @ Gahkuch Overnite @ Blossom Inn GUPIS (the best available in this area) 
DAY 08 27 Oct	GUPIS – Yasin Village – Khalti Lake – GILGIT

	Your hotel @ Blossom INN may not be of a good standard hotel to many travellers, however, the view surrounding this hotel is very scenic, especially with blue sky. After breakfast, we shall drive to visit yet another interesting village – Yasin Village for its autumn colour. On the way back to Gilgit, we shall visit the Khalti Lake which is 2217 meter above sea level and is known for its' habitat of trout fish. The lake is in bend of the Ghizer River near to the village of Khalti.  Thereafter, will proceed the journey towards upper Gahkuch, a beautiful village for a village walk. Moving forward the journey continues to Gilgit (approx.. 03 hours) Overnite @ Serena Gilgit (considered local 5* resort)
DAY 09 28 Oct	GILGIT- KHAPHU We will take the road known as Strategic highway 1, starts on the Karakoram Highway towards Skardu district. Here, we will have a stop to view Karakoram Mountains, Nanga Parbat, the Himalaya mountains range. This Strategic roads runs along the River Indus, the road is slightly winding, in some places only wide enough for one vehicle, and in many places bordered by a drop of hundreds of meters unprotected by guardrails. We will stop at Skardu for lunch and continue the scenic road to Khaphu.....various photo-stop along the way.  Dinner at the hotel Overnite @ Serena Khaphu (considered local 5* hotel)
DAY 10	KHAPHU – SHIGAR Morning a tour of the Khaphu Fort.

29 Oct	Walking tour in the village of Khaphu If time permit, we shall drive to visit Machulo village. Machulo is a beautiful village in District Ghanche located in Hushe valley at the distance of 15km from Khaplu.  the famous poplar tree road from Khaphu – Shigar Overnite @ Serena Shigar (considered their local 5* resort)   Khaphu Fort <i>Machulo Village.</i>
DAY 11 30 Oct	SHIGAR – SKARDU Today, we shall drive to Skardu, have a photo-stop at the Shigar View point & the crossing bridge along the way. Ride on the Jeep and have fun at the Cool Desert upon arriving Skardu. Walk thru’ the Kachura village to visit the Upper Kachura Lake. Overnite Tibet Motel Kachura (new hotel 4*)   <i>The view from Hotel TIBET Motel, Kachura, over looking the Shangrila – Lake</i>
DAY 12 31Oct	SKARDU – ISLAMABAD by flight

	PK 452 KDU ISB 1130 1230 We will take a domestic flight from SKARDU to Islamabad (flight from Skardu (Gilgit – Baltistan) to Islamabad is subject to weather, in case of flight cancellation by the authority, the group will have to drive all the way back to Islamabad by our coach, the group need to overnight in CHILAS(half-way) before continue to Islamabad) Upon arriving Islamabad by flight, we shall proceed to have our lunch before driving to visit the Taxila Museum . Taxila Museum has one of the most significant and comprehensive collection of stone Buddhist sculpture from the first to the seventh centuries in Pakistan known as Gandharan art. The core of the collection comes from excavated sites in the Taxila valley, particularly the excavations of sir John Marshall. Dinner @ Chinese Restaurant Overnight in Islamabad Hotel Roomy (4*)
DAY 13 01 Nov	ISLAMABAD – Lahore (5 HOURS) Morning visit Faisal Mosque + Pakistan Monument in Islamabad city. After lunch, drive to Lahore (approx. 4 hours) along the M2 :6 lanes highway, the first of its kind in Pakistan. Overnite in Lahore 4* hotel
DAY 14 02 Nov	Lahore Badshahi Mosque Delhi Gate Market (with photostop at Masjid Wazir Khan) Late afternoon, visit the Wagah border -the only open-land border between Pakistan & India (Amritsar on India's side). Witness the Gate closing Ceremony (subject to availability on the day of visit). Overnite in Lahore 4* hotel 
DAY 15 03 Nov	LAHORE – KUALA LUMPUR Anarkali Bazaar - located in central Lahore, the second most populous city of the country, is famous for its architectural heritage from the Mughal and British colonial eras. Lahore Fort + Sheesh Mahal  An early dinner, depart to Lahore International airport for flight departure Flight time : TG 346 LHEBKK etd 2345 / DAY 16 ETA KUALA LUMPUR 12noon

COSTING

Per person in MYR	08-10 pax (in one vehicle)	12- 14 pax (In one vehicle)
1) Ground arrangement Twin Sharing * BASED on USD exchange rate of 4.5 Subject to change accordingly for final payment in due course.	16,270.00*	15,770.00*
2) Air ticket KUL-ISB//LHE-KUL via Bangkok on Thai Airways Fare +taxes + surcharges (subj to change)	3,590.00	3,590.00
	19,860.00	19,360.00
Single Supplement @MYR6,300		

GROUND arrangement included	Not included
• <u>Meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner)</u> • <u>Accommodation (4 &5 start hotels wherever available)-standard rooms on twin sharing</u> • <u>Domestic flight from Skardu to ISB (with 20 kg checked in bag only)</u> • <u>Jeep charges to Cold desert</u> • <u>Entrance tickets to Baltit fort</u> • <u>Entrance ticket for Wagah border ceremony</u> • <u>Entrance ticket to Lahore fort</u> • <u>English-speaking professional tour guide</u> • <u>Invitation letter and other supporting documents for visa application</u> • <u>Airport transfers</u> • <u>Transportation with fuel</u> • <u>Khunjerab National park fee</u> • <u>Expenses of drive/guide</u> • <u>All toll tax and parking charges</u> • <u>Mineral water in the car</u> • <u>Tipping to local guide and the Drivers</u> • <u>(excluded tipping to hotels' porter /restaurant's staff (payable on your own when applicable)</u> • <u>Special offer : eVISA to Pakistan included</u>	• <u>International flight</u> • <u>Travel Insurance</u> <i>(to be quoted separately depending on the age of the travellers)</i> • <u>Any other not mentioned above</u> <u>Flight Details</u> 20 OCT TG KULBKK 1320 1430 20 OCT TG BKK ISB 1900 2210 03 NOV TG LHE BKK 2345 # 0610 04 NOV TG BKK KUL 0845 1155 <u>Flight schedules may subject to change by the airlines.</u>

Booking

- 1) Ground arrangement : **Deposit MYR 5000.00 per person** upon booking
Balance payable within 60 days before tour starts
- 2) **Air ticket** : **Upon confirmation of air ticket booking.**

Points to take note :

Some places covered by the itinerary are remote, with limited facilities and amenities. We have selected one of the better hotels in most places, however, some accommodation standard would be basic but clean. One must be prepared that most accommodation do not have lifts services. The hotel staffs will help to delivery your big bag to your room and to our coach when we checked out. Power failure is quite a common issue in the remote areas.

Huge temperature gap between day and night, strong UV rays

Weather : Autumn between -05 to 13C Northern Pakistan
Islamabad / Lahore average 27C day time

Travel in high elevation areas, long distance drive & some mountainous road pose uncertainties including unpredictable weather, road blocked due to landslide or other reasons, political situation, policy changes, bumpy road etc. Tour itinerary may be subject to change in response to various uncertainties, all tour members should be mentally prepared to accept changes and be understanding and have an open-mind to unforeseen circumstance which is beyond our and local operator's control during the tour.

Additional cost might be incurred due to unforeseen calamity (acts of god) during the tour or if government imposes a new fee or new condition resulting extra charges during the tour which is beyond our control. Such additional cost will be shared equally amongst all paying passengers on board at the point of time, if applicable.

Pakistan is a conservation Muslim country, please respect their local culture and religion, observe modesty in dress code.

The autumn season normally begins from mid of Oct to 3rd week of November depending on areas & altitude.

Altitude : Islamabad (700 – 1000 m), Gilgit (1500m), Hunza (2500m) Gulmit/Passu (2500m) , Khunjerab Pass +4630 m, GUPIS (2200 m) , Skardu (2228m), Khalpu (2600m), Shigar Valley (2230 m) , Lahore (300 m)

All payment should be made payable to
EL SOL TRAVEL & TOURS SDN BHD
PUBLIC BANK
3109 83 4909

BOOKING : laura@elsoltravel.com Mobile 6012- 358 9826