



Hunza, Pakistan



School run, Hunza

## FACT FILE

A two-week tailor-made trip to Pakistan incorporating travel on the Karakoram Highway and return flights, transfers, good quality accommodation and an English-speaking guide will cost from £1,750 per person. Please contact Graeme on 01993 838 308.



# Mountain Paths and Epitaphs

*Graeme Evemy discusses the aspects of Pakistan that keep tugging him back.*

Pakistan has always been a fascination of mine. The idea of following in the footsteps of legendary 'Great Game' players such as George W Hayward, retracing the ancient Silk Route, and the iconic Khyber Pass are all part of the attraction. However, for me the main motivation to travel here is the awesome mountain scenery. North Pakistan has the highest concentration of soaring peaks on earth and the longest glaciers outside of the Polar regions. K2, at 8,611 metres, is second only to Everest whilst the imposing Nanga Parbat at 8,125 metres anchors the Himalayan Range. Those in search of rugged landscapes will not be disappointed. Travelling along the Karakoram Highway the scenery is remarkable, from lush orchards to barren mountain slopes and snowcapped peaks.

Nevertheless, there is more to Pakistan than just the magnificent mountainscapes that make it so alluring for the intrepid traveller; it boasts fine examples of Mughal architecture, such as the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore. The excavations of the ancient city of Taxila - where Buddhism spread into China and Alexander the Great

stopped en route to India in 326 BC - are one of South Asia's richest archaeological sites. The Baltit Fort at Karimabad, recently restored to its former glory, dates back to the 13th-century, and up until 1945 served as the Hunza royal palace. Walking through the vibrant Old City bazaars of Lahore and Peshawar is a sensory overload. Share a cup of tea with market traders and you will meet some of the most friendly and hospitable people on earth. Pakistan is a destination in its own right or can be combined with a trip along the Silk Route from Kashgar, travelling down the Karakoram Highway over the Khunjerab Pass to Islamabad. Or cross overland through the Wagah border to the Golden Temple at Amritsar, and beyond into North India. Whichever way you go, you're in for a treat.

**Graeme Evemy**  
Pakistan Specialist

### WEB PLUS

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Details of travel to Pakistan