

## GILGIT- BALTISTAN



Gilgit-Baltistan of Pakistan is endowed with some of the unique geographical features of the world. In an area of about 500 km wide and 350 km deep, is found to be the most lucrative collection of some of the highest peaks in the world. It has over 700 peaks above 6000 meters, and more than 108 peaks above 7000 meters including five of the highest peaks in the world around the globe.

## GHIZER DISTRICT

Ghizer District is westernmost part of Gilgit-Baltistan, which borders Wakhan strip to its north-west, the Chitral District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa towards its west, the Diamer District to its south, and the Gilgit District lining its eastern edge. The highest peak in Ghizer is the Koyo Zom (6,871 m), a part of the Hindu Kush Range that acts as a boundary between Ghizer and Chitral. Some notable mountain passes in this district are the Shandur Pass, the Qurumbur Pass, the Hayal Pass, the Bichhar Pass, the Thoi Pass, and the Darkot Pass. The Koh-i-Ghizer, Golaghamli, Ishkoman and Yasin valleys are a few of the most historically significant valleys in the district.

**Languages:** Shina, Khowar, Brushashki and Wakhi are common languages while Urdu and English are also widely spoken.

**Famous Tourist Spots:** Puniyal valley is the most spectacular valley and is known as the "Fruit Basket" of Gilgit-Baltistan. Other valleys include Gupis, Sheraqila, Chatorkhand, Khalti, Phandar Yasin, and Iskoman.

**Popular activities:** Hundarap Valley and Langar Valley is famous for trout fishing, angling and camping. The Ishkoman valley, on the other hand, is known for its glaciers and trekking with some picturesque locations for camping. The Shandur Pass hosts the highest polo ground in the world. The historical free style polo tournament takes place every year during summers. Khalti Ice Hokey Festival in Khalti Lake is another tourist attraction.



## KHARMANG DISTRICT



The name *Kharmang* belongs to Balti language which is comprised of two words, Khar means "Fort" and Mang means "abundant". The name was given to the valley during the era of Ali Sher Khan Anchan who built many forts in the area because of its geographical importance. The area is also famous for its enchanting waterfalls.

**Famous Tourist Spots:** Manthokha and Khamosh waterfalls almost depict the view of a milk stream falling from the serene sky. The pictorial view of Dapa, Katisho, Mehdiabad not only soothes the eyes but it also captures the heart and mind of the visitors. The area is rich in flora and fauna.

**Popular activities:** Trout fish is available throughout the valley making it a paradise for fishing and angling hobbyists. With a UNESCO Award for heritage conservation in 2005.

## GHANCHE DISTRICT



Ghanche is easternmost district of Gilgit-Baltistan. It is home to a wide range of historical sites and architectural points of interest including Chaqchan Mosque and Khaplu Palace - both exemplify local craftsmanship and traditional woodwork. Kashmiri craftsmen brought over by the rulers of Khaplu incorporated both local and Kashmiri building elements to develop a range of splendid structures in the region. Ghanche district has its own cultural festivities and the people of the district love to celebrate the festivities occasionally with their traditional tunes, dance and songs. The famous dances of the region are Mandoq Taimo and Ragi Taimo.

**Languages:** Balti is the local language while Urdu and English are also spoken.

**Famous Tourist Spots:** Khaplu palace, a prime example of Royal residence in the area, and Chaqchan Mosque; the oldest mosque in Baltistan.

**Popular activities:** Ghondogoro pass in the valley is base camp of Masherbrum peak and one of the most popular and challenging treks of the world. Trekking, Camping and Fishing of Trout fish are some of the popular activities of the area.

## HISTORY & PEOPLE

The region has a rich history of small states such as Hunza, Gilgit, Puniyal, Ghizer, Skardu, Shigar and Khaplu. On 1st November 1947, Gilgit got independence from the Dogra forces and appeared as an independent state. On 14th August 1948, Skardu was liberated and became a part of provisional government established by the inhabitants of Gilgit with Raja Shah Rais Khan as the president and Mirza Hassan Khan as the commander in chief. After 16 days of interim/ provisional government, it came under the administration of Pakistan and its constitutional is still in limbo.



## GILGIT DISTRICT

District Gilgit, capital of Gilgit-Baltistan, is strategically the most important territory in the Karakorum Range as it has been the trade center of the area for centuries. The historical Silk Route that promoted religious and cultural diversity to expand across borders adds to the significance of the district.

**Languages:** Shina is the local language while English and Urdu are widely spoken.

**Famous Tourist Spots:** Naltar valley is a beautiful region of Alpine Forests with lush green landscape, mesmerizing flora, snow peaked mountains, milky glacial cover and rich diversity. Moreover, Kargah Valley offers an ancient site with a Buddha statue carved on a rock dating back to 4th-7th century A.D along with the ruins of Buddhist monastery and Hainzal Stupa. Danyore Valley with its Beranu Suspension Bridge and Tunnel and Chinese Graveyard, Bagrot and Heramosh Valleys with their bewildering pastures, bewitching lakes and towering peaks capture tourist's gaze.

**Popular Activities:** During winters, Naltar Valley offers a lifetime experience of skiing. On the other hand Bagrote Valley is a perfect place for trekkers. Danyore suspension bridge, built by locals without any civil engineering equipment, is also site worth seeing.



## HUNZA DISTRICT

Astore is a historical paradise of Pakistan. Eidgah and Gorikot are the headquarters of Astore district.

**Languages:** Shina is the local language while Urdu and English are also used for communication across the valley.

**Famous Tourist Spots:** Rama Valley is densely forested with huge pine, cedar and juniper trees. Rama Lake of the valley is one of the most stunning attractions of Gilgit Baltistan. Famous for brown bears and breath taking landscape, Deosai National Park is another famous spot. Sheosar lake at Deosai is one of the highest lakes of the region. Other prominent valleys and locations include Gorikot, Rehmanpur, Rattu, Bunji, Dashkin, Chilm, Damababho and Domail.

**Popular activities:** The lakes in the area are famous for fishing and angling.



## LANGUAGES & RELIGION

The major languages of the region are Shina, Wakhi, Khowar, Brushushki and Balti. Most of the languages are considered to be related with Dardic ancestry (a blend of indigenous language with Aryans). Balti language is more influenced from Tibet. Urdu is widely spoken, while English is understood across major towns. The major religion in GB is Islam with various sects such as Shia, Sunni, Ismaili, and Nurbakshia along with others.

## FRUITS & LIVE STOCK



Gilgit-Baltistan produces high quality of delicious fruits like cherry, apricot, mulberry, plum, peach, apple, pomegranate and grape. Apricots of Hunza and Shigar are believed to be the most delicious fruit. The main crops include maize, wheat, barley, millet, potato, peas and beans. Various fruits and nut trees are also grown in the region. The livestock includes sheep, goat, cow, horse and yak.

## SKARDU DISTRICT



District Skardu in Baltistan Division is located at the confluence of river Indus and Shayok river that leads toward the legendary tourist destination of the greatest mountain peaks of the world. Skardu Valley is path to some of the highest mountain peaks in the world such as Gasherbrum, K2, and K3. This region is the manifestation of hospitality and respect for tourists.

**Languages:** The native tongue of people of Skardu is Balti, however, English and Urdu are widely spoken.

**Famous Tourist Spots:** Some of attractive tourism destinations of Skardu are Kharpocho Fort, Manthal Rock (Buddha Rock), Sadpara and Kachura Lakes, and the wonderful Shangrila lake. The beautiful valleys of Chunda, Basha, Bilamik & Satpara are also worth a visit. This region also hosts the golden desert of Katpana Sand Dunes (the cold desert) and milky water streams of Hargisa.

**Popular Activities:** Fishing, Boating, Trekking, Rock Climbing, Trophy Hunting, Paragliding, Skiing and Mountain Biking.

## HUNZA DISTRICT



Formerly a princely state, the district of Hunza covers an area of 11, 695 sq. km. It is home to a wide range of cultural heritage sites including the famous Altit and Baltit Forts, historic polo grounds, watchtowers, mosques, and several archaeological sites such as the renowned Sacred Haldekish Rocks in Ganish. Hunza Valley is the prime attraction for tourists as it offers spectacular sceneries of mountains. Tourists can witness high peaks of 7000m such as Lady Finger and Ultar. Hunza is another bested with natural beauty rich cultural and traditional heritage such as traditional dresses, tunes, dances and cuisines. It is famous for its delicious apples, apricots, mulberry, cherries and grapes.

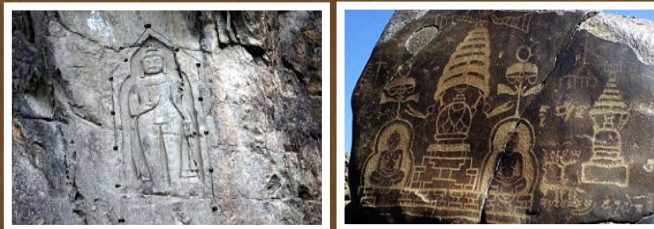
**Languages:** Burushaski, Shina and Wakhi are local languages while English and Urdu are also widely spoken.

**Famous Tourist Spots:** Attabad Lake is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the area for its bright blue water and water sports. Duikar village is the best place to view sunrise/ sunset while millions of stars can be seen shining in the sky at night. Passu Valley and Gulmit Valley are also popular for its picturesque scenery. Restored Altit Fort and Baltit Fort are among unique tourist attractions especially for heritage and history lovers.

**Popular activities:** Attabad Lake offers various water sports like boating, jet skiing and fishing.

## ROCK ART & FLORA

Gilgit-Baltistan was largely dominated by Buddhism which left various rock inscribed texts and images of 500 BC to 8th Century AD. Some 20000 spots are found but the important ones are Chilas Rock inscriptions, Manthal rock carved figure of Buddha, Kargah Buddha, Danyore Rock and the sacred rocks of Ghanish.



## FAUNA & FLORA

The alpine flowers of the region are Aster, Potentillas, Delphinium, Daisy, Parsley/Rosemary, Mustard, Honeysuckle, Geranium, Mint, Peas, Lily, Evening Primrose, Carnation, Gentian, Poppy, Plantain, Sea Lavender, Buttercups, and Rose. The trees of Fir, Birch, Cedar, Juniper, Spruce, Chilgoza, Chir, Blue pine, Deodar, Willow, Oak and Sycamore are famous. Common brushes and shrubs include Ephedra, Rose, Tamarisk, Viburnum and Artemisia.



## DIAMER DISTRICT

District Diamer is gateway to Gilgit-Baltistan. The area manifests prehistoric traces of human species and advancement in the shape of rock carvings, rock inscriptions and petroglyphs etc. These features make Diamer district an important destination with over 35000 prehistoric inscriptions and carvings. The biggest power generation project of the country, the Diamer-Bhasha Dam adds to the economic importance of the region.

**Languages:** Local language is Shina, however, English and Urdu are also widely spoken.

**Famous Tourist Spots:** The important valleys of Diamer district include Tangir, Darel, Chilas (hub of archeological sites in the area), Bunar Das, Gonar Farm and Raikot. The beautiful Fairy Meadows is the most pleasing destination for national and international tourists.

**Popular activities:** The famous and captivating Nanga Parbat (8125m) that cheers trekkers and mountaineers is a feather in the crown of this region.



## NAGAR DISTRICT

Located at an absolutely magical area Nagar valley is also known as "Brushal" in Brushishki which means a "lakeside heaven". It has countless hidden and open treasures of precious gems such as Ruby, Topaz, Aquamarine, Emerald and Quartz among several others.

**Languages:** Brushishki and Shina are local languages of the region but English and Urdu are also spoken.

**Famous Tourist Spots:** The bowl-shaped Hoper Valley is one of the attractive tourist destinations of the region which is a land of snow-capped mountains and the continuous Hoper Glacier. Chaprote Valley, one of the earliest villages of Nagar District, is also worth visiting for its cultural and natural wealth.

**Popular activities:** The terrain of Nagar valley is composed of lush green lands, few forest ranges and mountains for trekkers. It is also known for expeditions such as Rakaposhi, Diran Peak and Golden Peak. The Ancient Silk Route is another tourist attraction.



## MOUNTAIN RANGES

Karakorum, Himalayas and Hindukush along with Pamirs are the famous mountain ranges of the world. The region has the greatest clusters of peaks above 7000 meters while 5 out of 14 Eight-Thousanders of the world are also located in GB. Apart from these giant mountains, there are also few important peaks like Gasherbrum IV, Muztagh tower, Chogolisa, Masherbrum K1, Trango towers, Distaghil Sar, Rakaposhi, Diran, Spantik, Ultar and Haramosh located in the region.



### TRAVEL TIPS

- Confirm your air tickets timely
- Confirm your hotel reservations before traveling
- Get first-hand information about road condition
- Support the community by purchasing local handicrafts
- Keep your national ID card/ passport along with you
- Engage local guide for trekking/ camping
- Use LPG or kerosene for cooking and avoid using firewood
- Respect local culture, traditions and religious places
- Do not harm the environment, flora and fauna
- Avoid excessive breaks while driving at Babusar, Deosai and Khunjerab
- Using heavy gears minimize risk and ensure safety
- Dispose of your litter properly and leave the campsite clean
- Cooperate with GB Tourist Police.
- In case of emergency contact with Tourist Police within jurisdiction of GB on 1422 and 05811-930055 outside GB



## GILGIT-BALTISTAN Jewel of Pakistan



## TOURIST GUIDE MAP



Tourism & Culture Department Gilgit-Baltistan

Tourism & Culture Department Gilgit Baltistan [www.facebook.com/TourismdepartmentGB](http://www.facebook.com/TourismdepartmentGB)

# TOURIST GUIDE MAP GILGIT BALTISTAN

Gilgit Baltistan  
Jewel of Pakistan

## DISTANCE CHART

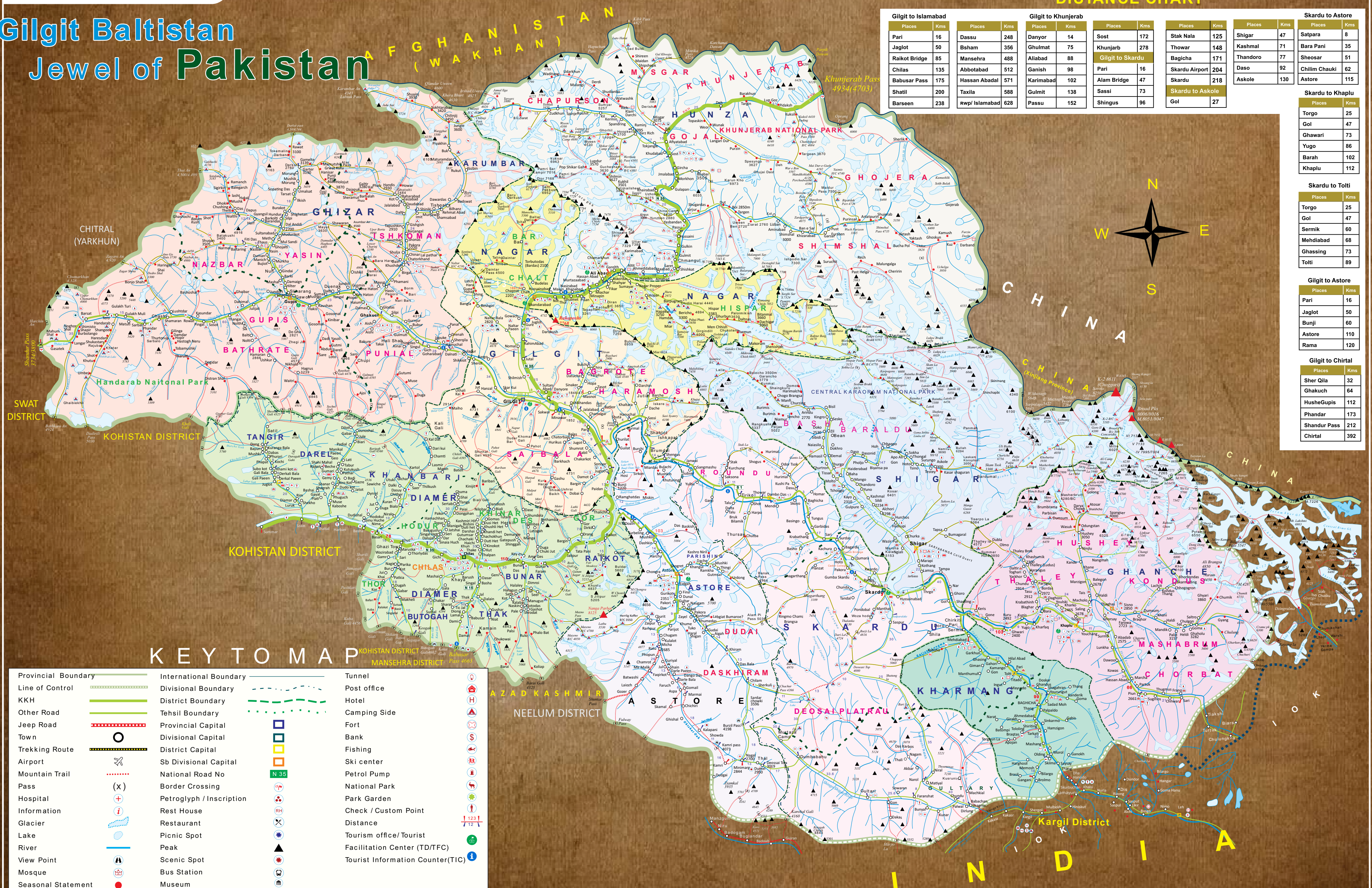
Gilgit to Islamabad		Gilgit to Hunjerab		Gilgit to Skardu		Skardu to Astore							
Places	Kms	Places	Kms	Places	Kms	Places	Kms						
Pari	16	Dassu	248	Danyur	14	Soat	172	Shigar	47	Satpara	8		
Jaglot	50	Bsham	356	Chulmat	75	Khunjarb	278	Thowar	148	Kashmal	71	Bara Pani	35
Raikot Bridge	85	Mansehra	488	Aliabad	88	Gilgit to Skardu		Bagicha	171	Thandoro	77	Sheosar	51
Chilas	135	Abbottabad	512	Ganishad	98	Pari	16	Skardu Airport	204	Daso	92	Chilim Chauki	62
Babusar Pass	175	Hassan Abadal	571	Karimabad	102	Alam Bridge	47	Skardu	218	Askole	130	Astore	115
Shatil	200	Sahiab	588	Gulmit	138	Sassi	73	Skardu to Askole					
Barseen	238	rwpl Islamabad	628	Passu	152	Shingus	96	Gol	27				

Skardu to Khaplu	
Places	Kms
Torgo	25
Gol	47
Ghawari	73
Yugo	86
Barah	102
Khaplu	112

Skardu to Tolti	
Places	Kms
Torgo	25
Gol	47
Sermik	60
Mehdiabad	68
Chassing	73
Tolti	89

Gilgit to Astore	
Places	Kms
Pari	16
Jaglot	50
Bunji	60
Astore	110
Rama	120

Gilgit to Chirtal	
Places	Kms
Sher Qila	32
Ghakuch	64
HusheGupis	112
Phandar	173
Shandur Pass	212
Chirtal	392



## KEY TO MAP

Provincial Boundary	International Boundary	Tunnel
Line of Control	Divisional Boundary	Post office
KKH	District Boundary	Hotel
Other Road	Tehsil Boundary	Camping Side
JEEP Road	Provincial Capital	Fort
Town	Divisional Capital	Bank
Trekking Route	District Capital	Fishing
Airport	Sb Divisional Capital	Ski center
Mountain Trail	National Road No	Petrol Pump
Pass	Border Crossing	National Park
Hospital	Petroglyph / Inscription	Park Garden
Information	Rest House	Check / Custom Point
Glacier	Restaurant	Distance
Lake	Picnic Spot	Tourism office/ Tourist
River	Peak	Facilitation Center (TD/TFC)
View Point	Scenic Spot	Tourist Information Counter(TIC)
Mosque	Bus Station	
Seasonal Statement	Museum	