

MOST IMMEDIATE/ BY FAX



No. F.2 (E)/2022-NDMA(MW/Winter-Tourist-Guidelines-2023-24)
Prime Minister's Office
National Disaster Management Authority (HQ)
Main Murree Road Near ITP Office, Islamabad



Dated: **7 December 2023**

Subject: **GUIDELINES FOR TOURISTS / TRAVELLERS FOR WINTERS 2023-24**

Considering the past experiences, snowfall in upper parts of country (including northern Balochistan) may attract a large number of tourists to popular tourist destinations such as Murree / Galiyat, Abbottabad, Mansehra Division (Kaghan / Naran / Shogran), Malakand Division (Kumrat, Chitral, Malam Jabba, Kalam), Gilgit - Baltistan, AJ&K, Northern Balochistan (Ziarat, Khanozai, Kan Mehtarzai, Muslim Bagh) and other parts of Northern Areas. Hence, there is a dire need to adopt pro-active measures apart from fore-warning / guidance against likely developing situation and accordingly take requisite precautionary measures. Following guidelines are shared for wide dissemination / compliance: -

a. **Travelers / Tourists**

- (1) Regularly check weather forecast for planned destination(s) on Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and NDMA's website for updated weather information.
- (2) Check NDMA's web portal and social media handles (Platform X (twitter) and Instagram) for remaining updated on developing situation.
- (3) Check / consult websites of respective PDMA / GBDMA / SDMA for area / region specific alerts / advisories.
- (4) Before departing, check with National Highways & Motorway Police (NH&MP) on their website or helpline for the status / road condition of intended route.
- (5) Carry basic travel necessities i.e., drinking water and enough snacks / food (especially dry food items) which can suffice for basic needs of all accompanying travelers for a period of at least 48 hours.
- (6) Ensure carrying specific medicine for any ailment / sickness.
- (7) Check requirement of anti-skid / tire chains and coordinate its availability in case of need.
- (8) Follow guidance arrangements of NH&MP, FWO and traffic police for ensuring safety during travelling.
- (9) Ensure proper checking and maintenance of vehicle from a mechanic before commencement of journey. Also carry a spare tire (checked and filled with required air pressure), radiator fluids and lubricants, as advised by the mechanic.

- (10) Carry enough quantity of warm clothing for all passengers to keep warm during extreme weather conditions and provide an option of changing into dry clothes, if required.
- (11) Keep passage for fresh air circulation through air conditioning mechanism or keeping a window slightly open.
- (12) Ensure availability of accommodation and seek prior confirmation from hotel / guestroom for reservations before departing on trip, including:-
 - (a) Prevailing situation in the area, such as, on ground impacts of current weather.
 - (b) Road condition and diversions, if any.
 - (c) Traffic flow pattern and busy / rush hours to avoid traffic jams.
 - (d) Availability of medical and health facilities, especially if any member of the family is suffering from chronic ailment / condition which may require immediate medical attention.

b. **Local Administration / Hotel Management**

- (1) Energize existing local administration / DDMA and line department-based monitoring and reporting mechanism, especially in vulnerable areas.
- (2) Engage local communities at traditionally dangerous / hazard prone sites to enable round the clock monitoring and feedback mechanism for early warnings and alerts for at-risk population.
- (3) Prepare general and area / region specific awareness campaigns and ensure wide spread propagation of likely threats / hazards.
- (4) In coordination with NHA / FWO, local C&W and line departments to devise and pre-place appropriate machinery at vulnerable / choke points.
- (5) Local administration to assess and plan deployment of additional resources and exercise control over vehicle movement leading to and in vicinity of vulnerable / choke points to prevent losses / damages and save precious lives.
- (6) Medical resources, paramedics, equipment and medicine be deployed as per the vulnerability / risks identified in different regions to meet respective regional requirements.
- (7) Prioritize and ensure pre-placing of required resources for snow clearance / road restoration and stocking of food commodities of immediate need.
- (8) Activate the forward tourist / traveler's facilitation centers in respective regions.
- (9) Devise city-based snow clearance and traffic management plans especially in snow prone areas likely to face greater influx of tourists.

- (10) Coordinate with local hotel and transport associations for facilitating travels, tourists and locals in case of emergency.
- (11) LEAs along with traffic police to advise travelers regarding likely situations / dangers of road closure / slippery conditions and use of precautionary measures.
- (12) Travelers and tourists be forewarned about likely risks posed at vulnerable locations.
- (13) Establishment of Emergency Operations Centers at district and provincial level for continuous monitoring of situation.

2. **Press Information Department Only.** With the request for wider circulation and public awareness.



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