

# The land of the Palula

## Gateway to Chitral

Most people visiting Chitral in the North-West Frontier Province, have heard about the Kalasha people and they are probably also aware that the majority of Chitralis speak Khowar as their first language. Fewer people know that there are at least ten other languages spoken in the valley by various communities, each of them with its own distinct traditions.

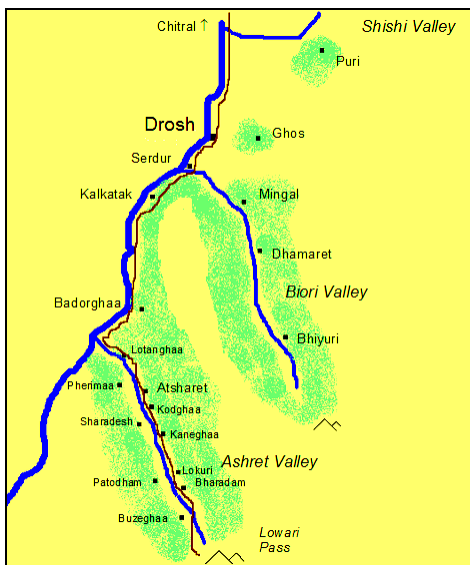


Figure 1: Map of the Palula area (green=where the language is spoken)

The first community you come across entering Chitral by the Lowari pass are the **Palula**. They inhabit the valley of *Ashret* as well as *Biori*, the next valley to the north, and are by tradition considered the gatekeepers of Chitral at the Lowari pass. Their language, **Palula** (or *Atsharet*), is widely used and understood in most places between the Lowari and Drosh, and there are few mother tongue speakers of any other language in *Ashret* and *Biori*. Today, the language is the mother tongue of about 10,000 individuals.

Visitors to *Ashret* are unlikely to encounter any serious language difficulties since many local people speak excellent Pashto and Khowar, and educated people are able to speak Urdu as well as some English. However, a few moments spent practicing the contents of the short language section below will go a long way in demonstrating to your new Palula friends your interest in their place and their unique culture.

### Pronunciation guide:

Symbol	Approx.	Symbol	Approx.
č	Eng. chips	aa	Eng. father
ǰ	Eng. joy	ee	Eng. cake
š	Eng. ship	ii	Eng. seed
uu	Eng. cool	oo	Eng. open

Two vowels = long sound, one vowel = short.

/~/ means nasalization, like in Fr. *sans*.

/h/ after another symbol means aspiration.

/ç, ǰ, š, r, ŋ, š, ʈ/ with tongue curled up and further back than for /č, d, t, r, n, š, t/.

### Essentials

<i>Greeting</i>	assalaamu alaikum.
<i>Reply</i>	waalaikum assalaam.
<i>How are you?</i>	tu sooroe?/tu seeriee?
<i>(asking a man/woman)</i>	
<i>I am well (reply by a man/woman)</i>	sooro/seeri.
<i>How is your health?</i>	thii tabiaat šuyee?
<i>Fine</i>	šui.
<i>What is your name?</i>	thii noo gubaa?
<i>My name is _____</i>	mii noo _____.
<i>Thank you</i>	mherabeeni.
<i>Good bye</i>	šoo ta de.
<i>Yes/No</i>	oo/na.
<i>We will meet again</i>	gharee pašia.



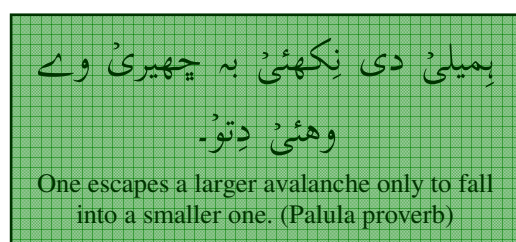
### Language Difficulties

<i>Do you speak English/Urdu?</i>	tu angreezi/urdu bujaanuee?
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Does anyone here speak English/Urdu?      inda angreezi/urdu daata koo hinee?  
 I only speak a little Palula      ma uču paaluulaa khonḍaa bhaainu.  
 I don't understand      ma ga na budo.  
 I don't know      maathe ga pata.  
 Please, say that again      gharee mananee.  
 What do you call this in your language?      thii čoolaa nisthe gubaa manaanu.

## Getting Around

I want to go to Drosh      mii drhū~ṣa the beenḍeeo.  
 I want to go to Chitral      mii čatrootla the beenḍeeo.  
 What is this place called?      ani zhayii gubaa noo?  
 This is Ashret      anu atshareet.  
 I'm looking for a general store      ma (jeneral iṣtoor) bulaḍaanu.  
 ... a pharmacy      .. dawayii dukaan ..  
 ... a petrol pump      .. pamp ..  
 I want/need \_\_\_\_\_      maathe \_\_\_\_ pakaar.  
 How much is this?      anu kati?  
 How far is it?      kati dhuura?  
 far/near      dhuura/nhiaara.  
 straight      sida.  
 left/right      khuṣeeti/deečhineeti.



## Food and drink

I eat food      ma guuli khayaanu.  
 I drink water      ma wii pilaanu.  
 tea      čay

water      wii  
 meat      mhaas  
 bread      guuli  
 rice      ruji  
 tomatoes      beetingal  
 onions      piaaz  
 apples      babayi  
 apricots      aaṣari  
 walnuts      ačhooṛa  
 sugar      čini, tari  
 salt      lhoon  
 I don't eat \_\_\_\_\_      ma \_\_\_\_ na khayaanu.  
 I don't drink \_\_\_\_\_      ma \_\_\_\_ na pilaanu.



## Numbers

1	aak	14	čandiiš
2	duu	15	panjiiš
3	troo	20	bhiš
4	čuur	25	bhišepaanj
5	paanj	30	bhišedaaš
6	šo	40	dubhiša
7	saat	50	dubhišedaaš
8	aaṣṭ	60	troobhiša
9	nuu	70	troobhišedaaš
10	daaš	80	čuurbhiša
11	akooš	90	čuurbhišedaaš
12	booš	100	paanjbhiša, soo
13	triiš	1,000	zir

**Anjuman-e-taraqqi-e-Palula** (the Society for the promotion of Palula) was founded 2004 by people in the Palula community to promote the continued use of their language and to encourage research and documentation of their language, history and culture. After the establishment of a written form of the language, the society is now in the process of producing some literature and literacy-material in Palula. In early 2006 an Alphabet book and a booklet with Palula stories were jointly published by the Anjuman and the Frontier Language Institute in Peshawar.