

K2 Base Camp & Gondogoro La Expedition

A fully supported 21-day Karakoram expedition across the Baltoro Glacier to Concordia and K2 Base Camp, with a condition-dependent crossing of Gondogoro La into the Hushe Valley.

Duration	Expedition grade	Highest point	Best season
21 days / 20 nights	Advanced · 5 of 5	Gondogoro La · approx. 5,585 m	Late June–August

Departures and indicative price

25 June–15 July 2027 | EP-012 | Registering interest

16 July–05 August 2027 | EP-012 | Registering interest

06–26 August 2027 | EP-012 | Registering interest

USD 1,500–2,500 per person, twin-sharing and shared expedition basis

Journey overview

K2 rises to 8,611 metres on the Pakistan–China frontier and is the world’s second-highest mountain. Its survey name dates to 1856, when Thomas Montgomerie recorded peaks of the Karakoram during the Great Trigonometrical Survey. The first successful ascent was completed on 31 July 1954 by Italian climbers Lino Lacedelli and Achille Compagnoni.

This journey follows the Braldu corridor from Askole, crosses the Baltoro Glacier beneath the Trango Towers and Masherbrum, and reaches Concordia at the meeting of major glaciers. After the K2 Base Camp excursion, qualified participants may cross the technical Gondogoro La. The pass is never guaranteed: snow, ice, rockfall, fixed-rope condition, permits and the guide’s assessment determine whether it is attempted.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1 Arrival in Islamabad

540 m · Arrival day · Easy

Airport reception and private transfer to the hotel. The expedition briefing covers permits, equipment, medical considerations, weather, communications and the Gondogoro La decision process.

DAY 2 Fly from Islamabad to Skardu

2,228 m · Approx. 1 hour flight · Weather dependent

Take the scheduled mountain flight to Skardu. In clear conditions the route offers views toward Nanga Parbat and the western Himalaya. A road contingency is used if flights are cancelled.

DAY 3 Skardu acclimatisation and preparation

2,228 m · Light walking · Easy

A measured day for acclimatisation, permit formalities, equipment checks and final expedition purchases. Optional short walks introduce the Indus landscape and the historic gateway town of Skardu.

DAY 4 Skardu to Askole

Approx. 3,050 m · 6–8 hours by 4WD · Rough mountain road

Drive through Shigar and along the Braldu River to Askole, the final permanent settlement before the high Baltoro. Camp and meet the wider Balti support team.

DAY 5 Askole to Jhola

Approx. 3,150 m · 6–7 hours trekking · Moderate

Begin on a broad valley trail beside the Braldu, passing the Biafo Glacier junction and Korofong before continuing toward the Jhola camp.

DAY 6 Jhola to Paiju

Approx. 3,420 m · 6–7 hours trekking · Moderate

Follow the Braldu corridor toward Paiju, the last substantial green camp before the glacier. Granite towers begin to dominate the skyline.

DAY 7 Rest and acclimatisation at Paiju

3,420 m · Rest day · Optional short walks

A planned acclimatisation day allows recovery, hydration, equipment adjustment and preparation of loads before stepping onto the Baltoro Glacier.

DAY 8 Paiju to Khoburtse

Approx. 3,760 m · 6–8 hours trekking · Moraine and glacier

Enter the Baltoro system and negotiate changing moraine beneath the dramatic rock architecture of the Trango Towers and Cathedral group.

DAY 9 Khoburtse to Urdukas

Approx. 4,050 m · 4–6 hours trekking · Steady ascent

Continue across moraine to the terraced camp at Urdukas, one of the route’s celebrated viewpoints toward the spires and icefields of the Baltoro.

DAY 10 Urdukas to Goro II

Approx. 4,300 m · 6–7 hours trekking · Glacier travel

Move onto the central glacier, with Masherbrum and surrounding summits shaping an increasingly austere landscape. Camp on the ice at Goro II.

DAY 11 Goro II to Concordia

Approx. 4,600 m · 5–7 hours trekking · High glacier

Approach Concordia, the celebrated junction of the Baltoro and Godwin-Austen glacier systems. K2, Broad Peak and the Gasherbrums dominate the horizon in clear weather.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 12 Concordia acclimatisation and weather reserve

4,600 m · Flexible walking · High-altitude rest day

A reserve and acclimatisation day protects the expedition schedule and allows additional photography or a measured walk when conditions are favourable.

DAY 13 K2 Base Camp and Gilkey Memorial

Up to approx. 5,150 m · 10–12 hours return · Strenuous

Make an early excursion along the Godwin-Austen Glacier toward Broad Peak and K2 Base Camps. Visit the Gilkey Memorial area when safe and return to Concordia after a demanding high-altitude day.

DAY 14 Concordia to Ali Camp

Approx. 5,000 m · 5–7 hours trekking · Glacier and moraine

Leave Concordia toward the Vigne Glacier and Ali Camp. The technical team reviews weather, snow, fixed ropes and every participant before authorising the pass attempt.

DAY 15 Cross Gondogoro La to Khuspang

Pass approx. 5,585 m · 10–14 hours · Technical and very strenuous

Begin before dawn using harnesses, crampons and fixed ropes as instructed. Cross the pass only when the lead guide considers conditions acceptable, then make a careful descent to Khuspang. If unsafe, the expedition returns by the Baltoro route.

DAY 16 Khuspang to Saicho

Approx. 3,350 m · 6–8 hours trekking · Long descent

Descend from the high glacier environment toward greener terrain, following the Gondogoro Glacier and reaching the sheltered camp at Saicho.

DAY 17 Saicho to Hushe

Approx. 3,050 m · 4–6 hours trekking · Moderate descent

Complete the trekking circuit through the lower valley to Hushe, a renowned Balti mountaineering community and the first permanent village after the high route.

DAY 18 Hushe to Skardu

Approx. 145 km · 6–8 hours by road · Mountain road

Drive through the Hushe and Shyok valleys toward Khaplu and Skardu. Hotel check-in and recovery after the expedition.

DAY 19 Skardu recovery and contingency day

2,228 m · Flexible day · Easy

A deliberate reserve day absorbs weather or route delays. When unused, it becomes a recovery day with optional light sightseeing in Skardu.

DAY 20 Fly to Islamabad

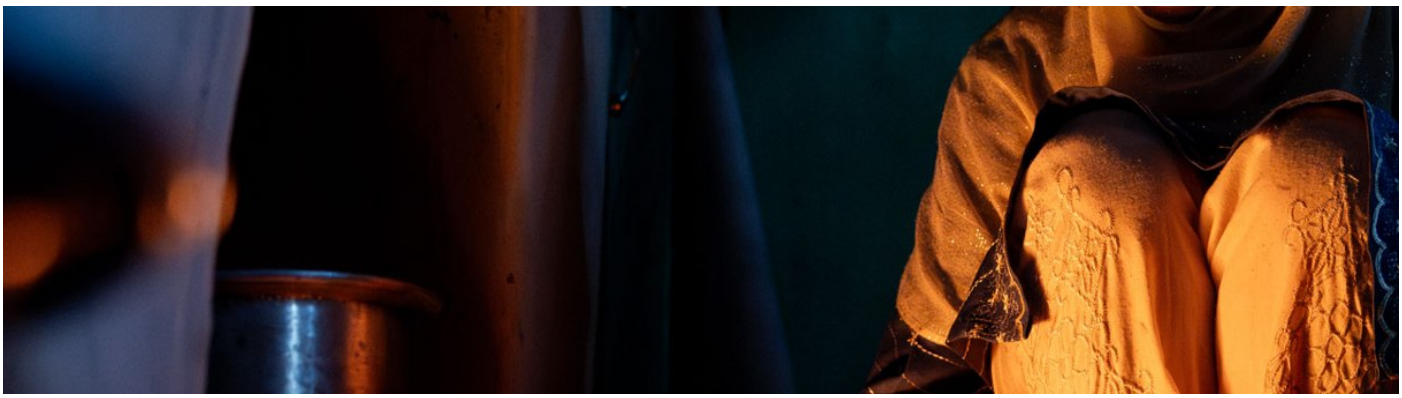
Approx. 1 hour flight · Road contingency available

Fly to Islamabad when operating. If cancelled, begin the road journey with the program adjusted according to safe driving times and the international departure schedule.

DAY 21 Islamabad departure

Airport transfer · Easy

Private transfer to Islamabad International Airport. Because Karakoram flights and passes are weather dependent, an additional post-expedition buffer night is strongly recommended.



Accommodation plan

20 nights. Hotels, local lodges and expedition camps as described in the day-by-day plan. Exact properties, rooming and camp arrangements follow the written proposal.

Journey profile

- Activity: Advanced · 5 of 5
- Region or style: Pakistan
- Best season: Late June–August
- Daily detail: Driving, walking and altitude notes appear in the day cards above.

Included

- Private ground transportation with fuel
- Airport transfers in Pakistan
- Hotel accommodation on twin-sharing basis
- Expedition tents, kitchen and communal camp equipment
- Licensed high-altitude guide and experienced support crew
- Porter support according to the final expedition plan
- Required trekking permits and Central Karakoram National Park fees
- Group safety equipment and fixed-rope coordination for Gondogoro La
- Visa-supporting documentation

Not included

- All meals and beverages
- International and domestic flights; booking assistance is available
- Pakistan visa fee
- Personal climbing and trekking equipment, including harness, crampons, ice axe and sleeping bag
- Insurance covering high-altitude trekking and emergency evacuation
- Tips, laundry, telephone or satellite use and personal expenses
- Costs caused by flight cancellation, weather, route change or evacuation

Best time, access and preparation

Best time: Late June through August is the principal operating window. The narrower Gondogoro La window depends on seasonal snow and the establishment of safe fixed ropes.

Access: The journey begins in Islamabad with a weather-dependent flight to Skardu, followed by 4WD access through Shigar to Askole. The expedition finishes by descending to Hushe and returning to Skardu by road.

Preparation: Previous multi-day high-altitude trekking experience, excellent fitness, appropriate technical equipment and evacuation insurance are essential. Participants should train for consecutive 6–10 hour days over moraine, ice and uneven ground.

Plan this journey

Share your dates, group size and trekking experience. We will confirm arrangements and send a written proposal. Enquire at experiencepak.com/plan-your-journey/