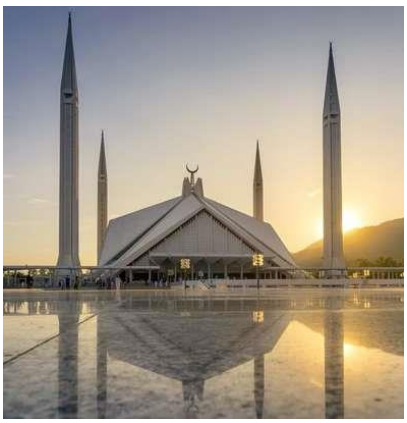
K2 & Gondogoro La Trek



Holiday Overview – Group Departures

Style	All inclusive Trekking holiday
Accommodation	Hotels, Camping
Grade	Strenuous
Duration	20 days from Islamabad to Islamabad
Trekking / Walking days	On Trek: 14 days
Min/Max group size	1 / 15. Guaranteed to run
Meeting point	Joining in Islamabad, Pakistan
Max altitude	5,600m, Gondogoro Pass

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available





Day 1 – Arrival Day in Islamabad, Pakistan

Welcome to Pakistan.



Most of the international flights arrive at Islamabad International Airport in the mornings. Our staff will meet and greet you at the airport and transfer to the group hotel in Islamabad. The rest of the day is free to recover from your journey.

Later in the day, when everyone has arrived, we will have a group briefing about the trek. Depending on the time available to us, there may be an option to do some sightseeing in Islamabad, a purpose-built City in 1961 as the new capital of Pakistan.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Islamabad or similar (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 2 – Flight to Skardu

(45 MIN) 2,300m



Today, you will travel to Islamabad International Airport to take a spectacular flight (weather permitting) across the mountains to Skardu, the Capital of Baltistan. It's a 45-minute flight which offers Spectacular Mountain views of the Himalayas & Karakoram mountain range. Breathtaking view of the world's 9th highest peak, Nanga Parbat (8,126m), if the weather is clear, then we might be able to see K2 and Gondogoro Pass as well.

Check in to the Hotel, and the rest of the day will be spent visiting the local Bazar, historical forts, and scenic lakes or visiting ancient rock inscriptions, one of which is of 8th-century Manthal Lord Buddha Rock that shows traces of Buddhist monks and pilgrims who influenced the area before Islam.

Overnight: Summit Hotel or similar (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 3 – Skardu to Askole

(141 km), 3,075 m/10,332ft, 8 HOURS DRIVE



Rise early and hop on a jeep to drive on the winding Shigar road along the Indus and Shigar Rivers to reach Askole. Askole is a small mountain village and the last human inhabitant of Shigar Valley. Arrive early afternoon and meet the rest of your porters and trekking crew, visit the single street village with traditional wooden houses, and learn about the culture, tradition and daily life at this altitude.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4 – Askoli to Johla

3,150–3,200 m (10,330–10,500 ft), 20 km, 7-8 HOURS



We will trek to Johla camp for a night's stay. Leave Askole behind and enter the wilderness of the Karakoram mountains. The walk is gentle as the trail is on flat and dry land. The valley will be opening out soon, which will reveal the mighty Biafo Glacier. Have your first experience on the moraine, which will lead you to the old, oasis-like camp of Korfong. Korfong camp is the starting point for other famous trekking routes, including the Gondogoro La circuit, Snow Lake and Hispar Lake trek. Snow Lake Glacier offers a unique trekking and ski holiday experience.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 5 – Trek to Paiju

(21 km) 3,420 m/11,220ft, 6 HOURS TREK



Today is the first trekking day of your K2 Base Camp & Gondogoro La trek. Pack all your equipment and start trekking towards the Paiju campsite in the central Karakoram National Park. Your porters and kitchen staff will always leave ahead of you throughout the trek to prepare lunch and set up tents before you arrive at the campsites.

Paiju Camp is on a hillside under the shadow of the Paiju Peak, with good camping facilities, litter bins, washbasins, and toilet cubicles built and maintained by the Tourism Department. It is one of the main stops for all trekking and climbing expeditions. Paiju provides an opportunity to meet members from other trekking teams and learn about their experiences.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 6 – Trek to Khoburtse

(15km) 3,795 m/12,450ft, 7 hours



On the 6th day of this base camp trek, you will be introduced to the mighty Baltoro Glacier, a large piece of ice outside the polar region. An hour's walk from the camp will bring you to the snout of the Baltoro Glacier. Enjoy the sound and the view of the outpouring of water coming from Baltoro while you are walking on the rubble and rocks that cover the surface of Baltoro.

While trekking on the Baltoro Glacier, it's fascinating to imagine that the stones under your feet possibly came from the summit of Broad Peak, Gondogoro La, or the Gasherbrum Mountains.

Khoburtse campsite is on flat land at the side of Baltoro Glacier. This campsite has no washing facilities like the previous camps, but it does offer a sensational view of Uli Biaho and Trango Tower.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 7 – Trek to Urdukas

(6 km) 3,900 m/12,795ft, 4 HOURS TREK



Wake up early in the morning with a hot cup of tea and witness an impressive sunrise view over Trango Tower. Today will be a short but strenuous trekking day as you walk up the undulating moraine while gaining height. Most of the time, you will trek along the lateral moraine and sometimes on the surface of Baltoro. Urdukas camp is a historical site. It is beautifully located above the Baltoro glacier with a spectacular view of Cathedral Peak.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8 – Acclimatisation & Rest Day at Urdukas

Today is a free day at Urdukas



Urdukas is a historic campsite on a grassy place on the edge of the Baltoro glacier with cleaning and washing facilities. There are short walks around the camp, so enjoy a short walk and the magnificent panoramic view of Gasherbrum and Broad Peak.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 9 – Trek to Goro

(12 km) 4,295 m/14,091ft, 7 HOURS TREK



After spending a free day at Urdukas, today you will trek to Goro. As you leave the Urdukas camp, trek along the moraine until you find easy access to climb on the surface of Baltoro Glacier. Once you are on the surface, walking becomes smoother. Soon, you will have a spectacular close-up view of Masherbrum Peak (7,821m/25,659 ft), also known as the queen of the Karakoram because of its beauty.

Continue trekking upwards with a view of Gasherbrum IV, which looks like it is standing at the head of Baltoro glacier, guiding you to the K2 Base Camp & Gondogoro La like a beacon.

Lunch and a short break at Goro I, then trek for a few more hours to reach Goro II campsite by early afternoon for a night stay.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 10 – Trek to Concordia

(12 km) 4,500m/14,763ft, 5 HOURS TREK



Today is one of the top highlights of your K2 Base Camp & Gondogoro La trek. Wake up early and Trek to Concordia. Concordia is known as the throne room of the mountain gods. Concordia is 4,500 meters above sea level, located at the junction of the upper Baltoro Glacier and Godwin-Austen Glacier.

All the Karakoram giants you have been looking at from afar are now right in front of you. You are surrounded by the mighty Gasherbrum II (8,035m/26,361ft), III (7,952m/26,089ft) & IV (7,925m/26,000ft), Mitre Peak, Chogolisa (7,665m/25,147ft), Broad Peak (8,047m/26,401ft), and visible for the first time, the second-highest mountain on the earth after Everest, the spectacular K2 (8,611m/28,251ft).

Concordia has a much wider area, so there is plenty of space to set up your tent.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 11 – Trek to Broad Peak Base Camp

(6 km) 4,800m/15,748ft, 4 HOURS TREK



Many tour companies do not take you beyond Concordia, but we believe that without visiting the actual K2 base camp, this adventure holiday is not complete. After all, this is a base camp trek, so you must see the K2 base camp.

You will arrive at Broad Peak Basecamp by lunchtime, followed by a free afternoon to enjoy the scenery. Broad Peak base camp provides a spectacular and close-up view of K2. Enjoy a beautiful sunset view over Broad Peak and other Karakoram giants. Enjoy your base camp day and spend the evening at Broad Peak Base Camp.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 12 – Trek to K2 Base Camp & Return to Concordia

(11 km) 5,150 m/16,896ft, 7 HOURS TREK



Rise and shine early to witness a spectacular sunrise view over K2 and Broad Peak. Today is the top highlight of your Base Camp trek, as you will be walking to K2 base camp. Pack all your gear and trek to the Gilkey Memorial. Gilkey Memorial is at the bottom of K2.

Having journeyed for days to get to this point, you felt a sense of pride and accomplishment that was difficult to put into words.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 13 – Concordia to Ali Camp

(5,000m) 6 HOURS WALKING



Today you will leave the main trekking trail behind you, striking out on a far less travelled route which will take you along the Upper Baltoro, one of the glaciers coming down from Chogolisa that feed the huge glacial junction of Concordia. From Concordia, there are several moraine ridges to scramble over to reach the Vigne Glacier, which is flatter with fewer crevasses. After 5 – 7 hours of trekking along the Upper Baltoro towards the enormous bulk of Chogolisa at the head of the valley, you eventually reach the confluence of this glacier with the West Vigne Glacier, which sweeps down from the base of the Gondogoro La.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 14 – Cross Gondogoro La to Khuspang

(5,585m) 10 HOURS



Today you will have an early start before the lights break in the morning. Probably around 2 a.m., we will start climbing Gondogoro La to minimise the risk of rockfall on the descent down the Hushe side of the pass. After fuelling up in the dining tent with breakfast, you will put on crampons and harnesses and set off roped together onto the West Vigne Glacier. In the black, star-studded cold night air, you will make your way slowly over the sparkling glacier illuminated in pools of light from your head torches.

The Hushe side of the Gondogoro Pass can be a tricky descent, although fixed ropes are in place at the top. The slope starts at a sustained 50 degrees on snow and finishes on loose scree towards the bottom. On reaching the green oasis of Khuspang, you can put your feet up and relax, remembering the excitement and spectacular views of the day.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 15 – Khuspang to Saicho

(3,350m) 6-7 HOURS WALK



After a couple of minutes of easy walking, you get onto the glacier where you pick your way across the moraine and ice, finally crossing the glacier up to the camping site to reach Dalsangpa, which means ‘field of flowers’. It is a beautiful walk to Saicho as we pass yak pastures and see the first trees since Paiju. We set up our camp at Saicho (3,350m), a sandy area of sparse grasses beside the river at the junction of the Gondogoro and Charakusa valleys.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 16 – Spare Trek Day in Case of Delays



As with any Gondogoro La Trek journey there are possible delays, and it is necessary to build in some time to allow for this. In case of bad weather on Day 14, these days will give us another chance to cross the Gondogoro pass. If we successfully cross the Pass on Day 14, you may enjoy rest or exploration days, or the other option is to continue down to Hushe to spend a night.

Additional Day / Early Return to Skardu: If the group decides not to spend the spare day in the mountains and instead travels to Skardu, the additional hotel night and meals in Skardu will be charged separately.

Overnight: Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 17 – Trek to Hushe (3 Hours), Drive to Skardu (7 Hours)

(141 km) 2,230 m/7,316ft, 8 HOURS



Today will be our last walking day of the K2 and Gondogoro La trek; it will be an easy walk to Hushe village. Hushe is quite large, with a warren of alleys and buildings. Most traditional houses are built from rounded river stones and are 2 storeys high, with space for the animals downstairs and people upstairs. Hushe also has modern houses, a shop, a school, a hotel and a campsite.

Our vehicles will already be waiting for us, so we make an early start for the return drive through the lush green Khapulu Valley. We have a faster, smoother journey on a paved road following the great Indus River into Skardu. We will check into our hotel, and there will be time for a welcome shower and clean up before sitting down to dinner.

Overnight: Summit Hotel or similar (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 18 – Fly Back to Islamabad

(45 Minutes)



We will transfer you to the airport to take a spectacular mountain view flight back to Islamabad. Skardu Airport is a short distance from your hotel. Board the plane and have an exciting journey to Islamabad with a view of Nanga Parbat (8,126 meters), Gondogoro La, and other Himalayan giants. It is a 45-minute flight.

Our staff will meet you at Islamabad Airport and transfer you to the group hotel. After checking into your hotel in Islamabad, you can relax and spend the rest of the afternoon in the hotel or head out for a self-guided sightseeing tour of Islamabad City.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Islamabad or similar (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 19 – Contingency Day in Case of Delays



If you managed to fly to Islamabad yesterday, then it is a free day to explore the green capital city. Should the flight be cancelled due to the bad weather, you will continue your journey to Islamabad by road from Skardu.

Have your last dinner in Pakistan at the Magnificent Food Street to treat your taste buds to a local Pakistani curry, a taste sensation to remember your trip to the K2 base camp.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Islamabad or similar (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 20 – Departure Day – Fly Back Home



After breakfast, we will transfer you to Islamabad Airport for your flight back to your home country. The “K2 base camp & Gondogoro La trek” is now officially over.

Meals: Breakfast

Further Information About the Trek

Trip Altitude

The K2 Base Camp & Gondogoro La trek involves going to high altitudes. During the course of your trip, you will be above 4,000 metres for 2-4 days. This is not something that you should worry about; the human body is quite capable of adapting to a very wide range of altitudes, but it is important that we follow some simple rules in order to acclimatise successfully. Before coming on this holiday you should get some basic advice on Tours at high altitudes.

What's the price includes

K2 Alpine Adventures includes everything in all our Pakistan Holidays so you can sit back and enjoy your vacation. We do not charge extra for meal packages or exclude meal packages on the arrival or departure days in Islamabad.

What's Included

- Islamabad Airport pick up and drop off
- English speaking Guide
- All land transports involved in the itinerary
- 3 nights at a 3* hotel in Islamabad - 2 nights at a hotel in Skardu
- All meals during trek (Breakfast & Dinner in Skardu and Islamabad)
- All camping ground fees, Mess tents, sleeping tents, Kitchen tents with chairs
- Access to the group satellite phone/Garmin in reach (usage at extra cost)
- All kitchen equipment, including cutlery, crockery, fuel, and other related equipment
- All Wages and basic kits of guide, sirdar, Porters, cook and assistant(s)
- Insurance of porters, guides, and other crew (except helicopter rescue)
- Domestic flights
- Group generator/solar panel for lights and charging electronics
- Letter of Invitation to Pakistan
- 17 Kg personal weight allowance during trek
- Unlimited Boiled water refills during trek
- Comfy two-person alpine 4-season tents

What's Not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Porter services exceeding 17 kgs
- Flights to Pakistan
- Pakistan Visa Fee
- Tips for local guides and support staff
- Guided Islamabad sightseeing
- Miscellaneous expenses, souvenirs etc
- Islamabad and Skardu sightseeing tour.
- CKNP fees ($190), Royalty fees ($150)
- Any pre-tour or post-tour accommodation in either Skardu or Islamabad due to itinerary changes, flight delays, early finish of the trip, etc.
- Single tent/hotel accommodation

Passport & Visas

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required. The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. Please check the relevant embassy or consulate for other nationalities. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Visa requirements and charges are subject to change without notice.

Pakistan Visa

All nationalities require a visa to enter Pakistan. The visa fee is approximately GBP £60 and you must apply for it prior to departure. You will need a trekking visa to enter the Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP). Foreigners are not allowed to enter the Baltoro region with a standard tourist visa. To obtain a trekking visa for Pakistan you will require a letter of introduction from an approved agency which will be provided by K2 Alpine Adventures. Trekking visa processing time is 7-8 weeks so we always recommend our clients to apply as early as possible to avoid delays. Visa applications can be made in person by visiting a Pakistan consulate in your home country OR online at www.visa.nadra.gov.pk

Equipment List

As a general rule for Trekking holidays, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum. The packed weight of your Trek bags whilst trekking including your sleeping bag and mattress should be no more than 17 kg. This limit which is set by the porters is strictly enforced and bags will be weighed prior to setting off on Trek. Anything not required on the K2 Base Camp & Gondogoro La Trek can be left at the group hotel in Islamabad or in our Office in Skardu. K2 Alpine Adventures will send you a full list of items closer to your Holiday departure.