Snow Lake & Hispar La Trek 2026

Snow Lake – Hispar La trek is nestled amidst a high-altitude Glacier basin, over 16 kilometres wide, located at the head of the Biafo and Hispar la pass in the Karakoram mountain range of Pakistan. The Biafo glacier, the snow lake, and the Hispar Glacier are 120 kilometres long, which makes it the second-longest glacier in the world outside the Polar region. The mountain kingdom of Baltistan, Biafo Glacier, Snow Lake, Hispar la, the Karakoram Range, and Hunza valley in Pakistan is a dream destination for trekkers, offering fresh air, stunning scenery, and the chance to reconnect with nature.



Group departures

See trip's date & cost section

Holiday overview

Style	All inclusive Trekking holiday
Accommodation	Hotels, Camping
Grade	Strenuous
Duration	22 days from Islamabad to Islamabad
Trekking / Walking days	On Trek: 13 days
Min/Max group size	1 / 8. Guaranteed to run
Meeting point	Joining in Islamabad, Pakistan
Max altitude	5,150m, Hispar Pass

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 – Arrival Day in Islamabad, Pakistan

Arrive at Islamabad International Airport, where you are met by a K2 Alpine Adventures representative. From there, you will be transferred to your hotel and, in the evening, briefed on the upcoming trek at dinner.

Islamabad is located at the foothills of the western Himalaya. It was purposely built as the new capital city of Pakistan in 1960.

Overnight: Hill View Hotel or similar (Meals: Dinner)

Day 2 – Spectacular Flight to Skardu (45 minutes), 2,230 m / 7,316 ft

After a good night's sleep in Islamabad, today, you will take a spectacular Mountain View flight to Skardu. During the flight, you will have your first glimpse of K2 and Gondogoro La pass, Nanga Parbat (8,126 m) and many other famous Karakorum Peaks. Arrive at Skardu airport and transfer to your hotel, where you will meet some of your porters and trekking crew.

Skardu is the Capital and administrative town of the Baltistan region of Pakistan. Baltistan was once one of the biggest kingdoms of the Himalaya. The inhabitants of Baltistan are called the Balti people, and they are descendants of Tibet and Mongolia. They speak the Balti language, which is similar to Tibetan. Culture, traditions, and the architecture are strongly influenced by Tibet, which is why this region is also known as little Tibet.

Islamabad to Skardu flight is subject to weather. In case of flight cancellation, you will drive on the Karakorum Highway to Naran, spend the night in Naran, and the next day drive to Skardu. Islamabad to Naran, 281 km. 8-9 H-Drive.

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

Day 3 – Sightseeing & Preparation Day, Skardu

Today is a free day to explore Skardu town. Skardu is the capital of Baltistan in the ancient mountain kingdoms of the Himalayas. It is the gateway to the K2 base camp trek, Broad Peak, Baltoro Glacier, Latok group, and other valleys. The inhabitant of Baltistan speaks the Balti language, which is completely different from Urdu.

Walk to the remains of the Kharpocho Fort (built in the early 1700s), which overlooks the town and has a great view of the Indus River. Kharpocho fort is a perfect location to take photos of Skardu at sunrise and sunset (we can arrange this for you). You will then walk to a small organic village where it grows all its crops organically. In the afternoon, take a jeep to see the crystal clear water of Satpara Lake and Kachura Lake or explore the local Skardu bazaar.

Note. If you missed the flight yesterday, today is for driving on the Karakoram Highway from Chillas to Skardu.

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

Day 4 – Skardu to Askole (131 km), 3,000 m / 9,842 ft, Drive

Today you will drive along the Mighty Indus, Shigar Valley, and then follow the Braldu River to arrive in Askoli. Askoli is the last human settlement of the Shigar Valley. Askole has a single street with wooden houses on both sides, backed by irrigated fields of corn, potatoes, and groves of apricot trees. Explore the small village, get to know the local people, and learn what life is like at this altitude. Most of your porters for the snow lake trek will be from this village.

In Askoli, you will spend your first night in sleeping bags in the camp under the stars. This village is located at an Altitude of 3,000 meters above the thundering Braldu River.

Night stay at Askole campsite.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 5 – Trek to Namla (3,566 m), 6–7 Hours Walk

Today, the walking session of Snow Lake and Hispar La trek will start by following the K2 Base Camp trail and then turn west onto the Biafo Glacier. The trail ascends over the lateral moraine to reach the left moraine and descend onto the Biafo glacier, then back onto the left bank where the grassy camping site called Namla is located behind a lateral moraine. Beautiful trekking day with spectacular mountain views.

Night stay at Namla camp.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 6 – Trek to Mango (3,720 m), 5–6 Hours Walk

Wake up to a spectacular sunrise view over the snow-covered Karakoram mountains. Have a leisurely breakfast and continue walking on the side of the glacier. Cross a fracture zone on the Biafo glacier to reach the centre point and continue following the moraine ridges. The loose rocks on the Biafo glacier will make this a challenging trekking day.

Beautiful trekking day on Biafo Glacier with a fantastic view of snow-covered mountains. Set up your camps on the left side of the Biafo Glacier, on a grassy area.

Night stay at Mango campsite.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 7 – Trek to Biantha (4,035 m), 5–6 Hours Walk

Today, you will continue walking on the lateral moraine of the Biafo glacier on a broad highway of ice, which makes walking easier than yesterday. Cross to the right and come off the Biafo glacier to a grassy area where Baintha camp is located.

Night stay at Biantha campsite.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8 – Rest & Acclimatisation Day

Today is the rest and acclimatisation day of the snow Lake and Biafo Hispar Trek. Having a rest day here will help your body to get used to the thin air at this high altitude. You can relax in the camp or walk up a ridge behind the camp with fine views of the Latok group and the Ogre. Perfect location for photography. Look out for the Ibex that can often be seen on the grassy slopes above the camp.

Night stay at Biantha.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 9 – Trek to Marfogoro (4,300 m), 6 Hours Walking

After breakfast, follow a steep and loose trail to rejoin the Biafo Glacier. Climb on the moraine and continue walking on the glacier. You might find some crevasses further along the Biafo glacier. To be on the safe side, you have to fix the ropes and walk in a queue to avoid the hidden crevasses.

There are superb views of the mountains, which you will not find anywhere else in the world. Enjoy the spectacular Ogre (7,813m), Kanjut Sar, and for the first time, you will see the Hispar La and Snow Lake.

Night stay at Marfogoro camp.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 10 – Trek to Karfogoro (4,680 m), 6 Hours Walking

Wake up to a breathtaking sunrise view across the snow lake and over the Hispar pass. Have a leisurely breakfast and continue walking on the highway of ice with spectacular views of the Karakoram range.

Spectacular trekking day on the highway of ice that has been used by explorers, monks, warriors, and merchants for many centuries.

Night stay at Karphogoro campsite.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 11 – Trek to Hispar La Base Camp (4,590 m), 6 Hours Walk

Today you will trek to the Hispar la base camp. After breakfast, start walking on the south end of a large snowy flat area known as Snow Lake, finding your way through a network of crevasses. Snow Lake is a high-altitude glacial basin, over 16 kilometres wide at the head of the Biafo Glacier and Hispar glaciers. Martin Conway, the first foreign visitor, gave Snow Lake the name in 1892 and described this area as “beyond all comparison the finest view of mountains it has ever been my lot to behold, nor do I believe the world can hold a finer.”

After 6 hours of trekking on the snow lake, you will arrive at the Hispar la base camp. Set up camp at the base camp of Hispar la and enjoy the view.

Night stay at Hispar La base camp in our tents.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 12 – Trek to Hispar La Pass (5,150 m), 6 Hours Walk

After breakfast, start trekking on the snow lake towards Hispar La Pass. Traverse across the vast Snow Lake area and make the ascent to Hispar La Pass. The climb to Hispar La pass is not too steep, but it may feel quite strenuous at this altitude. Be aware of hidden crevasses in this area. After trekking for 6 hours on the snow Lake, you will arrive at the top of hispar la pass. From the top of Hispar La, you will have fantastic views of the Biafo glacier, the snow lake, the Ogre, Hispar glacier, and other snow-covered mountains of the Hunza valley.

Night stay at Hispar La Pass camp.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 13 – Cross Hispar Pass and Trek to Kani Basa (4,510 m)

Wake up to a breathtaking sunrise view across the snow lake, Biafo glacier, and the snow-covered mountains of Hunza. After breakfast, you will cross Hispar la and trek to Kani Basa by descending towards the Hunza valley. Cross a few crevasses on the glacier, and the rest of the trek is on flat land. Cross the Kani Basa glacier, which is the fracture zone where the Hispar and Kani Basa glaciers collide. After crossing the fracture zone, you will arrive at the Kani Basa camping site. Kani Basa camp is located on a grassy ablation valley with a beautiful view of Kanju Sar (7,760m).

Night stay in your tent at the Kani Basa camp.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 14 – Trek to Bakhtur Baig (4,470 m), 6 Hours Walk

Today is a tough trekking day of our snow lake trek in Pakistan. Continue descending on the Hispar glacier towards Hunza valley. You have to trek through several moraine ridges, climb over loose

scree slopes and cross several glacial streams to arrive at Bakhtur Baig camp. Set up camp on the right side of the glacier and enjoy the free afternoon.

Night stay at Bakhtur Baig camp.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 15 – Trek to Shigham Baris (4,170 m), 7 Hours Walk

Wake up early, have breakfast, and continue descending on the glacier. Cross a side glacier, climb over loose scree, and follow the trail surrounded by wildflowers to arrive at the Shigham Baris campsite. Shigham Baris camp is beautifully located on the grassy land.

Night stay at Shigham Baris camp.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 16 – Trek to Bitenmal (3,760 m), 6 Hours Walk

Another full trekking day with spectacular mountain views of the Karakoram range. After an hour of trekking, you will descend a steep bank to cross to the other side of the glacier, then back to the valley as before, where the trekking becomes smoother.

You will arrive at the Bitenmal campsite early in the afternoon. Bitenmal is a large meadow that is used by the herders from the Hispar village. The shepherds from the Hispar village often offer fresh milk and other dairy products to trekkers and visitors.

Night stay at Bitenmal camp.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 17 – Trek to Hispar Village (2,300 m), 4 Hours

Today you will trek to Hispar village by crossing a bridge and a small glacier. After crossing the glacier, you will see hispar village further down the valley, the first sight of civilisation since you left Askoli. You will certainly notice the vibrant green of the orchards and terraced fields after the black and white scenery of the Hispar Glacier.

Depending on the road condition, you may meet the jeeps before the Hispar village. If the road condition is bad, then jeeps can not go beyond the village, so you have to walk down to the campsite. The campsite in Hispar village is located on the grassy land.

Enjoy the last camping night of Snow Lake – Biafo & Hispar La Trek in your sleeping bag under the stars.

Overnight: Full-service Camping (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 18 – Drive to Karimabad (2,400 m), 4 Hours

Today you will leave Hispar village and drive along the Nagar river to Karimabad. A jeep drive for one hour to Nagar village along a rather narrow track before reaching the Karakoram Highway at the junction point of the Hunza River. Follow the Karakoram Highway along the Hunza River to Ganish village and leave the kkh and turn right to arrive in Karimabad, where you will check into a hotel, and the rest of the day is free to wash up, relax and explore the town. Enjoy a hot shower and the comfort of a real bed.

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

Day 19 – Sightseeing in Karimabad, Visit Baltit & Altit Fort etc., and Drive to Gilgit

Karimabad is the capital of the Hunza valley. Hunza people speak the Burushaski language, which is completely different from the Balti language spoken in Baltistan. Explore Karimabad, situated on a hillside to the north of the Karakoram Highway, with views of the fertile valley below (due to its

extensive irrigation system) and a glimpse of snowy mountains. Visit the UNESCO-listed Altit and Baltit Forts, which were built in the 13th century. The historical Baltit Fort, once the home of the ruling Mir (King), guards the valley, is now a museum, and the Altit Fort is even more dramatic, perched above the Hunza River.

In the afternoon, we drive to Gilgit for the night's stay.

Overnight: PTDC Hotel Gilgit

Day 20 – Flight to Islamabad

Drive to the airport to take a flight to Islamabad. You will hopefully take the early morning flight back to Islamabad. Flight is dependent on weather conditions. Should the flight be cancelled due to bad weather, you will drive down the Karakoram Highway to Naran (or Besham). Spend the night in Chilas and the next day travel to Islamabad.

Note, Gilgit has a small airport, which is why only small aeroplanes fly to and from Gilgit. There are more chances of flight cancellations due to bad weather compared to the Skardu airport.

If the flight is cancelled, then today we will drive on the Karakoram Highway to Naran the following day travel to Islamabad. We can also drive to Islamabad without staying in Naran if everyone in the group agrees.

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

Day 21 – Contingency Day

Spare a day in case of any delays.

Day 22 – Flight Back Home

After Breakfast, we will transfer you to Islamabad International Airport for your flight back home. We believe that our “Snow Lake – Hispar La Trek in Pakistan” will create an amazing life-long memory that will stay with you for a long time. Snow Lake Hispar La trek is now officially over.

Meals: Breakfast

Trek Highlights

- Snow Lake Hispar La trek into the heart of the Karakoram, Pakistan
- Spectacular Mountain view flight to Skardu
- Explore the mountain kingdom of Baltistan and Hunza
- Trekking on the Ancient Ice Highway, Biafo and Hisper Glacier
- Spectacular panoramic view from the top of Hispar la
- See Medieval Forts Hidden Among Pakistan's Towering Mountains
- Travel on the Ancient Silk Route (Karakoram Highway)

Experience the Picturesque Shigar Valley & Hunza Valley in Pakistan

Further information about the Trek

Trip Altitude

Snow Lake and Hispar La trek involves going to high altitude. During the course of your trip, you will be above 4,000 metres for 2-3 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 altitude.

What does the price include

K2 Alpine Adventures include 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

- Domestic flights and airport transfers
- Visa documents
- All land transports involved in the itinerary (Private Vehicle with driver)
- Accommodation as described (3* Hotel and Camping)
- All meals
- All trekking permit fees, toll tax and parking fee, etc.
- All camping ground fees, Mess tent, sleeping tents, Kitchen tents with chairs, table and lights
- 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)
- Satellite phone, first Aid kit and Solar panel for lights and charging electronic devices.

What's Not Included

- Travel insurance, Pakistan Visa Fee, and International flights
- Tips for local guides and support staff
- Guided Islamabad sightseeing, Miscellaneous expenses.

Passport & Visas

A passport with 6 months of 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 $80, and you must apply for it before departure. To obtain a visa for Pakistan, you will require a letter of introduction from an approved agency, which will be provided by K2 Alpine Adventures. Visa applications can be made in person 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 15.5 kgs. This limit, which is set by the porters, is strictly enforced, and bags will be weighed prior to setting off on the Trek. Anything not required on the Snow Lake trek can be left at the group hotel in Islamabad. Please note that your mountaineering equipment will be packed into additional, communal kitbags at the start of the trek, and this equipment will not be part of your personal 16.5 kg weight limit.

K2 Alpine Adventures will send you a full list of items closer to your Holiday departure.