



K2 Base Camp and Kharut Pyramid 6444m

- **Spectacular trek with stunning views**
- **Fascinating insight into the lives of the Balti people**
- **Experience the sights, sounds and smells of Pakistan**



EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

The most spectacular trek in the world with multiple views of the world highest and most difficult mountains

A summit giving the most awesome views of K2 and Broad Peak

Fascinating insight into the lives of the Balti people.

Opportunity to experience the sites, sounds and smells of Pakistan

Participation Statement

Adventure Peaks/Walks recognises that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

Adventure Travel – Accuracy of Itinerary

Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops and the duration of the day may vary from those outlined. You should be aware that some events are beyond our control and we would ask for your patience.

About Pakistan

Pakistan is an enormous country which has its share of political troubles, due to these ongoing problems in Pakistan we advise you regularly check the Foreign Office website www.fco.gov.uk . Adventure Peaks has run trips to Pakistan since 2004 and will monitor the situation before travel in case any major incidents affect this trip itinerary. Pakistan is a beautiful wilderness for any hardened mountaineer or trekker. The Balti people are some of the friendliest and happiest folk we have met on our travels, always singing and dancing. Don't expect the horror stories of the past, gone are the famous Balti strikes and it is wonderfully clean both on the mountain and in the city!

Recommended Previous Experience

The trek is tough and demanding but the rewards are spectacular especially with the chance to climb this rarely visited peak. We complete a full circular route over the Gondogoro La pass and return via Hushe. The climb up Kharut Peak is moderately technical and does require a degree of confidence in the use of axe and crampons. It involves long snow slopes, which are normally fixed on the steeper sections, and an impressive final snow ridge (Scottish grade 1/2 \approx climbing ground).

You should make sure you are fit and used to quite long days on the hill**The Trekking Day** Starts between 6 and 7am (not a problem as it's usual to go to bed very early!) with a mug of steaming tea whilst still in your sleeping bag. As you get up it's easy enough to pack all your overnight gear into a kit bag before enjoying a hearty breakfast.

Your tents will be packed away for you by the local staff and the porters will arrange their loads and get a head start. Leaving camp whilst it's still fairly cool the pace on the trek will be brisk but with plenty of time to enjoy the scenery, take photos, chat to the locals and keep hydrated. Lunch is usually in a fine spot by the side of the trail and cooked by the catering team for you. Again a pleasant relaxed affair that will help your acclimatisation programme. Another few hours trekking after lunch and, most days,

you will be arriving at camp mid to late afternoon ready for tea and biscuits this leaves an hour or so to either rest or explore around the camp before a fine three course evening meal. It is quite remarkable what the cook team can produce in these remote circumstances. Although it rapidly gets chilly in the evenings it is quite cosy enough to sit around chatting about the day in the mess tent.

What to Carry

On the trek you should aim to carry a very light rucksack. A 35L sack is ideal and this should contain 1-2L of water, waterproofs, a spare warm layer, camera, mini first aid kit, sun hat, sun-cream, sun glasses and a warm hat and gloves. The rest of your gear can go in your kit bag and/or larger rucksack to be carried by the porters.



Goro 2 Camp Overlooks Masherbrum

Catering Arrangements

Food on the trek is excellent and designed to stimulate your appetite and keep you going despite frequent altitude induced loss of appetite. Breakfast includes porridge and cereal followed by eggs (fried, boiled poached or omelettes) and either bread or chapattis with jam, honey, peanut butter etc. Lunch starts with juice followed by a hot meal which may include some of the following chips, rice, lentils, vegetables, salad, sandwiches, beans, tinned fish and tinned meat. Dessert is usually fresh or tinned fruit and tea. The evening meal always starts with soup (often with a healthy dose of garlic to aid acclimatisation) accompanied by poppadums,

pop corn or prawn crackers. The main meal varies from local style ó Curry, Dal Bhat (rice and lentils with an onion and vegetable sauce), Yak stew, momos etc. to western style, chips, pasta and even pizza! Desserts are equally appealing and include apple pie, cake, custard etc. You will not be hungry!



Broad Peak Viewed From K2 Base Camp

Itinerary

This is a suggested ideal itinerary, changes may well be necessary according to weather, client fitness and rate of acclimatisation as well as difficulties with transportation. A number of rest days are programmed and these are an important part of our structured acclimatisation programme. This does not mean you shouldn't do anything ó non strenuous walks around the camp, gaining some height and then descending again is likely to be beneficial if you feel you have the energy.

Day 1-2

International flight arrives in Islamabad with time to relax and enjoy a well earned rest in our very comfortable hotel, option to take a swim in the hotel pool. Tour of the exciting bazaars of Rawalpindi where you will see much gold and silver jewellery, Kashmiri shawls and Bokarra carpets.

Day 3

Given good weather we fly to Skardu (perhaps the most spectacular commercial flight in the world, with magnificent views of Nanga Parbat the ninth highest mountain in the world. If the weather doesn't allow the flight we take the Karakoram Highway (the old silk route) is just as spectacular. It's a

long drive but one of the great journeys of the world between the deep gorges of the mighty Indus. Overnight hotel in Chilas (10-12 hour drive).

Day 4

We complete our journey in around 8 hours passing Nanga Parbat and the stunning panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. You will look back in awe and reflect on what an amazing civil engineering achievement the Karakoram Highway must have been in its time. You will have crossed the point where four great continental plates come together forming four of the world's greatest mountain ranges (Himalaya, Karakoram, Hindukush the Pamir. An evening Barbeque is provided and the Baltistan culture will start to unravel.

Day 5 Jeep to Askole 3300m

The last village between us and K2 from where we begin our trek towards K2 in the morning.

Day 6 Trek to Jhola 3200m

We set off early to avoid the heat of the day, an umbrella is also useful, but the route is gentle and enjoyable. We cross the Biafo Glacier on the way and get our first sight of the Paiyu pinnacles. 5 hours

Day 7 Trek to Paiju 3450m

If the river is sufficiently low we will edge our way round the base of the huge rock walls that guard the valley towards the Baltoro glacier. If not then a higher traverse will be taken before we regain the old river bed that leads to Paiju, our campsite for the next two nights. Despite the stories in old guide books and journals, much has been done in recent years to remove rubbish and human waste to leave an incredibly clean environment with well managed camps. In fact they are some of the best we have seen. 8-9 hours

Day 8 Rest day at Paiju camp

A rest day to aid acclimatisation and an important resting point for porters, they prepare their food for the high trek ahead. Normally there is much singing, drumming (or barrel bashing) and dancing amongst the porters with a real feel good atmosphere! We

will get our first sights of the Trango and Cathedral Groups.

Day 9 Trek to Khoburste 3930m

A tough day of walking as we tackle the rocky moraines of the Baltoro Glacier, but the sight of Paiyu Peak and the Trango Towers are truly astounding. 6 hours

Day 10 Trek to Urdukas 4130m

Today you should get your first distant sight of Broad Peak and the Gasherbrums. The campsite is located on a grassy slope high above the Baltoro and commands one of the most intense mountain views in the world which is dominated by nameless Tower, claimed to have the tallest granite wall in the world. 4hrs



[Choga Lisa From Broad Peak Base Camp](#)

Day 11 Trek to Goro 4350m

Now we are in the heart of Concordia with only ice on which to place our tents we are surrounded by views of the great peaks: Muztagh Tower, Gasherbrum 4 and the most spectacular of them all Masherbrum, it's guaranteed to take your breath away. If we are rewarded with a clear evening, nothing will have prepared you for the evening sunset and the red hue over Masherbrum, it will never be forgotten! 7-9hours

Day 12-13 Trek to K2 Base Camp 5050m

If the mountains had been placed in order for this trek, today the finale would have won an Oscar. We move up to Concordia passing the Golden Throne and Mitre Peak as we enter the arena of the 8000m Peaks, first Broad Peak (8047m) followed by the Gasherbrums and finally K2. The sheer size and scale of the

8000 metre peaks defies description, but this is a very special place and for many the view is a lifetime goal. Unlike many other treks to this area, ours continues up to K2 base camp where you will stay for a few days to enjoy the sheer majesty of K2 and its supremacy over this whole region. 8-10hrs

Day 14

Rest Day at K2 Base Camp

[\(K2 Base Camp & Gondogoro La Trek only miss the following days and go to next section saving 5 days-trip duration 23 days\)](#)

Day 15-22

Optional Ascent of Kharut Pyramid 6444m

During our 2004 joint Broad Peak and K2 summit expedition, we identified this peak as a possible objective for the advanced trekker with some previous crampon and ice axe experience to tackle one of the easier peaks. Its location is second to none, Kharut Pyramid is situated at one tip of a triangle between K2 and Broad Peak, looking directly up the Abruzzi spur of K2. The climb requires one advance base camp before a summit attempt can be made.

Those who do not wish to attempt the peak can walk to the foot of the Abruzzi or just sit and absorb the wonders that surround this special place for two or three days.

Day 22-25

Our return trek is over the high Gondogoro La pass 5450m into the beautiful Hushe Valley. Given good weather the view from the Gondogoro La pass is just incomparable, anywhere in the world. It will provide a final view of K2 and Broad Peak but more so new, incredible views of Gasherbrums I to 6, Chogolisa (7665m), and the entire upper Baltoro Massif. As we drop from the Col the harsh 8000m environment will soon give way to the lush Hushe valley below.

Day 26 Return drive to Skardu

Day 27 Flight to Islamabad or return drive

Day 28 In Islamabad or drive

Day 29 Return International Flight

INSURANCE

Insurance which covers mountain rescue, helicopter evacuation and medical expenses is **essential**. We recommend Ault Insurance (0121 569 8772) or the BMC but whatever agent you choose, we will require a copy of your insurance prior to departure