

Gasherbrum II 8035m

- **Spectacular mountain with stunning views of Broad Peak & K2**
- **Thirteenth highest mountain in the world.**
- **Multi-camp expedition style ascent of this superb peak by its SW Ridge**



EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

Gasherbrum in Balti translates to Beautiful Mountain and certainly this dramatic range of peaks does the word justice, the whole area is simply breath taking. The Gasherbrums are located at the Western end of the Baltoro Glacier in the heart of the Karakorum, the trek alone is considered to be one of the best in the world.

This will be our first expedition to Gasherbrum II and builds on the considerable success we have had with our other 8000m peak expeditions.

The expedition is a professionally-led, non-guided expedition. We say non-guided because our leader and guiding team working with you will not be able to protect your every move and you must therefore be prepared to move between camps unassisted. You will have a strong leader who has previous experience of climbing at high altitude together with the support of our High Altitude Porters, thus increasing your chance of success.

Participation Statement

Adventure Peaks 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.

ITINERARY

KEY to inclusions (H-hotel, T-teahouse/lodge, C-Camping, B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner/evening meal)

Day 1-2: International Flight. Arrive in Islamabad with time to relax and enjoy a well earned rest in our comfortable hotel with the 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. (H, B)

Day 3: Final preparations in Islamabad. (H,B)

Day 4: We will 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) which 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). (H,B,L,D)

Day 5: We complete our final preparations in Skardu and have chance for a spot of sightseeing around the area before departing for the mountains. (H,B,L,D)



Day 6: Jeep to Askole 3300m the last village between us and K2 from where we begin our trek in the morning. (C,B,L,D)

Day 7: 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. (C,B,L,D) Approx. 5 hours

Day 8: 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. (C,B,L,D) Approx. 8-9 hours

Day 9: Rest day at Paiju camp

A rest day to aid acclimatisation and an important resting point for porters to 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. (C,B,L,D)

Day 10: Trek to Urdukas 4130m Today you should get your first distant sight of 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 a nameless Tower, claimed to have the tallest granite wall in the world. (C,B,L,D) Approx. 6hrs



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; 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! (C,B,L,D) Approx. 7-9hours

Day 12: Trek to Concordia 4650m 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 the Gasherbrum II partially hidden by Gasherbrum IV followed by the Broad Peak 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. (C,B,L,D) Approx. 8-10hrs

Day 13: The final day of our walk heads South down towards the Abruzzi Glacier where **Base Camp** will be established at c5100m. (C,B,L,D)

Day 14-40 Climbing Period. Our choice of route is the South West Ridge first climbed by an Austrian team in 1956 and now classed the 'normal route'

Day 41-50 (or 64) Clear the mountain and return to Islamabad. Or move across To Gasherbrum I.

To Camp 1 (5900m) The route to Camp 1 will take us through the ice fall of the South Gasherbrum Glacier. Some fixed line will need to be established on exposed sections and to ease our regular movement up and down.

To Camp 2 (6500m)

Picking up the South spur we will start our ascent of the mountain proper. Again some fixed line will be put in place where necessary. Camp 2 is located on an excellent platform and offers stunning views over to Hidden Peak.

To Camp 3 (7000m)

The climb to camp 3 carries on along the ridge. This can be used as our launching platform for the summit bid. Depending on conditions we may establish a camp 4 at 7500m to make a shorter summit day.

The Summit Day

From camp 4 area we pick up a rising terrace close to the foot of the south-east face. This eventually leads to the east ridge which we take via a short rock band to the summit. Summit day normally takes around 12-14hrs for the return journey.



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE/FITNESS

The most successful climbers tend to be those who have previously been successful on climbs to 7000m or above, are technically capable and have a good level of fitness. 8000m peaks are an enormous undertaking with many obstacles but we believe our experience and infrastructure matched with your enthusiasm can help you achieve your dream.

You should have suitable experience to enable you to be relatively self-sufficient, capable and willing to move between camps unsupervised. Ideally you will have previous altitude experience to at least 6800m and be comfortable on Scottish grade II winter routes and European Alpine AD-

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS

Food on the trek and at Base Camp is excellent and designed to stimulate your appetite 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 and may include chips, rice, lentils, vegetables, salad, sandwiches, beans, tinned fish and tinned meat. Dessert is usually fresh/tinned fruit and tea. The evening meal always starts with soup (often with a healthy dose of garlic to aid acclimatisation) accompanied by poppadums, popcorn or prawn crackers. The main meal varies from local style ó Curries, Beef stew, momos etc. to western style ó yak burgers, chips, pasta, even pizza! Desserts are equally appealing and include apple pie, cake, custard etc. You will not be hungry! Once on the mountain we use dehydrated meals supplemented by chocolate, muesli bars, cheese, nuts, salami, etc



MISSED INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

We allow one extra day in the itinerary for bad weather. If you are delayed longer (unusual) additional costs may be incurred. Adventure Peaks can get flights for (at cost, plus small admin. charge) but if getting your own flights, make sure the dates are alterable & refundable and only obtain them once the trip is viable..

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

We employ local staff to work alongside our own group leader giving employment beyond farming. We ask that you restrict showers to those lodges that have electricity or solar power, thus reducing deforestation. Be prepared to wash using bowls of warm water or -wet onesø We recommend you dispose of burnable rubbish at the lodges but take other items such as bottles and batteries back to Scardu. Avoid plastic bottles of water by bringing iodine tablets and a refillable bottle to drink local pumped water. Soft drinks should be purchased in glass bottles that can be recycled.

ALTITUDE

Our itineraries generally allow sufficient time for your body to acclimatise. The best way to avoid any problems is to do everything slowly, walk at a gentle steady pace and drink plenty of fluid. Our leader will give an appropriate briefing on arrival in the destination country.

OXYGEN

For those who wish to use oxygen the additional cost would be in the region of £1200 depending on the system you choose. Please ask for full details.

USEFUL TIPS

Just in case your main luggage goes missing en route, it is a good idea to wear your boots on the plane. Most other things can be replaced but comfortable, well worn-in boots are impossible to replace.

EQUIPMENT

A detailed equipment list is provided on booking. Specialist items such as sleeping bags and down suits can be hired or purchased with 15% discount.

BAGGAGE

For your own comfort travel light. Normally airlines restrict baggage to 20kg and the Skardu flight 15kg, but you will be wearing boots and one set of trekking clothes. Some items can be left at the hotel for your return. We provide you with an Adventure Peaks kit bag.

VISAS AND PERMITS

UK citizens and most EU nationals need to purchase Visas in advance. All other countries should check with their local embassy. Passports must be valid for at least six months after the end date of the trip.

INSURANCE

Insurance which covers mountain rescue, helicopter evacuation and medical expenses is **essential**. We will require a copy of your insurance prior to departure.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- All permits, charges, importation taxes and levies payable to the Government of Pakistan in connection with the expedition.
- All hotel and other accommodation up to and including two nights accommodation on our return to Islamabad.
- All tents, ropes and other communal equipment necessary for the climb.
- Medical safety equipment and supplies.
- Communication equipment (**each** member will have a radio on the hill).
- Satellite telephone and e-mail facilities, website, weather forecasts.
- All food, fuel and cooking equipment.
- All trucks, jeeps, porters, base camp workers.
- Base Camp services., cooks, cook boys, tents, seating etc.
- High Altitude Climbing Porter support on the mountain at a ratio of at least 1:2.

Gasherbrum I Extension

As both Gasherbrum I & II share the same BC & ABC we have decided to offer Adventure Peaks clients the chance to climb the harder peak of Gasherbrum I. We will extend the Gasherbrum II trip by a further 14 days to accommodate the extra climb. A fantastic opportunity for people to experience the illusive Hidden Peak another fantastic peak in the Karakorum range. Gasherbrum I will be attempted by the now classic Japanese Couloir route.

LOCAL COSTS

Most meals are inclusive, please see the key above. Individuals are responsible for drinks throughout and hotel meals which gives the flexibility to choose where you eat.

CURRENCY

UK Sterling, Euros and US Dollars can easily be changed in Islamabad. There are a couple of ATM (cash machines) available in but should not be depended on. Once away from Islamabad Pakistan Rupees or US Dollars are the accepted currencies.

TIPPING

Tipping is generally expected and part of everyday life. We generally tip our own local staff as a whole and would recommend around \$300 per peak per person for this trip.

DEPARTURE TAX

There is a Departure Tax payable on leaving Islamabad.

Why Book with Adventure Peaks?

Financial Security

- Adventure Peaks is ATOL bonded giving you financial security and peace of mind, rather than perhaps sending funds to an unknown destination in a developing country.

Very strong communication equipment:

- All members and climbing porters are given a radio for the duration of the expedition and we have quality base sets at BC.
- Satellite telephones at Base Camp. You can also take the phone to use in the privacy of your own tent.
- E-mail facilities

Quality Mountain Equipment

- We use Terra Nova & Mountain Hardwear tents which have proven themselves to be superior to North Face. All our Climbing Porters and support staff are given the same tents.
- Good supply of stoves, shovels etc

Quality Base Camp Equipment & facilities

- We do not use agency tents and equipment and as a result we can guarantee the quality.
- Same quality tents for storage and cooks
- Toilet tents
- BC wash/shower tent
- Comfortable seating

Staffing

- We have good cooks and climbing porters/Sherpa staff.
- We have a cook and cook assistant at BC to ensure you are well looked after.
- We have a high ratio of porter/Sherpa to every client, a higher ratio than many so that we can allow for illness, accident or capacity to ensure logistics in place after a bad spell of weather etc.

Medical

- Medical First Aid kit
- Gamow Bag
- Emergency equipment, spare oxygen, stretcher etc