

TREKKING TO BALTORO K2 GONDOGOROLA

Itinerary: Pakistan

Duration: 20 days/ 19 nights

KARAKORUM MOUNTAIN RANGE

The Karakorum mountain range (in Turkish "black rock") is, with the Himalayas, one of the great mountain ranges of Asia, located on the border between Pakistan (Gilgit-Baltistan), and China (Uighur autonomous region of Sinkiang). Its length is about 500 km and this region has the most glaciers in the world outside the polar regions. Five of the fourteen 8,000 meters peaks exist on the earth, are in this range.

With its altitude and hardness, the Karakorum is much less inhabited than the Himalayan mountain range is. European explorers first arrived in the early 19th century and later British surveyors in 1856.

The Muztagh Pass was crossed in 1887 by an expedition headed by Colonel Francis Younghusband, and the valleys above the Hunza River were explored in 1892 by General Sir George K. Cockerill. In the period of 1910 and 1920 there were several explorations to get more knowledge on the region's geography.

The Karakorum and the Himalayas are important for Earth research for some reasons. They are one of the world's most geologically active areas, they are in the area where two continents, Asia and the Indian subcontinent, connect. In addition, they are important for the study of tectonic plates due to the collision of the Eurasian and Indian plates. Mountain glaciers serve as indicators of climate changes.

- K2 (8611 masl)
- Nanga Parbat (8125 masl)
- Gasherbrum I (8068 masl)
- Broad Peak (8047 masl)
- Gasherbrum II (8035 masl)
- Gasherbrum III (7952 masl)
- Gasherbrum IV (7925 masl)
- Distaghil Sar (7885 masl)
- Masherbrum (7821 masl)
- Rakaposhi (7788 masl)
- Kanjut Sar (7761 masl)
- Saser Kangri (7672 masl)
- Chogolisa (7665 masl)

KARAKORUM: TREKKING TO K2 BASE CAMP

The K2 Base Camp trek passes through the most impressive area of the Karakorum, with direct views of four 8,000 meters that are situated here, such as the K2 (8,611 m) the second highest mountain on the planet, (Broad Peak 8051m, Hiden Peak 8068m, Gasherbrum II 8035m). In its surroundings and through the 65 km of length of the Baltoro glacier, other fascinating mountains can be observed: the Trango Towers, the Baltoro Cathedrals, the Masherbrum, the Muztagh tower or the Mitre peak.

The crossing the Gondogoro La (5.680 m) is another strong point of the trek, hill that gives access to the valley of Ushe, and from where you can get a magnificent panoramic view of the peaks of this part of the Karakorum as Lela Peak 6200m.

ITINERARY

Day 1. July 13.

Origin – Islamabad (By flight). Depending on the flight schedule, an extra day might be added.

Day 2. July 14.

Islamabad – Chilas. Early in the morning way to Chilas by private car, stopping on the way for lunch (12 hours). Accommodation at the hotel.

Day 3. July 15.

Chilas - Skardu. Leave early in the morning from Chilas, passing by Nanga Parbat (10 Hours). Overnight at the hotel.

Day 4. July 16.

Skardu. An extra day if there is any problem with transport.

Day 5. July 17.

Skardu - Askole (3000 m). Transportation by Jeep through the Shigar Valley (6-7 hours). Overnight in tents.

Day 6. July 18.

Askole - Jula (3200 m). Trek 6-7 h (18 km). We will walk along the Braldu river valley, passing near the Biafo glacier. Later we can observe the Bakhor Das (5809 m) and then we will arrive at Jula (Jhola) next to the Panmah glacier.

Day 7. July 19.

Jula - Paiyu (3450 m). Trek 6-7 h (16,6 km). Each time we go deeper into the heart of Karakorum. You can see The Paiyu Peak which is more than 6,600 meters above sea level. The path ascends to a small viewpoint from where you can see the Baltoro glacier, and the colossal Trango Towers in the background.

Day 8. July 20.

Paiyu. Rest day in the green oasis with a magnificent mountain.

Day 9. July 21.

Paiyu - Urdukas (4050 m). Trek 7-8 h (15,9 km). On the way you can enjoy magnificent landscapes with glaciers; Paiyu Peak (6610 m) of the Tower of Trango (6286m), the towers of the Uli Biaho (6417 m), the Lobsang Needle (5,707 m) and others. We will cross the glacier covered with detritus in different points and we will circulate through the lateral moraines until the next camp.

Day 10. July 22.

Urdukas - Goro II (4380 m). Trek 5-6 h (12,1 km). During our walk today, you can enjoy the view of the Masherbrum (7821 m), the Muztagh Tower (7284 m) and the Gasherbrum IV (7925 m).

Day 11. July 23.

Goro II - Concordia (4650 m). Trek 4-5 h (9,2 km). This day is the most exiting one, we will be able to enjoy the greats of the Karakorum: K2 (8611 m), Broad Peak (8047 m) and the group of Gasherbrums (8068 and 8035 m), and other impressive Peaks: the Muztagh Tower, the Sia Kangri, the Golden Throne or the Mitre Peak.

Day 12. July 24.

Concordia - K2 Base Camp. This day is very special - we will walk to the base camp of K2 (5135 m), the second highest mountain on the planet. This mountain is between the Pakistan-China borders. The first climbing was in 1954 by the group of Italians headed by Ardito Desio. We will pass the Broad Peak camp (8051m). Our camp is at the foot of K2 to enjoy the colossal views of K2.

(j) ITINERARY CROSSING THE GONDOGORO LA

Before walking to the Ali Camp, it is necessary to plan it with anticipation to possible bad weather or bad conditions to cross the pass. The guides and rescuers will evaluate the state of the pass and prepare the way for the day of the pass. In the case of bad weather or danger of falling rocks, we will return to Skardu by the same route we went up to Concordia Camp.

Day 13. July 25.

Concordia - Ali Camp (5100 m). Trek 4 h (5 km). Today we will go up to the Vigne glacier with magnificent views over the Chogolisa and the Mitre Peak.k2, BroadPeak GIV, G V.

Day 14. July 26.

Ali Camp - Gondogoro La - Khyuspang (4600 m). Trek 8-10 hours, with 930 meters of slope and 1260 meters of descent. Our walking day will start early in the morning - around 1 am. After 4-5 hours of steep climbing, we will reach the Gondogoro La pass (5,680 m) with impressive views towards the K2, Broad Peak and the Gasherbrums. And on the other side of the valley, very close to us, we can see the beautiful granite needle of the Laila Peak (6200 m). Then we will leave the Baltoro valley and descend through a parallel valley for 3-4 hours until we reach KhyuSpang - a beautiful green meadow, full of flowers and herbs. This step is the highest point of all the trekking, as well as where you will require technical knowledge about walking with crampons and fixed ropes.

Day 15. July 27.

khyuuspang - Shaieshcho (3330 m). Trek 6-7 h. Walking next to the lateral moraines, passing by Leila Peak, we will walk until Shaiescho, a scenic place next to the river, ideal place to relax and rest after the previous day in the crossing of Gondogoro La, you also can take a bath after many days in the mountains. From here you can watch the Charakusa valley and the peaks of K7 (6934 m).

Day 16. July 28.

Shaieshcho - Hushe (3050 m). Trek 3-4 h. This is the last day of our trekking through the Karakorum mountains. The day will take us on an easy road to the village of Hushe, it is known in the area as the starting point for expeditions to the Masherbrum or the peaks are located in the valleys of Charakusa and Nangma. From Hushe go to Skardu by jeeps.

Day 17 July 29.

Hushe - Skardu. We will drive through the Hushe valley, crossing small villages that are sustained by agriculture and herds of sheep and goats. Overnight at the hotel in Skardu. The Jeep trip to Skardu takes about 7 hours.

**Sometimes there is a possibility to take a flight Skardu-Islamabad. But it is problematic and flights are not regular. Please, check the information if you are interested in this option.*

Day 18. July 30.

Skardu to Chilas. Way from Skardu to Chilas (10 hours). Overnight at the hotel.

Day 19. July 31.

Chilas to Islamabad. The additional day to travel to the Karakorum Highway from Chilas to Islamabad (11/12 hours). Overnight at the hotel.

Day 20. August 1.

Flight Islamabad - City/Country of Origin. At the agreed time transfer to the international airport.

(j) OPTION OF RETURNING BY THE SAME ROUTE: ITINERARY

Day 13. July 25. Concordia - Goro I

Day 14. July 26. Goro I-Khoburse

Day 15. July 27. Khoburse – MongronDera

Day 16. July 28. MongronDera – KoroFong

Day 17. July 29. Korofong – Askoli-Skaru

Day 18. July 30. Skardu Chilas

Day 19. July 31. Chilas- Islamabad

Day 20. August 1. Flight from Islamabad - Country of Origin

Duration: 19 days - ISB-ISB

From Islamabad - Islamabad services are going to be shared with other clients

SERVICES INCLUDE:

TRANSPORT

- Meeting at the airport in Islamabad - arrival and departure
- Air Conditioned Mini Bus Transportation from Islamabad to Skardu)
- Air-conditioned mini bus transportation from Skardu to Islamabad
- Transportation in private jeep from Skardu to Askole/Hushe or vice versa.

ACCOMMODATION

- Accommodation at the hotel tourist category / Hostel with double rooms 2 days in Islamabad, only (breakfast)
- Accommodation at the hotel tourist category// Lodge with double rooms 2 days in Chilas, full board.
- Accommodation in hotel tourist category// Hostel with double rooms 3 days in Skardu, full board.

PERSONAL SERVICE

- local guide during the trekking
- Cook, cook assistant
- The head of porters
- porters during the trekking to K2 base camp and return to Hushe/ Askole
- The maximum weight of personal luggage is 16 Kilos per person during the trekking

FOOD AND OTHERS

- Full board during the trekking. All types of food: pasta, rice, noodles, vegetables, lentils, bread, meat, goat, chicken and etc.
- Kitchen tent, dining room (carpeting), chairs, tables, and kitchen utensils, personal tents (two people per each), etc.

DOCUMENTATION

- Letter of Invitation for Pakistan visa
- Hotel reservation for the visa process
- Trekking Permit
- Briefing at Club Alpino Pakistan or Department of Tourism in Skardu)

SERVICES DO NOT INCLUDE

- Food that is not specified in the program
- Lunch in Islamabad
- Personal trekking equipment
- Sleeping bags
- Visits and activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- Entrances to the places to visit
- Extra personal expences: drinks, laundries, Telephone, etc.
- Personal insurance
- Any type of rescue in case of emergency
- Helicopter payment 15000 USD to reserve the helicopter, without this deposit, helicopters do not leave to rescue in case of emergency.
- Tips
- Flight taxes
- Airport taxes
- Extra days, more than 20 days
- Any other service, that is out of service agreement
- Flights from Islamabad to Skardu/Sakardu to Islamabad
- Oxygen bottles, mask and regulator

IMPORTANT!!!

- If someone would like to go down or separate from the initial group, that person will have only a porter, a sleeping tent, and the Hotels according to the program
- During the trip, the extra payments of Hotels, due-to the unforeseen circumstance as protests or bad climatic conditions that caused extra payment of the porters, transport etc. The payment is the responsibility of the client
- Each member of the trekking has to have an insurance that covers more than 35000 USD in case of emergency. If someone does not have this insurance, they will not be able to participate in the trip
- The group has to make a deposit of 15000 US\$ for the Helicopter rescue service, without this deposit, the helicopter rescue will not be made in case of an emergency
- In case of the government of Pakistan increases the payment of trekking permit in 2019, we will inform you in advance
- There will be no pay back in the case the service is not used or if the expedition ends before the date mentioned in the program
- **In case of flying from Islamabad to Skardu or Skardu to Islamabad the extra payment for the plane ticket would be 140 Euros for one side ticket. In case of flying extra hotels in Islamabad or Skardu the customer has to pay themselves**

PS. *There might be some small changes in the program due to unforeseen circumstances (weather, road repair, accommodation etc).*

We hope for your understanding.