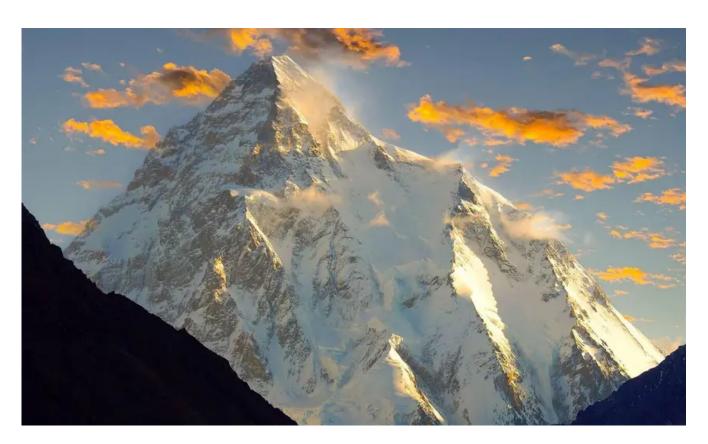
# K2 Gondogoro La Trek

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Embark on the adventure of a lifetime with our K2 Base Camp Trek Pakistan 2025–2026, a 21-day guided expedition into the heart of the mighty Karakoram. This trek offers a rare opportunity to witness some of the world's highest and most dramatic peaks—without the need to climb them. Starting from the remote village of Askole, the journey winds through Braldu Gorge and along the legendary Baltoro Glacier, reaching the magnificent Concordia where four 8000m peaks come into view: K2, Broad Peak, Gasherbrum I, and Gasherbrum II. The path is raw, untamed, and immensely rewarding—designed for seasoned adventurers looking to test their limits and embrace the wild beauty of Pakistan.

With experienced guides, porters, and full logistical support, you'll hike across glacier moraines, cross icy rivers, and sleep beneath towering rock faces like Trango Towers, all while enjoying stunning high-altitude camps. This is more than a trek—it's a transformative journey through one of the greatest wilderness regions on earth.

#### **Tour** Facts

Group Size:

12

Duration:

20

Language:

**English** 

Tour Type:

continuous

#### **Tour** Itinerary

## Day 1: Arrival in Islamabad

Your Himalayan journey begins with arrival at Islamabad International Airport, where our team welcomes you with a personalized sign board. After a smooth transfer to your hotel, you'll check-in and take the rest of the day to relax and recover from international travel. For early arrivals, the peaceful capital offers a soft landing and quiet surroundings. Should you wish, our staff can assist with SIM cards or a short local stroll. Prepare to meet your fellow trekkers and enjoy a restful night before flying into the mountains.

## Day 2 : Flight to Skardu (2,228m)

Weather permitting, you'll board a scenic one-hour flight to Skardu, soaring over the majestic Nanga Parbat and the Indus River snaking through deep valleys. Upon landing, transfer to the hotel and settle in. The remainder of the day is yours to rest, acclimatize, and explore. Optional activities include a short walk to Upper Kachura Lake or local gear shopping in Skardu Bazaar. This calm day sets the stage for the elevation and adventure ahead.

## Day 3: Acclimatization in Skardu

To better prepare your body for altitude, we spent today at leisure in Skardu while still being active. Visit the historic Kharpocho Fort, perched above the valley with panoramic views of the Indus River. Later, take a short excursion to Satpara Lake, a serene alpine reservoir surrounded by peaks. Return to town for last-minute gear purchases or cultural exploration in the local bazaar. Enjoy an early dinner and mentally prepare for entering the wild Karakoram.

## Day 4: Jeep Safari to Askole (3,000m)

Begin the overland adventure with a 6-8 hour jeep journey into the heart of the Karakoram. The road carves through Shigar Valley, hugging cliffs and roaring rivers before entering the raw wilderness. You'll cross wooden bridges and bumpy paths on your way to Askole, the last inhabited village before the trek. After arriving and stretching your legs, we'll set up camp beside the riverbanks. Tonight, the stars shine brighter as you say goodbye to roads and embrace the mountains.

# Day 5: Trek to Jhola (3,200m)

Your trekking begins with a 20 km hike (5–8 hours) from Askole to Jhola, gradually transitioning from semi-cultivated fields to the wild, windswept Braldu Valley. You'll cross small wooden bridges, climb rocky ridges, and pass beneath jagged ridgelines. Stop for lunch by the Korofon River, with panoramic views of the glacier ahead. Continuing toward Domordo River, we'll take a newer, safer route that avoids the old crossing and instead uses a footbridge to access the river's far side. From there, it's a short walk to camp at Jhola, your first night in full wilderness, where you'll hear nothing but rushing water and whispering wind.

## Day 6: Trek from Jhola to Paiju (3,450m)

Today's 19.8 km journey (6–7 hours) follows the dramatic Braldu Gorge, flanked by towering cliffs and roaring glacial streams. The trail hugs the Braldu River, with occasional river crossings—so be ready with water shoes if levels are high. As you ascend, nature unveils the majestic Cathedral Peaks and the iconic spires of the Trango Towers, their granite faces glowing in the afternoon sun. On a clear day, you'll catch your first view of the snout of the Baltoro Glacier in the distance. After a moderate climb from the riverbank, we reach the Paiju campsite, the last location where you'll see trees for many days. It's a key acclimatization stop with breathtaking surroundings and distant thunder from shifting ice.

## Day 7 : Acclimatization Day at Paiju

Rest and recovery are critical at this stage. While porters prepare for the glacier ahead—baking bread and organizing loads—you'll take a light hike to Paiju Hill, offering views across the gorge and into the glacier basin. This day helps your body adjust to higher elevation before crossing into the ice-dominated Baltoro terrain. Relax, hydrate, and enjoy the peaceful views as your journey prepares to enter the heart of the Karakoram.

## Day 8: Trek to Khoburtse (3,930m)

Leave the treeline behind as the trail transitions onto the Baltoro Glacier. This 14.7 km trek (5–7 hours) involves ascending the glacial snout and maneuvering over rocky moraine ridges. Today's walk is physically demanding, with undulating terrain that rises and falls with the glacier's contours. Along the way, you'll pass Liligo—a former army post—and take in incredible views of Uli Biaho Tower and the massive Trango rock spires. The day ends with a campsite at Khoburtse, perched beside the glacier's edge, surrounded by ice walls and silence.

# Day 9: Trek to Urdukas (4,130m)

Though today's distance is just 6.4 km, the path is steep and technical, requiring careful navigation across ice and rock. The trail hugs the glacier's side, and you'll cross several small tributary glaciers, climbing steadily toward Urdukas, one of the few non-glacial campsites along the trek. Located near an army post, this site is positioned on a grassy terrace above the glacier, offering unmatched views of Trango Towers, Cathedral Spires, and distant peaks beyond. Watch the sun melt over the jagged skyline as you settle in at 4,130 meters.

## Day 10 : Trek to Goro II (4,350m)

This 12 km trek (6–8 hours) takes you fully onto the icy expanse of the Baltoro Glacier. With each step, the scenery grows more dramatic. You're now surrounded by some of the highest granite faces in the world and walking alongside jagged ice formations. To the right lies Masherbrum (7,821m), while Gasherbrum IV and the Muztagh Tower come into view as you progress. Camp is pitched directly on glacial ice at Goro II, a remote and starkly beautiful location with incredible night skies. As the sun dips behind the mountains, the glacier glows with soft pink and orange hues—a highlight for any trekker.

## Day 11: Trek to Concordia (4,500m)

This is one of the most visually rewarding days of the trek. Today's 11.7 km journey (5-7 hours) leads to the legendary Concordia, a vast confluence of glaciers and the heart of the Karakoram. As you walk deeper into the glacier, Broad Peak (8,051m) emerges prominently. On your left, striking peaks like Marble Peak and Crystal Peak shine above the glacial horizon. The route zigzags through rough moraine and icy terrain, slowly revealing the majestic outline of K2, which remains hidden until the final stretch. Upon arrival, you'll set camp on rocky moraine at Concordia, surrounded by ten of the world's highest peaks—including Gasherbrum I & II and Mitre Peak. This is truly "The Throne Room of the Mountain Gods."

## Day 12: K2 Base Camp & Broad Peak Base Camp Excursion (5,100m)

Congratulations! Today marks the culmination of your upward journey—an early morning trek through Godwin-Austen Glacier leads to Broad Peak Base Camp, followed by the final approach to K2 Base Camp. This round trip takes 6–8 hours, depending on weather and pace. You'll navigate icy crevasses and boulder fields, crossing glacier melt streams and rugged moraine. From Broad Peak BC, incredible views of K2, Mitre Peak, and Bride Peak unfold. Continue to K2 Base Camp, where climbers prepare for summit bids. Visit the Gilkey Memorial, a solemn tribute to those who perished on K2. After soaking in the grandeur, return to Concordia by evening.

## Day 13: Trek to Ali Camp (4,800m)

Leave the well-trodden trail behind as you venture toward Ali Camp—the launchpad for crossing Gondogoro La. The 12.1 km trek (5–6 hours) follows West Vigne Glacier, a lesser-explored tributary branching off the Baltoro. The trail grows narrower and more technical, with occasional rope-assisted crossings if large crevasses appear. Porters and trekkers rope up if snow conditions demand it, and crampons may be necessary. Tonight's camp sits atop high moraine overlooking the glacier junction. This campsite, named after Ali, the first local to cross Gondogoro La, offers isolation and time to prepare mentally and physically for the next day's challenge. A basic training session on fixed rope and climbing technique will be conducted.

# Day 14: Crossing Gondogoro La (5,585m) to Khuispang (4,600m)

Today is the climax of your trek—a 9-12 hour alpine traverse over Gondogoro La, one of the highest and most dramatic mountain passes in Pakistan. Begin pre-dawn, roped up with guides and support staff. Ascend West Vigne Glacier in the cold darkness, reaching the saddle of Gondogoro La after 3-4 hours of steep snow and ice. From the summit, gaze upon K2, Broad Peak, Gasherbrum I & II, and the majestic Laila Peak (6,096m). The descent is steep and technical, using fixed ropes and crampons to navigate the icy slope into Hushe Valley. Once off the technical section, follow rocky moraines to reach Khuispang Camp, nestled between glacier pools and alpine grasslands. A long, unforgettable day.

## Day 15 : Trek to Saicho (3,350m)

Today's 11.9 km descent (5-6 hours) is a welcome shift in terrain and altitude. You'll pass through

Dalsampa and lush Gondogoro pastures, where nomadic herders graze livestock during summer. Stone shelters and ancient trails guide the way. The route becomes gentler as you drop below 4,000m for the first time in two weeks. Arrive at Saicho, a wide, sandy river valley surrounded by large boulders, tall trees, and the melodic flow of glacial water. After days in alpine barrenness, the abundance of oxygen and greenery is a joy for both lungs and spirit.

## Day 16: Trek to Hushe Village & Drive to Skardu $(3,500m \rightarrow 2,228m)$

Begin your final trekking day with a 7.2 km descent (3–4 hours) through the lower Gondogoro Valley. The trail winds through scattered villages, stone huts, and barley fields before reaching Hushe, one of the last remote villages in Baltistan. Here, the Shyok River, flowing from Ladakh, meets the Hushe River, forming a powerful confluence that you'll cross via a suspension bridge. After a brief rest and celebratory team photo in Hushe, transfer by private jeeps to Skardu, a scenic drive through alpine villages, terraced fields, and dramatic gorges. Check into a warm hotel, take a long-awaited hot shower, and enjoy a full-course meal in comfort. You've officially completed one of the world's most demanding treks.

## Day 17: Buffer Day / Rest in Skardu

This day is reserved as a contingency buffer in case of delays earlier in the trek. If all goes as planned, enjoy a full rest day in Skardu. Options include sightseeing (e.g., Shigar Fort, Manthal Buddha Rock, or Satpara Lake), shopping for Baltistani crafts, or simply relaxing with a view of the Indus River. Use this day to write in your journal, share photos, or reflect on the monumental journey you've just completed.

# Day 18: Flight to Islamabad (or Drive to Chilas if Weather Delays)

If weather permits, you'll board a morning flight from Skardu to Islamabad, enjoying one last aerial glimpse of the Karakoram. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and spend the day at leisure. If the flight is canceled due to weather (a common occurrence in the mountains), you'll travel overland via Chilas, a 10-hour drive that traces the Karakoram Highway through the western Himalayas. Overnight in a guesthouse en route.

# Day 19: Arrival in Islamabad / Free Day

This day is reserved for rest or for overland travelers to complete the journey from Chilas to Islamabad. If you've already arrived by flight the previous day, enjoy a **free day for sightseeing** in Islamabad. Visit the **Faisal Mosque**, **Lok Virsa Museum**, or stroll in **Daman-e-Koh** overlooking the capital. Dinner with the group is optional and can be arranged to celebrate the successful completion of the trek.

# Day 20 : Departure Day

After breakfast, our team will transfer you to **Islamabad International Airport** for your flight back home. You'll leave Pakistan with breathtaking memories of **K2**, **Gondogoro La**, and the unmatched wilderness of the Karakoram. This journey is more than a trek—it's an experience that reshapes your spirit and

redefines your sense of adventure.