



# PAKISTAN

**K2 Base Camp Trek  
Non-Gondogoro La Itinerary**



# ITINERARY

## HERE IS A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF OUR EPIC ITINERARY

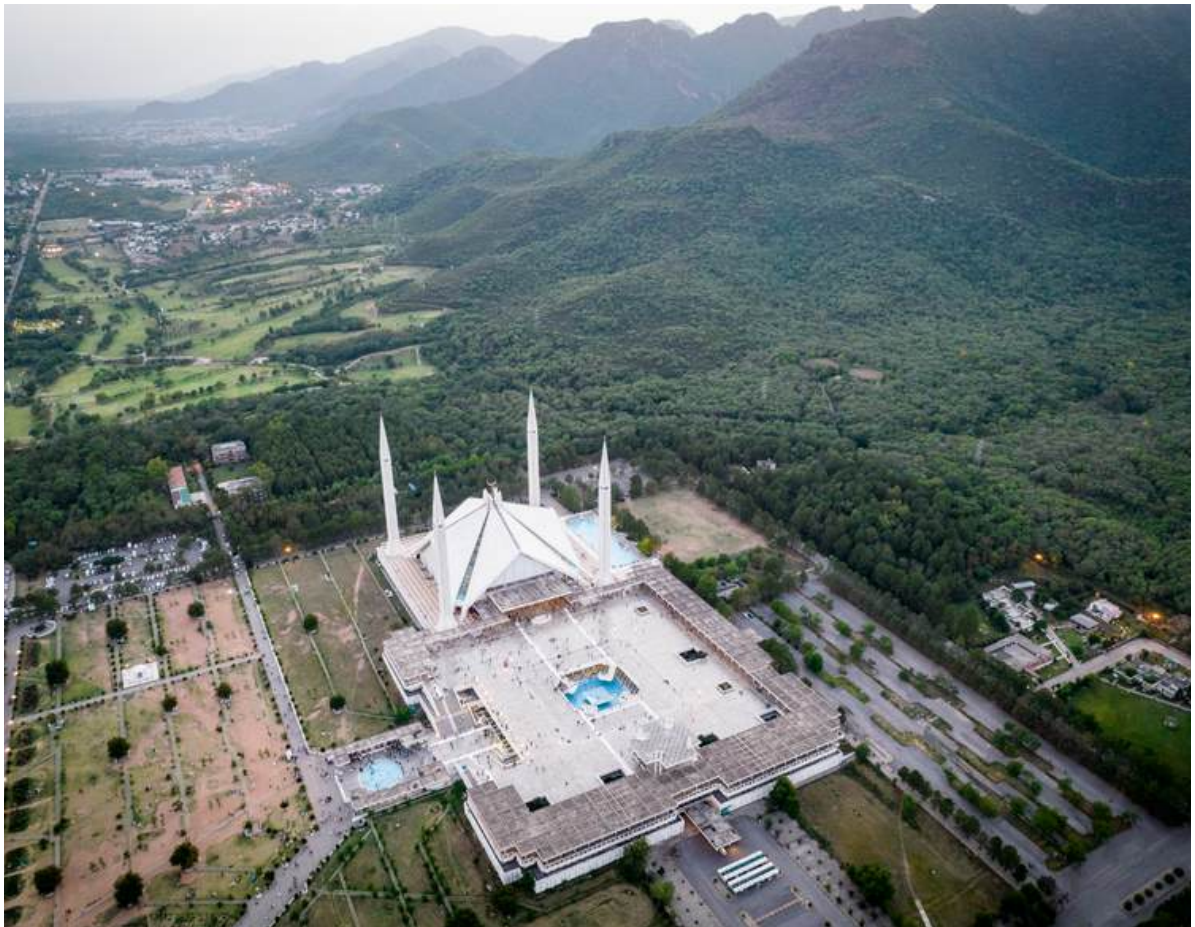
### Day 1

#### Islamabad Arrival

Arrive at Islamabad airport where you will be picked up by our driver; we'll ferry you to the hotel where you can relax after your long journey. We recommend arriving in Islamabad at least one day early so that you can settle in and be ready to go on the morning of day one. Note: accommodation pre-tour is not included.

After our team has assembled, we will have our first group introduction, gear checks, team briefing, and welcome lunch.

Dinner will be at one of our favorite places in Islamabad. Our team will return to the hotel and retire early for a good night's sleep. We have a flight to catch in the morning!



## Day 2

### Fly to Skardu

The plan is for our whole group to catch an early morning flight to Skardu (50 minutes), the largest city in Baltistan. If the weather is clear, we can catch some truly epic views of Nanga Parbat and other massive peaks in the area. Once in Skardu guests will have free time throughout the day to rest and explore the city and the bazaar. Today, we will finalize our trekking permits at the local government office and have dinner together as a group.

Over the next few days, your trip leader and local staff are busy preparing all of the final details for the trip.

### Alternative: Islamabad to Skardu by Road

Unfortunately, flights in Pakistan do not always run on time. If we are unable to take our flight on the morning of day two, it is possible that we will have to drive overland to Skardu from Islamabad (18-24 hours). This journey can take a lot of time as the road from Gilgit to Skardu is not always in the best shape. Epic staff will evaluate what the best options are for the group and go from there. Flying is obviously the best-case scenario!

To break up the drive, we would sleep in Naran or Chilas for the night before pushing on to Skardu the next day.





Day

3

## Market Day in Skardu

Today, the Epic team is busy food shopping and packing all of the group supplies. Guests have free time in the city during the morning and afternoon. There are many activities to do in around Skardu including visiting Kharpocho Fort, meandering through the local bazaar, and heading out to the surrounding desert.

We will have dinner again as a group before setting off in the morning.

\*If the group is arriving overland from Islamabad, the entire schedule is bumped back a day, to allow for a day of rest in Skardu (that is why we schedule in buffer days!)

Day

4

## Drive from Skardu to Askole (3,040 m)

Today, our adventure begins in earnest! Our team will assemble early at the hotel and after breakfast, we will load up the 4×4 jeeps and begin the bumpy, dusty drive past to the end of the line village called Askole (also spelled Askoli); the gateway to Central Karakoram National Park. The journey to Askole from Skardu takes between 6 and 8 hours depending on road conditions. We will eat lunch en route.

It is also possible that we will need to spend an extra day in Skardu finalizing our permits if they are not ready the day before (again, this is why we schedule buffer days!).

We will set up our tents at a family-owned campground and stay the night in Askole before starting the trek tomorrow.

Tonight is our first night in tents.



## Day 5

### Askole to Jhula (3,149 m)

- Trekking distance: 20.5km
- Altitude gain/loss: 430 m up
- Jhula Camp elevation: 3,149 m

Today, our trek begins properly! We leave Askole in the early morning and enter Central Karakoram National Park.

After we register our permits for the last time at the park office, we continue on a mix of trail and dirt jeep track.

Today is not overly steep but it is long, so expect 6-7 hours of walking.



## Day 6

### Jhula to Paiju (3,400 m)

- Trekking distance: 21 km
- Altitude gain: 624 m up
- Paiju Camp elevation: 3,400 m

Early start with 5-7 hours of trekking. Hilly terrain, a few stream crossings and a mix of elevation gains and descents. The day can be hot, exposed to much sun, and dusty. Sunscreen and lots of water will be your greatest friend today! We may be treated to a rowdy Balti music session from the porters after dinner at camp.

Cold "showers" (a faucet basically) are available.

## Day 7

### **Paiju - Khoburtse (3,833 m)**

- Trekking distance: 14.3 km
- Altitude gain: 747 m up
- Khoburtse Camp Elevation: 3,833 m

6-8 hours of hiking. After about an hour of walking, we will enter onto the Baltoro Glacier. We will be hiking along the mighty Baltoro until we reach Concordia in several days' time. The terrain is hilly, rocky, and uneven, with a few scattered bits of proper trail.

The final obstacle of the day will be a river crossing (there is a bridge as of 2023) and the water can be quite cold – but it is manageable.

Khoburtse camp can feel a bit cramped, but views are top notch and there is a beautiful waterfall nearby as well as fine opportunities for sunrise viewpoints. Toilets are basic.

## Day 8

### **Khoburtse - Urdukas (4,053 m)**

- Trekking distance: 6.3 km
- Altitude gain: 400 m up
- Urdukas Camp elevation: 4,052 m

Easy day, finishing after about 6.3 kilometers (2-4 hours). As we gain altitude, we are mindful not to push ourselves too hard or sleep too high too fast.

Urdukas is a truly spectacular campsite, and one of our favorites along the whole trek. Excellent views of Trango Towers, Muztagh Tower, and Lobsang can be seen directly from the camp.

## Day 9

### **Rest Day in Urdukas (4,250 m)**

If we are on time to this point in the trek (no major delays), we will likely opt to take a rest day at the absolutely stunning Urdukas campsite. Here, we can use the free time to do laundry, nap, and have a hot bucket shower. Urdukas consistently ranks as one of the favorite campsites of the entire trek!

Taking a rest day here also greatly helps our bodies acclimatize to the high altitude.

## Day 10

### Urdukas - Goro 2 (4,250 m)

- Trekking distance: 11.5 km
- Altitude gain: 481 m up
- Goro 2 Camp elevation: 4,250 m

5-7 hours of moderate difficulty up and down glacier terrain. Today we are starting to feel the altitude. Temperatures can drop below zero at night at Goro 2. Basic toilets at camp.

Spectacular views along the trail of Masherbrum, Gasherbrum IV, and the summit of Broad Peak can be seen from just outside your tent. We will pass by a small military base along the way that looks like an outpost from a sci-fi film.



## Day 11

### Goro 2 - Concordia (4,600 m)

- Trekking distance: 14 km
- Altitude gain: 541 m up
- Concordia Camp elevation: 4,600 m

Today we reach the "Throne Room of the Gods", aka Concordia. 5-7 hours of pleasant trekking over the glacier, with more ice present than on previous days.

Amazing views of Gasherbrum IV, Mitre Peak, Broad Peak, Marble Peak, and of course, K2 can be seen from camp!

Temperatures at Concordia drop well below freezing at night and snow/snowfall is possible here any time of the year. After a great dinner and solid rest, tomorrow we head to K2 Base Camp!



## Day 12

### Concordia - K2 Base Camp (5000 m)

- Trekking distance: 11.5 km
- Altitude gain: 500 m up
- K2 Base Camp elevation: 5000 m

Early departure to K2 Base Camp. Total trekking distance to Concordia is roughly 11.5 km. We will visit the Art Gilkey Memorial and then head to K2 Base Camp for tea and to chit-chat with expedition teams hoping for a successful summit bid.

Today is a BIG trekking day, but the terrain is relatively easy. Most of the route follows the Godwin-Austen Glacier directly to the base of K2.

We sleep at K2 Base Camp tonight, enjoying the views of the mighty Savage Mountain.



## Day 13

### K2 Base Camp - Concordia (4,600 m)

- Trekking distance: 11.5 km
- Altitude gain: 166m up
- Concordia Camp elevation: 4600 m

We trek back down the Godwin-Austen Glacier to the famed Concordia campsite the way we came.

We aim to arrive back at camp by mid-afternoon.





## Day 14

### Concordia - Goro 1

- Trekking distance: 17 km
- Altitude gain/loss: 24 m up / 417 m down
- Goro 1 elevation: 4176 m

Today we begin our long journey back down the glacier in the direction from which we came. We will need to cover the same distance we did before in five days, but this time in four. Luckily, we should have our trekking legs underneath us by now and we will be losing altitude slowly so our cardio should be feeling good.

Also a plus to trekking in reverse: we get to see all of the same superlative sights from before but from a different angle. The Trango Group will be directly in sight ahead and Masherbrum will be looming on the left for almost the entire day.

Passing by small tarns and the military outpost, we will pass by Goro 2 - where we camped several days before - and instead make for Goro 1. We will make camp on the glacier in an open area, which is a popular lunch spot.

## Day 15

### Goro 1 - Khorbutse

- Trekking distance: 14 km
- Altitude gain: 113 m up / 462 m down
- Khorbutse elevation: 3833 m

Another long day retracing our steps in which we will nearly cover two days' distance in one. Luckily, the stages to and from Urdukas are shorter, making for comparable trekking to the day before.

We will stop in Urdukas for a comfortable lunch, a quick rinse at the sinks, and one last chance to drink in the views before continuing on to Khorbutse.

When we arrive in Khorbutse, we will make camp as before.



## Day 16

### Khorbutse - Paiju

- Trekking distance: 14.3 km
- Altitude gain/loss: 747 m down
- Khorbutse Camp Elevation: 3,400 m

The same daily itinerary as day 7 but in reverse – this time will actually be easier because we are walking downhill and crossing the frigid glacial river earlier in the day when water levels are lower.

We navigate the rocky maze of the Baltoro Glacier again before arriving at its snout and dismounting it back onto solid earth. It's a quick ascent back onto the ridgeline and then a quick sprint down to the comfortable camp at Paiju.

## Day 17

### Paiju - Julha

- Trekking distance: 21 km
- Altitude gain: 624 m down
- Paiju Camp elevation: 3,149 m

Another familiar day albeit in reverse where we undertake the long walk back to Jhula and to civilization.

As we get lower, the temperature begins to increase again. During the height of the day, the heat can be significant, so remember to have your sunblock and well-ventilated clothing ready to put on.

We will camp near the same location we did on Day 6.



**Day  
18**

## **Jhula - Skardu**

- Trekking distance: 20.5km
- Altitude gain/loss: 430 m down
- Skardu elevation: 2,500 m

Our last day of trekking! We walk until the jeeps can meet us which can sometimes be before Askole depending on the conditions. Once we meet them, we head directly back to Skardu. This will be a long day but luckily half of it will be in the relative comfort of a vehicle!

In Askole, we will take a final cup of chai and say goodbye to our team of porters.

Once we reach the hotel in Skardu, be prepared for one of the best showers of your life!

**Day  
19**

## **Contingency Day in Skardu**

Traveling from Jhula to Skardu in one day may be unreasonable given conditions in the mountains and on the roads. Should there be a delay due to unforeseen circumstances, we will break up day 18 of the itinerary into two, stopping in Askole for the night and driving to Skardu the next.

Should we sleep in Askole, we will have one last big dinner with the support team at the campground.

**Day  
20**

## **Fly to Islamabad**

Early Morning Flight to Islamabad from Skardu

We will have a chill day in Islamabad and an epic feast all together OR we will be driving the KKH en route to Islamabad if we have flight delays.



**Day  
21**

## **Contingency Day in Islamabad**

We booked an extra day in Islamabad in case of travel complications getting back from Skardu. Since you have just completed the most epic hike of your life, we do not want to add any group stress by making the departure window tight.

Today will be a free day in the city with group breakfast and dinner included. After a final meal together, our epic journey of a lifetime has come to an end and the time has come to say goodbye.

**Day  
22**

## **Client Departure Day**

We arrange for transfers to the airport for those who are flying out over the next 12 hours.

Check out of the hotel is around 11 am on Day 22. You can choose to stay on at the same hotel if you are not flying home right away, though any additional nights at the hotel are not covered by Epic.



## **Questions about this itinerary?**

Send us an email with any trip questions at  
[contact@epicexpeditions.co](mailto:contact@epicexpeditions.co)