



# GASHERBRUM 2

8,035M / 26,361FT

**2024 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES**





# GASHERBRUM 2 EXPEDITION NOTES

## 2024 EXPEDITION DETAILS

**Dates:** June 13 to August 1, 2024

**Duration:** 50 days

**Departure:** ex Islamabad, Pakistan

**Price:** US\$45,000

Climb amongst the world's classic 8,000m peaks. Photo: Mike Roberts

In 2024, Adventure Consultants is organising an expedition to the Baltoro Glacier region in the Karakoram Mountains of Pakistan, with the objective of climbing Gasherbrum 2, the 13th highest mountain in the world. This is a remote and rewarding big mountain expedition, with the option to add on Gasherbrum 1 for two 8,000m peaks within a week.

An imposing peak in a superbly dramatic landscape, Gasherbrum 2 soars above the border of China and Pakistan. First summited by an Austrian team in 1956, it is now regarded amongst the safest of the 8,000m ascents. With its breathtaking approach trek, considered by many as one of the best in the world, Gasherbrum 2 is an ideal training peak for Everest.

## HOW THE EXPEDITION OPERATES

Expedition members will gather in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, where we will have a briefing with the Pakistani Government's Ministry of Tourism, who will issue our climbing permits.

We then fly to the mountain village of Skardu, our parting point from civilisation (or if the weather is unsuitable to fly, we will drive). We will be accommodated in a hotel in Skardu for two or three nights while we make final preparations to the expedition equipment.

Jeeps will take us to the road end at Tongal, followed by a 2-hour walk to Askole, the last village in the valley. Askole is the beginning of the trek to Base Camp and each night we camp out as we travel up the valley, with our Balti porters providing entertainment and colour to the otherwise stark and barren countryside. Our expedition cooks will provide wholesome and high quality food along the trek and at Base Camp. We will cook our own meals while on the mountain.

The route to the Gasherbrum peaks follows the true left side of the Baltoro Glacier passing spectacular scenes such as the Trango Group, Muztagh Tower, Gasherbrum 4 and K2. The trek takes 7-8 days to reach Base Camp.

Our guide(s) will co-ordinate all the movements of equipment and people up and down the mountain and are there to assist us in achieving our goals. Our guides are very strong and experienced mountaineers, and their years of experience should make the expedition a successful and enjoyable highlight in your climbing



▲ Approaching Camp 1. Photo: Mike Roberts

career. They will deal with the logistical aspects of the expedition and can help develop our expedition skills along the way. We will be required to assist in the carrying of loads in between camps.

At the end of the trip, the group will descend from Base Camp retracing our steps to Islamabad.

## THE ROUTE

Gasherbrum 2 is situated at the head of the Baltoro Glacier with neighbouring giants such as K2, Hidden Peak (Gasherbrum 1) and Broad Peak. The climbing will not be especially steep, but its remote location will make this an especially rewarding experience. Whether this is your first 8,000m peak or your third, the nature of climbing in this region will have its own unique flavour.

We will establish our Base Camp and spend a day of rest, acclimatisation and sorting equipment. We will be establishing three or four camps on the mountain, with the aim of making a summit bid towards the end of July, this being the more stable weather period in the region. This also gives us time to spare in August for weather delays.

Climbers will be expected to only carry their own equipment and a small amount of group gear. We will use the services of the strong local High Altitude Porters (HAPs) to help with establishing high camps, and a small team of Nepali Climbing Sherpa will also assist the team on the mountain. Options for additional Sherpa support are available, please contact our office for further information.

The route up Gasherbrum 2 involves an icefall and glacier section to Camp 1 at 5,900m/19,350ft on the Gasherbrum Glacier. We then follow the normal route to the summit, placing two or three more camps along the way. This is usually Camp 2 at 6,500m/21,300ft, Camp 3 at 7,000m/23,000ft and a possible Camp 4 at 7,500m/24,600ft. Fixed ropes protect the steeper sections of the route, which are between Camps 1 and 3.

## GASHERBRUM 1 ADD-ON

Motivated ascensionists can take advantage of the opportunity to climb Gasherbrum 1 immediately after Gasherbrum 2. Also known as Hidden Peak in reference to its extreme remoteness, 8,080m/26,509ft Gasherbrum 1 is a must-do whilst in the Karakoram.



▲ Looking down at Camps 1 and 2. Photo: Mike Roberts

At the completion of the Gasherbrum 2 ascent, the team will return to Base Camp and the Gasherbrum 2 climbers will depart to return home. After enjoying a couple of days' rest-and-recovery at Base Camp, Gasherbrum 1 climbers will return to the same Camp 1 as used for Gasherbrum 2. Most of the mountain gear will have been left in place there during the descent from Gasherbrum 2. We will then establish a second camp on Gasherbrum La, about 5 hours from Camp 1. From here we will make a carry to Camp 3, with a day of rest at Gasherbrum La immediately afterwards. Following that rest day, we will ascend to Camp 3 for one night, with summit day the following day. One day later we'll be back in Base Camp, with two 8,000m peaks under our belts within the week. The overall additional timeframe of the Gasherbrum 1 add-on will be 10 days or less.

**G1 Add-On:** US\$18,000 per person (2 people or more)

## THE ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS TEAM

### LOGISTICS

The 2024 expedition is being organised by Guy Cotter, the director of Adventure Consultants and a veteran of high altitude expedition guiding and organisation.

With technology constantly evolving, Adventure Consultants have kept abreast of all the new techniques and equipment advancements—encompassing the latest in weather forecasting facilities, equipment innovations and communications systems. An 8,000m peak is not the place to be with an organisation that is 'learning the ropes', there is too much at stake for that. Adventure Consultants expedition staff, along with the operations and logistics team at the head office in New Zealand, provide the highest level of backup and support to the climbing team to maximise your chances of success. This is coupled with a very strong expedition guiding team and Sherpa contingent, who as you will come to see are second-to-none in the industry.

### EXPEDITION LEADERS

The Expedition Leader for 2024 will be Rob Smith. Rob is a hugely talented and experienced mountain guide with over 20 years experience across the globe with notable ascents including Everest, K2, Cho Oyu, Mt Vinson and more.

The number of guides is determined by the team size but the normal ratio of guides to members is 1:4. You will find our guides companionable and strong expedition members with considerable power and willingness to see you achieve your goals.

### SHERPAS

The Gasherbrum 2 expedition will be supported by a small team of Climbing Sherpa from Nepal who have dozens of 8,000m summits between them. Our group of Climbing Sherpas is enthusiastic, motivated and regarded as the strongest and most cohesive group of Sherpas in the Himalayas. It is indicative of the reputation that our Sherpa team has earned—that Sherpas from other expeditions enthusiastically pursue a future position with the Adventure Consultants team. We have been developing the personnel within our Sherpa team for 25 years and they are an integral part of the Adventure Consultants team.



▲ Climbers on the move towards Camp 1. Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ A climber negotiates crevasses enroute to Camp 1. Photo: Mike Roberts

## EXPEDITION MEMBERS

We get a wide range of experience and nationalities on our expeditions and our planning and logistics are geared to accommodate this. People without a lot of high altitude experience often experience trepidation before a trip and the only way to find out how you will perform is by going to altitude. Increasingly we find that accomplished high altitude climbers are using our services so they can concentrate on their sponsorships rather than organising private expeditions. We recommend the best approach for aspiring high altitude climbers is to climb gradually higher peaks throughout your career, so you can adjust to the requirements of altitude. However, anyone who is a strong and active mountaineer will most probably experience few problems at altitude under our supervision.

## PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

Gasherbrum 2 is a relatively straightforward climb in good conditions. Conditions are the crux of climbing in Pakistan, as the weather is less settled than further east in Nepal and storm cycles can persist for extended periods. Consequently, we have a large window for ascending the mountain with our summit bid being timed to coincide with the best weather.

Climbers contemplating this climb should have a strong background in mountaineering skills and have experienced altitude above 5,500m/18,000ft prior to this expedition. Commonly, climbers will have previously climbed Denali, Aconcagua or the various Mexican volcanoes, or even other 8,000m peaks as training for this climb.

A fierce determination and burning desire to climb the mountain are essential ingredients for this expedition. The guides and other expedition staff will provide the

leadership, tactics and overall decision-making during the climb, allowing you to concentrate all your energies on completing the climb.

## TRIP DATES & ITINERARY

**Dates:** June 13 to August 1, 2024

Day 1	Arrive in Islamabad
Day 2	Briefing with Ministry of Tourism
Day 3–4	Fly Islamabad to Skardu and organise porters
Day 5	Day in Skardu, packing and sorting gear
Day 6	Travel to Askole
Day 7	Trek to Jula
Day 8	Trek to Paiju
Day 9	Rest day
Day 10	Trek to Urdukas
Day 11	Trek to Goro
Day 12	Trek to Concordia
Day 13	Trek to Shagharing
Day 14	Trek to Gasherbrum Base Camp
Day 15	Rest day and establish camp
Day 16	Rest and gear preparation
Day 17–40	Climb Gasherbrum 2
Day 41–46	Depart Base Camp for Skardu
Day 47–48	Skardu to Islamabad
Day 49	Contingency day
Day 50	Trip ends, depart Islamabad



▲ Climbers take in the surrounds at Camp 1. Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ The impressive Great Trango Towers from Urdukas. Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ Camp 2. Photo: Guy Cotter

## TEAM SIZE

The maximum ratio for this expedition is 1 guide to 6 expedition members, supported by 3 Nepali Climbing Sherpa. The Base Camp will be staffed by a Pakistani cook and helper. A team of High Altitude Porters will carry loads and help support the summit climb.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF CLIMBING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

We employ strong and specialised Expedition Leaders and staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, with the best backup and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food,

comfortable Base Camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back-up.

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

## TRAVEL IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan has a history of religious and political conflict that stretches over generations, and certain parts of the country are still extremely unsafe to visit today, particularly those neighbouring the border with Afghanistan and parts of India. Fortunately, Islamabad and the Gilgit-Baltistan areas where we travel on this expedition are currently deemed reasonably safe. Islamabad has seen a steady increase in tourism over recent years and due to the large number of Pakistani elite and foreigners in the city, security is high. The Karakoram area is located in Gilgit-Baltistan province is home to the Shia people, a more liberal branch of Islam, and is reasonably isolated from recent conflict.

Pakistan is an Islamic country, and not immune from acts of terrorism by Islamic extremists that have



• Spectacular views looking up at the icefall from base Camp. Photo: Mike Roberts

plagued many countries in recent years. For this reason travel warnings have been issued by a number of Western nations advising against travel to Pakistan. Despite this, our experience of travel in Pakistan over the years has enabled a clean and efficient transition in and out of the Karakoram, and our staff and agents are adept at familiarising you with local customs and courtesies to allow you to understand and appreciate the uniqueness of the country. However, should you have any concerns about security, please contact our office to discuss further.

## FOOD

Food will be of the highest standard possible, given the remoteness of the situation. Please inform us if you have any special dietary requirements.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician to receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted by our medical adviser and the guides only and is treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will also be provided.

## EQUIPMENT LIST

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary clothing and equipment to be procured. We will correspond with you prior to the trip to answer your queries and ensure you have met all the equipment requirements. Having the correct equipment is key to your performance on summit day and to achieving success.

## DOCUMENTATION & PHOTOGRAPHS

Expedition members will need to provide a digital passport photograph for various climbing and trekking permits and a copy of their passport biodata page.

## EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition ex Islamabad, Pakistan is US\$45,000.

This will be an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Pakistani government royalty fees
- All expedition organisational requirements





- All climbing and trekking permits
- Land transport in Pakistan
- Fixed-wing flight from Islamabad to Skardu return
- All accommodation from ex Islamabad based on twin share
- All team equipment
- Oxygen x 3 bottles
- Medical kit
- Base Camp email and satellite phone facilities
- Regular written and photo internet dispatches for families and friends to follow your progress
- All expedition staff, including Western guides, Sherpa support and High Altitude Porter support
- All food after departing Islamabad and before arriving back in Islamabad
- All supplies necessary to make a safe and strong bid for the summit

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- Air travel to and from Pakistan
- Meals and accommodation while in Islamabad
- Entry visa for Pakistan
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Trip cancellation/medical evacuation insurance
- Any rescue costs
- Alcoholic beverages
- Early departure costs from the expedition

- Additional meals, snacks, drinks, laundry, internet, single supplement rooms and other expenses outside the inclusions as listed above
- Gratuities
- Airport taxes, satellite phone calls and internet costs

*\*Prices subject to change*

## PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank of New Zealand  
Offshore Branch  
42 Willis Street  
Spark Central  
Wellington  
New Zealand

For the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

**Account Number:** 1000-594771-0000

**Account Type:** US Dollars

**Swift Address:** BKNZNZ22

**NOTE:** All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.



We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Amex) plus a 3% credit card fee.

### DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of US\$5,000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

### BALANCE

The balance is payable 120 days prior to the expedition start date.

### CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

An expedition member may then cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 120 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 120 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 90 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

## HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join our Gasherbrum 2 Expedition, please complete our online application form at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/8000m-peaks/gasherbrum-2/book-now> and submit your trip deposit.

## CONTACT US

For further information contact us at:

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▲ Sunset from the Baltoro Glacier. Photo: Mike Roberts



Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.

