

## K2 Base Camp Trek, Pakistan

The ultimate Karakoram glacier trek to the base camp of the world's second highest mountain, K2



### Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

### Holiday overview

Style	Trek
Accommodation	Hotels, Camping
Grade	Strenuous
Duration	22 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	On Trek: 15 days
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local K2 Trek Leader
Land only	Joining in Islamabad, Pakistan
Max altitude	5,117m/16,785ft, K2 Base Camp, Day 12

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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# Departures

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## Group departures

### 2019 Dates:

Sat 22 Jun - Sat 13 Jul

Sat 03 Aug - Sat 24 Aug

### Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

### No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

### Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

### Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

### Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

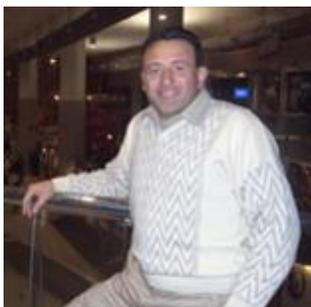
### Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts, who will have first-hand experience of the destination/s you want to visit. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday.

If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

# Your guide

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You will have local English speaking guides for your K2 Base Camp trek from Islamabad up to base camp and back. Our guides are trained, experienced, and qualified and are from these areas (Karakorum valleys). They have expert knowledge of the trekking routes in Karakorum, Pamir, western Himalayas and Hindukush Mountain Ranges and also the local environment, flora and fauna. As well as leading the treks they will be able to give you an insight into both the traditional way of life for the local inhabitants of the area and how modern life is now changing this.

## Your trip highlights

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- Experience one of the world's greatest treks with excellent acclimatisation and contingency planning
- Immerse yourself in the spectacular scenery of the great peaks of the Karakoram
- Enjoy close up views of iconic Himalayan peaks: Trango Towers, Broad Peak, Masherbrum I, and of course K2
- Spend a night in the magnificent mountain amphitheatre at Concordia, and two nights at breath-taking Broad Peak Base Camp for the best chance of reaching your ultimate objective - K2 Base Camp
- Take a scenic flight to and from the northern town of Skardu

## At a glance itinerary

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Days 1-2	Fly to Islamabad. Fly to Skardu.
Day 3	Drive to Askole.
Days 4-6	Trek to Paiju via Johola and Bardumal. Rest day. 3,100m/10,170ft - 6-7 hours.
Days 7-10	Trek to Khoburtse, Urdukas, Gore 2 and Concordia.
Day 11	Trek to Broad Peak Base Camp, 5,000m/16,405ft.
Day 12	Visit K2 Base Camp, 5,117m/16,785 ft, and Return to Broad Peak Base Camp.
Days 13-17	Return trek to Askole
Days 18-19	Drive to Skardu. Fly to Islamabad.
Days 20-22	Contingency days in Islamabad. Time at leisure or optional day trips to Muree and Taxila. Fly to London.

## Trip summary

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The trek to K2 Base Camp up the mighty Baltoro glacier is undoubtedly one of the world's greatest, passing through a savage, glittering tangle of granite spires, granitic peaks and gigantic glaciers.

After flying from Islamabad to Skardu, you start your trek from village of Askole, a brilliant splash of emerald-green in the otherwise stark landscape and gateway to some of the highest mountains in the world. You follow the route taken by expeditions for over a hundred years as they set out to conquer K2. As you head up the glacier into the heart of the Karakoram the snow-clad mountains soar high above the valley floor and each turn of the trail reveals more stupendous vistas. Cathedral Peak, Trango Towers, Masherburn and the twin summits of Broad Peak are just some of the renowned peaks that tower over the trail and make this trek such a classic. You gain altitude at a steady rate, aiding acclimatisation and helping to ensure that you can enjoy the incredible scenery.

After several days of the most stunning trekking, you reach Concordia, 4,650m/15,255ft - the junction of the Baltoro Glacier and the Godwin-Austen Glacier. Clustered around this remarkable place are six peaks over 7,925m/26,000ft high including the awe-inspiring K2. For good reason this magnificent amphitheatre has become known as the 'throne of the mountain gods' and nowhere else on the planet will you find a more sensational setting for a campsite!

Trekking out of Concordia, through a maze of moraines, you next reach the base camp of Broad Peak, 5,000m/16,450ft, where you will spend two nights, providing the best opportunity to successfully reach K2 Base Camp. Some other companies try to complete the trek from Concordia to K2 in just one day making for a very challenging and exhausting experience, but by spending the extra night at Broad Peak Base Camp you will enjoy a relatively easy hike to K2 and back with ample time to chat to the K2 climbers preparing for their attempt at conquering the 'savage mountain'.

Trekking back along the glacier to Askole, you can immerse yourself for a final few days in the awesome scenery of the Karakoram before returning to civilisation and the chance to celebrate a superb and unforgettable achievement.

## Special notes

### FCO Travel Advice for Pakistan

We strongly recommend that you read the up-to-date Travel Advice from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO): <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/pakistan>.

In 2015 the FCO changed their Travel Advice for Pakistan removing their “advice against all but essential travel” for Skardu, Gilgit and trekking in the Karakoram mountains. However, the FCO still advises against travel on the Karakoram Highway (KKH). We are hopeful that the FCO will downgrade this advice in the near future but, in the meantime, if the flight to or from Skardu is cancelled due to bad weather we plan to use a route that crosses that Babusar pass via Chilas and then picks up the KKH for the final 165 miles into Skardu. This is a very well-used and protected trade and transport route that our agents in Pakistan advise us is safe and secure.

In these circumstances it is important that you are aware of the situation, are happy to travel and have adequate travel insurance. In such a case our public liability cover does not extend to include cover for claims arising out of war and terrorism risks. You would be undertaking the trip of your own free will in this knowledge. Mountain Kingdoms cannot be held liable for any incident claim, loss or damage, however caused in this regard. Your travel insurance should have adequate cover for travel through the region. Please excuse the rather formal ‘legal speak’ in relation to this issue but our own insurers wish is to make you fully aware of the position.

# Your trip itinerary

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## Day 1: Fly London To Islamabad

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Today you will depart on an overnight flight to Islamabad.

**Overnight: In flight**

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## Day 2: Arrive Islamabad. Fly to Skardu, 2,500m/8,202ft.

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You will arrive into Islamabad early in the morning today and after clearing immigration formalities you will be met by our agents and taken to a café in the airport for breakfast. You will then have around an hour to relax before you need to check in for your spectacular flight to Skardu.

The flights to Skardu are weather dependent and if the flight doesn't operate today, you will drive to Skardu instead. As the drive takes two days the itinerary will be pushed back a day, with the extra day being made up later on in the trek with a longer walk on Day 12.

**Overnight: Concordia Motel Or Similar, Skardu (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 3: Drive to Askole, 3,045m/10,000ft - 96km, 6-7 hours.

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You now drive in jeeps through areas of wheat fields and apricot trees of the Shigar valley. What begins as a tarmac road for the first hour slowly transforms into a very bumpy but dramatic track, forging its way through the steep Braldu Gorge to the famous Balti village of Askole. The first expeditions to K2 took five days to walk from Skardu to Askole! Whilst in recent years it has become increasingly common to make it all the way to Askole in the jeeps, landslides and washouts sometimes make the road impassable and you may need to trek for several hours. The last few hundred metres of ascent are the most exciting involving many hairpins up out of the river valley, and they are also the most prone to landslides. Temperatures in the gorge are hot.

Any time left in the afternoon is well spent sorting kit and getting to know your trekking crew. Children from the village will be happy to sell you soft drinks and fetch them from the local shop for a price. There are a couple of 'campsites' squeezed in amongst the simple Askole houses, usually on terraces under fruit trees and there may well be other groups around that you can chat to about the adventure ahead.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 4: Trek to Johola, 3,100m/10,170ft - 6-7 hours.

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Time to look back and savour the views as you leave the village this morning, as the land that you are about to enter is in stark contrast to the green valleys you leave behind.

It is a pleasant walk up towards the snout of the Biafo glacier; well before this there are some spectacularly weathered rocks where some shelter from the sun can be found. It is then an easy walk across the terminal moraine of the Biafo glacier to the oasis-like campsite of Korofong. It is here that the other classic trek in this region - over Snow Lake - heads off to the left. You may well stop here for lunch before carrying on to Johola Camp. The path then stays up above the riverbed contouring round into a side valley, taking you up to the bridge to Johola Camp. Prior to the bridge being built an exciting Johola pulley system was used to cross the river. The wide-open space of Johola Camp is the first of several Pakistani Tourism Development Committee camps where water, toilet and washing facilities have been installed. Whilst the plastic cabins may look slightly out of place, the campsite is generally clean and tidy.



There is a wonderful stream running through here which is perfect for washing and cooling your feet which inevitably suffer in the heat of this gorge. Bakhor Das, 5,809m/19,058ft, across the valley and Paiju Peak's needle are like spires in the distance, which mark the gateway to the Baltoro.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 5: Trek to Paiju via Bardumal, 3,450m/11,318ft - 7-8 hours.**

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You will need an early start today. To begin with the path stays just up above the flood plain, on occasion coming very close to the river. The path can be loose here, and don't trust the banks of the river as they are often undercut. Later in the day you will cross a glacier fed stream. About an hour or so after the stream crossing you will arrive at Paiju.

The steep hillside at Paiju is well terraced with platforms for tents and the porters' shelters, and the last trees you will see for a while. The site has been developed by the government in recent years and now has wash basins (with views), toilet cubicles and litter bins. It is therefore a lot more civilised than it used to be! This campsite is often busy but gives you a chance to meet other groups. This is a major rest stop for expedition porters and tradition dictates major feasting on goats as well as singing and dancing.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 6: Rest and acclimatisation day.**

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Today you will be able to take things a bit easier and let your body adjust to the altitude. Your guide will be able to suggest some local walks for you if you want to stretch your legs and aid acclimatisation.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 7: Trek to Khoburtse, 3,990m/13,090ft - 5-6 hours.**

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Today the full majesty of the Baltoro glacier will unfold before you; this is the route ahead to the "Throne Room of the Mountain Gods", as Concordia was described by renowned photographer Galen Rowell.

About an hour from camp takes you up to the glacier, though even once on it, it is predominantly covered in rock, and will remain so until well after Gore II. Here on the glacier you are finally amongst the famous peaks of the Karakoram. The path is reasonably obvious, and over the course of a couple of hours you slowly cross the glacier to the right hand side of the valley. The exact path here varies from year to year but will without doubt involve some undulating!

After about four hours from Paiju you will come to the old campsite at Lilligo where you will stop for lunch. It is sometimes possible to see ibex on the rocks high above. After lunch there is a steady uphill, which takes you up away from the lateral moraine of the glacier and to grassland full of alpine meadow flowers. You then cut across the snout of Lilligo Glacier (remember to look right) and walk over the undulating ups and downs of the Baltoro until you reach the small campsite of Khoburtse. The camp here is squeezed onto whatever flat ground can be found by the moraines and is yet to benefit from the fixed toilet and rubbish facilities of Paiju. It does however have the first proper views of Cathedral Towers, Uli Biaho and the Great Trango Tower, and a sunrise well worth getting up for.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 8: Trek to Urdukas, 4,052m/13,291ft - 3-4 hours.**

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Today's trek is short, to help with acclimatisation, but strenuous. Most of your trekking will be on the glacier or the lateral moraine to the side, where the jumbled mess of rocks can make walking quite hard going. Along the way if the weather is fine you will have good views of Broad Peak's two tops in the distance. You are gaining altitude all the time and the approach up to the camp site at Urdukas will no doubt serve to remind you of this for the most challenging walking of this day is at the end. The camp site is an impressive spot, not only due to its situation but also its history. The Duke of Abruzzi's men on their 1909 expedition created the terraces on which you will spend this night. The site overlooks the Baltoro and has breath-taking views; stunning Cathedral peak is just the opposite side of the glacier.

Urdukas is the last of the 'developed' campsites, so make the most of the washbasins, toilets and litter bins. For those with energy still, a 30 minute hike up the grassy slopes behind the campsite really does provide a magnificent panorama of the Baltoro glacier.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 9: Trek to Gore 2, 4,380m/14,370ft - 5-6 hours.**

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This morning you head across the glacier, passing dramatic Masherbrum Peak 7,821m/25,659ft, and if the weather is good, from here you have views of Muztagh Tower 7,273m/ 23,861ft. As you leave the campsite at Urdukas you will pass the graves of high altitude porters who have died in the mountains. Sometimes the porters, especially if there is a holy man amongst them, will gather around the graves to say a few simple prayers.



The path switches over to the left hand side of the glacier, and you make your way slowly upwards, moving tantalisingly closer to Gasherbrum IV which, standing as it does at the head of the Baltoro, is like a beacon guiding you towards Concordia. Whilst the glacier is still predominantly covered in rock, the route passes a series of huge ice 'dunes' which add to the drama of the scenery. Lunch will happen en-route somewhere near Gore I, before trekking on for another couple of hours. By the time you reach camp, Gasherbrum IV completely dominates the landscape.

Gore II camp site is just after the small army camp and covers quite an area spread over the rock covered glacier wherever there is room to pitch tents. Here, the cold wind blows down the glacier, and camp facilities are nothing like those at the fixed camps, but given a clear night the star-filled sky over the surrounding peaks is truly magical.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 10: Gore 2 to Concordia, 4,650m/15,255ft - 4-5 hours.**

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A spectacular day as you trek to one of the most impressively situated camp sites in the world. The peaks tower over you and all appear to be tantalisingly close. Gasherbrum II, 8,035m/26,361ft, III, 2,423m/7,952ft, & IV, 2,415m/7,925ft, Mitre Peak, Chogolisa, 7,665m/25,147ft, Broad Peak, 8,047m/26,401ft, and, visible for the first time, the second highest mountain in the world - K2, 8,611m/28,251ft.

Concordia is at an altitude of approximately 4,606m/15,108ft, and although our well established itinerary allows for gradual acclimatisation to take place, you are likely to feel some mild effects of being at this altitude.

The camp at Concordia spreads over a huge area where the Godwin-Austin glacier meets the Baltoro, and the sites furthest away as you approach give the best views of K2. It may be busy here with a mixture of climbing parties and trekking groups enjoying the setting. The altitude and exposure to the wind can make this feel the coldest of all the campsites, but the sensational setting more than compensates.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 11: Trek to Broad Peak Base Camp, 5,000m/16,405ft - 3-4 hours.**

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Whilst the route along the Godwin-Austin glacier to K2 Base Camp looks entirely level, do not be deceived, as today you are gaining significant altitude. The hardest part of the route is getting out of Concordia through a maze of moraines, finally finding the central medial moraine of the Godwin-Austin glacier which you follow for 3-4 hours to Broad Peak Base Camp which is spread over the lateral moraines off to your right.

Other companies offering K2 treks may camp no higher than Concordia and 'offer' clients the chance to trek to K2 Base Camp and back in a single, extremely long day. This permits virtually no time to be spent at base camp itself, and can result in arriving back, exhausted after 12-14 hours trekking, at Concordia after dark.

Broad Peak is the 12th highest mountain on earth, and is part of the Gasherbrum massif. Broad Peak was originally named K3 right after the naming of K2 but on closer inspection by a later party, it was discovered that the summit was over 1½ kilometers (1 mile) long, thus "Broad Peak". The first ascent of Broad Peak was made on June 9, 1957 by Fritz Wintersteller, Marcus Schmuck, Kurt Diemberger, and Hermann Buhl of an Austrian expedition led by Marcus Schmuck.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 12: Visit K2 Base Camp, 5,117m/16,785 ft, and return to Broad Peak Base Camp - 6-7 hours.**

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By now K2 will appear enormous though base camp is still much further than it looks. Climbers use camp sites both to the east and west of the glacier; there will undoubtedly be expeditions around that you can chat to and they'll be equally keen to hear news from the outside world. Base camp is almost too close to appreciate the sheer size of K2, but to see it rising up endlessly right beside you, and to talk to climbers who are trying to conquer it, make this an awe-inspiring place to be. This must be one of the most magnificent mountain locations in the world. You return to Broad Peak Base Camp for your overnight stay.



Please note that if at the start of your holiday you had a two-day drive from Islamabad to Skardu due to the flight not operating, you will make up that extra day today by continuing to trek back down to Concordia after your visit to K2 Base Camp. Total trekking time would be 8-9 hours.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 13: Trek to Gore 2, 4,380m/14,370ft - 6-7 hours.**

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Today you will return to Gore 2. Along the way you will be able to take in the fantastic scenery once more the Muztagh Tower, 7,284m/23,891ft, can be seen up to the north, and ahead of you down the glacier are all the spires of the Baltoro - Lobsang, Cathedral, Trango, Uli Biaho and Paiju. It is now a chance to say your goodbyes to K2!

Please note that today if you had to trek to Concordia then it is a short day returning to Gore 2, total trekking time would be 3-4 hours.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 14: Trek to Urdukas, 4,052m/13,291ft - 4-5 hours.**

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Today you return to Urdukas camp site to camp amongst the stunning scenery. You may like to take another half hour walk up the grassy slopes to get the great view of the Baltoro glacier. You might find this walk a little bit easier now that you are fully acclimatised.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 15: Trek to Paiju, 3,450m/11,318ft - 3-4 hours.**

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A return to vegetation, solid ground, and undoubtedly an evening of singing and dancing with the porters! Paiju camp is always a sociable place to stop and the porters will enjoy meeting their friends passing through with other groups.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 16: Trek to Johola, 3,100m/10,170ft - 5 hours.**

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The paths are better now you are off the glacier, and you will make good progress down to civilisation at Johola camp.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 17: Trek to Askole, 3,000m/9,842ft - 5-6 hours.**

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Your remaining porters will race you back to the roadhead at Askoli for a final night of camping where it all began. Those porters who live in nearby villages may head straight home whilst others will hitch lifts on the jeeps tomorrow! Fresh produce will be available for the cook to use in his grand finale and for what will be your last dinner with the local trekking crew.

**Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 18: Drive to Skardu.**

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The drama isn't quite over as you enjoy the jeep ride back down to Skardu. This time however, the road will slowly be improving as you descend. It may take a while to get all the gear loaded, providing plenty of time to say your farewells to the local team who have looked after you for the past fortnight. The luxury of a shower and a soft bed await you in Skardu. With luck also the internet, clean clothes you may have left at the hotel, and possibly a cold Chinese beer.

**Overnight: Concordia Motel Or Similar, Skardu (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 19: Fly from Skardu to Islamabad.**

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Subject to good weather you take the morning flight back to Islamabad. If for some reason the flight is cancelled you will spend the next two days driving back to Islamabad.

Upon arrival in Islamabad you will be transferred to your hotel.

**Overnight: Hillview Hotel Or Similar, Islamabad (Meals: B)**

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**Day 20: Day at leisure in Islamabad or optional day trip to Murree.**

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Today you will have the option to explore Islamabad at your own pace, rest and relax at your hotel or take a guided tour of the old British hill station at Murree. These optional excursions need to be paid for directly to our agent when in Islamabad. Please contact our office for prices.

Situated 64 km from Islamabad in the hills of Hazara and Galyat (about a two hour's drive), Murree is an example of a hill station set up by the British during the mid-19th century. Murree was founded in 1851 by the Governor of Punjab, Sir Henry Lawrence, and was originally established for the British troops garrisoned on the Afghan frontier as a sanatorium. The permanent town of Murree was constructed at Sunnybank in 1853. The church was sanctified in May 1857 when the main road - the Mall - was also built. Opposite the church, the Post Office and the general merchants, selling European goods, clothes and millinery, were established. Until 1947, access to the Mall was restricted for non-Europeans.

In addition to visiting Murree itself, you may also be taken to some of the surrounding scenic areas such as the mountain resort of Nathiagali or Ayubia National Park.

After your excursion you will return to your hotel in Islamabad.

**Overnight: Hillview Hotel Or Similar, Islamabad (Meals: B)**

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### Day 21: Optional day trip to Taxila. Transfer to airport.

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Today you will have the option to explore Islamabad at your own pace, relax at your hotel, or take a guided tour of Taxila. This optional excursion needs to be paid for directly to our agent when in Islamabad. Please contact our office for prices.

Most of the archaeological sites of Taxila (600 BC to 500 AD) are located around Taxila museum. For over one thousand years Taxila remained famous as a centre of learning and for the Gandhara art of sculpture, architecture, and of Buddhism. There are over 50 archaeological sites scattered in a radius of 30 km around Taxila. In Taxila you can visit the archaeological sites of Jaulian, Mohra Moradu and Sirkap. There is also the option to visit Taxila museum, housing the rich archaeological finds of Taxila. It is one of the best and well-maintained site museums of Pakistan. If time permits you will also be able to visit Sirkap Sirkap, an archaeological site on the bank opposite to the city of Taxila. The city of Sirkap was built by the Greco-Bactrian king Demetrius and his son Stultus, after he invaded ancient India around 180 BC.

After your visit to Taxila you will be transferred back to Islamabad in time for your international flight home.

**Overnight: In Flight (Meals: B)**

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### Day 22: Arrive London.

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Today you will arrive back in the UK.

## Our grading system

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K2 Base Camp Trek is graded as a Strenuous trekking holiday, as described below.

### Strenuous

Our strenuous trekking holidays can involve anything from 10 to 30 days on trek and are often in remote areas, far from 'civilisation'. Rest days are interspersed but there may be up to 7 consecutive days of hard walking. Most treks reach altitudes of at least 4,900m/16,000ft and there will be a great deal of ascent and descent. The majority of our strenuous treks utilise camping, tea house or mountain lodge accommodation.

These holidays are suitable for fit individuals who have regular experience of mountain walking.

## Trip altitude

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**Important** - please be aware that this trip involves travel at altitude. Whilst all our itineraries are carefully designed to optimise acclimatisation to high altitudes, participants on this trip are likely to experience some symptoms of being at altitude. The Dossier pack we provide when you book your holiday includes comprehensive advice on safe travel at altitude. If you require further information or advice on travel at altitude prior to booking please contact the office to speak to an experienced member of our team. Alternatively we recommend [www.medex.org.uk](http://www.medex.org.uk) as a good source of information.

## What the price includes

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**Mountain Kingdoms** aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

### What's included:

- ✓ Local, English-speaking K2 trek leader/guide
- ✓ All internal flights and domestic hotel/airport transfers
- ✓ Good standard hotel accommodation (usually 4 star) in main cities on a twin share, bed and breakfast basis
- ✓ Best available hotels in outlying towns, usually on full board
- ✓ All camping facilities and all meals on trek
- ✓ Camp staff to carry out all camp work
- ✓ All meals on trek
- ✓ Costs of all portering and their insurance
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles
- ✓ Sightseeing where specified
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK & all Departure Tax (flight inclusive holidays only)
- ✓ Single, timed group airport transfer for international flights
- ✓ Carbon offset for clients taking our flight-inclusive option
- ✓ A free high-quality Mountain Kingdoms kit bag

### Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

### What's not included:

- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Single supplements
- ✗ Lunch and evening meals in Islamabad
- ✗ Airport departure taxes, excepting UK Departure Tax
- ✗ Optional trips
- ✗ Tips
- ✗ Optional tours to Muree and Taxila (payable locally)
- ✗ Bar bills and laundry

### Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Depending on the holiday you book, you will either be offered a free Water-to-Go bottle or a Mountain Kingdoms Kit Bag (the latter are given to those embarking on treks which require such a piece of kit). If you are not eligible for a free water bottle, you will still be able to buy one using our special 15% discount code. For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

## Your accommodation

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We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



### **Concordia Motel Or Similar, Skardu**

Concordia Motel, Skardu offers panoramic view of mountains, Skardo Rock / Fort and Lion river Indus. There are 25 basic, clean and comfortable double bed rooms with en-suite facilities. The restaurant provides local, Chinese and continental cuisines.



### **Camp**

On our camping treks, the following are provided: a sleeping tent (we use three-person dome tents for two people), a dining tent, a toilet tent exclusively for your group to use, and a kitchen tent. There are camp chairs or stools, a kerosene / gas lamp or candles for reading in the dining tent at night, a dining table, crockery and tableware. The staff put up and take down the tents, make the tea, cook the food, wash the dishes, and load the porters. Your kit bag is carried for you by porters and you trek with just a light day sack.



### **Hillview Hotel Or Similar, Islamabad**

The Hillview Hotel is located in the heart of the Islamabad and near by the foothills of the famous Margalla Hills. There is easy access to markets, the famous Kabul restaurant, carpet shops, post office and banks as well. The hotel is clean and comfortable.

## Meal arrangements

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Bed and Breakfast in Islamabad only. All other hotels and camping are full board.

## Flight arrangements

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### **Flight inclusive from price**

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

### **Flight upgrades and regional Airports**

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

## Further information

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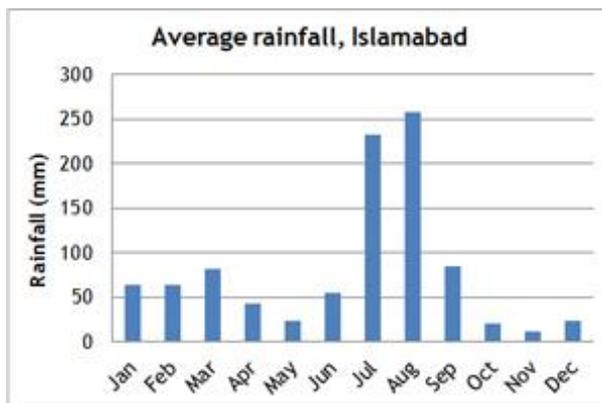
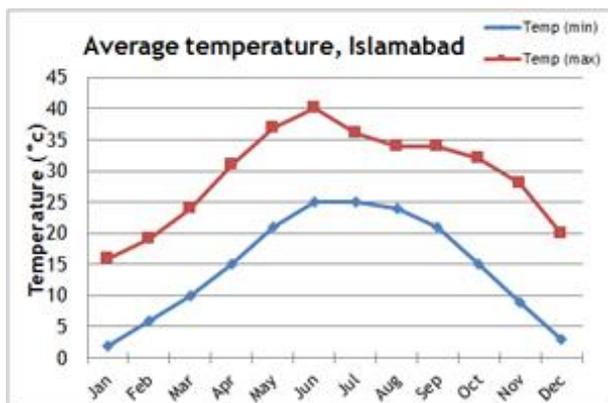
When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

## The nature of adventure travel

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Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

# Climate information



# Extensions

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## Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).



## Abu Dhabi stopover - hotels and excursions

If you are using Etihad Airways for your flights to Pakistan you can enjoy a stopover in Abu Dhabi on the way out or back to the UK. Staying in your choice of 4 and 5 star hotels you can stay for as many nights as you like and you can also book a city tour or a desert safari excursion. Abu Dhabi offers excellent retail opportunities as well as a range of leisure attractions and more traditional Arabic sights. Just perfect for a short break in the sunshine.

## Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

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- Our itinerary offers excellent acclimatisation and the best chance of reaching your ultimate objective - K2 Base Camp, by spending a night at spectacular Concordia, and two nights at Broad Peak Base Camp.
- We include contingency days should flights be disrupted.
- Your trek will be led by an experienced K2 guide supported by a trekking crew who will provide an excellent standard of service. Your gear will be portered for you so all you need to carry is a small daypack.
- We use top quality modern tents with a storage vestibule. These are 3-person tents, to be shared by two, offering more space.
- We fly to and from Skardu - weather permitting.
- We have accrued a wealth of Himalayan experience over the last 30 years. Jude Limburn Turner has trekked to Concordia, so if you want to talk to someone in the office with first-hand experience of the route, call Jude on 01453 844400
- Our maximum group size is 12 for this trip. This provides for a genuine small group travel experience and helps reduce the negative aspects often associated with larger trekking groups.
- We are an IATA accredited agent and work directly with some of the world's major airlines. If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com) or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

## What our clients say

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*Trekking beneath the legendary peaks of the Karakoram was an incredible experience, and one I will never forget.*  
- Jude Limburn Turner

# Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

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## **Truly independent**

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

## **Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality**

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

## **Complete financial security**

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

## **No Surcharge Guarantee**

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

## **Award winning Responsible Tourism**

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).

## **Genuine small group travel**

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

## **Loyalty Discount**

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

## **Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier**

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

## **Comprehensive information**

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.

# Mountain Kingdoms & Responsible Tourism

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## Our commitment

Mountain Kingdoms is committed to responsible tourism, through policies and practices which permeate all aspects of its business. Our policies aim to ensure that we and our clients act in a way which is socially, environmentally and culturally sound. We feel strongly that all Mountain Kingdoms holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment by minimising pollution, and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. We tread lightly - low volume, low impact trekking/touring is the best way of preserving the beautiful and fragile places we visit.

We work with organisations such as Tourism Concern, International Porter Protection Group (IPPG), Ecoan, AITO and various charities, to help achieve our responsible tourism goals.

## Our initiatives

We support a range of projects around the world both on an ongoing basis and in response to disasters and emergencies.

Examples of our recent ongoing work are the Kerala Partnership helping flood victims in southern India, the Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service in Ethiopia, the Ginette Harrison School in Nepal, a tree planting project in Peru, the Village Education Project in Kilimanjaro and Kidasha charity supporting children in crisis in Nepal, and many more.



If you know of a registered charity that does good 'hands on' work in a country that we operate in please send us details and we will consider adding it to the list of charities we support.

Further details of all our Responsible Tourism initiatives can be found at [www.mountainkingdoms.com/about/responsible-travel](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com/about/responsible-travel)

## Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Clients travelling with us will either be offered a free Water-to-Go bottle or a special 15% discount to purchase a bottle of their own

## Porter Protection

In the countries where we use porters we feel that the issue of porter protection is immensely important. We support the work and the aims of the IPPG (International Porter Protection Group) and as such we have a set of guidelines to adhere to and which we apply worldwide.



## Carbon off-setting

Working with Ecoan tree-planting project in Southern Peru we offset the carbon emissions for every Mountain Kingdoms holiday that includes an international flight.

