



Gasherbrum II 2012

Expedition Notes

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In July / August of 2012 Adventure Consultants is organising an expedition to Pakistan's Baltoro Glacier region in the Karakoram mountains of Pakistan, with the objective of climbing Gasherbrum II (8035m).

The expedition will attempt the normal route on the peak and establish 3 camps before mounting the summit attempt. Gasherbrum II is the 14th highest mountain in the world and the lowest of the fourteen 8000m peaks (by a few metres!).

This is a big mountain expedition, and although it is regarded as slightly harder than Cho Oyu, it is an ideal training peak for Everest.

How the expedition will operate

Upon arrival in Islamabad we may have a briefing with the Pakistani Government's Ministry of Tourism who issue the climbing permits. We then travel by road through the Indus Gorge to a mountain village called Skardu and the parting point from civilisation, where we will be accommodated in a Hotel for two or three nights while we make final preparations to the expedition equipment. If conditions permit, we may fly to Skardu.

Jeeps take us to the road end at Tongal followed by a two-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 provide wholesome and high quality food along the trek and while 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



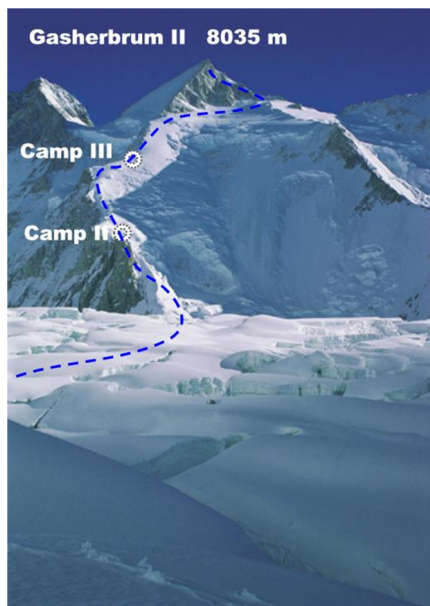
as the Trango group, Mustag Tower, Gasherbrum IV and K2. The trek takes 7-8 days to base camp

The guide/s will co-ordinate all the movements of equipment and people up and down the mountain and are there to assist you to achieve your goal. The guide/s are very strong and experienced mountaineers and you will find that their years of experience can help to make an expedition a successful and enjoyable highlight in your climbing career. They will deal with the logistical aspects of the expedition and can help you develop your own expedition skills along the way. You will be required to assist in load carrying between camps.

At the end of the trip the group will descend from Base Camp, over the scenic Gondogoro La and then retrace its steps to Islamabad.

Gasherbrum II (8035m)

Gasherbrum II is situated at the head of the Baltoro glacier with neighbouring giants such as K2, Hidden Peak (Gasherbrum I), and Broad Peak. The climbing will not be especially steep but the remoteness of the setting will make this an especially rewarding experience. Whether this is your first 8000m peak or your third, the nature of climbing in this region will have its own unique flavour.



We are climbing primarily without bottled oxygen although you may choose to use it on summit day at a small additional expense. We have oxygen available at base camp for medical and emergency purposes.

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

Climbers will be expected to carry only their own equipment and a small amount of group gear. We will use the services of the strong local high altitude porters (HAP's) to help with establishing high camps.

The route involves an icefall and glacier section to Camp I (5900m) on the Gasherbrum glacier then we follow the normal route to the summit placing two or three more camps along the way with CII at 6500, CIII at 7000m and a possible CIV at (7500m). Fixed ropes protect the steeper sections of the route, which are between camps I and III.

Itinerary

GASHERBRUM II 21 June to 9 August 2012

June 21	Arrival in Islamabad
22	Briefing with Ministry of Tourism
23 - 24	Drive Islamabad to Skardu, hire Porters
25	Day in Skardu, packing and sorting gear
26	Travel to Askole
27	Trek to Jula
28	Trek to Paiju
29	Rest day
30	Trek to Urdukas
1 July	Trek to Goro
2	Trek to Concordia
3	Trek to Shagharing
4	Trek to Gasherbrum BC
5	Rest day and camp set up
6	Rest and gear prep
7 – 30	Climbing GII
31 - 5 August	Depart BC for Skardu
6-7	Skardu to Islamabad
8	Reserve Day
9	Trip completion

What is required to climb this mountain

GII 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 30-day window for ascending the mountain with our summit bid being timed to coincide with the best weather statistically.

Climbers contemplating this climb should have a strong background in mountaineering skills and have experienced altitude above 5,500m prior to this expedition. Commonly climbers will have previously climbed Denali, Aconcagua or the various Mexican volcanoes or even other 8000m 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 to completing the climb.

Travelling in Pakistan

Pakistan is an Islamic country with some customs, which are unfamiliar to westerners. Adventure Consultants staff and our agency in Pakistan are there to help you understand

and appreciate the unique culture in this country. Our experience in Pakistan over the years has enabled us to provide a clean and efficient transition in and out of these mighty peaks.

The Expedition Fee

The cost of the expedition ex Islamabad is **US\$18,500**

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Pakistani government royalty fees
- All expedition organisational requirements
- All climbing and trekking permits
- Land transport in Pakistan
- All accommodation from ex Islamabad based on twin share.
- All team equipment & emergency oxygen
- All expedition staff, incl. 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 except breakfast
- Entry visa Pakistan (suggest getting 60 day entry into Pakistan before arriving in Islamabad)
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal/ Trip Cancellation/ Medical Evacuation insurance
- Climbing oxygen if required – see below
- Any Rescue costs
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Early departure costs from the expedition
- Single supplement for Hotels

Summit Day Oxygen

The additional cost to use two, three litre oxygen bottles for summit day is **US\$1,350**.

Another bottle can be bought for sleeping and resting at the high camp for **US\$675**.

Deposit

A non-refundable deposit of US\$2,000 is payable to secure a place on this expedition.

Balance

The balance of funds is payable by 21 March 2012.

Payments

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

**Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
1 Willis Street
Wellington
New Zealand**

for the account of

Adventure Consultants Limited Account # **1000-594771-0000**

Swift Address: **BKNZ22**

Cancellation & Refund Policy

An expedition member may cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

- A Prior to 21 April 2012 a refund of 50% of the 21 March 2012 payment.
- B After 21 April 2012 there will be no refunds.

Team members should take out private insurance if they wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons. This is called Trip Cancellation insurance and can be obtained through your normal travel agent.

Team Membership

The team will have a **maximum size of 9 members and 2 guides**. 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.

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.

Marketing

While the official name of the expedition will remain the “Adventure Consultants’ Gasherbrum II Expedition 2012”, you can for personal marketing purposes use another name if it will assist you in any way. You will also be completely free to enter into personal agreements with sponsors or supporters if you wish.

Equipment List

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary clothing and equipment to be individually provided.

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 only by the Adventure Consultant’s doctor and treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time.

Documentation and Photographs

Expedition members will need to provide 6 passport-photographs for various climbing and trekking permits and a photocopy of their passport bio-data page.

The advantages of climbing with us

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 local staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back-up 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.

How to join this expedition

If you would like to join the expedition please request an Expedition Application Form and forward along with your climbing résumé and the deposit.

If you require more information please contact us at:

Adventure Consultants Ltd
PO Box 739, 58 McDougall St
Wanaka 9343, New Zealand

Ph + 64 3 443 8711 Fax + 64 3 443 8733

Email info@adventure.co.nz

Web www.adventureconsultants.com



Adventure Consultants – is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association (NZOIA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.

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