



k-2 second largest mountain



Crossing Gondogoro la



Toward Ali camp



K-2 AND GONDOGORO LA TREK

<u>Trip Duration</u>	<u>21 Days</u>
<u>Grade</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Activities</u>	<u>Trekking</u>
<u>Accommodation</u>	<u>13 Night camping</u> <u>8 night Hotel</u>
<u>Meals Includes</u>	<u>21 Breakfasts,</u> <u>13 Lunches and Dinners</u>



Introduction to K2 Base camp and Gondogoro La Trek

The K2 Base Camp and Gondogoro La Trek offers a unique blend of adventure, natural beauty, and cultural experiences. This journey takes us through some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the Karakoram Range. Here, we will focus on what makes this trek stand out and essential details for anyone considering this challenging adventure.

Highlights of the Trek

- Scenic Valleys and Glaciers:** The trek takes us through stunning valleys and massive glaciers, including the Baltoro Glacier, one of the largest outside the polar regions.
- Remote Villages:** We will pass through remote villages, giving us a glimpse into the life and culture of the Balti people.
- High Pass Crossing:** One of the most thrilling parts is crossing the Gondogoro La pass, which stands at over 5,500 meters and offers spectacular views of four eight-thousanders.

Trekking Challenges

- Altitude:** Acclimatization is crucial as we will be trekking at high altitudes for extended periods.
- Weather:** The weather is unpredictable, and conditions can change rapidly, requiring us to be prepared for anything.
- Physical Fitness:** The trek demands excellent physical fitness due to the rugged terrain and long trekking days.

Environmental Concerns

- Leave No Trace:** We always follow the “Leave No Trace” principles to minimize our environmental impact.
- Waste Management:** Proper disposal of waste and avoiding the use of non-biodegradable products is essential.



Quote by a Trekker: “The K2 Base Camp and Gondogoro La Trek is not just a journey through stunning landscapes but also a test of endurance and commitment.”

The K2 Base Camp and Gondogoro La Trek is an unforgettable adventure that tests our limits while rewarding us with unparalleled natural beauty and cultural insights.

History and Significance of the K2 Trek

The K2 Trek has a rich history that dates back to the early 20th century, capturing the imagination of adventurers and mountaineers worldwide. This challenging trek leads us to the base of K2, the second highest mountain in the world, found in the Karakoram Range of Pakistan. Embarking on this journey, we traverse one of the most remote and rugged regions.

Historical Milestones

Early Exploration: European explorers first ventured into the Karakoram Range in the mid-1800s. The British Great Trigonometric Survey of India identified K2 in 1856.

First Attempts: The first serious attempt to climb K2 was made by Oscar Eckenstein and Aleister Crowley in 1902. Despite their failure, they paved the way for future expeditions.

Successful Ascent: The first successful ascent of K2 occurred in 1954 by an Italian expedition led by Ardito Desio, with Lino Lacedelli and Achille Compagnoni reaching the summit.

Significance

Mountaineering Achievement: Completing the K2 trek is often considered a rite of passage for serious mountaineers. Its difficulty and remoteness challenge even experienced climbers. **Cultural Encounters:** We have the opportunity to interact with local Balti people. Their unique culture and resilience in such a harsh environment are inspirational.

Natural Beauty: The trek offers stunning vistas, including views of the Karakoram’s towering peaks, expansive glaciers, and dramatic landscapes.

Ideal Seasons

The recommended trekking seasons are:

Summer (June to September): This period offers the most stable weather conditions. During these months, snow levels are at their lowest, making the trek less perilous. Days are typically warm with clear skies, presenting stunning views of the Karakoram range. **Late Spring (May):** Although still chilly, this time just before summer starts can also be advantageous. Trails may be less crowded, and the burgeoning landscape adds to the serene beauty.

Weather Considerations

Daytime Temperatures: In the summer, daytime temperatures in the lower altitudes are milder, ranging from 10°C to 20°C (50°F to 68°F).

Nighttime Temperatures: At higher altitudes and during nighttime, expect colder conditions, potentially dropping below freezing point (-16°C to -25°C). Proper gear is essential to stay warm during nights.

Trekking Dynamics

Monsoon: K2’s unique geographical location shelters it from the South Asian monsoon. Nevertheless, it is still best to avoid the early pre-monsoon period (April) and later post-monsoon months (October) due to unpredictable weather and potential for snow.

Crowd Management: July and August attract the highest number of trekkers. If we prefer a quieter experience, consider starting in June or September when the trails are less congested but conditions remain favorable.

Key Permits Required

Pakistan Visa:

Before we can enter Pakistan, we need a valid visa. Apply well in advance through the Pakistani embassy or consulate in our home country. You can now apply online on NADRA portal. For tourist visa, Pakistan Consulate office requires Invitation Letter from a tour Operator in Pakistan and a copy of Pakistan Identification who signed the invitation letter. We are responsible to sent you this letter for your visa process.

Letter of Invitation (LOI):

. For tourist visa, Pakistan Consulate office requires Invitation Letter from a tour Operator in Pakistan and a copy of Pakistan Identification who signed the invitation letter. Shigar Treks & Expeditions are responsible to sent you this letter for your visa process.

Trekking Permit:

The Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) issues this permit, required for trekking in the K2 region. We need to apply through our tour operator.

Military Permit:

Since K2 is near the border with China and India, a special permit from the Ministry of Tourism is necessary. Shigar Treks & Expeditions usually arranges this.

Documentation and Compliance

Identification:

You must carry Your passports and visa all times during the trek.

DETAILED ITINERARY

21 days Trek

DAY 1 Arrive Islamabad

On arrival transfer to the centrally located group hotel in Islamabad (the airport is situated mid-way between Islamabad and Rawalpindi). You will meet your group leader in the afternoon at the hotel for a trip briefing and gear check. If you are arriving on a late flight your briefing will take place tomorrow. on this day the group will go for a city tour. Overnight hotel.

meals: breakfast

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 2 Fly to Skardu

a) Fly to Skardu

b) In case of cancellation of flight drive 10-12hrs by air conditioned coach to Chilas (480km) on the Karakoram highway. Overnight Basic Hotel

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 3 Free Day in Skardu

a) We will undertake preparations for our Trekking and depending on our time of arrival into Skardu



b) If we are driving the road journey today will be 7-8 hrs. to Skardu (275km). On route are spectacular views of Nanga Parbat (8125m). Overnight Basic Hotel/ guesthouse.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 4 Drive to Askoli (3000m) approx. 8 hrs.

We will travel by jeep with our crew and supplies along the Shigar and Braldu valleys to Askoli. Villages in Shigar have changed little in over five hundred years; farms with fields of barley, wheat and vegetables surrounded by stone walls and stands of poplar, willow and apricot trees. The apricot is a very important crop in the north, having a multitude of uses to the Balti and people. Villagers greet us as we pass through on the rugged dirt and stone road that leads to Baltoro. As we approach, the landscapes become desert like and once within the sheer valley of the Braldu, it is necessary to cross the river several times by suspension bridges. At various points the road may have collapsed due to erosion and we will transfer the gear across on foot to a vehicle on the other side. The journey may take anywhere from six to twelve hours, or possibly two days as a result! With patience, we will arrive at our first camp of the trek and the expedition will begin in earnest. In Askoli the villagers grow their own cereals, vegetables and fruit and own large herds of sheep, goats and dozes. Overnight in our fully serviced wilderness campsite.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 5 Trek to Jhola (3200m), approx. 3 hours

After completion of necessary supplies list and equipment the porters will load up for the trek ahead to Jhola. The valley is gateway to Biafo glacier that flow over fifty kms from Hispar La to Braldu. The participants will experience the moraine walking as the snout of the glacier is crossed and they will descend to lunch spot beside the Korofon river.

The route will take us the confluence of rivers of Braldu and Domordo. The former trail is not taken for the trek and instead a newer trail will lead us to go upstream where the participants will cross the river by bridge. On the other side of the bridge the participants will descend to the edge of Braldu river and will follow the river bank to reach the camp at Jhola.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 6 Trek to Paiju (3450m) approx. 7 - 8 hrs.

Start your first day of trek to Paiju, the new road cut few traditional stages Korophon, Jhola and Bardumal, trek along the Braldu River to a green Oasis under the shadows of Paiju Peak 6611 M. Paiju - is a Balti word which means "SALT". Since there are some rock salt deposits at the base of this peak, the locals believe that the snow on the summit of Paiju Peak is not snow but a huge deposit of salt which drips down to the base. From this camp we have the first views of the impressive Baltoro Glacier. Overnight in tents. Walk: 06-07 hrs., Grade: Moderate, Altitude: 3480 M.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 7 Trek to Kurbutse (3930m) approx. 7-8hrs

Making the short approach to the glacier, the great expanse of ice stretching across the Braldu comes into perspective when we see the many porters forming an antlike trail across it. Ice cliffs tower more than sixty meters above the turbulent waters at the origin of the Braldu River. As a result of its continually changing nature, the glacial moraine may be difficult to trek upon at this stage and our route varies somewhat each time. One

should be prepared for a hard day of walking and carry plenty of fluid. Once at the other side, the trail will hug the side and occasionally necessitate a glacier or river crossing. There are now uninterrupted views of Paiju Peak (6610m), Uli Biaho group, Trango Group and Cathedral Group - a majestic, spired collection of mountains that the Karakoram are so well known for. Behind us the steep grassy slopes make high grazing pastures for ibex and the rocks are home to mouse hares (Pikas) and colorful hoopoe birds which forage for food scraps. Overnight in our fully service wilderness campsite.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 08 **Trek to Urdukas (4050m) approx. 3-4 hrs.**

An easier day's walk, following a good trail at the side of the Baltoro with two feeding glaciers to cross enrooted. It is Great Trango (5844m), facing eastwards, that is considered the greatest cliff face in the world and the point from which two Australians made a world record base jump in 1992. On the trail, pony trains carrying supplies to army camps are often passed and occasional helicopters overhead provide a reminder of our proximity to the disputed territory of Kashmir nearby. The grassy camp of Urdukas is well located before the mountains and is our last before continuing glacial camps. If the weather is clear at the head of the valley we may see Broad Peak (8050m) and Gasherbrum IV (7930m), two of the most prominent peaks of the region. Overnight in our fully serviced wilderness campsite.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 09 **Rest day at Urdukas (4050m) approx. 3-4 hrs.**

Rest day at Urdukas camp where porters will ready their break for new few days of glacier trekking. Whereas members can enjoy and walk around.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 10 **Trek to Gore II (4380m) approx. 6-7hrs**

Descending rugged terrain onto the glacier, we cross to the Centre where it is easier trekking. We weave over rolling mounds of rock and scree, not unlike that of a quarry. We are in fact steering slightly northwards to a moraine hollow where Goro II is situated. The vast glacial highway of the Yermanendu feeds in from the south, leading from the many mountains around Biarchedi. Crystal and Marble Peaks are now right before us. Looking back towards Paiju, the impressive mountain groups that have dominated our views over the last few days are now dwarfed as we trek higher and further away. Overnight in our fully serviced wilderness campsite.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 11 **Trek to Concordia (4650m) approx. 4-5hrs**

A special day today as we trek into Concordia and enjoy our first views of K2 (weather permitting!). This location must be considered one of the world's most spectacular camps as it is totally surrounded by stunning peaks. Get up early to enjoy a stunning sunrise over K2 and Broad Peak. Start your day with a beautiful walk towards the mighty K2 Base Camp. As you walk, you can stop and take in the incredible views of K2 on one side, and on the other, you'll see Concordia framed by Mitre Peak and Chogolisa (also known as Broad Peak). On the way back, you'll pass Broad Peak Base Camp and continue to descend towards Concordia. From there, we'll head down the Baltoro Glacier. Overnight in our fully serviced wilderness campsite.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAYS 12 **Rest day at Concordia or Trek to K2 Basecamp and back to Concordia**

In this day, trekkers rest and recover from their journey. If any trekker wishes to visit K2 Base Camp, we arrange for a guide or company staff to accompany them. They will return to Concordia on the same day.

Our schedule is somewhat flexible according to the prevailing weather conditions and group preference. On this day if any member wants to visit K2 Base Camp (approx. 5150m) and the Gilkey Memorial, a spectacular full day trip from camp. Get up early to enjoy a stunning sunrise over K2 and Broad Peak. Start your day with a beautiful walk towards the mighty K2 Base Camp. For many trekkers, visiting the actual base camp used by K2 climbers is the highlight of the trek. As you walk, you can stop and take in the incredible views of K2 on one side, and on the other, you'll see Concordia framed by Mitre Peak and Chogolisa (also known as Broad Peak). On the way back, you'll pass Broad Peak Base Camp and continue to descend towards Concordia. From there, we'll head down the Baltoro Glacier.

Overnight in our fully serviced wilderness campsite.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 13 **Trek to Ali camp (5010m)**

Today we trek for 5-6 hours on the Vigne Glacier with superb views of Chogolisa and Mitre Peak. Overnight will be spent at Ali camp just below the pass in our fully serviced wilderness campsite.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 14 **Crossing Gondogoro La (5585m) to Khuspang approx. 8-10hrs**

8- 10 hours, 8.5km, 930m ascent, 1260m descent. We must start very early in the morning (1am) for our crossing of the pass. After 4- 5 hours of steep and strenuous ascent we gain the top to be rewarded with stunning views of K2, Broad Peak and the Gasherbrum's. The lovely snow and granite knife edged peak of Laila (6200m), first climbed unofficially in 1987 by a British expedition and unofficially in 1996 by an Italian expedition, rises over the Gondogoro Glacier as we turn to descend. We descend 3- 4 hrs. to Khuspang camp (4680m). Khuspang is named for the turquoise (ahu) flowers which blanket this grassy place in summer. Overnight in our fully serviced wilderness campsite.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 15 **Shaisho (3330m) approx. 6-7hrs**

Continuing along the lateral moraine we descend to Shaisho, a picturesque campsite nestled amongst tamarisks, wild roses and junipers set beside the river. There are views up to the Charakusa Valley towards K7 (6934m). Tonight there is the chance for song and dance as the porters are relaxed and happy with a successful crossing of the Gondogoro La behind them. Overnight in our fully serviced wilderness campsite.

meals: B, L, D

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping

DAY 16 **To Hushe (3050m) approx. 3-4hrs**

Today is our final day of trekking in Pakistan. 3-4 hours of easy descent bring us to the village of Hushe. Nestled in the Hushe Valley it is the gateway for many expeditions travelling to Masherbrum, the Charakusa and Nangma valleys. Time permitting, we may have the option of a short climb to the top of a hillside on the edge of the village to gain unparalleled views of the mountain tops of the entire Baltoro. Overnight in our fully serviced wilderness campsite.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camping



DAY 17 Drive to Skardu (2340m)

Today we return to Skardu by jeep. The drive is a pleasant one through pretty scattered villages. The locals are busy with harvest and the apricot trees are heavy with ripening fruit. We travel via Khaplu the second largest kingdom of the old Baltistan guarding the trade route to Ladakh along the Shyok River. In the afternoon, a debriefing with the tourism department will be held. Overnight Basic Hotel.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 18 Fly Islamabad

- a) Weather permitting, we will fly to Islamabad today and on arrival transfer to our hotel.
- b) In case of flight cancellation, it is necessary to drive to Chilas and overnight at a hotel on the banks of the Indus.

Should we travel by surface, we will have a private minibus that will take us via Chilas which is a day's drive from Islamabad. We follow right beside the Indus from Skardu and view the incredible force of the river by the deep gorges

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 19 FREE DAY IN ISLAMABAD OR DRIVE FROM CHILAS TO ISLAMABAD

- This day will be use to transfer from Chilas to Islamabad by road.
- Upon arrival transfer to your hotel in Islamabad Evening sightseeing.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 20 FREE DAY IN ISLAMABAD

Free day in Islamabad

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 21 Transfer to Islamabad international Airport

Our staff will transfer to Islamabad international airport. Fly to your own country with good memories from the land of colorful and beautiful Pakistan.

SERVICE INCLUDED

1. Trekking permit fee. \$500 per person Government Tax
2. Twin shared tents for each members
3. Twin shared hotel rooms in Islamabad -Skardu
4. Airport to hotel on arrival & hotel to airport on departure
5. Hotel accommodation with bed & breakfast in Islamabad on double occupancy basis 05 nights.
6. Islamabad Local Transport
7. Flight ticket or Transportation from Islamabad / Skardu/Islamabad with all trekking luggage's
8. Hotel to airport on departure for Skardu
9. Skardu Airport to hotel on arrival
10. Three nights in Skardu Hotel with bed and breakfast.
11. Jeeps Skardu/ Askoli/ Hushe/ Skardu

12. Wages, insurance, food of cook,
13. Wages, insurance, food, of porter Sirdar
14. Full board camping food during trek
15. Briefing & de- briefing in the Ministry of tourism.
16. Mess tent, Kitchen tent, table, chairs & kitchen equipment Member tent and Mattress
17. Assistance in obtaining Pakistan Visa and other documentations
18. Porter payment
19. Camping fees, road taxes & bridge crossing of trekking members & porters
20. Porters Equipment
21. Porter food and kerosene oil for porter
22. Insurance, of porters, Guide, Cook & Helper
23. Wages, Insurance, equipment and Transportation of Guide
24. Gondogoro La Rescue Charges
25. Karakoram National Park fee
26. Satellite phone
27. Generator/ solar panel to charge mobile, camera and also for light

SERVICE NOT INCLUDED

1. Sleeping bags, rucksacks and personal clothing equipment.
2. Helicopter rescue if the members have a global rescue insurance
3. Room services, laundry charges, beverages and items of personal nature.
4. Phone /communication bills.
5. Insurance or liability of any members.
6. Islamabad and Skardu Hotel Lunch and Dinner
7. Tips
8. Things that is not mention in **what's included**

Trekking Gears/ Trekking Equipment's

For the K2 Base Camp and Gondogoro La trek, you'll need specific trekking gear to ensure safety and comfort. Here's a detailed list of essential equipment:

Clothing

1. **Base Layers:** Moisture-wicking thermal tops and bottoms.
2. **Insulating Layers:** Fleece or down jacket for warmth.
3. **Outer Layer:** Waterproof and windproof jacket and pants.
4. **Trekking Pants:** Lightweight and comfortable for hiking.
5. **Gloves:** Warm, insulated gloves with waterproof shells.
6. **Headgear:** Woolen hat, sun hat, Umbrella and a buff/scarf for neck protection.

Footwear

1. **Trekking Boots:** Sturdy, waterproof boots with good ankle support.
2. **Camp Shoes:** Lightweight for use in camp.
3. **Socks:** Woolen and synthetic trekking socks.

Sleeping Gear

1. **Sleeping Bag:** Rated for -20°C to -30°C.
2. **Sleeping Pad:** Insulated for extra comfort.

Trekking Accessories

1. **Backpack:** 50-70 liters for carrying essentials.
2. **Daypack:** 20-30 liters for daily use.
3. **Trekking Poles:** Essential for stability on steep terrain.
4. **Headlamp:** With extra batteries for nighttime use.

Personal Items

1. **Sun glasses:** UV-protected, glacier-grade.
2. **Water Bottles and Hydration Bladder:** 2.5 to 2 liters' capacity.
3. **Sunscreen and Lip Balm:** High SPF for protection.
4. **First Aid Kit:** Personal medications and basic supplies.
5. **Snacks:** Energy bars or trail mix.

Miscellaneous

1. **Gaiters:** To keep snow or debris out of boots.
2. **Rain Cover:** For backpacks.
3. **Climbing Gear:** Harness, carabineers, and helmet.
4. **Solar Charger and Power Bank:** For electronic devices.



Trekking Map

Camps - K2 Base Camp Trek

- Askole
- Korophon (Snout of Biafo)
- Jhola
- Paiju
- Khoburtse
- Urdukas
- Goro
- Concordia
- K2 - Karakoram 2
- Broad Peak

Trail - K2 Base Camp Trek

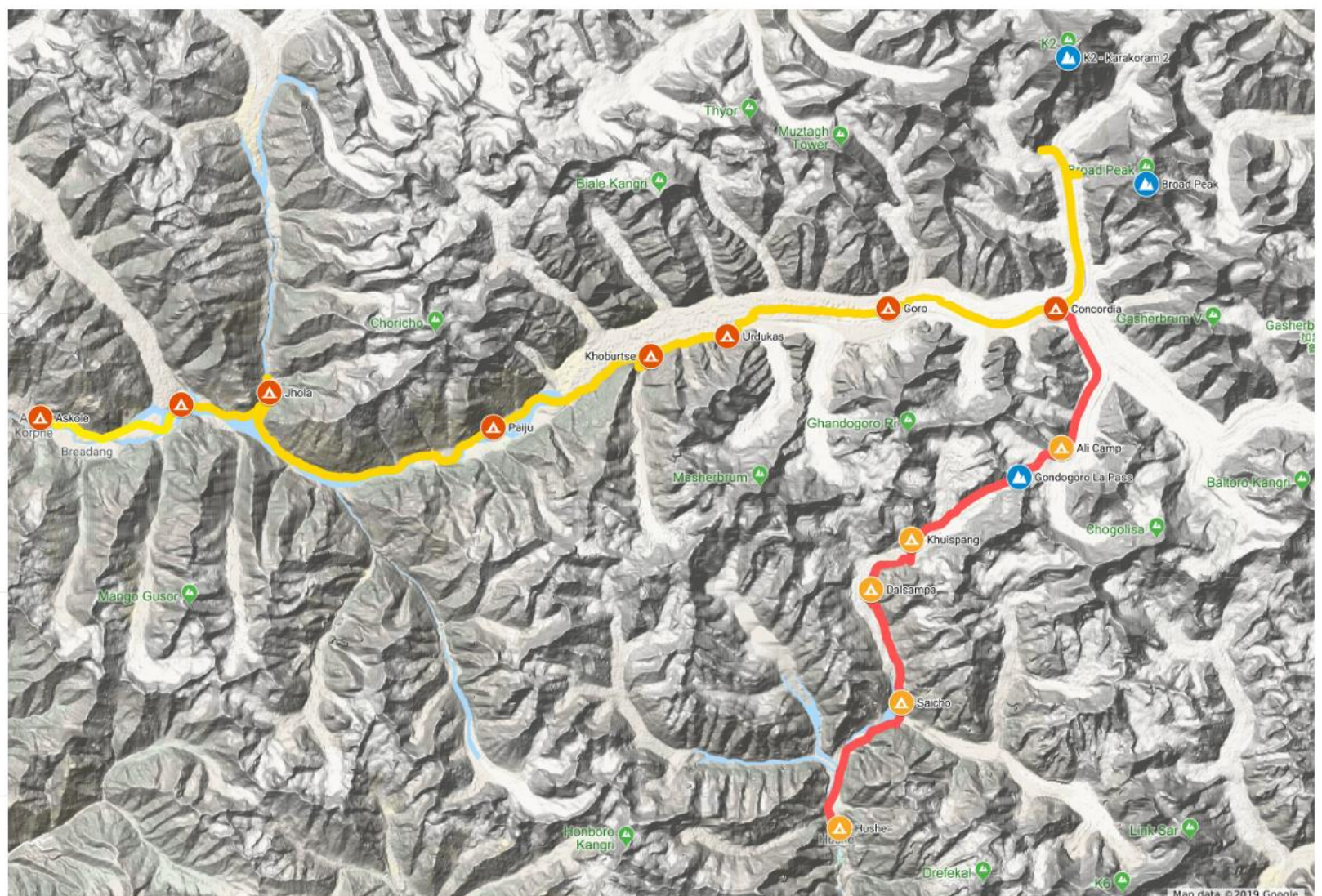
- Askole - Korophon
- Korophon - Jhola
- Jhola - Paiju
- Paiju - Khoburtse
- Khoburtse - Urdukas
- Urdukas - Goro
- Goro - Concordia
- Concordia - K2 BC
- Broad Peak BC

Camps - Gondogoro La Trek

- Ali Camp
- Gondogoro La Pass
- Khuispang
- Dalsampa
- Saicho
- Hushe

Trail - Gondogoro La

- Concordia - Ali Camp
- Ali Camp - Khuispang
- Khuispang - Dalsampa



TRANSPORTATION

Transport from Islamabad to | Skardu | Askoli for all Trekkers and their cargo (maximum 18 kg) and at the time of return transport from hushy | Skardu to Islamabad for all Trekkers and their cargo either by air or by road II). Jeeps where require. In case of cancellation of flight, a fully booked van will be provided from Skardu to Islamabad.

Single Supplement

- **Separate hotel rooms** (single supplement) will cost an **additional USD 290**. This includes all hotel nights.
- **Separate tents** (single tent) will cost an additional **USD 150**. This includes the cost of additional portorage.

ABOUT SHIGAR TREKS & EXPEDITIONS

- Shigar Treks & Expeditions is the best tour company in Pakistan, comprises a team of experienced staff involved for several years in the hospitality industry. The company is managed and run by a team of competent tourism professionals with their experience over two decades. It includes City tours, adventure trekking, peak climbing, cultural tours, helicopter tour and Eco-friendly tours.
- Team members are energetic and self-motivated with a passion to develop further for the responsible travel industry of Pakistan. All our staffs are dedicated on the responsibility given especially while trekking and expeditions in the high mountains. Ghulam Nabi is the in- charge of the Company's operation who himself is a Trekking and Tour Guide.
- Shigar Treks & Expeditions is legally operated under license granted by the Government of Pakistan. Further details are available on request.
- Shigar Treks & Expeditions is a recommended Travel Company in Pakistan. Likewise, we are a proud professional member of CKNP, PATO, GBATO, DTS, PIA, FBR, Askari Aviation, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan and Government of Pakistan.