

K2 Basecamp

Expedition Information Pack

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Why Choose Earth's Edge

Our mission is to support you in exploring our incredible world and experiencing life-changing adventures in the safest way possible. We are passionate about protecting the planet and improving the lives of those we meet along the way.

- We are a **100% Irish-owned small business**. Our founder, James McManus, is passionate about climbing mountains, and his extensive experience is an invaluable source of support for our office team in our day-to-day operations.
- A **dedicated expedition doctor** travels on this expedition, providing expert medical support throughout the journey and giving you peace of mind in this remote high-altitude environment.
- Our **experienced expedition leaders** work alongside an **exceptional Pakistani mountain team**, combining strong expedition leadership with invaluable local knowledge of the Karakoram.
- We keep **group sizes small** to minimise our environmental impact and foster a strong group dynamic. Whether you're travelling solo or with friends or family, our small group sizes provide the perfect opportunity to bond over shared experiences and create lasting friendships.
- We run a **pre-departure training weekend** approximately two months prior to the expedition. It includes a detailed expedition brief, two training hikes and expert advice from an experienced mountain guide. It's also a great opportunity to meet your fellow adventurers!
- We're here to **support you every step of the way**. Our friendly office team is available to answer any questions you have by phone, e-mail or video consultations. Each team

member participates in an expedition every year, ensuring they can share up-to-date advice and insights drawn from their own first-hand experiences.

- Booking an Earth's Edge expedition entitles you to a discount from our **equipment partners** at [Great Outdoors](#) to ensure that you get the best gear for your expedition.
- **Responsible travel** is at the core of what we do at Earth's Edge. As a [certified B Corp](#) company, we are committed to using our business as a force for good; to support our communities both locally and worldwide as well as creating more environmental awareness.

We have a number of environmental programmes and community projects, including;

- A [yearly scholarship](#) that gives porters the opportunity to become guides on Kilimanjaro.
- Our clients in Nepal help to remove waste from Sagarmatha National Park through the [Carry Me Back Program](#).
- We collect [clothing and gear donations](#) for our amazing porters on Kilimanjaro.
- We are striving to increase the number of [female staff](#) across our expeditions.

To read more about our sustainability practices, please visit our [responsible travel page](#).

Description & Detailed Itinerary

Our 22-day K2 Base Camp itinerary features **14 days on the trail** through one of the most remote and spectacular mountain landscapes in the world. The route follows the legendary Baltoro Glacier deep into Pakistan's Karakoram, reaching Concordia and K2 Base Camp before continuing across the **Gondogoro La Pass (5,585m)** and descending through the Hushe Valley.

Rather than retracing our steps after reaching K2 Base Camp, this expedition completes a full traverse of the Karakoram. Along the way, we trek beneath an extraordinary concentration of high peaks, including K2 (8,611m), Broad Peak and the Gasherbrums, with nights spent camping in a true high-altitude wilderness.

A major highlight is Concordia, where the Baltoro and Godwin-Austen glaciers meet in an immense natural amphitheatre surrounded by some of the highest mountains on Earth. From here, we continue towards Broad Peak Base Camp and **K2 Base Camp (5,400m)**, before preparing for the crossing of the Gondogoro La.

The Gondogoro La is the most demanding stage of the expedition. The crossing reaches 5,585m and requires crampons, with fixed ropes used depending on conditions. This is not a technical climbing expedition, but it is a significant step up from treks such as Everest Base Camp or Kilimanjaro. Previous high-altitude and winter mountain experience is strongly recommended, and time is built into the itinerary to practise the rope skills required for the crossing.

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Throughout the expedition, you'll be supported by an experienced expedition leader, our Pakistani mountain team, cooks and porters, as well as a dedicated Earth's Edge expedition doctor. Full camping and logistical support allows you to focus on the trekking and the experience of travelling through this extraordinary region.

Before and after the trek, we spend time in Islamabad and Skardu. These days also provide important flexibility around the internal flights between Islamabad and Skardu, which can be affected by mountain weather.

We have classified K2 Base Camp as a [level 7 expedition](#). This expedition is best suited to experienced hikers with a very good level of fitness and stamina, who are comfortable with long trekking days, rough terrain, camping and sustained time at high altitude.

Day 1: Arrive in Islamabad

Arrive in Islamabad (ISB) and transfer to the hotel to relax or explore the city. In the afternoon, we meet for a full expedition briefing. Overnight hotel.

Day 2: Fly Islamabad to Skardu, 1 hr

Today we take the short but spectacular flight to Skardu. The rest of the day is free to relax and explore before a team briefing to review plans for the expedition. Overnight hotel. Altitude 2,228m.

Note: If the flight is cancelled due to weather, we begin the journey to Skardu by road via the Karakoram Highway, travelling for 10/11 hrs to reach Chilas.

Day 3: Free day in Skardu

Enjoy a free day in Skardu. For the more energetic, a visit to the bazaar and Skardu Fort can be arranged. Or choose to relax, stroll around the city taking in the sites or visit some local bakeries. Overnight hotel.

This day also provides contingency time if the previous day's flight was cancelled, continuing the drive to Skardu travelling for 10/11 hrs on the Karakoram Highway.

Day 4: Drive Skardu to Askoli, 7 hrs

Today we take the thrilling and spectacular drive to Askoli, the starting point of our trek. The views of the river below us and the peaks above us are breath-taking. Askoli is a small community and we make camp in a terraced garden. Overnight camp. Altitude 3,000m.

Day 5: Trek Askoli to Jhola, 9 hrs, 12.6km

After a hearty breakfast we meet our porters for the trek. Our trek begins along the Braldu River. Our route today follows the Braldu river. We break for lunch in Korofoung which is a really scenic spot. In the afternoon we enjoy great views of Bakhor Das (5,809m) and the Biafo Glacier as we continue on to Jhola. While the route is relatively flat, we are walking in sand throughout the day which can sap energy levels. Overnight camp. Altitude 3,100m.

Day 6: Trek Jhola to Paiyu, 9 hrs, 16.6km

A tougher day on an undulating trail, with our first distant views of the great Karakoram peaks. The last part of the day is a steep but scenic climb from the valley floor to Paiyu camp; a wooden oasis under the shadows of the majestic Paiyu Peak (6,611m) Overnight camp. Altitude 3,450m.

Day 7: Rest and acclimatisation day in Paiyu

A well-earned rest and acclimatisation day. We take a short walk, relax at camp and prepare for the days ahead on the Baltoro Glacier. Overnight camp.

Day 8: Trek Paiyu to Khubertse, 10 hrs, 10.8km

The first part of today's trail takes us along the river floodplain before climbing up the snout of the Baltoro Glacier. It's a long but picturesque day, following the banks of the river with stunning views of Paiyu Peak (6,610m) Uli Biaho (6,417m), Great Trango Tower (6,286m), Lobsang Spire (5,707m) and the Cathedral Towers. Overnight camp. Altitude 3,816m.

Day 9: Trek Khubertse to Urdukas, 4 hrs, 5.1km

A shorter day crossing beautiful slopes covered in wildflowers. We navigate our way over the moraine and mountain slopes to reach the beautifully positioned camp at Urdukas. Today we get good views of G4, G2 and Broad Peak. Overnight camp. Altitude 4,168m.

Day 10: Trek Urdukas to Goro II, 6-8 hrs, 12.1km

We continue across moraine and glacier, with a lot of fun rock-hopping and stream-jumping. If the weather is clear, we're surrounded by an increasingly dramatic skyline of the Karakoram's highest peaks. Overnight camp on the glacier. Altitude 4,319m.

Day 11: Trek Goro II to Concordia, 5 hrs, 9.2km

A challenging but rewarding day trekking across more moraine and glacier. It is a gradual climb up to Concordia where the Baltoro, Abruzzi and Godwin Austen glaciers meet. The 360 degree panoramic view here is one of the most spectacular sights in the world. This campsite is truly breath-taking as you are completely surrounded by towering peaks. On a clear day you can see ten of the world's thirty highest peaks including four 8,000m peaks. We have a celebration in the evening to congratulate our arrival to Concordia. Overnight camp. Altitude 4,570m.

Day 12: Trek Concordia to Broad Peak Base Camp, 5 hrs

Today we trek towards Broad Peak Base Camp, with K2 dominating the skyline ahead. Overnight camp. Altitude 5,400m.

Day 13: Trek Broad Peak Base Camp to K2 Base Camp to Concordia, 7 hrs

We start early and trek to the Gilkey Memorial. This is an easy walk taking in some incredibly beautiful surroundings. We then begin a short yet steep ascent to K2 Base Camp. There is a real sense of achievement upon reaching base camp! After taking in the

atmosphere and sights we descend back down to Concordia. Altitude 4,570m.

Day 14: Rest day in Concordia

We take a well deserved rest day to soak in our stunning surroundings. We spend the afternoon practising our rope skills ahead of ascending the Gondogoro La Pass. These skills are key to ensuring we move safely while crossing the pass. Overnight camp.

Day 15: Trek Concordia to Ali Camp, 6 hrs, 9.5km

We leave Concordia and say farewell to some of the staff and ponies that have helped us until now. We then traverse the Baltoro Glacier, crossing a number of crevasses. We turn in early tonight ahead of a midnight departure to cross the Gondogoro La Pass tomorrow. Overnight camp. Altitude 5,010m.

Day 16: Trek Ali Camp to Hispung via Gondogoro La, 12 hrs, 8.5km

The toughest day of the expedition. We start early and climb to the Gondogoro La Pass (5,585m), using crampons, with fixed ropes used where conditions require, before descending to Hispung. The views from the pass including K2, Broad Peak, Gasherbrum I to IV are unparalleled, making all the hard work worthwhile. Overnight camp. Altitude 4,680m.

Day 17: Trek Hispung to Daltsampa via Saicho, 8 hrs

We descend the Gondogoro Glacier, which requires concentration underfoot, before the landscape softens into alpine meadows as we drop altitude quickly on the way down to Daltsampa. We reach Daltsampa campsite in late afternoon and enjoy our last camp on the trail situated beside a beautiful roaring river. Overnight camp. Altitude 4,300m.

Day 18: Trek Daltsampa to Hushe, 4 hrs, 9.3km

Our final trekking day follows the valley down to Hushe. This trail follows a river down sandy terrain and towards fields covered with wildflowers and crops- a nice antidote to the barren high altitude landscape we have encountered so far. In the evening there are refreshments in the hotel and a ceremony to thank the porters who have crossed the pass with us. Overnight hotel. Altitude 3,050m.

Day 19: Drive Hushe to Skardu, 7 hrs

We drive back to Skardu, with time to reflect on the journey and enjoy our final views of the Karakoram. Overnight hotel.

Day 20: Fly Skardu to Islamabad, 1 hr

We fly back to Islamabad in the morning. Your afternoon is free for exploring. In the evening, we enjoy a celebratory meal in one of Islamabad's best hotels. Overnight hotel.

Note: If our flight is cancelled due to bad weather we will start the drive to Islamabad travelling for 10/11 hrs on the Karakorum Highway to reach Chilas.

Day 21: Free day in Islamabad

Enjoy a free day for sightseeing, shopping or relaxing. Overnight hotel.

Note: This day also provides contingency time should the return flight from Skardu have been disrupted, continuing our 10/11hr drive from Chilas to Islamabad.

Day 22: Depart Islamabad.

Say farewell to your group as the expedition comes to an end. Complimentary airport transfers are provided for the recommended flight timings.

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Expedition Costs

You can find our detailed expedition pricing [on our website](#).

- A **deposit** of EUR/USD/GBP 399 is taken at the time of booking to secure your spot.
- A **part payment** of EUR/USD/GBP 1,000 is due six months prior to departure.
- The **final balance** can be paid in instalments, but is due 90 days prior to departure.

For up-to-date prices in GBP and USD, based on today's exchange rate, please visit our website.

Flights

International flights are not included in the expedition price.

We'll send our recommended flight timings approximately 10 months before departure, and complimentary group airport transfers are provided for these flights.

You're welcome to choose alternative flights, but please consult us before booking to ensure your arrival works with the expedition schedule and briefing on Day 1.

Expedition Inclusions & Exclusions

Expedition Costs Include:

- Internal flights between Islamabad and Skardu
- Pre-departure training weekend in Wicklow
- Experienced expedition leader
- Dedicated Earth's Edge expedition doctor
- Pakistani mountain guides, cooks, porters and a full support team
- Hotel accommodation in Islamabad and Skardu based on twin sharing, and fully serviced camping during the trek
- All meals and drinking water as outlined in the itinerary (except in Islamabad and Skardu where hotel accommodation is based on B&B)

- A celebratory dinner at the end of the expedition
- Planned group transport throughout the expedition, including complimentary airport transfers for the recommended flights
- Trekking permits and national park fees
- All group trekking and camping equipment, plus a fully stocked expedition medical kit including oxygen
- An Earth's Edge jacket, buff and cap for all participants

Expedition Costs Exclude:

- International Flights
- Training weekend accommodation and food
- Personal travel insurance
- Medical vaccinations
- Tourist visas
- Personal equipment
- Tips
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, phone calls, alcohol, or excess baggage charges
- Any costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances which affect the itinerary such as adverse weather, flight disruption, landslides, road conditions or other circumstances beyond our control

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Spending Money and Tipping

Spending Money

We recommend that you put aside **USD/EUR450** in spending money for this trip, plus access to a credit/debit card for contingencies. Euro and US Dollars can be exchanged into Pakistani Rupees in Islamabad and Skardu, and it is useful to carry some local currency for small purchases. ATMs are available in Islamabad, but access to cash is extremely limited once the trek begins.

Your Pakistan tourist visa is not included in the expedition price or the spending-money recommendation above. Visa requirements and fees can change, so please check the current requirements for your passport before applying.

Our recommended tip amount is USD250 per person. Please give your tip to the Earth's Edge Expedition Leader, who will distribute it fairly among the local expedition team. Earth's Edge also contributes a tip on behalf of the expedition doctor.

There are very few opportunities to spend money once the trek begins, so most of your spending will be in Islamabad or Skardu before and after the trekking section.

Tipping

At Earth's Edge it is important to us that the tipping process is transparent and that all team members are tipped fairly.

The exact size and make-up of the Pakistani support team varies depending on group size, route conditions and local logistics. Tips are pooled so that everyone working on the expedition receives a fair share.

We recommend USD250 per person. Your expedition leader will collect the group tip and distribute it across the local team at the end of the expedition.

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Training Weekends

Before the expedition, we organise a training weekend where you'll have the chance to meet your fellow adventurers! Led by an experienced mountain guide, the weekend includes a comprehensive expedition briefing, two training hikes, and practical advice on fitness, equipment, altitude and preparation for the Gondogoro La crossing. It takes place in Glendalough, Co. Wicklow. Please note that food and accommodation for the weekend are not included.

Safety Standards

At Earth's Edge, your safety is our top priority. This expedition is led by an experienced expedition leader and supported by a dedicated doctor with a keen interest in adventure travel and expedition medicine.

The expedition is further supported by our experienced Pakistani mountain team, including guides, cooks and porters, who are selected for their skills, local knowledge and experience in the Karakoram.

Our team carries a comprehensive expedition medical kit and has plans in place for managing illness, injury and evacuation in this remote environment. We also ask all participants to carry a basic personal first aid kit and to follow the guidance of the expedition leader and doctor at all times.

We recommend that all participants research local laws, customs and current travel advice before travelling to Pakistan. Up-to-date advice is available from the [Irish Department of Foreign Affairs](#).

On expeditions, the most common cause of illness is gastroenteritis (Delhi Belly), often caused by poor personal hygiene. The good news is that it is easily avoided by practising the following:

- Always **wash your hands** and apply **hand sanitiser** after going to the toilet and before touching food.

- Always **use drinking water** to brush your teeth and avoid ingesting water while showering or washing your face.
- Maintain a **healthy diet** and consider taking **multivitamins and probiotics** for one month before and during the expedition to help your body adjust to changes in your diet and keep you healthy throughout the expedition.
- **Drinking water** is provided by Earth's Edge on each day of the trek, this water is boiled and cooled. You may also wish to bring your own water treatment tablets. If you wish to change the flavour of the water it is recommended to use electrolyte tablets/sachets or add a concentrated flavour drink.

To read more about our safety standards please visit our [safety page](#).

Special Offers

- **Return Customer Offer** - If you have travelled with us before please visit our [return customer](#) page for details on what discount you are entitled to.
- **Refer a Friend Offer** - If you have a friend who wants to travel with us please visit our [refer a friend](#) page for details on our referral programme.
- **Group Discounts** - If you are booking as part of a group please visit our [group discounts](#) page for details on what discount you are entitled to.
- **Couples Offer** - If you are booking with a friend or partner please visit our [couples offer](#) page for details on what discount you are entitled to.

Book Your Trip Consultation

You can now schedule a free trip consultation with a member of the Earth's Edge team! We're happy to talk you through the itinerary, preparation and training, equipment, and anything else you'd like to know. Book your [consultation here](#).

Expedition FAQ:

Do you have a question that wasn't answered in this information pack? If so, please visit our [FAQ page](#) for a full list of frequently asked questions. If you can't find your answer there please [contact us](#).

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