



Image by Cory Richards



Gasherbrum II

RAPID ASCENT™ EXPEDITION

DURATION: 32 DAYS

LOCATION: PAKISTAN

SKILL LEVEL: ADVANCED

ALPENGLOW



Image by Ming Poon

GASHERBRUM II RAPID ASCENT™ EXPEDITION

Expedition Details

DURATION: 32 DAYS

LOCATION: PAKISTAN

SKILL LEVEL: ADVANCED

SEASON: SUMMER

COST: \$34,950

DIFFICULTY LEVEL DESCRIPTION:

Advanced - must be able to climb technical terrain with an alpine pack on your back. You should be comfortable with camp craft in high-altitude camps and be able to perform at a high level for multiple days in a row at altitude.

PREREQUISITES:

Climbers must have substantial climbing experience to join. Prior ascents of multiple 6000 - 7000 meter peaks is required.



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Expedition Introduction

Why climb in Pakistan?

Climb an 8,000m peak in one of the worlds most impressive mountain ranges: The Karakoram .

Situated in Northern Pakistan, the Karakoram boasts more 7,000m+ peaks than anywhere in the world. Climbing in this storied mountain range instills a sense of awe in all who are fortunate enough to witness its remote and wild landscape.

Sitting at 8,035m, 26,261', Gasherbrum II is the 13th tallest mountain in the world, and one of four 8,000m peaks that make their home in the Karakoram.

Our local logistics teams and guides have worked extensively in the Karakoram, making our team one of the most experienced teams running trips in the region.



ROUTE CHOICE

We will be climbing the Southwest Ridge to the summit of Gasherbrum II. Working our way past the Ice Fall of the Gasherbrum Glacier to C1, we'll start up the steep snow and ice slope following the fixed lines to C2 and C3. From C3 we'll make the "Diagonal Traverse", passing the rarely used C4 to the summit pyramid and the summit of G2.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Gasherbrum II is the part of the Gasherbrum Group in the Karakoram of Northern Pakistan. It was first explored by the 1909 expedition led by the Duke of the Abruzzi. The first ascent of Gasherbrum II wouldn't come until 1956, when Fritz Moravec and Hans Willenpart summited the peak on July 7th.

Deriving its name from the Balti words *rgasha* (beautiful) and *brum* (mountain), Gasherbrum II truly lives up to its name.





32 Day Itinerary

Historically, we've seen many climbers on other expeditions teams head home long before attempting their summit push on 8,000m Peaks. This is generally for three reasons, all tied to the amount of time teams take "acclimatizing" on the mountain:

- The multiple trips up and down the mountain during acclimatization cause the climber to reassess the risk and go home.
- The climber's weight loss, chronic sickness and progressive weakening at altitude cause them to call off the trip.
- A family or work issue at home takes priority.

Our goal with a 32-day itinerary is to keep all the necessary acclimatization, training, and mountain preparation while minimizing the unnecessary waiting and downtime of traditional expeditions.

The use of the best technology available (including weather forecasting, efficient oxygen systems, and pre-acclimatization in hypoxic tents), our team's experience, and their early arrival and late departure to pre-set and clean the mountain's camps and ropes allows our team to minimize their time on mountain, while maximizing their chances of success.



G2 serves as a great first 8,000m peak, and climbing in the Karakoram would be an excellent training ground for other high altitude peaks like Everest or Cho Oyu.

See more trips at [ALPENGLowEXPEDITIONS.COM](https://alpenglowexpeditions.com)



About Alpenglow Expeditions

Alpenglow creates and fosters a community of climbers prepared to achieve their dreams in the world's greatest mountain ranges.



About the Company

Alpenglow Expeditions is an AMGA accredited business, and prides itself on working with guides who uphold and exemplify the highest standard in the profession of mountain guiding.

Led by IFMGA mountain guide Adrian Ballinger, Alpenglow focuses on creating expeditions that reflect our high standards in mountain guiding by providing precision logistics, cutting edge technology, and thoughtful itineraries that combine for successful climbs.

History of Alpenglow Expeditions

Founded in 2004 by IFMGA mountain guide Adrian Ballinger, Alpenglow Expeditions began as a boutique guide service that focused on high altitude climbing. In those 15 years we've expanded our offerings, both internationally and in the United States. We are now proud to offer courses and expeditions ranging from a climbers first experience on the Tahoe Via Ferrata, to basic backcountry education for those interested in exploring winter landscapes, to climbing the world's highest mountain for those on the Road to Everest.

About Alpenglow Expeditions



Founder — Adrian Ballinger

Adrian Ballinger founded Alpenglow Expeditions in 2004 envisioning a more holistic climbing experience for his clients than the status quo.

Adrian is the only American who has skied two 8,000 meter peaks, was the first person to ski Manaslu, the 8th tallest mountain in the world, and in 2011 became the first person to summit three 8,000 meter peaks in only 3 weeks (Everest twice and Lhotse once).

Adrian holds both an AMGA and IFMGA guide's certifications and has achieved more than 10 summits of 8,000 meter peaks (including 6 summits of Mt. Everest).



Partner / Chief Guide — Logan Talbott

Logan has been guiding professionally for over a decade in the disciplines of Rock, Alpine and Ski Mountaineering. When not out guiding, Logan spends time in the office helping the team with the day-to-day operations of the business. From one day ascents of El Capitan to big Alpine climbs in the Himalaya, or from ski descents on Denali to backyard ski tours in Lake Tahoe, he can't help but smile when out running around the hills.

Logan is an AMGA/IFMGA mountain guide, an Avalanche course leader with AIARE, as well as a wilderness EMT. In addition to guiding, Logan has extensive experience in mountain rescue, having worked for rescue teams in both Yosemite and Denali National Parks, and volunteering locally for Tahoe Nordic SAR.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, LOCAL PARTNERS

We partner with local logistics companies in each country and region that we operate in. Often we have partnerships that have been with us since the beginning of Alpenglow. Whenever we bring on a new operator we have vetted them thoroughly to insure their reliability and quality. Our local and regional logistics partners are the backbone of our in-country logistics and help us achieve the success that we're known for.



After 15 years of guiding expeditions all over the world, including more than a dozen 8,000-meter peak expeditions, we have refined and distilled the acclimatization and climbing process to maximize safety, health, success, and enjoyment.

The Alpenglow Difference

Alpenglow Expeditions' Rapid Ascent™ climbs are an entirely new way to approach big-mountain expeditions.

Rapid Ascent™ Strategy

First developed by Adrian Ballinger, Rapid Ascent™ is a unique approach to climbing big mountains across the world. This innovative program combines hypoxic training at home with precise logistics and small team sizes to reduce the overall time spent away from home, all while greatly increasing the chance of success on your international climbing expedition.

By pre-acclimatizing for 6 weeks at home, we're able to reduce the overall expedition time to 32 days. It is due to this pre-acclimatization that we are able to move relatively quickly through the Karakoram to Base Camp with no ill effects.

1:4 Maximum Guide to Climber Ratio

All guides are IFMGA qualified or aspirants working towards finishing their certification. We guarantee our guides are the best in the business, drawing upon years spent guiding in the mountains to give you the best and safest experience possible.

3:2 Sherpa to Climber Ratio

Having three Sherpa per every two climbers ensures we have the strength necessary to carry loads, set camps, and assist climbers. All of our Sherpa on G2 have worked with us on many expeditions.

The Alpenglow Difference

EXPEDITION DOCTOR ON CALL

Dr. Monica Piris, has been on fourteen 8,000-meter peak expeditions. She is in daily communication with our teams during the entirety of the expedition and is available for client consultation at any time.

SWISS WEATHER FORECASTS

Having a quality forecast for Gasherbrum II maximizes both our safety and our summit success. These weather forecasts were originally developed for aircraft traveling at the altitudes that we climb at.

FOUR BOTTLES OF OXYGEN PER CLIMBER

This allows us to use high-flow oxygen moving from C2 to C3, sleeping at Camp 3, and our summit bid day. The use of supplemental oxygen maximizing safety and success. Our Sherpa also climb and sleep on oxygen, which means they have more strength to focus on you and your ascent.

HIGH-QUALITY FOOD

Imported and local foods of the highest quality, combined with a Western-trained cook staff. Alpenglow has the best food on the mountain, ensuring your strength and health throughout the expedition.

UNLIMITED WIFI INTERNET IN BASE CAMP

We understand the modern need for technology, and this allows you to stay in touch with home and office via email, text message, and phone at no additional expense.





Alpenglow's G2 Team

G2 Expedition Leader — Esteban “Topo” Mena

Alpenglow Expeditions' logistics, guiding, Base Camp staff, food, and equipment are of the absolute highest level possible.

The Gasherbrum II Rapid Ascent Expedition is organized and led by IFMGA Guide, Esteban “Topo” Mena.

Topo is an extremely talented high-altitude mountain guide, having made ten 8,000m summits. He has summited Everest three times, once without supplemental oxygen, and in 2019 summited K2 alongside Alpenglow Expeditions Founder Adrian Ballinger and fellow Alpenglow guide Carla Perez.

Topo has extensive experience organizing complicated logistics for high altitude teams, and has spent countless hours on the mountain rope-fixing with Sherpa, guiding members, and assisting and organizing rescues.

Alpenglow's Guides, Sherpa + Climbers

Alpenglow offers an exceptional level of competency, safety, and comfort on our expeditions. Our team will be limited to 12 members, with certified guides and the best Sherpa and cooks available (*staff we have been working with for more than a decade*).

Our small group size allows us to adapt to changing conditions and weather far more easily than many commercial teams, which have become so large over the last decade that they have become difficult to manage. Our member to Sherpa **(3:2)** and member to guide ratios **(4:1)**, the comforts of our Base Camp, our fresh and nutritious food, and our use of maximum oxygen are details that add up to a far more enjoyable experience and successful climb.

Local Logistics Team

For our Gasherbrum II expedition, Alpenglow has partnered with the premier logistics operator to provide base camp infrastructure, food and base camp staff.

TEAM MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

While G2 is the shortest and considered the most tame of the 8,000m peaks in the Karakoram, Alpenglow maintains a deep respect for the nature of this mountain and you will never find us underestimating its potential dangers. We require a significant amount of experience from each of our members to ensure that you will feel comfortable on the peak, both with your own skills and of those of your teammates.

We require that our team members will have had prior ascents of multiple 6000 - 7000 meter peaks before joining this expedition.



Route Description + Itinerary

The Karakoram is one of the most remote and stunning mountain ranges in the world, holding the highest concentration of 7,000m+ peaks on the planet. Our journey to the summit of Gasherbrum II will start with several days of travel before starting our approach. Trekking along the mighty Baltoro Glacier into the heart of the Karakoram, we'll hike for six days until we reach the confluence of the Baltoro and Godwin Austin Glaciers.

This is where the magnitude of the Karakoram will set in, with spectacular views of Broad Peak and K2 to the north, and the Gasherbrum group laying straight ahead. From here we'll make our way to the southeast end of the valley and to G2 Base Camp at 16,900' (5,150m). Our pre-acclimatization will enable us to move quickly to base camp, preserving time and energy for the climb ahead.

After a few days of rest and acclimatization at base camp, we'll make our way through the Icefall to C1 (19,500', 5,950m). We'll start our acclimatization rotation with two days of rest at C1 before following the fixed lines up the steep snow and ice slope of the Southwest Ridge to C2. Placed on a sheltered ledge at 21,100' (6,450m), we'll spend two nights acclimatizing at C2 before we'll be ready to descend back to base camp over the next few days. Having completed our acclimatization rotation up to C2, we'll spend one day resting in base camp before we start back up the mountain and begin our summit push.

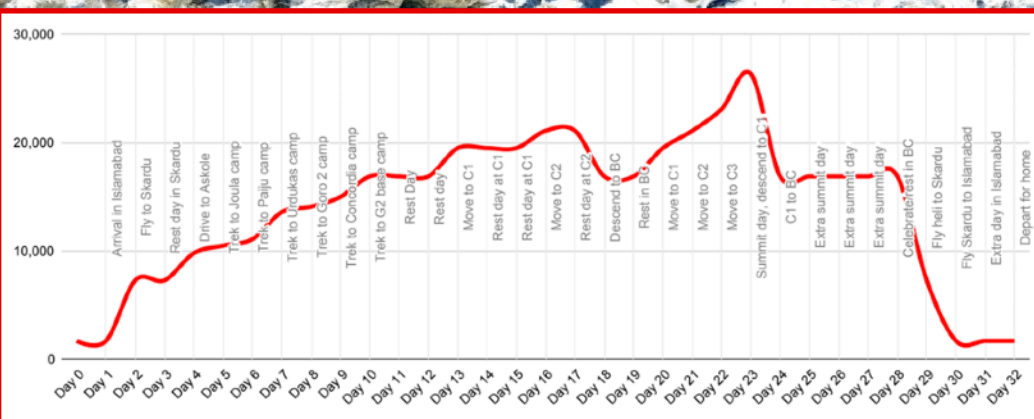
The first day will see us back at C1 after having moved once more through the Icefall. The next morning we'll work our way back up the "Banana Ridge" to C2. From here on out we'll be using supplemental oxygen, as we ascend the fixed lines to camp 3. Nestled on a shoulder beneath the summit pyramid at 23,100' (7,050m), C3 will be the highest camp that we'll utilize on the climb.

We'll start our summit bid by passing the rarely used C4 and making the "Diagonal Traverse" beneath the summit pyramid. Once the traverse is completed we'll make our way up a beautiful snow slope to the summit of Gasherbrum II at 8,035m, 26,361'.

Our summit ascent schedule will depend on weather, route conditions, and managing other teams on the mountain.

Summiting Gasherbrum II is an incredible accomplishment that takes effort, patience, luck, and experience. After fifteen years of guiding 8,000m peaks, the Alpenglöw team has created the best infrastructure available to support your attempt on the world's 13th tallest mountain.

We encourage you to call us to further discuss our infrastructure, team, and unique Rapid Ascent approach to climbing Gasherbrum II.



Map Overview





Image by Cory Richards

Daily Itinerary Overview

DAY 1 — After arriving in Islamabad, our team will meet you at the airport and transport you to our hotel. We'll get some much needed rest and start to get over our jet lag.

Activity. Arrive in Islamabad, Pakistan

Sleeping Elevation. 1,770'

Lodging. Hotel TBD

Meals. None

DAY 2 — Today we'll leave Islamabad and take a spectacular hour-long flight to the city of Skardu in the Gilgit-Baltistan region. Our flight will have us looking down upon breathtaking mountains like Nanga Parbat (8,124m) and Rakaposhi (7,788m).

If the weather is not in our favor and prevents us from flying, we'll take a luxury van down the Karakoram Highway. This two day journey follows the Indus River along what used to be an ancient Silk Road, and offers incredible views of a region not often explored by western expeditions.

Activity. Fly to Skardu or Drive to Chilas

Moving Time. 1 hour flying, 8 hours driving

Elevation Gain. 5,600'

Sleeping Elevation. 7,310'

Lodging. Hotel TBD

Meals. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 — Skardu serves as the Capital of the Skardu region, and is a beautiful city with a rich history. The city has bustling bazaars and rustic stores to explore.

If we are driving from Chilas, we'll have another day of driving filled with beautiful views. We'll pass by Nanga Parbat and Rakaposhi, and get a chance to see where the Karakoram, Hindu Kush, and Himalayan mountain ranges meet.

Activity. Explore Skardu or continue drive to Skardu

Moving Hours. 6-7 hours if driving from Chilas

Elevation Gain/Loss. 0

Sleeping Elevation. 7,310'

Lodging. Hotel in Skardu TBD

Meals. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Daily Itinerary Overview

DAY 4 — Heading out from Skardu in jeeps, we'll drive 6-8 hours through the Shigar valley to the village of Askoli. Arriving at the confluence of the Shigar and Braldu valleys, the landscape changes drastically from green farm lands to mountain desert. We'll spend the night at the Aksoli campground alongside other expeditions and trekkers and prepare for our first day of trekking the following morning.

Activity. Drive to Aksole
Moving Hours. 6-8 hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. +2,500'
Sleeping Elevation. 9,800'
Lodging. Aksole Campground
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5 — The first day of trekking will see us following the Braldu Valley to where the Braldu and Dumordo Rivers meet. After trekking up the valley, we'll cross the footbridge over the swift waters of the Dumordo River and arrive at Joula camp. Today's trek will take 6-8 hours and cover 10 miles. It will be a great introduction to the dramatic landscape that is the Karakoram.

Activity. Trek to Joula Camp
Distance Covered. 10 Miles
Moving Time. 6-8 Hours
Elevation Gain. +700'
Sleeping Elevation. 10,500'
Lodging. Joula Camp
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 6 — We'll start bright and early on the trail that winds along the Braldu River. As we trek, we'll get glimpses of the Masherbrum range to the south. Made up of 7,000m (23,000'+) peaks, the Masherbrum range will give us our first real taste of the magnitude of the mountain range that we are traveling in. Arriving at the end of our trekking for the day and settling down beneath the granite spire of Paiju Peak (6,600m, 21,600'), we'll get our first views of the mighty Baltoro Glacier. The day's trek will be 10 miles and should take us 6-8 hours. The next morning we will start trekking further up-valley along the Baltoro Glacier.

Activity. Trek to Paiju Camp
Distance Covered. 10 Miles
Moving Hours. 7-8 Hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. +600'
Sleeping Elevation. 11,100'
Lodging. Paiju Camp
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 7 — Today will be a long but rewarding day of trekking. Working our way across the Baltoro Glacier, we'll weave our way through the constantly changing glacial moraines to the south side of the glacier and continue along the side of the valley. As we trek, we'll be met with incredible views of the Trango Towers (6,300m, 20,000'), Cathedral Towers (6,000m, 19,700'), and Uli Biaho Tower (6,100m, 21,600').

Activity. Trek to Urdukas Camp
Distance Covered. 12 Miles
Moving Hours. 10-11 Hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. +2,500'
Sleeping Elevation. 13,600'
Lodging. Urdukas Camp
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Continuing our way up-valley, we'll gain nearly 2,500' of elevation and trek more than 12 miles to reach Urdukas Camp. Nestled on terraces that were carved out by the 1909 K2 Expedition led by the Duke of the Abruzzi, this unique campsite will leave us breathless with both beauty and effort.

Daily Itinerary Overview

DAY 8 — Making our way once again onto the spine of the Baltoro Glacier, we'll climb and descend the many glacial moraines for 7-8 hours as we head for our camp for the evening, Goro II. Incredible views of Gasherbrum IV (7,900m, 26,001') and Broad Peak (8,047m, 26,414') will beckon us towards the head of the glacier and the 8,000m peaks that rise above as we work towards camp. Arriving at Goro II, we'll make camp within the ice-field and prepare to head into the heart of Karakoram in the morning.

Activity. Trek to Goro II
Distance Covered. 7 Miles
Moving Hours. 6-7 Hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. 500'
Sleeping Elevation. 14,100'
Lodging. Goro II Camp
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 9 — Today we'll be trekking into one of the most beautiful and awe inspiring mountain scenes to be found throughout the world. We'll pass under Mitre Peak (6,000m, 19,200') on our way to the famous Concordia camp that rests at the convergence of the Baltoro and Godwin Austen Glaciers.

Activity. Trek to Concordia Camp
Distance Covered. 7 miles
Moving Hours. 4-5 hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. +1,100'
Sleeping Elevation. 15,000'
Lodging. Concordia Camp
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

The Karakoram holds the highest concentration of 7,000m+ peaks anywhere in the world, and Concordia serves as the ideal camp for exploring these peaks as glaciers leading from K2, The Gasherbrum, and Chogolisa all converge here. Concordia is thought of as one of the most amazing campsites in the world, and we'll spend our evening soaking in these spectacular views.

DAY 10 — Leaving Concordia and trekking along the eastern side of the Baltoro Glacier, we'll spend the day hiking underneath the Gasherbrum group on our way to G2. Base camp rests at the convergence of the Baltoro and Abruzzi Glaciers, with excellent views of Baltoro Kangri, G2 (8,034m, 26,300'), and G1 (8,080m, 26,300'). We'll settle into G2 camp after trekking 7 miles over 7-8 hours and gaining nearly 1,900'.

Activity. Trek to G2 Base Camp
Distance Covered. 7 Miles
Moving Hours. 7-8 Hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. +1,900'
Sleeping Elevation. 16,900'
Lodging. G2 Base Camp
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAYS 11-12 — Acclimatization and rest days in base camp.

Activity. Rest Day
Sleeping Elevation. 16,900'
Lodging. G2 Base Camp
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Daily Itinerary Overview

DAY 13 — After the last two days of rest and acclimatization at Base Camp, we'll start our acclimatization rotation by climbing through the Icefall formed by the Gasherbrum Glacier. We'll start early in the morning when the ice is most stable and move quickly before the sun starts to warm the Glacier. While this Icefall is not nearly as large or as treacherous as the Khumbu Icefall on the south side of Mt. Everest, there will be some steep sections that will require fixed ropes. Having pre-acclimatized, we'll climb 2,600' feet in 5-6 hours and find C1 at the foot of the Southwest Ridge.

Activity. Climb to C1
Distance Covered. 5 miles
Moving Hours. 5-6 hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. +2,600'
Sleeping Elevation. 19,500'
Lodging. Camp 1
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 14-15 — Acclimatization and rest days in C1

Activity. Acclimatize in C1
Sleeping Elevation. 19,500'
Lodging. C1
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAYS 16 — Having spent three nights at C1, we'll be ready to start our climb to C2. We'll start up the steep snow and ice slope to the "Banana Ridge". Following the fixed lines up and taking the path of least resistance, the route will alternate between the ridge and the snow face. While the route is not overly technical, it is steep, and we'll gain altitude quickly as we move up the fixed lines. After 3-4 hours of climbing and gaining 1,600 vertical feet, we'll arrive at C2. Placed on a sheltered ledge at 21,100', (6,400m), C2 will be our home for the next two nights as we spend the next day acclimatizing.

Activity. Climb to C2
Distance Covered. .5 miles
Moving Hours. 3-4 hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. +1,600'
Sleeping Elevation. 21,100'
Lodging. Camp 2
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 17 — Acclimatization and rest day in C2

Activity. Acclimatization in C2
Sleeping Elevation. 21,100'
Lodging. Camp 2
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 18 — With our bodies acclimatized to 21,000', we'll leave C2 early and begin our descent. We'll follow fixed lines back down the Banana Ridge to C1 and then move once more through the Icefall to Base Camp to finish off our acclimatization rotation. Today's trek back to Base Camp will take 6-7 hours and will see us descend 4,200'.

Activity. Descend to Base Camp
Distance Covered. 5.5 mile
Moving Hours. 5-6 hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. -4,200'
Sleeping Elevation. 16,900'
Lodging. Base Camp
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Daily Itinerary Overview

DAY 19 — Today will be a rest day in Base Camp, as we prepare to start our summit bid tomorrow.

Activity. Rest day in Base Camp
Sleeping Elevation. 16,900
Lodging. Base Camp
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 20 — After spending the previous day resting our bodies at Base Camp, we'll start our summit bid by climbing through the Icefall to C1 once again. Getting an early start and moving quickly through familiar terrain, our third time passing through the Icefall will only take us 4-5 hours. We'll arrive at C1 after climbing 2,600'.

Activity. Climb to C1
Distance Covered. 5 miles
Moving Hours. 4-5 hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. +2,600'
Sleeping Elevation. 19,500'
Lodging. Camp 1
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 21 — In the morning we'll ascend the Banana Ridge, working our way up the steep slope to C2 for the second time. After 1,600' of elevation gain and 3-4 hours spent climbing, we'll arrive at C2's sheltered ledge. We'll spend the evening resting and preparing to make our way to C3 and our new high point for the climb.

Activity. Climb to C2
Distance Covered. .5 miles
Moving Hours. 3-4 hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. +1,600'
Sleeping Elevation. 21,100'
Lodging. C2
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAYS 22— Leaving C2 in the morning, we'll once again be exploring terrain that is new to our eyes. Our team will be utilizing supplemental oxygen from here on out, keeping us strong and sharp as we move higher up the mountain. The route from C2 to C3 follows fixed lines 2,000' up a more gradual snow slope. The route is not as steep and exposed as the Banana Ridge between C1 and C2, but will take us about the same amount of time to complete. We'll arrive at C3 after 3-4 hours of climbing. Sitting on a shoulder above the main snow slope beneath the summit pyramid at 23,100', 7,050m, C3 will be our high camp for the climb. The rest of the day will be spent getting some much needed rest before our final push to the summit of Gasherbrum II the following day.

Activity. Climb to C3
Distance Covered. .5 miles
Moving Hours. 3-4 hours
Elevation Gain/Loss. +2,000'
Sleeping Elevation. 23,100'
Lodging. C3
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Daily Itinerary Overview

DAY 23 - SUMMIT BID — Starting around midnight, the team will set out from C3 on our journey to the summit of the 13th tallest peak on the planet. The route from C3 continues up the snow slope for another 1,300' to the rarely used Camp 4. From here we will make the "Diagonal Traverse" beneath the summit pyramid until we link up with the East Ridge at 25,400'. Once we've gained the East Ridge, we will make our way up the exposed but magnificent final snow slope to 8,034m, 26,362' and the summit of Gasherbrum II.

After climbing for 8-10 hours, we'll be greeted with one of the most spectacular summit views to be found throughout the world, with an incredible vantage of the Gasherbrum Group and the Karakoram. Broad Peak (8,051m, 26,414'), and K2 (8,611m, 28,251') will be looming in the distance to the north, and Gasherbrum I (8,080m, 26,509') will rise behind us to the southeast. We'll spend some time soaking in the hard earned view before beginning our descent.

Leaving the summit, we'll descend quickly as we retrace our steps all the way to C1. In total, we will have climbed over 3,100' from C3 to the Summit and will have descended 6'700' on our way back down to C1. Our full summit day should take between 14-16 hours.

Activity. Summit G2 and Descend to C1

Distance Covered. 1.5 miles

Moving Hours. 14-16 hours

Elevation Gain/Loss.

+3,100'-6,700'

Sleeping Elevation. 16,900'

Lodging. Camp 1

Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 24 — Today we'll make our fourth and final pass through the Icefall back to base camp to begin our celebration and get some needed rest. It will take us 3-4 hours as we descend the remaining 2,600' to base camp.

Activity. Descend to Base Camp

Distance Covered. 5 miles

Moving Hours. 3-4 hours

Elevation Gain/Loss. -2,600'

Sleeping Elevation. 16,900'

Lodging. Base Camp

Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 25-27 — These extra days can be used in case the team, the weather, or other variables require additional time to make a summit push. We've seen early and late weather windows that are suitable for a summit push, these extra days gives us flexibility in the planning of our summit push

Activity. Extra Days

DAYS 28— After returning from our successful summit of Gasherbrum II, we'll spend the day celebrating and resting in Base Camp.

Activity. Celebrate and rest in Base Camp

Sleeping Elevation. 16,900'

Lodging. Base Camp

Meals. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Daily Itinerary Overview

DAY 29 — We'll wake up and enjoy the sunrise over G2 one last time before packing up camp and taking a beautiful 90 min helicopter flight through the valley back to Skardu. After landing in Skardu we'll spend the rest of the day celebrating and reminiscing on our successful ascent of Gasherbrum II.

Activity. Fly to Skardu
Moving Hours. 90 Min
Elevation Gain/Loss. - 9,600'
Sleeping Elevation. 7,300'
Lodging. Hotel TBD
Meals. Breakfast

DAY 30 — Today we'll wrap up our trip by flying from Skardu to Islamabad. We'll say our goodbyes and prepare to head home from Pakistan. If we are not able to fly from Skardu, we'll start our return journey driving along the Karakoram Highway.

Activity. Fly to Islamabad or Drive to Chilas
Moving Hours. 1 hr flight, 6-7 hrs driving
Elevation Gain/Loss. - 5,600'
Sleeping Elevation. 1,700'
Lodging. Hotel TBD
Meals. Breakfast

DAY 31 — We've built-in an extra day in Islamabad in case we are not able to fly from Skardu to Islamabad and are taking this day to finish the drive along the Karakoram Highway.

Activity. Extra Day in Islamabad or drive to Islamabad
Moving Hours. 8 hrs if driving
Sleeping Elevation. 1,700'
Lodging. Hotel TBD
Meals. Breakfast

DAYS 32 — Today we'll depart Islamabad for home.

Activity. Fly home



Image by Cory Richards

Travel Details

FLIGHTS

Climbers should schedule flights to land in Islamabad, Pakistan of day 1 of the itinerary. Climbers will meet their guides and be transported to our hotel. Travel into Skardu will be handled by the Alpenglow logistics team and are included in the pricing.

If you do not have a travel agent, we recommend using kayak.com as a primary source for finding low-fare airfares.

VISAS

Pakistani visas are required and must be arranged in advance. You will need to apply for the Mountaineering and Trekking Visa (3-month single entry). Be sure to apply for the visa with plenty of time in advance, it can take up to 4-weeks for your visa to be processed. The climbing fees will be handled by the Alpenglow logistics team and are included in the pricing.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Alpenglow will handle all of the ground transportation after we arrive in Islamabad. If flights are not available, we will take a private shuttle that will carry our team and gear along the Karakoram Highway to the city of Skardu. From Skardu, we will take jeeps to the small village of Askoli where our trek will begin.



Please confirm your itinerary with Alpenglow Expeditions before purchasing.





Accommodations

All expeditions include double occupancy lodging in town and double occupancy tents on the mountain. No matter where we travel, Alpenglowlives to stay in safe, clean and comfortable accommodations. Our tents are always in good shape and are replaced regularly.

IN-TOWN

While in Islamabad, we will stay in a luxury hotel and get some much needed rest from our long international flights and recover after our successful summit of G2. In Skardu, we will stay in the best hotels available to us.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

If you prefer a single room while we are in hotels, please let us know as soon as possible. There will be an additional cost associated for this. Single supplement tents are available in base camp, however double occupancy tents are required for all camps on the mountain.

ON-MOUNTAIN ACCOMMODATIONS

Base camp life includes a 3 person personal tent for you and another team member. Alpenglowl's base camp infrastructure includes a dining tent complete with a lounge area that is made as comfortable as possible with heaters, plush chairs, and cushy rugs.

Above base camp, we move to the traditional style mountain camps. These will all be pre-built by our sherpa team ready to go for your arrival each afternoon.



General Trip Information

FOOD

Fresh, healthy and nutritious food is both imported from the U.S. and purchased from local markets in Skardu to provide the best options to our team. Our western trained base camp cooks work around the clock to provide hearty meals that are both pleasing to the palate and filled with calories to replenish our depleted bodies.

MOUNTAIN TRAINING

Gasherbrum II is obviously a large physical undertaking, and climbers who are joining our teams should have a deep understanding of what it takes to train for a mountain like this. For a personalized training schedule, please reach out to Lynette at Billy Goat Swift: lynette@billygoatswift.com.

ACCLIMATIZATION FOR NON-RAPID ASCENT CLIMBERS

While our daily itinerary doesn't change, there is an option for climbers who wish to acclimatize in-country prior to day 1 of the itinerary. Please contact the office to discuss options.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

All of our expeditions and treks are physically demanding. Regardless of the skill level or experience needed, it is essential that you arrive in good physical shape, and are prepared to handle extreme conditions including cold, heat, and long tiring days. Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC and its guides reserve the right to remove any member of our trips at any time if we do not believe they are ready for the rigors of the trip.

You are responsible for your own medications, inoculations, and deciding whether you are physically able to participate in an Alpenglow Expeditions trip. You should discuss your participation in this trip, and the dangers involved, with your physician.

On Mountain Medicine

Our guides are certified in wilderness medicine, CPR, and are experienced in client care in remote high altitude locations. However, Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC is not a medical facility and Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC assumes no liability regarding medical care.

INCLUSIONS

The cost of your trip includes your land costs (excluding in-town meals). This includes:

- double occupancy lodging while in Islamabad and Skardu
- meals on the mountain
- group camping and climbing equipment
- base camp and advanced base camp infrastructure
- scheduled transportation while in the countries we are visiting
- certified guides

CANCELLATION POLICY

View our cancellation policy online at alpenglowlowexpeditions.com.

INSURANCE

We require that all participants carry both rescue and health insurance. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Your policy numbers must be provided to us prior to leaving the USA.

EXCLUSIONS

The cost of your trip does not include:

- flights to/from Islamabad
- airport taxes
- visas
- in-town meals
- immunizations
- tips for guides or local staff
- travel, rescue, or any other type of insurance
- hospitalization or evacuation costs
- single supplement charges
- excess baggage charges,
- alcohol
- other personal expenses.

*** The costs of delays or changes to itinerary that are beyond the control of Alpenglow Expeditions or its agents are not included.*



Image by Cory Richards



Expedition of a Lifetime

Summit success is only achievable with your hard work and perseverance, and of course the right team of people around you.

We think of ourselves as your partner in dreaming, planning, climbing and celebrating. Our entire team from Adrian, guides, support personnel and logistics partners are excited to have you along for the expedition of a lifetime.

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expeditions

ALPENLOWEXPEDITIONS.COM

BOOKING + INQUIRES

For booking details, questions, or more information please call or email us:

1 (877) 873-5376

info@alpenglowexpeditions.com



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This expedition is operated by Adrian Ballinger, IFMGA Mountain Guide.

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