



Climbers on the Gasherbrum glacier (G1 in background), courtesy Ludovic Challeant, <http://www.expes.com>



GI north side team members Daniele Bernasconi (in blue), Mario Panzeri (in green) and Herve Barnasse (in yellow) at departure from Milan Malpensa Airport. courtesy Montagna.org, <http://www.montagna.org>

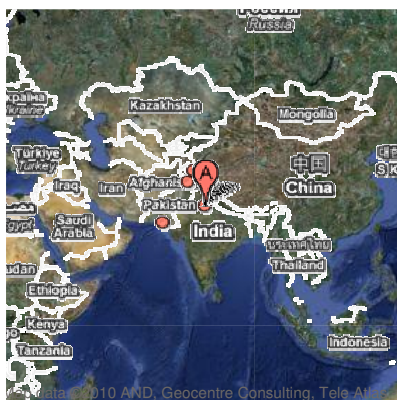


Korean K2 expedition (with ExWeb correspondent Karrar Haidri on the right), courtesy Karrar Haidri - ExplorersWeb

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Pakistan wrap-up: more girls joining K2 troops

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British Katrina, Polish Kinga, Austrian Gerlinde; Canuck Meagan and Iranian Leila are the latest additions to the female part of K2 this summer.

Broad Peak – K2

FTA report that flights have been cancelled on a regular basis lately, so some are approaching the trekking starting point by road:

"Fabrizio has been keeping up with local news and it sounds like there is more snow in the Karakoram than at any time he can remember. Urdukas which was bone dry in 2003 apparently is heavily laden with snow and the Gondogoro La pass was slowing teams down who had tried to go by Hushe instead of Askole."

One FTA member checked in over email with greetings to ExplorersWeb: "I'll be climbing Broad Peak and K2 with Field Touring team, and really look forward to the experience," wrote Canadian Meagan McGrath. Aiming to complete the 14x8000ers, Meagan summited Lhotse on May 23rd only months after skiing from Patriot Hills to the South Pole on her own.

"(For BP/K2) I have purchased 2 bottles of oxygen, just in case," Meagan said. "I don't want to use it for either ascent attempt, but you just never know what could happen up there. I'd rather pay and have it available, than find myself in a tough and deadly situation later on. Safety first, eh!"

"Our team members are on the move towards Skardu or already there, depending on different arrivals and how they're managing to get there," FTA added.

Leila Esfandiari: All for K2

After summiting Nanga Parbat in 2008, Iranian Leila Esfandiari is going for K2. This time, the lady climber sold everything to be able to go. "I've sold my house in order to get money to climb K2, since I've got no sponsors. My ambition is to climb all 14x8000ers, and I would join any expedition... if I just could find a sponsor outside Iran," she told Karrar. Check ExWeb's special on the courageous lady today.

For the upcoming attempt, Laila is joining an international team launched by Adventure Tours Pakistan comprised of climbers sharing permit, including Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner.

Karrar also had a chance to meet the **Korea K2 Expedition 2010**, led by Cha Moug Kwan and outfitted by Hushe treks. They attended the briefing session at ACP's HQs in Islamabad last weekend.

In addition, Montagna.org reported that Mario Merelli and Marco Zaffaroni will leave from Italy to K2 on June 28.

Gasherbrums

The Italian **GI north side team** departed Milano last weekend – down to three men. Silvio Mondinelli and Michele Compagnoni have left the project for personal reasons and thus Agostino da Polenza's expedition is now comprising Mario Panzeri, Daniele Bernasconi and Hervé Barmasse. The goal remains the same though: an alpine style ascent on G1's unclimbed north face, on the Chinese side of Karakoram.

Ludo Challeant team wasted no time upon arrival in Gasherbrum II BC. On the following day the climbers crossed the glacier and left some gear cached in C1. "To our surprise, the loads of snow covering the glacier made the go much easier than we had expected," Ludo explained.

Czech climbers Radek Jaros (9 x 8000ers summiteer), Libor Uher (K2 summited in 2007), Petr Masek (Shisha Pangma, Broad Peak), Martin Havlena and Stanislav Bartusek will give Gasherbrum I and Gasherbrum II a shot.

The **Korean Gasherbrum V Expedition**, led by Kim Hyung IL and outfitted by Blusky Tours was briefed at Alpine Club of Pakistan Karrar Haidri reported yesterday.

Cleaning expeditions

The "Keep Baltoro Clean" expedition kicked off on May 10 according to Sara Sottocornola at Montagna.org. "They will have a Base Camp in Concordia from where they will teach porters, kitchen boys, sirdars, cooks and even climbers how to deal with refuse treatment at base camps," Sara said. "They will also test an ecological platform with 8 toilets on Concordia Glacier. This is the second edition of Keep Baltoro Clean: last year they collected 8 tons of rubbish."