



**FLY AT 8000M**

What could be more beautiful than flying at 8000?



To date, 5 flights are probably listed at more than 8000m.

- 2016: Antoine Girard 8157m above Broad Peak in Pakistan
- 2021: François Ragolski 8225m above Rakaposhi in Pakistan (Karimabad)
- 2021: Sebastien Brugala 8120m above Broad Peak
- 2021: Antoine Girard 8407m above Broad Peak

(These last 3 flights were carried out during a joint expedition with the main objective of climbing to 8000m)

- 2022: Antoine Girard 8054m in Peru (no remarkable summit)

Other notable flights: 2018 Damien Lacaze and Antoine Girard at 7960m in Pakistan Karimabad





## FLY AT 8000M

Flying among 8000m peaks with breathtaking landscapes is now accessible to many pilots.

Why don't you?



How is this possible?

After numerous tests around the planet, only one location provides regular access to 8000m. It is located in Baltoro in Pakistan. There are many difficulties in flying at 8000m, we had to overcome them one by one to be able to make the first flight and repeat it. Thanks to these experiences, all the difficulties are now known and surmountable.

Why is this now accessible to many people?

- The main difficulty is accessing and flying over the Baltoro. To reach the flight zone at 8000m you have to cross the Baltoro glacier over a minimum length of 40km and then return, which makes a flight of at least 80km. The flight is very challenging because it is not possible to land in the middle of the Baltoro glacier which is completely covered with stones ranging from the size of a basketball to that of cars. If you still manage to land, you would have to walk several days to return. This is why this flight was until now reserved for elite paragliders. The problem is overcome by finding a takeoff and landing directly at the foot of the mountains at 8000m. It is possible to take off and land at any time without having to travel many kilometers. But this involves having to make a trek of 5 to 6 days to reach the base camp at the foot of the takeoff.
- The most difficult difficulty to overcome, understanding the aerology, the behavior of the paraglider and the flight options to climb to 8000m. I have flown over the Baltoro more than 30 times. All this knowledge is easily transferable and will be shared.
- The flight permit in Baltoro which is located on the Pakistan/China border: Always difficult to obtain and long
- Acclimatization to altitude. We now know the body's acclimatization cycle to altitude in flight which is different from that of mountaineers. Deadlines must be respected and oxygen helps alleviate the problem when the body refuses to acclimatize. Bottled oxygen is strongly recommended above 7000m, especially if you do not want to acclimatize while mountaineering.





## THE BALTORO



The flight allows you to fly over K2 (8611m), Broad Peak (8047m), GIV (7925m) and surrounding peaks in Baltoro. Four 8000m peaks frame the valley, K2, Broad Peak, GI and GII. Certainly the easiest place to successfully fly at very high altitude and why not exceed 8000m! In any case, the flight in the Baltoro cannot leave anyone indifferent and remains etched in your mind for life. The position of the base camp allows an easy and accessible landing from the various mountains around, it is not necessary to cross to reach the base camp. This is not the case between Paju (Tour de Trango) and Concordia where the poses are engaged and uncertain.

Warning : The flight is committed by being at high altitude and the lack of oxygen. The wind above 7000m can be strong. The breeze on the ground can reach 20km/h. The minimum level required is to be able/know how to fly 100km in cross country and have a good physical condition to walk every day.

### base camp

- The base camp is at 4600m above sea level near Concordia on the Baltoro glacier. View of K2, Broad Peak, GIV etc.
- The base camp is in tents
- The takeoff is between 600m and 700m higher. The climb on foot is done on a steep slope of stones with no path. (2 to 3 hours of slow walking)

### Trekking

The Baltoro trek takes 5 days to Concordia. Around 20km of daily walking.  
Tip: take an umbrella that can be used for both sun and rain.

- Option:
- If the weather permits, the return can be made via the Gondogorola pass (5700m) in 3 days. Take crampons in this case.
  - If the weather permits, the return can be made in 1 flight to Askolie instead of walking. Be careful, the flight begins without touching down for 35km to Paju.





## THE BALTORO

### Equipment to bring for the flight

- Paragliding equipment
- Rising shoe
- Warm pants
- Big down jacket
- Big glove or sleeve glove
- Radio
- Sticks
- Cereal bar
- HELICOPTER FLIGHT AND RESCUE INSURANCE

### Equipment to provide for base camp

- Mattress
- Sleeping bag
- Tent
- Personal affairs
- Auxiliary batteries
- Solar panels to recharge the auxiliary battery, telephone, GPS etc.
- Power strip
- Multi USB charger

#### Option :

- Base camp tent and mattress for rent (weight to be added to personal luggage): 100€
- Carriers to climb on take-off: from 10 to 20€ per climb





## THE BALTORO

### Included

- Transportation Islamabad(airport) => Baltoro round trip by bus or plane and jeep
- Meals on the road and at base camp
- Nights
- Trekking
- Flight and Trekking permit
- Generator, around 3 hours per day(or solar panel depending on current regulations)
- 50kg maximum of personal luggage for trekking. (Around €7 per kilo additional round trip)
- Mandatory tips for porters/guides/cooks
- PATO insurance: rapid helicopter rescue (provided you have up-to-date personal insurance)
- Official invitation letter (required to obtain the visa)
- Briefings and courses on the particular weather of Baltoro, the dangers of flying at high altitude, how to make a successful flight, the thermals of the area, the winds etc.
- Every day the weather and possible flight depending on weather conditions

### Option :

- internet at base camp, buy a sim card and charge it (around €6 per go per month)
- oxygen: one 1.5L bottle, 1 regulator, oxygen refill: €600

### not included

- Plane ticket to Islamabad
  - The visa for Pakistan
  - Nights and meals outside the scheduled dates
  - Personal expenses, drinks
  - A late departure or arrival in the group may result in additional costs
- pplementaires





## THE BALTORO

### Provisional program:

Day 1: Arrival in Islamabad

Day 2: departure around 6 a.m. from Islamabad for Skardu by plane if the weather permits or by bus (15 hours by bus)

Day 3: preparation of the material

Day 4: jeep for Askoli

Day 5: trek to Jula

Day 6: trek to Paju

Day 7: trek to Urdukas

Day 8: trek to Goro 2

Day 9: trek to base camp

Day 10 to 24, 15 days: flight in Baltoro

Day 25: trek to Goro 2

Day 26: trek to Urdukas

Day 27: trek to Paju

Day 28: trek to Askoli and jeep to Skardu

Day 29: bus or plane to Islamabad

Day 30: Reserve day

Day 31: return plane



Option : It is possible to stay up to 7 more days at base camp. Cost 400€

**Additional information:** It is possible to speed up the outward or return trek using paragliding provided you are already acclimatized. Everyone is free to stay as long as they want in Baltoro but leaving alone may incur additional costs. I recommend staying at least 15 days in Baltoro to optimize the chances of flying to the different peaks. It is possible to acclimatize by flying and/or mountaineering in the Hunza valley (Karimbad) in the preceding weeks. This solution makes it possible to limit the use of oxygen in the Baltoro. The required flight level is less demanding than in the Baltoro.

All options are possible at the last minute except for oxygen which must be planned in advance. Be careful, obtaining a visa for Pakistan takes a long time. Allow 1 to 2 months.



## THE BALTORO

All prices are given as an indication, the final price will be given depending on the duration and options.

Price for 30 days Islamabad/base camp/Islamabad: €7,500

Option:

- 1 additional week: €400
- Oxygen: 600€
- Base camp tent: €100
- Porters for takeoff: from 10 to 20€ per day

Date 2024: July 1 to July 31

Possibility of a Karimabad (2 weeks) AND Baltoro pack for €8,500 for example

Possibility of being supervised by a paragliding instructor, high mountain guide or doing tandem. Price based on demand

The service offered is only a travel logistics and not a supervised activity. Everyone must be responsible and autonomous for the flight. We decline all responsibility in the event of an accident while paragliding. We decline all responsibility in the event of loss or breakage of equipment during the trek. The material must be adequately protected. Do not forget that it is often mules that transport the material.





# KARIMABAD

Flying around Karimabad allows you to discover flights in Pakistan among high peaks like Rakaposhi at 7880m and several 7000m peaks. The takeoff at 3000m is on the slope of Ultar Sar (7388m) one of the many 7000m in the valley.

The flight to Karimabad provides fewer opportunities to fly at 8000m than the Baltoro, only one flight has exceeded the 8000m in the valley. Flight carried out by François Ragolski in 2021 and achieved the world altitude record which will be repeated two weeks later. Flight at 8225m above Rakaposhi. Two other flights at 7960m were also carried out by Damien Lacaze and Antoine Girard in 2018.



It is the ideal place to discover high altitude flying or acclimatize to the altitude, flying at 7000m is common there. Less than 15km from takeoff we find no less than 20 peaks over 7000m.



This is the ideal place to practice **paragliding/skis** or **mountaineering combos**. The two summits of more than 7000m currently being climbed by paralpinism (paragliding/mountaineering combo) were achieved in the valley.







## KARIMABAD

Access to the takeoff is a 20-minute walk for only 200m of elevation gain.

Access to Karimabad from Islamabad is by plane and finishing by car or directly by car. Accommodation is located in a hotel directly in the town of Karimabad, making it one of the most accessible places in the world to fly among the Himalayan or Karakoram giants.

The absence of trekking allows you to limit the price and duration. Access to takeoff and base camps is also much less physical.

Flight conditions can be challenging and landing technical in the middle of the day. The breeze easily reaches 15km/h but it is rarely strong.

The proposed price includes:

- Transportation to/from Islamabad airport and Karimabad (23kg + 10kg baggage)
- The NOC (Flight Permit)
- The hotel for the duration of the trip (room for 2)
- Shuttles for take-off
- Shuttles to return from the various Karimabad landings
- Lessons/explanations on how to fly in the region
- Lessons/explanations of the risks (Prohibited areas, the dangers, the risk at altitude)
- Official invitation letter (mandatory to obtain the visa)

Not included:

- Flight ticket to Islamabad
- Visa for Pakistan



Remember to take out insurance

It is advisable to come for 3 weeks, the weather can be capricious and to optimize the chances of major flights it is worth increasing the duration. It is quite possible to come for 2 weeks.

It is possible to have a shuttle to be picked up when you are far away (4\*4). The price depends on the distance and on a case by case basis. To be paid directly to the driver.

It is possible to have a single room (room for 2 people), supplement of 200€ to 400€ depending on the duration.

It is possible to have an air-conditioned room and/or individual, supplement of €500 to €700 depending on the type of room and the duration.

It is possible to have a device with an oxygen bottle for the altitude, count around €200



# KARIMABAD



All prices are given as an indication, the final price will be given according to the duration that is free in the proposed period.

Price for 15 days from Islamabad/Karimabad/Islamabad: 2000€  
Price for 30 days from Islamabad/Karimabad/Islamabad: 3000€

Date 2024: May 25 to June 30

Possibility of a Karimabad (2 weeks) AND Baltoro pack for €8,500 for example

Possibility of being supervised by a paragliding instructor, high mountain guide or doing tandem. Price based on demand

The service offered is only a travel logistics and not a supervised activity. Everyone must be responsible and autonomous for the flight. We decline all responsibility in the event of an accident while paragliding.





## OFFERINGS



I'm neither a travel agency nor a paragliding guide or instructor. I'm a travel guide. My role is to organize all the logistics, pass on my knowledge of flying at 8000m and in Pakistan in general. Everyone must be autonomous in flight and on the ground and take their own responsibilities.

In no case are you guided or under my responsibility.

I pass on my experience and know-how acquired through my various flights at 8000m and my experience after flying over the Baltoro more than 30 times.

My experience in Pakistan is 8 expeditions.

I take care of organizing all the logistics from arrival at Islamabad airport until return to the airport.

I share with you all my knowledge acquired over the last 10 years in Pakistan and around the world.





# WHO I AM



Antoine Girard



Alpinist and climber by origin, I carried out several expeditions to the 8000m peaks in Nepal, China and Pakistan between 2004 and 2009 including a descent from 7100m by paraglider of Broad Peak.

I became a professional sportsman in paragliding in 2013, participation in 4 X-Alps with a podium and a 4th place.



I have traveled the world in paragliding flight bivouac since 2015 with many world firsts. The best known are:

- 2015: New Zealand, first round-trip crossing of the South Island. Autonomy of 20 days over 1200 km.
- 2016: First flight in history at more than 8000m with 8151m in Pakistan above Broad Peak
- 2016: Solo bivouac flight of 1200km in Pakistan and in autonomy
- 2017: Bivouac flight in Nepal and first flight/mountaineering combo at more than 6000m
- 2018: 3000km bivouac flight in South America, from Chile to Peru in autonomy
- 2018: 1200 km bivouac flight in Pakistan and flight/mountaineering combo at 7000m
- 2019: First crossing of the Andes in free flight, flying over the highest peak in South America, Aconcagua (6980m)
- 2021: New altitude world record with 8407m above Broad Peak
- 2021: First successful world combo in paragliding/mountaineering on a 7000m, the Spantik at 7027m in Pakistan
- 2022: Bivouac flight across Peru 1000km
- 2022: First flight in the world at 8000m outside Pakistan. Made in Peru
- 2023: Second combo in the world in paragliding/mountaineering at more than 7000m on the Diran 7266m in Pakistan

