

Baltoro Trekking Booklet June/July 2023



History & Geography

A LITTLE HISTORY FIRST

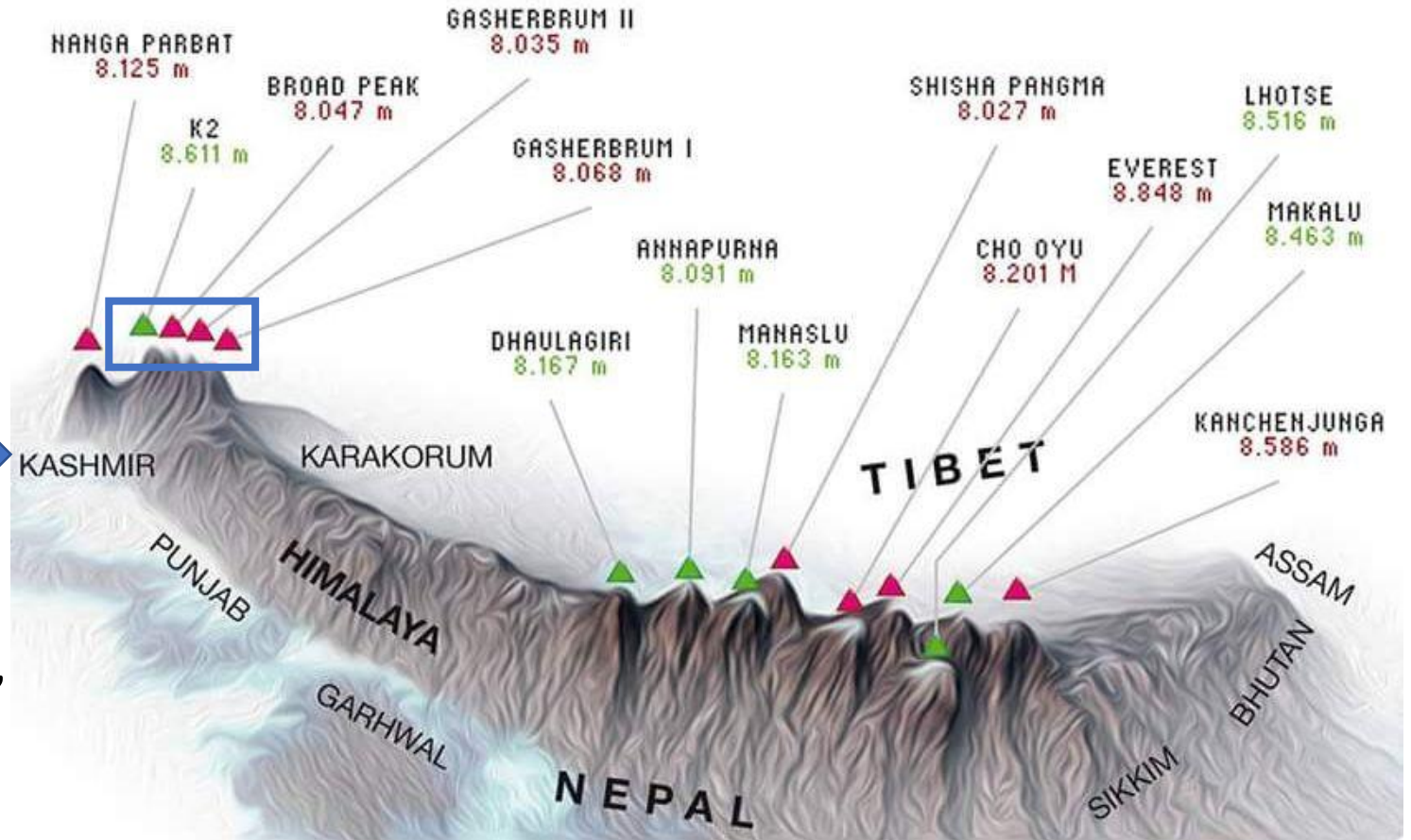
- 1856 Capt Montgomerie designs the summits of the range with the progressives “K1, K2, ...” (see below).
- 1860 LtCol Godwin Austen makes the first survey of K2, measuring altitude and entering deep in the Baltoro.
- 1888 Capt Youghusband is the first westerner to see K2 from the North and finds a pass to access Baltoro.
- 1892 Prof. Conway leads the first alpinistic expedition to K2 and names “Concordia” the glacier confluence at the beginning of Baltoro. Eckenstein experiments the first modern ice picks and crampons against Conway’s directives. They reach 6.890m.
- 1902 Conway has Eckenstein arrested (☺), Crowley organizes the first heavy expedition but its importance lies mainly in exploration.
- 1909 Luigi Amedeo di Savoia, Duca degli Abruzzi, leads a heavy expedition to K2, identifies what is today the classical route (the Abruzzi Ridge) and climbs it to a minor altitude. First sleeping bags are tested and the modern logistics for Baltoro expeditions is established. Vittorio Sella, with 15Kg cameras, realizes the first photographic reportage of Baltoro.
- 1938 William House “opens” the most difficult section on the Abruzzi Ridge, named “House Chimney” in his honor.
- 1939 Fritz Wiessner reaches 8.382m on the left of the Bottleneck but does not complete the ascension due to logistic issues to refill high camps.
- 1953 Art Gilkey dies. In his honor the original rock pyramid is created to celebrate the climbers that died on the mountain.
- 1954 Lacedelli e Compagnoni summit K2 under the authoritative leadership of Ardito Desio. During the expedition the famous climber Bonatti is mobbed by the older members until he is finally left stranded with a porter at 8.000m.
- 1958 Bonatti demonstrates to be the best climber of his era by climbing GIV in «alpine style». The climb has only been repeated three times.
- 1978 (24 years later...) the third successful ascension of K2, made by an american team, is also the first one not using the Abruzzi Ridge.
- 1986 The first major tragedy: a prolonged storm hits climbers back from the summit.
- 2008 Second major tragedy: the Bottleneck serac falls killing directly some climbers and preventing the others to return to C4.
- 2021 First winter ascension, conducted by a Sherpa team featuring Nims Purja.



2023 Your expedition ☺

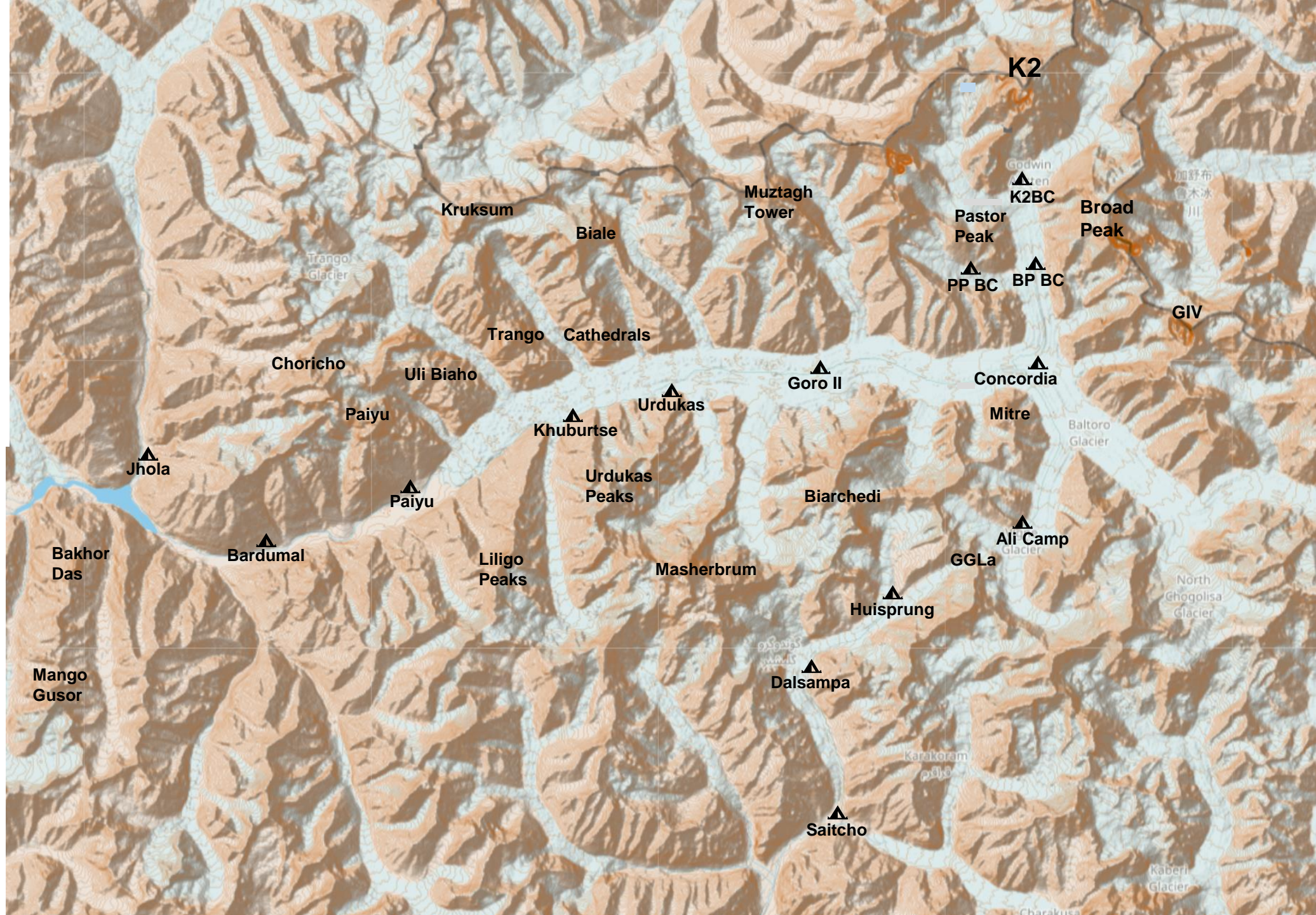
J. Montgomerie Lt. Col.

HIMALAYA & KARAKORAM

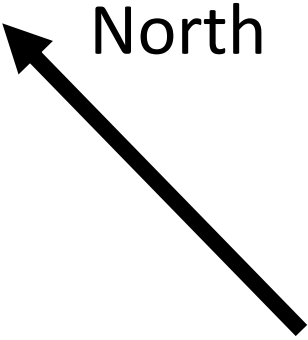
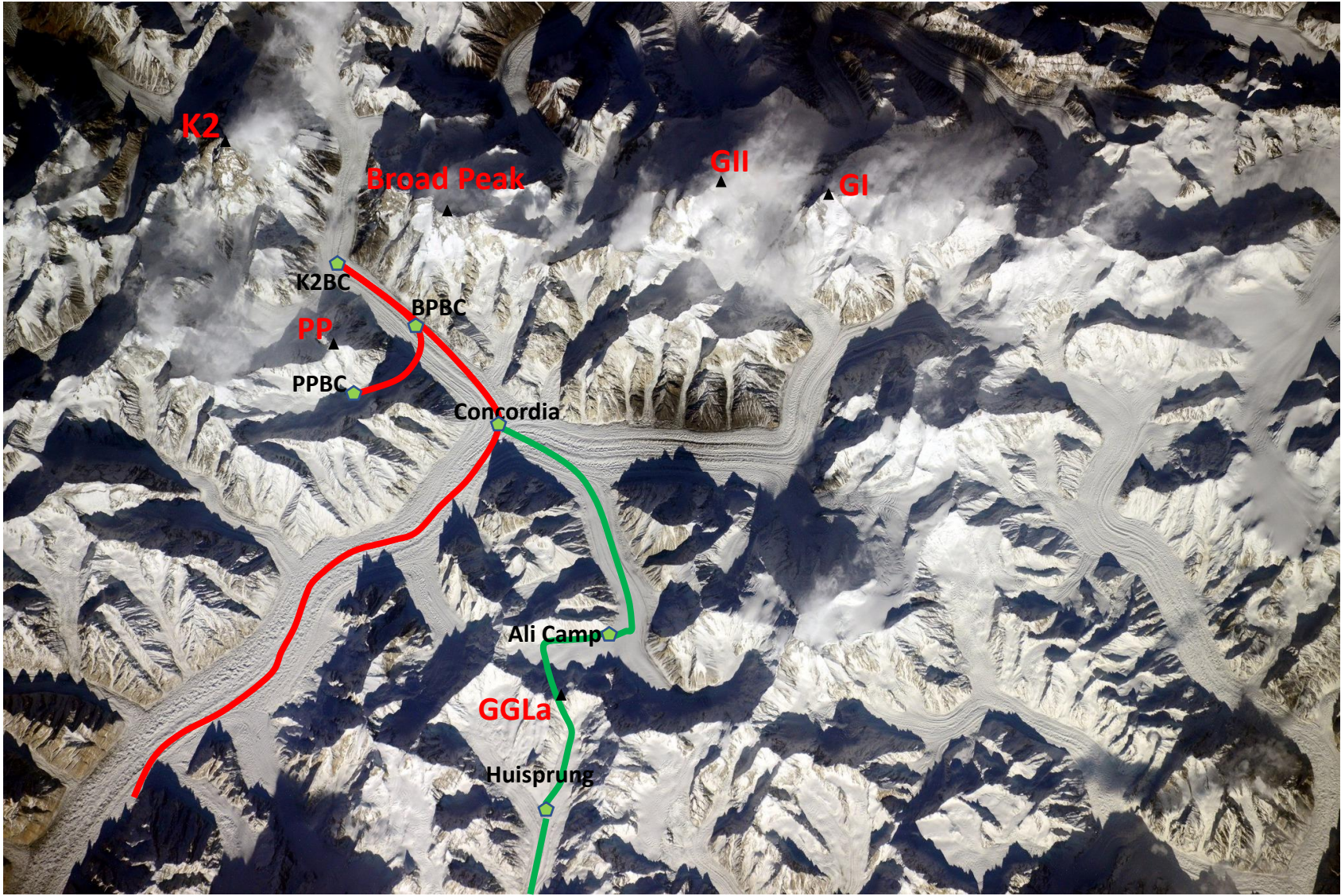


Distinguished by geographers, belong to the same mountain range created by the pressure of the Indian subcontinent on the Asian one.

BALTORO MAP



HIGH BALTORO FROM ISS



CHECKLISTS

HINTS & TIPS

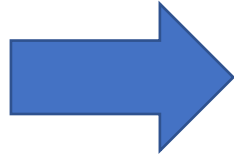
WHAT IS THIS EXPEDITION ?

IT'S

- Long
- High
- Hot
- Cold

DON'T GIVE FOR GRANTED

- Material, there are no shops
- Energy
- Communications
- Favorite food
- Water
- Comfort



IT REQUIRES

- Integration with other people
- Adjust to language, culture and food
- Prepare physically and mentally
- Ability to adapt to circumstances
- Patience (!)
- Ability to face issues and to improvise
- Ability to plan and replan
- Ability to divine weather 😊

PRE TRIP HINTS & TIPS

PREPARATIONS

- Request Visas well in advance
- Test all material in real life
- Check airline weight policy
- Duffel max weight is 22Kg

JUST BEFORE

- Cut hair short 😊
- Cut nails
- Prepare comfy clothes for trip
- Eat light

CULTURE

- You will attract a lot of friendly curiosity, be patient, allow selfies
- For women, have a veil handy, in case of need – legs and arms covered
- In any case men also should have legs and arms covered in cities/villages

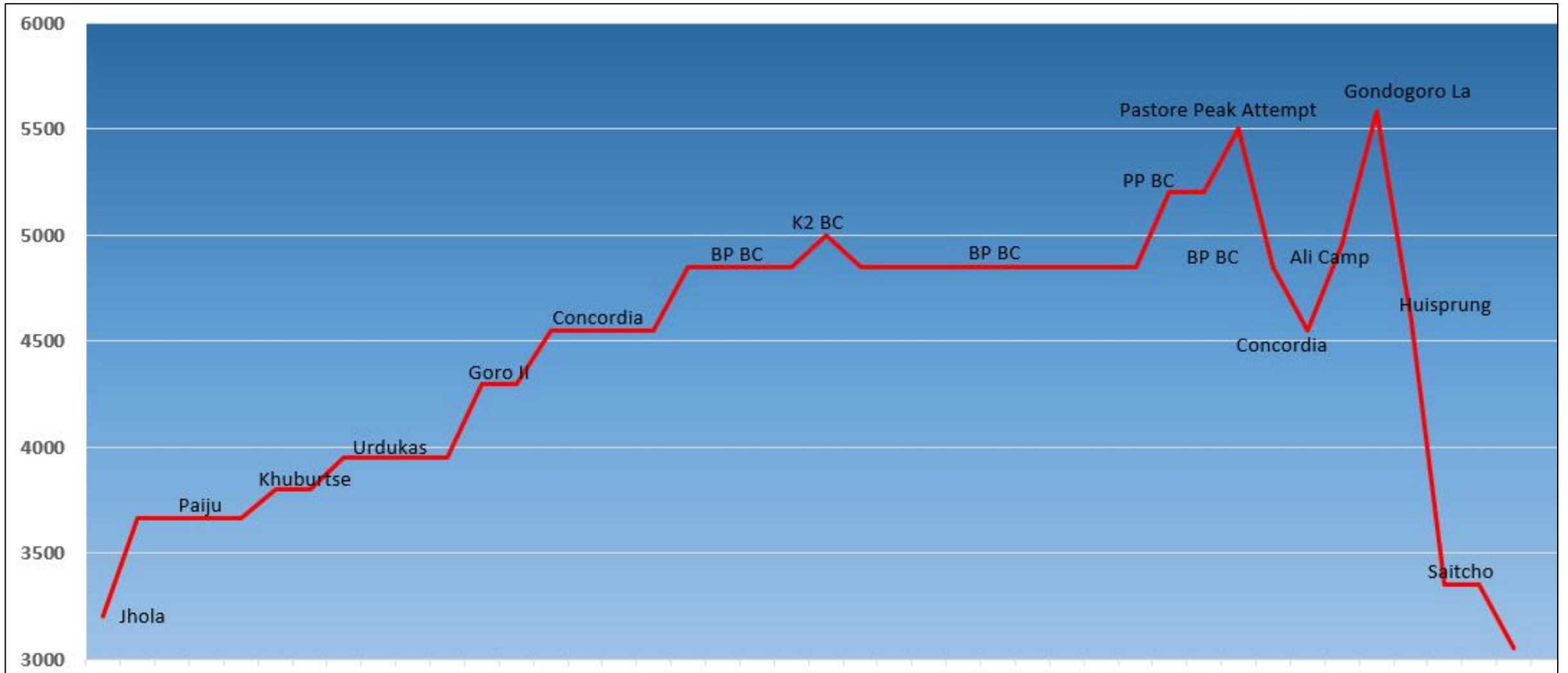
TREKKING HINTS & TIPS (1/2)

- Listen to Dan and Ibrahim
- If you doubt, listen better
- Purify and carry lots of water
- If you put your feet in the streams, be prepared: it'll hurt surprisingly bad
- Stay close to the staff
- Locals are always friendly, do salute them (as salam aleikum)
- Help setting camp, if you can make it
- Military people are friendly: you can accept invitations for a tea, do not invite yourself though 😊
- Treasure and use the rest days
- Be prepared to move in any weather
- Bring more money for tips, the staff is invaluable
- Take your time, relax, enjoy and savour every moment

TREKKING HINTS & TIPS (2/2)

- Add a second mat under the sleeping bag from Goro 2
- Pay extra care and respect in the villages, on the way back
- Have pen and document copies ready at checkpoints
- Nanga Parbat is visible on the righthand side going to Skardu and on the lefthand side going to Islamabad
- Toilets/showers: assume they do not exist 😊
- Laundry is useful, staff is also available for it
- During the night have within reach water, headlamp, toilet paper, watch
- Sodas (coca cola) are available in all camps, at increasing prices 😊
- Porters are the backbone of the expedition, be kind with them

ACCLIMATIZATION PLAN



CITIES

WHAT TO DO AND SEE

ISLAMABAD

- Pindi Bazaar
- Centaurus Mall
- Faisal Mosque
- Monal Restaurant & Hill

SHOPPING

- Local clothes and hats
- Aquamarines (Skardu/Shigar)
- Spices/Sugar
- Sari's

SKARDU

- Sadpara Road (shops)
- Karphoocho Fort
- Sports (Polo/Cricket)
- Deosai (requires a day)
- Buddha Rocks
- Cold Desert

SHIGAR

- The Mosque !
- Bazaar
- Lounge bar

WHAT TO EAT



Pakistani

Balti

Common



Day by Day Views

SKARDU -> ASKOLE



Acquamarine caves after Dassu

Choricho Peaks (6.760), after the entry checkpoint



ASKOLE -> JHOLA (IN JEEP)

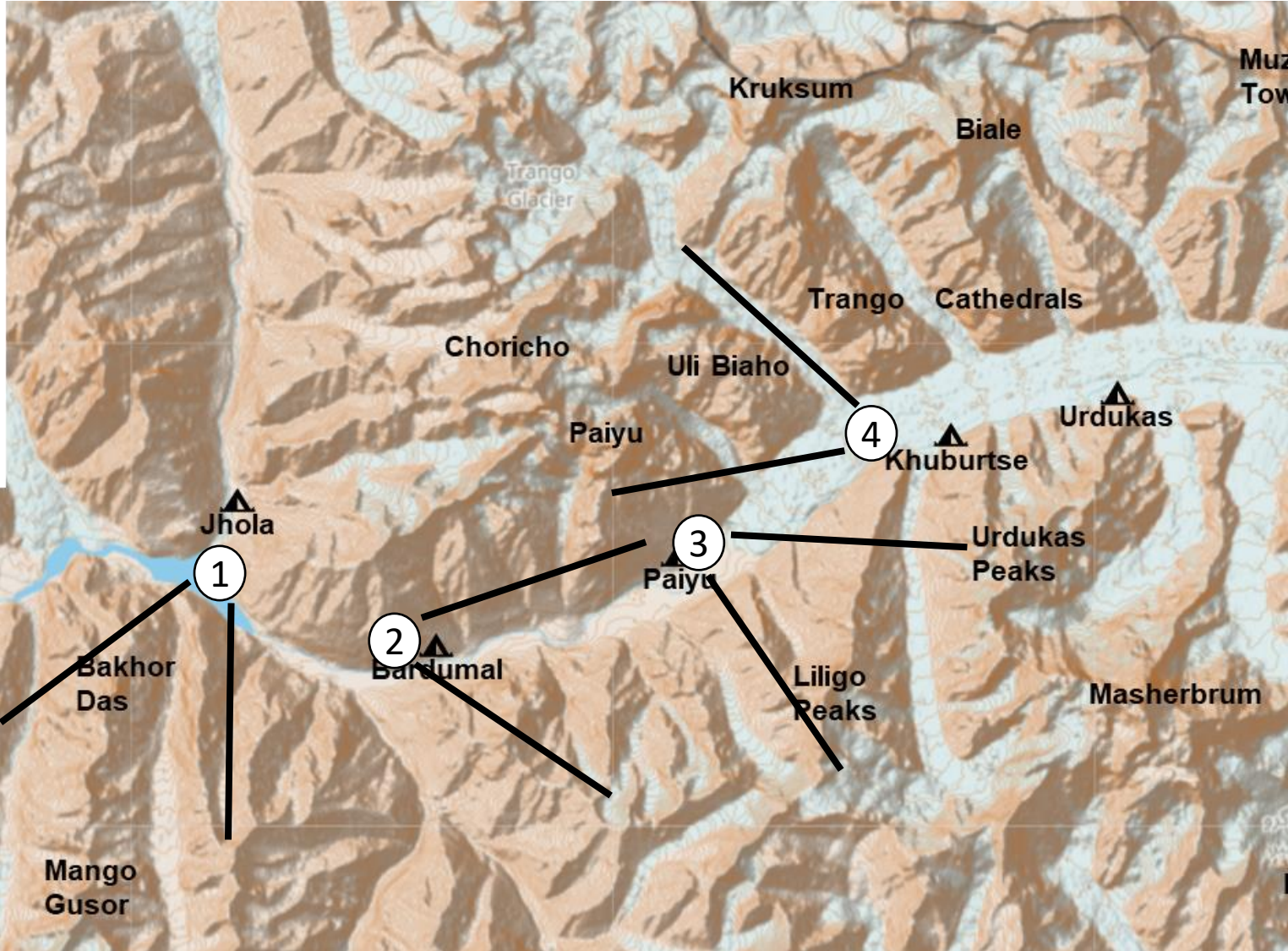


Biafo Glacier looking towards the Latok (7.120m)

Snow Leopard Bridge



VIEWPOINTS 1-4



JHOLA -> PAIYU (LONGEST, HOTTEST)

Forward (towards destination) looking



Bakhor Das (5.815m)
From Jhola going to the Braldu

Forward looking



Bardumal Camp with Liligo Peak (6.395m) behind

PAIYU -> KHUBURTSE (THE BIG FORD)

Forward right looking



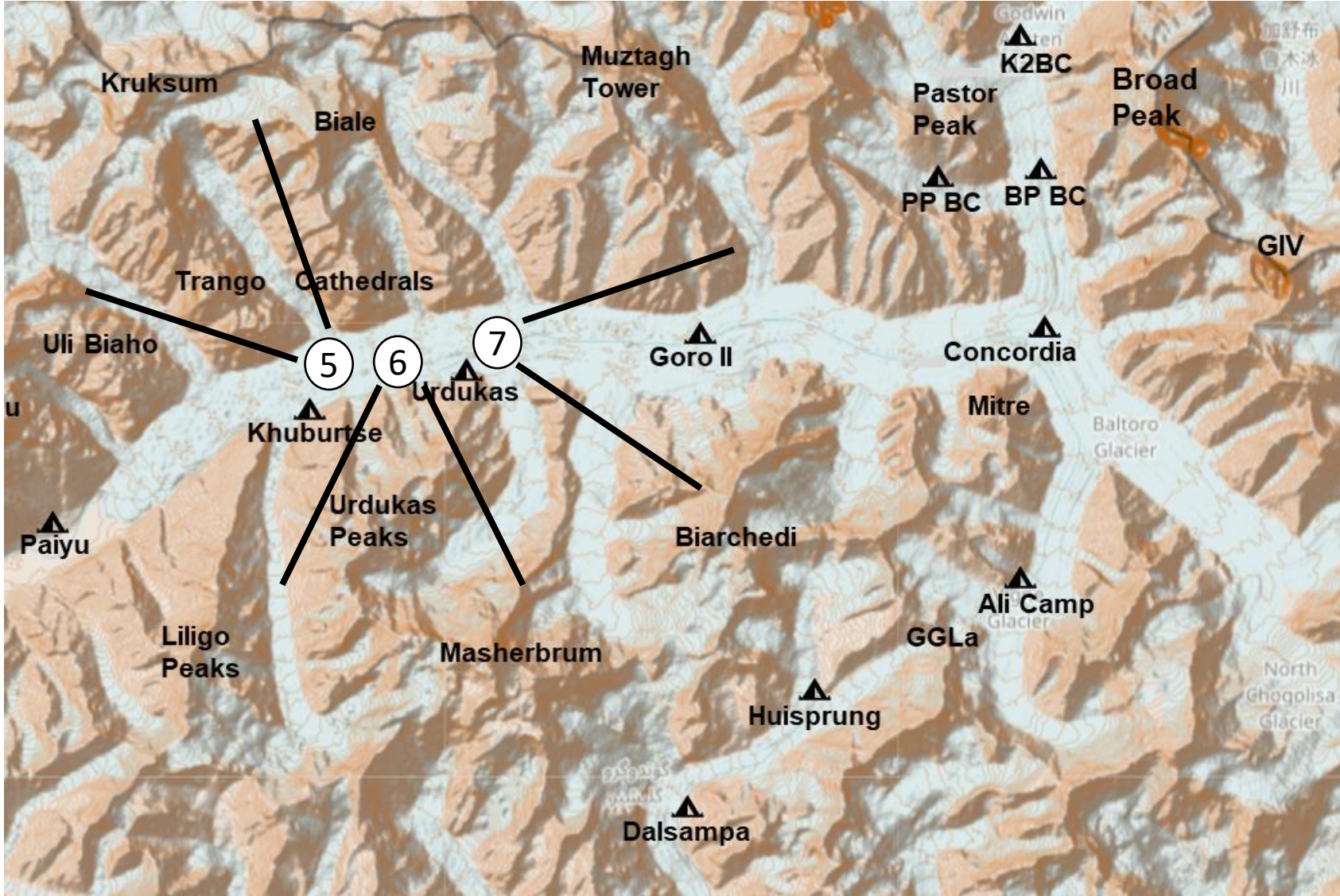
Mouth of the Baltoro with Liligo Peak (6.395m)

Looking back to the right



Paiyu Peak (6.610m) and Uli Biaho (6.109m)

VIEWPOINTS 5-7



KHUBURTSE -> URDUKAS (CROSSING 4.000M)

Looking left



Kruksum (6.353m)

Looking right



Urdukas Peak (6.500m)

KHUBURTSE -> URDUKAS (CROSSING 4.000M)

Forward looking



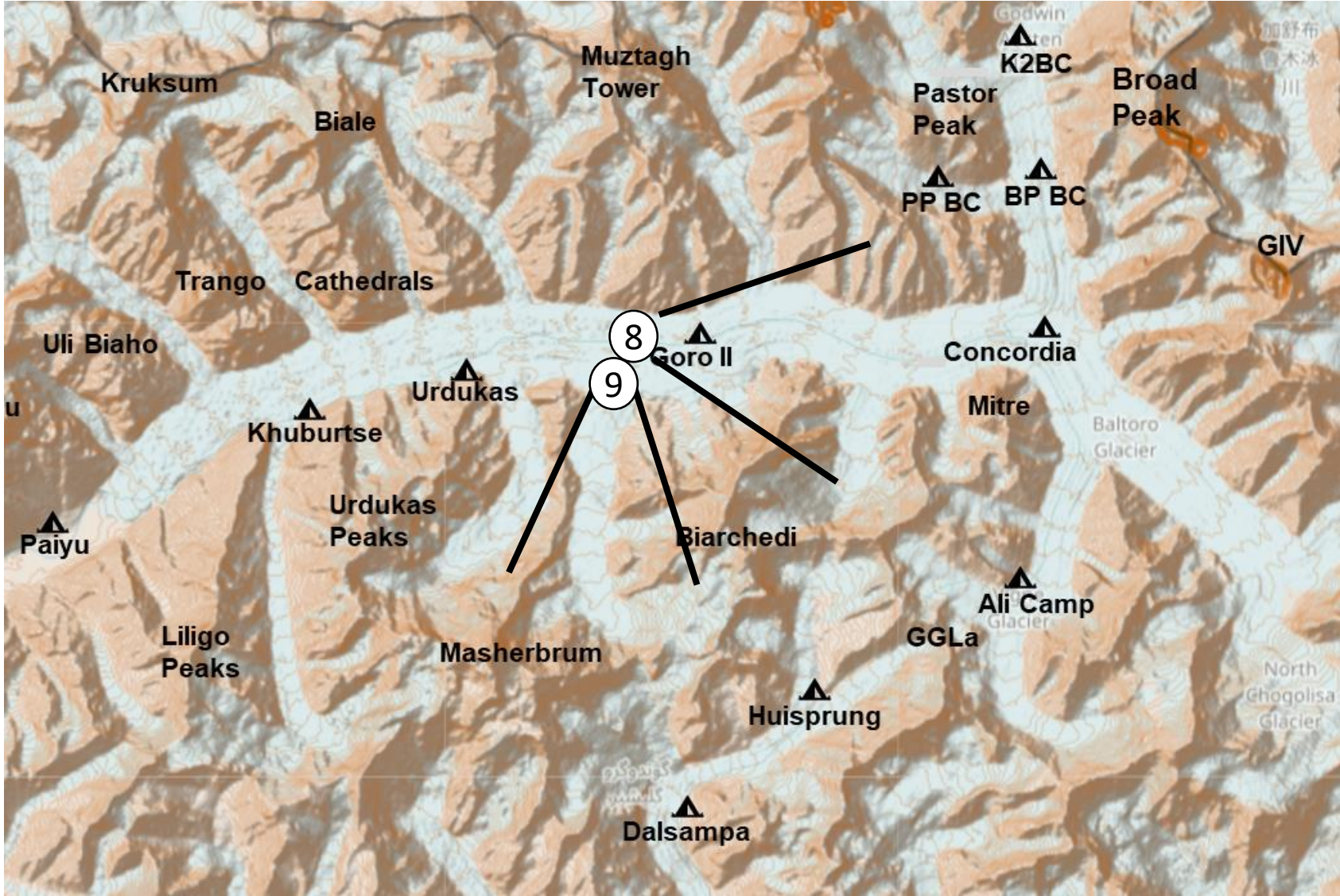
In the center Broad Peak (8.051m) and GIV (7.925m)

FROM URDUKAS CAMP



Looking across the glacier from left: Uli Biaho, Trango, Cathedral Spires (6.020m) and Biale (6.772) snowcapped in the background

VIEWPOINTS 8-9



URDUKAS -> GORO II

Forward looking



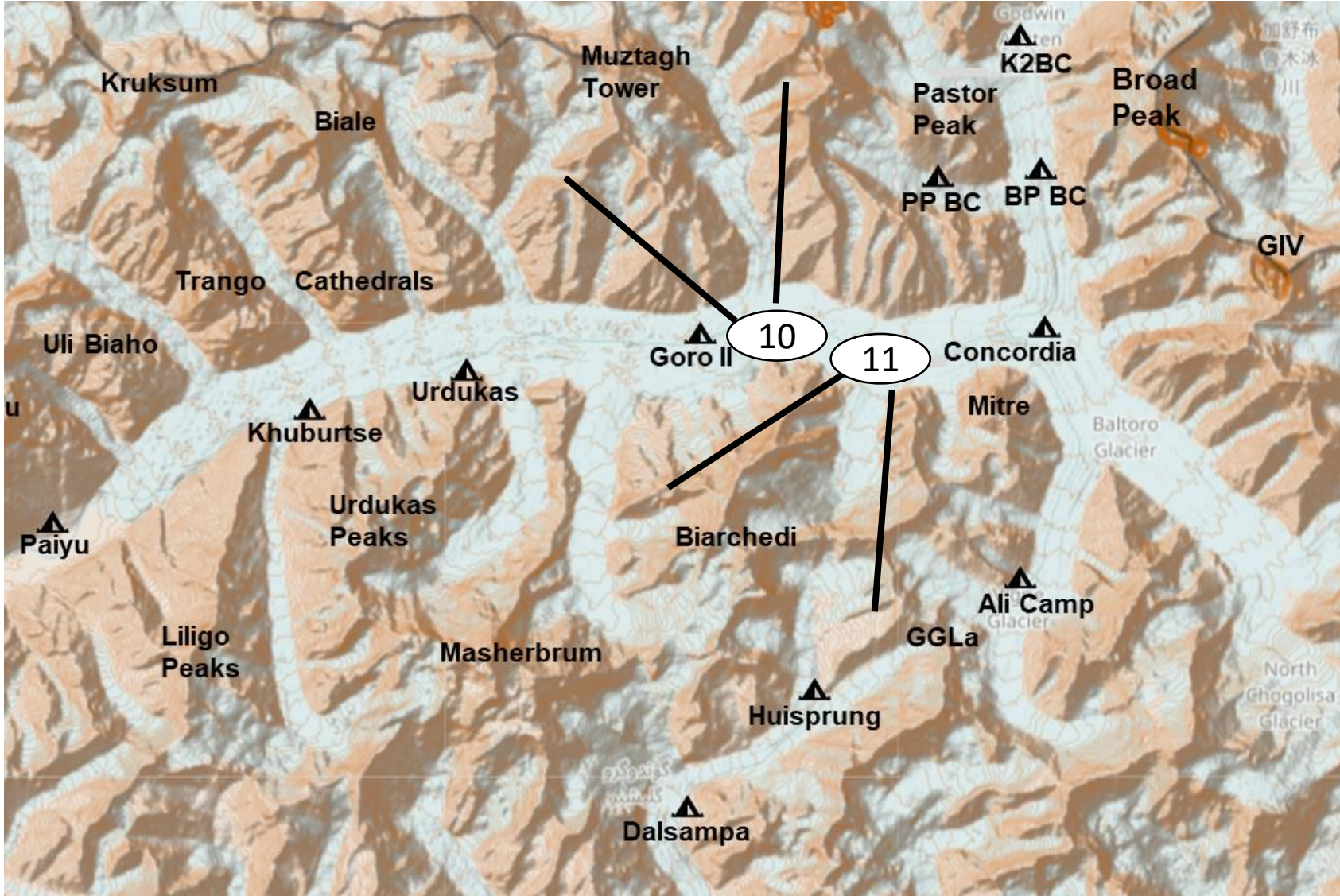
Gasherbrum IV and GII (8.035), the white mountain to the right

Looking to the right



Masherbrum (7.821m)

VIEWPOINTS 10-11



GORO II -> CONCORDIA

Looking to the left



10

Muztagh Tower (7.276m)

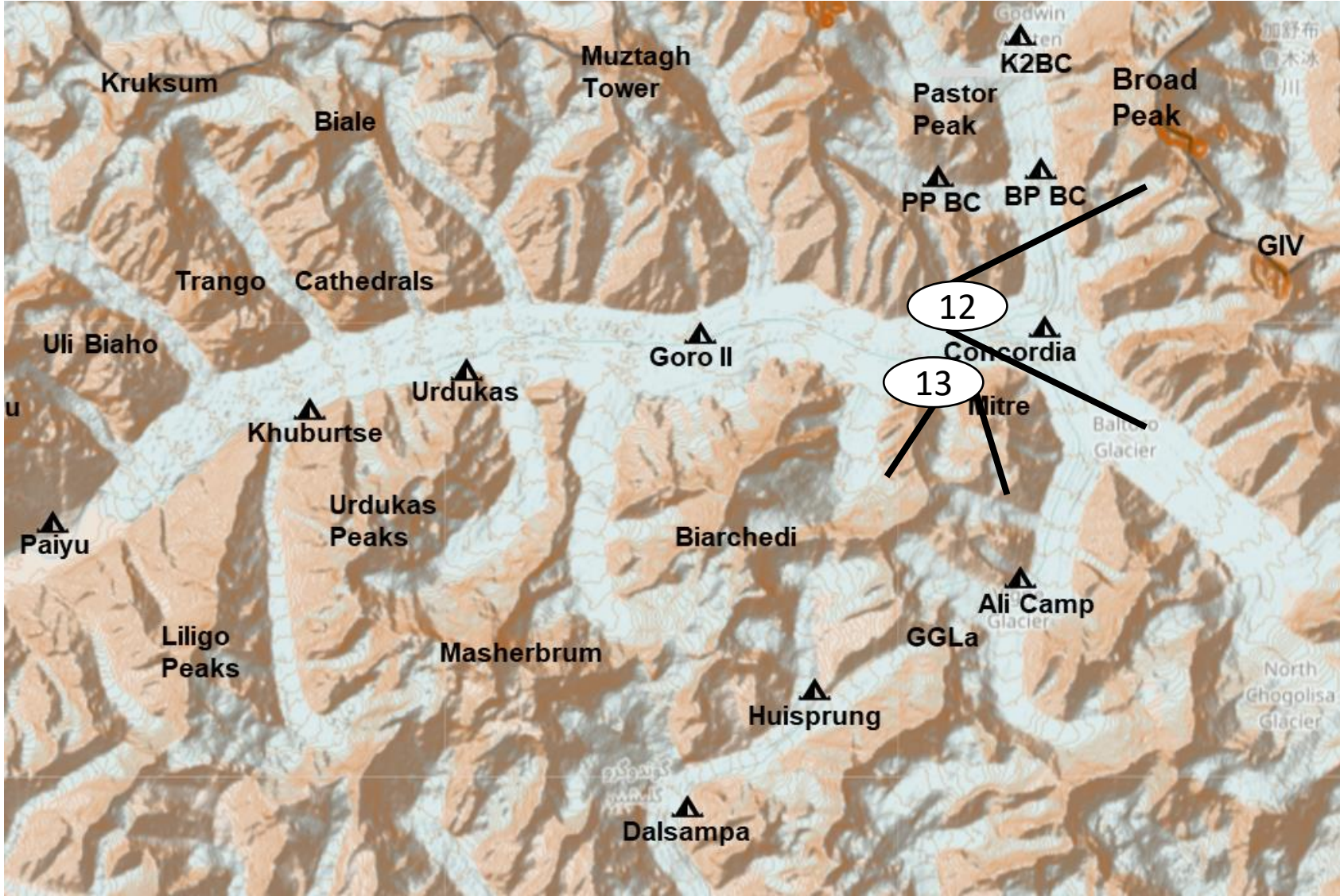
Looking to the right



11

Biarchedi (Gondogoro Ri 6.745m)

VIEWPOINTS 12-13



GORO II -> CONCORDIA

Forward looking



12

Broad Peak, GIV and Mitre Peak (6.010m)

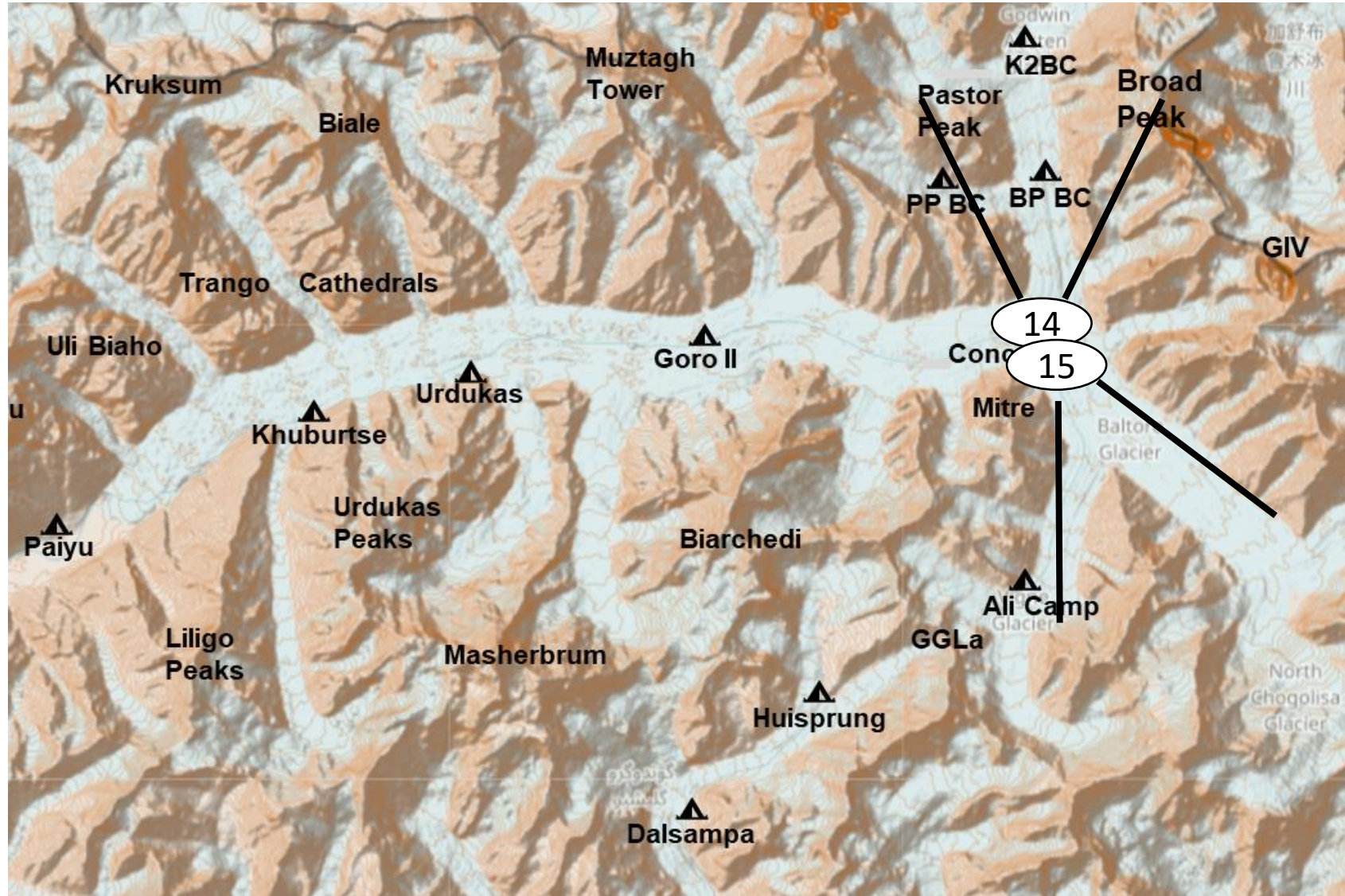
Looking to the right



13

Nuating Glacier, before Mitre Peak

VIEWPOINTS 14-15



CONCORDIA -> BROAD PEAK BASE CAMP



14

K2 (8.611m) and Broad Peak (looking north)

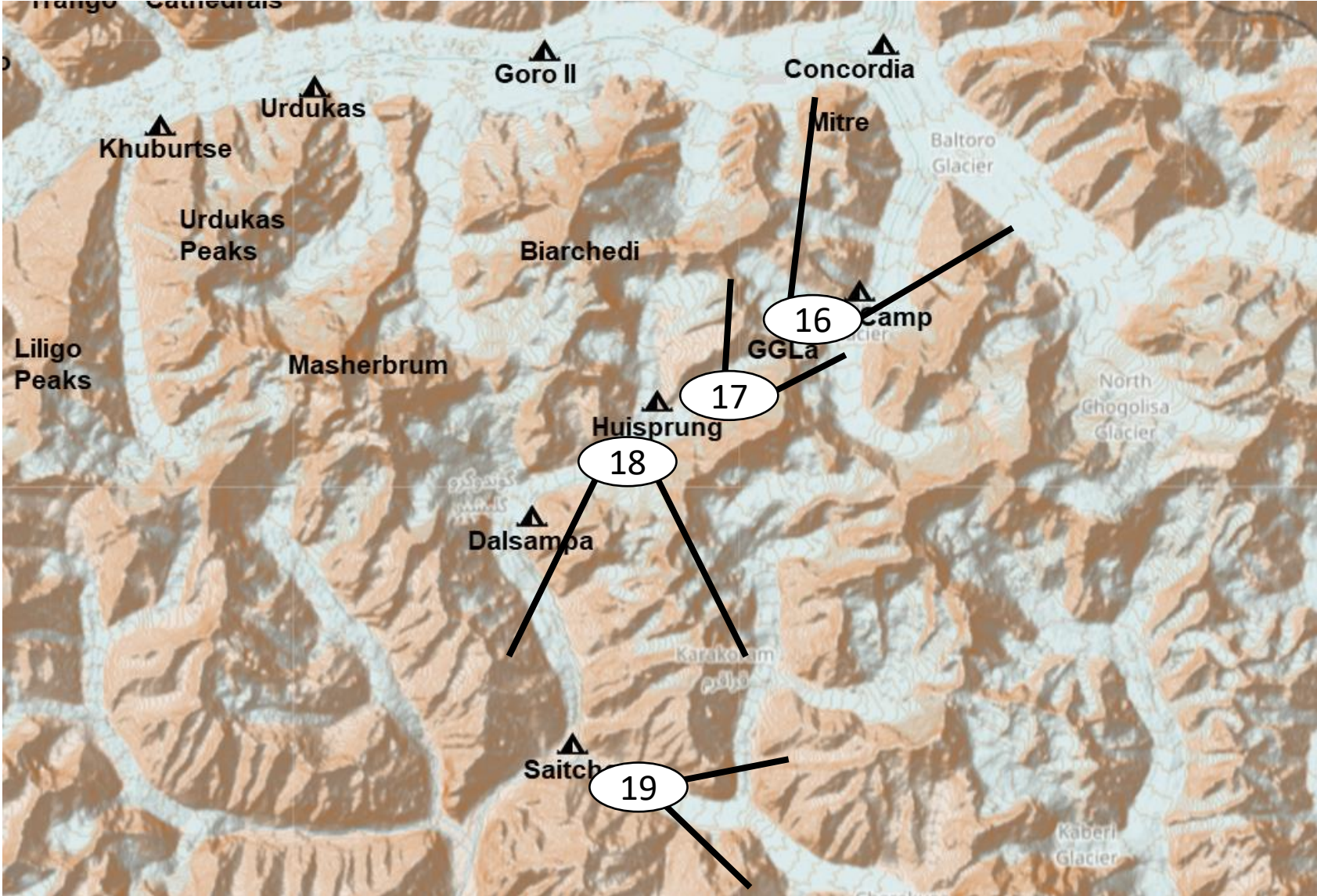
Baltoro Kangri (7.312m) and Chogolisa (7.665m)
(looking south)



15

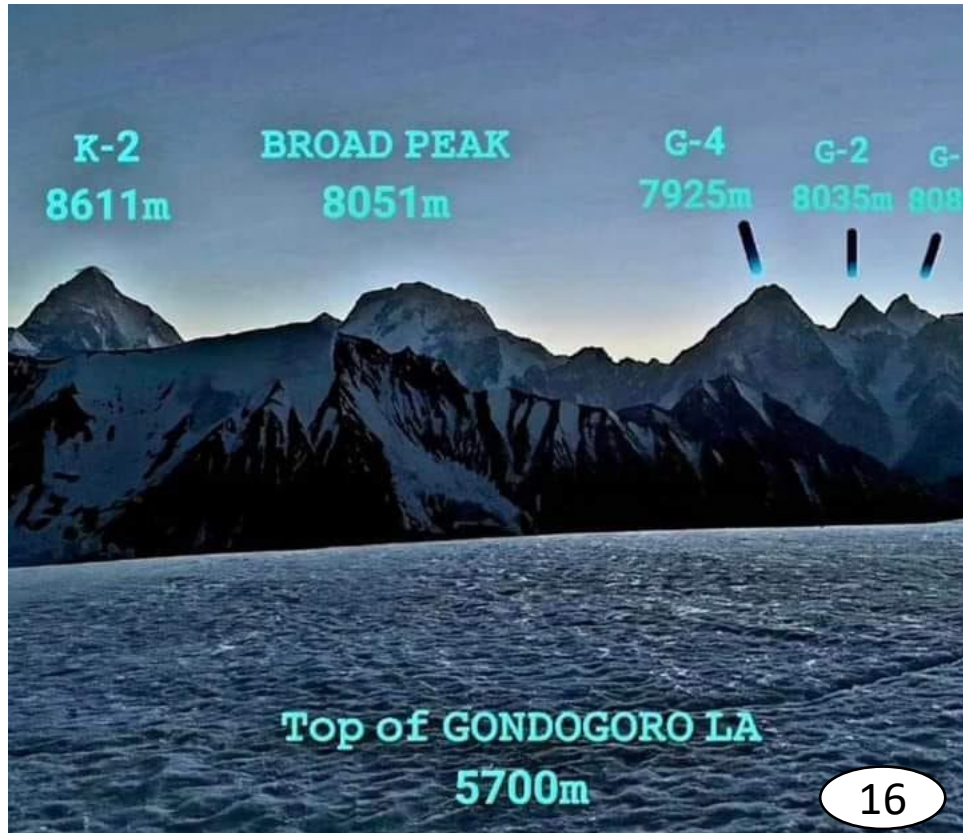


VIEWPOINTS 16-19



GONDOGORO LA

Looking Back



Down from GGLa looking back



The GGLa on the left and Tasa Brakka (6.715m) on the right

HUISPRUNG

From Huisprung, looking forward



18

Laila Peak (6.096m), with the ski descent side on the right

SAITCHO

From Saitcho, looking south east (left going down)



19

Charakusa valley, the K7 (6.934m) in the center

SHUKURIA (شكرية)

