

Pakistani Climbing Season Ramps Up on K2 and Elsewhere

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Before I took off for <u>Outdoor Press Camp</u> last week, the climbing season in the Karakoram was just starting to heat up. Now, most of the teams have settled in to Base Camp on their respective mountains, and are preparing to begin their acclimatization efforts. Right now, it looks like it will be quite a busy summer season, as more commercial teams head to K2 and Broad Peak in particular.



Speaking of K2, <u>Venessa O'Brien</u> is back this year to make another attempt on the mountain. This is her third attempt on that particular peak, which has a summit that remains elusive to even some of the best climber in the world. According to reports, Vanessa and her teammates, led by <u>Dreamers Destinations</u>, arrived in BC yesterday and are now getting settled. They'll soon be joined by a team of <u>Himex</u> climbers as well, as the commercialization of K2 continues.

A number of the squads that are focused on K2 this season will first tune up on Broad Peak, where things are already starting to get interesting. According to <u>Alan Arnette</u>, the <u>Furtenbach Adventures</u> has already spent the night at Camp 3 as part of their acclimatization schedule, which should put them on track to perhaps launch a summit bid later this week, weather permitting of course. Spaniard <u>Oscar Cadiach</u> is also in Base Camp on BP, where some reports indicate that there is heavy snow on the higher sections of the mountain, which could make things difficult and stall out any potential plans for now as well.

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