

20 HIGHEST MOUNTAINS IN THE WORLD

1. **Mount Everest (Nepal)** – Mount Everest, locally known as Sagarmatha, claims the title of the highest mountain in the world at 8,848.86 meters (29,031.7 feet) above sea level. It was first scaled by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. This iconic peak has been a magnet for adventurers and a vital source of income for the Sherpa community in Nepal.
2. **K2 (Pakistan and China)** – K2 stands at an elevation of 8,610 meters (28,250 feet) above sea level, making it the second highest mountain globally. Nestled in the Karakoram Range, it boasts awe-inspiring natural beauty but is renowned for its challenging terrain and volatile weather conditions. Achille Compagnoni and Lino Lacedelli achieved the first ascent in 1954.
3. **Kangchenjunga (Sikkim and Nepal)** – Kangchenjunga, at 8,586 meters (28,169 feet), ranks as the third highest mountain worldwide. This majestic peak is actually a collection of five summits, referred to as the “5 treasures in the snow.” It was once considered the world’s highest peak before the discovery of Mount Everest. The region around Kangchenjunga is a UNESCO World Heritage site due to its diverse ecosystems.
4. **Lhotse (Tibet and Nepal)** – Lhotse reaches an impressive height of 8,516 meters (27,940 feet), securing its position as the fourth highest mountain on Earth. Located in Nepal, its northern end neighbors Mount Everest. Swedish climber Göran Kropp led the first successful expedition to its summit in 1956. Notably, Lhotse’s base camp sits atop a moving glacier at 5,200 meters (17,060 feet) above sea level.
5. **Makalu (Nepal and Tibet)** – Makalu, shaped like a four-sided pyramid, stands as the fifth highest mountain globally, with an elevation of 8,463 meters (27,766 feet). Climbers face extraordinary challenges due to its unique topography. The Gurung, Rai, Sherpa, and Bhotia communities residing in the region add cultural richness to this mountain’s allure.

6. **Cho Oyu (Nepal and Tibet)** – Cho Oyu, often called “the turquoise goddess,” is the sixth highest mountain, towering at 8,188 meters (26,864 feet) above sea level. It serves as an ideal training ground for aspiring climbers to acclimate to high altitudes. Located 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) west of Mount Everest, it offers breathtaking Himalayan vistas.
7. **Dhaulagiri I (Nepal)** – Dhaulagiri I, meaning “dazzling, white, or beautiful mountain” in Nepali, is the seventh highest mountain globally at 8,167 meters (26,795 feet). Climbers have been drawn to its challenges and beauty since the first successful ascent in 1960. The Dhaulagiri circuit is renowned for its treacherous trekking routes.
8. **Manaslu (Nepal)** – Manaslu, with an elevation of 8,163 meters (26,781 feet), is the eighth highest mountain in the world. It’s known for its unique position in the Gorkha district, 40 kilometers from Kathmandu. The Manaslu trek offers not only stunning Himalayan views but also insights into the local culture, and it was first climbed in 1956.
9. **Nanga Parbat (Pakistan)** – Nanga Parbat, at 8,126 meters (26,660 feet), ranks as the ninth highest mountain. Known as “Diabler” locally, it dramatically rises above the Indus River in Pakistan’s Gilgit-Baltistan region. Its nickname, the “killer mountain,” reflects the extreme difficulty of climbing this peak.
10. **Annapurna I (Nepal)** – Annapurna I, with an elevation of 8,091 meters (26,545 feet), is the tenth highest mountain in the world. It’s part of the Annapurna Mountain range in Nepal’s Gandaki region. Climbing Annapurna I is exceptionally challenging, with high levels of danger during ascent, and it was the first 8,000-meter peak to be climbed without supplemental oxygen.
11. **Gasherbrum (Pakistan-administered Kashmir)** – Gasherbrum, often referred to as K5, is the eleventh highest mountain globally, reaching an altitude of 8,080 meters (26,510 feet). This remote group of peaks in the Karakoram Range is known for its seclusion, making it one of the least climbed 8,000-meter peaks.

12. **K4 (Pakistan and China)** – K4, also known as Gasherbrum II, stands at 8,080 meters (26,510 feet) above sea level, making it the twelfth highest mountain in the world. It's part of the Gasherbrum group of peaks and was first summited by an Austrian expedition in 1956.
13. **Broad Peak (Pakistan and China)** – Broad Peak, also known as K3, is the thirteenth highest mountain, reaching an elevation of 8,051 meters (26,414 feet). Austrian climbers achieved the first ascent in June 1957. It's located near K2, within the Karakoram Range.
14. **Shishapangma (Tibet)** – Shishapangma, standing at 8,027 meters (26,335 feet), is the fourteenth highest peak globally. It's considered an excellent choice for climbers new to 8,000-meter peaks, featuring a gentler ascent and a shorter base camp approach. Spring is the recommended season for climbing due to harsh winter conditions.
15. **Gyachung Kang (Nepal and China)** – Gyachung Kang, nestled in the Mahalangur Himal section of the Himalayas, ranks as the fifteenth highest mountain. It lies between Cho Oyu and Mount Everest and, while not an 8,000-meter peak, offers a challenging climb. Japanese climbers first reached its summit in 1964.
16. **Annapurna II (Nepal)** – Annapurna II, with an elevation of 7,937 meters (26,040 feet), is the sixteenth highest peak globally. It's part of the Annapurna mountain range and was first scaled by British, Indian, and Nepalese climbers in 1960. Annapurna II is known for its avalanches, rock falls, and frequent storms.
17. **Gasherbrum IV (Pakistan)** – Gasherbrum IV, also known as K4, is the seventeenth highest mountain in the world at 7,925 meters (26,001 feet) above sea level. It's part of the Gasherbrum group of peaks and is considered equally challenging as its neighboring 8,000-meter peaks.

18. **Himalchuli (Nepal)** – Himalchuli, reaching an altitude of 7,893 meters (25,896 feet), ranks as the eighteenth highest mountain globally. It's situated in the southern Manaslu region and is known for its striking vertical relief. Himalchuli is the second highest peak in the Mansiri Himal range and was first climbed in 1960.

19. **Distaghil Sar (Pakistan)** – Distaghil Sar, the nineteenth highest mountain, stands at 7,885 meters (25,869 feet) above sea level. It's located in the Shimshal Valley within the Karakoram range. In the local Wakhi language, Distaghil translates to "above the inner ranch." Austrian climbers first summited it in 1960.

20. **Nuptse (Nepal)** – Nuptse, positioned 2 kilometers west-southwest of Mount Everest, is the twentieth highest mountain globally. It's part of the Khumbu region within the Mahalangur Himal range of the Nepalese Himalayas. Nuptse's elevation reaches 7,861 meters (25,791 feet) above sea level, and it offers sustained climbing options suitable for both beginners and experienced climbers.