

Trans Andes 2017-2018 Report



6 months of climbing and paragliding in Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile.

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Thank You's

I am very grateful to the following organisations for supporting this trip: The Jeremy Willson Charitable Trust, the British Mountaineering Council, The Nick Escort Award, The mount Everest foundation, Kayland Footwear.

Climbing Objectives completed or attempted (the majority are new routes or variations)

El Esphinx 5320m, big wall rock climb, Cordillera Blanca, Peru.

South west face of huaguruncho 5720m, Cordillera Oriental, Peru. (Unsuccessful)

South face of Humantay, Cordillera , Peru. (Unsuccessful)

PK 24 New Route & PK Maria (East side of Illampu), Cordillera Real, Bolivia.

French route AD+ (Solo) huayna potosi 6088m, Paraglider descent

Solo new route, South Face of Illimani 6438m, Cordillera Real, Bolivia (paraglider descent).

South west face / ridge of Piruhata 5200m (New route).

Exploratory Cross country paragliding in Southern Bolivia.

Exocet, Cerro standhardt, Chatlen, Patagonia.

New Route, SW face of Cerro Solo 2100m, Chalten, Patagonia "the french Connection"
600m, m6, 85°, A0.

New Route, SW face of Cerro Solo 2100m, Chalten, Patagonia "Los Gringos no comen
llajua" 600m m5, 90° degree, M5.

New Variation on Aguja Guillaumet, Variation of "Aupa 40", "the german connection" M7, 90°
A0

The carebear traverse (link-up of guillaumet, mermoz and fitzroy). (failed due to strong
winds).

Cerro Torre via the ragni route 600m 90°

The North Pillar, East Face of Avellano Tower, the avellano towers, Aysen, Chile.

Cerro Square face, New route, E4 / F6c+, the avellano towers, Aysen, Chile.

The Skyline traverse, "an epic 3 day link-up of all 7 spires", the avellano towers, Aysen,
Chile.

General travel advice: south America

When to go

June to mid September is best for climbing in Peru and Bolivia. It is possible to climb later
(November / October, however the weather is less stable and afternoon storms are regular).

For Patagonia the season is December to march (with January / February being the best
months).

Flights:

We flew London to Lima (Peru), this is the cheapest route. British airways & KLM are among
the cheapest options, with British airways being direct.

Maps

It's usually possible to find maps in towns and cities. Tour agencies often will sell them.
Check individual objectives for more info.

Many maps sold here:

Instituto Geográfico Nacional – Avenida A. Aramburu 1190-1198, Lima 34

Download the app “Alpinequest”, pay for the full version; excellent mapping of the entire world!

Gas cartridges / multi fuel

Gas cartridges can be bought from camping shops & some tour agencies in Lima, Huaraz, La Paz, Cochabamba.

Fuel for multi-fuel stoves is best bought in the form of “bencina blanca” available in some hardware stores (ferreterias).

Personally I got away with never needing to resort to using my multi-fuel stove, as I could always find plenty of gas cartridges.

Equipment

Peru / bolivia: Almost all equipment is imported to south America and therefore it's cheaper to bring everything. Huaraz and La Paz have most items, but overpriced and difficult to find.

Patagonia: In patagonia however it's another story: most shops in chalten have only a handful of technical climbing equipment and it's very overpriced. Snow shoes can be rented in Chalten and are recommended for trips onto the southern ice cap. For now at least it's possible to rent / borrow ice axe wings (important for ice mushroom pitches) from [Viento Oeste](#), for a very reasonable price, they also rent snow pickets.

Money

ATMs and banks are in most towns and cities, I recommend getting a credit card with free withdrawals (for example Halifax clarity credit card), dollars can be changed in all but the smallest towns. Be aware of fake notes when exchanging cash. In argentina I believe it is still possible to get a very favourable exchange rate on the black market when exchanging USD (Bring clean new notes of \$50's & up) with street towts.

Security

A money belt, concealing the bulk of your cash, passport & credit cards, worn under the cloths is recommended. Always keep an eye on your belongings, especially in busy places such as bus stations, markets etc. Taking only official / radio taxis at night is a good idea. Leaving a Basecamp unguarded, low in the mountains is risky. I personally have had 2 unsuccessful muggings / pickpocket attempts whilst in south America. Violent crime towards westerners (gringos) is rare, but it does happen, I befriended a Canadian guy who violently had his whole trousers taken off him in the streets of Mendoza (Argentina)! Don't be flashin' the cash! If mugged, just hand-over your wallet with your money for the day in, hopefully they won't know about your money belt. I don't think there's any need to be super paranoid, I've spent months around 18 months in latin america, and never felt threatened.

Visas

Always double check the current situation online. I believe British citizens can get a visa on arrival for all countries in south America, mostly between 30 & 90 days. And most countries its possible to pay to extend your visa (often possible in regional immigration offices).

Health & hygiene

Eating local can be a great experience of local culture (the lunch time menu-del-dias are excellent) however street food can lead to diarrhea. Aim for the popular spots, with freshly prepared hot food.

Good hand washing, and drinking purified water can also prevent illness. Personally I suffered now problems drinking the tap water in patagonia.

Transport

Bus travel in south America is comfortable, affordable (with the exception of Argentina which is much more expensive) and punctual. Modern coaches, with “cama” (bed) seats, will often transport you overnight. Often food and movies are included. Always check the details and don't always believe what they tell you! -compare different companies at the station, and seek local opinions.

There are some low(ish) cost **airlines** such as aerolineas (Argentina) but I have no first hand experience; the baggage allowance is low 15-23kgs so factor in for excess charges, and be aware that some advertised cheap prices are subsidised for only Argentinian locals and foreigners will be charged around double the price (a shock if you didn't realize until arrival at the airport). Note: it *may* be possible to purchase the cheaper local ticket, check-in online, and fly; if you don't have bags to check-in.

Taxi's: the taxi app Uber works well in Lima and Cusco (sometimes La Paz) and means you can't get ripped off. Talk to locals about other apps, as Uber is banned in certain places. “Radio” taxis i.e. official taxis, in Peru and Bolivia are more legitimate, and less likely to cause a problem. Best to agree a price before entering the taxi, or go by the meter if they have one. Although when in small towns, where there are no gringo's they don't seem to realise they can rip you off.

Collectivo's: these small micro buses connect small towns & cities and go almost everywhere, you'll have to chat to locals to find out where and when they depart. But this is a really cheap way to get around. Normally they will depart when full, and pick-up or drop off anywhere enroute.

Hitchhiking: lots of people hitch in Argentina as the buses are expensive (I have only ever gone relatively short distances, with mixed levels of success, although female friends have found it way easier).

Buying a vehicle: there's a tax free zone in Iquique (northern Chile) where you can buy reduced new imported cars. On Sunday in El Alto, La Paz there's a used car market. Oilx is an app / website where used vehicles are sold. Also check out Facebook groups for the area your in. You'll need to register the vehicle in your name and have all the paperwork if you intend to cross borders; so do your research. My opinion: not worth it at all if you're just staying in Peru/bolivia as the buses are so cheap; but if your moving around alot in argentina & chile for an extended period then it could be worth while.

Food

Latin America has some great food. Menu-del-dias (menu of the day) is a great lunch time option, and is often cheap and fast. The app "TripAdvisor" has restaurant recommendations for bigger towns / cities (But doesn't seem to work very well).

Freeze dried meals are hard to find, therefore if you want these in the mountains then bring from home. Otherwise most items can be purchased from local markets and supermarkets.

Language

Apart from those living in tiny remote villages (who might speak a local dialect such as quechuan), almost everyone speaks Spanish. Learning some basic Spanish will get you a long way. Having some conversational Spanish will make life a lot easier. Download Spanish on Google translate for when you get stuck! Having a phrase book & app's for learning Spanish is also a great idea.

Accommodation

Guide-books, such as Lonely Planet, Air B&B, Hotels.com, booking.com, couchsurfing are all good resources.

Alternatively turn up and look around; if you have the energy!

Communication

Buy a local SIM card (unlock your phone) and using the internet and making bookings becomes easy.

Entel is best for Bolivia (if you can find someone to register it for you). Supposedly "personal" has the best coverage for Argentina.

Don't expect signal in the mountains, so consider a satellite phone, SPOT device, in reach or similar. Often sold in bus stations, and market stalls, readily available SIM cards can normally be activated on the spot, and topping up is easy; find a helpful vendor to help get you started.

Media

Blog: <https://transandesclimb.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Trans-andes-2017-18-133717803952614/>

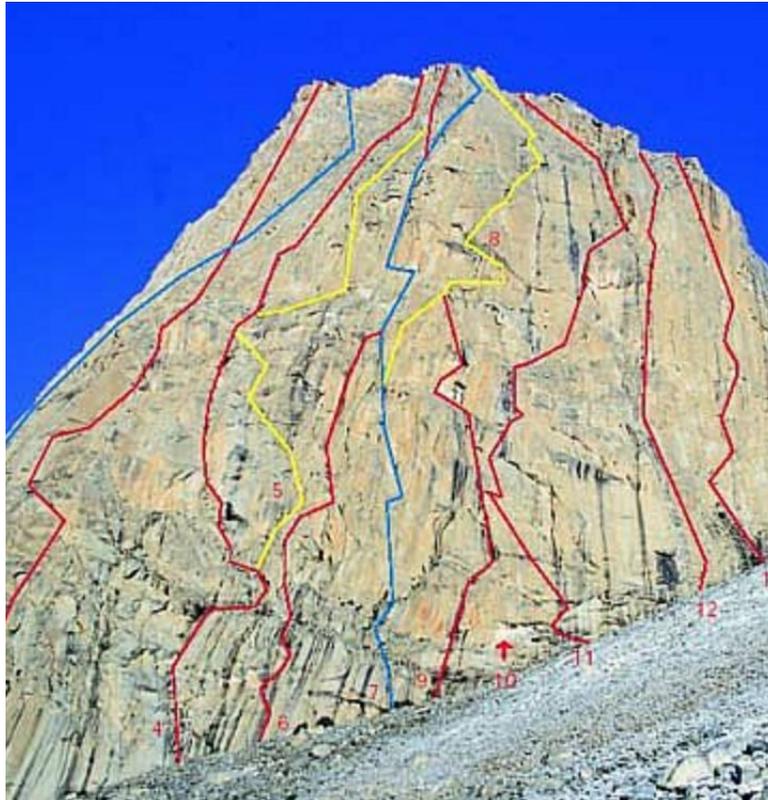
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Objectives: in detail

Here you will find specific information for each objective / area, including a blog post:

Esphinx 5320m, Original route



Summery

We made a successful ascent of the original route, good climbing and good acclimatisation.

Transport:

Lima to Huaraz, 8hrs, 60s-80s £10-£12, many companies available, check "red bus Peru" to book online, 8hrs. Most depart from Javier Prado Este & plaza Norte.

Huaraz to Caraz, 6 soles, 2hrs, from 4am departs every 15 mins from near to the quilcay bridge.

<https://goo.gl/maps/RNkNAbVP4bv>

Caraz to Lago Peron, 80-100 soles for taxi, or colectivo at 6am for 10 soles, 1.5hrs.

<https://goo.gl/maps/2H1DPC9MdD82>

Accommodation:

Lima: Hitchhikers Lima Hostel

Calle Bolognesi 400, Miraflores 15074, Peru

<https://maps.google.com/?q=Hitchhikers+Lima+Hostel+Calle+Bolognesi+400%2C+Miraflores+15074%2C+Peru&ftid=0x0:0xda43578fa57721d2&hl=en&gl=gb>

75s Twin room, shared bathroom, wifi, hot showers, good location.

Huaraz: Familia Meza

+94-369-5908; Lúcar y Torre 538; r per person S25. In the same building as Café Andino, WiFi, hot showers, nice owners.

<https://goo.gl/maps/yWMrjvGwCQ22>

Hut

The ingement hut at Lago Peron which isn't always open, 20s per person.

Food:

There is a good food market in Huaraz (& plenty of restaurants as well as in Caraz). Freeze dried meals are not easily available. Indoor market: Av. Raymondi & Av. Tarapaca. Open air market: Av. Raymondi & San Cristobal.

Mercado Central de Huaraz

Jirón Juan de la Cruz Romero 210.

<https://goo.gl/maps/AeK5r5UXP492>

Information

The guides office was very helpful to us.

Casa de Guías

Jirón Simón Bolívar 680, Huaraz 02001, Peru

+51 43 421811

<https://goo.gl/maps/qXnxduVgYp92>

Fuel

Gas cartridges available many places for 20 Soles. Bencina blanca: Avenue Luzuriaga in trekking / climbing shops.

Equipment:

It is possible to buy snow stakes and gas cartridges in Huaraz. There is also a limited selection of most climbing equipment; although I wouldn't rely of finding specific items.

Walk in:

Follow the signpost "El Esphinx" downhill at first, then slowly traverse upwards to Basecamp (flat, with water supply, 1hr from base of the wall). Total: 4-5 hrs.

Original route:

Cira 750m, 5.11+ (5.10 A1), around 18 pitches. Loses the sun in the afternoon around 1-2pm. Has in situ anchors until pitch 10.

Recommend rack, double set of cams #3 & X1 #4, full set of nuts + micros + offsets, 12 quickdraws, X2 60m half ropes. No water enroute. Good bivi ledges.

Descent: from the col, make X3 60m rappels then downclimb the slabs.

When to go:

June to August is best. We were late season (September can go either way).

Rescue

Obviously a successful rescue is unlikely in south America.

The head of mountain rescue is called Julio +51943609110.

Esfinge: blog



Trip begins: Esfinge (big wall) 5320m

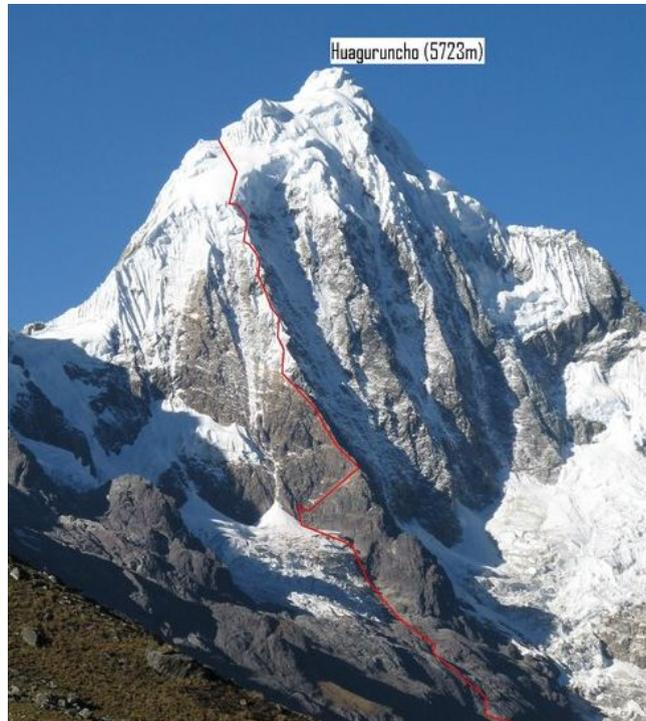
Ever since spending 9 months in South America 5 years ago, I had a burning desire to return. A busy summer leading Expeditions in Namibia, Nicaragua & Costa Rica meant that the departure date rolled around fast, and before I knew it Harry was at my house, and I was doing the standard last minute pack and life Admin late into the night. It made financial sense to fly BA, which made a nice change from always flying budget airlines. Through a combination of dirtbag tricks we got our heavy bags checked in, and we were off. Neither me or Harry wanted to waste and time, and so, upon landing in Lima (Peru's capital) we got straight into an overnight bus to Huaraz. Coach travel in most of South America is a luxury affair, which makes moving around affordable and almost comfortable, especially compared with the Himalaya! And so we awoke early in Huaraz, the provincial capital of the Cordillera Blanca. The weather looked Good, and we were psyched to get into our first objective: the Andean granite big wall; Esfinge 5,325m. The 1000m granite face would provide the perfect warm up: not too high in terms of altitude, quite accessible (1 day of driving, 1 day walk-in),

not too hard (5.11+), not too committing (you could abseil retreat fairly easy), but still a big and beautiful challenge for mine and Harry's first ever route together. Me and Harry met properly in Kyrgyzstan, where we quickly made plans to climb together that fall in Nepal. We had quite an unsuccessful trip; we got turned around by authorities in far West Nepal, Harry got sick and we both got robbed. Despite this, we both got on really well, with good humour, so another trip was in order. Arriving in valley de paron, with the evening light casting a spectrum of blues and oranges over the peaks, I found it impossible not to think about Cory. Cory, my friend and expedition climbing partner had died climbing solo in this valley; specifically on La piramide, a beautiful triangular peak that takes Centre stage in the view down the valley. I sat for a short while, remembering all the great times me and Cory had in South America, and imagined him venturing up here on his motorbike, climbing alone. We slept in a small hut and approached Esfinge the following day. Early on in the walk in (embarrassingly) we went the wrong way, and stubbornly continued to walk up the wrong valley, luckily we were eventually able to climb the cliff that barred entry into the correct valley, and made it into our advanced camp just as darkness fell. Dawn in the mountains is a beautiful time, and it felt great to be in the mountains again after working all summer, I made sure to appreciate the beauty as I walked ahead, approaching the base of the cliff, trying to work out where the route went. We were attempting the original route 750m 5.11+, in a single push (i.e. lightweight, no bivi kit, all in one go), and therefore every moment counts, and speed is key. And so I went ahead to rack-up and get ready, as the altitude seems to affect me less than Harry. The sun had already warmed the rock, the sky was blue, and we raced up the easy first 5.7 pitch in only 8 minutes. The next pitch was slightly harder 5.10 and longer, but I was happy we got up it in 20 mins. And I was quietly happy thinking we had a good chance to make it to the top (around 18 pitches) before dark. Sunset looking out into valley paron I was block leading, as I had sussed out pretty well which way the route went on the approach. After several more pitches we got to the crux overhang (s). I led up to the roof and found myself upside down having put in a good knee bar; I could see that pulling through the roof was going to take a lot of precious energy, and despite thinking I could probably free it, I decided to aid through the most strenuous moves. I quelled the disappointment in myself by justifying it: I hadn't climbed anything in several months; and it was looking like I was going to have to lead everything because Harry wasn't doing too well with the altitude. I was at least pretty happy that the supposed 5.11 crack above felt easy to free: but I'm sure people grade things softly at this altitude. Pitch after pitch and we began to slow, our lack of fitness and acclimatization was taking its toll. The upper part of the face the route became much more indistinct and the topo made much less sense. After trying to make the topo fit, I gave up and followed my nose. At the end of a long 5.10 pitch were we had to move together, my bowls finally exploded and Latin American local food hadn't taken long to make me its victim. Sadly Harry had to bare witness to this: I got to lead away, whilst he had to belay near my mess. We had slowed a lot now, to around 45 mins per pitch and the light began to fade as I traversed rightward; trying to find the easiest solution to the top of the wall; which was not too far away now. For the most part, we weaved an easy enough route, the final crack in the dark felt hard, probably because my forearms didn't know what had hit them! And then we were on the summit! It felt pretty good having success on our first objective; and enjoying the moment, the full moon casting a light on the surrounding mountains, and seeing the bright lights far away in the valley below. I got 3g signal on the summit and did a live post. That actually felt kind of weird and took away from the feeling of

remoteness which we seek by going on expedition to these far flung places. Getting down wasn't too hard, the full moon helped light the way, and we traversed the opposite side of the mountain and rappelled from a col and down climbed some slabs, picked up our stash, and walked back to camp. We felt it the next morning! My fingers hurt pretty bad; something about the cold of rock climbing in the shade at 5000m really destroys your tips. So we had a long lie in; watching a dodgy Russian copy of a movie, eating before finally descending back to the hut. The hut was closed , and we had run out of gas, so we set about making a fire and cooked dinner (Harry's excellent home made dehydrated curry!), a pleasant end to our first mountain foray; fire and good food, telling stories under the stars.

Huaguruncho 5723m

Objective: the unclimbed central spur on the SW face.



Summery

Unsuccessful. I got very sick and the weather remained unsettled.

After one week of fever and rain we decided to descend to sea level and get medical attention. The forecast never improved and so we didn't return. I might return early in the season (April / May 2018).

Transport:

Lima to Cerro de Pasco, 60 soles, 9 hrs, bus departs from 'Calle de huascarán con mister with Empresa (company) "santa Anna" +51989585453. booking check out "red bus.pe"

Cerro de Pasco to Huanuco, colectivo, 20 Soles per person, 4-5 hrs, departs from a small parking area (get a taxi there from the bus terminal).

Accommodation:

There are a few hostels / hotels in Huachon (presumably mostly for workers in the mines). We stayed at the one in the main square (not recommended; 60 soles, twin room, no hot water or WiFi) and another one 5mins from the main square (much better), 35 soles for private single room, hot water, no WiFi.

Food

We did our shopping in Cerro Pasco market which was next to the bus terminal. Equally you could do your supermarket shop in Lima.

There are a few small eateries in Huachon.

Horses

We easily arranged horses for the walk-in (80 soles) in Huachon and with the local farmers for the walk-out (150 soles).

Basecamp

There are two families living in the valley under the SW face of huaguruncho. The family of Ernesto Quinto was very friendly and we often shared / swapped food. (Well harry did, I was mostly in a fever in the fetal position). When you climb I'd pay the family to look after your stuff.

Walk-in

6hrs.



Climbing history

Huaguruncho, first climbed by a British team in 1956, is a very impressive peak and towers over its neighbours. It lies in quite a remote part of the Andes, near the town of Huachón. As the name of the range (Cordillera Oriental) suggests, the mountains are further towards the Amazon basin than most major mountain groups in this part of Peru, thus making for higher precipitation than in the classic cordilleras Huayhuash and Blanca. It is perhaps for this reason, along with its relative remoteness, that Huaguruncho has only been climbed four times, despite being a very impressive peak. These ascents were as follows:

- 1956 (British, N side and W ridge, D, 1200m); The team was composed of W. R. Kempe y Michael Westmacott, George Band, Jack Tucker and John Streetly, plus geologist Donald S. Matthews, who sadly died during the expedition;
- 1970 (American/Norwegian, SW ridge, TD+, 1000m); team composed of Lief-Norman Patterson (USA), James Jones (USA), Trond Aas (Norway), Odd Eliassen (Norway) and Jon Teigland (Norway);
- 1976 (Japanese, NNE Ridge, TD, 1500m – route climbed with much fixing of ropes over a whole month); team composed of Hideaki Naoi, Akira Yamada, Hiroshi Kuriyama, Kazuhiro Oka, Masao Hashimoto, Tomomi Akiyama and Yoshiki Mitsumoto;
- 2003 (Spanish, NW Face “Directa Tancash”, TD, 700m); team composed of Oriol Bard, Xavier Fabré, Jordi Marmolejo and Albert Barguès. This was the first alpine ascent of the mountain, in a single 16-hour push.

Tony Barton & Andy Houseman 2006 had as its goal the first ascent of the SW face of Huaguruncho. The pair carried out an acclimatisation climb (first ascent of Huarancaya Sur), however on returning from an attempt on the south spur of Huaguruncho Chico their base camp was discovered to have been ransacked and they had to abandon their attempt. Barton returned to Huaguruncho in 2008 with Tom Chamberlain and Olly Metherell. They got onto the SW face of Huaguruncho for the first time and decided to attempt the left-hand of three spurs on the face. Gaining the spur from the right entailed some easy mixed ground, followed by three pitches of up to VI, 7. After a bivouac on the spur's crest, they were forced to turn around due to poor weather.

Tony Barton and Tom Chamberlain 2010 climbed "LLAMA KARMA" 1000m ED/ 90-/V, 24 pitches on the left hand spur on the SW face. They completed the spur however did not make the summit (see they're BMC report).

Huaguruncho blog post

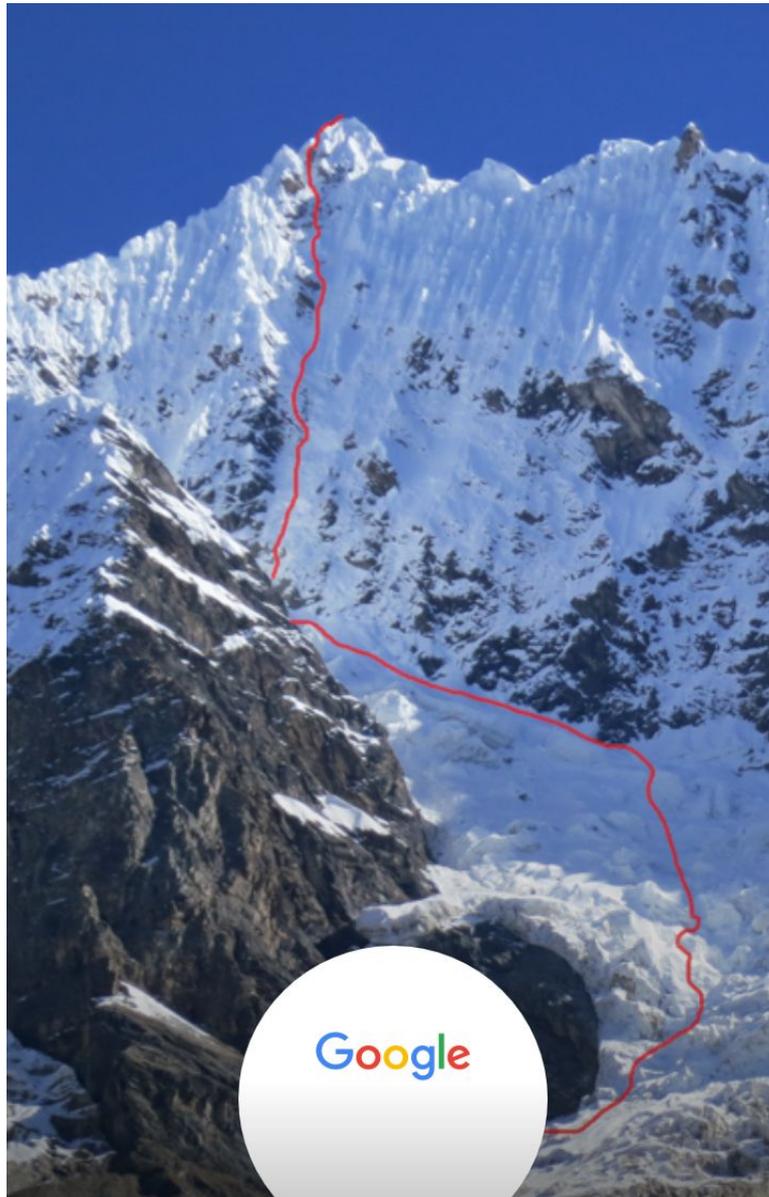


“Failure and frustration”

The sky was blue, and our bodies tired with that satisfying ache of a successful ascent of Esphinx. But all that was about to change. My first mistake was to go for a night out. We got back to Huaraz (the capital of the cordillera blanca) and immediately went out on the town. This is of course an important part of Latin American culture that Harry needed to experience. Much dancing and pisco Sours (a typical Peruvian drink) later and we stumbled home. The next day, at breakfast, we checked the weather. Being September we were at the fringe of the climbing season, and it seemed like the weather was about to crack. The forecast however was better for the cordillera Oriental. The highest peak being huaguruncho 5723m which was our main objective. Specifically the beautiful middle arete of the South West face. is a massive and probably very hard and very beautiful line, that I had been wanting to try now for several years. Ideally I'd have liked to climbing something else in the cordillera blanca first with Harry. As we had never really climbed together before this trip. But the weather god's seemed to be saying "go", and so we went. In Fact we rushed to pack and jumped straight on a bus back to Lima (Peru's capital city), arriving in the evening just in time to catch a night bus onwards. Several buses & colectivos later we arrived in Huachon. In contrast to Huaraz, this small village doesn't see gringos much (let alone one's with white hair), so curiosity and stares were par-course. For once arranging a horse to carry into base camp was easy, and the next day we met with our gaucho (horse handler), loaded up, and began the walk-in. The walk-in takes about 6 hrs. At the start I felt fit, but felt like I had a cold maybe coming. But the final km I was really struggling, with the onset of a fever. Turns out hangover + overnight bus travel had impacted my immune system severally. Turning the final corner, and seeing huaguruncho, poking through the dark swirling clouds was exciting. I didn't have the energy to socialise much with the local farmers who we had made our camp next to. Instead I collapsed into my sleeping bag, incorrectly optimistic that I might feel better tomorrow. A week later, and the situation was starting to look pretty bad. My illness had

developed into what was probably a chest infection, and I was still weak with fever. Also the weather remained pretty bad, with precipitation every day. Harry looked after me by cooking, I barely left the tent. Eventually we were low on food, and we both had to agree that it made sense to leave. Despite not having much choice, this was pretty gutting. This was the mountain I really wanted to try most. And to not even be allowed an attempt was frustrating and sadening. But this is how it goes and sometimes the mountain gods are kind, sometimes not. We rented horses from the local farmers (I felt too weak to walk out alone) and headed back to Huachon. Seeing as the weather forecast for the foreseeable future looked pretty bleak for huaguruncho we decided to head to Lima, so I could recover at sea level, and we could return if the forecast looked promising. And so we went and enjoyed the comforts of the city. I slowly recovered. I quite like Lima. You can fly (paraglide) from the sea cliffs (this meant I could test my single surface light weight wing and harness), there's surfing, the people are nice, the food is good, life is cheap. It also meant I could catch up with my freinds Cynthia and Cathy. Almost a week had passed, and I felt recovered, but sadly the forecast for huaguruncho was looking terrible. Supposably the further south you go, the more stable the weather, and so we decided to head towards Bolivia.

The south face of Humantay 5943m



Summery

A failed attempt on Humantay, mostly due to really poor weather.

Location

13°22'13.4"S 72°35'23.8"W

<https://maps.google.com/?q=-13.370381,-72.589956&hl=en&gl=gb>

Route

Established by Nate Heald is 1000m TD+ AI4.

Useful contacts

Nate Heald USA/Peru, works as a local mountain guide (sky high Expeditions) 986347677 cell, 0845595986 office. skyhighandes@gmail.com

Made the first ascent of Humantay south face.

Edwin Espinoza, Refugios Salkantay, refugiossalkantay@gmail.com,
edwinespimosasoteto@gmail.com +51988770977

Owns a refuge in the valley (First on the left) and is a climber.

Getting there

Lima to Cusco, 30hrs, 70 soles.

Cusco to Mollepata, 1.5-2 hrs, 30 soles, colectivos depart from Arcopata.

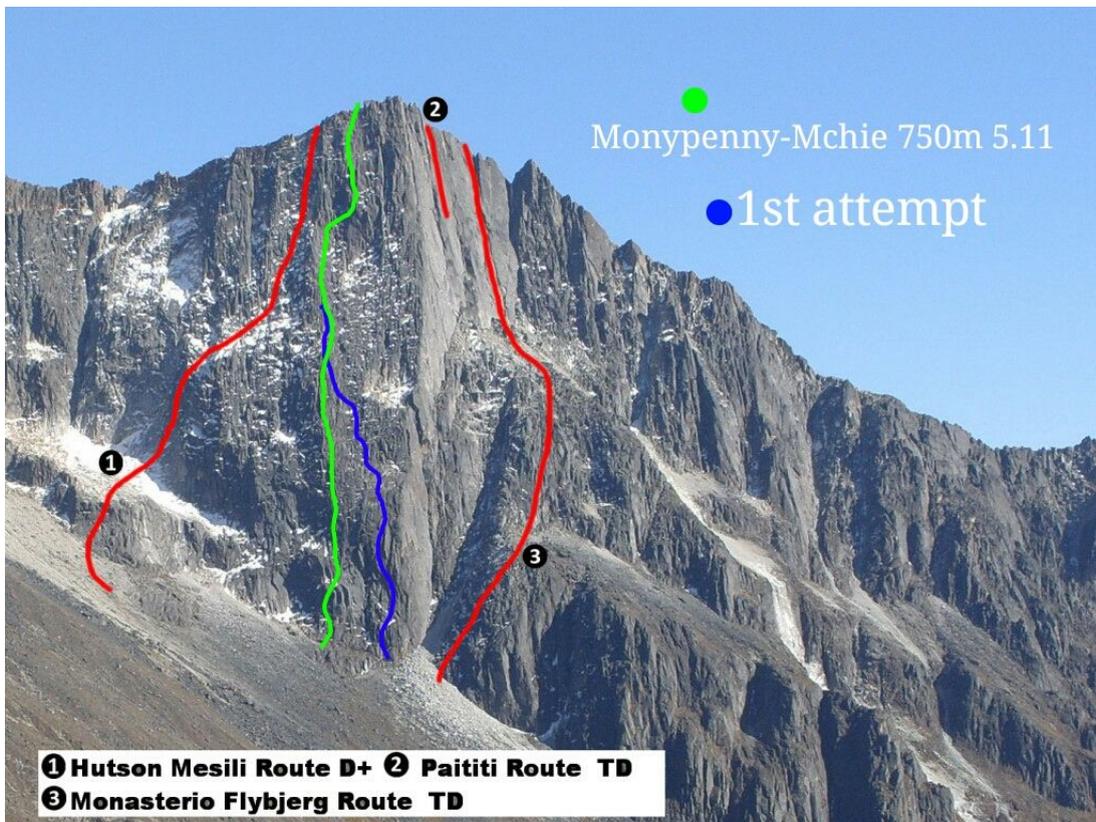
Mollepata to Soyapata, 1.5hrs, 30 soles.

Humantay blog post

This meant heading to Cusco, where we decided we would attempt the south face of Humantay. This face only has one, excellent looking, route on it by Nate Heald. As luck would have it Nate was in town, as he lives in Cusco and we were able to catch up with him in the approach valley. We arrived in local style, on the back of a motorbike trailer...at least it was cheap. Edwin Espinoza of Salkantay Extreme (friend and climbing partner to Nate) showed us kind hospitality with food and somewhere to camp. The following day, with mixed weather, we approached the face of Humantay. We had hoped to make the glacier that afternoon, but we moved much slower than we had hoped. That night the weather finally cleared, but the following day the constant mixed snow returned. And so we decided to set off and climb through the night, hoping the weather might follow the same pattern. Around sun set we set off up the glacier. The glacier looked complicated, and despite being optimistic, it was. It was also surprisingly steep, and it wasn't long before we were moving together on poorly consolidated 70 degree snow. Weaved around holes & crevasses, ice blocks towered around us dark and threatening. Eventually we came to a huge crevasses, the biggest I've ever encountered. Peering in I couldn't see the bottom. A precarious snow bridge seemed like the only option, but also likely to be extremely dangerous. I decided this was as good a time for dinner as any; we'd been climbing a while. Alas, as we cooked, snow began to fall increasingly more heavy, and so we took shelter inside my bivi-shelter.

Spooning and shivering for several hours before the snowfall began to let-up enough to venture outside. In the darkness I couldn't see a logical or safe way around the crevasse. I also had a pretty negative overall impression of the situation. Firstly the weather was pretty bad, the glacier was pretty awful to navigate, we had used a lot of time waiting out the storm and Harry was still suffering at altitude. We descended back through the icefall, making it back to the tent at dawn. As we had only brought enough food for four days, we returned to Cusco and onwards that same day to Bolivia.

PK 24 and PK Maria (East side of Illampu) Bolivia



Summery

A new route on PK 24 (Green line) and a repeat probably 2nd ascent on Peak Maria. We headed into the remote east side of Illampu for 10 days.

Location

Map

"AV #0/8 Cordillera Real Norte 1:50,000" you should be able to find most maps for Bolivia on calle sagarnaga, in the tour agencies.

Club andino boliviano

supposably the alpine club of Bolivia, I wouldn't waste any time visiting these guys. They know nothing! 022312875 +5912324682. Calle Mexico 1638.

Transport

La Paz (Bolivia) to Sorata, 5 hrs, 25 bolivianos, departs close to the cemetery bus station. Sorata to Cocoyo, 3.5-4 hrs, 150 bolivianos (for 2 people in a shared 4x4).

Accomodation

Sorata: Hotel Santa Lucia, +95171513812; r per person with/without bathroom B\$55/45) Located near the soccer field, this is the cleanest, neatest option in town. The bright yellow hotel does have a slightly institutional feel, but in return you get excellent mattresses (by Sorata standards), crisp linens and tidy shared facilities. The owner, Seracín, is as friendly as they come.

Mules / porters

I struggled for a whole morning searching Cocoyo for anyone to help porter or rent horses or lamas. No-one was interested. In the end we walked several km's up the valley and found some farmers, with young men who helped porter, for 200 bolivianos each.

Money

There is no bank in Sorata so bring all the cash you'll need. There is however a bank which will exchange USD.

Local contact

"Ricardo" is a local in Sorata who is a cook / fixer, who can arrange transport and mules. We didn't use him, travelling independently worked out much cheaper. +95171968742
www.agmtb.org info@agmtb.org

La Paz climbing wall

Going to the small bouldering cave is a good way to meet local climbers and find out more information. Open after 3pm.

La Cueva Boulder

850, Vincenti, La Paz, Bolivia

<https://maps.google.com/?q=La+Cueva+Boulder+850%2C+Vincenti%2C+La+Paz%2C+Bolivia&ftid=0x0:0x37961107242a555f&hl=en&gl=gb>

More local contacts

Daniel amayo is a local climber in la Paz +59176205172.

Javier is a driver in Sorata with a 4X4 +95167074389.

Ricardo "gaucho" Lobo is a la Paz / Cochabamba local climber / mountaineer
+59175373976.

Robert rauch is a German mountaineer / climber living in la Paz @robert.rauch.908
(Facebook messenger).

Weather

We experienced mixed weather, with most storms approaching from the south east.
Mornings would normally be clear, and afternoons would over develop.

The approach

From Cocoyo head west along the flat valley for around 1 km, then follow the path on the right side (looking up) of the river. The path circumnavigates steep ground / waterfalls by heading to higher ground. We followed a steep grassy ramp to gain access above the upper circ.

Basecamp

We made a base camp about 400m from the base of PK 24 on a flat(ish) boulder. There's a running stream 100m traverse south.

Illampu east side blog post

We arrived to La Paz to blue sky's (it had been a while) and fiesta's (Our first night out and we ended up being part of a traditional Bolivian street parade and then socialising with some nice bolivians into the small hours).

After some research we decided to head into the east side of Illampu. It didn't seem like there were any new routes in this area since the 70's, and the east face looked like there was plenty of potential for new routes. There are also lots of other objectives including some nice looking granite spires lower down.

And so we shopped, caught a colectivo to Sorata, and the next day a shared 4x4 to a small mining village called cocoyo.

It proved impossible to find lamas / porters or mules in cocoyo. I guess they are paid well by the mining company and just aren't interested. Luckily though I convinced some nearby young farmers to help porter (I paid them well!). And we set off, up a beautiful valley, with towering cliffs and waterfalls.

Eventually I went ahead with the farming lads, as Harry was moving slower, and we needed to use the daylight to try to get everything to a useable spot for Basecamp.

To achieve this I had to use the promise of more money to meet specific targets. I didn't

mind paying them really well, life must be really hard, living in the mountains, growing potatoes and herding llamas. Eventually tho they had to turn around, so they could make it home before dark. So I gave them food, payed them and said goodbye.

I then continued carrying my painful double load, returning back to shuttle Harry's every so often.

This was a lot slower, and it was clear we were going to have to make camp soon. We were still on very steep ground, but luckily I found a big, flat (enough) rock, were we could make a camp.

The next day we packed lighter for an attempt on Illampu east face. However as we set off towards the glacier, it became increasingly clear that this wasn't going to happen. Harry was moving really very slowly, still suffering with the altitude, no doubt compounded by still recovering from foot surgery earlier in the year.

We had a chat, considered our options, I went for a recce onto the glacier. Luckily we had chosen this area as there are plenty of really great looking options.

After a while searching and looking through the monocular at various faces we decided to have a look at the unclimbed east face of Pk Santa Maria. This granite spire looks great, and the east face has to be the most impressive, much like the Dru west face.

The following day I started up the foot of the cliff, climbing a new pitch, which turned out to be hard, mostly because every move required mossy cracks to be cleaned. This lead to the steep face. On closer inspection I realized that this face was going to require a lot of time, very hard climbing, and aid, including several pendulums.

Given all of our recent failures, I thought adding another one to the list today was less preferable than finding something we might actually get up. And so we traversed left, looking at other lines. The only thing that looked attractive, clean, without so much snow was the left hand arete, which we knew had been climbed already.

And for good reason. It was great. Reminiscent of the Papillon arete, just longer and harder.

We wevied around gardarmes, spires following crack systems, eventually topping out in good (cloudy) weather. The summit block is perched precariously, and makes a daunting final Challenge.

Then we took a gamble, we began a long traverse up the ridge, until we could make one abseil to the glacier, and then a fairly easy walk down the glacier (minus one more ab off the end of the glacier) in our trainers.

Getting back to our small tent, perched on the boulder, the valley was full of clouds, which would "breathe" flowing up, engulfing our camp, then out, revealing a magical vista, with a full rising blood red moon. Finally, a great day in the hills!

Right next to our camp PK24 rises steeply, and enticingly. It only has one route on its South face, this is far to the left, leaving most of the face open for a new route.

The very base of the face is the most steep, and challenging, as it's also the most dirty. Harry led the first pitch and then I took over, into a steep E4/A1 pitch, that, if it was clean, would have been amazing, as it was I emerged covered in dirt after some time.

After this the angle lessened and we picked up the pace, picking our way up slabby cracks and aretes. After around 450m we became enveloped in a storm. The lightning wasn't too close, but it was enough for us to decide to descend.

We had just enough food and time for one last try. Surely after 7 weeks of climbing we could get up one new route!!

I didn't want to just repeat our previous line, and so started up another line, the start was also difficult and damp/dirty so I had to aid. After this we were once again climbing faster. Every pitch tho required some care, holds often needed cleaning. The final third of the face reared a bit steeper, the rock a little cleaner. Once again the afternoon storm clouds drew close. It snowed and got windy, but this time we were finishing! Every pitch proved interesting and the route finding was a fun Challenge.

Eventually we topped out just before sunset. It was great to have finally successfully completed a new route. But such celebrations are short lived when you have a long night time descent on complex terrain.

We decided to rappel back down. A mixture of being cheap and stubborn meant that we made it down without leaving any gear at all, only tat. As we got lower and were running low on tat I had to find smaller and smaller spikes; we made it to the ground with no tat left.

The next day we walked out in a typical Andean October snow storm.

Huayna potosi French route AD+ Solo & paraglide decent



Summary

I made a solo ascent of Huayna potosi's french route, and then flew down, taking off from the col between the north and south summits.

Further info

There's plenty of logistical information available online.

Blog post: flying from a 6000m peak

I first went to the Alps to climb around 10 years ago. It would have been on one of many long, knee straining descents, that the idea first came to me.

Wouldn't it be nicer to fly back down.

Any nice weather day in the Alps the sky's are littered with paragliders.

The idea was implanted. The desire was there. Little did I know how long a road it would be!

Fast forward a few years, i began a long apprenticeship in the air. Over 6 years flying in the UK, Alps, India, Nepal, south America. I learnt to fly.

From below paragliding looks easy, serene, calm. And it certainly can be. But the climatological conditions of the high mountains mean that this is rare. And a high degree of knowledge, experience and ability are required to keep yourself safe, and aware of what the air is doing.

I first used my paraglider in alpinism flying from a the side of a peak in Nepal from around 5000m. This was a cool learning experience, but to me it still wasn't quite what I was

dreaming about. Firstly I hadn't made the summit. Secondly I'd had a porter carry my glider most of the way (it weighed 12kgs).

In 2012 I had been in Bolivia, searching in vein for a safe takeoff on Huayna Potosi. Having carried my 12kg setup up the 6000m peak. If I had the experience and abilities I now possess, no doubt I could have flown. But for "2012 James" the conditions weren't quite right, so down I walked....

Fast forward to October 2017.....I'm back in La Paz, bolivia, more or less acclimatized, finally recovered from a week of severe diarrhea, and most importantly armed with a wing that weighs only 2 kgs! And a paragliding harness that weighs 100 grams!!!!!!!!!!

Not to mention, much much more air time.

I went through my gear, taking out everything but the absolute bare essentials: spare gloves; nope. Rope; nah. Waterproof trousers; no.

Due to delays in town I didn't make it to the footpath approach until around 18.30pm. thankfully I was feeling really fit, and raced up to the hut in about an hour.

The normal route on Huayna Potosi is a popular guided walking route. And the clients were already bedded down for the night. I quietly cooked, eat, and crept to bed to lie down for a while.

I didn't sleep. Too excited.

The clients noisily got up at midnight. I knew that this would be too early for me. I didn't want to be waiting in the dark on the summit; far too cold.

But by around 1.30am, being unable to sleep, I set off. I know it's immature, but it was still a good ego boost to race past the clients who had set off before me.

Eventually I broke off the normal route, post-holing through the glacier, enroute to the French route (AD+ I think? About 60 degrees).

I vaguely knew the way, because I climbed this route in 2012. I was moving really fast, and I felt fit. The conditions were ok, and I began roping up the face. Stopping every now and then to appreciate the shooting stars and the bright sprawling lights of La Paz, spread out below.

Three quarters of the way up the face I decided to slow my pace, so that I wouldn't top out too early and have to wait in the cold darkness.

Just as the night's Grey's began to shift to lighter blues I reached the South summit. The snow on the opposite side felt soft and unconsolidated; confirming my decision not to try the west face.

I traversed over to the col between the north and south summits, just as the first rays of sunshine pierced the horizon.

A spectacular sea of clouds covered the Amazon to the east.

The Andean chain stretched as far as I could see to the south.

There was a blustery 10kmph breeze coming from the left. I traversed over to the south face, I could feel a rising breeze, maybe 7kmph which opposed this.

A little complicated, but nothing to be too concerned about.

I set up the wing, harness, camera, and put everything into my rucksack.

The col would be a perfect place to take off, however I was slightly in rotor, and therefore it took many attempts, as the wing would often just randomly lose pressure.

On one launch attempt, I stepped backwards into a hole, fell backwards, and became stuck, with my head downhill and my right foot wedged tightly in the hole. Wriggling loose took some effort at 6000m and it would have been funny to watch (if there was anyone around to see it).

Finally I managed to get the wing stable over my head and immediately ran and committed to the take off.

"Wooooaa" I said out loud, as the single surface wing felt every bump of rotor.

I quickly banked right, coming over the glaciated south face and into smooth air.

I let out screams of pure joy. I was flying from a six thousand meter peak, having soloed a climb, to a beautiful sunrise.

The glide ratio of the wing is pretty poor, and I had to adjust my flight plan.

15 minutes after taking off I landed down in the valley bottom. Next to a big lake, just making a patch of sunshine.

I bathed in the morning sun.

It was only 7:15am.

What a way to start the day.

Illimani South face: New route Solo & Paraglide decent



Blue: My new route (Red: an existing line).

Summery

In a 31hr single push I ascended from Mina Urania, a total of 2600m of ascent, climbing via mostly new ground on the 1400m face (Bolivia's biggest). Reaching the summit by sunset it was too windy to fly, I descended the normal route, to 5000m, had a shiver bivy, then flew down the next morning.

Transport:

La Paz to Cohoni (kohoni) (-16.7141,-67.8350) , 4hrs, 25 Bolivian / £2.5, bus / colectivo departs from Mercado Rodrigues, calle Luis Lara (16°30'08.4"S 68°08'24.2"W <https://maps.google.com/?q=-16.502341,-68.140066&hl=en&gl=gb>)

Cohoni to Mina Mesa Khala 4690m,16°40'47.4"S 67°45'58.4"W <https://maps.google.com/?q=-16.679825,-67.766220&hl=en&gl=gb> it could be possible by motorbike in 3-4hrs, by would require some off road skills.

Alternatively expedition companies can organise a direct 4x4, 700B / £70.

Try Andean Expeditions, (+591) 77550226 but now I don't think it's possible by 4x4 because the road is blocked at Mina Urania.

Accommodation:

La Paz: Full Hostel

La Paz Zona 1, Bolivia

<https://maps.google.com/?cid=10162952451591047666&hl=en&gl=gb>

65B / £6.5 Single, 80B / £8 twin (shared bathroom)

WiFi, hot water, clean enough.

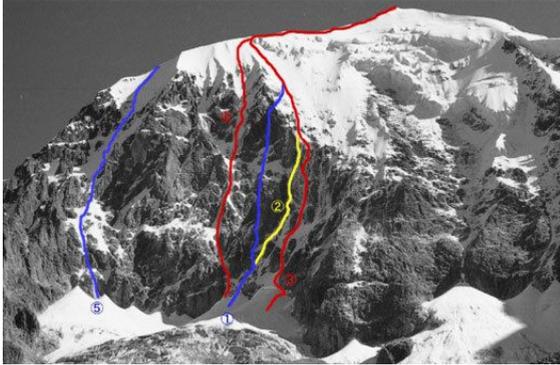
Kohoni: Basic hostile, B50 / £50.

Map:

Cordillera Real Sud (Illimani) B20-30 £2-3, available in your agencies around calle sagarnaga: 16°29'50.5"S 68°08'18.3"W

<https://maps.google.com/?q=-16.497346,-68.138423&hl=en&gl=gb>

Existing Routes:



Blog post: Illimani

For all intensive purposes climbing and flying from huayna potosi was training.

This was a necessary training step towards a really cool goal:

Climbing a new route on Illimani South face.

I had come across trip reports for illimani South face some 4 years ago, and everything about seemed appealing.

"Bolivia's biggest face"

"1400 meters of steep terrain"

The famous alpinist Lionel Terray, French idol of the 50s, wrote about Illimani huge south face: "The human being who succeeds in climbing this frightening and steep wall isn't born yet."

I'd have ideally visited such a face with a competent partner, but finding someone who is able to climb and fly at such a level and is available to climb in Bolivia.....it didn't even seem worth trying.

I knew that the crux of such a mission would most likely be the psychological hurdle of actually starting up the face.

I scrutinized my kit absolutely, to make it as light as possible.

I took the absolute exact amount of food, decanted into light plastic bags.

I removed all unnecessary kit, for example the jetboil insulation, the parts of the map I didn't need. I decanted just enough sun cream into a tiny container.

Every gram would count.

I had to wait until 4pm for a colectivo (shared minibus) to the closest town. This meant I spent a night there; the next day I waited for hours for a teenager with a motorbike to return. He was supposed to give me a lift to the abandoned mine (Mina Mesa Khala), sadly tho he refused to go further than Mina Urania, which meant that I had a massive amount of extra walking (an extra 1000m of ascent).

Which was a lot, considering I now had a total of around 2600m of ascent. That I was planning to try in a single push. (Most people take a couple days to approach the face from here). But I was traveling extremely light: no tent, no sleeping bag.....no rope! (I only had 60m of 5mm cord in case I had to make an emergency abseil).

It was around 5pm when I said an angry goodbye to the kid on the motorbike and started the long trek.

When eventually the face came into view, it looked big, beautiful and scary. It was already sunset, and a massive seracs avalaunch ripped down the right side of the face, from the obviously very active serracs.

Ideally I would have been here much earlier in the day, allowing me time to watch and study the face.

I continued up the track, eventually reaching the abandoned mine in the darkness.

Metal groaned in the wind, and the buildings had an eerie feeling to them. There were signs of life, eggshells inside one building. I called out "hola", no response. I had to search the buildings just to be sure there wasn't someone or something lurking in the darkness.

I found a table and chairs inside one buildings and settled in for some dinner.

I set off towards the face once more around 10.30pm.

The moraine soon formed large ridges which I had to climb and descend.

Eventually I reached the glacier foot, which I had to cross. It was dry (ice not snow), and formed dramatic and complex shapes.

I set out to cross it. It made horrible cracking moving noises, and it was obvious that this glacier was extremely active. Every thud, crunch and crack made my heart sink and a horrible hit of adrenaline.

It was then I found the shoe.

A child's white plimsoll. A horrible sight. Because I knew who it belonged to.

In the 1980's a commercial airliner coming to land in La Paz had gone missing; it had crashed here.

As I progressed, more belongings and airplane parts appeared.

Snakeskin luggage. Mangled metal. Cloths. Hair.

I didn't feel alone. And not in a nice way.

Reaching the other side of the glacier I progressed higher, trying to subdue my scary thoughts. Reaching the snow line I melted water and changed into my full waterproofs, harness, crampons.

It had taken me much longer than expected to reach the face, and I felt more tired than I had hopped. It was difficult to commit at this point.

I was thinking of trying a nice looking couloir, with a steep start, but then probably one of the easiest lines on the face. However it was also threatened by serac fall. I walked up to the base of an ice Pillar at the start of the route.

It was already 3am.

Swinging my tools, I climbed up a few meters, it was great ice for climbing (probably not so much for protection, but of course that doesn't matter when your soloing).

I stopped.

I couldn't do it.

I could commit.

It wasn't the vertical ice that lay ahead, I knew I could climb that. It was the horrifying thought of being swept off by serac (icefall).

I climbed back down.

I decided to check out a probably safer line to the right.

And I wondered over, I saw a nice alternative gully to start (that as far as I was aware was unclimbed), the ice was much more like waterfall ice (WI4), but soon got easier. I decided that, I wasn't committed, because if I felt like it, I could just climb back down.

I tried to use a photo of the face from my phone to navigate, but it was difficult in the dark, as there seemed to be so many variations of gully you could climb.

I decided to take as safer route as possible and so headed to the unclimbed arete, in order to be protected from potential serac fall.

The arete however was composed of pretty loose rock, and I would have got back to the gully far sooner had it not been for the fact that I couldn't! There was not easy way back down into the gully. So I kept climbing until eventually I found a chimney that I could down climb and then traverse back into the main couloir.

By now the sun was up, thermal air was rising, I was already high on the face. But I wasn't moving fast. I felt sluggish. Eventually I stopped on 70 degree terrain, stuck in a screw, chipped a seat, and brewed some strong coffee and porridge.

A false horizon above me lured me into thinking there can't be much further to go. But the ice

was endless. And somehow it got steeper, rising to 80 degrees. Despite some really brittle sections, I was never worried about falling.

I've now got quite a lot of mileage on big alpine ice faces and know that as long as you are careful to place good axes for every placement your not going to fall.

Far far more likely though is to fall from getting hit by falling ice or rock. And this thought was always lingering in the back of my mind. Adding to a constant sense of unease.

Towards the top, I couldn't believe how the face just kept on going. I was feeling really tired. Above 6000m the air felt thin, and I had to stop every 20-30 m to catch my breath and put down a heel to rest my burning calves.

Finally I made the top of the face, to a ridge. And I knew I was safe from falling rock and ice. But I also knew it was too windy to fly.

It was around 3pm, thermic and windy. My best bet would be to reach the summit for sun set, in the hope of calmer winds.

And so I climbed into a crevasses to shelter from the wind and had dinner. Then climbed the final steep ridge to the summit. Sadly it was still really windy, with high lenticular clouds. And so I immediately began descending towards the normal route.

I'd now been on the go for well over 24hrs and was feeling really drained. I've done plenty of longer (30+hr) climbs, but when your soloing you rarely stop to belay, and so it's kind of the equivalent of going for much longer on a pitched route.

Traversing the col between the summits of illimani I felt weak in the soft snow, and was at a low point in my psych. I knew I had to keep going, it was almost dark, I had no shelter or sleeping bag, it was windy and cold and I was above 6000m alone, feeling wasted.

Luckily going down takes much less energy, and I was soon progressing downwards, after crossing a couple big crevasses I found the track going up the normal route, and I could relax a little and allow this to guide me through the glacier. I managed to bum slide lots of sections. And progressed quite quickly.

As I reached a rocky ridge, tiredness really took its toll, I'd been walking and climbing for 30hrs now, this was the second night I hadn't slept and I was beginning to imagine things that weren't there. I was sure I'd seen head torch lights coming up, and soon would meet other climbers. Dark Shadows of rock or ice became potential huts in my imagination.

Eventually I made it to a flat rock area which was clearly a camp.

The wind was calm, and I had a brew and laid out my single skin paraglider and super light bivy bag. And had a shiver bivi. Unconsciousness followed by shivering repeated until the sun hit me.

I'd run out of cooking gas (probably because I hadn't turned it off properly). And so I just scoffed a snickers, anyway it was already 9am, I had to fly asap before the thermals and valley wind got too strong.

And so I took off 10 meters from where I had slept. And flew all the way to the very bottom valley several thousand meters lower.

During the decent I played avoid the thermal (the opposite of what you normally do, but it's too scary with this lightweight single surface Paraglider). As expected the valley winds were already strong, and I landed in the middle of the valley (to avoid rota) going slightly backwards.

I'd woken up at 9am and by 10am I was already a full days walk away.

After a while I hitched a lift from the small village I'd landed in.

The guys who picked me up asked if I'd been trekking.

I told them (in my rubbish Spanish) that I'd just flown off illimani having climbed a new route.

They were just silent, and didn't ask me anything else.

This was a good reminder, that what I'd just done might have felt remarkable to me, but was completely irrelevant to the average person.

South west face / ridge of piruhata 5200m (New route).



Summery

Together with Carlos Regalsky (Bolivia) I climbed the previously unclimbed Sw ridge or piruhata 5200m in the cordillera Cochabamba. We encountered loose rock and was stuck in a violent thunderstorm on the ridge. At the same time Rodrigo Lobo and Robert rauch made an ascent of the south face.

Location

About a 2 hr drive & 1hr walk in from Cochabamba, Bolivia.

17°12'52.9"S 66°24'02.9"W

<https://maps.google.com/?q=-17.214700,-66.400813&hl=en&gl=gb>

Getting there

La Paz to Cochabamba, 100 bolivians, 8 hrs, overnight buses depart from "terminal de buses".

Cochabamba to piruhata, private transport (a freinds car) 400 bolivians, 2 hrs.

Food

Plenty of markets and supermarkets in Cochabamba.

New route

550m, 5.10 R. Starts at a nice crack system just beyond the SW col on the lower cliff.

Difficulties ease after one pitch, then scramble to the upper SW col, chossy cracks to the ridge.

Blog post: Piruhata Choss and lightning



After the solitary experiences on Huayna Potosi & Illimani I jumped at the chance to join “Gaicho” (Rodrigo) & Robert on what they described as “a large unclimbed face”. They didn’t have any photos, so this was going to be a mystery trip. I joined Robert, a German expat living in La Paz & seriously impressive alpinist given his age, for the overnight bus journey to Cochabamba. This was cut short in the early hours by a road block. Undoubtedly a group protesting something. Corruption at every level is strife in Bolivia, and as a result protests are a regular occurrence. Undeterred we progressed on foot, past the barricades & news reporters and found some micro buses on the other side. Eventually we arrived at Gaicho’s parents’ house. In Latin America almost everyone lives with their parents until they get married. It had been a while since I’d enjoyed the comforts of being in a family home, very hospitable. We met with Carlos, drove, and then walked into the base of the wall, with plenty of daylight left there was plenty of time to search the face. Sadly the lower wall had no particularly inspiring lines. Myself and Carlos settled upon the slightly appealing cracks on the south West ridge. The start gave an engaging long pitch, on poor rock; 5.10+R, which required a slow and measured climbing style. After this the difficulty eased, and we moved together, over some 5.6/7 terrain, eventually emerging at the mid-way terrace. We called out to see if we could see Rodrigo and Robert who had taken an easier route through the lower band, and planned on a direct ascent of the south face. To me this face looked horrible. And instead we walked to continue on the south West ridge. I found an extremely loose corner, which was engaging, almost fun, but very shit rock. Being so focused on the climbing I hadn’t noticed the dark storm clouds approaching rapidly. And in the time it took Carlos to follow half the pitch we were soon surrounded by lightning and enveloped in thick hail. A bolt of lightning struck so close I could smell burning. The situation began to feel very dangerous, as my rack began to hum. Carlos reached a large ledge, and I called down to ditch all the metal and find shelter. I took off my harness and cowered 5m away in a big crack. Lightning continued to crack down all over the place, and the ground grew white with hail. A search behind the gendarme revealed that I was at the top of the ridge, but I would need to find an abseil to get back down to Carlos; except the rotten shale didn’t provide much in the way of suitable anchors. I went to check on Carlos, as I put my arm over the edge to wave, my whole hand sparked with electricity. It was so strange that I had to do it again just to check it was real. I immediately went back to cowering in my hole. I decided that sparking limbs were a bad sign. After around thirty minutes of waiting the storm didn’t seem to be passing and in

my imagination I could be stuck here forever, so I decided to descend. Down climbing a few meters I found a chockstone and abbed down to Carlos. And we made a hasty retreat down a series of ledges. It wasn't long before we were under the south face staring up at gaucho & rob, who were in an improbable place, high on the wall. Thankfully they didn't need our help, and were ok to wait out the now retreating storm and continue their climb. We abbed down the lower face and back to our camp. The others eventually joined us late into the night. The next morning we awoke to the cry of a lost baby lamb, who enjoyed our cuddles, and we carried down the mountain to the local sheep herders.

Chapter 2: Patagonia

Part I: Chalten

Summary: I spent two active months in the Chalten massif, despite there not being many good weather windows (even for patagonia) I managed to get some decent memorable climbs in. Some failed attempts on Exocet chiney, some fun new routes on Cerro solo & Guillemet, and finally completing my main objective: Cerro torre.

Logistics:

Climbing Tactics:

Almost all successful accents are now completed in a “fast and light” manor, departing from town (the chamonix of patagonia), walking to a camp, and timing things perfectly to summit in the best of the weather window. Then retreating back to town until the next weather window. Many will stash gear at camps in order to lighten the load when walking in/out. It's possible to climb single-push directly from town on some of the smaller / closer peaks.

Information:

[Pataclimb](#) is an excellent resource for all routes, and is kept up-to-date by the infamous Rolo Garibotti.

The guidebook [Patagonia Vertical](#) has almost all the logistical info & route info you might need.

Accomodation:

There's now a madrid of hostels, hotels, chalets, campsites, caravans, to suit your desired budget. [Aylen Aike](#) is an excellent mid-range option, very clean, nice atmosphere, and Sebastian, the owner, who loves to pretend to hate the world, is actually lovely, and will help out climbers.

Weather:

Frequent high winds & storms, normally fast-approaching from the west / south west are one of the biggest challenges of the area. “World worst weather” as its stated on rolos house. Read the info on weather forecasting on Pataclimb. I found meteoblue “multimodel” on their app to be pretty accreat, but always compare with NOAA. My single biggest piece of advice with weather forecasting in patagonia: Don't be optimistic! In my experience the actual weather was almost always in-line with the worst prediction on the multi-models. However they are quite accreate. Compared to higher mountain ranges, being of low-altitude, the chalten Massif, will melt scary fast with a bit of sun / higher temps. Your success will greatly depend on your ability to choose the right objective for the forecast / conditions / you.

Chaltén Objectives:

I'm sitting on the roadside, waiting for a hitch north. The last two months in Chaltén are a blur of happy memories; asados, socialising, peña's, bouldering and lots of mountain missions. It's hard to leave the comfort of this place. The warm hostel, guidebook, weather forecasts,

bars, trekking girls. It all makes Chaltén life comfortable. Now we desire the unknown. The word that means a lot. Adventure.

But before I disappear for a few weeks, into the windswept wilds, searching for untrodden granite or something meaningful, allow me to recount my climbs here, in the Chaltén massive.

My final climb here, I recount the epic tale of Cerro Torre.

After several weeks Paragliding in southern Bolivia (doing some cool exploratory cross country), I felt ready to migrate south. By chance there was an amazing looking weather window. Flights turned out to be expensive, so 57 hrs of buses later, I stumbled into town. Rory (UK) would arrive the following day, so I bought supplies, so as soon as he arrived we could walk straight into Niponino, and attempt Exocet.

After 57 hrs of bus journey, and 12 hours of walking we were both exhausted by the approach, as well as being far too late in the day, we turned around at the top of the glacier.

Unperturbed by our first attempt, we returned during the next window, this time making as far as the chimney of Exocet, only to be shut down by a waterfall of water and debris. Once again too late, and too warm. On our third and final "attempt", during a weather "peephole", we guided two 21 yr old French trekkers to Niponino, which made the horrible weather more passable.

Rory had to leave. A small, poor weather window, brought cold weather, so I teamed up Austin Siadak (USA), and we went and did a surprisingly nice new little line on the unclimbed SW face of Cerro Solo, town to town in 20 hrs. "The French connection" (600m A0, M6, 90°), refers to the reason I had no sleep before our 2am departure.



Rodrigo Lobo Villarreal, my Bolivian compadre arrived into town, we headed into Pedra Negra, with an open plan. We

spied a hard looking unclimbed line on Guillemet's east face. It turned out to be quite tricky as expected, with several hard pitches, up to M7. Amazingly we arrived on to the summit at the same moment as our friends Greg and Maria. It turns out the only 3 (short/hard) pitches of our route are new, as a very similar line was climbed last year.



Another mediocre weather window appeared, & so Rodrigo & myself completed the other obvious line on Cerro Solo's South West face. "Los gringos no comen llajua" (which translates to something like "white guys don't eat spicy Bolivian salsa") M5, 90°, 600m, provided another fun day out in the hills, 19 hrs town to town.

Another mediocre window, this time partnering with Americans JD and Owen (USA), for one last go at Exocet. This time the wind was ripping through col standhart, blowing rime over the mountain. We got a few pitches up the chimney, but a strong shower of spindrift persisted, halting further process.

Cerro Torre



Finally a good weather window, a day and a half without any wind! This was the one I'd been waiting for. Finally a chance to have a go at Cerro Torre.

Having made it to El Elmo (the bivi) halfway up the ragni route on Christmas day 2012 (I didn't go any further as I spent the night vomiting), I was armed with important logistical experience. I think the cruxes of climbing this route are: all the walking, logistics, timing things just right with the weather, and of course the scary rime climbing.

We set off, armed with 6 days of food. Day 1 we walked a few hours up Rio electrico, then sat out the rain until 2pm the next day, when we moved a few more hours up to Paso Marconi. Again we waited for the rain and wind to subside a little, before departing at 10 am and walking across the ice cap, and climbing up to the col de Esperanza.

Here we met the other teams: An Italian party, Romanian, American, and Argentina-bolivia. Despite planning to set off earlier than the others, we somehow slept through our 2am alarm, and therefore set-off behind most teams. I knew this would mean we would probably be spending another night out, and would mean we wouldn't be "opening" the route; digging

though the rime, being the first team up, it would be less work, but I wouldn't be earning Cerro Torre as much.

We set off up the easy lower ice pitches, to El Elmo. The last time I was here we moved together the whole way to the bivi. This time, with Rodrigo not being such a strong ice climber, who also has shit axes and crampons (plus having to wait behind teams in front) it made sense to break it up into pitches.

Patagonia teaches you patience. I'd already waited almost two months for a Cerro Torre window. Now we would have to wait behind the other parties. Normally you must try to move as fast as possible in Patagonian alpinism. Now it would be pointless to try to overtake parties. We wouldn't be able to overtake everyone.

The first taste of rime climbing was out from El Elmo; it's basically like climbing really really bad ice, very insecure, and it feels like you could fall quite easily, but the actual moves are also easy, and the protection often very bad.

Rodrigo then led the moderate mixed pitches which took us to the headwall. The first pitch up the headwall was pure fun; good tools, good protection. The second pitch, instead of going straight up, as you supposed to, I followed where other teams had ventured out left, onto steep rock with a thin covering of rime. It wasn't hard but insecure, and I'm sure you probably would survive a fall, that was scary.

Topping out of the headwall the sun was going down. I climbed an interesting pitch through a steep natural ice tunnel. For some reason I assumed that the next pitch looked easy, and I set off around the corner, without taking the other snow stake....i was rushing. I totally missed a natural tunnel, instead climbing on the outside (much less secure). The final mushroom looked quite steep and I had no protection at all. I put a couple slings over rime horns, but knew that they almost definitely would not hold a fall. Climbing within a few meters from the top of the mushroom, still on steep ground, my rope suddenly went tight. I shouted down though the wind and darkness ("is that you?"). No response. I knew Rodrigo couldn't hear me. And I knew it shouldn't be him, it had only been about 45m. I tugged at the rope. It was stuck. The fierce winds had probably blown it around some rime spikes. I shouted up, my words lost to the wind, to see if another team could hear me. Nothing. I gave the rope a harder pull, and both my foot placements began to fail. Somehow I didn't fall, but I knew that a fall would probably mean death for both of us. I really didn't want to down climb, it just seemed to risky. It seemed like the only option would be to untie, solo up, find another team and return using their rope. I decided to try to give the rope one last tug. Placing my axes and feet as best I could, I gave the rope one last strong pull, and whatever was holding it broke loose. An immense feeling of relief overcame me, I repeated "thank you pachamama" several times.

We dug a small rime cave at the top of the mushroom, alongside most other teams. We had a stove, but no other bivi equipment. We were probably 50 vertical meters from the summit. But the final rime pitch is the hardest, and often takes many hours to dig a tunnel.

At least we had some food, and could make water. But obviously it was a cold sleepless night. By the time we had eaten breakfast and gotten ready, the Romanian team were already setting out on the final mushroom pitch. Thankfully the sun swang round, to warm our cold bodies. There was nothing to do other than watch and wait. It could be worse, what an amazing view! Not often you get to sun bath and wait on Cerro Torre. Well unless your me, then it seems to happen every time....

The Romanian retraced Matt's (USA) attempt from the previous evening, then traversed into the adjacent natural tunnel and began to dig. His psych was impressive, yelling and hollering, as he used the shovel to extend the natural vertical half-pipe. He placed a screw, and began to pull the lip of his tunnel. Then he fell. Something that you shouldn't be able to do on the final pitch of Cerro Torre! But he got away with it. The screw held. He lowered off.

Matty (Argentina) then went up and finished the pitch, climbing smoothly and controlled. At this point we started to get ready. I was assuming we would all be climbing the pitch. Fate had other ideas. Matty had disappeared over the top of the final mushroom. Juvenal (Bolivia) had begun to follow, but I think had fallen. Dangling in space he began to ascend the rope. Which meant that flojo (argentina) had to self belay (using a jug). Then the situation got sketchy. Juvenal started being lowered, in a jerky manor, slack also appearing, in flojo's rope. At this point we began to doubt if Matty even had a belay. I began to imagine terrible outcomes. As flojo then began to down climb, I could imagine him whipping onto his handle accender and de-sheathing the rope, I imagined him then pulling off the entire team, who were in fact attached to most other teams on the mountain: who didn't have much of a belay.

Thankfully, things worked out fine. All teams then began to ascend their fixed ropes to the summit. in total it took around 8 hours. By the time it was our turn to climb the final pitch there was little choice in the matter. Bad weather was on its way, five or so fixed ropes littered the pitch. Some climbers already began to descend the pitch (inevitably knocking off



ice as they came). We would have to jug the rope, like everyone else. It didn't sit right with me. Jugging the final forty meters. It felt like cheating. But waiting any longer for a clear pitch also felt like a really bad decision, (as the wind had already picked up, and we had received a text that a storm was on its way). And it would have been.

Still, getting to the summit, after failing five years earlier felt pretty great. Cerro Torre is a beautiful mountain, with an interesting history. Standing on the summit is a blessing. Even if your good enough, you're lucky to get a good enough window.

Maybe some of you read this and think that it's silly to consider jugging the final 40m as cheating. Maybe it is. By style matters. Actually it's everything. It's easy to murder the impossible, and bring any mountain down to your level. Anyone who doesn't already know, should read about the controversial history surrounding the first ascent of Cerro Torre.

Still we didn't have the easiest ride up the mountain, yes we had people in front, opening the route, and yes we were basically forced to jug the last pitch, but there's also been much easier conditions. There was a hell of a lot of time after a season of terrible weather.

And I've got a good excuse to return.

But next time, (if I'm lucky enough to get a next time), it would be cool to climb the SE ridge, this is the most aesthetic line.



Patagonia Part II: The avellano towers

Summary:

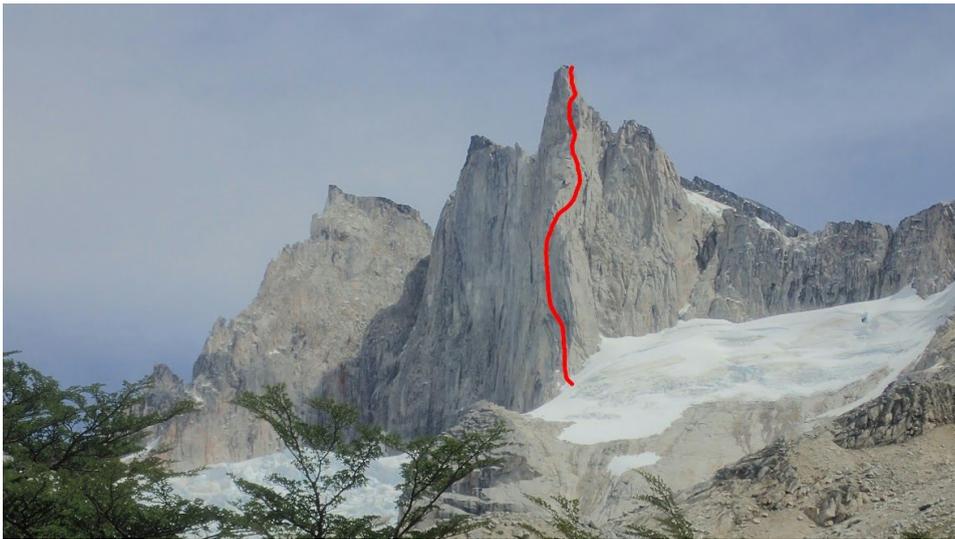
The avellano towers are a group of 7 impressive large granite spires, each fortified by its own glacier, & complex approach through a jungle of lenga forest, nestled in the heart of a mountain range in aysen patagonia.

Despite the excellent quality of granite, and many of the spires having been climbed before, there remains much opportunity for exploration & expedition new routes.

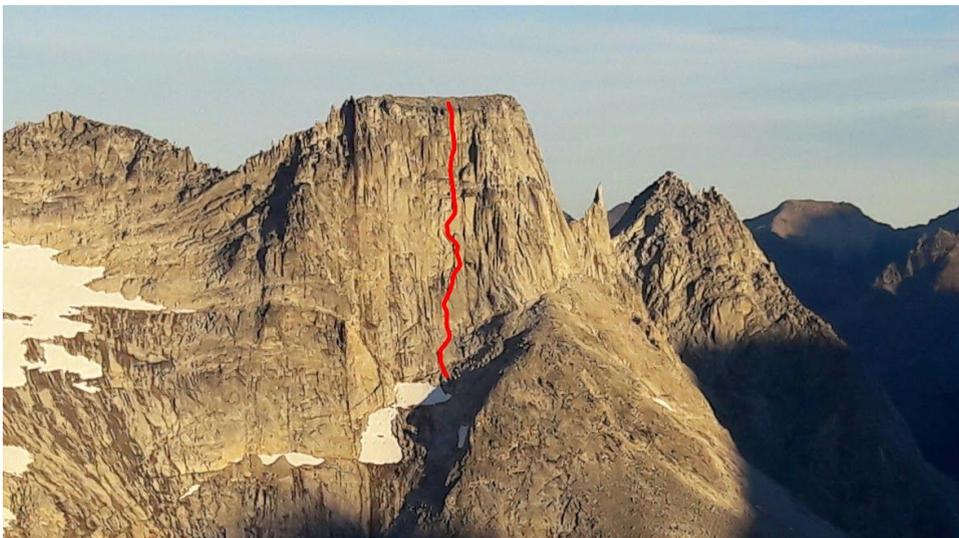
We had a very successful trip, which culminated in an epic single push link-up of all 7 spires via the "skyline traverse".

Objectives Completed: *our routes*

The North Pillar, 5.11+, East Face of Avellano Tower.

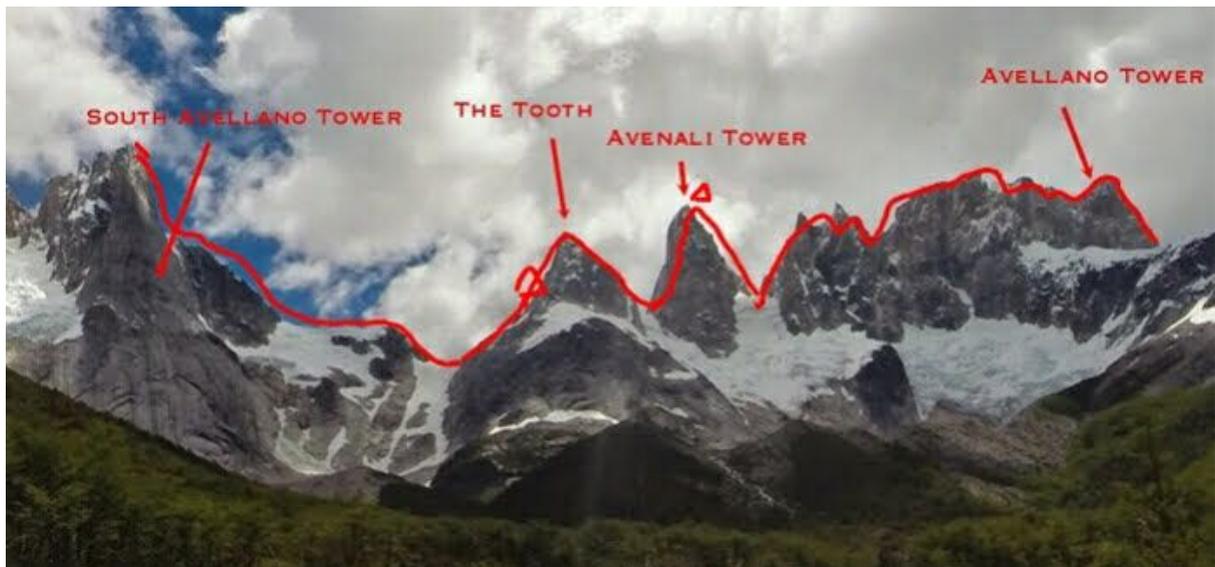


Cerro Square face, E4 / F6c+



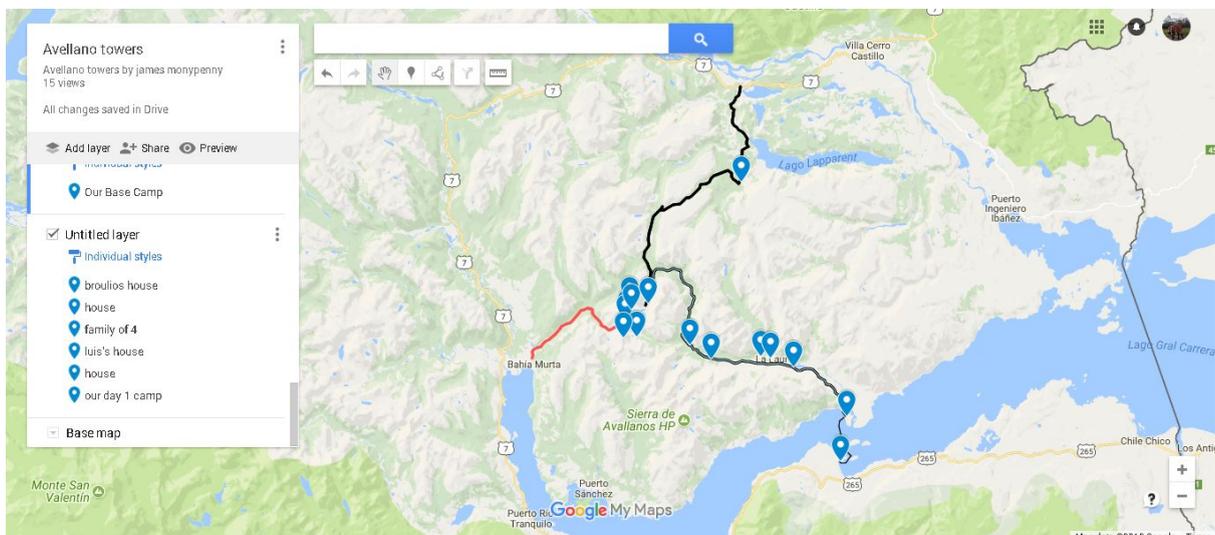
The Skyline traverse, “an epic 3 day link-up of all 7 spires”

This is a hell of an adventure, especially if you endeavour to stick to the real skyline at all times. We encountered pitches up to 5.11+, we ended up soloing about 80% of the ridge.



[Online photo album of our trip](#)

[click map to view online](#)



Approach options:

[Google map](#)

Option 1: Via cerro Castillo, NNE (Our Exit)

[Google earth file here](#)

"The quick option" -our exit route

14.26km, +463m / -643m (if you organise a 4x4 pick up) or 38.8km all the way to road.

Option 2: Via Avellano valley, SE (Our approach)

[Google earth file here](#)

"The inspiring approach" Expensive but recommended for adventure

43km, +1380m -583m, 2 days walking + 1 day approaching via boat, horses all the way to basecamp

From Chile chico car journey to -46.54317, -72.2265 boat departure point, cross lago gral carrera (7km, 20mins). Find "Brulio's house and negotiate horses. 2 days of walking, many river crossings, however no technical terrain.

Option 3: "The original Approach" NE (from Bahia Murta)

[Google earth file here](#)

"Short-ish, but a lot of jungle bashing"

15km to the col. +1731m, -388m.

We didn't do this approach, but hear that it's a bit horrid, with lots of bashing through lenga forest. You can organise horse for the first valley (circa. The first 10km). Would be an ok option for access to the NW basin; i.e. routes on the tooth. Or the south side of avenali tower (we descended this face, and I think it's unclimbed).

[Download ALL KMZ google earth points here](#)

Contacts:

Horses:

Balvlio transco "broulio" [+56989841894](#) Gaucho (horse handler) Option 2 approach

Joaquin Reyes has horses if approaching via Bahia Murta (option 3) [+56962155729](#)

"Luis" has provided horses for previous team, can be reached on radio frequency 411.415, he is contacted by the local council daily from a building just across from the chili chico bus station. But he was going to charge more and go less distance, compared with broulio.

Logistics:

Pascual +56988112535 Local fixer, has helped many previous expeditions with logistics (unavailable to help us).

Boats:

Eugenio Atala +56996470968 Boat owner in chili chico (We crossed with him, expensive, but speaks some english). 350,000pesos one-way.

Gonzal Andreas +56767498730, boat owner in puerto sanchez, would go to avellano valley for 230,000 pesos One-way.

Transport

Most teams arriving internationally will fly to coyhaique. Then would get the bus to either: i) Villa cerro castillo if approaching via option 1. Or ii) get the bus to Puerto Ibanez, then the ferry to chili chico if using Eugenio to cross the lake. Or iii) get the bus to Bahia murta if crossing the lake with Gonzal, or if approaching via the original approach (option 3).

We came from Chalten: Bus to los antiguos, then shared taxi to the border, then either hitchhike the 2km between borders or walk or try to organise a taxi all the way to chili chico.

From Chili chico:

To Coyhaique, 2hrs 30m ferry (8am or 4pm), then 2hrs on the bus.

To Bahia Murta, 185km 4hrs 40m, 1500pesos, change buses at puerto tranquilo (NOT daily).

To puerto tranquilo, 9am or 9.30am, 10,000-15,000 pesos.

Food

We did all our shopping in Chili chico, in a decent sized supermarket.

I can't comment on bahia murta or Castillo...but coyhaique definitely has plenty of supermarkets and outdoor shops.

Gas

Can be purchased in chili chico or Coyhaique

Money

There's ATM's in chili chico

Our dates:

8th february depart from chili chico, 26th february arrive at the road near castillo.

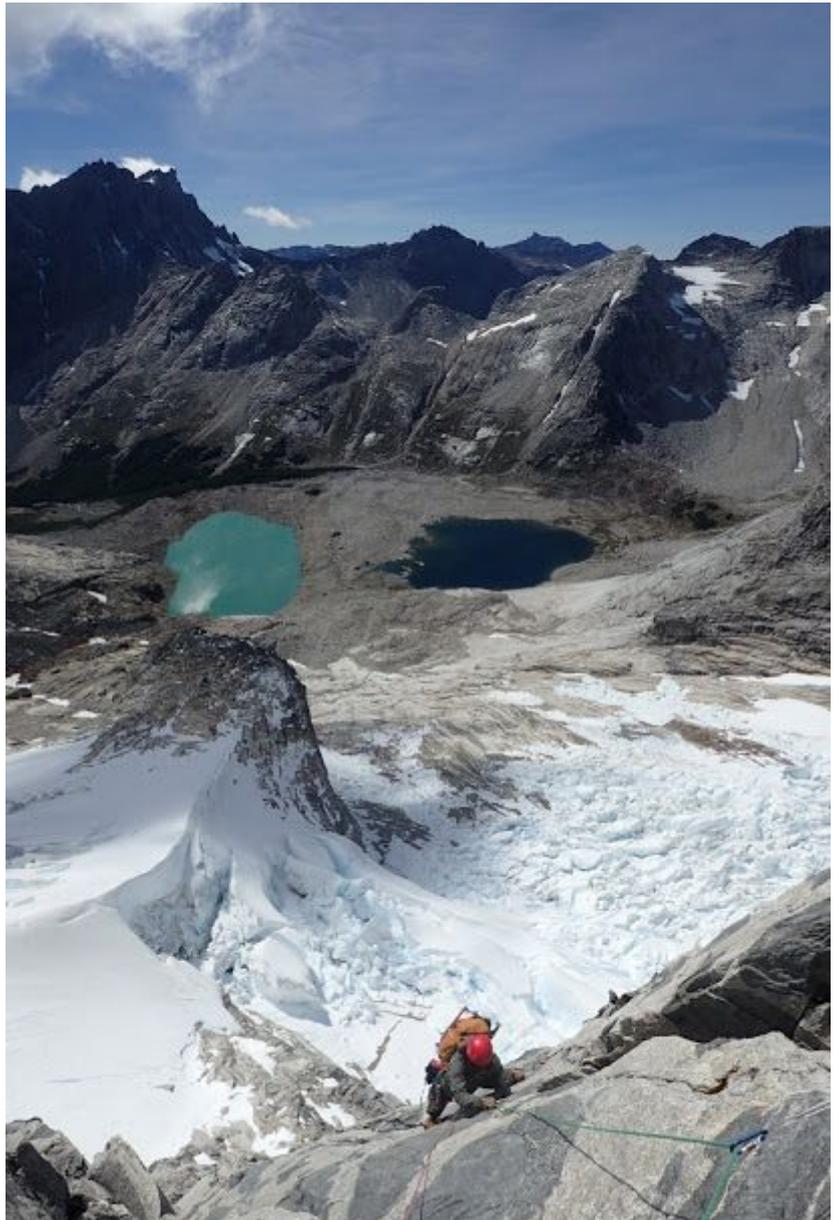
Costs:

Exchange rate: GBP 1£ into

Chilean pesos: 841

Boat: 350,000 pesos

Horses: 250,000 pesos



Food: 390,000 pesos

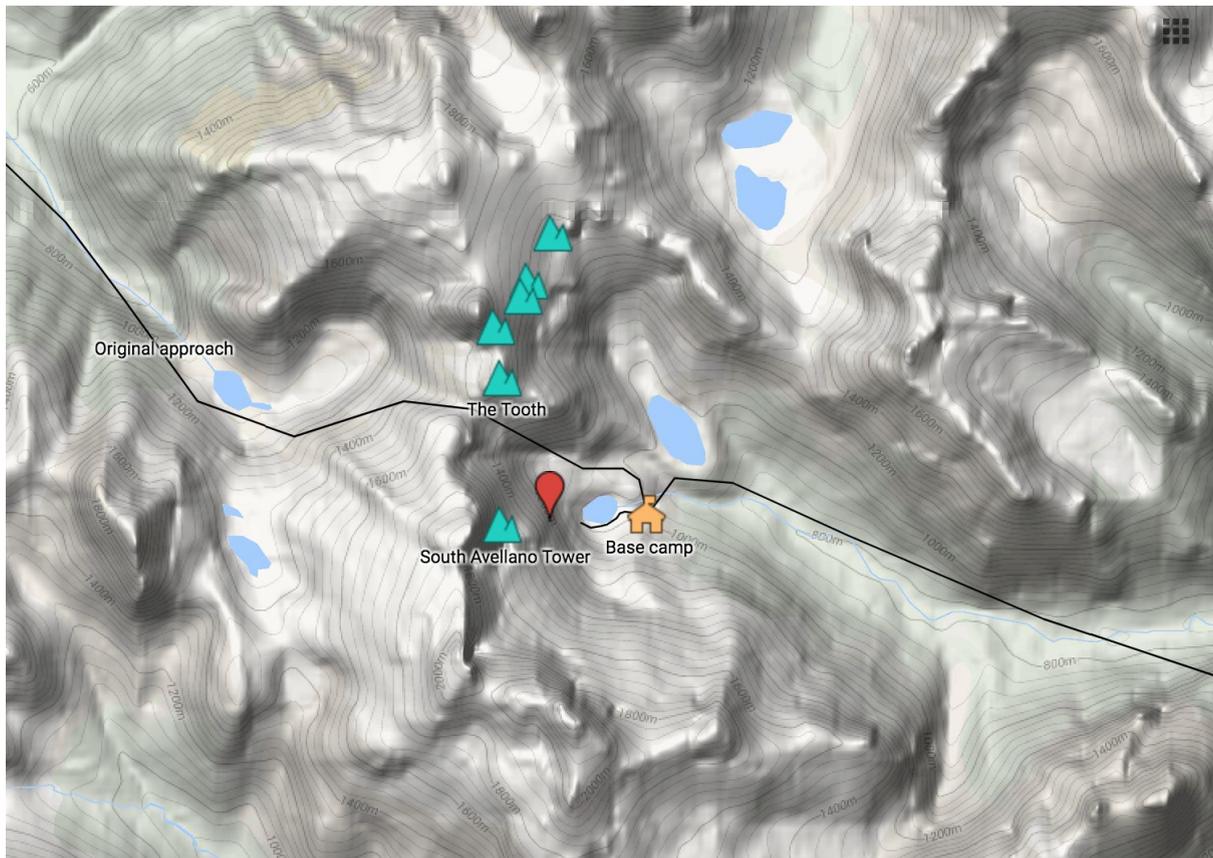
Style

The avellanos are “alpine rock”, most faces require some glacier travel (light crampons and an axe should be fine). Rock quality varies, but there is some very good quality alpine granite around. You're unlikely to see another team, or any sign of previous teams at camp (lets keep it that way!).

Partners:

I was supposed to have a british team, consisting of Tom Nichols, Sam Farnsworth, & Matt Birdekin. However all of them pulled out of the trip about 2 months before.

Therefore I partnered with Rodrigo lobo villarroel (Bolivia) and in support we had Perrin (french) and Lillen (argentinian) who joined us for the first week and remained in basecamp.



Source: Map from gerald spalding's trip

Recent Avellano “Climbing” History: recorded ascents, attempts & explorations

2004 March: Steve Herlihy, Dave Anderson, Ignacio Grez, and Jamie Selda; Photo 1;
Conquistador Ridge (IV 5.10 AI3) on Avellano Tower;

<http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/12200430700/Avellano-Tower-Conquistador-Ridge>

2005: John Bragg, Wes Bunch, Angela Hawse, and Brenton Regan (broken leg ended journey, approached via Bahia Murta)

2005 December: Ignacio Grez & Marcelo Mascerano (attempt at directisma); poor weather.

2006 February: Nacho Grez, Becca Roseberry, Nacho Morales, & Brendan O'Neill; Photo 2; FAs of Avellano pal Verano (360m, TD- IV 5.10) & Dress Rehearsal (IV TD- 5.11-, 400m) both on east face of Avellano Tower; <http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/12200627000/South-America-Argentina-and-Chile-Central-Patagonia-Chile-Allevano-Tower-Avellano-pal-Verano-and-Costumes-Rehearsal>; <http://www.alpinist.com/doc/ALP17/climbing-notes-roseberry>; http://beccaroseberry.blogspot.com/2006_03_01_archive.html

2006: Azier Izaguirre and Xavier Amonárriz (Basque team) attempt

2008: Jim Donnini & Thom Engelbach; FA of Avenali Tower via Avenali Avenue (V 5.11- R A0); <http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/12200824800/South-America-Chile-Central-Patagonia-Avenali-Tower-First-Ascent-Avenali-Avenue>

2014 February: Jim Donnini, Dave Brown & John Crook Tooth Arête (300m, 5.10) on the Tooth (found rap tat at summit) (Photo 4) & Crown Jewels (800m, 5.11-) on Avenali Tower; <https://crookclimbing.wordpress.com/2014/12/04/undiscovered-patagonia/>; <http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/13201212839/Avellano-Towers-The-Tooth-Crown-Tower>

2014 November 16: Sebastian Rojas, Rodolfo (Fito) Torrens and Manuel Medina; Photo 3; Arroz con leche y candela (400m, 11+, sexto Mixto) Ascent on northern tower (This route went up in vicinity of 2006 routes); Also partial route on ridge to south, seven or so pitches; <http://chileclimbers.cl/2015/01/06/escalada-alpinamontanismo-ascensos-destacados-del-2014/>

2014 December: Dave Brown, Will Harris, Andy Reeves & John Crook; South Avellano Tower attempt; 250m on NE prow. <http://willharrisclimbing.blogspot.com/2015/01/avellano-towers-patagonia-2014.html> & http://daveebrown.blogspot.com/2015_02_01_archive.html

2014: Spanish expedition that experienced a fatality; <http://www.escalando.org/2014/12/accidente-en-la-cordillera>

2015 January: Dave Anderson, Matt Hartman, Szu-ting Yi, and Jared Spaulding on South Avellano Tower attempt (400m 5.10- R (@5.7); FRA North Ridge of The Tooth (100m 5.7); FA of The Tooth via Filo Suroeste (305m 5.10) Photo 4. http://nols.blogs.com/nols_news/2015/02/educator-expedition-south-avellano-tower.html

2017 January, british/irish team, Will sim, John crook & co. FA south face of South Avellano tower: https://www.ukclimbing.com/news/2018/03/british_and_irish_first_ascents_in_chilean_patagonia-71498

Various NOLS courses throughout the years

Existing Topo's:



Photo 1. Avellano Tower; *Conquistador Ridge*; Courtesy of Dave Anderson



Photo 3. Avellano Tower; *Arroz con Leche y Candela*; Courtesy of Rodolfo (Fito) Torrens

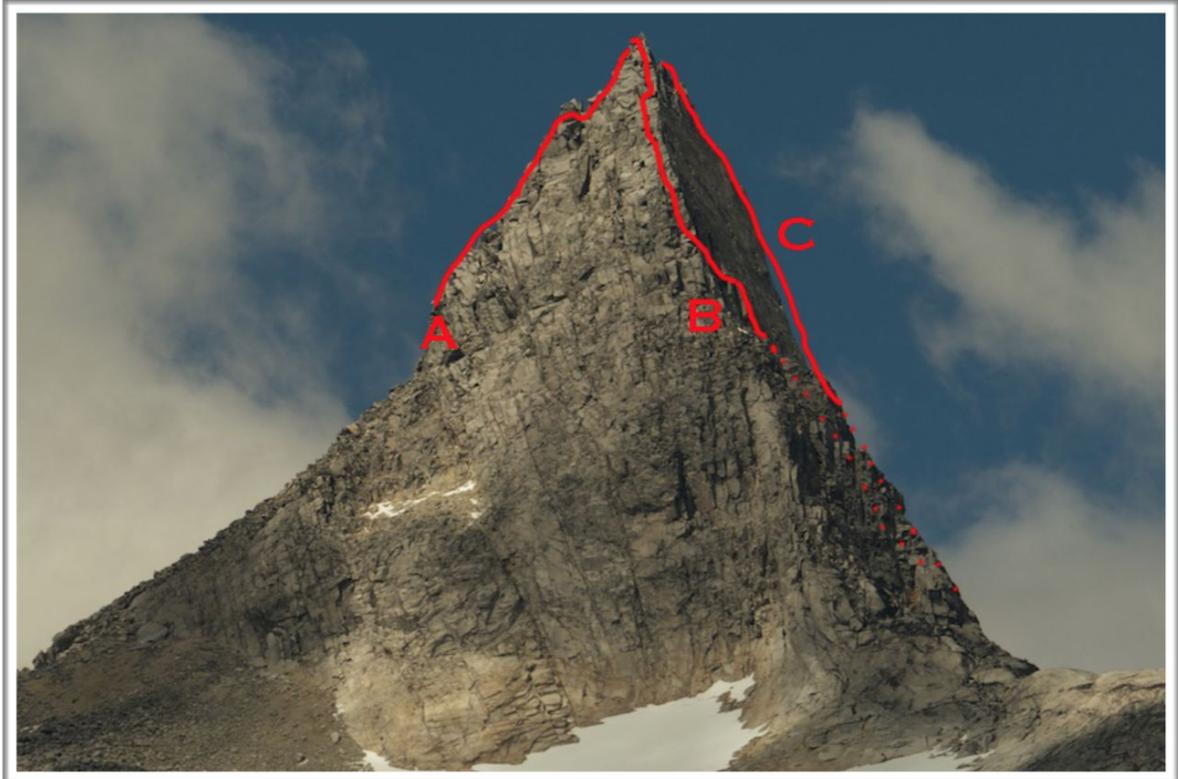
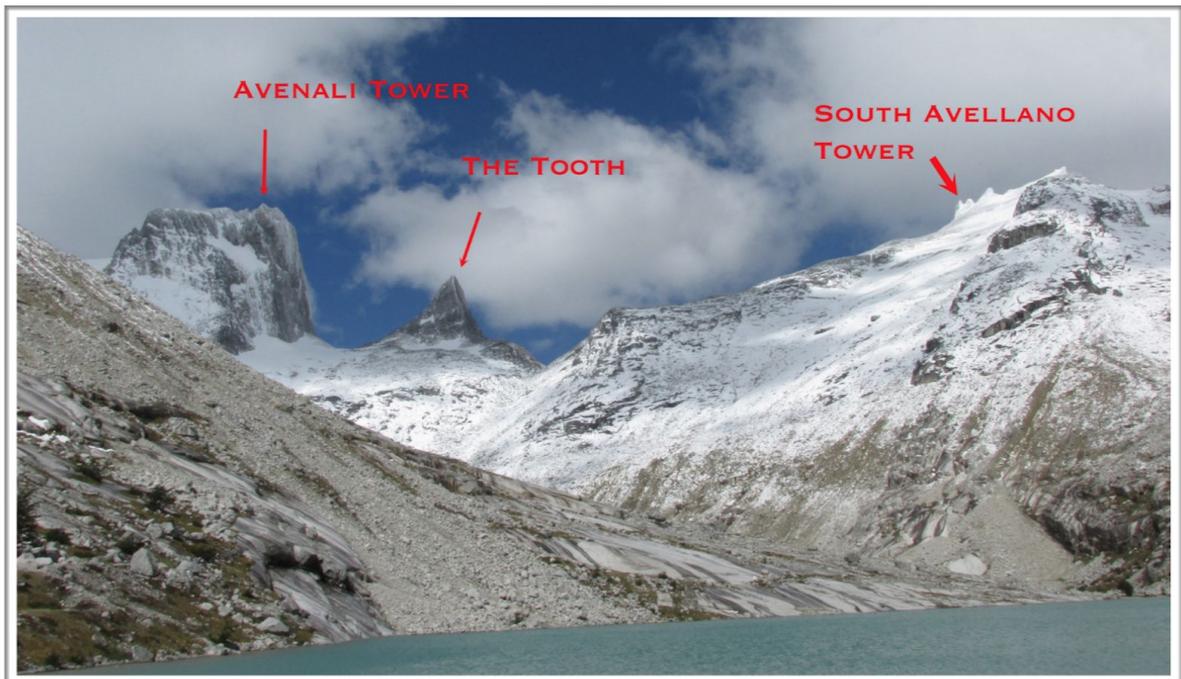


Photo 4. The Tooth (east aspect) (A) *North Ridge (variations)* FA Unknown. (B) *Filo Suroeste*. (C) Possible line of *Tooth Arete*. Courtesy of Dave Anderson



The Avellano Towers from the east (Rio Avellanos approach). Courtesy of Dave Brown



The Avellanos from the west (Bahia Murta approach)

Blog post coming soon: Check the blog!

Other options:

We visited Cerro Colorado, a fantastic sandstone crack climbing crag, 1hr drive and 4hr walk from Chili Chico, high quality cracks, well worth a visit.



Cerro Colorado: high quality splitters.

Finish!

Thank you for reading this epic report, should you require any more information then please let me know!

James.

jamesgybbonmonypenny@gmail.com

Meet the Author (and their previous experience)



James Monypenny, 30, British, Freelance Outdoor instructor / Expedition Leader.

“When he isn't taking school kids trekking somewhere adventurous, James enjoys disappearing to remote mountains for many months and doing new routes on good rock, ice and mixed”

Notable climbing achievements:

Chinese Sichuan 2016, First ascent of Hutsa 5800m, by two new routes: Yak attack 1000m M5, AI 5 & 'Holographic Jesus 950m AI 6 and a repeat of Bird peak 5700m E3, M4.

<http://www.planetmountain.com/en/news/alpinism/mt-hutsa-peak-5912m-new-international-climbs-in-china-sichuan.html>

Attempt on twin peak II & Tangra tower Pakistan:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=JzQvpozuBhw&time_continue=2

Indian Karakoram 2013: First ascent of Jungdung Kangri 6160m (3 new routes, up to ED1) for which we gained a long list nomination for the Pilot d'or mountaineering awards.

<http://gripped.com/news/first-ascent-canadian-cory-hall-climbs-jungdung-kangri-6160m/>

Peru and Bolivia (2012): Urus, Ishinca (solo), Cordillera Blanca. Huayna Potosi 6088m (twice, once French route, then normal route + paraglider).

Patagonia (2012/13): Fitzroy, supercandeleta. Aguja Guillaumet, Brenner-Moschioni. Aguja Poincenot, Whillans-Cochrane.

Cochamo: 3 best lines were: Al Centro y Adentro 5.11c 1500 feet, Bienvenidos a mi

Insomnio 5.11a 3000 feet, Las Manos del Dia 5.11+ 1800 feet

Big wall, Yosemite 2011: The nose (3days), Regular NW half dome (2 days), SW face of Washington Colom (2 days). +many free routes.

Expedition to Kyrgyzstan 2010;. <http://kyrgyzstanexpedition2010.blogspot.com>

3 virgin peaks + 1 new route

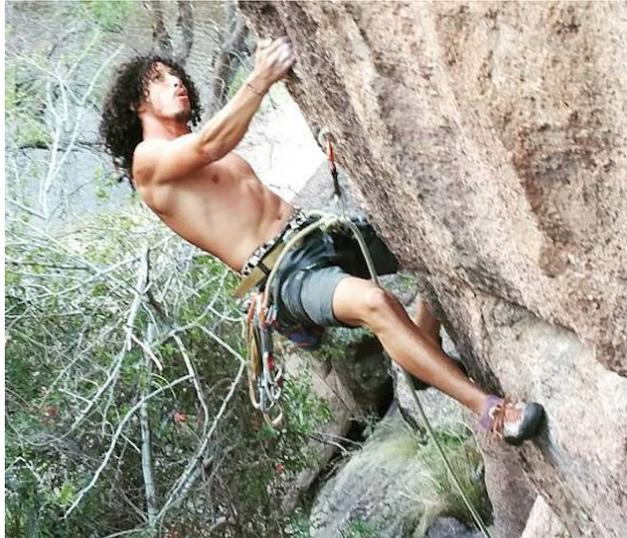
4 Alpine summers, 1 alpine winter trip

42 alpine routes in the European alps PD-ED1.

Areas include: Mont blanc massif, Bernese oberland, Swiss valorise, ecrins, Grand Paradise national park. Notable routes include: The shroud, Super Coulior, Central Pillar of Frêne, y,

Voie Suisse (grand cap), Hornli ridge, frendo spur.
On-sight grades approx.: E4, F7b+, 5.12+, M6, WI 6, Scottish 6, A2+.

A little about my partners:



Rodrigo Lobo Villarroel, 28, mountain guide - Paragliding tandem Pilot.

Patagonia:

Guillomet, Fitzroy, Poincenot, Exupery, S' , Media Luna.

Bolivia:

Normal Route to the 13 6000 meters mountains.

new route to north peak of illampu, new route on italian peak(huayna potosi) new route in jankosiri, new route in tunari's south face, new route in piruhata's south face. huyana potosi french route, west face, italian peak + south ridge and traverse of hayna potosi, south face of illimanani

[http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/13201213196/Warawarani-I-Southwest-Fa
ce](http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/13201213196/Warawarani-I-Southwest-Fa
ce)

[http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/13201213847/Jakoceri-Southwest-Face-N
ever-Ending-Story](http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/13201213847/Jakoceri-Southwest-Face-N
ever-Ending-Story)

[http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/13201213843/Pico-Italia-East-Face-AI-Fo
ndo-Hay-Sitio-New-Pico-ItaliaHuayna-Potosi-Link-Up](http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/13201213843/Pico-Italia-East-Face-AI-Fo
ndo-Hay-Sitio-New-Pico-ItaliaHuayna-Potosi-Link-Up)



Harry Mcghie

29yrs, outdoor instructor. Harry joined me for the first 6 weeks in peru bolivia. He's fun!



Rory Harrison

British, 27yrs, outdoor guide in Iceland. Rory joined me for several weeks in Chalten, but then had to cut his trip short. We had too many unsuccessful attempts at Exocet!



Austin Siadak

USA, 30yrs, Climbing Photographer. Austin and I teamed up for the first ascent of the SW face of cerro solo; making the most of a bad weather window in chalten.