



AAC Publications

Palzampiu Valley, Likir (5,619m GPS), east flank; Nia (5,681m GPS) west ridge

India, Ladakh

In August I traveled to Ladakh and climbed two previously virgin peaks on the southern rim of the Palzampiu Valley. My goal had been to reach the restricted area of the Siachen Glacier, but all expeditions, including one from the Indian Air Force, were denied a permit. Two of my team members then pulled out, leaving me to set off alone.

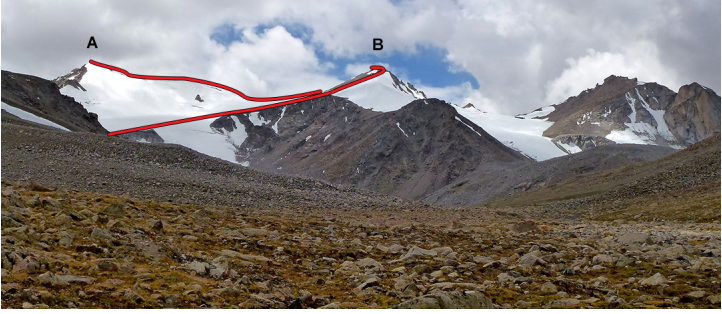
On arrival in Leh, Rimo Expeditions provided me with a climbing partner, Thinles, and cook Dawa. We started our approach on August 30, crossing the Lasirmu La (5,550m) to the Thanglasgo Valley. We descended this north to the confluence with the Palzampiu at Wachan, then walked southwest up the Palzampiu. After seven days' trekking we established a base camp at 5,086m.

On September 6 we set off at 3:40 a.m. and reached the glacier from the north. Working west up gentle slopes (PD), we reached the first summit, Likir Peak (34°22.717'N; 77°17.268'E), at 6:40 a.m. We named it after the pass to the southwest, Likir La (ca 5,560m). One hour later we had traversed the ridge to our second summit, Nia Peak (34°22.377'N; 77°17.747'E). This was also named after a nearby pass, the Nia La (ca 5,400m), located to the northeast. We reversed the ridge toward Likir Peak to descend.

With a little time to spare, we relocated to the Markha Valley and climbed Kang Yatse West (6,200m) before making it back to Leh on the 14th for beers and curry.

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Images



Likir and Nia Peaks.

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