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Kang Yissay Range, Cha Ri (ca 6,046m)

India, Ladakh

A small British party made, more or less, the first ascent of a previously unnamed 6,000m peak in the range running southeast from Kang Yissay (6,400m). They stopped eight meters below the summit, beneath a very rotten cone of rock.

Led by Douglas Briton, the three-member expedition focused on a little-visited range of largely nontechnical mountains accessed from the Leh-Manali Military Road. After leaving the Indus, the road runs through the Gya Gorge and past the old monastery of Gya, about 70km from Leh. Here, the expedition set up base camp.

It took the team five days to reach the foot of the Yabat Glacier, where they established an advanced base. Caroline McCann and Matthew Jones climbed a nearly snow-free, unnamed mountain in a 13-hour round trip. While the lower flanks were loose scree, the upper section held solid red granite, giving enjoyable climbing, except for the final summit pyramid. At their high point the GPS recorded 6,038m, and from this they deduced the summit to be 6,046m. They called the peak Cha Ri (Mountain of the Flying Bird); a lammergeier was seen circling the top most days.

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Images

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