



AAC Publications

Ak-su, Ortotyubek, South Face, Atlantide

Kyrgyzstan, Pamir Alai, Karavshin

Matteo De Zaiacomo and I flew to Batken in southern Kyrgyzstan in mid-June and trekked two days to our base camp in the Ak-su Valley. The next day we checked out the south face of Ortotyubek (a.k.a. Ortotubek or Central Pyramid, 3,850m), and on June 24 we did the first ascent of Atlantide (700m, 6c+/7a) toward the right side of the face. We climbed onsight and left only one peg. During the last part we endured a thunderstorm, but we made it to the southeast ridge and descended at night from there, without going to the summit, returning to base camp after 22 hours.

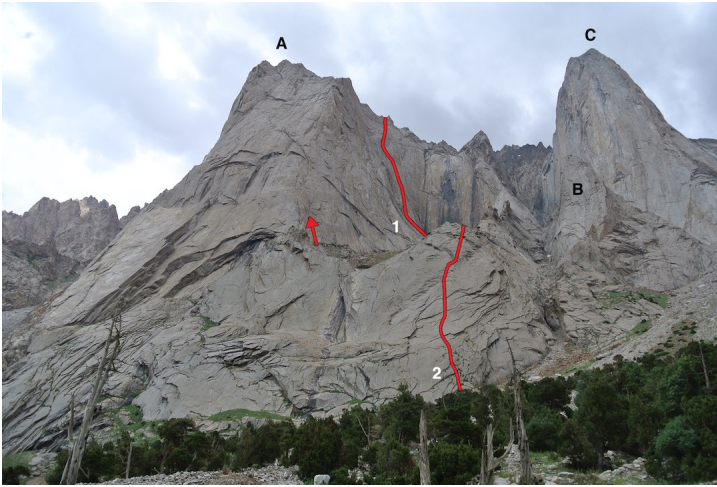
We then attempted a previously climbed route, following the buttress on the left side of the same wall, but we didn't finish because of another thunderstorm. We climbed 500m, up to 7b, over two days, using a variation to avoid a blankwall. This route had many holes where bolts had been removed.

[Editor's note: This is likely the southwest arête, established by a French team in the mid-1990s and free climbed at 5.12a, with variations, by Steph Davis and Kennan Harvey in 1997.]

After repeating a route on the Petit Tour Rousse and the Perestroika Crack on Peak Slesov (a.k.a. Russian Tower, 4,240m), I soloed a new route on July 15, the day before leaving base camp, on the lower part of Ortotyubek. I called it La Bolla (230m, 6b) and climbed it in three hours, self-belayed with a Megajul. Nice slabs and flakes.

Luca Schiera, Italy

Images



West side of (A) Central Pyramid and (C) Peak Slesov, showing (1) Atlantide (700m, 6c+/7a) and (2) La Bolla (230m, 6b), both climbed in 2014. Many other routes are not shown, including the southwest arête of Central Pyramid (arrow marks start), the famed Perestroika Crack (near right skyline of Slesov), and three routes on the west face of (B) Petit Tour Rousse.



Atlantide, the "end of the crack."



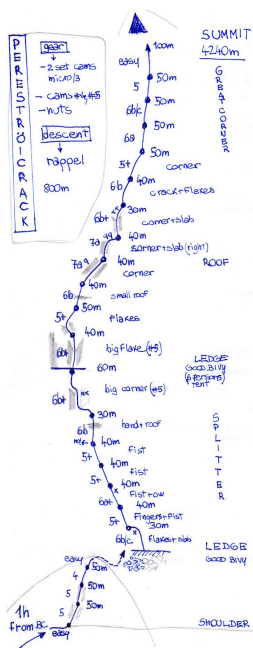
Bouldering at base camp.



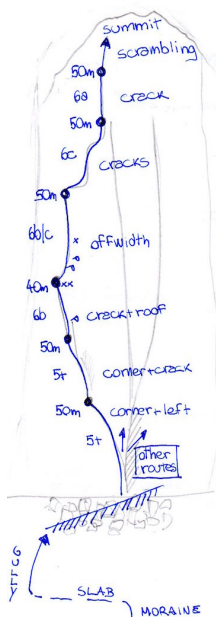
Topo for La Bolla.



Topo for Atlantide on Ortotyubek.



Topo for Perestroika.



PETIT TOUR ROUSSE

It's the tower below the Russian Tower.
There are three routes (left to right)
6c (top), 6b+, 6br.
Start from a corner.

APPROACH: 1h from BC
right then left in a gully

DESCENT: bolted anchors on the
route in the middle

FRENCH ROUTE

Big crack on the left

280m, 6c

GEAR: cams 03/5 (6)
+cams 05/2

Topo for le Petit Tour Rousse.

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