



AAC Publications

Gongkala Shan, Kwarani I, North Face

China, Sichuan

We were attracted to the Garze Tibetan Autonomous Region by Tom Nakamura's map depicting "Sichuan's most outstanding unclimbed peaks." One of these was Kwarani I (5,992m). From the road head near Garze town, to the northern side, we walked for two days through occasional deep snow to gain a camp below the north face. On February 20 we climbed the face, up and down in a single day, moving unroped on 45–50° snow the entire way.

Editor's note: In 2005 British mountaineers attempted to gain access to the southern side of the Kwarani peaks, but after establishing an advanced camp at 4,800m, they were told to leave by a group of monks from the lower village. In 2007 a second British party failed to gain permission due to religious celebrations. In 2011 Japanese were granted a permit, but on arrival in China discovered this had been rescinded.

Marcos Costa and **Bruce Normand**, China

Images



Bruce Normand during the first ascent of Kwarani I.



North Face of Kwarani I with the route of first ascent.

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