



Dzhangi-tau, Southwest Face, Kartvelishvili Route with Variant

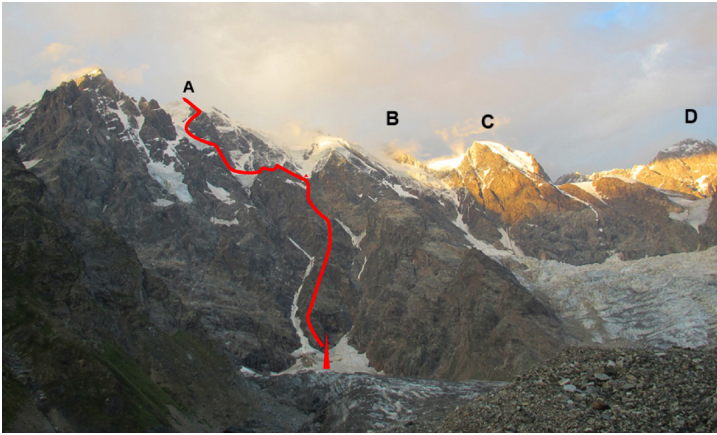
Georgia, Caucasus

From August 19–22, 2015, Giorgi Tepnadze, Levan Tsibadze, and I climbed the Kartvelishvili Route on the southwest face of Dzhangi-tau (a.k.a. Jangi-tau or Janga, 5,058m, the second-highest peak in the Georgian Caucasus), creating a new variant of at least 150m, with sections of ice to 90°. First climbed in 1965, the Kartvelishvili Route had only been repeated once, in 1978.

Starting from the town of Mestia, we camped on the glacier at 2,750m, then twice on the face, at 4,340m and 4,630m. From the summit, we traversed the crest of the Bezingi Wall to the east (over Jangi East) to 4,800m Sandro Pass, from which we descended an icefall to the south. The weather was awful throughout, probably the harshest we've experienced on a mountain ascent. The 2,300m route was Russian 5B, 5c AI5.

– Archil Badriashvili, Georgia

Images



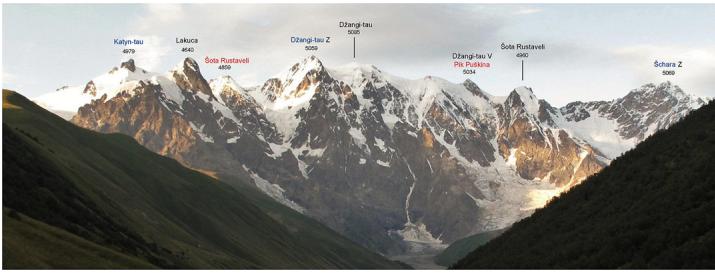
The southwest face of Dzhangi-tau (5,058m) and neighboring summits. (A) Dzhangi-tau. (B) Dzhangi-tau East. (C) Shota Rustaveli. (D) Foresummit of Shkhara West. Between C and D lies Sandro Pass, used in descent by the 2015 team. The Kartvelishvili Route with the 2015 Georgian variation is marked, following more ice than the first-ascent party on the upper wall. Of the handful of routes on the south side of Dzhangi-tau, this is the only one to climb directly to the summit.



Climbing on the lower section of the Kartvelishvili Route on the southwest face of Dzhangi-tau.



A steep icefall on the upper southwest face of Dzhangi-tau, the crux of the new 2015 Georgian variation.



The central part of the Bezingi Wall from the southwest. Tadeáš Gregor – Vlastní dílo, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19637461>

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