



## AAC Publications

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### Kashkaratash Valley, Several Ascents

Kyrgyzstan, At Bashi Range

**After a trip to the Terskey Ala-too with Callum Nelson, he had to return to Europe, so I decided to continue alone to the At-Bashi.** With my excellent ITMC driver Sasha, I came in from the south and chose a final destination as we approached: the Kashkaratash (a.k.a. Koshkaram) Basin. From my base camp I climbed a small, rocky peak to the south of the main range (4,089m, 40.910318°N, 75.769922°E), picking an interesting route through the crags on the north-northwest face.

Moving camp up to the mostly easterly glacier of the basin, I hoped to climb several snowy peaks. However, I was turned back on two occasions by bitterly cold north wind: Mid-October is a lot colder than September. Eventually, on the 10th, I found a good west-facing ice couloir on the south ridge of Pik 4,727m that was totally sheltered from the wind. (This mountain, also called Pik James Bruton, 40.962308°N, 75.797506°E, was climbed in 2014 from the same glacier basin via the south flank.) After an initial 20m section of 70° ice, good mixed climbing and ice steps gained an upper snowfield. After a height gain of 450m (according to the Russian map), I stopped just below the crest when the snow turned to mush. On my final day I hiked up steep death choss to the south summit of Pik 4,529m (40.945549°N, 75.811574°E).

On the drive out we decided to take the less-traveled southern road toward Torugart Pass. It is old and pretty much impassable from 40.744019°N, 75.992417°E. At this point it was necessary to cross the river and use an indistinct track. This might prove very difficult in wet season or high summer.

– Emily Ward, Alpine Club, U.K.

## Images



The east face of the highest mountain in the At Bashi Range, unclimbed Pik 4,788.9m, looking very wintry in October 2016.

Article Details

Author	Emily Ward
Publication	AAJ
Volume	59
Issue	91
Page	269
Copyright Date	2017
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions