



AAC Publications

Oje Punta, West Couloir Direct

Peru, Cordillera Vilcanota

On July 9, 2017, I climbed a probable new route on the west aspect of Oje Punta (5,386m), also known as Lliani, in the eastern Cordillera Vilcanota.

I left the Ausangate base camp at 5:30 a.m., carrying a pair of rock climbing shoes and a small daypack, and jogged down the valley to the tiny settlement of Huchuy Finaya (4,500m). Crossing to the east side of the Pitumarca drainage, I gained the nearest ridge to the south; I scrambled along this rocky crest for half an hour and then descended 50m to the east to reach the peak's southwest cirque (ca 5,100m).

My scramble up the central couloir ascended scree and glacier-polished slabs, with the uppermost 100m presenting steeper rock. At the knife-edge summit ridge, I moved northward, passing many precarious gendarmes. I downclimbed my route and made it back to Huchuy Finaya just before noon, in time for my ride.

I call my route the West Couloir Direct (250m, PD 5.4). Despite its proximity to the Ausangate trekking circuit, climbing activity on this peak has not been well documented since its first known ascent (AAJ 1981). Although guide agencies have taken groups up the gentler north side (see link), it is unlikely that the rugged west aspect has seen many ascents, if any.

– Derek Field, Canada

Images



Derek Field on the summit of Oje Punta (5,836m).



A mountain caracara perched on the summit ridge of Oje Punta (5,386m). In the background are (left to right) Concha de Caracol, Puca Punta, Ccapana, and Callangate.



Photo-topo for the West Couloir Direct (250m, PD 5.4) on Oje Punta (5,386m).



Looking northeast from the summit of Oje Punta (5,386m). In the background, the major peaks from left to right are: (A) Ausangate (B) Mariposa (C) Jampa II (D) Jampacito (E) Jampa I (F) Tinquí [commonly spelled "Tinki"] (G) Caracol (H) Concha de Caracol (I) Puca Punta (J) Ccapana (K) Callangate [commonly spelled Cayangate].

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