



AAC Publications

Picacho Kasiri, East to West Traverse

Bolivia, Cordillera Real

After an aborted attempt on a west-east traverse of the Picacho Kasiri summits with Juan Gabriel Estellano in 2020 (AAJ 2021), I returned on July 9, 2021, with Marcelo Gomez to attempt the traverse in the opposite direction. As the two main summits are located on the eastern side of the range, the views down to the cloud-covered Amazon basin and up toward the glacier-covered Huayna Potosi and Tiquimani are spectacular.

We hiked 1.5 hours from the road to reach the base of the east ridge and started up it at 8:30 a.m., simul-climbing on gradually more difficult terrain. We enjoyed a final 200m steep ridge to reach Picacho Kasiri East (5,181m). We then had to cross two additional lower summits, where we had to rappel twice, before continuing up the ridge to Picacho Kasiri West (5,172m).

The crux was the start of the descent of the west ridge of Picacho Kasiri West, as we decided to downclimb a 60m pitch (probably UIAA V). Then, after watching three adult condors soar close to the summit, we made a 50m rappel to reach easier terrain. We arrived at the lake between Picacho Kasiri and Pucusani at dusk, after 10.5 hours of climbing with only a few breaks. Even though the rock wasn't always good, the steeper sections offered fine climbing, and the whole undertaking proved to be a beautiful, fun, and diverse adventure.

— **Alexander von Ungern, Andean Ascents, Bolivia**

Images



Marcelo Gomez at the first promontory on the east ridge of Picacho Kasiri, looking at the traverse ahead. Picacho Kasiri East appears as the highest summit on the right, with Picacho Kasiri West behind and to the left. The two minor tops in between are barely visible.



Marcelo Gomez on the second minor top between Picachio Kasiri East and West. Picachio Pucusani is the left foreground, while the distant snow peak is Huayna Potosi.



Marcelo Gomez descending to the belay after downclimbing the (crux) 60m pitch from Picacho Kasiri West.



Three adult condors circle over the summit of Picacho Kasiri West. The descent was along the wall on the left side of the arête facing the camera. (See photos in AAJ 2021.)

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