



AAC Publications

Kyrkchilta, New Variation, Solo

Kyrgyzstan, Pamir Alai, Karavshin, Ak-Su Valley

During an expedition in the summer of 2022, I speed-soloed the east side of Kyrkchilta (a.k.a. 1,000 Years of Russian Christianity, 4,507m) via a long variation to the Potankin Route (southeast are te, Russian 6A, 1991). I followed the prominent ridgeline to the right of the Potankin start for about 2,500'. To my surprise, it was mostly low 5th class, but with difficulties up to 5.9. My route joined the Potankin at the base of the 2,000' headwall. I reached the summit after eight hours on the route and descended the French Rib over the course of the next day, with many rappel complications, for a 30-hour round trip from camp.

I also soloed the Nazarov Route (Russian 5B) on Pik 4,810m (a.k.a. Pik Odessa) in 3.5 hours (15 hours camp to camp). For both of these ascents, I utilized a hybrid style, free soloing the easier terrain (90 percent of the climbing) and bumping one or two tethered pieces with me while free climbing on the harder sections.

— **Andrew Pittman, USA**

Images



Andrew Pittman on top of Pik Kyrkchilta after a solo ascent of the east side by a new variation to the Potankin Route. The view is to the south, with the huge tower of Pik 4,810m in the foreground and Pik Piramidalny in back on the right.



The east side of Pik Kyrkchilta (a.k.a. 1,000 Years of Russian Christianity), showing the line soloed by Andrew Pittman in 2022. The line joined the Potankin Route (southeast arête, Russian 6A, 1991) at approximately mid-height. Pittman descended the French Rib, farther to the right. Pik Kotina is to the right.



Approximate line of the Nazarov Route on Pik 4,810m (a.k.a. Pik Odessa).

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