



AAC Publications

Pico Milluni, North Summit, Northeast Face; Chaupi Orco Ascent

Bolivia, Cordillera Real

On August 24, Gregg Beisly and I climbed a short new route up the northeast face of the northern summit of Pico Milluni (ca 5,450m), following a prominent corner system (4 pitches, New Zealand 21). However, the main goal of my visit to Bolivia was to climb Chaupi Orco (6,044m), on the border with Peru in the Cordillera Apolobamba, which I achieved with Gregg, Andy Baker (USA), and Ronaldo Choque Camargo (Bolivia), thus completing an almost 30-year project to summit the dozen 6,000m peaks in Bolivia. Climate change, resulting in collapsing glaciers, is nowhere more apparent than in the Andes, and this has turned the traditionally straightforward ascent of Chaupi Orco into a demanding climb.

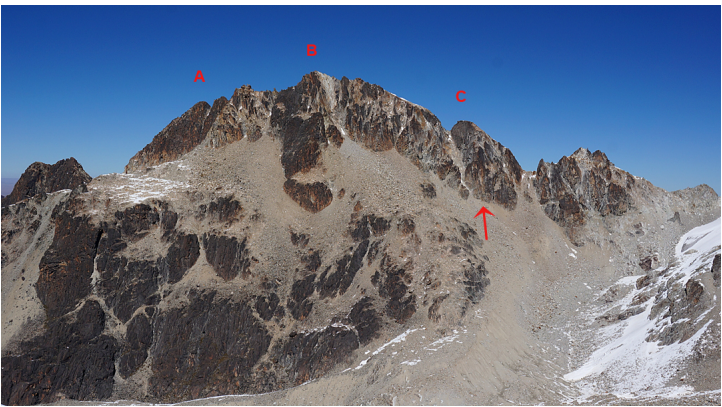
Before Chaupi Orco, I climbed Huayna Potosí (6,088m), six days after leaving New Zealand. Loss of glacier on the final section of the normal route from the east means this ascent now traverses snow and ice fields south across the east face, around 150m below the top, before cutting up to the final section of the summit (north) ridge. I opted to climb loose rock on the north buttress to an elegant, steep, 50m layback crack, leading more directly to the summit.

—Erik Monasterio, New Zealand

Images



The northeast face of the north summit of Pico Milluni with the 2023 route.



The Pico Milluni massif from the east, showing the (A) south, (B) central (main, 5,500m), and (C) north summits. The south summit holds many rock routes. The line of the 2023 route on the north summit is indicated.



Erik Monasterio in the corner system of the new route on the north summit of Pico Milluni.



Gregg Beisly on the second pitch (NZ 21) of the new route on the north summit of Pico Milluni.



Erik Monasterio moving onto the summit ridge of Chaupi Orco in the Cordillera Apolobamba.

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