



AAC Publications

Lochari, north ridge; Rimuza, north face

China, Tibet, Gangdise Range

The unclimbed north face of Jungmai Xuewai Kangri seen from Rutog.

Photo by Zhou Taozhu

In August 2024, I made the first recorded ascent of Lochari (6,090m, 33°16'51.03"N, 79°48'11.91"E) from the north. This peak is located in the Gangdise Range in far western Tibet, close to the China National Highway 219 and less than 15 kilometers southeast of Rutog town, which itself is less than 10 kilometers south of Pangong Lake, a large area of water above 4,000 meters spanning Tibet and Indian Ladakh. The peak is an east-southeasterly outlier of 6,223-meter Junmai Xuewai Kangri (a.k.a. Gyoimaixoi'og Kangri).

In August 2024, I had planned to attempt Junmai Xuewai Kangri, which may never have been climbed, but with limited time the weather allowed only a single summit day. I chose the independent east peak, Lochari (this is my phonetic romanization of the Chinese name as it appears on the Gaode/Amap), as a good reconnaissance for the ultra-prominent main summit. To my knowledge, there were no previous recorded ascents or summit photos of Lochari.

At 1 p.m. on August 23, I began my ascent at around 4,550 meters on a dirt road north of the mountain. Scree slopes took me to 5,700 meters, where I reached the broad crest of the north ridge. From there to the summit was sustained scrambling over mostly stable boulder fields. Just below the summit was a small snowfield. I reached the top in just under six hours from the car, then descended mostly by a broad gully west of the ridge, rejoining my ascent route at 5,200 meters.

The summit is a broad, rocky plateau, and the highest point had no cairns or prayer flags. However, around 50 meters away and on a platform about five meters lower was wedged a thin bamboo pole. Local residents said military personnel sometimes climb nearby peaks, which may explain the pole. The vertical gain had been 1,550 meters and the grade PD-.

In August 2025, I climbed another peak farther east in the Gangdise Range. Rimuza (ca 6,180m, 30°7'26.56"N, 85°6'22.29"E) is the most prominent snow summit directly above the Laqiong La (5,830m), which is crossed by a poor road and is often cited as the highest motorable pass in China.

The peak appears as a striking white wing of snow and glacier above a dark scree cone and is probably one of the easiest 6,000-meter peaks in China with a prominence of more than 250 meters. Its isolation is also around four kilometers from an unnamed ca 6,260-meter peak to the northwest. There is a slightly higher snow summit to the northwest at 6,295 meters, and this was my original objective, but an earlier than expected weather window and limited time forced me to change to Rimuza. The obvious route is to gain the col between Rimuza and Peak 6,260m, then follow the northwest ridge. On August 6, 2025, I chose to climb the north face directly above the pass.

I ascended the lower north ridge over mostly scree and blocks to 5,950 meters, at which point it merged into a smooth snow face. I climbed the soft but supportive snow (30°–40°) for around 200 meters. For the last ten meters—thin snow over scree—I proceeded on hands and feet. I was on the summit in a little over three hours and descended via the northwest ridge. The summit bore no flags or cairns, but later I found there had been at least one documented ascent, in July 2025, via the northwest ridge. The grade of my route was PD.

—Taozhu Zhou, China/USA

Images



The 2024 route up the north ridge to Lochari, seen in 2026 when there was more snow cover.



Looking north from the summit area of Lochari across the great Pangong Tso (lake) to distant Chinese mountains of the Far East Karakoram. (A) is Jiaguo Zhaga (a.k.a. Zaghar, 6,613m), the highest peak of the Zaghar Subgroup, while (B) is Taidong Jiejiu (6,790m), the highest point of the Rutog East Karakoram. Neither peak has a recorded ascent.



Looking northwest from the summit area of Lochari at Junmai Xuewai Kangri (6,223m), the highest peak in the group of largely dry mountains 20 to 25 kilometers south of Pangong Tso. The summit is around four kilometers away. This area is little documented, and it is not known whether the various high points have been ascended.



The unclimbed north face of Jungmai Xuewai Kangri seen from Rutog.



Junmai Xuewai Kangri (ca 6,223m), seen from the ruins of Rutog Dzong to the northwest. It rises approximately 2,000 meters above the Rutog Valley.



The north face of Rimazu (6,180m) seen from the 5,830m Laqiong La, the latter often cited as the highest motorable pass in China. The August 2025 route climbed to the apex of the rocky triangle in the center of the face, then directly up snow to the summit. Descent was along the right skyline ridge.

Article Details

Author	Taozhu Zhou
Publication	AAJ
Volume	67
Issue	100
Page	
Copyright Date	2026
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions