



## **Long Shan, West Flank And South Ridge Attempt; Peak 6,124m, Northeast Ridge**

China, Sicuhan, Daxue Shan – Minya Konka Range

**Garrett Bradley, Marcos Costa, Kyle Dempster, and I headed to the Minya Konka Range for our final mountaineering quest of the winter season: one of the unclimbed peaks to the south of 7,556m Minya Konka.** In 2014, Marcos, Garrett, and I had found the southern approach to these peaks and climbed Peak ca 6,460m, the western sub-peak of Peak 6,468m. In February we retraced this approach, climbing to the top of the basin west of Long Shan (6,684m) and digging a solid campsite to withstand the extreme winds. As Marcos went down with a stomach bug, Garrett, Kyle, and I made a reconnaissance of Long Shan by climbing the summit to the west of our camp, denoted on the accepted maps of the range as Peak 6,124m. Despite clouds and high winds, we were given views of the south and west faces of the imposing Minya Konka, its approach glacier system, and the summit of Nyambo Konka (6,114m) to the southwest, climbed later in the year by a Korean team (see report here).

The next day dawned clear, so Kyle and I made a bid on Long Shan, climbing a hanging glacier system with two vertical bergschrunds. Above, long ice slopes brought us to a shoulder on the south ridge at ca 6,500m. However, the ridge to the summit, still several hundred meters distant, turned into soft, corniced snow, steeply fluted down the eastern (Hailuoguo) side, and with vertical rock on the western side. With night approaching, the cloud deck falling, and the ever-present winter winds rising, we were forced to retreat.

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## Images



Kyle Dempster leading poor serac ice during the attempt on Long Shan.



Kyle Dempster climbing on Peak 6,124m, with the summit of Long Shan and its steep rock walls behind.



Looking approximately southwest at the summit of Nyambo Konka from the top of Peak 6,124m. The

route climbed in October 2015 by a Korean team reached the crest of the ridge falling toward the camera from the left, then followed it and the broken glaciated slopes above to the rounded, snowy summit.



Peak 6,124m seen from ca 6,100m on Long Shan. The route of ascent was via the northeast ridge, facing the camera. In the distance is part of Nyambo Konka (summit not visible).



The view south from ca 6,500m on the south ridge of Longs Shan. From right to left: flat-topped Peak ca 6,440m; the pointed summit of Peak 6,468m; Tai Shan (a.k.a. Jinyin Shan, 6,410m); and the three peaks of Chu Shan/San Lian Feng (highest 6,368m).

## Article Details

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