



AAC Publications

Cuernos del Diablo, Southwest Face, Don Rayo

Bolivia, Cordillera Quimsa Cruz

In April a group of aspirant guides underwent UIAGM training in the mountains of Bolivia, during which time they spent nearly two weeks visiting the Quimsa Cruz. They repeated several lines, and the Bolivian instructor Roberto Gomez, along with guide candidates José Miguel Rosen and Cristobal Señoret (both from Chile), put up the new route Don Rayo (named after their cook) on the left side of the southwest face of the Cuernos del Diablo (5,271m).

The sunnier northwest face of this fine rock peak has been well-developed since the first route in 1987 (see, most recently, AAJ 2017), but the southwest face has seen very little exploration. After walking 2.5 hours from base camp to the foot of this wall, the trio saw several alternatives and chose a 350m line left of the monolithic, steep slabs that characterize this aspect of the mountain. Difficulties were 6b A0 and almost entirely in cracks. A section of face climbing near the top of the route led to a 10m offwidth chimney followed by a completely run-out 15m section of 5+. Descent was by four rappels down the northwest face. The climbers feel this area still has extensive possibilities for new routes.

– Lindsay Griffin, from information supplied by Cristobal Señoret, Chile

Images



The north-northeast face of the Cuernos is rarely visited but has sections of fine granite.



The south face of the Cuernos (the new route Don Rayo lies close to the left skyline) has very cold, smooth granite and is yet to be explored.



Cuernos del Diablo from the west with the line of Don Rayo. The steep, slabby northwest face at far left is home to many routes of between 220m and 270m. Don Rayo appears to finish up the last section of the 2011 Condori-Daza route Inti Wiracocha (six pitches, 6b+).



Cristobal Señoret on one of the corner-crack pitches of Don Rayo, Cuernos del Diablo.



A highly foreshortened view of the southwest face of the Cuernos del Diablo, with the new route Don Rayo.



Roberto Gomez and José Miguel Rosen on the lower section of Don Rayo, southwest face of the Cuernos del Diablo.

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