



## **Hampaturi Group, Serkhe Valley, Three Peaks Traverse**

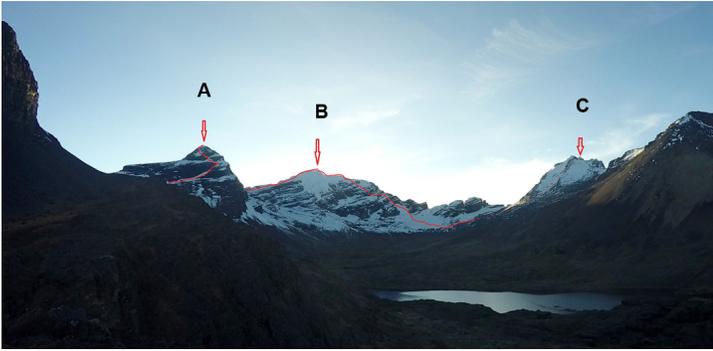
Bolivia, Cordillera Real

**On March 19, after a small incident in which we had to extract the car from some mud, my wife dropped me at dawn at the “road head” (ca 4,800m) a little short of Serkhe Lake.** I then climbed the southwest face of what some call Serkhe Negro (5,460m, 16°23'14.70"S, 67°57'1.83"W). Descending the far side, I broke a crampon as I downclimbed in a narrow gully and hit rock under the snow. Once I'd fixed it with some cordelette, I continued onward to climb Serkhe Kholu (5,546m) via the northwest ridge, which was an easy undertaking. The descent, slanting down and across the southwest face, was a different matter: difficult, steep, and scary. I used my 35m rope to rappel short vertical sections.

Once back on the valley floor, I had a little break before continuing to Peak 5,540m (16°24'40.09"S, 67°56'51.80"W), which is sometimes referred to as Khasiri or Qasiri, though this is also a name given to a peak farther south. I chose a steep, snow-filled gully on the north face and followed it to the summit, arriving in midafternoon. Once again, the descent—along the northeast ridge—was more difficult, and I rappelled several short sections. I bivouacked beside the shore of Serkhe Lake and left the next morning. As is often the case in Bolivia, this adventure was wild, beautiful, and astonishingly close to civilization.

– Alexander von Ungern, *Andean Ascents*, Bolivia

## Images



Looking east past Serkhe Lake to (A) Serkhe Negro, (B) Serkhe Kholu (5,546m), and (C) Peak 5,540m. In March 2017, Alexander von Ungern traversed the three peaks from left to right.



Alexander von Ungern warms his feet in the sun before continuing toward the final summit in his Hampaturi "three peaks traverse."

## Article Details

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