



AAC Publications

Tuctubamba West, Southwest Face, The Line Under the Sky

Peru, Cordillera Blanca

D uri S vingál and I flew to Lima on July 18, then traveled to Huaraz. Aguja Nevada I (5,840m), above Laguna Parón, was our choice for acclimatization. Then, after consultation with the mountain guides' office in Huaraz, we chose a new destination. Several days later, we arrived at Laguna Tuctubamba (4,200m), below the east side of the Taulliraju massif, and set up base camp.

On August 3, after a bivouac at the base, we started up the unclimbed southwest face of Tuctubamba West (5,140m), a peak on the long ridge extending southeast and then east from Taulliraju. [The climbers initially called this peak Marva, believing it was unclimbed. They later discovered it was called Tuctubamba West (8°54'12"S, 77°33'30"W) and was first climbed in 1960 by an Italian team, who ascended a glacier on the southeast side, then traversed around to the north side to finish.]

Our route began with several hundred meters of chimneys and corners, around 6a. After reaching a big ledge and ramp system, we traversed up and left. Above this, we simul-climbed for several hundred meters, then more chimneys and corners led to the first snowfield. After two snow pitches, we put aside the tools and climbed a beautiful 6b rock pitch, followed by steep snow and run-out M6+ mixed. Some loose rock led to a final pitch of 6b and the summit.

Our descent involved 14 rappels and took six hours, and we returned to the bivouac below the face after a total of 19 hours. We called our new route The Line Under the Sky (1,100m climbing distance, 6b M6+).

— **Marek Radovsky, Slovakia**

Images



The line of Line Under the Sky on the southwest face of Tuctubamba West.



The Line Under the Sky on Tuctubamba West (5,140m). This peak rises along the ridge extending southeast and then east from Taulliraju, whose summit can be seen at left, rising behind the ridgeline.



The first pitch of the headwall on Line Under the Sky, Tuctubamba West.



Climbing on Line Under the Sky, Southwest Face, Tuctubamba West.

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