



Little Jamyang Ri (Torre Fanni), Lam Thuk Khamzang; Shawa Kangri, Northeast Face, Partial New Route

India, Ladakh, Zaskar, Rangtik Tokpo

As with the other members of our expedition from South Tyrol ([see reports here and here](#)), heavy snowfall immediately after our arrival at base camp in the Rangtik Tokpo prompted Hannes Niederwolfsgruber and me to choose the steep, dry northwest face of Little Jamyang Ri (a.k.a. Torre Fanni, ca 5,600m) for our first climb. We opted for the farthest right of three potential lines.

The first two pitches on our line were precarious, then we reached a wonderful layback crack. Hannes climbed this crack until he encountered a loose flake, followed by a seemingly blank section and an overhang. We retreated; however, the next day, Elisabeth Lardschneider and Markus Ranalter found a way through a seemingly impassable section more to the left. Their breakthrough would allow us to continue with our route.

We returned to the wall with Patrick Tirler and ascended the pitches climbed by Elisabeth and Markus to a point where our proposed line headed up right. Patrick led a new pitch to a big ledge and then we all descended. Due to time constraints and frequent rain showers, we decided to equip these challenging lower pitches with fixed rope for future attempts.

A few days later, we ascended the ropes, Hannes led another free and aid pitch to a comfortable belay, then I embarked on a precarious, demanding crack with loose flakes. At this point, we saw no future in the line and decided to descend and remove all the ropes. However, in base camp we had a change of heart and decided we had to give it one more try.

On July 28, we found ourselves back on the challenging section with loose flakes. Persevering, we reached more manageable terrain, and three fine pitches of around VII took us to a big shoulder on the southwest are te of Little Jamyang Ri, basking in the last rays of sunlight. Opting to skip the remaining three pitches to the summit—in order to allow for some daylight on the descent—we began rappelling our line.

We named the new route Lam Thuk Khamzang (370m of climbing, 13 pitches, the first five of which are in common with Norbu Duk Lam, VIII A2). The name comes from a Ladakhi proverb conveying good wishes to a friend embarking on a journey; khamzang captures the idea that paths may diverge, but in the end, individuals reunite to continue their shared journey.

During time off from the northwest face, Hannes Sullmann and I tried a direct route up the northeast face of Shawa Kangri (5,728m, 33°27'46"N, 76°44'07"E). Starting from base camp at 4:30 a.m. on July 14 and reaching the foot of the mountain at 8 a.m., we first climbed 65° ice to the base of the steep granite wall, then five engaging pitches in perfect cracks. The cruxes, including one wet section, were short; the pitches were graded VII+, VII, VII, VII+, and VII.

A few meters before a ledge at around three-quarters height, and where the 2008 route Rolling Stones (Pellissa-Ricart) comes in from the left, we made the difficult decision to descend, due to snow on the route and unsafe conditions. We hoped to return after predicted hot weather had melted the snow. Unfortunately, Elisabeth's tragic accident ([described here](#)), prevented us from doing so.

– Stefan Plank, Italy

Images



The northeast face of Shawa Kangri with (1) Rolling Stones and (2) attempt by Stefan Plank and Hannes Sullman that almost reaches the junction with Rolling Stones.



Stefan Plank climbing the first pitch (VII+) on the northeast face of Shawa Kangri.



Stefan Plank and Hannes Sullman on the northeast face of Shawa Kangri.



On the approach to Shawa Kangri with Jamling Ri in profile behind.



Hannes Niederwolsgruber and Stefan Plank on the upper pitches of Lam Thuk Khamzang on the northwest face of Little Jamyang Ri.



Lam Thuk Khamzang above the point where it leaves Norbu Duk Lam on the northwest face of Little Jamyang Ri.



Patrick Tirler attempting to free climb pitch four, the crux pitch (VIII A0), of Norbu Duk Lam on the northwest face of Little Jamyang Ri.



Hannes Niederwolfsgruber following pitch 12 (VI) during the first ascent of Lam Thuk Khamzang on the northwest face of Little Jamyang Ri.



Stefan Plank on pitch eight (VII A2) during the first ascent of Lam Thuk Khamzang on the northwest face of Little Jamyang Ri.



The northwest face of Little Jamyang Ri (a.k.a. Torre Fanni) with (1) the Sigmond-Tirler attempt in 2023, (2) Norbu Duk Lam, and (3) Lam Thuk Khamzang.

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