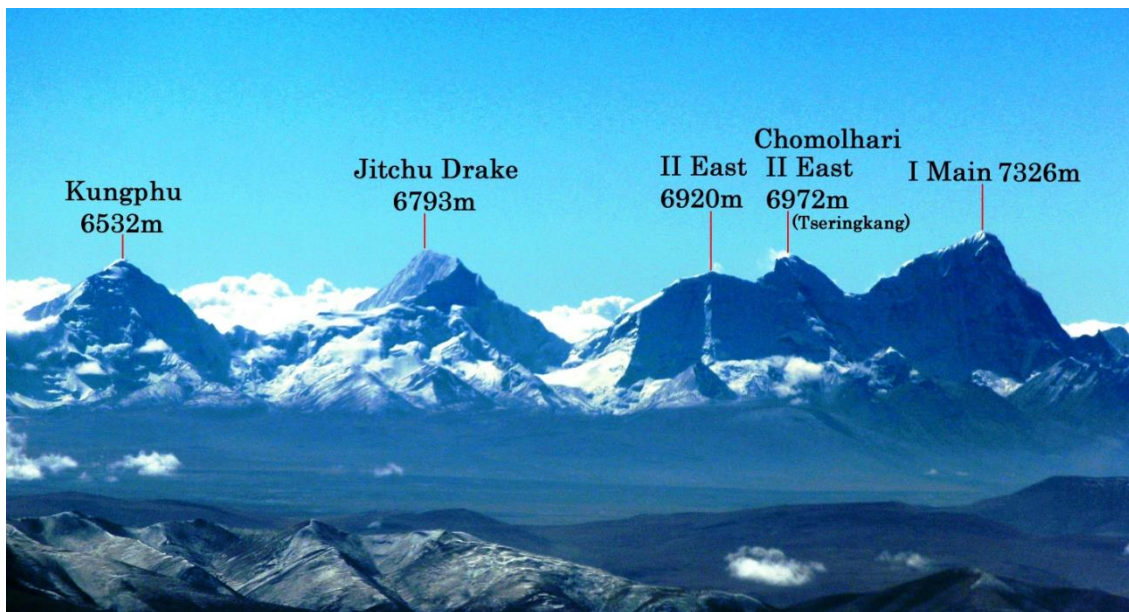


ASIAN ALPINE E-NEWS

Issue No.15, November 2017



Aerial view taken from commercial flight en-route: Lhasa to Kathmandu

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First ascent of Mount Burke Khang - 6942m (22,775ft) in Khumbu Himal, Nepal

Asian Trekking's Burke Khang Expedition - Autumn 2017 member Noel Hanna of Northern Ireland, high altitude climbing Sirdar Naga Dorje Sherpa of Nepal, HAS Pemba Tshering Sherpa and HAS Samden Bhote reached the summit of Mount Burke Khang (6942m) on 5th October, 2017 at 12:05pm. This is the first ascent of Burke Khang (6942m). The expedition team is led by Bill Burke of USA who is the oldest person outside of Asia to summit Mount Everest at the age of 72 years old in the spring 2014. Bill Burke has climbed Mount Everest from both side, Nepal and Tibet. In appreciation of Bill Burke's contributions to promoting mountain tourism in Nepal, the mountain was named after him by Government of Nepal in 2014.

He made 3 previous attempts to climb Mount Burke-Khang, once in the Fall of 2015 and 2016 and again in the Spring of 2017. All three previous expeditions were unsuccessful because of heavy snow, dangerous conditions and bad weather. Burke Khang is a technical peak situated between Mount Everest and Mount Cho-oyu in Khumbu Himal, on the border between Nepal and Tibet. The views from this peak are magnificent.

Asian Trekking family would like to extend our hearty congratulations to all members and Sherpas and safe return.

Ang Tshering Sherpa
Chairman, Asian Trekking, Nepal

Also please visit Asian Trekking Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/AsianTrekking/?hc_ref=ART6QKQnu0o3HOLF3U3BoWMLzIM5wiaSUEap2sXn3FIR8FRtckFiCYImZlg2Tp1hw

Expedition Report

First ascent of the technical peak Burke Khang 6942mts, Khumbu Himal:

Thursday the 5th October 2017 at 1205pm Northern Irish climber Noel Hanna and sherpa's Naga Dorje /Pemba Tshering /Samden Bhote made the 1st ascent of the technical peak "Burke Khang" 6942 mts which borders Nepal and Tibet. There had been numerous attempts to summit this peak in previous years without any success.

Hanna arrived at Burke Khang base camp on 26th September which had been already set up by sherpa's and porters from Asian trekking at 5400mts on the Gaunara glacier. After 1 rest day at basecamp Hanna and the sherpa's made a carry of ropes (2500mts) tents and pickets to camp 1 which already had the ropes fixed to and returned back to basecamp the same day.

On 30th September expedition leader and who the mountain is named after Bill Burke along with fellow climber Micah Kershner and film personnel Alex and Jeff arrived at basecamp coming from Gokyo.

1st October see's Hanna / Kershner and the 3 sherpa's head back up the mountain to camp 1 negotiating the extremely dangerous couloir dodging numerous rocks and ice raining down on them. Their objective was to prepare the route / fix ropes and establish higher camps.

The team was forced to stay put at camp 1 on the 2nd October as bad weather with wind / snow and zero visibility made it impossible to move up the mountain. 3rd October saw the return of good weather so Hanna and the team moved above camp 1 to establish the route and fix ropes to camp 2 at 6600mts negotiating open crevasses and razor sharp ridges before returning back to camp 1 where Kershner was resting.

While Hanna and the team were working higher on the mountain Burke was making his climb up the mountain to camp 1.

The whole team Burke /Hanna / Kershner and + sherpas were all now at camp 1 preparing for their next assault of the mountain.

Weather forecast received via sat fone on the morning of the 4th October was not the news that the team wanted to hear – the weather was changing – the forecast now was reading only 2 good day before strong winds and heavy snow was due from the 6th for 4 days.

After a discussion between the team it was agreed that Hanna /Kershner and 3 sherpas would move up the mountain immediately and establish camp 2 and the following day try and push as high up the mountain as possible. Burke would move up to camp 2 the following day.

After a long day with carrying 1000mts ropes /pickets / tents the team had arrived and set up camp 2. Above camp 2 there was a very wide crevasse with only 1 snow bridge to cross it. Sherpa Bhote belayed Hanna out and successfully crossed and fixed an anchor which left the route good for the next morning.

After a cold night at camp 2 6600mts Hanna and the 3 sherpas left at 0600 on route to the steep head wall some 300mts away. Hanna and the 3 sherpas worked together as a perfect team and were soon on the summit ridge but were met with 2-3 feet deep snow. After traversing the ridge and climbing 80 degree slopes and climbing around cornices the team reached the high point on the mountain only to realize that it was a false summit and that they still had another 100mts of deep snow to trek through to get to the true summit.

Finally at 1205pm having worked as a team Hanna and the sherpas reached the summit together where they celebrated with a bottle of Moet champagne.

After photos / video and Hanna leaving ashes belonging to his 2 German Sheperd dogs on the summit the team started their route back down of the mountain.

When Bill heard the news of a successful summit he returned back down to camp 1.

As the weather deteriorated the team made their way back down to camp 2 and continued on down to camp1 and base camp.

After 1 day back at basecamp the team helicoptered out to Lukla and onto Kathmandu where they all celebrated a very successful expedition.



Noel and Naga on the top of Burke Khang



Map of Burke Khang

Photo Gallery



Base Camp





Burke Khang 6842m



Start of gully 6500m



Camp 2 6600m – from hear Everest and Lhotse are seen.



Crampon point 6800m





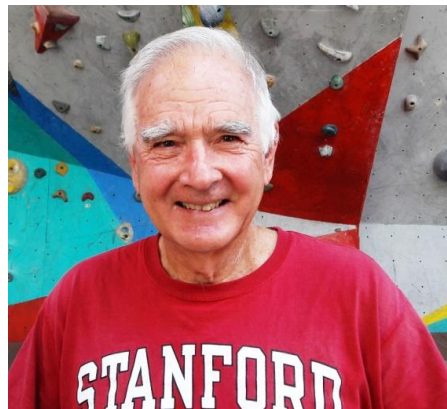




Summit Ridge of Burke Khan g



Pembe and Sonam on the summit



Bill Burke



Bill Burke team –(left end: Ang Tshering Sherpa, right end: Steven Dawa)



Against All Odds – A traverse across Glaciers and Mountains of the East Karakoram.

Divyesh Muni



Team at Khardung La : From Left – Huzefa, Divyesh, Rajesh, Vineeta, Ashish and Sonali

When our six member team of mountaineers from “The Himalayan Club”, accompanied by a cinematographer, set out from Rongdo, a quaint village in Ladakh , we had no idea of our final destination of where we would eventually land up. We had on a map, an audacious plan to traverse the Eastern Karakoram mountains a remote area of which there is almost no existing information.



Rongdo Village

Forty-eight days after we left Mumbai on July 5, we returned to our homes, having completed more than a 100 kms of the traverse that took us across pristine glaciers and mountains. We crossed three high passes (two first crossings) and ascended an unclimbed peak.

Karakoram ranges are the most forbidding mountains in the world with a large number of peaks higher than 7000 m. The North-western extension of the Himalaya, this range, spans the borders between Pakistan, India and China. It has some of the largest glaciers outside the polar ice caps, flowing through these immense mountains giving birth to some of the wildest rivers in the world. The topography is characterized by craggy peaks and steep slopes. Owing to its topography, the Karakoram is much less inhabited than other parts of the Himalaya. Rarefied air, intense solar radiation, strong winds, and great diurnal ranges of temperature make it all the more tough to explore these massive mountains.



The Rongdo Valley

The exploratory trek started from Rongdo on the South Eastern end of the East Karakoram range and went through the Rongdo valley, up steep and winding paths, along lush green meadows and grazing grounds, through broken glacial moraine until we established Base Camp at an altitude of 5000 meters.

From Base Camp we explored a route to cross a high pass to allow access to the East Phunangma Glacier. Advance Base Camp was setup at 5500 m and a Camp at the high passes (now named as Rongdo La) at 5800 m.



Advance Base Camp 5500 m



Unfortunately while climbing towards the high camp Divyesh slipped on a loose rock and was knocked unconscious. The resulting internal bleeding on his forehead left a sizable bump. The blood settled towards his left eye and he looked a character from a horror movie. The injury required him to trek back to Rongdo village and travel back to Leh along with some of the team members, to consult a doctor before we continued our expedition. We were back at Base Camp in a week, ready for adventures ahead.



Team on the summit of Nga Kangri (6165 m)



Nga Kangri (6165 m.)

From the Rongdo La Camp, the team made the **first ascent** of “Nga Kangri” (Ladakhi for “Snow Peak Five”) 6165 m.

A gradual descent from the Rongdo La brought us to the junction of the East Phunangma glacier and the South Argan Glacier. After several hours of searching, we finally found a safe route to access the South Argan Glacier through a huge icefall of the glacier.



Camp at the Junction



Crossing the Argan La

We camped below the high pass that would allow us to cross the ridge coming down from Arganglas Peak. Fortunately we found a safe crossing of the Argan La (5950 m), that involved a 200 m climb, a traverse of a narrow ridge and a 100 m descend into the North Argan Glacier. This was the first crossing of this pass.

The North Argan Glacier started as a gentle glacier from the Argan La but then turned into a highly broken and dangerous icefall. While negotiating the glacier, the snow caved in and Divyesh was dangling over a deep crevasse. Fortunately he could extricate himself in time. The icefall posed a challenge in route finding. Eventually a tricky but safe route was located and the team made their way to the South Shukpa Kunchang Glacier.



A scenic campsite provided the much needed rest and recuperation for the night before the team started its upward journey on the giant glacier over skid-prone gravel and loose boulders.



Camp of the South Shukpa Kunchang Glacier

It took us two days to trek up the South Shukpa Kunchang Glacier. The upper section of the glacier was broad and flat and easier to walk on. The landscape was astounding with the formidable Saser Kangri II dominating the horizon.



We now made the first crossing of the high pass we named Zamoriyon La (5860 m) across the Zamoriyon Glacier to enter the Sakang valley.

Crossing the Zamoriyon La



Rocky slopes of Zamoriyon Glacier

The Zamoriyon Glacier descended gradually for the first few kilometres and then suddenly turned into a maze of loose rocks and boulders down a steep slope.

After a few days of badly needed rest, the team trekked to the head of the Sakang Lungpa Glacier.



The Sakang Lungpa Glacier



Plateau Peak at the head of Sakang Lungpa

We decided to end the expedition at the high point on the glacier below Plateau Peak.

We descended the Sakang valley which proved to be the sting in the tail. The entire route was broken due to the cloudburst in the previous year and the team had to cross large sections of exposed mountainside on a non-existent trail.



Exposed traverse on the broken route

The expedition team had to overcome several hurdles and delays, the theft of our equipment, an injury, erratic stormy weather and extreme cold. We returned satisfied at having pushed our limits- both physical and mental. It was an experience of being out and on the edge amidst the most rugged and breath-taking mountains in the world!

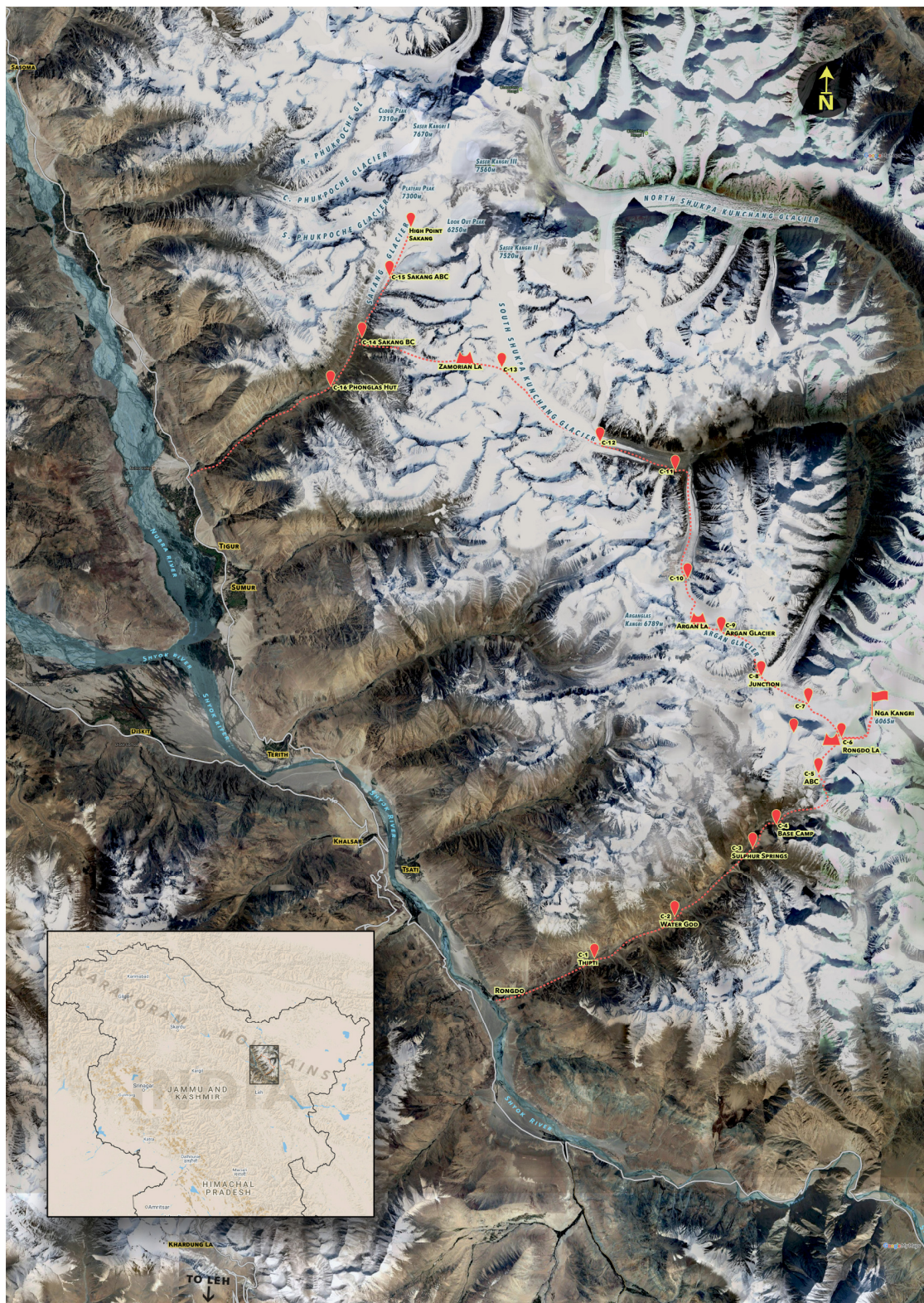
The expedition celebrates 90 years of
The Himalayan Club.



Team – Divyesh Muni (Leader), Rajesh Gadgil, Vineeta Muni, Huzefa Electricwala, Ashish Prabhu and Sonali Bhatia.

Cinematographer – Aditya Kulkarni

Support – Pasang Bhote, Pemba Bhutia, Sanjay Thakur, Sunil Thakur, Dinesh Thakur, Ajit Soni and Vipin Sharma.



Acknowledgements:



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Kalyandas Memorial Sports Foundation

Y R Kapadia Family

Premal and Nandita Parekh

Triguni Foods Pvt. Ltd. – Eze Eats

Anandini Himalaya Tea Pvt. Ltd.

Dinesh Korday

Ratnesh Javeri

Nikunj Vora

Kaizad Kapadia

Tomas Franchini's expedition 2017

Minya Konka Massif – Mt. Edgar and Neighboring Peaks

SICHUAN, CHINA

I discovered the Minya Konka massif looking Tom Nakamura's fantastic book "East of the Himalaya: Mountain Peak Maps"...the east face of Mt. Edgar, in the picture spellbound my self and I decide to visit the Minya Konka massif and his mountains.

I started from Italy the 25th september with my partners: Matteo Faletti, Fabrizio Dellai from Trentino and Francois Cazzanelli, Emrik Favre and Francesco Ratti from Val d'Aosta.

I decide to enter in the Nanmengaunggou valley for attempt the East ridge of Mt. Edgar. We had positioned the base camp at 3850m, far away from the glacier and the mountain but was the only good place for living about 30 days...there was water and flat ground. We started our acclimatisation, climbing and enjoining the lots of peak around the base camp, all the mountains were unexplored and without name! Something of fantastic for me...

With my partners Matteo and Fabrizio I climbed one mountain below Mt. Edgar, and we call it "Little Edgar" 5060m, we opened a new rock climbing route with the name "Buon compleanno Toni". After this, we went to see the west side of Mt. Edgar for understand and study the difficult approach that it has...to see it, was very important for our descent to the top of the mountain. We spend one long day for equipped belay near the slabs of the glacier for reach the plateau, where we positioned the high camp: "Campo degli Italiani" 5250m. The day after we reach the Col between Edgar and one no name Mountain that I, Francois and Emrik climbed and called it "Twenty Shan" 6174m.

During the descent I continued to watched the west face of Mt. Edgar...the mountain continued to call me. During the night I decided to venture my self on the west face below the light of a big moon. I climbed from a goulotte sistem finded technical sections and thin ice until the difficult ridge of inconsistent snow. At the 6.15 I reached the top of Mt. Edgar signing the first ascent of the wall and the third ascent of the peak. I called the new route "The Moon's Power"; I am very satisfied for this...

After this fantastic experience and a bit of resting days at the base camp, with my climbing partners Faletti and Dellai, climbed others new route and new mountains: "Tridente Trentino", "Leonhard Shan" and "Peter Shan".

The Valdaosta's team climbed: "Welcome to the Jungle" on the Pillar Joel Deanoz, "Il Pillier Gerard Ottavio" and "Valee Shan". After this they opened in two times "La cresta Delle Tre Sorelle" with 3 unclimbed peak: "Punta Barbara", "Punta Elisabetta" e "Punta Patrizia".

I and Matteo Faletti climbed a new very long and estetic ridge on the Jiazi Feng, a very impressive mountain. "The White Line of Jiazi Feng". Our ascent is the third of the peak.

Finally we decided to try our project, me, Matteo and Fabrizio attempted the east ridge of Mt. Edgar and Francois, Emrik and Francesco tried the North-West ridge. I spend 2 days in the mountains with my partners to reach the point of 5840m, after the wall was very difficult, without safety lines. The temperature was very hot and so the third day we decided to descent down and leave there the project for the future.

The valdaosta's team did an attempt until the altitude of 6450m...technicals difficult and very dangerous inconsistent snow blocked them. They reached a Pillar on the ridge and they called it "Piller de l'Espoir". They descended down with more of 25 abseil.

After our attempt I did another free solo ascent...this time on the rock, I climbed "Animal" on the "Campanile dei Pensieri", a fantastic granite line with a difficult around 6b french grade.

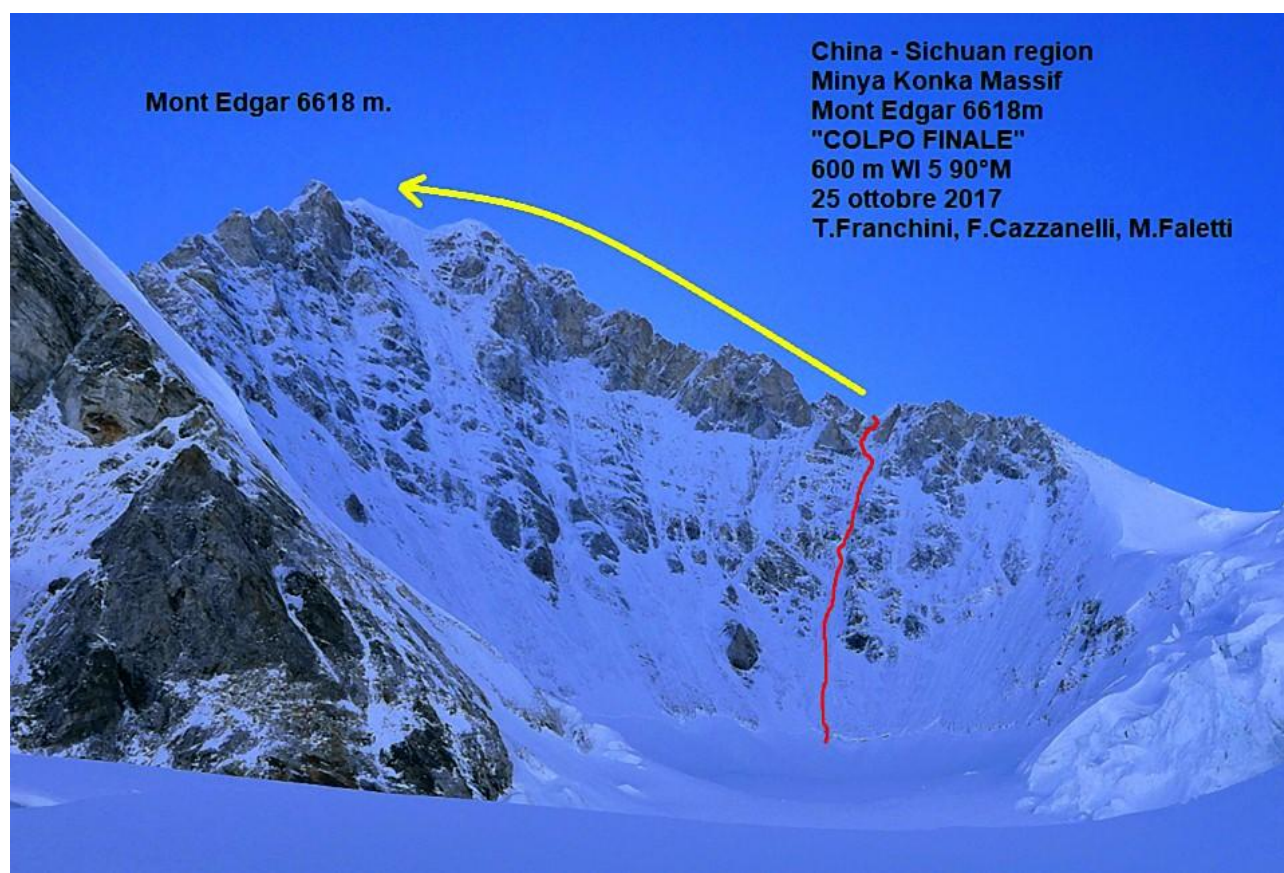
In the last good weather window we decided to go another time toward the west side of the mountain. I, Francois and Matteo, opened a new route on the North West face: "Colpo Finale", and Emrik, Francesco and Fabrizio climbed the Corean Ridge.

At 13 o'clock of the 25th october we are all together on the top of Mt. Edgar! Mt. Edgar is a very difficult and complicated mountain. Is technical, dangerous, is far away and is high! To ascent it, is a very good experience, adventure and exploit!!

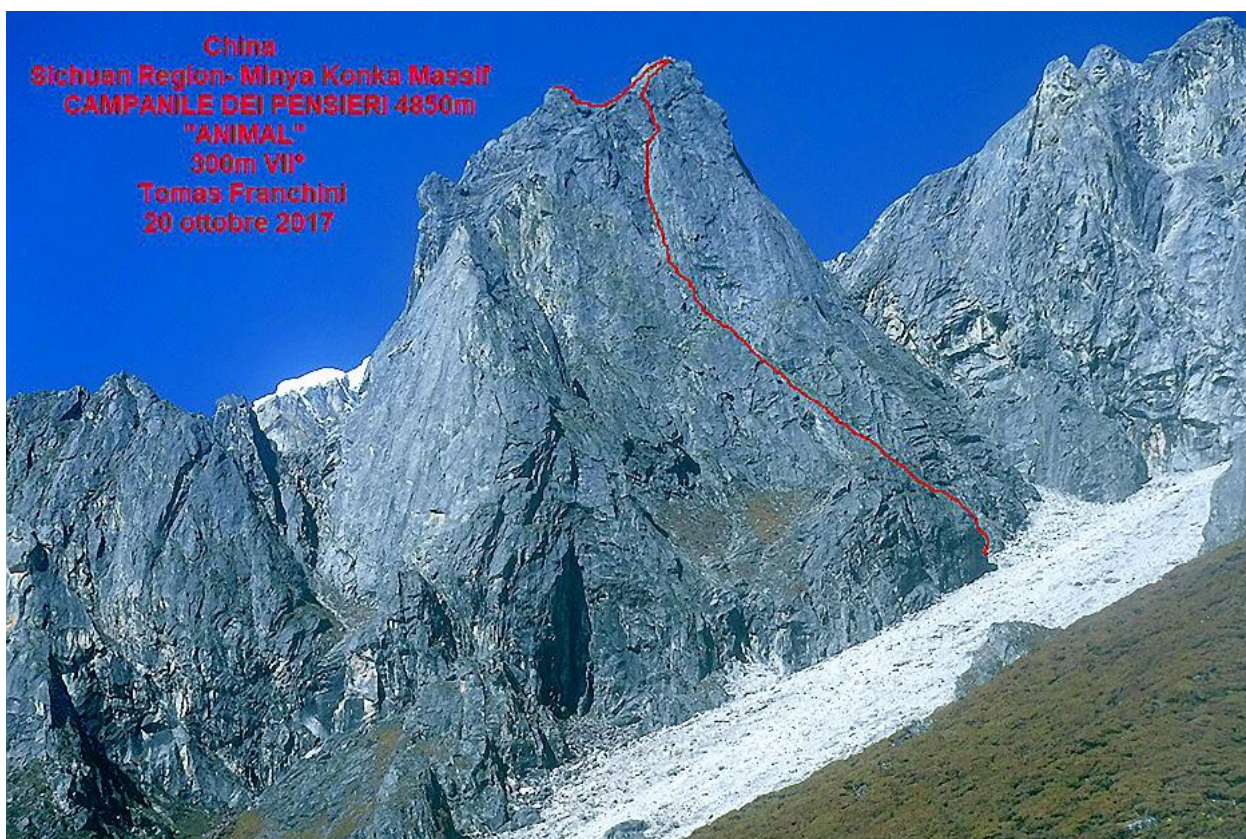
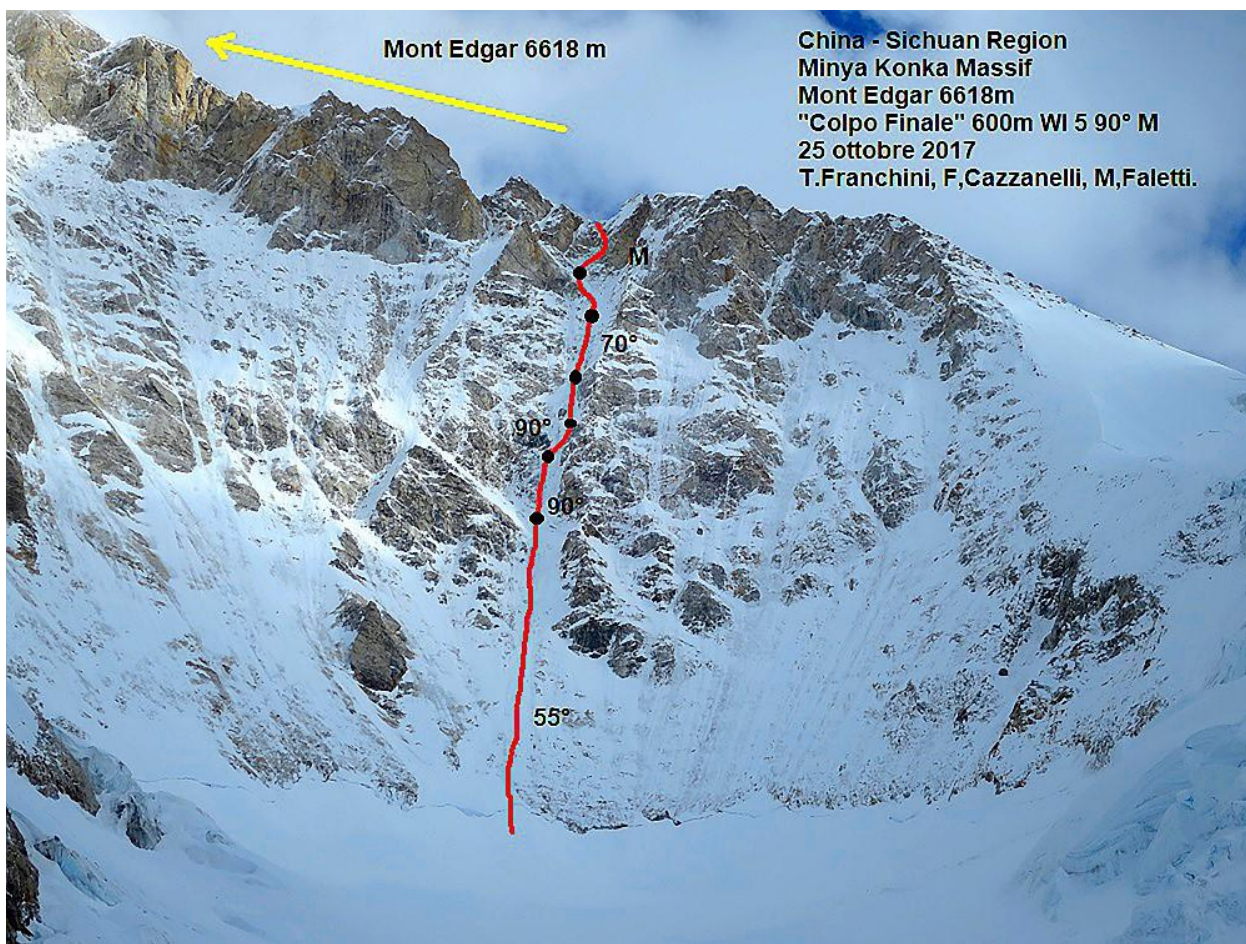
This trip in China was a great success for us...we dicovered a fantastic valley with some incredibles unclimbing peak...we didn't see nobody during all the time, there wasn't track and human signs...we were only us and the nature!

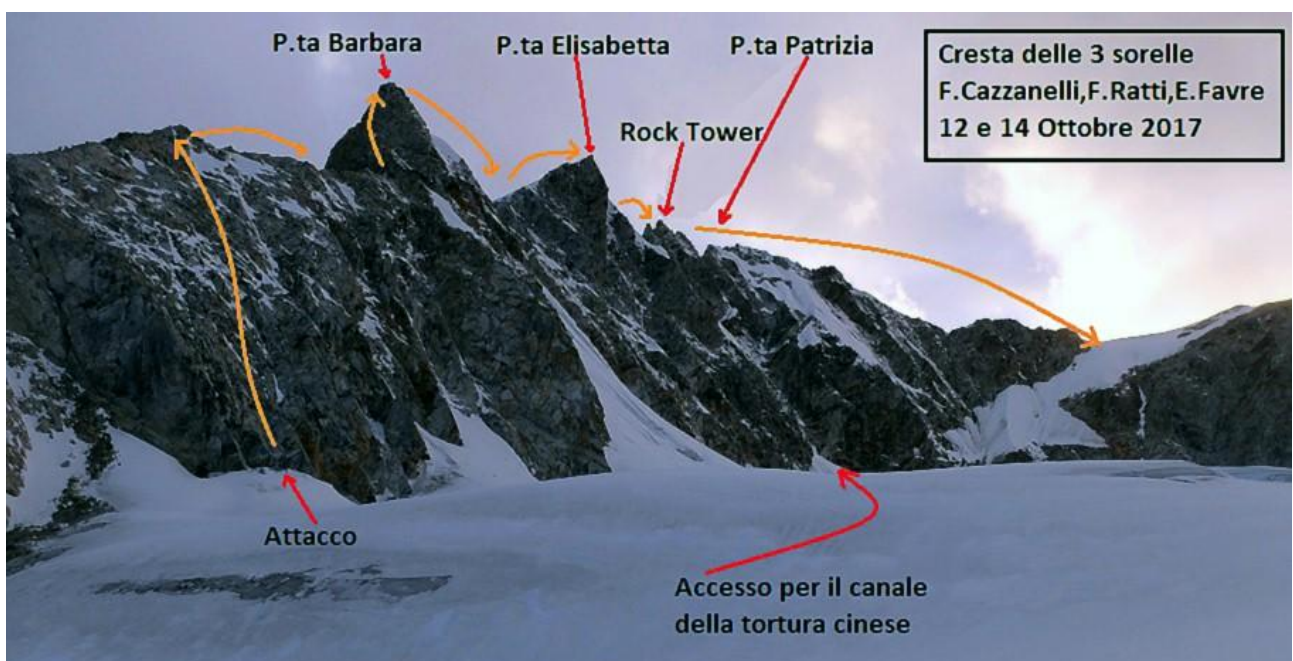
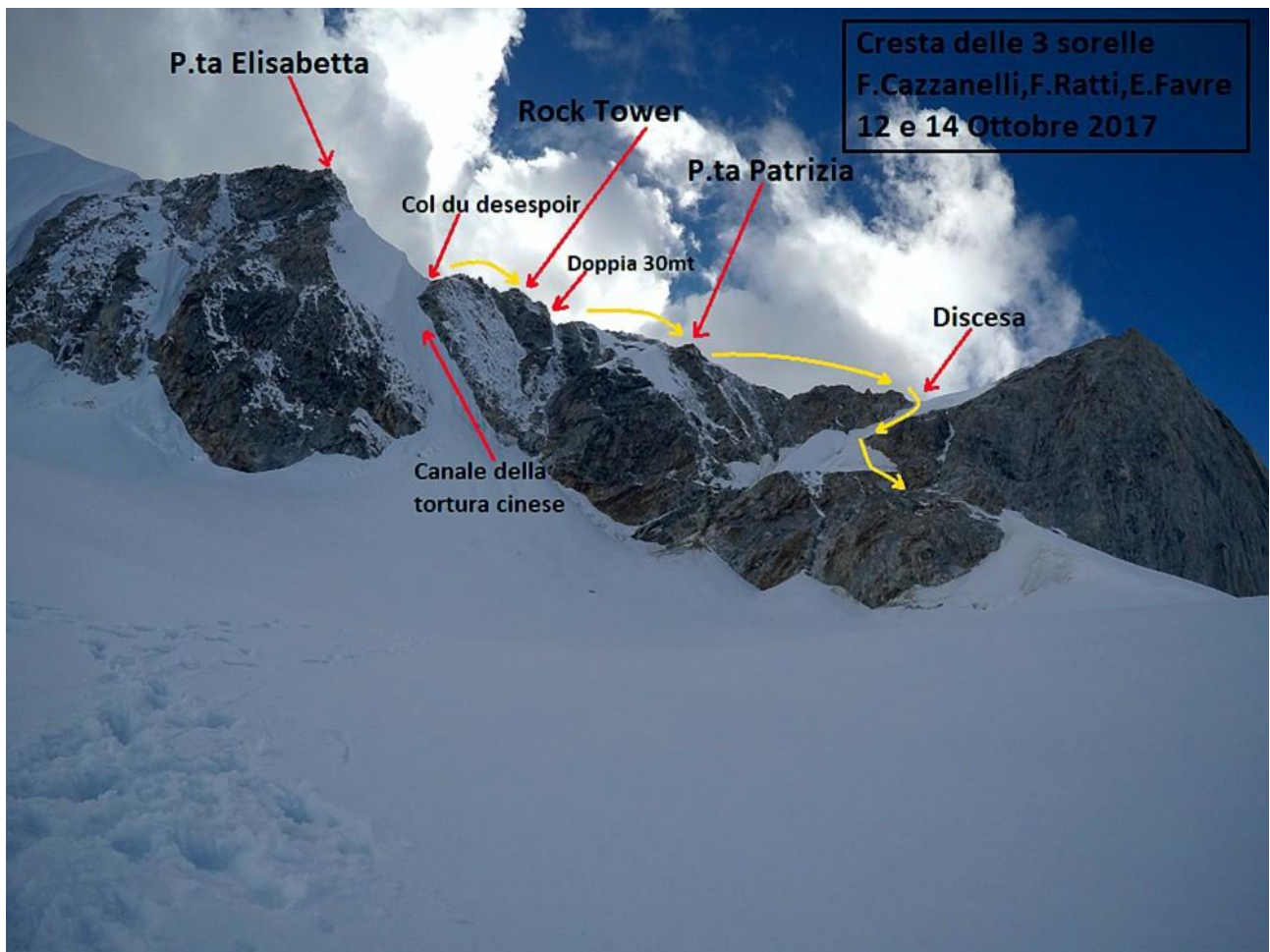
"The cerry on the cake" for me was climbed the inviolate west face of Mt. Edgar... It was a difficult, technical and psycologic ascent...with this Solo ascent I felt the real sensaction to be one animal...I was there, me, the moon and the mountain...nothing else!

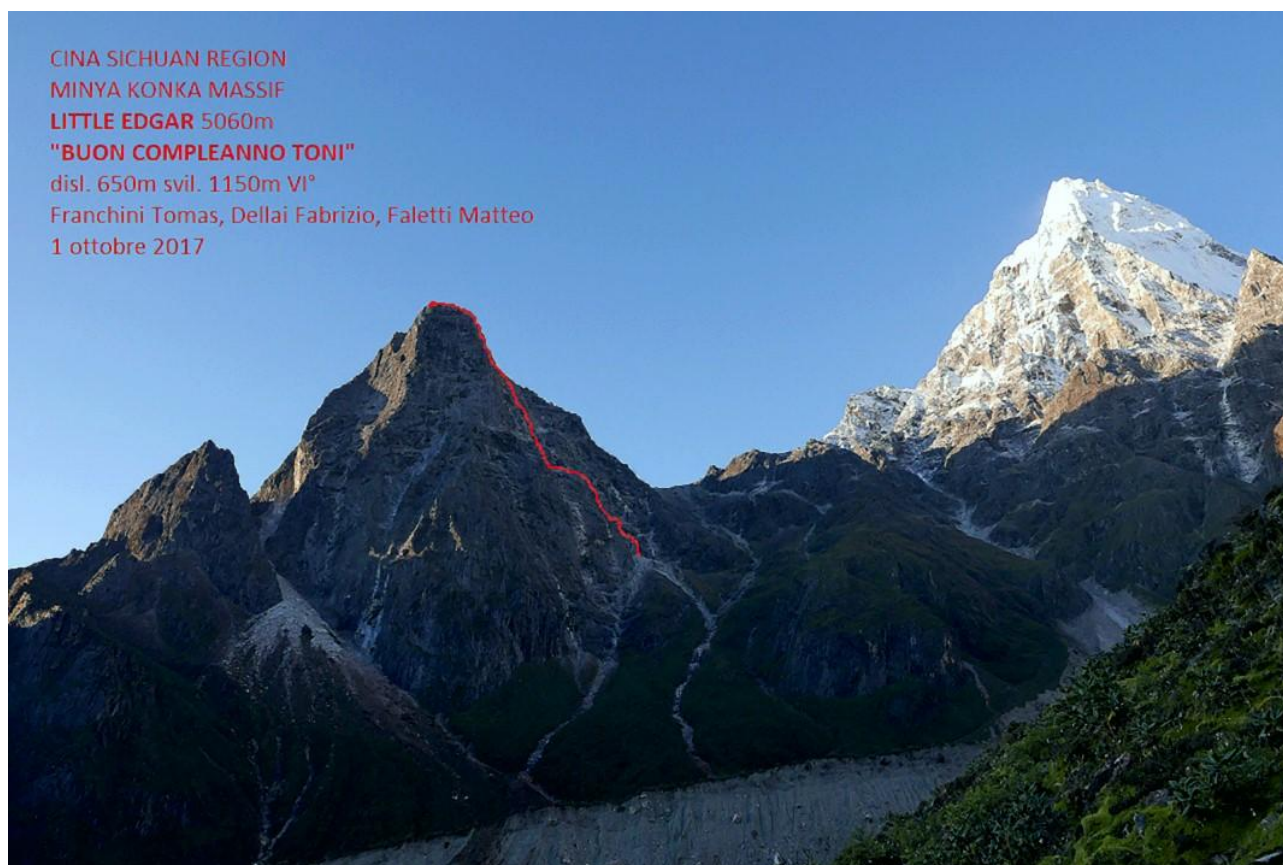
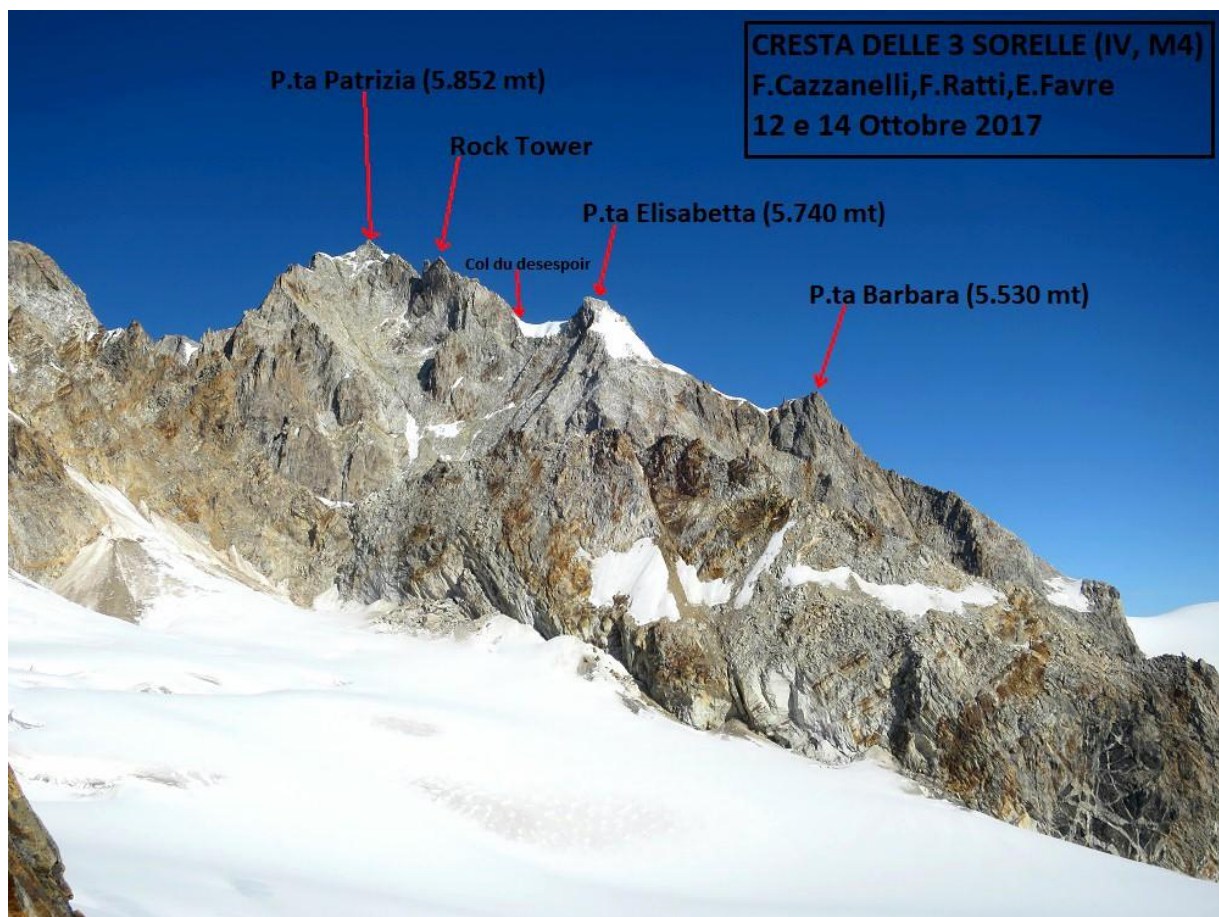
Photo Gallery

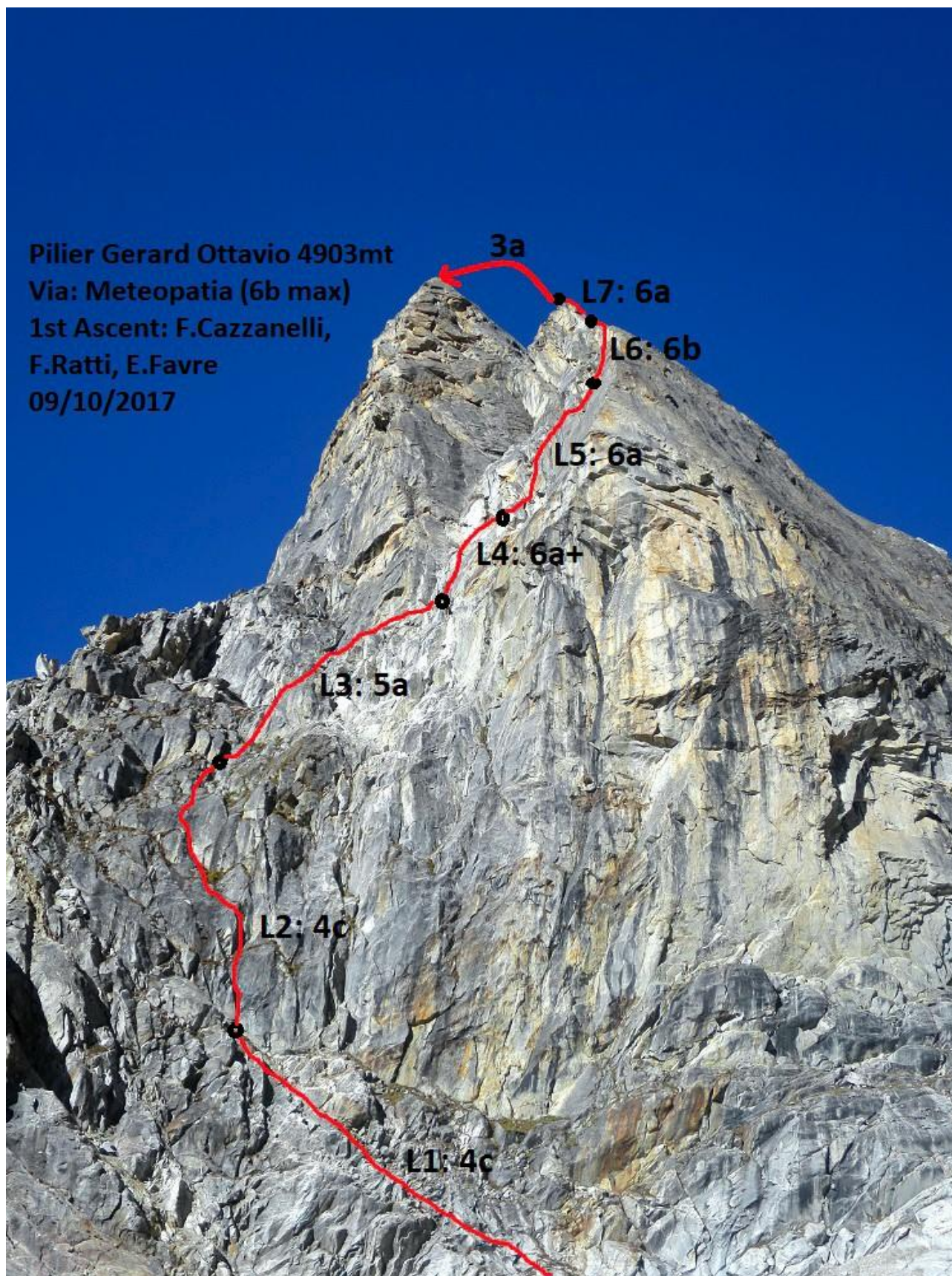


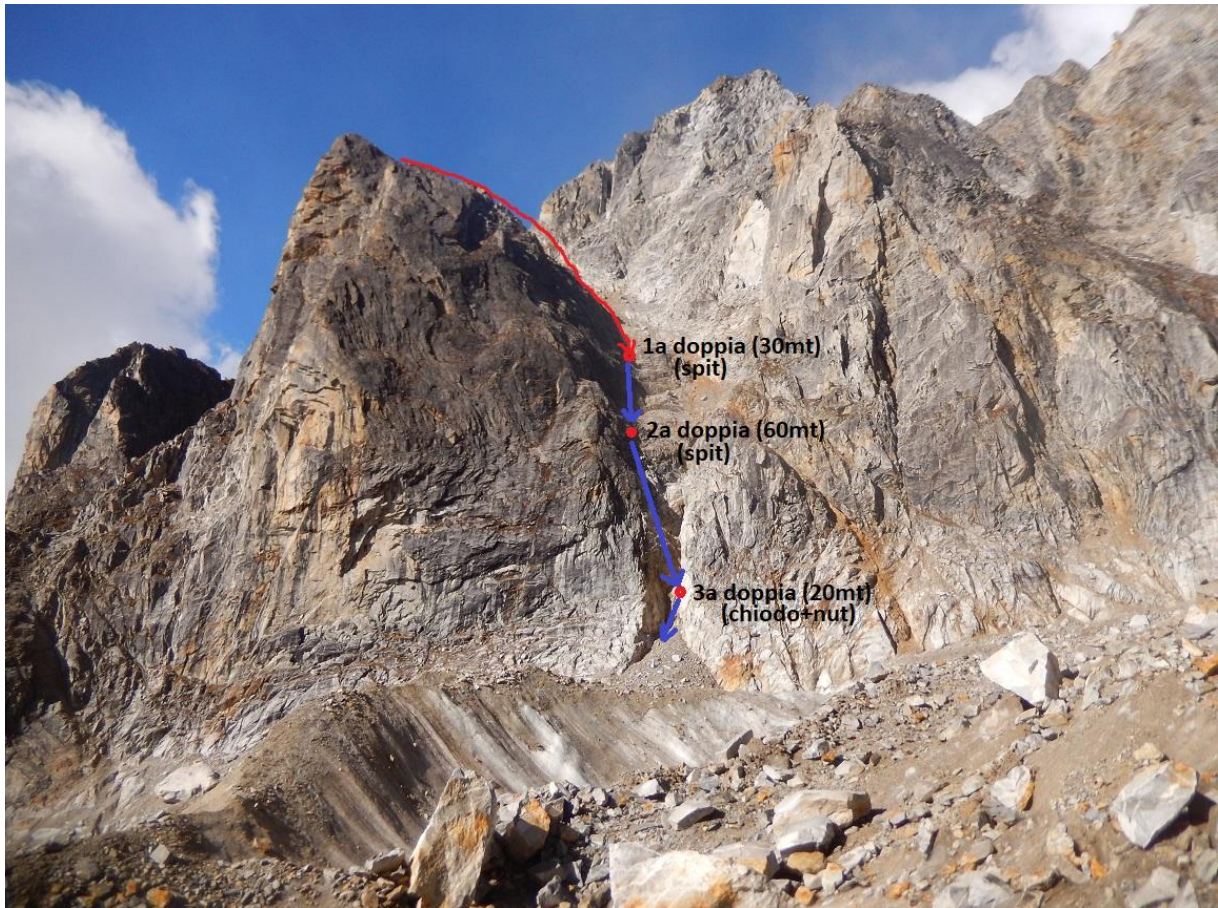


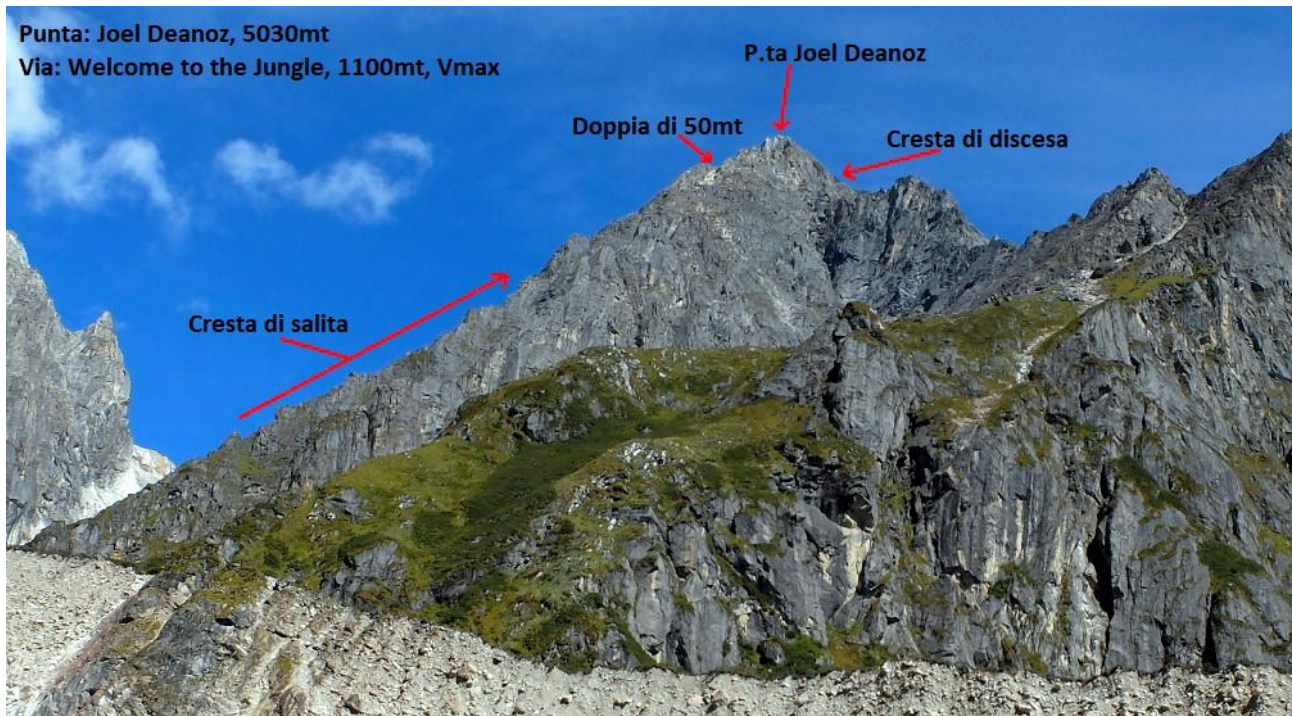


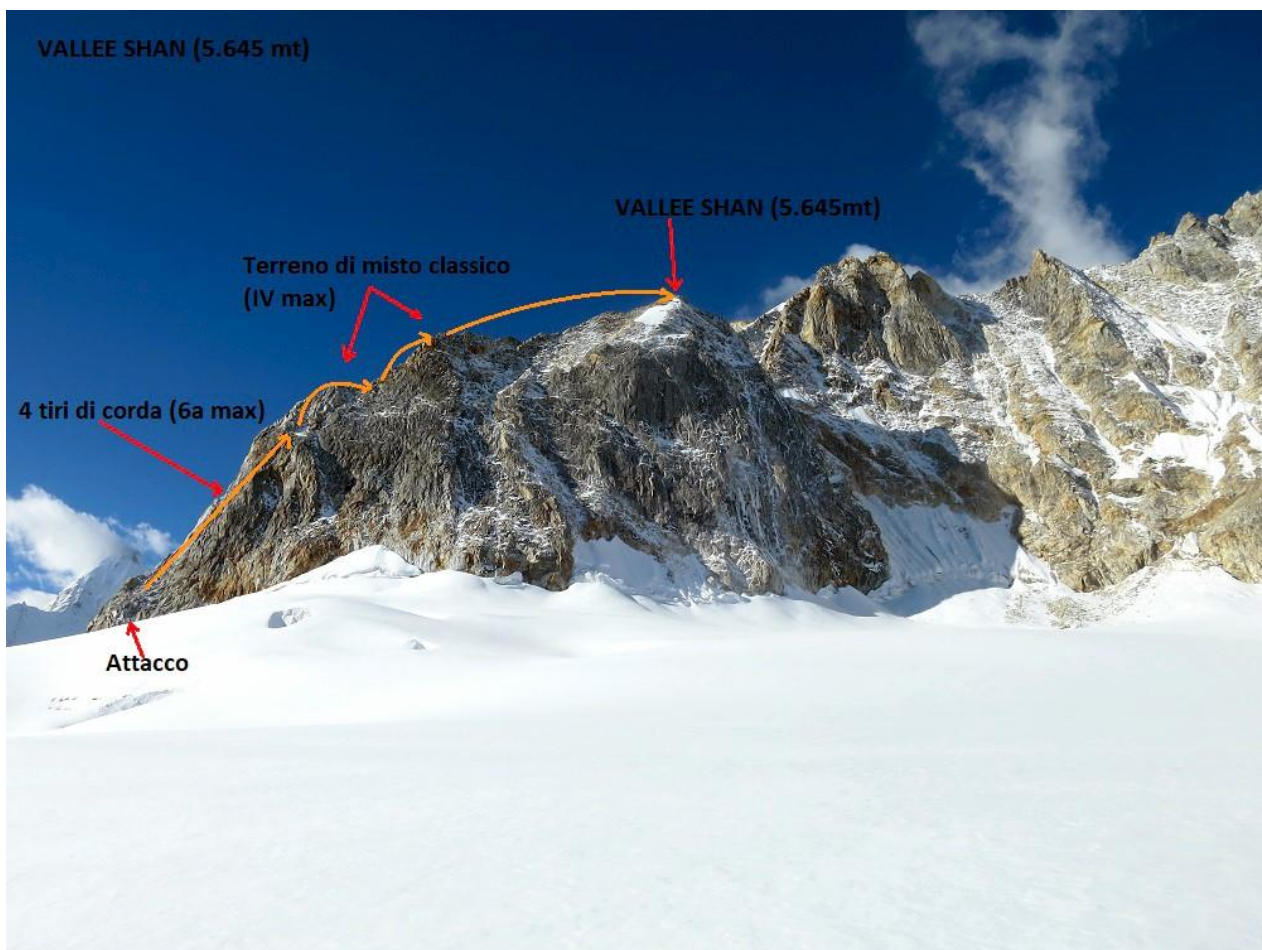


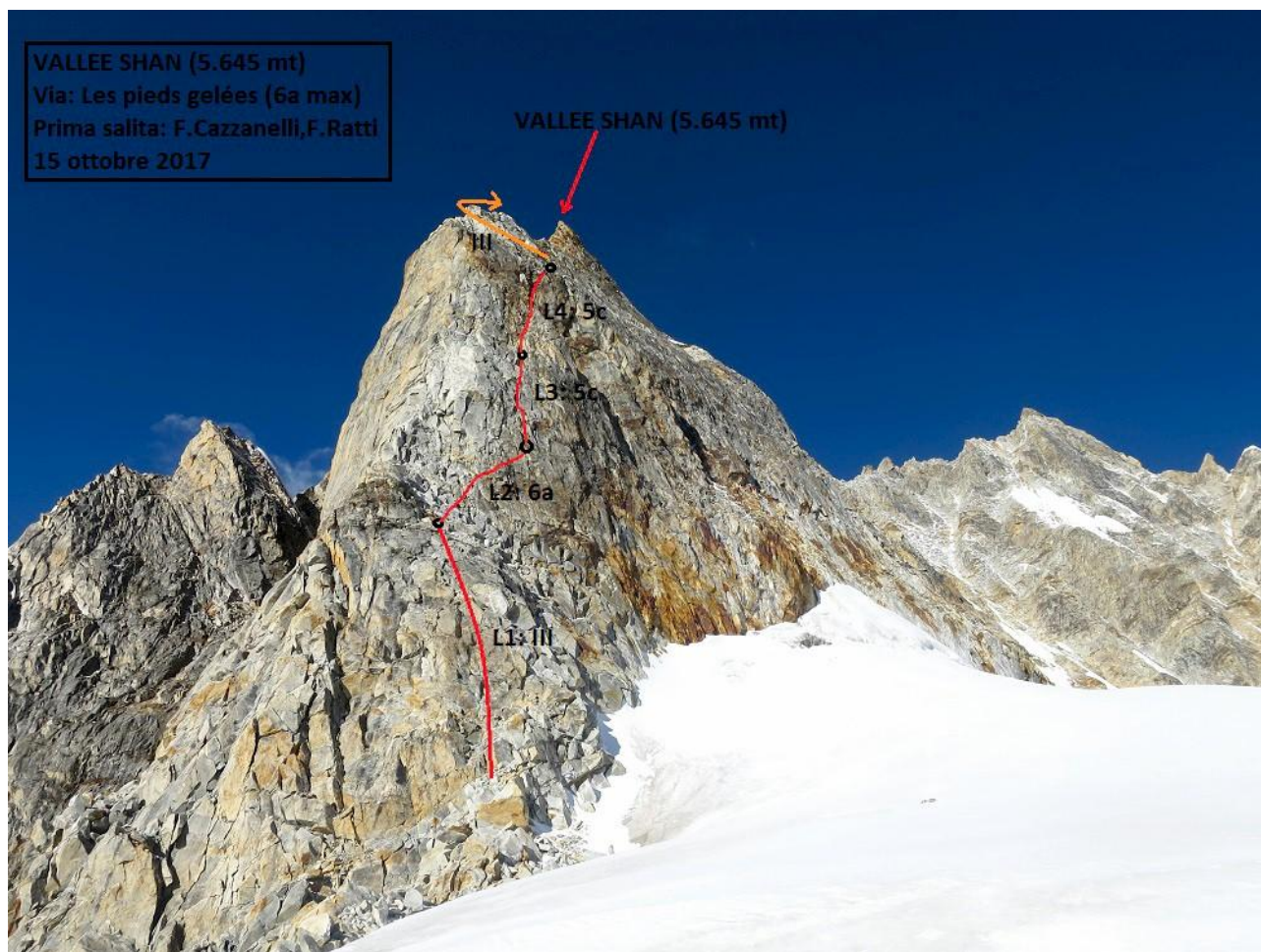












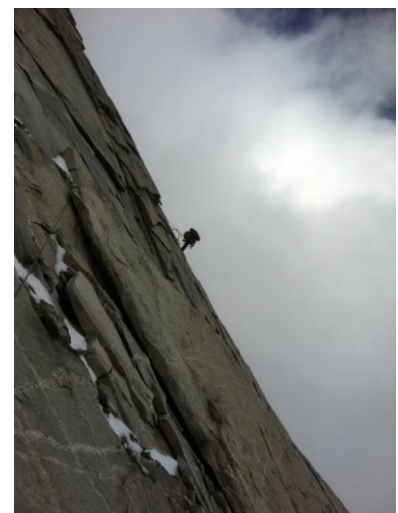
Russian - Ukrainian team

New route on the North East ridge of mt. Kameilong (5870m)



- NorthEast ridge of mt. Kameilong
- New route "On the way to Amsterdam" ED+, 6b A3 for the N Wall and ED 6A A2 for the East ridge.
- BC 4850m Top 5870m.
- 2 members ascent: Kopteva Maryna (Ukr), Chibitok Galina(Rus)
- Alpine style (7 nights/8 days)
- GritRock woman's project 2017
- Located in Genyen massif, South of the Sichuan-Tibet.

First ascent (2012): Dave Anderson and Szu-ting Yi climbed the 3,500ft south ridge to the summit and rappelled the east face returning to their high camp in an 18 hour round trip push. Anderson and Yi named their route Joining Hands (V, 5.10, M5).

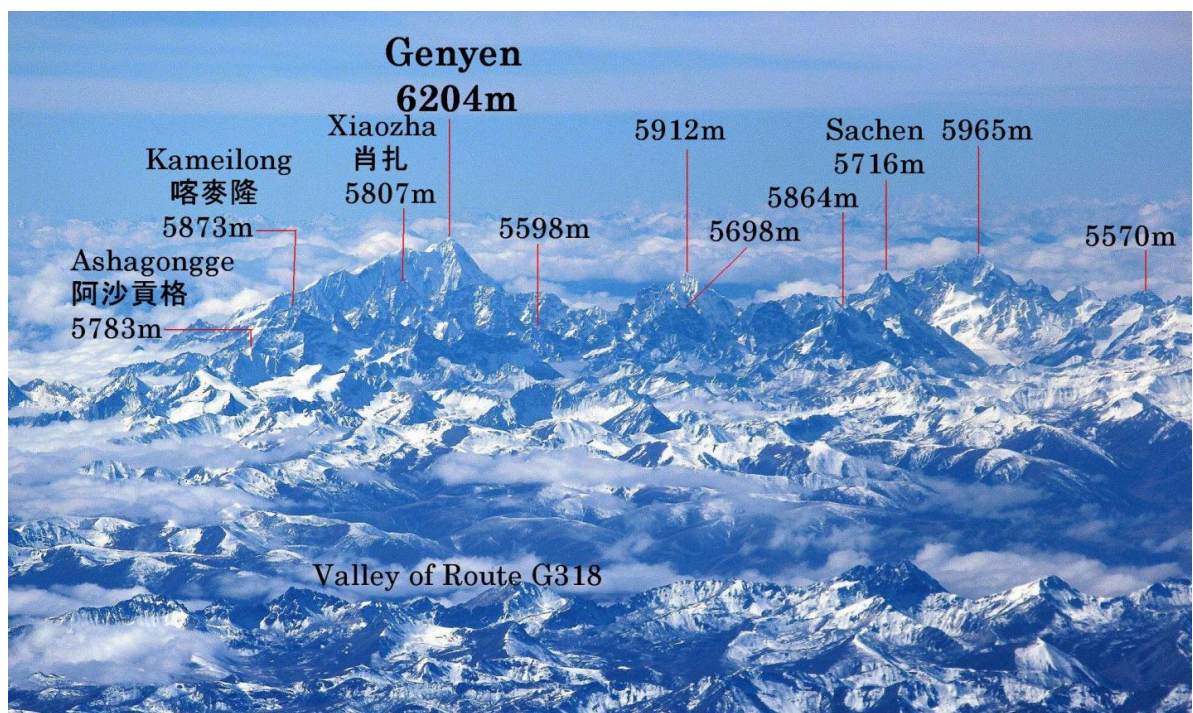
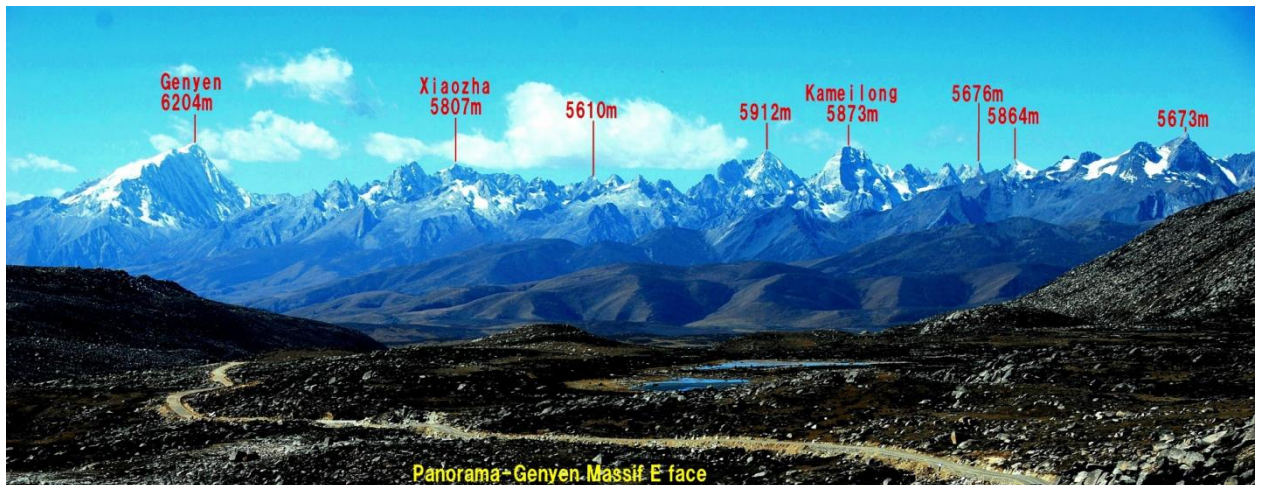


Russian - Ukrainian team

New route on the North East ridge of mt. Kameilong (5870m) – Part II

China, Sichuan, Mt. Kameilong (5873m) Ukrainian-Russian team. Kopteva Maryna - Chibitok Galina. New route "On the way to Amsterdam" North East ridge. Alpine style 7 nights/8 days. 1020m of height difference, ED+, A3, 6b. Started climbing on October 5 and reached the top in the morning of October 12.

The route could be logically divided into three parts. The first one goes through the mixed snow and ice couloir that is approximately 150m long. It has a moderate technical difficulty, although there is a high danger of the rock falls. The climb continues with the second part to the sheer North wall of 250m. ED+ A2-A3. (2 nights/3 days) The third part is a 600m long shattered ridge of ED, A2, 6b difficulty climbing. 6 nights/5 days) Due to the lack of space most of the nights featured sitting bivouacs. Descent took us 20h. We used anchors for making some belay stations. The weather was good in the first part of our ascent but in the 3 last days it became bad, thick fog and snowfalls.

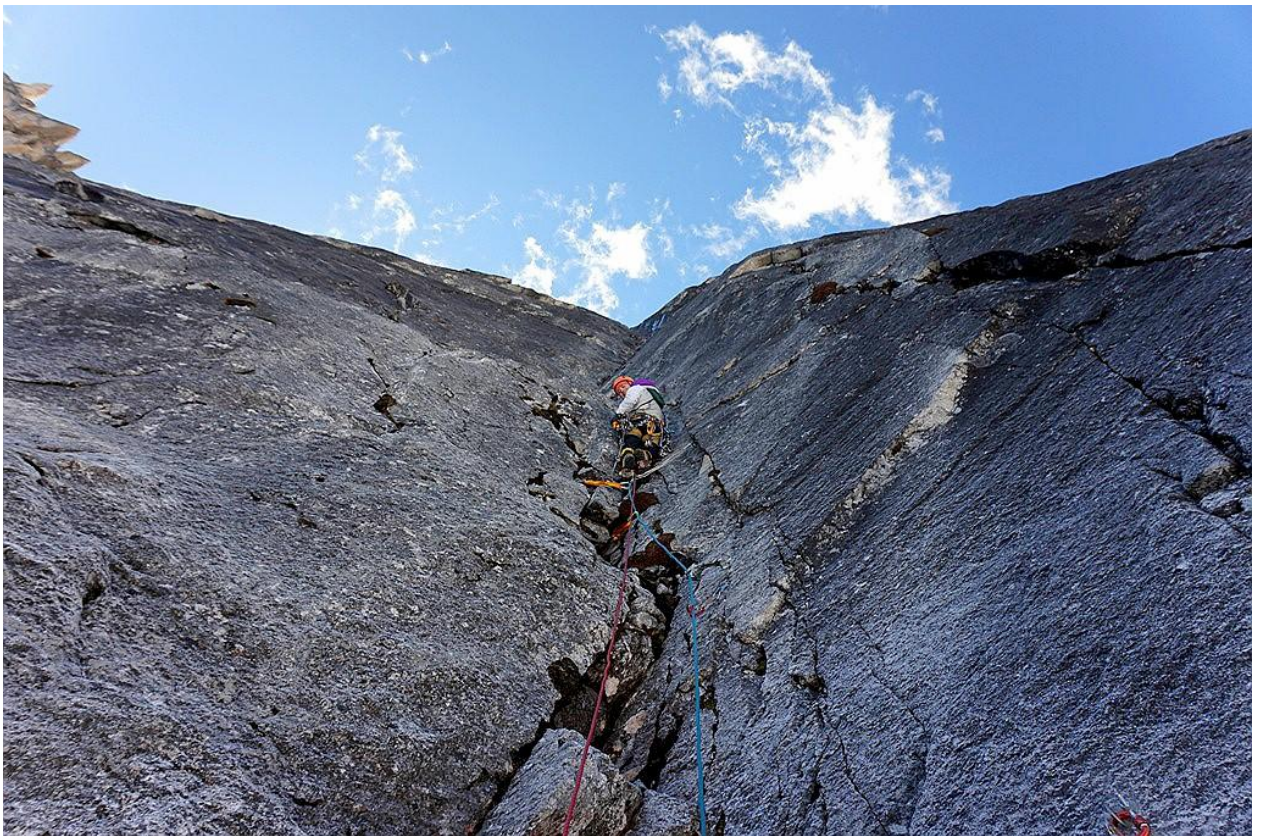
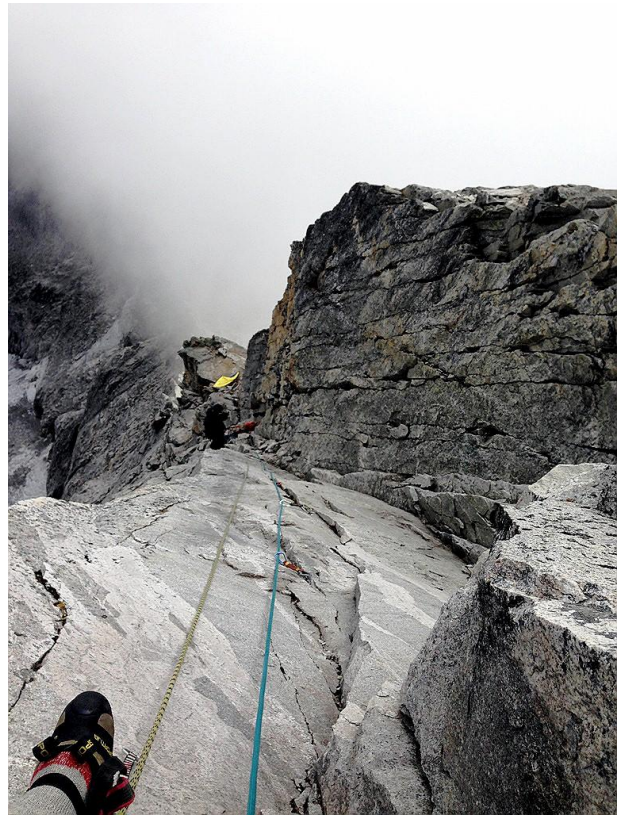




Kameilong East and North faces









Rangtik 2017 – Slovene climbing expedition report

Introduction

We were a team of three climbers from Slovenia and we spent our summer holidays in the mountains surrounding Rangtik Tokpo in the Haptal mountain massif. The mountains west and southwest of the Doda river (also referred to as the Stod river) are rarely visited by mountaineers and provide a great potential for alpine style ascents of all sorts and of all grades. Summits in this area rise up to 6400 m and the dimensions of faces are similar to those in the Alps. Also approaches from villages along Kargil – Pensi La - Padum road are not too long, so most of the mountains can be reached in a day. Our idea was to climb rock routes to the probably virgin summits in light alpine style, with using as little aid or “big wall” tactics as possible. The village of Tungri was our point of departure, but we couldn’t resist the comfort of a BC so we set one in Rangtik Tokpo (GPS: 33°28'30" North, 76°45'13 East, 4926 m). After 18 days spent there we managed to climb to the top of Remalaye (6278 m, aka H5), Chokdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8) and Jamyang Ri (5800 m) mountains. We would like to thank the Alpine association of Slovenia for financial support.



From right: Matija Jošt – Matic, Sonam Rabgas, Matjaž Dušič, Lobsang Gonbo, Lobsang Rinchan, Tomaž Žerovnik in Rangtik Tokpo BC. Rocky peak in background is Jamyang Ri (5800 m). Foto Manu.

Team

Matjaž Dušič (32 years)

Matija Jošt – Matic (46 years), matijajostsp@siol.net

Tomaž Žerovnik (49 years)

Lobsang Rinchan (30 years, manager, Tungri)

Lobsang Gonbo (38 years, cook, Tungri)

Sonam Ragbas (31 years, assistant, Tungri)

We cooperated with the local agency Skitpo Travel (<http://www.skitpotravel.com/>). Skitpo Travel employs local people mostly from the Tungri village and they provide us with an excellent service and a very nice cultural experience as we were also introduced well to their traditional way of life.

Short climbing history of Rangtik Tokpo, mapping and naming the peaks

In 2008 Spanish climber Sergi Ricart who spent several months in Ladakh and Zaskar also visited the Haptal area and reported in AAJ. At that time he also visited Rangtik Tokpo. He and Luc Pellissa made the first ascent of Shawa Kangri (GPS: 5728 m, 33°27'46" North, 76°44'07" East) on 16th August 2008. They named their approximately 500 m high route "Rolling Stones" and graded it D+, ice 65°, rock UIAA V+. They also named peak itself. The summit block looks like horn so they named it Shawa (Shawa means horn in the Ladakhi language).

In 2012 Japanese senior expedition explored in the area. Their Leader Kimikazu Sakamoto reported about their activity and also made better mapping of the area and the identification of many peaks. He issued the map of the area and marked peaks with H1, H2 etc for Haptal Tokpo, and with M1, M2, etc for peaks in Mulung Tokpo.

In 2016 Anastasija Davidova – Nastja and me (Matija Jost – Matic) repeated route "Rolling stones" up to Shawa Kangri (5728 m). We also made an acclimatization climb in the south slopes of Remalaye (H5, 6278 m). We reached prominent point on the west ridge of the mountain (Remalaye west, GPS: 6266 m, 33°28'50" North, 76°43'33" East). It was obvious that the main summit is higher and also some ridge gendarmes leading to the main summit looked higher than our standing point. During that we were also exploring Shimling Tokpo and Denyai Tokpo and made a topographic sketch map "Rangtik & Shimling Tokpo".

This year I made some update of "Rangtik & Shimling Tokpo" topographic sketch map. I used the same peak names and heights as Sakamoto did where it was possible but I also used peak names I had gotten from local people. Sometimes they are not sure and don't care much about that. So in 2016 they said that P5800 m is Phobrang, but a mountain with the same name also exists in the nearby Haptal Tokpo. In 2017 they suggested new name for P5800 in Rangtik which one now became Jamyang Ri. Local people also suggested name for P6193 which one now became Chakdor Ri (aka H8).

Chronology of the expedition

12th July 2017: Departure from Slovenia.

13th July 2017: Delhi – Manali.

14th July 2017: Manali – Leh.

15th July 2017: Leh.

16th July 2017: Leh – Thang.

17th July 2017: Thang – Tungri.
 18th July 2017: Padum. We visit H.H. Dalai Lama teachings.
 19th July 2017: Tungri – BC in Rangtik Tokpo.
 20th July 2017: Base Camp.
 21st July 2017: We start ascent of Remalaye (6278 m). From BC to bivy at 5900 m.
 22nd July 2017: from bivy spot to Remalaye (6278 m) summit and back to bivy.
 23rd July 2017: back to BC.
 24th July 2017: BC.
 25th July 2017: Tomaž and Matjaž carry equipment to upper Rangtik glacier to 5400 m. Matic stays in BC with fever.
 26th July 2017: Descent to Tungri village.
 27th July 2017: Visit to Kharsha monastery.
 28th July 2017: Back to BC.
 29th July 2017: BC.
 30th July 2017: from BC to upper Rangtik glacier where we set high camp.
 31th July 2017: we start climbing up the south east ridge of Chakdor Ri to 5850 m.
 1st August 2017: from bivy at 5850 m to Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8) summit and back to bivy.
 2nd August 2017: from bivy back to BC.
 3rd and 4th August 2017: BC.
 5th August 2017: Ascent of Jamyang Ri (5800 m).
 6th August 2017: BC – Tungri.
 7th August 2017: Visit to Sani Monastery. Nesjal Festival.
 8th August 2017: Tungri.
 9th August 2017: Trek to the base of Starikatcan (5904 m) east face.
 10th August 2017: Back to Tungri village.
 11th to 13rd August 2017: Tungri.
 14th to 17th August 2017: Treking Pidmu – Yulchang.
 18th August 2017: Leh.
 19th August 2017: Leh – Manali.
 20th August 2017: Manali – Delhi.
 21st August 2017: Delhi.
 22nd August 2017: Delhi – Ljubljana – and back home.



Mountains above Rangtik glacier as seen from west face of Jamyang Ri. From left Shawa Kangri (5728 m), P6085 m (aka H2), Chakdor Ri (6193m, aka H8), Remalaye (6278 m, aka H5). Red line indicates the route of first ascent of Remalaye west (6266 m, left) and Remalaye (6278 m, right) Foto Matija Jost - Matic

Ascent of Remalaye (6278 m, aka H5)

We made our acclimatization climb up the south slopes of the mountain. We started 21st July 2017 from BC and on the first day we walked up to a good bivy spot at 5900 m. Next day we followed Davidova-Jost route towards the west summit but at approximate 6000 meters we turned right over good ledges and reached a gully which lead directly to main summit. To gain the East Ridge just below summit we climbed through a ridge window (M5+). This was a delicate, attractive passage and Matjaz lead it free, but Tomaž and myself used some aid (A0). Shortly after we reached the summit we realized, that it was possible to bypass it. It was 22nd July 2017 and we believed we made the first ascent of Remalaye (6278 m, aka H5). We didn't name our route and we think an overall grade would be D+. We descended to our tent at 5900 m the same day. We did some short rappels due to high afternoon temperatures resulting in wet snow and rotten ice. After spending one more night in bivy, we descended to BC at 23rd July 2017.



Matjaž Dušič ascending south slopes of Remalaye (6278 m), behind is P5820m. Foto Matija Jost - Matic



Tomaž Žerovnik ascending towards east ridge close to the summit of Remalaye (6278 m). Foto Matjaz Dusic.



Tomaž Žerovnik in Matjaž Dušič on the summit of Remalaye (6278 m), rocky peak in the background is Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8). Foto Matija Jost - Matic

Ascent of Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8)

A handsome peak at the head of Rangtik glacier is Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8). It is somehow hidden from Zanskar valley, but you can see it from Cerro Kisthwar or Chomochior, it looks like prominent rock mass. We started from BC 30th July 2017 and we set our camp at upper Rangtik glacier (5400 m) where Matjaž and Tomaž had already cached some climbing equipment some days ago. Next day (31th July) we began climbing. Snow-ice ramp (up to 55°) provided a logical entry to reach south-east ridge of the mountain. After 100 m we took off our ice-climbing gear and continue in rock shoes. Climbing was enjoyable. Sunny calm weather with warm temperatures and easy climbing up to V+ (UIAA grade) were highlights of that day. East and south faces of Chakdor Ri are steep but interrupted by several good ledges. We used one of them to set up our bivy at approximately 5850 m. Good weather continued and we started second day of climbing. We searched for a logical line of ascent on the right side of the southeast ridge (pillar). Climbing was on good granite in pictures scenery with constant difficulties from V+ to VII- (UIAA grade). We used mostly friends for protection, sometimes we used nuts and we hammered in 5 pitons (2 on belays, all left in place). High on the route we moved on the sunny left side of the ridge (pillar) and just below the top we traverse to a good ledge over the north side from where we climbed short distance to the summit. We reached it approximately five o'clock in the afternoon, it was 1st August 2017. Then the weather dramatically changed. A small storm rolled in and within ten minutes or so it started to snow hard. Precipitation was accompanied with strong static electricity. When we reached our highest point we were not sure if we actually stood at the highest point of the mountain. Summit ridge is quite horizontal, sharp but easy to climb. There was a lot of tension in the air so we left immediately. Just before dark we managed to get to our bivy tent at 5850 m; seven rappels brought us down to the comfort of dry sleeping bags and a warm meal. Next day (2nd August 2017) we rappelled further down to the Rangtik glacier. It was still cloudy with some snow-rain and we reached our BC in the afternoon. We named our route »Treasure of Zanskar«, height of the route is 750 m and we think the overall grade is ED+. Matjaž and I climbed entire route free (flash), Tomaž used aid (A0) two times. Rock quality is mostly good.



Tomaž Žerovnik on the summit of Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8). Foto Matjaž Dušič



Photo is taken from summit of Remalaye west (6266 m), red line indicates route »Treasure of Zanskar«.

Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8)

FA and FA of the peak,

Route »Treasure of Zanskar«, South East ridge

from 31th July 2017 to 2nd August 2017 (summit 1st August 2017)

Height of the route 750 m,

overall grade ED+,

rock from III to VII- (UIAA grade)

snow-ice up to 55°

Matjaž Dušič,

Matija Jošt – Matic,

Tomaž Žerovnik

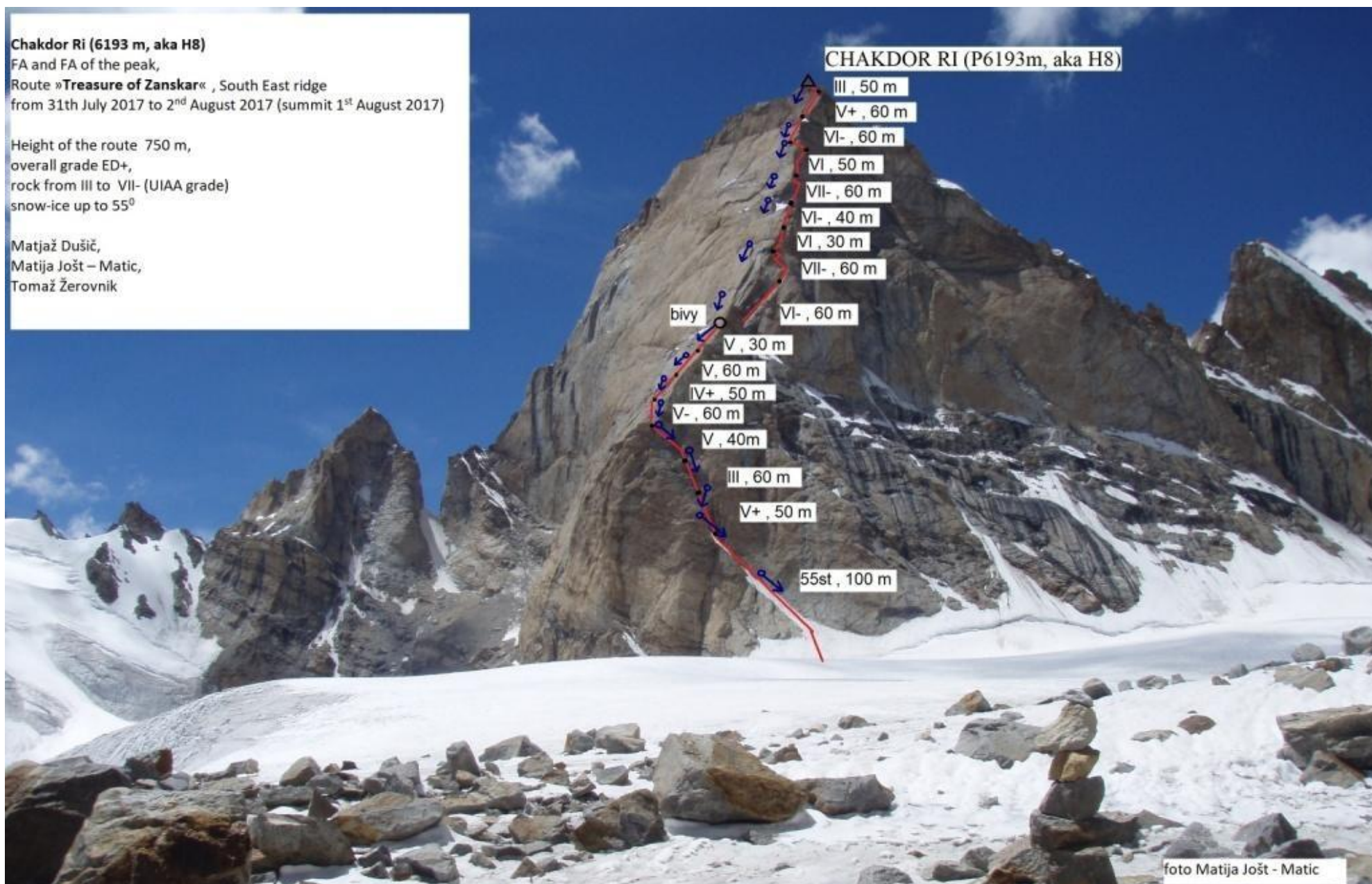


Photo is taken from upper Rangtik Glacier.



Tomaž Žerovnik and Matjaž Dušič ascending snow ramp at the bottom of Chakdor Ri (6193 m , aka H8) south east ridge. Foto Matija Jost – Matic



Lower part of the route »Treasure of Zanskar« south east ridge of Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8). Foto Matija Jost – Matic



Matjaž Dušič climbing upper part of the route »Treasure of Zanskar« south east ridge of Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8). Foto Matija Jost – Matic



Matjaž Dušič is delighted with high quality rock in the upper part of the route »Treasure of Zanskar« south east ridge of Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8).Foto Matija Jost – Matic



Matija Jošt - Matic close to the summit of Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8). Foto Matjaž Dušič



Tomaž Žerovnik descending in the lower part of south east ridge of Chakdor Ri (6193 m, aka H8). Route »Treasure of Zanskar« goes close to the right side of the pillar above his head. Foto Matija Jost - Matic

Ascent of Jamyang Ri (5800 m)

Jamyang Ri is a rocky spire one can spot from main Kargil – Pensi La – Padum road and somehow guards the entrance to the upper Rangtik Tokpo. In the morning of 5th August Matjaž Dušič and me leave BC. Tomaž helped us carrying rucksacks to the foot of the west face and at around 8:30 we (Matjaž and Matic) started our climb. The first half of the route was dirty and dusty. We climbed up the cracks and chimneys with big jammed blocks to the right of a snow gully. At mid height a short traverse turned into two full 60 m pitches because we didn't find a suitable direct line. Higher up rock became cleaner but sometimes far from perfect. We reached south-west ridge and we climbed some delicate "boulder problems" on exposed arête to the summit. Difficulties of the climbing were constant from V to VII- (UIAA grade), upper half of the route is steeper and we think the overall grade is ED. For protection we used exclusively friends and nuts and we both managed to climb route free (flash). We named our 650 m high route "Čunka". There were a lot of daw birds around us during the climb and "Čunka" means daw bird in Ladakhi language. For descent we had chosen direct line of rappels down the center of west face. This time we were forced to use pitons and we hammered in two of eleven anchors. Tomaž and Sonam waited for us at the glacier. We arrived to BC at around 10pm and together with our Zanskar friends, Manu and Caroline (originally from French but almost Zanskar residents, not tourist) we celebrated the great day.



Matija Jošt – Matic climbing first pitch of the route »Čunka«, west face of Jamyang Ri (5800 m). Foto Matjaž Dušič



Matjaž Dušič climbing 11th pitch of the route »Čunka«, west face of Jamyang Ri (5800 m). Foto Matija Jost – Matic



Matija Jost – Matic on the summit of Jamyang Ri (5800 m), Foto Matjaž Dušič

Jamyang Ri (5800 m)

FA and FA of the peak

Route »ČUNKA«, west face

5th August 2017

Height of the route 650 m

Overall grade ED

Rock from V to VII- (UIAA grade)

Matjaž Dušič

Matija Jošt - Matic

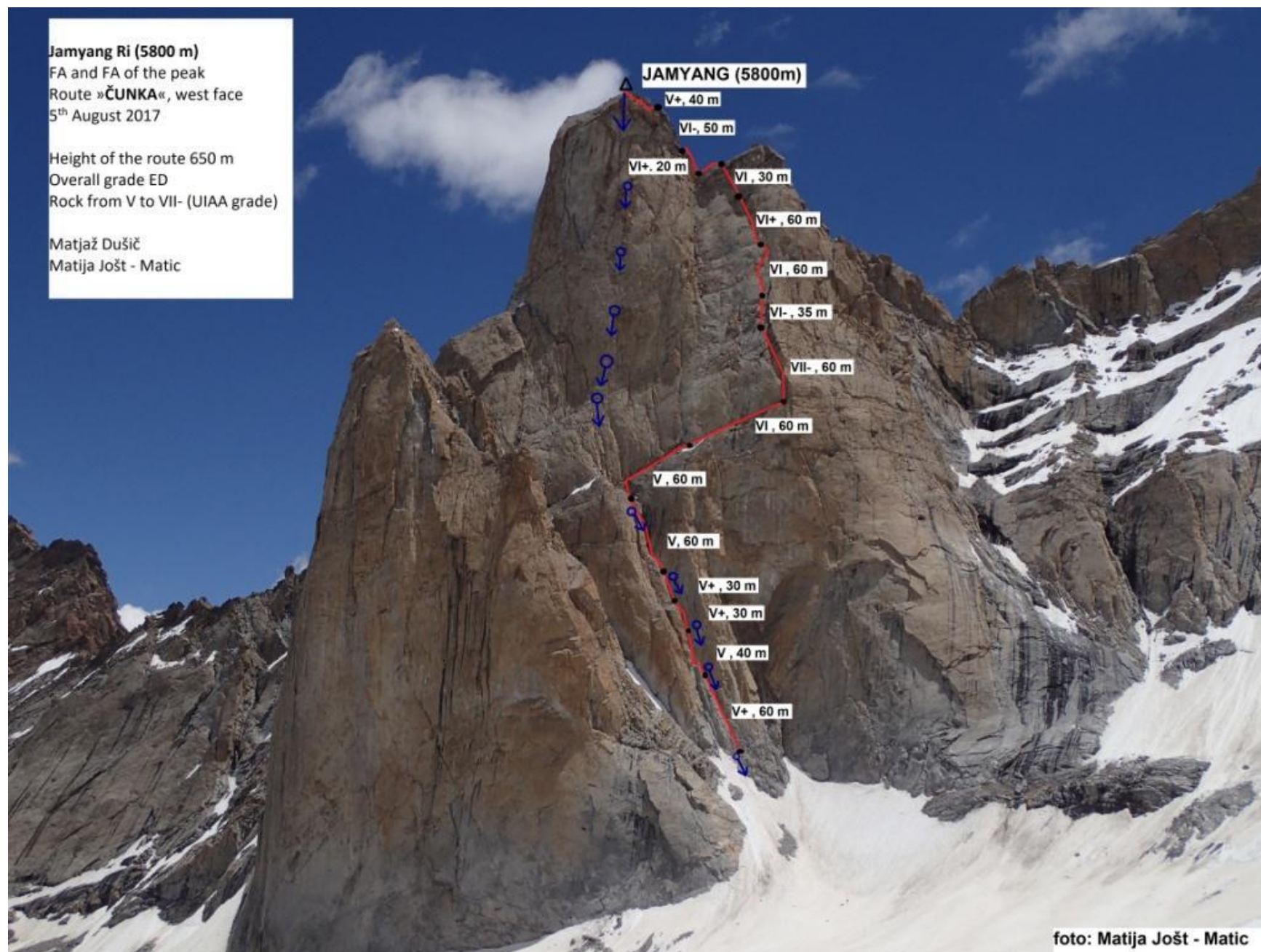
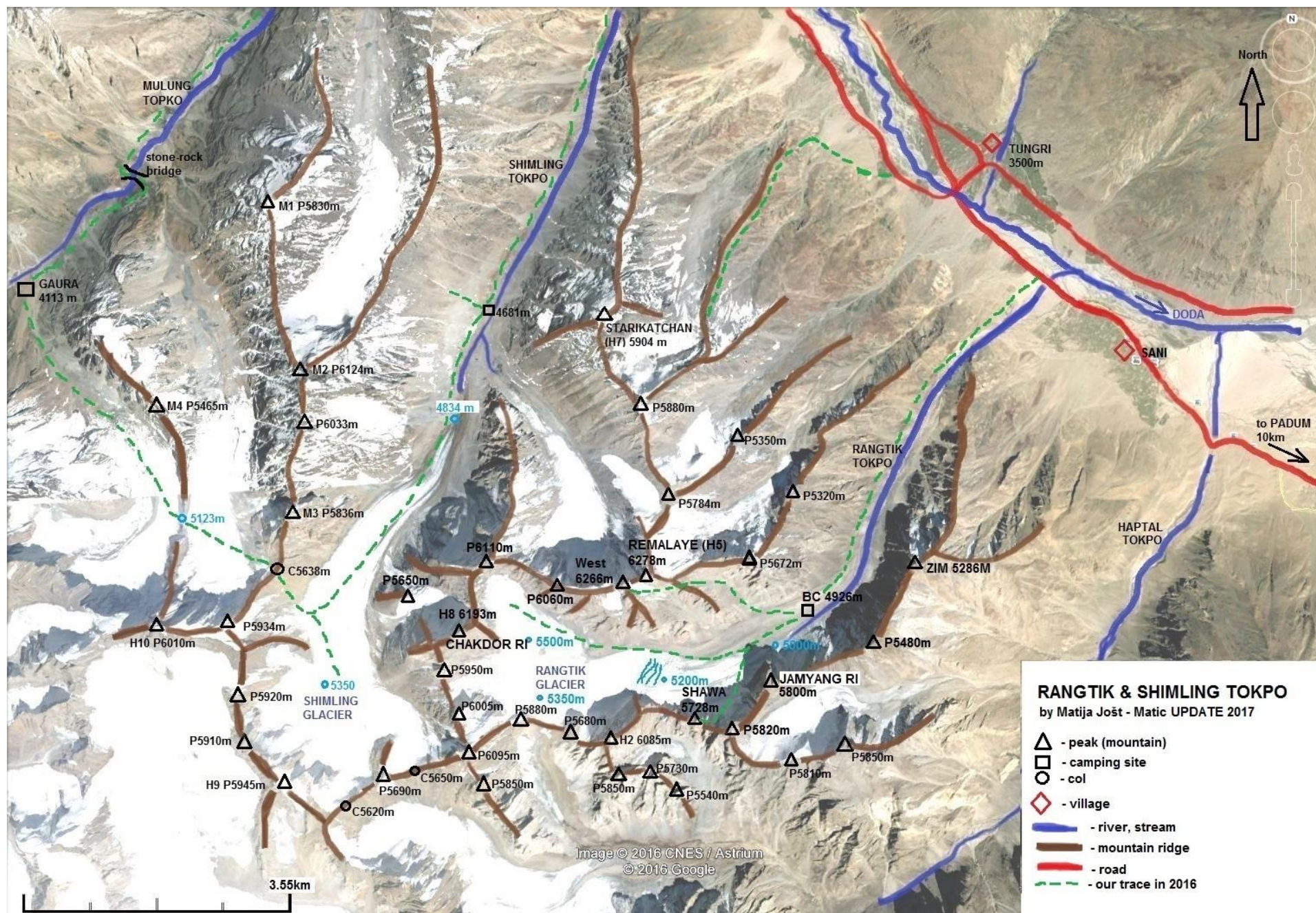


foto: Matija Jošt - Matic



Finances

<i>Outcome:</i>	€
Air tickets	1418,46
Extra baggage	160,00
Other transport expenses	600,00
Indian Visas	138,18
Insurance	590,56
Agency fee	9000,00
Hotels, hostels	300,00
Other (tipping, gas, additional food)	1500,00
<i>Subsume €:</i>	<i>13707,20</i>
<i>Income</i>	€
Personal contribution	10457,20
Alpine Association of Slovenia support	3250,00
<i>Subsume €:</i>	<i>13707,20</i>



*View from
Remalaye south
slopes towards
south east
direction.
Chhoge Tokpo
(T16, T13) and
Gompe Tokpo, in
front is Jamyang
Ri (5800 m). Foto
Matija Jošt -
Matic*

Conclusion

For 4th volume of Asian Alpine E News I wrote: “Unspoiled fragile nature, friendly people of Zanskar, heritage of Tibetan Buddhism and of course great mountains to climb is main attributes to visit the area. There is plenty of room for pristine alpinism as its best. Dimensions of mountains are more like Alps than the Himalaya, just with higher altitudes. Every expedition is pollution somehow. One of possible ways to minimize the pollution is to operate in small teams with modest comfort. We must try to climb clean and leave mountains as nice as we find them.” And I haven’t changed my opinion after this year’s trip