

# ASIAN ALPINE E-NEWS

Issue No.37, September 2018



## CONTENTS

**Guidebook “Mountaineering and ski mountaineering areas of Kyrgyzstan”**

*Page 2 ~ 48*

### Annotation

New edition of the Guidebook “Mountaineering & ski mountaineering areas of Kyrgyzstan” (First edition was named “Mountaineering areas of Kyrgyzstan”) is continued publishing by Asian Alpine E-News. Part of the Guidebook already was published in issues No. 23&30 of the AAEN. The other articles (Chapters) will follow as far as ready. Part of articles are doing together with co-authors.

## Guidebook “Mountaineering and ski mountaineering areas of Kyrgyzstan”

### Annotation

New edition of the Guidebook “Mountaineering & ski mountaineering areas of Kyrgyzstan” (Fist edition was named “Mountaineering areas of Kyrgyzstan”) is continued publishing by Asian Alpine E-News. Part of the Guidebook already was published in issues No. 23&30 of the AAEN. The other articles (Chapters) will follow as far as ready. Part of articles are doing together with co-authors.

The guide provides an overview and brief description (characteristics of areas, location, seasons, climate, climbing history, camps and bases, entrances and approaches, climbing opportunities) as well - developed mountaineering areas of Kyrgyzstan, and rarely visited and promising areas. There are described opportunities and recommendations on the organization, logistics of mountaineering expeditions, rescue operations, communications and formalities. The guide will be useful for those who are going to climb to Kyrgyzstan or choose new areas of the world for climbing.

Author Vladimir Komissarov, PhD, IFMGA mountain guide, President of the Kyrgyz Mountain guides Association and the Kyrgyz Alpine Club, engaged in Mountaineering for more than 50 years. He has repeatedly visited and climbed all areas described by him.

Author will be very thanks to new climbing info for the described areas (Kyrgyz Alpine Club [alpclub-kg@mail.ru](mailto:alpclub-kg@mail.ru)).

### CONTENT of the Guidebook

#### Introduction

Part I. Short geographical info of Kyrgyz Mountains. By Vladimir Komissarov (AAEN #30)\*

Part II. Most interesting mountaineering and ski mountaineering areas of Kyrgyzstan (is publishing)

Part III Logistics for the mountaineering and ski mountaineering activity in Kyrgyzstan. By Vladimir Komissarov (AAEN #30)\*

Part IV. Rescue in Kyrgyz Mountains, insurance, emergency contacts. By Vladimir Komissarov (AAEN #30)\*

#### Detailed content of the Part II.

##### Mountaineering

###### *Tien-Shan*

Chapter 1. The Central Tien-San.

Chapter 2. Terskey Range

Chapter 3. Kyrgyz Range

3.1. Climbing routes of Aksay Glacier area (AAEN #23)\*

Chapter 4. Western Kokshal Range

Chapter 5. Akshyrak Range

Chapter 6. Kulu Range. By Vladimir Komissarov, Pat Littlejohn, Adrian Nelhams (AAEN #23)\*

Chapter 7. Borkoldoy Range

Chapter 8. At-Bashinsky Range By Vladimir Komissarov, Pat Littlejohn, Adrian Nelhams (AAEN #30)\*

Chapter 9. Jetim and Jetimbel ranges

Chapter 10. Torugart Range

###### *Pamir*

Chapter 13. Zaalaisky Range. By Vladimir Komissarov, Adrian Nelhams\*

13.1.1. Lenin Peak description, by Vladimir Komissarov (AAEN #23)\*

Chapter 14. Turkestansky Range

Chapter 15. Alaisky Range

##### Ski Mountaineering

Chapter 16. Ranges Suek, Akshirak, Djetym-Bel and Djetym.

Chapter 17. East part of Terskey Range

Chapter 18. Atbashy and Naryntoo ranges

Chapter 20. Suusamyр Valley.

Chapter 21. Mounts in the vicinity of Bishkek city



harsh than that of the Tien-Shan. The mid-temperature in the Achiktash base camp (located at an altitude of 3600m) in the period of July - August is +10°C. Precipitation is greatest in the period from April to early June; the least rainfall being in August - September. We can divide the range into four parts according to the level of exploration, landscape features and accessibility. The central part of the range is the place of two regions location: 1) Lenin Peak and Achiktash Valley; 2) Korzhenevskiy Glacier; the next is 3) the eastern part of the range located to the east direction from Kyzart Pass and 4) western part of the range located to the west direction from Achiktash Gorge. The approach from the Osh City (which has an international airport) to the Alay Valley goes along high quality asphalted highway through the Taldyk Pass (3615m) up to Sarytash Village. The distance is 180 km takes about 3 hours. From here the various approaches to the different regions of the range are accessed.

The exploration of the Zaalasky Range started in the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century with various Pamir expeditions from the Russian Empire led by Fedchenko, Mushketov, Korzhenevsky, and Severcev and these were continued into the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> century by Soviet expeditions. Lenin Peak was discovered in 1871 by the Fedchenko expedition and called Kaufman Peak (who was Governor General of Turkestan Region of Russian Empire at that time). Climbers of a Russian-German-Austrian expedition, Karl Wien, Eugene Allwein and Erwin Schneider made the first ascent in 1928 and renamed the summit Lenin Peak. Exploration of climbing in the region commenced then and was initially concentrated around Lenin Peak and the Korzhenevsky glacier. In 2000, alpinists started a more intensive exploration of the eastern part of the area from the Kyzart Pass eastwards. As of 2018, the western part of the region remains unexplored by climbers. This is reflected in the list of first ascents below. However, it should be noted that mountain tourists commenced an intensive exploration of this region after 2000 using long trekking tours through mountain passes, although these itineraries avoid the more technically difficult summits.

#### **Expeditions' supply.**

There are only a few tour companies operating in Kyrgyzstan (mentioned in AAE-N #30, [http://asian-alpine-e-news.com/asian\\_alpine\\_e-new\\_issue\\_no30.pdf](http://asian-alpine-e-news.com/asian_alpine_e-new_issue_no30.pdf) ), which can provide the necessary services and support for independent expeditions to the Zaalasky Range. In the immediate area of Lenin Peak there are six tour companies operating who can provide all the needed services.

**Transport.** Please take into consideration that a cross country (off-road) vehicle is required to access the gorges of the Range, while there is an asphalted highway to Sarytash Village and further along to the Range to the east and to the west, you can only reach the base camps of Achiktash Valley by this road. There is no possibility to hire a cross country vehicle in the Alay valley and there is no such type of transport available in Osh. Consequently, it is necessary to hire this type of the vehicle in Bishkek.

**Horses.** It is not a problem to arrange horses for an expedition; these are widely available in the Alay villages through the CBT Association (<http://cbtkyrgyzstan.kg/> ). Also, there is in Achiktash Valley possible to find horses from local nomads for deliver of load or riding.

**Food.** Basic foodstuffs such as bread, sugar, flour, cereals and fresh meat can be purchased in the Alay Valley villages. However, the range of the food here is limited and not sufficient to support an expedition and therefore it is recommended that, as all the tour operators operating in the Alay region do, the majority of foodstuffs be purchased in Osh.

**Expedition Staff.** Cooks to work up to the altitude of 4000m, low level porters, local guides and horsemen for trekking can be hired in Alay Valley through the CBT Association. Other more specialized staff such as high mountain guides, alpinism instructors, high altitude porters and cooks etc. to work at the altitude more than 4000m, can be hired through the local tour operators

**Expedition equipment.** This specialized sort of equipment – tents (base camp and high altitude), mobile kitchens, kitchen equipment, electric supply, USB-stations, satellite phones, replacing missing climbing equipment (for instance, by reason of lost baggage) – can be rented from the tour operators mentioned above.

**Communication.** The mobile phone network of most of the Kyrgyz providers is available almost everywhere. However, for some remoter parts of the Range, a connection is only possible via a satellite phone.

**Formalities.** All climbing areas of the Zaalay Range are located in the border zone and consequently a border permit is required. It is recommended that passport registration (if required) be arranged in one of the big cities upon arrival (e.g. Bishkek or Osh). Passport registration is also possible to arrange through tour operators in Darautkurgan the capital village of the Chon-Alay district.

### 13.1. Achiktash Gorge

The Achiktash Gorge is one of the most famous climbing areas in the world. It is here that, what is widely considered to be the most technically easy summits over an altitude of 7000m, Lenin Peak (7134 m) is located.



Pic 13-2. Lenin Peak massive

This area is located on the northern slopes of the Zaalay Range, on the Tajik border, 32 km to the south of Kashkasu Village. The area is widely snow-covered, with the slopes and mountaintops covered with ice and snow. The base altitude is in excess of 3000m. Typically, the routes here are on snow and ice and are not technically difficult. It provides an opportunity to undertake a high altitude ascent without requiring a high level of technical climbing skills.

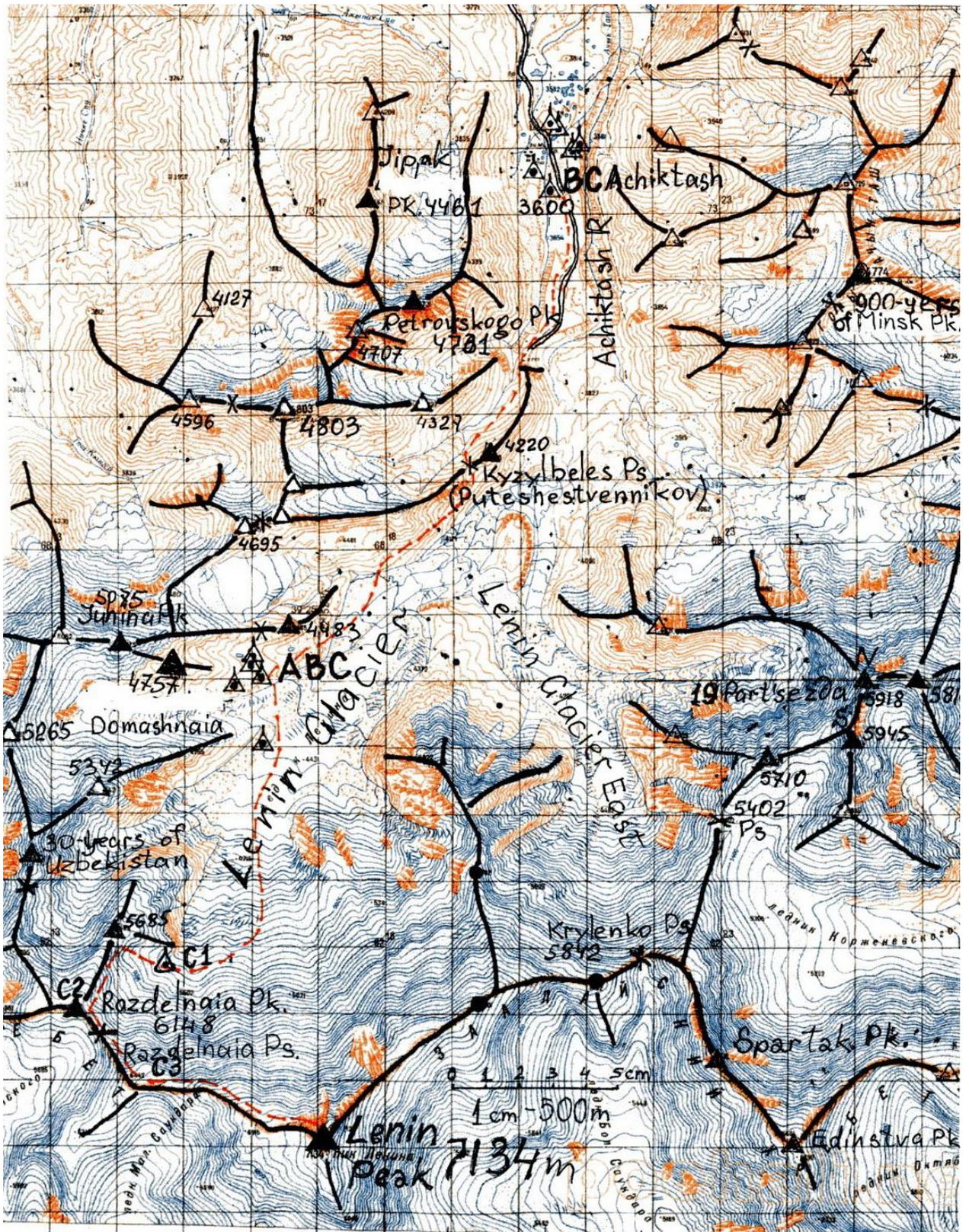
The road to the Achiktash base camp from Sary-Tash Village by vehicle goes along an excellent asphalt road up to Kashkasu Village (65 km) and then across the Kyzylsuu River bridge and along a 32 km dirt road up to the location of the Lenin Peak base camps.

The Lenin Peak massive is located between the Razdelny Pass (altitude of 6080m) from the west and the Krylenko Pass (altitude of 5820m) from the east. Overall, the length of the massive from pass to pass is some 9.5 km, and the length from the western shoulder of the summit (6442m) to the eastern shoulder (6601m) is 6.5 km. The northern slopes of the massive are ice covered and these flow down to form the Lenin Glacier in the Gorge.

There are now 19 itineraries to the summit of Lenin Peak; 10 routes go from the northern side (Kyrgyzstan) (Pic. 13-5) and 9 of them go from the southern side (Tajikistan). The safest and most popular itinerary is the route from the north, going from Achik-Tash through the Razdelnaya Summit (6148m).

The summit was first described in 1871 by the Russian geographer and traveler A.P. Fedchenko, who called the summit Peak Kaufman after the local governor-general of that time. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkestan>). In 1928, the first ascent to the summit was done by a Pamir Russian-German expedition, the climbers being the German pair of Karl Wien and Eugene Allwein and the Austrian alpinist Erwin Schneider. They renamed the summit Lenin Peak. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir\\_Lenin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Lenin) ). Two further ascents to the summit were done before the Second World War. A new stage of exploration of the area started after the Second World War and went through until the end of the 1960s, with the latter part of this era being marked with organization of numerous mass high altitude ascents. Mass international jubilee mountaineering competitions took place in 1967 and these were unprecedented for a summit of such an altitude. Competitions were dedicated to 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Soviet revolution, when 301 persons, including 60 climbers from other countries, reached the summit via a number of different

routes (4 routes were climbed first time). More mass ascents to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Lenin took place in 1970. Regular ascents to the summit started in 1972 when the first Soviet Union International Mountaineering Camp (IMC) was arranged in Achiktash. This camp received tourists from across the world.



- ▲ - climbed peaks
- △ - climbing info is not found
- - classic rout Lenin Peak
- == - road

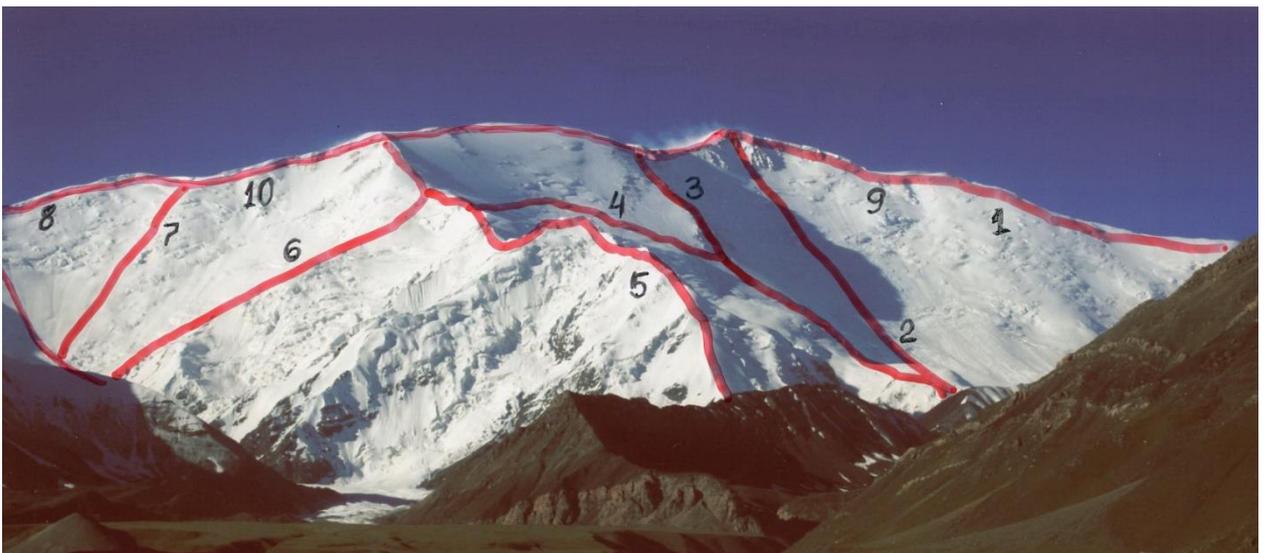
Pic 13-3. Orographic map of Achiktash Gorge and Lenin Peak (7134m)

Today, hundreds of mountaineering tourists from the different parts of the planet come to the area to attempt an ascent of Lenin Peak, to undertake trekking or to just enjoy the high

mountains. Six Kyrgyz travel companies set up their own base camps to provide services and support for climbing and trekking. In addition, the local government administration together with the Kyrgyz Alpine Club ([www.kac.centralasia.kg](http://www.kac.centralasia.kg)) and Kyrgyz Mountain Guides Association (<http://mguide.in.kg/>) arrange annual ethnic-folklore festivals for local people and foreign climbers. A photo report of one of these festivals, which took place on August 5, 2018 and was dedicated to 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of first ascent to Lenin Peak, can be seen below in Annexe 2.



Pic. 13-4. One of advance base camps (ABC), 4200m.



Pic. 13-5. Lenin Peak routes from the North. 1. Kovalev V. (1954) classic route through Razdelnaya; 2. Arkin J. (1960) N direct line; 3. Chernukha K. (1934), by rib of Lipkin rocks; 4. Ratsek V. (1950) through Lipkin rock to E ridge; 5. Skurlatov J. (1967), along the Northern rib; 6. Scott D. (1974), from the East of Lenin Glacier through NE rib and N rib (English route); 7. Benua R. (1974), from the East of Lenin Glacier via E culuar; 8. Cheredova V. (1960), along E ridge from Krylenko Pass; 9. Abalakov V. (1960), traverse from W to E; 10. Kashafutdinov V. (1991), traverse from E to W.

There are a number of summits below 7000m in the area of Lenin Peak, but the summits are largely neglected because of their comparatively lower altitude.

13.1.1. Lenin Peak 7134. Description of ascent to Lenin Peak along the classical route through the summit Razdelnaya.

This part of Chapter 13 from the Guidebook was published in the magazine Asian Alpine E-News #23, 2018 ([http://asian-alpine-e-news.com/asian\\_alpine\\_e-new\\_issue\\_no23.pdf](http://asian-alpine-e-news.com/asian_alpine_e-new_issue_no23.pdf)).

13.1.2. Neighboring mountains to Lenin Peak.

There is a possibility to climb many other summits, other than Lenin Peak in this area. These peaks are recommended for both acclimatization purposes as well as for individual ascent. As soon as you arrive in Achiktash you can go from the base camp to Petrovskogo Peak (4830m) as the first stage of acclimatization (Pic. 13-6). There is also an opportunity as part of the first stage of an acclimatization programme to do ascents of the peaks nearest to ABC such as Domashniy (4700m), Yuhina and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Uzbekistan.



Pic. 13-6. Petrovskogo Peak, photo from Achiktash BC.



Pic. 13-7. Yuhina and Domashniy peaks

There are a number of other summits located close to ABC (Pics. 13-\_, 13-\_, 13-\_ ) in addition to the mountains mentioned above. As no information has been uncovered about any prior ascents of these summits they are considered to be virgin peaks.



Pic. 13-8. Peak 5342



Pic. 13-9. Peak 4803 (right)

The standard climbing programme includes an ascent to the summit of Razdelnaya (6148m), which is located on the way to the top of Lenin Peak, during the second acclimatization process. This has a certain logic: it enables an exploration of the ascent route and also facilitates the carrying of the necessary equipment and supplies required for the summit bid during the acclimatization programme. Alternatively, there is the possibility to complete the second phase of acclimatization by undertaking an ascent of XIX Parts'ezda Peak, 5920m (Pics.13-11 – 13-17) and staying for one night on the top, as is typically done when climbing Razdelnaya Peak.



Pic. 13-10. Peak 4695 (left)



Pic. 13-11. 19-th Parts'ezda KPSS Peak.



Pic. 13-12. NW ridge of XIX Parts'ezda Peak.



Pic. 13-13. W wall of XIX Parts'ezda Peak.



Pic. 13-14. Ridge before the top of XIX Parts'ezda Peak.



Pic. 13-15. Camp on the top of XIX Parts'ezda Peak.



Pic. 13-16. S ridge of XIX Parts'ezda Peak. Lenin and Dzerzhinskogo peaks are located from the right side.

In addition to the climbing opportunities described above, one day ascents from the eastern side of Achiktash Gorge, where there are some virgin peaks in excess of 4000m, are also possible to arrange (Pic. 13-17).



Pic. 13-17. Virgin peaks of E side of Achiktash Valley, Peak of 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Minsk city is located in the centre of the picture.

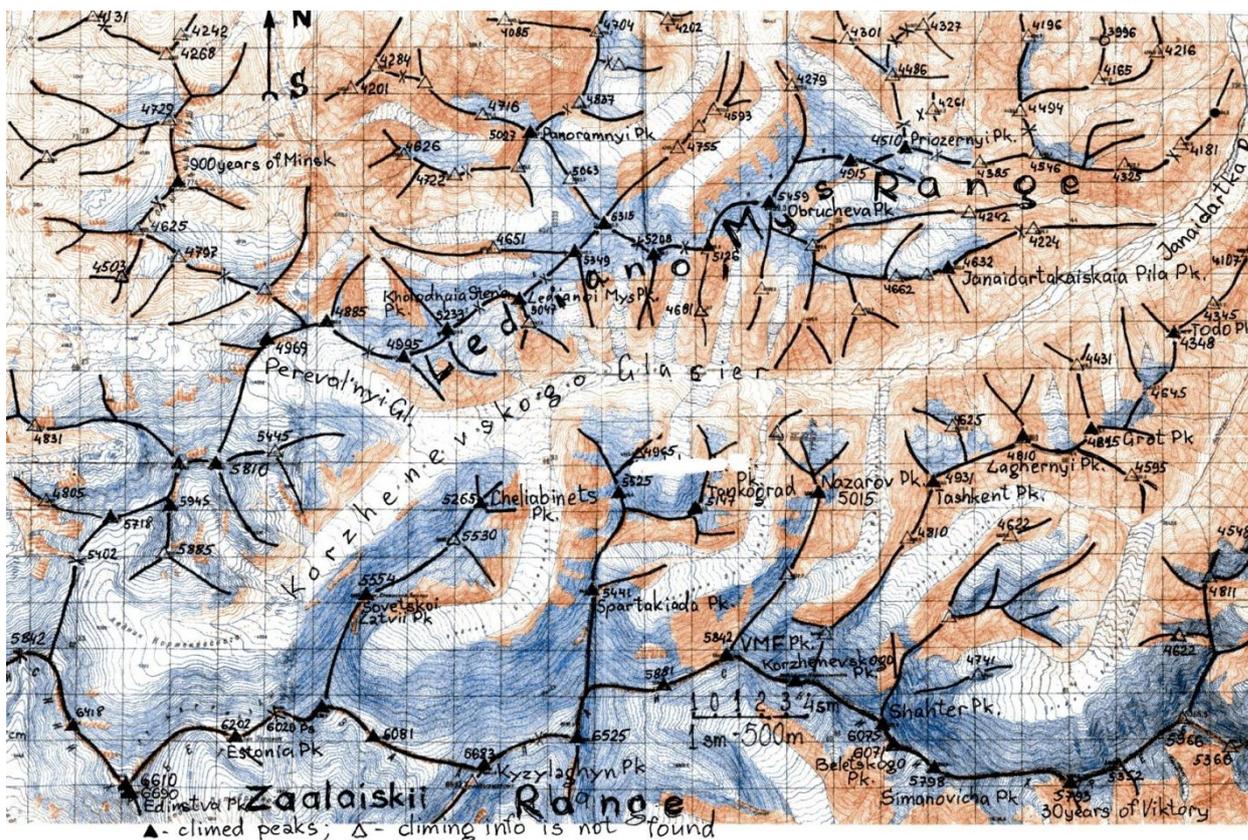
### **13.2. Korzhenevski Glacier area.**

The area of covering the Korzhenevsky Glacier is located from the west of the Kyzart Pass and from the east of Achiktash Gorge (Pic. 13-19).



Pic. 13-18. Korzhenevsky Glacier area in Zaalay Range.

This area's exploration started in the 1960s and was mainly undertaken by mountain tourists/trekkers rather than by alpinists. Mountain tours were undertaken not only through the passes, but also across the tops of the main ranges of the area where access is possible via simple snow routes. One of first climbers were alpinists of the Osh oblast, under the direction of V. Freifeld, arranged a high altitude climbing expedition in this part of the Zaalay Range in 1963. They climbed to the highest summits of the area: Kyzyl-Agyn Peak (6679m) and Korzhenevsky Peak (6005m); and did the traverse of VMF (5842m); Korzhenevsky, Belecky (6075m) and Simanovicha (5798) peaks. The area was frequently visited by Russian mountain tourists in the 2000s. They climbed to most of the summits of the watershed parts of the Zaalaysky and Ledyanoy Mys ranges in addition to crossing the passes. Many of the summits located on the spurs of these ridges are still virgin.



Pic. 13-19. Korzhenevsky Glacier area map.

A Cambridge University expedition, led by James Lasseter, climbed several summits in 1999 – Nazarov Peak (5015) from the north, the southern part of peak 5525m, the southern summit (5845) of XIX Prts'ezd Peak, Korzhenevsky Peak (6008m) and Peak 6624 located on the southern part of the Zaalay Range.

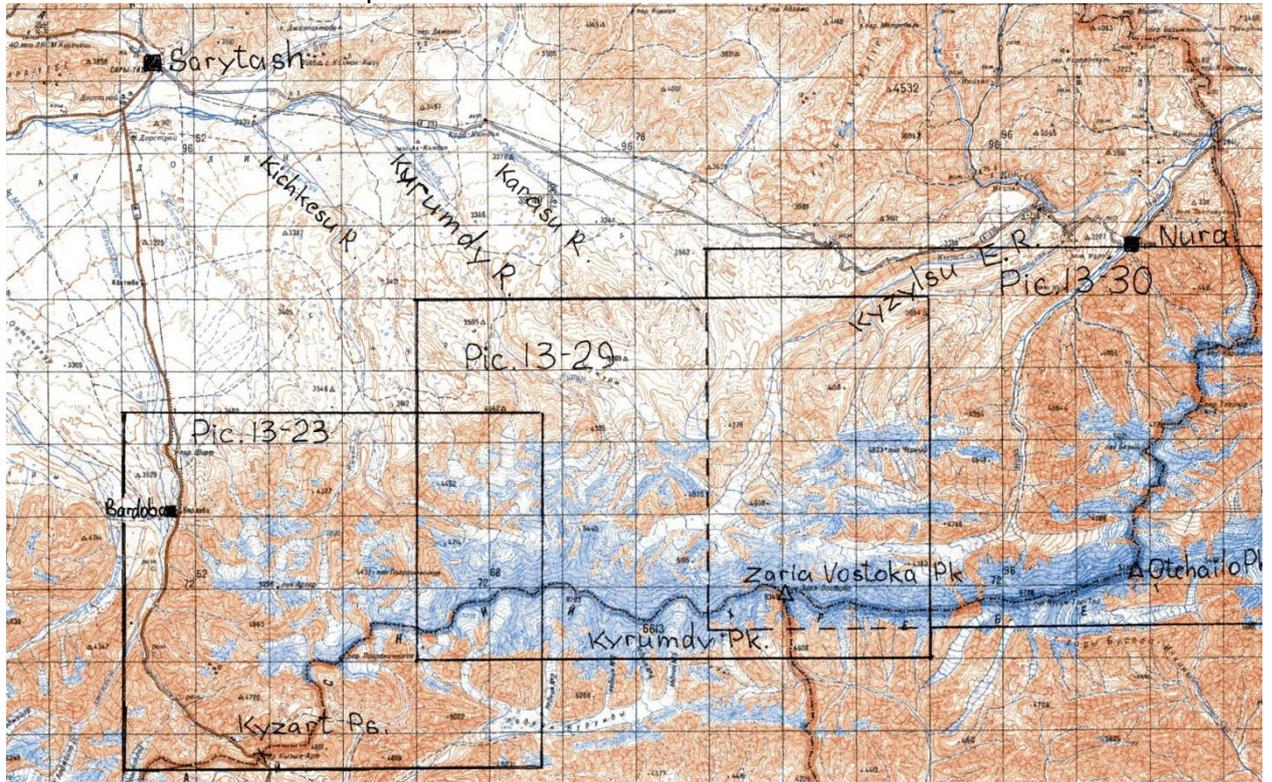
Two Slovak climbers (Pala and Chadick) arranged a ski mountaineering expedition in 2005 to several summits situated in the Dzhanaidartaka Valley and Nazarov Glacier. Exploratory ascents were arranged to Todo Peak too.

Approach to the area of Korzhenevsky Glacier goes from Bordoba Village on the east side. This can be reached by the highway connecting Sarytash Village and the Kyzart Pass. The approach to the summits of northern slope of Ledyanoy Mys Range is accessible from Sarymogol Village via the bridge on the Kyzylsuu River or from the side of the Sarytash – Kyzart highway by cross country vehicle.

### 13.3. East of the Kyzart Pass.

This part of Zaalay Range experienced little attention before 1990. This area was not popular in Soviet time because it was closed as part of the Chinese border zone and because of its proximity to the neighboring areas of Lenin Peak (7134m) and Kommunism Peak (7495m). The area became more attractive for climbers after the “restructuring” and collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. A British expedition attempted to climb Kurumdy Peak during 40 days in 1999, but was unsuccessful. A Scottish expedition led by Paul Digan climbed 10 summits from the basin of the Kurumdy Glacier in 1999: Anatoli Peak (4985m); 4892m Peak; Twig Peak (4852m); Svyatoi Peak (Siyayuschi) 4789m; Molly Peak (4800m) among others. Zarya Vostoka Peak (6349) was climbed by a group of tourists under the leadership of Alexander Novik (Moscow) in 2000. Russian and Uzbek expeditions made unsuccessful attempts to climb Kurumdy Peak in 2004. This highest point of the eastern part of the Zaalay Range was successfully climbed in 2005 by Kyrgyz climbers led by A. Gubaev. A team of Spanish climbers in 2007 completed ascents of Ekishak Peak (5155m); Golova Orla Peak (5441m); 4789 Peak; Siyayuschi and Molly Peaks located in the upper part of the Kyzylsuu Glacier. An expedition of Moscow based climbers in 2008 led by A. Lebedev and D. Shapovalov did an ascent of Gubaev Peak (5368m) located in the northern side

of the Ridge, several kilometers from Zarya Vostoka Peak. Also at 2008, a Russian team headed by Alexander Kelin climbed Belyi Peak (5021m) in the Nura Valley and did a traverse of peaks 5505 and 5917 meters. The first ascent of Otchailo Peak was done in September 2009 by members of the Hanover Alpine Club.



Pic. 13-20. Overview map of Eastern Zaaly Range.



Pic. 13-21. East part of Zaaly Range, massive Kurumdy Peak. Photo Jason Sheldrake.

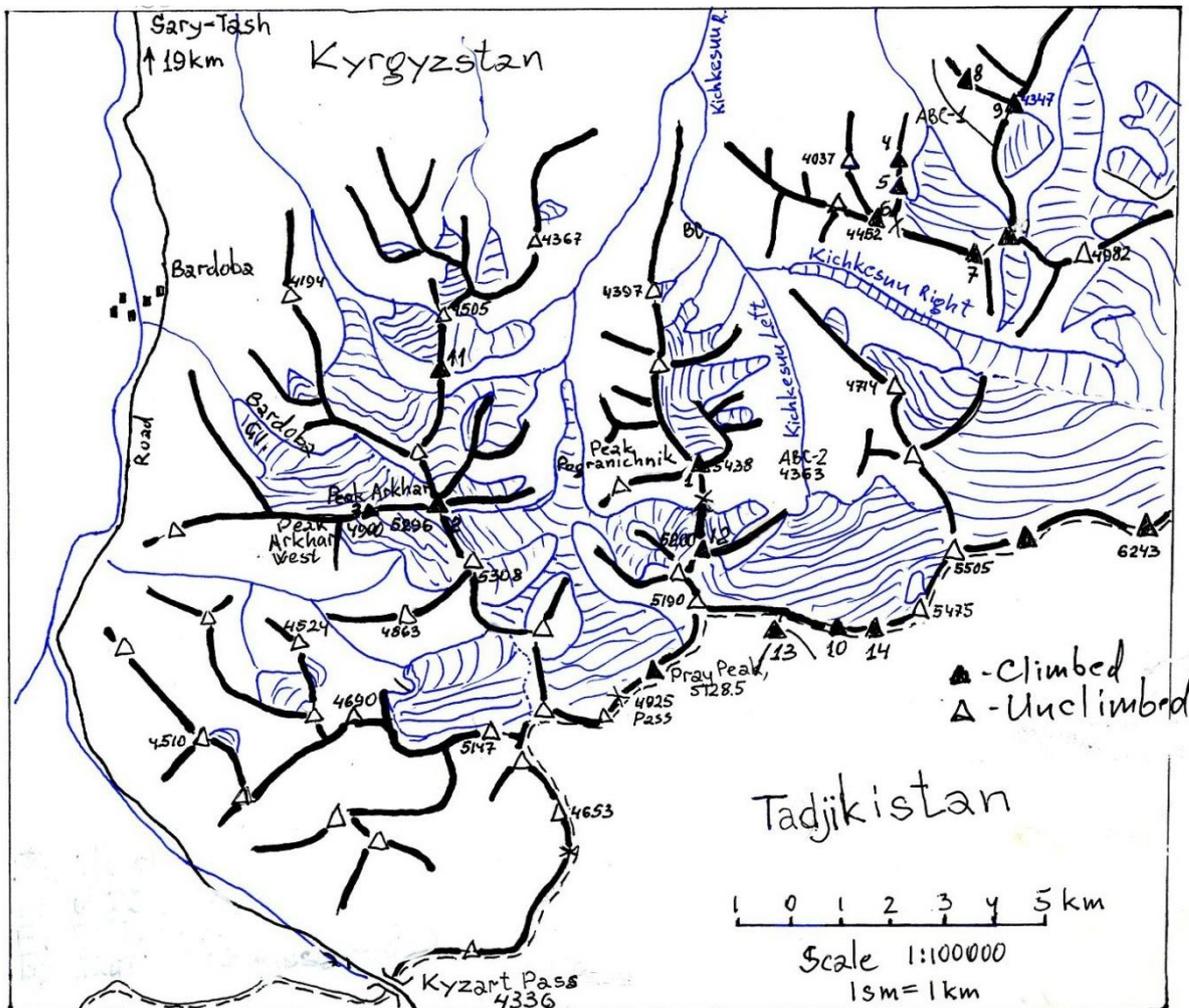


Pic. 13-22. Maasive of Kurumdy Peak.



Pic. 13-22. Zaria Vostoka Peak, 6349m.

West part of that area - the Kecheksuu Valley (Pic.13-\_) is located to the east of the Kyzart pass. A Russian expedition was undertaken here in July 2010 led by Yuri Koshelenko. They achieved two ascents on the left and right Kichkesu glaciers, to Meretskogo (4800m) and In-Yan Peaks (4714m or 4939m). A group led by Lebedev in 2013 again crossed the Nura and Kecheksu valleys climbing Peak 5985, located from the east side of Zarya Vostoka Peak. The altitude of the peak was later found to be 6022m.



Pic. 13-23. Orographical map of Kecheksu River basin



Pic. 13-24. Pogranychnik Peak, SE side.

A French-Russian team of Henry Bizot and his Russian guide Nicolay climbed Veronica and Anna Peak (5123m) in 2014, which are located to the south of Pogranychnik Peak (5437m) in the left Kichkesu Glacier basin. In 2015 the German expedition of Markus Gshvendt achieved a full traverse of the summits from Kurumdy Vostochny Peak (Catty Peak, 6259m) to Kurumdy Zapadnyi (Chorku Peak, 6283m). The first expedition to the area of Pogranychnik Glasier and left

Kecheksu Valley was organized in 2015 by the International School of Mountaineering (ISM), which achieved 11 first ascents. The second ISM expedition to the neighboring gorges located to the east from Kicheksu Gorge and Kurumdu River was in 2016. ISM climber have done 13 first ascents. Ireland Alpine club expedition to Kichkesu Gorge were done at 2016 too. A group from the Saint-Petersburg club Prayogi led by I.A. Moshnikov did the first ascent in the area of Pogranichnik Glacier to Prai Peak (5128m) in July 2018. All summits with an altitude of more than 6000m have now been climbed, but many 4000m peaks are still awaiting a first ascent.

The approach to the western part of this area is straightforward. The floodplains of the Kichkesu, Kurumdy and Kashkasuu rivers area are accessible by cross country vehicles via the highway connecting the Kyzart pass and Sarytash Village or by the highway connecting the Irkeshtam border post and Sarytash Village along the chukurs (sloping terrain covered with grass). The road goes almost up to basin of the glaciers of the rivers where there are comfortable places to set up a base camps and where it is possible, within a few hours of hiking, to access ABCs and climbing areas.



Pic. 13-25. Kichkesu Gl. left.



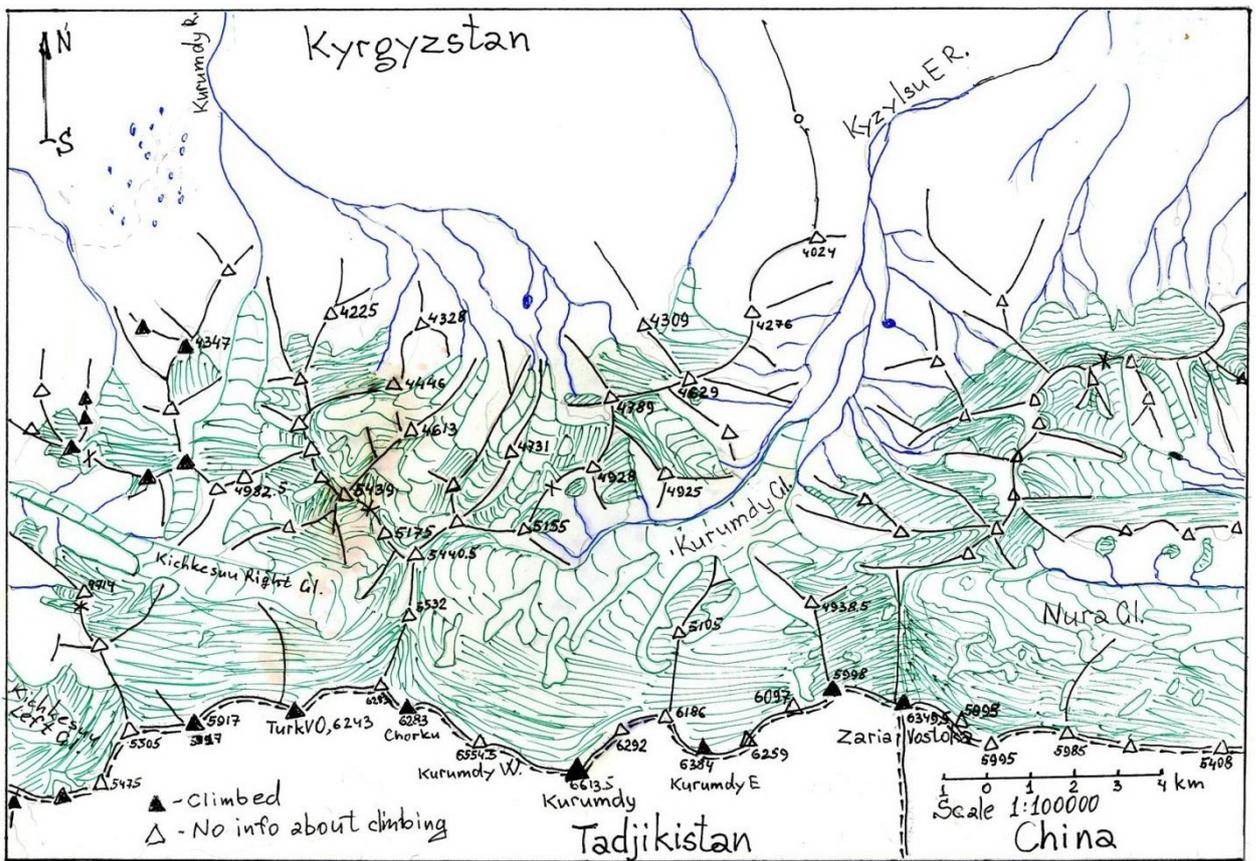
Pic. 13-26. Kichkesu River crossing.



Pic. 13-27. Cross country vehicle – transport for Zaalay expeditions. Driving along bottom of Kichkesu River to BC point.

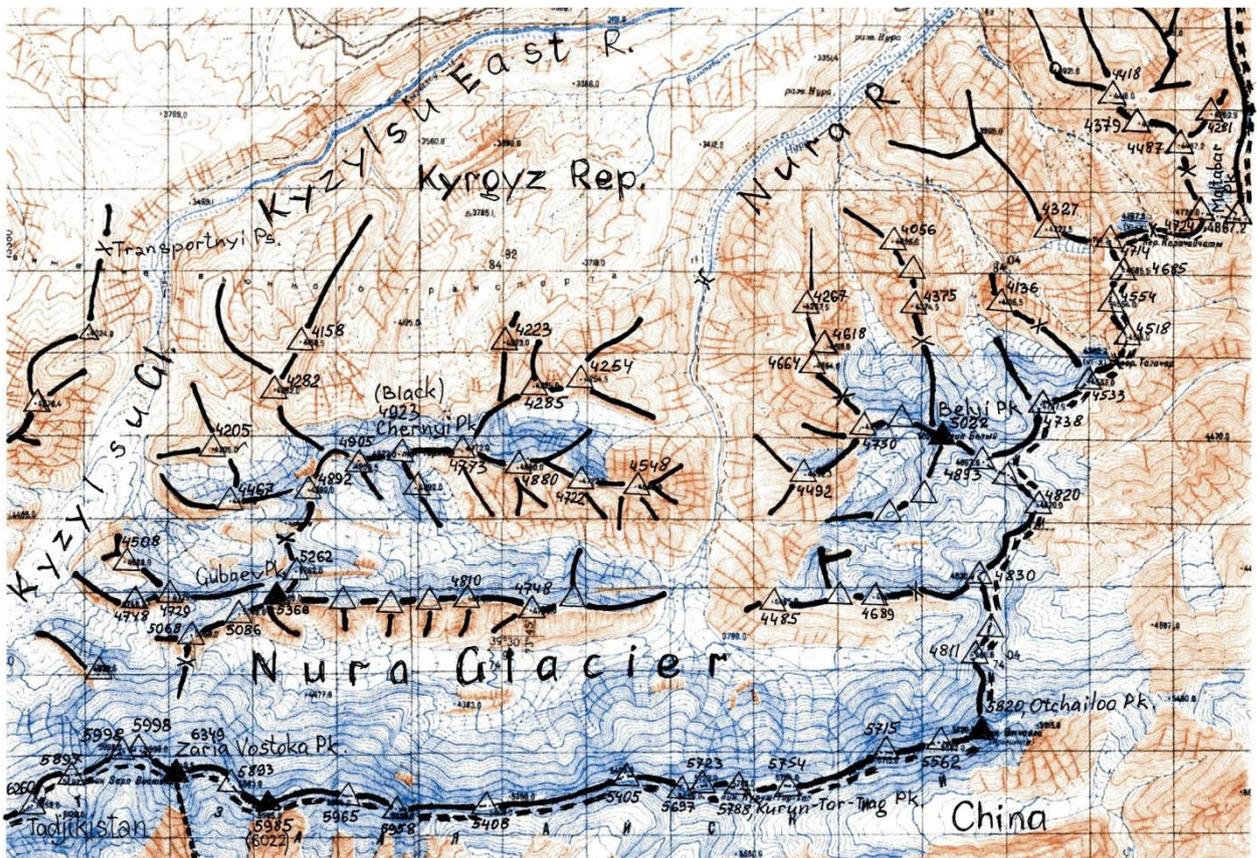


Pic. 13-28. Herd of yaks on Kashkasu upper reache River. East Zaalay.



Pic. 13-29. Orographical scheme of Kurumdy and Eastern Kyzylsu Rivers basins.

Approaches to the area of the Kyzylsu Glacier (Pic. 13-\_) where the highest point of this part of Zaalay Range is located are more difficult. An approach can be made by cross country vehicle from the 30<sup>th</sup> kilometre mark of the Sarytash – Irkeshtam road along the chukurs up to the Transportny Pass. This place is appropriate for a BC. A further walking approach goes through the Transportny Pass in the direction of Kyzylsu East River up to the climbing area. Walking time is 6-10 hours. There are two other options for approach to the area of Nura Glacier (Pic. 13-\_)



Pic. 13-30. Orographical scheme of Nura River basin

**First option.** This goes through the Transportnyi Pass, eastern Kyzylsuu Glacier and then through the pass which connects Zarya Vostoka Peak and the northern spur of the Zaalay Range to the western part of the Nura Glacier and then to the climbing area. This approach from the Transportnyi Pass to western Nura takes two days.

**Second option.** Starting at the Sarytash – Irkeshtam highway to the Nura River and then by cross country vehicle along the right bank floodplain of Nura River to the suspension bridge through Nura River (Pics. 13- and 13-). There is a summer village of shepherds in this place on the right bank of the River and horses are available to hire here. Horses can carry up to the Nura Glacier moraine. A walking only approach is possible to the area of eastern part of the Nura Glacier. The walking time from Sarytash Village to the suspension bridge at Nura River is one day. It takes a further 1-2 days by foot to reach the climbing area.



Pic. 13-31. Transportny pass, view from 4309 peak.



Pic. 13-32. Way along high-water bed Nura.



Pic. 13-33. Bridge across Nura River.



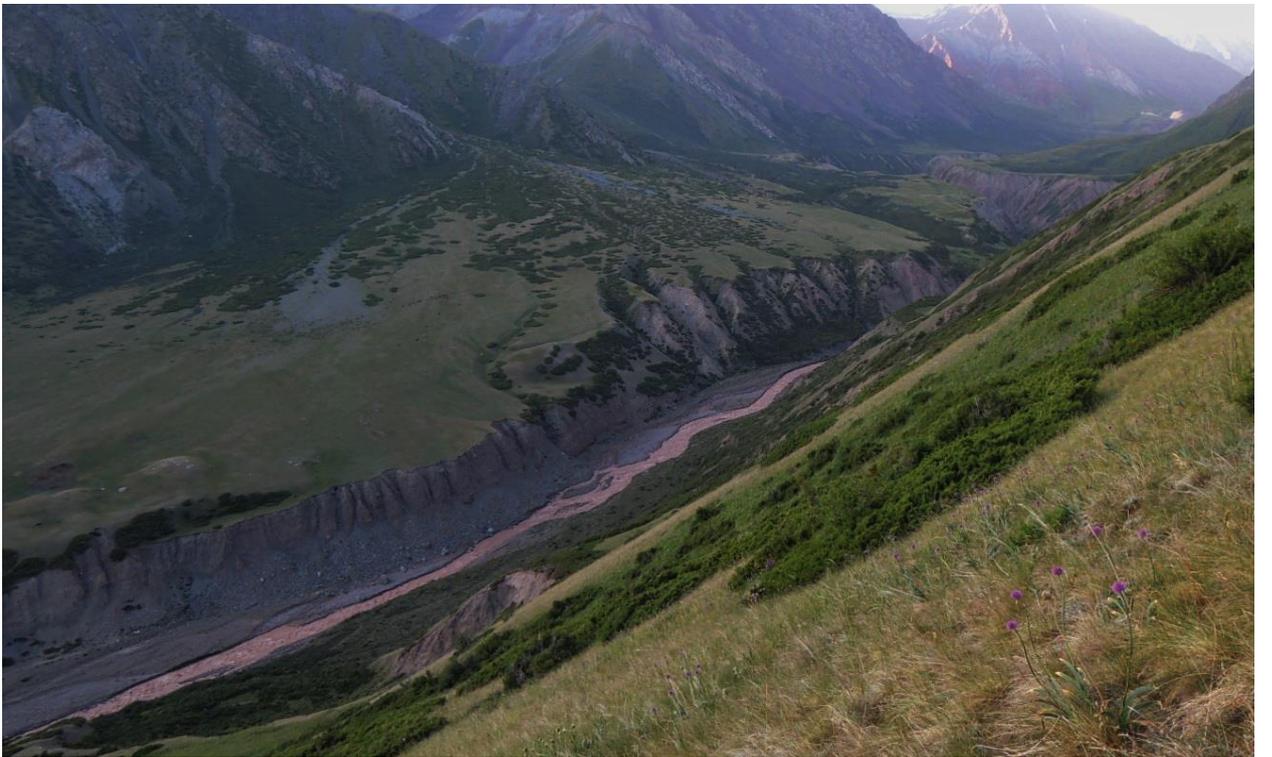
Pic. 13 34. East outermost part (Nura) of Zaalay Range.



Pic. 13-35. In front is N virgine branch of Zaalay Range.



Pic. 13-36. Paradise of East part of Zaalay Range.



Pic. 13-37. Nura River canon.



Pic. 13-38. Horse milk at summer Nura village.



Pic. 13-39. Cowboy of summer Nura village.

#### 13.4. To West of Lenin Peak

The Zaalay Range continues more than 100 km to the west from Achik-Tash gorge and drops from an altitude of 6717m to 4000m. The highest point of the western part of the range is Dzerzhinsky (6717m) which is located in the neighboring gorge (Kaman) to Lenin Peak.



Pic. 13-40. Dzerzhinskogo Peak (6717), view from W ridge of Lenin Peak. Photo Pasha Chechia.

It is also possible to climb to Lenin Peak via the Razdelnaya summit from this gorge. There are a lot of expeditions and climbing base camps (with climbers from across the world) in Achik-Tash in summer time, but there are few climbers to Lenin Peak from the Kamansu side. From here, the climbing time is the same, the route is safer and it is possible to reach base camp by car. Dzerzhinsky Peak is easily climbed from the Kaman gorge along the northern snow-ice slopes through the Dzerzhinsky pass (5700m) and then along the snow ridge up to the summit.

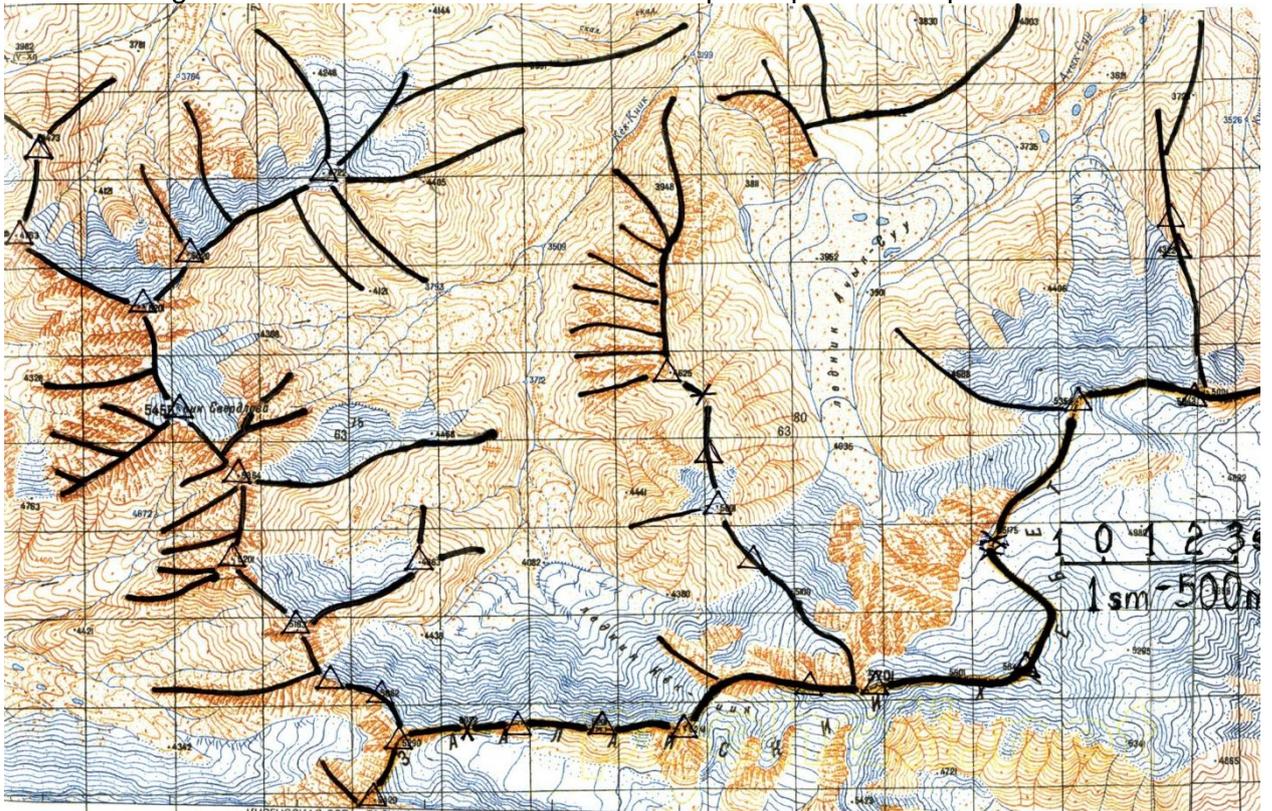


Pic. 13-41. West part of Zaalay Range

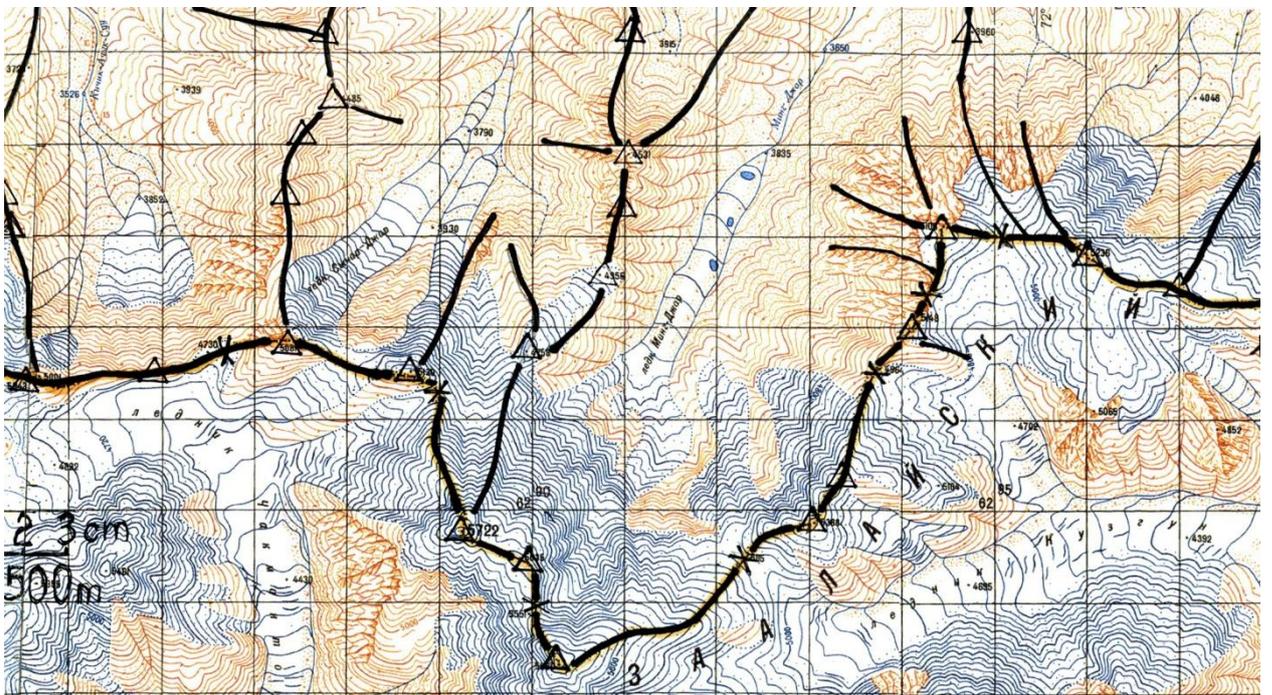
A series of gorges (Kungyr-suu, Ming-Djar-Sinar-Djar, Achyk-Suu, K k-Kiik и Altyn-Daria gorges) stretch further to the west from Kaman gorge, here there are a lot of virgin peaks at an altitude of 4000 to 6000 meters (Pics. 13-42 – 13-44). All these gorges are rarely visited by alpinists and just a few summits are already climbed. Most of the visitors to this area are groups of mountain tourists whose main goal is to trek the routes through the mountain passes. Sometimes their routes have included the crossing of non-technical summits. Overall, this area is visited much less by alpinists than the regions located to the east of Lenin Peak, despite the fact that approach to most gorges is easier from the west than from the eastern part of the Range. The main valleys of northern slope, western part of the Zaalay Range in Kyrgyzstan are the following: Kel-Duk, Keshu-Suu-Saz-Dzhailoo-Tichkarov-Ter-Asha, Dzhilga-Tor-Orto-Aryk-

Chetki-Aryk with a convenient approach from the Alay Valley. A dirt road runs along the Altyn-Darya valley to the Tersagar Pass.

This region is located in the border area and a special permit is required.



Pic. 13-42. Kok-Kiyik and Achiksu glaciers orographic map.



Pic.13-43. Mindzhar and Synardzhar Glaciers orographic map



Pic. 13-44. Orographic map of East side of Altyn-Daria River



Pic. 13-45. Rogova Peak.



Pic. 13-46. Muzdzhilga Canyon of W Zaalay Range, Altyn-Darya Valley East side

**Tab of Zaalay Range N slope climbed peaks**

Peak # on map	Peak Name\ altitude	Route	First ascent team lider	Year	Grade
<b>Achiktash area of Zaalay range</b>					
13.1.1	Lenin Peak, 7134 (from South)		E.Schneider	1928	
	Lenin Peak, 7134 (from North)	N rib, Lipkin rocks	Chernukha K.	1934	5A
		Lipkin rocks and N ridge	Ratsek V.	1950	5A
		Ower Razdelnaya Peak, classic rout	Kovalev V	1954	5A
		Travers from W to E	Abalakov V.	1960	
		Direct from N	Arkin Iakov	1960	
		E ridge from Krylenko pass	Cheredova B.	1960	5A
		N ridge	Skurlatov J.	1967	5A
		From Lenin E Gl ower E culuar	Benua R.	1974	5A
		from Lenin E Gl ower NE rib	Scott D.	1974	5A
traverse from E to W	Kashafutdinov V.	1991	5A		
13.1.2	Jipak Peak, 4461 m	S ridge	Starikov G.	1967	1B
13.1.3	Petrovskogo Peak, 4731	From Achiktah	Zaidler	1966	1B
		N ridge, from Jipak Peak	Starikov G.	1967	3B
			Pavlenko A.	1980	3B
		N contrfurse	Zemerov V.		4A
13.1.4	30 years of Uzbekistan Peak, 5688 m	From SW	Shabanov A.		3A
13.1.5.	XIX Parts'ezda, 5945	by W ridge	Abalakov V.	1952	4A
		N contrfurse of W ridge	Krasnoukhov J.	1982	4B
13.1.6	Razdelnaya Peak, 6148 m	N ridge	Beletskii J.	1936	3B
		from S pass	Eshtokin V.	1956	4A
		NW ridge			3A
13.1.7	Juhina Peak, 5075				
13.1.8	900-years of Minsk Peak, 4774				
13.1.9	Domashnaia Peak, 4757	by E ridge			
<b>Korzhenevskii Glacier area of Zaalay Range</b>					
	Janaidartakaiskaia Pila Peak,4224		Nozdruhin V.	1951	
	Korzhenevskogo Peak, 6008		Nozdrukhnin V.	1951	
	Nazarova Peak, 5015	E slope	Nozdruhin V.	1951	2A
		W slope of N shoulder	Dulesova M.	1975	3A
		S ridge			3A
		W rib	Suslikov J.	1975	3B
	Todo Peak, 4347	Traverse	Karpov P.	1951	
	Grot Peak,				
	Koksay Peak,5366	N slope	Karpov P.	1955	3A
	Edinstva Peak, 6690		Beletskii G.	1955	
	Obrucheva Peak, 5499	SE ridge	Nozdruhin V.	1956	2B
	Kyzylaghyn Peak, 6683		Elchibekov V.	1956	
	Kyzylaghyn E Peak, 6624		Elchibekov V.	1956	
	Sovetskoi Latvii Peak, 6218	from W sedl	Imants E.	1960	3B
	Sovetskoi Estonii Peak, 6202	From S	Varep P.	1960	3A
	VMF Peak, 5842m		Freyfeld V.I.	1963	

	Beletskogo Peak, 6075m		Freyfeld V.I.	1963	
	Spartakiada Peak, 5541	E ridge	Eropunov A.	1963	3A
	Simanovicha Peak, 5798m		Freyfeld V.I.	1963	
	Tankograd Peak, 5147	E culuar	Zagorui A.	1975	2A
		N ridge	Greilih P.	1975	2B
		SE ridge	Sokolov S.	1975	4A
	Krasina Peak, 5999		Laukhin Ia	1976	
	6305 m		Sokolenko V.	1981	
	Cheliabinets Peak, 5265	NE ridge	Retunskii J.	1986	2A
	6041m,		Potrebitch A.	1989	
	6310 m		Gonnov D.	2011	
	Panoramnyi Peak, 5027		Lebedev A.	2014	
	Kholodnaia Stena Peak, 5233				
	Ledianoi Mys Peak, 5047	SW slope			2A
	900 years of Minsk Peak, 4774				
	Priozioni Peak, 4510				
	Tashkent Peak, 4931				
	Laghernyi Peak, 4810				
	4645				
	30 years of Victory, 5298				
	Polkovaya Peak, 5097	NE ridge			1B
<b>Zaalay Range, to E from Kyzart pass</b>					
	Arkhar\5308	S rib	Karpov P.	1955	3B
	Zaria Vostoka Peak, 6349		Novik A.	2000	
	4812		Novik A.	2000	
	5917	Traverse from E	Novik A.	2000	
			Germen team	2000	
	Chorku Peak, 6283		Novik A.	2000	
	5893		Novik A.	2000	
	Kurumdy Peak, 6613 m	N ridge	Gubaev A.	2005	5B
	6292		Gubaev A.	2005	
	Belyi Peak, 5022		Nikonorov A.	2005	
	6186		Gubaev A.	2005	
	5505		Vorozhischev M.	2007	
	Kurumdy E, 6384		Kleslo M.	2008	
	Aleksader Gubaev Peak, 5368	NE slope	Lebedev A.	2008	3A
		NW slope	Zharov A.	2008	3A
	5985 (Eilera, 6022?) Peak		Lebedev A.	2013	
	Veronika&Anna Peak,	From NE	Henri Bizot	2014	2B
	Alpine Poppy, 4080	From NW	Komissarov V.	2015	1B
	Kuchak (Puppy), 4150	N ridge	Komissarov V.	2015	1B
	Kharissa, 4365.4	N ridge	Komissarov V.	2015	1B
	Jolborz (Tiger) Peak, 4624	W ridge	Nelhams Adrian	2015	2B
	Mergenchi (Tracker) Peak, 4018	NW ridge	Komissarov V.	2015	1B
	Byichi (Dancing Boy) Peak, 4347	N ridge	Nelhams Adrian	2015	3A
	Tohm (The Hub) Peak, 5071	From S	Nelhams Adrian	2015	2B
	Minaret Peak, 4480	From NE	Nelhams Adrian	2015	2B
	Kartan Aughuze (Old Buffalo) Peak, 5350	NE slope & NE ridge	Komissarov V	2015	3A
	Uch Tubur (3 Brothers Peak)\ 5311	NW slope & W ridge	Tibbetts Ben	2015	3B
	Curperluk Peak, 4318	E ridge	Adrian Nelhams	2016	
		S slope	Komissarov V.	2016	
	Tereze Peak, 4629		Paulo Intropido	2016	
	Chogurlush Peak, 4736		Adrian Nelhams	2016	
	Kanzaada Peak, 4760		Adrian Nelhams	2016	
	BBC Peak, 4685		Paulo Intropido	2016	
	Pray, 5128,5	W ridge	Moshnikov I.	2018	
	Arkhar West\4900	W ridge			3A

	Pogranichnik\5438	From N			4A
	Kurumdy W Peak, 6554				
<b>W part of Zaalay Range from Achirtash to W part of Tersagar pass</b>					
	Kokchokur Peak, 5185	Traverse	Abalakov B.	1935	2B
	Sauksay Peak				
	Dzerzhinskogo Peak, 6713 m	N ridge	Beletskii J.	1936	4B
		N rib	Stepanov N.	1980	5A
	Kuznetsova Peak	By E kontrfors, traverse	Zemerov V.	1965	3B
	Sverdlova Peak, 5465	N ridge	Borodkin J.	1967	4A
	Rogova Peak, 5195	S ridge	Zemerov V.		3A
	Tsurupy Peak, 5842	N ridge	Vlasov V.	1979	5A
	Snezhnyi Bars Peak, 5491m	Traverse	Popov D.	2002	2B
	5250		Popov D.	2002	
	5307	SE ridge	Popov D.	2002	
	Invalidov Peak, 5885 (5875?)	E ridge	Zelentsov D.	2003	2A
	Leitenantov Peak, 5122	N ridge			2B

Appendix 2. Photo reportage from ethno festival dedicated to 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first ascent to Lenin Peak, which took place in Achik-Tash gorge on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, 2018.





























Authors:

**Vladimir Komissarov**, PhD, IFMGA mountain guide, President of the Kyrgyz Mountain guides Association and the Kyrgyz Alpine Club, engaged in Mountaineering for more than 50 years. He has repeatedly visited all the areas described by him. In this issue, the following article is delivered. The other articles will follow in succession.

**Adrian Nelhams** - Director of ISM (International School of Mountaineering), IFMGA British Mountain Guide, with over 20 years' experience of leading expeditions, climbing and exploring the mountains of Kyrgyzstan, Alaska and other remote regions around the globe.