

Quimsa Cruz 2018

Jacha Cuno Collo (5,800m) and Huayna Cuno Collo (5,600m)

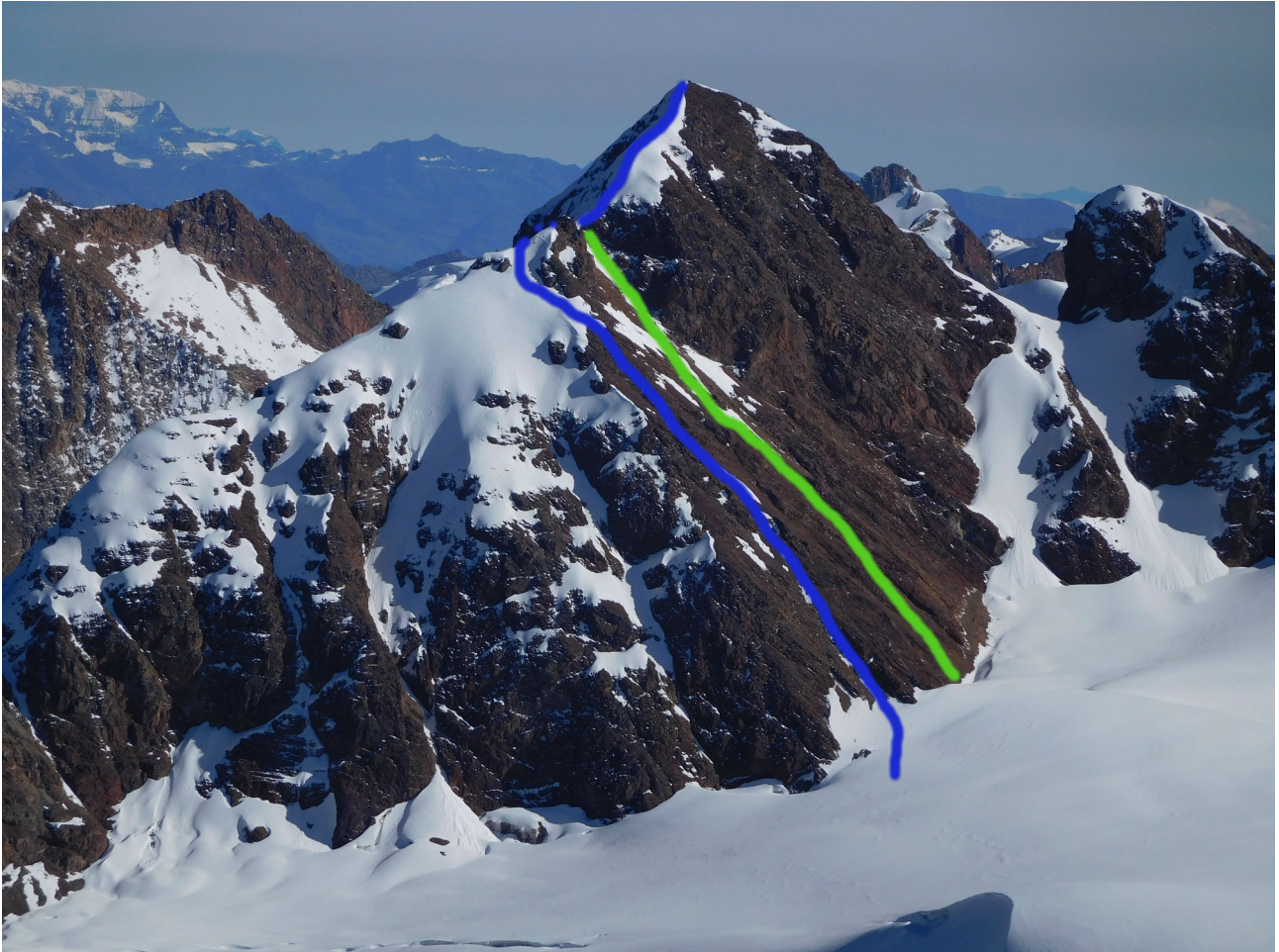
On April 28 we attempted to climb both Jacha Cuno Collo and Huayna Cuno Collo in the southern Cordillera Quimsa Cruz after previously establishing a basecamp at Laguna Congelada (4,880m). We gained the small glacier that lies directly west of the peaks and climbed a steep direct line (previously climbed) on the southwest face of Jacha Cuno Collo with two short pitches of 70° ice (AD). As we approached the col between the two peaks we decided to descend due to incoming storm clouds and poor visibility.

On April 30, after moving to a high camp at the edge of the large glacial plateau that lies between Jacha Cuno Collo and Cerro Gigante, due to the theft of some personal belongings while our tent was unoccupied at Laguna Congelada, we climbed the west ridge of Jacha Cuno Collo, traversed south across its low-angled upper southwest face, and ascended the previously climbed northwest face of Huayna Cuno Collo on 45° snow (grade PD+). From the summit, we descended to the col and ascended the previously climbed, narrow southwest ridge of Jacha Cuno Collo to its summit (grade PD+). We had hoped to traverse the peak by descending the supposedly very easy north ridge, but due to the early season snow conditions, the ridge boasted many double cornices and gargoyle formations that we deemed unnecessarily dangerous and time consuming, so we retraced our steps down the southwest ridge to the col, then descended the west ridge back to our camp.



Cerro Gigante (5,748m) and Cerro Sofia (5,600m)

On May 2, after crossing the large glacial plateau, we scrambled up mostly steep broken rock with some steep snow to gain the snow covered south ridge of Cerro Gigante which we climbed to its summit (previously climbed, grade AD). After descending back to the glacier, and with lots of time left in the day, we climbed the easy south slopes of Cerro Sofia (grade F) before returning to camp.



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