

Note on elevation: The true altitude of Nevado Huaguruncho is unclear. Farré writes: "The official map from the Peruvian Geographical Institute, working on aerophotographical images, says 5,728m. Many webpages I've found say 5,784m. Our three altimeters became mad on the way up, same with our compass, and we didn't carry a GPS, so we cannot give data from the top. The drawing by Jordi Marmolejo says 5,750m—it's the height that Jordi remembered. I used 5,780m, based on various data I've seen. The true altitude is simply not known, but it's less than 6,000m, for sure."

CORDILLERA VILCABAMBA

Nevado Weqqe Suruchi, A Life Less Ordinary. The Panta Group lies in a sparsely populated area and consists of the most westerly cluster of glaciated peaks in the Vilcabamba. The principal summits are Panta itself (5,667m) and Camballa (5,551m). In 2002 Germans Christoph Nick and Frank Toma attempted the elegant, unclimbed, and unnamed peak at the end of the long ridge running south from Camballa (5,551m), but were foiled by poor snow and crevasse danger. In summer 2003 they returned to the Panta Valley for a second attempt. The peak is marked on the 1965 Swiss map as 5,349.1m. Again they were accompanied by their two arrieros and now-firm friends, brothers Alejandro and Hermenegildo Huaman Olarte from Yamana, without whose local knowledge the expedition would not have been successful. They were also joined by fellow German Metin Kavaz. Base camp was established in the Panta Valley, from where they climbed a small peak. The three Germans then carried loads through a steep couloir to rocky ledges under the glacier on the south flank of their main objective. On July 13 they set out from their high bivouac for a summit attempt. At 5,000m Kavaz and Toma had to retreat due to ill health, but Nick continued and in a bold effort crossed crevassed slopes and climbed a steep ice face to a glacier terrace below the summit. The last obstacle was surmounted via an easy ramp, and the summit ridge proved less dangerous than expected. At 11.30 a.m. he was on top, where he recorded an altimeter reading of 5,437m. The route, which was christened *A Life Less Ordinary*, was rated AD+, with short rock sections of UIAA II and III in the gully leading to the bivouac site. The peak had no local name, so the climbers took the liberty of christening it *Nevado Weqqe Suruchi*, which in Quechua means "tears of ice."

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *High Mountain INFO*

Pumasillo Group, multiple ascents. Sean Easton and I spent 20 days in the Pumasillo group of the Cordillera Vilcabamba, in south-central Peru. It is quite hard to describe the mountains we climbed because the new government 1:100,000 topos have many errors, and the locals have several different names for the mountains. The following is a list of what we did, and the coordinates included are on or near the summit. Peaks one through eight are found on the Machu Picchu map.

- Peak 1: 5,108m (wrong on map) 181 726321 8634376. Unnamed on map, locals call it "Mandor," it lies on the Quelca-Mandor pass. We climbed the east face (10 pitches, 5.9).
- Peak 2: 5,050m (Cayco on map) 181 726699 8534336. Incorrect summit altitude on map, also called "Mandor," we climbed the north ridge (6 pitches, mixed 5.4).
- Peak 3: 4,935m 181 727325 8533732. Unnamed on map, also called "Mandor," southernmost peak of group. We climbed the north ridge (3 pitches, 5.9).
- Peak 4: 5,210m 181 732128 8532828. Unnamed on map, locals call it "Mayuyoc." We