



Peak 5,723m of Hancopiti group with Via Santiago on north face.
Erik Monasterio

(Peak 5,723m), an easy glacier approach, followed by five pitches of steep rock directly up the middle of the face. Climbed in a 16-hour roundtrip from base camp at 4,800m, Via Santiago was F6b.

Two days later, in an eight-hour roundtrip from the same camp, we climbed the southeast ridge of Viluyo I (5,540m), a route likely followed in 1979 by French Yvette Jupin and Jean Therisod. After a rest day we moved camp to 4,900m, from which we summited Ancohuma (6,430m) in 16 hours of sustained and at times complex climbing. We followed the established route up the northeast ridge to the north ridge and summit. Hardly acclimatized after only a week at altitude, I staggered onto the summit in a whiteout, and Gregg had to help me back down to the 6,200m col. Here I found my legs and sufficient air to get back to camp. Since my last visit to this peak 15 years ago, the characteristics of the climb have changed significantly for the worse. The route used to be a straightforward snow ascent, but now penitentes have appeared, and the summit ridge is loose rock, making for a more serious undertaking.

However, snowfall in 2011 was significantly greater than in recent years, and some traditional ice routes, which had disappeared due to climate change, reformed. On the 13th we climbed one of the longest and most sustained ice faces in Bolivia, the west face of Huayna Potosi (6,088m). We more or less followed the Direct Route, first climbed in 1970 by Americans Harthorne, Harvard, Lanney, and Thompson but often referred to as the French Direct after a 1978 repeat by Challeat, Faure, Levi, and Mesili (900m, D+/TD-). We zigzagged around a series of bergschrunds before taking the steepest, direct line to the top, reaching the summit in eight hours. In 1996 we had climbed another line on the west face and were delighted to have one final weather window this season to climb back up memory lane.

ERIK MONASTERIO, *New Zealand*

Condoriri Massif, Piramide Blanca (5,230m), Southwest Face Direct. In a snowstorm at the start of the rainy season, Robert Rauch and Eduardo Unzueta (Bolivia) and I (U.S.) climbed new ground on Piramide Blanca. We climbed a two- or three-pitch variation to the current Southwest Face Direct. I say current because the Southwest Face Direct was reported in Yossi Brain's 1999 guide as first climbed in 1988 (200m, D-, 80°, Bartram-Peltier-Whitelaw). However, due to the loss of much of the right side of the glacier, the route no longer exists in its original form. Also the regular route up the southwest face-southwest ridge does not resemble the photo or description in the guide; it may not be possible without mixed or rock climbing. (The original was an easy snow route.)

The line we climbed is rather more direct than the original Direct, which despite its name traversed significantly. We climbed the steepest snow/ice line on the right side of the face and then the ridge to the summit. Eduardo thinks much of our line had been followed before, though the two or three crux pitches we climbed had been avoided by moving left to reach gentler (ca 70°) snow and ice.

Our route is obvious when seen from the most popular climbing base camp in Bolivia, after Huayna Potosi's, and the Condoriri area has received much attention for decades. On the other hand, it is the more famous routes that get almost all the attention, and most climbers seem not to want to risk wasting time on an unknown objective. I'm therefore not entirely comfortable claiming our route as new, but one of the new pitches—an overhanging serac led by Robert to reach an ice cave—was really hard. It was a long day, about 10 hours tent-to-tent and 16 hours tent-to-front door, with the most dangerous part being the drive back to La Paz in the dark.

CHRIS CLARKE, *Bolivia*

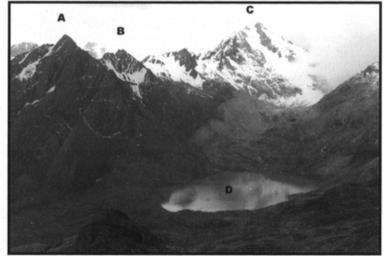
Various ascents. In August 2009 Andy Baker, Jack Grinstead, and I climbed the obvious left-trending couloir on the southeast face of Maria Lloco (5,523m), a striking subsidiary peak west of Huayna Potosi. The finish involved three steep ice pitches up the headwall, exiting right of the rocky summit. The feature is conspicuous, and it would be a surprise to find it had not previously been climbed. However, there appears to be no recorded ascent.

In June 2011 Baker and I climbed a new route up the south face of Point ca 5,600m on the southwest ridge of Huayna Potosi. The route is steeper and more demanding than the Yugoslav route on the left side of Huayna Potosi's west face but is much shorter. There were sustained sections of 80°, steps of 90° ice, and mixed climbing up to M4. The upper half of the face was continuously steep and nearly all the pro was good rock placements. I was surprised with the quality of the rock, although I'm sure that in leaner years there would be plenty of choss hiding in the gullies. The nine-pitch route was D+. We descended the southwest ridge, completing the roundtrip in 16 hours.

In the Serranis Mirillo or Hampaturi Group, not far from La Paz, my wife Sal and I climbed the unnamed summit to the northeast of Cerro Tigra Killa by the rocky southeast ridge. We noticed a surprising amount of quality ice in this valley and the one immediately south, including several one- and two-pitch frozen waterfalls.

GREGG BEISLY, *Bolivia*

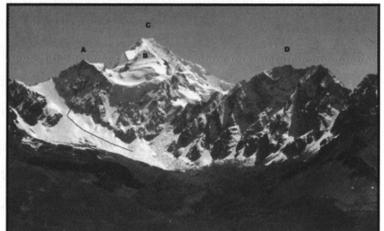
Huayna Potosi (6,088m), east face, Summit or Die. Coming up the road from tropical, mosquito-infested Zongo Valley, I saw the possibility for a new route on the east side of Huayna Potosi, far north of the normal route. In June I accessed the face by walking along the outer retaining wall of the aqueduct that runs north from Zongo Dam. It got



Looking northeast to Serranis Murillo (Hampaturi Group). (A) Cerro Tigra Killa. (B) Unnamed peak climbed by the Beislys via southeast ridge (rocky crest descending right from summit). (C) Jati Khollu (5,421m). (D) Laguna Jachcha Khasiri. On Jati Khollu snow slopes facing camera were climbed directly to upper southeast ridge (right skyline) in 1995 by Yossi Brain and Jason Davis (400m, AD). *Gregg Beisly*



Looking north at Maria Lloco (5,522m) with 2009 Baker-Beisly-Grinstead route on southeast face. To right is Huayna Potosi with west-northwest ridge (Laba-Hudson, 1969) forming left skyline and west face to its right. *Andy Baker.*



Looking north to (A) Pt. ca 5,600m and route on south face climbed by Baker and Beisly (descending left skyline ridge). (B) Pt. Italia (ca 5,750m). (C) Huayna Potosi (6,088m). (D) Pico Milluni (5,500m). *Gregg Beisly*