

UMBRAK HIMAL

Pabuk Kang, first known attempt. Two Japanese, led by the explorer-mountaineer Tamotsu Ohnishi, who specializes in visiting remote areas along Nepal's border with Tibet, planned to try the south side of Pabuk Kang [6,244m; just east of the Pabuk La at the head of the Yangma valley in the Ohmi Kangri Group, first brought onto the permitted list in 2003—Ed.].

On October 20 they pitched their advanced base camp at 5,550m just east of the Yanmakang Pass (a.k.a. Pabuk La, Dhangla Bhanjyang) and south-southwest of the peak. For the next three days it snowed, depositing 130 cm, and the two climbers abandoned their plans. On the approach to the mountain they met five parties of Maoists but paid only two of them, paying 2,000Rs or about \$27 per member to each party.

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JANAK HIMAL

Lashar I, first ascent of peak via south face; Janak, south face, attempt. I first saw the south face of Janak (7,041m) in autumn 2000, when leading an expedition to Jongsang, Pathibara, and Kiratchuli. From the upper Broken Glacier the southwest pillar looked like an excellent objective for a small expedition. The time for fulfilling this dream arrived in autumn 2005. The Slovenian Janak 2005 expedition comprised only the young climber Miha Habjan and I, though we were joined in Kathmandu by Padam Tamang, the expedition Sirdar and cook, Guirme Sherpa as his assistant, and our liaison officer, Gopi Lal Nepal.

After using local buses for the three-day drive to eastern Nepal, travel not only uncomfortable but also risky, we arrived in Taplejung. Surrounded by barbed wire and with a strong military presence, this village now seems like a fortress and was the last place on our journey toward the mountains that had any government power. After a seven-day approach we reached Lhonak, where we established base camp on September 29. In Chirwa, on the second day of our trek, we encountered Maoists. They didn't make any real trouble for us; we just paid them 2,000 Nepali Rupees per person.

On October 6, after short acclimatization trips around base camp, we went to our advanced base camp at the end of the lateral moraine on the upper Broken Glacier. After more than 9km of walking from base camp, we camped at 5,710m and the next day climbed the 6,096m [6,095m HGM Finn map] mountain above camp. [This was probably the third ascent of the peak, which was first climbed by a Anglo-Nepalese party in 1998—Ed.] We later continued to the south Tsisima peaks and after climbing Tsisima III, descended to base camp because of bad weather.

On October 10 we went for the next stage in our acclimatization program. Our goal was the nice pyramid of Lashar I, which is visible from Lhonak. [There is some confusion surrounding the names of Tibetan border peaks west of Janak. The old Swiss map, which appears to be relatively accurate in depicting the topography of this region and has been generally used as a benchmark for subsequent Japanese maps and the Kangchenjunga trekking map by Nepa Publications, places three border peaks at the head of the northerly branch of the Tsisima Glacier: from west to east, Dzanye (6,710m), Lashar I (6,930m), and Lashar II (6,860m). The new HGM Finn map, Janak Himal, does not name any of these peaks but gives them altitudes of, again from west