

blocky overhangs with seemingly featureless rock in between, similar in scope to the Diamond on Long's Peak. The north face had more handholds and ledges, but was caked with snow and loose blocks leading to more overhangs. Neither looked possible. We made several rappels to the ground, using pitons and cordalette.

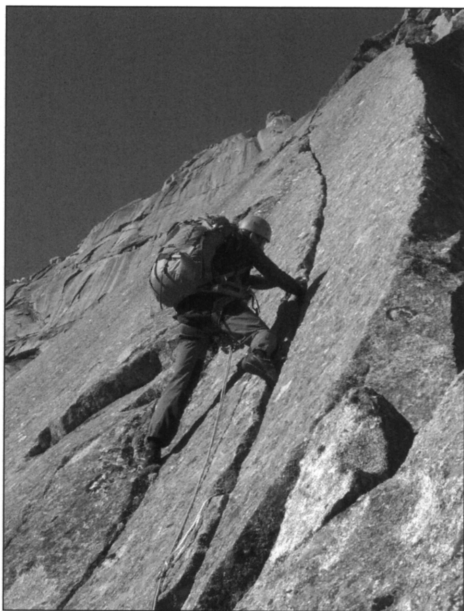
The Dragon's Tooth is still unclimbed from the Bipeng Valley side. The rock quality is good up high, but difficult. We gave the peak the name Dragon's Tooth while back in Yang'er Ge's cabin (see below). When I'm in Bipeng Valley I have to describe peaks by elevation and appearance, or with photos. We decided to name the peak to alleviate further confusion. After several rounds of green tea, beer, and moon cakes, the locals and I decided Dragon's Tooth would be a fitting name for this beautiful sharp-featured peak.

The next day we decided we'd hike farther up the valley of scree and try to climb several pitches of rock on the Dragon's Tooth's east face, so we could gain the south ridge and then the summit. As we neared the east face, we were again disappointed by loose snow and blocky overhangs. Our attention turned to Peak 5,138m, just south of the Dragon's Tooth. This peak is an obtuse rocky mass, but we could see a line winding up to the summit. I was excited to climb it and gain a better view of other peaks in the area. We were at the base of the north face, which was coated in snow, ice, and wet rock, but the angle was only about 45–55°. We did not have boots, crampons, or axes, just a light rock rack, rope, helmets, and a bit of food and water.

The snow was soft but held together well. We kick-stepped easily in the snow and scrambled up 5th-class rock. The terrain got more difficult at 4,600m, so we roped up and used a running belay with occasional rock protection. Our thin gloves and approach shoes were completely soaked, but we pushed on to 4,900m by about 3 p.m., by which time a sleet storm began, and we turned around. By the time we reached the tent the weather had cleared, and we were looking at stars. Bipeng Valley has a tendency to morph from summer clear, to winter blizzard, to spring monsoon in a 24-hour period.

We decided to pack up and return to Shanghaizi to replenish our spirits.

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Liu Yong on the only good rock of the climb, just before being shut down on the Dragon's Tooth. Jon Lane Sullivan

JON LANE SULLIVAN, AAC

Logistical notes on reaching Shanghaizi from Chengdu. The public bus leaves the Chadianzi station early in the morning. It is wise to buy tickets the day before and have a local call to confirm

about bus schedules beforehand. The bus ride itself has taken me anywhere from five to eight hours to Lixian. From Lixian I negotiate a minivan to take me to the trailhead at Shanghaizi; the price of this ride can vary depending on your Chinese bargaining skills. It is about 1½ hours' drive on paved road with plenty of rockslide potential. Lixian is a tacky trucker town, but does offer dingy accommodations. I prefer getting all the way to Shanghaizi and acclimating in the fresh mountain air.

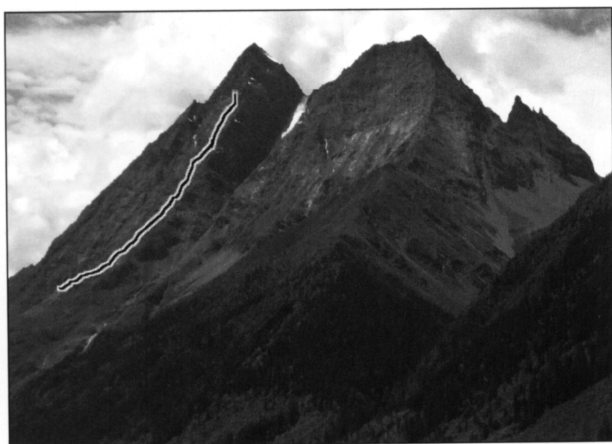
Shanghaizi is essentially a dirt parking lot with several guesthouses catering to Chinese escaping big city life. I always stay with Yang'er Ge and his family in the cabin near the river. He has lived and worked in Bipeng Valley for most of his life. His family has cold but quaint guestrooms and will cook three square meals a day. Shanghaizi is at an elevation of 3,417m, which is good for acclimatizing. I take hikes up-valley scouting peaks for several days. Yang'er Ge can also arrange horses or porters to help ferry gear to base camp. Prices vary depending on weather and your language skill. [For further notes on logistics, see Joseph Puryear's notes below—Ed.]

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SHUANGQIAO VALLEY

Hunter's Peak (5,360m), northeast face, attempt. Ahn, Chi-young, and I attempted a new route on the northeast face of Hunter's Peak, a.k.a. Lieren Feng. A Japanese-authored photograph book with English text (*The Goddess on the Mountains in Southwestern China*, by Kenzo Okawa) names the peak Shourenfeng and gives its elevation as 5,472m. However, our guide called it Lieren Feng, at 5,362m, and other sources have it as 5,360. The peak may have been ascended by Japanese teams by the ridges to the left and right of the northeast face, but we are not certain. Ahn, Chi-young, and I established base camp at 4,106m on August 3. We left the next morning at 8:45 a.m. under gorgeous blue skies and made a small deposit of gear and provisions by noon at 4,484m. From here we climbed seven pitches, until conditions deteriorated enough to halt our progress at 4,713m. The only protection from the drizzling rain and falling rock was a small one-man cave that Chi-young slept in, while I slept half sitting and lying on a small platform with my legs dangling over the edge.

We started climbing again when the rain ceased the following morning at 9 a.m. The rain began to come down again at noon, just as we reached a couloir that branched up to the right. We found shelter on the left wall of the couloir and remained sheltered at 4,847m until three o'clock, when we grew restless and decided to continue on,



Hunter's Peak (Lieren Feng, 5,360m), showing the rain-plagued line of attempt on the northeast face by Ahn Chi-young, and Peter Jensen-Choi. Peter Jensen-Choi