

long talus slope until 50m below the col, then worked southeast to make our first belay on the southwest ridge leading toward the north summit. We then climbed sections of UIAA V and M4, but again found very fragile rock and poor protection, the gap between placements sometimes more than 15m. For these reasons we retreated at 4,800m (two rappels, then down climbing). As far as we got, the route was AD+.

In 2009 we had climbed the two lower peaks of the Trata Tata Massif. Now we wanted to reach the highest summit. On August 3 we approached from the northwest, reaching a col on the Trata Tata ridge, where Magdalena opted to remain. Filip, Tomasz, and I continued, bypassing the first two summits on the southeast flank to reach minor difficulties below the highest point. Overall the ascent was F+, with very loose rock of UIAA II to reach the summit at 5,156m. We returned the same way, a tiring day due to large talus.

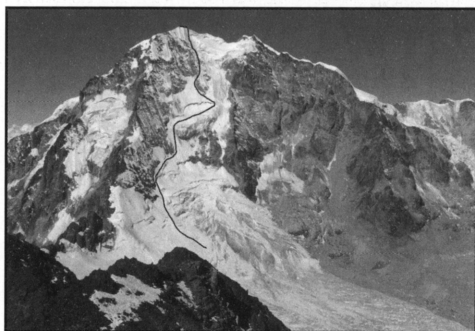
On the 7th we made our last ascent, of a peak marked as Yagua Yagua on the Hudson map. We had learned of no documented climbs, but on top, where our altimeter recorded 4,721m, we discovered a small cairn. We climbed from the southwest and reached the summit without major difficulty (F). After 12 days in the valley, we returned to Puina with the help of Juan Sulca and his llamas. By the 9th we were back in La Paz.

MARCIN KRUCZYK, *Poland*

CORDILLERA REAL

Overview and recent new routes. In recent years little mountaineering information has come out of Bolivia. This may partly be due to there currently being no agency or individual committed to collecting mountaineering information, particularly activity relating to new routes or notable repeats of established climbs. One of Bolivia's best known guides and archivists, Alain Mesili, has taken a break from climbing to concentrate on writing, which may have further limited the flow of information. It seems the number of climbers to Bolivia continues to decrease, despite the country offering one of the most stable weather patterns in the mountaineering world and high scope for new route development. In recent years most activity has been on the popular and often guided peaks of the Southern Cordillera Real, easily accessible from the capital: Huayna Potosi, Condoriri, and Illimani.

In September, after a five-year break from mountaineering, I traveled home to Bolivia, joining Kiwi expat Gregg Beisly for two weeks intensive climbing. Gregg and his family work as missionaries in El Alto. In his backyard, at 4,000m, Gregg has set up what must be the highest bouldering wall in the world. After I had repeatedly failed on the easiest problems, we decided to tackle bigger, easier, and potentially achievable objectives in the Northern Cordillera Real.



West face of Huayna Potosi from Maria Lloco. Photo taken in 2009. There was a little more snow cover in 2011, but face bears no resemblance to more snowy 1970s, when up to half a dozen lines were climbed. Marked is line followed by Beisly and Monasterio in 2011, which apart from initial section corresponds with 1970 American Direct. In 1971 an ice route was climbed up middle of rock wall on right (Via del Triangulo, 1971, D- 70°). Gregg Beisly



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.