

# BATURA AREA

Version  
française

## Summary

[Batura glacier](#)

[Batura group -c7,280m \(c,6638m\)/c7,795m-](#)

[Batura I \(Peak 32\) -c7,795m \(c7,786m\)-, face Nord](#)

[Batura I \(Peak 32\) -c7,795m \(c7,786m\)-, face Sud](#)

[Batura II \(Peak 31 / Hunza Kunji \) -c7,762m \(c7,594m\)- \*\*NEW\*\*](#)

[Batura III \(Peak 35\) -c7,729m-](#)

[Batura IV \(Ouest Peak\) -c7,594m-](#)

[Batura V \(Muchu Chhish/East Peak/Mush Muztagh\) -c7,453m \(c7,331m\)-](#)

**NEW**

[Batura V Est \(Muchu Chhish Est, Mush Muztagh Est\) -c7,280m \(c6,638m\)-](#)

[Batura VI \(Far East Peak\) -c7,594m-](#)

[Bojohagur Duanasir \(Peak 34/Hunza Peak\) -c7,329m-](#)

[Bubulimating \(Bubulimotin\) -c6,000m-](#)

[Bubulimating \(Bubulimotin\) -c6,000m-, couloir Nord Ouest](#)

[Bubulimating \(Bubulimotin\) -c6,000m-, face Nord Ouest](#)

[Bubulimating \(Bubulimotin\) -c6,000m-, crête Nord Est](#)

[Bubulimating \(Bubulimotin\) -c6,000m-, face Ouest](#)

[Batokshe \(Batokshi/Saddle Peak\) -c6,000m- \*\*NEW\*\*](#)

[Charikand -c5,888m-](#)

[Dawson Peak \*\*NEW\*\*](#)

[Dedo de Galupour \(c5,100m\)](#)

[Ghenta Peak -c7,090m-](#)

[Gutum Talji - c5,500m- \*\*NEW\*\*](#)

[Hachindar Chhish -c7,163m \(c6,870m\)-](#)

[Jurju Khona Sar -c6,055m-](#)

[Kampire Dior -c7,143m-](#)

[Karun koh -c7,350 m-](#)

[Khaitar peak, -c5,591m- \(vallée de Naltar\)](#)

[Koz Sar -c6,677m-](#)

[Kuk Sar -c6,943m-](#)

[Kuk Sar -c6,925m-](#)

[Kutshkulin Sar -c5,900m- \*\*NEW\*\*](#)

[Kutshkulin Sar II \(Sax sar\) -c6,000m- \*\*NEW\*\*](#)

[Kuti Dorkush -c5,900m- \*\*NEW\*\*](#)

[Nico Sar -c5,800m-](#)

[Pamri Sar -c7,016m-](#)

[Pamri Sar II -c6,928m-](#)

The Western area of the Karakoram range is one of the less remote but one of the most interesting. Karakoram is growing in a fantastic surge to its west side, a complex zone of very high summits whose name was christened "the Wall" or the "high Batura Plateau", an incredible high icecap, prolonged by the Passu Sar (7478m), Shispar (7611m), Bojohagur Duanasir (7329m) and Kampir Dior (7168m). Not far to the West, the wild mountains of Hindu Raj growing between Karakoram and Hindu Kush.

In the East part of Karakoram, the Baltoro attract 80 % of visitors whereas the majority of the range remainder terra incognita, Batura Muztagh and adjacent zones (Batura glacier upstream) is one of the strongest potential of virgin summits.

Here joint maps of the areas :

[Passu group -c7,284/c7,500m-](#)

[Passu Peak \(Passu Diar, Peak 55 \) -c7,295m-](#) **NEW**

[Passu Peak \(Passu Diar, Peak 55\), sommet Est -c7,284m-](#)

[Passu Peak \(Passu Diar, peak 55\), sommet Ouest -c7,500m-](#) **NEW**

[Passu Sar \(Passu Dome\) -c7,478m-](#) **NEW**

[Passu Sar II \(Passu Dome II\) -c7,295m-](#)

[Pute towers \(~c5,800m\)](#) **NEW**

[Third Tower -c5,800m-](#) **NEW**

[Sakar Sar -c6,272m -](#) **NEW**

[Sangemarmar Sar -c6,949m \(c7,050m\)-](#) **NEW**

[Sani Pakush -c6,885m-](#) **NEW**

[First & second tower](#) **NEW**

[Third tower](#) **NEW**

[Shani Peak -c5,800m- \(Naltar valley\)](#)

[Shani Peak -c5,800m-, sommet Est](#)

[Shani Peak -c5,800m-, sommet Sud Est](#)

[Shispare -c7,611m-](#)

[Snow Dome -c5,322m- \(Sentinel Peak – Vallée de Naltar\)](#)

[Sumaiyer Peak -c5,520m-](#)

[Tpopdan Sar -c6,106m-](#)

[Ultar Peak \(Death Peak\) -c7,388m-](#) **NEW**

[Ultar \(Death Peak\) -c7,388m, pilier Sud Est](#) **NEW**

[Ya Chhish \(c5,130m\)](#) **NEW**

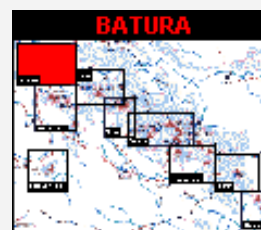
[Yeti Sar -c5,980m-](#) **NEW**



[36 maps US U502](#)  
(1:250 000)  
(76 ko)



[Soviet maps](#)  
(1:500 000 ième)  
(30 ko)



[Interactive map](#)  
[Batura area](#)  
(57 ko)



[Satellite image](#)  
[Batura area](#)  
(47 ko)



[US MAPS](#)  
1:250 000  
(94 ko)



## Batura glacier :



By its size (56 km length, 2,5 km broad and 220 km<sup>2</sup>), Batura glacier can be compare with Hispar, Biafo and Baltoro glaciers. The final part of the glacier is highly dangerous: its surge, jerked and rapid is dangerous for the Karakoram Highway and the access to the Khunjerab Pass and push back the Hunza river against its left bank with the risk to close it.



## Batura group - 7280m (6638m)/7795m- :



After 2 days of walk toward the upper Batura glacier that is possible to see the impressive wall of Batura. This wall decorated by unnamed summits (c7,400/c7,581m points) is capped by 200 meters of ice from where immense icebergs are falling down into 3000 meters in a great thunderous noise in the empty air.

Seven summits of the Batura wall are over 7000m high. The Batura I is the Highest of the Goup (c7,786m).



## Batura I (Peak 32) -c7,795m-, North face :



In 1959, britishs Keith Wartburton, Richard Knight, Harry Stephenson, and germans Martin Günnel et Albert Hirschbichler disapear in a big avalanche in the north face of batura I: Some of the expedition saw them at about 7,300m high.



## Batura I (Peak 32) -c7,795m- (c7,786m), South face :



After the tragic consequences to Keith Warburton's British-German expedition attempting the dangerous north flank of the mountain in 1959, Batura I was first climbed in 1976 by Hubert Bleicher and Herbert Oberhofer (who two years earlier had made the first ascent of neighbouring Shispore) from a German Alpine Club expedition. The team approached the Batura Col from the east branch of the Baltar Glacier, then crossed the 5,900m Batokshi

Pass before climbing up the South Face to the East Ridge not far from the east and highest top. Five camps were established on the route.

The second ascent, via a different route on the South Face to that followed by the Germans, was achieved by an Austrian expedition in 1983. One of the four summiteers was Edi Koblmüller, who appears elsewhere in the text. Koblmüller was responsible for the first ever serious high-altitude winter climbing in the Karakoram, when he attempted the same line on Batura I in 1981, reaching 6,300m before having to give up on the 22nd February in persistent bad weather and serious avalanche danger.

In 1988 a Polish-German team (Zygmunt Heinrich, Pawel Kubalski and Volker Stallbohm, the latter rescued last year from Nanga Parbat; see INFO 207) repeated this route, and the mountain had a fourth ascent from the Muchuhar Glacier in 1996.

En 1999, a five-member expedition led by 67 years old Atsushi Inenaga was attempting to put the first climbers from Japan on the summit of 7,786m Batura I in the West Karakoram. Tragically, they met with disaster during early August while making an attempt on the rarely climbed South Face. After approaching from Aliabad via the c30km long Muchuhar Glacier, the team made its Base Camp at around 4,000m. While the leader remained there, the other four, 27 years old Yasunobu Fujita, 29 years old Tsuyoshi Seki, 44 years old Hirotaka Sugiyama and 46 years old Wataru Takasaki, began to open the route. After establishing Camp 3 at around 6,500m the first three climbers left for a summit attempt, Wataru having returned to Camp 1 due to injury. Inenaga was monitoring progress with binoculars from Base Camp, when the climbers radioed to say that the weather was deteriorating and they would be coming back down. Not long after he witnessed an avalanche sweep the face and carry the three climbers some 1,200m. The two remaining members descended to the town of Aliabad on the Karakoram Highway where they initiated a helicopter search. Unfortunately, poor weather prevented any flights and the proposed search was eventually abandoned. Sugiyama had climbed Everest by the North Ridge in 1996 while Inenaga was leader of the Japanese expedition that made the fourth ascent (by a new route) of Kanjiroba in 1979 and on which Takasaki was one of the successful summit party.



## Batura II (Peak 31 / Hunza Kunji ) -c7,762m (c7,594m)-:



A six-man team from the Saxon Alpine Club of Germany made a spirited attempt on the unclimbed Batura II (7,762m), one of the highest unclimbed points remaining in the Karakoram. Tilo Dittrich, Günter Jung, Jan Lettke, Tom Niederlein, Christian and Markus Walter set up Base Camp on the Baltar Glacier in June and followed the route of the first ascensionists of 7,786m Batura I. In 1976 a German Alpine Club expedition penetrated the Eastern Baltar Glacier to the south of the peak and climbed up to the Batokshi Pass (c5,900m) on the ridge running north from Hachindar Chish. In the process they climbed the 6,050m Batokshi (or Saddle Peak). Above the col the ridge fades into the steep upper slopes of the high Batura Group and the team set out across the South Face of the main peak. After establishing five camps above Base, Hubert Bleicher and Herbert Oberhofer, who just two years previously had made the first ascent of neighbouring Shispare, climbed the final 40-45° snow slopes and reached the summit on the 30th June. Batokshi Peak (Saddle Peak) was climbed again in July 1996 by a small international group that made the largely Alpine style fourth ascent of Batura I via the German Route.

The 2002 Saxon expedition crossed the rubble-covered Baltar Glacier to an Advanced Base at 4,250m and established Camp 1 towards the end of June at 5,240m. To reach the site of Camp 2 they had to climb through a narrow and dangerous couloir, dubbed the Gunbarrel by the 1976 German team, which squeezed through a small gap between a rock wall and large serac barrier. Camp 2 was placed at c5,800m on the 2nd June and shortly after, Camp 3 above the Batokshi Pass. The team took around 250m of fixed rope and placed most of it on this section. On the 15th July several team members were situated at Camp 4 (6,560m) on the South Face of Batura II, somewhat left of the German line, preparing for a summit assault the following day.

Generally the weather had been very mixed with frequent snowfall but on the 16th the day dawned gloriously and Jung with the two Walter brothers set off at 3.30am. The snow conditions seemed reasonably acceptable to about 7,000m but above they realised the névé field they were climbing was loosely bonded over ice and would undoubtedly slide when hit by the rays of the sun. The three progressed to 7,100m before deciding it was too dangerous. The route was subsequently abandoned but not before four members had climbed Batokshi Peak (Saddle Peak).

Back at Base Camp the group split, half going for an exploratory walk up the Toltar Glacier, while the rest climbed a 150m rock tower above camp. This gave three bold pitches (IV, VI and VII or 5.10c) on excellent granite and was christened Phalwan Chish (c4,200m).

In 2005, Simone Moro try to climb Batura II by regarding this summit as the most virgin one of planet. Indeed, helped by the German historian Wolfgang Heichel, the first ascent would have been directed towards the bad summit. After an acclimatization on Ya Chhish (5130 m) located exactly in front of the face, to take a good look at the coming Batura climbing route, an excellent watchtower to throw a good glance on the route (see Ya Chhish), the ascent turns back when his friend fall down.

Lastly, the British climber Peter Thomson seems climbed Batura II in perfect alpine style in the Nineties. However this ascent was not validated because without permit.



## Batura III (Peak 35) -c7,729m- :

[à compléter]



## Batura IV (West Peak) -c7,594m- :



Batura IV seemed to be climb the first time by a japanese expedition in 1978, by a polish expédition in 1983 (leader W. Wisz).



## Batura V (Muchu Chhish, Mush Muztagh) -c7,453m- :



First ascent of this simmit by a polish expédition in 1983.

Although unsuccessful, Luis Lopez's six-member expedition to the South Face of 7,453m Muchu Chhish in the Batura Group may be the first to attempt this high unclimbed peak.

Muchu Chhish is situated on the high ridge of the Batura Muztagh approximately midway between Batura VI (7,594m: first climbed by the Japanese via the South West Face in

1978) and the unclimbed Passu Sar (7,476m). The South Face suffers from having a similarly low Base Camp (c4,000m) to Batura I and the last 1,000m of the face, rising above the upper Shendar Cwm, itself reached from the Muchuhar Glacier, would undoubtedly provide the steepest and most difficult (mixed) climbing of the route.



## Batura V East (Muchu Chhish East, Mush Muztagh East) -c7,280m (c6,638m)- :



First ascent of this summit in 1990 by a Japanese expedition.



## Batura VI (Far East Peak) -c7,594m- :



A great icy wall of 20km long at obover 7000m high. Dangerous, none of these summits which were climbed were never by Northern side. A Japanese expedition led by M.Nishigori climbed Batura VI (Far East Peak) in 1978, starting from Baltar glacier by the South-western face. The starting point in the valley of Hunza is the oasis of Chalt, at the confluence of Bola Das river, with gray and muddy water.



## Bojohagur Duanasir (Peak 34/Hunza Peak) -c7,329m- :



Nowadays, everybody forgot this mountain exceptt by local people. The south face is exploiting by men collecting rubies and other semi-precious stones. Only the " horse of the devil " visit this area.

Bojohagur Duanasir, which dominates Baltit, was climbing by a Japanese expedition in 1984 (by the Western face and the South-western ridge).



## Bubulimating (Bubulimotin) -6000m-, North West couloir :



The North West Couloir from the Hasanabad Valley was first climbed in 1991 by a Swedish group.

## Bubulimating (Bubulimotin) -c6,000m-, North West face :

On the 19th July José Maria Andrés, Mikel Saez de Urabain, Carlos Viera and Alfonso Vizan were 900m up the approach couloir on the North West Face of the peak when a falling rock struck 34 years old Vizan. The Madrid climber appears to have suffered a very bad leg injury and died through loss of blood. It is believed that the team had already tried the Original line on the East Side but had retreated due to rock fall. They returned to Karimabad where they were told of the North West approach by Australian, Damien Gildea, who was staying at the village after his trip to Passu Sar (see elsewhere) and had attempted the line himself in the mid-1990s.



## Bubulimating (Bubulimotin) -c6,000m-, South East face :



The Original Route climbs a stone swept 750m snow/ice couloir set at 40-45°, followed by more mixed climbing to reach the notch between the spire and Hunza Peak (c6,300m) to the north. The North East Ridge of Bubulimotin is then followed to its summit. This was the line taken in May 1982 by the French Alpinists, Patrick Cordier and Jacques Maurin, but may still be unrepeated.

Now fit and well-acclimatized Larrion made a solo ascent of Bubulimotin (c6,000m) via the Original Route first climbed in May 1982 by the French, Patrick Cordier and Jacques Maurin. This gave 2,000m of ascent following the stone-swept 40-45° couloir on the east flank to a steep mixed exit (c80°) into the notch between this and Hunza Peak (c6,300m). Four rope lengths up the largely snowy North East Ridge of Bubulimotin, then led to its summit. Larrion completed his ascent in a rapid time of one and a half days, then took a similar time to descend. The first solo and second overall ascent of this spectacular granite spire above Karimabad took place in 1990, when Jim Beyer climbed the sheer South East Face/South Pillar.



## Bubulimating (Bubulimotin) -6000m-, crête Nord Est:



Deux glaciers entourent le monolithe du Bubulimotin par l'Est, le glacier partie droite du Big Wall est excessivement dangereux (chutes de pierre) alors que le glacier gauche est plus sûr. L'itinéraire pris par les alpinistes français Patrick Cordier et Jacques Maurin en mai 1982, n'a toujours pas été répété. L'itinéraire suit le couloir mixte de 750m (40-45°) pour atteindre l'entaille entre le monolithe du Bubulimating et le Hunza Peak (6300m) au Nord. L'arête Nord Est du Bubulimotin est alors suivie jusqu'à son sommet.

Les grimpeurs australiens Damien Gildea et Nayar ont fait une tentative rapide mais n'ont pas réussi en août 1994 (frappés par un orage qui a forcé une retraite à 4700m).

Un certain Larrion a fait une ascension solo du Bubulimotin (6000m) en mai 1982 effectué par les Français, Patrick Cordier et Jacques Maurin. Ce fut 2000m d'ascension dans un couloir à 40-45° situé sur le flanc Est jusqu'à une raide ouverture (80°) entre le sommet et l'Hunza Peak (6300m). Quatre longueurs ont suffi pour sortir de l'arête Nord Est en grande partie neigeuse du Bubulimotin jusqu'à son sommet. Larrion a accompli son ascension dans un temps très rapide d'une journée et demi, puis est redescendu en un jour et demi aussi. La première ascension solo de ce spire spectaculaire de granit au-dessus de Karimabad a eu lieu en 1990 par Jim Beyer (pilier Sud-Est, pilier Sud).



## Bubulimating (Bubulimotin) -c6,000m-, West face :



A four man Anglo-American team were to have attempted the South East Face, a 1,000m wall of red granite that gently impends for the first 550m to the only major feature on the face, a huge sloping terrace. There have now been a number of attempts on this side of the spire, the first serious incursion taking place in 1988 when a British team that included Sandy Britain, Mark Lyndon, Jon Sylvester and Dave Towse climbed the first 300m of the face in six hard pitches with the fourth rated at British E4 and A4. Persistent bad weather thwarted further progress and the team retreated leaving a 100m fixed rope on the crux.

In 1990 the experienced American big wall climber, Jim Beyer, together with fellow countryman Pat McInerney, also ventured on to the face. After climbing only 150m, McInerney decided to bale out. Beyer jumared the fixed rope he found in place on the fourth pitch and continued alone. After climbing approximately half the face he broke out left on to the somewhat less demanding ground of the upper South Pillar and followed this to the summit, making possibly the second overall ascent of the spire. This was an outstanding achievement and carried out in appalling weather conditions. Finding the summit area rather complicated Beyer decided to rappel the route.

Who aimed to complete the South East Face in its entirety, also included Towse and another well-known British climber who has for some time been resident in Colorado, Roger 'Strappo' Hughes. However, last season the couloir approach to the face proved so taxing and dangerous that only these two members of the team chose to persevere, allowing themselves just one attempt on the spire. Rather undermanned for the South East Face Direct they opted to repeat the Beyer Route but only reached about half height before running out of supplies. Notable is the fact that the pair jumared the now seven year old fixed rope still in place on the wall, obviously a less daunting prospect than trying to re-climb the A4 crux (Beyer thought that this pitch would undoubtedly be the hardest of the entire climb and it is interesting to note that no single party has yet climbed the entire route).

However, the main success story was due to a well-organized and efficient Japanese team, who sieged the front face of the spire following a line to the left of the Beyer Route. Although no technical details are available it is reported that the team spent few nights actually on the face. The route was systematically fixed and an unspecified number of bolts were placed. Eventually, it appears that possibly three climbers reached the summit to make the sixth or seventh ascent of the spire.



## Batokshe (Batokshi/Saddle Peak) -c6,000m-



In 1996, a mixed nationality team of Tom Goodwin and Pete Scott from New Zealand, Johan 'Sugar' Gouws from South Africa and Sam Stacey plus Peter Thompson from the UK visited the fine granite spires of the Pute Towers, which form the extension of the South Ridge of Hachindar Chhish (7,163m) north of Aliabad in the Hunza Valley. All members made a rather extensive exploration of the route potential on the high peaks of the Batura Wall from Batura II to Pasu Sar and also climbed Batokshe (c6,000m) south of Batura II.

Note that the granite in this easily accessed but very infrequently visited region is generally considered to be of quite good quality.



## Charikand -c5,888m- :

Lower down the Naltar the two man team of Robert MacFarlane and Paul Woodhouse, after making a reconnaissance of the unclimbed Khaitar (5,591) on the west wall of the valley and deeming it too difficult (a hard ridge traverse or very steep, stoneswept faces), turned their attention to Charikand (5,888m). This fine looking summit lies on the east wall of the valley and although it does not appear to have a recorded ascent, is strongly rumoured to have been climbed some years ago by the Pakistan Army. The pair attempted the South West Face of the mountain over four days in August but with the night time temperatures only falling to 0C at 5,200m, they found considerable avalanche risk and aborted their attempt on glacier slopes at c5,400m. It was estimated that the final part of the face would be around AD/AD+ and Scottish 3 in good (ie well-frozen) conditions.



## Dawson Peak :

The Sumaiyer Peak lies directly opposite Peak Dawson on the west side of the lower Silkiang Glacier and was climbed via the East Buttress (again by British) in 1984.



## Dedo de Galupour (c5,100m) :

The pair then moved to Naltar and on the 17th climbed a new route on a 5,100m peak christened Dedo de Galupour. The North East Couloir was followed to give an 800m route of mainly 60° with a 75° exit and a section of IV+ up the North Ridge to the summit. Four days later they made a possible first ascent of a 5,002m peak via a mixed route of 1,000m (IV and 50°).



## Ghenta Peak -c7,090m- :



In 1974 : First ascent by Polish/German team.



## Gutum Talji - c5,500m- :

A mixed nationality team of Tom Goodwin and Pete Scott from New Zealand, Johan 'Sugar' Gouws from South Africa and Sam Stacey plus Peter Thompson from the UK visited the fine granite spires of the Pute Towers, which form the extension of the South Ridge of Hachindar Chhish (7,163m) north of Aliabad in the Hunza Valley. On the 8th August the team attempted Gutum Talji (c5,500m) to the south of the Yain Hisk Glacier. Stacey and Scott tried the steep North West Face but were forced to retreat due to warm conditions and associated rockfall. Meanwhile Goodwin, Gouws and Thompson had reached the crest of the West Ridge via the South Fork of the Yain Hisk Glacier, climbing a dangerous gully to reach a c500m section of 60 water ice leading to a saddle on the ridge. The crest of the ridge was then followed over snow and easy angled rock to the top (the peak has several summits). Descent followed the same route and was carried out in deteriorating conditions.



## Hachindar Chich -c7,163m (c6,870m)- :



In 1982 : first ascent proceeded on this granite face of which the higher part is quite visible: the 1000 last meters of the final wall are extremely stiff, then the edge towards the top is very corniced (5 camps were nescessary, the last at c6,900m, for the Japanese from Kanazawa).

Note : At this time, the Western pillars of Hachindar Chich are still virgin.



## Jurju Khona Sar -c6,055m- :



Prolonging Karun Koh, the 2 summits of Jurju Khona Sar (c6,055m) and of Tpopdan Sar (c6,106m) complete a hard stone moutains, dominates Hunza valley (calling also the Passu Cathedrals). They force the Shimshal river an abrupt turning towards the West. This mountain offers a fantastic play ground to the valley where the sun rays ignite the red stones.

All attempts on the Jurju Khona Sar without success.



## Kampire Dior -c7,143m- :



Kampire Dior (meaning " The house of the old woman "). so discrete, at the bottom of the Batura glacier, this summit was mentionned anywhere for a long time.

The ascent in 1975 on the other face, from Karambar glacier, by the Southern and Western edges (by the S.Mori Japanese, Y.Teranishi, 4 camps). The approach is very long long and from Gilgit, Garkutch, Ishkoman valley and Imit.



## Karun koh -c7,350m- :

This summit was reached in 1984 by an autrian team (leader: H. Grun).



## Khaitar peak, -c5,591m- (Naltar valley) :

In 1995, lower down the Naltar the two man team of Robert MacFarlane and Paul Woodhouse, after making a reconnaissance of the unclimbed Khaitar (c5,591) on the west wall of the valley and deeming it too difficult (a hard ridge traverse or very steep, stoneswept faces), turned their attention to Charikand (5,888m).



## Koz Sar -6,677m- :

The peak only received 2 attempts. In 1993 an Anglo-Irish expedition tried the South West Ridge and reached a height of 5,800m before poor weather and deteriorating snow conditions forced a retreat.

Above: Koz Sar (6,677m) in the Western Karakoram as seen from the south. The first ascent of this little known mountain was made last August by Kuriyagawa, Ota and Yamagata. Although their exact line is uncertain, it is believed the three Japanese climbed capsule style through the big rock wall visible on the South Face and then up the final sharp ice crest to the summit.

One of the main successes of the summer came on this previously unclimbed 6,677m peak east of the Karambar River in the West Karakoram. Ichiro Yamagata led an eight-member team (only one of which had previously visited Pakistan) to attempt a line on the South Face, which is characterized by a rock wall beginning above c5,000m and steepening to the vertical at 5,600m. Above this wall a sharp mixed arete leads to the summit. Little information has been forthcoming on the successful ascent, though the team carried two portaledges and planned to climb the route capsule style. The climbers approached via the West Glacier and three members, the 41 years old leader, Yamagata, 31 years old Takashi Ota and 22 years old Katsuyuki Kuriyagawa reached the summit sometime during August.



## Kuk Sar -c6,943m- :



First ascent of this summit in 1982 by an expedition from UK.

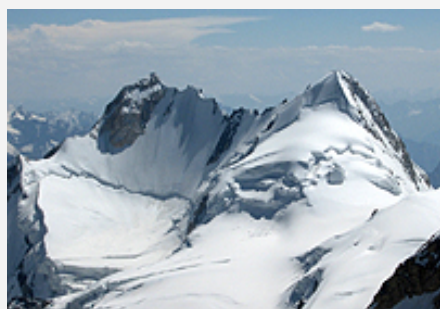


## Kuk Sar II-6925m- :

Virgin summit.



## Kutshkulin Sar -c5,900m- :



The mountain received its first ascent on the 20th August 1998 by four Germans from the Dresden region. Jörg Ehrlich, Frank Polter, Dieter Ruelke and Markus Walter first established Base camp at Karambar Ilag (3,300m), then made a high Camp by a glacier lake in the Kutshkulin Valley at 4,300m and a second below the North West Face of the mountain at 4,900m. The final climb began at 2am and involved 12 rope lengths on poor snow and ice up to 60°, followed by four pitches of crevassed ground to reach a plateau below the final pyramid. Although short,

bad snow up to 60° on the tapering North East Ridge made this last section to the summit very time-consuming and the team only arrived back at their camp (in a snowstorm) after 20 hours on the mountain.

A probable second ascent of this c5,900m peak was made in late August 1999 by an Anglo-American/New Zealand group. William Cadell, Adam Thomas and Simon Woods from the UK, Brian Godfrey and Jock Jeffery from New Zealand and Walter Keller from the USA approached via the Karambar Glacier, which flows west from the 7,143m peak of Kampire Dior. They set up Base Camp at the entrance to the Kutshkulin Glacier (sometimes referred to as the South Koz Yaz Glacier), which flows into the Karambar from the north just past Karambar Ilag (3,300m). After a period of exploration they attempted c5,900m Kutshkulin Sar, a fine snow/ice peak lying on the eastern rim of this side glacier. On the 29th August, Jeffery and Woods reached the summit via a route reported to follow the East Spur, North Ridge and the final section of the West Ridge. This route took three days and had an overall standard equating to Alpine D. It was repeated by Keller and Thomas, who reached the summit on the 30th.



## Kutshkulin Sar II (Sax sar) -c6,000m- :



The mountain received its first ascent on the 28th August 1998 by four Germans from the Dresden region. Jörg Ehrlich, Frank Polter, Dieter Ruelke and Markus Walter first established Base camp at Karambar Ilag (3,300m), then made a high Camp by a glacier lake in the Kutshkulin Valley at 4,300m. After a suitable rest at Base, they returned to the 4,900m camp and bagged another summit to the north. This proved easier (snow/ice to

50°) and despite established map heights of between 6,100m and 6,432m, their altimeters put the highest point a little below 6,000m. The summit was christened Sax Sar and climbed on the 28th August.



## Kuti Dorkush -c5,900m- :

The first ascent of this peak is commonly attributed to a two-person Irish team, which climbed the c5,900m mountain in 1995 by the South West Ridge. In fact the peak was photographed by Schomberg in 1933 and appears to have been climbed as early as 1959 by Rudolf Bardodey and a porter named Kabul, from a German scientific expedition employed in triangulation survey work in the Batura Muztagh . Approaching from the south these two report reaching a notch at c5,300m on the West Ridge, then traversing to the crest of the North Ridge, up which they finished steeply. In August 1995 Irish climbers, Jack Bergin and Mairi Keenleyside made the second ascent of this c6,000m peak west of the Kukuar Glacier via the corniced South West

An all-women British team of Annabelle Barker, Penny Clay, Janet Vince and Mary Twomey made the third ascent of Kuti Dorkush on the north side of the Sat Marao Glacier. The British team, delayed by bad weather (they only experienced five clear days out of the 26 spent at or above Base Camp), opened a new route on the south side of the mountain, climbing a 300m snow couloir (Scottish I/II: high risk of stonefall) to gain the South West Ridge. The crest of the ridge was then followed, over sections of avalanche prone terrain (40-50) to just short of the summit. From there Vince and Twomey climbed the final and dangerously corniced 30-40m to stand on the highest point. All members descended the ridge and then reversed the Irish ascent route, rappelling over the seracs.

The team report excellent service from the porters at Bar (north of Chalt on the KKH) and were able to reach their Base Camp at a delightful ablation valley on the north side of the Sat Marao in four days. However, prior to this, there had been extended negotiations with local headmen who insisted that the team was subject to Nagar rules of employment and hence a higher than normal porter wage.



## Nico Sar -c5,800m- :



In 2000, Americans, Walter Keller and Amy Rice, made the first ascent of Nico Sar, a c5,800m peak off the Borth Glacier at 36° 33.917'N, 74° 09.399' E. After establishing Base Camp at c4,750m on the Nercherkin Glacier, a subsidiary glacier branching steeply north from the Borth, the pair placed two camps (at 5,300m and 5,650m), climbed almost 1,000m of excellent ice up to 70° and reached the summit on the 12th August during a period of unsettled weather. They down climbed and rappelled the same route.

The Borth or Bhurt (aka Bort) Glacier flows down from the west side of Kuti Dorkush (c5,900m) towards the main Ishkoman Valley in the Far Western Karakoram. It lies approximately 35km from the Afghan border and is the next glacier system immediately south of the Karambar. The American pair were probably the first to climb from this glacier and note tremendous possibilities for further exploration, especially on some of the high quality granite faces deemed eminently suitable for future big wall parties.



## Pamri Sar -c7,016m- :





First ascent by a italian team , same as Pamri Sar II.



## Pamri Sar II -c6,928m- :

First ascent by a italian team , same as Pamri Sar II.



## Passu group -c7,284/c7,500m- :



Passu Group is in continuity of the Batura group. his exceptional group of summits have at least 4 wonderfull summits over 7000 meters high.



## Passu Peak (Passu Diar, Peak 55) -c7,295m- :



Five members of a Japanese expedition reached the 7,295m summit of Passu Peak (Passu Diar) on the 18th August (though their permit appears to have been for the higher Passu Sar to the west, which has only received one ascent to date). Sadly, two days later during the descent one of the summiteers, Toshio Takahashi, fell into a crevasse on the lower glacier at c5,800m and died. Passu Diar, a long but gently angled climb from the Passu Glacier to the east, has now had a number of ascents since the first in 1978 by a joint Japanese-Pakistani expedition.



## Passu Peak (Passu Diar, Peak 55), East summit -c7,284m- :



From the glacier at the place name passu Ghar (mean the " Passu Fortress " , 3650m), passu Peak East is at the intersection of the edge of Shispare (South-east) and of the limits of the edge of Batura glacier (Est). First ascent by Japanese M.Inoue, I.Wali, K.Wakui and S.Yamada in 1978: They went up the Passu glacier and crossed a difficult and dangerous seracs falls to joining the South-eastern edge.

Year 1996, a team from the Pakistan Alpine Club made an ascent of the straightforward Passu Peak (or Passu Diar: 7,284m), which lies towards the eastern end of the Batura Chain. A reported 15 out of the 50 climbers reached the summit via the Original 1978 Route up the Passu Glacier. This expedition was apparently a forerunner to a possible Everest attempt in 1997 but was led throughout by the well-known guide, Rajab Shah, who had been employed in his professional capacity for the trip.



## Passu Peak (Passu Diar, Peak 55), West summit -c7,500m- :



A Pakistan expedition had a success on this summit in 1996.



## Passu Sar (Passu Dome) -c7,478m- :



Believing it to be still unclimbed and therefore one of the highest unclimbed summits in the Karakoram, a five-man Australian expedition led by Damien Gildea booked a permit to attempt Passu Sar (7,478m) between Shispare and the Batura Group. However, shortly before leaving, they learnt of a German expedition (reported in the American Alpine Journal) who appeared to have climbed Passu Sar in August 1994 and not the lower Passu Diar (a.k.a. Passu Peak, 7,295m, which lies a little to the east, has now had a number of ascents

and was first climbed in 1978 by a joint Japan-Pakistan expedition). Checking with a local high altitude porter in Gulmit, they were able to confirm that Dirk Naumann, Ralf Lehmann, Volker Wurnig and Max Wallner, had indeed made the first ascent of the higher peak, using skis for much of the ascent and bypassing the lower peak by going through a high shallow saddle to one side.

The Australians set up Base Camp in June close to the Passu Glacier but instead of finding the lower glacier just badly crevassed, as they had been led to expect after information provided by the Alpine Club of Pakistan, which organized a successful expedition to Passu Diar in 1996, they discovered a giant icefall starting around 4,200m and requiring over 800m of vertical gain. On closer inspection the climbers realized that the route was very complex, dangerous and just not possible for them in a lightweight effort, so they abandoned any further attempt. The previous winter had been very dry and knowing this, the climbers had arrived early to profit from whatever snow cover remained. However, it appears that a succession of dry years has taken a severe toll.



## Passu Sar II (Passu Dome II) -c7,295m- :



This summit had some success climbs, first in 1978 by an japanese/pak team.



## Pute towers Group -~c5,880-:

A mixed nationality team of Tom Goodwin and Pete Scott from New Zealand, Johan 'Sugar' Gouws from South Africa and Sam Stacey plus Peter Thompson from the UK visited the fine granite spires of the Pute Towers, which form the extension of the South Ridge of Hachindar Chhish (7,163m) north of Aliabad in the Hunza Valley. The team set up Base Camp on the Yain Hisk pasture in early July after a three day approach from the Karakoram Highway via the Muchuhar Glacier. Subsequently, they spent 42 days in the region, experiencing only 11 or so days of bad weather but rather more on which snow conditions were considered dangerously unstable.



## Third Tower --c5,800m- :

The team made the first ascent of the Third Tower (5,800m: the second highest of the group) via a long east-facing gully above the Yain Hisk pasture, followed by the crest of the South Ridge, which consisted of snow slopes interspersed with steep mixed rock pitches. They were denied access to the Second and highest Tower, which lies just to the north, by difficult terrain and deteriorating weather.



## Sakar Sar -c6,272m -

This remote 6,272m peak in the northern Batura Muztagh received its first ascent in August by all four members of a Japanese expedition, Miyazawa Akira (leader), Ishikawa Makoto, Kamei Kanji and Suzuki Teruaki, together with Alam Jan and Anwar Khan from Pakistan. The peak lies on the Afghan border (Wakhan Corridor) and is accessed via the Sakarjerab Valley, which runs down to the long Chapursan Valley not far below its head at the Chillinji An (c5,290m). The team approached via Sost on the KKH, a long trek up the Chapursan Valley to the bridge at Babaghund, where they crossed the river and moved north to a Base Camp below Sakar Sar. They subsequently climbed the South East Flank to the summit.



## Sangemarmar Sar -c6,949m (c7,050m)- :



The summit of Sangemar Sar is located on the South ridge of the Batura Wall wha separate the Muchuhar & Shispare glacier. This summit is considerate as the " crystal " of the Baltit oasis.

First ascent by a japanese expedition in 1982 (route on the South West ridge)

A British team led by Alan Pilkington attempted to make the second ascent of this fine 6,949m peak above the east bank of the Muchuhar Glacier. Unfortunately the unsettled warm weather meant the lower section of the route was exposed to stonefall and potential avalanche danger and the team failed to gain much height on the mountain. Sangemarmar was first climbed during the excellent summer of 1984 by a large team from Japan's Osaka University. The expedition fixed 3,000m of rope on the South West Ridge before six members reached the summit.



## Sani Pakush -c6,885m-:

This fine pyramidal peak, which lies north of Chalt on the watershed between the Kukuay and Batura Glaciers, has only been ascended once, by a German team who climbed up and down the North West Ridge in 1991. The British team of Andy Benson, Kenton Cool, Rich Cross and Al Powell, who received both 1998 Nick Estcourt and top Lyon Equipment Awards, were unsuccessful in their attempt on the c2,600m West Buttress of Sani Pakush (6,885m). Like many expeditions this year operating in August the team suffered from unstable weather and never experienced a long enough fine spell to realistically reach the summit. The lower section of the ridge comprised three consecutive rock towers and the team planned to establish a camp at 5,200m on the col behind the first tower and fix a safe rappel line to the ground, before making an continuous push to the summit.



## First & Second Tower :

The First Tower was climbed in early August and involved 800m of mixed and pure rock with pitches up to VI (British HVS). It was descended in 16 rappels. The Second Tower was shorter but started with a pitch of British E1 5b.



## Third Tower :

On the third day all four reached the base of the Third Tower. The morning of the fourth day dawned with ominous cloud cover but they set off, climbing five mixed and rock pitches up the only feasible line (which necessitated a bold lead up a poorly protected pitch at E3 5c) until rockfall from above cut one of the ropes. This incident, together with other rock fall incidents and the difficult, compact terrain that could not be aided or avoided if the weather broke, persuaded them to descend. The decision proved wise, as over the following two days, while they descended to Base Camp, a storm moved in depositing half a metre of snow. The high point at c5,600m was just 400m short of where the buttress joins the South Ridge, above which an 800m ascent over 35° snow with several mixed pitches appeared to lead directly to the summit.

The team report that the porters from the Bar Valley lived up to their notorious reputation and proved a constant nightmare on both the walk into, and out from, Base Camp. At the suggestion of their liaison officer, and in an attempt to improve the situation for future expeditions, a 'request for lawful action' was filed against the porters for breach of contract, with 35,000 rupees in overpaid wages to be collected and donated to a local school. The Deputy Commissioner in Gilgit responded very well to this idea and assured the team that action would be taken. However, their liaison officer has recommended that all future expeditions hire porters from the local Pakistan government administration rather than the village administration in Bar.



## Shani Peak -c5,800m- (Naltar valley):





Several British teams visited this easily accessible valley off the Karakoram Highway just north of Gilgit. There have now been a considerable number of small expeditions to Shani and its surrounding peaks, the majority of British origin and more than a handful to attempt the true North Face. This somewhat vast, technically difficult and objectively dangerous face, which was probably first brought to public notice after its picture appeared in Trevor

Braham's autobiographical classic, *Himalayan Odyssey*, remains the major prize on this easily accessible mountain. The four man group of Martin Cooper, Charles Halsten, Jonathan Morgan and Nick Wallis made a probable third ascent of Shani's West Ridge, the route of the first ascent in August 1986 by Roger Everett and Guy Muhlemann of this shapely 5,800m peak towards the head of the valley.

A four-man Dutch Shani Expedition (Andreas Amons, Elwin van der Gragt, Benno Netelenbos and Melvin Redeker) completed two new routes on this impressive 5,885m peak in the Naltar Valley.



## Shani Peak -c5,800m-, East summit :



A four-man Dutch Shani Expedition (Andreas Amons, Elwin van der Gragt, Benno Netelenbos and Melvin Redeker) completed two new routes on this impressive 5,885m peak in the Naltar Valley. On the 22nd August, Amons and Redeker reached the lower East Summit, which registered c5,610m on their altimeter, after having made the first ascent of the 1,000m high North East Spur. The two climbers spent a full four days on the mountain due to poor weather, bivouacking on the East Top for 33 hours in a hail storm before rappelling and down-climbing the line of ascent. They had originally hoped to traverse all the summits of Shani and descend via the Original Route on the West Ridge climbed by Roger Everett and Guy Muhlemann in 1986. Although the foot of the spur is

relatively close to Base Camp at Upper Shani (3,920m), the icefall of the Shani North Glacier bars direct access. Instead, a circuitous 10-hour approach has to be made, at first northwest towards the Pakhor Pass then back across the glacier. After an initial gully, the route on the Spur followed a snow ridge, breaking through the rock buttress above via a narrow 70° ice gully. In the upper section the pair were forced off the crest due to appalling rock and made a rising traverse towards the edge of a serac barrier, where they found excellent granite. They climbed this good rock to a false top at c5,400m and then continued more easily up 50° snow to make the first ascent of the East Top. An overall Alpine grade of TD (V and 65/70°) was quoted. The party felt that more snowy conditions would reduce this grade.



## Shani Peak -c5,800m-, South East face :

On the 20th August and on the opposite side of the mountain van der Gragt and Netelenbos attempted the South East Face of the Main Summit. After several notable British attempts in the '80s, this side of the peak was eventually climbed in 1989 by Duncan Francis, Peter Leeming and Martin Oakes. The Dutch line lay very close to the 1989 British Route, climbing the rock buttress to the left in the lower part of the face, then continuing more directly in the upper section to the summit. On the first attempt the two Dutch failed at around half-height, caught in the same storm that severely hampered their team-mates on the North East Spur. On the 29th-30th August they made a second attempt and reached the summit after just 15 hours climbing and one bivouac. The initial rock pillar gave excellent climbing on 'Chamonix-like' granite, mainly IV and V with a crux section of VI and a wet slabby pitch of V+ on the right flank of the crest near its top. The pair then climbed through mixed ground and a rocky section called the Fortress (V) to a bivouac on the Central Snowfield at around 5,220m. Next day they climbed directly to the main summit via the

snowfield and a hidden couloir with a section of 80°. It took 12 hours to descend the West Ridge and return to Base Camp. Next day, the 31st, Amons and Redeker also reached the summit via more or less the same route, having started on the 30th. This pair made an important variant (V+) on the left side of the crest of the rock pillar to avoid the crux section climbed by the previous party. The 1,600m route was thought to be TD/TD+.



## Shispare -c7,611m-:



The Polish/German team of J.Kurczab climbed Shispare in 1974 by its South/East edge. The route : From the Passu glacier to the Northern edge (2 km), then cross a vast plateau (6700m approx.). Then, the route is diverted and, at the beginning, difficult (4 high camps, the last at 6700m).



## Snow Dome -c5,322m- (Sentinel Peak - Naltar valley) :

Halsten and Morgan, together with two other British climbers, made an ascent of the popular 5,030m Snow Dome to the east, Morgan largely on ski. The team report somewhat quarrelsome porters used to access this beautiful but nowadays somewhat frequented Alpine valley and were subjected to a little theft on the approach. During acclimatization, Andreas Amons, Elwin van der Gragt, Benno Netelenbos and Melvin Redeker climbed the popular Snow Dome, Sentinel Peak and the lower Sentinel North (at AD), the latter measured at 5,322m and first ascended in 1984 by Dick Renshaw and Stephen Venables after an unsuccessful attempt on Shani's still unclimbed lower South Pillar; the true crest of the ridge left of both the 1999 Dutch and 1989 British starts. During this early period the Dutch report that their Base Camp was robbed one night, forcing them to hire an armed guard. Thereafter, and perhaps not surprisingly, relations with the local inhabitants became a lot more cordial.



## Sumaiyer Peak -c5,520m- :

During August, 25-year old David Larrión climbed a series of routes on peaks relatively close to the Karakoram Highway. Early in the month with Ager Madariaga he made the probable first ascent of the East Ridge of Pt 5,520m on the watershed between the Sumaiyer and Nagar Valleys. Although the Spanish pair refer to this as Sumaiyer Peak, it was originally christened Peak Dawson by the British first ascensionists who climbed from the Sumaiyer Valley in 1979. The true Sumaiyer Peak lies directly opposite Peak Dawson on the west side of the lower Silkiang Glacier and was climbed via the East Buttress (again by British) in 1984.



## Tpopdan Sar (Tupopdan)-c6,106m- :



Tpopdan mean the " mouthful of sun mountain " in local language, good name decause it's ful red colours at the sunset. Tpopdan peak dominate the wondefull Passu Cathedrales. In 1987, Tpopdan Sar was climb by British P.Cox, L.Griffin et M.Woolridge, who traced a beautifull and hard route 2000 meters high.



## Ultar (Death Peak) -c7,388m- :



The suffixe " tar " in burushaski mean " summer pasture ", Ultar is the " mountain of the pasture ".

**The 7,388m Ultar Massif, one of the highest distinctive unclimbed summits in the world, has been attempted over the last 10 years by approximately 15 expeditions, mainly of Japanese origin. Although all possible routes are very long and committing, it was only a matter of time before a large siege-style expedition would win through. The most attempted line over the years has been the very long South Ridge above Karimabad, on which a number of Japanese, including the famous Tsunao Hasagawa in 1991, have lost their lives.**

**It was slightly surprising then that the first ascent should come from the north; a very infrequently tried approach above the Ghulkin Glacier but the first used to attempt the peak by a joint Pakistan-Japanese team in 1986. On the 21st of July (one report states the 11th) Akito Yamazaki and Kiysh Matsuka reached the summit in an Alpine style push. However, on the descent Yamazaki became totally exhausted and died of oedema at Camp 1. At the same time a second Japanese team was fixing the South Ridge. Ken Takahashi had previously tried the mountain by three different routes and was a member of the team that made the first attempt in 1986. Latterly, he had tried the South Ridge in 1994. This time he reached the summit on the 31st July with his four companions from the Japan Kathmandu Club, Tsutsumi Nobuo, Ando Masayuki, Slatto Wataru and Hoshino Ryushi. The most intricate part, as expected, was the series of pinnacles on the ridge between c6,200m and 6,400m. However, it is not known how they tackled the final 400m headwall, either direct or in the obvious couloir on the left. The team fixed more than 2,000m of rope and it is reported that they managed to retrieve it all bar a section of less than 200m. This length lay in the side of a gully, which at the end of the trip was being continuously bombarded by rockfall. Despite several attempts to remove the rope, it was eventually abandoned when the situation became positively life threatening. The team was subsequently fined the statutory \$1,000 by the Ministry of Tourism for violating the Environmental Policy.**



## Ultar (7388m), South East pilar :



A four-member French expedition comprising Jerome Blanc-Gras, Erwan le Lann, Christophe Profit and Hervé Quallizza were unsuccessful during May/June on their project to ascend the giant c3,600m-high South East Pillar of Ultar (7,388m). This pillar, similar to three times the height of the Walker Spur, has been attempted only once previously (by Japanese).



## Ya Chhish -c5,130m- :

He climbed the fore summit of Ya Chhish (5130 m), located exactly in front of the face, to take a good look at the coming Batura climbing route, from base to summit. Ya Chhish was climbed May 23 1976 by two German climbers.

## Yeti Sar -c5,980m- :

The 29th August 1998, the mountain received its first ascent by four Germans from the Dresden region. Jörg Ehrlich, Frank Polter, Dieter Ruelke and Markus Walter first established Base camp at Karambar Ilag (3,300m), then made a high Camp by a glacier lake in the Kutshkulin Valley at 4,300m. Ruelke and Walter set off at 4am to climb another snowy peak at the head of the glacier. Christened Yeti Sar, this 5,980m mountain was ascended via 15 pitches of straightforward 50° ice but the two climbers had a narrow escape when a huge corniced section of summit ridge collapsed just five metres in front of them. At least it allowed an excellent view northwest to the high peaks of the Pamir. All four were back in Gilgit by jeep on the 1st October.

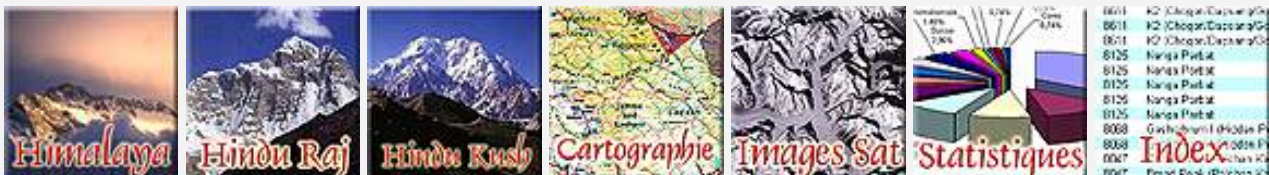
## Sources :

All informations mainly coming from,

- Ø The American Alpine Journal, 1996 to 2004 editions
- Ø Himalaya in Alpin Style by Andy Fanshawe & Stephen Venables, (Arthaud - France), 192 pages, 1996 edition
- Ø The Karakorum, Mountains of Pakistan de Shiro Shirahata édition Ferezsos (pvt.) ltd
- Ø Les plus belles montagnes du monde (Glénat - Grenoble-France), 296 pages, 1993 edition
- Ø Himalaya-Karakoram, Mountains of Pakistan by Shiro Shirahata, (Denoël - France), edition 1990
- Ø Ils ont conquis l'Himalaya by Bernard Pierre (Plon - France), 1979 edition
- Ø Deux siècles d'alpinisme by Chris Bonnington (Delachaux & Niestlé), 1992 edition
- Ø ExplorersWeb web site ([k2climb](http://k2climb.com))

... and some others. All informations compiled by Blankonthemap.

*See also the same topics pages :*



Révision D - july 06th 2007 (<http://blankonthemap.free.fr>)

[Home](#) - [History](#) - [Geography](#) - [local life](#) - [Travelling](#) - [Index](#) - [Gallery](#) - [Links](#) - [About Blank](#)

For more details, contact the [Webmaster](#)

