

# British North Sikkim Expedition 2006

Chaunrikiang Valley, MEF Reference 06/28

**First ascents of Chogyl and Frontier Peaks, exploration and reconnaissance of Koptang and Rathong**



Sunset on the South Face of Rathong, seen from the col below Koptang

Supported by:

**Government of Sikkim**



**Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association**



## Expedition Members

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Rajib Rai (Cook)  
'BM' and Ombre (Cook's assistants)

## Acknowledgements

The expedition thanks the following for their support, without whom the expedition could not have taken place:

<b>Government of Sikkim</b>	Permission for the expedition
<b>Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association</b>	Support for local logistics
<i>National Bodies</i>	
<b>British Mountaineering Council</b>	Approval and expedition grant
<b>Mount Everest Foundation</b>	Approval and expedition grant
<b>UK Sport</b>	For grant support provided via the BMC
<i>Clothing and Equipment</i>	
<b>Beal</b>	Reliable high quality climbing ropes
<b>DMM</b>	Harnesses, ice screws, camming units, chocks
<b>Extremities</b>	Insulated gloves and hats
<b>Julbo</b>	High quality sunglasses and goggles
<b>Lyon Equipment</b>	For supplying products from Beal, Charlet Moser and Petzl
<b>MACPAC</b>	A lightweight and storm proof bivouac tent
<b>Petzl Charlet</b>	Reliable high performance crampons, ice tools and hands-free lighting
<b>RAB</b>	Lightweight high performance down jackets and sleeping bags, Event shell clothing and gaiters
<b>Terra Nova</b>	A lightweight base camp tent
<b>The Mountain Boot Company</b>	Lightweight high performance Scarpa Omega boots

## Time Chart

<b>Oct 2006</b>	04	Geneva to London
	05	Depart London
	06	Arrive Kolkata. Fly Kolkata to Bagdogra. By road Bagdogra to Gangtok.
	07	)
	08	) waiting for 'notice of no objection' from Delhi to go to N Sikkim
	09	)
	10	)
	11	Gangtok to Lake Tsomgo for acclimatisation
	12	Gangtok: obtain alternative peak permits for Ratong and Kaktang in W Sikkim
	13	Gangtok to Yuksum by jeep
	14	Walk-in: Yuksum to Tsocha c.3100m
	15	Walk-in: Tsocha to Dzongri c.3950m
	16	Walk-in: Dzongri to Chaunrikiang c.4450m
	17	Acclimatisation walk to edge of Ratong glacier
	18	BC to HMI bivi c5005m under Frey Peak
	19	Exploration of Frey glacier and camp at c5400m
	20	Ascent of Chogyi Peak c5710m and return to camp at c5400m
	21	Bad weather so descend back to BC c4450m
	22	Rest day
	23	Bad weather – rest day
	24	BC to c4830m on Ratong glacier
	25	Up to Ratong Pass c5200m and return to camp at c4830m
	26	Move camp to c5075m under Frontier peak
	27	Climb to col c.5500m between Kaktang and Frontier peak
	28	Attempt N ridge of Kaktang, but turn back at 5770m due to poor conditions
	29	Climb Frontier Peak c5650m and descend to base camp
	30	Rest day
	31	BC to camp at c5050m under Ratong
<b>Nov 2006</b>	01	c5050m glacier camp to C5750m on Ratong SE ridge
	02	Bad weather and descent from Ratong to BC
	03	Walk-out: BC to Dzongri
	04	Walk-out: Dzongri to Tsocha
	05	Walkout: Tsocha to Yuksum. By road to Gangtok.
	06	Gangtok )
	07	Gangtok ) – assist with training of mountain guides
	08	Gangtok )
	09	By road Gangtok to Bagdogra. Fly Bagdogra to Kolkata.
	10	Fly Kolkata – London – Geneva

# Report

## 1. Background

In March 2005 we made an expedition to West Sikkim with local climbers Kunzang Gyatso Bhutia and Sagar Rai, when we made the first ascent of Lama Lamani (5750m) and the first alpine-style ascent of Tinchenkang (6010m). We were asked by the Government of Sikkim to provide a report on West Sikkim concerning 'Mountain recreation and tourism as a means to achieve sustainable development'. This report has contributed to the opening of additional 'alpine' peaks in Sikkim (see appendices).

In 2005 Bhutia suggested a further expedition to a 7000m peak in North Sikkim, and Government officials in Gangtok indicated their interest in promoting better access to the peaks of North Sikkim. Our climbing interests included virgin 7000m summits in the Paohanli group, and lower peaks such as Gurudongmar (6715m), Tenbarwa Ri (6626m), and Chombu (6362m). During the process for obtaining the permits went, it became clear that it would be very difficult to obtain access to the 7000m summits on the border between Sikkim and Tibet, so our efforts were then concentrated on obtaining permission for Gurudongmar.

This peak may have been first climbed via the West ridge in 1936 by Eric Shipton (although the 1936 team may have climbed the separate west summit rather than the main one). The second recorded ascent was via the North East ridge in 1991 by climbing instructors from the Sonam Gyatso Mountaineering Institute, Gangtok. A British team including Lindsay Griffin and Doug Scott made a reconnaissance of the South ridge in 1996, but could not make any progress on the mountain because of poor weather. After advice from Griffin, we settled on the South ridge as a possible objective.

## 2. Change of objective

Despite a relaxation of access restrictions to the border between Sikkim and Tibet, including the opening of the historic Natu La for local trade, by the time of the expedition's

departure we did not have one of the necessary permits from New Delhi. It seemed that obtaining the permit was possible, but with hindsight we had not allowed enough time between the issue of our entry visas and the processing of the permits in India.

After a wait of one week in Gangtok, the Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association (SAMA) secured permission from the Government of Sikkim for alternative peaks in West Sikkim. Within 24 hours we had obtained a permit to attempt Koktang 6147m and Ratong 6679m; the first time a foreign expedition had been granted access to this area.

We had no prior knowledge of these peaks except a distant glimpse in 2005, but by accessing the Alpine Club on-line Himalayan Index we were able to ascertain that Koktang had been climbed twice (via the SW face in 1982 and via the NE face and N ridge in 1991), and that Ratong had also had two ascents (via the W Ratong glacier and ice fall, in 1964 and 1987). It seemed that there would be opportunities to attempt new routes on both peaks.

## 3. Getting to the mountains

Access to the mountains is relatively straightforward despite the fact that there is no direct air service to Sikkim. We flew into Kolkata early morning on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, and then continued by air to Bagdogra that same afternoon. At Bagdogra we were met by Sagar Rai from SAMA, and then continued by road (a five-hour journey) to Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim. Sikkim has borders with Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan and all visitors are required to have an 'inner line' permit. However, this is now relatively easy to obtain, either in advance, or at the border as we did (see appendices).

We then spent another six days based in Gangtok while we sorted out our permit for the mountains (as described in 2 above). During this time we brought provisions and met our cook and kitchen assistants. We

also made a one-day acclimatisation trip to nearby Lake Tsomgo (Changu) where we were able to walk up to a ridge of c4000m. It was necessary to obtain another permit to enter this area because of the proximity to the border with Tibet and a strong military presence there, but it is a worthwhile excursion.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> October we left Gangtok by jeep and made the 5-hour journey to the road-head at the village of Yuksum where we stayed in a simple hotel. The next morning we loaded up the yaks and started the walk to base camp.

It is a 5-hour walk through jungle, on a well-maintained trail, to Tsocha (c3100m) where we spent the night in a trekkers' lodge. The following day it was a 4 hour walk, again on a good trail to Dzongri, where we spent another night in a simple hut. On the third day it was a 6 hour trek up to a col near the summit of Black Kabru, then down to the river, and then a final climb to the hamlet of Chaunrikiang at c4450m.

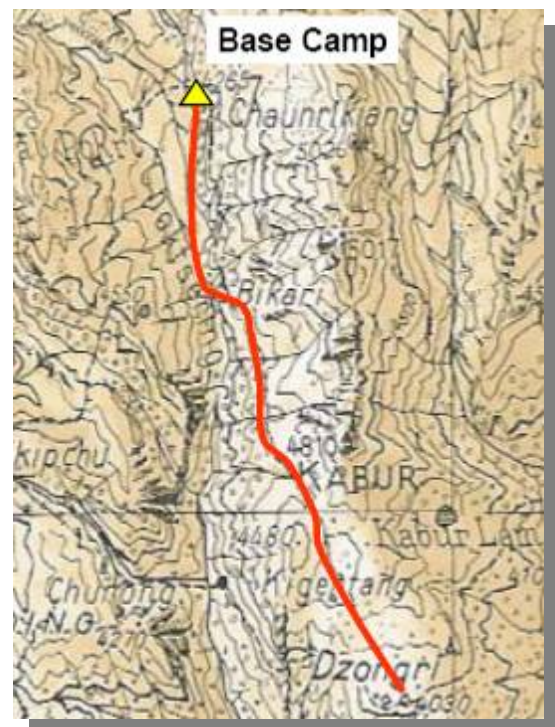


Maintenance work on the trail to Tsocha

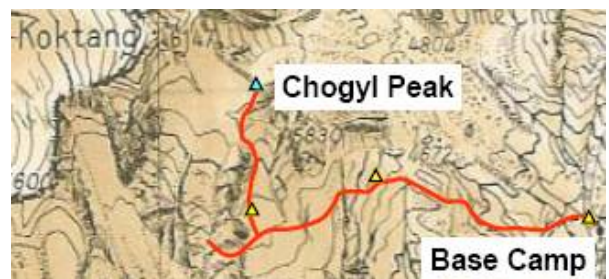
Chaunrikiang was the site for our base camp, but was an unexpected surprise, in that it is also the base camp for the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute from Darjeeling. On a grassy terrace we found around 10 stone and wood huts with a resident warden, an array of solar panels, and six functioning

street lamps to light up the camp at night. We arrived just in advance of one of the HMI training camps, and so for a small fee we were allowed to use one of their kitchen shelters and a bunk room for the first stage of our trip.

The day after our arrival (17<sup>th</sup> October) we made a short excursion above Chaunrikiang to reach the edge of the Ratong glacier and get our first look at both Koptang and Ratong peaks. We also had an opportunity to speak to the base camp warden and get some details of how to access the peaks.



#### **4. South side of Koptang and Chogyi Peak**



From our limited knowledge of Koptang we understood that there had been an ascent from the SW side and one from the NE side. Given that we were in the post-monsoon

season with cold temperatures, we decided to prioritise our exploration for a new route from the southerly aspect, expecting this to have more sun and better snow conditions. Immediately in front of Kaktang is another mountain called Frey Peak which is climbed by HMI Darjeeling groups. We were also curious to see what potential this peak, as it is one of the newly designated 'alpine peaks' for foreign tourists.

We learned from the warden that there was an HMI bivi shelter at c5000m under Frey Peak, and so this was the first stop on our reconnaissance of Kaktang. On the 18<sup>th</sup> October we left base camp accompanied by our kitchen staff who were keen to help carry equipment and do some exploring themselves.

We followed a tenuous and faint trail up the moraine ridges behind Chaunrikiang, and were fortunate to have the help of the warden's nephew in keeping to the trail, as it was very vague in sections on the lower part. We worked our way SW across the moraines, and then climbed a steep grassy slope to a col left of a distinct rock summit. From there the trail became more difficult with a few short rock steps to negotiate, but then once on the main glacial shelf there was a few hundred metres of scree slopes, followed by another few hundred metres on a flat snow covered shelf to reach the HMI bivi shelter.

We cooked in the shelter, which had a damaged roof and was too cramped for us all to sleep in. So, we put up tents on a flat sandy area nearby.

The next morning our kitchen staff departed for base camp, while the three of us continued to look for a way to reach Kaktang. At first we followed a series of large cairns which led us onto the Frey glacier. From there we continued contouring SW hoping to find a pass that would lead us onto the large glacial plateau that we could see lay between Frey Peak and Kaktang.



Looking for a route to the Kaktang glacier shelf

The first col we came to was clearly too far to the South, and we looked down into a precipitous valley below. We retraced our steps back towards Frey Peak and made a camp at c5400m in a glacial bay encircled by a long mixed ridge. At the right hand end the ridge merged into a face that appeared to go to the main summit of Frey Peak. Further left was a subsidiary summit, and left of this again a lower point in the ridge that it seemed we could access via snow and ice slopes. We felt that this would then give us access to the glacial plateau and the S side of Kaktang, so we decided to climb the ridge the following day.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> October we left camp at 05:30am. The day started sunny, but there was a lot of high cloud. We made our way to the base of the ridge and found good climbing with one long ice pitch, then moving together on Grade II snow and mixed ground to the crest of the ridge. By this time we were enveloped in cloud, but decided to continue to the subsidiary summit (Chogyi Peak c5750m) which we reached about 10:30am. The whole purpose of this exercise had been to gain views onto the S side of Kaktang to ascertain whether there was a feasible route to attempt, and whether we should put a camp on the plateau. With limited visibility Roger descended around 100m down the other side of the ridge to confirm that we could reach the plateau, but despite waiting back on the ridge for some time we got no clear views of Kaktang itself and had to return to our tent on the Frey glacier.



Initial ice pitch leading to towards the ridge

On the 21<sup>st</sup> we woke at 3am with a tentative plan to move our camp onto the plateau, but it was snowing and continued to snow all day. We packed up and made the return to base camp in poor visibility and difficult conditions, with Sagar badly twisting his knee during the descent in the moraine.



Just below the summit of Chogyi Peak

We then spent two days at base camp to rest and for Sagar to recover. The weather was typical of the whole trip, with a brief clear period for a few hours each morning, but then increasing cloud cover from 9am-11am, and snow in the afternoons.

## 5. Koptang 6147m – N Ridge

The next reconnaissance trip was made onto the Ratong glacier, which allowed a chance to see both the NE aspect of Koptang and the S side of Ratong. We left base camp on 24<sup>th</sup> October in cloud and snow and made a camp on the glacier at c4830m.



The following day was beautiful and clear, and we made a one-day return trip to Ratong Pass 5197m. It took about 5 hours to reach the pass, travelling over glacier and moraines, and 3 hours to get back to camp. From the Pass we had a clear view into Nepal, and good views of the impressive S face of Ratong. Much of this face is threatened by seracs that sit below the summit, and it seemed that the safest route would be by the SE ridge on the far right side.



NE face of Koptang with the north ridge on the skyline rising from the col camp, Frontier peak is on the right

The journey also gave good views of the NE aspect of Koptang. We had no information to give us any indication of where the previous line of ascent had been from this side, so we decided to try and make our way to a col between Koptang and a subsidiary peak which we called Frontier Peak.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> October we moved camp to a higher point on the glacier at c5075m. On the 27<sup>th</sup> October we climbed to the col at c5500m. The lower part of the climb was on

an obvious buttress, which proved to have unstable snow and very loose rock, which made it very time consuming. Fortunately once at the top of the buttress we moved onto solid snow slopes and found a good position for the tent directly under the NE face of Koptang.



Heading towards the col below the N ridge of Koptang

On the 28<sup>th</sup> October we climbed up to a fore summit on the N ridge of Koptang at c.5770m. The climbing on the face to reach the ridge was desperately slow due to the steep, deep and unconsolidated snow. We were often ploughing a trench to make any progress and it took nearly 3 hours to climb only 200m. Once on the ridge the progress was initially a little better, with a pleasant snow crest interspersed with rocky outcrops. It was very exposed to the strong winds though, and bitterly cold. Above the fore summit at c5770m we could see that the climbing became more serious on a corniced ridge, necessitating a descending traverses with no protection because of the

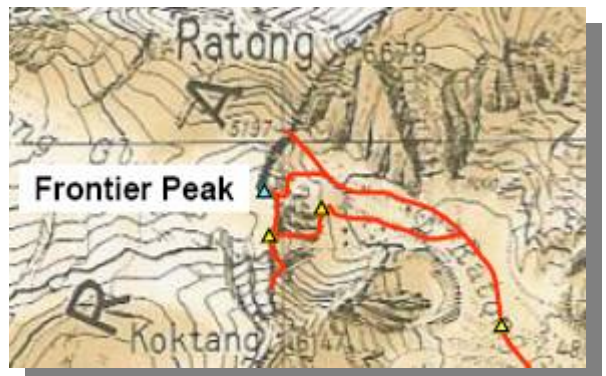
unconsolidated snow. We decided that this route was not worth pursuing in the conditions, and descended back to the camp at the col.



Cold unconsolidated snow on the N Ridge of Koptang

## 6. Frontier Peak

On the 29<sup>th</sup> October we traversed across to look at Frontier Peak and to find an alternative descent, as we did not want to go back down the buttress we had climbed to the col.



The summit of Frontier Peak was only 150m higher, so we dumped our rucksacks and then did some exciting climbing up loose rocky corners and buttresses to reach the top at c5650m. There did not appear to have been anyone there before us, so we made a



cairn and left a gift for the mountain gods. We scrambled down a different line and made one 30m abseil to get back to our bags about 2.30pm.



Enjoyable rock climbing on Frontier Peak

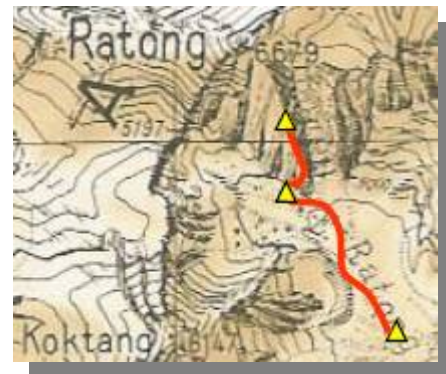
A brief look at the slopes slanting down toward Ratong Pass revealed a couple of easy looking snow couloirs, and we made an uneventful descent down-climbing these to reach the glacier. We decided to continue all the way back to base camp and arrived there about 7.30pm. By this time the HMI group from Darjeeling had arrived, and so the 'street lights' of Chaunrikiang guided us into the village. Our kitchen team had to relocate, so our new camp was just outside the village with the kitchen located under a tarpaulin draped across a large natural cave.



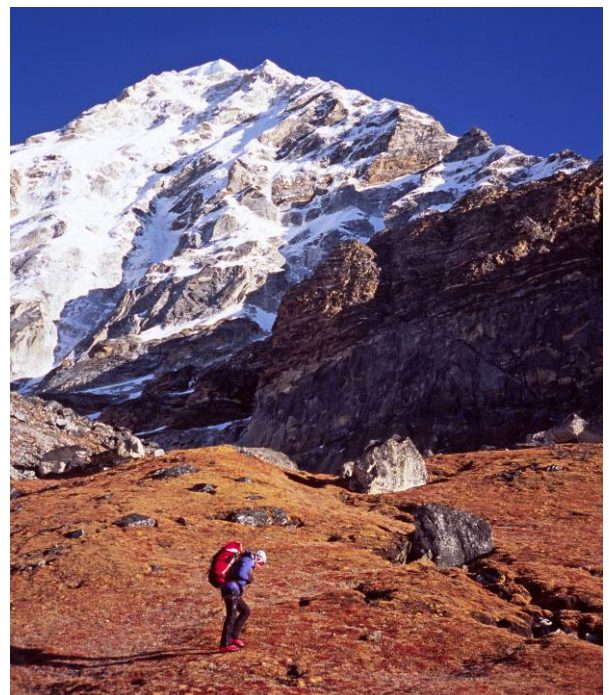
Just by the summit block of Frontier Peak

## 7. SE ridge of Ratong (6679m)

The 30<sup>th</sup> October was spent resting at base camp, and by now our time was limited as the yaks were due to arrive for the walk-out on 03<sup>rd</sup> November. Sagar's knee was now so painful that it was obvious he could not take part in any more climbing, and so that left Roger and Julie-Ann to make a last trip for an attempt on Ratong.



On the 31<sup>st</sup> October we left base camp in good weather with two of the kitchen staff and made our way back to the camp on the glacier at c4830m. Rajip and BM packed up the extra gear and returned to base camp, while we continued up the glacier to find a beautiful campsite at c5050m right underneath Ratong. We were on a grassy shelf with perfect tent sites, and just enough snow to collect for melting water.



Grassy shelf below the SE Ridge of Ratong

On the 01<sup>st</sup> November we left camp at 6.30am and moved to the base of the SE ridge. The first part of the climb was up a couloir splitting a broad buttress, with one hard rock pitch in the couloir, but then easier mixed ground where we could move together except for short pitches above. We then traversed leftward onto the edge of the face and moved together up gradually steepening snow slopes.



Top of the initial couloir, and some technical moves to get back to the ridge

Eventually it was necessary to start pitching, and we made further progress through difficult rock steps and poor ice, gradually traversing back to the crest of the ridge. The day had started with high cloud, and this gradually turned to worsening weather with snowfall and cold wind. By mid afternoon we were hacking out a small tent platform on the ridge and managed to get a protected spot with a rock wall behind the tent.



View from Rathong looking towards Frey and Chogyi

The next morning we woke to ominous high cloud, and given the trends of the previous

few weeks expected more bad weather in a few hours. The climbing on the ridge above now looked considerably harder and with more difficult route finding, so we decided to retreat. We spent the day abseiling and down climbing back to the base of the ridge, reaching our old camp at 2.30pm. There being no reason to stay, we continue on to base camp arriving back at 7pm.

## **8. Return home**

We left base camp on 03<sup>rd</sup> November, and the walk out was uneventful, taking two and a half days to reach Yuksum. A jeep was waiting there for us, and so we arrived back in Gangtok on the evening of 05<sup>th</sup>. Over the next three days we participated in a training course run by SAMA for young local people who wanted to become mountain guides. Then on 09<sup>th</sup> November we drove to Bagdogra and flew to Kolkata, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> flew from Kolkata back to London and Geneva.

## **9. Conclusions**

- Despite our lack of success to gain access to peaks in North Sikkim, there remains a strong possibility to do so in the near future.
- The subsidiary summits we climbed in West Sikkim are very suitable peaks for small teams climbing alpine-style, and both could be added to the list of open 'Alpine Peaks'.
- Our explorations of Koptang and Rathong showed there is potential for challenging new routes on both mountains.
- The new regulations for Alpine Peaks in Sikkim provides excellent opportunities for small teams climbing alpine-style.
- The Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association is a well-organised and able organisation, that welcomes help and support from visiting mountaineers

Appendices

## **1. Inner Line Permits & National Park Fees**

All visitors to Sikkim are required to have an 'inner line' permit. Indian missions abroad are authorised to issue a 15-day permit, which can be stamped in your passport at the time of obtaining your visa, but you have to ask for this. It is also possible to get a 15-day permit from any of the Sikkim Tourist Offices in Delhi, Kolkata or Siliguri. This will be issued on the spot if copies of passport and visa details, along with two passport-sized photos, are available. It is not a problem though to arrive at the state border Rangpo, without an inner line permit, as the Tourism Officer stationed there will issue a permit with a two-day validity to enable you to enter the state. The permit can then be revalidated in Gangtok for the full 15 days. It is also possible to extend the 15-day permit for two further 15-day periods if you want to stay longer.

Climbing in the Chaunrikiang valley means entering the Kanchenjunga National Park. Foreigners are required to register at the Park Headquarters in Yuksum, and to pay a fee of 250Rs for the first 6 days in the Park, and then 50Rs per day thereafter. Within the Park at the main overnight rest spots on the trail there are basic wooden shelters providing floor space, or there are tent sites. A caretaker resides at each campsite and collects the camping fees (50Rs per person per night in the shelters, or 30Rs per night to pitch a tent).

## **2. Mountaineering Associations & climbing regulations**

The Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association (SAMA) was founded in 2001, and recognised by the Sikkim Home Department in 2003. It is a small and growing association that primarily aims to provide training and promote mountaineering for local people, as well as protecting the mountain environment. They are also very active advising the Home Department concerning access to the mountains, and to open up more peaks, for local people and visitors; and running training programmes for the Government of Sikkim. We found their assistance invaluable in liaising with the Home Department for the mountaineering permits, and for undertaking the logistics of getting us to base camp; and their members to include very experienced mountaineers who are very competent instructors.

### Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association

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fax: +91 03592 220430

The Home Department of Sikkim has designated five newly opened Alpine Peaks to encourage small expeditions. They are:

West Sikkim	Frey Peak 5830m	(Chaunrikiang valley)
	Tinchenkang 6010m	(Thansing valley)
	Jopuno 5936m	(Thansing valley)
North Sikkim	Lama Wangden 5868m	(Lachen)
	Brumkhangse 5635m	(Yumthang)

The peak fee is relatively modest at USD350 for a team of four. The regulations for climbing these peaks can be found at <http://sikkim.gov.in/>. Go to the section Government and click on Old Gazettes. Then click on 2006 and all the gazettes for that year will appear in a PDF document ([http://sikkim.gov.in/asp/Miscc/sikkim\\_govtgazettes/GAZ/GAZ2006/GAZ2006.pdf](http://sikkim.gov.in/asp/Miscc/sikkim_govtgazettes/GAZ/GAZ2006/GAZ2006.pdf)). Go to page 90, and the gazette dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 2006. This contains the application forms, guidance notes and schedule of fees.

It should also be noted that under the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991 and the State Government's Notification No.59.Home/98 dated 26.10.1998, the following peaks are classified as Sacred, and the 'scaling of the sacred peaks' is banned:

Kanchenjunga (main, south and west summits)  
Mt Narsing  
Gabur Gangtsen (Kabur Dome and north and south summits)  
Pandim Peak  
Mt Simvo  
Goecha Peak  
Fork Peak  
Paohunli  
Mt Siniolchu

### **3. Transport**

We flew with British Airways from London Heathrow to Kolkata – a service that currently operates three times a week, and lands in Kolkata at 04:30 (cost £512 each). We bought our ticket for the internal flight from Kolkata to Bagdogra from Jet Airways, and were able to do this on-line before we left home. This service runs twice daily with departures at 10:30 and 13:30, and the flight takes just over an hour. The cost was around £130 each for a return ticket. It is very easy and quick to transfer from the international to domestic terminal as they are adjacent and just a 500m walk. For those with more time for local train travel, there is an overnight train service from Kolkata to Siliguri, which takes about 12 hours. Alternative options are to take a flight to Delhi, which has the benefit of daily international services, and from there take a Jet Airways internal flight to Bagdogra, or train to Siliguri. Some useful websites are:

[www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com)  
[www.jetairways.com](http://www.jetairways.com)  
[www.sikkiminfo.net](http://www.sikkiminfo.net)

For overland transport the expedition used one four-wheel drive vehicle to transfer from Bagdogra airport to Gangtok (2000Rs one way), and then from Gangtok to the road head at Yuksum (2500Rs one way). One vehicle was just sufficient for three climbers, three kitchen staff and all our equipment and provisions.

For the three-day walk-in from Yuksum to Chaunrikiang base camp fifteen yaks were used (cost around 180Rs per yak, per day). It is also possible to hire porters in Yuksum if yaks are not available (cost around 120Rs per man, per day).

### **4. Accommodation**

We stayed in a hotel in Kolkata on the return journey, as our flight departed at 04:30am - Hotel Rupasi Bangla, VIP Road (Military Camp Bus Stop) Kolkata 700059. This is about a 5-minute drive from the airport, and had basic air conditioned rooms for around 1800Rs per night. The hotel was a 10-minute walk to a couple of shopping areas with supermarkets, internet cafes, and restaurants. There are numerous hotels in Gangtok and prices for a relatively nice one range from 1200Rs to 2200Rs per night. In Yuksum we stayed in the Dragon Guesthouse on the main road as you enter the village.

### **5. Kitchen Staff & Provisions**

The expedition hired one cook and two cook's assistants for the duration of the trip into the mountains. This was on the basis that we were expecting to go to North Sikkim where the expedition would have been accompanied by two military personnel. However, once the objectives changed to West Sikkim we did not feel that we could dismiss one of the staff and so we continued with the same team. The kitchen team was organised by SAMA, and we would highly recommend all three men. Approximate costs for hiring a cook are 300s per day, and for the cook's assistant around 150Rs per day. Our kitchen team also generously helped to carry loads from base camp on the various reconnaissance trips, and for this they were paid at porter rates.

Provisions for base camp and on the mountain were bought in the Gangtok market. There are a no shops in Gangtok that sell climbing clothing or equipment. We were lucky to obtain some 'second hand' 250g cylinders of butane gas for use at altitude. Future expeditions should expect to have to use liquid fuel or arrange to freight their own cylinders.

## **6. Reference Material**

### **Books and articles**

Sikkim – A Traveller's Guide, 2nd Edition 2005

Photographs and essays by Sujoy Das. text by Arundhati Ray.

Publisher: Permanent Black, D-28 Oxford Apartments, 11, I.P. Extension, New Delhi 110092

Finalist in the Banff Mountain Book Festival. ISBN 81-7824-008-4. An excellent general introduction to Sikkim, with useful details of two of the better-known trekking routes, to the Goecha La in West Sikkim and Green Lakes in North Sikkim.

- **North Sikkim and Gurudongmar**

The Alpine Journal 1937, Vol XLIX, page 103

Ascent of Gordamah peak (Gurudongmar), North Sikkim. E.E. Shipton.

The Himalayan Journal 1990/91, Vol 48, pages 156-159

An account of the second ascent of Gurudongmar via NE ridge. G.T. Bhutia

The Himalayan Journal 1997, Vol 53, pages 53-66

Exploration and climbs in North east Sikkim. Doug Scott.

- **West Sikkim: Ratong and Koptang**

The Alpine Journal 1989/90, Area Notes, page269

A brief note of an ascent in 1988 of the central summit of Koptang by the Doon School, Dehra Dun, and later the same year an ascent of the south summit by a team from Manipur.

American Alpine Journal 1992, Climbs and Expeditions 1991, page188

A brief note of an ascent of Koptang via the NE face

American Alpine Journal 1965, Vol 14, pages 468-469

Ascent of Ratong

American Alpine Journal 1988, Vol 30, pages 184

Brief note of an ascent of Ratong by an Indian Army expedition from the Rathong La and Yalung glacier.

### **Maps**

The following maps were purchased from Stanfords, 12/14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP  
[www.stanfords.co.uk](http://www.stanfords.co.uk)

State Map of Sikkim, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1981, scale 1:150,000,£3.95

Published by Government of India

Sikkim Himalaya, scale 1:150,000, £18.50

Published by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research - a detailed contour map

## 7. Accounts

<b><u>UK Expenditure</u></b>	<b>£</b>	Notes
Airfares (Geneva-London-Kolkata)	1236	1
Other transport (train & taxi)	120	
Visas	60	
Insurance	220	
Film	160	
Medical supplies	72	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1868</b>	

### **India Expenditure**

Peak Fee	nil	2
Liaison Officer	nil	2
Airfares (Kolkata-Bagdogra)	280	
Transport (Bagdogra-Gangtok-Yuksum)	100	
Accommodation & meals	128	
Yaks (Yuksum-BC)	166	
National Park Fees	73	
Cook & assistants	263	
Food & supplies	305	
Fuel, stove & tent for BC	104	
High altitude gas	24	
Miscellaneous	136	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1579</b>	

**Total** **3447**

### **Income**

MEF & Alison Chadwick Grant	1150
BMC Grant	650
Member contributions	1647

**Total** **3447**

### Notes

1. Airfares included 50kgs of baggage each, which included additional equipment for the two members from Sikkim.
2. As this was a joint expedition with the Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association the Government of Sikkim waived the peak fee.