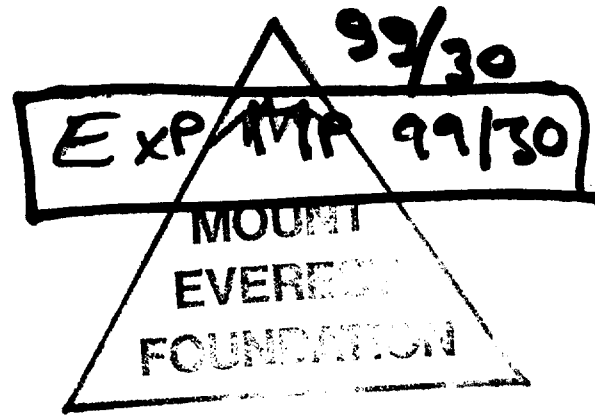


BMC



# **Ak Su Valley 1999**

**Supported by**

**The Sports Council for Wales**

**and**

**The Mount Everest Foundation**

**Approved by**

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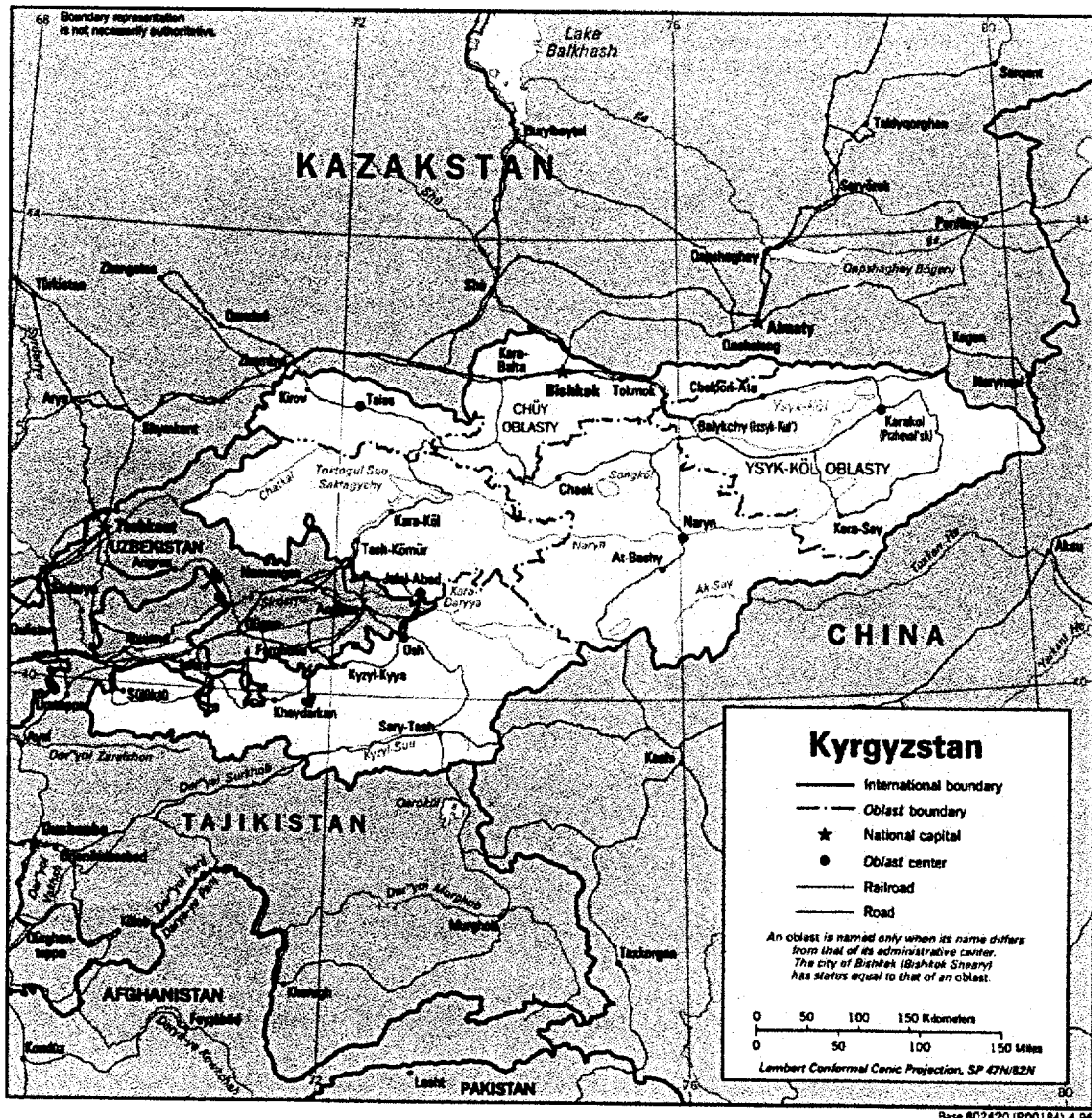
**Terra Nova Equipment**

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## Introduction

The Ak-Su valley had been mentioned in conversations as an area with vast potential in a fairly wild part of the world. After reading a little more Jon Garside and myself became interested and contacted Paul Pritchard who had been there two years previously. He showed us some slides and objectives soon stood out. The subsidiary peak of Pic Boston looked obvious with a challenging line and was unclimbed. We considered funding and other team members. Jon had climbed with Pete Scott in New Zealand before, and I had climbed with Jon Jones. They were both keen. Chris Forest then expressed an interest and joined on board whilst Jon Jones had to withdraw.



## History and Political Situation

The Ak-Su valley is situated in the Pamir Alai mountains in south western Kyrgyzstan, an independent state formerly part of the USSR. Kyrgyzstan is surrounded by much bigger and more powerful states such as China to the east, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to the west, and the poorer state of Tajikistan to the south. The Pamir Alai form Kyrgyzstan's border with Tajikistan, and north of the mountains is the very fertile Ferghana valley located in Uzbekistan.

These central Asian states were 'created' by the USSR as different soviets within the Republic, however, since the collapse of the USSR the artificial nature of their birth has created ethnic conflicts within, and between certain states. Within south western Kyrgyzstan itself, there are pockets of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, and at the eastern end of the Ferghana valley is Osh which even though just inside Kyrgyzstan is largely Uzbek in population. Tajikistan has had a civil war raging for the last decade such that in some parts of the country there is no monetary economy, simply bartering. This has helped to create powerful Islamic fundamentalist groups have developed within Tajikistan which have strong links with the Taliban in Afghanistan, immediately south of Tajikistan.

The south western part on Kyrgyzstan is very politically sensitive as it is only about 50 miles wide from north to south, and about 150 miles long from east to west. Immediately south of this part of the Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan is also very narrow from north to south, such that Afghanistan is only about 70 miles from Kyrgyzstan's southern border. The mountainous nature of the land makes it ideal for any guerrillas to operate in, and whilst we were in Kyrgyzstan there was a considerable amount of terrorist activity. An organisation associated with the Taliban (or they were the Taliban – it is never possible to find out exactly what is happening!), who were based in northern Tajikistan wanted to get into Uzbekistan. They were therefore very active within south western Kyrgyzstan, which was caught in the middle. Before we arrived in Kyrgyzstan there had been some kidnapping in the town of Batken, and whilst we were in the Ak-Su four Japanese geologists and a Kyrgyz army soldier were kidnapped, also from Batken. Batken was on our route both to and from the Ak-Su valley, in fact we had dinner there a few days before the Japanese kidnappings.

Anyone thinking of travelling to the Pamir Alai would do well to contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, and the British Consul in Al Maty, Kazakhstan. Unfortunately, the whole area is constantly in turmoil, largely due the unsettled nature of Tajikistan and Afghanistan, so be prepared to change your plans. We left the Ak-Su valley early due to the Japanese kidnappings, but went to the amazing alpine scenery of the Ala Archa instead. This incredible cirque, reminiscent of the Argentiére basin, is only a half hour taxi ride and three hour walk for Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek.

## Team Members

*Jon Garside:* Has rock climbed throughout Britain. First ascents in Bolivia as well as trips to the Alps, Norway, and New Zealand.

*Mark Baker* Has climbed throughout the UK for 18 years. Currently works at Plas-y-Brenin as a mountain instructor. Previously climbed in the Alps and made big wall ascents in Yosemite.

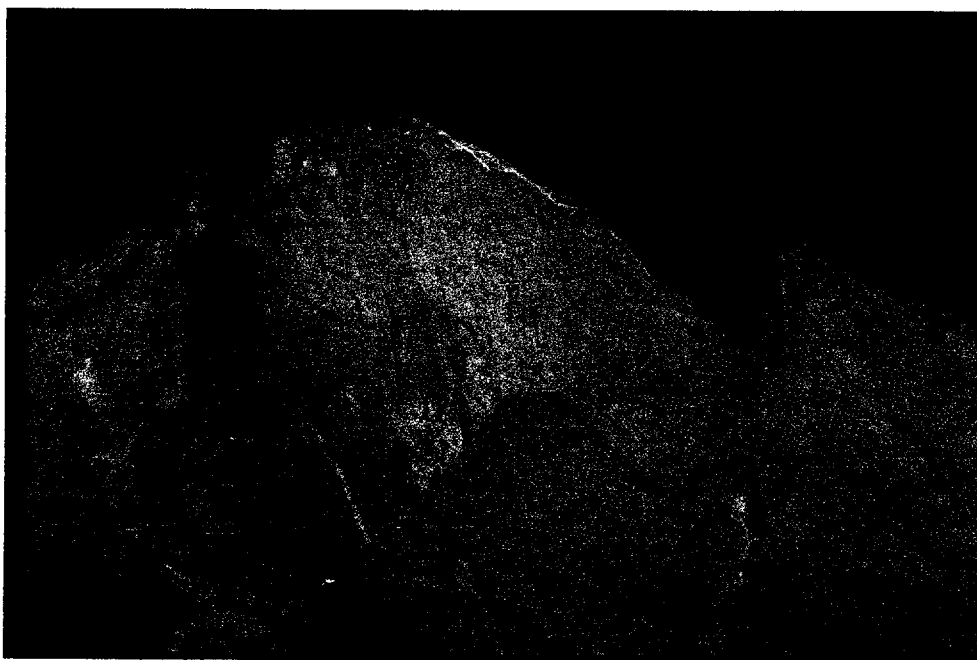
*Pete Scott:* Originally from NZ Pete is now a tax dodger living in Germany. Has climbed extensively in New Zealand, the Alps and has made first ascents in Pakistan.

*Chris Forest:* Has done it all in the Alps and the Himalayas, even enjoys canoeing, and *loves* cooking.

## Objectives

The Ak-Su and neighbouring Kara-Su valleys were the venues for a number of Russian climbing competitions during the late 1980's, indeed before that no-one had climbed on these extensive faces. Mick Fowler was one of the first western climbers to visit the area when he approached the Laylak valley from northern Tajikistan in 1990. During the rest of the 90's a number of western expeditions have visited the area including a British expedition in 1997, consisting of Paul Pritchard, Dave Green, Noel Craine and Johnny Dawes. All of the information we had can be found in previous editions of *Mountain Info* – see bibliography

Below is a photo of Pt 4810, aka Pic Boston. This eastern face on the mountain is about 1000m long and home to a number of demanding aid lines. The obvious subsidiary summit to the left was unclimbed and was our primary objective.



## Diary

From the moment we arrived at the airport in Birmingham the mayhem, uncertainty and chaos began, which never really ceased until after we left Birmingham airport on our return to North Wales four weeks later!

John and Anne Arran were travelling with us to meet Ian Parnell and Mark Pretty. In the eventuality we travelled as a group of six for the whole four weeks.

Pete, our Kiwi counterpart, had arrived at Birmingham airport and was in the swing of things and told us that they were weighing hand luggage, this was disastrous, as our hand luggage weighed loads. We quickly emptied racks of gear and ropes onto the floor, had our luggage weighed, then went back and stuffed it all back in. They were keen to hit you with as much excess luggage as possible and we charged £2.50 a kilo. The British representative on the desk said that if it was just him there it would be okay as the plane was not very full, however a Kyrgyz Airways official was there and the cash went straight into his pocket! It depends on who is there, some teams have paid nothing. If you pay, make sure it is right the way through to your final destination and get a receipt with the name of the official concerned, or you will get hit again if you are taking a subsequent internal flight!

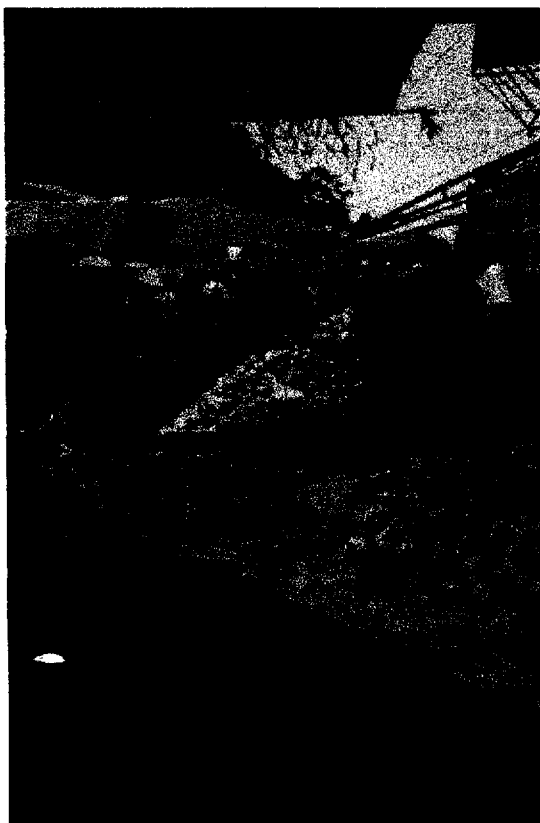
The luggage handlers in Bishkek tried it on saying that they shuffle you through customs and wanted \$20 for this, we refused although they persisted arguing that they had to pay this as a bribe to get all our gear through. We went back to customs with the handler, they laughed - don't pay anything on arrival in excess of a tip for luggage.

On arrival in Osh we were met by Leslie Johnson from the British Consul in Bishkek who informed us of the problems in Batken, see History and Political Situation. This was very worrying, and rather annoying, however the departure time for the plane to Osh was getting closer and time was running out. The information was scatty and the situation no doubt par for the course, so we decided to fly to Osh and make a more informed decision. The flight was being delayed, we thought maybe for us, but in hindsight I think that all Kyrgyz flights are delayed. We were herded onto the plane taking all our

luggage with us, over 300 kgs stacked in the aisles – those excess baggage receipts for Birmingham through to Osh were pretty vital, to avoid getting stung again!

We were met at Osh airport by the agent for ITMC. He spoke little English, did not seem to have much of an idea as to what was going on and physically looked as if he was not long for this world. He was keen for us to stay at his house and kept on this case all the way to the hotel, but we had arranged to meet John and Anne at Hotel Osh as there had not been enough room for us all on the first flight. We had been under the impression that we would be met by our guide who would explain situations and schedules etc. Our impression of ITMC was growing increasingly sceptical. We left the person who met us at the airport, but we never quite worked out if he was with ITMC or not!

This has detailed some of the sort of mayhem that teams could expect. Our experience of ITMC was poor. Although a guide did turn up the next day he had not been to the area before. We were fortunate enough to meet two people, one of whom spoke excellent English, who acted as our guide and interpreter. Their names are included in the contacts section of this report and we would have no hesitation in recommending them. We abandoned ITMC, thanking them for their help saying that we would contact them if we required their services again. In hindsight this saved us a lot of hassle and money. Eventually we assembled a guide, an interpreter, a driver, a vehicle owner, and somebody's mate who fancied the ride!



## Food and Travel

Osh is older than Rome and an important silk road city. It therefore has a very established huge market, and so just about all the food that you could imagine is available there. Hi-energy food bars, milk powder and porridge is probably all we needed to take. The fuel we took was petrol and used on MSR stoves, the quality of which varied tremendously and it is well worth paying extra for the best quality available. Some fuel could not be used without the stove being completely cleaned after every hours use. We saw some gas canisters although we never used any but they are available and can be refilled, but this would certainly be a hassle outside Osh and possibly outside Bishkek.

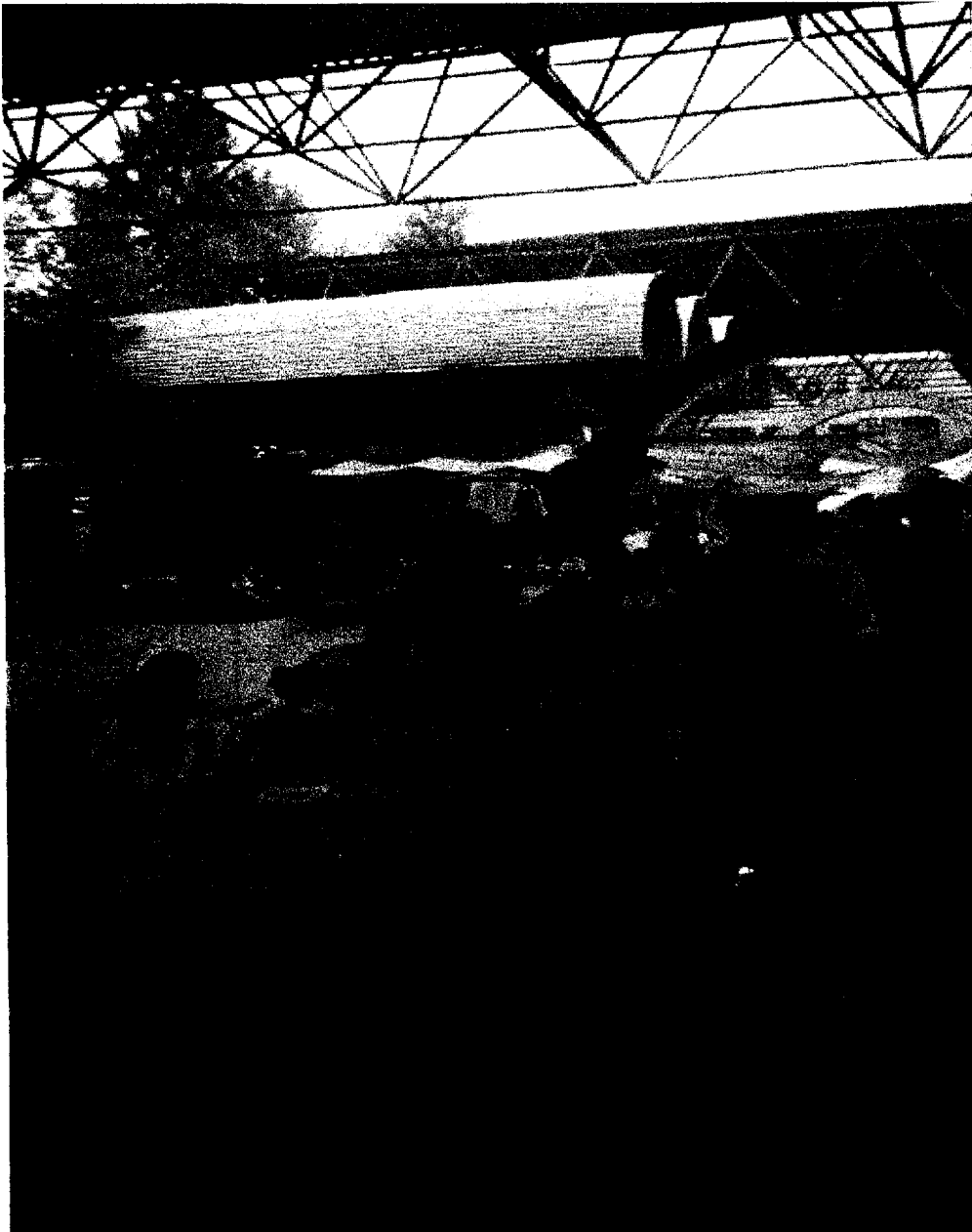
Once we had all of our food we eventually managed to organise a van to take us to Vorukh, a day's travel, from where we would travel by truck and donkey to the Ak-Su. Not only were we travelling at a sensitive time to a politically unstable area, we also had to cross the border many times and in total we were

stopped fifteen times, there *and* back. Our interpreter, Ahad was excellent and we paid only a few dollars in bribes.

From Vorukh, a truck took us the next day another 20kms up an outrageous 'road' until it came to an end from where it was horses and donkeys for eight hours to the Ak-Su. It is a memorable trip and saves time. We arranged the truck and horses/donkeys at the same time in Vorukh, the truck costing \$40 and about \$10 a donkey and \$12 for a horse for the whole journey. ITMC wanted to charge us \$45 a day for horses for two days. A horse will carry about 55-60 kgs and donkeys about 45kgs, but they do not weigh everything, just guesstimate it. The bargaining is a bit weird. Sometimes they would offer a price and on accepting it the price would then go up. Once you had arrived the price

could also go up. But on the whole it is all well meaning, they just want to get as much out of you as possible. Getting angry seemed to work sometimes!

Even though we had a spring balance to weigh our gear, it is not worth becoming too much of a control freak about everything. The people we dealt with were very nice and have obviously been using horses and donkeys for centuries. For us to get our spring balance out and tell them exactly how much their animals should carry does seem a bit arrogant at times, especially when we would be haggling over a couple of bucks extra each. Having said that, a previous North Face expedition did get pretty fleeced off because they were wearing their money on their sleeves. To prevent massive over inflation of prices for future expeditions it is important to haggle a lot, but it is arrogant to assume that everyone is out to fleece you. As mentioned above, the people we met were considerate and very interesting.



## Sickness

It would sometimes feel easier to loose it a bit as half the time we were feeling a bit sick. It was not necessarily Delhi belly, nor a fever but a feeling of being hungover and overall just totally knackered. We all suffered at some stage of varying degrees, with one member showing symptoms of a fever, and being totally wiped out for a couple of days. We couldnt necessarily put it down to anything in particular and the cure was a lot of sleep! We had heard stories of people being sick for weeks and not getting that much done. IT is worth being particularly cautious on the way in and with hygiene standards once in base camp. These should be easier to manage if cooking yourself, but beware of Kyrgyz guides and their Ibek lung meals which they may cook for you.

Another thing that surprised us was the local people who would wonder up the valley to the base camp selling produce. It was quite easy to buy and order for the next week, fresh produce such as milk, butter, eggs, bread and fresh vegetables were available. It maybe worth carrying a filtration system for the water as there are plenty of animals around adding their share to the water source. Another team in the valley took one and seemed to be better off than others.

## The Climbing

### Mark Baker and Chris Forrest

After a couple of warm up routes we were keen to establish something more substantial and also get a closer and better look at a line on our main objective. An obvious line went up the peak opposite and although did not particularly steep was long and very feasible. As far as we could establish it was unclimbed by that rib although it is hard to believe that such a line has been left!

*Times of unrest. 1000metres 5.9 E1*

The river crossing proved to be a numbing experience followed by a steep approach of about an hour. The line follows the south east spur and started at the foot of the buttress which was approached from the left. The initial pitches were straightforward at 5.7 - 5.8 and became easier as the angle eased for about 100 metres. This took us to the top of the first buttress after which a prominent corner was followed for four pitches until the route moved left and around the arete into another corner which was followed to the foot of a crack. (three pitches) This continued to ledges and further cracks to the top of the second buttress and a good bivvy. (three pitches). 12 hours from basecamp.

We had hauled upto there expecting the climbing to be harder. In hindsight it would be feasible to climb with sacks moving together on some of the lower sections. From the bivvy there were 200 metres of slabs towards the ridge being no harder than E1. The ridge as it approached was climbed on the right hand side. Once on the ridge we moved together for 200 metres until it steepened at a tower. A line on the right of the tower proved good climbing with a couple of E1 pitches which finished in a knife edge ridge. Three further pitches took us to the summit of the tower we intended to climb with a superb knife edge summit. A few interesting moves down into a col from which we bailed down the east side. Down climbing and numerous abseils allowed a traverse back towards the ridge. From here the descent is back down the route to the bivvy ledge. From the bivvy a direct abseil line was taken down the west side on to open clean slabs. Tat and a few wires were left and one bolt was placed. Eleven hours bivvy to bivvy.

*Mr Chipendale 550 metres 5.10 b E2*

Starting to the right of The Missing Mountain, on the pyramid below the west side of the Russian Tower, the route takes the obvious corners up the right hand side of the buttress. After 25metres scrambling the line steepens, the first pitch being E2 and follows the overlap to the right. The huge flake is ascended and the slab above climbed towards a corner groove on the left. (140 metres). The



line then continues directly above as the angle eases up to the large ledges to belay at the Italian Climb. (150 metres). From the ledges take the large broken corner which improves in quality with every pitch. (200) Follow this to its logical conclusion and ascend the ridge to the summit.

We also attempted some variations on the Kant route starting on the French route. Where this moves right with an aid pitch we continued up left into a big corner system which after several pitches lead to the easy traversing pitches of the Kant route to a good bivvy. This was about E1 climbing on good rock and a worthwhile direct start. However from the bivvy we continued direct up a couple of reasonable pitches following a previous line. The quality of the rock deteriorated from good to poor to choss, not to be recommended. And with a lack of information and poor rock we could not find a link between here and the west face. Apparently the Kant route which must move down and right at the bivvy around onto the west face, is good although looks improbable. We also attempted to follow some lines on the buttresses below the Russian Tower, particularly 'a better world'. The first pitch is graded at 6A but is more E3 5C. The rest of the route is nothing to get excited about until an overlap where the route appears to run out, there is a bolt which was maybe placed to lower off! Look for better lines elsewhere! We found the topos for around here poor and frustrating and the routes rambling.

### Jonathan Garside and Peter Scott

The morning after arriving at base camp, both Garside and Scott were very ill for four days, with a very bad cold and a stomach complaint. Soon after recovering they attempted a new route on the pyramid below the west side of the Russian Tower. After climbing four pitches up crack systems on the left hand side of the pyramid, they were forced to retreat when they encountered some very damp corners with lots of vegetation - the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

#### *The D C Route 700m E3*

After climbing on one of the established routes on the Lower West Face of the Central Pyramid, they then turned their attention to the unclimbed South Face of the c4,200m summit immediately right of the Russian Tower. The West Face of this summit was named The Wall of Dykes by the first ascensionists Paul Pritchard and Dave Green, see *On The Edge* 174 and *Mountain Info* 182, pg19.

This 600m unclimbed face is formed of much redder rock, which is steeper than many of the slabs in the valley, but has many crack systems. They noticed a beautiful corner crack high up in the centre of the face and other crack systems on the face made them feel confident that it could be climbed.

Approaching the face involves climbing up the descent route used for the Russian Tower, and on their first day they climbed four pitches starting at the very lowest point of the buttress, and then fixed ropes. They also fixed ropes on the lower slabs of the Russian Tower descent route, and used them on subsequent days to approach the face. On the second day they were able to avoid jugging up the first two pitches, by traversing in from the left on an easy ledge system. From their high point they then carried on for five more pitches until below the obvious corner system. Even though not late in the day, they decided to finish the route off the following day as the face now steepened above and it was still at least 300m to the summit. They fixed their 200m static line and returned to base camp.

Returning early on the third day they jugged back up their line and then dropped it to the ground. The climbing above was excellent, ranging from perfect laybacking corners to more delicate and bolder climbing up slabs and bulges. Unfortunately, they had to make a diagonal rightwards abseil after four more pitches and then climbed up more rotten but very easy rock on the right hand side of the buttress. About two pitches below the top they were engulfed by a snowstorm, but were able to make a hasty retreat to the left hand side of the buttress by scrambling along a very wide ledge. They then had about 300m of moving together over very easy ground to the summit. They named this South side of the buttress the Womble Face, due to the easy climbing high up on the right hand side allowing rapid 'wombling' to the summit

The descent was the same as that for the Russian Tower, passing the dropped fixed line on the way down to base camp.

Before leaving the valley they repeated Mr Chippendale, and the excellent off width crack on the upper face of the Pamir Pyramid – see *Mountain Info* 197.

## Problems

We decided not to use the agency ITMC as they were charging a lot of money for services which we knew cost a lot less. By organising things ourselves we at least halved our costs in Kyrgyzstan, but we were extremely lucky to find Aibek and Ahad who were incredibly reliable and fun to be with. Ian Parnell and Mark Pretty used the services of ITMC and were not impressed with what they got.

We were not able to attempt our objectives for two reasons. Soon after arriving in the valley there was a change in weather for the worse, in that there were frequent afternoon storms, when previously there had been very settled weather. We also had the ever present problem of the Taliban and shortly after completing the D C Route the situation got worse with the reports of the kidnapped Japanese geologists and the news that there were 400 – 600 Taliban guerillas in Batken. Being six westerners in the middle of nowhere, we felt very vulnerable and decided to leave as early as possible. In the end we left one week early after being in the valley for only fourteen days, we did however have the opportunity to visit the excellent Ala Archai mountains near Bishkek.

## Ala Archai

*Supplies:* We re supplied with food and goods in the Bishkek markets. A wide variety of foods was available, including some good European type goods.

*Travel:* We took two taxis to Ala Archai park which included a small entry fee. The journey took forty minutes. On arrival at the roadhead the conditions were poor with four inches of snow and freezing conditions.

*Accommodation:* A large government-style building - I guess it was a major mountaineering centre once. It is still used for government meetings and basic tourist accommodation. The rooms were very simple, with basic bedding, no washing facilities and there was an outside cooking area.

### Diary

Day 1: A day exploring the main Ala Archai valley system from the north to south. Our aim was to find any suitable rock for rock climbing. In conclusion, most areas have poor rock or were limited to single-pitch venues. The night was spent at the same hostel as the previous night.

Day 2: We hired three horses to take the team of six climbers to the mountain hut below Baichichikei Peak (4515m). After two hours the track became impassable for the horses, so the remaining distance was completed on foot to the hut. The hut was divided into two main sections - a cooking and eating area and two sleeping platforms. The overall condition of the hut was very run down, but the number of sleeping places and sheltered camping places outside would make this a popular place for climbers to stay during peak times, due to its accessibility. At present, twelve to fifteen climbers were staying and during the passed few days they had been hut-bound due to the snow and freezing conditions.

Day 3: we left the hut early in very cold conditions heading for the NE facing rocky towers on Baichichikei Peak. We had been recommended the third major buttress on the right-hand side - 600m, graded 5.9+ and a classic line. After a finger numbing start the climb gave eighteen pitches of

excellent granite up to 5.10b (E2 5c). The descent was easy, but on very loose scree down the shoulder on the SE side to the Uchitel Glacier. The return to the hut was on easy ground.

Day 4: an early start to one of the lower shoulders on the NE side of Baichichikei Peak. This area is approximately half a kilometre to the left of the area visited yesterday and on the right-hand side of a large gully leading to Uchite Peak (4527m). The four pitch climb took a central line following an excellent crack system:

*Chasm Fissure* - 170m, E3, 5.10c by Chris Forrest and Mark Baker

- 1 - 5.9 40M - left hand crack line joining the other crack line.
  - 2 - 5.10 50m - climb direct up an awkward wide crack to an easing which leads to a stance on the right-hand side of the face.
  - 3 - 5.10c 50m - a difficult start leading to a left hand trending crack, below an off-width chimney. This continues to a through route and a large stance.
  - 4 - 5.9 30m - follow the right-hand crack to the arete, continue straight up via an awkward crack to the top.
- Descent - by abseiling, slings in place.  
 We had a quick descent back to the hut before we returned to Bishkek.

Overall impression of the area: an excellent Alpine venue offering some excellent granite walls, easy Alpine ascents of various peaks, and some fantastic ice faces similar to those in the Argentiere basin, Chamonix.

## Budget

Expenditure		Income	
Flights	1600	Welsh Sports Council JG MB and CF only	1300
Ropes	300		
Portaledge	200	Mount Everest Foudation JG MB CF and PS	750
Travel	500		
Food	200	Individual contributions	1150
Guides	200		
Accommodation in Osh and Bishkek	200		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3200</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3200</b>

Future groups visiting the region would do well to have an idea of how much we paid for individual travel and guideing arrangements, all prices below are in US\$.

The minibus from Osh to Voruch cost \$110 each way; the truck from Voruch up the valley to where we used donkeys and horses cost \$40 one way. Donkeys and horses cost about \$12 - \$15 each. We paid Aibek \$50 per week, and provided all of his food and gave him a tent to sleep in. We all took turns in cooking and Aibek was really there to liaise with the horsemen on the inward and outward journeys, it was his second trip the the Ak Su having been with a German team the year before. We paid Ahad a similar amount and he accompanied on the trips between Osh and Voruch, and he was our passport control man. He also accompanied us from Osh to Bishkek and into the Ala Archa. It was imperative to bring him with us from Osh to the Ala Archa as there was a lot of organising to do in Bishkek, in a very short period of time. The hotel Osh cost \$32 per night for a double room, but on our return from Voruch we stayed in Ahad's house - a far more pleasant experience. Our hotel in Bishkek, on the upper floors of the School of Management, cost \$11 for a double room, we also stored a lot of our baggage there whilst we went to the Ala Archa.

## Equipment List

We climbed on double ropes on two pairs and had three hundred metres of static line between the four of us, in retrospect two hundred metres would have sufficed. We took a portaledge but did not use it at all, as we never got on our intended route. Teams hoping to make multi day ascents of hard routes would do well to take a ledge and 200 - 300 metres of static line.

We took a normal rack with lots of extra friends, but this was way overboard especially as they were obviously very heavy to carry around, a few extra cams will suffice. A bolting kit is handy and the Petzl 8mm system is probably the easiest to use, for some of the steep slabs it would be essential to have one in order to safely protect any new routes, unless you are a Super Hero.

Take lots and lots of tat and spare nuts, as we abseiled off many single nuts and only just had enough tat for the whole trip.

## Bibliography and Useful Contacts

The following editions of Mountain Info have information about the Ak Su, Kara Su and Laylak Valley: 133,144,162,165,182,and 197. Editions of *Mountain* magazine from the early nineties have some articles by Mick Fowler and an American expedition. They both visited the Laylak region from Tajikistan - not a very easy means of approach now, since the collapse of the USSR. *On The Edge 74* has an article by Paul Pritchard about his and Dave Green's route on the Wall of Dykes. Finally the excellent book *Forbidden Mountains* by Vladimir Kopylov has a very good chapter about the Pamir Alai mountains, including the Kara Su, Ak Su and Laylak Valley. The *Lonely Planet* guide to Central Asia is also useful for details about cities, embassies, and it contains some useful maps as well.

The best maps of the area are available from Stanfords in London. Either a 1:500 000 Tactical Pilot Chart (TPC G-6B) which they always have in stock, or the much better 1:200 000 sheet of the Russian Survey. The sheet needed is J - 42 - V, but order it early as ours took six months to arrive! You can download a map of Kyrgyzstan from the University of Texas at:

[www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map\\_collection/commonwealth/Kyrgystan.GIF](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/commonwealth/Kyrgystan.GIF) - the misspelling of Kyrgyzstan in this address is on purpose.

The cheapest flights to Kyrgyzstan are with Kyrgyzstan Airlines who run a direct service from Birmingham International and can be contacted on 0121 554 9697, Fax 0121 358 4010, E-mail: [shakir@kgauk.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:shakir@kgauk.freereserve.co.uk). Our flights cost £350 rtn plus £20 tax plus £30 rtn for an internal flight from Bishkek to Osh. We arrived in Bishkek and then immediately got on our flight to Osh to avoid wasting time in Bishkek, there are between 5 and 7 flights each day between Bishkek and Osh.

Anyone wanting to get in touch with Aibek and Ahad whom we used in Kyrgyzstan, and without whose help we would not have been able to travel so efficiently through the country – by Kyrgyzstan standards at least – should get in touch with Jonathan Garside, Mark Baker and Christopher Forrest at Plas y Brenin or Anne Arran at the BMC. It is worth noting that without Russian or Kyrgyz speakers it will be impossible to get things done, as no one speaks English. Many of the agencies are there to help for exactly that reason, but we found that we saved a lot of money by finding our own ‘people’, and we also had a lot of fun moving around the country as a completely independent group, without bias to an established agency.

## **Appendix**

The following maps are the TPC G-6B and the Russian survey map J-42-V. Marked on the TPC is the end of our route to from Osh to Vorukh through Batken, and then onto the Ak-Su. The Russian Survey map shows Voruch, the Ak-Su and Kara-Su and the Laylak valley in greater detail.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THESE MAPS FROM THIS REPORT AND SO PREVENT FUTURE READERS MAKING USE OF THEM.





