

Alpine Club Kyrgyzstan Expedition 2021



A Report on Exploratory Mountaineering in the Tian Shan, Kyrgyzstan

Tom Davis-Merry, Tom Simpson, Alex Metcalfe, Sam Davis, and Sam Mace



31st July – 28th August 2021

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
<i>Philosophy and Ethics</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Expedition Summary</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Kuyluu Range</i>	<i>5</i>
Preparation	7
<i>Logistics</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Communications</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Equipment</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Insurance</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Finances</i>	<i>8</i>
The Expedition	9
<i>Objectives Climbed</i>	<i>17</i>
Pk 4788 – Normal Route	17
Pk 4788 – West Spur	18
Appendices	21
<i>Appendix 1: Expedition Diary</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Appendix 2: Expedition Costings</i>	<i>24</i>

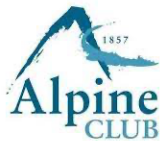
Introduction

This report documents an exploratory mountaineering expedition undertaken in August 2021 to the East Bordlu Glacier, in the Kuluu Range of the Tian Shan, Kyrgyzstan. The aim of the expedition was to make first ascents of previously unclimbed 4000m peaks, whilst appealing as an ideal first major expedition for confident independent climbers with previous Alpine experience.

The expedition faced many challenges from insurance issues caused by Brexit, team members catching COVID, and missing equipment, to cancelled flights, constantly changing travel restrictions, and a violent attack on our basecamp cook.

Despite all these setbacks, this ultimately successful expedition made a first ascent of Pk 4788 in good Alpine style, establishing a *voie normale* at PD(+) and a spur at AD(+). The basecamp attack curtailed the climbing phase by approximately 10 days, meaning no further routes could be attempted.

The expedition was endorsed by the Alpine Club and approved by the British Mountaineering Council. Financial support was generously provided by the Mount Everest Foundation and Alpine Club Climbing Fund. The team are hugely grateful for the additional support also provided by Montane, Olympus, and Expedition Foods.



Philosophy and Ethics

The focus of this expedition was on exploratory mountaineering rather than technical difficulty, appealing as a first major expedition for confident independent climbers with previous Alpine experience.

The aim was to encourage and develop expedition climbing within the Alpine Club, by visiting a remote area with relatively low-cost access (not reliant on helicopters for logistics support) and supporting the exploration of a relatively unvisited corner of the Tian Shan.

The expedition would seek to climb in good Alpine style, without fixed ropes or bolted protection, and with minimal impact to the natural environment. The expedition adopted a policy of 'take nothing and leave nothing behind'. All human waste was burnt and buried, and all other waste carried out. Latrines were also sited to ensure that any water sources were not contaminated.

The expedition sought ensure that any disturbance to natural flora and fauna was kept to an absolute minimum. Particular care was taken to avoid any disturbance to Alpine plant life, nesting fauna, or wildlife with young.

Expedition Summary

The expedition successfully summited Pk 4788 (height as annotated on Soviet mapping) on 13 Aug 2021. The peak was summited from the East Bordlu Glacier via its west flank and broad summit ridge. From the glacier, the route is approximately 2.5km long with 700m of height gain. Grade is approximately PD(+). The team understand this to be a first ascent. Stable weather with moderate cloud cover and low wind conditions persisted throughout the day. The peak was climbed in Alpine style, moving together throughout and with no fixed rope. Climbers were Tom Davis-Merry, Tom Simpson, Alex Metcalf, and Sam Davies.

On 14 Aug 2021, the expedition successfully climbed a second new line on Pk 4788 on the west flank. From the glacier, the route is approximately 1km long with 700m of height gain. Grade is approximately AD(+) depending on conditions. The team understand this to be a first ascent. The peak was climbed in Alpine style, moving together throughout and with no fixed rope. Morning was snowing with poor visibility, clearing by midday to give moderate cloud cover and low wind conditions. Climbers were Tom Davis-Merry, Tom Simpson, Alex Metcalf, and Sam Davies.

Uncertainty around Covid-19 travel restrictions meant that the expedition was not confirmed to go ahead until one week before departure. This caused chaos with preparations (e.g. delivery of kit from Montane and purchasing of insurance) but the team stuck together and deployed in good order. However, Wayne Auton (living in Chamonix) was unable to get rescue and medical insurance due to a Brexit technicality and could not join the expedition. This decision by the BMC (or their underwriters) ultimately put the safety of the entire expedition at risk, as Wayne could not fly out with the expedition's antibiotics, altitude drugs, and BC trauma pack. As well as being an experienced and competent climber, Wayne Auton would have provided medical support to the expedition, as a specialist paramedic. In addition, the decision was made to medivac Sam Mace on 11 Aug 21 due to an infection in his foot. Extraction was arranged using his BMC insurance policy. Once extracted, Sam Mace underwent minor surgery in country before flying back to the UK.

After two days of successful and enjoyable climbing on Pk 4788, the team returned from ABC (4005m) to BC (3006m) to rest and prepare to carry up additional supplies. Upon arriving at BC, the team discovered that Svetlana, the expedition cook, had been attacked by a local farmer, and several of the tents had been damaged. This incident cut short the climbing window by approximately 10 days and prevented the attempt of any further objectives.

Except for the incidents briefly discussed above, the expedition experienced no other significant problems. Border area permits were secured by ITMC, and the logistics plan ran smoothly. The team were fit, well-prepared, and further successful objectives were otherwise likely.

The expedition was endorsed by the Alpine Club and approved by the British Mountaineering Council. Financial support was generously provided by the Mount Everest Foundation and Alpine Club Climbing Fund. The team are hugely grateful for the additional support also provided by Montane, Olympus, and Expedition Foods.

The Kuiluu Range and the East Bordlu Glacier have great potential for further exploratory mountaineering at a variety of grades, with the terrain favouring mid-grade classic mountaineering. Teams considering the area for future expeditions are strongly encouraged to contact Tom Davis-Merry at tom.davis-merry@outlook.com who will gladly share further information.

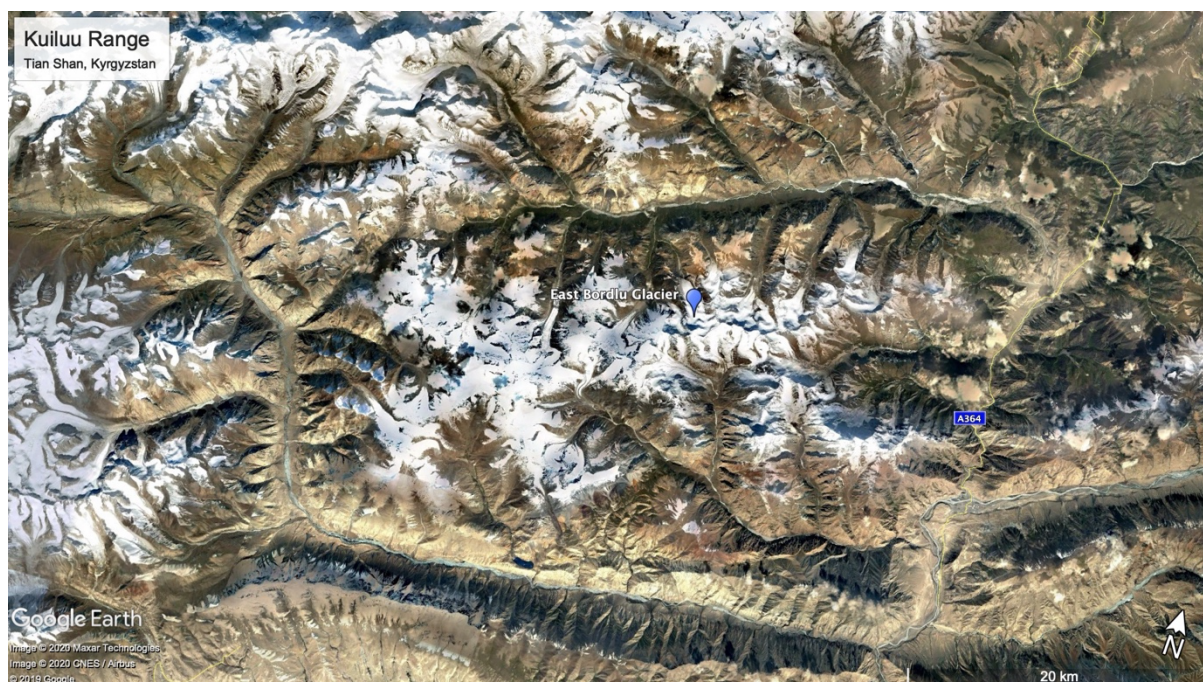
Kyrgyzstan

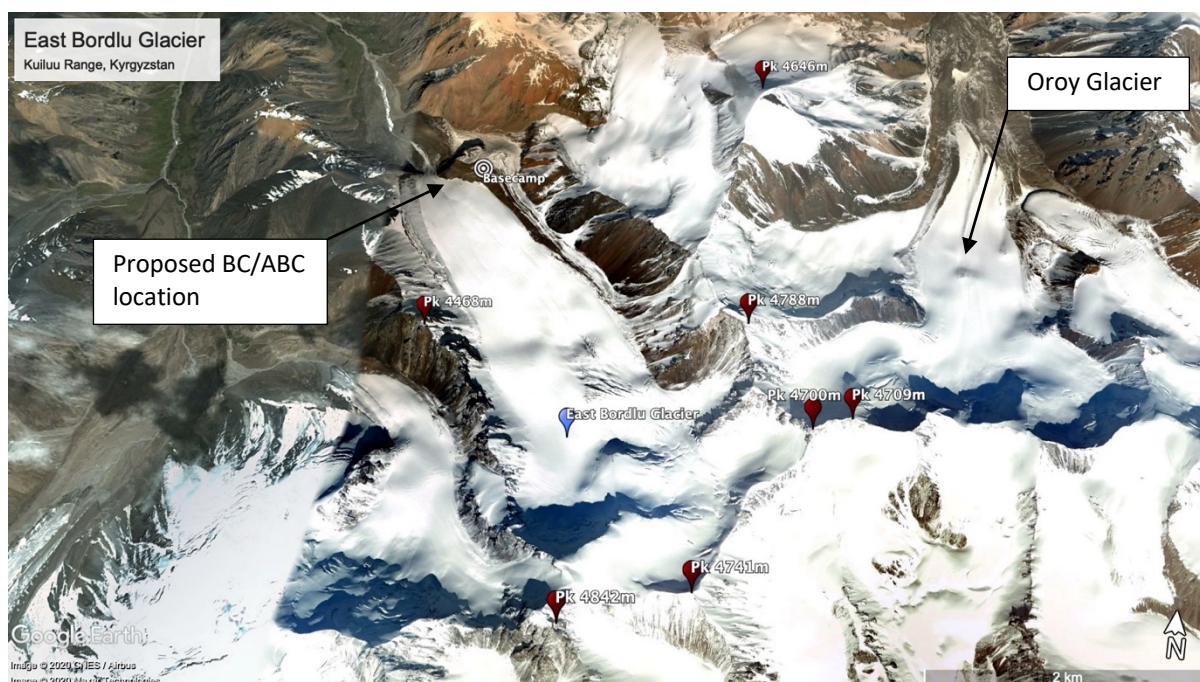
Mountains cover 95% of the territory of Kyrgyzstan and 40% of those are above 3,000 meters high. Many regions remain unexplored, and the country offers huge potential for exploratory mountaineering on peaks over 4000m at a reasonable cost.

Kuiluu Range



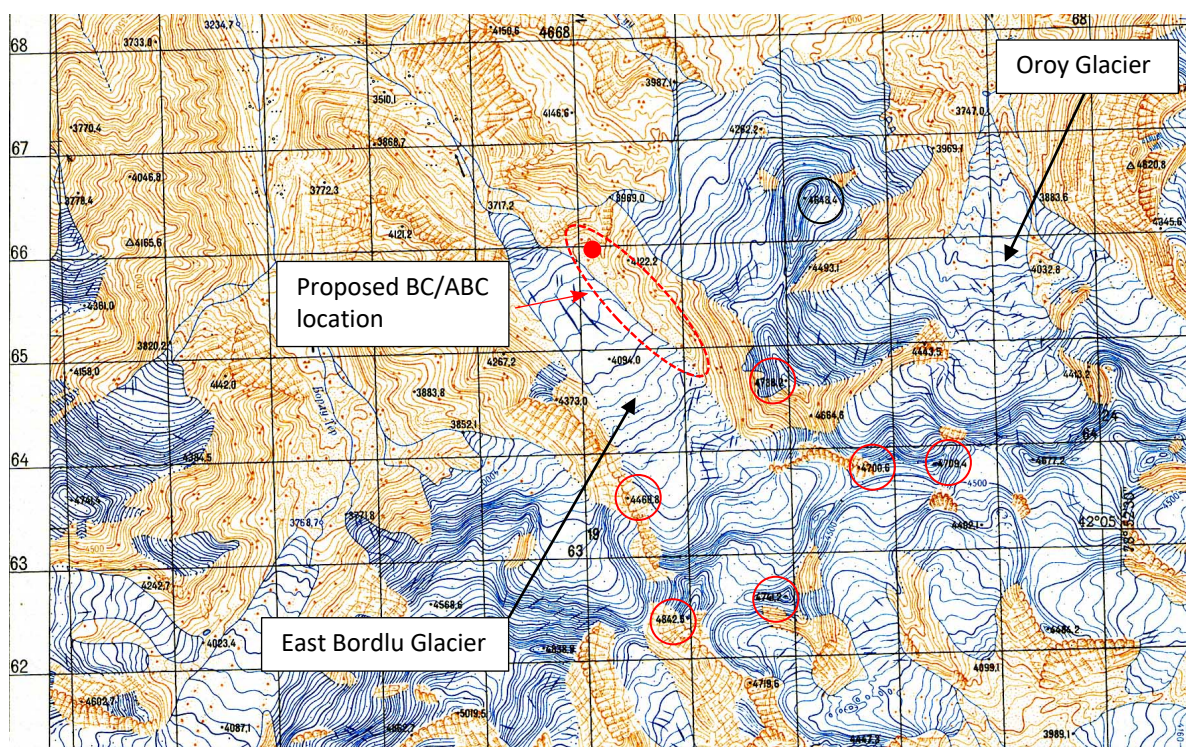
The Kuiluu Range is located approximately 90km to the southeast of Lake Issyk Kul and 60km south of Karakol. The East Bordlu Glacier in the Kuiluu Range is shown below.





Six possible objectives were identified in the cirque at the head of the East Bordlu Glacier. Also shown to the north of the glacier is Pk 4646 which was climbed by Jon Burgess and Rob Reynolds in 2018 via its north ridge from the Oroy Glacier.

Number	Name	Altitude (Soviet)	Coordinates (Google Earth)	Comments
1	Pk 4842	4842m	42° 6'26.69"N 78°48'39.39"E	Main objective.
2	Pk 4700	4700m	42° 5'20.60"N 78°50'38.42"E	
3	Pk 4788	4788m	42° 5'43.62"N 78°50'15.92"E	Secondary objective.
4	Pk 4741	4741m	42° 4'40.80"N 78°50'5.12"E	
5	Pk 4709	4709m	42° 5'23.96"N 78°50'50.55"E	
6	Pk 4468	4648m	42° 5'39.38"N 78°48'30.26"E	Potential acclimatisation summit.



Preparation

Logistics

The team flew with Aeroflot Airlines as this was the cheapest option. As checked baggage is not included as standard, this had to be added separately at an additional cost and only for 23kg. Had flights at a comparative cost been available, Turkish Airlines is often a better alternative, offering 32kg of included checked baggage.

PCR Fit-to-Fly Certificates were required for all flights which caused problems for Tom DM and Tom S when the lab courier lost their samples and caused their results to be delayed for several hours. As a result, Tom DM and Tom S missed their flights and had to rebook to fly the following day. Fortunately, the testing company admitted liability and reimbursed the cost of rebooking, at a total of nearly £2700.

The team flew via Istanbul to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and took taxis to the Rich Hotel. Airport transfers were not booked as the team arrived on several different flights and booked transfers would not have been cost effective. Due to COVID travel restrictions, flights in general were chaotic but the team experience no further issues.

Transport from Bishkek to Karakol (405km) was by minibus, and Karakol to the Kuiluu Range by 6x6. All transport once in country was arranged through ITMC. The 6X6 was able to take the team right up to the basecamp location which negated the requirement for hiring pack animals to establish basecamp. The team accepted the offer of assistance from a local herdsman to then ferry a load from basecamp (3006m) to the first gear cache (3468m).

Communications

Communications were enabled through two sat phones provided by ITMC, two Garmin InReach Explorer GPS trackers rented from the Alpine Club, and a set of walkie-talkies also provided by ITMC. The team also purchased Kyrgyzstan SIM cards once in country.

Two large solar panels with AC converters were provided by ITMC for charging the sat phones and walkie-talkies. These were likely from the Soviet era and whilst still functional had seen better days. One of the larger solar panels stopped working due to some faulty wiring which left us with one working solar panel that could deliver the AC output required for charging the sat phones. We also discovered that one of the sat phone batteries would not hold its charge for more than a few minutes. Whilst ITMC have been superb throughout the expedition, a recommendation for future teams would be to bring out your own communications equipment which has been properly tested.

Each member of the team also took a smaller solar panel for charging personal electronics which worked perfectly well. These deliver power through USB and can also be used to charge the Garmin InReach devices.

We had mixed results with the Garmin InReach Explorer handsets. The main issue was a delay between sending messages and these being received (if at all) at the other end, sometimes of up to 12 hours. After the expedition we found the firmware on the devices to be years of out date which may have contributed to this issue.

Equipment

Personal and pairs climbing equipment is largely like that for summer Alpine climbing in Europe. We also took a few snow stakes and a small selection of winter climbing protection, given the uncertainty around terrain and route conditions that we might encounter. The expedition dressed for conditions cooler than summer Alpine, but warmer than Scottish winter, and this approach worked well. A big down jacket was a firm favourite at camps, but we didn't use these on the climbs.

At basecamp three season tents with a good-sized porch were quite sufficient. Four season tents are advisable for ABC and above, but not essential. Tom DM and Tom S took a single-skin assault tent for use above ABC, but with the expedition curtailed this could not be tested. Personal canister gas stove systems worked well at ABC and were used for melting snow and boiling water for hot drinks and dehydrated meals. The MSR Windburner with a 1.8L Duo pot was a firm favourite.

Insurance

The expedition members used the BMC¹ to provide suitable insurance under a High Altitude and Remote Area policy. The average cost of this policy was £681 per person. The BMC also refused to provide cover for Wayne, along with other providers, resulting in him not being able to join the expedition. Due to the high cost of the BMC policy, other providers such as Global Rescue² will be considered for future expeditions. A one-year enrolment with Global Rescue with a maximum trip duration of 45 days is approximately £248 for the equivalent cover. There was also some unresolved debate as to whether a trip of this nature would be covered by the policy included with AAC(UK) membership. Prior to future trips, this option should be fully explored with the AWS as this may be another alternative insurance option.

Finances

Expedition finances are given at Appendix 3. Due to the Basecamp incident on 14 August the climbing phase of the expedition was curtailed by approximately 10 days. ITMC kindly refunded our mess tent hire and cook services for this period, which allowed us to book additional accommodation in Bishkek. For simplicity, and to be a more useful planning aid for future expeditions, this refund is not reflected in the final expedition finances.

Likewise, these finances do not account for food and recreational activities (horse riding, paragliding, rafting) expenditure for 22 – 27 August spent in Bishkek prior to flights back to UK. These costs were met by individuals. Accommodation during this period was then covered under contingency and the ITMC partial refund. As discussed above, Wayne had paid for flights but couldn't get insurance so couldn't join the expedition. Wayne had also already purchased trauma pack items and drugs (which couldn't be flown out from Chamonix) which then had to be re-purchased in Bishkek. This cost is covered under contingency.

ITMC accepted payment in USD, as did accommodation providers and some larger restaurants. Most local establishments, shops, and markets prefer Kyrgyzstani som. Both USD and som can be purchased from foreign exchanges, and som can be easily withdrawn from ATMs. It is recommended that teams bring a mix of both USD and som to avoid the fees associated with withdrawing cash and converting currencies.

¹ <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/modules/insurance/Default.aspx>.

² <https://www.globalrescue.com>.

The Expedition

In the months prior to the expedition, Tom DM had identified several unclimbed peaks in the region of the East Bordlu Glacier in the Kuiluu Range of the Tian-Shan that offered potential for an exploratory expedition to summit new peaks and establish new lines in a light and fast alpine style. Consultation with the Kyrgyzstan Alpine Club and pouring through every available trip report on the area suggested the East Bordlu Glacier of the Kuiluu Valley lay unexplored and would be the team's primary objective.

Alex flew out to Bishkek early in late July to spend some time in the capital before the rest of the team joined a week later. Nestled in the west of the country between the Ala-Too mountains to the south and Kazakh border to the north, Bishkek was a relaxed city typical of functional Soviet planning. You wouldn't have thought there was a pandemic going on there. No masks, no social distancing. It was a welcome break from the furore back home.

As a team we knew little about Kyrgyzstan before this trip. Previously occupied by the Russians and gaining its independence in 1991, the country had already seen two bloody revolutions, with the latest in 2010 when the Kyrgyz president Kurmanbek Bakiyev was ousted. The violence ultimately led to the consolidation of a new parliamentary system in Kyrgyzstan and period of relative peace and stability. Interestingly, Kyrgyzstan is one of the only countries in Central Asia to not have completely torn up its Soviet roots. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the newly independent countries of Central Asia removed most of their Russian lineage to establish their own national identities. Bishkek, however, still has many soviet statues, monuments and architecture standing around the city. The rest of the team gradually joined Alex over the next week, and we made preparations to leave the city. Our team of five was joined by Svetlana, an ethnic Ukrainian living in Kyrgyzstan, who would cook and run basecamp for us.



Bishkek's soviet history set against the backdrop of the Tian Shan mountains.

The expedition departed Bishkek and drove east to the city of Karakol, our staging post to the Tian Shan mountains. Driving to Karakol was the usual mix of traffic madness found in Asia of crazy overtaking and police check points before we finally arrived long after dark. The next day we left early in a huge six-wheeled Kamaz truck and struck south of the city for basecamp. We had hoped for an old Soviet military truck, but the plush seats of the truck's cabin were a welcome luxury. We slowly wound our way through verdant foothills that met all of one's travel expectations in a new and unusual country. Felt yurts surrounded by grazing livestock dotted the landscape and the occasional solitary figure enthusiastically waved at us. After a nod from the sleepy guard, we passed through the border check point and continued to grind our way south. A chill penetrated the air the higher we climbed.



Tom DM, Tom S, and Same M with Svetlana before crossing to the southern bank of the Kuillu River.

The narrow mountain valleys soon gave way to wide open steppe plains. We followed the river as far as we could before making camp on the opposite (northern) bank of our intended basecamp. The river was too high to ford this late in the day and we would have to wait for early morning to cross. Unbelievably, we could see brightly coloured tents across the river. There was another expedition team pitched in our spot. There was much debate that night whether our expedition objectives had been poached. We crossed the following morning and greeted the other team from the UK. They had been exploring the opposite valley to ours and although they had climbed some of our objectives there was still plenty to do.



Tom DM, Tom S, Sam D, Sam M, and Svetlana at basecamp.

We set up basecamp on a grassy plateau between the confluence of two rivers and admired the dominating peaks that towered over us. It was a good spot. We had protection from the elements, access to clean drinking water, and a clear landing zone should a chopper be needed. Later in the day we were approached by two local horsemen who casually rode into camp before tying their horses to our gas canisters. The younger of the two introduced himself as Argen. He offered his horse and service to help carry our bags up the mountainside which was gratefully accepted.

Over the next few days, we moved our gear to a second cache. Tentative probes were made into the surrounding valleys for possible routes to establish advanced base camp (ABC). Tom Simpson identified a potential site for ABC on a tongue of moraine that ran parallel to the East Bordlu glacier. At cache two Sam Mace didn't look great and was unusually quiet. He was showing signs of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) and after discussion with Tom DM over the radio I gave him some Acetazolamide before sending him down to basecamp. After a rest day the team returned to cache two to continue hauling the gear when again Sam M had to descend with early signs of AMS. Tom DM went with him leaving the rest of the group to haul gear to ABC at 4005m.



Tom S on the hike up from basecamp to ABC after the team takes a rest day at basecamp.



Tom S and Sam D haul loads over rough terrain from a gear cache at 3729m to ABC.

The next rest day brought more gloomy news. Wayne Auton, Alex's climbing partner, was still in France. He was due to join us at BC once recovered from COVID but had been unable to get insurance for the trip and so couldn't join us. Sam Mace wasn't fairing much better. Now suffering with an infected in-growing toenail, he could barely get his boots on. A chopper evacuation was arranged and two days later he flew out of camp taking our merry climbing band down to four. The next day we finally made our way to ABC to climb.



ABC looking south across the East Bordlu Glacier to the north face of Pk 4842m.

We had no reliable weather reports for climbing. It was a matter of sticking your head out of the tent in the morning and eyeing the sky. We had been warned by the previous expedition team that the weather often deteriorated in the late afternoon and not to rely on weather reports from the Garmins handsets. The next morning, we blearily set off up the steep moraine adjacent to the glacier and zigged and zagged back and forth before reaching the snow line to gear up. We split the team in two; the Toms would climb as one pair, Sam Davis and Alex the other. Each team had packed light and brought only a small PD rack between them. We took to the snow and wound our way to a ridge at 4320m. The climbing was steep, but easy and we quickly made ground. The excitement from the team was palpable and every new ridge crest we came across we pounced on Tom DM asking if we had bagged a peak.



Tom DM and Tom S establishing the Normal Route of Pk 4788. 13 August 2021.

After four hours of technically straightforward but interesting and enjoyable climbing, we finally reached our first objective and unclimbed summit at 4788m. It felt incredible to stand in a spot where no one else had been before. After much handshaking and picture posing, we retraced our steps along the ridge before descending to ABC. We graded the new peak PD+ and named it Pik Perseverance in honour of all the trouble we had getting to Kyrgyzstan.

The following day we set off along the north-eastern flank of glacier, our objective was a prominent spur on the west flank of Pk 4788. It was snowing heavily that morning. Big flakes wafted down as the we ate breakfast by headlight. We made our way up the side of the glacier and after a two-hour scramble reached our first pitch. Roped up, we made our way up a beautiful patch of ice and the team were stoked believing this to be a precursor for the rest of the route. With Tom S and Alex leading for their respective pairs, we were psyched for day of adventurous mixed climbing. Turns out that was the best part of the climb. We soloed the rest over extremely loose ground. The rock was super chossy and one of the team quipped that if you found a handhold you didn't like whilst climbing you could just pick it up, throw it over your shoulder and choose another.



Tom S (climbing), Tom DM (belaying), and Sam D on the West Spur of Pk 4788. 14 Aug 2022.



Sam D on the upper snow slopes of the West Spur of Pk 4788. Approximate altitude 4650m. 14 Aug 2022.



Sam D on the summit ridge of Pk 4788 after climbing the West Spur. 14 Aug 2022.

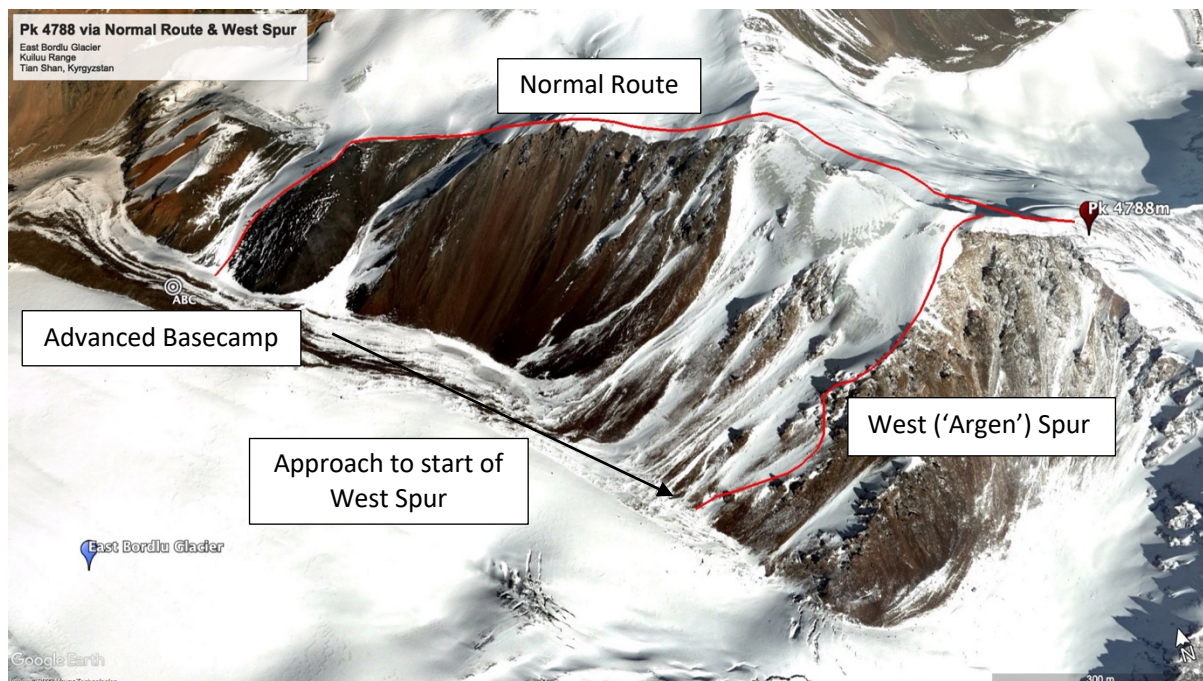
We topped out on the main ridge leading to the summit of Pk 4788 as planned, took a few snaps and ate lunch. The views were fantastic. Snow-capped mountains surrounded us. Dark clouds were gathering on the horizon and a cold wind began to blow forcing us to quickly descend, tired and hungry, but happy the primary objectives of the expedition had been met. We graded the route AD+ and named it 'The Argen Spur' after our local friendly horseman. The team descended that night to BC whilst Alex stayed at ABC to photograph the sunset and capture some aerial footage.

Key Dates

Dates	Activity
28 th Jul – 2 nd Aug	Team assembles in Bishkek and conduct final admin and preparations.
3 rd – 5 th Aug	Transfer to Kuiluu via Karakol and establish BC (3006m).
6 th – 14 th Aug	Hauling loads and establish ABC (4005m). First ascent of Pk 4788 (1 day) and new route on west flank (1 day).
15 th – 21 st Aug	Fallout from security incident at BC. Return transfers to Bishkek via Karakol. Final admin with ITMC. End of expedition.
22 nd – 27 th Aug	Activities in and around Bishkek before flying to UK – paragliding, horse riding, and white-water rafting.
28 th Aug 21	Return flights to UK.

Objectives Climbed

The expedition established two routes on Pk 4788 which are shown below. The start of the West Spur is gained by following the lateral moraine south-east for approximately 1.5km from ABC. The West Spur then gains the summit ridge just below the summit. Descent via Normal Route.



Pk 4788 – Normal Route



Alex M (front) and Sam D (rear) on the Normal Route of Pk 4788. 13 August 2022.



Tom S on the north ridge (Normal Route) of Pk 4788. Approximate altitude 4600m. 13 August 2022.

Pk 4788 – West Spur



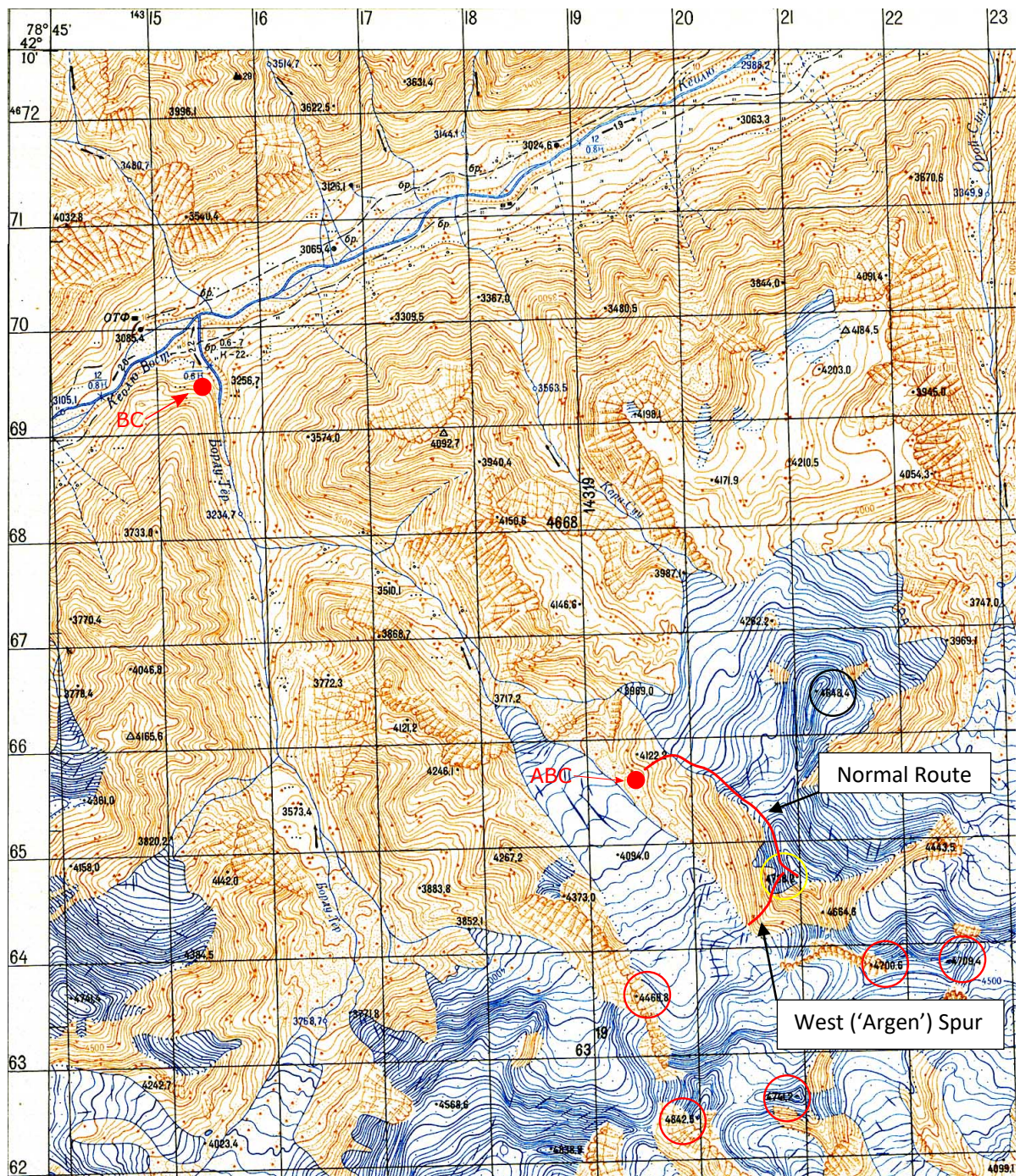
Tom S on the upper rock section of the West Spur. Approximate altitude 4550m. 14 August 2022.



Tom S on the upper snow slopes of the West Spur. Approximate altitude 4650m. 14 August 2022.



Tom S just below the summit ridge of Pk 4788 after climbing the West Spur. 14 August 2022.



Basecamp, the East Bordlu Glacier, and two new routes on Pk 4788.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Expedition Diary

Date	Activity
28 July 2021	Alex departs from Stansted UK ahead of the rest of the team to Bishkek via Turkey.
29 July 2021	Alex lands in Bishkek and rests.
30 July 2021	Alex explores Bishkek and travels to see the Burana Tower.
31 July 2021	<p>Sam Mace and Sam Davis arrive in Kyrgyzstan and explore Bishkek with Alex.</p> <p>Alex, Sam Mace, and Sam Davis all move into the Rich Hotel which had been arranged through ITMC. Alex meets Svetlana (the expedition's basecamp cook) and goes shopping in the Osh Bazaar.</p> <p>Tom DM and Tom Simpson miss flights from London Heathrow due to late results from Covid Fit-to-Fly PCR test. Picked up from LHR by Alan Henderson and go for pizza and beers in London. Alan then drops Tom DM and Tom Simpson at London Stansted the following day.</p>
1 Aug 2021	<p>Tom DM and Tom Simpson depart from STN UK and arrive in Bishkek.</p> <p>The team visit ITMC, and Tom DM and Tom Simpson go shopping for supplies with Svetlana.</p>
2 Aug 2021	The team rest at the hotel, complete any remaining admin, and prepare packs to load into the minibus the following morning.
3 Aug 2021	Minibus transfer from Bishkek to Karakol provided by ITMC. Overnight in Karakol in a small guesthouse. Tom DM and Tom S go to market with Svetlana for extra supplies.
4 Aug 2021	6WD from Karakol to basecamp area but halt on northern side of the Kuiluu River. Arrived late afternoon so unable to cross. Camped to allow water level to drop overnight.
5 Aug 2021	Cross the Kuiluu River (to southern bank) and establish BC (3006m). Meet Argan the local horseman who helps move gear and supplies to Gear Cache 1 (3468m).
6 Aug 2021	Rest day and establish BC routine, e.g. collecting water, keeping electronics charged using solar panels, and personnel admin.
7 Aug 2021	<p>'Death March 1' as the team haul gear and supplies from Gear Cache 1 to Gear Cache 2 (3729m).</p> <p>Sam Mace shows mild symptoms of AMS approaching 4000m. Team descends to BC.</p>

Alpine Club Kyrgyzstan Expedition 2021

8 Aug 2021	<p>Rest Day.</p> <p>Discussion of climbing plans, potential Advanced Basecamp (ABC) locations, and familiarisation with mapping.</p>
9 Aug 2021	<p>'Death March 2' as we haul gear and supplies from Gear Cache 2 to ABC location on the northern flank of the East Bordlu Glacier.</p> <p>Tom DM descended early with Sam Mace to BC who was showing further symptoms of AMS.</p>
10 Aug 2021	<p>Rest Day.</p> <p>Sam Mace developing issues with an ingrowing toenail with risk of possible infection.</p> <p>Tom DM sat phone call with Wayne Auton who is still stuck in Chamonix after being unable to get insurance due to a Brexit-related technicality.</p>
11 Aug 2021	Sam Mace evacuated by helicopter after toe showing clear signs of infection.
12 Aug 2021	Return to East Bordlu Glacier and establish ABC at 4005m.
13 Aug 2021	Successful summit of Pk 4788m. Graded PD(+).
14 Aug 2021	<p>New route on Pk 4788. Graded AD(+).</p> <p>Alex stayed at ABC overnight to do some photography at dusk and dawn. Rest of team descended to BC to rest and collect more supplies in preparation for a return to ABC.</p> <p>Arrived at BC to discover that BC had been attacked, and that Svetlana had been assaulted but was not seriously injured.</p>
15 Aug 2021	<p>Alex arrives back at BC early morning, and the team updates him on the situation.</p> <p>Spent the day speaking with Svetlana and local herdsman to ascertain what had happened and contacted ITMC via sat phone.</p>
16 Aug 2021	<p>Border security guards arrive at BC having apprehended the perpetrator. Discussion with security guards and Svetlana in mess tent. Perpetrator hand cuffed and kneeling in corner of the tent, before being taken away by security forces.</p>
17 Aug 2021	Rest day at BC as we seek to establish comms again with ITMC and reflect on the situation that has unfolded.
18 Aug 2021	Delayed a further day at BC due to comms difficulties, unable to reach ITMC on sat phone or InReach to coordinate extraction from BC.

Alpine Club Kyrgyzstan Expedition 2021

	Truck arrives late that evening. We prepare to pack up BC and depart for Karakol early the next morning.
19 Aug 2021	Early departure from BC and arrive in Karakol midday. Could not continue to Bishkek as roads were closed due to Presidential visit. Dinner and evening spent in Sierra restaurant in Karakol.
20 Aug 2021	Minibus transfer back to Bishkek. Stopped at police station for Svetlana to make additional statements. Stopped along shore of Lake Issyk-Kul for a swim. Checked back into the Rich Hotel in Bishkek.
21 Aug 2021	Completed admin and finances with ITMC and met with Vladimir. Spoke at length about mountaineering over rice wine and bread. Visited Osh Bazaar and went out for dinner at Shashlyk No 1.
22 Aug 2021	Rest day by hotel pool.
23 Aug 2021	Activities around Bishkek including white water rafting, paragliding, and horse trekking, and visiting the Osh Bazaar.
24 Aug 2021	
25 Aug 2021	
26 Aug 2021	
27 Aug 2021	
28 Aug 2021	Return flights to UK.

Alpine Club Kyrgyzstan Expedition 2021

Appendix 2: Expedition Costings

Expedition Costs			Expedition Income		
	Per Person (£)	Total (GBP)		Per Person (£)	Total (GBP)
Flights (average)	750	4500	Personal Contribution	1842	11052
Airport transfers (ITMC) (2 x \$35)		54	Montane Alpine Club Climbing Fund		2000
Transport (ITMC) (\$1560)		1200	Mount Everest Foundation		2550
Horses x2 (\$150)		115	Other		0
Expedition Cook (ITMC) (\$1140)		877			
Insurance BMC	681	4086			
Accommodation (ITMC) (\$1320)		1015			
Expedition Foods	124	744			
Hill food (personal)	45	270			
Border Permit (ITMC) (\$30 pp)	23	138			
Travel Insurance	35	210			
BC utensils (inc gas) (ITMC) (\$640)		492			
BC messing tent (ITMC)	Included in accomm	Included in accomm			
Gas - personal (ITMC) (5x \$7 pp)		162			
Medical kit / drugs		370			
AC Garmin inReach hire (£12/week x2)		96			
2m PTT radios (ITMC) (\$90)		69			
Sat phones (ITMC) (\$460)		354			
Solar charger (ITMC) (\$100)		77			
Other and Contingency (\$1000)		772			
	TOTAL	15602		TOTAL	15602