

Expedition Report



Tom Livingstone approaches Chiring (furthest left peak, partly hidden). Barnaj I and II are furthest right. Photo: Uisdean Hawthorn

British Kishtwar Expedition 2018

BMC Reference: 18/03

Expedition Members

Tom Livingstone
Will Sim
Uisdean Hawthorn
(all UK)

Dates: 13th September - 9th October 2018

Location: Zaskar valley, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Summary:

No climbing. Spent 3 weeks in base camp but bailed due to unseasonably early and heavy snow (approx. 1 metre in BC). Persistent mixed weather thereafter.

Attempt at Chiring (ca. 6300m) but got as far as the base.

Barnaj I/II looks like an amazing peak, with 'maybe' ice lines. It would be ace to go back for it one day.

Approach

in days:
Flew to Leh.
Drove to Kargil
Drove to Aksho village
Walked to Hagshu BC

Acclimatisation

- 1) Will and Tom day hiked up the ridge above BC, to approx 4800m.
- 2) We all spent 2 nights camped at 5000m on the hillside above BC. We also walked to approx. 5500m. Heavy snow on the second day meant we bailed early.

On the 22nd Sept, it snowed approx 1 meter in BC...

Chiring approach

We walked to Chiring (visible from BC) in good weather, about 7 days after the heavy snow. What would normally take around 7 hours took us two days. We ummed and ahhhed but then bailed. Too much fresh snow, and a mixed forecast.

We returned to BC, where the weather remained mixed and conditions in the mountains didn't really improve. We then called the local porters/yaks, and left BC on the 6th October.

Finances

Expenditure	\$		
Agent - Above 14000ft	12000		
Tips for porters and BC staff	250		
International flights	430	Virgin (free 40 kg baggage allowance)	
Insurance	300	Global Rescue and Austrian Alpine	
Excess baggage fee (internal flight)	400		
Total:	13380		
		Income	£
		BMC	1250
		MEF	2900
		AC	1725
		Crux	1000
		Austrian AC	550
		Chris Walker	1000
		Total:	8425

Notes

We had mixed thoughts about our agent (Above 14,000ft.)

Paul Ramsden and Mick Fowler's expedition report from their new route on Hagshu provides plenty of detail.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to:

Rob Smith and Ben Silvestre for weather updates
TentMeals Expedition Food for the freeze-dried meals.
Hard Bar for energy bars.

The BMC, Montane Alpine Climbing grant through the Alpine Club, Mount Everest Foundation, the Austrian Alpine Club, Crux and the Chris Walker Memorial Trust for the grants.