

Expedition Report

Eastern Jetim Bel 2017



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Maps: Alex Miyusov

Summary

Report of UK expedition to three remote peaks of the Eastern Jetim Bel (Djetim Bel) range Kyrgyz Republic, September 11 - 23, 2017.

A team of eight UK mountaineers climbed three accessible peaks over 4000m with little technical difficulty using three base camps close to rough tracks. The team comprised four relative novice alpinists and everyone successfully summited the three peaks attempted.

In September 2017 a team of eight UK mountaineers, a mixture of novice and experienced alpinists and a UIAGM guide, visited the eastern part of the Jetim Bel (sometimes referred as Djetim Bel) range in the Kyrgyz Republic. Three base camps were used some 8km, 15km and 60km] west of the Arabel Pass. Base camp access was via rough tracks in the up reaches Malyi (Kichi) Naryn river valleys. The tracks were traversed by a Kamaz off road vehicle from the village of Sary Bulak. The area is little visited by climbers, the last visit being an Austrian team in 2014 (source: <http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/13201213302/Ascents-Near-Arabel-Pass>).

The range offers many accessible peaks over 4000m with little technical difficulty and numerous remote summits for the determined. These remoter peaks would likely need a further camp or bivvy to be climbed.

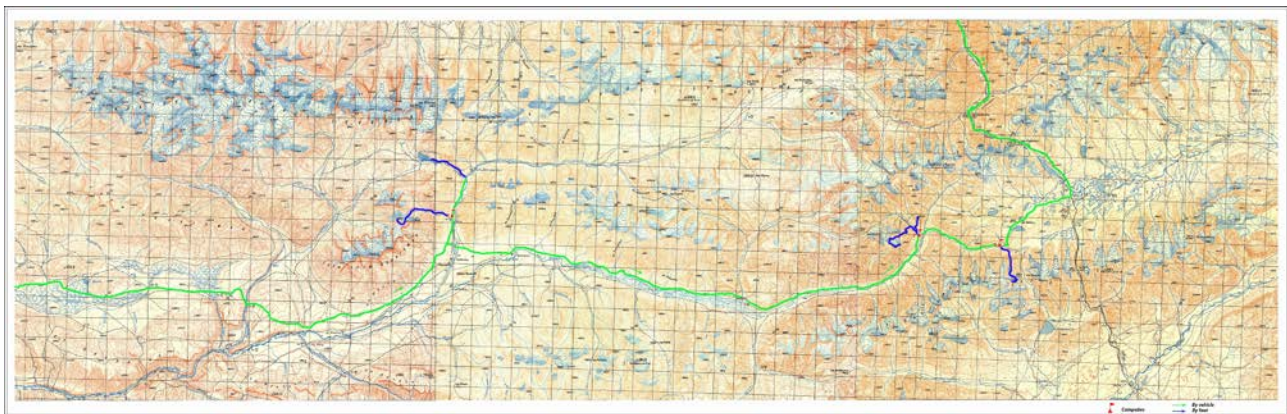
The team was John Peck (AC), Geoff Thomas (AC) Nick Parks (UIAGM, AC); Jim Moonie (Expedition doctor), Natalie Smith, Mike Hannibal, Allan Spelling & Simon Mayell.

All were ably supported by Alex Miyusov of Kyrgyz Alpine Club who supplied logistic support onward from Bishkek. Alex also supplied 2 cooks, a driver and valuable local knowledge in finding speedy access to peaks. Having locally based Russian speaking guides greatly helped relations with the Kyrgyz herders that graze their horses and cattle in these valley.

The team were in the country for less than two weeks and opted for 3 roadside base camps with support from Kamaz six wheel drive vehicles. These trucks make short work of the rough tracks in the valleys and enable river crossings to be made where bridges have been under-maintained.

Base Camp 1 was at estimated altitude of 2950m, BC2 at circa 3380m and BC3 at circa ~3600m

The increasing altitudes of base camps had the added benefit of aiding acclimatisation.

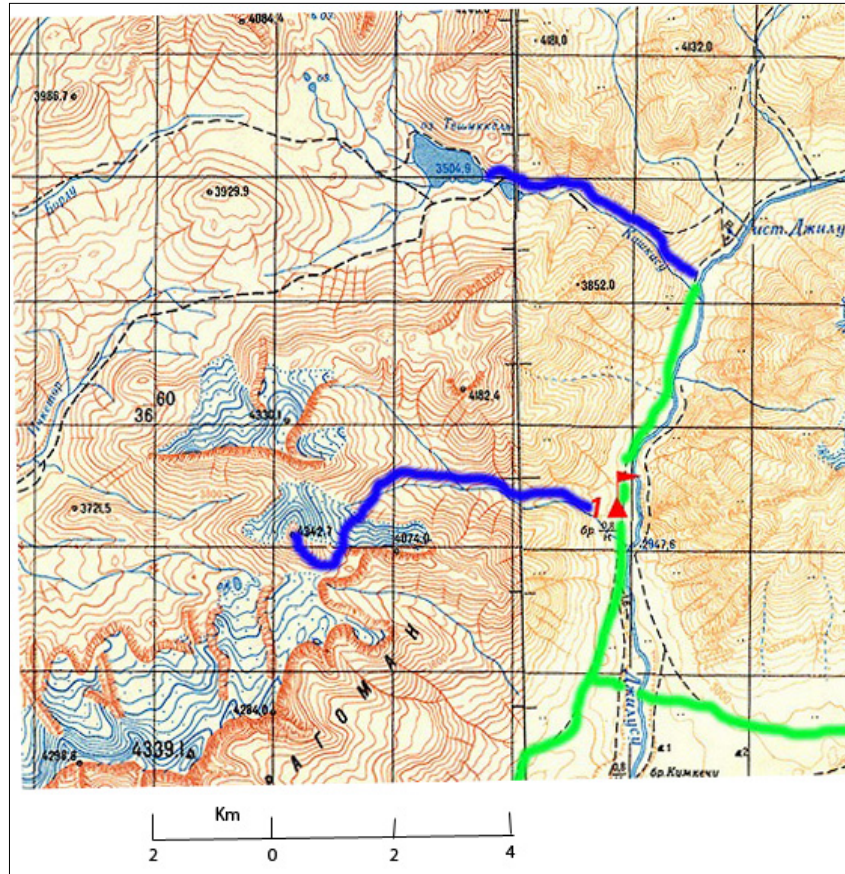


Map 1: Routes; Vehicular track – green, climbing tracks blue

Weather

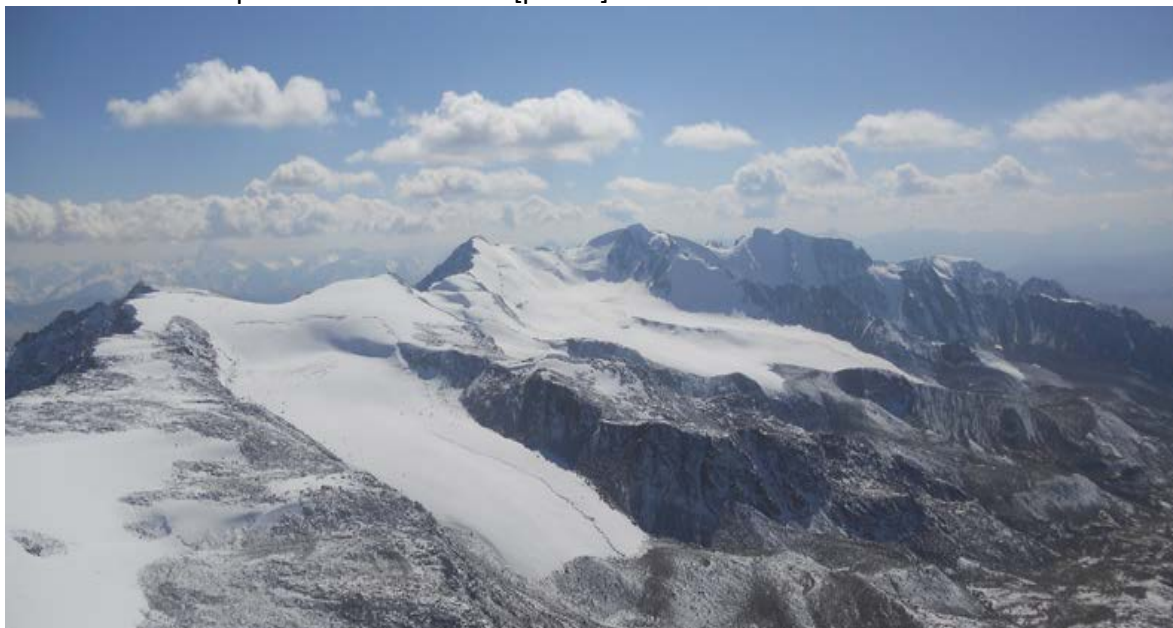
The weather was generally stable during the expedition with only one day where overnight snow was experienced. This soon burned away in the sun. The rest of the time the weather proved stable and clear, though perhaps -3C at nights. None of the winds reported by the Austrian team were experienced, perhaps because valley basecamps were selected.

Peaks Climbed



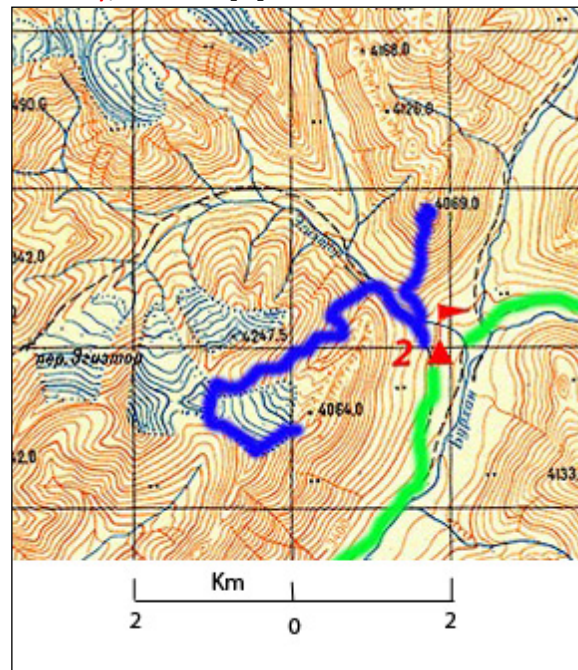
Map 2: Peak 1

Pt 4327m (According to the map 4342 m) . [Grade F-] A relatively simple peak, up snow to the col but the final mobile shale slope proved tiring following the long approach. A cairn at the summit indicated that this had been climbed previously although no record could be found. Looking west a number of unclimbed peaks could be seen. [photo]



Unclimbed Peaks W of Peak 1

Peak 2 Pt 4343m (My altimeter showed 4280 m. Google Earth, which usually gives a smaller height shows 4253 m), Grade [F]

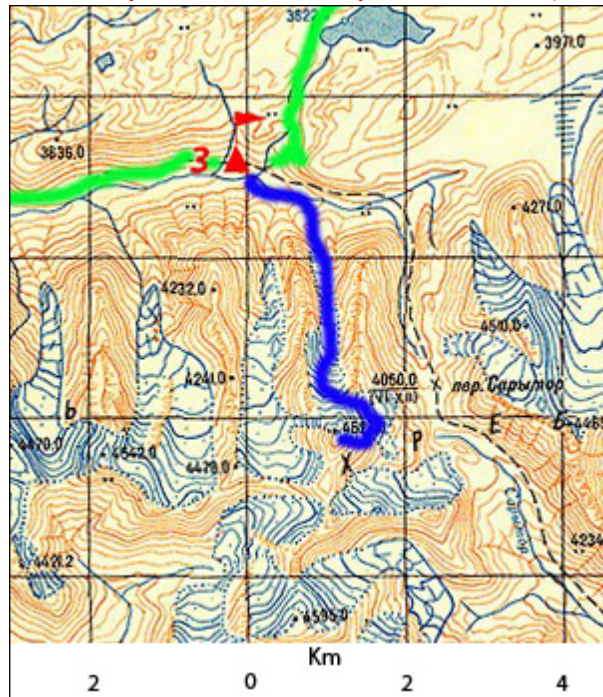


Map 3 Peak 2

A grassy approach led into a bowl left by recent glacial recession. The bowl was covered in small boulders but these were stable and did not impede progress. The route took snow covered glacier lead onto the ridge and then onto snow leading to the summit ridge.

On the descent Alex, Mayell and Thomas opted to descend the NE ridge in the hope that this would return them to their start point. Here loose gendarmes soon forced them into a gully which they then began to descend rather than face the re-ascent. In the bed of the gully one of the large number of loose boulders became detached threatening the safety of the party. They were heartily glad when they were able to leave the gully for the relative stability of the steep grass. This descent cannot be not recommended.

Peak 3 Named Hoch Misha by Edith Kreutner's 2014 Austrian team (According my altimeter - 4630 m. That is very close to reality in 4627 m. (Source: Loadmap.net)).



Map 4: Peak 3

The line taken was approximately that of the Austrians in 2014, although a grade of PD- was felt to be more realistic.

The expedition returned via the A364 Kumtor mine road through the Barskaun gorge to stay at the Tamga Guest House.

The team returned to the UK having sampled only a few of the very large number of accessible peaks to be found in the area. A team with more time could be rewarded with many new ascents, given a willingness to commit to lightweight camps in adjoining valleys. A great place to visit.