

# **Southampton University Mountaineering Club**

## **Bolivian Expedition**

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## Summary

Although the expedition originated from Southampton University M.C. some of the team were 'recruited' from Heriot-Watt University M.C.

Ian Farmer	Ade Miller (leader)
Vivek Kulkarni (support, doctor)	Steve Phillips
Shona MacKenzie (support)	Rob Weight

Vivek Kulkarni was not a member of the expedition prior to our departure from the UK. We met him in La Paz, and he offered to accompany us to our Apolobamba base camp as expedition doctor. In the event his skills proved invaluable in dealing with several medical problems that occurred during the course of the expedition.

We spent two weeks in the Huanacuni valley, during this time we made to following ascents:

Huanacuni Eastward	5500m	E couloir**	10/7/92
Nubi	5710m	SW (German) ridge	14/7/92
p5760	5760m	traverse from Nubi*	14/7/92

A further week was spent in Paso Pelechuco where several more ascents were made:

Katantica Oeste (K1)	5630m	W face (NW ridge descent)**	25/7/92
Apollo 11	5650m	W face**	28/7/92
Bures	5560m	traverse from Apollo 11**	28/7/92
Radioaficacion	5580m	traverse from Bures**	28/7/92
BJE 2	5300m	SE glacier and ridge*	24/7/92
BJE 1	5050m	traverse from BJE 2*	24/7/92
p5050	5050m	S slope*	28/7/92

\* denotes first British ascent.

+ denotes new route / first recorded ascent.

While in Antaquilla we met a group of Austrian climbers who had spent two weeks in the Katantica region. They were very reluctant to indicate which routes they had climbed. Without confirmation of their ascents it is not possible to be sure of our new routes in the Katantica region. However we did not find any signs of previous ascentionists on these routes.

In addition to these ascents we also climbed several small peaks in the Huanacuni valley. These were all about 5100m high or lower.

On returning to La Paz attempts were made to climb Condoriri (5696m) and Alpamayo Chico (5330m). These failed due to poor weather and snow conditions.

All transport and supplies were arranged by the expedition members. The Club Andino Boliviano provided transport to the Apolobamba by arrangement. This was considerably cheaper than any quotes we received from guiding companies.

Further information on all aspects of the trip are available from:

A.S.Miller  
25 Great Elms Rd  
Bromley  
Kent  
BR2 9NF

## Getting There

As all the expedition members, with the exception of Steve Phillips, wanted open return tickets we were obliged to fly with Avianca. Although they offer the cheapest flights at 702 pounds return, by the time the additional costs of an overnight stop in 'lovely' Lima have been added there is not much difference between Avianca and American Airlines who offer a more direct flight via Miami for 780 pounds. American Airlines also allow passengers up to 96kg of hold luggage compared to Avianca's 20kg allowance, an important consideration for mountaineers.

Initially, I envisaged a smaller group, either two or possibly four climbers, travelling lightweight and using public transport to travel to the Apolobamba. With a group of six this was clearly going to be difficult, but despite this, we were still able to achieve most of our aims without resorting to using expensive guide services.

Information on transport to the Apolobamba was sketchy. The myth that 'there is no bus to Ulla Ulla' proved to be incorrect, but is perpetuated by both the Club Andino Boliviano and some of the guides in La Paz. The local bus operators also seemed vague, but this was partly as the direct bus is 'to Pelechuco', not Ulla Ulla.

In the event we hired a minibus, similar to a large Bedford Midi, to take us to and from Antaquilla. This was arranged by the Club Andino Boliviano (CAB) and cost \$350<sup>1</sup> for both trips. The minibus, which only just made the outward trip, broke down while coming to pick us up. We caught the local bus<sup>2</sup> back to La Paz and the CAB refunded us \$175. With hindsight, this was probably the best transport arrangement as getting nearly 500kg of food and equipment onto the bus for the outward journey would have been difficult. The return journey, with only our equipment, was fairly easily accomplished on the bus. Although the return journey was by bus and took ten hours, most of us agreed that it was an experience not to be missed, but not repeated either. In the end the return trip to Antaquilla cost \$206, significantly cheaper than the \$600 quoted to us by the professional guiding companies.

### **Area Notes**

#### **Antaquilla**

There is a bus service leaving La Paz on Thursday and arriving in Pelechuco (via Ulla Ulla) on Friday evening. The return bus leaves late Friday night or Saturday morning and arrives in La Paz on Saturday afternoon, a single ticket costs \$5. These times are very approximate and should be checked. The service is operated by Trans Pelechuco, whose office is in La Paz near the cemetery. The best people to ask for directions are the Transport Police in La Paz. The service is usually very full, an uncomfortable truck caters for any additional passengers, so it is best to book in advance. It's big advantage is, that like all Bolivian buses, any amount of luggage may be carried.

Antaquilla is a small village of about eight hundred people, most of whom spend their time in the hills with their herds, giving the village an apparent population of about fifty. It is possible to stay in the Alojamiento run by the Mayor, Jorge Saavedra, this costs 80c per night. Gear can be stored here while away from the village. There are several small shops in the village square, which sell some basic food in small quantities. It would be possible for a small team of two people to buy sufficient food in Antaquilla to live there for a limited period, although it would be advisable to bring most of it from La Paz.

#### **Huanacuni Base Camp**

We were camped at the end of the Huanacuni valley, south-east of Antaquilla. Getting to the camp involves walking along the path that heads out of the south end of the village, around the west end of Lago Cololo. It is an hours walk to Lago Nubi and then a further two hours from there to the bottom of

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<sup>1</sup> All prices are given in U.S. Dollars to allow direct comparisons with prices in the guidebooks to South America. At the time of our trip the exchange rate was approximately \$1.9 to the pound.

<sup>2</sup> The word 'bus' is taken to mean all types of public transport. In the case of our trip to La Paz this was a large open truck with no seats.

the third lake, where several good campsites can be found. Camping at the head of the lake would be more difficult as the ground there is very boggy.

For transporting large amounts of base camp gear llamas or mules are recommended, this allows expedition members to do the walk-in light and concentrate on their acclimatisation. A mule can carry 40kg and a llama 20kg, but in practice some of our loads were in excess of this and nobody seemed to mind. We hired a couple of mules and ten llamas from Benito Calancho for \$110. This price was for both outward and return journeys and also included the services of Benito and two other herders. Although this seems expensive by Bolivian standards, which it is, it should be born in mind that the supply of pack animals in Antaquilla is very limited. Llamas do not move very quickly and the herders stop for frequent rests and to re-tie loads, so the journey actually took four and a half hours.

The base camp is situated at about 4900m near the foot of the third lake, ensuring a plentiful supply of fresh water. The valley is inhabited by several herders, most of whom came to visit us during our stay, mainly with a view to selling their jumpers and ponchos. Although the only thing stolen from the camp was some food, which was taken during the night by a dog, we were careful and rarely left the camp unattended.

### Paso Pelechuco

Paso Pelechuco (5000m) is the high point on the road leading over the Apolobamba to Pelechuco on the Amazonian (east) side of the range. A reasonable road leaves Antaquilla to the east and after passing through several villages reaches the pass. We camped by the second lake at the top of the pass, which is marked by a cross by the road. The total distance is about 20km. The Trans Pelechuco bus (see above) can be used to get to the pass and costs 80c one way.

We met fewer herders in the pass than at Huanacuni base camp. However, there is a small gold mine, worked by about ten miners 1km down a track to the north of the road. The miners are very friendly and speak some English. We had several visits during our stay both miners and local people asking for help from Vivek, as they had heard that he was a doctor.

### Weather

The weather in the Apolobamba was remarkably stable, during our month in the region there were only two days of poor weather. Most mornings it was warm and sunny, during the afternoon light winds would pick up and clouds would begin to form over the peaks on the Amazonian side of the range. When we were camped at Paso Pelechuco, mists moved up the valley covering the pass before dusk.

### Snow Conditions

In general the north and east faces were very poorly covered with snow, usually consisting of just loose rock. The west and south faces which we climbed were covered with neve or ice. The east couloir on Huanacuni Eastward was a notable exception, as it gets only a couple of hours sunlight each day. Consequently no freeze-thaw icing occurs and all the snow remained soft. Lines which see very little sunlight should therefore be avoided.

## Daily Log

26/6 Arrive La Paz.  
27/6 Steve arrives with gear.  
28/6 Organise food and transport to the Apolobamba.  
29/6  
30/6  
1/7  
2/7  
3/7 Drive to Antaquilla.  
4/7 Organise llamas to carry gear to base camp.  
5/7  
6/7 Walk-in to base camp.  
7/7 Recce East face from valley.  
8/7 Carry to base of E ridge.  
9/7 Rest.  
10/7 Climb Huanacuni Eastward.  
11/7 Descend peak (Steve injures hand).  
12/7 Rest.  
13/7 Walk-in to base of Nubi.  
14/7 Climb Nubi & p5760.  
15/7 Rest  
16/7 Ice climbing on Glacier (Ian sick).  
17/7 Rest (Rob Sick).  
18/7 Rest.  
19/7 Pack up base camp.  
20/7 Walk-out to Antaquilla.  
21/7 Wait in Antaquilla for transport to arrive.  
22/7  
23/7 Catch bus to Paso Pelechuco.  
24/7 Walk-in to base of K1 / Climb BJE 1 & 2.  
25/7 Climb K1 and return to base camp.  
26/7 Rest.  
27/7 Walk-in to base of Radioaficion.  
28/7 Traverse Spanish peaks / Climb p5050.  
29/7 Rest.  
30/7 Half party return to Antaquilla to wait for hired bus. Remainder stay and pack up base camp.  
31/7 Hired bus fails to arrive, base camp moved using local 'bus' service.  
1/8 Take local 'bus' to La Paz.  
2/8 Rest in La Paz and pack team equipment.  
3/8  
4/8  
5/8 Drive to Condoriri valley near La Paz.  
6/8 Attempt on Condoriri / Alpamayo Chico fails due to bad weather and snow conditions. Ade and Rob return to La Paz.  
Steve returns to UK with most of gear.  
7/8 La Paz.  
8/8  
9/8 Ian and Rob return to UK.  
Viv spends a further week in La Paz, returning to the UK on the 15th.  
Ade and Shona spend one week visiting Lake Titicaca and return to UK on the 16th.

## Route Descriptions

### **Huanacuni Eastward (5500m): East Couloir**

Situated on the east ridge of p5760, it is a spur off the north-south Huanacuni-Nubi ridge. From our base camp the true summit of Huanacuni was not visible, and the east ridge of p5760 was initially thought to be the east ridge of Huanacuni, hence the name. The height given was estimated from the height of the surrounding peaks, and so may be incorrect. On the summit we found a tin can, suggesting a previous unrecorded ascent. It was actually on the summit, and not at the obvious bivvy site for our route, just below the summit on the east face. We concluded that the first ascensionists climbed a route on either the north or south faces, leading up to the col between p5670 and the summit.

#### Approach

From base camp, walk north along the west side of the lake. At the far end of the lake, by a herder's hut, take the path leading up the moraine, this eventually leads to the glacier. The glacier is easy angled and can be traversed to reach the foot of the couloir (3-4hrs).

#### Climb

The route consists of 300m of 45-50° ice, which was covered in soft snow. Poor rock belays could be found in the gully walls. The top of the couloir is steeper but can be avoided by exiting left onto a rocky spur (5hrs). This was our first route so this time could be bettered by a well acclimatised party.

We bivvied on the top of the spur and went to the summit the following morning. Originally we had planned to continue along the ridge to p5760, but decided against this as it involved a traverse over difficult ground, followed by a much steeper snow-filled couloir. The descent took 4.5 hours, mainly because finding abseil points proved very difficult, a further 2 hours took us back to base camp.

### **Nubi (5710m) and p5760: Southwest (German) Ridge**

Nubi and p5760 are the two peaks on Huanacuni's south ridge. We initially intended to traverse along the ridge to Huanacuni (5789m), but were unable to complete the route due to the broken nature of the ridge and steep ground leading to the final summit. From various points on the ridge we estimated that the height difference between Nubi and Huanacuni to be between 150m and 200m, rather than the 80m suggested by the first ascensionists. The height of P5760 is also estimated assuming the height of Nubi to be correct. Unfortunately we had no altimeter to measure the correct heights.

#### Approach

Walk up the llama track that traverses the west valley-side above base camp. Follow this round and up scree towards the saddle. At the saddle turn north and climb up over loose rocks to the small summit south of Nubi. Descend the other side of this to the head of the glacier at the foot of the south-west ridge (5hrs). There is a reasonable bivvy site just below the glacier at about 5000m.

#### Climb

The German route follows the south-west ridge. We headed up the glacier, which drops straight down from the ridge to the moraine, this is a 40° slope with some obvious cornices on the south side. At the top of the slope traverse north for 400m along a sharp ridge to the summit on Nubi (4.5hrs). Descend the north side of the summit along the ridge to a col. From there we crossed a crevasse (good snow bridges) and ascended the wide ridge to p5760 (1.5hrs). Descend by the same route (3 hrs) to the bivvy site and then to base camp (1.5hrs).

### **Katantica Oeste (5630m): East Face**

This summit is the western most peak on the Katantica ridge.

### Approach

Leave the road at the start of the bends, where the road climbs up into the pass from Pelechuco. Climb up the moraine to the north, following the river provides the easiest ground. The glacier leading up to the west of Katantica is steep and crevassed, it is best ascended on the west side. Traverse across the top of the ice-fall on the east side of the glacier and climb up above the seracs to just below the start of the face, bivvy site (4hrs).

### Climb

The face is 50-55° and 450m long with three small bergshrunds cross the lower slopes. We left the face and joined the south ridge 50m below the summit. The summit is 200m along the ridge which has several crevasses (7hrs).

A descent was made down the north-west ridge, and from there onto the upper glacier (1hrs). From there we returned to base camp (2hrs).

### **Apollo 11 (5650m), Bures (5560m) and Radioaficion (5580m): North South Traverse**

These are the three peaks north of Katantica Oeste along the north-west ridge.

### Approach

As for Katantica Oeste but continue north up the glacier rather than traversing east above the ice-fall. Bivvy on the flat section of glacier below the ridge.

### Climb

The route takes a line from below the middle of the ridge, leftwards directly to the summit of Apollo 11. Climb up the lower part of the face through soft snow to the bergshrund. Cross this and continue up the face towards the summit 55° neve, half a pitch of 60°, 4.5 hours from the campsite to the summit. The east face is significantly less steep, so the ridge is easily traversed. Traverse the ridge and descend the crevassed south face of Radioaficion to the bivvy site (2.5hrs).

### **BJE 2 (5350m) and BJE 1 (5300m): Southeast Ridge**

Peaks west of the Katantica ridge closest to the road, at the highest point in the pass.

### Approach and Climb

Follow the path north from the highest point in the pass, and then climb the moraine to the foot of the glacier east of BJE 2. Ascend the east side of the glacier and then joint the south-east ridge to the summit (4.5hrs). Descend by the same route 1 hour.

### **p5050: South Side**

Small peak south-east of BJE 2.

### Approach and Climb

From the foot of the scree climb up to the saddle, from there climb up very loose rock to the summit (3hrs).

### **Condoriri (5648m)**

After returning from the Apolobamba Ade and Rob joined up with Robin Shackell to attempt to climb Condoriri, in the Cordillera Real, We failed to climb the mountain due to poor weather conditions. We noted that there was much less snow on the peaks than in any of the pictures in the guidebook. Condoriri in particular had hardly any snow. Both the normal route and the South face route were bare. We were told by another group camped in the valley that the route was very dangerous due to stone fall.

### **Medical Report**

The members of the team were well up to date for all the required immunisations prior to leaving the UK. Of the six members only Shona had prophylactic Diamox to aid acclimatisation at altitude, which she discontinued on arrival in La Paz following transient paraesthesia. The one week stay in La Paz with gradual increase in effort, ensured that everyone was acclimatised to 3800m by the time we headed for the mountains. A similar exercise schedule was followed at base camps (both above 4500m).

Steve sustained a contusion of the shaft of the proximal phalanx of his left index finger from an ice-hammer during the descent from Huanacuni Eastward. Analgesics and strapping for three weeks was followed by mobilisation prior to his return to the UK.

Minor gastrointestinal upsets lasting about 24hrs occurred at base camp in three members of the team - needing Dioralyte replacement. Ian subsequently acquired an infective diarrhoea in La Paz needing antipyretic and Ampicillin therapy. On clinical recovery after 72hrs he was advised to return to the UK earlier than scheduled for further investigation.

A number of campesinos were also treated for minor conditions during our stay at the base camps. The medical kit we carried was adequate though it may have been advisable to include antacids and stronger analgesics like Temgesic.

Viv

### **Equipment Notes**

All mountaineering equipment was transported from the UK, due to a complete lack of any equipment in Bolivia. The personal equipment used was all standard mountaineering gear, the expedition providing snow stakes and a snow shovel. Three 9mm ropes were taken, along with a 7mm back-up rope for abseiling/emergencies. We also used an old rope section for abseil anchors.

In general, we avoided all rock sections of routes, as the rock in the region is very loose. Hence, wired rock gear was not used, though pegs were used as belay/abseil points. Snow stakes proved useful for protecting pitches of soft neve, but the majority of protection on the steeper faces was provided using ice screws.

Tentage and other 'sleeping' equipment were all transported from the UK along with personal clothing etc. Two Mk4 CN Vango Force Tens, along with a Mountain Equipment Mountain Quasar were employed, rigged together with a plastic sheet lean-to for cooking under.

The majority of the cooking gear was purchased in La Paz, with the exception of two light-weight billy-pan sets. The purchased gear consisted of a large Primus-type paraffin stove, a pressure cooker, frying pan, kettle, utensils and all cutlery. The stove worked well with regular maintenance, all spares being readily available in La Paz, along with plastic jerry cans. Petrol cannot legally be sold into jerry



cans, but garages will sell it once outside La Paz. Paraffin (kerosene) can be bought from the pump in the Plaza Alexander (at the end of Calle Inca, off Plaza Mendoza) in La Paz, and, apparently, in many villages in Bolivia.

We are very grateful to Sprayway for supplying Ascent TL Gore-Tex jackets. We were very pleased with their performance throughout the expedition.

Steve

### Food Report

We calculate the amount of food required by assuming 1 kg per person per day on the hill and 1.5kg per person per day at base camp. Dried food is light, nutritious and easy to prepare, therefore, it is ideal as hill food. However, it is not readily available in Bolivia, so we took 80 Pot Noodles (emptied into freezer bags) from the UK.

Although, Bolivian cuisine seems to be of a low standard, they do have a large range of food stuffs, including all staple items, vegetables, fruit, spices and chocolate. Buying large quantities of food is no problem in the Indian markets of La Paz, once the relevant selling area is found. Staples and vegetables are best bought up the hill near the Cemeterio with 'luxury' items, cheese, chocolate available nearer the Plaza Mendoza. Outside the towns, it is possible to buy small amounts of staple items, fruit, bread and chocolate.

Cooking at base camp was made easier by using a pressure cooker (\$30), almost essential at the altitude to cook foods reasonably quickly. Due to the range of food stuffs purchased, creating a healthy but varied menu was no problem, relying on different peoples cooking skills and a love of garlic.

Steve

### Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the help of the following organisations and individuals, without whom this expedition would not have taken place:

- **Abels solicitors and commissioners**  
For a donation towards expedition costs.
- **Agfa -Gevaert Ltd**  
For supplying 35mm films at discount.
- **Austrian Alpine Club**  
For giving us a grant from their expedition fund.
- **British Mountaineering Council and Sports Council**  
For giving us a grant.
- **COMSAC Climbing Equipment**  
For supplying equipment at cost price and some clothing at no charge.
- **Hawaiian Tropic**  
For supplying Ski-Pro sun cream at no charge.
- **Heriot-Watt University Allen McTernan Memorial Award**  
For donations to Ian Farmer and Shona MacKenzie.
- **Mount Everest Foundation**  
For giving us a grant.
- **North Cape Ltd**  
For supplying thermal underwear at discount
- **Daniel Quiggin & Son**  
For supplying mint cake at discount.
- **Smith and Nephew Consumer Products Ltd**  
For supplying Nivea sun cream at no charge.

- **Southampton University Athletic Union**  
For awarding a grant to Ade Miller and Steve Phillips from their appeal fund and for allowing us to use their office facilities.
- **Southampton University Convocation Appeal Fund**  
For donations to Ade Miller and Steve Phillips.
- **Southampton University Student's Union RAG**  
For donation of dehydrated food.
- **Southampton University, Vice Chancellor**  
For donations to Ade Miller and Steve Phillips.
- **Sprayway Ltd**  
For supplying Gore-Tex expedition jackets at no charge.
- **Johan Rheindl**  
For obtaining copies of German expedition reports unavailable in the U.K.
- **Paul Slater, Southampton University A.U. Administrator and Norman Croucher**  
For their advice and support throughout the planning of the expedition.
- **Robin Shackell, Third Secretary and Vice Consul, British Embassy La Paz**  
For making Bolivia seem like home.
- **Richard Thorns, Michael Smith and Dave Woodcock**  
For providing information on the Apolobamba.
- **Gary Hill and Rob Wilkins**  
For the loan of the PC on which this report was written.

#### Budget

Air flights to La Paz	3588
Transport to and from the Apolobamba.	108
Living costs while in Bolivia @ 250 per person	1250
Insurance ( through BMC)	669
Team equipment <sup>3</sup>	95
Hire of tents and ropes from Heriot-Watt MC	30
Field medical kits	106
Bank charges for exchange of money etc.	19
Administration costs	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>5965</b>
Sponsorship:	
Abels solicitors and commissioners	25
Austrian Alpine Club	350
BMC grant	400
Heriot-Watt University Allen McTernan Memorial Award	250
MEF grant	400
Southampton University Convocation Fund	100
Southampton University Athletic Union	300
Southampton University, Vice Chancellor	250
Personal contributions 778 x 5	3890
Final balance	0

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<sup>3</sup>The expedition bought: 3 snow stakes, snow shovel, 7mm abseil rope, 10l water carrier, MSR stove spares kit, fuel filter funnel, puritabs, and mint cake.

## References

These are general references to travelling and climbing in Bolivia. Appendix A contains a list of all recorded ascents in the Apolobamba region.

**Backpacking and Trekking in Peru and Bolivia**, Hilary & George Bradt, Bradt Enterprises, 1980.

This book mainly deals with Peru, but the section on Bolivia does have a very short section on the Apolobamba. We borrowed this, rather than purchased it, as there are only one or two useful pages.

**Bolivia a travel survival kit**, Deanna Swanley, Lonely Planet Pub., 1988.

This now outdated guide is the only book to deal solely with travelling in Bolivia. It covers places in more depth than the South American Handbook but is now factually incorrect in places. We felt that the author was unduly negative about most of the places she visited, making it difficult to assess which places were worth visiting. There are no details in the guide about the Apolobamba.

**La Cordillera Real de los Andes, Bolivia**, Alain Mesili, Los Amigos del Libro (La Paz), 1984.

Only really available in La Paz, this guide covers all the major peaks in the Cordillera Real. It is now very out of date. When we tried to climb Condoriri, both the route and approaches had changed. The pictures of most of the peaks in the guide showed much more snow on all the faces. An interesting read, but only if you are reasonably fluent in Spanish.

**South America Handbook**, John Brooks (ed.), Trade & Travel Pub., 1992.

An up-to-date guide covering the whole of South America. The section on Bolivia is fairly short but accurate. We used this in conjunction with the Lonely Planet guide, which proved fairly effective. Like the Lonely Planet guide, the South American Handbook does not cover the Apolobamba.

**DAV maps of the North and South Real**, DAV expedition maps, 1990.

High quality, Alpine style maps of the North and South Real. Available from most good map shops but significantly cheaper in La Paz from the Instituto Geographico Militar (IGM) shop.

**Milluni Map**, IGM hoja 5945 II serie H731, La Paz, 1983.

This map covers the region between the two German maps around Huayna Potosi and Condoriri. It is not as accurate or detailed, but is the only one available. This too can be bought cheaply in La Paz.

## Useful Addresses

For general advice on travelling and mountaineering in Bolivia:

Robin F Shackell  
Third Secretary and Vice Consul  
British Embassy, La Paz, Bolivia  
c/o Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles St.  
London  
SW1A 2AH

For information on mountaineering in Bolivia and aerial photos of the Apolobamba, also on expensive transport arrangements:

Sr. Bernardo Guarachi  
PO Box 12287  
La Paz  
Bolivia

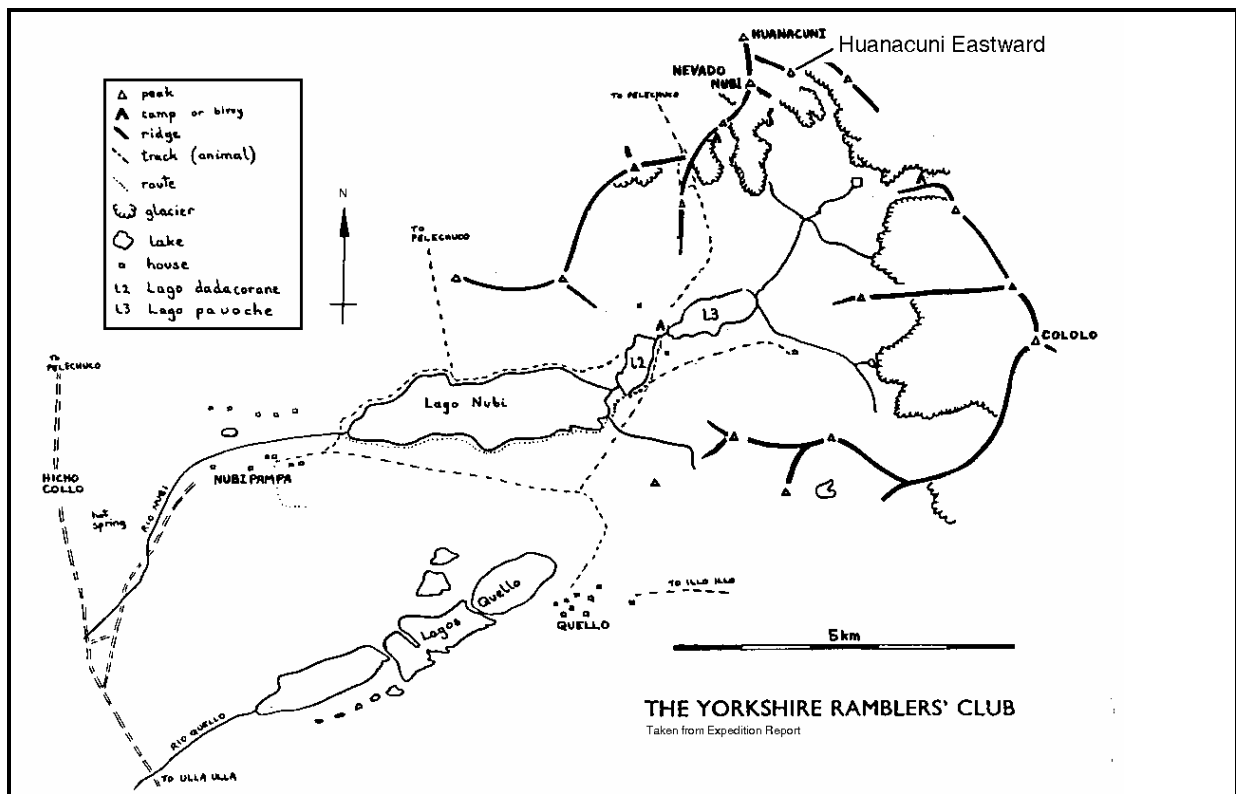
For organisation of low cost transport to mountains in Bolivia (Spanish only spoken):

Armando Monastorios D.  
Transport Secretary  
Club Andino Boliviano  
Calle Mexico 1346  
La Paz  
Bolivia

### Maps

There are numerous maps of the Apolobamba. We found the best one to be the Imperial College Expedition map of 1957, which only covers the region north of Paso Pelechuco. Maps of the central Apolobamba are all based on the original DAV expedition map of 1957, most of them contain some additional detail specific to particular regions. Officially, there is no map of the region, although aerial photos of the northern Apolobamba do exist (Sr. Guarachi has an unofficial set). It is rumoured that the Government is in the process of making maps of its border with Peru, but it is unlikely that these will be made generally available.

Included is a map of the Huanacuni valley showing additional minor peaks and valleys. All other maps are available in the relevant expedition reports. A summary map showing the coverage of all other maps can be found in appendix A



**Appendix A**  
**Ascents in the Apolobamba**

**This report would not have been possible without  
the facilities provided by the Alpine Club Library.  
Please help support this important collection of  
mountaineering literature.**

The following list is based on the 'Mountaineering in the Andes, A source book for climbers' by Jill Neate, published by the RGS Expedition Advisory Centre. I have added information from the British Cordillera Apolobamba Expedition report of 1985, Bath University Expedition report of 1989 and the Loughborough University Expedition report of 1989. In addition to these main sources a complete search of the AJ and AAJ showed that there have been several other expeditions to the region, their ascents and others I stumbled across along the way have all been added to the list. **It is by no means complete!** In many cases reports are vague or inaccurate, leaving the exact nature of the ascent down to speculation. In these cases a '?' appears in the list. Because there is no minimum height for inclusion of a summit, and as there are no accurate maps of the Apolobamba, the list is somewhat arbitrarily based on Neate's book with some additions. The report does however provide a starting place for research.

No detailed maps are included in this report. A map of the whole region showing the coverage of other maps and corresponding references can be found in appendix B. I have mainly used the 1959 Imperial College Expedition map (IC map) as this seemed fairly exact. Most of the other maps are less accurate and disagree with each other. Not all the summits included in the list are named on any of the maps, I was forced to resort to the original reports to place some summits. Where possible I have noted where these summits lie.

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**Western Extension in Peru**

As my main interest was in the peaks on the Bolivian side of the border, these peaks are covered in slightly less detail. There have been some reports of terrorist activity on the Peruvian side of the border, most recently in 1992, while the Southampton University MC Expedition were in Antaquilla. At the current time it seems inadvisable to venture onto the Peruvian Apolobamba.

**Donegani 5900m (W of Jorge Chavez)**

Italian	1958
French	1983
Swiss	1984

**Ananea 5842m (W of Cailjon)**

Italian	1958	
Swiss	1972	E ridge
Swiss	1972	SW ridge
French	1973	SW face
Swiss	1974	
French	1983	N face
French	1984	S face spur

**Calijon 5827m (marked on DAV 1957 map)**

Italian	1958
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**Vanelli 5640m** (unmarked)  
 Italian 1958

**La Sierra (La Sega) 5450m** (unmarked)  
 Italian 1958

**Ripa Pata 5272m** (near Iscai Cruz Pass)  
 Italian 1958  
 Japanese 1961

**Rinconada 5030m** (unmarked)  
 Italian 1958  
 Swiss 1974

**Manco Capac 5500m** (S of Donegani)  
 French 1979

**Citta di Desio 5700m** (unmarked)  
 Italian 1958

**Huanacuni 5280m** (W of Palomani Cunca)  
 Canadian 1970

### Peaks on Bolivia-Peru Border

Great confusion arises due differing opinions on the names and exact heights of peaks within this group. I have tried to use the names adopted by Neate.

**Puinapata 5264m** (N of Chupi Orco on Italian map 1980)  
 Japanese 1961

**Chupi Orco Norte 6000m** (marked on IC map)  
 Italian 1958  
 Japanese 1961  
 German 1968 from E side.  
 German 1969 S-N traverse.

**Chupi Orco 6044m** (marked on IC map)  
 German (M) 1957 SE ridge.  
 Italian 1958  
 Japanese 1961  
 German 1968 from E side.  
 German 1969 N-S traverse pt's 5850, 5900 & 5950.  
 Italian (M) 1981 SW ridge.  
 French 1983  
 Swiss 1984

**Angelicum 6000m** (N of Chupi Orco)  
 Italian 1958

**Jorge Chauvez 6000m** (S of Chupi Orco)  
 Italian 1958  
 French 1978 traverse.

**Salluyo 5808m** (marked on IC map)  
 Italian 1958  
 Japanese 1961  
 French 1978  
 French 1979  
 Italian (M) 1981

**Flor de Roca 5808m** (S of Jorge Chauvez)  
 Italian 1958  
 French 1978 E-W traverse ascending S face.  
 French 1983 E face.  
 Swiss 1984 E ridge.

**Tres Mujeres 5800m** (W of Salluyo)  
 Italian 1958  
 French 1979 traverse.

**Chocacoto (CAI) 5800m** (S of Jorge Chauvez)

Italian 1958  
Japanese 1961  
French 1978 W face.

**Palomani Grande** (marked on IC map)

Bolivian 1932  
Italian 1958  
Japanese 1961  
French 1978  
British B 1989 SW ridge.

**Palomani Tranca 5633m** (marked on IC map)

British 1985 W ridge.

**Palomani Cunca 5629m** (marked on IC map)

Italian 1958  
French 1978  
Swiss 1984

**Ichocollo 5423m** (S of Jorge Chauvez)

Italian 1958

**Iscaycruzriti 5400m** (near Iscai Cruz Pass)

German 1968

**Salluyo-Soral Oeste Basin**

**Villasanta 5700m** (unmarked)

Italian 1958

**Monza 5600m** (unmarked)

Italian 1958

**Huanaco 5750m** (E of Chupi Orco on Italian 1981 map)

German 1968

**Taro 5700m** (E of Chupi Orco on Italian 1981 map)

German 1968

**pt. 5510m** (unmarked)

German 1968

**pt. 5500m** (unmarked)

German 1968

**Soral Oeste Ridge**

**Manresa 5655m**

Spanish (M) 1969 S side

**Montserrat Norte 5655m**

Spanish (M) 1969 S ridge

**Curac (Qurae) 5650m**

Spanish (M) 1969 NW side

**Soral West 5640m**

British (M) 1959 W ridge  
Italian 1981 N face  
American 1986 S face

**Sullica 5635m**

Spanish (M) 1969 NW side

**pt. 5560m** (end snow dome of W Soral ridge)

British 1959

**Montserrat Sur 5525m**

Spanish (M) 1969 SW side

**Chucuyo Grande 5430m**

British (M) 1959 W face & ridge

## Soral Este Ridge

### **Soral East 5470m**

British (M) 1959 N ridge  
Italian 1981 N ridge

### **Pt. 5430m (NW Soral East)**

British 1959 via traverse of NW ridge  
Italian 1981

### **Pt. 5390m (NW Soral East)**

British (M) 1959 via traverse of NW ridge  
Spanish 1969

### **Pt. 5380m (SE Soral East)**

British (M) 1959 N ridge  
Italian 1981

### **Pt. 5320m (SE Soral East)**

British (M) 1959 N-S traverse from pt 5380  
Italian 1981

### **Pt. 5100m (SE Soral East)**

American 1986 5.4 rock route

### **Ascarani 5580m**

British (M) 1959 NW ridge  
Spanish (M) 1969 NW ridge ?  
American 1970 N ridge

### **Macara 5430m, 5380m, 5340m (SE Soral E)**

Italian 1981

### **Pt. 5010m (between Paso Riti & Paso Yanacocha)**

Italian 1981

### **Penelopa 5125m**

Spanish (M) 1969 SW face

### **Pico Riti Superior 5041m**

Spanish (M) 1969 NE face

## Matchu Suchi Coochi Group

This North-South ridge at the Western end of Paso Pelechuco contained numerous peaks of about 5600m. Identifying individual peaks of the actual Matchu Suchi Coochi ridge is difficult as the Imperial College map only gives heights for a few of them.

### **Presidente 5700m (probably pt 5640m on IC map)**

Spanish (M) 1969 N ridge

### **Matchu Suchi Coochi 5600m**

British (M) 1959 NW-SE traverse

### **Matchu Suchi Coochi 5680m**

British (M) 1959 NW-SE traverse  
German 1968 traverse  
Italian 1981 W face  
Italian 1981 E face

### **Matchu Suchi Coochi 5670m**

British (M) 1959 NW-SE traverse  
German 1968 traverse

### **Matchu Suchi Coochi 5640m**

British (M) 1959 NW-SE traverse

### **Matchu Suchi Coochi 5610m**

British (M) 1959 NW-SE traverse

### **OAE 1 5300m (unmarked)**

? 1968 (no reference given by Neate)  
German 1974 W face

### **Huanchuchuri 5400m**

? 1970 (no reference given by Neate)



Canadian	1972
French	1979
French	1979

### **Katantica Group**

This ridge runs West-East on the North side of the road through Paso Pelechuco. The region appears on both the Imperial College Expedition map and the Spanish Expedition map. Most of the peaks appear as spot-heights on the Imperial College map, but are named on the Spanish expedition map.

#### **Pelechucho Huaracha 5650m**

British (M)	1959	N ridge
German	1974	SW ridge
Italian	1981	W ridge

#### **Apollo 11 5650m**

Spanish (M)	1969	N-S traverse, ascent up N face.
British	1992	N-S traverse, ascent up S face.

#### **Bures 5560m**

Spanish (M)	1969	N-S traverse from Apollo 11.
British	1992	N-S traverse from Apollo 11.

#### **Radioaficion 5580m (NW of K1)**

Spanish (M)	1969	N-S traverse from Bures, descent down N face.
British	1992	N-S traverse from Bures, descent down S face.

#### **Katantica Oeste (K 1) 5630m (W most peak on ridge on IC map)**

German	1968	S face
Italian	1981	NW ridge ?
British	1992	W face

#### **Katantica Central (K 3) 5610m (central elongated peak on IC map)**

German	1968	from N side.
American	1986	S face

#### **Lloco Lloco 5605m (just E of K1)**

Spanish (M)	1969	N face
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#### **Katantica Este (K 4) 5592m (E most peak on ridge on IC map)**

German	1968	
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#### **Katantica II 5550m (between K1 and K2)**

German	1968	
American ?	1986	N ridge

#### **Mo. Alba 5525m**

Spanish (M)	1969	W face
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#### **Katantica Sur 5310m (1.25miles S of K4)**

German	1968	
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### **Peaks Between Paso Pelechuco and Paso Osipal**

#### **Schwartzewand 5500m (unmarked)**

German	1969	
German	1974	

#### **BJE 4 (Firnberg) 5450m (between Paso Pelechuco and Huanacuni)**

German	1969	from saddle between BJE 4 and 6.
German	1974	

#### **BJE 6 (Firnkupe) 5440m (probably S of Paso Pelechuco)**

German	1969	from saddle between BJE 4 and 6.
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**BJE 2 5350m** (SW of Pelechuco Huaracha)

German	1969	
German	1974	SW face and traverse to BJE 1.
British	1992	SE ridge.

**BJE 1 5300m** (between BJE 2 and Pelechuco Huaracha)

German	1969	
German	1974	traverse from BJE 1.
British	1992	traverse from BJE 1.

**BJE 3 5300m** (probably near BJE 1 & 2)

German	1969	
German	1974	

**Pt 5050** (end of ridge SW of BJE 2)

German	1969	
German	1974	
British	1992	S side.

**Huanacuni 5789m**

German (M)	1957	S ridge.
British/NZ	1992	W face and N ridge.

**Nubi 5710m**

German (M)	1957	S ridge traverse to Huanacuni.
British	1988	S ridge.
British B	1989	S ridge.

**Pt 5760** (summit between Nubi and Huanacuni)

British	1992	from Nubi.
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**Huanacuni Eastward 5500m** (peak E of pt 5760)

British	1992	E couloir.
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**Cololo 5916m**

German (M)	1957	W-SE traverse.
Japanese	1965	from S side.
American	1986	SE arete.
British	1988	Rock ramps to W ridge.
British B	1989	N ridge.
British L	1989	W ridge.

**Posnansky 5480m**

German (M)	1957	N ridge.
Japanese	1961	W ridge / SW face.
American ?	1986	SW side.
British L	1989	SW flank.

**Peaks South of Paso Osipal****Huelacollac 5816m**

German (M)	1957	N ridge
Japanese	1961	W ridge
Japanese	1965	
British L	1989	W-N traverse

**Iscacucho 5650m**

German (M)	1957	W-E traverse
British	1989	SW-NE traverse
British	1989	N face of SW summit
British	1989	N face of central summit
British	1989	NE ridge of NE summit

**Mita (Cerro Levisitio) 5500m**

German (M)	1957	traverse
British L	1989	N ridge

## Pupuya Region

This is a relatively infrequently visited region in the Southern Apolobamba. Information about the area is hard to obtain as the only full reports that are readily available are in Japanese.

### **Acamani 5700m**

Japanese	1961	NW ridge.
Japanese (M)	1961	NE ridge.
Japanese	1965	S-N traverse.
French	1979	S ridge, reaching Acamani Sur.

### **Cavayani 5700m**

Japanese (M)	1961	NW face.
Japanese	1965	N-S traverse.

### **Canisaya 5750m**

Japanese (M)	1961	from NW glacier.
Japanese	1965	N-S traverse.

### **Casarara 5702m**

Japanese	1965	N-S traverse.
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### **Coruquini 5810m** (probably E of Huelancalloc)

Japanese	1965	
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### **Yanorco 5600m**

Japanese (M)	1961	W ridge.
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The Japanese also climbed; **Cuchillo / Chuquillo I 5560m** (nr. Cavayani), **Chuquillo II / Asano 5450m** (NE of Chuquillo I), **Huarin** and **Corohuari 5668m**. None of these have been located. This is discussed in the Loughborough Expedition report of 1989. The French expedition of 1978 also climbed **Acamani Chico 18143'**, **Acamani Grande 18537'** and **Canoma 18307'** these have not been placed on any map.

## Expeditions To the Apolobamba Region

This section contains a list of all the recorded expeditions to the Apolobamba. Where possible references are given as well as a very brief summary of the area visited.

### **1932 Bolivian Army**

Bolivian Side.

Climbed Palomani Grande.

### **1957 German**

Bolivian Side.

Basecamp W of Paso Osipal.

[*Jahrbuch des Deutschen Alpen-Vereins*, 57 (1962), 95-107]

[*EAC Handbook*, 43]

[*AAJ 11* (1958), 102]

### **1958 Italian**

Peruvian Side.

Climbing peaks on the Peru-Bolivia border.

[*AAJ 13* (1962), 252]

[*AAJ 1959* 321-322]

### **1959 British**

Bolivian Side.

Basecamp in Tuichi valley between Matchu Suchi Coochi and Soral ridges.

[*AAJ 12* (1960-61), 37-42]

[*AJ 65*, 175-81]

**1961 Japanese**

Bolivian Side.

First basecamp in Chaupi Orco region. Second basecamp near Puyo Puyo, other camps SW of Huelancallo and at Lago Canisaya.

[*Sangaku 57 (1962), 21-65 {Japanese}*]

[*AAJ 13 (1962), 253-4*]

**1965 Japanese**

Bolivian Side.

Climbed Cololo and numerous peaks in the Pupuya group.

[*Sangaku 62 (1967), 14-18*]

[*AAJ 15 (1966), 182-3*]

**1968 German**

Bolivian Side.

Basecamp in Tuichi valley, climbed in Chupi Orco, Matchu Suchi Coochi, and Katantica groups

[*AAJ 16 (1969), 443*]

[*AJ 74 (1969), 241*]

**1969 German**

Bolivian Side.

Climbed in Chupi Orco and Soral groups and briefly from Paso Pelechuco.

[*AAJ 17 (1970), 32-7, 154-79*]

[*AJ (1970), 221*]

**1969 Spanish**

Bolivian Side.

Basecamp in Tuichi valley.

[*AJ 75 (1970), 220*]

**1970 American**

Bolivian side.

Basecamp in Tuichi valley, near Spanish campsite.

[*AAJ (1971), 424*]

**1972 Canadian**

Bolivian Side.

Soral group.

[*AAJ 18 (1972), 176*]

**1972 Swiss**

Peruvian Side.

**1973 French**

Peruvian Side.

Climbed SW face Ananea.

**1974 German**

Bolivian Side.

Based in Paso Pelechuco.

[*AAJ (1975), 177-80*]

**1974 Swiss**

Peruvian Side.

**1978 French**

Bolivian Side.

Attempted Acamani and other peaks in the Pupuya group.

[*AAJ 22 (1979), 246-7*]

**1981 Italian**

Bolivian Side.

Climbed in Soral group and near Pelucho-Haracha, basecamps East of Chupi Orco, in Soral group and in Paso Pelechuco.

[*Rivista del C.A.I.*, 101, 1982]

[AAJ 26 (1984), 209]

**1983 French**

Peruvian Side.

Climbed Ananea and border peaks.

[AAJ 1984, 209]

**1985 British**

Peruvian Side.

Basecamp W of Palomani Tranca.

[Report in AC Library]

**1986 American**

Bolivian Side.

Basecamp W of Cololo, SE of Lago Khello.

[AAJ 29 (1987), 198-201]

**1988 British**

Bolivian Side.

Basecamp at Lago Pauoche W of Cololo.

[Report in AC Library]

**1989 British LUMC**

Bolivian Side.

Basecamp in Passo Osipal South of Cololo.

[Report in AC Library]

**1989 British BUMC**

Bolivian Side.

Basecamp at Lago Nubi West of Cololo and Lago Suches South West of Palomani Grande.

[Report in AC Library]

**Maps**

Summary map of Apolobamba region:

1. 75 (1970), 220
2. Revista del C.A.I, 101 (1982), 367
3. 65, 175-81
4. Sangaku 57 (1962), 21-65 {Japanese}
5. Southampton University Bolivian Expedition Report 1992 (A.C. Library)
6. Loughborough Students Andes Expedition 1989 (A.C. Library)
7. Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Expedition Report 1988 (A.C. Library)

