

Dear Mr. Jurgalski,

As you requested in your last email, We will try to answer your questions and doubts about our 2010 expedition to the Shisha Pangma.

ABOUT THE ROUTE

In 1980, Egon Obojes and Ewald Putz did the central traverse route to the East Ridge, starting from the C-3 at 7.400m. Seeing the draw you published, we understand that they went up following the most logical and direct path, through the seracs to reach the East Ridge.

It has been 30 years since their ascension, and the morphology of the mountain may have changed, as it has in other eight thousanders (p.e. the Gasherbrum-II of 8.305m, where we were in 2006) where the original routes have changed because the mountain has changed. In our opinion, that is why the Austrian's route was higher than ours, because they didn't have to go down and could take a more direct route. In these 30 years the movements on the mountain may have displaced the seracs on the Northeast face and ice and snow blocks, and their aspect may have changed, therefore the original route would have been slightly modified.

In our opinion, the original route is the Austrians and the rest of routes can be considered variants of the original one. The most important difference is that after flanking and cross the seracs, the Austrians went up through the East Ridge, probably because the snow was of good quality at that moment. In our case, we flanked a bit more to the east and came up the same couloir that Iñaki Ochoa de Olza did, and that in its last part accesses the couloir of the summital Ridge. This couloir coincides with the SW Face Right hand couloir of the British route that follows the summital Ridge to the main peak.

So, there may still be debate. Our route is more similar to the Ochoa one, but the idea of the Northeast face route is from the Austrians E. Obojes and E. Putz, particularly taking into consideration that it was done in 1980, when information on the mountain was scarce and not very precise.

In order to give you more information and clarify as much as possible our route, we attach two photos taken from the C-3, at 7.400m (photos 1 and 2), and another one from the northwest face couloir (photo 3), so you can more easily and precisely judge what we did, and therefore, can also testify and make it known.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

CLIMBERS THAT REACH THE SUMMIT

It seems that there is contradictory information about who reached the summit that day, so we will tell you all we know.

If the Japanese climber, Kazuyoshi Kondo's, who came up with oxygen, says that he was with 2 Sherpas, then that day 18 people reached the summit. If he says he went up with 3 Sherpas, then, we were 19 to reach it. You will have to take his word for it.

What we can assure you is that the Italian climbers, M.Panzeri, M.Compagnioni and Renzo Benedettimy had no Sherpa with them.

The confusion comes from the fact that after the summit it was published that the Sherpa Mingma of Pasaban's expedition and the Sherpa of the Italian expedition did an exploration to decide the route in the afternoon before the summit attack. But the Sherpa of the Italian expedition did not climb the peak next day because he went down with one of the Italians, Alberto Magliano, who went up to C-3 but did not climb the peak.

We would also like to clarify that, from the Advanced C-2 at 7.050m the climbers Isabel García and Roberto Rodrigo went up without a Sherpa, and that Juanra Madariaga, Jaume Gibernau and Jorge Salazar were a team with the Nepalese Sherpa Pasang Nuru.

We think also just to mention that, with the Juanra Madariaga team, there was Jose Luís Quintana (Spanish), who went up just to the middle of the couloir, at 7.600m, and Jose M. Tey (Catalan), who went down near C-3 because of cold troubles.

Hoping to have clarified your doubts, we send you our regards and best wishes,

Jaume Gibernau & Juanra Madariaga
EXPEDITION SHISHA PANGMA TIBET 2010

Barcelona, 22 of March 2011.

All photos were taken on 17.05.2010