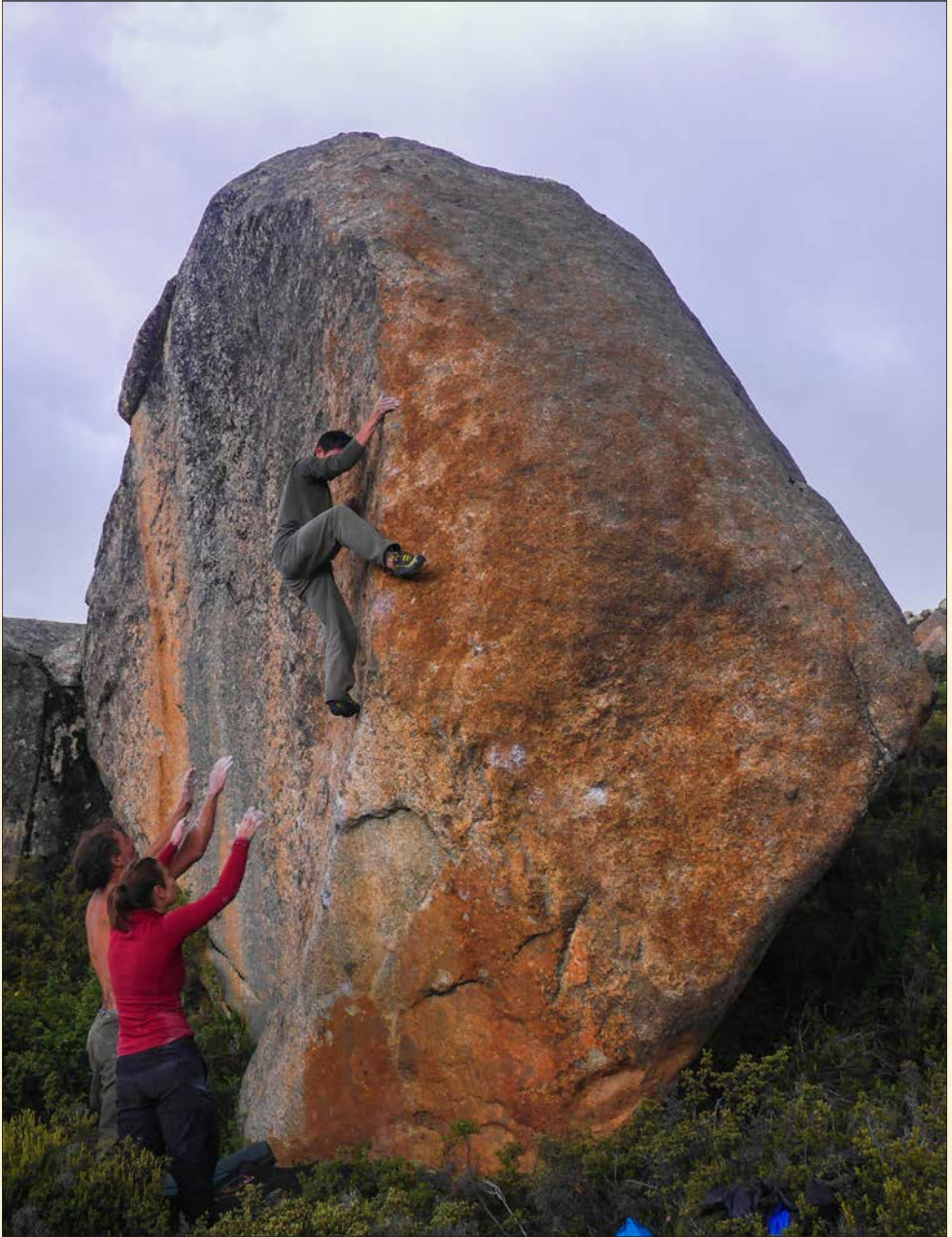


DAO CHENG

Bouldering and Climbing in Southwestern Sichuan



By: Michael Dobie

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

The climbing in Southwestern Sichuan is potentially dangerous. We use removable fall protection in the traditional styles and bouldering ethics. Do not attempt to climb here if you do not have thorough experience in traditional rock climbing and bouldering with a pad and spotters. Seek proper instruction from qualified individuals or guiding companies if you do not know what you are doing.

Climbing is at your own risk and if you get injured the closest advanced medical facility is in Chengdu. There are no rapid rescue services here yet but there is an airport with rapid transportation options . Because of this we ask everyone climbing in this area to be EXTRA careful and bring a first aid kit. It is a wilderness situation and a fun day out could turn into a nightmare.

The climbing in Western Sichuan and everywhere else in the world is at your own risk. I, Mike Dobie and those that submit route or problem information to me, are not liable for any injury or death sustained while climbing or inaccurate information stated in this guide or any other reason.

The Chinese Government and all that represent it and it's people are not liable for any injury or deaths sustains while doing outdoor activities. Participating in climbing activities without their knowledge or consent will keep the liability to your party.

In the event of an emergency:

It will probably be the climbers responding to the emergency. Those with medical and first aid experience should take control of the situation and plan the best first aid and wilderness evacuation plan, minimizing additional trauma to the injured. Get the injured to a car accessible area and drive to the clinic in Dao Cheng for further evaluation and treatment.



www.junshanclimber.com



The 2014 expedition team

Photo: Chris Miller

NOTE TO CLIMBERS

This guidebook is designed and equipped with information by climbers. The history of climbing in Southwestern Sichuan started with mountaineering. The major peaks and walls in the area, especially the Genyen range, were first sought after by the Chinese and international climbing communities. Until 2010, the area was known as having alpine routes, rock, and potential.

On a summer car trip from Lijiang in August of 2010, myself and a group of climbers stumbled upon Ruba Chaka Village just outside of Dao Cheng. The discovery of high altitude bouldering and traditional climbing inspired me to make a few development trips with a vision that the area would attract those interested in short crack and bouldering problems. This resulted in the first edition of Dao Cheng Bouldering Guidebook which was published electronically in June of 2011. The book outlined Ruba Chaka Village bouldering and traditional climbing potential, routes, trekking in the areas surrounding Dao Cheng, and mentioned a need for further exploration for climbing and bouldering north of Dao Cheng proper.

Abond, heard of our development, looked at the pictures in the guidebook and organized another expedition to Southwestern Sichuan the fall of 2011. He took our advice and explored the HaiziShan Preserve and the areas further north of Dao Cheng. Here they discovered a large concentration of bouldering. Late fall of the same year a small expedition headed by Rachel Ramier and her partner also established problems in this area.

In the fall of 2013 I visited the area JarJinJaBo (north and west of Litang) for some alpine adventures and have decided to add information to that area to this book. Also included in this new edition are the newest problems and most updated areas in Haizishan and Ruba Chaka Village.

If you are coming to climb in this area of the world please keep in mind that it is remote and a wild experience. The idea of bouldering and climbing here is rather new and it is best to keep a low profile with people confusing what you are doing with mountaineering. We hope that you enjoy the adventure!



Thors Hammer, Haizishan Preserve

Photo: Chris Miller

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Cover picture: DaWai on Battle for Endor V6, Haizishan Preserve

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INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the Dao Cheng Guide to Bouldering and Climbing in Southwestern Sichuan. The main areas of climbing include the HaiziShan Preserve, Ruba Chaka Village, Tuershan, and JarJinJaBo. All four are great to visit and offer their own sort of climbing highlights.

Ruba Chaka is a village near the town of Dao Cheng and offers the most comfortable climbing environment with the combination of daily hot spring baths and town luxuries.

Haizishan Preserve offers a world class bouldering at an altitude of 4300 meters and a backcountry camping setting. The **Tuershan Alpine Area** is great for those looking for alpine traditional climbing and off the beaten path experience. **JarJinJaBo (Cuopu Gou)** is a world class and accessible alpine rock climbing destination, known as the Patagonia of the East, according to the AAJ.



Ruba Chaka Rock

Photo: Chris Miller

The town Dao Cheng is the major town in the area and should serve as a base for any expedition that you plan to the climbing areas (unless your destination is JarJinJaBo. Litang serves as a better town to prepare from). Here you can access the internet, buy food and supplies, sort out transportation, get a bath in the hot springs of Ruba Chaka Village, and spend a few days acclimating. The local culture here is Tibetan and is very interesting to those that haven't experienced its practices, clothing's, architecture, and religion.

The Yading Nature preserve is located about 2 hours south of Dao Cheng. It is one of major tourist destinations in China and sees thousands of visitors daily during the high seasons. The main attractions are three peaks that reach 6000 meters in height. For the trekkers delight there is a trek that goes around these mountains and can be completed in one or two days which I have documented in this book.

Following the general information section of this guidebook and four sections which overview the areas for climbing there are a few sections on the local people, acclimatization notes, and other general items.



Haizishan Preserve

WEATHER AND PLANNING

The seasons in the Western Sichuan are very unique and specific to your trip's focus. The environment is harsh with an average altitude between 3700 meters and 4700 meters with surrounding hills and mountains pushing to 6,200 meters. With repeated trips to the area through the years these are the recommended times for bouldering and alpine climbing.

Bouldering: It is believed that August is the ideal time to be in the area for bouldering. There are thunderstorms about and you will get rained on, but the rock dries really fast. More importantly the mean temperatures are nice. Nights around 8-14C and days reaching 23 to 30c, depending on whether or not there is direct sunlight. The snow line is well above 6000m. Early July-Early October with August as the ideal.

Alpine rock climbing: The further into September and October you get the more chance you have for colder temperatures and snow. Snow line can drop below 4000m at this point in the year. Best months for climbing are similar to the bouldering season. Early July-Early October with August as the ideal.

Mountaineering: Fall and winter are the driest times in this part of the world and offers the most settled weather if you are climbing mixed routes.



Getting wood

Photo: Chris Miller

The following is a website we use for the weather forecasts in Dao Cheng:

<http://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=daocheng>

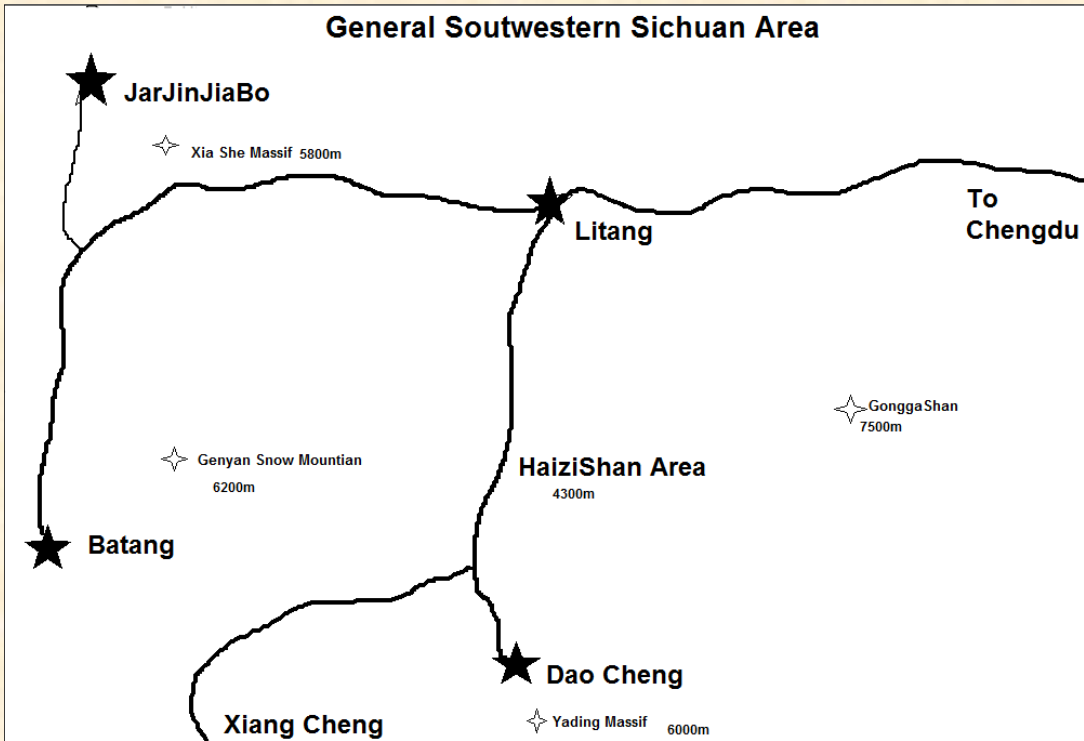
<http://www.accuweather.com>

AREA MAP



AREA MAP

General Southwestern Sichuan Area



Camping in the Haizishan Preserve

Photo: Chris Miller

DEVELOPER ETHICS

The areas described in this book are traditional rock climbing and bouldering areas. This means that we use natural or removable fall protection whenever possible. If a safe crack or natural feature is present on a climb, the placing of bolts is PROHIBITED! Bolts should only be placed at abseil stations, on top anchors or in unsafe climbing situations. Unless unsafe climbing situations are present the routes described in this guide have

been ascended without the aid of bolts or permanent fall protection. This terminology is very subjective and ones definition of “unsafe climbing” can be up to opinion. Please respect another’s opinion. In general bolting is permitted in the following situations: When loose rock is present and climbing past it could cause injury or death to the team, the climber, or to the people and structures below it. Where there is no fall protection present and a fall would mean injury or death



Rock has feelings too!

Photo: Chris Miller

for the team, the climber or to people and structures below. If the quality of rock around a crack is unsafe for removable protection. For top anchor chains and abseil stations.

With all this said unsafe climbing just might be what you are looking to develop and if you put up a dangerous route and send it, that is fine too!

If you are cleaning a problem it is fine to use a rope to scrub the problem, but please try to use a traditional anchor or webbing for your anchor.

Recently there has been discussion about chipping. Chipping should be avoided.

The granite in these areas can be rough and sharp. It should be discouraged to comfortize holds. Especially after a problem or route is established.

If a bolt was placed in order to aid past a dangerous or unsafe section and the dangers are removed during the cleaning process and the crack is protectable, please remove the bolt.

Please clean your routes and problems as much as possible!

DEVELOPER ETHICS

BOULDERING PROBLEM ASCENT TERMINOLOGY

A **First Ascent (FA)** of a problem is the first time that someone climbs a problem without falling to the top of the boulder or to the finishing hold.

TRADITIONAL CLIMBING ASCENT TERMINOLOGY

A **First Ascent (FA)** is the original exploration of a route. The first team or person to climb a potential route and make it safe for others is considered an FA. Gear can be used for aiding, cleaning, and fall protection on a FA. This ethic is a bit old school but we like to give credit to those with the skills and desire to risk life and limb in order to put up a new climb. The person with the FA has the option of naming the route.

A **First Free Ascent (FFA)** is the first time a route is climbed without the use of gear for aiding. During a FFA climbing equipment can only be used for fall protection. Fall protection cannot be preplaced for a FFA or any of the subsequent free ascents. No falling.



Chillin in Ruba Chaka

Photo: Chris Miller



IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

If you put up a route, our hats are off to you! You are making the way for others to follow on this frontier of climbing and bouldering!

Establishing New Boulder Problems and traditional climbs– If you or anyone in your party establishes a new route or problem please take a picture of the route and note the relative location of it. You can even draw a line on the picture and give the rating, like I’ve done with most of the problems and routes in this guide. Or you can leave it to me to do this.

Documented Potential Routes- Some of the routes and boulders I have documented are characterized as “potential”. This means that the boulder or route hasn’t been climbed. If you are a developer and want to send it...DO IT!! I have put notes the potential problems routes for your convenience.

Open Projects– There are some problems in this book that I’ve characterized as open projects. If you find them and send it that is great news!

Means of Abseil/rappelling– Please put means for abseiling once you have established a roped route.

Anchors-There are still anchors that do not have abseiling gear equipped. I have tried to give notes on these routes.

Falling rock- Also please be considerate of falling rock. We are new here and people have inhabited this area for a long time. Always evaluate where falling rock will go. If it threatens a person’s house or property, please take necessary precautions to eliminate damage to property.

First Ascents– If you climb a route that hasn’t seen a first ascent please let me know the information so that I update this guide.

Please report new route information to Mike Dobie at mdobie012@gmail.com.



Feeling it out

Photo: Mike Dobie

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each major area (i.e. Ruba Chaka Village and Haizishan) has been separated in this book into their own sections. Each area is further broken down into lesser areas for the purposes of clarification. There are approach notes and maps to each of these areas to help you navigate. I have tried to include as many pictures to help illustrate what routes or problems looks like. For most of the problems in this guidebook I have put a line over the route on the picture and given it a rating if it has been finished. I haven't described exactly where each problem or route is located, but have outlined an area that it is located in. Some problems have starting holds and they are specified with X.

For the purposes of reducing confusion I have used the following standard terminology.

Climber's right or left- this is an orientation phrase that means to the perspective of a climber facing the rock. Example: Climber's right would be as if you are climbing and the feature to your right side would be Climber' right. Sometimes I will just say right and left and it has the same meaning.

SS-Sit Start

XX- Marks the starting handholds

W/O-Walk off

We have ordered the notes and beta for traditional climbs as follows:

Example:

1.. First route 5.8 gear wires 3-10, TCU 00-1, camalot 1 to 5, bolt anchor. Lead up the crack on the left of the pillar. FA John Doe May 2012.e

First Route: Name of Route

Gear wires 3-10, TCU 00-1, camalot 1 to 5- Necessary gear to climb safely. Wires designates nut or stopper sizes needed, TCU sizes used on the route, and camalot refers to Black Diamond C4 sizes needed. Sometimes it is necessary to have doubles and even triples of certain size, which we communicate as double 2 or triple 2 to 4 etc. Other information needed will also be described in this section of the route information.

Bolt anchor or means of abseiling or rappelling- means that you will abseil or rappel from the bolt anchor.

Route beta- Information of the climb

First and free Ascent Information- Sometimes who climbed the route first and dated.

RATINGS

We use the Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) and the V grades to rate the routes and problems within the area. See table with comparisons to other ratings. We have sometimes used the symbol (+) to refer to a route that is harder for the grade and (-) for a route that might be a little easy for the number grade. An example is a route that is V0+ is a harder V0. Or 5.10- would be the same as an easy 5.10 or 5.10a, a 5.11+ would be in the 5.11d range. Ratings are subjective and keep in mind that one person's V1 might be another's V2.

Australian (Ewbank)	US (YDS)	French	UK*	UK Technical	UIAA	V Grades		
10	5.3	2	D		I			
11	5.4				II			
12	5.5				3		VD	III
13								IV
14		4a	V					
15	5.6	4b						
16	5.7	5-	S	4c	V+			
17	5.8	5	VS	5a	VI-			
18	5.9	5+/6a-		5b	VI			
19	5.10a	6a		5b	VI+			
20	5.10b	6a+/6b	HVS	5c	VII-		V0	
21	5.10c	6b+	E1		VII			
22	5.10d/5.11a	6b+/6c	E2		VII+		V1	
	11a				6c+		VIII-	V2
23	5.11a/b	6c+	E3	6a	VIII	V3		
24	5.11c/d	7a			6a/b	VIII+	V4	
25	5.12a	7a+	E4	6b	IX-	V5		
26	5.12b	7b/7b+					6b/c	IX
27	5.12c/d	7c	E5	6c	IX+	V7		
28	5.13a	7c+			6c	X-	V8	
29	5.13b	8a	E6	7a	X		V9	
30	5.13c	8a+			7a	X+	V10	
31	5.13d	8b	E7	7a	XI-	V11		
32	5.14a	8b+					7a	XI
33	5.14b	8c	E8	7b	XI+	V13		
34	5.14c	8c+					7b	XI
35	5.14d	9a	E9	7b	XI+	V14		

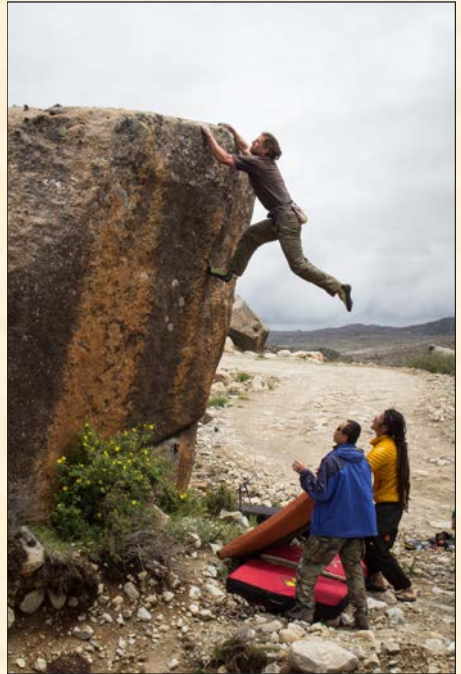
LIFE ON THE PLATEAU



Coffee and Pads, Ruba Chaka Village



Haizishan Campground



Haizishan Preserve



Pebble groveling, Haizishan Preserve



Tibetan Wildlife, Haizishan Preserve

GETTING TO DAO CHENG

GET THERE BY AIR: First and foremost, the easiest way to get to Dao Cheng is to fly directly to the Dao Cheng/Yading Airport. Currently there are only flights here from Chengdu, Sichuan. This makes things much easier and quicker than travelling overland. Prices of tickets are becoming less and less each year. Currently ticket price is about 1000 RMB a person one way. The other option is overland travel which takes a few days. But offers a memorable experience and costs about 250RMB from Lijiang, Yunnan or 350 RMB from Chengdu. The faster of the two overland routes is starting from Lijiang, Yunnan. Shipping pads and gear makes things easier!!! See the Dao Cheng information section for logistics with shipping...

OVERLAND FROM LIJIANG, YUNNAN— Getting to Western Sichuan overland is an adventure in itself. This route is known as the “back door route” from Lonely Planet into Sichuan and it is quite an adventure on public transportation. Once you get to Lijiang, Yunnan a basic itinerary would look like this if you don’t have your own car.

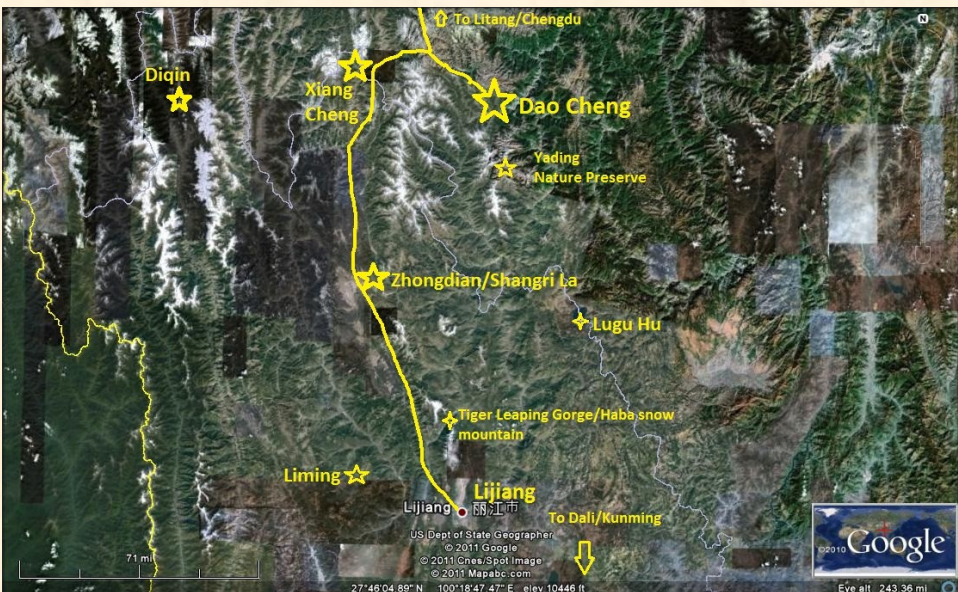
Public Transportation Option

Day 1– Public bus from Lijiang (2400 meters) to Zhongdian(3200 meters) commonly known as Shangri-la. Buy a bus ticket to Dao Cheng or Xiang Cheng when you arrive to Zhongdian (Shangri-La) for the next day (keep in mind that you might want a rest day in Shangri-la/Zhongdian because of acclimatization. (Lijiang to Shangri-la bus price 50 RMB)

Day 2– Public Bus to Dao Cheng. (note that it is an epic bus journey through some beautiful mountains). (Zhongdian to Dao Cheng ~200 RMB)

UPON ARRIVAL IN DAO CHENG- Once you arrive in Dao Cheng it is best to find one of the many guesthouses, recommended is Drolma’s Guesthouse. Drink lots of water and eat lots of food as you acclimate.

General Map Lijiang to Dao Cheng



GETTING TO DAO CHENG

OVERLAND FROM CHENGDU, SICHUAN— This way is well traveled by travelers as most of the journey is on G-318, China’s famous Sichuan-Tibet Highway. You will pass some amazing sights and mountains along the way, including Gongga Shan (~7500m) and other peaks above 6000m near Kang Ding There is another major range of peaks west of Litang. This range’s highest peak is called Genyen (6200m).

Back to the route, very roughly speaking there are public buses that travel on the highway to Tibet from Chengdu.

Public Transportation Option

Day 1: Chengdu to KangDing Public bus (160 RMB)

Day 2: KangDing to Litang. Public Bus (89 RMB)

Day 3: Litang to Dao Cheng. Public Bus (~50-100 RMB)

UPON ARRIVAL IN DAO CHENG— Once you arrive in Dao Cheng it is best to find one of the many guesthouses, recommended is Drolma’s Guesthouse. Drink lots of water and eat lots of food as you acclimate.

General Map of the Area



GUIDING SERVICES

There are a number of outfits that can help you get equipped and outfitted for an expedition to this area. Here are a few which can be real help, especially if you do not speak Chinese.

Wona YHA Guesthouse

The Wona Guesthouse is located in Laishihai, Lijiang. A great place to stay if you don't like the bustle of the old town. They will help you organize transportation to Liming, Dao Cheng, and other wild parts of China for climbing as well as guiding, trekking, and mountaineering services. My good friend and climbing partner Zhoulei runs it and he rocks!

www.wonalijiang.com
+86 1339 8882346
+86 0888 5116525



Colours of Discovery

Logistics and Climbing support in China and Photography

<http://www.coloursofdiscovery.com>

info@coloursofdiscovery.com

Climb Dali

About ClimbDali: Located in the heart of Yunnan, China, Climb Dali offers guiding and instruction to all level of rock climbers, including beginners. We specialize in developing customized outdoor adventure programs that can include any combination of climbing, trekking, cycling, kayaking and abseiling. We provide certified guides and all the necessary equipment for each trip. Our quality artificial bouldering wall and free rental in our climbing club/boulder bar in Dali Old Town is also a great place to relax on rest days. Come by for free instruction, training tips and to get hooked on climbing! Beginners welcome.

Overview of Rock Climbing in Dali

There are currently 80 sport climbing routes in and around Dali. These are spread across 4 crags and range in difficulty from 5.7 to 5.13a. With continued development Dali has the potential to become one of the premier climbing destinations in China. Its gneiss slab, sedimentary rock, and overhanging limestone has the potential for many more sport routes, traditional routes, multi-pitch routes and hundreds of boulder problems. While Dali lacks the abundant karsts of Yangshuo it boasts great weather all year-round, has awesome views, an amazing atmosphere and there are no access issues. Dali also hosts a number of other activities including trekking, cycling, kayaking, swimming and paragliding, making it an ideal location to spend rest days.



DAO CHENG

Dao Cheng is the small town located at 3700m in Southwestern Sichuan. Here you will find your basic resources, accommodation, and transportation services. The town is comprised of two main streets and you can find restaurants and shops all over.

ACCOMMODATION

There are many guesthouses to choose from. Many of the small Tibetan homes are guesthouses and offer a great cultural experience. There is also a hostelling international in Dao Cheng, but in the past there has been some bad reviews about them being really nosy about your reasons in the area and have caused trouble for people. There are many others to choose from. We all recommend the Drolma's Guesthouse.

Drolma's Guesthouse: A good place to stay when you are in Dao Cheng and offers a hang out and access Ruba Chuku Village for bouldering. They are close to places to rent bicycles for transportation to and from Ruba Chuku and can set you up with minibuses for transportation to Haizishan, Litang, Yaging, and beyond. You can mail bouldering pads to this guesthouse.

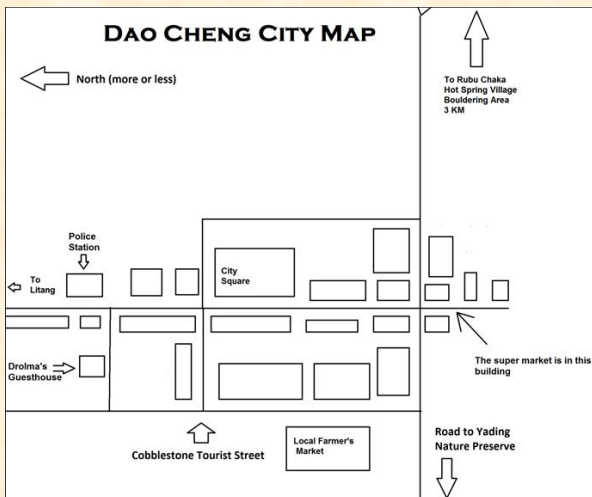
Address: 50 Dexi Street, Dao Cheng County, Sichuan 627750

Phone: 13684491026

Email: zhuomarenjia@163.com

POSTAL SERVICE

Please note that you can post bouldering pads and gear to and from Dao Cheng Town. Although it will require a Chinese address and will go more smoothly with a Chinese speaker. Use China Post and most parcels/pads need to be shipped in canvas bags. Costs are about 300 RMB (~40 USD) Yangshuo, Guanxi to Dao Cheng for 6 pads.



DAO CHENG

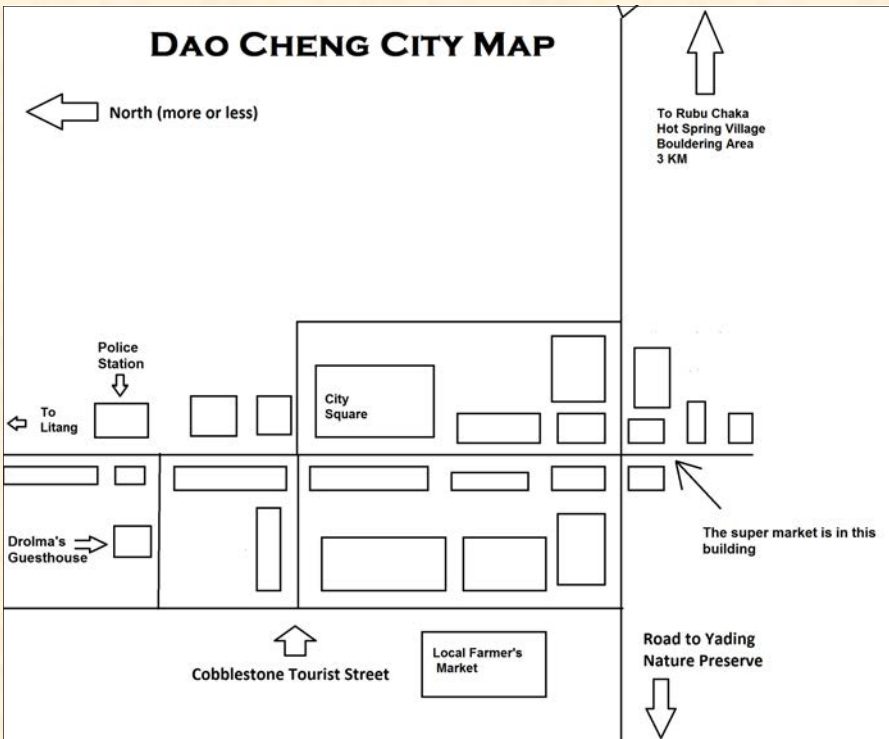
TRANSPORTATION

There are many small minibuses on the main streets of Dao Cheng that you can hire for rides to Haizi Shan, Tuer shan, Litang, Yading Nature Preserve, JarJinJaBo, and Xiang Cheng. These can also be organized through Drolma's Guesthouse. There are also many places to rent bicycles. This is probably the easiest way to get out to Ruba Chuku Village with your bouldering pads while in Dao Cheng.

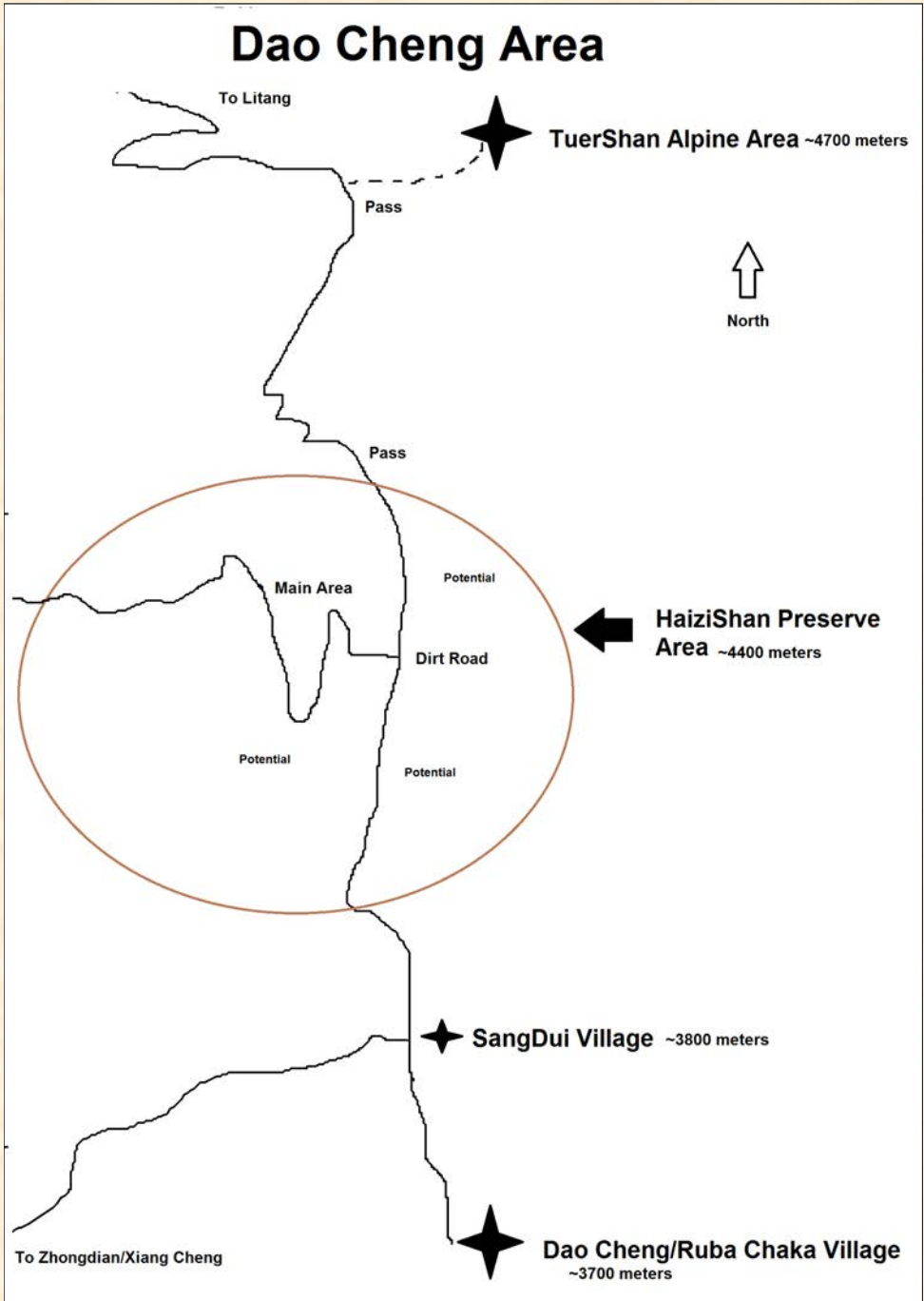
A Driver's number that has given us transport to **Haizishan** and **JarJinJaBo (Cuopu Gou)** in the past: 13568677576

FOOD SERVICE

On the main street there are many small restaurants to choose from. There is also a market that I've located on the map that you can use to by resources for various camping trips to the bouldering and climbing areas. When you are out camping at Haizishan and in other wild areas it is easy to organized stew style meals with the resources you have access to in Dao Cheng. The instant noodles can get boring. Aside from fresh fruits, vegetables, and tofu products it is also good to note you can get resources like instant oatmeal, Yak jerky, compressed biscuits, and yogurt in Dao Cheng.



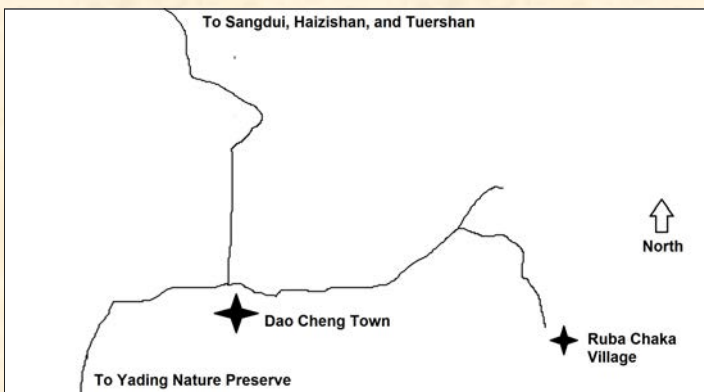
AREA MAP



RUBA CHAKA VILLAGE

Ruba Chaka Village is a great spot to visit with good climbing and a very relaxing atmosphere. Like previously mentioned, it is best to go climbing when first arriving as you acclimatize. It's only 3 kilometers from Dao Cheng and has some great hot springs and some local accommodation. Over the years we climbers have agreed that it is best, most comfortable, and cheapest to stay in Dao Cheng town and day trip to the village for bouldering using **rented bicycles** for transportation.

Approach: There are two major roads that run through the town of Dao Cheng. As you head south into town from Litang/Xiang Cheng towards the city center you will eventually hit the only major intersection with a traffic light. Here turn left. After about 1km the road will veer to the left as you head into some more traditional housing. Soon afterwards there will be a road to the right with some mechanic shops nearby. Turn right and it will take you all the way out to the village. This road, the only road into Ruba Chaka Village, is a point of reference for the approaches to the some of the climbing areas.



ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

There are some guesthouses in the village itself. Most if not all are ran by local villagers and have hot spring baths. It is possible to stay there if it is more convenient for your trip. Most tourist and business in the village is for the hot springs. Which is a nice thing to do after a day of bouldering, but bad for the skin. Costs are usually 20-40 RMB for all you can soak. We have bought cooked dinners there, but it is expensive compared to Dao Cheng.

CLIMBING ACCESS

The boulders and climbs around this area do not fall on any national parks and there are no tickets for price of entry. There is no regulations for bouldering in Sichuan. Please respect any boulders that have evidence of religious practices. This would include rocks that have Tibetan writing on them and the largest spire like rocks that overlook the village. In the hills around the village you will find small houses. Please do not approach or be loud around these houses. There may be a meditating monk inside. **We are guests in this village and keep a good spirit about you.**

RUBA CHAKA VILLAGE



Area 5, Ruba Chaka Village

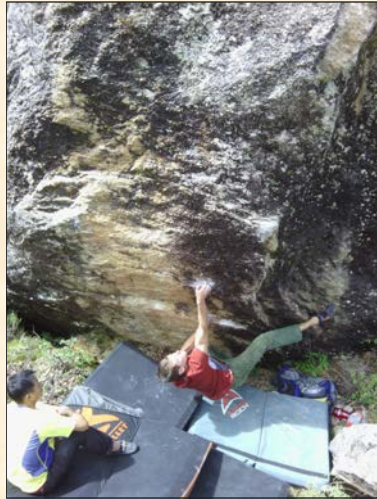
Photo: Chris Miller



Area 1, Ruba Chaka Village



Crossing the creek to Area 5, Ruba Chaka Village

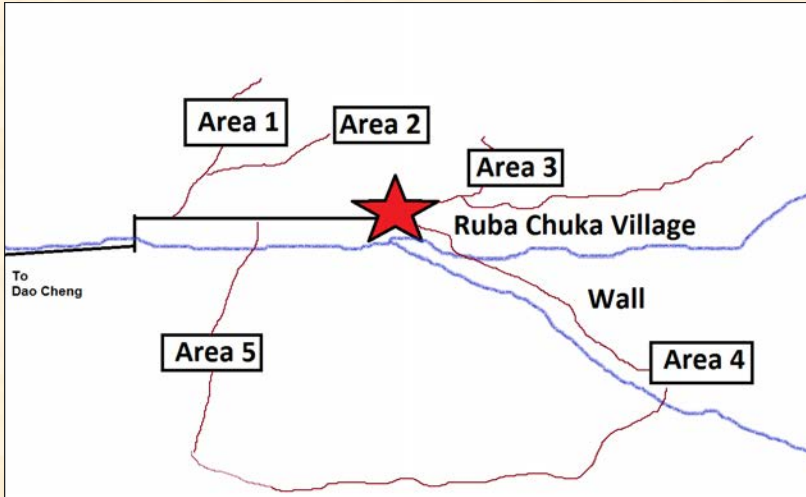


AntiFlag V4 Area 3, Ruba Chaka



CLIMBING AREAS

The climbing in and around the Ruba Chaka village area is divided into 5 areas. Below is a map of those five area. Each area is further divided into a sub area. I've taken a picture of each sub area and have organized the routes and problems in a each area as you would approach them on the trails. Please see the map below to help orientate yourself. It is not completely to scale.



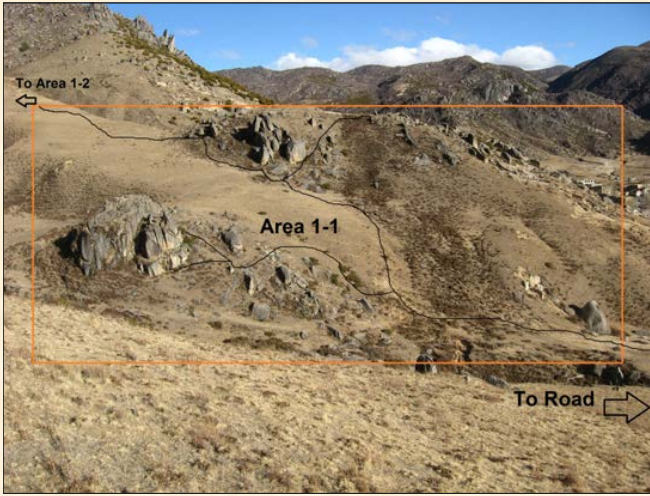
AREA 1

Area 1 was the first place that we visited when we stumbled upon the boulders here. There is still plenty to explore and problems to develop.

Approach: As you approach Ruba Chaka village, you will cross over a bridge and shortly after you will see a small valley on the left (Northeast side of road) with a few easily approachable boulders. Directly across the street on the right there is a flat area the could be a parking lot. If you are approaching from Ruba Chaka village you need to walk back toward Dao Cheng. There will be a ridge on your right while walking down the road and when the ridge ends you will find the same approach valley on your right (Northeast side of road).



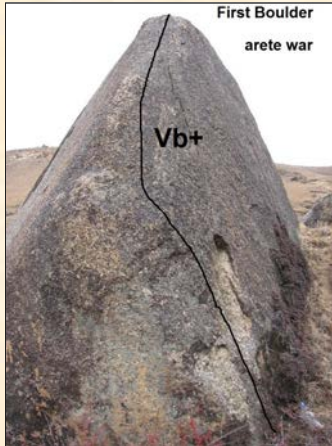
AREA 1-1



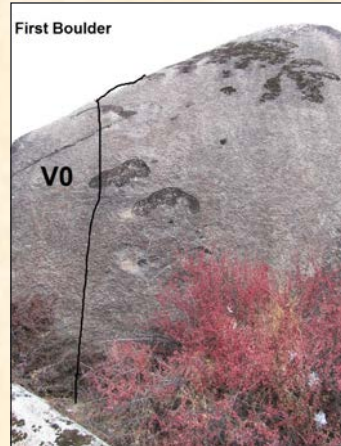
The following problems are located in the designated area.



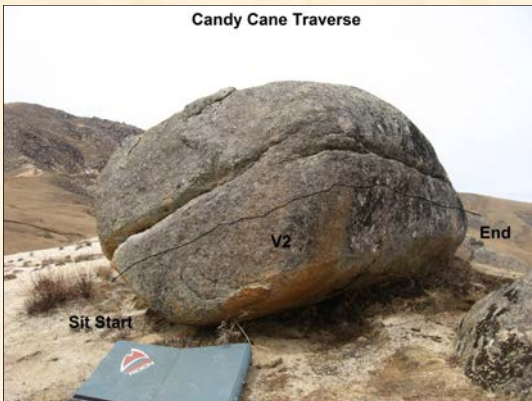
Yak tea if you know what I mean V1 FA Mike Dobie 2010



Arete War Vb+ FA Mike Dobie 2010



Slab Problem V0 FA Mike Dobie 2010

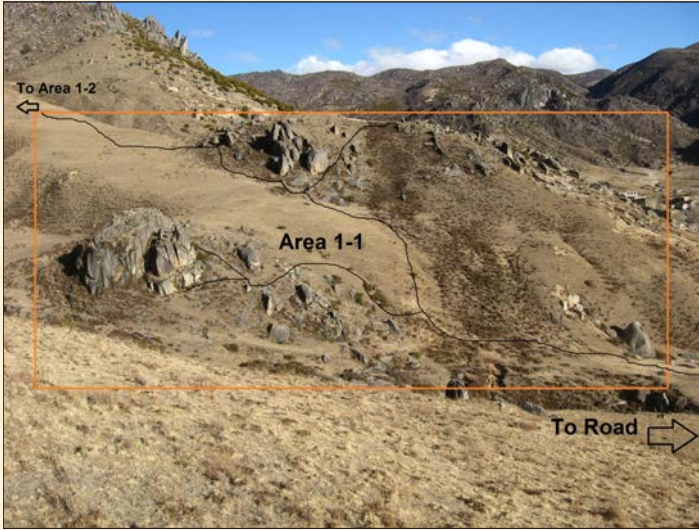


Candy Cane Traverse V2 FA Mike Dobie 2012 ***At end it could be topped out

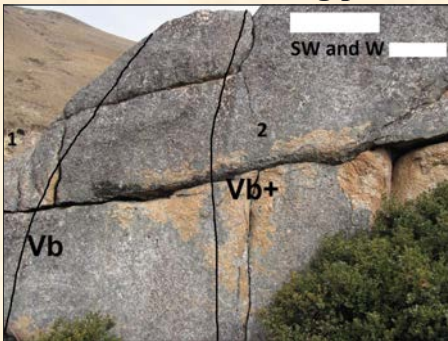


V2 SS FA Eben Farnworth 2012

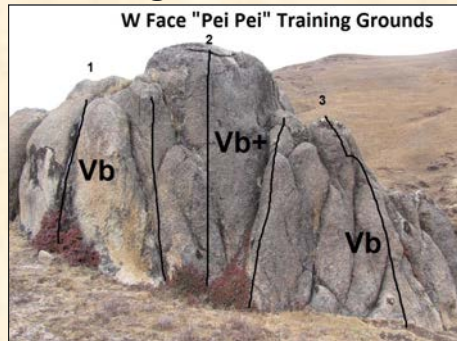
AREA 1-1



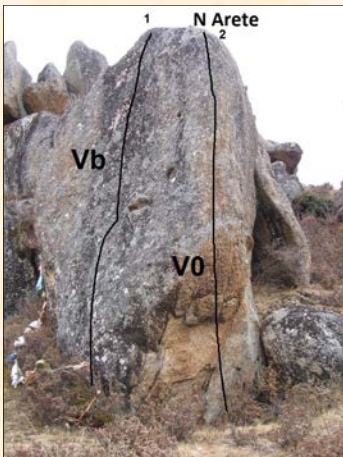
The following problems are located in the designated area.



1. Vb SS FA Tristan Gebhart 2010 2. The Squat Vb+ SS FA Mike Dobie 2010



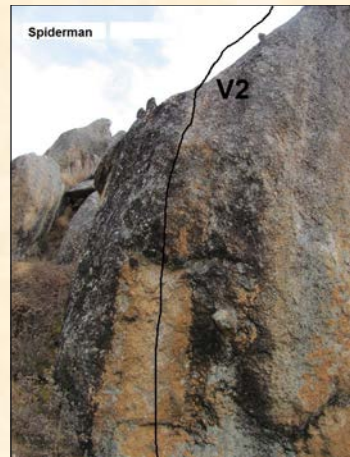
1. Vb FA Pei Pei 2010 2. Vb+ FA Pei pei 2010 3. Vb FA Pei Pei 2010



1. Vb FA Andy Dixon 2010 2. Delicious V0 FA Mike Dobie

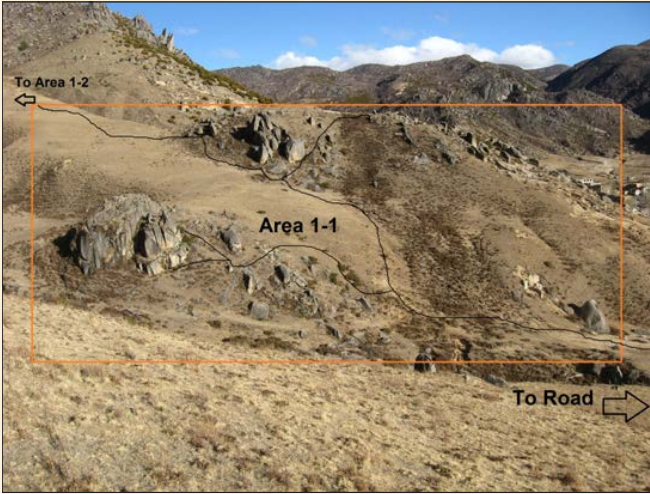


Open problem



Spiderman: Slab to the sloper V2 FA Mike Dobie 2010

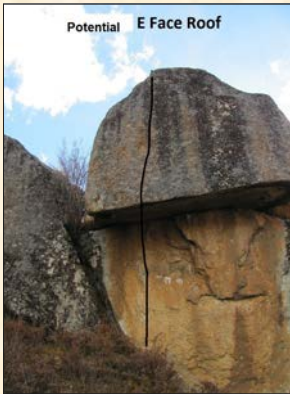
AREA 1-1



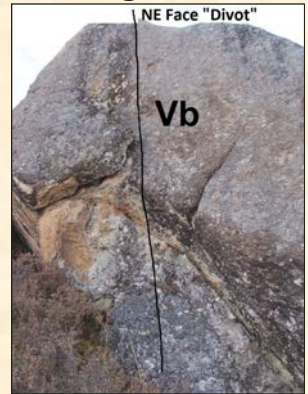
The following problems and routes are located in the designated area.



Vb FA Andy Dixon 2010



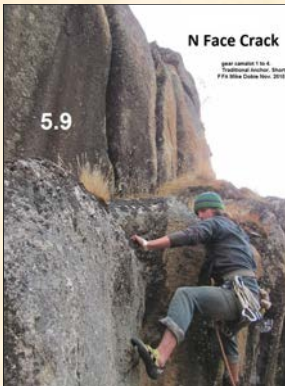
Open Project



Vb FA Andy Dixon 2010



The Mole V0 FA Mike Dobie 2010



I miss trad 5.9 "short" FA Mike Dobie 2010

Special thanks to The North Face China



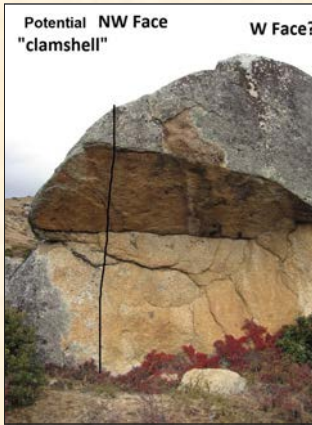
AREA 1-2



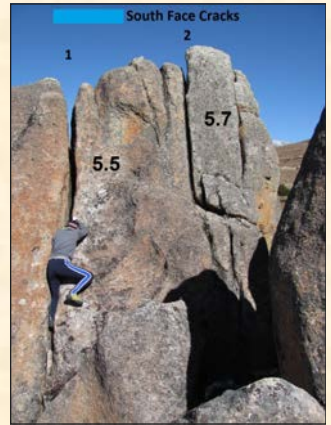
The following problems and routes are located in the designated area.



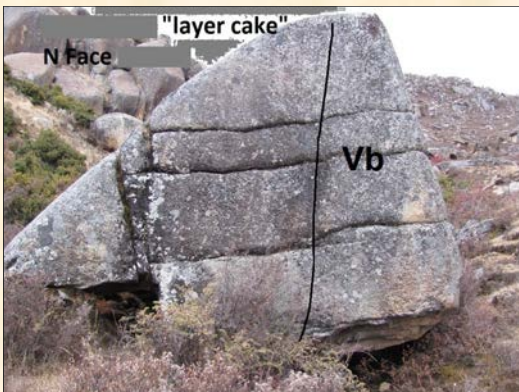
Open Project



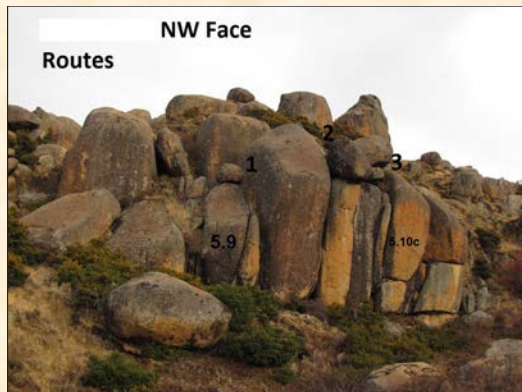
Open Project



1. Crack Problem 5.5 FA Mike Dobie 2010
2. Crack Problem 2 5.7 FA Mike Dobie 2010

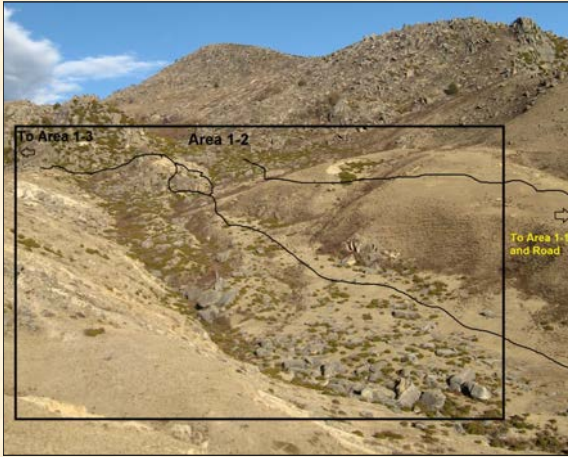


Layer Cake Vb FA Tristan Gebhart 2010

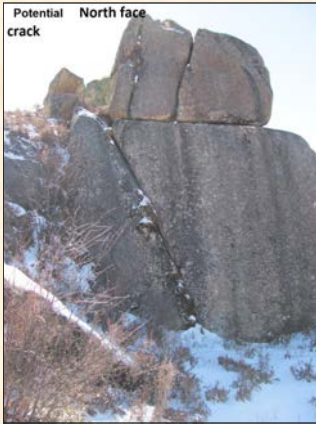


1. Crack problem 1 5.9 FA Mike Dobie 2010 2. Open 3. 5.10c FA Mike Dobie 2010

AREA 1-2



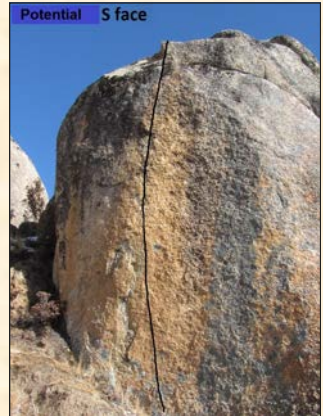
The following problems and routes are located in the designated area.



Potential



V0 FA Mike Dobie 2010



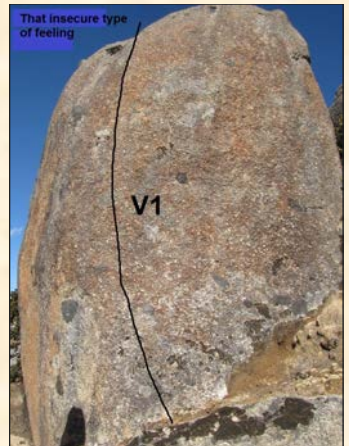
Open project



Open project

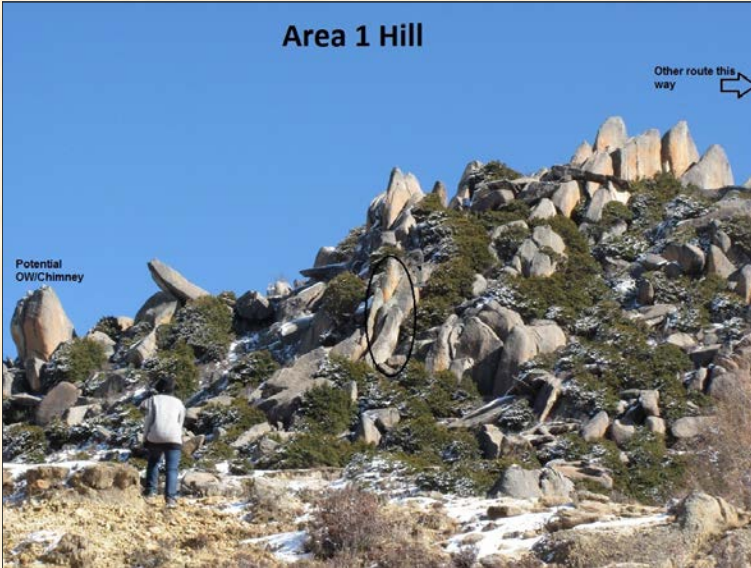


Open project

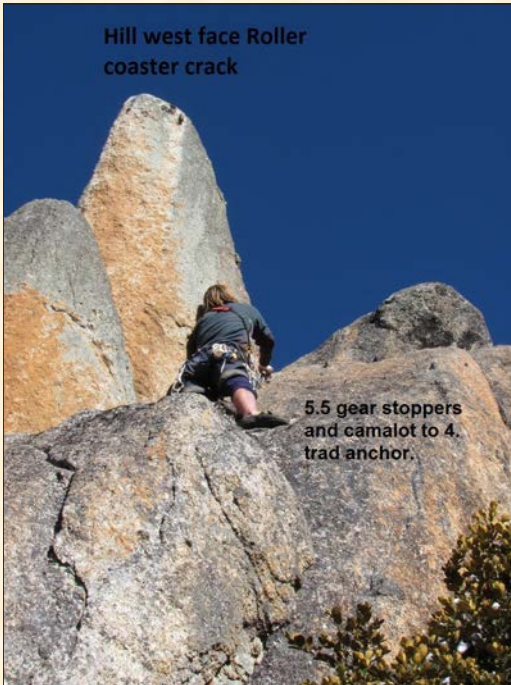


Insecure type of feeling V1 FA Mike Dobie 2010

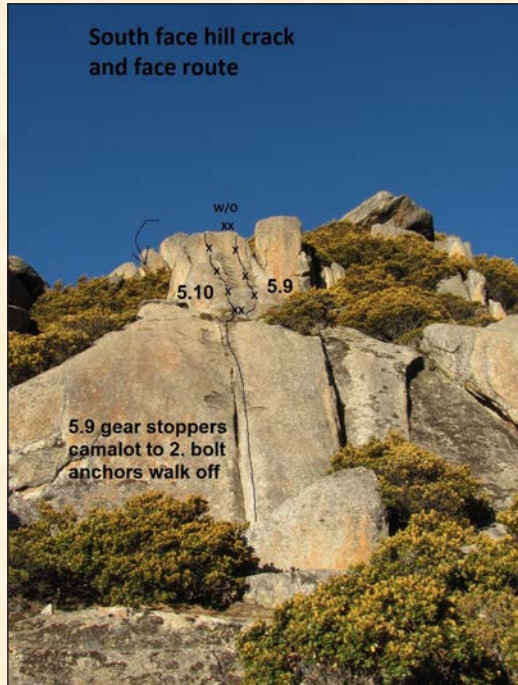
AREA 1 HILL



These traditional routes are on the Area 1 hill

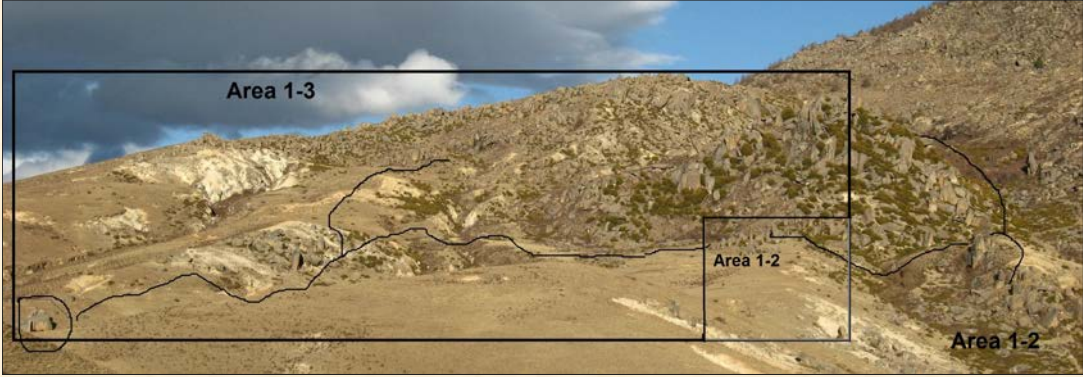


FA Mike Dobie 2010

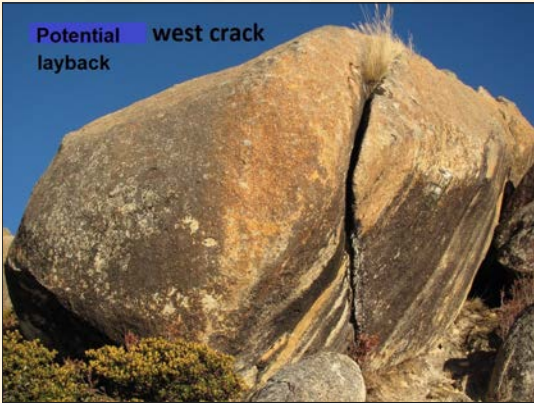


FA Mike Dobie 2010

AREA 1-3

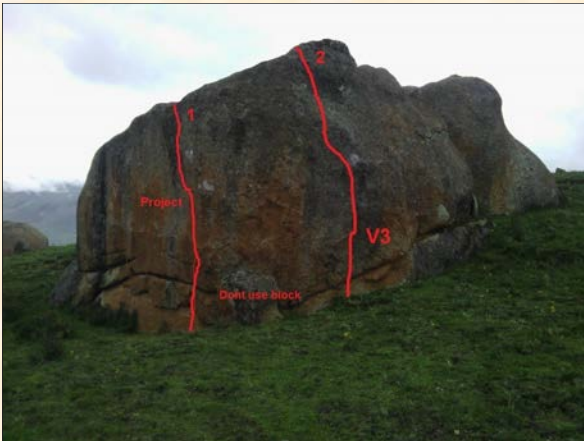


The following problems are located in the designated area.



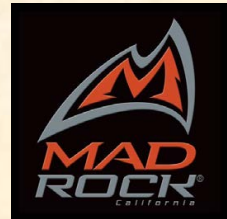
Open Project

1. Rainman V4 FA DaWei 2. Open project 3. V0 FA Chris Miller

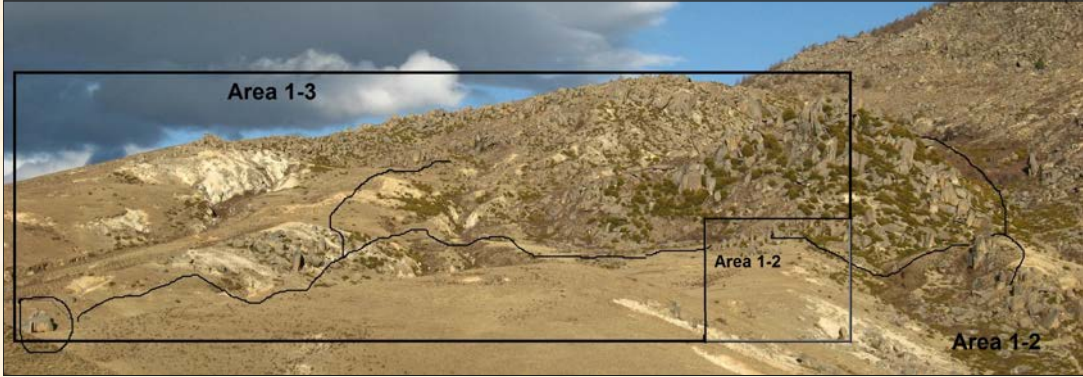


1. Open Project 2. V3 FA Kristine Mckay- Do not use block

A Big Special Thanks to



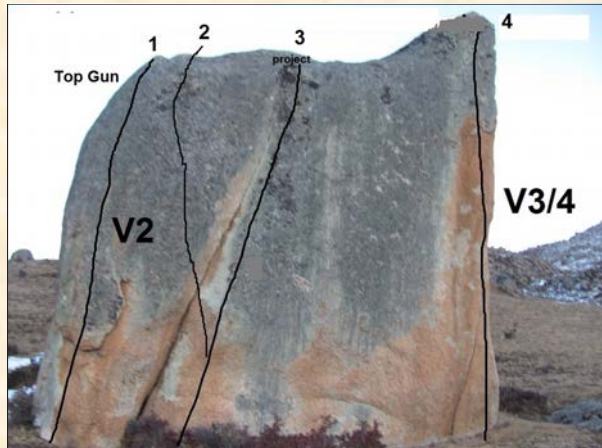
AREA 1-3



The following problems are located in the designated area.



1. Arete V3/4 FA Da Wei 2014
2. V5 FA Da Wei 2014
3. V0 FA Xiao Ke
4. V5 FA SanwenYu

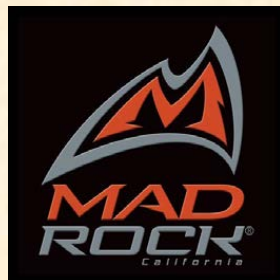
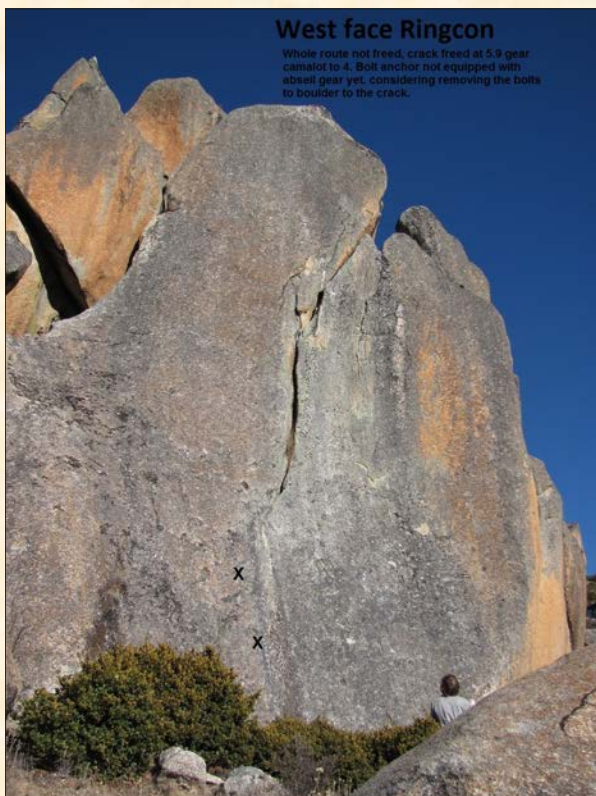


1. Top Gun V2-FA Mike Dobie 2010
2. Mission Impossible V2-FA Raul Saucó 2014
3. Open Project
4. Arete V3/4-FA Da Wei

AREA 1-3



The following problems and routes are located in the designated area.



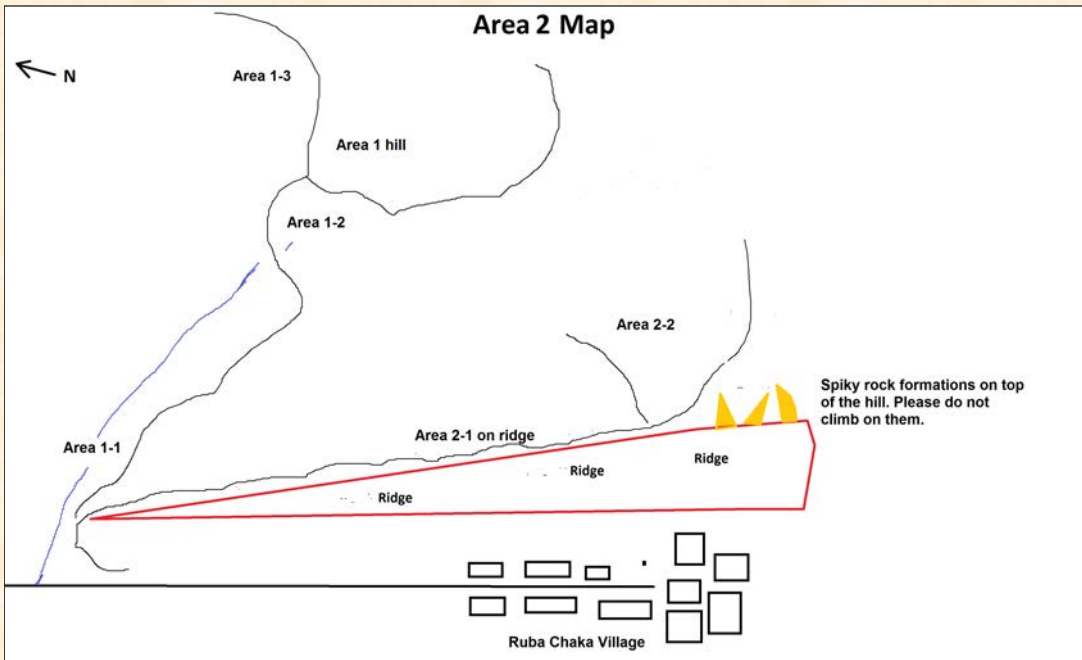
AREA 2

Area 2 is nice hike up a ridge to the prominent spiky rock formations on top of the hill above Ruba Chaka village. Both of the climbing areas have some great problems. If you continue walking up the ridge to the left of the spiky formations you will find more boulders that I haven't documented in this guidebook.

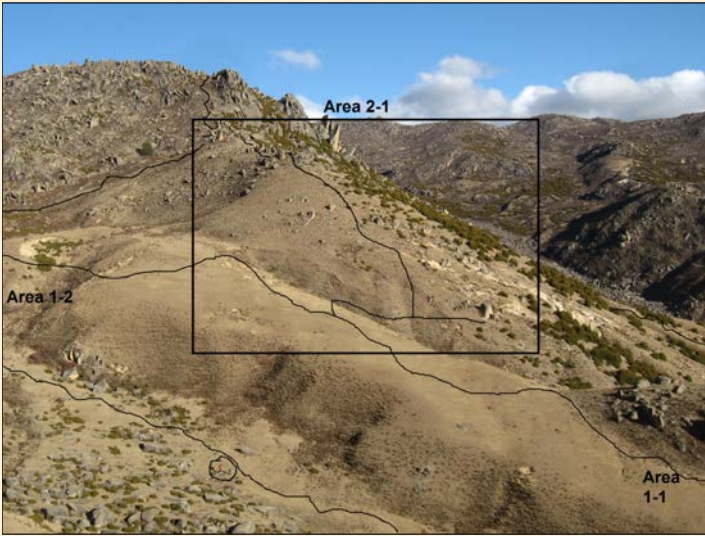


Gremlins 2, Area 2

Approach: The approach is the same for Area 1 except you want to climb up the ridge that runs parallel and south along the road back towards the direction of the village up towards the spiky formations. You can also just head up the hill from the road to the ridge proper for a more direct approach.



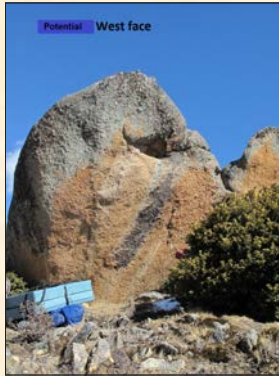
AREA 2-1



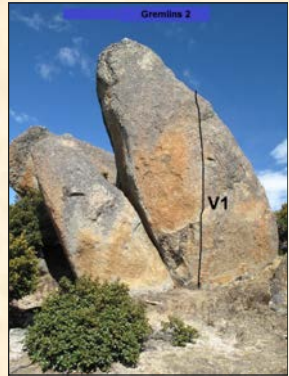
The following problems are located in the designated area.



Open Project: Nice crack feature



Open Project



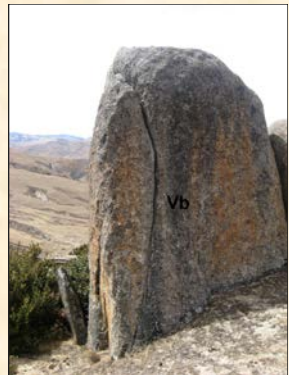
Gremlins 2 V2 FA Mike Dobie 2010



Open Project

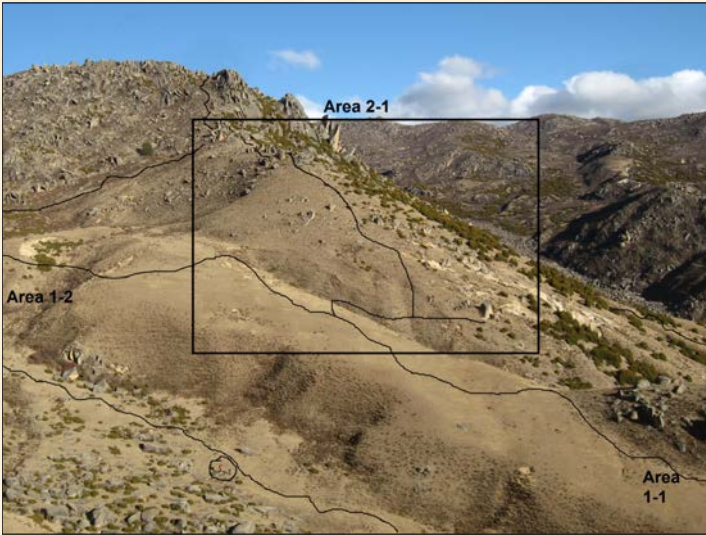


Open Crack Problem

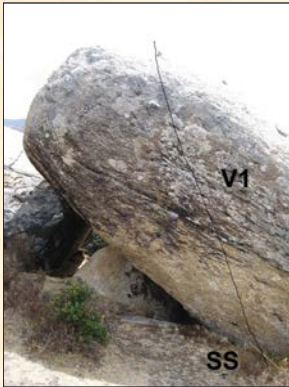


Vb FA Sarah Rasmussen 2012

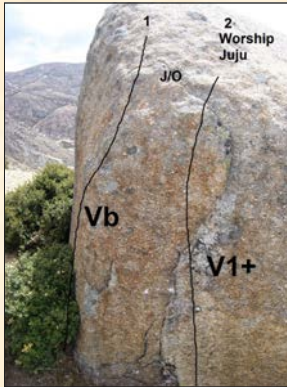
AREA 2-1



The following problems are located in the designated area.



V1 SS FA Eben Farnworth 2012



1. Vb FA Mike Dobie 2012
2. Worship JuJu V1 FA Mike Dobie 2012



V4 SS FA Eben Farnworth 2012



Open Project

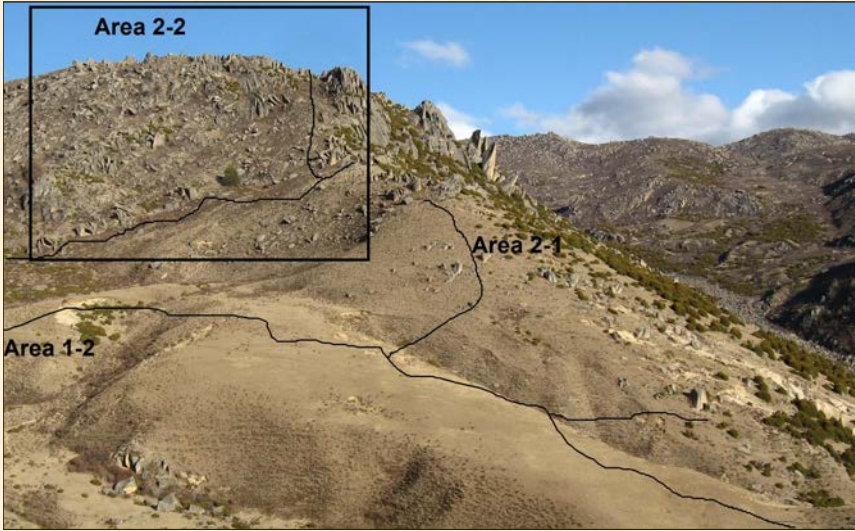


Potential Crack Problem



V3 SS FA Eben Farnworth 2012

AREA 2-2



The following problems are located in the designated area.



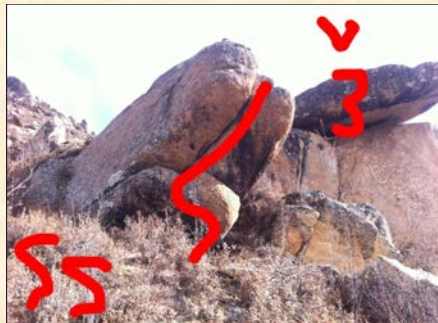
Open Project



1. Open Project
2. Vb FA Zhoulei 2012



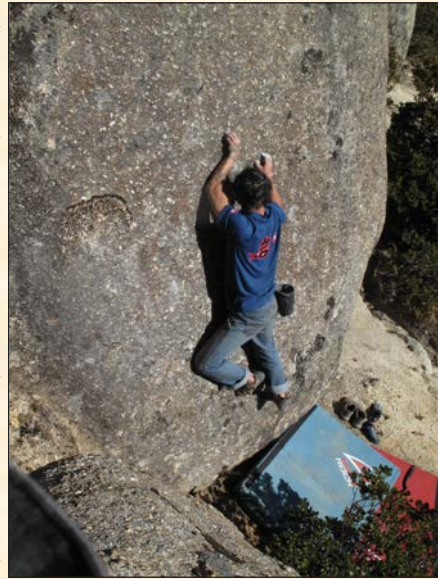
V3 FA Eben Farnworth 2012



V3 SS FA Zhoulei 2012

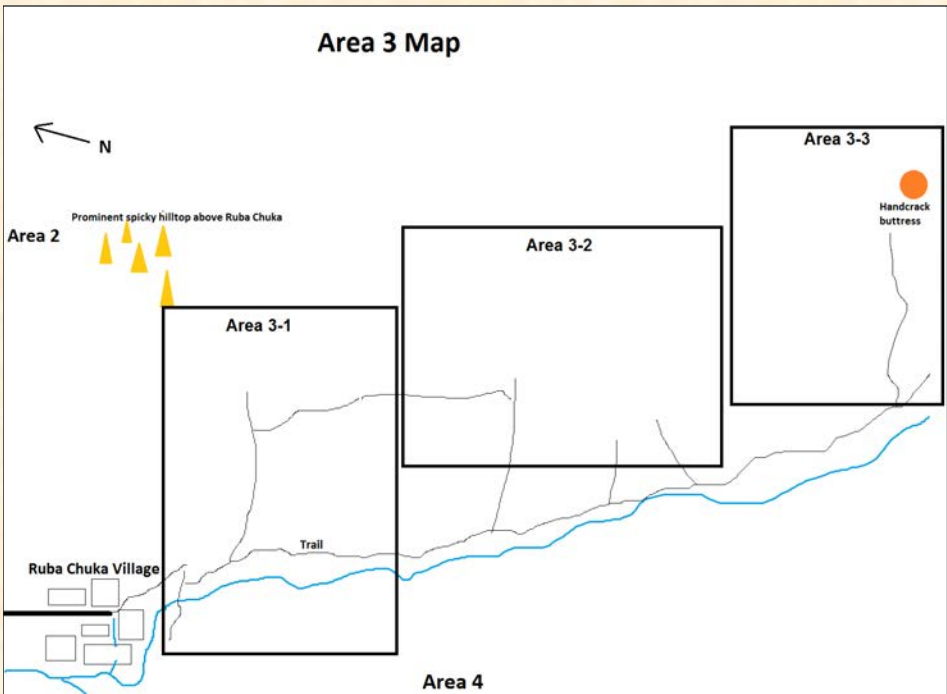
AREA 3

Area 3 is probably the largest area and has the highest concentration of boulders. Further up the valley it looks to be some good single pitch traditional routes and more boulders if you are making the walk.

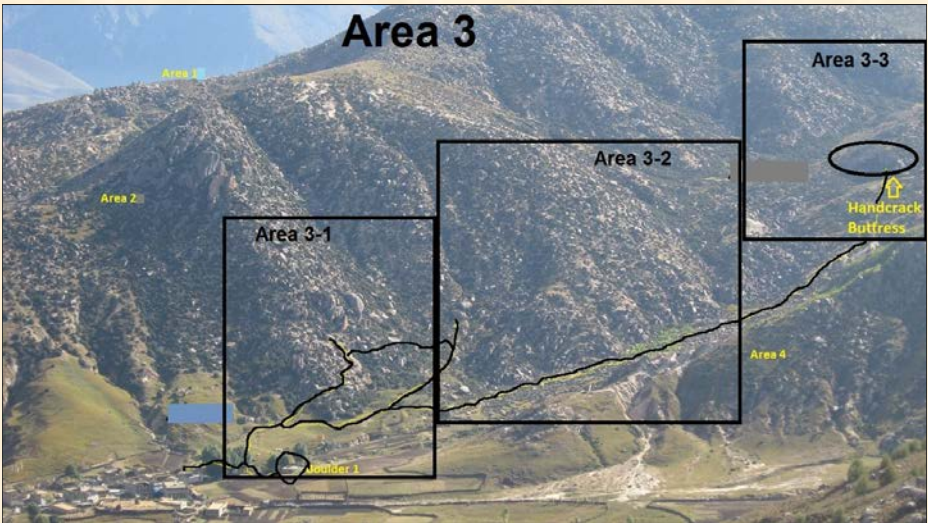


Slab Problem, Area 3

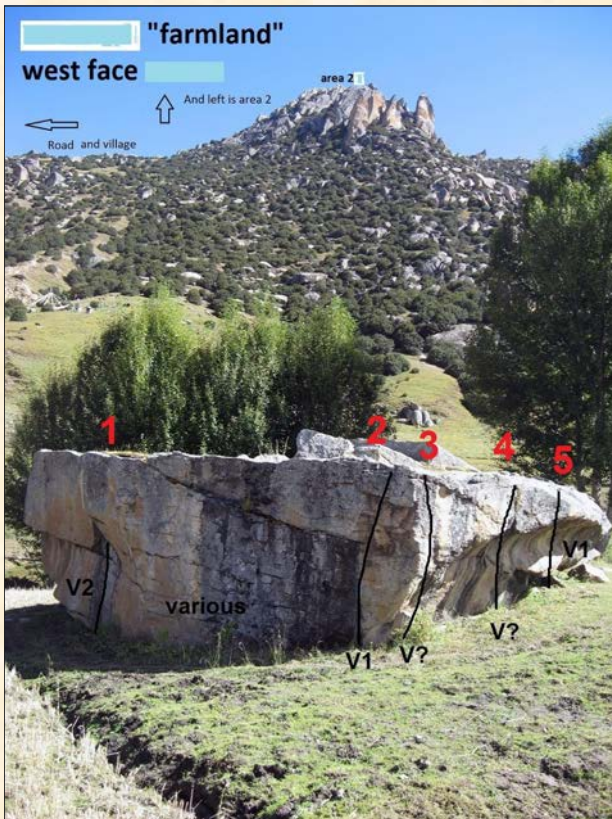
APPROACH: Walk through Ruba Chaka Village to the south and southeast. Cross the steaming hot springs coming out of the ground and head onto the fields beyond. From here you should be able to see a major valley heading up to the south and east or just straight ahead. Area 3 extends all the way up this valley and everything to the left. Most of the routes described thus far in Area 3 are on the hillside to the east or the left. The farmland boulder is located in the field just out of the village on the right.



AREA 3-1

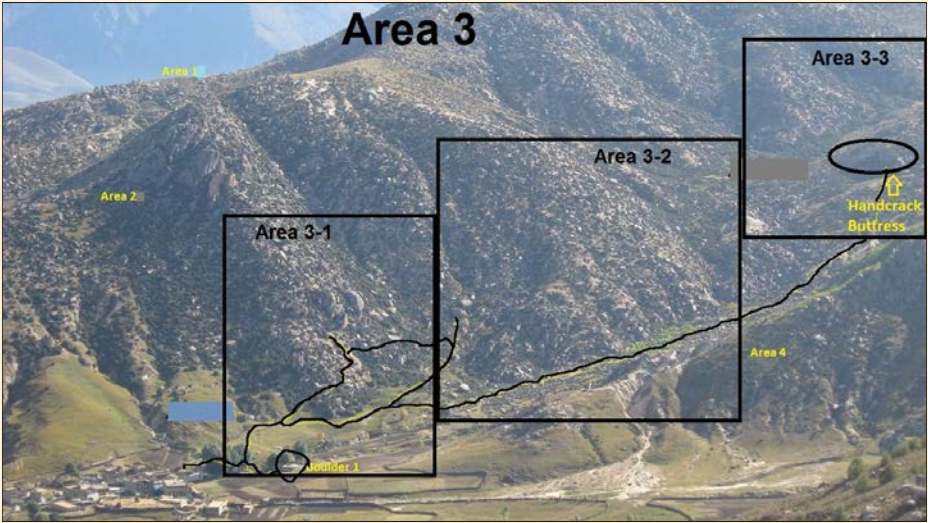


The following problems are located in the designated area.



1. PigWarfare V2 SS FA Mike Dobie 2010
2. The Crimpy V1SS FA Mike Dobie 2010
3. Open Project
4. Open project
5. V1 SS FA Mike Dobie 2010
6. There are a number of traverse problems here. Maybe try to traverse the whole rock?

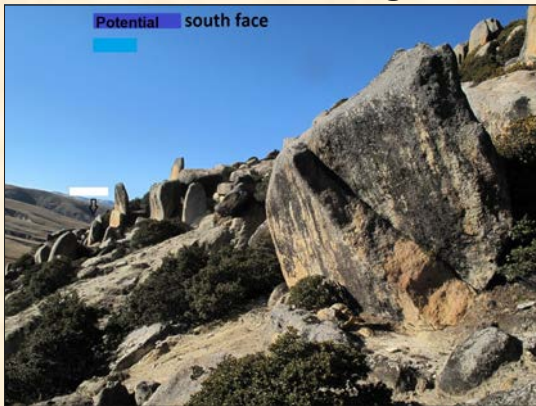
AREA 3-1



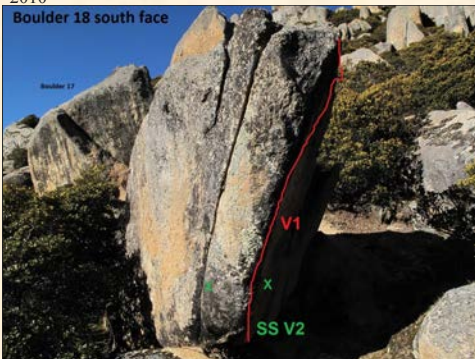
The following problems are located in the designated area.



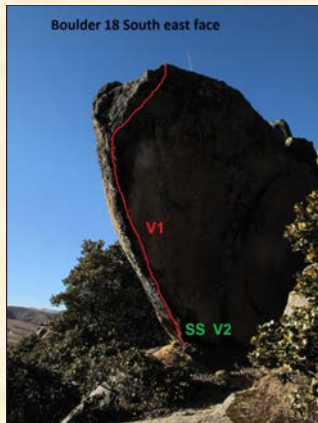
Use your mouth V1 FA Mike Dobie 2010



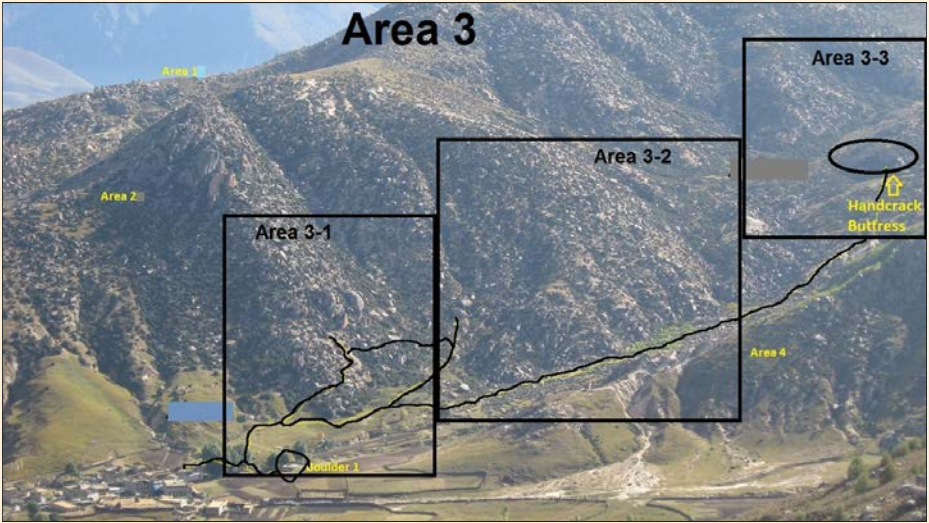
Open Project



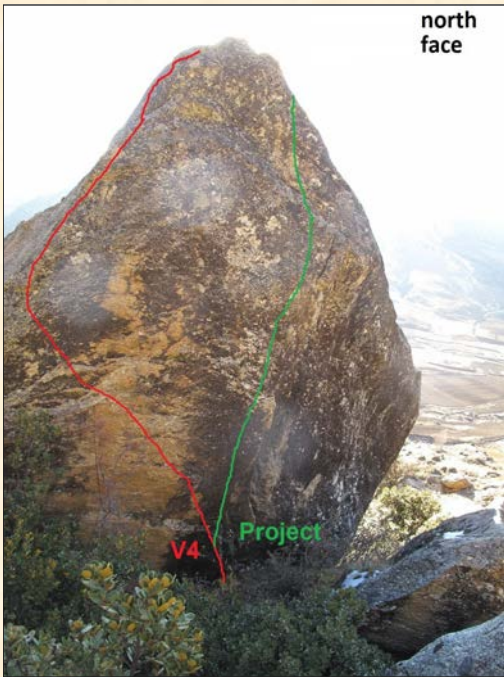
Sunny Arete-V1-Fa Mike Dobie 2014
SS V2-Chris Miller 2014



AREA 3-2



The following problems are located in the designated area.

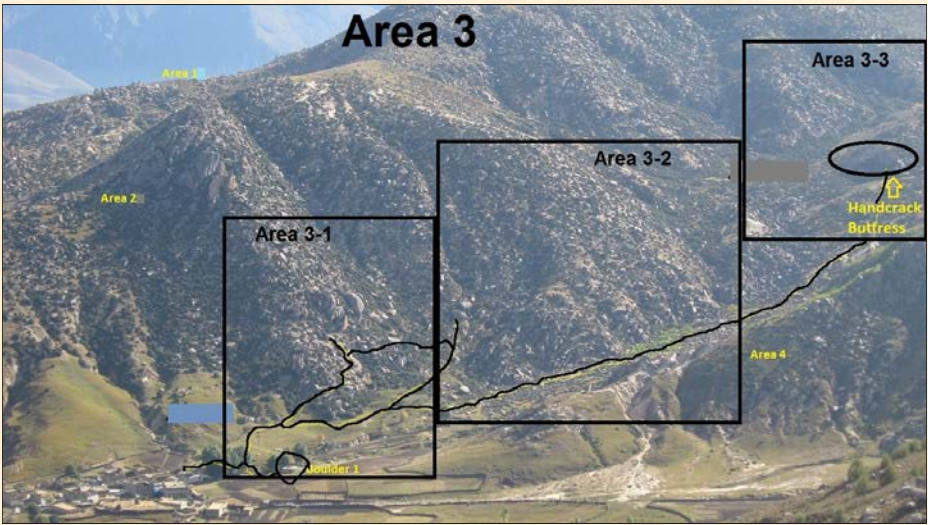


Open projects on west face

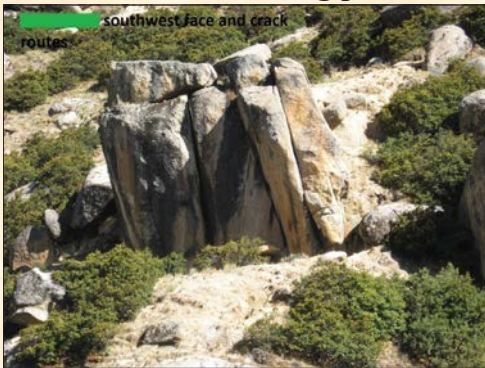
Antiflag V4 SS FA Chris Miller 2014

Project is open

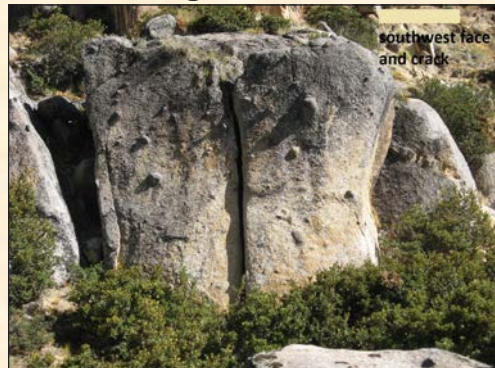
AREA 3-2



The following problems are located in the designated area.



Potential problems

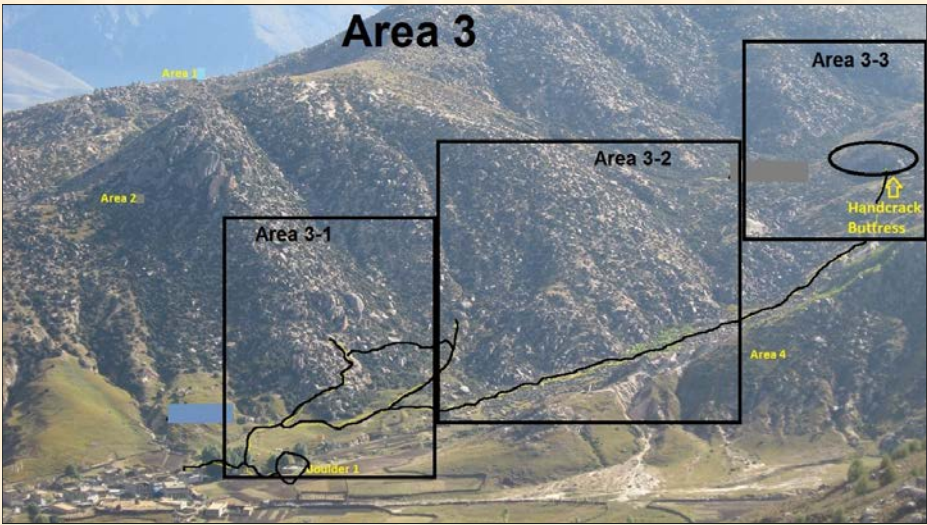


Potential Problems



1. Crack problem (Around corner) 5.8 FA Mike Dobie 2010
2. V0 FA Mike Dobie 2010
3. Traverse Vb FA Mike Dobie 2010
4. Stephen King's It V2 FA Mike Dobie 2010

AREA 3-3



Area 3-3 is large to say the very least. The only route that we've put up in the area is on the hand crack buttness. It's a bit of a walk to get there but if you are in the area and have a rope and rack it would be worth it for the first ascents. Enjoy and be stoked!!!

Hand crack Buttness: Keep heading south and east up the creek bed and eventually go up the small hill on your left to the most visible buttness above on the left. Walk off.

Northwest crack 5.8 gear camalot 1 to 4. Traditional Anchor and walk off. Route starts on the right hand side of the buttness. FA Mike Dobie, November 2010.

3 to 5 more trade routes on it. At least 3 other nice hand cracks and a nice looking 10 or 11 to the left of the route I did.



Rough Granite

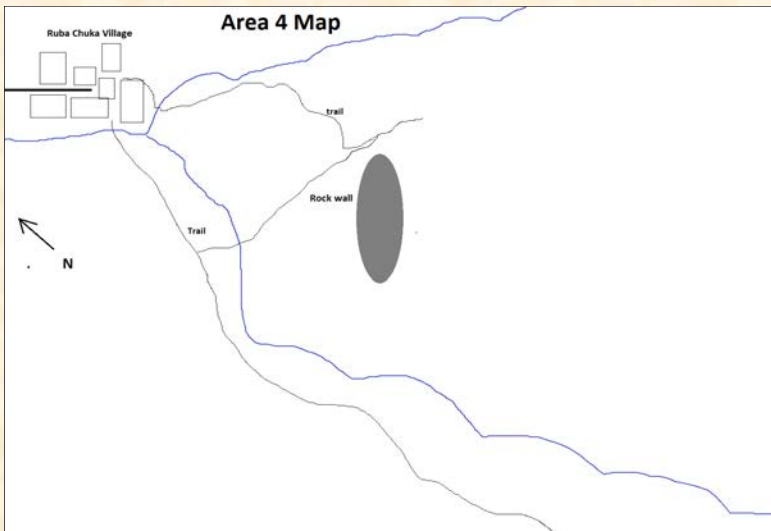
AREA 4

Area 4's borders are defined by the two drainages that come from the creek beds south and southeast of Ruba Chaka Village. The main feature of the area is a large rock wall that has potential for traditional routes on it. It is located on the hills between these two drainages. There are also a fair number of boulders there as well.



Denise Teng with the nice wall behind, Area 4

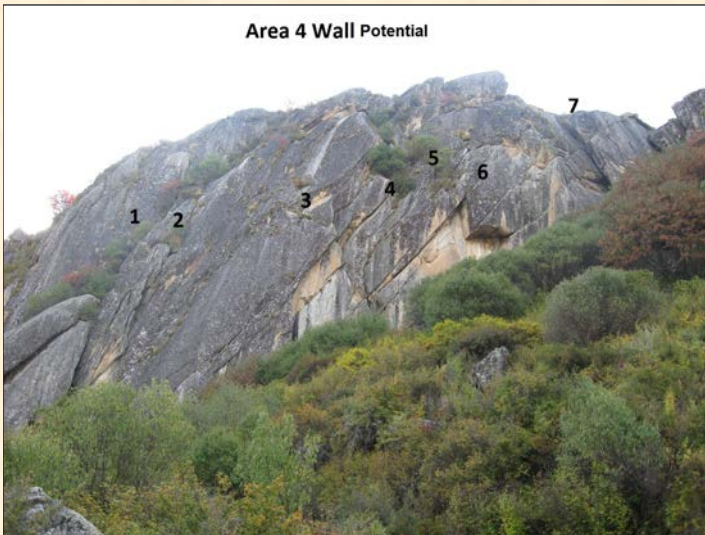
APPROACH: There are a few ways to get to this area and it depends on where you want to go. There is a trail south of the village that heads up the fields and towards the major rock wall. On this trail there should be a fork that goes to the left towards the major rock wall. There is a fairly major trail that travels below the face. If you continue up the creek bed you should have an easier time accessing the boulders in the area.



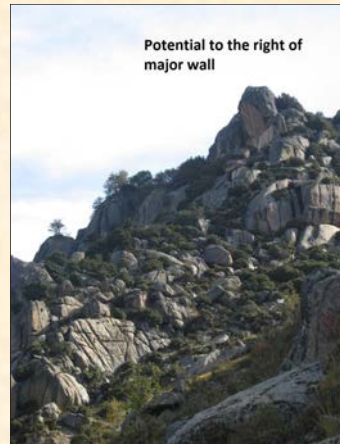
AREA 4-1



The following potential routes are located in the designated area.



- 1. Potential
- 2. Potential
- 3. Potential
- 4. Potential
- 5. Potential
- 6. Potential
- 7. Potential



AREA 4-2



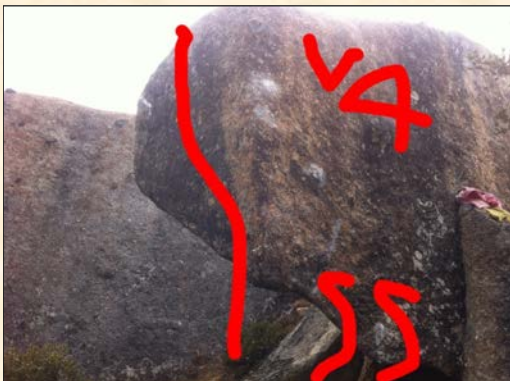
The following potential routes are located in the designated area.



1. V2 FA Eben Farnworth 2012
2. V0 FA Zhoulei 2012



V1 FA Eben Farnworth 2012

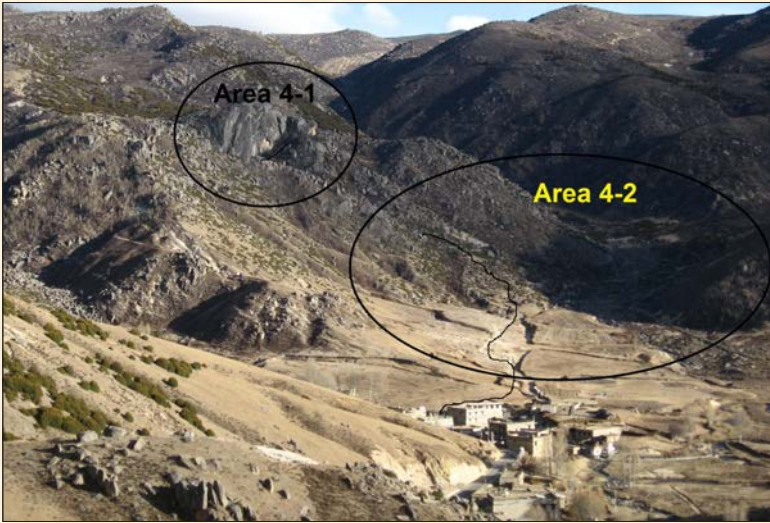


V4 SS FA Eben Farnworth



V0 FA Eben Farnworth 2012

AREA 4-2



The following potential routes are located in the designated area.



V0 SS FA Zhoulei 2012



V0 SS FA Eben Farnworth 2012

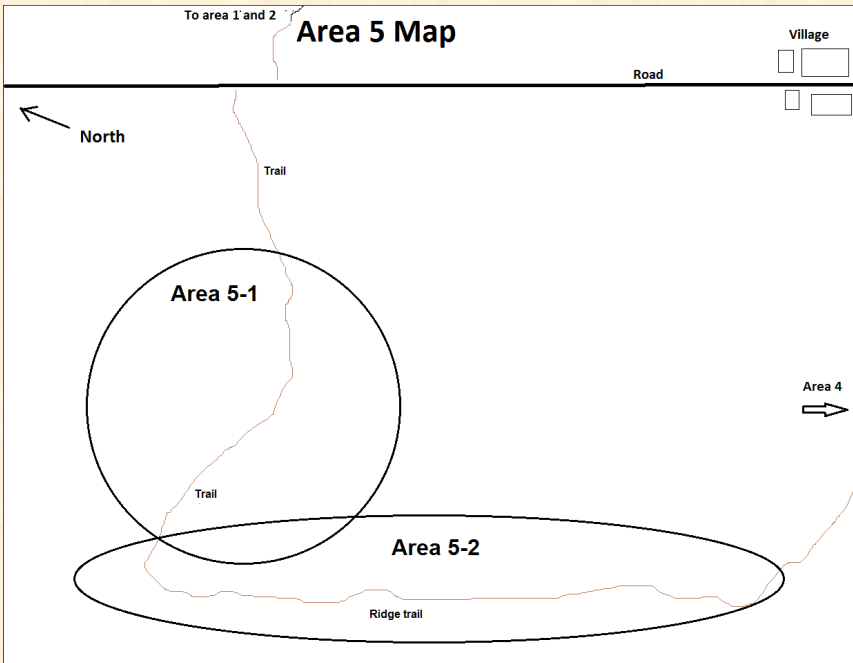


AREA 5

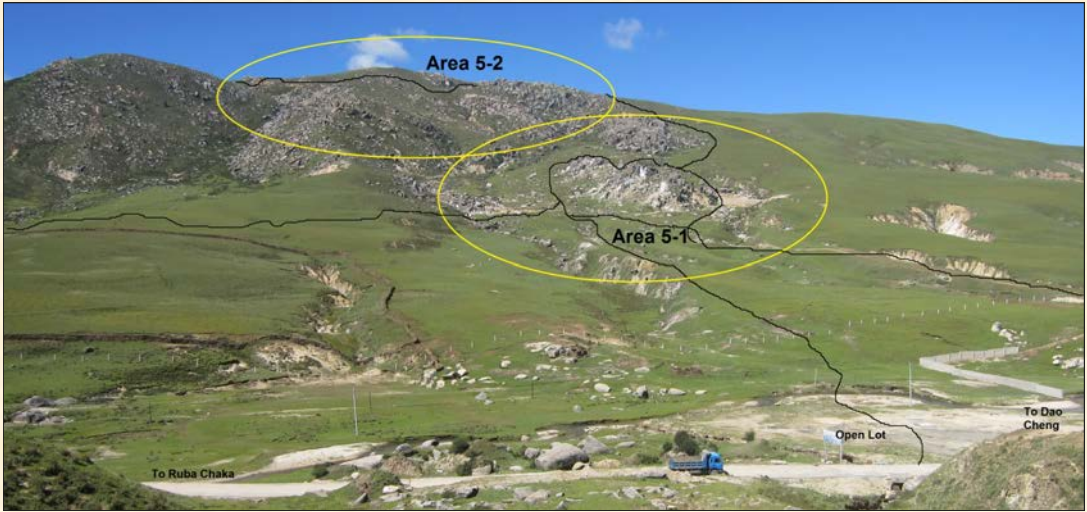
Area 5 is another major area of climbing in Ruba Chaka that shows much potential. The area is made up of a large ridge that lays west of the major road that access's the village. So far there are only a few established problems. From the town of Dao Cheng you can even see some of the boulders that border this area high up on the ridge to the southeast.



APPROACH: The approach for this area from Ruba Chaka village is very similar to approaching Area 1. From the village proper head north on the main road (back towards Dao Cheng). You will see the area on your left or the west side of the road. A little further north of the approach valley from area 1 you want to head off the road to the west and up to the closest boulders. You can also approach area 5-2 from Dao Cheng town proper from heading up the hillside to the south of town to the obvious boulders high on the ridge. It is a bit of a walk to go this way.



AREA 5-1



The following problems are located in the designated area.



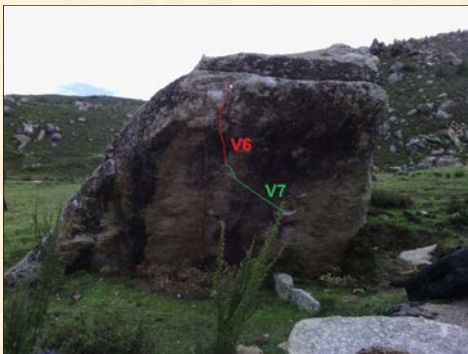
Open project



Open project

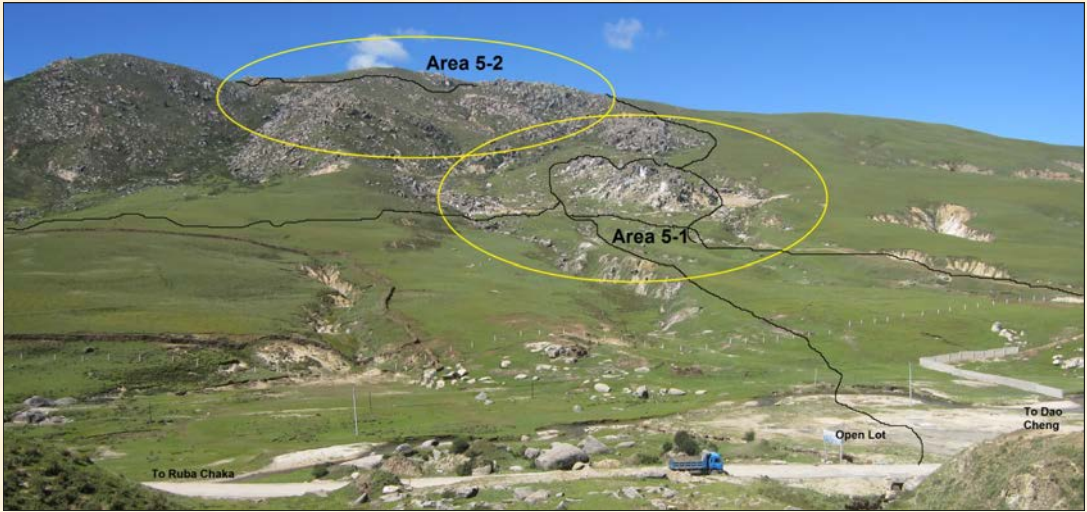


The Squeeze V4 FA Chris Miller 2014(A hold broke on this one, may be harder now)

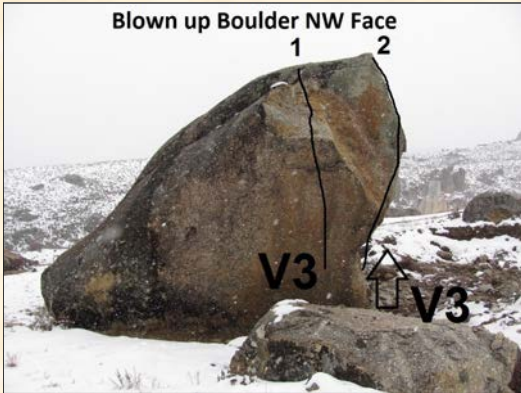


Spicy Boy V5-FA DaWei 2014
V7 extension -FA Dawei, 2nd ascent Sanwenyu 2014

AREA 5-1



The following problems are located in the designated area.



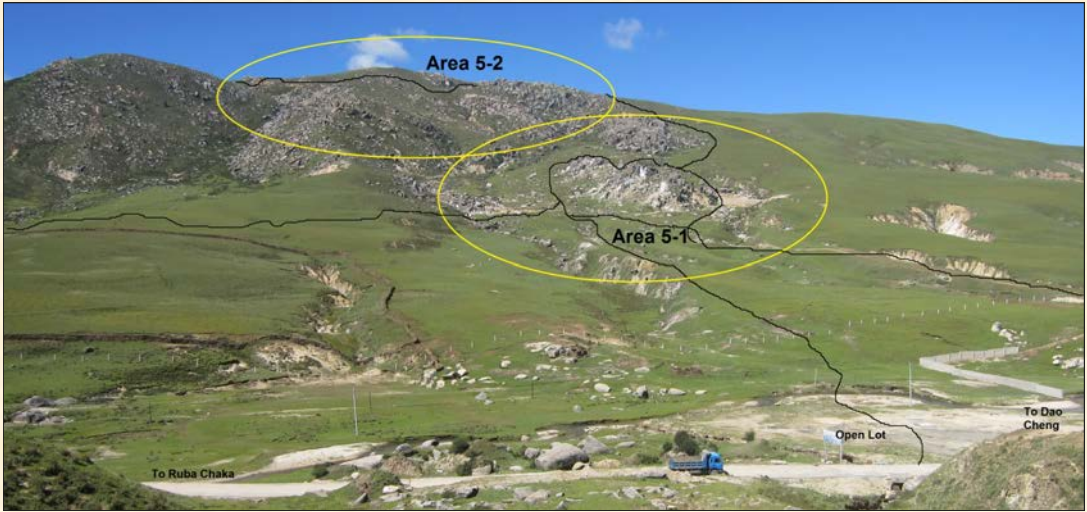
1. Dwarf Man Stumper V2/3-FA Mike Dobie
2. Wish I was a boulder V2/3-FA Mike Dobie



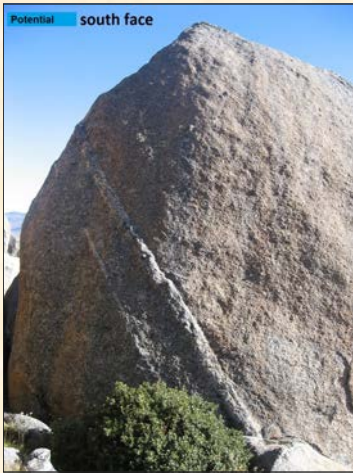
Open Project

Open Project

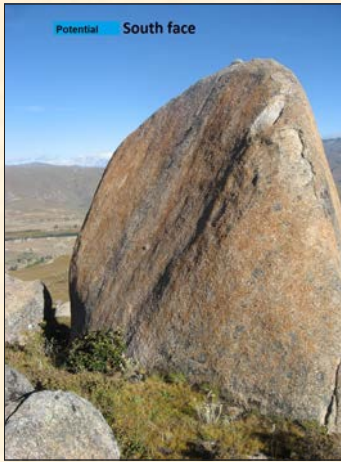
AREA 5-2



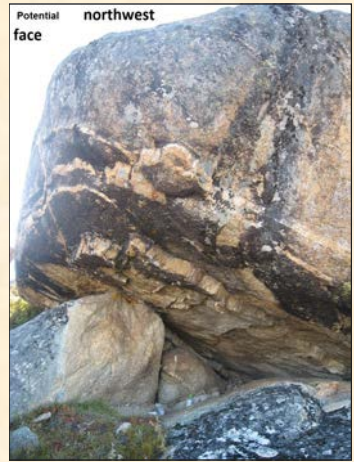
The following problems are located in the designated area.



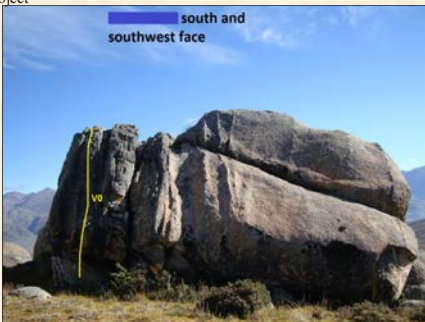
Open Project



Open Project



Open project V10? Start deep

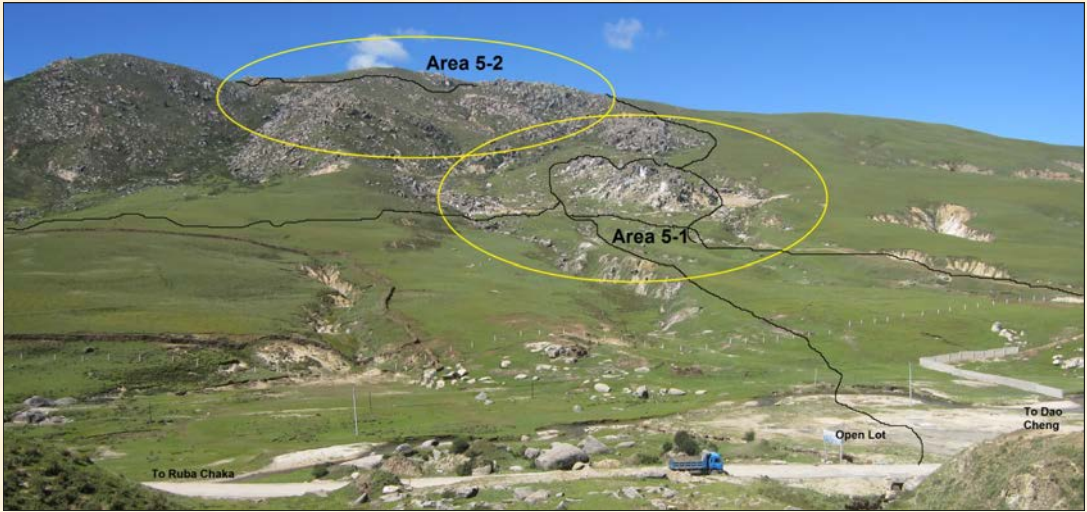


Quarts V0 FA Mike Dobie 2010



V1-FA Kristine Mckay 2014

AREA 5-2



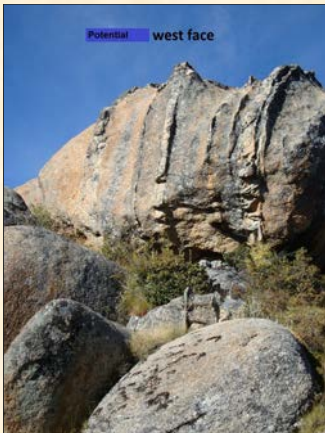
The following problems are located in the designated area.



Nice open project



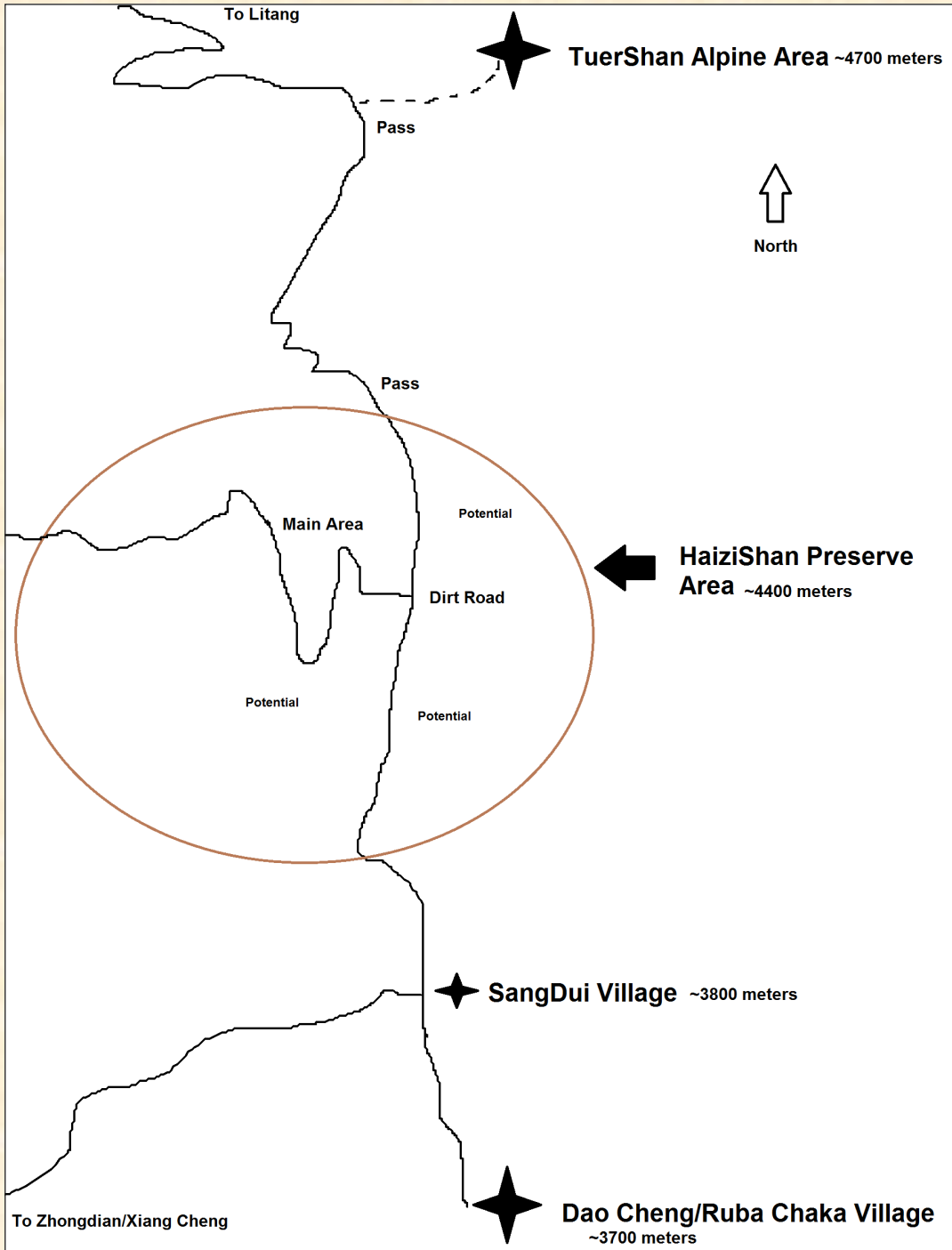
Open projects



Open projects



AREA MAP



HAIZISHAN PRESERVE

Haizishan Preserve is a high altitude bouldering area located at about 4300m. Here you will find world class granite boulders nearly as far as the eyes can see. Some are small, most are medium size, and there are plenty of large rocks that could have multiple problems. Most of the development has occurred in one main area, but this area is small in comparison to the potential. Because of the isolated and extreme location of this area, it is not recommended to go directly here upon arriving Dao Cheng. Allow acclimatization to occur before attempting to camp here. By car it takes about 1.5 hours to get there from Dao Cheng.



Haizishan camping area, Area 3

Photo: Chris Miller

TRANSPORTATION

There are multiple public mini buses that travel between Litang and Dao Cheng daily. You can also have a lot of luck just waiving down a car and asking for a ride if you are travelling light. You can also hire a car to drive you, your party, and your gear out there.

A Driver's number that has given us transport to **Haizishan** in the past.
Nice fellow: 13568677576

ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICES

To put it simply, this bouldering area is located in an isolated high altitude area. Camping is the only and best option. The lakes, rivers and streams here are full of clean water, but this leaves you to pack in your own food. We recommend getting the items needed for hot pot and flat bread for lunches and dinners as you can get these supplies in Dao Cheng. Please pack out everything you bring in and keep this area clean :) Also please dig toilet pits and USE them. Curiously, there is a white building near the bouldering site. We've talked to the owner of the building and he mentioned it could be a hostel in the future...

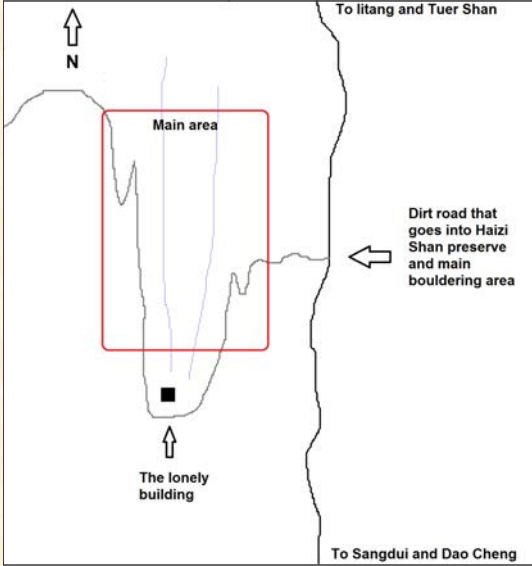
CLIMBING ACCESS

Currently you do not need to buy a ticket to enter this preserve. There are no regulations for bouldering in Sichuan, but it's best to keep a low profile with what you are doing there. Please respect any boulders that have evidence of religious practices. This would include rocks that have Tibetan writing on them. **We are guests and keep a good spirit about you.**

HAIZISHAN PRESERVE

APPROACH NOTES

APPROACH: The Mount Haizi preserve is located on the road between Litang and Dao Cheng. From Dao Cheng travel north to the village of Sangdui. From here continue north up the up the main road following a canyon, past the airport, and up onto the Southwestern Sichuan plateau. Here you will begin to see large boulders that litter the landscape and road, but don't stop here. Continue on this road until you see a dirt road on the left (western) side of the road. Turn onto this road. *Note: if you are traveling north on this road and reach the Haizishan viewing platform sign you have gone too far.*



Once on the dirt road follow it to the west. It will switchback into a small valley with a lonely looking building on the southern end next to the road. The dirt road will continue up the other side of the valley. This valley with the building is the main climbing area. The documented area is to the north of the small lake and on the central and west edge of the valley. Campground is at this coordi-

inate 29°24'1.24"N 100° 7'51.29"E



Kristine McKay Straight Outta Squamptom V3

Photo: Chris Miller



Strong Sanwenyu



Crimpin, Area 1 Haizishan



Open Project in Haizishan, Area 1

Photo: Chris Miller

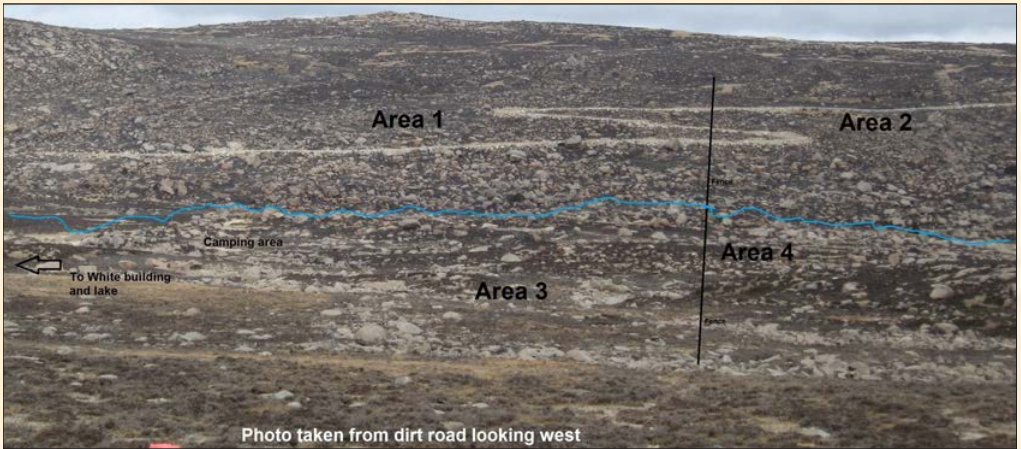


Typical Landscape in Haizishan

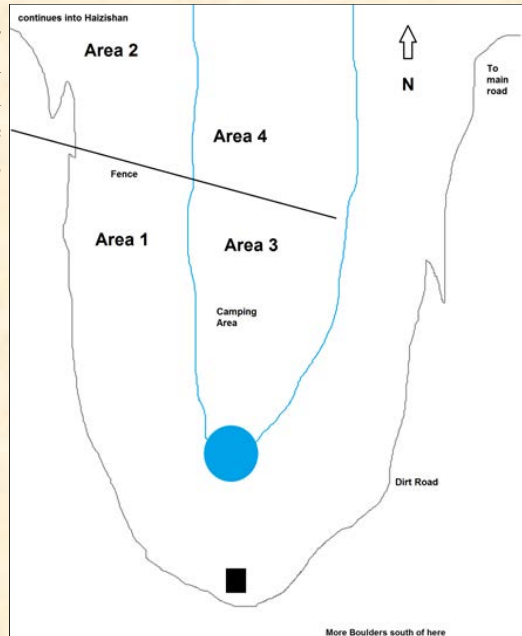
Photo: Chris Miller

AREA 1

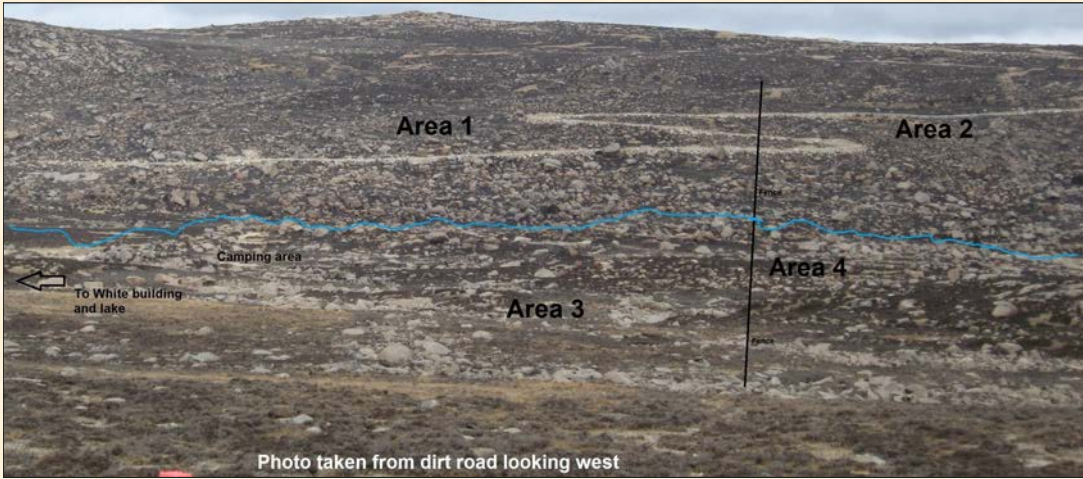
Area 1 has many medium to large size boulders and probably has the second highest concentration of rocks in the main area. It has also seen the most amount of development. The dirt road on the western side of the valley runs through this area. There are great boulders on both side of it. The area is bordered on the north by the fence that divides the main climbing area east and west. East it is bordered by the small creek that you cross to reach the valley floor. The area is bordered on the south by the dirt road.



APPROACH: Area 1 is located on the hillside west of the creek that splits the main bouldering area. The dirt road runs through the zone and it is bordered on the east with the creek and north with the fence that runs through the main climbing area.



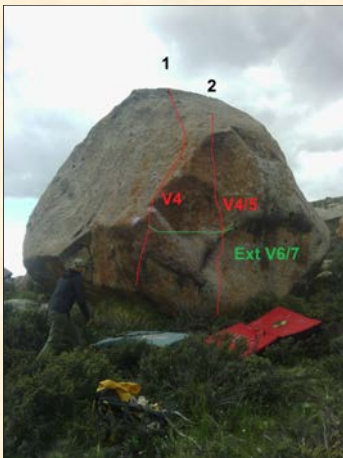
AREA 1



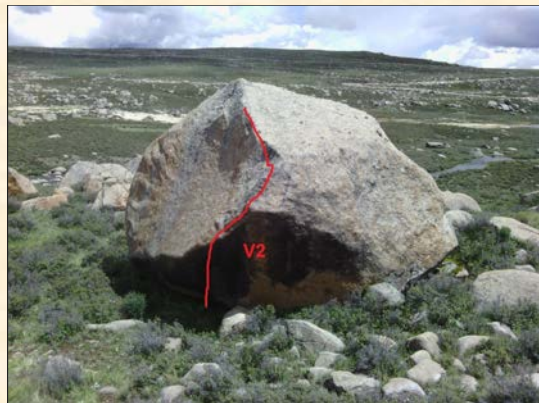
The following boulders are located in the designated area.



Straight out of Squampton V3/4 SS FA Raul Saucó 2014

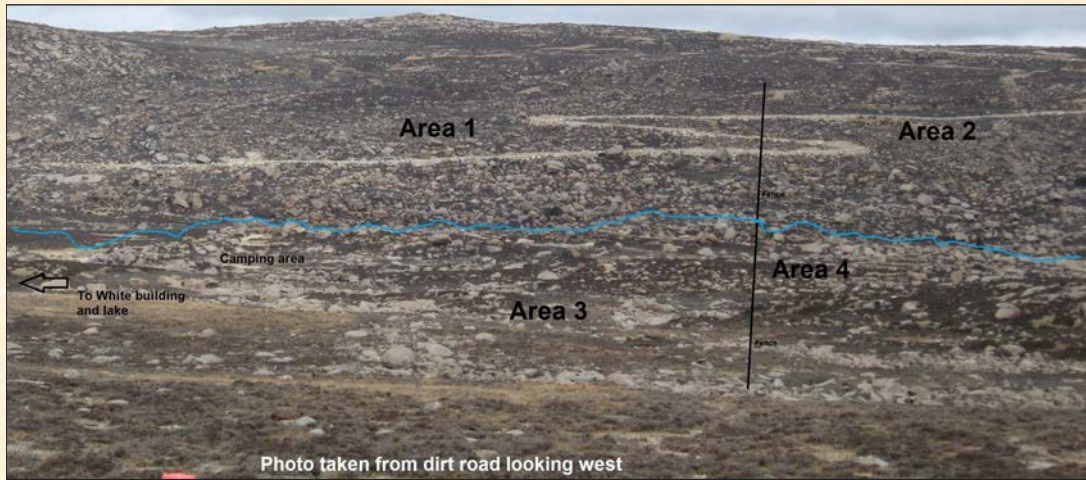


1. Gravity Pusher
V4 FA Mike Dobie 2014
Extension V6/7
FA Da Wei
2. The Hulk V4/5
FA Raul Saucó 2014



Silver Surfer V2 FA Raul Saucó 2014

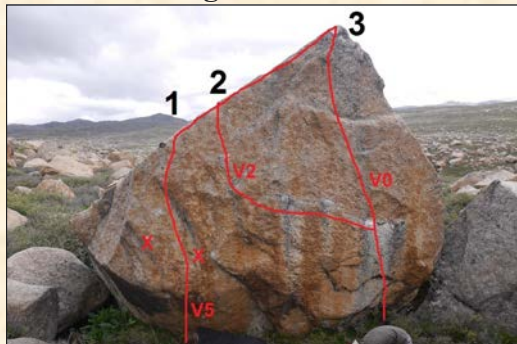
AREA 1



The following boulders are located in the designated area.



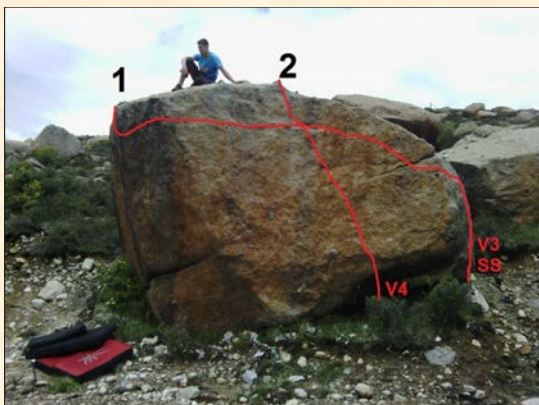
Open project



1. T-Rex Ballsack V5 FA Dawei 2014
2. V2 FA Chris Miller 2014
3. V0 FA Chris Miller 2014

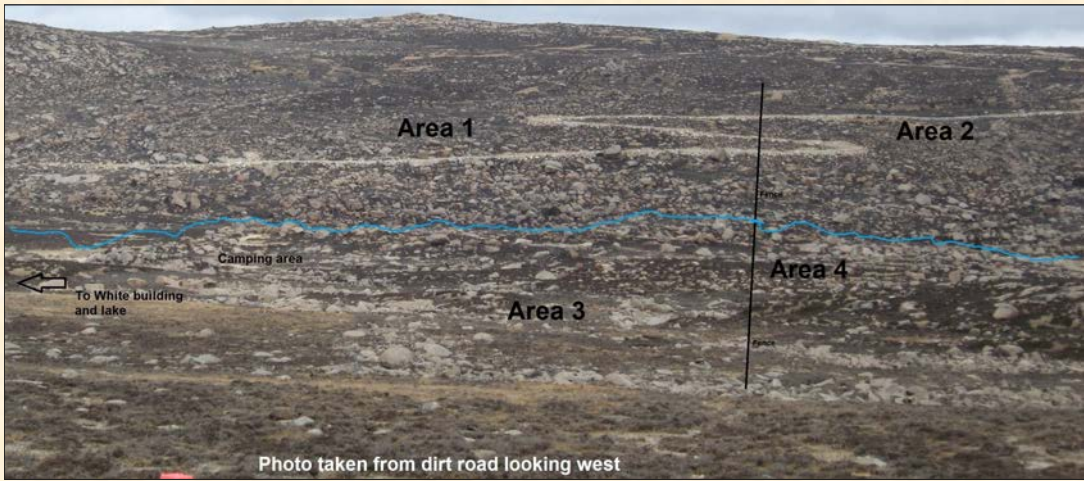


V1 FA Kristine Mckay 2014



1. Around the world V3 SS FA Chris Miller 2014
2. Hitch Hikin V4 FA Raul Saucó 2014

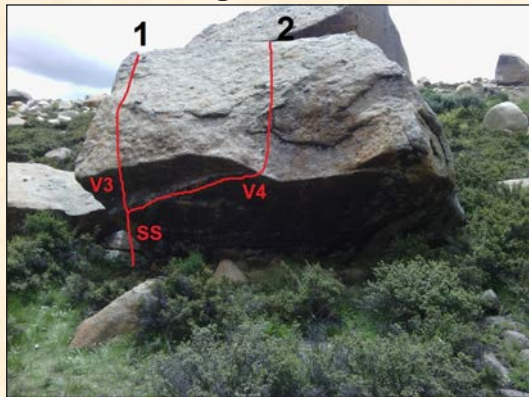
AREA 1



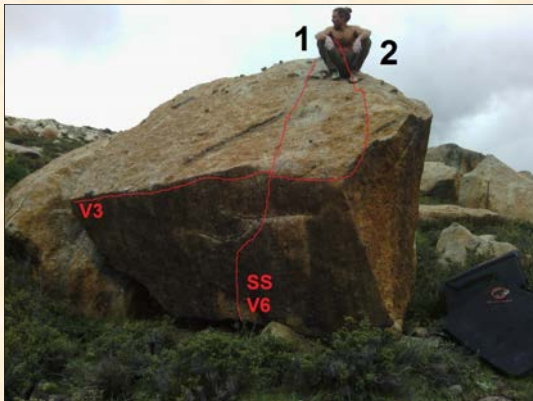
The following boulders are located in the designated area.



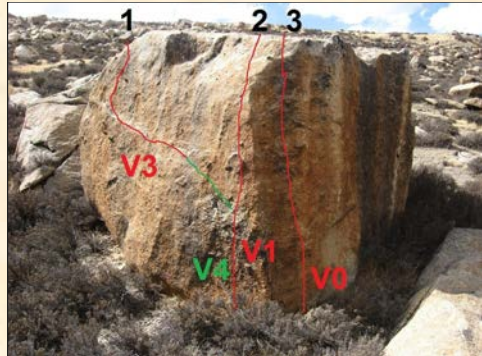
1. Bloody V6/7 (static)
FA Da Wei 2014
Bloody Dyno V4/5 FA
Chris Miller
2. Open project



1. V3 SS FA Da Wei 2014
2. V4 SS FA Da Wei 2014



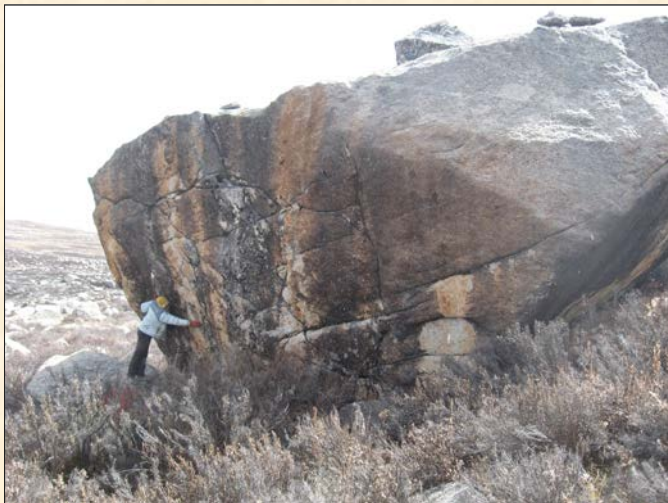
1. Incestual Skywalkers V6 SS FA Mike Dobie
2. Ewok V3 FA Raul Saucó



1. Princess Leia V3 FA Raul Saucó 2014 Extension "Getting into" Extension FA? 2014
2. V1 FA Sanwenyu 2014
3. V0 FA? 2014

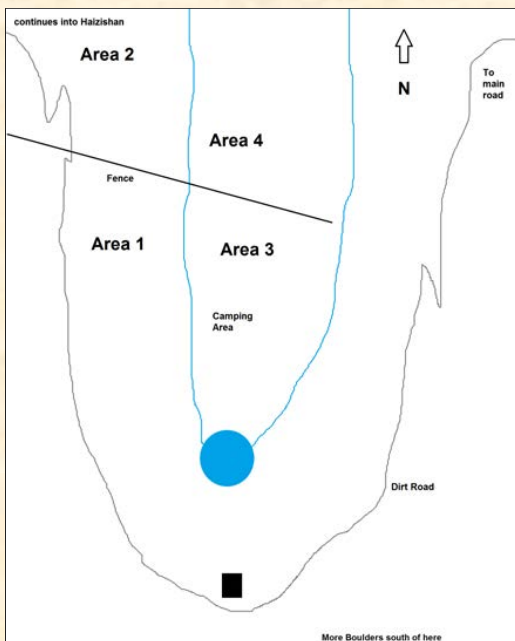
AREA 2

Area 2 has the highest concentration of world class boulders. There are probably close to twenty rocks that could see dozens of problems each as well as a large selection of medium size rocks with classic problems. While on our last development trip we were only able to establish a few problems. The following few pages have pictures of a small selection of the rocks in the area.

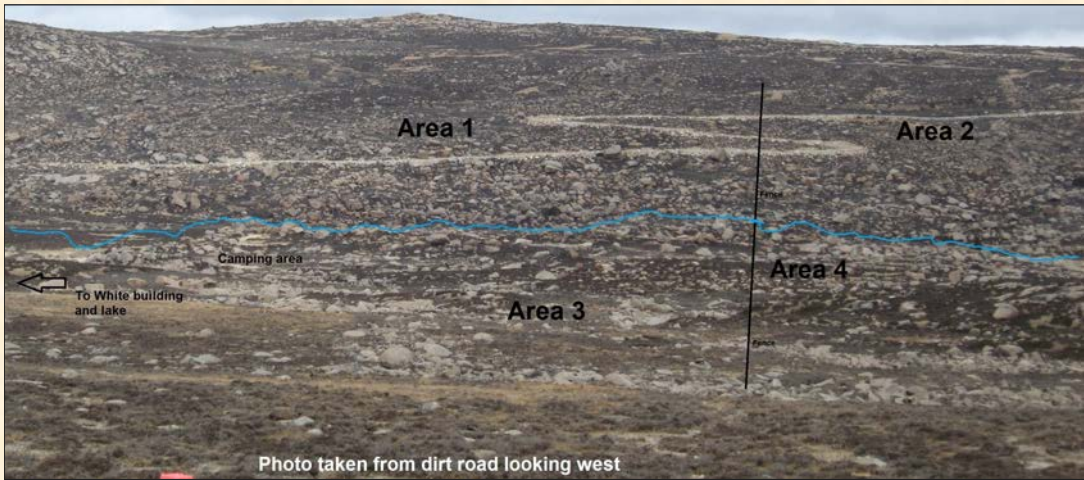


Potentially great boulder, Area 2

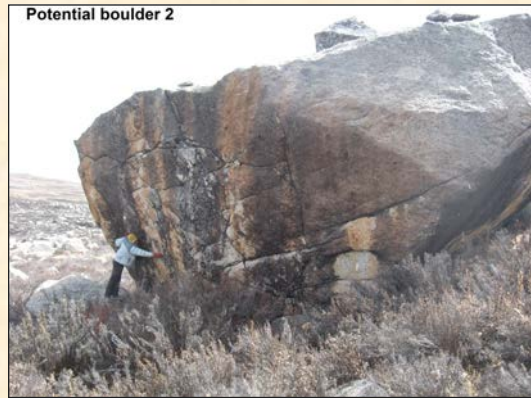
APPROACH: Area 2 is located on the hillside west of the creek that splits the main bouldering area. The dirt road runs through the zone.



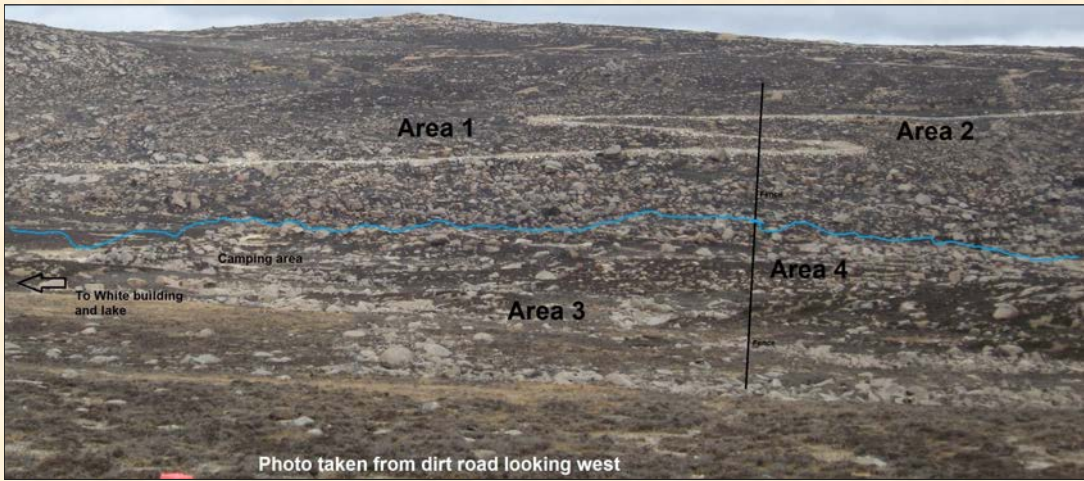
AREA 2



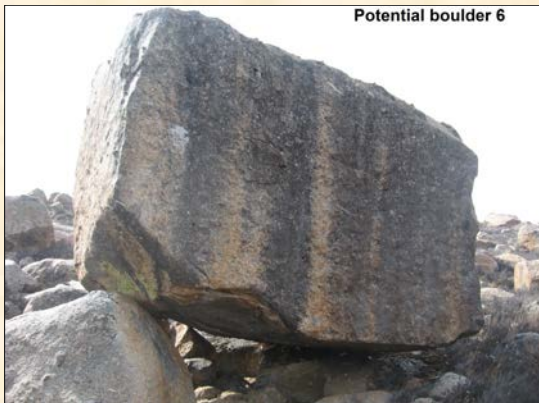
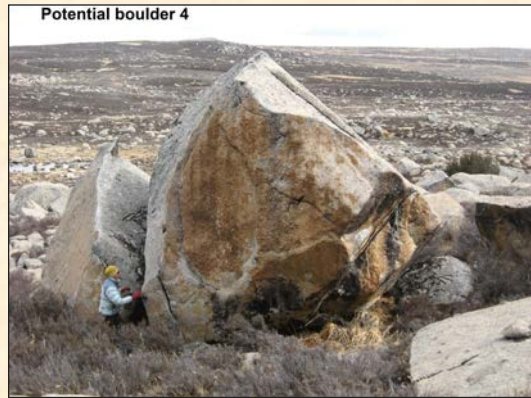
The following boulders are located in the designated area.



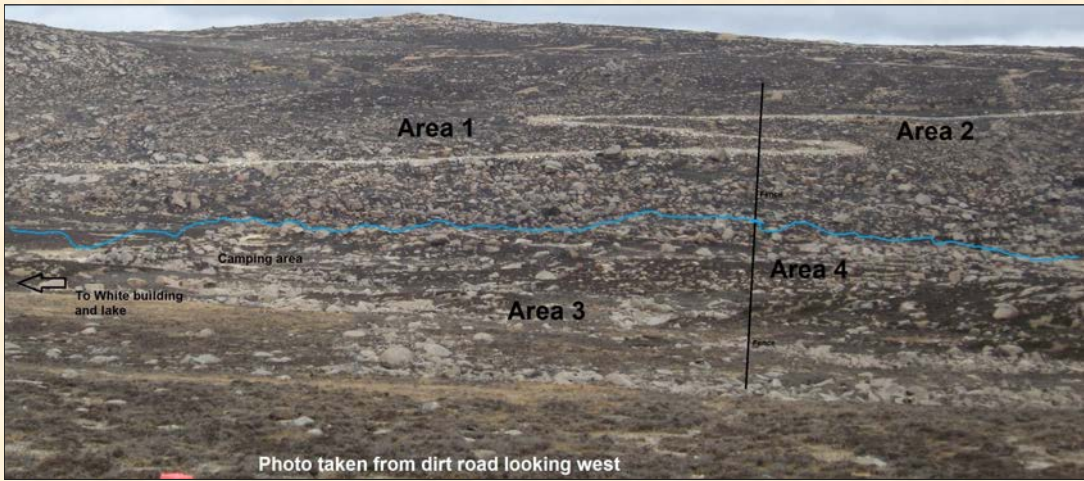
AREA 2



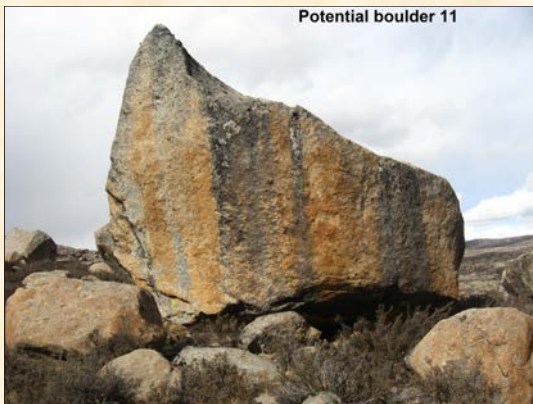
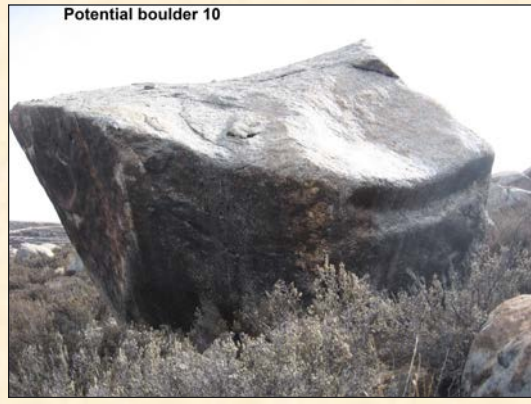
The following boulders are located in the designated area.



AREA 2



The following boulders are located in the designated area.



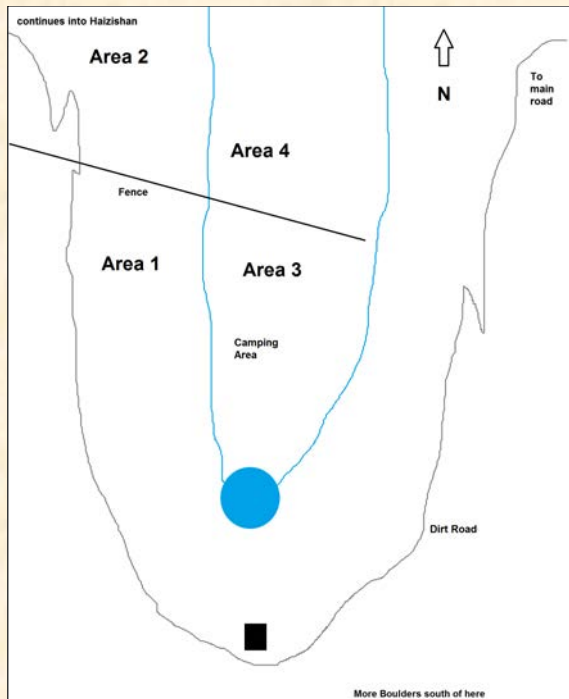
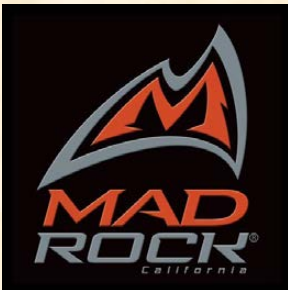
AREA 3

Area 3 has a high number of established problems. The camping area that we use is located in this area. The following pages document those problems and some more of the potential the zone has to offer.

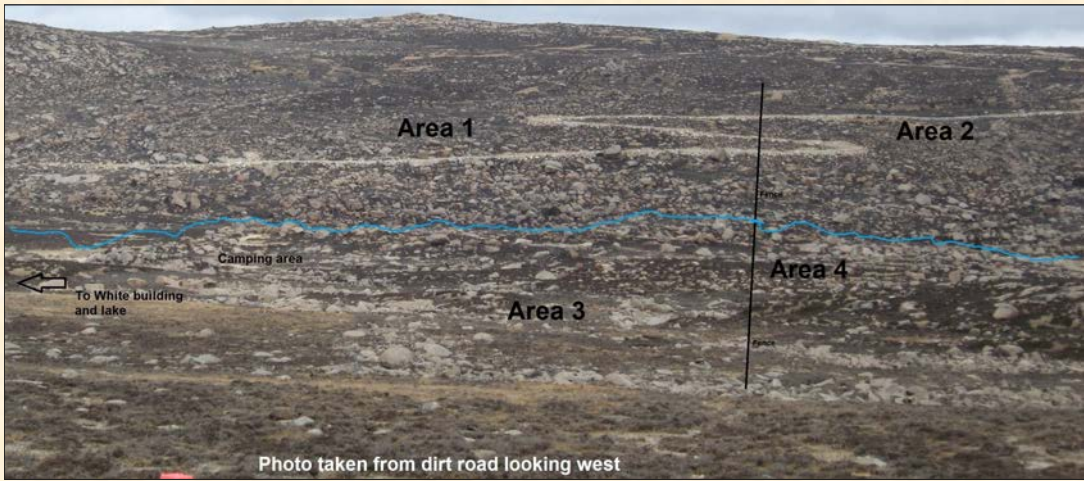


Area 3 is home to the Base Camp. Zhoulei cooking up a stew.

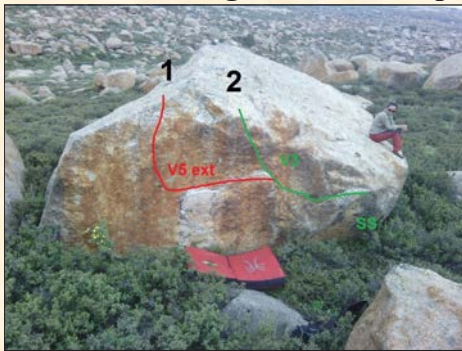
APPROACH: Area 3 is located on the hillside west of the creek that splits the main bouldering area. The dirt road runs through the zone.



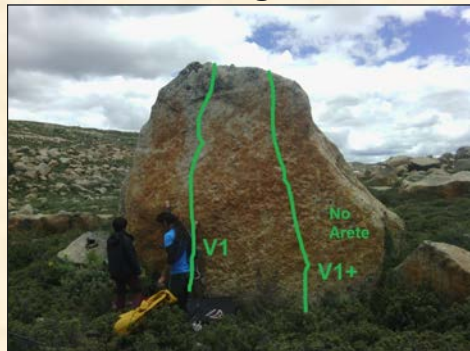
AREA 3



The following boulders and problems are located in the designated area.



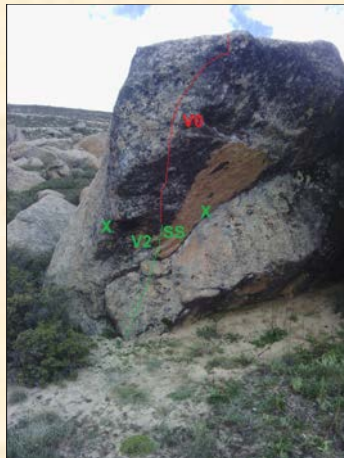
1. V5 SS FA Da Wei 2014
2. V3 SS FA Chris Miller 2014



1. Phantom Slab V1 FA Raul Sauco 2014
2. V1+ FA Chris Miller 2014 (no Arete)

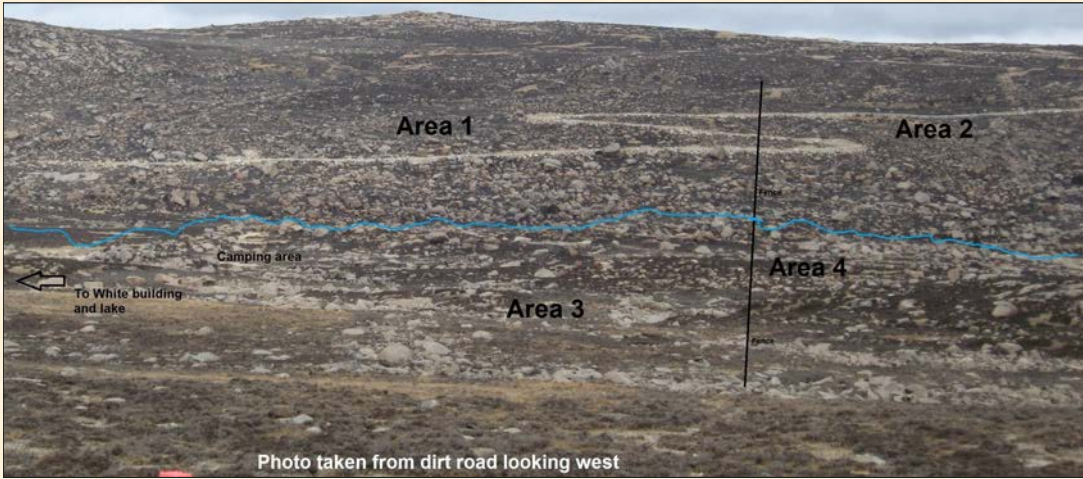


V0 FA Kristine Mckay 2014

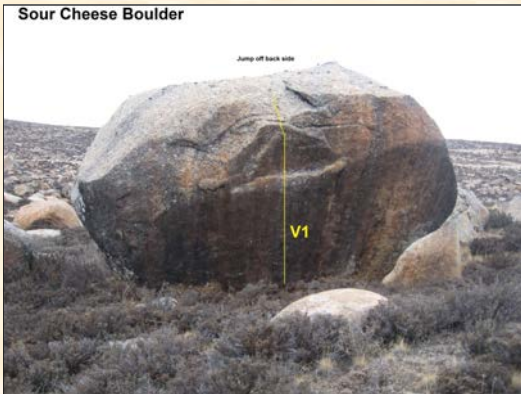


Mystery Turd
V0 SS on
marked holds V2
FA Mike Dobie

AREA 3

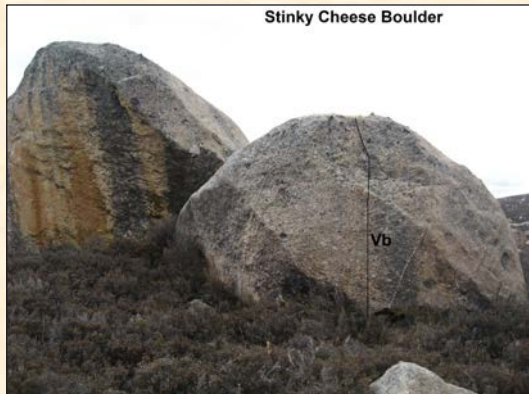


The following boulders and problems are located in the designated area.



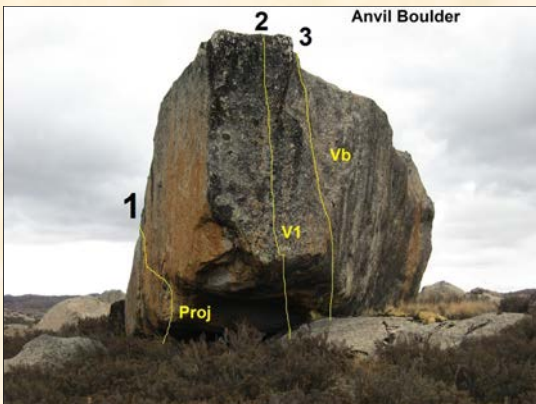
Sour Cheese Boulder

Avoidance Disorder V1 FA Mike Dobie 2012



Stinky Cheese Boulder

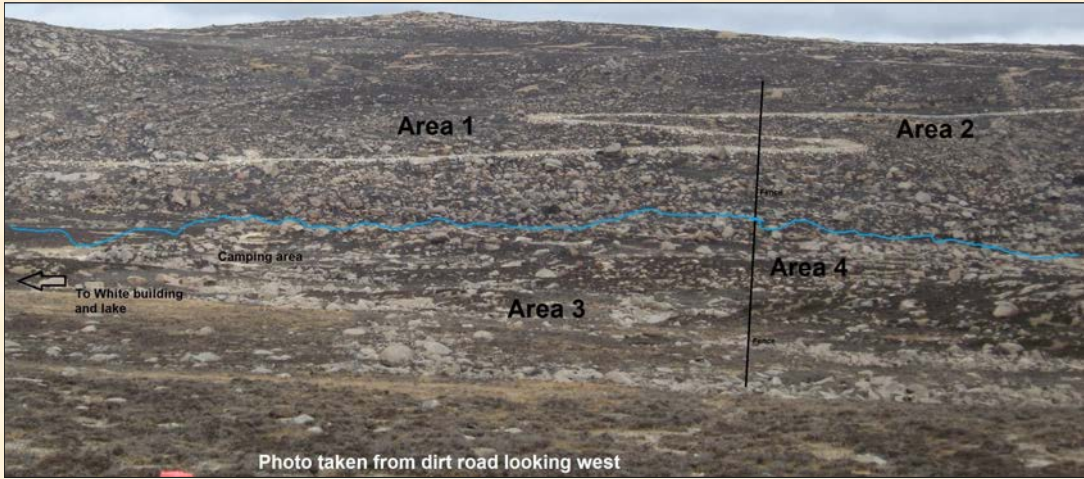
Sinners Vb FA Mike Dobie 2012



Anvil Boulder

1. Open Project
2. Thor's Hammer V1 FA Mike Dobie 2014 (harder for shorter people)
3. Get going Vb FA Mike Dobie 2012

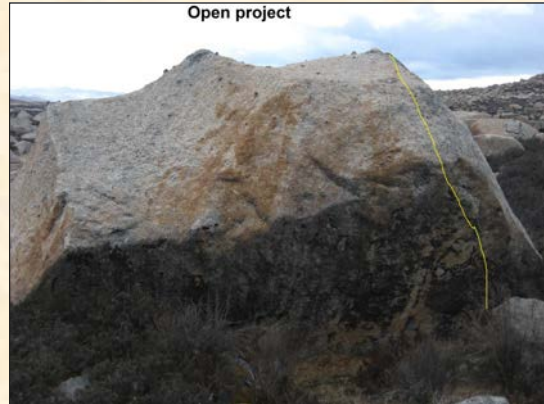
AREA 3



The following boulders and problems are located in the designated area.



Open Project



Open Project



1. Let me tell you how it is V0 FA Mike Dobie 2012
2. How it is Vb FA Mike Dobie 2012

HAIZISHAN PRESERVE



Living in Haizshan

Photo: Chris Miller



The Battle for Endor V6

Photo: Chris Miller



Zhoulei on Incestrual Skywalkers V5

Photo Chris Miller



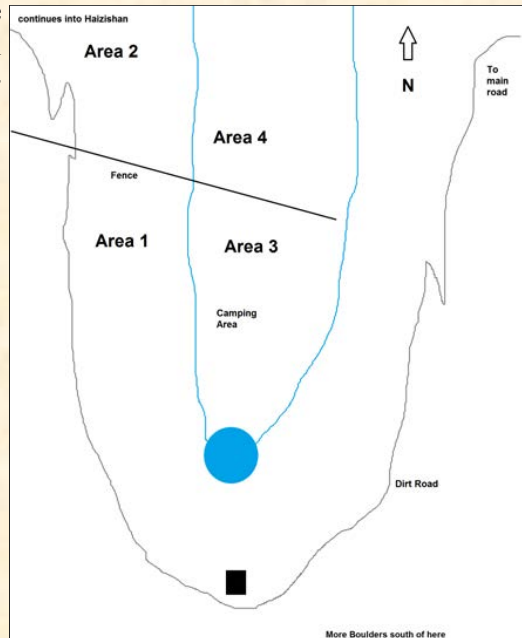
AREA 4

Area 4 has a few established problem and doesn't have as much potential as the other 3 areas. But it is worth the visit none the less! This area is bordered on the south by the fence that splits the climbing area and to the west by the creek that divides the climbing area.

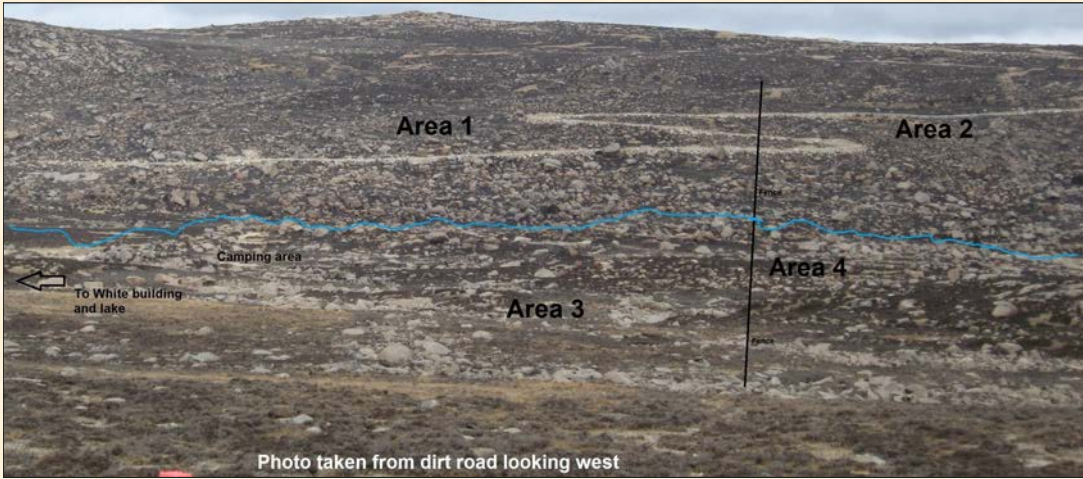


Sarah Rasmussen getting ready, Area 4

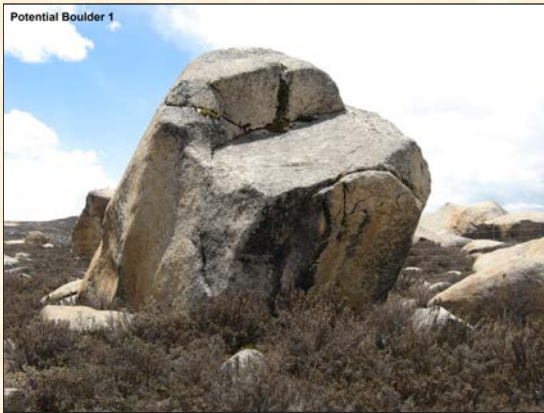
APPROACH: If you are camping in the camping area this zone is a short walk through area 3 and across the fence. The main concentration of boulders is near the fence.



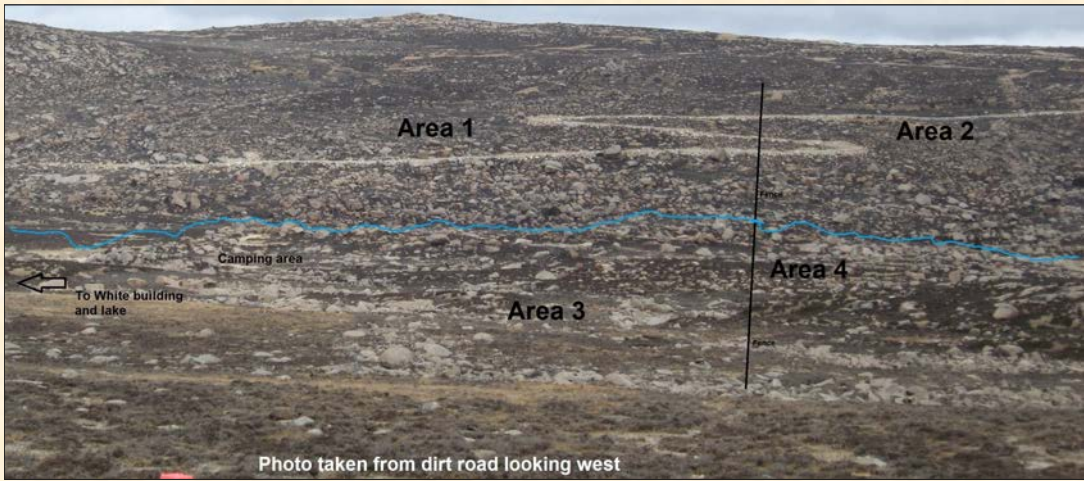
AREA 4



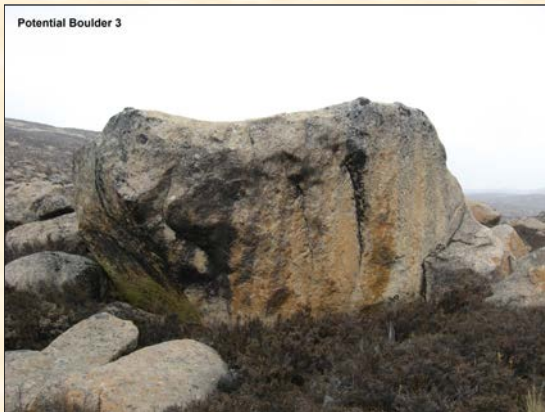
The following boulders and problems are located in the designated area.



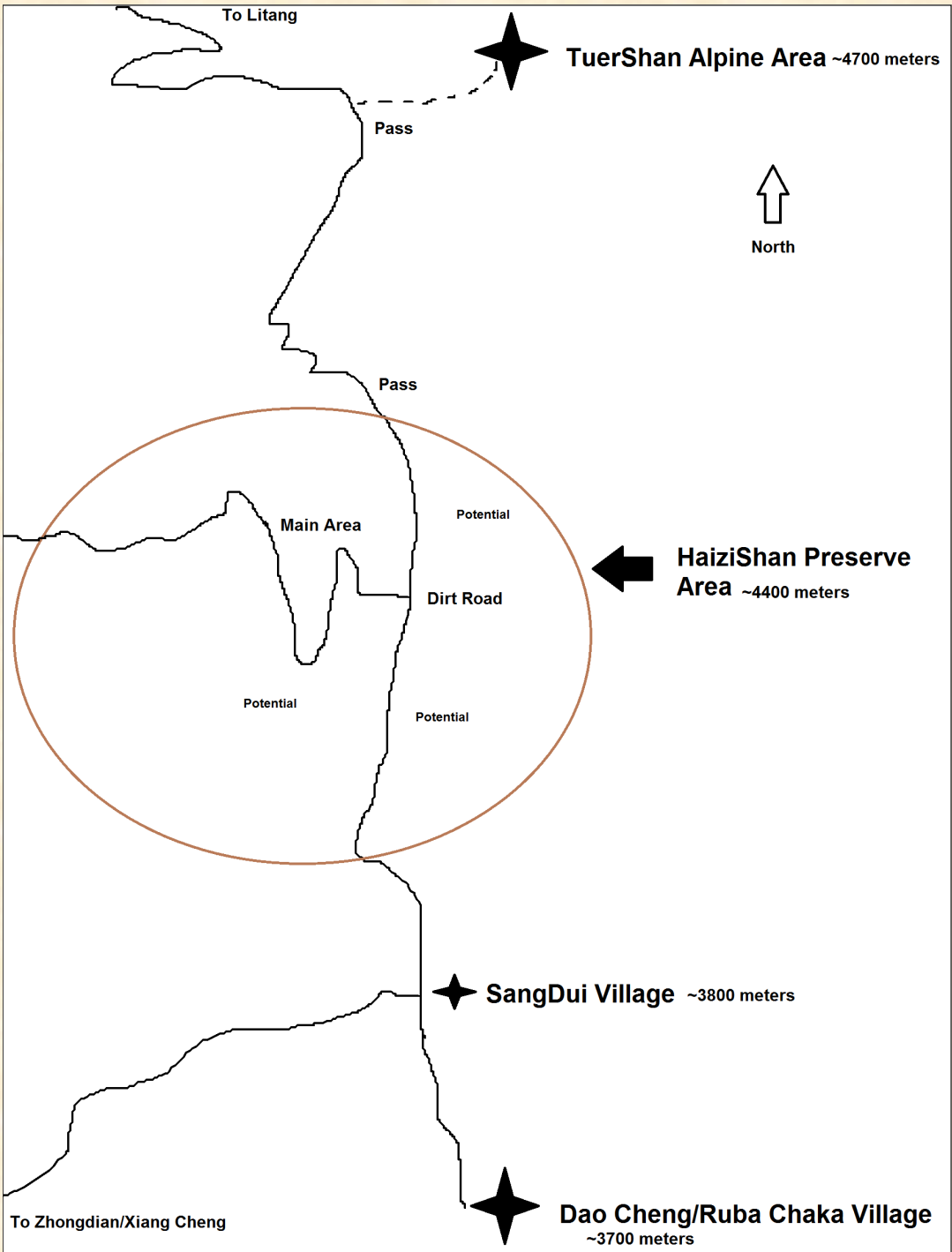
AREA 4



The following boulders and problems are located in the designated area.



AREA MAP



TUERSHAN ALPINE AREA

Tuershan (meaning Rabbit Ear Mountain) is located at 4700m and has some potential from trad climbing. The peaks here are about 5000 meters tall and offer a great alpine climbing experience. There are potentially great traditional lines as well as established scrambling and traditional routes to the summits in the area. The TuerShan has gotten its name because of the obvious spires at the top of the cirque. It's a beautiful place to visit, even if you don't plan to climb there. The cirque is visible from the road driving from Dao Cheng to Litang.



TRANSPORTATION

There are multiple public mini buses that travels between Litang and Dao Cheng daily. You can also have a lot of luck just waiving down a car and asking for a ride. You can also hire a car to drive you, your party, and your gear out there.

ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICES

The TuerShan Alpine Area is located in an isolated setting. Camping is your only and best option. The lake here is full of clean water, but this leaves you to pack in your own food. We recommend getting the items needed for hot pot and flat bread for lunches and dinners because all the supplies can be bought in Dao Cheng. Please pack out everything you bring in and keep this area clean :) Also please dig toilet pits and USE them.

CLIMBING ACCESS

Currently you do not need to buy a ticket to enter this area and it does not fall into any national preserves or parks. It's best to keep a low profile with what you are doing there. Please respect any boulders that have evidence of religious practices. This would include rocks that have Tibetan writing on them. **We are guests and keep a good spirit about you.**

TUERSHAN ALPINE AREA

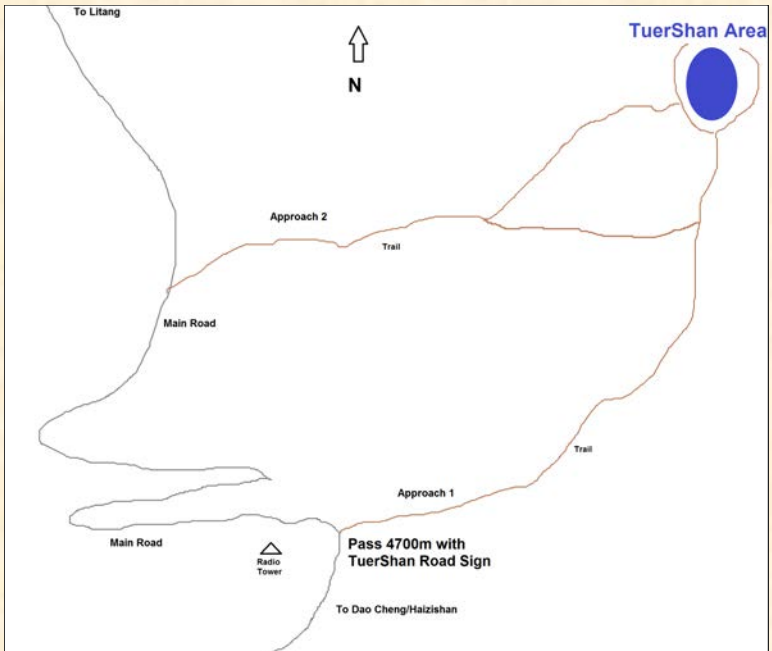
APPROACH NOTES

APPROACH: The TuerShan Alpine Area is located on the road between Litang and Dao Cheng. From Dao Cheng travel north to the village of Sangdui. From here continue north on the main road up the canyon, past the airport, and up onto the southwestern Sichuan plateau. Here you will begin to see large boulders that litter the landscape and road. Continue on this road past the Haizishan preserve until you go over a pass and drop into a valley. After crossing the valley floor the road will continue up to another pass. At the top of this pass you will see a blue sign that says TuerShan and you can see the cirque in the distance. From here there are two hiking approach options to the cirque.

Option 1: Leave the pass and hike on the ridge that goes northeast from the pass. Drop into the valley below and hike up into the cirque.

Option 2: Continue north on the road to Litang and drop into the valley below the pass. Hike up the valley towards TuerShan. Either head up and left and over the ridge and drop into the cirque or continue up the valley and turn left to join approach 1 to the cirque.

Once on the dirt road follow it to the west. It will switchback into a small valley with a lonely looking building on the southern end next to the road. The dirt road will continue up the other side of the valley and up over the next ridge. This valley is the main climbing area. The documented area is to the north of the small lake and on the central and west edge of the valley.



TUERSHAN PEAKS AND SCRAMBLES



Peak 1 (~5000m): Class 3

climbing notes: from the lake head up the northern slope, into a gully. Once out of the gully continue up the northern slope to reach a notch in the ridge near the summit. From here traverse the summit, up a small step and onto the summit. FA Mike Dobie, solo April 2012



Peak 2 (~5000m): Class 4/5, 5.6 to reach summit.

climbing notes: from the lake head up the northeastern slope into a gully. Once out of the gully head up and left to the ridge that separates peak 1 and 2. Continue up and left around the summit following the path of least resistance. Near the summit is a short class 4-5 step. To reach the summit proper is a 5.6 crack. There are no means to abseil from the top. Downclimb. FA Mike Dobie, solo April 2012



TUERSHAN PEAKS AND SCRAMBLES



Peak 3: Class 2?

climbing notes: Unknown. FA ?

The Rabbit Ears: Ola Przybysz and David Hood went to the base of the spires in the winter of 2014 and took a look. They reported that there may be a splitter to the top of one of the spires.

TUERSHAN ALPINE ROCK ROUTES

No official routes are established on these walls yet, but soon enough. The potential is everything from easy to hard. Multi-pitch fun!



JARJINJABO

Located at about 4100m, Jar Jin Jia Bao (known as Cuopu Gou to Chinese) is a world class alpine area that been referred to as Asia's Patagonia. It isn't Patagonia, but it is still an amazing place to climb with loads of potential and established routes. JarJinJaBo is a small part of a larger area made up of the Garrapunsum and XiaShe Massifs, which are divided by a large valley running east and west housing the Ma Chu River. The northern Garrapunsum Massif contains JarJinJaBo has seen the most rock climbing and development. The XiaShe Massif has had mostly mountaineering trips as the rock is primarily rotten. This mix of rock climbing and snowy peaks make this area a great destination for a mix of climbing. JarJin-JaBo is the most accessible with a monastery that can serve as accommodation and a base camp for climbing in the area.



JarJinJaBo's fortress-like appearance.

Photo: Zhoulei



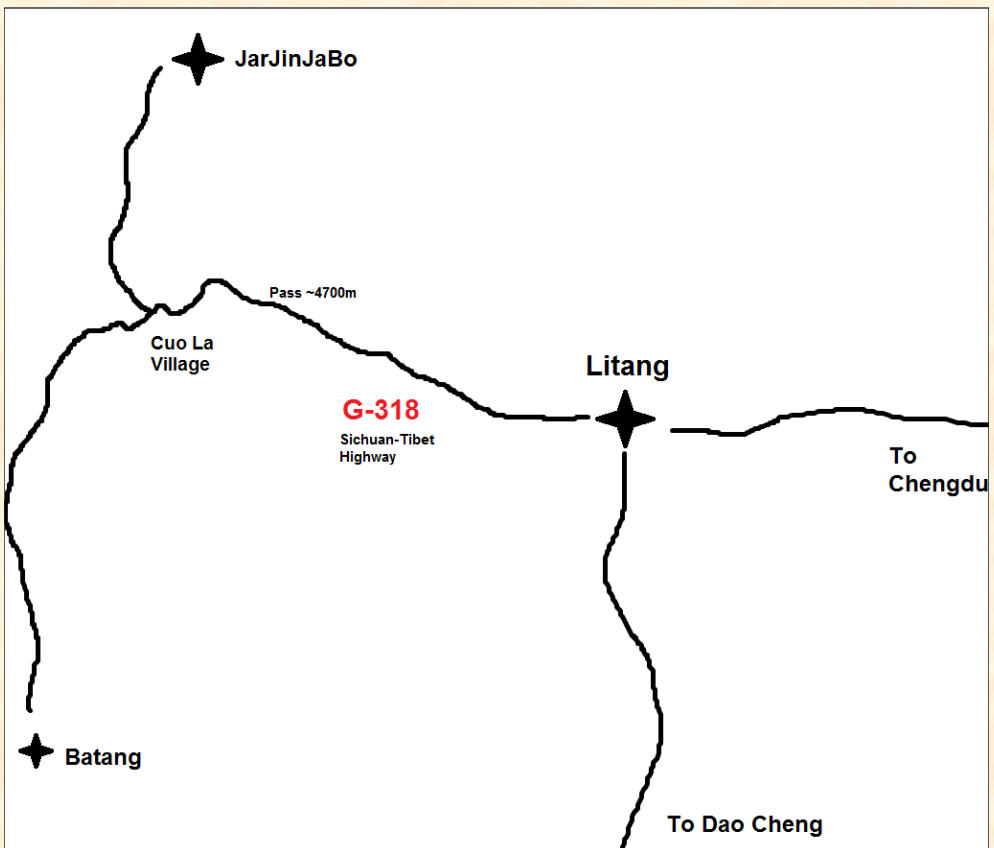
Garrapunsum(5812m) looms north west of JarJinJaBo. Meaning three blacksmith brothers, this peak was first climb in 2007. Only one route established to the top to date.

JARJINJABO AREA

TRANSPORTATION AND GETTING THERE

Travelling to this area is straight forward, but long from any major city. If coming from Chengdu or Litang, travel west on G-318 (Sichuan-Tibet highway). When you reach the town called Cuo La, about 70 km north of Batang and 80 km west of Litang, travel north on a small dirt road. There will be a sign to **Cuopu Gou** with pictures of JJJB on G-318. Travel up the dirt road staying right of the drainage for about 50km. After exiting the river gorge you will see a fortress of rock to the north with a wooded valley below it. This is the JarJinJaBo area. Continue across the grassland, making a left turn crossing a few lumber bridges until you arrive at the lake and later the monastery. The road is a bit rough, but small minivans can make it easily.

A Driver's number that has given us transport to **JarJinJaBo (Cuopu Gou)** in the past.
Nice fellow: 13568677576



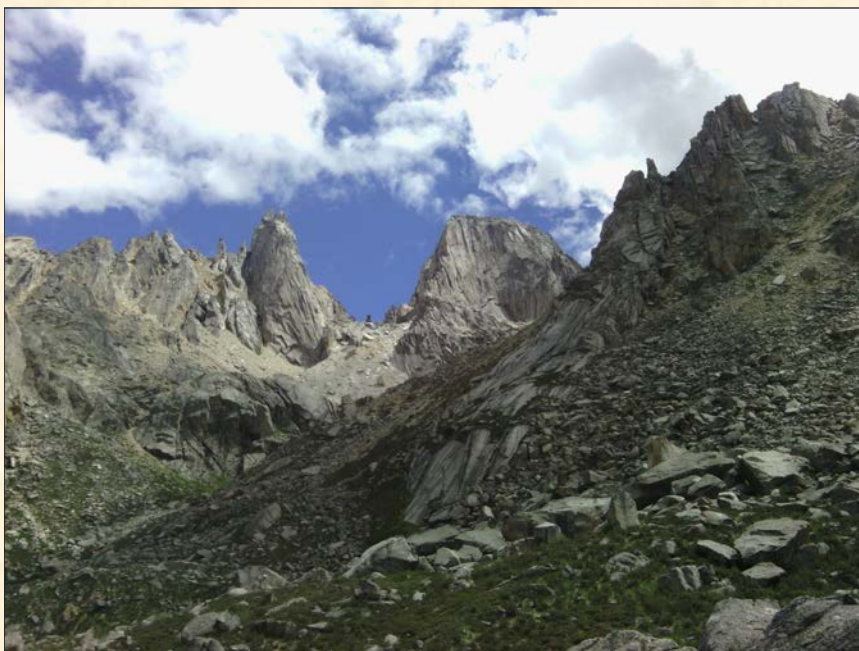
JARJINJABO

ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICES

The monastery has electricity and rents shared rooms for about 25 RMB a person per night. The Lammas that run the place are nice and accommodating. There is a small store to buy instant noodles and very limited supplies. Much better to bring your own supplies from Litang. If you choose to camp the costs are 25 RMB per night per tent. Camping in the alpine areas do not cost any money at this time. Please pack out everything you bring in and keep this area clean :) Also please dig toilet pits and USE them. Note that parties have had critter problems in the past so store your food properly. Parties in the past have hired local Tibetans and their yaks to help porter supplies in. There is phone reception here.

CLIMBING ACCESS

Currently you do not need to buy a ticket to enter this area and it does not fall into any national preserves or parks. Also it is unclear if you need to buy a permit to repeat any of the following routes. With that in mind it's best to keep a low profile with what you are doing there. The right or wrong person may make trouble for you. If you choose to climb the larger snow mountains, there might be a need to buy a permit. Otherwise, again, keep a low profile and enjoy your "trekking" trip. **We are guests and keep a good spirit about you.**

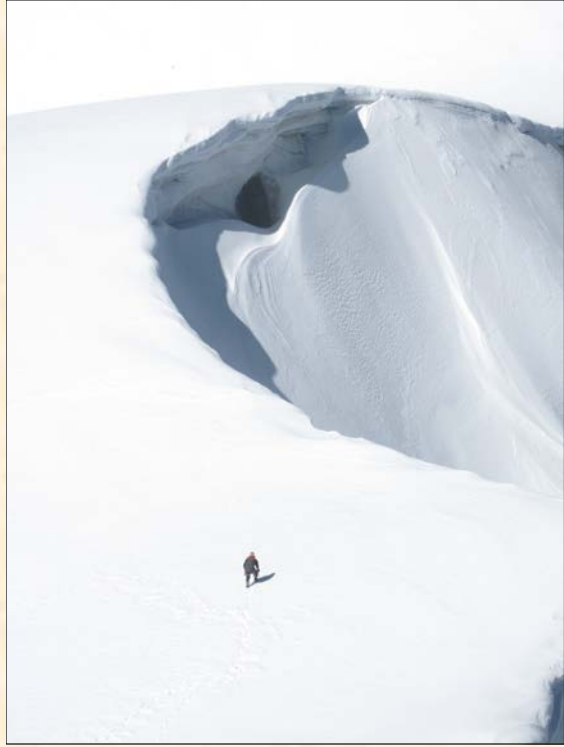


The Spires Janmo and Jabo in Valley 2.

JARJINJABO



Bernie LaForest climbing on Jabo Spire



Glacier are found above 5100m



First ascents are very rewarding, Peak 5450m

JARJINJABO



Thomas Vialletet on a first ascent in Valley 1



The author, Sylvain Millet, and the legendary Lamma Cheekah on a rest day at base camp in Valley 1

AREA OVERVIEW



Generally, the JarJinJaBo area can be divided into two regions. Valley 1 and Valley 2. The first valley is where the end of the road is, as well as the monastery. Valley two is approachable from valley 1. Valley 2 is the large cirque that accesses the spire like features, Janmo and Jabo, that have made this area popular.

VALLEY 1

Valley 1 is the end of the road as you drive into JarJinJaBo. The monastery is a great place to stay and base yourself for the trip. This main valley accesses the routes on the obvious large rocks and mountains here. Further up the valley there is a large lake and accesses some of the mountains in the region.



RIM ROUTE

Rim Route 5.10b Grade 3 gear set of stoppers, #1 TCU, camalot .3 to 6. Trad anchors with bolts and trees for the double rope rappelling. A great route that climbs one of the main features out of the valley floor. FA Mike Dobie, Andrew Hedesh, and Zhuo Lei Oct. 2013. FFA Mike Dobie and Andrew Hedesh

Approach: From the main valley of JarJinJaBo, Walk up the tundra behind the monestary until you see a gully/waterfall on your left. On the right hand side of this feature, the route starts after travelling up through the forest.

Pitch 1: 5th class, Trad anchor on tree. Climb up the path of least resistance. FA. MD

Pitch 2: Walking to move the belay.

Pitch 3a: 5.6/7, Trad anchor. Climb the corner on the left with the chockstones at the top. FA AH

Pitch 3b: 5.9? A1 Trad anchor. Further right there is another way up. Climb up the short crack to a ledge, then climb the corner or to the left and then continue up the corner finger crack. When we climbed this it was wet. If not wet it could be a good pitch. FA MD

Pitch 4: Walk up the forested slope to a ridge above. Climb down the small goat path to the other side on a ledge.

Pitch 5a: 5.6 Dirty and a bit dangerous. Original way went. FA. MD.

Pitch 5b: Not climbed yet but will be a better option for a second ascent. To the left of 5a, traverse to the corner and then up the crack systems.

Pitch 6: Walking up and a little left into the gully. Scramble up a short step and belay before the pitch that goes up on the right.

Pitch 7: 5th class or 5.7. Climb up to the left or right for a bit more of a challenging ascent to the ledge above. FA ZL

Pitch 8: From the ledge go left to the small ridge and continue up and a little left for about 10 minutes until you get to the base of the flake feature.

Pitch 9: 5.8 Climb the slot and up to a ledge (50m). FA MD

Pitch 10: 5.8 Climb up into the chimney and right onto a ledge. (55m). FA MD

Pitch 11: Rappel off the bolt down to the right to belay for pitch 12.

Pitch 12: 5.9 Continue up the crack systems straight up and trending a little left. (55m). FA MD

Pitch 13: 5.9 Climb up the obvious weakness in the wall and belay on the second ledge. (50m) FA AH

Pitch 14: 5.10 Climb up into the slot on the left and then aim for the corner straight above. (55m) FA MD

Pitch 15: 5.7/8 Climb up and right to the edge of the flake, past a penis shaped rock, and belay on an exposed ledge. (50m) FA AH

Pitch 16: 5.7 Continue up the flake aiming for the weakness in the ridge and belay at the top. FA MD

Descent: Rappel off of a sling on the top (might not be there since the first ascent). Then off single bolts with carabineers for 60 meter rappels. Then down climb and rappel off trees from pitch 8 following the same route down that you went up.

RIM ROUTE TOPO



RIM ROUTE 2

Rim Route 2: Marcos Costa, Zhoulei, and Sanwenyu scrambled up the gully behind (north) the main feature of the rim route and from the top of the gully climbed a route to the top of the first mountain feature. It has been reported to be no harder than 5.9 and was descended the way they went up via rappels on left gear. Combining the two routes via the Rim Route would be a long outing with a bivy in the notch at the top of the gully. Note you would have to climb a few new pitches along the ridge from the top of Rim Route 1 to gain the gully by straight access or a few rappels.



VALLEY 1

Open Route: Sylvain Millet and Thomas Vialletet climbed a route following the line on the picture below in October 2013. They did not reach the top and reportedly rappelled down the route they climbed. Unclear if rappel is bolted or on left gear. Double rope rappels.



VALLEY 1 – HUNTING SPIRE ROUTES

Route 1: 5.11 Grade 2 gear wires, 00-1 TCU .3 to 4 camalot. A very nice line and day outing. FFA Sylvain Millet and Andrew Hedesh Oct. 2013.

Approach: Hike up the valley drainage following the trail to the lake. The feature will be on your left about 30-60 minutes from the monastery. Hike up to the base.

Pitch 1: 5.9 Follow the right trending ramp weakness past a couple of good ledges.

Pitch 2: 5.10 ® Continue up the weakness. In the crux, so-so gear down low, must climb around to the right on a giant flake. Potential to hit a ledge. Blind for the belayer.

Pitch 3: 5.8 Moves left over a hump into a larger crack. Follow it until a belay pedestal is reached and climbing is obviously harder above.

Pitch 4: 5.11 The crack turns into a seam with no gear placements. Climbs on nice features with open handed holds and crimps the right of the seam (pin) and continue until a big crack is reached. Knee bar up over the lip and set a belay at the edge of the mountain.



Pitch 5: 5.7 go up the edge of the wall until the crest of the ridge is reached (long pitch)

Pitch 6: 5.8 (20m) Traverse the ridge. Boulder problem to get over a block. Sling a feature up high and downclimb about 8m. The second will be unprotected or just leave a sling.

Pitch 7: 5.6 Easy slab climbing. Continue up the ridge for 60 or 70 meters (simul-climb)

Pitch 8 (simul-climb): Traverse the final ridge around to the top of a gully.

Descent notes: Abseil from a slung rock down to the gully on the south side. Rappel is 60m. Walk down the gully to your gear at the base of the route.



VALLEY 1-HUNTING SPIRE ROUTES

Route 2: Minimal information on route. Joins Route 1 on the ridge at pitch 7. Thomas Vialletet, Melanie Martinot and Claire Martin first ascent.

Descent notes: Abseil from a slung rock down to the gully on the south side. Rappel is 60m. Walk down the gully to your gear at the base of the route.



VALLEY 2

Valley 2 has some very impressive features. The main and obvious spires have already been climbed. The left spire called Janmo was first climbed in 2002 by a party of Japanese Climbers. In 2005 Bernie LaForest, Jonathan Knight, and Tommy Chandler summited the feature proper using bolts. The spire on the right called Jabo was first climbed in 2002 by Pete Athans, Mark Synnott, and Jared Ogden.

\There are many routes established on these features. You can see a general overview on the next page. You can make a camp below the two lower spires on the left at 4560m and another higher up just below Janmo and JarJin-JaBo itself. Both have water sources.



Janmo Spire on the left with JarJinJaBo on the right.
Photo: Garrett Bradley

Approach: This valley is best approached from the monastery. Hike back on the west side of the lake and go up the steep forested slope to reach the ridge. Continue around and north following small trails up the rocky meadows to access this cirque.



JANMO AND JABO OVERVIEW



Janmo (Left side) and Jabo (Right Side) Spires showing a general overview of established routes. Both peaks are about 5380m (17.650 ft.) with Jabo being higher.

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JABO SPIRE

Jabo Spire reaches heights of 5,380m (17650 ft.) It was first climbed in 2002 by Pete Athans, Mark Synott, and Jared Ogden. They climbed the South east and west ridges. The southwest ridge is one of the longer rock routes in the area, but is traversing in nature. Since their original first ascent more direct routes were established up the major south facing walls. Being littered with cracks and corners, along with relative steepness to the rest of the wall, it offers great rock climbing. There are unclimbed faces on this feature, Notably the west and east faces.



Jabo's South face

Photo: Garrett Bradley

Approach: The approach to this wall is pretty straight forward. If camping at the lower valley it is better to ascend the east side of the valley rather than staying in the drainage. Then traverse to the base of the lower wall. To access the major ledge head up the main gully following the line of the lower wall. Scramble up the left onto the ledge.

Descent: There is a rappel route using 60m rappels and single 10mm bolts down route 1 and into route 2. This will get you to the large ledge that splits the face. There is also a rappel route on the right side of the mountain to the large gully. It follows the southeast ridge route.



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JABO SPIRE OVERVIEW



JABO

Route 1 (red) “Southwest Ridge” 5.10+ Grade 3 gear stoppers and cams to 4: A great line that goes up the main feature of JarJinJaBo. Halfway up this route is a large ledge. FA Mark Synnott, Jared Ogden, and Pete Athans 2002

Pitch 1-3: Limited information. Reported to have one or two small sections of 5.11a climbing.

Pitch 4: 5.11 Pull through the first roof and traverse the second. Depending on rope drag you may want to split it into two.

Pitch 5: 5.10 Once around the traversing roof head straight up the thin corner.

Pitch 6: 5.8 Head up the corner to the top of the mountain as the angle lessens.

Pitch 6: (variation right) Instead of staying in the corner traverse right to the other corner and up over the roof and crack feature. When the crack stops continue up the slab to the top.

Note: You can split up any of these pitch to ease rope drag concerns.

Descent: There is a rappel route using 60m rappels and single 10mm bolts down route 1 and into route 2. This will get you to the large ledge that splits the face. There is also a rappel route on the right side of the mountain to the large gully. It follows the standard east ridge route.



JABO

Route 2 (Yellow) 5.11 Grade 3 gear stoppers and cams to 4: A great line that goes up the main feature of JarJinJaBo. Joins route 1 at pitch 4. FA Jonathan Knight, Bernie Laforest 2005. . Pitch 4 variation Tommy Chandler and Ben 2005 Pitch 2 variation Mike Dobie 2014

Pitch 1: 5.10c Start up the corner chimney feature.

Pith 2: 5.11 Continue up the crack to the left and up onto the ledge.

Pitch 2 (Orange variation right): 5.11 A1 Continue up this chimney feature until you get to a ledge above. Might be easier to split into two pitches.

Pitch 3: 5.10a From the ledge go up the crack on the left and belay below the second roof.

Remaining pitches join the upper pitches of Route 1

Pitch 4: 5.11 Pull through the first roof and traverse the second. Depending on rope drag you may want to split it into two.

Pitch 4: (Variation left) At the 2nd roof traverse go left and head up the splitter for a pitch or two to a ledge. Route stopped at this point and was rappelled. Uncertain details about the rappel.

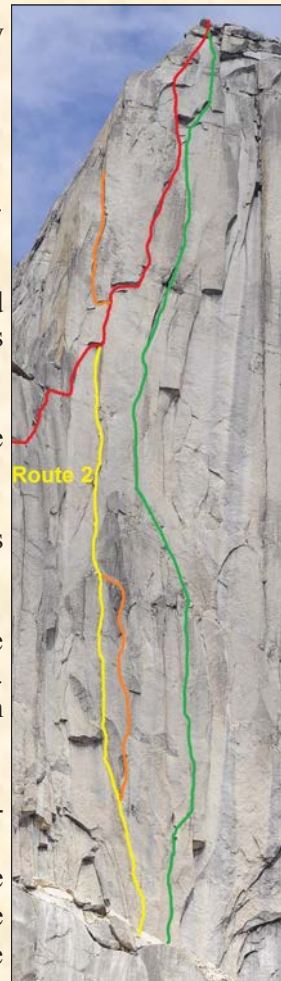
Pitch 5: 5.10 Once above the traversing roof head straight up the thin corner.

Pitch 6: 5.8 Continue up the corner to the top of the mountain as the angle lessens.

Pitch 6: (variation right) Instead of staying in the corner, traverse right to the other corner and up over the roof and crack feature. When the crack stops continue up the slab to the top. This pitch joins route 3's last pitch.

Note: You can split up any of these pitch to ease rope drag concerns

Descent: There is a rappel route using 60m rappels and single 10mm bolts down route 1 and into route 2. This will get you to the large ledge that splits the face. There is also a rappel route on the right side of the mountain to the large gully. It follows the standard east ridge route.



JABO

Route 3 (Green) 5.10? Gear stoppers and cams to 4: First ascent Jonathan Knight, Bernie Laforest, Tommy Chandler, and Ben 2005

Orange Variations: Minimal information on this route. Tommy Chandler followed this line as a variation into Route 2 and ended on its pitch 4 variation.

Note: You can split up any of these pitch to ease rope drag concerns

Descent: There is a rappel route using 60m rappels and single 10mm bolts down route 1 and into route 2. This will get you to the large ledge that splits the face. There is also a rappel route on the right side of the mountain to the large gully. It follows the standard east ridge route.



JABO

Route 4 (Black): 5.10 gear stoppers and cams to 4: The second line on the lower wall. To the right of it is a great fingercrack single pitch. This will put you on the large ledge at the start of routes 2 and 3. FA Mike Dobie, Christopher Miller, Garrett Bradley 2014.

Pitch 1: 5.10 Head up the ramping dual crack corner to the left of the roof. Once up 25m go right into a corner and up right and belay on the ledge.

Pitch 2: 5th class Scramble up and belay below the left facing corner with thin looking cracks.

Pitch 3 5.10 Head up the corner and belay at the large ledge.

Option here is to walk off to the right or continue up routes 1, 2, or 3.

Orange Variation: A single pitch finger crack reported to be 5.10

Descent: Once on the ledge, walk off to the right and down the main gully back to where you started.



JABO

Jabo SouthEast Ridge Route “The Beginner’s Mind” 5.8 gear stoppers and cams to 4:
First Ascent: Pete Athans and Robert Mackinlay.



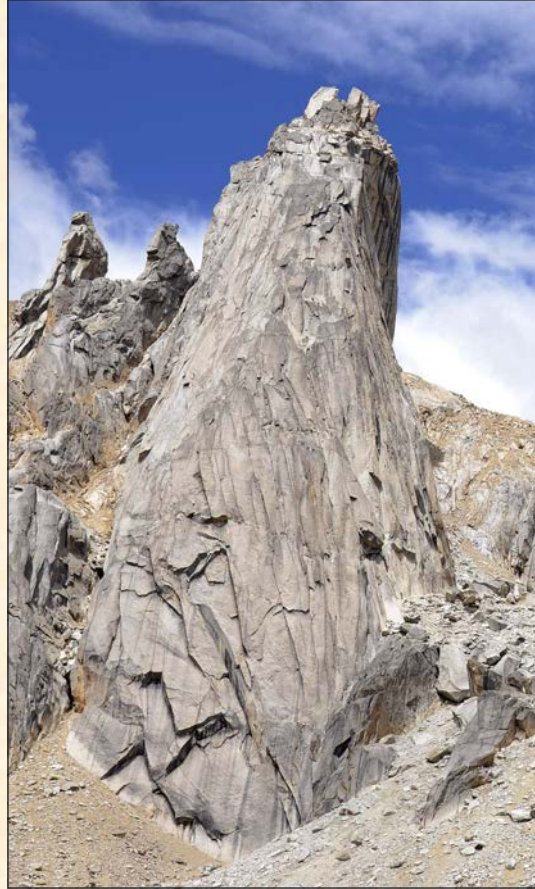
Small spire East of Jabo: 5.10a gear stoppers and cams to 4: There is minimal information on this route but it should be noted that the spire directly east of Jabo has been climbed. First Ascent: Kasha Rigby and Hillary Nelson 2002



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JANMO SPIRE

Janmo Tower is the other large feature in the valley. It was first climbed in 2002 by a Japanese party including Eiji Daigo, Yuriko Kowaka, Naoki Ohuchi, and Taizo Yoshida . The summit block was avoided do to dangerous climbing on their expedition. Shortly after, Pete Athans, Mark Synnott, and Jared Ogden repeated their route and established new ones. The very top of the feature wasn't climbed until the third expedition including Bernie Laforest, Jonathan Knight, and Tommy Chandler used bolting to get to the top. It is debatable that their efforts were the true first ascent of Janmo with the introduction of bolts. The routes on Janmo are reported to be of great quality.



Descent Notes: There is a 60m bolted rappel off of the summit block. Then a rappel route down the main face on gear that has been left.



JANMO SPIRE

Janmo Route 1: The main weakness going up the left side of the feature. There are two starts to the route. FA Bernie, Jonathan Knight 2005 or Pete Athans Mark Synnot, and Jared Ogden 2002. Pitch 1 variation Tommy Chandler 2005

Pitch 1: 5.10a Start up the steep handcrack. After about 100 feet you will get to a large ledge. Continue up another 100 feet up the number 4 camalot size splitter and belay from another ledge.

Pitch 1 Variation: Head up the thin mossy splitter to join the original Pitch.

Pitch 2: 5.10d. Move right across the bad rock and over a small overhang and up a left facing dihedral layback (10d).

Pitch 3: 5th class to 5.9 600 feet of simul climbing.

Descent Notes: There is a 60m bolted rappel off of the summit block. Then a rappel route down the main face on gear that has been left.



JANMO SPIRE

Janmo Route 2: Original route up the spire. The second pitch has a variation. FA Eiji Daigo, Yuriko Kowaka, Naoki Ohuchi, and Taizo Yoshida , 2nd ascent Pete Athans Mark Synnott 2002. Pitch 2 variation FA Bernie LaForest and Jonathan Knight 2005

Pitch 1: 5.8

Pitch 2: No information

Pitch 2 (Variation): 5.10d. Strenuous hands and fists up a groove. FA Bernie LaForest and Jonathan Knight

Pitch 3: Climb splitter cracks and weakness to join route 1. Simul-climbed.

Descent Notes: There is a 60m bolted rappel off of the summit block. Then a rappel route down the main face on gear that has been left.



JANMO SPIRE

Janmo Route 3: Reported to be of better quality than the original route up the spire. FA
Bernie Laforest and Jonathan Knight 2005

Pitch 1: 5.10c Thin corner climbing.

Pitch 2: 5.10a. Thin cracks.

Pitch 3: 5.9 Dihedral.

Pitch 4: 500 ft of simul climbing to reach the top.

Descent Notes: There is a 60m bolted rappel off of the summit block. Then a rappel route down the main face on gear that has been left.



JANMO SPIRE

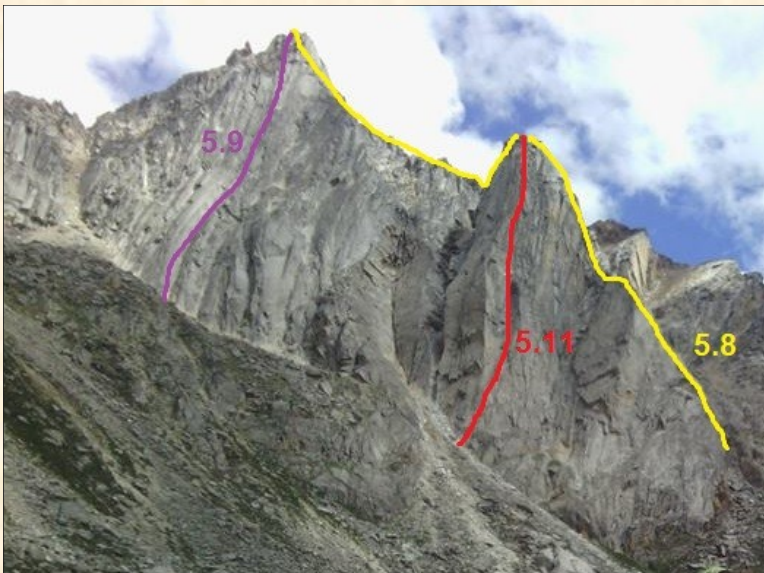
Janmo Summit Block: Equipped for a 60m rappel FA Bernie Laforest and Jonathan Knight 2005

Pitch 1: 5.9 offwidth move to a small chimney to gain a ledge.

Pitch 2: 5.11. Face and arête climbing. 4 bolts and a piton.



Valley 2 lower spires: The spires located in the lower valley have been climbed. All of the routes pictured below were climbed in 2002. All made by Jared Ogden and Mark Synott. Please note that there is another route left of the picture rated 5.9, but there is no picture.



AREA SNOW MOUNTAINS

The large snow mountains in the JarJinJaBo area are large and notable. Reaching to heights of 5800m. Amazingly enough, these mountain remained unclimbed until the mid 2000's. The highest peaks, XiaShe and Garrapunsum, were not climbed until 2006. There was an unsuccessful Korean expedition to XiaShe in the 1990's and it seems the area remained unknown until Pete Athans and Mark Synotts expedition and following articles about the trip in 2002.

In the following section I have compiled the information from route reports given by the first ascentists via the American Alpine Journal. Drawn maps, Three dimensional goggle earth pictures with lines of the routes followed, and route descriptions should give the reader a clear idea of the routes. The most prominent peaks have already been climbed, but there are many unclimbed faces.

AREA MAP



GARRAPUNSUM MASSIF

Garrapunsum (three Blacksmith Brothers) 5812 m / 19068 ft Southeast Ridge snow route: So far the only route reported on this mountain. Although the north face was attempted. This route goes to the top of the northernmost highest peak and middle peak. The other westernmost peak hasn't been climbed.

First Ascent: Charles Kilner,
Simon Mills, and Hamish Rose
October 6, 2007



Approach: (See JarJinJaBo Approach) As you exit the river gorge on the road north of G-318 approaching the grass plain in front of JarJinJaBo, cross the bridge left across the river and head north on the grass plains until the road ends. There will be forks in the road so navigate accordingly. When the road ends you will most likely need to trek or hire yaks to get into the valley north of Garrapunsum. Note that this would be a similar approach to the valley south of the mountain.



Route Description: Trek up the north valley to the head. Original first ascent team made an advance base camp here. Go up and around to the glacier. Glacier travel south to the southeastern ridge. Once on the ridge head up to the northernmost summit. Described as mostly a walk up glacier travel route.

Descent: Descend the way you came up.



Information from Theresa Booth, Rockhoppers Mountaineering Club, U.K. AAJ Report 2007

GARRAPUNSUM MASSIF

Man Chu Gang Ri (Man River Snowy Peak) 5434m: This prominence is north of Garrapunsum. A good acclimatization peak. Having no original Tibetan name, the first ascent team gave it the name Man River Snowy Mountain. Man is the name of the river flowing through the valley between the Garrapunsum and XiaShe Massifs.

First Ascent: Theresa Booth, Charles Kilner, Evelyn Mullins, and Basil Thomson October 1, 2007



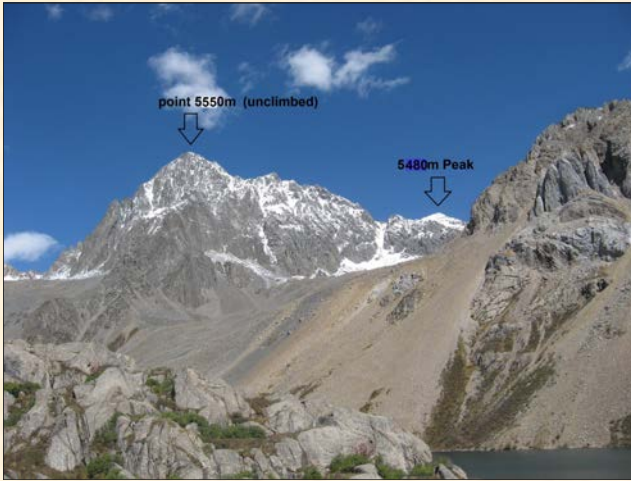
Approach: See *Garrapunsum Southeast ridge approach*. Make a camp in the northern valley below the mountains southern slopes.

Route Description: From base camp, travel up a river cut valley in a northwestern direction and gain a glacier to the left. Navigate small crevasses and follow easy angled slopes to the summit. Following the southeast slope of the mountain.

Descent: Descend the way you came up.

Information from Theresa Booth, Rockhoppers Mountaineering Club, U.K. AAJ Report 2007

GARRAPUNSUM MASSIF



5480m Peak: Class 4 Steep snow and Grade 1 Glacier Travel. A great mild to moderate mountaineering route that has some good couloirs and ridge climbing. Two days to climb. Peak 5550m was attempted but backed off due to poor rock quality on its east face. FA Zhuolei and Mike Dobie Oct. 2013.

Route Description: Travel up valley 1 to the main lake and camp. Scramble up the talus slope to the valley below peak 5550. At the end of this cirque go up one of two couloirs (first ascent went up the middle). If taking the middle go up and left and gain the ridge at the top. Travel up the ridge and then go right across the glacier. Climb up the ridge on the right to the summit. Down climb the route.



Another peak climbed: Thomas Vialletet and Melanie Martinot spent a few days the main valley above the lake and climbed a smaller peak. Details are not specific, but was reported to be about 5400m tall.

GARRAPUNSUM MASSIF

Hati (5524m) West Face Route: To date this is the only reported route on this mountain. It is a stand alone peak and is south of the JarJinJaBo area.

First Ascent: David Sykes and David Gerrard
May 2008



Hati seen from the northwest. Note the gradually angled southern slope gained via the west face.

Approach: Please note that the approach for this mountain isn't completely certain. Approachable from JarJinJaBo via dirt roads through the grasslands between Garrapunsum and XiaShe Massifs. Follow as if approaching for Xia She (*see XiaShe approach*) and cross the grasslands to a faint 4X4 road traveling southeast. Trek up the second major valley drainage southeast of JarJinJaBo and up the smaller drainage immediately right. Make a base camp below the west face.



Google earth shows a faint road ending at a valley to accessing the west face of Hati, but this could be inaccurate.

Route Description: Ascend the west face. Reported to have pitched out some sections. Gain the more gradual southern slope and an easy ascent to the summit.

Descent: Uncertain but thought to down climb the way they ascended.



Information from Dave Gerrard, UK. AAJ Report 2008

XIASHE MASSIF

XiaShe (5833m) Southeast ridge route: This mountain is the highest point in the region. It is seen from G-318 as you travel over the pass west of Litang and its north face is obvious from the JarJinJaBo area.

First Ascent: Patricia Deavoll and Karen McNeill October 13, 2006



XiaShe seen from the North

Approach: See *JarJinJaBo* approach. Instead of turning left to head across the grasslands to JarJinJaBo, keep going straight on the dirt road. Follow it around the northern flanks of the Xiashe Massif. Past a mining development and into the valley that approaches XiaShe north face. It is unclear how far you can travel up this road. Go as far as possible then trek into the valley.



Route Description: Keep trekking up to the head of the valley towards the Southeastern ridge between XiaShe and Nideng Gongga (prominence on right). First ascent team made an advanced base camp on this ridge. Descend to the south side of the mountain about 300m. Then ascend the southeastern side of the mountain on the mountain up a glaciated and rocky slope. Gain the summit ridge and follow it to the top.



Descent: Descend the way you came up. *Also descent for the North Face route.*

Information from Karen McNeill's AAJ report 2006

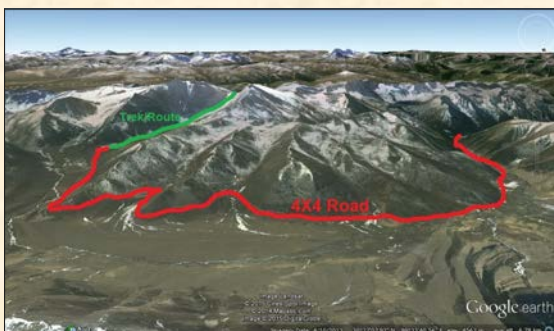
XIASHE MASSIF

XiaShe (5833m) North Face Route: Days after the first ascent of XiaShe, the intimidating north face was climbed.

First Ascent: Edward Douglas and Duncan Tunstall
October 16, 2006



Approach: See *JarJinJaBo* approach. Instead of turning left to head across the grasslands to JarJinJaBo, keep going straight on the dirt road. Follow it around the southern flanks of the Xiashe Massif. Past a mining development and into the valley that approaches XiaShe north face. It is unclear how far you can travel up this road. Camp in a safe place below the North Face.



Route Description: The first ascent team followed a major gully system that spans most of the north face, running up towards the west ridge. From the first camp at the base of the North face climb a short 10m WI3 pitch and right trending ramp to reach the gully system. Follow this ramp

up to 5200m. The terrain to this point was reported to be mostly unconsolidated snow and rock/scree. Camp at point 5200m. From here the angle of slope steepens. Exit the main gully on a spur to the left. Climb rotten rock with sections of ice to 5750m. Original team camped on the right side of a serac system 150m from the summit. One pitch of good ice leads to another pitch of less steep but poorer ice with a belay just below the southeastern ridge. Punch through the cornice and ascend the southeastern ridge to the summit.



Descent: Descend the southeast ridge route. See *previous page*

Information from Ed Douglas, UK AAJ report 2006

XIASHE MASSIF

Nideng Gongga (5690m) West Glacier and South face route: This mountain is just east of XiaShe. Only one route has reached the summit so far. I speculate that this peak would be great for a ski mountaineering trip.

First Ascent: Yvonne PFluger and Tim Church October 2012



Nideng Gongga as seen from JarJinJaBo.

Approach: See *JarJinJaBo Approach*

A few kilometers before exiting the valley you will see a major drainage coming from the southwest (to the right) with a dirt road going up it. Take this road following it up into the eastern valley system below NiDeng Gongga. You may need to hire motorcycles to get up this road to the base camp. There is reports of mining exploration in this area. Camp below the mountain's west face.



Route Description: From basecamp climb up to a col on a northwest running ridge about 400m above BC. Go through the col to access the glacier. Navigate the crevassed glacier onto the southern side of the mountain and up to the summit avoiding the west ridge.



Descent: Descend the same route you went up.

Information from Yvonne PFluger's and Tim Church's AAJ report October 2012

XIASHE MASSIF

Crown Peak (5609m) North West Face Route: To date this is the only reported route on this mountain. It is a stand alone peak and is southeast of XiaShe

First Ascent: David Anderson, Szu Ting Yi and Eric Salazar 2013

Approach: After travelling 50 KM west of Litang on G-318, turn right (north) up a rough drainage for about 18 KM. Turn left (west) and follow this road for about 12 km and trek into a drainage north and east of the mountain. Climb up and over a ridge into the next drainage east and make base camp at a small lake.



Crown Peak Photo: Dave Anderson



Route Description: Climb a rotten gully south of the main couloir splitting the northwest face. Reach the west ridge and follow it to the top. Reported to have a few pitches of 5.6 climbing on rotten rock, but is mostly a 3-4th class scramble and easy snow/ice slope to the summit.

Descent: Down climb the way you ascended. May need a few rappels.



Information from Dave Anderson 2013

YADING NATURE PRESERVE

The Yading Nature Preserve is currently the main tourist draw to the area. The attractions include a world class trek around the three unclimbed 6000 meter peaks in the park. Ibex's, monkeys, and yaks are also found around these mountains. This trek is a MUST do if you are in the area during the prime seasons. Don't be deterred by the price tag, these peaks are unlike anything in the world.



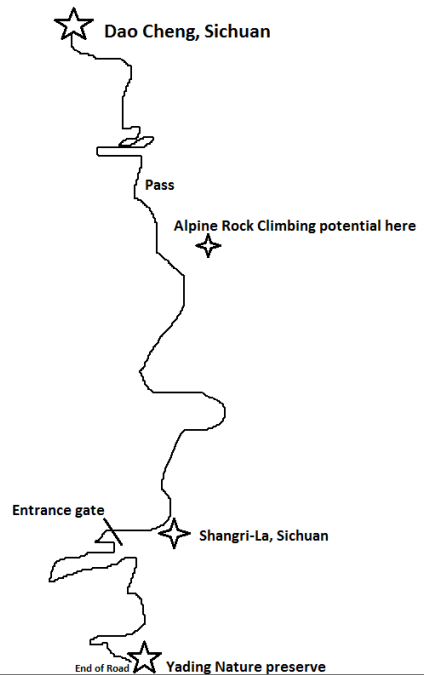
One of the three peaks in Yading

When to Go: The best times to visit the park is the fall and spring. Sometimes during the summer you can get good weather. The winter time can get snowed in.

APPROACH AND ACCESS: From Dao Cheng you can get a car or taxi to Yading. In the town of Shangri-la, Sichuan there is a ticket booth where each visitor will have to pay 150 RMB. Once you are in the park it is another 45 minute drive to the end of the road, where you need to hike in further. This point is also the start of the trek around the park. You can also rent horses to take you up to the monastery where the main trail forks on the trek.

There are a large number of guest-houses in the park as well, with variable costs for housing. There are no proper stores, so I suggest doing all your shopping before entering the park. The prices will be variable based on the season.

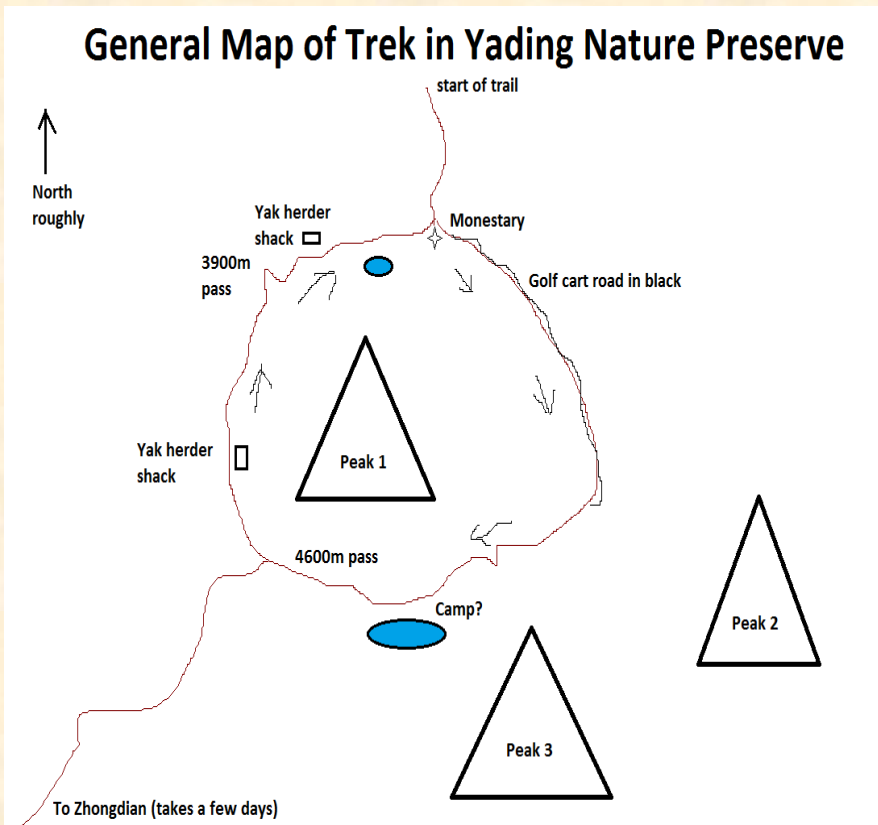
Map of Area Between Dao Cheng and Yading



YADING TREK

OVERVIEW: The trek around the three mountains is a must do if you are in the area. The trail starts at the end of the road as you head south into the park. It is possible to do it in one day if you allow the whole day and move quickly. But surely it would be more enjoyable if you took your time and did it in two days. The total distance is close to 30 KM. It makes a loop so it is possible to do it either direction. The way I describe it is the easiest to follow. The other direction might be confusing if you have never done it.

TRAIL NOTES: Start the trail at the end of the main road as you arrive in Yading (where the gate is and road ends). Head up the road to the grassy meadows. There is a large valley on the left the heads towards peak 2. Travel up this valley via trail and golf cart road (south). Make your way up the valley towards peak 3 (south, staying on the right on the major trail. Cut right up into the saddle between peak 2 and 1 (west). Pass the lake (could camp here). Stay **right** at the fork on top of the pass (left goes to Zhongdian and other places). Skirt the slopes of Peak 1 stay on the west and north slope. Stay on main trail and go over the pass. Head down the valley to the east and follow the major trail. Drop into the cirque with another lake. Get onto the boardwalk and head down to the Monastery area. Head back to the start of the trail.



THE DAO CHENG PEOPLE

Perhaps the most exciting thing about Dao Cheng is the culture. The people are a minority of Tibetan. Tibetan Buddhism is at the heart of everyone's life. The simple greeting to each other (like hello) is "Buddha be with you". Spoken as josh eh duh lay (roughly). Many of the women carry a hand held wheel which they spin in a clockwise manner. This is meant to be a symbol of prayer for the whole of humanity. Also daily chanting throughout the day by individuals is not uncommon. You'll probably run into a few monks or (llamas) while you are visiting. They are very nice and kind of thought to be the priest equivalent to the Catholics. Every morning they pray and bow and chant as a whole temple and travel out to villages to



Traditional Dao Cheng style

be of maximum service. You might even see one on a pilgrimage to Lhasa, the Tibetan holy city. They travel all the way there (over 1000 KM) by taking two steps and then touching their chest to the ground in a bowing gesture of humility. This is called prostrating.

The common architecture of the homes are two story buildings made out of granite bricks, to withstand the harsh winters. They have two floors. The bottom floor is mainly for storage of goods and also individual rooms for animals like yaks, pigs, and cows. The second floor is reserved for human inhabitation. The animals living downstairs help heat the house above. On the second floor there is a large living area with a place for fire. Traditionally



Yaks are brought out daily

an open fire was used for cooking and heating the house, but more recently cast iron stoves are being used. It is also not uncommon for most houses to have a shrine of worship within it. On certain occasions you might get to see these rituals in practice. The staple of the diet revolves around the Yak. Su yo Cha (or yak butter tea) is probably the most common drink. It usually has a salty sour taste. They also use the yak milk to make a sour cheese for eating. Meat is usually dried and made into sausage if it is used for eating.

ACCLIMATIZATION 101

The high altitude of Western Sichuan poses the greatest safety risks. Below and on the next page is a crash course on AMS prevention, management and treatment.

Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS)- Acute mountain sickness is a fairly common illness that can occur when human beings travel above 2,400 meters (8,000 ft.). It is an illness that cannot be tied to any common preventable thing. There has been some speculation as to what can cause it (beside a decrease in atmospheric pressure) like fatigue, dehydration, a quick ascent, but the specific causes in the individual is hard to identify. If someone gets AMS, the symptoms usually manifest themselves 6 to 10 hours after the person arrives at altitude. These symptoms should subside within one to two days following their onset. If these symptoms do not subside, more life threatening conditions like HAPE and HACE can occur. It is also common for these symptoms to become worse if the patient exerts themselves physically.

Most common symptoms experienced:

- Headache (headache can be caused by dehydration, it is considered AMS if another symptom accompanies a headache)
- Nausea, lack of appetite, or vomiting
- Unusual fatigue
- Dizziness
- Insomnia
- Shortness of breath upon exertion
- Persistent Rapid pulse
- Peripheral edema (swelling of hands and feet)
- General malaise
- Drowsiness

Severe symptoms of AMS

The previous are common non-life threatening symptoms of AMS. AMS can progress to more serious condition that compromise safety. Really keep your eye out for the following signs and symptoms if AMS does not resolve in allotted time. These conditions and symptoms are as follows:

High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE)-Fluid begins to develop within the patients lungs.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Persistent dry cough
- Fever
- Shortness of breath even while resting
- Symptoms similar to bronchitis

High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE)- Fluid and swelling in the brain.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Headache that does not respond to analgesics
- Unsteady gait
- Gradual loss of consciousness
- Confusion and unrealistic ideas
- Increased Nausea and persistent vomiting

Prevention

Ascending to higher altitudes slowly is the best way to avoid AMS. The altitude acclimation process takes time. When a person arrives to altitude at or above 2,400 meters (8,000 ft.) a full 24 hour “rest day” should be taken. During this time, increased fluid and food intake will help the process. Alcohol/caffeine should be avoided in the first 24 hours because of its dehydrating effects. Once this rest day is taken and symptoms of AMS are not present, one can ascend to higher elevation. A common rule of thumb for people ascending to higher altitudes is the “climb high sleep low” philosophy. This is the idea that the individual can climb/hike high above the elevation they are acclimated to, but they should descend back to their camp within the same day. If someone is trying to climb a high peak in the Himalayas, rarely does a team ascend and sleep higher than 300 meters (1000 ft.) above their previous camp unless they have made day trips to the higher elevations. For example, a team of climbers ascending Mount Everest will climb 3,000 ft. above their base camp at 20,000 ft. but they will not stay overnight at that elevation.

ACCLIMATIZATION CONT...

Here they will erect their next camp and descend back down to the previous camp they started at. Once the next camp is established they will try to stay at the higher camp. Following this idea their next camp would be between 23,000, while the next ascent would be up to 26,000 ft. and they would return back to their previous camps until acclimatized. Most teams do this until they can “climb high” to the summit. This is a hard rule to follow for those that are summit bound and trying to get to a high altitude area, but it is the biggest defense against AMS and severe cases of HACE and HAPE. So in the case of Southwestern Sichuan it is advantageous to take day trips from Dao Cheng to HaiziShan Preserve or TuerShan rather than camping there the first day of arrival.

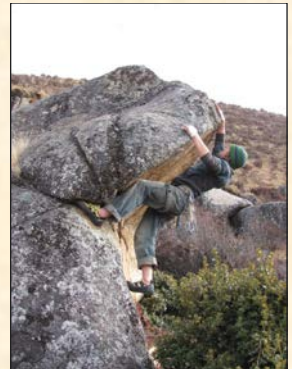
Other preventative measures: Proper diet and hydration have been thought to aid the acclimation process. Drink lots of water and other non diuretic beverages. Foods high in fat have been thought to increase the chances of AMS. Try to avoid fatty foods and eat carbohydrate rich items. If someone is experiencing AMS symptoms they should still be eating and hydrating regularly. A slow and easy ascent to elevation is also a very important tool to assist people ascending. It is not uncommon for people to feel the need to race to the destination. It can be fun and challenge for some, but they can suffer some discomfort later on. Taking it nice and easy as you ascend can be the difference in a comfortable experience and suffering from AMS. **Respect the environment and remember that you are on vacation.**

Preventative Prescription Medications:

Diamox or Acetazolamide is an effective drug at preventing the symptoms of AMS. For those making rapid ascents (those not following the climb high sleep low and no rest day method) this drug can really help you have a more enjoyable experience. 125 to 250 mg twice daily before ascending to higher altitudes is suggested and continued to take until a few days after reaching highest altitude desired. This drug is also moderately effective with the treatment of AMS (250 mg twice daily) But this drug is not as reliable of a treatment as it is for prevention of AMS. Some people seem to be more susceptible to AMS than others.

Treatment and Plan for someone with Severe AMS, HACE, or HAPE

The number one treatment for AMS is to descend 2,000 (600 meters) feet until the symptoms resolve. If someone shows sign and symptoms of AMS, they should be monitored. Ascension above the person’s current altitude is not permitted and if the person’s symptoms worsen. If symptoms do not resolve within 24 to 48 hours, a rapid descent is warranted. The person with symptoms of mild AMS is able to stay at the current altitude. They should be encouraged to eat and drink a plenty. You can also administer Diamox to help relieve the symptoms if the drug is not contraindicated for the individual. If their symptoms progress to severe AMS, HACE, or HAPE the individual must descend to a lower elevation. **If you are in Dao Cheng and need to make a rapid descent, the main road that travels south to the Yading Nature Preserve descends into a gorge to a town named Shangri la. It is the closest lower altitude town to Dao Cheng, about 1.5 hours.**



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SPECIAL THANKS

My mom Sue Michels and my father Don Dobie and sister Julie Soderlund for their support through the development process and the time I've spent in China to help make this happen.

Eben Farnworth and Colours of Discovery for his contributions for the website and photography of the climbing in Liming and Dao Cheng.

The Tibetan Families we've stay with on the trips and their amazing hospitality.

Zhoulei, Xiao Ku, Tristan Gebhart, Denise, Rowena, and Andy Dixon and all others who headed out into the unknown and discovered this place.

The North Face China and Black Diamond for their generous contributions and sponsorships for the development trips.

Love you all!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Dobie started rock climbing in 2009. He came to China in 2010 from the Pacific Northwest of the United States of America. Since arriving he has had a number of first ascent experiences and felt the need to share by writing about them through Li Ming Rock and Southwestern Sichuan Bouldering and Climbing. He has developed and established over 170 traditional routes in Li Ming, Keketuohai, Dao Cheng, and Yang Jiang. This development is ushering in a movement of traditional climbing in China. Currently, he lives and works in China developing and marketing new climbing areas for the climbing community. With a degree in Athletic Training, he is also a North Face, Black Diamond, Mad Rock, and DaliBar Sponsored Athlete. He can be contacted at mdobie012@gmail.com. Peace be the journey and YOU ROCK!



Mike getting dirty developing routes in Keketuohai, Xinjiang
Photo: Garrett Bradley