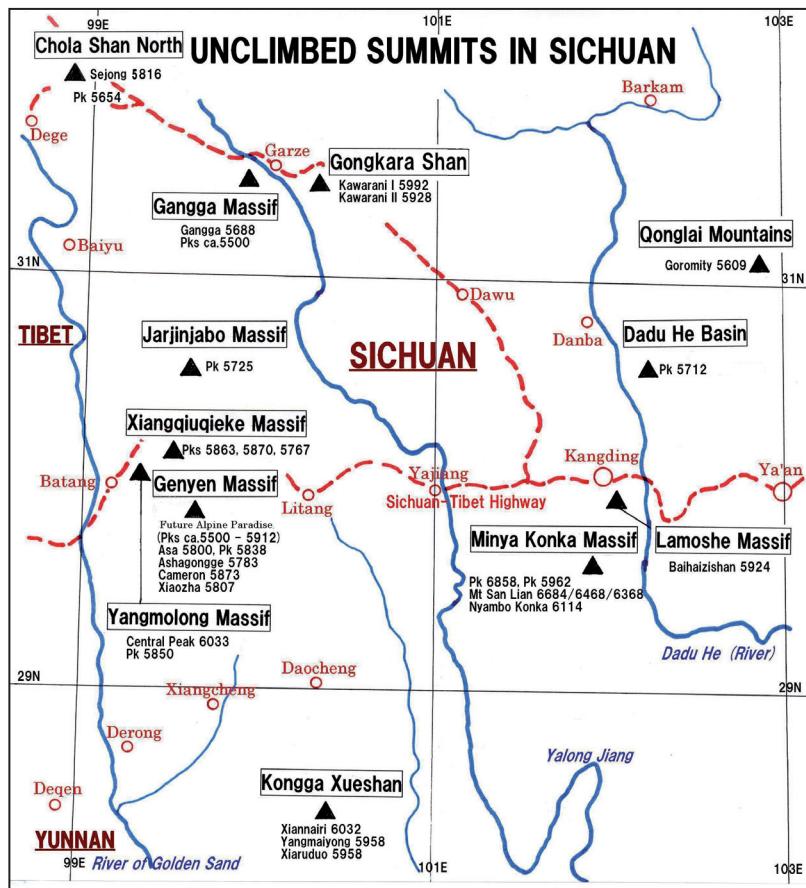


TAMOTSU NAKAMURA

Unclimbed Peaks in Sichuan - 2012

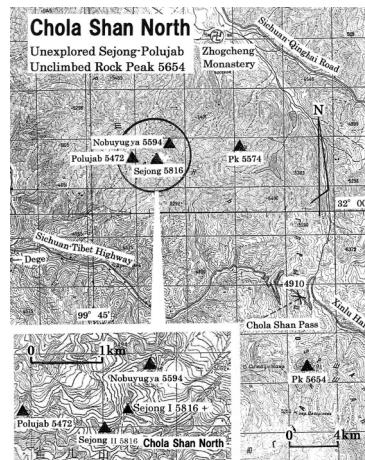
In October 2011 one of the last 6000m-plus ‘problems’ in Sichuan was finally solved when an American-Chinese team reached the long-coveted main summit of Yangmolong (6060m). However that is by no means the end of Sichuan’s story. Though, as shown on the map below, only a few unclimbed 6000 m peaks remain in the West Sichuan Highlands of China there are many alluring peaks not exceeding this magic number which should inspire and attract ambitious climbers. In this article I have updated, area-by-area, information on Sichuan’s notable unclimbed peaks, giving an overview from north-west to south-east current to January 2012.



97. Above: Chola Shan North, Peak 5654m north face. (Takao Ohe)



98. Left: Chola Shan North, Sejong II (5816m) north-west face. (Tamotsu Nakamura)



Chola Shan North

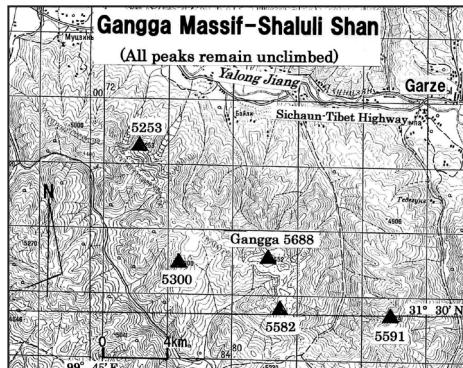
The Chola Shan is divided into North and South at the Chola Shan pass (4910m). The northern part is a massif comprising Sejong I and II (5816m), Nobuyugya (5594m) and Polujabu (5472m). It lies not far south of the ancient Zhogcheng Gompa. The highest peak Chola Shan I (6168m) (climbed) is south of the Lake Xinlujhai in the southern part of the range where several expeditions have already made ascents.

The area north of the Chola Shan

pass has been reconnoitred only by Tom Nakamura, in the fall of 2000, and by a party from the Hengduan Mountains Club (Japan) in summer 2011. However no one has attempted any ascents yet and therefore all the peaks remain untrodden. In addition an outstanding rock peak (5654m) just south of the Chola Shan pass is regarded as a worthy objective.



99. Gangga
(5688m) north
face. (*Tamotsu
Nakamura*)



peaks of some 5500m are clustered in the vicinity of Gangga; all remain unclimbed. The diplomat and orientalist Eric Teichman admired the grandeur of Gangga massif in his travels in 1918.

(Note: A Chinese map shows that the Shaluli Shan range covers a vast area up to the Genyen massif and beyond to Kongga Xueshan, crossing the Litang Plateau.)

Gongkara Shan – Kawarani

The two principal peaks, Kawarani I (5992m) and II (5928m), are located 30km east of Ganzi town and the Yalong Jiang river. Two Japanese parties and a British party have tried to set up a base camp for reconnaissance and climbing, but hostile monks of a lamasery in the vicinity have hindered

100. Kawarani I
(5992m) (right)
and II (5928m)
south-west face.
(*Tamotsu
Nakamura*)



101. Kawarani
I (5992m) north
face (*Takao Ohe*)



their approach. The monks believe the Kawarani peaks to be sacred and have not allowed foreigners to climb them. This situation did not change through 2011 and the Ganzi Mountaineering Association did not issue any climbing permit to foreign expeditions.

Jarjinjabo Massif – Unclimbed Peak 5725

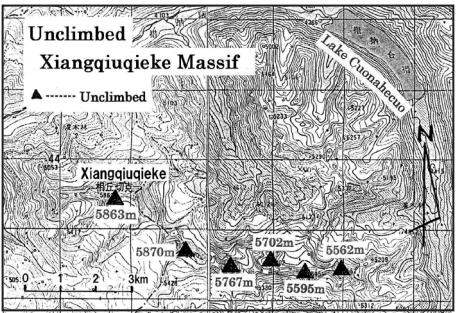
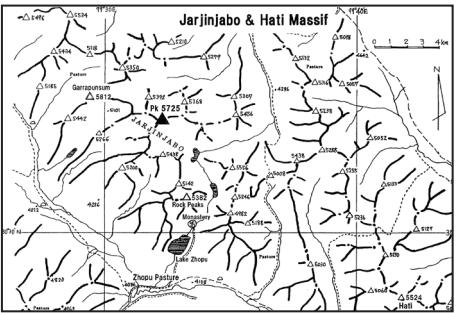
To the best of my knowledge almost all the prominent peaks in this group have been climbed, except for the second highest peak – one of 5725m. A Japanese party was first in the field, in 2001, climbing a rock tower that soars north of the Zhopu Pasture in 2001, and since then adjacent rock peaks west of Lake Zhopu have been climbed by American parties. The highest peak, Garrapunsum (5812m), was scaled by an Anglo-American party in October 2007. They had originally planned to attempt Kawarani in the Gongkara Shan but were denied access to the mountain.

Xiangqiuqieke Massif

This largely unknown massif is located south of the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and northeast of the Yangmolong massif. It stretches west to east for about 20km and includes peaks of 5863m (called Xiangqiuqieke), 5870m, 5767m, 5702m, 5595m and 5562m.



102. Jarjinjabo (5725m) (right snow peak) south face seen from Zhopu Pasture. (*Tamotsu Nakamura*)



103. Xiangqiuqie (5863m) south face. (*Tim Boelter*)

In October 2005 a Japanese party from Yamanashi Prefecture approached the northern side on a reconnaissance. In July 2010 Tom Nakamura tried to gain access, also from north, i.e. from the Sichuan-Tibet Highway. In September 2011 Tim Church and Yvonne Pfluger of the New Zealand Alpine Club made an attempt on Xiangqiuqie from the south



104. Above: Yangmolong Central Peak (6033m) (right), Dangchezhe. (*Tim Boelter*)

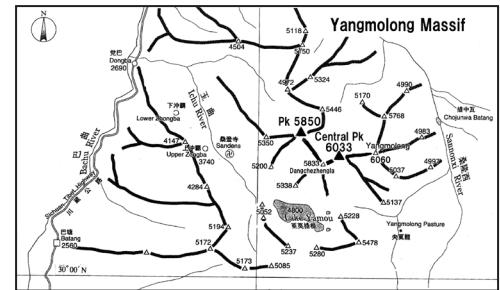
105. Below: Yangmolong massif (5850m) north-west face. (*Tim Boelter*)



side. Unfortunately they were forced to abandon their ascent after setting up base camp because villagers refused to support the pair. All the peaks in the area therefore remain unclimbed.

Yangmolong Massif

Situated some 16km east of Batang town, this massif has three principal peaks: Dangchechengla (5833m) climbed by a Japanese party in 2002, Yangmolong Central or Makara (6033m) and Yangmolong Main (6060m), the highest peak. The main summit was scaled in October 2011 by an American-Chinese party led by Jon Otto and filmed by Tim Boelter after repeated attempts by Japanese, British and American-Chinese parties. Yangmolong Main is reckoned one

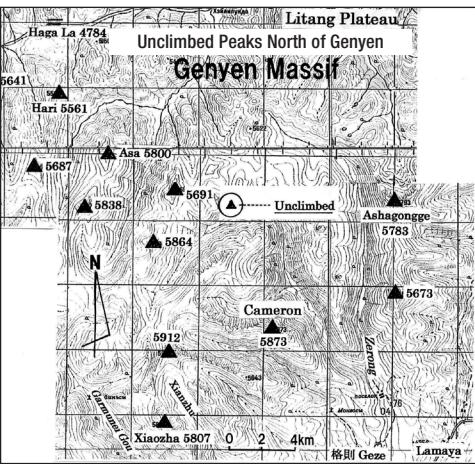


of the toughest peaks in Sichuan.

There was a report that Yangmolong Central was climbed by a Korean party in 2002, but no detail or evidence has been forthcoming and climbers who have been to Yangmolong question the Korean ascent. For the purposes of this article, therefore, the Central Peak is treated as unclimbed. Another outstanding peak of 5850m also remains unclimbed.



106. Genyen massif, Cameron (5873m) east face
(T. Obtulovic)



Genyen Massif – Future Alpine Paradise

The Genyen massif covers a wide area on the Litang Plateau south of the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and in near future is likely to become an 'alpine paradise'. It is already beginning to draw climbers' attention.

The main summit, Genyen (6204m), was first climbed by a Japanese party in 1988; an Italian party made the second ascent via a new route on the east face. The second highest peak (5964m) and Sachun (5716m, seen from

an ancient lamasery, Rengo Gompa, were scaled by American parties. Americans Charlie Fowler and Christine Boskoff perished on Genyen in December 2006.

Many challenging rock peaks of 5500 to 5900m north and north-east of Genyen remain untouched: These include:

1. Asa (5800m) and Ashagongge (5783m) seen from the Sichuan-Tibet Highway passing through the Litang Plateau.
2. Fantastic granite peaks Cameron (5873m) Xiaozha (5807m) and other challenges viewed from a high pass, Three Smith Brothers (4800m) between Litang and Lamaya.
3. Rock peaks clustered just north of the Genyen and further north



107. Genyen massif, (c. 5600m) east face. (Katka Mandulova)

including attractive peaks of 5838m and 5784m and several others between 5700 and 5900m.

Kongga Xueshan (Kongkaling) Massif

The Kongga Xueshan massif lies in Daocheng County and has three famous snowy peaks, all still unclimbed:

1. Xiannairi (6032m), the highest peak, was attempted by a Japanese party in 1989.

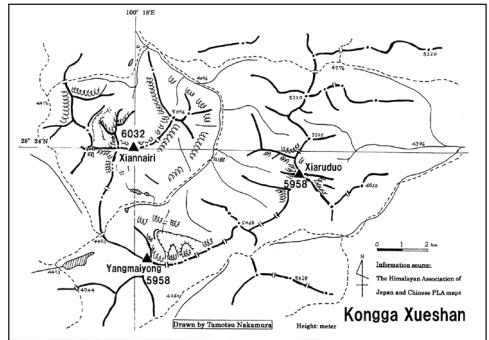
2. The stunningly beautiful pyramid Yangmaiylong (5958m) – circumambulated in 1928 by the botanist-explorer Joseph Rock who called the mountain Jambeyang. Fowler and Boskoff reached to within 500m of the summit.

3. Xiaruduo (5958m) – once attempted by an American party.

At present the local government of Daocheng County does not permit climbing on any of these peaks, regarded as sacred by the local Tibetan inhabitants. The area is developing as a tourist destination and attracting hundreds of trekkers.



108. Litang Plateau, Asa (5800m) north face. (Tamotsu Nakamura)





109.
Kongga Xueshan,
Xiannairi (6032m)
north face.
(Tamotsu Nakamura)



110.
Kongga Xueshan,
Xiaruduo (5958m)
west face.
(Tamotsu Nakamura)



111.
Kongga Xueshan,
Yangmaiyyong
(5958m) north-west
face.
(Tamotsu Nakamura)

Lamoshe Massif – Daxue Shan

Early explorers referred to Lamoshe as the ‘Mountains of Tatsienlu’, the massif being situated just east of the town of Kangding, the Tibetan name of which is ‘Tatsienlu’. The highest peak is Lamoshe (6070m), first

climbed by an American party in 1993; a Czech climber made the second ascent, solo, in 2010. Other peaks of around 5800m have been climbed by New Zealand, American, Canadian and Chinese parties, but the second highest peak, Baihaizishan (5924m) remains unclimbed.

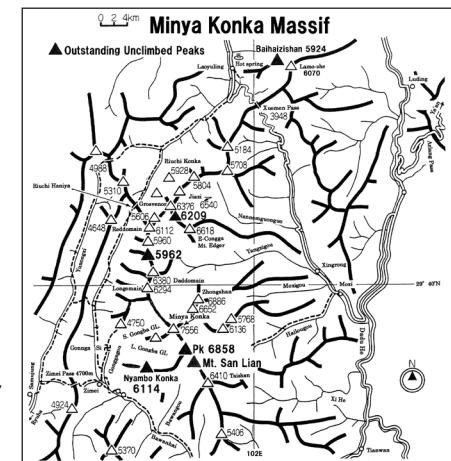


112. Lamoshe massif, Baihaizishan (5924m) west face. (Tamotsu Nakamura)

Minya Konka Massif – Daxue Shan

Daxue Shan is the largest range in Sichuan. Only a few of its 6000m peaks remain unclimbed, the most outstanding, from south to north, are as follows:

1. Nyambo Konka (6114m): an NZ-American party attempted the east face in 2009.
2. San Lian (called Longshan) comprising summits of 6684m, 6468m and 6368m. All three look hard propositions.
3. Peak 6858m, highest unclimbed peak in the massif, just south-west of Minya Konka (7556m).
4. Peak 5962m between Donogomba (5960m) and Daddomain (6380m).
5. Unattractive peak of 6209m on the ridge between Mts Edgar (E-Kongga) (6618m) and Grosvenor (6376m).





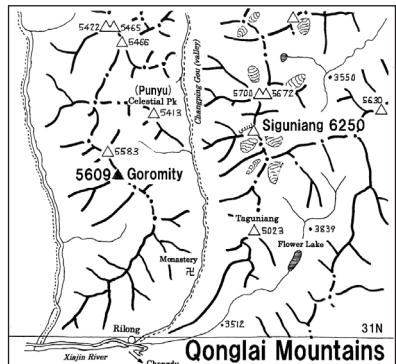
113. Minya Konka massif:
San Lian east face.
Summits from right: 6684m,
6468m, 6368m. (*Zhang Shaohong*)



114. Minya Konka massif:
Nyambo Konka (6114m)
west face. (*Pedro Detjen*)



115. Qonglai Mountains:
Goromity (5609m) south
face. (*Tamotsu Nakamura*)

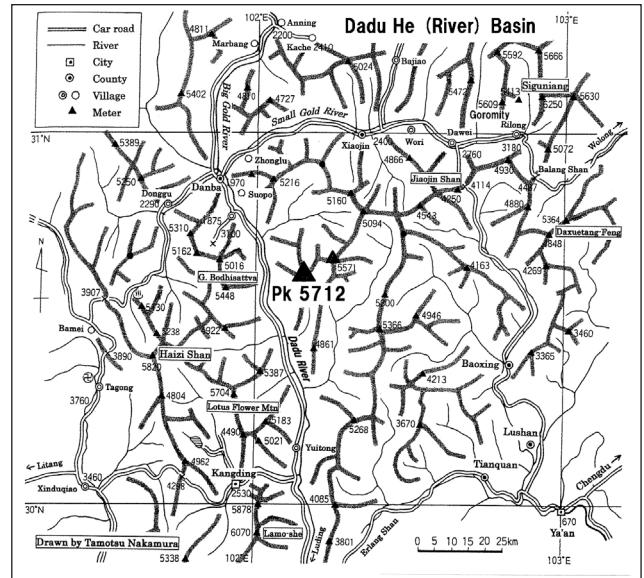


Qonglai Mountains

Climbers have flocked to the Qonglai mountains in the last decade. In consequence, almost all its notable peaks, including Siguniang (6250m) and surrounding 5200 – 5900m peaks have been ascended and new routes have been opened on difficult rock peaks. According to Kenzo Okawa, a Japanese photographer, who works in the Siguniang National Park, the only unclimbed peak is Goromity (5609m) which was attempted



116. Dadu He (River)
basin, Peak 5712m
north face. (*Tamotsu Nakamura*)



by a Chinese party about 2009 and by a Japanese party in the summer of 2011.

Dadu He (River) Basin

Many 5300m to 5700m peaks range along both sides of Dadu He (River) between Danba and Luding. The highest peak is 5712m on the left bank of the river however there is very little information on the mountains in this area and no climbing recorded.