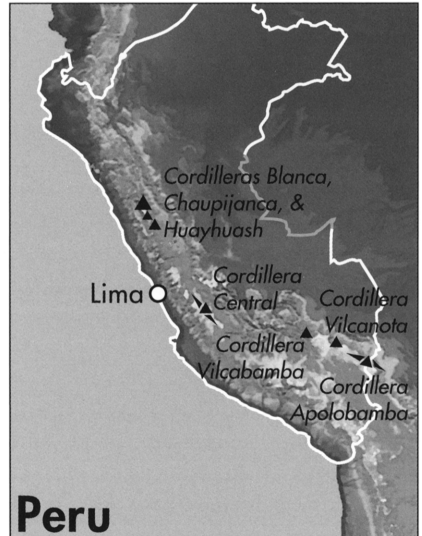


Peru

CORDILLERA BLANCA

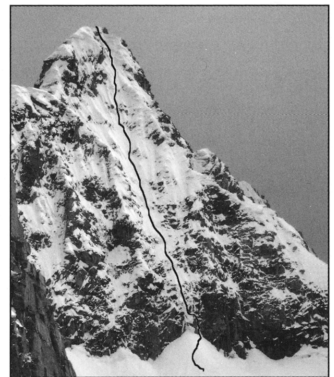
Urus Central, El Vuelo del Inca. After hiking to an advanced camp (4,900m) in the Ishinca Valley on October 16, Beto Pinto and Eric Albino began climbing the south face of Urus Central (5,495m). The initial 360m had loose snow and mixed climbing, to 80°, along with falling blocks of ice. They passed this section in two hours and continued on hard 70° snow for another six 60m pitches, reaching the summit at 12:30 p.m. They descended a ridge, with three rappels, and returned to camp by 6 p.m. El Vuelo del Inca (360m, MD+ 6a M5 70–90°).

SERGIO RAMÍREZ CARRASCAL, *Peru*

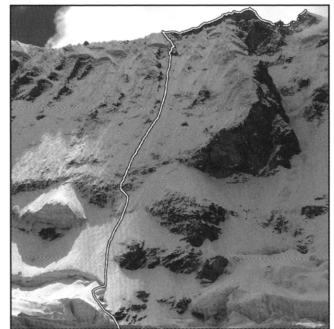


Nevado Ranrapalca, La Paliza del Ranrapalca. The south face of Ranrapalca (6,162m) ca 6km wide, with rock, ice, and snow rising for 750–850m. Peruvian mountaineers and guides (AGMP-UIAGM) Eloy Salazar Obregón, Octavio Salazar Obregón, and Eric Albino (aspirant guide) started in the Cojup Valley on August 26, proceeding until a fork of the valley brought them to a spot below the face, where they camped at 4,800m. The next day, in bad weather, they scouted a possible route. The glacier leading to the base was in horrible condition, with fragile ice, huge crevasses, and delicate ice bridges. After feeling confident about their route, they returned to camp. Surprisingly, the weather improved, so they ate a light meal, tried to sleep, and at 11 p.m. began their attempt. Early on August 28 they crossed a bergschrund and, a few meters higher, another, at ca 5,150m. The first 240m had loose 50–60° snow, which they simul-climbed. They then belayed 40m of mixed climbing and resumed simul-climbing on hard snow for 240m, reaching hard ice near the top of the face. After an overhanging final passage, they entered an 80° couloir that in 120m led directly to the ridge. On the ridge they hiked to the summit, which they reached at 6:30 p.m. They descended the 55° east face and returned to camp, completing the ascent in 20 hours and the descent in nine hours. La Paliza del Ranrapalca (850m, ED 50°–90°/95°).

SERGIO RAMÍREZ CARRASCAL, *Peru*



Urus Central's south face, with El Vuelo del Inca. *Americo Serrano*



La Paliza del Ranrapalca, on the south face of Ranrapalca. *Eric Albino*

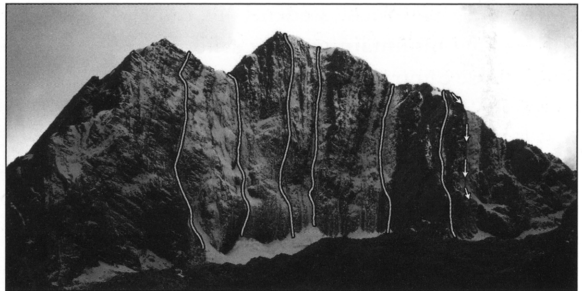
Nevado Rurec, traverse. From June 8 to 10 two Spaniards, Eloi Callado and Joan Sole, and I traversed the twin summits of Nevado Rurec (5,696m) from the east. We originally wanted to climb the south side of Huantsan from a base camp beneath the southeast face, which we approached from Chavin in two days with burros. Our climb went up the east face of Huantsan's south ridge to its crest at ca 5,600m, where we bivied. Then, however, rather than continuing up Huantsan, we headed west over the summits of Rurec and descended north into the Quebrada Rajucolta, then went on to Huaraz. Our cook brought our gear, with *arrieros*, from our base camp back to Chavin and then Huaraz. I don't think anyone had traversed Nevado Rurec from east to west before. It wasn't so much a spectacular route, but more of an extended alpine traverse.



The line to the crest of Huantsan's south ridge, from where Buhler, Callado, and Sole headed west over the twin summits of Nevado Rurec. *Carlos Buhler*

CARLOS BUHLER, AAC

Pucaraju, Juego de los Reyes to summit ridge. In July, Nate Farr and I with the support of the AAC's McNeill-Nott climbing grant attempted a new line on Caraz II, but were stopped by loose, overhanging rock down low. We returned to Huaraz, disheartened and without a mission.



The southwest face of Pucaraju, from left: Mururoa, Adam et Eve, Choose Life, Hotline, Princesa au Petit Pois, and the new route, Juego de los Reyes, with the arrows showing the descent. *Marcus Donaldson*

Adam French came to town and renewed our spirits with pictures of the southwest face of Pucaraju (5,320m), in the Yanamara subrange. Nate and I hopped a ride to Lake Queracocha and in half a day's hike were bivied in a cave 2,000' below the face. As we hiked up on July 26, much of the face appeared covered in unconsolidated snow from a wet winter. However, a thin white line seemed to snake nearly unbroken all the way up the sunnier right side of the face. Game on!

The first pitch was 60m of sustained thin ice and mixed climbing on a three-foot-wide ice ribbon. The friable rock offered uncertain protection, so we took belays whenever we could on the succeeding pitches of névé, ice, and rock. Steeper and more delicate mixed climbing, up to M6, in the upper couloir culminated in a narrow chute filled with classic Andean sugar snow.

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Upon reaching the ridge, we downclimbed and rapped the south ridge and a snow couloir to the climber's right of our line. Juego de los Reyes (300m, 5.8 WI4 M6) ascends the first corner system right of a major slab bisecting the southwest face.

MARCUS DONALDSON, *Portland, OR*, AAC