



AN EXPEDITION TO

# THE OLD SILK ROAD

COVERING TIAN SHAN MOUNTAIN RANGE,  
KYRGYZSTAN & XINJIANG, CHINA.

SUMMER 2005

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## **1. DESTINATION AND OVERVIEW**

*Tian Shan Mountain Range, Kyrgyzstan & Xinjiang, China*

This document represents the ambitions of three UCL students who wish to undertake a six week expedition to one of the least known areas in Central Asia, that of the Tian Shan region in Kyrgyzstan and Xinjiang. Thought of by the ancient travellers of the Old Silk Road as the “Heavenly Mountains,” the area represents to us the perfect match of cultural immersion and physical challenge. We intend to undertake a challenging trek in the area, to photograph the environment and society, and to educate people about the region on our return.

This expedition is being supervised by Dr. Michael Grocott of the Centre for Aviation, Space and Extreme environment medicine, whose contact details are in section 7.

### **1.1 ACCESS**

Kyrgyzstan and Xinjiang, China are serviced by international flights and these do not present a problem. Furthermore, the Tian Shan mountain range and the Inylchek glacial region are accessible by roads in so far as drop off and pick up points, as old mining townships exist in this area.

### **1.2 PEOPLES**

*Kyrgyzstan*

The majority of people are Kyrgyz, with up to a quarter Russian from former Soviet times. Predominantly Muslim, the people have been influenced greatly by the cultural flow along the Old Silk Route, making this such an interesting area to explore with Western culture embedded in Eastern culture.

*Xinjiang Autonomous Region, China*

The major ethnic group is the Uyghur and once again this ethnicity traces its roots back through the Old Silk Road, westwards.

### **1.3 LANGUAGE**

In Kyrgyzstan, the languages spoken are Kyrgyz and Russian. Though none of us speak these we will make an effort to learn some of the basics before leaving. Our Cyrillic and Russian reading is improving greatly through some of our maps.

In Xinjiang, the official language we will come across will be Mandarin. One of the team members has lived in Beijing for two years and should be able to brush up on his Mandarin to suit the team's needs.



## 2. SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

We aim to:

1. Complete a 20 day independent trek in the Inylchek glacial area and record our route between Jergalan and Inylchek (see Section 5);
2. Travel part of the Old Silk Route and experience the cultural changes, diversity, and history from West to East, from Kyrgyzstan to the province of Xinjiang, China;
3. Complete a photographic exploration and journal of the area and expedition;
4. Potentially complete a short trek in Xinjiang, China;
5. Trek environmentally responsibly; and
6. Make our routes and travel information available for future expeditions through a detailed expedition report and photographic exploration.

### 2.2 TIME FRAME

The period from July through September is the best time to go to this part of the world. July through August present the best trekking conditions in Tian Shan, with stable and comfortable weather conditions. We propose to leave London towards the end of July heading to Kyrgyzstan for around 3 weeks. Within those 3 weeks, we will complete a 14 day independent trek, leaving a few days to travel to the location. Afterwards, we will cross over into Xinjiang for around 2 weeks to explore the Old Silk Route and its culture, and complete another trek if possible.

### 2.3 PROPOSED & BRIEF ITINERARY

Day	Activity
1	London, United Kingdom to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize police registration (OVIR) if needed</li><li>• Possibly spend the night otherwise transfer directly to Karakol by bus.</li><li>• Visit Buhrana tower (XI century monument from the Old Silk Route)</li><li>• Night in Karakol (try to stay with local family rather than hotel, which is common here).</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One day (possibly two if no time spent in Bishkek) to finalize food, equipment, maps.</li><li>• Liaise with the company (we will probably need to use someone to help us) and pick up any documentation we need.</li></ul>
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Transfer to Inylchek glacier region, Jergalan, with assistance of a local adventure company 4WD/car. We are informing whether this is also possible by the local bus system.</li><li>2. Begin trek.</li><li>3. Tented accommodation</li></ol>
3-17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Trek of 10-14 days, tented accommodation.</li><li>2. Start in Jergalan overpass to Tup Valley.</li><li>3. Pass at 3600m Ashnu Tor into Janalach Valley.</li><li>4. South over 3700m to Echkiltash</li><li>5. Sary Jaz valley – detour for as many days as possible depending on progress</li><li>6. Continue on up Tuz pass 4001m</li></ol>
18	End trek in Inylchek, night in Inylchek. Accommodation either tented or guesthouse.
19	Transfer to Torugart pass and into Xinjiang by bus.
20	Kashgar (guesthouse/local family): cultural excursions and possible trek to nearby lake: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) - Id Kah Mosque</li><li>- Abakh Khoja Tomb</li><li>- Kashgar Bazaar</li><li>b) Trek around Karakuri Lake (also known as Karakol lake) (1/2 day)</li></ol>
24	Transfer by train (overnight) to Turpan (well preserved city on the Old Silk Road)
25	Transfer to Urumqi, Xinjiang, China (overnight) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ‘Heavenly Lake’ or ‘Southern Pastures’ trek</li><li>• Cultural exploration</li><li>• Guesthouse accommodation</li></ul>
28	Date depends on trek. Fly from Urumqi, Xinjiang, China to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to take return flight to London, United Kingdom.

## 2.4 POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS TO THE ITINERARY

Possible modifications and other possibilities are still under consideration, and these are as follows:

1. Using porters, enabling us to extend out trek in Kyrgyzstan. This would also provide added safety, language ability, and a window into the local culture.
2. Different area for the trek that would allow us to cross into Xinjiang, China on foot, though at present this looks difficult politically.

These are the major considerations regarding the itinerary, however we feel that our present schedule provide a great experience and potential on its own. Minor modifications may come about in our constant effort to reduce costs and seek the best options.

## 2.5 POLITICAL PERMISSION

*NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS DATED PRIOR TO THE FEBRUARY 2005 ELECTIONS. FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE POLITICAL INSTABILITY AS A RESULT OF THESE ELECTIONS, PLEASE SEE SECTION 2.7 BELOW.*

### *Kyrgyzstan*

Political permission and invitation are not necessary for Kyrgyzstan. The citizens of the European Union countries, USA and Canada can obtain tourist visas for the Kyrgyzstan Republic for up to 1 month - without official invitation - from any consulate of the Kyrgyz Republic abroad, or upon arrival at Manas Airport in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. We will finalize all visas before travel and have already contacted the Kyrgyzstan embassy in London.

Regarding permits for trekking, permits are only required within the border zone. These can be arranged in Bishkek through a trekking company, and we have already inquired into this.

Kyrgyzstan is regarded as the most 'tourist-friendly' of the Central Asian countries and also the most politically stable. The problem areas exist along the border that the country shares with Uzbekistan and we will be staying clear of this area, and checking with the Foreign Office on the situation.

### *Notes from Foreign Commonwealth Office*

- We continue to advice against all but essential travel to the south and west of Osh and to the Ferghana Valley region due to the history of terrorist activity and armed violence and to the threat of land mines in the Batken region and along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border.
- You should be aware of the continuing threat from terrorism which Kyrgyzstan shares with other countries in Central Asia.
- But most visits to Kyrgyzstan are trouble-free.
- Ensure your inoculations are up to date. There has been a recent outbreak of typhoid and a rise in the number of cases of viral hepatitis in the south. Cases of tuberculosis are regularly reported.
- We strongly recommend that you obtain comprehensive travel and medical insurance before traveling.

### *Xinjiang Autonomous Region, China*

Political invitation is not an issue for Xinjiang, China, as there are no known problems to travel to China. Permission is required for certain areas and can be obtained locally. We will enlist the help of companies in the region to advise us.

We will obtain visas from the Chinese embassy before travel, and this should be no problem as we all hold EU passports.

### *Notes from Foreign Commonwealth Office*

- The threat from terrorism in China is low but you should be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate terrorist attacks, which could be against civilian targets, including places frequented by foreigners.
- Serious crime against foreigners in China is rare and most visits are trouble free.
- We strongly recommend that you obtain comprehensive travel and medical insurance before traveling.

## **2.6 BORDER CROSSING FROM KYRGYZSTAN TO XINJIANG, CHINA**

We plan to cross into China via the Torugart Pass. It is necessary to be picked up by a tourist company on the Chinese side. Companies we have contacted have offered this service. Chinese approval must be sought to cross Torugart, and again, with the help of companies in the area, this can be arranged. At the present time, we have rough estimates of the cost and are looking for cheaper alternatives, such as joining larger groups or other border entry points.

## **2.7 SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN KYRGYZSTAN**

We have of course been monitoring the situation in Kyrgyzstan with concern, and have come to question the safety of leading an expedition in the wake of such a revolution. As of the formation of the coalition government on the 28th May 2005 and the resignation of the former president, Askar Akayev on 4th April, we feel that the political tensions have started to ease and, although it is far too soon to predict developments, think that it is still safe to plan for a trip with a departure date in late August.

It is important that the supreme court has decided to uphold the election results. This will mean that there will not be a repeat election for parliament in July with the result that the chances of further political upheaval this year have abated. Furthermore, the acceptance of the opposition leader, Feliks Kulov, as security chief has created a potentially strong bipartisan government. The resignation of Askar Akayev has paved way for presidential elections in June, which will be well over by the time of our arrival.

We feel it is important to support countries through times of legitimate political change, especially when it is in a pro-western orientation. The construction of an American military base in the south-west of the country has heralded a break-up in the old Soviet power structure in Kyrgyzstan, just as it has across much of the Middle East such as Ukraine. It is therefore an interesting and important time in the countries history, and we feel the dangers do not warrant any change to our objectives.

However, if the situation changes significantly over the next few months we will of course have to review this decision. We will of course be examining the information as it comes over the public media channels, and consulting the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for advice. Furthermore we will be in contact with [Committee for Central and Inner Asia](#) for information and guidance.

### **2.7.1 POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE EXPEDITION**

If we feel the current expedition guidelines are unsuitable for the political atmosphere, there are a number of actions we might take:

- Change the dates of the expedition. This might be useful to avoid a particular date for which it has been predicted that there will be political instability, such as the date of a general election. This can also be done to avoid particular dates in specific areas. For instance, dates worth avoiding in Bishkek will have little relation to activities in Inylchek.
- Avoid areas of particular danger. This would mean arriving in the Central Asian region through Almaty and crossing the border into Kyrgyzstan from Kazakhstan, rather than from Bishkek. This will avoid the most troublesome areas.
- Change the country entirely. There are a number of possibilities in other areas of the Central Asian region which we feel are both as interesting and as challenging as the Tian Shan range. If the dangers become too great this is always an option.
- Change the region entirely. This option will pose as a last resort in case there is a significant change to the regional stability. In such a case, such as armed conflict, we would be forced to change destination to a less politically ambitious region. Examples of such regions would be the North-West territories in Canada or the Siberian plains.

Of course if any of the above options are undertaken, proper notification will be sent out to all concerned and permission will need to be sought first from sponsors. We do sincerely hope that none of them will need to happen, but clearly fate favours the prepared.

### 3. THE TEAM

#### 3.1 INTRODUCING THE INDIVIDUALS

##### STEFAN STRAUSFELD-PERRY



Gender	Male
Age	20
Nationality	British
Schooling	United World College of South East Asia
UCL Position	BSc Economics, 1 <sup>st</sup> year
UCL Department	Economics
Previous Experience	[2003 – 2004] Travelled independently throughout gap year in Nepal, Cambodia, and Thailand [2003] Annapurna Base Camp Canyoning and Adventure Sports Guide with Ultimate Descents, Nepal Member of the emergency rescue team in the mountains of Nepal [2001] Annapurna trek [2000] Mount Kinabalu, Borneo
Relevant Courses	Red Cross Society, Singapore – certified in Sept. 2003
Positions of Responsibility	[2004 – 2005] Hall Representative for John Dodgson Hall, UCL [2004 – 2005] PR Officer, Singapore Society, UCL [2004] Voluntary English teacher, Thailand, from February to May [2003] Canyoning and Adventure Sports Guide with Ultimate Descents, Nepal, from September to November [2002] Participated in Global Youth Leadership Conference (GYLC) and Head Delegate of the Venezuelan delegation [2002] Attended leadership courses organized by school [2001 – 2002] Chair of Himalayan Global Concerns [2001 – 2002] Captain of volleyball team at high school, Singapore

##### MARTIN PFEIFFER



Gender	Male
Age	18
Nationality	German
Schooling	BSc Engineering and Business Finance, 1 <sup>st</sup> year
UCL Position	Mechanical Engineering
UCL Department	
Previous Experience	[2002 & 2004] Two 4 day treks in Tatra Mountains, Poland [2002 – 2004] Extensively travelled independently in Europe; hiking in Scotland, several bicycle trips in Germany, backpacking in France and Spain
Relevant Courses	[2004] First aid certificate [2001] Photography class
Positions of Responsibility	[2004 – 2005] Vice-President of Human Powered Flight Club, UCL [2004] Tutoring scheme in Poland [2003] Voluntary juggling instructor for middle school children [2003] Photographic Director of school website

## RICHARD LUCKYN MALONE



Gender	Male
Age	20
Nationality	British
Schooling	Winchester College
UCL Position	BA Archaeology, 1 <sup>st</sup> year
UCL Department	Institute of Archaeology
Previous Experience	[2003 – 2004] Lead 5 treks in South America, including Alpamayo Base Camp and the Torres del Paine Circuit; longest one was 14 days. Cotopaxi, Ecuador. [2003] Army courses; Pringle, Longmore, and Royal Marines Summer Camp, Faslane
Relevant Courses	[2003] First aid certificate Sea survival course VHF & HF radio Yachtmaster Ocean Theory (Navigation)
Positions of Responsibility	[2000] Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award [2002] Head of Royal Marines CCF [2003] Watch Captain & Coastal Skipper with RYA [2004] House Prefect, Winchester College [2004] Communications officer and watch captain on S/V Pelagic Australis.

### 3.2 ROLES WITHIN THE TEAM

<i>Stefan</i>	Expedition Leader & Kyrgyzstan Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General coordination and funds</li><li>• Kyrgyzstan trek mapping</li><li>• First aid</li><li>• Kyrgyzstan liaison with adventure companies and visas</li></ul>
<i>Martin</i>	Xinjiang Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Xinjiang liaison</li><li>• In charge of Xinjiang route and visas for China</li><li>• First aid</li><li>• Treasurer</li></ul>
<i>Richard</i>	Equipment Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kyrgyzstan liaison</li><li>• Equipment and food</li><li>• First aid</li><li>• Route planning (navigation) and equipment assessment</li><li>• Secretary and designer</li></ul>



### 3.3 IDENTIFICATION OF SKILLS AND TRAINING COURSES NEEDED

- We are keen in taking a first aid course that is specific to outdoor or mountain regions to supplement the first aid courses some of us already have. Those who do not have first aid courses will complete one.
- At least one training weekend in the UK to check gear, and gauge fitness levels.
- Get fit! We will all engage in a fitness plan in addition to what we already do.
- Suggested reading list
  - Continue to read up on the area, try to learn some basic Kyrgyz and brush up on Mandarin.
  - Read any additional information we can on the area, making use of the contacts we have made at RGS and others in the adventure industry.
  - Continued reading on photographic methods with emphasis on outdoor and landscape.

## 4. FINANCES/EQUIPMENT LIST

### 4.1 COST BREAKDOWN

This is our current cost estimate; however we hope to be able to reduce this cost through borrowing equipment and sponsorship. Currently the cost is grossly overestimated with many items already in our possession, some which will be able to borrow, and a few that are not required at all. As time goes on, this list shall become more accurate and should drastically decrease as it is in effect a list of everything we might want to take.

Quantity Needed	Current Quantity	Item	Manufacturer and Model	Capacity (if variable)	Cost	Predicted Expenditure
<b>Transportation (per Person)</b>						
		London - Bishkek	Return flight		£711.20	£711.20
		Bishkek - Karakol	Bus		£5.00	£5.00
			Jeep		£23.00	£23.00
		Karakol - Jergalan	Jeep/minibus		£10.00	£10.00
		Inylchek - Chinese border	Jeep/minibus		£92.00	£92.00
		Torugart pass to Kashgar			£30.00	£30.00
		Kashgar - Turpan - Urumqi	Train		£28.00	£28.00
		Urumqi - Bishkek	One-way flight		£115.00	£115.00
		Miscellaneous transport (taxis, etc)			£20.00	£20.00

#### Base Camp

1	1	Tent	Vango Odyssey 350	3+ Man	£200.00	£0.00
1	0	Bivouac	Army Surplus		£20.00	£20.00
3	3	Sleeping Bag			£100.00	£0.00
3	0	Rollmat	Thermarest Expedition		£50.00	£150.00
1	0	Stove	MSR New XGK		£90.00	£90.00
4	0	Fuel Bottles	MSR	1 l	£11.00	£44.00
1	0	Fuel Bottles	MSR	330 ml	£9.10	£9.10
1	0	Service Kit	MSR		£20.00	£20.00
1	0	Stove Base	MSR Trillium Stove Base		£20.00	£20.00
1	0	Fuel Pump	MSR		£30.00	£30.00
1	0	Stove	Jetboil PCS		£65.00	£65.00
1	0	Cook Set	MSR DuraLite Gourmet Cookset	2L, 1.5L and Frying Pan	£40.00	£40.00
1	0	Kitchen/Utensil Set	MSR Alpine Kitchen Set		£20.00	£20.00
1	0	Heat Exchanger	MSR		£20.00	£20.00
3	0	Mugs	MSR Titan	400 ml	£20.00	£60.00
1	0	Tea Pot	MSR Titan	850 ml	£45.00	£45.00
1	0	Bowser	MSR Dromedary Bags	10 l	£30.00	£30.00
1	0	Filter	MSR Waterworks EX		£100.00	£100.00
1	0	Filter Replacements	MSR		£60.00	£60.00
1	0	Repair Kit	Gear Aid Expedition		£30.00	£30.00
3	3	Multi-Purpose Tool	Leatherman/Victorix		£50.00	£0.00
1	1	Hunting Knife			£30.00	£0.00
3	1	KFS			£5.00	£10.00

3	2	Journals			£5.00	£5.00
1	1	Short Wave Radio	Sony World Receiver		£50.00	£0.00
1	0	Camp Lantern			£10.00	£10.00
3	3	Hand Torches	Maglite		£15.00	£0.00
20	0	Waterproof Matches			£0.10	£2.00
3	1	Lighters	Zippo		£20.00	£40.00
10	0	Flints			£0.50	£5.00
		Batteries	AA, AAA, LR44/SR44, Lithium, Watch			£20.00

### Trekking

3	3	Rucksack	Gregory <i>et al.</i>	3 x 90 l	£100.00	£0.00
2	2	Daysack		30 l	£20.00	£0.00
12	6	Bungee Cords	Army Surplus		£1.25	£7.50
12	0	Webbing	Army Surplus		£1.00	£12.00
3	1	Belt pouch			£2.00	£4.00
3	1	Head Torches	Black Diamond		£15.00	£30.00
3	2	Sunglasses	Oakley		£90.00	£90.00
3	0	Crampons			£80.00	£240.00
6	0	Ice Axes	Petzl Charlet Snowalker		£50.00	£300.00
3	2	Compass	Silva		£10.00	£10.00
3	1	Map Cases	Army Surplus		£20.00	£40.00
6	0	Booster Packs				
3	2	Rain Cover			£10.00	£10.00
1	0	GPS Reciever			£100.00	£100.00
2	0	Trekking Poles				
3	3	Liners/Hydroseals			£5.00	£0.00
6	4	Bladder/Water Bottle		3 l	£30.00	£60.00

### Clothing (total)

6	1	Thermals			£30.00	£150.00
6	2	Trousers			£40.00	£160.00
6	1	Undershirts			£20.00	£100.00
6	4	Medium Jumpers			£20.00	£40.00
3	3	Light Jacket/Fleece			£50.00	£0.00
3	1	Heavy Jacket			£100.00	£200.00
3	2	Waterproof Trousers			£50.00	£50.00
3	1	Gaiters			£20.00	£40.00
3	2	Boots			£100.00	£100.00
3	2	Flip-Flops			£10.00	£10.00
3	3	Towel			£5.00	£0.00
3	3	Thermal Gloves			£5.00	£0.00
3	3	Waterproof Gloves			£10.00	£0.00
3	3	Thermal Hat			£5.00	£0.00
3	2	Waterproof Hat			£10.00	£10.00
30	30	Socks			£4.00	£0.00
30	30	Boxers/Underwear			£2.00	£0.00
1	1	Waterproofing Spray			£2.50	£0.00

### Safety

3	0	Ropes		150 ft	£100.00	£300.00
3	0	Harness			£60.00	£180.00
3	2	Karabiner	Black Diamond Airlock 2		£10.00	£10.00
3	1	Belay Device	Black Diamond ATC		£13.00	£26.00
5	0	Icescrews	Black Diamond Turbo Express		£40.00	£200.00
4	0	Purification Tablets	Iodene Drops	17 ml	£5.00	£20.00
3	0	Flares	Red Parachute		£22.00	£66.00
1	0	Medical Kit	Custom		£150.00	£150.00

1	0	Sat Phone	Iridium/Inmarsat		£125 p.m.	£125.00
1	0	Epirb			£30 p.w.	£120.00
1	1	Survival Kit			£30.00	£0.00

#### Camera

1	1	Back	Voigtlander Bessa R3A			£0.00
1	1	Back	Nikon F80			£0.00
1	1	Back	Canon EOS 300			£0.00
1	1	Lens	40mm F1.4 Nokton			£0.00
1	1	Lens	28-90mm Canon			£0.00
1	1	Lens	28-105mm Nikon			£0.00
1	0	Lens	15mm F4.5 Heliar		£225.00	
1	0	Lens	90mm F3.5 Apo Lanthar		£205.00	
8	3	Filters	3 x UV/Skylight, 3 x Polarising, 1 x Yellow, 1 x Red		£10.00	£50.00
15	0	Film	Fujifilm Velvia/Kodachrome 400		£10.00	£150.00
1	0	Tripod	Gitzo Table Tripod MK2		£25.00	£25.00
1	0	Cable Release			£10.00	£10.00

#### Food and Drink

45	0	Main Meal			£4.00	£180.00
45	0	Light Meal			£3.00	£135.00
45	0	Pudding/Breakfast			£3.00	£135.00
10	0	Portions Soup (10 pack)			£5.30	£53.00
1	0	Pack Pasta (3kg)			£6.00	£6.00
1	0	Pack Lentils/Beans (3kg)			£5.00	£5.00
1	0	Pack Rice (3kg)			£5.00	£5.00
1	0	Chocolate (3kg)			£10.00	£10.00
1	0	Dried Fruit (3kg)			£10.00	£10.00
1	0	Hard Cheese (1kg)				£15.00
1	0	Cured Meat (1kg)				£15.00
20	0	Dehydrated Juice (sachets)				£50.00
100	0	Cocoa (portions)				£10.00
180	0	Tea (bags)				£7.20
1	0	Sugar			£2.00	£2.00
1	0	Salt			£2.00	£2.00
1	0	Herbs & Spices			£5.00	£5.00
1	0	Whiskey		1 l	£15.00	£15.00

#### Supplies

4	0	Fuel	White Petrol	1 l		£20.00
6	0	Campingaz Canisters				£20.00
3	0	Water		2 x 3l Each		£0.00
30	0	Zip Lock Bags			£0.20	£6.00

#### Maps and Publications

3	0	Regional Map	K-44-X	1:500,000	£4.50	£13.50
3	0	Large Scale Map	Karakol and Surroundings	1:200,000	£15.00	£45.00
3	2	Trekking Map		1:150,000	£10.00	£10.00
1	1	Guide Book	Kyrgyz Republic		£16.50	£0.00
1	0	Guide Book	Lonely Planets Central Asia		£14.00	£14.00

<b>Totals</b>						£5,963.50
Total Minus £1,500						£4,463.50
<b>Totals Per Person</b>						£1,487.83

## **4.2 AMOUNT OF INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION**

We may be able to reduce our costs by borrowing as much equipment as possible and obtaining sponsorship for the remaining kit needed.

We are hoping to contribute no more than £500 each to this expedition. Therefore we are actively looking for contributions of both money and equipment. The success of this expedition now relies on the generosity of organisations and individuals. If you feel that this expedition is worthy of your support, no matter what size or form, please do get in contact with any members of the team, whose contact details are in Section 7.

## **4.3 OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Over the next few months, letters shall be sent out to number of different organisations asking to support this expedition. Obviously with the timing coinciding with the recent revolution in Kyrgyzstan, global interest in the Central Asian region has probably reached its highest level in recent years, and we are hopeful that a few companies will choose to sponsor us. We are also looking for spare equipment from a number of manufacturers and travel journals who might be interested in publishing our post expedition report on our return to the UK.

We are being closely supported by our university, the University College of London, not only through grants but also with advice and supervision. By being chosen for this grant, we have in effect been chosen to represent UCL abroad, a task which we take in all seriousness. It is this association with such a prestigious institute of higher education which we feel will aid us greatly in our search for additional funds and equipment.

We must make it clear however, that we do not consider anything without material benefit to be unworthy of our time, and we are most happy to discuss any aspects both before and after the expedition to anyone who is merely interested. In fact we will most certainly endeavour to meet anyone in person after the trip to discuss what we discovered about the area, and how the trip as a whole worked out.

## **4.4 ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Most of the information that we have acquired for this expedition comes from a wide range of sources. We wish to thank the following organizations and people for their help:

- ITMC, ALPA, Fantastic Asia Ltd. Adventure companies.
- YET organization in UK, in particular Ted Grey and Paul Mcgreavy
- David Allardice of Ultimate Descents
- Juan Ramón Morales (adventure photographer)
- Iskander Abibulla (contact in Kyrgyzstan)
- Silk Threads Expedition to Silk Road
- Royal Geography Society for their help in locating maps

## **4.5 CAMERA EQUIPMENT**

As this is a photographic expedition, it is important that we all have the correct equipment in order to take high quality professional photos. Due to the expensive and fragile nature of digital cameras, we shall only take one for holiday snaps. All high quality pictures shall be taken on film, specifically:

- Fujifilm Velvia 50, Provia 100F
- Kodak Kodachrome 100
- Illford B&W 125, Kodak TMAX 400
- Illford 1600 (For Night)

The cameras themselves are two SLR's and one Rangefinder. All the members of this team are confident travel photographers. For some of our work, please visit out the following websites:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/expeditions/tianshan/>

<http://supergod.deviantart.com/>

We shall be divided into subject and landscape photographers. For landscapes we shall use a 40mm and 12mm lens. For subject, we will have 28-110mm zoom lenses. This will allow us to individually concentrate on different photograph types throughout the expedition.







## 6.0 ROUTE

In the above map there are two routes highlighted: A and B. Route A is our route out of Karakol, and Route B is our return route. The next few paragraphs will discuss some of the specifics of these routes, some of the difficulties we are expecting to occur, and some of the dangers.

### 6.1 ROUTE A

It is our plan to leave Karakol along route A to arrive at Inylchek some 5 days later where we shall re supply and take one rest day. Route A traverses some of the more mountainous regions to the west of Inylchek, and is therefore I feel more suitable for the outward journey. Once leaving the tree line on day 2 we will move into the ice field north of ХРБЕТ ТЕРКЕЙ-АПА-ТОО ridge. Although there is no formal route over this ridge, we feel that it is suitable for us to find our own route.

Once on the south side of the ridge, we shall descend into the valley of a small stream that will lead us to the a major path running to the main Ekiltash-Inylchek road. We shall follow this road southward. At Inylchek we will stop for a single rest day, and see what supplies are available. It is worth noting that we do not feel it is safe to presume that supplies will be available, and so we will be bringing all the food and fuel that we will need.

From here we shall travel up the Inylchek valley to the sight of the South Inylchek glacier, some 8 nm away. Here we shall cross the river to move up one of the small valleys to the north. This will take us to a high pass which will mark the beginning of route B. Route A will continue up through a number of high passes and then down into the basin of the North Inylchek glacier. From here we will be in a good position to ascertain all the potential routes in this area, and preferably we will continue up the North Inylchek glacier and then cross over a col towards a large lake to the North of the South Inylchek glacier. Looking at the topography of this area, it is clear that this will be the most beautiful part of the glacial region and we also feel that the North Inylchek glacier is probably less visited by travellers.

The decision to continue up the South Inylchek glacier will need to be made there and then. We are not professional mountaineers, and we will always need to be fully aware of the risks that we are undertaking. If we feel it is safe to continue, we will. If we do not then we will set up camp and be happy we have made it that far and save it for another trip. Knowing the limits of ones abilities is the key to a safe and enjoyable trip, and the ability to say with confidence that we have reached our safe limit is the culmination of these qualities. We will of course discuss these points as a group and devise a system of group decision making.

### 6.2 ROUTE B

The beauty of spending such a long time undertaking this trek is that it will give us plenty of options. We envisage a few days spent in relative relaxation in the Inylchek glacier region with days spent on light excursions with a base camp established in a safe spot. We shall take bivouacs to give us the option of light sleeping for one or two nights. Such excursions shall take place in pairs with one member remaining at base camp. The reason for this is not only for security, but it is likely that an active inventory will need to be kept on all our supplies and food. It is during this time at base camp that repairs and servicing of equipment will take place and an informed decision will need to be made about food and fuel consumption and whether changes will need to be made to their rate of use.

The return route will split from Route A at the face of the South Inylchek glacier and will quickly rise onto a plateau that will take us quickly to Ekiltash. Here we will resupply before continuing our journey through the less mountainous regions to the north of the Inylchek-Ekiltash road. If we are running short of supplies it will be possible to cut the journey by two, maybe three days by continuing towards the settlements near the Kazakhstan border. We feel that this it is important to have this security option.

## 7. CONTACT DETAILS

To get in contact with any of the members please use the below e-mail addresses:

Stefan Strausfeld-Perry: [zctpam1@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:zctpam1@ucl.ac.uk)

Richard Luckyn-Malone: [richard.malone@gmail.com](mailto:richard.malone@gmail.com)

Martin Pfeiffer: [flownbeat@hotmail.com](mailto:flownbeat@hotmail.com)

Dr. Michael Grocott (UCL Expedition Liason Officer): [mike.grocott@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:mike.grocott@ucl.ac.uk) ;

[The Centre for Aviation, Space and Extreme Environment Medicine](#)

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Advan Tour, Uzbekistan

<http://www.advantour.com/uzbekistan/>

Central Asia Travel

<http://centralasiatravel.com/kyrgyzstan.html>

Fantastic Asia

<http://fantasticasia.net/?p=813>

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/>

Juan Ramón Morales

<http://www.juanramonmorales.com/>

Kyrgyzstan Embassy

<http://www.kyrgyz-embassy.org.uk/html/links.htm>

Lonely Planet

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

Royal Geography Society

<http://www.rgs.org/category.php?Page=5expe>

Serac Films

<http://www.seracfilms.com/links.htm>

Silk Threads

<http://www.silkthreads.org/index.html>

Young Explorers Trust Organisation

<http://www.theyet.org>

Committee for Central and Inner Asia

<http://www.oriental.cam.ac.uk/ccia/>

## 9. APPENDIX

### 9.1 RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessment form for the trip has been completed by the team and our liaison officer at UCL. The form covers the major areas of risk, and makes sure that we have thought through all aspects of health and safety before embarking on our expedition. This is available on request.

### 9.2 MAPS USED

Soviet Mapping Agency: K-44-A, V

K-43-A, B, G

K-44-XIII, XIV, XV, XIX, XX

Karakol and Surroundings

EWP:

Tien Shan Mountains