

Namnarud (1935m) - Camp 3725 after Beob (3725m)

Distance: 11km

Ascent: 2095m

Descent: 305m

Trail: Very hard - no trails, overgrown terrain

As you leave Namnarud there will be no clear trail, just multiple vague sheep grazing tracks, and then very deep vegetation and weeds that can be over head height. The sheep visit this area in late summer and the route will be clearer and drier. There is no obvious side of the Beob River that you should be on. Through mid summer, possibly into early August, there is a snow bridge at 2150 meters. If you cross here you will be in high weeds, but not a steep sidehill. If you stay on the right bank you will be traversing a very steep and loose sidehill.

On the left bank at about 2240 meters you can leave the high vegetation and walk on the rocks next to the river. In early to mid summer the snow bridge starts at 2370 meters (higher up later in the year). Walking on the snow bridge you can make quick progress uphill. At 2470 meters leave the snowbridge to the right bank and walk in the vegetation again. In late summer you have the choice between a snow bridge that is collapsing in some spots, or a steep and very slow hike on the steep grassy hillside.

At 2530 meters is a large shepherd camp with many rock corrals. This is a good place to camp before the shepherds arrive. When they will arrive is unknown. In late July 2023 they were not yet here.

Continue on the sidehill until 2760 meters when you again get on a snowbridge. Leave the snowbridge at 3150 meters and go over the open rocky terrain. You will be on rock of various sizes, from gravel to large boulders, as you ascend. You are no longer in the Beob Gorge, but rather the Galakhana Gorge. In Tajikistan the same gorge can have different names at different elevations.

At 3715 meters just below from the route marked on the map is a spot to camp. This streamside location is flat but rocky. You may have difficulty pitching a tarp or trekking pole tent here. And you may be uncomfortable if you don't have an inflatable mattress. Another consideration is that this ridge has some of the wettest and stormiest weather in Tajikistan. If you are not comfortable taking a risk with bad weather at this altitude, you can camp at 2520 meters at the shepherd camp (this will involve lots of manure and company when the shepherds are here).

Water is available in many locations, including the main river after the early summer snow melt. The glacier melt goes underground first and the silt is filtered out, leaving the Galakhana stream and the Beob river with clear water. Between 3015 meters and 3070 meters are several good springs under a cliff.

The Galakhana glacier below Beob Pass should be avoided for as long as possible. Crevasses had started to open up in late July and on the mid-glacier were concealed by snow. Go around to the northeast until you have to get on the glacier at 3930 meters. From here you angle up to the pass. There is some minor rockfall hazard here. Crampons and ice axes are recommended here. In late July the ascent was not very steep, but that may change later in the year if the glacier shrinks. The final ascent is a short scrambling section over rocks. It's an estimated 3.1 in the US (Yosemite Decimal System) scale. See here for an explanation of that rating system: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/sierra-peaks-section/files/Definitions%20for%20Scrambling%20Ratings.pdf>

The glacier has a bergschrund crevasse near the top that slowly expands to the east throughout the summer. How far it spreads and whether this becomes an obstacle by late summer is unknown.

The glacier on the south side of the pass is a gentle glacier with no clear sign of crevasses in late July 2023. From here you walk over clear terrain to the viewpoint of the 3680 meter lake. Camping here involves being possibly exposed to high winds on a ridge top saddle. A descent to the 3475 meter camp is a better option.