Navobod (2720m) – Jaya Bolo (3145m)

Distance: 10km

Ascent: 1405m

Descent: 980m

Trail: hard – rough trails

Accommodation

Camping

From the Yagnob riverbank head towards the abandoned village of Navobod. The villagers were forcefully relocated in Soviet times to work in the cotton fields in the north of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. From here, keep following the trail to the wide gorge at around 3100m where the trail fades. Make sure you have filled up your bottles at the springs along the way before you enter the gorge. You basically move in the trailless terrain for 300 vertical metres until it becomes visible again. Keep heading straight north to the Ghuzn Pass (aka Rost Pass) at 4020m.

The initial descent on the northside is the hardest part of today's stage. Early in the season there will be a lot of snow. Shepherds carve out a diagonal path across the glacier (a bergschrund to be more accurate). It may take crampons to safely descend on this, however, shepherds do this without any additional equipment. Later in the season they choose a descent on the westside of the bergschrund on rough rocky terrain. Uncomfortable, but safe. The route goes across another route carved out in a lower glacier, which is fairly easy walking. Keep heading down and at around 3500m the terrain becomes less steep as you approach your choice of camp spot at Jayi Bolo Lake. Note that the water quality of the lake is very poor. Above the lake there are some small streams that are much better but make sure there are no shepherd camps above it.