

Latitudinal valley	4968 m.
Arka-tagh III	5210 m.
Latitudinal valley	5037 »
Arka-tagh IV	5262 m.

From this table we obtain conclusively the general law, that, within the region we are considering, the ten parallel ranges of Northern Tibet grow increasingly higher towards the south, that they rise as it were by steps or terraces up to the northern edge of the plateau-land proper. Proceeding from north to south the amounts by which each successive step ascends are as follows:

407 m.
536 »
269 »
133 »
89 »
559 »
172 »
17 »
52 »

The difference between the altitude of the lowest, most northerly range, the Lower Astin-tagh, and the highest, most southerly of the Arka-tagh ranges thus amounts to 2234 m. The figures quoted above prove that there is a very considerable rise in the first three ranges: the Akato-tagh lies not less than 536 m. higher than the Upper Astin-tagh, which is itself 407 m. higher than the Lower Astin-tagh. A not inconsiderable rise can also be observed in the case of the Tschimen-tagh, which reaches 269 m. higher than the Akato-tagh. Between the two runs the important boundary of the Tschimen valley, that is between the three northernmost ranges on the one hand and the three ranges of Tschimen-tagh, Ara-tagh, and Kalta-alaghan on the other. The next valley boundary, that is from the orographical point of view, is the latitudinal valley of the Kum-köl, which separates the three ranges last-named on the one side from the Arka-tagh system on the other. The three ranges of the Tschimen-tagh, Ara-tagh, and Kalta-alaghan may thus be said to form an independent system, a transitional region from the most northerly border-ranges to the high Tibetan Arka-tagh.

In the three transitional ranges the differences of altitude are not great: the Ara-tagh is only 133 m. higher than the Tschimen-tagh, and this range lies only 89 m. lower than the Kalta-alaghan. But the difference between the three transitional ranges on the one side and Arka-tagh I on the other is by contrast all the greater. The rise from the Kalta-alaghan to Arka-tagh I is not less than 559 m., and it is only when we have climbed these 559 m. that we actually stand upon the true highland region of Tibet. If, finally, we compare the four Arka-tagh ranges one with another, we see that they are pretty nearly all of the same altitude, although there is a perceptible rise towards the south, so that the mean pass-altitude