

Lofoten Climbs

Chris Craggs and
Thorbjørn Enevold

2024 Edition

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Cover: Rob Pizem on the slanting corner of *Vestpillaren Direct* (N6) - p.173 - on Presten. Photo: Andrew Burr
This page: Nic Bassnett on *Applecake Arete* (N5+) - p.135 - at Pianokrakken. Photo: Mike Hutton

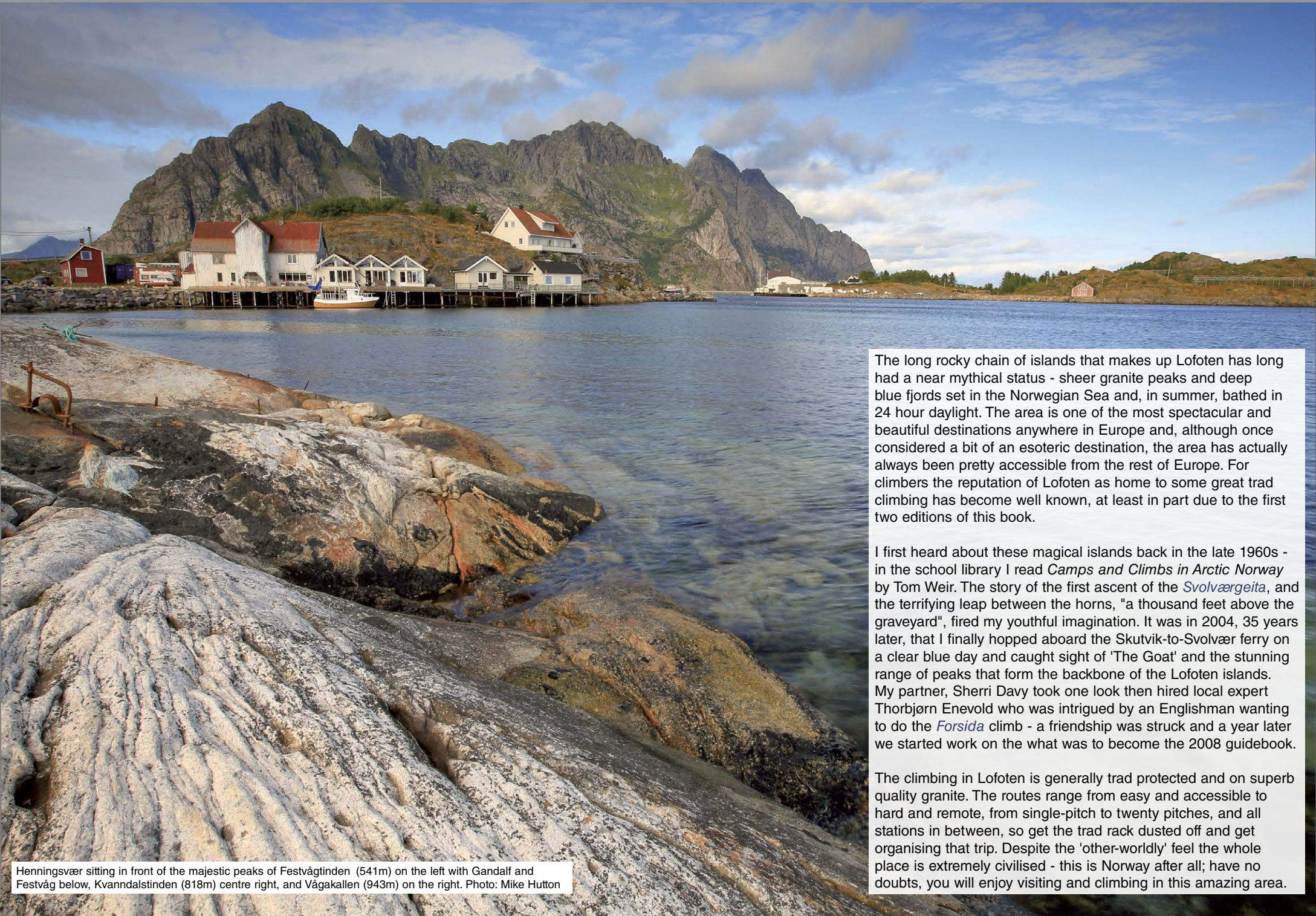
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Rise with the Mountain



MAMMUT

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Henningsvær sitting in front of the majestic peaks of Festvågtinden (541m) on the left with Gandalf and Festvåg below, Kvanndalstinden (818m) centre right, and Vågakallen (943m) on the right. Photo: Mike Hutton

The long rocky chain of islands that makes up Lofoten has long had a near mythical status - sheer granite peaks and deep blue fjords set in the Norwegian Sea and, in summer, bathed in 24 hour daylight. The area is one of the most spectacular and beautiful destinations anywhere in Europe and, although once considered a bit of an esoteric destination, the area has actually always been pretty accessible from the rest of Europe. For climbers the reputation of Lofoten as home to some great trad climbing has become well known, at least in part due to the first two editions of this book.

I first heard about these magical islands back in the late 1960s - in the school library I read *Camps and Climbs in Arctic Norway* by Tom Weir. The story of the first ascent of the *Svolværgeita*, and the terrifying leap between the horns, "a thousand feet above the graveyard", fired my youthful imagination. It was in 2004, 35 years later, that I finally hopped aboard the Skutvik-to-Svolvær ferry on a clear blue day and caught sight of 'The Goat' and the stunning range of peaks that form the backbone of the Lofoten islands. My partner, Sherri Davy took one look then hired local expert Thorbjørn Enevold who was intrigued by an Englishman wanting to do the *Forsida* climb - a friendship was struck and a year later we started work on the what was to become the 2008 guidebook.

The climbing in Lofoten is generally trad protected and on superb quality granite. The routes range from easy and accessible to hard and remote, from single-pitch to twenty pitches, and all stations in between, so get the trad rack dusted off and get organising that trip. Despite the 'other-worldly' feel the whole place is extremely civilised - this is Norway after all; have no doubts, you will enjoy visiting and climbing in this amazing area.

Local Heros

I want to dedicate this book to 'the Three Musketeers' - Arild Meyer, Odd-Roar Wiik and Thorbjørn Enevold. Without the efforts of these three climbers over the years there would be a lot less to write about.

Arild Meyer (the Grand Master) was born in Svolvær in 1949. He did some "irresponsible scrambling around the hills above Svolvær" before his first climb, the Svolvær Geita on 29th September 1965 - waist belays and no runners, as was the norm at the time. Arild started the Nord Norsk Klatreskole at Kalle in the early 1970s, initially to train rescue teams, and then running more general climbing courses. He has worked as a primary school teacher, taught carpentry and has worked at the Folk High School for the last 20 years. Arild has done 90% of his climbing in northern Norway but has also climbed in Switzerland, France and Spain plus a small trip to Colorado. His most memorable ascent was of course the *Vestpillaren* of Presten, but there are many other climbs that have left powerful and dramatic memories - just check this guidebook for a few.

Odd-Roar Wiik (the Young Pretender) was born in 1973 in Stokmarknes. He started climbing at age 11, and a lifelong passion was born. He first met Arild aged 14 or 15 on the annual spring climbing meet at Kalle. Arild was one of the true climbing heroes in northern Norway at the time and Odd-Roar did everything he could to get into that inner circle. Eventually they ended up as regular partners, something that worked really well. They did a lot of climbing together, one the best first ascents was probably *Migan pillaren*. All done in an afternoon and they pretty much forgot about afterwards - giving a certain guidebook author a headache a few years later. He met Thorbjørn when he gave him the chance to work at the Klatreskolen aged just 16, something not many would have done. This gave him the chance to go from dreaming about climbing every day to actually doing it. Odd-Roar moved to Romsdal and spent a lot of time abroad over the years, from Yosemite to Patagonia - his big thing being big walls and later sport climbing. Odd-Roar hasn't climbed much with Arild or Thorbjørn for a while, but the Lofoten years with these guys were his glory days!

Thorbjørn Enevold (Chief Mover and Shaker) was born in 1958 and was originally from Narvik. He moved to Lofoten in 1990 and took over running the NNKS in 1983, moving it from Kalle to Henningsvær when the area was run down and neglected. He had 15 trips to the Himalaya between 1984 and 2001. He has climbed in Noway and around Europe in both summer and winter. Thorbjørn's most memorable ascent on Lofoten was *Den siste viking*. This was the first route on Store Festvåg. The walls had been overlooked for years because they were regarded as "very loose and dangerous" - fortunately that was proved wrong! Along with his wife Lutta ran the ever-popular NNKS climbing school, cafe and shop for 37 years until 2021.



Thorbjørn, Arild and Chris working on the 2nd edition of the book.



Odd-Roar Wiik climbing on Festvåg



Thorbjørn Enevold guiding at Chamonix

The Guidebook History

The first guidebook to climbing in Lofoten, *Rock Climbs in Lofoten, Norway*, was published in 1953. It was written by British Mountaineer Per Prag whilst he worked for the Norwegian Travel Association in London. Oddly he never actually visited Lofoten but compiled the book by corresponding with Norwegian and UK climbers who had.

In the early 1990s, American climber Ed Webster visited Lofoten and was involved with a new route gold rush, so it was fitting that he wrote the 1994 *Climbing in the Magic Islands* (right) which blended Per Prag's earlier work on the extensive mountaineering routes with all the new technical rock climbs put up in the intervening 40 years.

Chris Craggs visited the islands for the first time in 2004, at which point Thorbjørn Enevold was already preparing a reprint of the Webster guide and wondering about a new edition. Conversations ensued and a new in-depth volume was published in 2008 to great critical acclaim, it even won the Guidebook of the Year Award at Banff in Canada.

By 2015 a new edition was needed and the technology had moved on to the extent that we went for a complete rewrite, with a new set of images, create some better maps and add in the 100+ pages of new routes from the New Routes book in the cafe. Two glorious summers gave us the chance to get a superb new set of cragshots, then it was just a matter of sitting down and writing it. It was published in 2017.

Six years on and it was time for another new book. There has been remarkably little in the way of new developments so the new book has become a refresh update rather than a complete rewrite. Many of the crag photos have been improved by using a drone and new map technology has allowed us to update and enhance all the maps. In addition to the odd new route, the Narvik area has been added with its set of accessible crag-style routes as has Stamsund out west.

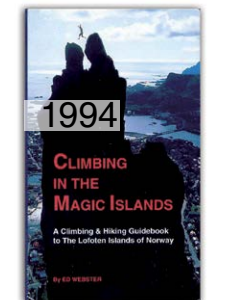
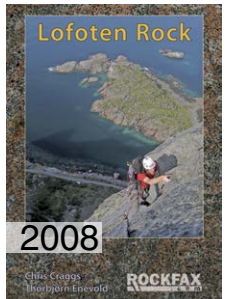
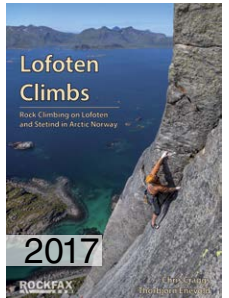
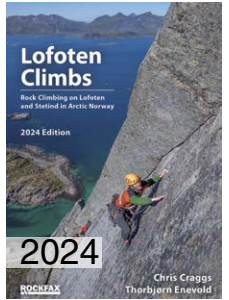
Feedback

Some of the routes in this book are very light on information. If you climb a route and wish to contribute a description, then please write one and send it to us at info@rockfax.com. If you just have brief comments on the information - disagree with a grade, found a description a bit misleading, or just have a strong opinion on a climb - then please find the route on UKClimbing.com. This database contains every route in the book with the opportunity to lodge comments and vote on grades and star ratings.

See p.52 for information on recording new routes.

Guidebook Footnote

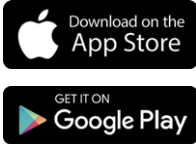
The inclusion of a climbing area in this guidebook does not mean that you have a right of access or the right to climb upon it. The descriptions of routes within this guide are recorded for historical reasons only and no reliance should be placed on the accuracy of the description. The grades set in this guide are a fair assessment of the difficulty of the climbs. Climbers who attempt a route of a particular standard should use their own judgment as to whether they are proficient enough to tackle that route. This book is not a substitute for experience and proper judgment. The authors, publisher and distributors of this book do not recognise any liability for injury or damage caused to, or by, climbers, third parties, or property arising from such persons seeking reliance on this guidebook as an assurance for their own safety.



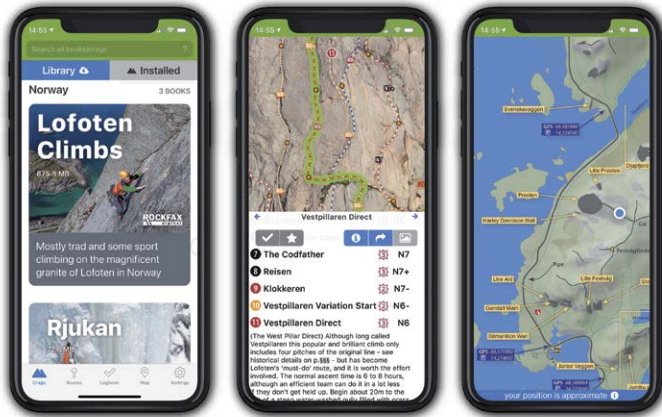


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Rockfax Digital can be linked to your UKClimbing.com user account and logbook so that you can record your activity while at the crag. To do this you will need a 3G/4G/5G data connection. You can also look at the UKC logbooks to see if anyone has climbed your chosen route recently to check on conditions.

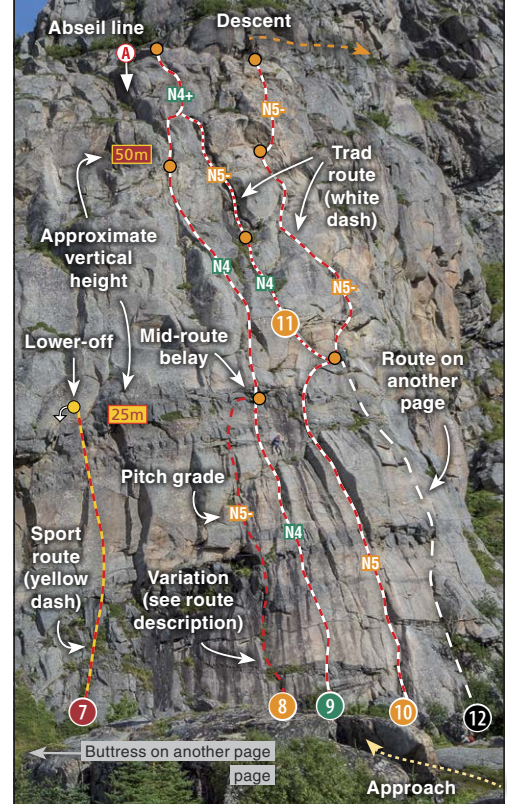
Route Symbols

- A good route which is well worth the effort.
- A very good route, one of the best on the crag.
- A brilliant route, one of the best in the area.
- Powerful climbing; roofs, steep rock, low lock-offs or long moves off small holds.
- Sustained climbing; either lots of hard moves (including on slabs) or pumpy climbing.
- Fingery climbing with significant small holds on the hard sections.
- Fluttery climbing with big fall potential or a scary run-out.
- A long reach is helpful, or even essential, for one or more of the moves.
- Graunchy climbing, wide cracks or awkward thrutchy moves.
- Technical climbing requiring good balance and technique, or complex and tricky moves.
- Rounded or sloping holds may be encountered.
- Some loose holds or crusty rock may be encountered.
- A trad route requiring gear on a crag which is otherwise mostly bolted sport routes.

Crag Symbols

- Angle of the approach walk to the crag with the approximate approach time.
- Approximate time that the area is in the sun (when it is shining).
- A buttress with some multi-pitch routes.
- The area is exposed and may be cold especially if the wind is blowing.
- The area can offer shelter from the wind. Can be a suntrap - good in winter, bad when hot.
- The crag suffers from dampness or seepage and is slow to dry after the rain.
- The crag is steep and may offer dry climbing when it is raining.
- Deserted** - Currently under-used and quiet. Fewer good routes or very remote crags.
- Quiet** - Less popular sections on major crags, or good buttresses with awkward approaches.
- Busy** - Places you will seldom be alone, especially at weekends. Good routes and easy access.
- Crowded** - The most popular sections of the most popular crags which are always busy.

Topo Key



Map Key



The West
Henningsvær
Kalle
Kabelvåg
Svolvær
The Northeast
Narvik Area
Stretind Area
Walking Peaks

The West
Henningsvær
Kalle
Kabelvåg
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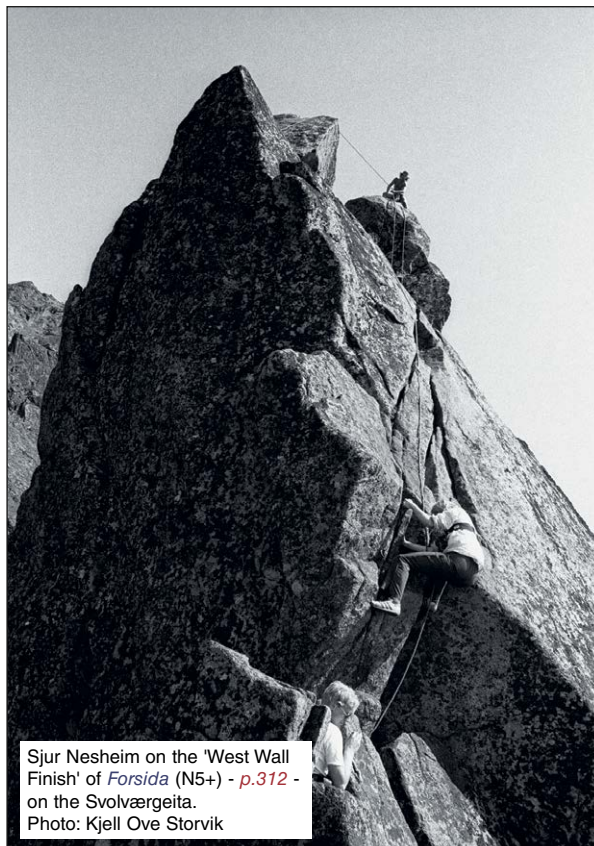
Beginnings - 1880 to 1950

Climbing in Lofoten is usually recognised as starting with the first ascent of Vågakallen in the summer of 1889 when Martin Ekroll and fellow fisherman Angel Johannesen rowed across the sound from the island of Skrova to reach the foot of the mountain. They climbed directly up the *Sydveggen* and reached the summit of this formerly 'unclimbable' peak. They then descended by the same way and rowed back home!

Around the turn of the century, interest in making the first ascents of Lofoten's major peaks became all the rage. Many of these explorations were undertaken by British climbers who took a fancy to exploring Lofoten, particularly the remote and wild Nordre Austvågøy where ascents included Store Trolltindan in 1890 and Higravtinden, Lofoten's highest summit, in 1901. William Cecil Slingsby, the famed British mountaineer, and his partner Prof. J. Norman Collie, brought a new level of enthusiasm to the exploration and wrote prolifically about Lofoten climbing. Slingsby in particular is considered one of the fathers of Norwegian mountaineering - he made 15 climbing trips to Norway before World War I. In 1903 and 1904, camping out for weeks at a time, and travelling by boat between the various islands (in those days the only possible means of transport) Slingsby and Collie made a host of first ascents. Especially noteworthy were the first ascents of both summits of 'Lofoten's finest peak', Rulten.

On 1st August 1910, technical rock climbing reached the islands with the arrival of three climbers from Oslo who were part way through an amazing pioneering trip. A few days earlier, Alf Bryn, Carl Wilhelm Rubenson and Ferdinand Schjelderup had managed the unthinkable - the first ascent of the granite spire of Stetind near Narvik - a goal which had eluded Collie and Slingsby.

The irresistible challenge near Svollvæær was the Svollvæærgeita, the twin-horned granite spire jutting out of the steep grassy hillside above the cemetery. After a long day's climbing, which involved several bind alleys, they finally stood cheering atop both horns at 11pm. Today, the *1910 Ruta* is still graded a stiff N4+ and remains an intimidating and gilt-edged classic. The famous jump between the two horns of 'The Goat' was apparently dreamt up by Arne Randers Heen, the well-known Norwegian climbing pioneer based in the Romsdal Valley. He made the notorious leap in about 1930 and had photographs taken to prove that he really did it. Various other firsts have since been performed on the horns, including a radio interview and bivouacs, as well as assorted romantic 'encounters'.



Sjur Nesheim on the 'West Wall Finish' of *Forsida* (N5+) - p.312 - on the Svollvæærgeita.
Photo: Kjell Ove Storvik

Arne Randers Heen, was a strong force in Lofoten climbing in the 1930s and 40s. Working as a tailor, he travelled to Lofoten during the winter cod fishing season to sell his goods. Heen traversed Småkallanryggen in 1933 with his cousin Eirik Heen, and made the first ascents of both *Nordryggen* and *Østryggen* of Vågakallen with Lars Nordby in 1939 and 1940. In the 1940s, several local climbers came onto the scene. Magnar Pettersen, Emil Olsen, Wilhelm Höyer, Alf Krane and others started out repeating the older classics and eventually began to do new routes of their own. Their most impressive first ascent was *Forsida* (N5+) on the Svollvæærgeita, first climbed by Höyer and Krane in 1947, though the crucial *Vestveggen-avslutning* had already been done back in 1928 by Bror Bommen and Bjørn Lyche. They only used a few slings for protection during the first ascent plus they lassoed a rock spike on one of the hard sections. Magnar and his partners were men of exceptional fortitude and courage with a devout love of both their country and the mountains. Occasionally, even during the melee of World War II, they would head off from Svollvæær to go climbing, rowing 20km up Raftsundet, and occasionally getting a tow from the milk-boat.

The Glory Days - 1950 to 1979

Foreign climbers, and particularly British teams, continued to visit Lofoten in the 1950s as the islands offered quiet surroundings compared with the popular climbing areas of Europe. At the time, local climbers usually made it their aim to climb as many of the Lofoten peaks as possible. Arild Meyer was the driving force of the 1960s Lofoten climbing scene, he learned how to climb in 1965. As Arild explained, "I asked one of the senior local climbers, Jens Håkon Blix Nielsen, if he could loan us three karabiners. 'No,' he said pointedly. So Håkon Størmer and I climbed the *Spiralruta* up the back side of the Svollvæærgeita anyway. We climbed up to the old ring pitons, untied the rope from around our waists, threaded the rope end through the ring, then tied back in and kept going. That Christmas, my brother Ulf sent me three brand new Cassin pitons from Norway's only climbing shop in Oslo, but I didn't get my own karabiners until the next summer."

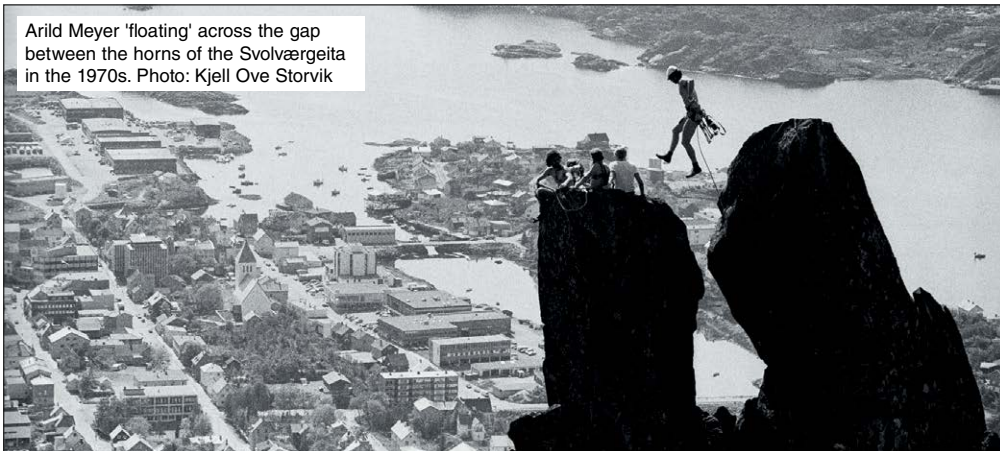
"There was plenty of competition in my early days of climbing," Arild said. "The goal was to see who could climb the Svollvæærgeita the greatest number of times. One day I was standing in downtown Svollvæær and looked up to see two red dots on The Goat. I immediately dashed home, grabbed my climbing shoes, and ran up the hill to the notch behind The Goat. The two climbers were my regular climbing partners; they were already on the Horns. 'Throw me the rope!' I shouted. 'No!' came the reply. I had climbed The Goat 15 times at that point, and they a few times less."

In the 1960s a new generation began to refine the climbing styles of their predecessors and benefited from newly-introduced climbing equipment such as stronger nylon ropes, EB climbing shoes, hard steel pitons and assorted sizes and brands of nuts. Along with Arild Meyer, the local climbers of Kjell Skog, Finn Tore Bjørnstad, Brynjar Tollefsen, Ulf Prytz and Kjell Ove Storvik were active. Also Sjur and Håvard Nesheim from Tromsø were very influential, and with these guys technical rock climbing really took off on Lofoten. *Pianohandler Lunds rute* (N4+) on Pianokrakken was climbed in 1971, *Gandalf* (N5) and *Tromsøekspressen* (N6) both on Gandalf and climbed in 1978 and 1979 respectively.



A youthful Arild Meyer with some of his 'newfangled' climbing equipment back in the late 1960s.
Photo: Kjell Ove Storvik

Arild Meyer 'floating' across the gap between the horns of the Svolværgeita in the 1970s. Photo: Kjell Ove Storvik



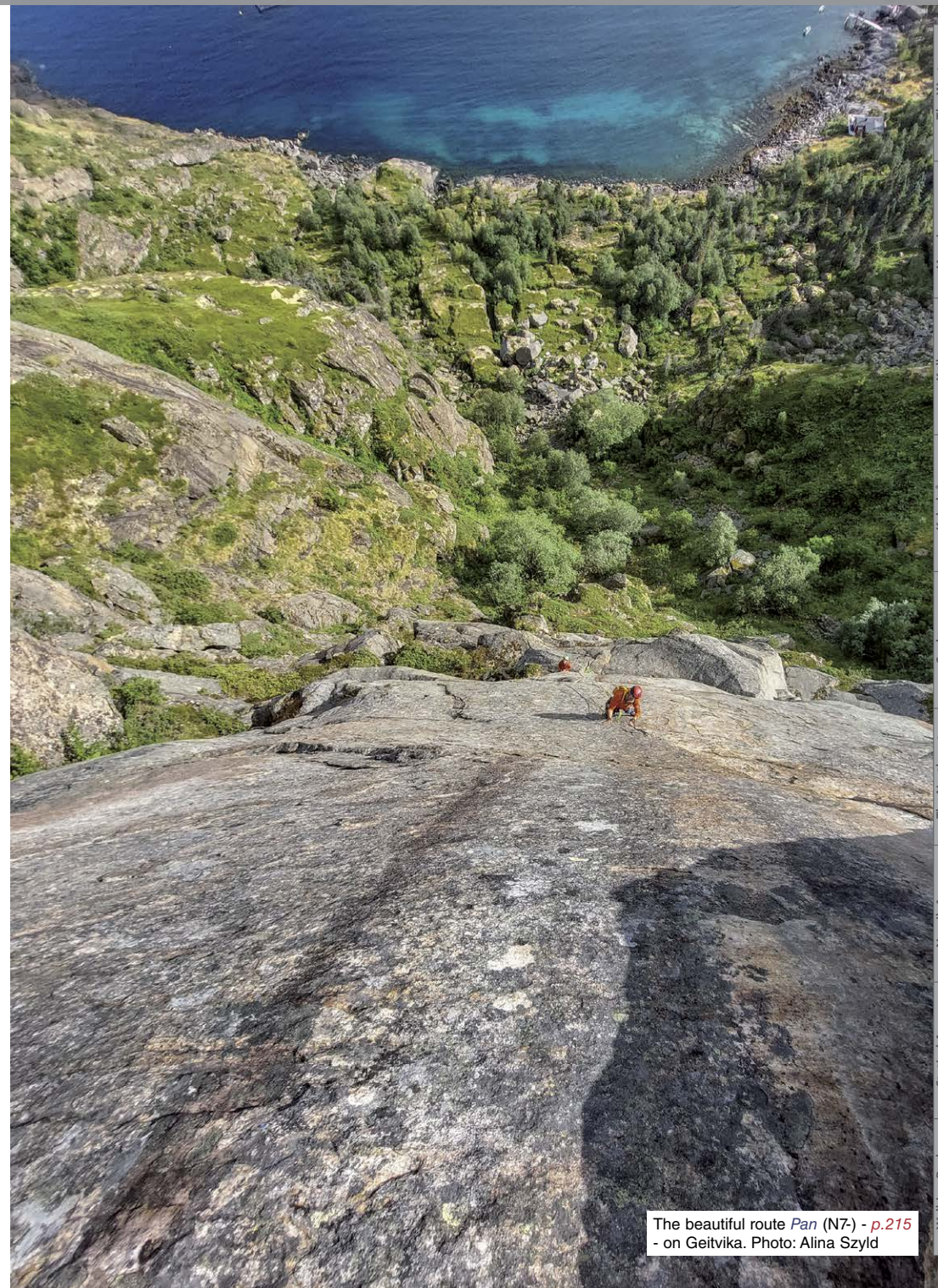
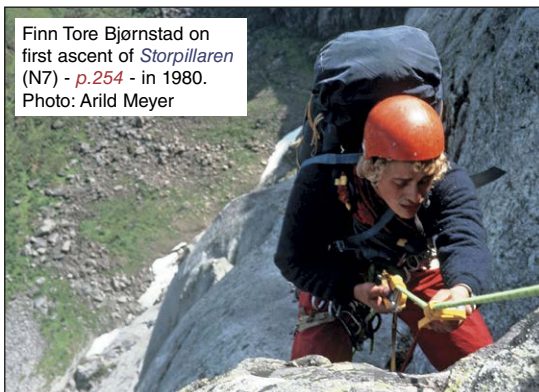
The Big Walls - 1978 to 1980

The 400m buttress of Presten is a tremendous sweep of rock, and proved an irresistible challenge. Its first ascent via the *Vestpillaren* by Arild Meyer and Brynjar Tollefsen in 1978 was THE modern milestone in the history of rock climbing in north Norway. "For years I had been twisting my neck looking out of the bus window up at Presten each time I went by it," related Arild, "and the route went almost exactly where I had planned." Amazingly, the ascent of the 11 pitch route was done on their first try, in 14 hours, but ended with an all out struggle in a torrential rainstorm. Today, *Vestpillaren* is Lofoten's most famous and popular long climb.

Arild Meyer followed up his success with the 20 pitch *Storpillaren* (N6+/A2 - now free at N7) on Vågakallen. For many years this was Lofoten's biggest big wall climb, which Arild, Kjell Skog and Finn Tore Bjørnstad climbed in an incredible 26 hour tour-de-force in 1980. The climb's long awaited second ascent was finally made in 1993 by Odd-Roar Wiik and Niels Poulsen, in the respectable time of 'only' 13 hours.

A constant friend in the history of Lofoten rock climbing has been the Nord Norsk Klatreskole (or NNKS as it is usually known - see p.21). Many of Lofoten's best local climbers have instructed for the school, and have also done many of the best and hardest new routes listed in this guidebook. One of the school's most talented instructors was the legendary Norwegian climber Hans Christian Døseth who taught at the NNKS during the summer of 1980. Døseth was certainly the most gifted climber of his generation, an expert on grade 7, nut-protected, overhanging finger cracks; winter new routes on Trollveggen in Romsdal; and Himalayan big walls. His finest contribution to Lofoten climbing was the first free ascent of *Vestpillaren* on Presten which he climbed with Håvard Nesheim in 1979. Sadly, Hans Christian was killed along with his partner, Finn Dæhli, in 1984 after making the remarkable first ascent of *The Norwegian Pillar*, one of the hardest big wall climbs in the world, on the Great Trango Tower in Pakistan.

Finn Tore Bjørnstad on first ascent of *Storpillaren* (N7) - p.254 - in 1980. Photo: Arild Meyer



The beautiful route *Pan* (N7) - p.215 - on Geitvika. Photo: Alina Szylid

Expansion - 1981 to 1994

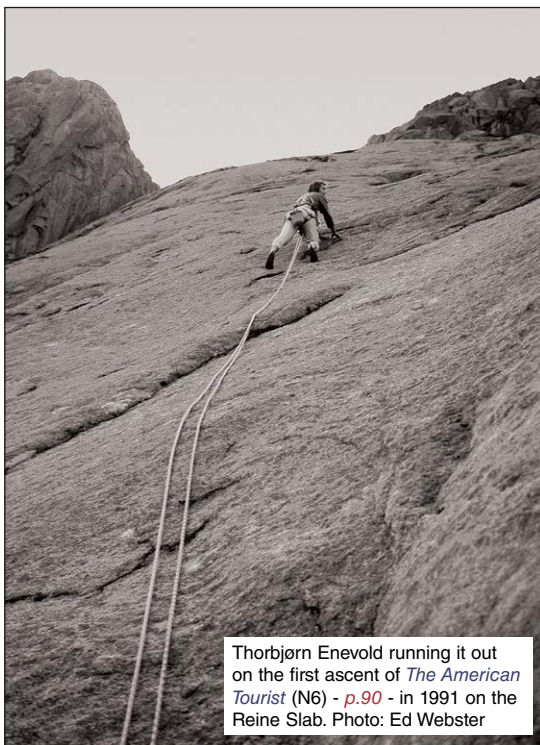
One of Lofoten's most popular, long easier routes, *Bare blåbær* (N5-) was first climbed by Tim Hansen, an American climber from Colorado, and Ingun Raastad in 1986. The pair also made the first free ascent of an additional major new variation up Presten called *Klokkeren* (N7-) originally pioneered by Swedish climber Tommy Nilsson a couple of years earlier.

In 1991 another Colorado climber, Ed Webster, journeyed to Lofoten. He found several new climbs that summer, including two with Thorbjørn Enevold, the director of the NNKS, *Lys og skygge* (N5+) on Pianokrakken (also with Trond Solberg) and *The American Tourist* (N6), also with Anders Bergwall, a very poorly-protected climb up Reinesvaet, on Moskenesøya. 1992's biggest new climb was the first free ascent of the 11 pitch *Korstoget* (N7) which follows cracks and a blank slab towards the left-hand side of Presten's main face. After attempts on the route by other teams in years past had failed, Bengt Flygel Nilsfors and Odd-Roar Wiik added the necessary protection bolts to the crux slab, and finally linked together the first ascent of this difficult and sustained free route - but not until their fifth try.

Several more good free routes were established at Store Festvågvegg - *Den Siste Viking* (N6) by Thorbjørn Enevold and Lutta Fagerli, and *Lundeklubben* (N6) plus *Skiløperen* (N6-), two of Lofoten's best crack climbs, were climbed by Arild Meyer and Thorbjørn Enevold.

1993 was the busiest year to date when approximately 25 new routes were recorded, including numerous classics - *Pan* (N7-) on Gullvikasvaet, by Thorbjørn Enevold and Ed Webster; *Månedans* (N6+) on Lille Festvågvegg, by Ed Webster and Odd-Roar Wiik; *Solens sønner* (N6) on the newly-developed Sjøsvaet, by Webster and Wiik; the sustained arch, *Odins bue* (N7) on Trollfestningen by Arild Meyer and Ed Webster; and *Englevinger* (N6+) a series of strenuous cracks on the Svolværgeita, by Arild Meyer, Odd-Roar Wiik and Ed Webster. American climber

Tom Cosgriff also brought Norwegian grade 8 climbing to Lofoten in 1993 when, with Sjur Nesheim, he climbed *Rasmus ekspresen* (N8-) a desperate overhanging crackline on Gandalf. Then Cosgriff and Nesheim added only the fourth full length new route to Presten, *Reisen* (N7+) a typical Cosgriff route with several sections of hard and poorly-protected free climbing. Only three days later, Odd-Roar Wiik and Ed Webster added the fifth independent line to Presten, climbing the 12 pitch *Himmel og Helvete* (N7) which featured sustained crack climbing and sections of serious face climbing. Ed Webster's collaboration with the local climbers eventually led to the production of the well-received 1994 guidebook *Climbing in the Magic Islands* which became the Bible for any climber who was headed for Lofoten for the next 14 years.



Thorbjørn Enevold running it out on the first ascent of *The American Tourist* (N6) - p.90 - in 1991 on the Reine Slab. Photo: Ed Webster



Johan Sandberg, Thorbjørn's long term climbing partner looking pleased with himself, reversing the *Sydøsteggen/Normalveien* (N4+) - p.372 - after a late summer ascent of the *Sydpilaren* (N6-) which can be seen in magnificent profile on the left. Photo: Thorbjørn Enevold

Consolidation and New Directions - 1994 to 1999

As is often the case, with the publication of Ed Webster's guidebook in 1994, the pace slackened, though even before the ink was dry Odd-Roar Wiik had put the book out of date with ascents of *Edderkopen* (N7-) on Gandalf and the stunning *Vårkåt* (N7) - a sustained crack that splits Jomfru pillaren hidden just around the corner from Henningsvær. Also in 1994, Thorbjørn Enevold and Trond Solberg started development of the Upper Walls at Rørvika. Arild Meyer had opened his account already with *Sticky Fingers* (N7-) on the Lower Tier in 1993, but he managed to miss the guidebook deadline with his slow reporting.

In 1996, a few bits and pieces were found when Krister Jonsson added *Nøttebus* (N6+) to Pianokrakken and *Lille vikke vire* (N7-) to Festvåg. 1997 was an altogether more significant year, in June Patrik Fransson and Thorbjørn Enevold added *Himmelen kan vente* (N6+) up the right-hand side of Presten on the date of Thorbjørn's mother's cancer operation - the name means 'Heaven can wait'. In July, Holger Jantsch, Ole Klingemann and Eggert Keller spent some time 'out West' and added three major routes to Helvetesinden and Breiflogtinden. Then in August, Håkon Hansen made the first free ascent of the witheringly steep *Butter Arms*. Originally given N9- it was later downgraded to N8+, though it still sees few successful attempts. Back on more traditional terrain, 1998 saw the addition of *Ørnens brødre* (N7) up the attractive sheet of rock up and left for Sjøsvaet by Thorbjørn Enevold and Arild Meyer. The adding of a limited number of bolts to protect blank sections of rock allowed the linking of series of natural features. Also in 1998 the long awaited free ascent of *Odins bue* was made at the surprisingly amenable grade of N7- by Jonas Tettlie, Andreas Christiansen and Knut Storvik. The most significant ascent of the year was *Freya* (N8 A3+) a huge 24 pitch outing up the left-hand side of Vågakallen's Storpillaren by Swiss couple Robert and Daniela Jasper. The ascent took five days and big wall tactics were used.

1999 was another busy year, the oft-eyed walls to the right of Gandalf were finally explored by T.Sieger and F.Moell and they produced the impressive outing of *Silmarillion* (N7). On Presten, Mark Garthwaite and Mick Fowler forced a series of pitches under the Great Roof then moved right to link grooves and corners to the right of *Vestpillaren's* upper half. The *Codfather* (N7) was the product of their labours and much of the ascent was filmed for use in a short UK TV series about climbing destinations around the world. It showed off Lofoten climbing in an excellent light to a huge audience.

1999 was also the year when aid climbing came back into fashion for a short time, with three significant new climbs. On the left-hand side of Trollfestingen the Czech team of Dalibor Mlejnek and Roman Kaspárek forced the obvious line of *Cmelak* (A3), taking two days over the ascent. Later the same year the local lads of Jonas Tettlie and Knut Storvik laid seige to the very steep section of rock at the right-hand side of the Gandalf wall producing *Souhaila Andrawes* (A3).

Also in 1999 Thorbjørn Enevold and Trond Solberg added two routes to the attractive shoulder of glaciated granite that can clearly be seen from the Djupfjord causeway. The two contrasting styles - one a sport route and the other a trad offering - produced the names of *Dr. Jekyll* (N6) and *Mr. Hyde* (N6+).



Ed Webster making the first ascent of *Gamle rev* (N6) - p.188 - in 1993 whilst working on the guidebook. Photo: Thorbjørn Enevold



Before anyone went for a good look, Festvåg was regarded as too loose and dangerous for climbing. As this photo of Mark Glaister at the top of the corner on pitch 2 of *Lundeklubben* (N6) - p.204 - shows, nothing could be further from the truth - good job Thorbjørn and Lutta went for that look! Photo: Alan James

The New Millennium - 2000 to 2008

2000 was a year of crack climbs. In March the widening fissure of *Djupfjord sprickan* (N7-) was tackled by Simon Thyr. Then in June, Robert Caspersen succeeded on the amazing overhanging crack of *Minnerisset* (N9-) - the new 'hardest Trad route' in Lofoten. The name means *Memory Crack* and it was climbed two years to the day since his brother died in an abseiling accident on Presten.

Also significant were Knut Storvik and Jonas Tetlie's two major routes on Merraflestinden out at Reine. *Kor e hammaren Edvard* (N6+ A1) and *Borr i Bekkmørtna* (N7- A0). Almost 500m high and on superb looking rock they are clear pointers as to what still remains to be done.

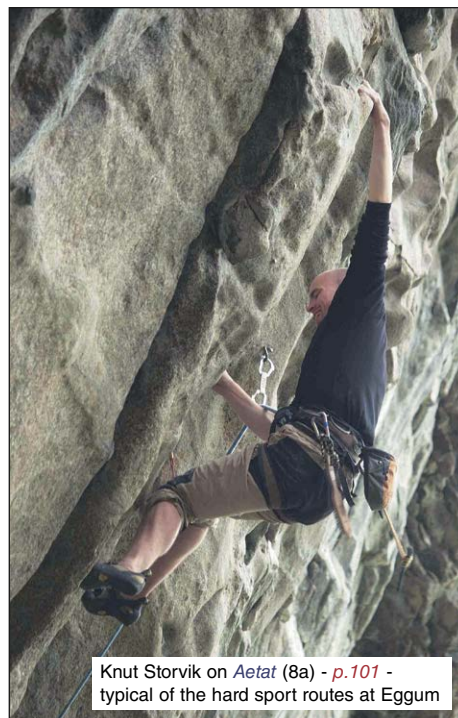
In 2003 the desperate thin crack of *Huggormen* on Pianokrakken was free climbed at N8- by Petter Restorp and Hanna Mellin and later the same year *Ormen Lange* was also free climbed on Cornflakesveggen at N7+ by Gustaf Leionhuvud and Joachim Vagner. Doubtless the most significant ascent of the year was the five day push on the enormous line of *Storm Pillar* (N7+ A3) by Mike and Louise Turner in September. Caught in a two day storm close to the summit, they sat it out before retreating in good order. They were obviously well prepared for all that Lofoten could throw at them.

Since then there has been less of significance on the trad climbing front, new routes have often been on previously overlooked bits of rock such as the impressive *Jammen, Jammen* (N6+) by Øyvind Utley and Andreas Capjon up in the gully behind Store Festvåg and the pair of wild outings of *Daei!* (N8- A2) and *Pels of the Fisk* (N8) by Robin Thomas and friends high on the edge of the Silmarillion cliff.

With the sport climbing revolution that had been going on across Europe, the younger locals looked for somewhere to develop their own skills. Worried about getting their wrists slapped if they started drilling within earshot of Henningsvær, they hunted out a few bits of rock around Kabelvåg as well as further afield.

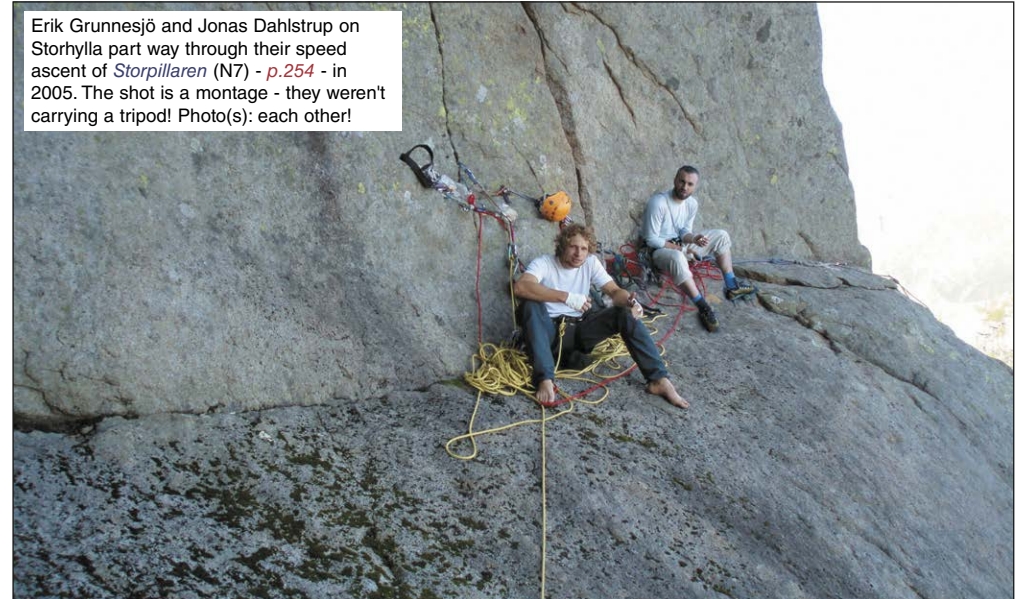
At Sandvika and Urstabben, Knut Storvik and Andreas Christiansen bolted up a clutch of routes back in 2002 including *Revenge of the Niña* (7b+), *Snykov* (7a+) and *Ostepopnæva* (7b+). However the most significantly developments took place on the leaning walls out at Eggum on the north coast. The crag was discovered by Andreas Christiansen in 2002. Together with Knut Storvik he bolted what would become *Gullfaks* in early 2003. However most of the development took place in the summer of 2005 when Knut, along with Andreas, took the place by storm. Such classics as *Gullfaks* (7a), *Full belastning* (7c), *Joker nord* (8a) and *Aetat* (8a) will ensure the crag stays very much on the circuit, and there are still some gaps that need plugging.

Also in 2005, and in complete contrast, visiting Americans Beth Rodden, Adam Stack and Tommy Caldwell accompanied by Odd-Roar Wiik, hiked into remote Helvestinden and added two fine free routes to the bit of rock known



Knut Storvik on *Aetat* (8a) - p.101 - typical of the hard sport routes at Eggum

Erik Grunnesjø and Jonas Dahlstrup on Storhylla part way through their speed ascent of *Storpillaren* (N7) - p.254 - in 2005. The shot is a montage - they weren't carrying a tripod! Photo(s): each other!

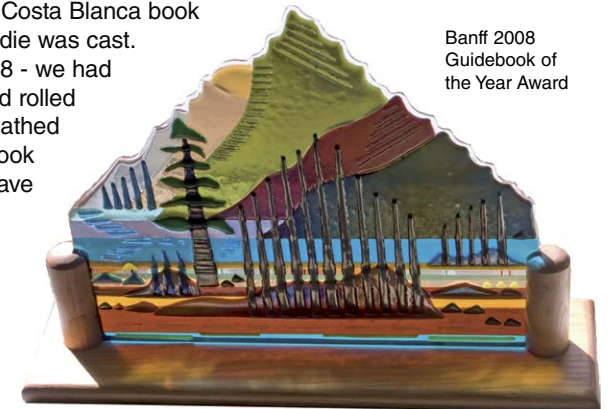


as the French Pillar, *The Next Best Thing* (N6+) and *Norwegian Sheep Ranch* (N7). This buttress had originally been climbed back in 1985 by French couple Eric and Anne Lapied. The ascent took almost a week and apparently they filmed the whole thing but details of the precise line became lost.

Another notable ascent in 2005, mirroring similar developments in other parts of the world, was the remarkable 12 hour 'car to car' ascent of *Storpillaren* (N7) by Erik Grunnesjø and Jonas Dahlstrup.

The New Guidebook - 2008

After visiting Lofoten in the summer of 2004 Chris Craggs met up with Thorbjørn Enevold as a guide for climbing The Goat. In the winter Chris sent Thorbjørn a copy of his latest book to the Costa Blanca. The following summer he returned to Lofoten and was standing in the climbing shop when the main man sidled over to him and, in a slightly conspiratorial way, asked, "would you like to help with a new book to Lofoten." Chris replied, "what do you have in mind?" and Thorbjørn plucked the Costa Blanca book off a shelf, "something like this". The die was cast. The book was published in June 2008 - we had a great launch party at the NKKS and rolled into bed at 2am as Vågakallen was bathed in the early light. The reception the book received was as good as we could have hoped for, and the icing on the cake was it winning 'Guidebook of the Year' at the Banff Festival in Canada in the Autumn. Chief judge John Harlin III described it as "the perfect guidebook".



Banff 2008
Guidebook of
the Year Award

As an International Destination - 2008 onwards

Since the production of the first Rockfax guidebook there have been significant developments in some interesting directions. To the relief of many, the sport climbing revolution came to nothing - the older routes remain popular, but new bolted routes in the past 10 years have been minimal. There have been plenty of short, relatively insignificant routes claimed across the whole area, but the more interesting has been the addition of some long hard routes, often in remote settings, with talented climbers taking single-pitch climbing attitudes out onto the big cliffs.

In 2009 young Czechs, Lukas Marecek and Jiri Švihálek, started a campaign out west with *Ticket to Greenland*, (N6+ A0) on Helvetestinden. They returned several times along with Ondra Švihálek and added some significant and bold routes well away from the crowds. The following year Robin Thomas and Alex Moran took a scramble along the coast from Henningsvær and came away with the fantastic Yosemite-like line of *Risset Rider* (N7+).

2011 saw some impressive developments, Peter Stuefer and Hannes Schrott (Italy) climbed the 14 pitch expedition of *Der König Hat Gesprochen* (N7-) on the huge previously overlooked buttress to the right of *Bilberries*. David Pickford and Malin Holmberg picked off a fine trio of routes on the undeveloped Djupfjord Wall, the highlight being *Lady of the Lake* (N9-). The final crux crack was so thin Holmberg had to lead it because of her smaller fingers. Regular visitor Helmut Gargitter along with Pauli Trenkwalder put up the imposing *Lofoten Reality* (N8-) on the Vågarisset crag at Paradiset.

Also in 2011, Jo Arve Repp, Bror Morten Raum and Steinar Grynning added the *Holy Diver* (N7+) to Presten which tackles a series of steep grooves on the right-hand side of the cliff.

Back out west an international team put the long and sustained *One Hundred Years Later* (N7+) on Breiflogtinden. Ivan Calderon, Fredrico Pisani (Venezuela), Fernando Gonzalez Rubio (Colombia) plus Simon Kehrer and Helmut Gargitter (Italy) were involved. At the opposite end of the archipelago members of same team climbed *Trolls meet Latinos* (N7+ A0), the first route to make it to the top of the Geitgaljen's southwest face. Carl Granlund and Lars Martin Solberg added a second route to the face the following year - *There and Back Again* (N7 A1) tackles the right-hand side of the wall.

2014 was the year that the Silmarillion Wall saw some serious attention. Andreas Klarström with a variety of partners free climbed both *Grisfesten* (N8+) and *Daei!* (N8+), routes which feature some of the wildest positions around. Later in the season, Klarström was in action again and with Adam Pustelnik plugged a big gap on Storpillaren with the hard and serious route of *The Corner Kick* (N9-). Back on the coast, Morgan Salen and Lars Martin Solberg added the soaring line of *Them Crooked Seagulls* (N7+ A1).

2015 saw a couple of especially significant ascents on Storpillaren - Martin Skaar Olsund freed the aid section of both *Freya* (N8) and *Genus Locy* (N9). On the former with Thomas Meling, they scooted up the 12 lower pitches (up to N7) in just two hours, to get to the 'hard stuff'. As a final pointer to what still waits out there, also in 2015 Lars Martin Solberg and Thomas Thorstein added the first route to Rulten's North Face - *Valkyrje* (8- A2+) gave them an interesting battle with wide cracks in as remote a setting as you could want.

Since the publication of the 2017 Rockfax guidebook there has been remarkably little new routing on Lofoten, though it is premature to consider the place 'worked out' - there is still an endless supply of rock out there for the diligent explorer.

Nord Norsk Klatreskole

In the early 1970s serious accidents in the mountains of Lofoten led to more rescue operations being carried out on difficult ground. Nils Faarlund, among others, held the first climbing course at Kalle in 1972. The aim of the course was to teach Red Cross members to handle climbing equipment and also the terrain. As a result Svolveær Alpine Rescue Group was founded, the first in the whole of Norway.

Arild Meyer, already a dedicated climber, was also one of the instructors. "We can do this ourselves," he thought and the second oldest climbing school in Norway - the Nord Norsk Klatreskole (NNKS) - was founded the following year.

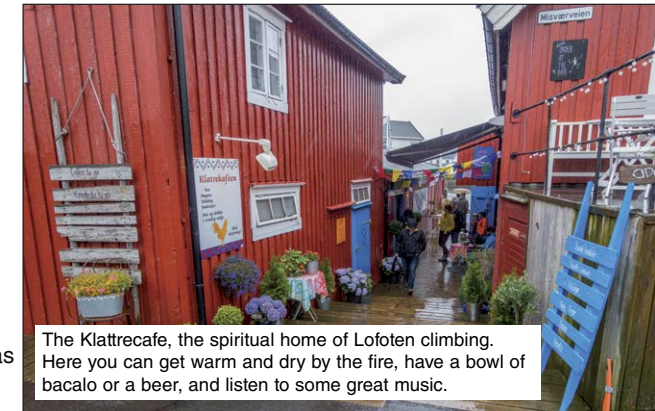
The courses were a great success through the 1970s, with many held through the summer. They were led by the best climbers in the north at that time - Arild Meyer, Finn Tore Bjørnstad, Sjur and Håvard Nesheim and Kjell Skog, to name a few. The instructors were 'hard men', so of course the clients had to be too, and from day one! All the courses finished with a climb up *Nordryggen* (N4+) on Vågakallen, where they slept under the sky through whatever was left of the night.

Thorbjørn Enevold recalls his first meeting with the NNKS. Seeing an ad in the old Skandinavisk Høyfjellsutstyr catalogue for courses, he joined a weekend winter course in remote Lyngen. "We started climbing up a snow gully at 18:00 on Friday afternoon. After 1300m though deep snow, we finally reached 'Den himmelske freds plass'. It was time to dig snow caves. At 3am we finally crawled into the sleeping bags. Next day we had a quick lesson in how to use crampons and ice axes before we went on to climb *Store Lakselvtind* - eighteen people on one rope. The weekends' lessons were hard, but I never looked back". In Lyngen that weekend Thorbjørn had no idea that he would be running his own climbing courses on Kalle just four years later, and eventually that he would take over the climbing school.

The school was run more or less the same way for several years, but times and climbers change, and the climbing school with them. Novices are no longer expected to start with a 36 hour climb on Rulten any more. Then Thorbjørn met Lutta and things happened. It wasn't long before they moved out of the rented rorbu at Kalle and into new sea houses in Henningsvær. New to them that is, the houses were already a hundred years old, and had not been used for the last fifty! But what are good friends with carpentry skills really for?

Looking back Thorbjørn reminisces, "Following climbing experiences in the UK and Nepal we were quite determined about how the cafe should look - a mixture of an English climbing pub, a Sherpa tea-house, with the stove in the middle, and a typical Lofoten rorbu. We have no idea how many climbers, bikers, kayak paddlers or 'normal' tourists have had their well-deserved pint, or dried their wet socks on the stove. Or maybe met the love of their life in a weekend dance - there have been a few of those too. One thing we do know, you are all welcome here in the years to come."

Thorbjørn and Lutta finally sold the shop, the cafe and the climbing school at the end of 2021 after running it for 32 years.



The Klattrecafe, the spiritual home of Lofoten climbing. Here you can get warm and dry by the fire, have a bowl of bacalo or a beer, and listen to some great music.

This time around there are fewer acknowledgments to be made, the book is basically an update of the previous version - as ever, many thanks for all those who helped get us to here. Of course Thorbjørn Enevold has to be here again for letting us start this particular ball rolling back in 2008 - and keeping it going down the years - we did a good thing. Sherri Davy has been my constant companion for the past 35+ years - and my wife for the past three - as ever I couldn't have done it without her. And finally to Alan James and all the Rockfax/UKC team whose great support and technical knowledge allows us to produce great books like this and the user friendly and popular Rockfax Digital.

Chris Craggs, February 2024

First and foremost to Lutta, the love of my life, who's always there for me, nothing would ever be the same without you. To my kids, Andrea, Rasmus and My, who are all grown-ups now, thanks for chasing the old man around the mountains.

To Sherri and Chris of course, nothing in this book would ever happened without you two.

To Jonas and Arild - you guys know exactly what you did! And to all those who helped us with this edition: Stian Bruvoll, Andreas Widlund, Jan Erik Paulsen, Karin Bergbjørn, Håkon Wegge. Håkon Nordhaug. And to all the other people I have climbed with over the years, thanks for the great company and good times. Lastly to Johan of course, not the fastest climber in the world, but surely the most fun to be with. We will continue to meet and climb as long as the mountains will have us.

Thorbjørn Enevold, February 2024

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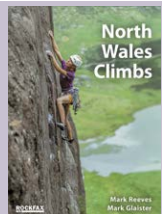
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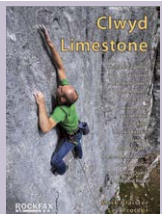
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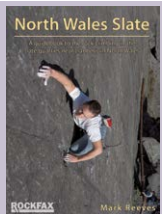
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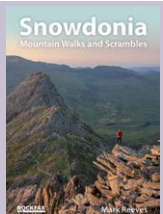
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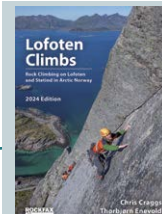


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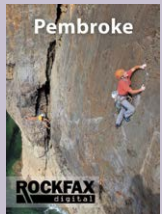
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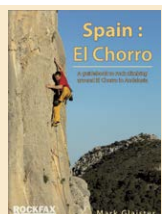


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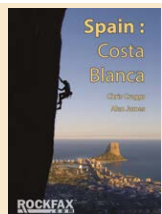
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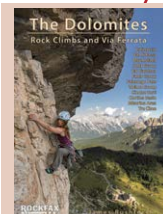
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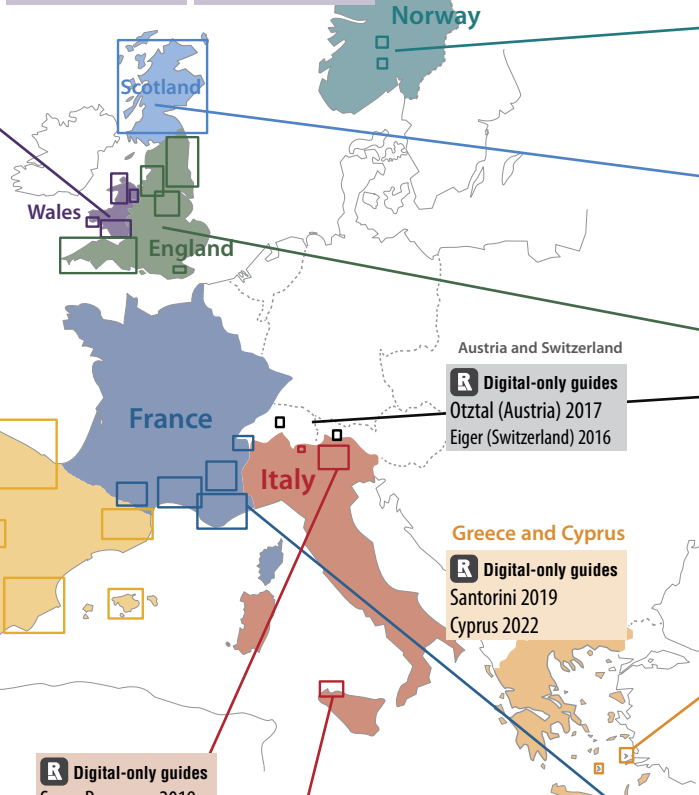


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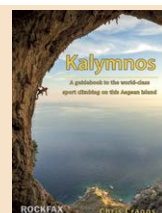
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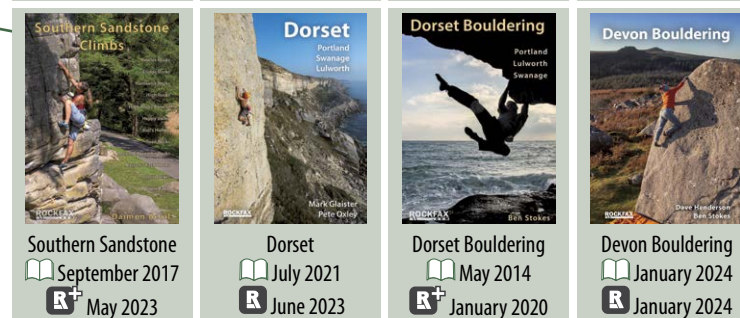
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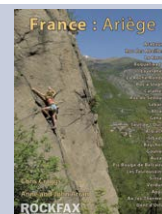


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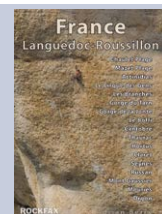
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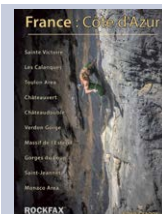
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France: Lang.Roussillon
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Kalle
Kabelväg
Svolvær
The Northeast
Narvik Area
Stetind Area
Walking Peaks

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Henningsvær
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The West

The West

Henningsvær

Henningsvær

Kalle

Kalle

Kabelvåg

Kabelvåg

Svolvær

Svolvær

The Northeast

The Northeast

Narvik Area

Narvik Area

Stetind Area

Stetind Area

Walking Peaks

Walking Peaks

The Rock and Roll Ridge (N3) - p.116 - above Rørvika is a great introduction to rock climbing - long and interesting but with good stances and positions, with no great difficulties. Photo: Jonas Dahlstrup

Mountain Rescue

In the event of an accident requiring the assistance of Mountain Rescue:

Dial 112 - this connects with the main police command centre.

Ensure you have details of your location and what the incident involves.

This number works on any mobile on a Norwegian network.

Tourist Information

The Destination Lofoten website **lofoten.info** has lots of information on getting to Lofoten, where to stay once you are there and things to do and see in the area.

There are Tourist Information Offices in Narvik, Ramberg, Moskenes but the most useful one is in Svolvær town square - Tel: +47 76 06 98 07

Insurance/Rescue/Medical Advice

Norway has the highest standard of living in the world and a large % of their GDP is spent on healthcare - as you would expect, the system is superb. EU residents have a right to emergency healthcare, make sure you bring your documentation to ensure entitlement. Since Brexit UK residents ARE NOT included in this arrangement and EHIC/GHIC are not valid. Ensure you have adequate rescue and medical insurance. If you do require a doctor, check that they have a reimbursement arrangement with the National Insurance Administration - not usually a problem since this includes most medical practitioners.

There is a non-refundable standard fee - your Accident/Rescue/Cancellation insurance will cover this, as long as you took it out before leaving home!

Chemists are called Apotek. You will have to pay for most prescribed medicines. However, if you are prescribed medication by a doctor on a blue prescription (generally medication for chronic conditions) you will pay only 36% of the costs, up to a maximum of 360 NOK per prescription. Charges are payable for specialist hospital consultations and any out-patient treatment. In an emergency you can get treatment

from the nearest public hospital; in-patient treatment, including necessary medication, is free of charge.

You usually have to pay the full cost of any dental treatment, but again your insurance should cover this.

The nearest doctor, dentist and chemists are in Svolvær. The nearest hospital is Leknes and there is one in Narvik - local advice is to try and avoid them!



Rescue practice in Trolldalen



Hakon Wegge high on the first ascent of Ögonblicket (N7-) - p.377 - on the North Face of Kugelhorn. Photo Stian Bruvoll

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When to Go

Lofoten is more popular than ever with tourists and climbers alike. The peak season (July) is usually exceptionally busy - seekers of solitude might want to choose another time of year - June and August are much quieter.

Situated north of the Arctic Circle, Lofoten has two main seasons - high summer and deep winter (which the locals call simply 'mørketid' - *dark times*) and two periods of rapid transition dividing these contrasting times. High summer lasts from early May to early August with lots of daylight until mid-August, when the nights start 'drawing in' again.

Midnight sun - approximately 29 May to 15 July.

Polar night - approximately 6 December to 6 January.

Hours of Daylight	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Figure on 15th of month	3	8	11.5	15.5	20.5	24	24	16.5	12.5	9.5	5	0

For rock climbing, any time between late May (there will still be plenty of snow around) and August is fine, though by the middle of August, many of the Scandinavian visitors have gone home and the ferries move over to the winter timetable. As with anywhere in northern Europe, the weather can be a bit of a lottery though most years an Arctic high pressure system exists for weeks at a time and brings prolonged blue skies and settled weather - the tricky part is predicting just when! The averages in the table below indicate that May, June and July are the best months for the warmest temperatures and least rainfall, but averages are little consolation if you are sat there in the rain waiting for a clear spell.

As a general rule on Lofoten, winds from the north and the east bring settled weather, those from the south and west bring anything from showers to full-on Atlantic storms. A change in the wind direction can be a useful warning/indicator.

Temperature °C	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Max Temp (°C)	-1	-1	0	3	7	12	14	14	10	6	3	1
Average Min Temp (°C)	-3	-3	-2	1	4	8	11	11	7	3	1	-2

Rainfall Days	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average days > 0.1mm	22	20	18	17	16	14	15	17	20	22	20	22
Average days > 3mm	8	7	6	6	5	4	6	7	8	11	9	10
Average days > 10mm	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	2	2

These average rainfall figures are for Skråva, which is an island to the south of Svolvær. The precipitation for Svolvær and Henningsvær shows a similar annual total however the mountains of the West, Vestvågøya (Eggum), and Trolltinden (The Northeast - Higravtinden, Geitgaljen, Trakta and Rulten) in particular, receive considerably more rain.



Alina Szyid on the run-out upper slab of *pitch 3 of Solens sønner* (N6) - p.158 - on Sjøsvaet - the Sea Slab - in Djupfjord. Photo: Mariusz Harendarz

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Car

Most visitors will drive from Norway, Sweden, Finland or continental Europe. Despite the roads being fairly quiet, progress is often slow. The speed limit is often 80kph and sneaky speed traps are common, even in the middle of nowhere. On-the-spot fines are hefty enough to put a dent in your holiday fund. Although travelling by car is slow there are pluses - you can carry lots of gear and cheap food, it makes getting round the islands easy and you have somewhere dry to sit if it rains.

As an indicator Oslo > Svolvær takes about 29 hours driving time. Stockholm > Svolvær takes about 22 hours driving time and Helsinki to Svolvær takes about 21 hours. If driving from the south, the best option is to get to Denmark, use the (expensive) bridge to reach Sweden and the take the E10. As an example from London the distance is 3540km and the travel time is around 43 hours and from Berlin, 2700km and 35 hours.

Trains (and Ferries and Planes)

It is possible to get the train from Oslo to Bodø, or from Stockholm to Narvik. This overnight journey takes 17 hours and currently costs from about 1400 NOK each way. The short Widerøe flight from Bodø to Svolvær is a common way of covering the last leg of the journey to Lofoten.



Flying

Flying is the quickest method to get to Lofoten, and also often the cheapest. First fly to Oslo, then take an internal flight to Bodø. From here you can make a short hop in a tiny turbo-prop plane over to Leknes, or Svolvær. SAS or Norwegian Air Shuttle fly to Norway and up to the north, Widerøe cover the final short hop. There is a 15kg luggage limit on the final flight, although you can use a ferry for this if you have a lot of gear. The Hurtigbåt - a rapid sea-cat for foot passengers only - does the Bodø to Svolvær crossing in 2.5 hours. It is possible to use the Evenes (Harstad/Narvik) airport and then an express bus connecting the airport with Lofoten - check 177nordland.com for prices.

Web sites - flysas.com, norwegian.no, wideroe.no plus plenty more.

Lofoten is linked to the mainland by road so a ferry crossing is no longer mandatory. You may still catch one (Bodø to Moskenes, Skutvik to Svolvær or Bognes to Lødingen) depending on your chosen route.

Flying then Hiring a Car

Be warned, Norway is expensive for car hire and peak season is a shocker!

A car costs from around 10,500 NOK for a week from Bødo or from Evenes (Harstad/Narvik). The drive is 6 to 10 hours from Bødo depending on which ferry you get (if any since you can go all the way on the road via Narvik). From Harstad/Narvik the drive is only 2.5 hours.

Flying to Kiruna or Luleå in northern Sweden and hiring there can be a good option. It is around a 6 hour drive from Kiruna and a car costs about €380 (4,300 NOK) for a week.

There are several companies in Svolvær and Leknes that rent secondhand cars - rentacar-lofoten.com - although even this approach can be surprisingly expensive.

If you are driving to Lofoten from the mainland or Sweden, check out the Narvik/Stetind section of the guidebook which has a selection of cliffs and routes that are worth a bit of your timer. Here Sherri Davy is on the abseil descent from *Normalveien* (N5-) - *p.381* - on Hamarøyskattet with the Lofoten wall shimmering on the far side of the Vestfjord.



Getting Around

Much of the climbing is centred around Henningsvær and it is possible to manage without a car, though the logistics are tricky; shopping, moving and what to do when it rains being the main problems. There is a regular bus service up and down the spine of the island, and taxis and hitchhiking are also options. See p.33 for more on hiring a car. Speed limits are generally low (50mph/80kph or less) and on-the-spot fines are substantial, whatever your nationality. Drink-driving laws are strictly enforced; legal levels are low enough to be considered zero and 'morning after' checks are not uncommon. If you do get stopped, and are over the limit, expect to head straight to jail without passing Go!

Parking **P**

All the crags in this book have parking areas which are indicated with GPS coordinates and QR codes on the maps (see right - just scan with your phone).

Parking has become a major issue in the area due to the influx of camper vans. Unfortunately this means restrictions in the usual places and awkward apps for payment. Parking for Svolveærgeita, Henningsvær and on Engøya uses Easypay. Kalle can be paid at the location or on parkpay.no. The parking below Gandalf is privately run - check the signs. All this may change so be prepared to struggle to find parking.

Lofoten has long been a popular tourist destination and is well organised with a wide range of accommodation possibilities. Henningsvær is the centre of Lofoten climbing and most climbers try to stay somewhere close. The village has a couple of hotels, the climbing school does nice rooms, and there are Rorbuer (fishermens' huts) - see the sign-board in the main car park.

Camping and Camping Cabins

There are three official campgrounds within easy striking distance (a 20 minute drive) of the main climbing areas. There is Skårungen/Sandvika complex about halfway between Henningsvær and Svolvær. In the opposite direction there is the Lyngvær Bobilcamp (camper wagons) ground which also accepts tents. These are pleasant spots, reasonably well equipped - small basic kitchen area but little in the way of crockery or utensils. They have a pleasant lounge plus showers and not too expensive.

A great feature of all Norwegian campgrounds are small camping cabins. These can be fairly basic - a couple of bunk beds, a fridge and a cooking ring, all the way up to wooden palaces, with several rooms, shower, toilet, TV and fridge. The prices can be reasonable especially if there are four of you sharing - prices range from 300 NOK to 600 NOK per night for the full cabin. Substantial 30% to 50% discounts can be negotiated if you are staying for a few days. Check lofoten.info for more information.

Wild/free Camping

It is written into Norwegian law that you can camp for free anywhere in Noway for two days (longer in the wilderness) on any uncultivated land as long as you are at least 150m from any inhabited house or cabin. Unfortunately in the main climbing areas this has had to be restricted due to popularity and overuse by camper vans. The two areas you can still camp are under Gandalf and Kalle above the beach. You can free camp here for two nights but you have to pay for the parking which is around €15/day.



Travel light or take everything with you? Lofoten is quite a long way from most places but it also very civilised - this isn't Patagonia!



**TELTPLASS
CAMPSITE**

Velkommen til teltplassen!
Kalle er et populært sted å campe, så vi setter stor pris på at du bruker den tilrettelagte teltplass. Teltplassen er markert med røde påler i hvert hjørne. Du kan også se den på et digitalt kart ved å skanne QR-koden under.

Husk på dette når du camper:

- Det er ikke tillatt å telle lenger enn 2 netter på samme plass.
- Hold minst 3 meters avstand til andre telt.
- Bruk de etablerte løplassene.
- Vis hensyn overfor andre og rydd plassen etter deg.


Vi ønsker deg et fint opphold på Kalle!

Welcome to the campsite!
Kalle is a popular place to camp, and we appreciate that you pitch your tent in the designated space. The campsite is marked with red poles in each corner. By scanning the QR code below, you will also see the campsite on a digital map.

Remember this when camping:

- It is not permitted to camp more than 2 nights in the same place.
- Keep a distance of at least 3 metres between the tents.
- Use the established camping sites.
- Be considerate to others and tidy up when you leave.

We wish you a pleasant stay at Kalle!

The camping site at Kalle is still 'free' but you have to pay to park your car. The map shows where you can't camp - almost everywhere - and a two night limit applies.

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If you are unlucky enough to have a spell of bad weather, the big question is: what do you do apart from the obvious activities of lying in the tent reading a big fat book, or sitting in the NNKS Cafe and spinning a coffee out for several hours? There is a cinema in Svolvær and a sports centre with swimming pool in Leknes (50 minutes drive west). Other than that, here are a few ideas for starters.



Cod drying in the breeze on the racks by the Henningsvær bridges.

General Interest

Magic Ice (map p.305) - Ice sculptures/sound and light show (warm clothes provided). Situated by the Hurtigruten quay in Svolvær. magicice.no

Lofoten Opplevelser (map opposite) - (*Lofoten Adventures*) Sea safaris from Henningsvær. Call in and book the day before. lofoten-opplevelser.no

Lofotakvariet (map p.290) - Aquarium and cafe in Storvågen near Kabelvåg. Life in the sea, otter and seal pools, plus cafe. museumnord.no/en/our-venues/lofoten-aquarium/

Arts and Crafts

Galleri Lofotens hus (map opposite) - Art gallery of Norwegian artists and a multi-media show in Henningsvær. galleri-lofoten.no

Galleri Espolin (map p.290) - Art gallery, exhibition, videos and a shop by the E10. museumnord.no/en/our-venues/the-espolin-gallery/

Engelskmannsbygga (map opposite) - Pottery, glass workings and photography, the square Henningsvær. engelskmannsbygga.no

925 Catrine Linder (advert inside front cover, map opposite) - Silver workshop, Gammelveien 6, Henningsvær. 925catrinelinder.com

Museums

Lofotr Viking Museum - Viking museum by the E10, 50km west of Henningsvær, just past the Eggum turn-off. lofotr.no

Lofoten Krigsminnemuseum (map p.305) - War memorial museum in Svolvær. museumnord.no/en/our-venues/lofoten-war-memorial-museum/

Museum Nord / Lofotmuseet (map p.290) - North Norway and Lofoten museum in Storvågen near Kabelvåg. museumnord.no/en/our-venues/lofoten-museum/

.... and for Free

Go climbing at Eggum (p.96) where there are plenty of routes that stay dry (albeit at a highish difficulty level), go fishing, or grab a waterproof and go for a walk up a peak (p.382).



Money

The currency is the Norwegian Krone. In 2024 this converts at around £1 > 13 NOK and €1 > 11 NOK. Credit/debit cards are accepted pretty much everywhere for all kinds of payments, though banks and cash points are few and far between. The nearest cash point to Henningsvær is in Kabelvåg, for a bank it is necessary to trek to Svolvær.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phone coverage is generally good throughout Lofoten (via Telenor), though it may be a bit restricted in the deeper valleys (worth checking before an emergency maybe) but you can certainly get a good signal on top of Vågakallen!

Food for Free?

Lofoten is well known for its cod fishery which sends fish to much of Europe. The discerning climber can supplement their diet with a fishing rod, as long as they can handle the heartbreak of losing yet another spinner. Also in the season crops of bilberries and cloudberry can be had if you know where to look. I know my favourite places for both fishing and berries and there is no way I am going to put them in a book! Good luck with your foraging.

Shopping

All the general supplies that you need to survive are available in Henningsvær. For a wider range of goods, or to do a major stock-up, there are larger supermarkets in Svolvær and Kabelvåg including a Co-op and Rimi. Prices are quite high though the quality of fruit, veg, bread and general produce is normally excellent. Quality meat (and also fish - at least in the summer) is quite hard to come by though the choice of pølser (sausages) is remarkable.

There has been a gradual relaxing of the laws around alcohol in Norway and nowadays you can get 4.5% beer in the supermarkets, for about 25 NOK per can. For anything stronger a trip will have to be made to the government-run Vinmonopolet 'alcohol outlet' in Svolvær which closes at 15:00 on Saturdays.

Climbing Shops

There is a sports shop in Svolvær that sells general outdoor gear including camping equipment, cycling and fishing stuff, plus plenty of waterproofs. The only specialist climbing shop in the area is the one that is part of the NNKS Cafe complex; this sells ropes, wires, cams, rock shoes, clothing and a good selection of climbing guidebooks.

Kari Havnevik revelling in some amazing conditions on the Østkammen (N5-) - p.376 - on the Kugelhorn, one of the many fine peaks in the Eidfjord area.
Photo: Stian Bruvoll

The once popular free camping area near Paradiset in 2016 (below) and 2023 - some thing had to be done!



Access Restrictions

Text from the 2017 Lofoten Climbs guidebook can now been seen prophetic, it was obvious the status quo was not sustainable - we have kept it here as a warning.

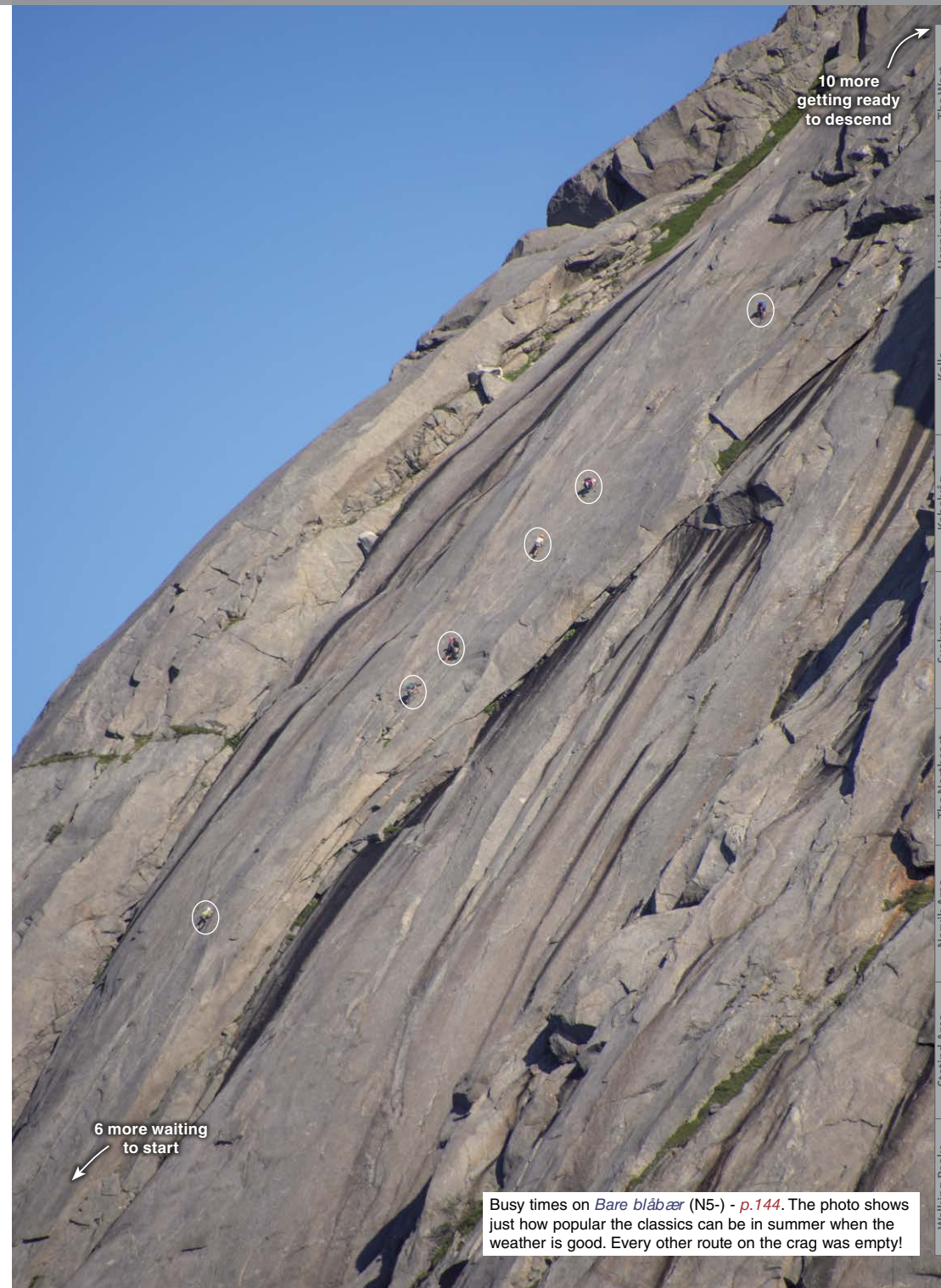
"It is fact that Lofoten has become a bit of a victim of it own success and in the high season (June and July), the place can become extremely busy with both climbers and regular tourists and this has caused problems. The local community enjoy sharing their fantastic islands with visitors but they are a conservative lot and there have been rumblings about just how sustainable the numbers are. It is up to us to make sure that we remain welcome here. It requires consideration, starting by behaving as you would do at home".



The various parking areas have become much more restricted in recent years and free camping spots limited or not available any more. Please use the described parking and approaches in this book and also be prepared for them to change since it is distinctly possible that the parking situation will become even more restricted in the next few years.

Queueing

If you are here to climb in the peak season, and the weather is good, there are certain routes that you are almost certain to have to queue on, especially *'Bilberries'* (see opposite), *Gandalf*, *Pianohandler Lunds Rut* and *Vestpillaren Direct*. There are hundreds of other climbs to go at but if you don't want to join a line of climbers consider coming at another time of year - August can be good. We have removed the Top 50 list as this almost certainly contributed to the 'must do this route' mind-set. You could always consider climbing through the night if you are here in June and July; cool maybe but at least you won't be in a queue.



10 more getting ready to descend

6 more waiting to start

Busy times on *Bare blåbær* (N5-) - p.144. The photo shows just how popular the classics can be in summer when the weather is good. Every other route on the crag was empty!

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Mark Bullock on immaculate rock on pitch 3 of *Vestpillaren Direct* (N6) - p.173 - the most celebrated route in Lofoten. Photo: Dave Ferguson

The majority of the routes in this book are multi-pitch and traditionally protected - you could probably have a half-decent sport climbing holiday in Lofoten, but that wouldn't be making the most of the place.

Rack

Many of the pitches are very long and follow crack-lines, so a decent-sized rack is needed to protect them adequately. A double set of wires (1-9) and a substantial set of cams across the range, with doubles of the middle sizes, will cover most eventualities. A selection of slings for spikes, threads and abseil tat will also be found useful. Routes which require more specialist gear - for example, micro wires or very large cams - should mention this in their descriptions but only where it is known! If you are unsure then it is always best to be cautious, but keep in mind that a heavy rack will make you climb more slowly. It can be a difficult balance to get right, but gets easier with experience.

Ropes

Two half ropes (50m is adequate, 60m helps with retreats) are the norm on trad routes. You can use a single rope if there is no abseil descent required, but be aware of the difficulties posed should an abseil retreat be needed due to change in the weather or if the route proves to be too much. A good combination is a thin triple-rated rope, which you can use for sport climbing, single rope trad climbing and double rope trad climbing, and one other rope of the same length, either a second triple rated rope, or a half rope.

Sport Routes

Most of the sport routes need about a dozen quickdraws. A 60m rope is needed for the longer pitches at Eggum, but usually you will be able to get by with a 50m.

Other Gear

You will need a belay device and/or abseil device, a nut key for removing stubborn nuts and cleaning out grassy or gravelly cracks, a helmet and maybe some spare tape and maillons for setting up abseils. On the longer routes, a small pack is useful for your waterproofs, some food, descent shoes and extra warm layer. Investing in a proper small climbing pack is a good idea since many rucksacks are not designed to be used while climbing and they tend to be too large, hang too low, or restrict head movement. Beyond these essentials you may find tape for bandaging your hands before (or after) they are wrecked by some savage granite crack a useful extra. With that you are all set!

Ellie Woods checking her gear at the top of *Forsida* (N5+) - p.312 - on top of the Svolveargeita. Photo: Pete Callaghan



Transition to Trad

A few lucky folks get taken climbing for the first time by good friends who know what they are doing, or maybe go on a course like the ones run by NNKS and learn the basics of trad climbing from experts. Nowadays many people have their first contact with 'rock climbing' at an indoor climbing wall, or a bouldering hall. This means fixed bolts, coloured holds and a nice safe environment. The transition from short safe indoor climbs to big multi-pitch routes in the mountains can seem a daunting one, but it need not be. Start small and easy, then build up gradually and the sky is the limit.

Placing Runners

The key skill that you will need to learn, practice and perfect is placing runners, both passive ones (nuts) and active ones (cams). You need to be able to look at a crack, spot a placement, assess what gear will fit that placement, choose it first time and slot it in. Sounds easy, and it can be when you aren't under pressure, though the real skill is staying cool and doing it when you are getting seriously pumped, the clouds are rolling in and you can't communicate with your second man. See p.46 for more on gear.

An Apprenticeship

'Practice make perfect' so get practicing and Paradiset (p.224) is the perfect place. Pick a spot and place your whole rack, get someone to mark your placements out of 10, put a short sling and see if they will take body-weight, try setting gear sideways in shallow placements, try cams in vertical and horizontal cracks and in pockets too. Pick placements that don't look too promising or 'bomber' and see what you can do with it - would you belay on it or lob on it? If not, try again!

Then take the gear out - another learning process - and start all over again. When you can select the correct piece first time, every time from the mess dangling from your waist, you are on the way, but keep practicing anyway.

Onwards and Upwards

How to fix belays, racking gear, handling double ropes, abseiling - there is still plenty more to learn once you have a grasp of the basics in fact, if you aren't still learning, you have probably stopped climbing. Aim to improve your efficiency so the whole operation becomes smooth and hassle free and always be prepared to question what you and your partner are doing and why you are doing it.



Battered but not bested. Photo: Jonas Paulsson



Janek Bednarík on the fine crack high on pitch 5 of *Bare Blåbær* (N5-) - p.144 - in Djupfjord. Photo: Alan James

Norwegian Grade

The Norwegian grading system uses a simple numeric open-ended system with + and - to add further gradations. N1 and N2 denote scrambling, with technical climbing starting at about grade N3. In Norway the same system is also used for sport climbing grades. In this book we have gone with the more common sport grades used universally elsewhere.

For most Lofoten routes the system works well enough with the minor hitch that the grade takes little heed of the state of the protection on a climb - so an N5+ can be a pleasant well-protected hard move on a jamming crack, or a life threatening smeary move miles from your runners! A look up the pitch should help you decide which. For longer routes, with full pitch descriptions, there should be some indication as to the nature of the hardest climbing in the text. Currently the hardest trad route in this book weighs in at N9 (about E8 7a) and the hardest sport route at 8b.

Norwegian Grade	British Trad Grade	UIAA	USA	Sport Grade
N3-	Mod <i>Moderate</i>	I	5.1	1
N3	Diff <i>Difficult</i>	II	5.2	2
N3+	VDiff <i>Very Difficult</i>	III-	5.3	2+
N4-		III	5.4	3a
N4	HVD <i>Hard Very Difficult</i>	III+	5.5	3b
N4+	Sev <i>Severe</i>	IV-	5.6	3c
N5-	HS <i>Hard Severe</i>	IV	5.7	4a
N5	UKtech 4a	IV+	5.7	4b
N5+	VS <i>Very Severe</i>	V-	5.8	4c
N6-	UKtech 4c	V	5.8	5a
N6	HVS <i>Hard Very Severe</i>	V+	5.9	5b
N6+	E1	VI-	5.10a	5c
N7-	E2	VI	5.10b	6a
N7	E3	VI+	5.10c	6a+
N7+	E4	VII-	5.10d	6b
N8-	E5	VII	5.11a	6b+
N8	E6	VII+	5.11b	6c
N8+	E7	VIII-	5.11c	6c+
N9-	E8	VIII	5.11d	7a
N9	E9	VIII+	5.12a	7a+
N9+	E10	IX-	5.12b	7b
	E11	IX	5.12c	7b+
		IX+	5.12d	7c
		X-	5.13a	7c+
		X	5.13b	8a
		X+	5.13c	8a+
		XI-	5.13d	8b
		XI	5.14a	8b+
		XI+	5.14b	8c
		XII-	5.14c	8c+
		XII	5.14d	9a
		XII+	5.15a	9a+
		XIII-	5.15b	9b
		XIII	5.15c	9b+

Colour Coding

The routes are given a colour-coded dot corresponding to a grade band. Most climbers are happier at a slightly harder level when sport climbing, which is why the colour code for sport grade is set to higher difficulty levels. Climbers used to operating at 'Orange' sport grades should drop their level to the 'Orange' trad grades when choosing a route.

- Green Routes** *Beginners* - everything at grade **N4+/Sev/4c** and under. Good routes to start out your climbing career on.
- Orange Routes** *Experienced* - **N5-/HS/5a** to **N6-/HVS/6a+** inclusive. General ticking routes for those with more experience, lots of excellent routes are available across this band.
- Red Routes** *Advanced* - **N6/E1/6b** to **N7-/E3/7a** inclusive. For the experienced and keen climber. Anyone operating at this level can attempt some of the best climbing in the book.
- Black Routes** *Expert* - **N7/E4/7a+** to **N8/E6/7b+**. If you are up to it then this band has some major national testpieces.
- White Spots** *Elite* - **N8+/E7/8a** and above. The hardest routes for the world's best climbers.

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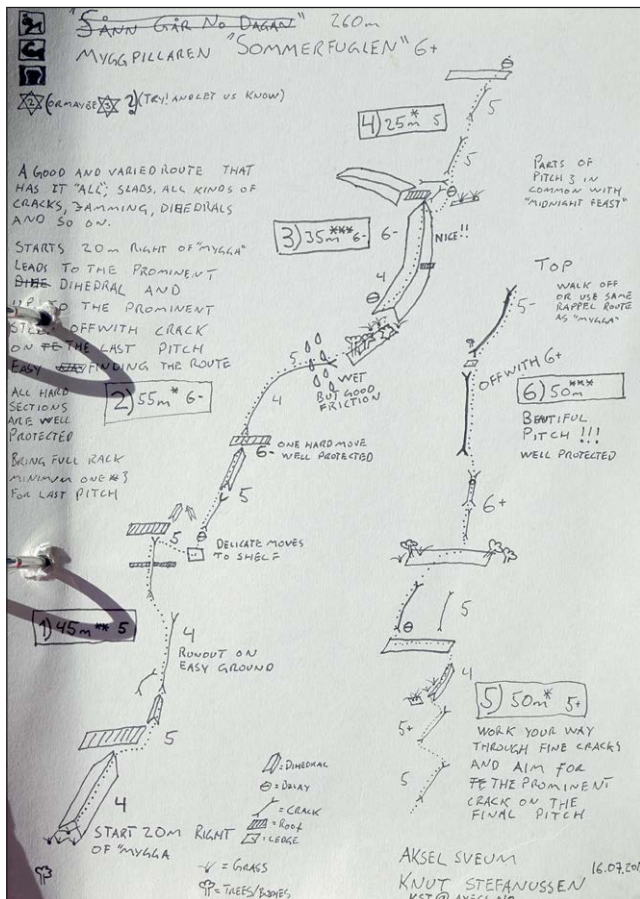
There is a lot of superb quality unclimbed rock in the area covered by this guide, and I mean a LOT! For anyone keen on new routing, Lofoten should be an essential destination. A few minutes spent spotting some of huge and impressive unclimbed faces visible in this book will leave you in no doubt, and these are only the ones we photographed! If you are keen to do a new route then doing a bit of research is a good idea. Is the cliff accessible? Has someone else tried and failed on the line? Is there a reasonable descent? The answer to most of these questions can probably be gleaned from the Climbing Cafe/shop in Henningsvær, by talking to one of the local experts.

The New Routes Book

This legendary document used kept behind the counter in the Climbing Cafe in Henningsvær and it made for a fascinating read for those interested in the history of the routes on Lofoten. The original entries for many of the area's most famous routes were found in it. This has now been archived and the newer version is waiting for your input.

Recording a New Route

If you do put a new route up then the New Routes Book is the place to record it. Please try and make the entry readable and let us know EXACTLY where the route goes. A decent diagram will do, though a digital photograph with a line would be better. The information should include which cliff the route is on, full details about the approach and descent, full pitch descriptions with grades and lengths in metres, plus any other information like specialist gear, and an email contact address would be great too. Often the most difficult thing to read in the New Routes Book is the signature of whoever first did the climb - you may know who you are, but what about the rest of us? We are also happy to receive reports of new routes via email to info@rockfax.com



A hand-drawn topo with all the information we need, the line, a description, pitch grades and even some nice Rockfax symbols, plus contact details if we have any questions. See *The Midnight Butterfly* - p.248.



WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR CLIMBING?

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- Basic Rock
- Learn to lead
- Multi-pitch
- Self-rescue

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Worn by climbers on Mt. Everest and fishermen in Lofoten

Brand store in HENNINGSVÆR



The West
Henningsvær
Kallie
Kabelvåg
Stoivær
The Northeast
Narvik Area
Størdal Area
Walking Peaks

Although most climbers come to the Lofoten Area for the rock climbing, there are other activities that have become popular in recent years.

Bouldering

Like rock climbing, the bouldering potential on Lofoten is limitless. In 2016 Jonas Paulsson produced the first guidebook to bouldering in Lofoten. It covers 700 problems in a wide variety of venues, and is a good indication of what is available out there. It is available from the NNKS climbing shop and directly from Jonas - lofotobouldering.com.



Winter Climbing

The winter season this far north is long and changeable, with a lot of unsettled weather. This, coupled with mountainous terrain right by the sea, means that Lofoten can offer fantastic winter climbing when the conditions are right, and appalling ones when they aren't. The area favours gully and mixed climbing rather than icefalls, though a hard freeze after a wet spell can bring all kinds of things into condition. Currently there is no central resource for what has been done recently or historically, asking at the Climbing School is probably your best bet.

Downhill Skiing

There is a floodlit ski slope on the northern side of Kongstinden above Svolvær and another at Stamsund. They are open whenever conditions are decent.

Ski Mountaineering

When the conditions are right there is some magnificent ski-mountaineering on Lofoten. Recent years have seen a major upturn in the popularity of the sport especially in the spring when the days are long and the snow-pack has consolidated. In 2015 Jonas Dahlstrup and Thorbjørn Enevold produced a guidebook to 40 of the most classical tours in the area - *Lofoten, Skiing the Magic Islands*. A new edition is slated for 2024. It is an invaluable resource, with loads of information and some spectacular photography



Mike Hutton bouldering below Presten. Photo: Mike Hutton Collection

The West
Henningsvær
Kalle
Kabelvåg
Svolvær
The Northeast
Narvik Area
Stetind Area
Walking Peaks



Abseil	rapell (nedfiring)
Aid climbing . . . . .	.teknisk klatring
Anchor/Belay	anker/standplass
Arete	same word used
Belay	standplass
Belay device . . . . .	.taubrems
Bolt . . . . .	.borrebolt
Bouldering	same word used
Brodder/Nut Key . . . . .	.nøttepinker
Bucket/Jug . . . . .	.jug
Chalk . . . . .	.kalk
Chimney . . . . .	.kamin
Chockstone . . . . .	.klemblokk
Clean climb	same word used
Corner/Groove . . . . .	.hjørne/diedre (innvendig hjørne)
Crack . . . . .	.riss
Crash Pad/Mat	same word used
Crimp	same word used
Crux	same word used
Daisy Chain/Cow's Tail	same word used
Deck out . . . . .	.bakkefall
Descender . . . . .	.åtter/taubrems
Dihedral (US) / Groove (UK) . . . . .	.diedre
Down climb . . . . .	.nedklatring
Dynamic rope . . . . .	.dynamisk tau
Dyno . . . . .	.catching
Edge . . . . .	.kant
Edging . . . . .	.kanting
Exposure . . . . .	.luftig
Face climbing . . . . .	.vegg klatring
Fall	same word used
Figure of Eight . . . . .	.rapellåtter
Finger board	same word used
First ascent . . . . .	.første bestigning
Fist jam . . . . .	.knyrneve jam
Fixed rope . . . . .	.fast tau
Flake . . . . .	.flak
Flash	same word used
Follow/Second . . . . .	.andremann
Free climbing . . . . .	.fri bestigning
Grade . . . . .	.grad
Gully . . . . .	.renne
Hand Traverse	same word used
Hanging Belay . . . . .	.hengende standplass

Harness . . . . .	.sele
Haul bag . . . . .	.heisesekk
Headwall . . . . .	.hoved vegg
Helmet . . . . .	.hjelm
Hexcentric . . . . .	.hex
Jamming	same word used
Jumar	same word used
Karabiner	same word used
Knots . . . . .	.knote
Layback	same word used
Lead climbing . . . . .	.lede
Loose . . . . .	.løst
Mantelshelf . . . . .	.mantle hylle
Multi-pitch climbing . . . . .	.flere taulengder
Nut . . . . .	.nøtt
Off-width	same word used (or risskamin)
On-sight	same word used
Overhang	same word used
Pitch . . . . .	.taulengde
Peg/Piton . . . . .	.bolt
Protection . . . . .	.sikring
Prusik	same word used
Quickdraw . . . . .	.kortslynge
Redpoint	same word used
Rock (as in falling) . . . . .	.stein
Roof . . . . .	.tak
Rope . . . . .	.tau
Route . . . . .	.rute
Runner . . . . .	.mellomforankring
Runout	same word used
Scrambling . . . . .	.klyving
Scree . . . . .	.ur
Second . . . . .	.andremann
Side-pull . . . . .	.sidetak
Slab . . . . .	.sva
Sling . . . . .	.slynge
Smearing . . . . .	.smøring
Solo climbing . . . . .	.solo klatring
Sport climbing . . . . .	.sportsklatring
Stopper	same word used
Tape/Webbing . . . . .	.slynge
Top rope . . . . .	.top tau
Traverse	same word used
Undercut/Undercling	same word used

The West
Henningsvær
Kalle
Kabelvåg
Svolvær
The Northeast
Narvik Area
Stetind Area
Walking Peaks



up to f4

f4+ to f5+

f6A to f6C+

f7A to f7C+

f8A and up

Approach

Sun

Shelter

Dry in Rain

Seepage

Multi-pitch

Summary

Page

				up to f4	f4+ to f5+	f6A to f6C+	f7A to f7C+	f8A and up		Approach	Sun	Shelter	Dry in Rain	Seepage	Multi-pitch	Summary	Page
The West	The West	39	1	▫	9	20	11	▫		10 - 120 min						Major routes on some very impressive and remote cliffs, plus the extended roadside fun on the Reinesvaet.	66
	Eggum	-	35	▫	4	7	16	8		5 - 8 min						Lofoten's best sport climbing venue, accessible and with routes that are ever-dry. The downside - most of them are pretty tough.	98
	Stamsund	-	17	▫	5	7	4	1		2 min						A small sport crag near Stamsund. Good routes and rock and almost certainly with more to follow.	106
Henningsvær	Rørvika	26	1	2	15	8	2	▫		10 - 20 min						A few routes widely scattered over the rock rising above the E10. The Rock and Roll Wall is worth a visit for somewhere different.	114
	Pianokrakken Area	48	3	2	13	23	12	1		2 - 40 min						One of Lofoten's most popular cliffs with a fine set of short multi-pitch routes. Accessible and quick drying, queues are quite common in the peak season.	123
	Djupfjord	43	-	1	14	19	7	3		15 - 75 min						A fine set of cliffs along the side of Djupfjord, on great rock. Despite the quality, most only go for Bare blåbær but there is much more!	141
	Presten	27	-	▫	3	8	16	▫		3 - 30 min						The area's pre-eminent crag, with some great routes on magnificent rock and up to 10 pitches long. Vestpillaren Direct is the MUST DO!	164
	Gandalf	36	-	▫	9	12	13	2		5 - 20 min						Popular and with good reason, the Orange Spot routes in particular see a lot of action. A five minute walk from the free camping helps.	184
	Festvåg	51	14	6	25	27	7	▫		3 - 30 min						About the closest cliff to Henningsvær and with a great collection of crack and groove climbs. Quite popular too. Parking has become problematic.	198
	The Coast	22	-	▫	9	7	4	▫		15 - 65 min						A remote section of extensive cliffs with only a few routes. Some spectacular new developments but these have only scratched the surface.	212
Kalle	Paradiset	80	1	13	33	21	6	3		10 - 30 min						Great rock, a lovely setting and a long-time favourite with nearby wild camping and the sea.	228
	Vågakallen	10	-	1	1	3	3	2		15 - 120 min						A great contrast to Paradiset - very big, northeast-facing routes and a fair hike-in too. No queues up here to worry about.	248
	Øvredalen	12	-	1	2	6	3	▫		30 - 60 min						A sunny slab in a spectacular position opposite Vågakallen. Good multi-pitch routes - the hour walk-in keeps the crowds away.	262
	Kallebukta	10	-	▫	3	5	2	▫		5 - 20 min						Only a small set of climbs, but in a lovely setting - the beach is superb. Can easily be combined with a visit to Paradiset.	270
	Trolldalen	31	-	1	4	11	4	▫		25 - 120 min						A fine cliff, big and sombre, almost always in the shade and with damp streaks too. Despite the negatives the routes are memorable.	276
	Glåmtinden	4	-	1	3	▫	-	▫		60 min						Only really two routes and just one of those gets done. The rock is a bit crumbly but the setting makes up for it.	287
	Sandvika	2	18	▫	6	5	9	▫		10 min						Sporty climbing (with the odd trad route) on a steep seaside wall. Check the bolts before you climb, some are corroded.	292
Kabelvåg	Urdstabben	3	18	1	4	12	4	▫		10 min						One good sport wall in a fine and sunny setting. Sees very few visits but is worthwhile.	295
	Tjelbergvika	10	-	▫	2	4	4	▫		5 - 10 min						Two walls overlooking the main road. Nothing of any great quality except the fine hard crack of Ninjarisset.	298
	Finnvika	2	13	▫	5	7	2	1		10 min						Lovely big slabby 'boulder' with some great sport routes and a pleasant atmosphere right by the sea.	300
Svolvær	12	-	1	6	3	2	▫		2 - 60 min						The Svolværgaite (The Goat) is Lofoten's most sought-after and enigmatic summit. Fortunately it has some great routes too.	306	
The Northeast	42	2	6	9	12	14	3		20 - 120 min						Remote routes on remote peaks in remote settings - you get the message! Self-reliance is the name of the game here.	320	
Narvik Area	66	79	12	60	56	15	2		1 - 25 min						An extensive set of sport and trad crags near Narvik. Some good roadside cragging plus quality slabs and cracks. Worth looking at when passing through.	337	
Stetind Area	19	-	3	9	7	3	▫		25 - 240 min						One of the finest mountains in Norway with three classic routes to its summit. Some other big routes in the same area are covered too.	365	
Totals		637	203	51	267	310	174	26									

Faded symbol means only some of the routes are sheltered/windy/dry in the rain/ suffer seepage/multi-pitch