

Lofoten Climbs

Chris Craggs and
Thorbjørn Enevold

Rock Climbing on Lofoten
and Stetind in Arctic Norway

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Cover - Mike Brumbaugh on the slanting corner of *Vestpillaren Direct* (N6) - *page 175* - on Presten. Photo: Andrew Burr
This page: Johan Hvenmark on *Himmelen kan vente* (N6+) - *page 179* - on Presten. Photo: Jonas Paulsson

This book belongs to:

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The West
Henningsvær
Kalle
Kabelvåg
Svolvær
The Northeast
Stetind
Walking Peaks

AWESOME WALLS CLIMBING CENTRES, INFLUENCING THE CLIMBING WORLD SINCE 1999!



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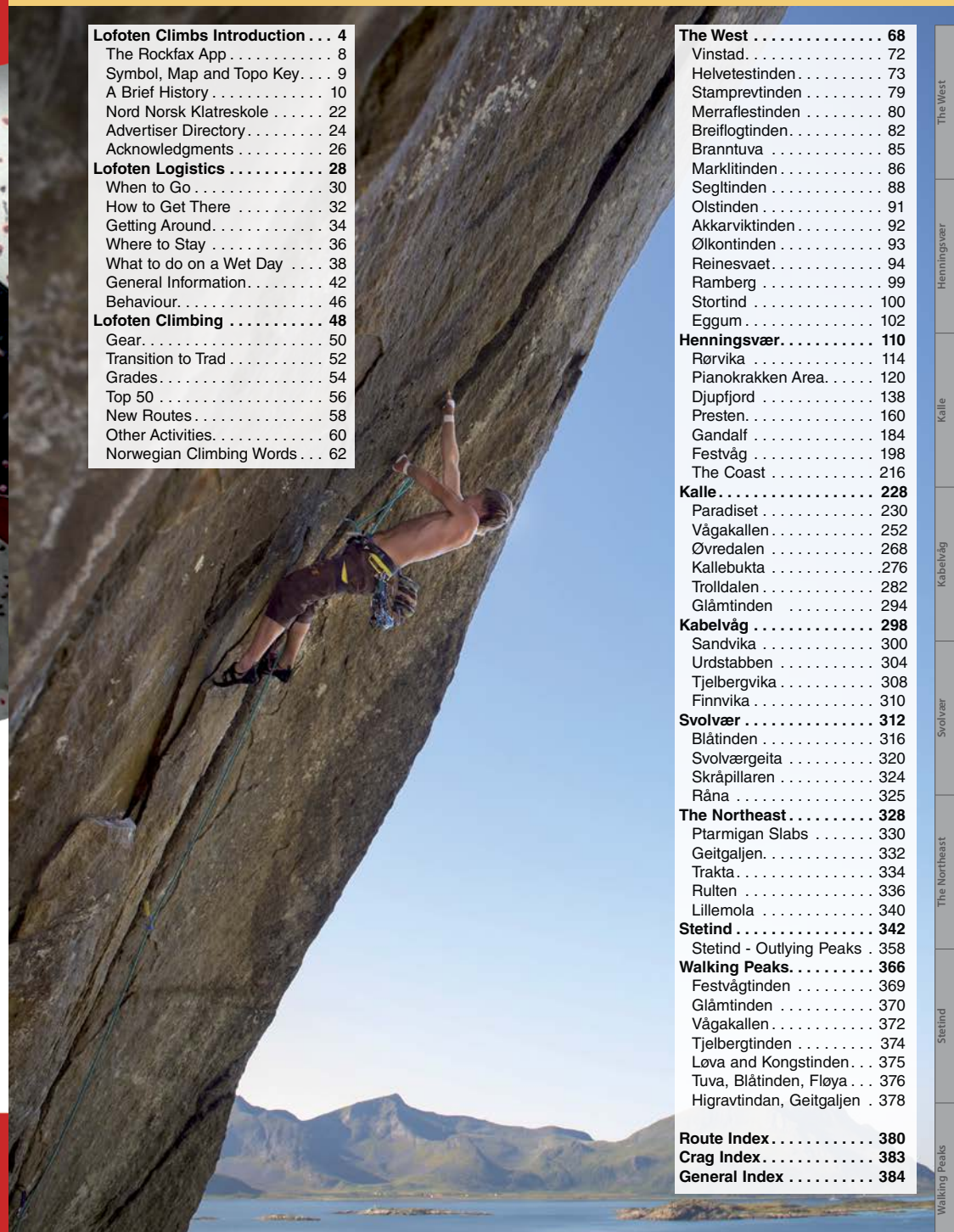
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Lars Martin Solberg on the super-steep *Minnerisset* (N9-) - page 123 - just along the road from Rørvika. Photo: Jonas Dahlstrup

The West
Henningsvær
Kalle
Kabelvåg
Svolvær
The Northeast
Stetind
Walking Peaks

Svolvær, the lakes and mountains of Austvågøya seen from the col behind The Goat - a magical environment for any serious mountain lover.

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 edition 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 guide for the ascent was 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 - he had been bothering him on the phone for a while, and eventually met him in person. 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. He was always very grateful for that chance, it pretty much changed his life; he thinks Thorbjørn saw something in the eyes. 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 he has been running the successful NNKS franchise for the last 27 years.



Thorbjørn, Arild and Chris working on 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.

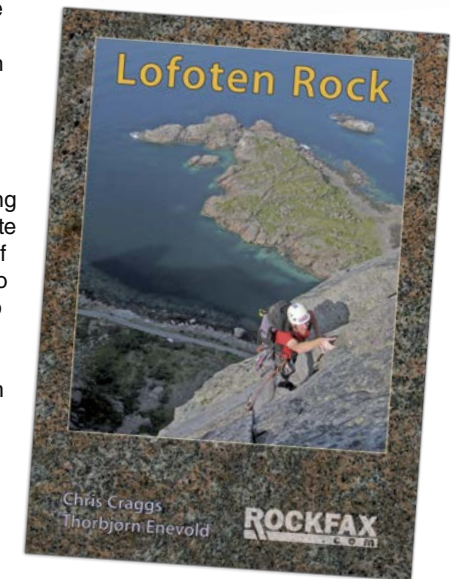
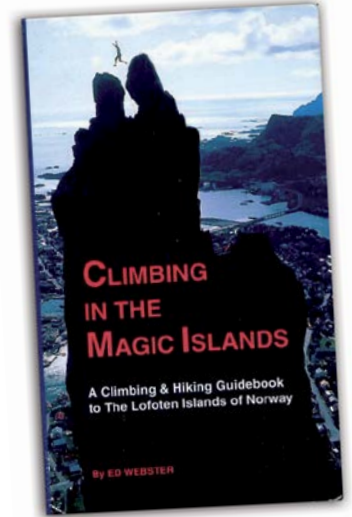
In the early 1990s, American climber Ed Webster visited Lofoten and was involved with a new route goldrush, so it was fitting that he wrote the 1994 *Climbing in the Magic Islands*, which blended Per Prag's earlier work on the extensive mountaineering routes with all the new technical rock climbs put 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 look at the then recently-published Costa Blanca guide tipped the balance - a new volume was in the offing which was published in 2008 to great critical acclaim, it even won the Guidebook of the Year Award at Banff in Canada.

By 2015 the book was selling out and it was time to consider our options. In the end we went with a complete rewrite, with a whole new set of images being required, plus the chance to correct a few errors, create some much 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 photographs, then it was just a matter of sitting down and writing it. Almost two years later you have it in your hand, we hope you are as pleased with the result as we are.

Feedback

Some of the routes in this book are very light on information - initially maybe just consisting of a rough line on a topo. 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 you can use the Lofoten Route Database on the Rockfax web site - rockfax.com. This database contains a listing of every route in the book with the opportunity to lodge comments and vote on grades and star ratings. See page 58 for information on recording new routes.



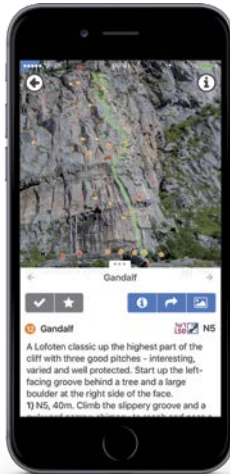
Hello, I am Lunde. Throughout this book you will find small text boxes with me, a friendly puffin, who wants to welcome you to Lofoten. I am keen to keep you amused, give you extra information or tell you an interesting story. I hope you enjoy my company.



Lofoten Climbs is also available on the Rockfax App which brings together all the Rockfax climbing information with UKC Logbooks and presents it in a user-friendly package for use on Apple iOS devices (Android version available in 2017).

The heart of the app is the Rockfax crag and route information which is downloaded by way of paid in-app purchases for individual crags, or bundles of crags. You can purchase each crag or area individually, or a whole 'book'. The main data on the app is downloaded and stored on your device so you don't need any signal to be able to use it. The app uses location services on the device to display your location as a blue dot on both the system maps, and our climbing-specific maps. There is a free sample crag for each area and some of these are quite extensive, enabling you to get a really good impression of what the app is like without shelling out any money.

The Rockfax App is a free download and incredibly useful in its own right without having to make any purchases. It contains a detailed crag map linked to the UKClimbing crags database of over 20,000 crags and 4,000+ listings from the UKClimbing Directory of climbing walls, outdoor shops, climbing clubs, outdoor-specific accommodation and instructors and guides amongst others.



Detailed topos



Full integration with UKC Logbooks



Geo-located maps



To find the app, search for 'Rockfax app' in Google or in the appropriate app store.

UKClimbing Logbooks

An incredibly popular method of logging your climbing is to use the UKClimbing.com logbooks system. This database lists more than 392,000 routes, over 20,850 crags worldwide and, so far, more than 31,900 users have recorded over 5.1 million ascents! To set up your own logbook, all you need to do is register at UKClimbing.com and click on the logbook tab. Once set up you will be able to record every ascent you make, when you did it, what style you climbed it in and who you did it with. Each entry has a place for your own notes. You can also add your vote to the grade/star system linked to a database on the Rockfax site used by the guidebook writers.

The Rockfax App can be linked to your UKClimbing.com user account and logbook so that you can record your activity while at the crag and look at photos, comments and votes on any of the routes listed in this huge database. To do this you will need a 3G/4G 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.
- A significant route which is one of the best of its type in the book - see page 56.
- Technical climbing requiring good balance and technique, or complex and tricky moves.
- Powerful climbing; roofs, steep rock, low lock-offs or long moves off small holds.
- Sustained climbing; either lots of hard moves or steep rock giving pumpy climbing.
- Fingery climbing with significant small holds on the hard sections.
- Fluttery climbing with big fall potential and scary run-outs.
- Graunchy climbing, wide cracks or awkward thrutchy moves.
- Rounded or sloping holds may be encountered.
- Some loose rock may be encountered.

Crag Symbols

- Angle of the approach walk to the crag with approximate time.
- Approximate time that the crag is in the direct sun (when it is shining).
- A buttress with some multi-pitch routes.
- A crag or buttress that is exposed to bad weather.
- The crag can offer shelter from cold winds and it may be a good suntrap in colder weather.
- The crag suffers from seepage and may be unclimbable after rain or early in the season.
- The crag is steep and may well offer some dry rock to climb 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



Beginnings - 1880 to 1950

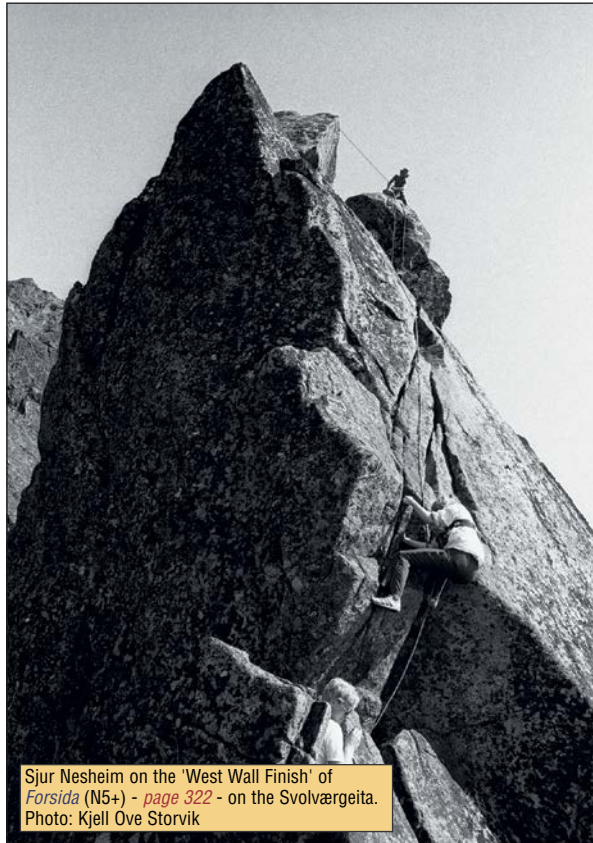
Climbing in Lofoten is usually recognised as starting with the first ascent of Vågakallen in the summer of 1889 when Martin Ekroll and fellow fisherman Angel Johannesen rowed across the sound from the island of Skrova to reach the foot of the mountain. They climbed directly up the *Sydveggen* and reached 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 Svolveær was the Svolveærgeita, 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+) - page 322 - on the Svolveærgeita. 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 Petersen, 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 Svolveærgeita, 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 Svolveær 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 Svolveærgeita 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 Svolveærgeita the greatest number of times. One day I was standing in downtown Svolveær 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.

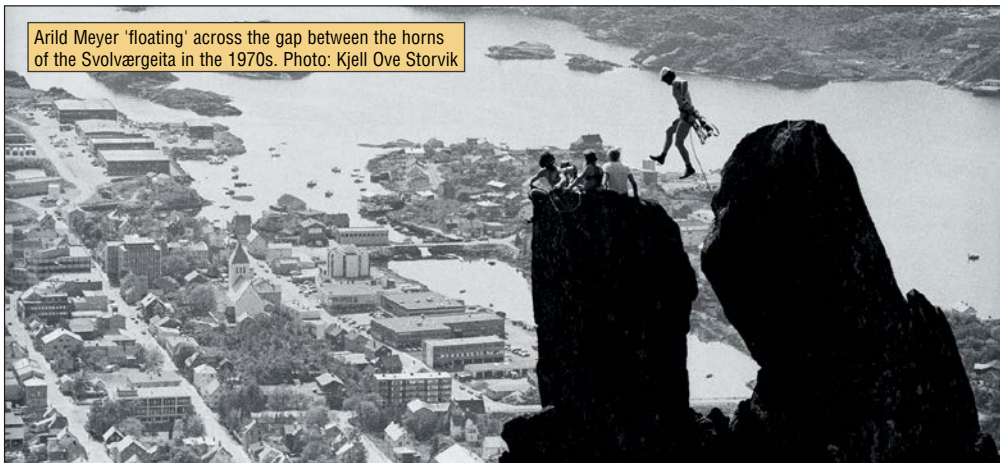


A youthful Arild Meyer with some of his 'newfangled' climbing equipment back in the late 1960s. Photo: Kjell Ove Storvik

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Arild Meyer 'floating' across the gap between the horns of the Svolvegeita 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 page 22). 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 Doseth who taught at the NNKS during the summer of 1980. Doseth 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) - page 262 - in 1980. Photo: Arild Meyer

Lofoten is not just about long multi-pitch climbs on huge faces, there are plenty of shorter routes on accessible crags with short walk-ins, including some decent sport climbing venues. Here Hanne Solskinnbakk makes swift work of *Borameister Fausa* (6b) - page 311 - on the beautifully situated Finnvika, near Kabelvåg. Photo: Mike Hutton



Expansion - 1981 to 1994

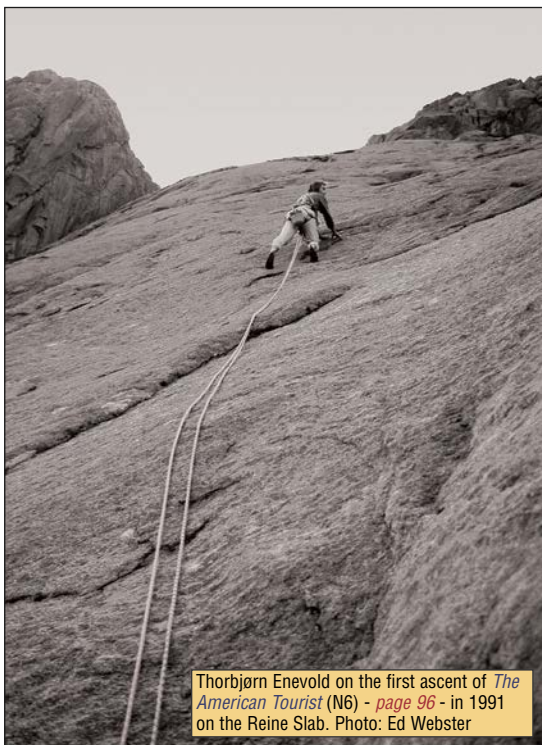
One of Lofoten's most popular, long easier routes, *Bare blåbær* (N5-) was first climbed by Tim Hansen, an American climber from Colorado, and Ingun Raastad in 1986. The pair also made the first free ascent of an additional major new variation up Presten called *Klokkeren* (N7-) originally pioneered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

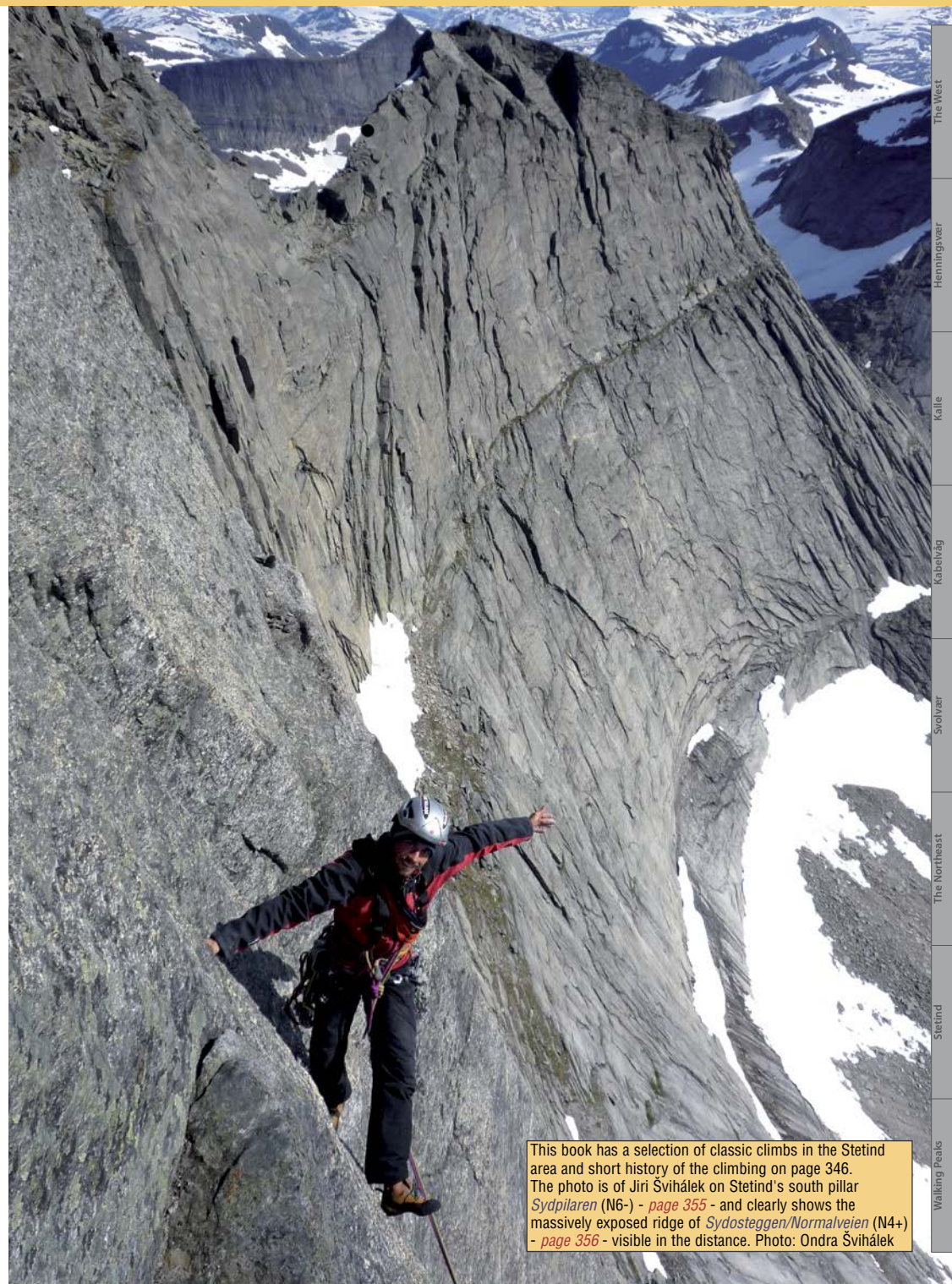
Several more good free routes were established at Store Festvågvegg - *Den Siste Viking* (N6) by Thorbjørn Enevold and Lutta Fagerli, and *Lundeklubben* (N6) plus *Skiløperen* (N6-), two of Lofoten's best crack climbs, were climbed by Arild Meyer and Thorbjørn Enevold.

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 on the first ascent of *The American Tourist* (N6) - page 96 - in 1991 on the Reine Slab. Photo: Ed Webster



This book has a selection of classic climbs in the Stetind area and short history of the climbing on page 346. The photo is of Jiri Švihálek on Stetind's south pillar *Sydpilaren* (N6-) - page 355 - and clearly shows the massively exposed ridge of *Sydosteggen/Normalveien* (N4+) - page 356 - visible in the distance. Photo: Ondra Švihálek

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 Helvetesind and Breiflogtinden. Then in August, Håkon Hansen made the first free ascent of the witheringly steep *Butter Arms*. Originally given N9- it was later down-graded 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 Tetlie, 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.

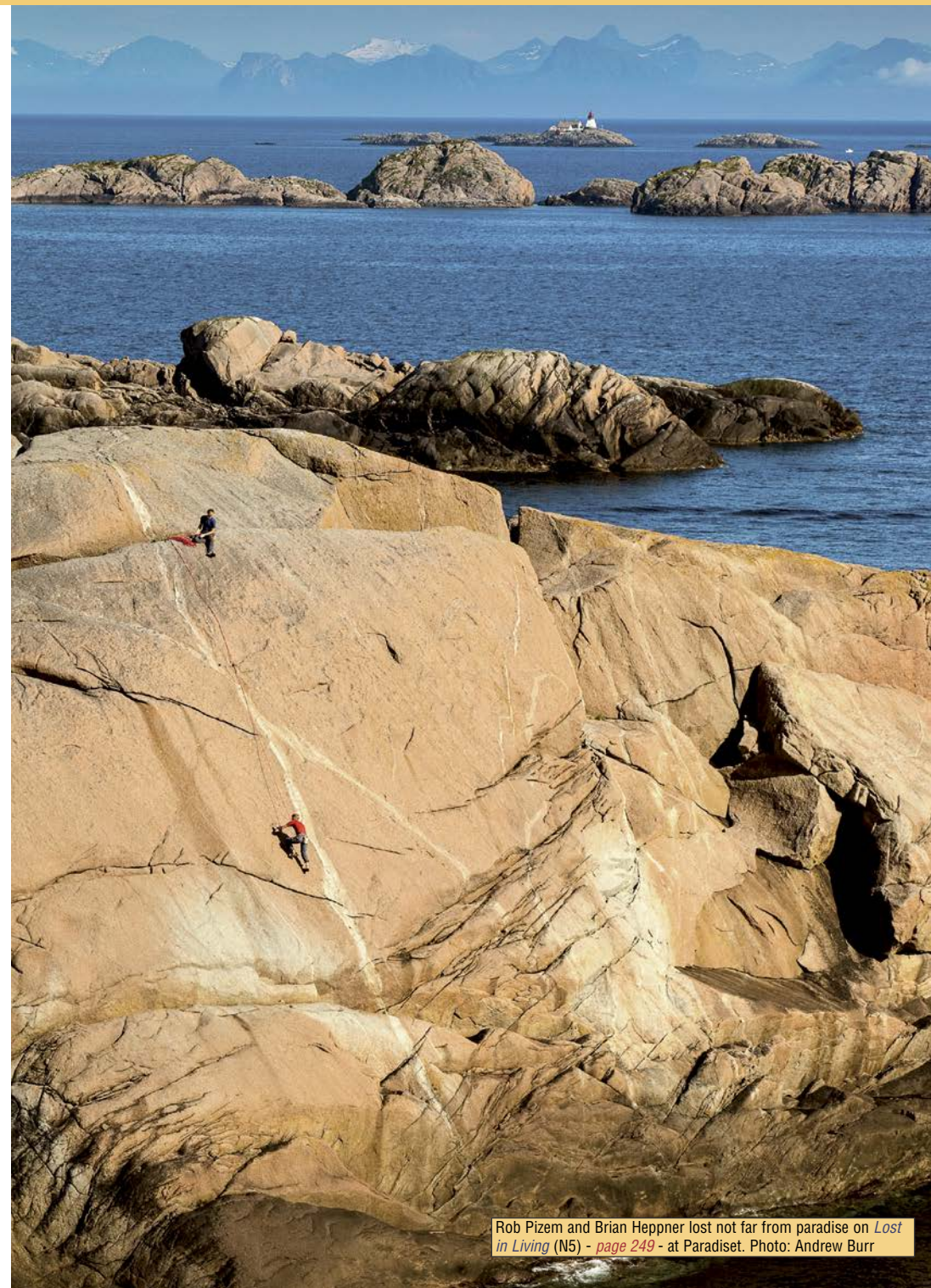
1999 was another busy year, the oft-eyed walls to the right of Gandalf were finally explored by T.Sieger and F.Moell and they produced the impressive outing of *Silmarillion* (N7). On Presten, Mark Garthwaite and Mick Fowler forced a series of pitches under the Great Roof then moved right to link grooves 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 Tetlie 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) - page 190 - in 1993 whilst working on the guidebook. Photo: Thorbjørn Enevold



Rob Pizem and Brian Heppner lost not far from paradise on *Lost in Living* (N5) - page 249 - at Paradiset. Photo: Andrew Burr

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.

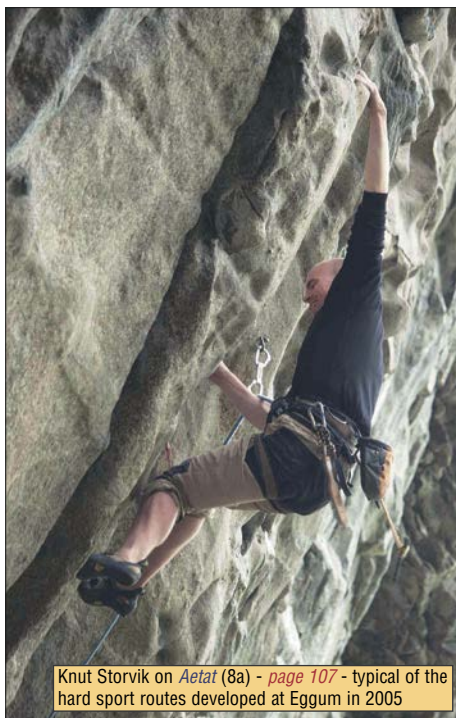
In 2003 the desperate thin crack of *Huggormen* on Pianokrakken was free climbed at N8- by Petter Restorp and Hanna Mellin and later the same year *Ormen Lange* was also free climbed on Cornflakesveggen at N7+ by Gustaf Leionhuvud and Joachim Vagner. Doubtless the most significant ascent of the year 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 *Daeil* (N8- A2) and *Pels of the Fisk* (N8) by Robin Thomas and friends high on the edge of the Silmarillion cliff.

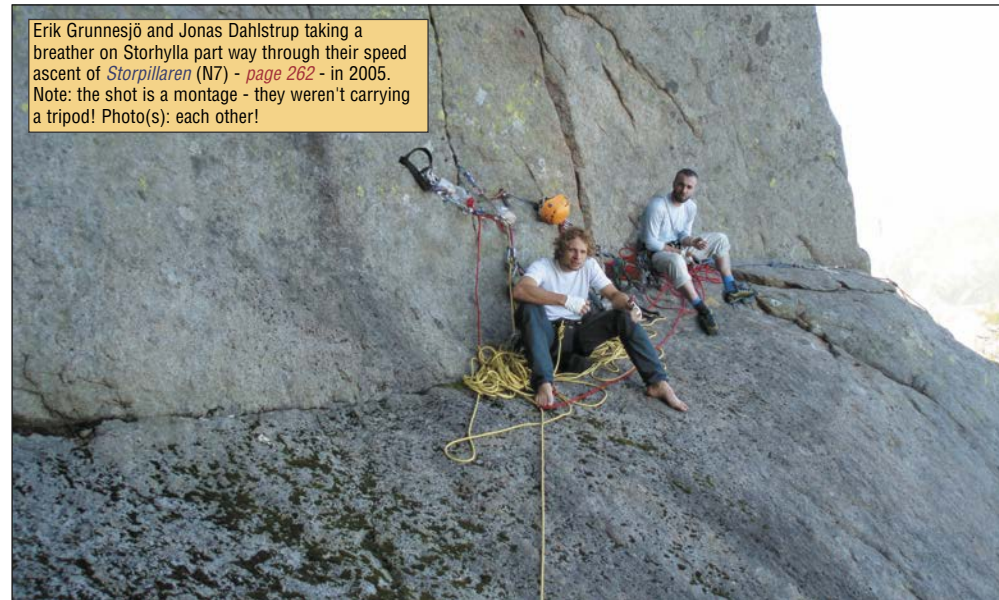
With the sport climbing revolution that had been going on across Europe, the younger locals looked for somewhere to develop their own skills. Worried about getting their wrists slapped if they started drilling within earshot of Henningsvær, they hunted out a few bits of rock around Kabelvåg as well as 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 significant 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) - page 107 - typical of the hard sport routes developed at Eggum in 2005



Erik Grunnesjö and Jonas Dahlstrup taking a breather on Storhylla part way through their speed ascent of *Storpillaren* (N7) - page 262 - in 2005. Note: the shot is a montage - they weren't carrying a tripod! Photo(s): each other!

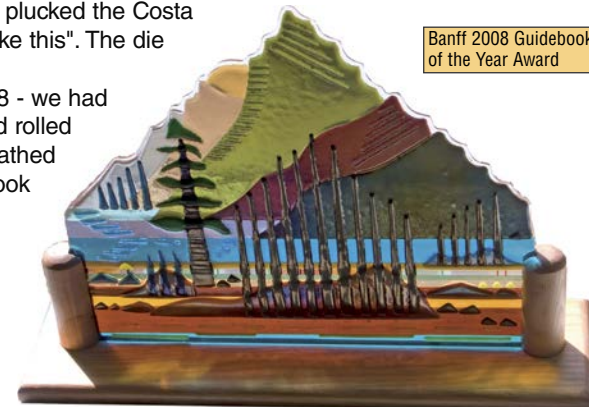
as the French Pillar, *The Next Best Thing* (N6+) and *Norwegian Sheep Ranch* (N7). This buttress had originally been climbed back in 1985 by French couple Eric and Anne Lapiéd. The ascent took almost a week and apparently they filmed the whole thing but details of the precise line became lost.

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 Grunnesjö 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 (see page 318). 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 NNKS 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 book 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 neglected 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 *Daeil* (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 magnificent gap on Storpillaren when they climbed 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 Olslund freed the aid section of both *Freyja* (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 wish for.

What of the future? There is no doubt the scope for climbing of all styles on Lofoten remains limitless - from bouldering to big walls, from trad to sport and not forgetting winter mountaineering too - there is the feeling that Lofoten will be a 'destination' for many years to come.



Lars Martin Solberg on pitch 2 of *Them Crooked Seagulls* (N7+) - page 227 - Migan Pillaren area. New routing, at a high grade with a big rucksack - they breed them tough up north. Photo: Morgan Salen

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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. 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 robru 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 robru. 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."

Despite what the rest of the book suggests, this photograph proves that it does rain sometimes in the Magic Islands. When it does you will be heading to the Klattrecafe, the spiritual home of Lofoten climbing for almost 30 years. Here you can get warm and dry by the fire, have a bowl of bacalo or a beer, and listen to some great music.



Puffins on fire!

In about 1992 NNKS ordered 5,000 wooden puffins (Lundefugler) from Indonesia to sell in the shop in Henningsvær. The puffins sold well though, when they first arrived, there was not enough room to store all of them indoors and 2000 of the birds were damaged by water after standing outside for most of the winter. All was not lost though, they burnt well and were used to keep the fire in the cafe going when the weather was cold. The look on the faces of the guests who had paid top-dollar to get a puffin from the shop just next door was a sight to see!

Before anyone went for a good look, Festvåg was regarded as too loose and dangerous for climbing. As this photo of *Lundeklubben* (N6) - [page 208](#) - shows, nothing could be further from the truth - good job Thorbjørn and Lutta went for that look!

Accommodation

Arctic Hotel - [page 31](#)
lofotenarctichotel.no

Edvin bua - [page 53](#)
post@nordnorskklateskole.no

Ørsvågvær - [page 301](#)
norsvag.no

Tobiasbrygga - [page 43](#)
tobiasbrygga.com

Cafes/Restaurants

Fiskekrogen Restaurant - [page 41](#)
Henningsvær

Klatrekaféen and Bar - *back flap*
Klatrekaféen, Henningsvær

Lysstøperiet Cafe - [page 45](#)
Henningsvarlys.no

Mix Cafe - [page 39](#)
The Square, Henningsvær

Climbing Walls

Awesome Walls - [page 2](#)
awesomewalls.co.uk

Gear Manufacturers

Crux - [page 21](#)
crux.uk.com

Lowe Alpine - [page 57](#)
lowealpine.com

Petzl Norway (Varri) - *outside back cover*
varri.no

Guiding Services

Nord Norsk Klatreskole - *inside front cover*
nordnorskklateskole.no

Expedition Verticale - [page 55](#)
expeditionverticale.com

Insurance Services

BMC Insurance - *inside back cover*
thebmc.co.uk

Shops/Retail

Mix General Store - [page 39](#)
The Square, Henningsvær

925 Catrine Linder (Jewellery) - [page 41](#)
925catrinelinder.com

The Climbing Shop - [page 53](#)
Klatrekaféen, Henningsvær

Haddock Head-wear - [page 59](#)
Henningsvær

Tough Puffins

Arild and Thorbjørn made the first ascent of the classic Lundeklubben in 1992. They took one of the new Indonesian puffins with them (see previous page) with them and jammed it in one of the cracks in the route. It ended up causing a lot of trouble in an alpine rescue training session. Finishing the training, and in pouring rain, the last man threw down the 200m static rope they had been using, but it never arrived at the cliff base.

"It's jammed around the neck of that damn bird", he shouted. It took six men heaving on each end of the rope before there was a mighty crack and the head flew up into the air! There is still a puffin up there today if you look carefully, but it is a different one.

As last time round, thanks have to go out to the hardcore of Lofoten climbers, old and young, without whose vision and abilities there would be far fewer routes here to go at. Thorbjørn deserves a special thanks. He has helped with this project since we decided to do it all again with his encyclopedic knowledge of Lofoten climbing, translating, manning the telephone hot line, chasing people up for photographs and first ascent details - it would haven't happened without him.

Many climbers have been in touch with general feedback, useful comments, new routes and information. These include Rick McGregor, Ken and Anne Daykin, Graham Parkes, Dave Pickford, Jiri and Ondra Švihálek, Frej Wichmann, Hannu-Pekka Hyppänen, Jukka Leinonen, Toby Archer, Jonas Ramsfjell, Andreas Klarström, Åsmund Vaage, Rob Lamey, Mick Tighe, Gerber Cucurell, Andy Nesbit, Jacob Davies, Dave Smith, Robert Durrant, Mark Kembal, David Benyon, Daniel Moore, Eric Goussev and Mike 'Twid' Turner. Thanks to Rebecca Ting for her excellent proofreading and to Sam and Lydia James-Louwerse for the puffin cartoons. Thanks to all the photographers who have contributed: Signar André Nilsen, Mike Hutton, Jonas Paulsson, Chris Firth, Jonas Dahlstrup and especially Frode Jensen for his superb aerial shots of Stetind and Andrew Burr for his complete collection of 2500 Lofoten pictures.

Jonas Dahlstrup and Ove Schei took me out in small boats to get crag shots - thanks a lot. Thanks must also go to Colin Binks who has trekked the thousand odd miles up to Lofoten one more time. As ever there are two other people without whom this edition the guide simply wouldn't have happened. Firstly, Sherri Davy, who was happy to spend two more long summers in the land where the sun never sets, and Alan James, whose magic touch has breathed colour and life into my raw information - cheers to you both.

Chris Craggs, March 2017

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: Odd-Roar, Lars Martin, Johanne, Kristian, Signar, Timme, Helmuth and the late Andreas Christensen, I wish you lived to see the book finished. 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 around. We will continue to meet and climb as long as the mountains will have us.

Thorbjørn Enevold, March 2017



Young guys climb rocks, old guys write guidebooks. Chris and Thorbjørn (and Elvis) working on the next winning volume.



...and sharing a beer and a laugh in the Klatre kafeen

Boat Tales

I was really keen to get a shot of Presten from further away than the road at the base of the wall due to the serious foreshortening of the upper part of the crag. Wading out to an island at low tide was an option, but the bigger island with the better views was across a deep and cold looking channel. Swimming with a big fancy DSLR was above and beyond the call - we needed a boat!

A small notice-board with a phone number was a starter - Sherri rang it, and explained our predicament. So a random Norwegian on the other end of the line said, "sure, the boat is in the harbour, Jonas can take you out, just leave me a six-pack in the garage". Of course it was the smallest boat in the harbour, but it did the trick. The sun even came out as we cruised past the cliff - result! Jonas even brought his young lad along. Lucas had been pestering to go out in a boat for some time - so everybody ended up really happy.

A year later and I was just as keen to get some more shots, this time of the coast between Henningsvær and Paradiset, so I had a word with Thorbjørn and he said he would see what he could do. A couple of days later I got an early morning phone call - a guy called Ove was waiting at the bar, about to set off to sail for Svolvær shortly, right past the cliffs I was after. Conditions were perfect, and we cruised along the coast in his ex-Navy assault craft (!), I got my photos and we chatted away. It turned out he was a musician from Sortland, in the area for a few days, and Thorbjørn tapped him up to take me for a ride. Eventually he dropped me off in Svolvær and picked up some more mates before set of for Skrova on the continuation of his jaunt - different worlds.

Cheers guys - I couldn't have done it without you.



Lucas and Jonas Dahlstrup setting sail



Ove Schei and a perfect blue day.

Lofoten Logistics

The West
Henningsvær
Kalle
Kabelvåg
Svolvær
The Northeast
Steind
Walking Peaks



The West
Henningsvær
Kalle
Kabelvåg
Svolvær
The Northeast
Steind
Walking Peaks

The Rock and Roll Ridge (N3) - page 118 - 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

When to Go

Since the 2008 version of the guidebook, Lofoten has become more popular 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 monthly high	-1	-1	0	3	7	12	14	14	10	6	3	1
Average monthly low	-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 Skrøva, 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 - Higravtindan, Geitgaljen, Trakta and Rulten) in particular, receive more rain.

Lofoten Arctic Hotel

Skata og Knusarn

Henningsvær

web - lofotenarctichotel.no
 contact - booking@lofotenarctichotel.no
 Tel - +47 76070777



Midnight Sun

or

Northern Lights

Overnatting

Kurs Konferanse

Restauranter

opplevelse

Pub



In the previous edition, *Lofoten Rock*, we gave detailed instructions on how to get to Lofoten from the UK. Only after publication did Thorbjørn point out that 95% of the visitors to the islands actually come from all over Scandinavia! With this in mind we have included brief details of travel from elsewhere in Europe.

Car

Most visitors will drive, from Norway, Sweden, Finland or continental Europe. Despite the roads being fairly quiet, progress is often slower than you might hope. The speed limit is often 80kph and sneaky speed traps are more common than you might expect, 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 then 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 Boats 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.

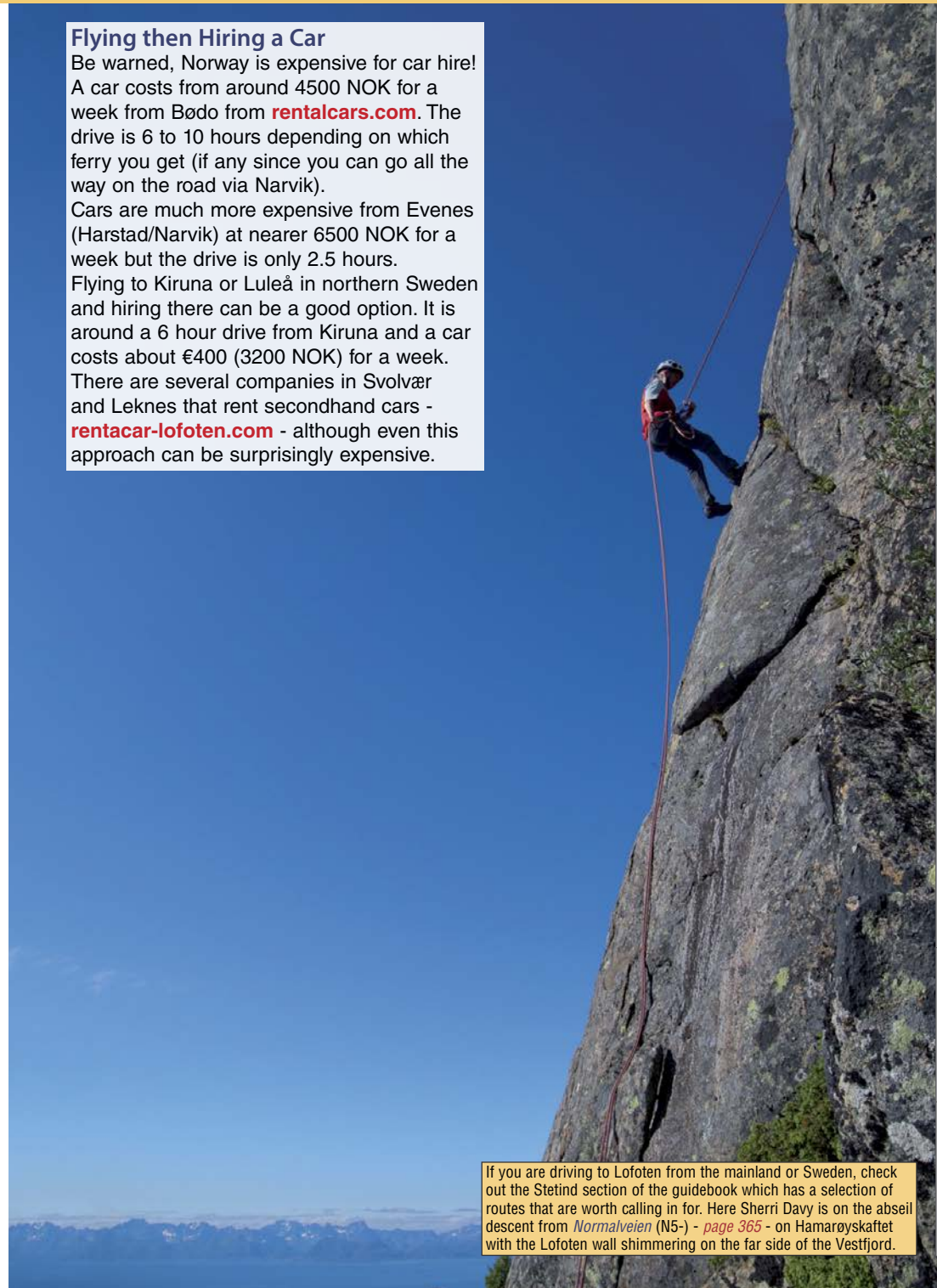


Lofoten is linked to the mainland by road now so a ferry crossing is no longer mandatory. You may still catch one (Bodø to Moskenes, Skutvik to Svolvær or Bognes to Lødingen) depending on your chosen route.

Flying then Hiring a Car

Be warned, Norway is expensive for car hire! A car costs from around 4500 NOK for a week from Bodø from rentalcars.com. The drive is 6 to 10 hours depending on which ferry you get (if any since you can go all the way on the road via Narvik). Cars are much more expensive from Evenes (Harstad/Narvik) at nearer 6500 NOK for a week but 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 €400 (3200 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 Stetind section of the guidebook which has a selection of routes that are worth calling in for. Here Sherri Davy is on the abseil descent from *Normalveien* (N5-) - page 365 - on Hamarøyskaffet with the Lofoten wall shimmering on the far side of the Vestfjord.





Parking QR Codes

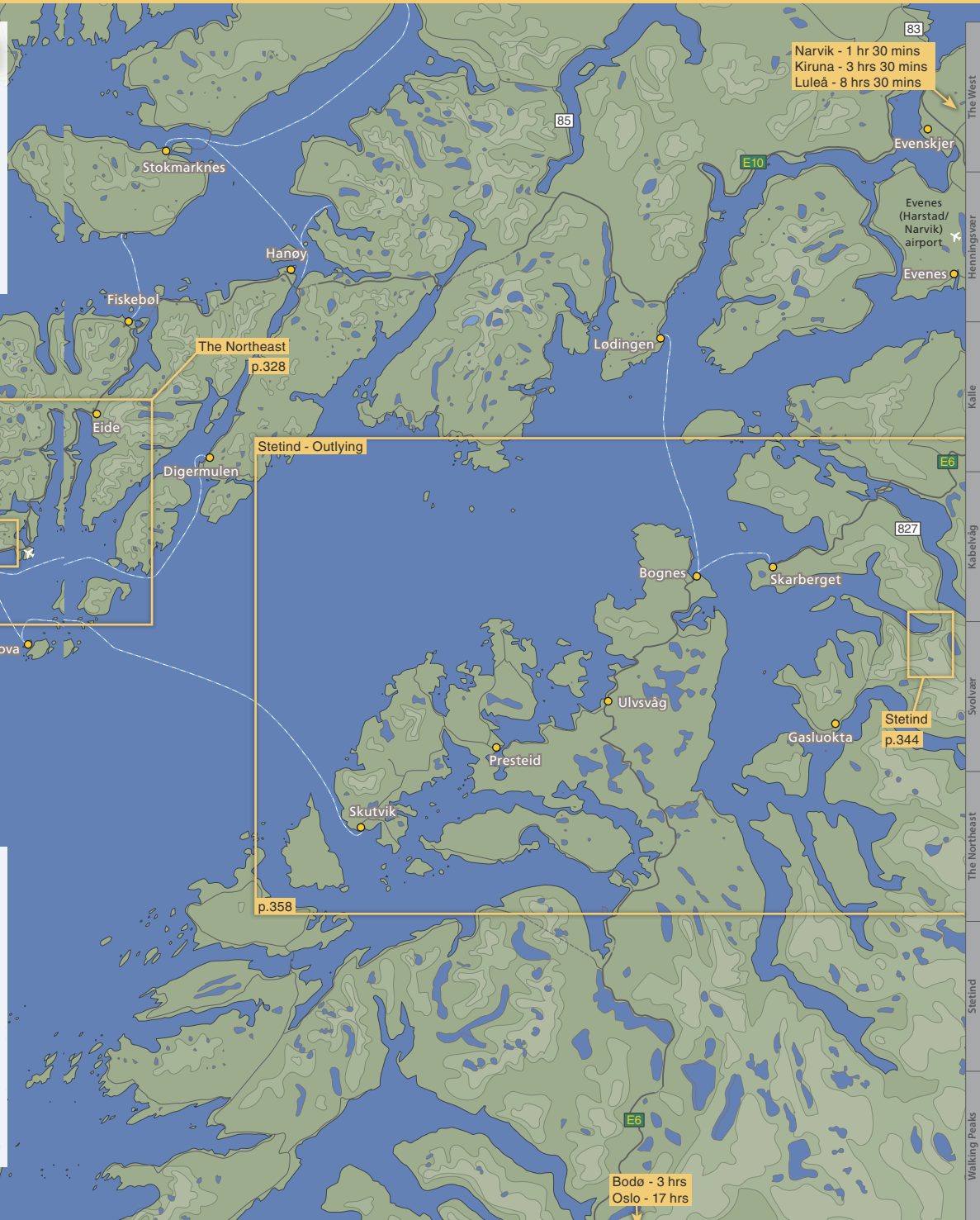
The parking spots on the maps are indicated with a precise GPS location in the form of two decimal numbers. These numbers can be typed into all modern SatNav devices and apps. There is also an adjacent QR code which you can scan using an app such as **Scan** (for iOS) or **Google Goggles** (for Android) and open the result direct into a navigation app on your phone.

GPS 68.204315
14.240940



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 page 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!



Lofoten has long been a popular tourist destination and is well organised with the full range from swanky hotels to free swamp camping. 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 (fishermen's 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 area. There is Sandvika about halfway between Henningsvær and Svolvær, and the nearby Ørsvågvær (orsvag.no - see page 301). In the opposite direction there is the Lyngvær Bobilcamp (camper wagons) ground which also accepts tents. All 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 all pretty cheap by UK standards. A great feature of all Norwegian campgrounds are the small camping cabins that every site has. 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 very 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.

Web site - lofoten.info



Fancy somewhere classy and central - try Edvin Bua - see advert on page 53.



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!

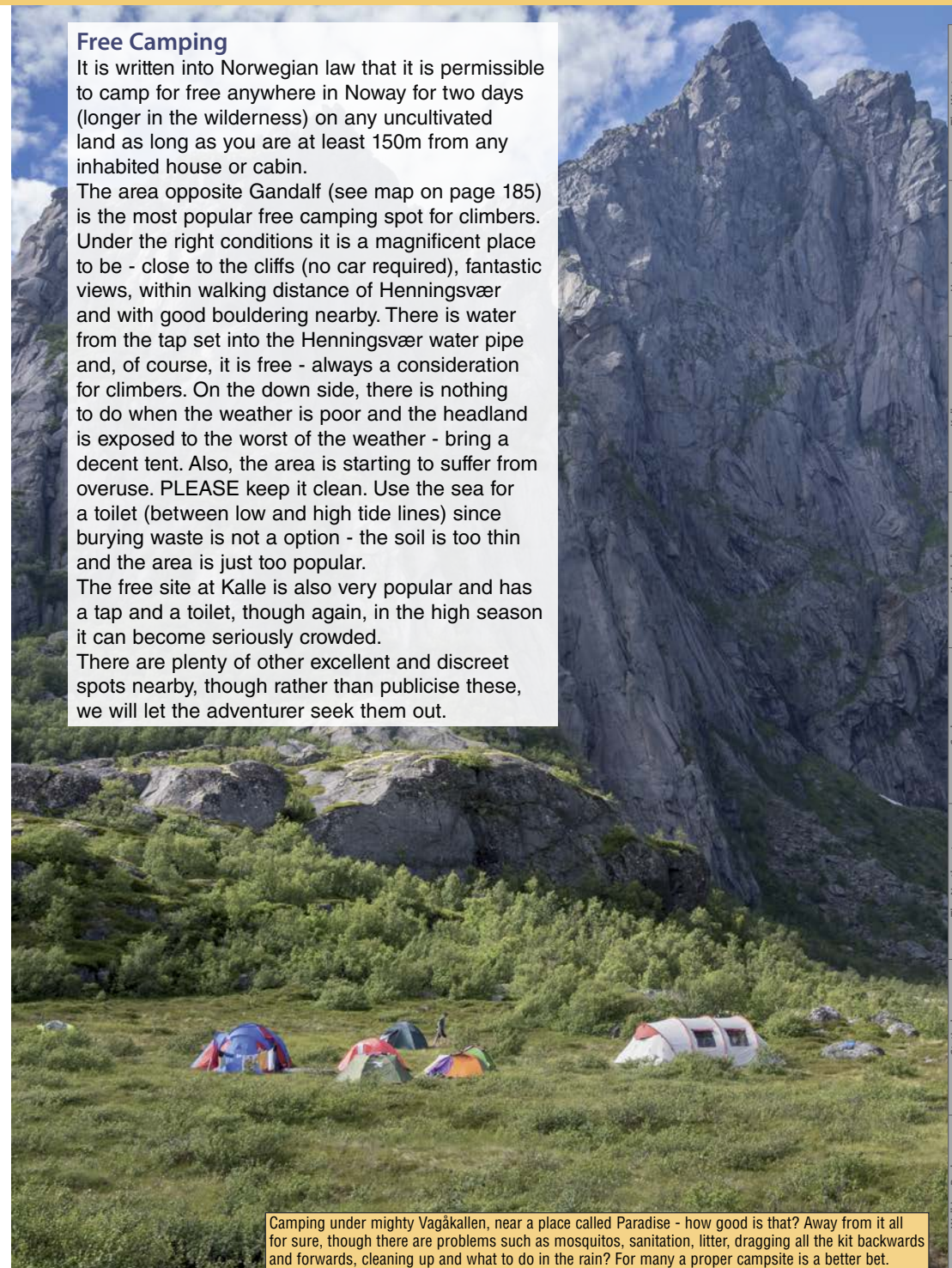
Free Camping

It is written into Norwegian law that it is permissible to camp for free anywhere in Norway 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.

The area opposite Gandalf (see map on page 185) is the most popular free camping spot for climbers. Under the right conditions it is a magnificent place to be - close to the cliffs (no car required), fantastic views, within walking distance of Henningsvær and with good bouldering nearby. There is water from the tap set into the Henningsvær water pipe and, of course, it is free - always a consideration for climbers. On the down side, there is nothing to do when the weather is poor and the headland is exposed to the worst of the weather - bring a decent tent. Also, the area is starting to suffer from overuse. PLEASE keep it clean. Use the sea for a toilet (between low and high tide lines) since burying waste is not a option - the soil is too thin and the area is just too popular.

The free site at Kalle is also very popular and has a tap and a toilet, though again, in the high season it can become seriously crowded.

There are plenty of other excellent and discreet spots nearby, though rather than publicise these, we will let the adventurer seek them out.



Camping under mighty Vagåkallen, near a place called Paradise - how good is that? Away from it all for sure, though there are problems such as mosquitos, sanitation, litter, dragging all the kit backwards and forwards, cleaning up and what to do in the rain? For many a proper campsite is a better bet.

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 - Ice sculptures/sound and light show (warm clothes provided). Situated by the Hurtigruten quay in Svolvær. Open 12:00-22:00.

Lofoten Opplevelser - (*Lofoten Adventures*) Sea safaris from Henningsvær. Call in and book the day before. Open 9:00-17:00

Lofotakvariet - Aquarium and cafe in Storvågen near Kabelvåg. Life in the sea, otter and seal pools, plus cafe. Open 10:00-19:00.

Arts and Crafts

Galleri Lofotens hus - Art galley of Norwegian artists and a multi-media show in Henningsvær. Open 9:00-19:00.

Galleri Espolin - Art gallery, exhibition, videos and a shop by the E10. Open 10:00-19:00.

Engelskmannsbygga - Pottery, glass workings and photography, the square Henningsvær. Open 10:00-20:00.

925 Catrine Linder (*advert page 41*) - Silver workshop, Gammelveien 6, Henningsvær.

Museums

Lofotr Viking Museum - Viking museum by the E10, 50km west of Henningsvær, just past the Eggum turn-off. Open 10:00-19:00.

Lofoten Krigsmuseum - War memorial museum in Svolvær. Open 10:00-16:00.

Museum Nord / Lofotmuseet - North Norway and Lofoten museum in Storvågen near Kabelvåg. Open 9:00-15:00.

.... and for Free

Go climbing at Eggum (page 102), go fishing, or grab a waterproof and go for a walk up an easy peak - see page 366.

What is that Smell?

If you arrive in Lofoten in the summer season you will notice the unique odour that permeates the place - a fishy goodness with salty overtones. What you can smell is the lingering presence of one of the world's largest seasonal fisheries.

From mid-February until the end of April, Lofoten is busy. Arctic cod migrate from the Barents Sea in their millions, en route to the spawning grounds near Lofoten and the fishermen move in.

These stocks have been exploited for millennia, the cold winter weather proving ideal conditions for drying and preserving the 15,000 tonnes of fish landed every year. The fish have been dried (as Stockfish) and exported to Europe dating back to at least 1100AD.

Climate change may eventually affect this ancient fishery, but for now it remains a staple of the local economy.



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Rock Hard Bracelet - Climb on!



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www.925catrinelinder.com

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 is also a Travel Guide available from the website which you can get posted to your home address for a nominal fee. There are Tourist Information Offices in Ramberg and 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. It remains to be seen what the situation will be for UK residents after Brexit. 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!

BMC Insurance - advert inside back cover. 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 will usually have to pay the full cost of any dental treatment, but again your insurance will cover this.

In the event of an accident call 112.

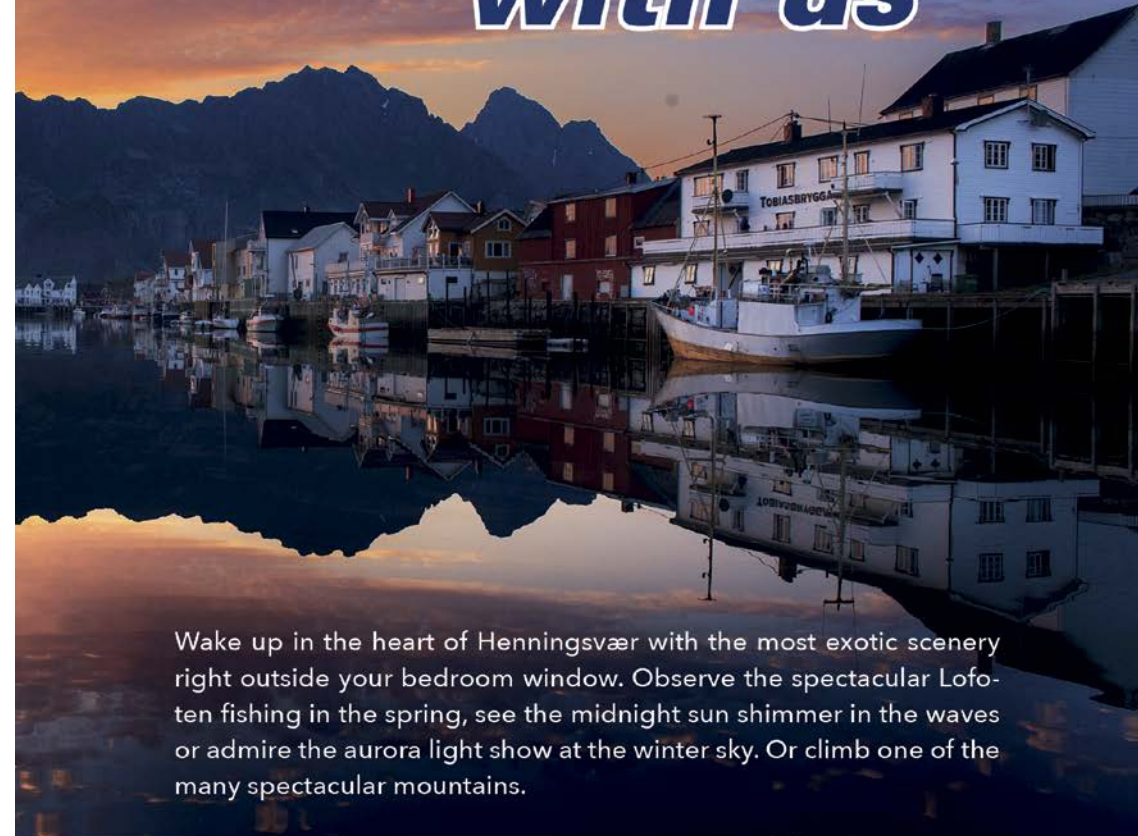
The nearest doctor, dentist and chemists are in Svolvær. The nearest hospital is Leknes - local advice is to try and avoid them!

Shopping trips

Before the two elegant bridges were built connecting Henningsvær to the mainland in the 1960s, a ferry ran between the central square in the village and the concrete pier under the Festvåg cliffs. It was said that the children of the town learnt to row before they could walk, such was their reliance on boats. On occasions the women of Henningsvær would commandeer the ferry and take it to Kabelvåg to do their shopping, which proved to be a much more efficient than driving there after using the ferry to get started! If visitors wanted to reach the island, they just had to wait!



Climb into bed with us



Wake up in the heart of Henningsvær with the most exotic scenery right outside your bedroom window. Observe the spectacular Lofoten fishing in the spring, see the midnight sun shimmer in the waves or admire the aurora light show at the winter sky. Or climb one of the many spectacular mountains.



Book directly on tobiasbrygga.com/booking and get a special price using discount Voucher **CLIMB10**.

Money

The currency is the Norwegian Krone. In 2017 this converts at around £1 > 10.6 NOK and €1 > 9 NOK, though in the past six months this has varied by up to 15% and it could vary more given the political climate. Credit 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!

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.

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 cloudberries 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.



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Lunch

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“Kannelsnurr”

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Fair Trade

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Hot chocolate

The West
Henningsvær
Kalle
Kabelvåg
Svolvær
The Northeast
Setind
Walking Peaks



The woods around the parking area used for Paradiset have become a very popular camping spot in the high season, so much so that finding somewhere to park can be tricky.

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 some problems. The local community enjoy sharing their fantastic islands with visitors but they are a conservative bunch 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. All it requires is a bit of consideration, starting by behaving as you would do at home.

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 and pre-eminent amongst these are 'Bilberries' (see opposite) and the *Vestpillaren Direct*. If you don't want to join a line of climbers consider coming at another time of year - August can be good. Another option is to choose a route that isn't in the Top 50, or even maybe consider climbing through the night if you are here in June and July; it might be a bit cool but you shouldn't have to join a queue.

Behaviour

It seems sad to have to address these issues in a rock climbing guidebook, but there have been examples of people camping in churchyards ("because you can camp anywhere in Norway") and relieving themselves within full view of people's houses. This is utterly unacceptable and if you think otherwise you should stay away.

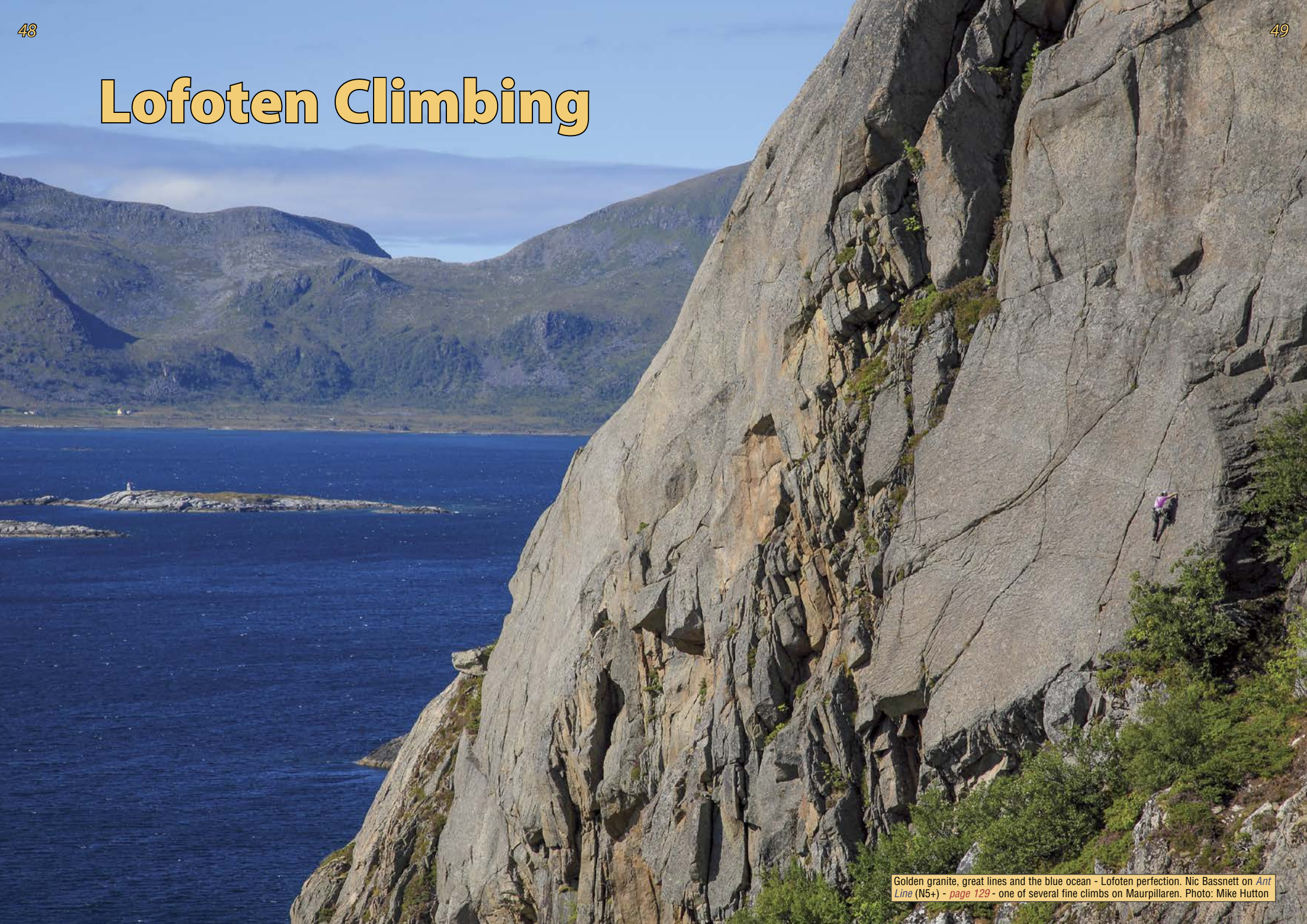


10 more getting ready to descend

6 more waiting to start

Busy times on *Bare blåbær* (N5-) - page 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!

Lofoten Climbing



Golden granite, great lines and the blue ocean - Lofoten perfection. Nic Bassnett on *Ant Line* (N5+) - page 129 - one of several fine climbs on Maurpillaren. Photo: Mike Hutton



Nic Bassnett tackles the fine face climb of *Automatic for the People* (6a) - page 118 - on the Rock and Roll at Rørvika. Although fully bolted many climbers might want to carry a few runners to plug the gaps. Photo: Mike Hutton

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. If you are flying to Lofoten then you will need to keep your gear down so a bit of pre-planning is required.

Runners

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 we know! If you are unsure then it is always best to be cautious, but keep in mind that a heavy racks will make you climb more slowly. It can be a difficult balance to get right, but gets easier with experience.

Forgotten something?

Two climbers arrived in Lofoten and realised that they didn't have a nut key between them. A quick trip to the well-stocked MNKS shop in Henningsvær quickly filled this gap although, it has to be said, it wasn't cheap. Two weeks later, after a brilliant trip, they realised that the gear placements had been so good that they hadn't used the expensive nut key once.



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 it is essential that you are 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 need 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. Whether you will need a pack on little routes like those at Gandalf and Festvåg is highly debatable. 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!

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 page 51 for more on gear.

An Apprenticeship

'Practice make perfect' so get practicing and Paradiset (page 230) 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



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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, with the addition of some split grades (e.g. N7+/N8-) to help align the grades. In this book we have gone with the more common sport grades used pretty much 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.

Colour Coding

The routes are all given a colour-code corresponding to a grade band and approximate difficulty level. This colour code is designed to indicate a range of grades that a particular climber might be happy attempting.

Green Routes

N4+/4c and under

Good for beginners and those looking for an easy life.

Orange Routes

N5-/5a to N6-/6a+

General ticking routes for those with more experience including some great routes.

Red Routes

N6/6b to N7-/7a

Routes for the experienced and keen climber including many great classics.

Black Routes

N7/7a+ and above

A grade band for the talented including some extremely fine challenges.

Sport Routes

Most climbers are happier at a slightly harder level when sport climbing, which is why the colour code for sport grade in the table above is set to higher difficulty levels. Climbers used to operating at 'Orange' sport grades should drop their level to the 'Orange' trad grades in the table when choosing a route.

Comparison for trad routes				Sport Grade
Norwegian Grade	British Trad Grade	UIAA	USA	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-	HVD <i>Hard Very Difficult</i>	III+	5.4	3
N4	Sev <i>Severe</i>	IV	5.5	3+
N4+	BOLD 3c HS <i>Hard Severe</i> 4b SAFE	IV+	5.6	4a
N5-	BOLD 4a VS <i>Very Severe</i> 5a SAFE	V-	5.7	4b
N5	BOLD 4b HVS <i>Hard Very Severe</i> 5b SAFE	V	5.8	4c
N5+	BOLD 5a SAFE	V+	5.9	5a
N6-	BOLD 5a E1 <i>SAFE</i>	VI	5.10a	5c
N6	BOLD 5a E2 <i>SAFE</i>	VI+	5.10b	6a
N6+	BOLD 5b E3 <i>SAFE</i>	VII-	5.10c	6a+
N7-	BOLD 5c E4 <i>SAFE</i>	VII	5.10d	6b
N7	BOLD 6a E5 <i>SAFE</i>	VII+	5.11a	6b+
N7+	BOLD 6b E6 <i>SAFE</i>	VIII	5.11b	6c
N8-	BOLD 6c E7 <i>SAFE</i>	VIII+	5.11c	6c+
N8	BOLD 7a E8 <i>SAFE</i>	VIII	5.11d	7a
N8+	BOLD 7a E9 <i>SAFE</i>	VIII+	5.12a	7a+
N9-	BOLD 7b E10 <i>SAFE</i>	IX-	5.12b	7b
N9	BOLD 7b SAFE	IX	5.12c	7b+
N9+	BOLD 7b SAFE	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
			5.14c	8c+
			5.14d	9a
			5.15a	9a+



AMÉLIE ROUSSELET

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Picture by Amélie Rousselet with Bent Viår Eijertsen - Kulghornet, Norway - Design by www.creadesign.com

- BEGINNERS, INTERMEDIATE
- ROCK CLIMBING TRIP
- EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD



Top 1 A Top 50 is a tricky concept with routes varying from 12m clip-ups by the road to remote 20 pitch trad offerings. With so many brilliant routes in Lofoten that have had very few ascents, we can't really claim that the selection on this page is actually 'the fifty best routes', but it is a set of routes that are popular and worthwhile and we think you will be impressed. We have also added a UK grade to the Norwegian one to help those looking for some conversion between the two systems, although don't take it too seriously.

Top 50 - meh!

We discussed the idea of a Top 50 for quite a while and the actual content of the Top 50 for a lot longer. It seemed like a good idea as Lofoten is a place that many people only visit once and the list gives a good overview of what is available and where to aim your attention if you are only here on a short visit. Quite a while after the book came out we had an email from a rather peeved climber, who suggested we remove the Top 50 list because every time he had gone to do one of the routes on the list there were people already on it. Apparently the irony of the situation never struck him!



Psst ... there are actually 51

Tick	Route	Crag	Grade	UK	Page
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Lady of the Lake	Djupfjord Wall	N9-	E8 6c	152
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Corner Kick	Vågakallen	N9-	E8 6c	262
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minnerisset	Sørfjellet	N9-	E7 6c	123
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joker nord	Eggum	8a		107
<input type="checkbox"/>	Freya	Vågakallen	N8	E7 6b	258
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risset Rider	The Coast	N7+	E6 6b	227
<input type="checkbox"/>	Storpillaren	Vågakallen	N7	E5 6a	262
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Codfather	Presten	N7	E5 6a	170
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vårkåt	Jomfru Pillaren	N7	E4 5c	218
<input type="checkbox"/>	Odins bue	Trollfestningen	N7	E4 6a	287
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ninjarisset	Tjeldbergvika	N7	E4 6a	309
<input type="checkbox"/>	Korstoget	Presten	N7	E4 6a	166
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gullfaks	Eggum	7a		108
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elvis	Rørvika	N7	E4 6a	119
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pan	The Coast	N7-	E3 6a	220
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vågarisset	Paradiset	N6+	E3 5c	232
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vestveggen/Vesteggen	Stetind	N6+	E3 5c	352
<input type="checkbox"/>	Himmelen kan vente	Presten	N6+	E3 5c	179
<input type="checkbox"/>	Svenske diedret	Paradiset	N6+	E3 5c	240
<input type="checkbox"/>	Englevinger	Svolværgeita	N6+	E3 5c	322
<input type="checkbox"/>	The American Tourist	Reine Slab	N6	E3 5b	96
<input type="checkbox"/>	Solens sønner	Sjøsvaet	N6	E3 5c	158
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vestpillaren Direct	Presten	N6	E2 5b	175
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pizzatyven	Maurpillaren	N6	E2 5c	128
<input type="checkbox"/>	Puffrisset	Cornflaksveggen	N6	E2 5b	278
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lundeklubben	Festvåg	N6	E1 5b	208
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tromsø ekspressen	Gandalf	N6	E1 5b	190
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gamle rev	Gandalf	N6	E1 5b	190
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drømmen om Michaela	Finnvika	6a+		311
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sydpilaren	Stetind	N6-	E1 5b	355
<input type="checkbox"/>	Colibrien	Trollfestningen	N6-	E1 5b	288
<input type="checkbox"/>	Automatic for the People	Rock and Roll Wall	6a		118
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fingerrisset	Trollfestningen	N6-	HVS 5a	287
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gaukerisset	Festvåg	N6-	HVS 5a	204
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guns 'n' Roses	Gandalf	N6-	HVS 5a	192
<input type="checkbox"/>	Skiløperen	Festvåg	N6-	HVS 5a	212
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rom and Cola	Alkoholveggen	N5+	E1 5a	272
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lys og skygge	Pianokrakken	N5+	HVS 5a	132
<input type="checkbox"/>	Applecake Arete	Pianokrakken	N5+	VS 5a	132
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forsida	Svolværgeita	N5+	VS 5a	322
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sea Breeze	Reine Slab	N5	HVS 4c	96
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gandalf	Gandalf	N5	VS 4c	190
<input type="checkbox"/>	Living in Paradise	Paradiset	N5	VS 4c	249
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gollum	Gandalf	N5	VS 4c	190
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bare blåbær	Bare blåbær	N5-	VS 4b	144
<input type="checkbox"/>	Østkammen	Kugelhorn	N5-	VS 4b	361
<input type="checkbox"/>	1910 ruta	Svolværgeita	N4+	HS 4b	321
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pianohandler Lunds rute	Pianokrakken	N4+	HS 4c	131
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sydosteggen/Normalveien	Stetind	N4+	S 4a	356
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nordryggen	Vågakallen	N4+	S 4a	266
<input type="checkbox"/>	Storsvaet	Paradiset	N4	S 4a	245



#FORMOMENTSLIKETHIS

PACK:
Alpine Ascent ND38:48
LOCATION:
Dent du Géant N Arete,
Mont Blanc massif

The West

Hemningøvær

Kalle

Kabelvåg

Svolvær

The Northeast

Stetind

Walking Peaks

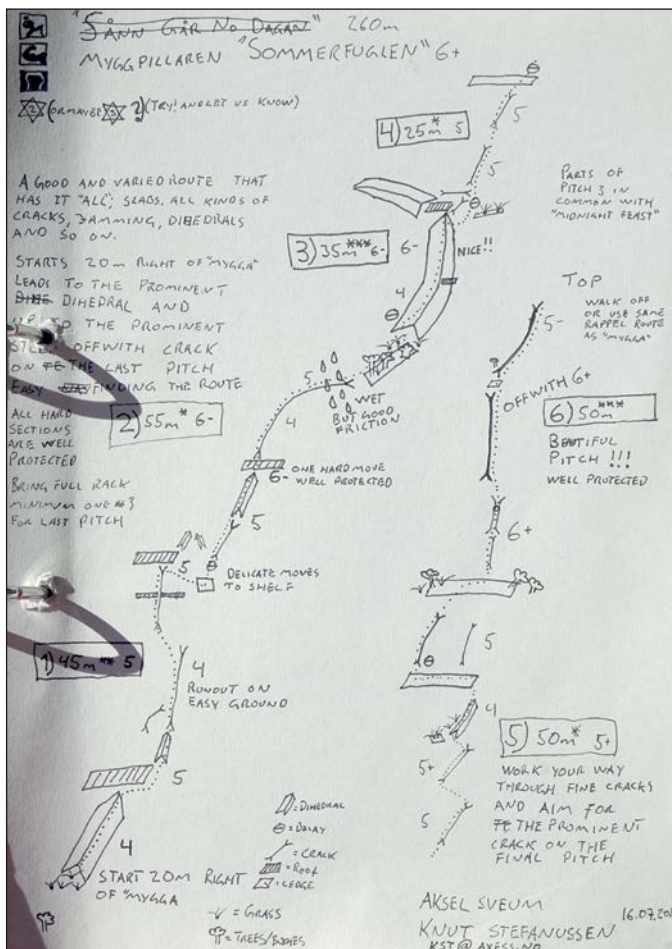
There is a lot of superb quality unclimbed rock in the area covered by this guide, and I mean a LOT! For anyone keen on new routing, Lofoten should be an essential destination. A few minutes spent spotting some of huge and impressive unclimbed faces visible in this book will leave you in no doubt, and 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 in Henningsvær, either by talking to one of the locals, or by checking the new routes book.

The New Routes Book

This legendary document is kept behind the counter in the Climbing Cafe in Henningsvær and it makes 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 can be found and it is a great way to while away a few hours if it is raining.

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 any entry 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* - page 255.

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DESIGNED IN HENNINGSVÆR - Handmade in Nepal

Worn by climbers on Mt Everest and fishermen in Lofoten

Brand store IN HENNINGSVÆR



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 - lofotoubouldering.com for €39.



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*. This is available from the climbing shop at the NNKS for 345 NOK and is an invaluable resource, with loads on information and some spectacular photography.



Bouldering under the northern lights, how cool is that? Photo: Mike Hutton

Abseil	rapell (nedfiring)	Harness	sele
Aid climbing . . . . .	.teknisk klatring	Haul bag	heisesekk
Anchor/Belay	anker/standplass	Headwall	hoved vegg
Arete	<i>same word used</i>	Helmet	hjelm
Belay	standplass	Hexcentric	hex
Belay device	taubrems	Jamming	<i>same word used</i>
Bolt	borrebolt	Jumar	<i>same word used</i>
Bouldering	<i>same word used</i>	Karabiner	<i>same word used</i>
Broddler/Nut Key	nøttepirker	Knots . . . . .	.knute
Bucket/Jug . . . . .	.jug	Layback	<i>same word used</i>
Chalk	kalk	Lead climbing	lede
Chimney	kamin	Loose . . . . .	.løst
Chockstone	klemblokk	Mantelshelf	mantle hylle
Clean climb	<i>same word used</i>	Multi-pitch climbing	flere taulengder
Corner/Groove . . . . .	.hjørne/diedre (innvendig hjørne)	Nut . . . . .	.nøtt
Crack . . . . .	.riss	Off-width	<i>same word used (or risskamin)</i>
Crash Pad/Mat	<i>same word used</i>	On-sight	<i>same word used</i>
Crimp	<i>same word used</i>	Overhang	<i>same word used</i>
Crux	<i>same word used</i>	Pitch	taulengde
Daisy Chain/Cow's Tail	<i>same word used</i>	Peg/Piton . . . . .	.bolt
Deck out	bakkefall	Protection	sikring
Descender	åtter/taubrems	Prusik	<i>same word used</i>
Dihedral (US) / Groove (UK)	diedre	Quickdraw	kortslynge
Down climb . . . . .	.nedklatring	Redpoint	<i>same word used</i>
Dynamic rope	dynamisk tau	Rock (as in falling)	stein
Dyno	catching	Roof	tak
Edge	kant	Rope	tau
Edging	kanting	Route	rute
Exposure	luftig	Runner	mellomforankring
Face climbing . . . . .	.vegg klatring	Runout	<i>same word used</i>
Fall	<i>same word used</i>	Scrambling	klyving
Figure of Eight	rapellåtter	Scree	ur
Finger board	<i>same word used</i>	Second	andremann
First ascent . . . . .	.første bestigning	Side-pull . . . . .	.sidetak
Fist jam	knytneve jam	Slab . . . . .	.sva
Fixed rope . . . . .	.fast tau	Sling	slynge
Flake	flak	Smearing	smøring
Flash	<i>same word used</i>	Solo climbing	solo klatring
Follow/Second	andremann	Sport climbing	sportsklatring
Free climbing . . . . .	.fri bestigning	Stopper	<i>same word used</i>
Grade	grad	Tape/Webbing	slynge
Gully	renne	Top rope	top tau
Hand Traverse	<i>same word used</i>	Traverse	<i>same word used</i>
Hanging Belay	hengende standplass	Undercut/Undercling	<i>same word used</i>



The West	The West	39	-	9	19	11	2 - 120 min						Major routes on some very impressive and remote cliffs, plus the extended roadside fun on the Reinesvaet.	68	
	Eggum		33	-	3	9	21	5 min						Lofoten's best sport climbing venue, accessible and with routes that are ever-dry. The downside - most of them are pretty tough.	102
Henningsvær	Rørvika	17	1	1	9	6	1	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	50	3	3	12	24	14	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 not unknown.	120	
	Djupfjord	41		1	14	18	8	15 - 60 min						A fine set of cliffs along the side of Djupfjord, on great rock. Despite the quality, most only go for <i>Bare blåbær</i> but there is much more!	138
	Presten	26		-	4	7	15	3 - 30 min						The area's pre-eminent crag, with some great routes on magnificent rock and up to 10 pitches long. <i>Vestpillaren Direct</i> is the MUST DO!	160
	Gandalf	36		-	9	15	12	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	48	13	6	25	23	7	3 - 30 min						About the closest cliff to Henningsvær and with a great collection of crack and groove climbs. Quite popular too.	198
	The Coast	19		-	9	6	4	15 - 65 min						A remote section of extensive cliffs with only a few routes. Some spectacular new developments but have only scratched the surface.	216
	Paradiset	79	1	13	38	20	9	10 - 40 min						Great rock, a lovely setting and a long-time favourite with nearby wild camping and the sea.	230
Kalle	Vågakallen	10		1	1	3	5	15 - 60 min						A great contrast to Paradiset - very big, northeast-facing routes and a fair hike-in too. No queues up here to worry about.	252
	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.	268
	Kallebukta	10		-	3	4	3	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.	276
	Trolldalen	20		1	3	12	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.	282
	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.	294
	Sandvika	2	18	-	6	6	8	3 min						Sporty climbing (with the odd trad route) on a steep seaside wall. Check the bolts before you climb, some are corroded.	300
Kabelvåg	Urdstaben	2	18	1	4	13	2	10 min						One good sport wall in a fine and sunny setting. Sees very few visits but is worthwhile.	304
	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 <i>Ninjarisset</i> .	308
	Finnvika	1	12	-	5	4	3	10 min						Lovely big slabby 'boulder' with some great sport routes and a pleasant atmosphere right by the sea.	310
	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.	312
The Northeast	The Northeast	14		5	2	2	5	20 - 120 min						Remote routes on remote peaks in remote settings - you get the message! Self-reliance is the name of the game here.	328
	Stetind	14		3	6	4	1	60 - 240 min						One of the finest mountains in Norway with three classic routes to its summit. Some other big routes are covered in the same area.	342
TOTALS		466	99	38	179	211	136	Faded symbol means that only some of the routes are sheltered / dry in the rain / suffer from seepage / multi-pitch							