

Scot-Slovak South Greenland Expedition 2024

MEF Expedition Reference 24 – 27 Scot/Slovak South Greenland

Expedition dates: 27th July – 30th August

Expedition leader: Tim Miller

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Other members: Callum Johnson (UK)
Simon Smith (UK)
Michaela Izakovičová (Slovakia)

Location: Torssukatak fjord, Southern Greenland
Main objective – The Thumbnail, 60°06'36"N 44°30'20"W

Summary

This expedition visited the Cape Farewell region of south Greenland, spending three and a half weeks climbing around the Torssukatak Fjord. The team was successful on their main objective of climbing a new route on the east face of Maujit Qaqarssuasia, often referred to as The Thumbnail. This face is 1350m high and considered to be one of the largest sea cliffs in the world. The team approached the cliff by packraft, climbing the first half of the route in capsule style to the half-height ledge. Bad weather forced a descent - by traversing the ledge and descending the south gully. In the next weather window, the team regained the half height ledge and finished the route up the headwall in a single push by two parallel lines. "Mussels for tea, packrafts in the sea" 1350m, E6 6b (7b), 27 pitches, 4 days.

The team also climbed a new route on the south headwall of Maujit Qorqarssasia East, "Texture like sun" 800m, E3 5c (6b+), in a single push, the first known ascent of this face.

In addition to these routes the team climbed many new routes (between the grades of E2-E5) on Pamiagdhluk island, including the first ascent of "The spire of the northern fire" all within walking distance from their basecamp.

The Team

Miska “The Climbing Terminator” Izakovicova



Come with me if you want to crimp.

Top level Slovakian big wall free climber. Having spent many seasons in Yosemite she has made all free ascents of El Cap via Freerider (5.13a) in 2018 and Golden Gate 5.13b in 2023. She has also made many ascents of hard multi pitch routes in Norway, Paklenica (Croatia), Wadi Rum (Jordan) and in the Alps.

Callum “Runny in the middle” Johnson



Perfect soft boiled eggs every time.

Excellent all-round Scottish climber. He has climbed many new mixed routes in Scottish winter as well as hard repeats and a great onsight trad climber. He has also climbed in the Alps and took part in an expedition to the Indian Himalaya where he and his team made the first ascent of Barnaj II East (6,303m) via a 1500m new route on the north face.

Tim “bum cakes” Miller



Share your music, share your laaavv.

Another excellent all-rounder from Scotland. He works as a mountain guide in the Alps and has climbed many new routes in Scotland in Summer and Winter. He has also taken part in several expeditions to the greater ranges including, Kyrgyzstan Tian Shan, Pakistan Karakorum and 3 Nepalese Himalayan expeditions.

Simon "Daddy" Smith



Please don't call me Daddy.

A dark horse of Scottish trad climbing having on sighted routes up to E7 including the ultra classic Dalriada. Also an experienced big wall climber having spent time in Yosemite, Wadi Rum (Jordan) and has put up new routes in Patagonia, Turkey, Siberia and a previous Greenland expedition.

Expedition overview

Upon arriving in basecamp, we were treated to wall to wall blue skies and this, along with the horrendous swarm of black flies that plagued basecamp, prompted us to head straight for the wall. Our doubts about the packrafting were quickly put at ease as we paddled across the beautifully flat, turquoise sea. Miska lead the first pitch out the rafts and onto the wall and we hauled the enormous bags out our heavily laden boats without mishap. Then Tim and Simon took both rafts round to the bottom of the descent gully to stash one of the rafts there. That evening we set up the portaledges and slept just 40 meters above the water.



With us on the wall we had 2 portaledges, close to 70 litres of water, sleeping and cooking kit for 4 people and many ropes. This meant we had some exceptionally heavy bags to haul up the wall. We were keen to use natural anchors, which meant that some extremely elaborate anchors had to be constructed, sometimes using 12 points of gear in 1 anchor! The next day we climbed some really nice pitches, but soon realized that the climbing was going to be the least of our worries. Ledges, long traverse pitches, chimneys and grooves all meant that the hauling was a mammoth challenge, someone had to be with the bags constantly to unstick them. “Bag is stuck!” and “Haul!” became the mantra for the next few days. We kept climbing on high quality rock till late in the evenings and then we would set up the portaledges with the rest of the fjord beneath our feet. As we got higher our horizons grew and more pointy peaks came into view.

At one point when Tim & Simon were enthusiastically hauling some rocks were dislodged down a chimney on Callum and Miska. One impacted Miskas toe making climbing shoes unbearable to wear, but she managed to persist despite this. After 800 meters of climbing we arrived at the huge halfway ledge that split the face, just as the weather looked like it was going to turn...



We woke from our bivi on the ledge with grey clouds amassing on the horizon. The plan was to head back to basecamp for several days until the storm passed, then return to our high point and continue the climb to the top. We decided to stash some kit on the ledge (ropes, gear, portaledges, stove, food), then started the descent. The going was slow as we covered steep, loose and vegetated slopes with a gaping drop down to the sea beneath our feet. Most of the time we couldn't protect ourselves, but occasionally we would fix a line that we could clip into. We were carrying huge haul bags, which were extremely unwieldy and would throw us off balance constantly. Eventually we reached the descent gully. From below, this had looked like easily navigable snow, but it was much steeper than we anticipated and was fraught with crevasses. None of us had crampons or axes, so in our approach shoes our only line of defence was a spiky rock that we carried for self-arrest. We abseiled over the crevasses leaving behind several nuts. We finally reached the sea late in the day and with darkening skies. Tim & Miska set off to retrieve the other raft stashed at the bottom of the wall. They set out into the Fjord and were immediately met with choppy seas. Paddling directly into the wind was extremely tough. The paddle back went quickly with the wind behind them. Upon returning to the gully we repacked the boats as darkness descended. Once everything was ready we paused to discuss the situation. We had a dilemma, either we head out across the fjord in the darkness with white caps on the waves or we sit in the steep bouldery gully for an unknown amount of time with no food till the storm cleared.

We made the decision to set off. Icebergs loomed past us in the faint light and waves broke over the bow. Just as our nerves were already at a peak, a humpback whale breached 20 meters

from the boat. We reached the far side very quickly as we had been paddling at max speed, fuelled by adrenaline. We stashed the rafts in dry bags under some rocks just above the high tide line. We crashed into the group tent; ate any food we could get our hands on then fell asleep. We had made it back safely!

The morning after we arrived back in camp we woke late to thick fog outside the tent. It had been raining heavily all night and we found the group tent totally flooded, packets of food lay floating in puddles on the ground. We started to relocate the tent, but just as we were putting the final pegs in, a big gust of wind ripped through the camp lifting the tent into the air. We scrambled to grab it and pin it down. Meanwhile Miska's tent was flattened into the ground, snapping a pole in several places. We tried again to erect the group tent, this time taking care to position large rocks round the edge to hold it down. It lasted for a short while but another gust came, pegs went flying and a rip was opened up on one side from the rocks. It was clear we would have to wait till the wind subsided. We spent the remainder of the day huddled under a violently flapping tarp that we had fastened to a boulder.

The following day Simon went down to the sea to go fishing and on his way went past the place where we had stashed the packrafts only to find they were not there! An unexpectedly high tide combined with stormy waves had washed them out to sea. We couldn't believe it. There was no chance we were going to get them back. The consequences quickly sunk in. We had lost 2 expensive rafts and therefore also all the kit stashed on the wall, we wouldn't be able to finish our project and worst of all we looked like total idiots! It was hard to swallow that such a simple mistake had such big implications. On the upside Simon caught a fish.

That evening as we sat under the tarp miserably trying to turn our fish into something edible a small boat approached our camp. It was a local fisherman. Miles down the fjord in the murky mist and choppy seas he had found a blue drybag floating in the water. He had found one of our rafts, what were the chances! We could hardly believe it. The show could go on!

We waited out the remaining days of bad weather in much improved spirits, fingerboarding, bouldering, collecting mussels, fishing and playing cards. We even recreated our own version of the Olympics. Finally, the forecast looked promising and we made plans to return to the wall.

Equipped with only a single raft Tim, Simon and Callum set off to the gully that we had descended down. Here Tim jumped out, Callum and Simon paddled back, picked up Miska and returned to the gully. We climbed rocky slabs, followed by a steep grass slope to avoid negotiating the icy gully. We were then able to retrace our steps along the ledge to get back to our high point and the stashed gear. After the complexities of hauling up the lower half of the wall we opted to climb the top half in alpine style in a single push. So, the next morning we woke early and set off in two teams climbing parallel lines. Tim and Simon climbed an immaculate corner feature up one side of a pillar and on the other side Callum and Miska climbed a system of cracks and corners to regroup at the top where the lines converged for a pitch. At this point we had reached the steepest part of the wall and Miska set off up a tricky crack in an airy position with the whole fjord below. Callum followed this with a brilliantly sustained pitch above. Meanwhile Tim had climbed up to a steep chimney, which Simon exited via a precarious and

bold move to reach easier climbing. These pitches proved to be the crux of the route and ranged from British E4 - E6 (5.11b – 5.12b). The climbing above remained exposed and on quality rock right till we pulled over onto the summit late in the evening. We shared hugs all round then we started the descent. We knew this was going to be a complex and time-consuming adventure in its own right.



In the fading light we descended a rocky ledge to a point where it became so steep, we had to abseil. A blood red moon emerged over the horizon and time slowed as we worked into the darkness as a team to rig abseils, pull ropes, and find the next ab station. At one point the ropes got stuck and Callum climbed back up to retrieve them, Tim hardly noticed as he dozed on a ledge. A distinct glow illuminated the sky as the northern lights made a faint appearance and a

constant flow of shooting stars escorted us back along the ledge to our bivi where we made dinner and crashed into our sleeping bags.

Thus 'Mussels for Tea, Packrafts in the Sea' was born. 1350m, E6 6b (5.12b), 33 pitches.

It's worth noting that during our ascent of the headwall we encountered some tat anchors on multiple occasions. They were not in logical places to belay and did not continue to the top of the wall as far as we could tell. It looked as if they had been used for an abseil retreat. We could not work out who these would have belonged to.

We spent a lazy morning on our ledge, listening to music and recovering from the previous day's excursion. Eventually the sun disappeared and we were prompted to relocate our camp to beneath the spectacular Southern headwall, which as far as we knew remained unclimbed. During the awkward load carrying Simon had tweaked his back meaning he would sadly have to miss the next day. In the morning Miska, Tim and Callum made quick progress up easy slabs until we stood beneath the start of the difficulties. We alternated leads, moving efficiently up corners and cracks that we had seen through binoculars. The climbing was constantly engaging, never desperate, but sustained. We each had huge smiles after every pitch, it was clear we were climbing something special! The rest of the face dropped steeply beneath us and we could even see Simon sunbathing on the ledge below. Tim lead a spectacular hanging corner as the sun left the top of the wall. Then Miska climbed a final pitch up a tower, which we were surprised to find brought us directly onto the summit. We gathered on the top just as the sun sank behind a rugged horizon of rocky spires bathed in a deep orange glow. It was a very special moment and we would have stayed longer if it weren't for a bitterly cold wind.

We abseiled from the summit and crossed the boulder strewn plateau to a small rib we had spotted from the top of The Thumbnail. By now it was dark and we knew route finding was going to be tricky. We carefully picked our way down until we re-joined our previous descent. We breathed a sigh of relief, at least now we knew the way. A similar starry descent followed in a blur as we each dropped in and out of sleep at abseil stations.

Upon arriving at camp, Tim got into his sleeping bag, prepared his freeze-dried meal and stashed it down his top to keep him warm while he waited for it to hydrate. However, as he lay there, he fell asleep in his sleeping bag and Miska had to rescue the meal should he roll onto it, saving him from a potentially sticky end!

'Texture like Sun'. 800m E3 5c (5.10d).

After our adventures on The Thumbnail, group motivation to get back in a packraft was low. We all agreed that we were keen to climb the walls within walking distance of basecamp instead. Tim and Miska set off in the direction of an unclimbed orange spire that they had spotted across the fjord from The Thumbnail. The approach took us all day and required some steep scrambling and simul climbing over exposed ridges. We set up a bivi with a great view of the spire. We found high-quality orange granite and amazing splitter cracks. Over the following two days we climbed three new routes, each one following the obvious lines and each one harder and better than the last:

'Come with me if you want to climb' E2 5b (5.10c) 150m

'Aurora Arena' E4 5c (5.11a) 110m

'Peaches and Bumcakes' E5 6c (5.12b) 220m

The second night at the bivouac, we witnessed perhaps the most amazing natural phenomenon we had ever seen: the Northern Lights directly above the spire. This is how it got the name, 'The Spire of the Northern Fire'.

During this time Simon and Callum climbed a new route on the West face of a small peak called Mark in the Baroness valley. They named this *'Warmonger'* E4/5 6a (5.11c), 400m.

After four days of adventures, we regathered in basecamp and shared our stories over dinner. The good weather looked like it would continue for the remaining 2 days of the trip, so we packed our kit and decided to head to the Baroness Valley together.

Tipped off by Simon and Callum, Tim and Miska climbed a new line to the right of 'Warmonger'. By now the team was running very short on abseil tat and so on the descent we resorted to simul downclimbing as much as possible, which resulted in another late-night arrival back at our bivi. We named our route *'Slow off the Mark'* E4 5c (5.11a), 300m.

While climbing on Mark our attention was drawn to an intriguing unclimbed orange wall across the valley. This became our objective for the last day. Every pitch followed pristine corners and the climbing was high quality and consistent all the way to the very top of the wall. We named our route *'Dream Corner'* E3 5c (5.10d) 600m.

Whilst Miška and Tim were climbing on Mark and The Orange Wall, Simon and Callum climbed a new route on Campsite Hill Crag. This gave 7 pitches of E2 5c (5.10c) *'Lord of the Kamikaze Eye Flies'*.

The following day they climbed a new line on the unclimbed east face of Mark; *'Inversions'* E4 6a (5.11b), 280m.

To finish the trip off perfectly we all celebrated with a dip in a crystal-clear glacial lake on the way down. The next day we packed up our camp and caught the boat back to civilization. The end of our trip had sadly arrived and it was time to return to reality.



Expedition diary

Day by day. SS = Simon, TM = Tim, MI = Miska, CJ = Callum

Date	Location	Activity
27/07	Scotland (Glasgow) - Greenland (Narsarsuaq) - SS, TM, CJ Czechia (Prague) - Greenland (Narsarsuaq) - MI	Travel, Flights
28/07	Narsarsuaq	Walk to Glacier
29/07	Narsarsuaq - Nanortalik	Travel, Flight
30/07	Nanortalik	Delayed due to wind. Bouldering, food shopping.
31/07	Nanortalik	Delayed due to wind. Food shopping.
01/08	Nanortalik - Torsukattak Fjord, BC - The Thumbnail	Travel, boat. Set up BC. Packraft to The Thumbnail. Climb
02/08	The Thumbnail	Climb
03/08	The Thumbnail	Climb
04/08	The Thumbnail	Climb
05/08	The Thumbnail - BC	Traverse halfway ledge, descend gully, packraft to BC.
06/08	BC	Bad weather - gusty winds rip tents. Cannot pitch group tent. Fishing.
07/08	BC	Bad weather - windy, raining. Fishing, pick mussels. Realise both packrafts have been lost. 1 packraft returned.
08/08	BC	Bad weather - raining. Pitch group tent again. Fingerboarding. Cards.
09/08	BC	Bad weather morning, clear afternoon. CJ walks to Baroness Valley to scope objectives. Bouldering. Fishing.
10/08	BC	Bad weather - drizzle. Fishing. Fingerboarding. Cards.
11/08	BC	Bad weather morning, clear afternoon. Fishing.

		Bouldering.
12/08	BC	Bad weather - raining. Fingerboarding. Cards.
13/08	BC	Delay departure to The Thumbnail due to bad weather - raining.
14/08	BC - The Thumbnail	Packraft to Gully, shuttle people and kit to gully. Ascend gully and regain our bivvy half height ledge below the headwall.
15/08	The Thumbnail	Climb and descend to half height ledge bivvy
16/08	The Thumbnail	Rest morning. Afternoon move bivvy to below south headwall.
17/08	The Thumbnail	MI, TM, CJ climb South Headwall and descend to bivvy. SS rests.
18/08	The Thumbnail - BC	Rest morning. Descend gully. Paddle to BC.
19/08	BC	Rest. Cold wind.
20/08	BC - Baroness Valley - BC; SS, CJ BC - Spire of the Northern Fire; MI, TM	Climb - SS, CJ Approach and bivvy - MI, TM
21/08	BC - The Baron; SS, CJ Spire of the Northern Fire; MI, TM	Rest morning, approach The Baron afternoon - SS, CJ Climb - MI, TM
22/08	The Baron; SS, CJ Spire of the Northern Fire; MI, TM	Climb - SS, CJ Climb - MI, TM
23/08	The Baron - BC; SS, CJ Spire of the Northern Fire - BC; MI, TM	Climb and return to BC - SS, CJ Return to BC - MI, TM
24/08	BC - Baroness Valley	Climb
25/08	Baroness Valley - BC	Climb
26/08	BC - Nanortalik	Travel, Boat
27/08	Nanortalik - Narsarsuaq	Travel, Flight
28/08	Narsarsuaq	
29/08	Narsarsuaq	MI and CJ Flight home canceled - low cloud.

30/08	Narsarsuaq	
31/08	Narsarsuaq - Reykjavik; TM, SS Narsarsuaq - Copenhagen; MI, CJ	Travel, Flight
01/09	Reykjavik - Glasgow; TM, SS Copenhagen - Prague; MI Copenhagen - Schiphol - Inverness; CJ	Travel, Flight



Potential for further development

The potential for climbing new routes in the Torssukatak fjord area is huge and of exceptionally high quality despite the number of expeditions that have visited. Many walls that we climbed on were the first routes on the wall and we simply had to pick the best of many amazing options.

The Thumbnail face now only has 5 routes across a 2km wide face and has many appealing features. The best rock and most sustained part of the face is the dark orange rock above the ledge and future expeditions may choose to access this ledge to climb many new routes just on the top half of the face. Expect to find climbing between E3 – E7.

The South headwall of Maujit Qaqarssuasia had no routes recorded on it prior to our arrival, but had many features and looks like it would take many further ascents above E3. The satellite towers and faces around this face also looked like they would hold high quality new route potential.

The Spire of the Northern Fire had many more potential lines from E1 – E7 and we would have stayed to climb them had we not run out of gas.

In the Baroness valley The Orange Wall had no prior ascents despite having many strong crack and corner lines that looked very appealing between E1 – E6. It was a shame to only discover this wall on the last day of the trip.

The Baroness and Baron themselves were reported to have a bit less potential with the obvious lines already having been climbed.

Logistics

Our logistics for getting to and from our Basecamp were as follows:

Flights from Europe to Greenland most of which went through Iceland, but a direct flight from Copenhagen to Narsarsuaq was also taken. These were all with Air Greenland and proved to be more expensive than we had anticipated. Flights were significantly delayed or canceled on the return journey resulting in connecting flights being missed at further expense. Fog seems to be a significant problem for flights landing in Greenland. We also really struggled to get all of our kit onto the flights even with the maximum of 2 additional hold bags booked. It may be worth exploring freight options for sending kit to Greenland prior to the trip. Also beware that the standard weight allowance for bags when leaving Greenland is 20kg/bag instead of the usual 23kg/bag.

From Narsarsuaq we took a helicopter flight to Nanortalik. This was also expensive once all the extra luggage was included, but was only 45mins and provided spectacular views. The alternative was approximately 8hrs on a boat, which would allow more luggage, but was only marginally cheaper. Both options could be affected by bad weather.

From Nanortalik we enlisted the help of a local boat owner and logistics coordinator called Henrik to take us to basecamp, this was a 3hr ride and was also very weather dependent and was delayed by a few days. This cost us £1700.

Henrik also provides gun hire for polar bears and owns several rooms for renting while in Nanortalik. He's a very handy person to know. His email is nts@nts.gl

We were advised to take a rifle as the sea ice had come very far south this year and there were more polar bears than normal. In the past some teams have chosen not to take a gun in this region.

Your options for shopping are Narsarsuaq or Nanortalik. We opted to do all out shopping in Nanortalik as we didn't have luggage allowance on the helicopter flight to take more kit. But it turned out Nanortalik did not sell bottles of white gas while Narsarsuaq did. Expect the shopping to be expensive and give yourself at least a full day or 2 to do this as getting enough kit for a month takes a lot of time and planning. In Narsarsuaq we filled water bottles with petrol to use in the stoves at a small pump.

If big walling and require water carrying capacity its advised to take your own from Europe as empty bottles are hard to come by due to a new recycling system that pays locals for the bottles.

Future teams should make sure to take plenty of abseil tat, as anchors my need backed up or on new routes will require a lot for the descent.

If future teams plan on climbing on The Thumbnail it is strongly advised to take a light weight axe and aluminium crampons. We were not the first team to be caught out by the “amenable” looking descent gully.



Accounts

Expedition Income (£)		Expedition Expenditure (£)	
MEF	2700	Flights	8377
BMC	606	Helicopter	2800
Scottish Mountaineering Club	1500	Packraft training	772
Alpine Club	1500	Insurance	1133
Gino Watkins memorial fund	5000	Food	1625
Slovak Climbing Federation	1875	Boat & gun hire	1763
Mountain Equipment	2000	Accommodation	203
Scottish Arctic Club	1000	Additional transport	151
		Packrafts	780
		Extra luggage	443
		Other items bought for the trip	919
Total	£16,181	Total	£18,966



Route Descriptions/Topos

Maujit Qorqarssasia East, East Face. (The Thumbnail)

Mussels for Tea, Packrafts in the Sea, 1350m (vert), E6 6b (7b), 27 pitches, 4 days. 01/08-03/08/24 and 15/08/24

Approach by packraft.

Lower wall: 14 pitches

Upper headwall: 13 pitches. Two variations were climbed on the first half of the headwall, these lines converged after 6 pitches.



Descent, the same descent as other teams was taken, scrambling down scree covered ledges then 6 abseils, with scrambling in between, gained the half height ledge. From here the ledge was traversed south to the gully. One 60m abseil gained the top of the gully. Descent down the gully was difficult without crampons or axes and with crevassed sections which required abseiling. The usual waterfall chockstone abseil was overcome by one 65m abseil.

Maujit Qorqarssasia East, South Headwall

Texture like Sun, 800m, E3 5c (6b+), 12 pitches, 1 day. 17/08/24

Starting from the half height ledge and finishing directly on summit.

Scramble 300m up the lower slabs, aiming for the central gray triangle feature at the bottom of the steep wall. One traversing pitch was taken to gain the base of the gray triangle, this pitch crossed the top of the obvious diagonal gully on the lower slabs.

The South Headwall of Maujit Qaqarssuasia

'Texture like Sun' E3 5c (6b+) 800m

Miška Izakovičová, Tim Miller, Callum Johnson



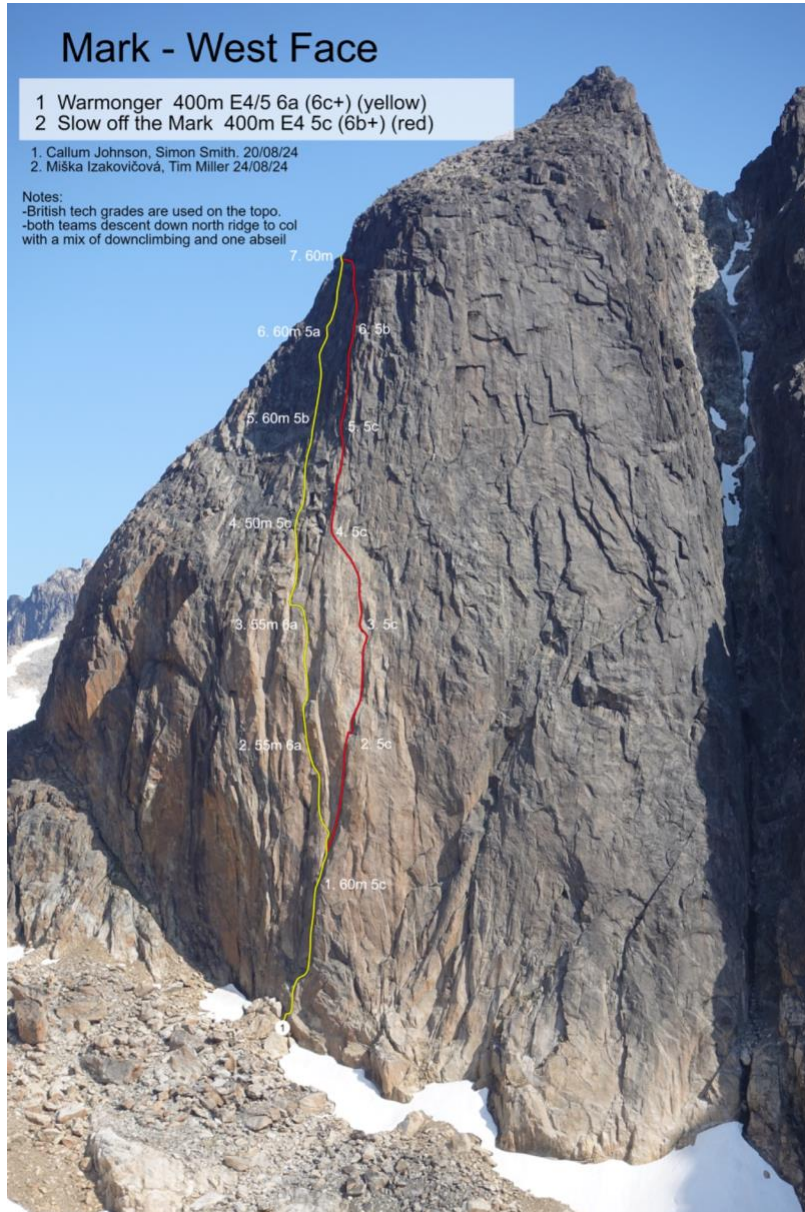
- 1.5b, 50m. Climb ledges and grooves the pull through the roof at the crack. Belay 15m above.
- 2.5b, 50m. Continue up the left facing corner to a secondary corner, belay on a ledge below a slab split by thin cracks.
- 3.5b, 50m. Climb the cracked slab then continue to the top of the great triangle.
- 4.5c, 55m. First pitch on the steep part of the wall, climb the twin cracked groove, pull left at the end.
- 5.5c, 50m. Climb the corner for a few metres, pull left, traverse left past the first right facing corner, climb the second one with tricky moves up the pale rock.
- 6.5c, 50m. Weave up cracks in the orange rock, belay a few metres below a roof and left of a diagonal chimney.
- 7.5b, 55m. Move up the right to gain the chimney, climb through the roof, climb in the same line to belay on the huge diagonal black dyke.
- 8.5c, 55m. Move right and up past corners to the obvious right facing corner. Climb this then the upper right facing corner, belay half way up this.
- 9.5b, 50m. Climb orange grooves and cracks to belay a right trending set of grooves.
- 10.5b, 60m. Climb the orange grooves rightwards.
- 11.5b, 55m. Continue up the groove, to a ledge then the steep triangular groove, step right and climb the steep left facing corner on big juggy flakes. Belay at the top of the corner on a good ledge.
- 12.4c, 30m. Step right and gain a big ledge, walk right and climb the flake crack in the corner to the summit.

Descent from the summit tower by 60m abseil, from here a different descent to previous teams was taken; walk towards the summit of the thumbnail, down climb the central ridge line, on 40m abseil into the gully on the left (looking out), a small amount of scrambling down gains the same descent as for the Thumbnail.

Mark, West face

Warmonger, 400m, E4/5 6a (6c+), 20/08/24 Callum Johnson, Simon Smith.

Orange rock on the left hand side of the West face. Start next to a cave created by a huge boulder leaning against the crag.



1.5c, 60m climb the wall, bold but easy to the wide left facing corner crack, climb this, pull right round a block to finish.

2.6a, 55m climb the groove to a ledge step left below the central corner, step left again to gain cracks and flakes. Pull past the right hand side of the roof on thin flakes, continue up and left to belay below the wide crack.

3.6a, 55m climb the wide crack and continuation groove, climb easy cracks on the left to a perch on the arete, climb the technical flake with hard to place protection to a pod. A couple more tricky moves lead to a good lay back flake.

4.5c, 50m. Traverse 10m left to the right facing corner, climb the corner to it's top.

5.5b, 60m. Continue straight up, a shallow right facing corner then short crystal covered slab. Continue directly up interesting corners, pull left to belay.

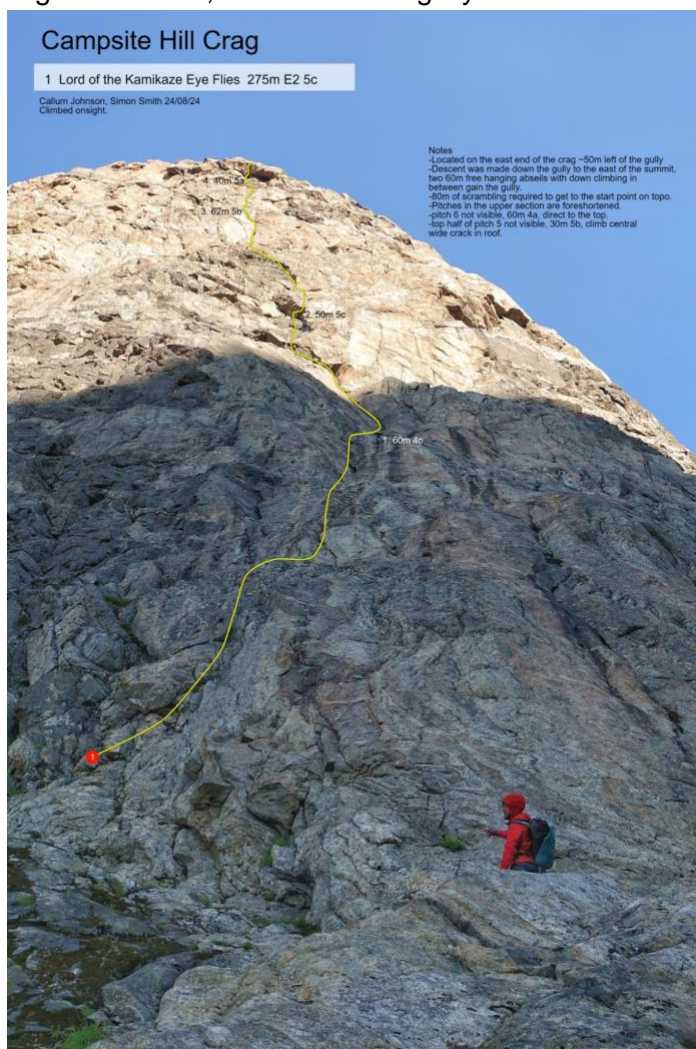
6.5a,60m continue directly up corners, flakes and slabs.

7.60m scramble to the summit plateau. Further scrambling could take you south to the true summit.

Descent was by scrambling/down climbing and abseiling to the north col.

Campsite hill crag.

Lord of the Kamikaze Eye Flies, E2 5c (6b), 275m. 24/08/24 Callum Johnson, Simon Smith. Right hand end, 50m left of the gully that bounds the RHS of the crag.



1.60m scramble

2.58m VS 4c, white flakes, good thin flakes crack in wall, step left, positive flake crack.

3.50m E2 5c, fantastic corner, pull left at roof then direct on jugs. Belay under next roof.

4.62m E1 5b, step right, climb flake cracks, follow the junction between black and white rock.

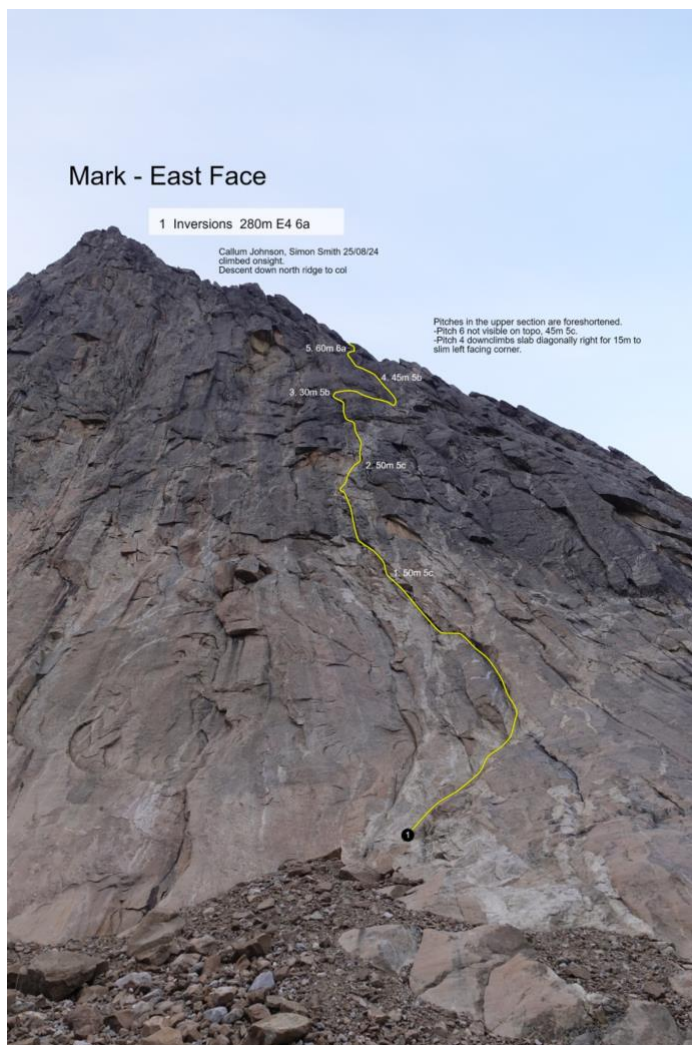
Pass a ledge with loose blocks carefully, pull steeply up the next wall. Ledge to peapod groove, belay at the top.

5.40m HVS 5a, flakes up the wall to below roofs.

6.30m E1 5b, central wide roof crack.

7.70m S, more easily direct to the top.

Descent from the summit was made into the gully on the east, down climbing and two steep 60m abseils.



Mark, East face.

Inversions, E4 6a (6c), 280m. 25/08/24 Callum Johnson, Simon Smith.

1.50m, 5c breach the glaciated lower third of the wall by climbing the steepening corner, belay on sloping ledge.

2.50m, 5c continue in the line of the corner, pull over the roof and up the continuation corner.

Carefully past loose flakes to a corner crack, belay above.

3.30m, 5b climb the flake crack to a sloping ledge, move left, climb the short left facing corner to another sloping ledge, move left and climb the flake in the corner for a few metres.

4.45m, 5b directly above the line peters out, climb the flake crack, place good cam, traverse right on a thin ledge then down climb the slab rightwards for 15m to gain a groove, climb up for 20m to belay on a sloping ledge below a corner.

5.60m, 6a, climb the flake in the right wall of the corner. Pull into the upper corner, continue until possible to pull right onto a ledge (rockfall scar) climb the technical flake. Belay awkwardly in the upper groove.

6.45m, 5c, continue up the technical corner for a few metres, pull right onto the ledge, follow easy corners to the top.

The Spire of Northern Fire

Spire of the Northern Fire
First ascent of the wall 21/08/24
Tim Miller & Miška Izakovičová

Come with me if you want
to climb E2 5b (6b) 150m

Bumcocks and
Peaches
E5 6c (7b) 220m

Aurora Arena
E4 5c (6c) 110m



Come with me if you want to climb - E2 5b (6b), 3 pitches, 150m

- 1.(5b) Cross the snow couloir at the highest point. Climb shattered rock beneath a small roof and turn this on the left. Follow the corner to belay on top of a large and distinctive block.
- 2.(5b) Continue up the corner and move left to a wider dihedral and then back right to climb an offwidth crack to a large ledge on the right.
- 3.(5b) Step back left around the arete and climb thin cracks then move up and left across a wall to climb easier cracks to finish on the top.

Aurora Arena - E4 5c (6c), 2 pitches, 110m

- 1.(5c) This route starts from the large ledge system 50m up on the right side of the face. You can access this by climbing the first 60 m of the route „Peaches and Bumcakes“. From here climb the short left facing corner to the right of „Peaches and Bumcakes“ to a small ledge. From there continue straight up the right facing corner and continue up the perfect crackline to the big ledge and belay on blocks.
- 2.(5c) Traverse right from belay and back left again to gain a wide flake crack right. Follow this steeply left above the belay to easier ground. Finish up the wall and final cracks to the top.

Peaches and Bumcakes – E5 6c (7b), 5 pitches, 220m

- 1.(5c) Cross the gully to an obvious orange right facing corner and climb this to the ledge system.
- 2.(6a) Climb up the left facing corners and pass big blocks to a higher ledge (the junction with Aurora Arena). From here take the right facing corner on the left to a small ledge behind a flake. Climb the offwidth crack in the corner to belay on a small slopy ledge below big blocks jammed in the corner.
- 3.(6c) climb up towards the blocks and place gear in a small crack on the right. Make strenuous lean across the corner to the right and place gear in the bottom of a crack that is starting to form there. Make a hard boulder problem move to gain this feature. The crack becomes a brilliant corner feature higher up. After 50m step up to the right out of the corner and belay on a ledge.
4. (5c) Step back left into the corner and climb this for 10m before traversing left on under clings to a steep hand crack. Follow the cracks up to the left and then back right again to the crest of the ridge.
- 5.(4c) Climb up to the right over a block and round the back of the summit pinnacle.

Mark, west face

Slow off the Mark - E4, 5c (6b+), 7 pitches, 300m

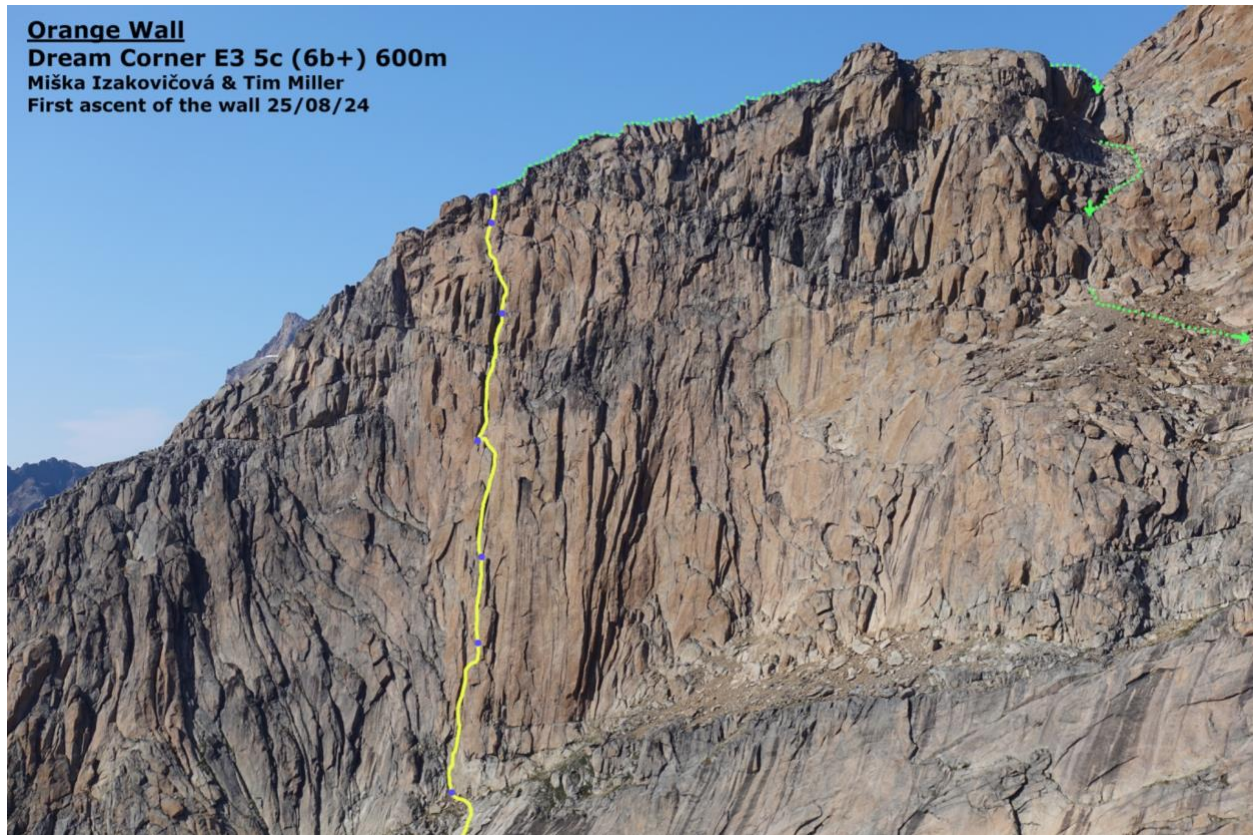
- 1.(5b) Climb the first pitch of Warmonger (finger crack variation to the right of the wide corner)
- 2.(5c) From the belay climb cracks up and right and follow these to a steeper cracked corner. At the top of this move up and right passing a large jammed block to a good ledge.
- 3.(5c) Continue up the crack system and then move left to climb a steep corner and belay after this.
- 4.(5c) Climb a thin crack and take a line diagonally up and leftwards across slabs to a corner. Belay above the corner under a yellow roof.
- 5.(5c) Climb up to the roof and pass it on the right and follow a corner system. Traversing left to another corner in the middle of the pitch. Belay after 60 m of climbing.
- 6.(5b) Climb up through the small roof and onto a big sloping ledge. From here move diagonally leftwards on easier ground over dark lichenous rock to a large sloping ledge system that runs across the top of the face.

This ledge system can be followed to the left to reach the blunt ridge which is used for descent.

Descent: Take the easiest line down to a final abseil onto the col.

The Orange Wall

Dream Corner – E3, 5c (6b+), 300m of VS (4c) to the base of the headwall, then 6 pitches/300m



- 1.(4a) Climb the easiest line up the lower slabs directly beneath the biggest part of the face above to a good ledge beneath a series of beautiful corners.
- 2.(5b) From the ledge climb right facing corner until you reach a big flake heading up and right. Climb this and a up a finger crack then belay on a small ledge at the bottom of 2 opposing corners.
- 3.(5b) Climb the right hand corner, move left to a wider crack and over a ledge to climb 10m up twin corners to belay on a small ledge at the base of the perfect corner feature.
- 4.(5c) Climb the immaculate corner to belay the big ledge up and left.
- 5.(5c) Climb the wide crack in the right facing corner Then the flake above to a ledge and further corner features to belay after 55m in the corner.
- 6.(5b) Continue up the corner, then follow easier ground up a ramp on the left until you reach a steep hand crack on the right wall and climb this to belay on a ledge.
- 7.(5b) Finish up the final corner above to the ridge crest.

Descent: Scramble along the ridge in a northeast direction until you reach a coll beneath the orange tower. Make a 30m abseil down to the southeast to a scree slope. Follow the slope to the bottom where you can make another 30m abseil to another slope. Head directly across this slope in a north easterly direction until you are above the glacial lake. Descent straight to the lake. Obligatory swim here in the lake!!!

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