



## **Uløytinden, East Face, NordFit; Historical Ascents on Uløytinden and Kägen**

Norway, Lyngen, Uløya Island and Vicinity

**In March, Maciej Janczar and Tomasz Klimczak (Poland), based at the Lyngen Outdoor Center, added another winter route to the east face of Uløytinden (1,115m) in the south of Uløya Island.**

Their 500m line climbs relatively straightforward snow and ice at WI3/4 to the plateau summit, where the cornices were small. Depending on conditions, the climbers stated, the route could be climbed in five or six hours. They found unconsolidated snow and belayed on rock outcrops using knifeblades. There was also plenty of strenuous digging, leading to the route name NordFit.

This is the third known route on Uløytinden. The second, Starless Spur, to the left of NordFit, was climbed in 2016 by Marcin Chmielinski, Klimczak, and me, but terminated below a huge summit cornice (AAJ 2017). I only found out about the first route up the east face recently.

About 15 years ago, Ståle Selnes Bjørkestøl, who lives in Oslo but has family in the Uløya region, set off in summer, together with a friend, for Skjelettinden (also known as Kua), the 930m rounded summit on the long east ridge of Uløytinden. They reached the top via the south flank above Isvannet Lake. The two continued along Uløytinden's east ridge until it steepened, where they made a long traverse onto the left flank before climbing a depression steeply back right to the summit plateau. Bjørkestøl also found some interesting bouldering on the island.

To the northeast of Uløya lies the island of Kägen. Near the southwest corner, at the back of a southeast-facing cwm, lie large northeast-facing rock walls that have been dubbed Valhalla. These walls rise as high as 500–550m. Again, I thought these were untouched until Bjørkestøl mentioned he had climbed a couple of routes there at a similar time he climbed Uløytinden's east ridge. With typical Norwegian reticence, Bjørkestøl noted that any detailed topos he made are long gone, but remembers that the climbs were Norwegian 5 and 6, belay ledges and anchors were easy to find, the views from both the wall and the top were awesome, and that there are definite possibilities for both easier and harder routes in this area.

Farther to the east of Uløya and Kägen, on the peninsula north of Oksfjordhamn, is an impressive toothed ridge, which we've dubbed Patagonia. There are no known ascents here either summer or winter.

– Artur Paszczak, Poland

## Images



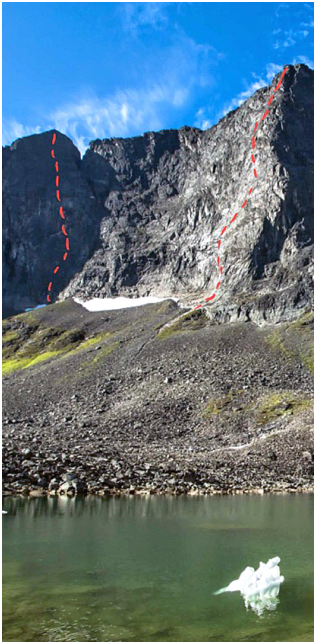
The walls of Valhalla in the south of Kägen Island.



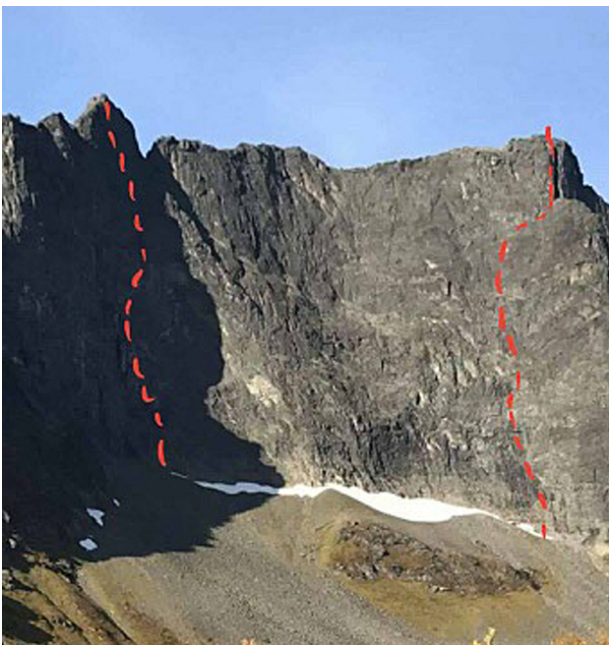
The walls of Valhalla in the south of Kägen Island.



The chain of towers dubbed Patagonia near Valanhamn on the peninsula north of Oksfjordhamn, as seen from the west. The highest summit, on the right, is around 1,150m. The highest walls on these peaks face northeast.



A view of the two routes climbed by Ståle Selnes Bjørkestøl and party in the early 2000s on the Valhalla walls in southern Kägen Island.



A view of the two routes climbed on the walls of Valhalla in southern Kägen Island in the early 2000s.





Bouldering near Storvika in northern Uløya.



Bouldering on an arch near Storvika in the northern part of Uløya.

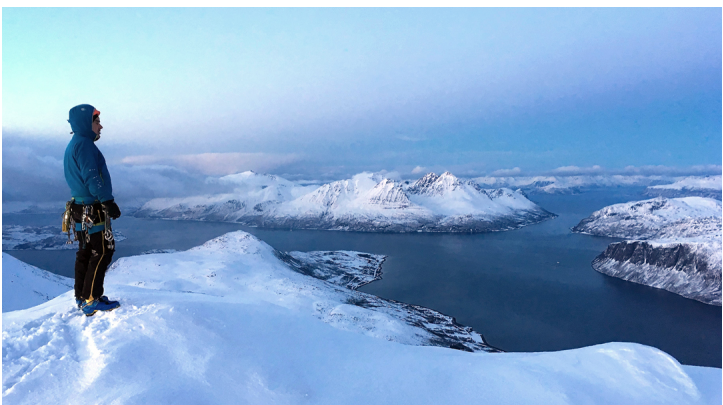




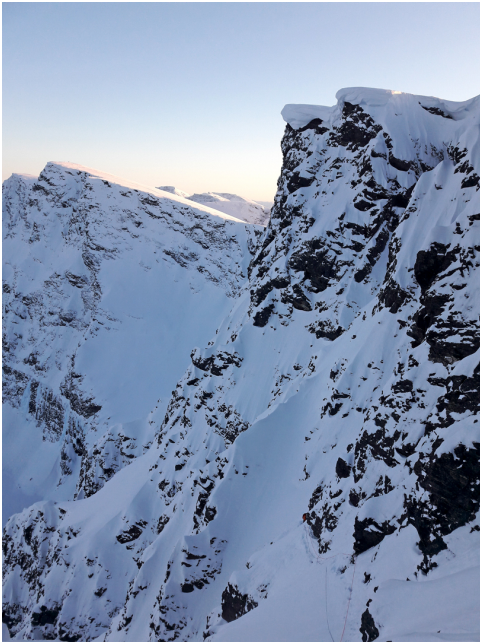
The line followed by Ståle Selnes Bjørkestøl and partner to make the first recorded ascent of the east face of Uløytinden in the early 2000s. Their route first climbed to the rounded summit of Skjelettinden above the blue waters of Isvannet Lake. The winter routes Nordfit and Starless Spur lie on the steep east face to the left of Bjørkestøl's upper route.



Maciej Janczar climbing an ice pitch during the first ascent of NordFit on the east face of Uløytinden in March 2018.



Maciej Janczar on top Uløytinden. To the northeast stands the island of Kägen; at the southern end, two neighboring, pyramidal summits, Maursuntinden (1,099m and 1,095 m), are clearly visible. Valhalla Wall faces these summits across the snowy cwm and is hidden in this picture.

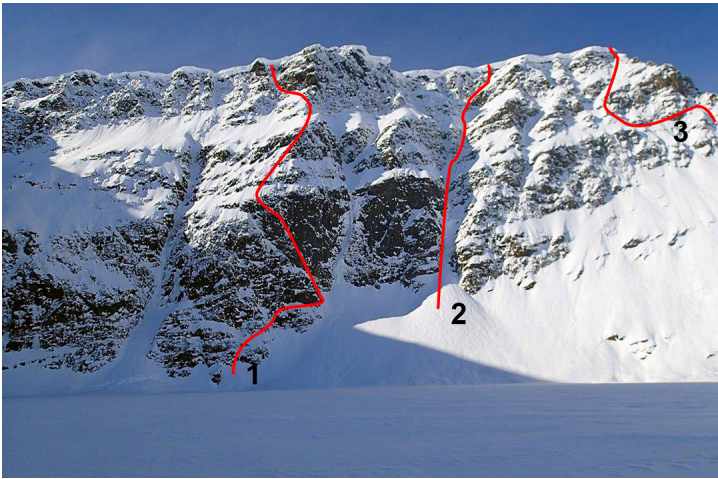


Looking south across the upper section of the east face of Uløytinden, where Tomasz Klimczak, on the first ascent of NordFit in March 2018, is making a long traverse right toward the top. Starless Spur (2016) climbs terrain behind the steep terminal buttress in the foreground.



Approaching the start of NordFit, the right of the two prominent couloirs. The left couloir is unclimbed, while Starless Spur (2016) climbs ground on or behind the left skyline.





The east face of Uløytinden with the lines of (1) Starless Spur (2016), (2) NordFit (2018), and (3) the upper section of the Bjørkestøl summer route (early 2000s).



The east face of Uløytinden with the lines of Starless Spur (left) and NordFit.



The chain of peaks dubbed "Patagonia" on the northeast side of the peninsula north of Oksfjordhamn.



## Article Details

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