



AAC Publications

Skillebugt Wall

Greenland, East Greenland, Renland

Looking northeast in 2015 from a base camp near the head of the Skillebugt Inlet. (1) Start of the 2015 Batoux-Oddo route. (2) Skillebugt Wall (2022). It is likely the rest of the rock visible in this picture is unclimbed. Photo by Philippe Batoux

I was the leader of a sailing and climbing expedition to Scoresby Sund, departing the west coast of Ireland at the end of June and returning two months later. We first sailed to Iceland, and when the ice cleared we continued to Scoresby Sund, where we explored climbing possibilities on the east side of Milne Land and southern coastline of Renland. The rock on Milne Land was very fractured and loose, so we turned our attention to the Skillebugt Inlet on Renland's southeast coast. This area has been frequented in the past but still has potential for new lines on the flanks of the inlet.

After a reconnaissance aimed at finding the least fragile rock, Sean Marnane and I climbed a southwest-facing route that we named Skillebugt Wall (9 pitches, British E2 5c). The route starts at an altitude of around 800m, at 71.2610833°N, 25.7053504°W, and is on a formation climbed by a different route in 2015 (see editor's note below).

We followed the line of best rock at mainly HVS, finishing late in the day on an exposed rib. This was well below the summit, which to reach would have taken another day's climbing through very complicated terrain. Descent along this rib was quite sketchy. We had to negotiate many large loose blocks before the angle steepened and we could rappel. At 2 a.m. we were back at the boat, having made full use of the midnight sun.

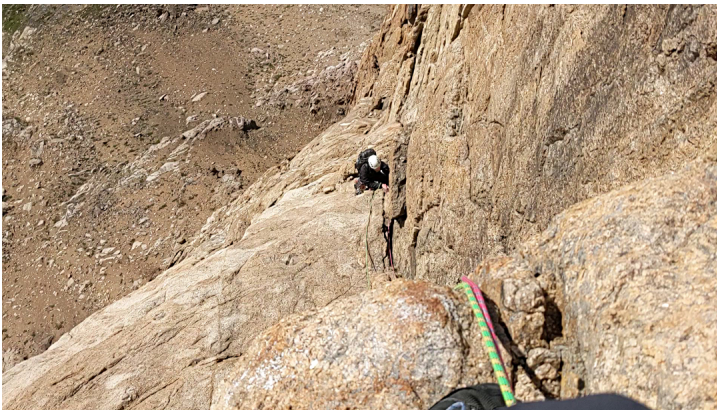
— Peter Owens, Ireland

Editor's Note: Many parties have entered Renland via Skillebugt Inlet, most moving further inland to climb objectives from the Apusinikajik and Edward Bailey glaciers. In 2009, while at a base camp at the head of the Skillebugt, Gerke Hoekstra and Martin Fickweiler climbed the 1,000m peak northeast of camp at UIAA IV, naming it Small Lion. In 2015, Philippe Batoux and Enzo Oddo, also camping near the head of the inlet, climbed the peak immediately above and north of their base camp via the 400m southeast ridge (6a). This is assumed to be the smaller, pointed peak south of Small Lion and was named Pointe de l'Observatoire. The same pair also climbed a 400m run-out 7a on what they called Pilier du Camp de Base. This ascends the steep wall around to the left of the exposed rib described by Peter Owens above. See AAJs 2010 and 2016.

Images



Looking northeast in 2015 from a base camp near the head of the Skillebugt Inlet. (1) Start of the 2015 Batoux-Oddo route. (2) Skillebugt Wall (2022). It is likely the rest of the rock visible in this picture is unclimbed.



Peter Owens during the first ascent of Skillebugt Wall.



The snout of the Apusinikajik Glacier at the head of Skillebugt Inlet, seen from Skillebugt Wall. The snowcapped peaks in the background lie north of the start of the Edward Bailey Glacier. The two pointed rock peaks in the foreground are most likely Pointe de l'Observatoire (left) and Small Lion, climbed in 2015 and 2009, respectively.



The formation called the Pilier du Camp de Base by a 2015 French team, with (1) the Batoux-Oddo route (2015) and (2) Skillebugt Wall (2022). The arrow points to the descent of an exposed rib following the 2022 ascent.



Looking up the side glacier just north of Skillebugt Wall. The two pointed rock peaks are most likely Pointe de l'Observatoire (nearest the camera), climbed in 2015, and Small Lion, climbed in 2009. The 2015 expedition also climbed a wall further up this glacier and off picture to the right.



A telephoto of Sean Marnane and Peter Owens in the middle of Skillebugt Wall.

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