



The southeast face of Los Capitanos on south Greenland's Pamiagdhluk Island, showing (1) Easy or Squeezy and (2) Aquasky. Right: Gabor Berecz leading, Toni Lamprecht belaying pitch 18 on Easy or Squeezy. *Thomas Tivadar*

*Pamiagdhluk Island, South Greenland, first ascents.* The Greenland Bigwall Expedition spent six weeks between the end of July and September in South Greenland. Our aim was to push the complex limits in one bigwall route without bolts. Accordingly we had a team of four strong climbers with different specialties, from 5.14 sportclimbers to multiweek A4-A5 Himalayan big wall climbers, and everything between. The four Munich-based members were: Gabor Berecz (45), Günter Dengler (32), Toni Lamprecht (30), and myself (41).

After a complicated journey—without helicopter!—to the islands of South Greenland, we made a three-day tour in our small raftboat from Aaplagtoq to find good, high, untouched walls. We found the best choice with bad Greenland weather to be the 1,100-meter southeast face of a 1190m “new” mountain we named Los Capitanos, on the island Pamiagdhluk. After transporting our equipment to the island we built our base camp in the “Antonio Valley” approximately an hour walk to the face. Nice and very stormy weather alternated every two to

three days. We did everything by ourselves, without any help of tour agencies, ships, helicopter, and satellite-telephones. We told nobody where we were.

For the first route we climbed a free line at the highest part of the over two-kilometer-wide face. We worked with fixed ropes because of the stormy weather; all together we spent seven days on the route. We made the top by a polar storm and rappelled down in heavy waterfalls by night. The 28-pitch climb has excellent granite and we called it Aquasky (VI 5.11).

In the following six days we climbed in extraordinarily good weather a 25-pitch route we called Easy or Squeezy, by some hard “limit pushing” parts without drilling (VI 5.12b A4c). At the end we climbed the trio Berecz-Lamprecht-Tivadar, a shorter alpine route on the north-west-shoulder of the peak Frenchbird (Kaemplelade 8pt. III 5.10b).

The goal of our expedition was to not use bolts in our climbs. The protection was always traditional. We just left on our rappel line between the two climbs a single 8mm bolt each 60 to 100 meters. Our climb was supported by the DAV and the Sektion Bayerland.

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## EAST GREENLAND

*Trillergerne Mountains, Fox Jaw Cirque, Tasiilaq Fjord.* The Fox Jaw Cirque lies seven kilometers beyond the head of the Tasiilaq (a.k.a. Ammassalik) Fjord, ca 80 km from the settlement of Tasiilaq. Leaving Reykjavik in Iceland on June 23, Katy Holm, Andrea Kortello, Dave Thomson, and I arrived in Tasiilaq four days later after sailing with the French-owned yacht, *Vagabond*. After some final shopping, *Vagabond* took us to the head of the Fjord and we spent the next week reconnoitering the area. We decided to make the East Trillergerne Peak, which lies north of the Fox Jaw Cirque, our first climbing objective.

From our valley base camp we accessed the Trillergerne peaks by ascending a terminal moraine for ca 300 meters, then continuing up the ridge until we were below the north side of the Fox Jaw Cirque. Here, we crossed a glacier to the peaks. We climbed the western peak to the first ledge system, then traversed across this to reach our peak. At this point we rapped straight down, fixing lines as we went. Next day we re-ascended to our high point and continued scrambling for ca 100 meters, after which the climbing became moderate. With eternal Arctic daylight we continued through the “night” and reached the summit at 3:00 p.m. on July 16. We feasted on breathtaking views of glacier-fed fjords and numerous virgin summits. The route was rappelled and the glacier reached after 44 hours of non-stop climbing. We christened it Lithographic (16 pitches, 5.10 A0).

Katy, Andrea, and Dave next went into the Fox Jaw Cirque. Their chosen objective was not to be taken lightly. After five days working the route they had still not been able to free the first pitch. A shower of rain brought them back to camp. Two days later we all returned to the cirque. On our second day back Katy freed the pitch. At this point Dave left for Canada. On August 2 we decided to “go for the top.” By midnight, after consistently demanding climbing, we reached an impassable roof. This, and the return in August of some night-time darkness forced a decision to descend. This partially completed route has nine pitches up to 5.11c and A0.

We returned to the Trillergerne peaks for our final climb. Starting our ascent as before, we continued up on the western peak. Carrying a tarp and a stove we aimed for a patch of snow about halfway to the summit. Initially we hoped to climb all the way to the top but by the second