

Vertical adventures on Sermersoq island



Greenland

from july 17 to august 1st 2022

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We set foot on Greenlandic soil for the first time on July 12 on the tarmac of the modest Narsarsuaq airport. The project was to rockclimb and maybe open new routes in the famous Tasermiut fjord. The general disorganization of air transport in this 2022 summer have decided otherwise.

Our luggages, containing all the necessary equipment for climbing and bivouacking, were forgotten in Copenhagen airport by Air Greenland. Despite their absence, we continue our journey by boat to reach the small town of Nanortalik lost at the southern end of Greenland.

It will take 5 days of waiting and numerous, often chaotic, exchanges with the airline to receive our precious cargo. We take advantage of this lost time to boulder, get bored and consult the topos of the tourist office. It was during this search for information that we came across the report of a 2003 English expedition on the island of Sermersoq. According to this report, the rock is excellent and much remains to be done, the island having seen only a few visits in its entire history. Moreover, the west coast of the island seems to have never been frequented by climbers. Even more incredible, the south face of Savtakkerne, the main summit of the island, perfectly visible from Nanortalik, is virgin.

We decide to change our plans and try the adventure on Sermersoq.

On July 16, things suddenly accelerated. The information falls: our luggages will arrive the next day by boat. No time to lose, we go to the supermarket to buy provisions for 15 days and organize the transfer to the island by boat thanks to José, a friendly Spanish guy we met the same day . On the 17th, we are alone in the world on the west bank of Sermersoq.

On the 18th, we walke for 2 hoursloaded wtih too heavy bags and set up base camp on a small grassy flat not far from the south face of Savtakkerne. What a blast! The landscape is amazing. The island is full of granite walls between 200m and 600m height. The rock is excellent and easy to proctect.

During the 15 days spent on site, we manage to open 6 new routes including 3 major ones (la vie en mieux, la 4eme dimension and crakage). We exceeded our wildest dreams!

All was not idyllic, however:

- summer remains timid in Greenland, a down jacket is often a must,
- there are a lot of mosquitos (must take a hat with mosquito nets and repellent),
- do not count on fishing to eat (surprisingly, no fish in the rivers and lakes of the island. This have earned us a nice "dry" during the stay!).

Usefull informations :

price of the trip by boat to island from Nanortalik: 1500 DKK in all with José

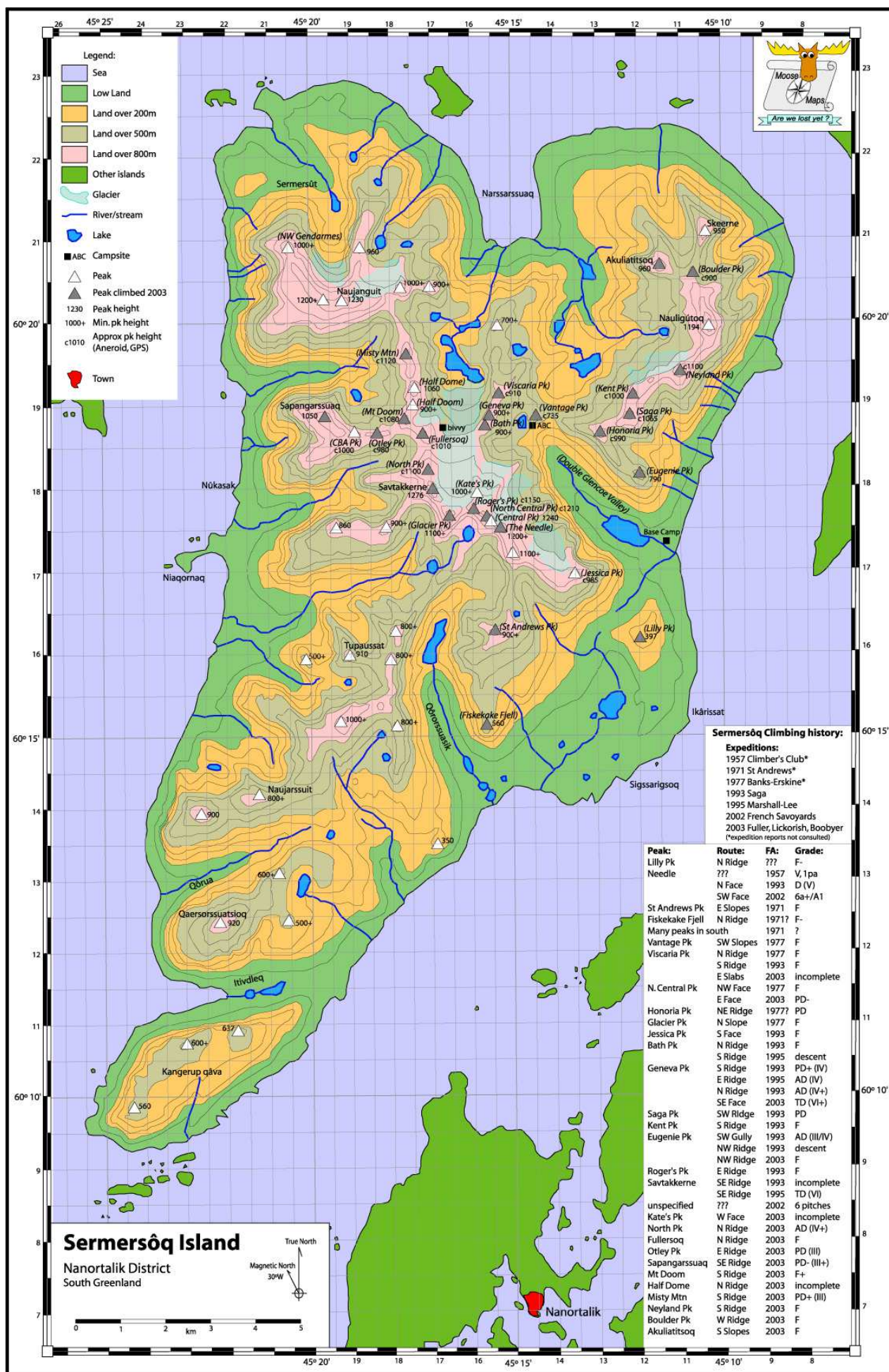
José rents tents, stoves and he runs a youth hostel in Nanortalik (cheapest accommodation in the area 300 DKK/pers).

His number: +299295246

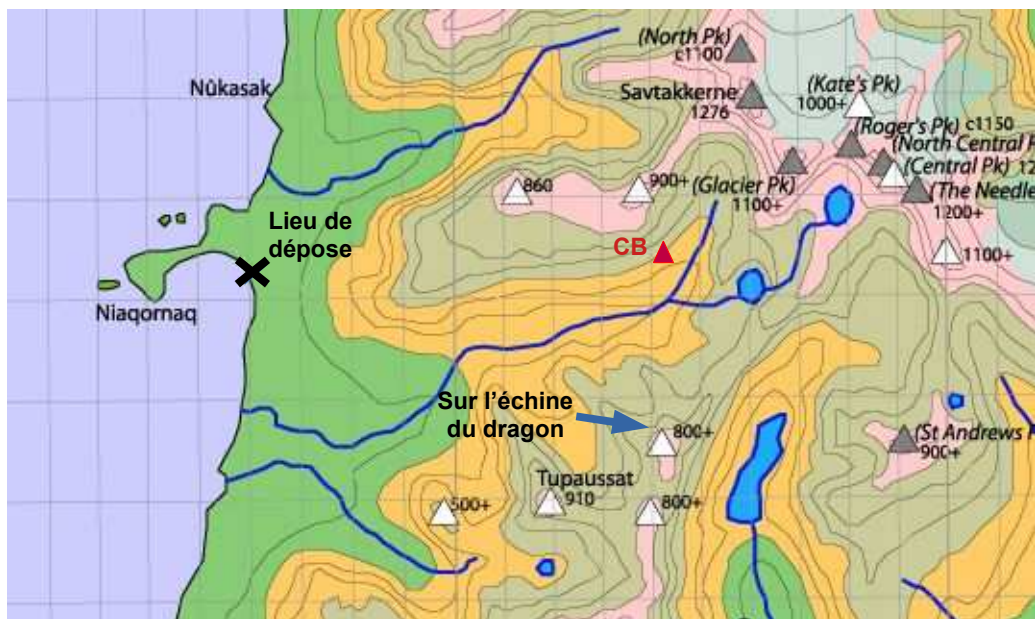
His insta: josetrejo404

Maps of Sermersôq :

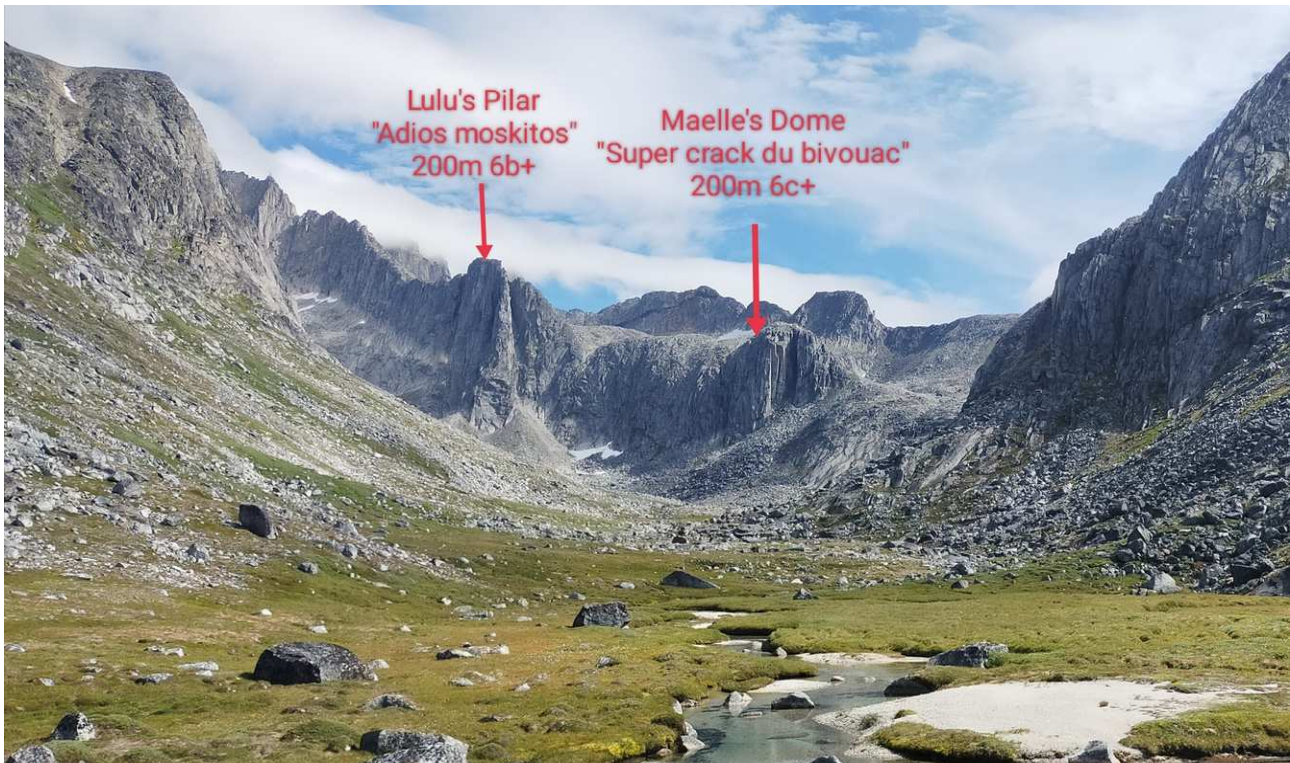
Map realised by the 2003 English expedition :



Map of our adventures :



Topos of our routes :



Supercrack of the bivouac 200m 6c+ 07/18/2022

P1: 20m 6a go up the crack/dihedral, belay on platform on the left

P2: 40m 6b/6b+ go right 3m then go up in the black dihedral (a stuck red camalot) then follow the crack to a grassy niche on the right where you belay

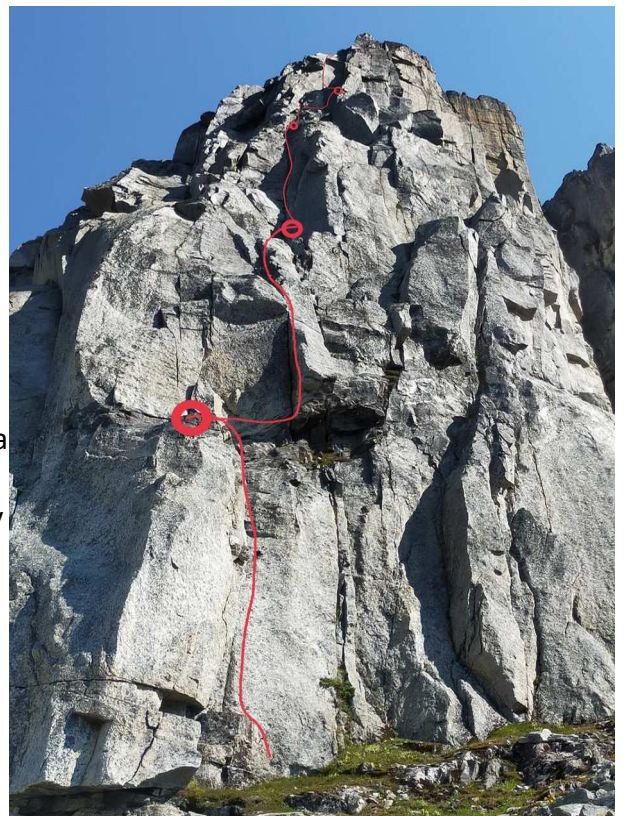
P3: 55m 6a+ go up the crack on the left then the large evident dihedral on the right. belay at a black slab

P4: 25m 6a go up the fine crack above the belay then traverse to the right to take the obvious crack. belay on a terrace on the right

P5: 40m 6c/6c+ go up the splitter on the left of the belay then continue in the crack

P6: 50m 5c climb uphill to the left to a dihedral then easy.

Obvious descent on foot



Adios moskitos 200m 6b+
07/19/2022

P1: 60m 6a+ go up a slab with a double crack as best you can, belay on a terrace to the right at the foot of an obvious dihedral.

P2: 50m 6a+ dihedral above then dihedral to the right. Belay on a beautiful mossy terrace.

P3: 25m 6a continue in the dihedral/ramp then traverse to the left on a small ledge. Belay on a small terrace at the foot of a dihedral

P4: 45m 6b+ go up the dihedral above the belay then the one on the right. Come up to a small roof and escape to the left. Belay on a small terrace

P5: 50m 6a go straight up to the summit.

Descent: From the summit, follow the ridge north to a non-descending wall. From there, go back 20 meters and find a small ledge on the east side (lake side). Follow her to a rappel ring. Rappel of 30 m then descent on foot.



La vie en mieux (the better life) 600m 6a+ and A1
07/21/2022

P1 to P4: go up the base as best you can starting from the left of the face to reach the left edge of the large suspended snowfield. 3/3+ over 4 lengths of 60m.

P5: V 60m traverse to the right for 10m to recover a crack that goes diagonally to the left. Follow it for 4 lengths of 50/60m to belay on white rock terraces.

P9 to P12 go up a succession of cracks and dihedrals to reach the foot of the large dihedral in the middle of the face. Set of V and a step of 6a.

P13: 20m escape from the large dihedral by a small ledge to the right and grooves 6a+ and A1 to recover a dihedral crack on the edge of the pillar.

P14: 25m V climb above to reach a beautiful terrace.

P15: 35m 6a+ follow the left thread of the pillar, superb. belay on terrace

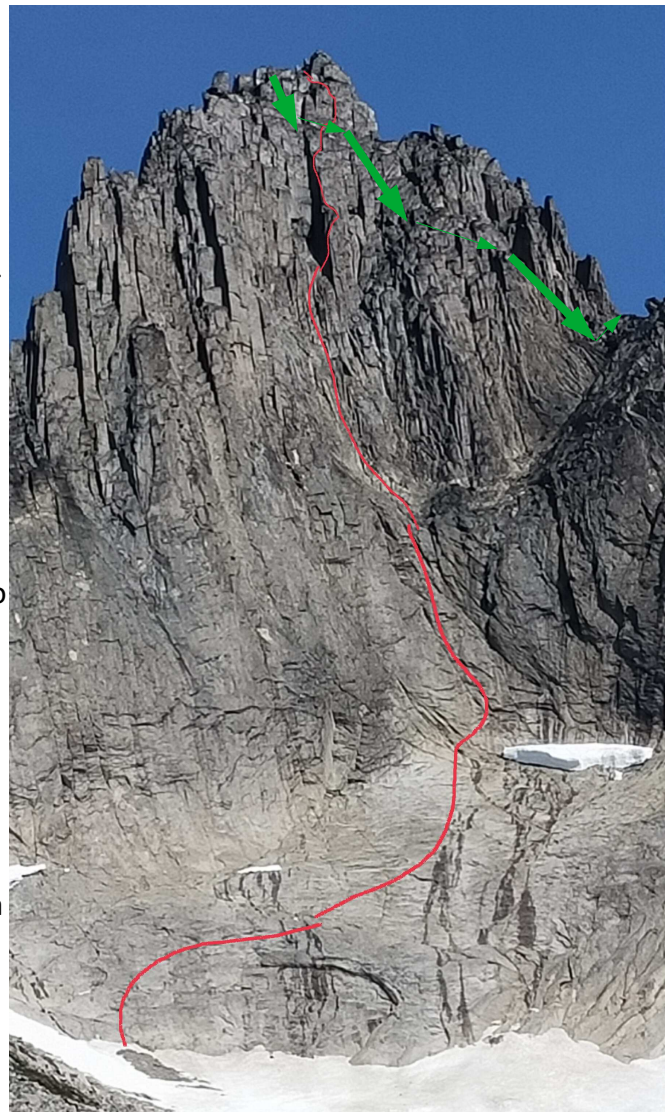
P16: 35m V go to the right and go up towards the summit via dihedrals

P17: 50m 6a + go up above via terraces and take a steep cracked dihedral

Go easily to the left to reach the large terrace under the summit. Camp ****

Descent:

Descent alternating downclimbing/abseiling on the south face by pulling frankly towards the east edge (rappels in place but provide rings of cords). Once the ridge is reached at the level of a small pass, easy descent on the north face to a 40m abseil that leads to the glacier. Cross it towards the pass located between Glacier Peak and Roger's Peak (crampons may be useful). From this pass, easy descent on foot to the base camp passing by 2 lakes. Count 4/5 hours in all.



La 4eme dimension 475m 7a

07/23/2022

P1: 50m 5c follow the crack obliquely to the right, perpendicular to the large dihedral

P2: 50m 6a+ start above in a wet crack then switch quickly to the one on the right. End in a small corner in dulfer.

P3: 60m 6b+/6c go up the large dihedral. Gorgeous. Belay on small terrace.

P4: 30m 5c go up the big crack then the small crack to the left of the large flake. Belay on small step

P5: 55m 7a start in the crack on the left. cross under a small roof to recover a nice crack. Continue inside. Belay above a stuck block.

P6: 60m 6a+ go up the crack on the right then continue in the dihedral, pull slightly to the left at the level of a large boulder in balance. Relay on a beautiful terrace.

P7: 60m 5c+ start again in the crack to the right of the belay then continue in the cracks pulling slightly to the left. Relay on beautiful platform.

P8: 50m 6a+ start in the offwidth and climb above. Belay on a beautiful terrace

P9: 50m 6b start above the belay then take an obvious flared dihedral, pull slightly to the right above. Belay on terrace.

P10: 25m 6a+ climb above to the summit



Descent: From the summit, reach the glacier and then cross it towards the pass between glacier peak and Roger's peak (crampons may be useful). From this pass, easy descent on foot to the base camp passing by 2 lakes.

Crakage 400m 6c+ et A1+

07/28/2022

P1: 4+ 60m Follow the crack obliquely to the right.

P2: 6b 40m go up 15m in the crack then overcome a delicate and exposed slab on the left to reach a large dihedral above. Belay in the dihedral.

P3: 45m 6a exit the dihedral on the right then continue by the slabs to arrive on a ledge under a roof bar.

P4: 45m 6a+/b go up a crack then an expo slab to reach the small overhanging bar on which you cross full right until you reach some slips. From there, go straight up the slabs.

P5: 45m 5c+ go up the expo slabs above then arrive at a white area (recent landslide) to continue it a little above. Belay on a small ledge

P6: 60m 6b+/c go up the thin crack obliquely to the left then straight up to a ledge. From there, continue above by a thin crack (1 peg in place) then by a chimney . Climb a little further to belay on a terrace at the foot of a small dihedral.

P7: 60m 6c+ start in the slab on the left then go up a crack/corner which leads to a ledge. From there, go up the thin crack which becomes wide at the end. Relay on a small step.

P8: 30m 6a go up the crack above then follow it to the right. Belay under a steep black dihedral.

L9: 40m A1+ and 6a+ go up the fine crack in artificial climbing. Once out of the dihedral, go on the right to reach a beautiful terrace. Belay under a breach/black chimney.

P10: 30m 5b go up the chimney, cross the terrace to reach the final W facet. Belay on a step

P11: 25m 6c go up the wide crack (camalots n°4 and n°5) to the summit

Descent: equipped abseils (provide cord) on the south ridge via the Dibonaland route.



Sur l'échine du dragon 275m 6b
07/30/2022

P1: 50m 6b start in the clear dihedral directly under the gray dihedral with the big crack. Go up it then pull slightly to the left to reach the big crack. Relay in the big crack at the level of a small niche

L2: 55m V+ go up the big crack. Belay under a small roof.

P3: 55m V go right in the slab to join the big crack and go up it. Belay left on ledge

P4: 50m V take the big crack then the dihedral to the left and follow the little roof to get out. Go up the ridge and belay.

P5: 50m V go up the ridge on the left, follow the crack in the slab. When it disappears, go down to the right (downclimb to reach the large dihedral on the right). Belay on a terrace.

P6: 50m V go down to reach the large dihedral on the right. Pull it up. Belay on a terrace.

P7: 70m IV go up in the dihedral crack above then continue to exit on the summit ridge.



Descent: From the summit descend slightly on the south face and follow the ridge west to a small pass (cairn). From there, switch back to the north face and descend via a system of ledges (delicate rock) until you reach the small glacier at the foot of the face.