

Stirling University Eastern Greenland Mountaineering Expedition

Sermiligaaq Fjord, Kuumit, 2025



Benjamin Toole
Megan Cumming
Dylan Coker
Rosie Aldridge



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1. Expedition Summary and Achievements

The 2025 expedition to the Sermiligaaq fjord area was carried out by a four-person team composed of Dylan Coker, Benjamin Toole, Rosie Aldridge, and Megan Cumming. We departed Glasgow on the 27th of July 2025, flying via Keflavík, Iceland, and arriving in Kulusuk, on the east coast of Greenland.

Base camp was established at Rodin Bay on 31st July, marking the beginning of a 23-day field period. During this time, as a team we put up various climbing first ascents in the area and undertook sampling for the global atmospheric plastic survey on areas of the surrounding glaciers, operating entirely self-sufficiently.

Our original objectives situated further up the Kaarali glacier to the North west, proved to be largely inaccessible due to large distances of impassable or dangerous marine terminating glaciers, the time of year increasing the risk of very open crevasses. Similarly this objective would require many days of stable weather - which didn't come - due to the long approach and length of the route. Instead we focused on areas of rock to the immediate North of our basecamp at 66.084906, -36.600279 which proved to be extremely fruitful, and didn't require us to bivi with some unstable weather forecasts.



1.1 Climbing overview:

We spent a number of days scouting the area and getting a feel of the terrain, rock quality and possible descent routes before climbing first on the western face of peak 1300 tucked away above a small cirque glacier to the back of a large, river dominated valley behind our basecamp (66°08'26"N 36°33'08"W).

We nicknamed the face "*the mini Mojito*" largely because of its large and rising shape in between two the higher summits. Dylan and Rosie climbed "*Under an Arctic sky*", a 7 pitch route moving through a variety of slabs and chimneys on the right hand middle of the face, leading up to a notch and summit ridge, which was given a grade of HVS 5a.

Ben and Megan climbed "*The golden snack snatcher*" on the far left hand side of the mini mojito face, a 5 pitch route to the right of a deep cut chimney, leading through a variety of cracks, roofs, slabs and crossing rightwards over sections of gully to an abseil point, which was given a grade of HVS 5b.

Dylan and Rosie abseiled down from the summit to meet Ben and Megan further below in the gully separating the "*Mojito*" and "*mini Mojito*" where 6 abseils led out and rightwards to the bergschrund at the



ase of the rock (8th Aug).



On the next good weather day we headed up the Glacier to the west to scout the back of the massif, with all four of us eventually climbing on the slabs on the East Spur of the summit behind our camp (66°06'48"N 36°32'36"W).

Megan and Dylan climbed "*Pink Panther*" together linking up cracks and up the main face, moving over a variety of ribs and broken slabs leading to a ridge crest. This was given a grade of AD 5a and linked at the top to where Ben and Rosie were climbing a few hundred metres to their right, tracing a line more direct up the spur.



They followed a line of moderate scrambling on the bottom half, linking to immaculate higher slabs on the right of a long gully line, named "*Captain Chapati*" and given AD- 4. The rock was an excellent compact and enjoyable granite, with the angle too slack to provide any particularly difficult climbing.



The descent was all possible on foot and without the need for ropes, heading from the summit north to a loose col, and from there traversing into the corrie on a small cirque glacier, following this down onto the moraine and into basecamp (8th Aug).

Later on in the expedition (18th Aug), Ben and Megan climbed another new line on the slabs "*Pete from the peak's variation*" which followed a similar line to that of Pink panther, starting just to the left, and finishing on the summit ridge at a grade of VS 4c.

Dylan and Rosie ventured further up the valley containing the "*Mojito*" to a higher col to search for good rock, to which disappointingly they failed to find, however were able to

complete a 23km loop of the main rock massif at a grade of F, and undertook nanoplastic sampling on sections of glacier.



On the final day of the trip (Aug 20), Megan and Dylan headed up early to climb the excellent ‘Deep Fried Pancake Sunday’. The glacial approach was slippier than anticipated after starting earlier than usual, but fortunately passable. The route was climbed quickly and they were down at camp by 1700. Rosie and Ben headed up into the glacier to the west of camp and had an enjoyable time ice climbing in the crevasses.

The following day we packed down our camp, were picked up by boat and taken back to Kulusuk on the 21st of August.

1.2 Our main objectives:

Our original objectives ended up being rather ambitious and potentially achievable. We had been looking to climb one of the ‘Triplets’ which are usually accessed from the Fox’s Jaw. Ignorantly, we dismissed the 18km glacial approach, although we quickly realised that this length of journey across

such crevassed terrain would take days. Our other main objective was Rytterknaegten, which unfortunately we never ended up seeing. The routes we climbed were connected to it, but the rock proved so chossy that we never ventured up to what we had originally planned.

The main takeaways from this were our lack of experience translating google earth imagery into the actual world, especially in such a new environment. Everything was much further than we had anticipated, we moved much slower than we had thought and it was all a lot steeper than we had hoped. This, in combination, with the largely poor rock meant that we never really attempted any of our objectives. Despite this, the routes we did manage to climb were of high quality and gave us an incredible taste of Mountaineering within this region of East Greenland.



2.Team members

Benjamin Toole (22)

I've just finished my degree and am working full time at Cotswold Outdoor back home, scheming my return to Scotland when the temperatures drop to be f-unemployed once more. I spent four years at the University of Stirling, where I threw myself into winter climbing and becoming hopelessly addicted to all things ice axes. Since then, I've spent a few seasons in the Alps and had the opportunity to compete in the Continental and World ice climbing Cups around the world. Currently, my favorite days are long alpine routes, around D, moving quickly, ideally with an ice axe in hand. I'm not the best summer climber, a VS weekend warrior for sure, but I enjoy grovelling up some harder stuff in winter.

Favourite snack of the trip: tinned pineapple.

Most missed thing: music - my spotify corrupted :(

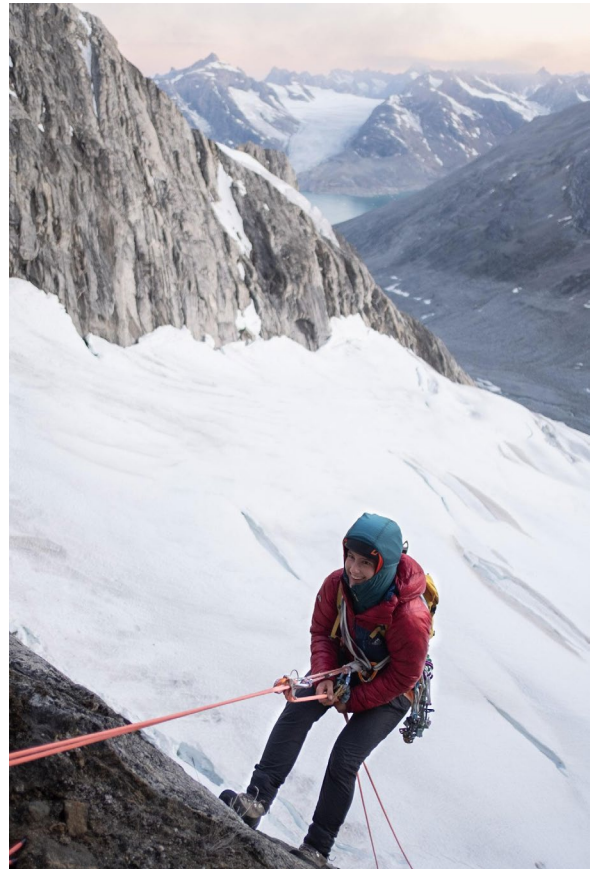


Megan cumming (21)

I am a graduate of Stirling university and spend all my free and working time doing some sort of outdoor activity, whether that be climbing, paddling or running about the hills. I have just spent the last year living in Ireland where I was exploring all it has to offer! I started climbing through the uni mountaineering club and have been hooked since. My favorite type of climbing is summer trad routes, especially those in the mountains or sea cliffs, currently leading around hvs/E1.

Favourite snack- the mega trail mix

Most missed thing- choccy milk



Rosie Aldridge (22)

I began climbing after spending two years living in the Lake District and Bernese Oberland region of Switzerland, which formed my love for all things rock and alpine climbing related.

I'm currently an Environmental Geography student at the University of Stirling, where I take every advantage I can to be out in the hills. I currently climb around VS multipitch, and love long mountaineering routes, the sense of remoteness, and the ever changing conditions which climbing in Scotland year round involves. I find that this pairs well with my interest in natural landscapes and gives me a heightened understanding and experience from both passions.



Favorite snack of the trip: Pancakes on a Sunday with applesauce and sugar

Most missed thing: More things to read and listen to - you can easily underestimate how fast you get through books and music

Dylan Coker (20)

I'm currently at Stirling University studying international politics. I've been fortunate enough to have been climbing my whole life as well as many other outdoor pursuits. Although I have never really taken it too seriously and have steered away from the competitive side of it. I currently climb around E1 multi pitch in the UK and have a couple of seasons experience in the alps climbing rock routes at TD and more alpine stuff at D.



Favourite Snack - Jerky

Most missed thing - A warm sleeping bag - it was not 8degrees at night.

3. Travel and accommodation

We gathered in Stirling on the 25th of July for final preparations; staying at Rosie's flat to pack, organise gear, buy food which we could fly out with us, and go over the last logistics. On the morning of the 27th, the team assembled at Glasgow airport with Rosie and Ben being dropped off with all of the bags, and Dylan and Megan travelling by bus.

We flew from Glasgow to Keflavík, Iceland, on the 27th of July with Icelandair and stayed at a nearby Airbnb. Our original onward flight to Kulusuk, scheduled for the 28th, was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. Iceland air subsequently provided accommodation for the night in Reykjavik along with an airport transfer. We flew into Kulusuk on the 29th of July, from there, we immediately took a local boat transfer to Tasiilaq, using the company Arctic Dream.



In Tasiilaq, we stayed at the Red House campsite whilst completing our final shopping and logistics. This included chartering a boat north to Rodin Bay, getting safety equipment such as a firearm, flares, and collecting our fuel supply.

We were picked up by boat from Rodin Bay on the 21st of August and spent the night in a small Airbnb within the town before beginning our return journey to Glasgow later the next evening.

Whilst the expedition was overall a success, both the outbound and return legs of the journey were impacted by weather-related delays. Our initial flight from Keflavík to Kulusuk was cancelled due to poor weather conditions, resulting in a one-day delay in Iceland. On our return, worsening forecasts for 23rd August prompted us to reschedule our Kulusuk–Keflavík flight to the 22nd, our original flight was subsequently cancelled due to adverse weather.



3.1 Baggage Discrepancy

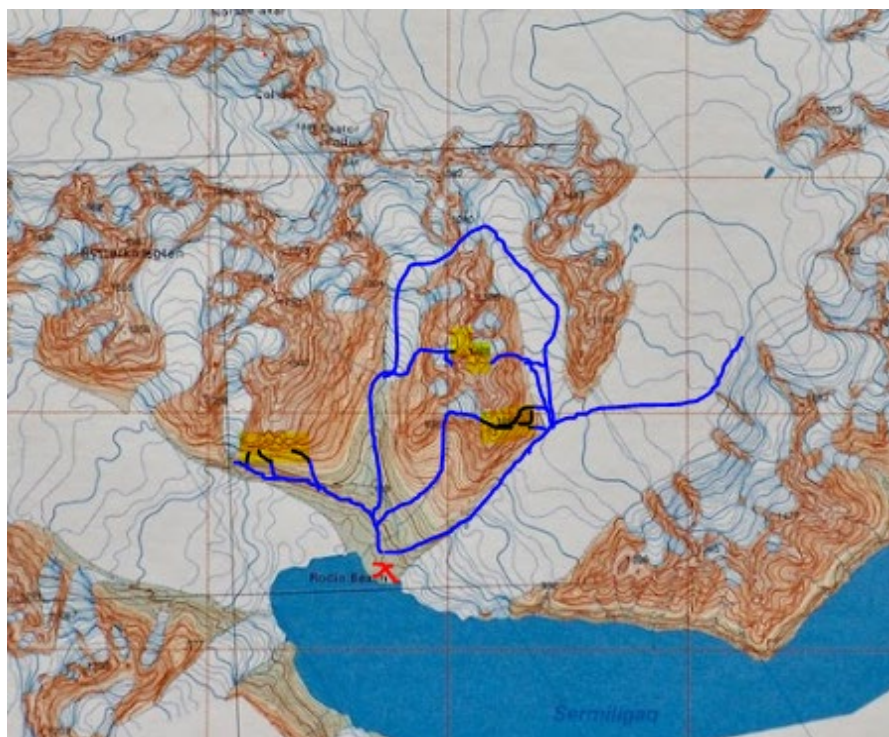
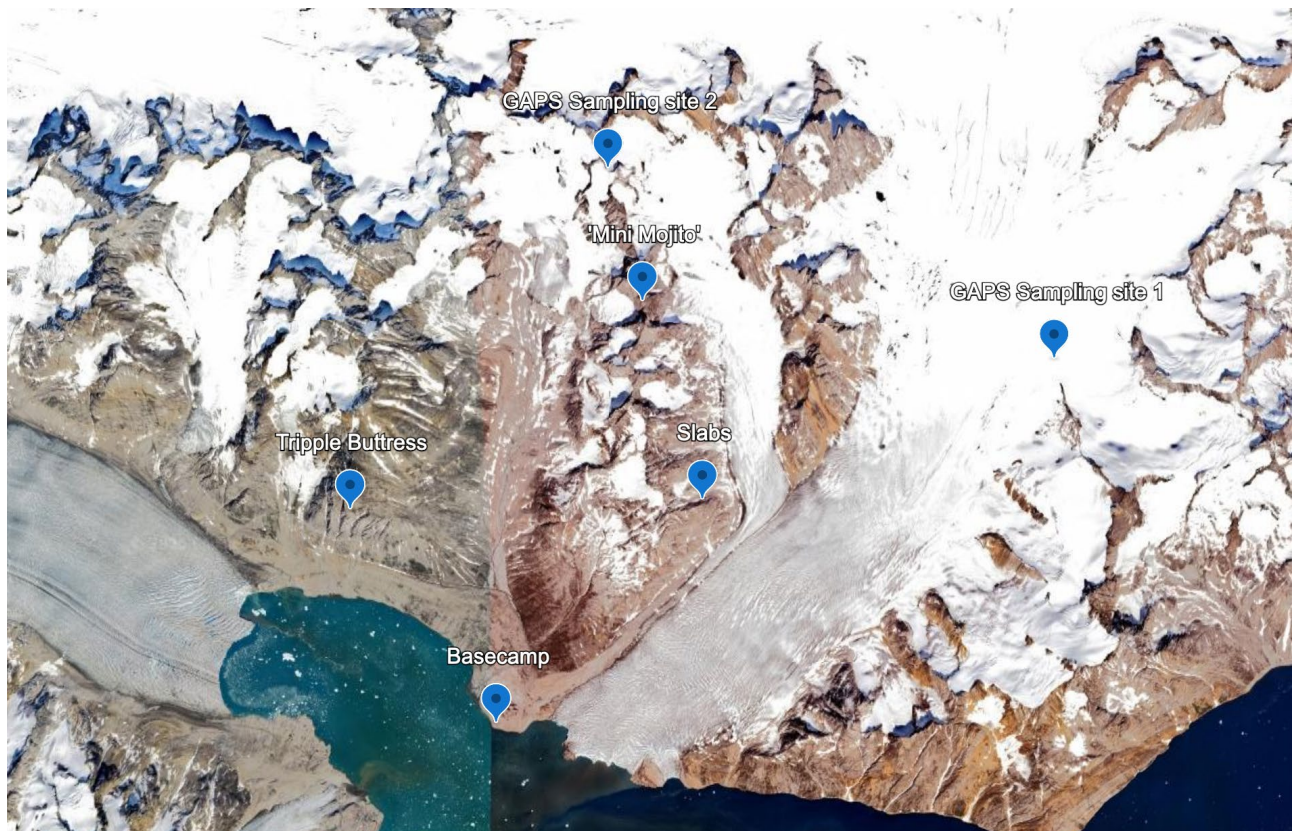
The flight from Kulusuk back to Keflavík operated under different conditions than our outbound leg, reduced hand luggage allowance. Whereas Icelandair allowed 10 kg of carry-on baggage when flying outbound and had no scales at the gate to even check this, the return flight from Kulusuk limited us to 6 kg of hand luggage per person. As well as this, the ‘personal item’ which we had used our day packs for (16-30L bags) on the outbound, were limited to fanny bags or tiny purses etc. We ended up wearing loads of layers through the small security and immediately took them off again. The ‘weighing’ of the bags was just a man lifting the carry on so just a very rough test. The flight was also completely full on the return leg, which likely contributed to the stricter weight enforcement, but the 6kg rule is always applied apparently.

4. Calendar

25/07	Gather in Stirling, finish admin and organise bag transport/ packing logistics	10/07	Climb attempt
26/07	Last prep	11/07	Rest
27/07	flew from GLA to KEF and landed in some wet weather. Stayed the night in an airbnb near the airport which was the cheapest accommodation we could find.	12/07	Poor weather
28/07	Our flight from KEF to KUS was cancelled, Iceland air provided us with accommodation and airport transfers for the next day.	13/07	Poor weather
29/7	flew from KEF to KUS in the morning, arrived in Greenland, and then took the first boat to Talisaaq.	14/07	Climbing attempt/ Nanoplastic Sampling
30/07	Completed our final food shop and organised fuel, boat logistics with the Red House, and hiring of firearms	15/07	Rest day/ poor weather
31/07	Boat Ride from Talisaqq to Rodin Bay, set up our basecamp area and tripwires	16/07	Poor weather
1/08	Scouting day behind basecamp up towards "mojito"	17/07	Poor weather
2/08	Rest day, poor weather	18/08	Climbing on slabs/ Nanoplastic sampling
3/08	Rest day, poor weather,	19/08	Rest day

	laundry and camp modifications			
4/08	Attempted climb, Poor weather		20/08	Climbing
5/08	Climbing on “Mini mojito”		21/08	Boat to KUS, stayed in small independent hostel for one night, moved our flight to the next day
6/08	Rest day		22/08	KUS to KEF
7/08	Rest day / prep for climb		23/08	Layover in Iceland
8/08	Climbing on slabs		24/08	KEF to GLA
9/08	Rest day		25/08	

5. LOCATIONS AND MAPS



6. Detailed routes/ mountaineering days

6.1 The Mini Mojito

Approach

Take a long walk approaching the dry glacier on its left side over large boulders, loose at times on steeper sections. Cross the dry glacier to reach a rock back, at the top of rock back there is a wet glacier cirque which leads to the base of the routes. 5 hours



Golden Snack Snatcher 185m HVS 5b // 5 Aug FA: Megan Cumming, Benjamin Toole

P1/40m/5b: start 10m right of the dark deep cut chimney and climb a crack below the overlaps, traverse left 5m on a tremendous flake without protection. Step down and tackle the strenuous corner with jams or laybacking to the small roof, ridden jugs on the left bring you to the belay

P2/30m/4b: continue up the gully becoming vegetated and loose at times, large pro. Alt: line may go up the slabs on the right with better quality but much hard/large run out.

p3/55m/4b: climb the left wall of the gully to where the angle eases to walking, move back out right onto spectacular rolling granite slabs and traverse diagonally right to a hidden belay in a crack.



p4/35m/4a: climb the horn above the belay and walk around the blank wall to the left. Back in the gully climb the right wall and follow the arete above to belay before the next granite section

p5/25m/5a: climb direct above with a strenuous move through the roof, traverse left back into the gully to a luxurious belay. Alt: continue up the arete.

P6/dnf/4c: there were some nice cracks and large overlaps to lead to the top in two pitches. The other team started abseiling the gully so we had to get out of the way.

Descent

There are now 6 Abseil stations on the mountain. All directions are described looking outward

1 & 2 {}{}{}{}

3. Traversing 10m left out of the gully are two nuts, to avoid loose rocks when the ropes are pulled, a vertical abseil though a small overlap takes you a sandy black ledge with a large block wrapped in tatt.

4. Down and slightly left from the block, crossing a small overlap. A golden cam and flake are joined by tatt.



Under an arctic sky 220m HVS 5a // 5 Aug FA, Dylan Coker & Rosie Aldridge

P1/ Climb slabs leftwards towards the corner.

P2/ Continue left to join the corner. Follow up the chimney and exit left at top, belaying in the groove above.

p3/ Continue up groove, exit left. Climb crack and then traverse left across slabs to a bay with two parallel corners. Belay below left one.

p4/ Climb the offwidth corner above. Continue up the following corner and traverse left along the overhang, finishing up to a ledge 10m above.

p5/ Continue up an obvious groove, belaying after a wide crack.

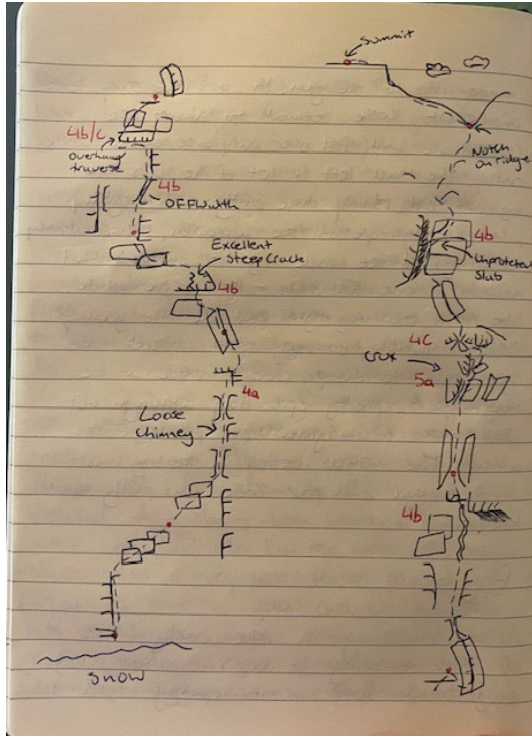
p6/ Climb the tricky chimney crack above. Move left under bulge and surmount it before finishing up the corner via slabs and wet grooves to the col.

p7/ Finish up the ridge to the summit.

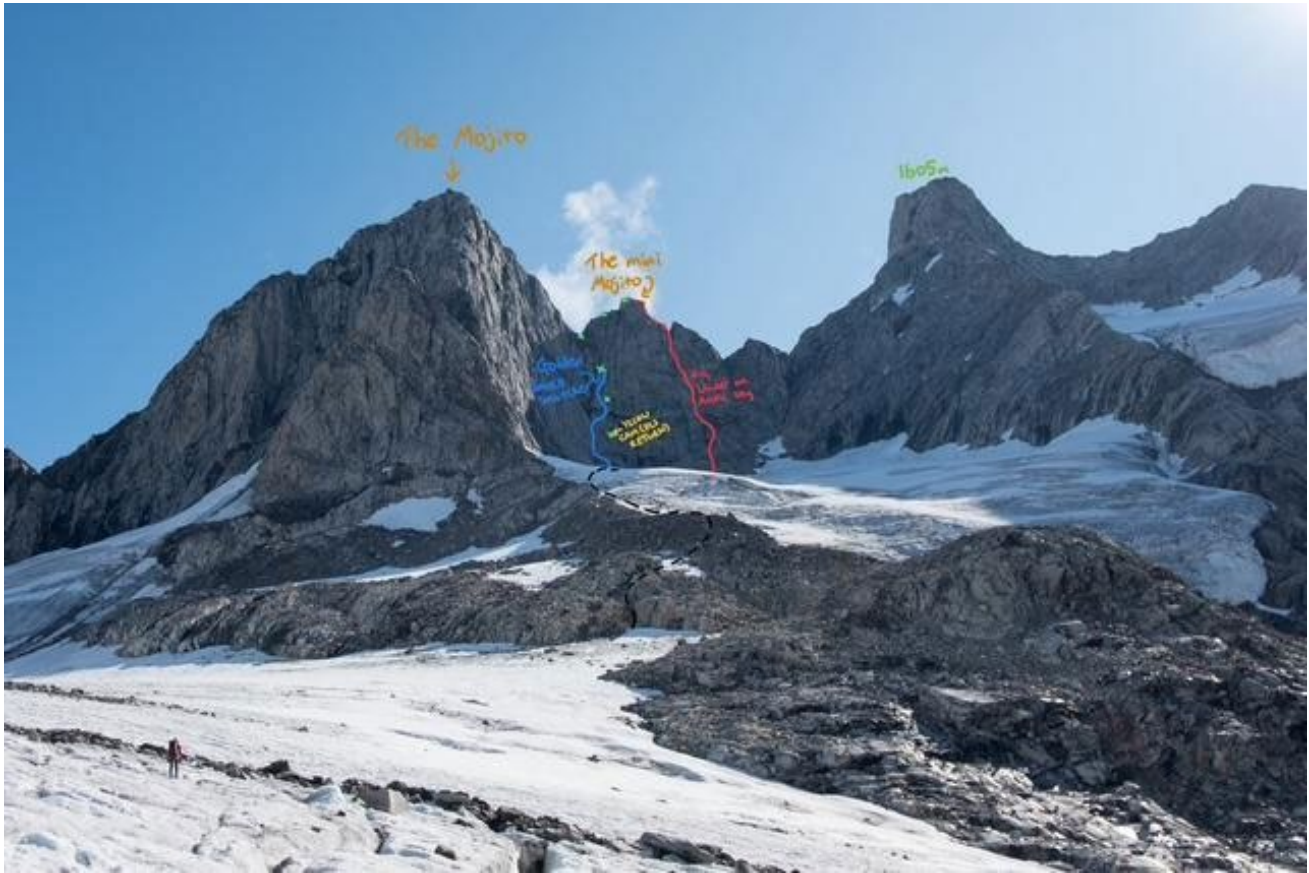


Descent

Make two abseils down the opposite side of the ridge to reach a col. From the col make one 60m abseil to join the Golden Snack Snatcher descent.



6.2 The Slabs



Approach

Walk up the Glaciers Lateral Moraine until the junction. From here you can scout the slabs and routes. 2 hours

Captain chapati AD- 4// 8 Aug FA: Rosie Aldridge, Benjamin Toole

Scramble easily over loose ground for around 150m, aiming for the immaculate slab on the right of a gully line. Climb this direct with little gear for 60m at around 4b. Follow fine granite slabs and overlaps for another 200m to join the ridge line proper. Continue along the ridge line at Moderate until it joins the main summits. The best way to the summit is moving diagonally up left where the ground becomes incredibly loose, joining a small gully to finish in a col just below the summit.



Pete from the peaks variation 80m VS 4c// 18 Aug FA: Benjamin Toole, Megan Cumming

P1/55m/4c: Start 40m left of Pink PantherClimb the right to left crack through two tiers. Follow the slab to a belay.

P2/35m/3: continue up the slab on easy ground to then join onto the ridge and follow this to the summit same as other routes.



Pink Panther AD 5a // 8 Aug FA Dylan Coker & Megan Cumming

P1/ Climb the splitter although not steep handcrack on its rightwards traverse before finishing up to a belay.

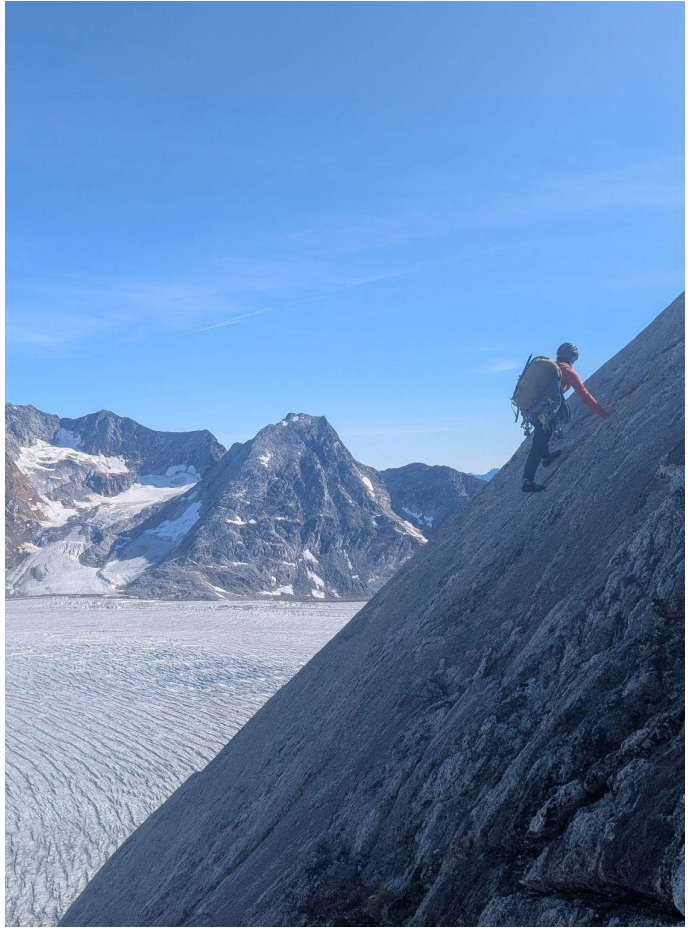
Scramble for around 300m trending rightwards to reach the base of the grand slab.

P2-4/ Climb up the pink rib before following further slabs to reach the ridge crest. Excellent climbing on good granite however not quite steep enough. If the gutter had a baby with Ardverikie wall, this would be it.

Join onto the main ridge and follow this to the summit, around moderate, quite a few sections of loose rock on the ridge.

Descent

From the summit scramble down loose terrain, crossing a short gully, to reach the large serac and follow this into the coire. Follow the main river down. 2.5 hours



The Slabs - Topo

Orange- Pete from the peaks variation, **Pink-** Pink Panther, **Green-** Captain Chapati
All routes finish up the ridge marked out in orange to the summit of peak at 1165m.



10th August – Reconnaissance of 'Triple Buttress'

On the 10th of August, we set out to explore what we dubbed the "Triple Buttress." From our camp, the cliffs resembled Beinn Eighe from the Northwest Highlands of Scotland, with its striking, vertical face rising sharply into the sky. Upon closer inspection, however, we discovered the cliffs to be far more complex—standing over 800 meters high and split into four prominent buttresses, with an additional three subsidiary ones extending to the east. The crags also faced south instead of north as Beinn Eighe does, which made it amusing when trying to refer to the 'east' or 'west' buttresses.



Megan and Rosie headed towards the three subsidiary buttresses to the east, while Ben and Dylan took a different approach—scouting the full length of the cliffs from the beach in search of potential climbing lines. Their exploration took them past the main bulk of the mountain, where they sought to peer around the corner of the range, but they were stopped short by a fast-flowing glacial river that barred further passage.

Meanwhile, Megan and Rosie at the base of the cliffs found the rock to be disturbingly loose. The instability of the terrain forced them to turn back without attempting an ascent.

On the walk back to camp, Ben and Dylan stumbled upon a potential route—a left-to-right trending "corner system" that seemed to lead through the steepest section of the cliff and offered a way to easier ground at a more favorable angle. However, it was becoming too late in the day with their bags still left down at the beach. It was clear that an attempt would have to wait for another day.

14th August – Attempted Ascent of the 'Corner'

Returning to the area on the 14th, Ben and Dylan set out early to try the "corner system" they had scouted. The approach to the base was challenging in itself, requiring nearly three hours of scrambling up a loose gully or some step cutting on the snow. At the foot of the corner, however, it became clear that what was assumed to be a climbable feature was, in fact, a large chimney—too wide to traverse and filled with rubble and large loose boulders, photo right.



Combined with a deteriorating weather window, Ben and Dylan decided not to make the attempt. It was just as well as the rain forecast for 7pm came in much earlier, at about 3 and the whole team were happier sitting in tents watching snow fall on the route instead of trying to climb in it.

According to local guides, two of these buttresses had been climbed before, at E1 standard, and were noted for their instability.

Given the visibility of these formations from the boat, it was no surprise that the area had been previously explored.

Deep fried pancake Sunday E2 5C// 20 Aug Dylan Coker & Megan Cumming



P1/ 5a - Follow the large curving crack up the groove with surprisingly poor protection.

P2/ Scrambling across ledges to reach the base of the obvious corner system.

P3/ 5b Climb the excellent crack to the bulge. From here stem past it, staying in the corner before reaching left to join the adjacent crack and follow to belay on the pedestal.

P4/ 5b Continue up the groove with excellent moves before reaching a belay just below the obvious stuck block.

P5/ 5b/c Carefully climb past the block and enter the offwidth

above. Grovel up the crack and pull very strenuously out of it onto the muddy top out and then follow up the groove to reach a double thread belay.

Descent

Three abseils. First at top of P5, then P3 and a final block halfway along P2.



7. Bouldering/ Rest days

On the final climbing day, while Dylan and Megan tackled *Deep Fried Pancake Sunday*, Ben and Rosie took advantage of a nearby glacier just east of camp. They spent the day ice climbing, setting up several top ropes on high-quality crevasses and moulins. The conditions were excellent, with solid blue ice throughout, safe and very enjoyable.. It proved to be a fitting way to end the trip—both adventurous and relaxed, without the commitment of a full alpine route.

We were delighted to find that our basecamp came complete with an excellent granite boulder - an erratic on the glacial delta which provided many hours of good fun and training in between full climbing days.



8. Synopsis of region

We found the rock in the area to be of a fairly low quality, with a lot of the faces being composed of loose sandy rock, this was easily identifiable by the red/ brown colour. However we did still manage to find more sound rock faces, in which we were able to climb as described above. We found that the lighter rock was of the best quality. From what we could



see in the surrounding areas, looking south from basecamp, rock looked to be of poor quality as well. The area is certainly more suited to mountaineering, however with how loose the ridges looked would take great caution.

9. Global Atmospheric Plastic Survey (GAPS) sample collection

During the expedition we were able to collect samples for GAPS, an organisation of citizen science involving multiple global expedition teams, aiming to provide a global snapshot of the type, size and distribution of airborne nano- and microplastics. This will serve as a baseline for future research and boundary conditions for models of the atmospheric transport of plastic pollution and the plastic cycle.



We took two sample sets out with us which consisted of 5 small glass jars (palm sized) weighing 70g each. Each set had a 'control' and 'field blank' which we used in the field along with the other empty jars to take samples of snow on areas of wet glacier. We recorded the GPS, Barometric pressure, altitude, slope include and fall line as supporting data, which will be analysed along with the snow samples at the Heimholtz centre for environmental research in Leipzig.

We took the sample kits with us on days of 'scouting' the area which required us to cross large areas of glacier, and on days where the approach might cross a suitable area for sampling. Notably this had criteria which required the site to be 200m away from cliffs of steep slopes, snow which had fallen this season, and relatively flat. We found the larger glacier tongues to be extensively dry in their lower half, but we were able to find areas of wet glacier further distances away.

This gave us a valuable reason to venture further up the glacier and generally a better overview of the potential climbing in the area whilst feeling like our rest days had value.



Sampling would take less than 5 minutes for each jar filled with snow, from selecting a site, stopping on the rope, recording the data and moving off again. We found that the jars were robust enough to withstand being in a pack with a rack/ other pieces of gear, and had no problems transporting them to and from Greenland.



GAPS is currently working with 2024-25 teams, but if any other future expeditions would like to be involved in any sample collections they should get in touch with Alistair Gill al@gaps2024.com and visit <https://www.gaps2024.com>.

10. In country logistics

Experience with The Red House Operations Company

We used the Red house based out of Tasiilaq to assist with the majority of logistics, this involved the hire of guns, flares and boat transfers to and from Rodin bay. When we arrived in Kusuluk we had organised a boat through Lars from a company named Arctic dream, to drop us off in Tasiilaq. Having arrived, we managed to get picked up from the harbour and dropped off at the Red House camping area on the outskirts of town.

While we understand the challenges of coordinating logistics in remote areas, our experience with The Red House, the operations company based in Tasiilaq, was less than ideal. Despite our initial expectations, there was a lot of frustration, stress, and disappointment throughout our interactions.

One of the most significant issues was the equipment rental. Although we had made it clear in prior months by emailing, and talking in person on our arrival, that we had arranged for two guns (one for each climbing team) to be made available for the expedition, we were only provided with one. We adapted to this as a team, but it was less than ideal when we split into two pairs. There was a distinct lack of communication and clear confirmation, and the impression that our needs were not prioritized due to other staying guests. Additionally, we were unable to secure the requested food barrels, which led to some last-minute changes with how we would store food and the creation of a large rock cave at our basecamp.

Additionally, we found the payment process to be inconvenient and unclear. The Red House operated on a cash-only basis for us, of an amount that wasn't prescribed until the day of departure, which required multiple last-minute trips to the supermarket ATM on the opposite side of the town to withdraw more cash.

Moreover, communication with The Red House was particularly difficult. Despite providing them with our InReach contact details, as well as taking their inreach number/mobile/ office numbers, we weren't able to contact them. Coordinating our pickup on the beach was done by relying on email communication through a home contact. We wouldn't like to have imagined the scenario if there had been need for an evacuation or a bear incident.

While we appreciate the efforts of the team in Tasiilaq and acknowledge that some of these issues may stem from language barriers, it felt as though we were not a priority for the company, which impacted the smooth running of the expedition.

11. Supplies, Equipment and Food

11.1 Team supplies:



- 3 tents: 1x1man, 2x 2man
- 3 big tarpaulins for basecamp, used to create a sheltered area for cooking away from the tents, and for covering bags of kit which were left outside of the tents
- 2 MSR WhisperLite Stoves
- 2 pocket rocketts
- A 20l canister of petrol, bought and filled in Talisaaq
- One spare gas canister we picked up in Talisaaq

- Trip wires with ammunition blanks, (from <http://icebearalarm.com/>), hired from a previous expedition team in Scotland due to supply chain issues with the manufacturer
- 50m of abseil cord, also useful in basecamp for setting up shelters in the wet weather
- 3 large solar powered chargers, no trouble with charging devices, very useful and robust to the sand/ rain where we were camping
- 2 Garmin Inreach devices, one hired from the Alpine club
- Extensive repair kit with zip ties, lots of gaffa tape, glue, spare crampon bars, sewing kit etc.
- 2 Full climbing racks with extra gear to subsidize in
- B2 boots, crampons and walking ice axe each
- Crevasse rescue kit each
- Ropes: 2X Petzl 60m Volta, 2X Petzl 60m RAD lines, 2X Petzl halves
- Collapsible bucket, which proved useful for washing clothing etc
- Binoculars
- Shampoo bars
- Biodegradable soap
- Maps and photos of the area, a mixture of satellite imaging, print out PDF's and one physical SAGA map

11.2 Personal equipment:

We found the climate to be similar to that of a Scottish Spring temperature each day, with the late summer sun significantly increasing this on good weather days. Our sleeping arrangements and personal kit all varied throughout the group, but we may have packed warmer should we have known the exact temperature. We didn't feel much effect of wind at all being deep within the fjord, however the cold from the glaciers made us layer up well especially on wetter days. The support from Petzl, Mountain Equipment, Buff and Bloc was greatly appreciated when establishing our individual exped kit and performed well in the conditions we found in this area of Greenland.

We found that by sharing books we all had a good amount of down time reading, and took plenty of card games with us for some entertainment.

11.3 Food

Below are selected entries from Ben's food diary, recorded during the expedition. These examples include climbing days and rest days. The diary tracks the types and quantities of food consumed, with estimated calorie values. Ben departed weighing 84.6 kg with a pre-expedition maintenance calorie requirement of 2,550 kcal/day. He returned at 77.6 kg, showing a sustained calorie deficit during the trip. Only one week back in the UK, Ben's weight increased back to 79.7 kg, showing some recovery post-expedition.

While every day was recorded, a representative selection is included here photographs of the original food diary pages are also attached.

Day	Key Foods Consumed	Est. Calories	Notes
1	Banana chips, Nature Valley bar, 150g spaghetti, stock cube spices, biscuit	~923 kcal	Arrived at 1pm
2	Rye bread w/ Nutella & honey, pork wrap, rice + veg curry, Biscuit, 3 cups of tea	~1,370 kcal	Rest day
6	Porridge, 2x BelVita bars, bag of nuts, jerky, penguin, banana chips wrap w/ chorizo boil-in-bag	~2,335 kcal	Large climbing day, 'mojito'
10	Porridge, lentil soup, Boil-in-bag, nuts, biscuits, 6 cups of tea	~1,366 kcal	Rest day
13	Rye bread with honey & Nutella, soup, Boil-in-bag Penguin, 7 cups of tea	~1,270 kcal	Wet day
15	Porridge, pork wrap, jerky, banana chips, biscuits, waffle, chocolate bars, nuts, boil-in-bag	~2,581 kcal	Climbing day

11.4 Polar Bear Protection and Food Storage

During our expedition, we made precautions regarding polar bear protection and the safe storage of food. After consulting with a local BMG Matt Spencley, we planned on carrying two rifles—one for each climbing team or one to remain at base camp in case a team needed to leave while the other stayed. Unfortunately, we were unable to secure the second rifle, a point of frustration visited earlier in the report.

Instead, we were forced to take a simpler strategy: each team member carried a flare and we made it a priority to stick together when possible. For the approach to the routes on the Mojito, we shared the carrying of the single rifle we had. It was awkward as the carrying bag we were given was slightly broken, so it didn't fit properly and therefore wouldn't close, it was also unable to be attached to the side of rucksacks.

Carrying it over technical terrain was out of the question in this regard and we left it as the base of the crag and retrieved the rifle on our descent. Thankfully, we didn't encounter any polar bears during the trip. To protect the camp, we surrounded it with trip wires, which we had rented from a previous expedition team based in Edinburgh. We would like to extend our thanks to Harry for helping us out with this.

These were activated at night instead of keeping regular watch. During the day, we kept the rifle and flares readily available. For the single-action rifle, we had 4 blanks and 4 live rounds, which were kept in a separate small bag that would occasionally choke the person carrying it.

All washing up, as well as human waste, were done well away from camp to avoid attracting animals and leaving lingering smells. Food storage and smells also had the importance stressed to us by Matt. We stored our supplies under a large rock and sealed them with smaller rocks to prevent wildlife. All food was kept in duffle bags to mask any scents that might attract bears or foxes. We did have a couple of visits from curious foxes near our cooking area, which was set up with a tarp held up by walking poles and another tarp beneath it to sit on.

During our climbing days, we kept our food —breakfast, lunch, and dinner—stored in a smaller hole - "fridge" - around the back of the main one to allow easy access by not opening and closing the main fridge every day. The foxes managed to get into this smaller storage area, but only managed to rip apart a sponge and steal a fork—clearly not the sharpest tools in the shed.

For cooking, we relied on two MSR WhisperLite stoves, and we carried 28 liters of petrol with us. We used about 12 liters of this. Unfortunately, both stoves broke at the same

time one morning, which was a bit of a crisis. Dylan was able to repair one of the stoves, but the second, which had been newly purchased for the expedition, is still with MSR for repairs as of this writing.

We brought three fuel bottles for the stoves, but one of these broke early in the trip, carry spares! While both stoves were out of commission, we briefly resorted to using a smaller gas stove for cooking, though it wasn't ideal for group meals and the butane was used sparsely.

12. Insurance

Getting insurance was unexpectedly challenging. We initially arranged coverage through Global Rescue, which has been used by other teams on similar trips. However, a week before departure, Global Rescue withdrew coverage for our trip, citing unspecified changes in their underwriting policies related to Greenland. While the company did refund our full premium of \$269, this late change left us scrambling to find alternative coverage.

Over the following week, we approached numerous insurers—genuinely dozens of them—only to be repeatedly declined. The combination of Greenland's remoteness and cost of helicopter rescue many underwriters were unwilling to support. Ultimately, we chose the **British Mountaineering Council (BMC)**. While their policy was by far the most expensive, it was also the most comprehensive and reliable coverage which gave us peace of mind.

Whilst in Greenland, we spoke with several local guides and client teams who confirmed that securing insurance for climbing expeditions in the region is becoming increasingly difficult. There appears to be a growing trend of insurers limiting or withdrawing coverage for remote or polar expeditions, which may present ongoing challenges for future teams planning similar objectives.

12.1 Theft Incident

On the final day of the expedition, we discovered that two of our RAD lines (specialized lightweight climbing ropes) had been stolen from our camp. The theft involved someone entering our tents while we were away, indicating a deliberate act rather than a simple misunderstanding. Throughout the trip, we only encountered one local guide; the rest of the individuals we saw in the area appeared to be a couple of local fishermen. It was a disappointing end to an otherwise successful expedition.

Fortunately, the BMC was able to cover the cost of these ropes after making a claim. A police report was needed but the local service were more than happy to provide one. In the end the only loss was the excess, which was minimal.

13. Observations and future Prospects

Alternative lines on 'the golden snack snatcher' could be taken to increase the overall quality, but also significantly the difficulty. The overall rock quality of the area left much to be desired. There is potential for future mountaineering and alpine style ascents in much of the area that we saw.

14. Budget and Expenditures

In			Out	
MEF	£1500		Insurance	£4599.44
Alpine Club	£2500		Glasgow - Keflavik	£1357.74
BMC	£2482		Keflavik - Kusuluk	£4859.80
Arctic Club	£3000		Kusuluk - Tasilaaq	£386.72
University funding	£150		Return flight change	£316
Total:	£9632		The Red house - gun/flare hire & Boat	£1881.34
			Tripwire hire	£50
			food	£483.58
Personal contributions	£2681.28		Fuel canister/stove	£150
			Inreach + subscription	£110
			Total:	£12,313.28

15. Thanks

As our first bigger expedition as a team, we pulled on the knowledge, help, advice and expertise of many contributors, without which it would not have gone ahead.

In particular, we would like to give thanks to Matt Spencely from Pirhuk guides, who gave us invaluable local knowledge and was unwavering to help us out when looking at potential areas and all round logistics of the area. This also extends to everybody from the Scottish Arctic Club who were unbelievably helpful throughout the year and a half of planning.

This trip wouldn't have been possible without all of the grants we have been lucky enough to be recipients of. We would like to extend our thanks to The Scottish Arctic Club, Alpine club climbing fund, Mount Everest Fund, BMC and Julie Tullis memorial Award, as well as the University of Stirling sports union. The support from Mountain Equipment, Petzl, Buff, Bloc and Base camp foods is also greatly appreciated in allowing us to climb in such a beautiful part of the world.

