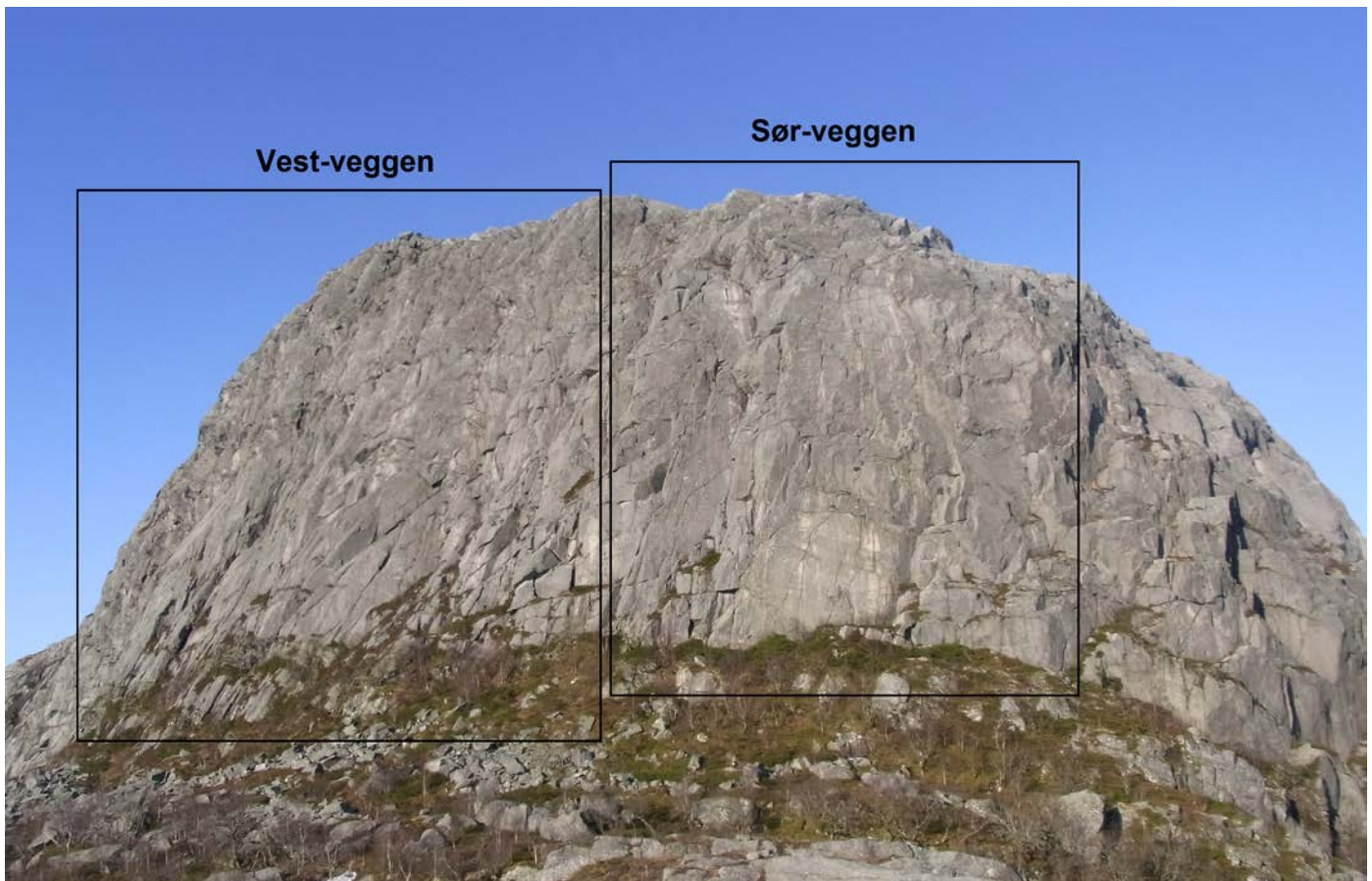


Kjørkjestafjellet



Description

Kjørkjestafjellet is at an altitude of approximately 550m and has two main aspects, facing south and west. The crag is on top of a fjell and has a superb outlook. It gets a lot of sun and dries quickly after rain, but it is exposed to the wind. The rock is generally excellent quality granite.

Sør-veggen is characterized by aesthetic crack lines up a clean wall. Most routes are two pitches and belays are good. Vest-veggen is longer and more complex with slabs, grooves and overhangs making for interesting route-finding and varied climbing. Vest-veggen has a more committing atmosphere.

2x 60m ropes are essential for the abseil descent.

History

According to members of Rogaland Historielag, Kjørkjestafjellet probably takes its name from the enormous boulders that have fallen from the east side of the mountain, some of them into the lake (Kjørkjestavatnet). The boulders in the lake can be imagined to be church-shaped when viewed from a certain angle, and it has been common in other areas (e.g. Viglesdalen) to name geographical features after these church-like stones. The crag itself also has a distinctive triangular profile when seen on the approach.

The crag has no doubt been discovered and forgotten many times over the years but the first (known) route was up a gully line far to the left of vest-veggen, climbed by Christian Jønsson and Jan Inge Hellesmark in the late 90s. The next route to be climbed was on the long east facing slabs above Kjørkjestavatnet by Christian Jønsson, Bjørn Skerve and Øystein Stangeland in 2008 (6 or 7 pitches, grade 5)

Interest was rekindled in autumn 2011, and during spring 2012 the routes on sør- and vest-veggen were developed, mainly by Richard Gaches, John Fivelsdal and Christian Jønsson. Most of the routes were opened in a ground-up onsight style. All of the routes were protected with natural gear and there are no bolts on the crag.

Approach



Turn off the E39 south of Ålgård onto Fv286 (150m after the Rv 45 to Oltedal). Drive past two lakes and through Gjesdal before turning right where it is signposted Madland and Brekko. Drive past the Brekko turn off, and continue to the end of the tarmac road at Madland. Go through the first gate and park off the road about 100m beyond (the farmer has asked not to park in his turning circle before the gate).

From the parking, cross the fence and head northwards up the flat valley, joining a wide dirt road that leads to a small Lyse Kraftverk hut on the edge of Kvisslavatnet. A track then leads through the trees along the west shore of the lake, past a hytte to a boggy area. Head directly towards the crag and follow small animal trails through the trees along the west shore of Kjørkjestavatnet, until a wide gully leads up to the left (marked with a cairn). Ascend steeply until you come out of the trees below sør-veggen. Approx 1hr 15min walk.

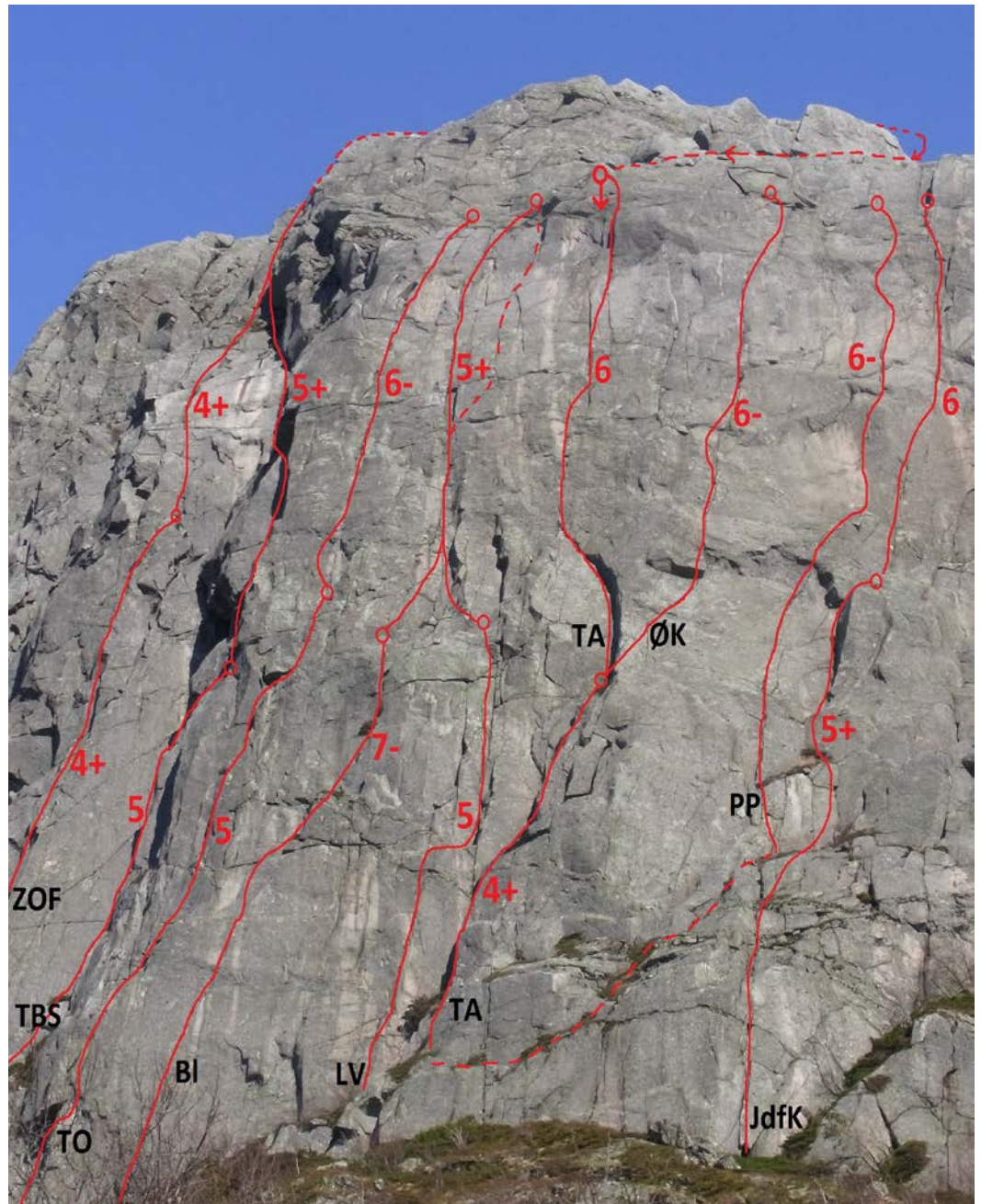
Descent

Currently there is an abseil point comprising a piton and a static-rope thread in place at the top of The Archbishop. The abseil can be reached by walking/scrambling from the top of all the routes (from the top of Vest-veggen head south and locate a ledge system which leads back west with small cairns marking the way). The abseil is a full 60m down the line of The Archbishop that just reaches the ground on rope stretch. Care is required.

Sør-veggen (left)



Sør-veggen (right)



Abbreviations of route names are used on the topo e.g. TO = The Outsiders. Routes are described from left to right. The routes ZOF and TBS appear on both topos.

Ze 'Orrible Frenchman 4+ (90m)

FA; J.Fivelsdal, B. Maurin 27 Mar 2012

P1 (25m); Start below a short corner. Climb this and then up cracks which (carefully) bypass a large semi-detached flake on the right hand side. Belay on a sloping ledge below an corner.

P2 (30m); Climb the right wall of the corner and follow cracks onto the main slab which lead to a belay on a small ledge

P3 (35m); Follow the left hand side of the slab with a short hand-jamming section to start then as the slab narrows join the large corner system which leads to the top of the crag.

The Baby Sitters 5+ (90m)

FA ; J.Fivelsdal, Torstein.Kallelid 21 Apr 2012

P1 (45m); Climb the easiest line to access the large corner system to the left of sør-veggen. After ca. 25m it is possible to traverse right out of the corner along a footledge to a belay to the right of a large overhang (avoided on the FA due to seepage).

P2 (45m); Climb a crack above the belay to a small roof then traverse delicately leftwards back into the main corner line. Follow this to the top (eventually joining ZOF)

The Outsiders 6- (70m)

FA; D.Richardson, R.Gaches 20 Nov 2011

P1 (35m) Start up a short corner under a roof, swing around the arête on the right to pass the roof then gain grooves which lead up and rightwards. A short wall at the top of the grooves is climbed to a belay at the base of a white streak.

P2 (35m) Step left from the belay to gain a thin crackline which is followed back right, with a tricky section passing a bulge. Fine hand crack climbing leads to the top.

Blasphemy 7- (70m)

FA (after abseil inspection); R.Gaches, C.Obhrai 25 Mar 2012

The hardest route on the crag to date.

P1 (35m) Sustained finger crack climbing up the left-hand of a pair of cracks, starting from a small arête. At the top of the finger crack continue in the same line rightwards across a ledge and up a second crack, with a bulge at the top.

Small friends/aliens are useful.

P2 (35m) As for Langtvekkistan

Langtvekkistan 5+ (65m)

FA; C. Jønsson, J.Fivelsdal 3 Sept 2011

The first route to be climbed on the sør-veggen.

P1 (30m) Climb cracks just left of an arête to a flat ledge. Step 2m right and climb a groove and broken cracks to a belay ledge below a corner. Variations possible at similar grade.

P2 (35m) Traverse ca. 3m left into a second corner and ascend this, and the hand sized continuation cracks. Variation. finish at same grade up cracks to the right.

The Archbishop 6 (65m)

FA; R.Gaches, C.Jønsson 24 Mar 2012

A striking line directly up the centre of sør-veggen.

P1 (30m) Straightforward climbing up the stepped corner to a flat belay ledge below the arched corner.

P2 (35m) Thin and technical climbing up the corner leads to a hard crux move to gain good holds. Follow the crack above, with a step right to another crack where the wall steepens, before finishing up an exposed corner. Small friends and micro wires are needed for protection on the crux section.

Ørnekongen 6- (70m)

FA; C.Jønsson, R.Gaches 24 Mar 2012

P1 (30m) As for the Archbishop.

P2 (40m) From the belay ledge step right around the arête and follow a crack across a slabby wall to a roof.

Committing and exposed moves over this lead to sustained crack and wall climbing that eases slightly after ca.15m.

Pilgrim's Progress 6- (50m)

FA (after abseil inspection); R.Gaches, J.Fivelsdal 31 Mar 2012

A superb long pitch linking up intermittent crack systems on immaculate rock. Scramble up and right from the base of the crag to start from a grassy ledge.

P1 (50m) A short wall and a curving crack across a slab lead to well-protected moves rightwards over a bulge to a ledge at the base of a white slab. Smear up the slab to some good gear at the base of a steepening crack. Crux moves up this lead to a small overlap and then a wider crack above. Follow this until a line of positive flakes is reached, then step left across the wall to find protection in a short crack. Finish by pulling over a bulge slightly rightwards (bold but easy). The route stays independent of Jesus dro fra Kjørkje all the way.

Jesus dro fra Kjørkje 6 (80m)

FA; R.Gaches, J.Fivelsdal 31 Mar 2012

P1 (40m) Start at the lowest point of the crag. Climb a steep cracks up a wall then broken ground (passing the start of Pilgrim's Progress) to gain a corner leading up the left side of a pedestal. Belay on top of this.

P2 (35m) Climb directly up a pair of positive cracks which turn unhelpful after ca. 15m. Make thin and technical moves directly up to gain a good hand jam and the continuation crack. Easier climbing and a final pull over a block leads to the top.

Vest-veggen



Abbreviations of route names are used on the topo e.g. LB = Lucky Break. Routes are described from left to right.

Vest-veggen is a complex wall. It is worth viewing from a distance to match the features on the crag with the topo before starting a route.

House of the Rising Sun 6+ (110m)

FA; R.Gaches, J.Fivelsdal 12 Jun 2012

P1 (40m); Start at a small ash tree. Climb a vegetated groove past a small sapling and pull onto a slab. The rock gets cleaner after a few metres and pleasant slab climbing leads to a clean groove. Ascend this and belay on a small ledge.

P2 (25m); Traverse directly rightwards from the belay into the top of a second groove and pull up into a crack in the slab above. Follow this until it closes down just above a narrow footledge. After placing small protection traverse delicately leftwards to gain a slanting overlap, and then left again to a thin crack. Follow this to a belay at the base of a corner. Small friends and careful ropework are needed on this pitch.

P3 (45m); Climb the corner above the belay to an uncomfortable position under the roof. Place good friends and undercut rightwards until a strenuous pull can be made around the lip into the corner above. Swing immediately right to a good hold for a rest and to place gear. Continue up the corner, which soon eases, and follow the groove above for ca. 25m to the top of the crag.

Cloud Cuckoo Land 5+ (105m)

FA; J.Fivelsdal, R.Gaches 29 May 2012

An intimidating line but with surprisingly amenable climbing.

P1 (35m); Climb a short slab onto a bushy ledge. Cross this and head up the wall on the right on flake holds which lead up and leftwards to a belay on a small foot ledge.

P2 (20m); Directly above the belay is a groove with thin cracks in. Ascend these past a tricky section and step onto the slab above, which steepens up before a belay ledge is gained.

P3 (25m); Head up and left towards the impending overhangs, which are passed by a superbly exposed traverse back right on surprising holds. Pad up the slabby groove above and then a shallow corner leading to a belay on a sloping ledge at a large wedged block.

P4 (25m); Continue up the slabby corner, aiming for the overhang on the left arête that is split by a hand sized crack. A steep pull over this gains easier ground that leads to the top.

Lucky Break 6 (115m)

FA; R.Gaches, C.Obhrai 30 Apr 2012

Perhaps the best route on vest-veggen with sustained interest all the way.

P1 (30m); Start on the left end of a ledge behind a tree. Climb easily but boldly up and rightwards to a horizontal break and the start of the right-hand of two parallel finger cracks. Follow it past an overlap with sustained and well protected climbing to belay under a big square roof. Large friend useful for the belay.

P2 (30m); Pass the square roof on the right and bridge up the steepening corner (better protected than it looks) to a small roof. Pull strenuously around this in an exposed position. Easier climbing for 15m leads to a good nut belay on a small ledge below an overhang.

P3 (30m); Climb rightwards across a short slab to stand on an arête below a weakness in the overhanging rock. Place crucial friends in a break and pull over the bulge onto a sloping ledge. Climb leftwards past a bush and up a groove on the right-hand side of a fractured slab. Just before reaching a big roof, trend leftwards across the slab and pull onto a belay ledge.

P4 (25m); Climb directly up cracks from the belay ledge then step right into a groove. This leads to easy ground and the top.

Amazing Madland 5+ (100m)

FA; J.Fivelsdal, Erik Flatten 4 May 2012

Scramble up to a vegetated ledge to start (ca. 10m right of LB)

P1 (30m); Climb a few meters past bushy ledges to gain a crackline. This is followed to a large ledge belay.

P2 (35m); A delicate start up the slab above the belay gains a good friend placement. Continue up the slab trending slightly right into a black corner. At the top of this traverse left on good holds and mantle onto a large sloping belay ledge.

P3 (35m); Using a jammed block, pull through the bulges and continue more or less directly to the top.

Supernatural 6 (95m)

FA; R.Gaches, J.Fivelsdal 29 Apr 2012

P1 (45m); Climb easily up a ramp for ca. 5m then pull left across a steep wall and into a left-to-right slanting crack.

Hard moves up this gain a groove with easier climbing to the base of a wall with a traverse line leftwards to an arête. Climb the arête via a crack on its left side and continue easily to the bulges which are overcome with good holds and protection. Traverse left and belay on a sloping ledge below a corner crack.

P2 (50m); Climb the corner above the belay then step left into a fine exposed groove. The angle eases after ca. 15m and easy ground leads to the top.

N.B.

There may be other lines on Kjørkjestafjellet as yet unclimbed. If you do one of them please email and the topos can be updated; rgaches@gmail.com



↑ John Fivelsdal on FA of Supernatural 6



↑ Christian Jønsson on FA of Ørnekongen 6-



↑ Richard Gaches on FA of Blasphemy 7-



↑ Richard Gaches on FA of The Archbishop 6



↑ John Fivelsdal on FA of Jesus dro fra Kjørkje 6



↑ The approach to Kjørkjestafjellet