

Heavy WATER

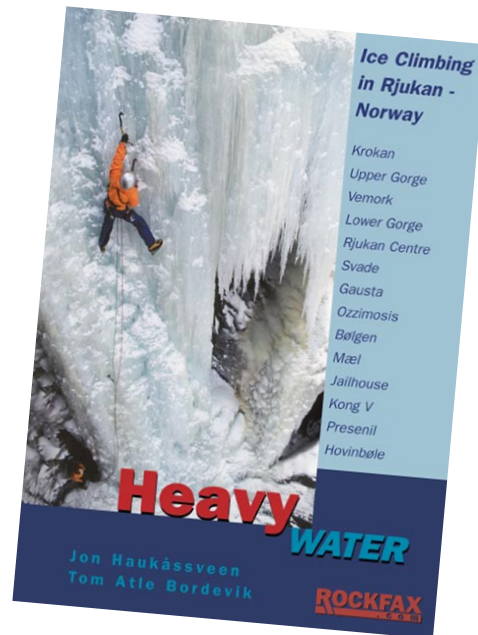
Thank you for downloading this sample chapter from *Heavy Water - Rjukan Ice*.

The Rjukan Area in Norway has become well known across Europe in recent years for its magnificent waterfalls which give a high concentration of ice climbs of all difficulties. The waterfalls vary from short half-pitch exercises to long (800m) full day outings. With a stable cold climate in the winter months with many options for accommodation, Rjukan will be *the ice climber's destination* over the next few years.

The full guidebook covers 171 waterfalls over 14 areas on 128 pages. It has been produced in the now-familiar Rockfax format of full-colour photo-topos, high quality route descriptions, with symbols, maps and all the other features that you have come to expect.

The authors are Jon Haukåsveen and Tom Atle Bordevik on their first book for Rockfax. Both Jon and Tom live locally and are experienced ice climbers, Jon in particular has put up many first ascents in the Rjukan area.

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Ice Climbing in Rjukan Norway
*Krokan, Upper Gorge, Vemork Bridge, Lower Gorge
Rjukan Centre, Svadde, Gausta, Ozzimosis, Bølgen
Mæl, Jailhouse, Kong V, Presenil, Hovinbøle*

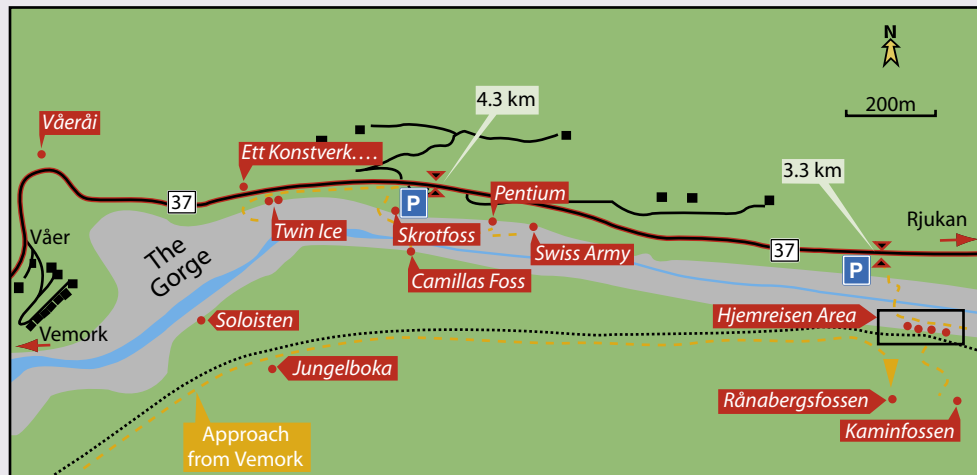


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ROCKFAX
• G O M

LOWER GORGE

The Lower Gorge offers a gentle introduction to the climbing at the Rjukan area. The waterfalls are usually single pitch and the setting is less intimidating than the Upper Gorge and the Vemork Bridge area. When you climb in the Lower Gorge there is more of an atmosphere of a cragging venue, similar to that experienced at Krokan. This is also a great place for courses or your first lead on ice, since many of the waterfalls are relatively easy with reliable ice. One particular hazard in the Lower Gorge is the ice which covers sections of the river. This ice can break and the river underneath flows all year round. Going through the ice is not something you want to contemplate! It is also worth noting that the longer waterfalls in this area have approaches which can be demanding in deep snow conditions.



Approach

Follow Road 37 for 3.3 km or 4.3 km west out of Rjukan. There are two car parks to head for, both on the left-hand side of the road. Check which area you wish to visit before deciding which car park to stop at.

For Hjemreisen Area - From the 3.3km parking spot, go left and steeply down trending left to the riverbed. In hard snow conditions, consider wearing crampons on this approach.

For Central Area - From the 4.3km parking spot, walk approximately 100m towards Vemork, and follow a gully down towards The Gorge. Trend slightly right, past some fallen trees to the riverbed. This shouldn't take you any longer than 10 min. For Twin Ice, continue along the road for about 200m and trend down into The Gorge.

For the higher waterfalls (Kaminfossen, Rånabergsfossen and Jungelboka) - There are two options. Park at Vemork Bridge, and follow the railway line to the waterfall of choice, or climb one of the waterfalls in The Gorge and continue up the hill to the railway line.

GPS position at Hjemreisen parking: 32 V 473706 6637940

GPS position at Camillas Foss parking: 32 V 472667 6637981

LOWER GORGE Kaminfossen Area



Kaminfossen Area

These two waterfalls are situated high up on the south side of the Gorge.

Approach - Both of the waterfalls have strenuous approaches in deep snow. It is possible to walk in from the car parking at Vemork Bridge but this can be heavy going in deep snow. Alternatively climb one of the waterfalls from the gorge in the Hjemreisen Area and continue up to the railway.

1 Kaminfossen WI 4
2 pitches. Located inside a large chimney, this waterfall starts off easily to a belay at the right-hand side at a tree. The second pitch negotiates a steep ice wall which can be avoided on the left. After this the climbing eases off to a belay. Nice climbing in an impressive environment. Descend by abseils from trees.

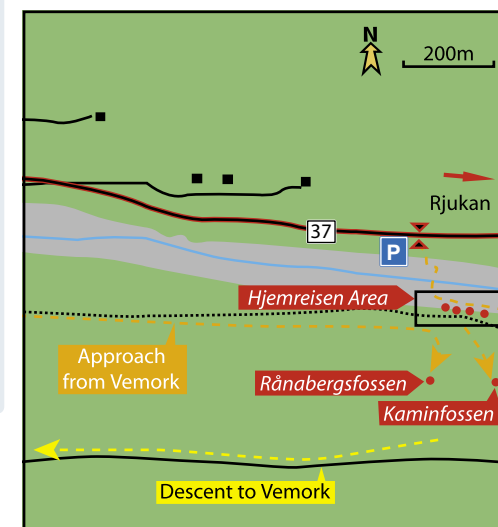
FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Knut Luraas, Bjørge Lie 1995

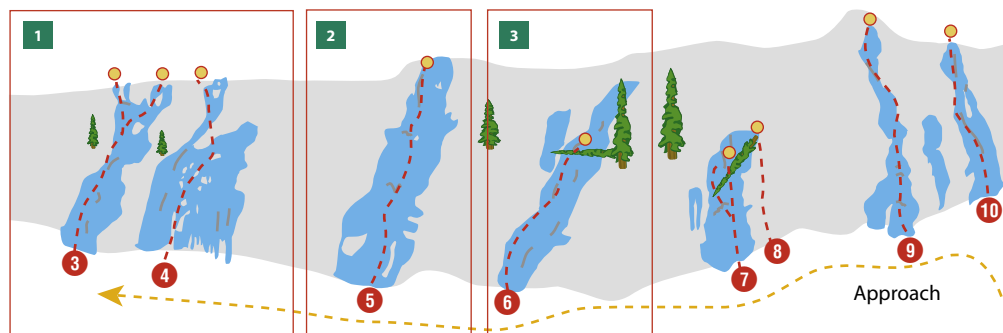


2 Rånabergsfossen WI 3
7 pitches. This waterfall offers some interesting pitches and gives a long day out. No belays are indicated on the topo because plenty of options exist.

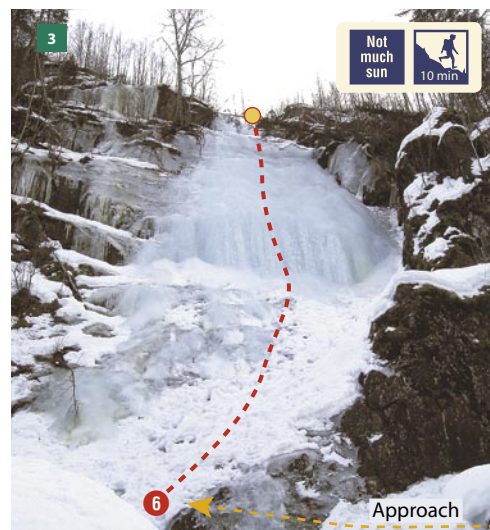
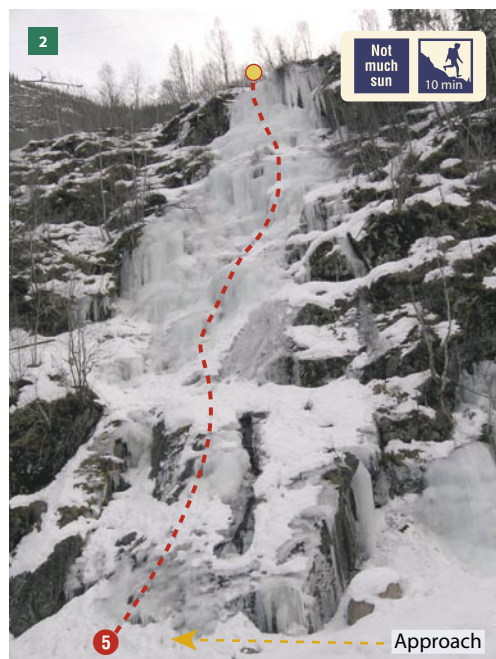
Descent - Continue upwards when the ice ends and follow the road towards Vemork. This road is not cleared for snow but usually has got scooter tracks on it making it easier to follow. Follow the road west until you reach a water tower and two houses. Walk down to Vemork from here.

FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Hågen Skipper 1997



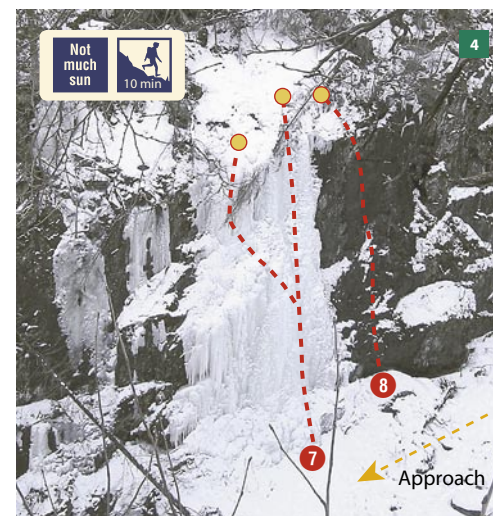
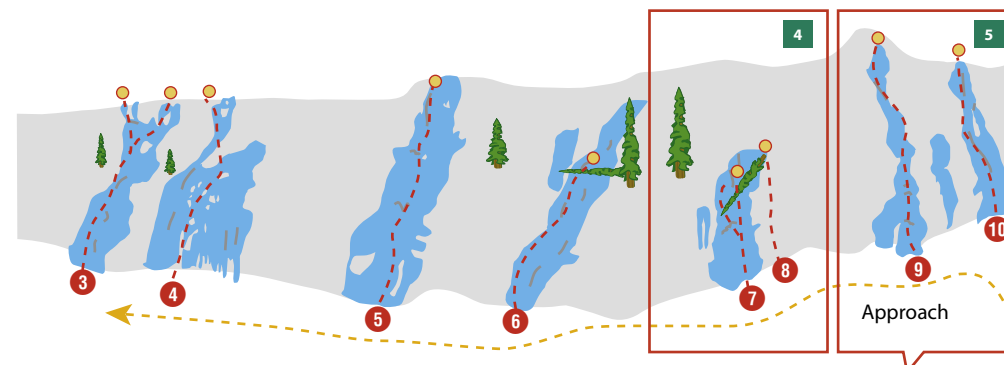


- 3 Kursruta** WI 3
1 pitch. Exited via either of two variations.
FA. Unknown
- 4 Kort og Godt** WI 4
1 pitch.
FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Knut Luraas, Bjørge Lie 1995

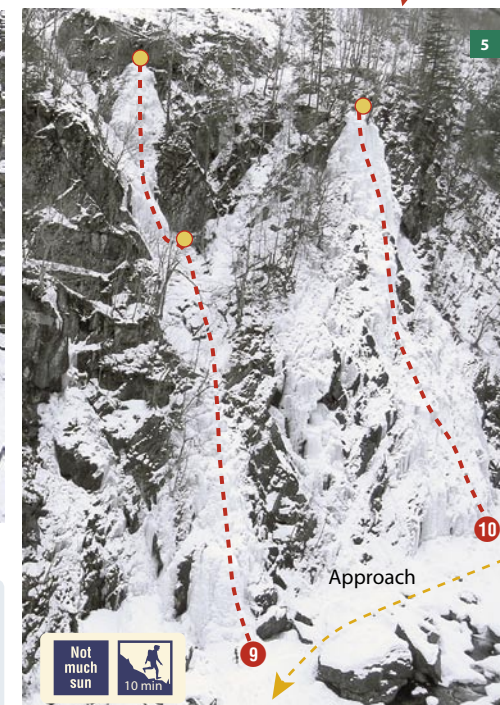


- 5 Trippel** WI 4
1 pitch.
FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Bjørge Lie, Knut Luraas 1995
- 6 LP-plata** WI 3
1 pitch. A long pitch with few features.
FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Hossein Gasemi 1993

Hjemreisen Area
This small area features several good quality single pitch climbs all closely packed together.
Approach - Go left from the parking and steeply down, trending left to the riverbed. In hard snow conditions, consider wearing crampons on this approach.



- 7 Hjemreisen** WI 4
1 pitch. Climb up to a snow field and take either the right or the left (harder) line. *Photo page 17 and 69.*
FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Jan Stenstrom 1995
- 8 Verdens Gang** M6
1 pitch. Thin ice that rarely forms.
FA. Jon Haukåsveen 1999



- 9 Knerten** WI 3
2 pitches.
FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Hossein Gasemi 1993
- 10 Lillebror** WI 3
1 long pitch.
FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Bjørge Lie 1993

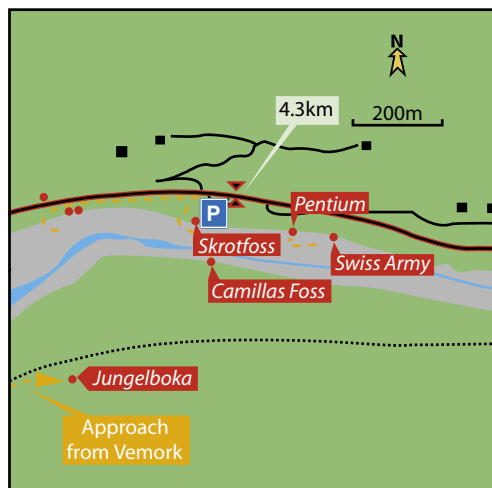


Central Area

The central area of the Lower Gorge contains a series of single pitch routes above the river including the classic Camillas Foss.

Approach - From the 4.3km parking spot, walk approximately 100m towards Vemork, and follow a gully down towards the Gorge. Trend slightly right, past some fallen trees to the riverbed.

11 Camillas Foss WI 3
1 pitch. Nice sustained climbing.
FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Anders Nilsson 1995



Jungelboka

This lone route is situated on the slopes above the gorge.

Approach - It is best approached by walking in from the Vemork Bridge parking along the old railway track (see map on page 70).

12 Jungelboka WI 2
3 pitches. There is some fun climbing on this one. Belays can be set up in the trees that surround the waterfall. Descend by abseiling from the trees.
FA. Jon, Tone Haukåsveen 2002



The next three routes are roughly opposite Camillas Foss.

13 Skrotfossen WI 3
1 pitch.
FA. Anders Nilsson, Jon Haukåsveen 1995

14 Pentium WI 3
1 pitch.
FA. Anders Nilsson, Jon Haukåsveen 1995

Located downstream of the rest of the Lower Gorge waterfalls is the Swiss Army Waterfall. This offers many possibilities for ice cragging at or above your leading level since top-ropes are easy to set up. There is also some mixed climbing on the left side of the waterfall.

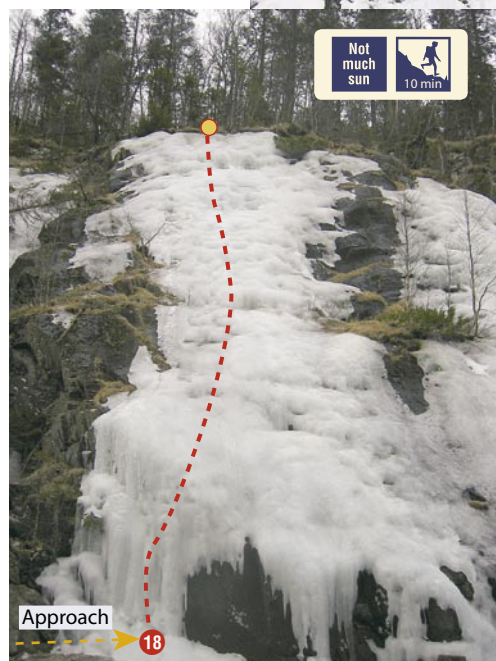
15 Swiss Army WI 4/5
1 pitch. The rating depends on which side of the waterfall you choose - left is harder.
FA. Anders Nilsson, Jon Haukåsveen 1995

Twin Ice

A pair of waterfalls starting from the base of the Gorge.
Approach - From the 4.3km parking spot, walk approximately 200m towards Vemork and trend down into The Gorge.

16 Twin Ice One WI 4
1 long pitch. Take the left side of the arete.
FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Hågen Skipper 1999

17 Twin Ice Two WI 5
1 long pitch. The right side of the arete. A Friend 1 could be useful near the top. Thin.
FA. Jon Haukåsveen, Hågen Skipper 1999



Soloisten

There is a further waterfall starting from the base of the Gorge on the southern side.
Approach - Approach as for *Twin Ice* then cross the river and walk up the other side.

18 Soloisten WI 2
1 pitch. A slabby waterfall which is usually soloed.
FA. Unknown



Våeråi Area

Two very contrasting waterfalls can be found above the road between the 4.3km parking and the Vemork Bridge parking.

19 Våeråi WI 3
9 pitches. Do not climb this waterfall since it is the water source for the habitants of Våer.
FA. Unknown climbers 1995

20 Ett konstverk är ett körn av naturen sedd genom ett temperament WI 5
1 pitch. Roadside ice climbing. Don't get run over by passing cars. Previously known as *Dynamittfossen*.
FA. Björn Kihlström, Joakim Fransson 1996

