



Skiing on Larsbreen (itinerary 1.2.1, 1.3.1 and 1.4.1): back to Longyearbyen.

1.0 Longyearbyen area

AREA DESCRIPTION

This area combines a great variety of ski tours accessible with a straightforward approach to the mountains. Also, the accommodation available in Longyearbyen makes the area attractive in terms of logistics and organization.

Since some of the mountains are very close to town, you can approach them without needing a car or snowmobile. But the most beautiful and exciting tours need to be accessed with a car or snowmobile. Snowmobile rentals are easy to find in Longyearbyen, and in under an hour, you can find yourself amid wild arctic nature.

The best time of year for ski touring this area is from the beginning of March to mid-May.

Even close to Svalbard's most prominent "city," you should never underestimate the danger of meeting a polar bear. You must carry a rifle (also necessary to apply with the Governor for a permit, see the "Skiing in Svalbard" chapter).

In the last few years, the number of skiers in this area has increased, so you can expect to see ski tracks on the mountains closest to town.

1.17 Helvetiafjellet 3

SUMMIT ALTITUDE

1079 m

VERTICAL METERS

858 m

ASCENT ASPECT

Northeast then
East-Southeast

DESCENT ASPECT

East then Northeast
then Northwest, or
Southwest

TIME

3 hours

STEEPEST SLOPE ANGLE

over 30 degrees

ATES

3 - Complex

Helvetiafjellet is an aesthetic and wonderful mountain overlooking Adventdalen. The climb is easier from the Helvetiadalen.

1.17.1 NORMAL ROUTE

Follow the same approach to Skolten until you reach the junction with Helvetiadalen (18 kilometers from Longyearbyen). Now turn left (to the north) and enter the Helvetiadalen valley. Continue into the valley until you reach a wide stretch below Kreklingpasset. Park your snowmobile at the bottom of a mountain called Epleknausen at an altitude of about 250 m.a.s.l. (coordinates: 78°14'28.6"N, 16°20'43.7"E - altitude: 221 m - 24 kilometers from Longyearbyen).

Go south for about 500 meters, then veer southwest towards the valley coming down from Helvetiafjellet. You will then reach Austre Helvetiabreen glacier. Follow the glacier up to the basin below Helvetiafjellet's summit. When looking at the final slope (that faces southeast), you will see that it looks very steep, so better to climb it on the right (north) side, staying close to a band of small rocks.

Climb the slope (crampons can be useful) up to the narrow northeast ridge. Walk along the ridge, pass an enormous rock and reach the summit (1.17.1). You will be rewarded with a fantastic 360 degree view.

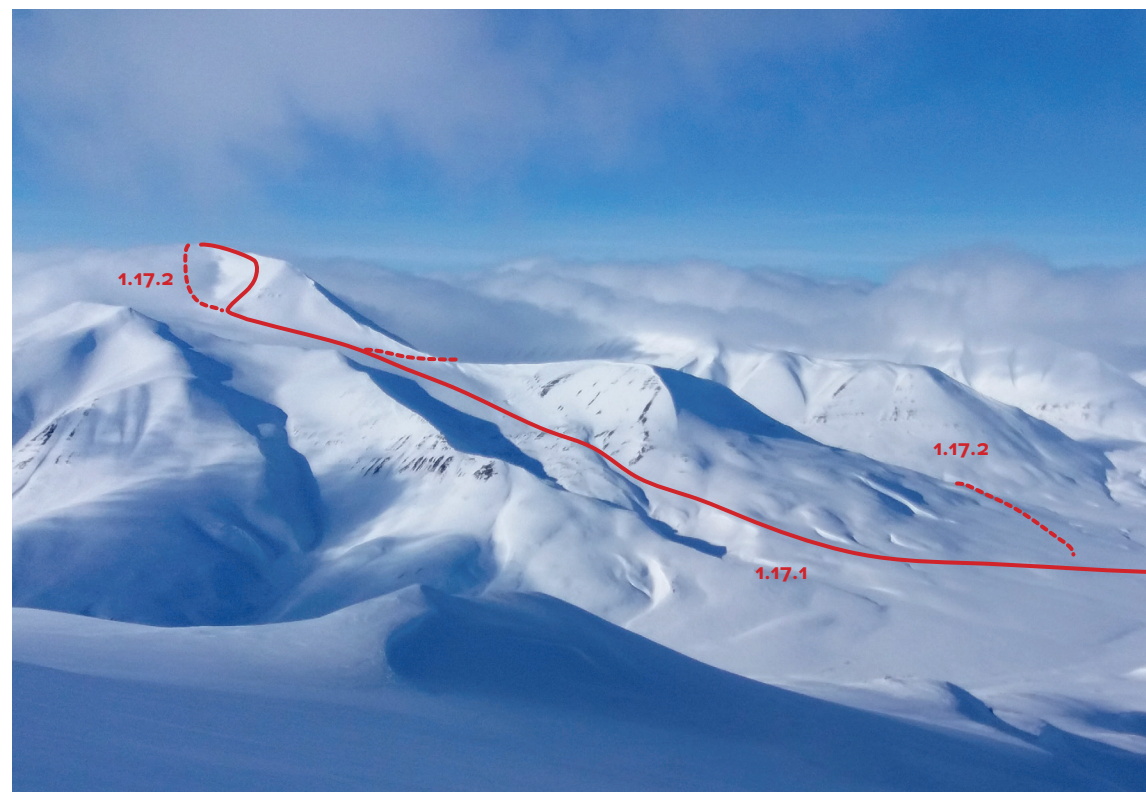
Ski down your ascent route (1.17.1), or choose one of these two possibilities:

1.17.2 EAST SLOPE

Ski directly down the east slope (over 35 degrees) to Austre Helvetiabreen and join the same route you climbed up before. Follow the route down the glacier, keeping to your left, until you reach a very obvious pass (altitude about 670 m.a.s.l.), located on the ridge connecting Helvetiafjellet and Epleknausen. Descend the other side of the pass, skiing

down the northwest face (30 degrees) to the valley where the Midtre Helvetiabreen glacier is located. Follow the valley until an altitude of about 300 m.a.s.l, then traverse (keeping the same altitude line) for about 250 meters on the right side, below the northwest face of Epleknausen until you reach its north face. Descend to the east, crossing the last slopes until you get back to the starting point (1.17.2).

Helvetiafjellet offers a quite technical ascent and exciting descents at the same time.



4.3 Venusfjellet and Marsfjellet ②

SUMMIT ALTITUDE

1556 m

VERTICAL METERS

430 m

ASCENT ASPECT

East then South

DESCENT ASPECT

East, or North

TIME

1.30 hours

STEEPEST SLOPE ANGLE

30 degrees

ATES

2 - Challenging

A charming mountain with a flat ice cap on the top.

Venusfjellet provides an easy way up with several technical skiing lines to choose from for the descent. The easiest climbing route starts at the bottom of the east face, from Veteranenbreen (coordinates: 79°00'41.4"N, 17°09'36.7"E - altitude: 1126 m).

4.3.1 VENUSFJELLET SOUTH RIDGE

Climb the east facing slope and reach a pass on the south ridge at an altitude of about 1390 m.a.s.l. Take your skis off and walk along the ridge until the top.

The top is an unbelievable iced plateau, completely flat.

The descent options are as follows:

Ski down the same route you climbed up (the easiest, 265 vertical meters of skiing at 30 degrees, 4.3.1).

4.3.2 EAST FACE

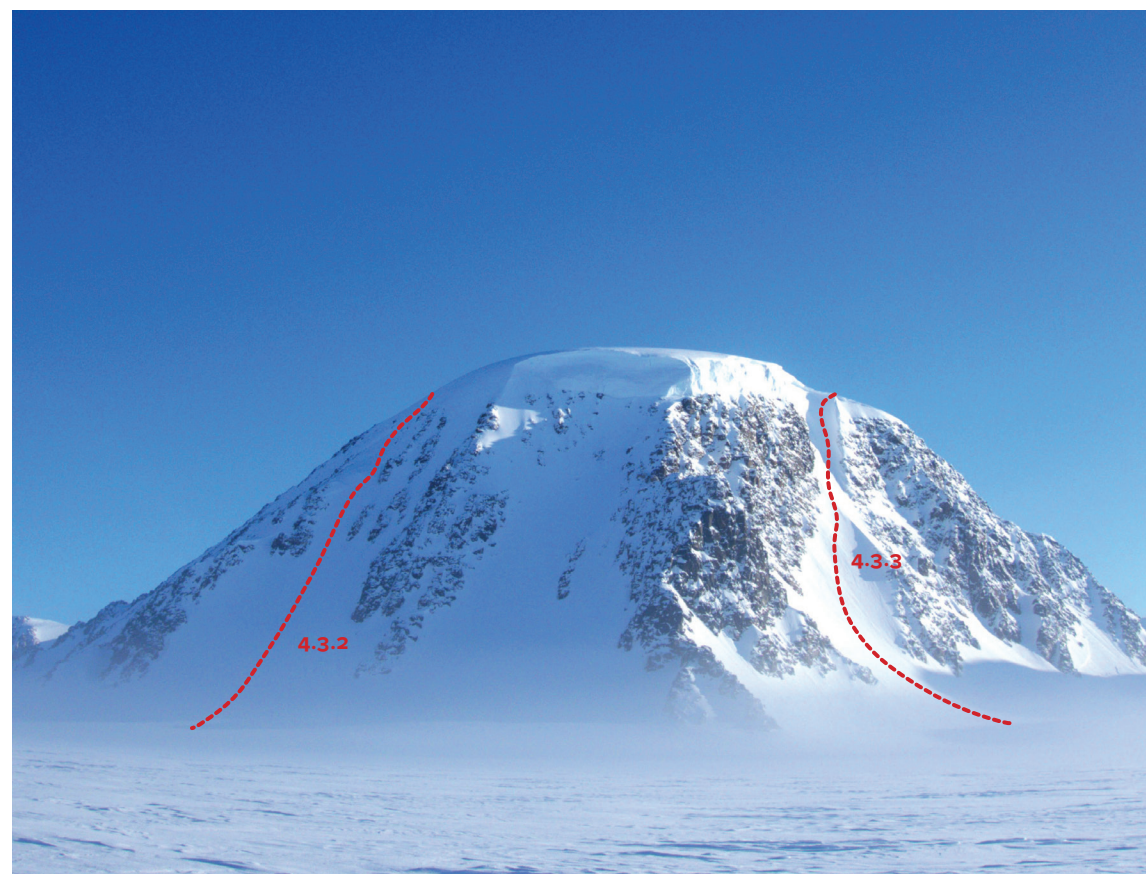
Ski down the east face (400 vertical meters, 50 degrees, 4.3.2, ATES 3 - Complex).

4.3.3 NORTH COULOIR

Locate and ski down the huge north facing couloir (400 vertical meters, over 50 degrees, 4.3.3, ATES 3 - Complex).

Venusfjellet: normal route and east face descent.

The majestic east and north faces with their steep itineraries.



5.1 First day

5.1.1 BOLTERDALEN – BOLTERSKARET

Start from the road that goes to Mine Number 7, just before it begins to rise up into the Mine. Enter and follow the Bolterdalen valley until you reach the Scott Turner-breen glacier. Continue along the glacier for a short time.

At an altitude of about 320 m.a.s.l., turn left (to southeast) and hike up towards Bolterskaret. Set up your camp close to the lake before Bolterskaret (coordinates: 78°05'54.8"N, 16°00'52.8"E - altitude: 392 m - about 8 kilometers from the road).

SKI TOUR OPTIONS

5.1.2 FOXTOPPEN ②

- Foxtoppen 955 m (roundtrip on the west face, 563 vertical meters, 35 degrees, 2 hours, ATES 2).

5.1.3 SOLEIETOPPEN ③

- Soleietoppen 811 m (roundtrip on the north-northeast ridge, 420 vertical meters, 35 degrees, 1.30 hours, ATES 3, crampons useful).

5.1.4 BURALLTOPPEN ③

- Tour of Burralltoppen 969 m: up to Ayer-breen, down to Scott Turner-breen and eventually up again on the west face of Soleietoppen (577 vertical meters, 35 degrees, 4.30 hours, ATES 3).

5.2 Second day

5.2.1 BOLTERSKARET – DALBURGBREEN

The day starts with an easy climb up to the Bolterskaret pass. From the pass, you descend to Tverrdalen for about 2 kilom-

eters until you reach an altitude of about 260 m.a.s.l (coordinates: 78°04'34.9"N, 16°04'10.0"E - altitude: 258 m).

Turn left to go down, heading east, and after about 90 meters distance, cross a small bed river and go east-northeast to enter the valley rising up to Dalburgbreen. Follow the glacier until you reach a small flat plateau at the bottom of the west face of Peak 1016 m. Set up your camp here (coordinates: 78°05'27.9"N, 16°15'26.4"E - altitude: 652 m - about 8 kilometers from the previous camp).

SKI TOUR OPTIONS

5.2.2 PEAK 1016 M ②③

- Peak 1016 m: reach the pass connecting Dalburgbreen and Fleinisen, traverse below Peak 1016's north face and then climb its northeast ridge until the summit (crampons useful, 350 vertical meters, 1.45 hours). Ski down on the same route (30 degrees, ATES 2) or choose either the north face, or the west face (35 degrees, ATES 3).

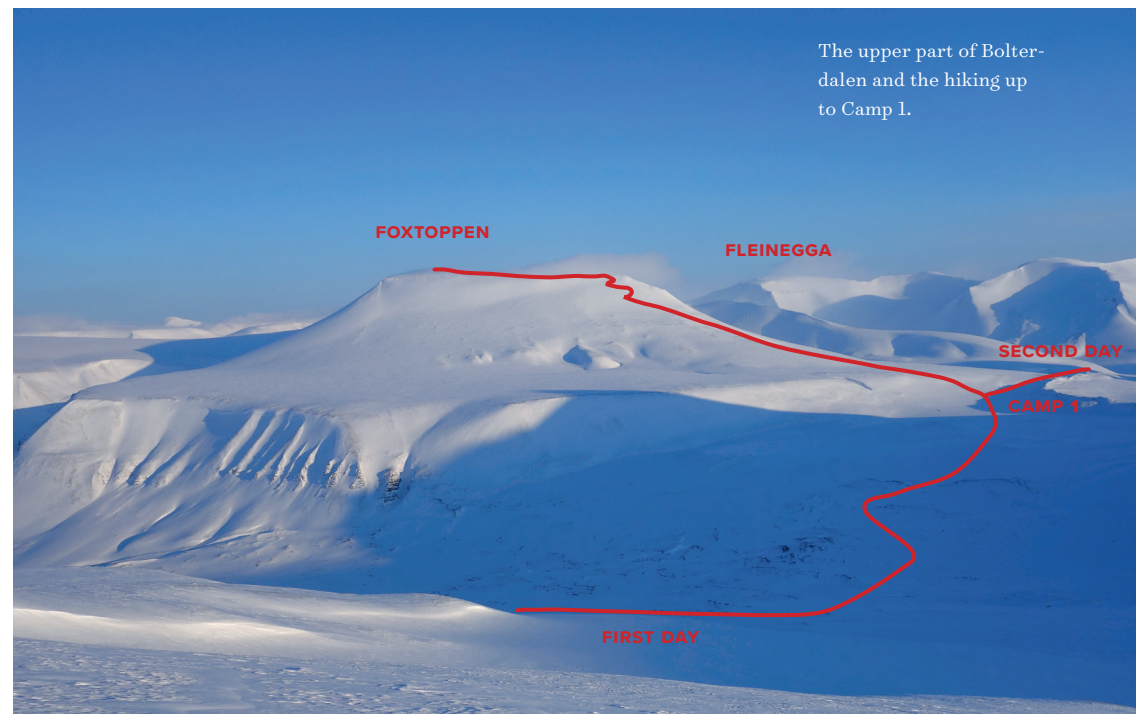
5.2.3 PEAK 906 M ③

- Peak 906 m: reach the pass connecting Dalburgbreen and Fleinisen, then climb Peak 906's east face to reach its very narrow north ridge (240 vertical meters, 1.30 hours). Ski down on the same route or, better yet, descend the south face, 30 degrees, ATES 2).

5.2.4 GILSONRYGGEN ③

- Gilsonryggen 931 m (roundtrip on the south face, 300 vertical meters, 35 degrees, 1.45 hours, ATES 3).

The upper part of Bolterdalen and the hiking up to Camp 1.



Skiing Burralltoppen in a cold day in March.

