



→ more routes decided to start there and rappel down to find potential lines. Along the way, they found dishes and ripples in the rock large enough to use as hand- and footholds. They began bolting these lines and eschewing all other forms of protection except the occasional slung rock. This top-down approach to bolting on rappel (all bolting in prior years was done ground-up, on lead) was revolutionary, but criticized.

While it did open up a new world of possibility, many purists thought it diminished the adventurous nature of climbing in which you start at the bottom, not fully knowing what you'll find. They also found fault with damaging the rock with bolts. However, climbers were able to explore faces and formations that were previously thought impossible to climb. Without having to think about protection or carry a lot of gear, climbers were able to focus on pure movement and strength. The level of skill and technique rose dramatically, along with the amount of climbable terrain. Sport climbing quickly caught on and expanded throughout Europe, the United Kingdom, and Australia over the next decade. →

THE LEVEL OF SKILL AND TECHNIQUE ROSE DRAMATICALLY, ALONG WITH THE AMOUNT OF CLIMBABLE TERRAIN.



← Left page Rannveig Aamodt enjoys the seaside climbing of Thailand. ↑ Top The fun of sport climbing can come from getting into a flow state, where you turn off your mind and just let your body move over the rock. ↑ Above James Lucas and Ben Hoiness enjoy a sport climbing crag in northern Jordan, near Ajloun. →→ Following spread Matty Hong on the first ascent of *El Poder de la Cusqueña Negra* (8c/5.14b) in Chacco Huayllasca (Pitumarca, Peru) in July 2019.