

# TF3DX/P SOTA # 03

**Date:** 17. – 19. September 2016  
**Summit:** TF/SV-005 Esja  
**Other people:** None  
**Start elevation:** 60 m, summit elevation: 914 m  
**Hike horiz. distance :** 9,7 km in, 22,3 km total  
Tent to summit 5,2 km, summit to tent 8,1 km  
**Hike duration:** 34 hours 10 minutes total, including 2 night's sleep  
**To carry:** To camp site: 20 kg in 18 kg out  
Camp site to summit: 12 kg in 10.5 kg out  
**Overnighting:** 2 nights in tent  
**Bands and modes:** 20 m CW and 2 m FM  
**TX power:** 2,5 W on 2 m and 3 W on 20 m  
**Antennas:** End fed horizontal  $\frac{1}{2} \lambda$  for 20 m and  $\frac{1}{4} \lambda$  vertical + 2 radials for 2 m  
**Radio conditions:** Fair, notably better than during trips # 1 and #2  
**Number of QSOs:** 2 m FM: 6 20 m CW: 16 (15 DX) = 22 QSOs total  
**Weather:** Good until final descent to the tent. Storm with gale-like gusts blew heavy rain into the tent during the night. Earthquakes in the Hengill area, 30 km away, were easily felt  
**Trail:** Easy to and from camp site, wetland less problem near river. Summit circle very varied, somewhat demanding

Latitude and longitude in decimal degrees.

(Base map courtesy of National Land Survey of Iceland)



Latitude and longitude in decimal degrees.

(Base map courtesy of National Land Survey of Iceland)



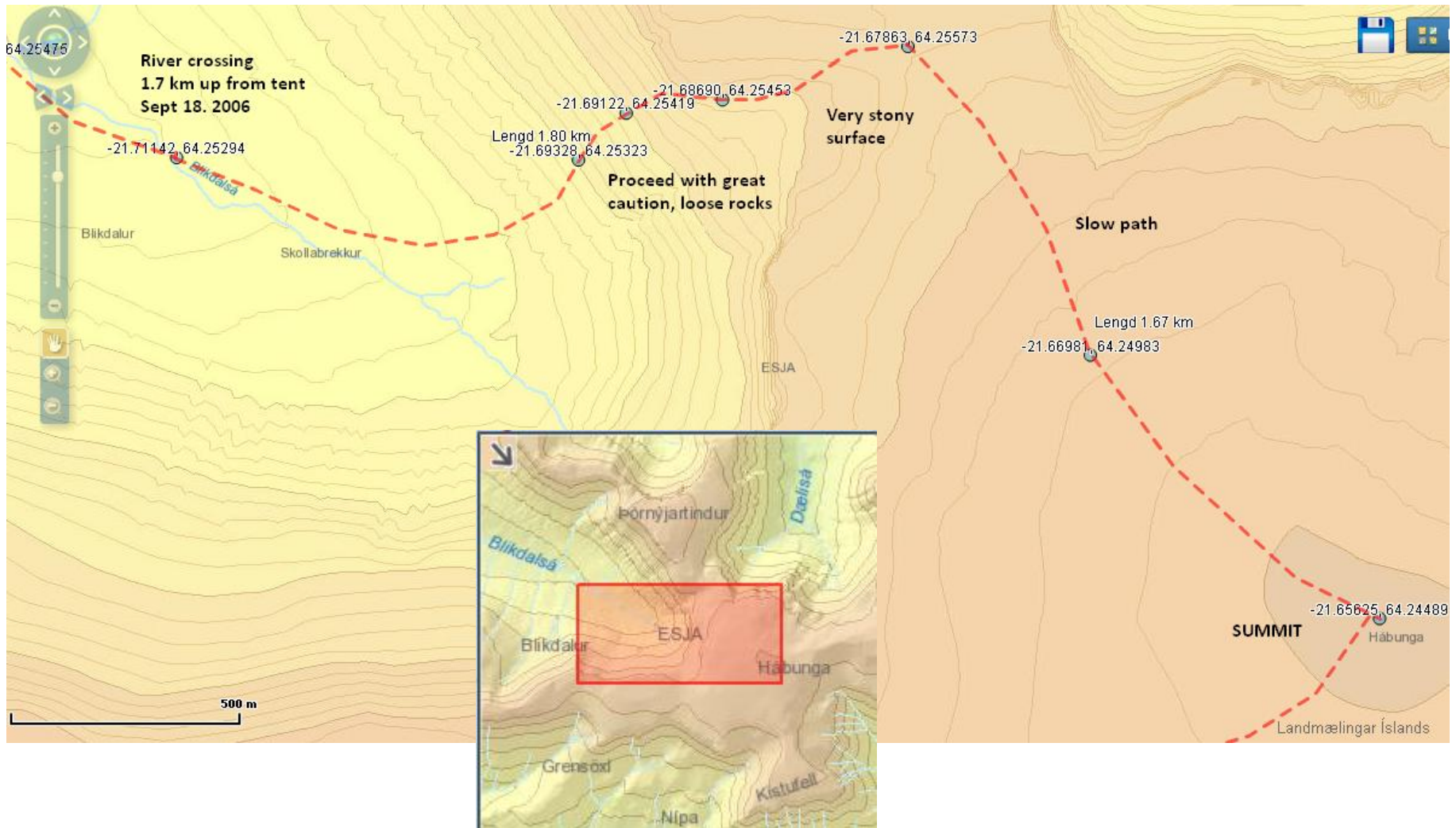
*The idea was to pitch the tent further up, below the main ascent. But making a round trip instead caught on.*



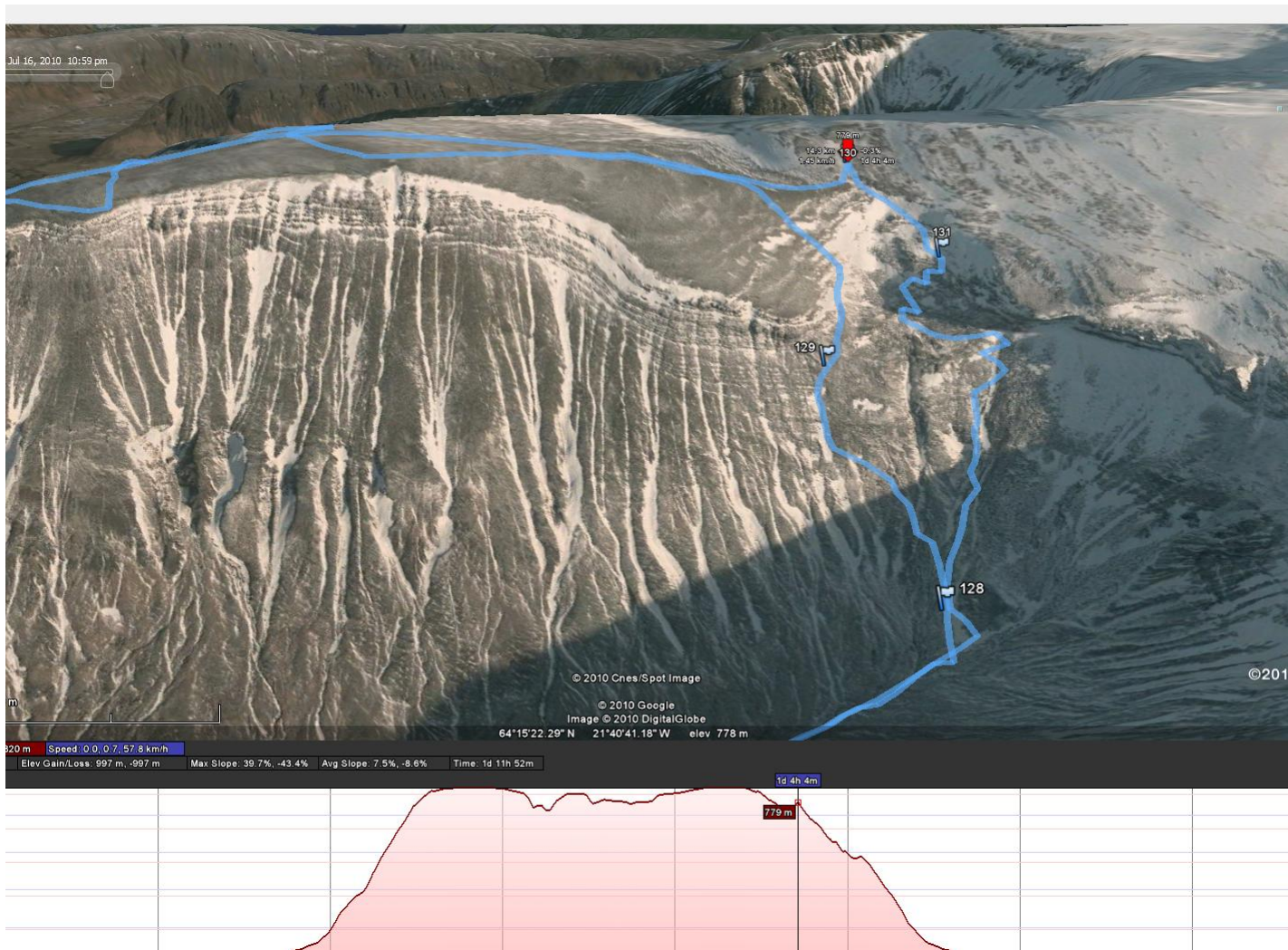
*07:51 in the morning, sunrise has not quite made it down to the valley. Town of Akranes at distance.*



*Almost up to the location for main ascent start. The Blikdalur river is usually quite small this far up the valley, frequently passable by stone stepping.*



*Up and towards the summit. Solo ascent up this pass is not recommended without safe communication link due to loose and heavy rocks. Those waypoints were saved during the trip, but free-hand tracks are approximate.*



*This blue track was a test hike in the company of TF3VUN (harmonic) in 2010. Up the left side like now, and down to the right. That side has less loose rocks but may be more slippery if wet. Note that the SOTA round trip takes to the right after the ascent, not left as we did in 2010.*

Jul 16, 2010 10:59 pm



ACTIVE LOG 013

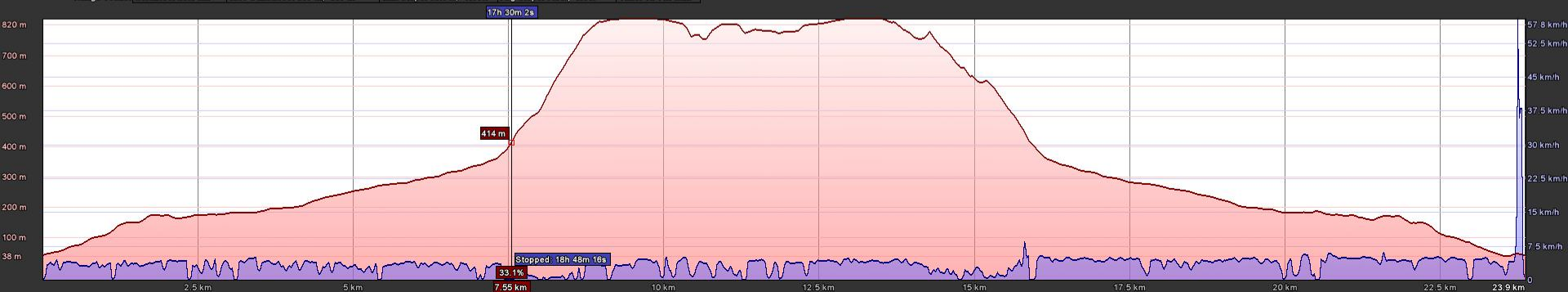
Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe  
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64°15'01.59" N 21°41'52.77" W elev 413 m

Eye alt 2.60 km

Graph: Min, Avg, Max Elevation: 38, 391, 820 m Speed: 0.0, 0.7, 57.8 km/h  
 Range Totals: Distance: 23.9 km Elev Gain/Loss: 997 m, -997 m Max Slope: 39.7%, -43.4% Avg Slope: 7.5%, -8.6% Time: 1d 11h 52m



*A good view of the 7 km hike up Blikdalur valley from the main road parking lot.  
 In 2010 we camped by the red flags at 400 m elevation.*



*On the way up.*



*Higher still.*



*The final stretch up the left side of the pass.*



*Up on the ridge, looking north across the fjord Hvalfjörður. The peak to the left in the far blue is SV-004 1053m.*



*The stony slow pass part, see page 6.*



*A flock of rock ptarmigan (*Lagopus Mutus*) taking on the white winter clothing. The mountain crown above them, Botnssúlur, sports SV-002 (1093 m) and SV-003 (1086 m). To its left is Hvalfell SV-007 (852 m).*



*The summit is no glorious peak!*

TF3DX/P Esja TF/SV-005 Sept 2016  
rev. 2026



*This totally rodless parafoil lifted the 14 MHz half wave gracefully right out of my hand at first. But before I could operate the wind became so strong that the air channels collapsed. Further futile attempts cut me back an hour.*



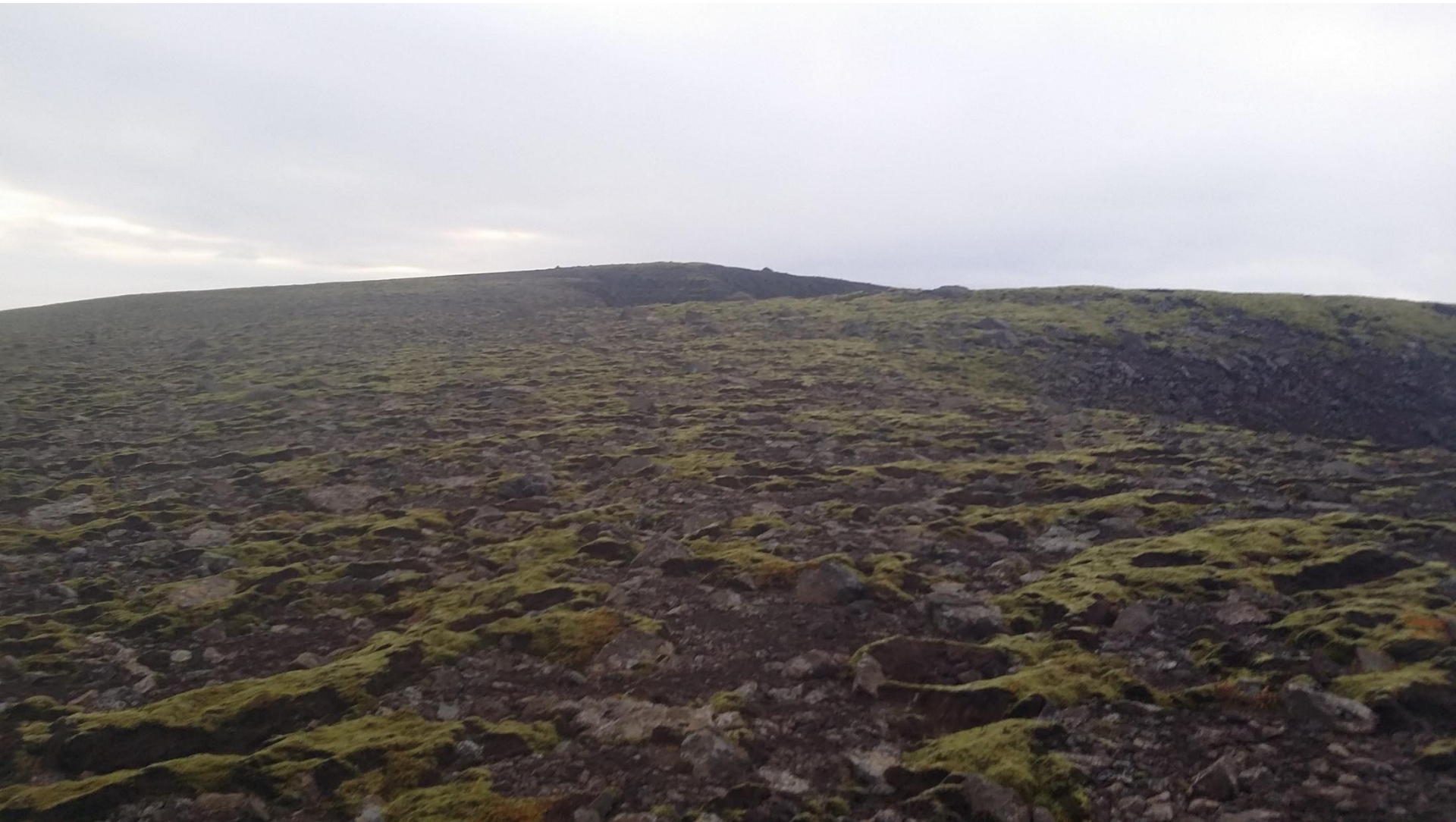
*This makeshift low inverted vee brought an instant reply though,  
14 Eu stns, KA1R from USA and a lone TF on 20 m CW.*



*Kerhólakambur seen to the west. My trip back will run along it in this direction and down on its west end behind sight.*



*Reykjavík comes into sight. The most frequented path to the Esja summit is via Þverfellshorn's busy trail.*



*Danger! Gullies cutting in close to the path along the Kerhólakambur ridge offer . . . . .*



*..... free fall towards Blikdalur valley if care is not exercised when visibility is impaired.*



*Looking back towards the summit, some 4 km away.*



*Below Kambshorn, the west end of Kerhólakambur. My point for turning north, down to the tent in Blikdalur valley. Darkness catching up with me due to the hassle with kite.*



*Reykjavík across the bay. Still 2 ½ km and a 400 m descent to tent. Increasing wind and soon totally pitch dark. Just as well I had packed a headband lamp. If not, I would have skipped a good deal of the QSOs at the summit!*

*My best bet in total darkness and fiercely escalating rainstorm was to add another night. My hat off to the tent! It took its most severe beating ever during that night. Immense gusts came down the slope of Kerhólakambur, repeatedly building to an explosion like blast followed by a sudden quietness for half a minute or so. This kept waking me up!*



*All over early next morning!*



*The carvings of Blikdalur river, looking back near the mouth of the valley.  
Beginning to think of good breakfast at home!*