

Kletterführer / Climbing Guide

Loutra

Chalkidiki Griechenland / Greece

Αφιερωμένο στον Βασίλειο Σεργιαννίδη, Γενικό Γραμματέα κατά τη χρυσή δεκαετία του '70" της ΠΑΕ ΠΑΟΚ, και στενό φίλο της οικογένειας, χωρίς τον οποίο, αυτός ο προορισμός της αναρρίχησης δεν θα υπήρχε κατά αυτόν τον τρόπο.

Gewidmet Vasilios Sergiannidis, Generalsekretär von PAOK Thessaloniki in den „golde-



nen '70ern" und enger Freund meiner Familie, ohne den es dieses Klettergebiet, so wie es ist, nicht gäbe.

Dedicated to Vasilios Sergiannidis, General Secretary of PAOK Thessaloniki in their "golden '70s", and a very close friend of my family, without whom this climbing destination would not exist the way it is.

Kai Maluck

General Information

Climate and climbing seasons

Temperatures and precipitation in Loutra are adequate for rock climbing all year round. Nevertheless, among the best seasons are spring and autumn with typical maximum temperatures between 15 and 25°C. While all the lush vegetation makes the landscape slightly more appealing in spring, the sea is warmer in autumn.

Summer at the beaches and cliffs nearby is fantastic. Climbing the few routes further inland may be best in the cooler mornings and evenings.

In winter, maximum temperatures are typically around 10°C which is still warm enough for climbing. However, the humidity and possible snowfall may be unpleasant.

Suitability for children

The beaches at Porto Ilios (Beach Towers, Turtle's Head) and Ageletas Rock are perfect for children and families. Most of the other crags are okay, in terms of safety and suitability for playing. Some sections around Red Sunset Face are quite rugged and steep.

Getting to Loutra and back

From Thessaloniki's international airport ("Makedonia"/SKG) you can catch a taxi to the bus station "KTEL Chalkidikis" (KTEL ΧΑΛΚΙΔΙΚΗΣ) for approximately €15. There you can buy a ticket to Loutra (ΛΟΥΤΡΑ) at the counter for €13.70. Buses leave Thessaloniki at 10.00 am, 1.00 pm and 7.00 pm. The ride takes almost 2½ hours. For the return journey, buses leave Loutra at 07.05 am (Mondays-Saturdays only), 01.05 pm and 05.35 pm; the tickets for these are sold on the bus. The company's web page is www.ktel-chalkidikis.gr (note: Loutra is listed as "Agia Paraskevi Spa").

Alternatively, one can bring or hire a car (which we never actually needed in Loutra) or catch a taxi (for example that of Charis Zaykaretos (Tel. 0030/6979494375), who lives in a neighbouring village of Loutra: €100-150 from the airport). November 2015

Accommodation

There are numerous holiday apartments and a few hotels in Loutra, many of which can be booked online. As there are several places in Greece called



Loutra be careful to choose the right one, sometimes listed as "Loutra Agia Paraskevi" or the like.

Food

There are a few shops in Loutra open for the summer but closed during winter. In Nea Skioni, which is 6km away, a few supermarkets are open all year round. From there you can return by taxi (see "Getting to Loutra and back") with all you have bought.

Maps

The best "hiking maps" of the area are probably printouts from Google Earth. Good idea to laminate them.

Protection and first ascents

In the photos of climbing routes, an "X" indicates the location of a bolt. If there is none, nuts, slings or friends need to be placed as anchors.

Currently (information as of 2012), Bolt Products (http://www.bolt-products.com/SeaWaterSeries_000.htm) appears to be the only producer of permanently salt water resistant glue-in bolts worldwide (according to the German Alpine Club, AustriAlpin, Camp, Cassin, DMM, Edelrid, Fixe (Fixe's "Marine Anchors" are not made of permanently salt water resistant steel!), Kong, Liberty Mountain / Ushba (they have stopped producing their Tortuga titanium bolts), Mammut, Petzl and Stubai). Following incidences where a number of bolts have broken off other sea cliff climbing areas, the UIAA, the German Alpine Club and some of the major companies producing climbing hardware are now researching and developing permanently safe bolts.

As the wind carries salt water spray extremely far inland during storms, please only place salt water resistant bolts in Loutra. Ordinary "stainless" ones would later need to be removed and the best bolt positions might still be blocked forever.

Faces with loose or crumbly rock, which have sunbathing areas below, obviously and strictly have to remain free of climbing routes (e.g. the sea-facing cliffs of the Upper Beach Tower as the narrow beach below is often used by tourists).

Out of respect, all crags and routes should be named

General Information

in Greek. To make communication among foreign tourists a bit easier, translations can be added or international terms may be chosen.

Please email your information about new routes to [kaimaluck\(at\)gmx.de](mailto:kaimaluck(at)gmx.de) (any attached photos of the relevant crags would be great).

Grading system

All difficulties in this guide are given according to the UIAA climbing grade system (using Roman numbers, e.g. VI) followed by the French (e.g. 5c) in brackets. A conversion chart can be found on page 8.

Salt water and climbing gear

Salt crystals that have deposited in a rope can cause friction and consequent wear but only at an extremely low rate comparable to that of dirt or sand a rope has come into contact with. They can be removed by simply soaking the rope in fresh, lukewarm water (without detergent) overnight. Move the rope through the water prior to removing it to wash out the dissolved salt. (bergundsteigen 3/2006).

Climbing gear made from alloy appears to suffer very little degradation when permanently exposed to salt water. Carabiners left permanently hanging on sea cliffs for 6-18 months have been found to still endure more than or almost their rated strength afterwards (<http://www.safeclimbing.org/education/deepblueseaa.htm>).

To keep one's gear in an optimum state, it is therefore recommended to rinse it in fresh water after returning from a seaside climbing area, or once a month during a longer stay (<http://www.safeclimbing.org/education/deepblueseaa.htm>).

Other activities

- swimming, sunbathing, snorkelling, etc.
- hiking
- mountain biking
- relaxing in the spa immediately above the cliffs
- nightlife in Kalithea or Thessaloniki
- climbing Mount Olympus (about 3 hours by car to Litchoron at the foot of the mountain or alternatively by bus to Thessaloniki and from there to Litchoron by bus or train)



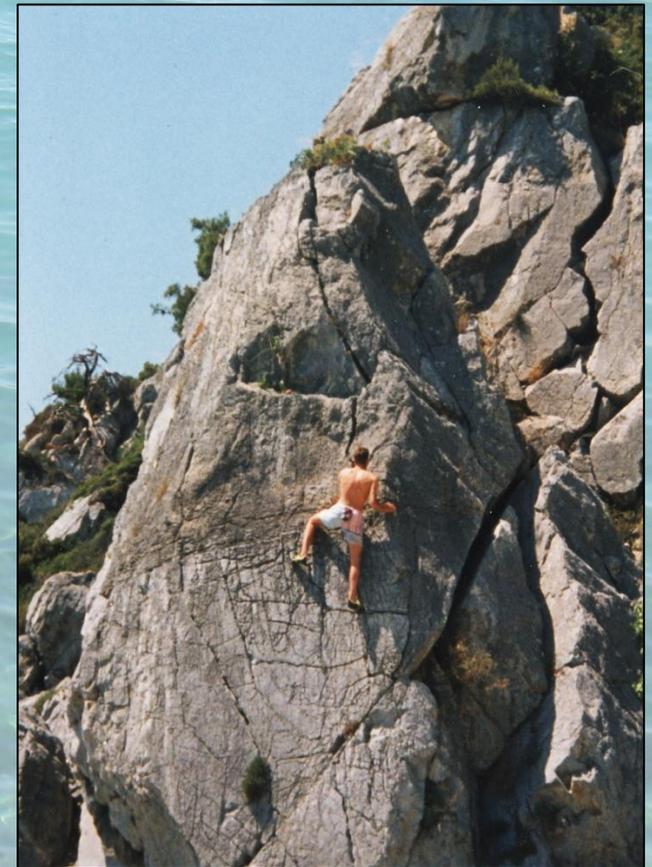
- visiting excavation sites and museums (e.g. Archaeological Museum in Thessaloniki)

Video

YouTube-video: "LOUTRA - Klettern am Strand / Climbing at the Beach"

Guidebook updates and further news

Find more information on Loutra, including guidebook updates, new routes and climbing courses online at www.kai-maluck.de/loutra.htm, or on facebook at "Loutra Rock Climbing".

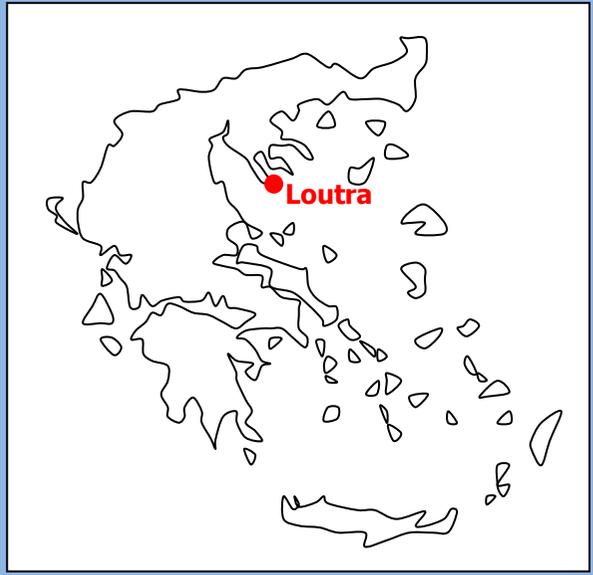
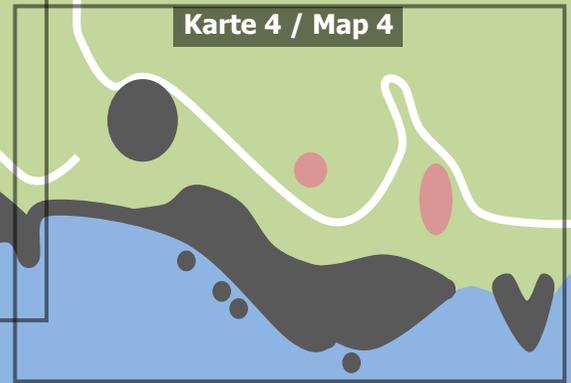
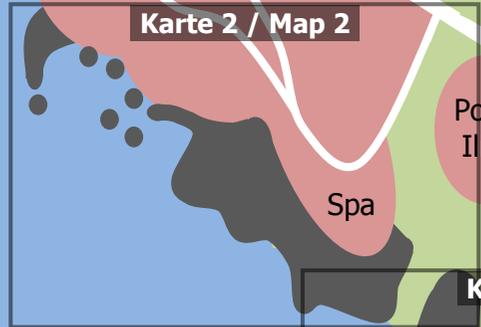


Karte 1 / Map 1

Nea Skioni

Agia Paraskevi

Loutra



500m

Karte 2 / Map 2



100m

A Fidogrammi (Schlangengrat / Snake Ridge)

B Tichos Glaron (Möwenwand / Gull Face)

C Asterias (Seestern / Starfish)

D Tichos Alicjas (Alicjawand / Alicja Face)

E Koryfogrammi Sanatoriou (Sanatoriumsgrat / Sanatorium Ridge)

F Pyrgaki Thalassis (Seetürmchen / Little Sea Tower)

G Ano Pyrgos Amudias (Oberer Strandturm / Upper Beach Tower)

H Meseos Pyrgos Amudias (Mittlerer Strandturm / Central Beach Tower)

I Kato Pyrgos Amudias (Unterer Strandturm / Lower Beach Tower)

J Fanari (Leuchtturm / Lighthouse)

K Pefkovelona (Kiefernadel / Pine Needle)

L Tichos Samiamidiou (Geckowand / Gecko Face)

A

B

C

D

E

F

J

K

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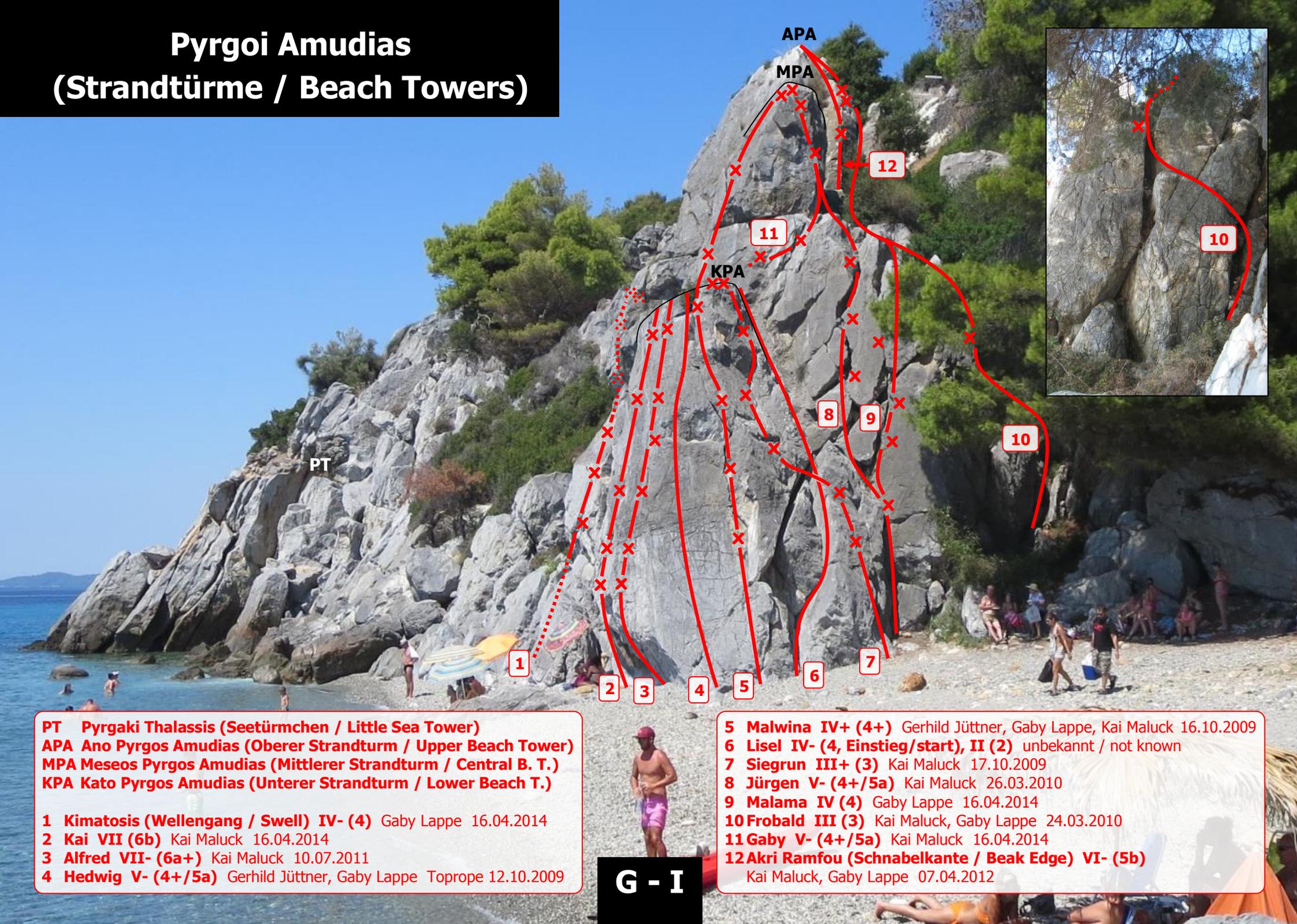
H

I

N

O

Pyrgoi Amudias (Strandtürme / Beach Towers)



PT Pyrgaki Thalassis (Seetürmchen / Little Sea Tower)
APA Ano Pyrgos Amudias (Oberer Strandturm / Upper Beach Tower)
MPA Meseos Pyrgos Amudias (Mittlerer Strandturm / Central B. T.)
KPA Kato Pyrgos Amudias (Unterer Strandturm / Lower Beach T.)

- 1 **Kimatosis (Wellengang / Swell) IV- (4)** Gaby Lappe 16.04.2014
- 2 **Kai VII (6b)** Kai Maluck 16.04.2014
- 3 **Alfred VII- (6a+)** Kai Maluck 10.07.2011
- 4 **Hedwig V- (4+/5a)** Gerhild Jüttner, Gaby Lappe Toprope 12.10.2009

- 5 **Malwina IV+ (4+)** Gerhild Jüttner, Gaby Lappe, Kai Maluck 16.10.2009
- 6 **Lisel IV- (4, Einstieg/start), II (2)** unbekannt / not known
- 7 **Siegrun III+ (3)** Kai Maluck 17.10.2009
- 8 **Jürgen V- (4+/5a)** Kai Maluck 26.03.2010
- 9 **Malama IV (4)** Gaby Lappe 16.04.2014
- 10 **Frobald III (3)** Kai Maluck, Gaby Lappe 24.03.2010
- 11 **Gaby V- (4+/5a)** Kai Maluck 16.04.2014
- 12 **Akri Ramfou (Schnabelkante / Beak Edge) VI- (5b)**
Kai Maluck, Gaby Lappe 07.04.2012

Creating rock climbing opportunities in Loutra has cost a lot of energy and money. To avoid any misunderstandings, the author would like to point out that the money spent exceeds by far any income created through the sale of guidebooks. Instead, it was and is the wish to create a truly pleasure giving place for climbers from Greece and abroad. And to help the Greek people economically, with whom my family has had very close relations for many decades. May the rock climbing destination of Loutra grow further, for the benefit of both the guests and locals of Chalkidiki!

Impressum

Kai Maluck

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