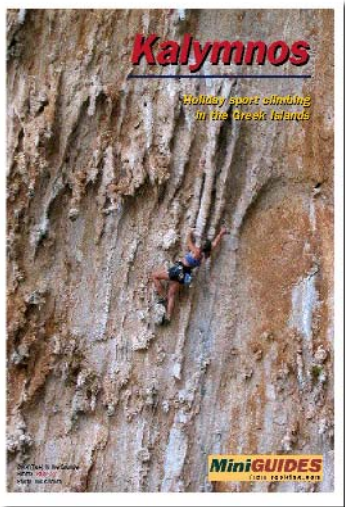


Kalymnos MiniGUIDE

by Nick Smith and Alan James

Version 1.2 - October 2003



Thank you for downloading this ROCKFAX MiniGUIDE. We hope that you find the information useful, inspiring and accurate. Our intention is to provide many more MiniGUIDEs which will help open up new areas for travelling climbers. We also hope to provide affordable sampler guides to established areas and to extend existing coverage with newly developed crags. Print-on-demand means that we will be able to keep the MiniGUIDEs continually up-to-date but to do this we need your feedback. Please send any comments you have to feedback@rockfax.co.uk.

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Thanks again for your support.

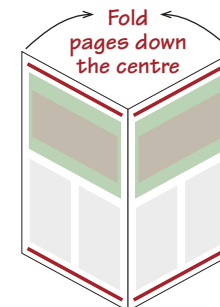
Alan James, October 2003

HOW TO ASSEMBLE YOUR MiniGUIDE

This MiniGUIDE is designed to be printed and compiled into a compact booklet. For best results it should be printed on good quality A4 paper using a modern colour inkjet printer.

PRINTER SETTINGS

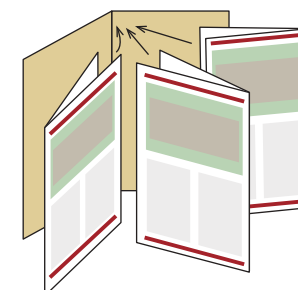
- Choose *Landscape* printing on a *Good quality colour* setting.
- Initially print at full size (100%).
- Ensure that any options such as *Shrink oversize pages to paper size* are **UNCHECKED**.
- Select any options to *Maximize printable area*.
- Select any options to *Centre printable area*.
(See Problems below)



Printed sides facing outwards

PRINTING

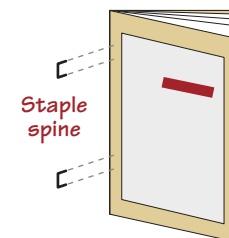
- Do not print page 1 (this page).
- Print page 2 (the cover) on strong paper, photo paper or white card.
- Print the rest of the pages on good quality paper.



Insert separate folded pages inside cover page

ASSEMBLING

- Fold each internal page separately down the middle so that the printed sides are facing outwards.
- Assemble the pages, with the folded center edge outwards, into a small booklet.
- Wrap the cover around the pages and insert two staples in the spine.



Staple spine

PROBLEMS

- With some printers (especially Hewlett Packard) it is difficult to get the pages to centre properly. If this happens then fold down the printed centre line and trim off the excess paper.
- If the pages are being cropped then try printing at 95%.

APOLLONIA — STUDIOS —

The view from
the balcony

Accommodation in Massouri
Ring Nick Magriplis (English possible)
Phone: +30 224 30 29928 or +30 22430 48094
Fax: +30 22430 48041
Email: nick_magriplis@hotmail.com

20% discount to owners of this MiniGUIDE



Kalymnos

*Holiday sport climbing
in the Greek Islands*

*DNA (7a+) in the Grande
Grotta. Page 27.
Photo: Nick Smith*

MiniGUIDES
from rockfax.com

Kalymnos MiniGUIDE

by Nick Smith and Alan James

Photos - Chris Dainton, Nick Smith and Alan James

Thanks for comments and feedback to - Mark Glaister, Lee Proctor, Steve Golley, Chris Dainton, Karsten Kurz, Steve McDonnell, Jo George, Dave Cuthbertson, Rob Stone, Neil Gresham, Adrian Berry, Tomasz Ratajczak and all those who offered comments in Steve's Bar in April 2003

Version 1.2 - October 2003

ROCKFAX MiniGUIDE design by Alan James and Mick Ryan.
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FOOTNOTE

The inclusion of a climbing area in this MiniGUIDE does not mean that you have a right of access or the right to climb upon it. The descriptions of routes and grades within this MiniGUIDE are recorded for historical reasons only and no reliance should be placed on the accuracy of the description. Climbers who attempt a climb of a particular standard should use their own judgment as to whether they are proficient enough to tackle that climb. This book is not a substitute for experience and proper judgment. The authors and publisher of this MiniGUIDE do not recognise any liability for injury or damage caused to, or by, climbers, third parties, or property arising from such persons seeking reliance on this guidebook as an assurance for their own safety.

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KALYMNOS

MiniGUIDES from rockfax.com

The perfect sport climbing destination with great weather, fantastic rock formations, an endless supply of superb bolted routes at every grade and all within walking distance of a swim in the sea and some fine Greek cooking!

Kalymnos is the fourth largest island in the Dodecanese chain of Greek islands, which include Kos and Rhodes, and is situated close to the Turkish mainland. It is only a small island but it packs a lot in with amazing range of routes on its limestone cliffs and its size makes it ideal for getting around without a hire car. Historically it is known for its sponge diving and honey but both of these have fallen on lean times in recent years and the main industry here now is tourism.

Climbing started on the island in 1997 and has taken off in the past couple of years with new crags and routes being developed at a feverish pace. The best of the climbing at the moment is concentrated around the small tourist town of Massouri, a 20 minute taxi ride from the island capital and ferry port of Pothia. Many quality 1 and 2-pitch sport routes from fine 4+ slabs to overhanging 8b stamina-fests have been developed, with some spectacular climbing available on tufas and stalactites and there is huge scope for future development of many more sport routes and longer mountain routes. Autumn and Spring are the best times for climbing with most crags in the shade until mid-afternoon allowing you to enjoy a well-deserved siesta on the beach, or a swim in the sea after a hard morning of climbing.



Contents	Total Routes	GREEN to 4+	ORANGE 5 to 6a+	RED 6b to 7a	BLACK 7a+ up	Route Type	Character	Page
Arhi	35	3	20	10	2	Slabby, Steep	From mid morning, Dry in the rain	8
Kastelli	21	4	14	0	3	Slabby, Vertical	Evening	12
Odyssey	61	2	12	23	24	Slabby, Steep	Afternoon, Dry in the rain	16
Grande Grotta	78	3	12	38	25	Vertical, Steep	Afternoon, Dry in the rain	22
Poets	18	0	9	9	0	Slabby	Afternoon	31

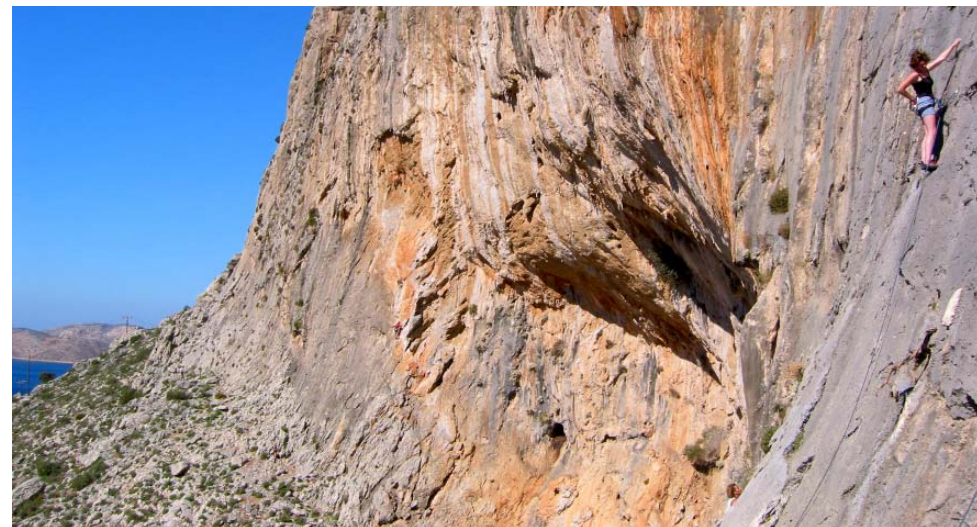
Symbol Key

- A good route
- A very good route
- A brilliant route
- Technical climbing involving complex or trick moves
- Powerful moves requiring big arms
- Sustained climbing, either long and pumpy or with lots of hard moves
- Fingery climbing - sharp holds!
- Fluttery climbing with big fall potential
- A long reach is helpful/essential

Colour-coded route number grade bands:

- 1 - 4+ and under
- 2 - 5 to 6a+
- 3 - 6b to 7a
- 4 - 7a+ and above

BRITISH TRAD GRADE (including poorly protected routes)	Sport Grade	UIAA	USA	Australian
	1	I	5.1	4
	2	II	5.2	6
	2+	III	5.3	8
	3-3+	III+	5.4	10
	3	IV	5.5	12
	4	IV+	5.6	14
	4+	V	5.7	16
	5	V+	5.8	18
	5+	VI	5.9	19
	6a	VI+	5.10a	20
	6a+	VII-	5.10b	21
	6b	VII	5.10c	22
	6b+	VII+	5.10d	23
	7a	VIII-	5.11a	24
	7a+	VIII+	5.11b	25
	7b	IX-	5.11c	26
	7b+	IX	5.11d	27
	7c	IX+	5.12a	28
	7c+	IX+	5.12b	29
	8a	X-	5.12c	30
	8a+	X	5.12d	31
	8b	X+	5.13a	32
	8b+	X+	5.13b	33
	8c	XI-	5.13c	34
	8c+	XI	5.13d	35
	9a	XI+	5.14a	36
	9a+	XI+	5.14b	36



Clare Bates on *Medusa* (6a+) at Arhi. Page 11. Photo: Chris Dainton

Getting There

Option 1 - Chartered flights to Kos are available from most major airports for £100-£200 between April and October. Once you have landed take a bus or a taxi to Mastichari (12 Euros) and then catch the ferry to Pothia on Kalymnos (3 Euros, takes 45 mins). Tickets are available at the box office next to the port. The ferry travels between Mastichari and Pothia three times a day leaving Mastichari at 9am, 5.30pm and 10pm, and returning from Pothia at 7am, 4pm and 8pm. The ferry doesn't sail when the wind is blowing so allow plenty of time if the weather is bad. If your flight arrives in Kos late at night, it may be hard to find a bed in Mastichari so ask your taxi driver for open hotels or phone ahead and book a room. Hotel KYMA +30 242 59045 or Hotel Mastihari Beach +30 242 59252

www.air-travel.co.uk - www.flightsavers.co.uk - www.cheapflights.com
www.charterflights.co.uk - www.teletextholidays.co.uk - www.bargainholidays.com
www.holidaysbyphone.co.uk - www.flightline.co.uk

There are also flight and accommodation packages available for under £300. As long as you end up in, or near, Massouri then these can be the cheapest option and you also have cover if the ferry doesn't sail.

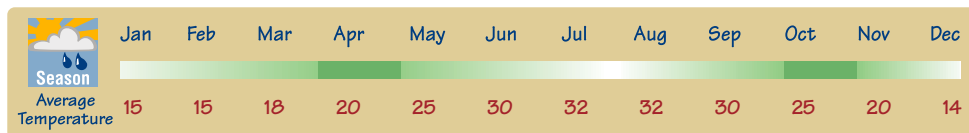
Option 2 - Fly to Athens (www.easyjet.com for £80-200 pounds) then take the metro to the nearby port of Piraeus on the outskirts of Athens (under 1 euro, 20 mins). Cross the road outside the metro station and take the free shuttle bus to gate H which is situated on the far side of the port. The overnight ferries to Pothia on Kalymnos take 10-12 hrs, leaving at 2pm and 4pm and cost 20-25 euros for deck class, returning from Pothia at 7pm and 9pm. It is worth paying 10 euros extra for a cabin for the return trip so that you can get some sleep. Tickets for the overnight ferries can be bought from the company kiosks along the pier. There are also faster hydrofoil boats that make the crossing in under 5 hrs, but you may need motion sickness tablets! During the winter months you should allow for a day or two at either end of your trip as the ferries won't sail if there are high winds. There are also occasionally offers from Olympic Air who will give you a free onward connection flight to Kos with your flight to Athens. These are not always available though; check with your travel agent since there is nothing online.

Best Time of Year

It is possible to climb all year round but the best times are September to the end of October, and March to the end of May. Winter is a possibility although it could be cold and finding accommodation and places to eat will be more of a problem outside the tourist season. It is possible to climb during the hotter summer months but everything will be more expensive during peak season and you will need early starts to get a good morning's worth of climbing in while the crags are still in the shade. The hot afternoons are better spent on the beach or taking a siesta.

It is worth booking your accommodation before arriving on the island, especially in the summer when most places are booked up, and winter when only a couple of places will be open. If you are travelling during the winter you should allow for a day or two getting to and from Kalymnos as the ferries won't sail if there are high winds.

Rain is seldom a problem late in the year but it can be in April and May. In addition, if it has been a wet winter, the tufas and stalactites will be dripping.





Gilles Mauléon lowering off DNA (7a+) in the Grande Grotta. Page 27. Photo: Alan James

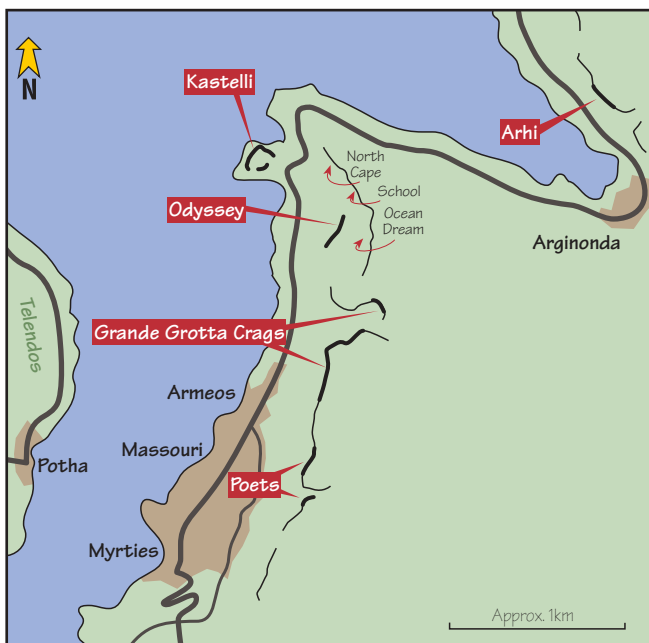
Getting Around

The flights are generally more expensive than other Sun-Rock destinations but the big advantage of Kalymnos is that you don't need a hire car once you get there. All the best climbing is within walking distance of Massouri and there is also the option to hire mopeds or bicycles.

On your arrival, and possibly on rest days, you will need to get between Pothia and Massouri. A taxi is relatively

simple to sort out (10 Euros and about 20 mins drive) and there is a regular bus service for less than 1 Euro, running every hour or so from 7am until 9pm. If you are driving a hire car, follow signs to Myties/Massouri.

Moped Hire - There are several places in Massouri and Armeos where you can hire mopeds/scooters for 7-9 Euros/day. The larger scooters can just about fit 2 climbers and 2 rucksacks. You will need your driving licence with you if you want to hire a scooter. A cheaper and more environmentally-friendly alternative is hiring mountain bikes for about 3 Euros/day.



Where to Stay

Massouri and Armeos are excellent places to stay and are well-situated for the local crags with easy access to shops, restaurants and bars. The standard type of accommodation here is a studio with 2 or 3 beds, a small cooker and fridge, bathroom with shower and balcony with a panoramic view. Prices are very seasonal, but during the Spring and Autumn a small apartment will cost around 30-40 Euros per night and usually hold 2 to 3 people.

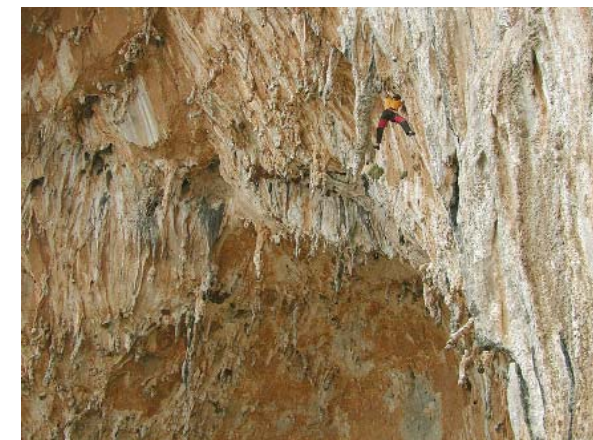
During the winter season you may be lucky to find anywhere open but apartments in Pothia should be available.

There are also several web sites offering accommodation

www.kalymnos-isl.gr - www.gokalymnos.com -

www.greeka.com/dodecanese/kalymnos/

Alternatively put *Accommodation + Kalymnos* in www.google.com.



The amazing Trella (6c+) in the Grande Grotta. Page 28. Photo: Alan James

Apollonia Studios

- Well-positioned apartments in the town of Massouri.
- Within walking distance of the climbing and bars.
- Free pick up and drop off from the port at Pothia.

Nick Magriplis (good English speaker)

Phone: +30 224 30 29928 or 48094

Fax: +30 224 30 48041

Mobile: +30 697 4345099

Email: nick_magriplis@hotmail.com or apollo1@otenet.gr

20% discount for owners of this ROCKFAX MiniGUIDE
25% discount for groups of 6 or more people



Glaros Bar

The Glaros Bar in Massouri, run by ex-pats Steve and Sue McDonnell, is the focal point of climbing on the island and is the main hangout for climbers of all nationalities. The bar contains the new routes book and Steve is a mine of information about the best places to climb, good restaurants and what else there is to do on Kalymnos. Tel: +30 22430 47712



Steve and the Glaros Bar. Photo: Nick Smith

Shops

There are three general shops in Massouri. Mini Market Maria is a small market close to the Glaros Bar and the larger Ibiscus Supermarket, and Anna's Supermarkets, are 5 and 10 minutes walk further towards Myties, respectively. All stock a useful range of food and drink, including fresh bread daily. If you can't find what you want then just ask in the morning and they will usually get it for you by the time you return from climbing. If you need a bigger shop then the large town of Pothia is only a short bus ride or drive away. There is a small and basic gear shop in Armeos passed when you walk to the crags each day.

Restaurants

There are a large number of bars and restaurants on Kalymnos. Apart from those in Pothia, there is quite a strip of restaurants and tourist shops all along the road from Myties to Massouri, however many are closed during the climbing season. The ones that are open are all keen to get a slice of the lucrative climbers market, as the many signs offering 'climbers special discounts' will attest to.

Moped Safety

Mopeds are a great way to cut down on your approach walks and they are cheap to hire. Most models will just about take two climbers with gear but always wear a helmet (even though the locals don't) and be wary of mad car drivers speeding around blind corners! Take great care if it is wet and watch out for the potholes in the road. Shorts and sandals might be fine for climbing, but not ideal if you come off the bike.

Insects

Mosquitos can be a problem in early Spring or late Autumn (more in the evenings than during the day), and you can buy a very effective liquid repellent that plugs into power sockets in your room for about 5 Euros.



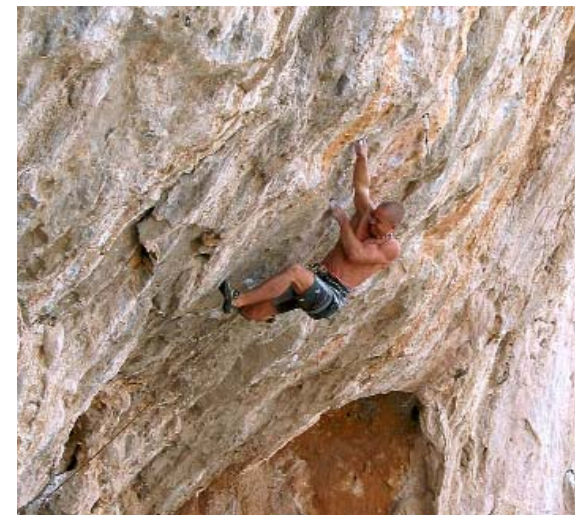
Eyrikleia (5) at Odyssey. Page 21. Photo: Alan James

Gear

The routes described in this MiniGUIDE are all well-bolted sport routes which require a single 60m rope (50m will do) and around 15 quickdraws. A handful of longer routes require a 70m rope and more quickdraws; this is mentioned in the route descriptions. There are some trad multi-pitch routes which are described in the local guide.

Grades

The various sport grades given for the routes on Kalymnos are a bit erratic which is understandable for such a young area. The local information sheets, and the grades painted on the rock, tend to be soft-touch when compared with other areas in Europe, although not always. We have tried to bring the grades in this MiniGUIDE in line with sport grades elsewhere but there may well still be the odd anomaly. You can let us know what you think, and check what others have already said, by using the Kalymnos Route Database at www.rockfax.com/kalymnos/



Neil Gresham climbing Orion (8a) at Odyssey. Page 18. Photo: Nick Smith

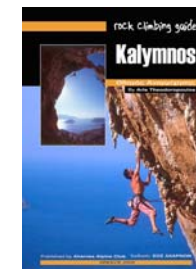
Other Areas

This MiniGUIDE contains the five major climbing areas on Kalymnos however there are a number of other small venues. Many of these are described with brief details of grades and approach information in the relevant sections. One area not covered are the crags to the south of Kantouni Beach called Monastery and St. Photis. Kantouni is on the map on page 1 and can be easily reached by bus or moped. The grades of these routes are on the Kalymnos Route Database at www.rockfax.com/kalymnos/

Other Guidebooks

Kalymnos by Aris Theodoropoulos - due Late 2003

Aris is working of a full guide for the island which should be out soon. It will contain all the routes, lots of action photos and photo-topos, and is in 5 languages! Available from the Glaros Bar when it is published. Kalymnos climbing site - www.kalymnos-isl.gr/climb/ There is also a free route list which is available locally.



Climbing Safety

Stand clear of the base of routes which have big tufas and stalactites; these things DO break off from time to time but usually it requires the help of a climber pulling or stepping on them. Take extra care when belaying to tuck yourself in. In the event of an accident, you can ring the local hospital on +30 22430 23025. There is no mountain rescue service on Kalymnos and it will be up to the climbers to help get an injured person to safety.

Arhi means 'beginning' in Greek and this was where it all started a few years ago with the first routes being climbed in the mid 1990s. The centre of the crag is dominated by a striking oval-shaped cave which promises a lot but is in reality too big and steep to offer much. It is the walls on either side of this cave which have some of the best mid to low-grade climbs on the island and there is plenty here to keep you busy for several visits but take it easy otherwise your fingers may get shredded by the sharp holds. There are only a few harder routes but they are all of very high quality which can mean that they get a bit busy if the crag is crowded.



Approach (See map on page 4)

This is the furthest crag from Massouri described in this MiniGUIDE and most people will need a scooter or car to get there. You could walk but it will take about 2 hours. It is very easy to find if you continue along the road leaving Massouri and Armeos towards Kastelli. Just keep driving around the next bay and the prominent oval-shaped cave of Arhi becomes clear on the opposite side of the inlet. The road leads around through the village to limited parking below the crag by the second white post (the first is for the Grey Zone see below).

Conditions

This is one of the sunniest crags on Kalymnos so a very early start is required if you want to climb in the shade. The sun will usually be on the routes from late morning onwards. For the cooler months, Arhi is frequently the best venue to head for, especially if there is a wind blowing as well, since it is well-sheltered. If there has been rain, then it dries quickly and there are only a few routes with tufas which may drip. If it is raining then you may find a dry route but don't count on it.

Other Arginonda Crags

These other sectors have well-marked approaches from the road-side white towers.

- Helvetia** - 6 routes, 7a-7c+. Cave above the right-hand side of Arhi.
- Grey Zone** - 5 routes, 5-6b+. 200m along the coast road past Arginonda. Red-marked trail, 5 mins walk. South facing, sun all day.
- Sea Breeze** - 11 routes, 4+-6b+. Park by the last house in Arginonda. Blue-marked trail, 5 mins walk. South facing, sun all day.
- Noufaro** - 11 routes, 5-6c. 600m past Arginonda. Red-marked path, 15 mins walk. South facing, with sun from early afternoon.
- Belgian Chocolates** - 10 routes, 5-6a+. As for Noufaro but after 5 minutes turn right and up. Orange-marked path, 8 mins walk. South east facing, with sun from early morning.
- Cave** - 8 routes, 5-8a. 500m past Arhi. Yellow-marked path, 5 mins walk. South facing, with sun from early afternoon.
- Galatiani (Calcite Cave)** - 10 routes, 4-7b+. Includes classic multi-pitch route *Wendenexpress*, 6 pitches, hardest 7a, 175m. About 1km past Arhi. Yellow-marked path, 5 mins walk. South facing, with sun from early afternoon.
- Seaside Kitchen** - 12 routes, 6a-7b. 2.3km past Arhi. Green-marked unclear path for 30 mins uphill. South facing, with sun from early afternoon.



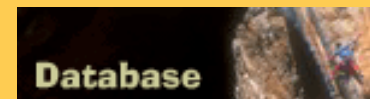
ARHI - LEFT

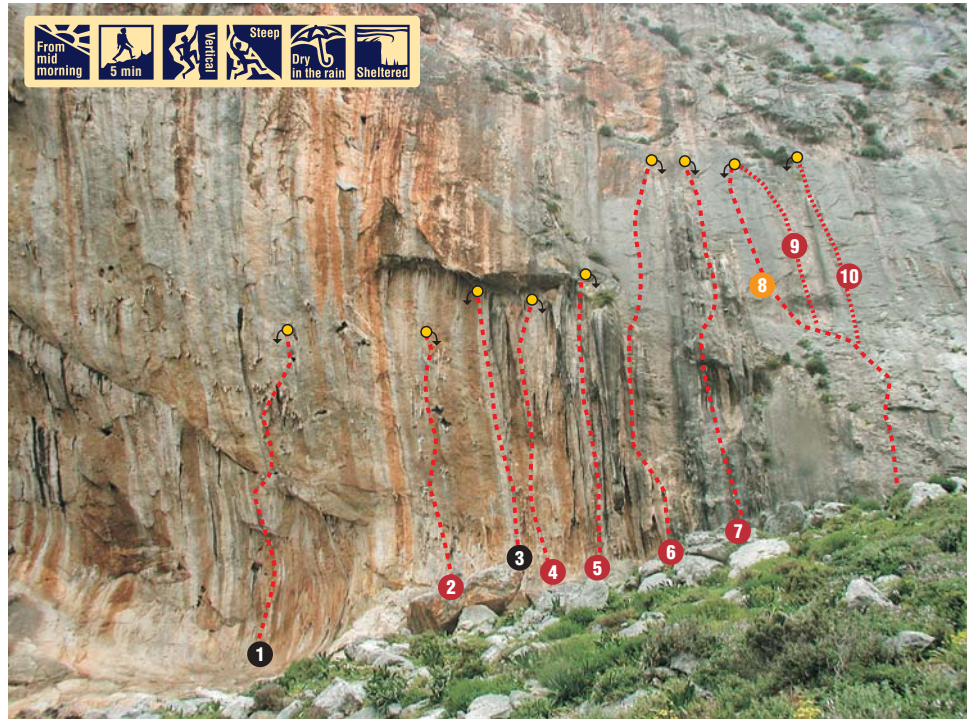
The slabby wall to the left of the central cave has a good set of routes with friendly grades. The rock is a bit sharp in places.

- 1 Phobos** 6c
The steeper left-hand side of the wall between two flowstone strips.
- 2 Deimos** 6b
Just right of the flowstone.
- 3 Pares** 6a
- 4 Scacco** 5+
Connect several tufa bosses.
- 5 Argonauti** 5
- 6 Teseo** 5
- 7 Pegaso** 5
- 8 Centauro** 5+
A couple of difficult moves and the top is awkward.
- 9 Ercole** 5+
A series of grooves and scoops to a finish high on the red wall.
- 10 Zivi** 5+
Start up *Ercole* but break right up the rib onto the red rock.

Kalymnos Route Database

An online listing of every route in this MiniGUIDE. Vote on grade and stars and post your comments. www.rockfax.com/databases



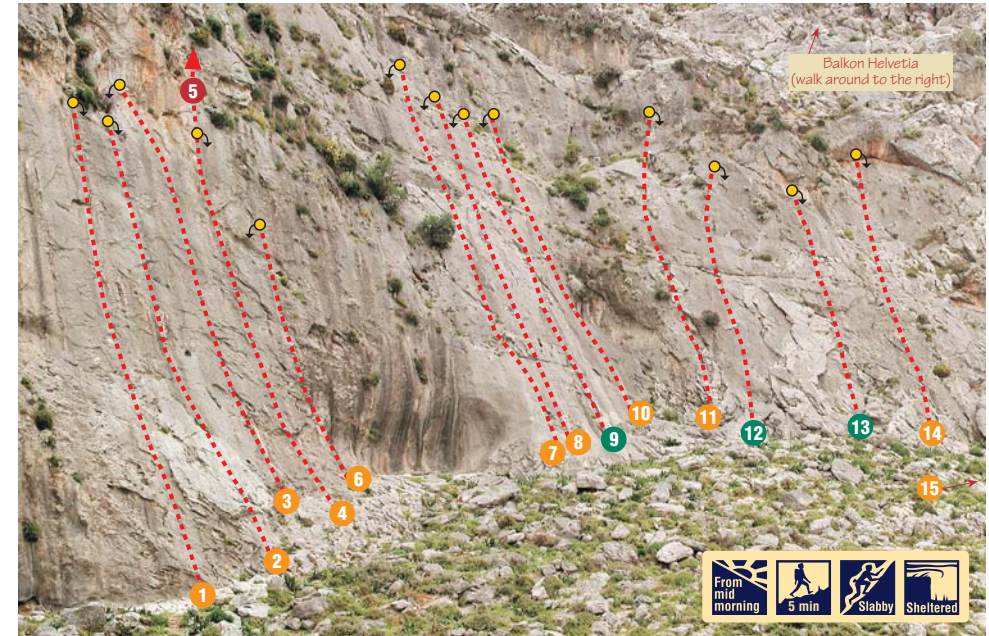


ARHI - CENTRE

The central cave has no routes as yet apart from the superb *Eros* on its far right-hand side. The rock on the main section of the cave is good but there probably aren't enough features for it to give a lot of new routes. However any route which did go up there would be an awesome achievement. The routes covered here are situated on the dramatic tufa-covered rock on the right of the central cave. They are mostly superb climbs which are very popular.

- 1 Eros** 7b+
Spectacular climbing with a stopper move low down. After that it's jug-pulling time with a virtual hands-off rest possible although take care to clear the deck since big things may pop off if you pull too hard.
- 2 Kastor** 6c+
The classic of the crag featuring some superb steep blob climbing. A hands-off rest is possible in one of the holes but the effort of getting your leg in probably makes it more trouble than it's worth.
- 3 Polydeykes** 7a+
Tackle the tufa head on until you can make an unobvious move into the groove on the left. Great bridging leads up here.
- 4 Il Pittore** 6b+
A tricky pull gains some juggy tufas which give excellent climbing.

- 5 Thetis** 6b
The left-hand side of the massive hanging tufa has plenty of bridging possibilities if your legs are long enough. If not, then you will find it to be an ungradeable struggle.
- 6 Poseidon** 6b+
After a hard start, climb the groove on the right of the tufa well left of the bolts. The upper slab is pleasant but a little sharp.
- 7 Mofeta** 7a
An interesting route featuring some great black flowstone. The move at the bulge requires a bit of thought and higher up long arms help (a lot - only 6c for the tall).
The next three routes share their first bolts.
- 8 Nereidi** 6a+?
The left-hand upper line looks considerably harder than 6a+.
- 9 Icaro** 6c+
The central line up some flowstone.
- 10 Triana** 6c
The right-hand line up another flowstone strip.



ARHI - RIGHT

The best slab climbing at Arhi is on the crisp grey slabs to the right of the main cave. All the routes here are good and most start easily but save their tricky moves for the steeper top sections when your fingers and legs are getting tired. The routes on the far right make excellent starter climbs for beginners.

- 1 Orione** 6a
A good clean slab route which is more positive than it looks from below.
- 2 Dedalo** 6a+
The steepening slab after an easy start.
- 3 Medusa** 6a
Steady slab climbing to the steepening. *Photo page 3.*
- 4 Perseo** 6a
Easy moves lead to a fingery finish.
- 5 Kalyrnian Cheese** 7a
A 3 pitch route to the top on some impressive rock. It is a big and serious undertaking, there is some loose rock and a helmet should be worn. Two 50m ropes are needed.
1) 6a+, 50m. Climb *Perseo* but continue to another belay.
2) 6b+, 50m. Climb past the holes on a thin bridge of rock.
3) 7a, 45m. To the top.
Descent - Abseil down the route.
- 6 Minotauro** 5+
Steady climbing on good holds.

- 7 Carlo non Farlo** 5
The left-hand side of a grey rock apron.
- 8 Optasia** 5
A delightful route on good sharp holds.
- 9 Arianna** 4+
A delightful route on good sharp holds.
- 10 Cerbero** 5
Steep climbing just left of a scoop. Slightly contrived.
- 11 Arhaggelos** 5
Just right of the scoop.
- 12 Caronte** 4+
Nice slab climbing.
- 13 Pinipon** 4+
A delightful route on good sharp holds.
- 14 Aristos** 5
A delightful route on good sharp holds.
- 15 Alba** 5+
A short wall 50m to the right.

BALKON HELVETIA

The big cave above and right of the right-hand slab at Arhi has 6 routes from 7a to 7c+. **APPROACH** - Walk rightwards and scramble back leftwards up to the cave.

The 'castle' of rock known as Kastelli is visible from most of the other climbing areas and sits proudly on the promontory below the bigger walls around Odyssey and facing the island of Telendos. Most of the climbing is on the sea-ward faces which present some superb and compact grey slabs which are well clear of the sea. Despite the lack of crashing waves the crag is very atmospheric and one of the few places you can climb on Kalymnos out of sight of most buildings.



Kastelli from Odyssey. Photo: Chris Dainton

The routes are some of the best lower-grade climbs on the island with grades from 4 to 6a+. The rock is mostly perfect but there are some sharp holds which can be wearing on the skin.

Conditions

Facing north west, Kastelli is in the shade for most of the day making it a great venue in hot weather. Its location means that it is very exposed to any wind. Sometimes the cooling breeze is pleasant but at other times the howling gale can make the place very uncomfortable. There is no shelter here from the rain (except perhaps on the micro-routes on the Back Cave) but the crag will dry very quickly.

Approach

Kastelli is situated on the promontory facing the island of Telendos and is easily recognised from the coast road by its picturesque white chapel by the sea. There is parking on the bend for bicycles and mopeds and it is 25 minutes walk from Glaros bar in Massouri, or a 10 minutes bicycle ride. The approach path is an easy 5-10 minutes walk on the red-marked trail which leads to the right-hand side of the promontory, and eventually underneath the Morning Wall.



KASTELLI - MORNING WALL

The first buttress you come to on the headland is the side wall of Kastelli Main which is home to four routes. There is nothing particularly special here although *Pillar of the Sea* is quite photogenic. The wall gets some morning sun but gives shade at all other times.

- 1 **Tsarouhis** 6a
16m. Thin moves and sharp rock.
- 2 **Gyzis** 5
15m.
- 3 **Gikas** 4
15m. Very friendly jug-pulling all the way.

Down the hillside is a longer route up a pillar.

- 4 **Pillar of the Sea** 6a+
Initially easy, but it soon steepens and provides some fascinating moves between occasionally-good holds. Great photo potential!



Clare Bates climbing *Pillar of the Sea* (6a+) at Kastelli. Photo: Chris Dainton

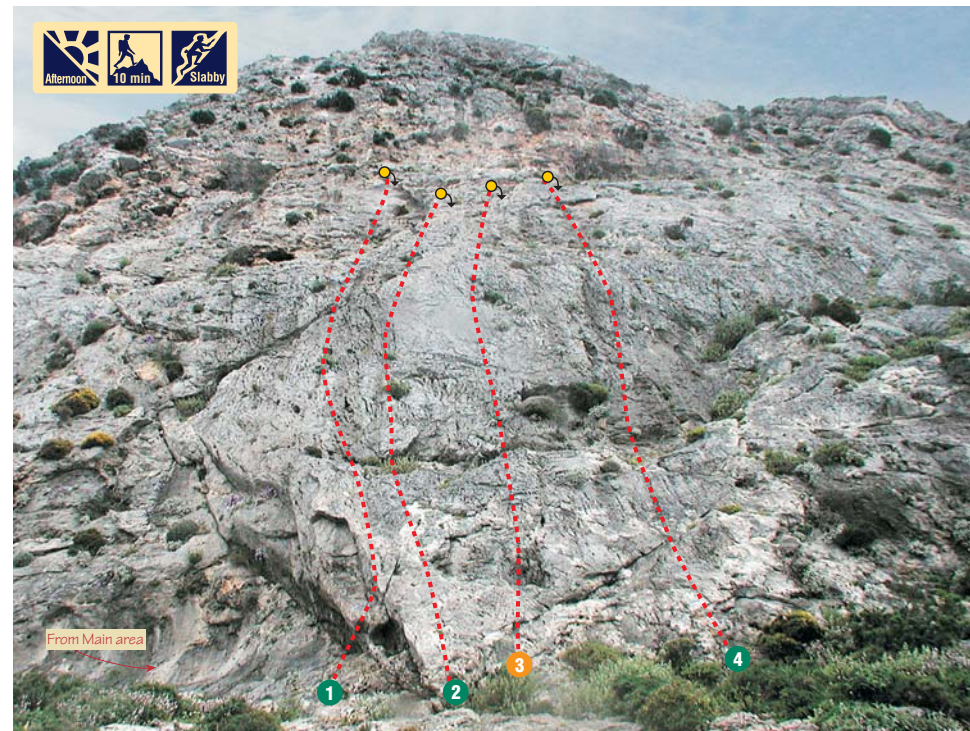


KASTELLI - MAIN

The main wall of Kastelli sits in a prominent position above the sea and offers steep slab climbs on sharp rock.

- 1 Mannertor 6a
- 2 Mikros Prigipas 6a
- 3 Naedlkussen 6a
- 4 Ruheloser Pirat 6a+
- 5 Gefährliche Brandung 6a
- 6 Piccolo diavolo 6a
- 7 Hocla 5+
- 8 Gruselino 5+
- 9 Gónegli kiz (Sunshine girl) 5+
- 10 Scarabeus 5
- 11 Damokles 6a
- 12 Aaolaa 5

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KASTELLI - RIGHT

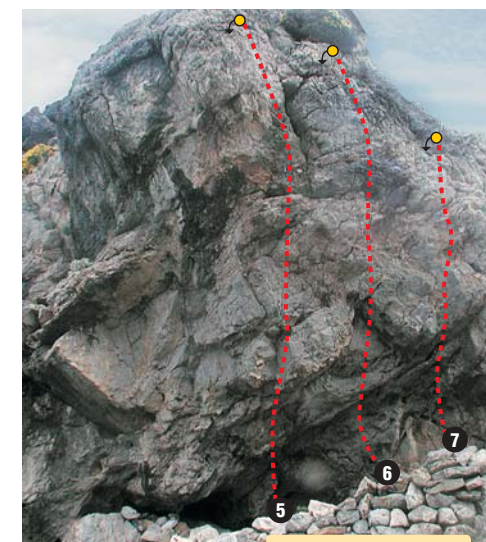
The right-hand side of the main wall.

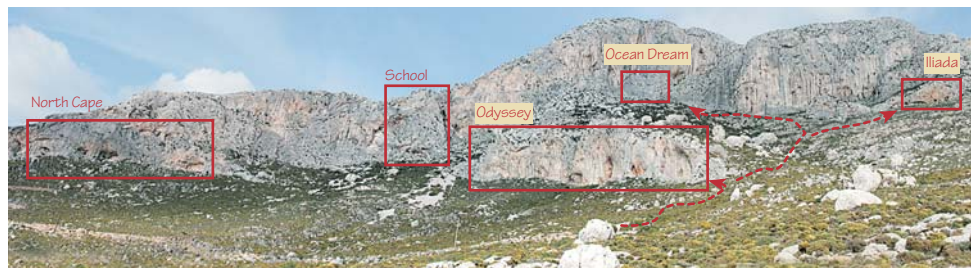
- 1 Yahurti me Meli 4
- 2 Psomi ke elies 4+
- 3 Sisyphus 5
- 4 Kokkinidis 4+

BACK CAVE

On the back side of the Kastelli, facing the mainland, is a short steep cave which has three short routes with quickdraws in place. Approach by continuing around and up from the Main Wall, or by scrambling up left from the Morning Wall.

- 5 Bambola blue 7b
- 6 Akapella 7b
- 7 Krotdebiki 7a+





Odyssey is the most extensive and arguably the best crag yet developed on Kalymnos. It consists of a series of steep tufa-laced caves separated by some pleasant easier-angle buttresses and walls which give everything from grade 4 slabs to 8b overhangs. The appeal across the grade range means that you can often have hard climbers going for a 7c redpoint only a couple of routes away from someone doing their first 4+ slab. With so many quality routes, and a relatively easy approach, it will be worth at least a couple of visits during a week on the island.

Conditions

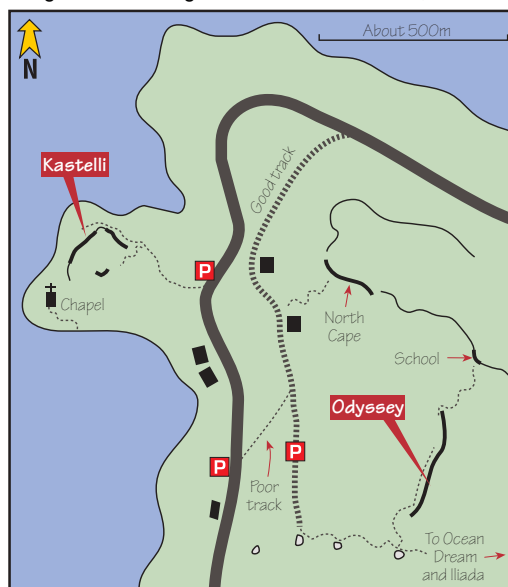
The crag faces north west and gets sun from mid-afternoon. The right-most routes (Sector Atena) stay in the shade the longest although the routes in the Marci Marc cave also keep the shade until late afternoon because of their steepness. The rock is quick-drying and some sectors offer climbing in the rain such as Sector Marci Marc and Sector Atena. If the atmosphere is a bit damp then some of the dark grey rock can get uncomfortably greasy.

Approach

Follow the coast road through Armeos until just before the sharp bend of Kastelli. This is about 20 minutes walk from the Glaros Bar in Massouri, or a short bicycle or moped ride. Plenty of parking is available opposite the crag signpost. Walk up the poor dirt track, and head right along the wide, level dirt track until you reach the start of the trail proper by a big boulder. Alternatively, those on mopeds can save a few minutes on the approach walk by following the coast road just past Kastelli and then up a better dirt track leading uphill to a higher parking area at the right-hand end of the wide, level dirt track. The approach path is marked with blue paint and is 10-15 minutes uphill walk.

Odyssey Area - Other Crag

- North Cape - 10 routes, most 5+ to 6a+**
No marked trail at present. 10-15 mins approach from the main track. South-facing, in sun all day from mid-morning.
- Ocean Dream - 13 routes, mostly 4-6a+**
Green-marked trail sharing same approach to Odyssey (break right just before you arrive at Odyssey). 60 mins uphill slog from the road. South-west-facing, and in the sun from mid-morning.
- Iliada - 10 routes, 5 to 6c**
Steep red wall situated on the right of the approach to Ocean Dream. 45 mins approach. West facing, in the sun from mid-day.
- School - 4 multipitch routes from 4-6a+**
Green-marked trail from the left-hand side of Odyssey (*Bonnie* and *Clyde*). 25-30 mins uphill walk from parking.



FAR LEFT

The left-most three routes are on a set of grey slabs, which are the first routes on the crag to get the sun at mid-afternoon.

- 1 Bonnie** 5+
A reasonable route requiring some searching left and right to find the best holds. Make a bit of a scramble to a high bolt, or use the first bolt on *Clyde*.
- 2 Clyde** 6b+
Some loose rock at overhang. Belay to one side.
- 3 Mythos** 6b+
30m. A long route on sharp rock that is a bit harder than *Clyde*. Tackle the initial bulge to a flake/groove, then climb the easier upper slab to a final overhang on good holds.

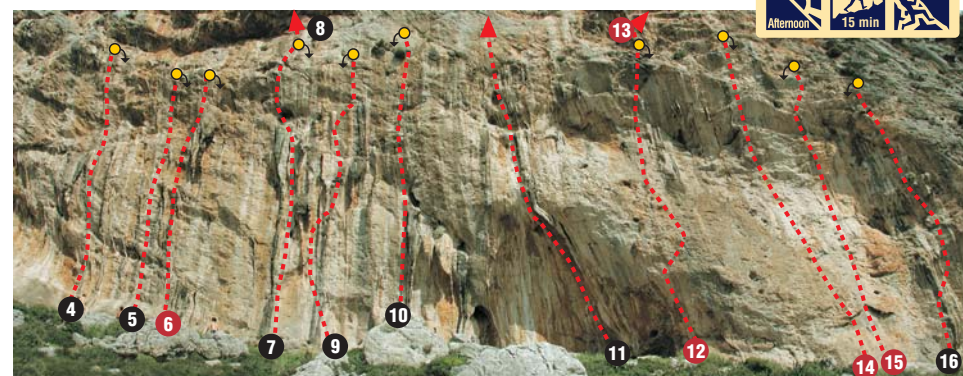
SECTOR FETA

The upper left section on Odyssey has an immaculate wall of tufas and pockets which gives deceptively steep climbing. It gets the sun earlier than the walls and caves to the right. It is also a bit exposed to the wind.

- 4 Arugliopoulos** 7c+
- 5 Elies** 7a+
- 6 Feta** 6c
Straightforward to the final bolt where a difficult pull gains the lower off. 6c+ if you can clip the lower off before grabbing!
- 7 Island in the Sun** 7a+
- 8 Island in the Sun Extension** 7b
- 9 Lucky Strike** 7a+
- 10 Morfeas** 7b+



- 11 Pindaro** 7c+
- 12 Island Highway** 6c
- 13 Island Highway Extension** 6c
- 14 Il gigante e la bambina** 6c+
- 15 Satyros** 6c+
- 16 Bubú pensaci tu** 7b



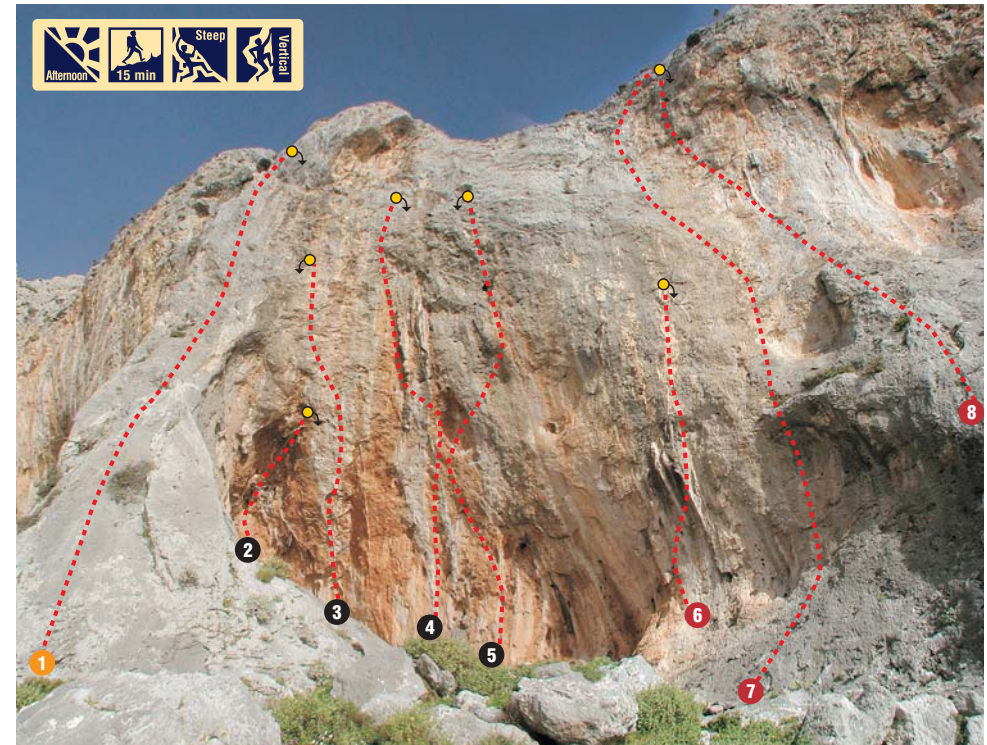


SECTOR MARCI MARC

The central section of the crag is dominated by the huge cave of *Marci Marc*. This sector has the highest concentration of quality routes at 7a and above and is an essential venue for all hard climbers. It only gets the sun in the mid-afternoon and is sheltered from any rain. In a complete contrast there are a few easier pitches tagged onto the right-hand side.

- 1 Andromeda** 7c+
Hard climbing at the top, but similar in difficulty to *Orion*.
- 2 Orion** 8a
A classic hard route of the crag which sees many an attempted flash ascent. The crux is provided by a 4-move boulder problem on the steep middle section with a hard clip. *Photo page 7.*
- 3 Meltemi** 7a
Steep but easy moves lead to a hard section at the change in angle. The 7b grade on the rock is for those who go too direct at this point. The rest is easy and fun.
- 4 Patroclos** 7b
35m. Potentially a good route but it needs re-bolting since the key bolt is a long way below on the crux.
- 5 Dafni** 7a+
Fine climbing up the rightwards leaning line. The holds on the ramps get smaller as you get more tired until the final pull which may require more than you have got left. High in the grade and hard to onsight.
- 6 Lucky Luka** 7a
To the fixed single krab; the rest remains project - 8b/c? It has some drilled pockets.

- 7 Marci Marc** 7c
28m. The classic route of the crag on a magnificent line. A bouldery start then relatively easy climbing until the steepest part where the difficulty kicks in. The upper part is very sustained without being desperate and quite run-out.
- 8 Amphora** 7b
A superb route with steep moves to a hard finish.
- 9 Sirene** 7b+
Steady climbing leads to an intermediate lower-off (6b to here). Then the technical climbing kicks in to a desperate finish.
- 10 Sardonique** 8a+/b?
33m. Not many details are known about this route.
- 11 Fourtouna** 7b
30m. A long pitch up the gently leaning wall.
After all the steep stuff the right-hand edge of this wall relents somewhat allowing a good set of easier routes to be fitted in.
- 12 Odisseo** 6a+
The vertical wall has good sharp holds apart from some stiff moves through a bulge at half-height. Easier climbing remains.
- 13 Mon Amour** 6a+
Gain the left edge of the arete and follow it in a good position. Some loose rock at present.



SECTOR ALFREDO ALFREDO

This magnificent cave has some excellent steep routes on some great featured rock. *Polifemo* is the popular hard route although *Alfredo Alfredo* will rival it when re-bolting. The sun arrives here in mid afternoon and the cave is sheltered from the wind. The upper sections will get wet if it rains.

- 1 Nausicaa Nausicaa** 6a+
28m. The most popular route on the crag takes a direct line up the rock apron between the caves and it is almost always occupied when the crag is busy. An easy start leads to a precarious middle section over a slight bulge and sustained moves above.
- 2 Fouska** 7a+
Excellent steep climbing in the back of the cave on good holds. After an easy start, things get more strenuous, finishing with some wide bridging positions and disorientating full-body twists. Sadly the crux for most is the long reach to clip the lower-off. Grabbing a quickdraw in the lower-off makes the route about 6c+.
- 3 Gaia** 8b
Unrelenting and sequency boulder-problem-style climbing from start to finish!
- 4 Polifemo** 7c
Powerful moves up the steep wall with a crucial section to gain the tufa. This leads to a technical and crimpy head wall above with a last move that spits of many. Very rewarding!

- 5 Alfredo Alfredo** 7b+
Excellent climbing with a technical crux, but hard to flash. There are some polished holds below the crux and beware of a sting-in-the-tail at the top. Old and poorly-positioned bolts at present but it is due for re-bolting.
- 6 Why Not?** 6b+
Short but sweet, with some good climbing up the short tufa system and flake above. Start to the left of the first bolt.
- 7 The Beast** 7a
A wall climb with some fingery and technical moves but don't believe the 7b+ written on the rock. It gets a bit close to *Imias* on some sections but just about stays independent where it matters. Share the last bolt and lower-off with *Imias*.
- 8 Imias** 6c
An easy and wandering start leads to some fingery wall climbing on small positive holds. Pigs-tail lower-off.

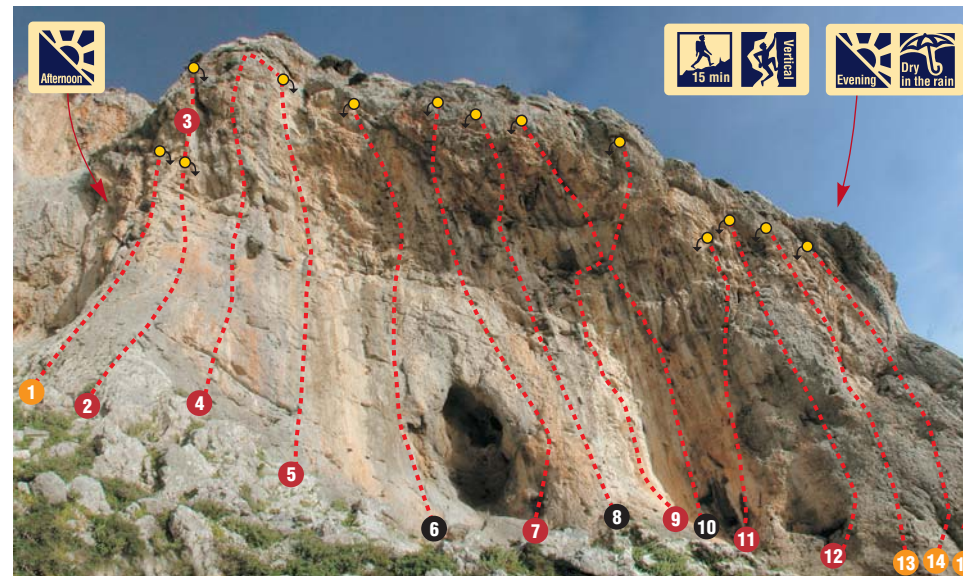


SECTOR LESTRYGON

This is one of the more friendly sectors at Odyssey with some pleasant slab routes plus the spectacular arete of *Lestrygon*. It gets the afternoon sun.

- 1 Eumeo** 4
A friendly romp up the slab on big holds.
- 2 Argo** 4+
Fine climbing. Not as slabby as it looks!
- 3 Telemaco** 5
Super fun. Good holds and a fine sequence of moves makes this another quality route.
- 4 Penelope** 5+
Interesting climbing but a touch contrived. When it gets hard try going to the left and over the bulge.
- 5 Lestrygon** 6c
Superb climbing. Interesting and balancy in the first half if you keep to the front of the rib. Getting established on the upper arete is tricky with the final overhang offering big holds in a fine position.

- 6 Haryvdi** 6a
The direct line out of the right-hand side of the cave is spoilt by some loose rock. Traverse left from the second bolt into *Lestrygon* to avoid this section. Some interesting and balancy climbing remains.
- 7 Mikrotera Kalamarakia** 6b+
Short but tough climbing with a distinct crux.
- 8 Mermizeli** 6b+
A tricky crux move left at the top of the overhang.
- 9 Poly Retsina No Good** 6a+
Good friendly pocket-pulling with some bridging across the crack line (optional hand-jamming!) as the route trends left towards the lower-off.



SECTOR ATENA

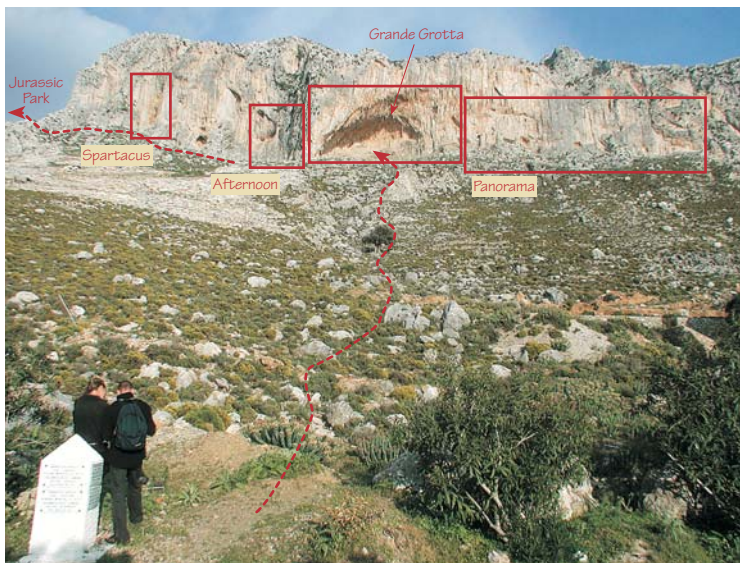
The most popular sector at Odyssey with a great set of routes. Many feature an intricate slabby start before they kick in at the top with big pumpy finishes. The sun arrives late here especially on the route *Atena*.

- 1 Eyriklea** 5
Fun climbing on good holds. *Photo page 6.*
- 2 Lotofagos** 5+
The rib to the first lower-off is steeper than it looks!
- 3 Lotofagos Extension** 6c+
A poor continuation of *Lotofagos* on some slopy holds.
- 4 Itaca** 6c+
Very pleasant climbing up the slab on good holds followed by a steep top half. Ignore the rusty old bolt at the very top and use the lower-off to the right (*Ciao Vecio*).
- 5 Ciao Vecio** 6c
Some interesting sequences between spaced good holds on vertical ground. Excellent climbing in its upper half on steeper rock. Move right into the niche for top 2 clips, the direct is harder.
- 6 Ulisse coperto di sale** 7a+
A hard crux below a badly placed bolt. Pre-extend it or the crux becomes clipping the bolt!
- 7 Calipso** 7a
An excellent climb with contrasting halves. The steep upper section is best climbed quickly. When everything looks lost at the top try reaching blindly for the good hold.
- 8 Alcinoo** 7b
Good climbing which is slightly spilt by an unobvious move right into a groove.

The final set of routes around *Atena* are always popular, and also provide dry climbing in light rain.

- 9 Dionysos** 6c+
Relatively straight-forward climbing leads to a large ledge then step right and make big moves between good holds up the wall above. Don't blow the final fingery moves to the lower-off. Perhaps 7a if you clip the chain before grabbing.
- 10 Omeros** 7a+
A fine steep and technical pitch which is slightly spoilt by the mid-height rest on *Dionysos* although you might be grateful for it. The crux is not where you think it is.
- 11 Atena** 6b
Superb climbing on good holds all the way. A classic route.
- 12 Circe** 6b
Great climbing on dark grey rock. Hard in the middle and a lovely juggy finish.
- 13 Femio** 6a+
A good little pitch which is very popular.
- 14 Laertes** 5+
Big holds to start, a tufa in the middle and some steeper moves above.
- 15 Nessuno** 5+
Share the first bolt with *Laertes* but break right. The finish is much harder than the rest.

Perched high over the town of Armeos, and visible from most of the apartment balconies in Massouri, is the vast cave known as the Grande Grotta. This unique geological feature, with its dramatic tufas and stalactites, is the centre of the most important climbing area on the island. Here you will find routes from 4+ slabs to 8b overhangs, spread along about 500m of cliff and yet in reality the development has only just begun.



The caves of Jurassic Park and Spartacus provide excellent hard climbs, there are easier slab routes to be found in the shade of the Afternoon walls, the cave itself has some of the most weird and wonderful routes you would find anywhere and further right, into the Panorama area, the development has been at its most intense with a superb series of routes across the grades.

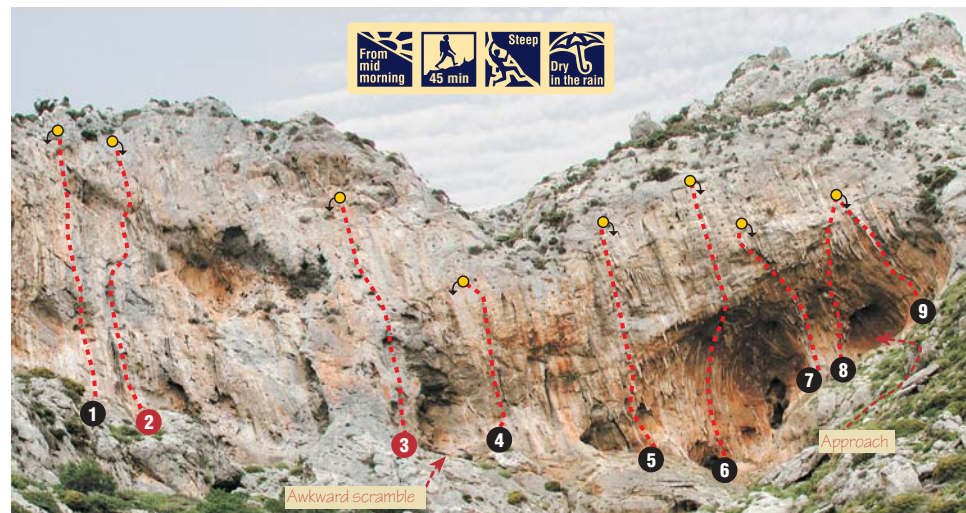
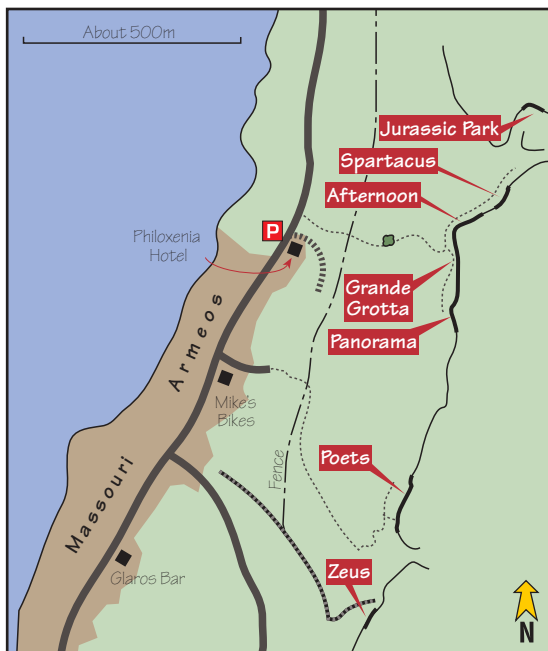
Approach

The main cave of Grande Grotta should be approached from the marked-path just past the large white hotel 'Philoxenia' in Armeos. The hotel is only 5 mins walk along the coastal road from the Glaros bar and is certainly not worth driving to if you are staying in Massouri. There is room opposite the hotel to park your car or scooters.

The approach is a 15-20 min walk steeply uphill on a red-marked path. The other sectors are all easily reached from the main cave.

Conditions

In general the walls face west getting the sun at about noon but shade can still be found on the Afternoon Wall and Spartacus. Jurassic Park gets hot from mid-morning onwards. There is plenty of dry climbing to be found if it rains but not much shelter from the wind. If it has been raining then the tufas on all sectors will start to drip. More details are given with each sector.



JURASSIC PARK

This superb cave is situated high on the hillside to the left of the main Grande Grotta crags. The long approach walk puts off many but the routes in the cave are amongst the best around and anyone who makes the effort to get here will be rewarded. **Conditions** - The crag faces south west and gets the full sun from mid-morning onwards.

Approach - From Spartacus, carefully follow the twin-blue-stripe marks across the hill side and upwards. 15 mins from Spartacus, 45 mins from the road.

1 Nike 7a+
33m. A long pocket-covered wall on slightly brittle rock. Will improve with traffic.

2 Dike 7a
32m. Another long pitch up the gently-leaning wall. Start up the right-hand side of a black tufa. Also a bit brittle.

The next two routes start from a small cave/ledge which is reached by an awkward scramble. When you get there check the goat droppings and wonder how they did it!

3 Themelis 6b
27m. The crag warm-up is also a great route in its own right.

4 St. Savas 7b+
Thin tufa out of the right-hand side of the cave leading to a technical wall. Still very brittle and needs traffic to clean up.

5 Kalinycta mer 7b+
Start on a ledge up and left and follow tufas onto the pocketed headwall. Poorly-positioned bolt on the crux.

6 Rendez with Platon 8b
30m. The main challenge of the cliff through the roof of the largest cave at its widest point. The crux involves a series of full-body rotations in a horizontal position. The best hard route on Kalymnos!

7 Paleolithic line 7b+
Awesome organ pipes up the pillar between the two caves. Finish on the leftwards leaning line of tufa drips.

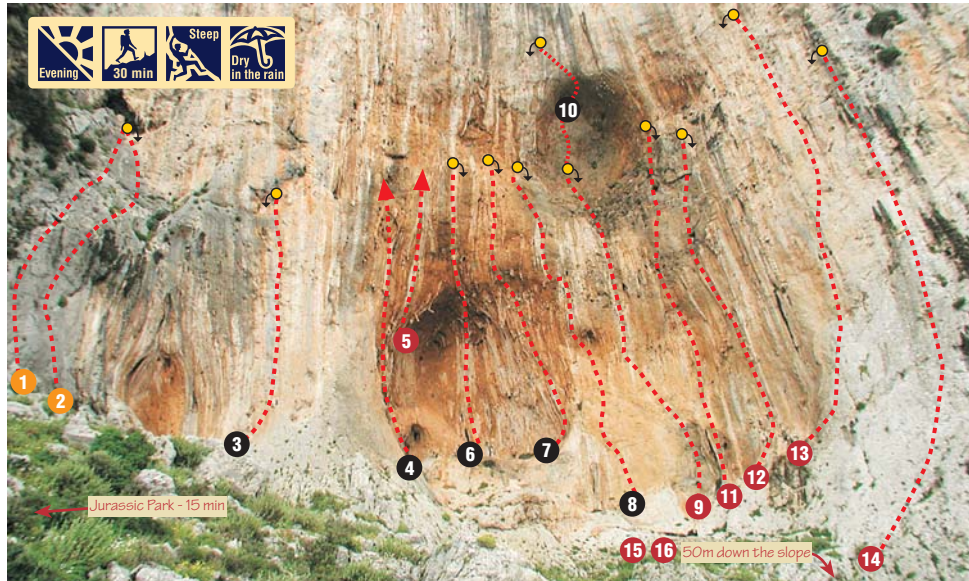
8 Nicola la Tigre 7c
Very steep start up the blobs then thin moves lead right to a tufa system. Finish up right at the Neolithic lower-off.

9 Neolithic Line 7c
A magnificent continuous tufa on the right-hand cave.

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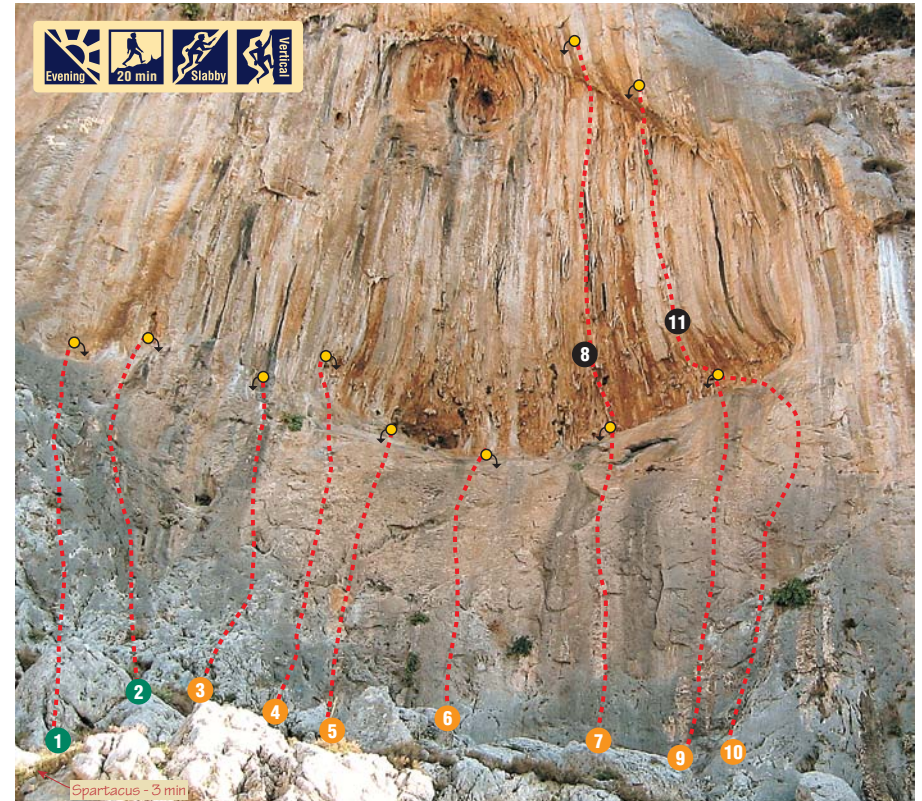


SPARTACUS

Spartacus offers a fine set of hard climbs, on generally steep rock, with lots of tufas and pockets.
Conditions - The crag faces north west and offers shaded climbing until early evening. It is also sheltered from the wind and rain.
Approach - Spartacus is an additional 10 minutes walk up the blue-marked path, to the left of the Grande Grotta, passing under Afternoon sector.

- 1 Geissen Schnucki** 6a
28m. Sharp holds.
- 2 Ziegen Peter** 6a+
28m. More sharp rock.
- 3 Alexis Zorbas** 7b
Short and technical. Could be found tricky by jug jockeys who have forgotten how to use their feet.
- 4 Jellyfish Pie** 7a+
The left-most line of the main Spartacus cave. Fine climbing but a poorly-placed 4th bolt.
- 5 Kerberos** 7a
Superb, steep tufa climbing but it still has some loose holds.
- 6 Daniboy** 8a
An awesome route with a technical and sequency top section. High in the grade.
- 7 Spartacus** 7b+
A classic of the area. The cruxy middle section involves reachy and powerful climbing although this can be by-passed by shorties using a carefully-positioned buttock.

- 8 Gladiator** 7a+
After a slightly artificial start (alternatively step in from *Spartacus*), superb, steep blob-climbing leads to a step left in a great position. More testing moves are required before the angle eases near the lower-off.
- 9 Harakiri** 6b
Excellent climbing on good holds with one short tricky section. A classic route which is well-worth the walk up.
- 10 Tzatziki vikiki** 7b+
35m from ground. The continuation to *Harakiri*.
- 11 MonBatchounou...** 7a
30m. A tricky start and then a pump crux high up make for an excellent route.
- 12 Les Amazones** 6c
30m. Good climbing up the steep tufas and wall above.
- 13 Nabuchodonosor** 6c
35m. Very long with sustained climbing.
- 14 Le 13eme travail d'Hercules** 6b+
35m. Another long route with technical climbing.
- 15 Lucifer's Hammer** 6b
40m. No further details are known about this long pitch. It is claimed that a 70m rope will get you down but take great care. There is a intermediate lower-off at 30m.
- 16 Spasspartour** 6b
40m ? Another unknown quantity. It is supposed to share a lower-off with *Lucifer's Hammer* which would make it at least 40m however it is claimed to be only 30m.



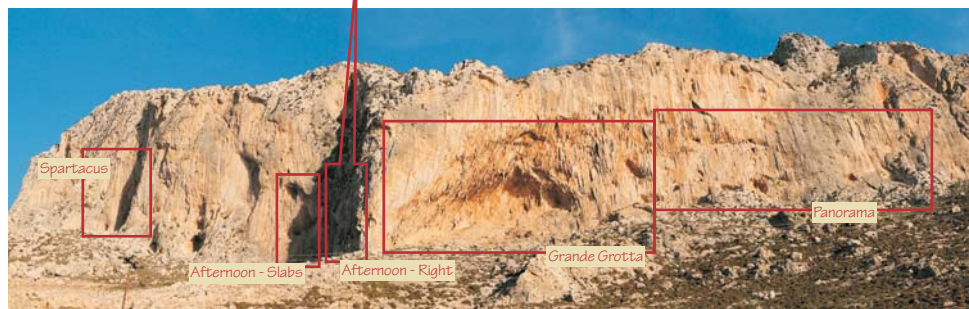
AFTERNOON

Afternoon has some great slabby and vertical climbing from grade 4 to 6c and makes a welcome alternative to the stamina routes of the Grande Grotta.
Conditions - The crag faces north west and, as the name suggests, it offers climbing in the shade until late-afternoon. It isn't sheltered from the rain or wind.
Approach - Afternoon Sector starts immediately around the corner to the left of the massive cave of the Grande Grotta.

In between Afternoon and Spartacus is a small cave known as The End Cave. There are two routes here - on the left, *Harlem Nights*, 7b+ and *The Beginning at the End*, 7b+ on the right.

- 1 Finger Piercing** 4
Great fun on big holds all the way.
- 2 Energy** 4
Pleasant slab climbing on good holds. The last section before the lower-off is a bit slippery.
- 3 To deffero moro mou** 5+
The name is marked on the rock in Greek. Balancy climbing on flowstone to the lower-off. Trickier in its upper section.
- 4 Origano** 5
Fun climbing which gets hard just before the top slab. An awkward high clip is required for the lower-off.

- 5 Nonno ringo** 5+
Veer right on the top slab. No lower-off at present.
- 6 L'amico Ralph** 5+
Good climbing on undercuts.
- 7 L'uomo che non credeva** 6a+
Go up past the small tufa.
- 8 Beta** 7c
35m from ground. This is the only route so far up through the overhanging wall above the slab. Start directly above *L'uomo che non credeva* and climb the impressive tufa system.
- 9 Kalo Taxidi** 6a+
Excellent climbing, up the flake at the third bolt. Eases above, on good but sometimes slightly-hidden holds.
- 10 Blu** 6a
Nice climbing with some small, sharp holds. Shares lower-off to left with *Kalo Taxidi*. Tricky moves near the top.
- 11 Dinosaur Junior** 7b
13m. From the belay of *Blu*, follow the bulging wall of tufas to the lip of the cave.



AFTERNOON - RIGHT

This is the section just around the corner from the Grande Grotta.

- 1 Claire** **6b+**
Climb the slab between *Blu* and *Bye Bye Doc*, trending left at the top to finish in a cave just right of *Blu*.
- 2 Bye Bye Doc** **6c**
A superb route with sustained climbing and a fingery crux.
- 3 Janas Kitchen** **6b**
Brilliant climbing with a bit of everything. Good holds from start to finish.
- 4 Asklipios** **6c**

- 5 Panakia** **6b+**
Steady climbing on good edges. There are three possible sequences at the crux.
- 6 Swiss Baby** **6a+**
An absorbing route on generally-large jugs with a few thinner sections for interest.
- 7 My long holiday** **6c**
Awkward moves to start and not as good as the other 6c's on this wall.



GRANDE GROTTA - LEFT

This unique and spectacular cave is all the reason you need to visit Kalymnos. Huge tufa-systems and massive stalactites make for some classic stamina routes on big holds such as the superb *DNA* (7a+), *Aegialis* (7c) and *Priapos* (7c+). This is a great place to push your grade if you are fit since the holds are so big, however the 3-dimensional nature of the climbing can make the routes hard to onsight. There are many cunningly-hidden jugs and bridging positions and even some hands-free rests for the imaginative!

Warning - Please belay well-clear of the actual route and be very careful about where you sit if you are watching climbers in the cave. Stalactites have been knocked off in the past and there have been some serious injuries.

Conditions - Most of the routes face south west, but they are well-sheltered from both wind and rain and don't get the sun until late in the day although it does get hot from noon onwards. There can be some seepage on the stalactites the day after heavy rain when the whole cave drips.

New Routes - There is now a ban on new routes in this cave owing to its unique geological nature. This ban extends all the way to the Panorama sector.

- 1 Aegialis (ex Knollennase)** **7b+ 30m**. A mammoth stamina-fest that just keeps going and going on big holds with some sneaky hands-free rest positions. Very photogenic.
- 2 Zawinul Syndicate** **7c+ 30m**. A parallel new line to *Aegialis* of similar quality.
- 3 Aphrodite** **7a**
The shortest route here but perfect climbing on large jugs except for an intricate crux at half-height. Easier for those with long arms.

- 4 DNA** **7a+**
Simply amazing climbing with relatively easy moves on large holds and an unforgettable no-hands rest at half way! Despite the rest, it is pumpy as hell! 14 bolts and the crux is clipping the 13th which is badly placed. *Photo page 4 and cover.*
- 5 Un-named** **7b**
A curious pitch which no-one knows much about, but the climbing is good featuring another hands-off rest where you need it.
- 6 Priapos** **8a+**
A mammoth trip up the back of the cave. To the first lower-off at 35m is 7c. The full route is 55m to the lip at the grade above although it is claimed that the second half is only 7c+. Careful rope-work is needed if you want your gear back although it is said that a 70m rope will get you to the ground. Take care!
- 7 Fun de chichunne** **8a 40m**. Cleaned and well-climbed to the double bolts (about the 12th bolt). Above that it is seldom travelled and has lots of loose tufas.
- 8 Massalia** **6b**
An amazing expedition up along the wall left of the cave working right above the cave. Start at the toe of the buttress left of the cave. There may be some loose rock so take great care.

1) 6b. A poor pitch.
2) 5+. Not much better.
3) 5+. Excellent climbing.
4) 5+. Good but short.
DESCENT - Walk/scramble along the top of crag towards Panorama for a 150-200m until well-disguised paint arrows eventually lead down to abseil station. Take care getting to actual ab point; it's a big drop! Also be aware that there may be climbers below you. The abseils are exactly 30m.



GRANDE GROTTA - RIGHT

The next routes are at the back right-hand side of the cave, above a small stone shelter. They offer some of the most spectacular climbing on Kalymnos at some surprising grades which get you into positions you would never believe possible!
Conditions - The wall is completely sheltered from the rain but will drip if it has been very wet. It gets the sun from noon onwards.

- 1 Elefantenhimmel** 7a
30m. A poor start leads up the mushrooms to a lower-off (5 to this point but not a good pitch). Then launch out into no-man's land on the tufas to reach a lower-off in space.
- 2 Trella** 6c+
35m. One of the most amazing routes you will ever find up some incredible ground on outrageous rock formations. The climbing is relatively straightforward but the position is intimidating and the route is not to be underestimated. A 70m rope is needed to lower-off and the pitch can only be cleaned by someone following it, not as you lower off. Clear the deck of people before you climb it. *Photo page 5.*
- 3 Monahiki Elia** 6a+
A fine route which is overshadowed by its neighbours but anywhere else would be the classic of the crag.
- 4 Taz** 6c
Just right of *Monahiki* with more fingery and technical climbing than you would expect here. Take care with the rock.

- Approach** - Immediately right is a large ledge. Approach the next routes by going down around the base of the ledge and scrambling up from the right.
- 5 Rastapopoulos** 7b+
40m. A huge pitch. From the rest at half-height, launch up the tufa with sustained climbing and break right to a niche near the top. Lower-off carefully using the half-height belay.
 - 6 Aegean Sea** 7a+
28m. A superb and sustained climb which is both delicate and strenuous. Gain the left side of the small hollow before rejoining the tufa system. There is a blind move left using a hidden hold at the top which sorts out many onsite attempts.
 - 7 Cigarillo** 6c+
28m. A great route in a fine position. Climb up through a scoop and then the big pumpu tufa above.
 - 8 Panselinos** 6b
Name on rock written in Greek capitals. Fine climbing up the tufa system. Eases towards the top.
 - 9 Carpe diem** 6a+
Good tufa and flake climbing on big-but-occasionally-well-hidden holds. One tricky section as you get tired.
 - 10 Joggel & Toggel** 6c
Steep start which soon eases for a pleasant top half on tufas and mushrooms.



PANORAMA - LEFT

Panorama offers some superb long climbs of a variety of styles. On the left the wall is just a continuation of the Grande Grotta with steep walls and tufas. Further right is a grey but-tress of perfect compact rock giving a unique set of vertical wall climbs. Right again are more tufas.
Conditions - The crag faces west and gets sun from noon onwards. Some of the routes on the left may stay dry in the rain but the central section won't.
Approach - Panorama starts immediately right of the Grande Grotta. Walk down underneath the first raised ledge to get to the second raised ledge where the crag starts. There is no marked path, and it can be a bit of a scramble to get between the climbs.

- The first route starts from the upper ledge on the right-hand side of the Grande Grotta.
- 1 Mind Boggle** 7b
30m. Start on the right of the ledge and head up the white wall. Then trend rightwards onto steeper tufa-rock. 16 clips.
 - 2 Eolia** 7b
45m. The rightwards trending groove gives the start to this immense pitch. Because of its length it isn't climbed that often, so beware of loose rock. 16 bolts only.
- The next routes start from a raised ledge with a small cave. This is reached by scramble from the left or, more awkwardly, from the right.
- 3 Gwundernasa** 6b+
Start just left of the cave and climb the white streak and black tufa before stepping right to the lower-off.
 - 4 Rüsselparadies** 7a
1) 7a, 35m. Start up *Wundernasa* but continue to a lower-off.
2) 6c+, 25m. Keep going to the top.
DESCENT - See *Massalia* description on page 27.

- The next routes have no names on the rock at present and they are relatively new so take care with brittle rock.
- 5 Lothar Scie** 6b+
The tufa-laced wall starting left of the cave.
 - 6 Steven Up** 6c
Gain the long central tufa starting just left of the cave.
 - 7 Poupetskia** 7a
Pull steeply out of the cave and climb the wall to the right-hand side of the long tufa.
 - 8 Uncle Bert** 6c
A steep pull gains a pocket and the wall above.
 - 9 Uncle Ernie** 6b
Climb up to the large hanging blob from the right-hand side of the cave. A high first bolt, take a belay on one of the bolts in the cave.
 - 10 Neptun kl** 6c
28m. The tufa wall above a small roof to a lower-off below a bulge.
 - 11 Neptun kl Extension** 7b+
35m from ground. The bulge above this gives the previous-route a powerful finale.
 - 12 Steinpilz** 7a
30m. A fine route just right of a long black tufa.



PANORAMA - RIGHT

The main feature of the Panorama wall is the compact grey buttress which is home to the next routes.

- 1 Chnosi Family** 6c+
30m. Magnificent and unlikely. Make a thin pull over the first bulge then plod on up the wall with just enough holds, on territory that looks much harder. Watch out for the tricky move right near the top.
- 2 Tüfeli** 7a+
30m. A fine pitch with some thin pulls in its upper reaches but the high first bolt is somewhat off-putting.
- 3 Mecki Messer** 7a
30m. A fine grey wall of immaculate rock which is steeper than it looks. The tufa in the middle is a bit dusty.
- 4 Boomerang** 6c+
30m. An immaculate pitch on perfect grey rock which gives different climbing to most other routes on Kalymnos. It has at three superb hard sections split by good rests. You won't get tired on this route but you may get stuck if you can't go up anymore!
- 5 Michis Höhlenfieber** 4+
Short little pitch low on the wall.

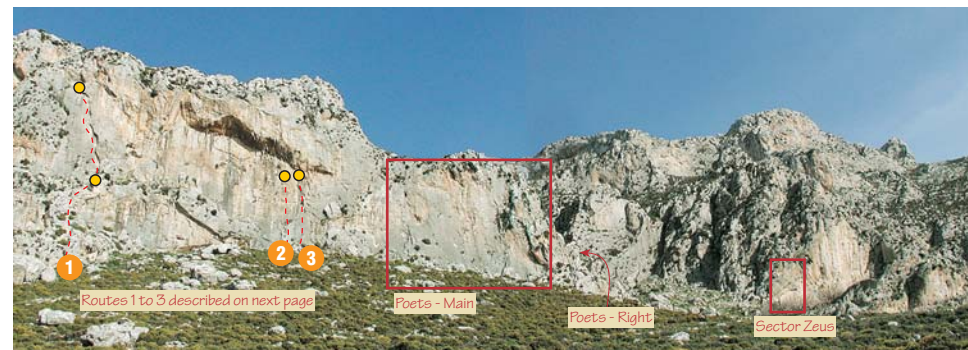
The next 2 routes start up broken rock below a V-groove.

- 6 Reptil** 7a
40m. Gain the magnificent tufa and climb it on its left-hand side.
- 7 Bye Bye Felix** 7a
30m. Another well-positioned tufa route.

The last two routes listed are about 50m to the right.

- 8 Eureka** 6a
The slabby rib.
- 9 La vie selon GEGE** 6b
30m. Climb out of the small cave onto the wall.

POETS



The closest climbing to most of the climber's accommodation on Kalymnos is the pleasant small area known Poets. This excellent little crag, perched high above Armeos, offers some good slabby and vertical wall climbing on small holds. The wall to the left of the main sector has been developed with three routes including the majestic long corner of *Kavafis*, but there is still plenty of untouched rock. Further right is another fine wall, called Sector Zeus, which also has a lot more potential than the 2 routes it offers at present. However the main attraction is the fine central slab of perfect grey rock. The climbing here can have a repetitive feel, and the sharp rock will test your skin, but the moves are good and the routes tend to keep you on your toes right to the last moves.

Conditions

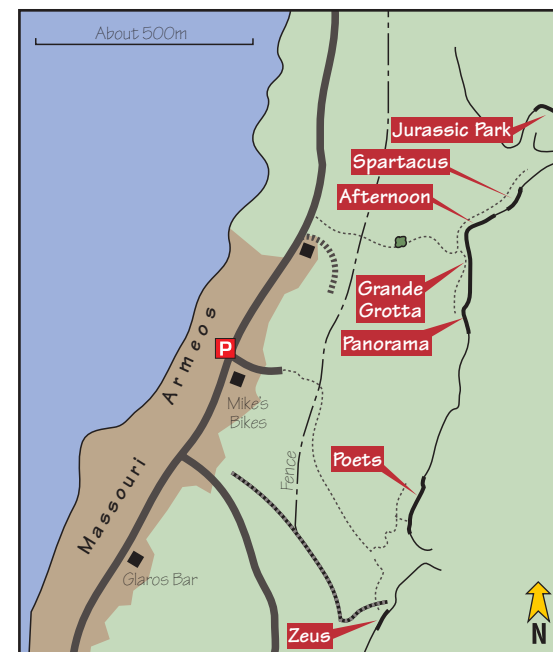
The main face of the crag and Sector Zeus, face south west and get the sun from noon onwards. The small wall to the right gets sun from mid-morning onwards. Poets can get a bit windy and there is no shelter available at the crag.

Approach

This is the easiest crag to get to and a good place to drop in for a few quick ticks. Situated next to Mike's Bikes in Armeos (3-4 mins walk from Glaros) is a sign-posted path to the crag. Follow the blue-marked trail through a gate and then 15 minutes steep and straightforward uphill walk. Double back left towards the crag. Sector Zeus is reached by continuing up the path through a fragile gate.

Other Area

Kalydna - 5 routes, mainly multi-pitch. Shares much of the approach to Poets, but break left along a goat trail. 25 mins approach. South-facing, in sun from midday.





POETS - LEFT

The first three routes described are to the left of the main wall. See diagram on the previous page for their rough location.

- 1 Kavafis** [icons] [] 6a+

A fine line up the huge and impressive flake.
1) 20m. Easy climbing over broken rocks leads past a single bolt to a belay below the flake.
2) 6a+, 30m. A great pitch up the flake to a lower-off.

The next 2 routes are closer to the main slab. They give excellent climbing which is only slightly spoiled by having old bolts that are looking a bit rusty!

- 2 Quando tramonta il sol** . . . [icons] [] 6a+

A stiff starting move is followed by some fascinating climbing on a wide range of holds; everything from jugs to crimps to strange nobbles! The crux is one long reach getting out of the flowstone cave.

- 3 Saxonia** [] 6a

New pitch left of Mustass.

- 4 Mustass** [] 5+

Excellent climbing up the slab and flowstone above. The good holds just keep on coming.

POETS - MAIN

The main wall of Poets has a particularly fine set of 6c routes on some very sharp holds.

- 5 Omero** [] 7a

The thin grey wall.

- 6 Sapfo** [] 6a

Excellent easy climbing up the first half which gradually steepens, with the crux (and the grade) provided by the last 2 clips. Lower-off close to that of *Omero*.

- 7 Pindaros** [] 5

A short pitch which is surprisingly tricky and steeper than it looks. Good footwork pays dividends. No lower-off.

- 8 Alceo** [] 6c

Pleasant easy climbing up slabby first half, followed by some hard fingery moves on small sharp holds to the top.

- 9 Licimnio** [] 6c

- 10 Alcman** [] 6c

- 11 Anacreonte** [] 5+

Sustained difficulties and a fine route for the grade.

- 12 Ibría** [] 6c

Technical climbing on very small holds in top quarter of the route, above a cluster of good pockets.

- 13 Ione** [] 6c+



POETS - RIGHT

This short wall is separated from the main face by a large loose rib. It is passed on the approach and offers 4 easy routes which get the sun from mid-morning onwards.

- 1 Oyzo** [] 5+

The left-hand side of the wall.

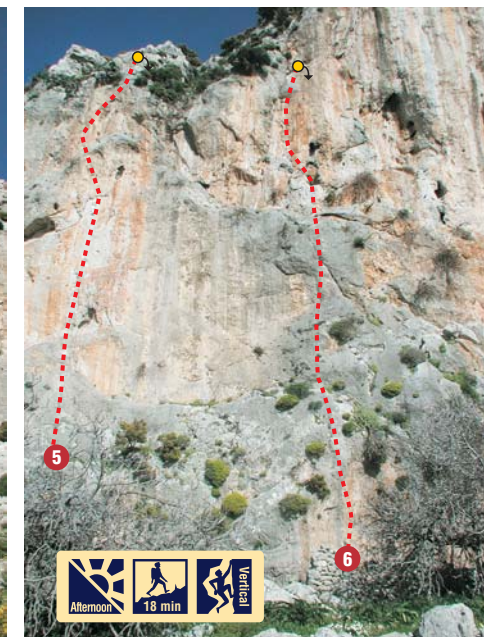
- 2 Metaxas** [] 6a+

Left of the curious line of threads.

- 3 Kalimera** [] 6a+

An easy slab leading to steeper rock above.

- 4 Kalispera** [] 6b+



SECTOR ZEUS

To the right of Poets is a large triangular wall of reddish rock. The following two routes are the first attempts to develop this wall and are on its lower right-hand section.

Approach - Continue up the gully on the normal approach to a rickety fence. Pass through this to reach the wall beyond.

- 5 Kallisto** [] 7a

28m. Thin climbing in its middle section.

- 6 Gianymede** [] 6b

28m. A slightly disjointed-looking route which finishes to the right of a hanging groove high on the wall.

Kalymnos Route Database

An online listing of every route in this MiniGUIDE. Vote on grade and stars and post your comments. www.rockfax.com/databases

