

**Rock Climbing at
Mount Everest
Free State Province
SOUTH AFRICA**

A guidebook created by Gavin Peckham

Edits and new stuff by Andrew Pedley



Panorama : Mount Everest Resort

(The lower photo fits on the right of the upper one.)

Mooihoek Mt – left-hand side of top photo

Mt Everest – left-hand side of bottom photo

Eagle Mt – right-hand side of bottom photo

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DISCLAIMER

Rock climbing is a dangerous sport in which you can be seriously injured or even killed.

This guide is intended only for the use of experienced climbers who have the necessary expertise, experience and judgement to ensure their own safety.

Whilst I have made a reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this guide, you make use of it entirely at your own risk. I am well aware that there are various errors in the descriptions and topos that I have scrounged from various sources (see acknowledgments). However, it is impossible for me to climb every one of these routes and check all the details. So, please regard this information as a **guide** only and exercise the necessary discretion.

The information in this guide will obviously become progressively more dated as time passes and climbers are personally responsible for ascertaining the situation and conditions prevailing at the time of their planned visit.

The information in this guide will definitely change with time and is definitely NOT necessarily 100% accurate. These notes are simply an attempt to give you some idea of what to expect. It is up to YOU to determine the situation prevailing on each route you attempt and to exercise the necessary precautions.

This topo is available for download on [Climb ZA](#)



INTRODUCTION

This part of South Africa has some of the most dramatic and beautiful landscapes in the country. Views from the crags are huge, sweeping vistas of mountains and the endless Highveld plains under constantly changing skies; it is a must-climb for any south African or visiting climber!

There are currently about 140 fully bolted sport routes at Mount Everest. These range in grade from 7 to 29 (up to 7c+), the majority are below grade 20 (6b) so this is the perfect place for beginner and moderate grade climbers. There are more than a dozen fully bolted multi-pitch routes with 2 to 6 pitches, and about 20 trad routes for the adventurous. Then there is the POTENTIAL; there are dozens of unclimbed walls and boulders, lurking futuristic 30 somethings and easy stuff, just waiting to be developed. All this is located in a private game reserve with over a dozen types of antelope!

The rock is sandstone, much younger and quite a bit softer than the quartzites of Boven, the Magaliesberg or the Cape. It forms weird and wonderful shapes and is highly variable, from loose-ish shaley stuff to perfect pocketed solid and smooth walls. The climbing at the Dark Side is on dolerite, an igneous rock which forms columns and cracks, a very different experience.

GRADE CONVERSION TABLE

5A	French	US
12	3/4	5.6
13	3/4	5.7
14	5a	5.8
15		
16	5b	5.9
17	5c	
18	6a	5.10a
19	6a+	5.10a/b
20	6b	5.10c
21	6b+	5.10d
22	6c	5.11a
23	6c+	5.11b/c
24	7a	5.11d
25	7a+	5.12a
26	7b	5.12b
27	7b+	5.12c
28	7c	5.12d
29	7c+	5.13a
30	8a	5.13b
31	8a+	5.13c
32	8b	5.13d
33	8b+	5.14a
34	8c	5.14b
35	8c+	5.14c

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The information in this guide has been obtained from various sources. These include the Mount Everest staff and the route book prepared by Ruth Behr from information collected by Clive Curson. This is available for inspection at the Reception and has subsequently been added to by many climbers. Further information was obtained from a guide of unspecified authorship that was published well over a decade ago. Alex Steyn, Jacques Raubenheimer and Gavin Raubenheimer provided information about many of the trad lines. Other assorted scraps of information were obtained from various climbers who I met at the crags.

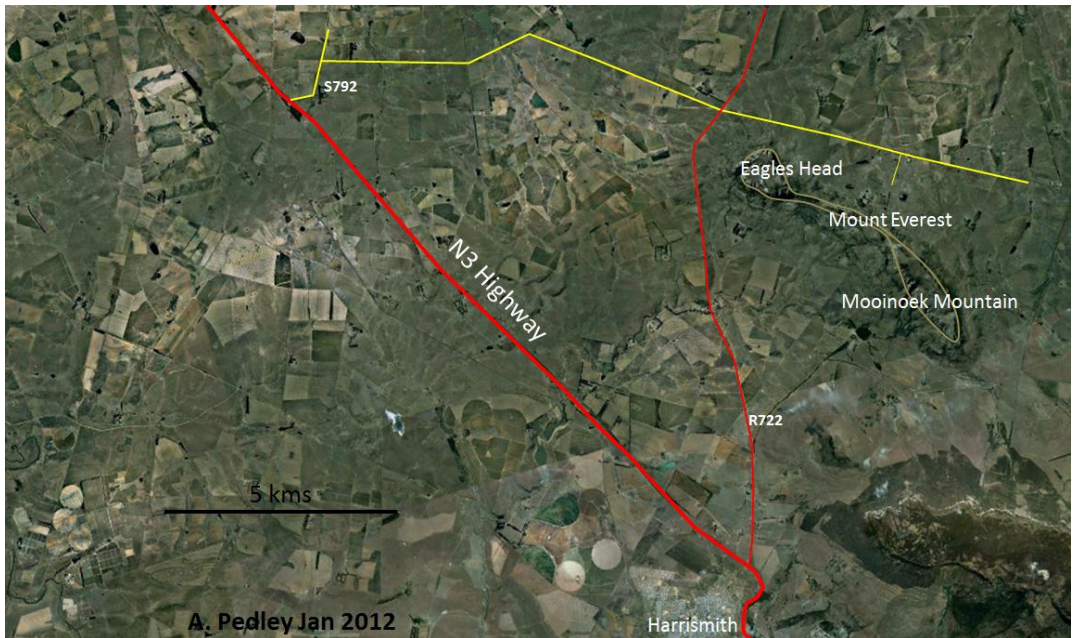
We all owe a debt of gratitude to the various climbers who took the time, trouble and expense to bolt these routes and thus provide an excellent selection of safe climbing for the rest of us. In this regard, particular mention must be made of Mike Cartwright who put an enormous amount of time, effort and money into opening and bolting routes, especially in the initial stages of development at the venue. The following people have also made significant route opening and bolting contributions: Clive Curson, Grant Murray, Ian Guest, Mike Behr, Ruth Behr, Glen Harrison, Arno Naude, Gustav Janse van Rensburg, Gunther Migeotte, Gerhard Kruger, Gavin Peckham and Gavin Raubenheimer. Sincere apologies to anyone who I might have missed.

GETTING THERE

Mount Everest is located in the Free State just north of Harrismith. It is about 300 km southeast of Johannesburg and about 350 km northwest of Durban.

From Durban: Follow the N3 and by-pass Harrismith on the ring-road. About 4 km north of the town, just past the top of a hill, the N3 intersects the R722. At this intersection there is a well sign-posted turnoff to the right labelled, "Verkykerskop". Follow this tarred road for about 13 km to a crossroad where it intersects with the S1204. At this intersection there is a "Mount Everest" sign. Turn right and follow the dirt road for about 5 km. The entrance to Mount Everest is a large, thatched gateway in a clump of trees on the right.

From Johannesburg: Follow the N3, 22 kilometres before Harrismith (about 8 kilometres after the 'Harrismith 30 kms' sign) you reach the small for the **S792**. This is a reasonable gravel road, passable in all cars unless you are particularly worried about your tyres/rims. Turn left onto this (toward the mountain!). After 500 m turn left again, then after 1 km turn right (this is the S1204). Drive straight for 11 kilometres and you arrive at the cross-roads with the tar road (R722). Cross this and after 5 km you will arrive at the Mount Everest gate on the right. If you really don't want to do the gravel or you miss the turn, continue to the R722 to "Verkykerskop" and follow the directions as from Durban. It is 17 kilometres longer.



The contact numbers are on the gate and you can ring one of these to gain access at any time. If you plan to arrive after dark, then please pre-arrange this with the owner.

Contact Details

Mount Everest

Tel: 0823005999 or 0836682472

E-mail: info@goverest.co.za or amanda.weyers70@gmail.com

Web: www.goverest.co.za

ACCOMODATION AND FACILITIES

Campsites, caravan sites and self-catering chalets are available at very fair prices. You can obtain more information using the contact details given above. The chalets vary in size and sleep between 4 and 12 people; they are all of timber and really comfortable, some tucked up in the hillsides amongst the rocks, with amazing views. Booking is advisable if you want to make use of a chalet, but is not necessary if you are only planning to camp. **All buildings and chalets are "SMOKE FREE" zones !**

Please note that the resort does not have a restaurant, pub or TV facilities or a shop; for all of these you will have to go to Harrismith or one of the service stations on the N3 highway. Apart from rock climbing, you can hike or ride along a variety of trails (with your own mountain bike) or fish for bass in the dams (with your own rods). The setting is magnificent and the views are stunning, especially from the tops of the mountains. The bird watching is excellent and there is a good stock of various antelope.

CLIMBING SAFETY

- The rock is soft and pieces do come off, small and large! Climbers and belayers should wear helmets. If you are watching don't sit/stand below the climber and if you are belaying stay away from the 'fall zone' if you can, certainly if the climber is on a potentially loose section.
- Always double check your harness and knots and your belayer! And check your partners knots when it's his/her time to climb.
- Walking along the top and reaching down to chains is dangerous; this is when accidents happen! If you are trying to retrieve gear or place draws from the top be very careful or reconsider.
- Some of the bolts are getting old, be wary with very rusty ones, especially chains!
- Never rely upon a single bolt. If you are unable to reach the chains and need to clean the climb, sacrifice two 'bail biners' and thread the rope through a bail biner clipped to the previous bolts as a back-up to the one you are lowering off.
- Watch out for others...if they are in a dangerous position tell them. Tell other climbers if they are doing something that is risky, they may be inexperienced.

The crags are NOT yours!! This special place must be treated with respect; not doing so could easily result in the closure of the crags. Please do your bit and stick to the following rules:

RULES

1. Climbers must report to reception on arrival and again before leaving the resort. No climbing is allowed on the climbing wall unless the prescribed fees have been paid. No climbing is allowed after sundown. No climbing at all is allowed at the Bushman Complex.
2. No pets (this is a game reserve, full of animals), loud music or open fires except in designated braai areas.
3. Camping is permitted only in the designated areas.
4. **Do not drop any litter**, however small, **including cigarette butts, finger tape** and tissue paper! Take all this rubbish home with you. If you find rubbish, please pick it up, you are helping us all.
5. If you must take a crap at the crag, **go at least 30 metres down-hill** and away from the cliff and make sure you dig a hole and cover it with dirt, sticks, rocks afterwards. Never do your business in a cave or corner. Do not leave toilet paper lying around; it must be buried or carry it out.
6. If you take a pee, **do not** do it close to the cliff, make sure it's in a place that is **not** sheltered from rain, otherwise it stinks.
7. Small tick dots are fine but **tick marks over 3 cm are an eyesore** and are unnecessary except for the hardest to see hand or footholds. Brush them off afterwards! Please brush chalk-caked holds after you have finished with a route, especially if it's a route that is sheltered from rain.
8. **NEVER use wire brushes!!** They will destroy this rock. A soft toothbrush is fine.
9. Respect others; try not to be too loud and think carefully about smoking, bringing your dogs or crying children to the crags; these things can spoil the pleasure for others.
10. 'IP' written on the rock in chalk or a piece of tape/plastic on the first bolt means the route is 'In Progress' and the route is a **closed project**. Do not try these climbs unless you have permission from the "owner".
11. Do not remove other peoples draws from a route even if they have been hanging there for weeks. Some locals like to leave projects clipped-up. You may of course climb the routes using the draws left up.
12. If a section of rock is marked with an X, written in chalk, don't touch those features as the X indicates that the rock is loose. Don't try knock it off.

WEATHER

You can have perfect conditions all year-round by choosing the right time at the right crag and by having the right clothes. Mt Everest is at 2000 metres above seal level. Summer here is warm but up to 10 degrees cooler (15 to 25 degrees) than places like Boven or the Durban crags (25 to >35 degrees). During summer storms build almost daily, but the rock dries very quickly; just run for cover when the storm gets close then enjoy the show! Winters days are usually magnificent, cold but sunny days and cold nights; daytime temps as little as 10 degree in the shade and plummeting to zero or well below at night. Winter snowfalls are not unknown. Occasional cold fronts sometimes bring cold, wet weather for several days at a time, just check the weather. The weather can be unpredictable and can deteriorate rapidly, it has a real mountain feel. But this is Africa, not Europe or North America; despite the grumbles of south African climbers the weather pretty amazing really! The wind can sometimes howl for hours, even on otherwise pleasant days. Fortunately, the various climbing areas have different aspects and you can usually find somewhere to escape from the wind, the cold or the sun.

Please go prepared for any eventuality!

THE ROCK

The sandstones forming the cliffs belong to the 170 million year old Clarens Formation (or Cave Sandstone), belonging to the Karoo Supergroup. These rocks were laid down in an aeolian (desert) setting which arose during a period of climate warming and desiccation (imagine!). The cliffs were massive sand-dunes in a sand sea! Sometimes you will see funny grey blobs or pockets where these blobs have been dissolved; these blobs are carbonate nodules. The rock is mostly solid, especially up on the Eagles Head. However, always be slightly wary of loose looking flakes, large and small! Give them a tap; if it sounds hollow be very careful, expect the worst!

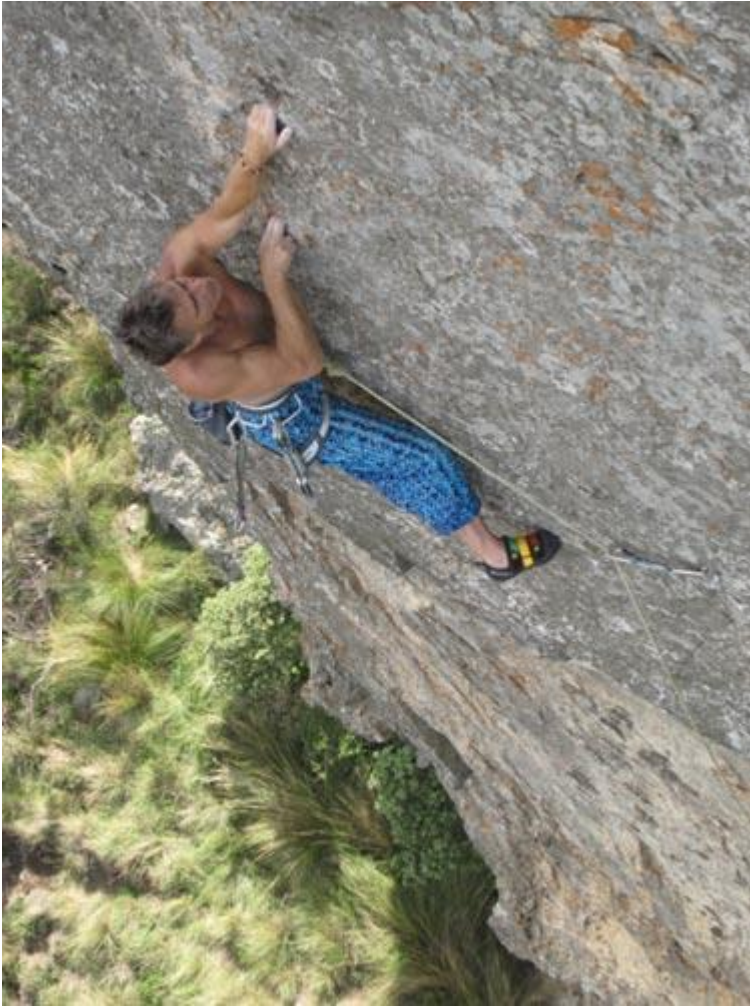
Above the sandstone of the Mooinoek Mountain you will see a thick grey-brown cap of dolerite. This is younger than the sandstone and was 'intruded' as sheets of molten rock into the sandstone, feeding the massive lava flows that formed overlying basalts (now eroded but preserved in the Drakensberg, forming the big dark cliffs there). The dolerite is a very hard crystalline green rock and typically forms huge columns with cracks.

BOULDERING

There is much good bouldering to be had at Mount Everest. Although bouldering at the resort is still in its infancy, over 120 problems have already been developed. The boulders are scattered throughout the resort but the main concentration is located in the vicinity of Cyclops Crag and Eagle Crag.

There is a wide variety of problems from low roofs to high slabs. Grades vary from very easy (3) to very hard (7c) with some even harder open projects. Although a bouldering pad is required for some of the problems, many can be climbed with only a spotter.

Climbing and bouldering in the Bushman Complex is strictly prohibited !



Colin Crabtree on the superb pocketed sandstone of Swiss Cheese, 28. Photo by Andrew Pedley

NEW ROUTE INFO AND CORRECTIONS

Many of the RDs are rather vague. Some of them have been written down by the first ascentionists long after they were first opened. There are a few instances where I have received RDs for the same route from different sources and they did not even agree on the total number of pitches, let alone the details for any individual pitch! **So**, I'd be grateful if you can help by supplying any corrections, suggestions, useful information or constructive criticism.

More specifically, if you climb **any** route and find that the RDs or topos are vague, ambiguous or incorrect, then **please** send me your suggestions and updated information. This will be greatly appreciated and will hopefully be of benefit and future service to climbers.

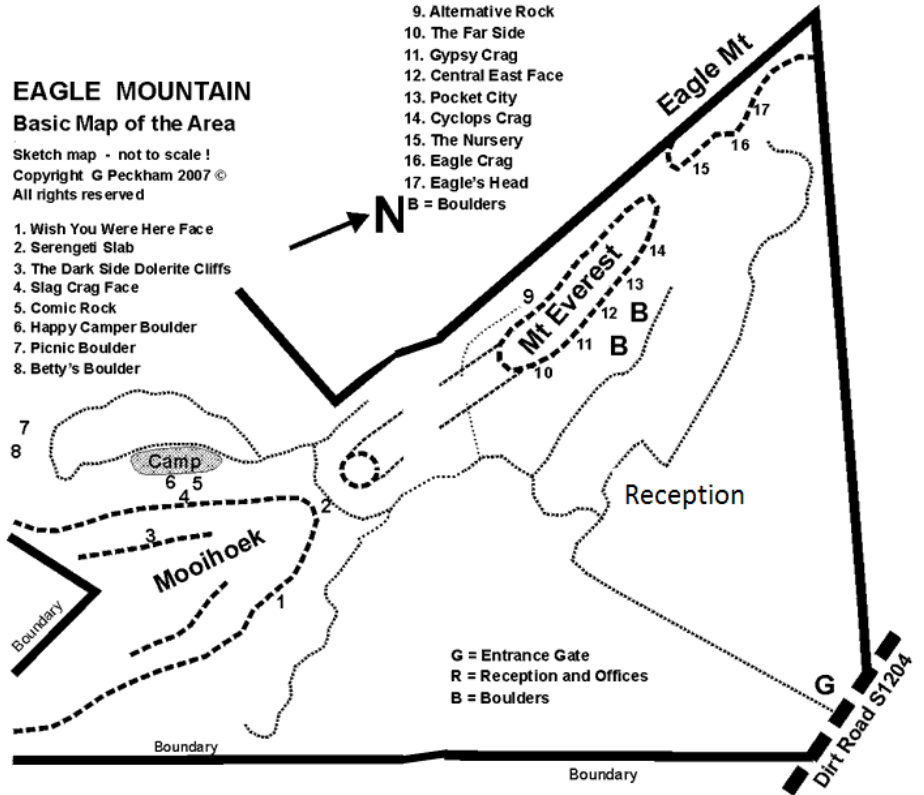
OVERVIEW MAP

EAGLE MOUNTAIN Basic Map of the Area

Sketch map - not to scale !
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1. Wish You Were Here Face
2. Serengeti Slab
3. The Dark Side Dolerite Cliffs
4. Slag Crag Face
5. Comic Rock
6. Happy Camper Boulder
7. Picnic Boulder
8. Betty's Boulder

9. Alternative Rock
 10. The Far Side
 11. Gypsy Crag
 12. Central East Face
 13. Pocket City
 14. Cyclops Crag
 15. The Nursery
 16. Eagle Crag
 17. Eagle's Head
- B = Boulders

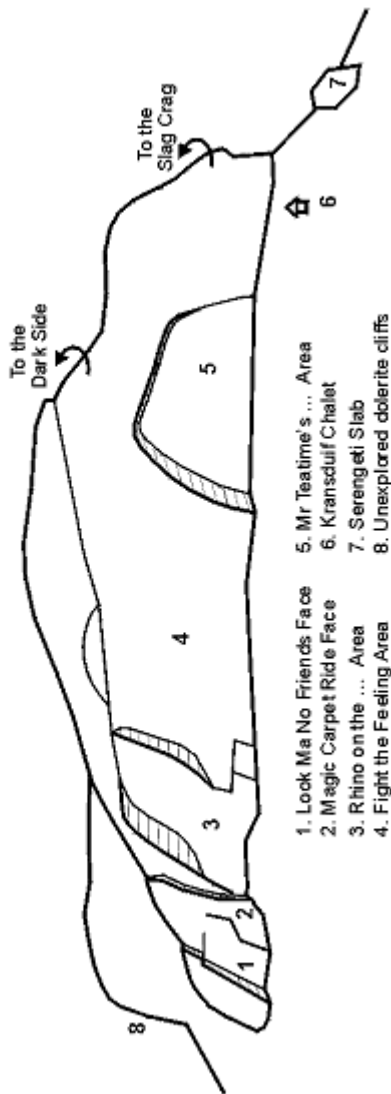


Wish You Were Here Side of Mooihoek Mountain

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Please Note:

- The route descriptions that follow are listed from south to north - Mooihoek, then Mt Everest and then Eagle's Head.
- On each of the major peaks, the climbing areas are listed anti-clockwise (left to right) around each mountain.
- Boulders that are more or less below one another on the slopes of a mountain are generally listed in an uphill sequence.
- Individual routes are listed, with a few exceptions, from left to right on the main faces and anti-clockwise around each boulder.

MOOIHOEK MOUNTAIN

Some great multi-pitch fun on the north facing slabs of Mooineek. These climbs are for winter or for cloudy summer days or evenings. Mostly slabby but with some climbs tackling some of the steeper corner sections. Some are trad, some sport, take your pick. Fight the Feeling is the original and still very popular. Indecent Exposure is the newest and possibly the best?

A. Wish You Were Here Face

1. Look Ma, No Friends (13) Trad ***

FA: Sean Bartleet; Greg Stewart; Richard Gee; Andre Dalais; Sally Hofmeyr (1998)

On the left-hand side of the Wish You Were Here face, there are between 3 and 5 (depending on how you count them!) huge, right-facing corners. This line starts up the middle of the face to the right of the big corner that is closest to the far, left-hand end of the crag.

1. 13 (40m) Start near the middle of the face located to the right of the left-most corner. Climb straight up the face past a few pockets to a big ledge.
2. 12 (15m) Climb the slab on the right and then up an open book. Move out left onto a nose directly above the top of the first pitch.

This is a pleasant, easy route with consistently clean slab climbing. Protection consists mainly of large cams in pockets. Walk off to the left and then around and back along the base of the crag.

2. Magic Carpet Ride (15) Trad ****

FA: Gavin Peckham and Greg Wooding (5 May 2001)

This route takes a direct line up the buttress to the left of 'Red Satin Face'. Walk in along the base of the crag and past the start of 'Rhino...' and 'Red Satin Face' to reach the base of the huge, right-facing corner immediately to the left of 'Red Satin Face'. From the corner, walk left for a couple of metres towards the arête until the bush becomes too thick to progress easily.

1. 15 (35m) Get up onto the face and then traverse to the left and around the corner onto the arête. Once around the corner, pull up on a perfect finger-jam (crux, reachy) and then climb easily straight up the arête to a stance on a narrow ledge about 5m below two adjacent cubby-holes at the base of a short vertical section. There is a good crack on the ledge and a pocket in the face at the back of the ledge for a belay.
2. 14 (25m) Scramble up to the cubby holes and then climb the steep, broken rock above them. Continue up easily and belay on a big ledge with two very large cubby-holes - almost caves.

3. 14 (15m) Pull through one of the two breaks in the steep rock above the cubby-holes and continue easily up to the top.

There is an interesting crux move at the start of each pitch. The rock is excellent and the gear is good. Walk off to the left and then back along the base of the crag - this takes only 5 minutes if you hit the animal track through the bush, otherwise We plan to bolt this route soon.

2B Indecent Exposure 24 16D *****

Apparently a high quality climb with some wild positions. The route ascends the overhanging arête to the left of the slab where Rhino on the City Hall Steps face. The first pitch starts up the grey slab, just left of the corner.

1. 16, 20m (8D) Climb the slab to a hanging stance just below the looming arête.
2. 24, 30m (11D) Make a move up and left to gain a handrail, then rail diagonally up and right into the void. Crank through the bulges to big jugs. Stick on the arête to get to the final headwall. Stagger onto the good ledge.
3. 14, 5m (4D) Step up on the right to a foot ledge. Traverse right to a semi-hanging stance.
4. 24, 35m (16D) Make hard moves up the arête then head diagonally right to the base of a corner crack. Jam up the overhanging crack in 3 dimensions and rail right at the top. Continue diagonally right on the endless arête to the top. Use the anchors with normal hangers to belay off (the bolts with lower-offs are for abseiling).

Notes:

1. From the top of pitch 4, a 27m abseil gets you to the top of the 2nd pitch of Rhino on the City Hall Steps. TIE KNOTS IN THE END OF THE ROPE! Two more abseils from here gets you to the ground.
2. It is tricky to back off the top of pitches 2 or 3 with a single rope. It is approximately 40m to the ground from here. You could probably abseil onto the Rhino slab in 30m, but be prepared for some soloing/scrambling to get to the next set of chains.
3. About 10m left and slightly down from the top of the route are two access anchors. From these a 30m abseil gets you to the top of pitches 2 and 3.

FA: Hector Pringle and Heinrich Kahl, 2010-06-16, with thanks to Joffrey Hyman for earlier attempts. Bolts sponsored by the MCSA, Jhb Section. All bolts are stainless steel expansion, M10, 90mm.

3. Red Satin Face (14) Trad ***

FA: Gavin Raubenheimer and Cesar de Carvalho (1998)

Towards the left-hand end of the Wish You Were Here face there are several huge, right-facing corners. Between two of these corners there is a superb face with three unmistakable, broad, black water streaks running almost the full height of the crag. The climb goes more or less up the left-hand water streak.

1. 11 (40m) Start just left of the base of the left-hand water streak. Climb straight up the broken face and belay on some large chicken heads about 15m below the point where the big corner on the left, hangs to the right.
2. 14 (30m) Move up the face to the overhanging corner and move around this on the right (tricky). Continue up the corner to a ledge.

3. 12 (30m) Carry on up the face to the big bushy ledge and then scramble up a chimney on the left and walk off. Alternatively, move up diagonally right to the chains at the top of 'Rhino on the ... Steps'. If you ab off the chains on 'Rhino on the ...' you will need two ropes or a single 60m rope.

This line involves enjoyable climbing on good, clean rock and is reasonably well protected.

4. Seize the Day (17) Trad ***

FA: Gavin Raubenheimer and Andy Telfer (11 April 1999)

1. 12 (30m) Start at the same point as 'Red Satin Face'. Move up diagonally to the right, across the broken face to belay at the chains at the top of the first pitch of 'Rhino'.
2. 15 (30m) From the chains climb up and to the right doing delicate slab climbing to gain a big uneven ledge. Walk to the right hand side of the whole face to a point below a steep short face. This point is about 6m before the right hand arête.
3. 17 (45m) Climb up the short steep face. Make a delicate move over a smooth section to another short steep face. Carry straight on up the big face above until the top ledge is gained and belay left of a huge boulder.

Ab off down 'Men Behaving Badly'. Enjoyable climbing on good, clean rock with reasonable protection.

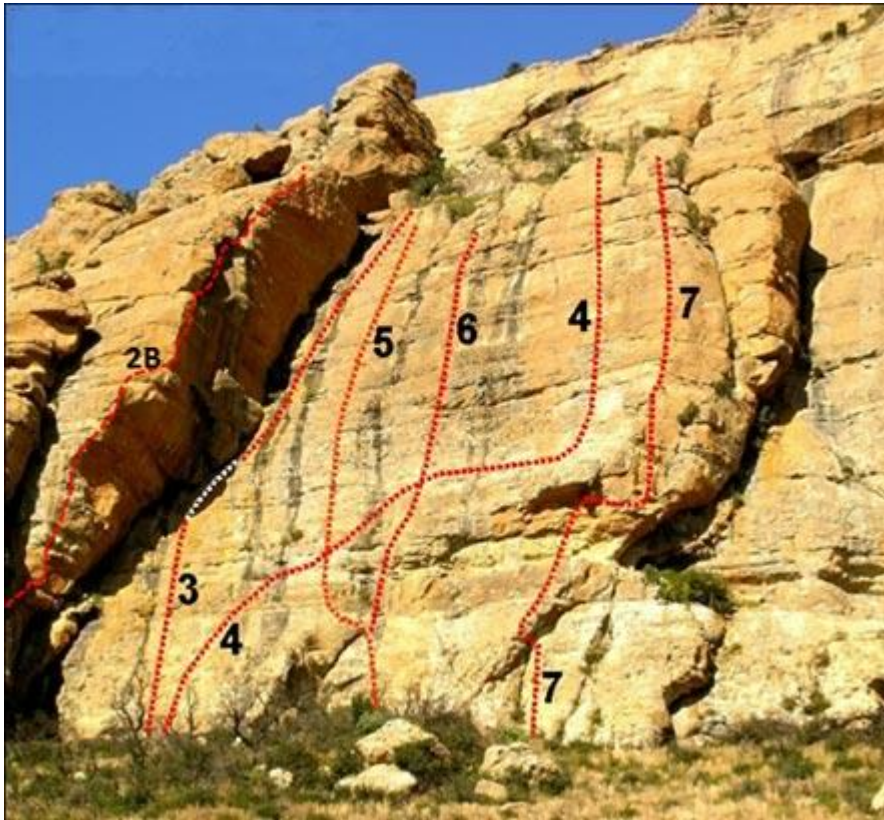
5. Rhino On The City Hall Steps (14) 12D ****

FA: Andy Haliburton and Sean Bartleet (1996)

Towards the left of the Wish You Were Here face there are two huge, right-facing corners. On the face between them there are three black water streaks that run almost the full height of the crag. The climb starts just to the right of the middle streak, then moves left and continues up between the middle and the left-hand streaks.

1. 14 (25m; 12D) Climb straight up the face to where it steepens. Traverse left across the water streak (tricky, especially when wet) and then continue up to a stance on the slab above.
2. 13 (28m; 10D) Climb straight up the slab to a semi-hanging stance.
3. 11 (28m; 10D) Continue up the slab to chains just below a heavily vegetated ledge.

The route ends just below the level of the cave on 'Fight the Feeling'. It is possible to walk off to the left, but it is much easier to ab back down the route. **Note:** If your rope is less than 60 long, you will need a second rope. The route provides very pleasant climbing on good, clean rock. The chains on most pitches have been replaced or supplemented by Gavin Peckham



- 2B. Indecent Exposure
- 3. Red Satin Face
- 4. Seize the Day
- 5. Rhino on the City Hall Steps
- 6. Two Fingers in the Pocket
- 7. Men Behaving Badly

6. Two Fingers in the Pocket (21, or 13, A0) 15D ***

FA: Dylan Salt; Dario Tedeschi

1. 21 (30m) Start as for 'Rhino ...' but instead of traversing left, carry straight on up the line of bolts. The crux move consists of getting over a bulge by deadpointing a two-finger pocket from a large hueco, followed by another thin move to the chains.
2. 13 (28m) Follow the bolts through some overlaps to chains on a slab.
3. 13 (28m) Carry on up the slab to easier ground.

The crux move can be aided by pulling on the draws thus reducing the overall grade to 13, A0.

7. Men Behaving Badly (17) 12D *****

FA: Gavin Raubenheimer; Trevor Johnson (27 April 2003)

This route takes a line up the blunt arête to the right of 'Rhino on the City Hall Steps'. It is at times exposed, but well protected. The pitches are all slightly less than 25m long. The third and fourth pitches can be linked using a 50m rope. Communication between the leader and belayer can be a problem on pitch two, especially if the wind is blowing. Start about 10m to the right of 'Rhino...'. The first bolt is about 4m up. 12 draws will be enough for this route. This is an excellent route at a moderate grade.

1. 13 (24m) Climb easy rock and then pull up and over the arête. Continue up to chains on a ledge below the overhang.
2. 17 (24m) Climb up a few moves to reach the overhang. Bypass this by traversing out to the right (exposed) and around the corner to reach a tiny ledge. The traverse is easier if you keep your feet as low as possible and use the good pockets high up near the corner for your hands. Move up a recess and then left and up to chains on a big ledge.
3. 17 (24m) Climb the arête / face keeping either left (15), or right (17) of the bolts.
4. 10 (24m) Climb the easy face to the huge block on the ledge.

8. Ledge of Renewed Hope (18) Trad

FA: Jacques Raubenheimer and Hennie van Zyl (1999)

Just left of 'Fight the Feeling' and 'Come Together' is a large column of rock lying against the face. The route climbs the face just to the right of the crack formed by this column.

1. 9 (15m) Climb up to the large ledge.
2. 14 (35m) From the ledge, climb straight up the face until you reach a bomber ledge about one metre square. (On the opening ascent the first two pitches were climbed as one. The ledge was reached just as the rope ran out, hence the name of the route !)
3. 18 (20m) Continue up from the ledge using the crack and face until you reach the Rave Cave.

Scramble out left and walk down or ab down the chains on 'Fight the Feeling'.

9. Come Together - Trad

FA: Helmut Gorgitten ; Renato Botte ; Kuit Buiggen ; Pauli Tieukwwalster ; Jtoly Sudtiroc (20 April 1998)

This line uses the first two pitches of 'Fight the Feeling', moves left and then climbs parallel to that route. Grades are unknown, if anyone does it please send info!

3. (? ? ?) From the top of the second pitch on 'Fight the Feeling', break out left then up over a smooth section and belay above.
4. (? ? ?) Climb straight up to the Rave Cave. This pitch is left of, and parallel to pitches 3 and 4 of 'Fight the Feeling'.
5. (? ? ?) Start from the top of a large boulder in the cave, to the left of pitch 5 on 'Fight the ...' Climb up diagonally to the right to break through the roof and then move diagonally left and up to a stance.
6. (? ? ?) Climb straight up to the top.

Descent: ? Grades? Comments: ? !!!

10. Fight the Feeling (21) 11D *****

FA: Mike and Ruth Behr (1994)

The original line up Mooineok Mountain and the most popular. Easy except for a couple of moves. The Wish You Were Here face has two huge, right-facing dihedrals towards its left and

a recessed face bounded by a huge arch on the right. This line goes up the face about midway between the right-hand dihedral and the left-hand side of the arch. There is a broad, grey, water-streak in the middle of this face and the route starts just to the left of this.

1. 12 (20m; 7D) Climb up and traverse to the right past the edge of the cave to a semi-hanging belay.
2. 17 (12m; 7D) Climb straight up the very juggy face to a very small stance - 3 climbers at most.
3. 21 (25m; 11D) Continue straight up to a narrow ledge. This crux pitch can be reduced to about grade 17 by lassoing the eye-bolt with a long sling and aiding up on it.
4. 13 (25m; 7D) Continue up an easy slab to a stance at the right hand side of a huge cave - the Rave Cave.
5. 19 (25m; 10D) Start on top of a boulder near the right hand edge of the cave, reach up and pull through the roof. Climb up tending right to the next set of chains. Climbers following the leader should be kept fairly tight until they have got through the roof as a fall combined with rope-stretch may cause them to deck.
6. 16 (25m; 7D) Climb up tending left and finish through a small bulge near the top.

Abseil back down the route. This is a superb and very popular line. During summer start early or mid afternoon to avoid the baking midday heat.

11. Mr Teatime's Neurological Accelerator (20) Trad

FA: C Reed and Alex Steyn (25 April 1998)

Towards the right-hand side of the Wish You Were Here face, and to the right of 'Fight the Feeling' there is a reddish face that is enclosed by a huge, arch-like feature. The route takes a line up this face.

1. 15 (15m) Near the middle of the face and under the arch, there is a right-tending, vegetated crack. Climb this crack to a narrow ledge.
2. 20 (15m) Continue up the crack to a bush that is about 2m below the big roof. Ab from the bush.

Fiddly wires and long scary leads ! A good crack through the roof and a chimney above it await the attempts of an adventurous climber.

B. Serengeti Slab

The Serengeti Slab is located on the lower slopes of Mooihoek Mountain, in the nek between Mooihoek and Mt Everest. It is close to the Kransduif Chalet and just off the road to the Mooihoek campsite. The path from the car shelter up towards Kransduif Chalet, passes just to the left of the boulder. The three routes on this large, slabby boulder are all located on its west face. The top anchors are easily reached by scrambling up on the Mooihoek side of the boulder. The slab gets morning shade and afternoon sun.

1. Masai Mara (15) 10D ***

FA: Barbara Curson (1993) Bolted by Clive Curson

Start at from the ground below the left-hand edge of the west face. Pull up onto the slab, move up a bit and then hand-rail around to the arête on the left. Follow the arête up to the anchors.

2. Serengeti (14) 8D ***

FA: Clive and Barbara Curson (1993)

Climb the pockety line up the middle of the slab. This line is quite thin and balancy in places and is trickier than it looks.

3. View to a Kill (11) 8D ***

FA: Clive Curson (1993)

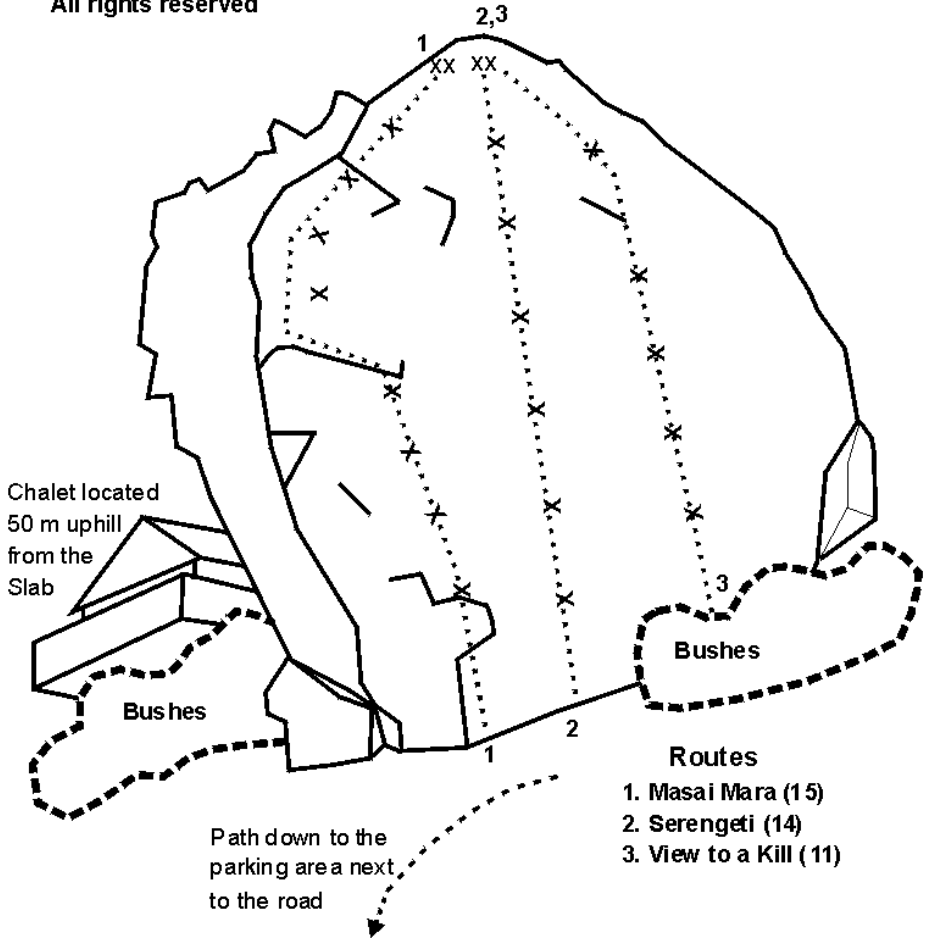
Clip the first bolt on Serengeti then move up diagonally right to the line of bolts on the right. Continue straight up on large pockets. At the top move left to the anchors that are shared with the previous route.

Serengeti Slab

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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C. The Dark Side

The Cave Sandstone of Mooihoek Mountain is capped by a thick layer of dolerite with its characteristic abundance of uniform, vertical cracks. On the Harrismith (west) side of Mooihoek, towering above the campsite, the band of dolerite is known as the Dark Side. Several impressive multi-pitch trad routes located here and there is excellent new route potential in this area for energetic climbers.

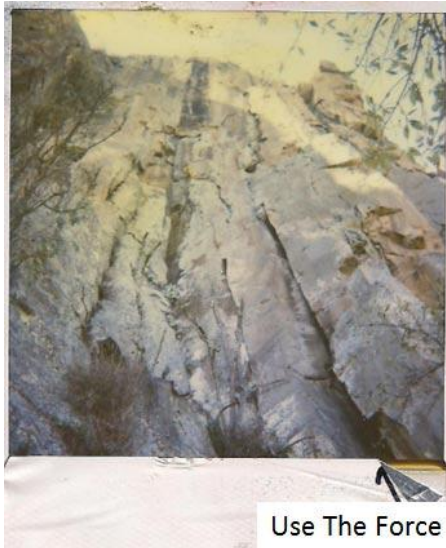
From the campsite follow road south east, just before arriving at the Bosduif Chalet go up the grassy slope on the right. Take an almost straight line to the cliffs, aiming for the obvious black water streak, to the left of this is 'Rhyme..' and right of this is 'Use the Force' and 'Under African Sun'.

1. Rhyme of the Ancient Climber (19) Trad

FA: Jacques Raubenheimer and Hennie van Zyl (1999)

The dolerite layer overlooking the Mooihoek camp site has a prominent black water-streak running down the face. About 10m to the left of this is a smaller streak with a big overhanging nose about 50m up. The route starts below this nose.

1. 19 (10m) Just left of the smaller streak is a column of rock with a crack just left of the inside corner. Climb this crack to the top of the column.
2. 18 (30m) Climb straight up to the overhangs and pass them on the left. Beware of loose blocks. Continue up to two ledges. The top one is heavily vegetated and is just left of, and a little below the nose. The second ledge is smaller and about 2m lower, but provides a good belay.
3. 16 (15m) Climb the heavily vegetated crack and then move out left to a large ledge.
4. 18 (25m) From the left of the big ledge climb the crack to the top.



2. Use the Force (25) Trad *****

FA: Richard Pike and Adam Beaven (16 September 2002)

This route is located at a continuous crack to the right of the prominent black water streak mentioned under the RD for the previous route.

1. 22 (20m) Climb the chimney / crack to an awkward move where it narrows (pull on a wobbly flake!). Belay on a ledge to the right.
2. 21 (20m) Climb the superb flake / crack to a belay ledge.
3. 25 (20m) Hard. Follow the crack on superb jams and finger locks with excellent gear to a hard crux sequence. A fixed runner was used as aid on the first ascent. The first free ascent awaits!

Comments: Pitches 1. and 2. can be linked. A 60m ab gets you back down – be careful ! The first ascensionists were UK climbers of the 'Hot Rock Global Challenge Team'.

3. Under the African Sun (22) Trad ***

FA: Richard Pike and Caroline Graham-Brown (12 September 2002)

This route is located some way (?!) to the right of 'Use the Force' near the centre of the buttress. Start to the left of a rock scar below an obvious jamming crack.

1. 22 (35m) Follow ledges up to the crack and enter this with some difficulty. Sustained crack climbing leads to a face and a belay ledge on the right.
2. 21 (35m) Continue up the crack to the left of the belay ledge to reach a final wide crack which continues up for another 20m - a #4 Friend is useful. Finish on a ledge with a block belay just to the right of a rock formation that looks like a baboon's head from below.

Comments: Superb jamming. A 60m ab gets you back down – be careful ! The first ascensionists were UK climbers of the 'Hot Rock Global Challenge Team'.

D. Slag Crag

This is the huge, broken sandstone face on the opposite side of the mountain from the Wish You Were Here face. The Slag Crag overlooks the Mooihoek campsite and underlies the thick layer of dolerite (The Dark Side) at the top of the mountain. There is one excellent multi-pitch sport route here; Big Skye, the rest are trad adventures.

1. Big Sky (17) 17D ****

FA: Gavin Peckham and Gavin Raubenheimer (16 July 2005)

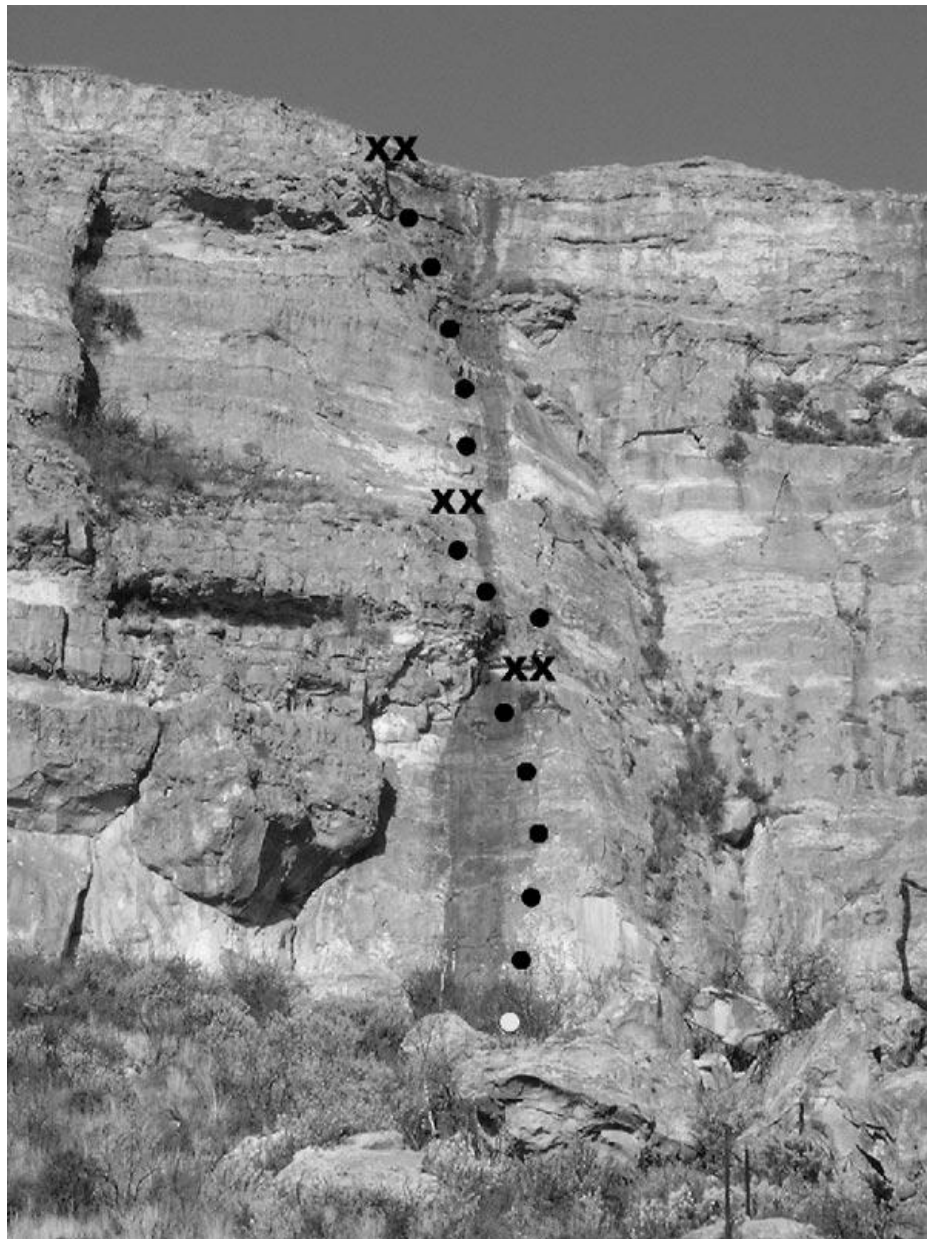
Location: The route is located in the middle of the Slag Crag Face and directly above the campsite. The route essentially follows the huge black water streak that runs the full height of the crag.

Approach: From the main campsite, follow the path up to the Happy Camper Boulder. From here head diagonally left up the hill following the black water pipe until you reach a fence. **DO NOT STEP ON THE PIPE !** Walk through the hole in the fence and then follow the fence uphill to the base of the crag. Turn left and walk about 30m along the base of the crag, crossing a large boulder on the way. The approach requires less than 10 minutes of easy walking.

Aspect: The crag gets morning shade and afternoon sun and is best climbed in the morning during the summer and in the afternoon during the winter.

NB: At this stage **two** 50m ropes are required to descend. Avoid this route if the black water

streak is wet.



'Big Sky' on the Slag Crag

1. 17 (35m; 15D) After a bouldery start with a mixture of thin holds and good pockets, the

gradient eases off slightly and pleasant climbing leads to a small and airy but comfortable stance at the edge of an overhang.

2. 14 (15m; 6D) Climb up from the stance and then traverse delicately to the left along the lip of the roof until it is possible to move up a scoop to the next set of chains that are located on a large ledge.
3. 14 (45m; 17D) Follow the line of bolts up to the top of the crag. Easy climbing alternates with several trickier sections that keep you thinking all the way to the top.

Descent: Abseil down the top pitch (45m). A second abseil (45m) from the chains on the big ledge gets you back to mother earth.

There are various trad routes in this vicinity. Apparently these routes start in the vicinity of a huge overhanging block in the face.

2. Tortured Soles of the Untouchable Botanists (19) Trad

FA: Alex Steyn and Jacques Raubenheimer (1997)

1. 19 (35m) Climb the open book corner under the overhanging block on the right and follow the open book around the corner and straight up to a small roof. Step left and climb diagonally up and left to a large ledge with bolt belays.
2. 14 (40m) Climb through the roof slightly to the right of middle then climb left, bashing through greenery to a large slab. Climb the slab and belay on a good Friend under an overlap.
3. 14 (30m) Climb through the overlap on the left side then head for a bolt belay at the top.

3. Life (25) Trad

FA: Alex Steyn and C Reed (1997)

1. 25 (30m) Start directly behind the boulders on a blank, powdery section of wall that has a vertical crack feature about 2m up. A cam in this crack is the only protection until you reach another crack higher up on the right and a fall could prove fatal. Climb up past the cam until level with the bottom of the huge crack on the right. On amazingly delicate and flaky crimpers, climb across right to the huge crack. Follow the crack left through the roof and up through the overhanging chimney feature. Continue straight up to a bolt belay. Walk right along a ledge to another bolt belay at the left of a cave.
2. 17 (30m) One tough move gets you through the overlap and onto the rock above, left of the belay. Continue straight up to the next bolt belay on a small ledge.
3. 14 (40m) Climb straight up to the bolt belay at the top. Congratulate yourself if you are still alive!

The following three routes apparently also exist in this area, but no other info is available - even the first ascensionist (Alex Steyn) can't remember where they go !

4. The Way Less Travelled - Trad

5. Thor - Trad

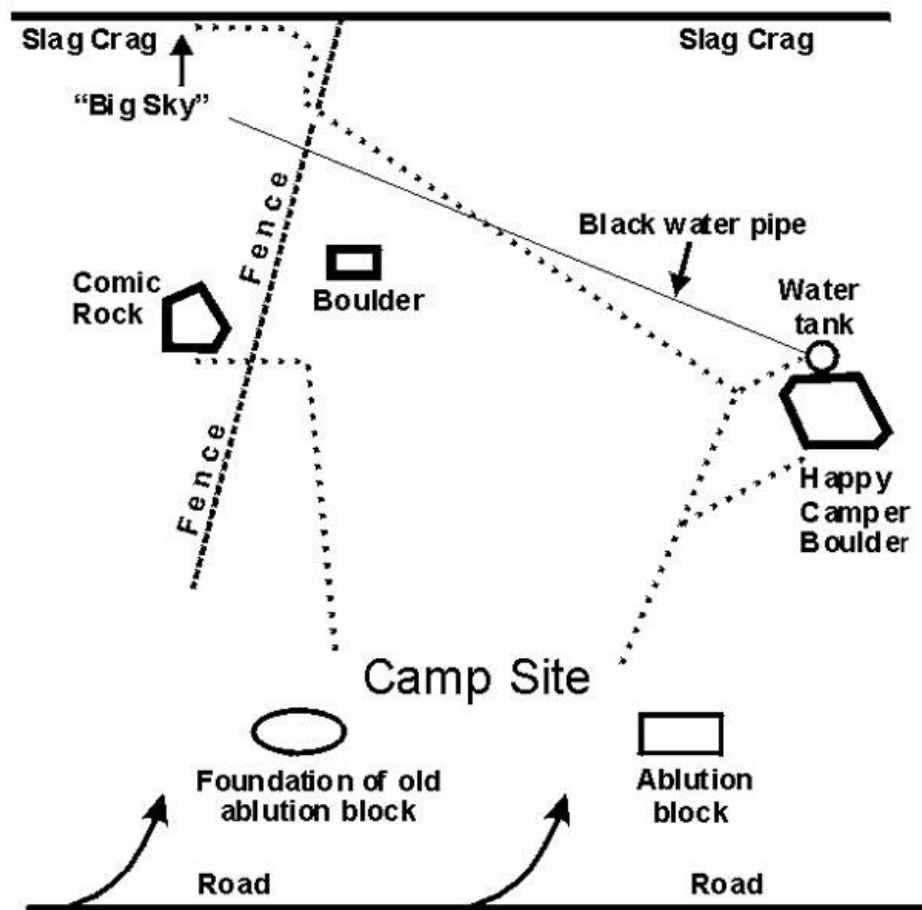
6. Cosmic Underrod Warrior – Trad

Slag Crag & Adjacent Boulders

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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E. Comic Rock

If you stand in the campsite near the foundation of the old, burned-out ablation block and look straight up the hill towards the high sandstone faces of the Slag Crag, then Comic Rock is the large boulder directly ahead of you, about half way up the hill towards the Slag Crag. To get there head straight up the hill aiming for a point about 10m to the right of the boulder. When you are at the same height as the boulder, turn left and walk through a hole in the fence to reach

the front of the rock. The last three routes listed below are all facing the camp on the downhill side of the block. The first three routes are around the corner to the left of this. The routes were located, climbed and bolted by Gavin Peckham on 17 July 2005 as a part of an MCSA-KZN project to establish more routes in the lower grades for beginners.

1. Goofy (7) 2D

Climb the very short face on the uphill side of the left-hand face (facing uphill) - teach your grandmother to climb!

2. Casper (8) 2D *

Climb the short line in the middle of the left-hand face.

3. Charlie Brown (9) **

Climb the smooth left-tending scoop that runs up to the top of the boulder. This line will be bolted in due course.

4. Spiderman (8) 8D ***

Start near the middle of the face on the downhill side of the boulder. Climb up tending left at first and then right all the way to the top. Good and consistent climbing at the grade.

5. Garfield (10) 6D **

Start 1m to the right of 'Spiderman' and climb straight up to the chains which are shared with the previous route.

6. Hagar (15) 7D **

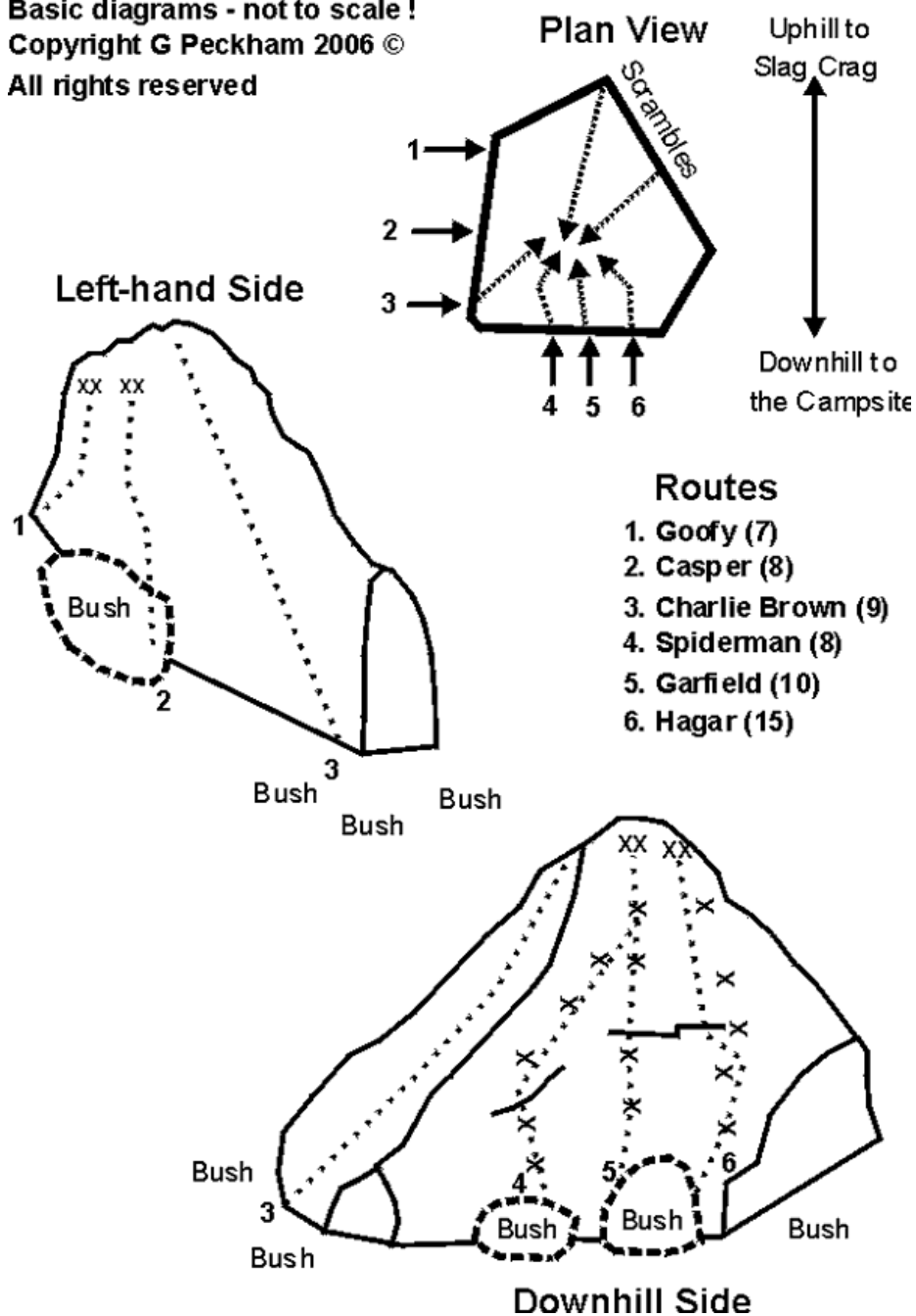
Start about 1m to the right of the previous route and towards the right-hand side of the face. Climb straight up and pull through onto a ledge then climb up tending left to the chains.

Comic Rock

Basic diagrams - not to scale !

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F. Happy Camper Boulder

If you stand near the ablation block in the campsite and look straight up the hill towards the high sandstone faces of the Slag Crag then the Happy Camper is the large boulder directly ahead of you, about half way up the hill towards the Slag Crag. The routes are all facing the camp on the downhill side of the block. They were located, climbed and bolted by Gavin Peckham on 18 April 2004 with assistance from Gavin Raubenheimer as a part of an MCSA-KZN project to establish more routes in the lower grades for beginners.

1. On the Edge (14) 7D ***

Start up the juggy arête towards the left-hand side of the boulder. Step across to the left (crux) and get established on the smooth face. Climb the face to the chains using excellent pockets that are not visible from below.

2. Easy Street (7) 6D **

Climb the obvious huge recess up the centre of the boulder.

3. A Walk in the Park (8) 6D **

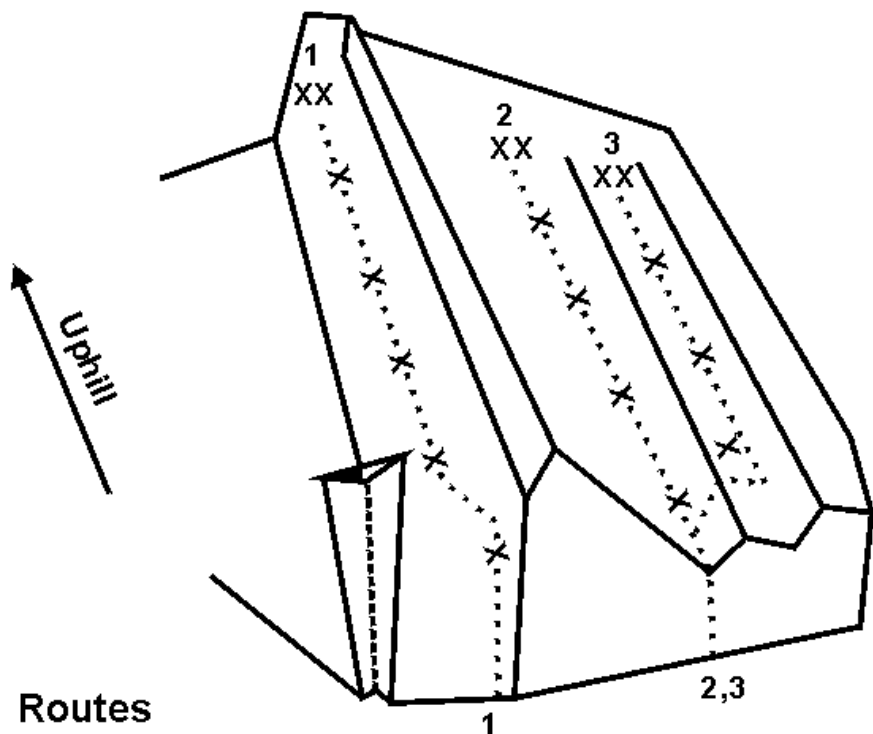
Start as for 'Easy Street'. From the first bolt, step across to the right and follow a second, less prominent recess up to the chains.

Happy Camper Boulder

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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Routes

1. On the Edge (14)
2. Easy Street (7)
3. Walk in the Park (8)

This is the downhill side that faces the campsite.

G. Picnic Boulder

Park at the Bosduif picnic spot and walk along the road for about 150m. Turn to the left and walk across the veld to the obvious boulders. The Picnic Boulder may be recognised by the large 'scoop' that appears to have been taken out of the left-hand side of the boulder as you approach it. The anchors can be reached by scrambling up the back of the boulder

1. Ashen Lady (18) 4D **

FA: Mike Cartwright and Grant Murray (1993)

The east face of the boulder has an overhanging scoop. Start just to the right of the scoop and climb up, tending slightly left to the anchors.

2. Ryobi Skunk (18) 3D * FA: Gavin Zurich (1996)

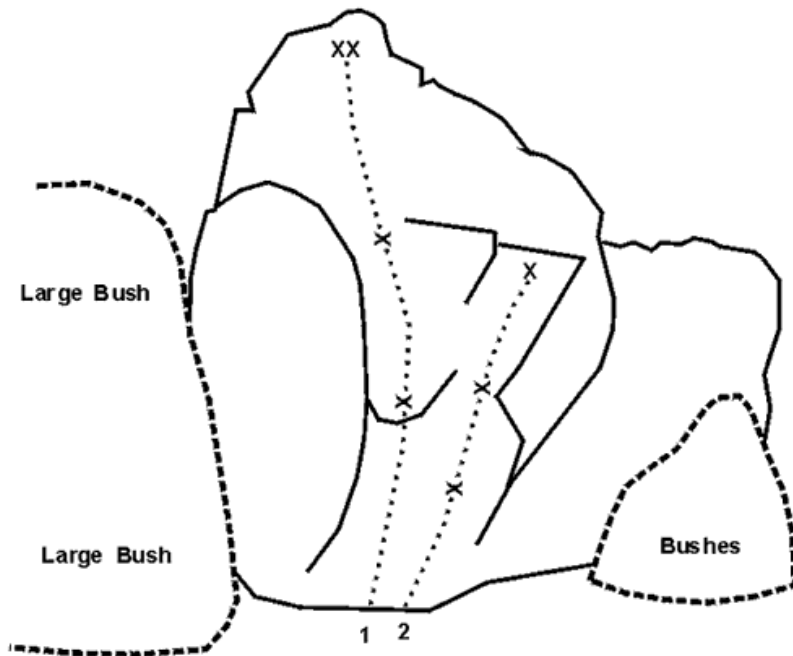
Climb the short right-tending line to the right of Ashen Lady. There is only one chain at the top.

Picnic Boulder

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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Routes

1. Ashen Lady (18)

2. Ryobi Skunk (18)

H. Betty's Boulder

This is just up the hill from the Picnic Boulder. The following routes were climbed by Gavin Peckham and Nicky Swart on 25 April 2003. These lines are unbolted at this stage.

1. Duddle (07) *

Start on the uphill (Mooihoek) side of the boulder and duddle up the very easy, short slab on the left.

2. Amble (09) *

Climb the jugs on the very short arête just to the right of 'Duddle'.

3. Lithium (13) **

On the campsite side of the boulder the red rock is split by three recesses that diverge from a common start. Start under the central recess and then follow the recess on the left.

4. Sodium (14) **

Climb the central recess.

5. Potassium (14) **

Start below the upper part of the recess on the right and climb straight up to the top.

2. MOUNT EVEREST

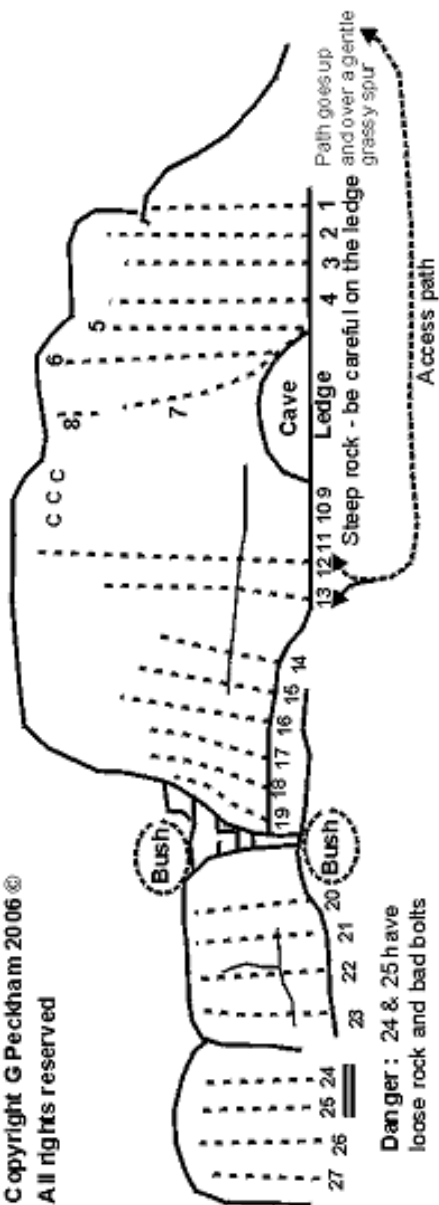
A. Alternative Rock

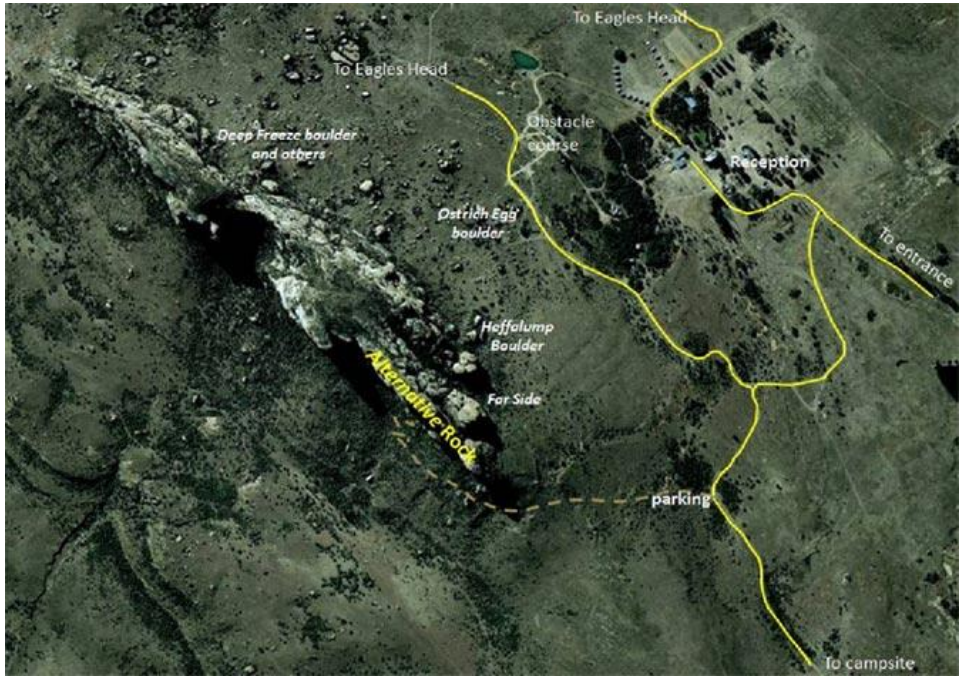
A great sport cliff. It faces south west so is in the shade all morning until around midday or longer in winter. It is perfect for summer, and a bit too cold in winter.

The face is on the south (back side) of Mount Everest, it can't be seen from any of the other crags or roads. To get there take the road that runs from the reception area towards the camp site and park on some rough grass on the right just after a bend. Find the faint trail and head up hill towards the shoulder of the mountain. After a flat section trend down the other side diagonally until under the obvious cliffs; the path then climbs up to the base of the cliff.

Alternative Rock

Basic diagram - not to scale!
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The routes are listed from **right to left** because climbers usually work their way along the crag in this direction.

1. Trinity Session (16) 10D ***

FA: Glen Harrison (1995)

From the cave, walk along the ledge to the right for about 10m. The route takes the last line of bolts along the face. The ledge is quite exposed at this point, so clip in at the base of the route before belaying. The crux can be avoided by moving up and around to the right to reach the lower off bolts. Place your ropes with care to avoid sharp edges when lowering.

2. Aggro Grannies (17) 8D ***

FA: Glen Harrison and Mike Behr (1996)

Climb the pocketed face just left of 'Trinity Session'.

3. Pressure Cookie (18) 9D ****

FA: Ruth Behr (1996)

Start from a semi-hanging stance and climb the line of bolts immediately left of 'Aggro Grannies'.

4. Long Haired Freaky People (18) 8D ****

FA: Mike Behr and Glen Harrison (1996)

Climb the bolts immediately left of 'Pressure Cookie'. By now you should be about 4m to the right of the cave.

5. I Saw Elvis At The Chains (19) 10D ****

FA: Mike and Ruth Behr (1995)

Start up the first three bolts of 'Some Girls Wonder' and then climb straight up the dark wall to the right of 'Opening Night'. This is a fine sequence of boulder problems at a medium grade on a vertical wall.

6. Opening Night (23) 10D *****

FA: Dave Walden (1996)

One of the best climbs at Everest, some run out sections but perfectly safe. Climb diagonally left up the first four bolts of 'Some Girls Wonder' then climb straight up the blackish face toward the bush (15 m up). Finished way up high on the orange headwall via some underclings and a pump.

7. Some Girls Wonder (21) 12D *****

FA: Gunther Migeotte (1995)

Start at the right-hand edge of the cave and climb up diagonally left over the top of the cave until you are about 3m left of the start. Continue straight up to the first set of anchors.

8. By Mistake (26) 16D **

FA: Gunther Migeotte (1995)

This is simply a short extension of 'Some Girls Wonder'. Continue straight up the orange head wall to the next set of anchors.

9. Dented Karma (22) 11D **

FA: Alard Hufner

Follow the line of bolts near the left-hand side of the cave.

10. Gaper Trail (24) 11D **

FA: Matthew Murrison

The line left of 'Dented Karma'.

11. Cosmic Girl – (28) *****

Bolted by Colin Crabtree (1997) FA: Harry Crews 2011

Best of the harder climbs. Start on the pockets then up and slightly right. Don't use the obvious "death underclings". Great power endure!

12. Space Cowboy (27/28) 14D ***

FA: Glen Harrison (1996)

This route takes the line of bolts immediately left of the 'Cosmic Girl' project. The steep bouldery start (crux) is followed by excellent, exposed climbing. Some holds may have deteriorated on the headwall, could be harder than 27..?

13. Alice In Chains (24) 10D *****

FA: Gunther Migeotte and Mike Behr (1995)

A great steep pump! The leftmost line on the face up the juggy steep stuff. Climb straight up, breaking through an overlap about one third of the way up the route.

The next six routes from 'Suicide Blonde' to 'Jagged Little Pill' start from a ledge a few metres above the pathway to the left of the cave. Either scramble up to the ledge on the **right** below 'Suicide Blonde', or walk around to the **left** and scramble up below 'Jagged Little Pill'.

Do not attempt to climb straight up to the routes that start from the centre of the ledge, as the rock below the ledge is loose and unprotected.

14. Suicide Blonde (22) 7D ****

FA: Mike and Ruth Behr (1995)

Start from the extreme right hand edge of the ledge on top of the boulder. This is a powerful and technical route.

15. Dancing in the Dark (23) 8D ***

FA: Arno Naude (1995)

Take the line to the left of 'Suicide Blonde'.

16. Red, Red Wine (22) 10D **

FA: Arno Naude and Gerhard Kruger (1996)

Start about 4m to the left of 'Dancing in the Dark'. This is yet another steep and testing line.

17. Simply the Best (22) 7D *****

FA: Arno Naude (1995)

To the left of 'Red, Red Wine'. This is an excellent line - pumpy and reachy.

18. Fergus Sings the Blues (23) 7D ***

FA: Mike Behr (1995)

To the left of 'Simply the Best'. Another pumpy and reachy line.

19. Jagged Little Pill (22) 7D ***

FA: Ruth Behr (1997)

This is the left-most line starting from the ledge. Belay from the tree in the corner and climb the line of bolts 2m to the left of 'Fergus Sings the Blues'.

The following routes are further to the left on a much shorter wall that is separated from the previous section of the mountain by a deep gully. To reach these routes, continue walking to along the path to the left, up a rise past a tree and down the other side to the small cave.

20. Grimly Fiendish (26) 6D ***

FA: Colin Crabtree (1996) Bolted by Glen Harrison

This route takes the first line of bolts after the gully. This is a fierce line with a committing dyno crux.

21. Keep the Change (22) 7D ***

FA: Mike Behr (1995)

Climb the left-hand side of the flake just to the left of 'Grimly Fiendish'.

22. Buckets Full of Sickness (21) 7D *****

FA: Ruth Behr (1995)

Start 2m left of 'Keep the Change' and climb the right-hand side of the flake.

23. Little Wibbler (20) 5D ***

FA: Glen Harrison and Mike Behr (1996)

Start to the left of 'Buckets Full of Sickness' and 2m to the right of an obvious corner.

24. Ts and Cs (25) 7D **

FA: Ian Guest (1996)

Caution: Beware of loose rock. This steep line starts left of the corner and follows a series of pockets and under clings.

25. Tim's Project

The line of bolts to the left of 'Ts and Cs'. **Note: The bolts are unsafe at this stage.**

26. Broiler on a Razor Blade - Project (26) 7D ***

Bolted by Stephan Isebeck and Russel Basset. This should be an open project by now? It is a short route that disappears around a fierce-looking bulge.

27. Diving Board (23) 7D ***

FA: Ian Guest (1996)

This is the fourth and final line of bolts to the left of the corner. It is a steep, juggy line that requires a good reach.

B. The Far Side

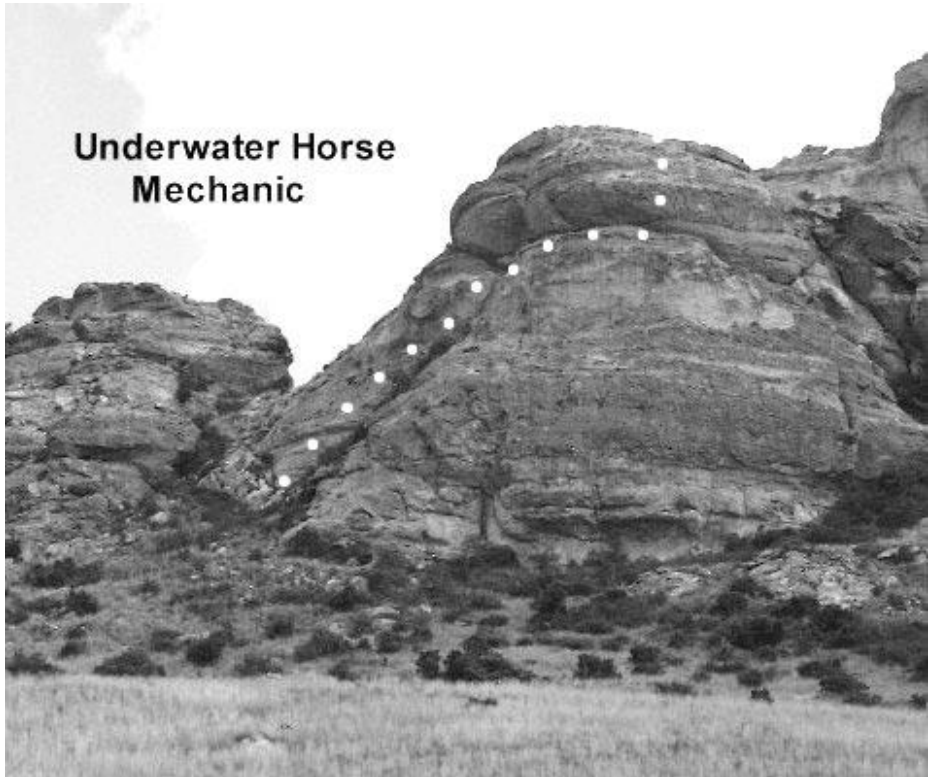
This section is on the eastern side of the mountain at the southern-most end - directly opposite Alternative Rock. There is only a single trad route here at the moment, but there is plenty of potential for new routes, both trad and sport.

1. Underwater Horse Mechanic (13) **

FA: Gavin Peckham and Greg Wooding (5 May 2001)

If you look at Mt Everest from the Reception side, you will see that the left-hand (southern) end of the mountain has two small buttresses before the main bulk of the peak. The left-most buttress is of no significance, but the one to the right is more impressive and has a large face that is steeply undercut and smooth. This makes any possible frontal assault rather tricky. On the right-hand side of the undercut face there is a broad, broken, vegetated ramp leading diagonally up to the right. On the left-hand side of the undercut face there is a narrow, tapering, vegetated ramp that also leads up diagonally to the right. Just to the left of the left-hand ramp, and set back a little, there is an attractive, clean slab.

Start at the lowest point on the slab and climb up tending slightly to the right. Continue along this line, passing to the left of a small cave or large cubby-hole to reach a ledge. Move to the right on this ledge and around a slight corner for a couple of metres until it is possible to pull through the small overhang on big jugs. Perfect rock with good gear. Walk off to the left and descend down the obvious gully.



C. Heffalump Boulder

Drive to the Ostrich Egg area and park near the Mt Everest Chalet taking care not to block the access of the chalet occupants. Walk up the path to the chalet. About 5 m before the chalet, turn left onto a vague path that leads up past a water tank. From the water tank walk diagonally left up the hill heading towards the group of three large boulders at the base of the main face. The Heffalump Boulder is the furthest of the three and is a steep slab that is barely 5 minutes walk from the parking area. These routes were located, climbed and bolted by Gavin Peckham on 25 April 2004 with help from Gavin Raubenheimer and Nicky Swart as part of an MCSA-KZN project to establish more routes for beginners.

Note: The first three routes climb up past 'ears' or flakes that are (currently) quite sound but look vulnerable to a strong outward pull - especially the one on the right (Pooh Bear). Belayers beware and climbers please treat them gently!

1. Piglet (10) 6D ***

Climb the line of bolts on the left of the boulder. The chains are over the edge, out of sight of the start.

2. Kanga (10) 6D ***

Climb the line of bolts just to the right of 'Piglet'.

3. Pooh Bear (12) 6D ***

Climb the line of bolts just to the right of 'Kanga', passing just right of the third 'ear'.

4. Woozle Tracks (15) 7D ***

This is the line towards the right-hand side of the slab. Start off the small block in the bush directly below the first bolt. From the first bolt make a rising traverse (crux, thin) across towards the arête on the right and then follow the bolts straight up to the chains. On the traverse stay higher rather than lower.

The next two routes are on the back of the boulder and may be reached by following a path around to the right.

5. Coffin Dodger (17) 5D ***

FA: Gavin Peckham (15 Nov 2008)

Pull up onto the face. Follow the bolts up the left of the face.

6. Fat and Feeble (17) 6D ***

FA: Gavin Peckham (15 Nov 2008)

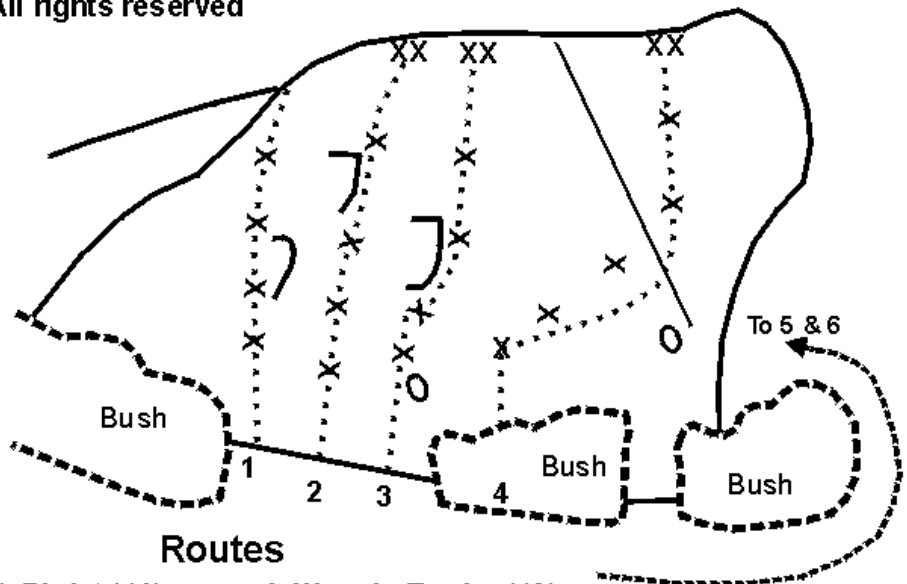
Climb the line of bolts on the right-hand side of the small face. Avoid using the block on the right as far as possible.

Heffalump Boulder

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Piglet (10) | 4. Woozle Tracks (16) |
| 2. Kanga (10) | 5. Coffin Dodger (17) |
| 3. Pooh Bear (12) | 6. Fat and Feeble (17) |



Mt Everest – Panorama of the Far Side and the Central East Face

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Underwater Horse Mechanic | 7. The Entertainer |
| 2. Heffalump Boulder | 8. Something to Do |
| 3. Ostrich Egg | 9. Pocket City Face |
| 4. Bonni Boulder | 10. Deep Freeze Boulder |
| 5. Beef Boulder | 11. Sundeck Boulder |
| 6. Gypsy Crag | |

D. Ostrich Egg Boulder

Take the road that runs along the base of Mt Everest. Just before you reach the High Ropes structure on the right you will see the Ostrich Egg just off the road on the left. This distinctive, oval boulder has a flat, overhanging, red face on the right as you view it from the road. You can park 20 metres from it! The first three routes described below are on the side facing the road. The next three are on the overhanging, red face and the rest are around the back of the boulder.

1. Unknown (20) 5D **

FA: Unknown

Follow the bolts up the blunt arête on the left-hand side of the boulder as you look at it from the road.

2. Eggstacy (16) 5D **

FA: Cathy O'Dowd (1993). Bolted by Clive Curson.

Start near the middle of the east face. Climb straight up to a prominent flake or horn. Pass it on the left and then head right for the chains at the top of the next route.

3. Shells (13) 5D ***

FA: Fran Botha (1993)

Start off a small boulder at the right-hand side of the face. Climb up through the big scoop above.

4. Cholesterol Bomb (23) 6D ***

FA: Peter Lazarus (1993)

Climb the overhanging jagged arête on the left of the flat, overhanging, orange face on the NW side of the boulder. Pity this climb is not 20 metres longer!

5. Just Yolking (26+) 6D ***

FA: Gilles Benier (1994). Bolted by Grant Murray.

Climb the line of bolts near the centre of the overhanging face. Some of the holds near the top have broken off and the route may now be significantly more difficult.

6. Green Eggs and Ham (23) 6D **

FA: Grant Murray (1994)

Climb the line of bolts towards the right-hand side of the overhanging face.

7. Sunny Side Up (19) 5D **

FA: Mike Cartwright (1993)

Start just to the right of the slight corner at the right-hand edge of the overhanging face and climb straight up. Two hard moves off the ground lead to easier climbing.

Note: The anchors are badly located over the top of the climb and cause severe rope-wear when lowering. To avoid this, use long slings on the anchors when top-roping and then arrange the rope so that the last climber can abseil off.

Ostrich Egg

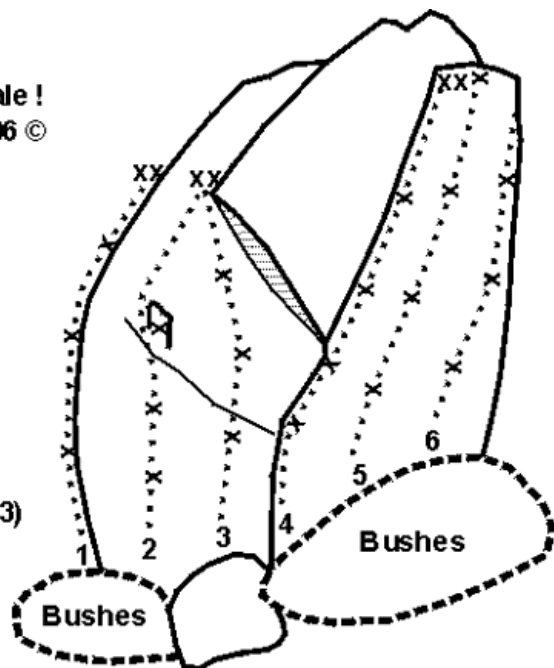
Basic diagram - not to scale!

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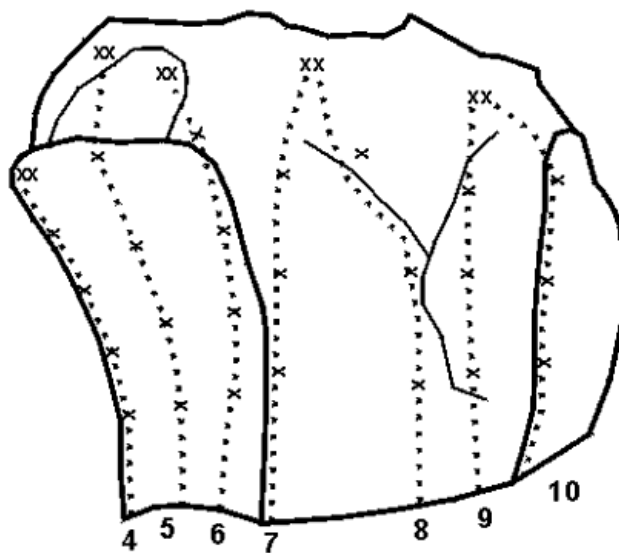
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Routes

1. Unknown (20)
2. Eggstacy (16)
3. Shells (13)
4. Cholesterol Bomb (23)
5. Just Yolking (26?)
6. Green Eggs and Ham (23)
7. Sunny Side Up (19)
8. Over Easy (18)
9. Omelette (20)
10. Young Chicks (23)



"Road Side"



"Back Side"

8. Over Easy (18) 5D ***

FA: Grant Murray (1993)

Start just to the right of the previous route. Step up off the block and climb the steep face by starting up the stem of the Y-shaped crack line. Move up the left-hand crack line at the fork and continue up to the chains. This line uses the anchors at the top of the previous route - see note above.

9. Omelette (20) 5D **

FA: Mike Cartwright (1993)

Start to the right of the previous route and climb up just left of a sort of rounded arête.

10. Young Chicks (23) 5D *

FA: Peter Lazarus (1993)

Start just right of the previous route and grovel up the rounded arête.



Mt Everest from Ostrich Egg Parking Area

1. Ostrich Egg Boulder
2. Bonni Boulder

3. Gypsy Crag
4. Pocket City Face

E. Bonni Boulder

To reach Bonni Boulder, park at the Ostrich Egg and walk about 50m up the slight slope directly towards Mt Everest. When viewed from the Ostrich Egg you will see a protuberance (Bonni's 'head') at the far (uphill) end of the boulder. The first five routes are on the Mooihoek (south) side of the boulder and the rest are on the Eagle's Head (north) side. The first route starts directly below the 'head'. You can set up top ropes if necessary by walking around to the back of the boulder and scrambling up 'Hot Porridge'.

1. Bonni's Head (17) 6D **

FA: Gerhard Kruger (1995)

Make a tricky start from the flat rock at the base of the arête on the left-hand side of the pillar. Climb the arête to anchors on the 'head'. Keep mainly to the right-hand side of the arête but do not use the holds on 'Siesta'.

2. Siesta (15) 6D ***

FA: Arno Naude (1995)

Climb the line immediately to the right of 'Bonni's Head'. This line shares the anchors with the previous route.

3. Lay-In (18) 6D **

FA: Gerhard Kruger (1995)

To the right of 'Siesta' there is a deep, wide crack in the boulder. Layback up the right-hand side of the crack as far as possible, step out to the right and then continue straight up to the anchors which are shared with the next route.

4. No Walk in the Park (20) 6D **

FA: Arno Naude (1995)

This route takes the line of bolts to the right of the previous route. Start just to the right of the line of bolts and move up diagonally left, then continue straight up the bolt-line to the anchors - tricky.

5. There's a Bird In My Shoe (17) 5D **

FA: Arno Naude (1995)

This is the last line of bolts on this side of the boulder. The line is tricky and reachy. Finding the big 'invisible' pocket makes life easier but is not essential.

6. New Line (15) 3D **

FA: Unknown

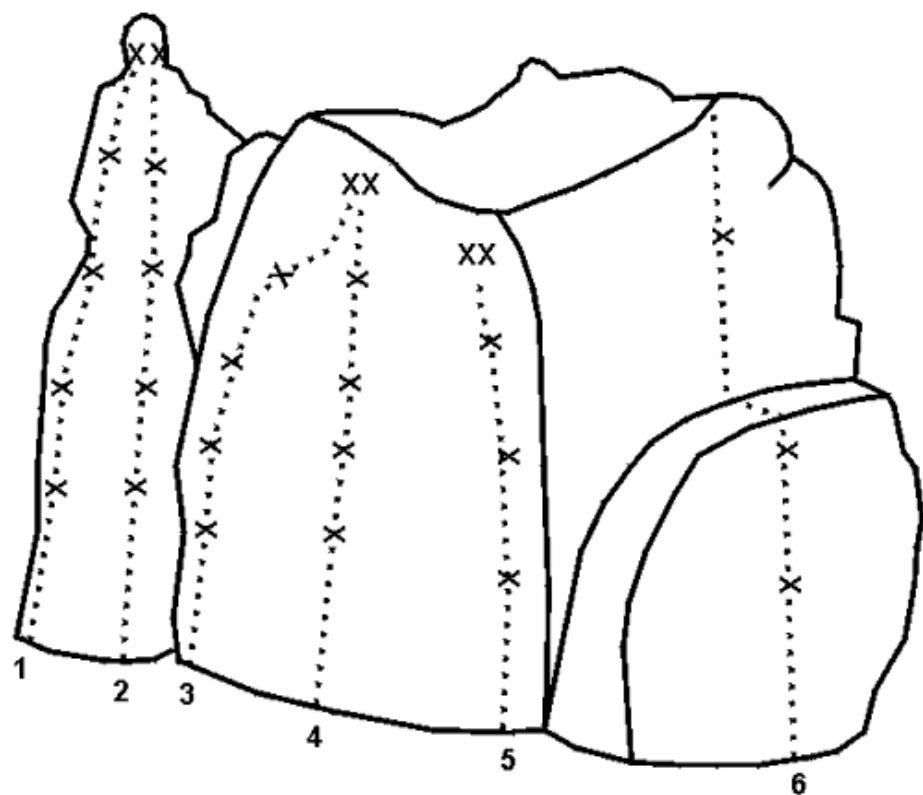
On the downhill / parking / road side of the boulder there is a new route. No details were written up in the 'New Route Book' in the reception. It consists of 3 bolts up the middle of the face with no chains at the top.

Bonni Boulder

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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Routes - SouthSide

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Bonni's Head (17) | 4. No Walk in the Park (20) |
| 2. Siesta (15) | 5. There's a Bird in My Shoe (17) |
| 3. Lay-in (18) | 6. New Line (15) |

There are some beginner's routes around the corner to the right on the north side of the boulder. They were located, climbed and bolted by Gavin Peckham on 25 April 2003 as a part of an MCSA-KZN project to establish more routes in the lower grades for beginners.

7. The Three Bears (10) 6D **

Walk around to the face on the opposite side to the previous climbs. Climb the horns and jugs on the arête slightly to the right of the bolts (Baby Bear - 8), or climb straight up the line of bolts (Pappa Bear - 10), or climb the arête to the left of the bolts (Momma Bear - 9).

8. Goldilocks (9) 5D **

Climb the short, neat, wrinkly face between the 'Three Bears' and 'Hot Porridge'.

9. Hot Porridge (8) 2D *

Climb straight up the prominent scoop to the chains. For a real challenge, climb in boxing gloves and roller skates.

10. Black Bra (8) *

FA: Nicky Swart (25 April 2003)

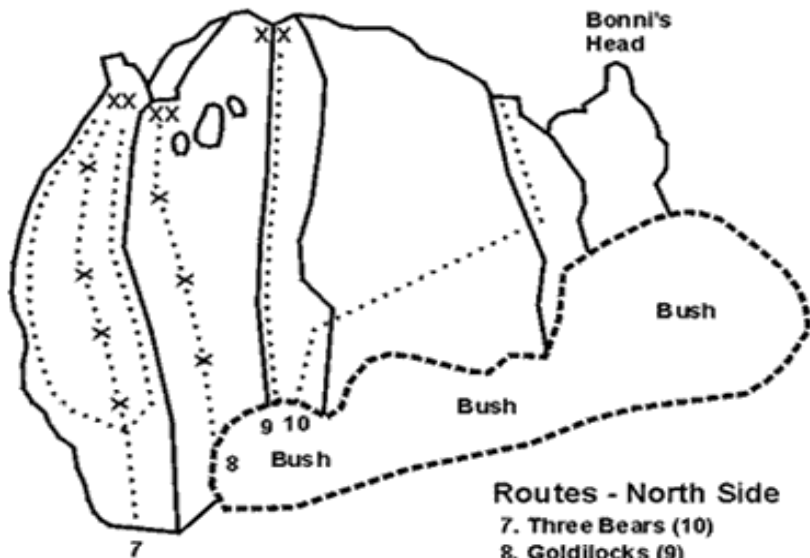
From the bottom of 'Hot Porridge', traverse across to the short arête on the right and then climb this to the top.

Bonni Boulder

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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Routes - North Side

- 7. Three Bears (10)
- 8. Goldilocks (9)
- 9. Hot Porridge (8)
- 10. Black Bra (8)

F. Gypsy Crag

Gypsy Crag is on the main face Mt Everest. It is located to the right of a point directly uphill of the Ostrich Egg and also to the right of a huge, hollow scoop in the main face. (See photos on pages 66 and 71 for location.) The crag consists of two triangular, red faces that are approached by scrambling up a slab. The crag apparently has four routes, listed below from left to right, but further details are unavailable.

1. Love Me Gently (23) 9D

FA: Peter Janschek (1996)

2. Gypsy King (23) 11D

FA: Peter Janschek and Egmont Goedeke (1996)

3. Good Luck Mr Gorsky (22) 8D

FA: Doug Ward (1997)

4. Vanessa's Route (20) 8D

FA: Vanessa Lane (1997)

G. Bushman Complex

The track along the base of Mt Everest ends at this collection of boulders. It is convenient to park here when climbing at the Refrigerator, Deep Freeze, Pocket City and the Fatter and Thinner Pillars. A good path leads from the parking spot straight up to the Refrigerator and then continues on up the slope to the higher boulders.

Climbing on the Bushman Complex boulders is STRICTLY forbidden.

H. Refrigerator Boulder

This upright, rectangular block lies right next to the path, about 200m uphill from the Bushman Complex parking area. There are two short routes on the south face and two more on the east (downhill) face. It is possible to scramble up the back of the boulder to set up a top-rope if necessary.

1. Dry Ice (15) 4D **

FA: Ruth Behr (1994). Bolted by Mike Behr.

This is the left-hand route on the south face. Start directly below the first bolt. Pull up through a bulge onto a ledge. Using the rock on the left reduces the grade significantly.

2. Slightly Chilled (16) 5D **

FA: Ruth Behr (1994). Bolted by Mike Behr.

Start from the rock just left of the arête on the right-hand side of the south face. Climb up left of the arête to reach the ledge then move up left to the anchors on 'Dry Ice'. The start is fingery and off balance. It is difficult to recover your draws.

3. Lemon Twist (21) 5D ***

FA: Mike Behr (1994).

Start up 'Slightly Chilled' to the first bolt, then move to the right, around the arête and onto the east face. Continue up just to the right of the arête to reach the anchors.

4. Stoney (20) 5D ***

FA: Mike Behr and Szabolcs Posert (1994).

Climb the line of bolts up the middle of the downhill face.

Refrigerator Boulder

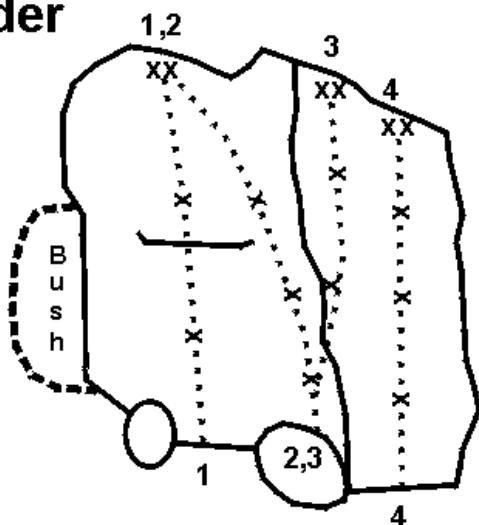
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Routes

1. Dry Ice (15)
2. Slightly Chilled (16)
3. Lemon Twist (21)
4. Stoney (20)



I. Sundeck Boulder

This low, flat-topped boulder is a short walk up the hill from the Refrigerator. It faces (uphill) onto a short, steep, red face that has a single route.

1. Sweet Sixteen (22) 5D **

FA: Grant Murray (1994)

Start towards the right-hand side of the steep, red wall and climb the very obvious line, diagonally up to the left. It is probably harder now that some holds have been pulled off.

Sundeck Boulder

Basic diagram - not to scale!

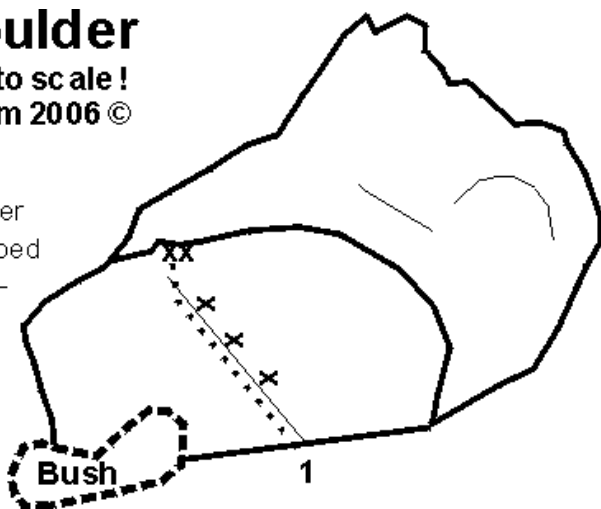
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Note: The Sundeck Boulder is actually the low, flat-topped boulder immediately downhill from this route.

Route

1. Sweet Sixteen (22)



J. Deep Freeze Boulder

To reach the Deep Freeze, continue about 200m uphill from the Sundeck, heading diagonally right. The boulder is only about 30m away from the base of the main mountain – see photo on previous page. The routes are on the north side of the boulder. There are a couple U-bolts on top of the boulder. These can be used to provide security if you want reach the chains and set up a top-rope and can be accessed by scrambling up the back of the boulder.

1. Iceberg (20) 9D ***

FA: Clive Curson (1994)

Start towards the left-hand side of the north face, about 2m to the left of the central black streak. Climb up diagonally left towards the arête. After the second bolt, either pull through rightwards immediately, or go up left to clip the next bolt before going through the small bulge. Continue to the top. Apparently the climbing is much easier if you traverse out to the arête and climb this, however, you will then find it hard to clip the bolts.

2. Frozen Chocolate Milkshake (18) 8D ****

FA: Gustav Janse van Rensburg (1994)

Climb the line of bolts up the black water streak. The bolts are quite widely spaced.

3. Polar Crossing (18) 9D ***

FA: Clive Curson (1994)

Climb up just to the right of the black water streak. Tend slightly right towards the top. Climb the higher crux by laying away to the right. Apparently some of the holds have broken off near the top of 'Tundra' and 'Polar Crossing' making these routes more tricky than expected.

4. Tundra (18) 8D **

FA: Clive Curson (1994)

Start towards the right-hand side of the north face. Pull up awkwardly onto the rock then move diagonally right to the arête. Continue up, on or next to the arête. There is a thin move near the top but going left up the diagonal break is just as tricky.

5. Chill Out (17) 7D ***

FA: Gustav Janse van Rensburg (1994)

Start just to the right of the arête. After a tricky starting move, climb straight up on 'dinner plates'.

6. Slush Puppy (17) 7D ***

FA: Gustav Janse van Rensburg (1994)

Start just to the right of 'Chill Out'. The start is tricky and the next few moves are also quite thin but the climbing eases off higher up. Be careful clipping the second bolt

Deep Freeze

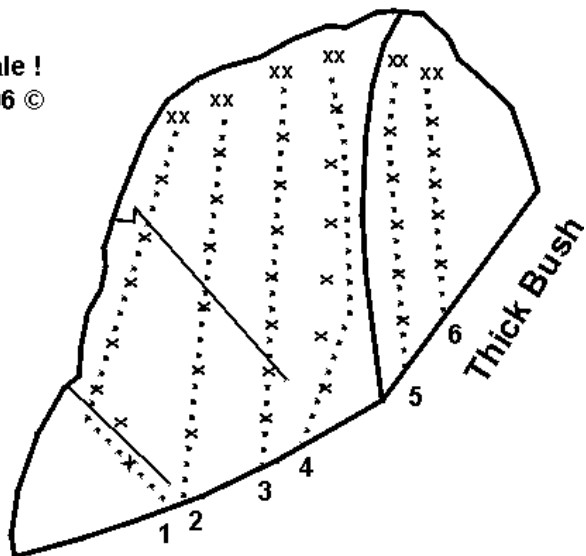
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Routes

1. Iceberg (20)
2. Frozen Chocolate
Milkshake (18)
3. Polar Crossing (18)
4. Tundra (18)
5. Chill Out (17)
6. Slush Puppy (17)



Mt Everest – Pocket City Area – from Bushman Complex

1. Refrigerator Boulder
2. Sundeck Boulder
3. Pocket City Face
4. Deep Freeze Boulder
5. Fatter Pillar

Deep Freeze

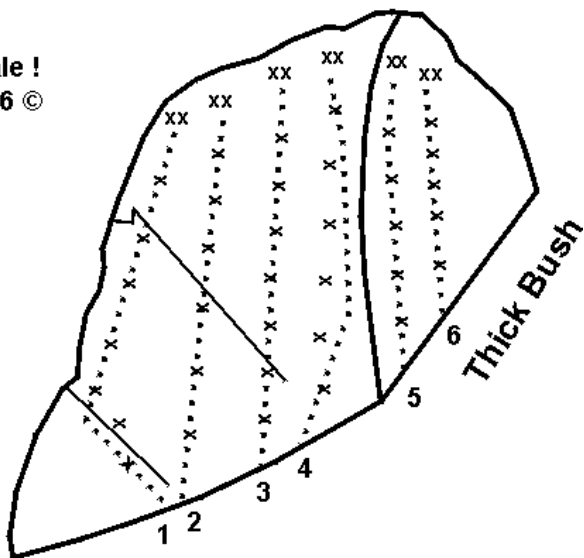
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Routes

1. Iceberg (20)
2. Frozen Chocolate Milkshake (18)
3. Polar Crossing (18)
4. Tundra (18)
5. Chill Out (17)
6. Slush Puppy (17)



K. Central East Face

There are a few routes on the main central east face of Mt Everest, up behind all the previously mentioned boulders. As with several other areas, there is still a lot of undeveloped potential in this part of the mountain.

1. Lakes of Fire (25) Trad ***

FA: Pete Janschek (Date ?)

This line climbs an obvious, overhanging jam-crack about 25m high to the left of 'The Entertainer'.

2. The Entertainer (15) Trad ***

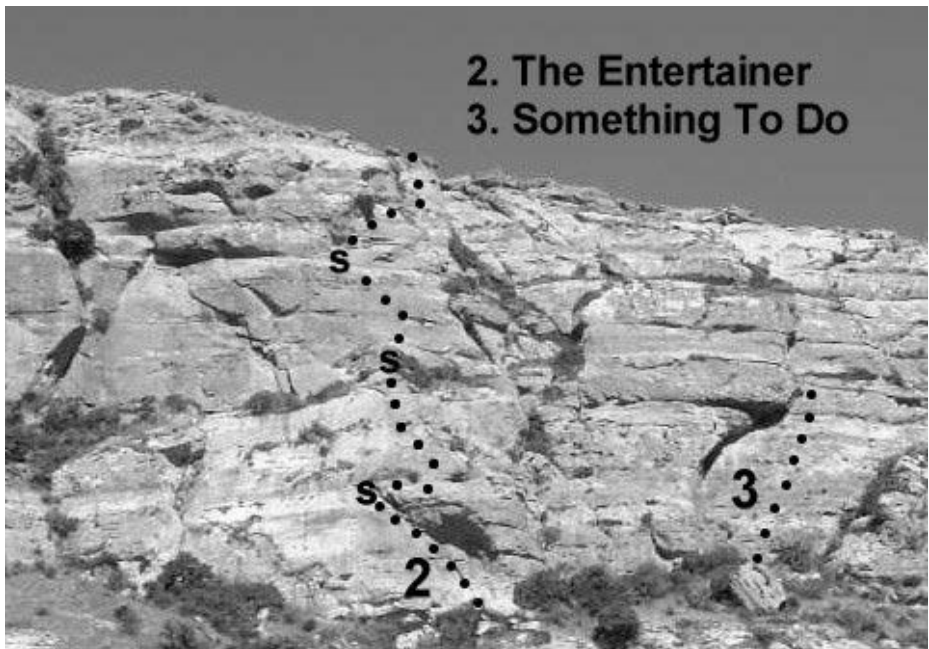
FA: Greg Wooding and Mike Steininger (26 March 1999)

Start about 100m left of Pocket City and about 30m left of 'Something To Do'. Here you will find a huge, orange recess that faces slightly left. At the back of the recess, there is a good crack that curves up to the left.

1. 15 (20m) Push through one metre of thick bush to reach the rock at the base of the crack. Follow the left curving crack at the back of the recess up to a good stance on a narrow ledge. It is necessary to make a short deviation to the left about a third of the way up. Gear is excellent. The belay requires 2,5 to 3,5 cams.
2. 15 (25m) Move poetically out to the right, around a very exposed corner and then traverse to the right past a cubby-hole. Immediately after the first cubby-hole but before the second cubby-hole, climb up the face above, tending slightly left initially and then straight up. Belay at a large, flat boulder at the top of the face. The tricky take-off move may also be

done by stemming up a metre or so from the belay (cam) and then stepping very delicately across to the right.

3. 15 (15m) From the previous stance, scramble up across a steep vegetated ledge to the base of the next face and belay here. Start next to a right-facing flake. Climb up diagonally right to short vertical section which is just left of a small bush. Climb through this vertical section and then tend diagonally left on gargoyles to the base of a large, orange overhang. Belay from a horizontal crack (nuts and small cams) near the base of the overhang.
4. 15 (40m) Climb up and break through the small overlap on its left, directly above the belay. Continue up the corner for a couple of moves and then go diagonally right on easy rock. Walk / traverse to the right, across the base of a vegetated break/gully and then climb straight up a knobby face (fiddly wires and slings on rhino horns !) to finish on the left of the block that protrudes from the top of the crag.



Descend by walking along the summit ridge to the right for about 50m until you get to a bushy gully that zig-zags down to the top of Pocket City. From here, follow the good path back to the bottom of the crag. This is an excellent route on clean rock and has an interesting crux on each pitch.

3. Something To Do (12) Trad ***

FA: Gavin Peckham ; Ivan van Cleef and Gavin Raubenheimer (23 July 1999)

This route starts about 70m to the left of Pocket City at a huge right-facing corner / open-book that curves off to the right and ends as a large, orange roof higher up. Start about 5m to the right the huge corner at the edge of the thick bush, which restricts access to the corner itself.

12 (40m) Climb up the juggy face tending slightly to the right and heading for the right-hand end of the large, orange roof above. Pass the overhang on its right then move back left above the roof to belay on a good ledge.

Pitch 2 - yet to be opened on lead: Climb up the arête directly above the belay - probably needs bolts.

Descent: From the top of pitch 1, scramble off along the ledge to the right. This is easy, but exposed at one point and it may be wise to belay climbers across onto the wide grass ledge. From here follow the good path over the top of Pocket City and back around to the bottom of the crag. This is an easy but pleasant route.

L. Pocket City

Pocket City is a large, rounded face attached to the base of the main mountain. It is just uphill from and slightly to the left of the Deep Freeze Boulder – see photo on page 79. There is a good path which runs past the bottom of the face. The top of the crag may be reached by walking along this path to the right. It leads up between Pocket City and the Fatter Pillar and then swings around and back to the top of Pocket City.

Note: The owners of Eagle Rock sometimes run abseil sessions off the top of this rock.
During these times climbing on Pocket City is not allowed

Some of the following routes have a steep start from ground level and then pulling up to a ledge before continuing up the face. If you like, these tricky starts can be bypassed by scrambling up on the right of the face to reach the ledge and then walking back left across it as far as necessary. The routes are about 25m long - make sure you don't lower your leader off the end of your rope!

1. Rocket in Your Pocket (21) 10D ***

FA: Clive Curson (1994)

Start up the first two bolts of 'Pocket City' then move left and follow the most left-hand line of bolts on the face. The climbing becomes thin and reachy near the top. The rightmost of the three anchors is apparently not glued in!

2. Pocket City (18) 11D ****

FA: Clive Curson (1994)

Start from a small boulder below the crack system on the right-hand side of the face. Step across left onto the face to clip the first bolt. The pockets start here. Pull through the overlap to where the angle eases - clip both bolts at the lip as the lower one is in dubious rock. Climb the pocket line to the left of the crack and continue up to the same anchors as 'Rocket in Your Pocket'.

3. Crack It (18) 12D ***

FA: Clive Curson (1994)

Step left onto the face at the bottom. Climb steeply up to the ledge at the base of the crack. Follow the crack up and right to where it peters out. Continue up the shallow corner above to a choice of anchors - the higher ones are not glued in!

Pocket City

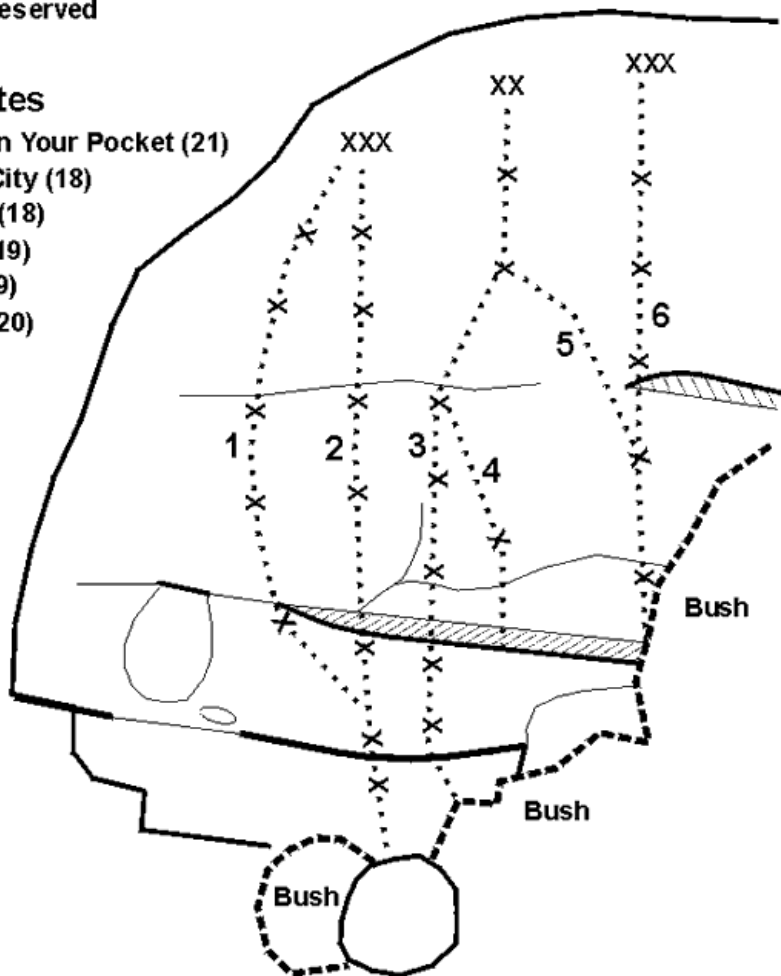
Basic diagram - not to scale !

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Routes

1. Rocket in Your Pocket (21)
2. Pocket City (18)
3. Crack It (18)
4. Face It (19)
5. Zap It (19)
6. Sock It (20)



4. Face It (19) 11D ***

FA: Details unknown.

Start 1,5m to the right of the crack. Pull through the bulge (crux) and then tend left and continue up 'Crack It'.

5. Zap It (19) 11D ***

FA: Clive Curson (1994)

Start from the ledge about 3m to the right of the crack. Pull through a steep section below a shallow corner. This section has some deep one-finger pockets - it is possible to avoid using them. Tend left and then continue up 'Crack It' to the top.

6. Sock It (20) 9D ***

FA: Clive Curson (1994)

Clip the first bolt on 'Zap It'. Climb up diagonally right through the bulge using a three-finger pocket. Continue straight up to the anchors - the right-most of the three anchors is not glued in.

M. Fatter Pillar

This chunky block / pillar is up against the face of the main mountain and about 50m to the right of Pocket City and directly uphill from the 'Deep Freeze' – see photo on page 79.

1. Access Route (15) 6D *

FA: Clive Curson (1994)

This line gives access to the start of the next two routes.

Follow a line up the middle of the slabs to a ledge at the base of the main pillar. The first bolt is quite high and not easy to spot. The climbing gets trickier as you get higher.

2. Black Hole (21) 9D ***

FA: Gustav Janse van Rensburg (1994)

Start from the ledge and climb up to a slabby section. Pull up through a bulge into the start of a bottomless corner and then continue straight up to the top. Reachy in places.

3. Starwors (16) 9D **

FA: Gustav Janse van Rensburg (1994)

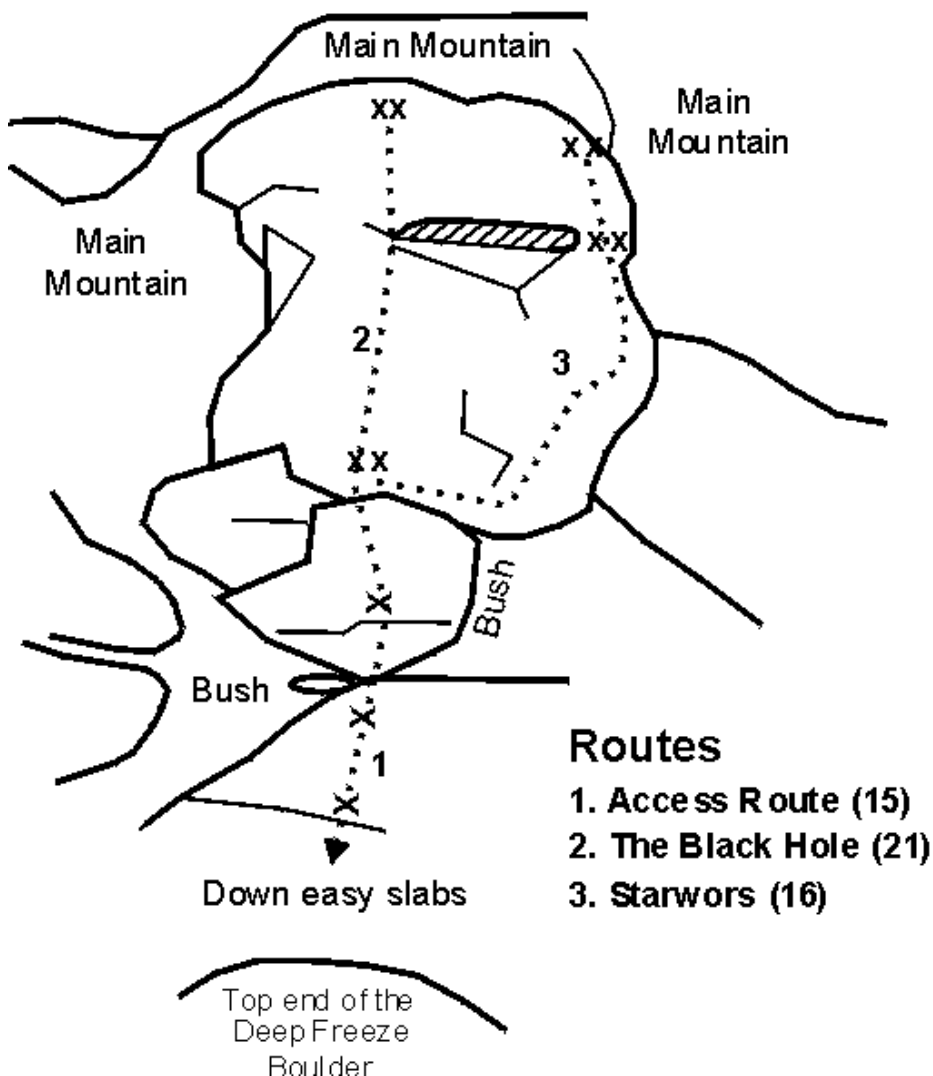
From the top of the 'Access Route', move a couple of metres along the ledge to the right. Follow the right-tending line of bolts to the arête and move up to an unnecessary pair of anchors. Continue up past two more bolts to the top anchors.

Fatter Pillar

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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N. Thinner Pillar

This free-stander is about 60m to the right of the Fatter Pillar and at about the same level. See photo on page 93.

1. Access Route (18) 7D **

FA: Glen Harrison and Mike Behr (1997)

This is the short route at the back of the pillar.

2. Fat Chance (19) 6D **

FA: Glen Harrison and Mike Behr (1997)

This is the short, steep line of bolts on the left as you face the front of the pillar. Large pockets are the main feature of this route.

3. Think Thin (19) 6D ***

FA: Glen Harrison and Mike Behr (1997)

The short route just to the right of 'Fat Chance'. This is an even steeper line with powerful moves up large pockets.

4 . Fat Boy (17, 17) ±10D ****

FA: Ruth and Mike Behr (1997)

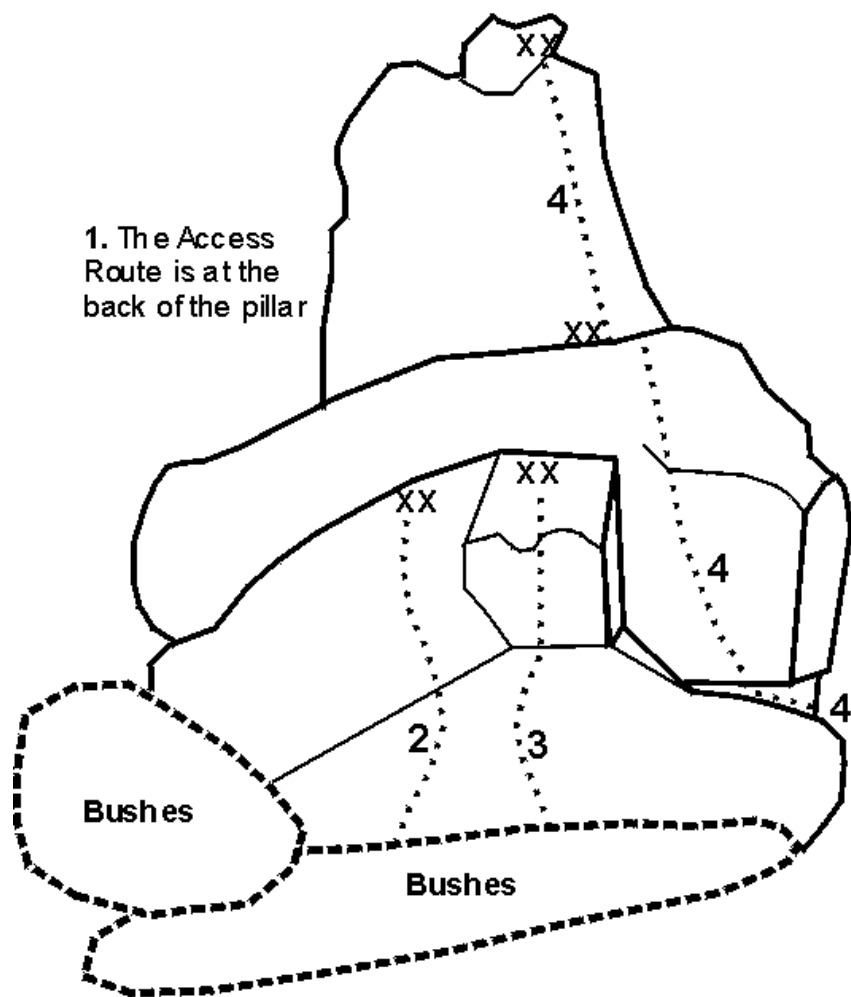
1. Start on the far right as you face the pillar. Climb up diagonally to the left and then follow an open book up on pockets and edges to a broad ledge.
2. Climb the arête on tricky, rounded holds. If you want to top out, then traverse to the right past the anchors and up to another set of anchors at the top of the pillar.

Thinner Pillar

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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1. The Access Route is at the back of the pillar

Routes

1. Access Route (18)
2. Fat Chance (19)
3. Think Thin (19)
4. Fat Boy (17, 17)

O. Horned Toad Boulder

To reach the Horned Toad Boulder, park at the Bushman Complex and then walk across in the direction of the Eagle's Head for about 100m to a large boulder which appears to have a sort of 'horn' on top.

1. Toad of Toad Hall (23) 7D **

FA: Patrick Bender (1993)

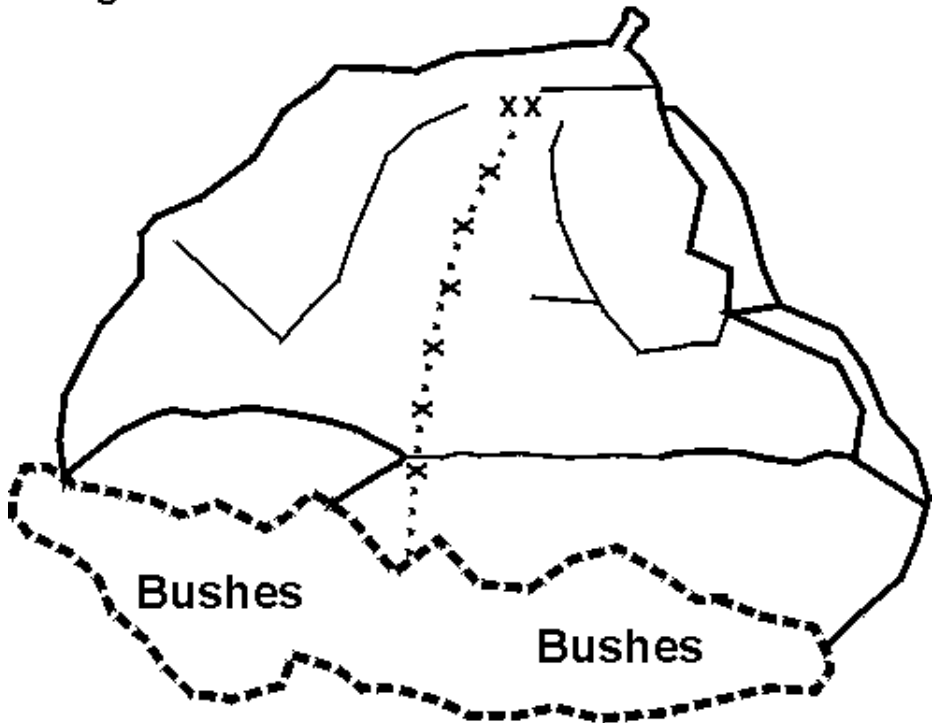
Climb the right-tending line of bolts up the middle of the face.

Horned Toad Boulder

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Route

Toad of Toad Hall (23)



1. Thinner Pillar

2. Cyclops Crag

P. Cyclops Crag

The Cyclops Crag is on the northern part of Mt Everest and is located about 150m north of the Thinner Pillar. To get there, park at the Bushman Complex and walk up the path past the Deep Freeze and the Thinner Pillar and then continue along this path for about 150m until you reach a large, curved, bulging face that is under-cut at the base. It is possible to drive further, park closer, and walk less to reach this crag - get one of the 'locals' to show you this shorter approach if you are determined to conserve energy for the climbs. This is a good venue for hot days as the crag is in shade for most of the day. There is a good selection of climbs both on pocketed faces and on steep, exposed walls.

Once you get there, scramble up a steep corner under the roof to reach a large, bushy ledge. An old fixed rope that makes the access scramble a bit easier. At the top of the scramble and directly ahead of you, there is a corner with a large crack up the back. The route 'Damocles' goes up this corner. The rest of the climbs are distributed along the face to the left of this corner. The climbs are described starting from the corner, i.e. **from right to left**.

1. Damocles (18) 7D ***

FA: Mike Behr (1995)

Climb the crack in the corner.

2. Zombi (21) 8D ****

FA: Mike Behr (1995)

Start a couple of metres to the left of 'Damocles' and climb up just to the left of the orange streak.

3. Silent Debate (20) 8D ****

FA: Ruth Behr (1995)

Start to the left of 'Zombi', about 5m from the corner, and then climb straight up.

4. YAS (23) 8D *

FA: Ian Guest (1996)

Apparently this line starts and finishes on the next route, making a somewhat arbitrary deviation to the right in the middle part of the climb. The deviation is bolted with expansion bolts and hangers.

5. How Does a Dog Know? (18) 8D ***

FA: Ruth Behr (1995)

Start in a small corner and climb up diagonally right to a rest. Continue up through a steep, right-facing groove to anchors.

Note: The following routes to the left are reached by an exposed, grade 19 traverse that starts just left of 'How Does a Dog Know?'. The traverse can be climbed as a first pitch to reach the routes around the corner.

6. Jews With Glues & Spanish Rubber Shoes (19) 8D ****

FA: Mike Behr (1995)

Move out along the traverse past the first two bolts and then move up tending first left and then right to reach the anchors.

7. Acrophobia (19; 20) 7D; 9D ****

FA: Mike Behr (1995)

Follow the traverse to a hanging stance just to the right of the arête. To reduce rope drag, clip in to the anchors, pull your rope through and drop it to your belayer, who can then belay the rest of the climb from straight below. The second pitch goes straight up from the hanging stance.

8. Light Years (19; 24) 7D; 9D ****

FA: Glen Harrison and Mike Behr (1986)

Traverse out and reorganise the rope as for 'Acrophobia'. From the first set of anchors, tend left and climb the arête with some wild moves and superb positions.

9. Another Red Light Nightmare (19; 25) 7D; 10D ***

FA: Stephan Isebeck (1996?)

Traverse out and reorganise the rope as for 'Acrophobia'. From the hanging stance, follow the line of bolts around the corner and then climb up just left of the arête.

10. Fly Till I Die (19; 23) 9D; 10D ***

FA: Stephan Isebeck (1996?)

Traverse out and reorganise the rope as for 'Acrophobia'. From the hanging stance follow the line of bolts around the corner to a second stance and then climb straight up the wall.

11. Delirium (19; 20; 22) 10D; 10D ****

FA: Glen Harrison and Mike Behr

Traverse out to the 'Acrophobia' hanging stance. Traverse left, around the corner and past the anchors on the previous route. Continue traversing left and slightly down to another hanging stance just left of the Big Hole in the face. Climb up tending left and through the overlap on huge jugs then continue straight up to the anchors - exciting climbing !

12. Captain Karma Project (20) 12D; 9D ****

Bolted by Glen Harrison

The route starts from the ledge below the main roof underneath the traverse pitch. The belayer can dip into the anchor provided on the ledge. The route follows the natural line through the roof. A hard take-off is followed by wild moves on buckets through the Big Hole to a comfortable stance. The second pitch continues through the overlap on good holds. Pumpy! Still a project.

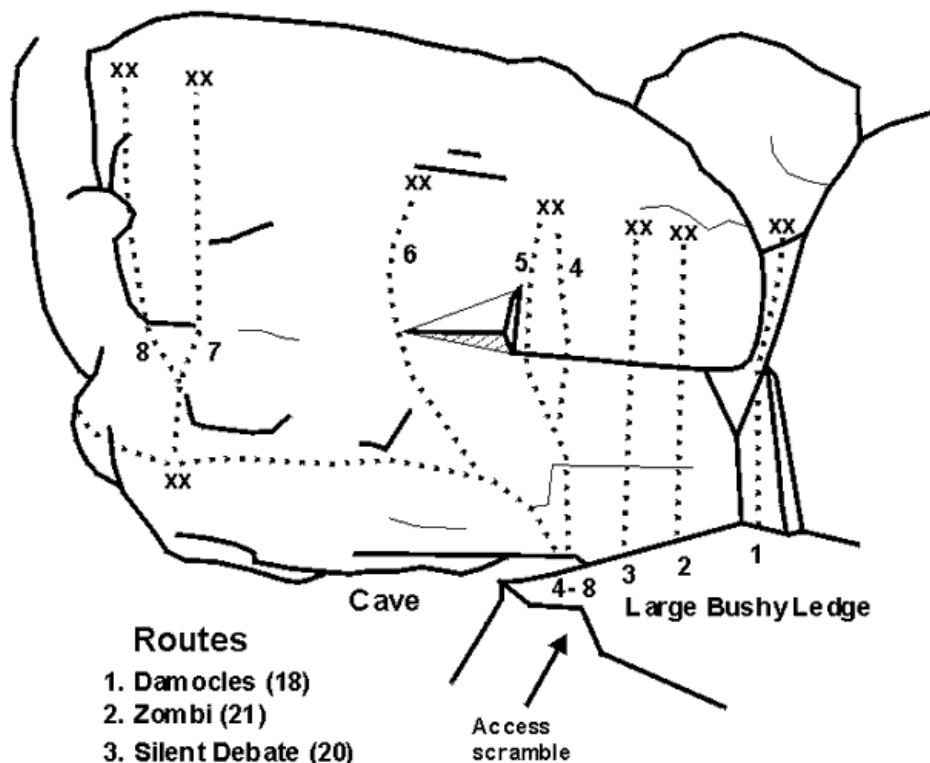
Note: Due to the aspect there could be a problem with communication between the climber and belayer once the climber reaches the end of the first pitch. This can be avoided, if necessary, by climbing the first pitch in two sections and using the double anchor at the lip of the roof as another stance. Alternatively, the second climber could aid out to the lip (the bolts are closely spaced) and continue climbing from there. After finishing the route, lower off to the stance at the ledge and abseil to the ground from there- possible with 50m rope.

Cyclops Crag

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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Routes

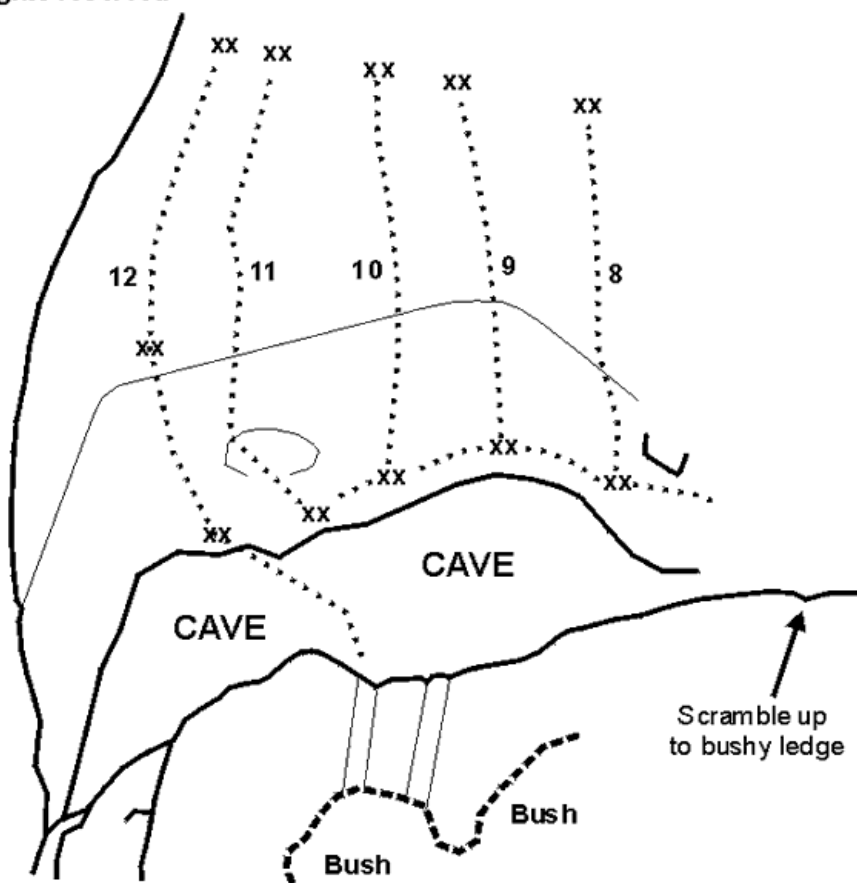
1. Damocles (18)
2. Zombi (21)
3. Silent Debate (20)
4. YAS (23)
5. How Does a Dog Know? (18)
6. Jews with Glues ... (19)
- Traverse pitch (19)
7. Acrophobia (19, 20)
8. Light Years (19, 24)

Cyclops Crag

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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Routes (Only Anchors Shown)

8. Light Years (19, 24)

9. Another Red Light Nightmare (19, 25)

10. Fly 'Til I Die (19, 23)

11. Delirium (19, 20, 22)

12. Captain Karma Project

3. EAGLE MOUNTAIN

The striking profile of this mountain leaves no doubt as to the origin of its name. To get there, from reception drive west, keeping on the main track all the way, after about 1.7 kms a 2nd small pond is seen on right. From here the road is bricked and winds up steeply toward the mountain for a few hundred metres until you arrive at the large Arendskop Chalet (a wonderful place to stay!). Park off the road at least 100m before the Chalet to avoid intruding on the privacy of the occupants.



The Nursery; Eagle Crag; Comfort Zone; Eagle's Head



A. The Nursery

This crag is on the most southerly part of the main mountain. Park off the road at least 100 m before the chalet and then walk diagonally left up the slope to the crag. The paths that once existed are mainly overgrown.

There are currently three routes on the crag which all start at the same point. The routes separate at an obvious ledge about 8m above the ground. Beware of possible loose rock.

1. Nappy Rash (18; 20) 10D; 8D ***

FA: Glen Harrison and Eugene (1998)

Climb up past the first 4 or 5 bolts of 'Child's Play' then move out left around the corner. Stem out left onto a small pillar directly below the roof for the first stance. Surmount the pillar (exposed) and pull through the roof (reaching) and continue up the face to the top.

2. Child's Play (19) 10D **

FA: Glen Harrison and Eugene (1998)

Follow the bolted line straight up to the ledge. Move left and continue up below the big roof.

3. Jungle Jimmy (21) 11D **

FA: Glen Harrison and Eugene (1998)

Start up 'Child's Play' as far as the ledge. Move out further to the right and continue up the line of bolts. Pull through the small overlap in the roof the top jugs.

The Nursery

Basic diagram - not to scale !

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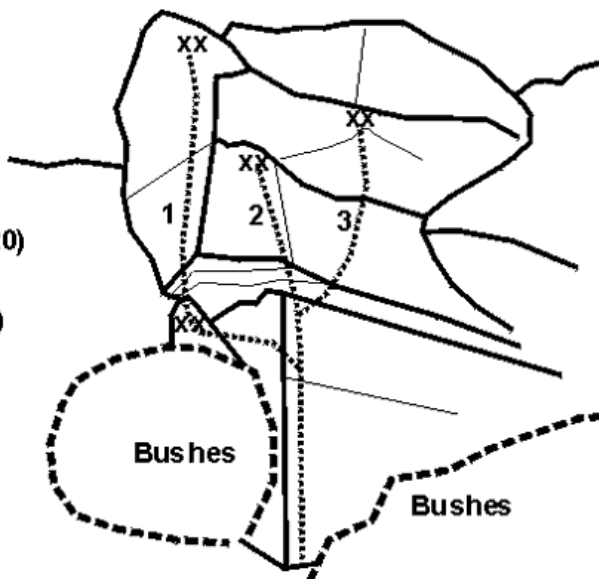
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Routes

1. Nappy Rash (18, 20)

2. Child's Play (19)

3. Jungle Jimmy (21)



B. Eagle Crag

Park 100 m or so before the chalet and do not block the road. Walk to the residents parking area of the chalet, just before the wooden bridge/deck, go left into the bushes, you will find a small trail leading past a boulder. The path goes up a bit before heading right. To get to Eagle Crag climbs, leave the trail and head up through the grass and bushes.

1. Take It Easy (18; 20; 11) 15D ****

FA: Grant Murray and Mike Cartwright (1994)

1. 18 (40m; 13D) Scramble up a slab to a ledge. Walk across to the left-hand side of the ledge and you will find the first bolt tucked away in some gnarly rock, just after the smooth face ends. Climb straight up to a large ledge. Continue straight up the steep, narrow slab bounded on the left by a right-facing corner and on the right by vegetated rock. At the top, just below a small overhang, make a couple of moves to the right and then step down to a 1-bolt belay on a large boulder. Just to the right is a large ledge at the base of the overhanging Red Wall.
2. 20 (25m; 15D) From the stance, clip the last bolt of the previous pitch and then climb up diagonally left to a position under the small overhang. Pull through on small holds then continue more easily up the face, past a tree to the anchors. This is an exposed pitch with excellent climbing.
3. 11 (25m; 6D) Climb up the buttress keeping the arête on your right. Towards the top, tend left to reach the anchors. This pitch takes you to the top of the crag, but most people don't bother and ab off after the second pitch.

Descent: Abseil back down the top pitch. From the anchors at the top of the second pitch, abseil off to the right, over the corner and out into space. A free ab down The Red Wall ends up on a large, vegetated ledge which is located just to the right of the boulder stance at the top of the first pitch. The final anchors are located on the clean rock face adjacent to the extreme right-hand side of the ledge. Knot the end of your ropes because the ab is almost **35m long**. At the end of the ab it is necessary to scramble several metres down an easy gully to reach the base of the crag.

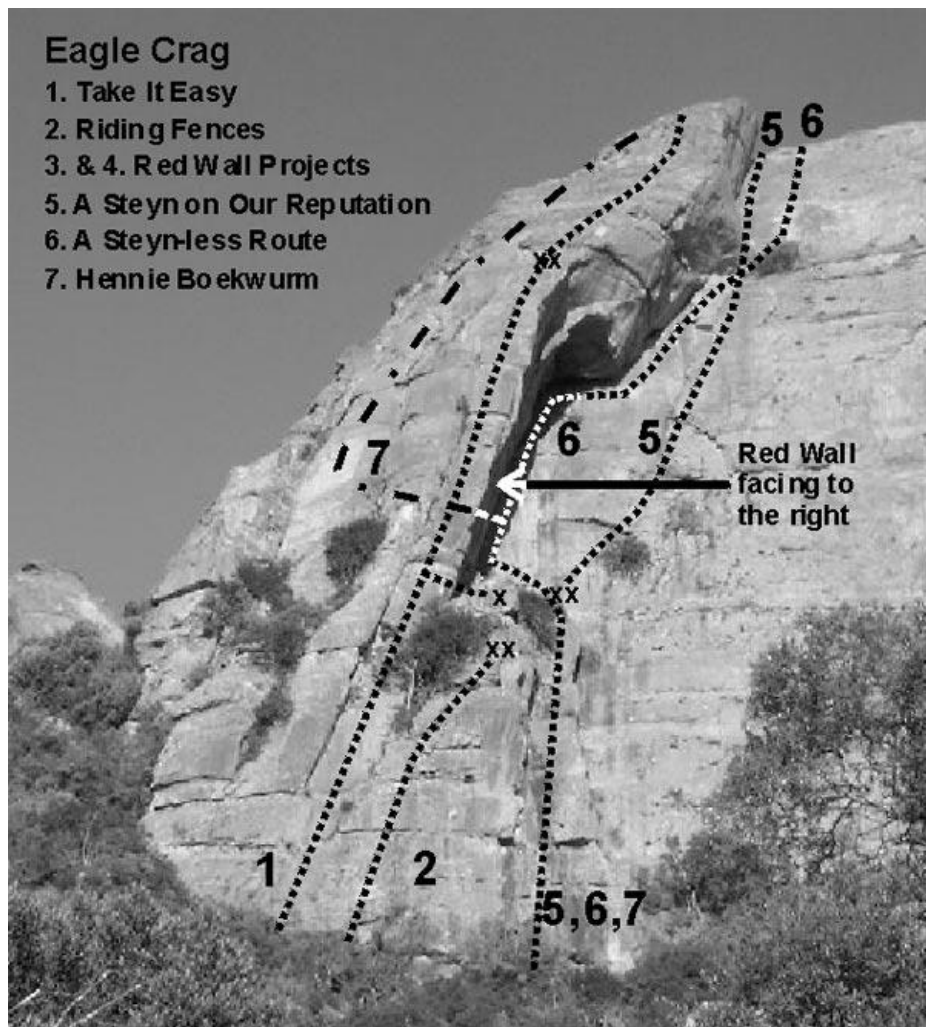
2. Riding Fences (20) 12D **

FA: Mike Cartwright and Grant Murray (1994)

This route starts a few metres right of 'Take It Easy'. Scramble up the slab to the ledge. Walk towards the right-hand side of the ledge. The first bolt is (currently) partly hidden by the leaves of a tree that brushes against the rock face. Climb the steep pocketed face then continue more easily tending right towards the top. Scramble up onto the ledge and descend as for the last ab of 'Take It Easy'.

Eagle Crag

1. Take It Easy
2. Riding Fences
3. & 4. Red Wall Projects
5. A Steyn on Our Reputation
6. A Steyn-less Route
7. Hennie Boekwurm



The Red Wall

At the top of the first pitch of 'Take It Easy' there is a large ledge comfortable at the base of the huge, right-facing corner. Anyone attempting these lines should be very capable of soloing up to the ledge. The over-hanging wall forming the left-hand side of the corner is known as the Red Wall. It has two bolted lines that are now open projects.

3. Open Project - Grant's Red Wall Project (aka Mass Extinction)

Bolted by Grant Murray, rebolted and bolts moved by A Pedley 2012 The line of bolts up the left-hand side of the steep Red Wall. 30 metres of steep climbing on crimps and flakes, take a stick clip! Probably 32/33 ish.

4. Open Project Rat's Red Wall Project

Bolted by Mike Cartwright. The line of bolts up the right-hand side of the steep Red Wall. Rock looks quite bad on this one.

5. A Steyn On Our Reputation (17) Trad ***

FA: Jacques Raubenheimer ; Alex Steyn; Laurent Marais (1995)

This route lies about 30m to the right of 'Take It Easy' and just to the right of the huge right-facing corner that incorporates the Red Wall. Scramble up a somewhat vegetated section for about 5m to reach the ledge at the bottom of the face proper and start in a left-facing corner below the huge right-facing corner mentioned above – this is the last part of the descent from 'Take It Easy'.

For this route and the next one, Jacques R comments that it makes more sense to swap the top (fourth) pitches of both routes, although they are described here as they were opened

1. 16 (25m) Climb the corner, passing some ab chains on the left, about 6m up. Continue up to the large ledge at the base of the two Red Wall projects and belay at some more chains.
2. 14 (30m) Climb straight up from the chains at the right corner of the ledge (above the crack of the first pitch) and belay when you get to a slight angled ledge with some loose blocks.
3. 17 (30m) From the stance climb the broken face above to a steeper section. Break through this on the right to gain a crack line above. After the crack peters out, continue up to a large ledge.
4. 12 (25m) Climb to the top following the easy slabs next to the big corner on the left.

Walk left and scramble down to the ab point on 'Take It Easy' or walk off to the right and then down the Eagle's Head gully.

6. A Steyn-less Route (18) Trad

FA: Jacques Raubenheimer and Hennie van Zyl (1999)

This route shares the same first pitch as 'A Steyn on Our Reputation'.

1. 16 (25m) Climb the corner, passing some ab chains on the left, about 6m up. Continue up to the large ledge at the base of the Red Wall projects and belay at some more chains.
2. 18 (30m) Climb the open book / crack to the right of the Red Wall projects. Continue up to the tree below the roof. Gear is sparse.
3. 17 (25m) Climb up from the tree into the chimney to place a #3 Rock and a small Friend behind a large chockstone. Extend these with a long sling - they are the only protection for

the traverse. Downclimb to just above the tree then traverse out from under the big roof with your feet on the slight rounding on the face. Once clear of the roof, continue up the crack with bomber pro until you get to the ledge and tree.

4. 12 (25m) Climb straight up the face to the top.

Descend as for the previous route.

7. Hennie Boekwurm (18) Trad

FA: Jacques Raubenheimer and Hennie van Zyl (1999)

This route takes the first pitch of 'A Steyn on Our Reputation' and follows the first 2 – 3m of the second pitch of 'A Steynless Route' before breaking left behind the huge pillar on which 'Take It Easy' is located. The object is to traverse through behind the pillar and then up the other side. Don't bother with this one unless you like led-out, uncomfortable chimneys.

1. 16 (25m) Climb the corner, passing some ab chains on the left, about 6m up. Continue up to the large ledge at the base of the Red Wall projects and belay at some more chains.
2. 18 (20m) From the chains move left to the big crack/open book. Climb the crack for 2 – 3m and as soon as the angle eases there is a point where you can traverse left and through the gap between the pillar and the face. Climb up slightly until you get to a good block at a tree.
3. 13 (30m) Chimney up until you get to the top. Belay from a tree. There is not much protection except for a sling around a tree just past half way.
4. 9 (10m : 9) Scramble up onto the pillar.

To descend, use the chains on 'Take It Easy' or walk off to the right and then down the Eagle's Head gully.

The next routes are located on the good-looking steep yellow walls up and right of the chalet, about 50m right of the big arching, right-facing corner (Red Wall). Walk as if to Eagle Head until you are under the obvious clean yellow face. Make a bee-line to the base through some bushes there is a nice clearing to belay from.

7B. Big Wide Open (28) 12 D ****

FA: Andrew Pedley (Feb 2012)

The best line on the crag, blasts up the stunning seam on the face then a hard move to gain the bulging headwall which is juggy fun to the chains. Bolted using MCSA bolts Feb 2012.



Jahne Theron going for the 2nd ascent of Big Wide Open, 28. Eagle Crag. Photo by Andrew P

8. Dark Desert Highway (27) 14D *****

FA: Mike Cartwright (1994)

A great line on some gorgeous golden rock! If standing by the Eagle Head chalet, you can see a nice yellow wall with a bulging brown upper part. This climb takes the middle of this, passing a roof at half-height. Scramble onto the ledge then tricky weaving face moves lead you to the bulge and a big move. The second pitch is still an open project. Chains rebolts using MCSA bolts Feb 2012.

9. Open Project - Running For the Door Project (28; 28, ? ±14D)

Bolted by Mike Cartwright

Start about 20m to the right of 'Dark Desert Highway'. Seems to feature a demon dead-point dyno to a gnarly little pinch on the first pitch - open project.



Back in the day....an image from the original guidebook. Mike Cartwright opened Dark Desert Highway (27/28) in 1994. Photo: unknown.

C. Comfort Zone

This is the crag on the upper end of the long face left of Eagle Mountain. It's the ultimate crag for long pumpy technical 7a's! Some suspect flakes but totally cool, an underrated crag. It is the last steep clean wall you get to on this face. There are six parallel lines of bolts, all of a similar grade and quality. Most of the routes have long run-outs to reach the anchors. The routes all end over a slab that will cause rope wear when lowering off. These climbs are in need of a rebolting, especially chains. This can be avoided by arranging the rope suitably and then abbing off. From left to right:

As for Eagle Crag, park 100 m or so before the chalet and do not block the road. Walk to the residents parking area of the chalet, just before the wooden bridge/deck, go left into the bushes, you will find a small trail leading past a boulder. Follow this up and rightwards through bushes until you get to an almost level path; the trail then runs parallel to the crag for most of the way. Where it starts to move right to the Eagle Head, cut across (no trail) to the vertical face with bolts.

1. Melon (24) 10D ***

FA: Mike Cartwright (1994)

2. Lazy Boy (25) 10D ****

FA: Grant Murray (1994)

The line 2nd from the left with new bolts. Tricky start then easy climbing to a leaning pumpy finish. Rebolted using MCSA bolts Feb 2012.

3. Old Habits (24) 10D ****

FA: Mike Cartwright (1994)

The steep headwall provides a good burn! Has a hard –to-reach bolt midway. Needs new chains urgently!

4. Draw From the Hip (25) 10D ****

FA: Grant Murray (1994)

Climbs past the lovely smooth section then a never-ending series of slopey crimps with a gathering pump. New chains (MCSA) placed Feb 2012

5. Slam dunk (24) 10D ***

FA: Mike Cartwright (1994)

6. Ally Oop! (25) 10D ** *

FA: Grant Murray (1994)

D. Eagle's Head

This is the real Harrismith! High up, excellent rock, massive views, super climbs. At the western end of the property the Eagle's Head formation stands out spectacularly against the skyline. The climbs on the left; Bird Brain, Swiss Cheese and Free State of Mind move into shade late morning, great for a summers day. The climbs on the right (Aero onwards) are sunny until early afternoon, perfect for a winter morning or summer afternoon. It can get pretty cold

during winter, especially since the wind often howls up here! Whatever time of year it is, take some warm clothes.

Walk as for comfort zone. About half way up the slope the trail moves rightwards and climbs steeply up, vague in places. Aim for the left side of the Swiss Cheese face.

1. Swiss Cheese (28) 10D *****

FA: Mike Cartwright (1994)

The left-most line, up the middle of the grey face left of the cave. Climb the pocketed face via some gymnastic moves with a growing pump to a final crux then finish up a balancy slab.

1B. A Free State of Mind (29) *****

FA: Andrew Pedley (2012)

Climb first 2 bolts of Bird Brain then move left and up the face via pockets, small and large. A few big spans take you up to the chains. Slightly harder than Swiss Cheese. Bolted using MCSA bolts.

2. Bird Brain (25) 11D *****

FA: Mike Cartwright (1994)

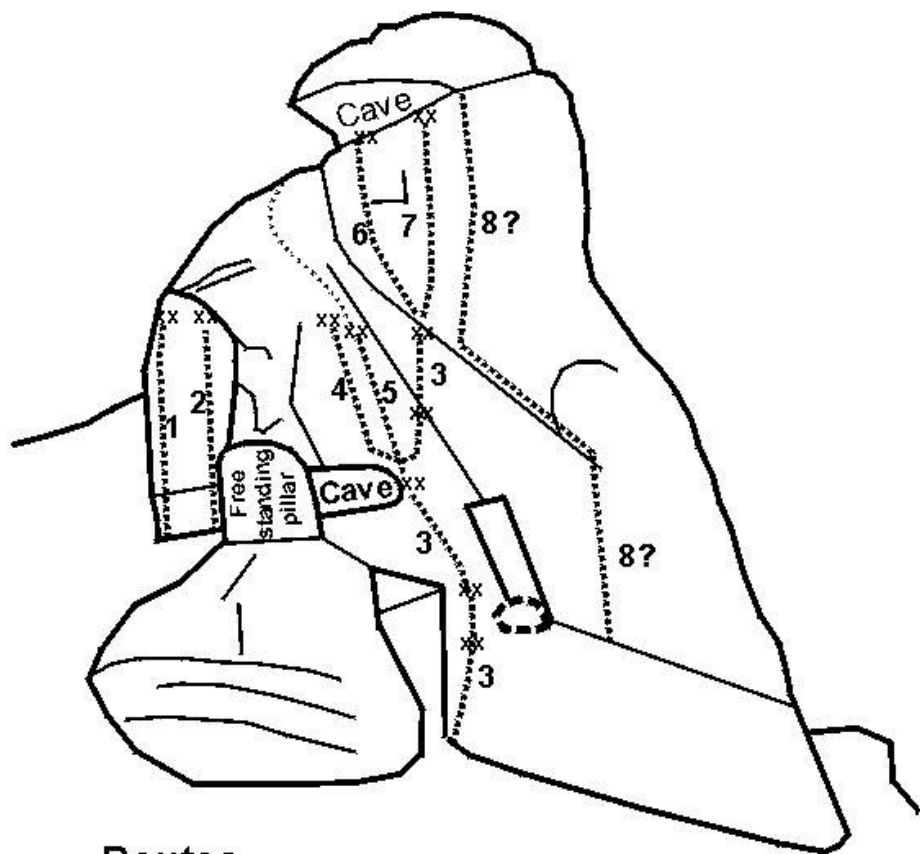
Surely the most outrageously exposed sport climbs in SA!? And one of the best. The second line of bolts from the left. A hard boulder start leads to the wonderful corner above. Climb the corner and up the bulging headwall. Rebolted Feb 2012 using MCSA bolts.

Eagle's Head

Basic diagram - not to scale !

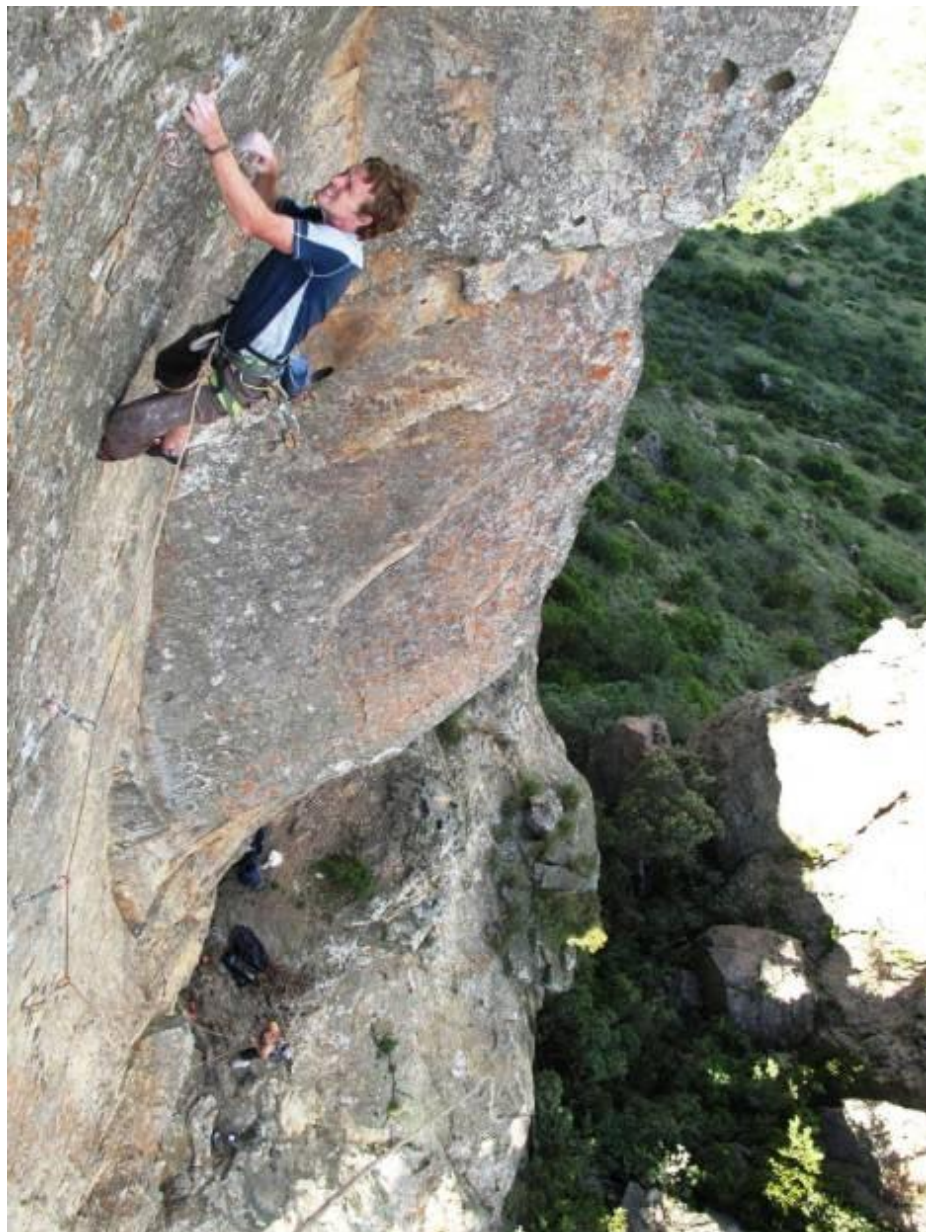
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Routes

1. Swiss Cheese (28)
2. Bird Brain (25)
3. Easy Rider (18)
4. Aero (24)
5. Tough Turkey (20)
6. Pumping Peacock (18)
7. Power Pigeon (21)
8. Alcatraz (23)



Andrew Pedley on Free State of Mind, 29. Photo by Colin Crabtree.

3. Easy Rider (18) 12D ***
FA: Clive Curson (1995)

This route starts at ground level. The first pitch can be used to access 'Alcatraz'. You can either walk in on a vague path to the base of the crag as indicated above, or ab down from the chains at the far right-hand side of the cave. In case your rope is not long enough, there is another ab point 5m off the ground.

1. 15 (18m; 12D) Start directly below the right-hand edge of the cave. Follow the bolts past some unnecessary chains to a ledge.
2. 16 (12m; 8D) Climb up the wall to reach the chains just to the right-hand side of the cave. Pitches 1. and 2. are usually climbed as a single pitch.
3. 17 (10m; 7D) From the chains, start up the vague groove. About 3m up, step around to the right and climb up to a ledge.
4. 18 (12m; 7D) Climb the wall on the right of the large crack / recess. This wall starts with large pockets, and then requires a technical move to reach a concealed jug. Continue up to the chains below the impressive, orange headwall.

Either climb one of the routes on the headwall, or abseil back down to the cave - less than half a rope length. If you ab from these chains you need to 'walk' across the rock to the left as you descend in order to reach the cave. If you loose your footing you will pendulum out into space on the right. Halfway down there is a slight hump of rock that you can guide the ropes behind in order to facilitate a safer descent.

4. Aero (24) 10D ****

FA: Mike Cartwright (1994)

Start at the chains on the ledge to the far right of the cave. Clip the first bolt on 'Tough Turkey' then move left and climb the overhanging arête. Very exposed.

5. ToughTurkey (20) 10D ****

FA: Grant Murray and Mike Cartwright (1994)

Start at the chains on the ledge to the far right of the cave. Climb straight up the steep wall. After the crux, move slightly right and up the slab above to anchors from which you can abseil back to the cave. A second pitch (grade 10) continues up to the top. On the right of the buttress there are some chains and two abs will take you back to the cave. It is probably easier to walk back down the adjacent gully.

6. Pumping Peacock (18) 7D **

FA: Clive Curson (1995)

Start from the chains to the right of the cave and climb pitches 3 and 4 of 'Easy Rider'. Climb the line of bolts to the left of 'Power Pigeon'.

7. Power Pigeon (21) 15D *****

FA: Clive Curson (1994)

One of best climbs at Mt Everest!! A mega classic on great rock in a fantastic position!! Climb pitches 3 and 4 of 'Easy Rider' to a stance at the base of the impressive, overhanging orange wall. Pull up onto the orange face and climb the crack. Move diagonally right to the final steep section just to the left of the crack. Very well bolted toward the top - the final top-out move is probably the crux. It is probably best to belay at the bolts on the ledge and then walk off to the left and back down the gully. If you choose to ab **be aware** that the top pitch is just on half a (50m) rope length. You also end up hanging out in space and it can be difficult to reach the stance.

8. Alcatraz (23) 12D ****

FA: Mike Cartwright and Grant Murray (1994)

This route starts below the level of the cave. Either climb the first pitch of 'Easy Rider' or ab down from the cave to this point. Walk along the ledge to the crack in the south-facing wall.

1. 23 (30m; 12D) Pull up diagonally right onto the steep wall then move up diagonally left, back to the crack. After a hard move to get established in the crack, climb up to reach an easy ramp leading up left to chains below 'Power Pigeon'.
2. 22 (25m; 12D) Start 2 or 3m right of 'Power Pigeon'. The last steep section is fierce.

If the second follows, you can walk off down the grassy slope to the left. Alternatively, two abs takes you back down to the cave.