

# KOUTSOMARAKI CRAG

Climbing Guidebook

2022 EDITION

**A hands-on account**

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos

**MOLYMPUS**



# KOUTSOMARAKI CRAG MOUNT POIKILO GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

## Climbing Guidebook





View towards  
**Koutsomaraki crag**

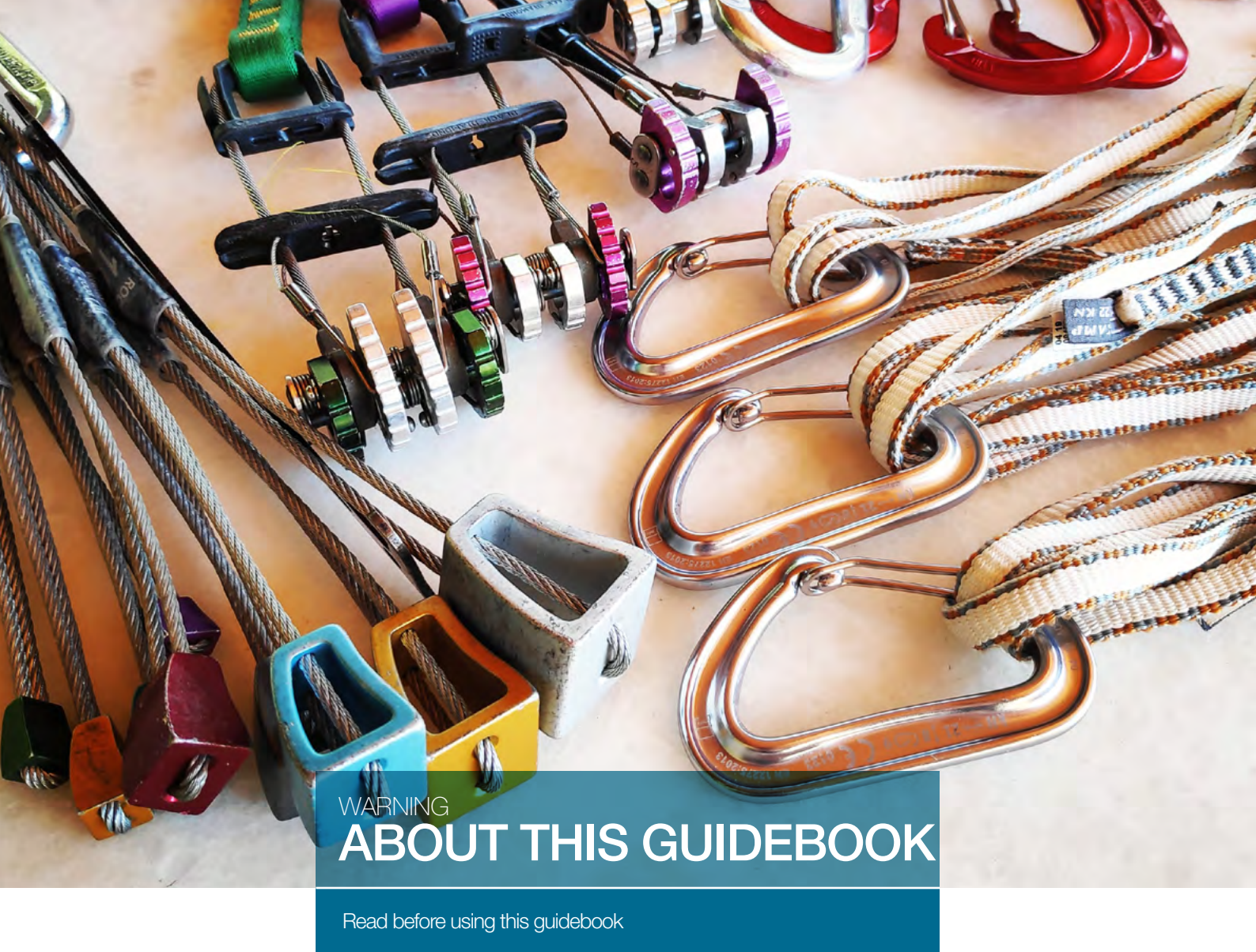
Crag location

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## KOUTSOMARAKI CRAG — ATTICA GREECE





## Warning

This guidebook is a compilation of unverified information gathered from many different climbers.

The author cannot ensure the accuracy of any of the information in this book, including topos and route descriptions, difficulty ratings, and protection ratings.

These may be incorrect or misleading, as ratings of climbing difficulty and risk are always subjective and depend on the physical characteristics (for example, height), experience, technical ability, confidence, and physical fitness of the climber who supplied the rating.

Additionally, climbers who achieve first ascents sometimes underrate the difficulty or risk of the climbing route.

Therefore, be warned that you must exercise your own judgment on where a climbing route goes, its difficulty, and your ability to safely protect yourself from the risks of rock climbing.

Examples of some of these risks are: falling due to technical difficulty or due to natural hazards such as holds breaking, falling rock, climbing equipment dropped by other climbers, adverse weather conditions, failure of your own equipment, and failure or absence of fixed protection.

## Here are some ways to use this guidebook more safely.

**1. Consultation:** You should always consult with other climbers about the difficulty and risks of a particular route before attempting it. Most local climbers are glad to provide advice on routes in their area; we suggest that you contact locals to confirm ratings and safety of particular routes and to obtain first-hand information about the route of your choice.

**2. Instruction:** Most climbing areas have local climbing instructors and guides available. We recommend that you engage an instructor or guide to learn safety techniques and to become familiar with the routes and hazards of the areas described in this book. Even if you are already proficient in climbing safely, occasionally hiring a guide is a safe way to raise your climbing standard and learn advanced techniques.

**3. Fixed Protection:** Some of the routes in this book may use fixed bolts and pitons that have been pre-placed on the rock. Because of vari-

ances in the manner of placement, weathering, metal fatigue, the quality of the metal used, and many other factors, these fixed protection pieces should always be sceptically considered and should be backed up when possible by your own gear.

Never depend on a single piece of fixed protection for your safety, because you can never tell whether it will single-handedly hold weight. In some cases, fixed protection may have been removed or is now missing.

However, climbers should avoid adding new pieces of fixed protection, unless they deem the pre-placed protection faulty and are looking to replace it. Existing protection can be tested by an experienced climber, to determine its strength. The ethics of climbing also strongly discourage adding bolts or drilled pitons to a pre-existing route, intending the route to be climbed as it was meant to be by the first ascent party.

## Be aware of the following specific potential hazards that could arise in using this book:

### **1. Incorrect Descriptions of Routes:**

If you climb a route and you have a doubt as to where it goes, you should not continue unless you are sure that you can go that way safely. Route descriptions and topos in this book could be inaccurate or misleading.

### **2. Incorrect Difficulty Rating:**

A route might be more difficult than the rating indicates. Do not be lulled into a false sense of security by the difficulty rating.

### **3. Incorrect Protection Rating:**

If you climb a route and you are unable to arrange adequate protection from the risk of falling through the use of fixed pitons or bolts and by placing your own protection devices, do not assume that there is adequate protection available higher just because the route protection rating indicates the route does not have an X or an R rating. Every route is potentially an X (a fall may be deadly), due to the inherent hazards of

climbing—including, for example, failure or absence of fixed protection, your own equipment's failure, faulty protection placement, or improper use of climbing equipment.

### **4. Failure to Warn of a Particular Hazard:**

Although an effort has been made to warn of known hazards on particular routes, this guide does not warn of every hazard that exists on every route. Climb carefully and be watchful for potential hazards.

**There are no warranties, whether expressed or implied, that this guidebook is accurate or that the information contained in it is reliable.**

**There are no warranties of fitness for a particular purpose or that this guide is merchantable. Your use of this book indicates your assumption of the risk that it may contain errors and is an acknowledgment of your own sole responsibility for your climbing safety.**





## PETROUPOLI KOUTSOMARAKI CRAG

View from the Crag

### About Poikilo Mountain

**Mount Poikilo** is the western boundary of the **Athens Basin** and is the natural border with the **Thriasio** plain. It is an elongated (11km) low mountain range (up to 465m) and is the natural end of **Mount Parnitha** in the **Saronic Gulf**.

Most of the human interventions took place on the east side of the mountain, which is also visible from the city of Athens. Most of the mountain does not have high vegetation but this was not always the case. **Until the end of the 19th century** it was a mountain with a nice forest and in its lowlands was full of vineyards, olive trees, and other trees.

**Mount Poikilo** has two groups of peaks, the Northern where the highest peak is **Zacharitsa** (452 m.) and the Southern where the highest peak is **Kaskadami** (418 m.).



### About Poikilo Mountain

Historical accounts of **Mount Poikilo** tell us that most of the area around the mountain was very rich and productive. In the classical years, species such as oak, holly and wild olive tree prevailed, while in the Ottoman Empire only wild olive tree. The destruction of the mountain began with the **Asia Minor catastrophe**, when refugees shot down a large part of the mountain.

The need for survival and fuel of the refugees and later during the occupation destroyed the trees of the mountain. Its period without measure and plan of “development” gave the gratuitous shot. **Quarries, camps, houses took the place of trees.**

About **200 species** of plants have been found on **Mount Poikilo**, **60 species of insects** and is a passage for about **80 species of birds**.

In recent years the mountain is turning green again and although the vegetation is currently low if protected **Mount Poikilo** will become again an oasis right next to the basin of Athens.

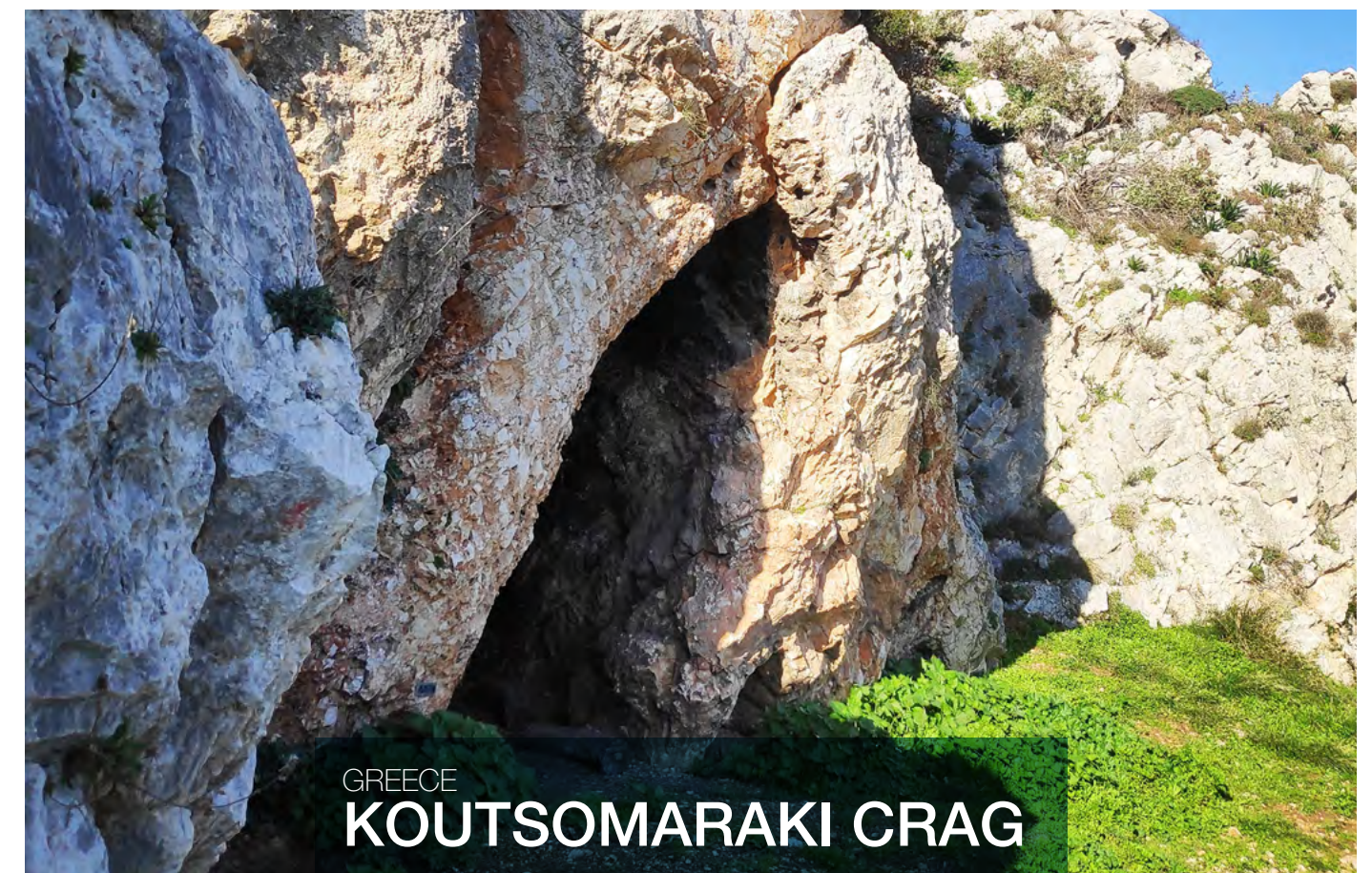
**Reforestation** is partially successful due to soil and climatic conditions. Most reforestation trees, however, show slow growth or dwarf form due to lack of water and lack of rich soil.

In fact, with several soft outdoor activities such as **hiking, trail running** and **climbing** can provide again life to this historically important mountain.

### Useful links:

**General Info:** Olympus Mountaineering  
About Koutsomaraki (greek)  
Climbing in Greece

**Free Guides:** Guidebooks and Topos  
Climbing in Ermionida



## GREECE KOUTSOMARAKI CRAG

View of a the “chappel” cave





7 Routes ★★☆☆☆  
**KOUTSOMARAKI CRAG**

**Crag Location:** 38.057700, 23.687345  
**Best Season:** Autumn - early summer

# KOUTSOMARAKI CRAG

7 Routes      ★★☆☆☆      Mount Poikilo, Attica

**Crag location:** 38.057700, 23.687345  
**Season:** Autumn - early summer | **Walk in:** 20 minutes

## General information

On **October 4 2020**, the inauguration of a **new climbing crag** took place on **Mt. Poikilo**. In this inauguration was also present **Mr. Nikos Latsoudis**, who had indicated the location of this crag about **4 years ago**. The climbing crag after much effort and work done by many members of the **Petroupolis Mountaineering Club** took shape.

The development of the crag started in **2019** by creating the trail that leads to the crag and it was concluded in 2020.

The **Koutsomarakhi Climbing Crag** offers **7 routes** in total, which 6 of them are lead climbing and one is a top rope route.

All routes were equipped by **A. Karapetakos** and **M. Panagiotopoulos**. The **Petroupolis Mountaineering Club** has plans to equip even more routes in the near future.

**Grades 5a to 6c.**

## In a Nutshell

- Exposure:** East
- Best Season:** Autumn - early summer
- Sun:** From sunrise up to 14.00
- Walk in:** 20 minutes
- Water:** None
- Family Friendly:** Yes
- Pet Friendly:** Yes
- Camping:** None
- Gear:** 60 m. rope, 10 quickdraws
- Equipped by:** A. Karapetakos, M. Panagiotopoulos



KOUTSOMARAKI CRAG  
**Rebels 5c**

Route sign



ROCK QUALITY  
**KOUTSOMARAKI CRAG**

Rock consists of grey-brown and red limestone





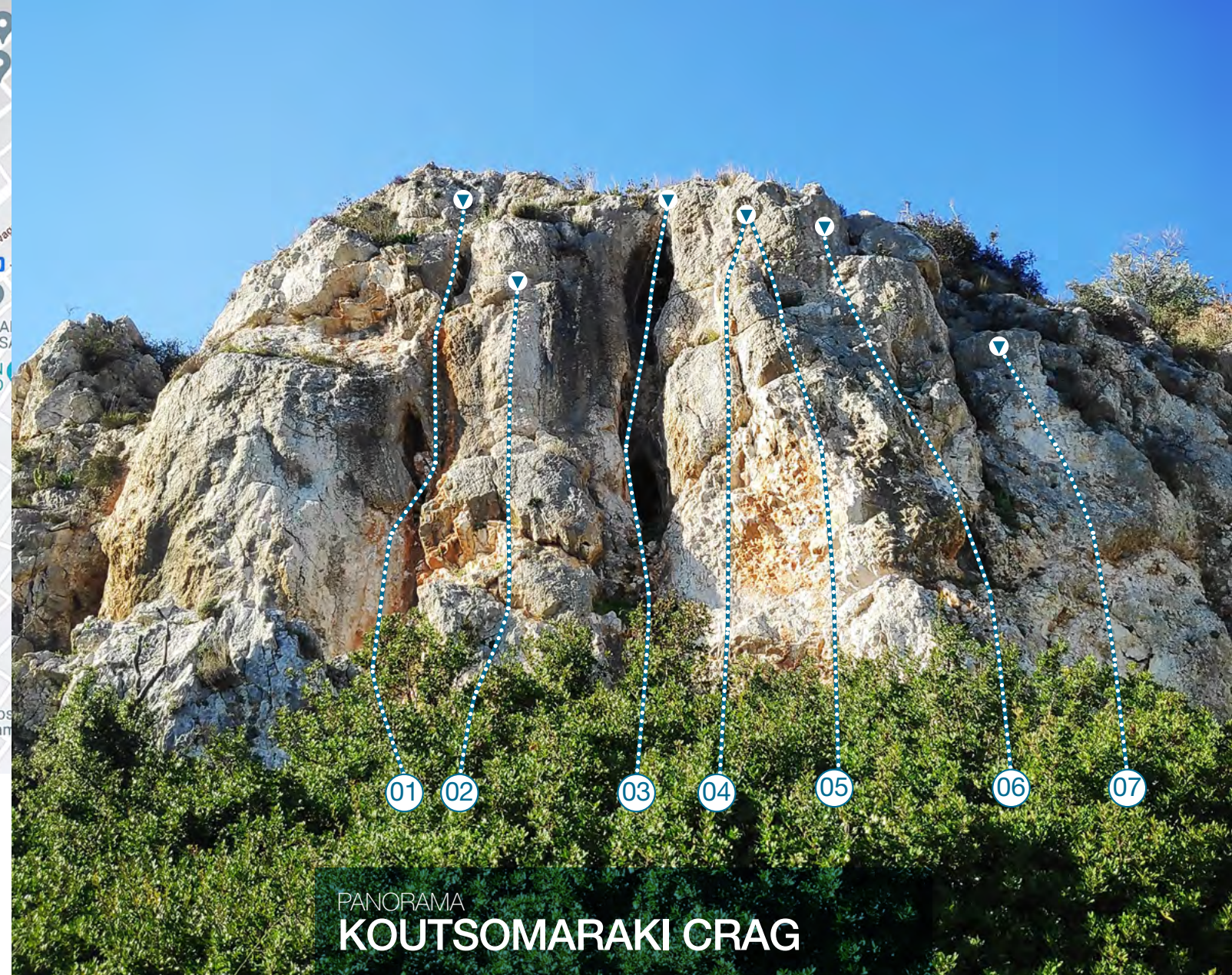
## Access

From Athens city centre take direction towards the western suburbs and specifically the **municipality of Kamatero**.

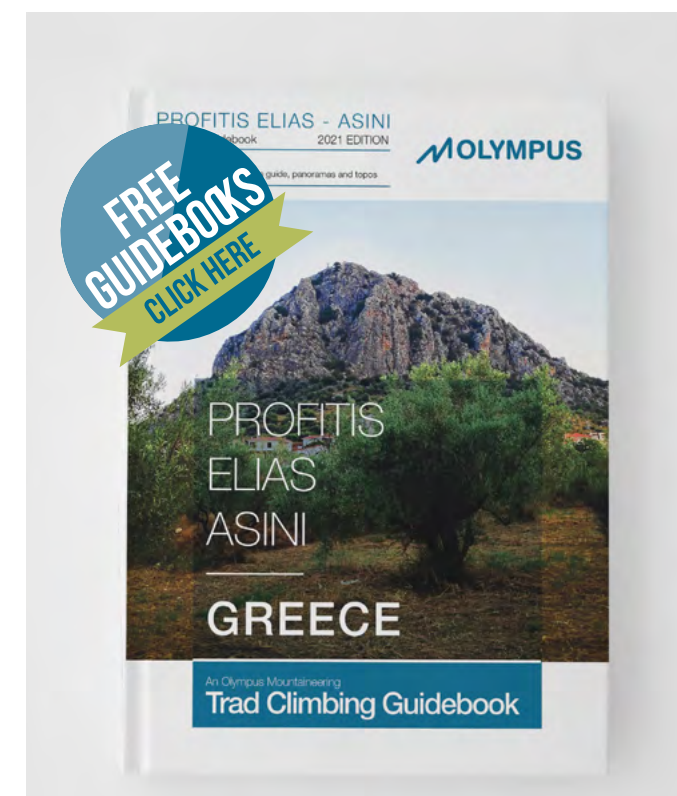
Follow Lykourgou street up to the point you reach the **Profits Elias Playground**. You can park your car there at point: **38.051288, 23.690646**.

As soon you reach Agiou Nikolaou street, drive till you come across Lykourgou street and turn left.

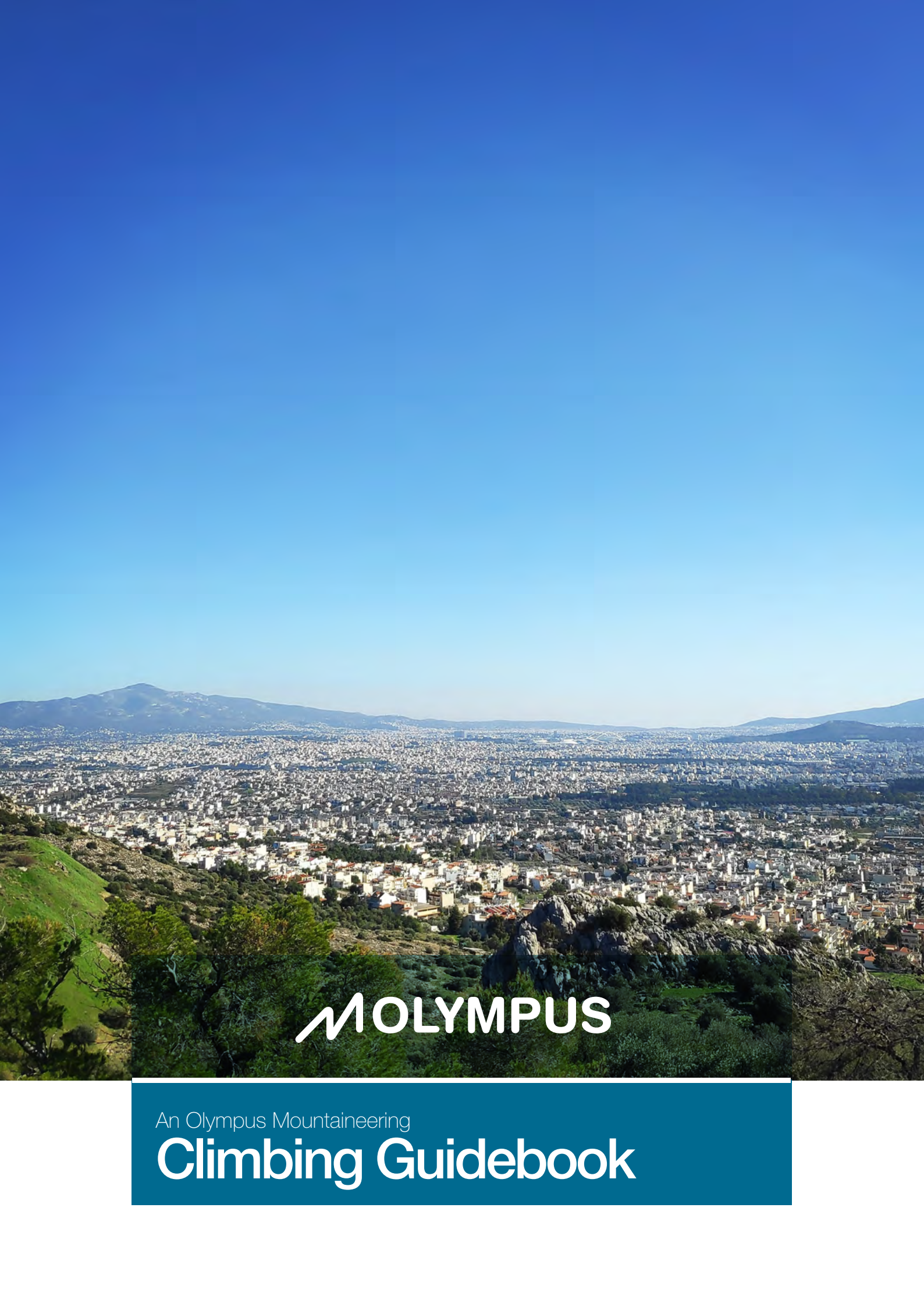
From that point you will identify a trail that will lead you to the climbing crag within **20 minutes**.



| #   | Name           | Grade | M.    | ✓ |
|-----|----------------|-------|-------|---|
| 01. | Tiramola       | 6a    | 16 m. |   |
| 02. | Rantanplan     | 6c    | 12 m. |   |
| 03. | Gerakotrypa    | 5b    | 14 m. |   |
| 04. | Platoon        | 5c+   | 13 m. |   |
| 05. | Rebels         | 5c    | 13 m. |   |
| 06. | Rolling Stones | 5a    | 13 m. |   |
| 07. | Efkolitsa      | 5b+   | 10 m. |   |







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