

MAIA

Climbing Guidebook

2022 EDITION

**MOLYMPUS**

A hands-on account

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos



MAIA  
KATAFYKI  
ERMIONI

GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

**Climbing Guidebook**



View towards  
**ERMIONI**

Route: Maia | 5c 178 m.

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WARNING  
**ABOUT THIS GUIDEBOOK**  
Read before using this guidebook

## 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 potential inaccuracies while using this guidebook:

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

If you are climbing 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 harder than the rating indicates. Do not be lulled into a false sense of security by a low difficulty rating.

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

If you are climbing a route and you are unable to arrange adequate protection 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 above just because the route protection rating is not determined as an X or an R. 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 cover every hazard on every route. Climb carefully and be watchful.

**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.**



ERMIONI  
**KATAFYKI RAVINE**  
View towards Katafyki Climbing Crag

## Katafyki Crag

An impressive gorge with a main face **over 150 m.** high and an impressive rock expanse along the river bed. Further up on the northern side there is a large area of rock- still undeveloped.

The main wall has an impressive overhanging middle section traversed mid-height by a large horizontal roof with holes. At first sight this can be somewhat overwhelming but once you're on, it turns out to be more amenable than one would have expected.

A very short approach (crag is just 20 meters off the road) and good protection from the elements make this area worth a visit.

Climbing in Katafyki is pleasant throughout the year, as the main wall is shaded after mid-day.

There are 64 routes here, among which, there are

4 multi-pitch trad routes reaching up to 123m. and 3 multi-pitch sport routes up to 150 m. in length. **Grades 5a to 7c+.**



## About Ermioni

**Ermioni** (Ancient Hermione) was originally founded by mythical hero **Ermionas** and the ancient Dryopian tribe, and dedicated to the 'messenger' god, Hermes.

During the **Mycenaean period**, the city was honoured to Hermione, daughter of Helen and Menelaus, King of Sparta. When Helen and Paris sailed together for Troy, Hermione was cared for by Helen's sister Clytemnestra, wife of Agamemnon, King of Argos and Mycenae.

Hermione later married Neoptolemus (Pyrrhus), son of the Greek hero Achilles. In the Iliad, Homer described Ancient Hermione's involvement in the Trojan War, 1194-1184 BC, commanded by the **Argive King Diomedes**, also the number of warships that sailed from Hellas to bring back the beautiful Helen of Troy, Queen of Sparta.

Over a thousand years later, the Augustan Roman geographer Strabo wrote about Ancient Hermione as '**the town lying on the South-Eastern end of the Argolid, whereby its history goes**

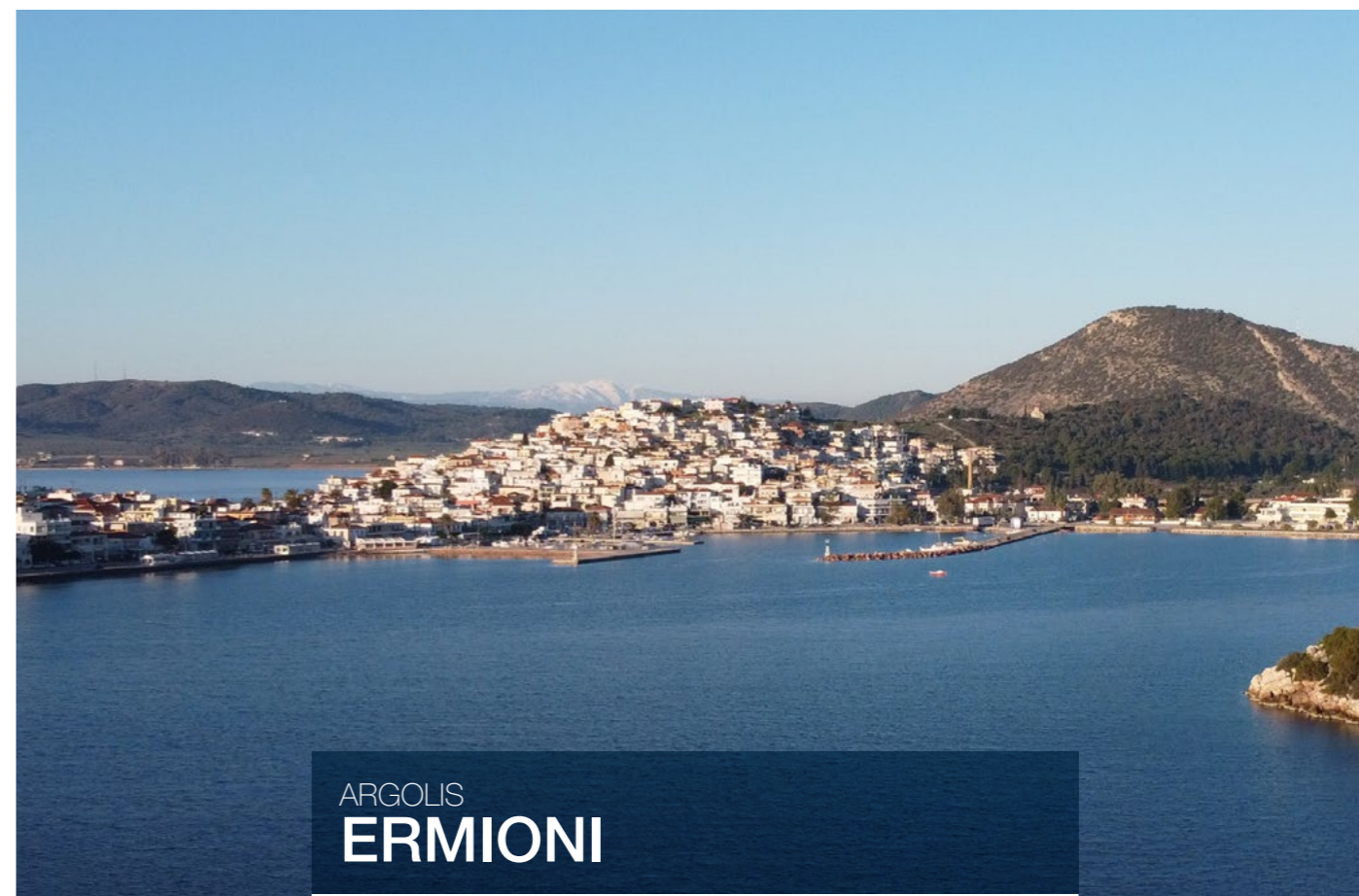
**far back in time**', and stated clearly that 'it is not one of the lesser towns'.

The Ermionida area of Argolida has been inhabited since the Paleolithic period, 40,000 years ago. Archaeological excavations at the Mesolithic **Franchthi Cave**, near Ermioni, discovered the oldest complete human skeleton in Europe, dating back to 23,000 BC.

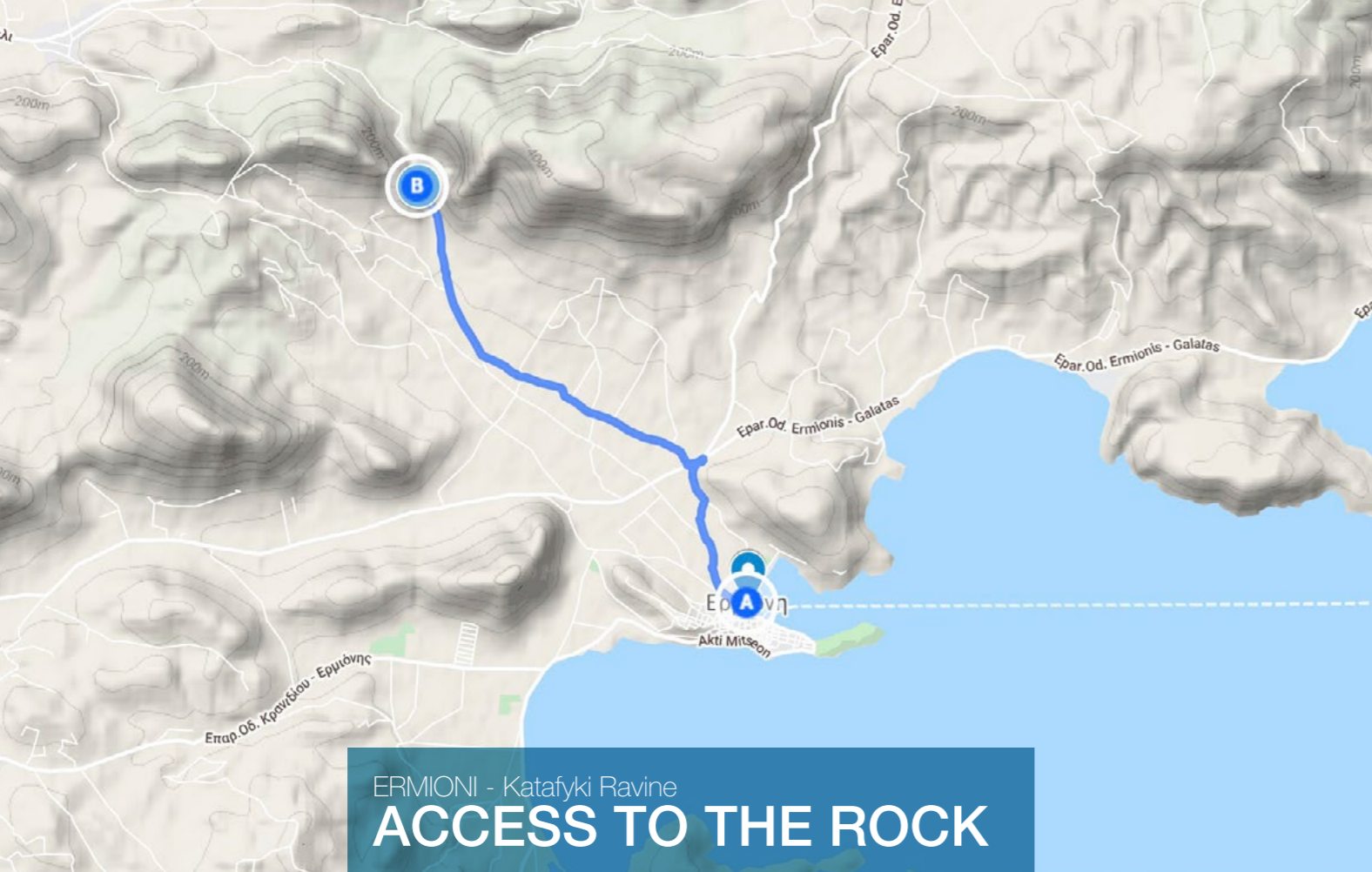
### Useful links:

**General Info:** [Olympus Mountaineering Ermionida Climbing Guide](#)  
[About Ermioni](#)

**Climbing Crag** [Katafyki Gorge](#)  
[Pillars of the Wind](#)  
[Rock of Ages](#)  
[Mount Didimo](#)



ARGOLIS  
**ERMIONI**  
View towards Ermioni



ERMIONI - Katafyki Ravine  
**ACCESS TO THE ROCK**  
 Access from Ermioni towards Katafyki

Access

Approaching **Kranidi** from the north, you will come across an intersection. Follow the signs to Ermioni and drive along the long straight section until you reach an inconspicuous stone chapel on your left and a small sign towards **Katafyki Gorge** (oriented towards the opposite direction

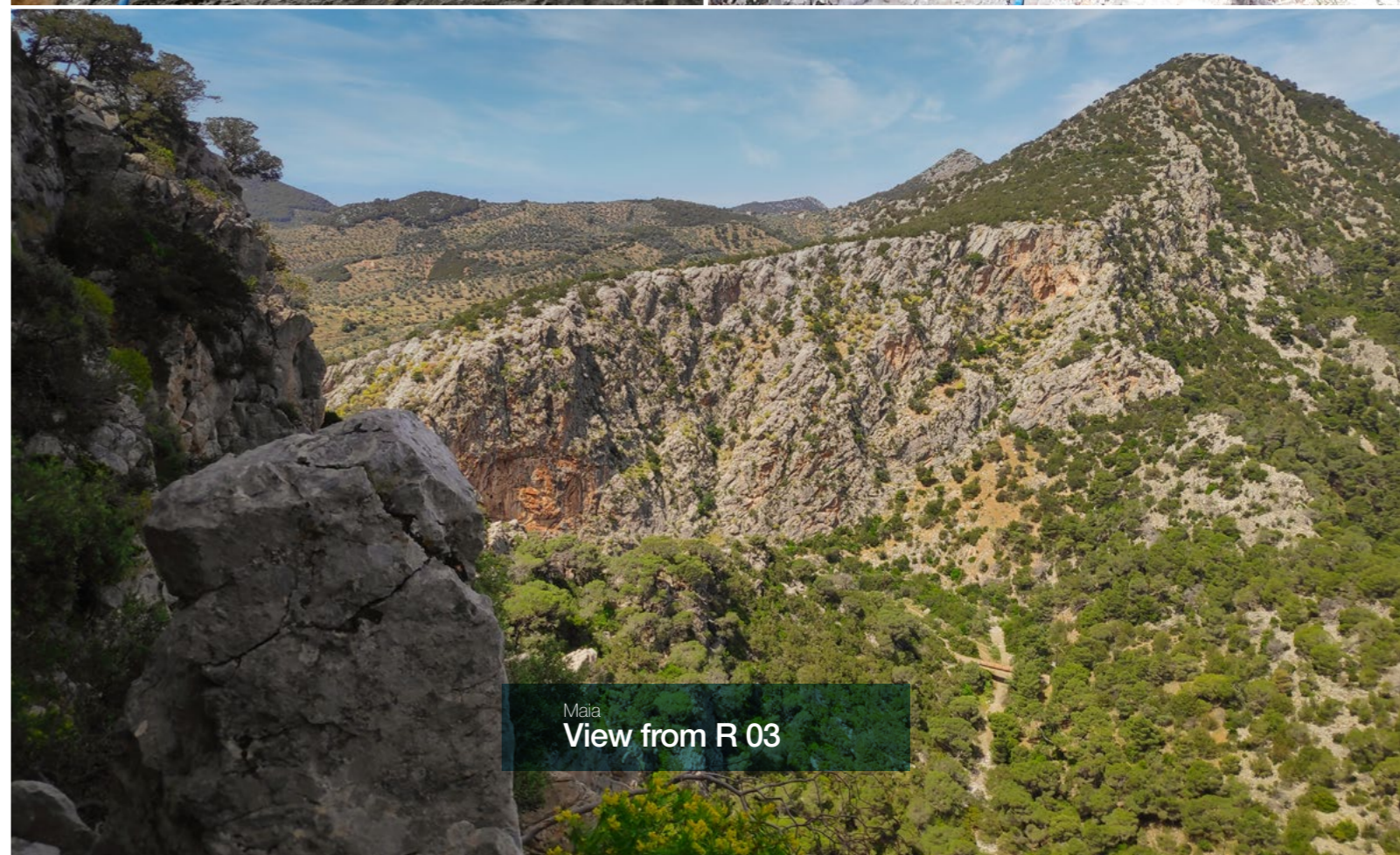
so it's easy to miss!). Take a hard left and follow the tight tarmac road for about 3 km. Park the car at the **St. Nicholas chapel** and follow the trail that goes under the bridge. From that point, you will have a clear view of the ridge and you have to follow the cairn (pile of stones).



Maia  
**Pitch 1 - Crux**



Maia  
**Pitch 2**



Maia  
**View from R 03**



5c 178 m. ★★★★★☆

# MAIA

1st Ascent: 01/05/2022

1st Ascensionists: K. Grafanakis & Olympus Mountaineering

## MAIA

5c | 178 m.

★★★★☆

Katafyki - Ermioni

1st Ascent: 01/05/2022

1st Ascensionists: K. Grafanakis & Olympus Mountaineering

### General route information

**Maia (5c, 178 m)** was established and equipped in **April 2022** by **Vertical Art Greece**, and first ascent was claimed by **K. Grafanakis** and **Olympus Mountaineering**.

**Maia (5c, 178 m)** follows the characteristic ridge which is located on the west wall in the ravine of Katafyki, and specifically, between the **Katafyki Main Crag** and the **Petrogerakas Crag**.

**Maia (5c, 178 m)** is 5 pitches long and it is fully equipped with bolts along its entire length so that the use of portable protection (nut, cams etc.) is **not** necessary. Anchors have been fitted to each belay station.

The quality of the rock is good, but there are also some spots that need attention for eventual loose rocks.

### Approach

Approaching Kranidi from the north, you will come across an intersection. Follow the signs to Ermioni and drive along the long straight section until you reach an inconspicuous stone chapel on your left and a small sign towards **Katafyki Gorge** (oriented towards the opposite direction so it's easy to miss!). Take a hard left and follow the tight tarmac road for about 3 km. until you come to an agricultural dirt road with a sign pointing to **Katafyki** to the west. Another 500 m. of well trodden dirt road among olive groves and you are at the crag.

Park the car at the **St. Nicholas chapel** and follow the trail that goes under the bridge. From that point, you will have a clear view of the ridge and you have to follow the cairn (pile of stones).

From the parking spot till the beginning of the route, **you will need about 15 minutes of hike**.





# MAIA

5c | 178 m.



Katafyki - Ermioni

**1st Ascent:** 01/05/2022

**1st Ascensionists:** K. Grafanakis & Olympus Mountaineering

## Route description

### Pitch 1 (5c - 35 m.)

The first pitch, and specifically the first **10 meters of the route**, are perhaps the **most demanding of the entire 178 m. of the climb.**

The route starts with a slight negative slab, but there are good holds and plenty of options for the feet. In addition, this first part, and generally the entire route is well equipped and very friendly to all type of climbers.

After the 4th bolt, you have to do a small **traverse towards the left**, so make sure to place an **alpine quickdraw** there (4th bolt), so you will minimise the rope drag while you will be climbing higher up.

Upon the traverse, the climb becomes easier (about 5b) and as soon you reach the ledge, you will easily spot the anchors.

**ATTENTION:** On the first ascent, about 2 meters left from the belay station, we spotted a hole with a Viber Berus snake in it. So, should you want to climb in the summer time, and on R1, pay a bit extra attention.

### Pitch 2 (5b - 25 m.)

The second pitch starts right above the **R1** and moves with a small traverse to the left until you come on the slab. Like on Pitch 1, also for **Pitch 2 the crux (5b) is at the beginning**, thus you have to pay a bit attention while traversing.

As soon we reach the slab, the climb again is easier (around 5a) and we have to follow the ridge till the obvious ledge where another anchor point is placed.

The belay station is very comfortable and from that point and on you start to enjoy the stunning views bellow at the ravine of Katafyki.

### Pitch 3 (5b - 30 m.)

The third pitch is continues in the same style as the last part of Pitch 2, which basically consists of following the ridge by climbing from a boulder to boulder with some small ledges till we find a slab with a bit negative start.

Before you enter the slab, there is a bolt that will make you feel safe and although it might seem a bit difficult to climb on top of the slab, there are enough holds for the hands. Upon that, we end up in another ledge, where **R3** is located.

The view from **R3** is really wonderful with a clear view of both **Katafyki crag** and **Petrogerakas crag**.

The maximum difficulty of this pitch is around **5b**.

### Pitch 4 (5b+ - 48 m.)

The fourth pitch is again a very nice pitch where the difficulty is again at the beginning. In the first few meters, we have to climb in a dihedral and at some point we have to do a small traverse (2-3 steps) to the left in order to enter and continue our climb on the slab. Upon that, we continue to climb right on the ridge and this makes the climb to feel very special.

This is the lengthiest pitch and like the previous pitches is well equipped. Due to the fact this pitch is about **48 meters long**, make sure to **add some alpine quickdraws** in order to minimise the rope drag.

### Pitch 5 (5a - 40 m.)

The fifth and final pitch of this great route, although is the easiest pitch, is perhaps the nicest too with a lovely "surprise" at the end. I won't describe much of this pitch, in order to not spoil the nice finishing of the Ridge

Though, what I can certainly attest, is that the **view from R5 is simply majestic**. Stunning views towards **Ermioni, Hydra, Dokos, Dardiza, Spetses** and of course a great "bird's eye" view towards the **Katafyki Climbing Crag**.



MAIA  
**RETURN FROM THE ROCK**

How to return from the top of Maia route

### Return

In order to return, you have to follow direction south east to the obvious tarmac road that is leading to **Katafyki Crag**. There is not obvious trail for the return, but if you start descending towards the east and later on you get direction to the south you won't have any difficulty to reach again the parking spot.

For the return you will need about **25-30 minutes of hike**.

**ATTENTION:** On this route is not recommended to return via abseiling. Should you will to abseil down the route, make sure to climb with 2 half ropes of at least 60 meters. Best way to return is as described above.



Descent from the route

### Necessary equipment

To repeat any route one needs the following items:

- 10 quickdraws
- 4 alpine quickdraws
- Slings/Lanyards
- Kevlar cordelette
- 2 x 60 m. 1/2 ropes or 1 x 60 m. rope

On each belay station there are bolted anchors.

### Retreat

In case of emergency, a retreat is possible by abseiling via the anchors, only if you have 2 x 60 m. 1/2 ropes. Abseiling with single rope is **NOT** possible.



## DISCLAIMER FOR SAFE CLIMBING

Rock climbing and mountaineering in general is a dangerous pastime that can lead to serious injury or worse. You should not undertake these without proper training or equipment.

By using this document you acknowledge that the information therein may be out of date or inaccurate and you agree that Olympus Mountaineering cannot be held liable for any damage that may be caused by use of this document.





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