

FANTASTIC 4

Climbing Guidebook

2022 EDITION

A hands-on account

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos

MOLYMPUS

A full-page background image of a rocky mountain landscape. In the foreground, a climber wearing a blue helmet and a backpack is seen from the side, climbing a steep, light-colored rock face. The climber is using ropes and gear. The background shows more rugged mountain peaks under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a high-altitude, alpine environment.

KANTILI FANTASTIC 4 ATTICA GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

Trad Climbing Guidebook



View from
R 04 - Pitch 3
Route: Fantastic 4

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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,

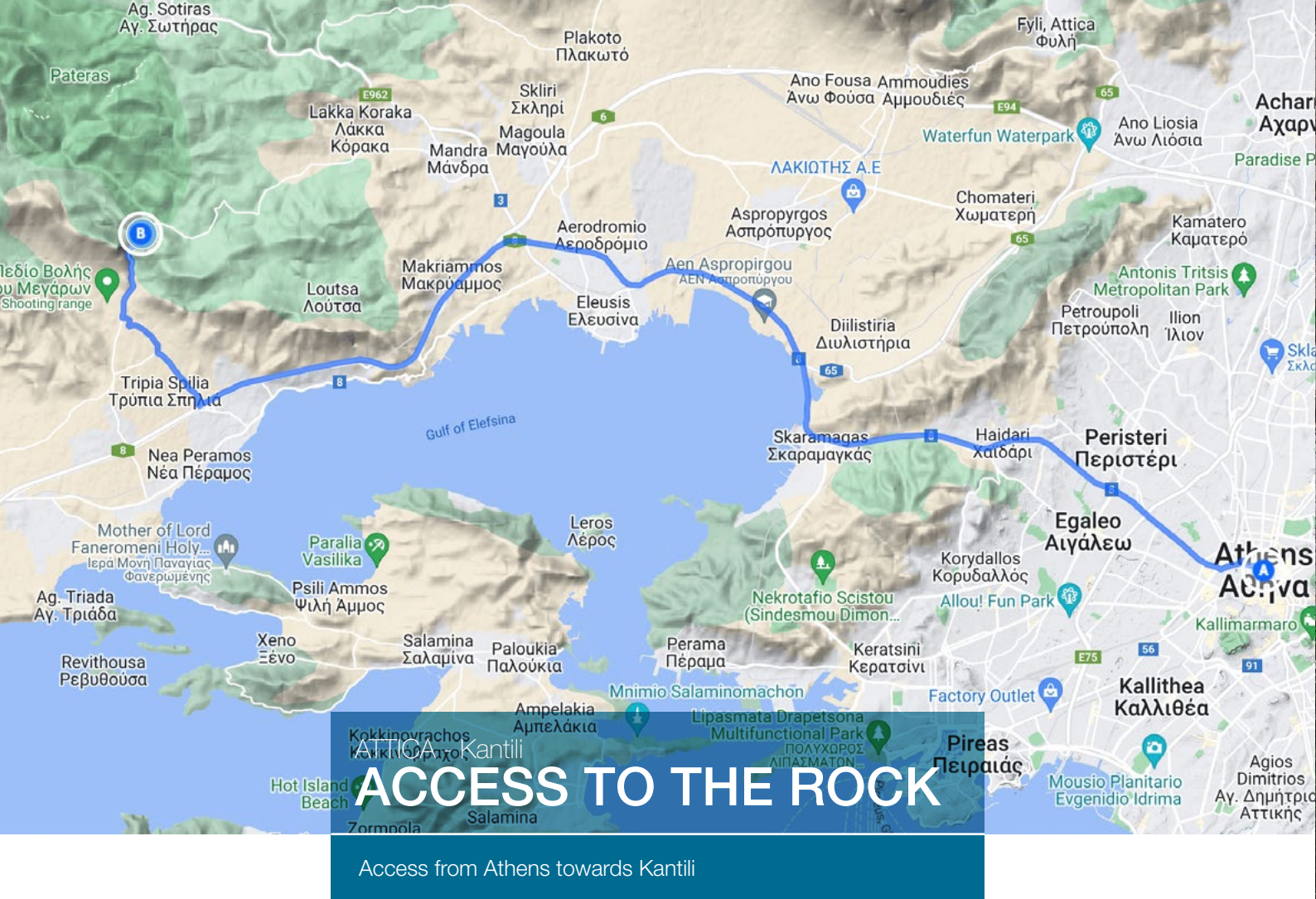
failure or absence of fixed protection, your own equipment's failure, faulty protection placement, or improper use of climbing equipment.

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.



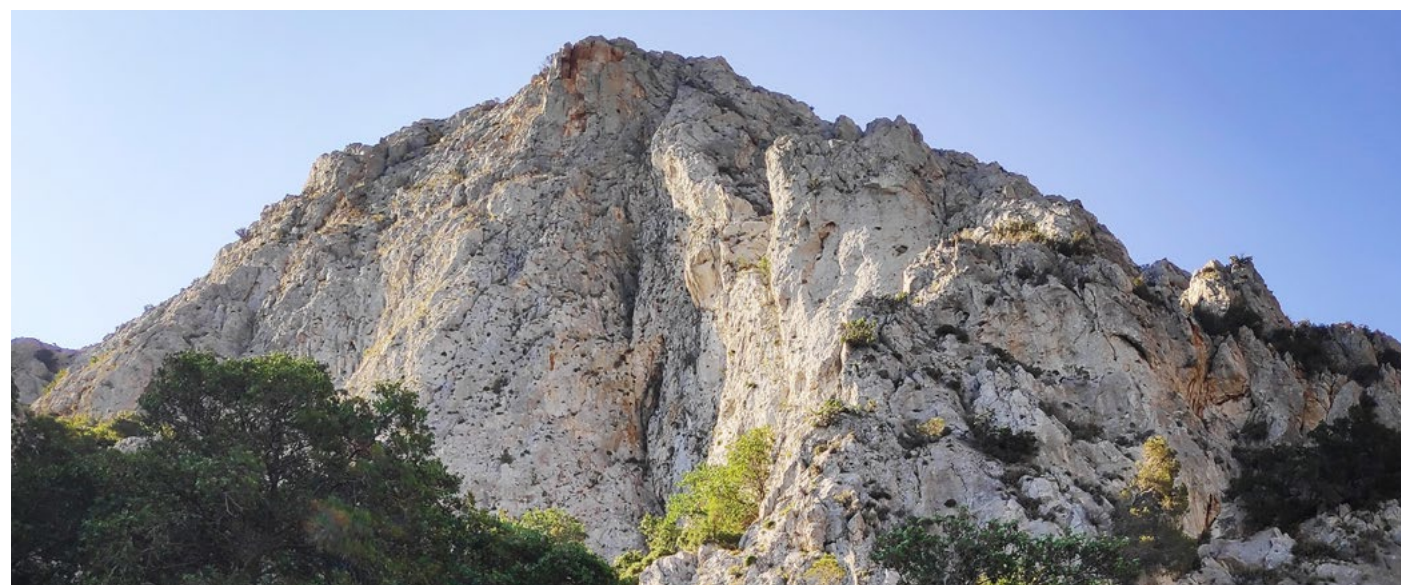
Access

You have to drive from Athens towards the town of Mandra and upon that you have to follow the road which leads to the military base of **Kantili**.

Parking spot: 38.058263, 23.411412

As soon as you park, then you will need about

20 minutes of uphill hike through low vegetation and while approaching the two characteristic pillars of the rock formation, “**Fantastic 4**” is on the left pillar. The route starts straight up from the ledge and there is rock cairn at the base of the route.





V+ 200 m. ★★★★★☆
FANTASTIC 4

1st Ascent: 08/10/2017
1st Ascensionists: Apostolou, Sfados, Sourlatzi, Aggelopoulos

FANTASTIC 4

V+ | 200 m. ★★★★★☆ Kantili - Attica

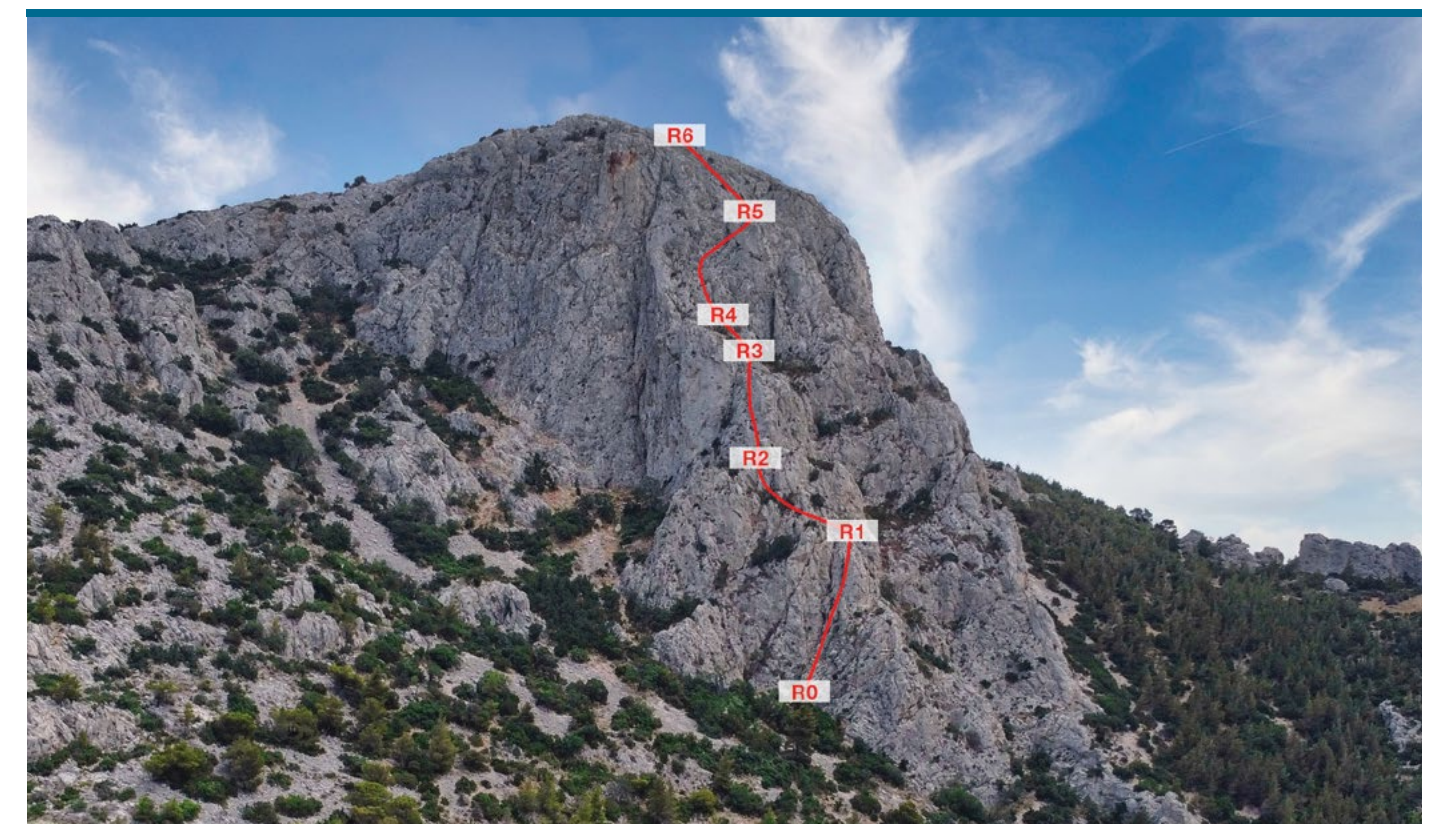
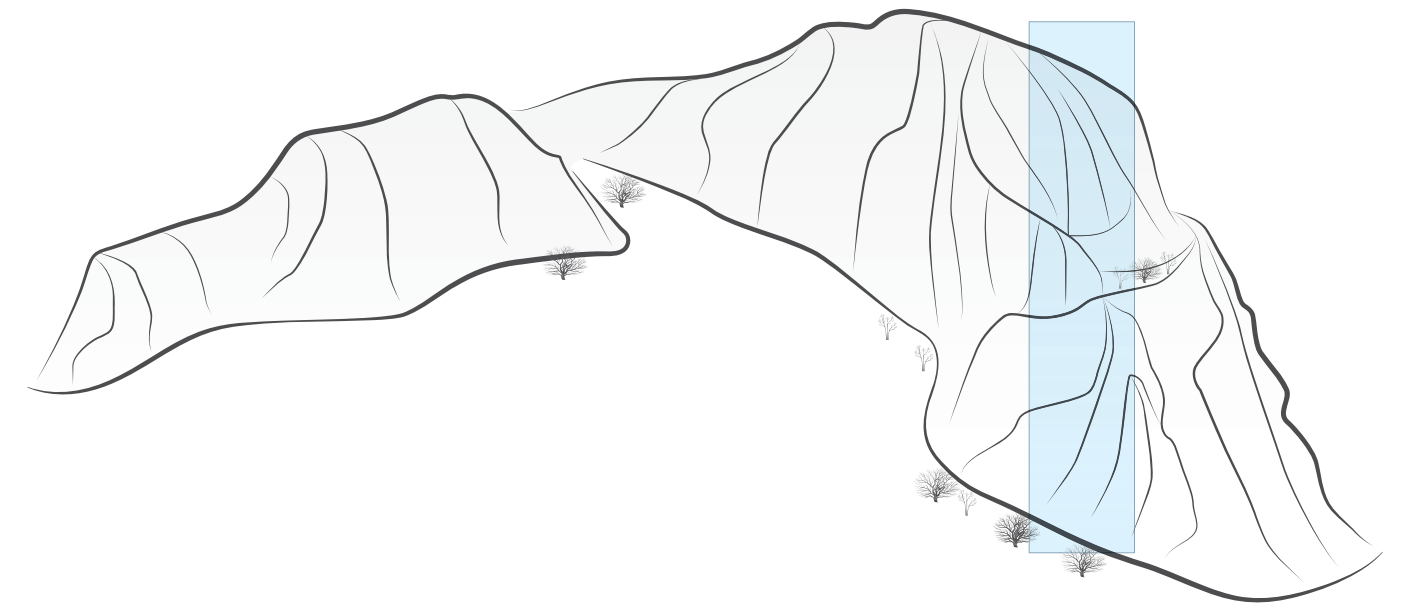
1st Ascent: 08/10/2017

1st Ascensionists: Apostolou, Sfados, Sourlatzi, Aggelopoulos

General route information

Fantastic 4 (V+ UIAA, 200 m.) first ascent was claimed on **8/10/2017** from **G. Apostolou, D. Sfanto, M. Sourlatzi and E. Aggelopoulos**. The route is located on the rock formation opposite the main climbing are of Kandili and has north exposure. The route can be described as an “adventure hybrid route” (it’s mostly trad, but there are some bolts too) and one should be experienced with basic route finding.

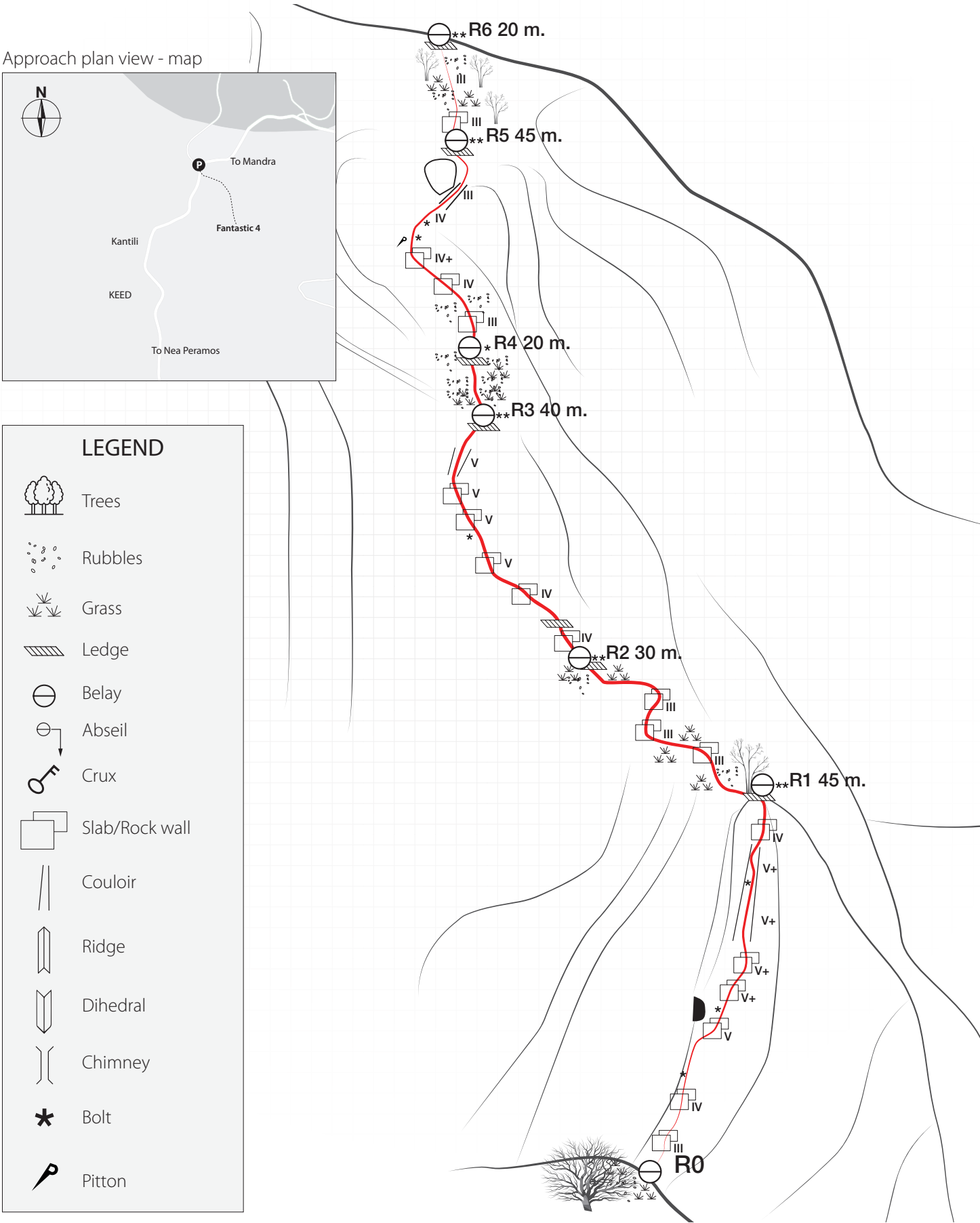
The route is not particularly difficult and can be well protected with different kind of gear. The rock is limestone and its quality is medium and varies from good enough to loose on some points.



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Approach

For the access you need about **20 minutes** of uphill hike through low vegetation and while approaching the two characteristic pillars of the rock formation, “**Fantastic 4**” is on the left pillar. The route starts straight up from the ledge and there is rock cairn at the base of the route.

Parking spot: 38.058263, 23.411412
Beginning of the route: 38.055225, 23.412777

Route description

R0-R1 | V+ UIAA 45 m. | 3 bolts

The route starts with the first pitch of **45 m.** from the base of the pillar. We start to scramble straight up in easy terrain of **III UIAA** up to the point we have a cave on our left. At that point there we start the actual climb on a **slab of a IV UIAA**. Just before the cave there is a bolt placed on the left wall. As soon we overcome the cave the inclination starts to become steeper and we have to climb again on a slab of about **V UIAA**. We continue to climb up to the point we reach a small ledge, just bellow a dihedral. This **dihedral V+ UIAA** is the **crux of the first pitch and actually of the entire route**. At the mid section of the dihedral, there is another bolt that can be handy. As soon we climb on top of the dihedral and behind a tree we will see two bolts and there is where we can establish our first belay. We belay with a double size sling (120 cm) and the location for belay is comfortable.

R1-R2 | III UIAA 30 m.

The second pitch of **30 m.** starts with an easy climb on a slab and we follow the direction of and old wild olive tree where we pass it from the left. Once we reach the top of that section, we move to the left where we will be uphill walking until we see the second belay. We belay with a single size sling (60 cm) and the location for belay is comfortable.

R2-R3 | V UIAA 40 m.

For the third pitch we start to climb straight up from the belay on a **slab of IV UIAA**. After only two moves we reach a small ledge and on that point we have to make sure to place some good protection. We continue to climb straight up on a slightly exposed slab of **IV UIAA** where there is also one bolt placed. As soon we pass the bolt and by turning to the right we enter and climb a rather steep dihedral of **maximum difficulty V UIAA**. This dihedral might be a bit exposed, but there are enough holds. As soon we climb up the dihedral, we turn left where we have to scramble on top of a small boulder of maximum **III UIAA** and we reach the belay.

R3-R4 | 20 m.

The fourth pitch is the easiest of all as there is no actual climbing, but rather a short uphill hike of about **20 meters**. Though, one should be extra careful because there are loose rocks.

R4-R5 | IV+ UIAA 45 m.

The fifth pitch starts with some scrambling of **III UIAA** and continues to move straight up with some slabs of **IV and IV+ UIAA** until we see the first of the two drilled bolts. As soon we see the bolt, we traverse to the right and within **4-5 meters** there is a second bold placed. We continue and we climb a ramp. As soon the ramp ends, we turn to the left and we see the belay.

R5-R6 | III UIAA 20 m.

For the **6th and last pitch** we start to climb to the right side from the belay. We have to climb a up a small boulder and up to the top there is an easy scramble of **III UIAA** (or perhaps IV UIAA).



FANTASTIC 4 RETURN FROM THE ROCK

How to return from the top of Fantastic 4 route

Return

From the top of the rock, we turn right and we downhill towards south. Most of the downhill is steep and there is not a clear trail so make sure to be extra careful. From the top of the rock up to the parking spot we need about **30-45 minutes**.



Descent from the route

Necessary equipment

To repeat any route one needs the following items:

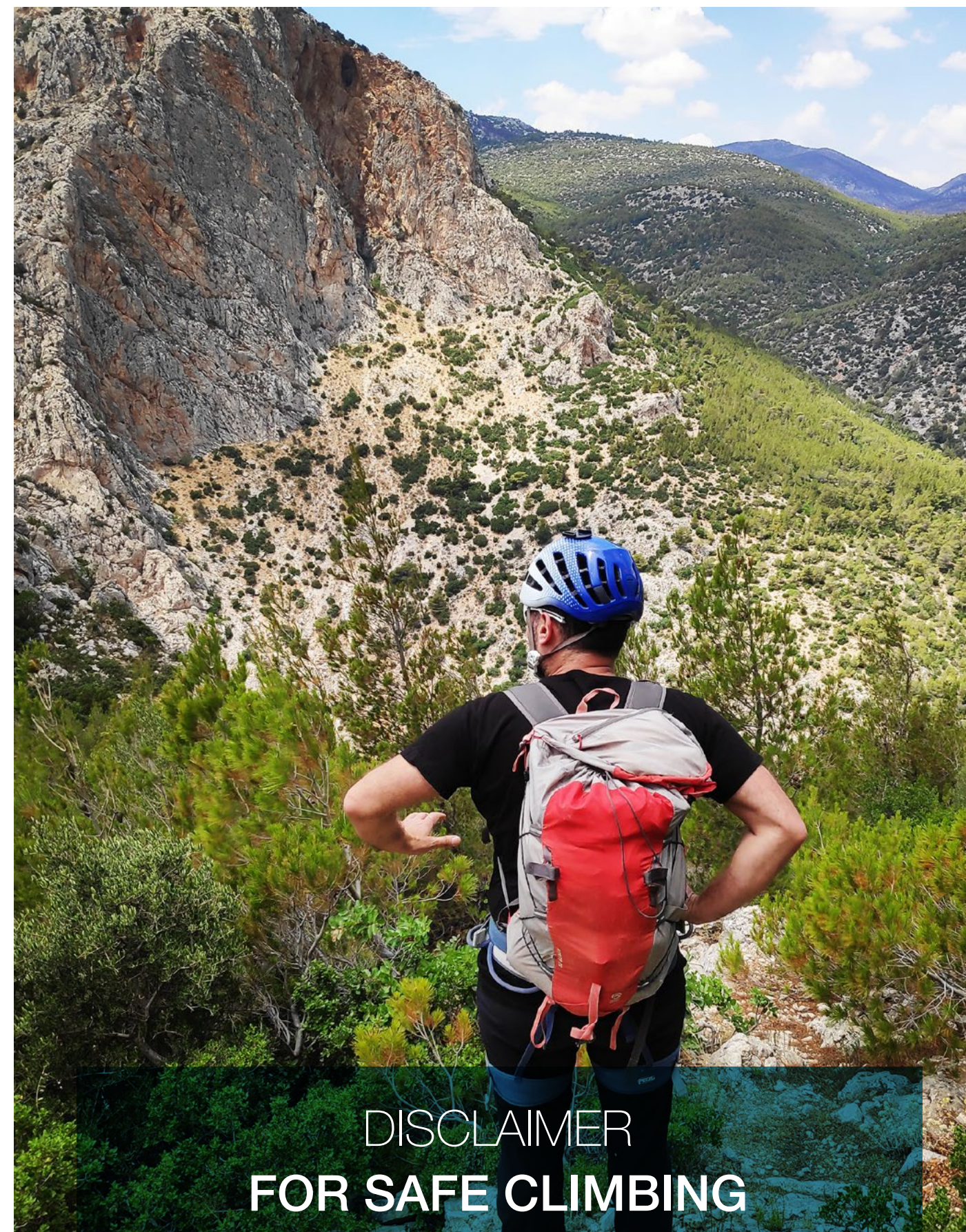
- Wire nuts 1-10
- Friends/Cam up to #2
- Slings/Lanyards
- Kevlar cordelette
- 2 x 60 m. 1/2 ropes

Useful coordinates

Parking spot: 38.058263, 23.411412
Beginning of the route: 38.055252, 23.412800
Highest peak: 38.054689, 23.413945
Point of descent: 38.053588, 23.413558

Retreat

In case of emergency, a retreat might be possible by abseiling from the belays. Though, pay attention that due to the traverses of the route, abseiling might be a bit tricky.



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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