## **ERMIONIDA - ARGOLIS**

Climbing Guidebook

2022 EDITION



General information, access guide, panoramas and topos





An Olympus Mountaineering

Climbing Guidebook



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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 grades 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. If you're new unfamiliar with climbing or unfamiliar with the area, we recommend that you hire 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 safety, occasionally hiring a guide is a sure 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 variances 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.

Never depend on a single piece of fixed protection for your safety, because you can never tell whether it will single-handedly hold your 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 by the first ascent party.

# Be aware of the following potential inaccuracies while using this guidebook:

#### 1. Incorrect Descriptions of Routes:

If you're not sure where exactly your route is going, exercise your own judgment as to whether you should continue or retreat.

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 the grade.

#### 3. Incorrect Protection Rating:

If you're 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 just because the route protection rating indicates so. 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 gear, 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 is by no means comprehensive, when it comes to potential risks and hazards involved in climbing. Climb carefully, at your own risk, and always be watchful.

There are no warranties, whether expressed or implied, that this guidebook is accurate or that the information 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.



View from Dardiza Crag

Once upon a time, back in the 2000's, a climbing revolution occurred in Ermionida, East Peloponnese. The British climber, **Jim Titt**, and the German **Inge Zaczek** went and equipped more than 200 routes on the area's excellent limestone rocks, with stainless steel bolts. They spent a lot of their time, money and effort for the development of sport climbing in the area and we are thankful for it. In **2021**, the local climbing community, with the aid and support of the **Municipality of Ermionida** and **Tripolis Mountaineering Club**, carried out maintenance works on the various crags and replaced several anchors, with new high quality and certified material.



8

Sport Climbing crags suitable for all-year climbing.



250+

Sport Climbing routes of various grades.



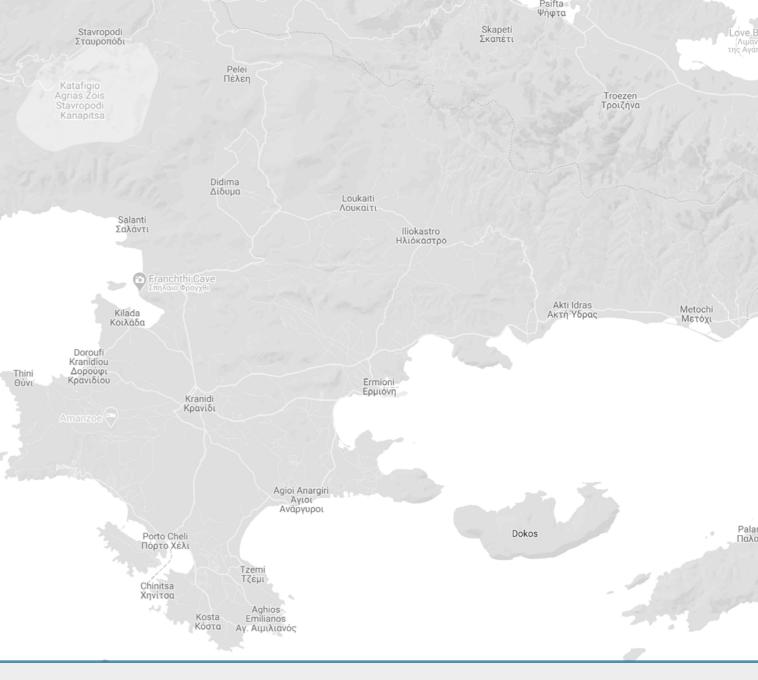
73

Ermionida boasts an extensive coast line and offers many small coves with beaches.



3000+

Ermionida, gets over 3,000 hours of sunshine per year.



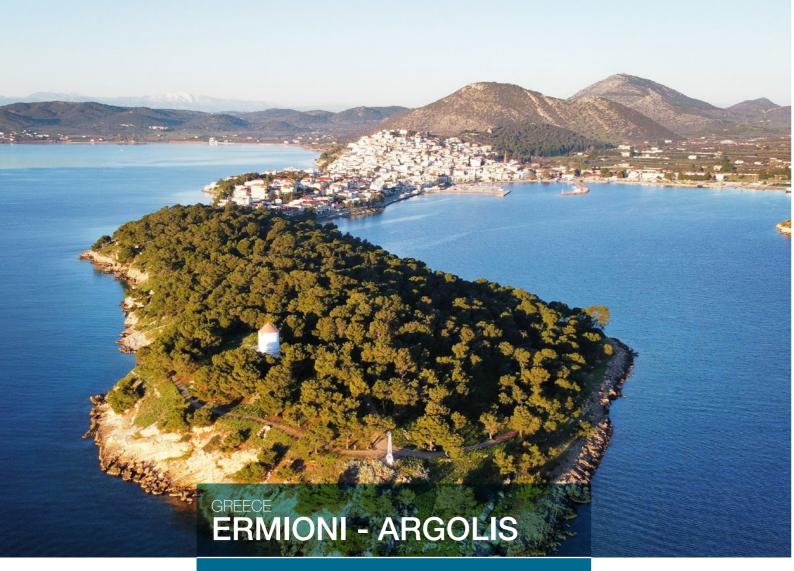
Kalloni Καλλονή

- KATAFYKI GORGE 68 routes | 5a - 7c+
- PETROGERAKAS
  8 routes | 5a 6b+
- DARDIZA 2 routes | 5a
- 4 CASTLE THERMISIA 25 routes | 5a - 8c+

- CAVES OF FRAGTHI
  14 routes | 4c 7a+
- 6 PILLARS OF THE WIND 52 routes | 3 8a

Taktikoupoli Τακτικούπολη

- ROCK OF AGES
  39 routes | 5a 7a
- 8 **DIDIMA**67 routes | 4b 8a



View from the area of Katafyki

### **About Ermionida**

**Ermionida** is a municipality in the Argolis regional unit, Peloponnese, Greece. The seat of the municipality is the town of Kranidi.

**Ermioni** is a small fishing town in Ermionida (Argolis) on the east of Peloponnese. The traditional taverns, the cafés, the paved streets, the beautiful houses and the crystal clear beaches around this area are some of the reasons which make this town is an interesting summer destination of Peloponnese.

While travelling around the area, you will have the chance to admire olive and pine trees along with plenty of bays with turquoise waters but also plenty of climbing crags.

Rock climbing around Ermionida and generally the region of Argolis is all on excellent **solid grey limestone**.

The majority of the routes are single pitch sport climbing routes, though there are some trad climbing routes as well.

However, all of the climbing areas are only partially developed, which means there is a massive opportunity to establish new routes in the area.

The area of Argolis gets over 3,000 hours of sunshine per year and is a popular holiday destination.

This also means that it is possible to rock climb virtually throughout the whole year in the region, even in the hot summer months, as some crags such as **Didima** are found on higher elevation - as high as 1,000 m.!

### **History**

Ermioni (Ancient Hermione) was originally founded by the mythical hero Ermionas and the ancient **Dryopian tribe**, and dedicated to the 'messenger' god, Hermes, and later, during the Mycenaean period, to Hermione, daughter of Helen and Menelaus, King of Sparta.

The area of Ermionis has been inhabited **since the Paleolithic period**, 40,000 years ago. Archaeological excavations at the Mesolithic Fragthi Cave unveiled the oldest complete human skeleton in Europe, dating back to 23,000 BC.

From 14th to 8th Century BC, many settlements were established in the Southern Argolida region, as elsewhere in Greece. By 6th Century BC some of these villages had grown into real towns and large cities, such as Hermione (Ermioni), Halieis (Porto Heli), Mases (Kilada) and Eileoi (Iliokastro).

This laid the foundations for the archaic Hermionis Kingdom, ruled from the walled city of Hermione, located on the ancient Bisti peninsula. Hermione witnessed considerable prosperity during the Hellenistic and Republican Roman periods, particularly after the Romans had taken control of the city, following the destruction of ancient Corinth in 146 BC.

When **Pausanias** visited Hermione, he described with admiration the lavish temples, sancturies, stadium, festivals, music contests and swimming races that brought so much glory to the ancient Kingdom of Hermionis and the surrounding area.

### **Useful references:**

General Info: Olympus Mountaineering

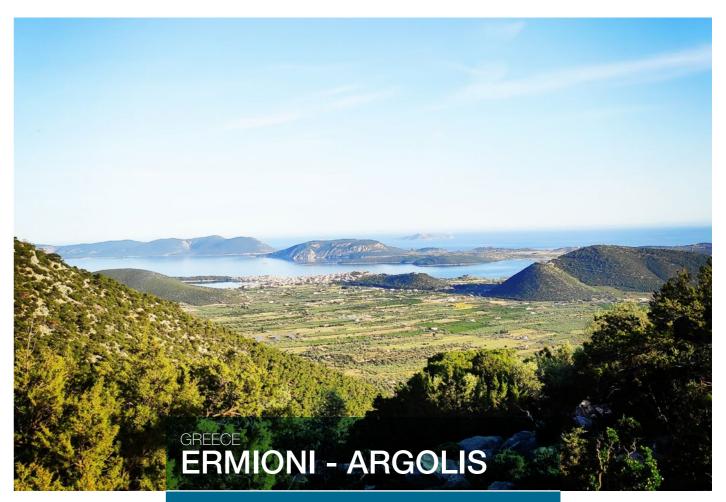
Municipality of Ermionida

**Camping:** Hydra's Wave

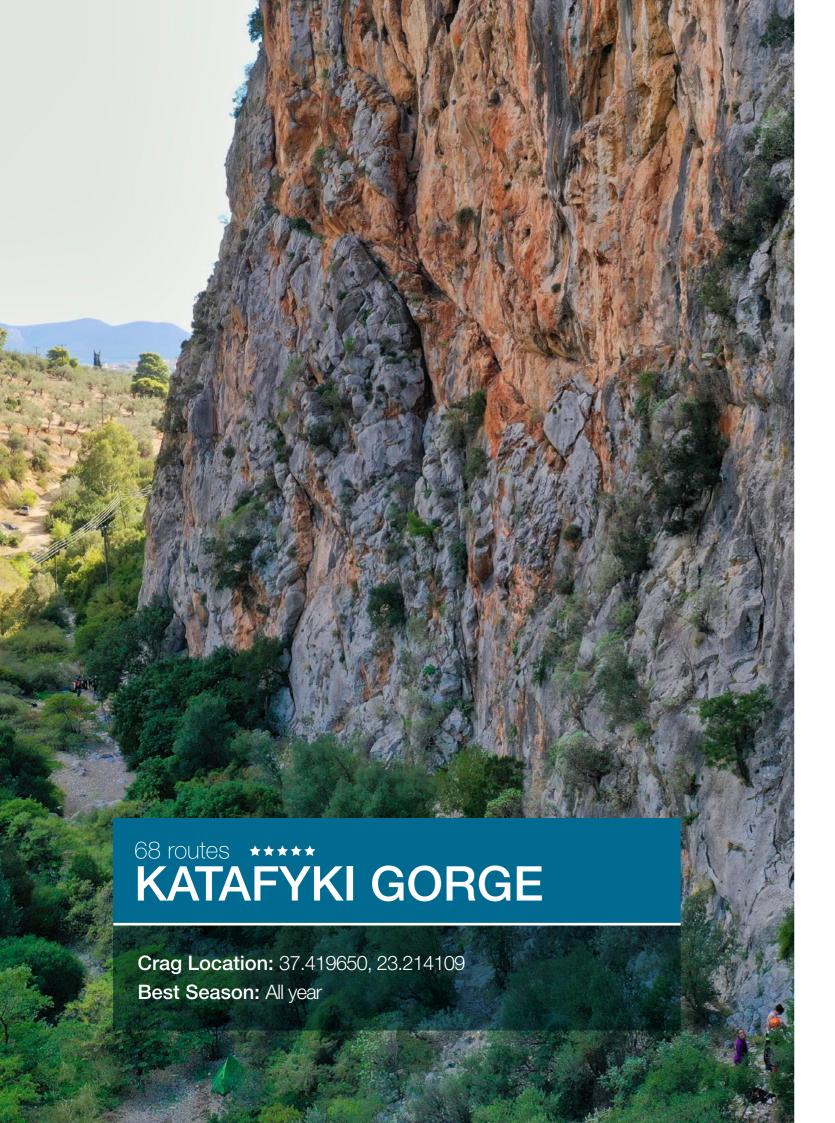
Stay: Katafyki

Lambayanna beach

Dardiza beach



View from the chapel of Agioi Theodoroi



### KATAFYKI GORGE

68 Routes

\*\*\*\*

Katafyki, Ermionida

Crag location: 37.419650, 23.214109

Season: All year | Walk in: 1 minute

### **General information**

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+.

#### In a Nutshell

Exposure: North

Best Season: All year

**Sun:** From 08.00 to 14.00 (16.00 in summer)

Walk in: 1 minute Water: None

Family Friendly: Yes
Pet Friendly: Yes

Camping: Around the chapel of Agios Nikolaos

Gear: 70 m. rope, 14 quickdraws

Equipped by: J.Titt, I. Zaczek, H. Weninger,

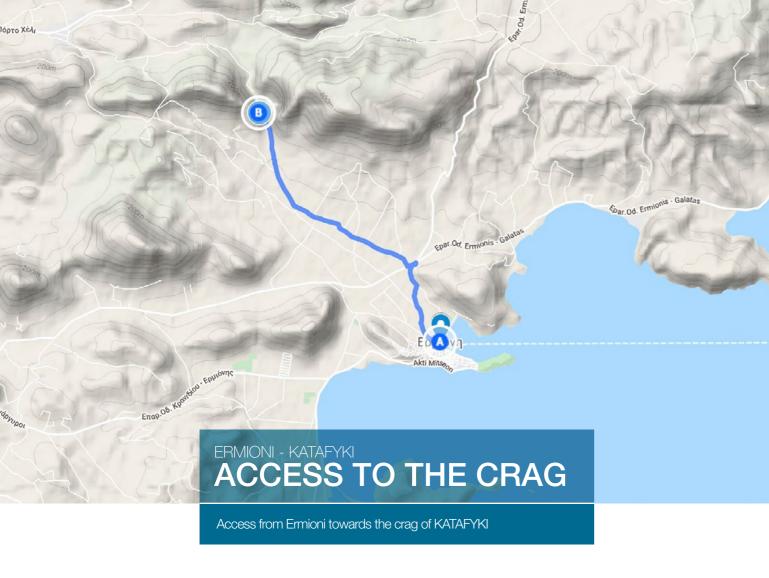
J. Gstoettenmayr & family.







ss from Ermioni towards the gorge of Katafyki



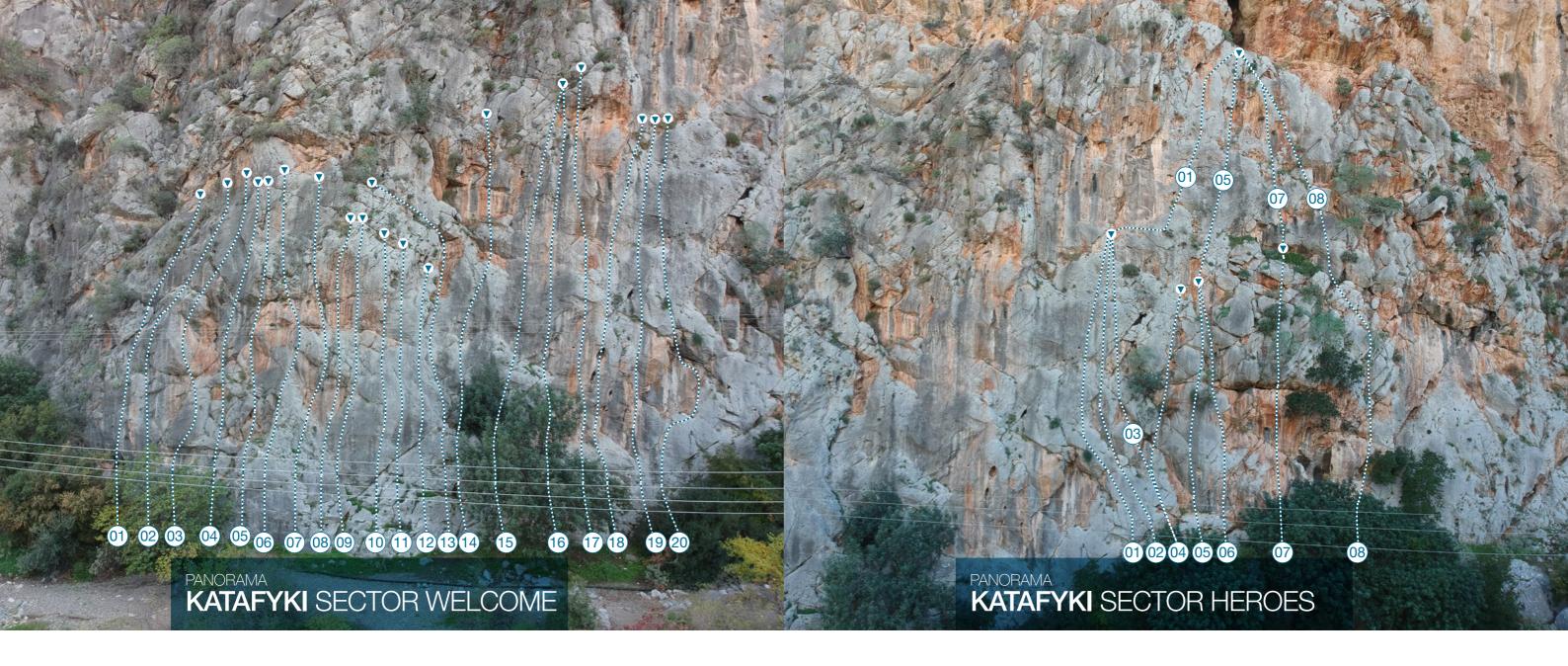
Approaching **Kranidi** from the north, you will come across an intersection. Follow the signs to **Ermioni** and drive along the long straight section until you reach an inconspicuous stone chapel on your left and a small sign towards **Katafyki Gorge** (oriented towards the opposite direction

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.







#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Ade	6b+	24 m.	
02.	Jassu	5c	24 m.	
03.	Namaste	6a	24 m.	
04.	Hola	5c+	22 m.	
05.	Bonjour	6a	22 m.	
06.	Welcome	5c	24 m.	
07.	Bienvenuto	6a	24 m.	
08.	Hei	6a+	22 m.	
09.	Olala	6b	22 m.	
10.	God Dag	6a+	20 m.	

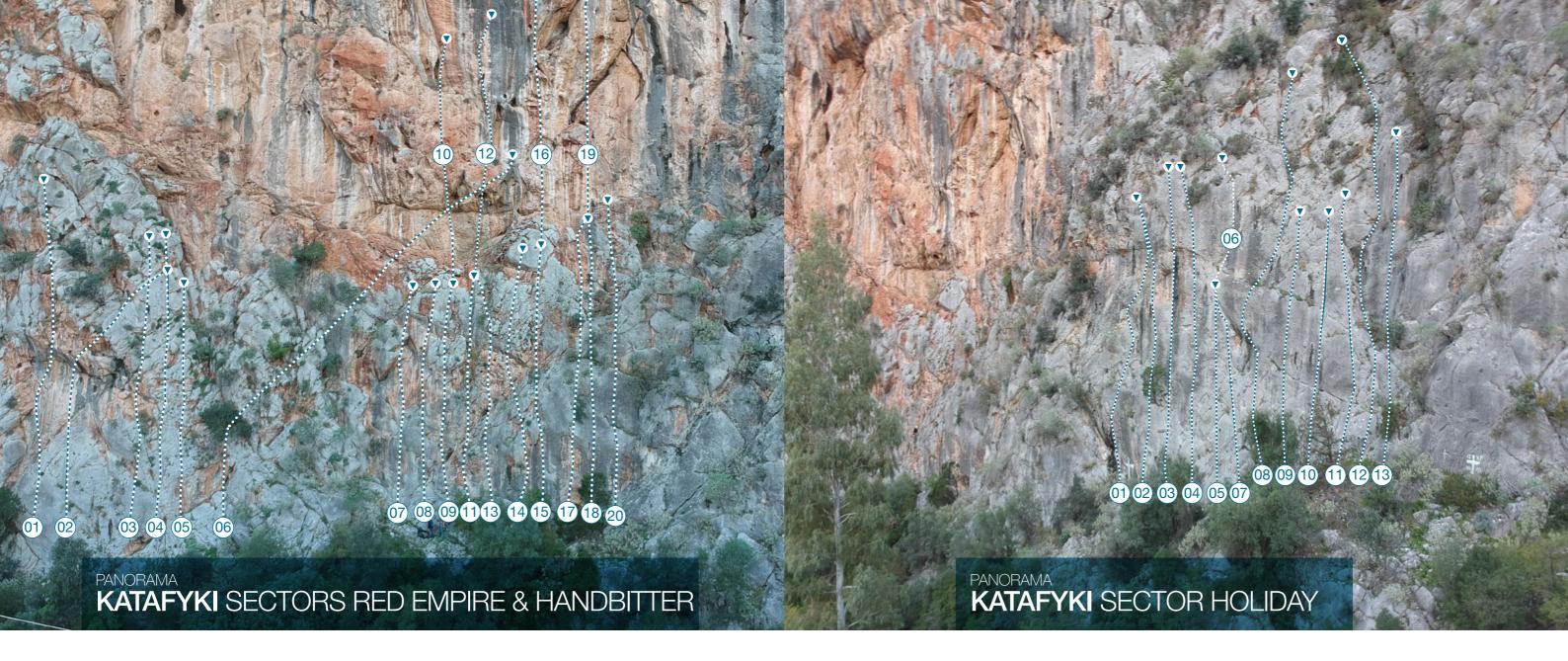
#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
11.	Gruezi	5c	18 m.	
12.	Tach	5a	16 m.	
13.	Answer (Trad)	V	22 m.	
14.	The Question	5c	28 m.	
15.	MT Direct	5c+	30 m.	
16.	Sabbatical	6b	30 m.	
17.	Savage Girl	7a	25 m.	
18.	Savage Man	6b+	25 m.	
19.	Side Step	7a	27 m.	
20.	Force War	6a+	25 m.	

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Heroes	L1/L2 6a	14 m.	
02.	Rotzfatz	6a+	18 m.	
03.	Rockstar	6a	22 m.	
04.	Villains	5b	22 m.	
05.	At the edge	L1 6a/L2 5c	24 m.	
06.	Saints	5c	25 m.	
07.	Last Hero	L16b/L2 6a	25 m.	
08.	Brake	6a	25 m.	

### The Cave of Katafyki

The famous Cave of Katafyki, is mythologically noted as the entrance to Hades, from where Hercules unleashed his terrible Cerberus and the god Pluto led the daughter of the goddess Demeter, Persephone, to the underworld.

In the Middle Ages it was believed that the cave was a gate to Hell from which emerged all kinds of demons and fairies, haunts that made life difficult for passers-by.



#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Fighting Jim	6b	14 m.	
02.	The Red Empire	6a+	18 m.	
03.	Heaven	5c	22 m.	
04.	Sinner's	5a	22 m.	
05.	Prayer	5a	18 m.	
06.	Zorro	5b+	25 m.	
07.	Yassas	6b	22 m.	
08.	Mercy	6a+	22 m.	
09.	Lucky	6a+	22 m.	
10.	Gate of Hades	7a	30 m.	
11.	Golden Brown	5b+	22 m.	

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
12.	Fairytale	7a+	22 m.	
13.	Handbitter	5c	22 m.	
14.	Brown Sugar	5c	32 m.	
15.	Hole in the Wall	5b	22 m.	
16.	Hole in the Wall ext	. 7b	34 m.	
17.	Rolling Stone	6a+	22 m.	
18.	Sticky Fingers	6a	34 m.	
19.	Sticky Fingers ext	. 7b	24 m.	
20.	Ruby Tuesday	5c	25 m.	

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Не На	6a+	22 m.	
02.	Gstotti was here	6a+	22 m.	
03.	Loch im Bauch	6a+	24 m.	
04.	Holiday	6b	24 m.	
05.	Tamara	5a	14 m.	
06.	Kryptikos	6c	10 m.	
07.	Verena	5a	14 m.	
08.	via SCKC	6a	26 m.	
09.	Mythos	5b+	18 m.	
10.	Amstel	5c	18 m.	

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
11.	51	5a	19 m.	
12.	Nine Dragons	5b+	28 m.	
13.	Come On	5c+	22 m.	





# PANORAMA - KATAFYKI MULTI PITCH ROUTES

### 01. ANSWER

Pitches: 3 Grade: V Lenght: 90 m. Style: Trad

L1 V L2 IV+ L3 V-

### 02. HEROES

Pitches: 2 Grade: 6a+ Lenght: 60 m. Style: Sport

**L1** 6a+ **L2** 6a

#### 03. THE RED EMPIRE

Pitches: 5 Grade: 7c+ Lenght: 125 m. Style: Sport

**L1** 6a+ **L2** 6c **L3** 7c+ **L4** 5b **L5** 5b

### 04. ZORRO

Pitches: 6 Grade: 6b Lenght: 150 m. Style: Sport

**L1** 5b **L2** 6b **L3** 5c **L4** 6a **L5** 5a **L6** 4c

### 05. SUE'S PARTY

Pitches: 3 Grade: IV+ Lenght: 145 m. Style: Trad

L1 IV L2 IV+ L3 IV+ L4 IV

### 06. SUNDAY OUTING

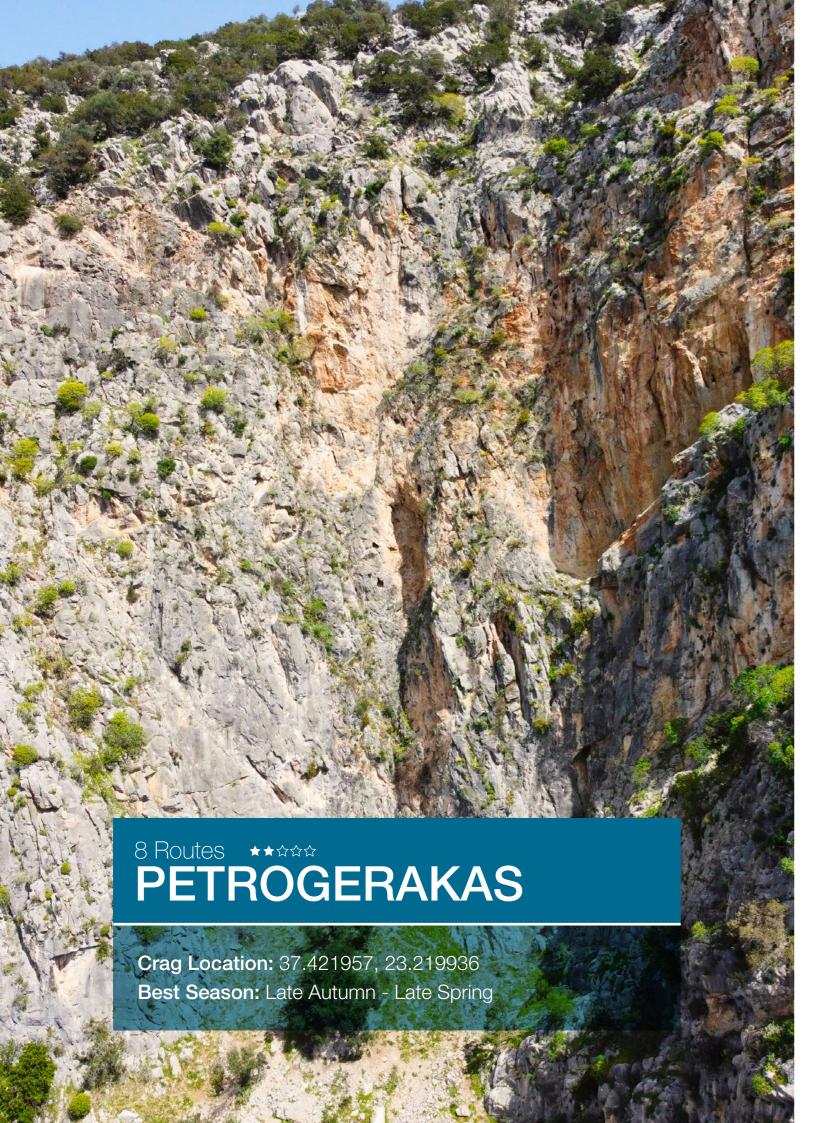
Pitches: 6 Grade: V+ Lenght: 125 m. Style: Trad

L1 IV L2 V- L3 V+ L4 V+ L5 V L6 V-

### 07. PROJECT

Pitches: 3 Grade: VI Meters: T.B.D. Style: Trad

**L1** VI **L2** ? **L3** ?



### **PETROGERAKAS**

8 Routes

Katafyki, Ermionida

Crag location: 37.421957, 23.219936

Season: Late Autumn - Late Spring | Walk in: 35 minutes

### General information

A new sport climbing crag was developed near Ermioni and specifically near the already well established climbing crag Katafyki.

The crag was developed and equipped in early spring 2022 by Vertical Art Greece with main equipper K. Grafanakis and with a kind contribution of the local climbing community, Climb Ermionida.

The rock consists of grey-brown and red lime-

stone of very good quality but due to the fact the crag is newly developed, the rock on some routes might be a bit sharp. In total there are 8 routes for all types of climbing, but was mainly developed for climbers taking their first steps on the vertical walls.

Best seasons to visit the Petrogerakas Crag is from late Autumn till late Spring.

Grades 5a to 6b+.

#### In a Nutshell

**Exposure:** South / South West

Best Season: Late Autumn - late spring

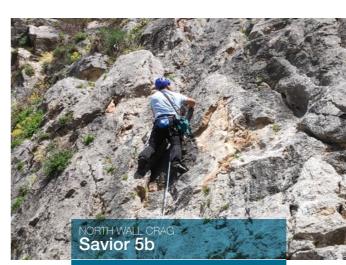
Sun: From 13.00 up to sunset Walk in: 35 minutes (steep hike)

Water: None

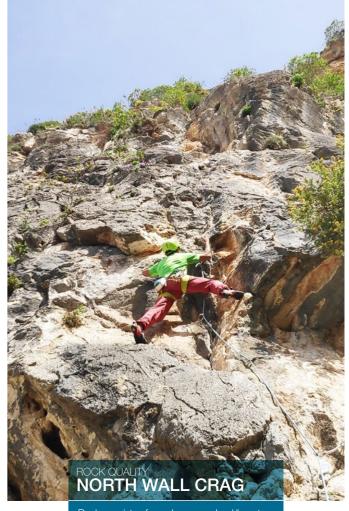
Family Friendly: No Pet Friendly: No

Camping: Katafyki Gorge

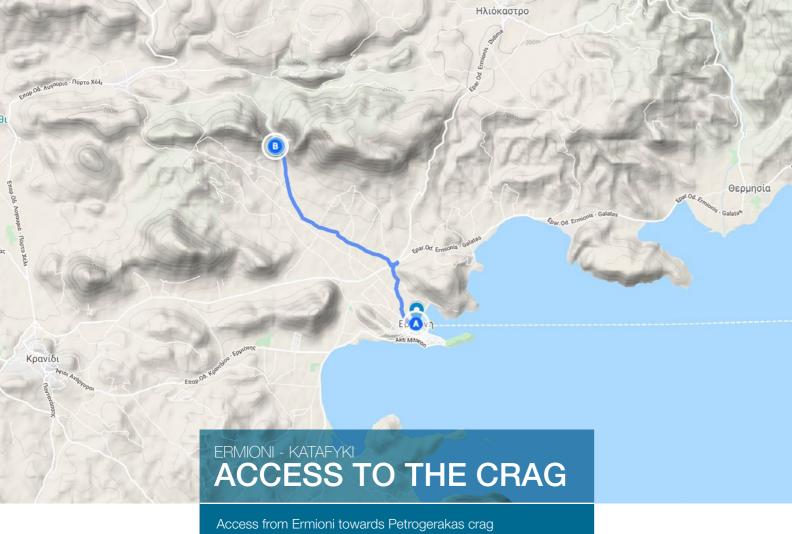
Gear: 60 m. rope, 14 quickdraws Equipped by: K. Grafanakis



Climber: D. Nakos



Rock consists of grey-brown and red limestone



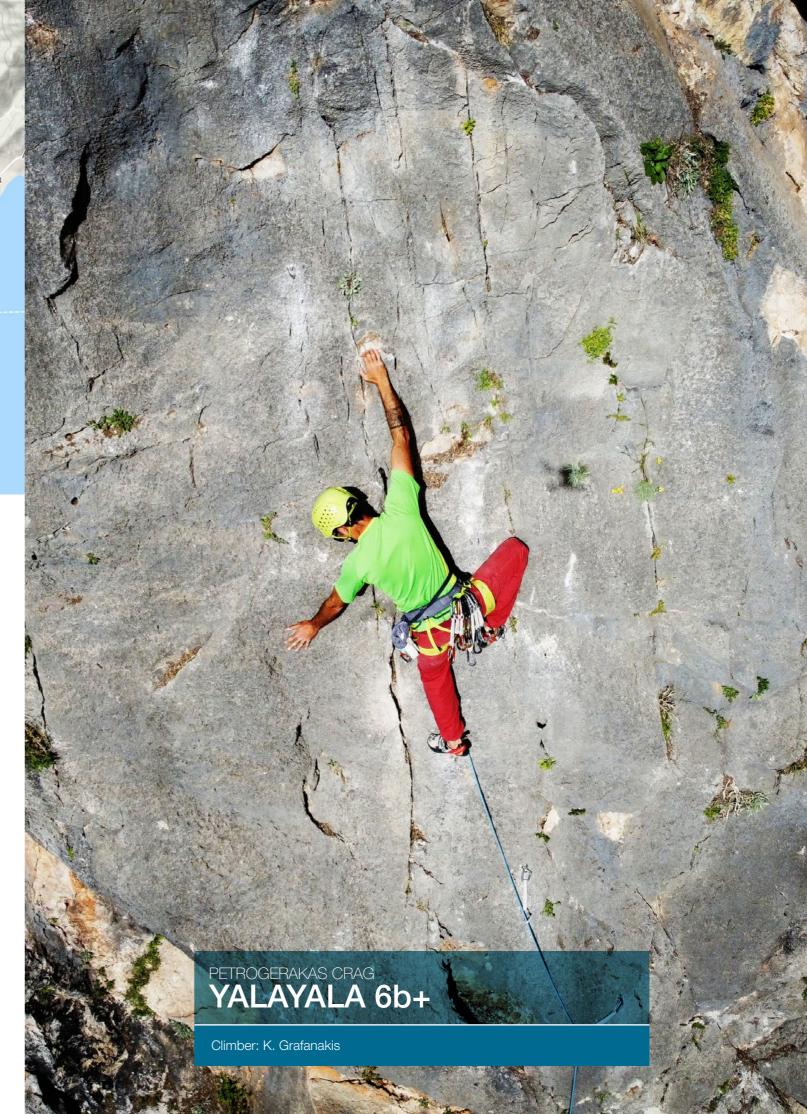
Approaching **Kranidi** from the north, you will come across an intersection. Follow the signs to **Ermioni** and drive along the long straight section until you reach an inconspicuous stone chapel on your left and a small sign towards **Katafyki Gorge** (oriented towards the opposite direction so it's easy to miss!). Take a hard left and follow

the tight tarmac road for about 3 km. until you come to dirt road with a sign pointing to Katafyki to the west. From Katafyki parking spot, follow the trail that leads to Petrogerakas crag.

Once on the trail, follow the red signs.

Attention: the trail is very steep, though the approach hike is not very difficult.











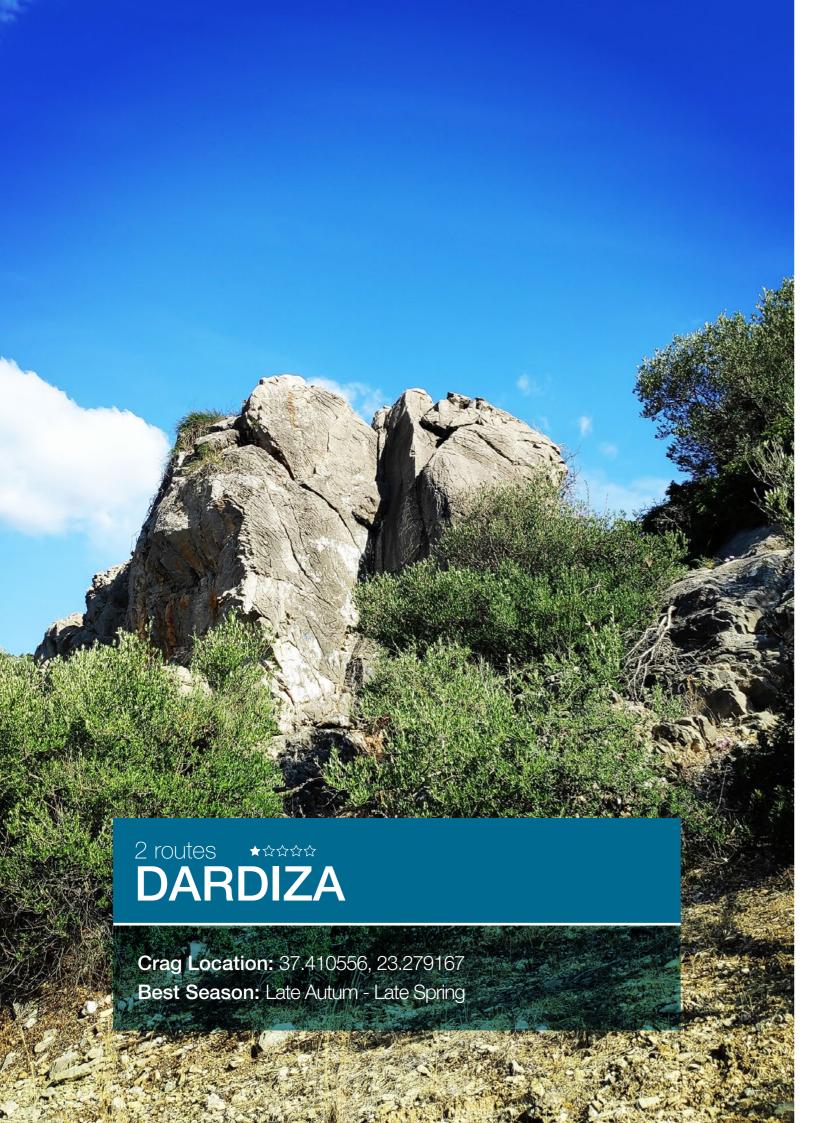
Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
Mud Bath	5a	20 m.	
Ylagiali	6a	24 m.	
Yalayala	6b+	25 m.	
Pollar Star	6b	24 m.	
BBQ	6a+	19 m.	
Savior	5b	20 m.	
Alzheimer	5c	22 m.	
Goats' Path	6a+	30 m.	
	Mud Bath Ylagiali Yalayala Pollar Star BBQ Savior Alzheimer	Mud Bath 5a Ylagiali 6a Yalayala 6b+ Pollar Star 6b BBQ 6a+ Savior 5b Alzheimer 5c	Mud Bath       5a       20 m.         Ylagiali       6a       24 m.         Yalayala       6b+       25 m.         Pollar Star       6b       24 m.         BBQ       6a+       19 m.         Savior       5b       20 m.         Alzheimer       5c       22 m.

### Good to know

Petrogerakas crag is located on the top of the wall northern of the main crag of Katafyki.

In order to reach the crag you have to hike for about 30-40 minutes on a steep terrain and therefore is advised to use walking sticks for the uphill, but mainly for the return and descent from the crag.





### **DARDIZA**

2 Routes

★☆☆☆☆

Dardiza, Ermionida

**Crag location:** 37.410556, 23.279167

Season: Late Autumn - Late Spring | Walk in: 2 minutes

### General information

This is a tiny crag bolted by **Hans** and **Jeannette Weninger** and could also be considered a good location for bouldering.

On the south face of the rock, there are two routes The (George and Filia). The rest of the rock remains

(George and Filia). The rest of the rock remains unexploited for the time being.

While the south-east face of this tiny crag offers solid rock quality, its south-west face has some loose rocks.

**Dardiza crag** is recommended mainly for longterm visitors in the area who have already explored the other crags.

The access is short and easy and the views from the crag are simply stunning.

#### In a Nutshell

**Exposure:** South - South/East

Best Season: Late Autumn - Late Spring

Sun: 09.00 to sunset Walk in: 2 minutes

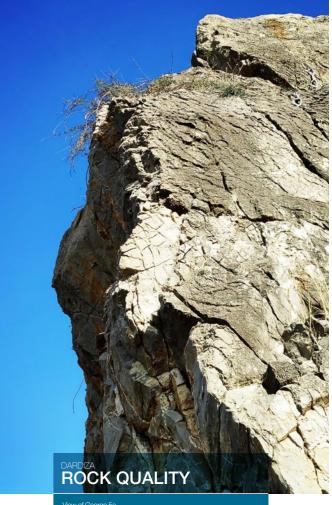
Water: None

Family Friendly: Yes
Pet Friendly: Yes

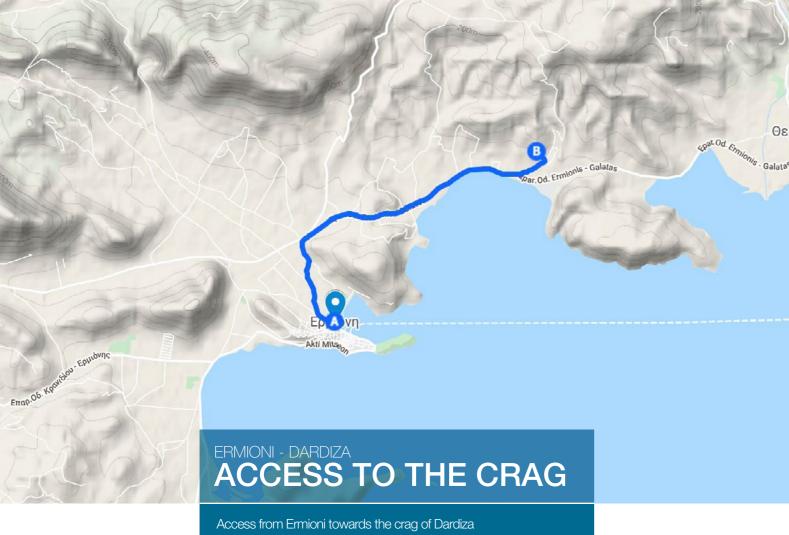
Camping: Dardiza or Thermisia beach Gear: 60 m. rope, 4 quickdraws

Equipped by: H. Weninger, J. Weninger





iew of George 5a



Driving, from Ermioni towards Galatas along the coastal road, you will come across **Dardiza** beach in **5 km**.

The cliff is not particularly visible from the road and lies to the north, just above the last houses on the hill.

You can park at the end of the paved road near a large white water tank.

Alternatively, if you wish to keep your approach to a minimum, follow the dirt road up to the following coordinates: **37.410542**, **23.278764** 







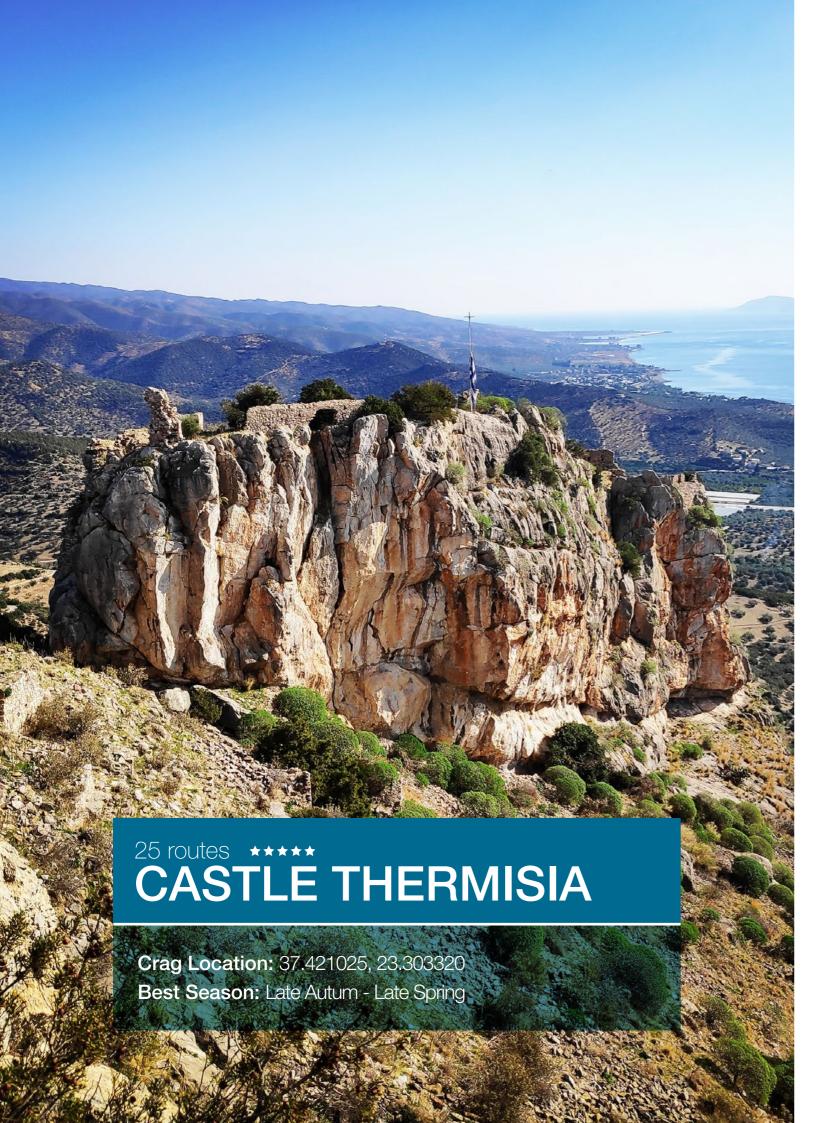
#	Name	Grade M.	<b>√</b>
01.	George	5a 10 m.	
02.	Filia	5a 10 m.	

### Good to know

This climbing crag is very small and actually it could be ideal for some bouldering instead of sport climbing.

Nevertheless, if you really wish to enjoy some easy sport climbing routes or perhaps some short trad climbing, **Dardiza crag** offers easy access and magnificent view towards the islands of **Hydra** and **Dokos**.





### CASTLE THERMISIA

25 Routes \*\*\*\* Thermisia, Ermionida

**Crag location:** 37.421025, 23.303320

Season: Late Autumn - Late Spring | Walk in: 10 minutes

### General information

The Castle of Thermisia appears in the written sources, as Trémis, for the first time in 1347, in the will of Gautier II de Brienne, Count of Lecce, de jure Duke of Athens, and de facto Lord of Argos and Nauplia. Surprisingly the castle is not referenced in an otherwise comprehensive list of frankish castles in Greece dating from 1377.

It perks atop an imposing cliff overlooking the coast and the village of **Thermisia**.

Close inspection of the rock reveals an even more daunting prospect than a first glance might suggest. Big, red, bulging and holdless seems to sum it up.

This is actually a great place to visit with a super view over the coast, a ruined castle to explore and a real classic line, **New Order**, which takes you up an unfeasibly overhanging wall at only 6a+.

The cliff is floodlit during the summer months and this would give a superb photo opportunity!

#### In a Nutshell

Exposure: South - South/West

Best Season: Late Autumn - Late Spring

Sun: From 10.00 to sunset

Walk in: 7-15 minutes (depending the sector)

Water: None

Family Friendly: No Pet Friendly: Yes

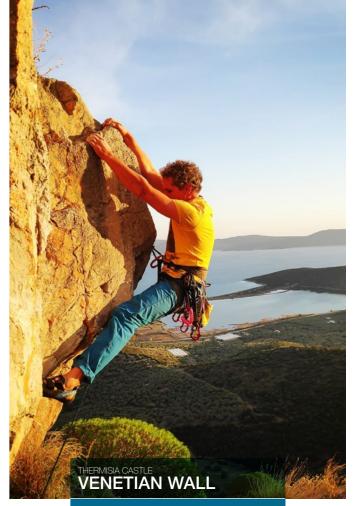
**Camping:** At the parking area **Gear:** 70 m. rope, 14 quickdraws

**Equipped by:** J. Titt, I. Zaczek, Vertical Art Greece,

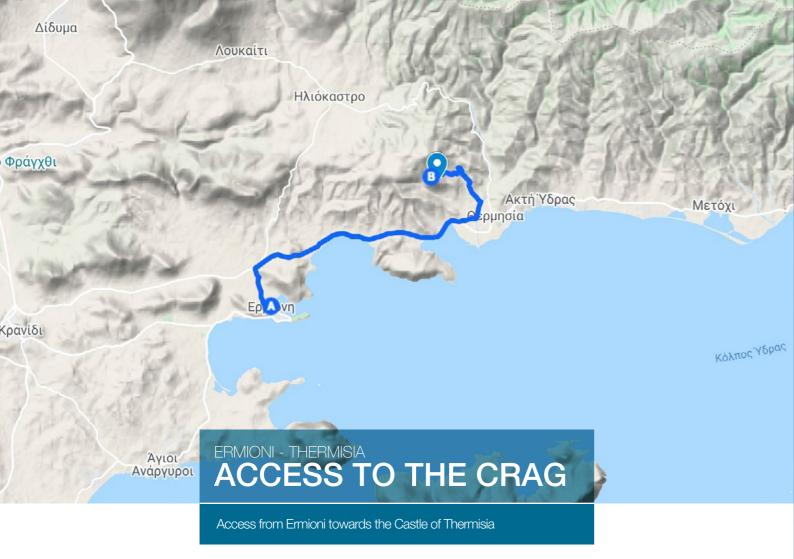
C. Vrohidis, C. Tsoutsias, Climb Ermionida



Access from Ermioni towards the Castle of Thermisia



w towards the island of Hydra and Dokos island



Driving from **Ermioni towards Galatas** along the coastal road, you will come across the village of Thermisia. The cliff lies above you.

Take a turn left as you approach the village, right before a sign to your right towards Hydra's Wave Camping.

Follow the tarmac road to the castle's outskirts.







SECTOR

### **LEON'S WALL**

Routes: 5

Grades: 6c+ up to 8c+

Walk in: 7 minutes

SECTOR

### **ORIAS' WALL**

Routes: 4

Grades: 5c up to 6c

Walk in: 12 minutes

SECTOR

### **VENETIAN WALL**

Routes: 10

Grades: 5a up to 7a Walk in: 10 minutes

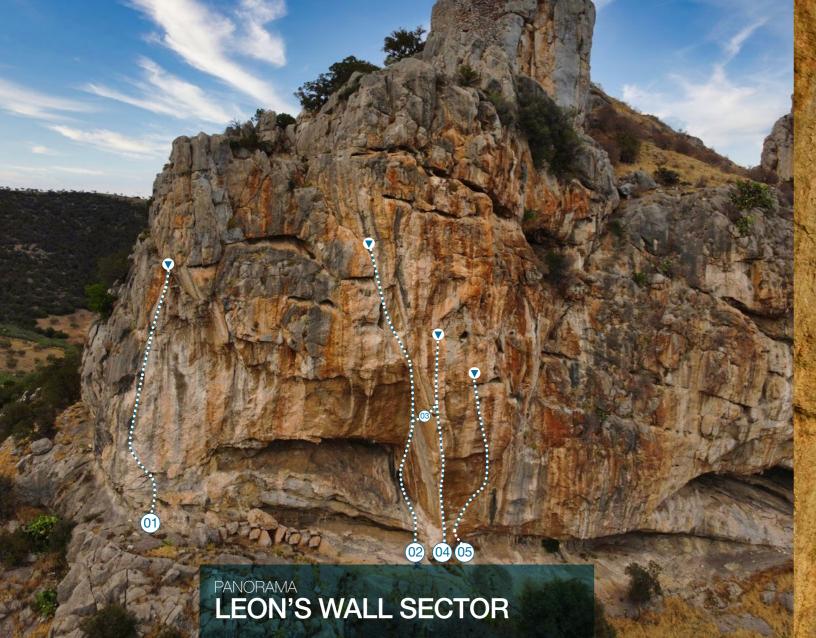
SECTOR

### **BYZANTINE WALL**

Routes: 6

Grades: 6a up to 7c

Walk in: 15 minutes



#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Orias Ridge	6c+	28 m.	
02.	Geoffroi Villehardouin	8b?	30 m.	
03.	Count Mosertardos	8a?	26 m.	
04.	Careless Corsair	8c+?	25 m.	
05.	De La Roche	8c+?	22 m.	

### Good to know

As of **September 2022**, all routes -besides "**Orias Ridge**"-in this sector remain unclimbed and wait for their first ascent.

Should you send these routes, feel free to get in touch with **Olympus Mountaineering** in order to fully define the grade and the first ascent.

Get in touch by clicking here.





#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Venetian Wall	6a+	16 m.	
02.	Shadow Corner	6a	16 m.	
03.	The Leading Edge	6c	14 m.	
04.	The Leading Edge (direct)	7a	14 m.	
05.	In the Red Corner	6a	18 m.	
06.	The Cutting Edge	7a	24 m.	
07.	Bombastic	6a+	25 m.	
08.	Pinnacle Crack	5a	15 m.	
09.	Murder Move	7a	15 m.	
10.	New Order	6a+	16 m.	
11.	Corner	6a	24 m.	

### <u>Highlights</u>

The **Leading Edge** is a highly recommended route that offers great climbing in two variations.

The **direct** (7a) and the **indirect** (6c) both provide great moves along the edge of the wall that leads directly up to the castle.

This route also, offers a great frame for spectacular photos to share with your friends.





#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Power of Rock	6c	18 m.	
02.	Free Fall	6a+	18 m.	
03.	Orias Sacrifice	6b	18 m.	
04.	Lizard the Wizard	5c	18 m.	

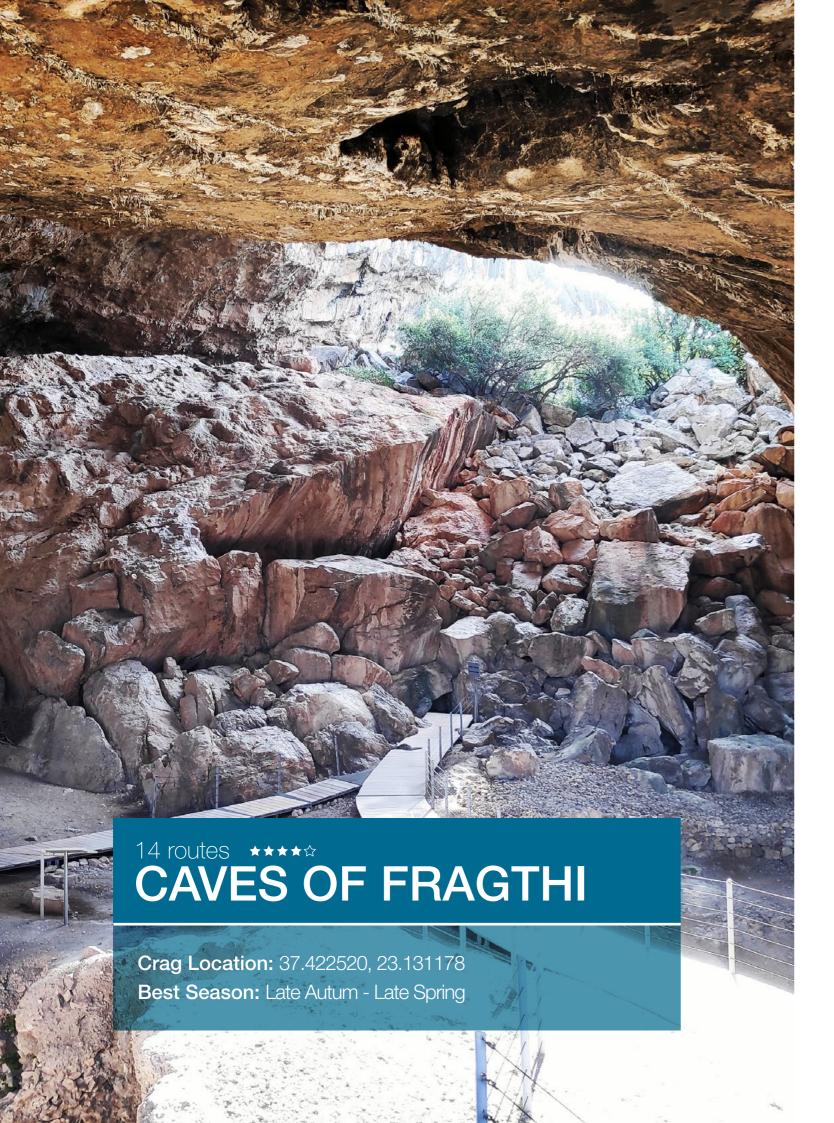
### Good to know

Orias' Wall is the second sector established at Castle Thermisia crag and the first sector after Jim Titt era.

Althought there are only 4 routes on this sector, all of them are top notch with great view. In addition, all routes in this sector are equipped in modern sport climbing style, thus, with minimum runouts.

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Titoularios	7b	16 m.	
02.	Gender Bender	7c	18 m.	
03.	A Bolt Too Far	7a	20 m.	
04.	Careless Corsair	6a	14 m.	
05.	Careless Corsair ext.	7c	30 m.	
06.	Leviathan	6b+	16 m.	





### CAVES OF FRAGTHI

14 Routes

Koilada, Ermionida

**Crag location:** 37.422520, 23.131178

Season: Late Autumn - Late Spring | Walk in: 20 minutes

### **General information**

An enormous series of caverns just above the sea, with large gaping openings allowing enough light to climb by. At night the area, as a renown archaeological site, is well-lit, giving a superb climbing experience. Apart from being worth a visit in its own right, some of the climbing here is outstanding.

Of course, on rainy days, this is the place to be, with some entertaining and unique climbing into the 20 m. deep escarpments down to the very own bowels of the cavern.

The potential for enormous roof climbs is obvious but hardly tapped. Karsten Oelze has shown the way with his recent efforts, but there is plenty more to do. Outside the cave, on the cliffs above the beach, there are 5 routes which offer some good sport climbing in the lower grades.

The highlight of a visit to the Caves of Fragthi is, without a doubt, the climbing experience in the third cavern.

#### In a Nutshell

Exposure: South - South/East

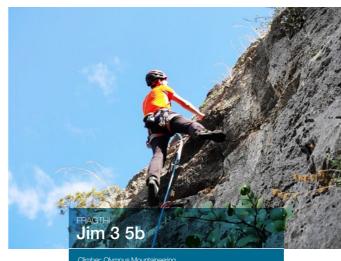
Best Season: Late Autumn - Late Spring Sun: Beach sector from 15.00 to sunset

Walk in: 20 minutes

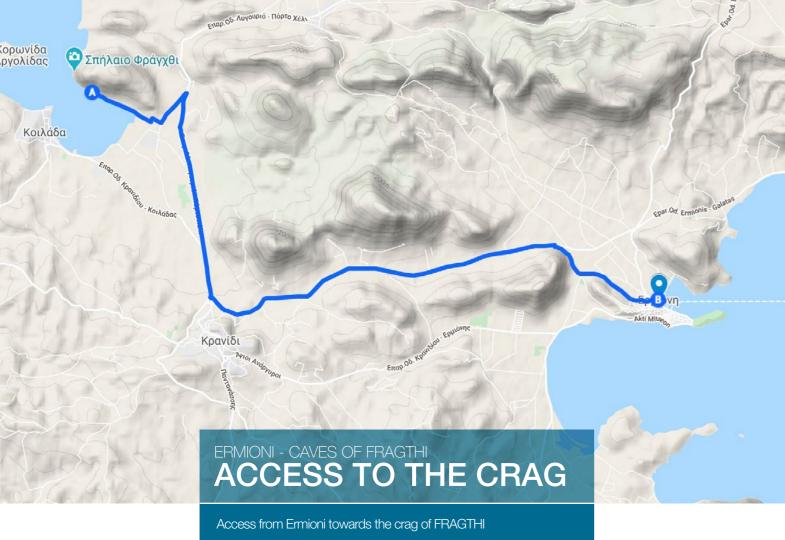
Water: None

Family Friendly: No Pet Friendly: No

Camping: Lambayanna beach Gear: 60 m. rope, 14 quickdraws Equipped by: J. Titt, K. Oelze







Coming from **Corinth towards Ermioni/Kranidi**, take a right turn after the first petrol station in the village of Fourni, and follow the road for 3,6 km. to the sea. Left, then right, takes you around the chapel to the **beach of Lambayanna**.

Park here, and walk along the marked coast-path to the caves.

This beach is is hardly frequented therefore one could eventually stay overnight. However, it is important to have food and water supplies, because there are no such options in the nearby area.

After parking the car, follow the trail tfrom the beach to in the caves of Fragthi.







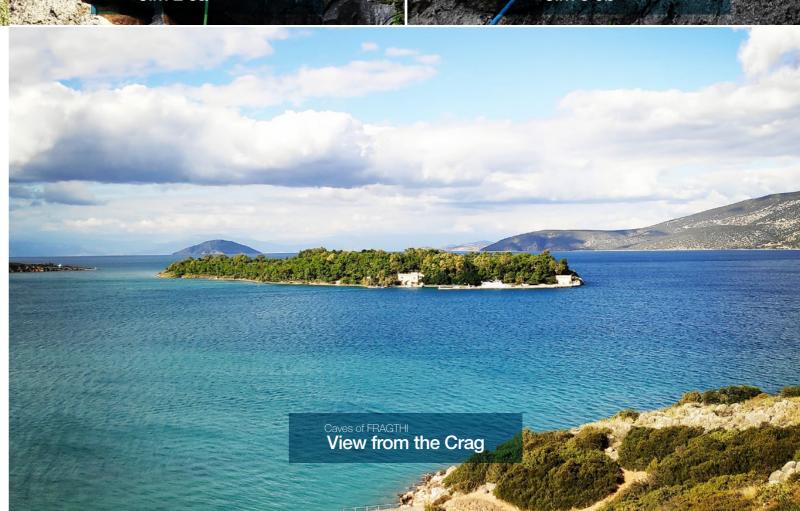
#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Jim 1	4c	16 m.	
02.	Jim 2	5a	16 m.	
03.	Jim 3	5b	16 m.	
04.	Hot	5b+	15 m.	
05.	Hotter	5c	15 m.	

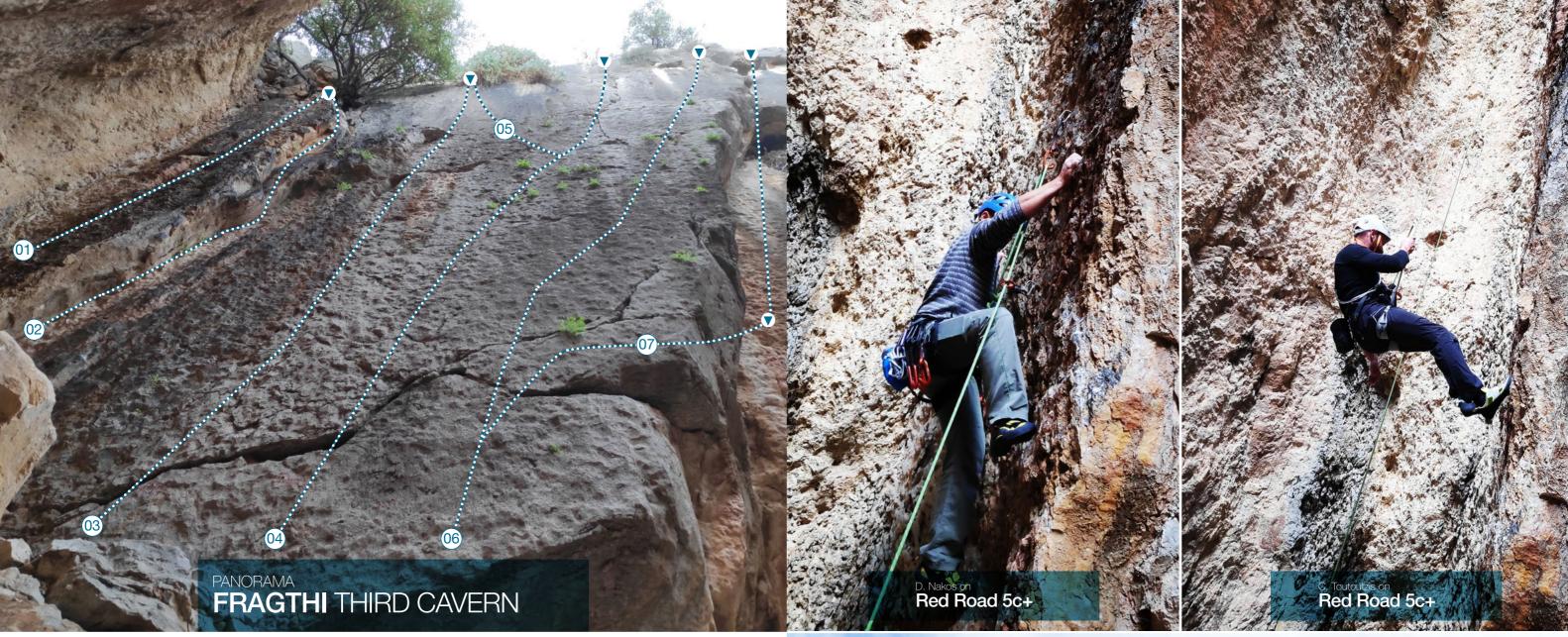
### Good to know

This sector is ideal during cold winter afternoons for some easy training.

In addition, the **Fragthi Beach Sector**, is also suitable for some trad climbing with stunning views towards **Mt. Parnon** and **Leonidio**.

Reaching the crag requires some easy scrambling, but might be a bit difficult for kids.





#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Red Road	5c+	12 m.	
02.	Special	6a+	14 m.	
03.	Stone Temple Pilots	7a+	22 m.	
04.	Christmas day at Workhouse	<b>e</b> 6a+	22 m.	
05.	Magic Way	6a+	20 m.	
06.	Wild Frontier	6b	22 m.	
07.	Mission Impossible	6b+	24 m.	
08.	Once We Were Trees	6c+	28 m.	
09.	Gandalf	6b	28 m.	

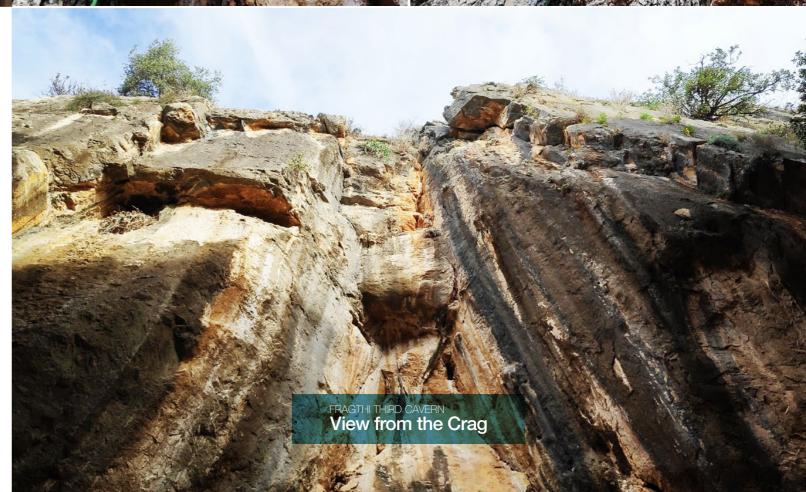
## Good to know

For Mission Impossible, start tied to both ends of the (60 m.) rope, and use one strand in the first 4 bolts.

Upon reaching the start of the slab, until from this- and climb the rest using the other strand.

This is to reduce the rope drag, so recovering the quickdraws is no problem.

tip by Jim Titt





### PILLARS OF THE WIND

Iliokastro, Ermionida 52 Routes

**Crag location:** 37.477762, 23.286695 Season: All year | Walk in: 10 minutes

### **General information**

Pillars of the Wind, is a limestone inclusion in an area of volcanic activity and is like a miniature mountain peak with lots of shattered pinnacles.

From above, it doesn't seem to offer much but quality climbing happens on the east and south sides. Some of the rock at the top can be loose but otherwise is excellent.

Be extra careful if you happen to stray off route. A crag with a friendlier ambience than most, and wonderful views, a deservedly popular venue for family groups as it is very child-friendly with a special top-rope area for the kids.



Exposure: South - South/West

Best Season: All year Sun: From 12.00 to sunset

Walk in: 10 minutes

Water: Yes

Family Friendly: Yes Pet Friendly: Yes

Camping: At the parking area Gear: 60 m. rope, 14 quickdraws

Equipped by: J. Titt, I. Zaczek, H. Weninger

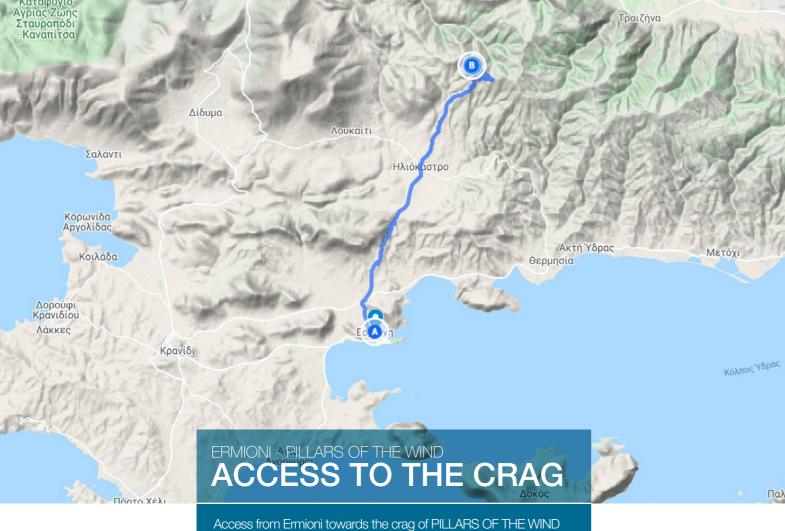






52 routes \*\*\*\*
PILLARS OF THE WIND

Best Season: All year

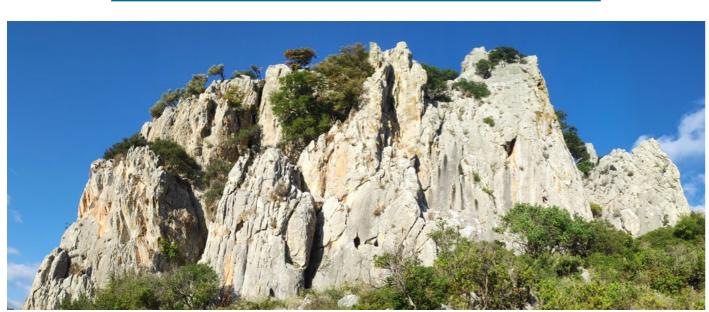


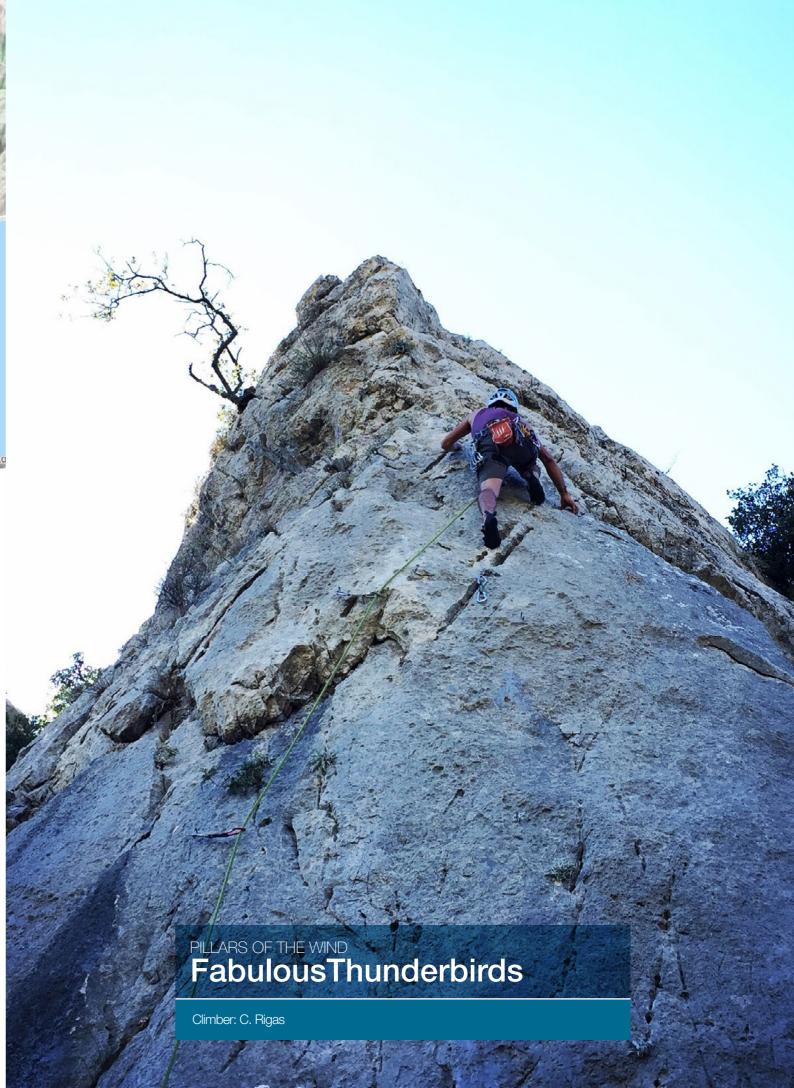
From Iliokastro, head north and take a right turn just before the village, towards Thermisia.

(In Greek it starts with a theta). After 200 m. the road goes sharp right on a bend. Go straight and you will see the crag on your distant left. Keep going for about 6 km. The road alternates between tarmac and dirt. At some point, it will seem like

you left the crag behind, but keep going up towards the windmills. At the col take a left u-turn towards the crag.

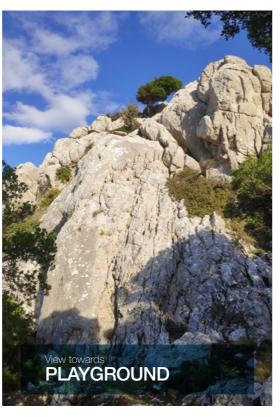
Move up a bit more through the windmills and you will eventually be able to park just below, with the crag below, to your left. Walk down the ridge to the crag.



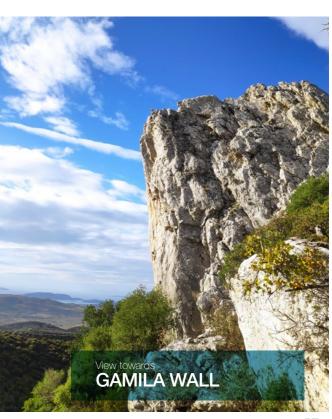




#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Fire Starter	5b+	15 m.	
02.	Guy Fawkes	5c+	15 m.	
03.	Singleton	5c+	15 m.	
04.	Wednesday Afternoon	5b+	20 m.	
05.	Wait I Must Piss	5c	29 m.	
06.	Joyride	6a	28 m.	
07.	Zoom	6b	28 m.	
08.	Do It On Sunday	6b+	29 m.	
09.	Left Overs	5a	29 m.	
10.	Another Day	5c	29 m.	



#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Fabulous Thunderbir	<b>ds</b> 5c	18 m.	
02.	FB Direct	6b	18 m.	
03.	Independence Da	y 5b+	18 m.	





#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Riders On The Stom	n 8a	30 m.	

### Good to know

Below and opposite the **South Wall** area there is a shattered cliff and on the other side of this (down to the left) is an overhanging wall with **Riders On The Storm**-a free project by **Karsten Oelze**.

This overhanging wall, the **Gamila Wall**, is perfect for further development on the higher grade.

If you wish to try and free some new routes on this wall, feel free to get in touch with us so we can include them on this guide.

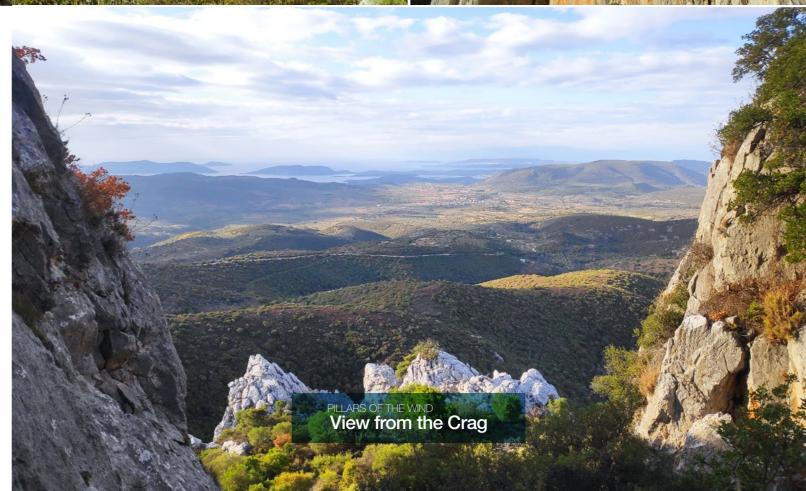
#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>✓</b>
01.	Waltzing Matilda	6b	12 m.	
02.	Dancing With Snakes	<b>s</b> 5c	13 m.	
03.	Toto	5a	14 m.	
04.	Deviant	6a+	18 m.	
05.	Supercrack	6a	19 m.	
06.	Warm Up	5b	18 m.	
07.	Einfach	4b	20 m.	
08.	Cold Hand	5b	20 m.	
09.	The Wall	6a+	20 m.	
10.	Fingerpull	6a+	20 m.	

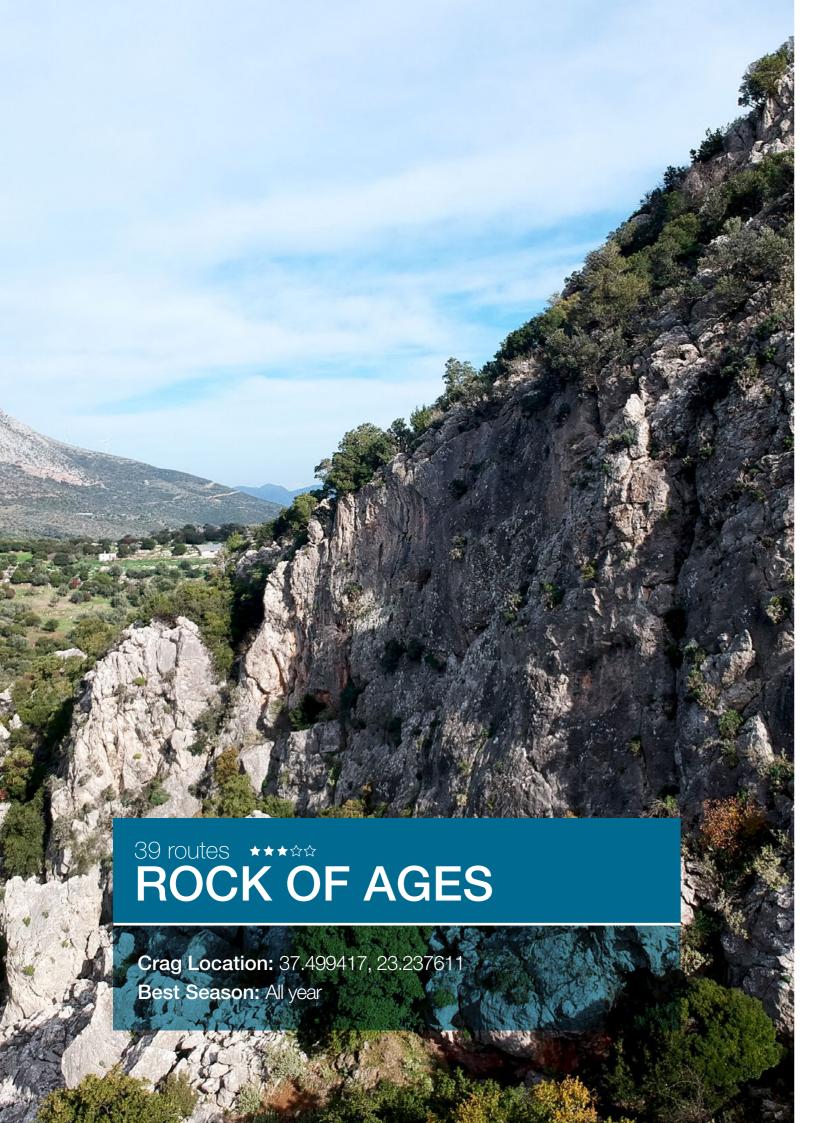
#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>✓</b>
11.	Sunshine Arete	4c	18 m.	
12.	Sunshine Arete Direc	t 5c	18 m.	
13.	Wildwechsel	5a	15 m.	
14.	Kindermund	3	15 m.	
15.	Kliener Bär	4b	15 m.	
16.	Grosser Bär	5b	18 m.	
17.	Holzfaller Suppe	6a+	24 m.	
18.	Pete's Route	5c	26 m.	



#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Merlin	5b	10 m.	
02.	Asterix	4c	10 m.	
03.	Tombstone	4c	14 m.	
04.	Menhir	6c	18 m.	
05.	Obelix	6a	18 m.	
06.	Wizard	5c	18 m.	
07.	Flankey	5b	18 m.	
08.	Sharkey	5a+	18 m.	
09.	Minnie	4b	20 m.	
10.	Goofy	4a	20 m.	

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
11.	The Slab	5c	18 m.	
12.	Snoopy	3	16 m.	
13.	Crackerjack	4b	22 m.	
14.	Sesame St	5b	20 m.	
15.	Steep	6a	20 m.	
16.	Steeper	6a	20 m.	
17.	Fingernail	6a	18 m.	
18.	Fingertip	6a+	18 m.	
19.	Pullover	5c+	14 m.	
20.	Holly Tree Corner	5b	16 m.	





### **ROCK OF AGES**

39 Routes

★★★☆☆

Rado, Ermionida

Crag location: 37.499417, 23.237611 Season: All year | Walk in: 10 minutes

### **General** information

Rock of Ages, is a nice little cliff in an idyllic setting and highly recommended for those who are not only interested in pushing up their grades but also in their surroundings. A small ravine with lush vegetation, good rock and varied climbing offer a very pleasant day out.

**Rock of Ages** was mainly developed and bolted by the legendary climber and route setter **Jim Titt** and **I. Zaczek**. All routes are rather demanding and almost on all routes come with runouts.

Thus, the **Rock of Ages** is mainly for experienced climbers that feel comfortable with onsighting **6a+/6b**.

The highlights of **Rock of Ages** include the spectacular and photogenic overhanging **Mr Cool at 5c+** and the weird **Pull of the Sun at 6b**, which climbs up inside the cleft splitting the cliff face.

Plenty of potential on this undeveloped rock make it well worth a visit.

#### In a Nutshell

Exposure: South - South/West

Best Season: All year Sun: From 12.00 to sunset Walk in: 10 minutes

Water: Yes

Family Friendly: No Pet Friendly: Yes

**Camping:** At the parking lot **Gear:** 70 m. rope, 14 quickdraws

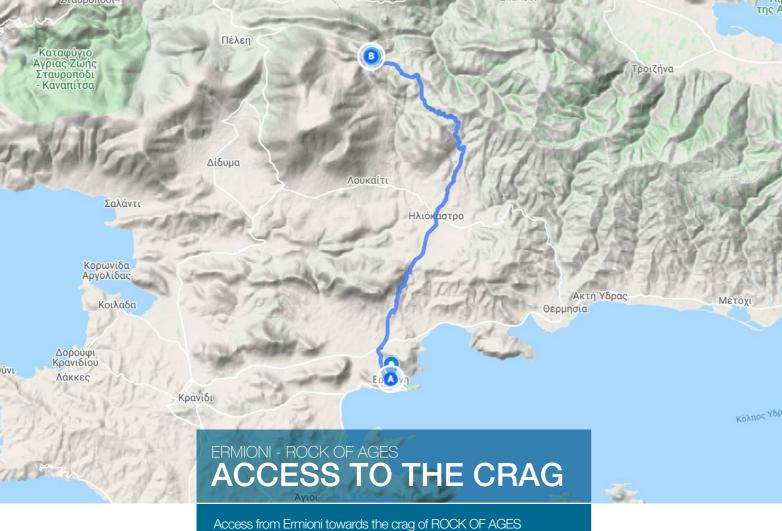
Equipped by: J. Titt, I. Zaczek, H. Weninger







ew of Mr. Cool 5c+



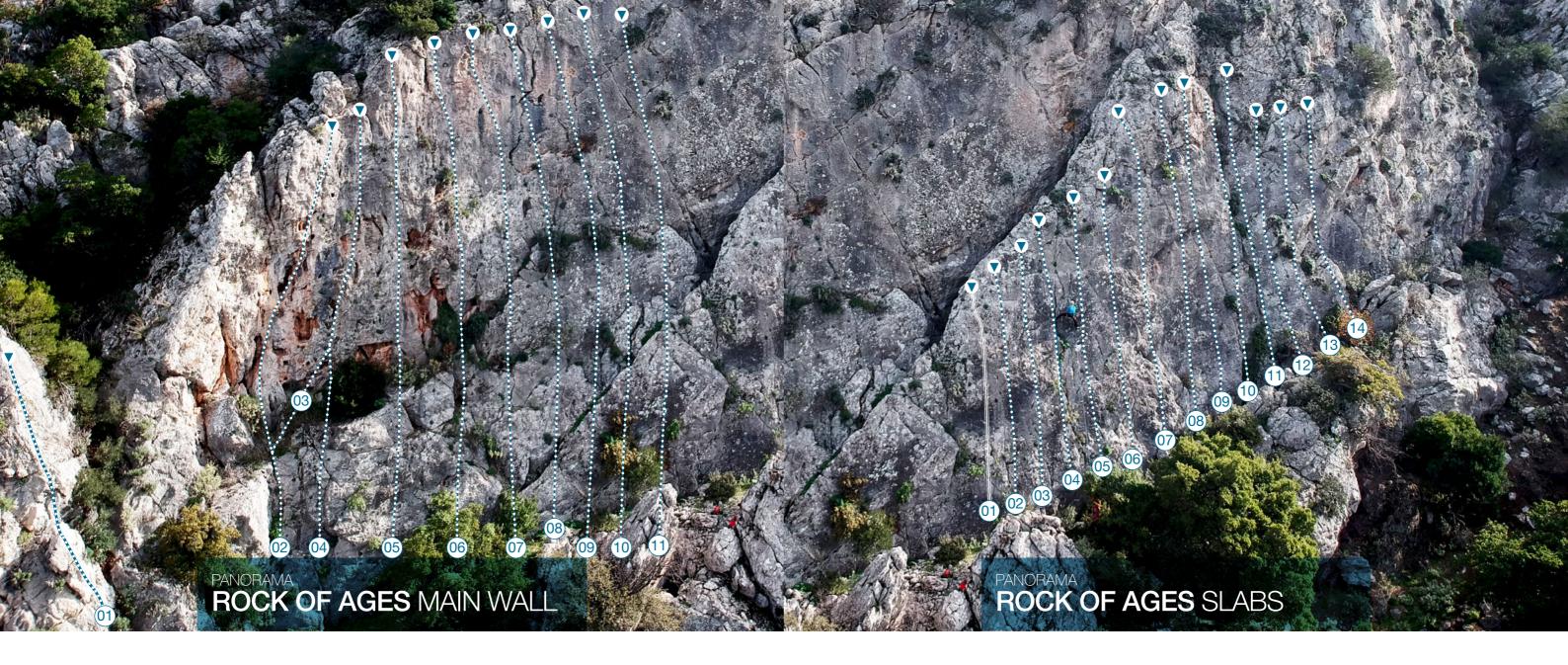
Approaching from **Ermioni**, turn right on the saddle before **Didima** (Sign: Iliokastro). After 4,4 km, shortly before reaching a small church on the right side, turn left. Continue on this tarmac road for 2,8 km. Then go right on a small tarmac road for 1,9 km (the last 100 m. are on gravel). Turn left on concrete terrain and follow the road downwards.

Keep driving for another 800 m. towards a wide rock formation. Just before you reach it turn right and follow the road as it coils up to the saddle.

Turn left and follow this road for **about 750 m.** until you see the small ravine on the left. Park a few meters after the valley.







#	Name	Grade	M. <b>✓</b>
01.	Pams Arete	5a	25 m.
02.	Mr. Cool	5c+	29 m.
03.	Dreamtime	5c+	28 m.
04.	Dreamtime DT	6a	27 m.
05.	Woody	6a	29 m.
06.	The Rising	6a	28 m.
07.	Eos	6a+	28 m.
08.	Hydra	6a	29 m.
09.	Furioso	6b	29 m.
10.	Stoned	6b	29 m.
11.	Gammel Hans	6c+	29 m.

## **Highlights**

One of the few cliffs in Argolis that offers easy tufa climbs with the continuously overhanging **Mr Cool** at 5c+ being one the highlights, albeit a rather strenous one!

Other highly enjoyable, if rather unusual, routes include **Dance With Monsters** and the weird **Pull Of The Sun,** which climbs up inside the cleft splitting the cliffa real adventure.

All routes offer minimum bolting, so be ready for some run outs.

tip by Jim Titt

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Pull of the Sun	6b	15 m.	
02.	Maxx	5c	17 m.	
03.	Hail	5b+	18 m.	
04.	Showtime	5b+	17 m.	
05.	Quetschi	6a+	19 m.	
06.	Simple Start	5b+	18 m.	
07.	Easy mover	5b+	22 m.	
08.	Superfine	6a	22 m.	
09.	Teamwork	5c	22 m.	
10.	Quergang	6a+	22 m.	

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>✓</b>
11.	150%	5c	24 m.	
12.	Hope	6a+	24 m.	
13.	Roof	6a+	22 m.	
14.	Fridge	5b+	22 m.	

### **Good to know**

**Pull of the Sun** (6a+) starts inside the slab. So you wil first need to abseil down behind the slab in order to climb this wicked route.

From the dark depths of the slab to the Sun!



#	Name	Grade	M. <b>✓</b>
01.	Нарру	5a	8 m.
02.	Grampy	5b	8 m.
03.	Bashful	6c	8 m.
04.	Sneezy	6b+	8 m.
05.	Dopy	7a	8 m.
06.	Dozy	6b	8 m.
07.	Doc	7a	8 m.

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Snow White	5a	10 m.	
02.	Black Witch	5b	15 m.	
03.	Hobbit	6c	12 m.	
04.	Dance w. Monste	ers 6b+	12 m.	
05.	Heave	7a	14 m.	
06.	Fairy Tale	6b	15 m.	
07.	Grab	7a	14 m.	





### **DIDYMA**

67 Routes ★★★★☆ Mt. Didimo, Ermionida

Crag location: 37.475354, 23.2121502 Season: All year | Walk in: 5 minutes

### **General** information

Oros Didimon, or "**Didyma**", is a major crag of Argolis. Excellent access, superb rock, good orientation and magnificent views add up to one of the best sport climbing venues in Greece.

Climbs for every level of ability and perfect access to the top for setting up top ropes. There is also a more technical climbing area, on steep gray walls.

Crag development so far has focused on the first 250 m. of the cliff (sector "summertime"),

producing around **70 routes in the 4th, 5th, 6th** and **7th grades** with potential for several more in the higher grades.

A good family cliff with some beginner routes with some extra bolts on specific routes.

**Didyma crag** is certainly one of the best crags in the Ermionida region.

#### In a Nutshell

Exposure: South - South/West

Best Season: All year Sun: From 08.00 to sunset

Walk in: 5 minutes

Water: Yes

Family Friendly: Yes
Pet Friendly: Yes

**Camping:** At the parking lot **Gear:** 60 m. rope, 14 quickdraws

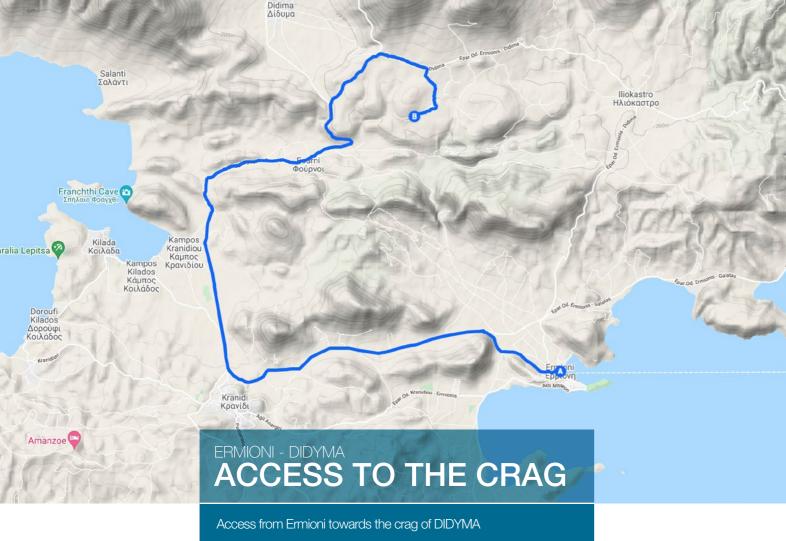
Equipped by: J. Titt, I. Zaczek, K. Oelze,

H. Weninger







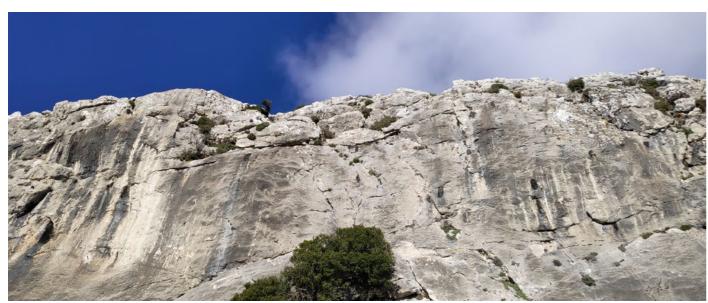


Driving from Ermioni, after about 20 km. (37.500984, 23.190837), turn right on the saddle on the highest passage that leads to Mt. Didimo.

Follow the bumpy tarmac road that will lead you towards the peak of **Mt. Didimo**.

At point **37.476086**, **23.212998** right before the antennas, you can park your car safely.

By now, you should be able to see the rock cairns and a goat trail that will lead you to the crag. The views while approaching the crag are stunning.







#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Huggy Bear	6a	14 m.	
02.	Little Wall	6b	14 m.	
03.	Little Chimney	4b	14 m.	
04.	Jump	6a	14 m.	
05.	Hole	6b	14 m.	
06.	Little Crack	6a+	14 m.	

### Good to know

These are the first routes of **Didyma crag**, that are of medium grade.

These first routes are rather short and the climbing style resembles more to bouldering than anything else.

The rest of the crag offers longer routes, up to 20 meters high and of higher grades up to 8a.

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Ginger	4b	15 m.	
02.	Teen Dream	5c	15 m.	
03.	A Funny Turn	5c	15 m.	
04.	Direct	6a	15 m.	
05.	A Good Crack	5a	15 m.	
06.	Here Comes The Weekend	5a	15 m.	
07.	First Corner	4c	15 m.	
08.	First Arete	4c	15 m.	

### Good to know

The routes First Arete, First Corner, Here Comes the Weekend and A Good Crack are all using extra bolts suitable for beginners and/or kids.

ATTENTION on the loose rock in the middle of the route Here Comes the Weekend. It is a very dangerous large block, so if you climb this route, do not use it.

# DIDIMA MAIN WALL

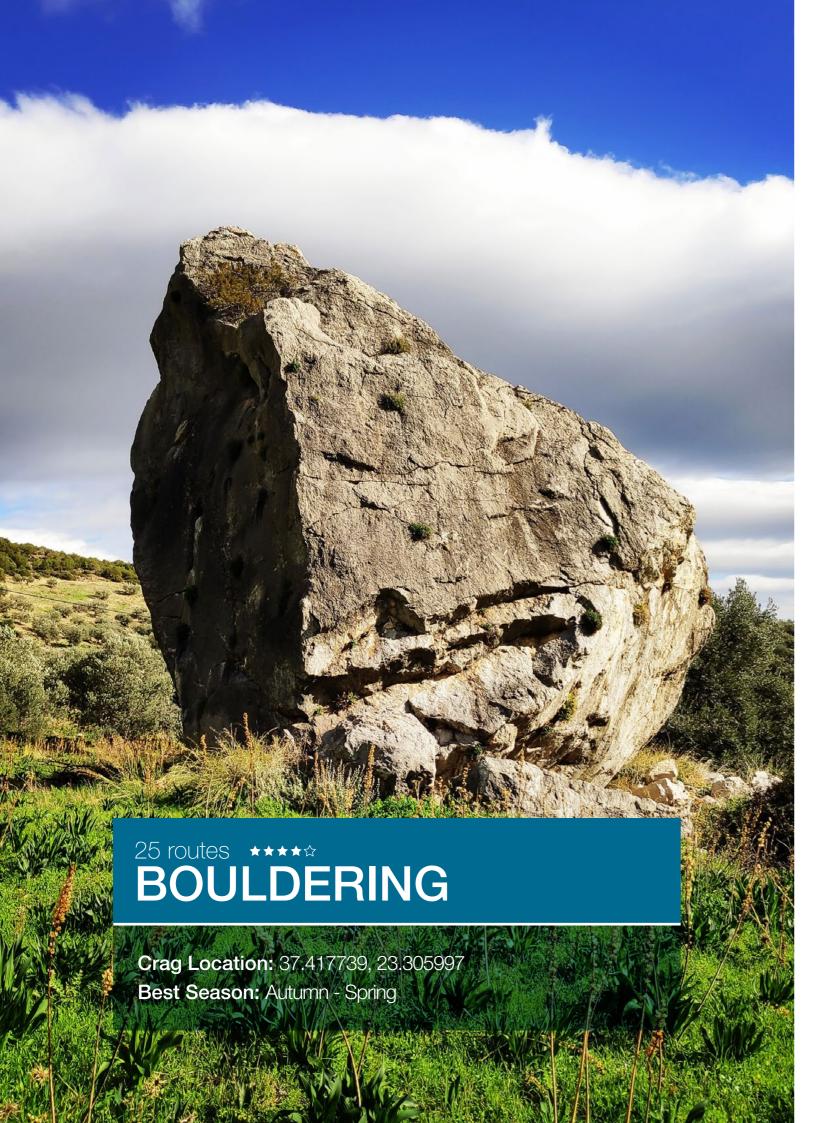
#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
01.	Bad Beer	5b	15 m.	
02.	Drilling In The Rain	5c	15 m.	
03.	Trouble	6a	15 m.	
04.	Fear Of Goats	6a	15 m.	
05.	Teamwork	6a+	15 m.	
06.	J&J	6a+	15 m.	
07.	Powerline	6b	15 m.	
08.	Inge's Fingers	5b+	18 m.	
09.	Cave	6b	18 m.	
10.	Wave	7c	18 m.	
11.	Funhouse	7a	18 m.	
12.	Funtime	5a	18 m.	
13.	Prankster	6b	18 m.	
14.	Free Project	8a	18 m.	
15.	Great White Way	6a	18 m.	
16.	Massive Attack	6c+	18 m.	
17.	Ektonisi	7b+	18 m.	
18.	Black Diamond	7c	18 m.	
19.	Crystal Voyager	7b	18 m.	
20.	The Hots	6c+	18 m.	
21.	Lightning	5c+	18 m.	
22.	Thunder Wall	5c	18 m.	
23.	Cool Move	6a	18 m.	
24.	Nice Suprise	5c	18 m.	
25.	Smile	5a	18 m.	
26.	Thursdays Child	5a	18 m.	
27.	Little Lizard	6b	18 m.	
28.	Sweet Sixty	6b	18 m.	
29.	Children Of Mycena	<b>e</b> 6c	18 m.	
30.	Perfect Acoustics	7c	18 m.	
76				

#	Name	Grade	M.	<b>√</b>
31.	James Jaunt	6b	18 m.	
32.	Wonderhold	5c	18 m.	
33.	Girls Do It Differently	5b	18 m.	
34.	Slant Eyes	5a	18 m.	
35.	Buckshot	8a	20 m.	
36.	Summer Madness	6c+	20 m.	
37.	Spring Thing	7a	20 m.	
38.	Burn	6a	20 m.	
39.	Jills Route	5c+	20 m.	
40.	Sam's Route	5b	20 m.	
41.	Diversion	6a+	10 m.	
42.	Sidewalk	6c	10 m.	
43.	Black Attack	6c+	14 m.	
44.	Big Girls	6a	18 m.	
45.	Elevation	5c	18 m.	
46.	Sun Parade	6a	18 m.	
47.	Tuesday Afternoor	n 5c+	18 m.	
48.	Scorpion	5c	18 m.	
49.	Quicky	6a	20 m.	
50.	Fallen Angel	6b	20 m.	
51.	Pain Is Love	6b+	16 m.	
52.	England	6a	16 m.	
53.	Popeye	6c	14 m.	









### **BOULDERING**

25 Routes ★★★★☆ Thermisia, Ermionida

Crag location: 37.417739, 23.305997 Season: All year | Walk in: 5 minutes

### **General information**

Few hundred meters below the remarkable **Castle Thermisia crag**, there is a field full of olive groves and some magnificent boulders.

There are about **10 major boulders** and several smaller that offer plenty of bouldering opportunities.

The access to the bouldering field is rather easy and the walk-in is less than 5 minutes.

In addition, this bouldering field is right in the middle of the various crags of the area, so you can give it a shot and try some problems or simply take a break from climbing and take a moment to relax, while moving from one crag to another.

The area is **family and pet friendly**, offers great views towards **Hydra** and **Dokos** islands.

#### In a Nutshell

**Exposure:** South

**Best Season:** Autumn - Spring **Sun:** From 10.00 to sunset

Walk in: 2 minutes

Water: No

Family Friendly: Yes
Pet Friendly: Yes

Camping: At the beach of Thermisia

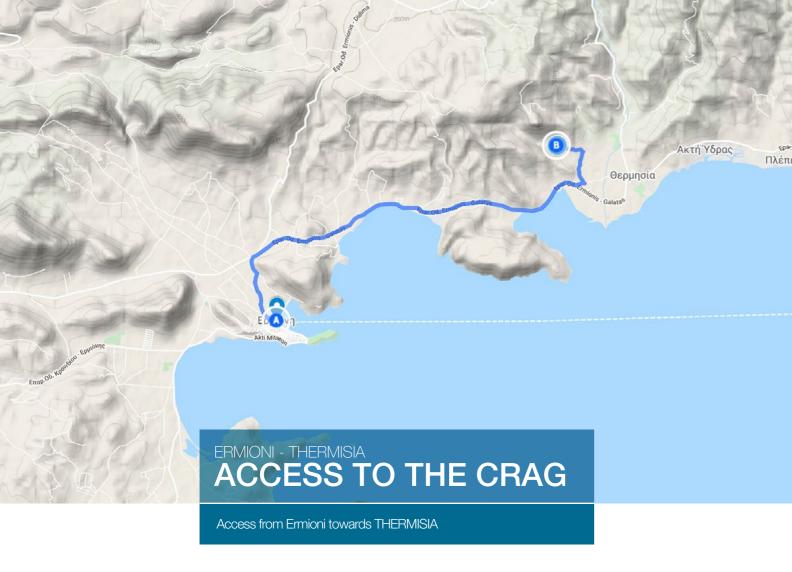
**Gear:** Bouldering mat **Equipped by:** Unknown



Dimber: Olympus Mountaineering



ew towards Dokos island



Driving from **Ermioni towards Galatas** along the coastal road, you will be abe to identify the remarkable rock of **Castle Thermisia** (alt. Lizard Rock).

Right before Thermisia, at point **37.410227**, **23.311890** turn left and on the first side road

turn again left. Follow the paved road until you see a small chapel. At that point (37.416066, 23.313374) turn left again and drive up to the tarmac road.

You can park your car here: **37.417428, 23.307794** 







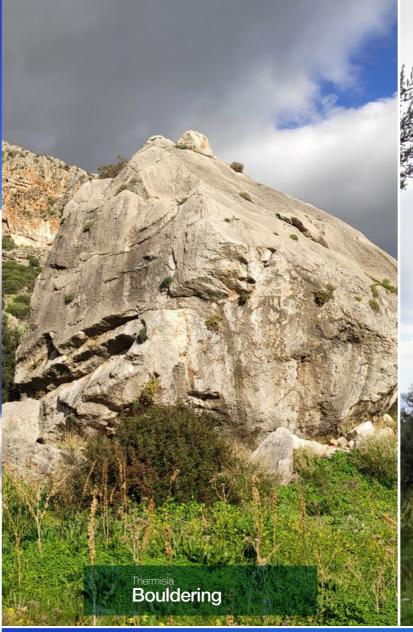
Bouldering area needs further development

### **Development**

This **Bouldering area** needs further development and we address an open invitation to all interested parties to join us in order to explore all major boulders, to identify all possible routes and to grade them.

Is bouldering one of your favourite climbing disciplines and you wish to participate in the further development of this bouldering area? Feel free to get in contact with us via the following email address: olympusmountaineering@gmail.com











An Olympus Mountaineering

Climbing Guidebook