

# VLEMMA TOU GERAKIOU

Climbing Guidebook

2022 EDITION

**A hands-on account**

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos

**MOLYMPUS**

The background image is a photograph of a massive, rounded rock formation, likely a natural rock dome, under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Two climbers are visible on the lower slopes of the rock, providing a sense of scale. A climbing rope is visible running down the face of the rock. The title text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue rectangular area in the center of the image.

# VLEMMA TOU GERAKIOU METEORA GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

## Trad Climbing Guidebook





View from

# Fylakas Agiou Pnevmatos

Route: VLEMMΑ TOY GERAKIOY





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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.

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## 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

For the access to the **Kato Flabouri** crag you need about **30 minutes** of uphill hike. First you need to reach by car the area of Thrakomakedones, and specifically the following address: **Florinis 18**. From that point, you will see an old gate and the trail which will lead you towards

**Kato Flabouri**. Pay attention to keep always a S/W (left) direction while you hike up to the point you see a cairn with a red sign below. On that point, you turn left and you meet an easy 2 meters down-climb. Upon that you continue on the scree and you will reach the route.



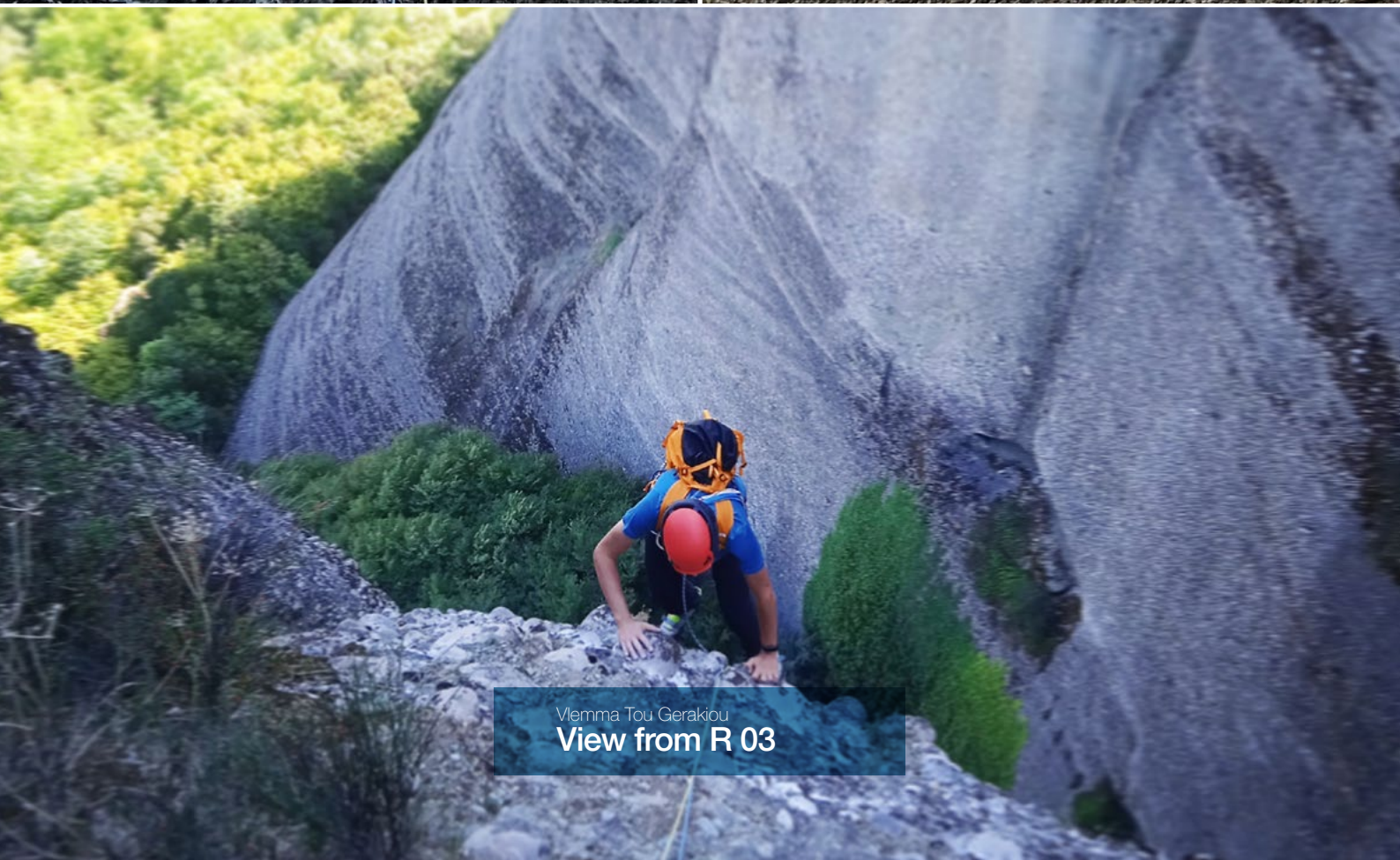




Vlemma Tou Gerakiou  
**Pitch 1 - Start**



Vlemma Tou Gerakiou  
**Pitch 2**



Vlemma Tou Gerakiou  
**View from R 03**





V+ 120 m. ★★★★★☆

# VLEMMA TOU GERAKIOU

**1st Ascent:** 2020

**1st Ascensionists:** V. Adamos and G. Vaiou



# VLEMMMA TOU GERAKIOU

V+ | 120 m.



Meteora

**1st Ascent:** 2020

**1st Ascensionists:** V. Adamos and G. Vaiou

## General route information

**Vlemma Tou Gerakiou** (Βλέμμα του γερακιού) **V+ UIAA, 120 m.** was spotted, bolted and claimed its first ascent in **2020** by **V. Adamos** and **G. Vaiou**.

The route is located in **Meteora** (Kalabaka) and specifically on the rock formation known as **Fylakas Agiou Pnevmatos**. This is **one of the newest Multi-Pitch routes** of the region and is bolted in modern style, which means there are more bolts per pitch compared to the old routes of **Meteora**.

**Vlemma Tou Gerakiou** can be described as a “**sport multi-pitch route**” and is a great introduction to the Meteora style of climbing. **Vlemma Tou Gerakiou** starts **4-5 meters left from Schmale Wand** (a well established route) and is not difficult. In addition, compared to other routes in the region of Meteora, is considered to be well protected with **about 6 bolts per pitch** in average. The rock is mixture of **sandstone** and **conglomerate**.





# VLEMA TOU GERAKIOU

V+ | 120 m.

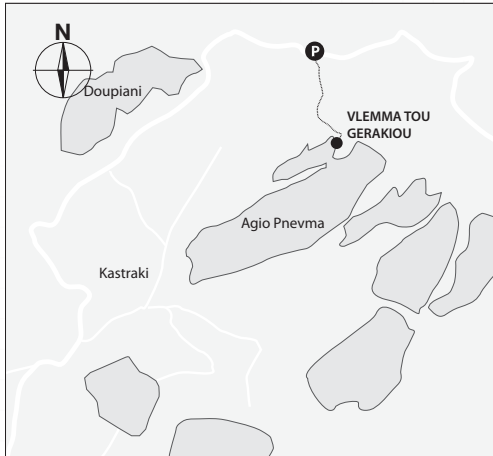


Meteora

**1st Ascent:** 2020

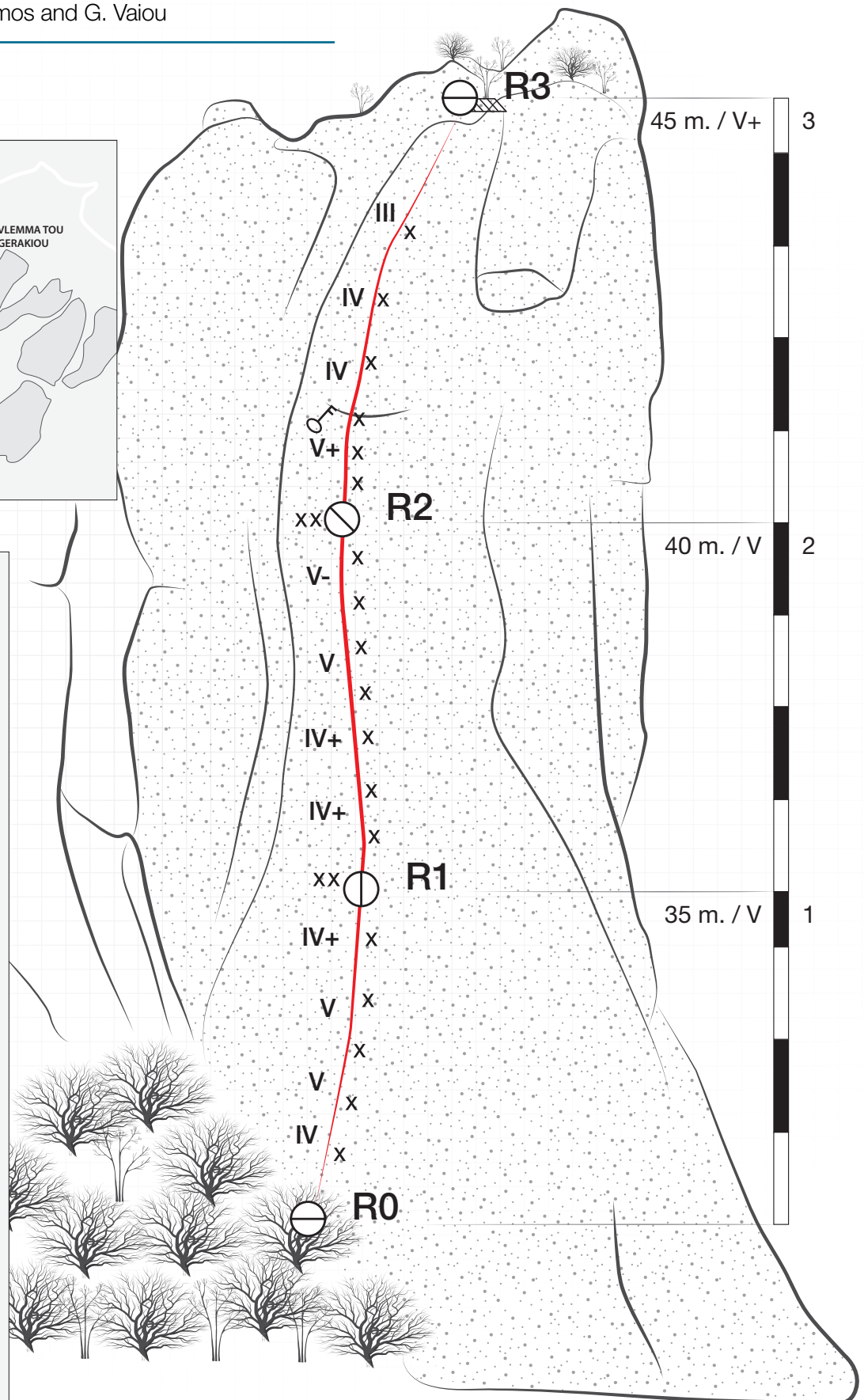
**1st Ascensionists:** V. Adamos and G. Vaiou

Approach plan view - map



### LEGEND

- Trees
- Rubbles
- Grass
- Ledge
- Belay
- Abseil
- Crux
- Slab/Rock wall
- Overhang
- Ridge
- Dihedral
- Chimney
- Bolt
- Pitton





# VLEMMMA TOU GERAKIOU

V+ | 120 m. ★★★★★☆

Meteora

**1st Ascent:** 2020

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## Approach

For the access to **Vlemma Tou Gerakiou** route you need about **20 minutes** from the main camping of Kastraki. First you need to reach by car the **parking spot** (39.722766, 21.625173) and from there a short hike towards the **North-East ridge of Fylakas Agiou Pnevmatos** rock. The trail is straight forward and you have to hike up to the beginning of the route.

**Parking spot:** 39.722766, 21.625173

**Beginning of the route:** 39.720427, 21.626424

## Route description

### R0-R1 | V UIAA 35 m. | 5 Bolts

The route starts with the **first pitch of 35 m.** about **4-5 meters left from Schmale Wand**. It starts straight up where we see the first (new) bolt at **about 3-4 meters** from the ground. The difficulty at this first part is about **IV UIAA**, but one should keep in mind that climbing in conglomerate, is quite different compared to the typical limestone climb. After the first bolt the terrain starts to become a bit steeper and almost until we reach the first two anchors, the difficulty is about **V UIAA**.

We belay with a single size sling (60 cm) and the location for belay is **not** very comfortable.

### R1-R2 | V UIAA 40 m. | 6 bolts

The second pitch of **40 m.** which is the most exciting pitch, starts right above the anchor points and traverses a bit to the left till we reach the **R2**. During the entire **40 meters of climb**, we can find 6 bolts, but be aware that some pebbles might be loose. The difficulty of this pitch is maximum **V UIAA**.

We belay with a single size sling (60 cm) and the location for belay is of **medium comfort**.

### R2-R3 | V+ UIAA 45 m. | 6 bolts

The third pitch starts directly straight up from **R2** and there is a bolt about **1,5 meters** above the belay location. From R2, we can spot easily the third bolt which is located at the **crux** of the pitch (and of the entire route), but just before the crux, we will find one more bolt (the 2nd) that is not visible from the belay. The **crux** of the route is a **maximum V+ UIAA**, and although might look a bit intimidating, there are big enough pebbles to hold and to step on and to climb over without problems. As soon we climb over the crux, the terrain becomes again positive and **easy of a maximum difficulty of IV UIAA**. Just before we end up at the ledge where we will belay, the terrain becomes even easier of a maximum difficulty of **III UIAA**.

We belay on the obvious **tree on the ledge** with 2 single size slings (60 cm) and the location for belay is **very** comfortable.





VLEMMA TOU GERAKIOU

## RETURN FROM THE ROCK

How to return from the top of Fylakas Agiou Pnevmatos

### Return

From the top of the rock, have to do **2 abseils** towards the base. The abseils **are located at the exit of the route Schwarze Magie** (Μαύρη Μαγεία). In order to reach the anchors for the abseil, we need to follow the small path towards the west. At the beginning we have to do a short down climb until we spot a big ring. At that point we do the **first abseil of about 6-7 meters**, till we reach the anchors for the 2nd abseil. The **second abseil is about 50 meters** and will lead you to the base of the route.



Descent from the route

### Necessary equipment

To repeat any route one needs the following items:

- 8 Alpine Quickdraws
- Slings/Lanyards
- Kevlar cordelette
- 2 x 60 m. 1/2 ropes

### Useful coordinates

**Parking spot:** 39.722766, 21.625173

**Beginning of the route:** 39.720427, 21.626424

### Retreat

In case of emergency, a retreat might be possible by abseiling from the belays with extra attention.





## 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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