

TAYGETE

Climbing Guidebook

2022 EDITION

MOLYMPUS

A hands-on account

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos



TAYGETE
KATAFYKI
ERMIONI

GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

Climbing Guidebook



View towards
ERMIONI

Route: Taygete | 6b+ 205 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**

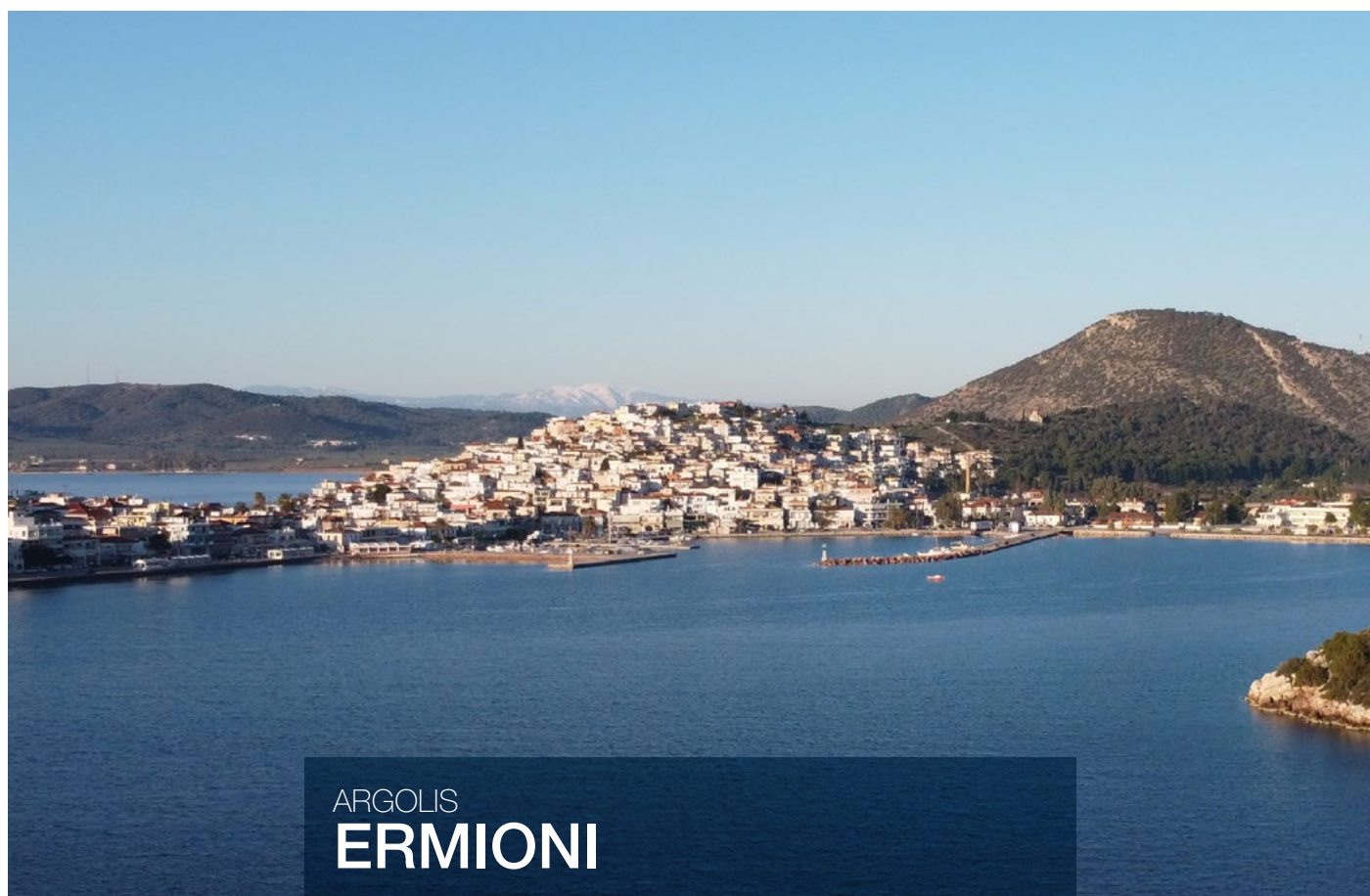
far back in time', and stated clearly that 'it is not one of the lesser towns'.

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:

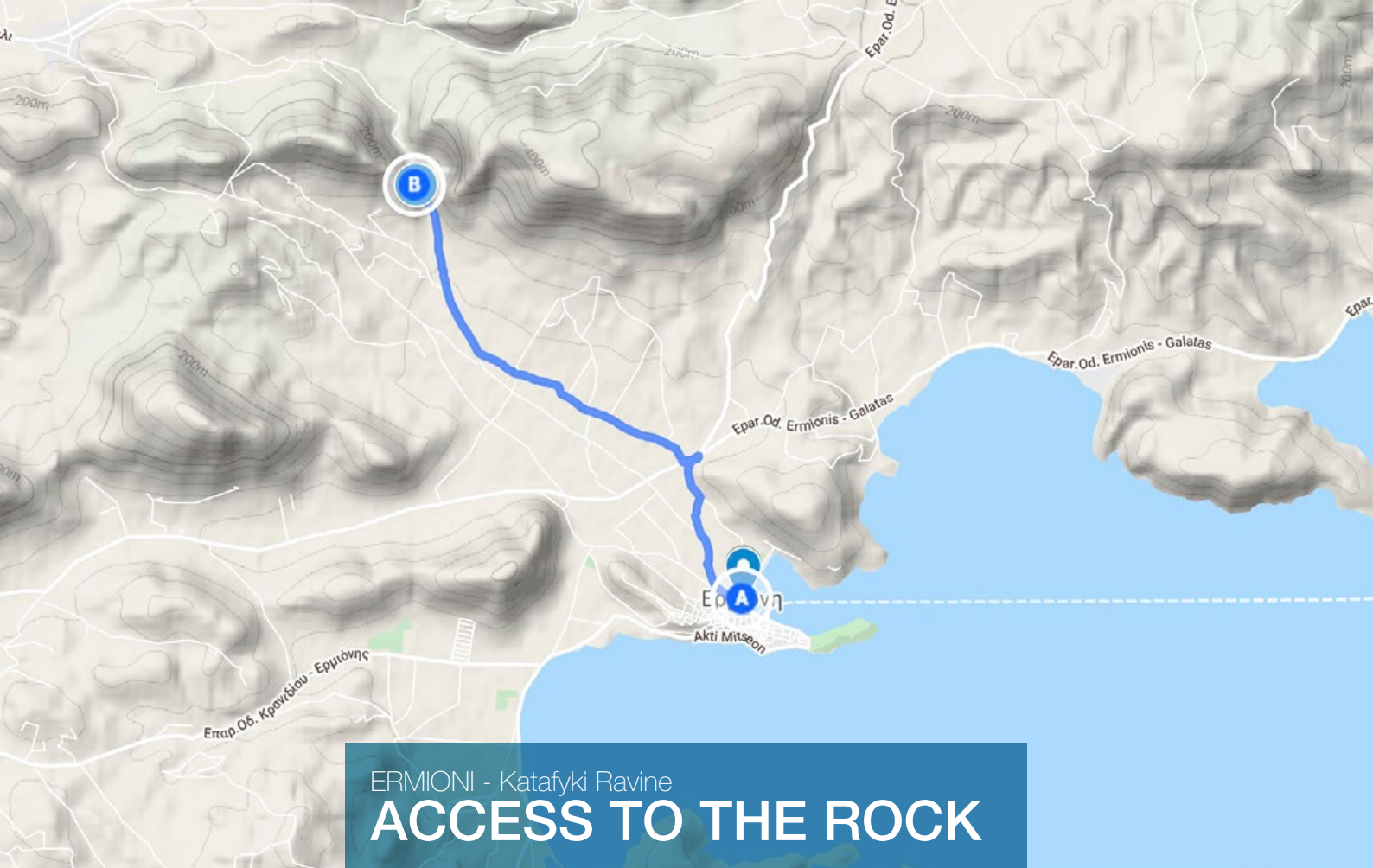
General Info: [Olympus Mountaineering](#)
[Ermionida Climbing Guide](#)
[About Ermioni](#)

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



ARGOLIS
ERMIONI

View towards Ermioni



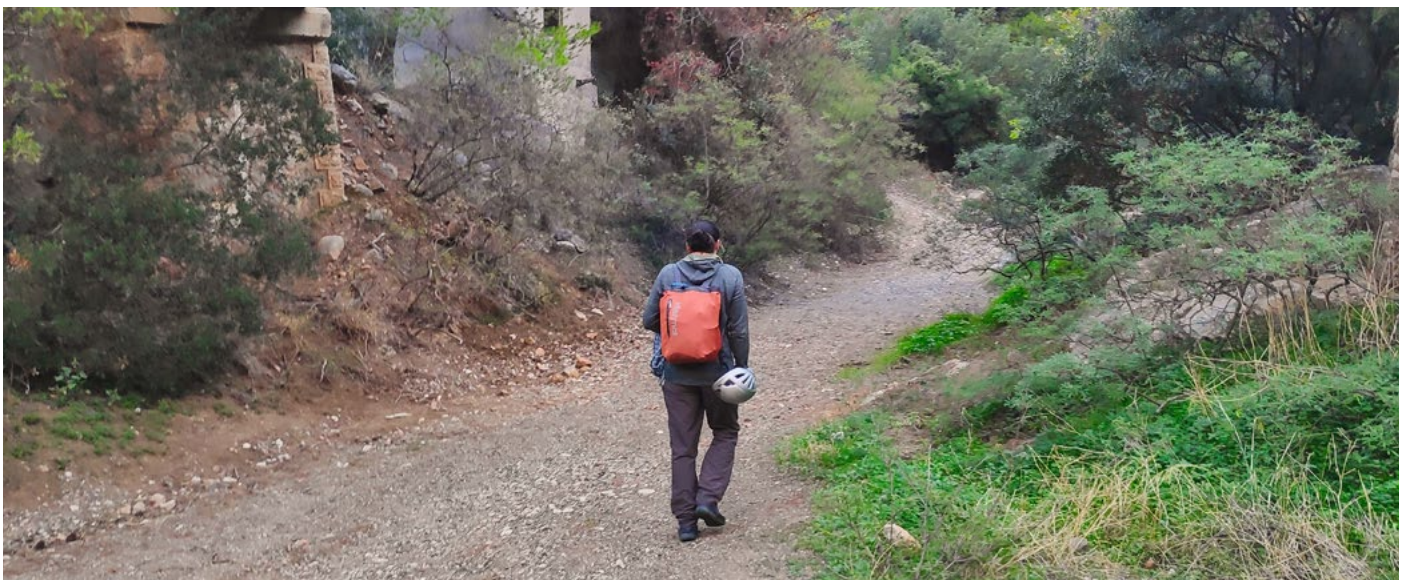
ERMIONI - Katafyki Ravine ACCESS TO THE ROCK

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).

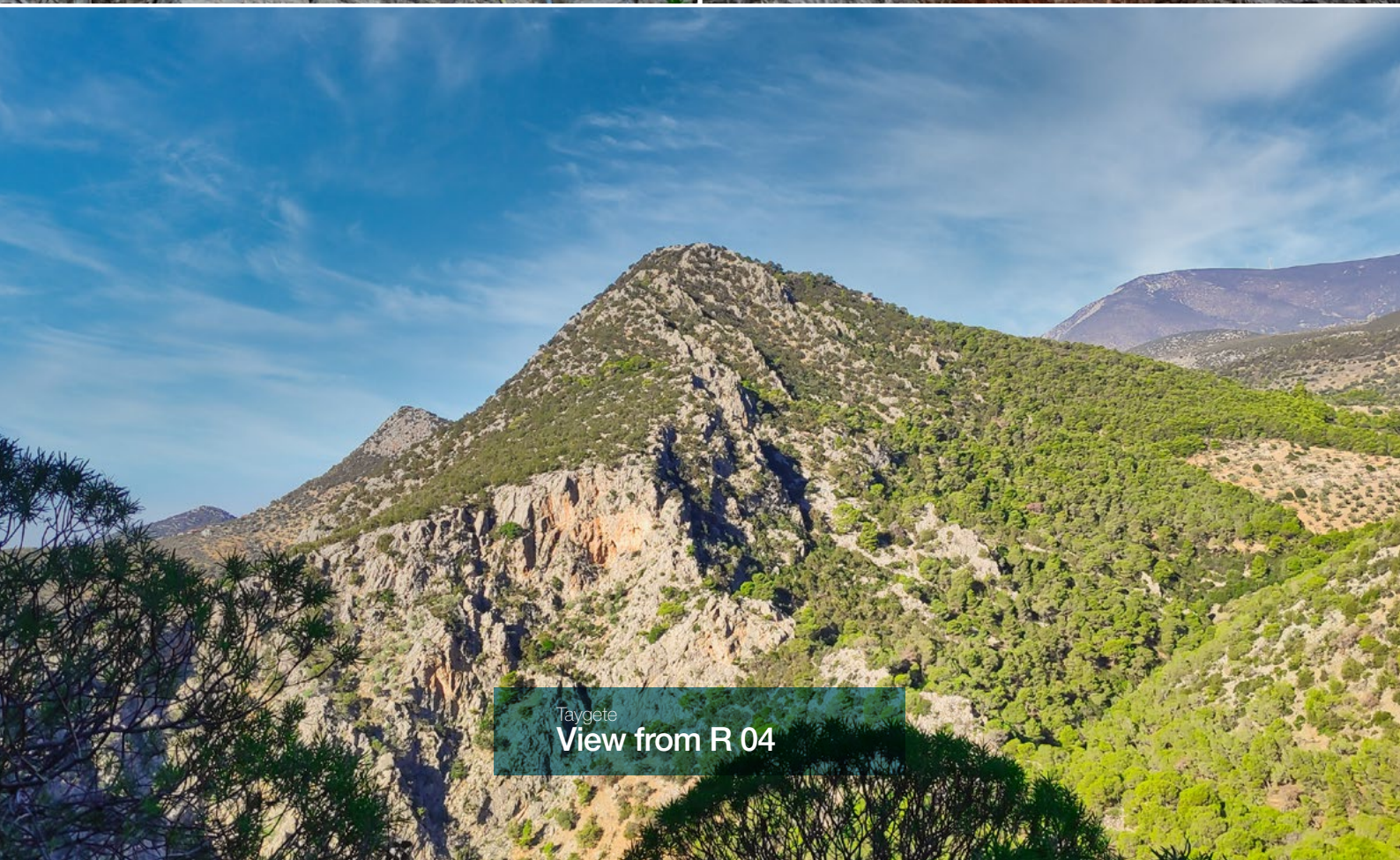




Taygete
Pitch 1



Taygete
Pitch 2



Taygete
View from R 04



6 Pitches 6b+ 205 m. ★★★★★☆

TAYGETE

1st Ascent: 30/10/2022

1st Ascensionists: C. Rigas & Olympus Mountaineering

TAYGETE

6b+ | 205 m. ★★★★★☆ Katafyki - Ermioni

1st Ascent: 30/10/2022

1st Ascensionists: C. Rigas & Olympus Mountaineering

General route information

Taygete (6b+, 205 m) was established and equipped in **September 2022** by **Vertical Art Greece**, and first ascent was claimed by **C. Rigas** and **Olympus Mountaineering**.

Taygete (6b+, 205 m) is located a bit southern (to the right) compared to **Maia** and starts from a nice dihedral, slightly left from the second obvious ridge of the west face of the **Pleiades** crag. **Pleiades** crag, is located on the west wall in the ravine of **Katafyki**, and specifically, between the **Katafyki Main Crag** and the **Petrogerakas Crag**.

Taygete (6b+, 205 m) is 6 pitches long and it is fully equipped with bolts and 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**.





R6

R5

R4

R3

R2

R1

R0

TAYGETE

6b+ | 205 m. ★★★★★☆

Katafyki - Ermioni

1st Ascent: 30/10/2022

1st Ascensionists: C. Rigas & Olympus Mountaineering

Route description

Pitch 1 (5c - 40 m.)

The first pitch, starts slightly to the left from the main ridge of **Pleiades** crag and the start is easy.

The route starts with a positive slab, and right after we enter to the zone of some overhangs, where there are good holds and plenty of options for the feet. On the **5th bolt**, where the **crux of the first pitch is located**, you have to climb an overhang and upon that, the climb becomes easier (about 5b) and as soon you reach the ledge, you will easily spot the anchors.

Pitch 2 (5c+ - 25 m.)

The second pitch starts right above the **R1** and moves with a small traverse to the right with small hold but enough options for the correct foot placement. The **crux (5c+) of Pitch 2 is located on the 4th bolt** and you have to make sure you clip in before you climb that part.

As soon you climb the crux, there is a positive slab with tiny holds, but the climb on that part is a bit easier (around 5b).

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** but also the rest of **Taygete** route.

Pitch 3 (5a - 30 m.)

The third pitch starts with a slight **exposure** and a great view to the south but also the north side of **Katafyki Ravine**. Although this pitch is not difficult (5a), there are a bit less bolts placed, thus one should climb this pitch carefully.

As soon you climb the ridge, you have to move towards the left, where you will locate R3 and the traverse pitch starts.

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

Pitch 4 Traverse (5a - 40 m.)

The fourth pitch is perhaps the less pleasant of all pitches, due to the fact most of this **40 meters pitch** is a traverse on a ledge that moves across the crag. This pitch is not difficult and there is a small part of scrambling of a maximum difficult around 4c/5a but most of the pitch is simple hike.

Pitch 5 (6a+ - 40 m.)

The fifth pitch starts right above the R4 and is the **nicest pitch of Taygete route**, and perhaps one of the nicest and most complete pitches I have every climbed. This is a 40 meters length continuous **6a+** pitch where you will come across different kind of climbing styles, from slab to crag and also a small overhang. The **crux of this pitch is located about 8 meters above the R4** and you need to climb along a crack where besides the bolts, you can certainly place other protection gear if you want.

Arriving at **R5**, you have splendid view towards the last pitch. Belay location is **less comfortable** compared to the other ones.

Pitch 6 (6b+ - 40 m.)

The sixth and final pitch, technically is the most demanding pitch, with a maximum difficulty of **6b/+**. Though, the **crux** of this pitch and of the entire route consists of some moves that require good coordination and balance. Besides the crux, the rest of the pitch is much easier of a maximum difficulty of around **5c**.

As soon we reach the R6, we come across stunning views towards **Ermioni, Hydra, Dokos, Dardiza, Spetses** and of course a great "bird's eye" view towards the **Katafyki Climbing Crag**.



TAYGETE

RETURN FROM THE ROCK

How to return from the top of Taygete 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:

- 14 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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