

SKYTALI (ARMA-PARNITHA)

Climbing Guidebook

2022 EDITION

A hands-on account

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos

MOLYMPUS



ARMA PARNITHA SKYTALI ATTICA GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

Trad Climbing Guidebook



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 04** **INTRODUCTION**
About this guidebook
- 06** **ACCESS**
Reaching the route
- 08** **SKYTALI (ΣΚΥΤΑΛΗ)**
Route information

TRAD CLIMBING — SKYTALI (ΣΚΥΤΑΛΗ) GREECE

- 12** **RETURN**
Returning from the rock
- 13** **DISCLAIMER**
Climbing safely

Bird's-eye View
SKYTALI

Route: Skytali (K. Lafogiannis, A. Papandreou)



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.



ATTICA - Fyli
ACCESS TO THE ROCK
Access from Athens towards Arma

Access

From **Attiki Odos Exit #6**, follow **Fylis Avenue** towards Fyli/Chasia (north/west). Follow the road for **500m** until big roundabout.

Take the third exit and continue on Fylis Avenue. 3,1 km after the roundabout you will see a golden-domed church on your right hand (Panagia Kanala) and a football pitch on your left.



Continue and go further than the Fyli village and follow the direction towards **Monastery Kliston**. You will drive further on from **Monastery Kliston** till the following location **38.133639, 23.650956**.

As soon as you park, follow the red signs which they lead to the Via Ferrata and the beginning of the route is located here: **38.135403, 23.655060**



Skytali
Pitch 1 - Start



Skytali
At the Crux



Skytali
View from R 01



V+ 35 m. ★★★★★☆
SKYTALI (ΣΚΥΤΑΛΗ)

1st Ascent: 13/10/2021
1st Ascensionists: K. Lafogiannis, A. Papandreou

SKYTALI (ΣΚΥΤΑΛΗ)

V+ | 35 m. ★★★★★☆ Arma Parnitha - Attica

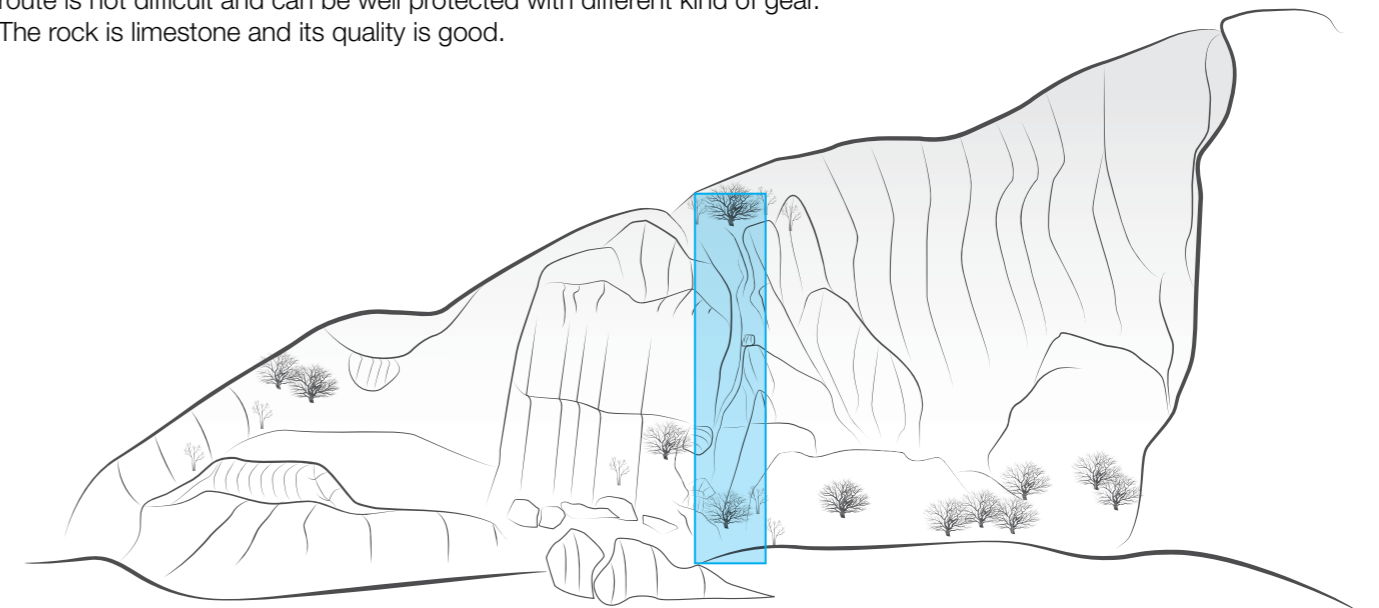
1st Ascent: 13/10/2021

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General route information

Skytali (Σκυτάλη = Relay Buton) (V+ UIAA, 35 m.) is one of the newest routes that was established in **Arma area** and specifically in the **Southern Arma** sector. The route is located on the rock formation known as Arma (Fyli area) and due to its proximity to the city center of Athens and the excellent rock quality (limestone) it has been of a great interest to the Greek rock climbing community.

The route can be described as an “**Introduction to Trad Climbing**” in Arma. It is a clean and well maintained route, and there are also **three permanent pitons** (one with an attached cordelette) and **two cordelettes in the critical points**. The route is not difficult and can be well protected with different kind of gear. The rock is limestone and its quality is good.



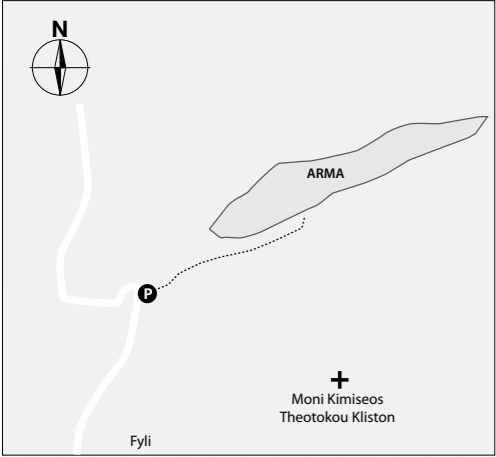
SKYTALI (ΣΚΥΤΑΛΗ)

V+ | 35 m. ★★★★★☆ Arma Parnitha - Attica

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Approach plan view - map



LEGEND

Trees

Rubbles

Grass

Ledge

Belay

Abseil

Crux

Slab/Rock wall

Overhang

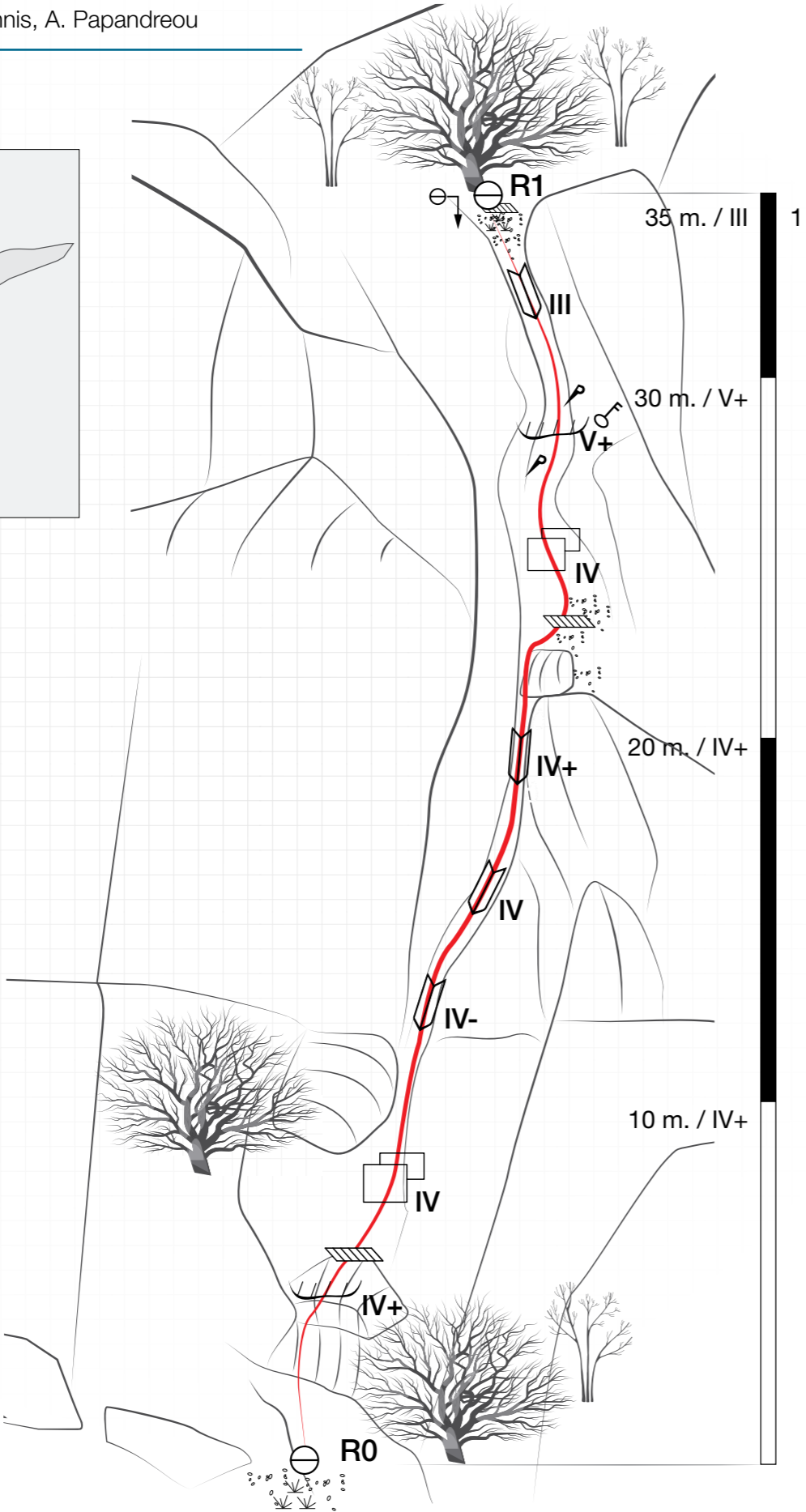
Ridge

Dihedral

Chimney

Cordelette

Pitton



SKYTALI (ΣΚΥΤΑΛΗ)

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As soon as you park, follow the red signs which they lead to the Via Ferrata and the beginning of the route is located here: **38.135403, 23.655060**

Parking spot: 38.144282, 23.749426
Beginning of the route: 38.135403, 23.655060

Route description

R0-R1 | V+ UIAA 35 m.

The route starts with a small **overhang of about 1,5 meters** with a maximum difficulty of **IV+ UIAA**, though also not experienced climbers will feel comfortable, because there is a **newly placed piton with a cordelette attached**. As soon we climb this part we will be on a very comfortable **ledge**. Upon that, we continue to follow the natural line on a slab.

On that point, we can place the first protection gear (left side). We continue to climb up and we enter the **dihedral** where the climb is easy (IV UIAA). Just before the first exit to a comfortable ledge, the climb becomes **slightly more difficult (IV+ UIAA)**, but the climber will find **two well positioned cordelettes which offer good protection**.

As soon we climb over a large boulder, we will be again on a comfortable ledge. Just above that ledge, we can spot the **crux of the route**. The **crux of Skytali** (Σκυτάλη = Relay Buton) is an **overhang with clear and good holds** and plenty locations for correct foot placement. In addition, the excellent job done by **K. Lafogiannis and A. Papandreou** made this **crux (V+ UIAA) to be and feel safe by placing two pitons**. The **first piton**, is located on the left side just before the **crux** and the **second piton** is located on the right side about 2 meters higher. As soon we climb over the crux, the route is basically completed, and we can see the anchor (a large cordelette with two carabiners) located on a tree.

The belay is very comfortable.



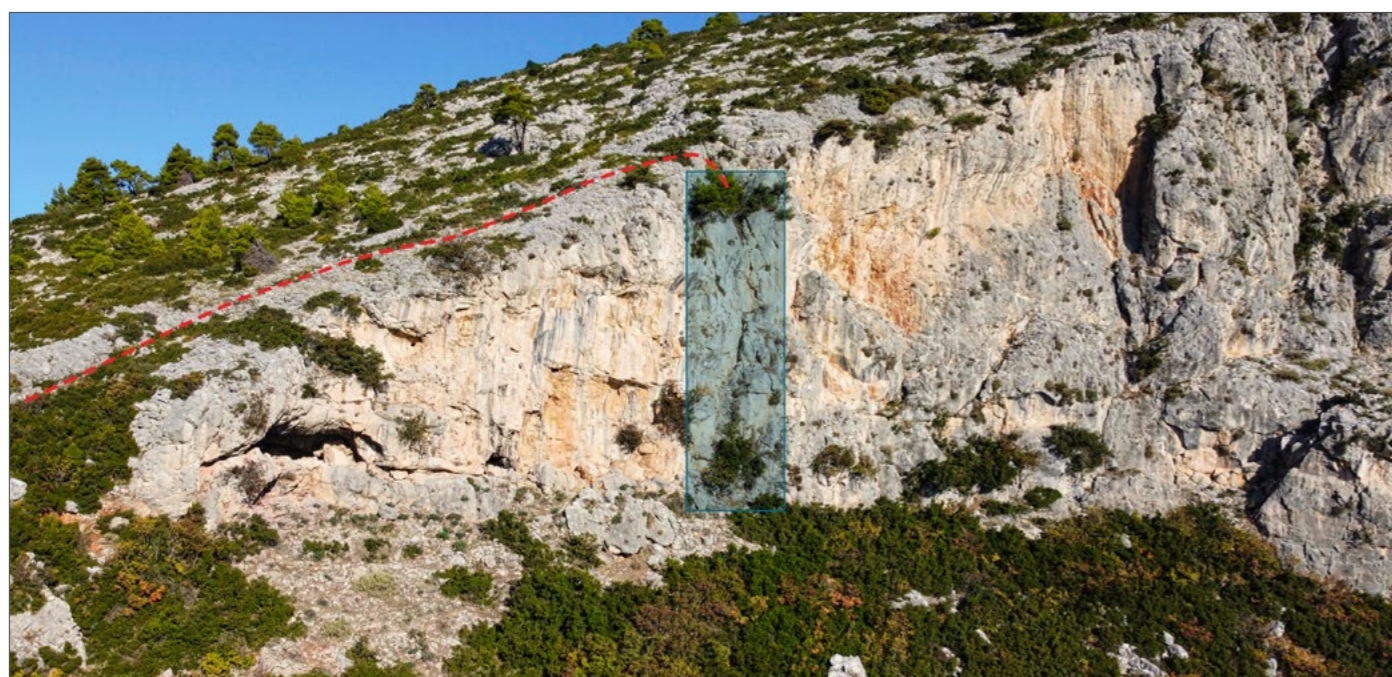
SKYTALI RETURN FROM THE ROCK

How to return from the top of Skytali route

Return

From the top of the rock, we have **two options**.

The first is to **abseil down** the route (make sure to have 2x60 meters half ropes) or to **follow the trail** which leads to the beginning of the via Ferrata trail.



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: 38.133639, 23.650956

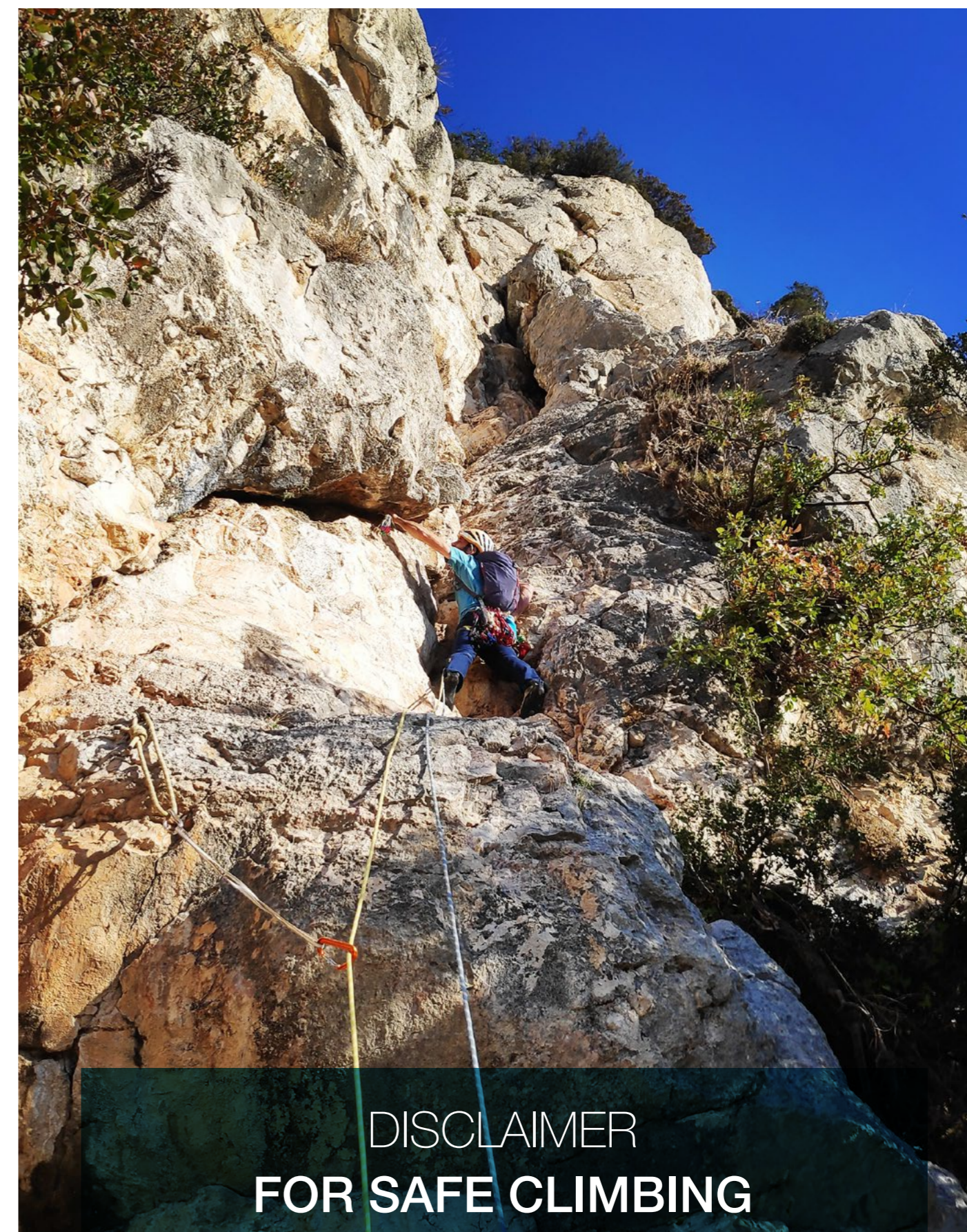
Beginning of the route: 38.135403, 23.655060

Highest point: 38.135600, 23.655001

Point of descent: 38.135020, 23.654464

Retreat

In case of emergency, a retreat might be possible by abseiling from the anchor.



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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