

KALYDONIOS KAPROS

Climbing Guidebook

2023 EDITION

A hands-on account

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos

MOLYMPUS



KALYDONIOS KAPROS VARASOVA GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

Climbing Guidebook



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View towards
MESOLOGGI

Route: Kalydonios Kapros | V+ 100 m.



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.



Varasova

Varasova is a limestone massif near the sea, just opposite of Patra and has a height of **917 m**. There are three summits of almost the same altitude. Varasova flanks, drop abruptly into the sea on the south and Southwest and this is the location of the most important walls, just between **Vasiliki and Kryoneri villages**.

The three peaks of Varasova rise to nearly identical elevation. The rock is very solid, relatively sharp, mostly gray or yellow limestone of outstanding quality. It is generously featured and teeming with variety: **compact walls, steep slabs, corners and vertical cracks, jugs, flakes, chicken-heads, incut edges, and a surplus of hidden holds and footholds which make for sublime climbing over a remarkably blue sea.**

The approximately **200 routes of Varasova** include single and multi-pitch sport routes. There

are also several mixed-character '**adventure**' routes with as many as 18 pitches and, these usually have a few bolts per pitch (mainly on solid sections of rock) plus fixed belay anchors.



Routes in Varasova

Routes in Varasova can be divided, more or less, into the following three categories:

a) Sport Climbing routes

These are the routes of high technical difficulty, which have been established during the last few years. You need, mostly, only quickdraws in order to repeat these bolted routes. Most of these climbs have seen their first ascent by means of abseiling from the top of the routes and placing the in situ belays.

b) Adventure routes

The majority of the routes belongs in this category. They practically offer sparse in situ belays. In order to repeat these climbs, you need a full set of nuts and Friends but no pitons or hammer. On most of them, there are not even anchors at the belay points, so you must fix your own belay points. Please note that the possibly rusty and old pitons that you may encounter are of dubious safety.

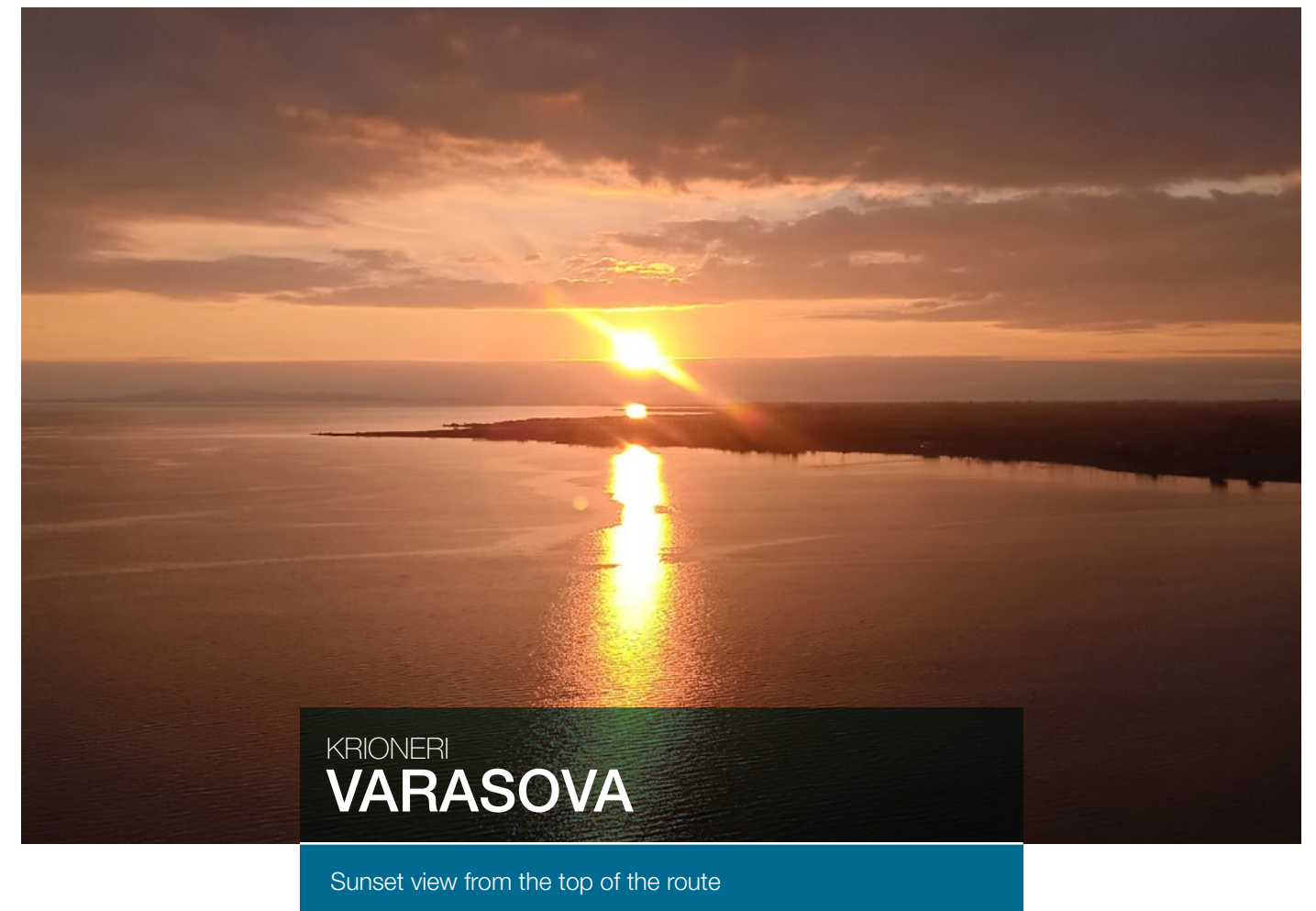
c) Instructive routes

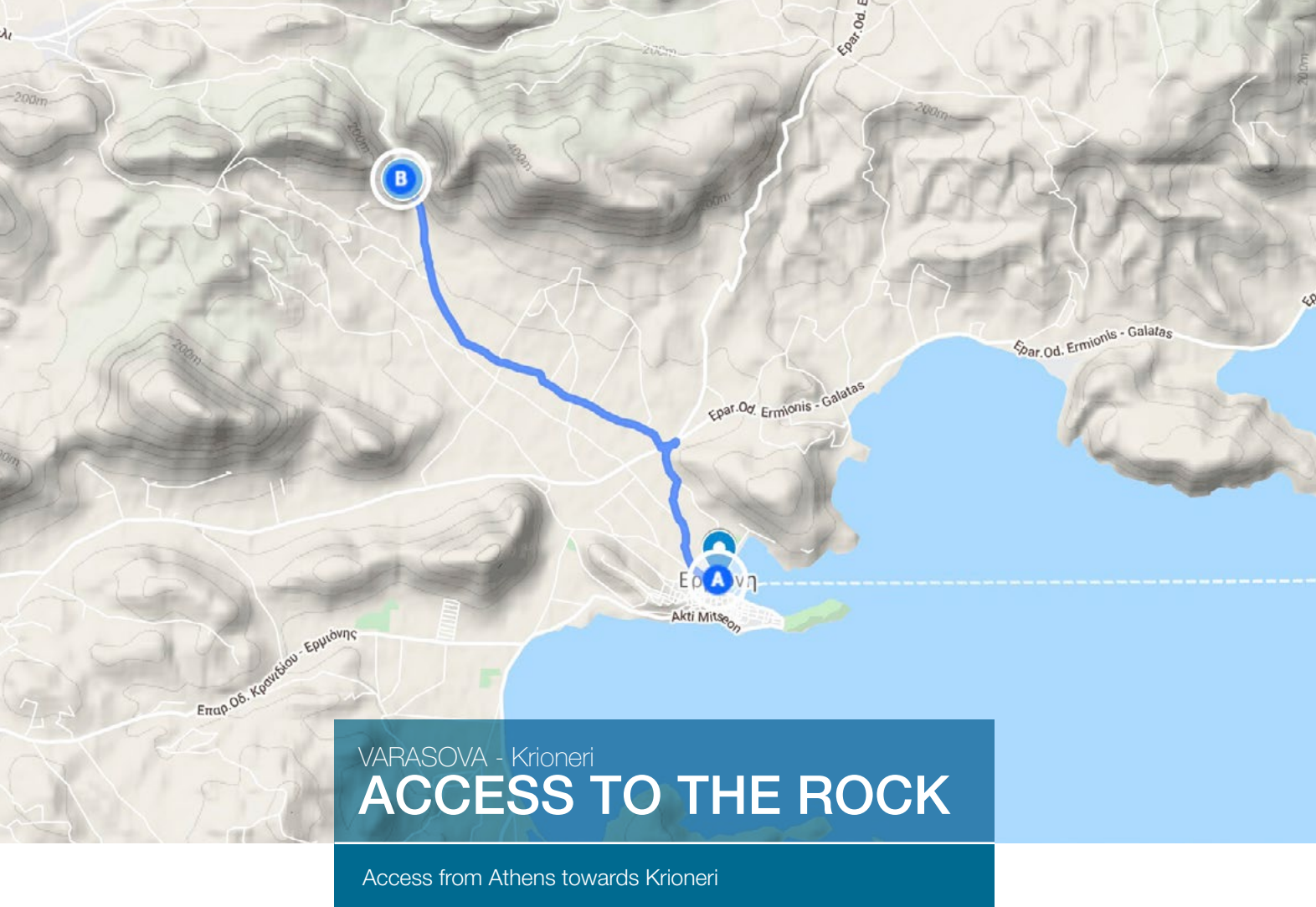
There are some routes, which have been bolt, protected every three or four metres, so that they can offer safety to young climbers. For the time being, these climbs are very few.

Useful links:

General Info: Olympus Mountaineering
Climb Greece Varasova
About Krioneri

Climbing Crag Katafyki Gorge
Pillars of the Wind
Rock of Ages
Mount Didimo





VARASOVA - Krioneri
ACCESS TO THE ROCK
 Access from Athens towards Krioneri

Access

Varasova, has perhaps the easiest and rather effortless approach in Greece. **Varasova is 240 km away from Athens.**

The location is **30 km away from Antirio**. Turn left, before the bridge of Evinos river exactly on

the junction for **Galatas and Krioneri**.

As soon we arrive to **Krioneri village**, we move towards the last house and right there we can find a small beach with grass field. There is the parking lot and for many, the camp site.



Kalydonios Kapros
Pitch 1



Kalydonios Kapros
Pitch 3



Kalydonios Kapros
View from R 02



3 Pitches V+ 100 m. ★★★★★☆
KALYDONIOS KAPROS

1st Ascent: 04/1999

1st Ascensionists: Theodoropoulos, Michailedes, Kotronaros

KALYDONIOS KAPROS

V+ | 100 m. ★★★★★☆ Varasova - Krioneri

1st Ascent: 04/1999

1st Ascensionists: Theodoropoulos, Michailedes, Kotronaros

General route information

Kalydonios Kapros (V+, 100 m) first ascent was claimed in **April 1999** by **A. Theodoropoulos, T. Michailedes and P. Kotronaros**.

Kalydonios Kapros (V+, 100 m) is located on **Mt. Varasova** and specifically in **Krioneri village**. The route can be found by at the “**Spasmena**” sector and the approach is very easy.

Kalydonios Kapros (V+, 100 m) is 3 pitches long and partly equipped with bolts, thus the portable protection (nut, cams etc.) **might be necessary**. For experienced climbers, that can climb easily such grades, the bolts might be just enough, otherwise, the use of portable protection will be very helpful. **Anchors have been fitted to each belay station**.

The quality of the rock is excellent and one of the best it can be found.

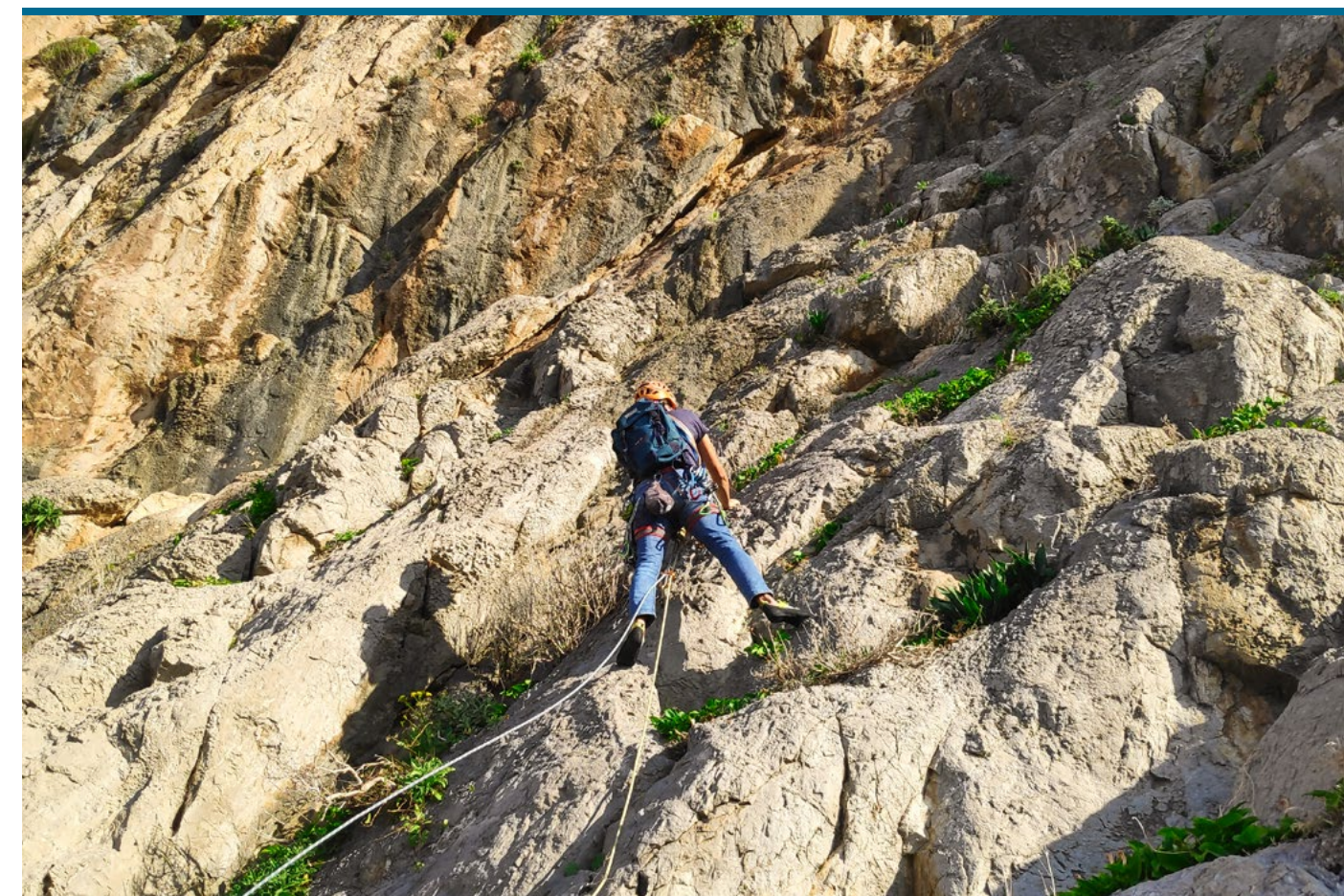
Approach

Varasova, has perhaps the easiest and rather effortless approach in Greece. **Mt. Varasova** is 240 km away from Athens. The location is 30 km away from Antirio. Turn left, before the bridge of **Evinos** river exactly on the junction for **Galatas and Krioneri**.

As soon we arrive to **Krioneri village**, we move towards the last house and right there we can find a small beach with grass field.

There is the parking lot and for many, the camp site.

From the parking spot till the beginning of the route, **you will need about 3 minutes of hike**.





KALYDONIOS KAPROS

V+ | 100 m. ★★★★★☆ Varasova - Krioneri

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The quality of the rock is excellent and one of the best it can be found.

Route description

Pitch 1 (IV+ UIAA, 30 m.)

The first pitch is the easiest of the entire route and starts with a short slab. Upon that the climber has to move from boulder to boulder without any particular difficulty. In addition, in this first section we can find a bolt and plenty of opportunities to add some additional gear.

At about **15 meters** from the ground there is a slight vertical slab that we have to climb, but there is well placed bolt, thus we can climb it without problem.

We continue to climb until we come across a ledge where the first belay station is placed. **There are two anchors and the belay position is rather comfortable**.

Pitch 2 (V+ UIAA, 40 m.)

The second pitch starts right above the **R1** and initially move straight up from the belay. Having passed the second bolt, we have to move slightly to the left and to climb an overhang (**V+ UIAA**), which is the crux of **pitch 2** and of the entire route.

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). In this slab there are **4 additional bolts**, and it is rather difficult to find good placements for additional gear. Thus, the lead climber should be very precise and careful with his moves.

The belay station **is comfortable** and from that point and on you start to enjoy the stunning views towards the seaside.

Pitch 3 (V UIAA, 30 m.)

The third pitch starts straight up from **R2** and upon the first bolt, the climber needs to move slightly to the right for the entire length of this third pitch. The climb of this route is very nice and you move from a good hand hold to the other good hand hold without issues. This third pitch does not have a crux, but its difficulty (**max V UIAA**) is spread equally in the entire pitch.

As soon you climb the obvious **grey slab**, you come nearby a **wild olive tree**. In that position, you will come across the anchors, where you can set up your belay station.

The **view from R3** is really wonderful with a clear view of **Krioneri, Mesologgi and of Peloponnese**.

The belay station is **not** comfortable, especially if you climb this route in three.



Return

In order to return from the route, actually you have to abseil the route. **The best option is to have 2 half ropes of 60 meters and to abseil from R3 to R2 and upon that to abseil from R2 to R0.**

For the return calculate enough time in order to abseil the entire route and to collect the ropes.



Descent from the route

Necessary equipment

To repeat any route one needs the following items:

- 8 quickdraws
- 4 alpine quickdraws
- Slings/Lanyards
- Kevlar cordelette
- Nuts and Cams
- 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 also possible, but you need to do it three times, instead of twice.



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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