

# SUNCASTLE CRAG

Climbing Guidebook

2023 EDITION

**MOLYMPUS**

**A hands-on account**

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos



SUNCASTLE  
CRAG  
ERMIONIDA

GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

**Climbing Guidebook**



View from  
**SunCastle Crag**

View towards Dardiza Bay

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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 specific potential hazards that could arise in using this book:

### **1. Incorrect Descriptions of Routes:**

If you climb 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 more difficult than the rating indicates. Do not be lulled into a false sense of security by the difficulty rating.

### **3. Incorrect Protection Rating:**

If you climb a route and you are unable to arrange adequate protection from the risk of falling 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 the route does not have an X or an R rating. Every route is potentially an X (a fall may be deadly), due to the inherent hazards of

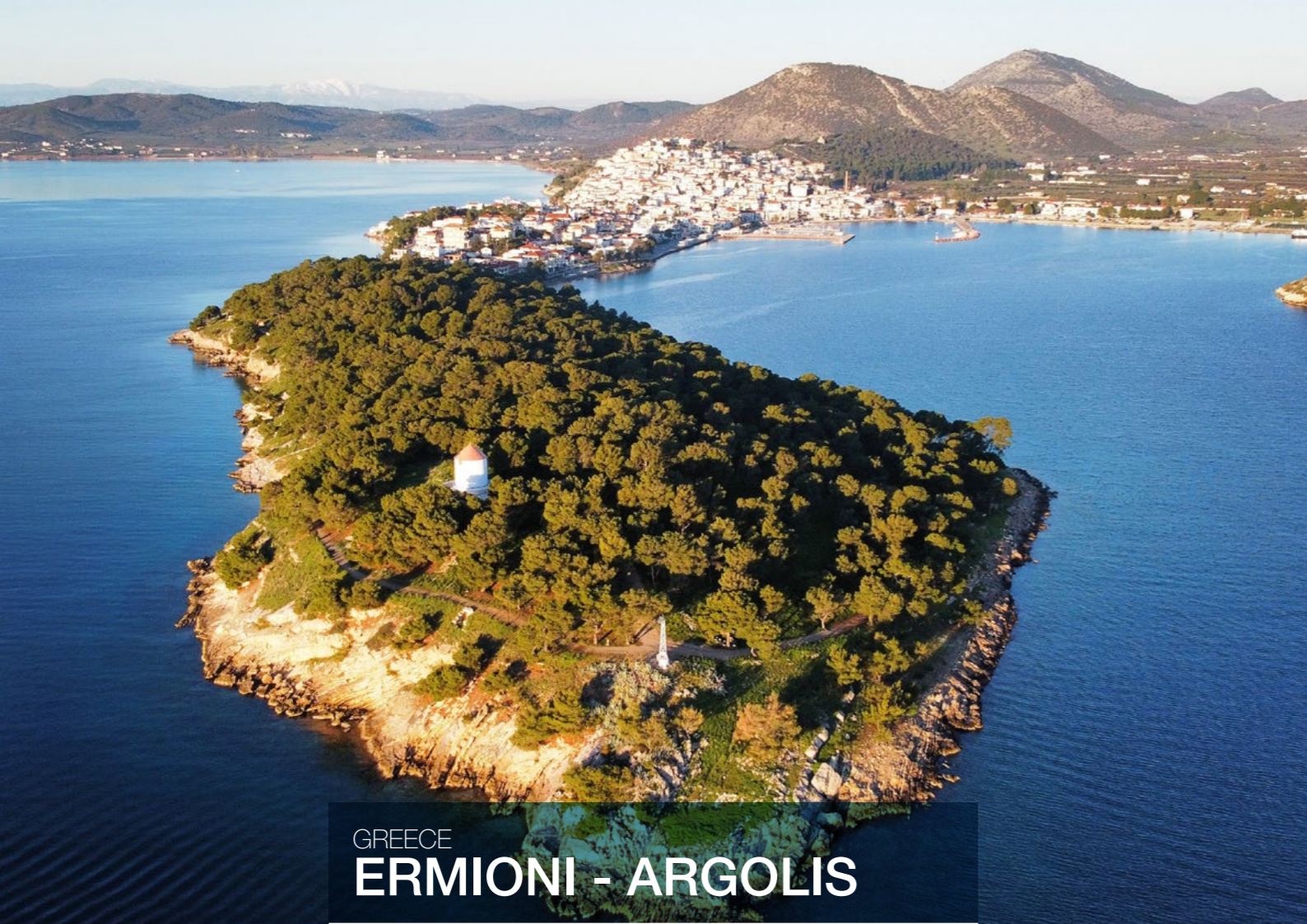
climbing—including, for example, failure or absence of fixed protection, your own equipment's failure, faulty protection placement, or improper use of climbing equipment.

### **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 warn of every hazard that exists on every route. Climb carefully and be watchful for potential hazards.

**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.**



GREECE  
**ERMIONI - ARGOLIS**

Panoramic view of Bisti, Ermioni

### 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.

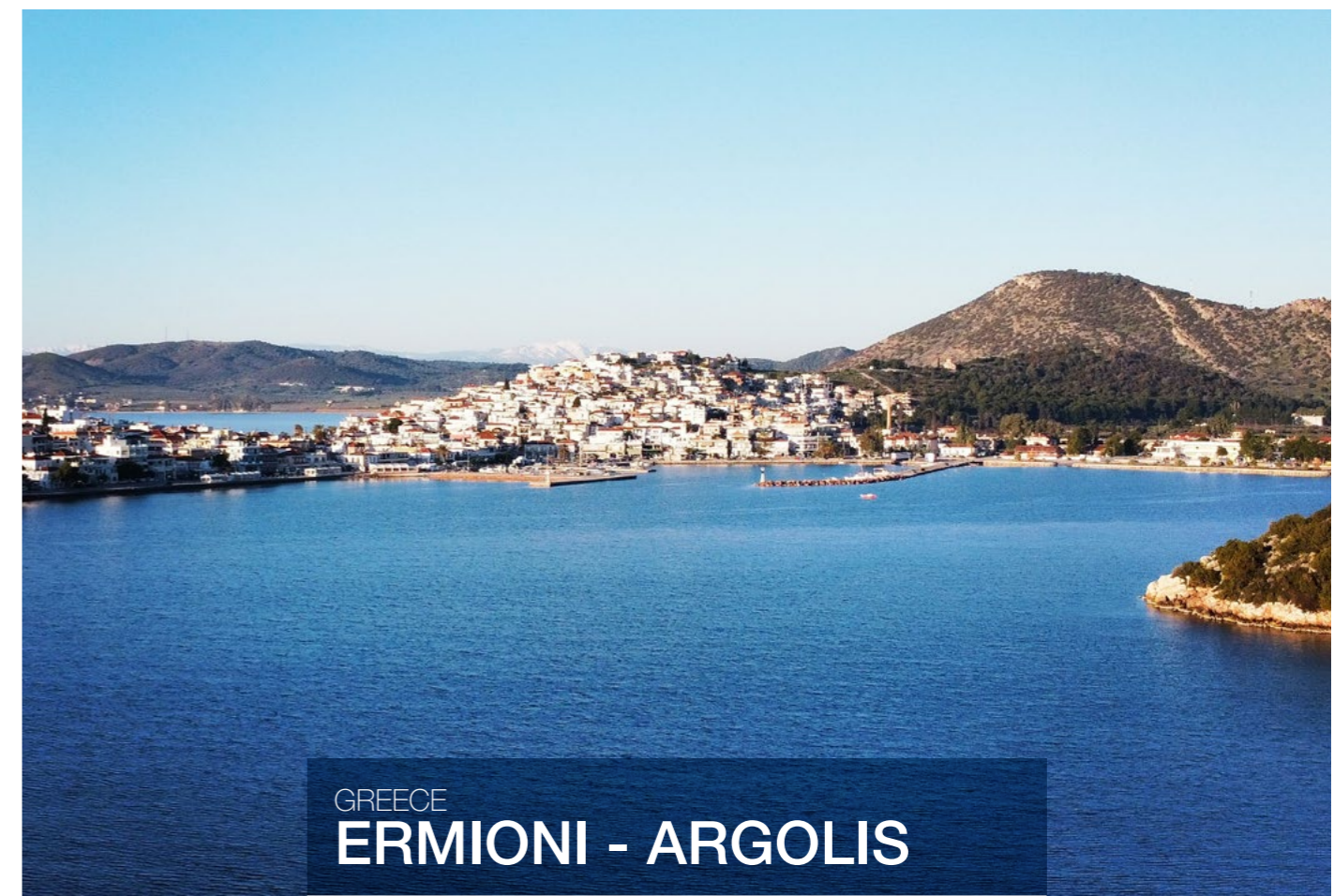
When **Pausanias** visited Hermione, he described with admiration the lavish temples, sanctuaries, stadium, festivals, music contests and swimming races that brought so much glory to the ancient Kingdom of Hermionis and the surrounding area.

### Useful references:

**General Info:** Olympus Mountaineering Municipality of Ermionida

**Camping:** Hydra's Wave

**Stay:** Katafyki  
Lambayanna beach  
Dardiza beach



GREECE  
**ERMIONI - ARGOLIS**

Panoramic view of Ermioni



# SUNCASTLE CRAG

10 Routes ★★★☆☆ Ermionida, Argolis

**Crag location:** 37.416520, 23.250795

**Season:** Late Autumn - Late Spring | **Walk in:** 3 minutes

## General information

A new sport climbing crag was developed and established in close proximity to **Iliokastro** village, approximately **5 km away from Ermioni**.

The crag was developed and equipped by the **Climb Ermionida** during the winter/spring season of 2023.

The rock formation is primarily composed of high-quality grey limestone and good quality red limestone, although some routes may have sharp

rock formations due to the crag's recent development.

The crag offers **10 routes suitable for climbers of all skill levels**, with grades ranging from **5a to 6b+**.

The optimal time to visit the **SunCastle Crag** is during **late autumn through late spring**, with easy access requiring only a brief hike.

## In a Nutshell

**Exposure:** South / South West

**Best Season:** Late Autumn - late spring

**Sun:** From 10.00 up to sunset

**Walk in:** 3 minutes

**Water:** None

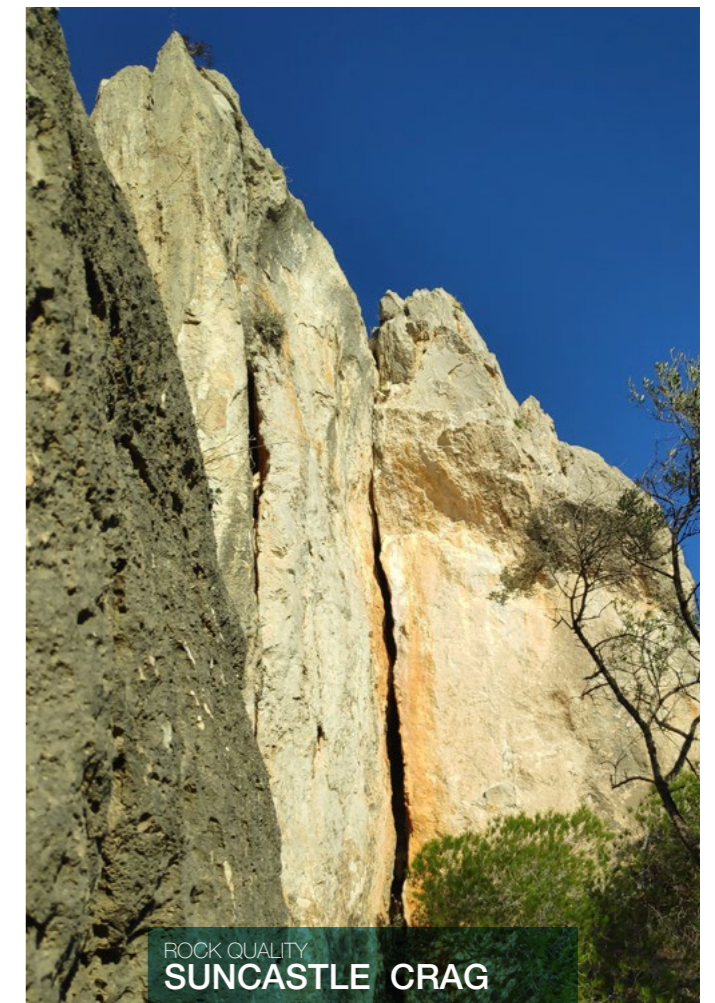
**Family Friendly:** Yes

**Pet Friendly:** Yes

**Camping:** Katafyki

**Gear:** 60 m. rope, 10 quickdraws

**Equipped by:** Climb Ermionida



ROCK QUALITY  
**SUNCASTLE CRAG**

Rock consists of grey and red limestone



SunCastle CRAG  
**Knight's Honor 6b**

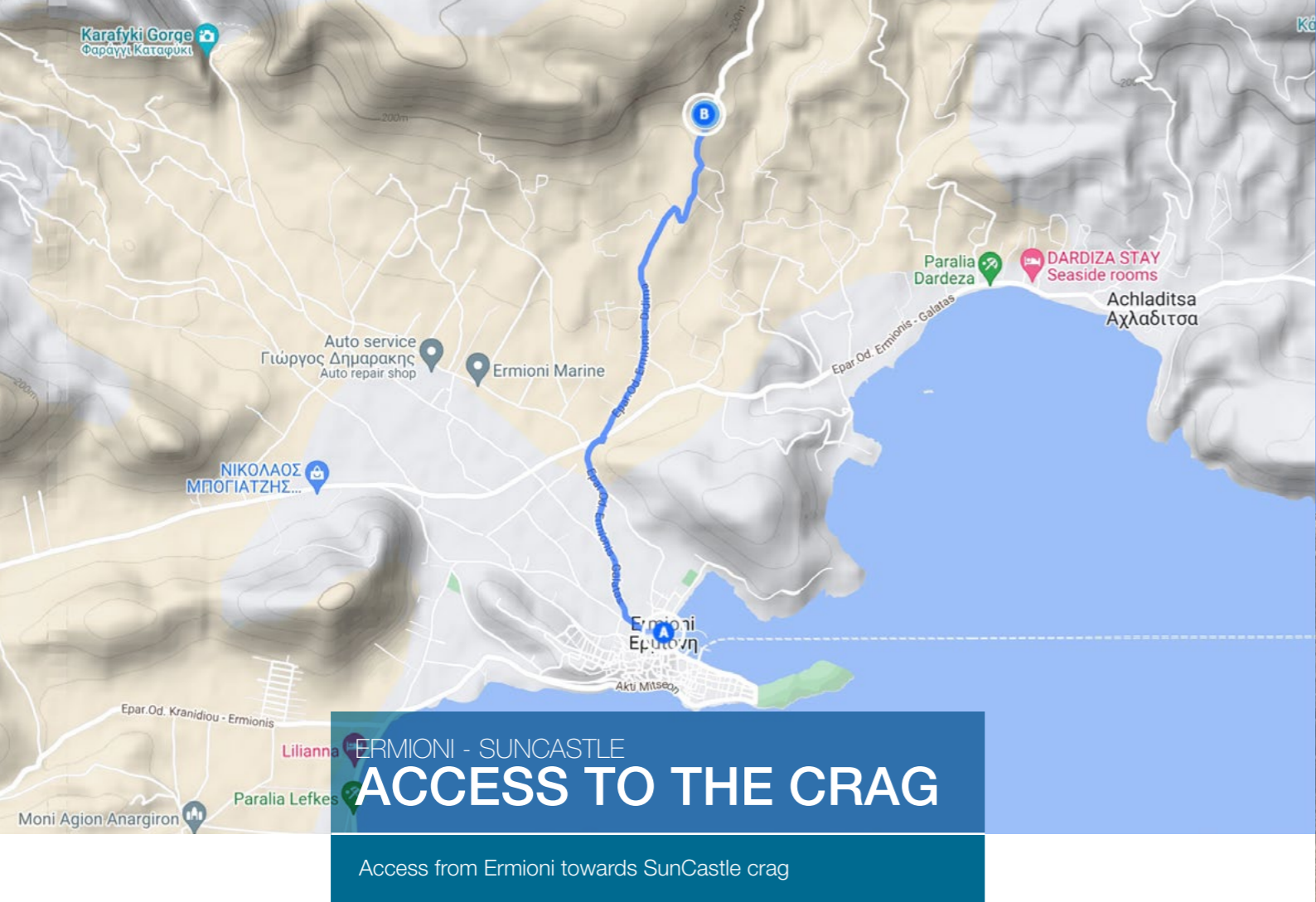
Climber: Daria

10 Routes ★★★☆☆

# SUNCASTLE CRAG

**Crag Location:** 37.416520, 23.250795

**Best Season:** Late Autumn - Late Spring



ERMIONI - SUNCASTLE  
**ACCESS TO THE CRAG**  
 Access from Ermioni towards SunCastle crag

**Access**

Proceed westward on Eparchiaki Ermionis Kranidiou towards **Epar.Od. Ermionis - Galatas** for a distance of 120 meters.

Then, make a right turn onto Epar.Od. Ermionis - Galatas and continue for **1.4 kilometers**.

At the **roundabout**, take the **second exit** and continue on Epar.Od. Ermionis - Didima.

Your destination will be located on the right-hand side. From there only **3 minutes of easy hike** is needed in order to reach **SunCastle** crag.



SUNCASTLE CRAG  
**KNIGHT'S HONOUR 6b**  
 Climber: Benny



PANORAMA  
**SUNCASTLE CRAG**

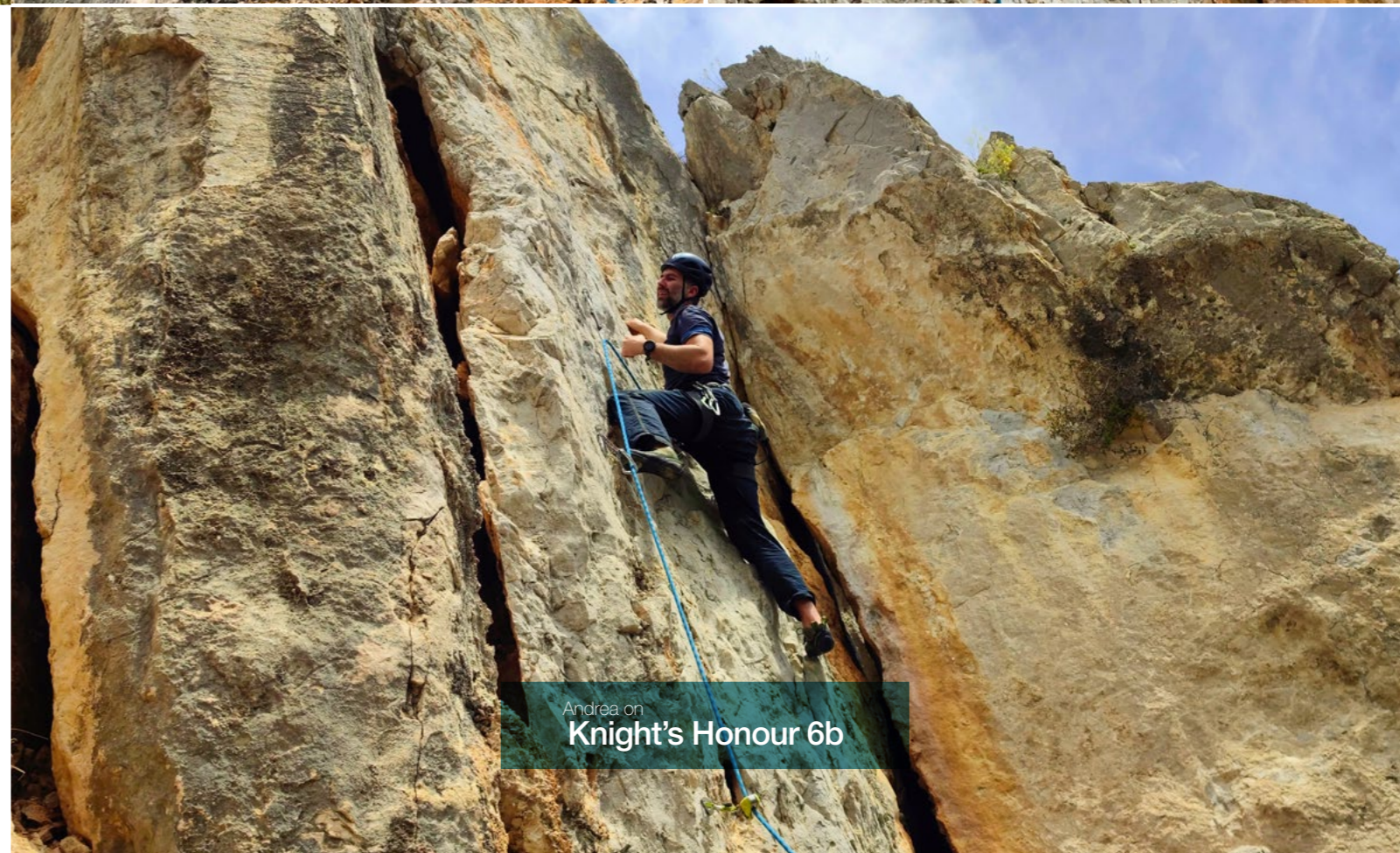
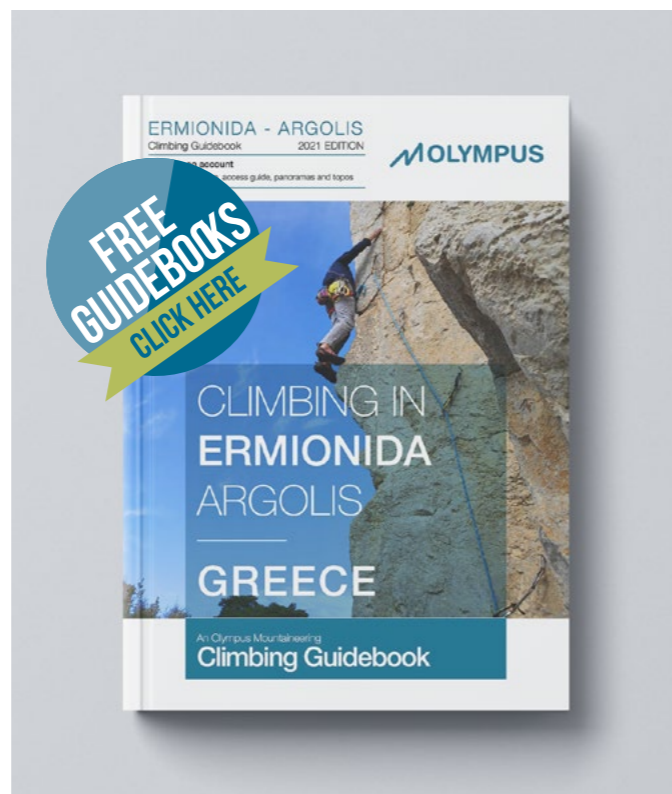


Olympus Mountaineering on  
**Dragon's Spine 5c**



Daria on  
**Knight's Honour 6b**

#	Name	Grade	M.	✓
01.	Rampart	6a+	8 m.	
02.	Joust	5a	10 m.	
03.	Chivalry's Climb	6b	10 m.	
04.	Silver Knight	5b	10 m.	
05.	The Hilt	5c	12 m.	
06.	Dragon's Spine	5c	12 m.	
07.	Knight's Honour	6b	12 m.	
08.	Jester	6b+	12 m.	
09.	Princess Anna	6a+	10 m.	
10.	Dragon's Tale	6a	16 m.	



Andrea on  
**Knight's Honour 6b**

Dragon's Tale is best to abseil to minimize rope friction on the rock.



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