

# ETERNITY AND A DAY

Climbing Guidebook

2023 EDITION

**A hands-on account**

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos

**MOLYMPUS**



# ETERNITY AND A DAY XEROVOUNI GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

## Trad Climbing Guidebook





View from

## R03 - Climbing Pitch 4

Route: Eternity and a Day

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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.**





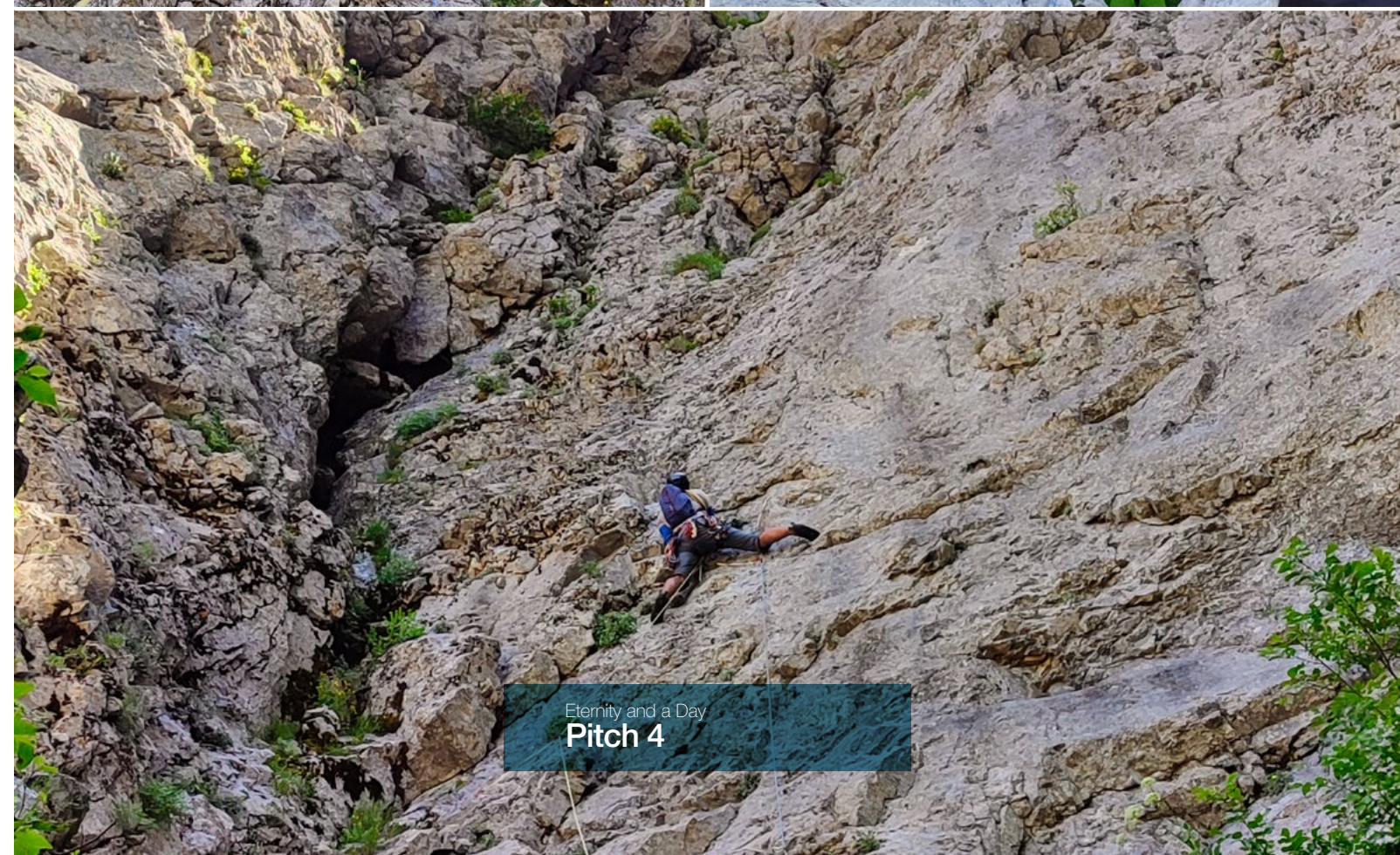
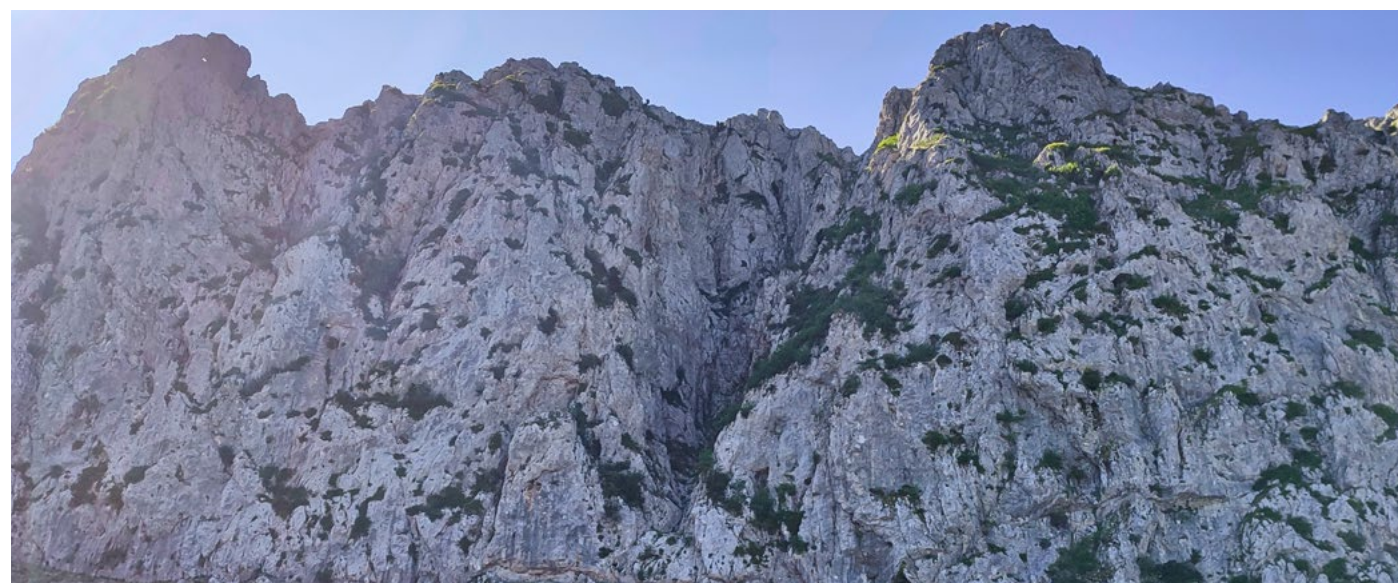
## Access

Setting off from Athens, our destination lies in the nice village of Steni Evias. We need to reach the col of Xerovouni at this location: **38.598627, 23.869589**

Leaving our vehicle behind, we step onto the picturesque wooded trail. At a junction, we contin-

ue straight ahead and, upon reaching a clearing adorned with informative signs, we opt for the right uphill path, guiding us towards Xerovouni.

We make a left turn, embarking on a path that runs parallel to the slope, steadily progressing until we reach the beginning of the route.







VII- 250 m. ★★★★★

## ETERNITY AND A DAY

1st Ascent: 16/08/2011

1st Ascensionists: D. Karalis - S. Koukouzeli

## ETERNITY AND A DAY

VII- | 250 m. ★★★★★ Xerovouni - Evia

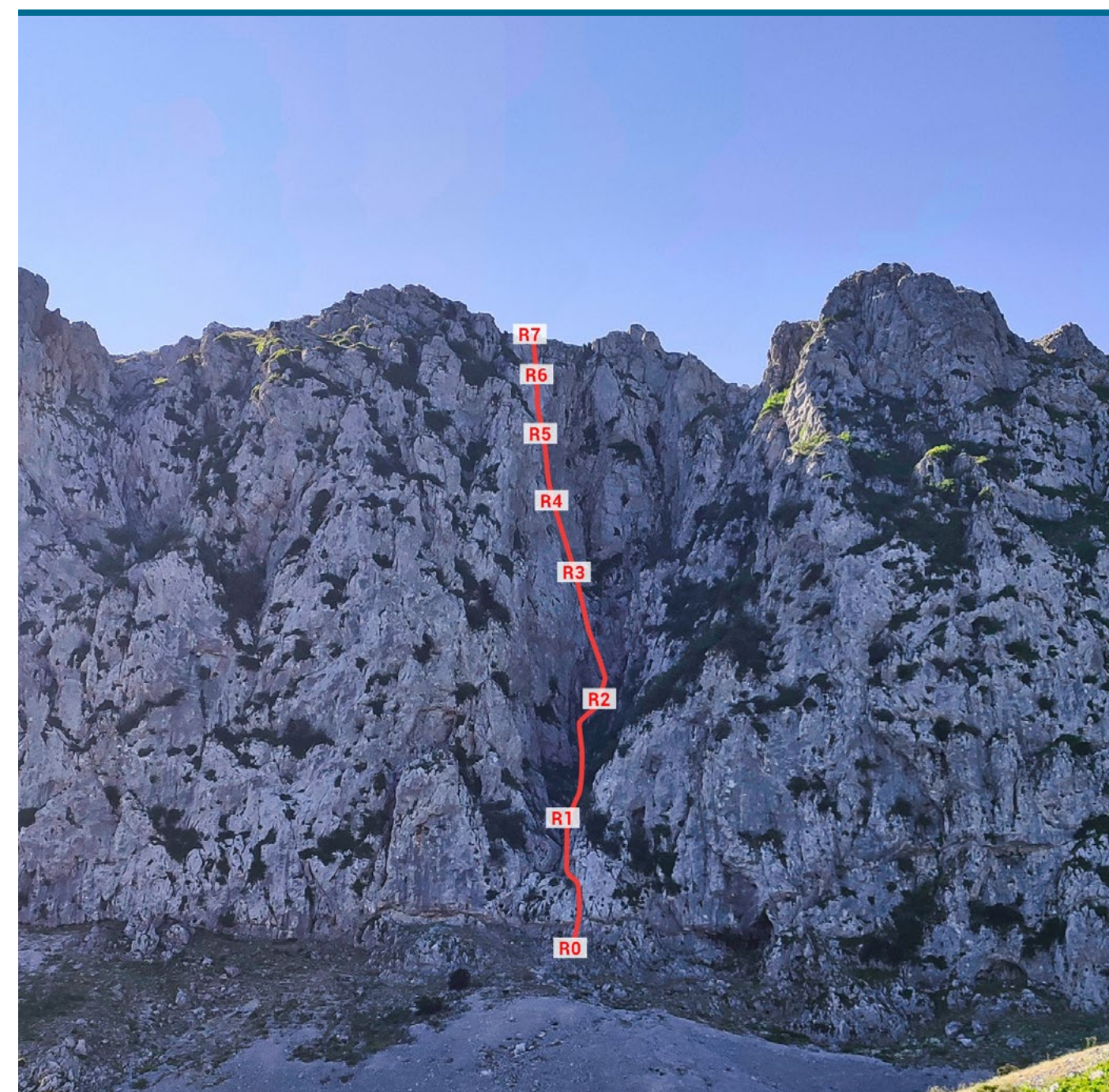
1st Ascent: 16/08/2011

1st Ascensionists: D. Karalis - S. Koukouzeli

### General route information

“Eternity and a Day” (UIAA VII-, 7 pitches, 250m.) was completed and climbed on **August 16, 2011**, by **D. Karalis - S. Koukouzeli**, who were on their honeymoon trip. The initial attempt to establish a new route in the characteristic chimney of the northern face of **Mount Xerovouni** took place on **May 19, 2002**, by **D. Karalis - D. Aivazidis**, who eventually abandoned their effort. In a later attempt, D. Karalis - Ch. Evangelidis tried again in the same chimney but had to abandon due to bad weather conditions.

The route was climbed traditionally from the bottom and equipped locally with fixed bolts and anchors. The line offers an imposing feeling to climbers due to the geometry of the face, which provides increasingly better views as one progresses towards the top. Due to its orientation, it is ideal for the warm months since it remains shaded until 14.00.





# ETERNITY AND A DAY

VII- | 250 m. ★★★★★ Xerovouni - Evia

1st Ascent: 16/8/2011  
1st Ascensionists: D. Karalis - S. Koukouzeli

Approach plan view - map



LEGEND

Trees

Rubbles

Grass

Ledge

Belay

Abseil

Crux

Slab/Rock wall

Couloir

Ridge

Dihedral

Chimney

Overhang

Bolt



# ETERNITY AND A DAY

VII- | 250 m. ★★★★★ Xerovouni - Evia

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## Approach

To access the base of the **Eternity and a Day** route, climbers should start from the Dirfi col and follow the dirt road towards Xerovouni. After approximately 500 meters, a path on the left leads to the base of the central face. The approach takes approximately **1 hour and 30 minutes**.

**Parking spot:** 38.598627, 23.869589  
**Beginning of the route:** 38.584002, 23.900636

## Route description

**R0-R1 | VI+ UIAA 55 m. | 3 bolts**  
**Eternity and a Day** route commences with a captivating start—a geometric dihedral (**VI+**) that allows for easy protection. In fact, right at the beginning there is a **fixed nut**. As climbers ascend, they encounter a **low-angle chimney** (IV), leading them to the first belay station **R1**. This initial pitch sets the tone for the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

**R1-R2 | V+ UIAA 55 m. | 6 bolts**  
Continuing the ascent, the second pitch presents a familiar yet thrilling path. Climbers navigate another chimney, gradually approaching the walls-caves on the left. A delicate rocky passage (**V+**) guides them towards the second belay station (**R2**), offering a rewarding vantage point to admire the surrounding beauty of the mountain.

**R2-R3 | VI UIAA 30 m. | 7 bolts**  
The third pitch treats climbers to a beautiful and **homogeneous difficulty dihedral** (VI). This section showcases the finesse and technique required to conquer the route. As the climbers make their way up, they reach the third belay station (**R3**), celebrating their progress and taking a moment to appreciate the sheer determination it took to arrive here.

**R3-R4 | VII- UIAA 30 m. | 9 bolts**  
The fourth pitch offers a thrilling and demanding experience as it presents a steep ascent. To overcome the challenging overhangs, we skilfully manoeuvre towards the right (VII-) and subsequently make a slight traverse to the left. Once we secure the last bolt, we enter a captivating small cave where the anchors await on the left side, nestled within its depths. It's essential to exercise caution within the cave, as there may be loose blocks that could pose potential hazards.

**R4-R5 | VI+ UIAA 25 m. | 7 bolts**  
The fifth pitch showcases the diversity of the **Eternity and a Day** route. Climbers encounter a combination of **slabs and cracks of steady difficulty (VI+)**. As we make our way up, the striking views and challenging sections motivate us to push further. The fifth belay station (**R5**) becomes a welcome sight, though is the least comfortable belay station.

**R5-R6 | VII- UIAA 30 m. | 7 bolts**  
Prepare for the **most memorable pitch** of the route—the sixth pitch. It starts with **slabs and cracks (VI+)** and leads climbers to a **breathtaking chimney (VII-)**. The impressive rock formations and the sense of accomplishment make this pitch a highlight of the climb. The **fixed bolts are positioned in the best possible location**, but there are enough other opportunities, such as tunnels, that we can use additional protection.

**R6-R7 | V+ UIAA 25 m. | 1 bolt**  
The final pitch short with a short **pseudo-dihedral**, traversing slightly to the right before veering left. As we approach the summit, a **characteristic bush comes into view**. The seventh and last belay station (**R7**) awaits just above this bush, marking the culmination of the journey and offering an opportunity to reflect on the incredible accomplishment.





## ETERNITY AND A DAY RETURN FROM THE ROCK

How to return from the top of Eternity and a Day route

### Return

To return from the summit, we begin by heading east and walking for **approximately 10 minutes** until we reach a gully indicated by two cairns. From there, we descend the slope and reach the base within a **total of 1 hour**. Alternatively, we can opt for six rappels starting from R7, then descending through R6, R5, R3, R2, and finally R1. It's worth noting that the **rappel might be a bit dangerous for eventual rockfalls** by retrieving the ropes.



Descent from the route

### Necessary equipment

To repeat this route one needs the following items:

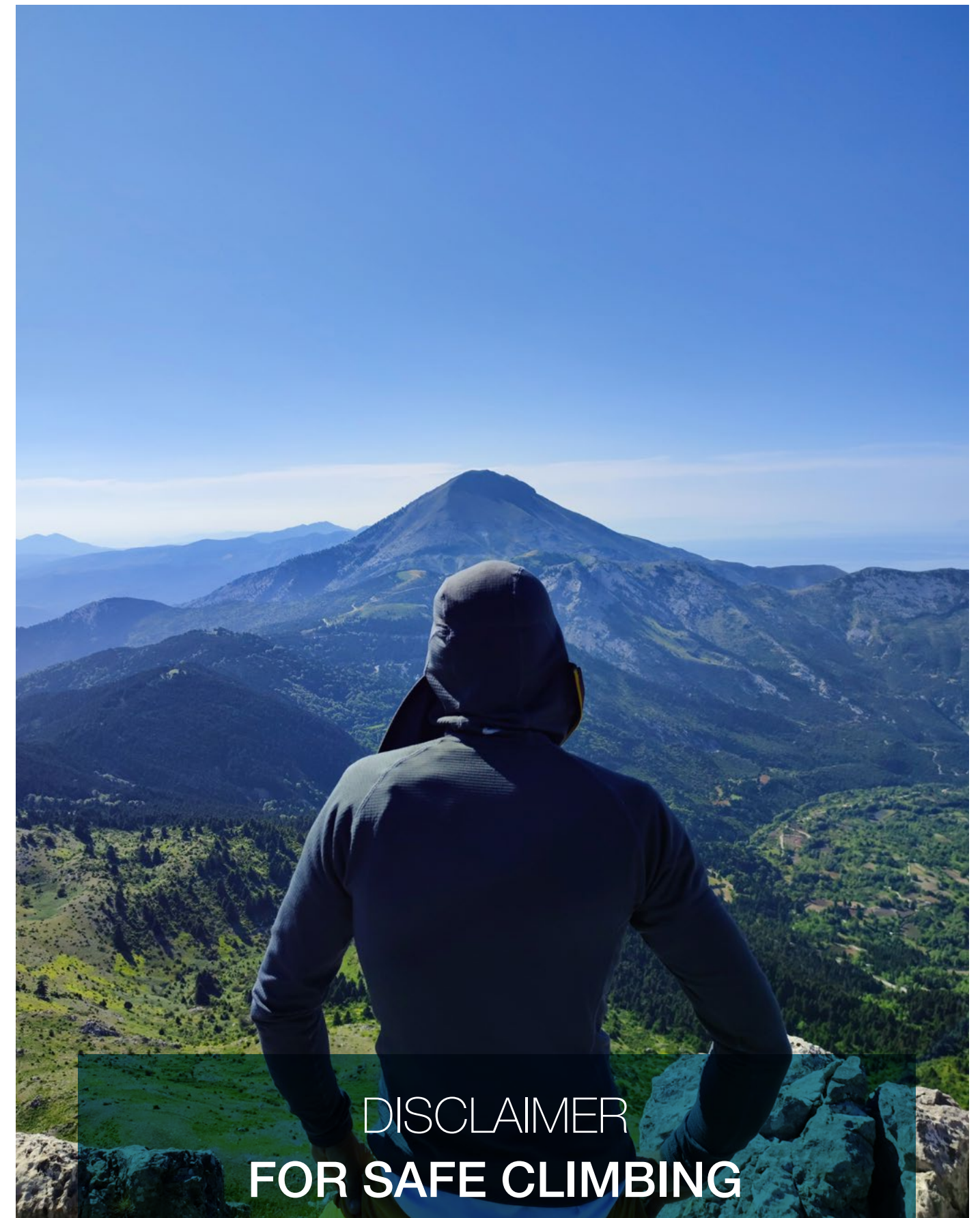
- Wire nuts 1-10
- Friends/Cam up to #2
- Slings/Lanyards
- Kevlar cordelette
- 2 x 60 m. 1/2 ropes
- 16 Quickdraws

### Useful coordinates

**Parking spot:** 38.598627, 23.869589  
**Beginning of the route:** 38.584002, 23.900636  
**Highest peak:** Portaris  
**Point of descent:** T.B.D.

### Retreat

In case of emergency, a retreat might be possible by abseiling from the anchors. Though, pay attention to eventual rockfalls during the abseil process



## 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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