

PEZA CRAG (CRETE)

Climbing Guidebook

2025 EDITION

MOLYMPUS

A hands-on account

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos



CLIMBING IN
PEZA CRAG
CRETE

GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

Climbing Guidebook



Aerial View
Voulisma Beach

View from Peza Crag

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 04** **INTRODUCTION**
About this guidebook
- 06** **PEZA**
About
- 08** **PEZA CRAG**
About Peza crag

PEZA CRAG — CRETE GREECE

- 10** **ACCESS**
Reaching the crag
- 12** **PEZA CRAG**
Panorama
- 14** **PANAS SECTOR**
Sector information
- 15** **MINOAS SECTOR**
Sector information
- 16** **TALOS SECTOR**
Sector information



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

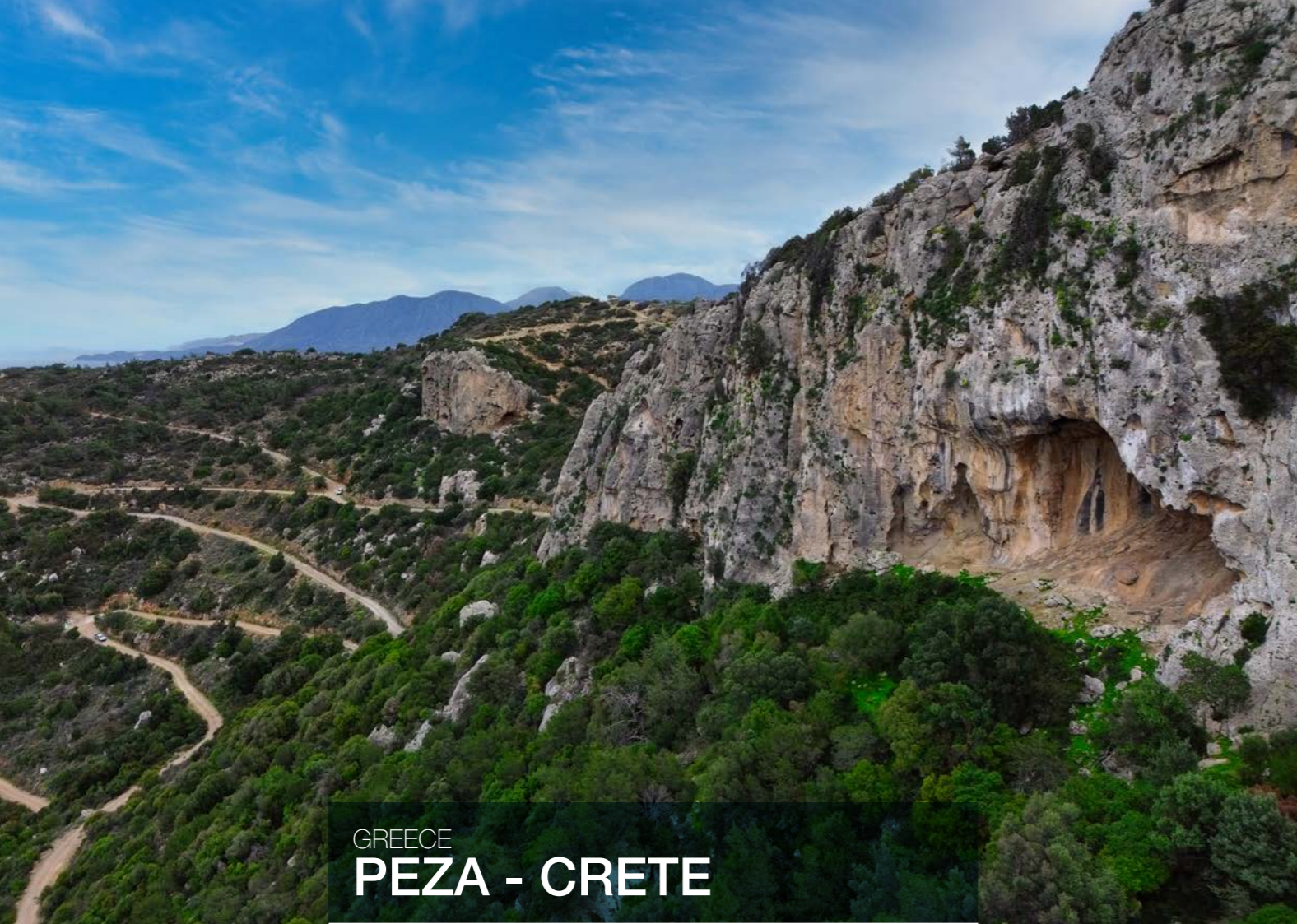
climbing—including, for example, failure or absence of fixed protection, your own equipment's failure, faulty protection placement, or improper use of climbing equipment.

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
PEZA - CRETE

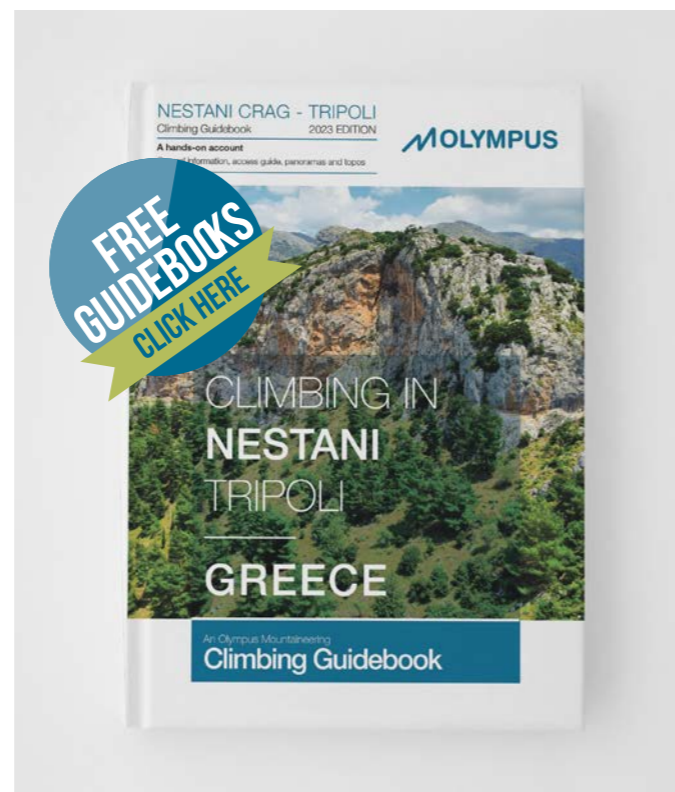
Panoramic view of Talos Sector

About Kalo Chorio

The area of **Kalo Chorio** in **Lasithi** forms a unique cultural and natural landscape where history, nature, and human activity meet. The nearby ancient site of Vrokastro, a fortified **Minoan settlement** overlooking the Gulf of Istron, stands as a reminder of the region's long past.

Just below, on the same rocky slopes that once offered protection and vantage, lies the modern climbing sector of Peza. Its impressive limestone walls, marked by sharp features and natural textures, now attract climbers from all over Crete and Greece. In **Peza**, visitors experience a living connection between past and present, where ancient inhabitants built for safety, today's climbers ascend for exploration and inspiration.

Together, **Kalo Chorio**, Vrokastro, and **Peza** form a landscape of cultural continuity and outdoor adventure within the heart of eastern Crete.



About Peza Crag

Climbing in **Peza** began around 2006, thanks to the enthusiasm of Dimitris Oikonomou and the generous support of Dimitris Koulougousidis, who provided the first equipment. At the time, Oikonomou, couldn't resist the urge to explore and bolt new routes across Crete.

Koulougousidis, a true pioneer, also created one of the first indoor climbing walls on the island to train the local rescue team. That wall became a meeting place for everyone, a community hub where the local climbing spirit was born.

Over the years, climbers from all over Crete and Greece contributed to developing more routes across the Peza sectors, covering all grades and styles.

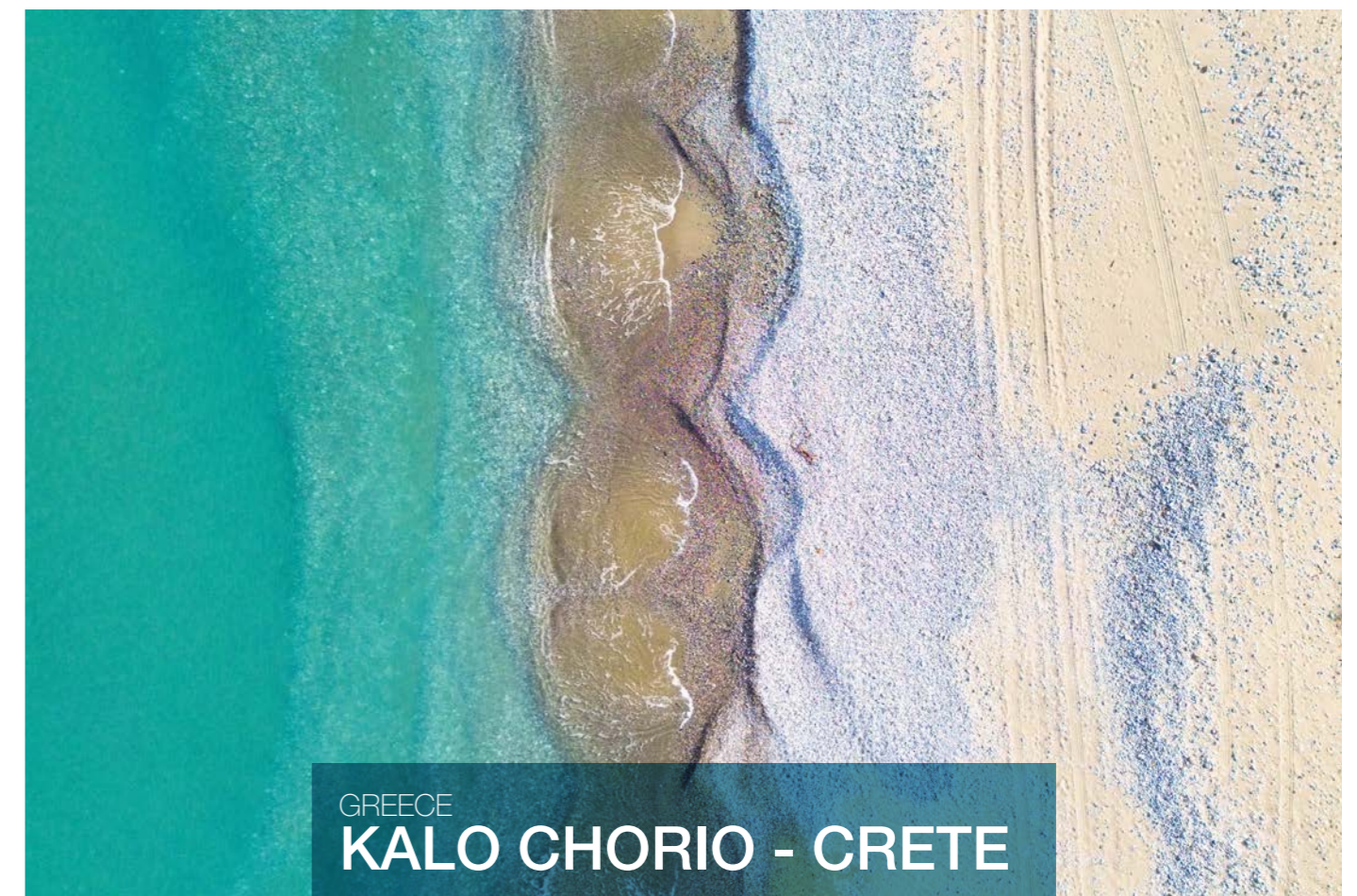
In the past two years, all the routes have been fully rebolted with titanium hardware by Kostas Grafanakis, with support from the Frizzy Foundation.

This guidebook is published to share the story of **Peza** and invite more climbers to experience the magic of **Kalo Chorio** and its surrounding cliffs.

Special thanks to Thanasis Chtenas, Aris Mavromatis, Ioanna Mavroufourou, Christos Daniil, Christos Belogiannis, Nektarios Koulougousidis, and Themelis Marnelos for their help in developing new routes and supporting the local climbing community.

Useful references:

- General Info:** Olympus Mountaineering
Agios Nicolaos
Kalo Chorio
- Camping:** Kalo Chorio
- Stay:** Kalo Chorio
Agios Nicolaos



GREECE
KALO CHORIO - CRETE

Panoramic view of the beach



PEZA CRAG

50 Routes ★★★★★☆ Ag. Nicolaos, Crete

Crag location: 35.109617, 25.737909

Season: Autumn - Early Summer | **Walk in:** 1-5 minutes

General information

A new sport climbing crag was developed and established in close proximity to **Peza**, approximately **12 km away from Aghios Nicolaos**.

The crag was rebolted with high quality titanium bolts by **Kostas Grafanakis** during the winter/spring season of 2024.

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 **50 routes suitable for climbers of all skill levels**, with grades ranging from **5a to 8b+**.

The optimal time to visit the **Peza Crag** is **Autumn to Early Summer**, with easy access requiring only a brief hike.

In a Nutshell

Exposure: South West

Best Season: Autumn - Early Summer

Sun: From 14.00 up to sunset

Walk in: 1-5 minutes (depending the sector)

Water: None

Family Friendly: Yes

Pet Friendly: Yes

Camping: Kalo Chorio

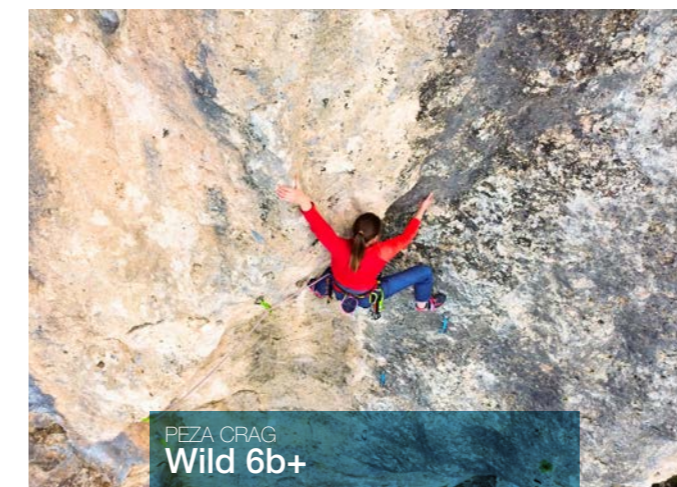
Gear: 70 m. rope, 18 quickdraws

Rebolted by: K. Grafanakis



PEZA CRAG
Double Trouble 8a

Climber: K. Grafanakis



PEZA CRAG
Wild 6b+

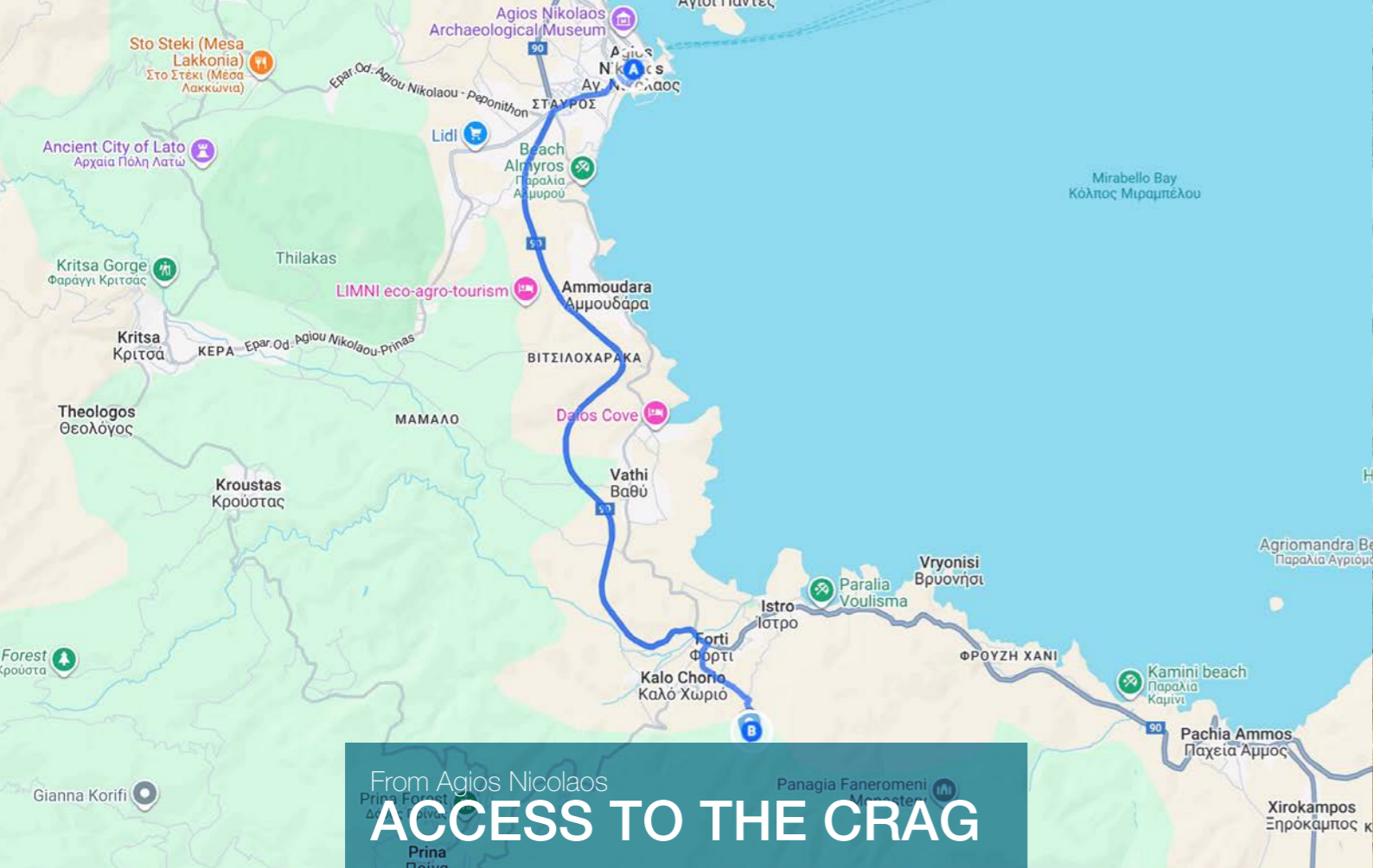
Climber: Tia Porri

50 Routes ★★★★★☆

PEZA CRAG

Crag Location: 35.109617, 25.737909

Best Season: Autumn - Early Summer



From Agios Nicolaos
ACCESS TO THE CRAG
 Access from Agios Nicolaos towards Peza crag

Access

Peza Climbing Area is located approximately **12 kilometers** east of **Agios Nikolaos**, Crete, at an elevation of 300 meters.

(Gps location: 35.109617, 25.737909)

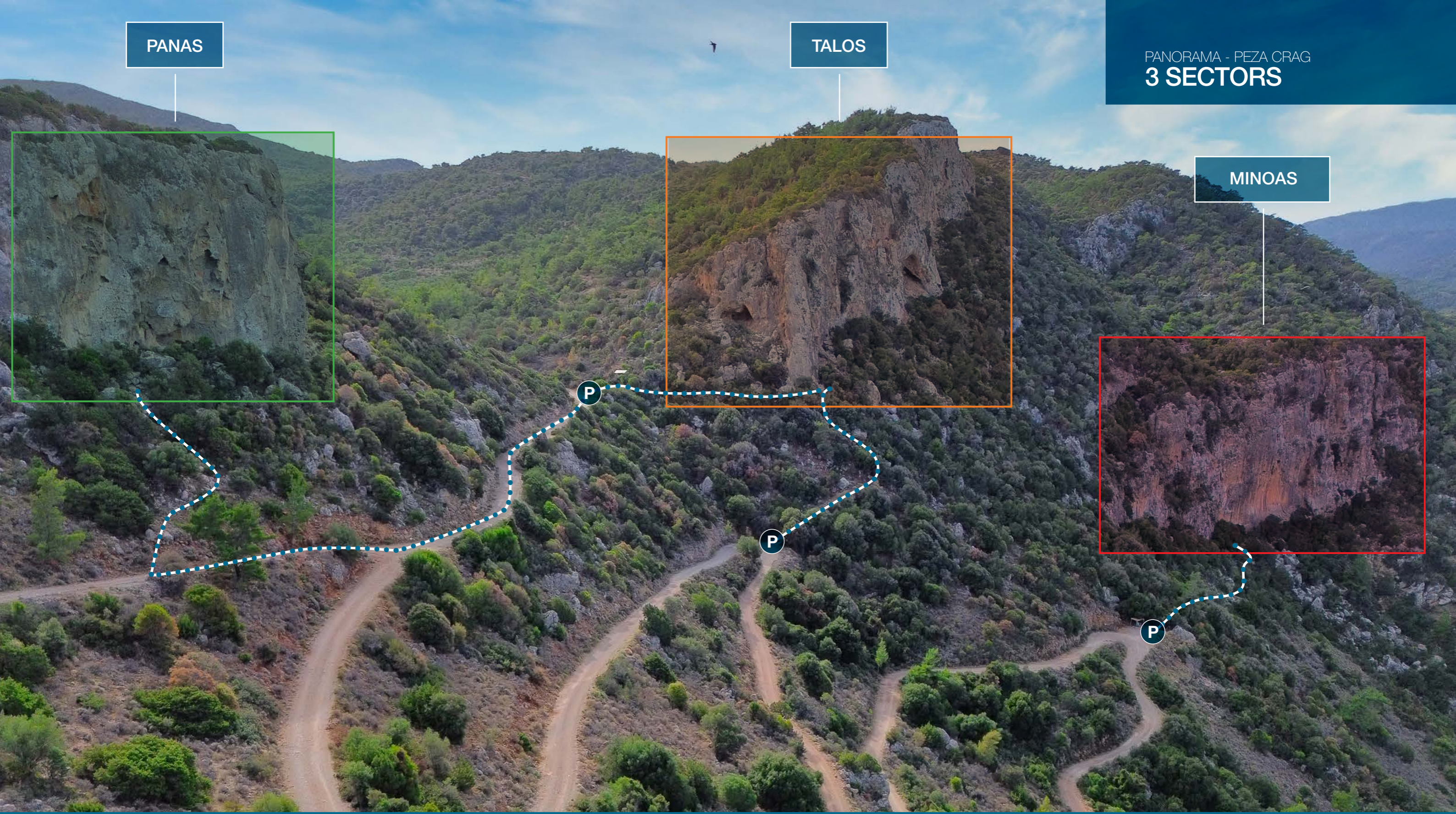


PEZA CRAG
Idea 8a
 Climber: K. Grafanakis

PANAS

TALOS

MINOAS



SECTOR
PANAS

Routes: 9
Grades: 5a up to 7a
Walk in: 1 minute

SECTOR
TALOS

Routes: 35
Grades: 5a up to 8b+
Walk in: 3 minutes

SECTOR
MINOAS

Routes: 6
Grades: 6b up to 7b+
Walk in: 5 minutes



| # | Name | Grade | M. | ✓ |
|-----|-----------------|-------|-------|---|
| 01. | Echoes | 6a | 22 m. | |
| 02. | Path of the God | 6a | 23 m. | |
| 03. | Whistling Call | 5c | 22 m. | |
| 04. | Sacrifice | 5a | 20 m. | |
| 05. | Wild Dance | 5b | 20 m. | |
| 06. | Panic | 7a | 20 m. | |
| 07. | Cave of Panas | 7a | 20 m. | |
| 08. | Hymn | 6b+ | 18 m. | |



| # | Name | Grade | M. | ✓ |
|-----|------------------|-------|-------|---|
| 01. | Hesmeden | 6b | 30 m. | |
| 02. | Horn of Amalthia | 6c | 23 m. | |
| 03. | Minotaur's Path | 7a | 21 m. | |
| 04. | Bull's Challenge | 7b+ | 25 m. | |
| 05. | Atlantis | 7a | 35 m. | |
| 06. | Tears of Ariadne | 6c+ | 30 m. | |

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PANORAMA
PEZA SECTOR TALOS

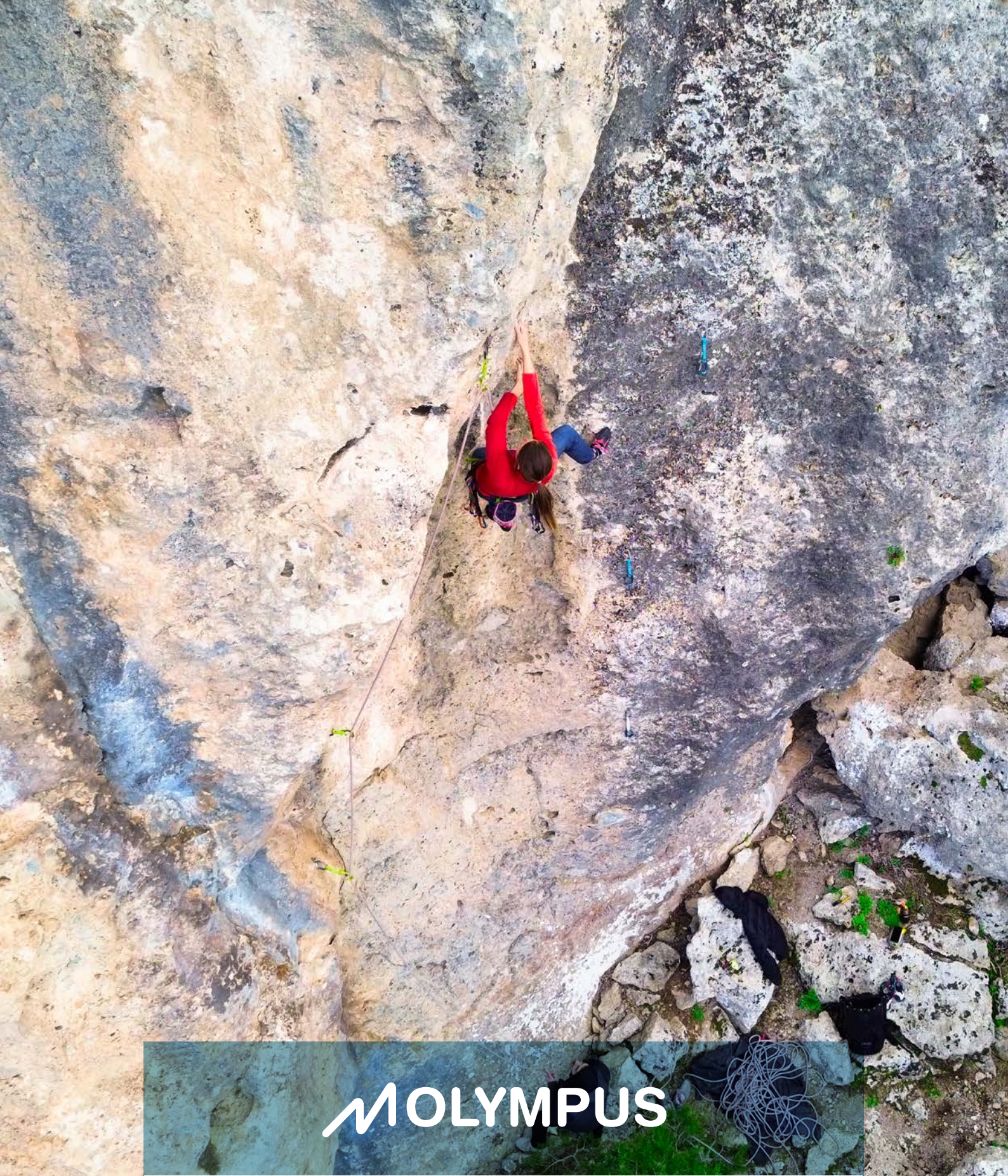
| # | Name | Grade | M. | ✓ |
|-----|----------------------|-------|-------|---|
| 01. | Out of Place | 5c | 20 m. | |
| 02. | Baby Gypas | 5a | 12 m. | |
| 03. | Peza's Gate | 5a | 20 m. | |
| 04. | Barbagiannis's Dream | 5b | 15 m. | |
| 05. | Amalthia | 5c+ | 25 m. | |
| 06. | Wild | 6b+ | 20 m. | |
| 07. | Rose | 6a+ | 22 m. | |
| 08. | Flo | 6a | 17 m. | |
| 09. | Tzoutzoukos | 6a | 18 m. | |
| 10. | Smug | 6a | 18 m. | |

| # | Name | Grade | M. | ✓ |
|-----|------------------------|-------|-------|---|
| 11. | The Alpinist Crest | 5c | 15 m. | |
| 12. | Makaria | 6c | 20 m. | |
| 13. | President of our Heart | 5c | 12 m. | |
| 14. | Ariadni | 5c | 15 m. | |
| 15. | Anna Anoui Annio | 6a+ | 17 m. | |
| 16. | Delogo | 6b+ | 25 m. | |
| 17. | Kronos | 7a+ | 25 m. | |
| 18. | Dias | 7b+ | 30 m. | |
| 19. | Double Trouble | 8a | 25 m. | |
| 20. | Idea | 8a | 25 m. | |

| # | Name | Grade | M. | ✓ |
|-----|------------|-------|-------|---|
| 21. | Bober | 8a+ | 30 m. | |
| 22. | Tom | 8b+ | 25 m. | |
| 23. | Jerry | 8a | 25 m. | |
| 24. | Aigis* | 5b | 23 m. | |
| 25. | Liktos | 5b | 24 m. | |
| 26. | Ira | 5c | 25 m. | |
| 27. | Tricky Top | 5c | 25 m. | |
| 28. | Sparta | 6c | 30 m. | |
| 29. | Odyssey | 7a | 30 m. | |
| 30. | Omiros | 7a+ | 30 m. | |

| # | Name | Grade | M. | ✓ |
|-----|---------------|-------|-------|---|
| 31. | Unfinished | ? | ? m. | |
| 32. | Unfinished | ? | ? m. | |
| 33. | Enigma | 7b+ | 25 m. | |
| 34. | Nice View Eee | 6a+ | 20 m. | |
| 35. | The End | 5c | 15 m. | |

*Aigis this route is with runouts



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