CLIMB ARGOLIS

by Jim Titt

Webspace and bolts supplied by
IMPORTANT. Since August 2003 I have not been resident in Greece and the various contact addresses and telephone numbers which were previously published are no longer correct, this also applies to Inge Zaczek. New route information and questions can be sent to me at jim.@bolt-products.com

FOREWORD.
Welcome to the third edition of Climb Argolis.
When I first started to write the first guide it contained around 40 routes and what started as a few routes for fun has as you will see, grown to a major climbing area with around 300 climbs so far. We thought at the time that Argolis had potential as an alternative “sun-rock” destination and events since then have proved us right. The variety of venues, superb views, first class routes, quality bolting and massive potential has earned Argolis the reputation as the best climbing area on mainland Greece and the description “the future of climbing in Greece”.

The original print guide is now sold out so I have decided to make the information available as an online print-out.

Recent new activity has been in the Naplion area, unfortunately many of the new routes being above a popular tourist promenade with the obvious dangers to passers by and thus climbing has been banned in this area.

Our explorations of the area have revealed numerous crags with potential for tens of thousands of routes and therefore we had to have a development policy, this was to develop varied venues with a broad spectrum of grades to suit parties of mixed ability, and located to provide climbing whatever the weather or season, this is why some obvious crags have been ignored and some relatively minor ones developed. At the end of the guide is a list of all the worthwhile cliffs waiting to be developed.

The fact that the majority of the routes lie in the 5th, 6th, and 7th grades is not a reflection of the potential for harder routes, rather an indication of my lamentable lack of ability.

The contribution to the hundreds of routes by my climbing partner Inge Zaczek has rather been ignored by the climbing press, over the years she has been a willing, determined and able helper. Together we have driven thousands of kilometers, cleaned routes, made paths, drilled, bolted, climbed and manufactured over 2500 bolts. Naturally we also climbed the routes, which, when you consider that she had never climbed before is quite an achievement (Take a trip up The Red Empire, this was bolted from below in a 9 hour marathon, the last 3 in the dark and was her first time on an aid route, complete with rucksack!).

Many thanks for help, encouragement and advice to my brother Scott, Aris Theodoropoulos and Korfes magazine, Hans Weninger and family, Joseph Gstoettenmayr and family, Karsten Oelze, Barbera Hertner and all the visitors who make the effort worthwhile.

Jim Titt
WHERE?
Argolis is the administrative district covering most of the eastern finger of the Peleponese, the hand-like area of southern Greece, capital city Argos. Some climbing areas lie outside of this district, so maybe the title of the guide should be amended to, ....“and surroundings”.

HOW?
Check out the cheap flights to Athens, book a hire car and Argolis is around 2 hours drive from the airport. Alternatively take a ferry from Italy to Patras and drive 3 hrs. Travel to Porto Heli by ferry or bus from Athens is easy, but access to many of the cliffs is impossible without a car.

WHEN?
Argolis is the only Greek climbing area to offer all year climbing but the months of February and March can be wet and are best avoided. The summer is naturally hot but there is good climbing to be had on the higher lying and shaded cliffs, Didyma being excellent at this time of year.

WHAT?
Sun, sea and super routes as listed below. The rock is excellent grey limestone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUTE GRADE (Fr)</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a,b&amp;c</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>5a,b&amp;c</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>6a,6a+</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>6b,6b+</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6c,6c+</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7a,7a+</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7b,7b+</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7c,7c+</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8a,8a+</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trad routes</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Projects</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHAT TO BRING.
60m rope, 12 quickdraws, chalk and rock boots in good condition (the rock here is sharp!). A normal trad rack if you are into this and some cheap, robust leggings as the rock is really sharp! Suncream and a hat.

WHERE TO STAY.
The best centre is Porto Heli with plenty of holiday apartments, restaurants, bars, and shops. For information search on the net under greece.hotels.argolis where there is plenty of choice including apartments. Alternatively Ermiion has a more Greek feel to it and is also to be recommmed. For camping there are sites at Kilada, Kosta, Kastro Thermisia, Vivari and many more in the Naplion area. Wild camping is naturally illegal but as with many things in Greece the law is simply ignored. There are almost unlimited possibilities to pitch a tent in an idyllic situation. For those without a tent there are good bivouac sites in the caves of Frachti, in the small chapel on Didyma (with lighting), and in the deserted monastery at Avgou (see the crag descriptions). As I have not lived in the area since 2003 I cannot help with accomodation questions and suggest you search on the internet.
GETTING ABOUT.
First you need a map, the one we have used in writing this guide is No 5, Peloponnese, ISBN No 960-8481-15-5 from Road Editions, 65 Ippokratous str. 106 80 Athens. tel 01 3640 723. fax 01 3640 539. A map of the area is included in this guide.
You will need a car or a boat to visit the various crags, only Katafyki Ravine and the Naplion areas are reasonably accessible by public transport. If you are into sailing then a good option would be to charter a yacht, as some of the crags are near to, or on, the seaside and have good anchoring possibilities. Information is given in the crag description. Most of the crags are easy to find, and are on tarred roads, using the above map and following the access notes in the guide you will experience no difficulties except for Rock of Ages for which I provide an extra access map.

WHAT IS IT CALLED?
An odd section you might think but you may find it useful to know that there is no direct translation of the Greek names, and there are normally about 5 ways to spell a place name, and they are all used! For example Naplion, Naplio, Naflpio, Nauplia or Navplia. When you come to a road sign be prepared to think phonetically and if it’s in Greek then you’re probably stuffed anyway!

WHAT’S THE WEATHER LIKE?
Reputedly the best climate in Europe with over 3000 hrs of sun, hot like hell in the summer but good climbing conditions can be found all year round. Rain is a rarity apart from the months of February and March. Snow can lie on the higher areas in the winter, often the crag on Didyma can be very cold at this time of year so you will have to go to a lower altitude one.

OUCH!
The only threatening animal life in the Argolis are snakes, scorpions, sea urchins and caterpillars. The snakes are common vipers, they are mainly nocturnal and only come out to sunbathe. If struck by one then go to hospital. Scorpions like cool camp places and hunt at night, they are rarely seen and are not fatal, but if you are stung then go to hospital as without treatment you will feel extremely ill for a few days. Sea urchins have spines which break off in the sole of the foot and normally become infected, get them removed and watch your step in future! Life threatening caterpillars? These are a variety which have a curious habit in the spring of joining up head to tail in a group and going for a walk, they are also responsible for the ”spiders webs” in the pine trees. They are hairy and contact with these hairs can cause a strong allergic reaction particularly dangerous to asthmatics, if affected seek treatment and keep curious little children away from them.
RESCUE AND MEDICAL TREATMENT.
There is no mountain rescue in the area, if you need assistance contact the police who will arrange the fire brigade and army if required.
There is a small hospital at Kranidi for minor treatment and a larger one in Argos for the big jobs. The hospital in Kranidi will refer you if necessary. Treatment is in principle free but you may have to pay for the bandages. Dentistry is private and available in most towns, cheap and surprisingly good. Almost any medicine and drug can be bought at pharmacies, normally without prescription and relatively cheap, the pharmacist can often help with diagnosis as well. If you want a specific medicine then it is helpful to know its generic name as the trade names are often different.

HUNGER!
A number of good supermarkets in Porto Heli sell almost everything including imported foods due to the large number of expatriates in the area, another one between Porto Heli and Kranidi even sells dried Korean seaweed! There is LIDL on the outskirts of Naplion (about the first building on the right when you approach the city), bakers and butchers everywhere excellent veg. shop in the centre of Porto Heli. Restaurants everywhere of variable quality and price but note that fish is even more expensive than at home.

THIRST!
Nothing to do with beer, water is the topic. From around the end of May to the end of September the temperatures are generally in the 30’s and you will need to watch your fluids. There are two problems, firstly that failure to drink enough causes changes to the body as (roughly) the kidneys are not flushed out, to avoid this drink enough that your urine is clear at least once a day. The other problem is mineral deficiency which will affect your climbing ability; the main culprit is a lack of magnesium which normally manifests itself as aching muscles, often the lower legs first. The various brands of bottled water contain different levels of magnesium (Mg) so look for the ones with more. Usually the ones from the Loutraki area have the most. You will have to drink around 3 litres per day to cover your needs. Tip: Good are the cheap, round insulated containers that the building workers use that are available in the hardware stores, buy some ice at a kiosk and carry your water in this.

GEAR SHOPS.
There are no local gear shops so you will have to go to Athens if you forgot your boots, here are a couple of addresses, it’s best to phone first to see if they have what you need (they can speak English). Don’t forget that shops in Greece close in the afternoon!
Dimitriadis Action Sports, Dekeleias 23-25. 14343 Athens. Tel 210 2525064
Wild Sports. Hirakleos & Kaliros str 2. N. Kosmos. Tel 2109211990
Alpamayo. Harilou Trikoupi 6-10. Eboriko Kentrum. Atrium. Tel 2103627032

GRADING.
In common with most sport climbing areas we use the French grades. These we subdivide in the lower grades as the 4th and 5th cover an enormous range.
Trad routes are graded using the UIAA scale.
A0 means you will have to pull on one or more bolts.
A1 means you will need foot loops / etriers.
As is modern practice I have given no “star” rating for routes, this is to protect certain routes from overuse and the resultant polish. Nearly all the routes here are three star anyway and the quality is for you to discover!
Ther is a grade conversion table at the end of the guide for those not familiar with French grades.

NEW ROUTES / PROJECTS.
There is plenty of room for new routes (see the end of the guide). Please try to bolt sensibly, offenders will be named and shamed! Bolted projects may be reserved for 2 years, trad lines that have been cleaned for one year. Reserve with me!
Here in the Argolis we don’t chip holds but the blunting of dangerously sharp holds is accepted.
BOLTS.
All routes bolted by me are equipped with glued-in stainless bolts (test over 38kN) or stainless bolt-ins (28 kN). Lower-offs/belays are twin bolted. Trad routes have also twin bolt belays and abseil points. Some routes have as lower-offs 12mm dia stainless „monster hooks“ which are incredibly strong, safe, and mean you don’t need to untie and thread through. How to use is shown below.

BOULDERING.
Not really my thing but there are some huge boulders in the fields below Kastro Thermisia, with good potential also for mini routes, or at the Red Cliff above Vivari (Marathia) where the collapsed cave roof has left an amazing collection of boulders, some with horizontal tufa.
KATAFYKI RAVINE

Easy access, parking by the cliff, over 100m high, super rock, quality routes, monster holds, slabs, overhangs, roofs, nice place and all year climbing. What more do you want?
A narrow ravine with a good dirt road running up to the water pumping station for Ermioni, (the bridge was built for a mining railway). A pleasant walk up the wooded valley brings you to a lot more rock.
Please note that two sectors on this cliff are reserved for trad routes, that is, apart from belay bolts, these sectors are bolt free. The sectors are a) from the start of the ravine until the corner left of Savage Man and b) the triangular buttress opposite the chapel, that is between the routes Come On and Chapel Arete. Protection bolts placed in these sectors will be removed, there is enough room for bolt routes elsewhere. Regrettably Hans Weninger is not prepared to accept the wishes of other climbers and has bolted some routes at the start of the ravine left of The Answer. These routes are not included in this guide and the bolts will be removed at my convenience.
A good area for young children to play in the dry river bed.

The Choice.

Access.
From the main road below Kranidi take the road towards Ermioni. At the end of a long straight which is slowly being widened (obvious) turn left at a new building. Follow the tarred road to a T junction. Turn left here, drive to the end of the tarred section and then for 500m good dirt road to the ravine. OR drive into Ermioni, turn left and take the coast road to Thermisia. At the end of Ermioni take a left turn signposted Katafyki Ravine.
By Boat. Good harbour in Ermioni, the cliff is ca 3.5km walk or get a taxi.
Note. If you are coming from the Didyma area you can save a long drive by taking the small road left just before you come to the village of Fourni, follow this past a church to its end where there is a parking place. From here it is a pleasant 10 min stroll to the main cliff.

Parking. Anywhere, don’t block the road.

Walk-in. Ca 20 metres!

Altitude. 10m above sea level.

Season. All year. The main wall lies in the shade after midday, in the winter if the north wind is blowing it can be cold here and you are better off going to Kastro Thermisia.

Water. A tap at the pumping station by the chapel.

Camping. A reasonable spot under the bridge or better take the approach from Fourni where there are nicer sites.

KATAFYKI MAIN WALL EAST
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Bolt Count</th>
<th>1st Ascent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Powerline 1 pitch 30m</td>
<td>Trad. VI</td>
<td>Belay</td>
<td>S. Titt &amp; J. Titt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Pillar of Pain 1 pitch 30m</td>
<td>Trad V</td>
<td>Belay</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Chimney 1 pitch 25m</td>
<td>Trad III</td>
<td>Belay</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Right Side Up 1 pitch 25m</td>
<td>Trad IV</td>
<td>Belay</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The Groove 2 pitches 30m.30m.</td>
<td>Trad IV+</td>
<td>Belays</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Mr Clean 3 pitches ca 30m</td>
<td>Trad V+</td>
<td>Belays</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I.Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Mrs Clean 3 pitches ca 30m</td>
<td>Trad VI</td>
<td>Belays</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. The Answer 3 pitches ca 30m</td>
<td>Trad V</td>
<td>Belays</td>
<td>J. Titt (solo)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Descent:
For the first 3 routes abseil off the belay. For route 4 abseil the route or scramble off left (facing cliff). For the other routes an abseil piste is arranged using Monster Hooks down the line of The Answer or scramble down left.
# KATAFYKI MAIN WALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Question</th>
<th>5b</th>
<th>J.Gstoettenmayr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria’s Traum</td>
<td>5c</td>
<td>J.Gstoettenmayr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabbatical</td>
<td>6b</td>
<td>J.Gstoettenmayr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savage Girl</td>
<td>6c+</td>
<td>J.Gstoettenmayr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Savage Man</td>
<td>6c</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sidestep</td>
<td>6c</td>
<td>S. Gstoettenmayr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Force War</td>
<td>6a+</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Heroes</td>
<td>P.1 .30m P.2.30m</td>
<td>6a &amp; 6a 9&amp;9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Villains</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. At The Edge</td>
<td>2 Pitches</td>
<td>6b+ &amp; 5c ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Saints</td>
<td>4c</td>
<td>J.Gstoettenmayr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Fighting Jim</td>
<td>6b</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. The Red Empire</td>
<td>5 pitches 125m.</td>
<td>7c+ 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.1</td>
<td>35m</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.2</td>
<td>25m</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.3</td>
<td>20m</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.4</td>
<td>20m</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.5</td>
<td>20m</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First free ascent of the roof on P. 3 by Karsten Oelze

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10. Prayer</th>
<th>5a</th>
<th>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11. Sinners</td>
<td>5a</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Sue’s Party</td>
<td>4 pitches 110m</td>
<td>IV (Trad)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.1</td>
<td>25m</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.2</td>
<td>25m</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.3</td>
<td>25m</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.4</td>
<td>35m</td>
<td>J.Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13. **Zorro** 
6 pitches 150m

J. Titt & J. Gstoettenmayr

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pitch</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.1</td>
<td>35m</td>
<td>5b+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.2</td>
<td>30m</td>
<td>6b (5cAo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.3</td>
<td>20m</td>
<td>5c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.4</td>
<td>20m</td>
<td>5c+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.5</td>
<td>25m</td>
<td>5a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.6</td>
<td>15m</td>
<td>4b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top two pitches only have a few protection bolts as they are relatively easy, a couple of slings and a few larger nuts may be desirable. Belays in place.

14. **Red Rooster** 
5 pitches 123m

J. Titt & I. Zaczek

15. **Golden Brown**
6a 8?

J. Titt & J. Gstoettenmayr

16. **Handbiter**
6a+ 8?

J. Titt & J. Gstoettenmayr

17. **Hole In The Wall**
6a 8?

J. Titt & J. Gstoettenmayr

18. **Sunday Outing** 
5 pitches 125m

Belays J. Titt & I. Zaczek

19. **Gstotti Was Here**
6a ?

J. Gstoettenmayr & Family

20. **Loch Im Bauch**
6a+ ?

J. Gstoettenmayr & Family

21. **Holiday**
6b ?

J. Gstoettenmayr & Family

22. **Tamara**
4b/c ?

J. Gstoettenmayr & Family

23. **Verena**
4b ?

J. Gstoettenmayr & Family

24. **Kryptikos**
6c ?

J. Gstoettenmayr & Family

25. **Via SCKC**
6a ?

J. Gstoettenmayr & Family

26. **Mythos**
5b ?

J. Gstoettenmayr & Family

27. **Amstel**
5c ?

J. Gstoettenmayr & Family

28. **Nine Dragons**
5b ?

J. Titt & I. Zaczek

29. **Come On**
5c+ ?

J. Gstoettenmayr & Family

30. **The Dragons Tail**
Trad V Belays J. Titt & I. Zaczek

**KATAFYKI CHAPEL BUTTRESS**

Opposite the small chapel, approach towards the right hand side.

1. **After Paradise** 2 pitches

Belays J. Titt & I. Zaczek

2. **Freestyler** 3 pitches of 25m

Belays J. Titt & I. Zaczek

3. **Yellow Corner**

Belay J. Titt

4. **Babylon** 2 pitches

Belays J. Titt & I. Zaczek

5. **Chapel Wall** 2 pitches

Belays J. Titt & I. Zaczek

6. **Chapel Arete** 2 pitches 24m & 35m

Belays J. Titt & S. Titt

Descent. From Chapel Buttress abseil down Freestyler (3x25m). The walk-off is hideous.

**CAVES OF FRACHTI**
An enormous series of caverns just above the sea, with large openings allowing enough light to climb by. At night the area is illuminated giving a superb climbing experience. Apart from being worth a visit in their own right some of the climbing here is outstanding and naturally, when it is raining, this is the place to be with some entertaining and bizarre climbing in the 20m deep crevasses under the floor. The potential for enormous roof climbs is obvious but hardly tapped. Karsten Oelze has shown the way with his recent efforts, but there is plenty more to do. Outside the cave on the cliffs above the beach are 8 routes which we have cleaned and partly drilled but not yet bolted. With a few nuts or a toprope they give some good sport in the lower grades. The highpoint of a visit here are the routes in sector Last Exit, grade 6 climbing at its best.


Access. Coming from Porto Heli on the main Corinth road take a left turn at the first petrol station in the village of Fourni, go along this for 3.6km to the sea. Left, then right, takes you around the chapel to another beach. Park here, and walk along the marked coast-path to the caves.

By boat: Good safe anchorage directly outside the caves or elsewhere in the bay of Koilada, where there is also a harbour. Good fun for children but beware of the holes!

Walk-in. ca 7min

Altitude. 30m above sea level.

Season. All year round, though often a bit hot in the summer.

Water. None locally, at the petrol station in Fourni.

Camping. At the beach by the small chapel as you come to the beach, or in the caves themselves.

**Sector Beach (no topo)**

Straight up behind the beach on the left side on the obvious climbable piece of rock are some pleasant shorter routes.

Some of these routes have now been bolted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Bolt Count</th>
<th>1st Ascent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 routes</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Toprope</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First Cavern

Sector Beginners (right hand side of the entrance)
1. This Is For Kids 6c 5  Barbera Hertner
2. Play With Us 7b 5  Karsten Oelze
3. Game Boy 7c 6?  Karsten Oelze
4. Boys Don’t Cry (free project) 8a? ?  (Karsten Oelze)

1st Cave R.H.side
5. Stone Express (free project) ? 10?  (J. Titt)

1st Cave L.H. side.
6. Rage Against Gravity (free project) ? 3  (J. Titt)
7. Cathedral of Power (free project) ? 3  (J. Titt)
8. Wild Monkeys 7b+/7c ?  Karsten Oelze
9. Caveman (free project) 8a/b? 14?  (Karsten Oelze)

Second Cavern

These routes are in the floor of the cave and the anchors are set up for top-roping. Can be a bit dusty but something for a wet day and bizarre! Most are ca. 20m.

2nd Cave.
1. Imagination 6a Toprope  S. Titt
2. Rice Krispies 5c Toprope  T. Dunsby
3. Thunder And Lightning 5c Toprope  J. Titt & I. Zaczek (The grade for this is for omitting the first 3m or so from the bottom, this is about 6b depending on dampness).
4. Barbarians 6a Toprope  J. Titt
5. Throwaway 6a+ Toprope  T. Dunsby
6. Fat Boy Slim 4b Toprope  J. Titt
7. Back And Foot 4b Toprope  J. Titt
Third Cavern

Some tremendous climbing in the 6th grade with Mission Impossible possibly being on the upper limit of the 6’s. The floodlighting at the top provides enough light to climb at night and this is a fantastic experience.

1. Red Road 5b 7 J. Titt & I. Zaczek (reportedly not as loose as it was!)
2. Stone Temple Pilots 7a+ 9 Aris Thoedoropoulos
3. Christmas Day At The Workhouse 6a 9 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
5. Wild Frontier 6b 13 J. Titt & I. Zaczek

For this route start tied to both ends of the (60m) rope, use one strand in the first 4 bolts, on reaching the start of the slab untie from this, and climb the rest using the other strand. This is to reduce the rope drag, recovering the quickdraws is no problem.

Opposite Mission Impossible are two routes, the right hand one being:-

7. Once We Were Trees 6c+ 8 J. Titt
A fine test piece, the lower section of this being an exercise in climbing friable rock, the finger and hand jams in soft rubble being particularly interesting, the route then traverses right to climb the horribly hard overhanging crack.

The left hand route starts up the obvious crack and continues up the slab above slightly leftwards.
8. Gandalf (with 6 aid points) 4b 9? S. Titt
   (free) 6b J. Titt
KASTRO THERMISIA

An imposing cliff overlooking the coast and the village of Thermisia. Close inspection reveals an even more daunting prospect than a first view would suggest. Big, red, bulging and holdless seems to sum it up. If you can overcome the initial roofs then there are plenty of routes to be done here in the upper grades. Fortunately there are easier possibilities on the upper tier and there you will find the described routes.

This is actually a great place to visit with a super view over the coast, a ruined castle to explore and a real classic climb, New Order which takes you up an unfeasibly overhanging wall at only 6a. The cliff is floodlit during the summer months and this would give a superb photo opportunity!

Note:- The grades in the old guide were somewhat stiff, and hopefully are now more realistic, but the routes are often hard to start!

The Choice. Single Pitch Sport Routes to 28m-8. Toprope-15

Access. Drive from Ermioni along the coast road towards the village of Thermisia. As you approach the village turn left just before some signs to Hydras Wave Camping. Follow the tarred road to the end.

Parking At the end of the road is a car park.

Walk-in. Take the path marked with faint yellow arrows up to the gap in the castle walls allowing access to the coastward side of the cliff. The path leads from the car park along the base of the cliff on the non-seaward side and then zigzags up to the obvious gap. Through this to gain the seawards side. The routes are here, 5 min.

Altitude. 400m above sea level.

Season. Not suitable in the summer as south facing; otherwise all year.

Water. None.

Camping. At the car park or at Hydras Wave on the coast.
### KASTRO THERMISIA VENETIAN WALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Bolt Count</th>
<th>1st Ascent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Venetian Wall</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shadow Corner</td>
<td>5c</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Leading Edge</td>
<td>6b+</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Direct start )</td>
<td>6c+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Karsten Oelze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. In The Red Corner</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The Cutting Edge</td>
<td>7a</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Karsten Oelze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Bombastic</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Pinnacle Crack</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>6?</td>
<td>J. Titt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Scythe (drilled project, not yet bolted)</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>10?</td>
<td>J. Titt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Captain Fantastics Insane Outing. (project, still to be bolted)</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>10?</td>
<td>J. Titt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Play Wall

This is the short wall facing Venetian Wall. The routes here have been cleaned and drilled but not yet bolted but give some good top-rope fun. There are also some lines on the other side which are a bit steeper and harder.
PILLARS OF THE WIND

This is a limestone inclusion in an area of volcanic activity and is like a miniature mountain peak with lots of shattered pinnacles. From above it doesn’t seem to offer much but the good climbing is on the east and south sides. Some of the rock at the top can be loose but otherwise is excellent. Try to take care if you stray off route. A crag with a friendlier ambience than most, and wonderful views, a deservedly popular venue for family groups as it is very child-friendly with a special top-rope area for the kids.


Access. From the coast road Ermioni-Thermisia about 2 km after Ermioni (this is just past the turning to Katafyki Ravine) take the left fork to Iliokastro. At Iliokastro take the first right (signed to Thermisia in Greek). At the next junction go straight on then follow the tarred road for 5km to a saddle (the tar stops 100m further) where you turn right up a rough dirt road, which after 2km, brings you to a parking place above the cliff.

By Boat. NO!

Walk-in. Follow a small path through the bushes to the cliff, 5mins.

Altitude. 650m above sea level.

Season. Good spring, summer and autumn crag but can be cold in the winter. Always a shaded side available.

Water. None locally but see the route to Rock Of Ages for a good nearby spring.

Camping. Anywhere! It can be incredibly windy at the car parking but down at the cliff it is sheltered.
THE PLAYGROUND

This is a very pleasant picnic spot with some shade from the sun and loads of short (up to 10m) routes primarily intended for kids. They are provided with bolt belays and chains to reduce chafe where needed, these are shown on the sketch below along with the easy way to get to them.

(Route names written at the start of the routes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merlin</td>
<td>5b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asterix</td>
<td>4c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tombstone</td>
<td>4b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menhir</td>
<td>6c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obelix</td>
<td>6a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wizard</td>
<td>5c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flakey</td>
<td>5b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharkey</td>
<td>5a+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnie</td>
<td>4b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goofy</td>
<td>4a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Slab</td>
<td>5c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snoopy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crackerjack</td>
<td>4b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sesame St</td>
<td>5b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steep</td>
<td>6a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steeper</td>
<td>5c+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speedy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Duck</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiddies Korner</td>
<td>4a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fingernail</td>
<td>6a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fingertip</td>
<td>6a+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullover</td>
<td>5c+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Tree Corner</td>
<td>5b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mickey Mouse</td>
<td>5c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EAST FACE
1. Independence Day  5b  7  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
2. The Fabulous Thunderbirds  5c  8  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
3. (Direct Start)  6b  9  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
4. Another Day  5b+  9  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
5. Left Overs  4b  9  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
6. Drilled project, do not climb this as a very large loose block will kill you!
7. Do It On Sunday  6b  11  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
8. Zoom  6b  12  J. Titt & S. Titt
10. Wait I Must Piss  5b+  6  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
11. Wednesday Afternoon  5a  6  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
12. Swanage Days  Trad V  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
13. Singleton  5b  5  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
15. Fire Starter  5b  6  J. Titt & I. Zaczek
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waltzing Matilda</td>
<td>6b</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing With Snakes</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>S. Titt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toto</td>
<td>4c</td>
<td>T. Dunsby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deviant</td>
<td>6a+</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supercrack</td>
<td>5c+</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warm Up</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Einfach</td>
<td>4a</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Hand</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wall</td>
<td>6a+</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fingerpull</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Arete</td>
<td>4c</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(direct start)</td>
<td>5c</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildwechsel</td>
<td>4c</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindermund</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kliener Bär</td>
<td>4b</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosser Bär</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holzfäller Suppe</td>
<td>6a+</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pete’s Route</td>
<td>5c</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(The name Hühner Suppe is wrongly written under this route)

Left of this is...

*Staffelauf* 
6a 
H. Weninger

Below and opposite the South Wall area is a shattered cliff and on the other side of this (down to the left) is an overhanging wall with:

*Riders On The Storm (Free Project)* 
7c/8a? 
(Karsten Oelze)
DIDYMA

This is one of the top sports cliff in Greece. Excellent access, superb rock, magnificent views, great routes and a perfect climate for climbing on the hot summer afternoons make this the most popular cliff by far. The cliff lies at the summit of the mountain of the same name and owing to its altitude (1100m) is around 10°C cooler than on the coast, and in the summer months is shaded after midday. Added to the cooling sea breeze this means that it is always agreeably cool, so much so that I have seen Greek climbers in jackets when on the coast it has been over 40°C!

The rock here is not as sharp as many areas allowing one to push the technical side, which is fortunate as the climbing is on steep or lightly overhanging walls and requires good technique, no tufa hauling here.

The cliff is divided into 2 sectors, Winter and Summer with sector Winter being less shaded, which is why there are no routes as yet on it! It is however higher and offers potential for harder routes than on Summer. (We have started drilling some lines in the centre of the cliff, on the obvious buttress, and these will be finished sometime. There are working bolts along the top of the cliff.)

The Choice. Single Pitch Sport Routes up to 30m. 65. Projects.2

Access. At the summit of the pass over Didyma take the narrow tarred road to the summit. (Didyma is the mountain with a super collection of telecoms masts on its summit.)

By Boat. Don’t make me laugh!

Parking. At the last sharp right hand bend, before the masts. The cliff lies below you.

Walk-in. Marked path. 1 min.

Altitude. 1100m

Season. Spring, Summer and Autumn. Can be snow covered in winter but on a sunny day is O.K.

Water. None at the cliff. Good water at the petrol station on the way from Didymon village. Spring as you descend the other side of the pass on the main road, on the left.

Camping. Level areas near the antennae. You can bivouac in the back room of the small chapel which also has a power socket and lighting.

The route numbers and topo’s start nearest the parking.

Topo 1
(Route names are written on the rock at the start of the route.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Bolt Count</th>
<th>1st Ascent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Little Crack</td>
<td>6a+</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Hole</td>
<td>6b</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Jump</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Little Chimney</td>
<td>4b</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Little Wall</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Huggy Bear</td>
<td>5c</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. First Arete</td>
<td>4b</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. First Corner</td>
<td>4c</td>
<td>10..........</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Here Comes The Weekend</td>
<td>4c</td>
<td>9........These routes are</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. A Good Crack</td>
<td>5a</td>
<td>8..........extra bolted for</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Direct</td>
<td>5a</td>
<td>7........kids/beginners.</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. A Funny Turn</td>
<td>5a</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Teen Dream</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Bad Beer</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Drilling In The Rain</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Trouble</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Fear Of Goats</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Teamwork</td>
<td>6a+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; J. Gstoettenmayr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Powerline</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
22. Inge’s Fingers
5b+ 7 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
23. Cave
6b 8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
24. Wave
7c 8 Karsten Oelze
25. Funhouse
7a 7 James Mittins
26. Funtime
5a 6 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
27. Prankster
6b 6 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
28. FREE PROJECT
c a 8a 8 bolted by J. Titt & I. Zaczek
29. Great White Way
6a 5 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
30. Massive Attack
6c+ 7 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
31. Ektonisi
7b+ 8 Thomas Michalaedes
32. Black Diamond
7c 9 Karsten Oelze
33. Free Project
34. Crystal Voyager
7a+ 8? Karsten Oelze
35. The Hots
6c+ 8? S. Titt
36. Lightning
5c+ 7 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
37. Thunder Wall
5c 8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
38. Cool Move
6a 9 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
39. Nice Suprise
5c 6 Hans Weninger
40. Smile
5a 10 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
41. Thursdays Child
4c 9 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
42. Little Lizard
6b 5 Martin Falk
43. Sweet Sixty
6b 8 Hans Weninger
44. Children Of Mycenae
6c 8? Ruth Dawson
45. Perfect Acoustics
7b+ 8? Carl Dawson
46. James Jaunt
6b 7 James Mittins
47. Wonderhold
5c 6 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
48. Girls Do It Differently
5b 6 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
49. Slant Eyes
5a 6 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
50. Buckshot  (free project, to the penultimate bolt is ca 8a) bolted by J. Titt
51. Summer Madness 6c+  9 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
52. Spring Thing 7a  10? Karsten Oelze
53. Burn 6a  8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
54. Jills Route 5c  10 Jill Giles
55. Sam’s Route 5b  9 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
56. Diversion 6a+  8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
57. Sidewalk 6b+  8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
58. Black Attack 6c+  8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
59. Big Girls 6a  7 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
60. Elevation 5b  8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
61. Sun Parade 6a  8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
62. Tuesday Afternoon 5c+  8 J. Titt
63. Scorpion 5c  8 J. Titt
Quickly 6a
64. Fallen Angel 6b  9 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
65. Pain Is Love 6b+  10 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
66. England 6a  10 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
67. Popeye 6c  6 J. Titt
ROCK OF AGES

A nice little cliff in a pleasant setting this is a small ravine with, by our standards, lush vegetation, trees and some good, if rather different, climbing.

One of the few cliffs in the Argolis that offers easy tufa climbs with the continuously overhanging Mr Cool at 5c being one the highlights, albeit a rather strenuous one! Other highly enjoyable if rather unusual routes include Dance With Monsters and the weird Pull Of The Sun which climbs up inside the cleft splitting the cliff, a real expedition.

The first sector, The Seven Dwarves has seven mini routes which are normally shaded, sector Fairy Tale has some medium length routes which tend to require more arm strength than is usual in Argolis. The main wall offers routes up to 30m with room for another 4 or 5. In the surrounding valleys are plenty of cliffs offering the chance to put up about a thousand new 4’s & 5’s. An excellent cliff for children to play at the base in the shade of the trees, but only a few routes for them to top rope.

The Choice. Single Pitch Sport Routes up to 30m long.-27

Access. Follow the route as for Pillars Of The Wind, but when you arrive at the turn off the tarred road 5km from Iliokastro ignore this, set your odometer to 0 and follow the road book below through the maze of dirt roads.

By Boat. No.

Parking. At the right hand bend at the bottom of the ravine, or a bit further on at the next left.

Walk-in. Ca 3 min following the water pipe and path.

Altitude. 500m above sea level.

Season. All year but in the winter there can be a cold wind here. In summer there is always some shade but the main wall is in the sun after about 12 o’clock.

Water. There is a spring higher up the ravine that the goats use but it’s best to pick up water on the drive in at the spring shown.

Camping. A great spot in the trees at the foot of sector Seven Dwarves, otherwise anywhere in the hundreds of square km of mountain.
 Sector SEVEN DWARVES

No bolt count for these but they are only short, so 6 would probably be max.

(The names are painted at the start of the routes.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st Ascent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sector Seven Dwarves.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Happy</td>
<td>4b</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Grumpy</td>
<td>4c</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bashful</td>
<td>6c</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sneezy</td>
<td>6b+</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Dopy</td>
<td>7a</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Dozy</td>
<td>6b</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Doc</td>
<td>6c</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st Ascent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sector Fairy Tale.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Snow White</td>
<td>5c+</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Hobbit</td>
<td>4a</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Dance With Monsters</td>
<td>6a+</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Fairy Tale</td>
<td>5a</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Heave Ho</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Grab</td>
<td>6b</td>
<td>J. Titt &amp; I. Zaczek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main Wall
1. Pam’s Arete 4b 8 Pam Jolliffe
2. Mr Cool 5c ? J. Titt & I. Zaczek
3. Dreamtime 5b ? J. Titt & I. Zaczec
4. The Rising 5b ? J. Titt & I. Zaczek
5. Gammel Hans 6c+ 11 H. Weninger

Also on this wall are
Eos 6a+
Hydra 5c
Furioso 6b
Stoned 6a+
All from H. Weninger. No topo.

In the Cave.
6. Pull Of The Sun 6a+ ? J. Titt & Pete Sedgwick

Outside Slab.
7. Hail 4c 8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
8. Snowtime 4c 8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
9. Simple Start 4b 8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
10. Easy Mover 5b 8 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
11. Teamwork 5b 9 H. Weninger
12. 150% 5b ? H. Weninger
13. Roof 6a ? H. Weninger
14. Fridge 5b ? H. Weninger

and
Superfine 6a from H. Weninger. Location unknown.
ORTHOLITHI

This is the mountain lying to the north of Mt Didyma whose craggy South face you can see when driving up to the summit of Didyma. Many impressive faces and corners with room for many hundreds of new routes on some of the best rock in the area. The development here has been limited because it is hot in summer and cold in winter, but it has super conditions in spring and summer. The long wall you walk below to the existing routes should give about 50 top class long sport routes alone. If you continue along the dirt road down into the valley there is another area with much more rock and being low lying more likely to allow all year climbing. The existing routes are mostly superb but you need trad gear here except for Scott’s Bad Day Out which is fully bolted. Some amazing solution holes at the tops of the routes and bizzare stuck on holds on some routes. Nothing for kids here and they will probably whine about the walk-in.

The Choice. Single Pitch Sport Routes to 50m-1.
Single and Multi Pitch Trad to 900m-7.

Access. From Porto Heli drive on the national road towards Corinth over the pass of Didyma, 8km further there is a sharp L at a marble works. Turn right here to Karatzas (4km). In the village take the 2nd R at a taverna with new stone walls and follow this road past a football pitch and over the river to a T junction. Turn L here and continue to Chora. Here the tar road ends and you take the left hand dirt road for ca. 1km to a left branch up to a quarry (obvious).

Parking. At the start of the road to the quarry (sadly undriveable).
Walk-in. Ca 10 min.
Altitude .800-1100m above sea level.
Season. Spring & Autumn otherwise may be too hot or cold.
Water. None
Camping. At the quarry if you can carry your gear up, otherwise pick your own spot.

At the start of the red wall as you leave the quarry are two routes from Joseph Gstoettemayr

Fantasia 6b+ and Via Chora 6a
No topo for here but they will be obvious, though which is which?
Sector RED WALL WEST: THE SLABS

From the quarry walk about 200m along under the red wall until you come to a corner splitting the cliff, with a more slabby area to the left. This corner is climbed by Alptraum and the other routes are located left relative from this. Approximately 40m left of the corner of Alptraum is a slab with some brown „glued on“ holds and an obvious rock scar above a damaged tree, this is the start of Dance With Me. The next two routes start in a scoop a little to the left, Scott’s Bad Day Out taking the line of bolts and Black Line the water runnel/crack on the left. Little Brown Jugs is at the end of the cliff up a slab with a small overhang to start, and is covered with amazing brown holds.

1. Alptraum.2 pitches.80m. V+. J. Titt & I. Zaczek
2. Early Days, Easy Ways. VI- J. Titt & I. Zaczek
3. Dance With Me. 20m,25m,20m. V+ Belays J. Titt & I. Zaczek
4. Scott’s Bad Day Out. 50m. 6b 14? J. Titt & I. Zaczek
5. Black Line.50m. V+ Belays+5 J. Titt & I. Zaczek
6. Little Brown Jugs.22m,22m. V(IVAo) Belays+1 J. Titt & I. Zaczek

Descent: Abseil down Black Line. There are twin bolts at half height to allow descent with a single rope. There are some working bolts above this route to allow a short abseil to the top belay on this route. OR walk off to the W and descend with care. Little Brown Jugs-abseil the route.

And for something different!

The Long Run.900m. V- or III. J. Titt & H. Weninger
Climbs the long south eastern ridge starting above the eastern end of the red cliff. Walk up through to the top of the quarry to get to the start, take some long slings and wires 3-8.
100m of I- II. 220m of II-III. 400m of I. 60m of III. 20m of V-. 55m of III. 20m of III+/IV. 50m scramble. The V pitch can be avoided on the right.

Descend by walking to the west and then down the central cwm until it is possible to traverse east between the upper and lower cliffs. Great views of the cliffs waiting for some routes.
VIVARI-KOLIDI BEACH

A venue specifically developed to satisfy the demands of swimming and climbing fans and very successfully combining the two. Good cliffs directly over a beach are fairly uncommon in Greece but Kolidi Beach offers fine climbing, first class bathing with good access, a nice nearby campsite and tavernas in the near. One of the plus points here is that due to the orientation of the cliff most of the routes lie in the shade even though the belayer can stay in the sun. Not yet fully developed the cliff offers some exceptional routes with enough to keep a party busy all day. The project here has been „looked“ at and is probably in the 9th grade, if climbed this would be the hardest route in Greece.

Great for kids!

The Choice. Single pitch bolt routes to 30m-12, Trad-1, Projects-2.

Access. Take the coast road to Naplion. After leaving the village of Kandia the road follows the coast and then climbs up to a small ruined hamlet. Turn L here (signpost) and drive down to the beach. Note:- In the spring there can be water in the marsh behind the beach at the cliff, so take some mozzy repellant if there is no wind to keep them away.

By boat. Excellent harbour, it is better to anchor near the village and go to the cliff by dinghy as it is very deep in the E part of the bay.

Parking. At the eastern end from the beach.

Walk-in. Walk along the beach to the cliff, 5 min.

Altitude. 0m

Season. All Year.

Water. In the village.

Camping. A nice campsite halfway along the beach if it’s open or on the beach.
Name | Grade | Bolt Count | 1st Ascent
--- | --- | --- | ---
1. Dizzy | 6a+ | 10? | J. Titt & I. Zaczek
2. The Philosophers Stone (Free Project) | 9? | 8? | J. Titt & I. Zaczek
4. Powerful Stuff | 6c+ | 13 | J. Titt & I. Zaczek
5. Invincible | 6a+ | 13 | J. Titt & I. Zaczek
6. The Fly | 6b | 12 | J. Titt & I. Zaczek
7. Beach Pillar | 6a | 10? | M. Falk
8. Excavation | 4b | 9 | J. Titt & I. Zaczek
9. Excitation | 4b | 9 | J. Titt & I. Zaczek
10. The Goats Gonads | 5c+ | 7 | J. Titt & P. Sedgwick
11. The Ramp | Trad 1V | | J. Titt & P. Sedgwick

Sector Wet Foot
Wade through the water to this sector and use the first bolt on the route as a belay.

12. Vision | 5b (drilled but not yet bolted, climbed trad) | J. Titt & I. Zaczek

(this sector was developed with help from the crew SY Nomad)
VIVARI- MARATHEA

This is the prominent red cliff overlooking the beach and village of Vivari. Many climbers have expressed interest in this cliff but have been repulsed by the shocking vegetation on the approach. We have found a better approach path and cut our way through, and now access is good. This is an amazing place consisting of an old cave system which has collapsed leaving giant blocks piled on each other, many with fine tufa on the most unlikely faces. On these blocks there is potential for some good routes up to 20m long and some great bouldering. The main face is covered with tufa curtains, some a bit rotten so use long bolts. We have only done 2 routes so far as this is the ultimate sun trap, the few parties to have made it to the cliff have been defeated by the heat.

Choice. Single Pitch Sport Routes-2

Access. On the coast road continue past Kolidi Beach to the next R turn up a steep concrete road to a small chapel, turn R here on a gravel track for ca.150m.

Parking. Limited space on the left or earlier at the chapel. Do not block access to the villa at the end.

Walk-in. Take a small path up left to a pylon and some ruins, continue up and through the bushes on the path to the cliff.

Altitude. 100m above sea level.

Season. Winter or when the sun is not shining!

Water. Water and power at the chapel.

Camping. As Kolidi.

ROUTE LIST

There are only 2 routes here at the moment on the right hand end of the cliff.
The R. hand one is Diavlos 6c? from Aris Theodoropoulos
The L. hand one is Lets Go Bolting 6c. from J. L. Titt.
Karathona bay lies just south of the city of Naplion and offers some good climbing in a large bay with an extensive beach. The crags lie a few hundred metres back from the beach so the large number of bathers won’t disturb you. I have not climbed all the routes so cannot vouch for the bolting but it is generally good. The network of roads and half constructed buildings are the relic of an E.U.funded beach complex which was never completed. Good for kids.


Access. As you come into the centre of Naplion there is a road to the left signposted „Palamidi“ at a very confusing road junction, this is the road up to the large Venetian castle. Take this and drive up the hill, ignore the turning right to the castle and continue over the top to the bay. The first sector is on the first road R. it is about 200m to the obvious cliff but is hardly worth the effort. The second sector (Katakrimeni) is at the small chapel about 2/3 around the bay up a small dirt road. By Boat. Excellent anchorages at both ends of the bay.

Parking. Obvious.

Walk-in. 2 min.

Altitude. 20m above sea level.

Season. All year as sector Katakrimeni has some shade.

Water. None.

Camping. At the beach or organised sites around Tolo on the coast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Bolt Count</th>
<th>1st Ascent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alkimini</td>
<td>5c</td>
<td>Toprope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonis</td>
<td>6a</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>A. Antopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amfitrion (35m)</td>
<td>5c</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Aris Theodoropoulos, Filipo Athanasiou &amp; Dimitri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mauropolou</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(I only climbed the first 25m of this and lowered off as the rest is uninteresting.)
Sector KATAKRIMENI from R to L.

Names painted at start.
1. Tirintha 5b+
2. Agamenmon 6a+
   New Route 7b?
3. Oktana 6b  
4. Antigoni 6a  
5. Kichli 5b  
6. Elpinor 5c  
7. Ramon 5b  
8. Ismini 5a+ 
9. Iokasti 4b  
10. Easy Corner 4c 7 J. Titt & I. Zaczek 
11. Halcyon Days 5a 7 J. Titt & I. Zaczek 
12. Gallida 7c? 
13. Shismi 5c A. Antonopoulos 
14. Tasos 5c+ 
15. Hercules 6a+ 

No bolt count for this cliff but the routes are not too long. All first ascents apart from those given are by Aris Theodoropoulos, Taso Petrochilo, Dimitri Stathakou, Danai Argiropoulo and Angelos Papadimitropoulou.

NAPLION-NERAKI BAY

An excellent cliff but a real sun trap about 10 minutes walk along the coast towards Naplion with about 30 routes. The latest information I have from a local Greek climber is that climbing is banned in this area. If this changes the routes and topo’s will appear here.

NAPLION-ACRONFLIA (ARVANITIA BEACH)

A climbing area in the city of Naplion near the lido. The routes (ca 30) are directly above the tourist promenade and climbing here has also been banned.
Over the years I have covered nearly every inch of the area and located an almost endless supply of new cliffs so if you
are interested in putting up new routes here is an overview of what is available and how to get there. The heights given
and the estimated number of possible routes is very approximate, especially the latter!
The potential at the cliffs in the guide is mentioned or is obvious so these are not included.
A few tips on new routing, for the often prickly vegetation around the cliffs it is useful to carry long handled pruning
shears and on the cliff a folding saw, available at any local hardware shop. The rock at the top is often very sharp so
protect your rope or use a long sling as back up over the edge. Do not use the cheap steel bolts available in Greece as
they break at less than 9kN, please use stainless bolts.

DIDYMA-THE BIG HOLE.
You will have noticed this doline as you pass the village of Didyma, while it and its small brother are interesting
touristically, the rock is horrifying.

PELEI.
Two more dolines (collapsed caves) above the village of Pelei on the other side of the Didyma pass, access at the top of
the pass along a dirt road opposite the road up Didyma which leads to some power pylons and a path down between
them. Some good potential especially for some roof climbs in the more westerly one. One trad route in the other, left of
the „magic tree“ (you’ll know it when you see it).

AVGOU-MONASTARY AGHIOS DIMITRIOUS.
A monster! A worthwhile trip on a rest day anyway to this monastary tucked up in the huge cliffs in a wild and deserted
valley. Room for hundreds of routes of all kinds on 200m high cliffs and climable all year. Access: At the foot of Mt
Didyma on the N side is a small road to the semi-deserted hamlet of Pelei, follow this road on for ca 7km to a parking
place (signed to the monastary). It is normally possible to continue down under the monastary, across the river and left
down the valley to rejoin the coastal road.

DRIOPH.
We couldn’t find a better name so this is the nearest village. The new but not completed road between Paleo Epidavros
and Galatas (Poros) on the north coast of the peninsula has opened up an area of cliffs about 7km long overlooking the
sea. Pretty well everything here from short roadside crags to higher butresses up to 100+m. Should be o.k. in the
summer as N.E. facing and room for 500? Routes.

NEA EPIDAVROS.
The gorge whose end you see from the main road coming from Corinth,worth exploring and some good routes to be
done but it’s the local tip and waste water soakaway so a bit smelly.

ARACHNEO.
Very possibly the finest cliff in the Peleponese this lies high up on Mt Arachneo overlooking the town of Ligourio.
From the main road it doesn’t look much but it’s far away, when you get to it you will find its huge, ca. 150m high with
tufa routes, slabs, roofs and caves and there are kilometers of it, a bonus is that the rock here is also excellent. Access:
This is why its not developed, there is a road all the way under the cliff so a short walk, but the road is a disaster and
you need something better than a hire car (I made it in a rough old VW Golf). From Paleo Epidavros take the small road
through E. Epidavros and Aghios Andreas. At the T junction take the left turn towards Ligourio, after 1,5km there is a
chapel on the left side and a track opposite leading up to some houses and the cliff above. There is a good campsite at
the small chapel on the left part of the cliff. SW-S facing but 1000m in altitude so is cold in the winter, spring and
autumn are the best times here.

NEOCHORI.
This red band of rock is obvious from the Didyma pass going northwards lying conveniently above the coast road to
Naplion. Easy access and mostly good rock but mostly harder routes and S facing so its going to be hot. Maybe 100
routes.

PARALIA IRAIA.
Two cliffs here, one at the end of the beach to the E with room for maybe 20 routes ca. 20m but not really very
interesting and another much better one directly by the coast road. This is another doline and offers scope for about 40
routes in a sheltered position, and should be an all-year crag with medium to hard routes around 15m long. To access the
first, from the coast road take the turning to Paralia Iria and drive to the beach, then L to the end and you see the cliff.
For the doline stay on the coast road for about 1 km until you see what looks like a new quarry but is a water tank. (Look for the pipes.) Drive up to the tank and then walk NE for 2mins to the cliff.

KANDIA-AGHIOS ANDONIS.
If you doubt my assertion that tens of thousands of routes are possible in this area then take a look at this lot! Turning off the coast road at Kandia you will see a line of reasonable cliffs on the left, ignore these and drive on through the village and cross the river bed. On the right you will see a large buttress with a cave through it. Take the next right and drive up this valley, about 4 to5km of cliffs both sides of the road, overhanging walls with holes, slabs, roofs and anything else you want. Ca. 80m high and always half in the shade. I have done one route here! Potential for plenty of routes!
Then drive back down to where you turned right and continue along the road up to the other valley, “more rock than in England” was one comment. Around 130m high and plenty of it, with 80 and100 m crags littered all around, its hard to know where to start. I did start up the middle of the main crag to the right of the central corner but the attempt was abandoned after 60m due to an argument over toplss sunbathers. Bolt belays in place.

ASINI.
The sugar loaf mountain you can see to the N.W. from Vivari and area. Some good lines on the N side so should be cool and easy access. Ca 80m routes. On the Vivari- Naplion road drive through Lefkakia, and then, ½km after the road joins the one from Tolo there is a small road L to the mountain.

ROMVI ISLAND.
Normally called Tolo Island this lies across a small strait from the town Tolo. A good cliff above the beach facing the town and another in a bay on the S side. Access: By one of the many tripper boats.

Before we leave Argolis a note. From some locations near Ligurio tantalising glimpses of a superb crag are caught, this lies ca 4km S of Ligurio at a location marked M. Aghios Merkaonou on the map. Close-up inspection reveals that the impressive thing is that the crag is still standing, we crept away in silence.

Have a nice trip!

Jim Titt