

Howison's Poort

Rock Climbing Guide

www.easterncaperockclimbing.co.za



Legal Note: All climbing is very dangerous & always at your own risk. Nobody is forcing you to climb. You choose to climb, so choose to go home before the risks become too high. Remember even small injuries can take 6 weeks to heal. No responsibility for inaccurate or incomplete information will be accepted by the scribe or any other body. The landowners accept no liability at all. Climbers take full responsibility for themselves at all times. Fixed protection will become unreliable, loose rock is common, solid rock becomes loose & RD writers make up most of the information, with a beer, at the computer. This RD is only a guide & is no substitute for experience, training, common sense & a touch of caution. So you are on your own...take care!

Eastern Cape Climbing Venues

Port Elizabeth	30 Coombs Gorge	37 EL urban crags & boulders	Toorberg	Swartberg
1 Lady's Slipper	Amatolas	38 Yellowsands & Inkwenkwezi	44 Graff-Reinet	49 Toverkop
2 Van Stadens	31 Fort Fordyce	39 Lalapanzi	45 Compassberg	50 Oudtshoorn
3 PE urban crags & boulders	32 Hogsback	40 Morgan Bay	Transkei	51 Gamkaskloof Bouldering
4 Sleepy Hollow	33 Stutterheim	41 Bola	46 Hole in the Wall	52 Swartberg Pass
5 Elands River	Langkloof	Winterberg	47 Hill of Execution	
6 Kirkwood	19 Nguniland	42 Mary & Martha	48 Port St Johns	
7 Cape St Francis	20 Kouga Wildernes	43 Hangklip		
Groot Winterhoek	21 Uniondale Pass			
8 Tygerhoek	Garden Route			
9 Naga's Kloof	22 Titzikama			
10 Eagle Gorge	23 Groot Rivier			
11 Momentum Gorge	24 Piesang Valley			
12 Pinnacle Gorge	East London			
13 Cockscomb	34 NSA			
14 Grootbos & Kleinbos	35 Windmill Hole			
15 Nivera	36 Buffalo River			
Baviaans				
16 Grips				
17 Kudu Kaya				
18 Waterkloof				
Grahamstown				
25 Alicedale				
26 Howison's Poort				
27 Moodie's				
28 Bouldering				
29 Thornkloof				

More route guides can be found on
www.easterncaperockclimbing.co.za

Note from the Scribe: It took consistent effort, time, work & organization to get this guide ready for your pleasure...for free! Thus please respect that all the information & photographs are strictly **Copy Righted**. You are more than welcome to print out, e-mail or link to a web page this guide in its unchanged format, with logos & all information intact.

Thanks to Kevan Watkins, Jeremy Colenso, Martin Renz & especially Keith James for giving route information & general historical snippets.

Directions: Howison's Poort is situated 8km out of Grahamstown on the N2 to Port Elizabeth. About a kilometer down the hill from the Stony Crescent Hotel. At the Berg River bridge there is a parking area next to an old quarry, on the opposite side of the road to the hotel. The caves are very close to the car park, but they don't look good at all... till you cross the stream.

Walk-in: About 40 seconds max.

Access: No access restrictions.



History: Howies was discovered by Keith James...way back. Initially its potential was only recognized as a bouldering or training area. Later, after much gardening, some routes were bolted. The wasp problem was sorted by burning them out with a blue stove tapped to a stick. Re-bolting was sponsored by Derek Marshall.

Time & Weather: Shaded most of the day. Can be cold in winter. The caves only seep after a few days of continuous rain & can be climbed in the rain. After heavy rain the routes become a bit sandy, so take a brush.

General: 42 sport routes and 2 short poor trad routes. There is limited potential for new routes.

Rock Type: Overhanging quartzite.

Hazards: Area is reasonably safe, but take the usual precautions as the crags are on the national road. The caves tend to attract wanders, vagrants & Rhodes students... they are mostly harmless. There are sometimes turds in the smaller cave. Watch out for these, they are not fun to stand in.











Environmental: There is lots of trash at Howison's. Please do your little bit & spend 5 minutes filling a bag to take home, you will influence your mates & they will join you. In time it will make every bit of difference. Believe....
Please do not add to the existing graffiti.

Accommodation: There are a hundred and one places to stay in Grahamstown. The best would be to stay at the old jail back packers. They have a sweet pub, full of hippies, student & tourists.

Star Ratings

- ★ Good route at this crag
- ★★ Good route in the area
- ★★★ Classic route in this province
- No star Reasonable to bollocks

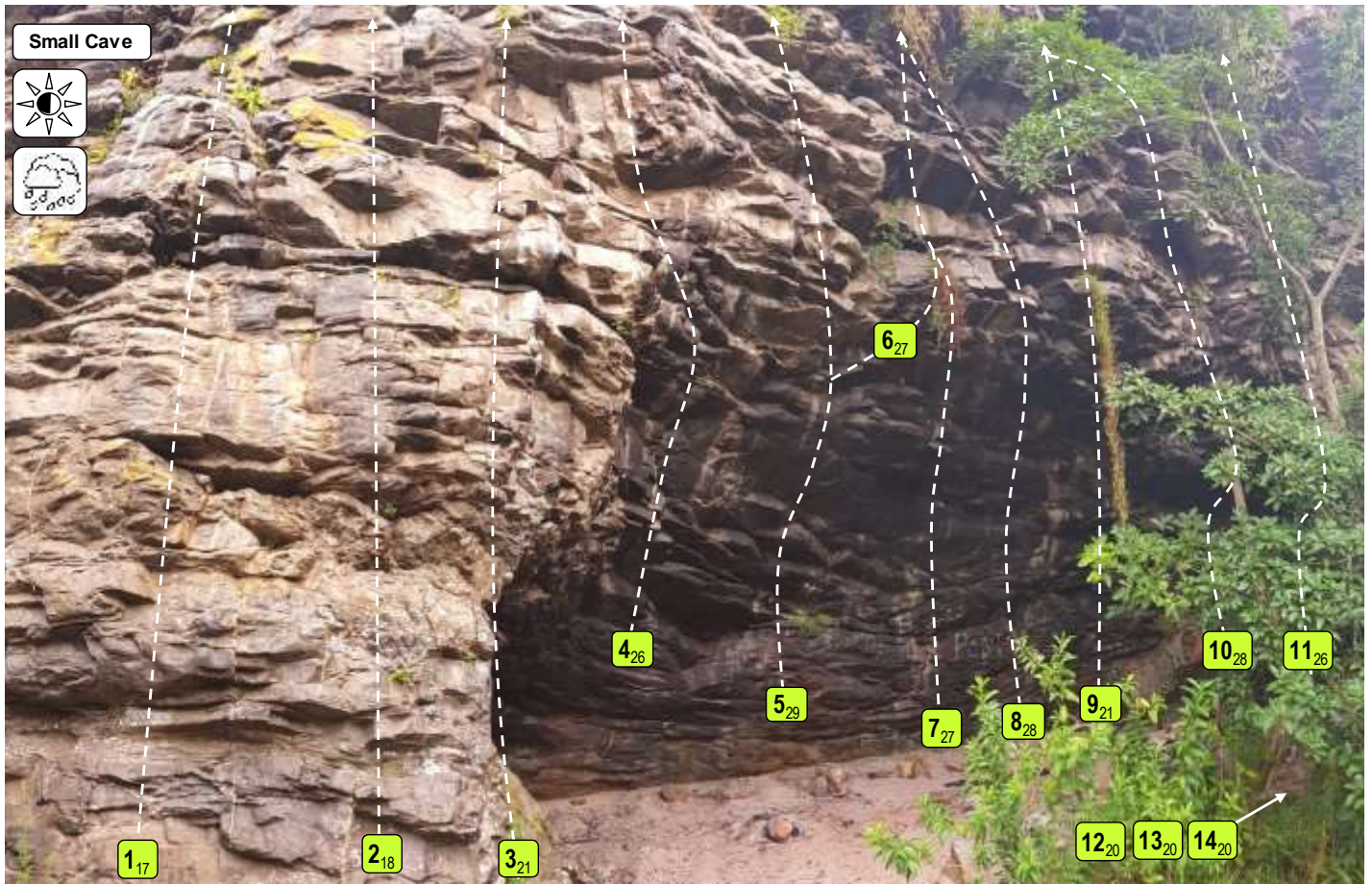
Abbreviations & Symbols

-  Bolted sport route & grade
-  Project / In-progress & ± grade
-  T Trad route, natural gear & grade
- 6B Number of bolts
- C Chains or top anchors
-  Chains or top anchors
- P Piton
- RB Removable bolt
-  Afternoon Shade
-  Morning Shade
-  Shade all day
-  Sun all day
-  Dappled shade all day
-  Can be climbed in wet weather

Small Cave



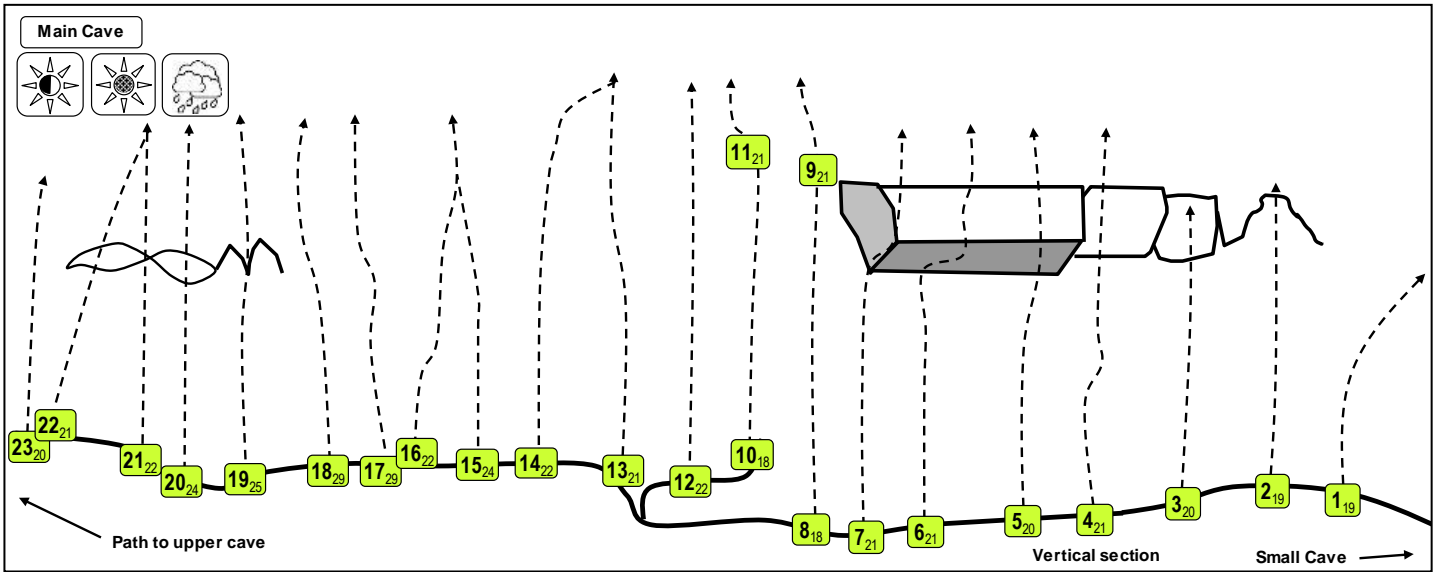
This is the sandy cave closest to the main road.



- **1. Crystals Crack – 17**
Martin Rehm & Derek Marshall 15.01.2011 (7B&C)
- **2. Hande Hoch Fritz – 18**
Martin Rehm & Derek Marshall 16.01.2011 (4B&C)
- **3. Fringe Benefits – 21 ★**
Re-bolted & extended by Juan-drax Marshall.
Keith James May 1995 (4B&C)
- **4. Sputnik – 26 ★★**
Jeremy Colenso & Shannon Law May 1995 (5B&C)
Re-bolted & extended by Juan-drax Marshall.
- **5. Body Parts – 29 ★★**
Jeremy Colenso & Shannon Law May 1995 (5B&C)
Re-bolted & extended by Juan-drax Marshall.
- **6. Mr Woggligog – 29**
Martin Renz 2004 (6B&C)
Link route.
- **7. Madam Golliwog – 27 ★★**
Shannon Law & Jeremy Colenso May 1995 (7B&C)
Re-bolted & extended by Juan-drax Marshall.
- **8. But Here I Am – 28 ★**
Juan-drax & Derek Marshall (7B&C)
- **9. Another Roadside Attraction – 21 ★★**
Keith James April 1995 (5B&C)
This was the first route to be bolted at Howissen's. Re-bolted & extended by Juan-drax Marshall.
- **10. Ma se Auntie – 28 ★**
Juan-drax & Derek Marshall 23.01.2011 (6B&C)
- **11. L.O.V.E. Machine – 26**
Juan-drax & Derek Marshall 23.01.2011 (6B&C)
- **12. Ek Koekeloer Jou – 20**
Stefan Kramer & Juan-drax Marshall 16.01.2011 (6B&C)
- **13. Ek Sommer Moer Jou – 20**
Stefan Kramer & Derek Marshall 16.01.2011 (6B&C)
- **14. Tattooed Madman – 20**
Terence Trevaskis & Derek Marshall 16.01.2011 (8B&C)

Main Cave

This is a few meters up stream of the *small cave*. The “vertical” lines in between the caves are included in the *Main Cave*.



- 1. Hallowed be Thy Name – 19
- 2. Legion – 19
- 3. The Shallows – 20
Extended by Derek Marshall.
- 4. Has Been – 21
Extended by Derek Marshall.
- 5. Gymrat – 20 ★
Extended by Derek Marshall.
- 6. Invisible Elephant – 21 ★
- 7. Do The Dassie – 21 ★
- 8. The Savant – 18 ★★
- 9. Savage – 21 ★★
Extension through the roof.

- Keith James 2004 (3B&C)
- Keith James 2010 (4B&C)
- Keith James 2004 (6B&C)

- Keith James November 2004 (7B&C)

- Keith James 1995 (6B&C)

- Derek Marshall & Garvin Jacobs 2001 (7B&C)
- Martin Rehm & Derek Marshall 15.01.2011 (7B&C)
- Marc Scáafer & Keith James early 90's (6B&C)
- Derek & Juan-dray Marshall 26.02.2011 (9B&C)



● **10. Slash – 18 ★★**

Marc Scáafer & Keith James early 90's (5B&C)

● **11. Burn – 21 ★**

Derek & Juan-dray Marshall 26.02.2011 (7B&C)

● **12. Émigré – 22 ★★**

Keith James 1998 (6B&C)

Re-bolted & re-directed by Derek Marshall.

● **13. Paglia's Pursuit – 21 ★★**

Keith James (5B&C)

Re-bolted & re-directed by Derek Marshall.

● **14. Blasphemy – 22 ★★**

Keith James May 1995 (6B&C)

This is the route with the hand size jug glued onto it. Re-bolted & extended by Derek Marshall.

● **15. Heresy – 24 ★★**

Keith James May 1995 (6B&C)

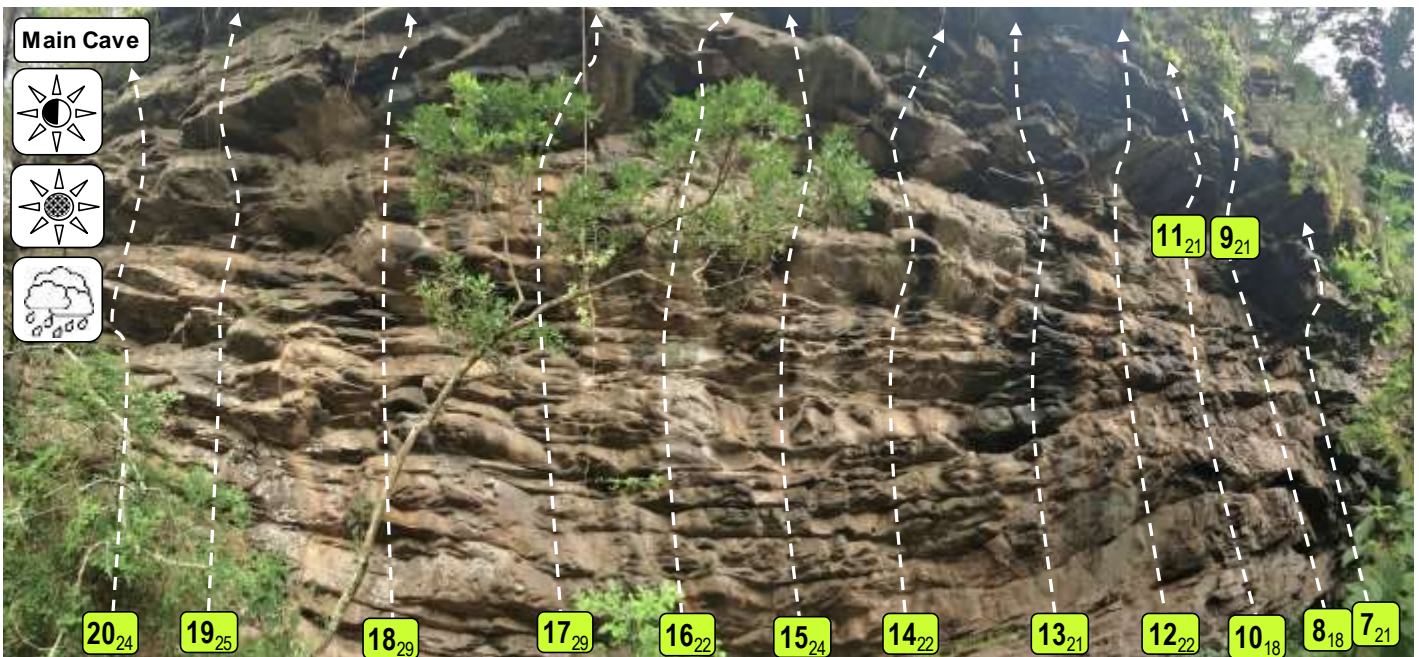
This route was opened with a glue-on hold at the crux at 23. This was later removed by Kevan Watkins, making *Heresy* a 24.

Re-bolted & extended by Derek Marshall.

● **16. Avatar – 22 ★★**

Keith James May 1995 (6B&C)

This was the first bolted line in the *Main Cave*. Re-bolted by Juan-dray Marshall.



● **17. Fat Boys Aerobic Workout – 29 ★★**

Jeremy Colenso 1995 (6B&C)

Bolted by Keith & Jeremy in late 1995. Jeremy Colenso & Shannon Law gave it consensus grade of 29. Later Rhodes students upped the grade to 30. Notably an Italian, Alfredo D' Matteis (social researcher in PE townships, in 98/99) flashed it, and then later soloed it. He also soloed all the other routes in the big cave. Paul Brouard on-sighted it, but left it at 30. Re-bolted & sent in 2011 by Juan-dray Marshall who was 15 at the time.

● **18. Skinny Toppies – 28 ★★**

Juan-dray & Derek Marshall 19.02.2011 (9B&C) Bolted Derek Marshall.

● **19. Texas Kak Huis – 25**

Juan-Dray & Derek Marshall 23.01.2011 (5B&C) Bolted Derek Marshall.

● **20. Wake Up The King – 24**

Juan-Dray & Derek Marshall 05.02.2011 (5B&C)

● **21. Amaqwaba – 22**

Derek & Juan-Dray Marshall 05.02.2011 (4B&C)

● **22. Live Like an Animal – 21**

Derek & Juan-Dray Marshall 05.02.2011 (4B&C)

● **23. Gaan Kak in Die Mielies – 20**

Stefan Kramer & Juan-Dray Marshall 23.01.2011 (2B&C)



Upper Cave



This cave is on a flat ledge about 25m above the stream. A reasonable path starts at the LH side of the *Main Cave*. The routes are a bit short & scrappy. The lower caves are a much better option.

- **1. Valcross – 19** Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 22/02/2002 (4B&C)
- **2. Brighter Day – 22** Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 22/02/2002 (5B&C)
- **3. Strangers on the Street – 19** Derek Marshall & Allen Luck 23/02/2002 (5B&C)
- **4. Templar Renegade – 20** Derek Marshall & Allen Luck 23/02/2002 (6B&C)
- 5. Offal – 14** Allen Luck & Craig Bester 22/02/2002 (T)
Up shelves to a large cave slot. Traverse L under roof & out.
- 6. No More – 14** Allen Luck & Craig Bester 22/02/2002 (T)
Up groove, then R under roof & out to the R of roof.
- **7. Bring Your Jeans – 16** Craig Bester & Derek Marshall 22/02/2002 (5B&C)

