

Thornkloof

Rock Climbing Guide

*Eastern Cape
Rock Climbing*





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 Mountain Club of South Africa. 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 anyway. 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 Towerkop
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	
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 Plett Crags			
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 Howieson's Poort				
27 Moodies				
28 Bouldering				
29 Thornkloof				

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As this is a web based guide it can be considered a continual work in progress. It is easy to change. So please send missing details, corrections, additions & adjustments to marshall@qsafrika.co.za. All information will be greatly appreciated.

DIRECTIONS: Follow the R350 out of Grahamstown towards Cradock for 10km. Turn L onto a dirt road to Riebeeck East. Drive for 11km. Turn L though a gate marked Thornkloof. Park below the crag, before the gate. Don't block the road.



WALK IN: About 2 minutes max.

ACCESS: No access restrictions, but this is private land. **Please be mega polite & don't make fires, litter, play music or do anything stupid.** Please don't inconvenience the farmer in any way. The landowner accepts no liability for climbing or any related activities.

HISTORY: It was first a trad venue with routes like Yoyo, The Rib, Black Hole, Zig-zag & The Last Route. Keith James bolted majority of the routes.

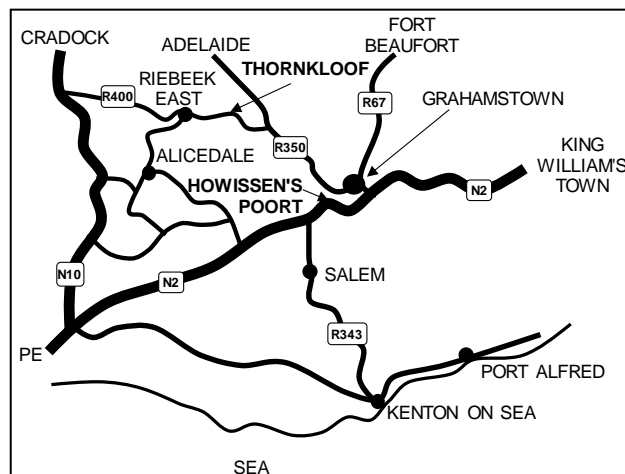
TIME & WEATHER: Really hot in summer, so make a very early start, stopping at 11H00 or wait for an overcast day. Winter is recommended.

POTENTIAL: There is still some potential for new routes.

GENERAL: 23 bolted routes and some very poor trad.

ROCK TYPE: Sandstone & quartzite mix.

HAZARDS: Area is horse free, could be snakes.

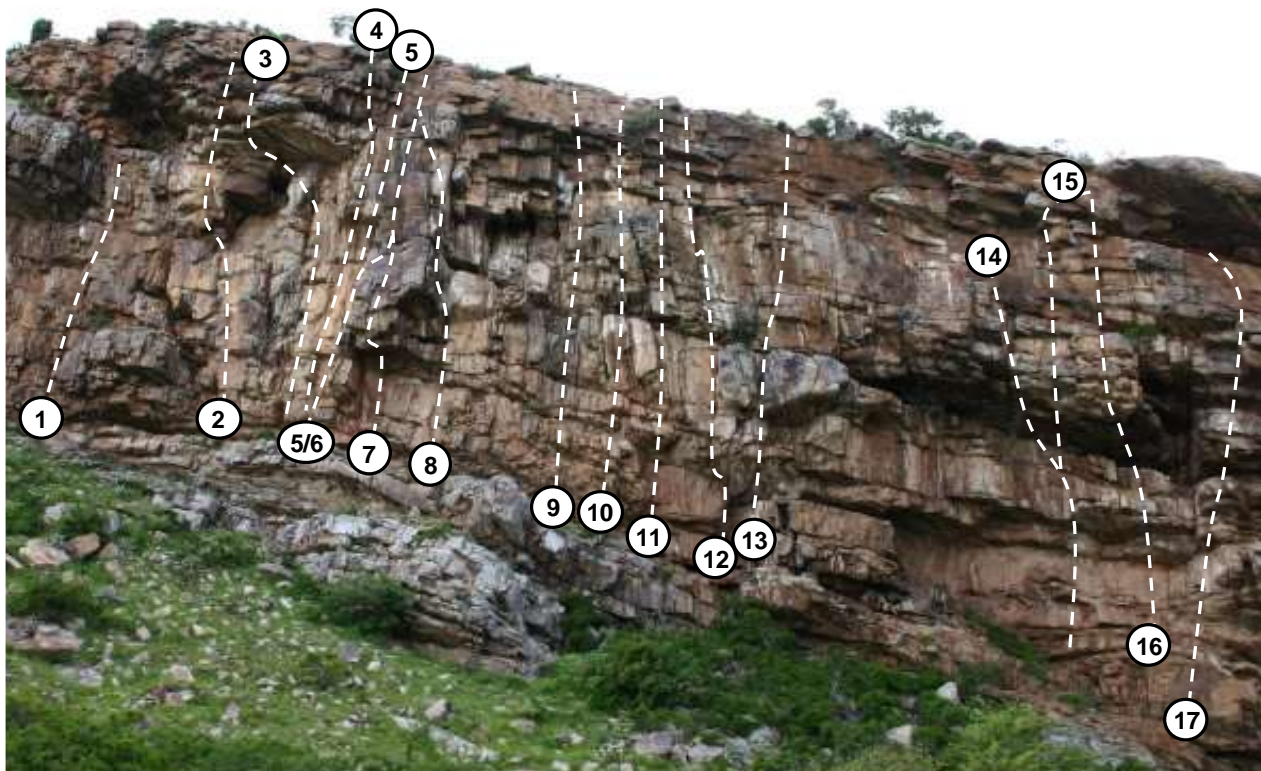


ACCOMMODATION: There are a hundred and one places to stay in Grahamstown. The best would be to stay at the old jail back packers. They have a sweet pub, full of hippies, students & tourists.



- 1. **Convalescence – 17**
- 2. **Slow Fade - 21★★**
- 3. **The Burl – 22 ★★★**
- 4. **Fear of the Dark – 21**
19/01/2013 (8B&C)
- 5. **Re-animator – 18 ★**
19/01/2013 (8B&C)

- Keith James 1992 (5B&C)
- Keith James 1994 (?B&C)
- Keith James 1995 (9B&C)
- Derek Marshall & Terence Trevaskis
- Terence Trevaskis & Derek Marshall



- 6. **The Purple Pillar – 16 ★★**

Keith James 1987 (?B&C)

Traded in 1987, bolted in 1992.

- 7. **Sheer Rage – 23 ★★★**

Keith James 1991 (6B&C)

First route bolted at the crag, with a 12v Bosch which could drill 2 holes on a charge!

- 8. **Flaked Out – 18**

Keith James 1992 (?B&C)

- 9. **Le Petit Tois – 19 ★**

Keith James 1989 (7B&C)

Traded, terrifyingly at the exit, in 1989. Bolted in 1992.

- 10. **Pickpocket – 19 ★**

Keith James 1992 (7B&C)

- 11. **Sleight of Hand – 20 ★★**

Keith James 1996 (?B&C)

- 12. **Crater's Corner – 20 ★**

Keith James 1989 (?B&C)

Traded in 1989, bolted in 1992.

- 13. **Battalions of Steel – 21**

Derek Marshall 2001 (6B&C)

- 14. **Spectre – 24**

Keith James 1994 (7B&C)

- 15. **Introspectre – 22 ★★**

Keith James 1993 (8B&C)

Traded in 1993 by Keith James, bolted in 1994.

- 16. **Renaissance Man – 26 ★★**

Jeremy Colenso 1996 (7B&C)

Bolted by Keith James. Re-bolted by Juan-dray Marshall Jan 2011.

- 17. **Retrospectre – 20 ★★★**

Paul Schlotveldt 1988 (?B&C)



Traded in 1988 by Paul Schlotveldt, bolted by Keith James in 1994.

18. Mirror of Horrors – 23

Keith James 1996 (5B&C)

19. Twisted & Vile – 23

Keith James 1996 (7B&C)

20. Jewel of the Nile – 23

Keith James 1996 (6B&C)

21. The Beach – 21

Mike Roberts 1989 (6B&C)

Traded by Mike Roberts in 1989, bolted by Keith James in 1994.

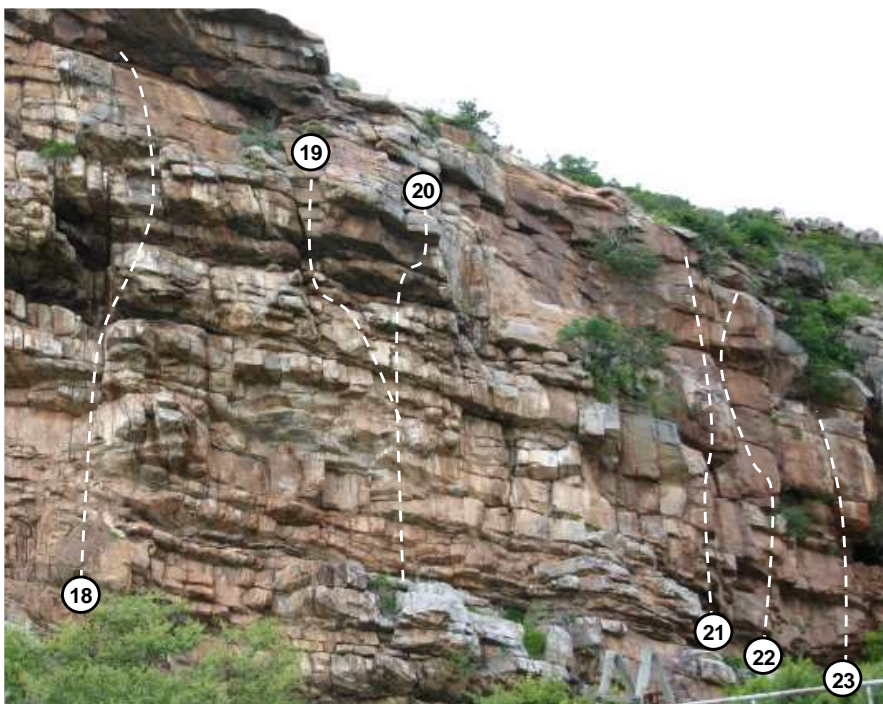
22. Archimedean Screw – 20

Keith James 1994 (6B&C)

23. Lenti – 28

Jeremy Colenso 1994 (4B&C)

This is on the hill opposite the main Thornkloof crag.



NEW YEARS RIVER

This is further up the road that passes in front of Thornkloof. Access has not been determined yet & nobody has climbed here in many years...as far as we know.

1. Sharp Edge – 17

John Alexander 30/11/1983 (T)

P1 Move through steep open book, then traverse R onto ledge.

P2 Traverse using hand rail under roof. Exit overhang onto easy exit slopes.