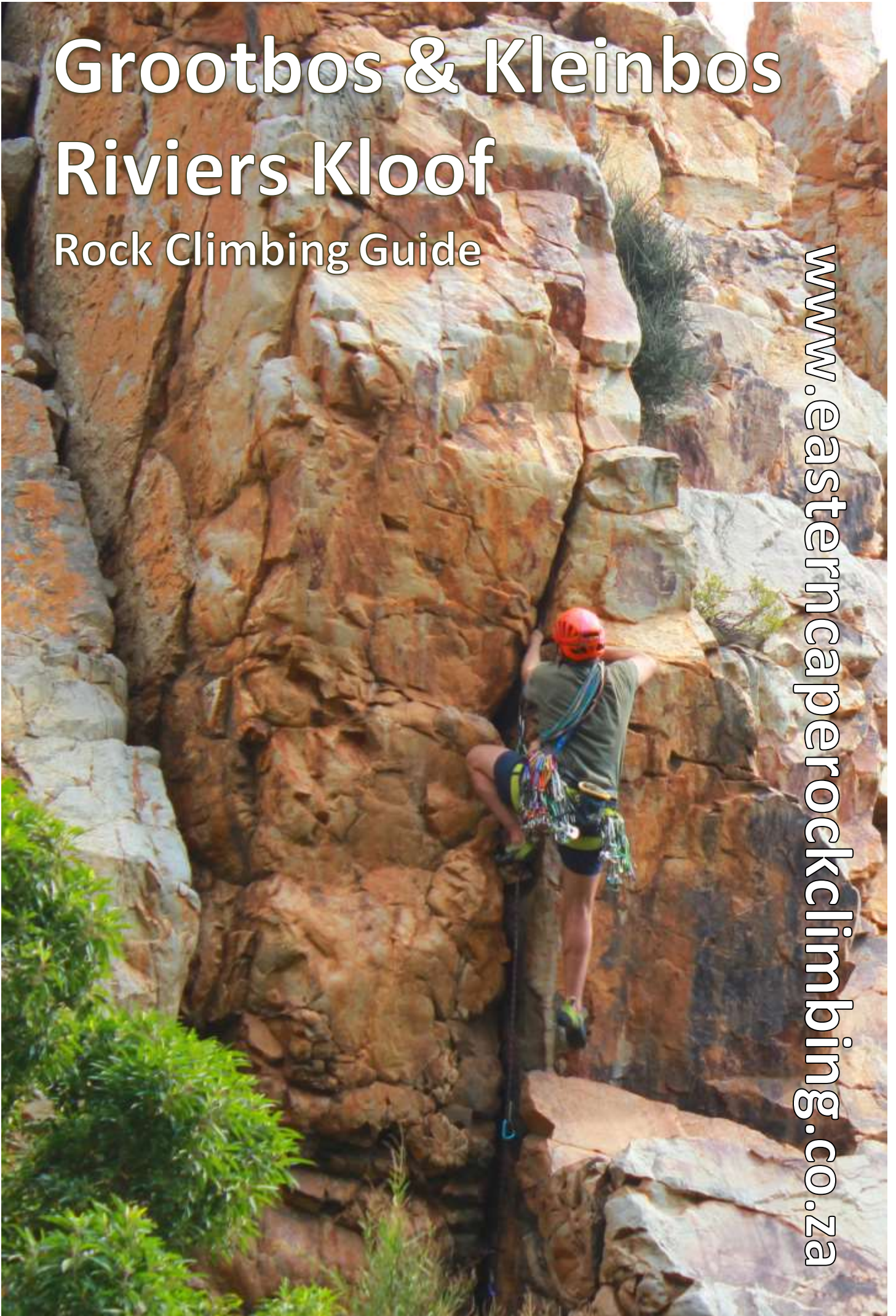


# Grootbos & Kleinbos Riviers Kloof Rock Climbing Guide

[www.easterncaperoockclimbing.co.za](http://www.easterncaperoockclimbing.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

<b>Port Elizabeth</b>	30 Coombs Gorge	37 EL urban crags & boulders	<b>Toorberg</b>	<b>Swartberg</b>
1 Lady's Slipper	<b>Amatolas</b>	38 Yellowsands & Inkwenkwe	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	<b>Transkei</b>	51 Gamkaskloof Boulderin
4 Sleepy Hollow	33 Stutterheim	41 Bola	46 Hole in the Wall	
5 Elands River	<b>Langkloof</b>	<b>Winterberg</b>	47 Hill of Execution	
6 Kirkwood	19 Nguniland	42 Mary & Martha	48 Port St Johns	
7 Cape St Francis	20 Kouga Wildernes	43 Hangklip		
<b>Groot Winterhoek</b>	21 Uniondale Pass			
8 Tygerhoek	<b>Garden Route</b>			
9 Naga's Kloof	22 Titzkama			
10 Eagle Gorge	23 Groot Rivier			
11 Momentum Gorge	24 Plett Crags			
12 Pinnacle Gorge	<b>East London</b>			
13 Cockscomb	34 NSA			
14 Grootbos & Kleinbos	35 Windmill Hole			
15 Nivera	36 Buffalo River			
<b>Baviaans</b>				
16 Grips				
17 Kudu Kaya				
18 Waterkloof				
<b>Grahamstown</b>				
25 Alicedale				
26 Howieson's Poort				
27 Moodies				
28 Bouldering				
29 Thornkloof				

**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**. Nobody "has" a lawyer, normally a lawyer has us...by the short & curlies. But I do know this lawyer, he's a bit of a dick, but apparently he normally wins. Friends, let's not get to see how much of a dick he really is. You are more than welcome to print out or e-mail this guide in its unchanged format, with logos & all information intact.

This guide is an attempt to consolidate this info & available to everyone. As this is a web based guide it can be considered a work in progress. It is easy to change. So please send missing details, corrections, additions & adjustments to [info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za](mailto:info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za). All information will be greatly appreciated.



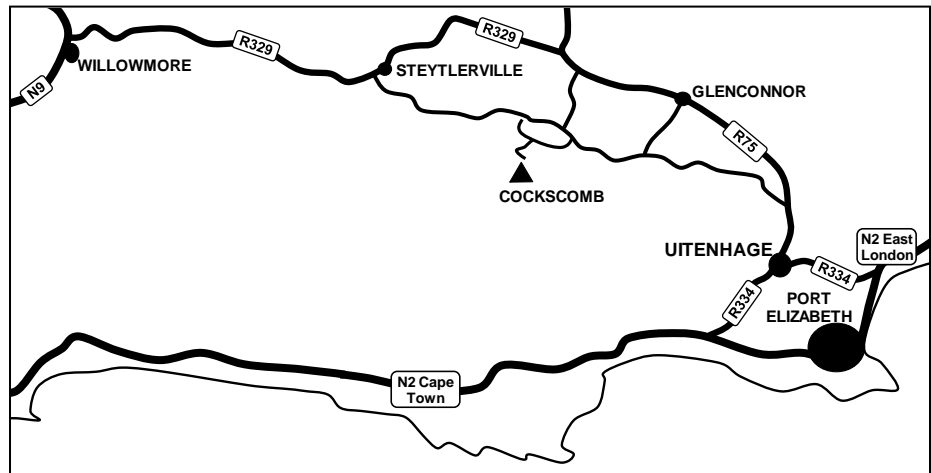
**DIRECTIONS:** From Port Elizabeth take the R75 towards Jansenville. Bypass Uitenhage. From here there are two options: (A) is longer, but has less dirt road. (B) is shorter, but has more dirt road.

A) From the R75 turn off the tar at Glenconnor. 17km later at a "T" junction turn R towards Steytlerville. 21km on, turn L at Willow River.

B) From the R75 take the first turn L which is sign posted Cockscomb. Follow this stretch of dirt road for 59km. Turn L at Willow River.

Through the gate 300m after the turn. After about 6km, there is a dogleg in the road at the track that goes off to Naggaskloof. Follow the RH road.

About 2km after the turn off to Pinnacle gorge there is an unmarked locked gate on the L. Getting the key is obviously going to be a challenge. Through the gate, across a wide white stone river bed., continue past a disused farm house till the track stops at a fence. Park here. Over the fence & walk down to the wide river bed. This is Grootbos Rivier. Kleinbos is quite far too the R.



**ACCESS:** At this stage access is totally forbidden. The farmer is super staunch & is not open to having climbers on his property. Please don't mention Mountain Club when you are negotiating access, he has had various bad experiences with Mountain Club & can be considered total anti-Mountain Club. Please don't piss off the farmer or take any chances trespassing on his land. He is super staunch.

Please contact [info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za](mailto:info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za) for more on access details.

**HISTORY:** Climbers have been climbing in Grootbosrivierskloof since the 1960s. There have been some routes published in various MCSA journals, there are routes in the old Camp & Tail route book & Andrew Forsyth's personal journal.

**WHERE TO STAY:** There are plenty of wild campsites with a fire place. These will most likely be quite over grown. A machete is recommended.

**SECURITY:** Not an issue at all. The farmers in this area take no nonsense.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:**

Please educate your entire group properly on all these points. Never presume that they would know.

1. The major issue is **taking a crap**. Move away from the stream or water courses. Try to find a flat area. Bury with a large rock on top. Please take this seriously. Momentum is the farmer's drinking water catchment area.
2. Swim in the stream, but do not use any **soap**.
3. Do not spit **tooth paste** in the water or on rocks.
4. Carry water to wash **dishes** away from the stream.
5. Feel free to trim the **paths**, but don't go bos.
6. Don't leave any **rubbish**. Not even braai bones.

**BEST SEASON:** Winter has low rain fall & is very mild. In summer there are plenty of crags with shade all day.








**ROCK TYPE:** Quartzite set in an open wilderness gorge. There are no boulder problems or sport routes, only trad.

**USING THE GUIDE:**

1. Nobody carries a compass anymore. Thus directions are given using *Up Stream & Down Stream* as general indications. If facing up stream to your R will be in the **Steytleville** direction and your L the **Uitenhage** direction. These are practical directions to try and make things clearer. One man's North is another's North West.
2. Crag and routes have been recorded from **down-stream** to **up-stream**. Or as you walk-in to the crag.
3. Maps indicate general layout. They are not in perfect scale. Paths & tracks on the maps indicate general direction only. Paths may/will become grown over in a short period of time.
4. **L** and **R** will be given as if you were facing the crag.
5. GPS co-ordinates as given to assist, but don't try walking straight to any of these points...obviously.

**HAZARDS, SAFETY & WARNINGS:** Remember climbing is always at your own risk. Nobody is forcing you to climb. Just go home before the risks become too high.

1. Use a **helmet**. There are plenty of loose rocks.
2. This is **puffadder & cape cobra** country, especial near settlements & farm houses. They have not often been seen out in the bush or near the crags. The nearest anti-venom is at Greenacres Hospital. That's about 120km (PE).
3. **Baboons** could be a hazard & should be considered very dangerous. Do not corner them or approach them in any way. Do not try to displace them.
4. **The farmer** please don't mess with this farmer especially.
5. **Leopards**, this is a proper wilderness kloof & there are not often people in the kloof. There are lots of signs on leopards. Take real care!

STAR RATING SYSTEM	
★	Good route at this crag.
★★	Good route in the area.
★★★	Classic route in this province.
No star	Reasonable to bollocks.
ABBREVIATIONS & SYMBOLS	
4	Bolted route
T	Trad route, natural gear
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
	Can be climbed in wet weather

## First Fin



### 1. Have Your Cake & Eat it – 14

52m Magnus & Viera Wagener & Markus Kelly 13.09.2014 (T)

Up huge open book ramp, where the upstream face meets the wall on the Steytleville side of the



kloof.

### 2. Easy To Destroy – 19

36m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 13.09.2014 (T)

Up prominent twin cracks on the RHS of the upstream face. Onto a ledge, then up off width open book to summit.

### 3. Zero Tolerance – 18

36m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 13.09.2014 (T)

L facing open book crack onto stepped ledges, then up off width open book to summit.

### 4. Easy To Condemn – 18

36m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 13.09.2014 (T)

Up slab between open books, move R into off width then L into R facing open book at the top.

### 5. Isn't it Enough – 20

36m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 13.09.2014 (T)

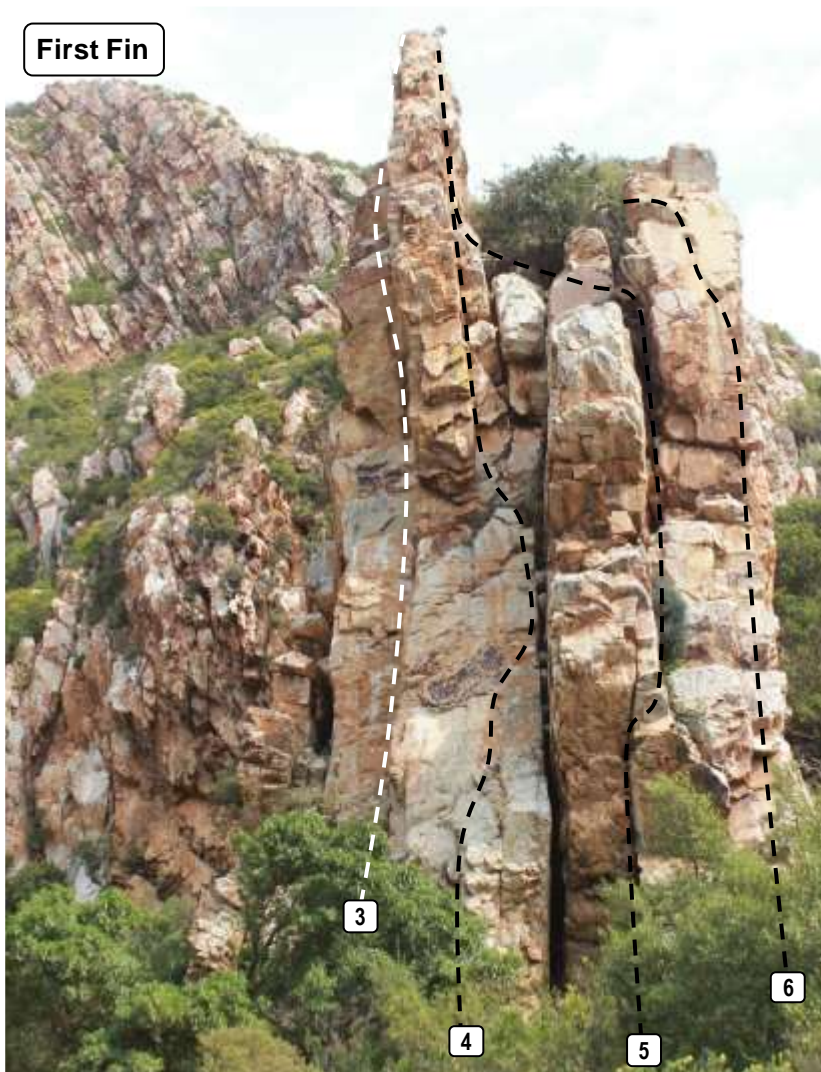
Up L facing slightly overhanging open book. Step R on ledge above. Continue up chimney above. Step R to summit.

### 6. Cutting the BS – 19

30m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 14.09.2014 (T)



Up jagged broken arête, over ledges & rails. Step L & belay from tree.



## Wafer Slab



About half an hour's walk up the main kloof from the car park is a huge flake of rock on the LH side.

### **The Taking of Hyperion I – 16**

John Ions, Steve Bowen, Goonie Marsh & John Moss Aug 1975 (T)

This route takes the line to the right of the center of the wall & follows a direct crack-line with a prominent tree just below half way. Start just to the R of an obvious flake about 17m high & leaning against the wall, below the prominent crack-line & directly below the tree.

P1 – 16 32m climb the wall to where it steepens via a few short cracks. Traverse L using a block with a crack behind it. Up & around to the L of a perched flake. Onto a ledge. Traverse L over easier angled rock to the crack. Up wide crack to a stance at the prominent tree.

P2 – 16 – 42m Up behind the stance, move to the R onto the wall. Up on good holds to a short wide crack. Up to the overhang & move R at a hanging block. Up & back L into the crack. Up to the crest of the flake.

### **The Taking of Hyperion II – 16**

Joe Slow, Mike McKechnie, Goonie Marsh & John Moss 12.10.1975 (T)

Route follows a crack to the L of *The Taking of Hyperion I*. Start on RHS of a large flake.

P1 – 14 20m Up crack to top of face.

P2 – 14 22m Up crack above belay to a block overhang.

P3 – 16 36m Traverse 10m R, across the wall on a thin ledge, to an ill-defined vertical crack. Climb the crack, which is awkward to start and then continue up to the top of the flake.

### **The Taking of Hyperion III – 13**

Joe Slow, Mike McKechnie, Goonie Marsh & John Moss 12.10.1975 (T)

Route takes an obvious broken corner on the far L of the wafer. Scramble up to the base of the corner.

P1 – 13 22m Climb a series of wide cracks leaning up to the L, to a ledge with a window.

P2 – 13 26m Diagonally R past a series of windows, then straight up to the top of the wafer.

### **Beyond the Vert – 20**

Andrew Forsyth & John Davies 20/02/1982 (T)

Up the center crack system.

P1 – 13

P2 – 19 Jam crack into fist crack.

### **The Sounds of Silence – 17**

Allan Briers & Clee Roy 21/10/1984 (T)

Facing up the gully behind the wafer, the route starts on the RH wall about 20m from the head of the gully at the base of an overhanging crack. Up the initial overhanging crack. Follow the crack, which becomes a horizontal hand rail until a large ledge is reached. Easier climbing to the top.

Further up the gorge & higher above the stream.

Up a well-defined crack.

P1 – 17

P2 – 17

P3 – 17

Traverse off the last pitch at the bottom of the final off width.

# Kleinbos Rivier Kloof



Easiest way to walk-in to *Kleinbos Rivier Kloof* is to park as for *Grootbos*, walk down to the river bed. Walk down stream for a few hundred meters to where *Kleinbos Rivier* meets *Grootbos Rivier*. Walk up *Kleinbos*.

The only recorded route at this stage is an easy open book on the first wafer of rock on the RHS of the kloof. There is talk of a pinnacle further up the kloof. Apparently John Moss & party were half way up the pinnacle when Rob Mac Geoghegan & party started up an easier route & conquered the pinnacle before John Moss & party. John was not too pleased.

## 1. Extreme Measures – 14

42m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 14.09.2014 (T)

Up the prominent open book ramp. Over various ledges, all the way till you run out of rock.

