

*Eastern Cape  
Rock Climbing*



# Waterkloof

Rock Climbing Guide

**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 & Inkwenkwezi	44 Graff-Reinet	49 Towerkop
2 Van Stadens	31 Fort Fordyce	39 Lalapanzi	45 Compassberg	50 Oudtshoorn
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**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 & curies. 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, e-mail or link to a web page this guide in its unchanged format, with logos & all information intact. 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 [marshall@qsafrika.co.za](mailto:marshall@qsafrika.co.za) . All information will be greatly appreciated.

Waterkloof has the potential to become a major SA Sport climbing venue. Set on the edge of the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve it is a welcome stop over for climbing starved climbers on family vacations. It has a very short flat walk-in, good infrastructure & a very pleasant atmosphere. There is major potential for sport routes.



**DIRECTIONS:** There are two approaches.

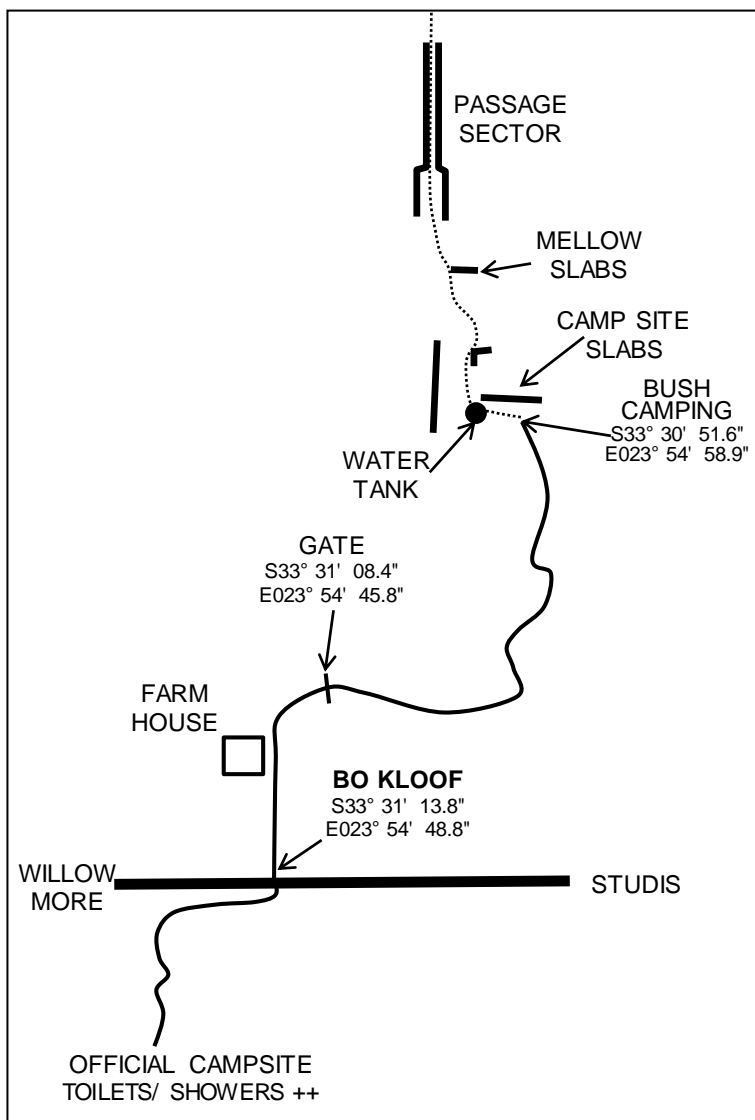
1. The easy way. Find Willowmore on the N9. Just out of Willowmore (about 5km) on the Uniondale side, take the R322 to Baviaanskloof. About 70km along this road is the farm Bo-Kloof. Waterkloof is to the R behind the farm house. No permits required.
2. The fun way. From the N2 use the R331 or the R332 to reach Patensie. Continue on the R332 into the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve. This will require a real 4 X 4 or high clearance vehicle & some driving skill, but is well worth the effort. Clinton did it in a Honda Ballade...eish!

Permits are only required if you intend to stop, picnic, camp or leave the R322 by more than 3m. Please enquire at Komdomo Nature Conservation Office to get the full & current story.

**ACCESS:** The farmers Quintis & Anina Bezuidenhout are very keen to develop the climbing on their farm. Please contact them before hand on: Tel/fax 044 9232192, 0722276338 or bokloof@baviaans.co.za . Please visit their site [www.baviaans.co.za/bokloof](http://www.baviaans.co.za/bokloof) . At this stage there is no charge to climb, but you would need to be using their accommodation to access the climbing. They may also sell some lovely kudu filets, just ask.

**HISTORY:** This area was discovered, in climbing terms, by Steven Wiggley, Craig Bester & Derek Marshall in October 2006. Having driven through the Baviaanskloof the whole day looking for something to climb, we decided that we were randomly going to turn at the next farm gate on the right handside, ask the farmer if we could explore & climb. Anina gave us the go-ahead & pointed us in the direction of Waterkloof. We walked in & were staggered at the potential. Since we only had trad gear with us we immediately started climbing the easy trad lines at the start of the kloof. Quintis joined our fire that evening for a few cups of the finest Port & the deal was sealed. Derek returned a few times in 2006 & 2007, opening a few more easy trad lines & bolted the first sport routes.

The potential for hard sport lines is staggering. Getting hard climbers to Waterkloof was the primary reason to host the 2009 Petzl Rock 'n Road. 2008 & 2009 saw Joe Mohle & Clinton Martiningo on contract in Port Elizabeth, rigging at the 2010 World Cup Stadium. Looking at the pictures they were immediately keen to get out there, bolt & open new lines, in support of the EC Rock 'n Road & just for the love of new lines. December 2008 saw the initial projects opened, a flurry of new routes & more projects.



The 2009 Rock 'n Road was beset with a patch of really wet miserable weather. It had snowed in Baviaans & the participants almost mutinied on the drive-in, many preferring the option of heading to Outdshoorn. Finally Andrew Pedley drove ahead, checked-out the conditions & the rock, giving it the thumbs up. After a long night partying in Quintis' barn the routes proved a bit hard for most competitors. Adam Ordra pitched late in the day. He made short work of repeating existing routes above 29 & opened most of the projects. *The Emperor* (32) which he unsighted, was his favorite route.



**WHERE TO STAY:** They have very comfortable self catering cottages, as well as a developed campsite with hot showers & flushing toilets. This camp site is quite far from Waterkloof (+2km). They may allow you to camp rough at the entrance to Waterkloof. Lovely, flat, shaded, grassy, plenty of water & 45m from the first easy trad route.

**SECURITY:** The farmers in this area take no nonsense, so not a big issue. Still take the usual precautions. Police Tel: 10111. There is a police station at Studtis about 23km along the main road towards the Nature Conservation area.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:** No major environmental issues, but 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. For the sake of any lost Euros: that means walk out of the kloof to the flat area. Bury with a large rock on top. Please take this seriously. Waterkloof is the farmer's drinking water catchment area.
2. **Swim & shower** at the developed campsite. Don't swim or use any soap in the stream at Waterkloof. The farmer & guests drink from this stream.
3. Carry water to wash **dishes** away from the stream.
4. Don't leave any **rubbish**. Not even braai bones.
5. Please buy **fire wood** from the farmer. He chops alien invader species (wattles). Please support this important activity. Do not collect as this does impact the environment. Please only use one fire place.

**BEST SEASON:** Winter would be very cold. But here's the thing: all day shade in summer. Waterkloof feels like its air conditioned on hot days.

**ROCK TYPE & POTENTIAL:** Vertical to steep compact quartzite in a narrow slot canyon. Smooth, but featured, shaded, up to 45m high on both sides & about 200m deep. The main slot canyon could support 200 sport lines of mostly hard grades. There are sunny easy slabs at the entrance to the kloof.

**ROUTES:** There are some easy trad lines that are not great. Waterkloof is more of a sport area. 21 bolted lines.

**HAZARDS, SAFETY & WARNINGS:**

1. Consider a **helmet**. There are plenty of loose rocks.
2. **Snakes** have not often been seen out in the bush or near the crags. But it's not impossible & the nearest anti-venom is at Greenacres Hospital. That's about 300km (PE).

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	
●	Bolted sport 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
	Dappled shade all day
	Can be climbed in wet weather



3. **Leopards** have been seen by the farmer. You would be lucky to see one. Leopards can climb trees & are very agile, but would not be able to climb more than grade 20. Start soloing...fast!
4. **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. Baboons can run, are very agile, climb trees & would climb a 28 with a hangover. That 11 hex is not going to work. If you are not carrying firearm, wear your sexiest underpants & practice your fake Southern Suburbs ascent. Apparently baboons are rather partial to chaps from the Southern-Suburbs.
5. **Flash floods**, no matter how exciting, are potentially hazardous. Check out the debris line in the kloof.



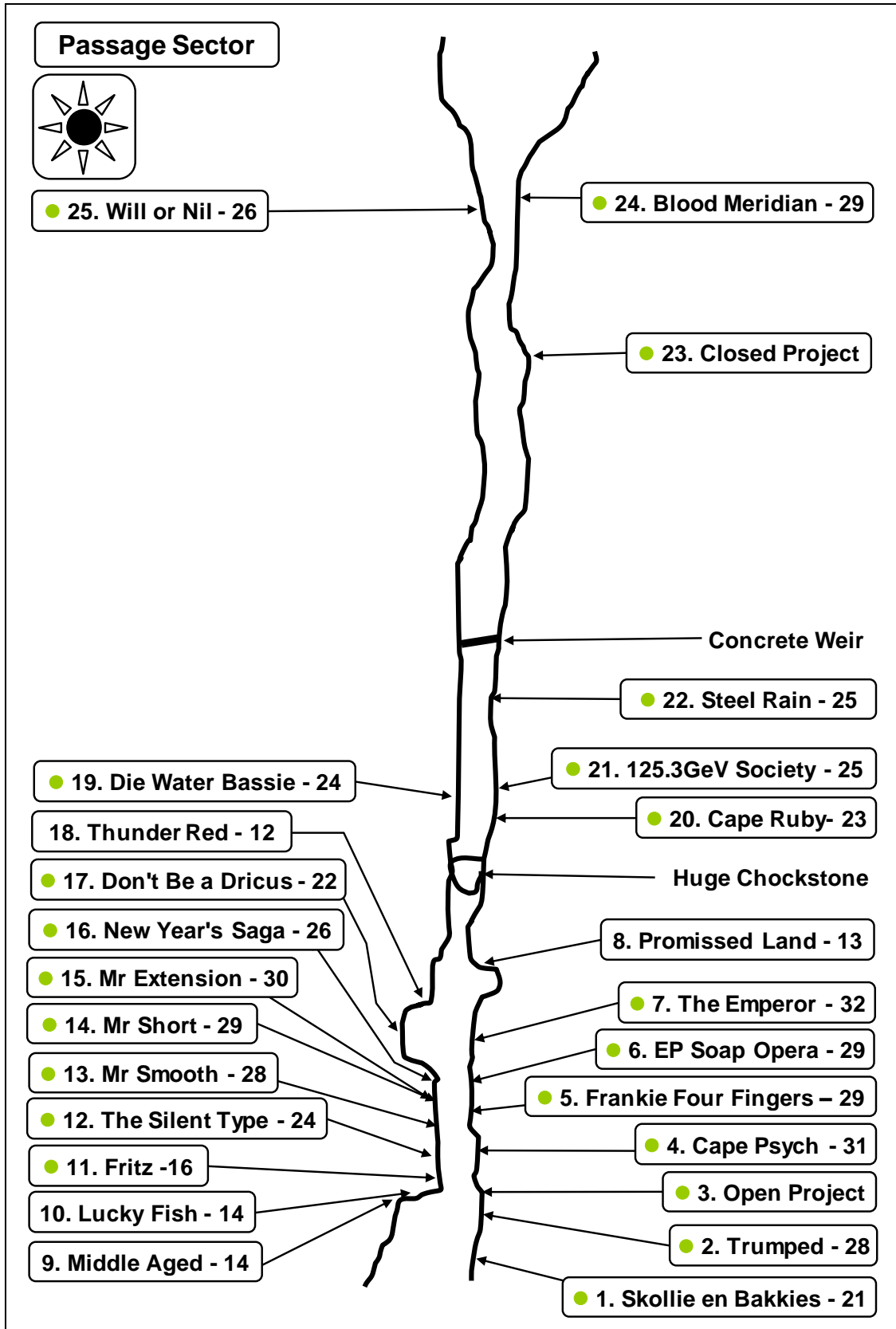
#### **THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Special thanks & appreciation goes to Clinton Martinigo & Joe Möhle who spent their brief holiday in 2008, bolting routes & opening projects for the 2009 Petzl Rock 'n Road Trip. Extra appreciation goes to Joe Möhle who returned in 2016 to add a few more routes.

## Passage Sector



- **1. Skollie en Bakkies – 21** Joe Möhle & Basil Jacksch Jan 2016 (12B&C)
- **2. Trumped – 28 ★★** Ebert Nel & Alex Bester Dec 2016  
Bolted by Alex Bester.
- **3. Open Project - 38-ish** Bolted by Derek Marshall (9B&C)  
Adam Ondra declined to start working it, but confirmed that it should be possible, with some time to work it. He estimated the grade to be 9a, at least! *Fokket, vaar is daie sterk fokker Edbert Nel?*
- **4. Cape Psych – 31 ★★★** 28m Adam & Miraslav Ondra 24.07.2009 (11B&C)  
Bolted by Joe Möhle.
- **5. Frankie Four Fingers – 29 ★★** Ebert Nel & Alex Bester Dec 2016 (12B&C)  
Bolted by Juan-dray Marshall
- **6. EP Soap Opera – 29 ★★★** Clinton Martiningo & Joe Möhle 01.01.2009 (8B&C)  
Bolted by Joe Möhle.
- **7. The Emperor – 32 ★★★** 28m Adam & Miraslav Ondra 24.07.2009 (14B&C)  
Bolted by Clinton Martiningo.
- 8. Promised Land – 13** 60m Derek Marshall & Mandy La Mude April 2009 (T)  
Up easy stepped ramp to belay from trees close to a huge cave.
- 9. Middle Age – 14** 30m Viera Wagener & Natalie van Loggenberg April 2008 (T)  
Up ramp crack to a tree, move L onto open book. Move R to good abseil tree.
- 10. Lucky Fish – 14** 30m Allen Luck & Derek Marshall April 2008 (T)  
LH diagonal crack into LH open book.
- **11. Fritz – 16** 30m Martin Rehm & Derek Marshall Dec 2008 (8B&C)  
Obvious trad line. Was bolted by Basil Jacksch & Joe Möhle in Jan 2016 without first assentionist permission. If it matters enough to someone, it may be chopped.
- **12. Silent Type – 24 ★★** Joe Möhle & Clinton Martiningo 01.01.2009 (12B&C)  
Bolted by Derek Marshall.
- **13. Mr Smooth – 28 ★★★** Clinton Martiningo & Joe Möhle 30.12.2008 (12B&C)  
Bolted by Derek Marshall.
- **14. Mr Short – 29 ★★** Clinton Martiningo & Joe Möhle 01.01.2009 (5B&C)  
Bolted by Derek Marshall.
- **15. Mr Extension – 30 ★★★** Clinton Martiningo & Joe Möhle 01.01.2009 (8B&C)  
Startup *Mr Short*, link up to the top of *Mr Smooth*.
- **16. New Year's Saga – 26 ★★★** Joe Möhle & Clinton Martiningo 31.12.2008 (11B&C)
- **17. Don't be a Dricus – 22 ★** Derek Marshall & Martin Renz April 2009 (9B&C)  
Bolted by Martin Rehm.
- 18. Thunder Red – 12** 25m Derek Marshall & Mandy La Mude April 2009 (T)  
Over large tree, up slab to tree belay.
- **19. Die Water Bassie – 24 ★** Alex Bester & Ebert Nel Dec 2016
- **20. Cape Ruby - 23** Basil Jacksch & Joe Möhle Jan 2016 (13B&C)
- **21. 125.3GeV Society – 25 ★** Ebert Nel & Alex Bester Dec 2016
- **22. Steel Rain – 25 ★★** 45m Clinton Martiningo & Joe Möhle 01.01.2009 (14B&C)
- **23. Closed Project – 34-ish** Bolted by Joe Möhle (8B&C)
- **24. Blood Meridian - 29** Joe Möhle & Basil Jacksch Jan 2016 (10B&C)



## Cave Crack Area

The Cave Crack Area is a prominent short cave on the walk-in to the main Passage Sector.



### 1. Love at First Bite – 10

26m Gordon Munro & Derek Marshall 09.01.2016 (T)

Very easy ramp open book about 10m R & around the corner from *Cave Crack*.

### 2. Joe the Evil Jesus of Climbing – 14

12m Derek Marshall & Gordon Munro 09.01.2016 (T)

Easy ramp steps about 6m R of *Cave Crack*.

### 3. Cave Crack – 21

15m Juan-dray Marshall Gordon Munro 09.01.2016 (T)

Prominent overhanging crack on R of chossy cave.





## Campsite Slabs

These slabs are about 20m R of the water tank. Super obvious.

### 1. Burn – 19

41m Derek Marshall & Steven Wiggley 14.10.2006 (T)

Up easy ramp staying R of *Babylon's Burning*.

### 2. Babylon's Burning – 16 ★

Up easy ramp to gain the prominent R facing open book.

### 3. Live to Die Another Day – 21 ★★

Up easy ramp to the roof, through this & up the remarkably featured face.

### 4. Greek Cheese – 16

L facing ramp open book.

### 5. Hippy Cheese – 15

L facing curved open book. Abseil from tree on a ledge.

### 6. Fear for My Life – 17

P1 – 16 - 25m Startup I facing slab open book. Up broken blunt arête to a ledge.

P2 – 17 - 19m Continue up arête till you top out. Abseil from a tree to the R.



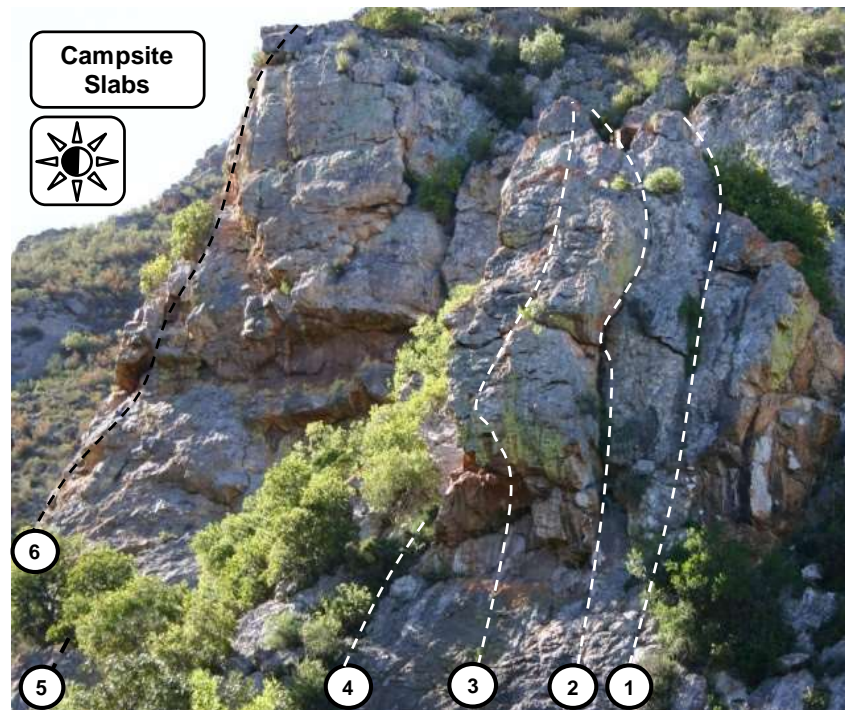
40m Derek Marshall & Steven Wiggley 14.10.2006 (T)

40m Derek Marshall & Steven Wiggley 14.10.2006 (T)

15m Craig Bester & Derek Marshall 15.10.2006 (T)

19m Steven Wiggley & Craig Bester 15.10.2006 (T)

44m Derek Marshall & Steven Wiggley 15.10.2006 (T)



## Mellow Slabs

These slabs are about 200m up the kloof on the RH side if you are facing upstream. Good easy trad.

- 1. Say You Love Me – 16** 26m Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 29.12.2006 (T)  
Start in recess. Move up an indistinct line to an abseil tree.
- 2. Into the Fire - 16** 30m Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 29.12.2006 (T)  
Startup slab arête, moving L into open book, up to an abseil tree.
- 3. Seas of Fire – 14** 25m Craig Bester & Derek Marshall 29.12.2006 (T)  
Perfect slab open book in the middle of the main slab.
- 4. Godless Run – 14** 25m Craig Bester & Derek Marshall 29.12.2006 (T)  
Up through roof in open book system to R of perfect slab open book which is *Seas of Fire*.

