

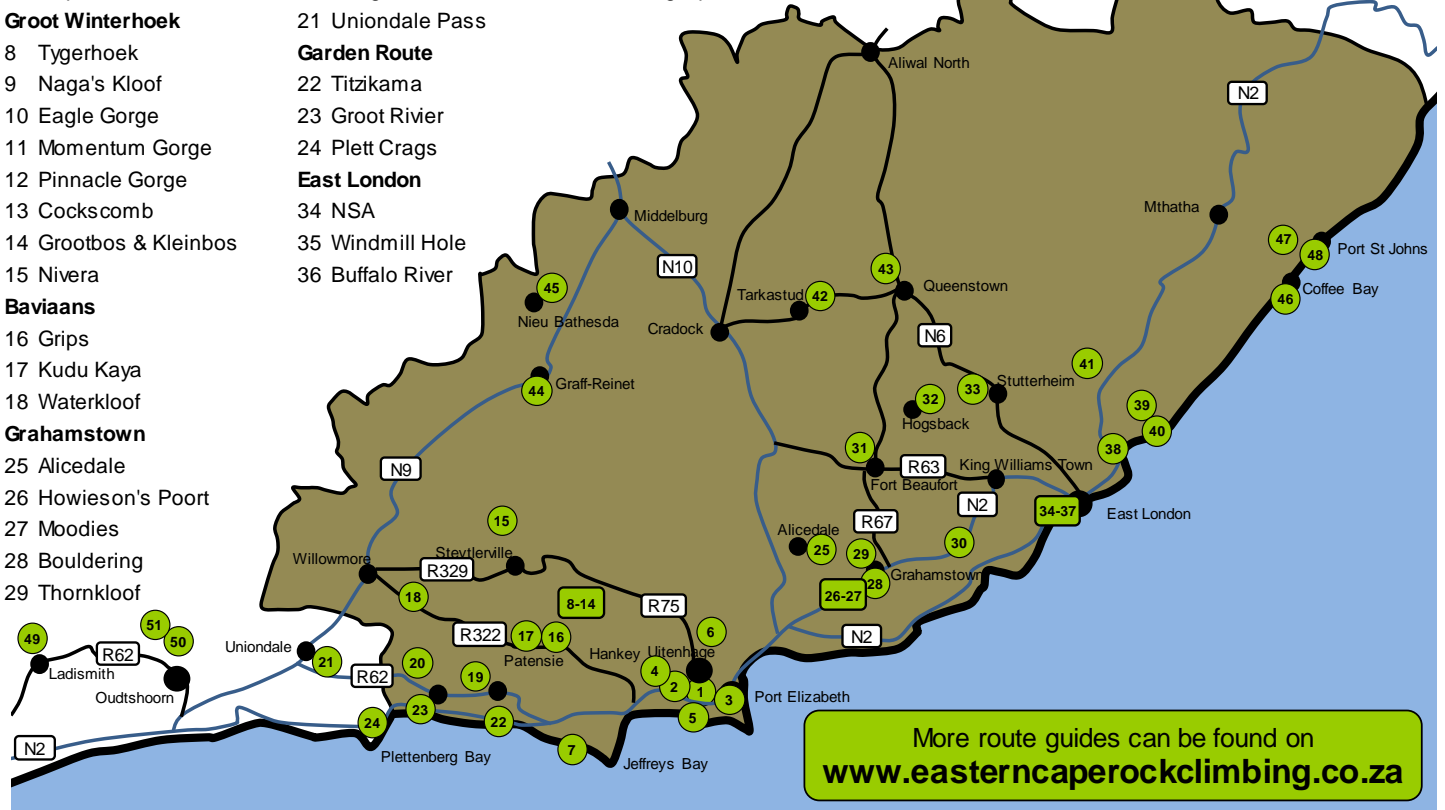
# Hill Of Execution | Mlengani, Transkei



**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, with a beer or wine or whiskey, 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 Titzikama        |                              |                      |                          |
| 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    |                              |                      |                          |



**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.

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 [info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za](mailto:info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za) . All information will be greatly appreciated.

**History:** Mlengani means hanging one & was not actually the high point used to execution people. It was given the name, Hill of Execution or Execution Rock, by white people who fancied that a local chief once used it as a place from which to throw his enemies to their deaths. On the other side of the river is a sheer cliff that was actually used, as a place of execution.



The two recorded climbing trips to Hill Of Execution are to be found in the 1974 & 1975 Mountain Club of South Africa Journals. Both article are written by John Moss. This guide is a paraphrase of these two journal recordings.

Please let me know if you have climbed here or can provide any pictures or better information.

**Access:** No restrictions.

**General:** There are only 4 known trad routes, but plenty of potential remains for new routes. Rock is Dolorite.

The following routes are on the northern face, recorded L to R.

### **The Big Crack – 16, A1**

Richard Smithers, John Moss & Brian Shuttleworth 02/04/1975 (T)

Facing the *Pondo Pinnacle* is a prominent long wide crack of the north face.

P1 – 14, A1 – 35m Start in the corner at the foot of the prominent crack. Up the smooth chimney to where the chimney narrows & bulges. Up LH crack using aid on short blades. The thin crack improves & it is then possible to move back R into the chimney. Continue up the chimney to a small stance.

P2 – 16, A1 – 20m Up the wide & steepening crack. Up to where the crack narrows to an overhanging 'V' shaped groove. Move R along a narrow ledge to a short wide flake crack. The crack is difficult to enter. Up the thin crack on the R using aid. Move back L to gain a small square ledge on the edge of the flake crack. Over the flake to a small stance back in the main crack.

P3 – 16, A1 – 30m Above the stance the main crack is steep & off-width. Up the thin crack on the L using aid to where it peters out. Move back into the main crack. Up this with difficulty to the top of the crack.

P4 – 14 – 30m Move R from the belay. Up a steep broken recess. Trend R over loose broken rock. Bamba over steep grassy ground to the top.

### **Pondo Pinnacle – 16, A0**

John Moss & Brian Shuttleworth 04/05/1974 (T)

On the LHS of the north face is a fine freestanding pinnacle that is visible from the road. Start in a deep chimney in the center of the west side of the pinnacle.

P1 – 13 – 27m Up the narrow chimney, past a chockstone & onto a ledge on the L. Up over large blocks onto the front of the pinnacle.

P2 – 13 – 20m Scramble to the L under a huge tree in a crack. Up using rock & the tree to a stance below a steep wide crack.

P3 – 16 - 13m Up the wide crack to a rest below a small overhang, over this & up the layback crack above to a large ledge on the eastern side of the pinnacle.

P4 – 16, A0 – 30m From LHS of ledge up to a large flake, R across the top of the flake, then down. Make an exposed traverse to the arête. Across a steep corner to a ledge on the front of the pinnacle. Up easy section to a small exposed stance with a tree.

P5 – 14 – 20m Traverse 1m L, then up on a flake & diagonally L over steep rock to a ledge. Move round the corner to L to belay opposite the north face.

P6 – 14, A0 – 20m Climb the thin crack above the belay, to a flake. Onto a sloping ledge. Up moving R on good holds to the summit.

### **Thanatos – 16, A0**

John Moss & Brian Shuttleworth June 1974 (T)



On the RHS of the north face is a huge prominent, square, overhanging buttress. The last 2 pitches take the LHS of this buttress. The First pitch climbs a pillar of broken rock leaning against the main face, directly below the overhanging buttress. Start on the RHS of the pillar in a broken corner.

P1 – 14 – 40m Up easy rock, move L into the foot of the corner with the steep crack. Up the steep crack, diagonally L over large blocks to the front of the pillar. Up the front to a small ledge below a steep crack, up this to the RH summit of the pillar.

P2 – 16, A0 – 40m From the top of the pillar, step onto the main face. Using small holds, traverse to a prominent open book which trends diagonally L. Up the open book to where it is blocked by an overhang. Using aid, pull through the overhang to a good flake. Up the crack to a recess, follow the recess to where it becomes very steep. Make an awkward swing L, follow a ramp & short crack to a good square ledge.

P3 – 14, A1 – 30m Move L & up a shallow recess. Where the recess becomes steep aid was used, continue up the recess. Make an awkward swing L round the first overhang. Up the bottomless flared chimney with considerable difficulty. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> overhang, stretch out R & pull into foot of bottomless recess. Up to a tree & an exposed stance.

P4 – 13 – 20m Up behind the tree & then up a steep veg chimney. Scramble up steep grass to the top.

#### **Side Winder – 14**

Brian Shuttleworth, John Moss & Steven Bowen 31/05/1974 (T)

Start on the short steep western face. Take a diagonal line round the north-west arête & up the north wall.

P1 – 13 – 23m Start on the LHS of the west face in a tree covered recess. Up a short steep wall, diagonally L through bushes & then up a short crack to a stance below a veg recess.

P2 - 14 – 25m Up LHS of recess to some large flakes. Traverse 1.5m L, make an awkward step down to a diagonal ramp leading around the north-west arête. Up the ramp to a short corner crack in the north wall. Up the short corner crack to a stance.

P3 – 13 – 30m Up steep rock behind the stance to a square cut ledge. Follow this narrowing ledge L, then up to a tree belay on a higher ledge.

P4 – 13 – 30m Follow this ledge L to the foot of a steep chimney. Up the chimney & easier rock above to the top.