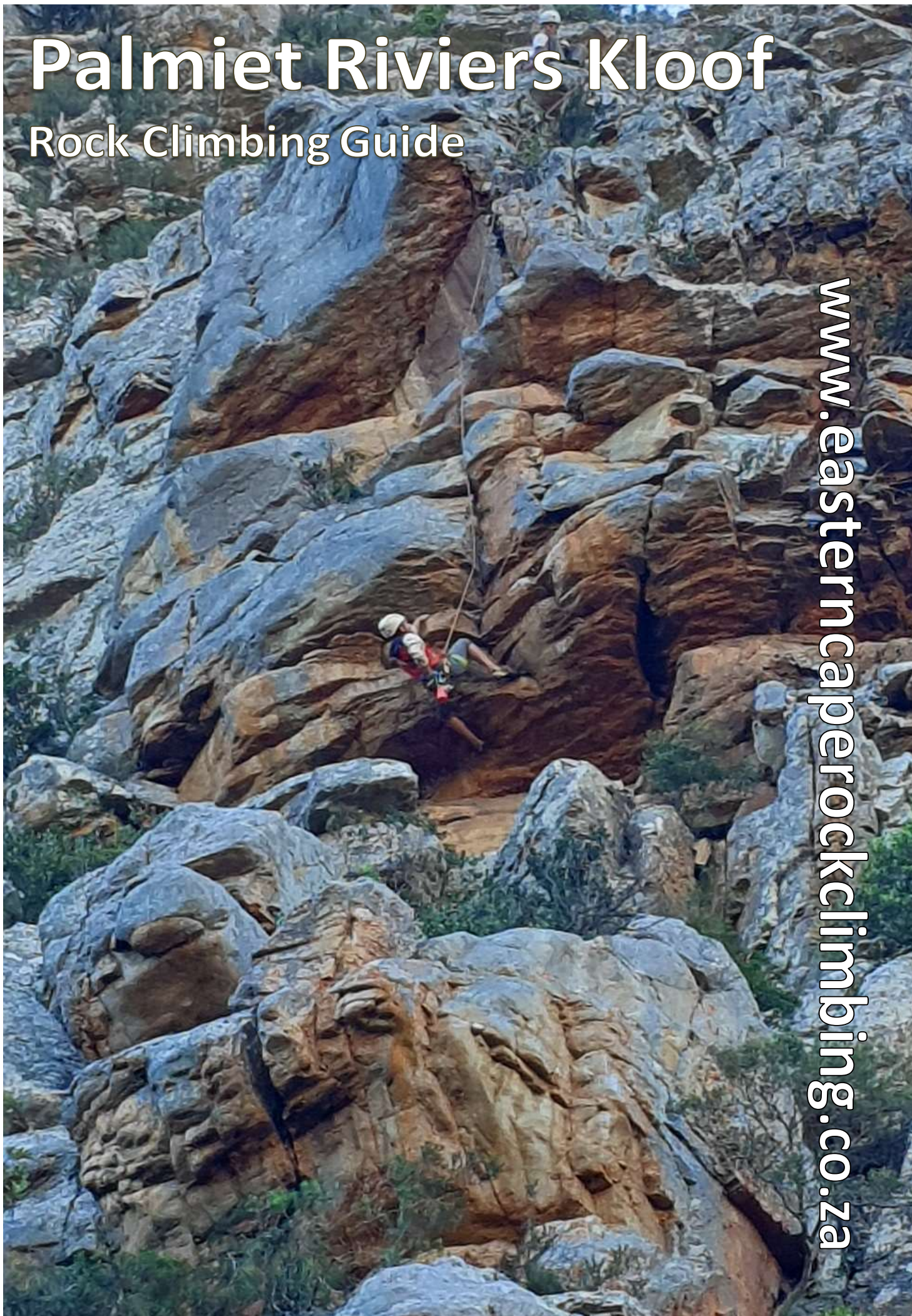


# Palmiet Riviers Kloof

## Rock Climbing Guide

[www.easterncaperockclimbing.co.za](http://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. 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!

**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. Apparently, 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 all the info & make it 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.

**Access:** Palmiet Rivier Kloof is accessed via Kleinrivier. Kleinrivier is a wilderness mountain resort. They offer all kinds of accommodation & various hiking trails. One of the owners is a climber. Access is no issue, but it is a long walk.

**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. Crags 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:** 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 & farmhouses. 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

Star Ratings	
★★★	Classic route in this province
★★	Good route in the area
★	Good route at this crag
No star	Reasonable to bollocks
Abbreviations & Symbols	
	(T) Trad route (natural gear) & grade
	Sport route (bolted) & grade
	Open Project / in-progress & ± grade
	Closed Project & ± grade
	(S) FA was solo & grade
	Potential
	Abseil point
(11B&C)	Number of bolts & top chains
P / RB	Piton / Removable bolt
	Afternoon Shade
	Morning Shade
	Shade all day
	Sun all day
	Dappled shade all day
	Can be climbed in wet weather



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!

# Serpentine



This crag is about 600m upstream from the traverse rope. On the eastern side of the river about 20m off the path.

## 1. Crushed Underfoot - 17

28m Derek Marshall & Nelmarie van Staden 2020 (T)

Start in a cool R facing open book, over a ledgy bit, trend L under a small roof. Up at a wedged block. Over a slab to an easy crack under a roof. Breakout to the belay ledge & abseil tree.

## 2. Serpentine - 17 ★

28m Derek Marshall & Nelmarie van Staden 2020 (T)

Up the blunt arête, moving onto the LHS. Over the ledge & up the spine of rock.



# Kaalgat



## 1. Karen - 17

36m Derek Marshall & Nelmarie van Staden 2020 (T)

About 20m L of prominent open book is a rounded 'S' shaped crack start. Up this then bamba over a ledge to a splash of good clean rock. Up this all the way to the top of the fin. Step about 5m along the top of the fin to a good abseil tree.

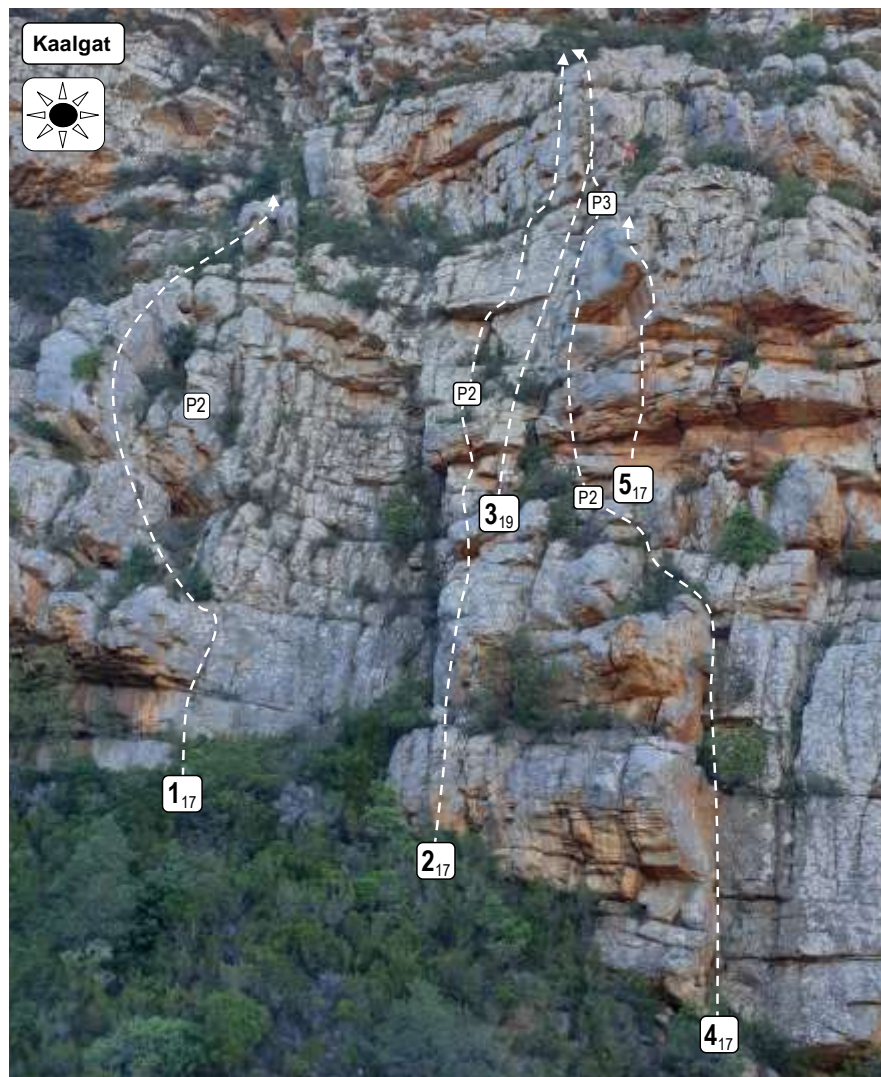
## 2. Black Lives Matter - 17

Derek Marshall & Nelmarie van Staden 2020 (T)

Non-descript start about 10m L of prominent open book.

P1 - 30m - 17 Up bulging ramp trending L. Up to a prominent first crack through a block roof. Pull through the roof to L of fist crack. On to a comfortable ledge.

P2 - 32m - 17 Up ramp to a prominent flake split in the roof. Directly up aiming for a lightning crack in a nice clean head wall. Bamba to good abseil tree.



## 3. The First Cam Slinger – 17 ★

Tristan Van Der Merwe, Blaine Camons & Dale Gathecole 2020 (T)

Through small roof on slopy holds, up to nice slabs and good open book. (Warning lose block on right of open book)

## 4. Lucky Packet – 17 ★★

Derek Marshall & Nelmarie van Staden 2020 (T)

At the rope traverse. On the opposite side of the river is prominent R facing open book.

P1 - 30m - 16 up the prominent open book. On the veg ledge keep stepping L to a belay spot below a nice clean arête.

P2 – 26m - 17 up the blunt bulging arête. At a point where it become hard & gearless, traverse 3m L onto a sweet clean face with 3 pockets in a line that tends diagonally R. After the pockets move R onto the arête, then onto a ledge.

P3 - 20m - 14 Step 5m on ledge to an open book groove. Up this, then bamba to a good tree. Abseil from here.

### 5. Christmas in Bangkok – 19 ★★

Blaine Camons, Dale Gathercole & Tristan Van Der Merwe 2020 (T)

Through the roof on good holds, too some small side pull crimps, up to easier ground to the top.

### 6. Beating around the Bush – 20 ★★

Blaine Camons, Dale Gathercole, Tristan Van Der Merwe 2020 (T)

P1 – 18 Start in tree, move up slightly L & then R to first bushy stance.

P2 – 18 Move up L to obvious big trees. Warning, lose rocks.

P3 – 20 Move straight up until the horizontal rail, then rail out L under small roof, up to small tree & through small grey arête to finish.

