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# Yellowsands

## 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. The landowner accepts 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

<p><b>Port Elizabeth</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Lady's Slipper</li> <li>2 Van Stadens</li> <li>3 PE urban crags &amp; boulders</li> <li>4 Sleepy Hollow</li> <li>5 Elands River</li> <li>6 Kirkwood</li> <li>7 Cape St Francis</li> </ol> <p><b>Groot Winterhoek</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 Tygerhoek</li> <li>9 Naga's Kloof</li> <li>10 Eagle Gorge</li> <li>11 Momentum Gorge</li> <li>12 Pinnacle Gorge</li> <li>13 Cockscomb</li> <li>14 Grootbos &amp; Kleinbos</li> <li>15 Nivera</li> </ol> <p><b>Baviaans</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16 Grips</li> <li>17 Kudu Kaya</li> <li>18 Waterkloof</li> </ol> <p><b>Grahamstown</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 Alicedale</li> <li>26 Howison's Poort</li> <li>27 Moodie's</li> <li>28 Bouldering</li> <li>29 Thornkloof</li> </ol>	<p>30 Coombs Gorge</p> <p><b>Amatolas</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31 Fort Fordyce</li> <li>32 Hogsback</li> <li>33 Stutterheim</li> </ol> <p><b>Langkloof</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 Nguniland</li> <li>20 Kouga Wildernes</li> <li>21 Uniondale Pass</li> </ol> <p><b>Garden Route</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22 Titzkama</li> <li>23 Groot Rivier</li> <li>24 Piesang Valley</li> </ol> <p><b>East London</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34 NSA</li> <li>35 Windmill Hole</li> <li>36 Buffalo River</li> </ol>	<p>37 EL urban crags &amp; boulders</p> <p>38 Yellowsands &amp; Inkwenkwezi</p> <p>39 Lalapanzi</p> <p>40 Morgan Bay</p> <p>41 Bola</p> <p><b>Winterberg</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>42 Mary &amp; Martha</li> <li>43 Hangklip</li> </ol>	<p><b>Toorberg</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>44 Graff-Reinet</li> <li>45 Compassberg</li> </ol> <p><b>Transkei</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>46 Hole in the Wall</li> <li>47 Hill of Execution</li> <li>48 Port St Johns</li> </ol>	<p><b>Swartberg</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>49 Toverkop</li> <li>50 Oudtshoorn</li> <li>51 Gamkaskloof Bouldering</li> <li>52 Swartberg Pass</li> </ol>
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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. 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.



**Directions:** From East London take the N2 towards Umtata. Just past the Gonubie Farmers Hall take the Braakfontein off ramp. Turn R. A little further turn L onto the East Coast Resorts Road or Schaffli Rd. At Crossroads Spar, take the most left hand road. About 4km along this road rocks become visible on the left. *This is the Yellow Sands Crag.* There is a fence between the road and the crag. This has fairly large holes, but please

**do not hurt yourself** climbing over. Abseil into the crag from various convenient trees on top. Or continue down the road for about 1km, turn L at the next gravel road. Continue down & L to a concrete slip way. Park here. Walk along the river's edge for about 650m. Low tide will be easier.

**Walk-in:** About 20 minutes max. 625m of easy boulder hopping at low tide. Or park on top & use a hole in the fence.

**Access:** No issues, seems to be on public land.

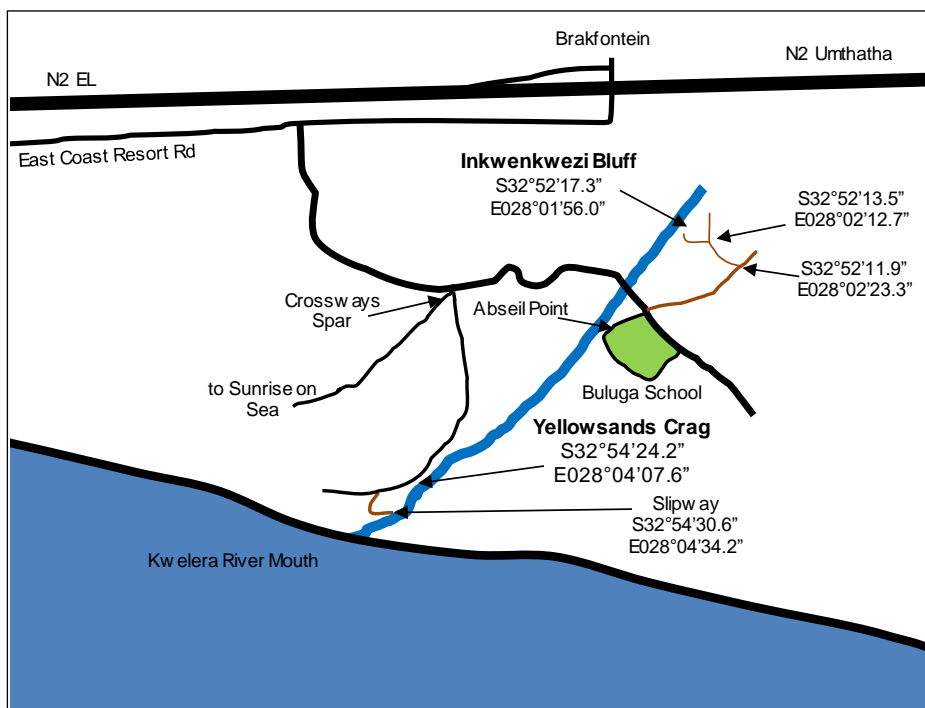
**History:** As far as we know, Alan & Neil Briers opened some routes here, many years ago. So many years ago, that they can't even remember when, where, or what. There may have been other climbers over the years that spotted these crags. Some of the routes have now been fitted with chains, these are completely rotted and should not be used. There are 3 bolted routes & one route has 13mm removable bolt holes.

**Time & Weather:** Shaded in the afternoon in summer. Crag gets dam hot in summer. Best time of the year is in winter. Fairly sheltered from the wind & dries fairly quickly.

**Potential:** Very little potential for new routes remains.

**General:** 3 bolted routes & 14 trad lines. Really awesome scenery. 30km from East London

**Rock:** Clean hard dolerite set in thick bush.



**Star Ratings**

- ★ Good route at this crag
- ★★ Good route in the area
- ★★★ Classic route in this province
- No star Reasonable to bollocks

**Abbreviations & Symbols**

- 15<sub>18</sub> Bolted sport route & grade
- 16<sub>23</sub> Project / In-progress & ± grade
- 13<sub>15</sub> T Trad route, natural gear & grade
- 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



**1. Chock One – 17**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 27/07/2005 (T)

Off width open book. Abseil off chock stone or bash through the strelitzias to gain the top.

**2. Power of Metal – 20 ★★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 27/07/2005 (T)

Finger crack into under clings on a huge loose looking flake. Top out over ramps to a belay ledge to the L.

**3. Potential**

Short but perfect hand crack which becomes an off width above.

**4. Strong in Japan – 17**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 27/07/2005 (T)

Up huge over hanging chock stones in chimney gully. Very short, but quite challenging.

**● 5. Project – 26-ish**

(4RB,T&C)

Up the arête & front of this buttress. Martin Rehm place the top anchors. Derek Marshall drilled the removable bolt holes.

**6. Blood Line – 22 ★★★**

Alan & Neil Briers way back (T&C)

Awesome open book. A must do line.

**7. Let the Hammer Fall – 21 ★★**

Derek Marshall & Allen Luck 2003 (T&C)

RH open book in very square recess. This is a fun route.

**8. Kiss Me Kate – 15**

Craig Bester & Derek Marshall 27/07/2005 (T)

Crack on the RH side of the mouth of the recess. Onto a large ledge. Then move R onto an easy ramp.

**9. My Teaser – 15 ★**

Craig Bester & Derek Marshall 27/07/2005 (T)

Easy crack 5m R of *Blood Line*. Easy shorter beginner's line.

**10. Templars Of Steel – 17 ★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 27/07/2005 (T)

Crack onto flack 1m L of arête.

**11. Renegade Crusade – 18 ★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 27/07/2005 (T)

Off width on upstream face.

**● 12. Wrath of God – 20 ★★**

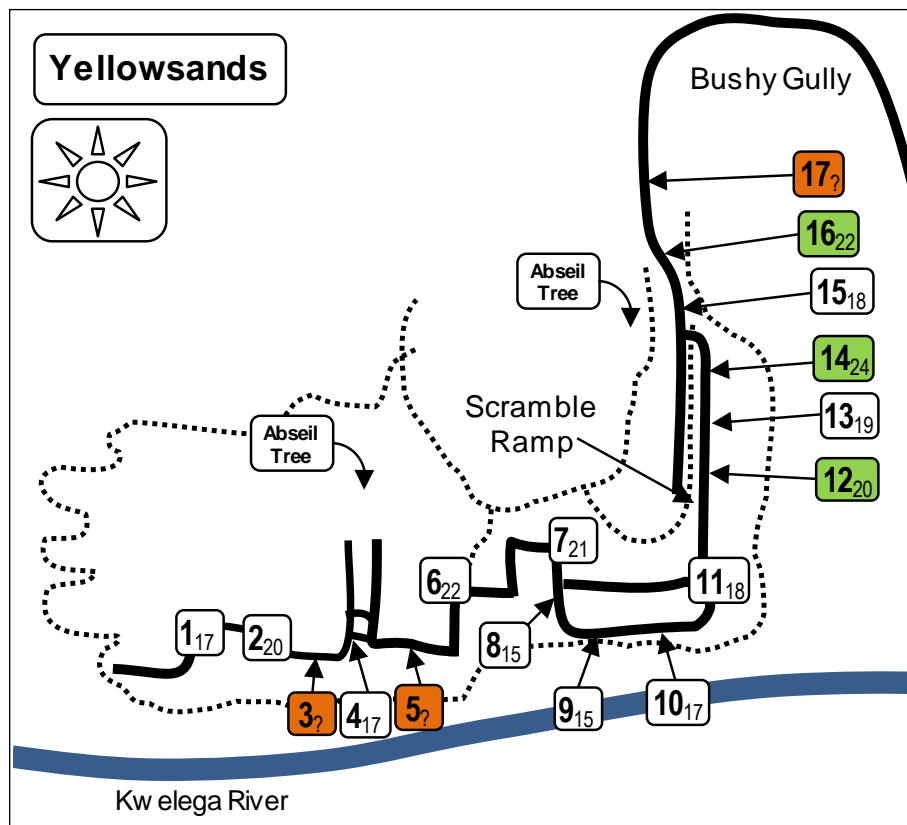
Derek Marshall & Jochen Gunturt 2001 (4B&C)

Sweet bolted line.

**13. Flight of the Owl – 19 ★★**

Derek Marshall & Steven Reed Jan 1998 (T)

Up a very awkward crack system between *Flight of the Owl* & *Wrath of God*. There is a largish wild coffee growing near the top.





● **14. Providence – 24 ★★**

Derek Marshall & Martin Renz 2000 (6B&C)

Awesome bolted line.

● **15. Legacy of Kings – 18 ★★**

Derek Marshall & Witness Mdantile 1998 (T)

Prominent open book. This was one of Derek's first trad leads. Witness was from the agricultural sector, specializing in gardens. He was paid in this case to belay. He declined all offers to top rope the route...and was not impressed with climbing at all.

● **16. Steel Meets Steel – 22 ★★**

Derek Marshall & Kendyl Kunhardt 2001 (6B&C)

Bolted route to the R of *Legacy of Kings*.

**17. Potential**

Derek placed top anchors, but never finished bolting the route. The whole thing has potential to come crashing down. Watch out...!