

Various Small Crags, Potential to climb, Bouldering, Buildering & Just Plain Kak-aan-jag in East London



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!

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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. All information will be greatly appreciated.

Warning: climbing at some of these venues may be illegal... have charm, bail & bribe money on hand. Conditions change with the passing of time. Please evaluate for yourself. Remember most things in life are about timing, a little charm doesn't harm. Yes, of course you are more charming when you are a bit drunk.

● **Lockstreet Jail** – this is on Fleet Street. In the middle 90's this was the spot to train & get strong. There are numerous traverses & vertical lines on the exterior stone walls of the jail. There is basically endless potential for new problems. Best time of the day is late afternoon in summer as it is less hot & people have removed their vehicles. The security guards are normally quite friendly. You may get some funny looks & silly questions, but nobody has ever been chased away & climbing has never been banned. It's our right & part of the tourism heritage of East London.

● **Zwelitsha Boulders** - just out of Zwelitsha, on the Mount Coke Road (see map on Buffalo guide) is a valley with quite a few large boulders on both sides of the road. Martin Renz opened some good problems on these boulders in 2004. Worth checking out if you have time. Crime could be an issue. Take serious care.

● **Westbank Golf Course** – there are some small boulders close to the sea below the golf course. They are small & not too much fun. Save this for when you have done absolutely everything else.

● **First Wold War Memorial** - in front of the Cambridge town hall. It is square. There are 4 boulder problems & a big jump down. Do it at night as it is probably not legal & it's not polite.

● **Derek's mum's boulder wall** – There was a reasonably large boulder Woodie at Derek Marshall's mums place in Vincent. This is a private wall & eventually became redundant. The grips & the mats found their way to Derek's wall in PE.

● **Garvin has a boulder wall** at his house in Abbotsford. Please contact Derek info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za for access arrangements.

● **Mark Manheim** (AKA Miraculous Mark, previously Dangerous Mark) has a wall at his place in Kids Beach. Please contact Derek info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za for access arrangements.



- **Nahoon Reef** - there are some boulder problems at Nahoon Reef. It's crumbly kak sandstone. Apparently not great.
- **Boulders on the beach between Sunrise-on-sea & Kwelera Mouth** – see Yellowsands guide for map.
- Climbing on to the roof of Jacqueline's, a sad pub. This is really cool if you are drinking doubles.
- **Jonathan Denison's stone house** in Gonubie apparently has some great traverses.
- **Steve Biko Statue** – in front of the city hall. Warning this monitored 24 hours by surveillance cameras & should not be climbed! If you have too, wear your Ninja mask, do it quick & have a fast car waiting or have an overnight bag packed. Oh...don't publish a route description or pics on Facebook... remember all municipal officials use their computers for is checking Facebook.
- **Bimbos** - Bouldering is not allowed on the steel girders inside Bimbos at the Engen on Deverex Ave. Even after a big night at Bernies. The security guards have limited understanding of the need to climb, limited sense of humour after 02H00 am & they have batons.
- **Vincent Park** – Had a totally lame, vertical, commercial, top rope wall. The author & his mates did not descend to this level of depravity. Thank fully they removed it.
- **Swift Loft** – this was the main climber hangout in the mid '90s. A full traverse of the steel girders in the Spar parking is massively worthwhile. Remember Red Heart makes you clever & strong! using feet/legs is for fannies.
- **Hemingsway Casino** - has a very silly artificial wall. The grips might be worthwhile.

Potential Crag

This list is intended to inspire you to go out there & find us a new crag.

- **Macleantown** 50km along the N6 towards Stutterheim is Maclean Town. Turn R, continue straight through town. About 5km further take the LH fork. About 10 km along this road is the farm Redcliff. There are a number of 45m faces on this farm. These appeared quite worthwhile. No known routes, but tales of a legendary 200m face...Eldorado....this was never found.

On the road between Macleantown & Berlin is Witches Kranz. Faces are about 40m high. Lots of potential. No known routes. This is worth checking out.

On the farm opposite Witches Kranz, but far off the road is a cliff at least 30m high & about 100m long. Allen Luck is related to the owner & we explored it fully on a rainy day. The rock is mud/silt stone & not great. There were no trad lines & no lines screaming to be bolted.
- **Thornvlei** On the Thornvlei Road there are a number of 40m high mud/silt stone faces. No known routes. Worth checking out one day.
- **Nahoon Dam** There are some faces on the dam that are visible from the N2. These were top roped by Jonathan & Steven Wiggly in the early 2000s. Approach was made by boat.



- **Nahoon River**

Below Nahoon dam on a "guest farm". We check this out & found it to be un-worthwhile. Small, loose & a big walk-in.

About 1km up stream of NSA, but best approached from the N2. Some routes were top roped by Derek & years later Tim Loft bolted two lines up there. Not sure on the details. Rock was a bit brittle. This is a sun facing winter crag.

600m upstream from Windmill Hole, there is a small out crop of Dolerite. Could be something.

Small faces above & upstream Batting Bridge. We explored all of these we could find nothing worthwhile.
- **Bridal Drift Dam**

There are some 70m high faces over the water on the Mdansane side. Access would be by boat. Not sure if it's worth the effort.
- **Buffalo River**

Downstream of Buffalo Pass Bridge there are out crops of dolerite buttresses. No known routes. Nobody ever checked it out.

Downstream from Pompie's pillar. Allen opened 6 routes. There should be more potential.

Big 70m high face visible from Needscamp. This could be very dangerous.

Big face at Potsdam Township. Potsdam is NU (Native Unit) 19 in Mdantsane. This could be dangerous.
- **Kwelega River**

Behind Beluga School is a set of crags about 30m high. There is an abseil point used by adventure races. We top roped one route back in the day, but could see no good rock. It's an easy walk-in & needs to be checked out again.

There are white faces visible from the Yellowsands crag. These are on Arena Resorts land. We did check it out, but could not find what we were looking for.
- **Gonubie River**

Opposite the picnic & boat launch area. Allen Luck opened 4 routes here, but the details are not available.

As you enter Gonubie turn L. Drive down through a new housing development. On the opposite side of the river are some small out crops. They didn't look great, but you could.

Mark Manheim (AKA Miraculous Mark, previously Dangerous Mark) has found a crag somewhere up stream on the Gonubie River. So far, he has fitted some abseil bolts & a few top anchors. He says there is plenty potential for sport & trad. This needs to be investigated.
- **Abbotsford Quarry**

Avoid. Lots of loose fractured rock. We checked this out, don't bother.

Have fun out there! Not too much!