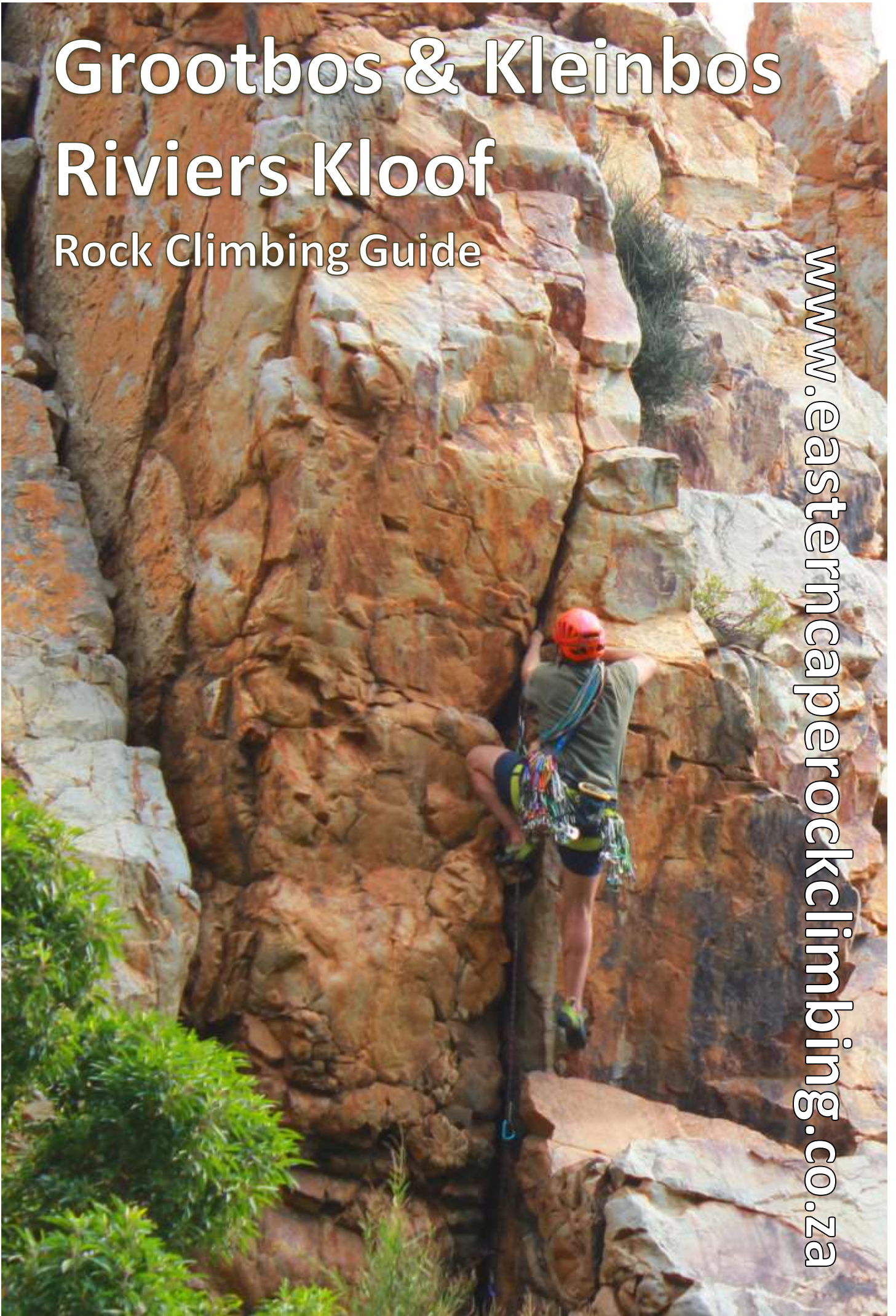


# Grootbos & Kleinbos

## 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!

## 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 Toverkop
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 Gamaskloof Bouldering
4 Sleepy Hollow	33 Stutterheim	41 Bola	46 Hole in the Wall	52 Swartberg Pass
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 Piesang Valley			
12 Pinnacle Gorge	<b>East London</b>			
13 Cockscomb	34 NSA			
14 Grootbos & Kleinbos	35 Windmill Hole			
15 Nivera	36 Buffalo River			
<b>Baviaans</b>				
16 Grips				
17 Kudu Kaya				
18 Waterkloof				
<b>Grahamstown</b>				
25 Alicedale				
26 Howison's Poort				
27 Moodie's				
28 Bouldering				
29 Thornkloof				

**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:** At this stage access is tricky. Please contact [info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za](mailto:info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za) for more info on access details or if you manage to get access.



**History:** Climbers have been climbing in Grootbosrivierskloof since the 1960s. There have been some routes published in various MCSA journals, there are routes in the old Camp & Tail route book & Andrew Forsyth's personal journal.

**Accommodation:** There are plenty of wild campsites with a fire place. These will most likely be quite overgrown. A machete is recommended.

**Environment:**

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. Try to find a flat area. Bury with a large rock on top. Please take this seriously. Momentum is the farmer's drinking water catchment area.
2. Swim in the stream, but do not use any **soap**.
3. Do not spit **tooth paste** in the water or on rocks.
4. Carry water to wash **dishes** away from the stream.
5. Feel free to trim the **paths**, but don't go bos.
6. Don't leave any **rubbish**. Not even braai bones.

**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 corner them or approach them in any way. Do not try to displace them.
4. **The farmer** please don't mess with this famer 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!

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>15</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

## First Fin



### 1. Have Your Cake & Eat it – 14

52m Magnus & Viera Wagener & Markus Kelly 13.09.2014 (T)

Up huge open book ramp, where the upstream face meets the wall on the Steytleville side of the kloof.



### 2. Easy to Destroy – 19

36m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 13.09.2014 (T)

Up prominent twin cracks on the RHS of the upstream face. Onto a ledge, then up off width open book to summit.

### 3. Zero Tolerance – 18

36m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 13.09.2014 (T)

L facing open book crack onto stepped ledges, then up off width open book to summit.

### 4. Easy to Condemn – 18

36m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 13.09.2014 (T)

Up slab between open books, move R into off width then L into R facing open book at the top.

### 5. Isn't it Enough – 20

36m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 13.09.2014 (T)

Up L facing slightly overhanging open book. Step R on ledge above. Continue up chimney above. Step R to summit.

### 6. Cutting the BS – 19

30m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 14.09.2014 (T)

Up jagged broken arête, over ledges & rails. Step L & belay from tree.



## Wafer Slab



About half an hour's walk up the main kloof from the car park is a huge flake of rock on the LH side.

### The Taking of Hyperion I – 16

John Ions, Steve Bowen, Goonie Marsh & John Moss Aug 1975 (T)

This route takes the line to the right of the center of the wall & follows a direct crack-line with a prominent tree just below halfway. Start just to the R of an obvious flake about 17m high & leaning against the wall, below the prominent crack-line & directly below the tree.

P1 – 16 32m climb the wall to where it steepens via a few short cracks. Traverse L using a block with a crack behind it. Up & around to the L of a perched flake. Onto a ledge. Traverse L over easier angled rock to the crack. Up wide crack to a stance at the prominent tree.

P2 – 16 – 42m Up behind the stance, move to to the R onto the wall. Up on good holds to a short wide crack. Up to the overhang & move R at a hanging block. Up & back L into the crack. Up to the crest of the flake.

### The Taking of Hyperion II – 16

Joe Slow, Mike McKechnie, Goonie Marsh & John Moss 12.10.1975 (T)

Route follows a crack to the L of *The Taking of Hyperion I*. Start on RHS of a large flake.

P1 – 14 20m Up crack to top of face.

P2 – 14 22m Up crack above belay to a block overhang.

P3 – 16 36m Traverse 10m R, across the wall on a thin ledge, to an ill-defined vertical crack. Climb the crack, which is awkward to start and then continue up to the top of the flake.

### The Taking of Hyperion III – 13

Joe Slow, Mike McKechnie, Goonie Marsh & John Moss 12.10.1975 (T)

Route takes an obvious broken corner on the far L of the wafer. Scramble up to the base of the corner.

P1 – 13 22m Climb a series of wide cracks leaning up to the L, to a ledge with a window.

P2 – 13 26m Diagonally R past a series of windows, then straight up to the top of the wafer.

### Beyond the Vert – 20

Andrew Forsyth & John Davies 20/02/1982 (T)

Up the center crack system.

P1 – 13

P2 – 19 Jam crack into fist crack.

### The Sounds of Silence – 17

Allan Briers & Clee Roy 21/10/1984 (T)

Facing up the gully behind the wafer, the route starts on the RH wall about 20m from the head of the gully at the base of an overhanging crack. Up the initial overhanging crack. Follow the crack, which becomes a horizontal hand rail until a large ledge is reached. Easier climbing to the top.

Further up the gorge & higher above the stream.

Up a well-defined crack.

P1 – 17

P2 – 17

P3 – 17

Traverse off the last pitch at the bottom of the final off width.

Easiest way to walk-in to *Kleinbos Rivier Kloof* is to park as for *Grootbos*, walk down to the river bed. Walk down stream for a few hundred meters to where *Kleinbos Rivier* meets *Grootbos Rivier*. Walk up *Kleinbos*.

The only recorded route at this stage is an easy open book on the first wafer of rock on the RHS of the kloof. There is talk of a pinnacle further up the kloof. Apparently, John Moss & party were half way up the pinnacle when Rob Mac Geoghegan & party started up an easier route & conquered the pinnacle before John Moss & party. John was not too pleased.

### 1. Extreme Measures – 14

42m Derek Marshall & Dricus Bezuidenhout 14.09.2014 (T)

Up the prominent open book ramp. Over various ledges, all the way till you run out of rock.

