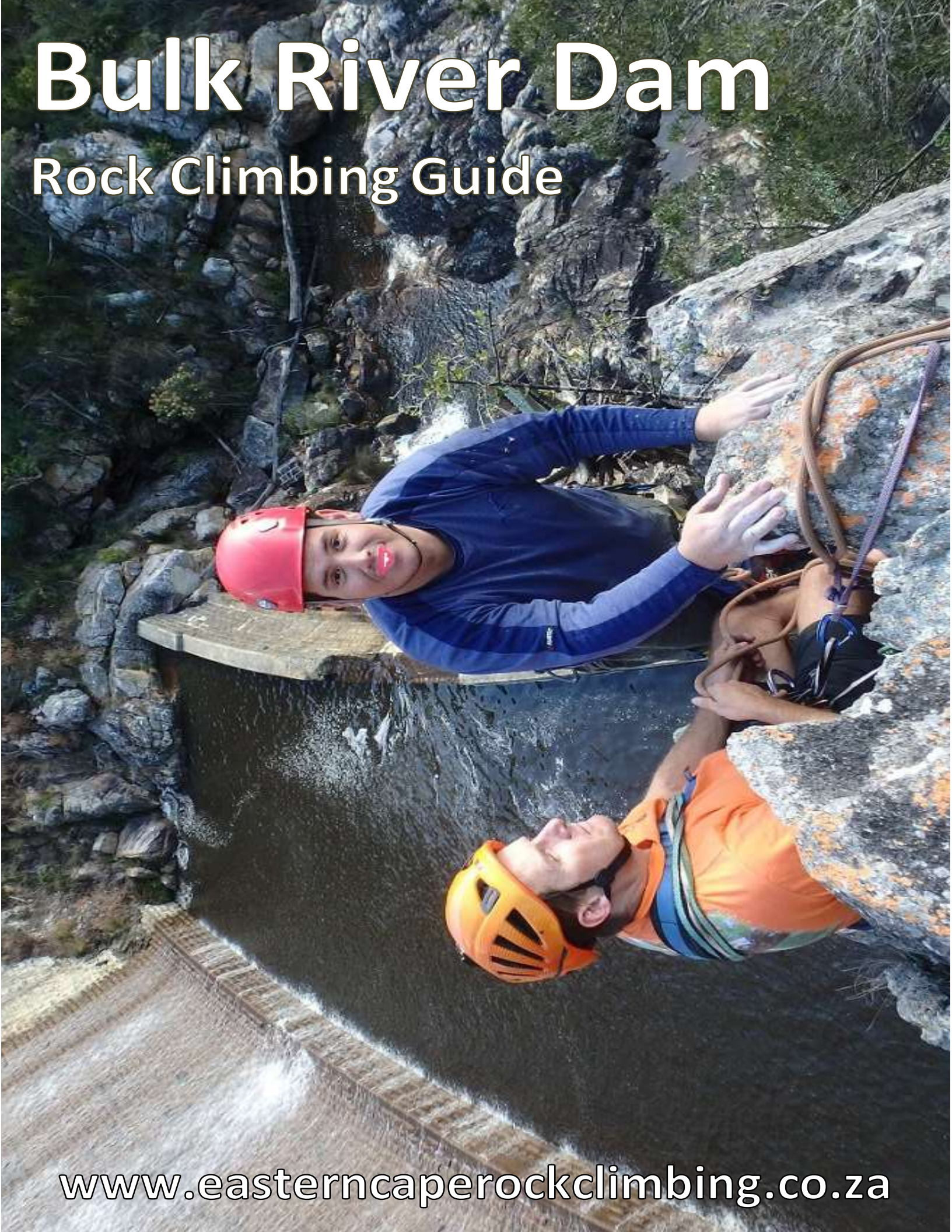


# Bulk River Dam

## 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 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!



**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:** About 45km from Port Elizabeth on the Elands River Road.

**Access:** Balk River Dam is on Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Municipal land. Access is restricted, need to get permission to go there, but normally this is not too much of an issue. Derek Marshall can assist with this. Please contact 0836818713 or [info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za](mailto:info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za) for more information.

**General:** The rock is quartzite & sandstone. The climbing is not quite as awesome as the place. The routes are a bit short, but there are interesting paths, bridges, stairs & walkways that make it a sweet tame climbing area. Ideal place to combine less adventurous family picnicking & climbing. There some potential for new routes & sometime soon we plan to put up a few sport lines. There is also fair potential for boulder problems with nice landings.

Fun day out!

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



## Free Standers



These two semi free standers are about 80m below the dam wall. Easy walk-in.

### 1. The Rising Left – 17

54m Derek Marshall, Rob Mac Geoghegan, Natalie van Loggernberg & Craig Bester 20/04/2006 (T)

Start on the lower level in an open book, up directly. Scramble off into the gully

### 2. Unperson – 19

54m Derek Marshall, Rob Mac Geoghegan, Natalie van Loggernberg & Craig Bester 20/04/2006 (T)

Up juggy arête.

### 3. Alexandra - 15

Derek Marshall, Terence Trevaskis & Craig Bester 16/06/2016 (T)

Up into R trending crack under roof. Break out R, easy ground to the top.

The following routes are in the gully at the rear of the freestander.

### 4. Keep It on a Leash – 14

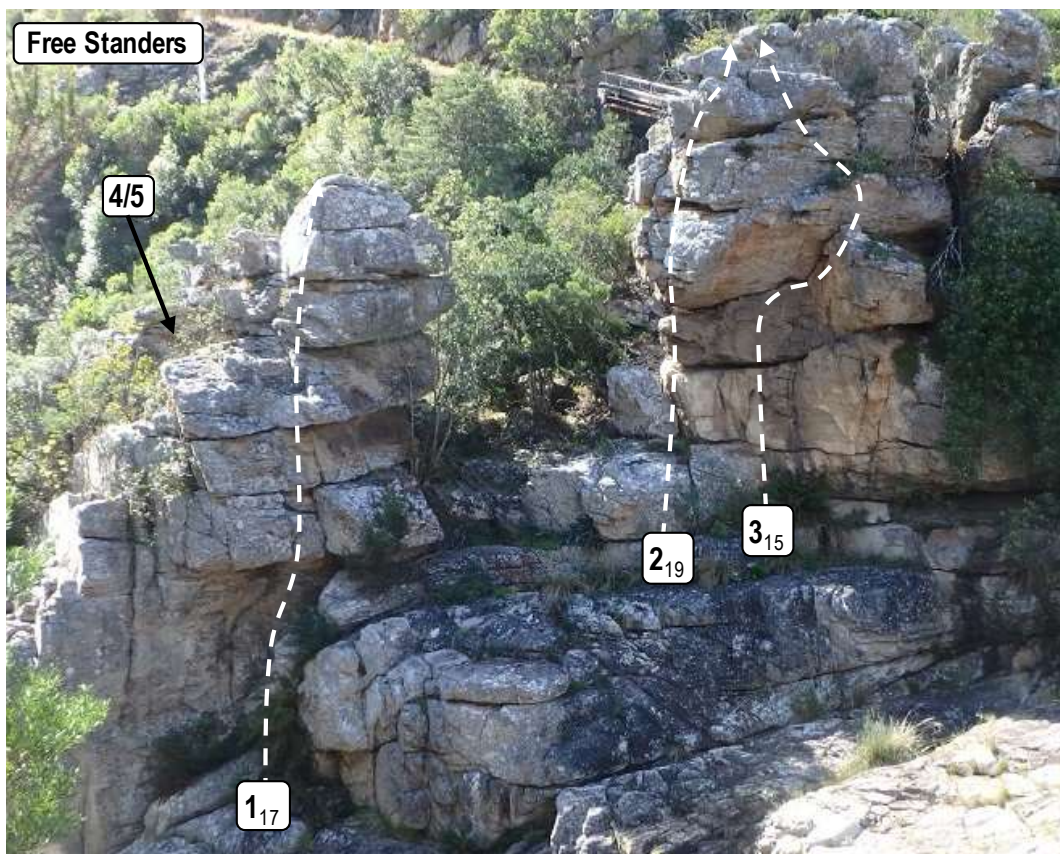
Rob Mac Geoghegan & Ross Minaar 2013 (T)

Crack in the slot.

### 5. Unfettered Retaliation– 14

Rob Mac Geoghegan & Ross Minaar 2013 (T)

Arête to L of crack, in the slot.



This route is 8m below the dam wall on the PE side.

**1. Vat Joe Goed en Trek - 14**

Derek Marshall, Rob Mac Geoghegan & Craig Bester 16/06/2016 (T)

Prominent curled short crack. Move L of jutting rock at the top.

The following routes are on the upper level, close to the dam wall on the PE side.

**2. Incubus – 14**

Rob Mac Geoghegan & rescue crew early 2000s (T)

Up the easy broken ramp close to the arête.

**3. Enough is Enough – 16**

Derek Marshall & Rob Mac Geoghegan 16/06/2016 (T)

Start on the wall between the rooms of the abandoned building. Up directly. Good gear.

**4. Retribution – 16**

Rob Mac Geoghegan & rescue crew early 2000s (T)

Start L of the abandoned building. At the ledge move R into a prominent wide crack.



This route is over the steel foot bridge about 150m below the dam wall. The path is perfect. There is some potential for good bouldering in this area.



### 1. Attrition – 19

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 16/06/2016 (T)

Up R trending, slightly overhanging, short crack.

