

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

# Tyson's Crag

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 any other body. 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, 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, 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, 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 work in progress. It is easy to change. Please send missing details, corrections, additions & adjustments to [info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za](mailto:info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za) . All information will be greatly appreciated.

**Access:** Access is via Tyson Baars at this stage. There are fences & strict gate guards.

**Walk-in:** +-400m. Easy path.

**Time & Weather:** Faces southeast. Shaded from 12H00 in summer. There is a reasonable breeze that keeps the crag cool.

**Potential:** Quite a lot!

**General:** 46 routes; 30 sport routes of which 3 are still projects. 2 double pitch sport routes & 20 trad lines.

**Rock Type:** Vertical quartzite.

**History:** There are sand mussel shells in the cave bellow the main crag that indicate that the cave was occupied by Bushman or Khoekhoe. Possible it was on a seasonal migration path. Henry Lichtenstein in his book Travels in Southern Africa 1803 – 1806 reported a Khoekhoe settlement on the heights above the van Stadens River crossing.

Tyson's Crag is the large brown face visible from Lady's Slipper. All the years climbers have looked down from the Slipper and wondered about this crag. Finally, in 2016 Tyson Baars, a Blue Horizon Bay local, looked at the crag & reckoned it was on a farm managed by someone he knew. The following weekend we had access organized & started to find our way in. It was hard work. The bush is hectically thick. After a day of hard bundu-bashing no real rock climbing was found. A few months later another trip saw a few poor trad routes opened, but nothing worthwhile except that this time we bashed our way to the stream at the bottom of the valley. From there we saw a fore shortened view of the main face. It looked like a short vert face, but decent rock. Weeks later another trip had us abseiling into the crag & cutting our way 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



### Thanks & Appreciation:

- **Massive thanks & appreciation to the landowners**, who graciously allow us to climb at Tyson's. Without them we would not be able to climb at Tyson's.
- Big thanks to Tyson Baars who literally knows everyone & made arrangements for us to be able to climb.

### Hazards:

**Loose Rock:** There is a fair amount of loose rock that is still coming off the routes, as well as tons lying loose on top. Wear your helmet... it's a smart thing to do! Chicks dig helmets!

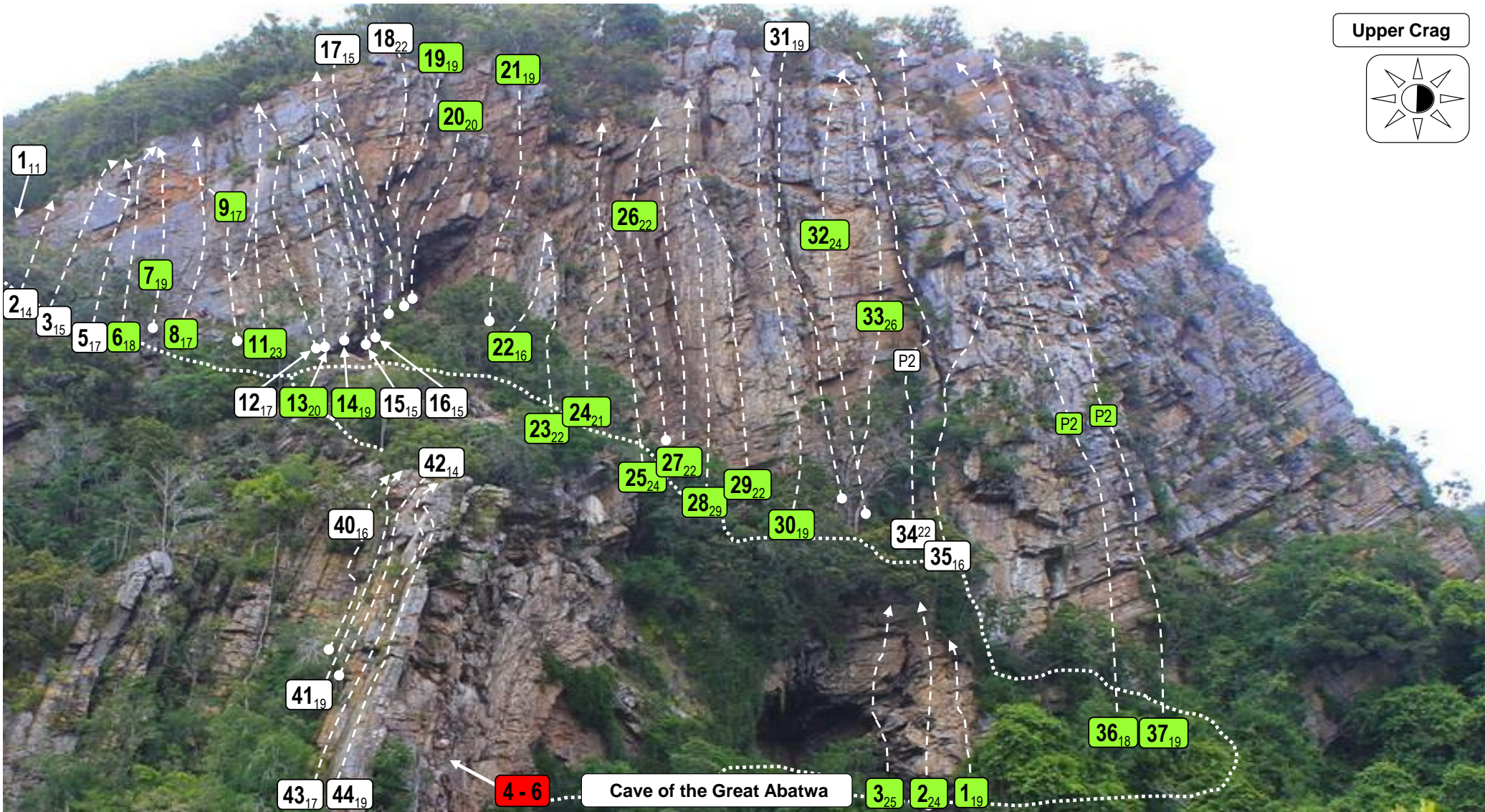
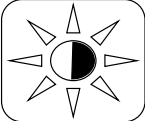
**Snakes:** Look out for snakes. Various puffadders & boomslangs have been spotted.

## Main Crag



- 1. Feels Like Forever – 11** 8m Ruben Snyman & Derek Marshall 06/01/2019 (T)  
Very short easy crack on the L.
- 2. Unnecessary – 14** 8m Derek Marshall & Nelmarie van Staden 11/11/2018 (T)  
Up easy steps just R of jutting finger. Short line.
- 3. Life Screams – 15** 9m Derek Marshall & Nelmarie van Staden 11/11/2018 (T)  
Up LH L facing open book.
- 4. Run to You – 16** 9m Derek Marshall & Terence Trevaskis 11/11/2018 (T)  
Up prominent crack break. At the roof step L.
- 5. 'Kohla – 17 ★** 9m Derek Marshall & Terence Trevaskis 11/11/2018 (T)  
Up prominent crack break, through the roof.
- 6. Bushman Crimp – 18 ★★** 12m Tyson Baars & Nelmarie van Staden 13/01/201 (6B&C)
- 7. Greyson's Strength – 19 ★★** 12m Tyson Baars & Terence Trevaskis 17/11/2018 (7B&C)
- 8. Goose Bumps – 18 ★★★** 12m Tyson Baars & Ruben Snyman 03/12/2017 (7B&C)
- 9. View to a Kill – 18 ★** 12m Tyson Baars & Derek Marshall 03/12/2017 (7B&C)
- 10. Vagina Viper – 18 ★** 15m Terence Trevaskis & Tyson Baars 17/11/2018 (7B&C)
- 11. Fire Caller - 23 ★★** 13m Derek Marshall & Terence Trevaskis 01/12/2018 (7B&C)  
Bolted by Terence Trevaskis.
- 12. The Undying – 17 ★** 15m Derek Marshall & Craig Swartz 01/12/2018 (T)  
Up the L trending break. Continue past two large freestanding flakes. Abseil from chains of Fire Caller.
- 13. Evil with Bunny Ears - 20** Tyson Baars & Gareth Tuffnel 01/02/2020 (6B&C)
- 14. Manage Your Expectation - 19** Derek Marshall & Nelmarie van Staden 21/09/2019 (6B&C)
- 15. Get Off Your Seat – 15** 23m Derek Marshall & Ruben Snyman 06/01/2019 (T)  
Start up the break in the small cave on the corner as you walk-in. Up the break. Step R & up a short step face. On the ledge move R to clean break. Step R & up face. Route is nicer than it looks from below.
- 16. Spirit Infusion - 15** Ruben Snyman & Derek Marshall 24/09/2019 (T)  
Start up the break in the small cave on the corner as you walk-in. Up the break. Step R on veg ledge, then up the open book. Up a wide-open book & top out into the trees.
- 17. Way Maker - 15** Derek Marshall & Ruben Snyman 21/09/2019 (T)  
Start up 3m R of the small cave, up a broken steep face, over various ledges & into a R facing open book with a smooth face to the R.
- 18. Constantinople – 22 ★★** Derek Marshall, Nelmarie van Staden & Terence Trevaskis 25/01/2020 (3B&T)  
Up the first 3 bolts of *Batman Stink*, move L on the ledge. Up into the roof crack & up the crack in the face above.
- 19. Batman Stink – 19 ★** 20m Terence Trevaskis & Derek Marshall 01/12/2018 (10B&C)
- 20. Siege Mentality – 20** Derek Marshall & Tyson Baars 01/02/2020 (6B&C)
- 21. Dirty Douche Bags of Hazard - 19** 25m Tyson Baars & Nelmarie van Staden 01/12/2018 (10B&C)
- 22. House of Snakes – 16** Tyson Baars & Nelmarie van Staden 14/09/2019 (4B&C)
- 23. Battle Narrative – 22 ★** Derek Marshall & Tyson Baars 14/09/2019 (8B&C)
- 24. Pro-sticky-boscis – 21 ★★** Terence Trevaskis & Tyson Baars 08/02/2020 (14B&C)
- 25. Have Some Fun - 24 ★** 24m Derek Marshall & Ruben Snyman 09/02/2020 (16B&C)
- 26. Enter the Midnight - 22 ★** 26m Derek Marshall & Terence Trevaskis 22/02/2020 (17B&C)  
Bolted by Terence Trevaskis.
- 27. Lucid – 22 ★★** 26m Derek Marshall & Terence Trevaskis 23/02/2020 (16B&C)  
Bolted by Terence Trevaskis.
- 28. Greg, That Greedy Son of a Bitch – 29 ★★** 26m Dale Gathercole & Tristan Van der Merwer 15/02/2020 (13B&C)  
Bolted by Derek the Monster Marshall.

Upper Crag



1<sub>11</sub>

2<sub>14</sub>

3<sub>15</sub>

5<sub>17</sub>

6<sub>18</sub>

7<sub>19</sub>

9<sub>17</sub>

11<sub>23</sub>

12<sub>17</sub>

13<sub>20</sub>

14<sub>19</sub>

15<sub>15</sub>

16<sub>15</sub>

41<sub>19</sub>

43<sub>17</sub>

44<sub>19</sub>

17<sub>15</sub>

18<sub>22</sub>

19<sub>19</sub>

21<sub>19</sub>

20<sub>20</sub>

22<sub>16</sub>

23<sub>22</sub>

24<sub>21</sub>

25<sub>24</sub>

27<sub>22</sub>

28<sub>29</sub>

29<sub>22</sub>

30<sub>19</sub>

34<sub>22</sub>

35<sub>16</sub>

4 - 6

Cave of the Great Abatwa

3<sub>25</sub>

2<sub>24</sub>

1<sub>19</sub>

31<sub>19</sub>

32<sub>24</sub>

33<sub>26</sub>

P2

P2

36<sub>18</sub>

37<sub>19</sub>

● **29. Undying – 22 ★★** 26m Derek Marshall & Nelmarie van Staden 14/02/2020 (12B&C)

● **30. Fresh Fire – 19 ★** 29m Derek Marshall & Ruben Snyman 17/11/2018 (12B&C)

**31. Hiraeth – 19** 38m Derek Marshall & Terence Trevaskis 09/12/2018 (T)

Up the prominent break between the sport lines. The rock is lovely, but it is a bit dirty & vegetated. When it cleans off it will be a cool route.

● **32. I'm Receiving This – 24 ★★★** 30m Derek Marshall & Ruben Snyman 31/03/2019 (16B&C)

● **33. Slovak Sheep Lipstick – 26 ★★** Fero Kocis & Derek Marshall 06/11/2021 (16B&C)

Bolted by Derek the Monster Marshall.

**34. Burying the Dead – 21** Derek Marshall & Blaine Camons 09/12/2018 (T)

P1 – 19 – 15m Up the L facing prominent open book, past a tree to a good ledge.

P2 – 21 – 32m Over two very precarious boulders & up L facing prominent open book. Continue up over easier ground.

This will improve when it cleans up.

**35. It's The Same Old Situation - 16**

43m Derek Marshall, Ruben Snyman & Nelmarie van Staden 27/04/2019 (T)

Up curving open book crack to a blocky ledge. Up directly staying R of roof. On the ledge above the roof, step L & up cleanest rock.

Getting to the following routes is via a tricky scramble, with an in-stitu rope to assist.

● **36. Bite Your Teeth – 18 ★** Derek Marshall, Tyson Baars & John Alexander 02/12/2018

Bolted by Tyson Baars.

P1 – 18 - 22m (10B&C)

P2 – 18 - 30m (14&C)

● **37. Get on Your Feet – 19 ★★** Derek Marshall, Tyson Baars & Nelmarie van Staden 02/12/2018

P1 – 19 - 22m (9B&C)

P2 – 17 - 30m (12&C)

## Cave of the Great Abatwa



These routes are reached by scrambling down ropes at the far RHS of the Upper Crag.

- **1. Jooben – 19** Ruben Snyman & Derek Marshall 24/04/2022 (6B&C)  
Bolted by Derek the Monster Marshall.
- **2. Sweet, Sweet Lies - 24 ★** Derek Marshall & Ruben Snyman 30/04/2022 (7B&C)
- **3. Enigma – 25 ★** Tristan Van der Merwe & Sofia Monteiro 24/07/2022 (10B&C)  
Bolted by Derek the Monster Marshall.
- **4. Closed Project / In Progress ~ 24** Bolted by Derek the Monster Marshall (9B&C)
- **5. Closed Project / In Progress ~ 22** Bolted by Terence Trevaskis (10B&C)
- **6. Closed Project / In Progress ~ 21** Bolted by Derek the Monster Marshall (9B&C)

These routes are reached by scrambling down to the top of the fin, then abseiling into the base of the fin.

- 7. Fire Control – 19 ★★★** 26m Derek Marshall & Terence Trevaskis 06/01/2019 (T)  
Up the fine crack in the middle of the rib. At the ledge, up the arête to the overhang, step L onto block & out.
- 8. Take Your Breath – 16 ★★** 23m Derek Marshall & Terence Trevaskis 06/01/2019 (T)  
Up prominent R facing ramp open book.
- 9. Save My Soul – 14** 15m Ruben Snyman & Derek Marshall 13/01/2019 (T)  
Up prominent fist crack, move out R to avoid overhang near the top.
- 10. Living the Impossible – 19 ★** 15m Derek Marshall & Ruben Snyman 13/01/2019 (T)  
Up the middle of the ramp. Through the gap at the top. Directly through first overhang & move a little R on the final overhang.
- 11. Infatuated by the Light – 16** 15m Derek Marshall & Ruben Snyman 13/01/2019 (T)  
Up R facing open book. At the constriction, move out R & then back L to the top.

The following routes are around the corner on the *Lady's Slipper* side. If you are facing the "crag" its basically the first splot of rock on the R that is reasonably clean.

- 1. Other Enemies – 17** 25m Derek Marshall & Tyson Baars 29/10/2017 (T)  
Through the overhang under the rib arête. Directly through, then keep up the ramp arête all the way to the trees.
- 2. Desperate Effort – 13** 25m Derek Marshall & Tyson Baars 29/10/2017 (T)  
Up indistinct easy break. This line is cleanish, does not have impossible roves or shitty ledges.