

Kalymnos

A guidebook to the world-class
sport climbing on this Aegean island

Text, topos, crag and action photography by Chris Craggs
Other photography as credited
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Cover: *Typhoon* (7c+) - page 407 - in
the Crystal Cave on Telendos.

This page: Benedikt Walsler on *Aegialis*
(7c) - page 317 - in the Grande Grotta.
Both photos: Simon Carter

Chris Craggs

AWESOME WALLS CLIMBING CENTRES, INFLUENCING THE CLIMBING WORLD SINCE 1999!



AWESOME WALLS

CLIMBING CENTRES

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AWESOME BY NATURE!!!

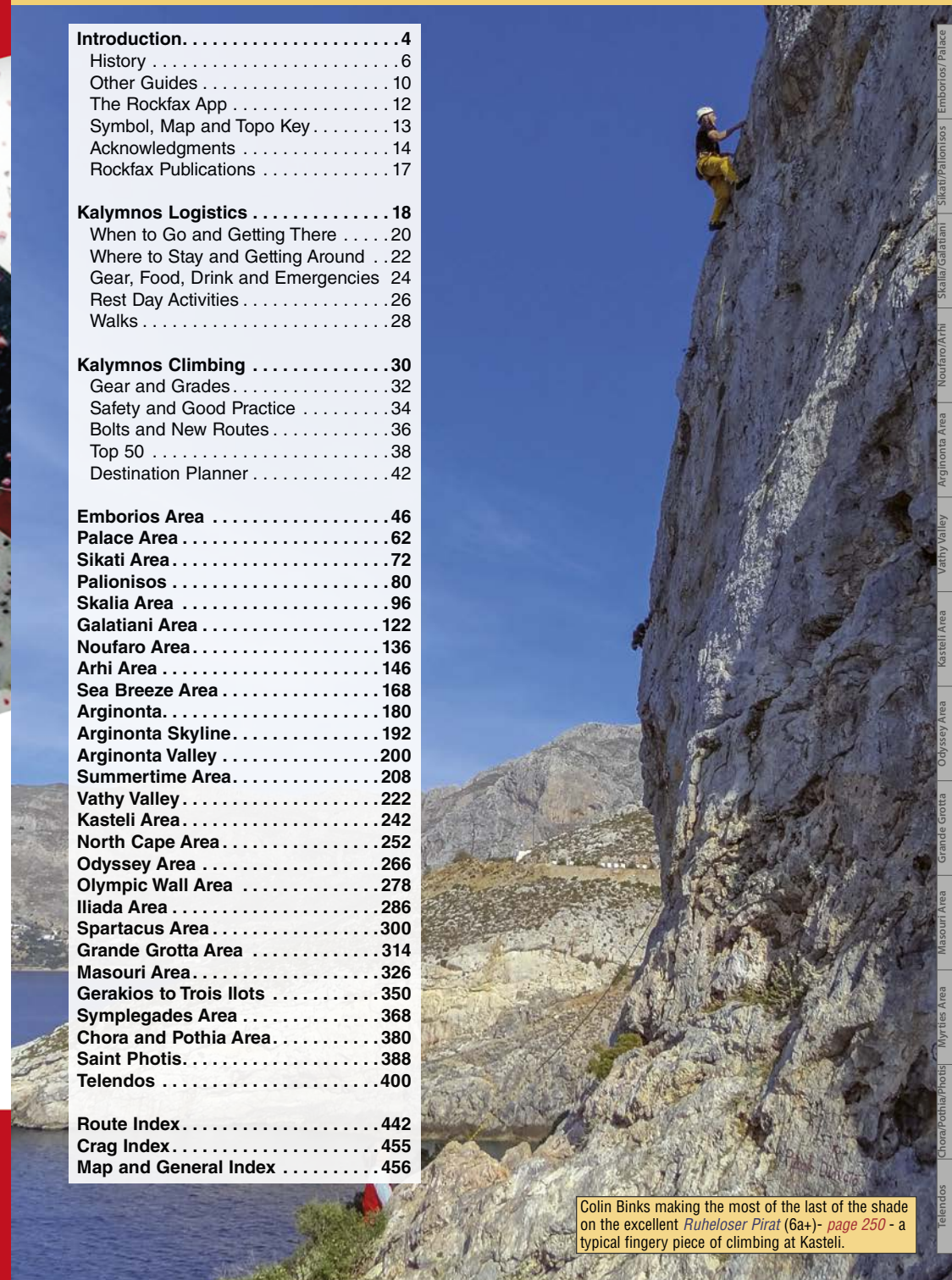


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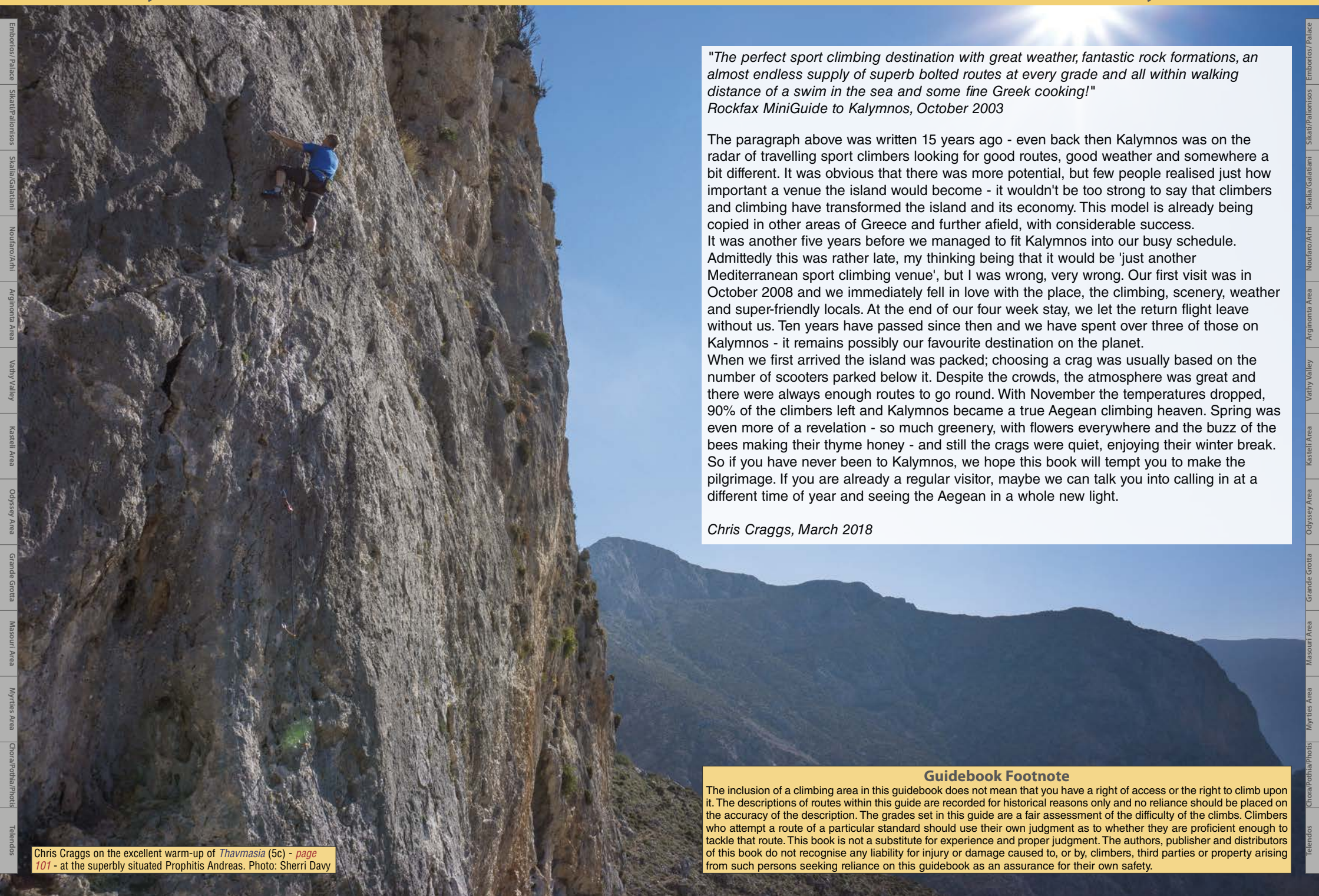
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Colin Binks making the most of the last of the shade on the excellent *Ruheloser Pirat* (6a+) - page 250 - a typical finery piece of climbing at Kasteli.

Emborios/Palace
Sikati/Palionisos
Skalia/Galatiani
Noufaro/Arhi
Arginonta Area
Vathy Valley
Kasteli Area
Odyssey Area
Grande Grotta
Masouri Area
Myrtles Area
Chora/Pothia/Protis
Telendos



Chris Craggs on the excellent warm-up of *Thavmasia* (5c) - page 101 - at the superbly situated Prophitis Andreas. Photo: Sherri Davy

"The perfect sport climbing destination with great weather, fantastic rock formations, an almost endless supply of superb bolted routes at every grade and all within walking distance of a swim in the sea and some fine Greek cooking!"
Rockfax MiniGuide to Kalymnos, October 2003

The paragraph above was written 15 years ago - even back then Kalymnos was on the radar of travelling sport climbers looking for good routes, good weather and somewhere a bit different. It was obvious that there was more potential, but few people realised just how important a venue the island would become - it wouldn't be too strong to say that climbers and climbing have transformed the island and its economy. This model is already being copied in other areas of Greece and further afield, with considerable success. It was another five years before we managed to fit Kalymnos into our busy schedule. Admittedly this was rather late, my thinking being that it would be 'just another Mediterranean sport climbing venue', but I was wrong, very wrong. Our first visit was in October 2008 and we immediately fell in love with the place, the climbing, scenery, weather and super-friendly locals. At the end of our four week stay, we let the return flight leave without us. Ten years have passed since then and we have spent over three of those on Kalymnos - it remains possibly our favourite destination on the planet. When we first arrived the island was packed; choosing a crag was usually based on the number of scooters parked below it. Despite the crowds, the atmosphere was great and there were always enough routes to go round. With November the temperatures dropped, 90% of the climbers left and Kalymnos became a true Aegean climbing heaven. Spring was even more of a revelation - so much greenery, with flowers everywhere and the buzz of the bees making their thyme honey - and still the crags were quiet, enjoying their winter break. So if you have never been to Kalymnos, we hope this book will tempt you to make the pilgrimage. If you are already a regular visitor, maybe we can talk you into calling in at a different time of year and seeing the Aegean in a whole new light.

Chris Craggs, March 2018

Guidebook Footnote

The inclusion of a climbing area in this guidebook does not mean that you have a right of access or the right to climb upon it. The descriptions of routes within this guide are recorded for historical reasons only and no reliance should be placed on the accuracy of the description. The grades set in this guide are a fair assessment of the difficulty of the climbs. Climbers who attempt a route of a particular standard should use their own judgment as to whether they are proficient enough to tackle that route. This book is not a substitute for experience and proper judgment. The authors, publisher and distributors of this book do not recognise any liability for injury or damage caused to, or by, climbers, third parties or property arising from such persons seeking reliance on this guidebook as an assurance for their own safety.

Early Years

Kalymnos is the fourth largest and third most populous island of the Dodecanese, a group of 15 large and 150 small islands close to the Turkish mainland. Several of these islands have been inhabited since at least the Bronze Age (2600 BC) and remnants of ancient civilisations and conflicts are all around you.

In the 20th century alone the islands were occupied by the Ottomans, the Italians, the Germans and the British, before finally being reunited with Greece in 1947 after 740 years of foreign rule. This explains, in part at least, the Kalymnians' love of parades - they have a lot to celebrate and some catching up to do.



A spectacular parade on the harbour front at Pothia. Photos: Brenda Latham



The main industry for many years was sea sponges, collected by diving to the seabed - a hazardous way of making a living. Initially the local waters were farmed, but subsequently divers had to travel far and wide, with a seasonal expedition to the North African coast becoming an annual event. The book 'Mermaid Singing' by Charmian Clift (1958) gives a brilliant insight into island life in the years after the war, and is well worth seeking out if you want a bit more background on the island.



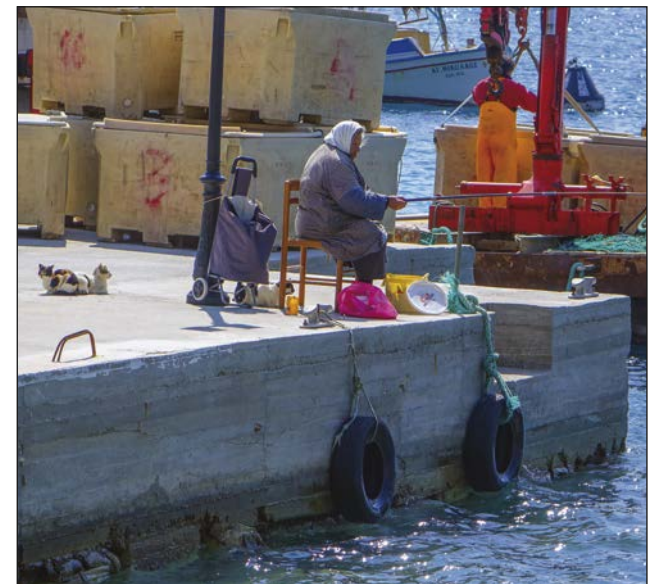
Sponges and Italian architecture - echoes of the past.



A humid south wind and Telendos wears a cloud cap for a dramatic sunset.

The Tourism Boom

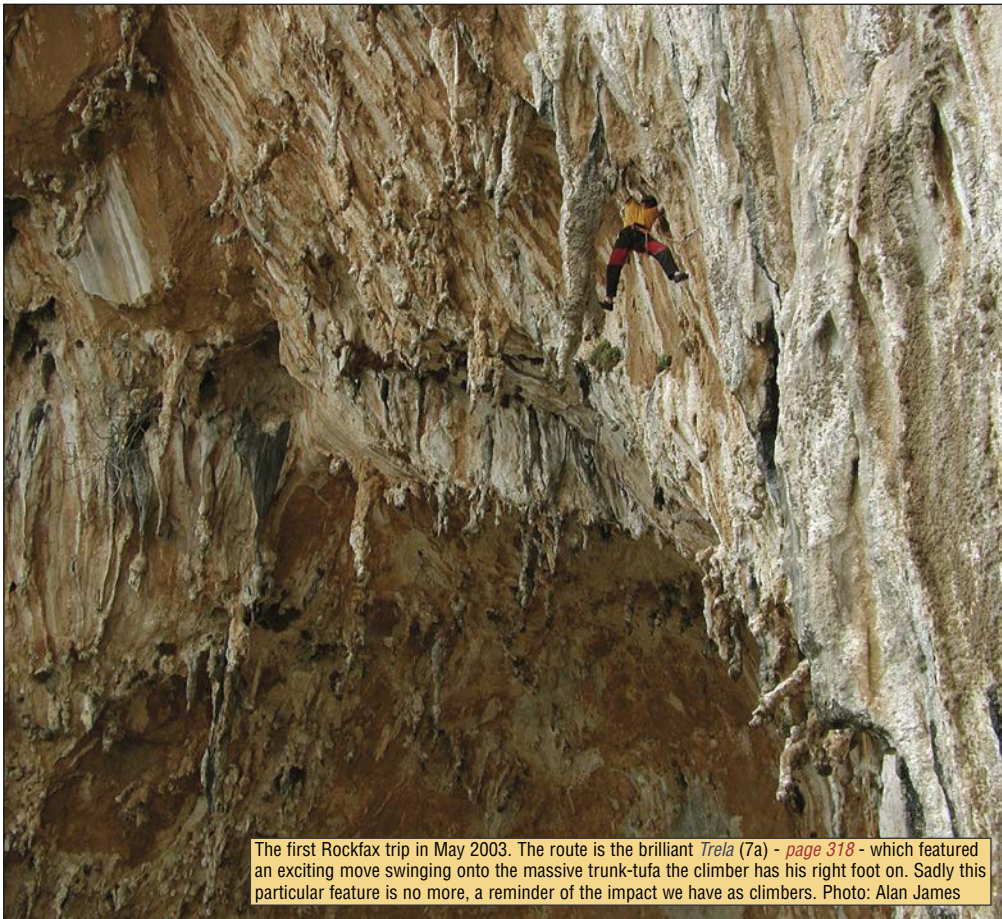
Tourism had long been a minor source of income for Kalymnos, with wealthy Athenians moving to the west-coast resorts in high summer to escape the searing heat of the mainland. Then, in the 1980s and 1990s, Greece became a very popular destination for English, Dutch and German tourists. Kos was in vogue and occasionally became so busy that the people who flew in with 'accommodation allocated on arrival' were shipped over to Kalymnos. The restaurants and accommodation flourished to take up this trade. With gradually changing tastes and demands, however, the flow of tourists slowed and Kalymnos was one of the early casualties.



The fact that Kalymnos has changed in recent years doesn't mean that everyone has joined in.

Emborios/ Palace
Sikati/Paltonisos
Skalia/Galattani
Noufaro/Arthi
Argimonta Area
Vathy Valley
Kastell Area
Odyssey Area
Grande Grotta
Masouri Area
Myrties Area
Chora/Pothia/Photis
Telendos

Emborios/ Palace
Sikati/Paltonisos
Skalia/Galattani
Noufaro/Arthi
Argimonta Area
Vathy Valley
Kastell Area
Odyssey Area
Grande Grotta
Masouri Area
Myrties Area
Chora/Pothia/Photis
Telendos



The first Rockfax trip in May 2003. The route is the brilliant *Trela (7a)* - page 318 - which featured an exciting move swinging onto the massive trunk-tufa the climber has his right foot on. Sadly this particular feature is no more, a reminder of the impact we have as climbers. Photo: Alan James

Bring on the Climbers

At about the same time that the tourist trade started to drop off, the first of the climbers arrived. In 1996, Italian Andrea di Bari came to Kalymnos on holiday and spotted the potential. He returned the following year with his drill and bolted up 43 routes. Gradually, more routes were added and more visitors popped in to check what was available, and the public relations machine began to roll. A print guidebook was published, Rockfax produced an online PDF guide, climbing festivals were arranged, magazine articles appeared and suddenly Kalymnos was very much on the radar.

Aris Theodoropoulos was instrumental in getting this ball rolling with his guidebooks, bolting and organisation. A brief 20 years later and the island is home to more than 3000 routes, many of impeccable quality, and has become one of the best-known destinations on the planet for year-round sport climbing. Climbers visit from all over the world, and their reaction is almost always the same - "what a fantastic place to come climbing".

On our very first visits we were asked by a concerned local whether the climbers would keep on coming to the island. Ten years later and I think the answer is obvious - as long as the routes are there and the welcome remains as warm, Kalymnos will always be very near the top of destinations on any climber's 'hit-list'.

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 Argiontra Area
 Vathy Valley
 Kastell Area
 Odyssey Area
 Grande Grotta
 Masouri Area
 Myrtles Area
 Chora/Portia/Phots
 Telendos

Previous Rockfax Publications

This book follows on from three previous publications, starting way back in 2003 with the initial Rockfax MiniGuide to Kalymnos by Nick Smith and Alan James. This proved popular in its early days and was added to in 2009 with a Version 2, which expanded the coverage.

Taking advantage of the fast pace of development of both the climbing and the available technology, Chris Craggs put together an entirely new version - with full coverage of the island - which was published in the Rockfax app in May 2016.

This book is the logical development of the app-only guide, and has benefitted from the addition of around half a dozen more recently developed crags.

The information is as up-to-date as we can make it at the time of publication, but new routes will be climbed and new crags will be developed. The app version of this book will be updated periodically - see page 12.

If you find anything that is incorrect, out of date or confusing, then please get in touch via rockfax.com.

Kalymnos MiniGuide - Version 1

A PDF guide for download only.

Nick Smith and Alan James - October 2003

Kalymnos MiniGuide - Version 2

Nick Smith, Alan James and Chris Craggs - November 2009

Kalymnos - Rockfax App

A full guide to the island available through the Rockfax app.

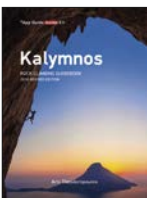
Chris Craggs - May 2016

Kalymnos

The book you have in your hands.

Chris Craggs - May 2018

Other Publications



Kalymnos - Rock Climbing Guidebook

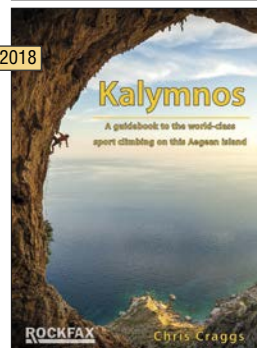
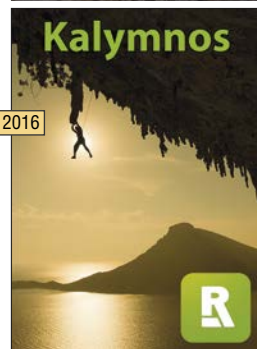
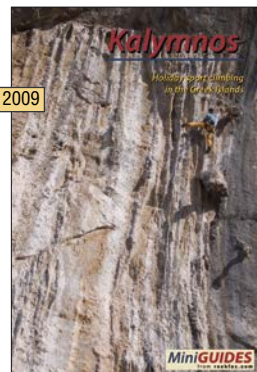
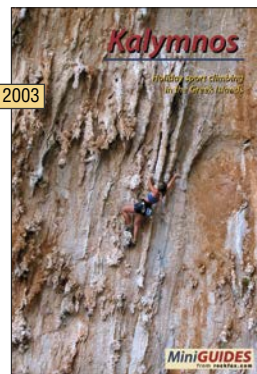
There is another print guidebook to the island by Aris Theodoropoulos. This has run through 6 editions since 2000, with the current edition dating from 2016. climbkalymnos.com



KalymnosTopo

The Send climbing app is produced by Steve Golley. It covers the whole island, is regularly updated and supports the Glaros Bar Bolt Fund.

thesend.co.uk

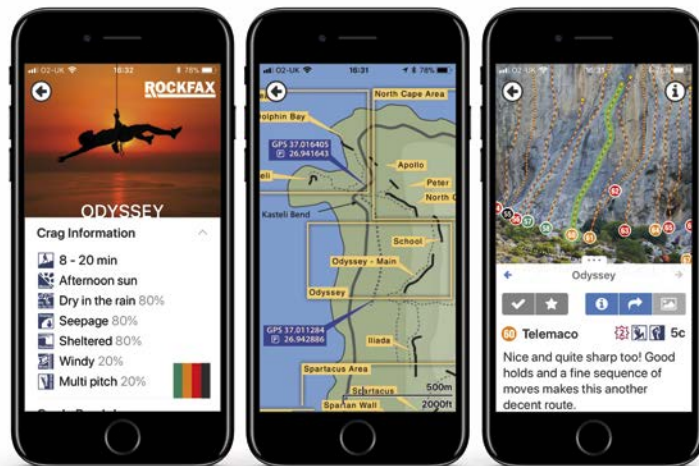


Agnes Phili on *Gladiator* (7b) - page 307 - at Spartacus near the Grande Grotta. Photo: Mike Hutton

The Rockfax App brings together all the Rockfax climbing information with UKC Logbooks and presents it in a user-friendly package for use on Apple iOS devices (Android version to follow).

The heart of the app is the Rockfax crag and route information, which is downloaded by way of paid in-app purchases for individual crags, or bundles of crags, in 'areas' which correspond roughly to printed guidebooks. You can purchase each crag individually, or the whole book. The main data on the app is downloaded and stored on your device, so you don't need any signal to be able to read the descriptions and see the topos and maps. There is a free sample crag for each area and some of these are quite extensive, enabling you to get a really good impression of what the app is like, without shelling out any money.

The Rockfax App itself is a free download and incredibly useful in its own right. It contains a detailed crag map linked to the UKClimbing crag database (currently with basic information and route lists for around 21,700 crags worldwide). The map also displays all the 4,000+ listings from the UKClimbing Directory of climbing walls, outdoor shops, climbing clubs, outdoor specific accommodation and instructors and guides, amongst others.



To find the app, search for 'Rockfax App' in Google or on the appropriate store.















UKC Logbooks

An incredibly popular method of logging your climbing is to use the **UKClimbing.com** logbooks system. This database lists more than 420,000 routes and over 21,700 crags; so far, more than 34,000 users have recorded over 5.8 million ascents! To set up your own logbook all you need to do is register at **UKClimbing.com** and click on the logbook tab. Once set up you will be able to record every ascent you make, when you did it, what style you climbed it in and who you did it with. Each entry has a place for your own notes. You can also add your vote to the grade/star system linked to a database on the Rockfax site used by the guidebook writers. The logbook can be private, public or restricted to your own climbing partners only.









The Rockfax App can be linked to your **UKClimbing.com** user account and logbook so that you can record your activity while at the crag and look at photos, comments and votes on the routes. To do this you will need a 3G/4G data connection. You can also look at the UKC logbooks to see if anyone has climbed your chosen route recently to check on conditions.



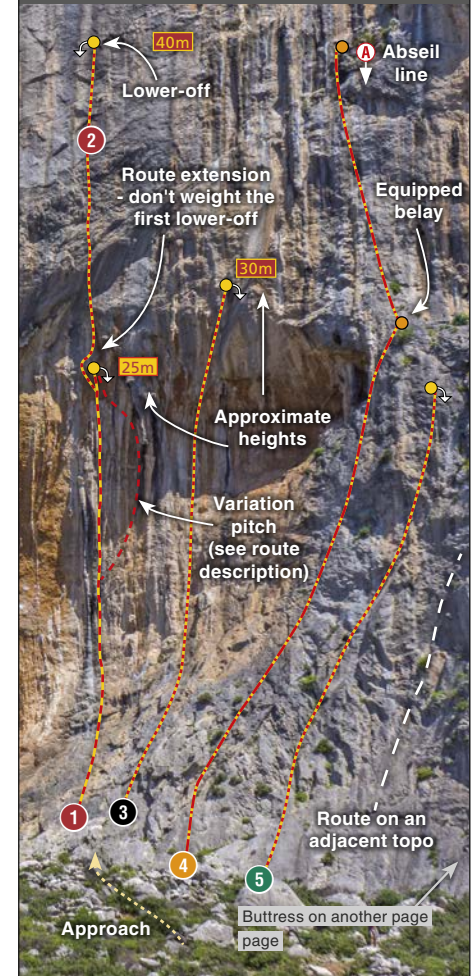
Route Symbols

-  A good route which is well worth the effort.
-  A very good route, one of the best on the crag.
-  A brilliant route, one of the best on the island.
-  A significant route which is one of the best of its type and grade in the book. (More than 50).
-  Technical climbing requiring good balance and technique, or complex and tricky moves.
-  Powerful climbing; roofs, steep rock, low lock-offs or long moves off small holds.
-  Sustained climbing; either lots of hard moves or steep rock giving pumpy climbing.
-  Fingery climbing with significant small holds on the hard sections.
-  Fluttery climbing with big fall potential and scary run-outs.
-  A long reach is helpful, or even essential, for one or more of the moves.
-  Some loose rock may be encountered.
-  Sloping holds may be encountered.
-  Graunchy climbing - wide cracks or awkward thrutchy moves.
-  A route which isn't fully bolted. A rack of gear is needed. There are 3 of these in this book.

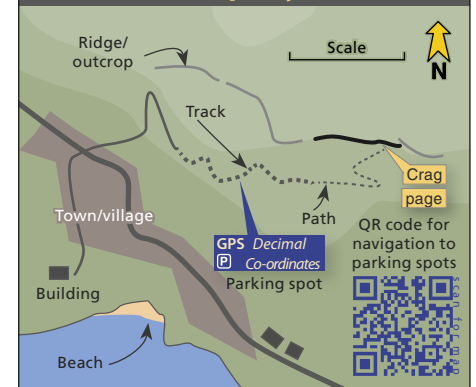
Crag Symbols

-  Angle of the approach walk to the crag with approximate time.
-  Approximate time that the crag is in direct sun (when it is shining).
-  The buttress has some multi-pitch routes.
-  The crag is exposed to bad weather and will catch the wind if it is blowing.
-  The crag can offer shelter from cold winds and may be a good suntrap in colder weather.
-  The crag suffers from seepage. It may well be wet and unclimbable in winter and early spring.
-  The crag is steep and may well offer some dry rock to climb when it is raining.
-  **Deserted** - Currently under-used and usually quiet. Fewer good routes or remote and smaller areas.
-  **Quiet** - Less popular sections on major crags, or good buttresses with awkward approaches.
-  **Busy** - Places you will seldom be alone. Good routes and easy access.
-  **Crowded** - The most popular sections of the most popular crags which are always busy.

Topo Key



Map Key



As ever, there are lot of people without whose help this book would never have seen the light of day. First and foremost, it was Sherri Davy's idea that we should visit Kalymnos even though my climbing had pretty much tailed off. As it turns out, that visit proved to be a catalyst and a renaissance, and ten years later the rekindled fire is still burning. A close second is Alan James, who has been involved with this guidebook from its genesis as a downloadable MiniGuide back in 2003 up to this impressive tome 15 years later - his eye for detail and determination to get it right shine from every page.

The same group of old friends has travelled to Greece to climb with me on a regular basis; Colin Binks (50 years of climbing together now), Graham and Dan Parkes, Andy Nicholson and Dave Gregory. So many locals have become great friends. Special mention must be made of Babis Psarommatis, and Yannis and Ilias of course, who welcome us like long-lost friends every time we arrive at Babis Bar. Also, Nomikos (Mike) Kardoulas has sorted our car hire requirements faultlessly for many years. Several climbers have been very helpful with comments for the book, both passed to me personally and extracted from their entries in the UKC Logbook pages - Bruno Fara, Gary Gibson, Gordon Jenkin, Dave Musgrove, Neil Gresham and Adrian Berry.

Steve Golley deserves a special thanks; he produced the first app to climbing on Kalymnos (The Send) and has been very generous in his support of this guidebook, providing comments and images to help us finish the job.

Several photographers have offered their photos and added immeasurably to the quality of the book; Simon Carter, Andy Birtwistle, Stuart McNeil, Simon Rawlinson, Kieran Duncan, Szymon Dziukiewicz, Neil Foster, Trevor Langhorne, Paul Twomey, Adrian Berry, Dave Musgrove, Andy Nesbit, John Bunney and Mike Hutton.

Proofreaders Rebecca Ting and David Boothroyd have found more errors than you could ever imagine - thanks for that.

There is a network of people who live on Kalymnos and who have been really helpful with sorting out bits and pieces of information (and feeding the cats); Brenda Latham, Shelly Robinson and Pamela Stoor in particular. Brenda has also allowed us to use her photographs and has been very helpful down the years as a contact and font of knowledge about the island.

Sue and Steve McDonnel of the Glaros Bar have been super helpful with information on new routes.

Mike Reed (Kalymnos Resole) has been especially helpful in nipping out and checking late bits and pieces, plus his UKC logbook has been a mine of useful information.

And lastly to all the people who have cleaned and equipped (or re-equipped) routes on Kalymnos we (and by that I mean all climbers) salute you, we are forever in your debt.

Chris Craggs, March 2018

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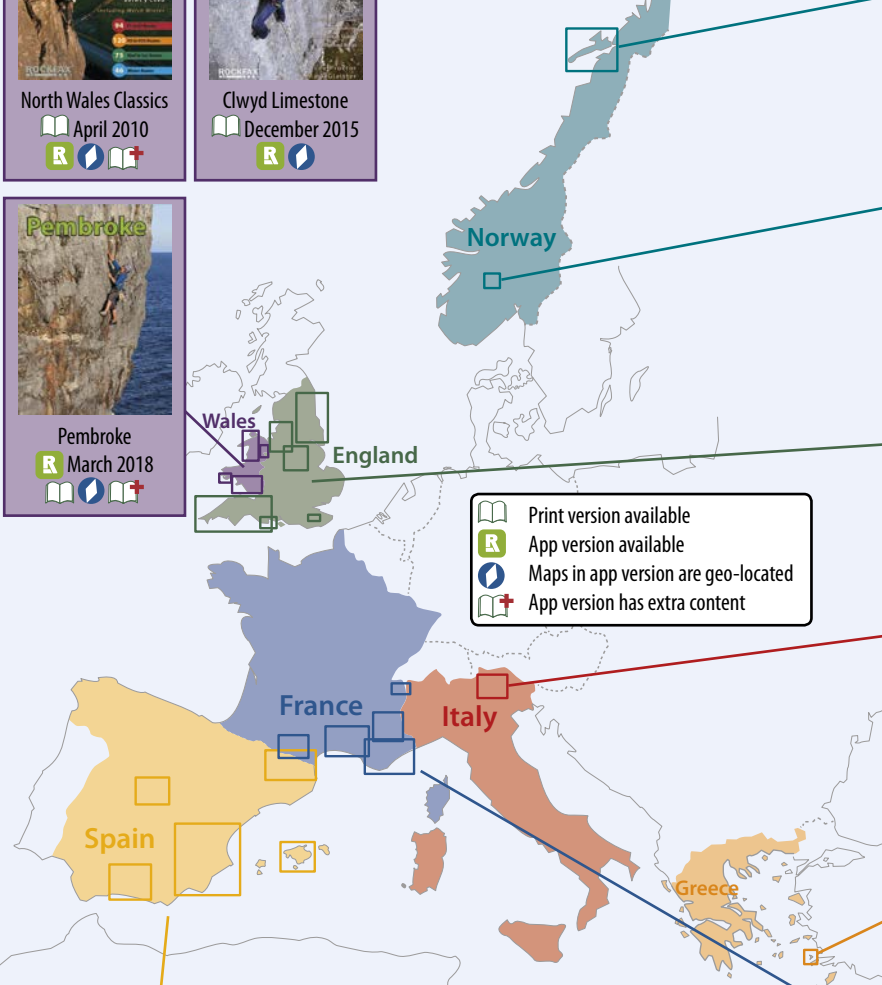
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Rockfax produce print and app guidebooks to areas all over Europe. We have 26 titles in print, 16 of which are less than 6 years old, and all but 2 having corresponding app versions.



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Clwyd Limestone
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 R [Geo]

South Wales Sport Climbs
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 R [Geo]

Pembroke
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 R [Geo] [App] [Extra]

North Wales Winter
 February 2016
 R

El Chorro
 December 2008
 [Geo] [App] [Extra]

Spain : Costa Blanca
 February 2013
 R [Geo] [App] [Extra]

Spain : Mallorca
 January 2016
 R [Geo]

Catalunya
 February 2016
 R [Geo]

Madrid Area
 October 2017
 R [Geo]

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 May 2017
 R [Geo]

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 R [Geo]

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 R [Geo] [App] [Extra]

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 R [Geo]

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 April 2009
 R [Geo]

Northern Limestone
 January 2015
 R [Geo] [App] [Extra]

Peak Bouldering
 May 2014
 R [Geo]

Southern Sandstone
 September 2017
 R [Geo]

West Country Climbs
 July 2010
 R

Kalymnos
 May 2018
 R [Geo]

The Dolomites
 July 2014
 R

Dorset
 February 2012
 R

Dorset Bouldering
 May 2014
 R [Geo] [App] [Extra]

Deep Water
 June 2007
 R

France : Arriege
 December 2012
 R

France : Lang.Roussillon
 November 2011
 R

France : Haute Provence
 December 2009
 R

France : Côte d'Azur
 February 2017
 R [Geo]

Chamonix
 October 2016
 R [Geo]

Kalymnos Logistics

The Italian Road runs from Vathy to Pothia and gives some great views - *see page 29*.
To the south is the holiday island Kos, where most climbers arrive on their way to Kalymnos.
Above the figure is the distant volcanic island of Nisyros - but that's another story.

When to Go

It is possible to climb all year-round, but the best times are September to November, and March to early June. A visit in winter is a possibility, although it could be cool and finding accommodation will be more of a problem outside the tourist season. It is also possible to climb during the hotter summer months, but everything will be more expensive during peak season and you will need early starts to get a good morning's climbing while the crags are still in the shade. The hot afternoons are better spent on the beach or taking a siesta. It is worth booking your accommodation before arriving on Kalymnos, especially in the high season when most places are very busy, and in winter when only a few places will be open. If you are travelling during the winter you should be aware that when it is windy, which is quite frequent, the normal ferries won't sail. The catamaran runs a daily service from Pothia to Kos town in most weathers. There is also 'the Pirate Boat', which is an option if you are desperate - ask locally.



The slow ferry - the Olympios Zeus arrives at Mastichari

Kalymnos Averages	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (maximum)	14	14	16	20	24	29	32	31	28	24	19	16
Temperature (minimum)	8	8	9	12	15	19	22	22	19	16	12	10
Hours of sunshine	5	6	6	7	9	10	10	10	8	7	6	4
Sea temperature	16	16	16	17	19	22	24	25	24	23	20	18
Rainfall in mm / month	83	76	61	46	17	3	9	3	11	44	93	147
Wet days (>1mm) / month	10	8	6	5	5	1	3	1	2	6	8	10

Rain is seldom a big problem; it usually comes as short sharp thunderstorms which pass quickly, but they can be really torrential if you get caught. In addition, if it has been a wet winter, the tufas and stalactites will be dripping. In winter, the north wind can be surprisingly strong and cold, though even when this blows it is usually possible to climb at Arginonta.

Getting There

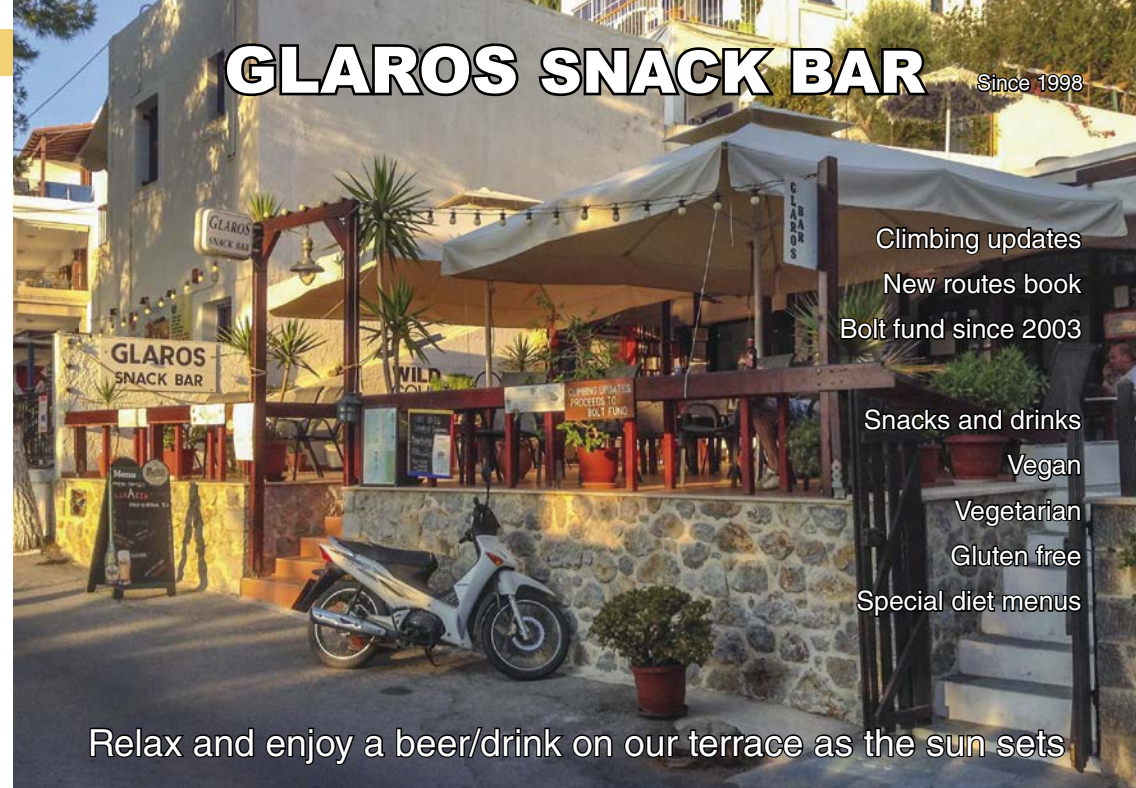
In the main tourist season (May to October) there are hundreds of holiday flights from all over Europe to Kos, which is a popular package holiday destination. Type 'flights to Kos' into Google for plenty of options. Once on Kos, a taxi to Mastichari (€15) and ferry to Pothia (€7) will have you on Kalymnos. There is a perception that, out of the high season, Kalymnos is hard to reach, but there are three flights a day from Athens to Kos through the winter. It is usually doable in a day if you get your timings right. It is also possible to fly into Kalymnos from Athens, though the schedules and carriers change a lot. Astra Airlines and Sky Express currently fly this route (daily in the summer, three times a week in the winter.)

Travel Insurance

It is strongly advised that travel, medical and rescue insurance is taken out before undertaking a trip. If you are in any doubt, just ask someone who has had cause to use it! BMC Travel Insurance (see advert inside front cover) - thebmc.com

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A warm day on Arhi - maybe time for a beer or a swim?

Where to Stay

Masouri, Myrties and Armeos are excellent places to stay and are all well situated for the local crags, with easy access to shops, restaurants and bars. The standard accommodation here is a studio with 2 or 3 beds, two electric rings and fridge, bathroom with shower and balcony with a panoramic view. Prices vary with the season, but during the spring and autumn a small apartment will cost 30-40 Euros per night and usually hold 2 to 3 people. During the winter season there is less choice, but some places stay open.

To search put 'Accommodation Kalymnos' in google.com

Getting Around

One big advantage of Kalymnos is that you don't need a hire car once you are there. There is plenty of good climbing within walking distance of Masouri, and there is also the option to hire mopeds or bicycles or use the bus (ask locally for times/prices).

On your arrival at Pothia you will need to get to Masouri. A taxi is the easy solution - €15 and about ten minutes drive. There is also a bus service, running every 90 minutes or so from 7am until 9pm. If you are driving a hire car, follow signs to Myrties/Masouri - be aware of the one-way system in Masouri in the high season.



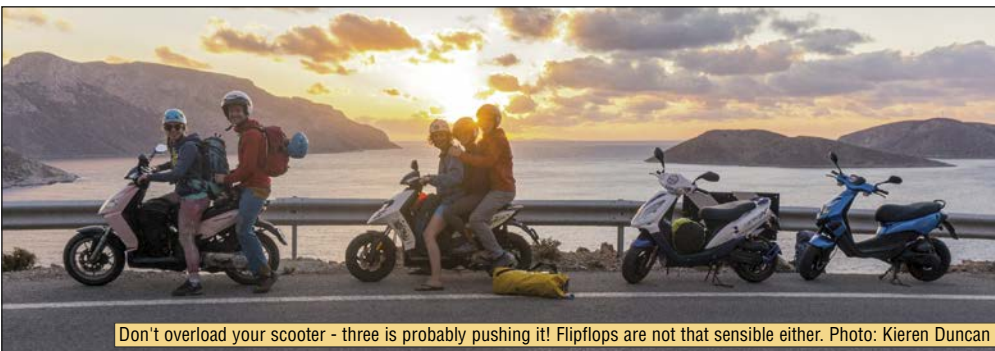
A hire car is a great way of seeing more of the island and isn't too expensive if there are a few of you.

Scoters

There are several places in Masouri and Armeos where you can hire mopeds/scooters for €10-12 a day. The larger scooters can just about fit two climbers and two rucksacks. You will need your driving licence with you if you want to hire a scooter. An alternative is hiring mountain bikes for about €5 a day.

A word on safety - Mopeds are a great way to cut down on your approach walks and get to the more remote cliffs. Always wear a helmet (even though the locals don't) and be wary of car drivers speeding around blind corners!

Take great care if it is wet and watch out for the potholes in the road. Shorts and sandals might be fine for climbing, but are not ideal if you come off the scooter. Most people you see with injuries haven't got them from climbing - that should be a wake-up-call.



Don't overload your scooter - three is probably pushing it! Flipflops are not that sensible either. Photo: Kieren Duncan

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Just one minute from
the ferry in Pothia

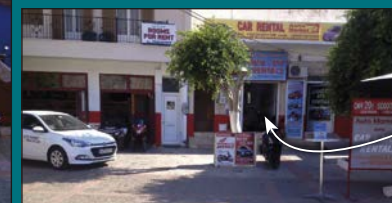
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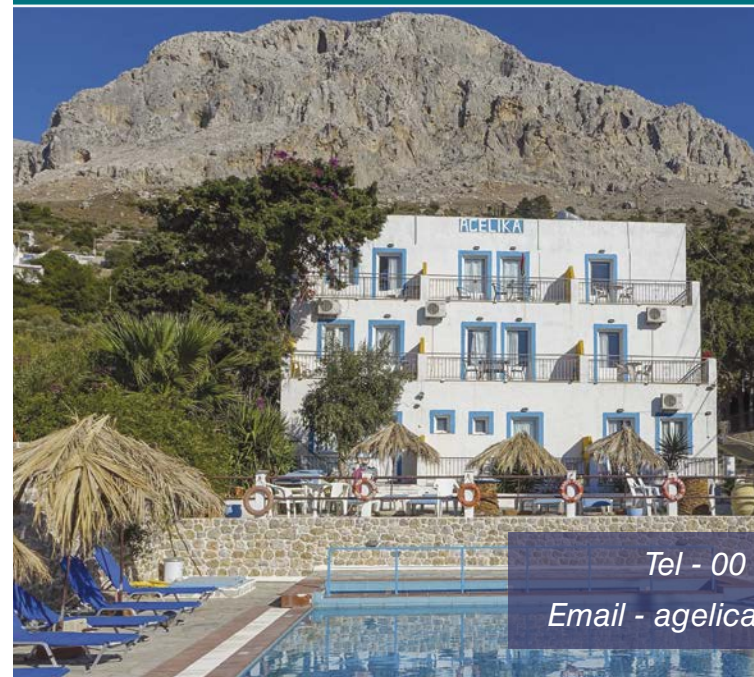
Family business
founded in 1991



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Exit the port
and where the
road bends right
we are ahead
right of the three
men statue



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BABIS BAR AGELICA APARTMENTS

Climbing Shops

There are several gear shops in Masouri, though these seem to change on a fairly regular basis. They stock a range of gear, ropes, shoes, quickdraws and clothing.

Shops

There are several general purpose/mini-market shops in Masouri and a larger one (Stalas) that stays open all year (with full stock) in Myrties. All shops have a useful range of food and drink, including fresh bread daily. If you can't find what you want, just ask in the morning and they will usually get it for you by the time you return from climbing.



Stalas Supermarket, Myrties at sundown - still open.

Bars and Restaurants

There are many bars and restaurants on Kalymnos, mainly concentrated along the road from Myrties to Masouri. The food is generally of high quality and good value. If you are on a budget, missing out on a starter (fill up on free bread) and a beer can half your bill.



The Aegean, one of many excellent restaurants.

Glaros Bar See advert on page 21

The Glaros Bar in Masouri, run by ex-pats Steve and Sue McDonnell, has long been a focal point of climbing on the island. The bar contains a new routes book and sells a new route update, with the funds raised going to the bolt fund - they have raised many thousands of euros over the years. Steve runs the Glaros Bar Bolt Fund which has provided bolts and lower-offs for years and also raised funds for the first mountain rescue stretcher, still in use today.

Accident/Illness/Emergency

Pharmacies - open daily Monday to Friday 9:00 - 14:00 then 17:00 - 21:00. Most are closed on Wednesdays and weekends, though there is always one open and this is advertised in the window of all pharmacies. They all sell cold and flu remedies and many other medications that you may need a prescription for in other parts of Europe.

Doctors - The hospital is open 24 hours and treatment is free with your EHC card. If you need a doctor urgently ask at your accommodation - there is a call-out fee of €60. In the case of a serious injury you can call an ambulance on 112 or go straight to the hospital. Be aware that at the hospital you will be required to pay for all medications, bandages, crutches etc. and then claim it back on your insurance.

Insects and other Critters

Mosquitoes can be a problem in the warmer months, especially in the evenings. You can buy a very effective liquid repellent that plugs into power sockets in your room for about €5. Repellent on your ankles will stop you getting bitten under restaurant tables. Scorpions and snakes can be encountered - take care when poking about in obscure places.



Okay, it is possible that you will climb every day, and love every minute of it. On the other hand, you might want a day off to rest sore fingers and aching muscles. A perfectly pleasant day can be had in Masouri between the beach and the bars - or maybe you fancy seeing a bit more of the island as you have travelled so far.

Travel Agent

Kalymnos Travel Group in Masouri - by the 'hole in the wall' cash machine and opposite the big font. Great for organising trips and visits, timetables and tickets. Anything you want to know, just ask. Open May to October: 9:00 to 12:30 and 17:00 to 20:00.



The end of a proper rest day

Beaches and Swimming

Masouri beach with its sun loungers and small beach bars is a pleasant spot to pass some time, but there are several other beaches that are worth a visit. Kantouni (by the parking for Saint Photis) is broad and sandy, whilst the two beaches at the end of the dirt road beyond Emborios are always quiet (photo page 22). They are also shallow, which is great for snorkelling.

The Elena's Village complex, right under the Grande Grotta, has a nice pool which is open to non-residents (as are most hotel pools) - a pleasant place to bob about and burn a bit in the Aegean sun while watching people playing on the rocks.

Caves

There are a couple of easily accessible caves that are worth a look - take a head torch. Skalia Cave, under the left edge of Cave (page 126), has a couple of ladders leading to some nice chambers and formations. Kefalas Cave, on the south coast beyond Vothini, is just a short walk-in to some interesting bits and pieces. In the summer it is open 8:30 to 14:00. In the winter the door is left unlocked.

Museums

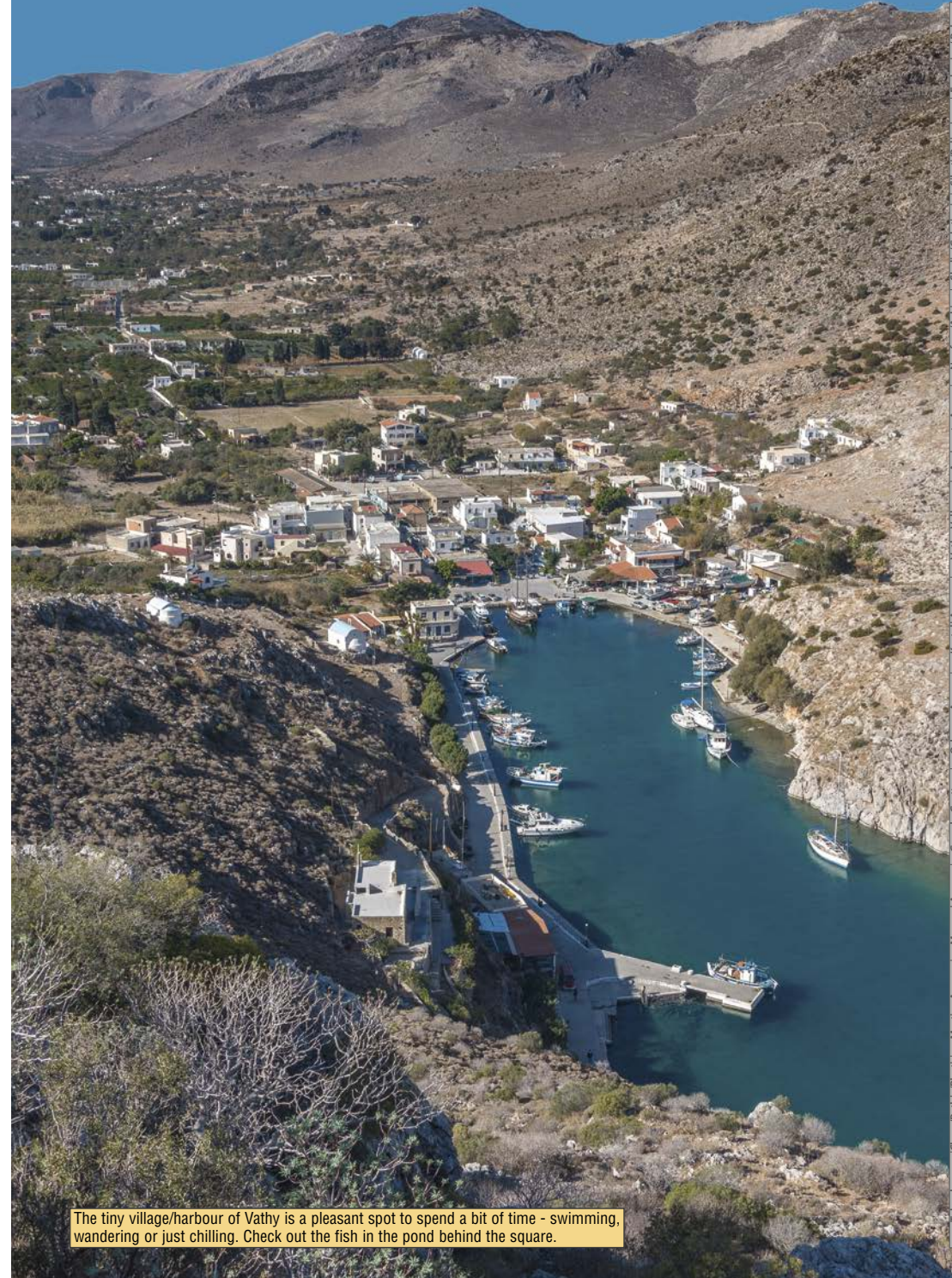
There are a couple of worthwhile museums. **The Archaeological Museum** in Pothia is housed in a 19th-century house. It has a fine collection from prehistoric times up to recent days. **The Navel Museum** is next to the town hall. It exhibits items related to sponge-fishing, photographs, ship models and pieces about traditional life on Kalymnos.

Sponge Factory

Only one sponge factory remains, and it is in Pothia. It open to visitors to explore the history of sponge-fishing, diving methods and how the sponges are prepared for sale.



For a lazy day, try people-watching in Pothia.



The tiny village/harbour of Vathy is a pleasant spot to spend a bit of time - swimming, wandering or just chilling. Check out the fish in the pond behind the square.

Emborios/ Palace
Skalioti/Paloniisos
Skalia/Galalani
Noufaro/Arthi
Argimontia Area
Vathy/Valley
Kasteli Area
Odyssey Area
Grande Grotta
Masouri Area
Myrtles Area
Chora/Pothia/Photis
Telendos

Emborios/ Palace
Skalioti/Paloniisos
Skalia/Galalani
Noufaro/Arthi
Argimontia Area
Vathy/Valley
Kasteli Area
Odyssey Area
Grande Grotta
Masouri Area
Myrtles Area
Chora/Pothia/Photis
Telendos

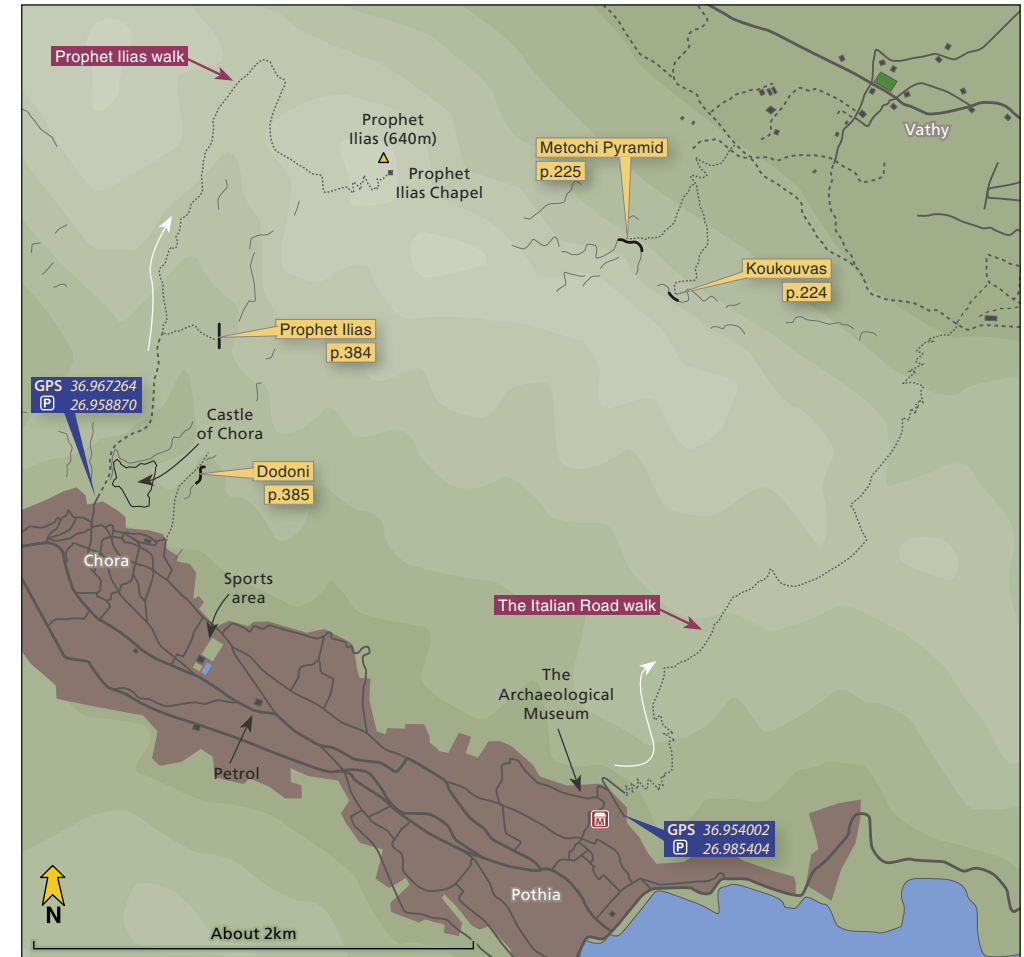
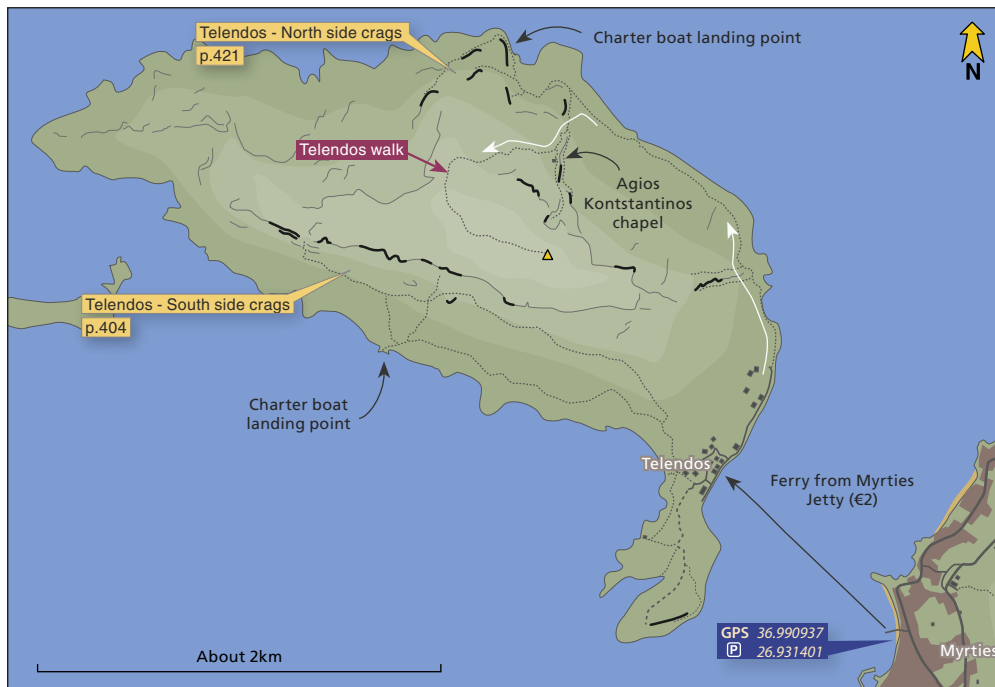
Walks

Much of the terrain on Kalymnos is rough and trackless, though there are some worthwhile walks that take you across some interesting terrain and to out-of-the-way places.

Prophet Ilias - 7.5km, 550m of ascent

The highest point of the island is reached by a well-marked track. On Ilias's Name Day (20th July) many hundreds of people make a pre-dawn ascent to watch the sun rise. From Chora (tricky parking) head for the deep valley to the left of the castle and go up a good track to a small farmstead at its end.

From here, scramble up and then left to reach the side of the valley (not the riverbed), where the path continues to a high col and views down to Vathy. Here the path takes a hard right, loops round the ridge and eventually reaches a small chapel, and just a little higher the substantial building on the summit. Return the same way, or more directly straight down the valley below the small chapel.



The Italian Road - 4.8km (7.3km to Vathy), 350m of ascent

The path was constructed early in the 20th century and, before the motor road was built in 1967, it was the only land link between Vathy and Pothia. The path starts in Pothia, just above the Archeological Museum, and once located you won't get lost. Once in the Vathy Valley, continue down to the harbour with its bars and cafes. A taxi or bus (14:10 and 17:00) will get you back to Pothia. *See photo on page 18.*

Telendos - 8.6km, 420m of ascent

A visit to the top of Kalymnos's near neighbour will get you away from the crowds. Catch the taxi-boat to Telendos and on arrival turn right and head along the seafront. After 2.4km turn left under Miltiadis and zig-zag up to the chapel of Agios Konstantinos and the Byzantine ruins. From here the path deteriorates - head diagonally out to the right then swing round left to access the crest of the island. The summit, with its concrete survey post, is a little further on. Return the same way, being aware of cliffs to both the left and right. Catching the climbers' boat into Irox knocks a couple of kilometres off the walk and makes for an interesting variation.

Kalymnos Climbing

Emborios / Palace | Sikati/Palatinos | Skalia/Galattani | Noularo/Arhi | Arghionta Area | Vathy Valley | Kastell Area | Odyssey Area | Grande Grotta | Masouri Area | Myrtles Area | Chora/Pothia/Photis | Telendos

Emborios / Palace | Sikati/Palatinos | Skalia/Galattani | Noularo/Arhi | Arghionta Area | Vathy Valley | Kastell Area | Odyssey Area | Grande Grotta | Masouri Area | Myrtles Area | Chora/Pothia/Photis | Telendos

Perfect afternoon light catches a climber on *Panselinos* (6b+) - page 321 - at Panorama with the Grande Grotta as a backdrop. Photo: Mike Hutton

Gear

For most of the sport routes in this book you will need around 12 to 18 quickdraws and a single rope. There are some very long pitches and extensions where you may need many more quickdraws so take care to equip yourself properly.

Ropes - A 70m single rope is advised and an 80m is an even better option. A 60m rope may get you up and down many of the routes but it is much safer to use a longer rope, and there are a lot of pitches across the grades on Kalymnos that are longer than 30m. The multi-pitch routes can mostly be abseiled on a doubled 80m rope, or two 50m ropes if that is your preference, but check the descent information carefully since there are exceptions.

Other Gear - Beyond these essentials you may find tape useful for bandaging your fingers if the prickly rock starts to take its toll. For multi-pitch routes a small sack with a water bladder, a long-sleeved shirt and a sun hat is a good idea.

Grades

The sport grades for the routes on Kalymnos have been a bit erratic over the years and the place had gained a reputation for 'soft' grading compared with other areas in Europe. This is probably still true to an extent, but things are certainly much better than they used to be. The grades we have in this book have been brought in line with the many votes received on the UKClimbing Logbook system. If you have a strong opinion on the route you have just climbed then go to ukclimbing.com/logbook and register your vote so we can keep improving the information. All the routes in this book are listed there.

Colour Coding

The routes are colour-coded corresponding to a grade band:

Green Spots - Everything at grade 4c and under. Mostly these should be good for beginners and those wanting an easy life.

Orange Spots - 5a to 6a+ inclusive. General ticking routes for those with more experience.

Red Spots - 6b to 7a inclusive. Routes for the very experienced and keen climber.

Black Spots - 7a+ and above. The hard stuff!

Sport Grade	British Trad Grade (for well-protected routes)	UIAA	USA
1	Mod <i>Moderate</i>	I	5.1
2	Diff <i>Difficult</i>	II	5.2
2+			5.3
3a	VDiff <i>Very Difficult</i>	III- III	5.4
3b			5.5
3c	Sev <i>Severe</i>	III+	5.5
4a	HS <i>Hard Severe</i>	IV- IV	5.6
4b		IV+	5.7
4c	VS <i>Very Severe</i>	V- V	5.8
5a			5.9
5b			5.10a
5c			5.10b
6a	E1 5c	VI- VI	5.10c
6a+	E2 5b 6a	VI+	5.10d
6b		VII-	5.11a
6b+	E3 5c 6a	VII	5.11b
6c		VII+	5.11c
6c+	E4 6a 6b	VIII-	5.11d
7a		VIII	5.12a
7a+		VIII+	5.12b
7b	E6 6b 6c	IX-	5.12c
7b+		IX	5.12d
7c		IX+	5.13a
7c+	E7 6c 7a	X-	5.13b
8a		X	5.13c
8a+	E8 6c 7a	X+	5.13d
8b		XI-	5.14a
8b+	E9 7a 7b	XI	5.14b
8c		XI+	5.14c
8c+	E10 7a 7b		5.14d
9a			5.15a
9a+	E11 7a 7b		

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Good Practice

Access on Kalymnos is usually not an issue as the locals are very much in favour of climbers visiting their island. A few simple rules can keep it this way:

- > Park sensibly, following the instructions given in this book.
- > Leave gates on the approach paths the way you find them.
- > Don't leave litter - finger tape, chalk wrappers and cigarette ends are all litter!
- > Please don't defecate at the crag - it REALLY spoils the place. If you really can't avoid going, then bury it and carry your paper out - don't bury the paper, it won't degrade.

Route Lengths and Lowering Off

The photo-topos have approximate heights next to some lower-offs. These are guideline heights only, and it is important to remember that crag bases are not always level and people stand in different places when belaying. Also, many climbers don't even know exactly how long their rope is, having chopped worn sections off the ends in the past. The golden rule is always be on your guard on longer pitches and ALWAYS tie a knot in the end of the rope to prevent dropping a climber when lowering them.

Lower-offs

The vast majority of routes on Kalymnos have a clip-gate anchor rather than the threadable ring found in many areas. This makes lowering off very easy, but it also puts a lot of wear and tear on the clip-gate anchor - amazingly, a €70 lower-off can be virtually worn through in a busy season. To avoid this, always use one or two of your own quickdraws to take the strain when lowering off unless you are the last person. Never top-rope through a lower-off, always use your own quickdraws.

Stalactite Danger

Stand clear of the base of routes which have big tufas and stalactites; these things DO break off from time to time, but usually it requires the help of a climber pulling or stepping on them.

Rescue Team

In the event of an accident, ring the local rescue team by calling 112 and asking for Mountain Rescue. This is coordinated by active climber Claude Idoux with the assistance of several locals and team leader Alexandros Istatko. Tell them exactly where you are and keep your phone on.

kalymnosrescueteam.org

The Rescue Team have assisted in many rescues and depends upon donations from climbers. If you come across one of their orange donation boxes that are dotted around Masouri consider dropping a few Euros in before you, or one of your friends, needs their services.



Andy Nichol森 lowering off his first Kalymnos 7a, and very pleased he is with himself too. *Rien dans la Tête* (7a) - page 102 - at Prophitis Andreas; despite the route name he has definitely got a knot in the end of his rope.

Bolts, Bolters and Bolting

Almost every route in this book is a sport route. Many thousands of bolts protect the climbs on Kalymnos, all placed by dedicated climbers, often at great personal expense. The list of climbers who have equipped routes here is long and prestigious. We have included the names of the developers with each cliff, sometimes the list is long! Any errors or omissions - please let us know.

First Ascents

For selected routes - mainly key hard routes and multi-pitch routes - we have listed the first ascensionist(s) where known. More detailed first ascent information is included online on the UKClimbing.com Logbook listings.

New Routes

If you do put up new routes, please bolt them in the sympathetic Kalymnos style and clean the routes properly, removing loose rock, vegetation and dirt to prevent plants growing back. Report them to the Glaros Bar new routes book so we can include them next time round.

Bolt Funds

There is more than one bolt fund on the island. With this book we will be supporting the bolt fund run from the Glaros Bar and a proportion of the sales of every copy of this guidebook will be donated to help fund local bolting efforts. You can make a donation direct to the Glaros Bolt Fund through the PayPal link on UKBoltFund.org.

Know Your Bolts

A bolt is a bolt? Well yes and no. Some bolts on Kalymnos could be 20 years old, and then there is the additional problem of corrosion in a marine environment. It is worth a quick look at the bolts on a route before you climb it. Look for corrosion, or cracked rock around the hanger. Keep an eye out for the bad batch of Rocklands bolts (see below) where there is differential corrosion between the nut/bolt and hanger. There are still a few of these out there and they are best avoided.



Bruno Fara and his wife Renée Guerin have been new-routing on Kalymnos for many years. Here he is developing Miltiadis on Telendos.



Claude Idoux has put up hundreds and hundreds of routes on Kalymnos.



Corroded Rocklands bolt - DANGEROUS!



Unknown bolt (no brand mark) - quality unknown



Raumer 12mm stainless steel parabolts - good



Raumer stainless steel glue-in bolt - good

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"Thanks! I loved it and will be working on my climbing using all the new information."

"I really enjoyed the week. I wanted to be pushed to my limit and I was."

"It's really like I've discovered climbing again for the first time and I'm currently resetting my targets for things I never would have thought I would be able to climb."

"Thanks for an epic week and for sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm. It's totally changed my approach to sport climbing and I can't wait to put all the stuff I've learnt into practice."



Book online at www.positiveclimbing.com



Simon Rawlinson on *Marci Marc* (7c+) - page 273 - at Odyssey. Photo: Liz Collyer

This is the graded list of Top 50 routes arranged in rough level of difficulty. We say '50' but there are way more than 50 routes included, simply because the quality of climbing is so good!

8c+

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8b

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Vathy Valley
Kastell Area
Odyssey Area
Grande Grotta
Masouri Area
Myrtles Area
Chora/Pothia/Photis
Telendos

Emborios/Palace
Sikati/Palionisos
Skalia/Galatiani
Noufaro/Arhi
Arginonta Area
Vathy Valley
Kastell Area
Odyssey Area
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Myrtles Area
Chora/Pothia/Photis
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Lava <i>Telendos</i>	439
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stelios <i>Masouri Area</i>	329
<input type="checkbox"/>	Damocles is Watching You <i>Skalia Area</i>	101
<input type="checkbox"/>	Komak <i>Arhi Area</i>	153
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mythos <i>Saint Photis</i>	397 390
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monahiki Elia <i>Grande Grotta Area</i>	318
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wild Country <i>Telendos</i>	408
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anna <i>Chora and Pothia Area</i>	378 385
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plouf <i>Arhi Area</i>	149

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6a		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pornokini <i>Arginonta</i>	186
<input type="checkbox"/>	Roufos <i>Kasteli Area</i>	244
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rita <i>Telendos</i>	433
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wings for Life <i>Telendos</i>	410 409
<input type="checkbox"/>	Climbing is the Second Best Feeling <i>Sea Breeze Area</i>	173
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prosciutto and Champagne <i>Gerakios to Trois Ilots</i>	362
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karpouzi <i>Sikati Area</i>	79
<input type="checkbox"/>	Selene Extension 2 <i>Sea Breeze Area</i>	176
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anacreonte <i>Masouri Area</i>	342 343
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stars on Stage <i>Sea Breeze Area</i>	172
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hot Chili <i>Telendos</i>	439
5c		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guillot Corner <i>Emborios Area</i>	46 54
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newcomer <i>Sea Breeze Area</i>	173
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jive <i>Noufaro Area</i>	143
<input type="checkbox"/>	Three Stripes <i>Spartacus Area</i>	304
<input type="checkbox"/>	Phineas <i>Symplegades Area</i>	375
5b		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trip <i>Gerakios to Trois Ilots</i>	359
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corax <i>Pallonisos</i>	92
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jolli <i>Arhi Area</i>	151
5a		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anastasia <i>Telendos</i>	431
4c		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Glaros <i>Sea Breeze Area</i>	174



Tina Kapoor Martinez on *Telendos Star 2* (6a+) - page 440 - at Lambda. Photo: Simon Rawlinson

Emborios / Palace
Sikati/Pallonisos
Skalia/Galatani
Noufaro/Arhi
Arginonta Area
Vathy Valley
Kasteli Area
Odyssey Area
Grande Grotta
Masouri Area
Myrtis Area
Chora/Pothia/Photis
Telendos

Emborios / Palace
Sikati/Pallonisos
Skalia/Galatani
Noufaro/Arhi
Arginonta Area
Vathy Valley
Kasteli Area
Odyssey Area
Grande Grotta
Masouri Area
Myrtis Area
Chora/Pothia/Photis
Telendos

Emborios / Palace	Emborios and Palace	Emborios Area	133	1	66	55	11		15 - 20 min	Lots of sun	Sheltered				As far as you can get from Masouri on two wheels - a varied set of cliffs in a very sunny setting.	46
		Palace Area	44	1	18	15	10		5 - 10 min	Lots of sun	Sheltered				A trio of old-school venues, usually very quiet and also sheltered. Good for north-wind days.	62
		Sikati Area	60	2	18	13	27		20 - 30 min	Not much sun	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Seepage		A pair of very different cliffs - a huge hole in the ground (hard routes) and a shady seaside cliff.	72
		Palionisos	109	3	30	42	34		15 - 30 min	Sun and shade	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Seepage		Three sharp and sunny crags above a tiny settlement and the popular and shady hard crag of Secret Garden.	80
		Skalia Area	206	8	87	72	39		15 - 30 min	Afternoon	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	A very varied set of cliffs - Ghost Kitchen is very popular, the rest are less so.	96
		Galatiani Area	83	5	25	28	25		5 - 25 min	Afternoon	Windy	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	Several varied walls and caves. The Calcite Cave is worth a look for steep tufa climbing, though the approach is steep.	122
		Noufaro Area	68	2	17	22	27		5 - 30 min	Afternoon	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	Extensive and often quiet, except for the easy routes around the grey slab.	136
		Arhi Area	183	4	69	57	53		5 - 15 min	From mid morning	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	A major venue with a lot of superb climbing on great rock. Very hot in the summer, but popular in the winter.	146
		Sea Breeze Area	132	7	67	53	5		5 - 10 min	From mid morning	Windy			Seepage	Easy access and lots of orange-spot goodies, but generally not too busy. Often breezy.	168
		Arginonta	97	13	37	39	8		4 - 12 min	Afternoon	Sheltered			Seepage	Very popular, with lots of good steep climbing. Many of the routes are getting polished.	180
		Arginonta Skyline	92	5	49	32	6		10 - 45 min	Afternoon	Windy				High on the hill in a great setting - the walk-in keeps the crowds away. An area in development.	192
		Arginonta Valley	61	-	43	15	3		6 - 20 min	Not much sun	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Seepage		Summer shade and super-popular when the weather is hot. A good range of grades but not much very hard.	200
		Summertime Area	87	4	25	24	33		3 - 45 min	Not much sun	Windy	Dry in the rain	Seepage		It's all in the name - shady stuff for the hotter months. Magoulias Wall and Summertime are popular.	208
		Vathy Valley	187	17	69	70	31		3 - 30 min	Morning		Dry in the rain	Seepage		A varied set of cliffs overlooking the fertile Vathy Valley. The long approach drive means they are usually quiet.	222
		Kasteli Area	71	10	54	3	4		5 - 10 min	Afternoon	Sheltered				A couple of popular crags close to the sea - one sunny and soapy, one shady and sharp.	242
		North Cape Area	82	6	49	13	14		2 - 30 min	Afternoon	Windy		Seepage		A few mediocre crags, though North Cape itself is excellent. Generally fairly quiet.	252
		Odyssey Area	114	12	33	24	45		8 - 20 min	Afternoon	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	The first of the really popular crags. Gets shade until mid-afternoon. Many of the classics are polished.	266
		Olympic Wall Area	59	2	10	27	20		35 min	Afternoon	Windy	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	Set high above it all - a long approach keeps the crowds away. Some great routes and amazing views.	278
		Iliada Area	83	1	32	33	17		12 - 20 min	Afternoon	Windy		Seepage		An excellent crag with a great array of routes across the grades.	286
		Spartacus Area	112	6	21	34	51		20 - 45 min	Evening	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	Ever-popular with a fine set of climbs, many in the higher grades, but some easier ones too. Can get very busy here.	300
		Grande Grotta Area	80	1	6	31	42		15 - 17 min	Afternoon	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage		The crucible. Some amazing tufa escapades in the cave and on the leaning walls to the right. Popular and polished.	314
		Masouri Area	200	3	48	90	59		20 min	Afternoon	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	A few rather neglected walls plus the ever-popular Poets, all within an easy walk of much of the accommodation.	326
		Gerakios to Trois Ilots	106	1	59	34	12		15 - 30 min	Afternoon	Windy	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	A sprawling hillside with the best bits developed into a great set of routes - plenty for everyone.	350
		Symplegades Area	86	4	35	38	9		12 - 25 min	Sun and shade	Windy	Dry in the rain	Seepage		A breezy canyon which is often busy, and some quieter walls away to the left. Good for escaping the crowds.	368
		Chora and Pothia Area	59	-	14	21	24		10 - 50 min	Afternoon	Sheltered	Dry in the rain			A series of isolated crags around the main town. Dodoni is popular, the rest less so.	380
		Saint Photis	95	-	24	38	33		15 - 35 min	Afternoon	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Seepage		Out towards the southwest tip of the island. Monastery sees a few visitors, the other cliffs tend to be quiet.	388
		Telendos	334	14	109	125	86		2 - 100 min	Sun and shade	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	A visit to Telendos is a must. Choose from the long classics on the South Face or one of the shady north side cliffs.	400
		TOTALS	3023	131	1110	1046	729									