

SECTION 4

INIA/ DROUSHIA AND APHRODITE'S ROCK

Introduction

Amazingly, this area appears to have been largely overlooked in the past and is not mentioned in any guidebooks before 1993. It offers superb climbing in spectacular and beautiful settings and is a must, especially for the sceptic who has heard that climbing in Cyprus is disappointing.

The Akrotiri Mountaineering Club diaries mention several trips to this area in the 1980s and in 1987 two routes were put up on Eagle Rock, one on the north face, and one on the west face described as a 'heavily bramble infested crack'. No further details on these routes seems to have been provided, though pegs on 'Reach for the Sky' would suggest that more were attempted. All routes described in this guide are presumed to be first ascents, the majority recorded here being the result of much hard work by Brian Kirkpatrick and friends from early 1991 to October 1993.

Care is needed with some occasional brittle rock, although the majority, which is very compact, is very sound. The various crags are scattered over quite a large area and there is still plenty of scope for new routes. The vast array of outcrops can be confusing at first visit and careful map reading is required if time is not to be wasted. The key reference point is the big aerial a few km west of INIA. The crags near Drousha Height's Hotel, although promising from a distance, are disappointing when viewed close up.

All routes are lead ascents unless otherwise specified.

The Boulder and Surrounding Crags

The bouldering at Droushia is infinite, with hundreds of rocks stewn over the entire area. The Boulder marked on the plan view map is just one of many. However, because it is situated only 10m from the parking lay-by that 'end of a good day pump' is close at hand and it also makes a good reference point.

From the small lay-by behind the 'Boulder' looking back down the track to Droushia, one can not miss the 10m high 'Roadside' crag with a large roof approximately 30m away. This is known as 'The Little Roof' and sports 2 routes.

THE LITTLE ROOF

1. **THE IMPOSTER** E2 5c 10m P Ryan Oct 95

Start at the left-hand end of the Roadside face. Stepping off the prominent boulder, climb up and rightwards via flakes until under the roof. Move left onto the corner and pull through the roof to exit rightwards.

2. **THE RUNAWAY TRAIN** VS 10m P Ryan Oct 95

Start at the right-hand end of the Roadside face, just left of the bush. Climb directly up and over the initial bulge. Trend up and leftwards until under the right-hand side of the roof. Climb up and over this to belay.

VIKING TOR

Viking Tor's location is best described from the lay-by on the bend in the track, behind the 'Boulder'. From the lay-by walk 20m up the track and then turn right. You should then pick out the unmistakably large rock which looks like an owl. This, in fact, is the rear view of Viking Tor's right outcrop.

Left Outcrop

1. **MISTER MELONEY** E1 5b 20m P Ryan Sep 95

Starts at the left side of the west face. From the scoop, climb up over the bulge and move out left. Climb up for a few metres, then move out rightwards onto the face. Continue up rightwards until the large flake is gained and follow this to the top.

Right Outcrop

2. **SIEVE HEAD** HVS 5a 20m P Ryan Sep 95

Starts on the left-hand side of the west face, below a broken roof. Climb the corner on sparse protection up to the roof. Move rightwards then climb through the roof via the main fault, establishing oneself on the ledge above. Continue up and leftwards following a line of flake and small ledges around the corner. Step up to belay.

AERIAL BUTTRESS

1. **FIGHT OR FLIGHT** 60ft E1 5b Brian Kirkpatrick Oct 93

At the right-hand end of the west face a thin crackline gives strenuous climbing which can be well protected with small wired nuts.

2. **WILD MINT** 50ft Severe Ted Atkins 8 Oct 93

Start at the middle of the south face. Climb up a scoop and follow the rightward rising crack to the top.

THE WAVE

This remarkable two tiered crag offers strenuous climbing with its steep lower section. Numerous exits at VD/HS can be made off the upper section. 'Red Skin', 'Custer's Last Stand', 'Last of the Mohicans' and 'Is Good for the Heart' can all be bouldered. A pick-and-mix approach can be taken with all the lines at 'The Wave', giving good sport for a warm sunny evening.

1. **LOVE BUMPS** HS 4b 15m P Longley Nov 95

Start below the right-hand end of a wide horizontal break. Climb past this to reach a small diagonal overhang. Cross this at its middle, directly opposite the upper tier is a vertical overlap. Climb the wall right of this.

2. **LONG BOARD TRAVERSE** HS 4b 20m J Wedderburn Nov 95

Start 3m right of 'Love Bumps'. Climb until level with horizontal break and traverse leftwards to join this. Follow the break to its end and then exit direct. Ascend the upper tier at its left-hand end.

3. **CRICKET BAT** VS 5a 20m J Wedderburn Nov 95

Start from the boulder below the obvious wide scoop. Directly climb a rising rightward line through this. Finish up the left-hand side of the gently leaning slab above.

The following are boulder problems that finish at the top of the lower tier. The continuation of the line falls to the individual, either pick a suitable exit on the upper tier or wall off to the left.

4. **REDSKIN** 5c J Wedderburn Nov 95.
5. **CUSTER'S LAST STAND** 6b P Longley Nov 95.
6. **LAST OF THE MOHICANS** 6a J Wedderburn Nov 95.
7. **IS GOOD FOR THE HEART** 6a P Longley Nov 95.
8. **MOLECULAR PROBE** VS 5a 20m J Wedderburn Nov 95.

At the right-hand end of the bouldering area, is an obvious crack, climb this. Follow the crack in the slab above to the overhang. Rock round to the right and exit above.

9. **CHEESE THIEF** E1 5a 17m P Longley Nov 95.

At the right-hand end of the crag is a long narrow overhang. Climb through this via a wide slanting layback flake. Follow the crack above, past a small fig tree, to a knobbly overhang. Take this direct.

CAT SNAKE CRAG

Cat Snake Crag is definitely the strangest crag at Droushia, with its separate leaning stacks and unusual make up. The crag is seriously underdeveloped and has numerous lines to offer any grade of climber a challenge. Discover for yourself the dark passages and the land that time forgot.

VAMPIRE STACK

1. **VAMPIRE STAIRCASE** E2 5c, 5c 30m P Ryan Oct 95.

(1) Climb the steep pocketed wall to gain the leftwards rising break. Make moves around the corner to gain a large pedestal-like ledge. Belay.

(2) Look Up! The Stairs await you. Ascend and enjoy.

2. **HUMPITY BUMPITY** E3 4b, 6a 30m R Underwood Oct 95.

(1) Start up the left-hand edge of the large flake, from the top of this move left around the corner and diagonally up and leftwards (crossing the 2nd pitch of 'Bumpity') to the opposite corner. Here you will find a ledge not unlike a coffee table, a delightful belay position.

(2) Move left around the corner (again) where you will find a prominent steep crack. Follow this to the top of the stack.

3. **CRASH BANG** HVS 5a 30m P Ryan Oct 95.

(1) Climb the same flake as 'Humpity Bumpity', but this time, take the small crack to the front. From the top of the flake, step leftwards around the corner and along the prominent ledge until the vertical fault is reached. Belay.

(2) Move left to the end of the ledge, then straight up past the horizontal break to finish up the orange lichen covered wall.

BEWARE ☹ There is a small flake in the middle of the orange wall. This important hold seems to be a little rotten. ☹

4. **BUMPITY** D 30m P Ryan Oct 95

(1) Start as for 'Crash Bang' to the same belay.

(2) Climb straight up the fault and crack-lines to the top.

5. **THE THING** Severe 5m P Ryan Aug 95

Just right of the entrance to the passage, is an obvious crack-line. Follow this to the top of the stack.

6. **MANTOVARNI** E1 5c 25m R Underwood Aug 95.

Start 1m left of the right-hand corner, at the foot is a thin hanging-crack. Climb this to the top. Hard to start – tape those tendons! (May need cleaning but still a worthwhile route).

APACHE LOOKOUT