

## SECTION 3

# JAMIESON'S ROCKS

### Introduction

Again, the majority of early documentary work was done by Archie Jeffrey who published a small guide in Jan 1969 with some later work by Bob Lovesey. There have been some significant additions since then and these have made Jamieson's into an excellent crag for all levels of climber. The routes are all concentrated into a small area making it ideal for teaching.

### Description/ Access

Six miles past Aphrodite's Rocks on the way to Paphos turn right (north) just before a bridge below Asprokremmos Dam. Travel about 13 miles passing through the villages of Nikoklia, Mamonía and Ayios Yeoryios. The road passes between the main tower and the Scythe slab about 3 miles past Ayios Yeorgios at Grid 729508. Allow one hour from Episkopi.

The rock is deliciously compact and stable limestone, though the less frequented routes can be lichenous. The area divides into three: the Slab (hidden from the road), the Tower and Scythe Slab (on the right as you approach). One of these is always in the shade and the area between the Slab and Tower forms a friendly amphitheatre. The Slab is delicate and well protected with routes up to HVS and a simple walk-down. There are not so many on the Tower but what is there is challenging. Scythe Slab, once an aid climber's playground, now offers two powerful test pieces and some great bouldering (beware of the traffic though). There is still some scope left for a few new routes at the time of writing.

Descents: from the Slab – by simple walk-down, from the Tower by abseil or by down-climbing 'Corner Route'. Descent from the Scythe boulder is quite tricky and takes a broken corner overlooking the river or else another loose corner on the eastern side with a six-foot jump!

As for camping, the river contains water all year round and the valley makes for a pleasant campsite (despite the croaking of a million frogs). The area is popular with locals during Cypriot holidays, as the litter testifies.

### Conclusion

Very good for progressive instruction and lots to go at for the leader who wants to push the grades.

Routes are described from the left.

## THE SLAB

1. **LADIES' ROUTE** 15m Diff  
Start on the left hand end of the slab. Scramble to top of a large detached block, from here start up crack then branch right onto face and climb to top.
2. **THE NEW LINE** 18m Severe Archie Jeffrey 19 Jul 68  
Start right of small bush at foot of light grey wall half-way between Ladies' Route and Cilla's Groove as on diagram one. Climb direct to top.
3. **CILLA'S GROOVE** 20m HVD  
Start at large crack just left of the centre of the slabs. Follow crack as it traverses left and continue directly up on small holds to top.
4. **HEARTY \*\*** 20m Hard Severe Archie Jeffrey Jul 98  
Climb the obvious thin crack running straight up between Cilla's Groove and Virgin's Climb. A balancey move or two and a step left brings one to a large flake and ledge. From here climb up and over bulge direct to top.
5. **VIRGIN'S CLIMB** 20m Mild Severe Archie Jeffrey Jul 68  
Take the right hand branch of the 'Y' shaped crack which starts Cilla's Groove. Continue up and right until small slab is reached, cross this (crux) and climb directly to top. This climb is more interesting if the bulge at the top is included.
6. **THE TEASER** 18m HVD Slim Hemmings  
Start 6m to the right of Virgin's Climb. Climb series of small flakes up and right to small groove. Step left and ascend bulge to top.
7. **HELLISH \*\*** 20m HVS Archie Jeffrey 17 Jul 68  
Start 4m to the right of 'The Teaser' and climb straight up to broken downward pointing flake. Step up and right to within about 3m of Gadget's. From here a very delicate traverse leads left to a small broken corner. This move is the crux and is some way above protection. From here go directly up past small bush on easier ground to top.
8. **GADGET'S VARIATION** 20m Hard Severe Dave Stewart  
From the ledge in the middle of 'Directus' go left up twining crack until it peters out. An awkward mantle shelf move gains the sloping ledge. Easier ground to top. If the thin ramp leading off right from the start of 'Hellish' is used to reach the crack it gives a very good route.
9. **DIRECTUS** 18m Hard Severe Mick Stanton, John Rickard  
The line taken on this route is, as the name implies, a direct line up from the left inside edge of the shallow scoop. The middle part is bare and is the crux. An easy escape can be made into the cracks on the right. A good nut protects the crux.

## THE TOWER

10. **EAGLES UNHINGED \*\*\*** 35m HVS 5b

A great route with an intimidating start and good protection. Begins immediately on the left as you enter the Amphitheatre from the road. Climb the flakes on good holds to an old, loose peg. Make a long, footless reach left at 7m (crux) and move up to a ledge and bush. Traverse left 3m then up a steep ramp to the top. For added excitement take the small overhang just below the top.

11. **RUTHVEN CRACK \*** 25m Hard Severe Archie Jeffrey/ Dick Bond 28 Feb 68

This lies at the North East corner of the Tower, or, with your back to the Slab, on the right side of the Tower. Climb onto the top of a large pointed block, step onto the wall and climb up the corner (awkward at first) then right to top taking one of two cracks which pass either side of a bulge just below the top. Descent is by Corner Route.

12. **CURLY'S CORNER \*** 25m Severe

Start on the right side of the pointed block which also serves as the start of 'Ruthven Crack'. Climb to top of this then continue up right hand edge of wall to top on lovely pockets and ledges.

13. **CORNER ROUTE** 25m Mild V/Diff

This starts further around the northern side of the Tower to the last two. Starts up the large corner crack. From the top of a large pointed block step onto the Tower wall and climb up to a ledge then up to the top.

NB: A number of short routes at VDiff/ Severe have been climbed in this area. Descriptions in previous publications are somewhat confusing and hard to accurately attribute. They are therefore omitted.

14. **BAT ROUTE EAST \*\*** 35m E2 5c/ VS Steve Bostock Mar 93

This excellent route is on the southern face near the road, taking the vertical fault on the right side of the large red patch. The difficulty is low down where there is scant protection. Start 10m in from the road below a smaller reddish patch. Climb up through a couple of large pockets to a delicate mantelshelf below a small, flake behind which it is possible to place a much needed nut. Make a thin and balancey traverse 4m left (crux) and up into the large red patch where the crack begins and protection reappears. Follow the crack to the top on good holds, being wary of sleeping bats!

Trium starts 6m starts left of the red patch and traverses up and right to the start of the crack and then as for Bate Route. First ascent unknown.

### SCYTHE SLAB

15. **THE SIEGFRIED LINE \*\*** 18m E1 5b Steve Bostock Apr 94

A sustained but well protected rising hand traverse, joined by Scythe at halfway. Begin at a small bush at road level (AOKA B graffiti on the left) and follow the crack to a sound peg. Bridge wide to the right to gain the next crack and continue rightwards (peg where Scythe joins). Follow the crack to the top, though it is possible to cut straight up 2m from the end.

16. **SPIROCHAETE** \*\* 20m E2 5cFFA: Brian Kirkpatrick Mar 91  
A 'Z' shaped well hammered crack up the centre of the slab, starting below the road.  
A number of small wires/ micronuts are required. Ascend the crack on small,  
awkward holds to a triangular pocket. From here reach high for the next good hold  
(crux) and then up to join Siegfried.

First Ascent: 'Scythe' A1 V/Diff Mick Stanton, Fred Brown 1967.