

## SECTION 5

# CRAG X

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### Introduction

Though certainly known about by the old RAF MRT this phenomenal piece of rock seems to have been overlooked for the last 20 odd years. Whilst filming a climb session with Cypriot TV Steve Bostock and Rod Duxbury were told by the Presenter of a huge wall of red rock in Episkopi. On further investigation this turned out to be Episkopi – North east of Paphos. Though the main central line and two shorter routes on the left wing have been climbed, this amazing wall and several plum lines await the attention of a true rock athlete.

### Location

Access to this village is not easy. The village is reached either by going into Paphos and following signs North East to Episkopi or, if you have a good 4x4, by leaving the Paphos Road through Ayia Varvara and due north up the riverbed. The former takes 70 minutes from Happy Valley, the latter 50 minutes. Once in this ancient ramshackle town it is quite possible to miss the cliff which lies on the western edge – near the bus stop. If approaching from the river you will get a good early view, but coming from Paphos it is hidden below you. The roads defy description!

### Description

Cyprus' own Malham! This limestone wall is 60m high and over 100m long, with most of it just beyond the vertical. Park either in the large car park or else on the road at the top (quite narrow). The main central lines are well polished by roosting pigeons and during the hunting season the locals take pot shots at them from the top, spraying innocent climbers. On the left the wall falls away to a secluded bay. On the right the face becomes more broken and looks uninvitingly loose from the road.

Routes are described from the extreme left.

1. **IT'S NOT THE SIZE THAT COUNTS** 10m VS 4c Steve Bostock Nov 94  
This takes the small buttress immediately next to the road which is crossed by a series of cracks. Climb directly up and over a bulge (awkward mantelshelf – crux). Move straight up to the top.

2. **DONKEY BUSINESS** 10m VS 4c  
10m in from the road this climbs the slab to the left of the dirty corner crack. Start right of centre and follow two vertical cracks, moving slightly left as they peter out.

3. **COLOSSUS \*\*** 65m E1/A1 (4b, 5b)  
The main line of the wall taking the large inset crack that runs up the centre, past a fig tree, from the large ledge. Take as many big Friends and big bongs as strength allows. Start below a broken corner at the right hand side of the big central ledge.

Climb this (beware rubble) and belay on the ledge beneath the corner. Climb the corner through the fig tree and then up a series of rounded ledges until the corner begins to overhang (crux A1). Surmount this with a strenuous combination of laybacking and jamming. Once over this continue up the crack line on improving holds to the top. Amazing.