

Leonidio & Kyparissi

Leonidio, a gorgeous traditional town in Eastern Peloponnese, has become a major climbing area known for well-bolted single pitches and fully bolted, long multi-pitch routes on excellent limestone. Further south, the beautiful seaside village of Kyparissi now has nearly 400 well-protected routes and unlimited tufas.

This essential guide includes 83 crags (51 in the book + 32 extra in the app) with nearly 2500 sport routes for all levels. Developments up to December 2020 are featured, including new crags Geraki Wave, Loupas, Theatro, Yellow Eyes, and Arcadia.

Bonus: Also included are the new crags at Agios Petros and Agios Andreas, two picturesque villages north of Leonidio with perfect rock and unspoilt nature.

This guidebook was made possible by the warm collaboration with the people and municipality of South Kynouria and the Leonidio Association of Local Businesses.

Official guidebook  
of the South Kynouria municipality  
and definitive climbing guide of  
Leonidio and Kyparissi.

climbgreece



To learn more about climbing in Leonidio and Kyparissi, visit [climbgreece.com](http://climbgreece.com) and [climbingleonidio.com](http://climbingleonidio.com)

Made in Greece

Features

- Crag Planner to help you work out your climbing itinerary
- Large, clear, accurate photo-topos
- Ample drone photos for easy wayfinding
- GPS coordinates for each sector
- User-friendly layout and info about shade, orientation, kid-friendliness, equippers, and essential gear for each crag
- Route star ratings and descriptions that are concise yet informative
- Hundreds of full-color action photos
- Stories about local life, history, and people

Free app

Download the free digital version of this guidebook by Vertical-Life. The app includes all crags in the print edition plus additional “app-only” crags.  
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# Leonidio

“I’ve not been to every sport climbing destination in Europe,  
but it would be fair to say that it’s hard to imagine anywhere better”

— *Graham Hoey, guidebook writer*

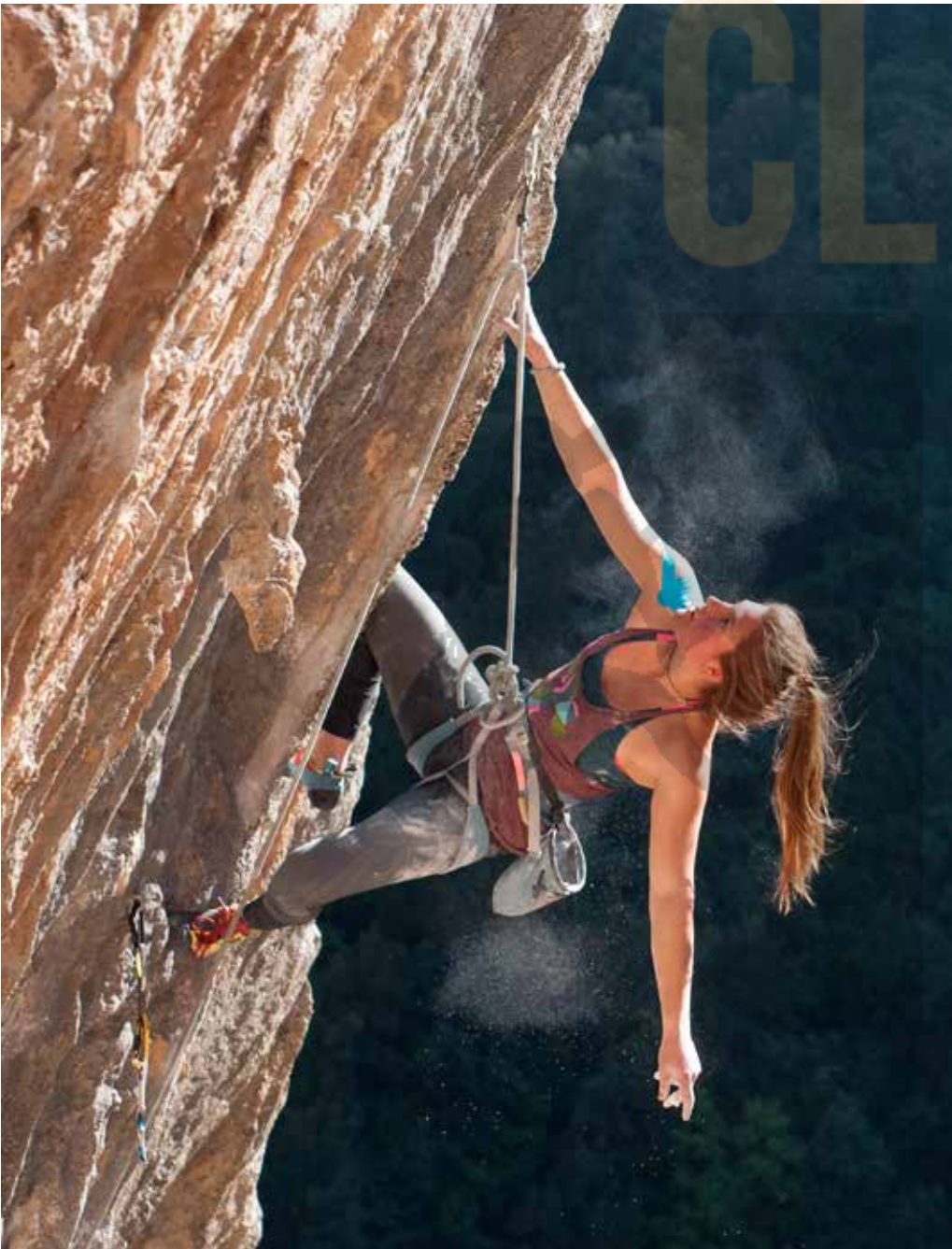
A view of Leonidio town, the  
Kokkinóvrachos cliff, and Dafnon Valley  
from east to west. Photo: Sam Bié





# Liméri

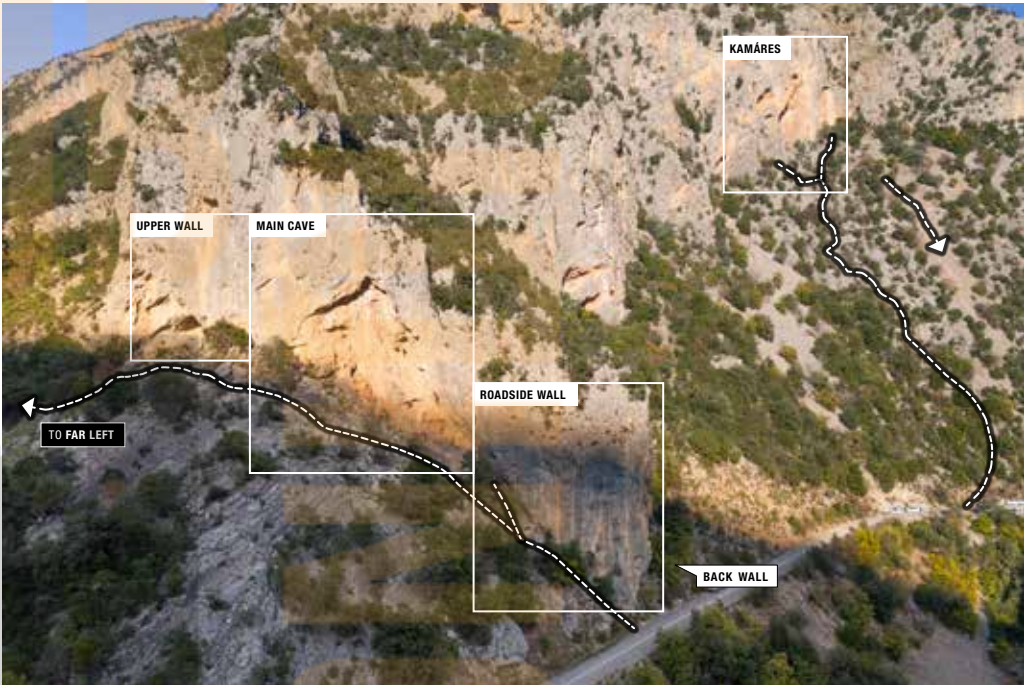
GPS	37.141794, 22.77577	ROUTES / GRADES	0 • up to 5c+	2 • 6a to 6b+	16 • 6c to 7a+	22 • 7b and up
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◀ Opposite

"Florence Grünwald striking her best cover girl while queesting up this scenic Greek limestone in Leonidio. The tufas of OAKA I.C. (p. 100) put up a good fight, but Floflo swooped and fired the rig to tick this 7c+!" Photo and words: John Shen.

Nikos Danilidis



**Liméri**, a “hideout” practically next to the road, is perfect for hard sport climbs but easy, short walk-ins.

**Climbing**

Good variety and some outstanding classic 7c/8a tufa routes. There is a very short overhanging zone (Far Left), a small cave and wall (Upper Wall), a cave and brown/red 30° overhang with small tufas and pockets (Main Cave), and a very smooth technical wall on the right (Roadside Wall). On the back of Roadside Wall are two more routes just above the road (Back Wall). With 40 routes at this writing, Liméri is very worthwhile for wonderful lines from 6c+ to 8c. Bolting of the hard lines is quite good, but the easier lines are sometimes poorly bolted (6c+ to 7a+). Most routes were bolted for the AOS Project between 2014–2018.

**Gear**

A single 70m rope + 16 QDs.

**Conditions**

Good for spring and autumn mornings, or all day in winter (if tufas are dry). When rain is forecast, there are well-protected sections in the cave, and if you have to run back to your car, you can do so in an instant.

**Kids**

So-so. The terrain below the cliffs is tight and steep.

**Shade (Exposure: W)**

Until 12:30.

**Approach (Walking time: 1–3 minutes)**

From Leonidio, drive in the direction of Kosmas village. About 10km from Leonidio, you will see a wooden signpost to the sector on the right-hand side (37.141794, 22.77577). If there’s room, it is better to park 50m before the crag, or best 300m further up, at a parking area with a view to the monastery.



09  
**Liméri**  
Main Cave

SHADE | Until 12:30



Said Belhaj on PARAPLANISI 7c+  
(p. 103). Photo: Periklis Ripis

- 18

**LIGO AP'OLA**  
A powerful roof sequence, a rest, and an upper part on a tricky and sharp groove. Harder for shorter climbers, with the crux bolt poorly placed. AOS 2014

1★ 7b+ 22m
- 19

**COFFEE WAY**  
The steep groove at the center of the cave with a long roof at the upper part. AOS 2014

2★ 8a+ 30m
- 20

**MAMA AFRICA**  
A long line mostly on tufas with one tricky but workable crux. AOS 2014

3★ 8a 35m
- 21

**ACROVATIS**  
A powerful, reachy finale, and many good rests. Sustained and harder for the short. AOS 2014

3★ 7c 30m
- 22

**EDU EL "RECIO"**  
Excellent, pumpy climbing to a technical, mentally demanding crux in the sky. J de Adequera 2017

3★ 7c+ 30m

- 23

**TO FTHINO MANAVIKO**  
Nice varied climbing with a boulder problem in the middle and a very sustained upper part. AOS 2014

2★ 8a+ 25m
- 24

**GOOFY**  
A hard transition from one route to the other, with two cruxes on tiny tufas with tricky toehooks and kneebars, and a power endurance finish. AOS 2014, J Andreas 2017

3★ 8c 25m
- 25

**SUPER GOOFY**  
Project. AOS 2014

3★ 8c+? 25m
- 26

**OAKA I.C.**  
A sustained, stunning line with tufas and good holds leads to a fun rockover on the lip and a slabby finish. AOS 2014

♪ 7c+ 22m

Nikos Damilidis







- 32 NIA VARDALOS** 3★ 6b 36m  
 Belay from the ledge, not the ground, for this and the next 3 routes. Access from the right (short via ferrata steps) and traverse left (fixed ropes) to a small ledge. Belay there. This route goes over a bulge and up orange rock left of the narrow hole and headwall with horizontal features. Remy 2016
- 33 A ROCK FILI** 3★ 6b+ 34m  
 A beautiful line up nice orange rock. Remy 2016
- 34 TAKOUNIA** 3★ 6c+ 34m  
 A cool tufa part, then easier endurance. Remy 2016
- 35 FYSITIRAS** 3★ 7b+ 32m  
 Athletic, on a nice single tufa and a very technical upper part. A Theodoropoulos, G Kopalides, Y Torelli 2017
- 36 OCHI 4E REICH** 2★ 6a 25m  
 Low-angle rock and a large crack. Remy 2016

- 37 MARNERIS** 2★ 5c 25m  
 Easy, vegetated, then short and slabby. Remy 2016
- 38 KOSMOS** 2★ 5c 25m  
 A steep slab with plenty of good holds. Remy 2016
- 39 PLAKA** 3★ 6a 25m  
 On the right of the crack. It also serves as Pitch 1 of VOIE HELONAS (p. 216). Remy 2016
- 40 TSITOS** 3★ 6a 25m  
 A bit steeper on pockets and good cracks. Remy 2016
- 41 BABIS** 2★ 5c 30m  
 This route and the next both start from the ground at the base of the cliff. A steady climb, on good holds. Remy 2016
- 42 I DON'T WANT TO GROW UP** 2★ 5c+ 30m  
 Vegetated, but good pockets and cracks. Remy 2016

## The Remy brothers

A lifelong affair with rock (& roll)

The Remy brothers, Claude and Yves, began climbing with ropes in 1964 following their father, Marcel Remy. They opened their first new routes a few years later, in 1970, and have never missed a year since. Starting in the French-Swiss Alps, their stomping grounds soon extended to Verdon and other French crags, the granite of Grimsel and Furka, the limestone of Wenden or Sanetsch, the sandstone of Wadi Rum, and, later, to many walls all over Europe that were unknown until the brothers discovered them.

The duo's love affair with Greece, which began two decades ago, has resulted in countless quality routes bearing their stamp (and, often, a name inspired by one of their heavy metal heroes), particularly in Kalymnos and Leonidio, but also in Kyparissi, Nafplio, Zobolo, Varasova, and Ikaria. The Remy routes have seen thousands of ascents by climbers young and old, novice and experienced.

2020, the half-century mark since they started opening routes, found the Remy family still climbing—including their dad, Marcel, at 97 years young!



Andreas Kubin



Claude Remy archive



## Kokkinóvrachos Multi-Pitches

### Routes 15–18

SHADE | Never

#### 15 **URA KA** 3★ 6c+ 185m

5 pitches, 6b obligatory, about 90 bolts.  
 Gear: A single 100m rope (or 2 x 50m ropes); 18 QDs; helmets.  
 Five very homogeneous pitches, and a great finale!  
 Pitch 1 (6b 35m): Grey wall climbing, lots of holds.  
 Pitch 2 (6c+ 40m): Go right, then straight up.  
 Pitch 3 (6c+ 40m): Traverse right, then straight up, then left (rope drag).  
 Pitch 4 (6c 30m): Cross to the right (close to the route RAMISI ROCK) then up and left.  
 Pitch 5 (6b+ 40m): Overhang, big holds to the top.  
 C + Y Remy, M Noverraz, C Simeon 2015

#### 16 **RAMISI ROCK** 3★ 7a 180m

6 pitches, about 100 bolts. The first sport multi-pitch on this face. Gear: A single 100m rope (or 2 x 50m ropes); 15 QDs; helmets.  
 Pitch 1 (6b 40m): Up and slightly left on a black/grey wall with lots of holds. Anchor on a ledge.  
 Pitch 2 (7a [6c 2pa] 35m): A rightward traverse, a technical crux, then straight up.  
 Pitch 3 (6c 30m): Starts hard, then zigzags up to a short bulge.  
 Pitch 4 (6b+ 40m): Gorgeous finale on a vertical wall with nice holds.  
 Pitch 5 (6c 25m): A rightward traverse over the pillar, then a slab.  
 Pitch 6 (6c 40m): A small fingery corner leads to slab climbing to the top. Anchor on the ridge.  
 C + Y Remy, C Simeon 2013

#### 17 **OPEN GATE** 2★ 7a 172m

5 pitches. Starts very close to MIRA. Homogeneous climbing with great sections on vertical walls.  
 Pitch 1 (6b 32m): A grey wall to big yellow holes.  
 Pitch 2 (7a [6c 1pa] 35m): Short crux near the end.  
 Pitch 3 (6b+ 35m): Ledge and wall, ledge again.  
 Pitch 4 (6c 30m): Up a wall, move a bit to the right, then up to the ledge at the last wall.  
 Pitch 5 (6c 40m): A steep wall with not-obvious moves, and an easier finish to the ridge.  
 Remy 2018

#### 18 **MIRA** 3★ 6b 200m

8 pitches, about 100 bolts. The best-protected and easiest long route here with varied, classic climbing. Return: It is possible to abseil down every belay except R7 (the one after the traverse).  
 Pitch 1 (6a+ 36m): A steep slab and cracks with good holds to a ledge.  
 Pitch 2 (6b 20m): Pass the hard bulge, then diagonally left on somewhat dubious rock, then straight up the corner to the anchor on a ledge.  
 Pitch 3 (6b 20m): Wall to a good ledge, then up to the cave. You can combine P2 and P3 and climb as one pitch (6b+ 40m, 16QDs).  
 Pitch 4 (6b 20m): Steep ramp, hard bulge, ledge.  
 Pitch 5 (6b 15m): Climb a vertical wall to a ledge. You can combine P4 and P5 and climb as one pitch (6b+ 35m, 16QDs).  
 Pitch 6 (6a 36m): A few meters on dubious rock, a short wall, a few more dubious meters, then a very nice red slab to a ledge.  
 From R6 there are three options:  
 Option 1: DEAD LINE 6c+, a direct steep way out on red rock.  
 Option 2: A 6b pillar with good mini holds to the top.  
 Option 3 (shown in yellow): The easy original exit.  
 Pitch 7 (5c 20m): Up, then a long rightward traverse to the pillar.  
 Pitch 8 (5b 20m): Follow the pillar, climb the little roof and crack, then a nice wall.  
 C Remy, Y Metaxotos 2015



Sachi Amma and Aris at the top of Kokkinóvrachos. Photo: Sam Blé





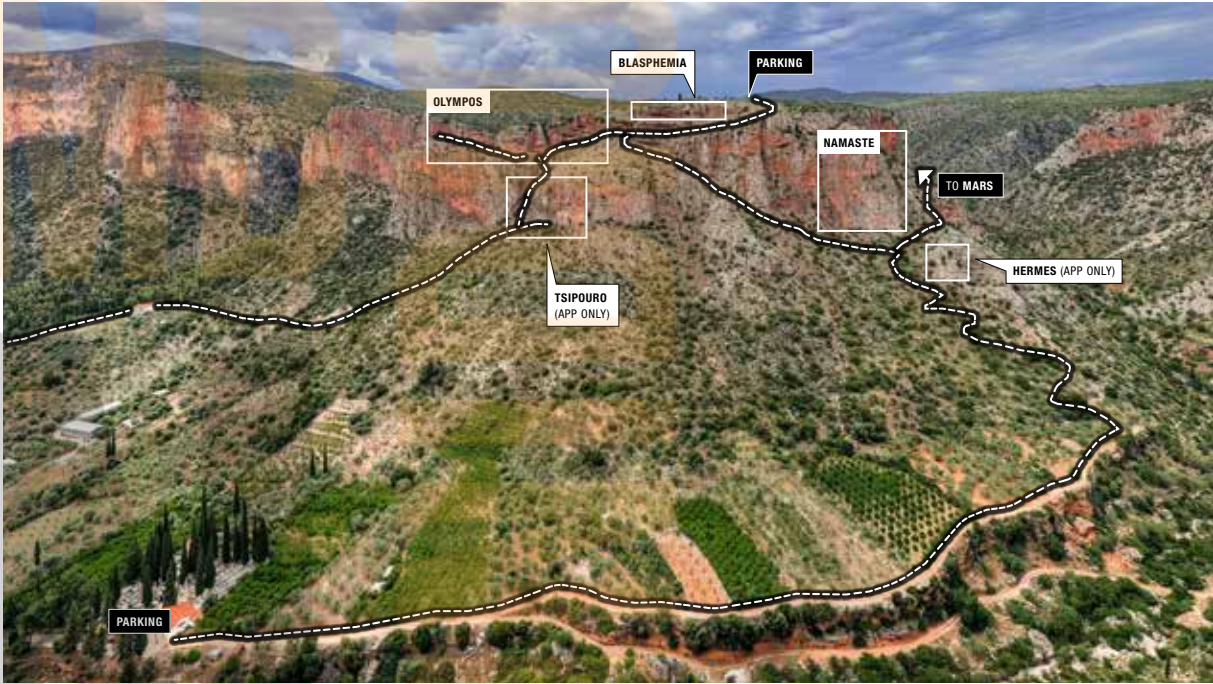
# Mars

GPS	37.169371, 22.870002	ROUTES / GRADES	1 • up to 5c+	12 • 6a to 6b+	25 • 6c to 7a+	27 • 7b and up
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◀ **Opposite**

Svana Bjarnason on the final bulge of CHUCK NOTIS EXT 1 7c (p. 266), a waterfall of stalactites pouring down around her! Higher up, the relief is mellower but the quality is still bombproof, and the rock is decorated with assorted pockets and tufa blobs. Photo: Jim Thornburg



**Mars**—a dream tufa crag! Rising above a narrow, protected natural terrace, the first 20 meters of the fiery limestone face is clad in long stalactites. Higher up, the tufas give way to more compact, pocketed, gently overhanging limestone of outstanding quality, with some scatterings of tufa blobs. Not surprisingly, Mars is one of the most popular crags in Leonidio. Its popularity plus the limited space on the terrace means Mars is quite busy during peak season.

**Climbing**

On the left, 12 easier routes on a very solid grey vertical wall full of pockets (6a+ to 6c+). In the middle, steep and athletic endurance climbing in a tufa jungle, on 28 routes from 6a–8a with grade-defining cruxes. Lots of massive rest points, though, if you know where to look. Notably, this part of Mars offers some outstanding routes on crazy tufa curtains in the 6b–6c range, which is highly unusual for this type of rock.

**Gear**

A single 80m rope + 20 QDs.

**Conditions**

One of the best options for afternoon shade in the Leonidio area. Perfect for spring and autumn afternoons, and for very warm winter days. Despite the shade, summer may be too hot. Mars is a sheltered area, and mornings are quite hot with the sun roasting the cliff. The balcony and first pitches are protected from rainfall, though the extensions are not.

**Shade (Exposure: E)**

After 12:30.

**Kids**

No. There are fixed rope sections, exposed sections on the balcony, and tufas which can always break.



33  
**Jupiter**  
Right

SHADE | All day

- 43

**METALIZER**

3★6c+25m

Varied, interesting climbing all the way, with big moves to finger pockets of all sizes. Remy 2017
- 44

**METALIZER EXT**

♪7b45m

Increasingly harder after the 1st anchor, and for the next four bolts, on one- and two-finger pockets. The hard, fingery moves continue all the way on amazing rock. Remy 2017
- 45

**GREAT GREECE**

2★6c+30m

Thin and slabby with tricky footwork on not-very-good rock. The climbing is still pleasant, though, and sustained until the very end. Remy 2017
- 46

**GREAT GREECE EXT**

3★6c+55m

Solid rock now, and a bit easier, with good finger pockets and jugs (if you can find them!). Remy 2017
- 47

**AUFZUG ZUM OLYMP**

1★6c+30m

Poor rock in parts and spaced bolting. Feels like a mountain trad route. T Schmidt 2017
- 48

**AUFZUG ZUM OLYMP EXT**

2★7b60m

A giant line on solid white rock, but hard to read, and hard to follow at places (left? right?). The intimidating overhanging bulge at the top, though, has good holds. 25 QDs. T Schmidt 2017
- 49

**THE WORLD IS YOURS**

2★7a20m

Different for this sector: very technical and slabby, with a crux on smooth footholds. Remy 2017
- 50

**THE WORLD IS YOURS EXT**

3★7c+45m

Another long one following the massive orange overhanging pillar. Remy 2017
- 51

**TALBAC**

1★6c25m

Some poor, chossy rock with tricky, hard-to-read moves at the bottom. The bolts at the start are slightly off to the right. Attention belayers and climbers: Helmets! Remy 2017
- 52

**TALBAC EXT**

2★7a45m

Nice variety with cracks, good holds, and large holes...except at the crux. Remy 2017
- 53

**NAOS**

2★6c45m

Better and more pleasant than the first pitch. A series of small juggy bulges is followed by balancy corners. Remy 2017

- 54

**ASTIR**

1★6a18m

An easy vertical wall with a short athletic section below the anchor. Remy 2016
- 55

**ASTIR EXT**

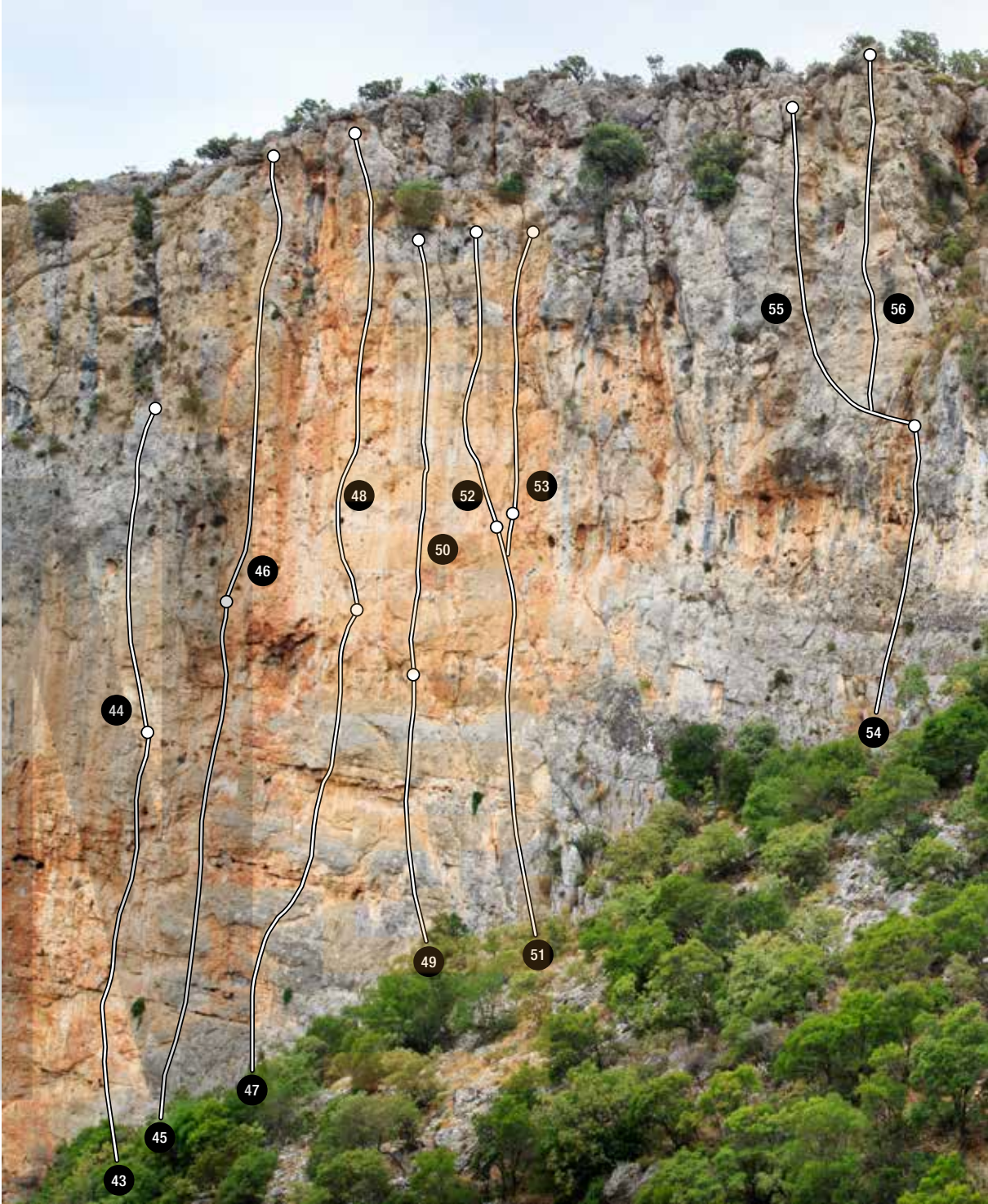
1★6a+45m

After the left traverse, go up the left wall with good holds to the top. Abrasive, dirty, grassy. Remy 2016
- 56

**SOFOS**

1★6b+42m

A rightward extension of ASTIR up the steep, sharp wall. Remy 2017







**Gear**

A single 80m rope + 22 QDs. On the extensions, avoid rope drag by removing some of the quickdraws from beneath you after clipping the bolt in front of you.

**Conditions**

Good for year-round climbing: afternoon climbing in hot months (though it can be stuffy on very hot days with no wind), morning climbing in colder weather.

**Shade (Exposure: NE)**

After 13:30. (The last four routes on the right have shade all day.) For day-long shade, combine Agios Andreas (morning) and Arcadia (afternoon).

**Kids**

Very good, but as always, kids should never be near or under any climbers.

**Approach (Walking time: 5–6 minutes)**

Arcadia is 33km north of Leonidio (172km from Athens). From Leonidio, drive in the direction of Athens for 33km. Exactly 50m before the entrance of CAMPING REPODINA, turn left. A narrow dirt road leads to an olive grove. (Note: There may be a chain that appears to be blocking access to the dirt road, but it is not locked. Unclip it, pass through, and re-clip the chain. We have already discussed this and gotten the “all clear” from the landowner.) Park 100m further, near some boats amidst the trees (37.328840, 22.806754). Please leave space for other cars and don’t park any further on this road, which leads to private land, and it’s hard to turn your car around. From the parking, walk the concrete road for 100m, then follow cairns to the cliff.

**Below**

Route equipping is as much about the people involved as it is about the climbing. Opening new sectors is a grueling job, and drilling the actual bolts is one of the final phases of a laborious process. Teamwork isn’t always easy or simple to achieve, but when it is, everything is so much better. And a dust blower, bottom, performs multiple functions: it cleans the rock from dirt and debris, yes—but also helps with hair styling and hysterical laughter.





40  
**Arcadia**  
Middle

SHADE | After 13:30

- 17

ET IN ARCADIA EGO

3★ 6c 35m

A demanding corner and wall. At the final section, you can use the holes to the right. 2020
- 18

HEDONISTIC NYMPH

3★ 6c 22m

The steep finger pocket slab leads to a cruxy traverse to reach the layback arête. And it's still hard! 2020
- 19

IRENE PAPPAS

3★ 6c 30m

A grey slab with some tufa material to a steep finale on big holes. 2020
- 20

MARIA KALLAS

3★ 7a+ 30m

The technical grey and tufa slab leads to a testing overhanging tufa section. 2020
- 21

BOUBOULINA

♪ 7a 30m

Continuously interesting on almost all colors of rock and all styles of climbing! 2020
- 22

DIVINE COMEDY

3★ 6c 28m

Nicely varied, with a pressing start and upper section. 2020
- 23

DIVINE COMEDY EXT

3★ 7b 40m

An impressive line left of the cave. Big holds, flake, and a big fight to the exit! 2020
- 24

UTOPIA

3★ 6b 20m

Excellent climbing up a shallow corner and juggy flake. 2020
- 25

NEVERLAND

3★ 6b+ 20m

A corner and intriguing steep wall with finger pockets. 2020
- 26

NEVERLAND EXT

♪ 6c 40m

An expo wall with sidepulls to a tremendous transition to reach the top. 2020
- 27

TSAKONIAN DANCE

3★ 6c+ 28m

Crimpy and technical with some long reaches. 2020
- 28

TSAKONIAN DANCE EXT

3★ 6c+ 45m

Easier than the 1st pitch. One committing move (6b) and then a magnificent top-out. 2020
- 29

MINELLI

3★ 6a+ 22m

An elegant compact grey rib with good holds. 2020

- 30

SHANGRI-LA

3★ 5c 20m

A nice corner. Big holds when you need them. 2020
- 31

SHANGRI-LA EXT

♪ 6c 42m

A monstrous pocketed wall with provocative footwork, two cruxes, and a fun bulge. 2020
- 32

HERODES ATTICUS

3★ 6b 20m

A steep edge with good sidepulls and pockets. 2020
- 33

HERODES ATTICUS EXT

♪ 6c 42m

Another gigantic pocketed journey that includes a couple of steeper, cruxy parts with challenging footwork. 2020





# About the area

Below  
Panoramic east-to-west view of  
Kyparissi on an early June evening.



Kyparissi stands in splendid isolation, tucked away on the east coast of the Peloponnese peninsula, south of Leonidio and north of Monemvasia. It is a secluded paradise backed by the craggy mountainsides of the Parnon range and fronted by the impossibly blue Myrtoan Sea. Home to about 400 people, Kyparissi is one of the prettiest villages in Greece, combining mountain and island characteristics: gorgeous traditional homes, well-maintained hiking paths, lush vegetation, a beautiful beach, and the aura of an artists’ retreat.

Despite its small size, Kyparissi has three distinct parts or “neighborhoods.” The upper part is Vrysi (“Fountain”), a cluster of whitewashed homes, narrow alleys, fragrant gardens, and pine, cypress, and fir trees. Below is Paralía (“Beach”) with a distinct Aegean air, majestic old captains’ homes, and a long beach at its feet. Lastly, Mitropoli is just opposite the second, longer beach. Walking up to the cliffs, if you

look across the water you can see the islands of Hydra/Idra and Spetses, as well as the Porto Heli marina on the distant Argolis peninsula. On a very clear day, the view extends to the Cycladic islands of Milos, Sifnos, Serifos, and Kythnos.

### Getting there

- By car from the Athens airport, the drive to Kyparissi takes a little over 4 hours (approx. 300km). From Athens, the quickest way is to drive to Sparta, which is often written as “Sparti” on road signs (2.5 motorway hours). After Sparta, continue east to Kyparissi on mostly narrow roads via the villages of Geraki, Agios Dimitrios, Lambokambos, and Hárakas, before descending down to Kyparissi itself.
- By car from the Kalamata airport, the easiest drive (2 hrs 45 mins) is to go north on the motorway to Gefyra, then head back south to Sparta. From there, follow the directions above. (A more exciting but

- slower drive is the more direct route over the Taygetos mountains, past the crag of Lagada).
- By car from Leonidio, the drive to Kyparissi takes about 1 hr 15 mins (55km). From Leonidio, drive to Tsitalia, then Pyrgoudi. (Alternatively, drive up to Pyrgoudi from Poulithra.) After Pyrgoudi, fork left after 2.5km in the direction of Amygdalia and Pigadi, then down to Fokiano. From Fokiano, continue on the new coastal road that leads to Kyparissi. Note that at this writing (Nov 2020), the section of coastal road from Fokiano to Kyparissi is not yet shown on Google maps! (Incidentally, Fokiano, at 31km north of Kyparissi, is one of the prettiest beaches in the eastern Peloponnese. Note also that roughly midway between Fokiano and Kyparissi, i.e. 16km before you arrive at Kyparissi, you will pass a very large stony roadside plateau. This is the starting point for the paths down to sectors Kápsala and Hideout. These two cliffs are just above the sea and not visible from this point on the road though.)





06  
Babála  
Main (routes 43–49)

SHADE | After 13:00



Below

"The inimitable Philip Larosa dispatching one of many 8a-and-up masterpieces at the Babála crag above Kyparissi... Here he is testing his fitness on CARPE DIEM 8a+ (p. 443). He whipped at the chains yesterday in a total heartbreaker, but he left his draws on in order to get the pure send." Photo and words: Aaron Hjelt

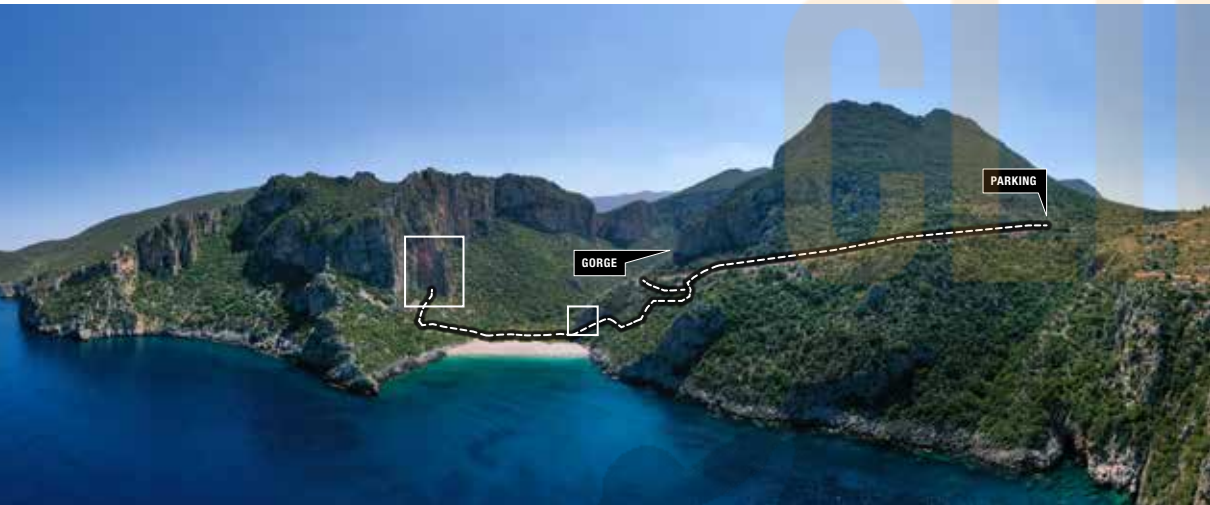


43	<b>GAINING ALTITUDE</b> Tufa and kneebars all the way. Fun, pumpy, and a great introduction to the harder climbs. A Hjelt 2019	3★	7b+	20m
44	<b>NO NAME 44</b> 2016	3★	8a?	28m
45	<b>FLAT ERIC</b> J Andreas	?★	8c+?	38m
46	<b>FATHER OF LIES</b> Steep climbing on great tufa features followed by a wild rodeo ride. Well-bolted. Y Torelli 2015	3★	8a	25m
47	<b>TIRESIAS</b> Excellent, pumpy tufa climbing to a slopery crux followed by a balancy slab. Y Torelli 2015	3★	7c+	25m
48	<b>LEODOKARDOS</b> The nest of all tufa snakes! A fragile start leads you right onto epic tufas. Athletic, with crazy kneebars and pinches, and worth the trip to Kyparissi for this route alone. Y Torelli 2015	♪	7c+	32m
49	<b>TUFA D'FADA</b> A forest of tufas with a lot of kneebars leads to a bouldery section. Y Ghesquiers 2016	♪	8b/8b+	35m



09  
Balogeri

SHADE | Morning / Varies



Approach (Walking time: 20 minutes)

Balogeri is 30km south of Kyparissi. From Kyparissi, drive to Hárakas, then continue to Lampokampos and Richea village. At Richea, turn left following a sign reading “VLYCHADA and BALOGERI” (or MPALOGERI), “8km.” Drive down the narrow, but paved, road for about 5km. Then, the road splits: left to Vlychada, right to Balogeri. Turn right. This soon turns into a smooth dirt road. Drive carefully until you come to a wide turn with a small branch off to the left. Park here (36.841556, 23.050528). The road continues for about 200m, but it is very rough and not suitable for most vehicles.

The beach and cliffs are visible from the parking area. Walk approximately 150m on the bumpy dirt road until you see a red sign on the left directing you down to the beach. (Note: on Google Maps, the beach is called DAMOS.) Walk across the beach and follow blue paint marks and cairns up the path on the other side.

Canyoning at Balogeri Gorge

Balogeri gorge starts a little bit past the village of Richea. It is about 5km long, and it ends at Damos beach. Crossing the gorge is a small adventure. The canyoning is not very hard, between precipitous cliffs,

and a feast for the eyes as you imagine climbing all these potential crags. The entrance to the gorge is about 850m from Richea, on the road to Vlychada. At first the path goes through old farms, then into the bed of the gorge. It is full of big boulders and slippery rock. Scrambling is needed at least 15 times, and there are at least three abseils.

Note that there is no phone reception inside the gorge. Also, if you have not arranged for somebody to pick you up, you will have to return on foot via the uphill road to the village (6,5km).

After climbing or crossing the gorge, jump into the sea, relax your muscles, and feel the salt on your skin. Lay on the hot white pebbles, close your eyes, and consider how lucky we are to be doing what we love in one of the most beautiful corners on earth.

Richea village

The village of Richea (pronounced ree-he-YAH) is one of many small but lively villages in the area, with some cafes, a small taverna, and a few rental accommodations. It is also home to two of the area’s best crags, Vlychada and Balogeri, so give it a chance. Have some coffee or food, admire the old stone homes, or—why not—consider staying here for a few days.

Below

Charlotte Durif crosses over to the mono on her aptly named route MONASTERY EXT 7c (next page). Photo: Josh Larson

Bottom

Charlotte and Josh seeing Balogeri for the first time during their September 2017 visit to Kyparissi.





# Explore!

Greece, the historic land of quaint villages, islands, and blue sea. The cradle of democracy. Famous for its mild climate, healthy Mediterranean diet, and friendly culture.

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