

# Rock Climbing at Hilton Crags

## Acknowledgement

Many thanks to Roger Natrass for permission to use information from his excellent book, "A Climber's Guide to Natal Rock". Corrections, comments and further information, especially about the Serengeti Crag, were obtained from Gavin Raubenheimer.

## New Route Information

Suggestions, new routes and further information may be sent to Gavin Peckham: P O Box 593, Empangeni, 3880; Tel 035 - 792 4543 (A/H); e-mail [gpeckham@pan.uzulu.ac.za](mailto:gpeckham@pan.uzulu.ac.za) .

## Access

The crags are located on the estates of Hilton College, one of South Africa's most prestigious private schools. Access to the crags is conditional upon the goodwill of the Headmaster and the Estate Manager. Any climber who jeopardises access to these excellent crags by his / her behaviour is liable to find themselves on a Mafia hit-list - paid for by other climbers. One of the three crags, Beacon Buttress, is accessed via the school estate, but is actually located just over the boundary in private farmland. The farmer lives way down in the valley below and currently tolerates the activities of climbers.

## Location - [Map](#)

To reach the Hilton crags, take the main N3 toll road from Pietermaritzburg, head north up 'Town Hill', then take the 'Hilton' off-ramp (Exit 94) about 10 km north of PMBurg. Turn right, over the freeway and follow the tar road for about 6 km to Hilton College. To reach Beacon Buttress and Serengeti Crag, take the first turn to the right after entering the main gate and continue along this road for about 3 km, ignoring all side-roads, until it goes downhill and then makes a sharp turn to the left. At this point, Beacon Buttress will be clearly visible about 100m straight ahead. To reach Serengeti Crag, go around the sharp corner and continue for a further 1,4 km . Park on the side of the road (currently at the edge of a wattle plantation) and walk about 50 m straight down the grassy hill to reach the top of the crag - not visible from the road.

To reach the Atom Smasher crag, drive straight on through the main entrance gate and continue until you reach the imposing library building on your left. Immediately after this, take the sharp turn to the left and follow the road that winds down past the staff houses to a gate at the edge of a large cultivated field. Follow the track along the edge of the field, and at the end of the field follow the track around to the left and down the hill. Anyway you go after this, you will end up on a road that contours along the edge of a

wattle plantation on the uphill side, with steep grass on the downhill side. Park anywhere along here, where you can get off the road and walk downhill to the top of the crags, which are not visible from the road. Walk up and down along the top of the crag with these RDs in your hand until you can identify some landmark - good luck - it is far easier to get a local to show you around on your first trip !

## Security

There is virtually no security risk in climbing at Hilton. You, your car and your possessions should be completely safe at the edge of the crags. There is good cell phone reception almost everywhere along the crags.

## A General Description of the Crags

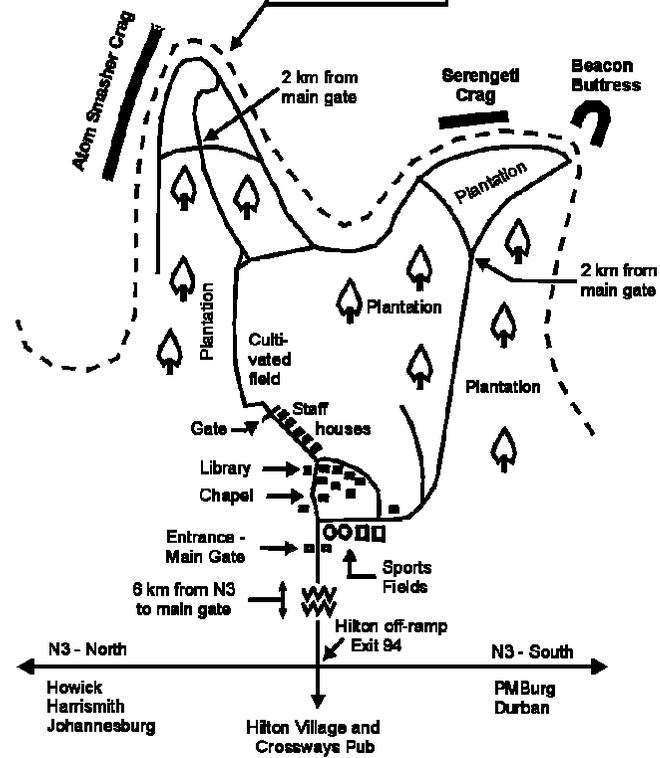
Climbing at Hilton dates back many years with sporadic, unrecorded ascents by various people including the Hilton pupils. However, it was only in 1983 that crag's potential became more widely known and the first routes began to be recorded. The rock at Hilton is sandstone, but belongs to the Vryheid Formation and is thus different from the Natal Series sandstone found at Monteseel, Shongweni and Kloof Gorge. There is currently a total of about 90 routes at Hilton. Most of these are fairly short, averaging between 10 m and 15 m. The climbing is mainly fairly technical face climbing, but there are also a number of cracks, corners and aretes. There is a mixture of sport and trad lines on all three crags. The Serengeti Crag is only recently been 'discovered' and is currently being developed. There is still plenty of potential for new lines on both the other crags.

Beacon Buttress and parts of Serengeti are slightly higher than Atom Smasher. The crags all receive morning shade but come into the sun by late morning. You can really bake here on a hot summer afternoon. Beacon Buttress is somewhat shadier than the other crags and has several overhanging trees to provide shelter. The crags overlook Albert Falls Dam and the Umgeni Valley nature reserve, which provide a really impressive backdrop. There are not many places that you can climb with giraffe etc. wandering around in the valley below.

# Hilton Crags

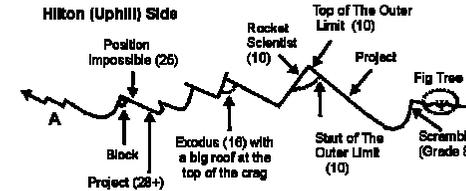
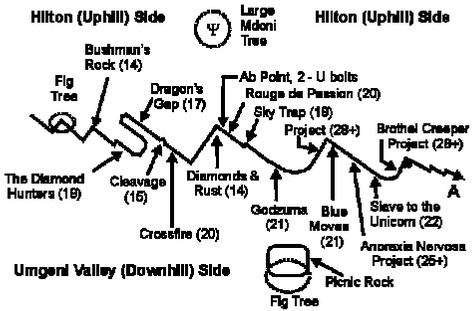
Very basic map - not to scale!  
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Edge of high ground  
From here the land drops away to the  
Umgeni River  
Valley below



# Serengeti Crag : Hilton

Very basic map - not to scale!  
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Umgeni Valley (Downhill) Side

Hilton Crags : Route Descriptions		
<a href="#">(A) Beacon Butress</a>	<a href="#">(B) Serengeti Crag</a>	<a href="#">(C) Atom Smasher Crag</a>

**IMPORTANT NOTE :** The new landowner has refused climbers access to Beacon Butress and Serengeti Crags. You will be trespassing if you attempt to climb at these crags. Climbers still have access to Atom Smasher Crag thanks to the Hilton High School.

**Note:** xD = number of quick draws required for a fully bolted sport route. Take a couple of spares just in case!

## **Beacon Buttress**

For the general location of this crag, see the [Map](#). Park at the small thatched picnic site and walk down to the spur which is bounded by cliff faces on its northern and western sides. The climbs are described from right to left in the sequence that you pass them as you walk in along the base of the crag

### **1. Chris Jackson the Passion Fruit Cocktail (17) \* \***

OP: Adrian Jardin and Steve Bradshaw (1984)

As you approach the crag from the car park, scramble down to the left. Climb the short, right-leaning crack near the start / end of the crag.

### **2. Cunning Stunt (19) \* \* \***

OP: Chris Jackson and Gavin Wood (1984)

Climb the first long crack in the red wall.

### **3. Electric Youth (24) 6D \* \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1990)

This is (currently) the first line of bolts on the long wall to the left of 'Cunning Stunt'. There are a few loose holds and crumbly rock at the start, but nevertheless, this is an excellent route.

### **4. Movement Technician (27) 8D stars ?**

OP: Paul Brouard (1998)

This is (currently) the second line of bolts that you reach on the walk-in. This line is around the corner from and immediately to the left of 'Electric Youth'.

### **5. Who the F... is Chris Jackson? (19) \***

OP: Adrian Jardin and Steve Bradshaw (1984)

Climb the second (middle) crack in the red wall.

### **6. No Rest for the Wicked (24) ?**

Top roped by Gavin Raubenheimer (1998)

Climb the third (overhanging) crack in the red wall.

### **7. French Affair (24) 8D \* \* \* \***

OP: Mark Olver (April 2001)

This is (currently) the third line of bolts that you reach as you walk in. The line is to the left of 'No Rest for the Wicked' and 4 m to the right of 'Wind in the Wires'. Start on two large pockets and then continue up a very shallow corner passing 6 bolts on the way to the anchors at the top of the crag.

### **8. Wind in the Wires (21) \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1989)

Start on the small ledge to the right of 'Monkey in your Soul'. Climb the open book, moving left at the top onto a triangular ledge.

**The following routes are all located in 'the amphitheatre' enclosed by a left-facing corner on the right ('Exsabishun' and 'Monkey in Your Soul') and a right-facing corner on the left ('Embers of Dusk' and 'Scratching the Air').**

### **9. The Exsabishun (24) 4D \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1993)

Climb the line of bolts just left of the arete on the grey, right-facing corner bounding the right-hand side of the amphitheatre. This is a tricky and technical line with no anchors.

### **10. The Monkey in Your Soul (24) 5D \* \* \***

OP: Andrew Russell-Boulton and Ron Uken (1989)

Climb up past three bolts to anchors in the middle of the grey wall about 2 m to the left of 'The Exsabishun'.

### **11. Pumping Velvet (25) 6D \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1988)

Start just left of the corner on the right-hand side of the 'amphitheatre' wall. Start below the first bolt and climb directly up the wall following the thin seam to the obvious crack. Climb the crack and try not to bridge at the top to exit. An easier alternative (23) is to climb the corner on the right until you are able to lean out and clip the second bolt. Move out left onto the face at this level to gain the base of the crack which is then followed to the top.

**12. The Blade Makers (28) 6D \* \* \* \***

OP: Roger Natrass (1993)

Climb the smooth face 3 m to the left of 'Pumping Velvet'. Start directly below the first bolt. Berserkly powerful and continuous sequences take you to a shake out below the final bolt. Long pulls on micro edges complete this excellent exercise in technical face climbing.

**13. Eldorado (25) 4D \* \* \***

OP: Andy de Klerk (1988)

Start between 'The Blade Makers' and the large crack-line further to the right. Climb the scoop in the face past 4 bolts to the top. There are no anchors and the top section is a bit run out. One of the hand holds is a very large and very loose flake so be careful not to damage yourself or your belayer!

**14. Shaking 'n Moving (16) \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer (1996)

Climb the left-curving off-width crack just to the right of 'Accident Victim'. Hand-swing left onto the double cracks and then finish up the wide, right-hand crack above.

**15. Accident Victim (21) \* \* \***

OP: Steve Bradshaw and Adrian Jardin (1984)

Climb the twin cracks to the right of 'Embers of Dusk' to reach the large curving crack. Move left along this and then up to the top.

**16. Psychofanatic (24) 8D \* \* \* \***

OP: Mark Olver (April 2001)

Climb the line of 6 bolts between 'Accident Victim' and 'Embers of Dusk' to reach the anchors at the top of the crag.

**17. Embers of Dusk (15) \* \* \* \***

OP: Attributed to Chris Jackson and Gavin Wood (1984) but almost certainly first climbed by Roger Davis in 1977.

Climb straight up the crack at the back of the right-facing corner on the left-hand side of the 'amphitheatre'.

**18. Scratching the Air (26) 5D \* \* \* \***

OP: Andy de Klerk (1988)

This short but stunning route climbs the arete to the left of 'Embers of Dusk' and is one of the best lines at Beacon Buttress. Start from the ledge. The first bolt is easy to clip despite appearances.

**19. Penguin in Bondage (29) 8D \* \* \* \***

OP: Greg Streatfield (May 2001)

Climb the line of 6 bolts on the face to the left of 'Scratching the Air' to reach the anchors at the top of the crag.

**20. Wriggle and Moan (16) \***

OP: Gavin Raubinheimer and Mike Maxfield (1993)

Start in the bay, 8 m to the left of 'Scratching the Air'. Layback up the wide crack at the back of the bay. Continue up to the right.

**21. Mojohanna (23) 9D stars ?**

OP: Mark Olver (14 June 2001)

Climb the line of bolts up the face between 'Is Good Is Nice' and 'Wriggle and Moan'.

**22. Is Good Is Nice (16) \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer (1997)

On the left side of the bay there is a slanting chimney formed by a huge flake on the left. Climb the chimney until it is possible to stand on top of the flake. Climb the face and crack above, past a bolt (crux). Despite its appearances, the chimney has adequate protection.

**23. Reptile's Arete (25) 7D \* \* \***

OP: Marcel Viljoen (1994)

This line is located in the second big bay to the left of 'Scratching the Air'. (There is a scramble up / down at the back of this bay.) The route takes the left-hand arete in this bay. Start from a sloping slab 2 m to the right of the arete. Boulder up to the left, then move back onto the face about 5 m up. Finish straight up on thin, sharp holds to reach the chains.

**24. Hooters (21) 7D \* \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer (1998)

This route follows the left-tending line of bolts up the undercut face, just around the corner from 'Reptiles' Arete'. Pull up leftwards to gain a hidden jug on the back of the overhang. Continue up on small holds and pass the flake by moving left.

**The following 6 lines up to 'Mr Pitiful' are all in the third major bay around the corner to the left of the 'amphitheatre'.**

**25. Xenophus Leavus (22) 8D \* \* \* \***

OP: Kevin Tonkin (1994)

Start as for 'White Frogs', around the corner to the left of the undercut face. Climb up, tending right, to reach the arete which is followed to the top. You can use the first bolt on 'White Frogs'. Very technical climbing.

**26. White Frogs (21) 6D \* \* \* \***

OP: Mike Maxfield and Campbell Scott (1993)

The line weaves up the centre of the face between the 'Xenophus Leavus' arete on the right and the 'Ancient of Days' corner-crack on the left. Climb up past 3 bolts to a narrow ledge and then finish up the crack past another bolt to anchors. The bolts are widely spaced.

**27. Ancient of Days (16) \* \* \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Mike Maxfield (1993)

To the left of 'White Frogs' is a long overhanging crack at the back of the bay. Climb the crack easily until halfway up, then layback up the overhang and bridge onto the 'White Frogs' face to exit. The crack is wide at the bottom and there is no gear low down unless you have a # 11 or 12 hex. Gear improves considerably as you climb higher. Easier than it looks.

**28. The Quick and the Dead (26) 7D \* \* \***

OP: Mike Maxfield (1997) - project initially bolted, but not opened by Kevin Tonkin who preemptively named the route 'The Bobbiting'. We feel that the name given by the opening ascensionist has priority.

Start just to the right of the flake-line on the wall directly opposite 'White Frogs'. Climb the right-tending line of 5 bolts and finish up the corner on the right. Steep and run-out.

**29. The Unfinished Story (20) \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp and Egmont Goedeke (1988)

Climb a fist size crack to a small ledge below a huge flake. Layback strenuously up this to the top passing 4 old, rusty bolts - no anchors - supplementary trad gear required

**30. Mr Pitiful (30) 8D \* \* \* \***

OP: Roger Natrass (July 1996)

This is a very technical and continuous line up the imposing and blank face to the left of 'The Unfinished Story'. Don't expect to find any buckets or rests on this nasty little number. Micro thin edges and powerful sequences all the way to the top.

**31. Crater Skater (25) 5D \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp and Ian Manson (1989)

About 20 m around the corner from 'Mr Pitiful' is a face with a large tree at the top. Follow the line of 5 bolts straight up the wall, starting just to the right of the first bolt. The route a long and technical face climb that is well-protected by five recently replaced bolts. Copyright: MCSA-KZN 1998 ©

**32. Between Your Legs (22) 4D \* \* \***

OP: Mike Maxfield and Campbell Scott (1993)

Follows the arete on the right hand side of a grey slab at the end of the crag, about 15 m past 'Crater Skater'. Start in the corner and climb diagonally right to the first bolt then follow the bolts to the top. There are no anchors.

**33. Winky (15) \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Mike Maxfield (1993)

This line takes the off width crack / chimney on the opposite side of the bay to 'Between Your Legs'. Start from a ledge 2 m up from the ground. below a short chimney. Climb up on the outside of the chimney, finishing up a layback.

**34. Wombat (14) \* \* \***

OP: Uncertain - every man and his dog have laid claim to this line.

Climb the fine layback crack just to the left of 'Winky'.

### **35. Vendetta (22) \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1986)

From the car park, walk down the grassy slope towards the crag. Instead of scrambling down to the left, as for the previous routes, scramble down to the right and look for a red face that is capped by a layer of white rock. Start in the middle of the face. Pull through the bulge and climb the thin crack up the middle of the face. Exit above the crack, through the white rock.

### **36. Bedtime Revolution (16) \***

OP: Gerald Camp and Eric Aulfes (1986)

Climb the crack up the white face about 150 m (?) past 'Vendetta'.

## **Serengeti Crag**

Atom Smasher and Beacon Buttress crags were first climbed and developed back in the 1980s. The Serengeti crag has only recently been 'discovered' and immediately attracted a great deal of attention. The crag was apparently so named because it overlooks the spectacular Umgeni Valley Ranch and wildlife may often be observed in the valley below as you are climbing. Unlike the other two Hilton crags, Serengeti has a good concentration of trad routes in the moderate grades. For the general location of this crag, see the [Map](#). To reach Serengeti, drive down to Beacon Buttress and follow the road around the sharp corner to the left. Keep right at the fork and stop in the wattle plantation 1,4 km from Beacon Buttress. Walk about 20m along the firebreak on the downhill side, then head straight downhill for about 50m through the long grass to reach the top of the crag which is not visible from the road. Depending on the extent of recent activity, there is usually a path down through the grass to the top of the crag. The path reaches the top of the crag near 'Crossfire'. Here there are two U-bolts which may be used to abseil to the base of the crag. About 30m downhill and slightly left of this ab point there is a large rock platform under a shady fig tree. This makes a convenient lunch spot and viewing platform for gapers. The bush along the base of the crag has recently been cleared. This makes it possible to reach all the routes by scrambling along the bottom of the crag. There is a scramble up / down near the far right-hand side of the crag. The routes are described from left to right. Get your bearings by having a look at the [sketch](#).

### **1. The Presidential Porcupine (14) \* \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Gavin Peckham (3 June 2001)

This line takes a pleasant open book in clean rock about 60m to the left of 'Crossfire'. The start is marked by a cairn.

### **2. Bushman's Rock (14) \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Denis Gramkow (October 1999)

From the start of 'Crossfire' walk left, around a corner and past the 'Diamond Hunters' face. Carry on and up to a niche at the start of a left-sloping ramp and a crack on the right. Stem up this on clean rock and exit straight up.

### **3. Diamond Hunters (19) 6D \* \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Cesar de Carvalho (20 May 2001)

About 5 m to the right of 'Bushman's Rock' and about 10 m to the left of 'Crossfire' there is a face with a short, off-width crack on its left. Start from a ledge, climb up the crack and then traverse to the right and up to lower-offs. The first bolt is easier to reach than it appears.

### **4. Dragon's Gap (17) \* \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer, Greg Wooding and Gavin Peckham (14 April 2001)

This route is located in the deep recess about 5 m to the left of the 'Crossfire' chute. On the right-hand side of the recess there is a left left-tending crack between a huge flake and the main wall. Climb the crack to the top of the flake and then exit up diagonally to the right. There are belay bolts on top.

### **5. Cleavage (15) \* \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Cesar de Carvalho (20 May 2001)

Climb up through the narrow chute onto the rounded slab above. Finish up left through the overhang.

### **6. Crossfire (20) 8D \* \* \***

OP: OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Lloyd Wroughton-Turner (26 May 2001)

Start as for 'Cleavage', follow the bolts across the face and then finish straight up. The bolts / ab point are just over the lip.

### **7. Left Wall (21) \* \***

OP: Greg Wooding, Mark Misslehorn and Gavin Raubenheimer (14 April 2001)

To the left of 'Diamonds and Rust' there is a steep, narrow face and a chimney. Start with bold moves up the arete on the left of the face and then continue up the centre of the face to the top.

### **8. Diamonds and Rust (14) \* \* \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Denis Gramkow (October 1999)

Around the corner to the right of 'Crossfire' there is a bay with a long face forming its right-hand side. The route takes the superb open book on the left of the face. Bolts / ab point just over the lip.

### **9. Rouge de Passion (20) 8D \* \* \* \***

OP: Mark Olver (13 June 2001)

Climb the face just to the right of 'Diamonds and Rust'. This involves some delicate face climbing.

### **10. Sky Trap (18) \* \* \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Mark Misslehorn (14 April 2001)

Start in the middle of the face about 5 m to the right of 'Diamonds and Rust'. Boulder up to the bolt then continue straight up to the overhang. Move around the overlap and into the crack above. At the second bolt, step left, make a tricky move up through the overlap and finish up diagonally left. The two bolts must be supplemented by trad gear.

### **11. Godzuma (21) \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Cesar de Carvalho (1 July 2001)

Start about 4 m to the right of 'Sky Trap' in a right-facing open book. Climb this and then step left onto a ledge. Make a delicate move past a bolt then continue straight up passing another two bolts. Trad gear is required for the bottom part of the route.

**The lunch block / gaper's viewing platform is about 15 m downhill from this route. About 5 m to the right of 'Godzuma' is another right-facing bay with a large crack up the corner.**

### **12. Project (28+)**

Mark Olver and Greg Streatfield

Up the wall to the left of 'Blue Moves'. Currently there are only lower-offs at the top.

### **13. Blue Moves (21) 8D \* \* \* \***

OP: Greg Streatfield (14 June 2001)

Follow the line of bolts, starting on the left of the big face and just to the right of the large crack. Clean slab climbing with big holds and long reaches.

### **14. Anorexia Nervosa (25+) 7D**

Project : Greg Streatfield. The line up the middle of the face to the right of 'Blue Moves'.

### **15. Slave to the Unicorn (22) 9D \* \* \* \***

OP: Greg Streatfield (June 2001)

Climb the clean slabs on the right-hand side of the 'Blue Moves' face.

### **16. Brothel Creeper (28+)**

Project : Mark Olver. Climb the blunt arete just to the right of 'Slave to the Unicorn'.

### **17. Position Impossible (25) 9D**

OP: Greg Streatfield (July 2001)

About 20 m to the right of Blue Moves' wall there is a right-facing bay with a large corner at the back. Start about 1 m to the right of the crack and climb the steep slab with a sting in the tail.

### **18. Project (28+)**

Greg Streatfield. Up through the roof on the right-hand side of the wall to the right of 'Position Impossible'.

### **19. Exodus (16) \* \* \* \***

OP: Gavin Peckham and Greg Wooding (21 April 2001)

About 10m to the right of 'Position Impossible' there is a huge clean corner with an off-width crack at the back that runs straight up to a roof at the top of the crag. Climb the crack for about 5 m to a narrow ledge on the right-hand face. Step up into the corner and then traverse out across the face on the left to reach the arete. Climb the arete to a slab below the roof. Climb the slab to reach the left-hand edge of the roof and exit using a convenient finger crack. Alternatively, climb straight up the off-width to the slab under

the roof. Climb up diagonally left across the slab towards the left-hand edge of the roof. Exit via the finger crack as before. Very large cams or hexes are useful.

#### **20. Exodus - Right Break (19) \* \* \* \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Cesar de Carvalho - aka the Rotten Route Robbing Rats (1 July 2001)

Climb the off-width to the roof. Traverse out to the right using an undercling and then a thin rail to reach a good rest on the corner. Exit straight up. A psyche line, but easier than it looks and well protected.

#### **21. Rocket Scientist (10) \* \***

OP: Greg Wooding (21 April 2001)

Star about 3 m to the left of 'The Outer Limit' and climb straight up the slab (no gear) to a wedged block at the base of a short vertical wall. From the top of the block, exit straight up the crack above.

#### **22. The Outer Limit (10) \* \***

OP: Gavin Peckham (21 April 2001)

About 20 m to the right of 'Exodus' there is a large clean slab which ends with a vertical face on its right. There is a perfect crack line along the full length of the junction between the slab and the wall. Climb a short, blocky section to reach the slab and then follow the crack to the top. Bomber gear if you feel that you need it.

**Just around the corner to the right of 'The Outer Limit' there is an easy scramble of about grade 8. The top of the scramble is marked by a cairn and a single bolt. This is the only scramble on the crag**

## **Atom Smasher Crag**

For the general location of this crag, see the [Map](#). The routes on this crag are described from left to right.

The routes from 'Suzy Wong' to 'Another Excess' are usually accessed by walking down the spur from the picnic area.

#### **1. Suzy Wong (11) \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1988)

Follow the path down the ridge after passing the rubbish bin. Continue down steeply for about 100 m to a small crag with a pinnacle on its left-hand side. The route takes the short crack to the right of the pinnacle.

#### **2. St. Senor the Hairy Grill (17) \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1988)

Start about 30 m to the right of 'Suzy Wong' and climb the crack splitting the white wall.

#### **3. Dead Dog (18) \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1988)

Start on the corner 15 m to the right of 'St. Senor the Hairy Grill', next to a cactus. Climb up the recess and step left onto a ledge. Move straight up to exit at the crack.

#### **4. Another Excess (22) \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1988)

Just past the rubbish bin is a short, smooth face split by two cracks. Start below the small roof in the middle of the face, and move up diagonally right to gain the crack which is followed to the top.

**The following routes are usually reached by parking about 200 m 'up-stream / up-valley' from the picnic area. There are no obvious landmarks at the top of the crag. Either find a tame local to show you around, or abseil down and then walk along the base of the crag, route guide in hand, until you begin to get your bearings. The Sunset Ledge buttress is probably the easiest feature to locate.**

#### **5. Route of all Evils (19) \* \* \***

OP: Andy de Klerk (1984)

About 30 m to the left of 'Pyschobabble' is a crack splitting a wide face with a roof at the top. Follow the crack to the roof and pull up through the finger layback crack above. A good route.

## **6. Red Tape Escape (25) 2B \* \***

OP: Roger Nattrass (1990)

Start on the left-hand side of the 'Psychobabble' face, 1 m to the left of 'Disintegration'. Climb up and through a small overlap then follow a right-tending seam past two bolts to the top. The moves are crunched and powerful. The second clip is a crux in itself.

## **7. Disintegration (26) 3B \* \* \***

OP: Roger Nattrass (1990)

Climbs the bulge and small comer just to the left of 'Psychobabble' - about 1 m to the right of, and parallel to 'Red Tape Escape'. This is a fierce and continuous line protected by three bolts.

## **8. Pyschobabble (21)**

OP: Chris Leslie-Smith (1984)

About 20 m to the left of Sunset Ledge is a face with the 5 bolts of the previous two routes towards its left-hand side. Climb to the top following the thin crack on the right-hand side of this face.

## **9. The Blasting Concept (24) 3B \* \* \* \***

OP: Roger Nattrass (1989)

There is an orange face with two lines of bolts, about 5 m to the left of Sunset Ledge. Start towards the left-hand side of this face where the rock is slightly undercut and climb up passing 3 bolts. The crux is a lunge above the second bolt.

## **10. Sweet Street (23) 3B \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1989)

On the right-hand side of 'The Blasting Concept' face there is a blunt arete. Climb up just to the left of the arete past three bolts - the third bolt cannot be seen from the ground.

## **11. The Mother Crushers (22) 8D \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1989)

Immediately left of Sunset Ledge and just around the arete to the right of the previous route, there is a grey slab topped by a large block. Start on the red rock, move up right

onto the slab and then climb straight up past 4 bolts to the rail at the base of the large block. Climb the arete on the left of the block past 2 more bolts to reach the chains.

**Sunset Ledge is a prominent balcony bounded by a steep, orange face on the left and a grey face on the right. This is the central 'reference point' for Atom Smasher Crag. There is a short, easy scramble from the ledge to the top of the crag. Several short top-rope problems also lead up from the ledge to the top of the crag.**

## **12. Creatures of the Wall (25) 6D \* \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1988)

Leading up to the left-hand side of Sunset Ledge, there is a steep orange wall. Start towards the left-hand side of this wall and climb straight up past four bolts to the chains.

## **13. Acid Reign (25) 5D \* \* \* \***

OP: Andrew Russell-Boulton (1989)

This superb line starts to the right of 'Creatures of the Wall' then follows three bolts up to chains on Sunset Ledge. The route has become somewhat easier since a flake broke off and produced a good layback edge at the crux.

## **14. Bolts from the Blue (18) 5B \* \* \***

OP: Mark McGlinchey (1986)

This line takes the left-hand side of the grey wall leading up to Sunset Ledge. Start near the corner on the right-hand side of the face and then leeeean, tip-toe or jump out to the left to reach the huge jug. Follow the line of bolts up to the ledge.

## **15. Bolts from the Blue Direct (21) 5B \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1989)

This is just a variation to the start of the previous route. Start at the left-hand edge of the face directly below the line of bolts. Pull through the roof to start and then follow the bolts to the top.

**The following four routes are short top-rope problems off Sunset Ledge up to the top of the crag. To get down onto Sunset Ledge, scramble down between the boulders on top of the buttress to a wormhole that leads out onto the ledge.**

**16. Verbular Concoctions (20) \* \***

OP: Ian Wallace (1984)

This line takes the wall on the right. Climb up to the rail and pull through the small roof to the top.

**17. Empty Spaces (23) \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1989)

Start to the right of 'Verbular Concoctions'. Climb through the scoop and the roof.

**18. Skating On Thin Ice (22) \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1988)

Start on the corner of the grey face, next to the chimney. Climb up the corner on rounded holds to the top without bridging onto the other wall.

**19. Zoot (16) \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1988)

Start on the left edge of the grey face. Climb up the corner using the arete, without trivialising an already contrived affair by stepping left onto the ledge.

**20. The Purple Thread (21) (1B) \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp and Egmont Goedeke (1989)

To the right of 'Bolts from the Blue' there is a big, red corner with a roof at 8m. Start under the roof immediately to the left of 'Arbitrary Assumptions'. Climb the thin crack in the face, moving out onto the left edge wherever it looks most feasible. Climb up onto the small ledge level with Sunset Ledge. After clipping the bolt climb up and around the corner then on up the middle of the face above.

**21. Arbitrary Assumptions (16) \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1986) - possibly first climbed by R Davis in 1977.

Start in the back of the big corner. Climb up to the roof and pull through on the right. Finish up the open book above.

**22. Gravity's Rainbow (29) (7D) \* \* \* \***

OP: Evan Wiercx (1990)

This superb technical line climbs the blank face to the right of 'Arbitrary Assumptions'. Climb the crack to the overlap, then on up the face. The crux is gaining the base of the flake line. Take along your best set of arms and a belayer who is prepared to put up with a great deal of hang-dogging time. There are 5 bolts and anchors at the top of the wall.

**23. Claxtor Fortune (15) \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer and Dirk McIntosh (1986)

Start 5 m to the right of 'Arbitrary Assumptions'. Follow the obvious layback crack, moving left into a cubby-hole. Exit awkwardly. The line is currently quite vegetated at the top.

**The next major reference point is the 'Tears For Fears' area. This is a clean open book capped by a roof about 25 m to the right of Sunset Ledge.**

**24. Steve Bradshaw's Bedtime (13) \* \* \***

OP: Andy de Klerk (1984)

Climb the break above the off-width crack just around the corner to the left of 'Tears for Fears'. Start about 2 m to the left of the off-width crack, almost level with the second bolt. Climb up into a cubby-hole then step to the right on small holds past the bolt to gain the off-width. Continue straight up the off-width to the top.

**25. Steve Bradshaw's Bedtime Direct (17) \* \***

OP: J Davis (1989)

This is a variation of the previous route involving a harder start straight up the off-width crack past two bolts.

**26. Elemental Power (25) (7D) \* \* \* \***

OP: Kevin Tonkin (1993)

Climb the face past five bolts to the right of 'Steve Bradshaw's Bedtime'. Do not move around the arete. Excellent climbing with a powerful start followed by desperate snatches to the top. The chains are difficult to thread from above.

**27. Tears for Fears (21) \* \* \***

OP: Roger Davis (aid) (1977)

Climb the smooth comer capped by a roof. Protection is in the form of small wires and the crux is near the top of the corner. Either finish to the right and around the corner, or move out left and pull through the break in the face. Both exits are about grade 19.

**28. Charlie's Family Housecalls (21) (9D) \* \* \* \***

OP: Marcel Viljoen (1993)

This line takes the face and arete between 'Tears for Fears' and 'Synchronicity'. Technical climbing leads to a powerful crux on sloping holds through a roof at the top.

**29. Synchronicity (21) (3B) \* \* \***

OP: Gerald Camp (1988)

Start around the comer and to the right of 'Tears for Fears'. Pull through the roof and continue up the wall just to the right of the arete past three bolts. Exit left at the top. Some natural gear is needed at the top.

**30. Short, Sharp Shock (24) (1B) \* \***

OP: Fluffy Grandin and Francis Nanni (1989)

About 10 m to the right of 'Tears for Fears' and just before the scramble down, is a short, grey wall. Start below the only bolt, and finish slightly left at the flake. The name says it all.

**Just after 'Short, Sharp Shock' there is an easy scramble which may be used to access the foregoing routes. However, traversing along the base of the crag to the right of the scramble is a real 'bundu bash' and the following routes are best accessed from above. Walk along the top of the crag for about 60 m beyond the scramble to a small, prominent buttress with a bush on top. When standing on the buttress, facing the valley, 'Ring of Thunder' is directly below and 'Minor Misdemeanour' is down the face on the left. Abseil off the bush or off the chains on 'Minor Misdemeanour' - awkward. There is also a tricky scramble on the other side of the bush.**

**31. Ring of Thunder (24) (3B) \* \* \* \***

OP: Evan Wiercx (1987)

Takes a line up the impressive orange face about 150 m to the right of the scramble. The large tree stump at the top of the crag that was usually used as a reference point has largely rotted away and is difficult to spot in the long grass. Start below the first bolt. Climb up the middle of the face to a third bolt, move slightly right and up to the small roof. Pull directly through this to finish. It is advisable to pre-clip the bolts as the eyes of the hangers are small. The bolts are fairly old and a bit rusty. This excellent route is in serious need of rebolting.

**32. Minor Misdemeanour (22) (7D) \* \* \* \***

OP: Mark McGlinchey (1987)

This route takes a direct line up the white face on the same buttress as 'Ring of Thunder', but on the opposite (upstream) side. Climb up to the rail and exit up the crack, passing 5 bolts along the way. The hangers are difficult to clip.

**33. Australopithecus (15) (1B) \* \* \* \***

OP: Attributed to Dave Robertson and Francis Nanni (1988) but almost certainly first climbed by Roger Davis in 1977.

Start as for 'Minor Misdemeanour'. Climb up diagonally left past the bolt to reach the thin crack which is then followed to the top.

**34. Dark Dog (20) \***

OP: Gavin Raubenheimer (1994)

Start from a small platform about 10m to the right and around the corner from 'Australopithecus'. Pull up into the crack above and continue up the face on pockets.

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