

PROFITIS ELIAS - ASINI

Climbing Guidebook

2021 EDITION

General information

General information, access guide, panoramas and topos

MOLYMPUS



PROFITIS ELIAS ASINI

GREECE

An Olympus Mountaineering

Trad Climbing Guidebook



View towards
Agia Paraskevi

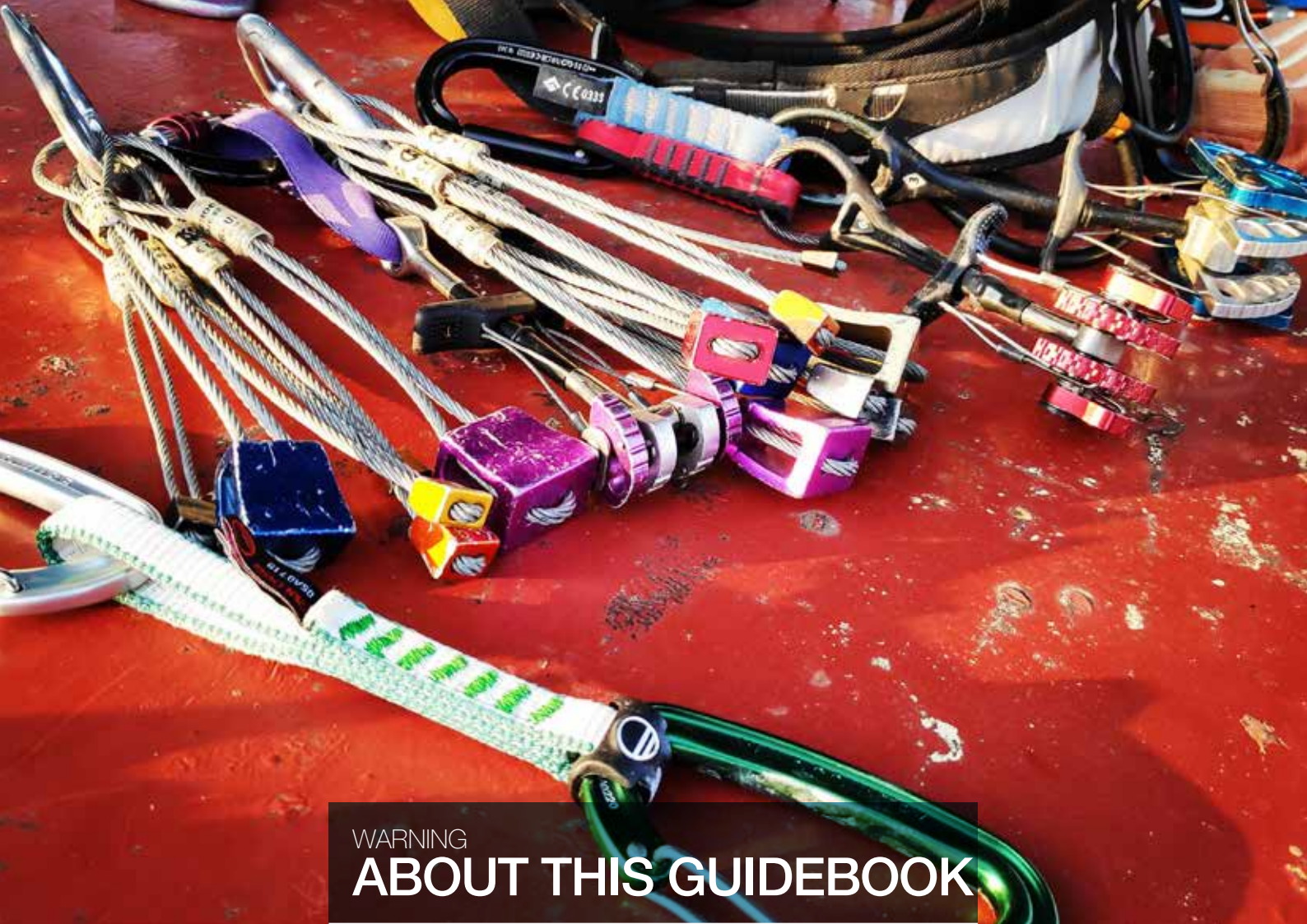
Route: Diaberis Pothos

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TRAD CLIMBING - PROFITIS ELIAS **ARGOLIS**

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WARNING ABOUT THIS GUIDEBOOK

Read before using this guidebook

Warning

This guidebook is a compilation of unverified information gathered from many different climbers.

The author cannot ensure the accuracy of any of the information in this book, including topos and route descriptions, difficulty ratings, and protection ratings.

These may be incorrect or misleading, as ratings of climbing difficulty and risk are always subjective and depend on the physical characteristics (for example, height), experience, technical ability, confidence, and physical fitness of the climber who supplied the rating. Additionally, climbers who achieve first ascents sometimes underrate the difficulty or risk of the climbing route.

Therefore, be warned that you must exercise your own judgment on where a climbing route goes, its difficulty, and your ability to safely protect yourself

from the risks of rock climbing. Examples of some of these risks are: falling due to technical difficulty or due to natural hazards such as holds breaking, falling rock, climbing equipment dropped by other climbers, adverse weather conditions, failure of your own equipment, and failure or absence of fixed protection.

Here are some ways to use this guidebook more safely.

1. Consultation: You should always consult with other climbers about the difficulty and risks of a particular route before attempting it. Most local climbers are glad to provide advice on routes in their area; we suggest that you contact locals to confirm ratings and safety of particular routes and to obtain first-hand information about the route of your choice.

2. Instruction: Most climbing areas have local climbing instructors and guides available. We recommend that you engage an instructor or guide to learn safety techniques and to become familiar with the routes and hazards of the areas described in this book. Even if you are already proficient in climbing safely, occasionally hiring a guide is a safe way to raise your climbing standard and learn advanced techniques.

3. Fixed Protection: Some of the routes in this book may use fixed bolts and pitons that have been pre-placed on the rock. Because of vari-

ances in the manner of placement, weathering, metal fatigue, the quality of the metal used, and many other factors, these fixed protection pieces should always be sceptically considered and should be backed up when possible by your own gear.

Never depend on a single piece of fixed protection for your safety, because you can never tell whether it will single-handedly hold weight. In some cases, fixed protection may have been removed or is now missing.

However, climbers should avoid adding new pieces of fixed protection, unless they deem the pre-placed protection faulty and are looking to replace it. Existing protection can be tested by an experienced climber, to determine its strength. The ethics of climbing also strongly discourage adding bolts or drilled pitons to a pre-existing route, intending the route to be climbed as it was meant to be by the first ascent party.

Be aware of the following potential inaccuracies while using this guidebook:

1. Incorrect Descriptions of Routes:

If you are climbing a route and you have a doubt as to where it goes, you should not continue unless you are sure that you can go that way safely. Route descriptions and topos in this book could be inaccurate or misleading.

2. Incorrect Difficulty Rating:

A route might be harder than the rating indicates. Do not be lulled into a false sense of security by a low difficulty rating.

3. Incorrect Protection Rating:

If you are climbing a route and you are unable to arrange adequate protection through the use of fixed pitons or bolts and by placing your own protection devices, do not assume that there is adequate protection available higher above just because the route protection rating is not determined as an X or an R. Every route is potentially an X (a fall may be deadly), due to the inherent hazards of climbing—including, for example,

failure or absence of fixed protection, your own equipment's failure, faulty protection placement, or improper use of climbing equipment.

4. Failure to Warn of a Particular Hazard:

Although an effort has been made to warn of known hazards on particular routes, this guide does not cover every hazard on every route. Climb carefully and be watchful.

There are no warranties, whether expressed or implied, that this guidebook is accurate or that the information contained in it is reliable.

There are no warranties of fitness for a particular purpose or that this guide is merchantable. Your use of this book indicates your assumption of the risk that it may contain errors and is an acknowledgment of your own sole responsibility for your climbing safety.



Asini

In Ancient Asini / Kastraki you'll find the remains of a city fortified in the 2nd and 3rd century B.C. (main photo), and an old Mycenaean cemetery on a nearby hill. Swedish archaeologists explored the area 80-90 years ago. They found, among other artifacts, 25 tombs, including nine vaulted dome graves.

Personal items of the deceased were placed in the tombs to follow the dead to Hades, including the famous "King of Asini" who, surprisingly, is represented by a female figure. She, along with other finds from the area, is on display at the Archaeological Museum in Nafplio.

There are not that many remains from the former residents here, but Ancient Asini is situated on a small promontory that's excellent for a stroll. In recent years the Kastraki site has been upgraded, and is now far more easily accessible.

There's a small museum and a Multimedia Centre, you can visit the ruins of a Roman bath, Hellenistic bastions, fortifications, and a cavern made by the Italians during WWII, now with an exhibition that through text and pictures tells about this war in the area.

Profitis Elias is the name of a small chapel on the steep rock that rises from the otherwise fairly flat landscape near the village of Asini.

You can climb up "the back", taking the crude staircase leading up; it takes about half an hour and is maybe not as challenging as it seems, but you need to be in a reasonably good shape.

Great views reward you on top; Visit the church and ring the bell outside.

About Nafplio

One of the most beautiful towns in the area of Argolis (in eastern Peloponnese) as well as one of the most romantic cities all over Greece, Nafplio was the first capital of the newly born Greek state between 1823 and 1834.

According to mythology, the town was founded by Nafplios, the son of god Poseidon and the daughter of Danaus (Danaida) Anymone.

The town's history traces back to the prehistoric era when local soldiers participated in the Argonautic expedition and the Trojan War alike. The town recessed during the Roman times and flourished again during the Byzantine times.

Frankish, Venetian and Turkish conquerors left their mark in the town and strongly influenced its culture, architecture and traditions during the centuries.

Ancient walls, medieval castles, monuments and statues, Ottoman fountains and Venetian or neo-

classical buildings mesmerize the visitor with their unique architecture and beauty.

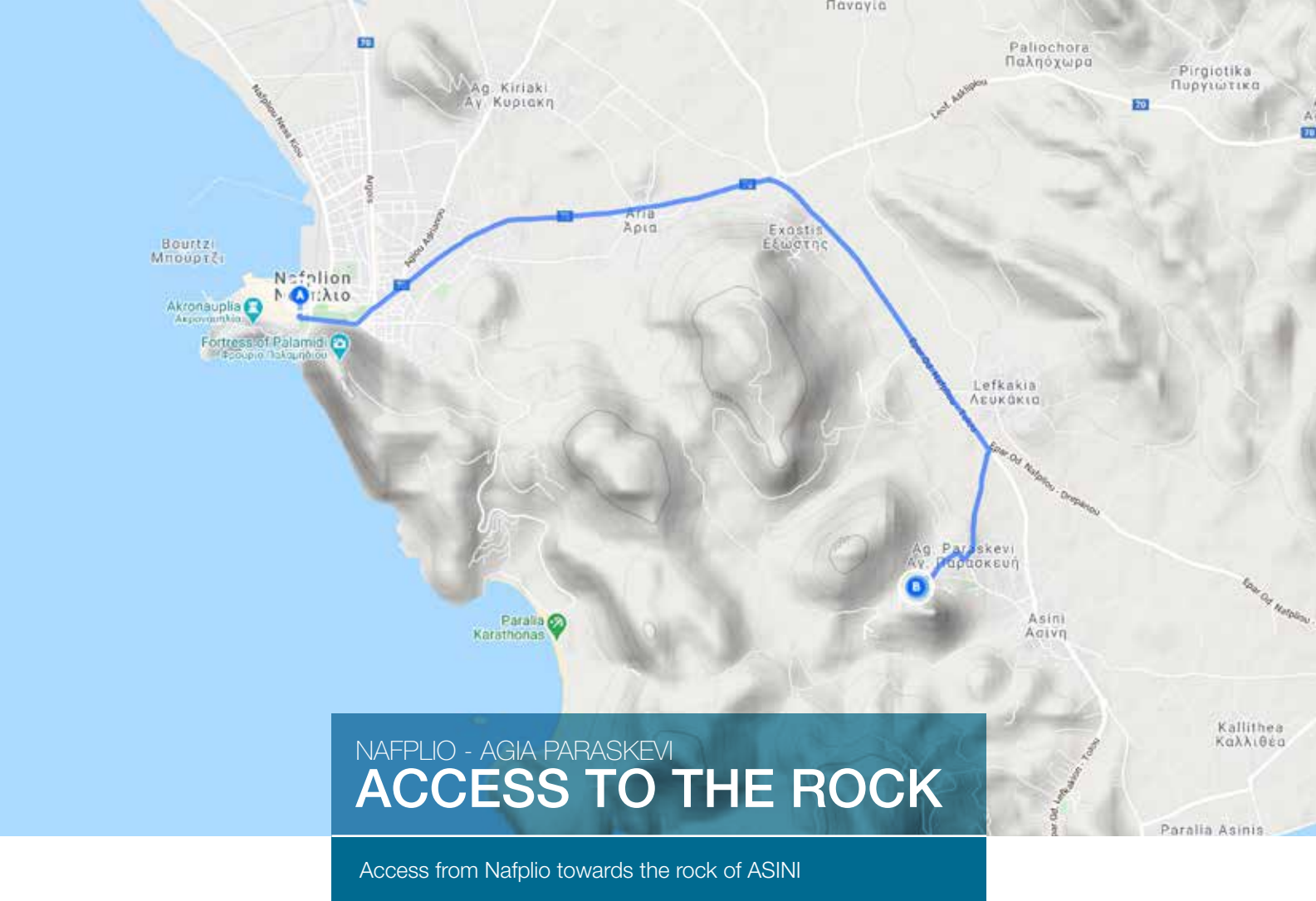
In the summer, take an invigorating swim on the beaches of Arvanitia, Karathonas, Nea Kios, Miloi and Kiveri. You will also find a nice beach offering all kinds of facilities in Tolo, only 15 min away from the town.

Useful links:

General Info: [Olympus Mountaineering](#)
[About Nafplio](#)
[Argolis Climbing Guide](#)

Camping: [Lido Camping Tolo](#)
[Kastraki Camping](#)
[Assini Beach Camping](#)
[Camping Triton](#)





Access

From **Nafplio** city centre, head east towards Aria. As soon as you reach the roundabout of Agia Eleousa, take the **2nd exit** and follow E O70, the road which connects Nafplio and Asini.

About 2.5 km on this way, reaching a charac-

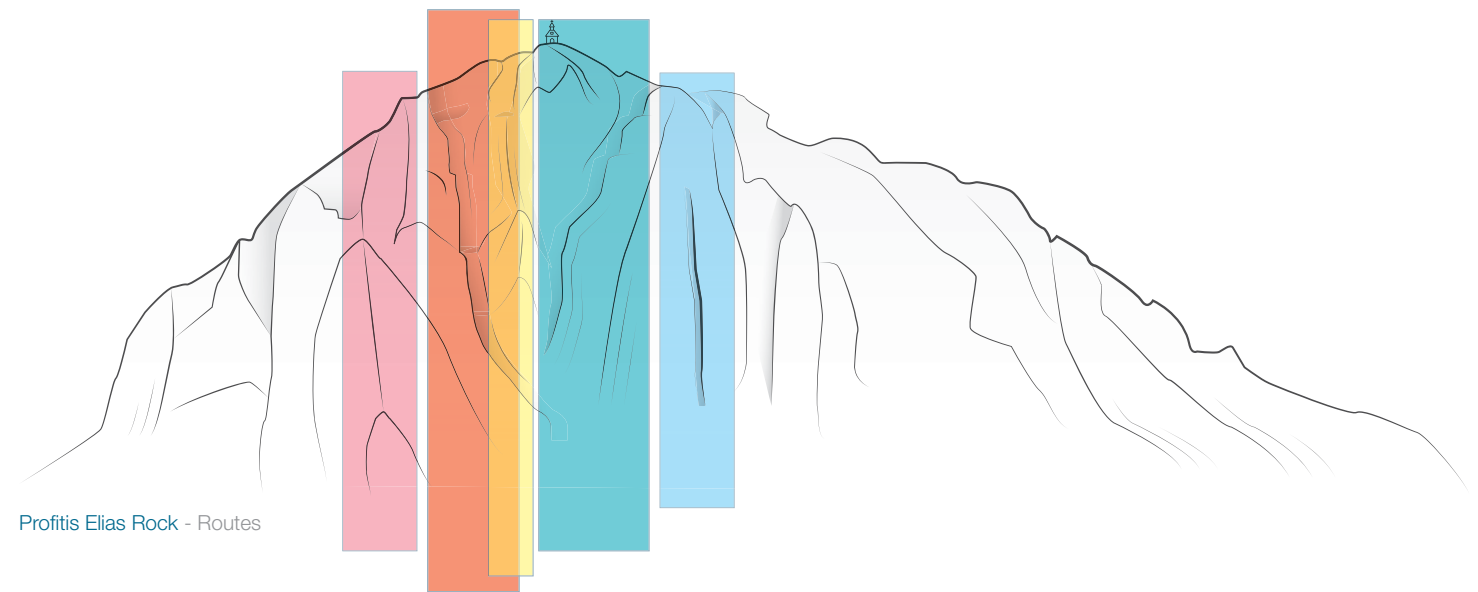
teristic fork, continue right, onto the road “**Nafpliou - Tolou**”. Not long after, take heed of a small road-sign to your right, pointing towards Agia Paraskevi, as soon as you reach the village of Agia Paraskevi, continue towards the **Rock of Asini** and park at: **37.546691, 22.853306**



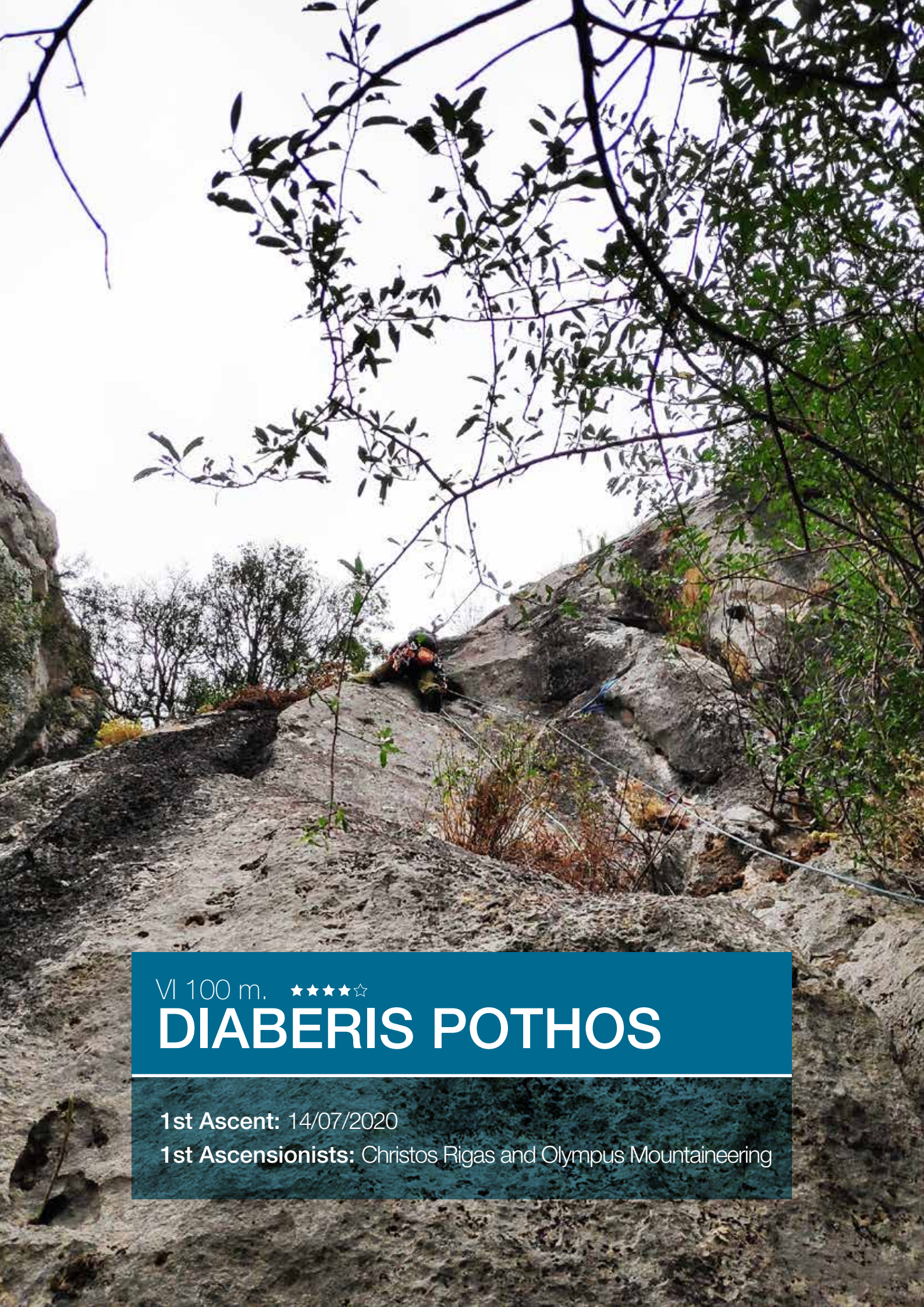
Profitis Elias general information

The rock that soars upwards in the beautiful scenery of Asini is called **Profitis Elias**. The little church that is build on top is dedicated to Prophet Elias, and thus the name of the hill.

The view at the top is **panoramic** (360°) offering a pretty good idea of the surrounding area and its morphology. It is on the way to the coast of Tolo, if you are coming from Nafplio. There is a road that takes you from the village of Ag. Paraskevi to foot of the hill. From there it is a **15-20 minutes** uphill walk, following the path designated by white crosses, that will take you to the top.



- Approach Hike
- Project
- Route - Diaberis Pothos
- Route - Violontselou
- Route - Anodiki Raba (project)
- Route - O Kipos Tou Profiti



VI 100 m. ★★★★★☆

DIABERIS POTHOS

1st Ascent: 14/07/2020

1st Ascensionists: Christos Rigas and Olympus Mountaineering

DIABERIS POTHOS

VI | 100 m.

★★★★☆

Profitis Elias - Asini

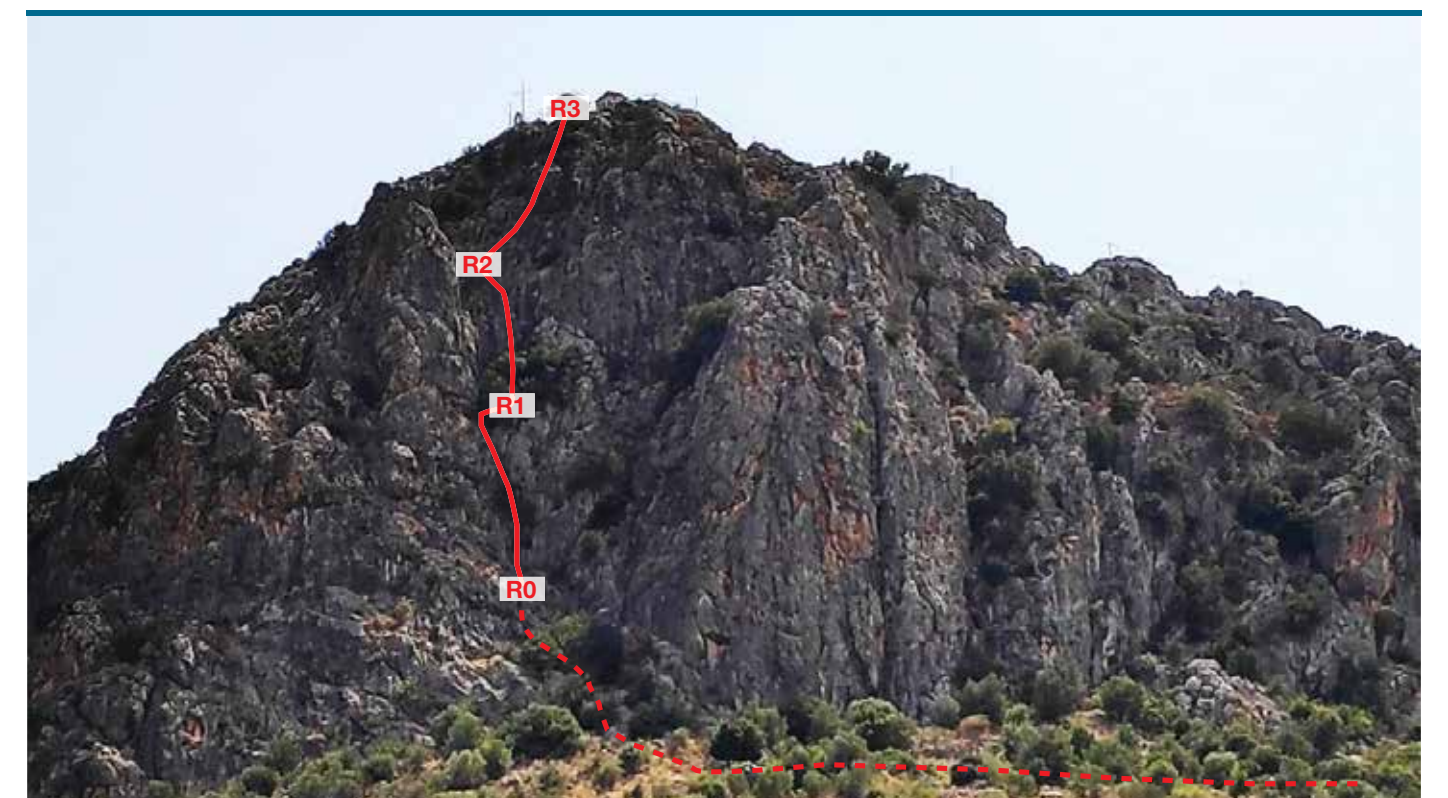
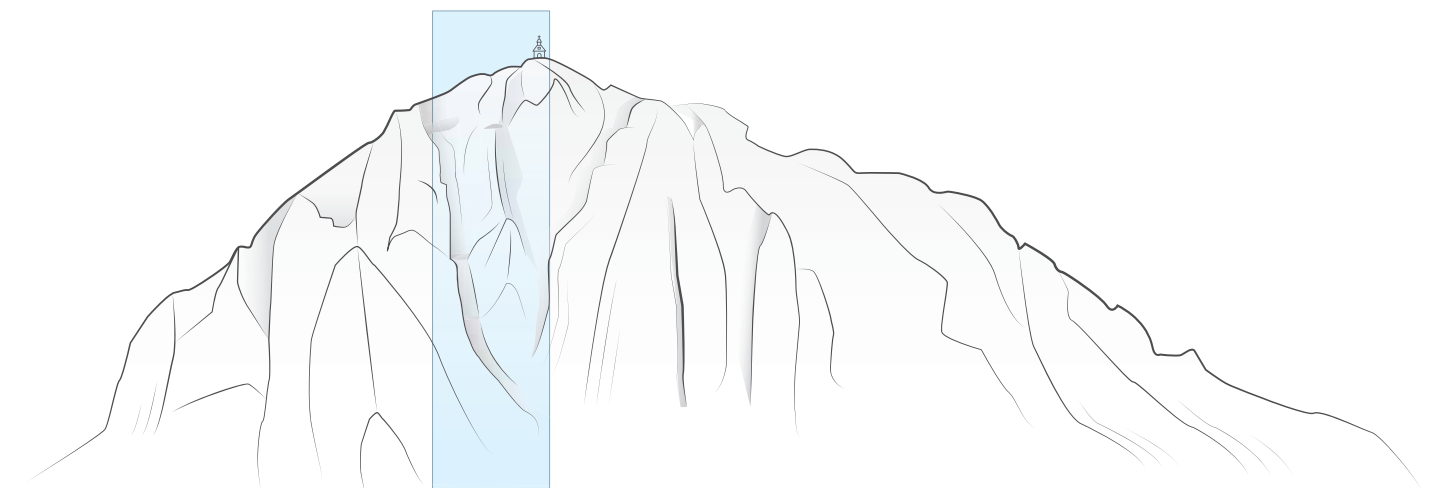
1st Ascent: 14/07/2020

1st Ascensionists: Christos Rigas and Olympus Mountaineering

General route information

“Diaberis Pothos” (VI, 100 m.) first ascent was made on **14/07/2020** by **Christos Rigas** and **Olympus Mountaineering**.

The route follows the **north-east couloir** which is located on the **north face of Profitis Elias Rock/hill**. The route can be described as a “**demanding route**” with plenty of variety in the climbing style, from slab to dihedral and some scrambling.



Profitis Elias Asini - North Face

— Route Area - Diaberis Pothos

- - - Approach Hike

DIABERIS POTHOS

VI | 100 m. ★★★★★ Profitis Elias - Asini

1st Ascent: 14/07/2020
1st Ascensionists: Christos Rigas and Olympus Mountaineering

Approach plan view - map



LEGEND

Trees

Rubbles

Grass

Ledge

Belay

Abseil

Crux

Slab/Rock wall

Couloir

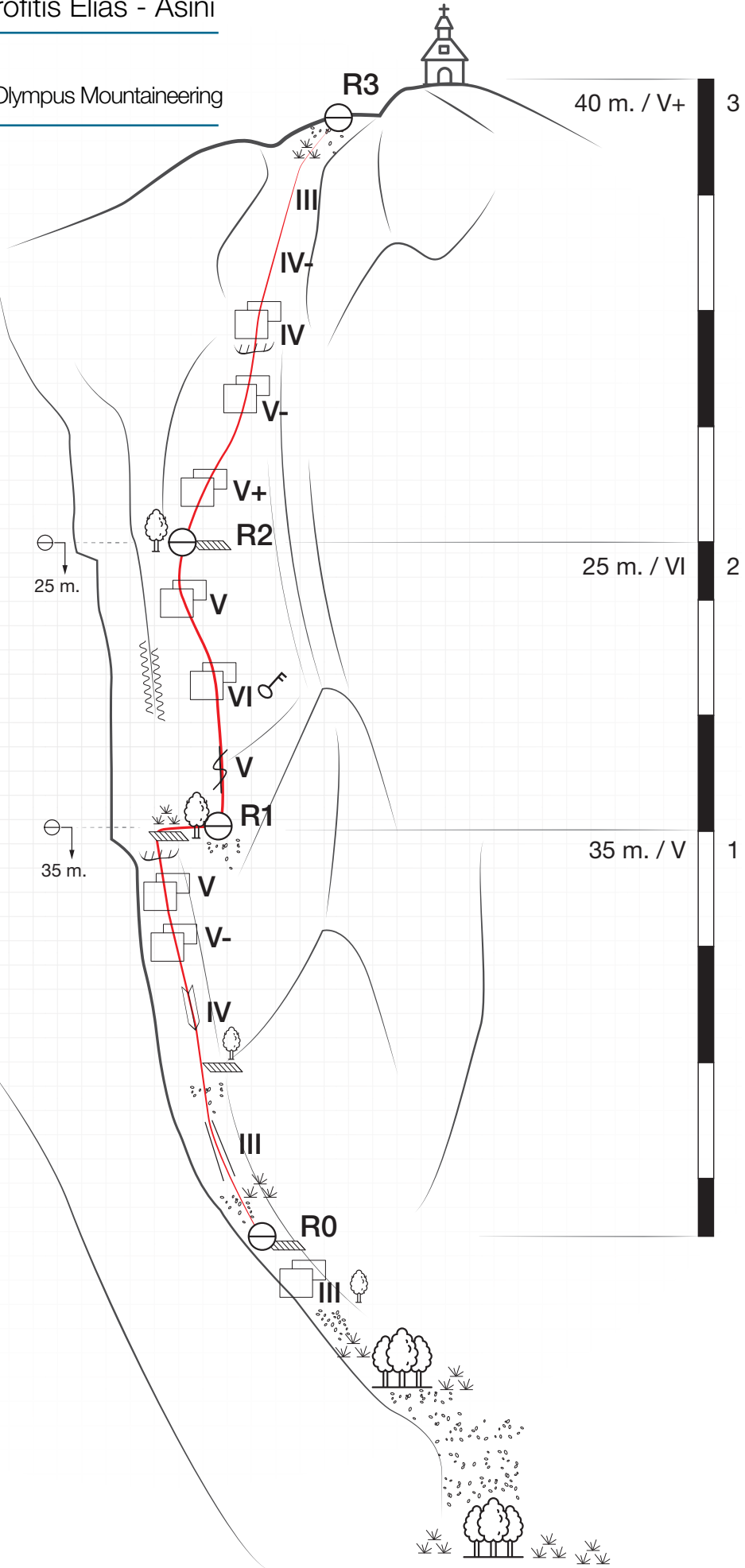
Ridge

Dihedral

Overhang

Crack

Church



DIABERIS POTHOS

VI | 100 m. ★★★★★ Profitis Elias - Asini

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1st Ascensionists: Christos Rigas and Olympus Mountaineering

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The route follows the **north-east couloir** which is located on the **north face of Profitis Elias Rock/hill**. The route can be described as a “**demanding route**” with plenty of variety in the climbing style, from slab to dihedral and some scrambling too.

Approach

The route is located on **Profitis Elias of Asini** and specifically on the north face of the rocky hill. Its orientation is north. Approaching **R0** requires **15 minutes** of hiking on a non-obvious trail.

Parking spot coordinates: 37.546691, 22.853306
Beginning of the route: 37.545420, 22.855434

Route description

R0 - R1 | V 35 m.
The route starts with the first pitch (35 m.) right from the base of the north side of the rock (37.545420, 22.855434).

The first steps follow a couloir with rubble **UIAA III** and (unfortunately) garbage. Then, the route continues through a **UIAA IV** degree passage and we climb up up to a small ledge where we can place good protection (sling) around a wild olive tree. From that point a dihedral **UIAA IV** stretches up for about 5 meters until we pass (to our right side) another wild olive tree before entering a slab of **UIAA V** degree that can be well protected with our gear.

Climbing up the slab **UIAA V** we eventually reach a ledge from the left side, but it needs attention (!) due to a large volume of rubble and debris. Having reached the ledge we move to the east (right) until we see a rock slab, a characteristic “**S**” crack. Few meters above the crack, we can clearly spot 2 tunnels.

Make a belay with a large sling or kevlar cordelette on an obvious large tree. The belay position is very good and comfortable.

R1 - R2 | VI 25 m.
The second pitch (25 m.), starts from the base of the “**S**” crack **UIAA V** where we can place a big camaspot (No. 6) as first protection gear. We climb the “**S**” crack **UIAA V** from the right side and our goal is to reach the first (of the two) tunnels where we can place a good piece of gear (sling) before entering the **crux of the route**.

Having reached the first tunnel, we have to move slightly to the left (east) and move to a rock slab **UIAA VI** where we have to make 3 beautiful but demanding moves of **UIAA VI** grade until we reach the second obvious tunnel of the route where we can again place a sling. The second pitch is completed again on a slab by moving slightly to the left (east) with a maximum difficulty of **UIAA V** degree.

We can belay with a large sling or kevlar cordelette on an obvious large tree. The belay position is good, relatively comfortable and with a unique view to the village of **Agia Paraskevi**.

R2 - R3 | V+ 40 m
The third pitch (40 m.) starts exactly vertical with a **UIAA V+** grade slab but can be protected quite well by **2 trees** but also with nuts and/or friends. Then we continue the obvious upward course on a slab **UIAA V-** and as we approach the end of the route, the degree of difficulty decreases **UIAA III** to a scramble of 10 meters before the top.

At this point the view to the east, becomes unique and we can see **Tolo** and its islands such as **Romvi**, **Koronisi** and **Platia**. At the top of the route, we will find the old chapel of **Prophet Elias**.



VI- 100 m. ★★★★★☆

VIOLONTSELOU

1st Ascent: 14/07/2020

1st Ascensionists: K. Tsoukleidis & A. Georgopoulos

VIOLONTSELOU

VI- | 100 m. ★★★★★☆ Profitis Elias - Asini

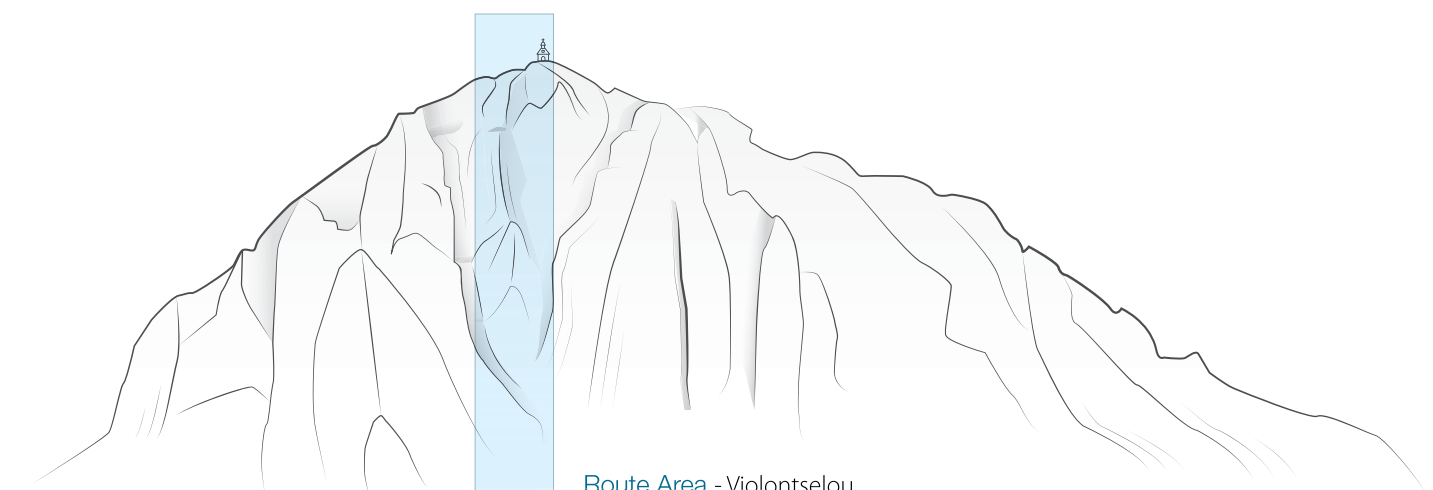
1st Ascent: 14/07/2020

1st Ascensionists: K. Tsoukleidis & A. Georgopoulos

General route information

“Violontselou” (VI-, 100 m.) first ascent was made on **14/07/2020** by **Kostas Tsoukleidis** and **Aris Georgopoulos**.

The route follows the **north-east couloir** which is located on the **north face of Profitis Elias** Rock/hill. **Violontselou** and **Diaberis Pothos** share the same first pitch and the first belay. **Violontselou** can be described as a “demanding route” with plenty of variety in the climbing style, from slab to dihedral and some scrambling.



Profitis Elias Asini - North Face



Profitis Elias Asini - North Face — Route Area - Violontselou - - - Approach Hike

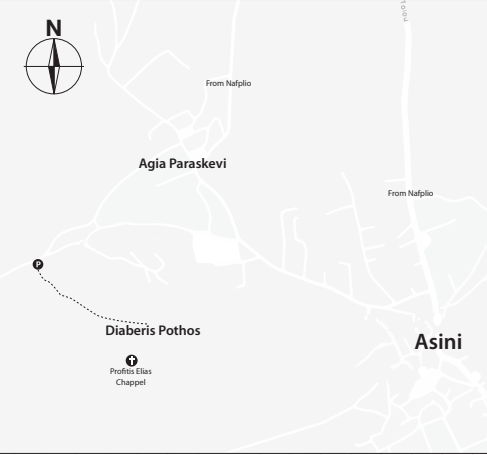
VIOLONTSELOU

VI- | 100 m. ★★★★★☆ Profitis Elias - Asini

1st Ascent: 14/07/2020

1st Ascensionists: K. Tsoukleidis & Aris Georgopoulos

Approach plan view - map



LEGEND

Trees

Rubbles

Grass

Ledge

Belay

Abseil

Crux

Slab/Rock wall

Couloir

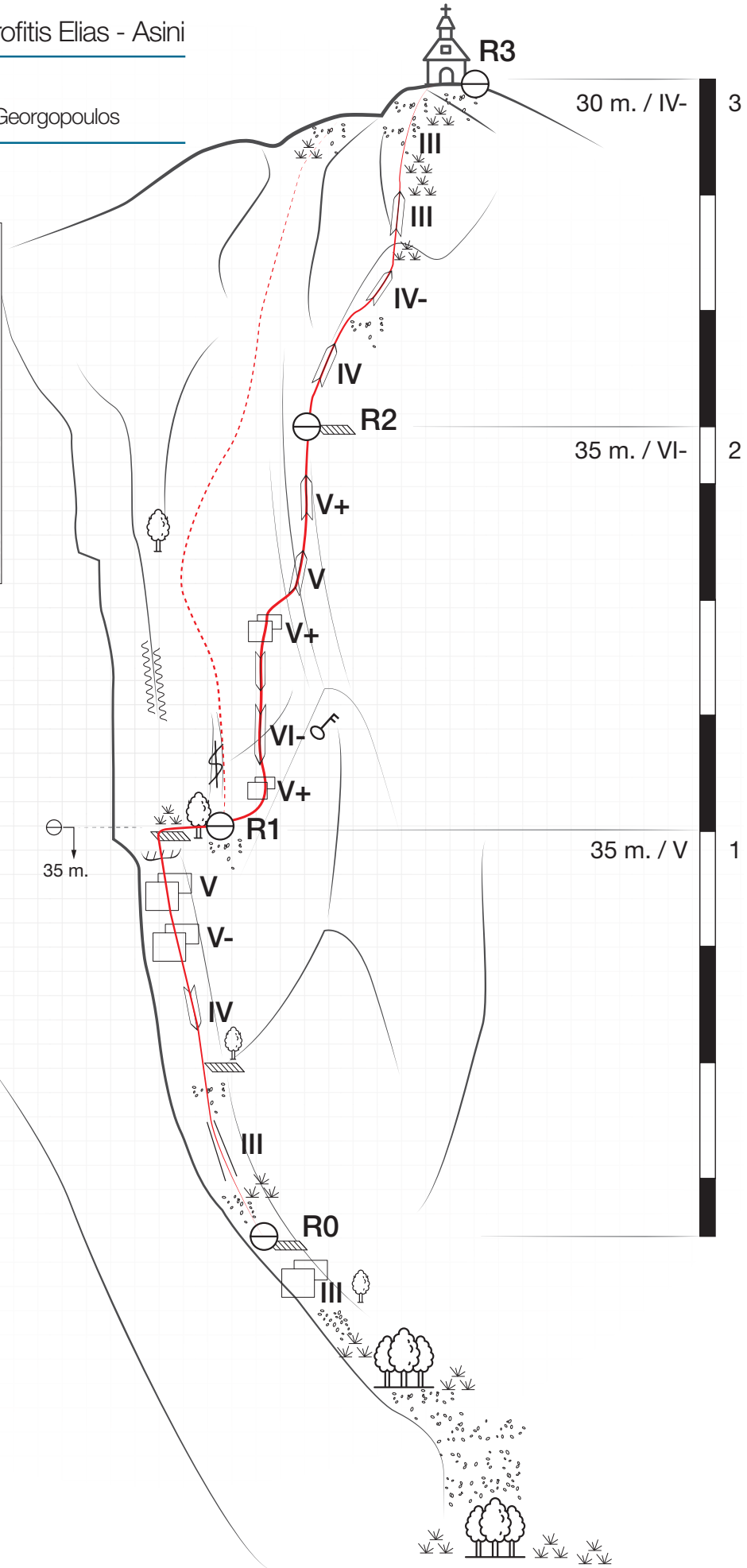
Ridge

Dihedral

Crack

Church

Diaberis Pothos



VIOLONTSELOU

VI- | 100 m. ★★★★★☆ Profitis Elias - Asini

1st Ascent: 14/07/2020

1st Ascensionists: K. Tsoukleidis & A. Georgopoulos

General route information

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The route follows the **north-east couloir** which is located on the **north face of Profitis Elias** Rock/hill. **Violontselou** and **Diaberis Pothos** share the same first pitch and the first belay. **Violontselou** can be described as a “demanding route” with plenty of variety in the climbing style, from slab to dihedral and some scrambling.

Approach

The route is located on **Profitis Elias of Asini** and specifically on the north face of the rocky hill. Its orientation is north. Approaching **R0** requires **15 minutes** of hiking on a non-obvious trail.

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Beginning of the route: 37.545420, 22.855434

Route description

R0 - R1 | V 35 m.
The route starts with the first pitch (35 m.) right from the base of the north side of the rock (37.545420, 22.855434).

The first steps follow a couloir with rubble **UIAA III** and (unfortunately) garbage. Then, the route continues through a **UIAA IV** degree passage and we climb up up to a small ledge where we can place good protection (sling) around a wild olive tree. From that point a dihedral **UIAA IV** stretches up for about 5 meters until we pass (to our right side) another wild olive tree before entering a slab of **UIAA V** degree that can be well protected with our gear.

Climbing up the slab **UIAA V** we eventually reach a ledge from the left side, but it needs attention (!) due to a large volume of rubble and debris. Having reached the ledge we move to the east (right) until we see a rock slab, a characteristic “**S**” crack. Few meters above the crack, we can clearly spot 2 tunnels.

Make a belay with a large sling or kevlar cordelette on an obvious large tree. The belay position is very good and comfortable.

R1 - R2 | VI- 35 m.
The second pitch (35 m.), slightly to the right of the 2nd pitch of “**Diaberis Pothos**”. Climb up on a short slab (UIAA V+) and move slightly to the right in order to reach the base of a large dihedral with a wide crack. This dihedral is the most characteristic point of the route. We climb the dihedral straight up to the top. Its difficulty is **UIAA VI-** and it is protected with large / medium friends but also from a chockstone in which we can protect with a double size sling. Once we reach the top of the dihedral we move diagonally to the right following the ridge. Towards the end of the pitch we move straight up to a relatively comfortable ledge where we make the 2nd belay.

From the dihedral and onwards, the climbing is spectacular and exposed to a difficulty of UIAA V/V+. The rock offers many possibilities for protection with nuts, friends and slings.

R2 - R3 | IV 30 m
The third pitch (30 m.) starts directly from the ledge of **R2** and we climb straight up until we reach a wide ridge of difficulty **UIAA IV-/IV**. Upon that point, the climb gradually becomes easier and leads us right to the church of Profitis Elias. This pitch can be easily protected with nuts, friends and slings.

The third and final belay (R3) can be done directly from the chapel’s yard.

At this point the view to the east, becomes unique and we can see **Tolo** and its islands such as **Romvi**, **Koronisi** and **Platia**. At the top of the route, we will find the old chapel of **Prophet Elias**.



V+ 110 m. ★★★★★☆

O KIPOS TOU PROFITI

1st Ascent: 22/01/2012

1st Ascensionists: K. Tsoukleidis & N. Strobl

O KIPOS TOU PROFITI

V+ | 110 m. ★★★★★☆ Profitis Elias - Asini

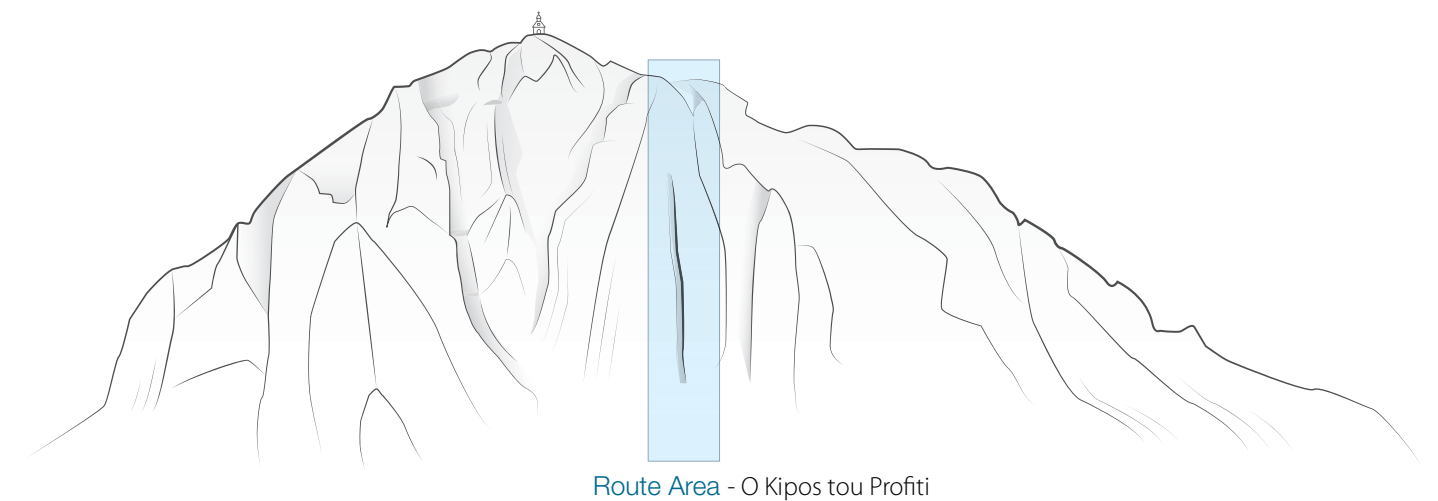
1st Ascent: 22/01/2012

1st Ascensionists: K. Tsoukleidis & N. Strobl

General route information

“O Kipos Tou Profiti” (V+, 110 m.) first ascent was made on 22/01/2012 by **Kostas Tsoukleidis** and **Nadine Strobl**.

The route is located on the **north face of Profitis Elias Rock/hill** and follows the obvious crack/dihedral that is clearly visible from the base of the rock. The route can be described as a “**demanding route**” with plenty of variety in the climbing style, from slab to dihedral and some scrambling.



Profitis Elias Asini - North Face

Route Area - O Kipos tou Profiti



Profitis Elias Asini - North Face

— Route Area - O Kipos Tou Profiti

- - - Approach Hike

O KIPOS TOU PROFITI

V+ | 110 m. ★★★★★ Profitis Elias - Asini

1st Ascent: 22/01/2012
1st Ascensionists: Kostas Tsoukleidis and Nadine Strobl

Approach plan view - map



LEGEND

Trees

Rubbles

Grass

Ledge

Belay

Abseil

Crux

Slab/Rock wall

Couloir

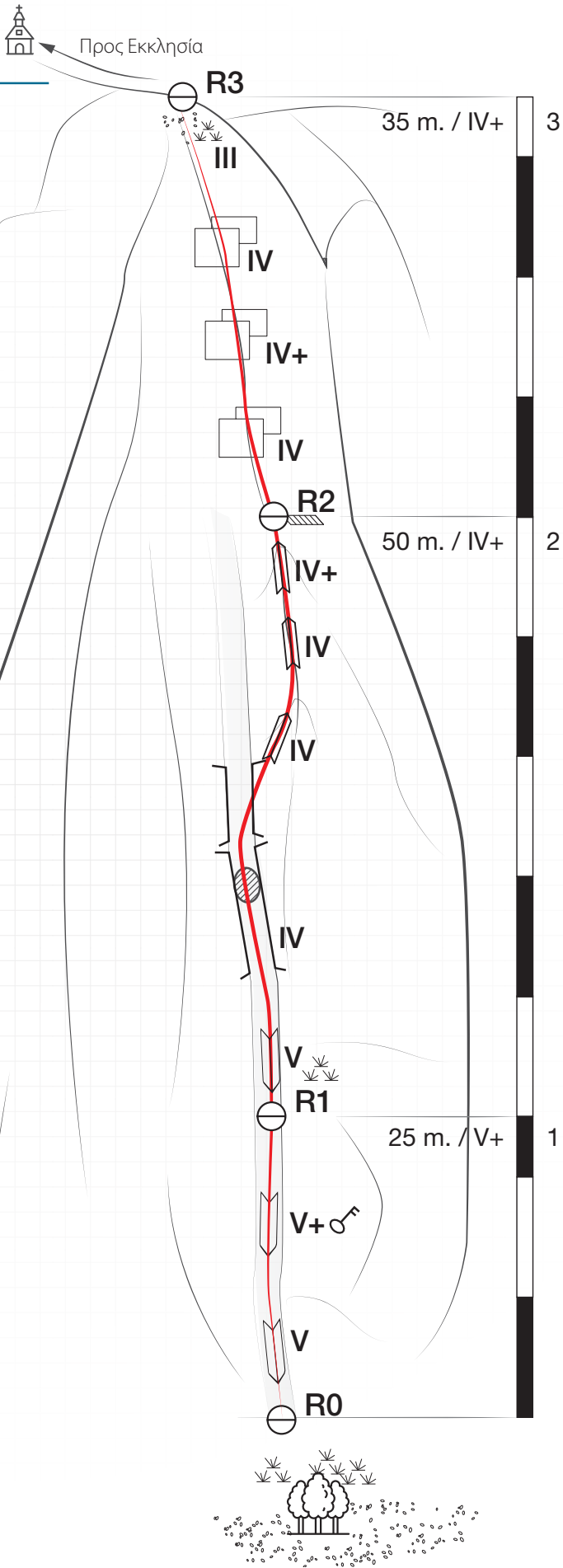
Ridge

Dihedral

Chimney

Chockstone

Church



O KIPOS TOU PROFITI

V+ | 110 m. ★★★★★ Profitis Elias - Asini

1st Ascent: 22/01/2012
1st Ascensionists: K. Tsoukleidis & N. Strobl

General route information

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Approach

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Parking spot coordinates: 37.546691, 22.853306
Beginning of the route: 37.545420, 22.855434

Route description

R0 - R1 | V+ 25 m.
The route starts with the first pitch of **25 m.** right from the base of the north side of the rock (37.545420, 22.855434).

The first meters extend through the characteristic crack-dihedral **UIAA V** and successively the degree of difficulty goes up to the crux of the route **UIAA V+** grade which is located a few meters before the first belay.

We belay with the most suitable gear for the type of rock. The location for belay is moderate.

R1 - R2 | V 50 m.
The second pitch of **50 m.**, starts again in a dihedral **UIAA V+** degree a few meters lower than the characteristic **chockstone** (chimney). Following that we have to overcome the **chockstone** (IV), moving slightly west (right) until we come to the obvious ridge (UIAA IV) which for a few meters goes almost parallel to the dihedral.

The climbing movements on the ridge are not particularly demanding with a maximum grade difficulty **UIAA IV+**. Shortly before the second belay, an old sling was found on a characteristic pointy rock.

After about **50 meters** of climbing, we find a small ledge and we belay. The belay position is good, relatively comfortable and with a unique view to the village of **Agia Paraskevi**.

R2 - R3 | IV+ 35 m
The third pitch (35 m.) starts with a slab of **UIAA IV** grade, followed by successive slabs with a degree of difficulty ranging from **UIAA IV+** to **UIAA IV** and as we approach the end of the route, the degree of difficulty decreases to **UIAA III** to a scramble of 10m. before the top.

“O Kipos Tou Profiti” ends at the church of the Profitis Elias. From the top of the route, the view to the east, becomes unique and we can see **Tolo** and its islands such as **Romvi**, **Koronisi** and **Platia**. At the top of the route, we will find the old chapel of **Prophet Elias**.



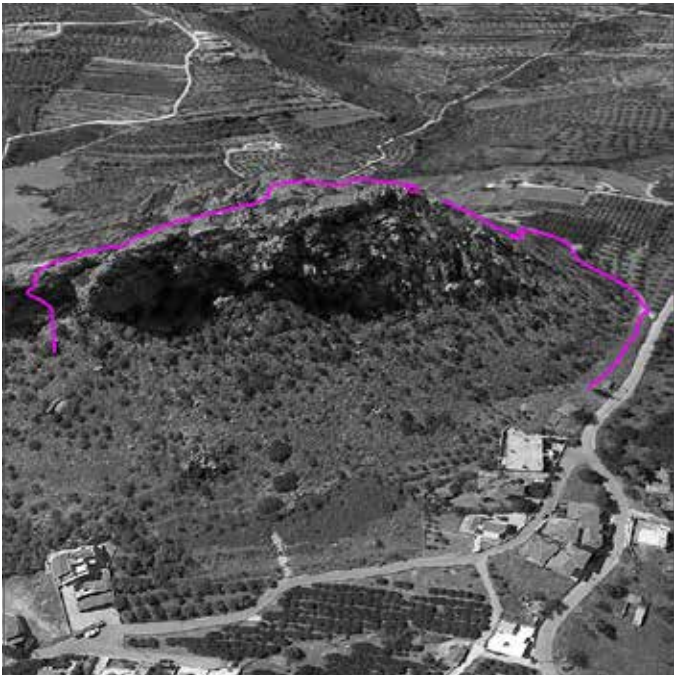
Return

Our return route starts from the church of **Profitis Elias** down to **449 stairs** and a very easy descent, leading the base of the rock. From there, follow the dirt road leading to the parking spot.

The descent takes about **15-20** minutes.



The entire route on the map



The entire route in 3D

Necessary equipment

To repeat any route one needs the following items:

- Wire nuts 1-10
- Friends/Cam up to #6
- Slings/Lanyards
- Kevlar cordelette
- 2 x 60 m. 1/2 ropes

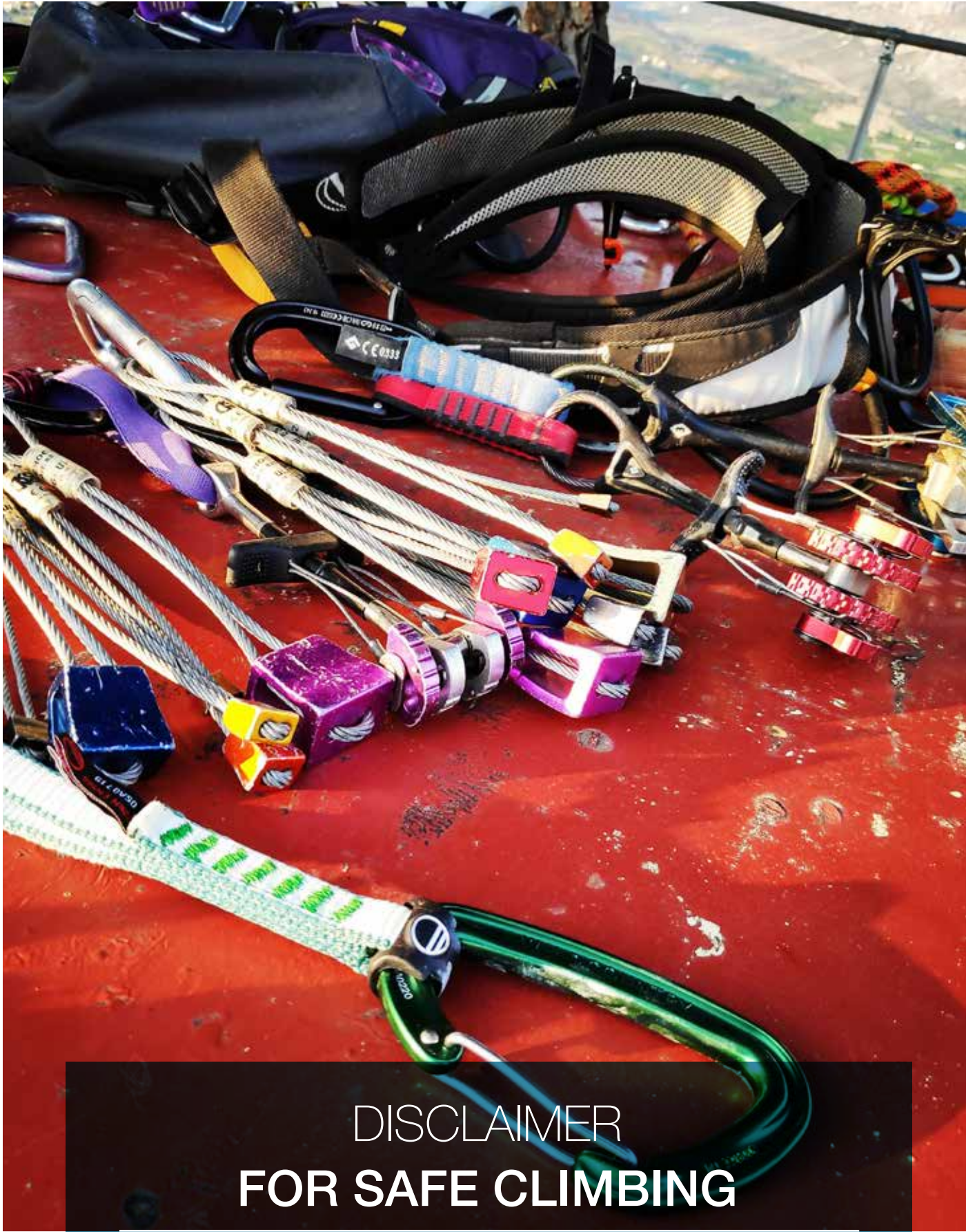
Routes were done with temporary protection.
Belays were done with temporary protection.

Useful coordinates

Parking spot: 37.546691, 22.853306
Beginning of the route: 37.545420, 22.855434
Highest peak: 37.544916, 22.855265
Point of descent: 37.545371, 22.851966
Agia Paraskevi village centre: 37.548429, 22.857486

Retreat

In case of emergency, a retreat by **abseiling** from R1 of each route is recommended. Further above, a retreat becomes trickier.



Rock climbing and mountaineering in general is a dangerous pastime that can lead to serious injury or worse. You should not undertake these without proper training or equipment.

By using this document you acknowledge that the information therein may be out of date or inaccurate and you agree that Olympus Mountaineering cannot be held liable for any damage that may be caused by use of this document.



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Climbing Guidebook