

The Island of
GOZO

**The Next
Climbing
Destination**

1: The Underworld



2: The North Coast Sea Cliffs



3: Wied il-Mielaf



4: Tower of Power



GOZO, the sister island to Malta houses over 300 sport climbs spread over 12 locations. Here is an overview of 8 of the best.



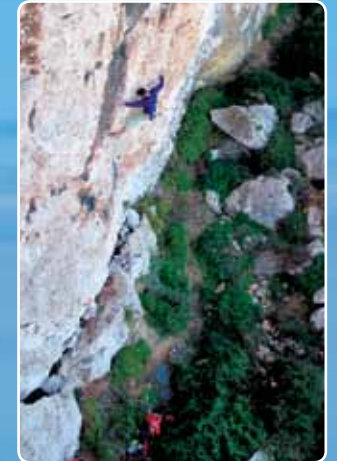
8: Black Slabs



7: Munxar - Xlendi Valley



6: Mgarr ix-Xini



5: Daħlet Qorrot

1: The Underworld

Grade	Routes
3-5	0
6	4
7 & 8	9
Access Walk: 3 Mins	
Abseiling Required	

2: The North Coast

Grade	Routes
3-5	4
6	7
7 & 8	2
Access Walk: 5 Mins	
Abseiling Required	

3: Wied il-Mielaf

Grade	Routes
3-5	29
6	6
7 & 8	7
Access Walk: 1 Min	

4: Tower of Power

Grade	Routes
3-5	5
6	18
7 & 8	23
Access Walk: 5 Mins	

5: Daħlet Qorrot

Grade	Routes
3-5	4
6	5
7 & 8	22
9	1
Access Walk: 10 Mins	

6: Mgarr ix-Xini

Grade	Routes
3-5	22
6	32
7 & 8	11
Access Walk: 5 Mins	

7: Munxar - Xlendi

Grade	Routes
3-5	12
6	11
7 & 8	3
Access Walk: 15 Mins	
Abseiling Required	

8: Black Slabs

Grade	Routes
3-5	7
6	10
7 & 8	6
Access Walk: 0 Min	

Why Climb Gozo?

Gozo has over 300 sport routes of all grades

There are many destinations for climbers, but **Gozo ticks many of the right boxes for the sun starved and over stressed.** South of Sicily with a climate, which is ideal for climbing in the winter months, Gozo has over 300 sport routes of all grades and an indoor climbing wall. These amazing variety of climbs, offers different weather aspects of wind, sun and rain considerations. All climbing areas are within a 20 minutes drive of each other.

With an average flight from European destinations of less than 2 hours, Luqa airport on Malta is connected to 60 airports, serviced by national airlines and budget operators.

The Island of Gozo is a very successful family friendly holiday destination, and its visitor infrastructure caters very well for different levels of comfort and eating pleasure. Hotels, Farmhouses, and Self Catering Apartments are all very reasonably priced.

The ideal time for climbers to visit the island is autumn and spring, coinciding with the flowers looking their best.

Comments by Stevie Haston Gozo's contribution to International Climbing

"Although I have climbed all over the world, including some of it's highest mountains, Gozo remains one of my favourite places to climb. "As I grew up on Gozo I imagined the whole world must also have big beautiful cliffs and stunning scenery", this isn't so, however Gozo remains magical and retains its special charm."

"The crazily coloured sunsets after a full days climbing, is as intoxicating as the local wine."

"I went climbing with my grandfather from an early age, fishing from the rocky coast and cliffs, which is still a local tradition. The unwary climber may be surprised by a barefoot fisherman on some of the easier climbs. These skills I learnt with my grandfather on these sometimes perilous cliffs, lead me into the profession of climbing. I have been climbing for over 45 years so it is with some experience I can say that Gozo offers a unique opportunity to climb in the Mediterranean."

"Over the years many people have climbed on Gozo, the earliest climbers were searching for food, the Knights of Saint John had two climbing soldiers guarding the strange 'magic' fungus on Fungus rock, then the British came and the modern era of climbing began. Today you will meet climbers from all over the world. My grandfather might be very surprised, but somehow I am not because I always knew Gozo was magic. Recently I opened a route on Gozo called King of Kings, which is one of the longest roof climbs in the world, but is this strange for an island that once ensnared Ulysses and was the home of the bewitching Calypso?"

"If you are just learning, or indeed are an expert, Gozo has much to offer. The three hundred routes I believe are just the start. It is our aim that in the near future Gozo will have over 1000 beautiful routes."

Who is Stevie Haston?

Stevie Haston is an International Professional climber who is well known in the sport and designs climbing equipment. Being of Gozitan descent he attributes much of his success and outlook from growing up on Gozo. He has climbed the 9th grade in climbing and has amazed the climbing world for still achieving this grade when past his mid-fifties.

He has climbed all around the world from the desert towers of the American West, to the giant mountains of the Himalaya. He climbed the North face of the Eiger aged 20 and pushed climbing in many different directions, creating thousands of new routes. He also found time to be a pro snow boarder of high mountains.

Lately he has been helping the Gozitan and Maltese climbers in developing their climbing and sees a bright future for this sport taking a more important role in the islands for both visitors and locals alike.

Eco Gozo

Gozo is dedicated to becoming an eco-friendly holiday destination, by sharing the islands resources with all residents through sustainable development.

Climbing is a low impact sport which utilises the natural environment to its fullest. The Ministry for Gozo is aware that climbing is a niche market which follows the guidelines of their rural development and sports tourism policies.

Eco-Gozo has been supporting the climbing community by funding the materials to develop climbing areas to ensure that climbing can be conducted safely and in a sustainable manner, so the local community and visitors to the island can experience this sport in an unspoilt corner of the Mediterranean.

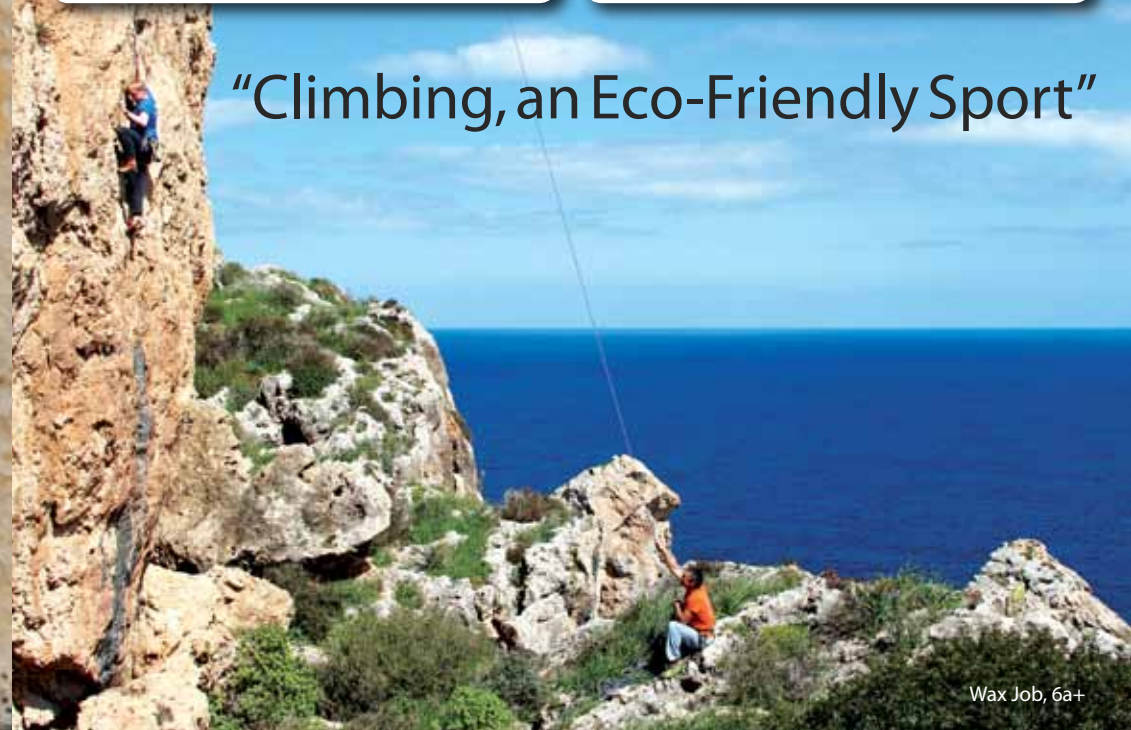
30 Minutes To Sunset, 5c+

Gozo's Indoor Climbing Wall

The local climbing wall located in the Gozo Sports Complex Victoria, was funded by the Ministry for Gozo. This public facility helps introduce children, locals and visitors alike to climbing in a safe and controlled environment, as well as creating an evening and wet weather training gym.



“Climbing, an Eco-Friendly Sport”



Wax Job, 6a+

Gozo's Climate & The 4 Seasons

Summers in Gozo can get very hot so unless you are really used to the heat we don't advise you to come to climb in July or August. If you do, don't be surprised if it is over 40° on the south facing cliffs! So we recommend that the best time of year for climbing are the cooler months.

There is a chance of a little rain between December and February and remember Gozo is an island so it can be fairly windy. However the island has a surprising number of cliffs facing different directions so it is always possible to find sheltered conditions and as cliffs are very close to each other you have the option of changing location easily. Often when on a sheltered sunny cliff, you will find it hot but the island has a few north facing cliffs and the prevailing winds are from the north west, so these can be cooler.



Climbers on Gozo spend their summers Deep Water Soloing, where you use the water as your safety net and at the end of the climb jump into the water. Climbers also take advantage of the cool sea breezes by climbing sports routes on the sea cliffs.

Autumn, the sea temperatures are still high, so sea kayaking, swimming, and scuba diving, which the island is recognised as a world class destination, are an option with water temperatures of 23° c until November.



During the winter months there are a number of activities with village fairs and street parties during the Christmas, New Year and Carnival period, which are unique and special.

Average Temperatures, Monthly Rain Fall and Daily Sunshine times for Gozo												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High	15°c	15°c	16°c	18°c	22°c	27°c	30°c	30°c	28°c	24°c	19°c	16°c
Low	9°c	9°c	10°c	12°c	15°c	19°c	22°c	22°c	20°c	18°c	14°c	11°c
Sea	15°c	14°c	15°c	16°c	17°c	21°c	24°c	26°c	26°c	23°c	20°c	17°c
Rain	94mm	65mm	38mm	25mm	8mm	5mm	0mm	5mm	65mm	75mm	98mm	99mm
Sun	5.4 h	6.4 h	7.3 h	8.4 h	10 h	11 h	12 h	11 h	9 h	7.2 h	6.5 h	5.2 h

Spring is when the island is at its best the countryside is lush green and covered in wild flowers creating a spectacular array of colours. This is an ideal time for exploring the island by cycling and walking.



Gozo For Experienced Climbers

If you are an expert, or are trying to push your grade level, or even just want to gain experience in different types of climbing, Gozo has definitely something to offer you. There are many climbs in the grade 7, and enough tough 8s to keep experts happy, for well over 2 weeks.

There are different styles and angles of rock from slabs, to walls, to super steep overhangs, plenty to keep you challenged and motivated. The cliffs are different in character, so you can climb big hold type routes, or small hold - technical nightmares. Gozo houses inland cliffs as well as sea cliffs with a wide variety of different approaches, climb heights and exposures. There is also a small climbing wall in the main town of Victoria and a number of Gyms.

All in all there is enough for high end users for a week to 14 days. Cliffs have either zero approach time, or a maximum of a 15 minutes walk, so you do not waste your time with long approaches. One or two of the cliffs offer full on adventure for the climbers who are looking for excitement, while the other cliffs are of a more mellow nature.

Nimminy Pimminy, 8a



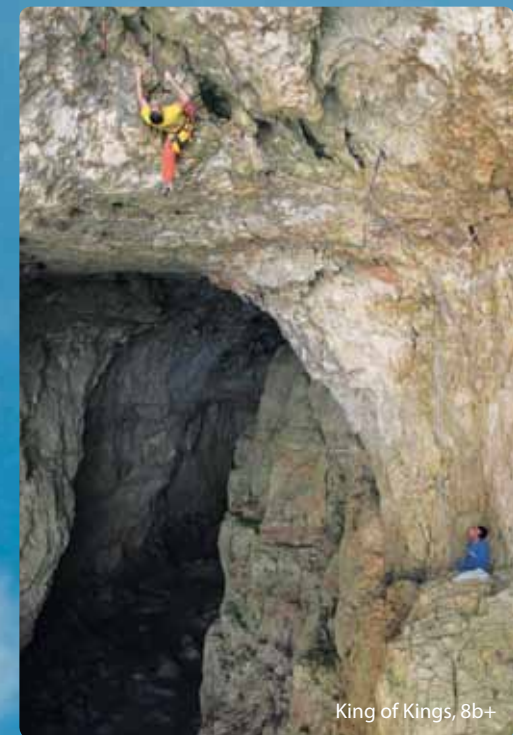
Big James, 9a



Apricot Tart, 8a



Dinosaur Balls, 8a+



King of Kings, 8b+



Learn Climbing On Gozo



Climbing For Schools Clubs Corporate Team Building

Sport climbing is one of the fastest growing sports in Europe today. This is due to the influx of indoor climbing walls being built throughout most European Cities.

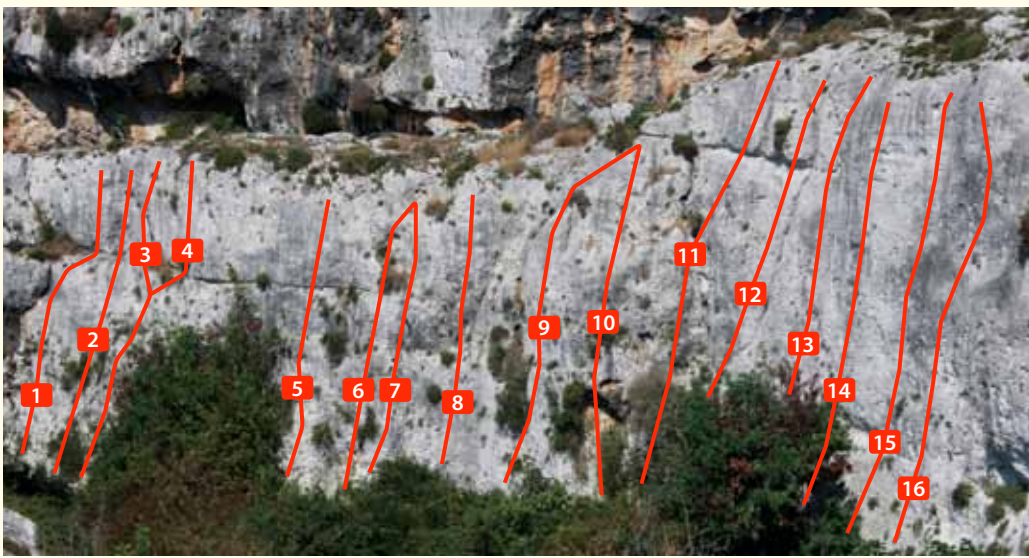
When Northern Europe is being forced to climb indoors due to shorter days and poor weather conditions, the Gozitan climbers are just starting their season after the hot summer months deep water soloing.

The island has climbs for all ages and experiences. With a wide range of cliffs offering lower climbing grades, Gozo is an ideal destination to either experience climbing for the first time or to cross over from indoor to outdoor climbing. The island also has the added benefit of a number of cliffs that are family friendly so those with young children can relax while climbing.



Climbing is an ideal sport to discover how to overcome a challenge while feeling the exhilaration when succeeding. Other aspects of the sport abseiling, aerial runways and rope bridges require little physical ability, just trust in ones equipment, instruction and the nerve to walk over the edge. Building confidence while having fun.



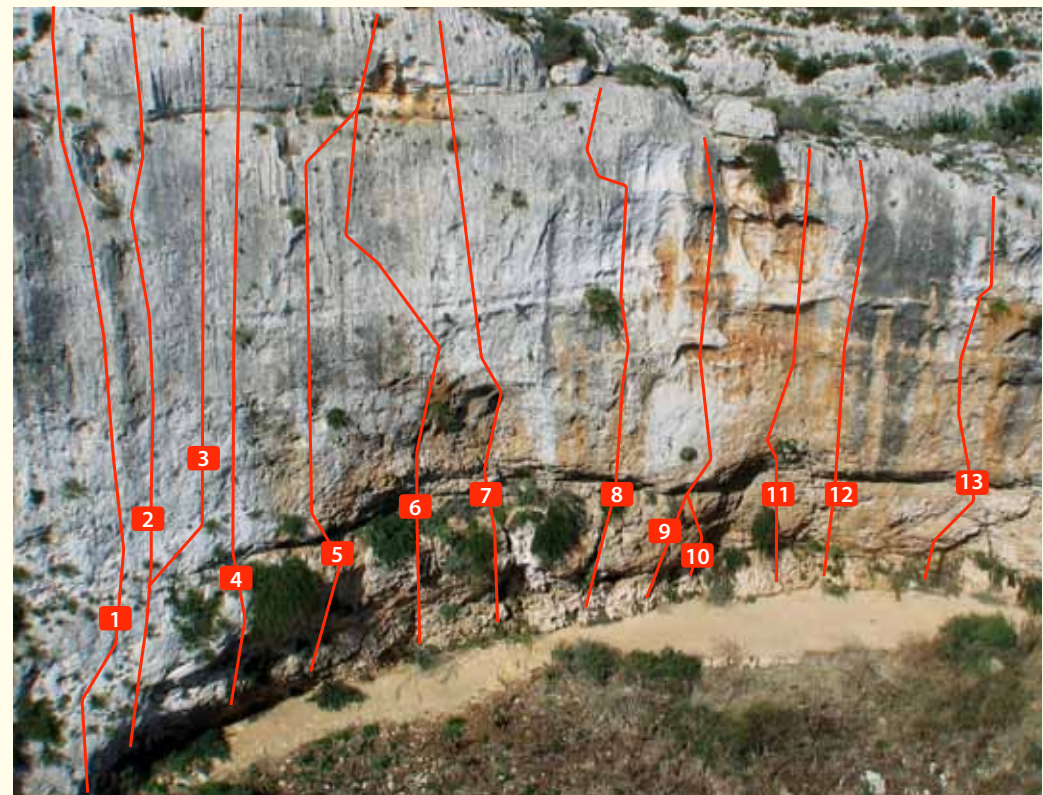


Mgarr ix-Xini

Mgarr ix-Xini features a promontory of rock that satisfies the needs of any climber. The great advantage of this is, it is easy to set up top rope climbs making flakeout walls ideal for beginners and by climbing through a small tunnel in the cliff you reach the Dream Walls, which is overhanging and technical. During the day you can choose to climb either in the shade or the sun.

Flakeout walls

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 <u>Broken Gun 4, 12 m</u> | 9 <u>Lead Shot 5b+, 12 m</u> |
| 2 <u>French Lace 4, 12 m</u> | 10 <u>Vandalized 5a, 15 m</u> |
| 3 <u>V P L 4+, 12 m</u> | 11 <u>What's the name 5b+, 18 m</u> |
| 4 <u>Hammered 5a, 12 m</u> | 12 <u>Vogue 5b +, 18 m</u> |
| 5 <u>Caraboo 4, 12 m</u> | 13 <u>White Winds 5b+, 18 m</u> |
| 6 <u>Cartridge 5b, 12 m</u> | 14 <u>Narcissus 7a/+, 18 m</u> |
| 7 <u>Boom Boom 5a, 12 m</u> | 15 <u>Scorpio direct 6b+, 18 m</u> |
| 8 <u>Shot Gun 5b, 12 m</u> | 16 <u>Didi's First 6a, 18 m</u> |



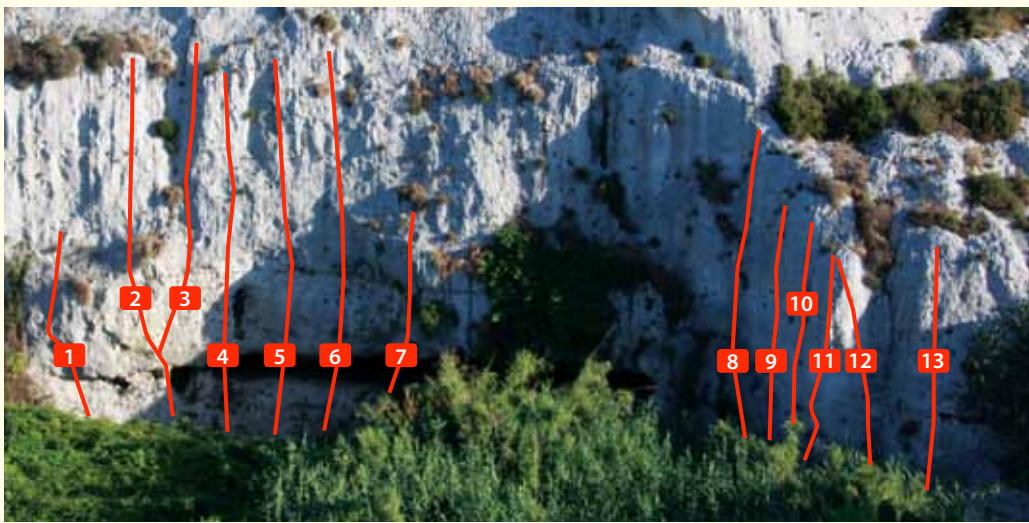
Dream Walls

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <u>Right On Cue 6a+, 21 m</u> | 8 <u>Ape Index 7b/+, 22 m</u> |
| 2 <u>Bulk Order 6b, 21 m</u> | 9 <u>Eye of the Tiger direct 7b+, 22 m</u> |
| 3 <u>A Pocket Full of Poses 6c, 21 m</u> | 10 <u>Eye of the Tiger 7b, 22 m</u> |
| 4 <u>Chances 6c, 21 m</u> | 11 <u>Ezy Rider 7a, 22 m</u> |
| 5 <u>Breakers Point 6c, 22 m</u> | 12 <u>Brilliant Creature 7b, 22 m</u> |
| 6 <u>Blushing Pilgrim 6c, 22 m</u> | 13 <u>Chasin' the Dream 7b, 22 m</u> |
| 7 <u>Lost Chance 6b+, 22 m</u> | |



White Winds, 5b+





Munxar - Xlendi Valley AM

The Munxar - Xlendi valley climbs are varied, with many being three dimensional combining pumpy overhangs with a technical slab to finish. The area suits all climbing abilities and shady routes are always available making it an ideal cliff for climbing on those hotter days.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <u>Hollow Head 6c+, 10 m</u> 2 <u>Brambletastic 5c +, 22 m</u> 3 <u>Nerve Breaker 5c+, 22 m</u> 4 <u>Caught On The Run 6a +, 22 m</u> 5 <u>Turm 84 6b, 22 m</u> 6 <u>Cave Dwelling 6c+, 22 m</u> 7 <u>Vine Cave 7a, 12 m</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 <u>Strimmer on the Back 5b, 20 m</u> 9 <u>Stephan the Black 6a, 18 m</u> 10 <u>Who Knows 6b, 18 m</u> 11 <u>Saturday Night Live 7a, 15 m</u> 12 <u>Fig in the Arse 6a, 15 m</u> 13 <u>Bamboosled 5b, 15 m</u> |
|---|--|



Bamboo Jungle PM

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <u>Bamboo 4, 15 m</u> 2 <u>Jungle 4, 15 m</u> 3 <u>Fly on the wall 4, 15 m</u> 4 <u>Ants Nest 3, 18 m</u> 5 <u>Solo Bolt 3, 18 m</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 <u>Birds Nest 6a+, 15 m</u> 7 <u>Hip Lock 6c+, 15 m</u> 8 <u>Tsch!! 7a, 15 m</u> 9 <u>Fly Away 6c+, 15 m</u> |
|---|---|



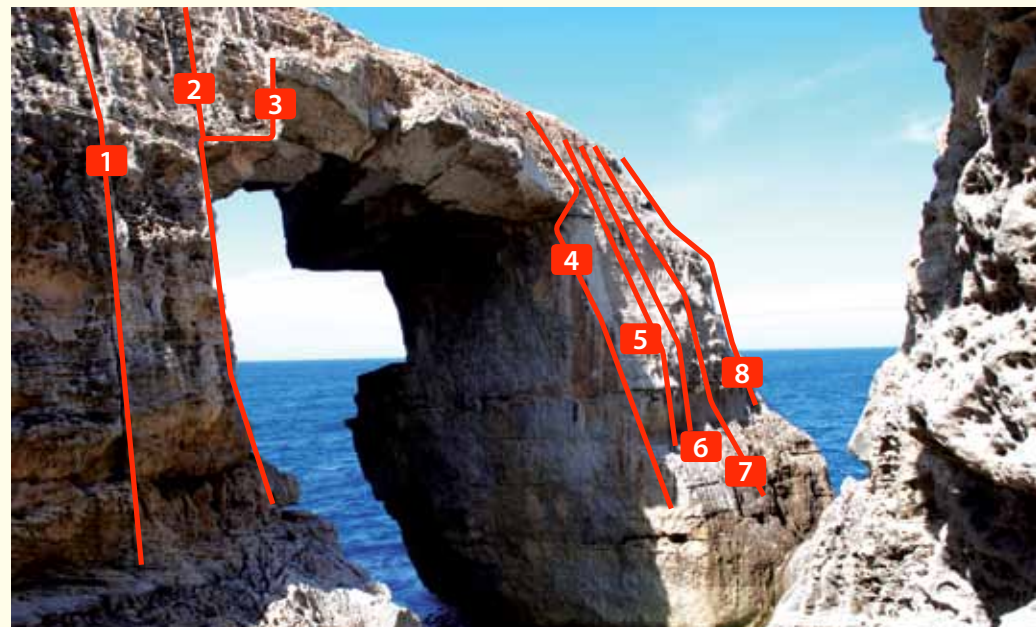


Black Slabs, Kercem AM

The Black Slabs with views over Xlendi and the Munxar Valley offers technical climbing on a slab of high quality of rock. Being located directly above a road creates a zero approach time, making it ideal for those quick climbing sessions. The crag has 22 routes for all abilities and due to it being south facing it is dry and protected from the prevailing weather.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 <u>Moe 3+, 17 m</u> | 12 <u>Black Adder 6b, 15 m</u> |
| 2 <u>Larry 4, 18 m</u> | 13 <u>You don't know what you have 4+, 14 m</u> |
| 3 <u>Curly 3+, 18 m</u> | 14 <u>Gravy Granules 4+, 14 m</u> |
| 4 <u>Star Ride 6c+, 7 m</u> | 15 <u>Dust Bowl 4, 14 m</u> |
| 5 <u>Le Tactic du Gendarme 6a, 8 m</u> | 16 <u>Snake Skin 5c, 20 m</u> |
| 6 <u>Nimminy Pimminy 8a, 10 m</u> | 17 <u>Little Green Tuft 6a, 20 m</u> |
| 7 <u>My Bush is Fire 7c, 20 m</u> | 18 <u>Bush Less 7a+, 20 m</u> |
| 8 <u>Queenie 6b, 20 m</u> | 19 <u>Brazilian Wax 7a, 20 m</u> |
| 9 <u>George Bush 7a, 15 m</u> | 20 <u>Caassiopea 7a+, 20 m</u> |
| 10 <u>Clarksville 6b, 15 m</u> | 21 <u>Grass on the Green 6c, 20 m</u> |
| 11 <u>Baldrick 6c+, 16 m</u> | 22 <u>Landing Strip 6b+, 12 m</u> |

Photographs supplied by Laurence Gouault Haston and Gozo Adventures
Design and layout by Xavier Hancock



Wied il-Mielah Sea Arch AM

The Wied il-Mielah Sea Arch is located at the end of the Wied il-Mielah Valley and is located on the west coast of Gozo and is rather unknown. The climbing here is on big holds making it ideal for beginner and intermediate climbers, with the added excitement of exposure as the climbs are over the sea. The great thing here, is that in the summer months, one can swim between your climbs.

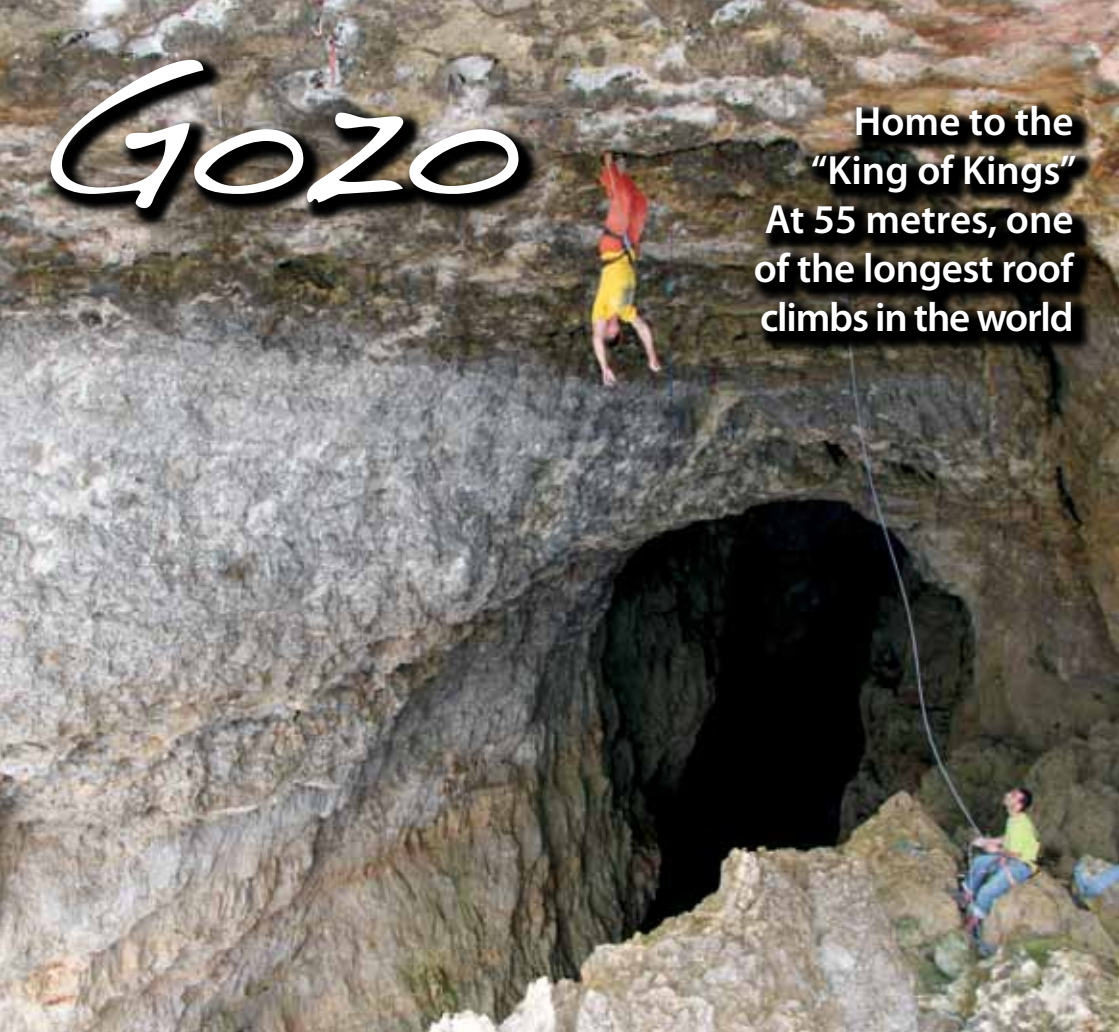
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <u>Little Stinker 4+, 16 m</u> | 5 <u>Little Nobles 5a, 15 m</u> |
| 2 <u>Out Fall 5b, 16 m</u> | 6 <u>Knot the Rope 4, 16 m</u> |
| 3 <u>Beyond Comfort Zone 6c, 16m</u> | 7 <u>Flat Calm 3+, 21 m</u> |
| 4 <u>30 Minutes to Sunset 5c+, 21 m</u> | 8 <u>Ocean Arete 3, 16 m</u> |



Spunky Arête, 7a

Gozo

Home to the
"King of Kings"
At 55 metres, one
of the longest roof
climbs in the world



The Maltese Islands

Located right at the centre of the Mediterranean, the Maltese Islands are at the heart of the region - promising a diverse culture, a dynamic history, friendly people and eclectic attractions. The islands are enviably located in the passageway between Africa and Europe, 93km south of Sicily and 288km north of Libya.



www.visitgozo.com

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