

KOH TAO ROCK CLIMBING AND BOULDERING GUIDE

UPDATED

- New sport lead routes
- New trad routes, including a 5 pitcher
- New boulder areas
- Descriptive photos of the best boulders
- Remote jungle top rope routes

Version 1/14 Free PDF version

by

Goodtime Adventures

www.gtadventures.com



Introduction

For anyone who has spent some time on Koh Tao you will know it's one of the best islands in Thailand, hands down: small yet big enough, friendly locals both Thai and Farang, great food and nightlife options and of course - diving. A trained eye will also reveal the huge amount of granite rock laying absolutely everywhere, just waiting to be climbed upon. Known as a "bouldering paradise" for the past 15 years or so, the development of top rope, sport and traditional climbing has taken hold. Take your time, look around and enjoy the granite playground that is Koh Tao.



WARNING!! Rock Climbing is dangerous.

This guide is not intended as instruction of climbing. This guide is providing information about climbing on Koh Tao and should be used in conjunction with your own personal experience and knowledge. Certain risks may exist that are not mentioned in this guide. If your competence or knowledge is not sufficient, seek an instructor or experienced climber to assist. Use of this guide indicates assumption of risk.



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Enjoy this **free** PDF guide, please read all the info, check out the maps and pictures and use easily on your phone while you climb.

This guide is intended for Goodtime Adventures customers or independent climbers. **It is not intended for other climbing shops to reproduce, distribute or pass off as their own.**

Pages are constantly updated and will have their month/year version number on each page

Need a climbing or bouldering buddy? Check out [www.facebook.com/Climbing Thailand](https://www.facebook.com/ClimbingThailand) and leave a message or pop into the Goodtime Adventures office and leave a message on our climbers board.

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Fraggle Rock @ Meks Mountain

Acknowledgements

Firstly, some of the bouldering sections are largely based on what was left of the Zen Gecko guide compiled by James March and numerous friends of his. Rob Cooper has also influenced the locations of our climbing areas and his local knowledge of the rocks is invaluable. Secondly, Tim Severino, Charly Whiteside, Jeff Tomasello, Slade Sappora, Andre Gloria, Jason Curasi, Matt Bartlett, Derek Billings, Mike Mosher, Dave Bennet, Myo Aung, Danny Millar, Tom Lloyd and Shafiq Laloo have all been involved with the climbing routes and their anchors, the bolts and trails and bouldering maps. Lastly a big thanks to all the people who provide the beta and new maps we need to keep this guide up to date and as accurate as possible, such as Matt Pierson, Ryan Watson, Jed, Spyder and Steve.

This guide has been compiled by Timothy J. Severino

Climbing Areas

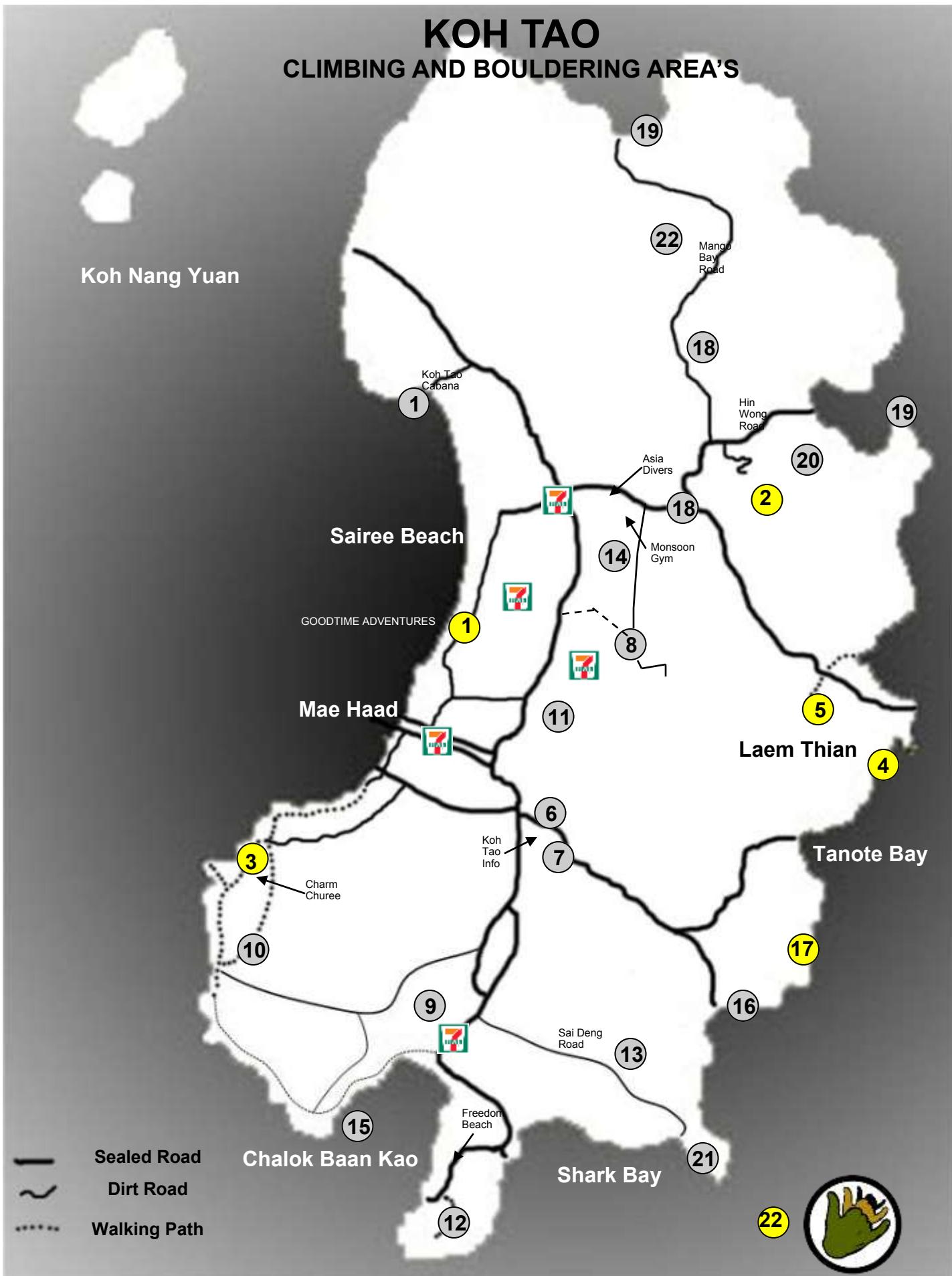
1. **Goodtime Adventures (1a)**, Sairee Beach. 1 top rope anchor, 5 short routes. 4 to 7b
2. **Mek's Mountain**, Our main climbing area. 18 sport routes, 14 top rope anchors with 20 routes. 4 to 7a and above
3. **Jansom Bay Cliffs**. Coastal walls, 3 top rope anchors, 6 routes. 6a and above
4. **Laem Thian Coast**. Coastal cliffs, 2 top rope anchors, 4 short routes, 5b to 6c.
5. **Laem Thian Jungle**. Jungle rocks, 5 top rope anchors, 8 routes, not advisable without GTA staff to guide.
17. **Lang Khai**. Coastal trad climbing, plus some top rope routes - huge potential for development.
22. **Shark Island**. Island cliffs, traditional climbing only with natural anchors. 5 routes. 4 to 5c

Bouldering Areas

1. **Goodtime Adventures (1a)**, Sairee Beach. 8 mapped problems **North Sairee boulders (1b)**. 9 mapped problems.
6. **The Backyard**. Coconut grove, 42 mapped problems.
7. **The Frontyard**. Coconut grove on hill, 55 mapped problems.
8. **Secret Garden**. Open grassland, 65 mapped problems, 100's more unmapped
9. **The Peak boulders**. Boulders on top of mountain, difficult access, 16 mapped problems.
10. **Sai Tong**. Boulders in jungle off beach, 25 mapped problems
11. **Sairee hills**. Scattered boulders on side of road and surrounding hills. Older mapped problems not included here.
12. **John-Swan Viewpoint**. Jungle viewpoint with huge boulders, unmapped.
13. **Buffalo Grove**. Cluster of rocks on grassy hill, unmapped.
14. **Fruit Bowl**. Small cluster of boulders very close to Sairee Cottage. 20 mapped problems.
15. **Babaloo**. (Chalok Baan Kao). Boulder area right on the waters edged. 40 mapped problems.
16. **Aow Luek**. Great beach location. 10 mapped problems.
17. **Lang Khai**. Hidden bay with a wealth of coastal rocks. 12 mapped problems.
18. **Koh Tao jungle**. The whole island is made of granite, explore just about anywhere.
19. **Koh Tao coastline**. The coastline contains rocks everywhere, watch the very sharp oysters at waters edge.
20. **Hin Wong Hills**. Loads of potential climbs and some great views. 14 mapped problem.
21. **Sae Daeng High Balls**. Crumbly coastal rock, high boulders bad landings, exposure. Not for beginners!!! 9 problems
22. **Mango Mount Boulders**. Remote quality boulders in the North of the island.

KOH TAO

CLIMBING AND BOULDERING AREA'S



Koh Tao Bouldering and Climbing History, Ethics, Development and Info

Koh Tao climbing is different from other major climbing areas in Thailand, mainly because the rock type is different, very different. Koh Tao is one large block of volcanic granite that is very hard and coarse to touch. The granites that make up Koh Tao are over 200 million years old and represent the liquid hot magmas that pooled deep underground and subsequently cooled over the millennia. Time and weather have eroded the outer layers and softer rocks to reveal the hard resistant rocks that makes climbing so much fun and challenging here. Climbing on granite and its small crystalline holds requires balance, tough hands and most importantly - footwork which will enhance any climbers ability for all rock types and climbing styles.

Rock climbing on Koh Tao is not necessarily a new concept, bouldering and climbing have been done on Tao ever since the first divers looked up. The first independent climbers arrived with the first divers and came to enjoy the Koh Tao lifestyle all divers enjoy today. The Island's first climbing shop: Zen Gecko developed a bouldering guide of certain areas of Koh Tao, of which some are still relevant today and built up a knowledge base on the best rock formations and locations to climb. They closed in 2005.

Goodtime Adventures opened in Feb 2008 and using existing information as a base, have **identified the largest rock formations** on the island and are constantly placing top rope anchors, sport routes, cleaning the rocks, removing obstacles and dangers, creating paths and maps. We have expanded the amount of top rope climbing using fixed bolted anchors in mountain, jungle and coastal locations across the island, creating 60+ routes with more to come. Some locations are seasonal, others not. We have short and long climbs ranging from absolute beginner (4-5) to seasoned climber (7+) on the French / Thai scale. The **faces, cracks, slabs, arêtes and chimneys** on the granite we have uncovered and made safe make for an awesome climbing experience.

The **bouldering areas** already mapped and included here are by no means the only places to boulder. The island has boulders everywhere and new areas are constantly being uncovered with the rapid construction on the island. Please be aware that all land on Koh Tao is private and not everyone is happy to have climbers on their land. When ever in doubt, please ask and do not climb right next to peoples bungalows. The land owners of our **climbing areas** are paid by the customer for us to use their land. If you are independently climbing please ensure you either pay Goodtime Adventures before hand and we will issue a receipt or with Jansom Bay, pay the beach office and let them know what you are doing.

There are locals on Koh Tao outside of Goodtime Adventures with extensive climbing knowledge who have directly and indirectly contributed to climbing on Koh Tao and this guide. Some are intensely private, others happy to share their land and knowledge.

With the exception of Mek's Mountain, all anchor systems are 2-3 bolts or rock / trees that you are required to **build your own anchor** when climbing those routes. On Mek's Mountain, all **Sport Routes** have a permanent anchor with opposable binas for easy and safe climbing. Many of the **Top Rope** routes are 2-3 bolts or trees / rocks that require anchor building for use. Often a completed sport route can enable you to climb one or two more top rope routes off the same anchor. If you do not have sufficient **anchor building knowledge**, ensure you enquire about the **Rock 2 course with GTA**. Too many climbers simply don't know what they are fully doing and we observe constant unsafe practices by independent climbers.

The future of climbing on Koh Tao in areas like Lang Khai, Laem Thian and Tanote bay is huge but it will take considerable time, effort and cost. If anyone is interested in putting in some routes anywhere on the island, Goodtime Adventures has all the equipment you need, please ask for details.

If you are bouldering on areas we have listed but have not mapped and would like to include some problems you have found in the next version of this guide, please take a photo of the route/problem, a general location, a name and a grade.



Climbing Grade Comparison Chart

French / Thai	YDS - USA	Australi- an	UIAA Cent Eu- rope	UK Adjective	UK Technical	Vermin Boulder- ing
1	5.2	10	I			
2	5.3	11	II			
3	5.4	12	II			
4	5.5	13	IV	4a	VD	
5a	5.6	14	V-		S	
5b	5.7	15	V / V+	4b	HS	
5c	5.8	16	VI-	4c	VS	
6a	5.9	17	VI	5a	HVS	
6a+	5.10a	18	VI+		E1	VO
6b	5.10b	19	VII-	5b	E2	
6b+	5.10c	20	VII	5c		V1
	5.10d	21			E2	
6c	5.11a	22	VII+			V2
6c+	5.11b	23				
7a	5.11c	24	VIII-	6a	E4	V3
7a+	5.11d	25	VIII		E5	
7b	5.12a	26	VIII+	6b		V4
7b+	5.12b	27			E6	
7c	5.12c	28	IX-			V5
7c+	5.12d	29	IX	6c		V6
8a	5.13a	30	IX+		E7	V7
8a+	5.13b		X-			V8
	5.13c			7a		V9
8b	5.13d	31	X		E8	V10
8b+	5.14a	32	X+			V11
8c	5.14b			7b		V12
8c+	5.14c	33	IX-		E9	V13
9a	5.14d	34	IX	7c		V14
9a+	5.15a					V15

All of climbs are graded using the **French system**.

However the original bouldering maps of the island were made up by the author and not easily transferable to other systems, in general:

- VE (very easy), around a 3/4
- E (easy), around a 5a-5c
- M (medium) around a 6a
- MH (medium hard) around a 6b-6c
- H (hard) around a 6c-7a
- VH (very hard) 7b+

We are continuing to use this system for bouldering with new maps of the island to maintain consistency and its broadness allows us to grade problems quickly, in conjunction with the **V Scale**.

Now this is Granite and very different to Limestone, the **grades may feel harder at first and easier after a few climbs** once you get used to the rock.

Remember grades are **only a guide** and you should not base your climbing attitude around grades, but around quality climbs and moves and a sense of adventure.



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CLIMBING ROUTES INFORMATION

There are **6 roped** climbing areas developed by Goodtime Adventures, each with its own feel and varied topography. **Mek's Mountain** is a climbing complex on top of one of the Koh Tao mountains and is our main training and guide location. We have climbs ranging from 4 to 7+ and walls facing different directions to allow all day climbing in the shade. The views are spectacular as you are climbing perched high up above the island and the climbs include, faces, cracks, chimneys and ledges. Access is a right turn near a mobile phone tower on the road to Hin Wong.

Jansom Bay cliffs (Laem Hin Saam Kon) are the big sea cliffs you see coming to and from Koh Tao close to Mae Haad. All climbs here are above 25 m high right next to the sea and are mainly face climbs. Morning's are the best as the sun hits the cliffs from 1130 onwards and it becomes very hot. Access is by a path from the Charm Churee car park, around through the jungle to a junction where you turn right and approach the top of the cliffs. There are 3 top rope anchors with 2-3 routes per anchor. A Guide is recommended.

Laem Thian has massive rock formations in the jungle that are just waiting to be climbed. We have limited climbing here due to access. There are currently 5 bolted top rope anchors and several natural anchors in the area. 5c climbing and above. It is strongly advised to only go with a GTA guide due to the difficult access and finding the rocks in the thick jungle with overgrown paths. **Laem Thian Bay** has a wall with two anchors right on the coast with access from the resort. This wall is a nice short seaside climb.

The Elephant in the middle of Sairee beach in front of Good Time Adventures also has an anchor on top and is great to climb at sunset with a beer on hand!

Shark Island and Lang Khai are home to many Trad routes, with new ones going in all the time. Awesome isolated climbing, for those with the Trad knowledge. We are developing Lang Khai for bolted climbing.

ANCHOR SET UPS



The majority of **Sport Routes** have a pre-placed full anchor with opposing clip gate carabiners for safe and easy use.



Some **Sport Routes** require you to make your own anchor for climbing and then lower yourself off afterwards



Top Rope routes only have bolts in a 2 or 3 bolt configuration and you have to make your own anchor for use



All bolts are 12mm expansion bolts in tested solid granite rock, the majority are PETZL and are checked periodically

MEK's MOUNTAIN

Attention

- Entry to this area is 100 THB and can be paid @ Goodtime Adventures
- Some Top Rope Climbs require an anchor built from bolts
- Some anchors have stringers. Please be careful when attaching your rope as these are not easy to replace. It is easiest to use tape.
- All anchors were established to be used by GTA commercially and positioning factors include safety, rope and equipment wear and student abilities.
- Please respect the land and take out all rubbish with you, including climbing tape and water bottles.

Legend

Anchor	★
Path	-----
Ladder	██████
Top Rope Route	-----
Sport Route	-----
Sport Bolt	✗
Trad Route	-----

15 m



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Mek's House

Shady Crack

2 Top Rope

Ladder for top access

Quit Your Bitchin'

1 Trad

2 Sport, 2 Top Rope

1 Trad

Low Bulge

4 Top Rope

Sairee Face

2 Sport, 2 Top
Rope



Eagle Wall

4 Sport, 2 Top Rope



Eagle Wall

4 Sport, 2 Top Rope



Two Face

1 Sport, 4 Top Rope
+ 1 Trad

New Road

Tongue Twister

3 Top Rope, 1 Trad + high-line

5 min walk

Car Jack

1 Sport, 1 Top Rope

Lower Fraggle

2 Top Rope 1 Trad

De-Vine wall

5 Sport, 3 Top Rope

Watchtower

2 Top Rope

Multipitch

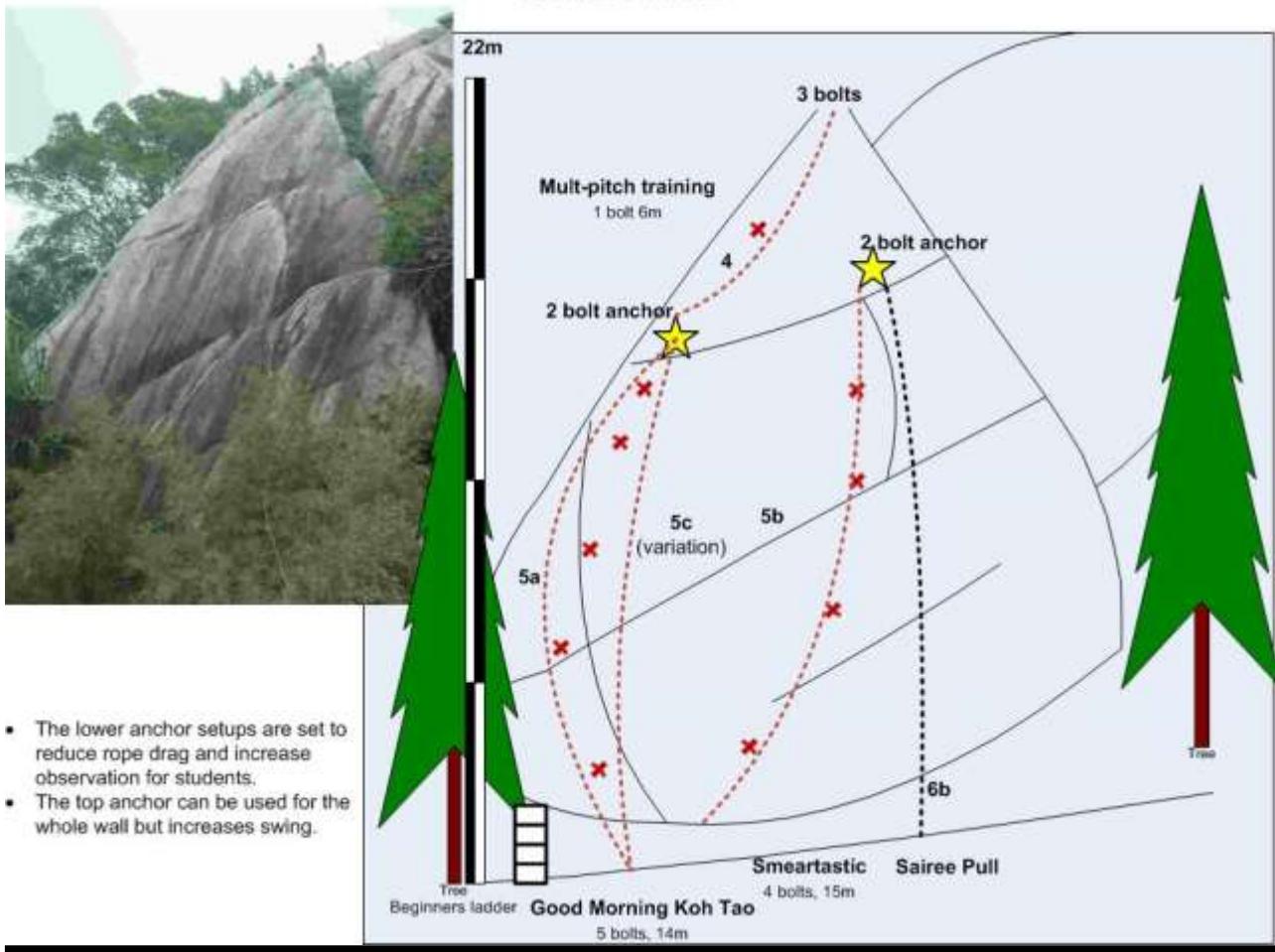
2 sport pitches

Fraggle Rock Viewpoint

South Abseil climb

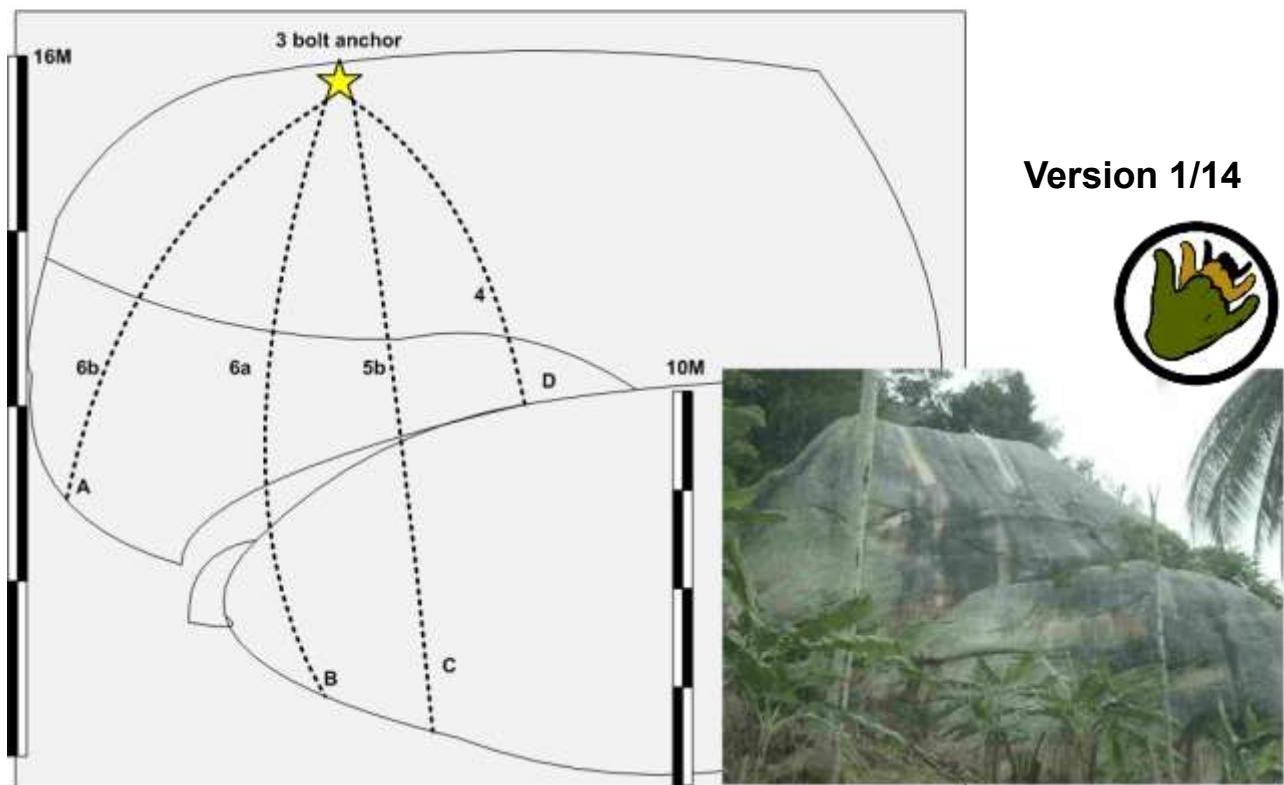
1 Top Rope – Poker Face 6b

SAIREE FACE

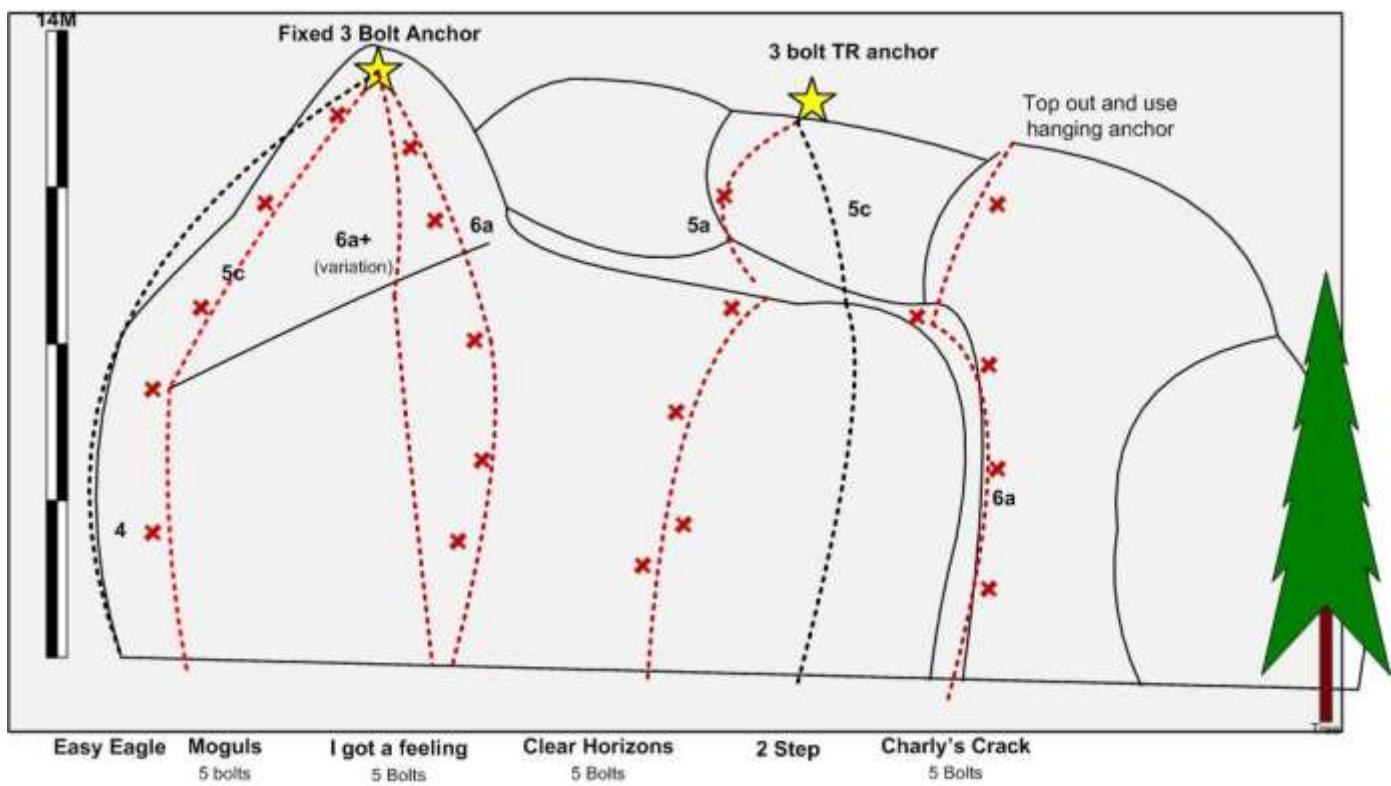


LOW BULGE

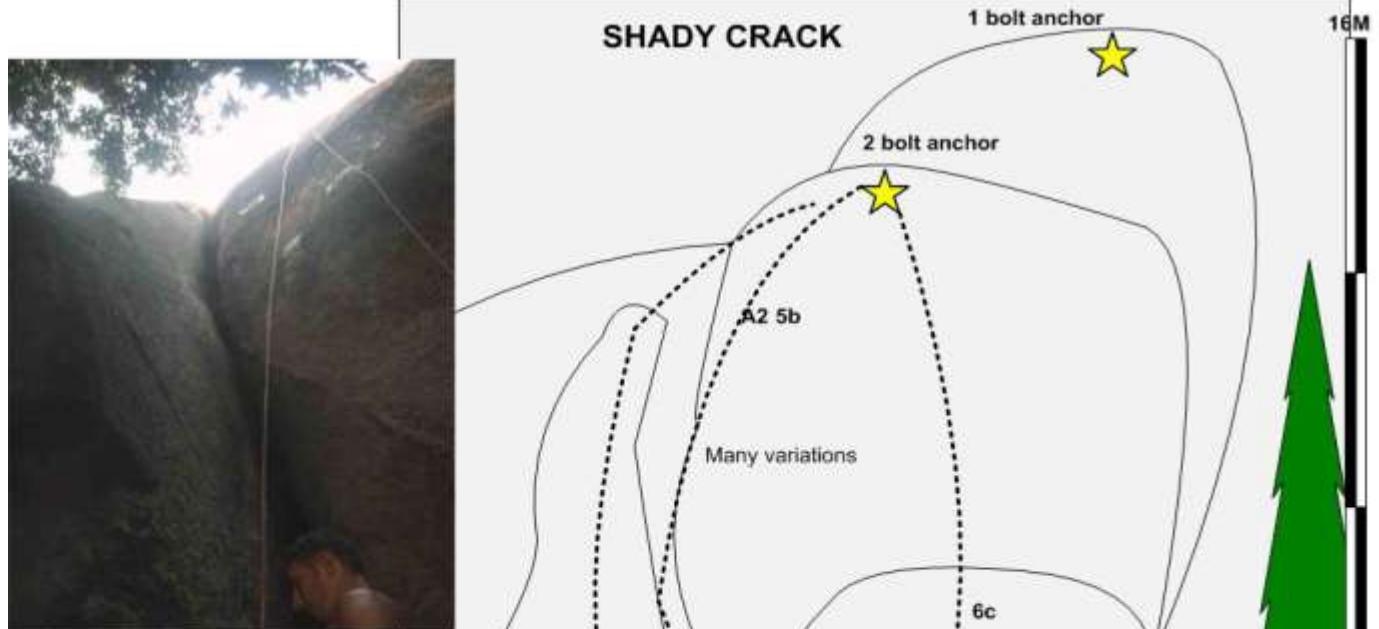
- This wall is two large boulders on top of each other
- There is significant rope drag
- Climbs are similar to boulder problems with the crux being significantly harder than the rest of the climb
- Best before 1130



Eagle Wall



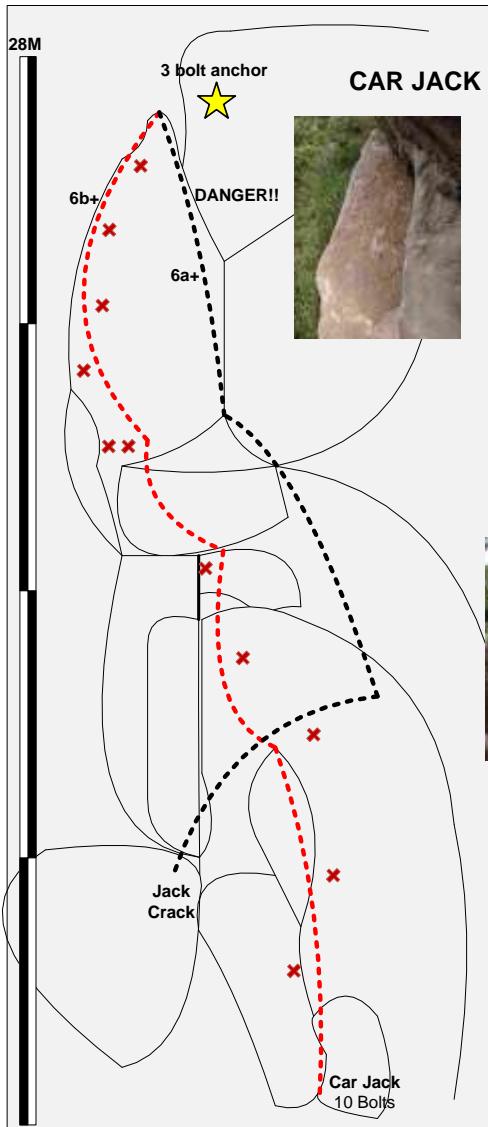
- Eagle wall was our first wall to be used for guides and courses.
- This is one of our training walls as it provides different aspects and moves for climbing.
- 'Charly's Crack' and 'I got a feeling' are the two classic climbs of this wall.
- Wall is best from 1400 onwards.



- Easy crack climb that is always in the shade
- Difficult face climb
- Need to abseil or lower from bolt near ladder to anchor point to set up



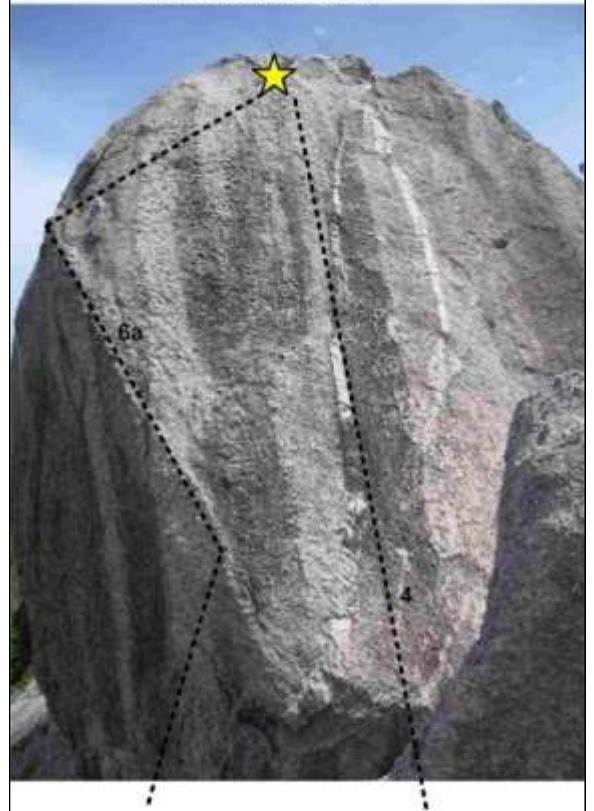
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- These climbs are classic Koh Tao with changing climbing styles required at each stage.
- Best belay stance (for top rope) is at start of Jack Crack as you can see the climber the whole way and is more stable
- There is a 2 bolt anchor with D-shackles 2/3rds of the way up. This has been installed for multipitch training and also if people don't feel comfortable leading the final section. (the first pitch is graded at 6a)
- There are some loose rocks on this climb even though it has been cleaned
- Climb B has a **very dangerous** swing and loose rock and vegetation in the top crack section and injury is likely
- All day climbing due to shade of surrounding trees
- Best views in late afternoon



The Watchtower



- Stringer to fixed anchor, please be careful and use tape to affix rope
- Great climb!
- Please be careful getting to and at the base of the climb as a fall will be deadly
- One of the best views of Koh Tao from the top

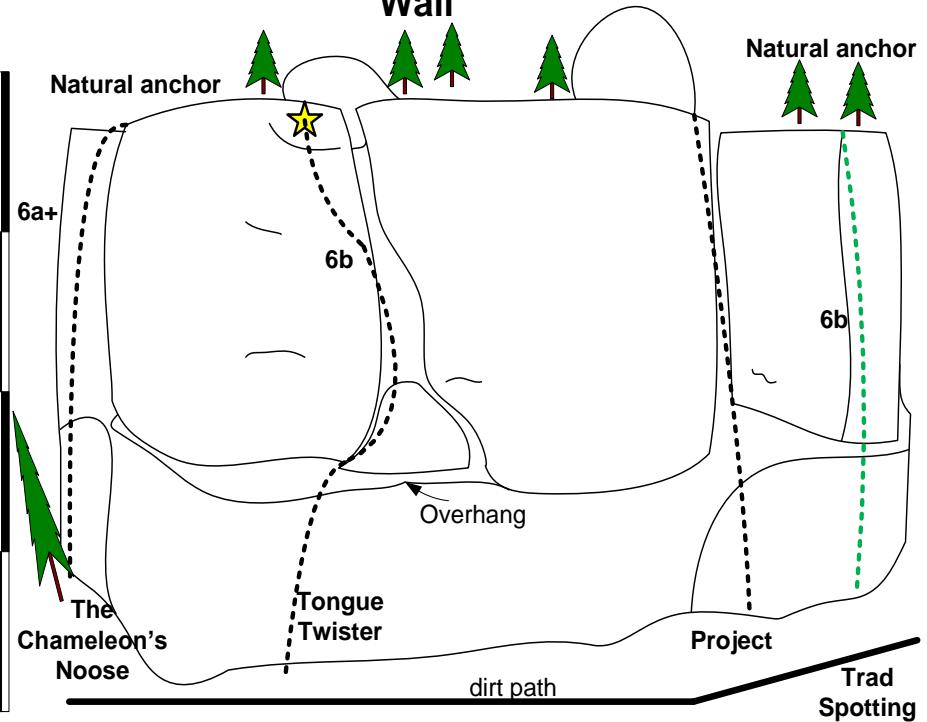
Tongue Twister Wall

- This wall is the big overhang on the left as you approach Fraggle Rock.
- Watch for rope drag and snagging on the Tongue Twister
- Shade best in the morning
- Natural Anchors can be time consuming and difficult to set up. Check and double check the boulders and trees.
- The 3 bolt anchor was first used for the **first high-line in Thailand**, stretching 25m from this anchor to the North Fraggle abseil anchor



Version 6/11

The Tongue Twister Wall





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The Watchtower

2 bolt Anchor

17m

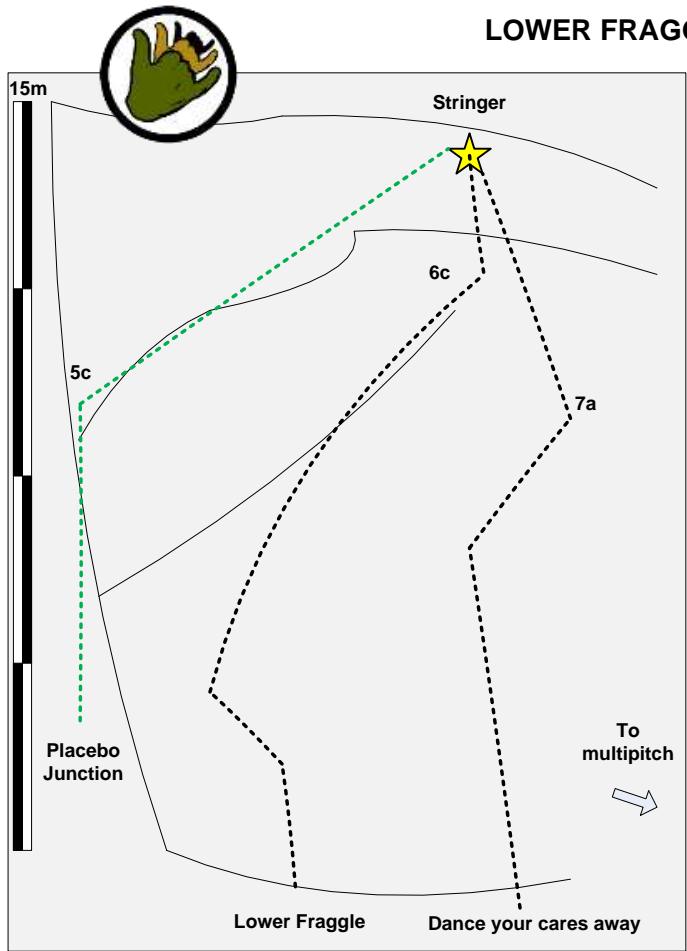
South Abseil

Multipitch Climbing

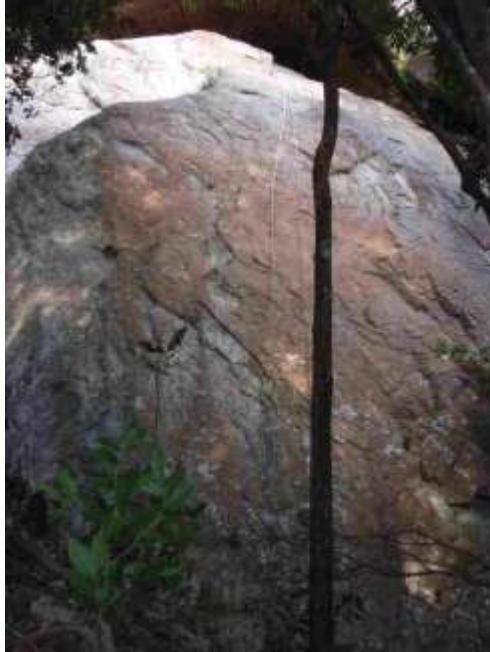
Although this climb is only 2 pitches in length and is for most people at a comfortable grade, multipitch climbs should never be underestimated.

- Helmets are a must as there is still lots of loose rock and debris.
- Get your climbing calls sorted before starting as the anchor stations are out of the belayer's sight.
- Most of all, go with someone who has experience in this type of climbing. Even though this climb is very user friendly with a walk off option at the top, having an incident half way up would prove to be a very difficult rescue scenario.





- Stringer to fixed anchor, please be careful and use tape to affix rope
- Great climb
- All day climbing due to shade or jungle
- Bring bug spray



Boulders and Climbs at Mek's Mountain

We have looked at all the rocks on Mek's Mountain for potential climbs and cleaned and bolted most of the ones we have found to be worth it. There still will be routes around Fraggle Rock in the 7 and 8 range however while none of the Goodtime staff are climbing in that range they won't be bolted. If you are climbing in this range and want to bolt either top rope or sport routes please contact GTA for assistance and we would be happy to help.

There is a wide variety of boulders and boulder problems on the mountain, both exposed and hidden in the jungle. If any problems are found and mapped in this area please let us know and we can start a bouldering map of this area.

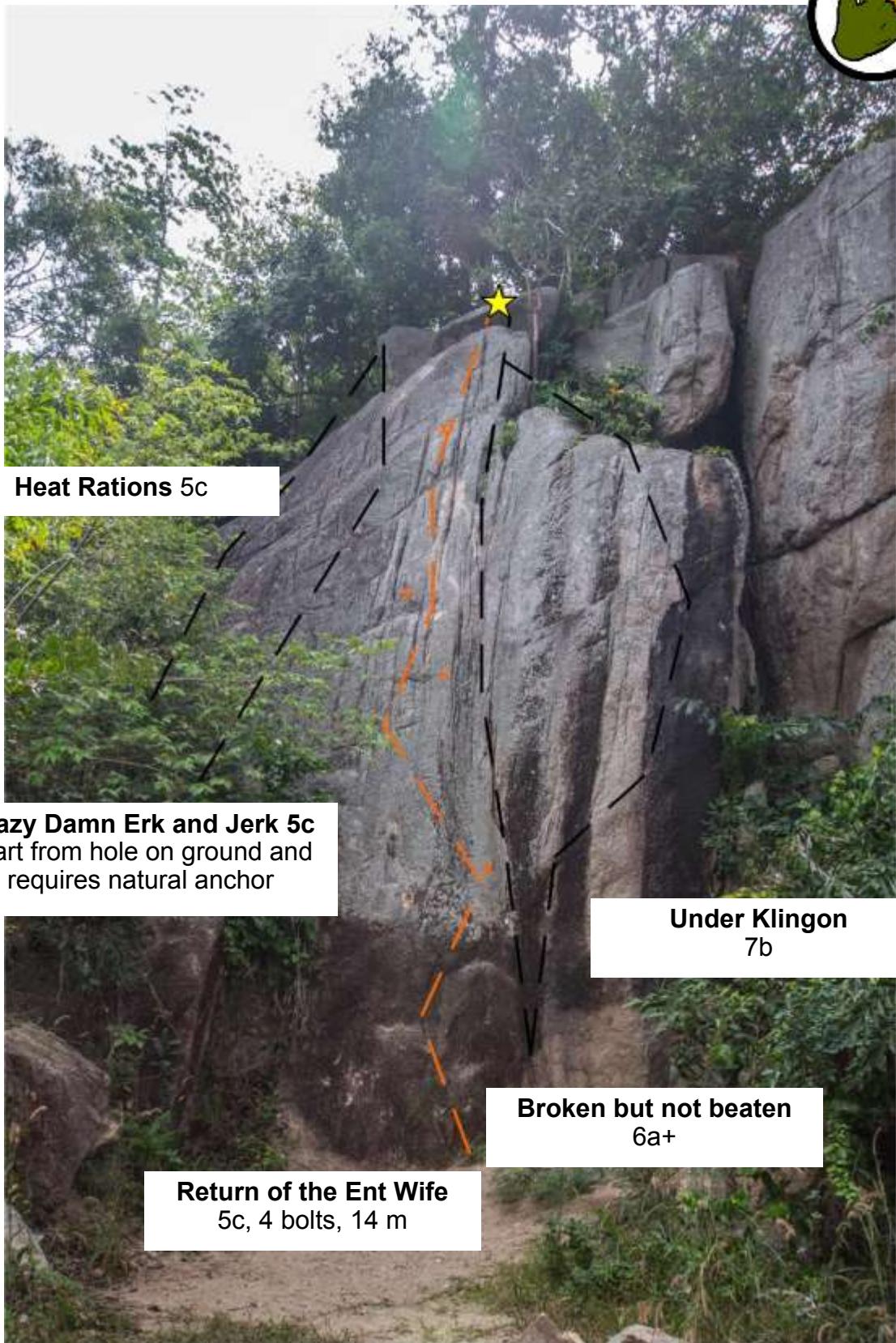


Wildlife on Koh Tao

Koh Tao is a jungle island located just 10 deg above the equator and as such the flora and fauna are very tropical with hardwoods, coconut palms, cashew nut trees mixed in with vines, ferns and palms aplenty. There are some very spiky plants you need to watch out for too.

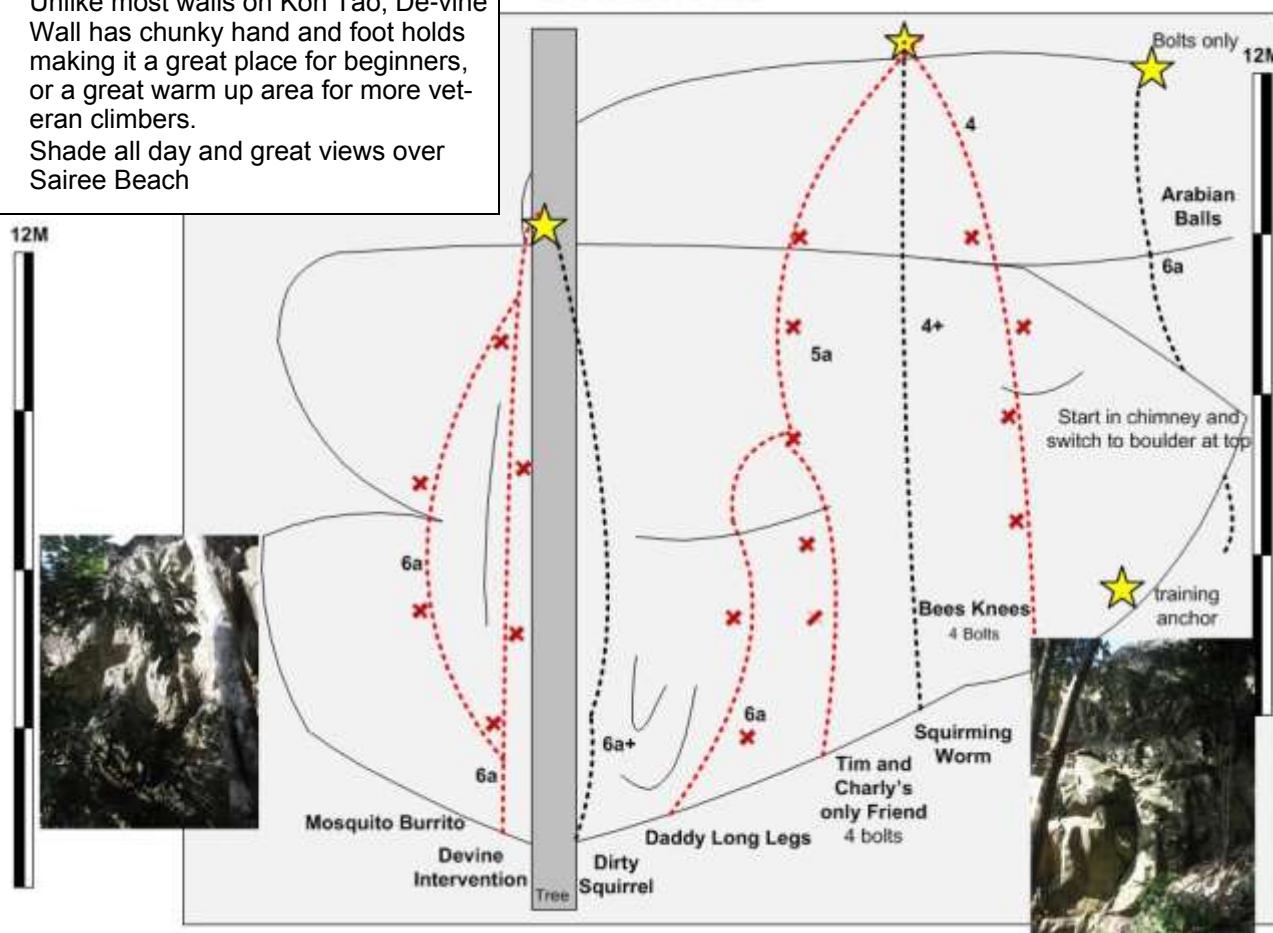
There are no wild monkeys on the island so unlike Krabi you can climb without fear of being attacked!! There are squirrels, monitor lizards and snakes. The snakes are apparently non-venomous and quite frequently seen, however don't try to pick one up... Scorpions and centipedes (the big ugly ones not the small millipedes seen everywhere) can pose a problem if you are stung seek medical assistance immediately.

TWO FACE WALL

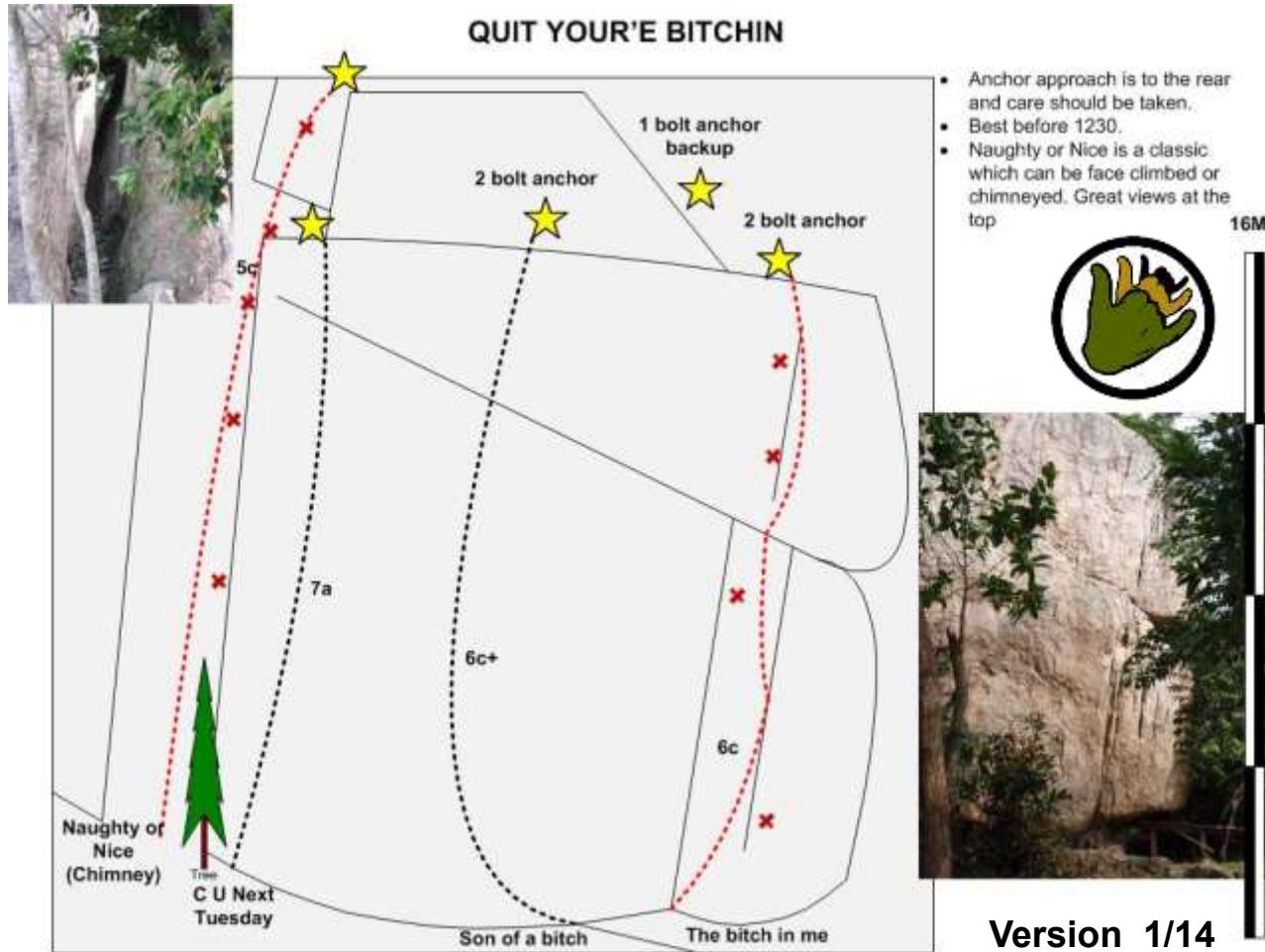


- Unlike most walls on Koh Tao, De-vine Wall has chunky hand and foot holds making it a great place for beginners, or a great warm up area for more veteran climbers.
- Shade all day and great views over Sairee Beach

DE-VINE WALL



QUIT YOUR'E BITCHIN



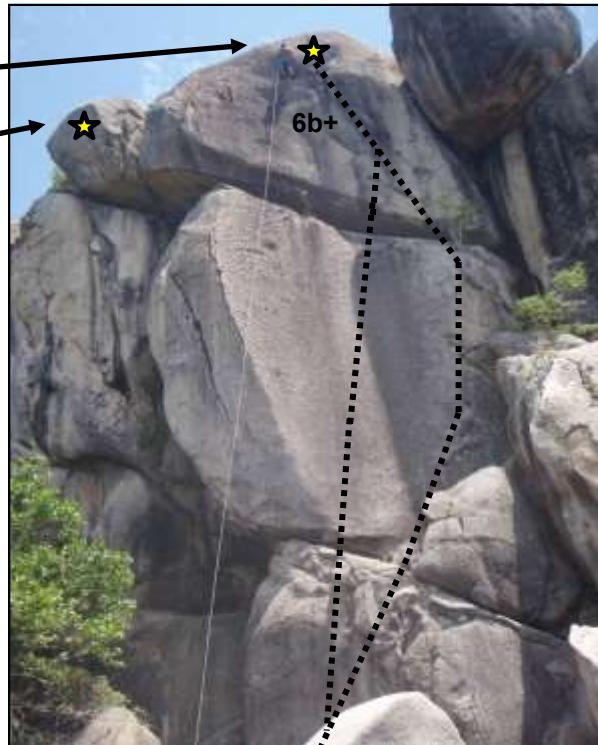
Climbing Maps - Jansom Bay

The following pictures are of Jansom Bay and Laem Thian Coast. Jansom bay access is via Charm Churee Resort, from the car park follow signs to 'Sai Thong' on path through resort. Follow until it forks, turn right, then right again up the hill, over some rocks and up on top to a wooden platform. **These are 30+m high, seaside routes that are only good in the morning.**



Cyclops Wall

Good Intentions



Resort development Koh Tao.

This island has in the past 7 years specifically boomed with development. Original climbing and bouldering areas now have high end resorts built using the boulder as structural supports or in some case, boulders have been blasted away to make room. These cliffs we had earmarked to put a load of sport routes in, however at the time of writing it looks like bungalows will be built as their base, making it impossible to climb there. As always room number 1,267 must come first...



The top access is difficult and realistically should require a guide from GTA to find the top anchors (one is set up for abseiling so extra slings etc required). The three anchors are not close to each other, from the wooden top platform:

Cyclops wall is in front of you with 4 bolts in groups of 2

- Easy route to the right, hard crimpy slab climbing straight up. Crux at top

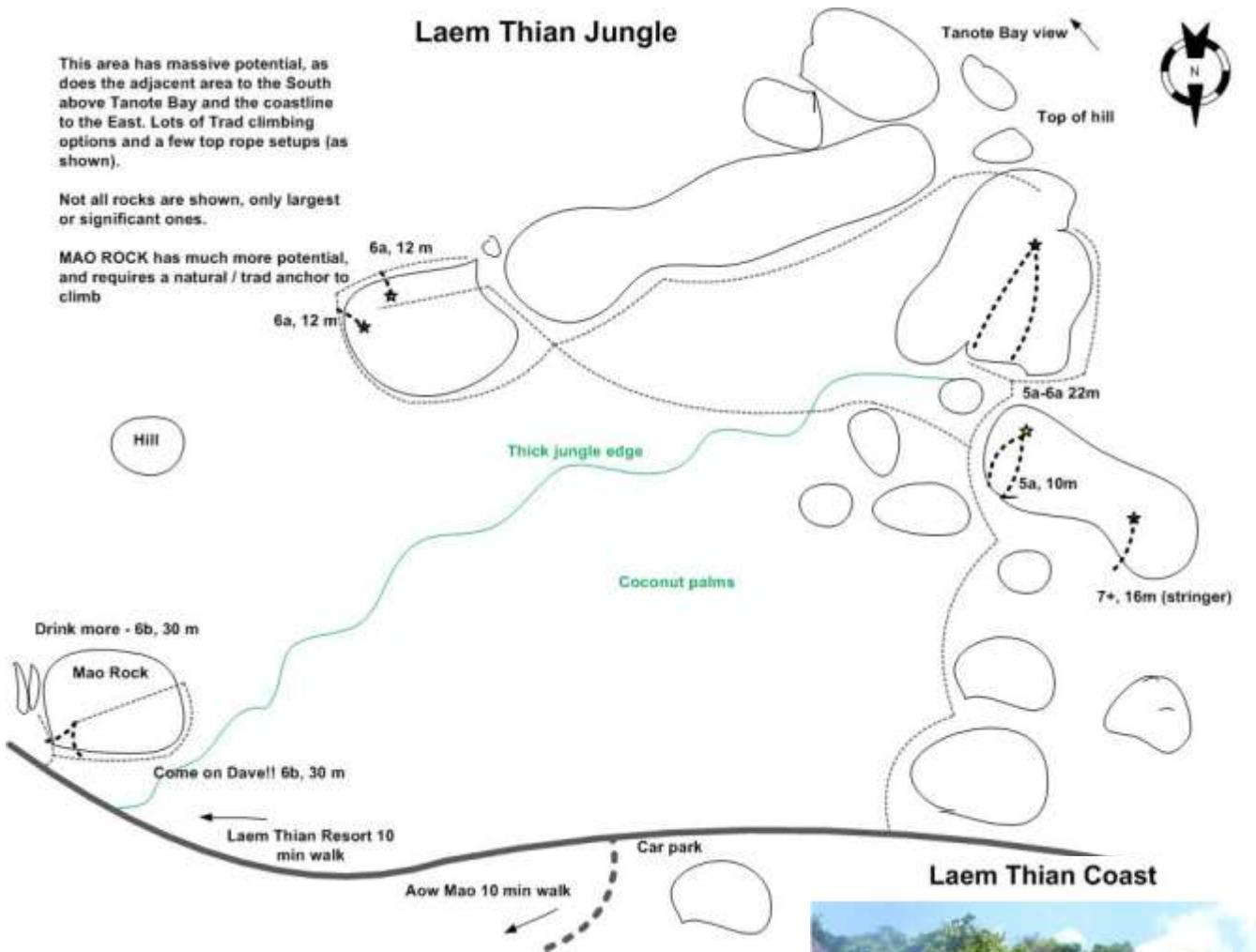
Pock Mark wall requires a climb down a crack from a tree just before you get to the wooden platform to access it (and back up again if you don't fancy the lower down)

- Xico's Ascent starts in chimney and has great wandering climbing to the top. Try to find the 'fist of gems'
- Alternate start on underclings to the left is technically and mentally challenging

Good Intentions requires an abseil from the far right Cyclops wall top bolt, across a gap to access the 4 bolt anchor

Bottom access is back down from the wooden platform and turn right down the hill, onto the rocks, and through the cave.

Longtail boats can drop you on the rocks at the bottom, depending on the seas.



Anchors & Access

Ever since the Laem Thian resort closed down, the road has become overgrown and access has become very difficult, requiring a 30 min hike in from the Hin Wong / Laem Thian road junction.

Mao Rock is easy to find as its very close to the road, however the other jungle climbs are very difficult as the jungle is very overgrown now. Top access is easy, but you need trad / natural anchor equipment and the knowledge to use it to climb on it. There are many more potential routes on this rock.

The coastal climbs are short and fun , however again difficult to access. There are bolts for an anchors to be made as shown.



Top rope access

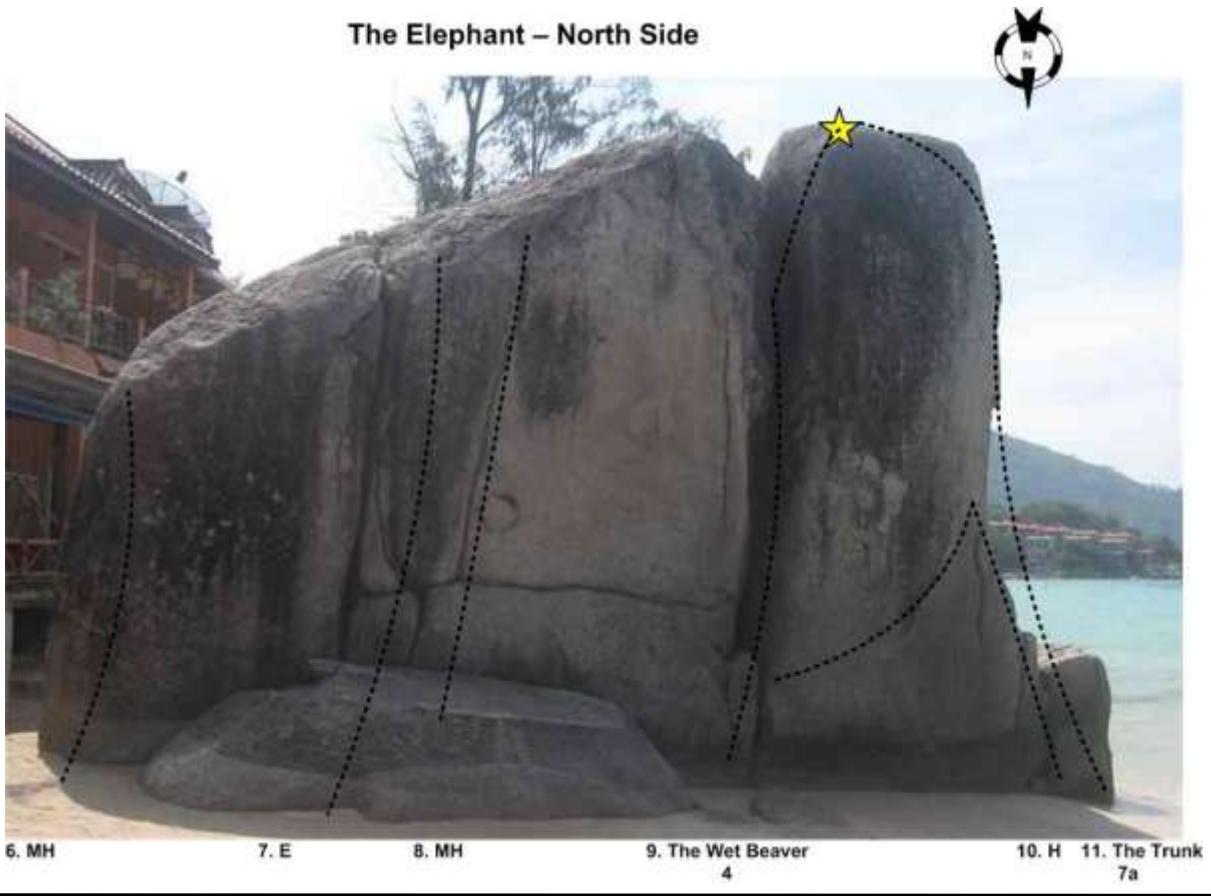
This small area is access from Laem Thian Resort by 'rock hopping' across at low tide. Quality climbs for beginners as hand holds everywhere and nice view from top. Was set up for resort use and for GTA to include in some trips.



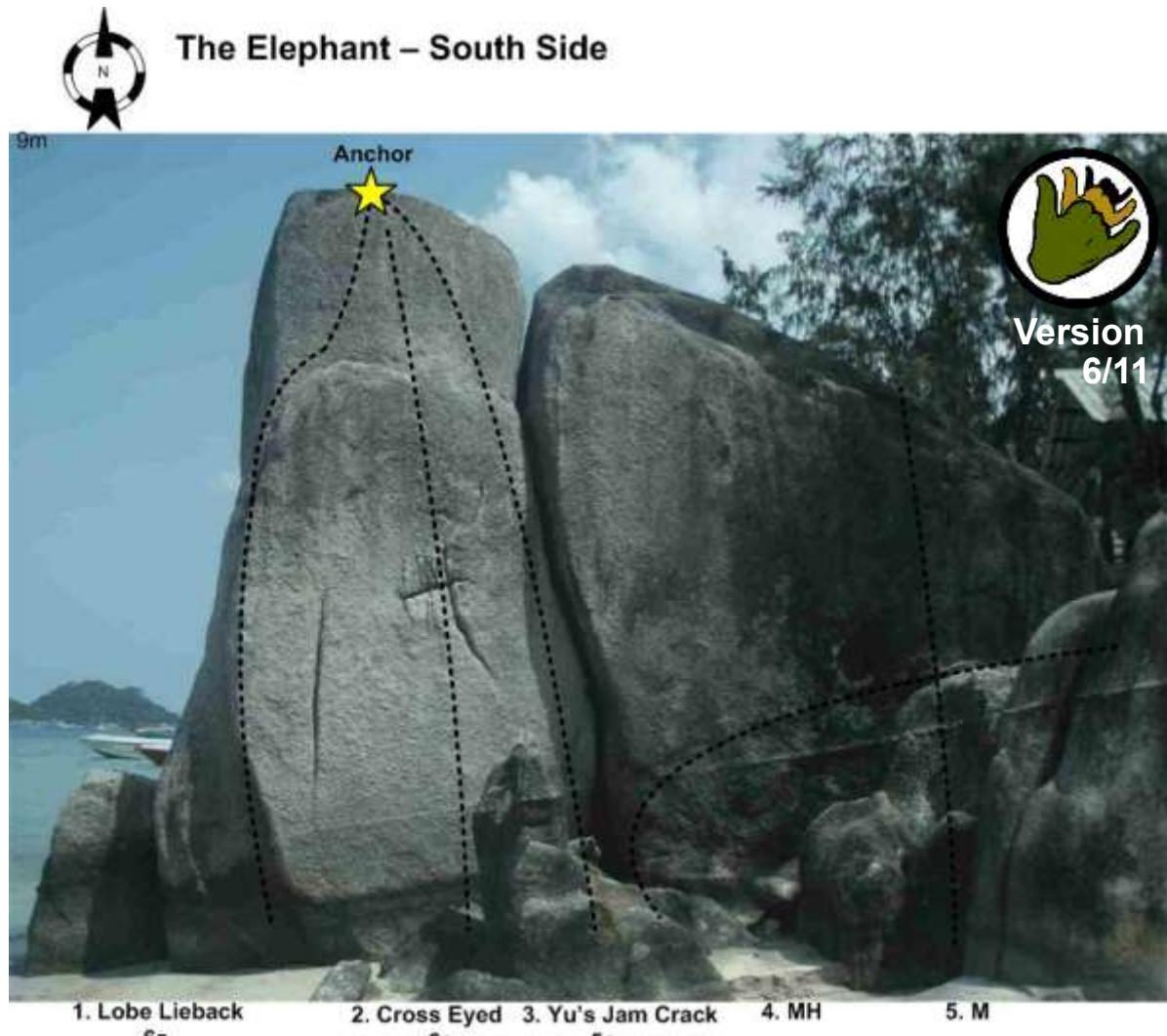
Laem Thian Coastal rocks

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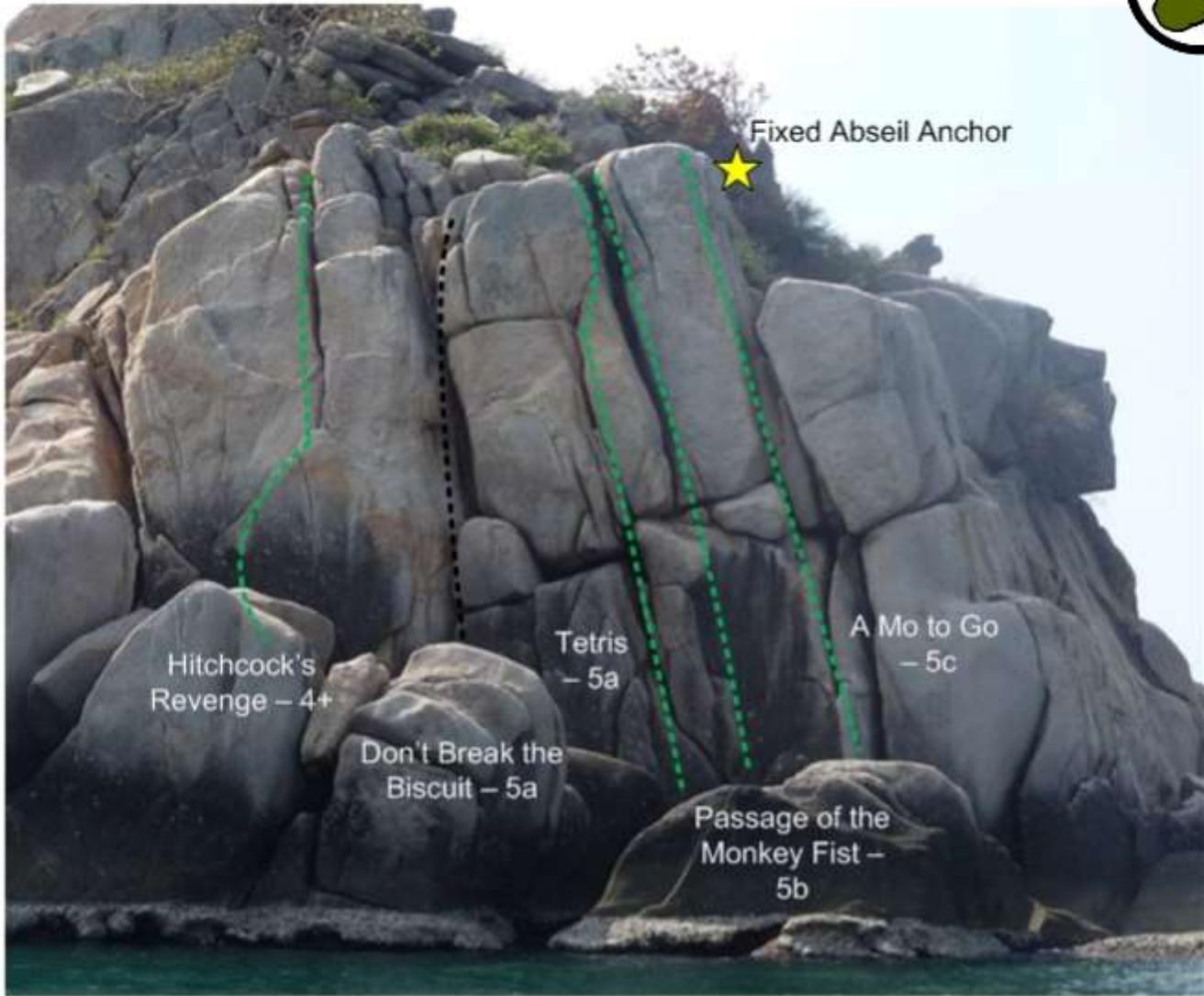
The Elephant – North Side



The Elephant – South Side



SHARK ISLAND



- This island is Tradtastic. The rock takes great gear but can be slightly crumbly due to the coastal environment. The wall is northerly facing and provides incredible scenic views.
- Anchors at the top are all made from natural bollards/trees/placed protection. There is a large D shackle attached to two slings behind the top of 'A Mo to Go' for abseiling.
- Access can be tricky in high waves. A kayak to transport gear and people across is very beneficial.
- Very sunny environment and nesting birds can be a problem (May/June).

Hitchcocks Revenge – 4+, 15m. Start behind large boulder and climb on the right tending flake then direct to the finish. Takes better gear through second half.

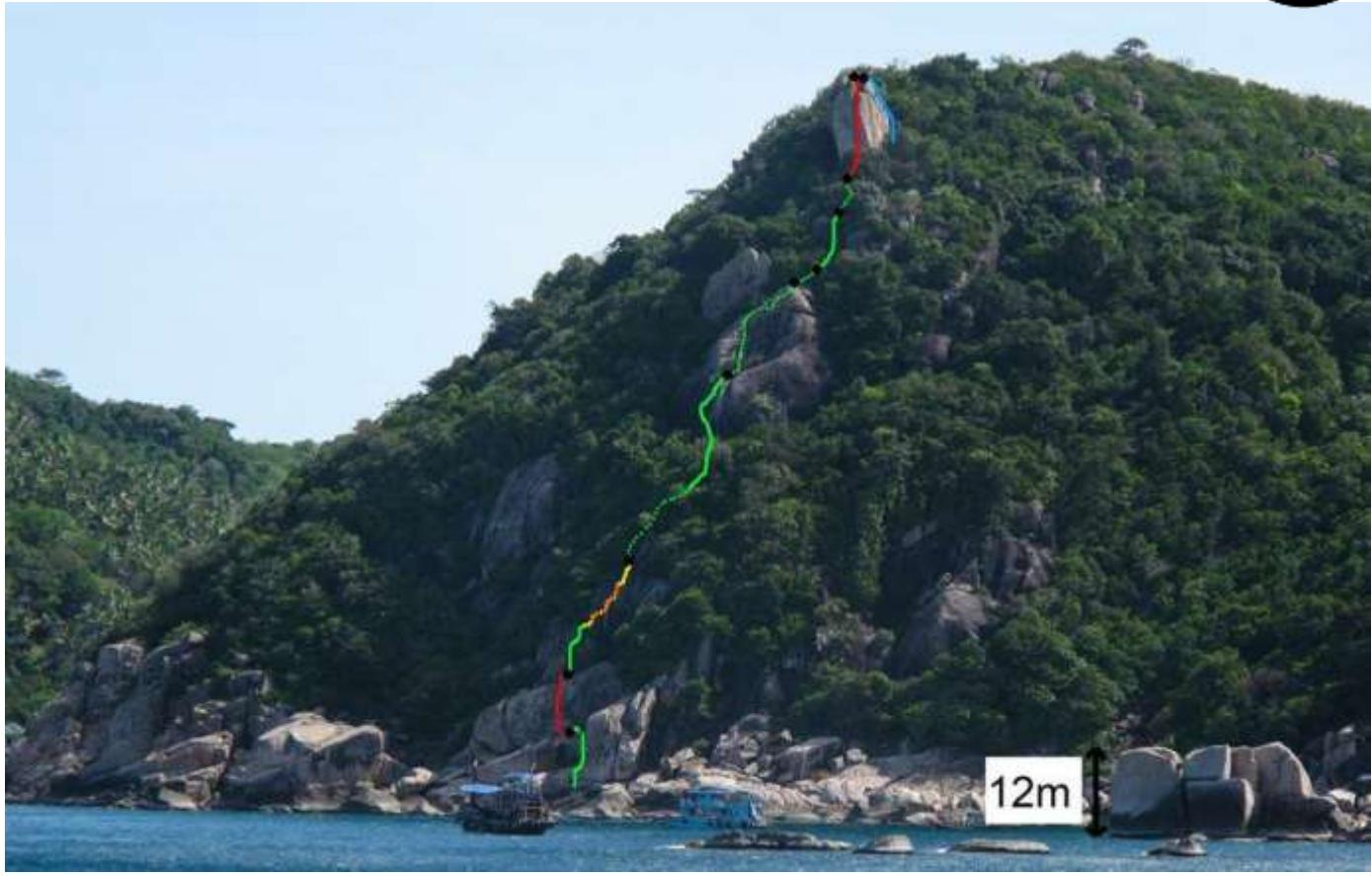
Don't Break the Biscuit – 5a, 17m. Straight up the large chimney. Top rope only as chimney is too large to take gear.

Tetris – 5a, 18m. Excellent series of crack lines and some great moves. Move right at the top when crack tapers out.

Passage of the Monkey Fist – 5b, 18m. Lovely moves to get over a large block and then easy stemming to place medium to large gear through the second half.

A Mo to Go – 5c, 18m. Easy moves through the first two thirds. Lovely finger crack to finish.

Tanote Bay Multi Pitch



Check it out... Thanks to Danny and Tom for all you Traddies out there Koh Tao now has a new challenge!

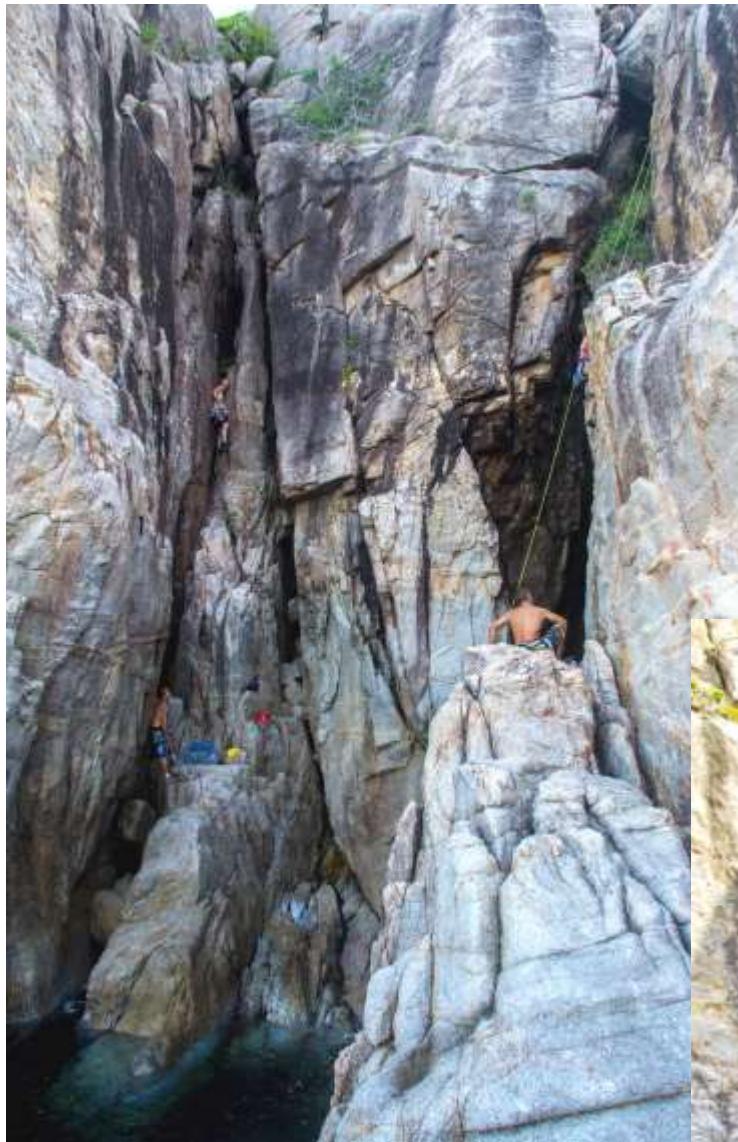
Danny "Koh Tao Multipitch, it feels pretty alpine compared to the rest of the stuff on the island. Just south of Tanote Bay, from sea level to the top of the obvious pinnacle sticking out the top of the hill. 5 pitches of good Trad on virgin but solid rock, linked with a mix of exposed and jungle bashing scrambles.

Might be possible to walk off the top straight back to the bar, but we only got as far as the bottom of the pinnacle before deciding that we'd rather rappel than get lost in the jungle at night. "

It goes without saying, you need: a full trad rack, 2 x 60m ropes, plenty of water and some food and get started in the morning!!

All pitches between 4 and 6a

Version 1/14



The routes so far:

- Afternoon Delights, trad, 32m, 5c
- Forearmed, TR, 18m 6a
- Forewarned, TR, 18m, 5c
- Laura's reach around, 24m, 6a

We have big plans for this area, firstly adding a couple of top rope anchors to open up 5-6 routes from 5c-7a all over 20m. After that, and a lot of climbing, we will start with the sport routes.

There is even more scope for more climbing on the coastal rocks around this area as well, easily reached by a kayak.

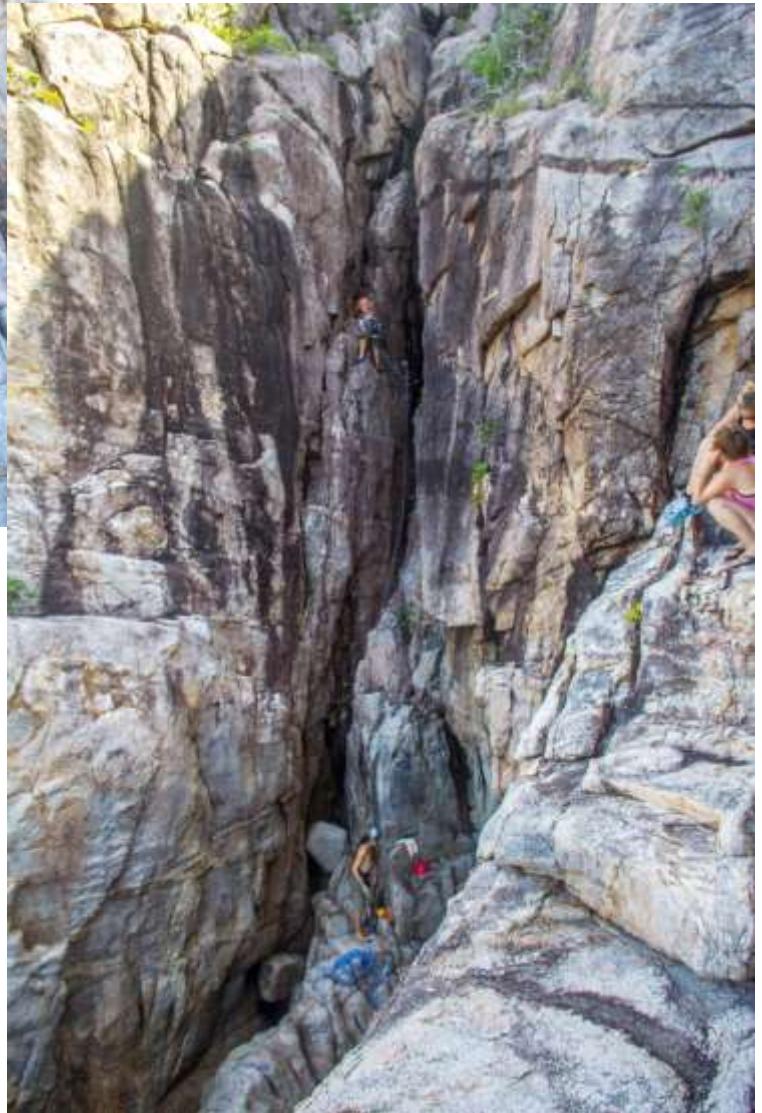


Version 1/14

Lang Khaai

This remote coastal area is our next new development. There are endless boulder problems, trad routes and potential top rope and sport routes a plenty. So far we have 2 sets of bolts for top rope use and a nice 30m trad route set in a fissure in the coastline that is in the shade all afternoon and right at the waters edge. We can also reach it within 15mins from Sairee on a bike or 25 mins by a taxi. No resorts of bungalows in close vicinity (you do have to park and walk through Yang's Bungalows however) there is not much to get in the way of a nice new climbing area!! Not recommended in Nov/Dec as monsoon waves and high tides swamp the belay areas.

At this stage we recommend you go with a guide from GTA to accompany you, once we have the area better mapped, we will include more here for the independent climber.



Bouldering Maps—Sairee Beach

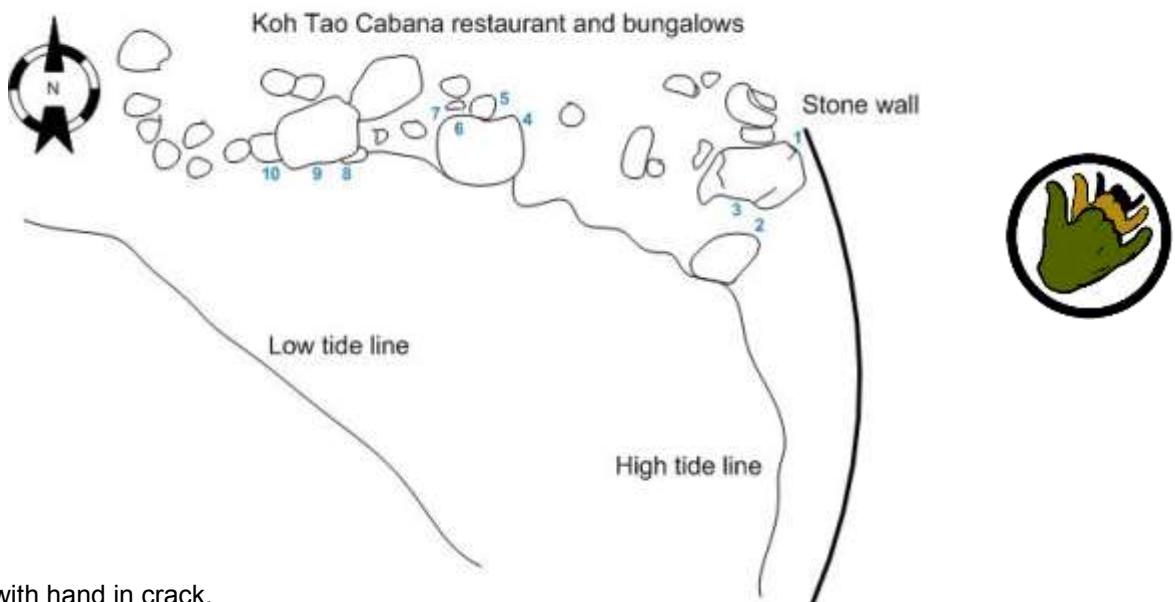
Sairee Beach is the longest beach on the island and pretty much where most of the accommodation, diving, restaurant and nightlife options are, yet on this beach are a few boulder problems worth playing on in the early evening with a beer in hand (provided the tide is right) watching the sun settle into the sea. There are no problems at the very South end of the beach and this is where King Rama V carved his initials into a rock and is thenceforth revered. Climbing on these rocks will quickly draw the attention of the locals. Right in front of Good Time Adventures you have **The Elephant's**, has a 3 bolt top rope anchor making it a little safer (ask GTA office about short rope) which has a few problems on it and worth a little time to play on. At the North end of the beach, below Koh Tao Cabana the rocks along here are again worth some relaxed sunset bouldering.

Original map and problems by James March: Zen Gecko Bouldering Guide, 2002. Updated by Good Time Adventures, 2010

The Elephant's climbing and bouldering (see maps previous page)

1. ***Lobe Lie back.** 6a 9m. Really nice climb!!
2. **Cross Eyed.** 6c. 9m. Straight up the x crack in the rock to mantle and top out.
3. **Yu's Yam Crack.** 5c 9m. Nice start, can get a little messy at the top.
4. **MH.** Thin traverse around to tree on backside.
5. ***M.** Start with good holds and mantle to gain high seam. Watch your back!!
6. **MH.** Northeast corner, thin start up and right to pocket like depression on lip.
7. **E. Twin cracks.** Good climb to top using both cracks.
8. **MH.** Climb right crack only.
9. **The Wet Beaver.** 4 8m. Easy body jam climb to anchor.
10. ***H. Gahn Dern Tahng Yahk** (The difficult journey). Traverse up and down flake to very thin reachy move to finish.
11. **VE.** On small rocks bear stream, good warm up traverse.
12. **M.** On small elephant right in front of GTA, traverse around as far as possible.

North Sairee



North Sairee

1. **MH.** Sit start with hand in crack.
2. ***MH. The Sun God Traverse.** Sit start left off nice sandstone like edge with feet on lower shelf. Traverse right into the crack and up to the crux. **2a H. Shuns Breakfast** - Sit start from lower edge and traverse to #1.
3. **E.** Sit starts, a few variations on South of boulder.
4. **M.** Start on small sharp edges and up to sandstone like horn.
5. ***H. Suffer for the Children.** Big dyno from slash to sloper.
6. **E.** Jump start to good edge at lip and mantle.
7. **E.** Start with left hand on lieback edge, right hand in a small crack, climb up and right
8. **M.** Start on #9 and traverse right over rock and up.
9. ***M. Number 1 boulder problem.** A nice mantle to face over the sand.
10. **H.** The 5th of July. Hands start on low lieback flake, crank to sloper and high sandstone like edges.

Bouldering Maps—The Backyard

The following two areas were literally in the Zen Gecko's office Backyard and Frontyard (hence the names) and offer a central and diverse number of problems. Sit, the man who owns the land, also owns Koh Tao Info, a small shop on the corner where a map of the area is also located. We ask that you please pay Sit and the ladies there a visit and purchase your drinks from them. They also ask for a small donation to the Koh Tao school if possible. This is where almost all new boulderers to Koh Tao go (or are sent) first. It's the most likely place to meet other boulderers (other than the GTA office) on the island. Both these areas are coconut plantations and are most easily accessible off the Tanote Bay / Aow Leuk road. The Backyard is to the left and the Frontyard to the right an up and over the hill. A few days worth of problems here. There is mention of "sandstone", we have re-named it 'sandstone like' as sandstone can't form inside granite (simple geology).

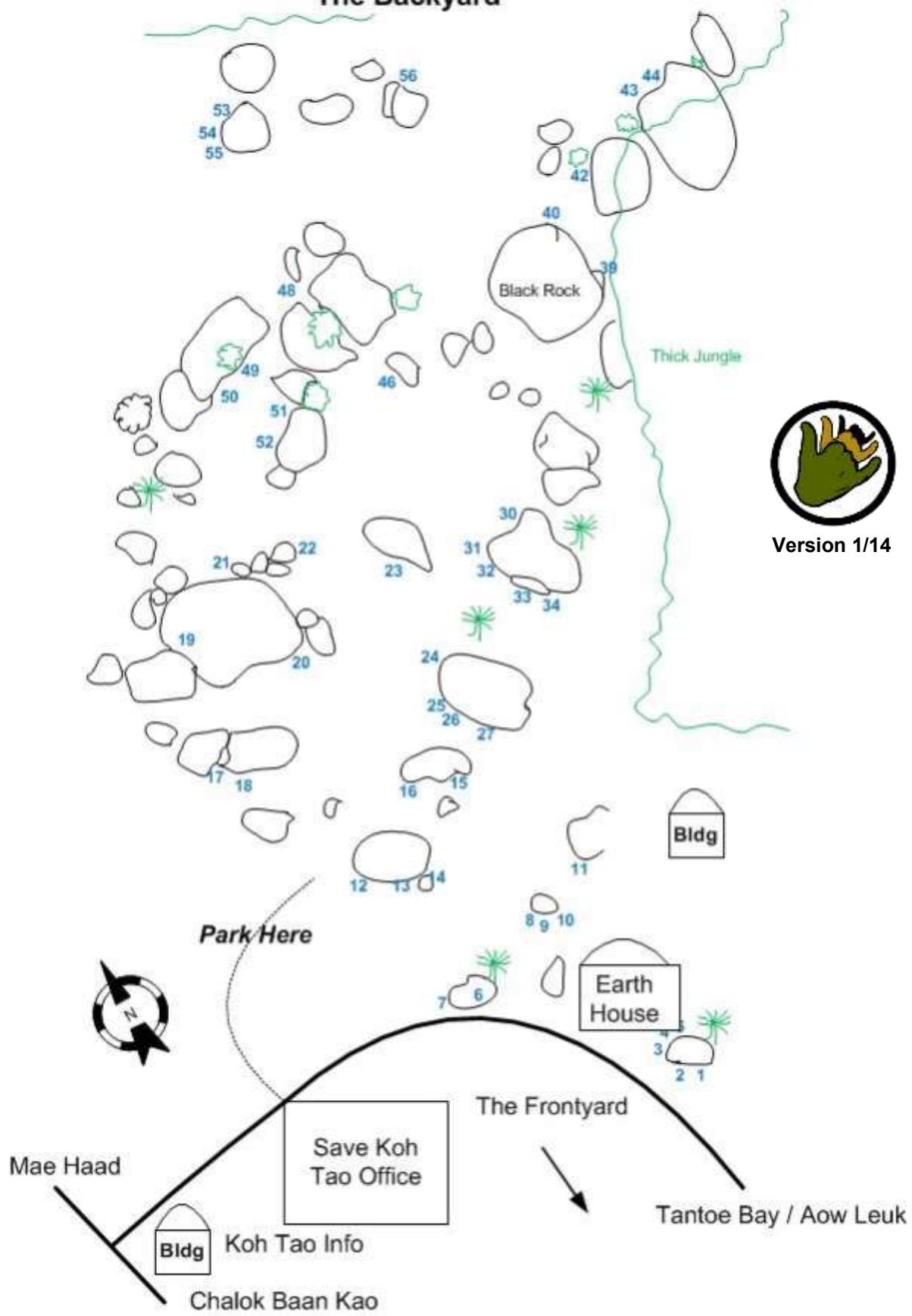
Original map and problems by James March: Zen Gecko Bouldering Guide, 2002. Updated by Good Time Adventures, 2010

1. ***E.** Climb face with slashes straight up. **M** (variation) Sit start on low slash, start on crystal pocket out left and climb lay-back.
2. **M.** Climb face using small slashes.
3. **E. Tho shall not covert thy neighbour's boulder.** Start on large sloping block, climb up and to right. **H** (variation) Sit start on lower sloping hands, powerful!
4. ***MH.** Sit start on small dihedral using left hand lie back and right hand sloping under cling, slap sloping block and exit left with tricky balance moves.
5. **VH.** Desperate sit start on small sloping dish and small pinch. A crazy sideways lunge follows.
6. ***E. The Fruit Bat.** Climb up face using left crack.
7. **M.** Starting on far left side of boulder on obvious big edge, traverse right around boulder to the tree.
8. **M.** Start on left side of face and crank up left to big arête edge.
9. **MH.** Start on small holds centre of face, climb up to big sandstone like egde.
10. ***M. Big Bang Theory.** Climb right arête trying to avoid the oncoming forces of gravity.
11. ***E. Beginners Lunge.** Start low on sloping holds, feet on bottom ledge and dyno to top ledge and up.
12. **MH.** Climb dished out face on sloping holds.
13. **M.** Start on lie back flake crank up and right.
14. **E.** Climb slab from low holds.
15. **MH. Het Mao (Magic Mushrooms).** Sit start right hand on sandstone like knob, crank!
16. **MH.** Start on high holds, sloping top out.
17. **M.** Crack climb, be careful loose on top right, can arm jam left arm.
18. ***MH.** Sit start left and pull to good holds below bulge. Splendid moves.
19. **MH. The Cave painting.** Sit start off huge knob and edge, traverse right and up.
20. **M.** Climb face of huge boulder until exit moves.
21. ***MH.** A rare overhang for the area, sit start off rock below for extra points, or dead hang of lower big edge.
22. ***E. The palm tree problem.** Not a boulder problem, but a funky traverse to test your balance.
23. **E.** Easy friction slab with many variations.
24. **MH.** Start left in crack, climb down and traverse onto face and up, try not to use the tree.
25. **M.** Start low in dished out area and dyno to top.
26. **M.** Start low off flake and crank to flake above.
27. ***E.** Small crystal crimps lead to better holds and an even ledge.
30. **M.** Stem scoop in boulder.
31. **M.** Climb left arête, a mind clearer on top!
32. ***E.** Standing on ledge, climb into dish in face and up and right.
33. **M.** Easy start into very thin crystals. Trust your feet!
34. **E.** Start on #33, traverse right and up arête.
39. **MH.** Start off big foot ledge, thin crimps to top.
40. **H. Out of Darkness there is hope.** Thin start to upper crack and sloping top out.
42. **M.** This slab face.
43. **E.** Start in scoop and climb high and right.
44. **E. John Long comes to Thailand.** Ascend scoop in boulder, don't even think about falling!
46. **E.** Face many variations.
- 48.* **MH.** (should use top rope off tree for safety). Start in horizontal crack, climb face and arête,
49. **E.** Horizontal crack and left.
50. ***M.** Ying and Yang. Hard crank low to nice ledge.
53. **MH.** Seam.
54. **M.** Blunt arête.
55. **E.** Low on crack up and right.



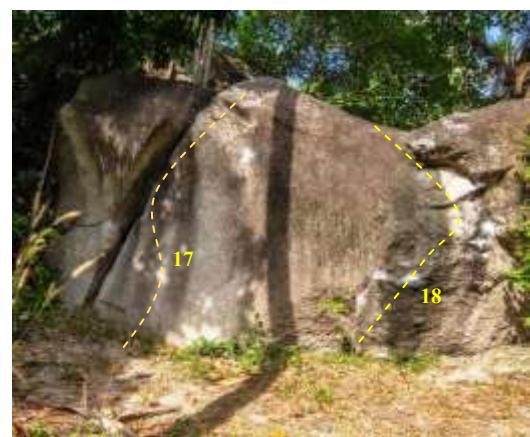
Version 6/11

The Backyard





Version 1/14



Bouldering Maps—The Frontyard

The Frontyard feels a little bit more expansive than the backyard, however there are about the same amount of problems here (and some rocks not mapped). The two notable rocks are the mini crag at the bottom near the stream and the big brother rock on top of the hill where you get a nice breeze and views of Chalok Baan Kao.

Original map and problems by James March: Zen Gecko Bouldering Guide, 2002. Updated by Good Time Adventures, 2010

Mini Crag 1-8 (top rope suggested but not essential)

1. ***M. Chock Dee (Good Luck).** Start at horizontal crack and climb high face with excellent moves on good rock.
2. **M.** Arete on left side of face. **MH.** Sit start right of arête off the lowest slash.
3. ***E.** Crack and face
4. **E.** The corner right of the crack. Climb up pocket avoiding the crack, then up horizontal beak.
5. **M.** Balancy route up thin face to sloping ledge. **MH.** Avoid ledge.
6. **M.** Climb face up from embedded sandstone like holds.
7. **E.** Climb right arête. **MH.** Low traverse starting here all the way to #2.
8. **E.** Starting on arête, climb face with good features.
9. **MH.** Dead hang start off obvious flat hold, dyno up to a scary sharp lip.
10. **VH. Vision Quest.** From sloping ledge with no footing, huge dyno to sloping lip. The top holds can be inspected and brushed from tree next to it.
11. **MH. Noi gwah bpen mahk qwah (Less is more).** Start with right hand on big sidepull, left hand on small sidepull low and left. Swing up to sloping lip and traverse right through slopers to exit on big blocky holds.
12. ***M.** Good line which goes either up left crack or right upper edges.
13. **E.** From scoop, short crank off pinch holds.
14. ***MH.** Sit start from horizontal crack, go up left, seam exit.
15. **M.** Over slab landing, crank off edge incut to big bucket.
16. ***VE.** Beautiful right angling face.
17. **MH. Black hole.** Traverse starting on big black crystalline hole, go left dipping down low when crossing over rocks at base and exiting up obvious flake.
18. **E.** Sit start and mantle big black hold.
19. **E.** Crank off bottom flake up beautiful face.
20. ***E.** Nice reach to good sandstone like hold above the seam.
21. **E.** Tall arête with good holds, climb down tree at back.
22. **M. Tahng bpai luey (Road to riches).** Sit start from mouth like crack, climb good crystalline holds in jigsaw puzzle face.
23. **VE.** Many variations for beginner, climb crack, arête or traverse face.
24. **MH.** Tricky traverse all around boulder, go low though crux at NW corner. **M.** Go above crux.
25. ***H.** Sloping arête, left hand milks sweet spot on arête, right hand on face, crank to crimps.
26. **MH.** Sit start on rock with sloping holds out right, traverse left to #27.
27. **E.** A series of long stretchy mantles up face.
28. **M. Jup (The Kiss).** Sit start on right side of chin and traverse into mouth. Dont pull on top lip, loose rock.
29. **MH. Jup Farangset (French Kiss).** Same start as #28, but instead traversing all the way and climb up sandstone like edge.
30. ***E.** Short little crank off flake in centre of face to mantle.
31. **E.** Step off rock at bottom, mantle to slab arête.
32. **M. Glink goo (The millipede).** Obvious seam reminded original author of millipedes'
33. **E.** From perfect sandstone like block, mantle up.
34. **H. Pah mai fai (The brushfire).** Sit start of low holds, left hand on diamond shape block side pull, right hand on sloping side block. Establish feet on left lower slab, crank right up to good holds, then slap sloping arête to end in an exhilarating open handed topout. Enough beta???
35. **MH.** Off good crimps left of arête, hard mantle on horizontal slash.
36. **M.** Strange sit start off jagged arête flake.
37. **H. Little Brother** Left hand crank off high incut, up to sloping mantle.
38. **MH.** Another reachy start to mantle on small edges.
39. **M.** Start on sharp holds just left of flake in ground, climb face.
40. **E.** Two mantles.
41. **VE.** This face is a virtual ladder, don't slip!
42. ***H. I did it with purple glasses, I did it for the masses.** Start in cave on big crack, big reach to sloping ledge then up and left to sloping top out.

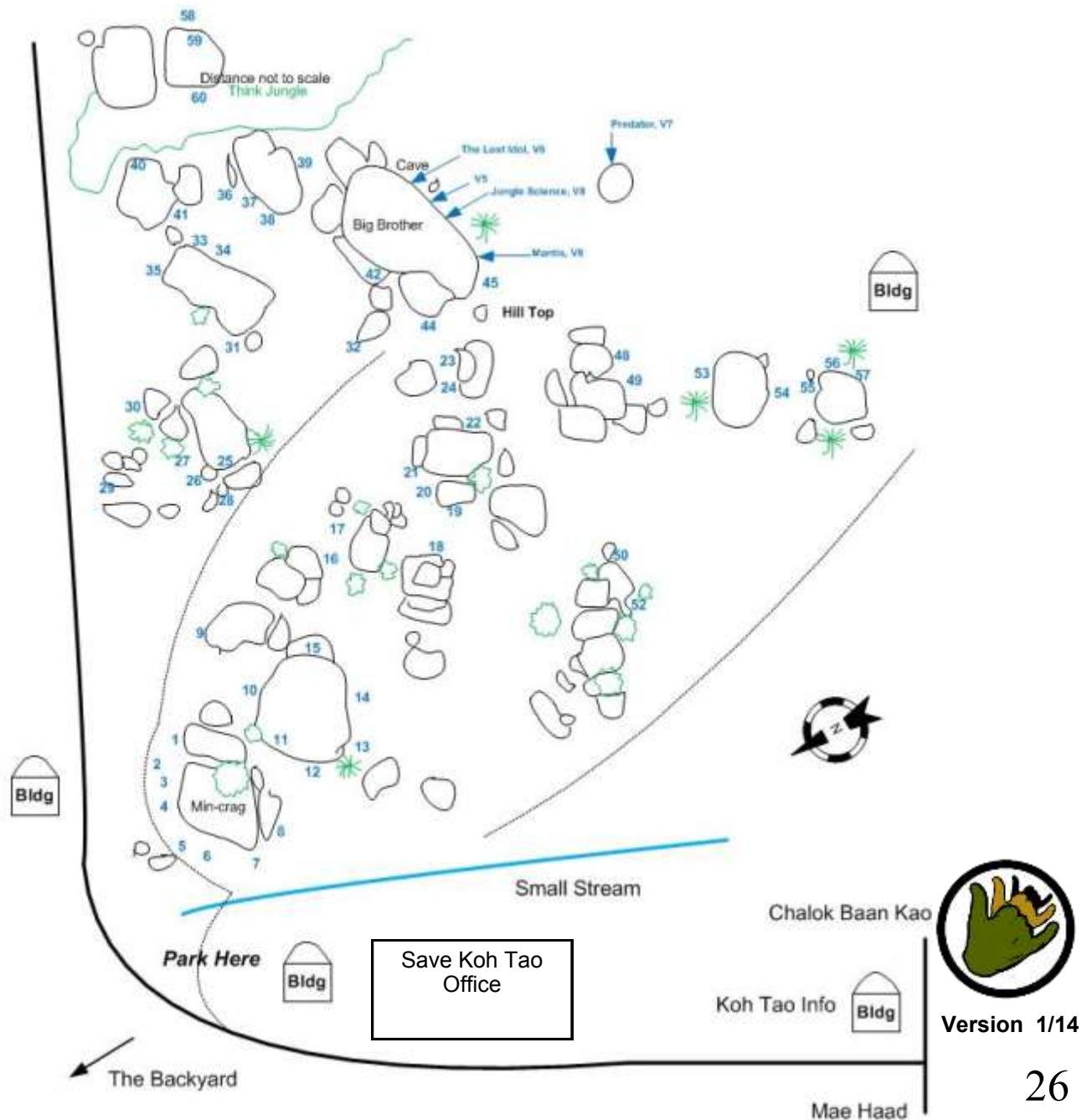


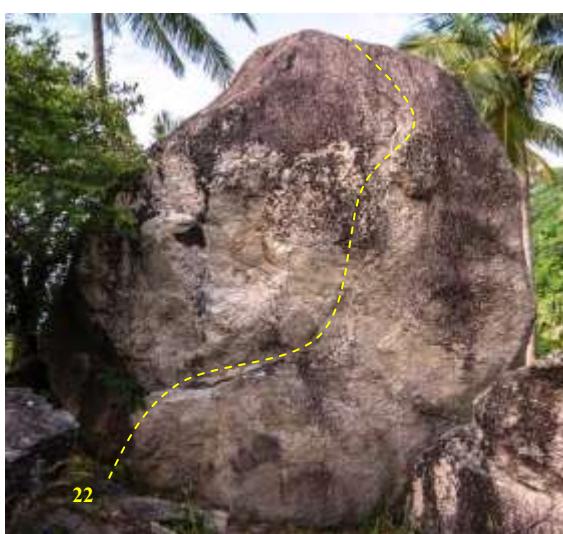
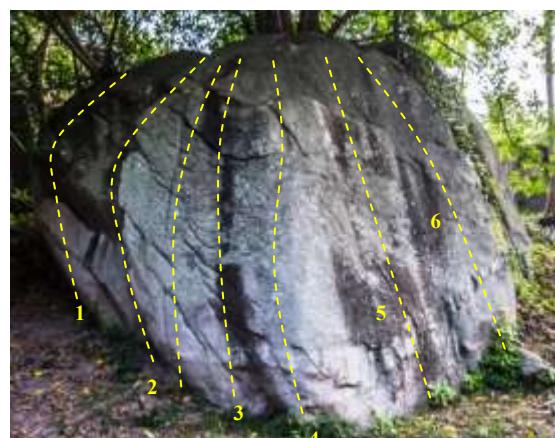
**Page from: Zen Gecko Bouldering Guide, James March 2002,
Updated by Goodtime Adventures & Matt Pierson 2010**

44. E. The easiest route to the top of this big boulder.
 45. H. **Crow's feet**. Reach high to upper seam and ledge, hard mantle to slab top out.
 48. *H. **Jessica**. Sit start off lowest sandstone like knob under roof. M. Starting off bigger hand holds.
 49. *MH. **Maa Oil**. Grab high starting holds, power up tall arête.
 50. MH. Hard mantle on good knob.
 52. E. Easy face with bad landing.
 53. M. Face / seam to good lie back.
 54. *E. Sit start left and climb crack to its dissolving finish.
 55. M. Sit start off lower diagonal slash, up right over sloping ledge.
 56. E. Right of coconut tree, climb up good featured slab.
 57. E. Slab face left of tree.
 58. M. Start with feet on bottom rock under boulder and climb left into crack.
 59. *MH. Starts with right hand on sloping lie back, straight up sloping lip.
 60. M. A hidden jungle treat, climb seam to a higher than it looks topout.

Tantoe Bay / Aow Leuk

The Frontyard







**Upper Secret Garden
(see separate map)**

Version 1/14

Secret Garden

Secret garden (a name that has stuck), is actually the area behind the hills at the back of Sairee beach. We use this area for courses and guides due to its proximity to the GTA office. We have mapped some of the problems but one look around and you realize there are a lot more to go! *James and the Giant Peach* (V11) is in this area. Please don't boulder too close to bungalows and keep the noise under control as lots of Farang long termers live here.



1 = picture of boulder on following pages

28

Lower Secret Garden boulders

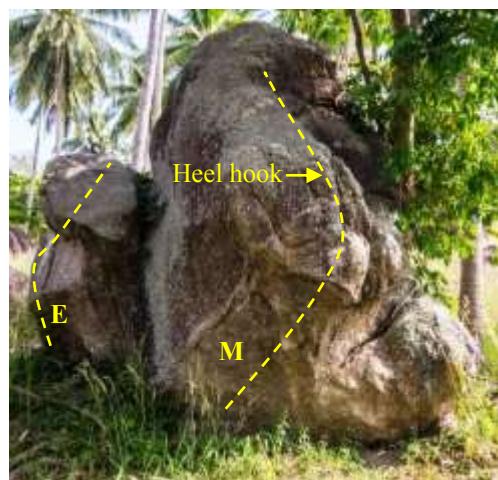
1 - The Tombstone



2 - The Egg



3



4



5



Secret Garden boulders

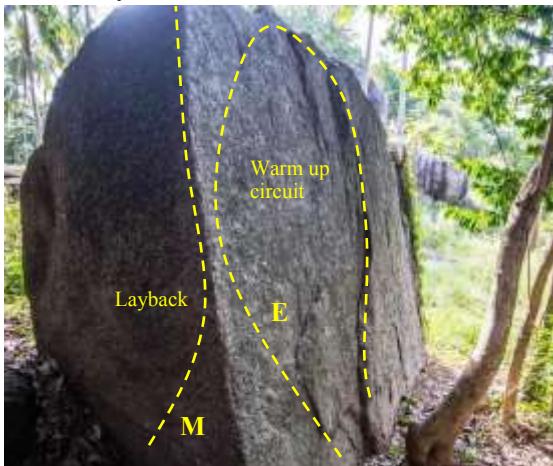
6 - Courtyard - a great place to warm up



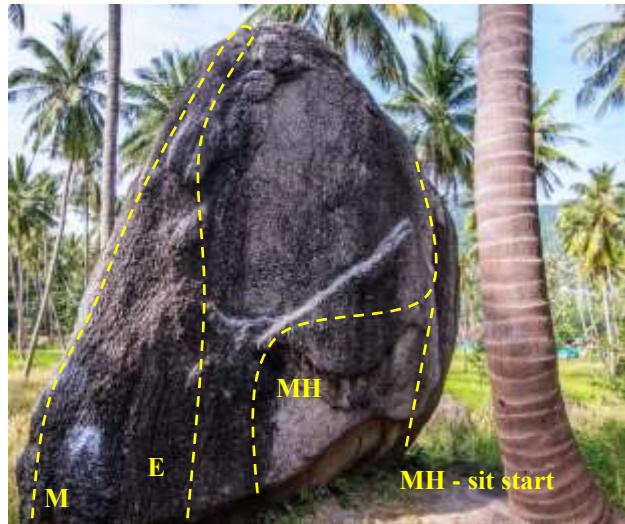
7 - Courtyard



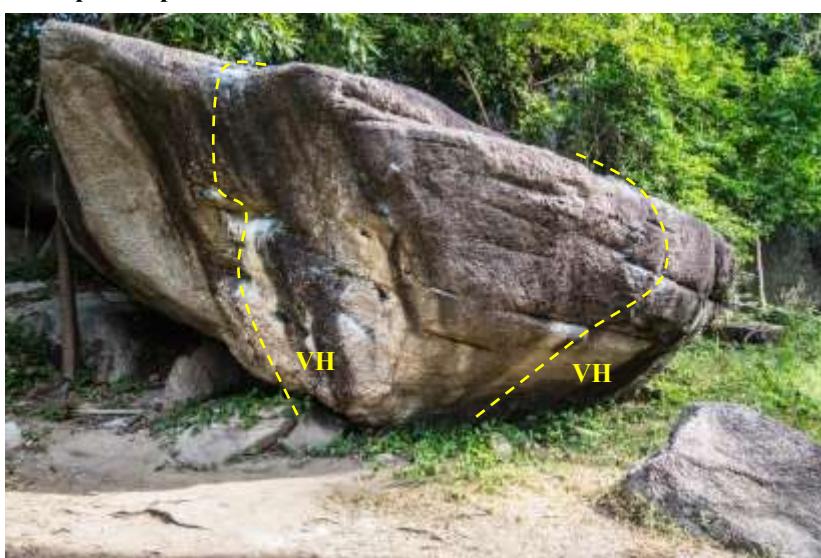
8 - Courtyard



9- Nose



10 - Spaceship



11 - Letter box

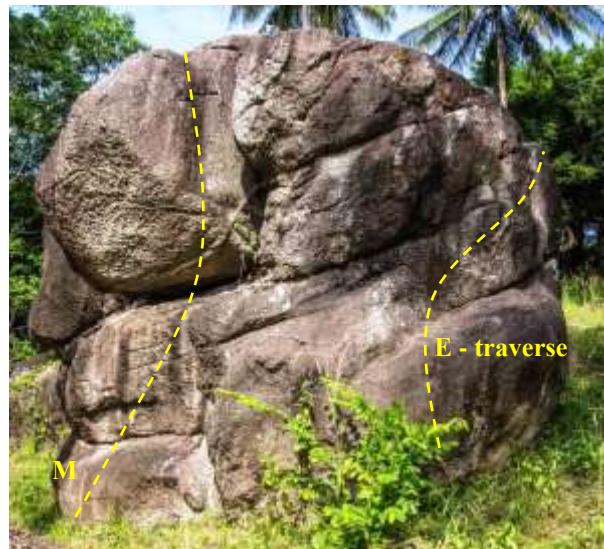


Secret Garden boulders

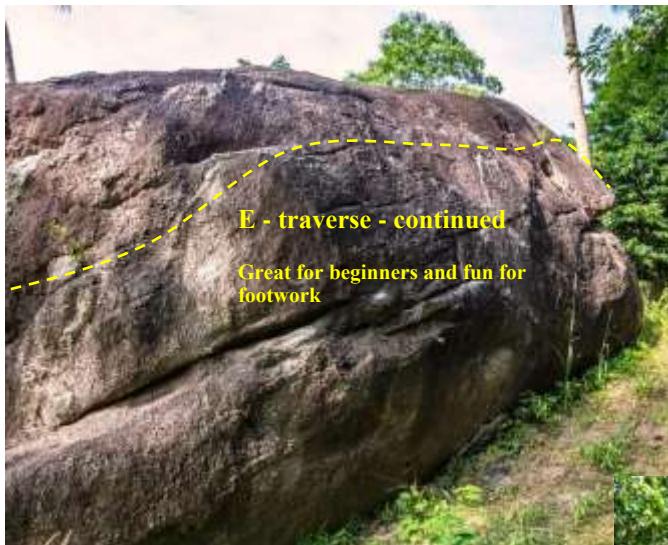
12 - Stacking Boxes



13



14



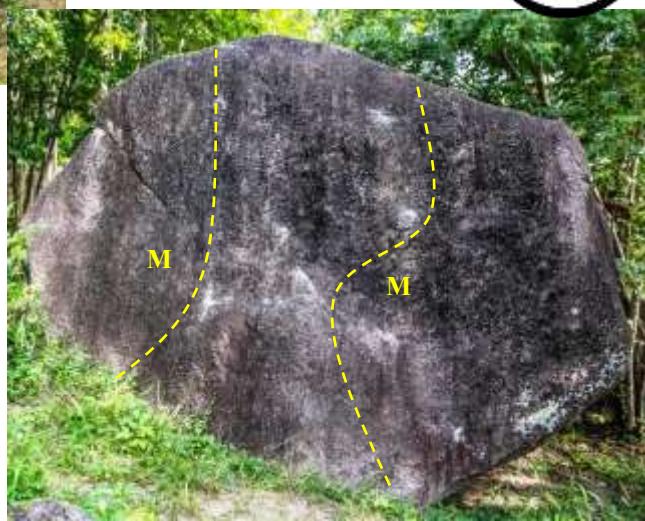
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16

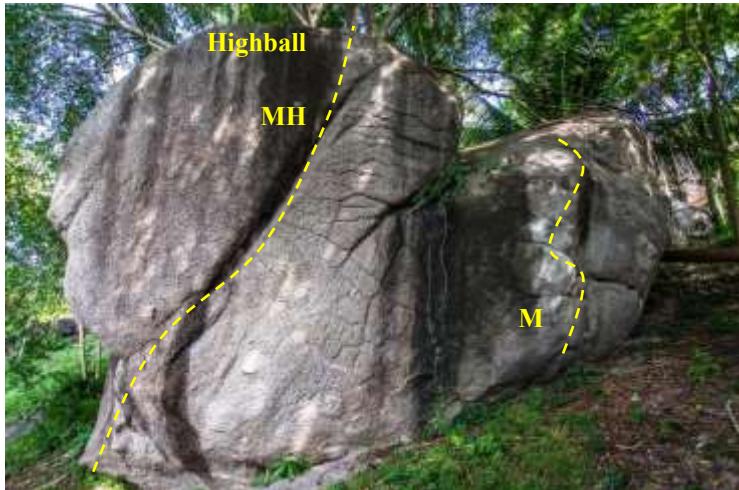


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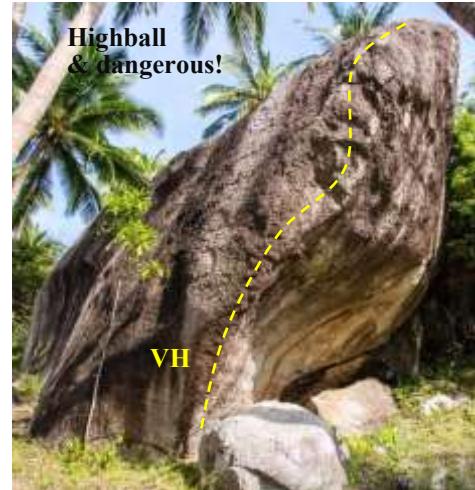


Secret Garden boulders

18



19 - Pancake Ninja V6



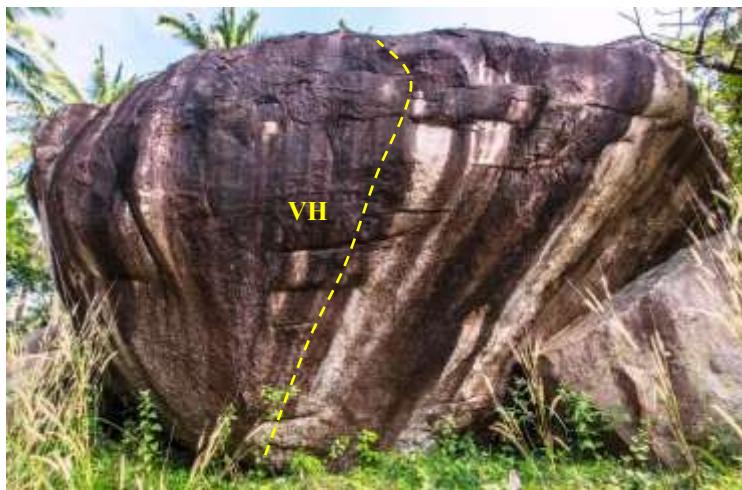
20 - Jawa Ship



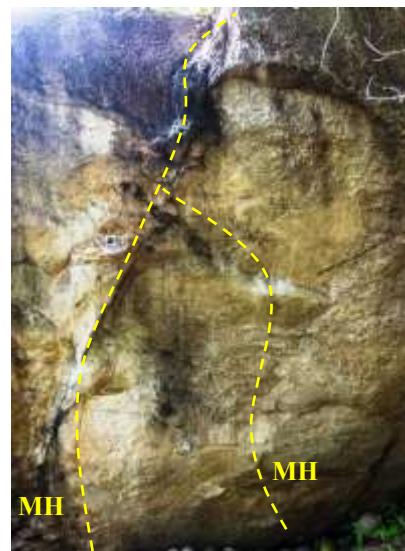
21 - Jawa ship North



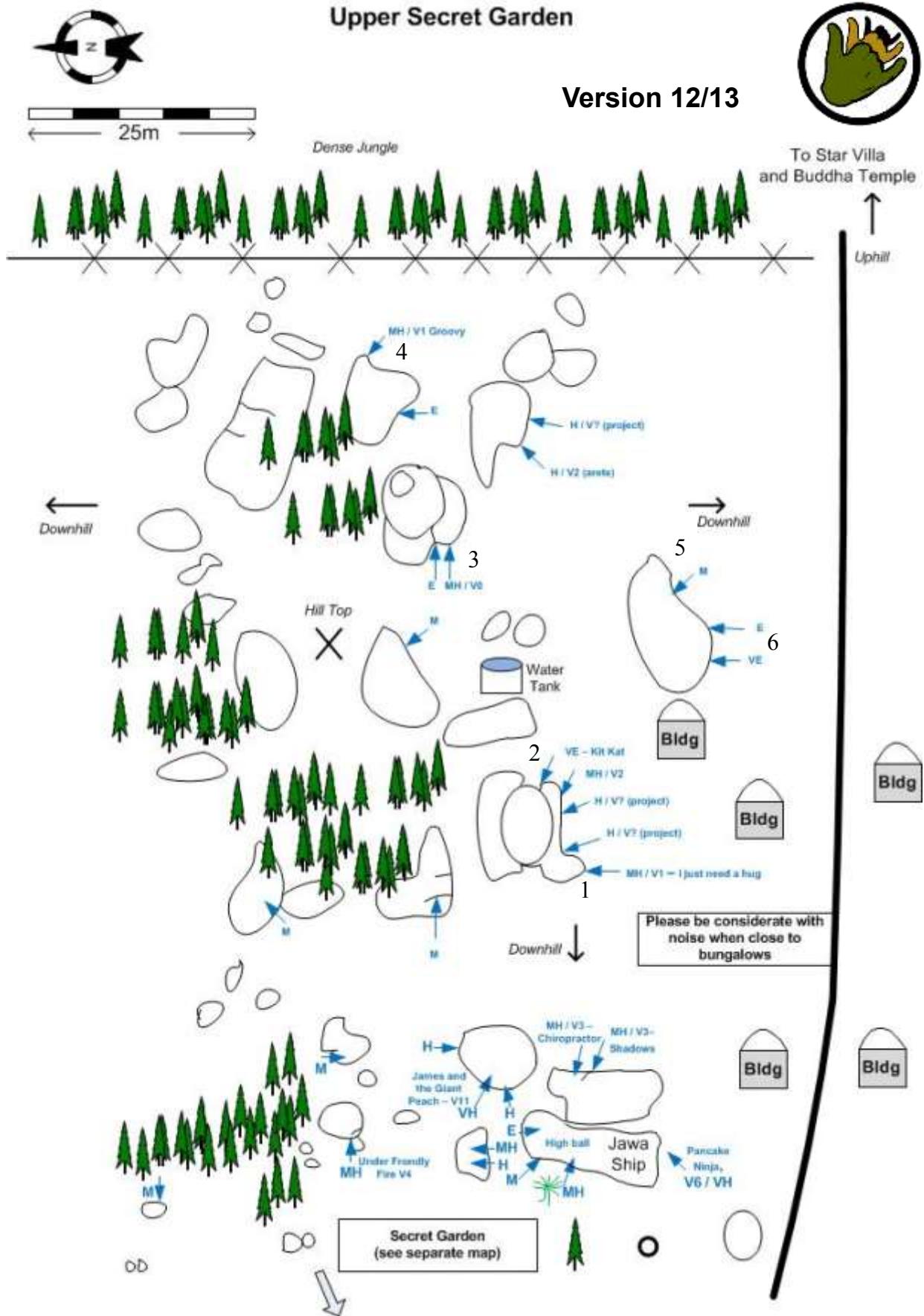
22 - James and the Giant Peach V11



23 - Shadows V2



Upper Secret Garden



Upper Secret Garden boulders

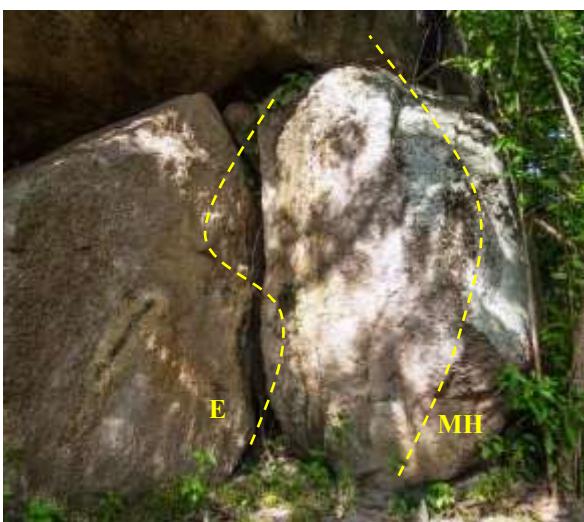
1 - I just need a hug - V1



2 - Kit Kat



3



4 - Groovy - V1



5



6 - Baby James



Bouldering Maps—Babaloo Boulders

Babaloo Boulders

This is a small area, best for a great bug free and breezy morning session. Situation on the beach of Babaloo Bar / Taraporn Bungalows. Access is via the long concrete walkway, through the restaurant onto the beach and the boulder become visible on the next corner.

1a. **Apache**** V5, from flake climb bulge on right.

1b. **Buddha Corner***** V3.

2. **Sunrise to Buddha***** V3, right of arete, great highball.

3. Project traverse.

4. Project blunt.

5. V2, Jump to chunky blob and mantle.

6. Project wall.

7. **Cheese Grater**** V2, funky corner.

8. Project low holds.

9. Project crankhold.

10. **Shrimp*** V4, short but technical.

11. Project flake.

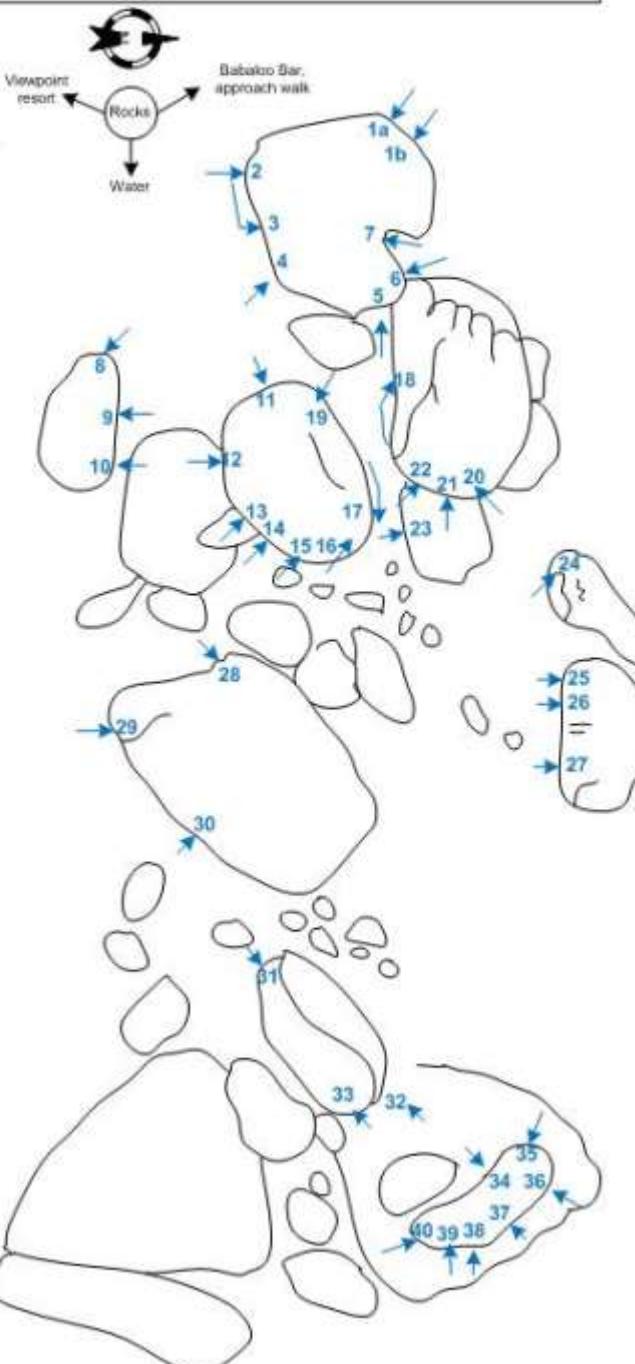
12. Project slab.

13. **V0, Good slab climbing, also down climb.

14. **Classic Refinement*** V5, High rock over using tiny crimp and high side pull.

15. **Amitibar***** V5, desperate smear from boulder and up. Classic.

16. **Faze Action**** V4, crank on slopey edge and bust right to flake.



Maps and problems by Matt Pierson, July 2010

17. V3, jump to begin flake.

18. Project. Crack, try at high tide.

19. V3, jump across to high slab.

20. Project Crazy roof.

21 Project. Traverse left.

22. **Trancidnetal Breakfast**** V5, centerline up buttress from under cling and rail. Cranky and airy classic.

23. ** V2, short slab.

24. ** VB Feature.

25. Project. Short slab

26. *V1, crack.

27. Project. Short.

28. *V0, short feature.

29. VB. Short.

30. *V0, Use hold.

31. * V3. Left of rotund.

32. V1. Crack.

33. **Eye of the whale clam****, V3, Daintily mount the soft disk.

34. *V1, scoop.

35. End of block.

36. ** V1, nice slab and hold.

37. *V1, smear groove.

38. *V2 layback left of smear.

39. **Buds **V2.**

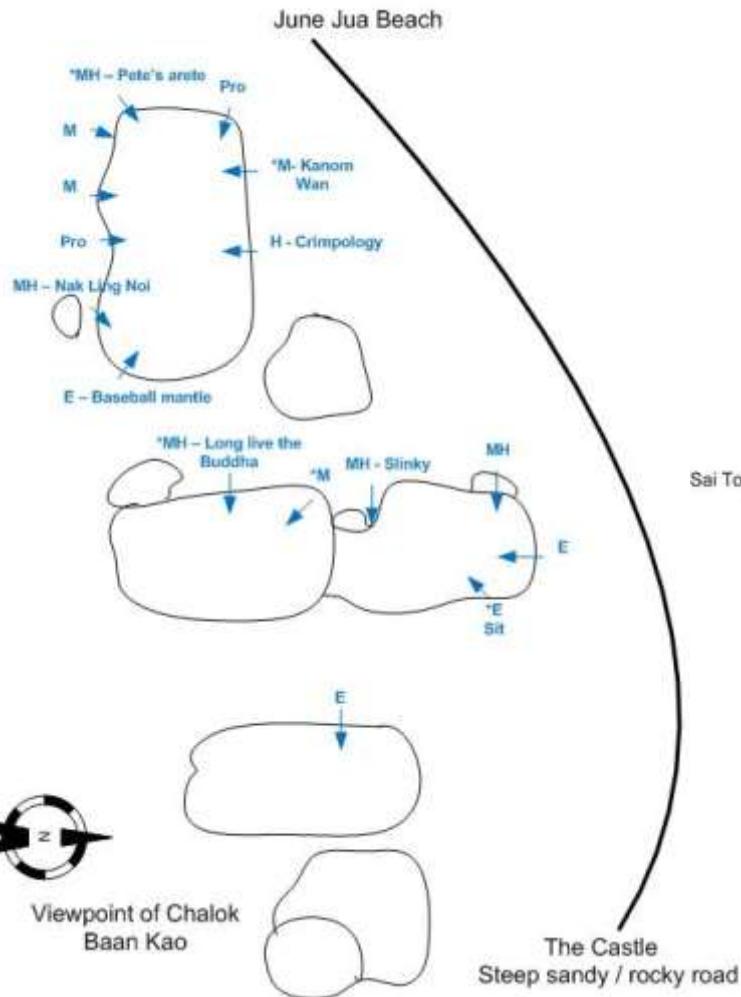
40. V1, odd end of feature.



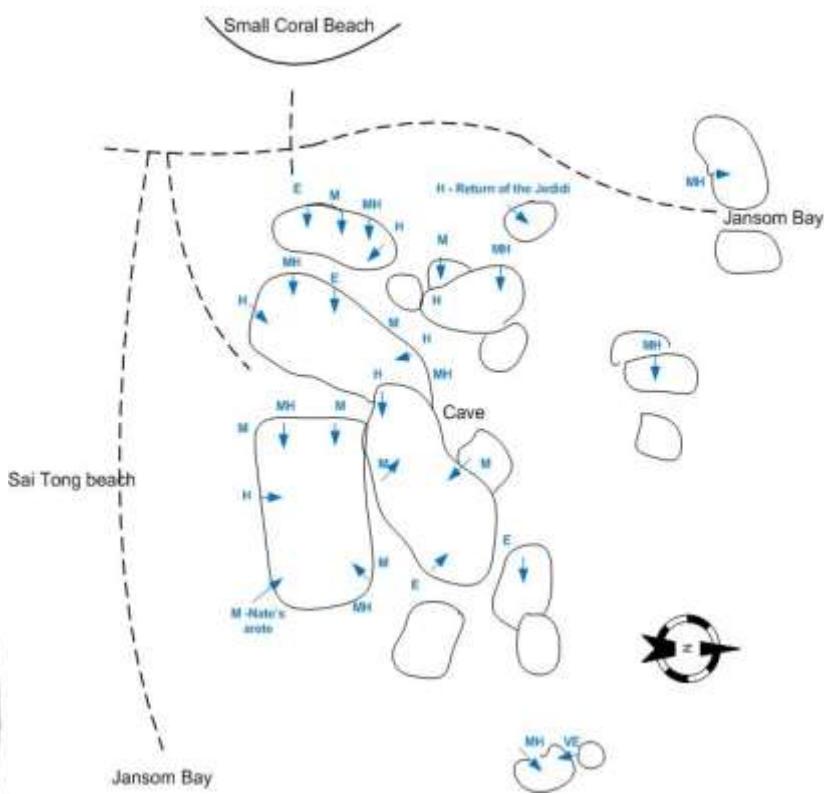
Bouldering Maps—The Peak Boulders

The Peak boulders are a nice group of boulders on top of a hill overlooking Chalok Baan Kao. You can see them in front of you when you walk out of Aukotan market. The road up is rocky, sandy and should only be driven on by experienced bike riders. The boulders give a great viewpoint to the South a sense of isolation and some nice breezes.

The Peak Boulders



Sai Tong area



Bouldering Maps—Sai Tong

This area is just off Sai Tong beach and was originally mapped by Chris Sharma and some his of mates quite a while back. The boulders are easily found from the trail North from the beach or South from Charm Churee. There is new construction in the area from both directions.

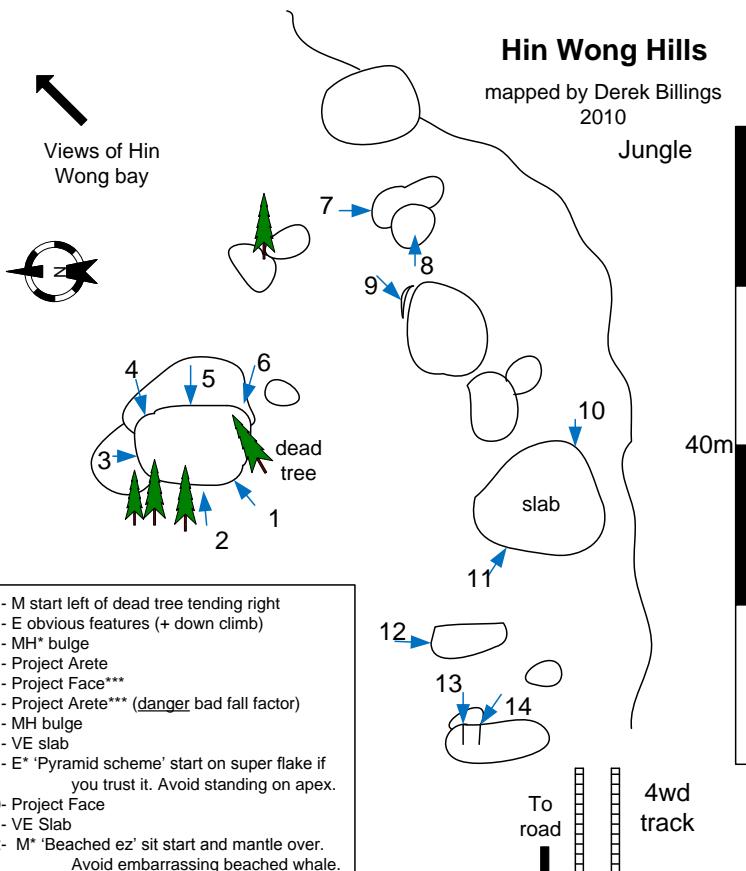


Original map and problems by James March: Zen Gecko Bouldering Guide, 2002.
Updated by Good Time Adventures, 2010

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Bouldering Info—Hin Wong Hills

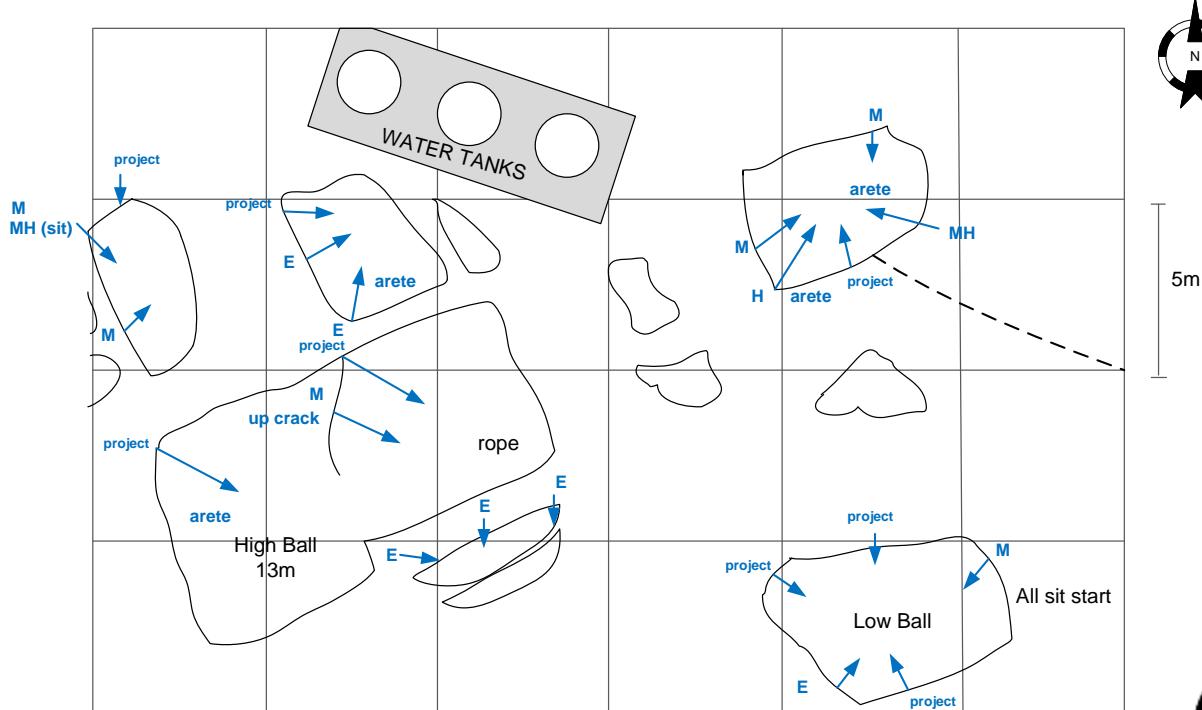
Take the road towards Hin Wong Bay. After the Mango Bay turnoff, the area is 100m on the right up a 4wd track (not the concrete road). 3-4 minutes walk will get you to the area with great views over the east coast. There is not much shade here and the ground can be overgrown so check your landing areas.



Bouldering Info - Fruit Bowl

This area is a small cluster of boulders with trees around them in central Sairee just on the jungle side of the main road opposite Sairee Cottage (the land is owned by the Sairee Cottage family). Nice spot in the shade all day and close at hand, lots of projects and has one very large boulder in the middle with a rope you can use to climb to the top.

The Fruit Bowl Bouldering Area

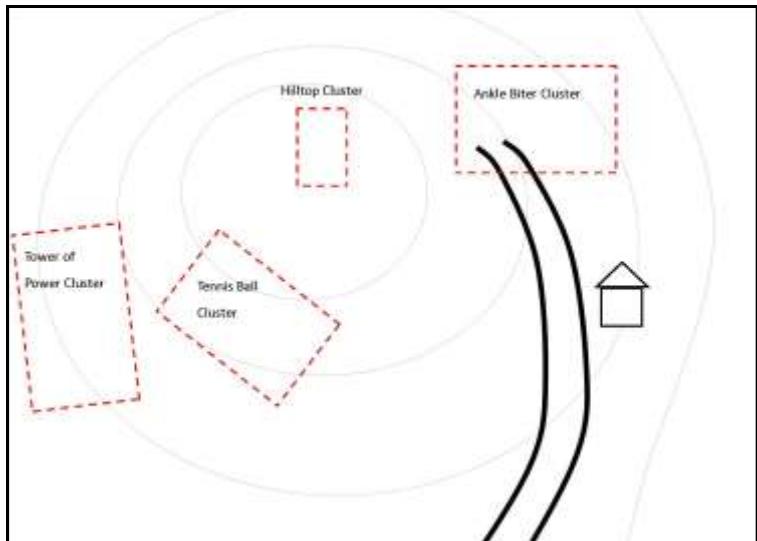


Mapped by Jed, Spider, Steve and Ryan March 2010

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Mango Mount Boulders



Hidden away in the jungle in the north of the island lies an area that not only provides a huge variety of problems, but also has huge potential for future development. The rock quality varies from cluster to cluster but is generally good. Making the most of the area requires an early start, a long drive and plenty of food and water. On the way to Hin Wong Bay, turn left up to the view point, then take continue past Jim Bar and the first view point "toll" station on the left without paying a thing. When you arrive at the second arrangement of huts, be friendly to the family and go through their gate, you may have to leave bikes here. At this point you continue down the dirt road ignoring any turnings, hopefully with barbed wire running along your left hand side. Keep going until the jungle clears on the left and small clusters of rock appear. Continue straight ahead for another 50m and you will reach the end of the road, as well as some of the best bouldering Koh Tao has to offer.

Ankle Biter Boulders

As the approach path ends the first area of Mango Mount is reached. The rock is rough here, and can be fragile, so take care on highballs.

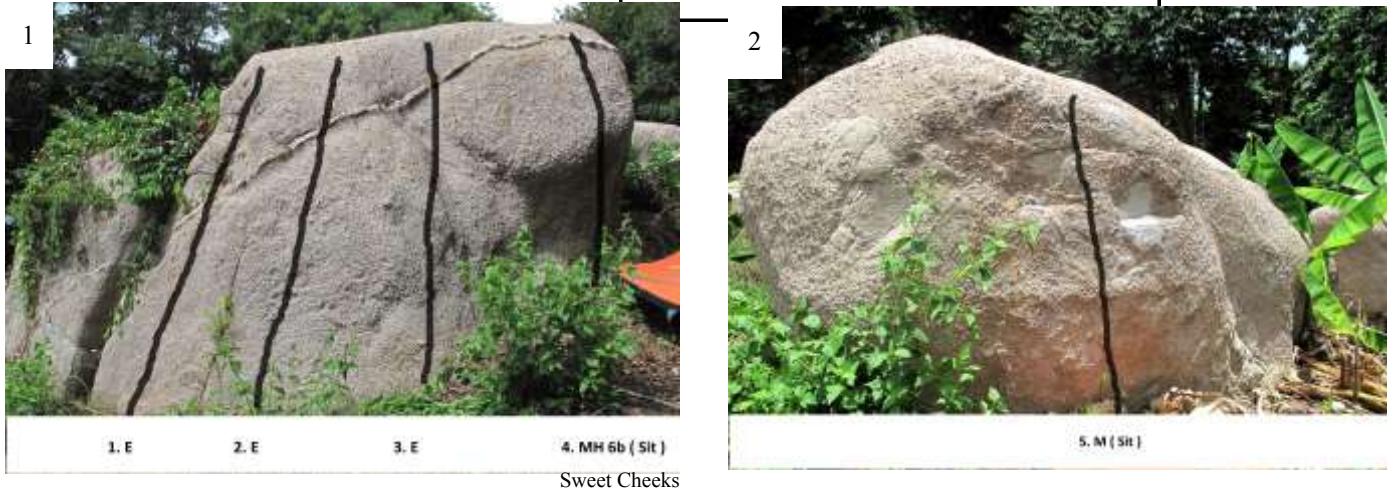


Hilltop Boulders

Right on top of the hill are a few boulders with good warm-ups and two great sit-start problems. There is more potential here for short mantle practice.

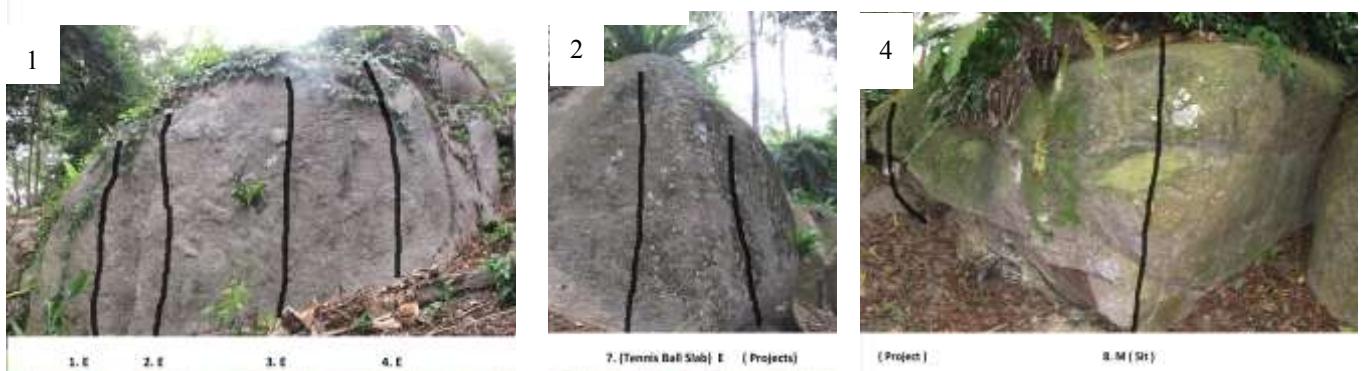
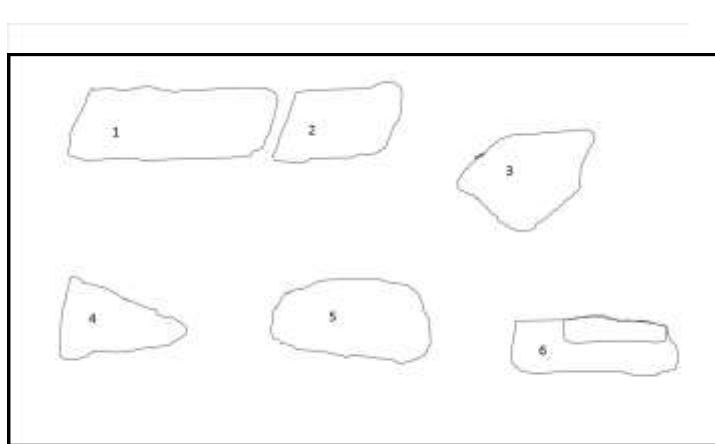


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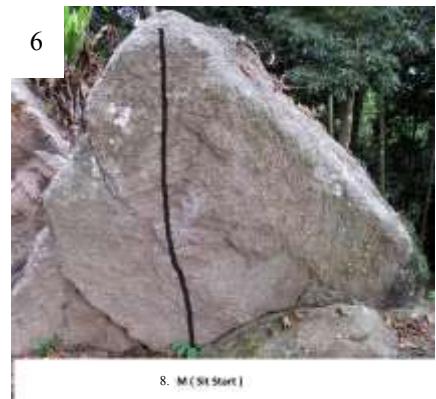
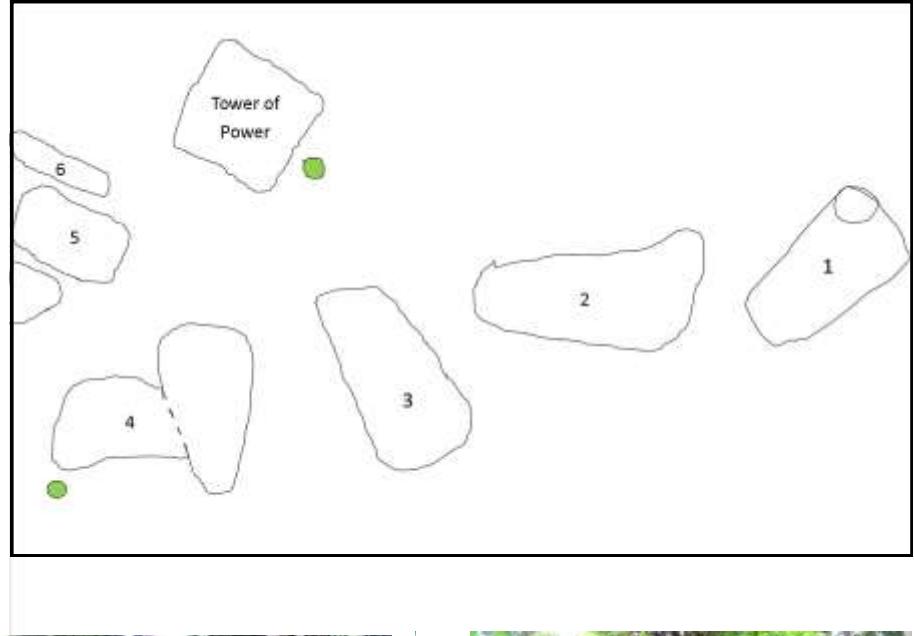
Tennis Ball Boulders

Off to the left of the path, beyond the Hilltop boulders, is a small collection of boulders. Home to several high-class problems, such as the 'Tennis Ball' slab and 'Mango Mango' twin cracks.



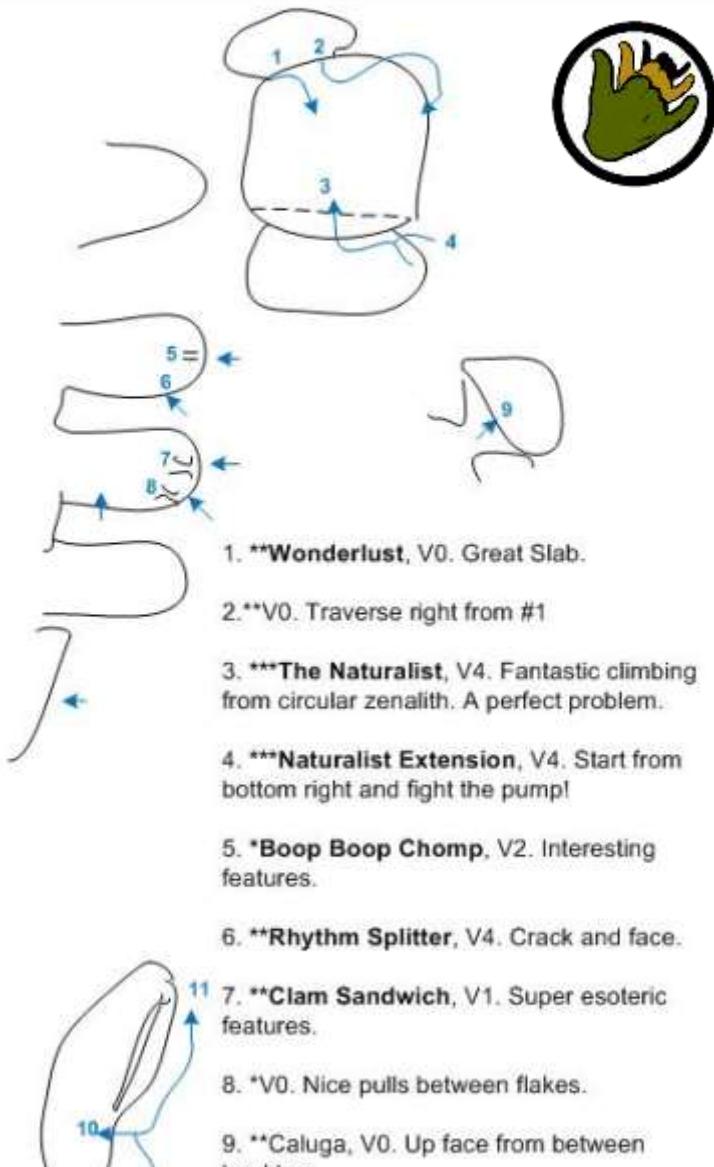
Tower of Power Boulders

Beyond Tennis Ball Boulders sits the easily spotted Tower of Power. This giant block is surrounded by a huge variety of problems, from easy to very hard. The rock here is much less fragile than Ankle Biter.



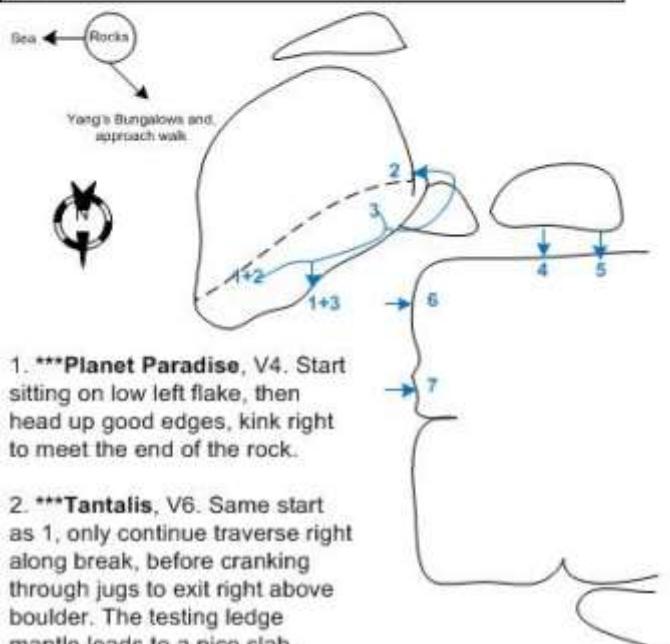
Aow Luek

One of the nicest beaches on the island and great for swimming as its deep and sandy. The snorkelling here is also great with blacktip sharks and turtles. Aow Luek also has some fun climbing on good quality rock hosting some unique features. Once you reach the beach the boulders can be seen on the left. *The old Thai man who thinks he owns the beach can be a hazard. Has been known to violently threaten people, shoot at dive boats and generally be grumpy. If you try to take food onto the beach you may see what we mean!! There are also plenty of lines not mapped all around.



Lang Khaai Bay

High quality granite in a secluded seaside setting. The tantalising roof is large and shady, offering a nice selection of cranny classics. Be sure to be friendly to all at Yang's Bungalows and grab a feed at the restaurant. This area is on the right once you reach the bay and the bottom of the steep hill. Yang's can give you a lift back up the hill if you walked down. *There are many more rocks to explore both left and right of the bay. To the left is a potential DWS / cliff jumping spot as you near Tanote bay.



Sai Daeng High Balls

This is an area of VERY dangerous highball bouldering. The problems are not only high, but have bad landings that a boulder pad will only slightly reduce an imminent injury if a fall is taken. To accompany these great motivators, the rock is also flakey and full of salt making you second guess even the biggest jugs. However, the scenery is amazing, the Coral View Resort makes great food and if you want to test your mettle, this is the place.
Not recommended for the feint of heart!!!

Access is a 5min boulder hop around to the left from the Coral View Resort

To Coral View Resort

Version 6/11



Mapped by Derek Billings
March 2011

Views of Shark Island

Bouldering Info - Sairee Hills

This area is the scattered boulders along the side of the road, up the hills and down to the beach between Mae Haad and Sairee village. Many different people own different parts of the land here along with the local temple. Please be respectful if someone asks you to move off their land and don't boulder right next to someone's bungalow and watch the cows!!

Bouldering Info - John Suwan Viewpoint

Accessed from the Freedom beach car park, this area has large boulders everywhere. The only map we found was very faded and un-useable. The grass here is also long. However you will have great isolation from a very accessible car park, a great view by of Koh Tao and of Koh Pha Ngan , Koh Samui and Ang Thong on a clear day . There is also shaded spots, cracks, chimney's and all sorts of options. Take bug spray and plenty of water and have fun!

Bouldering Info - Buffalo Grove

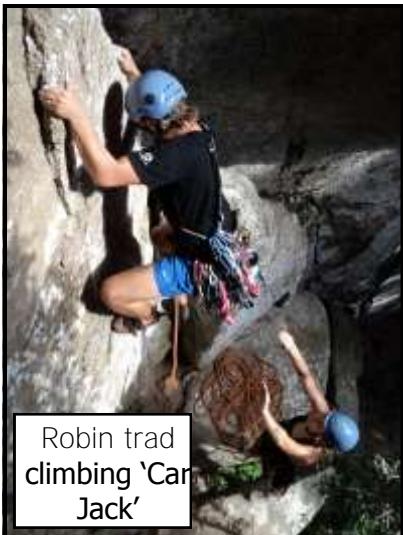
Isolated are on the road to Sai Daeng. Nothing has yet been mapped but its a great sport that is nice and quiet with short grass making the boulders more accessible. Please let us know of any problems mapped so we can include them here. You have to ask the owner of the farm to boulder here. He is easy going and will say yes, as long as you ask. If you don't he will become very agitated and will throw you off. Local Thai people and their ownership of land is a bit strange!

Bouldering Info - Koh Tao Jungle

This island is all granite and as such there are 1,000's of rocks and boulders strewn all through the jungle. We have indicated some sport where you can access rocks in jungle area easily but the more you look the more you find. You will generally have no issues with land owners but you will with the mosquitos!! Just look off the side of roads to Hin Wong and Mango bay or stand in Tanote bay and look up and you will see what we mean.

Bouldering Info - Koh Tao coastline

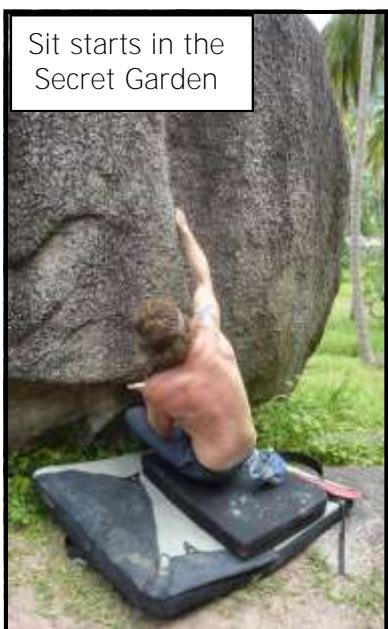
Boulders mark the coastline of Koh Tao and as they are generally clear of jungle, pretty easy to access once you find you bay and rock hop across. Hin Wong, Mango Bay, Laem Thian, Lighthouse bay and others have an impressive amount of rock. Unfortunately deep water soloing (DWS) is not really an option due to the very sharp oysters that grow on the rocks at the waters edge.



Robin trad climbing 'Car Jack'



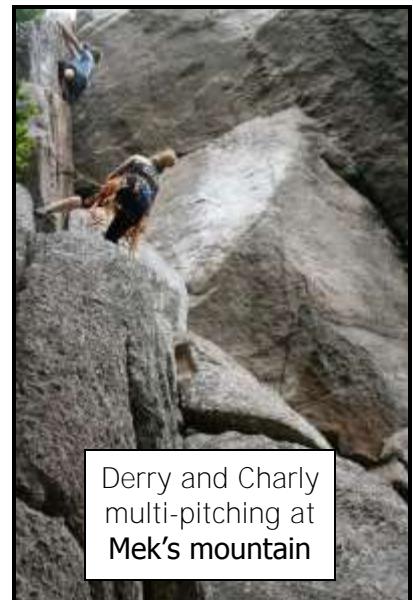
Bart testing his calluses on this Koh Tao classic



Sit starts in the Secret Garden



Charly on a first ascent on Shark Island



Derry and Charly multi-pitching at Mek's mountain

We hope you have enjoyed the use of our free guide to Koh Tao Rock Climbing and Bouldering, we are pretty happy with our little island and we hope you are too. **A donation to the bolt fund** is very much appreciated. Any comments, **new routes, new problems, new areas** that you may have found that you feel should be in this guide then please pass on this information to the Goodtime crew and we can share it with new climbers to the island.

Cheers,
Tim Severino
Owner / General Manager
Goodtime Group

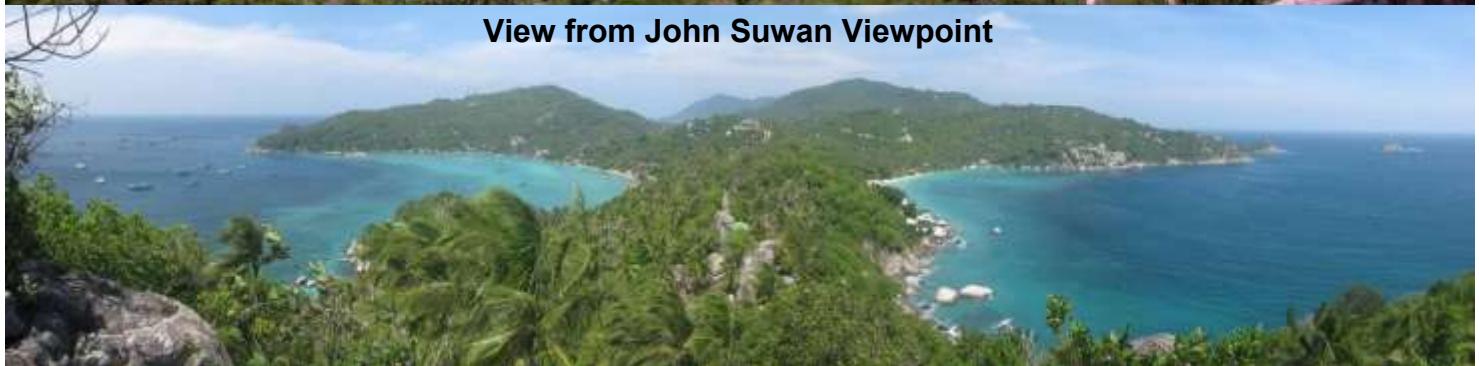
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View from Fraggle Rock over Sairee



View from John Suwan Viewpoint



Entrance to Secret garden

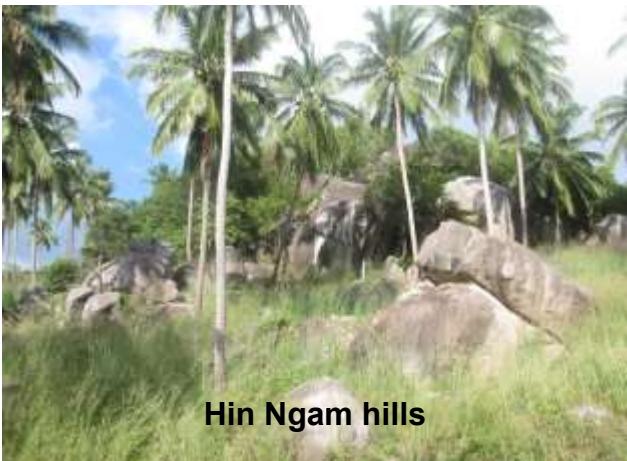


Backyard



Frontyard

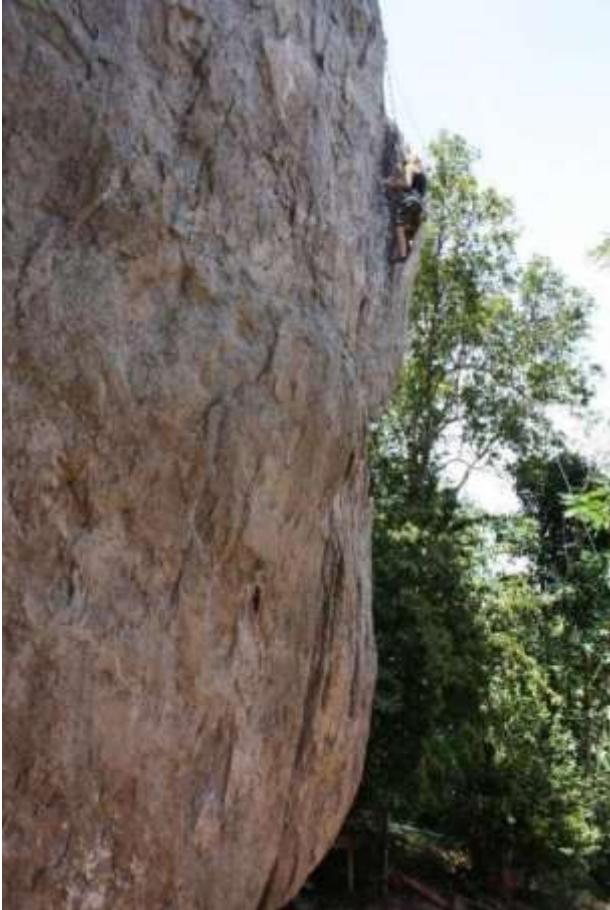




Hin Ngam hills



Secret Garden VH



Charly on “The Bitch in Me”



Gareth parry on ‘James and the Giant Peach’ Secret Garden



Jeff on ‘Shadows’ Secret garden



Fraggle Rock



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- Taxi to mountain
- Short hike to amazing viewpoint
- Abseiling / Rappelling from 25m cliffs
- Beginner Rock climbing

Koh Tao Adventure (full day)

- Taxi to mountain
- Short hike to amazing viewpoint
- Abseiling / Rappelling from 25m cliffs
- Beginner Rock climbing
- Break for lunch
- Speed boat around island
- Cliff Jumping (3m, 9m & 12m)
- Snorkeling remote bays
- Top off the day with a free beer!

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