



Għar il-Magħlaq (Magħlaq Cave) is a limestone cave located above Magħlaq Valley, a break in the steep cliffs that run from Għar Lapsi to Hamrija Tower. The earliest recorded climb here was established by Showell Styles during his stay in Malta (1939-1945), whilst John Codling added some harder and bolder trad routes in the 1990s. It was only around 2014 that the cave was explored for its sport climbing potential. Aaron Attard and Manuel Ruiz de Somavia Kennedy established the first three sport routes here; James Herrera added some more imaginative roof climbs and link ups in 2015-2016. Another route was added by Mark Sansone in 2020.

The climbing here is varied - from the vertical to the completely horizontal. The climbs are on compact limestone with lots of concretion features like tufas and colonnettes, as well as pockets and crimps. Kneebar pads are optional but will ease the pain.

Access

From the town of Siggiewi follow signs to Għar Lapsi. At the roundabout, before heading downhill in the direction of Għar Lapsi, head left (Haġar Qim / Blue Grotto). Follow the road for approximately 1.5km. Just after the sharp left bend you'll see a layby and a wooden gate on the right - park here without blocking the gate. Take the footpath beyond the gate.

Abseil approach: Follow the footpath towards the cliffs. Where the path turns left towards the temples, head right to the cliff edge. The cave is below some concrete and stone cairns. The most accessible abseil point is the anchor of (2) Shiva, which is on a ledge just below some perched boulders on the right when looking out.

Walk in: From the footpath take a trail on your right, down into the valley. Follow the trail till you're almost at the bottom of the valley, then strike left and up over boulders to the cave. This is also the exit path, unless you opt to climb out.

Alternate approach: Park at Għar Lapsi and follow the path heading SE out of the car park along the coast, as for Għar Lapsi Crag. Follow the trail till you pass a dry river bed with large boulders and red sediment. Strike up towards the cave on the further side of the valley. Some bush whacking may be required. The nice thing about this longer approach is that you're close to the bar when you walk back to the car.

Routes (can all be climbed with a 50m rope)

1	Love in the time of Corona	5c
2	Shiva	6a/+
A	Magħlaq Cave	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HVS 5a
3	Over the Hills and Far Away	6c
4	Fifty Pairs of Shoes	7a
5	Over the Hills and Farther Away	7b
6	The Scientist	6c+
7	Find me a Kneebar	7a+
8	M&Ms	6c
9	Shakti	5b
B	Bandits, 11 O'Clock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E2 5b
C	ME 262	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E2 5b
D	Mean Fokker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E2 6a



www.maltaclimbingclub.org