

BOLTS

The group of route equippers behind the development of Cobra Cave firmly believe in creating a long lasting legacy for the local climbing community, and while we recognise that all equipment eventually deteriorates, we find it silly to put expense before longevity. All routes listed in this PDF guide were equipped using only 316-Stainless-Steel equipment, which is the recommended material for Malta's salty Mediterranean climate. You will come across two types of protection bolts in this cave: 316SS expansion bolts (10mm and 12mm) and 316SS glue-in bolts (6mm rod). Glue in bolts are secured using Hilti HIT RE-500 resin. These bolts were paid for by the route setters.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the **Malta Climbing Club Bolt Fund** for providing us with the tools required, a chain lower off for the main abseil point and for the resin used on all glue-in bolts in the cave. We wouldn't have been able to complete this project without the MCC's support. If you'd like to help the local climbing community, join the Malta Climbing Club or make a donation to their bolt fund (see the box below for details).

Please help us in ensuring the longevity of the equipment on these routes - don't top rope directly through lower off bolts, use opposed quickdraws or locking carabiners instead!

There is potential for more to be developed in the cave and we encourage climbing visionaries to add to the routes in Cobra Cave - our only request is that they use only the best material. Nothing less than 316SS will do.

LITTER

When we first discovered Cobra Cave the area was strewn with hundreds of plastic bottles and spent shotgun cartridges. We've put in a lot of effort (with help from our friends who visited the cave while we were equipping it) to remove the rubbish and make the area more appealing. Please help to keep the crag clean - don't leave any litter behind, bury your fruit skins / organic waste, and if you must answer the call of nature make sure you bury your waste! Carry a small plastic container for your cigarette butts.

The Malta Climbing Club is active in adding and maintaining bolt anchors and lower-offs at various crags in the Maltese islands as well as setting up new sport (bolted) routes for local and foreign climbers to enjoy. This costs a lot of money! Funds donated through this site will be used exclusively for the purchase of bolts, resin (for glue-in bolts) and related equipment. Should you wish to support us by donating an amount, however small, into our bolt fund, visit our website to find out how you can contribute.
www.maltaclimbingclub.com/bolt-fund/

BOLT FUND



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photo by Stephen Farrugia

COBRA CAVE

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COBRA CAVE

Cobra Cave lies directly below the prehistoric temples of Mnajdra. It is named after the route equippers and the cobra-shaped rope burns three of them sustained in a short period of time in 2013. Most route names are inspired by the overlying temples.

ACCESS

From the airport follow signs to Żurrieq, then follow signs to Haġar Qim. Park as for the temples. Take the footpath left of the entrance to Haġar Qim temple in the direction of the lower temple, Mnajdra. At the entrance to Mnajdra follow the footpath around the fence in a clockwise direction and make your way to the cliff edge. The abseil chain is beneath a flat clearing, on a sloping ledge featuring two large perched blocks. A low, dry stone wall is a few meters away from the abseil point. The abseil is around 22m. To approach on foot, follow the cliff edge right looking towards the sea till you come to a quarry. Scramble down the scree slope and head back East to the cave. Exit either by climbing or by scrambling up the scree slope. **All routes can be climbed using a 50m rope.**

ROUTE INFO

Route name	Grade	First Ascent	Icons
1 Oracles and Niches	4?	Open Project / Toprope / To be bolted	
2 Pillars and Trilithons	4	Lucia Florenza 24/05/14	  
3 Fergie's plans	4	Lucia Florenza 24/05/14	  
4 Lenormant	4	Lucia Florenza 24/05/14	  
5 Offering to the gods	6a+	Miriam Gauci 09/06/14	  
6 Equinox	6b	Stephen Farrugia 24/05/14	  
7 Prehistoric Enigmatic Societies	7b?	Open Project	   
8 Fat Lady's Thighs	?	Open Project / To be bolted	 
9 Megalíticos	6c+	James Herrera 07/06/14	   
<i>Top out to the abseil point for a 7a finish.</i>			
10 Astronomically Aligned	6c+	James Herrera 24/05/14	   
<i>Top out to the abseil point for a 7a finish.</i>			
11 Solstice	6b	James Herrera 24/05/14	  
12 Campanilla está coja	6a+	Manuel Ruiz 23/06/14	  
13 Patagonia y Aquiles	6b+	Manuel Ruiz 23/06/14	  



Climbing style: technical | powerful | finger strength

Climbing angle: slab | vertical | overhang | roof

Lower off: two bolts | bolt or chain and ring

Route is mostly dry in wet weather

Symbols used first appeared in *Sport Climbing in Malta & Gozo (2013)* and are used with permission from Tufa Publications. For more info about *Sport Climbing in Malta & Gozo* visit www.maltaclimbing.com

