

# Castle Rock Climbing Guide

Krish Seewraj





## Warning about Rock Climbing

Keep in mind that this is only a guide, it helps climbers to find out what climbs have been recorded and that is all. The information given is true and accurate to the best of the author's knowledge.

Remember climbing is an adventure sport and as such accidents may result in serious injury or death. The grades and descriptions may be subject to debate as many of the climbs have only had a few actual and/or known ascents. Therefore, be warned that you must exercise your own judgment with regard to the route location, description, difficulty and your ability to safely protect yourself from the risks of rock climbing.

You should not depend on any information gleaned from this mini-guide for your personal safety. Your safety depends on your own experience, equipment and climbing skill. If you have any doubt as to your ability to safely attempt any route described in this mini-guide, do not attempt it. When you use this mini-guide, you accept and acknowledge the risk that it may contain errors. The responsibility for your safety is solely yours.



Castle Rock standing proud at the end of the bay

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from Krish Seewraj, [kermit@iinet.net.au](mailto:kermit@iinet.net.au)

## Introduction

Scant records of routes at this crag were recorded in the Mountain Design first ascent book, when the shop existed in Bunbury. This limited information made it difficult to match the actual lines with the records, and to make it harder the recorded fixed protection didn't match up with what was on The Crag. Every effort has been made to correctly identify the early ascents, and in exploring this small climbed a few extra lines have been added along the way.



## Location and Access

The crag is approx 260km drive from Perth and is located in the environmentally sensitive Meelup Regional Park just north of Dunsborough.

From Dunsborough head north on Cape Naturaliste Road, which eventually takes you to the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse. Way before that, after 4km, turn right onto Meelup Beach Road. A short 600m later turn right again onto Castle Rock Road which leads for 1km to a carpark just off the beach. The area has toilets, and shady BBQs and benches.

At the southern end of the carpark is a walk trail with a bridge over a small creek. Head along this for 600m to get to the crag. It's impossible to miss.

## Future Development

If anyone would like to share their past or future experiences in this area, details of new or listed routes as well as any reference issues, typos or mistakes in this mini-guide email them to [kermit@iinet.net.au](mailto:kermit@iinet.net.au).





## Rock, Protection & Grading

Castle Rock is small in statute but has some challenging routes. With a variety of traditional, mixed and sport lines that range from grade 6 to 29. The hard lines were amongst the first established here, and it is difficult to believe that some of the easier lines were also not picked off at the same time. Or maybe they were just considered too easy. I too have been guilty of not writing them up until this mini-guide. However, for those who are just out for fun while you are here and to sample the full range of route styles on offer they really should be thrown into the mix.

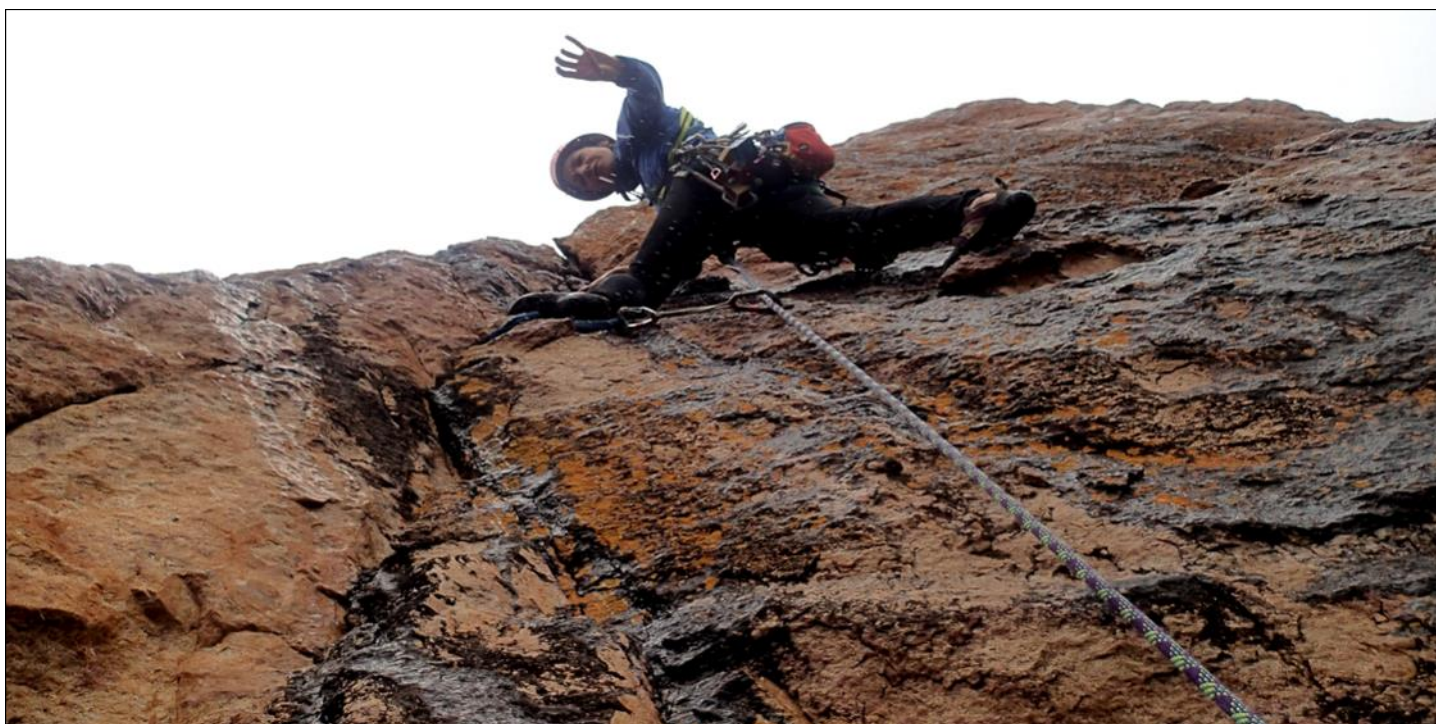
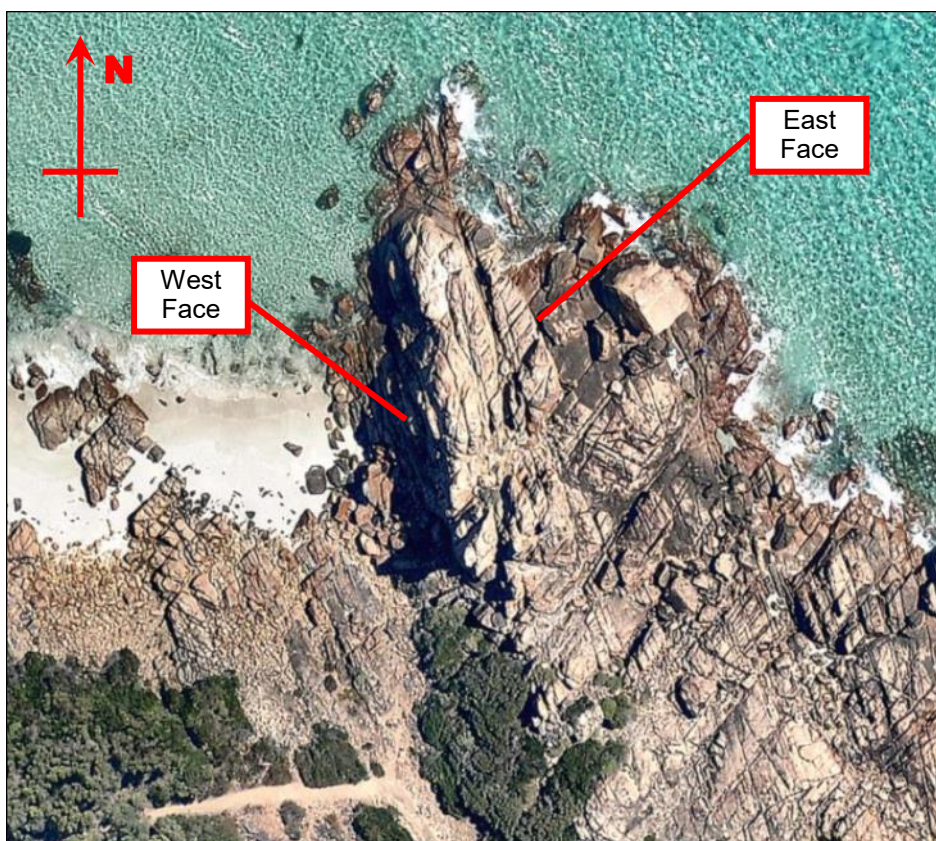
There are no lower offs but there are ample opportunities to set up traditional belays and numerous easy descents. Surprisingly for such a small crag it offers a good range of cracks, flakes, slabs and sheer faces with enough routes to make for a good day out. There are also some great bouldering spots. Most notably Honeycomb rocks, a large aesthetically featured boulder a short walk north of the carpark.

While only 15m high this granite outcrop is aptly named, rising majestically above the ocean. It comprises solid rock with steep faces and for such a small crag a good range of varied features. There are a series of short easy cracks on the western face, but as you approach it soon becomes apparent that these are very short and easy angled.

The crag has both p-bolts and carrots, so you'll need bolt plates as well as a full rack as the trad gear placements varies from small wires through to big cams.

As most of the climbing is to be found on the east face, it is best to come here very early on hot days or on those cold winter days when the sun will be appreciated.

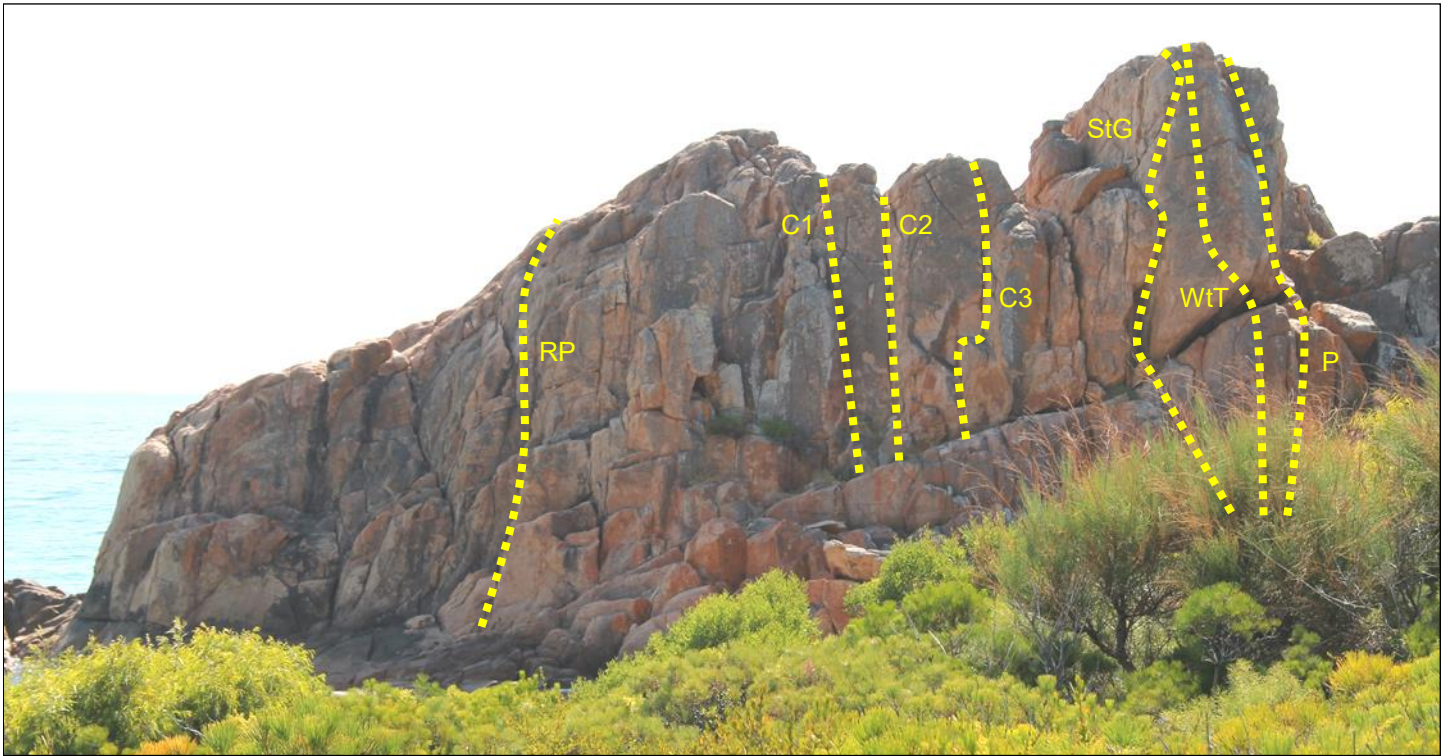
### General Area Topo



Lou Fisher proving this is an all weather crag on Feeling Groovy (13)



## West Face



### **Responsible Parenting (15m, 6)**

An easy but run romp above the water but not necessarily being approved by Lisa when Elseya, aged just 5, and I solo'd it (Elseya & Krish Seewraj 2008).

### **Crack 1 (8m, 8)**

The corner crack on the left of the sentry box, a great beginners climb for a first trad lead (unknown).

### **Crack 2 (8m, 9)**

The corner crack on the right of the sentry box, gear slots in all the way up this bridging corner that is a little more sustained than Crack 1 (unknown).

### **Crack 3 (8m, 9)**

The third route to throw that budding new trad leader on if they are looking good. Although it has a technical start and nervous top out due to gear being that bit more fiddly may put some off (Krish Seewraj 2010).

### **Smear to Glory (15m, 15)**

The crack a meter left of the start of Welcome to Tsaro leads to a cavelet, exit this on the right and layback in style before finishing up the arête (Krish Seewraj, Craig Johnson 2018).

### **Welcome of Tsaro (15m, 21) \***

There is a line of 3 BRs on the hanging prow at the right hand end of the west face. Natural protection is required before the prow is reached. After clipping the first BR a tricky move to get established on the very fine face that provides great exposed climbing (3BR) (unknown).

### **Pursuits (15m, 17)**

Start a meter right of Welcome of Tsaro up the next crack before a committing move to gain the crack in the wall above (unknown).

## East Face (left side)



### **Well Rounded (13m, 20)\*\***

A sustained line. The left most route on the eastern face using 2 BRs. Balance up to get into the crack that resembles a rounded recess. Natural protection is required in the upper sections (2BRs) (unknown).

### **TNT with PMS (13m, 29)**

There are only two recorded unsuccessful attempt of this route other than the information in the Mountain Design first ascent book. Straight up the steep orange face right of Well Rounded. It looks devoid of holds in the midsection from the bottom, which may be why you'll sadly encounter some manufactured holds (3BRs) (unknown).

### **Spanking the Monkey (13m, 22)\***

A sustained and intense lead. Start up the flakes, passing a BR (plate required) to reach and climb the right rising crack. There is a BR (plate required) in the headwall above, to keep at the grade climb the right side of the headwall (2BRs plates required) (unknown).

### **Minty Freshness (13m, 16)**

Through the flakes and rounded pockets till the arête is reached, then easy climbing up this (Krish Seewraj, Chris Howe 2015)

### **Feeling Groovy (10m, 13)**

The grove left of Stepping Up. Delicate moves required before the first gear can be reached, after which things ease up (Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie 2016).

### **Stepping Up (12m, 17)**

The black slab with a ledge at half height. A BR (plate required) protects the bottom half, which has a very thin start. Minimal protection is available from here till the second BR (plate required) that is out of sight just over the lip (2BRs plates required) (unknown).

### **Corn Flakes (10m, 12)**

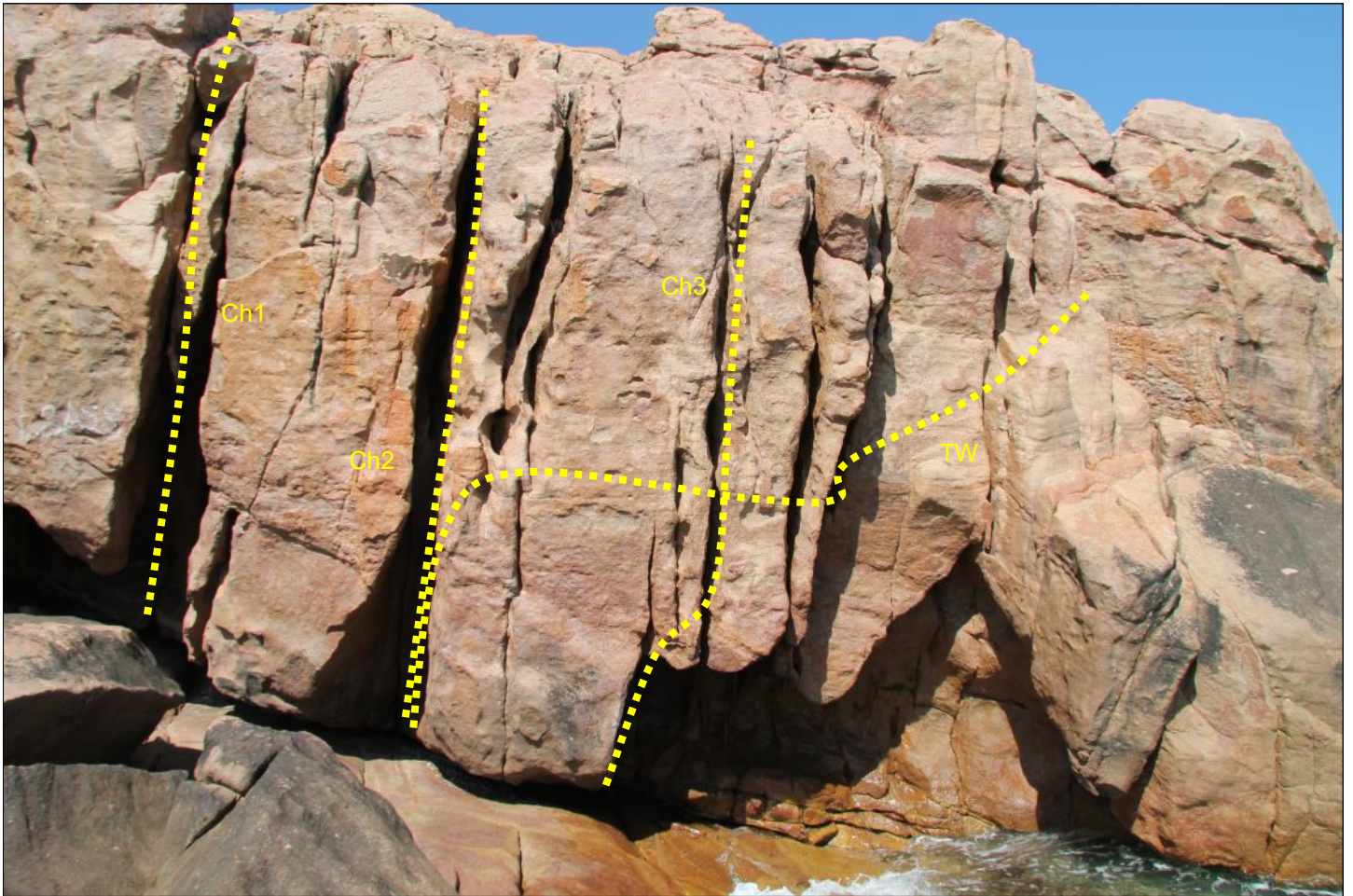
The flake on the arête to the right of Stepping Up, half way up you can either continue up the flake or head up the finger crack (unknown).

### **Cranking the Plastic (10m, 27)**

There is only one recorded unsuccessful attempt of this route; while all the moves were made they were not linked. Just right of Corn Flakes is a line of 3 BRs with difficulty up the lower portion of the steep wall, followed by a very thin seam on which you will struggle to keep from barn dooring. Easy climbing and natural protection awaits above (3BRs) (unknown).



## East Face (right side)



### **Chimney 1 (6m, 9)**

Start at the back of the cave, trend up towards the exit to negotiate past the flake. The wedged block at the top wobbles but has nowhere to go. The route can be extended by climbing the wall to the left above the ledge. (unknown).

### **Chimney 2 (6m, 10)**

The chimney tappers to a crack, it all feels a bit rounded but feels OK as it gobbles up gear (unknown).

### **Chimney 3 (6m, 11)**

Not a chimney but why ruin the naming convention on this wall, Feels bigger than it is due to the undercut size that becomes difficult to access in high tides (unknown).

### **Treading Water (10m, 14)**

A fun traverse that takes you out to sea, feels a little spicy at you never get too far off the deck (Krish Seewraj 2015).





Nana Stewart clotting the gear in as she pops her leading cherry on Crack 2 (9)



Steve Sterling being forced to lay back in style on Well Rounded (20)





Tomski Yuval after beating the thin technical start of Stepping Up (17)



Ryan Doe in good form on a rare ascent of Spanking the Monkey (22)





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