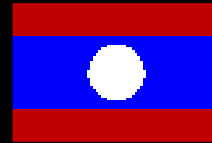




Laos



Rock Climbing

Vang Vieng

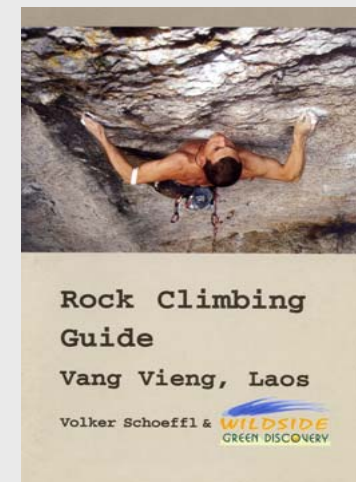
Laos

General Information

Rock climbing in Vang Vieng was first established through a group of German/American climbers in Februar 2002, with the help of Wildside Eco Group/ Green Discovery. The small tourist town of Vang Vieng is 170 km north of Vientiane, on the road 13 up to Luang Phrabang. Access and accommodation is easy and cheap.

If you still have the information that a permit is required for climbing in Laos – things changed: After long discussions with the local Tourism Authority Inty Deansavan, the Manager of Green Discovery, succeeded just recently – climbing is allowed to everyone, the whole permit issue is dropped!!! (see also www.greendiscoverylaos.com). Nevertheless this is different if you plan in opening up a new cliff. Therefore a permission of the local authorities is necessary. Check with all questions with Green Discovery, they also have a new route book, climbing courses and equipment for rent. As most of the harder routes have not yet been repeated consider the ratings as a proposal. Volker Schoeffl, 2006

For further information get the guide book through Green Discovery :



Credits

*Many thanks to the following companies for sponsoring bolts and climbing equipment:
Krimmer Outdoor Systems, Roc'terra, Entre-Prises, E9, Flash Liquid Chalk,
The North Face, Green Discovery Laos.*



Tham Nam Them

Access:

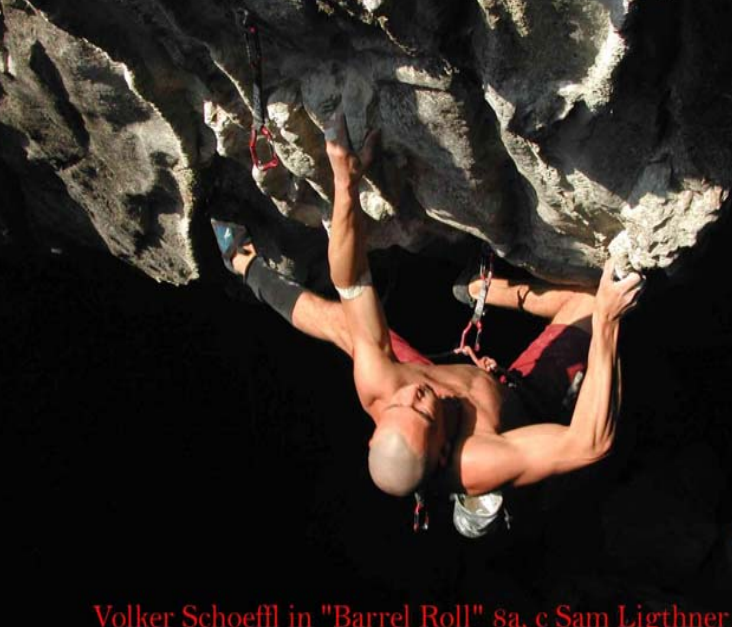
Leave Vang Vieng north on the main road, after 7km turn left, just where a house with a blue roof is right hand side. Follow the dirt road up to its end onto rice paddies, traverse these to the left where a small path leads to the river.

After crossing follow the mostly dry small river bed for 10 min., just before its end at a little cave follow the trail right to Tham Nam Them Cave. Go through the cave, the climbing area is just at its opening on the other side. You can also walk on a small trail across the saddle to the other side instead of going through the cave. If the temperature outside the cave is too hot, the routes within the cave might be wet.

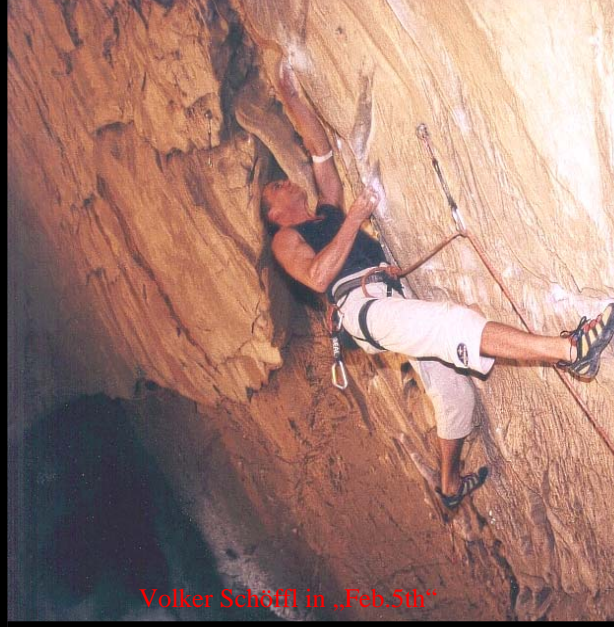
Tham Nam Them

1. *Prince of the Sky*, 8a+ *Volker Schoeffl, Christina Mueller Feb.2002*
2. *Barrel Roll*, 8a *Volker Schoeffl, Sam Lightner Feb.2002*
3. *Quicky*, 6a *Gerd Schoeffl Feb.2002*
4. *Poppy Seed*, 6a *Radek Capek, Feb.2002*
5. *Lima Site*, 7a+ *Gerd Schoeffl Feb.2002*
6. *AK-47*, 7c *Carsten Seidel, Feb.2002*
7. *Tuk Tuk Express*, 7c+ *Radek Capek, Feb.2002*
8. *Yellow Rain*, 7a+ *Sam Lightner, Carsten Seidel, Feb.2002*
9. *Missing Sweetie*, 6b+ *Sam Lightner, Feb.2002*
9.6 Aaron, 6c+ *King, Aey, Feb.2003*
10. *Alternate*, 6c *Sam Lightner, Feb.2002*
11. *Beer Lao 5c* *Carsten Seidel, Feb.2002*
12. *Remember Me*, 6a *Carsten Seidel, Feb.2002*
13. *Sabaydee*, 6a *Christina Mueller, Feb.2002*
14. *The Critton*, 7a+ *Sam Lightner, Volker Schoeffl, Feb.2002*
15. *February 5th.* 8a/6 *Volker Schoeffl, March 2005 **
16. *Another Day in Paradise*, 8a+ *Volker Schoeffl, Christina Mueller, Jan.2003*
17. *Project*
18. *Volkers Eistraum* 7b+ *Volker Schoeffl, Feb.2004*
19. *Eiszeit* 7c/7c+ *Volker Schoeffl, Carsten Seidel, Feb.2004*

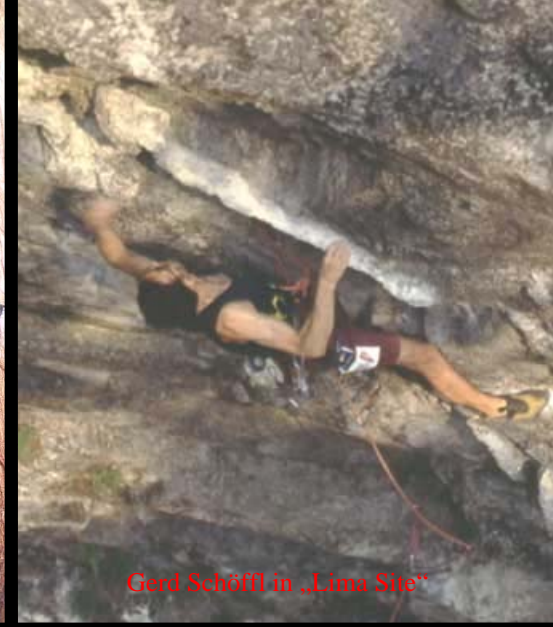
* Dedicated to those who lost there lives in a stupid bandit ambush at Feb.5th 2003 just close to Tam Nam Them on the main road; 7
the same day when I bolted the route.



Volker Schoeffl in "Barrel Roll" 8a, c Sam Ligthner



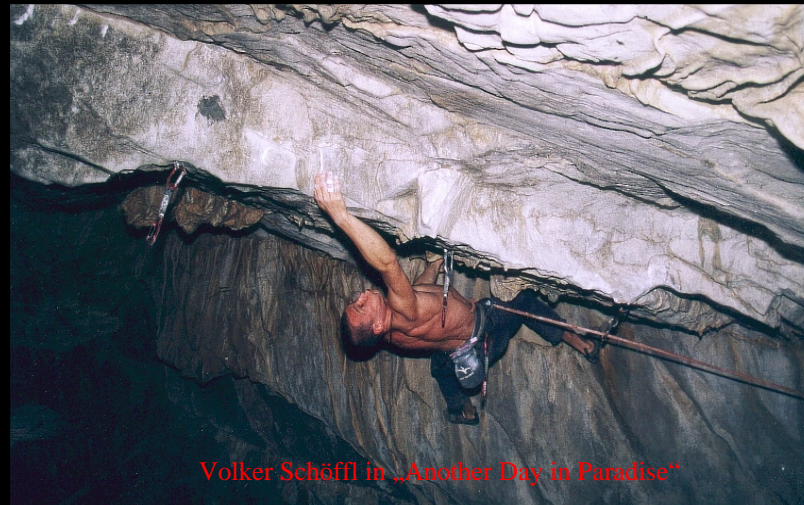
Volker Schoeffl in „Feb. Str.“



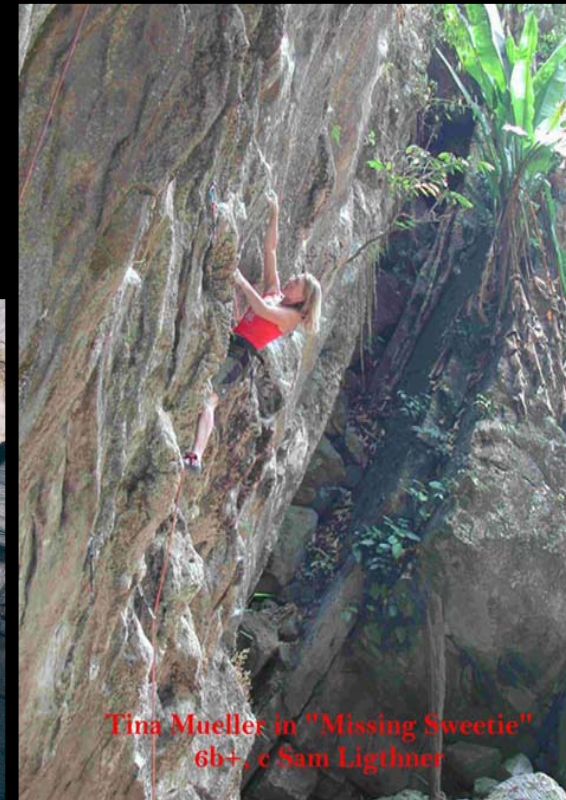
Gerd Schoeffl in „Lama Sue“



Garten Jaidel climbs "Tuk Tuk Express" 7c+ (c Sam Ligthner)



Volker Schoeffl in „Another Day in Paradise“



Tina Muelles in "Missing Sweetie" 6b+, c Sam Ligthner

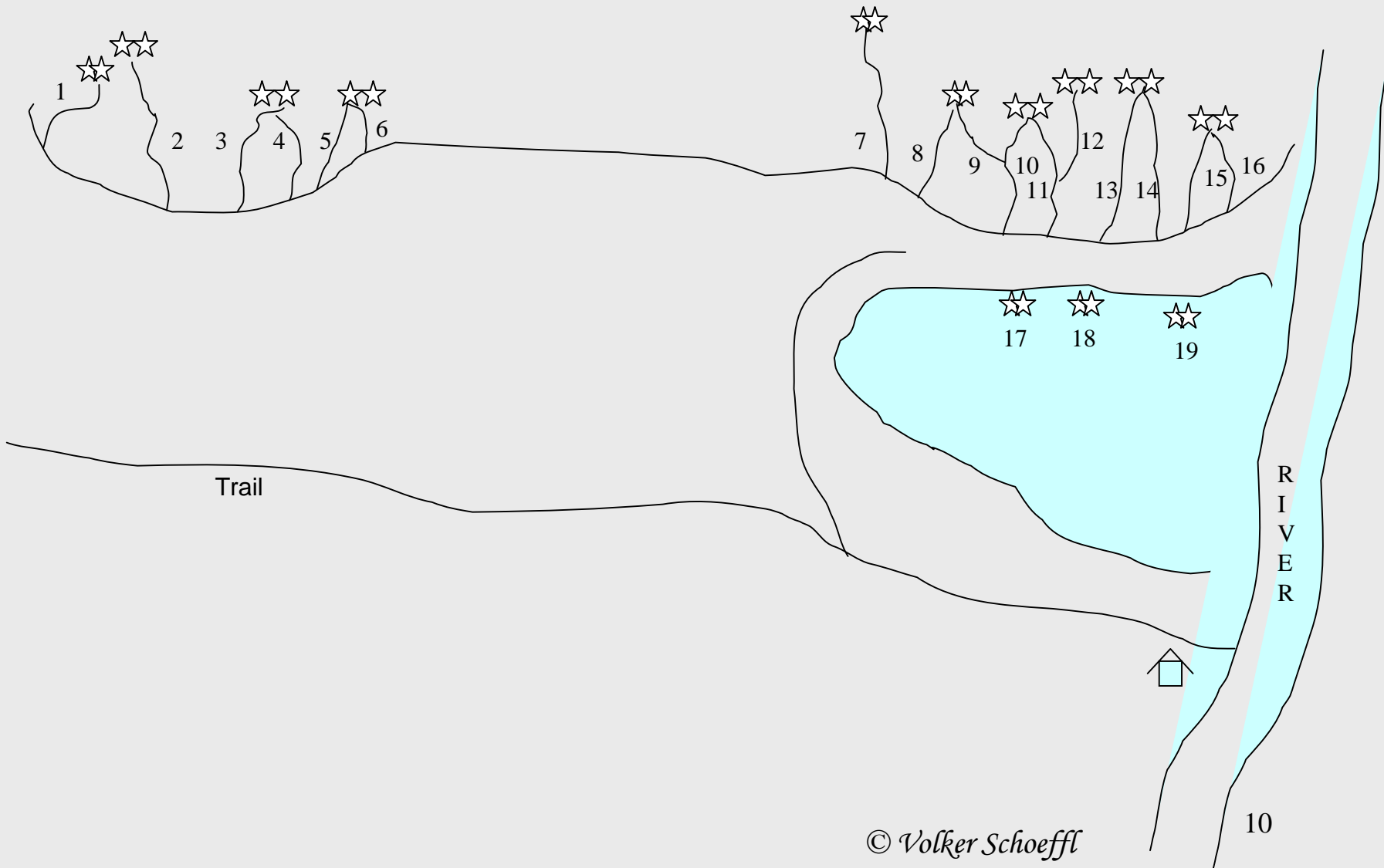
Tham Nam Them

Sleeping Wall

Access:

Take the road north of Vang Vieng, after 2km leave it to the left, following the sign to Tham Non Cave (Sleeping Cave). As you get to the river (Nam Song) yell for the boatmen on the other side to take you across. The wall is just behind the visible shit wall next to the river.

Sleeping Wall



Sleeping Wall

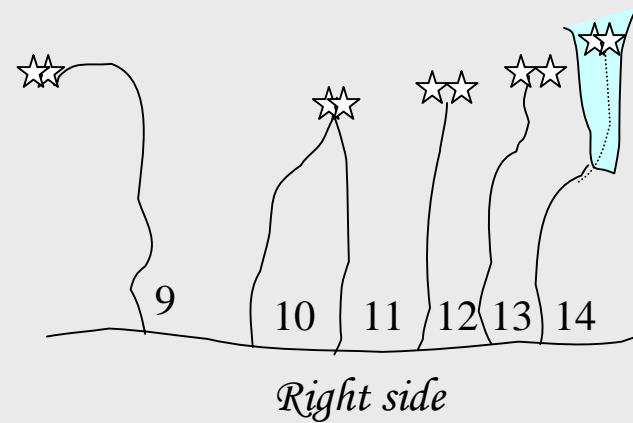
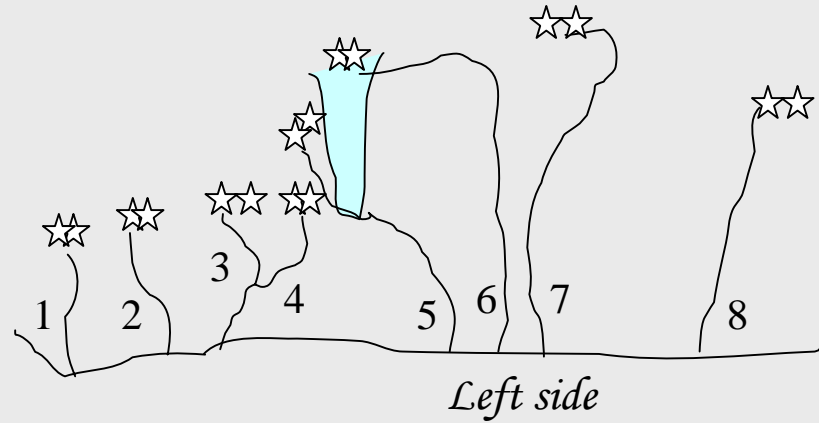
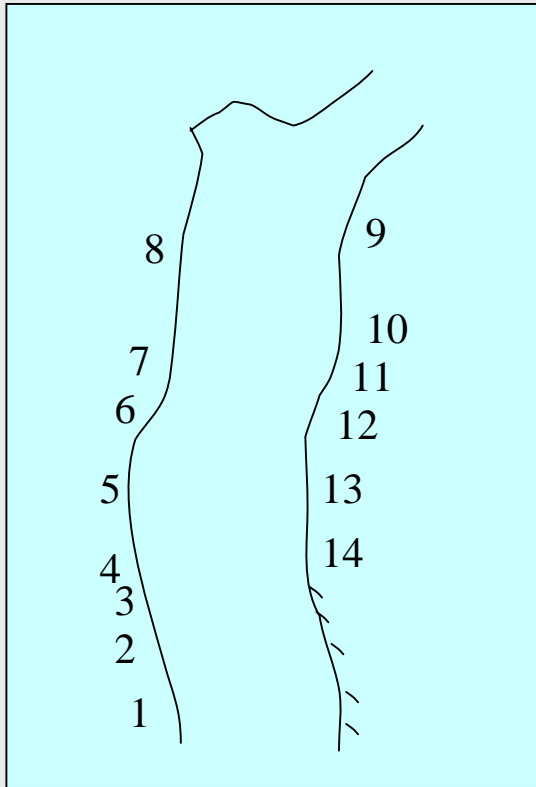
1. *Oscar, 7b+* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
2. *Tina, 7c* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
3. *Spider, 7b* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
4. *Snake Skin, 7a* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
5. *Lonely Cowboy 6b* *Volker Schoeffl Oct. 2003*
6. *Hate 6b* *Volker Schoeffl Oct. 2003*
7. *White Jungle 6b+* *Enrico Ramoth, Gerd & Volker Schoeffl, Feb.2004*
8. *Happy 6a* *SeK and Volker Schoeffl Feb 2004*
9. *SeK Billion 5b* *SeK Feb 2004*
10. *Sam's Dream, 5* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
11. *Wildside, 6b* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
12. *Kouky, 6c+* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
13. *Si Pou, 7b+* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
14. *La, 6c* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
15. *Happy TuTu, 6c* *Christina Mueller, Volker Schoeffl Dec.2002*
16. *Give Pizza a Chance, 6c+* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
17. *Gerton Jonny Watson, 4* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
18. *Rcap 512, 5a* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*
19. *Bierseidel, 5b* *Volker Schoeffl and Christina Mueller Dec.2002*

Sleeping Cave

Access:

Take the road north of Vang Vieng, after 2km leave it to the left, following the sign to Tham Non Cave (Sleeping Cave). As you get to the river (Nam Song) yell for the boatmen on the other side to take you across. Up to here it is the same approach as to the Sleeping Wall. After crossing the Nam Song river turn right, to the Tam Non Cave.

Sleeping Cave

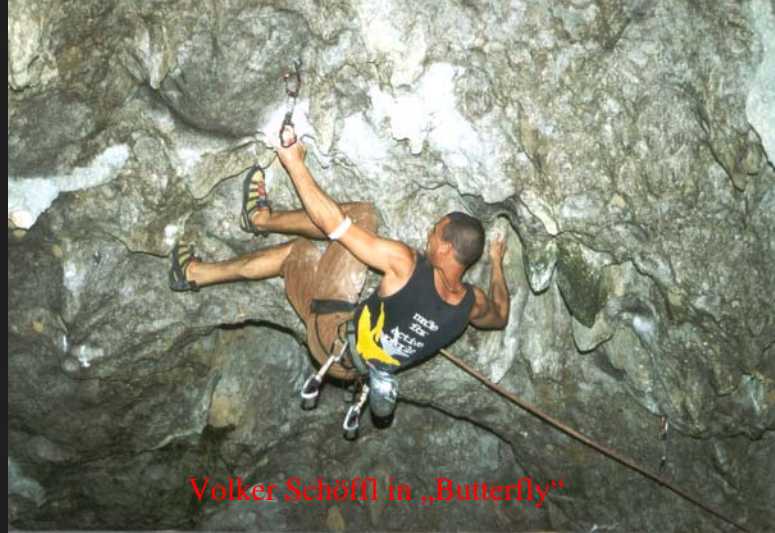


Sleeping Cave

1. *Xayhoo 7b+* *Volker Schoeffl, Carsten Seidel, Gerd Schoeffl, Enrico Ramoth*
Feb. 2004
2. *Sok di be mai, 8a* *Volker Schoeffl, April 2003*
3. *Butterfly, 8a* *Volker Schoeffl, Feb.2004*
4. *Tag am Meer 7c+/8a* *Volker Schoeffl, Feb.2004*
5. *Just horrified 7a* *Volker Schoeffl March 2004*
6. *Karaokee, 7b* *Volker Schoeffl, March 2003*
7. *Flash Keks, 6b* *Volker Schoeffl, March 2003*
8. *Pin Pah Noi Ngun, 5c* *Volker Schoeffl Stefan Zenker ,, March 2003*
9. *Chicken Schnitzel, 7b+* *Volker Schoeffl, March 2003*
10. *Cornflake, 6c* *Volker Schoeffl Max Felle,, Alex Hislop, Oscar Willemsen, March 2003*
11. *Ostkamin, 6a+* *Volker Schoeffl Max Felle,, Alex Hislop, Oscar Willemsen, March 2003*
12. *Puzzle, 6c+* *Volker Schoeffl Max Felle,, Alex Hislop, Oscar Willemsen, March 2003*
13. *Hamilton Powerarm meets*
Tyrone Shoelace 6b *Mark Ryan,, Volker Schoeffl Feb. 2004*
14. *Scary Tuna, 5b* *Stefan Zenker, Volker Schoeffl, March 2003*



Enrico Haase in „Snake skin“

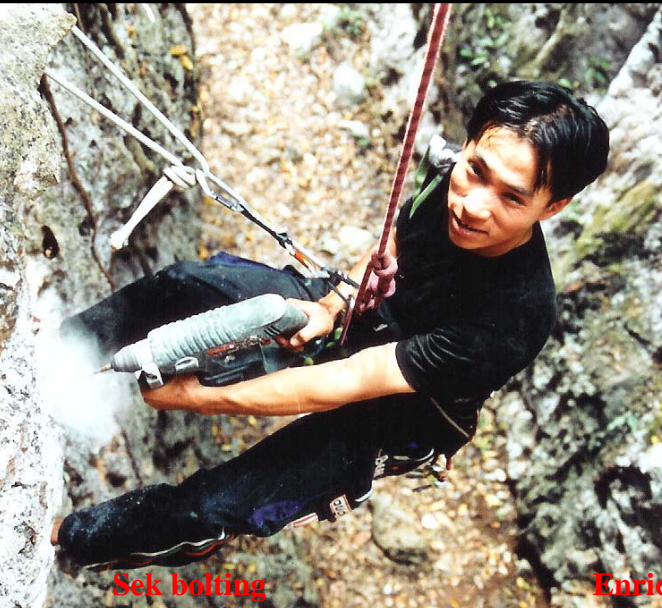


Volker Schöffl in „Butterfly“



Isabelle Schöffl in „Si Pou“

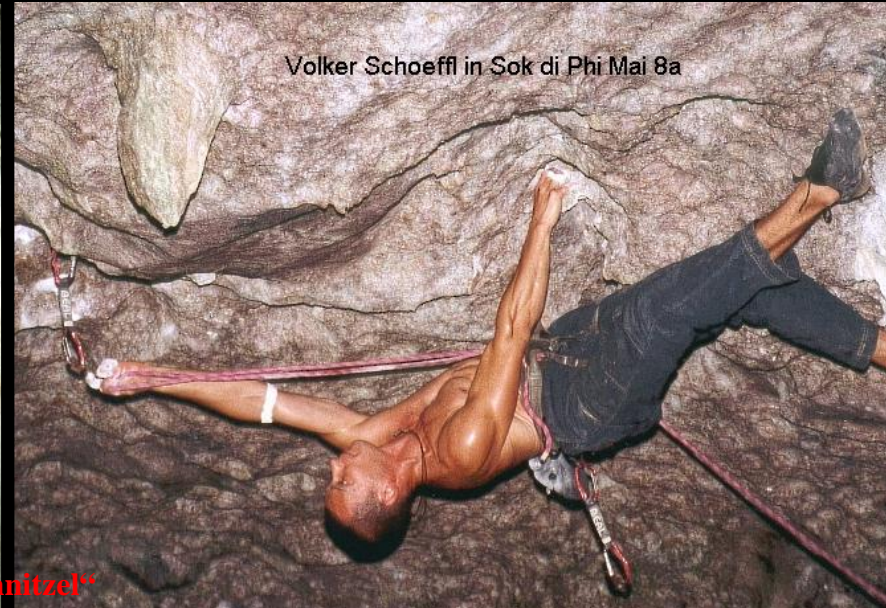
Sleeping Wall and Cave



Sek bolting



Enrico Ramoth in „Chicken Schnitzel“

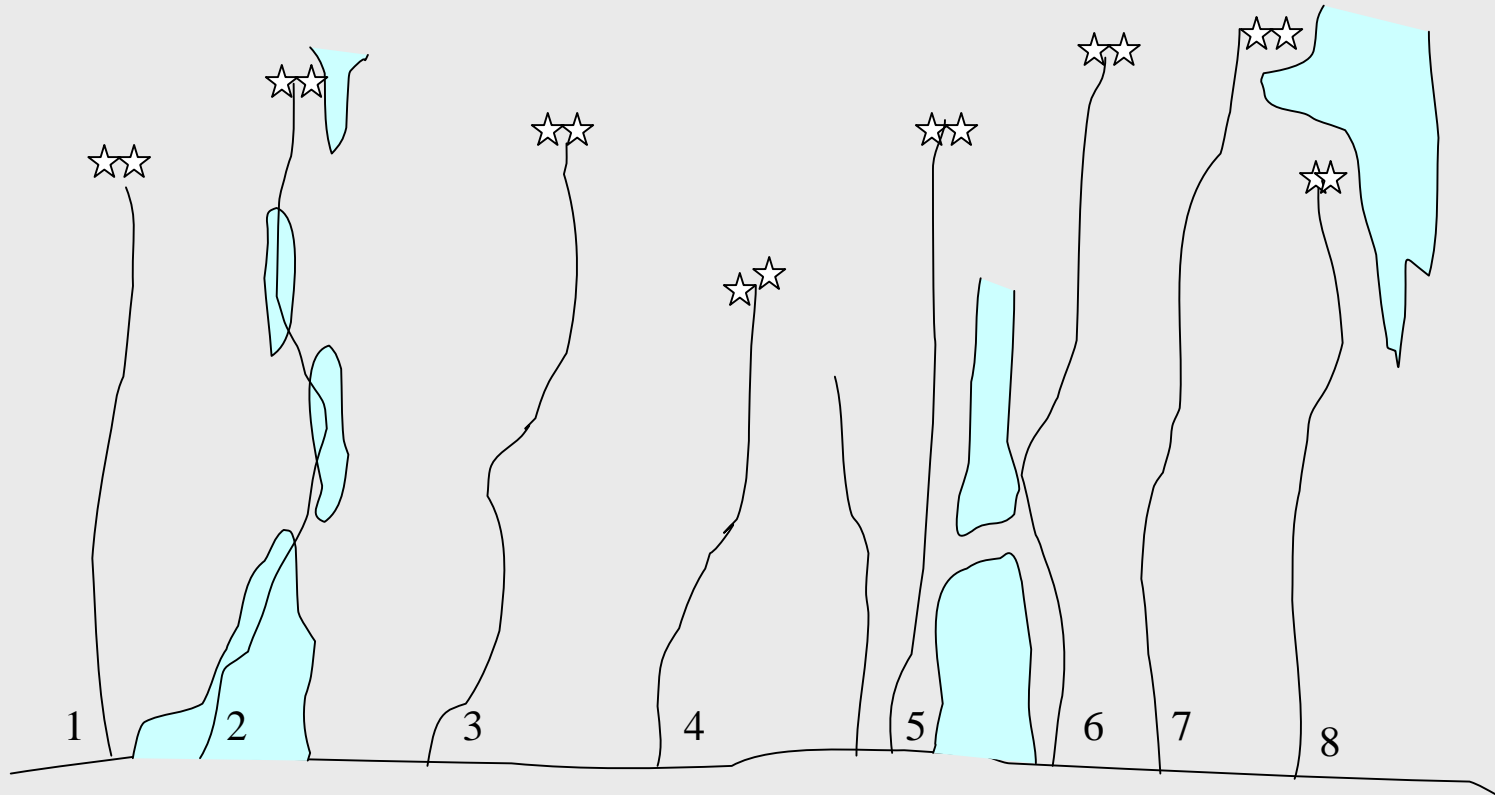


Volker Schoeffl in Sok di Phi Mai 8a

Sleeping Cave Upper Wall

There is another wall next to Sleeping Cave, with potential for future developement (5 to 6c). Just fork of to the right side before entering the cave. Continue the trail up to the wall and to it`s right end. There is a bolted via ferrata with a fixed rope (Carsten Seidel, Volker Schoeffl, Feb.2004) to a big ledge. If the rope is gone you can follow the bolts, something like a 4 or 5.

Pha Daeng Mountain

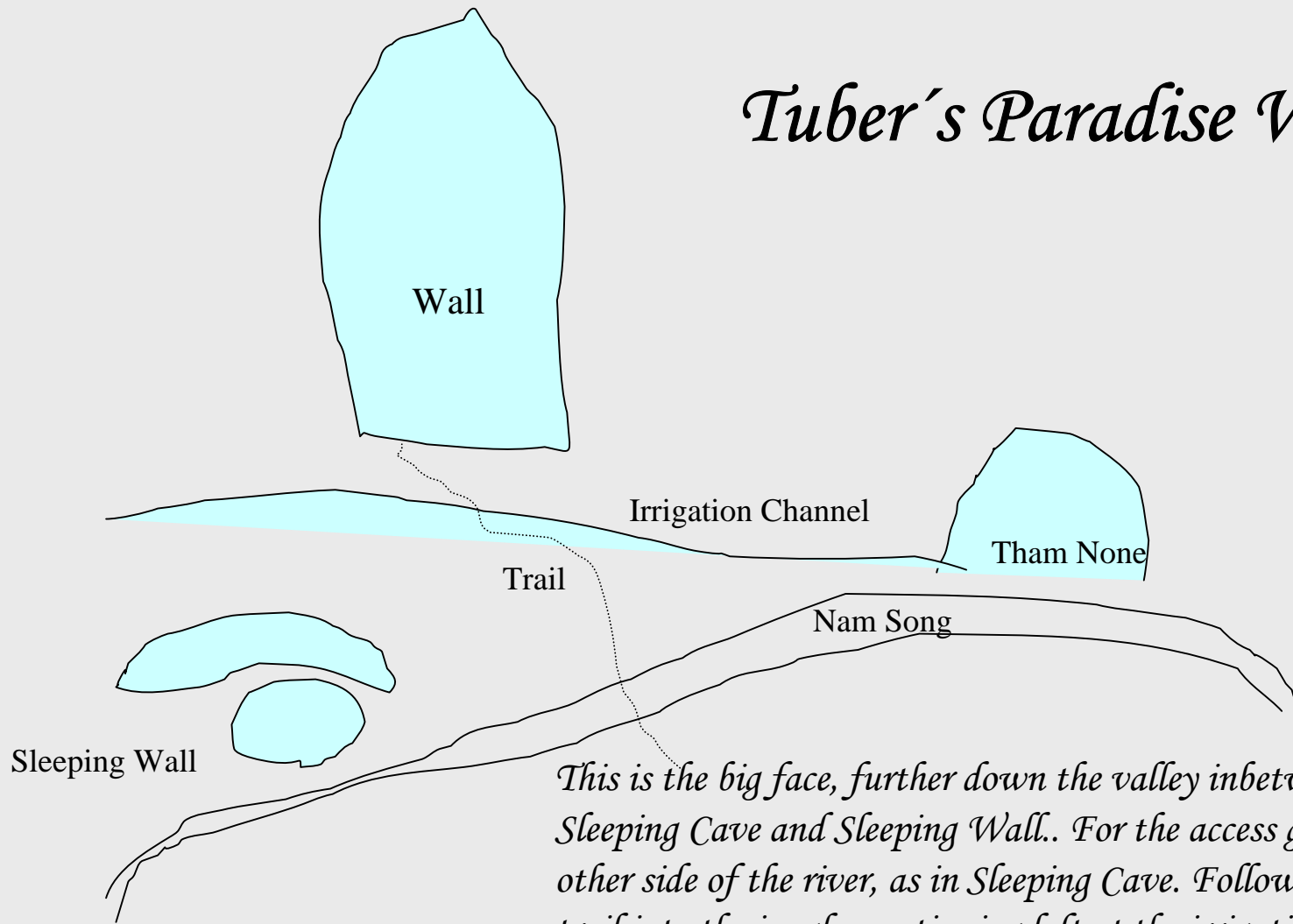


Trail

Pha Daeng Mountain

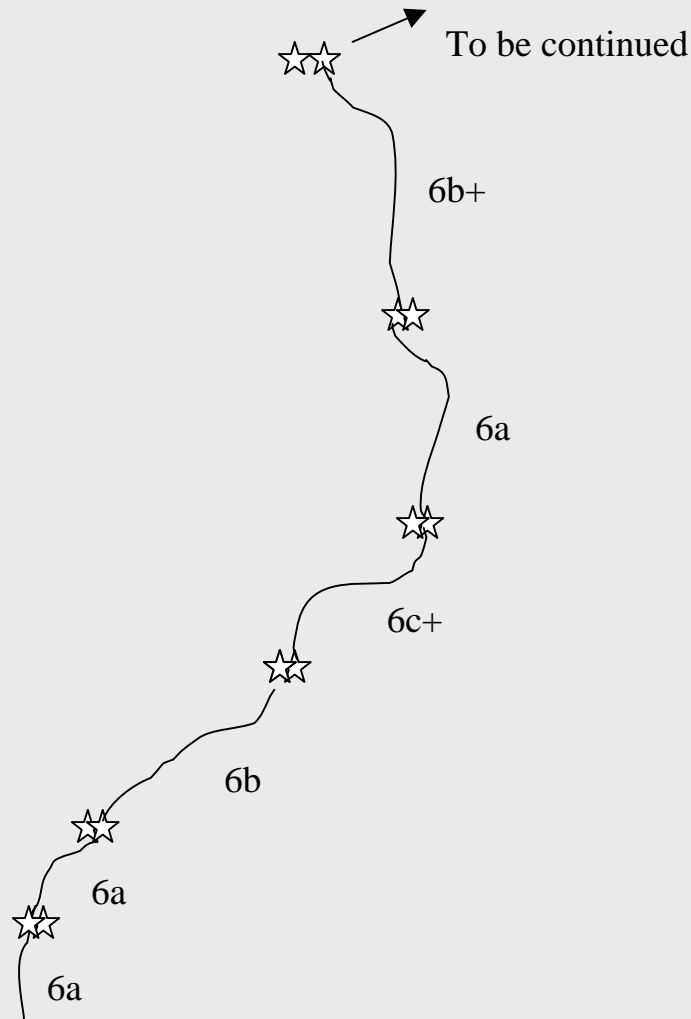
1. ?
 2. King Cobra, 6a+
 3. Pit Viper, ?
 4. ?
 5. ?
 6. Pea My, 6a+
 7. ?
 8. ?, 6a+
- Access:*
In Vang Vieng cross the Nam Song River and hike in the direction to Pha Daeng Mountain or Lusy Cave . At the base of the mountain turn left and continue the trail until you get to a small cave. Keep left until a trail leads up to the cliff. If you can't find the trail ask the guide at the little cave, he can show you.
- Routes:*
All routes done by a guy called Dave and a friend, as he considers the cliff his private climbing area he wasn't giving any information...

Tuber's Paradise Wall



This is the big face, further down the valley inbetween the Sleeping Cave and Sleeping Wall.. For the access go to the other side of the river, as in Sleeping Cave. Follow the small trail into the jungle, continuing left at the irrigation channel.. Traverse is at the spot where we built a little bridge (2 tree logs). Continue first left than straight to the end of the secondary jungle. From there follow the jungle trail, which is marked with orange trail marks. Take care on the trail, a lot of the rocks are very sharp and loose.

Khoi hak chao – Tuber's Paradise Wall

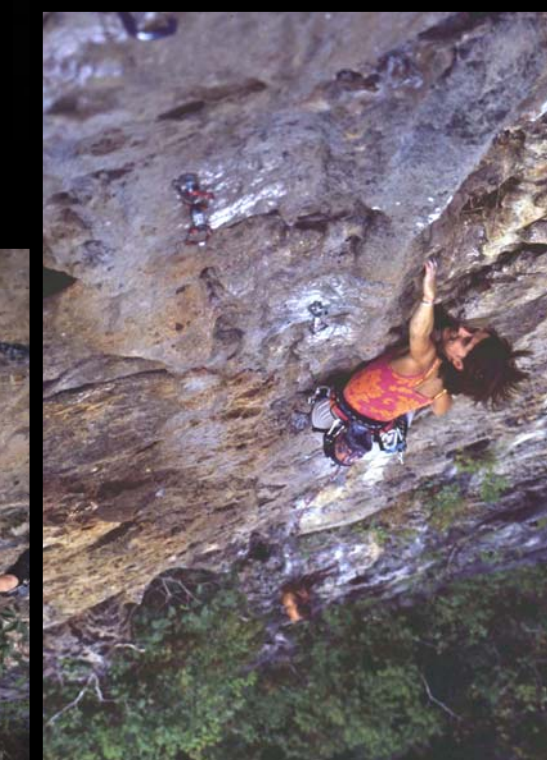
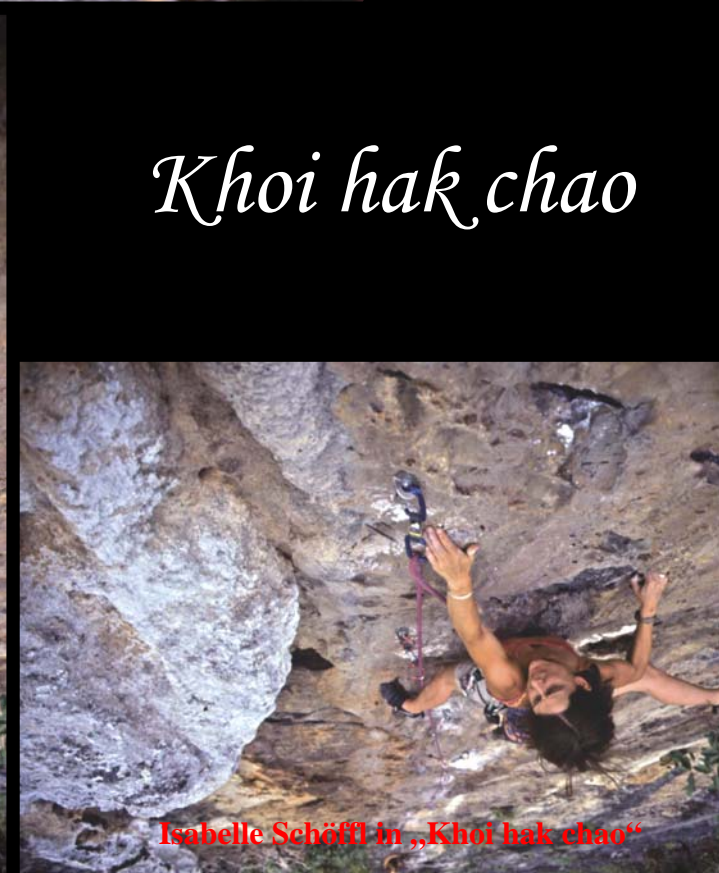
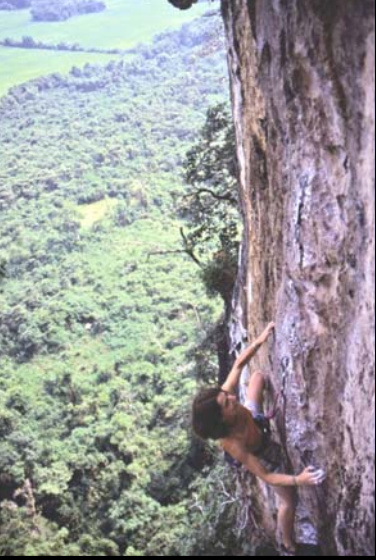


Khoi Hak Chao: 6c+

*Isabelle and Volker Schöffl
Oktober 2004*

*Equipment: 50 m ropes, 12
Quickdraws, all bolted.*

*Rappels: The rappels are
down the route, with
backclipping at the 3rd and
4th pitch (tricky!). We will
continue it higher up the next
time.*



Khoi hak chao

Isabelle Schöffl in „Khoi hak chao“

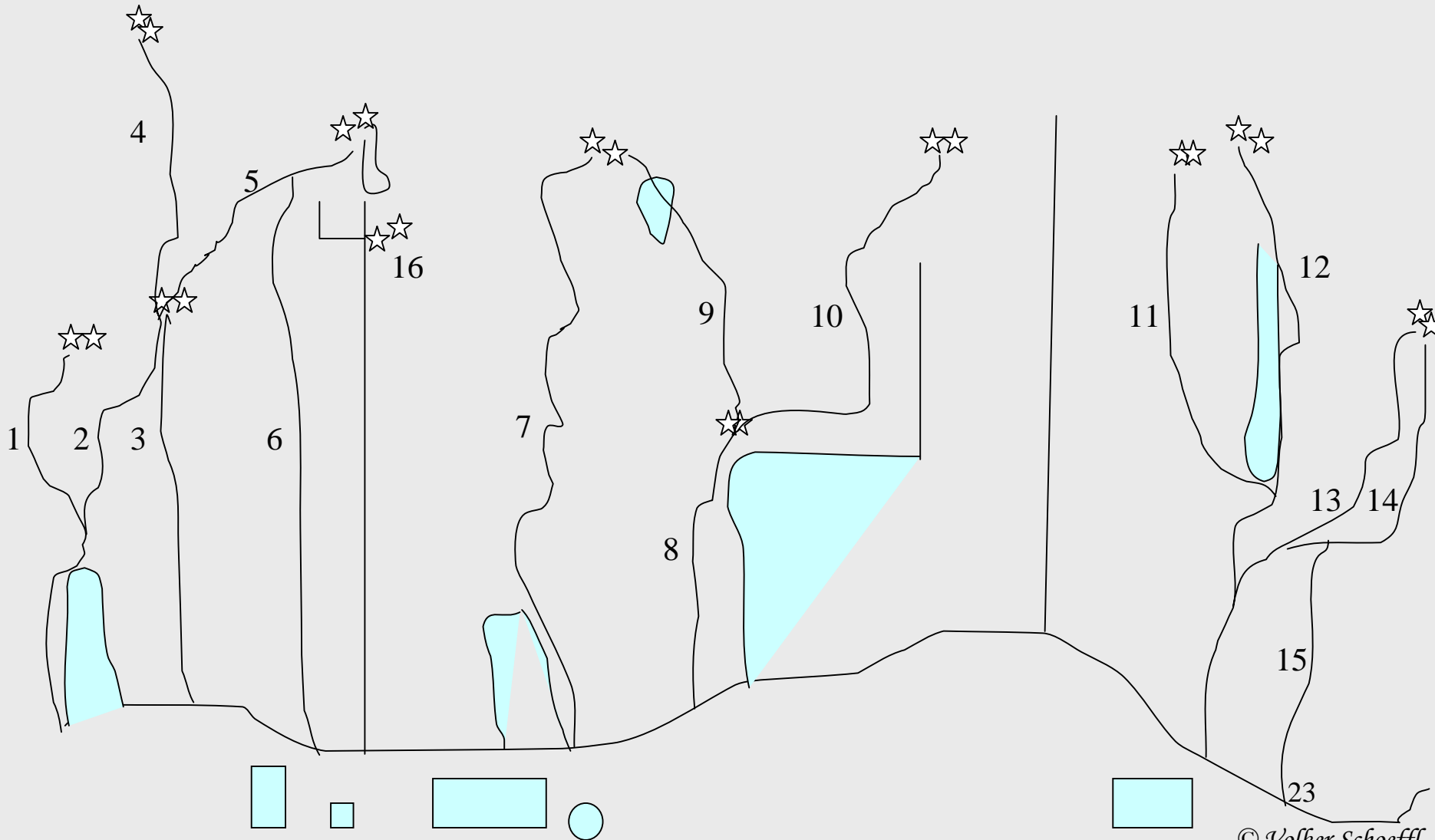
Pha Tang – Pha Daeng

Access:

Leave Vang Vieng north on the main road (Rt13), after 20 km you will get to the Pha tang village. Continue 2km north until you see the big white and red wall (Pha Daeng means red wall) on the left side. Take a small trail of the road to the right end of the main wall. After crossing the rice paddies stay a little left until you get to a jungle trail which goes along the wall. Be careful not to step onto the traps, set up by the locals to catch small mammals. The climbing area is at a white „amphitheatre“ , which is obviously visible. 2 routes are still open projects, as i had a groundfall on the left one and shattered my calcaneus we needed to leave. Feel free to redpoint them. The rock is clean and also dry in rainy days.

April 2006

Pha Tang Village – Pha Daeng

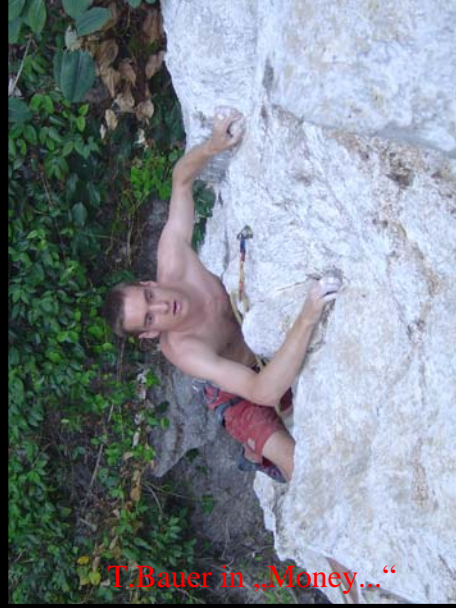


Pha Tang Village – Pha Daeng

1. *Wangoet Wong 5c* *Hoi,, April 2006*
2. *Cand.med. 5b* *Isabelle Schöffl, April 2006*
3. *Angels and Daemons 6c* *Thorsten Bauer, Isabelle Schöffl, April 2006*
4. *Aldokora 7a+ (3+4)* *Isabelle Schöffl, Volker Schöffl, April 2006*
5. *Proper training is essential
before use 6c+ (3+5)* *Isabelle Schöffl, April 2006*
6. *Project (8a+)* *Volker Schöffl, unfinished as i had a ground fall...*
7. *Les Charmes du Laos 7c* *Volker Schöffl, April 2006*
8. *Chao Ling chep lai lai 6a* *Volker Schöffl, April 2006*
9. *Les Larmes du Chaos 7b* *Thorsten Bauer, Frank Einwag, Volker Schöffl,
April 2006*
10. *Hois girl 7b+* *Thorsten Bauer, Hoi,, Volker Schöffl, April 2006*
11. *Two had to leave the party 7a* *Thorsten Bauer, April 2006*
12. *Money can't buy me love 6b+* *Thorsten Bauer, April 2006*
13. *Frauenbewegung 7a+* *Karin Anders, April 2006*
14. *Be Mai Ni 6c* *Frank Einwag, April 2006*
15. *Project (8a+)* *Frank Einwag unfinished*
16. *Project* *just the anchors are in place, watch! - the big
block/roof is loose! © Volker Schoeffl*



V. Schöffl in „Le charme...“



T. Bauer in „Money...“



F. Einwag in „Be Mai Ni“



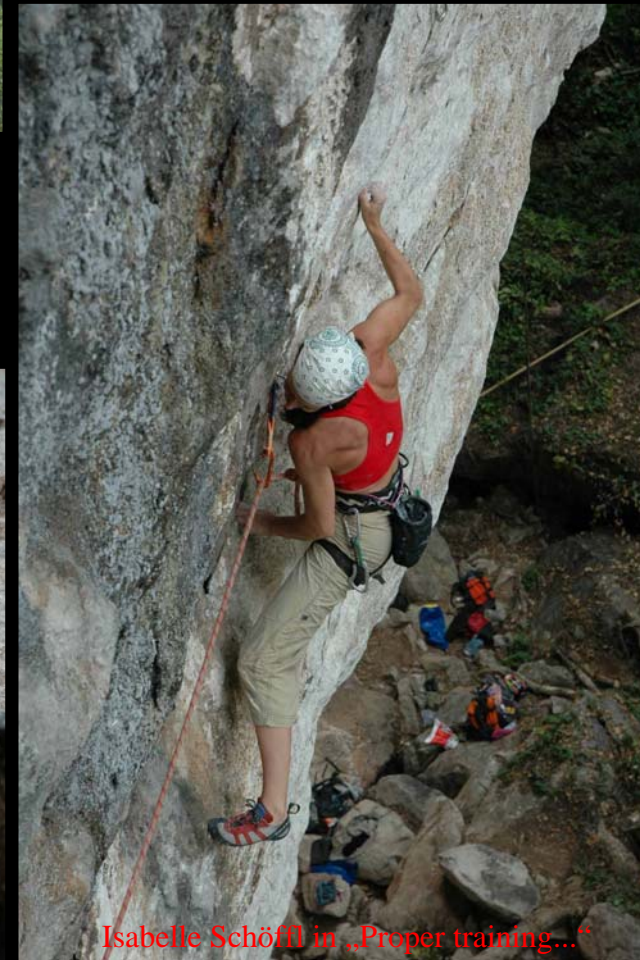
Karin Anders in „Frauenbewegung“



Isabelle Schöffl in „Proper training...“



Karin Anders in „Aldokora.“



Isabelle Schöffl in „Proper training...“

Pha Daeng

Rock Climbing

Xaysomboune

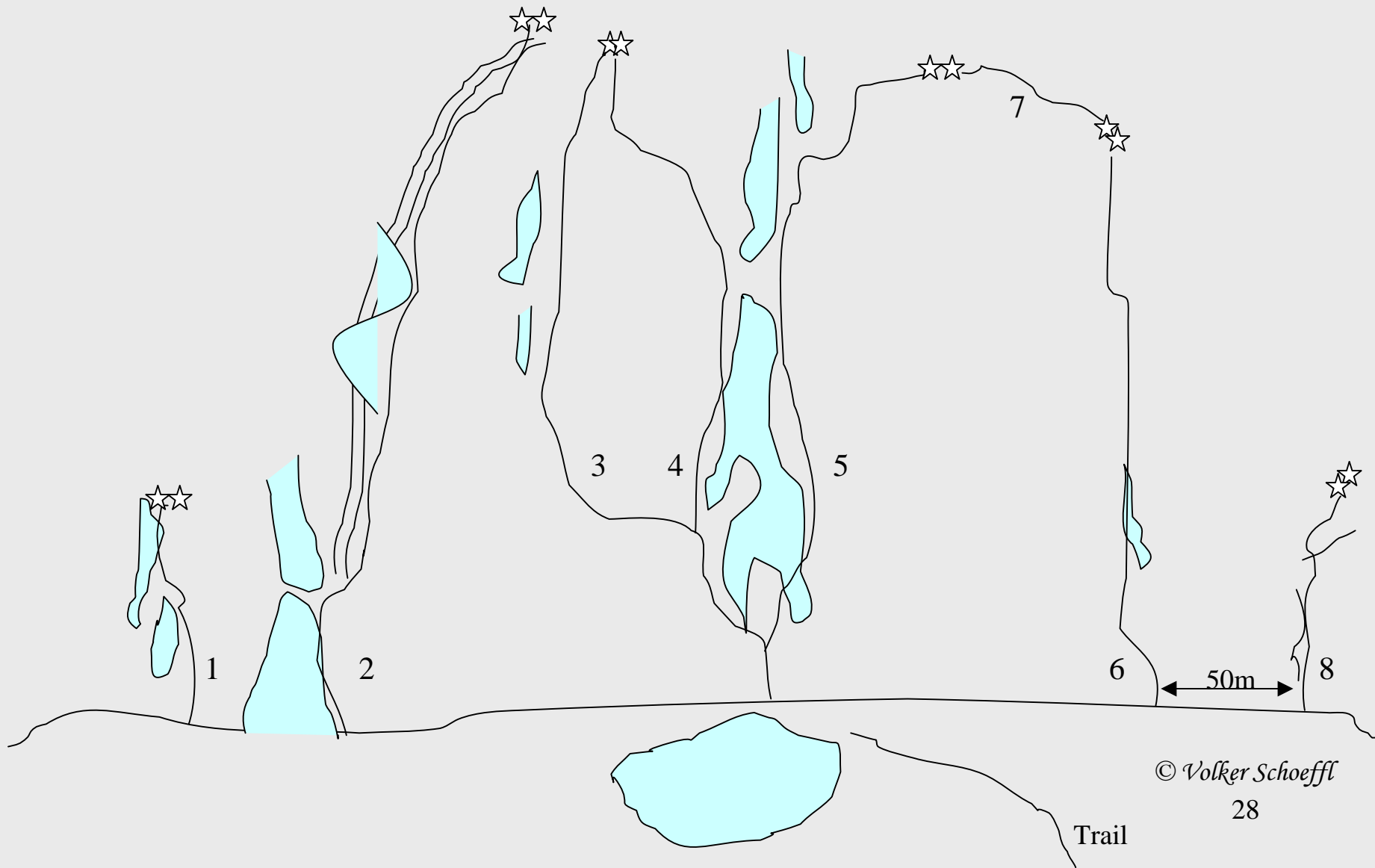
Laos

General Information

Xaysomboune Special Zone is not yet a province, but still halfway a military area. As this area used to be the main stronghold of the US troops in the Vietnam War and later on of the remaining Hmong resistance it is still occasionally a troublesome area. Therefore it remains in the official status of a special zone, nevertheless it will probably become a real province in one or two years. For „Farang“ – tourists to go there a special permit is mandatory, currently Wildside-Green Discovery Laos is the only travel company which can get you the permit and also get you there. After a very very long time we were the first tourists who ever stayed in the center town of the special zone, Xaysomboune. The road to get there leaves from the main road up north to Luang Phrabang (Rd-13) right after the Nam Num lake in the small town Tha Heua, some 20 km before you get to Vang Vieng. It is another 100 km on a bumpy dirt road, which takes about 2 hours on a offroad bike, 2-3 on a jeep or car and maybe 6 hours on the local bus. The road passes along some smaller villages, there is enough supply for food and gas. Xaysomboun town has 2 little guesthouses and also homestays available. Currently you still need to register with the local tourism authority, a very nice woman, fluent in French and English and the local police. They provided us with 2 (armed) police guys for our protection, free of charge. Nevertheless even if this might all seem to be a bit of a hassle it is definitely worth it. The rock there is absolutely brilliant, totally clean and of the same quality as the best places in Phra Nang and Railey! Temperatures are quite low and climbing in the sun is no problem. The variety of food is basic Lao, there are few restaurants, nevertheless none with an English menu. But being away from the beaten tourist trails, discovering the real Laos and having a first rate climbing area will keep you happy all times. The climbing area, with much more potential for the future, is on Houa Xang (Elephant head mountain) just north of town. The local tourist authorities will show you the trail, it is about 20 min uphill walking.

Volker Schöffl, March 2005²⁷

Pha Houa Xang



Pha Houa Xang

1. *Vertigo 7a* *Julian Körner, Februar 2005*
2. *Dr. Mathilda 7b* *Frank Einwag. Februar 2005*
3. *Xaysomboune 8a* *Volker Schoeffl, Februar 2005*
4. *Hoi Trail 6b+* *Hoi, Volker Schoeffl, Februar 2005*
5. *Sinthese 6c+* *Julian Körner, Februar 2005*
6. *Isa 7c+* *Volker Schoeffl, Februar 2005 (as a big flake broke off, Ao to the 3rd bolt)*
7. *Project* *sequel to Isa*
8. *Âme soeur, 7b+* *Isabelle Schöffl, Februar 2005*



Julian Körner in „Vertigo“



Frank Einwag in „Dr. Mathilda“



Isabelle Schöffl in „Dr. Mathilda“



Volker Schöffl in „Xaysomboune“



F. Einwag in „Dr. Mathilda“



Hoi in „hoi Trail“

Pha Houa Xang

Luang Phra Bang

Pak Ou

Eagle Wall

Luang Phra Bang

In 1996, just after Laos opened its borders slowly for tourism, we went to Luang Phra Bang to start rock climbing at Pak Ou. Nevertheless it was still a difficult time for the country, we found a human skeleton underneath the wall and terrorist gangs were strolling through the jungle. It was definitely not yet the time for outdoor activities. In 1999 Dan Morris and a group of American climbers established the first routes on Eagle Rock, near Pak Ou. For the next years it was difficult to climb there, caused by bureaucracy and permit hassles. Nowadays it seems to be easier, a group of Polish climbers around Jacek Kudlaty opened more routes in 2006. Unfortunately i still do not have their topos. Green Discovery has also an office in Luang Phra Bang and are offering climbing courses at another small cliff with beginner routes that were bolted by Hoi and Stuart in 2006.

Volker Schöffl 2006

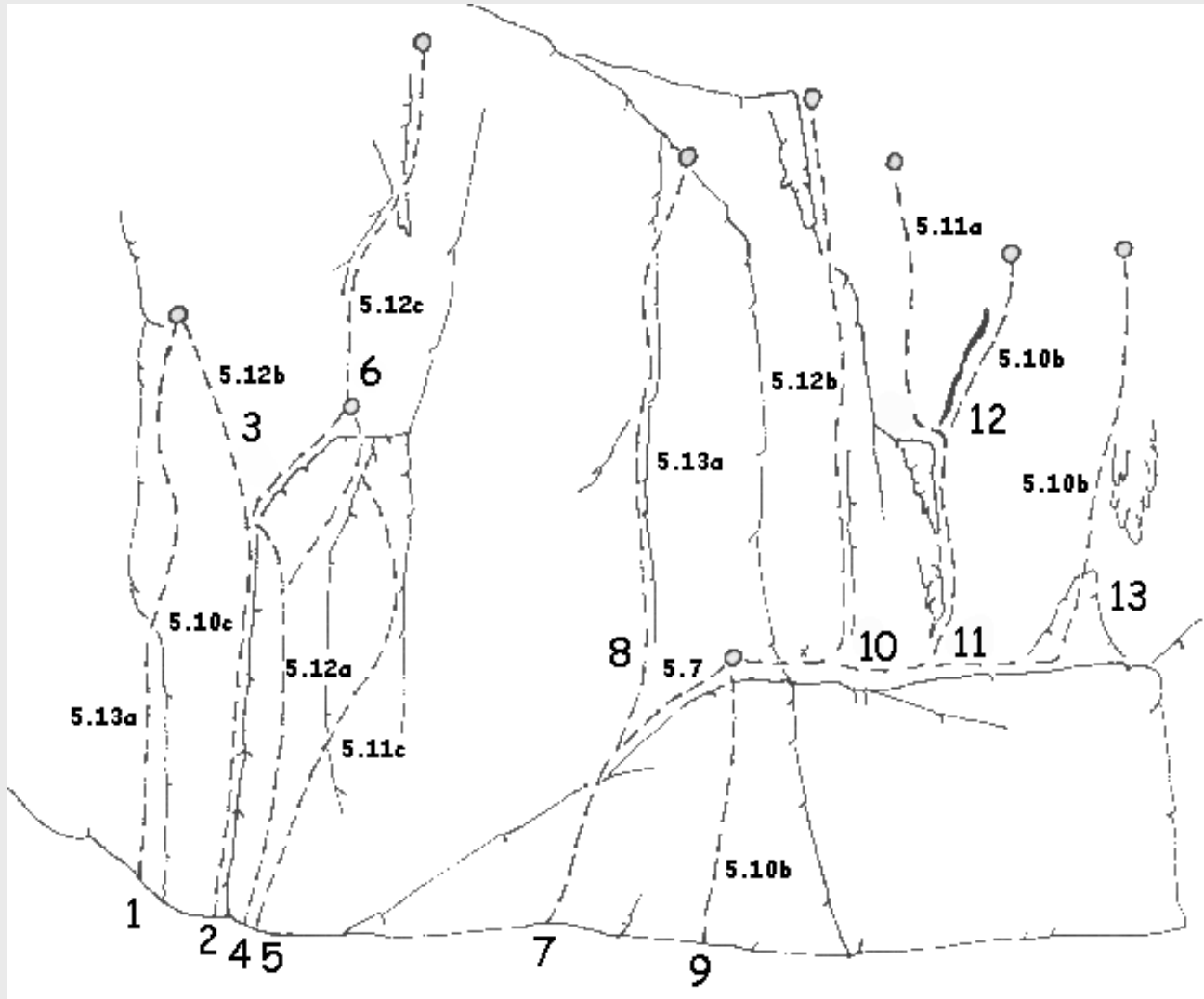
Luang Phra Bang: Pak Ou – Eagle Wall

The cliff is located on the northern shore of the Nam Ou (Ou river), where it merges with the Mekong. The village Pak Ou is on the opposite side and can be reached either by an one hour boat ride from Luang Phra Bang or leaving on route 13 to the north, past the airport. After 32 km turn left onto a smaller road to the village and get a boat across the river.



Pak Ou – Eagle Wall

Pak Ou – Eagle Wall

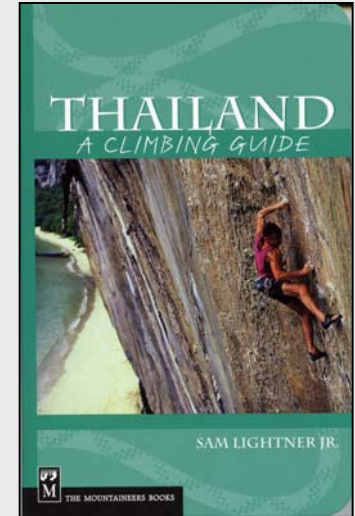
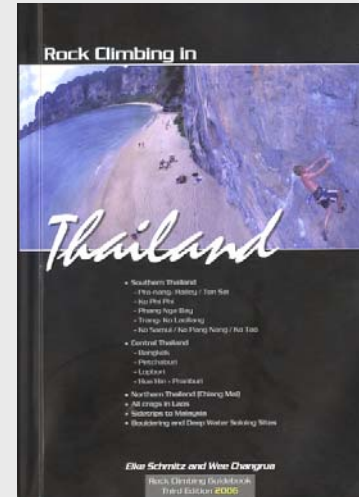
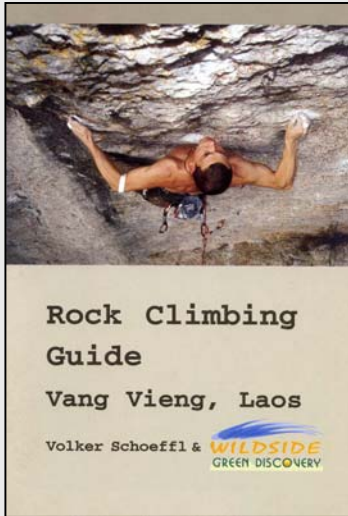


Pak Ou – Eagle Wall

1. *Mind the Bees 5.13 a*
2. *Be here lao (no bolts) 5.10 c*
3. *Looks easy but... 5.12 6*
4. *Aniyakata 5.12 a*
5. *Choosy, Choosy 5.11 c*
6. *Bhuntahn 5.12 c*
7. *Mind the Lao Lao 5.7*
8. *32nd Soul 5.13 a*
9. *5.10 b*
10. *Mr. Thavidet 5.12 6*
11. *Mind the stilts 5.11 a*
12. *Mind the owl 5.10 d*
13. *Phu Si Galore 5.10 b*

All routes done by a group of American climbers around Dan Morris and Will Hair in 1999.

More Information On Rock Climbing in Laos:



On Climbing Medicine:

