

Bouldering in the East Matopos



Introduction

Whilst sport climbing in the East Matopos, we were so impressed by the boulders that lie in the vicinity of The Shumba Shamba lodge and Silhoti (the sport climbing area) we felt compelled to climb them! It is possible a few of these problems have been climbed before, but we believe many of them are definitely new. We wanted to create this mini 'guidebook' to share some problems and photos, as well as to add to the sometimes vague information about the rock climbing in this beautiful country, in the hope that more climbers will be inspired to come and climb in this area.

This is no means extensive nor really a meaningful guidebook, we put this together to showcase some of the bouldering you can expect to find in the East Matopos. We want to encourage more climbers to visit, enjoy the climbing and add to the development here.

Accommodation

All the boulders documented here, excluding the boulders in the Silhoti area, lie on the Shumba Shaba Lodge land. Shumba Shaba Lodge is a truly special place to stay and is perfectly located for the climbing. Make sure to get in touch with Shumba Shaba several days before you plan to arrive, the area is quite remote, so organise yourself beforehand.

Please note: The boulders in the Silhoti area where the sport climbing is are on different land therefore it's important to check that it is ok to climb here beforehand. The guys at Shumba Shaba will be able to tell you all you need to know.

Grades

We have graded the problems using the Font grading system as this is what we felt the most familiar using. A disclaimer that we aren't really boulderers, but we have tried our best to grade these problems fairly and as best as we can.



Shumba Shamba Lodge Area

The Paddock (-20.448748, 28.768904)

Boulder on the right side as you drive up the steep rocky slab towards the lodge



1. Night-mare 5C
2. Cant-er believe it 5C
3. Neigh Chance 6A

Worlds View Area

From where the road traverses the rock slab follow the cairns up hill towards some cement water containers. Keep following the cairns down the rock slab, through the forest. The path will fork - go right, then up a rock slab and the Scorpion boulder will be on your right.

Scorpion Boulder (-20.4451740, 28.7663048)

Machete might be useful to re-clear the landing.

1. Scorpion Splat 5C



Plateau area

From where the road traverses the rock slab follow the cairns up hill towards some cement water containers. Keep following the cairns down the rock slab, through some forest. The path will fork - go left, continuing through the bush to the rock slab/ plateau.

The Ranch (-20.4461868, 28.7645865)



1. Cattleman's dyno 6A
2. Rawhide 6A
3. The Arboretum 5B



The Chaise Lounge (-20.446321, 28.764616)



1. Project ?

2. Layback and Relax 5B

Be careful and completely avoid the loose rock on the left of the crack

Apple slice (-20.4464177, 28.7643676)

An awesome feature which appears to have dropped out of the large boulder behind the 'Apple Slice'. The main boulder has an appealing crack - would easily go on gear.



1. Slide to the Left 5C SS



2. Slide to the right 5B SS

These problems top out at the apex of the lip, but you can go all the way around

Silhoti area

Around a 10 minute drive from Shumba shamba lodge, probably useful to get someone from the lodge to show you where to go. From the 'parking' continue straight up the rock slab, don't turn right towards the sport climbing area

Fly Boulder (-20.4611819, 28.7801296)



1. Fly Arête 5C

Slip 'N Slide (-20.4611819, 28.7801296)

Right next to the Fly Boulder



1. The Sadza slide 5C SS

Upper Boulder

Walk a few minutes up the slab northwards from Fly boulder until you see the boulder on your right



1. Problem 1 6B?

Midday sun makes it difficult to see the crux move to the hand hold