

## The Slab Chip Experience

### Description:

P1: Sport. Climb the first pitch of INXS. sa. 20, fr. 6a+/b, y.d.s. 10+, 25m.

P2: Mixed. Climb the rightward trending arched crack on bolts and cams to a bolt belay near the S.W. Wall route. Save yourself for the small holds and the hard downclimb to the belay at the end. A crimp right of the belay bolts makes stepping down possible. sa. 22, fr. 6b+/c, y.d.s. 11-, eng. E2, 25m.

P3: Trad. Make a strange step right and climb the chimney as for the S.W. Wall route until you can step right to a good belay by a fig tree. sa. 20, fr. 6a+/b, y.d.s. 10+, eng. HVS. 45m.

P4: Mixed. Squirm up the off width and find a way to make a long reach left to a hidden jug. Climb through the fig tree and up the obvious layback crack and undercling traverse left until you can step to a good rest in the broken cracks underneath a white water streak. Continue up the face on bolts until a belay in a huaco on the left. sa. 21, fr. 6b, eng. HSV, y.d.s. 10d. 40m.

P5: Sport. Traverse right to the white streak and climb it on bolts to a bad belay on a tiny pocket on the left. sa. 22, fr. 6c, y.d.s. 11b, 30m.

P6: Sport. Continue on bolts up the white streak making strange palming/stemming moves to an undercling where a flake broke off and past it to easier climbing as the angle eases. Belay on bolts on a lower angle bench. sa. 25, fr. 7a+, y.d.s. 12a, 20m. Note: can be french freed at a much easier grade.

P7: Sport. Traverse right following bolts to a good belay down a dirty brown ledge from the last protection bolt. sa. 20, fr. 6a+, y.d.s. 10c, 35m.

P8: Sport. Make some harder moves right out the gate and up the slabs to a belay under the crack. sa. 23. fr. 6c+, y.d.s. 11c, 10m.

P9: Trad. Climb the obvious crack until you can make a long step to transition to the left hand crack. Layback and pull jugs to the belay at the top of the broken cracks. sa. 18, fr. 5+, eng. VS, y.d.s. 5.9, 30m.

*Note: Pitches 8 and 9 can be linked into one long mixed pitch, which would go at HVS for the length.*

P10: Trad. Continue up the right crack until you're high enough to pop in some pro and make the step out onto the face and across to a belay on low angle slabs. sa. 17, fr. 5, eng. VS, y.d.s. 5.8, 12m.

P11: Mixed. Climb the slab right of the bolts to gain the large left-facing crack system. Layback and use the arête on gear and bolts. Climb past a fig tree and rappel station with plate hangers and maillions and right up a huge flake to a rod hanger belay. sa. 20, fr. 6a+, y.d.s. 10c, HVS. 35m.

*Note: The first ascensionists spent the hot afternoon taking a siesta in "River Bivvy" -- the flat sandy bottom of this huge flake, which is just wide enough to lie in. But be warned, the name is apt: the whole thing turns into a rushing torrent at the first hint of rain. Pitches 10 and 11 can be linked into one long pitch.*

P12: Mixed. Traverse the flake right past a bush. A #.75 cam slot protects a fluttery step right to gain bolts. Zig zag around these to a semi-hanging belay on a minimal ledge. sa. 21, fr. 6b+, y.d.s. 11a, 30m.

P13: Mixed. Climb left of the belay following bolts on easing slabs until a rest in a scoop. From here, traverse left through a better scoop and on increasingly non-existent holds. Make some improbable steps up a white streak underneath a small crack system to gain a key quartzite finger pocket high and left. Pull on the arête to gain good pockets. Pop a #2 in the crack and layback to a bolt and leftward traverse through greenery to a good belay. sa. 23, fr. 6c+, y.d.s. 11c, 45m. Note: can be french freed at a much easier grade.

P14: Sport. Climb the water run above the belay to gain easy (walking) slabs. Walk up and left past the odd bolt to a belay under the final bulge. sa. 16. fr. 4+, y.d.s. 5.7, 45m.

P15: Sport. Climb right to a gain a good right hand hold above the bulge and right of the bolts. Use this and a left hand sidepull to squeeze out a rockover with your left foot on an improbable nubbin. Move your left hand to a bad intermediate underneath a bolt. Squeeze as high as you can and bump your left hand to a dirty rail formed where a loose flake was knocked down. Climb easier slabs to the top. sa. 25. fr. 7a+, y.d.s. 12a, 20m

*Note: the bulge can be french freed at a much easier grade.*

### **Rack:\***

**Cams:** # 5: 1; # 4: 1; # 3: 2; # 2: 3; # 1: 2; # .75: 2; # .5: 1; # .4: 1; # .3: 1

**Nuts:** a single set, regular or offsets.

**Draws:** 16, including some single (60cm) extenders, and one double (120cm) extender (esp. if you're climbing on a single with a tagline; with twins, the long extender is likely not necessary).

**Ropes:** Twin 60m, or a single 60m with a tagline. (Two ropes are needed in case a rappel descent is necessary).

\*BD Camalot notation.

### **Descent:**

Either rappel the route and some dedicated rappel anchors (see rappel topo) or scramble down the SW Gully. It should be noted: **all** the belay stations are equipped for rappelling. However: some stations are equipped with plate anchors with a maillon through each, which twists the ropes. The rappel topo is therefore the recommended descent, which minimises use of such stations, as well as unnecessary traversing. Nonetheless, it is possible to rappel from any station on the route. Rappel Line One if for use in case descent is necessary before a party has traversed back to the main line after P7.