SIKATI CAVE

OVERALL PLAN

Grade Range

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Routes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 5b+</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5c to 6a+</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6b to 7a</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>7a+ to 7c</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>7c+ and above</td>
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<td>11</td>
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Sikati Cave is a wild, massive hole in the ground which looks like it’s been created by a giant meteorite impact. Climbers call it Sikati, but the locals call it Alatsia. Sikati is an enormous cave with no roof, a diameter of 50-60 m, and a depth of 70 m at parts. Its surrounding walls are full of tufas and stalactites. Inside Sikati Cave the steep, overhanging limestone is a bit “out of this world” with enormously long routes up the walls, and ‘trademark’ Kalymnian 3D climbing. There is great potential for setting up new climbing routes. Make sure you go swimming at the remote beach below; it is only 7-8 min from the cave.

The Sikati Gulf is located on the NE side of Kalymnos, and Sikati Cave is one of the remotest sectors on the island. It takes about 40 min to hike out there, but it’s worth it. The only drawback of Sikati Cave is that, once inside, your only contact with the outside world is the sky above you; you cannot see the sea, and the aura inside the cave is eerie and somewhat claustrophobic.

Climbing: Climbing here is three-dimensional, with stalactites often behind you as you climb. The rock is absurdly overhanging and that makes the climbing dynamic and pumpy. However, on the west-facing side of the cave there is a grey wall, 20 m high, where new routes from 5c-6c could be set up.

Warning: While climbing, some of the stalactites could break. No one should stand immediately under the routes. It is better for the belayers to keep in to the base of the crag with their backs to the wall. It is much safer and they will avoid ‘belayers neck’. Recommended rope length is 80 m, especially for the extension pitches! The route “Morgan est une Andalouse”, climbed in one pitch, will need a 100 m rope. Also, make sure to bring very long quickdraws or sling extensions to reduce rope-drag.

Kids: The walk here is quite long; still, if you get this far and lower the kids into the cave with a rope, there are plenty of flat areas in this enchanting ‘pirate hideout’. Make sure the kids are nowhere near or below a person climbing – don’t forget this very important rule, which applies to ALL sectors.

Conditions: Although the cave is in the shade all day, avoid it on humid days with no breeze because it can turn into an enormous boiling pot! Ideally, climb at Sikati on a clear day with a northerly breeze.

Sun: In the shade almost all day. The east-facing routes (from “Por una Sociedad con Mujeres Satisfechas” to “Kontrato”) are in the sun early in the morning, until 12.00. The easier routes (from “BMW” to “Abrazos”) are in the sun in the afternoon. Exposure: N

Approach: Head towards Skalia village, then turn off right onto the uphill road toward Palionisos. When you reach the top of the hill (by a chapel with a clearly visible white cross and panoramic views to Turkey, Leros, and all islands to the N and NE) descend for 300 m until the first big 180° turn.
a. Park here, go through the gate in the wire fence and traverse down leftwards to a goat-track, keeping the wire fence on your left. Continue traversing after the fence ends, until you reach two distinct boulders and an old demolished house on the col. Go through one more gate after the ruin, and follow a path with red marks until you reach the cave and the beach below. The descent into Sikati Cave is an easily managed series of bolts with a fixed rope. The problem with this approach is that on your way back it’s uphill! **Total time:** 30-40 min.

b. For the adventurous or lazy: go to the jetty at Melitsahas where small boats can be taken to Telendos, and rent one for your transport to Sikati. This could be financially OK if it’s a big party. Make the arrangements the previous day. **Total time:** 30-35 min by boat and 7-8 min walking.
1. **BMW** 6b 15m
   A good orange wall climb. Aris Theodoropoulos, Antonis Kokkinos, Nicolas Iatropoulos (Kalymnos): 11/2005

2. **B69** 5b+ 15m
   A distinctive slab. Aris Theodoropoulos, Antonis Kokkinos, Nicolas Iatropoulos (Kalymnos): 11/2005

3. **Exit** 4a 15m
   This ramp is the entrance and exit to Sikati Cave. There is a permanently fixed rope. 2005

4. **Abrazis** 5c+ 20m
   Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzeflis (FR): 10/2006

5. **Adini** 5c 25m
   The corner, trad, not equipped yet. 2004

6. **Abrazos** 6c+ 20m
   Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzeflis (FR): 10/2006

7. **El Choco Loco** 6b+ 20m

8. **El Chupodromo** 6c+ 25m

9. **Les Pirates de Sikati** 7a+ 30m
   Good face climbing up the black streak; spaced bolts. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Antonin Cherbonnier, Romain Cobessut (FR): 10/2004
Entrance Area

Gaping at the cave’s entrance. Photo: Sam Bié
**JAWS AREA**

10. **Les Pirates de Sikati plus**  
   8a 45m  
The extension to Les Pirates de Sikati. Continue direct.  

11. **Les Dents de la Mer**  
   7c 40m  
A rightward extension to Les Pirates de Sikati. If you use this as a finish for Jaws, the overall grade is 8b+ 55m.  

12. **Jaws**  
   8c 50m  

13. **Mort aux Chèvres**  
   7b 30m  

14. **Mort aux Chèvres Extension**  
   8b+? 60m  
The extension is an open project up the roof full of stalactites. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzeflis (FR). 10/2006

15. **Adam**  
   7c+ 32m  

16. **Morgan**  
   7b+ 25m  
Very steep, an endurance tufa route. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Antonin Cherbonnier, Romain Cabessut (FR). 10/2004

17. **Morgan Adam est une Andalouse**  
   8b 75m  
A double extension: Morgan then Adam then even more! To avoid rope drag, use a second rope for the final pitch and leave the first rope clipped. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Antonin Cherbonnier, Romain Cabessut (FR). 10/2004

18. **Por una Sociedad con Mujeres Satisfechas**  
   7c+ 30m  
An exciting line: an amazing tufa forest traverse in the first part, some hard movements and then easier finale. Requires good rock conditions. The rock is a bit brittle and dirty. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzeflis (FR). 10/2006
The first two pitches formed the women’s ultimate route. RPed by Charlotte Durif, Martina Cufar and Daila Ojeda. Flash by Dani Andrada. This super-overhanging route goes on forever, climbing 60 m on psychedelic tufas and surreal stalactites. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzeflis (FR): 10/2006

The full length of the line up to the top. Rope drag problems, better to use a second rope for the final pitch. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzeflis (FR): 10/2006

Crazy tufa action [a big single ‘colonnette’] with a roofy crux. Onsighted by Dave Graham in October 2006, a good video of which can be found on YouTube. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzeflis (FR): 10/2006
22 **Lolita** 7a 25m

23 **Super Lolita** 8a 45m
The extension of Lolita and one of the best at this grade on the island. Some excellent rests but at times, “pretty bitchin”, struggling against rope drag. A hard finale rocking onto a slab with small crimps and pumped forearms. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Antonin Cherbonnier, Romain Cabessut (FR): 10/2004

24 **Kalyrock.com** 7b/c 70m
Multi-pitch. (6c/7a 26m, 7b/7c 22m, 7b/7c 22m). Climb all the way up the Sikati Cave through overhangs and stalactites. Not possible in one pitch. 2006

25 **Little Bulbos** 7c+ 33m
Strange moves at the beginning, followed by big pockets almost all the way. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzeflis (FR): 10/2006

26 **Armata Sikati** 7b 35m
35 m of tufa blobs, pockets and organ pipes; it simply doesn’t get any better. Tricky for the grade. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzeflis (FR): 10/2006
27. Armata Sikati Ext. 7b+ 50m
The extension is still exceptional but offers more complex climbing. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzelfis (FR). 10/2006

28. Laurent ...y' a Quelque' un 7c 38m

29. Où est l’Équipe 7b 25m
Very good climbing up the juggy tufa columns with a bouldery finish. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Antonin Cherbonnier, Romain Cabessut (FR). 10/2006

30. Body Buldeuse 7b+ 20m
Wall climb with a steep finish on big jugs. Laurent Triay, Géraud Fanguin, Arnaud Catzelfis (FR). 10/2006

31. Kontrato 7a+ 20m
The overhang with big jugs. Aris Theodoropoulos, Antonis Kokkinos, Nicolas Iatropoulos (Kalymnos). 11/2005