

Girraween

A note on this guide

For many years, climbing information on Girraween being posted on the internet was tantamount to sacrilege. This was generally because the local climbers of the times (1980s) decided to publish guidesheets (like this) in the climbing mag of the time. The increased traffic led to issues with the rangers and threats of shutting climbing down in the Park. These days low impact climbing in the Park is tolerated. Please remember however that this is a sensitive place, and being allowed to climb here is not a given. Tread lightly, and quietly.

History and directions

Recorded history seems to start in the late 70's and early 80's with Alan Hansen, the Camps, Rob Staszewski and assorted visitors. Head out to Stanthorpe from Brisbane, and Girraween is a National Park about a half hour drive to the south. The park is clearly sign posted. Campsites may need to be booked, so check with Qld National Parks or the ranger.

Castle Rock Camping Area

From the camping area follow the old Castle Rock track for 100m then a vague track to the left for about 400m up the hill and under the main boulder. Keep going left through a narrow gap and the route is on the left wall.

Talking Toes 15m (21)

Bridge the gap up to the first bolt and pull onto the wall. Head up to a second bolt and then left and up to a third. Easier climbing leads to the top.
Dick Henderson and Scott Camps Jan 1986

Track Routes

It would seem that Squeak wouldn't cooperate with Scott Camps when he put his guide sheet together, as all it says is that there are a number of cracks along the tourist route between the Castle Rock Camping Area and Turtle Rock but no further info is given.

Castle Rock

Follow the track for about 2.6kms from the camping area (hell, it's sign posted, you really can't get lost...) From where the track hits the rock, head around to the right for about 80 metres to the first orange streak.

Dribbly Drop 25m (15)

Up into the scoop and then up the streak to the top via a bolt (bracket needed).
Paul Grey and Mike Groom June 1984

***Imagine** 25m (13)

At the next orange streak about six metres right of Dribbly Drop head straight up via a bolt at half height. Most of these old routes need brackets for the bolts, so always have some with you.
Scott Camps (Solo) June 1984

Winterspanziergang (Winter Walk) 38m (14)

About thirty metres right of Imagine is a third streak. Start about ten metres further right at a small, shallow corner.

- 1) 15m Up the corner for five metres then left onto the slab to belay on the ledge.
- 2) 23m Up to pocket (SLCD) and then up slab to the top.

Jorg Wilz and Stuart Camps July 1984

***That Gigantic Pygmy Possum Fossil** 32m (19)

Starts at the third orange streak around from Dribbly Drop. Pull onto a bolt on the block on the left. Up past this to a second bolt in a slight bulge before heading left a bit into the scoop. Step back right to a third bolt and continue to the top passing a fourth bolt along the way.

Stuart Camps, Scott Camps and Jorg Wilz July 1984

****German Quality** 15m (24)

Starts about ten metres around from That Gigantic Pygmy Possum Fossil at the base of a boulder. Traverse out right under the bulge and then up to a bolt. Head further rightward and up into the scoop before coming back left to jugs and a bolt. Carefully up wall to the top.

Jorg Wilz and Stuart Camps July 1984

The Bat 15m (24)

About five metres right of German Quality is a short overhanging crack. Up the crack past a small tree to finish up a small chute at the top.

Geoff Weigand Sept 1984

Micro Epic 7m (14)

Now follow the track to the summit of Turtle Rock. When the track along the slab narrows to become a track through trees you should be able to locate a small, undercut crack on the right... Up.

Allan Hansen and Peter Collet June 1979

***Macro Epic** 12m (21)

From Micro Epic walk straight down the slab for thirty metres to drop down onto a boulder. From this boulder climb down the tree (!) on the right to the short crack. A tad contrived... Up the crack and then right for one metre (but don't bridge the gully...) then up the continuation to the top.

Allen Hansen and Shane Chemello Dec 1983

Sphinx Rock

One of the best areas. Follow the sign posted track for about 3.5 kms.

Winter Daydreams 22m (15M1)

On the northern end of the first big boulder of the Sphinx Rock group encountered from the campsite track. Free the move or stick clip the bolt to avoid the undercut start and aid up. Once you get the digits established on the rock climb up leftwards to another bolt. Then rightwards and up to the top via a sling runner. SLCD's for the belay. Rap station descent.

Scott Camps and Bill Lukin April 1986

*****Space And Energy** 20m (24)

A classic, steep and sustained arête. Starts on the southeastern side of the same boulder as Winter Daydreams, near to the other major boulders of the group. Up the arête past three bolts to a huge spike near the summit. Up to the rap station.
Scott Camps and Bill Lukin April 1986

The next nine routes are on the long and narrow boulder behind the Sphinx proper.

Oprichnik Direct Start 10m (16)

The first route on the left hand end of the boulder. Don't fall off, there isn't any gear... Bridge onto the wall then up until a few moves right are necessary to gain a small ledge just below the top. Nut and SLCD belay.
Scott Camps (Solo) April 1986

Oprichnik 12m (16)

Not well protected either. Start in the middle of the wall as per Snow White. Head diagonally left to a shallow runner slot, before continuing left on jugs until it is possible to move up and right to finish.
Scott Camps and Brendan Wilson April 1986

****Snow White** 10m (15)

Exciting. Start in the middle of the wall below the bolt. Pull onto the wall and head up past the bolt with a move to the right near the top to reach a large spike.
Scott Camps and Alex Ziesak Feb 1985

***Vagabond** 12m (21)

Well protected. One metre to the right of Snow White step off the block and move up to a bolt. Move out right passing two more bolts before a sharp move left leads up a shallow corner on jugs.
Dick Henderson and Scott Camps March 1986

***Vakula The Smith** 10m (24)

Steep and strenuous, overhanging about two metres over ten. Starts on the opposite side of the causeway about twenty metres right of Vagabond. From the bolt step left over the void and head steeply up past a second bolt and slinging a spike. Step left and up the water streak to finish.
Scott Camps and Brendan Wilson April 1986

(Name Unknown) 15m (21)

From Valuka The Smith, scramble around to eastern side of the opposite boulder. To the left of the chimney is an arête. Up with difficulty to the huge jug on the arête and then continue up the slab to the top.
Rob Staszewski early 1980's

(Name Unknown) 15m (15)

Up the obvious chimney to the rap station.
Rob Staszewski early 1980's

*****Alex In Wonderland** 15m (23)

Three metres right of the chimney is a magnificent, sharp arête. Up the flake to the first of three bolts. Belay and rap bolts at the top.
Scott Camps Jan 1985

****The Queen Of Spades** 15m (22)

Four metres right of Alex In Wonderland head up to a bolt via a hollow sounding flake and then on to a small ledge on the right. Left and up past two more bolts. SLCD belay. Rap as for Alex In Wonderland.

Scott Camps and Dick Henderson March 1986

Turtle Rock

Follow the track another 300 metres or so past Sphinx Rock (i.e. 3.8km from campsite).

(Name Unknown) 45m (15)

Start at the obvious detached flake behind the Turtle Rock sign where the track first meets the rock. From the top of the flake follow the slab to the top without any gear.

Rob Staszewski (Solo), Shane Chemello early 1980's

Winter Winds 22m (18)

Ten metres left of the previous route move up the slab and trend right to a bolt. Past this then to the top. Single bolt belay on the left.

Scott Camps and Dick Henderson April 1986

***Mazeppa** 20m (20)

Starts just left of Winter Winds. Straight up to a bolt at about 12 metres and onwards. Single bolt belay and rap.

Scott Camps and Bill Lukin April 1986

Voyevoda 22m (23)

Three metres left of Mazeppa is a bulge. Pass this and continue past two bolts. As the wall steepens to a third bolt, crank to a single bolt belay on the right.

Scott Camps and Bill Lukin April 1986

*****New Boots** 22m (16)

About thirty metres left of Voyevoda is a nice looking flake crack. Bridge the tree then climb to a tree belay at the top. About grade 20 if you don't use the tree.

Rob Staszewski (Solo), Shane Chemello early 1980's

The next nine routes are in the tourist gully about twenty five metres left of the above route.

***Mozartiana** 10m (20)

Start from the block next to the small arête to the left of the track as it turns right to the summit. Up the arête past two bolts. Tree belay well back.

Scott Camps and Bill Lukin April 1986

The Tempest 10m (19)

Two metres left of Mozartiana up flake to bolt. Move right then diagonally left to the top. Take the RP's.

Scott Camps and Bill Lukin April 1986

***Tintogale** 10m (20)

Follow the thin crack three metres left of The Tempest past two bolts to a tree belay (well back).

Bill Lukin and Scott Camps April 1986

Staircase 10m (14)

At the start of a long and narrow gully about 12 metres left of Tintogale, behind a tree. Up the wall past a bolt to tree belay.

Brendan Wilson, Bill Lukin and Scott Camps April 1986

***Charapace** (sic) 28m (17)

About 40 metres down the gully from Staircase, clip the bolt, step off the boulder and head up to the second bolt. Left and up to a third bolt and easily to the top. SLCD belay.

Scott Camps and Paul Grey June 1984

I'm A Fragile (sic) 30m (19)

Don't bother with the rack and don't fall off now, ya hear? Boulder the start two metres right of Charapace and head straight up.

Geoff Weigand (Solo) Sept 1984

***Quick Quiz** 30m (24)

No runners. The next line of holds is three metres left of I'm A Fragile. Don't bust an ankle bouldering the start, then straight up and right to finish.

Geoff Weigand (Solo) Sept 1984

(Name Unknown) 30m (15)

Follow the wide crack three metres left of Quick Quiz to the tree.

Rob Staszewski early 1980s'

Wading Ape Direct Start 6m (20)

Pull onto the high foothold about eight metres left of Quick Quiz, and continue up to join Wading Ape at the first bolt.

Scott Camps (Solo) April 1986

Now follow the track to the summit. Rap 30 metres down the southern side to a double bolt belay on a sloping ledge (or climb Wading Ape Direct Start to the same ledge...) to access the next four routes.

*****Wading Ape** 30m (15)

A bit of a mid grade classic. From the belay traverse three metres right to the short, shallow corner (bolt). Step right and climb straight up to the second bolt. Step left and head up past a nob (Evan's Envy) to a third bolt. Up and a bit right to finish.

Paul Grey, Mike Groom, David Groom and Phillip Waters June 1984

***Losing Face** 30m (18)

Straight up from the bolt belay to a bolt. Then continue up to flake and piton. Up to a second bolt in the bulge, and then easily to tree belay.

Scott Camps and Dick Henderson April 1986

***Nineteen Fortytwo** (sic) 32m (22)

Left from the belay and up to a bolt at 15 metres. Then past this then up to a second bolt. Up with another move left at the bulge to a third bolt then up to finish.

Scott Camps and Stuart Camps Jan 1986

****Kalari** 35m (22)

Go left and up from the belay to traverse four metres left along small foot ledges to a short flake. Up, moving slightly right to a bolt. Push it out diagonally left to a second bolt and then up and left again to a third bolt. Steeply through the bulge to finish. Scott Camps and John Pearson April 1986

The next three routes are also accessed from the summit. Walk down a northwest-facing gully to a large, sloping platform.

(Name Unknown) 8m (18)

The strenuous layback corner on the right hand side. Rob Staszewski and Shane Chemello early 1980's

Summerbreeze 12m (19)

On the left hand wall opposite the layback corner, two metres right of old gum. Up and right to bolt, then steeply to a second. Up and left, then back right to finish at tree belay.

Dick Henderson and Scott Camps April 1986

Millions Of Dead Punks 13m (22)

Near the edge of the slab (two metres right of Summerbreeze) pull onto the wall just left of the shallow groove to a jug/plate. Sling this and up to a bolt. Left and up to step back right at the top of the groove to a second bolt. A reachy move right leads to a jug and sling. Back left and up to tree belay (well back).

Dick Henderson and Scott Camps April 1986

Now back to ground level...

*****New Paths** 30m (24)

Steep and sustained. This is the steep wall down from Millions Of Dead Punks. About 55 metres around the corner from Wading Ape Direct Start from a low platform on the right. Up thin moves past two bolts. Left and up steeply through the middle of the wall past two more bolts to a marginal rest at the fifth bolt. Left and up intermittent cracks in the bulge to the sixth bolt. Steeply up to the seventh bolt and then an exciting finish up a slab to the top. Tree belay well back.

Scott Camps and John Pearson May 1986

Amadeus 15m (24)

Walk under the boulder opposite New Paths and climb up a short wall to the base of a west-facing, overhanging wall. Use cairn to start. Pull onto the wall and go past first bolt, dyno to jug and second bolt. Up steeply past two more bolts to finish to the right to top.

Scott Camps and Dick Henderson May 1986

Scattered Rocks Area

The complicated area south of the main monolith with huge boulders.

Squeek Kills Rats 30m (23)

A hard slab. From Voyevoda walk past the un-named 16 layback crack for 40 metres, drop down to the left for 20 metres, and then continue for another 15 metres until a

steep slab is found on the right. (Confused??? ☺) Up corner on the right for a few moves. Follow flake out left and up to bolt and hard moves. Follow good holds till they fade, then traverse right till the angle eases after five metres or so. Climb straight up carefully to the top.
Scott Camps Jan 1985

American Thighs 25m (10)

Walk a further 80 metres right from Squeek Kills Rats until a small cairn is found at the mouth of a long gully. Straight up from cairn to top. No runners.
Alex Zeisak (Solo) Jan 1985

Grena 22m (17)

From American Thighs go down the gully until an obvious (!) wide crack is encountered half way down on the left hand side. Up crack to tree belay.
Allan Hansen and Brendan Dahms Jan 1985

****Pick-a-Pocket** 15m (19)

40 metres down the gully from Grena to the end of the wall on the right. There is a long ripple in the middle of the wall. Deep breath and up to bolt at seven metres in bulge. Up and left to top. Bolt belay well back in left hand corner.
Scott Camps, Stuart Camps and Jorg Wilz July 1984

Intermezzi 20m (17)

Go south from Pick-a-Pocket for about 35 metres until you can enter an amphitheatre can be entered on the left. There is a slab on the right. This route takes the chimney and slab on the right hand side of this. Chimney and slab to top. SLCD's for belay. Rap chain at the end of boulder.
Scott Camps October 1986
