

ROCK CLIMBING IN BADAMI

Guide book

Produced by the BANGALORE CLIMBING INITIATIVES

2016 edition

Badami, formerly known as Vatapi, is a town and headquarters of a taluk by the same name in the Bagalkot district of Karnataka, India. It was the regal capital of the Badami Chalukyas from 540 to 757 AD and is famous for its rock cut structural temples. The small town is located in a ravine at the foot of a rugged, red sandstone outcrop that surrounds Agastya lake.

It can be reached by train or bus, is situated 30 kilometers from Bagalkot, 128 kilometers from Bijapur, 132 kilometers from Hubli, 46 kilometers from Aihole, another ancient town, and 589 kilometers from Bangalore, the state capital.

More than a tourist destination it is also a hub for rock climbers around the world. The rock structure is quite unique to this place, as it cannot be found in any other places around Badami. The colourful sandstone forms crack systems that are mostly horizontal with over 150 bolted routes and multiple routes for free climbing. Gerhard Schaar, a German climber and Pranesh Manchaiah, a local climber from Bangalore, were instrumental in setting up the sport routes driving a project called 'Bolts for Bangalore'.

Climbing season: Though one can climb here any time of the year, the best would be in winter between October and February.

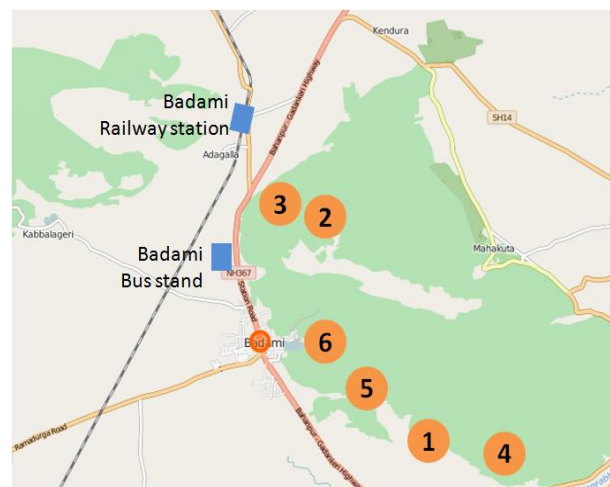
Permission: Currently there is no permission needed from any authorities to climb in Badami. However, the routes on the Hermit wall are restricted during some parts of the day as it is in the vicinity of the tourist spots.

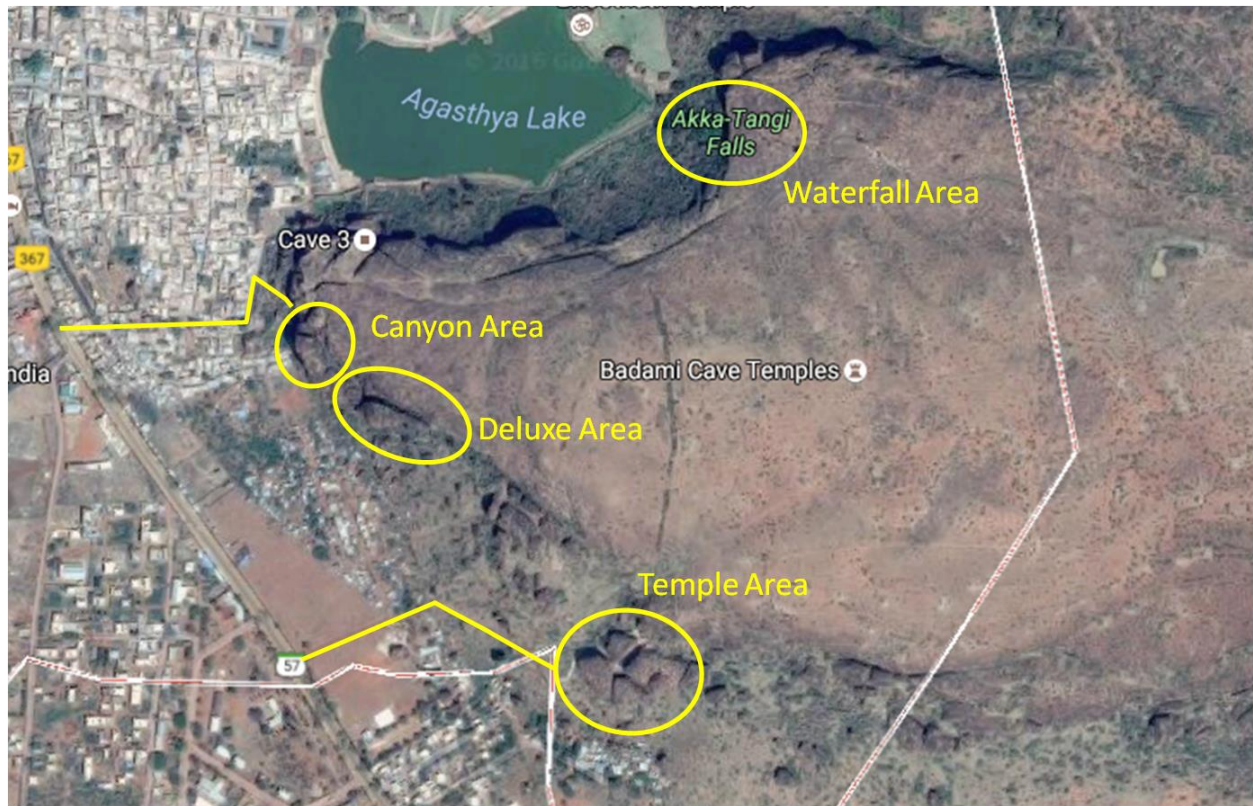
Routes: The routes around Badami are all single pitches sport climbs with a few combined with Sport+Traditional climbs. All the routes vary from 9 meters (~30 feet) to 23 meters (~75 feet)

Climbing gear: It is encouraged to carry all the necessary climbing gear, as there is no climbing gear shop to buy anything locally. Some basic gear can be rented from the local climber, Ganesha Waddar - <http://climbingbadami.in>

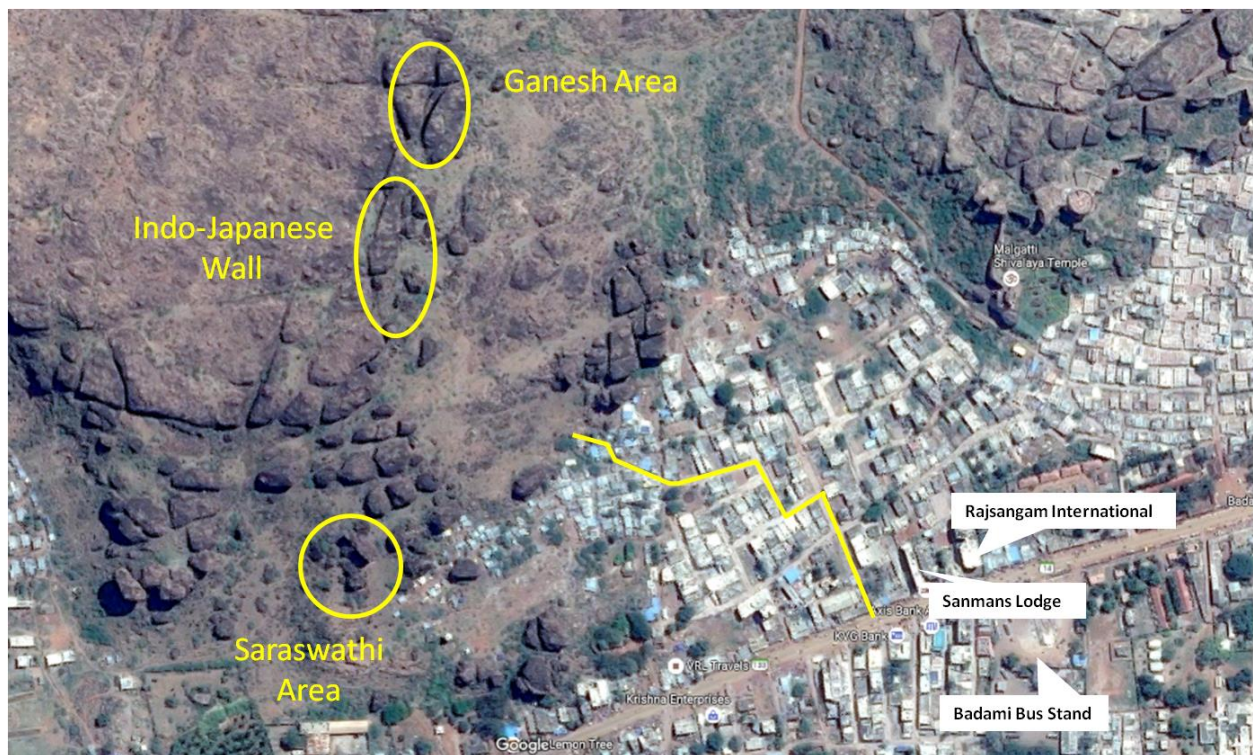
In many of the sport climbing routes, few plates are missing, with the bolts sticking out of the rock. Therefore, it is better to have a minimum of 5 plates along with nuts (bolts of size 10mm). You may use them as you climb and remove them while cleaning the route.

Climbing Areas: There are mainly six climbing areas in Badami. 1) Temple area, 2) Ganesha area, 3) Saraswati area, 4) Golden girl area, 5) Badami Deluxe, 6) Hermit wall (partially restricted area)





Locations of Temple area, Badami Deluxe and Canyon area and Waterfall areas



Locations of Ganesh area and Saraswathi areas

Temple Area Topo and routes

Temple area is the farthest climbing area in Badami from the bus stand. The crag is about 2kms south of the bus stand. There is a Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple from which this area is popularly known as the "Temple area".



Coordinates: 15.913144N, 75.688098E

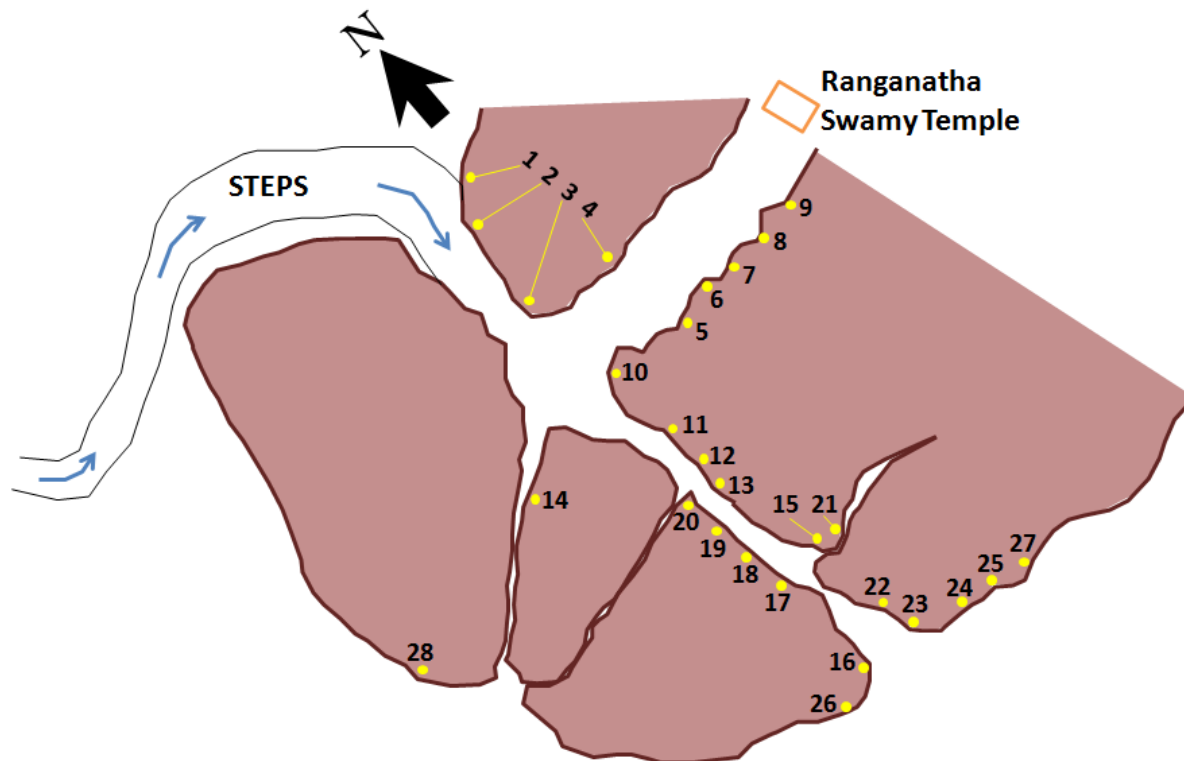


Approach time from bus stand: 25 minutes by walk, 2kms



Best time to climb: Shade all day at different parts of the crag

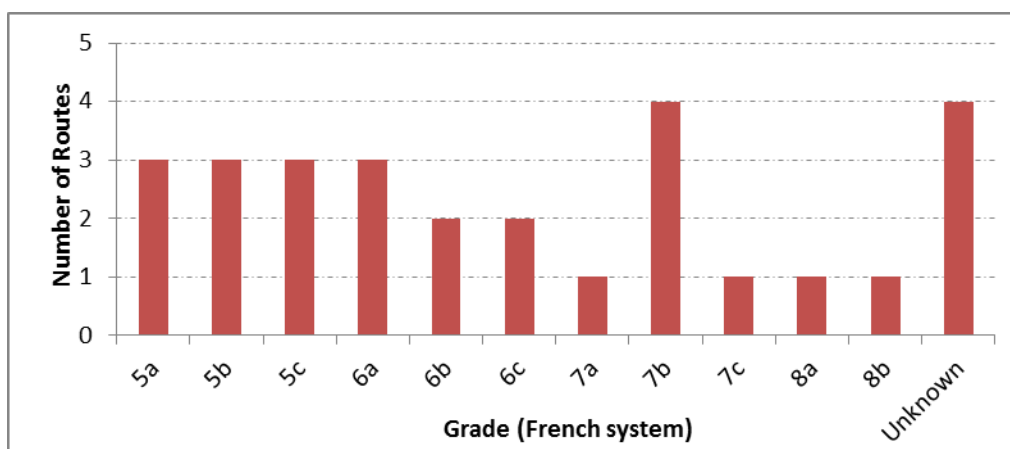
One can walk south from the Badami bus stand or choose to take a transport (auto-rickshaw). Travelling southwards towards the cave temples for about 1.6kms and going past the turning for the cave temples, there is an arch to the left and a mud-road leading to a hill. That road would lead to a stairway. The end of the stairway is the base of the temple area.



Routes list:

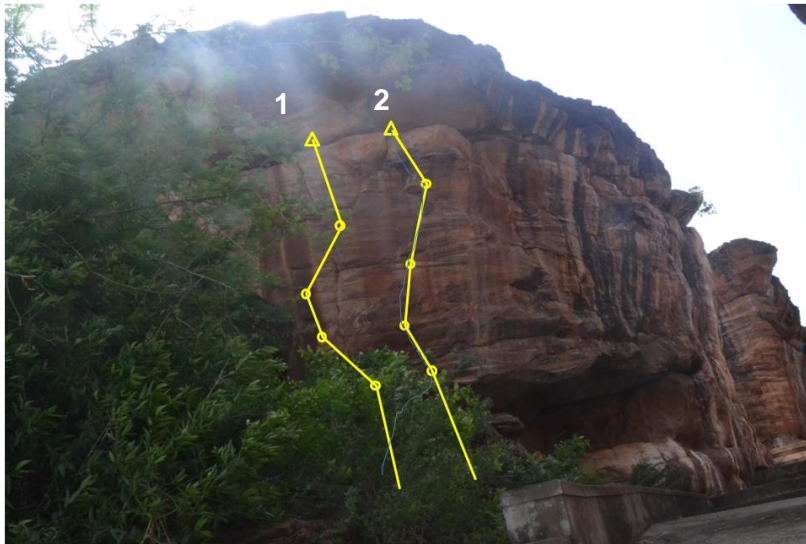
	Name	No. of bolts	Approx. ht		Grade		Anchor	Comments
			feet	meter	French	USA		
1		4	40	12.1			2 Maillons	
2		5	50	15.2	7a	5.11d	1 Maillon	
3		4	40	12.1	6b+	5.11a	1 Chemical bolt	Anchor damaged
4		5	40	12.1	5b+	5.9	2 Chemical bolts	Hangers 2, 3, 4 & 5 missing
5		0	45	13.6	5c	5.10a	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	Top rope route
6		6	45	13.6	5b	5.9	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	
7		0	45	13.6	5a	5.8	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	Top rope route
8		0	42	12.7	5a	5.8	1 Chemical bolt	Top rope route
9		0	42	12.7	5b	5.9	1 Chemical bolt	Top rope route
10	Export Reject	6	45	13.6	7b+	5.12c	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	
11		6	45	13.6	7b	5.12b	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	
12		7	50	15.2	7c	5.12d	1 Bucket, 1 Hanger	
13		6	50	15.2	6c+	5.11c	2 Chemical bolts	
14		4	30	9.1	6c	5.11b	1 Maillon, 1 Hanger	
15		10	55	16.7	6b	5.10d	2 Chemical bolts	
16	Master of Biscuits	8	60	18.2	5c+/ 6a+	5.10a/ 5.10b	2 Chemical bolts	
17		5	50	15.2	6a	5.10b	1 Bucket, 1	

							Chemical bolt	
18		7	50	15.2	6a	5.10b	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	
19		5	50	15.2	5c+	5.10a	2 Chemical bolts	
20		6	50	15.2	5a+	5.9	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	
21	Chimney	??	55	16.7	6c	5.11b	2 Chemical bolts	
22		7	60	18.2			??	Both share the same 1st bolt
23		9	60	18.2	7b	5.12b	??	
24	Project	10	75	22.7	7b+	5.12c	??	Both share the same 3 bolts
25	Samsara	9	70	21.2	8a	5.13b	??	
26	Project	11	60	18.2			2 Hangers	
27		7??	75	22.7			??	
28	Ganesha	7	75	22.7	8b+	5.14a		



Grading distribution of routes in the Temple area

Routes-1, 2



Route-3

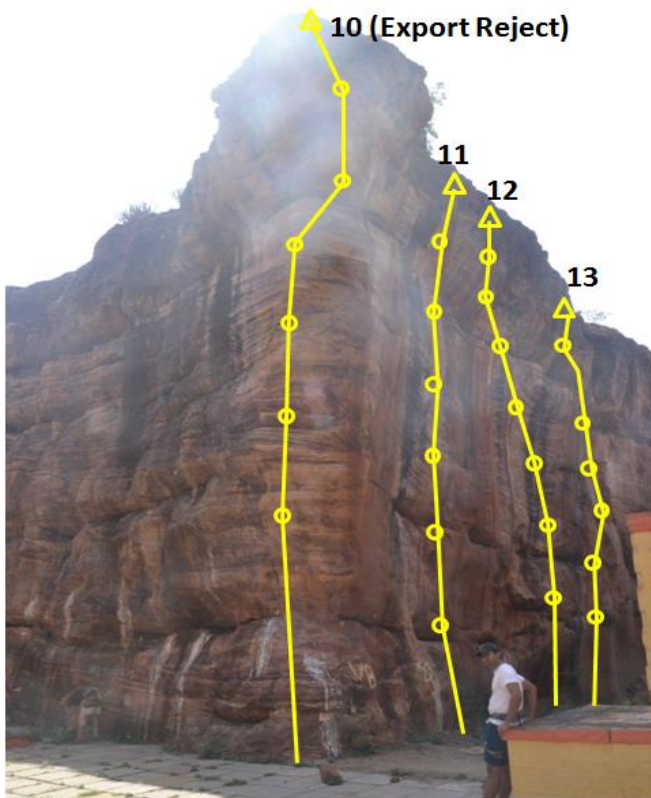


Once the route starts, you go left of the route before you traverse back to your right. The Crux is finding the single finger pocket hold between the 3rd and fourth bolt and loading on it pulling yourself up. One of the two anchors is an old one and damaged. Therefore, advised to use only the other one or setup a natural anchor. It is a bit of a run-out from the last bolt to the anchor

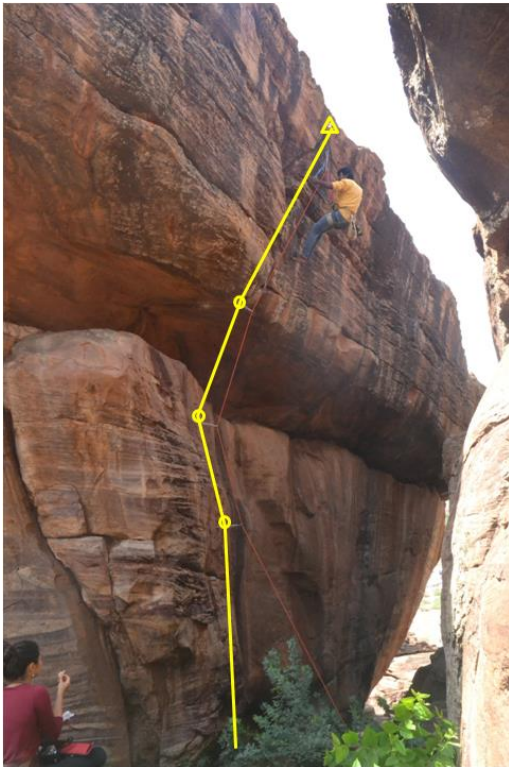
Routes-4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9



Routes-10 (Export Reject), 11, 12 and 13



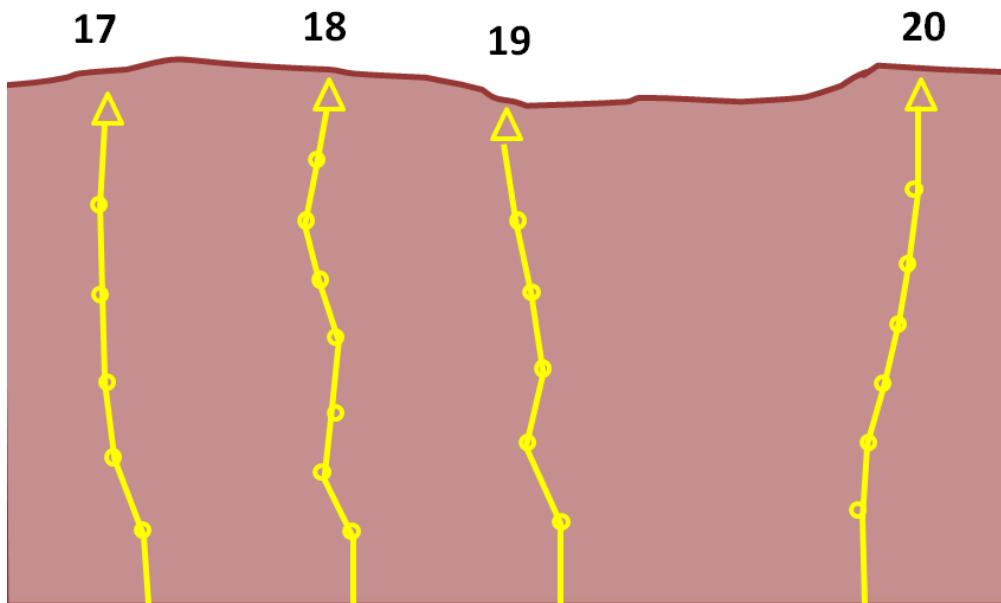
Route-14



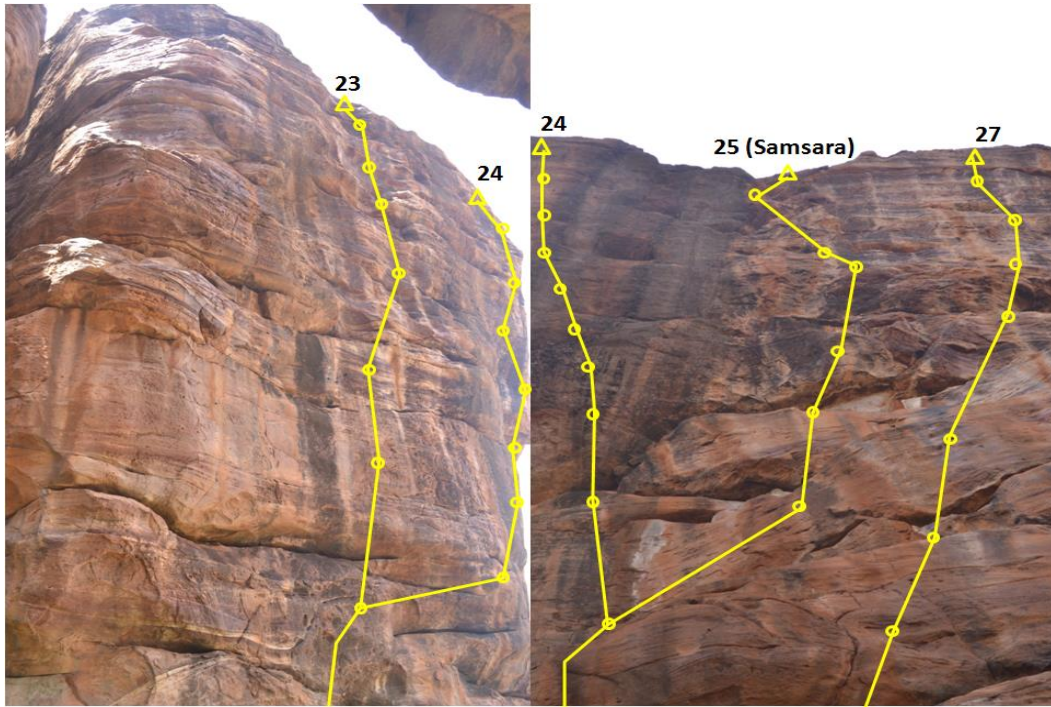
Routes 15 and 21



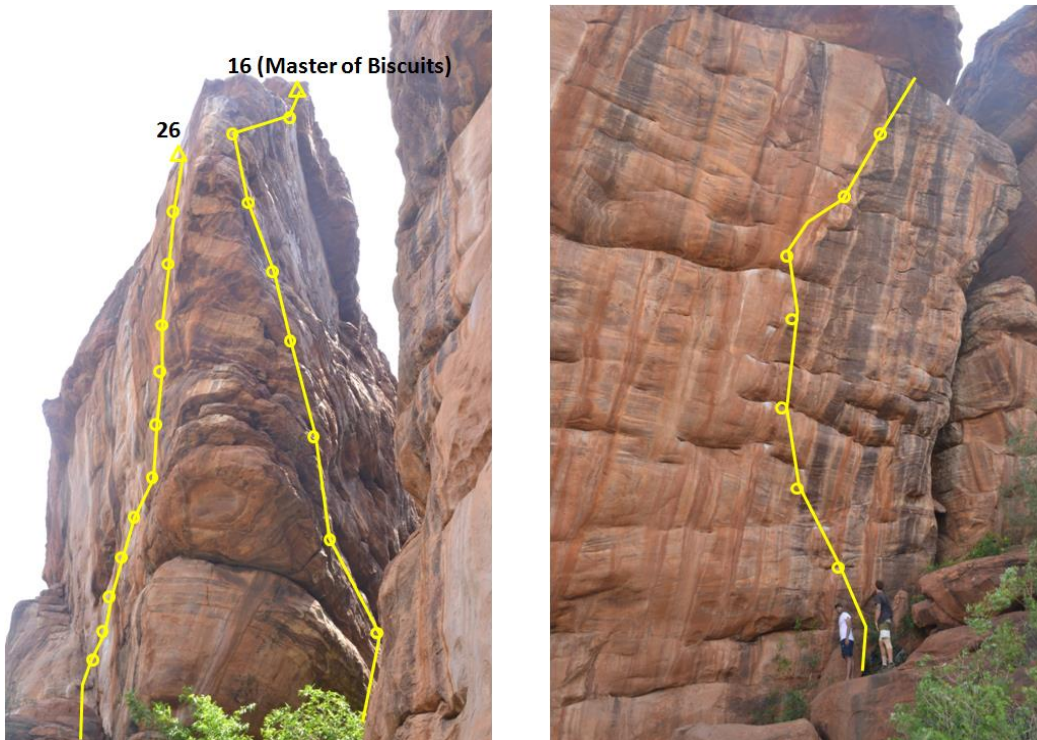
Routes 17, 18, 19 and 20



Routes- 23, 24, 25 (Samsara) and 27



Routes 16 (Master of Biscuits), 26 and 27 (Ganesha)



Ganesh Area Topo and routes



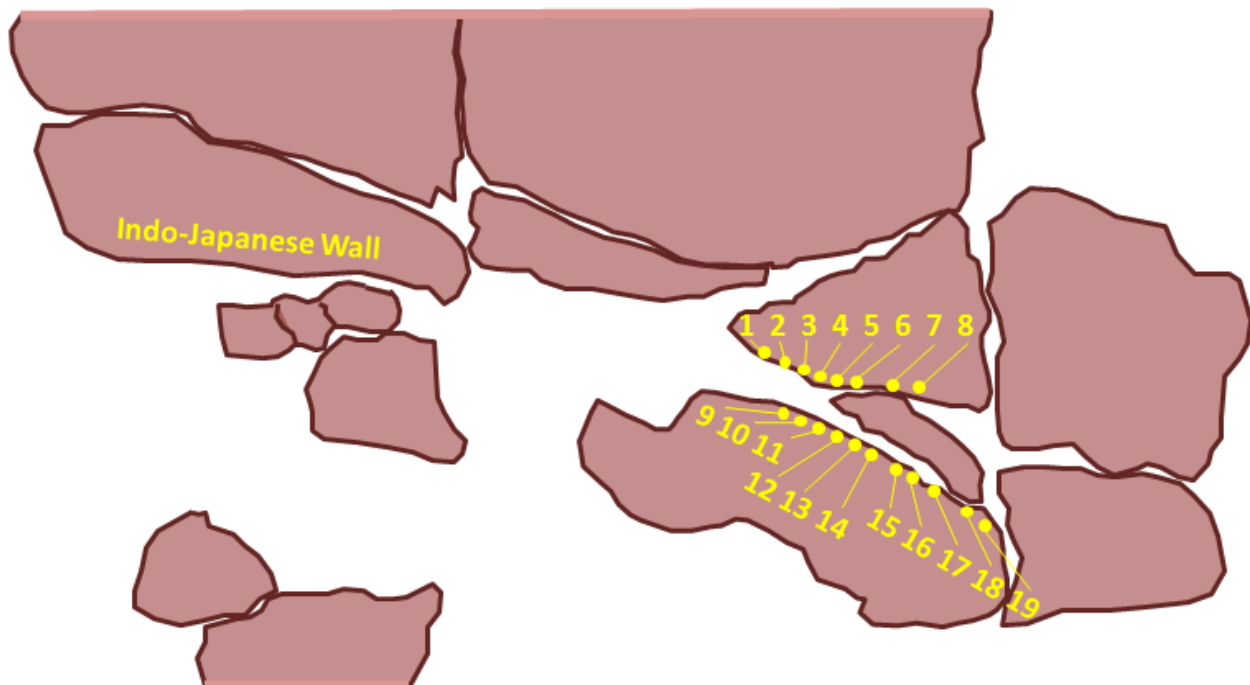
Coordinates: 15.927189N, 75.686472E



Approach time from bus stand: 10 minutes by walk, 0.5kms



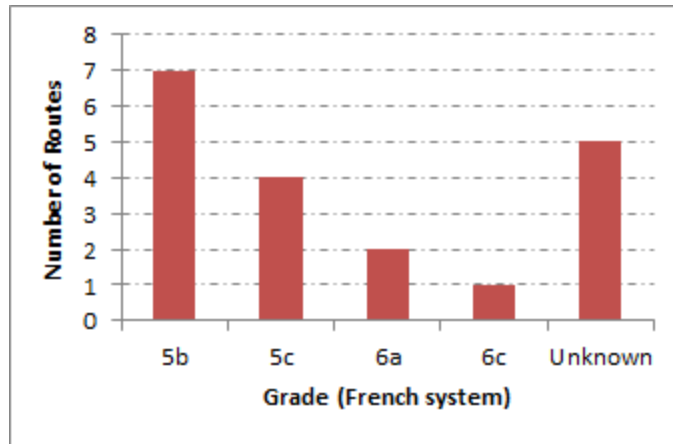
Best time to climb: Shade in the early mornings and evenings



Routes list:

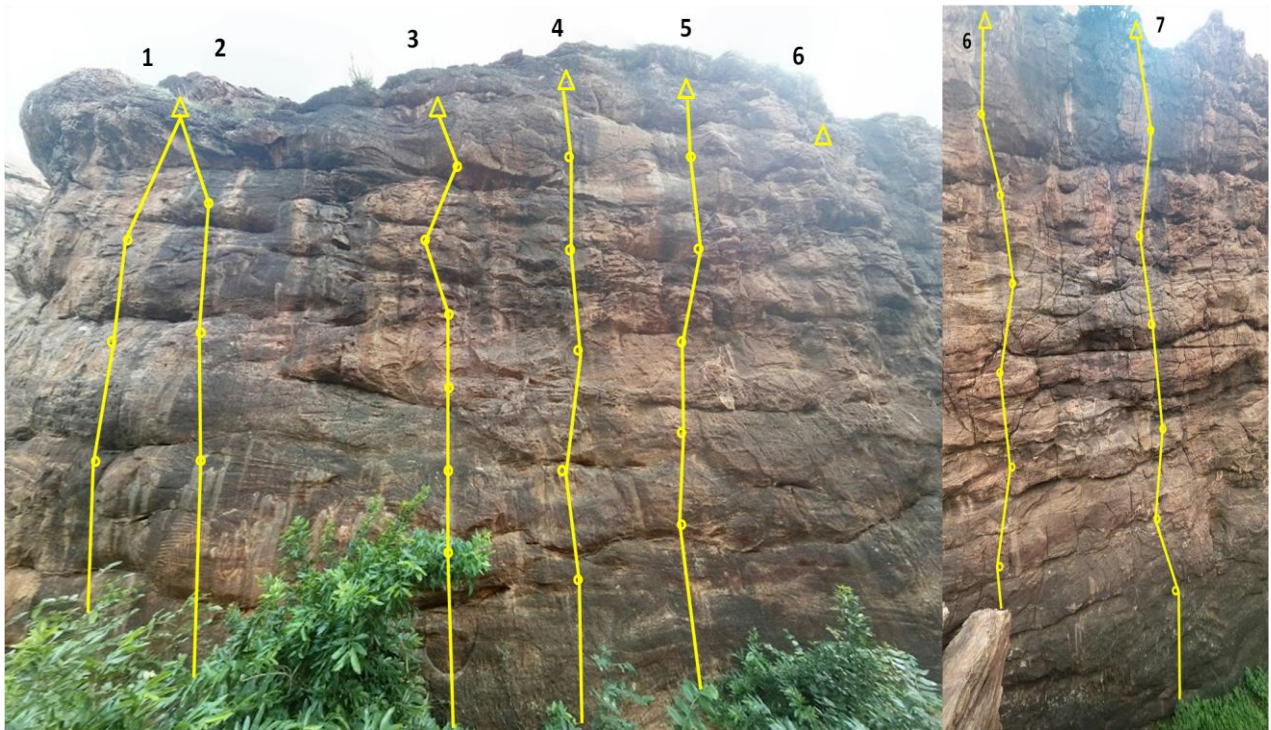
	Name	No. of bolts	Approx. ht		Grade		Anchor	Comments
			feet	meter	French	USA		
1		3	42	12.7	5b+	5.10	2 Chemical bolts (both routes share the same anchor)	1 & 2 hangers missing
2		3	42	12.7	5b+	5.10		
3		6	45	13.6	5b	5.9	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	2, 3 & 4th hanger missing

4		5	45	13.6	5c	5.10a	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	1, 2 & 3 hangers missing
5		5	45	13.6	5b	5.9	2 Chemical bolts	1, 2 & 3 hangers missing
6		0	45	13.6	5b	5.9	2 Chemical bolts	Top rope route
7		6	45	13.6	5c+	5.10a	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	1, 2 & 3 hangers missing
8		6	45	13.6	5c	5.10	1 Bucket, 1 Chemical bolt	2 & 3 hangers missing
9		3	35	10.6	5b+	5.9	1 Chemical bolt	1st hanger missing
10		4	35	10.6	5b+	5.9	1 Bucket	1, 2 & 3 hangers missing
11		4	35	10.6	5c	5.10a	Shared Anchor	1 & 2 hangers missing
12		4	40	12.1	6c	5.11b	1 Maillon	
13		5	40	12.1	??		no Anchor	1st hanger missing
14		4	40	12.1	??		no Anchor	1st hanger missing
15		5	45	13.6	6a	5.10b	no Anchor	1 & 5 hangers missing
16		5	45	13.6	6a+	5.10c	no Anchor	5th hanger missing
17		5	45	13.6	??		no Anchor	5th hanger missing
18		5	42	12.7	??		no Anchor	5th hanger missing
19		4	40	12.1	??		no Anchor	1st hanger missing

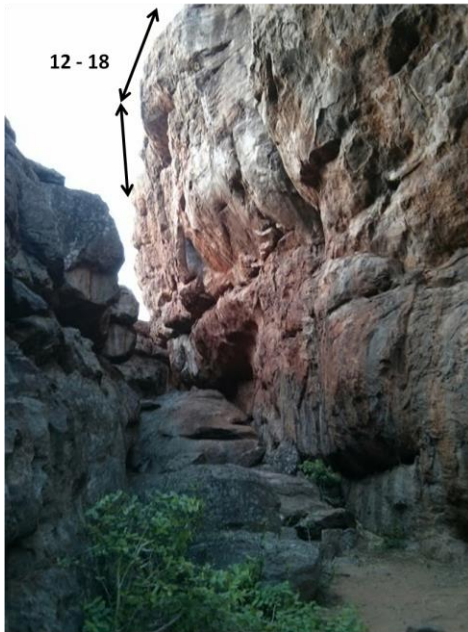


Grading distribution of routes in the Ganesh area (Sunshine wall gorge)

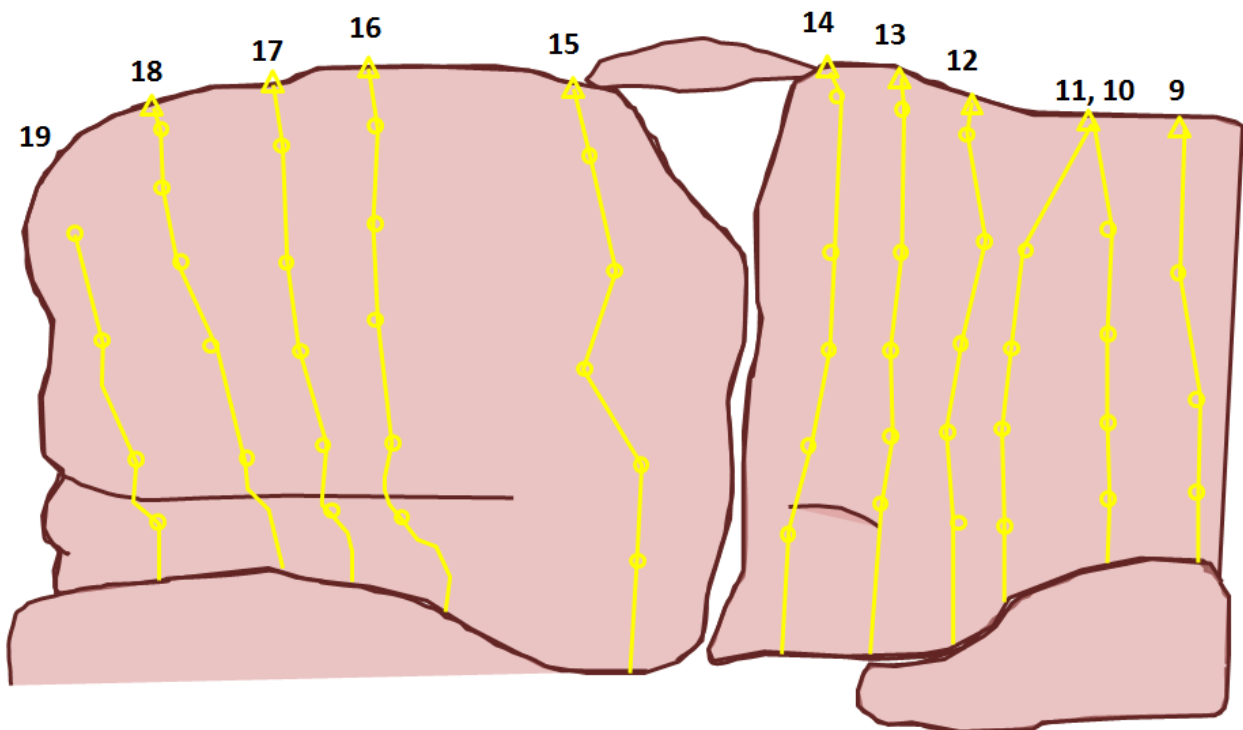
Sunshine Wall routes (North wall)



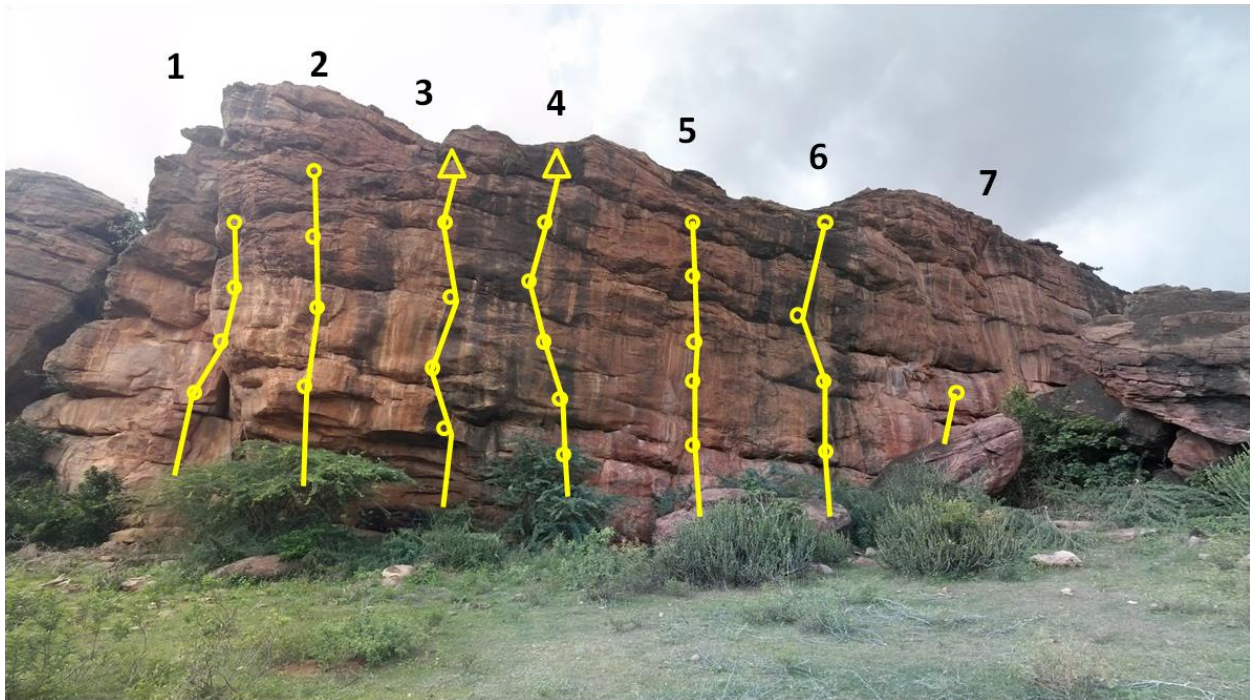
South wall



South wall routes



Indo-Japanese wall routes



Canyon Area routes



Coordinates: 15.916461N, 75.6883303E



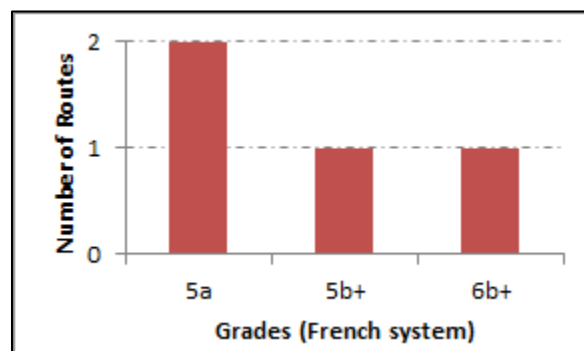
Approach time from bus stand: 20 minutes by walk, 1.8kms



Best time to climb: Shade in the early mornings and evenings

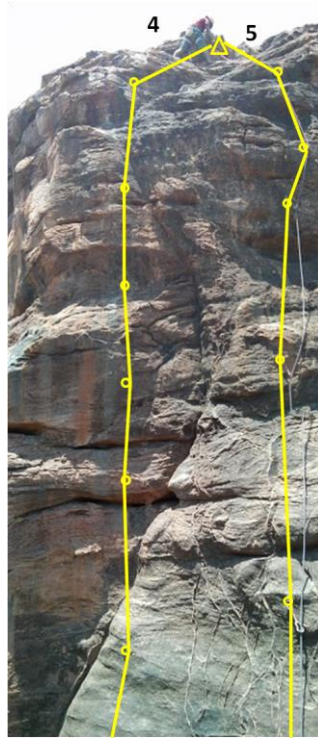
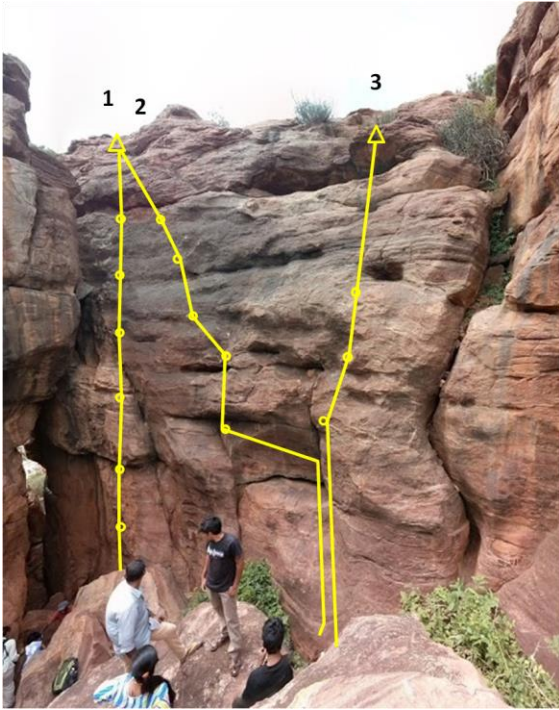
Routes list:

	Name	No. of bolts	Approx. ht		Grade		Anchor	Comments
			feet	meter	French	USA		
1		6	30	9.1	5a	5.8	2 Chemical bolts (both routes share the same anchor)	all hangers are missing
2		5	30	9.1	5a+	5.9		1st hanger missing
3		3	28	8.5	5b+	5.10	2 Chemical bolts	
4		6	28	8.5	5a+	5.9	2 Chemical bolts (both routes share the same anchor)	2nd and 4th hangers missing
5		5	28	8.5	5a	5.8		
6		7	60	18.2	6b+	5.11a	2 Chemical bolts	Crack climb



Grading distribution of routes in the Canyon area

Routes- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



Route-6



Badami Deluxe area



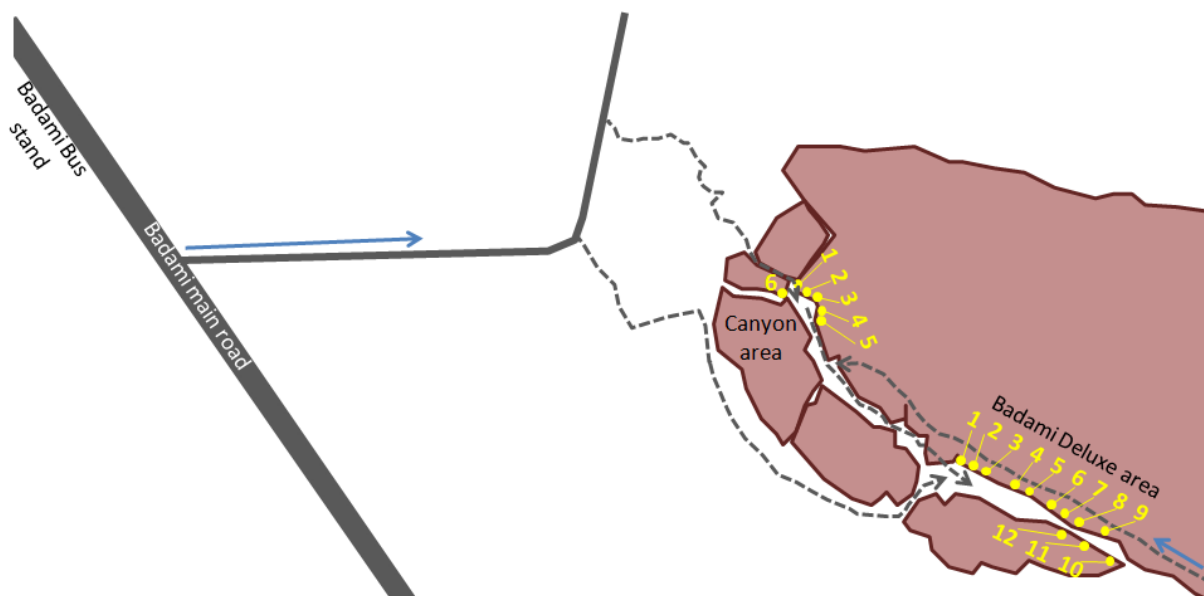
Coordinates: 15.916415N, 75.685066E



Approach time from bus stand: 20 minutes by walk, 1.8kms



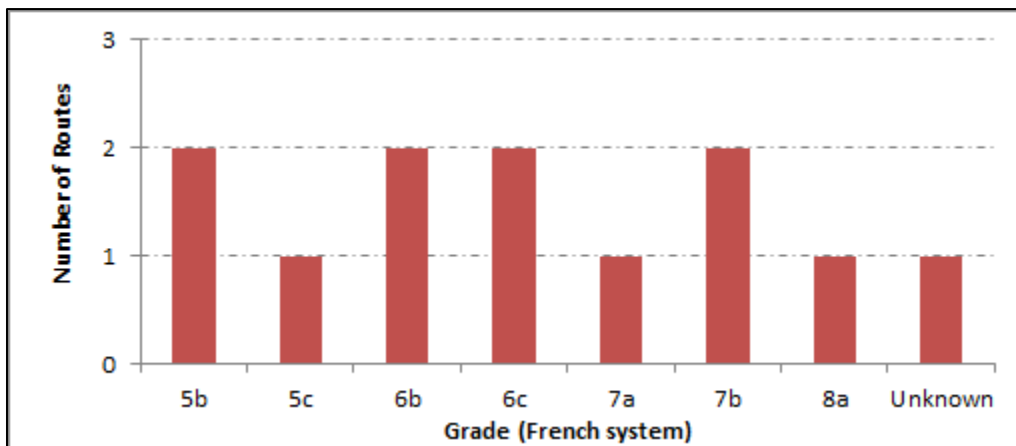
Best time to climb: Shade at the base all day. Mornings and evenings are best to climb



Routes list:

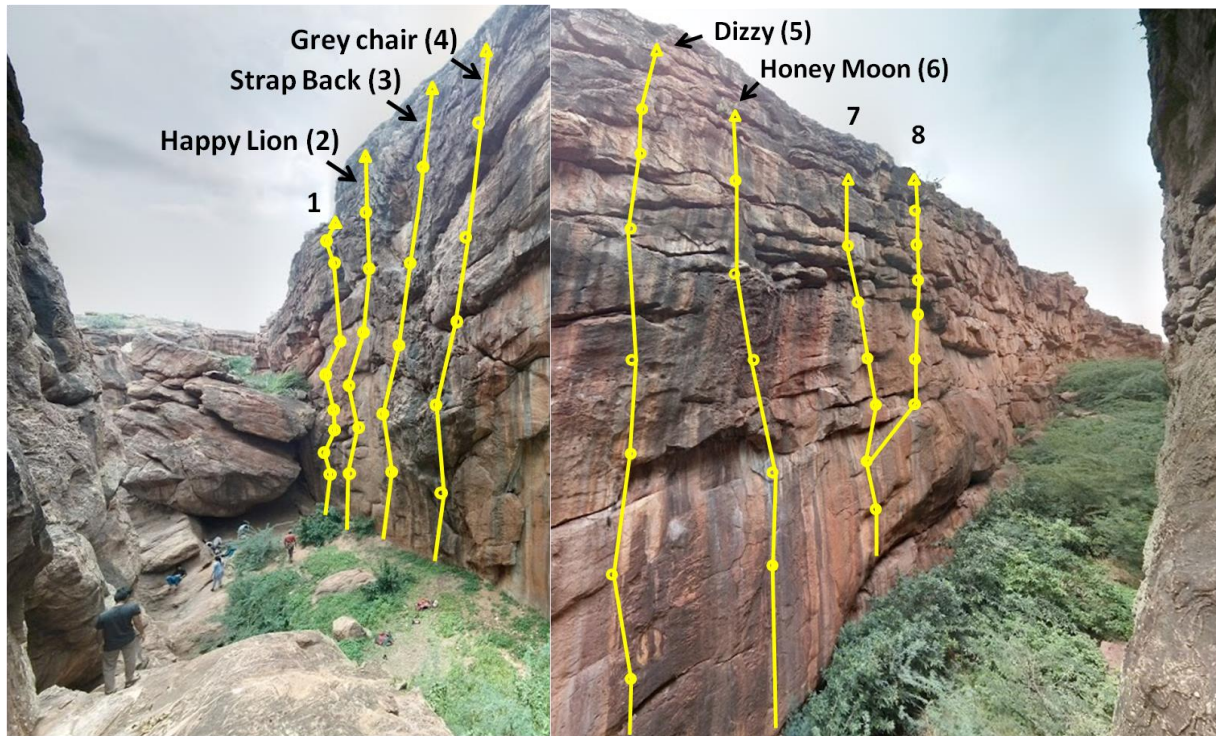
	Name	No. of bolts	Approx. ht		Grade		Anchor	Comments
			feet	meter	French	USA		
1		9	48	15	6b+	5.11a	2 Chemical bolts	
2	Happy Lion	6	48	15	6c	5.11b	2 hangers	
3	Strap Back	5	48	15	?		2 Chemical bolts	
4	Grey Chair	5	48	15	6b+	5.11a	2 hangers	
5	Dizzy	8	48	15	6c	5.11b	2 hangers	

6	Honey Moon	5	45	14	7b	5.12b	2 hangers	may use friend as 1st bolt
7		6	45	14	7a	5.11d	1 maillon	shares 1st 2 bolts with 8
8		8	48	15	7b	5.12b	1 maillon	shares 1st 2 bolts with 7
9	Badami Killer	9	48	15	8a	5.13b	1 hanger	
10		0	50	15	5c	5.10a	1 Chemical bolt	Top rope climbs
11		0	50		5b	5.9	2 hangers	
12		0	50		5b	5.9	2 Chemical bolts	



Grading distribution of routes in Badami Deluxe

Routes 1 through 8



Saraswati area



Coordinates: 15.929679N, 75.680065E



Approach time from bus stand: 15 minutes by walk, 0.8kms



Best time to climb: Mornings and evenings

Routes list

	Name	No. of bolts	Approx. ht		Grade		Anchor	Comments
			feet	meter	French	USA		
1		9	45	13.6				
2		8	45	13.6				
3		7	45	13.6				

Routes 1, 2 and 3

