

Caperoutes: Maltese Cross, Cederberg © Leo Rust 2015

Background: The Maltese Cross is one of the most photographed features in the Cedarberg however it has only 2 routes on it. It has all the features of a true tower climb: It is relatively remote, quite scary and supremely rewarding!

Access Issues: You will need to get a permit at Dwarsrivier. They will give you a combination for the gate. Wild Cards get you cheap access.

How to get there:

By Car: From Dwarsrivier drive back to the observatory. Go through the gate and continue along the narrow dirt track until you reach the parking area at the end.

By foot: Walk along the marked path down to the stream. Cross this via some telephone poles. Continue up the path onto the plateau. Once you top out from the rather steep ascent it is only a few minutes until you are there.

Routes:

Both routes described here are on the far side from the approach. Start from the platform on top of a large boulder.

A: Original '17'

The route climbs up to the overhang 2/3 of the way up and then traverses left (tricky). Slightly up and then diagonally back right to finish in the gap.

B: Direct '19'

As for the original but instead of moving left, step right and climb the wall on sparse holds straight up to the gap.

Descent: Bring some abseil chord.

Other useful info: Both routes are fairly bold on incut holds. Rack: some wires, aliens, cams up to 2. I used 7 rock, 1 fr, 1,5 fr, green alien, 2 fr, 2 x shoulder sling, 1 long sling

Restrictions: There has been talk that climbing this superb feature is illegal.



