

Sok Kwu Wan Lamma Island



Online Guide



Google Map



Lamma Island



General

The southern ridge of Ling Kok Shan is covered with generally good quality, but often quite featureless, granite boulders. The relatively short and easy approach hike (once you actually get to Lamma), pleasant views, and good seafood restaurants in Sok Kwu Wan, all make for a highly enjoyable day out.

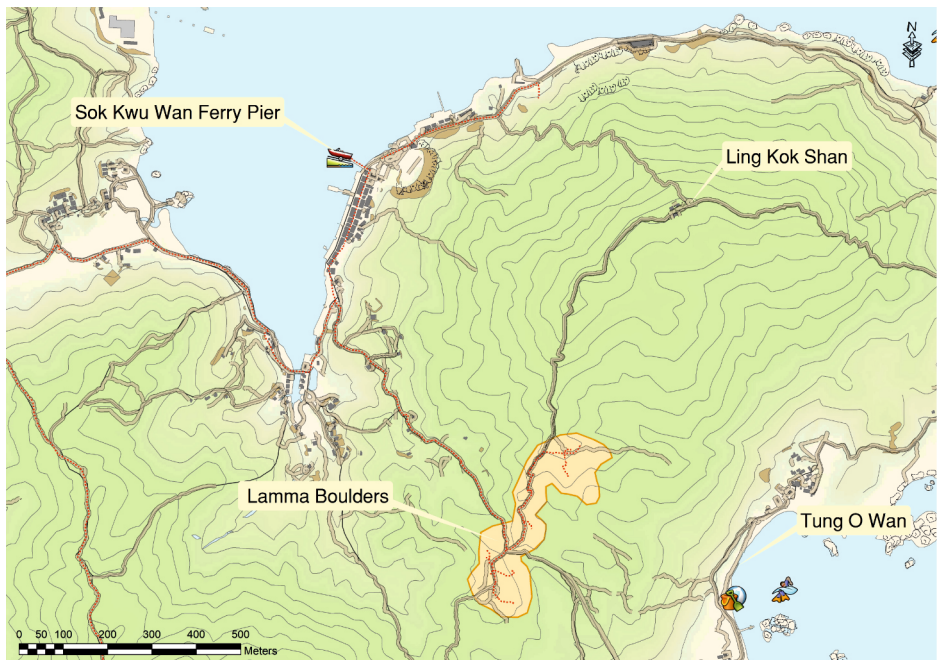
Access

From Central Ferry Pier No. 4 take the ferry to Sok Kwu Wan, which departs from the left side of the ferry pier (check schedules using the QR code to the right). The ferries from right side go to Yung Shue Wan and add about 45 minutes to the approach walk so avoid these! Ferries also run to Sok Kwu Wan from Aberdeen too (see above link for schedules)



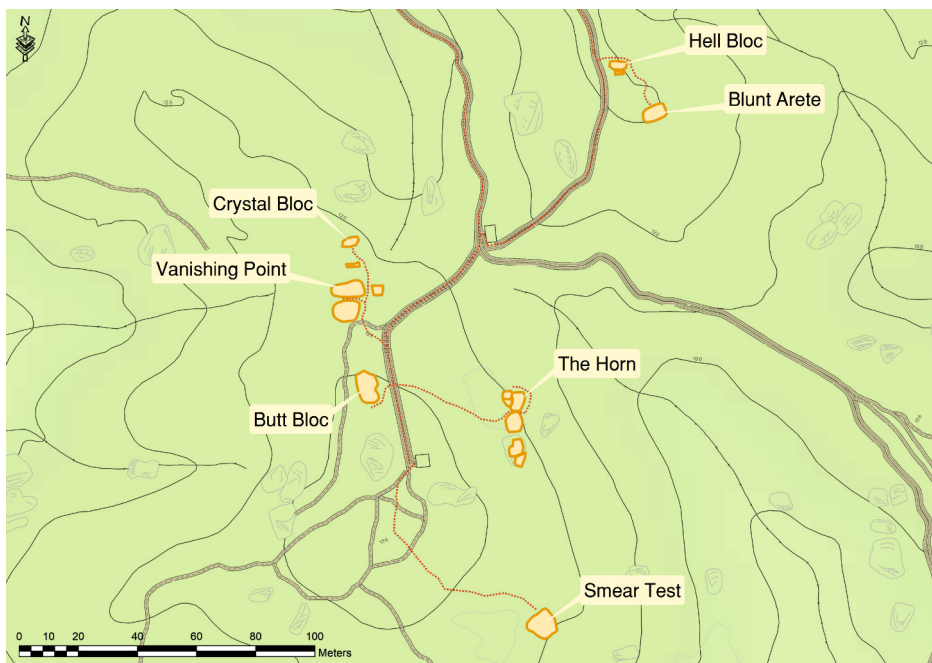
From the ferry pier in Sok Kwu Wan, head right and follow the main path past all the seafood restaurants to a small open area. At the far left corner of this square is a staircase and footpath, which lead up the hill (signposted to Tung O). Follow the path to a small shelter at the top of the hill, approximately 20 minutes. Taking the right branch in the footpath leads to the Pagoda Boulders, whilst the left branch takes you to the Staircase Sector.

Chris Tang cashing in on Golden Arête (V8)
Photo: © Stuart Millis



Pagoda Boulders

The first cluster of boulders are located close to the two shelters on the main ridge of Ling Kok Shan, primarily off to the right of the approach path, but also with a couple of blocs located a short way up the stairs leading towards the summit of Ling Kok Shan.



Boybi Sarmiento grappling with the Butt Crack (V4)
Photo: © Stuart Millis

The Butt Bloc

(22.197852, 114.134305)

This is the boulder immediately adjacent to the footpath, just off to the right before you reach the level of the pagoda.



- 1) Power of Love *** V8
A right to left traverse of the sloping lip, finishing as for Mantle Piece. Definitely one that benefits from colder weather.
- 2) Mantle Piece *** V4
In the centre of the wall is a vertical crack. Start matched in this and reach for the sloping lip of the boulder (bouncing for the lip straight from the ground is cheating). Gaining the lip is relatively straightforward, matching it and topping out is another matter.
- 3) Grovel Crack V1
The crack itself has a distinctly unpleasant feel about it.
- 4) Short Wall ** V1
The short wall, between the arête and crack, is climbed using both of these features.

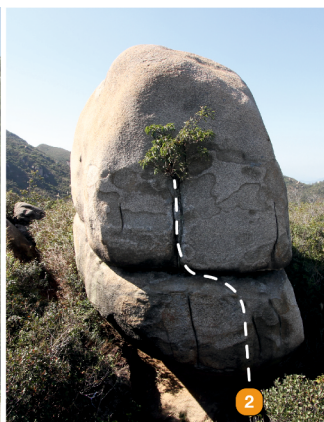
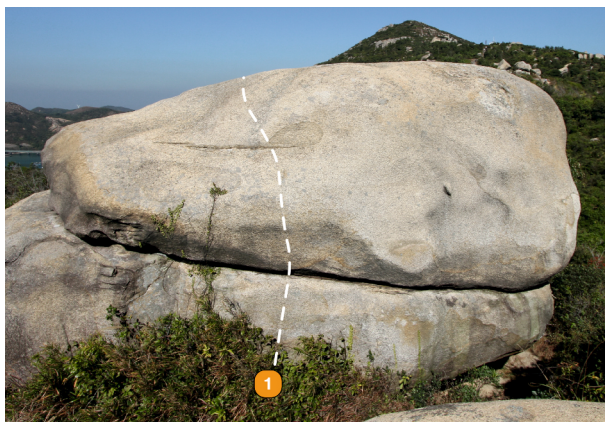


- 5) Butt Crack *** V4
On the lip of the face is a seam. From a good foothold hop up to this seam and then scramble to the top of the boulder. Definitely much harder for the vertically challenged!
- 6) Humped Arête ** VB
The easy arête also forms a good descent route.

Vanishing Point Bloc

(22.198159, 114.134235)

About 20 m back down the hill from the Butt Bloc is a large rounded boulder with a small tree growing out the face on its eastern side.

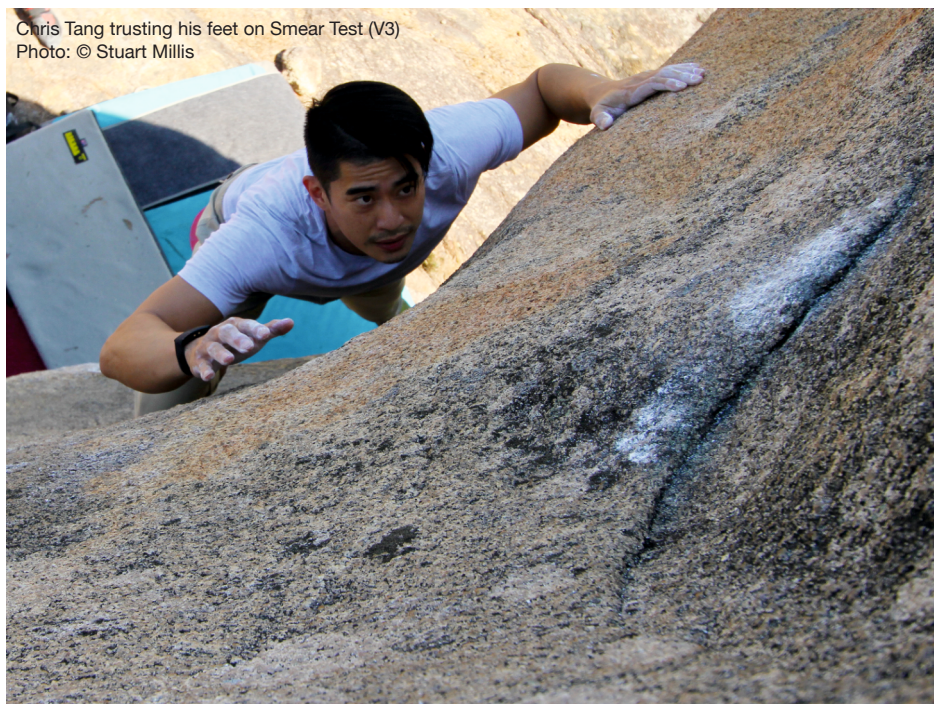


1) Vanishing Point ** V5

Reasonable holds in the break allow poor holds in the scoop above to be gained. From here even poorer holds may or may not bring the top.

2) Tree Top V3

A relatively poor problem up the short steep face round the corner, finishing at the tree. Start by jumping for a good hold in the break.



Chris Tang trusting his feet on Smear Test (V3)
Photo: © Stuart Millis

Crystal Bloc

(22.198317, 114.134238)

Another 10 m or so down the hillside to the north of the Vanishing Point Bloc is a small boulder with a number of easy-ish problems, making it a good place to start your day.



- 1) Warm Up Arête * V0
The thin slabby face at the left end of the boulder.
- 2) Crimped Wall * V1
Follow a series of small crimps and flakes up the short wall.
- 3) Flared Crack * V0
The flared crack leads to sloping, and slightly insecure, top out.
- 4) Right Wall ** V1
The left side of the arête is climbed using good, but spaced, holds on the face and slopers on the shelf.
- 5) Project
The left arête of the back face of the boulder has potential, but has not really been attempted yet.
- 6) Crystal Crack ** V3
The crystalline, and slightly crumbly, crack peters out at the top of the boulder, where an insecure finish awaits. Scampering off right eases the grade to V2.



The Horn

(22.197837, 114.134792)

Located to the south of the footpath and down the hillside from the pagoda is The Horn, which is best approached from above and via the small gully on its southern end rather than bush whacking across the hillside to its toe.



- 1) **Round the Horn ** V3**
Start on the first set of positive holds in the long slanting crack and traverse right out to, and around, the arête. Continue right, past the vertical crack, to finish up the small scoop. In need of a sit start and direct finish up the arête.
- 2) **Horn Crack * V0**
Use the vertical crack to gain good holds in the large horizontal break and trend right to finish.
- 3) **The Horn ** V1**
Good crimps in the lower horizontal cracks bring even better holds in the break above. Finish in the scoop above.

Stuart Millis Rounding the Horn (V3)
Photo: © Chris Tang

Smear Test

(22.197163, 114.134766)

Situated beyond the pagoda and about 40 m to its southeast is a large boulder with a big scooped out slab on its north face. This gives one of the best mid-grade slab test pieces in Hong Kong.



- 1) Smear Test *** V3
Start at the scoop beneath the highest part of the boulder. Get established on the slab and then smear tenuously and directly up the wall above.
- 2) Smear Test (sds) ** V6
The sit start to Smear Test is both fearsome and tricky. The crux, however, is deciding whether it'd be easier facing left or right!
- 3) Project
The blunt arête right of Smear Test looks possible, starting from a positive but small crimp on the lip.

Note: The descent from this boulder involves a somewhat worrying leap across to the block behind it, as demonstrated by Chris Tang in the pictures to the right. You have been warned...



The Hell Bloc

(22.198858, 114.135130)

The last two blocs in the Pagoda Sector are located near the start of the path leading towards the summit of Ling Kok Shan, just off to its right and a short way up the steps. These offer a handful of short fun problems that make a quick diversion worthwhile on your way up the hill.



- 1) Hell Crumbs (sds) V0
The crumbly flake and crack on the left side of the face are followed to good holds on the block at the lip.
- 2) Escape from Hell (sds) * V5
Sit start with hands matched on poor holds on the lip of the bulging arête (the short will need to stack pads) and make hard moves up and onto the slab.
- 3) Hell Fire V2
The centre of the face, starting up the thin vertical crack.
- 4) Hell Arête V1
The right arête of the face.

Blunt Arête

(22.198711, 114.135243)



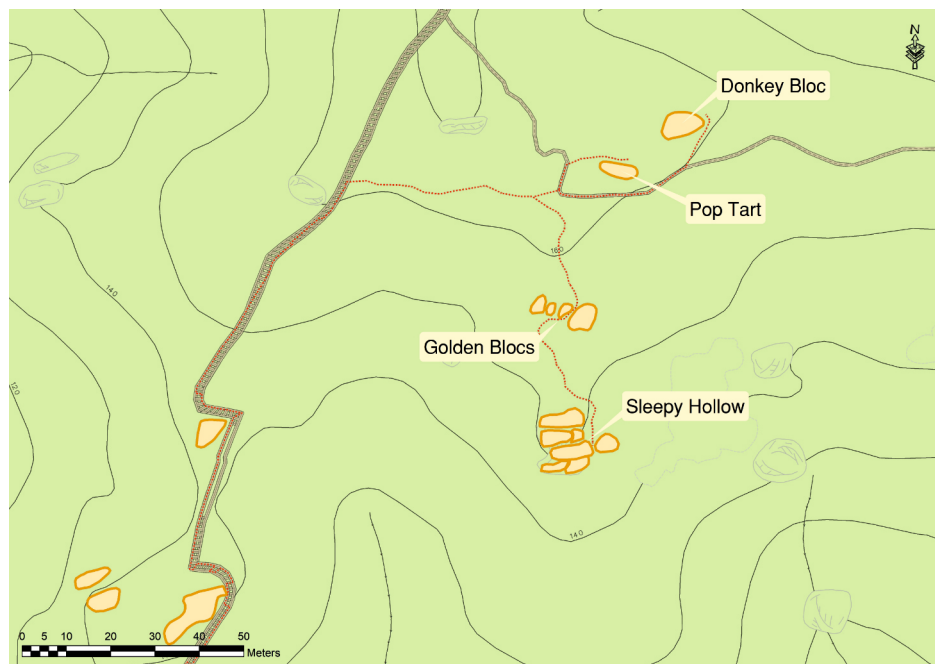
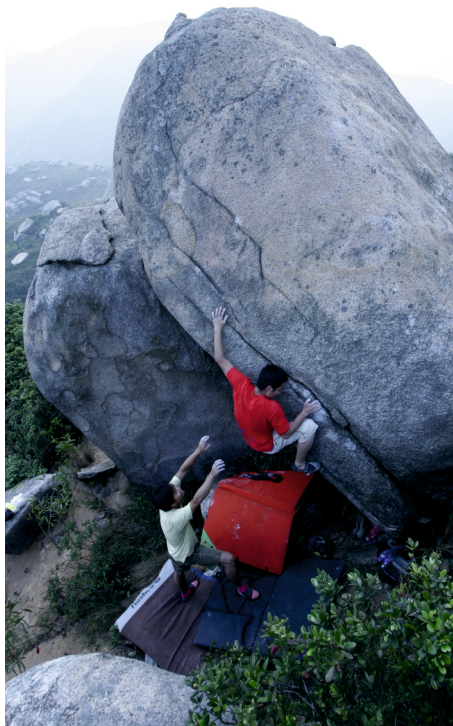
- 1) Blunt Arête * V3
Start at the small seam on the blunt arête. Swing left onto a good foothold and mantle to finish. Tackling the bulge of the arête direct increases the grade to V4.
- 2) Centre Piece * V2
Climb the thin wall to join the left end of the horizontal crack. Finish through the rounded edge above.
- 3) Scooped Up * V2
Step up into a small scoop and exit left to join the horizontal crack. Finish directly above the right end of this.
- 4) Right Arête * V1
The right arête of the wall can be climbed with a little assistance from the flakes out left.

Staircase Sector

Located about one-third of the way up the path leading to the summit of Ling Kok Shan is a cluster of scattered boulders that contains a number of problems of exceptional quality, most notably the arête test piece of Golden Arête and the highball frightener Sleepy Hollow.

The area is accessed by simply turning left after reaching the shelter at the top of the initial approach path. Follow the staircase up the ridge for about 5 minutes and, shortly after a dog-leg next to some boulders, follow some small dirt trails east to bring you across the hill just above the level of the Golden Blocs.

Sam Chang hoping not to experience any nightmares from Sleep Hollow (V5)
Photo: © Stuart Millis



Lamma Island

Mitch LeBlanc nailing the first ascent of Golden Arête (V8)
Photo: © Stuart Millis



The Golden Blocs

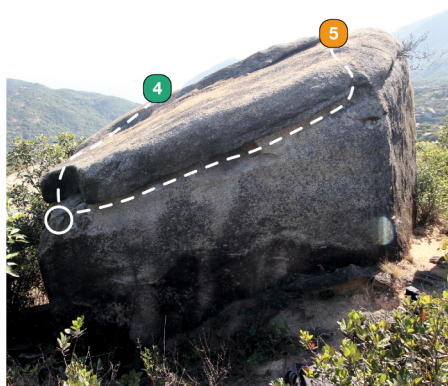
(22.200046, 114.135955)

About 50 m to the east of the main staircase is a cluster of four blocs with impressive faces and arêtes on their southern sides. These are accessed from above via so small dirt trails that contour the hillside.



- 1) **Pure Gold (Project)**
Climb the slabby face using holds on both the left and right arête.
- 2) **Golden Arête *** V8**
Undoubtedly Hong Kong's finest arête problem. Lay back the curving rounded arête. Easier said than done due to an almost complete lack of footholds.

The above problem can also be climbed from a sit start at the same grade.
- 3) **Golden Shower * V3**
Move up the slabby right side of the arête until it is possible to swing left on to poor footholds. Tenuously mantle to finish.
- 4) **White Golden V1**
From reasonable holds on the sloping shelf, climb the short arête.
- 5) **Golden Boy ** V4**
Traverse the thin crack and shelf beneath the overlap. All holds above the overlap are out of bounds until you top out at the right end of the face.



Sleepy Hollow Blocs

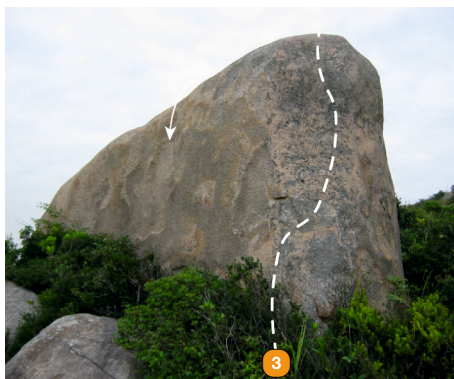
(22.199772, 114.135987)

Just down the hillside from the Golden Blocs is a cluster of large boulders, the stacking of which has formed a small cave within which lies the start to Sleepy Hollow.



- 1) **Sleepy Hollow (sds) ** V5**
Start using crimps on the wall inside the cave for left and the lip of the roof for right. Lift off and match the lip before following a series of diagonal breaks back up and left to an intimidating finish.
- 2) **Twinkle Toes * V4**
Start at the right end of the boulder and, using the horizontal breaks for feet, make a somewhat airy traverse out left above the lip of the roof until it is possible to finish directly up.

The large bloc just above Sleepy Hollow has a single interesting line on it. However, be warned that there's no easy way off this boulder meaning a slither or drop down the face left of Hollow Man is required.



- 3) **The Hollow Man ** V4**
Start up the hollow sounding flake on the narrow face on the end of the bloc before committing to smears and slopers for a terrifying and committing finish.

Pop Tart

(22.200372, 114.136093)

Located slightly higher up the hillside from Golden Arête is another small low bloc with a couple of short lines on it.

- 1) Keep Crimped and Scream ** V7
Start at the good sidepull on the lip and throw up to poor holds in the seams above. Somehow use these to finish.
- 2) Pop Tart * V3
With your left hand on a reasonable sloper on the nose, pop up and right to a good hold. Mantle to finish.

Pop Tart (Low)* V6

The proper way of climbing Pop Tart. Start hanging on the poor sloper on the lower lip at the edge of the overhanging wall (cold weather essential). From here, campus to the holds higher up and finish as for Pop Tart.



- 3) Veggie Crack V0
Follow the vegetated left trending crack.

Donkey Bloc

(22.200430, 114.136212)

Just east of Pop Tart is another bloc that any jamming aficionados will want to seek out to get their fix.



- 1) A Donkey on the Rock (sds) * V3
Start with one hand on the lip and one buried in the crack under the roof. Fight your way through the lip and up the crack above. Feels more like V10 if you've not taped up!
- 3)

Stuart Millis on the first ascent of Sleepy Hollow (V5)
Photo: © Stuart Millis

