

Tai Koo



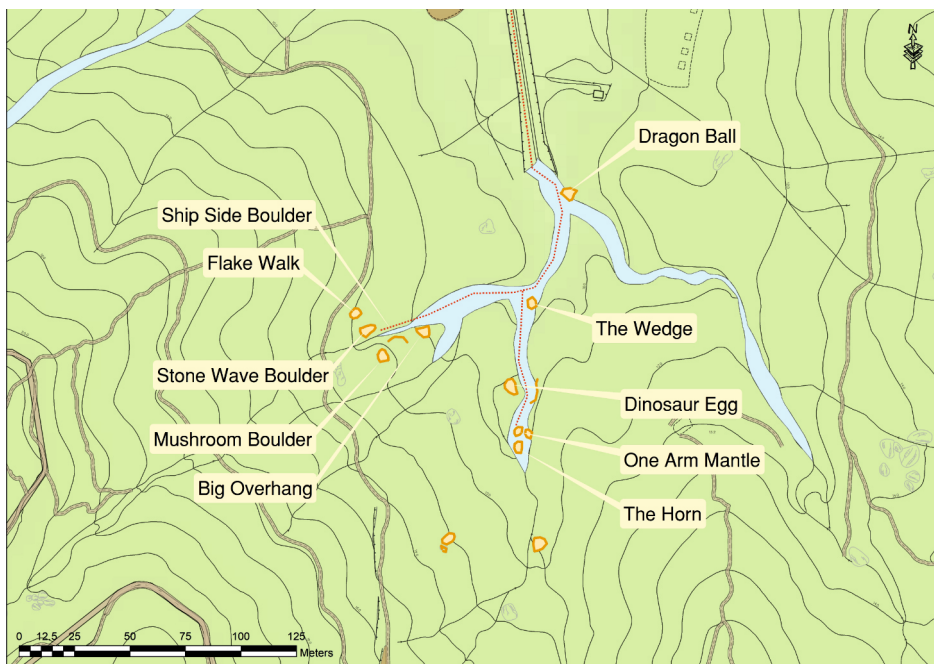
Google Map



Online Guide



Access Maps



General

Although not outstanding in number (and in many cases, quality), the bouldering near Tai Koo offers an easily accessible circuit for those based on Hong Kong Island and with a few hours to kill. The location of the boulders within a stream bed means that a pad or two is advisable to soften the landings. It also means the area should generally be avoided in summer when there is a much increased risk of flash flooding as well as being eaten alive by mosquitos.

Access

Take the MTR to Tai Koo Station. Use Exit B and walk west along Kings Road a short distance to Greig Road. Turn left onto Greig Road and follow it, through Nam Fung Sun Chuen Housing Estate, to its end. Just before reaching the far end of Greig Road break off right on a concrete path. Follow this, which forms Section 2 of the Wilson Trail, until a country park sign is reached near the foot of a steep staircase. A short way up the steps a dirt track, leading down to a wide concrete drainage channel, breaks off right. Follow the drainage channel upstream for about 250 m until you come to a foot bridge with a small picnic area next to it. Pass under the bridge a continue up stream a short way to reach the boulders, which start where the concrete stops.

Stuart Millis entrusting it all to Blind Faith (V8)
Photo: © Stuart Millis



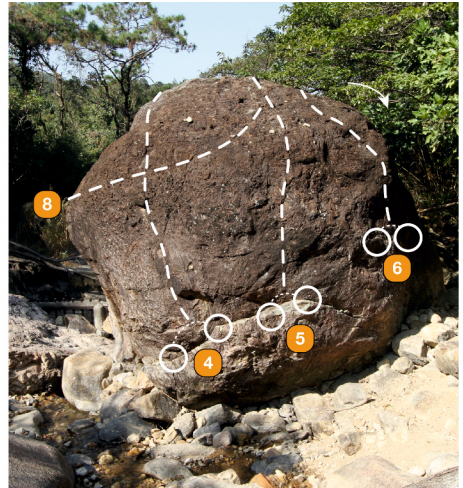
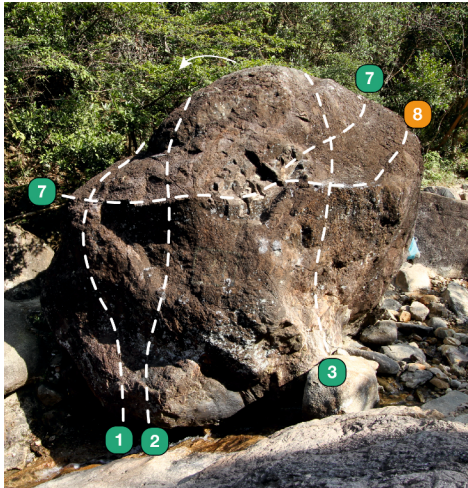


Hilda Chan bearing down on Pocket Razors (V3)
Photo: © Stuart Millis

Dragon Ball Bloc

(22.274836, 114.213878)

The first obvious boulder is located at the end of the concrete drainage channel and is one the better blocs overall for this area.



- 1) Puff the Magic Dragon * V2
A bit of an eliminate up the wall to the left of the scoop.
- 2) Dragon Ball * V1
Start on the small step and climb up the vertical wall to a scooped top out.
- 3) The Shelf Mantle ** V1
Start at the sloping shelf and mantle this. The sit start is V2.
- 4) Dam Buster (sds) * V5
Construct a small dam out of stones to allow a sit start at the left side of the low flake. From this launch up the small sloping holds on the wall above the stream.
- 5) Pocket Razor (sds) ** V3
From a sit start at the right end of the low flake make powerful moves onto small sharp pockets on the wall. Easier moves lead to the top.
- 6) Crimper Razor (sds) * V3
Sit start on the bank of the stream channel, using small crimps to the right of the flake. Make tricky moves up to a small side pull before finishing more easily above.
- 7) Upper Traverse * V0
Start at the easy angled backside of the boulder and make a left to right traverse on the good holds high up, finishing with a walk up the ramp of Shelf Mantle.
- 8) Low Traverse * V5
Start as for the 'High Traverse' but stay lower and hand traverse the Shelf Mantle ledge before making tricky moves around the bulging wall to gain the finish on Pocket Razor.

The Wedge

(22.274409, 114.213777)

From Dragon Ball walk about 30 m up the right hand branch of the stream. The Wedge can be found on the left side of the stream.



- 1) Wedge Overhang (sds) * V3
From good crimps low down, campus up the overhanging side of the arête.
- 2) Wedge Slab * V0
Pad up the short slab.
- 3)

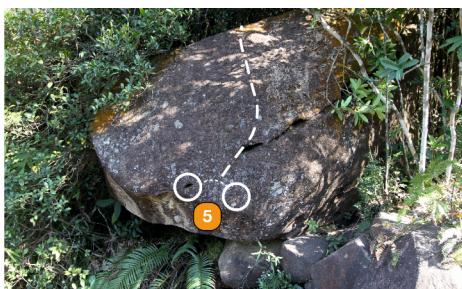
Dinosaur Egg

(22.274028, 114.213746)

Beyond 'The Wedge' the stream forks into two. The Dinosaur Egg is located in the left hand branch about 50 m upstream of the junction.



- 1) Dino Arête * V3
The far right arête of the bloc.
- 2) Egg Shell Arête (Project)
The right hand arête of the steep face is compelling yet distinctly lacking of holds.

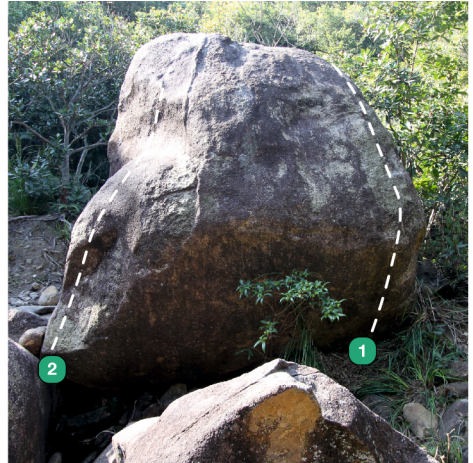


- 3) A Short Friction Story * V3
Start on top of the small boulder and make a short series of thin friction moves up the slabby face.
- 4) Dirty Traverse V1
Traverse the small wall opposite Dinosaur Egg. Better yet, don't bother...
- 5) Pocket Pull (sds) * V3
A short way upstream is a small boulder with several slots in the front face. A powerful lunge through the bulge on these leads to a beached whale finish.

One Arm Mantle Bloc

(22.273879, 114.213731)

This is the next large boulder upstream of the 'Dinosaur Egg' and is also located on the right side of the streambed.



- 1) One Arm Mantle * V1
The right side of the overhang.
- 2) No Hands Climb V0
The easy face to the left of the overhang, also the decent route.
- 3) One Point, One Second (sds) * V2
Climb the wall to the right of the diagonal overlap, avoiding the good holds on the edge of this.
- 4) One Hand Climb V1
A slightly steeper line, just left of 'No Hands Climb'.
- 5) Easy Overhang V1
The overhanging wall on the back side of the boulder. Beware loose holds.

The Horn

(22.273823, 114.213716)

Immediately upstream of 'One Arm Mantle' is a small steep face with a large horn on the lip. The following problems are located on this face.

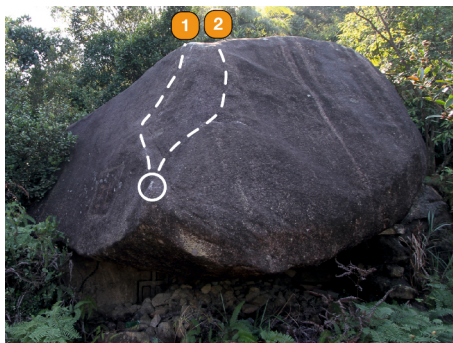


- 1) The Horn ** V1
Hang from the large jug and swing up into the scoop above. In need of a low start.
- 2) Silly Palm Traverse (sds) * V3
Start sat on the boulder left of The Horn. Traverse right along the rounded lip of the boulder, struggling to keep your feet off the floor, to finish as for The Horn.
- 3) Silly Palm Traverse Two V2
About 10 m upstream is the last boulder of a significant enough size to squeeze a problem on. Traverse this, again struggling to keep your feet off the floor.

The Big Overhang

(22.274295, 114.213228)

Twenty metres above The Wedge, at the fork in the stream, take the right hand branch and follow this along the left bank until a low slung boulder with a small boulder platform and large roof is reached.



- 1) Big Overhang (Left) (sds) * V3
Sit start at a reasonable hold on the lip of the arête, if you can reach it! Pull off the floor and slap your way up and left, following a small sloping shelf. Mantle this to finish.
- 2) Big Overhang (Right) (sds) * V3
Sit start at a reasonable hold on the lip of the arête. Pull off the floor and make a big reach right to a good jug. Finish direct.

Stone Wave Boulder

(22.274290, 114.213045)

The large smooth boulder up and right of the Big Overhang is probably the best bloc in this whole area, with several highly compelling (but a little bit tall) lines on it.



- 1) Stone Wave *** (Project)
An audacious looking line that will require nerves of steel and flawless technique. Climb the high rounded and insecure looking arête above a somewhat daunting landing.
- 2) Blind Faith *** V8
Start matched on the arête and make difficult moves to get established on the crimp ledge. Traverse this right till it runs out and then summon maximum commitment to tackle the very slopy and insecure top out above. A classic technical problem somewhat reminiscent of the classic line Karma in Font, all be it rather easier than that...
- 3) Palm Mantle V0
From the lowest point on the backside of the boulder, facing away from the stream, reach up and palm the sloping area near the top of the boulder. Mantle this.

Shipside Boulder

(22.274244, 114.213094)

The large rock wall on the left bank of the stream, immediately upstream of The Big Overhang.

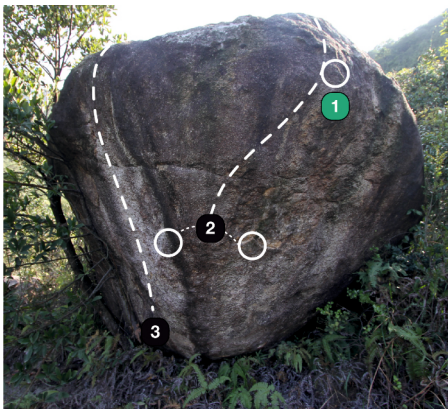


- 1) The Fang * V3
The wall within the small chimney contains a three finger slot in its middle. Launch from this to the sloping shelf above and mantle this to finish.
- 2) Heel Hook Traverse (sds) * V2
Traverse the sloping lip of the overhang to finish at the edge of the roof.
- 3) Vegetation V0
Various possibilities exist up the broken and highly vegetated wall on the right side of the boulder. None are worthwhile..

The Mushroom

(22.274202, 114.213109)

The Mushroom is located on top of the platform above the 'Ship Side Boulder'.



- 1) Up and Over ** V1
Jump to holds on the lip of the boulder and mantle / rock over to finish.
- 2) Moon of Tai Koo (sds) ** V8
The sit start to Up and Over is short, powerful and pretty awesome. From a small side pull on the arête and good crimps on the right wall, somehow make your way up to the start holds on Up and Over and then finish up that.
- 3) Shrooms (Project)
The wall left of the arête also has several tiny holds, making a line seem vaguely feasible.

Flake Walk

(22.274363, 114.213006)

To the right, and slightly upstream, of the 'Stone Wave Boulder'.



- 1) Flake Walk (sds) * V2
From a sit start on the left side of the boulder, traverse the sloping shelf to a rounded finish up the far arête.
- 2)