

NOTES ON CLIMBING IN TUNISIA AND  
CYPRUS

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## A. TUNISIA

*Djebel Zaghouan (A.ŷ.54.171.)*

THE starting-point for ascents is Sidi Bou Gabrine, a saint's tomb and shepherds' quarters on a shelf about 1000 ft. above the base on the north side (two good hours from the town of Zaghouan; one hour if a car be taken round to where the path starts up from the foot of the mountain).

The ordinary route up Djebel Zaghouan passes round the north ridge and ascends the North-west face. It is dull and circuitous, but by walking still farther round the face the West ridge is reached. The rocks are easy, sound and pleasant, and the great southern precipices at one's feet lend character to the ascent.

The most pleasant and direct route reaches the main ridge of the chain up grassy slopes immediately east of the two highest points, which rise steeply above. Hence a track skirts the lower rocks; the great gully which descends from between the two summits is left on one's right (north) for a subsidiary gully or couloir and, shortly before the crest is reached, a 'rake,' interrupted at one point by a rock-wall about 10 ft. high with ample holds, slants across below the southerly and higher summit. Where it ends, a few feet of descent take one down into the great gully near its top and above the steep rocky part. (Two hours from Sidi Bou Gabrine.)

## B. CYPRUS

*Pentedhaktilos (A.ŷ.57.192.)*

*Little Finger.*—Goat-tracks on the north lead up almost to the gap between the Little and Ring Fingers. The final tower is an easy scramble of some 25 ft. (April 16, 1950.)

*Ring Finger.*—From the above-mentioned gap a variety of routes can be found up the face a short distance north of the main ridge. Rope not needed.

The descent was made slightly on the South face to the main-ridge gap at the east foot of this finger, whence the rocks were skirted on the north side to the foot of the Central Finger. An easy scramble. (April 16, 1950.)

*Central Finger.*—(a) From the south side by an upward slant to westerly nearly to the foot of the vertical chimney which cuts deeply



into the face just below the summit and thence below steep cliffs by another slant to easterly up to the ridge (reached just west of its lowest point) connecting the West and the lower East summit of the Finger. No particular difficulty, but rope needed. (March 12, 1950.)

(b) From the north, an easy goatherds' route threads the cliffs by couloirs and traverses and attains the main ridge at the lowest depression between the West and East summits of the Finger. This route is not altogether easy to find without local knowledge.

The lower, East summit of the Finger, immediately above Col. Hunt's 'great sweep of slabs,' was also visited on this occasion. (April 7, 1950.)

(c) By the rocks of the West face. Starting off a short distance north of the main ridge, a series of cracks—steep at first but easing off higher up—leads to the summit. This climb is of moderate difficulty (April 16, 1950.)

*Index.*—The rocks of the South face were ascended, starting well to the east towards the Index-Clocktower gap. They offered no difficulty for the first two-thirds of the face but then steepened. A band of rock was passed by a shallow vertical crack of about 15 ft. (awkward on the descent, as I was alone and had no rope), with two trees above. The summit-ridge was reached towards its eastern end, a little above its steep drop to the Index-Clocktower gap. A rope should be taken on this route. (May 21, 1950.)

*Clocktower.*—The main ridge was reached from the south by a short and easy scramble up the angle between the base of the tower and the slabby face east of it. (May 29, 1950.)

*Thumb.*—The gap between the Clocktower and the Thumb was reached from the north by following goat-tracks in a wide zig-zag through the cliffs and up a shallow gully. Crossing over to the south side and traversing a short distance eastwards, the summit was reached fairly directly by steep but easy couloirs. Rope scarcely necessary. (May 7, 1950.)

*N.B.*—The hospitable, Turkish-speaking village of Trapeza, accessible for small cars by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of rough road and at a height of about 650 ft. makes an admirable starting-point for ascents from the north side. The Kythrea spring (motor road) is the starting point for ascents from the south.