

## Exposure in the 'F' Major '17' [Trad] \*\*\*\*

For a real rock route – this is it!! Exposed in summer, exposed in winter.

Note: This topo has been designed to be printed out and taken along on the trip. So, print out page 2, cut outside the line and fold in half with the text and drawn topo's on opposite sides. Then cover or plastic wrap it – instant durable topo!

Getting there: From Cape Town head along the N1 for about 60km. You have the choice of taking the tunnel or driving over the pass (turn-off is the first one before the tunnel) which is very scenic. Once on the other side of the mountain, you will come to the Du Toits Kloof Hotel. Turn around so you are driving back towards Cape Town and take the road as for the pass, just after you take the turn off is a road leading to the MCSA hut. Another option is to head through the tunnel and upon exiting park near a gate on the left side of the road.

Approach: About one kilometer from the Du Toit's Kloof hut along the road to Worcester, a farm road turns off to the left through orchards and crosses the river to a bungalow. A sloping ridge immediately behind the house leads straight up to the foot of the face. After passing a large scree one notices a narrow sickle of slope with a small gully curving up into the face, first to the right and then back to the left. Use this to cut out 60/70 meters of bushy buttress. The climb starts at the first rock band encountered after following the sickle, about 45 meters right of the skyline of the buttress. But, after ascending the last gully, traverse right along a grass band that narrows at a waterfall. Traverse underneath the waterfall and then left up the slope into a gully up onto a shoulder at the foot of a rock rib.

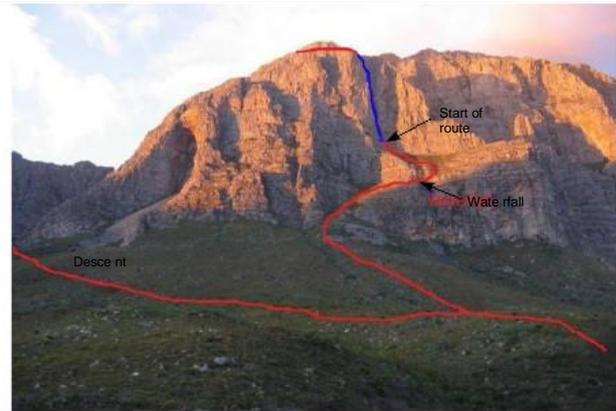
First Ascent: K Fletcher, H Graffland, H Snyders and G Ward – 1963

Gear: 50m double ropes, rack of cams and nuts, long slings are useful to avoid rope drag.

Best Seasons: When it hasn't rained and isn't going to rain. If you plan on climbing in the winter then take along warm clothes as things can get very chilly on a cloudy day, as the route receives all day shade.

Placements: While there is no climbing harder than 17 on this popular trade climb, it is still a country style route and should not be underestimated. You will find secure gear on the route but at times might go a few meters without finding any solid placements.

PDF Topo compiled by Stewart Noy from the book '**Cape Classics**' by **Adele McCann**  
Thanks to Brent Russel for providing the excellent photo topo's.



1. 30m '13' Either ascend the recessed chimney to the right of the rib, or else up the rib itself.
2. 18m '11' Continue up the recess above and exit left at the top.
3. 20m '13' Climb across slabs diagonally up to the right to gain a stance under red overhangs.
4. 32m '17' Climb up to the right of the overhang, then back left and up a layback edge. Ascend this and then move right across a shallow red recess to an exposed nose which is climbed to a stance.
5. 16m '13' Climb up a meter or so and then continue around the corner to the right. Continue up to a handrail under the overhangs. Traverse to the right to a very poor stance.
6. 32m '15' Climb up above the stance and then move up to the left to a prominent recessed chimney. Halfway up the chimney it is possible to move out to the right to an exposed nose which is climbed to a stance.
7. 10m '8' Proceed diagonally right to a stance on top of a block next to a gully.
8. 16m '15' Climb up a recessed chimney, leaving it on the left-hand side to reach a fair stance.
9. 11m '15' Climb up diagonally right until it is possible to move up to the left on spaced footholds and cupholds in the face. Continue to a good stance. This pitch is steep and sustained and should not be underestimated, especially in cold weather. Many climber who walked the crux have come to grief here.
10. 18m '13' Continue up a shallow recess above the stance, then climb up to the left and up to a very small stance.
11. 22m '13' Climb up slightly to the left into a prominent recess with well weather rock. Continue up the recess until forced to exit to the right to an obvious stance.
12. 20m '11' Go straight up above the stance to a flake forming a prominent crack. Climb up the outside, or alternatively up the inside of the crack to a wide ledge.
13. Scramble up to the right. One short grade '10' pitch up a recess follows.
14. Zigzag up approximately 100 meters of 'C/D' grade rock to the top of the ridge, choosing the line of least resistance.

### Topo Drawing by Adele McCann

#### Descent

Take care when descending from the summit, as wandering off a precipice in the dark is a lot easier than you might think, and while it might be the quickest way down it's most likely not the best. From the summit carefully head left and away from the edge. Continue on down past ramps and ledges in a north-westerly direction. This will bring one out on a vlakte between the Witteberg and Kromrivier Dome. Now descend the gully shown in the photo separating the Witteberg from the lower ridges which features the 'Cascades Route'. The top of the gully will be recognized by the 'V' shape of the rocks at its head. Alternatively walk across the vlakte in a westerly direction towards the top of the 'Cascades'. A good path will be found which goes down the 'A' ridge towards the tunnel – this is the loong way down. Either way a long pair of pants will prove useful on the descent.

