

## Sými - Άγιος Γεώργιος

Symi is a small rocky island in the Southern Dodecanese, two hours by boat to the north west of Rhodes. It has some excellent climbing and walking and unlike many of its neighbours has not suffered from mass tourism. It has several unspoilt beaches and is an ideal location for a holiday mixing climbing and walking with more general relaxation.

### Rocks and climbing

The most developed area is in St. George's bay, where a 300m high cliff of good quality limestone rises from the back of the beach. Recorded climbing development started in 1992 when a number of sports routes were put up by a local climber, Georgis Miliias. A total of 10 sports routes were established including 3 two pitch routes varying in difficulty from F5c to F6b+. In 1997 Georgis together with Aris Theodoropoulos and Th. Mihailidis put out the formidable 'Vasilis Miliias', a 340m route which takes a line up the full height of the wall. Graded F6c+ and A1 it is reputed to be one of the most difficult multi pitch routes in Greece. Despite some re-equipping it still awaits a free ascent.

Further development of the sports climbing on the island appears to have been put on hold, due no doubt to the rapid development of the climbing on Kalymnos, but a number of traditional climbs have been developed by UK climbers instigated by Joan and Andy Prickett. These include 'Don't be late for Angeliki' a 220m E1 5b (Andy & Joan Prickett with Marg Kellas – October 1999) which starts up the sports route Argo and continues to the top of the gully system at the right hand side of the bay, and 'Dragon's Breath' a 305m E4 6a (Andy & Joan Prickett, Mike & Chris Simpkins – October 2004) which takes a line up the main cliff to the left of 'Vasilis Miliias'.

### Routes

To the left of the church:

[1] Kokimidis (sport) 6a, 6b. (45m)

Behind the church:

[2] The crack (trad.) 5, 5+. (60m)

[3] Kaladoukas Holidays (trad.) 6a, 6b. (65m)

[4] Dragons Breath (trad.) 4, 6b, 6a+, 5+, 5+, 6a+, 6c, 6a, 6a+, 3+. (305m)

[5] Vasilis Millias (trad. + aid) 4+, 6a+, 7a, 6c, A1, A1, 6c-A0, 6c, 6a+, 4, 6a, 4, (340m)

To the right of the beach:-

[6] Argo (sport) 6a+, (30m)

[7] Don't be late for Angeliki (trad.) (6a+), 3, 6b, 6a, 5b, 6a, 6a+, (270m)

[8] Roukouniotis (project) 7a? (20m)

[9] Renos (sport) 6a, (35m)

[10] Tou Tsironi (sport) 5c, (35m)

[11] Aleka (sport) 5c, (25m)

[12] Ipakoi (sport) 5c, (35m)

[13] Xaritomeni (sport) 6a, (40m)

[14] Spetsaria (project) 6b+, (40m)

[15] Dikaia (sport) 6a, 6b+, (70m)

[16] Panormitis (sport) 5c, 6a, (70m)

### Future Potential

There is considerable scope for further routes at St George's bay, both for sports routes and longer traditional routes.

There is a south facing crag of solid limestone approximately 1 kilometre long and up to 200m high in the neighbouring bay of Nanou and this probably has the greatest potential for sports climbing on the island. There is also potential for sea level traverses and bouldering.

### Access

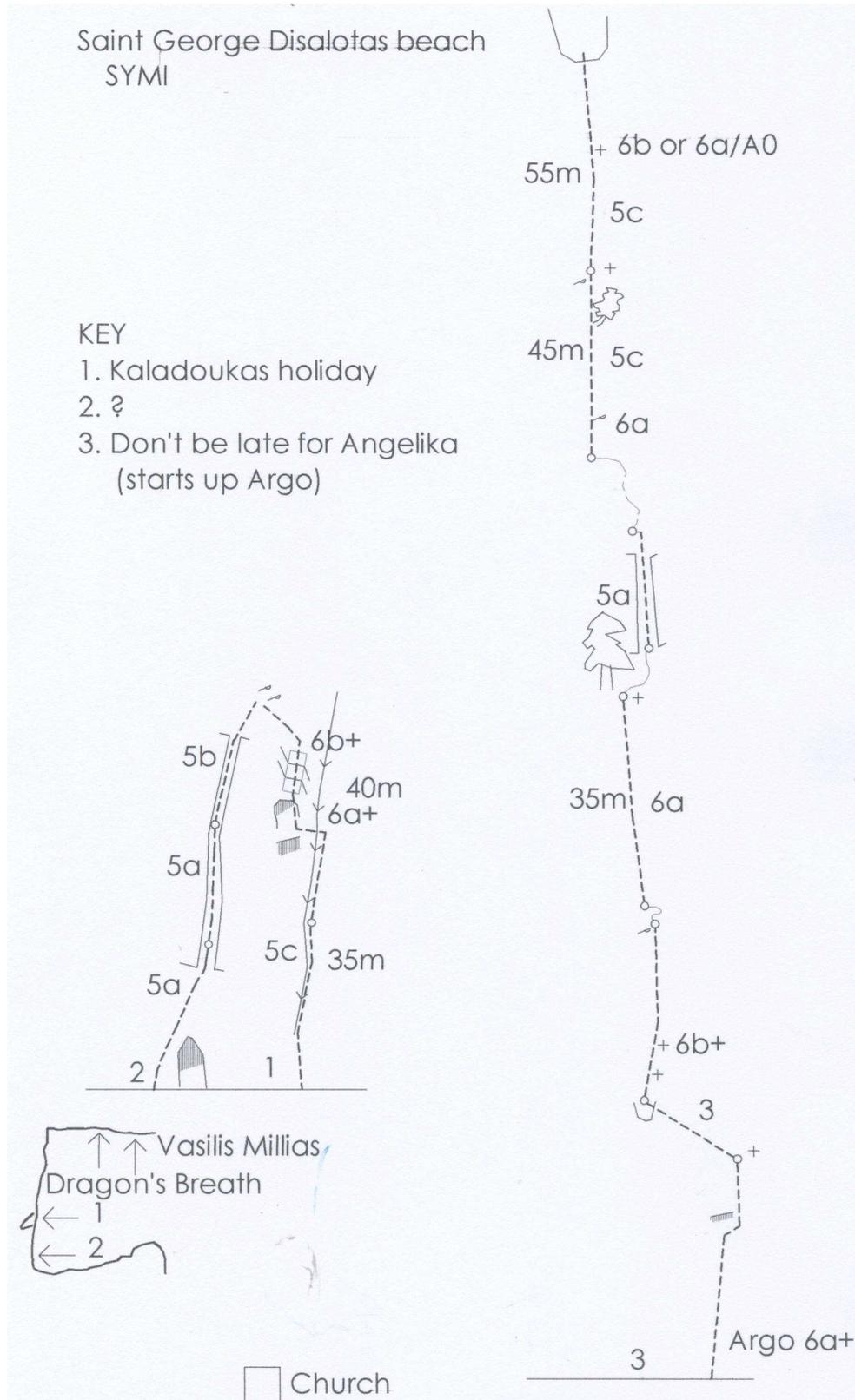
There are frequent charter flights to Rhodes from most UK airports from mid April to the end of October. A more limited number of charter flights from the major UK airports continue throughout the winter. An alternative is to fly to Athens and take an internal flight to Rhodes. This would suit those wanting a holiday combining climbing on Symi and Kalymnos.

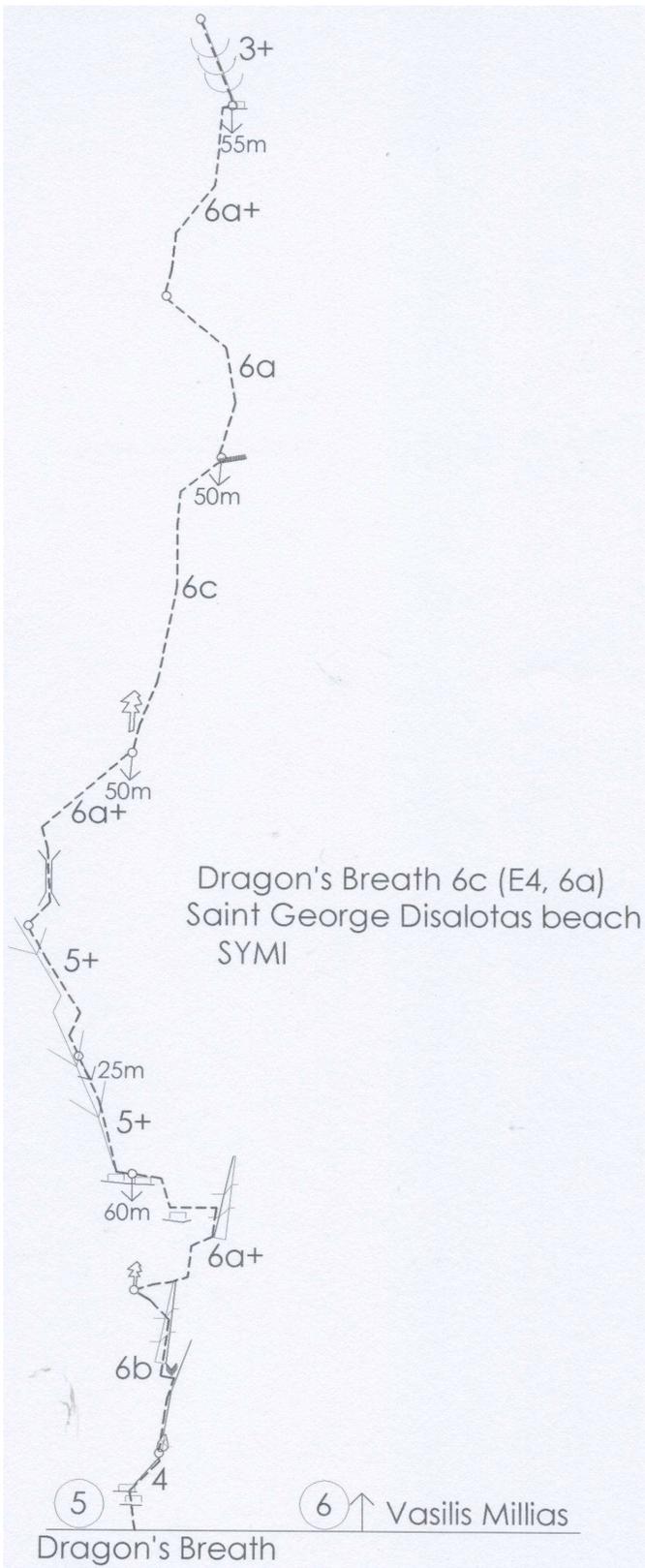
There are regular ferries from Rhodes to Symi with those run by Anes, the islands own shipping company being the most economical.

Ferries run between Symi and Kalymnos throughout the year.

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained at [www.oreivatein.com](http://www.oreivatein.com) and [www.symisland.com](http://www.symisland.com) (which has links to other Symi sites) or by e-mailing Andy Prickett on [ja.prickett@gmail.com](mailto:ja.prickett@gmail.com).





**Andy Prickett**