

Report for the climbing category

North America Wall (A3 5.8)
El Capitan (2307 m)



El Capitan with the route marked – North America Wall is the left one.



General information

Route	North America Wall
Category, grade	VI category, A3, free climbing category 5.8
Length of the route	732 m
Number of pitches	28
Location	El Capitan, Yosemite valley, California, USA
Summit, elevation	El Capitan, 2307 m
Characteristics of the route	Rock, aid climbing
Total time spent	5 days, 4 nights on the naturally formed ledges
Date submitted	2011 10 16

Team members

„Montis Magia alpinistai“ - Gediminas Simutis (1988) and Saulė Žukauskaitė (1988).

Country

Lithuania



Technical specifications

One can feel that this is one of the oldest routes on El Capitan – some belays do not have bolts, at some places the route is loose, however it follows a very logical line of cracks and dihedrals all the time.

Gear

In addition to usual wall gear set (1.5 set of cams, nuts, tri-cams) we used sky hooks of various sizes, peckers, and cam hooks. We used several pitons, however managed to do without copper heads.

Climbing

Climbing was very interesting throughout the route – we climbed cracks of various widths, chimneys, off-widths, roofs, overhanging parts and slabs. We did the route in a push – that is, no pitches were fixed before actually committing to the wall. After we reached the first night's ledge we fixed one pitch. We were using short-fixing method quite a lot. The crux pitches had some fixed gear of unknown quality. However, because essentially it took the only possible places for the placements, we had to trust and use the gear already in place.

Bivies

All four bivies were spent on naturally formed ledges:

- 1st – at the top of the 4th pitch (poor, narrow and uneven ledge)
- 2nd – at the top of the 11th pitch (slightly tilted but pretty comfortable)
- 3rd – at the top of the 20th pitch (several large and flat ledges)
- 4th – at the top of the 27th pitch (flat ledge, sheltered)

Meteorological conditions

The weather was perfect – sunny days and moonlit nights.



Gediminas during the second day.



Saulė climbs the first pitch out of the Cyclope's Eye. Photo by Tom Evans



Saulé climbs a long crack.



Topo of the route

