

# Huu Lung (Yen Thinh) Topo Guide

By Francis Haden

## Overview

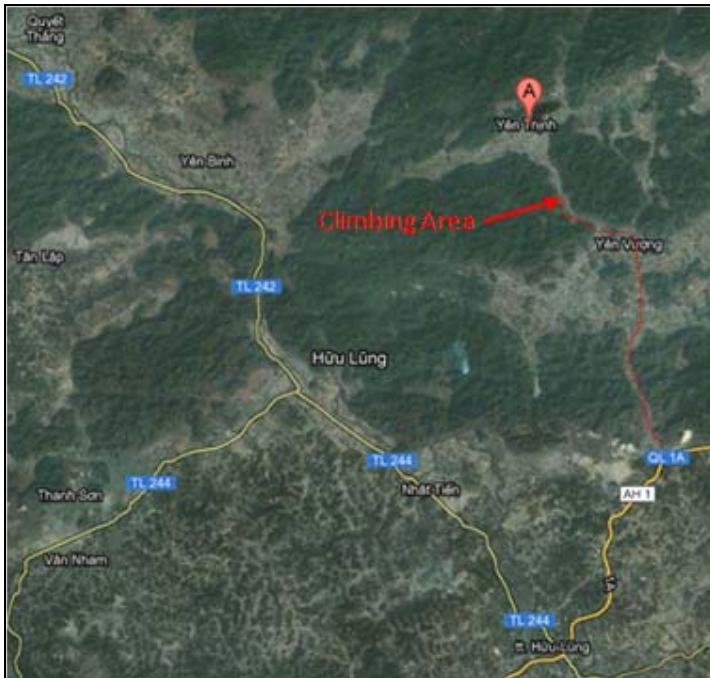
Huu Lung is a picturesque limestone valley North of Hanoi. The rock is particularly compact, highly featured and predominantly vertical providing fantastic sport climbing in a quiet rural area away from the intensity of Hanoi.

The climbing is typically technical and single pitch in length. As of April 2013, three multi pitch climbs are available with Chuć Suć Khoé at 105m being the highest multi pitch in Vietnam. The climbing is easily accessible from the valley road and remains dry during rainfall. The rock quality in particular is excellent, featuring huecos, tufas and positive crimps.

## Directions

Yen Tinh is reached by taking the AH1 north to Langson Province then a secondary road towards Yen Thinh. Approximate travel times are 2 hours from the airport and 2.5 hours from Hanoi.

More detailed directions can be sought by contacting Vietclimb in Hanoi.



## Gear

All fixed protection uses marine grade (316) stainless steel, resin bolts. Abseil stations and lowers offs consist of 2 bolts equipped with rappel rings and linked using quick links. As with the bolts themselves, metal grades are matched using marine grade 316 stainless steel. Bolts are reasonably spaced to enable routes to be easily worked and prevent dangerous falls near the ground.

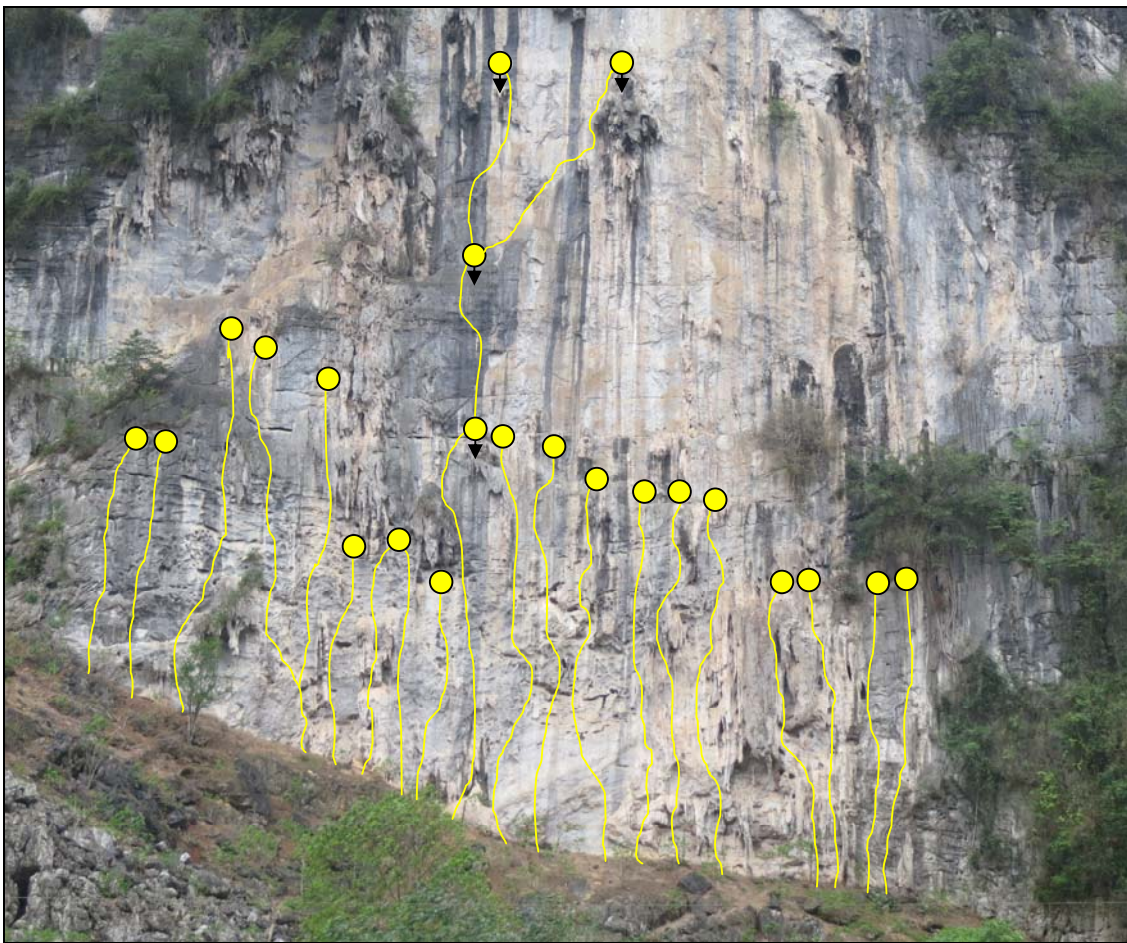
The majority of routes are 30m long and will require up to 18 quickdraws excluding additional draws for setting up the anchor.

## Cultural Considerations

Attention is drawn to the fact that the area is not accustomed to climbers or the presence of foreigners on a regular basis. The recommended place to stay is at the Nga Nghi located on the main road where free wifi, warm showers and a family accustomed to climbers will ensure a happy stay. Vietclimb know the area and have played an integral role in maintaining access therefore climbers visiting the area are advised to plan their visit with Vietclimb's assistance.

When approaching the cliff, stay on the path and avoid damaging crops. The owner of the trees beneath the cliff has asked that they are not used to suspend gear, bags or hammocks. Climbers are highly visible to anyone down in the village below or on the road so climbers must be mindful of their behaviour to ensure continued access.

## The Main Wall (from left to right)



**On The Border** F5+, 8 Bolts, 20m

FA: Gordon Jenkin, Francis Haden, Donna Kwok April 2013

**Nón Lá** F6a, 11 Bolts, 20m

FA: Gordon Jenkin, Francis Haden, Donna Kwok April 2013

**Sắc!** F6b+, 14 Bolts, 30m

FA: Quàn Pm, Jean Verly, Eugenie Baudon, Jon Knipper, Francis Haden, Donna Kwok April 2012

**Punji Push** F6c+, 14 Bolts, 30m

FA: Francis Haden, Donna Kwok, Eugenie Baudon, Jon Knipper, April 2012

**Free the Spirit** F6c+, 14 Bolts, 30m

FA: Francis Haden, Donna Kwok, April 2012

**Bristol Fashion** F6a+, 8 Bolts, 15m

FA: Francis Haden, Donna Kwok, Eugenie Baudon, Jon Knipper, April 2012

**Strange Brew** F6b, 8 Bolts, 20m

FA: Francis Haden 30/04/2012

Take on the tufa directly with difficulty to gain the groove. A hard move gains the wall above.

**Use Your Groove** F6b+, 8 Bolts, 20m

FA: Francis Haden 30/04/2012

Great bridging low down and a sustained finish

**I Want My VTV** F6c, 8 Bolts, 17m

FA: Francis Haden 30/04/2012

The crux low down can be a show stopper for those not quick on their feet.

**Good Morning Vietnam**

Pitch 1 F6c+, 14 Bolts 30m

Pitch 2 F6c, 8 Bolts, 20m

Pitch 3 F6c, 9 Bolts, 20m The final pitch finishes with great climbing on the headwall and tufa.

FA: Francis Haden, Jean Verly 01/05/2012

Alternate Pitch 3 F7a+ 20m. Head right from the end of pitch 2 for a belay on the massive tufa located in the centre of the wall.

FA: Francis Haden April 2013

**Hanoi Hilti** F7b+, 18 Bolts, 30m

FA: Francis Haden 01/05/2012

The technical lower wall and sustained tufa.

**Unnamed** F7a+, 14 Bolts, 30m

TRFA: Francis Haden, Donna Kwok, April 2012

Fingery headwall crux.

**War and Peace** F7a, 14 Bolts, 30m

FA: Francis Haden, Jean Verly, April 2012

Start beneath the obvious left facing flake. Superb climbing on the pocketed lower wall and one of the best routes here.

**7 Days Later** F6b+, 14 Bolts, 30m

FA: Jean Verly, Francis Haden, April 2012

? F6c, 13 Bolts, 30m  
FA: Jean Verly?

**Chasing the Dragon** F6b, 14 Bolts, 30m  
FA: Francis Haden, Gordon Jenkin, Donna Kwok April 2013

**You've Got To Be Pulling My Dong!** F4+, 13 Bolts, 30m  
FA: Gordon Jenkin, Francis Haden, Donna Kwok April 2013

The easiest line on the cliff – fun tufas. Use a long sling on the 8<sup>th</sup> bolt.

**Got Any Dong?** F5+, 11 Bolts, 30m  
FA: Francis Haden, Gordon Jenkin, Donna Kwok April 2013

Very fun warm up.

**Spicy Times** F6a, 10 Bolts, 30m  
FA: Francis Haden, Gordon Jenkin, Donna Kwok April 2013

The rock is quite sharp but a fun route.

**I Own An Orchard** F6a, 11 Bolts, 30m  
FA: Francis Haden, Gordon Jenkin, Donna Kwok April 2013

## **The Chuć Suć Khoé Wall**

Located further up the hillside from the main wall is a fantastic section of rock and home to the highest multi pitch in Vietnam: Chuć Suć Khoé (as of April 2013).

To gain access, follow the path beneath the main wall up the hillside to a short scramble that enables access to a terrace that runs underneath the looming wall above. On the right hand side (facing in) of the terrace is a bolt belay and the groove of the first pitch.

Chuć Suć Khoé presents a great outing being both well protected and escapable at any stage of the route. All belays are equipped with two rappel rings and an additional bolt for assisting rigging. The route can be climbed and descended using a single 60m rope.

The fourth pitch features a series of hard fingery moves off a sloping ledge that is somewhat inconsistent with the overall difficulty of this pitch consequently it can be climbed free to give a grade of low F7a+ or F6c+ if the bolt is used for aid.





**Chuó Suó Khoé (105m)**

Pitch 1 F6a+, 13 Bolts 30m (The Strange Breakfast Pitch)

Pitch 2 F6c, 12 Bolts, 20m

Pitch 3 F6c, 9 Bolts, 15m (The Amber Room)

Pitch 4 F7a+ or F6c+ using the bolt for aid above the ledge, 14 Bolts, 25m

Pitch 5 F6c+, 5 Bolts, 15m (The Bitch Pitch)

FA: Francis Haden, Gordon Jenkin, Donna Kwok April 2013