

India-Venster

Approach route to Africa and Fountain Ledges – Table Mountain

Africa and Fountain Ledge is conveniently situated about 100 metres below the upper cableway station on the Cape Town and Camps Bay side respectively and is easily accessible from the upper cableway station, via various absels. However the very popular *India-Venster* trail can also be followed as an alternative approach. Some care should be taken at the rock scrambles where there are chains and staples for assistance.

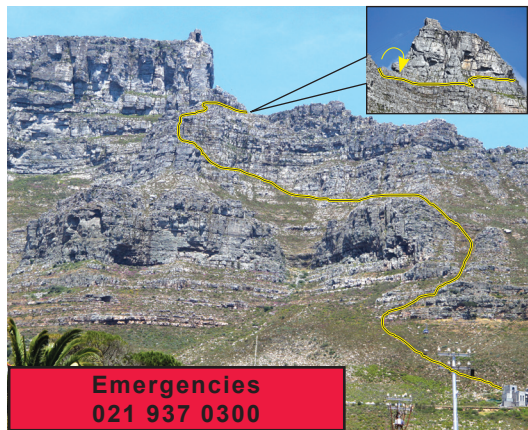
India-Venster trail – 1hr - 1hr 30min

Park at the lower cableway station on Tafelberg Road, and from the right side of the bus parking in front of the cable station, follow the path behind the lower cableway station to reach the Contour Path. At this point it is important not to mistakenly take the India Ravine path, which goes up and leftwards. This would be the path to the Lower Buttresses. Instead, cross the Contour Path and follow the yellow footprint markers, heading right up a series of low rock steps to a platform on the skyline of the buttress. From here the route goes up

the gully running to the right of Venster Buttress. Look out for the *venster* (window) on your left a little way up the gully.

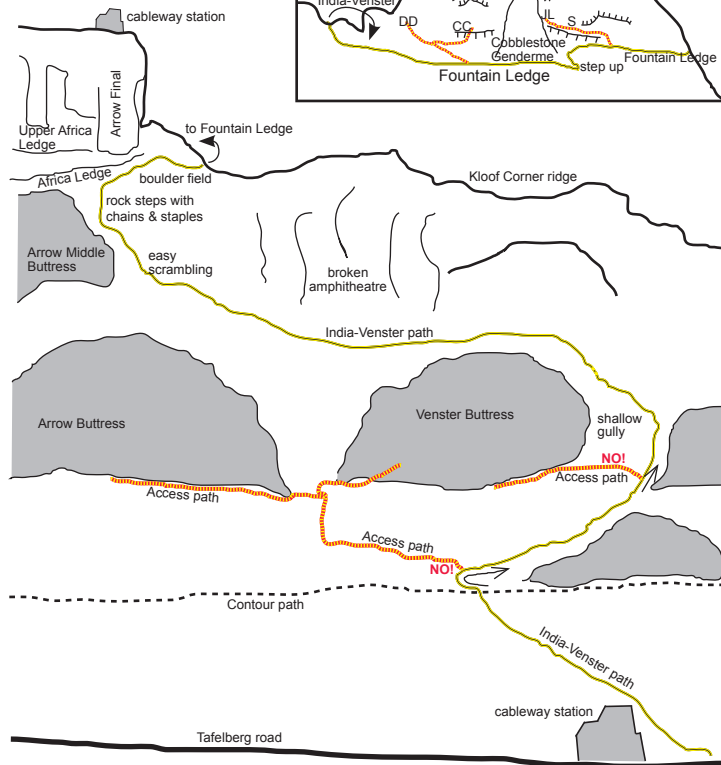
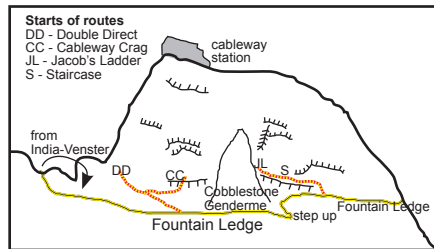
At the top of the gully the path veers off to the left and crosses over the top of lower Venster Buttress. From this point one has a good view of the upper part of the route. The top of India Ravine is guarded by a large, broken rock amphitheatre.

Follow the path on the right side of the amphitheatre and traverse across the base of it to the left. Some moderate scrambling up and left takes you to the start of a few rock pitches on the right side of this portion of Arrow Buttress. Climb the pitches (many staples and chains), which brings you out of the small gully and on to a boulder field. Pick up the cairns across the boulders to a grassy terrace which leads leftwards to join up with Africa and Fountain Ledges beneath Arrow Final. Go left for routes starting from Africa Ledge and right for routes starting from Fountain Ledge.



Emergencies
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