

The implications of coastal erosion – a rock climber's perspective

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Rock Climbing and Coastal Erosion

- Rock climbing in Malta - where we climb
- How we experience coastal erosive forces
- Coastal Erosion can be good
- Coastal Erosion can be bad – micro-erosion & macro-erosion
- Three examples of actual and potential rock movements and their consequences on climbers:
 - Għar Hasan – what could have happened
 - Ras il-Qammieħ – what may happen soon
 - Azure Window – what did happen



Malta & Gozo Map



Climbing Crags of the Maltese Islands

How we witness the forces of Coastal Erosion















Coastal Erosion can be a good thing







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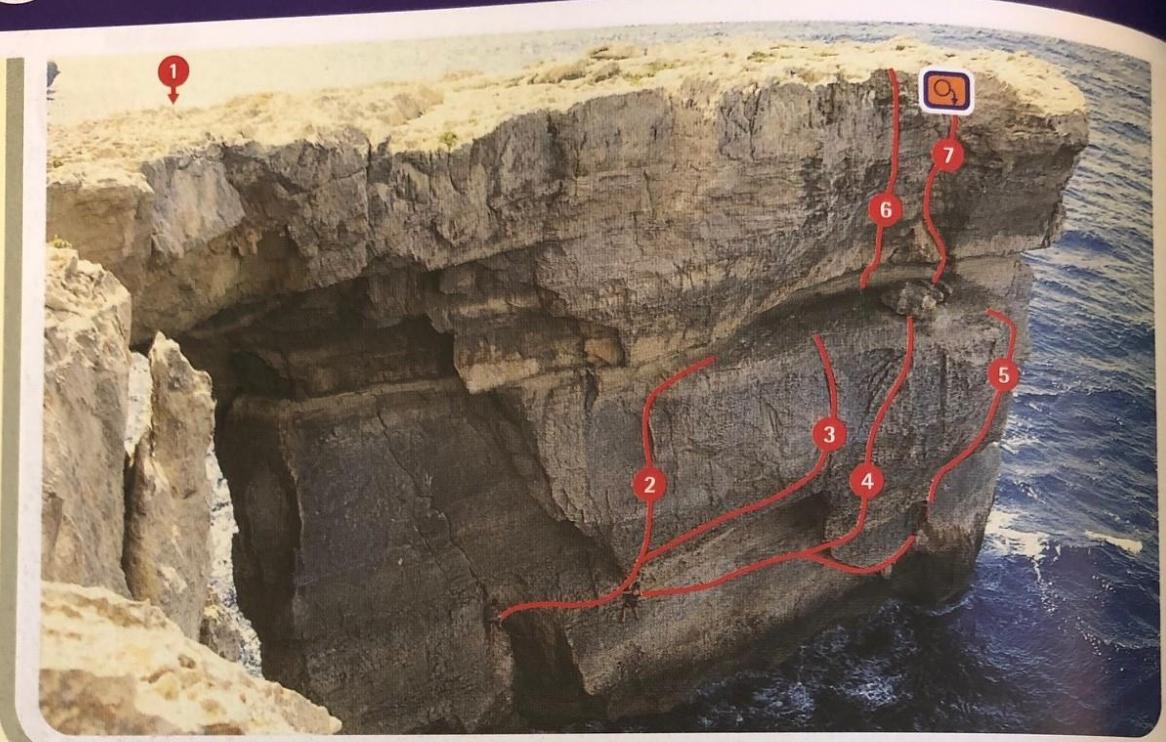




Coastal Erosion can be a bad thing



Injuries sustained when a flake broke off...



Azure Window

6 min.

Azure Window

All routes, except the first, are on the north face, hidden from the tourist's eyes and from the sun. The face overhangs considerably so approaching the bottom can be problematic.

Either:

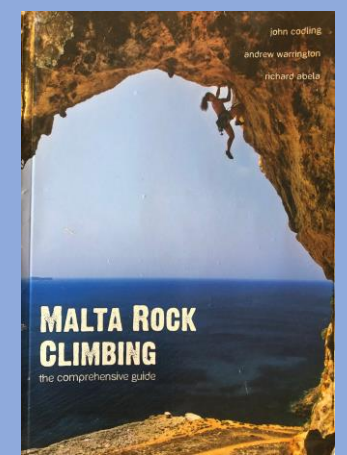
- a Catch a boat to a chimney/groove at the L end of the face, solo up 8m to belay on slings and large nuts, or;
- b A diagonal abseil, using a second rope starting down an overhanging chimney to a large ledge. Please note that in this case there is no in-situ gear for abseiling. The symbol just indicates were to abseil from. Walk with the abseil rope to it's L end and a bolt. Clip this and bolts down the overhanging prow below to belay on slings and nuts in the chimney/groove. The 32m abseil takes the line of Space Oddity.

Spiders from Cars ★ 1 15m E2 5a

The spectacular landward facing arête of the pillar visible

the traverse line downwards. Breach the roof (N on lip). Poor gear above. Ns to belay on ledge.

Guidebook page describing rock climbs on the outside face of the Azure Window



Malta Rock Climbing – the Comprehensive Guide 2007



Three examples of actual rock movements and their potential consequences on climbers:

Għar Ḥasan – what could have happened

Ras il-Qammieħ – what may happen soon

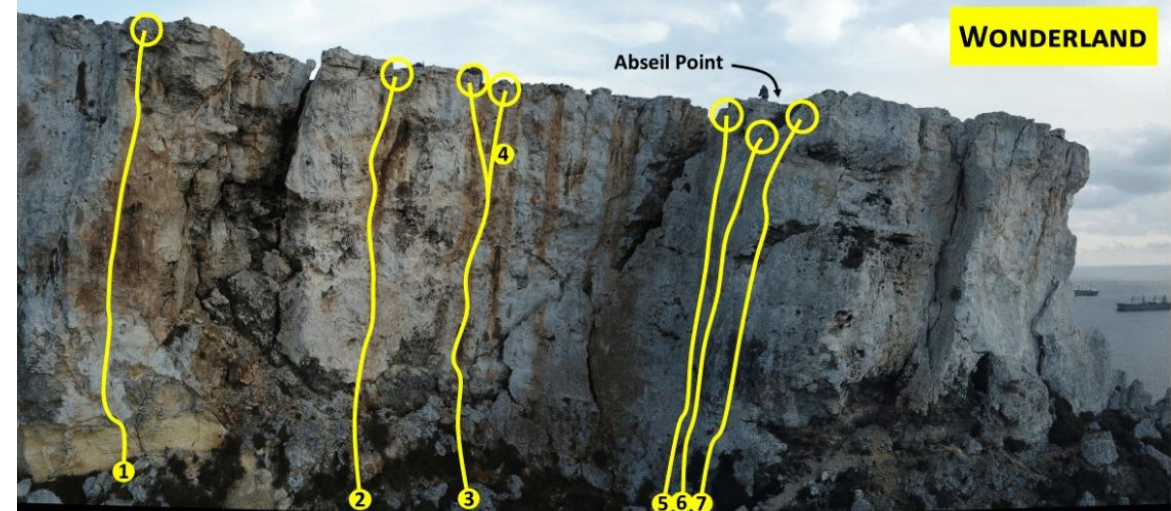
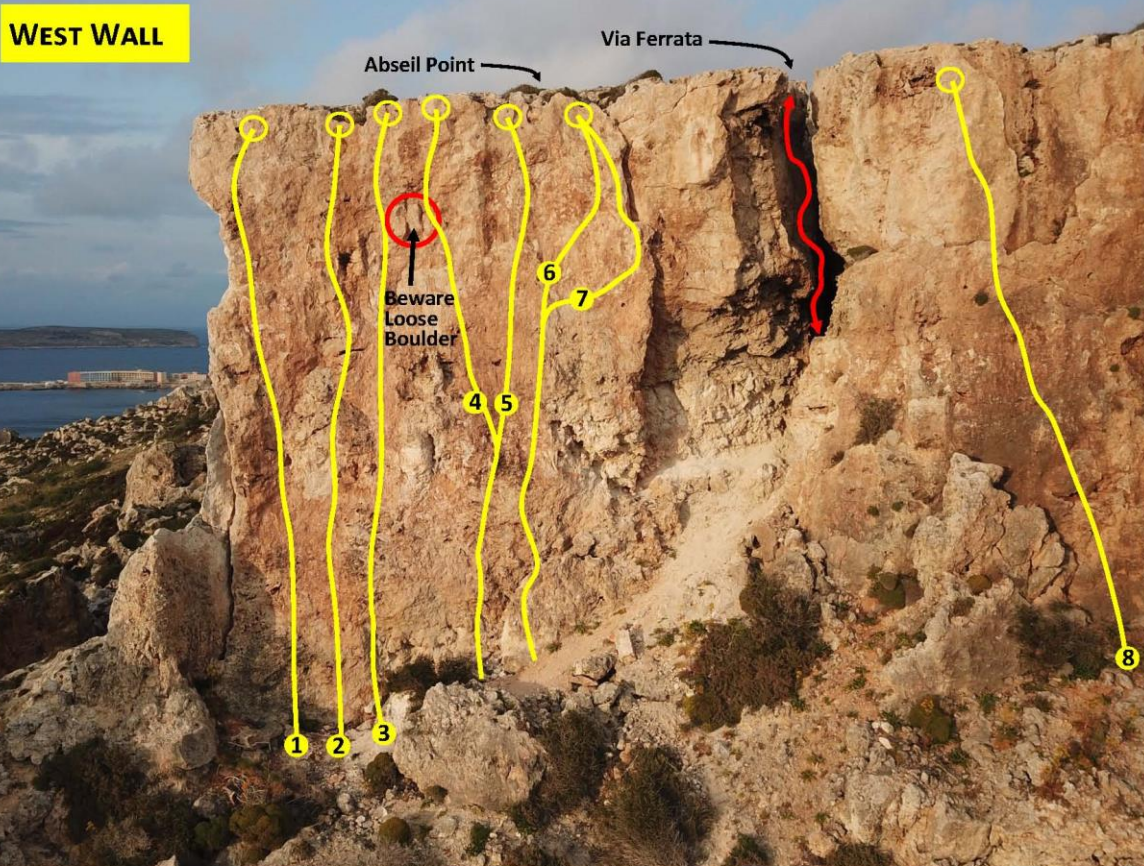
Azure Window – what did happen



Coastal Erosion – **What could have happened**

Rockfall near Għar Ḥasan
14th Nov 2004

Coastal Erosion - What looks likely to happen soon



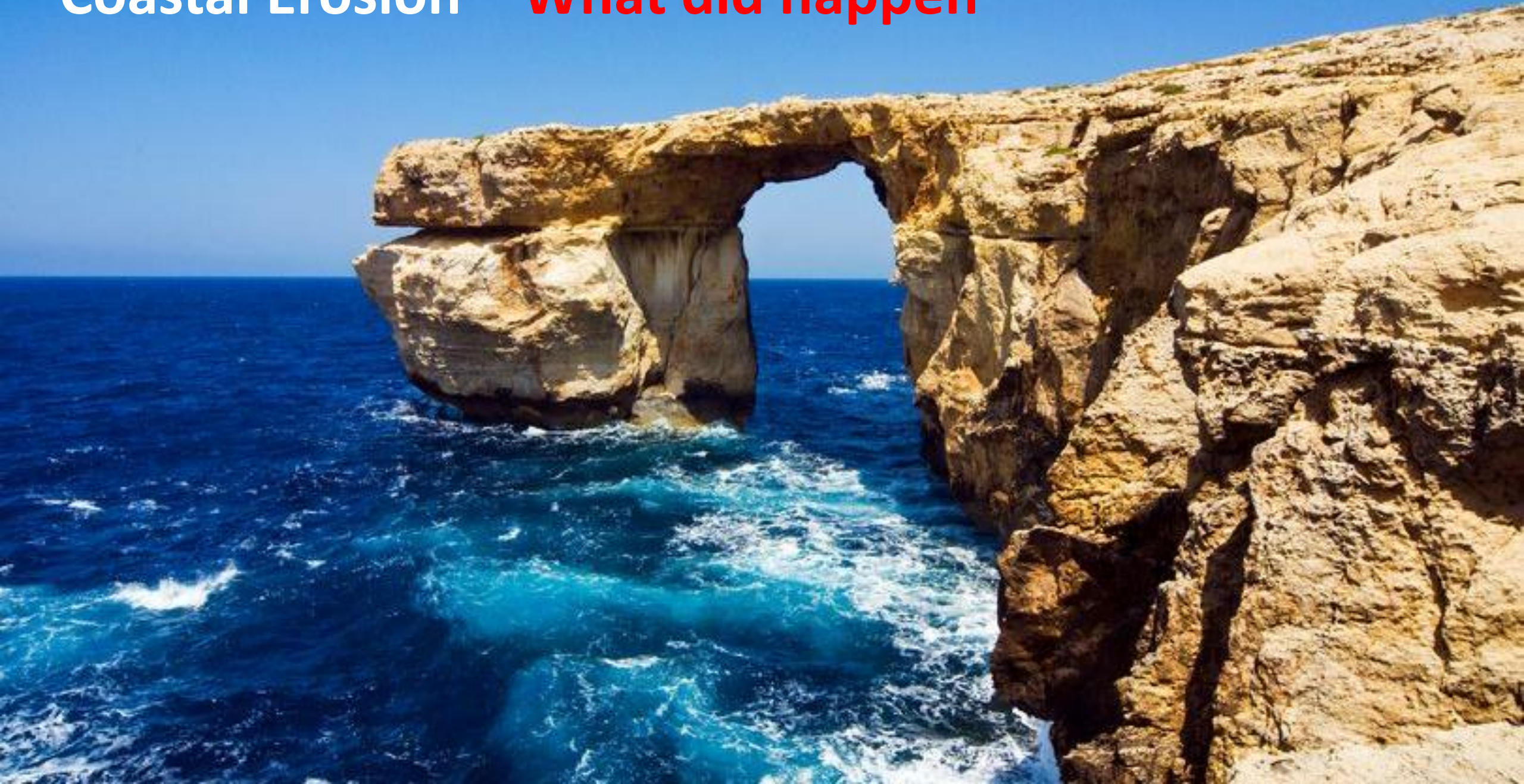
1 Bezz <i>2019 (D.Salgado, M.Sansone)</i>	7b+(?)	23m	11QD
2 Lalø in Wonderland <i>2019 (D.Salgado, M.Sansone)</i>	7a+/7b	22m	11QD
3 Beetle Juice <i>2019 (D.Salgado, M.Sansone)</i>	7b/7b+	21m	11QD
4 Beetle Juice Direct <i>2019 (D.Salgado, M.Sansone)</i>	Project	21m	11QD
5 Mistrica	6a	18m	8QD

Recently developed crag at Ras il-Qammieħ

Ras il-Qammieħ viewed from the air



Coastal Erosion – **What did happen**





Front cover of Climber magazine March 2012





**Thanks for listening –
hang in there!**