

# Siurana

## Personal Climbing Development Trip By Scott Kier



I had two main aims for the week:

1. The overall aim of my week in Siurana was to gain experience of more technical climbing and longer routes on real rock. It would also allowed me to learn the best way to organise my equipment and supplies for longer routes and full days climbing in warmer weather.
2. With regards to my climbing my aim was to ultimately on-sight a 7a.

The plan for the week was to use the first two days to get used to the style of climbing on limestone and so basically to do some easy climbing for those days. The first two days were also used to spot possible harder routes for the second half of the week. From day three onward we planned to climb progressively harder routes. Day six was a rest day and with day seven being the last day of climbing, we attempted to bag our goals for the week.

Climbers were grouped according to similar ability which saw me climbing with two friends that I climb regularly with here in Aberdeen. Our group was coached by Mark McGowan, with the group as a whole under the oversight of Neil McGeechy.

Day one was spent getting from the airport to the campsite and so was mostly spent sitting down in a plane then a car and by the time we arrived it was pitch black so I just went to bed.

The second day was the hottest of the whole trip and our first day of climbing so we kept things simple and only did easy climbing to get used to the heat and the style of climbing.

We started day three in the same sector doing easy stuff in the morning. After lunch we walked to another sector and started to look at project climbs.

On day four we began attempting the route we had chosen the two guys I was climbing with successfully red pointed it but I couldn't figure out the crux in the last few metres of the climb. I felt quite down on the way back to the camp site so I decided to go bouldering and found a long curved roof that had some really good and difficult problems on it.



Day five was pretty much the same as the day before: we went of the crag I fell of the crux again and then went bouldering.

On day six we decided to have a rest day so that we would be able to climb at our best on the final day. Having a rest must have helped because on the Friday I tried a route that I had struggled with on a top rope because of a move of a mono half way through the crux but this time I topped it first time on the lead. Then, in the afternoon I on-sighted another 7a at the other side of the sector and so had achieved my climbing goal for the week.

I went bouldering later in the afternoon and repeated two of the hardest problems I had tried that week. That evening I spoke to some of the other people on the trip and most of them had topped there projects or completed their goals.



Later in the evening me and some of my friends went on UKC to see what was going on, and on the home page was the news that Adam Ondra had just climbed 9b+ - all of a sudden every one became motivated to train harder.

I would like to thank the MCofS for the Bursary award which made this trip possible.