

Trip Report - Khan National Park – December 2014



I paid a red truck to take me to Ob Khan National Park to try to find some boulders.

I had this beta...

got this terrible beta " if you follow the road past the elephant place and past the rafting guide places you come to this big market gathering spot on the river. There's medium unclimbable boulders here but if you head up river there is some blocks. Not sure how far the walk is tho"

Nov 26, 2014 at 10:20 PM - Like

I went to the park and the information kiosk by the river. At first they thought I wanted to sport climb and they were not psyched, telling my girlfriend some other foreigners had already been there asking about bolting, they know about safety.....

Finally, I showed the guy working there the picture I found on CMRCA's website of bouldering by a river hoping he would lead me that way, and he said something to the effect of "ok, easy have pad ok." in Thai. Nice.

But I told him the beta to the area and then there were three people speaking the northern language, I got lost, and they say the market by the elephants and rafting is far away. It's clear it's gonna cost more to go to other said place, and I'm not confident anyone really knows if they place they are thinking and bouldering are in the same area.

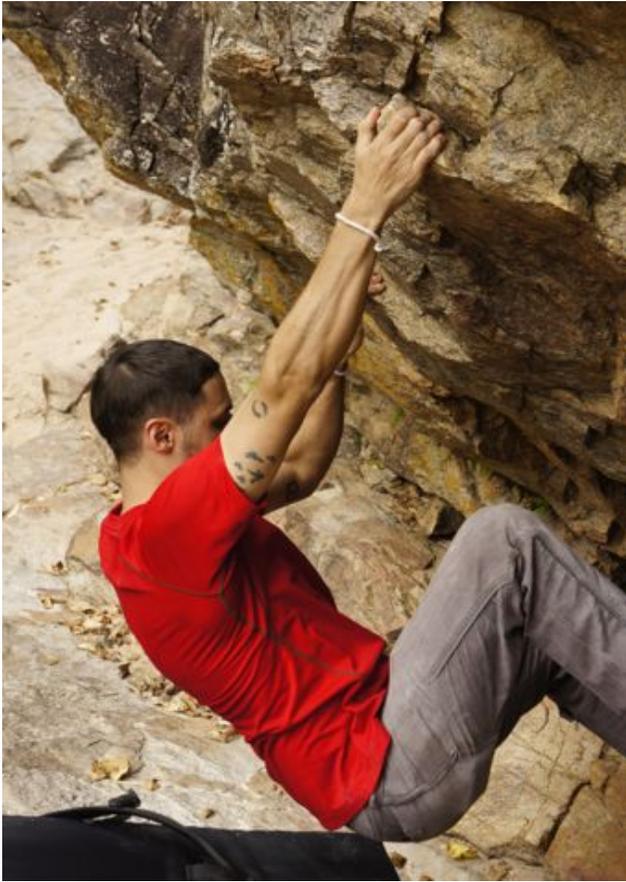
So I set of toward the river on the trekking area they tell me is full of rocks.

There are several concrete signs on the ground saying names with large numbers on them. We walked as far as #11. Then we saw water buffalo and large piles of poo.

I found some random bouldering of decent quality, on pretty good rock, and I found a great boulder with really fun climbing on amazing stone. I pretty much only climbed this and a random lowball on the way out. While looking for lines, I tried to stick to the river's edge, and followed the trail up and over when there were rad cliffs blocking us.

Here is the lowball that I came to first near the river.





This things probably like V1



After hiking around some cliff and then down a little trail that branched off left I found

a the sign above and this little face about 3 meters tall. Not as chossy, defintely as dirty as it looks.

I forgot to mention. I didn't remember to buy some brushes for cleaning in Chiang Mai, so I didn't try some of the stuff I defintely would have done if it was clean enough.

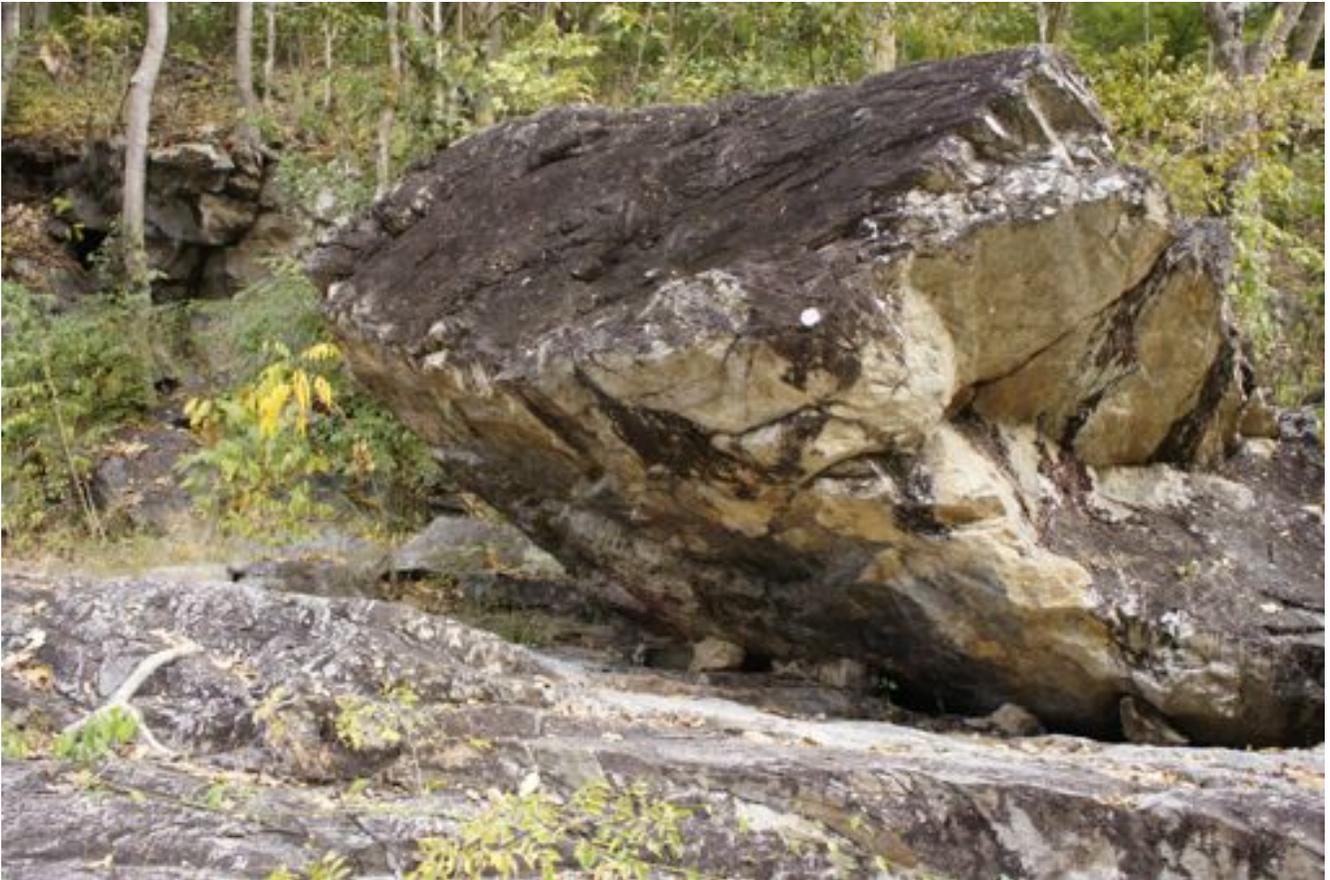
At sign #8 I found a face about 10 meters long and 2-3 meters tall of good quality rock with what looked like lots of fun (though short) moderates.



Eventually I came to a small area with a really nice little boulder with an overhanging face, two aretes and some tiny slabby face on the back. Around that there were 2 more short potential lines looking possible pretty hard.

There was some chalk on holds on the center of the overhanging face. So someone must have at least tried the problems before. I think they were about V3-5.

Here is the right side of the of the boulder (the first side as I approached).



The arete looks fun from a sit start, but the landing was a little weak with an inexperienced spotter. Psyched to climb it next time I go back.

Next are pictures of the center face and left arete, and the then the backside of the boulder.



The area from the riverside.



The boulder on the left has what could be a nice little V4-7 sit start.



Behind these boulders toward the vegetation there is a little roof with terrible looking holds and flake that will most likely rip off. Depending what is left after it rips off (if it does), it may be projectable. It has some holds, but it would some serious cleaning to give a try. Could be anything from V6 to way too hard for me right now.



I was cleaning with the carpet from the crash pad...

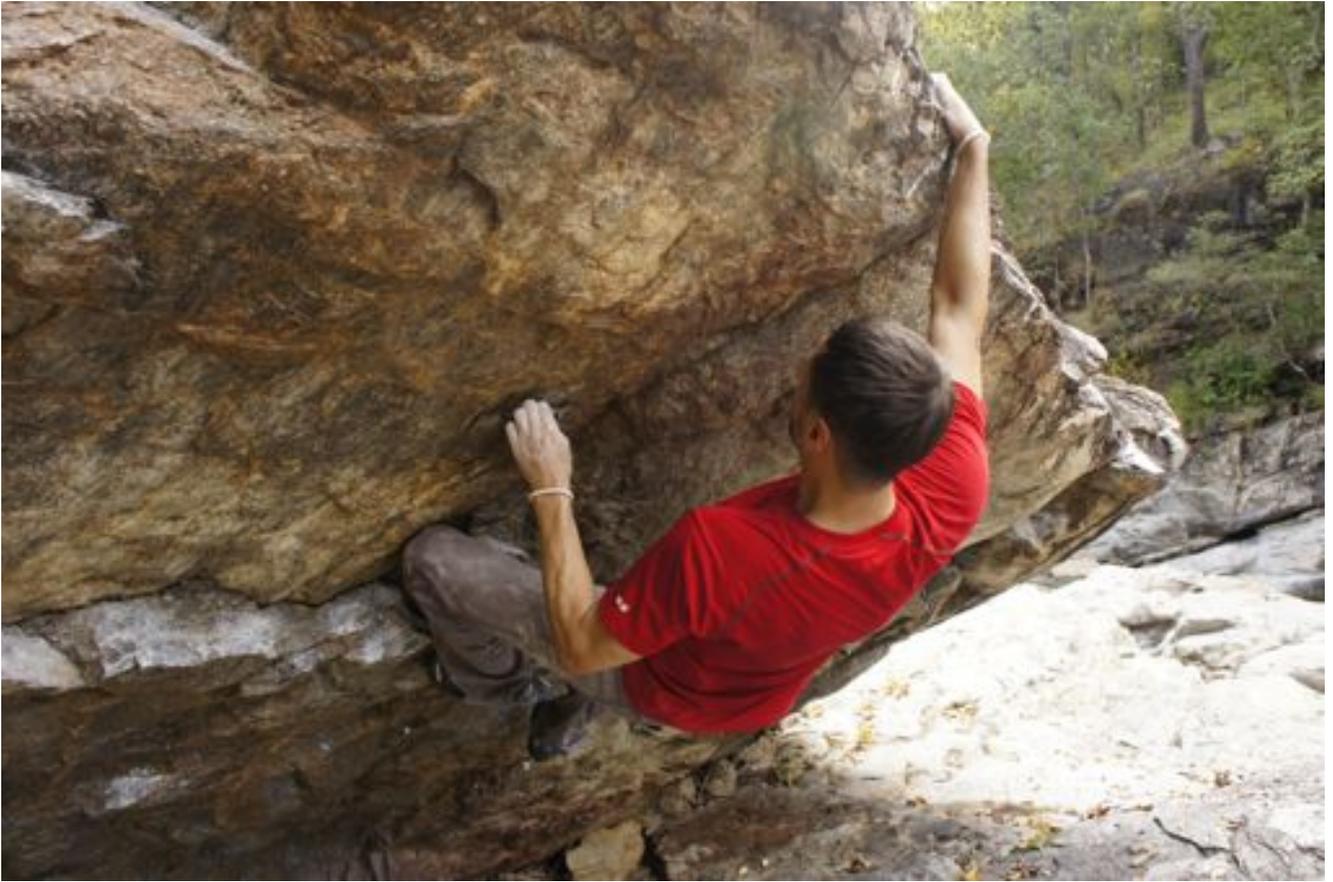


I climbed three great lines on the overhanging face of the Rak Na boulder.

1 - Starting on obvious sit start holds on the left-ish side. Move up and left to huge slopey rail. Move left out to sloper, and straight up the arete. **V3-5 Super fun, really nice holds**

2 - Same starting holds. Up to huge slopey rail. Move straight up to left incut crimp. Then straight up to slopers on the lip and obvious finish. **V3-5 Really nice moves and holds**

3 - Start on right side on the lowest point of the lip. Traverse the the lip left on crimps and slopers to the top on the arete left.





Across the river I saw some stuff. But everything is short, and I found myself thinking "If I could just scale this up...".

This one was across from the Rak Na area.



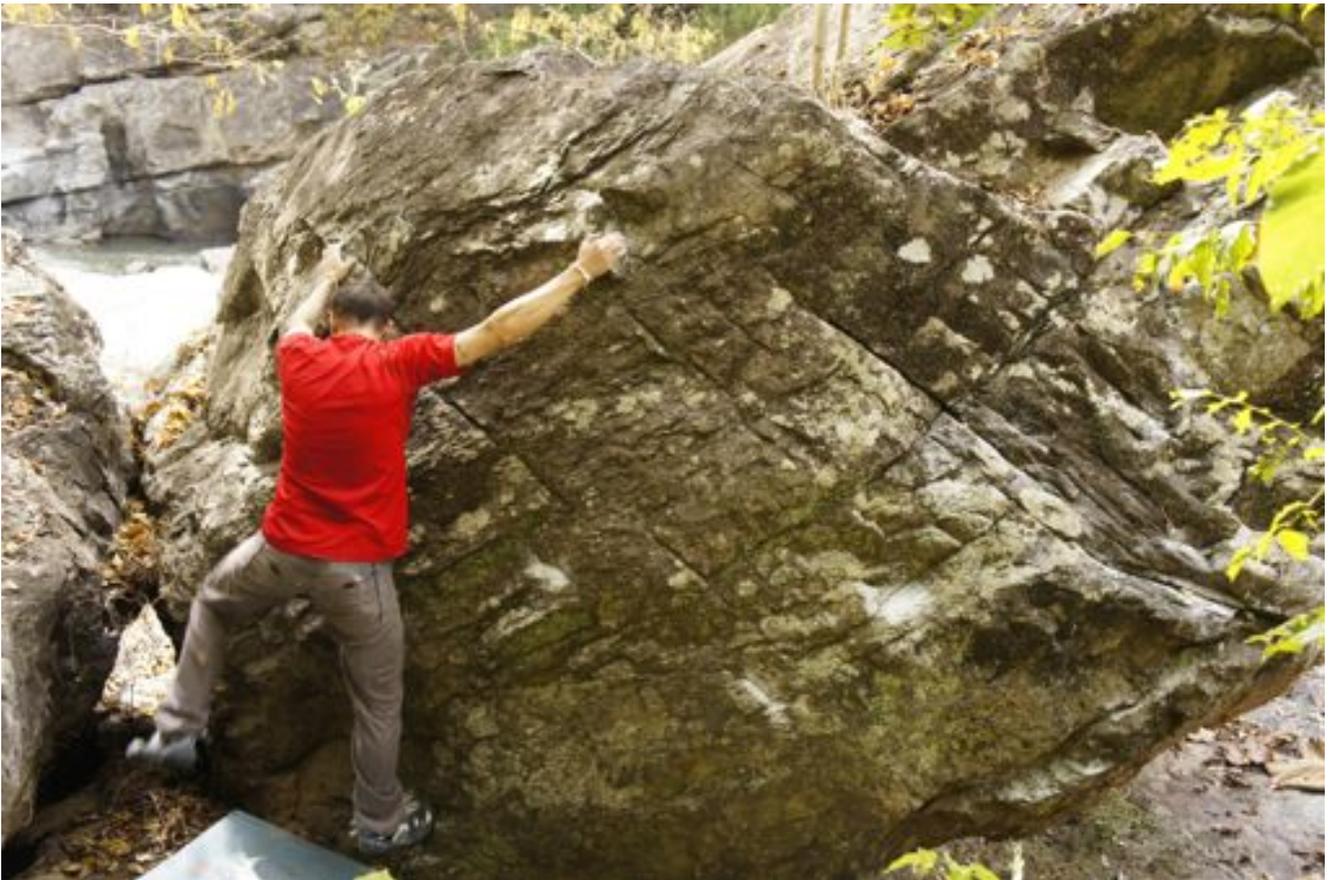
And this somewhere but I forgot. It looked like excellent rock quality.



Another random, dirty, little lowball.



Nice, tiny warm ups...



I hope the next time I get a chance to explore further up the trail and pray for gems at the crest of every knoll. I also hope to find that elusive area in the photo.