

Climbing gym reviews 2

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Abstract

Climbing gym advisor is a collection of systematically organized climbing gym info and reviews. It should help climbers to identify an appropriate climbing gym for their level of climbing/preferences. Based on the predefined categories (characteristics of the climbing wall and routesetting, gym facilities, training area, food, etc), one can easily filter out gyms with facilities of interest (MoonBoard, weightlifting area, etc.).

In addition, climbers can vote an individual gym for good route-setting, good vibe, good training area, etc.

C4C team has been collecting info about climbing gyms since 2018.

Methodology

I created two google forms to gather all necessary info for C4C gym reviews. One form corresponds to hard-core facts, and is sent and fulfilled by gym owners. Other questionnaire is fulfilled by customers, and is focused on gym recommendations by customers.

FORM 1 (INTRODUCTION) :

1. Climbers-for-climbers gym reviews form is a questionnaire developed and reviewed by climbers to collect info about bouldering/lead climbing gyms.

I worked with routesetters, pro-climbers, beginners, once-a-week indoor boulderers, and climbers with families to develop the most detailed review form for climbing/bouldering gyms.

2. Climbers-for-climbers gym reviews form was sent to the bouldering/climbing gyms around the World.

Since you are reading this, you are either an owner or member of staff of one of the gyms. Thus, please, fulfill this form diligently.

3. Questions in this form supplement info reported on the official climbing gym websites with commonly missing info:

How big is the gym?

How many routes are set in the gym?

Is the gym overcrowded on Tue and Thr evenings?

Is it possible to buy nice T-shirts, other clothing?

Do they have a female routesetter?

Is there a car park?

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4. Questions are uniform for each climbing/bouldering gym, and categorized as follows:

1. Facts about the gym (website, location, boulder/lead/top-rope climbing gym, gym profitability, etc);
2. Characteristics of the climbing wall (size of the gym, area of the wall, wall diversity, characteristics of climbing holds);
3. Climbing-related facts about the gym (IFSC Certified Route and Speed Timers available, top-rope and auto-belay devices available, dedicated training/stretching/rest areas available);
4. Characteristics of the gym facilities (restaurant, cafe-bar, car park, rentals, etc);
5. Characteristics of the route-setting (all holds on the wall, number of routes/boulders, route-setting style: traditional vs competition style, intensity, complexity, risk, frequency of route-setting);
6. Characteristics of the training area (moon board, 45-degree wall, campus board, Weightlifting area/kettlebells available, etc);
7. Gym & kids
8. Food & drinks (availability and diversity of food/beer/coffee in the gym)
9. Interesting facts about gym (when was it founded, fun facts, etc)

Why is this form important?

1. Collected information will be publically available on the climbersforclimbers.com web-site (in progress), since

one part of this web-site is focused on providing uniform gym reviews.

2. C4C reviews will help climbers to visit the gym that fits their needs.

Since info about all climbing gyms will be hosted on one place: climbersforclimbers.com, it will enable climbers to easily prioritize gym they wish to visit. Climbers will be able to do a search across different climbing gym descriptive categories to identify gym that fits their level of climbing and/or preferences. In Berlin, for example, you can visit more than 10 climbing gyms: Where should 8B climbers go? Where should 5A climbers go? Which one is the biggest? Which one has the best routes? Which one has the best training area?

3. C4C reviews (or more likely the list of the gyms) should help climbers to locate closest climbing gym (when the weather gets bad)

Aside from the commercial climbing gyms, an “underground”^{*} and home climbing gyms should be included in the C4C gym reviews, as well. The location and contact of these gyms is usually hard to google, thus C4C web-site should be a place where to search for such info.

^{*}An underground climbing/bouldering gym fulfills some/all of the following conditions:

1. harder to get in compared to the commercial gym, e.g. one needs to know or contact local climbers
2. working hours of the underground climbing gym are not precisely defined, e.g. one needs to know or contact local climbers.

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Motivation for gym reviews (advisor)

I enjoyed travelling, climbing, and meeting other climbers so much that I always tried to maximize my time spent among climbers. I would always visit at least one climbing gym in every city I visited so far, regardless of how little time I had had. After more than 30 climbing gyms visited across the Europe, I got an idea to start writing climbing gym reviews.

Until now, I visited more than 60 climbing gyms across the Europe, and I have been writing their reviews, with a small addition, my personal story associated with each of the gym :-).

As my idea developed, I decided to write systematic reviews of all climbing gyms, and stories for gyms I visited so far. A short visit to local climbing gym has been the most convenient way for me to do some climbing, and at the same time, to get to know the local community of climbers. A community from which I typically sample my friends. I realized that only when I met climbers (e.g. my extended family), I could make comparisons between different cultures, and I could break my own prejudices against other people & societies. Using this approach, I met so many extraordinary people; I broke my own prejudices against the shyness of the Finns, Scottish people confused me, I felt like home in Ireland, and I got a huge amount of positive energy and support from Germans when I was injured. In addition, British climbers supported me when a Slovenian climber betrayed our historical the same-country-same-nation bonds; French climbers surprised me by spontaneously giving me a free entry to their gym in Paris; Italian climbers in Bari confirmed that an underground climbing scene is still in existence, and I am originally #climblikeagirl from #iloveCroatia.