

Barranco de las Penitas Bouldering - Fuerteventura



The Climbing

An extensive bouldering area situated around the two prominent rocky peaks forming the Barranco de las Penitas. The rock here, a type of granite (monzonite) forms quality problems with many of the boulders having large scooped features and arêtes. It is these unique features that make the boulders in this area special and well worth a visit. There is a wide variety of problems ranging from lowball traverses to striking highballs throughout the grade range. There are over 100 problems currently documented here but many more exist in sectors spread around the area to be discovered although the information surrounding these is limited.

There are four main areas documented here spread over the peaks, this is by no means a definitive representation of all the bouldering. It covers many of the obvious problems and makes a good start to showing what is on offer, but with a little exploration you will easily find more problems and boulders. There is enough here for 4 days worth of climbing but with some exploration of the area there would be easily enough to sustain a week's trip.

In addition to the bouldering circuits there are also numerous bolted sports routes on the slabs and some of the larger boulders of the Arch and Ravine areas. Some of the best and more popular routes have new bolts but many are in need of re-equipping.

The best time to visit is from November to February for the coolest conditions. During warmer months local climbers often resort to night sessions for better conditions.

Please be aware the area is both a nature reserve and historically significant site so behave responsibly. Whilst climbing is permitted, it goes without saying leave the area as you found it, removing any litter, tick marks and excessive chalking.

Approach

Around 1km west of Pajara leave the FV-605 and follow FV-621 towards Ajuy. After just over 3km take a right (FV-627) and follow this for just over 1km to where the tarmac stops at a fork. Take the short steep RH fork and after 500m you will reach a large parking area in the dry river bed. The sectors covered here are all easily reached with short walks from the parking.

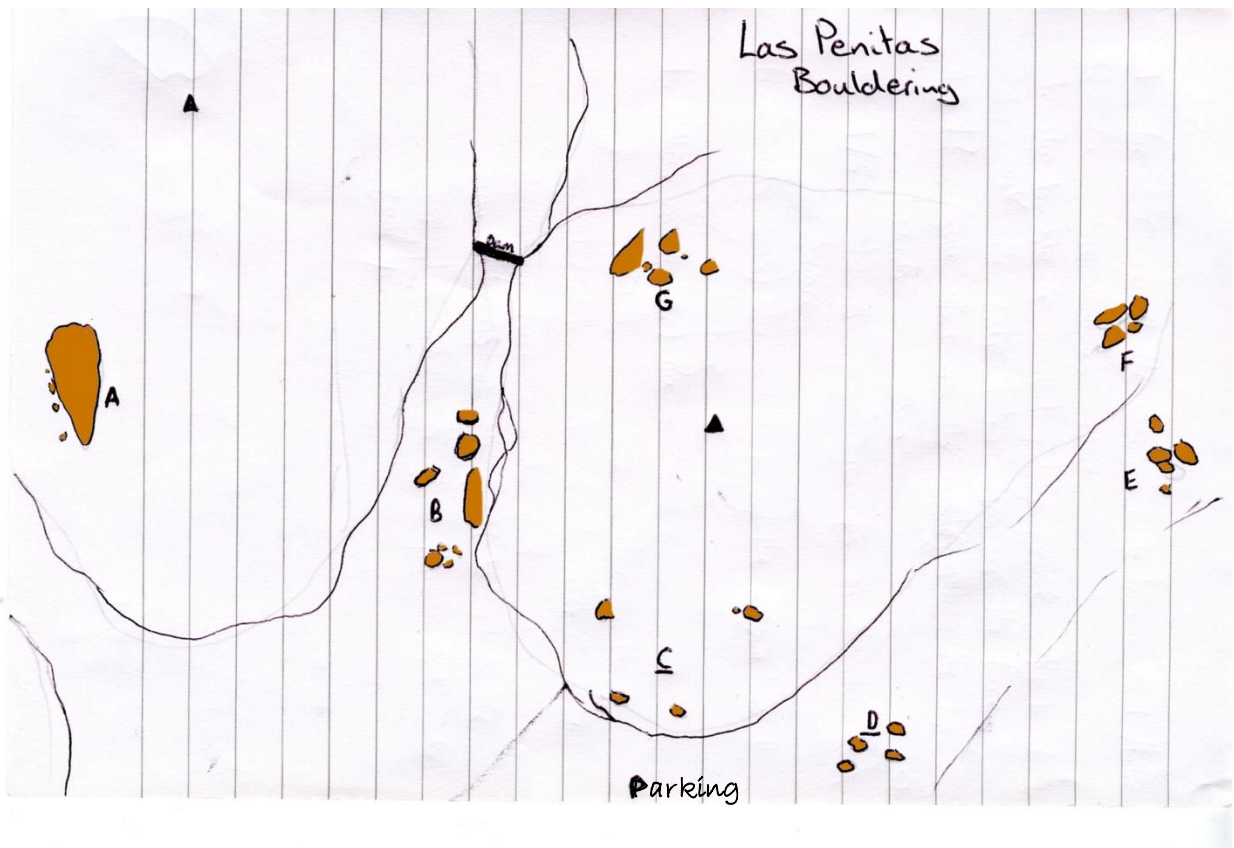
Credits

Producing this information was made possible by:

Greg Chapman with his very good topo for the Ravine and Valley areas.

Local activist Josafat Espino Lopez who developed many of the problems in the area and shared some information with us during our visit. (Check out his pages on Youtube for many of the problems)

Overview of Sectors



Sectors

A. Arch Sector

B. Ravine Sector

C. Parking Sector

D. Valley Sector

E. Upper Valley

F. Upper Hillside

G. Hueco Tanks

Grade Explanation

font 7a – Where a problem has been climbed and given a definite grade.

font 7b **Estimated Grade** - An obvious problem has been tried or looked at in detail.

font 7c **Grade Unknown** - An obvious problem seen and grade guessed.

font ? – A problem that exists but little is known.

Arch Sector

A compact area with a good spread of problems centred around the totally unique 10 metre arch.

From the parking head towards the ravine but follow the tourist path left between the enclosures (signed 'Sendero de la Penitas'). Follow this to a hairpin right but continue straight on towards a small building and walls. For the first boulders follow the small valley up towards the obvious large buttress. Alternatively for the main boulders continue up the faint ridgeline to the left and head underneath and round the back of the large buttress. Around 20-25 minutes from the car.



Boulder a – A long low rounded block with a few short overhanging ups and strenuous looking traverse.



Boulder b – A small balanced boulder with a couple of arete problems

Boulder c - Subsuelo Infinito 7b **Estimated Grade**. An attractive looking wall above a slopy landing which would require good padding and spotting. SDS in an obvious break, moving up and right on edges.

Boulders d – A couple of boulders with potential for some good 6's



The striking arch that gives the sector its name

Main Boulders

1. Portugalia font 6a *

SDS. From good holds at the lefthand end of the shelf and follow this leftwards. Can be finish at good flakes or continued along the lip at similar grade.

2. Esencia font 7a ** (Photo)

SDS. From holds in the back of the cave reach out to and follow the sloping shelf leftwards.

P'a font 4+ *

From good holds on the lip pull round into the scoop, finish easily up the slab. A cunning hands off photo opportunity can be found.

3. Exodo font 7b+ **

SDS. From obvious lefthand sidepull, climb the overhanging wall on slopey shelves to a jump to the lip.

4. Cupula del Terror font 7b+ ***

Grade Unknown. Left side of the large scoop

5. Psikagogia font 7c+ * (Photo)**

Grade Unknown. R arete of the large scoop. Looks hard and quality.

6. Control your mind font 7a+ *

Estimated Grade. SDS. From the base of the scoop climb rightwards up the smooth sidewall to a sloping topout.

7. Fortune Favours the Brave font 7b+ * (Photo)**

The attractive overhanging scoop to a 'psicológico' finish

P8 font 7b *

Grade Unknown. Hard looking right to left line on slopey holds.

P9 font 6b+

Estimated Grade. Prow to a tricky looking finish

P10 font 7c

Grade Unknown. Striking prow. Looks good and potentially hard.

P11 font 5

Using a LH mono, rock up left into a polished scoop.

P12 font 5

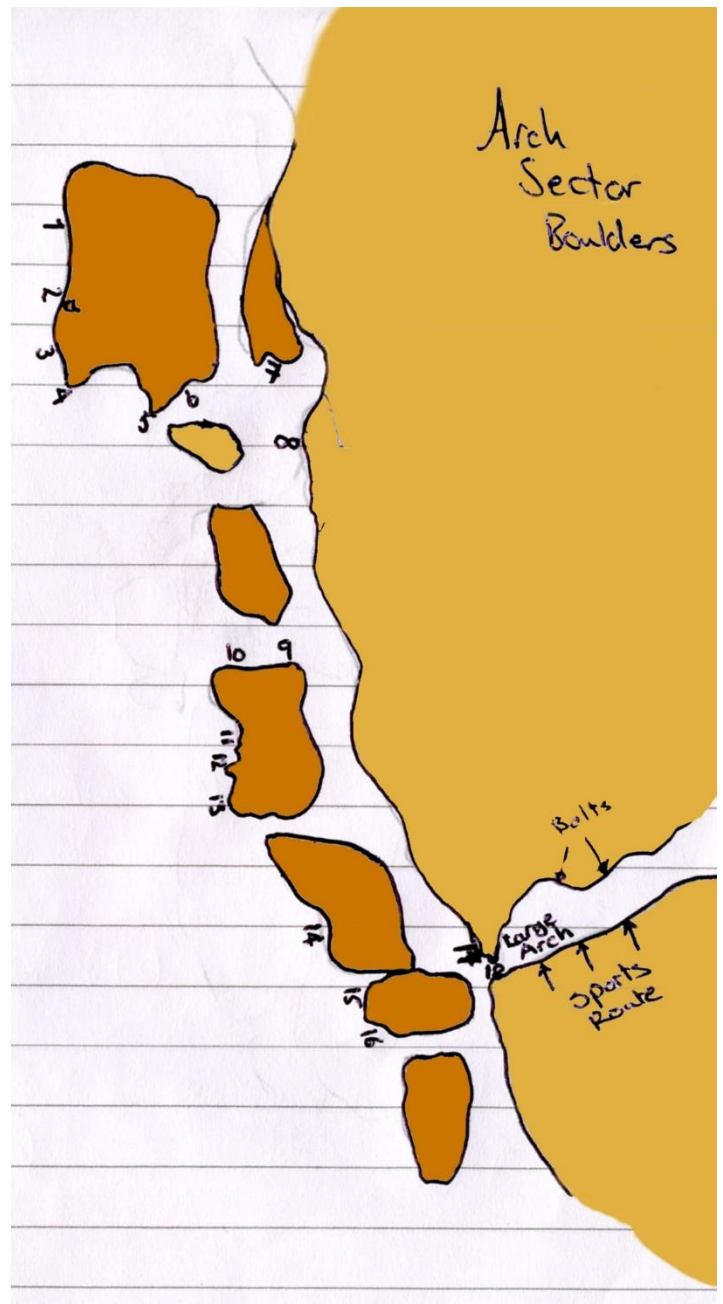
Rock up right into the polished scoop.

P13 font 5+ ** (Photo)

SDS. Layback the edge of the scoop on superb holds above a narrow landing. Good.

14. El Romo es tu Amigo font 7a *

Grade Unknown. SDS. Hard looking moves on slopers.

**P15 font 6c**

Grade Unknown. SDS. Short overhanging wall.

P16 font 6c

Grade Unknown. SDS. Short overhanging arete/prow.

P17 font 5+ ** (Photo)

(HVS 5a) Left side of the large pillar forming the arch.

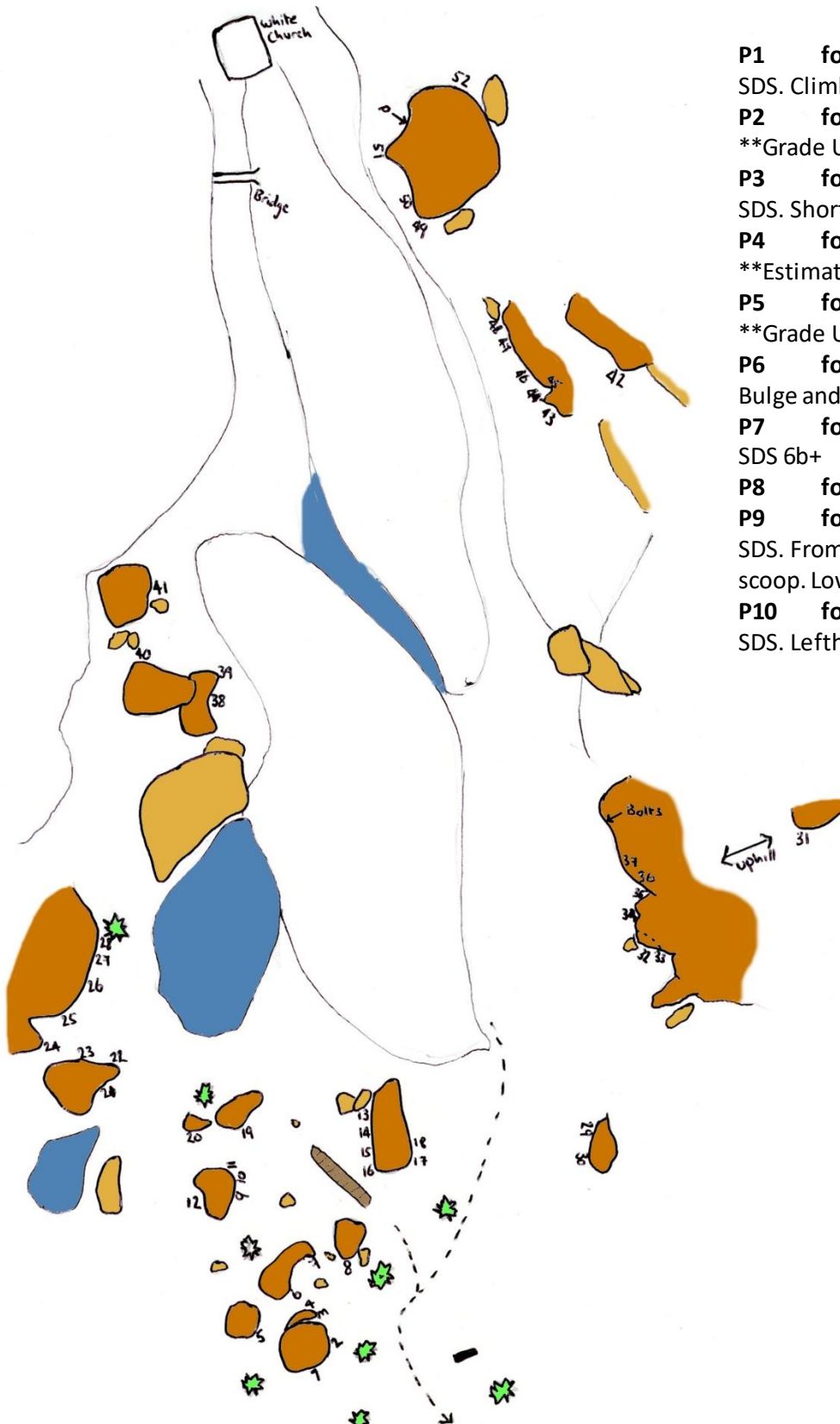
P18 font 6b *

Estimated Grade. High wall up the front face of the pillar.

Ravine Sector

This is the main area with the highest concentration of quality problems, also the best of the sports routes which are found on the wall near the bridge and the large slabs on the opposite side.

Follow the obvious path from the parking passing a big sign towards a concentration of palm trees at the base of the ravine where the first boulders are found.



P1 font 5 ** (Photo)

SDS. Climb the featured wall.

P2 font 5+

Grade Unknown

P3 font 6a *

SDS. Short arete split off from main boulder.

P4 font 6b+

Estimated Grade

P5 font 5

Grade Unknown

P6 font 6b

Bulge and scoop. SDS is 7a

P7 font 6b

SDS 6b+

P8 font ?

P9 font 6b *

SDS. From the start of 10 move left in to polished scoop. Low but good.

P10 font 6a *

SDS. Lefthand side of arete.

Ravine Boulders

P11 font 5+

Starting on left of arete finish round right.

P12 font ?**P13 font 7b ***

****Estimated Grade****. SDS Down to the left then up right

P14 font 7a *

SDS. At the back on undercuts

P15 font 6a+ *

Straight up. Hard start

P16 font 6b+

SDS. From down to the right

P17 font ?**P18 font ?****P19 font 6a ***

SDS. Rising lip traverse

P20 font ?**P21 font 5**

Scoop wall then out right on a line of edges.

P22 font ?

Slab

P23 font ?

Slab

P24 font 4+

****Estimated Grade****. Low L to R slopey lip traverse

P25 font 4+

****Estimated Grade****. Low R to L slopey lip traverse

P26 font 6c *

****Estimated Grade****. Classy L to R break traverse

P27 font 7b

****Grade Unknown****. Highball wall.

P28 font ?**P29 font 6b**

****Grade Unknown****. SDS. Short roof. Jugs from low

P30 font 6c

****Grade Unknown****. SDS crimps and up

31. La Trave del Nativo font 7b *

****Grade Unknown****. SDS. R-L rising lip traverse

P32 font 7a

****Grade Unknown****. Right side of the roof.

33. El Eterno Viajera font 7b * (Photo)**

Quality roof. From the right climb back through the large huecos finish on the left of the scoop.

P34 font 6c

Right wall of the corner.

35. El Escupitajo de Aquiles font 7c

****Grade Unknown****. Hard line coming from low on the left with glued holds

P36 font 7a

****Grade Unknown****. SDS. Left wall of the corner using the right edge of the scoop

P37 font 7a+ *

****Grade Unknown**** SDS. From the left side of the scoop move up and left to a good hold on the lip before continuing up the slab. High and serious but looks good.

P38 font 6c+

****Estimated Grade****. Slopers in the scoop moving right then up.

39. Only the Penitas Man may Pass font 7a+ **
Superb Prow. Low start on pocket and sloper.

P40 font 7a *

****Grade Unknown****. High undercut arete. Another good looking line.

P41 font 6a **

****Estimated Grade****. (E2 5b) The big scooped boulder with a less than ideal landing.

42. Fuerte Temblete font 7a *

****Estimated Grade****. Blunt high rib from large undercut flake.

P43 font 6b

SDS. Short wall via a LH pinch and RH pocket

P44 font 6a

SDS. Left arete of the scoop.

P45 font 6c

SDS. Corner crack.

46. Tigre y Dragon font 7a+ * (Photo)

SDS. From undercuts press left to sidepulls and up. Quality

P47 font 5

Straight up via good flake

P48 font 5+ *

SDS on left move right through scoops to join P45

49. Punta del Berrugo font 7b ** (Photo)

SDS. Prow/Arete on the right of the scoop

50. Ser-Gay font 6b * (Photo)**

The middle of the scooped wall. Can be climbed facing out for added fun.

51. Punta de la Rasca font 7c * (Photo)**

Big arete with a tough finish above a stepped landing. Quality.

P. Project**52. Paper Dreams font 8b *****

SDS on low shelf, moving up and left on pockets and slopers. Quality.

52a. Paper Dreams Stand font 7c+ **

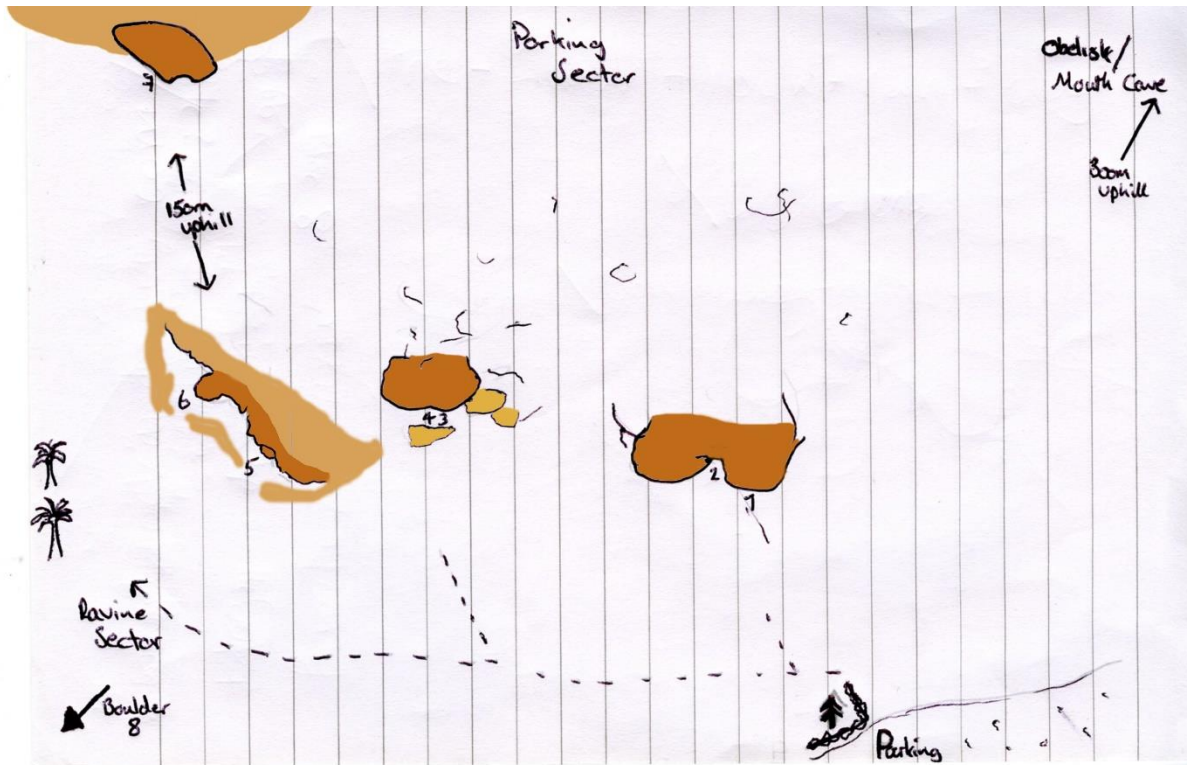
Stand start at the hueco on the left.

Parking Sector

A small area of individual boulders on the hillside just above the parking.

Boulders can be seen just above the path to the ravine and are approached separately. For boulder 8 follow the approach for the Arch sector, 50m after the sign is a low boulder with a white painted rectangle on the top right corner.

Higher on the hillside above the parking is the **Mouth Cave and Obelisk boulder**. The cave has a collection of good grade 7's and the obelisk boulder just to the left reportedly has a very good 6.



P1 font 6c *

Centre of the obvious slab from a glued flake

P2 font 6a

The obvious corner

3. The Bubble font 6c ** (Photo)

SDS. From the large undercut pocket in the left hand side of the cave. Follow edges up the face

P4 font 7b+ *

Estimated Grade SDS. From the start of 'The Bubble', follow the lip leftward on slopers.

5. Easy warm ups on terrace

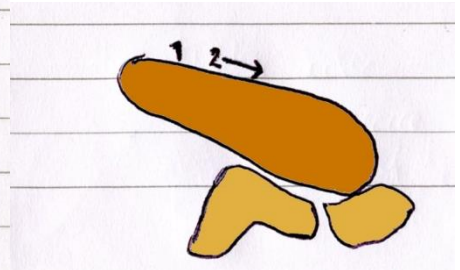
6. Pico Loros font 6b+ **

Clamp up the unique hooked feature. (Name means Parrots Beak)

7. Espolón Norte font 8a ***

Further up the hillside is a large boulder with a distinctive circular hole on its front and an overhanging face on its left.

SDS. From the porthole climb the steep face via a glued hold. Quality



Parking Sector Boulder 8

B8-P1 font 6b

From slopers on the lip mantle onto the slab using edges

B8-P2 font 7c

****Estimated Grade**.** The full lip traverse finishing round the nose.

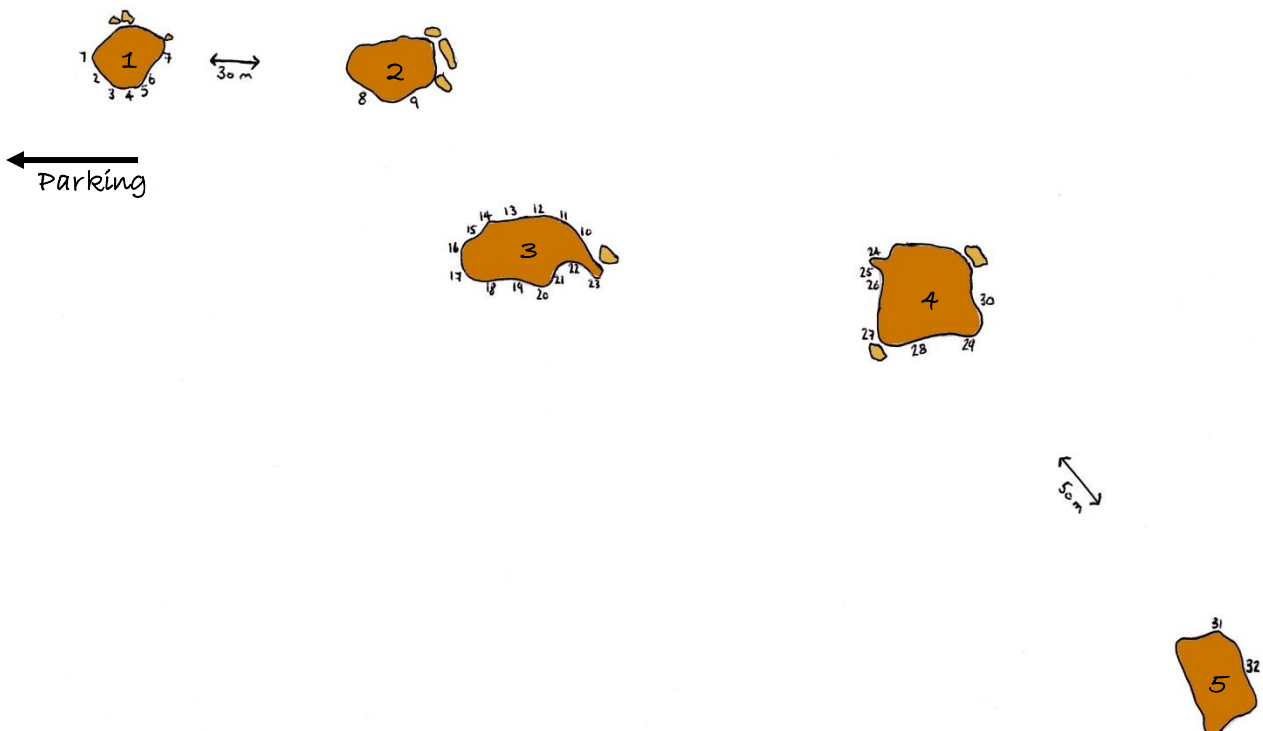
B8-P2a font 7a

Short version of P2 finishing using the jug on the slab.

Valley Sector

An area of 5 blocks in the river bed, blocks 3 and 4 are very good.

From the parking walk right up the dry river bed to the obvious blocks 250m away.



Valley Sector

Block 1

P1 font 7a

SDS. End prow swinging right

P2 font 6c

****Estimated Grade****. Contrived groove from low

P3 font 6a+

Diagonal rib from low

P4 font 6a

Wall without R arete

P5 font 5

Arete on L

P6 font 4+

Right of arete

P7 font 4

Big hold and up

Block 2

P8 font 6b

****Estimated Grade****. SDS. Traverse right then up

P9 font 5

Straight up

Block 3

P10 font 5+

SDS.

P11 font 5+

SDS.

P12 font 6c+

SDS. From slot up right to a pair of crimps then direct on slopers

P13 font 6b+

Start low

P14 font 6c

SDS

P15 font 7c

****Estimated Grade****. Slight scoop from two pathetic holds

P16 font 7a

SDS

P17 font 6c+

****Estimated Grade****. Arete on left

P18 font 4

Slabby wall

P19 font 4+

Slabby wall

P20 font 6b **

SDS. Arete on left

P21 font 6a ** (Photo)

Left side of scoop. 6a+ from SDS

22. Salida del Vuelo Binter 2am font 7a **

From the boss in scoop two methods exist. Dyno straight to the lip or move up and right on slopey edges.

P23 font 7a *

SDS. Two edges then straight up

Block 4

P24 font 4+ ** (Photo)

Big thread and up. font 5 from SDS in scoops down and right

P25 font 6c+

SDS. Start down right. No left arete

P26 font 6b+ ** (Photo)

SDS. From either right or direct. Big move to finish. Quality.

P27 font 6b

Start on pocket, move to lip. SDS is 7c+

P28 font 6c

****Estimated Grade****. SDS

P29 font 5+

Blunt arete

P30 font 5

SDS. From boss between scoops and up arete above

Block 5

P31 font 6b

****Grade Unknown****. Good looking high arête.

P32 font 5+ *

****Estimated Grade****. Good looking slab on edges.

Other Areas

We haven't visited these area but were told by the locals that they are worth checking out for some quality problems.

Upper Valley

Continue 15 mins past the Valley boulders where more blocks can be found.

Upper Hillside

On the slopes above the 'Upper Valley' area are more boulders with good rock.

Hueco Tanks

Limited information for this area situated high on the peak above the ravine .

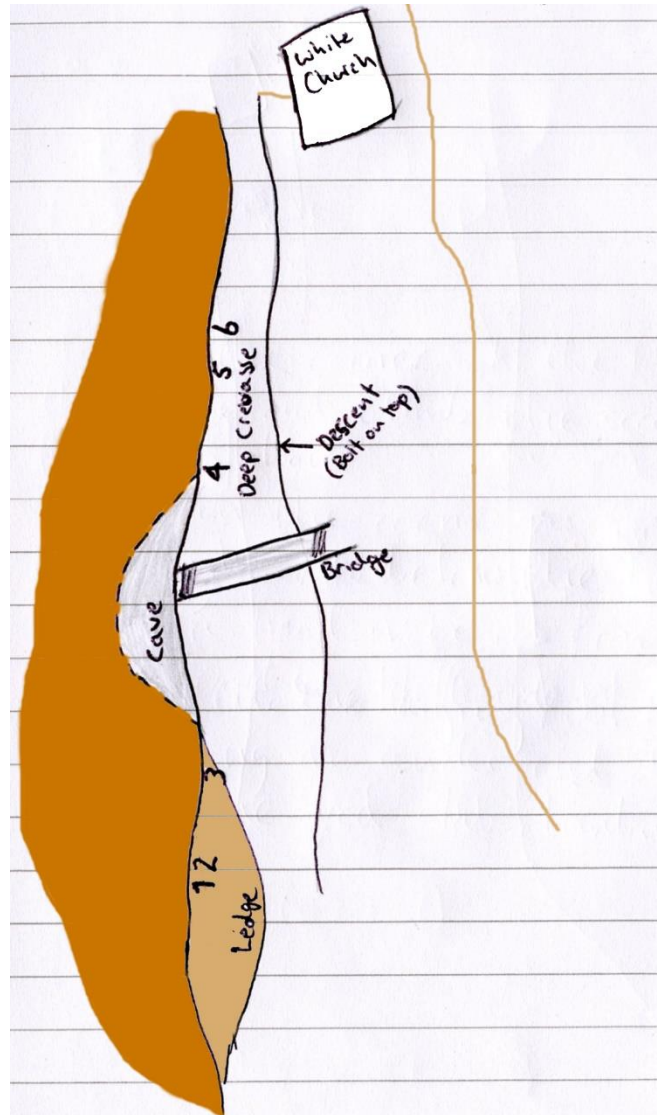
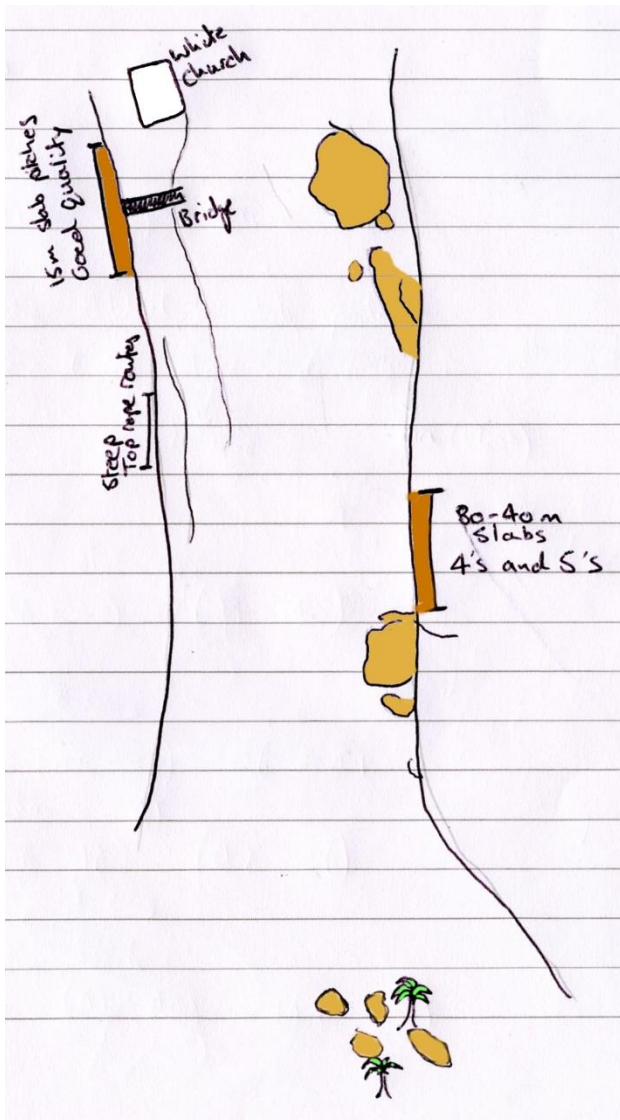
Mirador las Penitas

An outlying area found below and left of the Mirador las Penitas. Good lines to be found here. Park at the mirador.



Looking down the ravine

Ravine Sector Sports Routes

**Route 1** **4c** ******

Start in the corner at the left of the ledge and climb the scoops and features above.

Route 2 **5b** *****

Start in the corner as for the previous route, then move right below the bulge. Make a hard move up from a good deep pocket to finish on the scooped slab.

Route 3 **5c** ******

Start at the left side of the cave at the overhanging rib. Pass the bulge using an undercut to finish with some good slab climbing.

Route 4 **7b+** *****

****Grade Unknown****. Starts start in crevasse. A line of mechanical bolts that takes the lower overhanging wall with hard moves to turn the overhang by the bridge at the obvious slot. Finish up the closely bolted blank slab.

Route 5 **6b** ******

Starts start in crevasse. The left-hand line of glue in bolts. Steep leaning wall to start, pass the overhang using undercuts to move right on the rounded flake and finish up the groove.

Route 6 **6c** *****

Starts start in crevasse. The line of glue in bolts 1.5m right. The lower wall and overhang and similar to route 5, but harder and more sustained."



Arch Sector: *Prob 17*



Arch Sector: Below *Prob 5. Psikagogia*



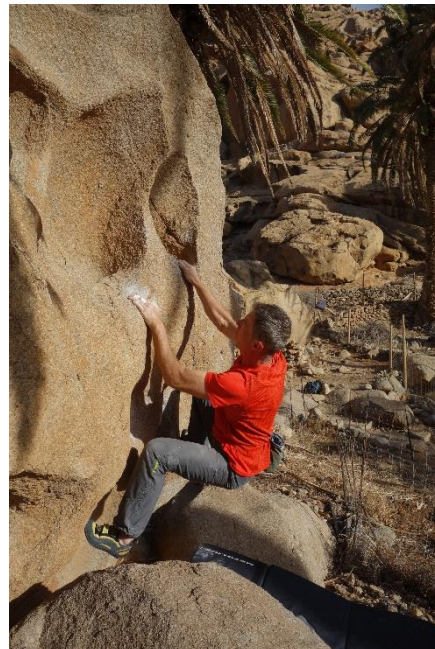
Arch Sector: *Prob 7. Fortune Favours the Brave*



Arch Sector: *Prob 2. Esencia*



Arch Sector: *Prob 13*



Ravine Sector: *Prob 1*



Ravine Sector: *Prob 33. El Eterno Viajera*



Ravine Sector: *Prob 46. Tigre y Dragon*



Ravine Sector: *Prob 49. Punta del Berrugo*



Ravine Sector: *Prob 50. Ser-Gay*



Ravine Sector: *Prob 51. Punta de la Rasca*



Parking Sector: *Prob 3. The Bubble*



Valley Sector: *Prob 24 SDS*



Valley Sector: *Prob 21*



Valley Sector: *Prob 26*



The Barranco de las Penitas
Driving in on the FV-627

A video of some of the problems: <https://vimeo.com/248116872>