# Fax07 - COSTA BLANCA UPDATE

Version 3 - 21 March 2000

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AGUJAS ROJAS by Karen Yeow
BLUE TEXT - Further information at the end of document
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**♦ RED TEXT -** Additions since Version 2 update on 15/12/99

? **GREEN TEXT** - This appears where we are short of information. Please amend copies and send back details like route lines and grades where you see the green question mark.



# **ACCESS PROBLEMS**

#### Page 24 - Gandia Access.

The land owners (of the area below the crag) have erected **No Entry/Private Property** signs on the approach to Gandia. It is not clear if this refers to the path through the orchard or the whole crag in general. The people who supplied this information managed to reach the crag using another path but please be aware that there may be a problem developing here. • I have since heard that the old path is still functioning.

#### Page 57 - Olta Access.

A new sign has been added which effectively bans access to the track up to the crag. The track has also deteriorated dramatically and is now very hard going. Effectively you now need to park at the station and walk up to the crag which is a bloody long way - 45 minutes or so.

#### Page 77 - Mascarat Parking.

Construction work is taking place all over Pueblo Mascarat. Large kerbs have been laid on both sides of the road near the parking area by the bridge for the gorge routes making it impossible to get off the road (even in a hire car!). The alternative is to either continue along the parking place for the sea cliffs and walk back or, drive towards Pueblo Mascarat and bear right down a rough track towards the beach. Just before the beach double back to the right on to a track which can be followed back up the gorge to the road bridge (unless heavy rain is forecast!). NOTE: it looks like they could be building villas all over this area so get the routes done now while you can still reach them.

#### Page 116 - Sella Sector Wild Side Parking.

See the new topo on page 10.

#### Page 131 - Pena Rubia Approach.

A fancy gate has been constructed on the approach to this crag (at the point where the roads become wide on the map) which is closed for access. There is apparently a way around the gate to the left on a dirt track but how long this will be possible is uncertain

Thanks to the following who have all contributed to this information:

Johnny Adams, Karen Yeow, Kevin Davey, Steve Anthony, Neil Foster, Richard Sewards, Dave Douglas, Richard Fox, Ian Henderson, Dave Musgrove, Filpini Frank, Bridget and Jeremy?, Andreas Polster, John Zangwill, Chris Heald, Philippa Poland, John Smith, Chris Gore, Nick Easton, Paul Green, Lisa Curry, David Chadwick, Howard Jones, Guy Maddox, Stuart Greenall, Carl Dawson, Sebastian Schwertner, Sami Salonen, Stefan Ringmann, John Tombs, Craig Smith, Molly Heitz, Jane Grundy, Lewis Grundy, Andy Jones, Dave Ranby, Paul Brooks, Simon Brown, Nick Longland, Jon Read, Roger Everett, Steve Swygart, Alan Cameron-Duff, Simon Jinks, Andrew Roberts, Rick Kruze, Giles Stone, John Cardy, Iain Mann, Mark Bull, Chris Sims, Jon Pearson, Mandy Payne, Tim Seaborne, Bob Bennett, Rowland Edwards, Don Roscoe, Martin Crocker, John Harwood, Karen Beattie, Bill Pattison, Doug Reid, Martin Cooper, Steve Green. Sorry to anyone I have missed off.

# GENERAL CORRECTIONS

#### Page 25 - Gandia - Approach.

It is better to mention Albaida instead of Alimones on the approach turnings since there are more signs to Albiada.

#### Page 28 - Gandia - Sector Vici.

Route 3 - Gora ETA and Route 3 - Nina de Porcelana need switching however Nina still traverses left to the lower-off on Fissure Tal...

#### Page 29 - Gandia - Sector Fundicio.

Route 21 is only 6c+.

#### Page 30 - Gandia - Sector Final new topo. See page 5.

#### Page 32 - Gandia - Upper Section.

The line marked on the topo left of Route 9 is now a route. Grade unknown.

Route 9 - Cellas Cortos is probably 6b but it is also worth three stars.

New route - Route 16a is a worthwhile 6a.

Route 17 - Kamari is worth two stars.

#### Gandia - Sector La Cueva topo.

See page 6.

#### Page 34 - Salem - Approach.

The correct road from the Gandia ring road is the first turn off, not the second as it says in the text. The road number is CV60.

Also - the note about bolts being removed from Sector Estival is now incorrect since some have been added recently to the bold lower moves.

#### Page 37 - Salem - Sector Frigorific.

Several people have commented that if you come to Salem and just sample the routes on this sector then you will think this is a poor crag. The hot tip is to try the routes on Bon I Temps or Complicacions first despite the temptaion of Frigorific being so close to the car.

Hay No Billettes has its own lower-off slightly leftwards and over the top of the crag.

#### Page 39 - Salem - Sector Sol i Bon Temps.

The cave by Route 1 - Akelarre now has three new routes all with bright red bolts. They look good on steep tufas, probably all in the upper 7s.

\* Route 7 is worth high 6b.

Route 15 has a hard start but is easy above - only worth 6c.

Route 16 is probably worth 7b and has a desperate third clip.

\* Route 17 is hard for 6a+ and is only 1 star.

#### Page 45 - Aventador - Approach.

The approach description on this page is a bit of a mess. Use the Gandia approach and follow signs towards Albiada, on the CV610, off the ring road. Then pick up the description at "After 12km ...." The C322 has changed number to the CV612.

#### Page 47 - Aventador - Sector Caruso.

The routes just to the right of the cave are a bit stiff for their grades. This could be due to them being a bit steeper than the routes further right. There is also some confusion about lines here which may be caused by the word 'Astolfo' being painted on the rock underneath the wrong route according to the guidebook.

#### Page 49 - Sector Navarro.

Route 52 - Pase Millions is poor and probably harder than 6b.

#### Page 51 - Jalón Valley - Alcalali.

There is a long new line well to the left of the main craq which is probably around 6a+. Route 2 is an excellent sustained route with a fingery finish - low 7b+. Route 4 is probably 7b if you climb straight up the tufa. A good 7a+ variation follows the wall on the right of the mid-height tufa.

#### Page 52 - Jalón Valley - Lliber - Left.

You can now drive all the way to the olive grove. There is a new pipeline which will hopefully have put and end to the random floods down the water channel. Route 6 - Agarrate como Puedas is a 7a dyno but is probably impossible for shorties. This move is also used to start Route 5.

#### Page 53 - Jalón Valley - Lliber - Right.

Route 5 - La Bella is worth 7b and probably even harder for shorties.

#### Page 55 - L'Ocaive.

There is an un-named pleasent, fully bolted chimney/groove immediately left of Route 6, Aluncia con la esquina. - 4+.

#### Page 58 - Olta.

#### **♦** SEE ACCESS PROBLEM ON PAGE 1.

There are four new routes at this craq. Tao is the crack left of Wings of Freedom - grade unknown but not that hard.

Mulan is the wall left of Tai Chi - fingery 7a+. Das Buch der Sringe is left of Turron - grade 4 but possibly harder (6a) if you go too far left. Breakthrough is right of Christmas Dreams - 4 Some of these grade 4s at Olta are thought to be a bit stiff by many climbers.

In Winter the sun goes off this crag in the early afternoon.

#### Page 60 - Penon South Face Comment.

Several people have pointed out that the estimated time of four hour for an ascent is a bit optimistic. Allow 6 hours for most parties especially on UBSA and Valencianos.

#### Page 61 - Penon North Face Access.

There is a notice at the environment centre which prohibits climbing on the north and north-west walls during April, May and June. This affects routes 1 to 3 on page 61. It is not clear if the May-September ban given in the guide is still correct.

#### Page 61 - Penon North Face.

The route Pany has suffered a major rock-fall which has left a lot of loose rubble on it. A massive area of rock has fallen from the right of the corner of pitch 4 scattering debris, earth and torn up bushes over all of the easy angle section below. The section covered in rubbish is dangerous and unpleasent and the described pitch 4 looks very unsafe. Instead of traversing left on pitch 3 into the remains of the corner, climb straight up the pleasant wall at the start of the traverse to rejoin the route where it comes back right, just after the stance at the top of pitch 4. This wall is about Spanish grade 4+/5 and reasonably well protected with nuts.

#### Page 63 - Penon South Face - Valencianos.

I have received enough comments to make me think that this route is a bit undergraded in the Rockfax. Chris Craggs probably has it about right with pitch grades as follows - 3, 3, 5+, 4, 4, 4 then two easy climb-out pitches.

To reduce stone fall risk you may want to take the following option for the first two pitches:

- 1) 35m. Climb first rightwards and then back left to a slab. Belay on the left on bolts. (ie. out of the way of stonefall in the corner).
- 2) 40m. Move up left past bushes to gain a ledge running back right above the slab. Then easily up into an earthy corner and ledge. Bolt belay on left wall.
- 3) Climb the blocky corner.....etc.

#### Page 63 - Penon South Face - New Route.s

Full descriptions for two big routes including a topo for the amazing New Dimensions - page 8.

#### Page 65 - Gomez Cano.

This route is a big mountain route and if you attempt it don't expect clean rock and perfect bolts. Also take a lot of water with you and allow a more than four hours unless you are a super-fast team. A few additional points to mention:

- 1) the more accurate grades are given with the text rather than in the route title although the last pitch is probably worth 6a+.
- 2) the 7b/A1 pitch is a bolt ladder not a one-move quick pull hence a sling for an foot stirrup is useful.
- 3) the 'small bay' on pitch 4 has been described as a "sloping shale beach" by one ascensionist, with lots of loose rock.
- 4) Belay above the chimney on pitch 8 to reduce rope-drag.

#### Page 65 - Diedro UBSA.

Some find pitch 4 the crux of the whole route so maybe at least 5+ is warranted.

The abseil on pitch 8 is nearer 8m than 20m but also note that you need to swing some distance to the left (looking in) to reach the twin bolt belay.

#### Page 69 - Toix Este.

Route 11 - Winter is 35m long so take care when lowering off.

Route 13 is called Spolli and is marked by red

Route 29 is only 7c and involves some slate-like slab climbing.

#### Page 70 - Toix Oeste.

Route 1 - Amarilla has had its bolts chopped on pitch 2.

#### Page 71 - Toix Oeste.

Route 11 - The Blue Route actually goes leftwards through the top bulge in a good podition. Route 13 (to the right of Dire Straits) is a good fully bolted grade 4, 3+. Pitch 2 might be 4+ if you follow it to the upper double bolts and don't lower-off the single. Both pitches are 30m. Make 2 abseils to descend.

There is a route between Routes 16 and 17. Renov 5- is painted on the rock. Pitch 1 is up a broken groove. Pitch 2 is up the slab above, traversing to lower-off bolts on 13. The grade is more like 4. 4+.

Route 19 has its own lower-off.

See also new routes on Toix TV Lower - page 7.

#### COSTA BLANCA - Corrections continued...

Page 72 - Toix West - Lower. See page 7 for a topo

Page 75 - Toix TV - Lower Wall and First Wall See page 7 for many new routes.

#### Page 78 - Toix Sea Cliffs - Candelabra....

Roland's Magical Mystery Tour is possibly a bit easier than 5 but you may need to add a bit for the situation. The belay at the end of pitch 2 has been moved down so the description for pitch 3 should be - "Move right and climb a rib..." instead of left. Pitches are about 10m, 15m, 30m. There are ENP placements on the belays at the end of pitches 1 and 2. These require a Rock 2 or similar.

◆ Candelabra del Sol can be climbed in one long pitch. It is a superb route but the most amazing thing is that it is in fact 7b+ and not 8a as claimed.

#### Page 79 - Toix Sea Cliffs.

There is a bolted line up the line of the 50m abseil. Slabby start steepening to a hard crux move, with a fair amount of rope-drag, to reach the abseil ledge. *El Dorado 1.5* is almost certainly closer to the real line of *El Dorado 2*. The following combination gives the best pitches.

- **1) 6a** Follow the dots of *Route 9* to belay in the crack (between the two belays marked).
- 2) 6b Climb the crack and amazingly featured wall above to a sloping ledge with a bolt belay way back up left. Take lots of slings for the threads on pitch 2. The line out right is an escape pitch with a fair amount of loose rock and hardly any fixed gear.

#### Page 80 - Via UPSA.

In general the route is easy to follow as long as you look out for the bolts-without-hangers. A full rack is definitely needed to back up some of the belays. 2 to 3 stars is correct for an alpine-style route, but considering there's no reliable gear left, it might be tough going for beginners.

Here is an improved description.

- 1) 3 40m. Follow the easiest line up the pillar to belays under steeper rock.
- **2) 4 35m.** Follow the cracked rib above the belay to where the ridge levels out
- **3) 2 35m.** Scramble easily up the ridge to grassy terrace. Walk along terrace to peg belay at foot of upper wall, below and L of a groove.
- **4) 4+ 40m.** Climb up and right to the foot of the groove, and climb it for 2-3m before pulling round onto the right edge (bolt). Follow a line of cracks up the wall to threads (poss belay), and traverse right to peg and thread belay.

- **5) 5+ 35m.** Climb the polished groove (old pegs, one new bolt) and continue in the same line to belay (threads, old bolt).
- **6) 4+ 30m.** Climb the wall above and left of the belay, then trend rightwards (pegs optional bolt belay down and right) to the arete. Go round the arete and traverse right to exposed stance.
- **7) 4 35m.** Continue traversing right to a groove climb this and slabs above to the top.
- ♣ Descent for Via UPSA If you continue to the top there are two more excellent easy pitches, a super scramble and a lovely ridge walk across the top. To descend you have to traverse the whole ridge until you reach a villa building site, descend through this then traverse back across the mountain to the normal descent gully. Instead of going down the normal descent gully, keep to the south of it and follow the bounding ridge and scramble down the hillside to join the road by the first tunnel entrance on the approach from Altea.

#### Page 82 - Mascarat.

Terminar has been re-bolted (for the first 3 pitches at least) and you don't need a rack for these. You can descend down the back of the hill through the tunnel from this point.

Gede is now fully bolted apart from the easy last pitch (take a few wires) and is very worthwhile. Pitches 2 and 3 are longer and better than suggested in the guide and pitch 4 is the crux pitch at probably 6a "an overhanging soapy flake" although it can be easily aided if necessary.

#### + Page 83 - Mascarat.

Aurora pitch 4 is probably worth 6a. The optional finish (shared with *Montesinos*) is loose and above the road.

#### Page 87 - Altea.

Route 6 - Green, is harder possibly 6b+.

\* Route 7 - Yellow, is only 5+.

The approach to this crag is now fully tarmaced. Apartments are now being built opposite the crag. You will struggle to lower-off routes 6 to 10 with a 60m rope so please take great care. Abseil if in doubt.

#### Page 88 - Altea Col.

Route 5 - Entre dos tierras is more like 7a or 7b for the hideous start.

Route 6 - Walking on the Milkyway is 6c for the start. 6a+ above.

Route 7 - Salva Mea is still a project. Apologies to Jens Muenchberg for describing it as a route. It will be harder than 7c.

#### Page 91 - Echo Placa.

General comments. The crag is in a superb location but the routes are big trad routes so expect loose rock, long approach thrashes and tricky descents.

Clearer Approach Description - From junction 65 on the A7 (by the Mammoth supermarket) take the Callosa - Polop road northwards. In the centre of Polop turn leftwards towards Guadalest. Follow this uphill for 4.5km (500m after the 4km milepost) and turn left onto a dirt track. Follow this track for 3.8km (this can be done in a car if it hasn't rained recently) to a white building where the track starts to descend. There is a chained off track on the right; park here if you are still in your car. Walk up this for 1.5km until you are below the wall. Route Notes. Large Friends needed for pitch 5 of *Luna Sombre*.

Here are some comments on *The Forth Addition* "The rock is worrying, the climbing is poor and the approach and finishing sections are awful. It is also unbalanced, with the crux pitch being much harder than graded. Definitely one to miss, we'd have been better off going for a walk". - Roger Everett

#### Page 94 - Puig Campana Approach.

The road into Finestrat is for residents only. Instead follow the main road around the village and then turn right before turning left into the road for Font de Moli. This by-pass road isn't marked on the map on page 94 but it is the obvious way and also the way you drive towards Sella.

#### Page 95 - Espolon Central - Descent.

The descent route from Espolon Central is now rigged with wire cable, via ferrata fashion, on some (but not all) of the harder and more exposed moves

Improved description for *Espolon Central - Direct Start*? I don't quite follow this description so if anyone can supply a better one then please do. One thing is clear and that is that it joins the normal route after 3 pitches and not 5 as in the book.

1) 3 35m. Start to the left of the flat oval area of rock. Climb a ramp up left.

- **2) 4+ 35m.** Climb left across the groove and up the arete to a ledge.
- **3) 4 25m.** Move up and right to join the original route at a big ledge coming from the left.

Improved description for The Edwards Finish

- 1) Scramble onto the tower in front of the main face.
- 2) 4 25m. Climb over the tower until a second, one comes into view and go around that on the left to the col between the main face and the towers.
- 3) 4+ 25m. Climb up the slab on the main face moving right to a flatish plateau at its top. After scampering up the plateau for 15m
- **4) 4+ 25m.** Directly climb the wall to the top, trending leftwards slightly at the top to reach a tree. The rib leads to the top.

#### Another alternative finish:

From the finish of *Espolon Central*, scramble up to a narrow ridge with massive drops on the south side. Follow the ridge (exposed in places) to about 10m in front of a large tower in front of the main face. Easier variations are usually available on the north side of the ridge to this point.

#### The Fewell Finish

- 1) **50m.** Climb across the ridge to the tower then skirt it on the left (north) into a gully, climb to gully to the col.
- 2) 30m. Stand on top of the boulders on the col and climb rightwards across a steep slab to a vegetated ledge. Now climb the rib on the left of the vegetation and on the right of the blank face. This leads to a good ledge with a solid thread at its centre.
- **3) 35m.** Climb up into a depression above the right hand side of the ledge then traverse rightwards to a point below a flake crack. Climb straight up via the flake crack to a good ledge with a solid thread just above head height.
- 4) 50m. Escape from the right-hand side of the ledge, when faced with a choice of going right or left go left and scramble up to the area of trees. Descent Continue over the top (ignore a cairn down to the right (seaward side)). Then scramble down into the square-cut col which is the distinctive feature of this mountain's profile. The path from here is vaque, there are some small

cairns occasionally which help. From the northern end of the col scramble down steeply to the right (towards the sea). All being well you will find an abseil anchor at the top of a via ferrata. One 25m abseil is required. Now contour round to the north and drop down a gully to the main descent gully. Boots or hard soled crag approach shoes strongly recommended for the descent of this horrible scree gully.

#### COSTA BLANCA - Corrections continued...

#### Page 98 - Aguja Encantada - El Diamante.

The alternative 7a start to *El Diamante* is sparsely bolted - gear is needed. The normal first pitch is about 50m rather than 30m, and it is best to split it to avoid drag. It is also poor and vegetated.

#### Page 105 - Sella - Culo de Rino - Right.

There are two new routes between Route 2 - Los Refugiados and Route 3 - Via del Indio.
Left Diestra Siniestra - 5 and right Y Golpe de Porrazo - 5. Diestra Siniestra starts where Los Refugiados is marked on the topo and is hard for 5.

#### Page 107 - Sella - Techo del Rino.

New first pitch to *Cardo Borriquero* up the crack between routes 8 and 10. One report of 6a and another of 6b, let's call it 6a+.

**NOTE** you can't reach the ground from the top of *Cardi Borriquero* on a 60m rope.

New route right of *Route 13 - No Me Bajes*: *El Torronet -* 6a, worth 2 stars.

#### Page 108 - Sella - Sector Marion.

See page 8 for a redraw.

#### Page 109 - Sella - Sector Competition.

See page 9 for a redraw.

#### Page 110 - Sella - Sector Oja de Orda.

See page 9 for a redraw.

#### Page 112 and 113 - Sella - Pared de Rosalia.

There has been some activity up here even since the new topo in Edition 2 so prepare to be a bit confused. Only brief details are known.

There is a new route/start right of *Route 6*.

Routes 10/11 have an upper pitch.

The lone line through holes between *Route 12* and 13 is now bolted and looks excellent.

Route 14 must be the longest pitch around since it virtually reaches the top of the crag in one.

Route 17a is a good 7a up the wall left of the groove.

Route 18 has a very hard move on it (harder than a 7b+ on Sector Techo according to my source). Route 18a is a good 6c+.

♣ Route 23 - Mujer Lamprea is a superb, fully bolted mega route which is worth adding to your tick list.

#### Page 116 - Sella - Sector Wild Side.

See page 11 for a redraw.

#### Page 117 - Sella - Outlying.

Just before the Second Edition went to the printers someone who had climbed these routes told me that they were very hard and sharp and not worth three stars.

#### Page 118 - Top approach to the Divino.

Someone has said that all the distances quoted in the approach description should be 0.4km less. It may be that the 2 people who measured it for me started at points 400m apart. ie. If there is no dirt track at 4km, turn right at 4.4km.

#### Page 119 - Sella - El Elephante.

This impressive crag is worth a visit if you lead 6c or above. The routes are curiously geared so take a rack with you. Once on them, they give can superb and intricate climbing.

The Naked Edge can be done on one 60m rope and gives an immaculate sustained pitch. Once at the top belay, pull your rope through, drop an end and pull up another rope to abseil off on. This is better than splitting it since the belay is poor and the second section is more than 30m anyway. Split *Gran Fisura* at the (in-place) half-height belay since it is at least 60m.

Route 8 - Project is a good 7a+ wall climb to the first lower-off.

Route 5 - Edwards Wall, is only 7b to the first lower-off.

Route 2 - Scorpion is better split at what is described as the mini lower-off, and not at the higher stance.

#### Page 121 - The Divino - Sector Pertemba.

I have had several comments about this route, few of them complimentary.

"Pitch 2 is good, the rest is choss".

The belay after P3 is reputedly very dangerous with much loose rock perched above it. One person has commented that you can abseil down *Espolón Pertemba* but you need 2 long ropes and some tape to leave behind on some of the stances. Another person has commented that there are no pinnacles or flakes on pitch 4. Their alternative description is "press on up the slabs, slightly leftwards".

#### Page 121 - Techo Placa.

The start of *Voyages* is unstable and 6c+. Wires are required for start of the route *Techo Placa*.

#### Page 126 - Alcoy

Route 3 is worth a star and 6a.

Route 4 is worth 6a+.

Route 5 is worth a star and 6a+.

Routes 7 and 8 may well have been de-bolted or never have been there in the first place.

Route 12 is probably worth 6a+.

Route 13 is very hard - 7b at least!

Route 17 is also very hard (7b or more) and there is no photo any more.

Routes 31 to 35 hace high first bolts.

#### Page 129 - Reconco Approach

It may be possible now to approach the crag via the second track.

#### Page 130 - Reconco.

The extra routes mentioned on page 130 are well worth seeking out. They are on a small buttress down and right from the main face at Reconco (? more accurate approach details needed). The wall is well sheltered which is useful if you are getting blown off Reconco.

There are six routes:

1) 7a, 2) 6b+, 3) 6b+/6c, 4) 6b+, 5) 6a+, 6) 6a+

#### Crag Near Reconco - Agjuas Rojas

Full details on page 11.

#### \* Page 136 - Cabreras - Approach.

Both sets of traffic lights you encounter in Sax, after leaving the motorway, are now roundabouts. The junction for Sax in the description is the first junction on the motorway.

#### Alternative approach avoiding the town

At first roundabout (marked as traffic lights in the guide) turn right. Continue along passing below the Fort up on left. Take the next left (signed El Plano). Follow this road for approx 400m then turn right onto narrow lane (again signed El Plano). From here, continue along a narrow road past the white house ... as in the book.

#### Page 138 - Cabreras - Penas Del Rev.

There is a new top pitch between the upper lines 10 and 11 at 6a.

#### Page 145 - Salinas - Approach.

As described for Cabreras, both sets of traffic lights in Sax are now roundabouts. You need to turn left at the first - the sign to Salinas is not obvious - and drive straight on at the second.

#### Page 146 - Salinas - Sector Final.

Route 10 - Donde Dices que Vas is probably more like 6a+.

#### Page 147 - Salinas - Sector La Higuera.

Route 4 - Babieca is soft touch at 7b+, more like 7b.

#### Page 149 - Salinas - Sector Picara Viborita Left.

◆ Route 6 - Ponsela is worth 6a and should be climbed direct up the scoop.

Amonite doesn't have a hard start and is probably only 5+, it is Ali Baba ... (route 12) which has a hard start - possibly 6b.

# + Page 150 - Salinas - Sector Picara Viborita Right.

Route 25 has a new lower-off up and left but the original finish is still the best.

#### Page 156 - Forada - Sector Super Heroes.

Route 1 left of *Tundra* is an immense and endless route of 8-something difficulty.

The bolt left of *Batman* now has a route, grade unknown.

Clipping the 4th bolt on *Batman* is a bit of a challenge.

Route - 5 has now been climbed at a dodgy-sounding 8a+. It is brilliant of course.

There is a silly created route/project up the bulging right-hand side of the through cave on the left of Sector Electiones.

#### Page 157 - Forada - Sector Elecciones.

Route 6 - Abstencíon is only 6b+ and Route 7 - La Fuerza del Parabol is only 6a+.

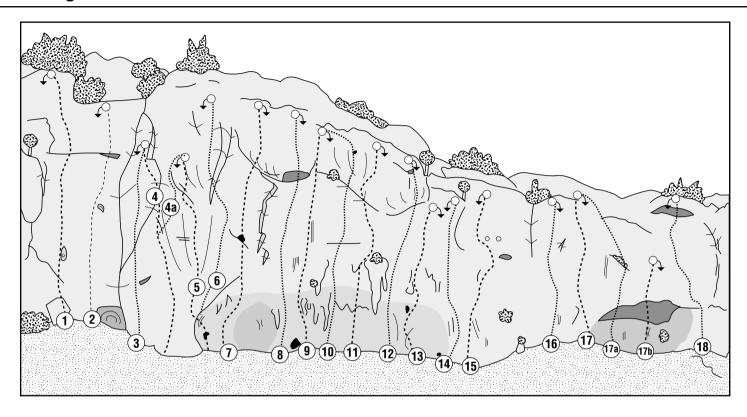
#### Page 161 - Forada - South Face.

DO NOT USE THE THROUGH TUNNEL TO ACCESS THE SOUTH FACE, WALK AROUND THE BOTTOM.

This is an excellent crag and is very much worth considering even if you don't climb that hard since several people have reported having good days while climbing exclusively on the sunny south face. The only consideration here is that it isn't too hot. The views from the crag are wonderful.

# Page 161 - Forada - South Face - Sector Petorri and Descote

See page 11 for a redraw.



#### **GANDIA SECTOR FINAL**

There are a few confusing anomalies on this sector which have hopefully now been cleared up with help from Carl Dawson. One of the problems seem to be in the route names which are different across the local topo, the Rockfax and Chris Craggs guide. I have stuck with the route names and numbers as per both editions of Fax07 but some of the lines have changed and there are three new routes.

The first route is up the left-hand side of a long narrow wall.

- Maqui Popeye y la Sirla . . . . . . . . 6b Start by a block.

   Donde Hostias . . . . . . . . . . . . . No Bolts It was a good 6c wall climb..

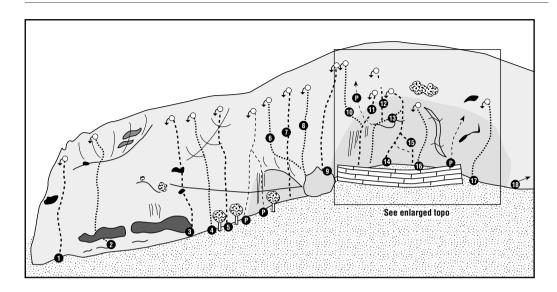
4. Tercer Left
4a. Tercer Right
5. Muluk el Tarqui
6. Sugar Glass
7. Botoia Sakatu
8. Enya
9. Un-named
10. "Twin Bolts"

FAT [

The main feature of this wall is the magnificent elephant's trunk

<b>15. Un-named</b>
16. Groceries
17. A Mano 6c+ Much pumpier than it looks. Possibly 7a.
17a. Un-named
17b. Un-named
<b>18. Un-named x 6c+</b> Very poor.

#### **GANDIA - SECTOR LA CUEVA**

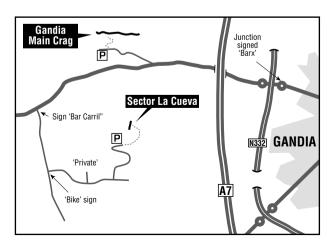


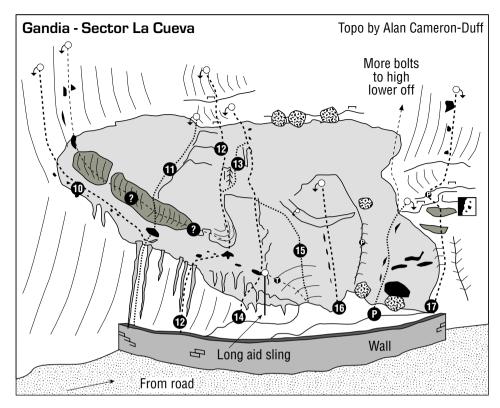
#### **SECTOR LA CUEVA**

This cave gives some superb hard routes which should make the Costa Blanca more attractive to climbers operating in the upper grades. The climbing is as impressive as that found at crags like Fraguel and Las Perchas in Mallorca, or Volx in France. It faces east and is well sheltered.

APPROACH - Drive to Gandía as described above. Continue past the turning for the crag for 900m then turn left (signed 'Bar Carril'). Drive on for another 900m and turn left again at a small bike sign. Drive down here for about 450m to the second turning on the left (which is a tarmac-ed road just past a green gate). Take this and drive to the end of the road. Park leaving room for cars to turn. Follow the path across a slope and back left to reach the crag (5 mins).

The first route is up a grey rib on the left-hand end of the crag.





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5
The next lines are three very impressive projects.
Start up the block to the right and traverse left, crossing the next oute.
7
3
)

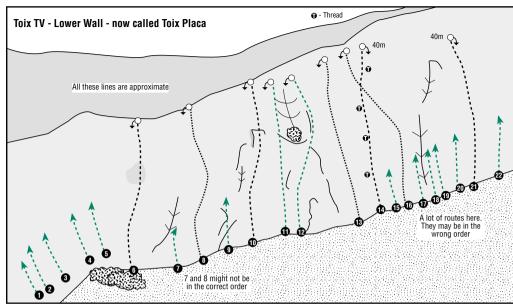
The main cave routes are so steep that they get hardly any sun. The routes are also very complex and the roof has several pocket lines which cross each other. All of these are bolted and most have been climbed but where the actual intended route lines are is unclear. The lines on the two topos here are as taken from the local topo however there are several lines of bolts which don't fit onto their topo. The cave itself is only of interest to people who lead 7c+ and above. Route 17, the 7a+, is easy to find.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18 (62)

Further right is a high bulge with yet another impressive project.

Scrappy route up grey slab right of cave.

# TOIX WEST and TV - New Routes - Pages 73 and 75



TOIX TV LOWER now TOIX PLACA (Page 75)

Jens Muenchberg has been busy here and has added a lot of new routes. A consequence of extending the routes down the hill towards Toix Oeste is that many people are now approaching it from below since it is almost a continuation of the routes on page 71. This is probably also a quicker approach. NOTE - the new bolts are good resin bolts but many only have single bolt lower-offs.

I haven't got many route lines for the above and would appreciate someone marking them on this topo (or better - drawing a new one) and sending it back. Also we have no star ratings please feel free to add them.

The routes have now been described from right to left.
1. Un-named
2. Un-named
3. Un-named
4. Mu Shu
5. Ghost in the Shell
6. Kalk Stall Videnhul 6b In guide - now bolted.
7. Coming back to Life
8. Thalia

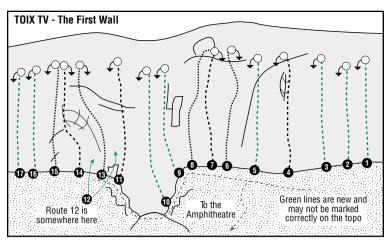
9. Un-named
<b>10. Pegasus</b>
11. Cicky Bugger 5+ There are two methods one to the right of the bolts.
12. Heaven Is
13. Johanna 5
14. Heti
15. 4 You 5+/6a
<b>16. Semi Dulce</b>
17. Steinbeisser 5+/6a
18. Fantasia
<b>19. For my son Jens 6b</b> An easy wall, then a big ledge, then a deceptive scoop.
20. Aladdin
21. Hafa
22. Hova

? Please help improve these updates by amending this page and returning a copy to ROCKFAX

#### TOIX TV - The First Wall (Page 73)

More new stuff up here. All the names are painted on the rock.

The route lines are approximate and some may not be in the correct order. Please feel free to redraw or amend.



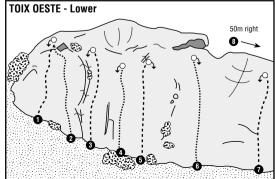
1. Universal	6a+
2. Gufelwufel	5
3. Seduction	5+/6a
<b>4. Banana Joe</b>	6a
5. Intressengem	5
6. Dear Renate	5+
7. Tropical Dreams	6a
<b>8. UB40</b>	5+
9. El Baile	5+
10. Clound No.9	6a/6a+
<b>11. Gaudi Max</b>	6b
<b>12. Follow me</b>	7a+
13. Salida	7a
14. ?	6c
<b>15. Terminator</b>	6c+
16. Daddycool	6a
17. Un-named	5

#### **TOIX OESTE - LOWER**

The routes on this short bit of rock, below Toix Oeste, have been re-bolted since the page was removed from the Second Edition of Fax07 so here is the topo again.

**APPROACH** - Walk down rightwards from below the main Toix

W	es	t	bυ	itt	re	SS														
1																				3
2																				4
3																				3
4																				3+
5																				4
6																				4+
<b>7</b> Ha																				5
<b>8</b> 50	m		 o t	:he	e r	ig	ht	is	· a	tı	ufa	1.					3	Ŷ.	}	6b-



#### PENON d'IFACH - Two New Routes

# 

This amazing route tackles the awe-inspiring right-hand side of the vast South Face of the Penon. After a desperate first pitch it relents somewhat before building to an incredible finale on the huge bulging headwall. The climbing is sustained and intimidating and the whole route is about English E6 to free but probably still E5 if you pull on a bolt or two on the first pitch. A recent report puts the route at E5 free. All the main pitches are bolted but the three easier pitches have only a few bits of fixed gear to show the line. The stance are mostly bolted with the same arrangement of three bolts. There are other belays so if yours hasn't got 3 good bolts, then you may be on the wrong line.

GEAR - It is advisable to take a rack for the three easy pitches and the last one since there is quite a lot of loose rock. Twin 50m ropes are a good idea in case you have to retreat but a single 60m will get you to the top since the pitches are fairly straight. Also worth taking are your prussik loops just in case you fall off pitches 8 or 9.

APPROACH - Walk to the end of the promenade and continue to the path below the huge quarried wall. Follow this back leftwards up the slope. When you are about half way up the slope to the main routes, double back right to a perched ledge, below a line of black bolts, up a gently leaning wall.

1) 7b (7a minimum to frig) 35m. A much harder pitch than it looks and worth every bit of its 7b grade. It is similar to the Main Wall routes at Gogarth, only harder and steeper than most of them, but with better protection. The crux is by the three close bolts, then comes a hands-off rest. Take a good break here since the upper section is incredibly draining to a non-rest on a big flake. One final hard move gains the stance. This last move can't be frigged very easily.

2) 7a 35m. Climb straight up the wide crack behind the stance and follow the line over two awkward bulges above. The line of bolts out to the left of the stance are an enjoyable alternative 6c pitch which gets a bit lost higher up by a thin slab. The first move of this alternative is very entertaining.

3) 6b+ 50m. A huge long pitch. The first moves are thin after that it plods upwards for miles. Take care or you will run out of clippers.

**4) 6c+ 40m.** The short wall above is hard and steep. At the top of this wall is a ledge below 20m of easy ground. Keep slightly right here until you reach a big ledge below the hanging seat.

**5) 5 20m.** Step right around the corner past a peg. Follow the loose groove and step right onto a belay above a pillar.

6) 5+ 30m. Teeter leftwards past a peg to a bolt. Continue into a bay then left to a thread. Squirm back up rightwards past a bolt to belly-flop onto a ledge.

7) 5+ 35m. Spy the solitary bolt way up right and meander up to this. The short rib is awkward and another belly-flop necessary to gain the next ledge. Walk right and pick your law off the ground after you have seen where the next pitch goes.

8) 6c 25m. Just try and enjoy the position as you tip-toe up the groove, then launch up the big holds to grab the blobs. Pray they don't break off and clip all four bolts at the belay. Take a deep breath and stare downwards for ten seconds.

9) 6c 40m. A stunning pitch in an awesome position, but only the second best pitch on this route. Follow the hanging groove above then tweak a few crimps (the smallest holds on the route?) when the rock and angle changes. Continue past a couple of ledges to a good stance.

10) - 40m. Scramble off rightwards past two grooves then double back left to reach the top.

#### Puto Paseo Ecologico

7a+
s some atmospheric and o

This fully-bolted, 7-pitch monster, has some atmospheric and occasionally intimidating climbing, along with a bit of dodgy rock along the way. Not as impressive as *New Dimensions* but certainly number 2 in the pecking order.

Start midway between *Costa Blanca* and *El Navigante*, below a line of new bolts to the right-hand side of the huge pillar.

1) 7a+. Climb easily into a crumbly cave. Pull out right and up a leaning, compact wall by far the hardest moves on the whole route. Easier off-vertical wall climbing to a belay.

2) 6c. Move on up the wall past a rock scar, then make a scary move leftwards onto a loose-looking flake - which is okay. Climb overlapped walls above to a belay.

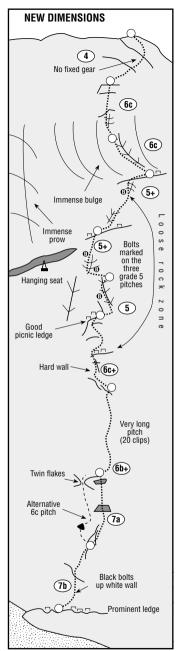
3) 6b. Climb a scary and loose bulge then follow easy ground to reach a big steep jamming/layback crack which is fully bolted.

4) 6c+. A technical and exposed hanging arete, in better brown rock, leads to a belay on big ledge on top of the pinnacle.

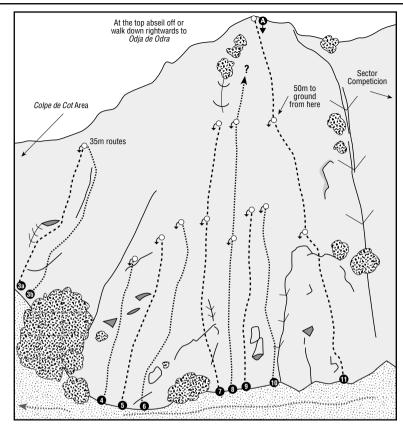
5) 5. Step down across the void to gain lovely, easy, smooth jamming cracks. A very pleasant respite.

6) 6c+. A brilliant, big overhanging pitch up the equivalent band of perfect rock which the amazing 'blobs' pitch on New Dimensions follows. Ever steeper moves up the big corner to a tricky capping roof. Completely out-there!

7) 7a? The enigma. Bolts lead leftwards across a compact, prickly wall towards a thread in a pocket. Don't follow the bolts, as there are no holds. Stretch left to clip the bolt out on the wall, and reverse back to base. Drop down and traverse underneath a perfect top-rope left to pockets in the leaning wall. Lever up these to the aforementioned thread, and follow the thin corner above, past the odd chipped slot, to easy ground and the top. There may also be a high level method on the traverse



## SELLA - Sector Marion - Page 108



#### **SECTOR MARION (Page 108)**

This sector has been badly drawn in both editions of Fax07. Above is an attempt at a better topo. The first three routes are just to the left of this new topo and are long overdue an upgrade.

1. Colp de Cot	<b>6</b> b
2. Hola Patricio	] 6a
3. Puntea que no Tienes	] 6b

There are two new routes on the wall to the right. Both are about 35m and have very high first bolts which means you can lower-off with a second rope and get to the ground before the knot reaches the first bolt. Take care whatever you do here

Touchios ti	no mot boit. Take t	are whatever yo	u uo noro.
	nnical wall with a p		<b>€</b> ☐ 6b

_			1 *11							
- 1)	own	tne	nıll	nast	tne	trees	are	some	more	routes

4. Bolt Tax
-------------

5. Deja Vu	. <b>後</b> □ 5
6. Cartujal	. 🄃 5+
7. Cul de Sac	
8. Prusik	
9. Anglopithecus	
10. Mr Pi	. 5+ if you stick to the hard-

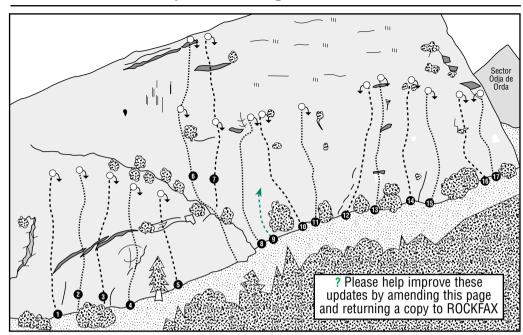
est line. Can escape right to the crack.

The classic prominent arete offers one of Sella's most celebrated climbs. The grades suggested for the various pitches seem to vary wildly from person to person.

1) 5+ 25m. Hard moves over a bulge then trend left to ledges.

**2) 4 20m.** Continue to another stance (50m to ground).

3) 4+ 20m. Follow a small groove to a tricky bulge. The bolts run out after 5m. It is possible to step left in *Anglopithicus* if you want, otherwise push on with wires, or abseil off.



#### **SECTOR COMPETICION (Page 109)**

This is one of the show-piece areas of Sella with many long slab climbs on perfect rock. There have been a few additions lately and I have re-drawn the topo.

The first routes are down and left of the main wall.

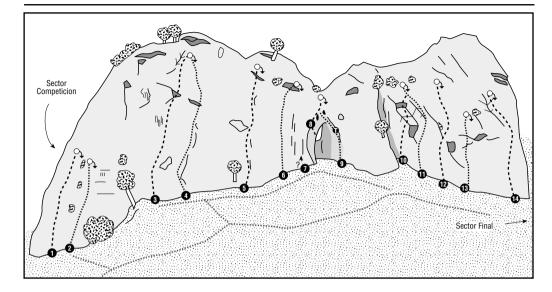
1. El Gran Coscorron 6a+
2. Nido de Piratas
3. Y Tú ¿Quién Eres?
<b>4. Desbloquéa que No 5+</b> Gets tricky near the top.
5. Perietera
The next two routes start from the big vegetated ramp and fir high on the wall above.

nish

6. The Wasp Factory					6a	, 7a
A good first picth (worthwhi	ile on	its	own)	and a	pumpy se	cond.

7. Ratito de Gloria		終∐	6a, 6c
A good first pitch worth (	doing on its ov	vn. The second	pitch has a
ery distinct crux move.			

8. Martxa d'Aci 6a Great rock and a superb route.
9. New 6b+ ? route line on the topo
10. Dingo Boingo 6c An excellent line which is nicely sustained.
11. Pedro Estas Inspirado 8a Not what you can to Spain for.
12. Sopa de Marsopa 6b+ A long and technical route which is sutained from the 5th bolt the way to the top.
13. Odio los Domingos 6c+ Past the white rock scar.
14. Technocratas del Alpinismo 😂 🔲 6c Technical climbing on side-pulls.
<b>15. El Vuelo de la Maquina 6a+/6</b> Some find this route hard, others find it okay - hence two grad
The right-hand end of the wall has 2 new routes both of which look to be in the ameanable grades.
16 New 6a?



#### SECTOR OJO DE ODRA (Page 110)

Around the corner and up the hill from Sector Competicion is a steep end wall leading to a shorter section with an amazing hole through it. Further right is another short wall which has seen some recent development.

The first two routes are just around the corner from Sector

1. Almorranas Salvajes				4+
2 Alí Rahá v los 40K				3+

Further right the wall is stepper but the rock is a bit dodgy and the bolts are well-spaced.

3. Kamikaze	/a+
4 Seventh Samurai	6c

Even more run-out.

5. Fisura con Finura .....

**6. Roberto Alcázar y Merlin** . . . . . . . . . . 6a+ A technical start followed by a long reach then some juggy moves to the top.

Further up the hill is the famous hole. If you scramble up the back of this hole you can get an amazing view of the Divino.

### is just left of the cave.

8. Odja de Odra ...... Start in the hole and swing out of the left-hand side (looking in) on sharp polished holes.

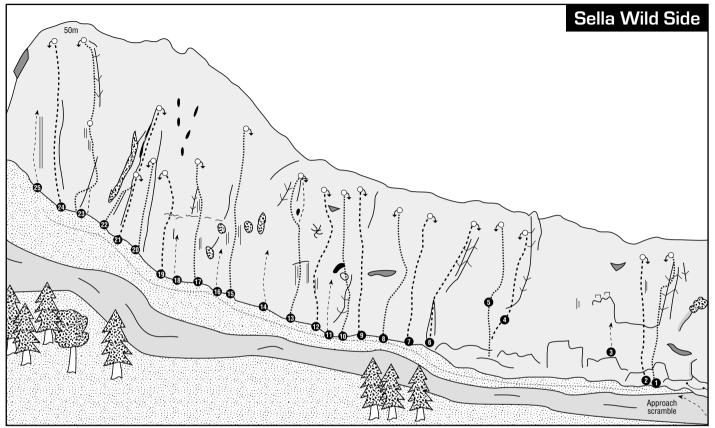
). Un-named												.₩		6c+
he line of nockets	ri	αŀ	١t	Λf	f tl	hρ	h	n۱	ρ 1	na	ct	a cline	1	

Right of the cave are five new routes. The grades in brackets are approximations and no star ratings are known yet but the routes aren't classics.

#### ? Grades Below

10.	Els Nucliere .				 $\Box$	(6b/c)
11.	Mel de Roma					6a
12.	Skid Row					6a
13.	Los Remeros					(6c/7a)
14.	Un-named					(6a/b)

SELLA - Sector Wild Side - Page 116 (NOTE - more additions since version 2 of this update)



#### SECTOR WILD SIDE

This large and impressive overhanging wall is one of the steepest crags in the area with some classic climbs up improbable tufas. If you climb 7b or above, this is the best crag at Sella, and one of the best in the Costa Blanca.

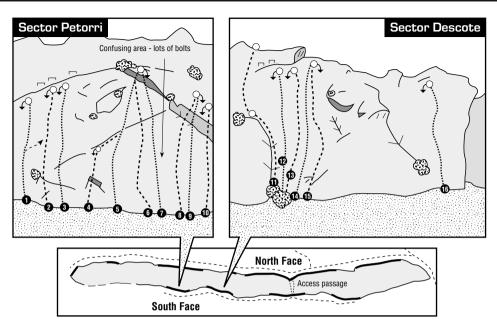
#### **APPROACH**

There is a new land owner who owns the house that overlooks the crag. You can no longer park as described in the guidebook. Parking is only permissible on the main track/road. There is a large 'No Entry' sign on the old track. The new owner is very pleasant and is happy for people to climb but he doesn't want people to park on the track. PLEASE RESPECT THIS NEW

Walk up the old track to a bend. Find an indistinct track through some woods and scramble up an area of loose rock. Traverse a section of rock and vegetation using a fixed rope to a ledge below the wall.

<b>徐</b> 参	Approach scramble
1. Si te Dicen que Caí	6. La ola de Millau
2. Todos los Caminos Conducen al Rom	7. El pito el sereno
There is then a 50m gap past some blocky, but climbable looking rock.  4. Celia	9. Dimension diamente 8a Another excellent route. Climb past a long sling to a slot. Finish up a left-facing corner. High in the grade.  10. Sweet ladie 8a+ Start just right of a corner ramp and climb up to the blank headwall. A strange start and a boulder problem finish.  11. Septembre 8b+ Tufas up to the roof and then over roof. Finish as for route 10.

12. La cratura 8b Interesting despite 3 glued-on stones. The second bolt is very high.
13. Nido Amoroso
14. Another line? ? Pocketed wall left of route 10. Bottom half looks okay. Top half difficult to see. This line may not exist.
15. Un-named 8b A stunning line up some vague tufas, all the way to the top. 8a+ to the first lower-off
<b>16. Un-named</b>
17. Ergometria 8a  A mini Lourdes (see El Chorro) with a hard start followed by pumpy moves up rounded tufas.
<b>18. Un-named</b> Project Outrageous wall right of <i>Dosis</i> (makes this route look easy).
19. Dosis 8b+ A very difficult line up the smooth overhanging wall. Chipped.
<b>20.</b> Cuestión de Estilo
21. Keep the Faith
22. New
23. Ya Somos Olímpicos
24. Watermark
25. Un-named



FORADA SOUTH FACE (page 160)

There has been a bit of development on this popular easier sector and I have improved the topo slightly above.

#### SECTOR PETORRI

This is virtually at the highest point of the ridge.

1. Un-named		3+
An easy new route. There is a bolt to the right w	hich	connects
this and the next route to give a better, and hard	er, va	riation.
? This could be a route in its own right		

2. Bon Dia . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Now bolted and with its own lower-off.

3. Cursilania	4
The line of bolts curves rightwards.	

4. Fam de Gos . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . There is a lower-off at the bend in the route but originally it continued to the shared lower-off.

5.	Pilar											<b></b>	5	
The	direct	lin	۵i	ic	a	2	М							

The direct line is good.

There seems to be some confusion over the next set of routes. This area is way over-bolted and it appears that there are more lines than listed below however when I checked it very carefully (December 1998) I could only find one new line. It is obviously very easy to stray from your chosen line.

6. Noche Golfa	6a
----------------	----

7. ?
8. Paula 5+ Climb through a slanting groove.
9. Tiburón 5+ The large flake/corner.
<b>10. New</b>
? There may be another new line further right.
SECTOR DESCOTE 50m to the right.
11. Caballari
12. Marisol 6a
13. Freire sin Aceite 6a
14. New
15. Mujer Furtiva
<b>16. Cosme</b>

#### by Karen Yeow

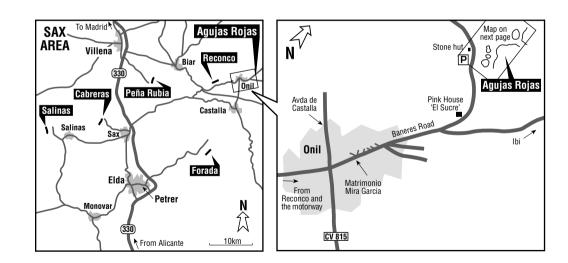
Agujas Rojas is a small collection of pinnacles on a hilltop near the town of Onil in a picturesque woodland setting. The orange and yellow coloured walls offer face climbing enthusiasts well-bolted climbs on good quality rock. Most of the routes are in the high 6s and 7s with only 3 routes below 6a. The approach is very easy and the crag could be a good one to combine with a visit to Reconco or just to enjoy a bit of peace and quiet away from the crowds at Sella and Toix.

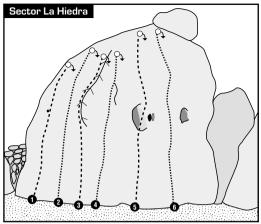
#### ASPECT AND CLIMATE

Most of the crag faces west although the pinnacles can give shade if you find the right spots. The trees also offer some shelter from the sun and wind however there is nothing to climb here in the rain.

#### **APPROACH**

Agujas Rojas is best reached from the motorway and not via the twisting mountain roads (this has been tested and there is almost 20 minutes in it from Calpe to the crag). From Alicante, drive towards Madrid on the N330 (a free dual carriageway). Turn off this at the second junction signed to 'Sax'. Follow this road towards 'Castalla' but keep left towards 'Onil'. At a complex junction under a dual carriageway, continue straight past two small roundabouts. Reconco is up on the left. Keep going into Onil until you arrive at a traffic circle (the mountain road arrives at this point from the right). Go straight on here onto Matrimonio Mira Garcia (at an arrow pointing towards 'Baneras' and 'Alcoi'). This road turns into the Baneras Road follow it for 2.5km past a traffic circle until you reach a fork in the road. Take the left fork and continue for about 2km, past a pink house ('El Sucre') on the left. The crags are visible as a series of tawny coloured faces uphill from the road. Park at a small gravelled shoulder off the road, within sight of the crag, just before a ruined stone hut. You've gone too far if you drive past a stone wall on your right. There are several paths leading from the road up through the woods to the crags.





#### **SECTOR LA HIEDRA**

The crag is about 10m high and is situated about 10m above the track. It gives a small set of steep blobby routes with powerful moves and strange holds.

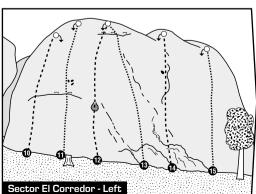
Aspect - The crag is in the shade until late in the afternoon.

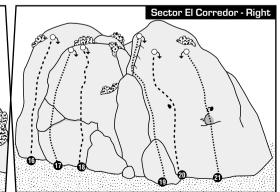
The routes are described from left to right.

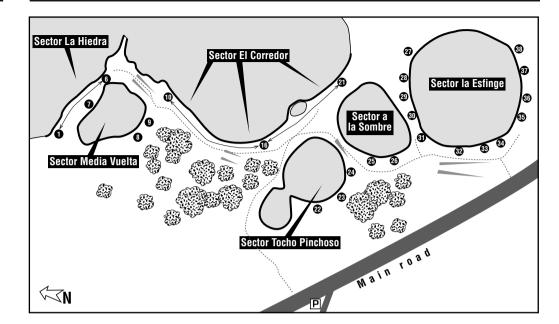
1. El Raco
2. Name Unknown
<b>3. Jumpin' Jack Flash</b>
4. Niu de Aranyes
5. Jack El Destrepador
6. Lagramusa

The pinnacle in front of Sector La Hiedra has three lines on it
7. Name Unknown The back of the pinnacle.
8. Name Unknown
9. Name Unknown?? The right-hand line.
SECTOR EL CORREDOR The pinnacle in front of Sector La Hiedra has three lines on it
10. Edu el Travieso
11. Nit de Bruixes
12. My Gym
13. L'Babao
14. Chip-chop
15. Mama Chico
16. Mentireta
17. Los Taruges 6b
18. Un 6b I si no Tambe
19. Turbo Diesel
20. Hay Btuneta
21. Name Unknown

**SECTOR MEDIA VUELTA** 







# 

# SECTOR LA ESFINGE The pinnacle in front of Sector La Hiedra has three lines on it. 27. Name Unknown ? 28. Name Unknown ? 29. A la Sombre 6a 30. Clip-clap 7b 31. Rompe Techos 7b 32. Escupe Cubatas 6b+ 33. La Tufona 7b 34. Besuga 7c+ 35. Name Unknown 6c+ 36. Gonso 4+ 37. Rufo 5+ 38. Pequenecos 44+