

Rock Climbs in Mallorca - Late breaking information:

ALORA (P.20) KIKO and PINCHAS UVAS are both 20m. The former is superb and deserves ***.

CALVIA (P.39-46) The "unsigned branch road (P41)" is now signed "Collegi Public".

You cannot enter the field at the (P41) "rickety gate" as it is chained shut and is festooned with barbed wire and branches. Cross where the fence meets the wall. NOTE: Recent info suggests that the gate might not be as locked as it looks - check it out). It is 2.2 Km to the centre of Calvia and the suggestion is that anyone who has real concerns about car security should drop their partner and gear off at the end of the walls and go and park their vehicle in the small car park in front of the church where there always appears to be tourists and visitors. The pleasant walk back takes less than 30 minutes.

(P.42) CALENTURA INVERNAL may be 5. CAGUERA PERPETUA may be 6a rather than 5+. (P.44) BATAKALOFIS is excellent and deserves *** not *.

CAN NYIC: (P.46-9) the crag is a chilly venue in the winter and suffers from seepage. Despite this the routes at the left-hand end stay dry enough and are worth calling in for as long as the whole place is not shrouded in cloud. MOLINS DE PAPER seeps but is do-able more direct at about 6c, the classic BONA NYIC stays dry, HO PASSAM PILLO also stay dry, as does BORINOT though this gets dusty.

CREVETA (P.56) Routes 7-9 share the same lower off and are all 27 metres not 25 metres. Beware if lowering on a 50 metre rope from this lower off. (P.58) BABA is not a heap of caca and deserves ** instead of *.

EL CUENCO: (P.112-6) the building described as a hotel actually appears to be private residence of substantial proportions. The track to the crag now ends at an impressive gateway (with cameras!), and a high fence disappearing off in both directions. It may be possible to get to the cliff via 'the back door' from Cala Magraner but until this is verified it is probably worth crossing the place off your list.

CALA MAGRANER (Page 115) The approach along the dried up river bank should be avoided (see below for more on this). It is now cultivated land, requiring climbing over a locked gate and various fences. It looks like this may be regarded as trespassing. Use the other approach via the parking on the way to the "Agroturismo" (be sure to park outside the gate or you risk a ticketing). The farmer had been plowing the fields on this approach but had leaving the diagonal path across the field unplowed, he is a very approachable and helpful chap so lets keep his drive way clear. Further to this (25 April) Derek Ashford and Jocelyn Eagland told me the farmer's wife asked them to use the old approach via the river bed as the track across the field was not a right of way: obviously a tricky one.

(P.117) - EL VIGILANTE..... may be overrated, what do you think?

TENERIFE: for these details of new routes at Arico.

Sector Mirador (p240)

- 4a. The Direct Start (to Barrio Conflictivo) is 6b
- 5a. Up nose right of Como Marca La Ley is 7b+
- 7a. Up the wall left of Aguita is 7c
9. Technomaster continues up the arête and is 7c+
- 9a. pulls right from halfway up the arête and is 7b+
10. El Rompebragas is 7b
11. La Silla Electrica is 7a+
- 11a. The wall to the right, climbed leftwards is 6c+
12. The unnamed route is 8b+

SECTOR PEPINO (p245)

9. Robert Millar is now 7c+
17. is 8b
19. Ruleta Rosa lives up to its name with a loose 'door-sized' flake on it, how lucky do you feel??
22. Puta Zarzes is 7a+

SECTOR PENA DE LUNES (p249/50)

Right of Nelson Mandele is 6a, left of Wirito Santo 6a and right of it is 6a+

SECTOR LOS PINOS (p250/52)

Left of Me Empalo un Palo are two 7a routes, right of Mi Albuelta... is 6c+, left of Uf Uf a new route pulls through the roof at 7a+ and Papeo Chachi is nearer 6b+

SECTOR BOSQUE (p253/4)

Just left of Maki Navaja is *** 7a climbing straight over the bulge, and left of Alguien Palmo is 6b

SECTOR EL LUCHADOR (p254)

Serva Virgen now has a lower-off.

SECTOR CORAZON DE METAL (p257)

Right of Derecho is 5+ and right of Centro is 5+

SECTOR SUS VILLA (p257)

The lower-off on Batriacio has been lowered removing the need for the dyno. Right of No Hay Colega... the corner is 5.

SECTOR TIBURON (p259)

The wall right of Rapido is a nicely technical ** 6b+.

LAS CANADAS

An easier way up La Catedral is the classic of Via Baez-alon (page 268), many thanks for this description from Eilidh Paterson and Paul Raistrick.

Via Baez-alon 3+,4,1,4,3+ 105m

1. 25m. From the shoulder between the two faces climb the right trending crack to good stance with belay ring.
2. 10m. Traverse across the face rightwards following the bolt line.
3. 40m. Scramble up the easy gully to the shoulder then move right to a bolt belay left of a blocky chimney.
4. 15m. Climb the chimney, then move left on to the exposed arête to reach a good stance.
5. 15m. Shuffle along the ledge then climb the diagonal crack passing the arête to the summit. Wave to the tourists!

DESCENT: Follow the description in the guide. Those with a single 50m rope can get down by reversing the route and down-climbing pitch 3.

GRAN CANARIA: Some people have experienced difficulty finding their way around Tamabada, more details to follow, as well as info on other Sectors here.

The most accessible venue is at Ayacata in the centre of the island. This is the most popular centre for climbing and at weekend the locals are out, a very friendly bunch who are happy to pass on information. As usual The Libro de Ruta (New Route Book) in the local bar is difficult to fathom without help, and the older climbs are only shown on a rough overall diagram, with no grades. The cliff is a complex crag which rises from right to left from about 60 metres to 160 metres in height. Rock is reddish orange volcanics similar in appearance to Las Canadas in Tenerife and not totally solid. The local ethic is to use gear in cracks and bolts on the otherwise unprotected faces and there are plenty of reasonable routes of good quality, 4s, 5s, 6s, as well as some that require aid. The highlight is a brilliant huge orange slab with some great five pitch routes.

The other location is also near Ayacata – the Roque Nublo, which is the second highest summit of the island but the most dramatic – a striking monolith of 70m high, rising from a rock platform and an excellent destination except when it is windy. This is a very popular tourist attraction up the path to its foot. The easiest route was climbed in 1933, the Via Alemana, (5 and A0) now bolted like a climbing wall route as it is the trade route up and down and is always popular.

The locals can recommended good camping places, but point out that you will need a permit, - available somewhere in Las Palmas!