

A photograph of a person bouldering on a large, grey rock face. The person is wearing a light blue t-shirt, dark blue pants, and black shoes. They are positioned on the left side of the rock, with their body angled towards the right. The rock face is textured and has some red graffiti on it. Below the rock, a dirt road curves through a grassy area. In the foreground, there is a red and black mat on the ground. The background shows green foliage and trees under a bright sky.

Costa Rica Bouldering

First Edition
By Sierra Allen

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First English Edition, 2012

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Book Credits

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Introduction to Providencia written by Eric Allen

History of Climbing in Costa Rica written by Franklin Acosta Peña, Translated by Sierra Allen

Photos by Sierra Allen, Eric Allen, Juan Carlos Coto Arce, and Drew Copeland

Cover Photo: Deily Mora hangs out on the big huecos of Smile at the Sun V6, Providencia.

Cover Design by Sierra Allen

Opening Photo: Andrés Novoa crimps down on Roadkill V8, Providencia.

Acknowledgements

My biggest thanks goes out to my wonderful parents; Eric and Ying Allen, who have given me everything.

Also, a huge thanks to all these people for their outstanding support to me and their contributions to this book (in no particular order):

Deily Mora

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Ethan Allen

Anuar Hassan

Maikol Fonseca

Esteban Ramírez

Drew Copeland

Tyler Allec

Aliye Tuzlak

... and to everyone else who has contributed to the climbing scene in Costa Rica!

What is Bouldering?

Bouldering is climbing small rocks without ropes with the goal of having fun with your friends by challenging minds, bodies, and spirits to do the impossible.

This book is dedicated to your full realization of this potential. Give it your best shot and you'll get back even more!

WARNING!!!

Bouldering is an activity with inherent risks. Practicing bouldering may result in **severe injury** or even **death**. This book is intended for people who have experience climbing and are aware of the risks. Please take the necessary precautions and use good judgement to ensure your safety.

Be aware that all the areas in this guidebook are on private property and that the purchase of this guidebook doesn't guarantee access to any of the areas described within. Follow all access requirements herein described and be aware that the land owners may restrict access to any part of an area at any time. Please respect the community and know that it is your responsibility as a climber to promote the climbing image to the locals so that we may all enjoy access for years to come.

Please follow these **rules** or expect to be kicked off the land.

1. Pay the entrance fee or buy the appropriate access pass at each area.
2. Don't pick or eat blackberries or any other fruit without permission.
3. Don't destroy any vegetation unnecessarily or take plants or anything else away from the property.
4. Leave the place in the same or better condition than you found it in.
5. Don't leave any garbage of any kind. Pick up all discarded tape and clean up chalk marks and spills.
6. Don't damage any fences or gates. If you must go through a gate, make sure it gets closed behind you.
7. Don't use drugs, alcohol, or foul language in any of the areas.

All the information in this guidebook is not verified and accuracy cannot be guaranteed in any way.



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Introduction

by Sierra Allen

Bouldering in Costa Rica is still just trying to growing up. The potential here is great and up until now, the climbers have been few. Costa Rica is not a bouldering destination like the Rocklands or Bishop but if you are lucky enough to find yourself in this beautiful country, you'll be pleased to find that it's rugged terrain hosts a few nice rocks dotted sporadically in unexpected places. Bouldering in Costa Rica takes an open mind and a good imagination. Problems have to be imagined first, and then, like a hopeful archaeologist digging at a new site, you sometimes uncover a striking specimen. Other times, you come up blank. The feeling of exploration and the discovery of the unknown that results from this process is what makes these small, jungle covered areas worth checking out. Here, there are no vast expanses of clean boulders; so every boulder with even one or two decent lines on it, becomes special. My hope is that your experience pulling down on the small rocks described in this guidebook will add to your appreciation of this gorgeous country.



Going bouldering at Cerro de la Muerte

A Note on Cleaning

As you are hopefully aware of by now, BOULDERS IN COSTA RICA DO NOT STAY CLEAN. No matter how much scrubbing you do one season, expect your project to be nearly unrecognizable after the next rainy season. Sorry, but this is this way it works in the tropics. No matter which area you end up going to, make sure you go prepared for the worst. The most essential tools in your bouldering kit are, of course, brushes. Although wire brushes can be used in extreme circumstances, because the rock is much softer than granite, stiff bristled plastic brushes are much preferred. Although the vegetation does grow back shockingly quickly, please be careful and use common sense when doing development work. Only clean where you are going to climb. Small bushes and shrubs may be chopped around the bases of the boulders but please do not cut down of any trees or fruit bearing plants such as blackberries and coffee. Make sure the owner of the land you are on is ok with you cleaning rocks if you spot something new. Clean up after yourself, close gates behind you, and brush responsibly! Remember, it's up to all of us to make sure these boulders remain available to climbers in the future.

How to use this Guidebook

Each area in this guidebook starts with an overview map which shows each boulder/group of boulders in a red box. Each boulder/group of boulders has a detailed topo and selected boulders have photos with the problems shown by coloured lines. Each problem has a number and a description.

Name of Problem Star for Classic

☐ **7. Rocinante V1** ☠ ★

The original highball on the Puma boulder, this line is a must for all who like heights.

← Description

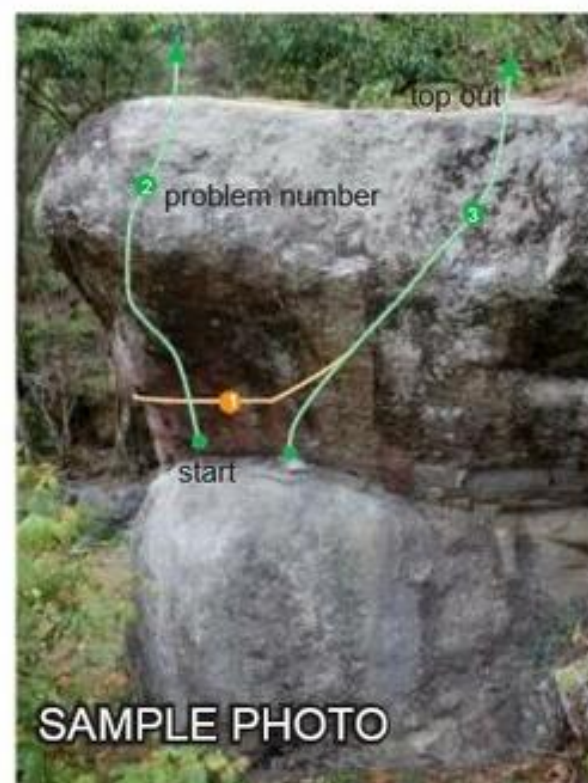
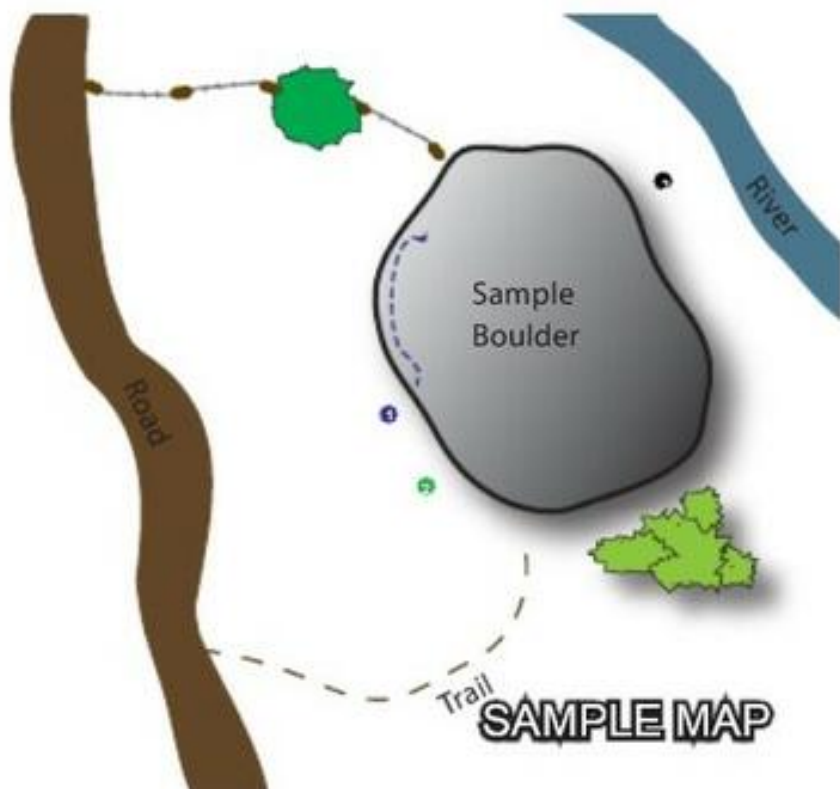
Boulder Grade Conversion Chart

Vermin Font	
Easier	V0 4b
	V1 4c
	V2 5a
	V3 5b
	5c
	V4 6a
	6b
	V5 6c
	V6 7a
	V7 7a+
	V8 7b
	V9 7b+
	7c
	V10 7c+
	V11 8a
	V12 8a+
	V13 8b
	V14 8b+
	8c
Harder	V15 8c+

Symbol Explanation

☠	Dangerous/Highball
☪	Sit Start
P	Project

A Personal Opinion on Grading
 Boulder problems are given number grade ratings to give climbers a general idea of their respective difficulties. I say "general" because bouldering is an activity with many variables and therefore number grades cannot be consistent or accurate. I have included grade ratings in this guide mainly because they are expected. Although they maybe be useful, try not to take them too seriously. Quality over quantity.



A Short History of the Sport of Rock Climbing in Costa Rica (abridged)

In Memory of his Father, "Don Cuyo Araña", a Costa Rican Climber

Rock climbing in Costa Rica began between the years 1950 and 1955.

El Club de Montañeros de Costa Rica (the Costa Rican Mountaineer Club) on trip to Cerro Pico Blanco with Yeudi Monestel Arce, Rafael Vargas Alvarez along with a fellow club member whose last name was Roldan, achieved the first ascent of a rock in the central bastion, known as the Schaufelberger Bastion with a static nylon rope and two wooden wedges in the year 1951.

Subsequently, in 1952, Félix Méndez Torres, a Spanish climber, who at that time was the president of the Federación Española de Montañismo (the Spanish Mountaineering Federation), arrived in Costa Rica offering a rock climbing course to the members the Club de Montañeros at Cerro de la Muerte, on a rocky formation since known to climbers as "Campo Escuela Félix Méndez".



Curso de escalada impartido por Rafael Edwards en el Campo Escuela Félix Méndez

As a result of the events of those times, the National Mountain School and the Rescue Squad of the Costa Rican Red Cross was born.

On a second visit by the aforementioned Spanish instructor, members of the already existent Club de Montañismo from the University of Costa Rica (founded in 1960) and the Club de Alta Montaña (the High Mountain Club, founded in 1961) of Cartago, joined his course.

In 1984, the Mountaineering group, Nido de Halcón, of Tejar del Guarco in Cartago was formed. They practiced rock climbing as well as the Movimiento Costa Rica Libre group, trained by the Spanish climber Rafael Luna. In 1988, the group was called the Grupo Experimental Pico Blanco which one year later in 1989, became the Asociación de Escaladores de Costa Rica "AECR" (the Costa Rican Climbers Association) and that same year, the Grupo Amigos de la Montaña was formed in San Pablo of León Cortez.

In 1990, Franklin Acosta Peña, at that time the president of the AECR, proposed to lumber Victor Gallo (a Salvadorian national and co-proprietor of a recently opened climbing and mountaineering equipment store in Costa Rica) the idea of organizing a competition on an artificial wall. The latter thought it a great idea and they proceeded to look into the standard rules used internationally for this type of competition and worked towards organizing the first competition ever held on an artificial wall in Costa Rica. That same year, a fair was held at the Antigua Aduana and there Víctor Gallo organized the second climbing competition. This time a more sophisticated and taller wall was used.



Pared utilizada en la 1era Competencia de Escalada en Costa Rica

On March 10, 1991, The AECR hosted the First Climbing Competition on real rock, which was held on La Piedra de Aserrí, a cliff located south of San José. Subsequent competitions were similarly held, and in 1993, the president of the AECR, Claudio Acosta Pereira, organized the First National Climbing Competition which was held on both artificial and rock walls.

In 1997 a new climbing gym opened called Climb-X, which stayed open for 3 years approximately between 1997 and 1999. The gym provided a training facility for not only recreational climbers but also served as a venue for national competitions of that time. Years later in 2001, after the closure of the Climb-X gym in 1999, a new climbing gym called Mundo Aventura was opened where national and international climbing competitions continued to be held.

Thanks to the great effort of the climbing pioneers in Costa Rica, the creation of these two training centers opened the opportunity to strengthen the prominence of the sport of climbing. So much so, it was impressive the level of skill that was becoming achieved in such a short amount of time as many young people of a range of ages were getting excited about a sport that had so much trouble gaining recognition in the country.

In 2005, the idea which had been born decades before, to form an organization that would bring together and officially regulate the mountains sports, was established. The organization that was born was called the Federación Costarricense de Deportes de Montaña "FECODEM" (Costa Rican Mountain Sports Federation) and from then on has been the governing entity in competitive climbing, organizing national and international championships and promoting the sport through the support of the participation of Costa Rican climbers in events outside of Costa Rica.

In December of 2010, the FECODEM organized the Central American Bouldering Championships where the famous Spanish Climber, Edu Marín set the boulder problems on the walls of the FECODEM's artificial climbing structure, set up in la Sabana. On this occasion, the Costa Ricans won all the first places, maintaining their undefeated ranking in Central America.

In December of 2011, a National Bouldering Competition was held on the Federation's artificial wall, this time, set up at the Estadio Nacional (the National Stadium), demonstrating yet again the continual growth of the sport of rock climbing in Costa Rica.

It never ceases to amaze the level of collaboration and camaraderie that existed since the beginning between all the climbers of that time, and years later, that still exists. Through telephone conversations, internet messages, and sporadic meetings with others who have also been involved over the years, it is remembered with much nostalgia and gladness the experiences received in those years of struggle to practice and make known a sport that for so long was considered somewhat of a myth, or was thought of as something that only the gifted or the wealthy could practice.



Escaladores Víctor Gallo y Franklin Acosta

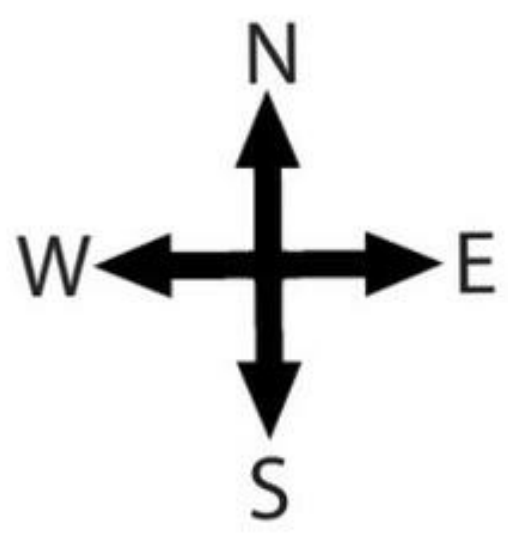
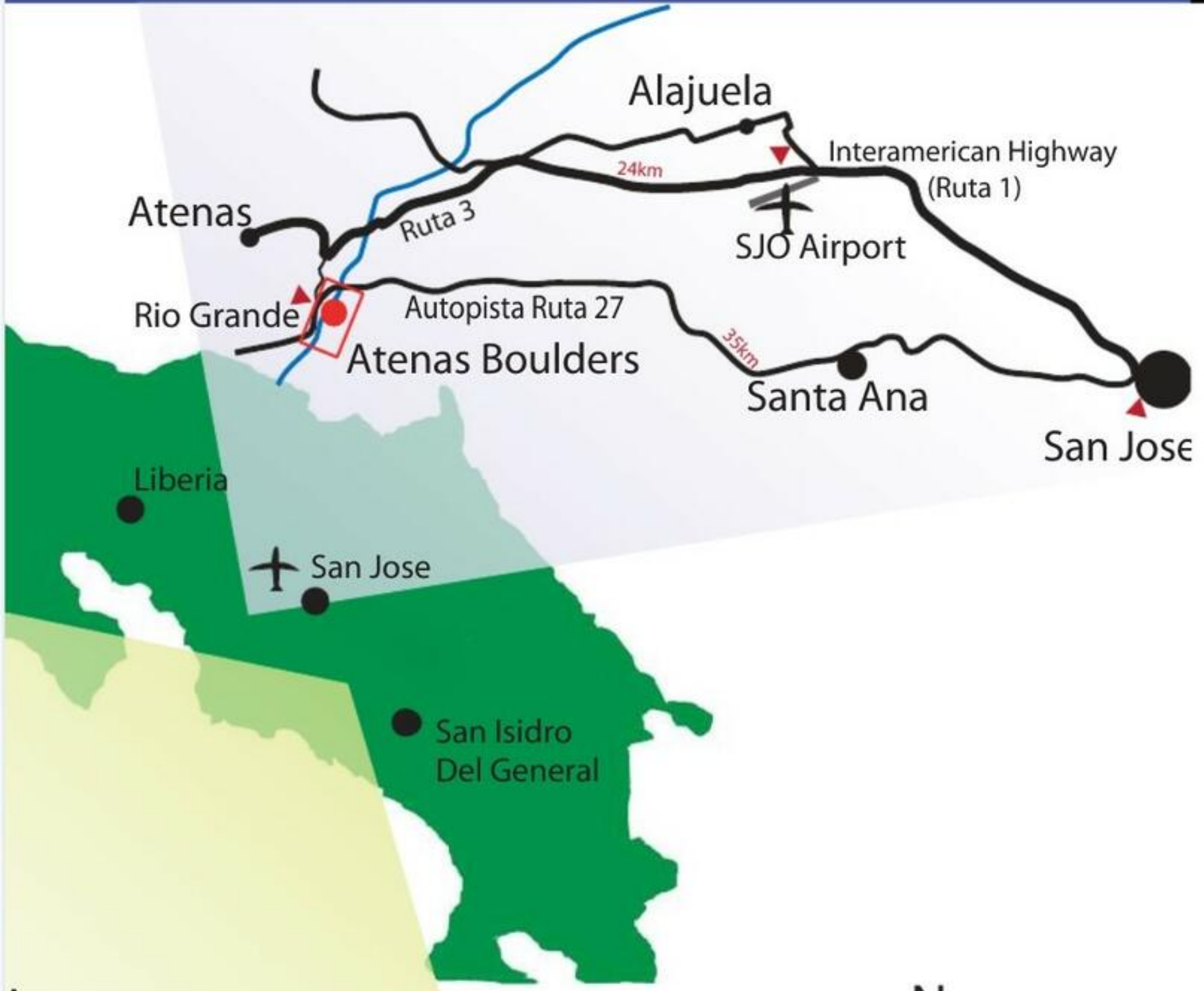
Franklin Acosta Peña, one of the first real rock climbers in the history of Costa Rica

Thanks his father, Claudio Acosta Pereira, a mountain enthusiast who would always take his kids out camping. In tribute to his father, who got him started as a small boy hiking and later rock climbing, he proposed in December 2011 to various climbers and mountain enthusiasts including Edgar Usaga president of the FECODEM, Pedro Calderón and Gerardo Rojas from the Asociación de Deportes Nido de Halcón of Cartago, his idea to start a project to create a Museo Nacional de Deportes de Montaña in the country to conserve valuable mementos which have been part of the forming of this beautiful discipline, in the hopes of motivating future generations.

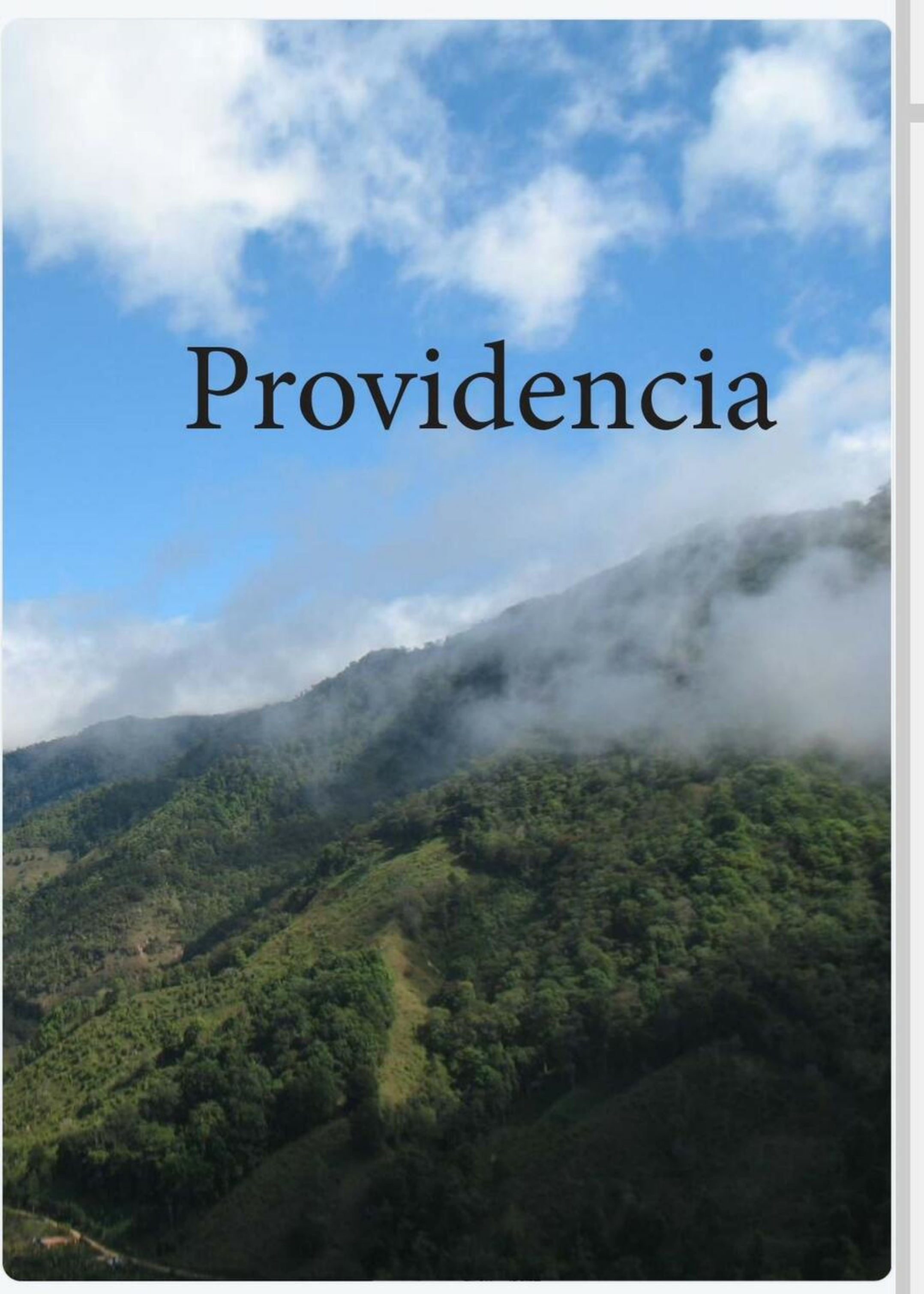
COSTA RICA

Overview map of bouldering areas





Providencia





Welcome to Providencia

by Eric Allen

Better known for its surfing, birding and volcanoes, Costa Rica is not an obvious destination for a climber. We lived here for years before we found stone under all that moss. Once we got started, cleaning the rock became a romantic passion. After years of pleasure lovingly stripping the clothes off these problems, clean desert rock seems like porn. Critical parts of the affair seem to be missing. It's just too easy. Good relationships should take time to develop.

You'd never know this to see us, hair, and socks full of dirt, ants in our crotch, with brushes of every size, and a machete strapped to the waist. Grime all over our faces from swatting bugs with dirty hands. We look like we went to war and lost. The big silly grin on the face gives it all away. Uncovering a new project can have all the promise of a prom date.

So, if you come, be prepared for a deeper dimension than you may have experienced in the past. You don't need a car so take the chance to just hang out, practice your Spanish, let the kids practice their English on you, and roll with the simplicity and purity of the place. Many of the boulders have access considerations, sort of like the irate father with the shotgun, but this is just part of the fun. Be respectful of the land, landings (blackberries) and the land owners, and you will be rewarded with a rare and beautiful experience. Don't forget to bring a brush.



Anything you can do to present a positive image of climbers to the community and any assistance you can provide to the local aficionados will be greatly appreciated. Ok, lets get out there and touch the stone. Pura Vida!

How to Get to Providencia

Providencia is located 83 kms. (or 3 hours) south of San Jose, capital city of Costa Rica. It is a small mountain community 11km off the Pan American Highway in a forested valley.

Air Travel

The closest international airport is Juan Santa-maria (SJO). From the airport, you can either rent a car and drive yourself (see directions by car below) or take the public bus system to downtown San Jose, then take a short taxi ride to the Musoc bus station (see directions by bus below).

Bus Travel

From San Jose, find the Musoc bus station (tel. 2222-2422 or 2223-0 686). The cost of one bus ticket should be around ¢2,700. Take the Musoc bus from San Jose toward Perez Zeledon (San Isidro del General) and tell the bus driver to let you off at Ojo de Agua (Chesperitos). If you're coming from the Perez Zeledon Musoc bus station (tel. 2771-0414 or 2771-3829) take the bus to San Jose and get let off at Ojo de Agua. From there follow the road that goes past the Quetzal National Park Headquarters. It is a 13 km hike (downhill) from the highway to El Centro that will take around 3 hours, unless you get very lucky and find a ride.

Car Travel

From San Jose take the Pan American Highway south toward San Isidro following it for 70kms or approximately 2.5 hours until you come to a place called Ojo de Agua. (There will be a Chesperitos Cafeteria truck stop on your left and the Quetzal National Park headquarters on your right.) Take the dirt road on the right hand side of the Hwy 13 kms to El Centro of Providencia. If you get to the turnoff toward San Gerardo, you've gone too far.

From San Isidro take the Panamerican Hwy toward San Jose to about 3 kms past the entrance to San Gerardo, take a left off the hwy just before the Chesperitos truck stop. Take this road for 13kms to El Centro.

Driving Time and Distances to Providencia:

FROM	TIME (hrs)	DISTANCE (kms)
SJO Airport (Alajuela)	4.5	100
San Jose	3.5	70
San Isidro del General	3	48
Quepos (Manuel Antonio)	5	120
Nicarauguan Border	9	352
Panamanian Border	7	217

When to Climb

Due to the fact that Providencia is surrounded by cloud forest and rain forest in the lower section of town, there are times when it is difficult to climb outdoors. In the rainy season it rains almost everyday, especially in the afternoons and vegetation on the rocks can grow shockingly quickly. It is recommended that you only try climbing there in the dry season (December to April). If you come at the very beginning of the dry season, be prepared for some enthusiastic scrubbing! Wire brushes will be your best tool. Also, bring along a machete to clear overgrown brush from the landings. Ferns, grass, and regular-looking bushes are no problem to cut... but please leave any blackberry bushes you see intact. These bushes are a main source of many locals' incomes. If you must climb a problem that is directly above a blackberry bush, just place a crashpad over it and try to keep the damage to the plant to a minimum.

Access

All of the boulders, sport crags, and tree climbs in Providencia are located on private property. This poses a problem as the area becomes popular to climbers beyond just locals. Some sort of solution was in need in order to keep landowners in favor of having random people show up and stomp all over their farms. First and foremost, it is naturally imperative that you respect the land, the plants, and the people. Make sure no one can tell you've been there after you leave. Next, in order to ensure you don't get kicked off the land or get received with hostility rather than hospitality, please go to either one of the stores in town, Minisuper el Colibri or Minisuper Pachos and buy a Providencia Climbing Pass which will grant you access to any of the climbing options in town. The money collected from the sale of these passes is distributed equally among all the landowners.



The Mega boulder in need of cleaning

Where to Stay

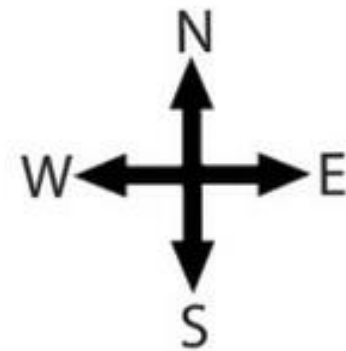
Providencia has just started developing its tourism potential. Many locals are excited about this as it promises some "easy" cash. There are quite a few cabinas in town ranging from \$10 to \$20 per person per night. In El Centro, you will find Cabinas Richy and Cabinas Mary. In La Piedra there is Ana's Bed and Breakfast which is a delightful little place with excellent food. Camping options are available as well, behind Cabinas Richy and if you ask around, you might be able to camp at the futbol field for one or two dollars a night.



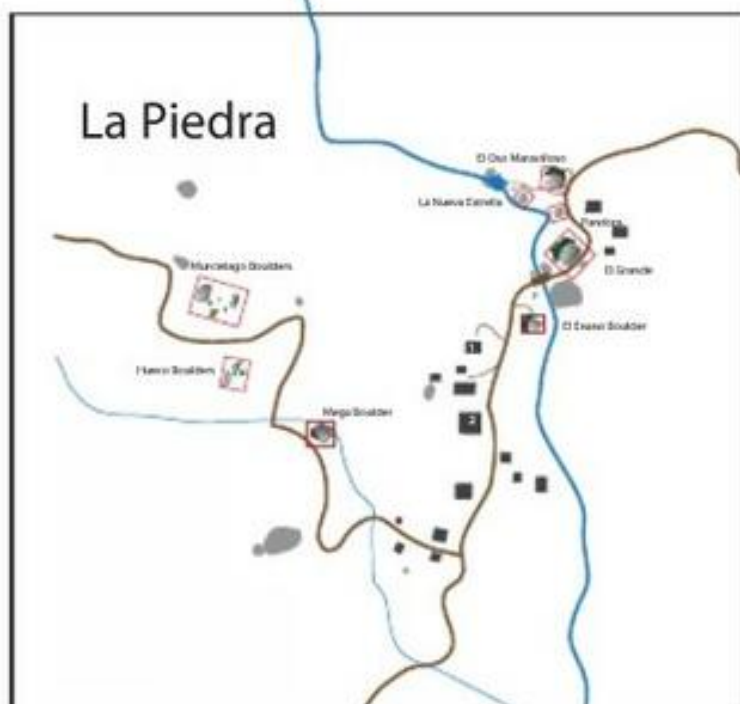
Food

There are two pulperias or small shops in town which sell basic food and other necessities. You can get pretty much all you'd really need if you aren't looking for anything too fancy. In La Piedra there is one restaurant, Restaurante las Cascadas, which serves good traditional food and opens daily in the afternoons. Another good option if you're looking for a hot cooked meal, is at Ana's B&B located in La Piedra, two houses after the bridge.

LA ROCA



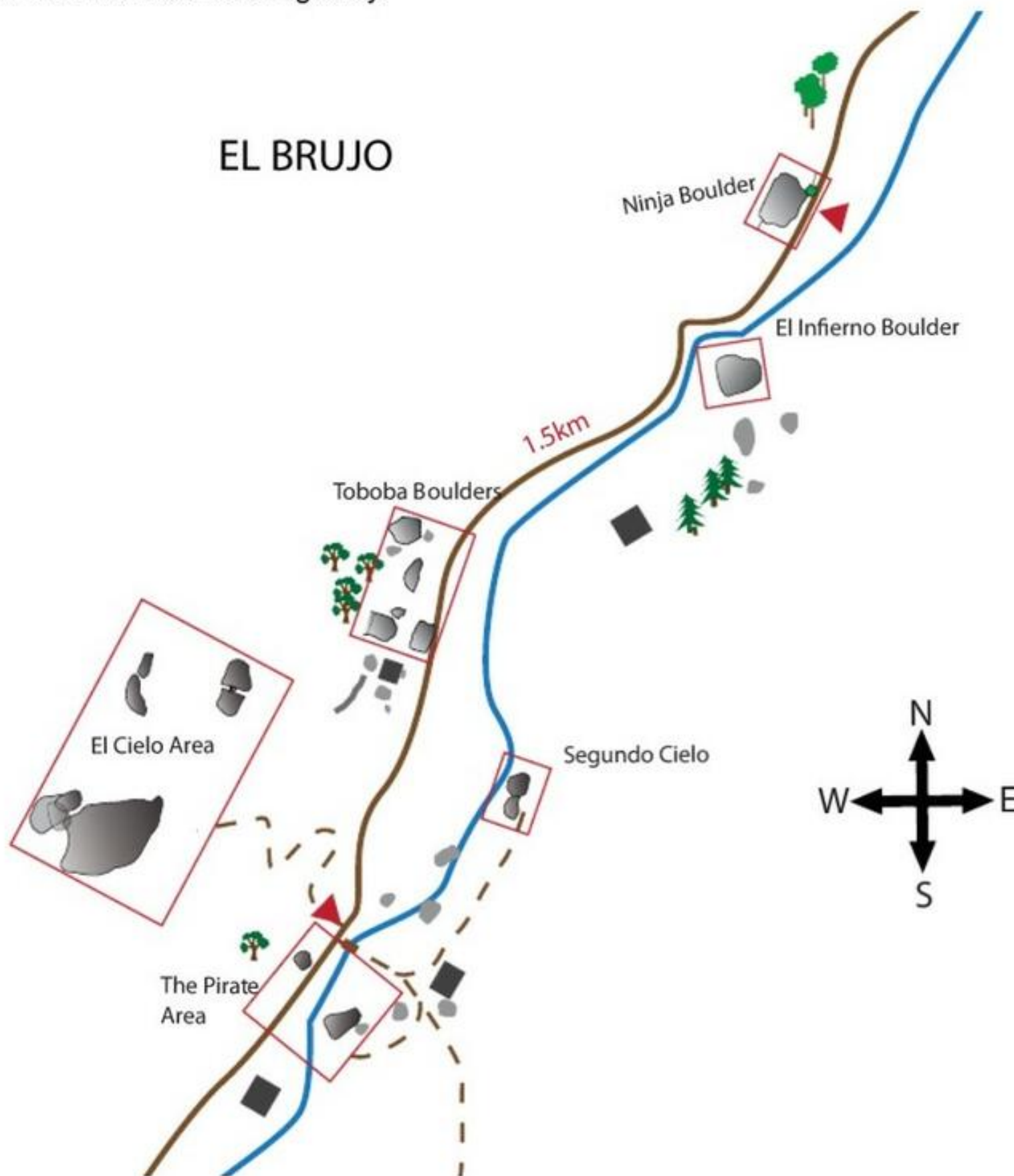
Providencia de Dota

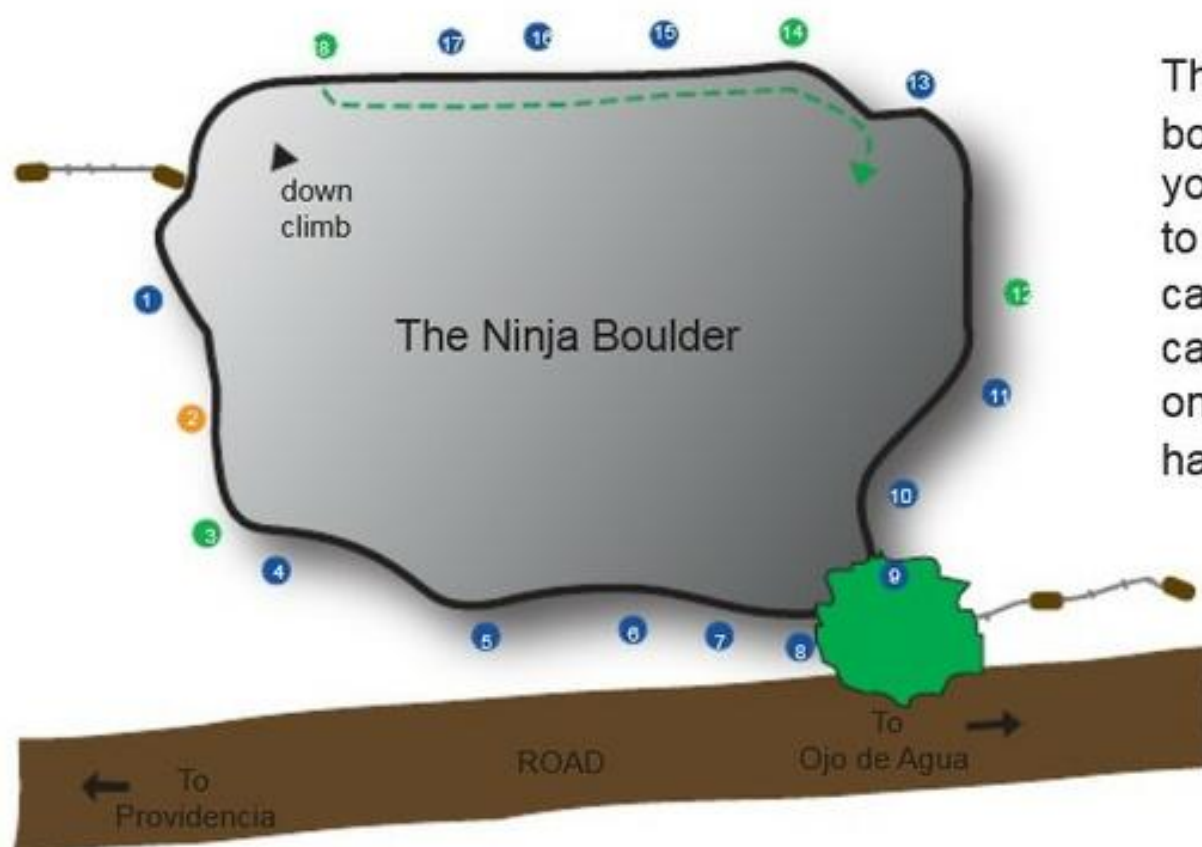


ZAPOTAL

El Brujo

El Brujo is the first area you will come to on the way down the road coming from the highway. The boulders are mainly scattered along the Brujo River with the exception of "Heaven" which is situated up above the road on the top of the steep hill. El Brujo is home to some of the most aesthetic and hard classics of Providencia. **Karma V8**, **Exit the Darkness V7**, **Lucid Dreaming V7**, and **Anuar's Envelope V6** are some of the harder problems of the area. This first main boulder will be on your left coming down the valley and is approximately 8 km from the Interamerican Highway.

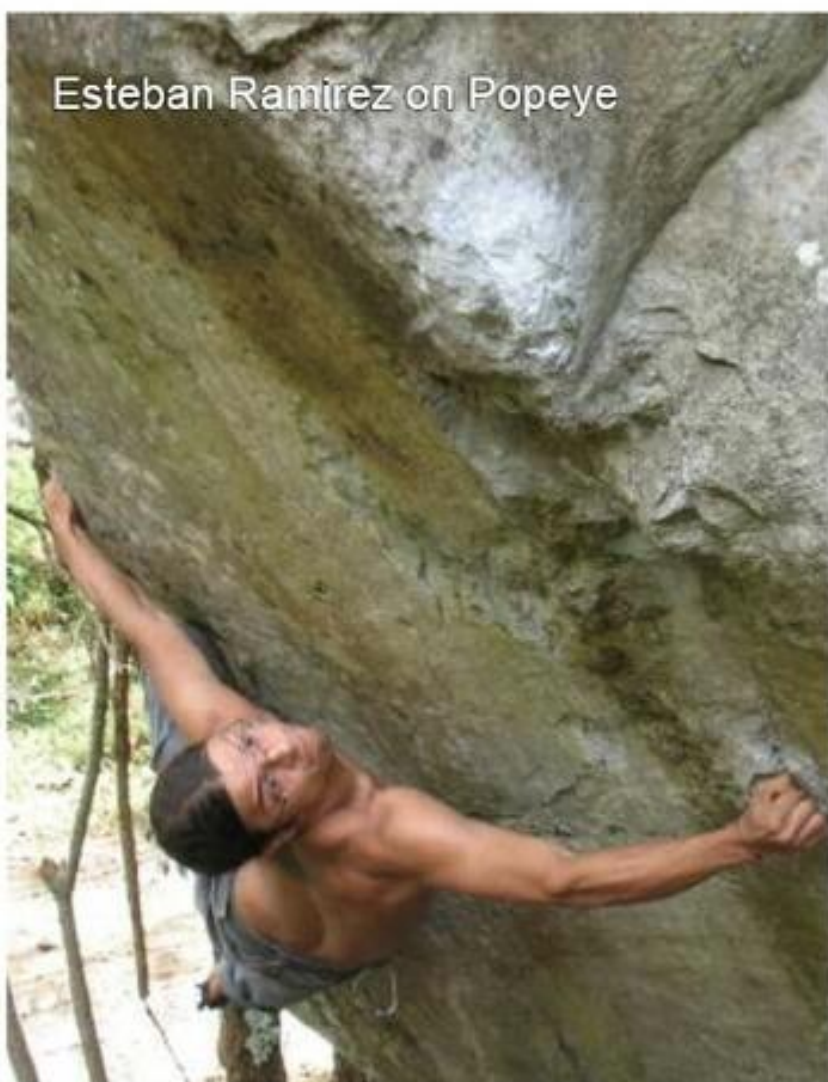




The Ninja Boulder is the first boulder that you encounter as you descend from Ojo de Agua to Providencia. If you are not careful you could hit it with your car. It has something for everyone, is easy on the skin, and has an easy descent.

Ninja Boulder

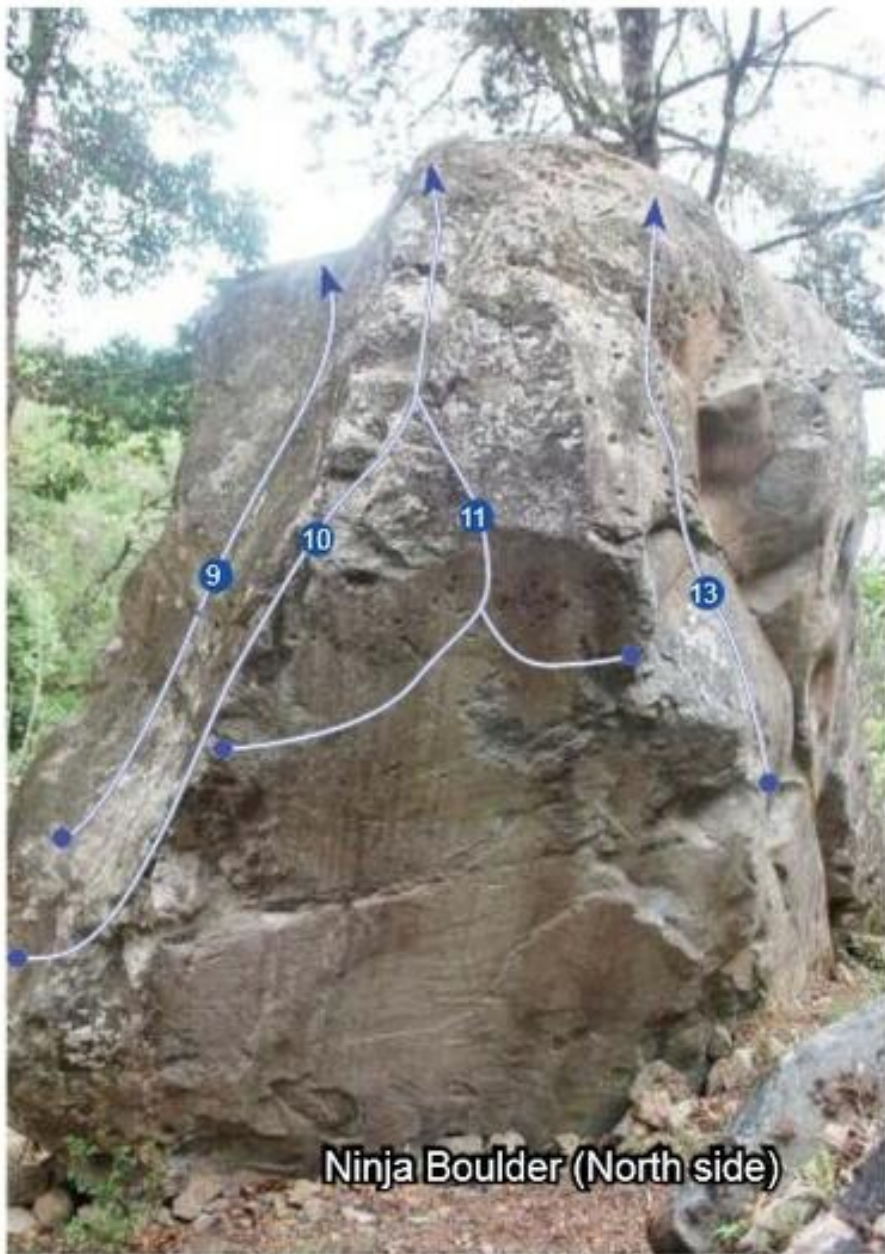
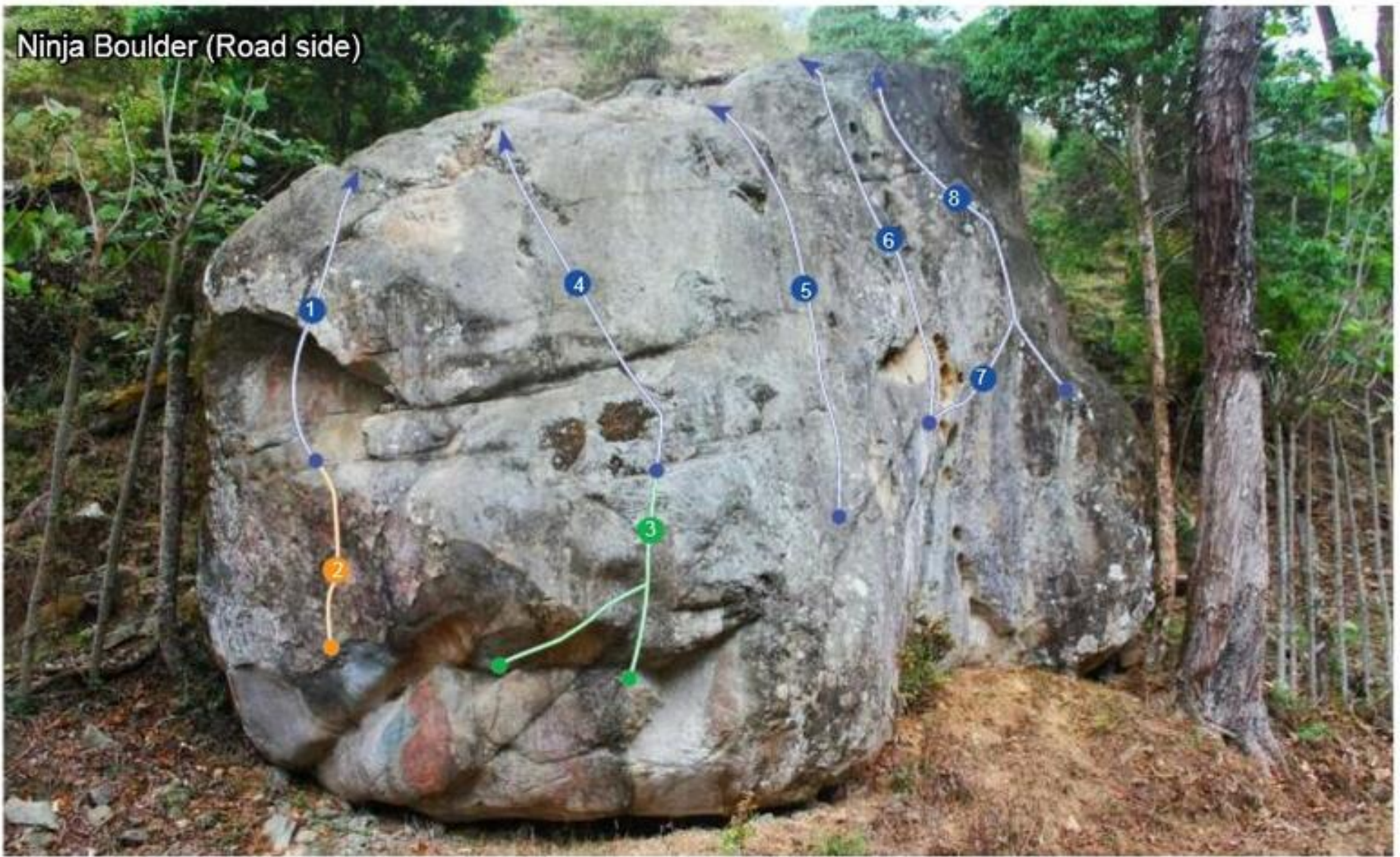
- 1. **Cling On V2**
Start on with hands on small ledge and go up bulge.
- 2. **Undercling On V7**
Low start of number 1. Left hand on undercling.
- 3. **Anuar's Envelope V6** 🏠
Sit start on obvious holds. Dyno or funky knee-bar up right to crimp.
- 4. **Sender V3**
Stand up start of #3.



Esteban Ramirez on Popeye

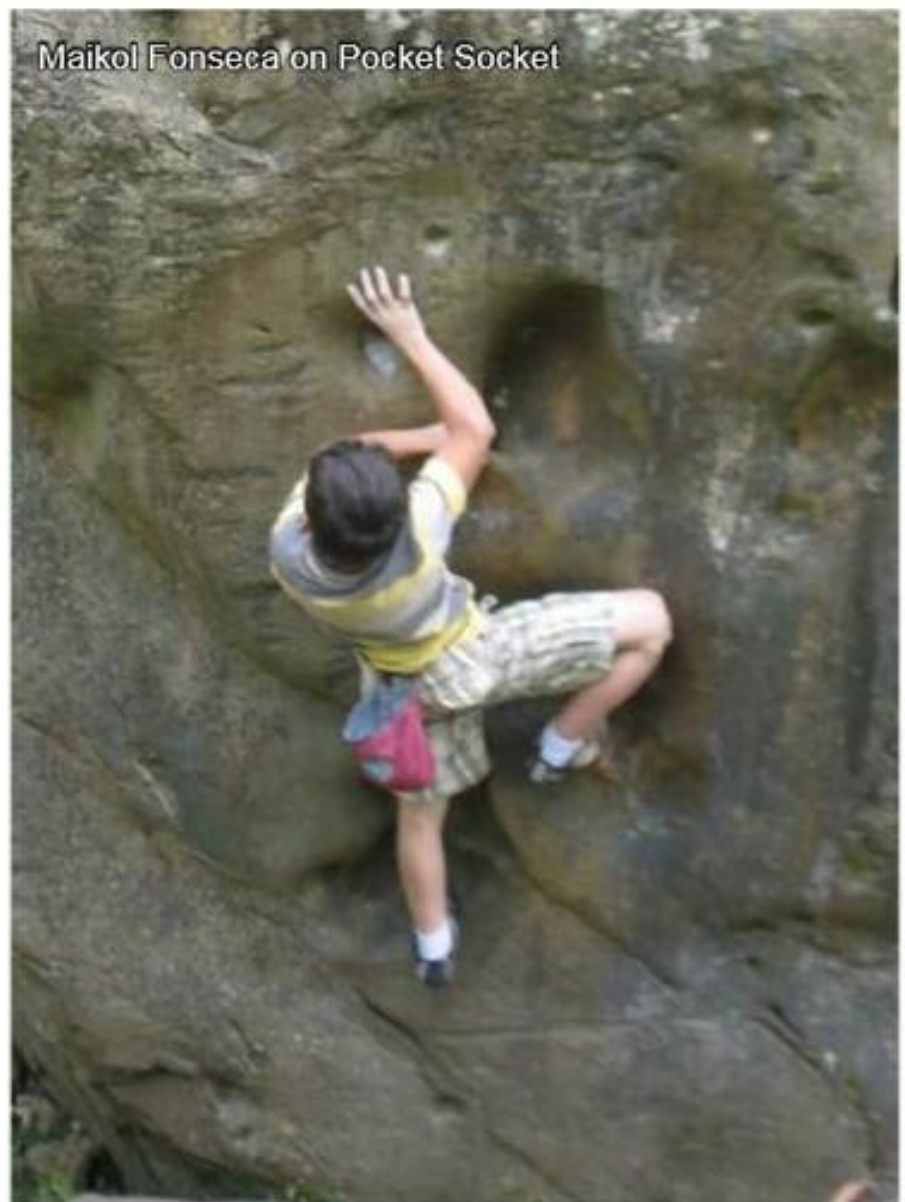
- 5. **Doing Dishes V2**
Start on corner and go straight up on shallow dishes.
- 6. **Hueco Thanks V3** ★
Up the obvious line of huecos.
- 7. **Hueco Bajo V2**
Start in huecos and go right finishing on the top holds of #8.
- 8. **Pelota Alta V0**
Nice warmup just left of the tree.
- 9. **Scary Larry V0** 🏠 ★
Highball straight up shallow corner. Classic.
- 10. **Slap Happy V3** ★ 🏠
Sit start classic. Start below #9 and move up right.
- 11. **Espinaca V3**
Start with one hand on each side of the blank overhang.
- 12. **Popeye V5**
Low start of #11. Awesome problem.
- 13. **Pan Integral V2**
Low start on sloping sidepulls.
- 14. **Pocket Socket V4**
Start on sloping side pull and up through small pockets and to a sloper at the top avoiding the big huecos.
- 15. **Uncle Rico V0**
Start in huecos and up left.
- 16. **Napoleon Dynamight V1**
Start in huecos and straight up.
- 17. **Pedro V0** ★
Start in huecos and up through handlebar.
- 18. **Tina's Dinner V4**
Start at downclimb and traverse left to corner and up Pan Integral #13.

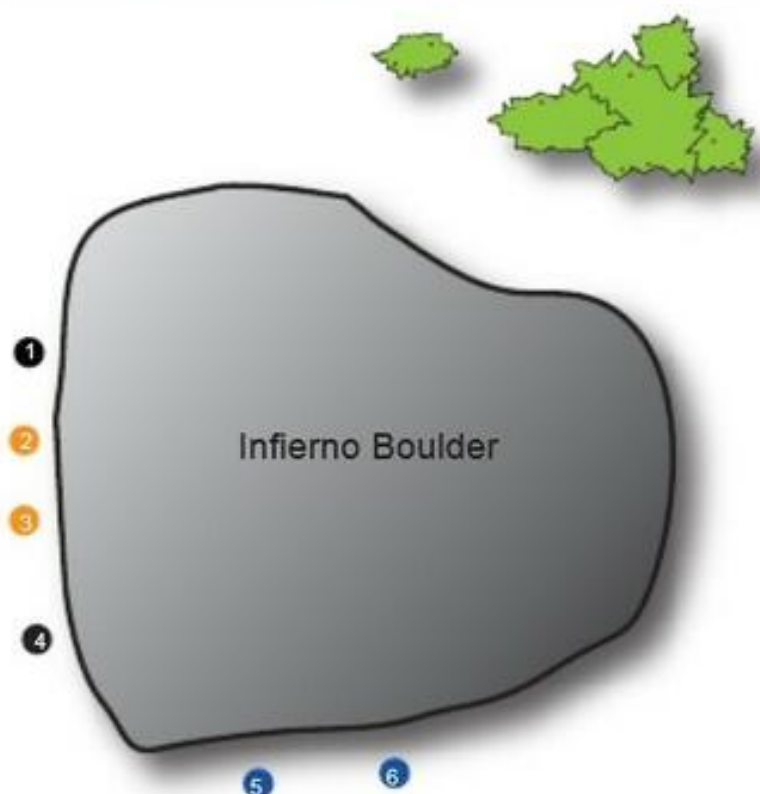
Ninja Boulder (Road side)



Ninja Boulder (North side)

Maikol Fonseca on Pocket Socket





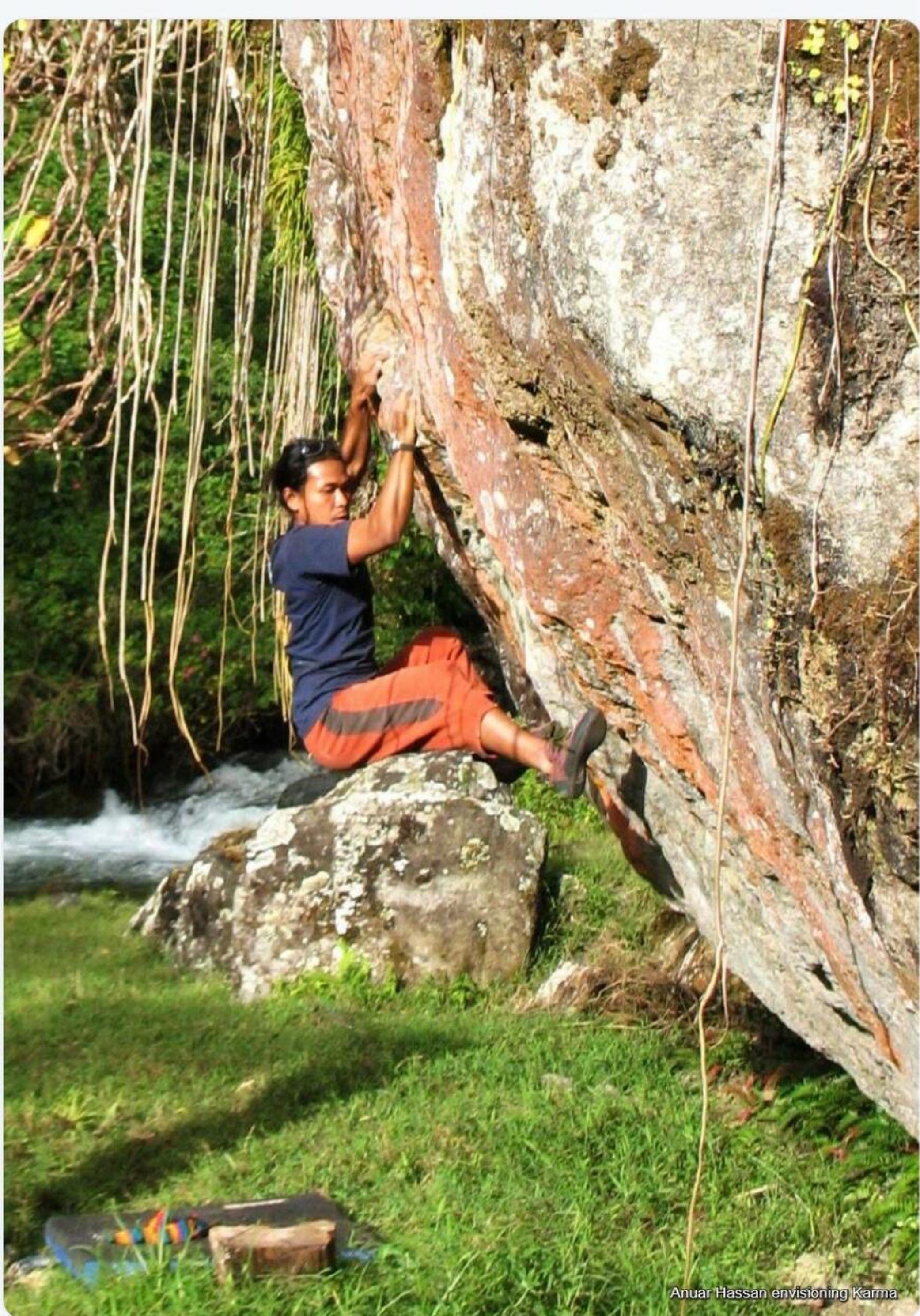
The Inferno Boulder, named for its flame-like lichen, is likely the most aesthetic and imposing looking boulder in Providencia. It can't be missed, it is located accross the river on the left hand side of the road coming down into Providencia from the Interamerican Highway. The boulder is a bit high but has great landings.

Inferno Boulder

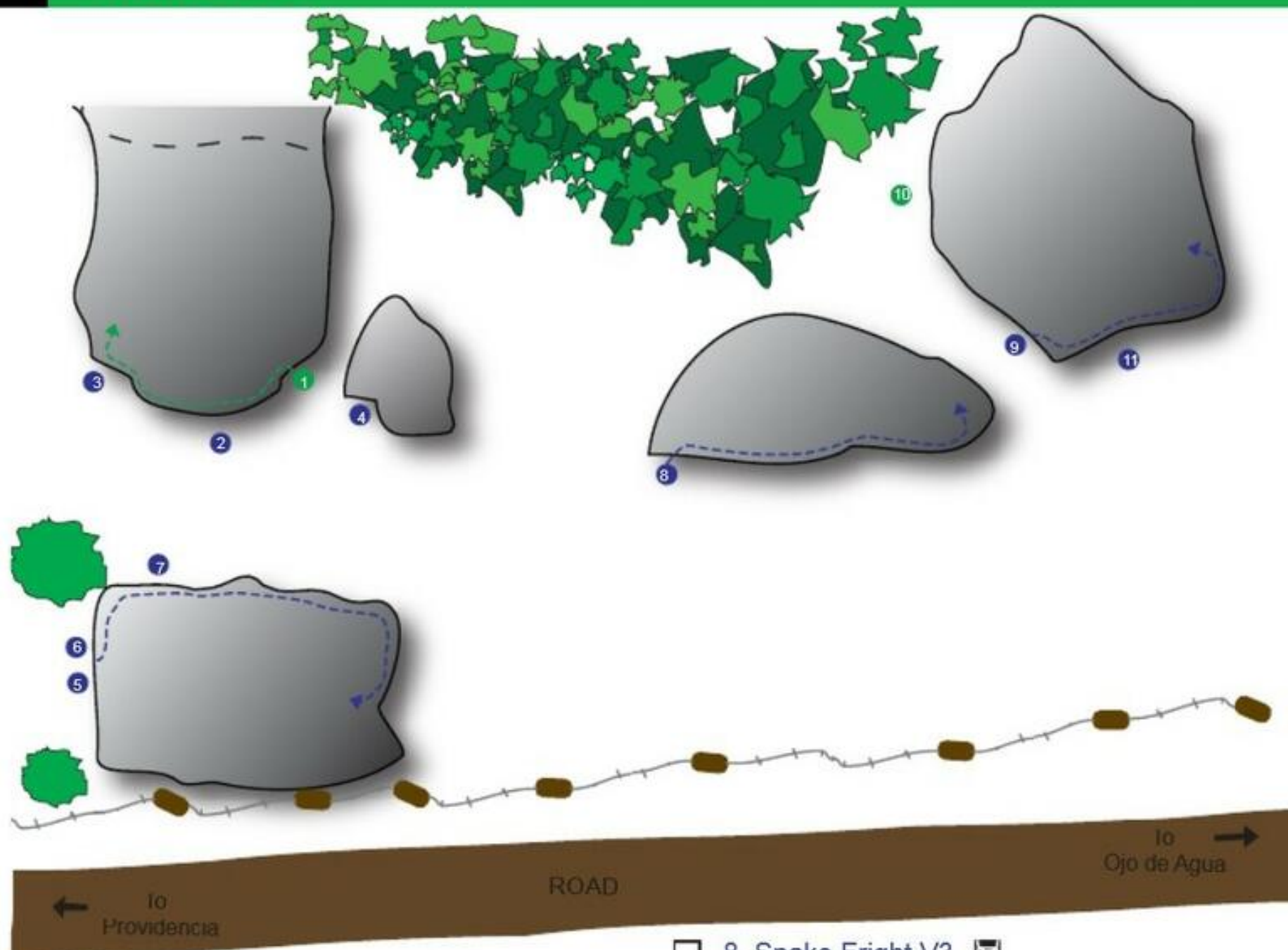
- 1. **Project P**
Doable looking line to the left of The Dead Point
- 1. **Kaiowas V7**
Start on bad hold make a big move up to jug and continue right to finish as Karma.
- 2. **Karma V8** ★
On the classic red face of the Inferno boulder. One of the hardest and proudest lines in Providencia! Starts on sloping holds in middle of face.
- 3. **Project P**
Improbable looking line to the right of Karma.
- 4. **Alma Negra V0** ☠️
Climb the highest part of the slab to the right of the corner.
- 5. **El Sufrimiento V0**
Climb the right side of the slab.



Eduardo Diaz on Karma



Anuar Hassan envisioning Karma

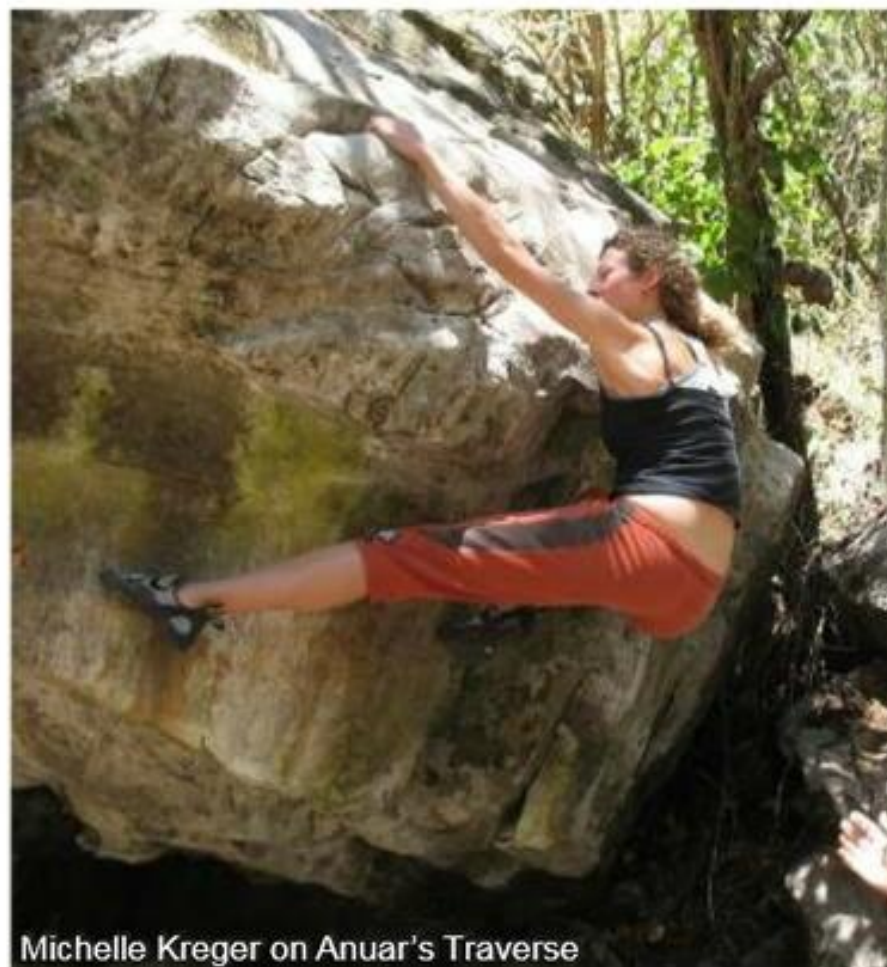


Toboba Boulders

The Toboba Boulders are located right beside the road on the right side. This area is the beginning of the limestone section of rock in El Brujo. Above the boulders and to the left is one of the few sport walls in town with two bolted routes. These boulders tend to get covered in vegetation so be prepared to brush and chop your way to clean rock here.

- 1. **Anuar's Traverse V4** 🏠 ★
Sit start on lower boulder, go up and traverse left. Top out at left corner. Super nice!
- 2. **Salsa Lizano V2**
Start with hands high in the jug, then mantle. Harder than it looks!
- 3. **Out From Under V3**
Start underneath and come out using hand jams.
- 4. **Alabaster V3** 🏠
Sit start. Very bad holds!
- 5. **Dog Bones V2** 🏠
Sit start. Straight up.
- 6. **Roadside Traverse V2**
Start in big hueco and traverse all the way to the other side of the boulder. You can start at either end.
- 7. **Canine Bite V1** 🏠
Sit start low on sharp holds.

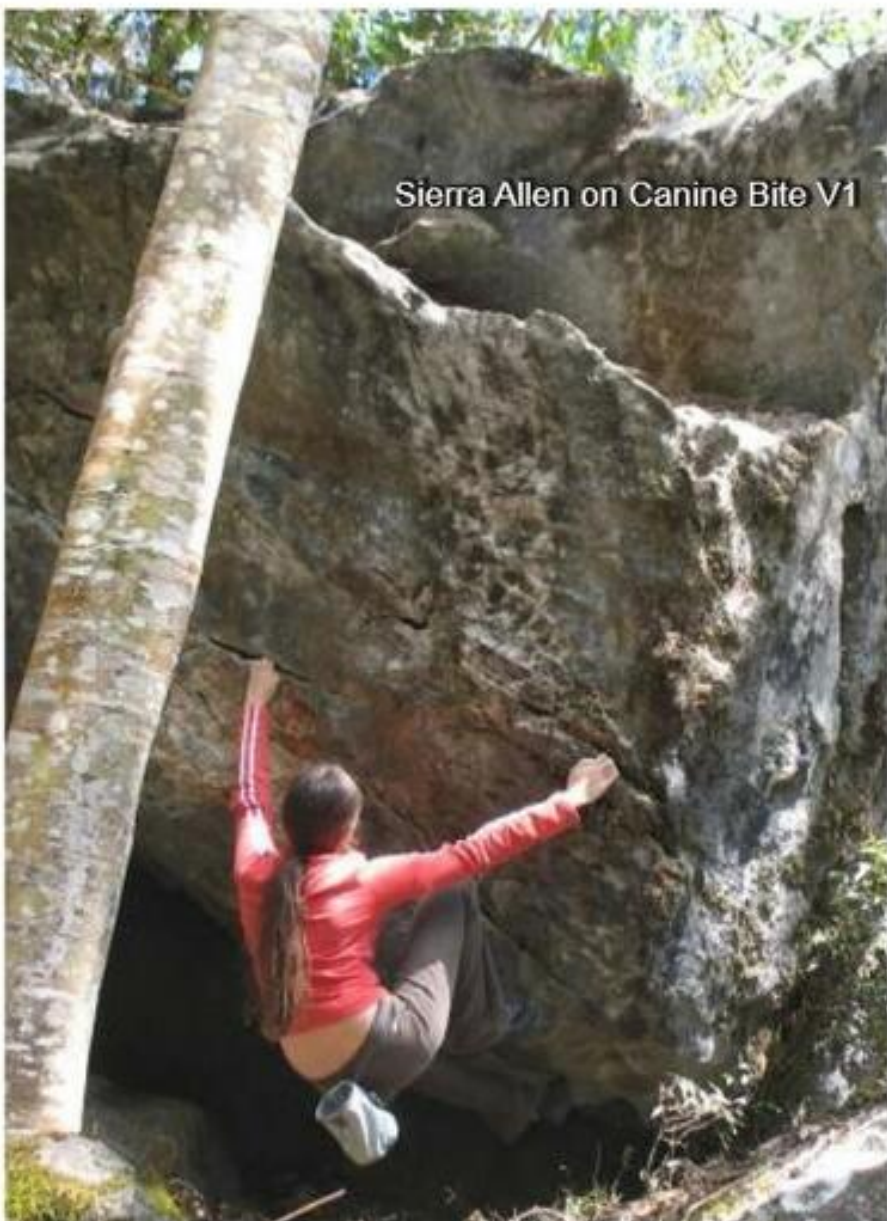
- 8. **Snake Fright V3** 🏠
Traverse from left to right, try to stay off the top.
- 9. **Cowboy Traverse V1**
Traverse overhang to top out on lower angle side.
- 10. **Rocksteady V4** 🏠
Sit start. Climb out of the pit.
- 11. **Various fun V0s**



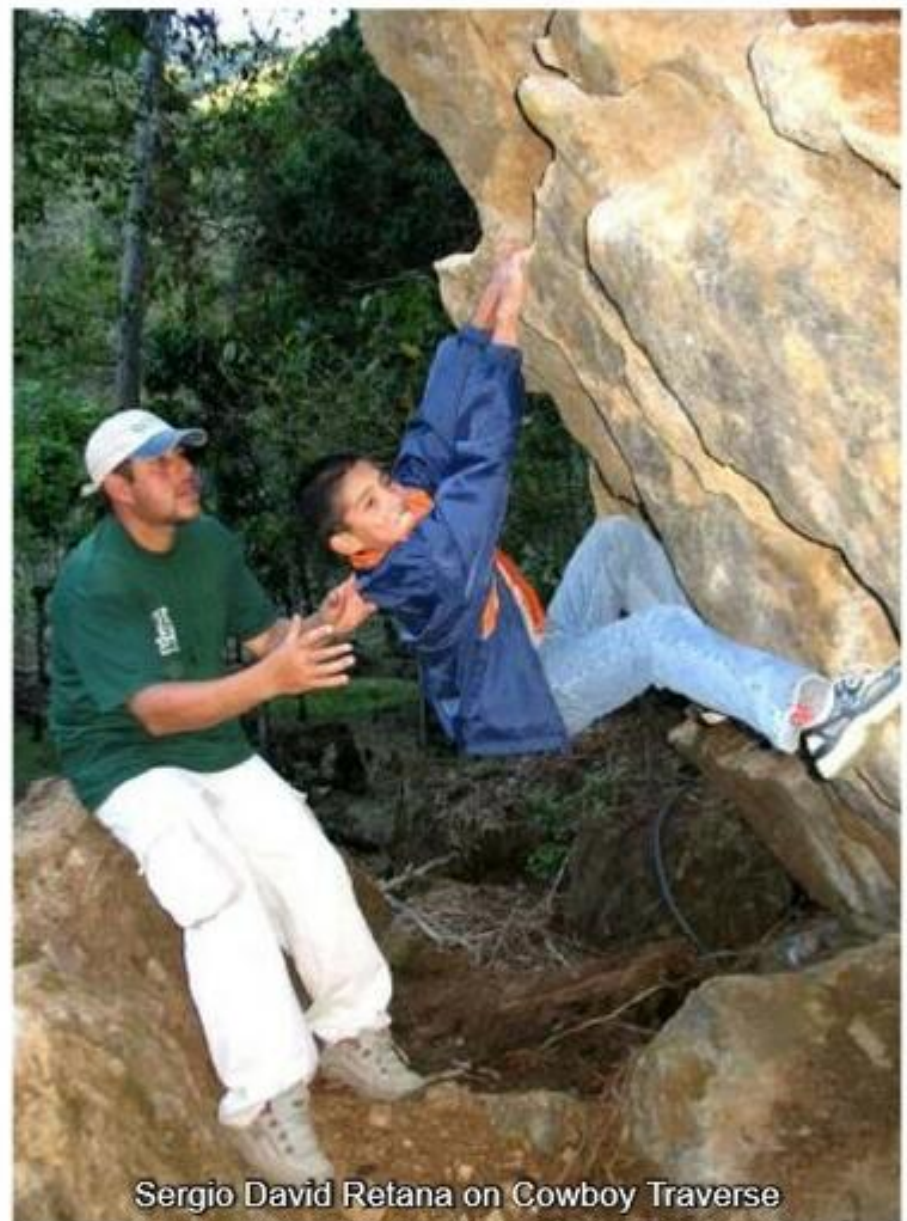
Michelle Kreger on Anuar's Traverse



The Roadside Dog Boulder



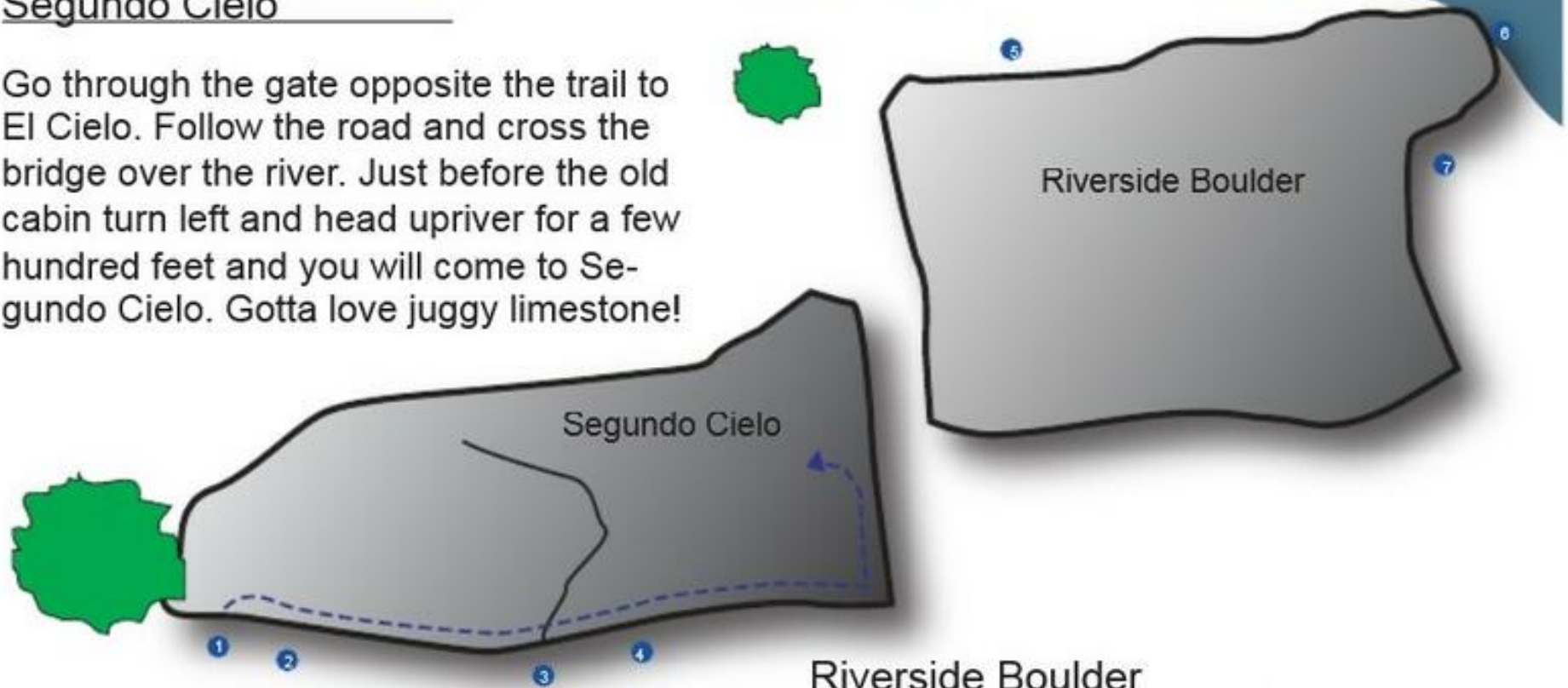
Sierra Allen on Canine Bite V1



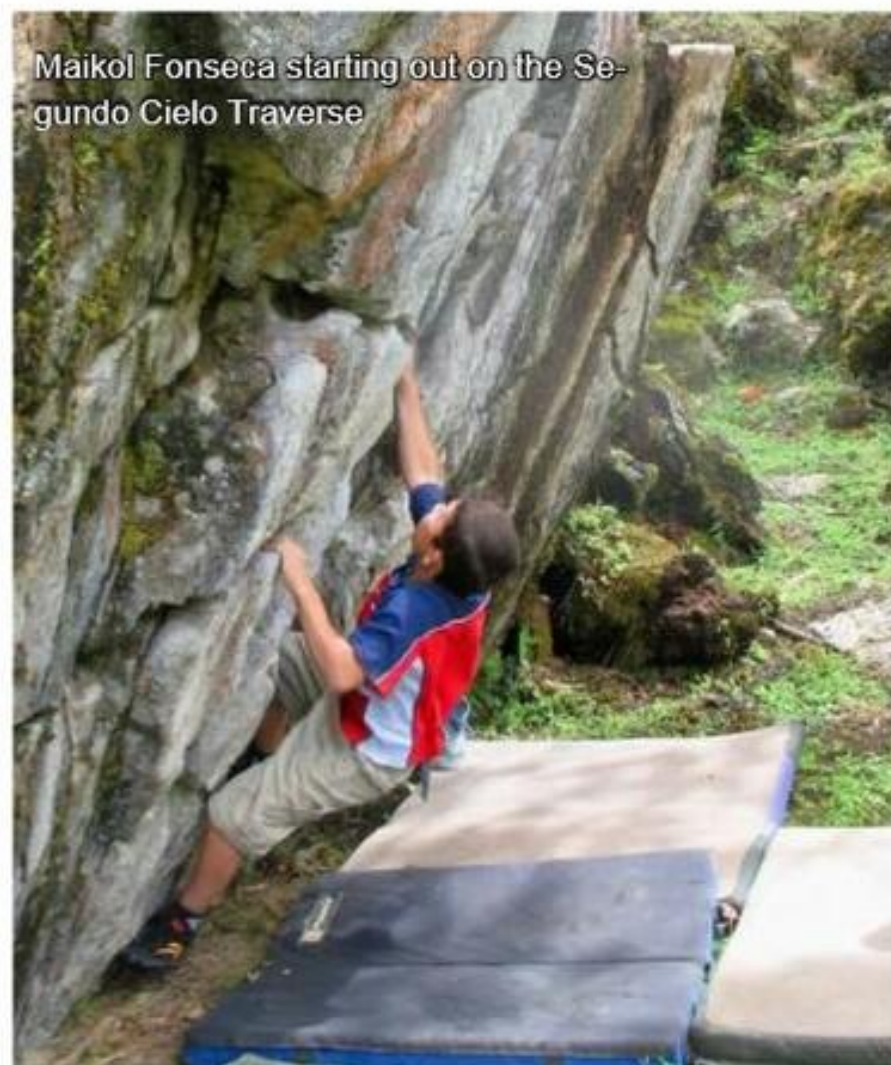
Sergio David Retana on Cowboy Traverse

Segundo Cielo

Go through the gate opposite the trail to El Cielo. Follow the road and cross the bridge over the river. Just before the old cabin turn left and head upriver for a few hundred feet and you will come to Segundo Cielo. Gotta love juggy limestone!



- 1. Segundo Cielo Traverse V1 Start sitting on left side of the boulder and traverse right staying off the top. Finish around the corner.
- 2. Golden Girl V0 Sit start and go straight up using a good crimp.
- 3. Angelica V0 ★ Climb up the juggy crack. Sit start to add extra moves.
- 4. La Gloria V1 Sit start with hands in slot then go up to second slot.

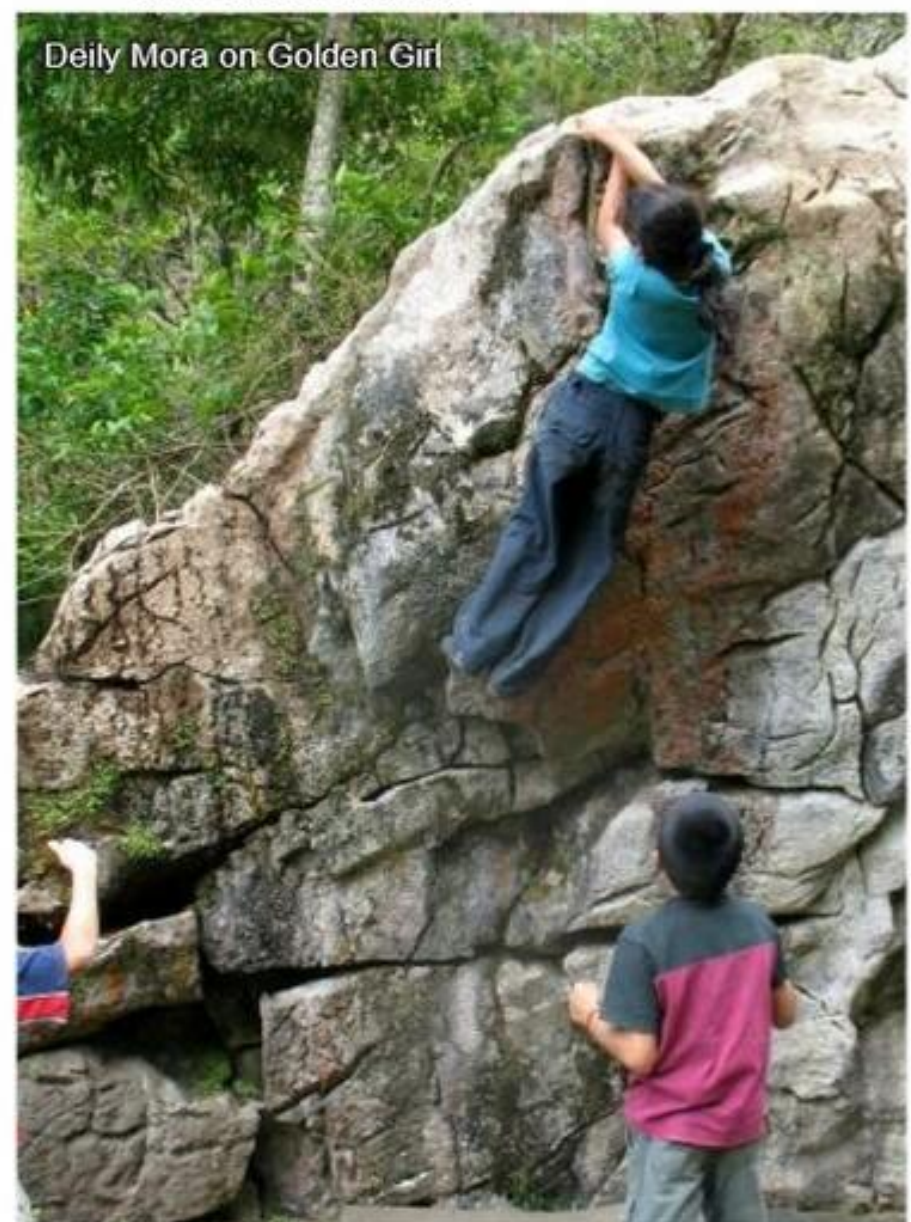


Maikol Fonseca starting out on the Segundo Cielo Traverse

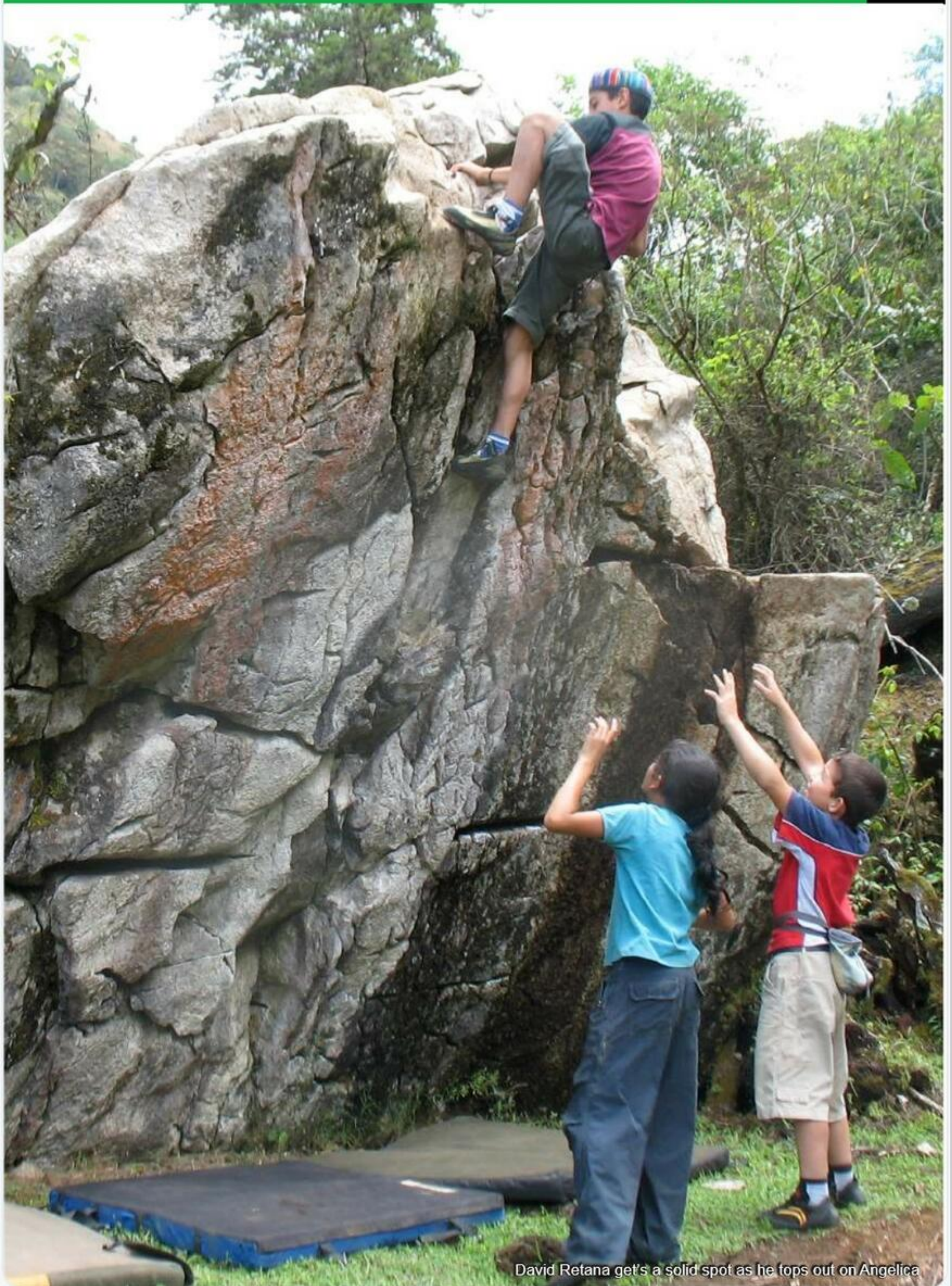
Riverside Boulder

The Riverside boulder may be unclimbable when the river is high.

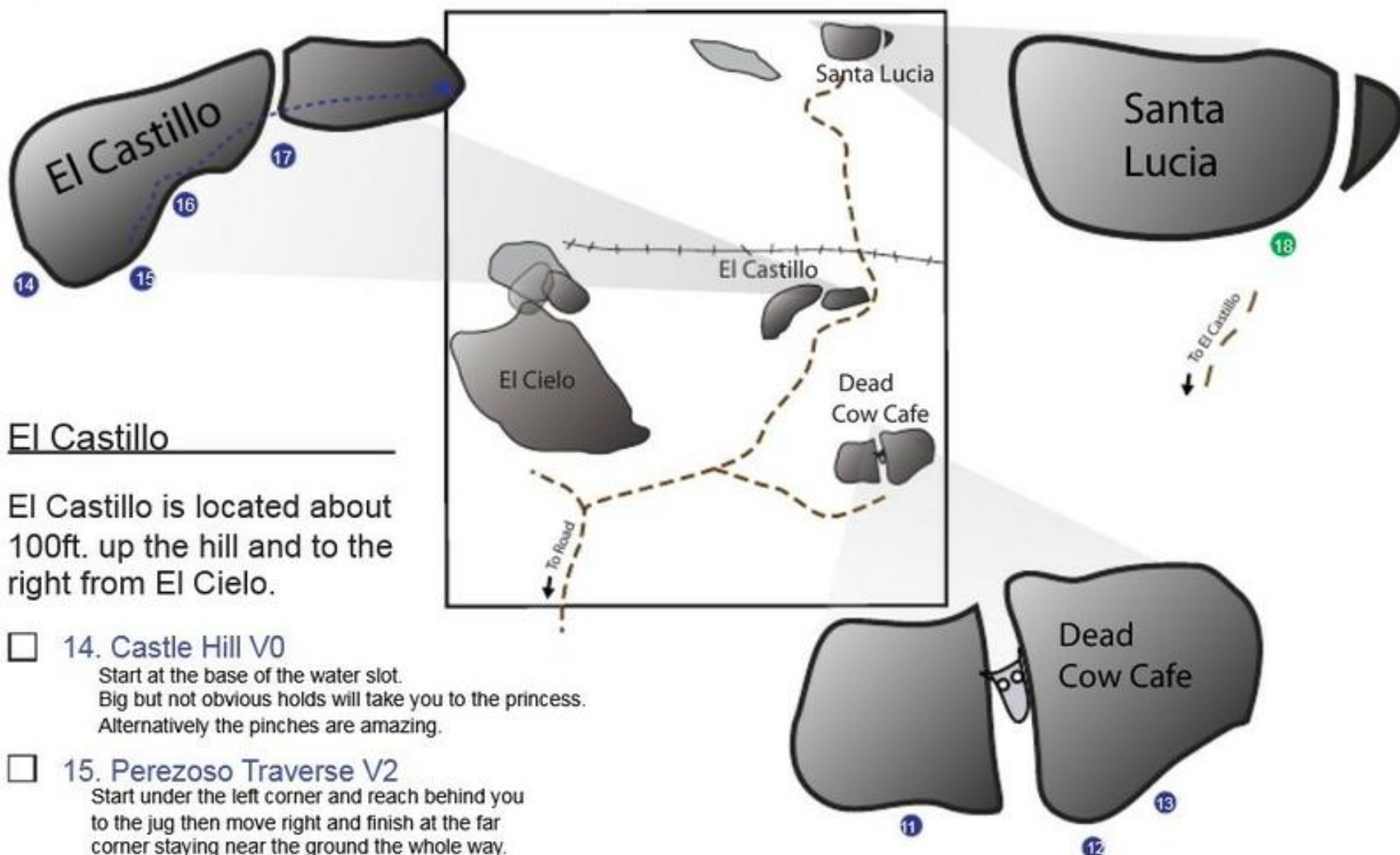
- 5. Boquitas V1 Sit start and climb up steep face.
- 6. Sensaciones V0 Sit start and climb out the crack on the overhang.
- 7. Rosquitas V0 Sit start left of the overhang and climb right and up the left side of the roof.



Deily Mora on Golden Girl



David Retana get's a solid spot as he tops out on Angelica



El Castillo

El Castillo is located about 100ft. up the hill and to the right from El Cielo.

- 14. Castle Hill V0
Start at the base of the water slot. Big but not obvious holds will take you to the princess. Alternatively the pinches are amazing.
- 15. Perezoso Traverse V2
Start under the left corner and reach behind you to the jug then move right and finish at the far corner staying near the ground the whole way.
- 16. El Castillo V0 ★
Start in the middle of the juggy face. One tricky move takes you to the juicy jugs and a high but secure topout.
- 17. Chimenea V0
Climb the chimney.



Eric Allen on Castle Hill

Santa Lucía

This boulder is located across the fence and up the hill from El Castillo.

- 18. Santa Lucía V4
Start on good hold about shoulder height on the right side of the boulder. Climb up and left to the huge jugs in the middle of the face. Top out straight up.

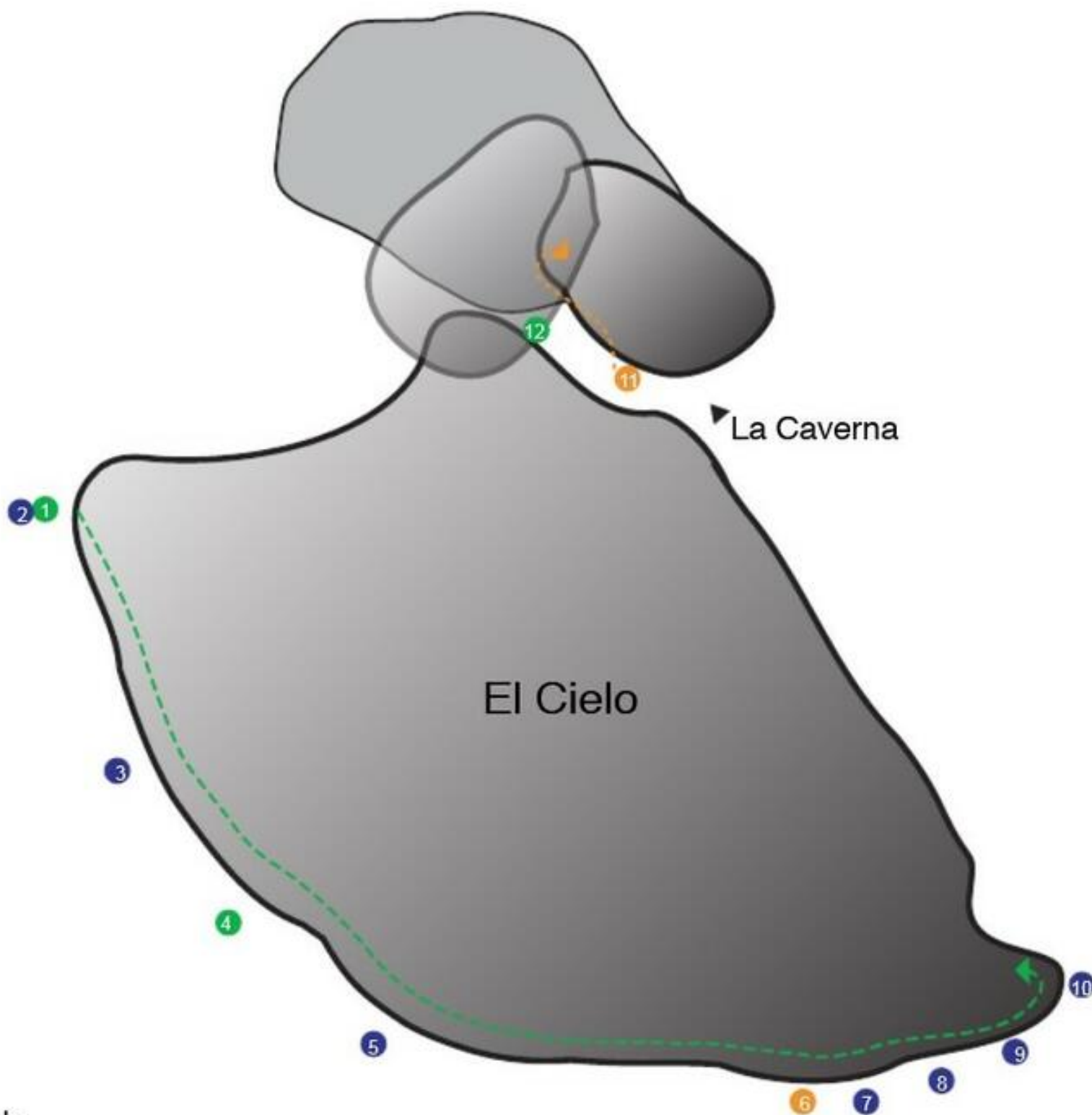
Dead Cow Cafe

The Dead Cow Cafe is located about 100ft. down the hill and to the right from El Cielo.

- 11. Grab and Dangle V2 
Sit start in the little cave and climb out and over the bulge.
- 12. Spider Insider V1 
Start on the right side of the slot on obvious holds, surge up to the big jug on the high face and finish out to the left on big holds.
- 13. Dyno Soar V3 
Start on the same holds as Spider Insider. Move right using slots. Finish to the right of the tree.



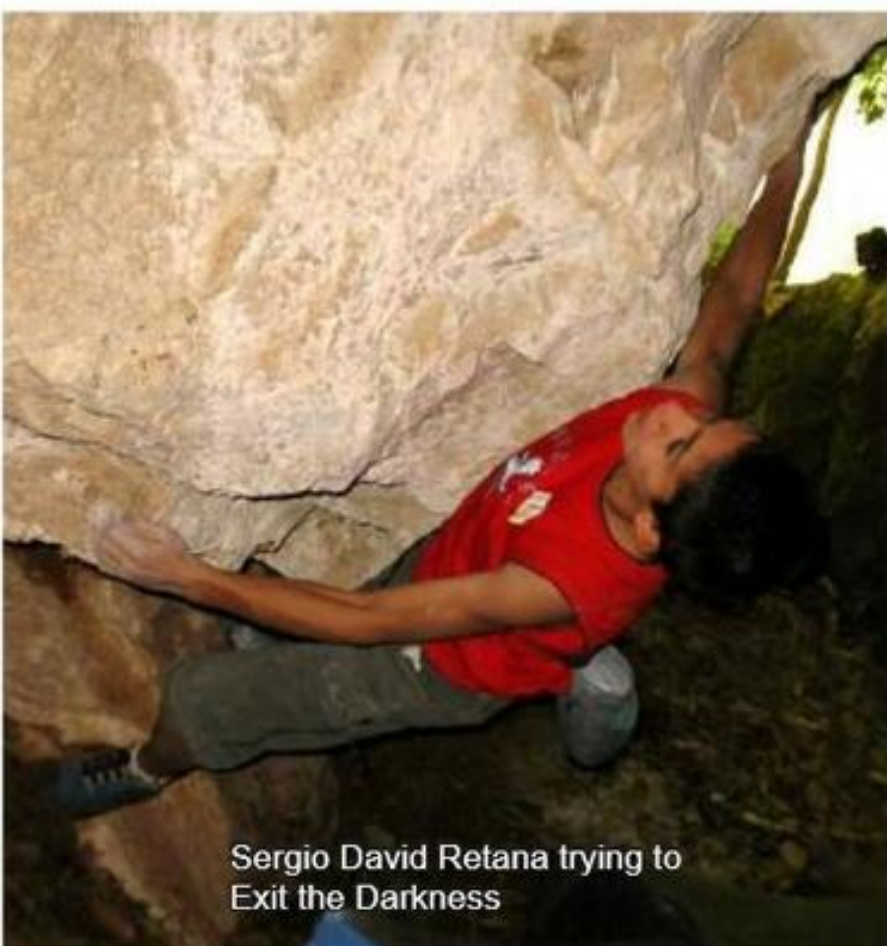
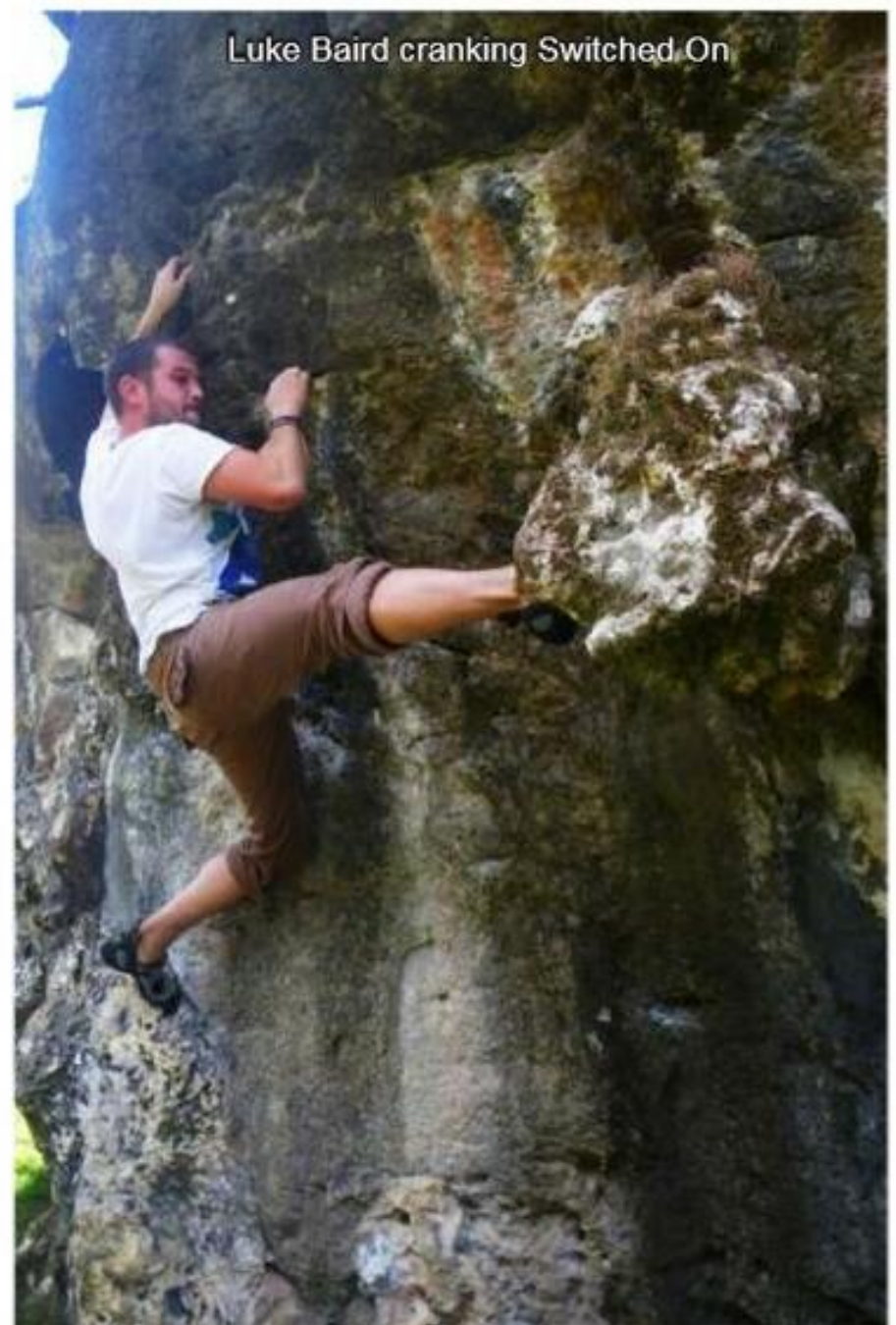
Eric Allen on Grab and Dangle



El Cielo

El Cielo is a great limestone bouldering crag. Its nice height, continuous overhangs, funky tufas, amazing jugs and nice flat grassy landings are bound to put a smile on your face. Be careful because holds potentially will break off, especially the chalky tufas. Have fun!

- 1. **Pupy's Traverse V6**
Start at the far upper left corner of the crag and traverse right all the way around to top out at the right corner
- 2. **Disfruta V0.**
Pull on slots, pinches and jugs to a high but secure topout on the corner.
- 3. **Chilero V0**
Climb straight up the featured high wall.
- 4. **Festival V4**
- 5. **Blind Man's Bluff V0**
Very juggy, holds everywhere!
- 6. **Guava V7**
Start as Holey Cow but climb left up a bulge on some crimp and make a big move to gain some divits at the top.
- 7. **Holey Cow V0** ★
Climb up through or around the hole. Very fun!
- 8. **Switched On V3** ★
Start on crimps and go up and slightly right using the big tufa for feet. Variation: Go straight up without using any tufas. HARD!
- 9. **Donkey Ho Te V1** 🐱
Sit start under tufa feature and climb up through the eye socket pockets.
- 10. **Sancho's Panza V2** 🐱
Sit start just left of the corner and climb straight out prow using cool holes and knarly feature.
- 11. **Exit The Darkness V7** 🐱
Sit start in the mouth of the cave. Left hand on big blocky hold and right hand on small sidepull. The rock below is on for feet. Climb up towards the center of the cave and top out through the opening.
- 12. **Mandalo V5** 🐱
Sit start on the smooth wall and climb up to slopers.





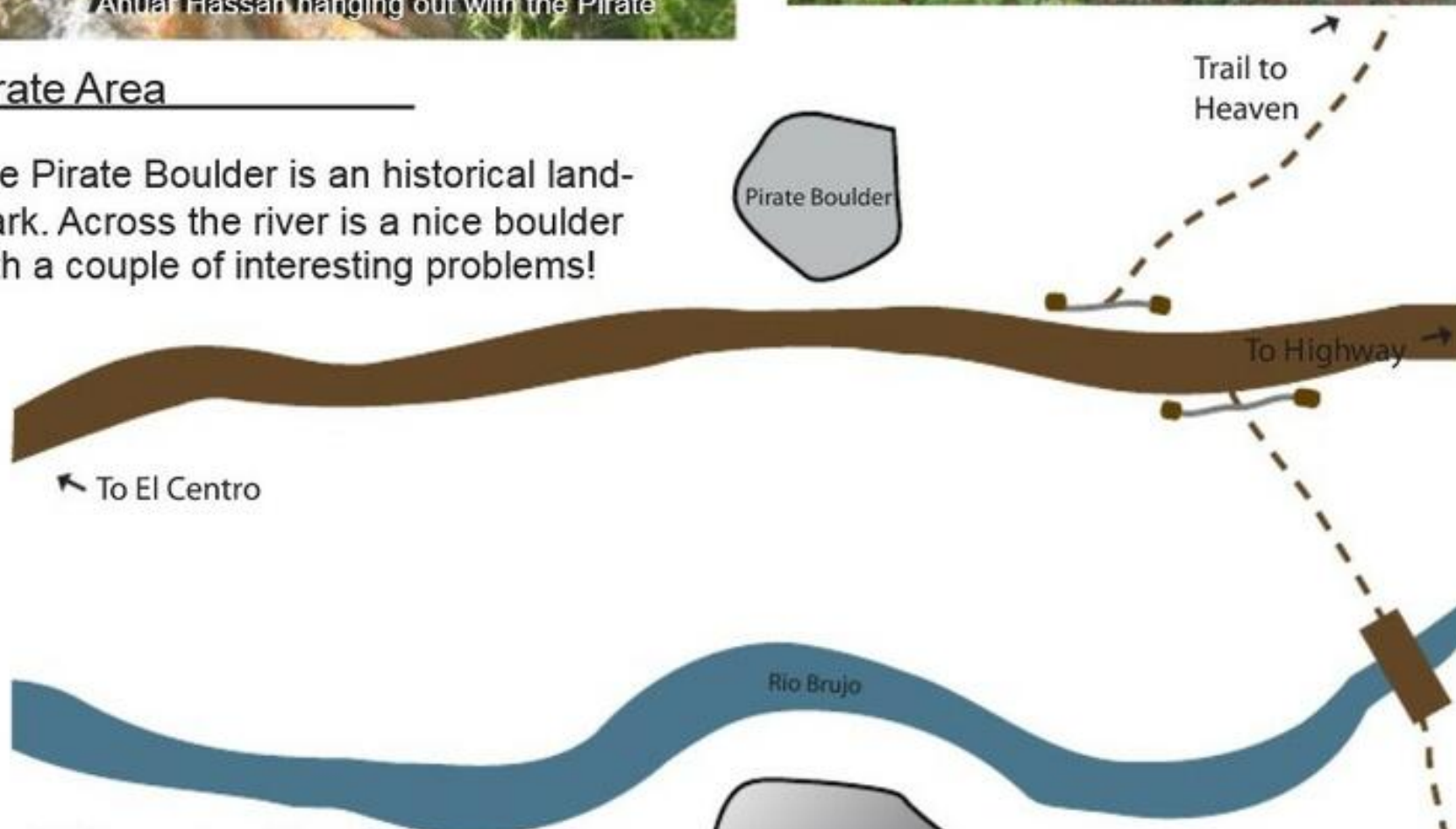
Anwar Hassan hanging out with the Pirate



Lucid Dreaming Boulder

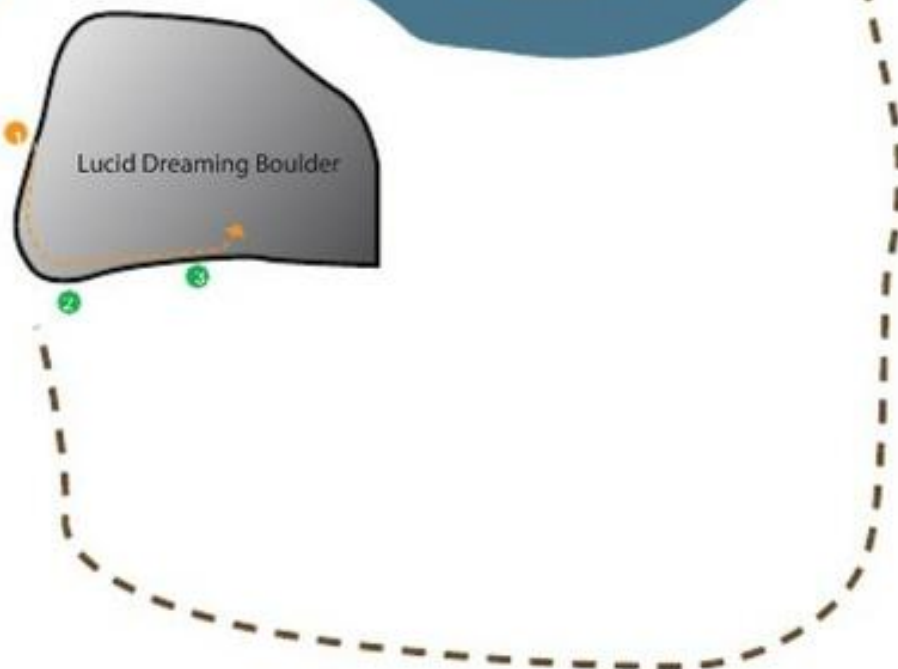
Pirate Area

The Pirate Boulder is an historical landmark. Across the river is a nice boulder with a couple of interesting problems!



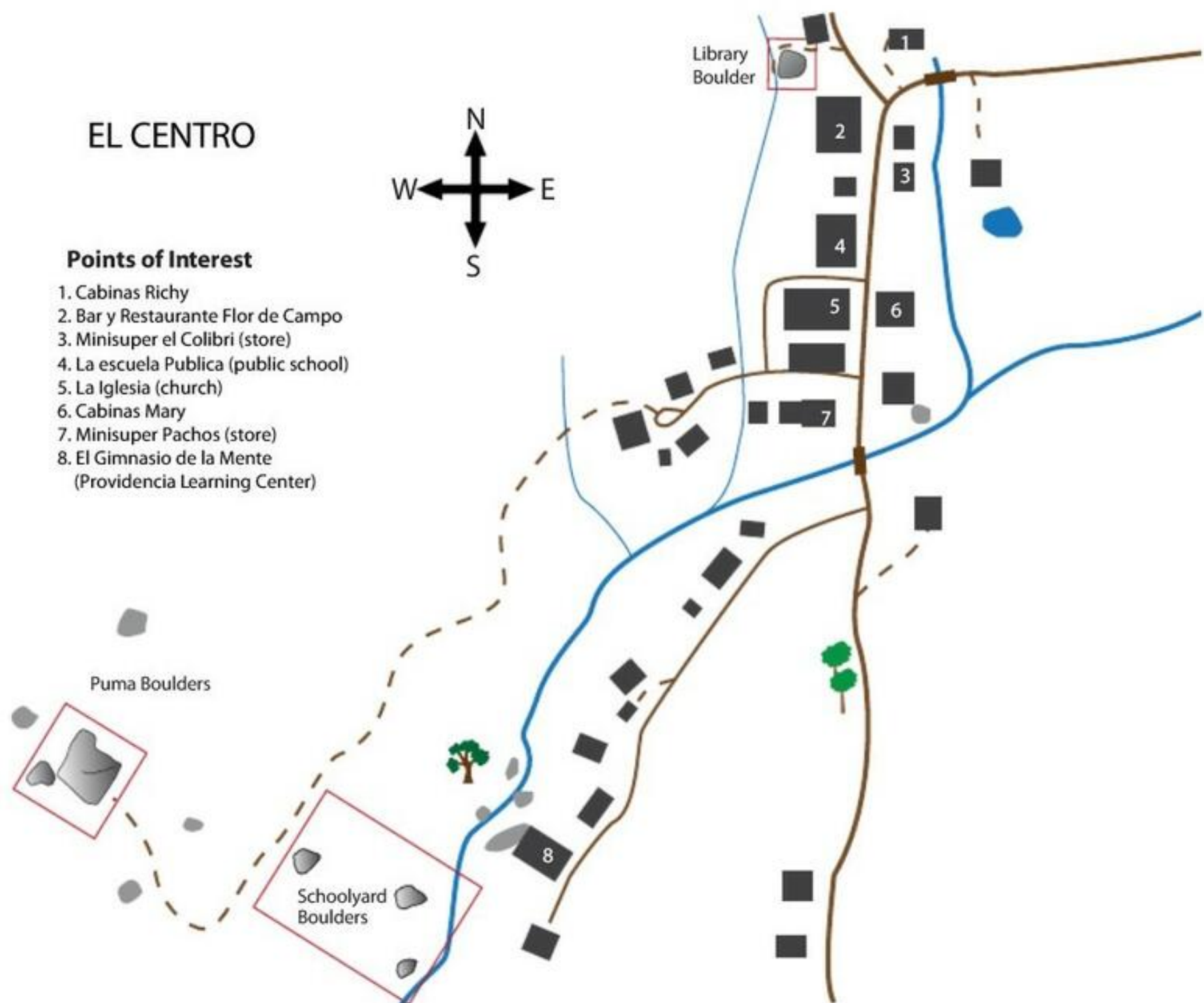
Lucid Dreaming Boulder

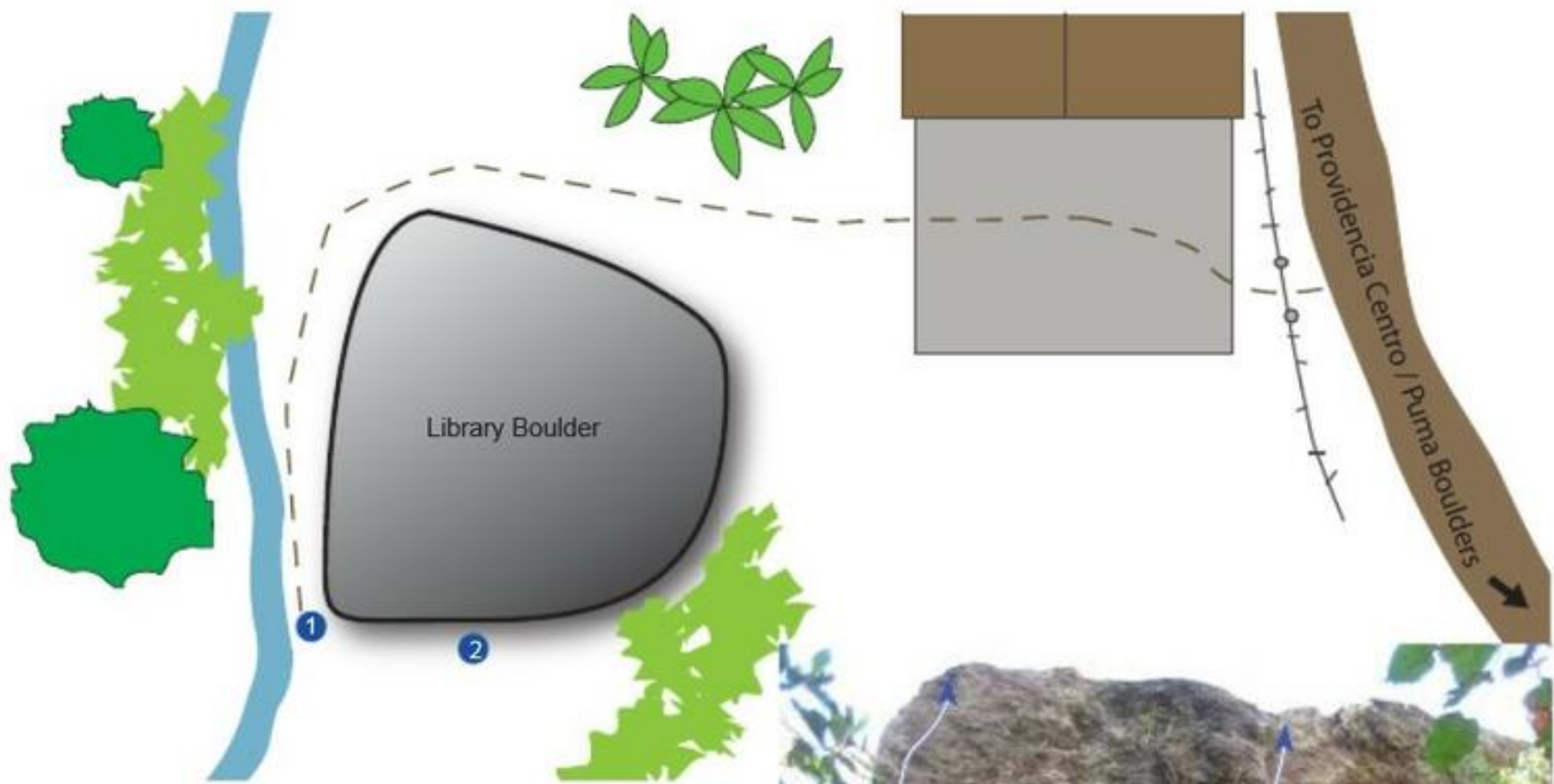
- 1. **Lucid Dreaming Traverse V7** ★
Start on the slab side of the boulder. Traverse right around the corner to finish on problem 3.
- 2. **Drew's Problem V4**
Start up the arete and top out slightly to the right.
- 3. **Gato Libanes V5**
Start on holds under the middle of the overhang. Go up and right through the notch.



El Centro

El Centro is the central valley and the town center. Coming down from the highway past El Brujo, you will see a football field on your right and then cross a bridge. Here the road will split. Left will take you down to town and to the boulders and right will take you up and over the mountain to Copey and eventually loop back to the highway. El Centro is home to the Puma boulders which are some of the best in the area. The schoolyard boulders is a good warm up area with many easy but fun problems. Some of my favorite boulder problems here are **Rocinante V1**, **Finga Sez No V4**, **Jalapeño-Tequila V7**, **Tortillitas V3**, and **Feels Like Spit V3**.



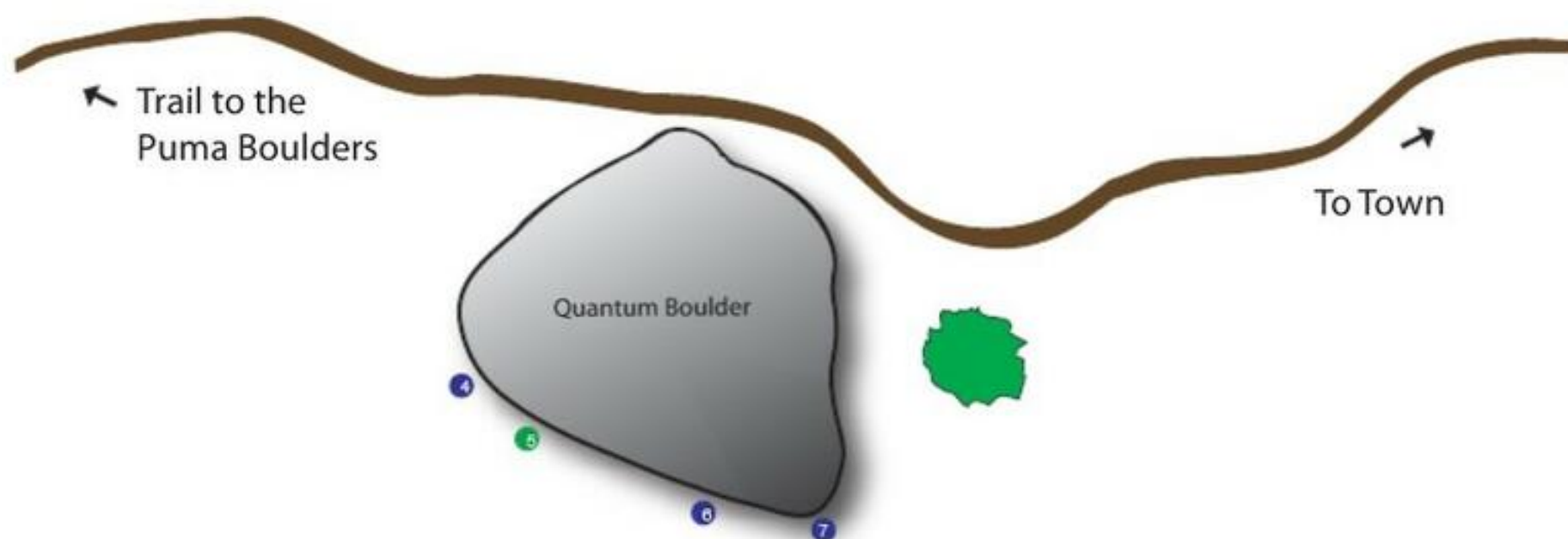


Library Boulder

From the center of town head north and where the road splits, take the left heading up hill. Go through the gate at the first house on the left. Cross large cement pad and follow the trail down around to the base of the boulder at the creek.

- 1. It is Written V2
Climb the sharp arete over the creek.
- 2. Civility V3
Climb straight up vertical face starting on some small holds.





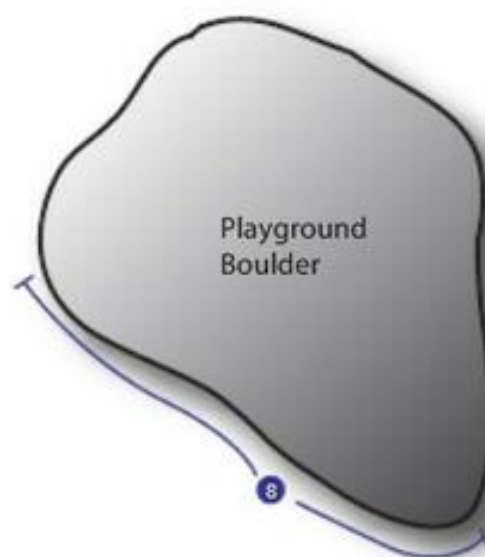
Schoolyard Boulders

The schoolyard boulders are on the left side of the trail on the way to the Puma boulders. You have to drop down and go towards the river to find the Playground and the Drool Pool.

- 1. **It's Alive Uh? V3**
Start at far left and traverse right to finish on Feels Like Spit.
- 2. **Feels Like Spit V3** ★
Climb straight up the middle of the slab.
- 3. **Salivary V0**
Climb the right arete of the boulder.

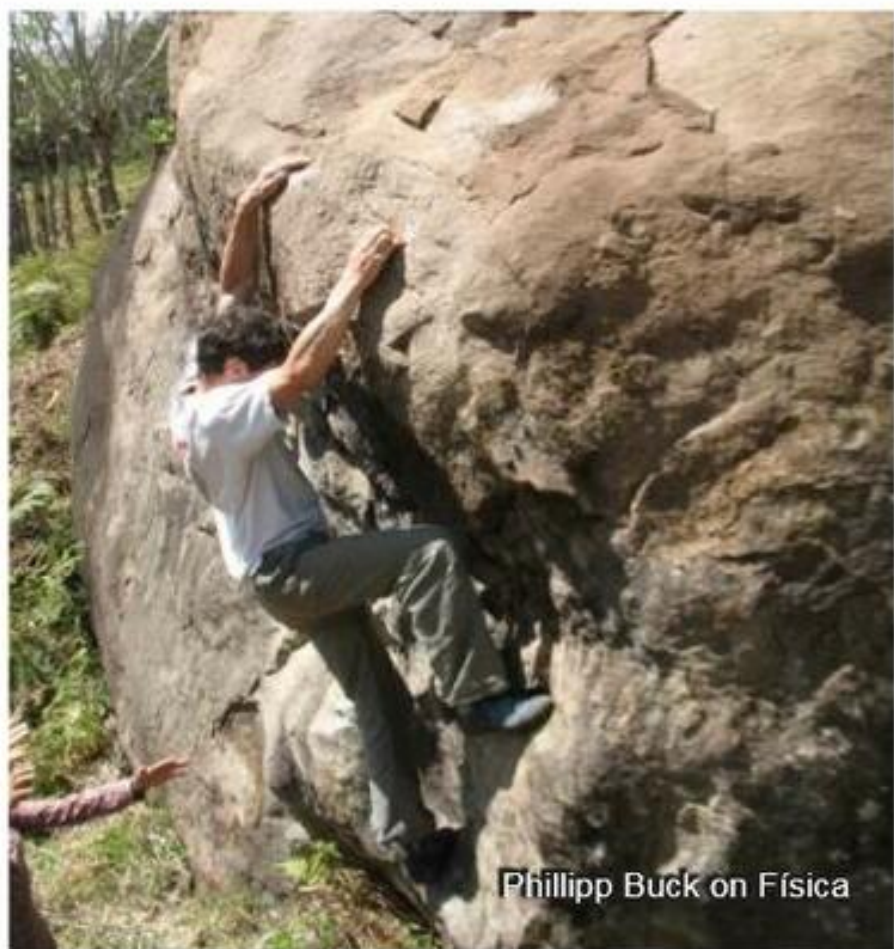


- 4. **Black Hole V2**
Harder than it looks! The slab on the far left end of the Quantum boulder.
- 5. **Finga Sez No V4** ☠️
Start on small crimps. About half way up go left and up. Get spotters!
- 6. **Cling Theory V2**
Climb up face using good sidepulls and crimps.

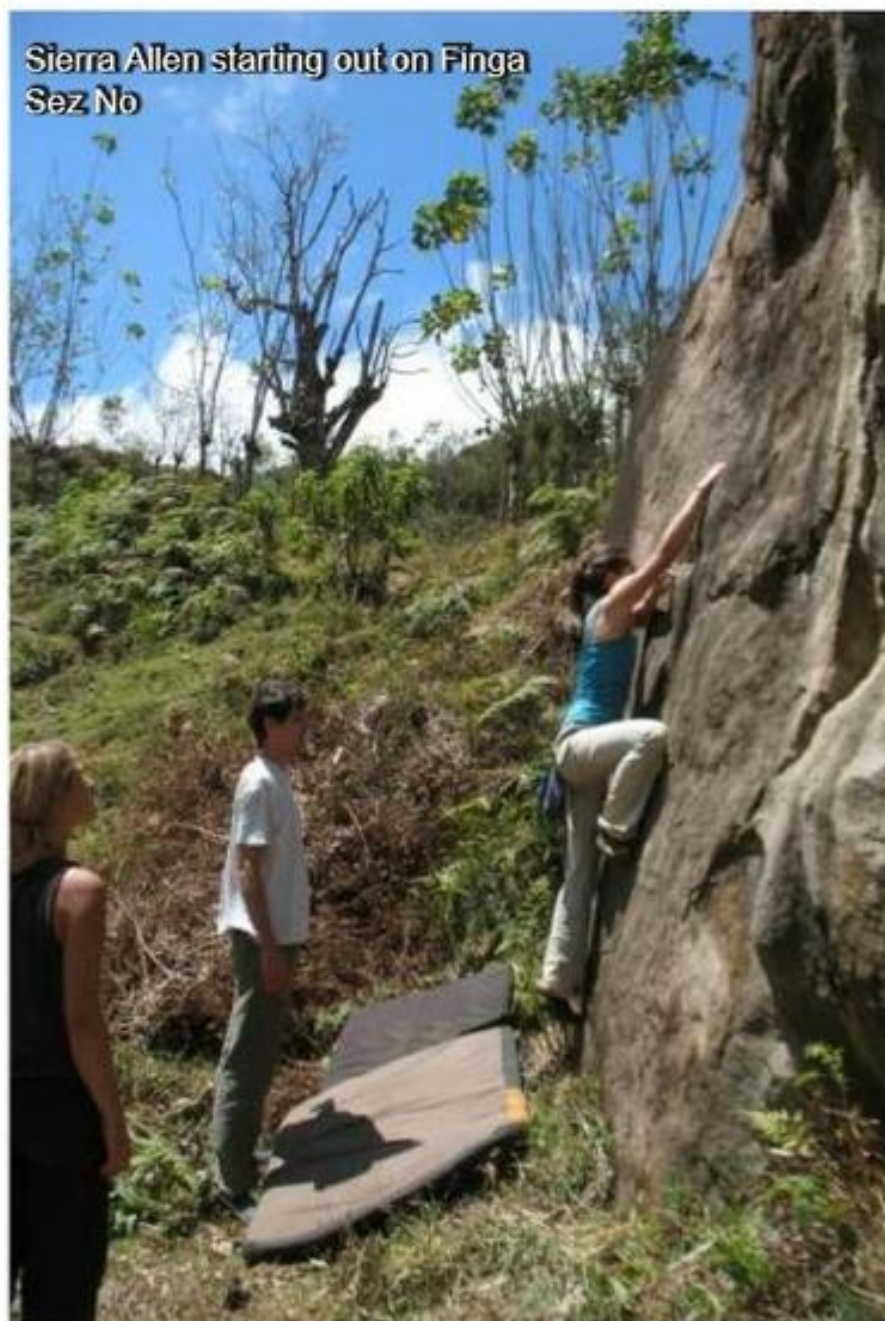


- 7. **Física V0**
Starting on sidepulls, climb the corner.
- 8. **Various short V0s**

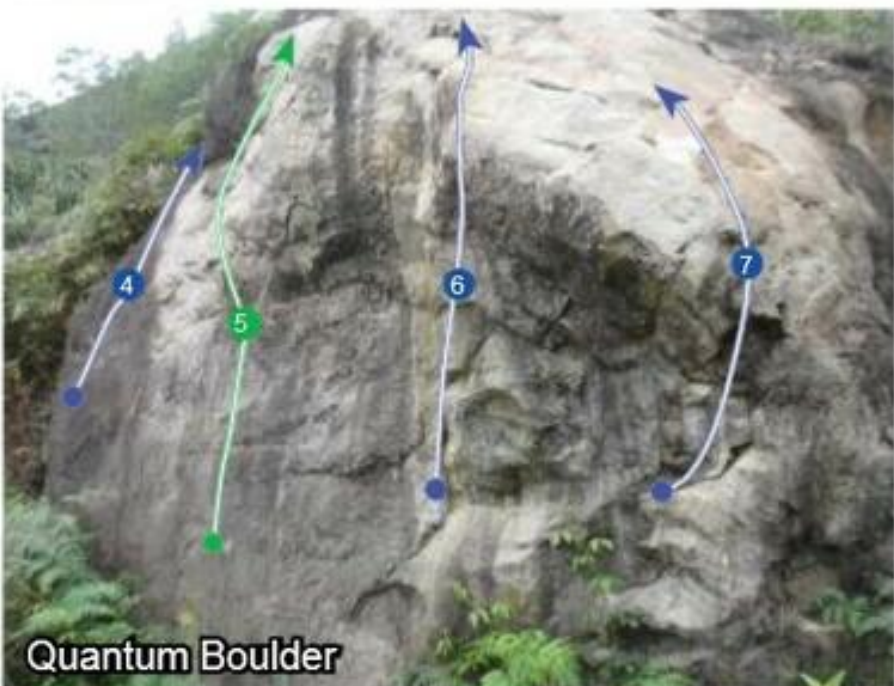




Phillipp Buck on Física



Sierra Allen starting out on Finga Sez No



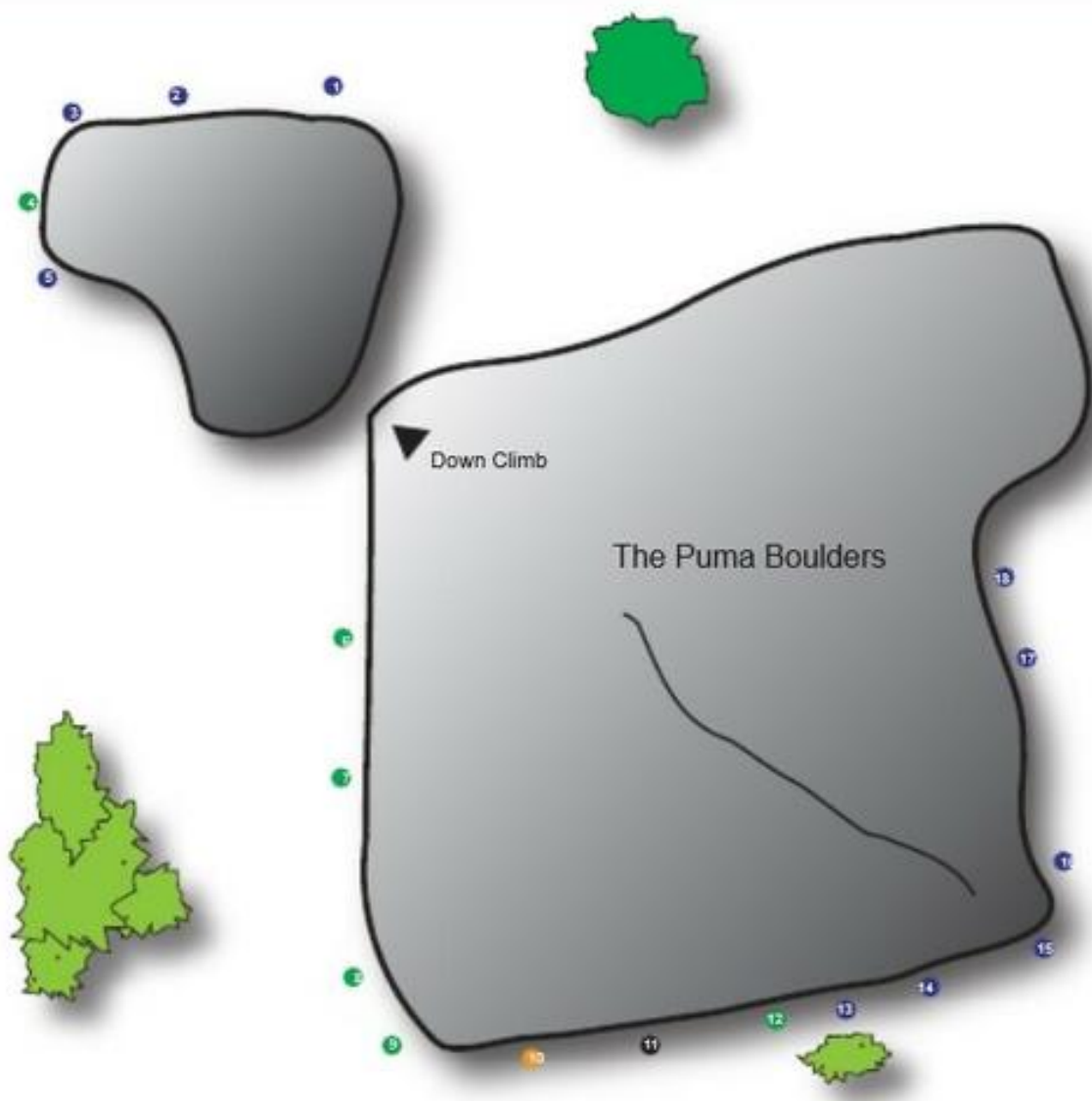
Quantum Boulder



The Drool Pool

Puma Boulders

The Puma Boulders are located a short walk from Providencia's town center just uphill from the Schoolyard boulders. The main boulder has many excellent problems on it from the classic pocketed and crimpy Tortillitas, to the highball cruiser, Rocinante. These boulders are on a private farm so permission to climb there (ask around) must be obtained and is only given to those who tread lightly, stay on the trails and leave as little damage to the vegetation as possible.



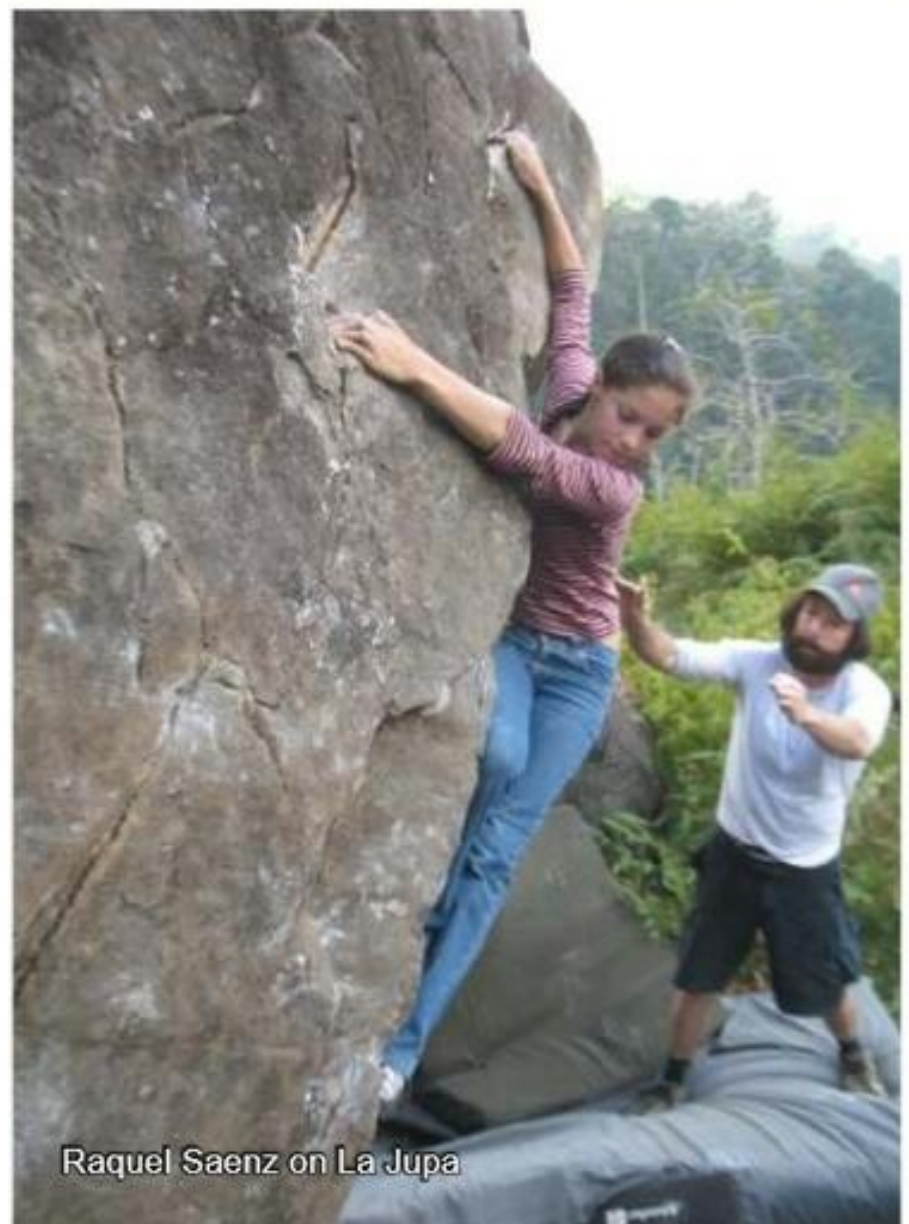
- 1. **Los Dos V0**
Climb the left side of the short slab.
- 2. **Puma Track V0**
Climb the right side of the short slab.
- 3. **La Jupa V2** 📖
Start sitting right at the corner following slots up arete to jugs at the top.
- 4. **Abuelita V4**
Step awkwardly on middle of overhanging face. Make some balancy moves up slightly right to a big pinch at the top out at highest point.
- 5. **Go Team! V3** 📖
Sit start and move up the fin.
- 6. **Smooth Move V4**
Start on sharp feature and move up to long horizontal crimps. Follow them up and over the bulge. Add sit start for more spice.
- 7. **Pinch It Off V4** 📖
Sit start as low as possible - right hand in lowest sloping slot and left on samll crimps slightly lower. Move up slots then to pinches and up.
- 8. **Tortillitas V4** 📖 ★
Classic first problem done on this boulder. For full value start under roof on two good pockets. Move up jugs to the lip. Keep calm on the tricky mantle!
- 9. **Chocolate Picante V4** 📖
Start under roof and pull some burly moves to move up arete avoiding the big jugs used on Tortillitas.
- 10. **Jalapeño Tequila V7** 📖 ★
Start as low as possible on good under-cling. Using some tricky heel hooking, gain crimps out left and slap some slopers to gain jug at the lip.
- 11. **Maikol's Project** 📖
Starts on small holds and heads up the vertical face just right of Jalapeño Tequila.
- 12. **Habanero Mango V4**
Start with hands high on two good crimps. Stab up to sloping holes and move up and right to the top.
- 13. **El Gusanito V1**
Start standing on a rock, reach up to good holds and do some fun moves straight up to the lip.
- 14. **Chile Dulce V3**
Start as for El Gusanito but head up right to use the protruding block feature.
- 15. **Parasites Left V2** 📖
Start just left of the corner. Continue up the arete to a high finish.
- 16. **Parasites are Afraid of Heights V1** 📖
Start to the right of the corner. Go up and left to finish as #15
- 17. **Dulcinea V3** 📖
Bring extra pads for this one. Nice line but keep a cool head up in the high section!
- 18. **Rocinante V1** 📖 ★
Providencia's classic highball V1. This excellent problem eases off in difficulty after a hard first move off the ground.



Puma Boulders

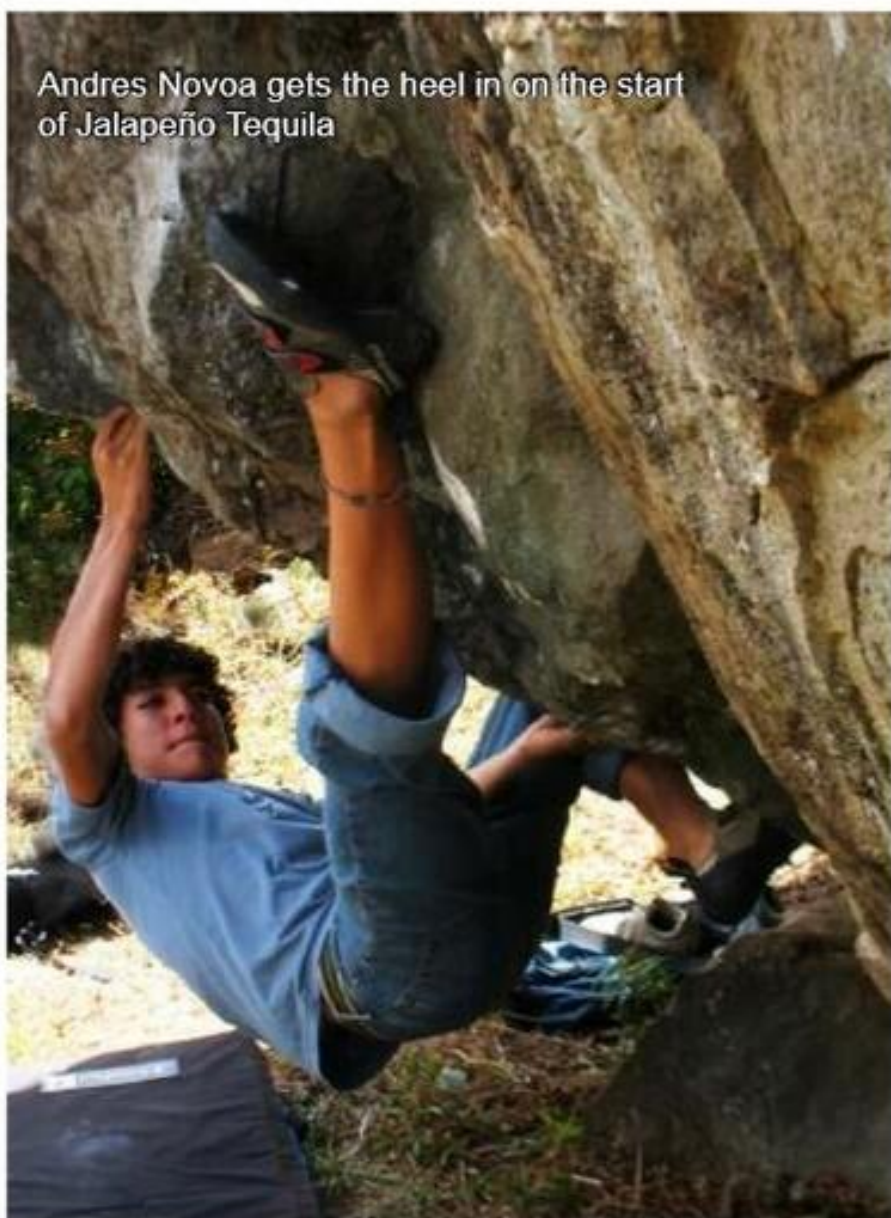


Anuar Hassan sending Chocolate Picante

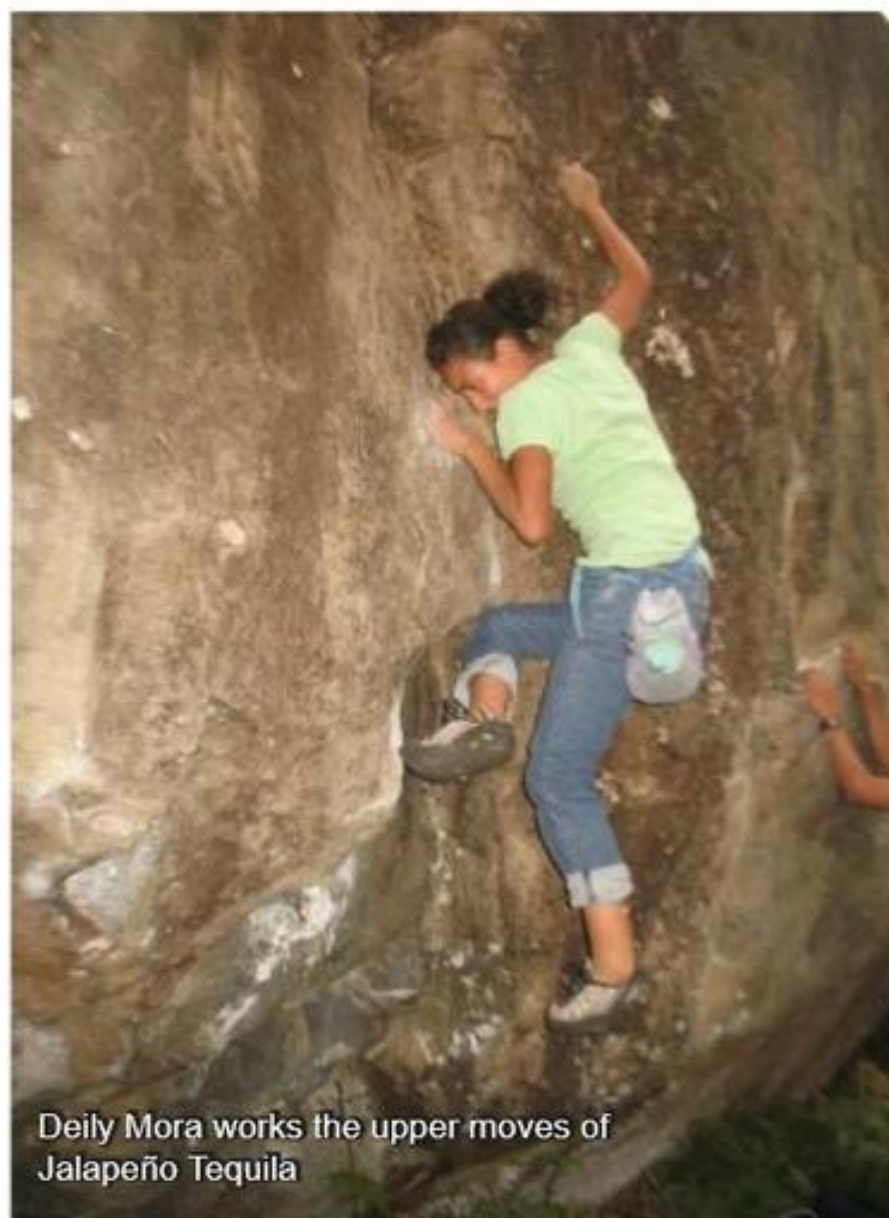


Raquel Saenz on La Jupa

Andres Novoa gets the heel in on the start of Jalapeño Tequila



Deily Mora works the upper moves of Jalapeño Tequila



Jordy Mendez near the top of the highball classic Rocinante

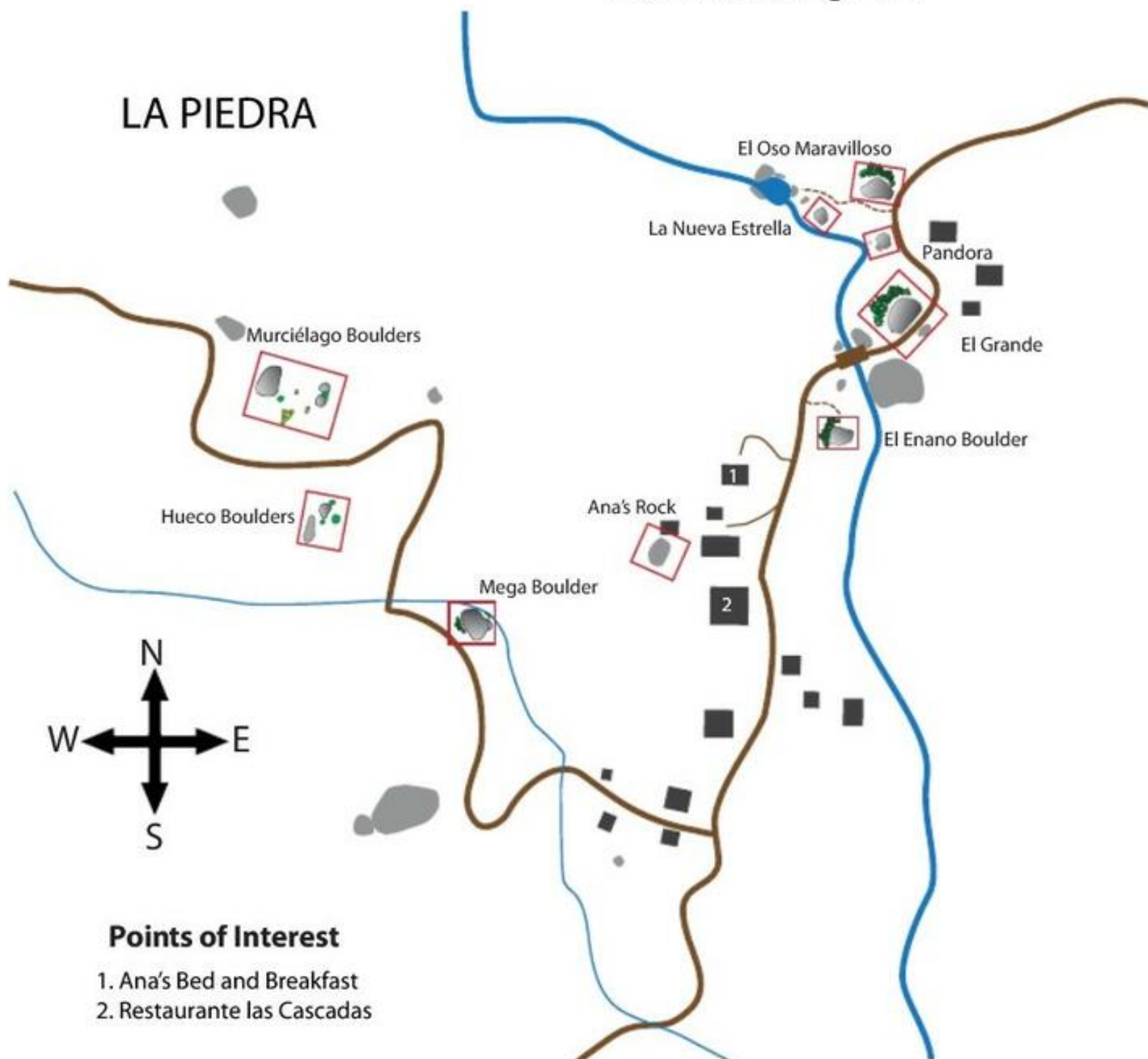


Deily Mora goes big on Pinch It Off



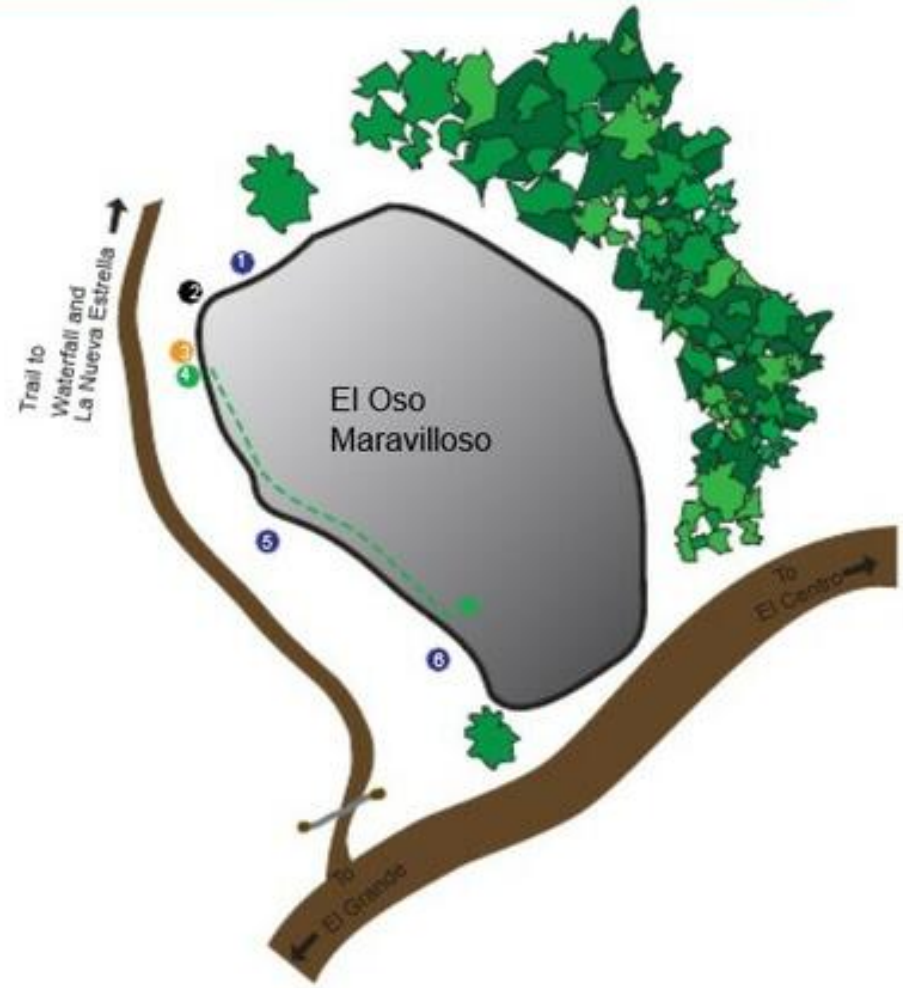
La Piedra

La Piedra is the lowest section of town and is definitely the area with the most quantity and undeveloped rock. Most of the blocs lay along the river flows that through town and later joins the Rio Savegre. From El Centro, continue down the road until it splits and take a right down the steep hill. At the bottom of the steep hill, you will find the first boulders on the right side of the road near the river. Other boulders lay visible along the road by the bridge. To access the boulders up on the hill (Huecos, Mega, and Murcielago), continue down the road and take a right at the second house past the restaurant on your right. Follow this road all the way up the hill until you start seeing the rocks! All the problems in this area are really good, but some outstanding must-dos are: **El Diagonal V4, El Ventolero V4, Roadkill V8, and El Murcielago V6.**



El Oso Maravilloso

This boulder is located right beside the road at the bottom of the hill as you descend down into La Piedra from Providencia town center. Follow the trail that goes to the waterfall -- El Pozeron, passing through a small gate. It is the first boulder you come to. This boulder gets very overgrown with grass and other vegetation during the rainy season so be prepared to do a bit of cleaning.



- 1. **Ok Mckay V3**
Climb straight up the tall face starting with hard moves just to the right of the bank.
- 2. **Bearly There P**
This problem was sent once before two key crimps consecutively broke off and became much smaller. Starts in small pocket and crimps and continues up the corner.
- 3. **Oso Maravilloso V7** 🏠 ★
This is an excellent problem that goes straight up the face just to the right of the corner. Start sitting on big rounded jug.
- 4. **Pink Moon Traverse V5** 🏠
Start as for Oso Maravilloso but traverse right on slopers to finish on Oso Chistoso at the other end of the boulder.

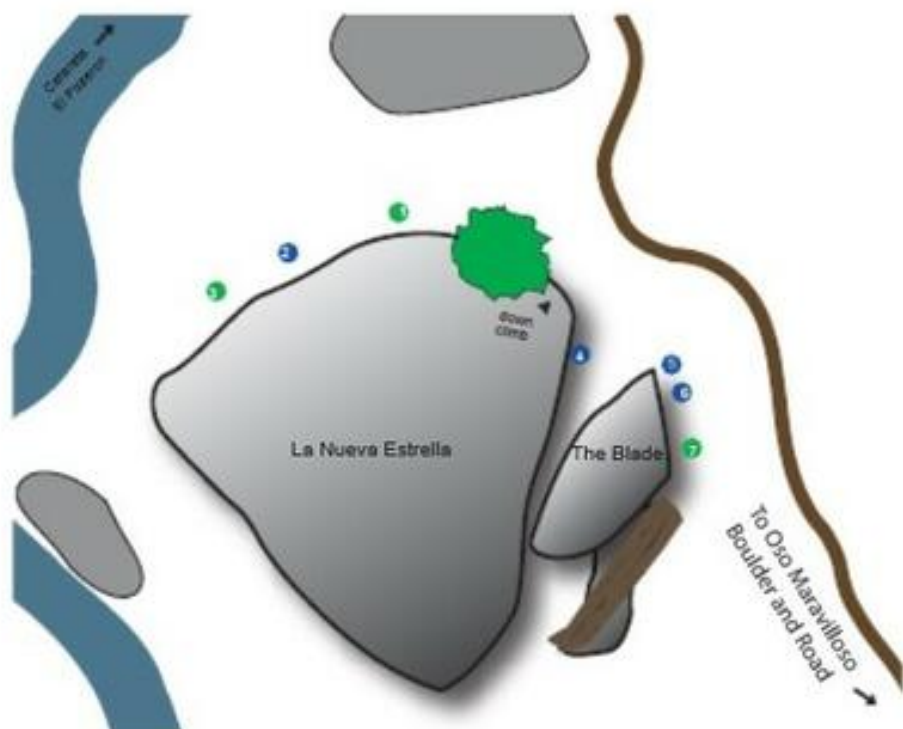
- 5. **Oso Amistoso V1**
Find the good underclings and go up and right through the slot.
- 6. **Oso Chistoso V3** ★
Start on crimps about head height and go up the corner with some high stepping. Add a grade for the sit start.



El Oso Maravilloso

La Nueva Estrella

This boulder is right beside the river close to the Pozeron waterfall. The overhanging sides have been looked at a lot but so far nothing has been put up.



- 1. **Obi-Wan Kenobi V4**
Start on high crimps and make big moves up on hard-to-see crimps.
- 2. **Luke Skywalker V3**
Climb up the slightly lower angle middle of the face on the right side of the small tree.
- 3. **Yoda V5**
This problem may be easier for taller folk, climb the near vertical face just right of the left corner the face.



- 4. **Jabba V1**
Start on the slightly overhanging wall just to the left of the corner. Move up on big underclings.

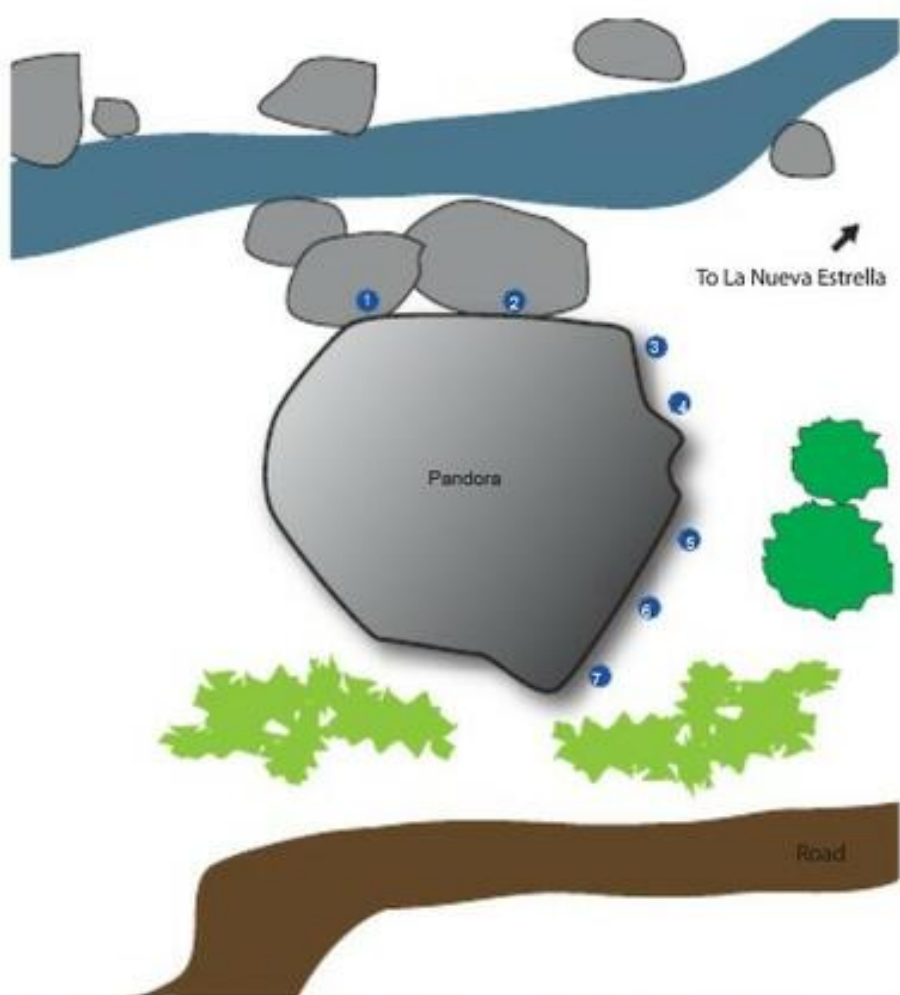
The Blade

- 5. **The Viper V1** 🏠 ★
Sit start on the sharp corner and climb the arete.
- 6. **The Python V3** 🏠
Start as for The Viper but move left to top out, avoiding the arete.
- 7. **El Terciopelo V7** 🏠
Sit start on a good hold in the middle of the face. Bust some big moves on bad holds or work the small feature.






First ascensionist Drew Copeland on Yoda



Pandora

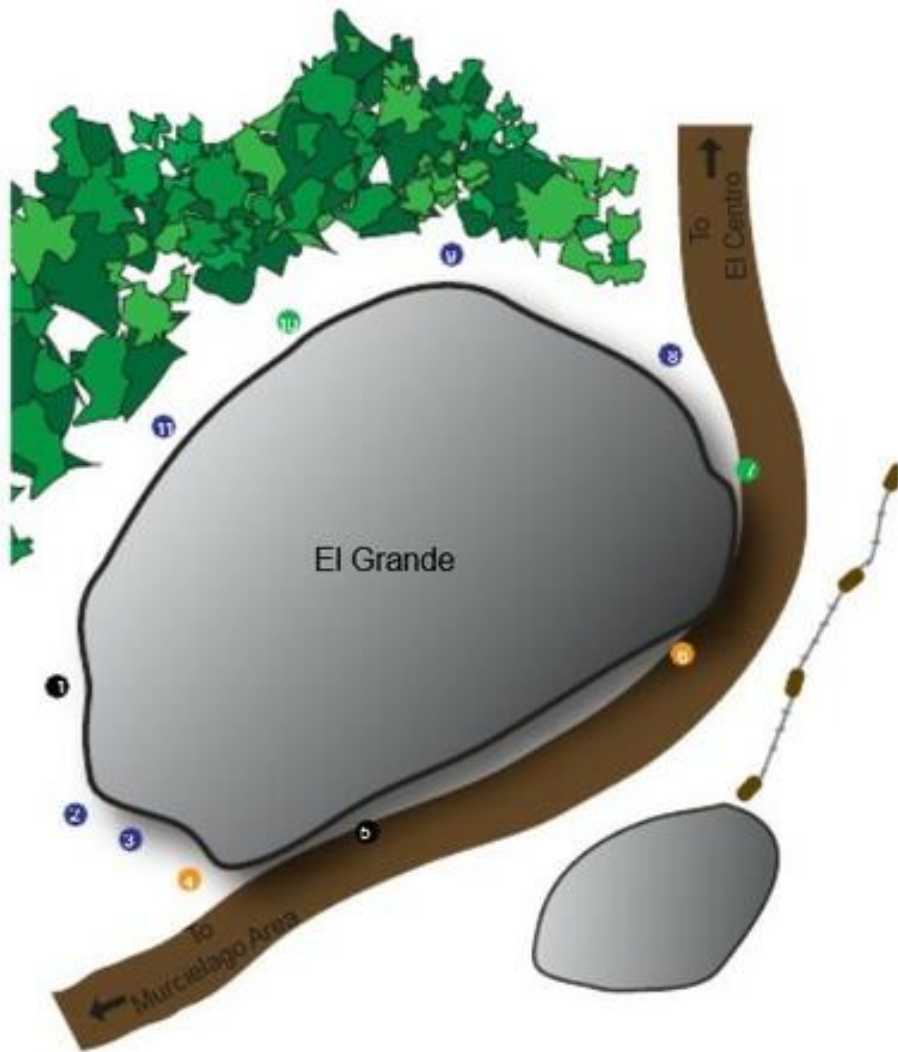
This boulder is most easily accessed from the road just past the trail to El Pozeron. There are some nice moderate climbs here in a beautiful spot by the river.

- 1. Tamed Toruk V0
Start standing on boulder and move straight up.
- 2. Eywa V3
Climb the middle of the face on the river side of the boulder.
- 3. Gumption V3 
Sit start on the right of the alcove. Move left and up.
- 4. Avatar V0
Climb the top part of Gumption.
- 5. Rocky V0
Climb the right side of the face.
- 6. Charlie V0
Climb the middle of the face.
- 7. Nicolas V0
Climb the left side of the face.



El Grande

El Grande is the most popular boulder in La Piedra. It's definitely the most obvious one as the road passes almost directly under it. It is also home to some of Providencia's hardest boulder problems, the Roadkill and Edu No Pudo.



- 1. **Bear Paw Project** **P**
Start in the big scoop using the obvious three finger little hold that resembles a bear paw track. Straight up!
- 2. **Bear Claw V1** **S** ★
This is a must do highball classic. It looks improbable from the ground but it is an excellent problem. Start as Bare Flaw and go left into it or start straight under the rounded corner using a small crimp.
- 3. **Bare Flaw V2**
Start by manteling up on the juggy feature and go up and right to top out by scraggy tree.
- 4. **Edu No Pudo V9**
Start as Bare Flaw and move right using a fat sloper and huge moves up on crimps to finish up the corner. Burly.
- 5. **Project** **P**
A possible problem starting near the left end of the overhang. The crimps are there. Start with high hands and pull hard to turn the bulge?
- 6. **Roadkill V8** **S** ★
One of the first hard problems done in the area, the Roadkill is a classic. It is in your face every time you drive by as it looms up directly above the road. Start as low as possible with one hand on the good in-cut crimp and the other hand below. Feet on rock at base. Crank up through the hole and up on small crimps. Keep it together up high!



El Grande - South Side

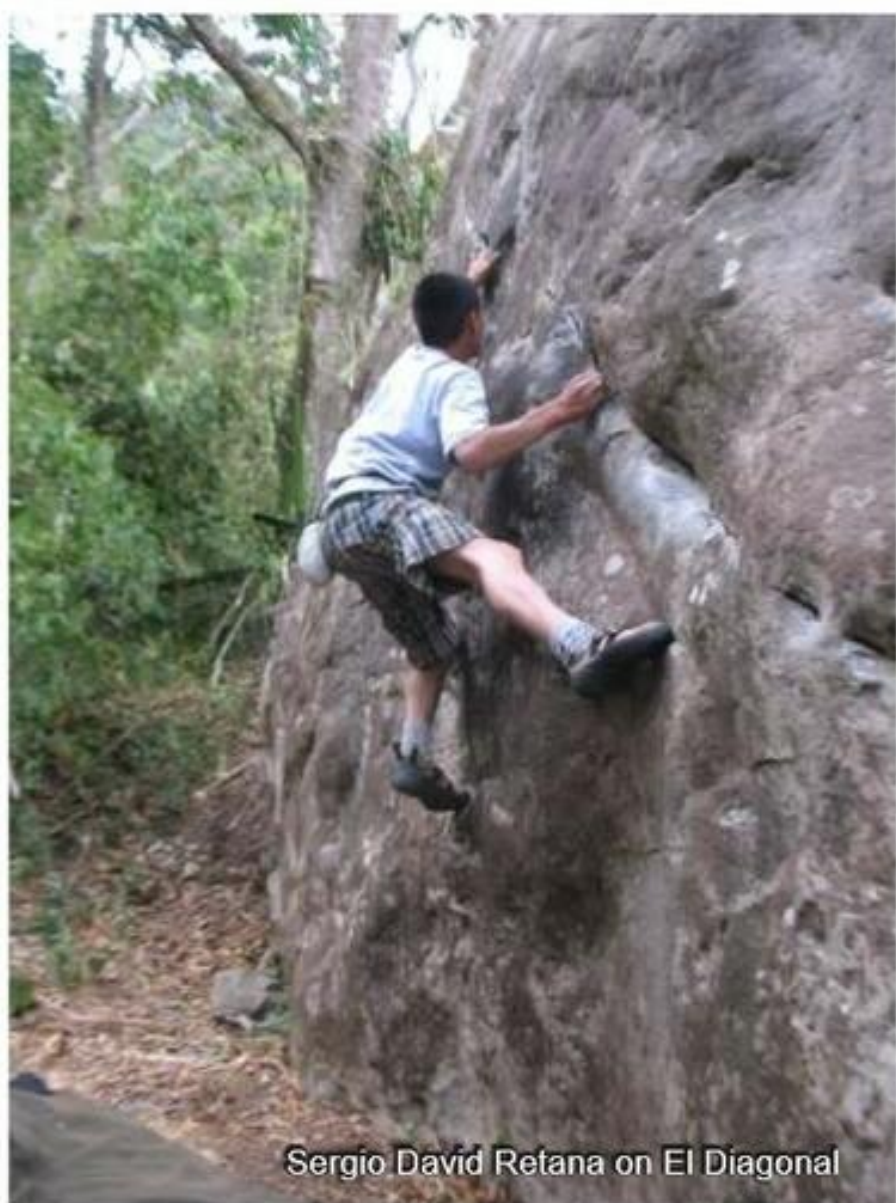
- 7. **Streetcar Named Retire V5**
This is a very nice problem just to the right of the corner. Climb the high face on perfect crimps
- 8. **Bear Rug V3**
Start on small crimps up high and go straight up the slab.
- 9. **Bear Hug V0**
Start on big sloping ledge and go straight up.
- 10. **El Diagonal V4** ★
Start as low as possible in the big sloping "pod". Climb up and left to find an elusive crimp and up.
- 11. **Mitzva V3**
Start in the low angle scoop to the right of El Diagonal. Work the small feature.



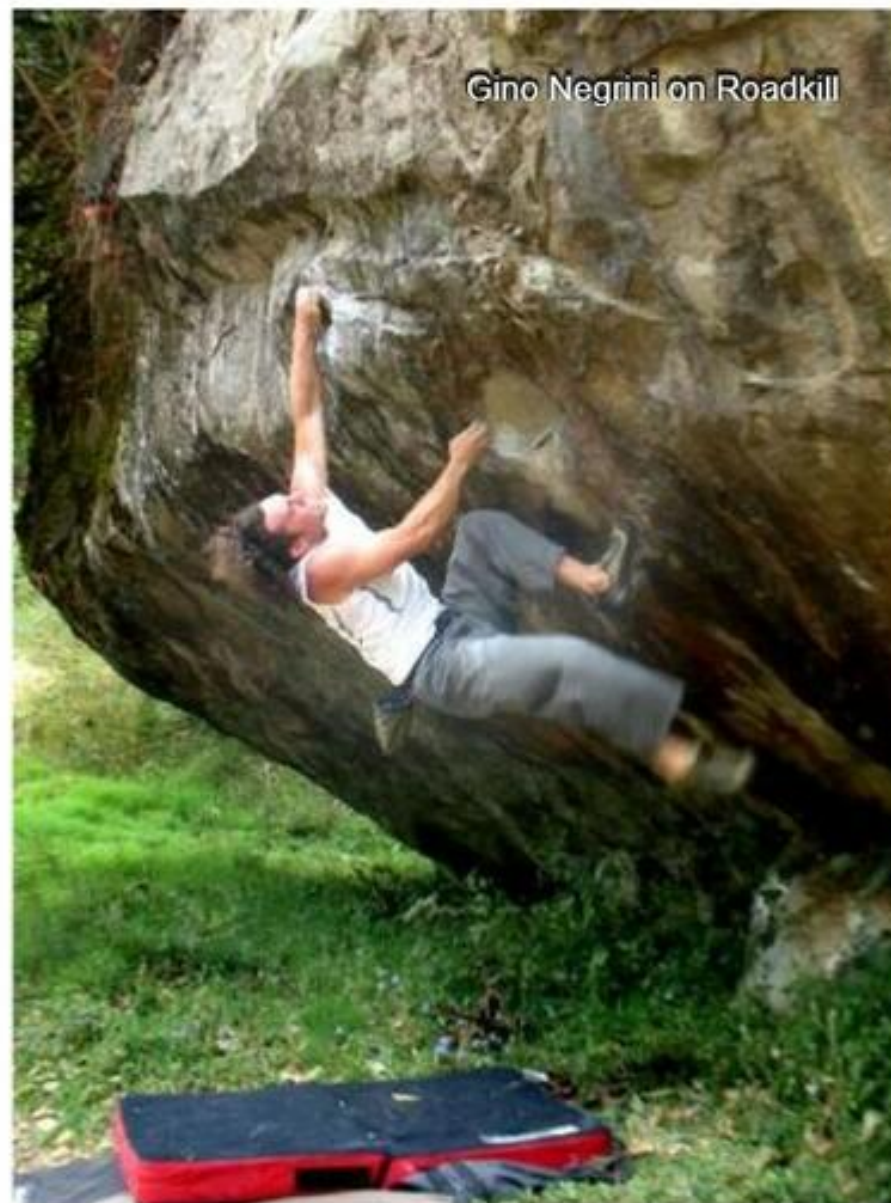
El Grande - East Side



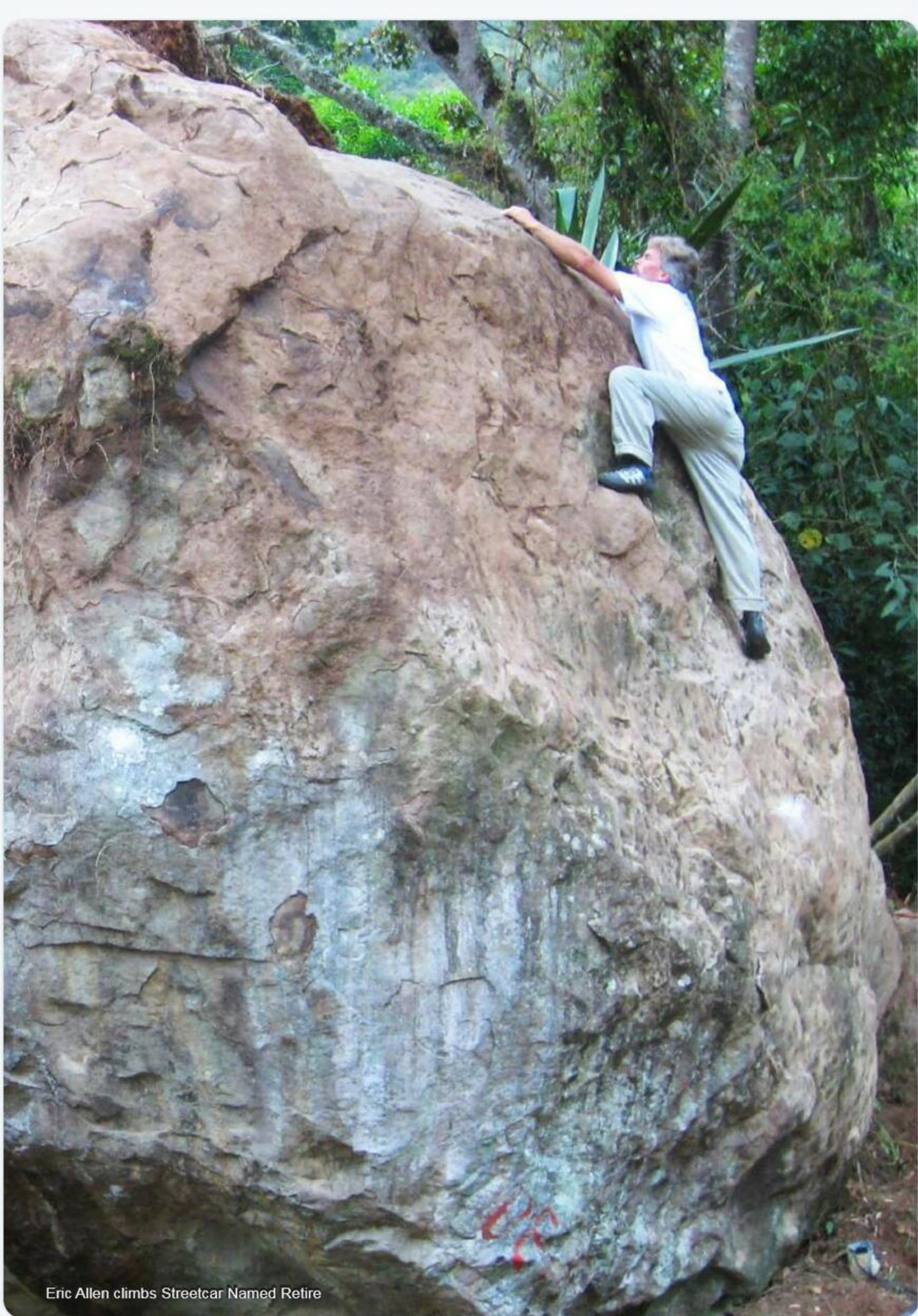
El Grande - West Side



Sergio David Retana on El Diagonal



Gino Negrini on Roadkill



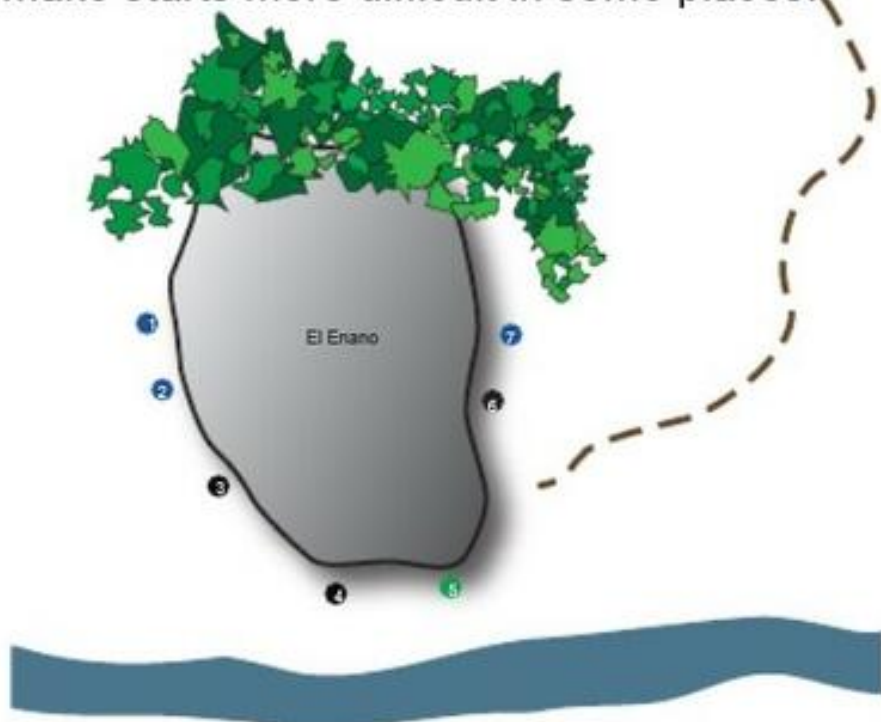
Eric Allen climbs Streetcar Named Retire


El Enano

The Enano Boulder is accessed from the small trail that takes off to the left about 30 feet past the bridge. The ground beneath this boulder gets rearranged regularly by the



surging river in the rainy season. The variance in ground level may make starts more difficult in some places.



- 1. V0
Climb the left side of the slab.
- 2. V1 
Climb the tall slab straight up.
- 3. Project **P**
- 4. Project **P**
Obvious start hold, but how to move up?
- 5. **El Ventolero V5** ★
This excellent problem starts with a left hand high on a sidepull and a high step. The ground below may have washed away after the first ascent. Pad stacking may be required.
- 6. Project **P**
This project starts sitting at the base of the obvious finger crack with some good slots. Painful!
- 7. Huracán V3
Start high and make some balancy moves up the high face.



Esteban "Bob" Ramirez on El Ventolero

Ana's Rock

Ana's Rock is found by turning into the second driveway on the right after crossing the bridge. It's front face is a tall slab which has top anchors and has a few short bolted sport climbs on it.

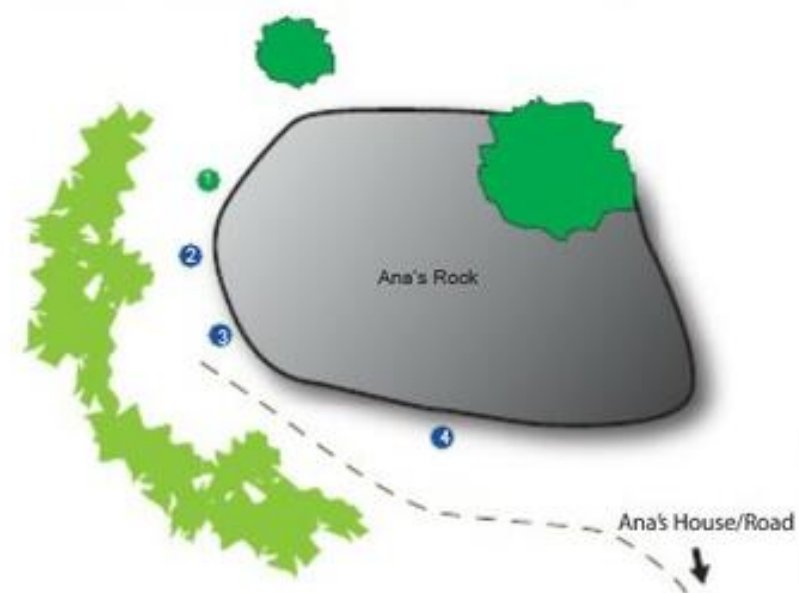
- 1. **La Piedra Traverse V4** ☠️
Start around back on low angle slab and traverse right through big hueco staying low until you come to the low angle front side of the boulder. Finish up highball slab. For a less scary finish, exit early on number 3.
- 2. **Doña Ana V0**
Start with some good crimps, climb up using large huecos and big jugs.
- 3. **Pájaro en Mano V1**
Start sitting as low as possible and climb straight up.
- 4. **Highballs/Routes**
There are several nice easy lines on the tall long angle face of this boulder. Highball boulder problems? Top rope routes? Mini sport climbs? Your choice.



Ana's Rock is named after its owner, Doña Ana. She happily gives free climber access to her boulder in return for the business she receives from climbers staying at her bed and breakfast. Her delicious home-cooked meals and her family's warm hospitality make hers one of the most popular for places for climbers to stay. She has rooms to rent in her house as well as a new guest cabin available which is located right beside her rock! Call ahead to book a space as things fill up fast especially in the climbing season.

Tel: (506) 8780 7505

Email: enriqueyana26@yahoo.com

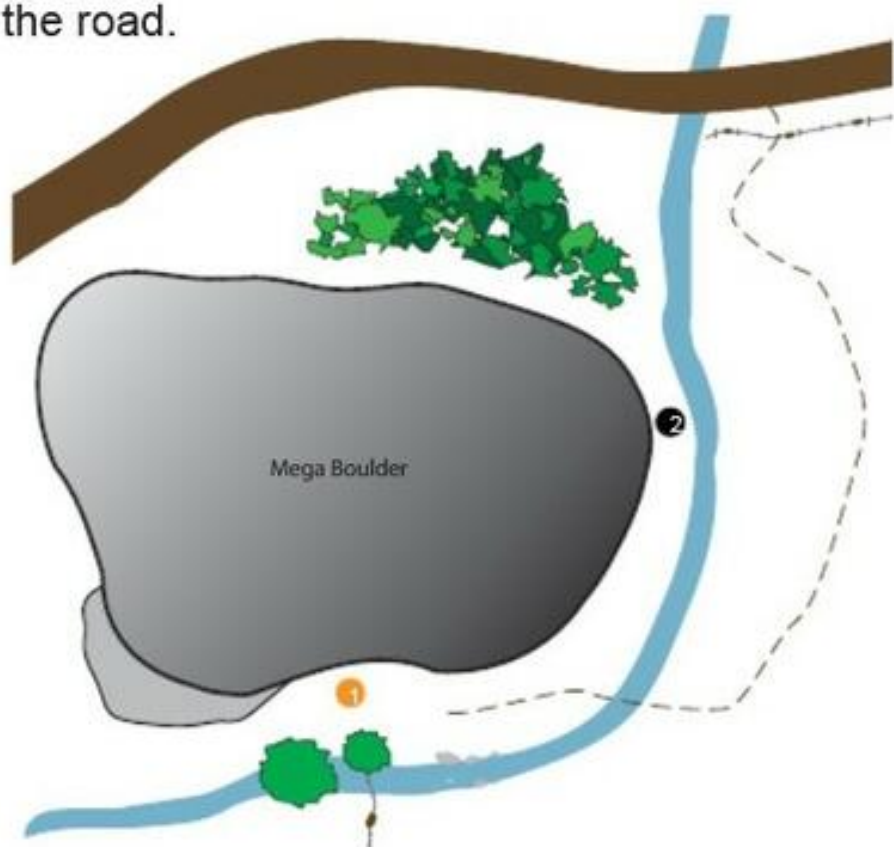


Cabina La Piedra



Mega Boulder

To get to the Mega Boulder, head up the little road that winds up the hill above La Piedra. At the second creek crossing, park and head straight down the hill from the road.



1. Megasuper V6 ★

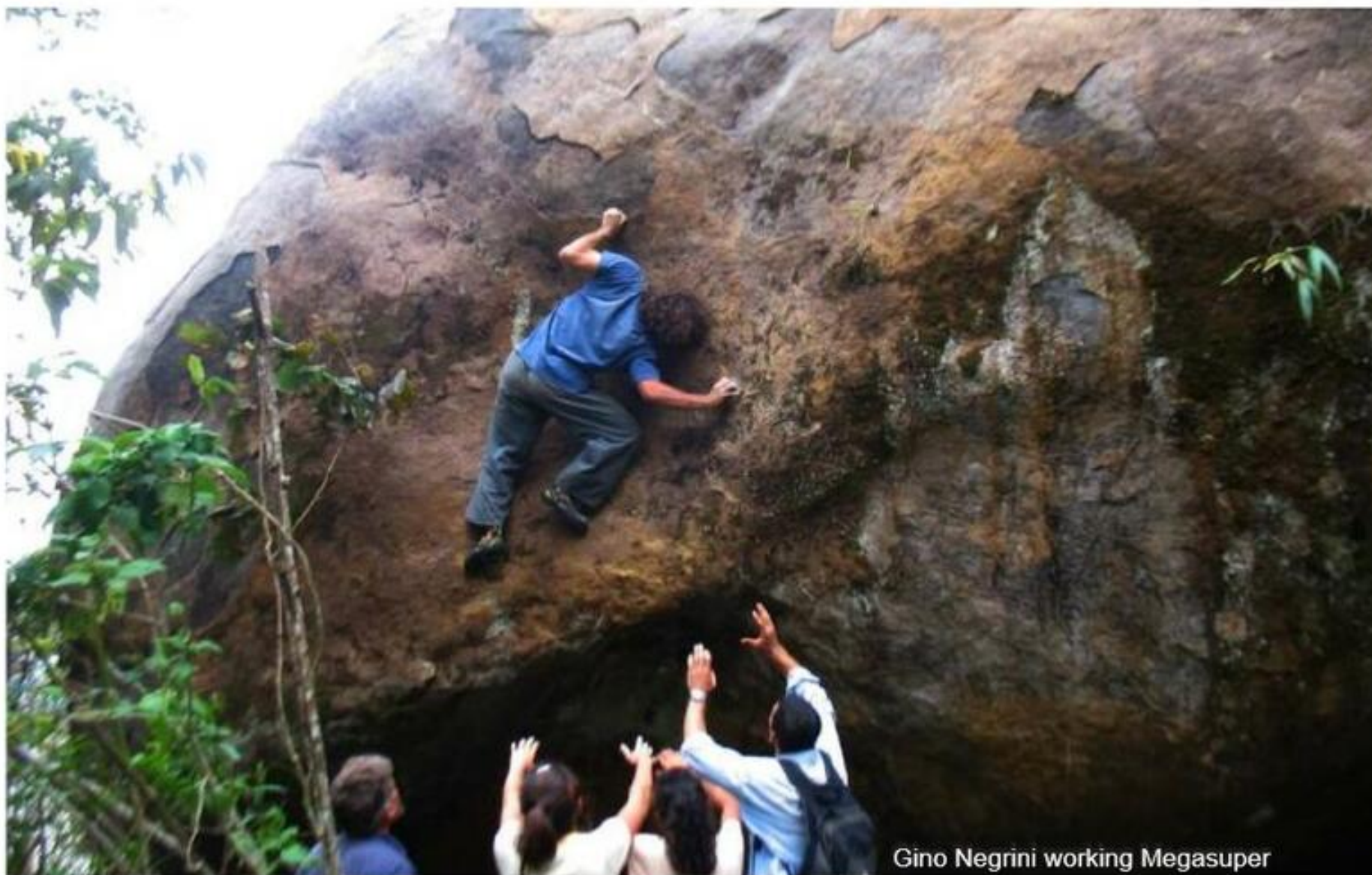
Has been done from the high crimp above the roof. The true start still needs to be done from the furthest pockets in under the roof. The fall from the top moves is potentially deadly. Beware of the creek drop off, fence, and trees. Bring plenty of pads and spotters!

2. La Cascada Project

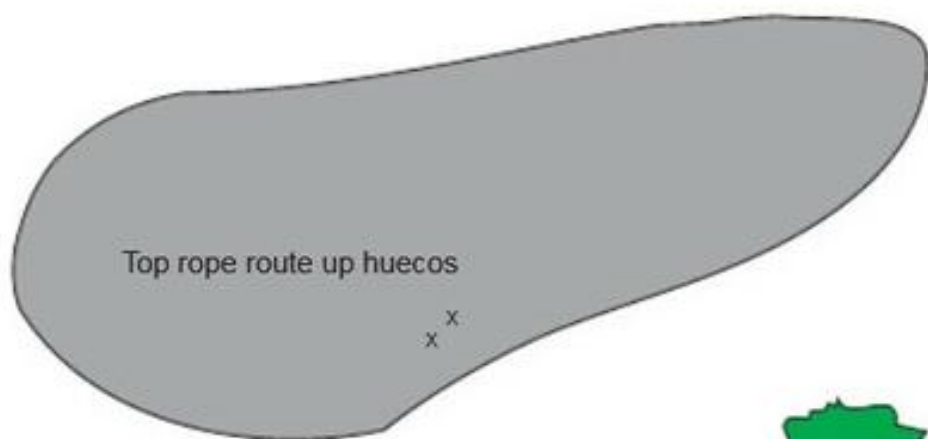
Start on cool slot pockets to the left of the corner. Move up to slopers.




Sierra Allen trying the bottom of Megasuper



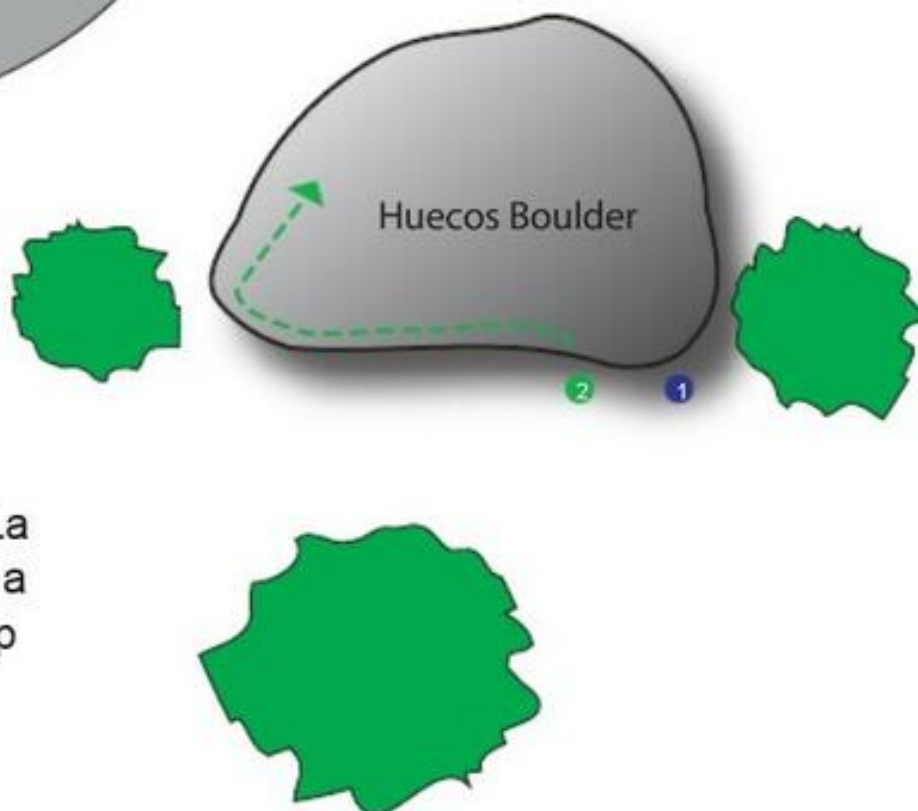
Gino Negrini working Megasuper



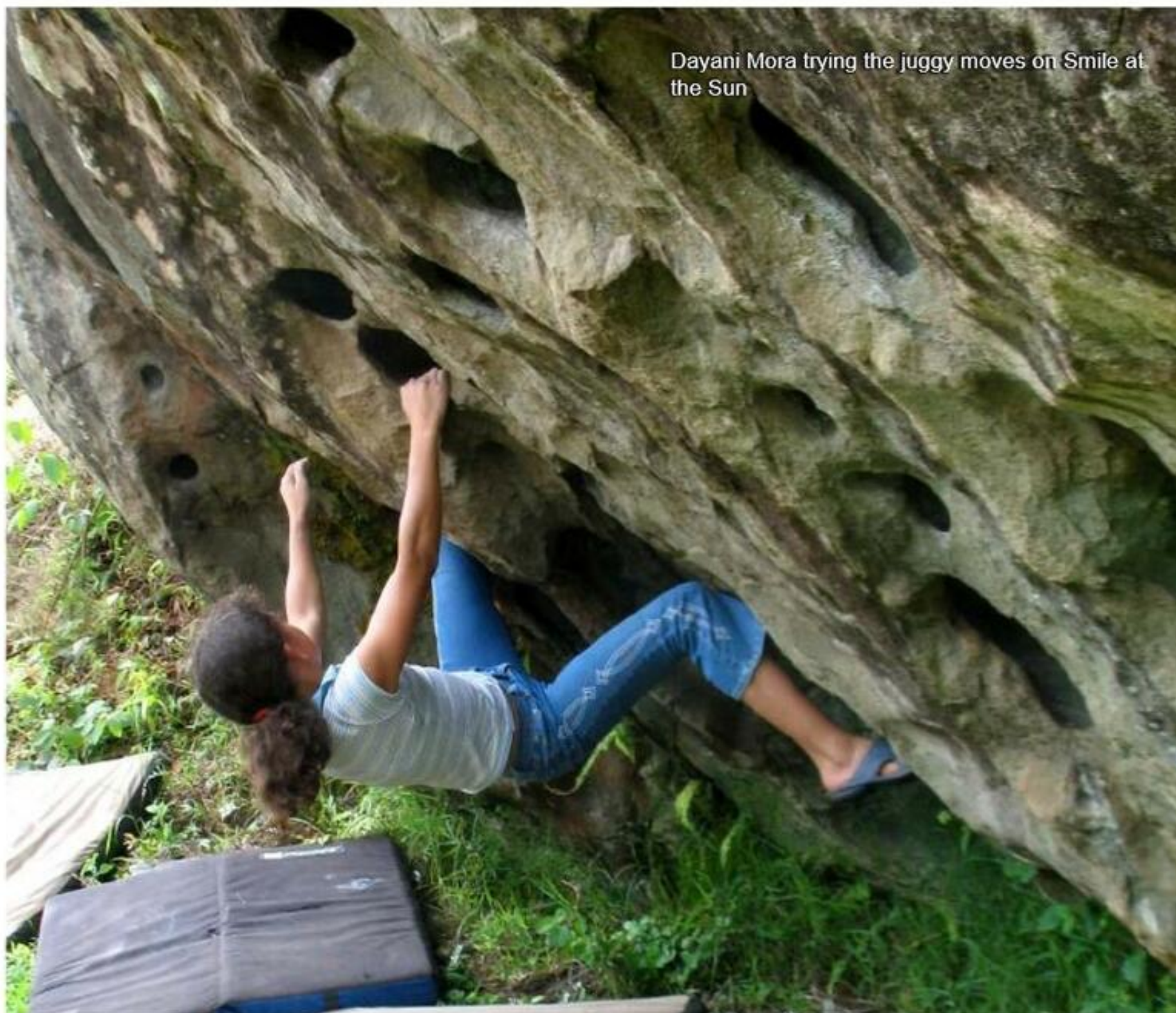
- 2. **Smile at the Sun V5**  Sit start in the furthest right hueco and traverse left on these giant buckets. Enjoy the jug pulling while it lasts and get ready for some small crimps to pull the end moves at the exit far left.

Huecos Boulder

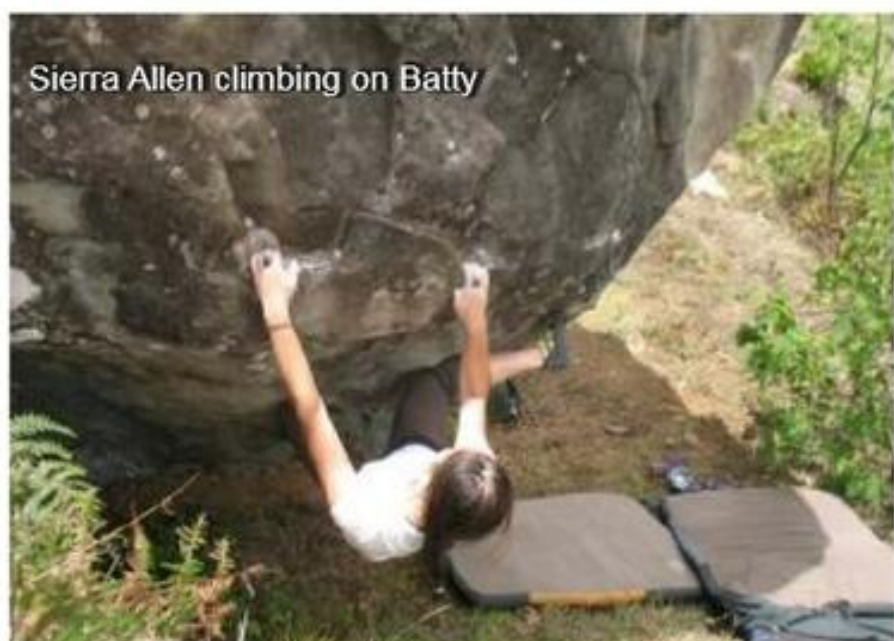
This boulder is located on the grassy hill to the left after a big switchback in the road that heads up the hill above La Piedra. The bigger rock to the left has a cool top rope or really highball route up the center of it.



- 1. **Fairytale V1** ★
Climb the featured rock just left of the corner by the tree.



Dayani Mora trying the juggy moves on Smile at the Sun



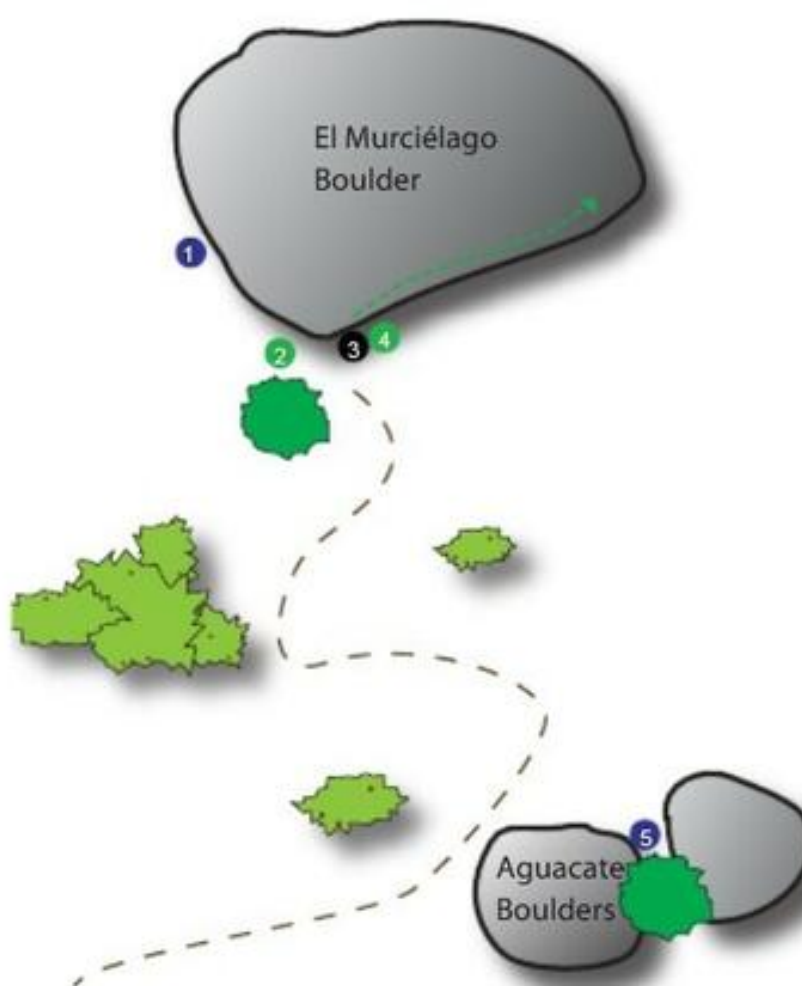
Sierra Allen climbing on Batty

Continuing past the switchback on the road, past a small shack on the left you will find a gate in the fence on the right. Go through that gate and follow a trail up the hill. You will have to cross another barbed wire fence go get to this boulder.

- 1. **Batty V0**
Start on good rails and go straight up.
- 2. **El Murciélago V6** 🏠 ★
This is a beautiful line that starts under a small roof on incredibly featured rock. Move out and over bulge on good crimps and move up to big pockets. Enjoy the cruiser high top out.
- 3. **Batman Project** 🏠 🏠 🏠
Sit start on obvious jug on the corner. Move right and up high face.
- 4. **El Murciélago Traverse V5** 🏠
Start as Project Batman but continue to traverse right.



El Murciélago



Aguacate Boulders

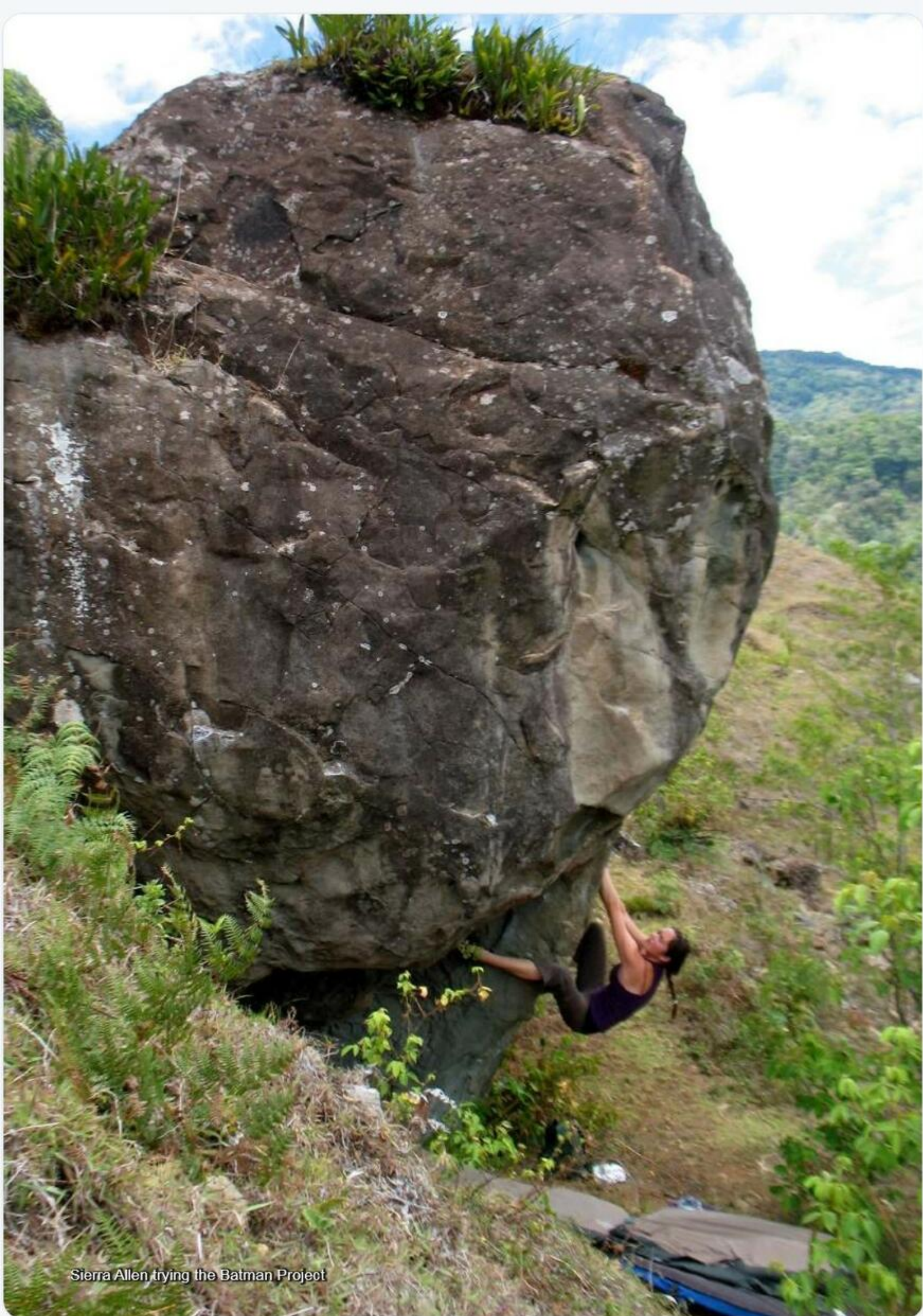
Aguacate Boulders

This boulder is found on the way up to El Murciélago. Some lines are covered by a large Avocado tree.

- 5. **Aguacatillo V1**
Climb the up on cool feature to the left of the arete.



Sergio David Retana on Aguacatillo

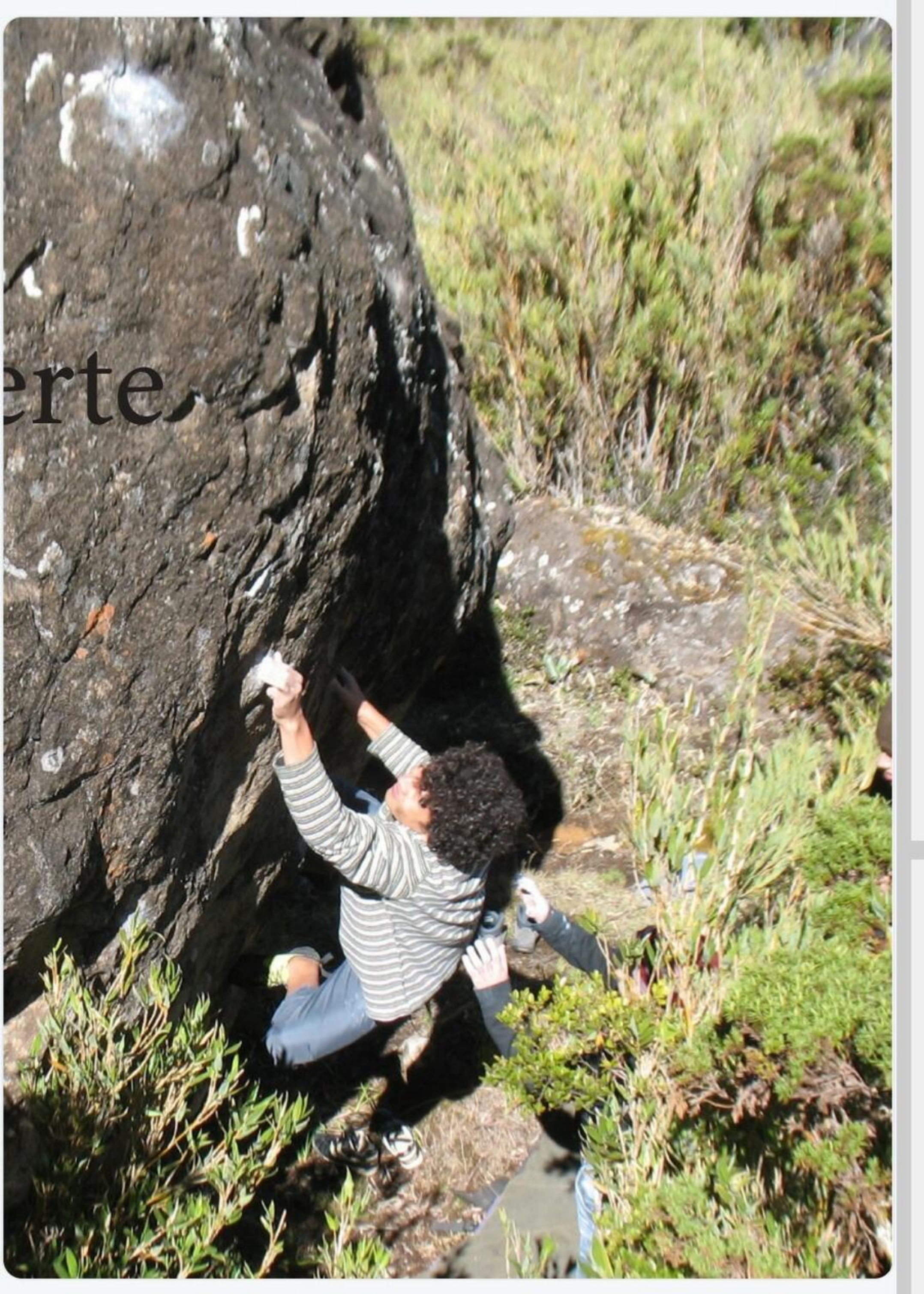


Sierra Allen trying the Batman Project

A photograph of a rocky mountain slope. The rock is dark brown and grey, with several large, light-colored, rounded rock formations scattered across the surface. Sparse, dry, brownish vegetation is visible on the upper part of the slope. In the foreground, there is a dense, green bush with small leaves. The text "Cerro de la Mue" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Cerro de la Mue

erte





Welcome to Cerro de la Muerte

Cerro de la Muerte (Peak of Death in English) is one of Costa Rica's most concentrated bouldering areas. The rocks are high above treeline in a mystical shrubby forest covering a mountain peak around 3000 meters above sea level. Cerro de la Muerte's height makes it the site of many of the communications towers that service much of Costa Rica. On a clear morning it is possible to see both the Pacific and Caribbean coasts from one point.

How to Get to There

Cerro de la Muerte has easy access by car, the turnoff is about 10km after the entrance to Providencia on the Interamerican Highway. Take a gravel road to the right about 2km to arrive at the first main area, Los Guardianes. The area is tentatively part of the Quetzal National Park and you may be required to sign in at the headquarters at the entrance to Providencia in order to go there.

Access

So far there hasn't been an access problem for climbers in this area. The land is part of the Quetzal National Park and therefore available for public access. There is rumor, however, of a pass that must be purchased at the National Park headquarters in order to enter the park sometime in the future.

When to Climb

The season to climb here is basically the same as in Providencia. Even in the middle of the dry season (February), the clouds almost always come up and move in at around noon every day. Mornings are usually clear. The weather can get nasty when the wind picks up and mist and rain is in the air. Don't be surprised if the temperature drops at night, it can get down to freezing at times. Be very prepared for unexpected bad weather and precipitation. It can be perfectly clear and hot

in the morning without a cloud in the sky and be raining in a matter of just a few hours. Mornings in the dry season are the only guarantee for great weather here.

Where to Stay

Basically the only option here is to camp. Bring a good tent that will withstand weather and some matches so you can make a good fire to stay warm at night. If you absolutely have to stay under a roof, the closest place to go is the little tourist town, San Gerardo de Dota. San Gerardo is located about 9km down a steep windy road off the Highway, about 4km past the turnoff to Providencia.

Food

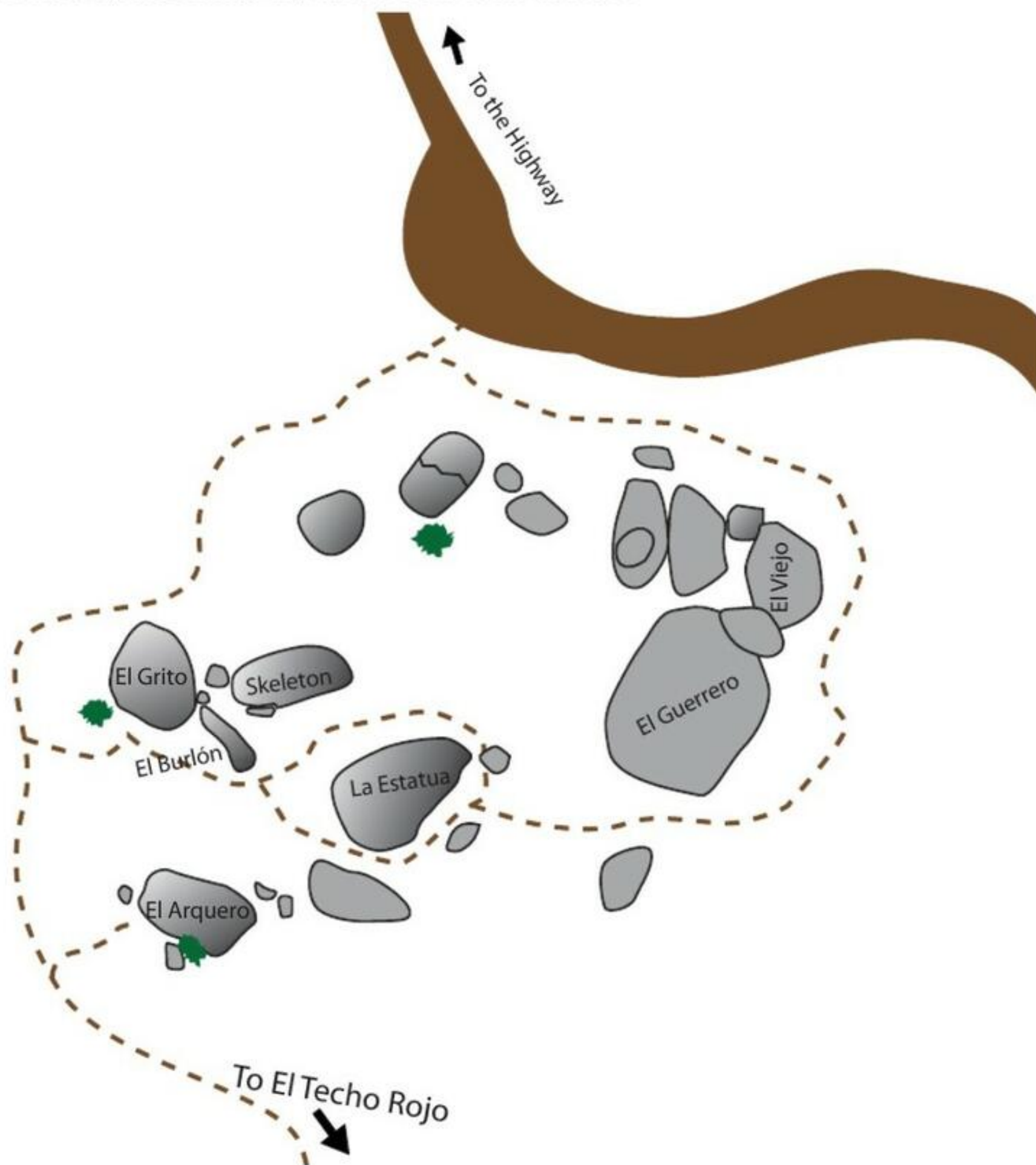
There are no towns with any decent grocery store close by, so buy and bring your food from San Jose. You can buy hot food, fruit, and other munchies at the Chesperitos truck stop at the turn-off to Providencia. There are more sophisticated restaurants in San Gerardo.

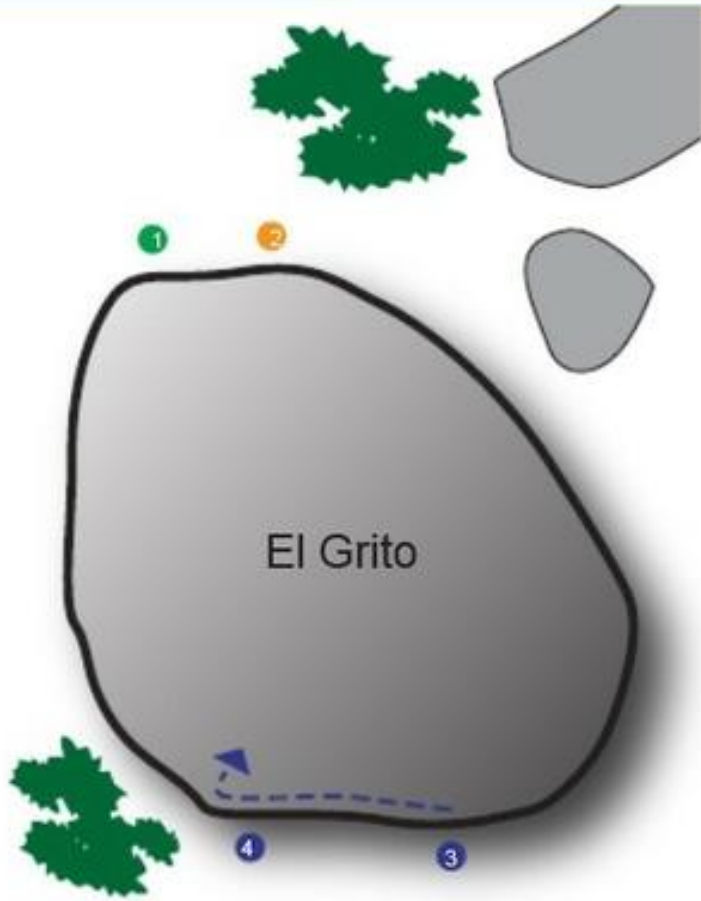




Los Guardianes

Los Guardianes is the first and most developed area you come to at about 2km after turning off the highway. You will see the complex of boulders on the right side of the road beside a pullout. This area hosts a concentration of great problems. Classics of this sector include **Skeleton V4**, **La Estatua V0**, and **El Grito del Paisa V7**.





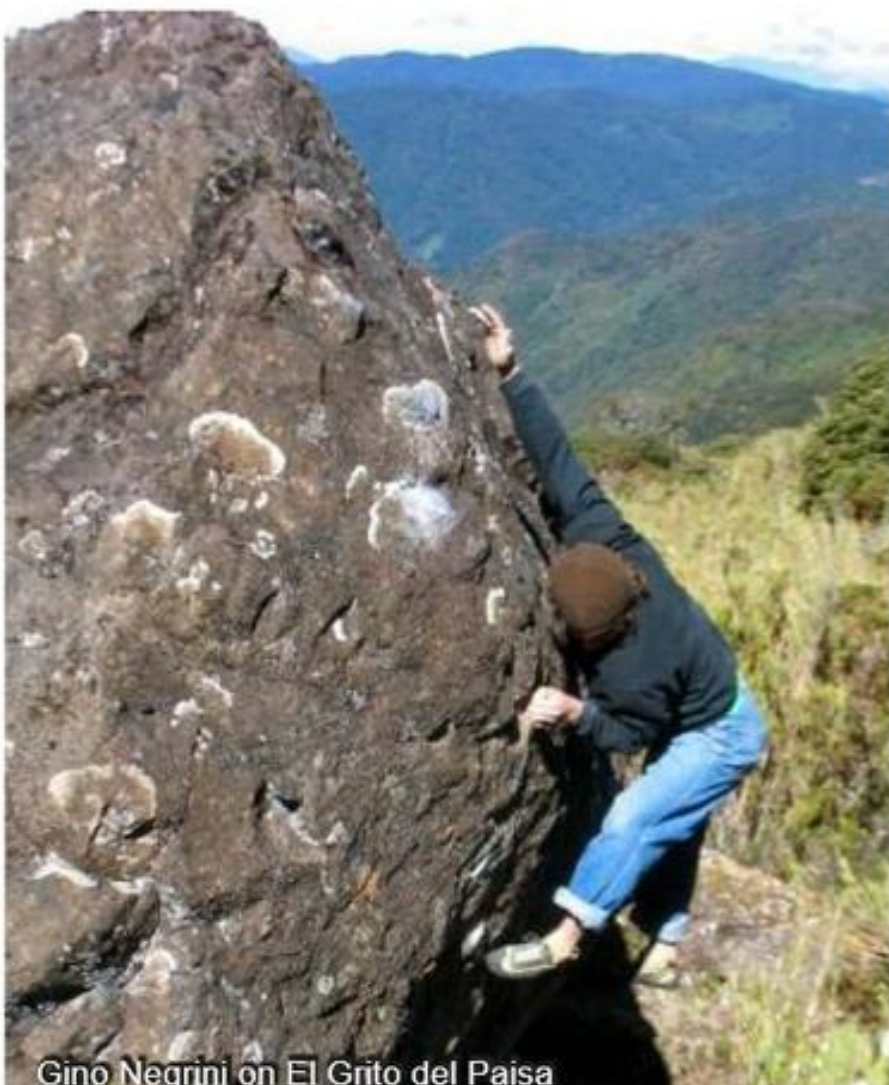
El Grito - Front

El Grito

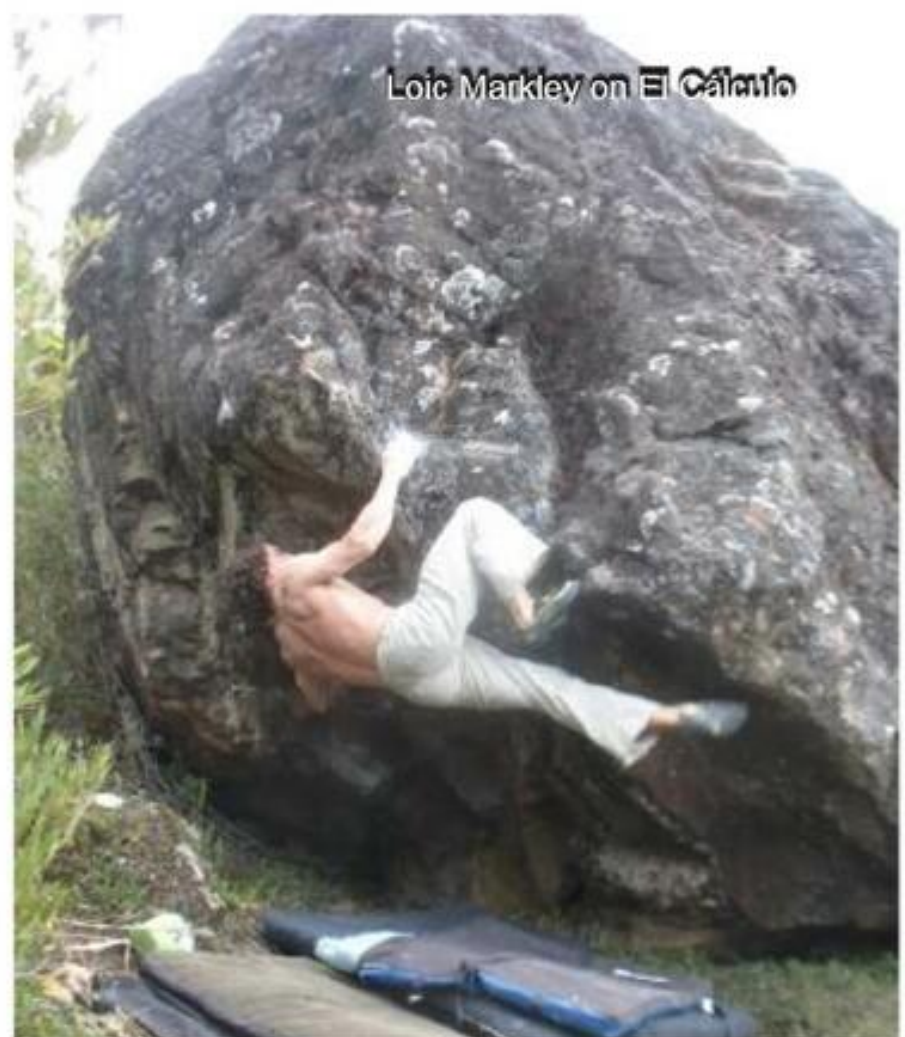
- 1. **El Cálculo V4**
Low start on sidepulls. Move up and left to gain big pinch and straight up corner on jugs.
- 2. **El Grito del Paisa V7** 🏠 ★
Sit start as low as possible on sloping edge. Move and slightly left using positive pinches and crimps.
- 3. **La Llorona V1** 🏠
Sit start as far right on good jugs. Move left and up just right of tree.
- 4. **El Cadejo V0** 🏠
Sit start at left side of cave. Straight up.



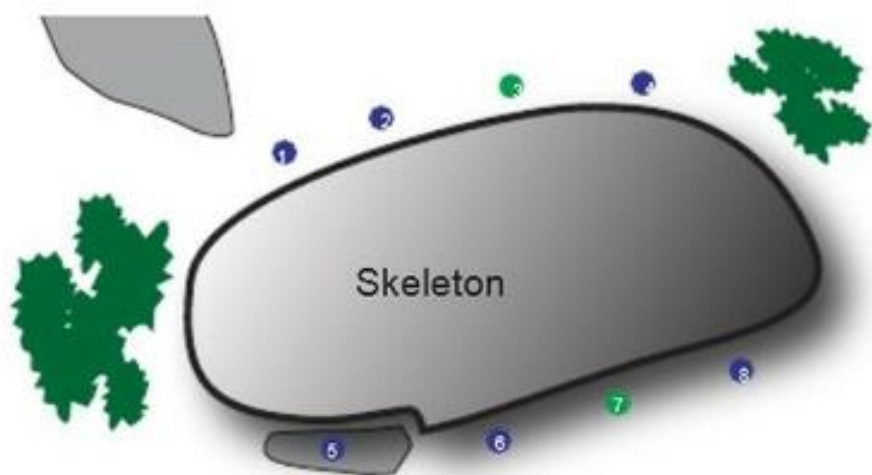
El Grito - Back



Gino Negrini on El Grito del Paisa



Loic Markley on El Cálculo



Skeleton

- 1. **La Calavera V2**
Sit low. Right hand on good side crimp. Crimp side pulls up to lip and mantle.
- 2. **Hueso Medular V1**
Two hands on good jug, move straight up.
- 3. **Hueso Espinal V4** 📺
Sit start on two bad crimps, make a big move up to jugs, ledges and up.
- 4. **Difunto V2**
Climb the vertical face. Sit start and add a grade.
- 5. **Trick y Trit V3** 📺
Sit start on broken piece of rock. Move up on small holds.
- 6. **Skeleton V3** ★
Start with very small crimps. Straight up.
- 7. **Hombre Sin Hombro V5** 📺
Sit start low on big block hold. Move up and right using some bad crimps.

- 8. **Sharpening Stone V3**
Start with very high hands on razor blade sharp crimps and go straight up.

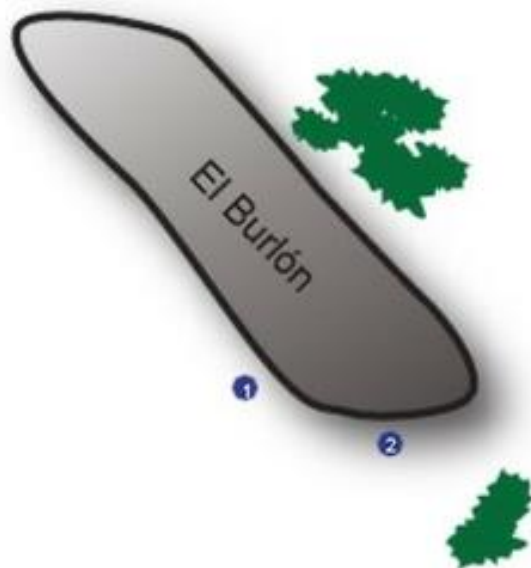


Jordy Mendez on Hueso Medular





Deily Mora on Skeleton



El Burlón

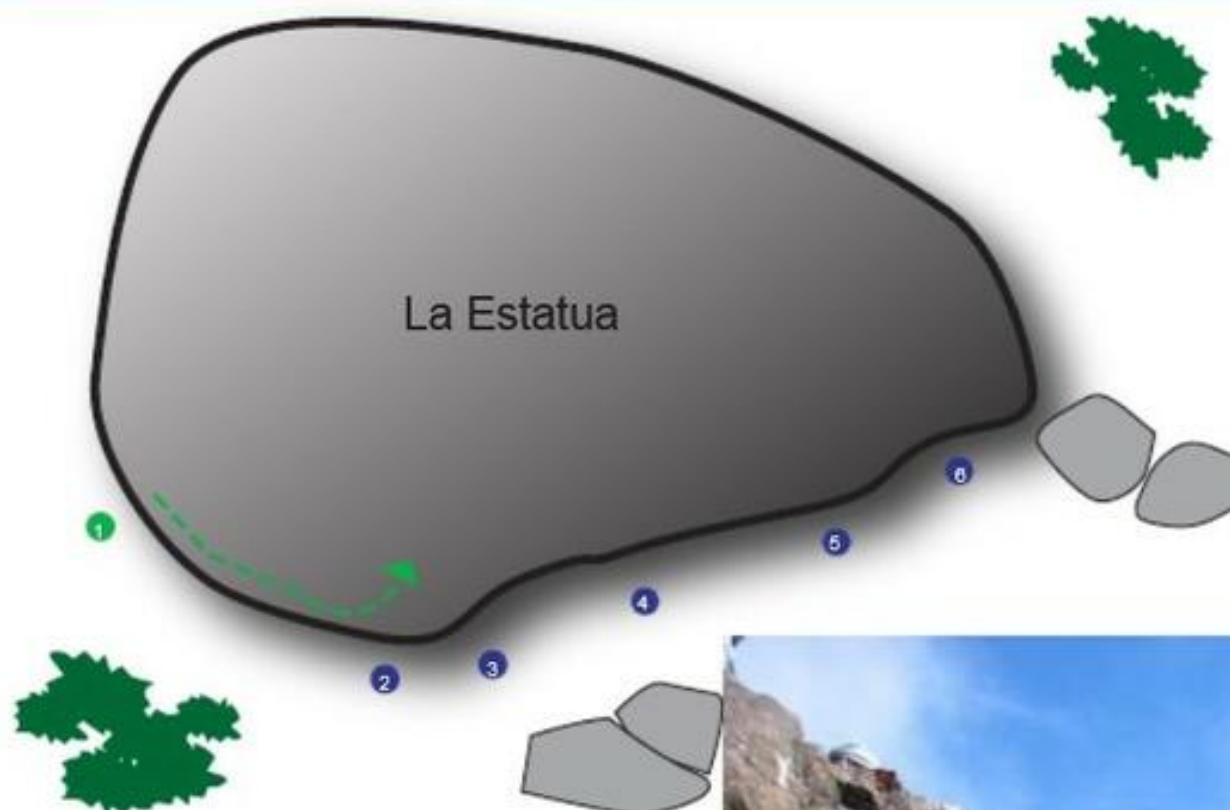
- 1. Cerro Malabarista V0
Good warm up slab problem.
- 2. El Burlón V2 
Sit start at the left side of the overhanging face.
Move up to good blocky pinch and up.



Deily Mora on El Burlón



El Burlón



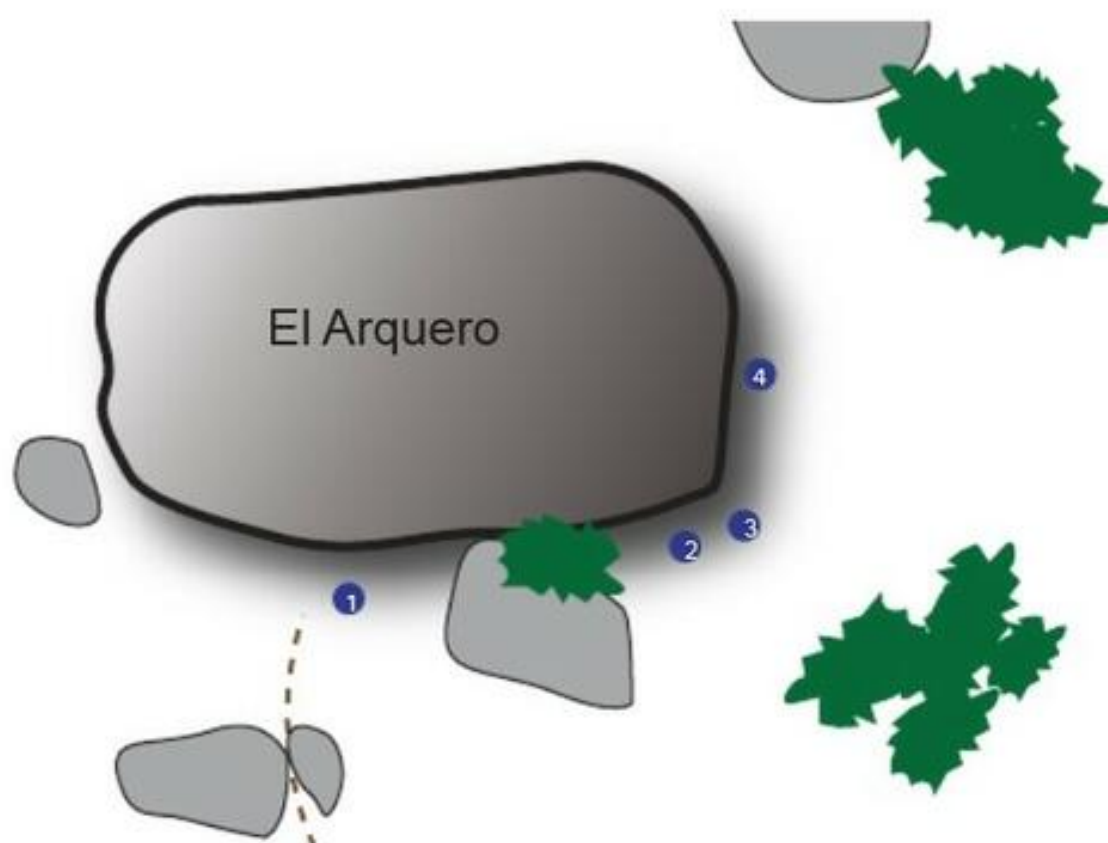
La Estatua

- 1. **Athena V5** 🏠
Sit start as low as possible on the left side of the face. Move right on bad holds to finish on # 2
- 2. **Auriga de Delfos V1**
Start on good holds on corner. Go straight up following the arete on good jugs.
- 3. **La Gran Esfinge V2** 🏠
Sit start super low on small underclings. Move up right to slopers. Mantle and top out on easy terrain.
- 4. **Coloso de Rodas V0** ★
Start in low angle scoop. Move straight up on big edges.
- 5. **El León de Belfort V1**
Start on giant canine shaped hold and go straight up.
- 6. **La Estatua V0** ★
Good holds all the way up.



Ann Jamar on La Estatua

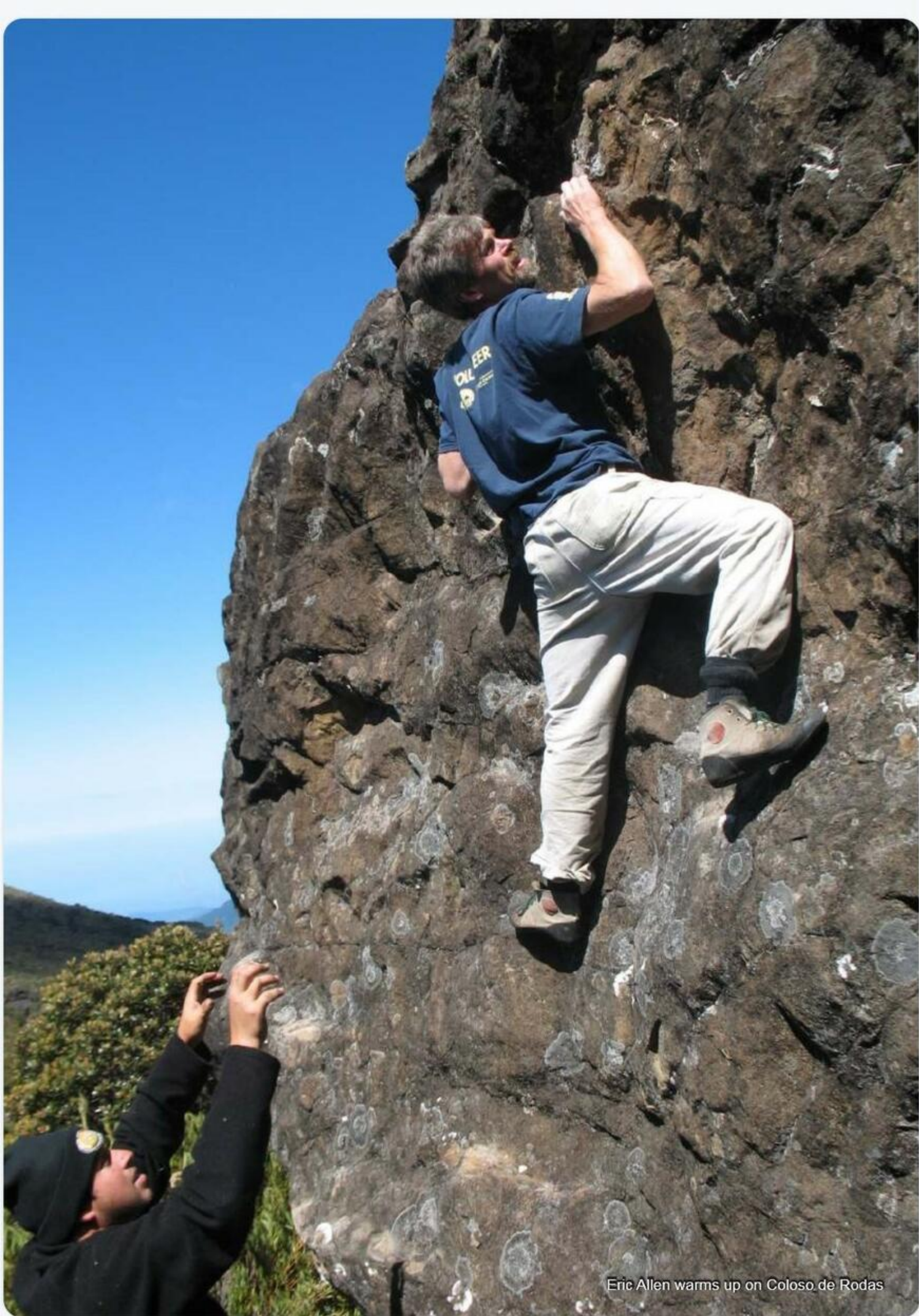




El Arquero

- 1. Susan Pevensie V3 
Sit start under belly on two opposing sidepull crimps. Move up and over bulge
- 2. Flecha V0
Start eft of the arete on jugs. Straight up!
- 3. El Arquero V1 
Sit start. Stay on arete.
- 4. Corazones V1 
Sit start in cave low on sloping holds.

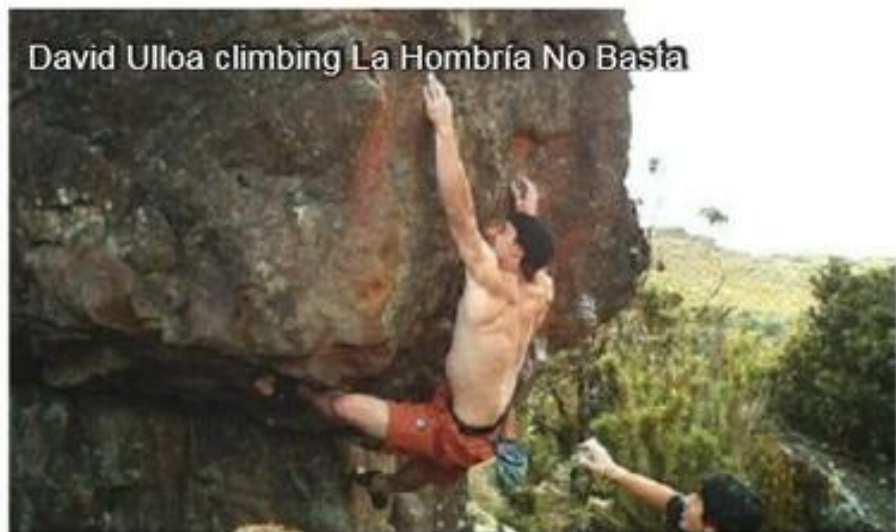
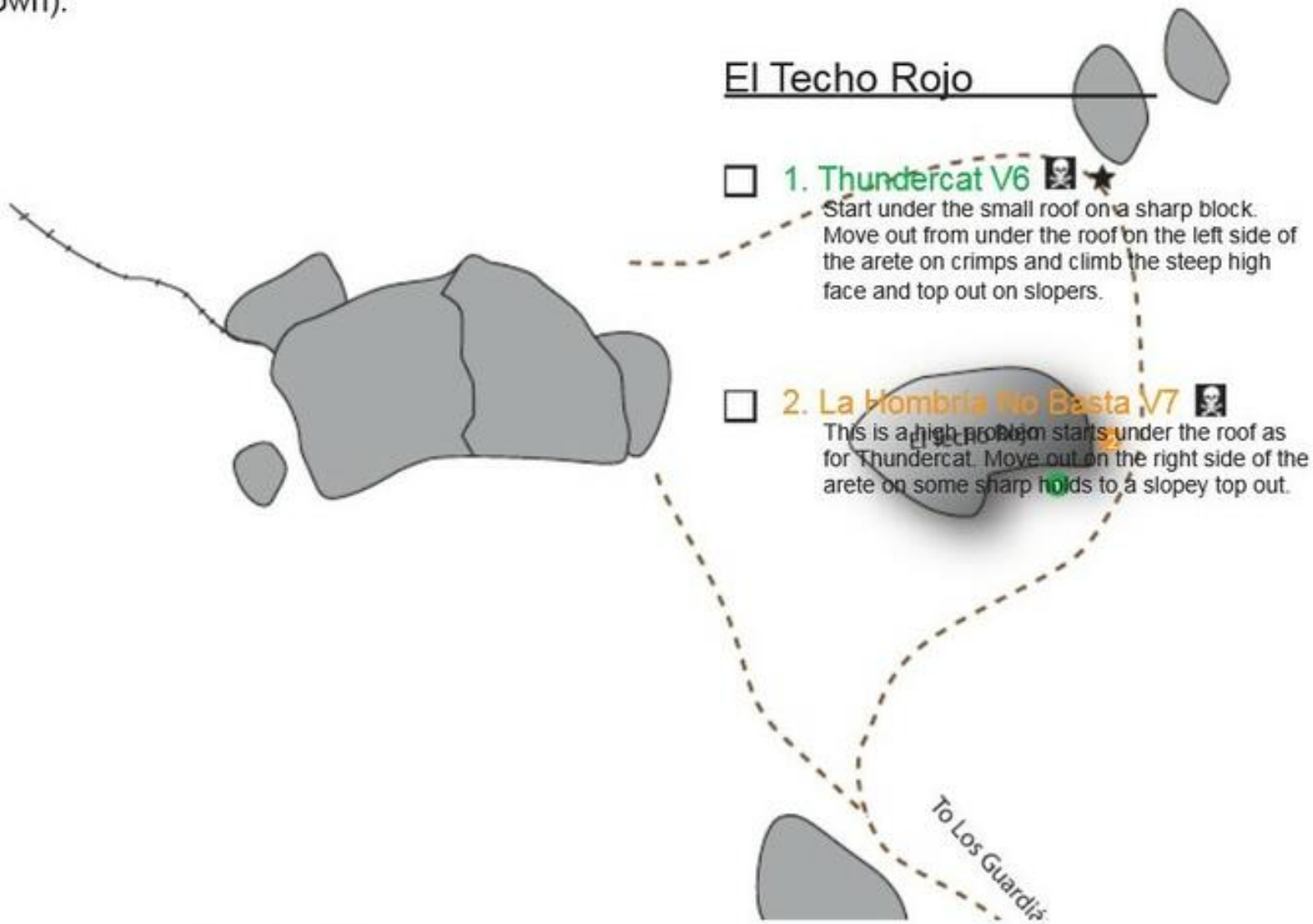




Eric Allen warms up on Coloso de Rodas

El Techo Rojo Area

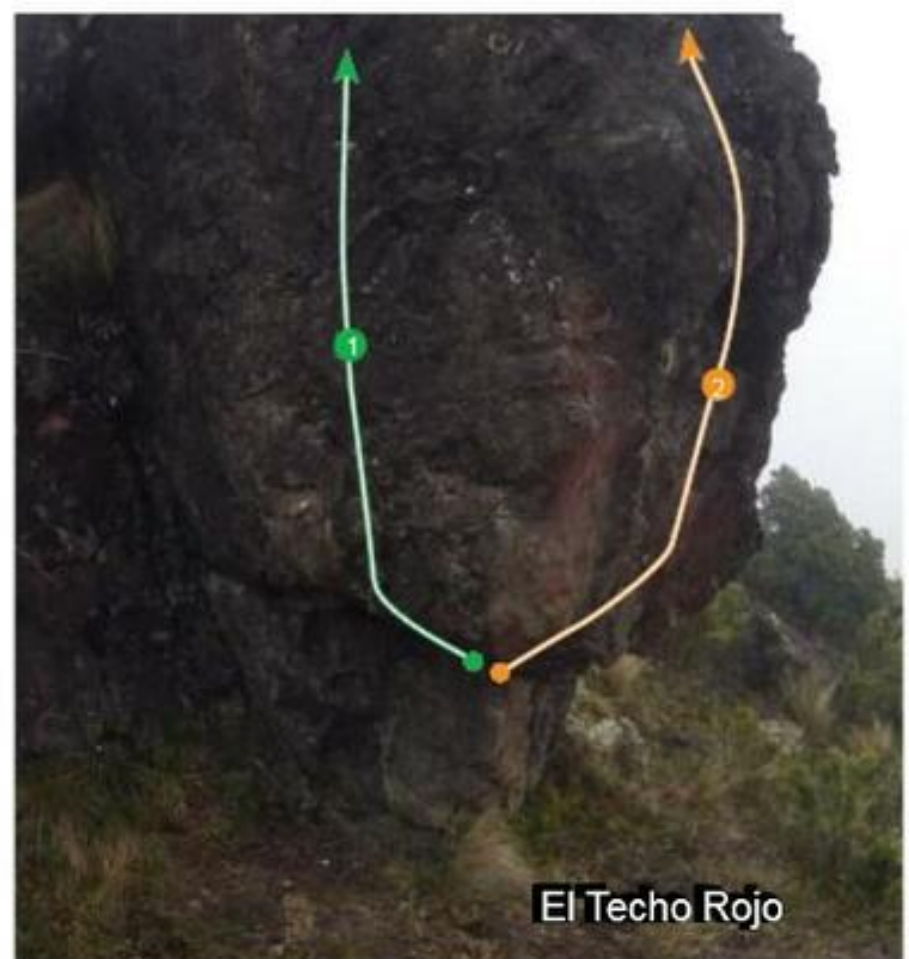
This area is visible from the El Gringo Area across the shallow valley looking in the southwest direction. El Techo Rojo is the most photographed and climbed boulder that has a striking red roof facing the El Gringo area. There are some less interesting looking blocks in the area that are undeveloped as of yet (known).



David Ulloa climbing La Hombria No Basta



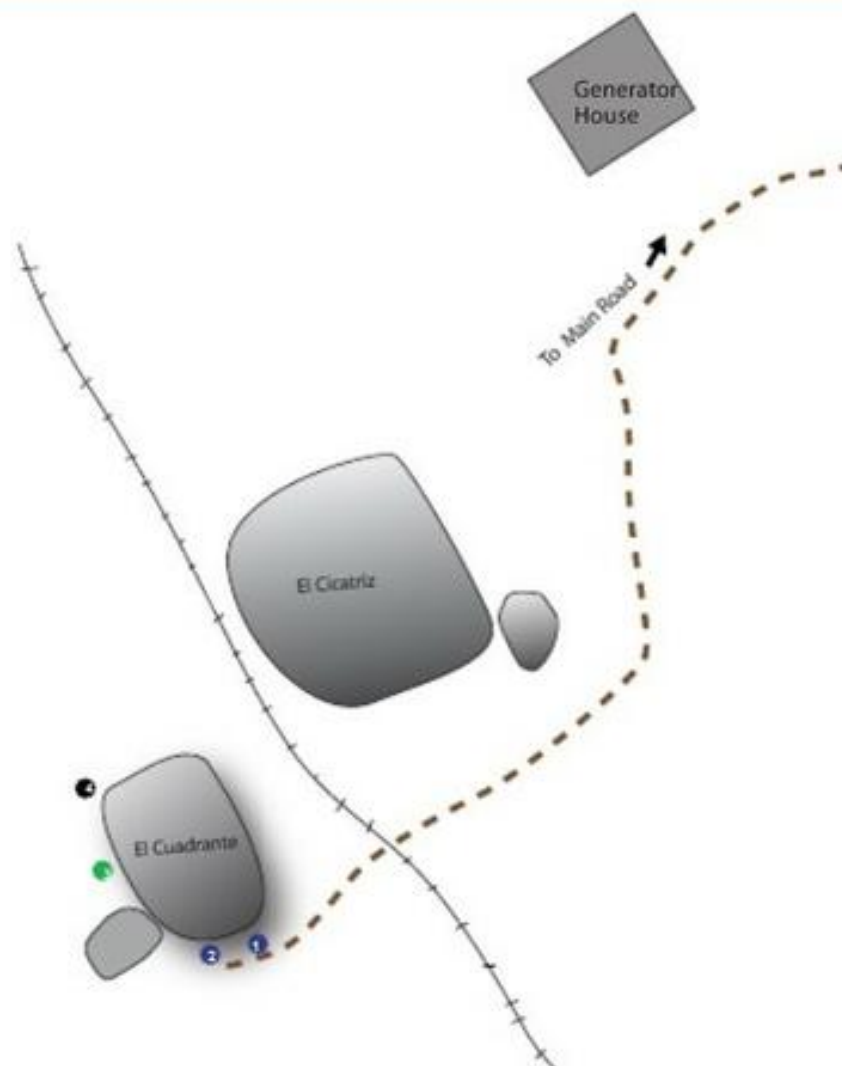
Horses like hanging out among boulders too!





El Techo Rojo

Area Virtual

This area is accessed by walking or driving 200m past the pullout to the El Gringo area. Park by a small set of stairs. Head up the hill to the right toward a small generator house at the top. Go over the hill and the boulders will be on the other side. You must cross a barbed-wire fence to get to El Cuadrante, please be careful and don't destroy the fence. There are a couple of very nice problems with blocky holds on the south corner of El Cuadrante. These boulders haven't been fully cleaned or developed and have lots of potential waiting to be tapped.



El Cuadrante

- 1. **Cuadrado V1** 
Start sitting on good holds and climb straight up on big feature.
- 2. **Cajeta V2**
Start low near the corner and climb straight up.
- 3. **Crujiente V2**
Start low on crimps and climb straight up.
- 4. **Roof Project P** 
Start as low as you can under the roof and climb out to some good holds using some fancy heel action?

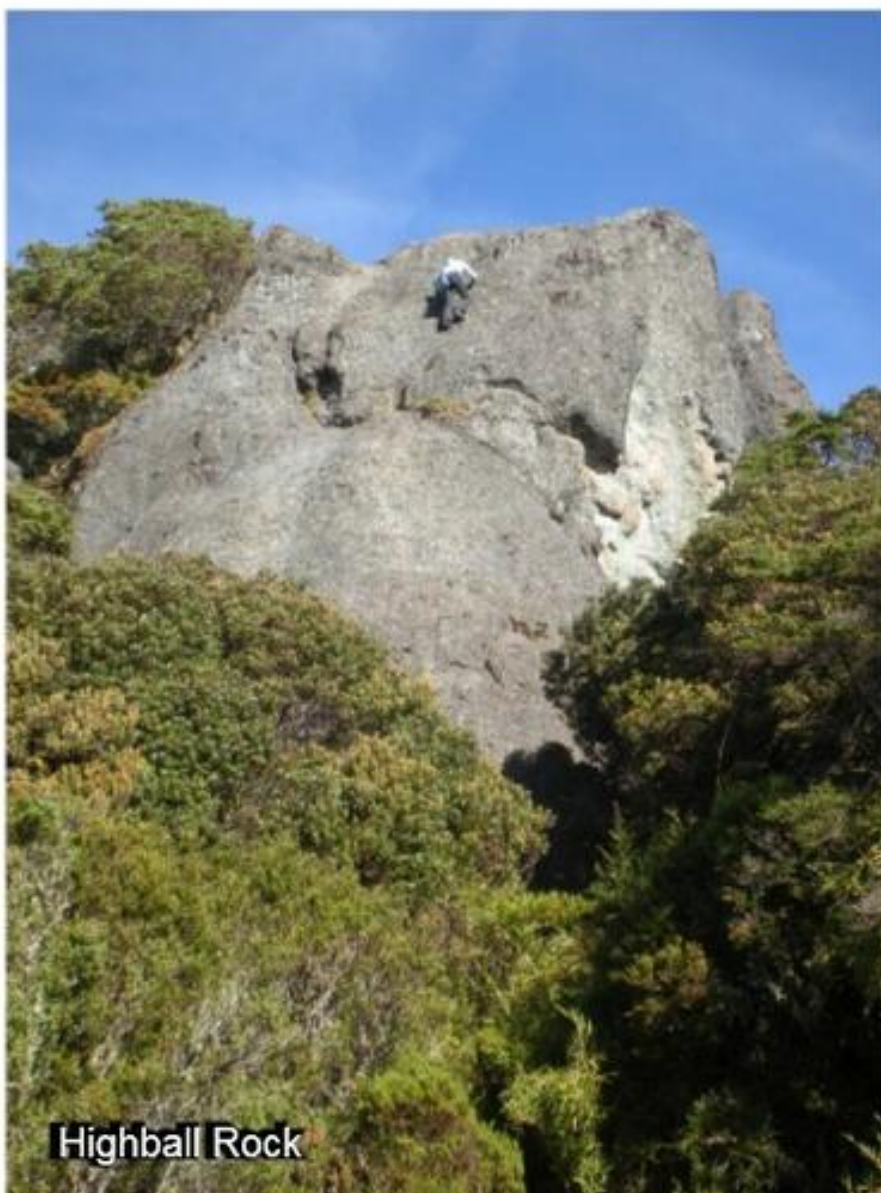
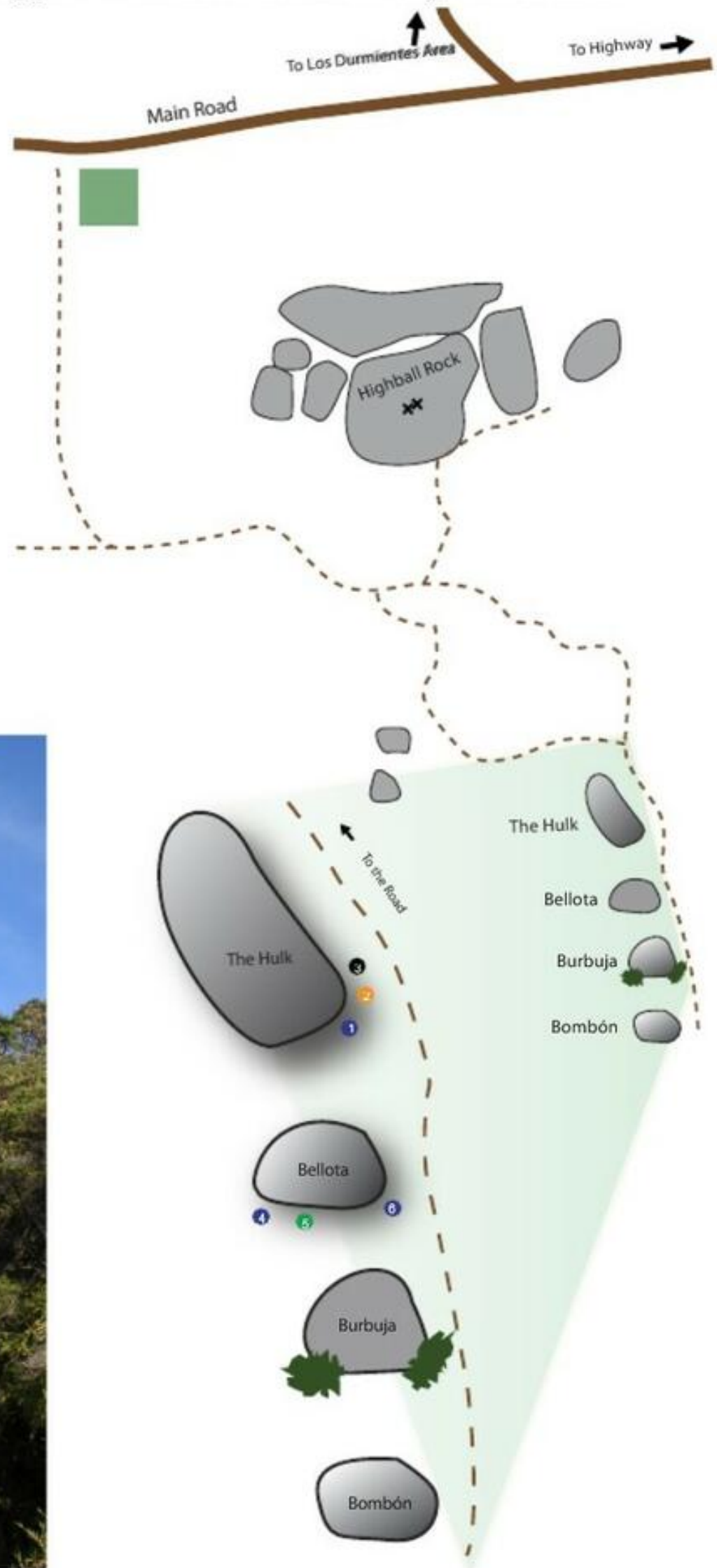


El Hulk Area

This area is located down about 500mts off the road. To get there, stop 1km after the pullout to El Gringo area near a small green building on the left. Follow the trail that heads downhill behind the little green house through a gully and down into a flat area with open meadows. Head straight left passing Highball rock (this cluster of rocks, the biggest of which has a very nice bolted route on it) then veer to the right heading back downhill and into the forest. There is a trail that leads to the Hulk which has an unmistakable overhanging prow with huecos on it at the edge of the forest. Further down the hill are more boulders.

El Hulk

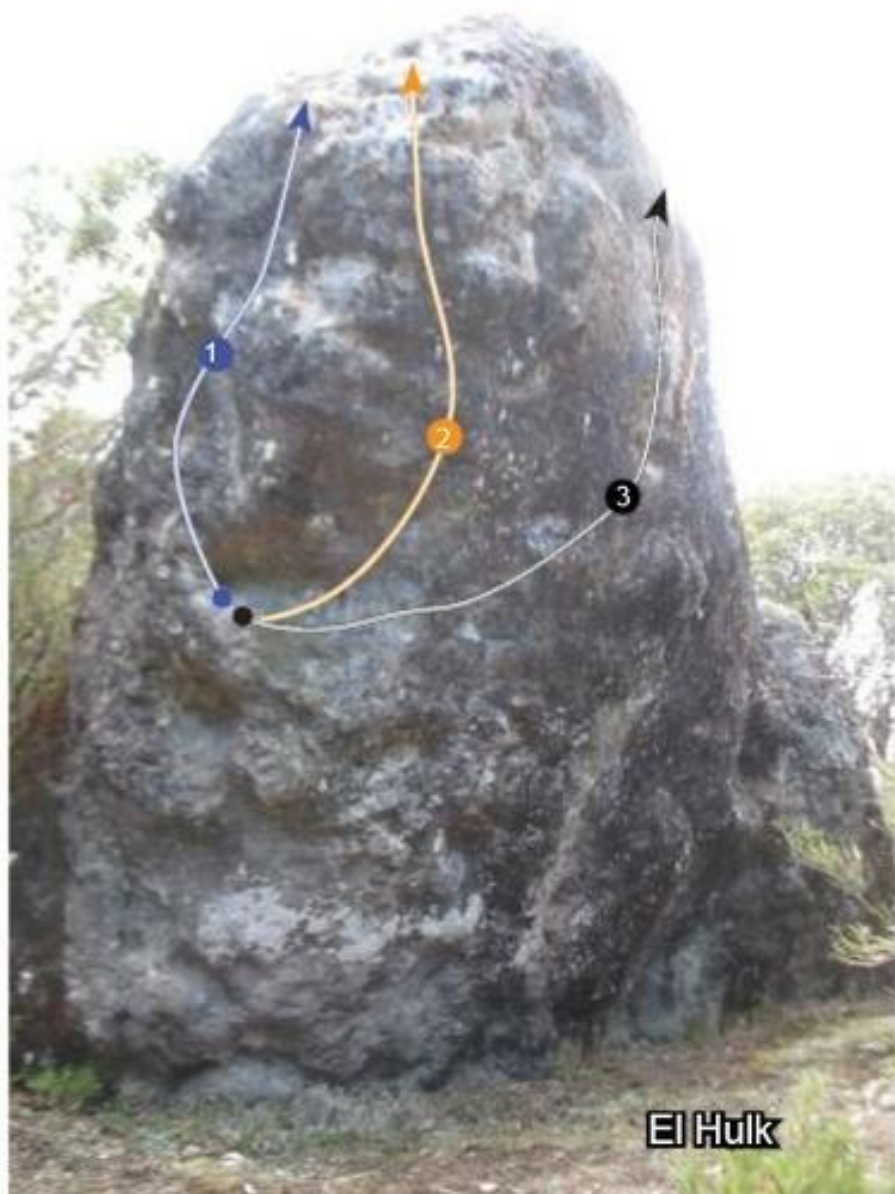
- 1. **Free Hulk V3**
Start in the obvious juggy hueco at about shoulder height. Climb up and left topping out on the left side of the prow.
- 2. **Hulk Directo V8 ★**
Start as for Free Hulk but climb straight up using some good pinches and crimps and toping out on desperate slopers.
- 3. **Hulk del Futuro P**
Project. Start as for previous problems but head out on small feature.



Highball Rock

Bellota

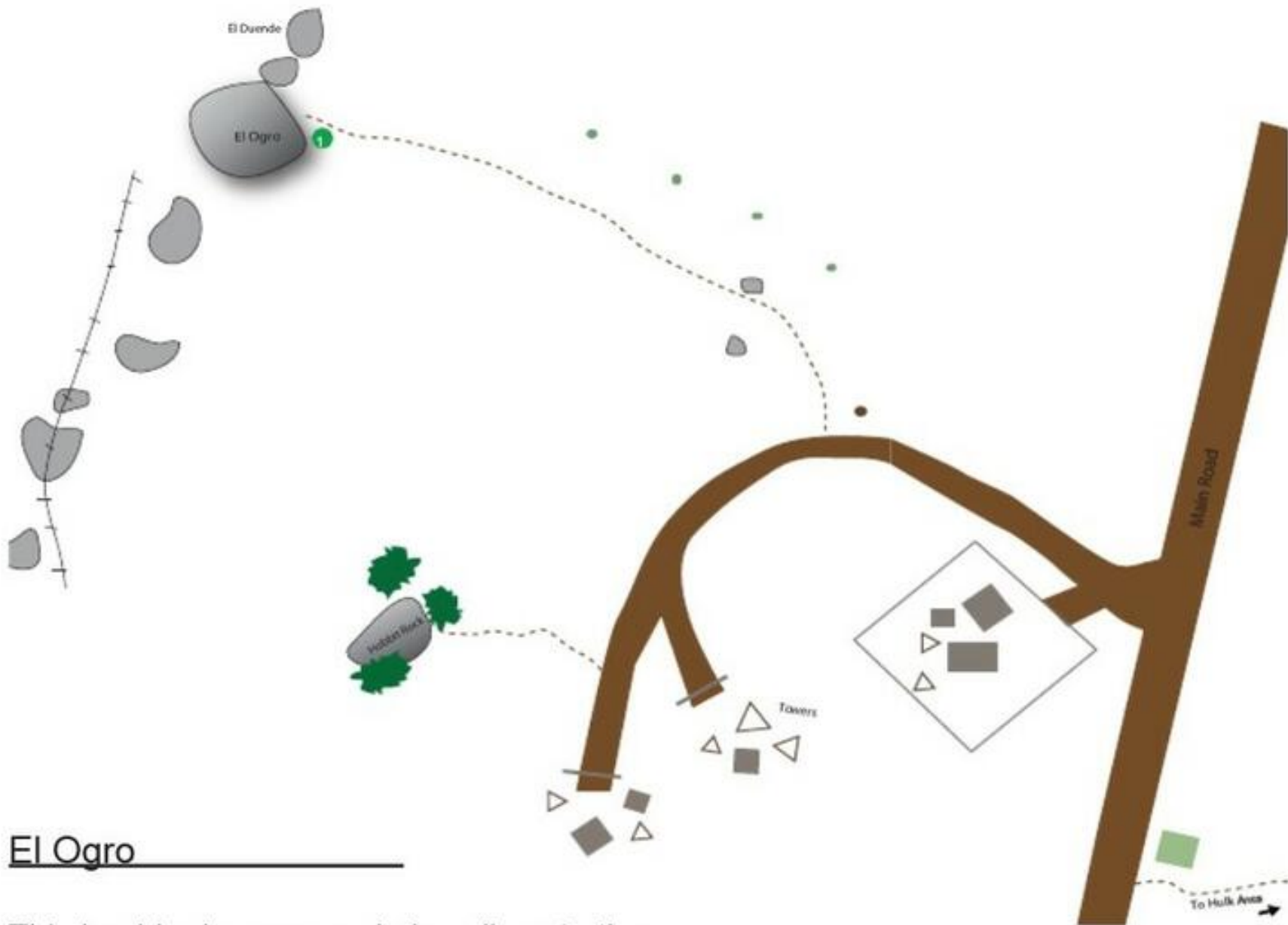
- 4. **La Selvática V0**  Sit start on left side of the boulder and climb up the grungy corner. Top out by a tree on the top.
- 5. **Áspero V4**  Sit start near the middle of the face and move straight up the scoopy feature to top out at the highest point of the boulder.
- 6. **La Superpoderosa V3**  Sit start with right hand on flat crimpo and left on another small crimp. Move over the bulge and up.



Eric Allen trying Hulk del Futuro

Los Durmientes Area

This is another underdeveloped area with some nice blocks. To find them, turn right just before the small green house and the entrance to the Hulk area on a road that heads up to a bunch of towers and buildings. Park when the road splits before the gates and head right into the bushes. These boulders have most recently been discovered.



El Ogro

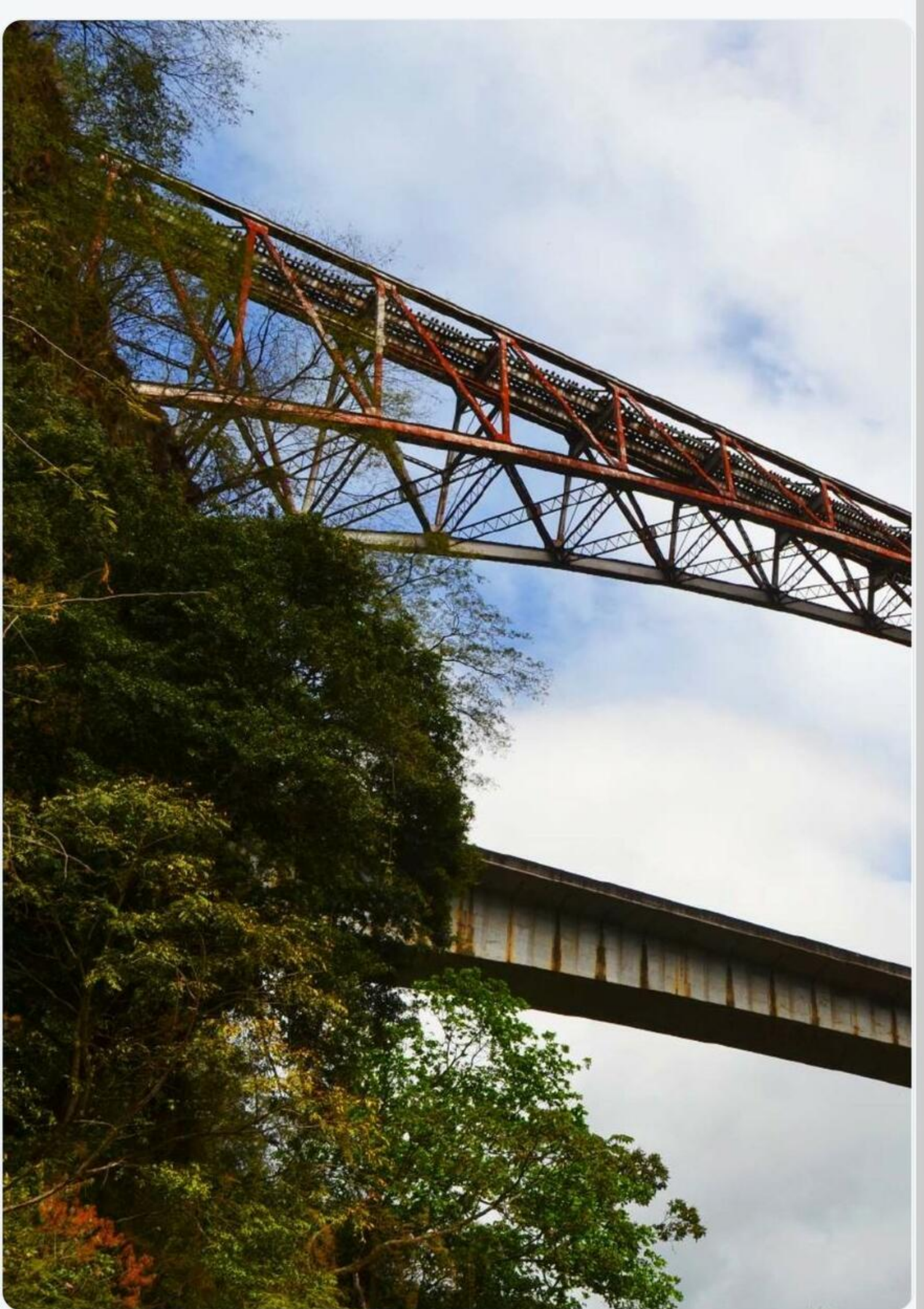
This boulder has some obvious lines to the right of the established problem - Big Bang. It just needs a bit of scrubbing.

- 1. Big Bang V6**
Start on the right side of the big sloper rail. Head up red bulge on big holds far apart.

Hobbit Rock

Hidden behind lots of bushes, Hobbit rock is has not been given much notice and needs some attention. It has at least one nice looking line up it.





Atenas





Welcome to Atenas

Atenas is the site of the country's most recent bouldering development. The excitement started in 2010 when some climbers from the surrounding area found the spot and started cleaning the moss off the large, featured, impressive looking boulders. Their discovery led to another concentration of great bouldering for the country, this time less than an hour west of San Jose in the low, hot and humid Rio Grande river valley.

The river here poses more of a problem than one would anticipate. There is a dam up river that gets opened at random times and causes the river to grow dangerously in size. Not only that, but Los Huevos, the two biggest and baddest boulders in the area are located on the opposite side of the river from the trail. There are two options for crossing; getting lucky with a low water day and wading across or bringing along an inflatable dinghy. Swimming is highly NOT recommended due to the putrid state of the river whose contents and smell are not far from that of a sewer.

How to Get to There

The Atenas boulders are located 35km (or around 45 minutes west on San Jose, the capital city of Costa Rica. The boulders lie along the Rio Grande river near a small community called Rio Grande. 10 minutes northwest is a larger, more well known town called Atenas.

Air Travel

The international airport, Juan Santamaria (SJO) is a mere 30 minutes away from these boulders. From there, you can rent a car and drive yourself (see Car Travel directions) or take the bus and a taxi (see Bus Travel directions)

Bus Travel

From San Jose, find the bus terminal of Coopetransatenas (Ave. 1-3, La Coca Cola. Calle 16) where you can take a bus to Atenas and then find a taxi to take you to Rio Grande and drop you off at Museo Ferroviario de Rio Grande or Centro

Turístico Puente Mulas. Similarly, you can take a bus from the airport into Alajuela, find the Coopetransatenas bus terminal and do the same. Bus schedules can be found online at www.coopetransatenas.com.

Car Travel

From San Jose take the new toll highway, Autopista Ruta 27 west towards Caldera. Take the Rio Grande/Atenas exit and turn left after the toll station. Drive around the rotunda and exit following the signs for Rio Grande. Take a right when the road splits, follow it to the end and park there at the Museo Ferroviario.

From the Airport, take the Pan American Hwy (Ruta 1) west for 12km then take the exit on to Ruta 3 toward Atenas. Continue for another 10km then turn left when you see signs for Rio Grande. Follow the road across the Ruta 27, around the rotunda, and continue as for the directions above.



Access

Permission to walk the trails down to the river and park your car on the land owner's property must be acquired for access to the Atenas boulders. Follow the map to the Museo Ferroviario de Rio Grande (the Rio Grande Train Museum). Go to the big house of the Centro Turístico Puente Mulas on the right side of the train tracks and ask if you can park your car on the property, through the chain gate. Then pay the day fee of ¢1000 per person (apprx. \$2). Pay before you enter.



Parking at el Centro Turístico Puente Mulas

When to Climb

As to be expected in almost every climbing area in Costa Rica, the dry season (December to April) is the recommended time to go. Atenas in particular is condition dependant as the river water level can rise high enough to render some boulders completely unclimbable, even on a dry day. National Geographic named Atenas as the place with one of the best climates in the world but boulderers



One of the many plant information signs along the trail

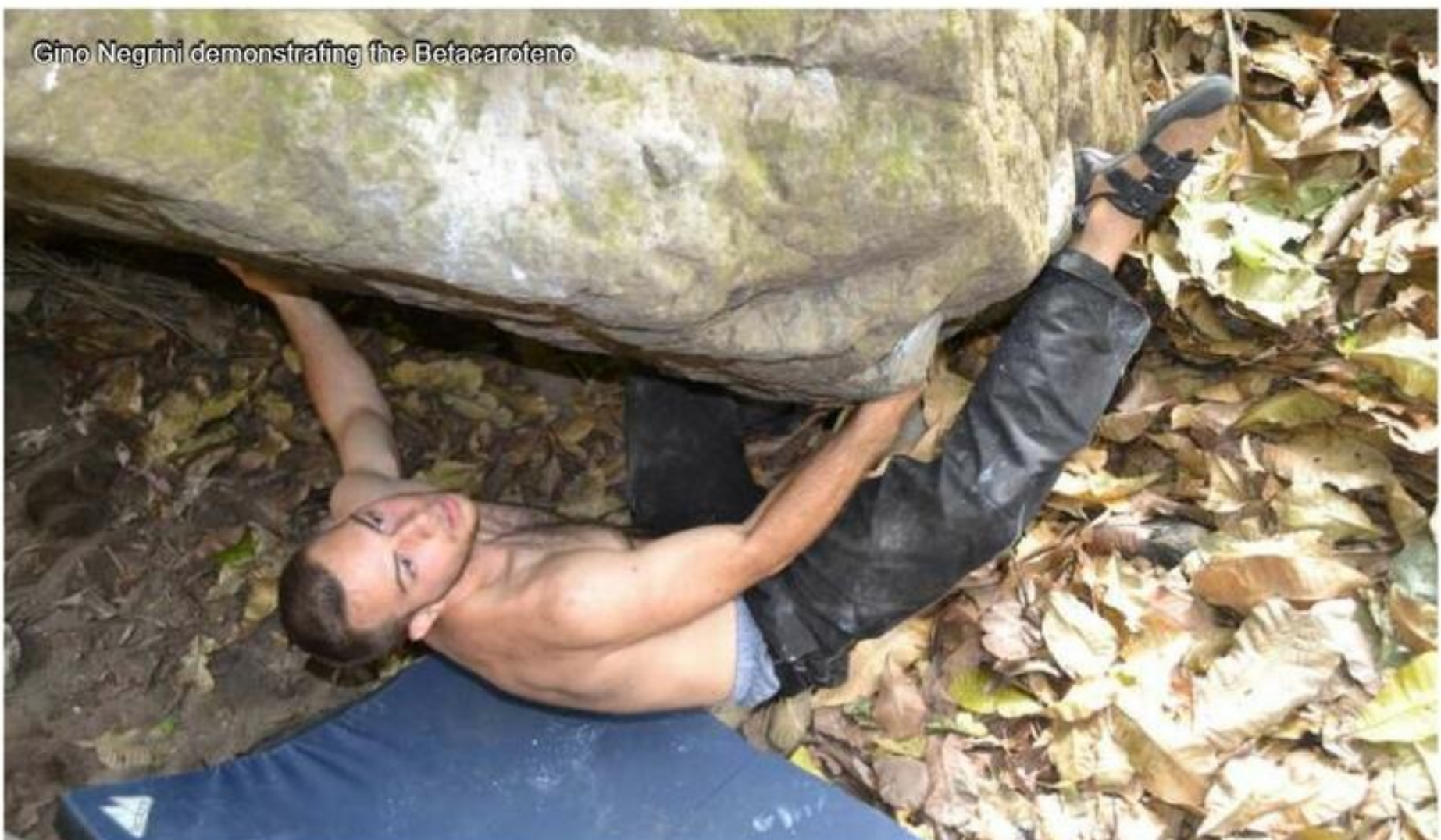
may disagree with that while battling the heat and humidity on slopers with sweaty palms or spending days scrubbing the moss of a classic problem -- yet again. Don't forget to bring your brushes!

Where to Stay

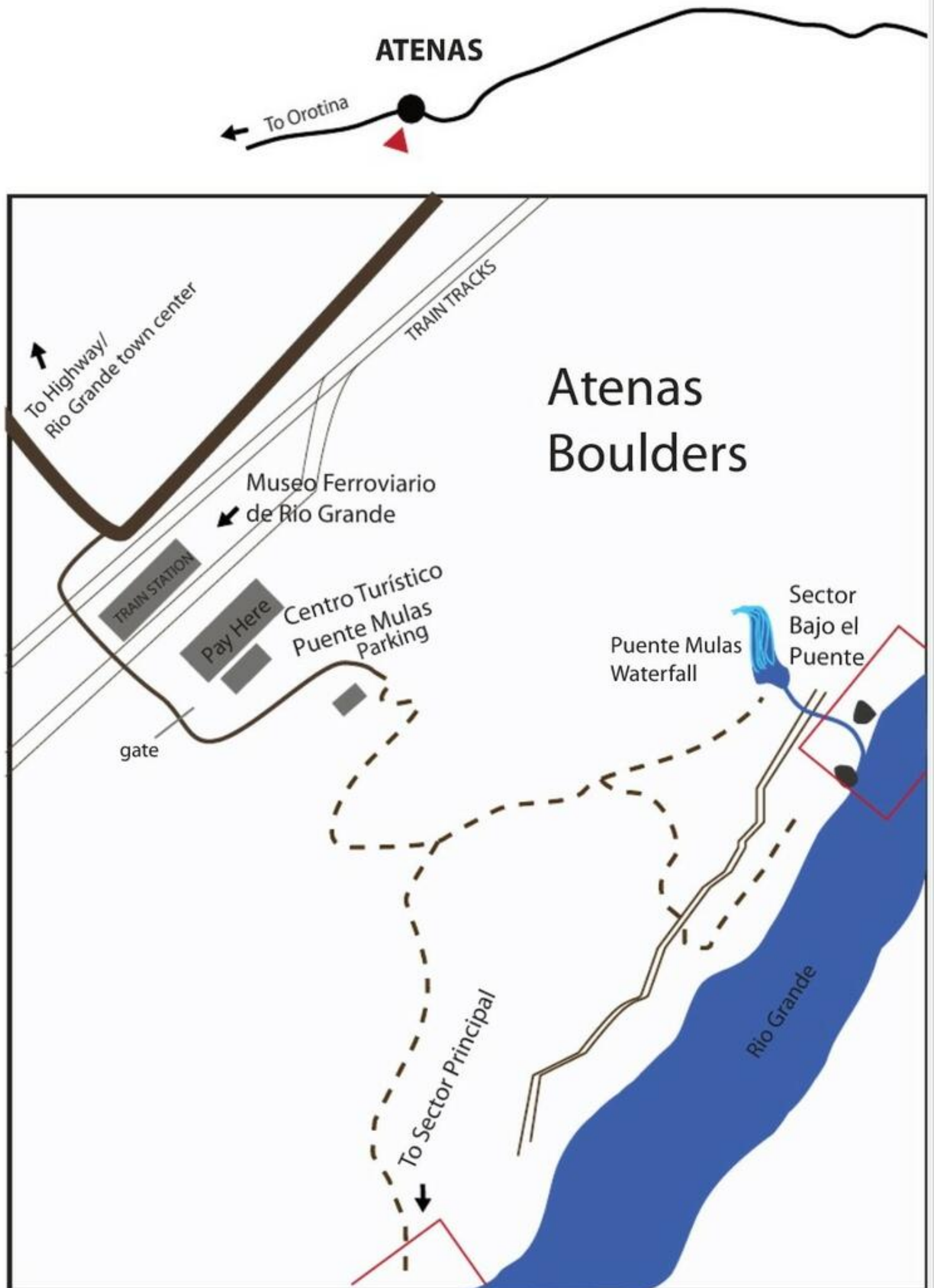
You are likely able to camp at the Centro Turístico Puente Mulas. Another option is to stay at one of the many bed and breakfasts, hostels or hotels in Atenas which is only a 10 minute drive away.

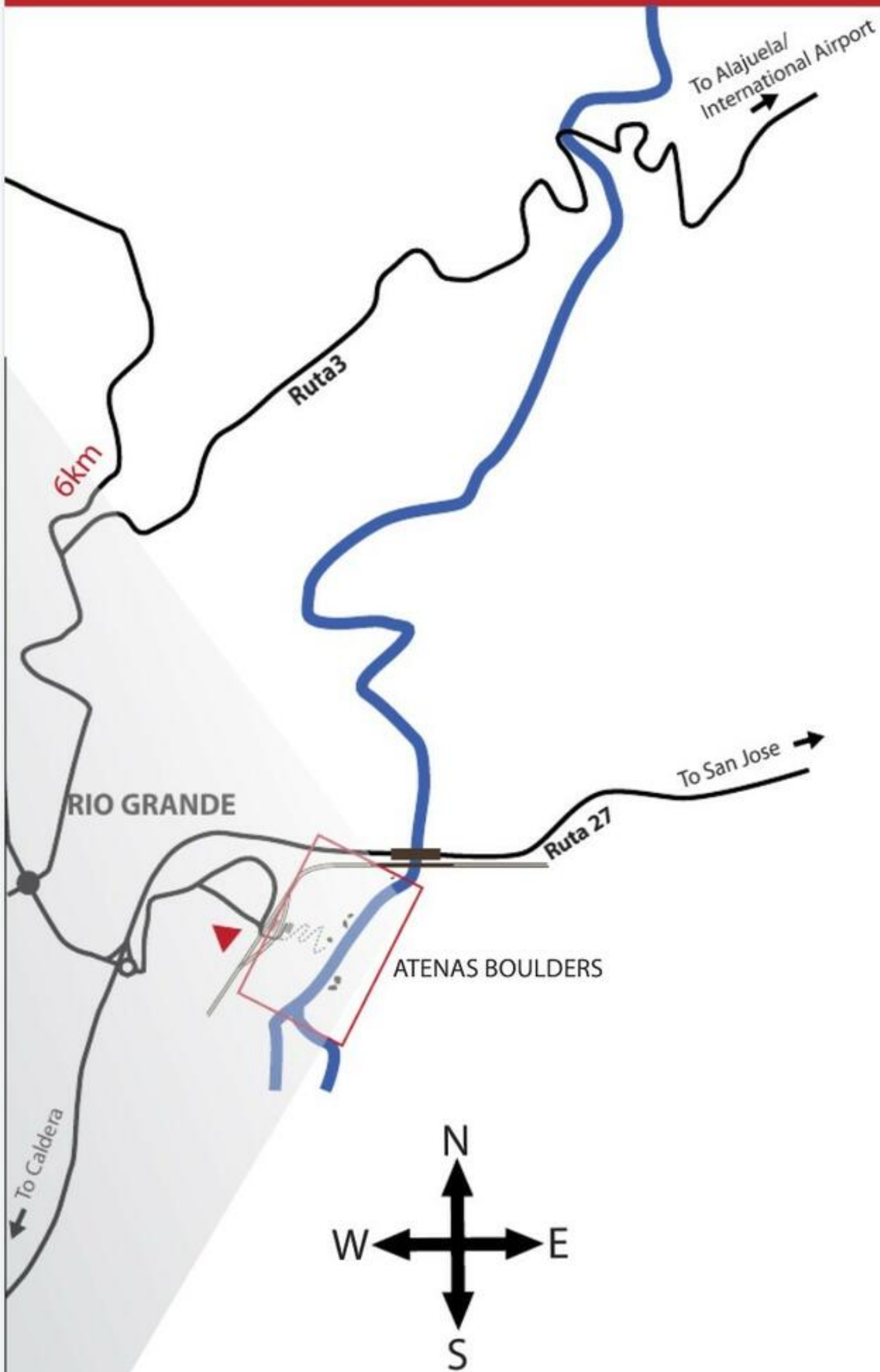
Food

It's probably best to do your shopping at a supermarket in Atenas as the options are very limited in Rio Grande. There is also a large selection of cafés and restaurants in Atenas.

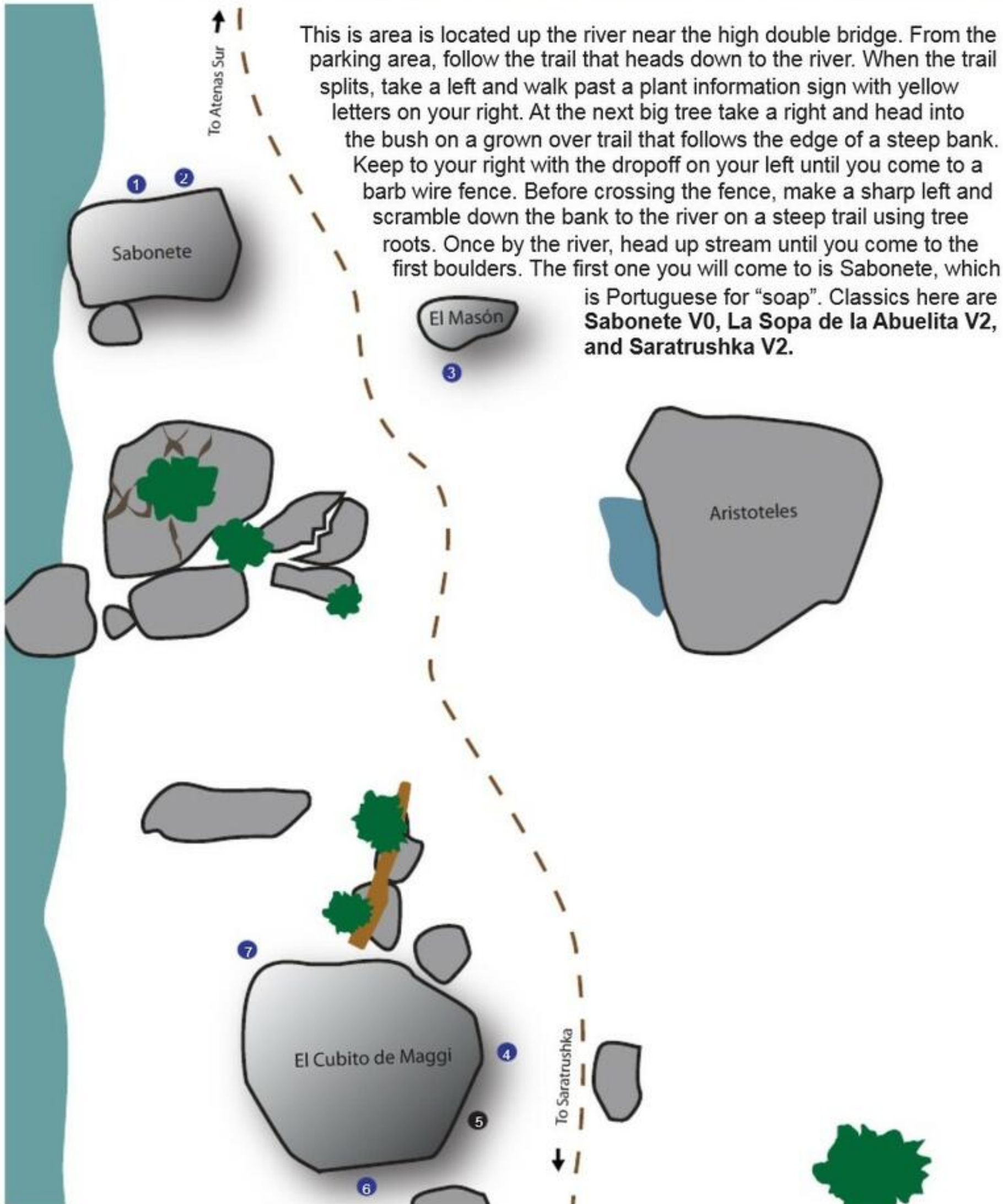


Gino Negrini demonstrating the Betacaroteno





Bajo el Puente





Sabonete

This boulder is the first boulder you come to as you walk up river. It has two nice problems on it that can only be done when the river is low. Be careful on the slickened rock.

- 1. **Anayansi V0**
Climb the right side of the boulder closest to the river. This problem may be over water. Be careful not to fall in.
- 2. **Sabonete V0 ★**
Start on crimps in small scoop with feet on the low angle black rock. Climb up with some stemming action to gain high crimps and the top.



El Masón

- 3. **El Masón V3** 
Lowball. Start sitting as low as possible and climb up the mini boulder on bad slopers.

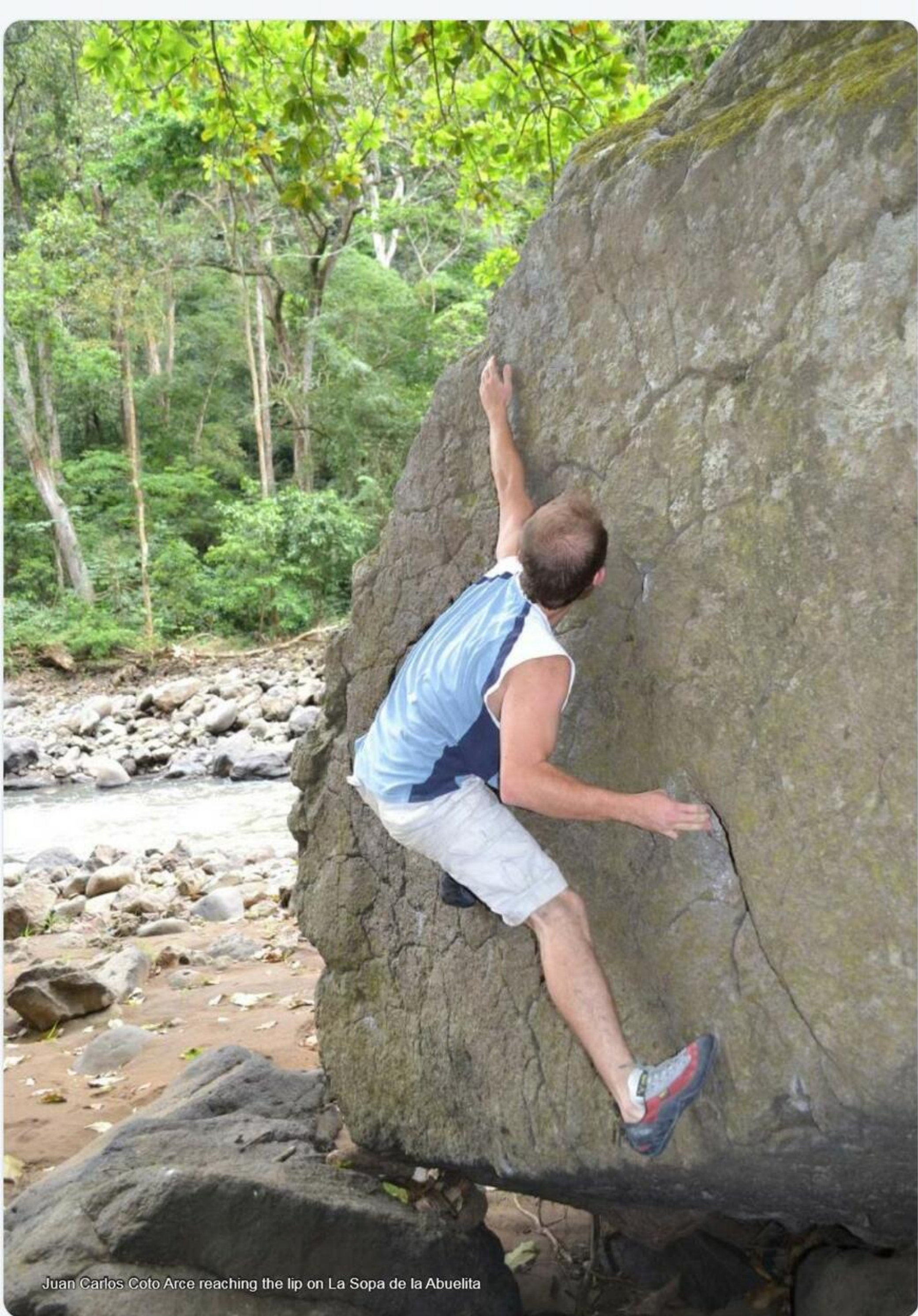


El Cubito de Maggi

Named for it's shape, El Cubito de Maggi has some of the nicest problems in addition to a really good looking project.

- 4. **Betacaroteno V3** 
Sit start just left of corner with left hand on undercutting in jug and right hand as low as possible. Make a big move to a sloper at lip and continue straight up on jugs.
- 5. **Glutamato Monosódico P**
Sit start as low as possible under the featured overhang. Climb straight out on horrible sloping crimps.
- 6. **La Sopa de la Abuelita V2 ★**
Start with two hands in juggy hueco and move up face using small crimps in the horizontal cracks. Sit start on rock underneath for an extra grade.
- 7. **Saborizante V0** 
Sit start and climb up on jugs!

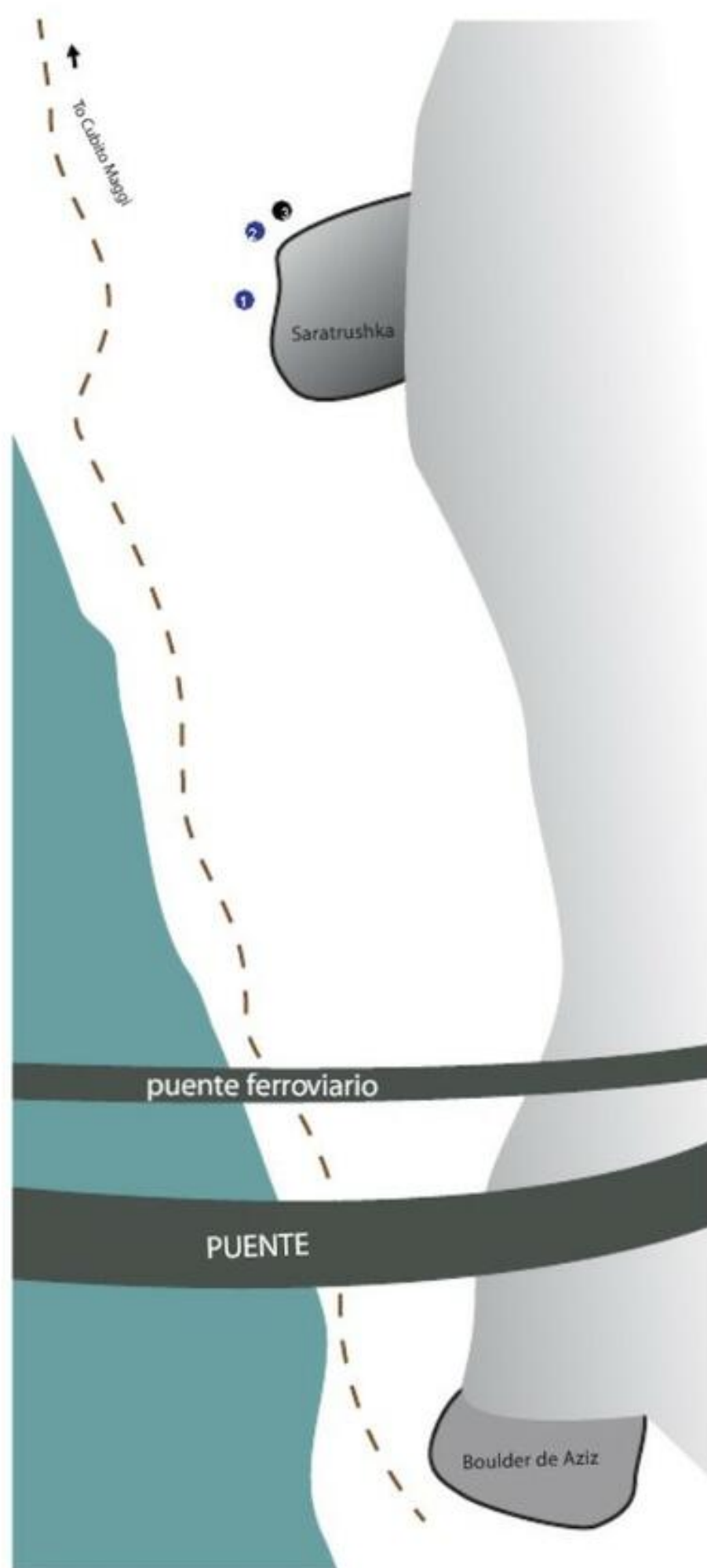




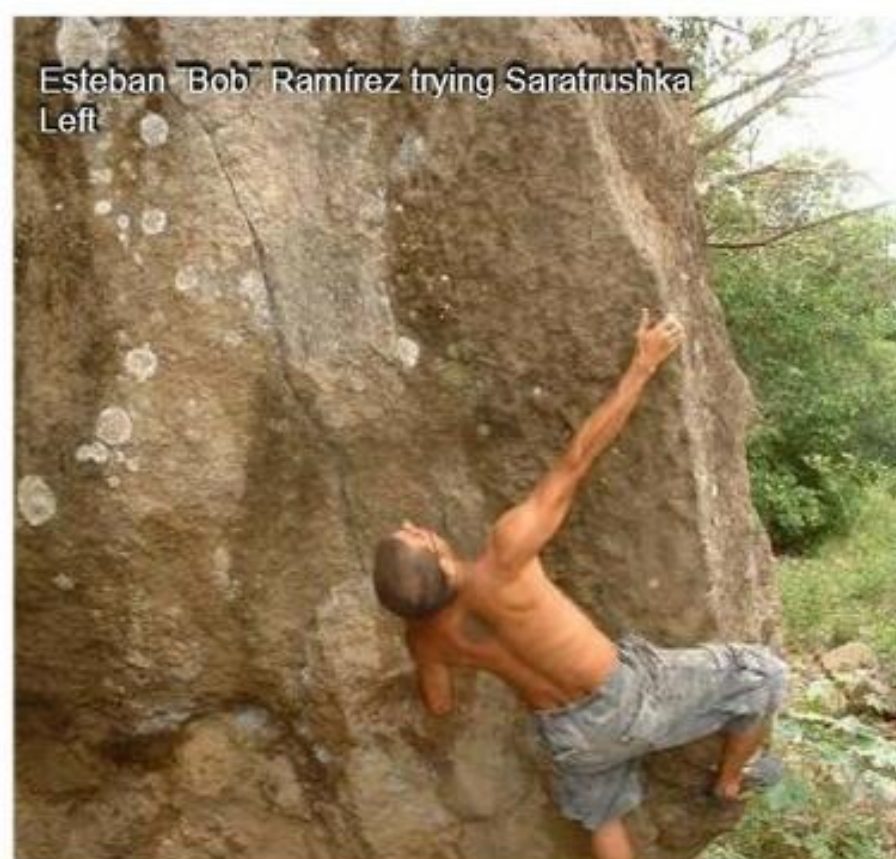
Juan Carlos Coto Arce reaching the lip on La Sopa de la Abuelita

Saratrushka

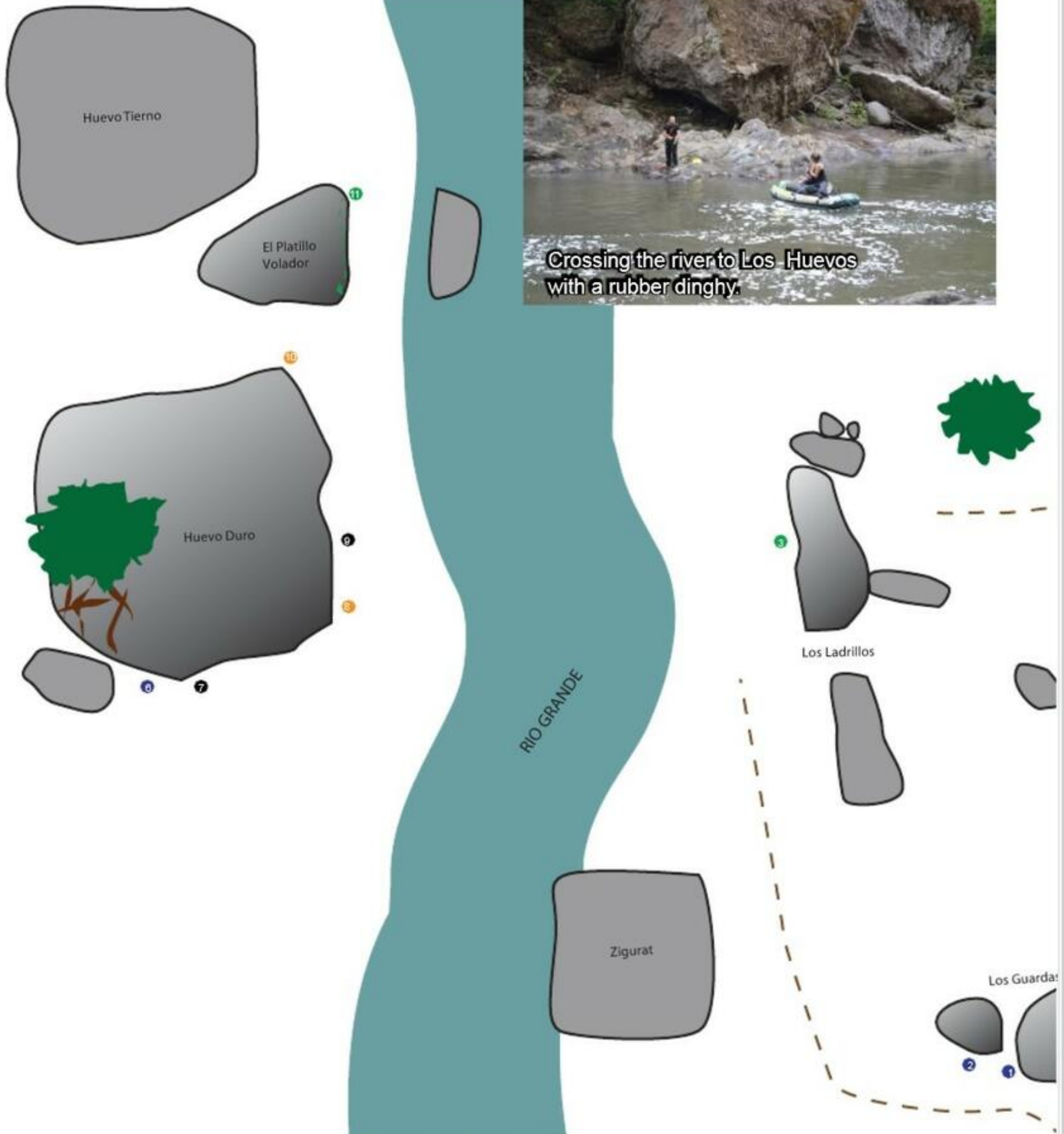
From el Cubito de Maggi, continue walking upstream towards the bridges. On your left you will see Saratrushka, a proud prow right along the edge of the riverbed. There is another boulder called el Boulder de Aziz just under the bridges that hasn't been developed much yet and can be difficult to get to depending on the water level.



- 1. **Onsight V0**
Climb the right side of the boulder closest to the river. This problem may be over water. Be careful not to fall in.
- 2. **Saratrushka V2**
Start low on left side of the arete, climb up and right around on big holds.
- 3. **Saratrushka Left P**
Start low as for Saratrushka but instead of exiting on early to the right, continue left avoiding the arete to top out at the boulder's highest point.



Sector Principal




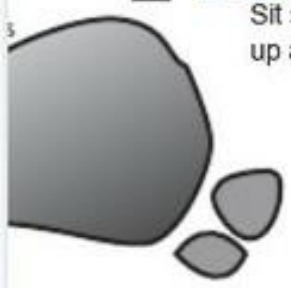
This area is located downriver from the Bajo el Puente area. From the parking lot follow the trail down until it splits, this time taking a right. Continue on this trail for about five minutes until you come the river. The first boulders you will come to will be on your right; they are called Los Guardas. Further down along the river's edge are Los Ladrillos. Straight up from there are the Memento and Silmaril boulders and directly across the river are Los Huevos. Crossing the river can be a big issue, especially if the water level is too high to wade across (which isn't recommended anyways since the water is not at all of bathing quality and you DON'T want to fall in). There is a bolted anchor at each side of the river which makes the crossing easy provided you have some kind of a boat.

Many obvious lines have yet to go up here, most are very tall. More quality boulders exist in the area and have been looked at but haven't been included in this book. The Huevo Duro boulder is the biggest and most developed of this sector. It's proudest, hardest line goes up an overhanging, high prow and is called **Basilisko V9**, first ascended by Ry Morrison in 2011. Other great problems here include **Mowgli V4** and **Toto V0**.



This is the first boulder you will come to on your right before coming to the river as you come down the hill towards Sector Sur. There is one good, high problem going up the obvious prow. Beside it there is a smaller boulder with a nice slab.

- 1. **Pelo en Pecho V1**
Climb the high prow of this boulder.
- 2. **Beta es la Letra V1** 
Sit start to the right of the obvious slab and move up and left to finish on it.



Los Ladrillos

These are two long brick-like boulders that sit parallel to the river below Memento and Silmaril. Straight across the river are Los Huevos

3. **Rio Azul V4** 
Sit start low and traverse right and up.

Memento

This impressive boulder lies just up hill from Los Ladrillos. It's imposing overhang facing the river can't be missed. These futuristic problems await you!

4. **Project Memento P**
Start with hands on a high hold and a foot right of the arete. Move up on obvious feature following the arete.
5. **Proyecto del Bob P**
Climb the middle of the overhang.



Los Ladrillos

Huevo Duro

This is the biggest boulder you see straight across the river from Los Ladrillos. It is the most developed and impressive boulder in the area, but still has potential for much, much more.

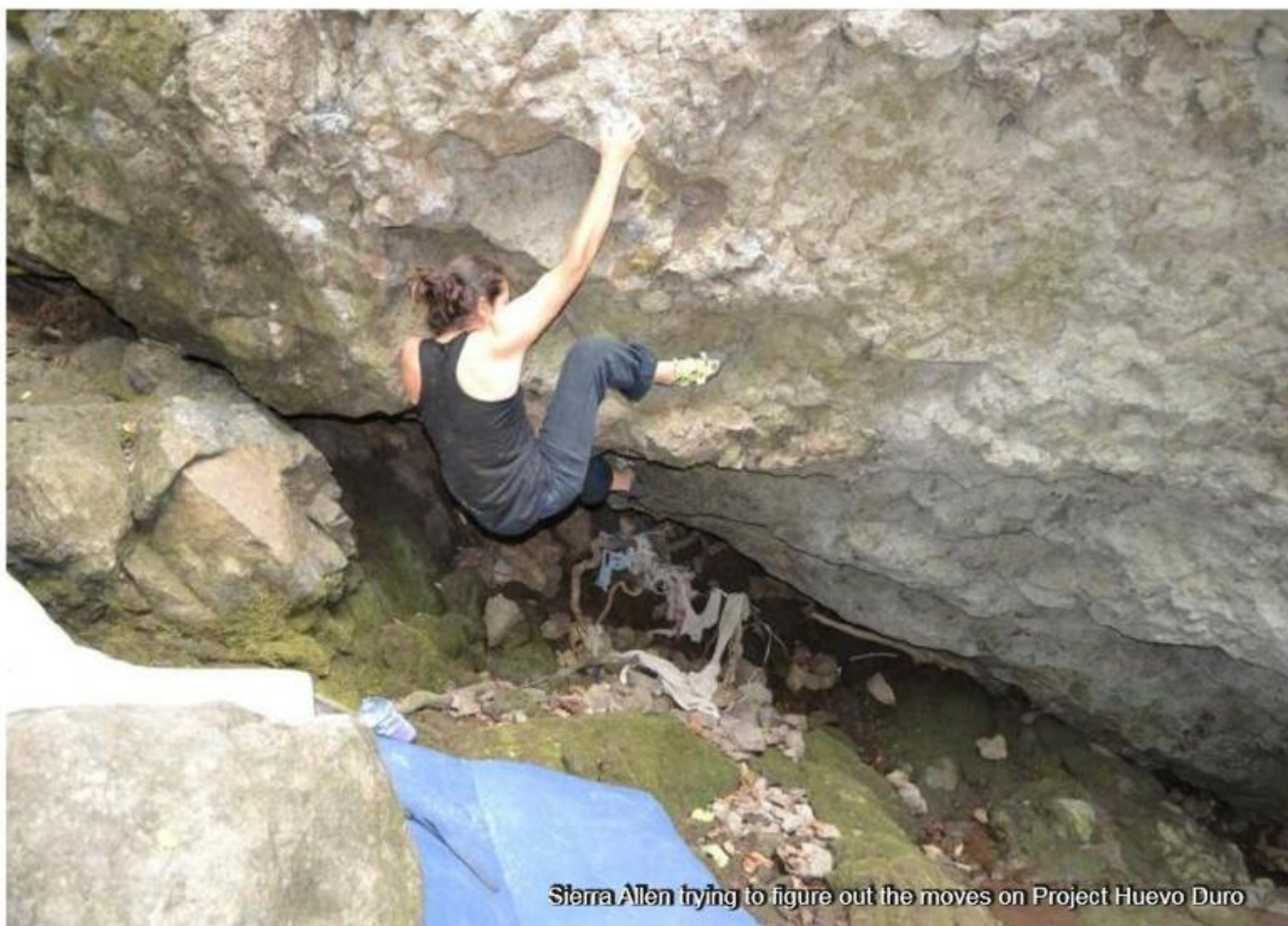
6. **Toto V0** 
Climb the beautiful tall line just right of the fig tree roots.
7. **Project Huevo Duro P**
Start low on a good hold on the left side of the face. Move up to bad pinches and continue left to finish on Toto.
8. **Atrévete V6** 
Start on the left side of the river-facing side of this boulder. Climb up to the long and high slab finish.
9. **Project P**
Climb the middle of the overhang.
10. **Basilisko V9**  
This is the prize of the area. This line couldn't be more obvious and imposing. Start as low as possible under overhanging prow on the south side of the boulder and climb to the high lip.



Huevo Duro - North Face

Platillo Volador

11. **Mowgli V4**
Start as low as possible at the far right side of the boulder facing the river. Traverse left on slopers to top out at left corner or continue around for full value



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The Definitive Guidebook to Bouldering in Costa Rica

English Edition



Costa Rica Bouldering describes three of the country's most concentrated bouldering areas, Providencia, Cerro de la Muerte, and Atenas and includes over 200 boulder problems. Although the country is primarily known for its birds, volcanoes, and beaches, any boulderer lucky enough to find him or herself there will be pleased to find that there exists some solid pieces of stone lying in extraordinary but little-known places. Go on an adventure and join in the exciting development of bouldering in this delightful little country that is rich in so many ways.