

Approach to Aguja Del Pilar.

From the parking area at the col, approach as for Haunted Wall.

Follow the approach for Haunted Walls until at the col just before the actual Haunted Wall. Continue to traverse below the next mountain (Aguja del Pilar) to another col. This is a good place to change and deposit your sack etc. There is a bolt in the headwall if you need to have a security rope or abseil for this section. Descend down the gully for 25m. to a bolt. Abseil 25m from this to the base of a wall. Walk down the gully passing one deep chimney on the left wall. All the climbs start below this point. See relevant route description for the starts to each climb.

Rise of the Phoenix. 152m. V. Adv. 5. (5a. HVS. UK).

A truly superb route. Every pitch gives interesting climbing on sound rock. The positions on this climb, like all the others in this area, are superb. A real classic adventure route which will justly become popular for those who are in search of climbing in wild areas.

Descend the gully passing below a deep gully on the left. 5 meters lower is a steep crack which forms a shallow groove.

Start below the steep wall on its right.

1. 15m. Grade 3+. (Very difficult.UK.) Climb the steep wall up small ledges right of the corner to a good ledge and bolt/nut Belay.

2. 40m V. (4c.UK). Climb right and ascend the arête, just left of the wide vegetated groove, to a good ledge and bolt/nut belays.

3. 20m. 1V+. Av4. (4c UK). Climb up then right to enter the big groove above. Follow this to the top then swing left along a wide crack to reach a good ledge and Bolt belay.

4. 25m. V. (5a UK). Climb direct to the steep crack above then move left into the chimney. Climb this to reach a good ledge on the right edge. Bolt.

5. 35m. 1V+ (4b+ UK). Climb across the chimney onto the far wall and ascent this using good but well spaced holds to reach a good ledge and thread belay.

6. 15m. 2. (Easy.UK). Climb up the groove then up to a ledge which leads right to the top of the descent.

F/A. R Edwards. D. Whitby. S. Scott. 2/3/002.

Cynical Pinnacle. 175m. 6c. or 6a. & A1. E1. (5b. & A1. E1.UK).

What a route! Superb climbing throughout. Each pitch giving well protected and stylish climbing. Another worthwhile classic adventure route.

Descend the gully until just left of the wide deep chimney at the base of the gully.(The buttress on the right is the start of La Espada).

Start below a shallow groove left of the chimney.

1. 28m. 6a. (5b. UK). Enter the groove from the left and climb direct (two old bolts) to where it divides. Move right, and climb the steep crack to a good ledge and bolt/nut belays.

2. 25m. 6a. (5b.UK). Ascend rightwards (old bolt) then right again to reach a shallow groove with two belay bolts on the right (belay of Carretera del Angels). Climb the groove above direct and a short slab to a good ledge and old bolt/nut belays.

3. 50m. V+ (5a. UK). Climb right and up into a steep corner (old bolt) moving right at the top onto a narrow ledge. Climb the steep short wall and move left to the edge of the pinnacle. Climb up left onto the large flake/block to a good crack which is followed to the left edge of the pinnacle. Climb the wall on the right to reach a narrow ledge and bolt belay.

4. 25m. V-. & A1. (4c & A1. UK) or 6c. Climb the pinnacle to the top. Using the 2 bolts on wall on the left, gain the left arete. Climb the wall above to a good ledge and bolt belays

5. 30m. V- (4c. UK). Climb the short wall below the boulder, moving left, and then climb the steep wall direct to a good ledge just short of the top. Thread/nut belays.

6. 15m. Easy. Scramble up the gully on the left, over ledges to a wider one going right. Follow this to gain the descent.

F/A. R Edwards. M. Browam. 11/2/002

Carretera Del Angels. 171m. 6a. E1. (5b. E1. UK).

A superb climb taking the right edge of the buttress. Some of the climbing looks far harder than it is. Well protected.

Start as for Cynical Pinnacle below a shallow groove left of the lower chimney.

1. 28m. 6a. (5b. UK). (pitch one of Cynical Pinnacle) Enter the groove from the left and climb direct (two old bolts) to where it divides. Move right and climb the steep crack to a good ledge and bolt/nut belays.

2. 18m. 1V. (4b. UK). Ascend rightwards, passing an old bolt, to a small ledge and two bolts belays at the base of a steep wall on the right.

3. 30m. V+. (5a.UK). Ascend rightwards into the shallow scoop. Climb directly up the steep wall passing two insitu thread runners. A third thread is passed on the right (out of reach), you then climb direct to a small ledge and bolt belay.

4. 30m. 6a-. (5b. UK). Climb directly above the belay to a bolt in the wall above. Move up and right, then up to a crack which ends on the edge of the buttress. Go up to a small narrow ledge (two old bolts) and climb the steep wall above to reach a good ledge (slightly easier by the chimney). Bolt belays

5. 20m V-. (4c. UK). Climb rightwards, around the arete, to reach the base of steep wall. Climb this to a good ledge at the top of the pinnacle. Bolt belays.

6. 30m. V-. (4c. UK). Climb the short wall below the boulder, moving left, and then climb the steel wall direct to a good ledge just short of the top. Thread/nut belays.

7. 15m. Easy. Scramble up the gully on the left, over ledges to a wider one going right. Follow this to gain the descent.

F/A. R Edwards. K Martin. 13/6/002

La Espada. 163m. 6c. or 6a. & A1. E2. (6a or 5b. & A1. E2. UK).

A very varied and interesting climb taking the full length of the wall.

Descend the gully to the lowest point of the wall, just right of a deep chimney.

1. 50m. 6a. E1. (5b E1. UK). Climb rightwards onto the base of the pillar to a shallow groove and climb this to its top. Move left into a crack which is followed to a ledge. Move left into a groove and up this and the short walls above to reach a ledge and bolt/peg/nut belays.

2. 35m. 6c. or 6a+. A1. E2. (6a or 5c & A1. E2. UK). Climb the pillar until level with two bolts in the steep wall on the left. Use these and a nut to get onto a small ledge on the left. Ascend rightwards passing three bolts to the right arete. Move round this and up into a crack. Move right into a wide crack then up to belays on the edge of the wall. Bolt belay.

3. 28m. V+. Av5. (5a Hard Very severe UK). Cross the gully onto the rib on the right. Up this and ascend rightwards to a crack. Climb this using the wall on the left to a small ledge and thread /Bolt belays.

4. 35m. 6a. A1. E1. (5b. A1. E1. UK). Climb up into the groove on the left and at its top move right onto the steep wall, using a rock spike and bolt to gain the wall above. Climb this and the slabs above to reach a thread belay.

5. 15m. 2. (Easy) Climb the groove then up to a ledge, which leads to the top.

First ascent. R Edwards. B Birch 7/3/002.

Phoenix-Cynical Pinnacle connections.

Connecting the first two pitches of Rise of the Phoenix with the middle and upper pitches of Cynical Pinnacle produces a superb grade V. (5a UK) rock climb.

The connection. Just before you reach the top of the second pitch of Rise of the Phoenix it is possible to step right onto the far wall. Once on this wall, climb direct to a good ledge and bolt belay, or continue rightwards (5m) around the arete into the second belay of Cynical Pinnacle. (old bolt and nut belays). From here continue up the third pitch of that route and follow the remaining pitches to the top of the mountain.

Getting there

This journey can be made by a normal car.

From the junctions on the N332 or the A7 (junction 65) at Benidorm, you travel in the direction of Callosa De Ensarria by the CV 70.. Once on the CV 70 and heading towards Callosa you will be on a dual lane road with many roundabouts. You will now start to see a large hulk of a mountain called Ponoch on your left, full of long mountain rock routes.(Via Valencianos). The Valley on the north side of the mountain is the area of Echo walls and Echo Placa. Eventually you will come to a road island which separates these names, Guadalest going left and La Nucia/Polop/Callosa going straight on. Follow the C70 through an industrial estate. From the round-about on the CV70 drive for approx 7km until another round-about with trees in its centre. with a track/road leading off left. This is the junction for the Echos areas. After another 7 km there is a asphalt road on the left up a steep hill. A large house and trees are just on the right of this road. There is also a restaurant advertisement sign here. Go up this road and take the first track on the left. Follow this, do not deviate to left or right, until you reach the Col which descends down into Sella. This same point can be reached from Sella. which is slightly rougher. Park at the col. The last section of this track is very steep and loose, if your car can not manage this park lower down and walk the short distance to the col.

The walk in. Fifteen/twenty minutes from your car at the col.

Make a horizontal traverse SSE across the hillside, heading for the end of the rocky ridge you can see in the distance. As you traverse Walls on your left are The Pleasure Domes, a new adventure climbing area being developed by Rowland and Mark. These peaks are the summits of 'The Cathedral and Haunted

Walls'. When you have finished the routes you descend from these summits back down to your car. When you reach the end of the ridge climb upwards to a Col and descend the other side to another col. Look left and you will see Haunted Walls with its superb vertical cracks and aretes. Continue to traverse below the next peak following a faint coat track until the next col. Look down and left and you will see the south wall of Aguja De Pilar with the obviously detached pillar of Cynical Pinnacle. Like Haunted Walls this view is inspiring or daunting depending on you level of commitment

Getting down to the base of the wall.

Descend the loose gully (abseil bolt in the head wall) until a bolt in a slab. Make a 25m abseil into the gully proper. Now scramble down until level with route number 1. Rise of the Phoenix.

Descents. From the summit walk back down to the col