

Espolon Bolulla—Edwards



Espolon de Bolulla/Edwards 600m. 6a+ (AO.V).

40m. 1V./ **25m.** 1V+. / **30m** V. / 45m. 6a+ (AO V)./ **25m** 1V/ **25m.** 1V./ **40m.** 1V+/ **25m.** 1V./ **20m.** 1V/ **50m.** Grade 3/ **30m.** 6a (AO V)./ **45m.** 1V+ / **20m.** 1V+./ **150m.** 3. First ascent R Edwards (solo) 1st February 2002.

A long and classical rock climb with great character which finishes on top of the mountain. The final part of the climb being a traverse of the summit ridge which in itself is worth a visit.

Taking two cars can make this climb a lot easier on the walk down!!

Approach.

From Bolulla.

As you approach Bolulla the face is very obvious as it dominates this valley.

Go through the village on the main road and continue for Tarbena, to the next track leading off left, which is on a sharp bend. This is an asphalt surfaced track. Follow this until below the face. Park intelligently and not in front of any of the access points to the terraces. On the far left side of the face is a narrow track. Go up this and work your way along the base of the face. Continue along the base of the crag until a rock step. Climb this and go right to below short walls directly below the right edge of the wall.

Espolon de Bolulla / Edwards.

- 1. 40m 1V. (4b). Climb the arete on the left and up to a ledge. Belay possible . Climb the wall and ledges to reach a good ledge and Bolt/nut Belays.
- 2. 25m. 1V+ (4b+) Climb the wall then trend right and up a steep crack to reach a good ledge. Thread belays.
- 3. 30m V. (5a) Climb the steep wall left of the vegetated groove . Trend right at the top a large cave and bolt belay.
- 4. 45m 6a+ (5c) 0r AO V (5a) Climb out of the cave by a traverse left and up to a peg (do not go for the bolt higher up). Ascend left (bolt) to reach another traverse line which is followed to a line of bolts(4) ascending up rightwards. Follow these, either free (6a+) or use them for aid. Follow the crack to a good ledge (bolt/nut belay). Continue direct for a further 10m to a good ledge and bolt/nut belays.
- 5. 25m 1V. (4b) Climb direct to the arete above. Ascend rightwards to reach a good ledge on the edge of the wall. Thread belays .
- 6. 25m. 1V. (4b) Climb the groove then the slab above to a cave. Bolts belays.
- 7. 40m. 1V+ (4c). Move left and ascend the ledges onto a slab above. Move left and then up to a steep wall (belay possible). Climb the steep wall on the right and then up less steep ground to thread belay.

8. 25m. 1V. (4b) Climb the blocks and move left onto the overhung slab. Ascend rightwards and then up the ridges to the base of the next pinnacle. Thread belays.

- 9. 20m. 1V. (4b) Follow the diagonal crack and then up to the top of the pinnacle.
- 10. 50m. Grade 3 (VD). Scramble down the back of the pinnacle and cross over to the next one. Climb this to its top and down to the col.

11. 30m. 3. (V Diff). Climb the next tower to the top.

- 75m scramble down to the col on the far side. Or along the ridge and abseil to the same.
- 12. 30m. 6a or AO V. (5b or AO 4c) Climb onto the ramp on the left and foolw this into a broken groove. Up this to an excellent corner crack. Climb this and move left at the to, then up to a bolt / peg/ nut belay.
- 45m. 1V+ (4b+). Climb the steep slab (two threads) and climb to its upper edge. Move right onto a slab and up this to a steep corner. Climb the corner and then direct to a bolt / peg belay.
- 14. 20m. 1V+. (4b+). Climb the arete to the top. Nut belays.
- 15. 150m. 3. (V Diff) Scramble up the right arete to the top of the mountain.

16. From the top follow the long ridge, 1 km, to the Castillo. There are a number of scram ble section which have to be negotiated.

Once at the Castello descend down the tourist path to the main track which eventually connects to the road. If you have not left a car here you now have a $\frac{1}{2}$ walk down the road to your car.



Rowland Edwards on the second ascent



Lower section





Rowland Edwards on the second ascent. Photo Mark Edwards