

El Lomo y Cola del Leon. (The back and tail of the lion).

Comments. A superb rock wall to climb on well away from the usual sport climbing of the Costa Blanca and in keeping with the style of the majority of climbs in this lovely valley. The rock is very sound and protection on most of the routes is excellent. Most routes require a full rack and double ropes are more useful than single, although 60-70m single ropes will be sufficient on most climbs.

When to climb. Depending on the kind of winter season you can climb here at most times of the year. Climbing in spring through to fall is particularly good. It gets the sun early in the morning, in winter until 11-00 am and in summer it will receive the shade around the same time. All descents have been arranged from bolts so there is little need to walk off down the mountain

Approach to El Lomo y Cola del Leon.

A 15-20 minute walk scramble from the parking area. From the second bend in the track ascending to Echo Two, by a water pipe junction, enter the woodland and follow a faint contouring track through the trees. The track starts to descend to a small outcrop of rock. From below this outcrop it traverses terraces right to below a rock spur. Descend left over ledges, below this spur, until you reach ledges overlooking the gorge where a rope hand rail will be found. Follow this and descend into the gorge. Climb the opposite bank and scramble up rock ledges which end below the small rock outcrops just right of the main wall. Walk below the base of the wall to find the first of the routes. The first obvious feature is the orange coloured steep wall of **El Leon Pequeno**. Walk left again until below a small buttress leaning against the main wall. This is the start for Sentinel

Route 1.

Sentinel. 105m. V. S. 4c. (4+).

First ascent. R Edwards. M Bradley. 5th October 2001.

Start in the middle of the wall just to the right of the deceptively steep crack of Jack the Ripper.

1. 15m. V. Diff. (3). Climb the rightwards slanting ramp and the short corner. Go left and climb over juggy rock to a good ledge. Bolt and nuts.

2. 35m. 4c. (4+). Go right then up left into a small groove. Up this and left to another shallow groove. Climb this to its top and move right and upwards. Climb over ledges to just below the top of the pinnacle. Bolt and nut belays.

3. 15m. Diff. (3). Climb up onto the ledge above and climb the short wall to another good ledge with thread belays.

4. 20m. 4b+. (4). Follow the ramp rightwards and then direct and follow thin crack in the left side of the pillar. Move right to a small ledge and nut belays.

5. 20m. 4c. (4+). Continue up the right side of the pillar until stopped by a small overhang. Move right and up to follow a narrow groove which ends at a ledge just below the summit. Bolt belays.

Descend back down the route three abseils.

route 2

The Jack Ripper. 15m. 5b Hard Very Severe. (V).

First ascent R Edwards. M Bradley. Mrs J Gombi. 5th Oct 2001

Start as for Sentinel, below the obvious crack, on the left side of the small buttress.

1. 15m. 5b. (V). Climb up the short wall to reach the crack, this is surprisingly sharp, and then the wall above to a good ledge shared with Sentinel

Lower off or continue up Sentinel.

Route 3.

Via de Puente Roca. 45m. E3. 5b. (6a). 5c. (6b).

First ascent. R Edwards. T Phillips. L Fallen. 25th October 2001

A superb route with a very exposed finish.

Start just left of a boulder in the centre of the wall and well to the left of the deep chimney.

20m. 5b. (6a). Climb up and then right onto a rightwards sloping ledge. At its end climb up then left to the base of a steep wall with large holes in it. Follow the holes onto a good ledge and sitting belays (bolt and thread).

25m. 5c. (6a). Climb the deep chimney on the left onto a good ledge above. Move up and right up a shallow corner, move right and then climb the headwall direct, passing two in-situ bolts. Follow ledges until just below the summit of the pillar. Belay Bolt and abseil

Route 4.

Demolition man. 60m. E2/3 5c. 4a. (E2/3. 6a+. 1V-).

First ascent R Edwards. M Bradley. 12th October 2001.

Excellent climbing. There is a small amount loose rock at the cave area.

Start at the extreme left side of the buttress just before it turns up hill.

1. 45m. 5c. (6a+). Climb rightwards up a steep wall to the sloping crack running up right into a small cave. From the cave move left and up into another cave. Climb over the roof on the left (Bolt) to a good thread runner. Move right then up into a wide nich. The short wall on the right ends at a good ledge. Bolt belay.

2. 15m 4a. (1V-) Climb the short wall and trend right to a good ledge with an abseil bolt.

Descend by abseil.

Route 5.

Alice Dentro un Espejo. (Alice inside the looking glass).

115m. E2/3 4c. 5b. 5b+. 4a. (E2/3 6a). (1V. 6a. 6a+. 1V).

First ascent. R Edwards. D Drew. 12th October 2001.

A truly classic rock climb taking the large area of rock above the obvious cave just left of Demolition Man

(Demolicion Hombre). Protection is always good and the climbing is superb, the last pitch particularly so.

Start below and to the left of two caves high up on the wall above, one on top of the other.

1. 35m. 4c. (4). Start just left of the caves. Climb a slab, trending right, to reach the first cave. Climb the crack on the left and then the steep bulge which ends at a good ledge in the top cave. Threads and Bolt high up.

2. 25m. 5b. (6a-). Climb the rid to the roof and enter a steep groove, at its top move right then up onto a ledge. (Bolt). Climb the wall and flake to a good ledge on the right. Bolts belays.

3. 40m. 5b. (6a). Climb the thin crack and then ascend leftwards across the wall (passing two bolt runners). At the last bolt climb direct and follow cracks and steep rock up the centre of the wall to a good ledge and natural belays. or continue up the short section to the top, beware of rope drag.

4. 15m 4a. (1V). Climb the short steep wall to a good ledge and bolt belays.

Descent. Abseil back down the route (3. Abseils)

Route 6.

Helix. 25m. Very Difficult. (3).

First ascent. M Edwards March 2000.

Start below a leftward slanting groove 40m left of Alice.

1. 25m V, Diff. (3). Climb the groove and the slabs above to the top of a pinnacle and lower off.

Route 7.

Felix. 25m Very Difficult. (3).

First ascent. M Edwards. March 2000

Start 6m. left of Helix by a large rock on the path.

1. 25m. V. Diff. (3). Climb the short wall and slabs to a lower off.

Route 8.

Terra Del Roca. 25m 5b. (V+).

First ascent. R Edwards. B Birch. 12th May 2002

Start 10m right of the deidral of Angelica below a steep slab.

1. 25m. 5b. (V+). Climb the slab until it is possible to move left into a series of small corners. Follow these until a move right into a nich and bolt belay.

Route 9.

Diggle. 111m. 5a. Hard Very Severe. (V+. Adv.5).
With altenative finish. (5b. E1 . (6a E1).

First ascent, R Edwards. B Birch. 12th May .2002.

Start right of the Diedrral of Angelica and below an obviuos crack 6-7m up.

1. 25m. 5a. (V). Climb the steep slab to the crack , climb this and at the top continue up the steep slabs and crack to a recess on the right. Bolt belay.

2. 18m. 4c. 5. (V). Move right and climb the blunt arete and then the wall above to a good ledge. Move right to a pinnacle and belays

and then climb the wall on the left. Climb direct over ledges to a good ledge and thread nut belays.

3. 20m. 5a. (V+). Step off the pinnacle and climb the steep slab on the right to a flake. Go directly up to the overlap and pull over this and then continue up ledges to the base of the steep orange wall above. Nut / cam belays.

4. 48m. *Depending on which finish you do.* 5b. E1. or. 4c. (6a E1 or V). Climb up to the flake on the left. Continue trending rightwards to the orange wall with caves high up. Climb through these caves and onto a good ledge.

Finish 1. 5b. (6a). Climb onto the ledge on the left and then climb direct into the recess above. Pull over the roofs above and make a strenuous move onto the right edge. Follow this to a good ledge and bolt belay,

Finish 2. 4c. (V-). From the good ledge move right and then follow the depression up left to reach a good ledge and bolt belays. Some loose rock here.

Abseil. 45m. from these bolts and trend left (looking in) and make for a bolt lower off on the far left. A further two abseils reaches the base of the wall.

Route 10

65th Birthday Route. 118m. E1. 5b. (6a. E1).

First ascent. R Edwards. B Gordon. 17th April 2002

Start just to the right of the big groove of Angelica

1. 28m. 5b. (6a). Climb the wall just right of the groove and right of the bushes which leads to a small recess. Make a bold move directly upwards to reach good holds which are followed to a ledge and bolt belay

2. 25m. 4b. (1V). Climb the pillar onto the wall above and move right and up. Continue direct to a good ledge and bolt/thread belays.

3a. 25m. 5b. (6a). Climb up to the slanting crack on the left and follow this to its end. Pull over the small overlap (peg) onto a steep wall . Climb this to reach a small ledge and bolt belay.

3b. 25m 4c. (V). Climb the wall direct then move right to a slanting crack. Climb this and continue direct to the bealy.

4. 40m. 4c. (V). Climb the wall on the right which curves rightwards into the groove above. Climb the groove (a lot sounder rock than first impressions give). At its top move right, below the roof, climbing across a delicate slab to reach a good ledge. (bolts here to belay from) or climb the steep easy groove (loose) to reach a good ledge and bolt/thread belay and abseil.

Descent. Abseil diagonally back down to the previous belay and make further absiels down the same route.

Route 11.

Angelica. 25m. 5b E1. (6a- E1).

First ascent. R Edwards. May 2001.

A superb deidral climb. This pitch can be incorporated into the upper pitches of Leap in the Dark which makes an excellent 2/3 pitch rock climb.

1. 25m 5b. (6a-). Climb the steep slab on the right of the deidral proper until forced left, make a long reach into it. (This deidral can be climbed direct at 6a+). Follow the deidral until a small ledge. Climb the left arete and then move back into the deidral which is followed to its top. Bolt lower-off.

Route 12

Leap in the Dark. 95m.5c. E3. (6b. E3).

First ascent. R Edwards. A Shepherd. 5th May 2002

Start below a vertical crack, about 5m up, and 4m left of the deidral of Angelica .

1. 48m. 5c.. (6b). Climb the steep shallow ramp going left and up onto the steep wall. Move right and up into the crack. Climb this and the wall on its left until level with a small ledge on the right. Ascend leftwards to a bolt and pass this on the left to reach another bolt over the overlap. Climb direct and then make fora ledge on the right (belay possible) ascend left and then back right to reach a small ledge and bolt belay.

2. 45m. 5b. (6a+). Ascend rightwards and make for the right side of the overlap above. Move left (bolt) to reach a series of cracks going direct. At the top climb a short groove and ascend rightwards and make a crack above. Go up this and then ledges lead to a small ledge and bolt belay.

Descent. abseil back down the route.

Route 13.

Mack the Knife. 25m. 5b. E1. (6a.E1).

First ascent. R. Edwards . A. Shepherd. G. Mcpherson. 5th May 2002.

A superb route with good protection which also provides the first section of the route, Procrastination Crack.

Start below the vertical crack and by a fallen block leaning against the wall.

1. 25m. 5b. (6a). Climb onto the block and make some bold moves to reach good holds. Continue direct to the crack which is climbed to its top. Move left and climb the steep groove to reach a lower-off just below the bolted head wall.

Route 14.

Procrastination Crack. 105m. 5c. E3. (6b. E3).

First ascent. R. Edwards. R. Stephenson. 28th May 2002

A superb climb the lower two pitches can be done on their own.

Start as for Mack the Knife.

1. 35m. . 5b. (6a). Climb onto the block and make some bold moves to reach good holds. Continue direct to the crack which is climbed to its top. Move left and make a delicate traverse left to reach a bolt belay in a niche.

2. 20m. 5c. (6b). Climb up to the base of the steep crack/groove above and climb this to a ledge and bolt belay.

3. 25m. 4c. (V). Climb onto the wall on the left and then back right and up to the base of a clean wall on the right. Climb this up to a small overlap. Over this onto a good ledge and bolt belays.

4. 25m 5a. (V+). Climb right to the blunt arete and follow this direct . Follow the same line to the top of

the face, moving slightly left at the top to reach a good ledge and abseil bolt.

.Descent. 2/3 abseils.

Route 15.

Salamander.. 206m. Very Severe 5a. (V. Adv 5).

A superb climb which should become an instant classic..

First ascent. R Edwards . A. Shepherds. G. Mcpherson. 3rd. May 2002

Note. The first four pitches were first climbed by R Edwards . M Edwards but with the direct finish at 7a+. This is the last pitch of Dark Treasure?

Start well up to the left from Procrastination Crack and at the right end of a ramp going up leftwards.

1. 48m. 4b. (1V). Climb a short wall onto the ramp and follow this to a large flake. Climb down and left to gain the continuation of the ramp. Climb up to a small ledge on the end (bolt).

2. 35m. 5a. (V). Climb up (bolt) and left using a good ledge as hand holds (thread runner). Stand up and move left again into a steep corner crack. Follow this to the top. Move left into another crack which leads to a good ledge. Climb the short corner onto a good ledge and thread belays. (50m abseil to the ground from here)

3. 25m. 4b. (1V). Climb the groove above and trend leftwards to the base of a steep wall with two threads for belays..

4. 25m. 5a. (V). Continue directly up the steep slab moving slightly left at the top to finish direct onto a small ledge with bolt/nuts. (abseil) belay.

5. 48m. 4c.. (V). *Some loose rock but not worryingly so.* Climb the groove and follow this to the base of the chimney. (Belay possible here). Climb the chimney to a small stance below the roof. Bolts.
(Also see alternative finishes)

6. 25m. 5a. (V+). Climb left out of the cave into a niche. Climb out of this on the right and ascend the ramp and corner to the top of the climb. Nut/cam belays.

Descent. Traverse right for a few meters to a bolt abseil point. (slightly lower down on the right). Three full abseils reach the base of the wall.

Alternative finishes.

5a.(possible finish for Dark Treasure). 50m. 6a. E4. (6c E4).

First ascent. R Edwards. M Edwards. . 26th April 2002

A superb pitch. This pitch can be split on a ledge below the wider upper crack.

50m. 6a. (6c). First move your belay to the base of the groove, good cams and nuts. Climb the groove on the left and then back right to the base of the steep groove. Climb the steep groove to a good ledge (belay possible). Climb the overhanging crack above, which gets gradually more difficult as you gain height. Continue to follow the groove and cracks to the top of the wall.

Descend. Walk left to a bolt placed conveniently for an abseil back down the side of the route, three full 50m abseils reach the base of the wall..

5b. finish. 50m 5c. E3. (6b. E3).

An alternative finish to Salamander. Superb climbing. The last pitch particularly so.

F/A. R Edwards Robert Stevenson. 22nd May 2002

From the bolt belay on pitch 4.

1. 20m. 4c. (V). Climb the grooves in the buttress on the left, and above the belay. Climb left to the base of the chimney. Belay on the large block and friends etc.

2. 20m. 5b. (6a). Climb the chimney for a few feet then move onto the right wall. Climb the cracks until a move right can be made into the groove. Go up this to the roof and pull over this on the right to a small hanging belay in a corner. (search for the good thread).

3. 30m. 5c. (6b). Superb climbing in an astonishingly exposed position. Climb onto the ramp on the left and follow this to its end. Now either continue left into the gully and up this ,or go right and then directly to the top and a good ledge and belays (Friends).

Route 16.

Dark Treasure.

First ascent. M Edwards. R Edwards. May 2002.

Start in the wide bay 40m left of Salamander below a line of bolts left of the edge of the wall.

Excellent climbing on small pockets. Fully bolted.

1. 28m. 7b. Follow the bolts to a small ledge right of the small overlap high up.

2. 22m. 7a. Climb the overlap and the steep wall above to a recess and lower off.

Or. Continue to follow Salamander and finish with one of its alternative finishes. A recommended finish would be 5b, Crack-a-Go. A full rack will then be needed.

Route 17.

Lion Heart. (Corazon del Leon). 185m. 5c. E4. (6b. E4).

First ascent. R Edwards. A. Seimons. February 2003

Start in the open bay to the left of Salamander and below an obvious steep wide crack in the wall above. Start the route at the base of the slab on the left.

1. 25m. 5a. (V+). Climb the slab and make for a small groove on the right. Go up this into a small cave and bolt belay.

2. 25m. 5c. (6b). Climb direct to a traverse line and traverse right (2 bolts) to the base of a good crack. Climb this (one bolt where it closes up) to a wide chimney. Bolts belays.

3. 30m. 6a. or 5c ao. (7a or 6a+ ao). Climb the wide crack to its top and then the steep wall above (2 bolts) to reach a ramp going up left. Follow this to a bolt belay in a corner.

4. 25m. 4c. (1V+). Continue to follow the ramp going up left. Move around the arête and across the wide crack then descend slightly to a bolt belay.

5. 40m. 5c. (6b). Climb direct and then left to the wide crack. Follow this to a bolt runner. Just above this move right into another faint crack which is followed until another move right leads to a groove. Up this to a small ledge and bolt belays.

6. 40m. 5c. (6a+). Climb the steep slab to the overlap (bolt) Climb the steep slab and enter a groove system which is followed to a good ledge on the left and bolt belays (abseil point)

Descent. Abseil back 4 abseils direct.

Route P. (Project)

This route has had three of its pitches climbed which are completely bolted and are 6b. 8a. 8a. .

A M Edwards Project.

Route 18.

Deep sleep. (Sueno Profundo). 150m. 5c. or AO 5b, (6b, or AO 6a).

First ascent R Edwards. A Siemons February 2003.

A superb expedition .

The first pitch makes a very good single pitch climb on its own.

Start below a steep crack on the left side of the bay.

1. 20m 5b. (V+). Climb the short wall to the base of the crack and follow this to its top. A short wall leads to a bolt belay(lower off).

2. 30m. 5c. or 5b ao. (7a or 6a ao). Enter the crack on the left and climb the steep wall, 2 bolts, to reach the wider crack above. Continue up the wide V chimney to bolt belays.

3. 25m. 5a. (V). Continue to climb the V groove which eventually leads to a large bay on the right, and below an impressive crack.

4. 25m. 5b. (6a). Climb the crack to its top and make a bold move left onto the wall which is climbed to a good ledge and bolt belay.

5. 50m. 5b. (6a). Ascend leftwards and follow the fault below the overlap to the far side. Climb up onto a good ledge on the left. Traverse back right into a groove and follow this to a good ledge on the left and bolt belays (abseils)

Descent. 4 abseils reaches the base of the wall.