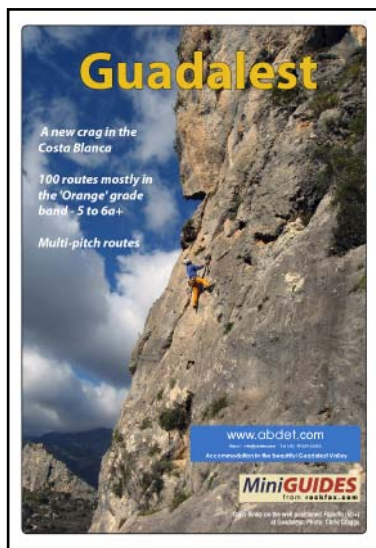


# Guadalest *MiniGUIDE*

by Chris Craggs

Version 1.0 - December 2006



Thank you for downloading this Rockfax MiniGUIDE. We hope that you find the information useful, inspiring and accurate.

Please send any comments you have to [feedback@rockfax.co.uk](mailto:feedback@rockfax.co.uk).

Thanks again for your support.

Alan James, December 2006

## How To Assemble Your *MiniGUIDE*

This version of the MiniGUIDE is designed to be printed and compiled using single-sided printing. If you have a printer capable of printing on both sides of a piece of paper then consider downloading the *booklet* version.

### Printer Settings

- > Use A4 paper in an inkjet or laser colour printer.
- > Choose *Landscape* printing on a *Good quality colour* setting.
- > Initially print at full size (100%).
- > Ensure that any options such as *Shrink oversize pages to paper size* are UNCHECKED.
- > Select any options to *Maximize printable area*.
- > Select any options to *Center printable area*. (See 'Problems' below)

### Printing

- > Do not print page 1 (this page).
- > Print page 2 (the cover) on strong paper, photo paper or white card.
- > Print the rest of the pages on good quality (90gsm or more) paper.

### Assembling

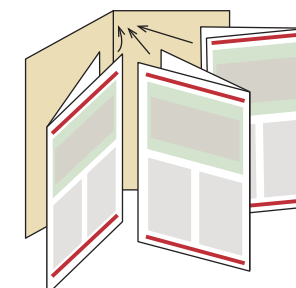
- > Fold each internal page separately down the middle so that the printed sides are facing outwards.
- > Assemble the pages, with the folded centre edge outwards, into a small booklet.
- > Wrap the cover around the pages.
- > Either staple the spine (you will need a strong stapler) or use a plastic binding clip available from stationary shops.

### Problems

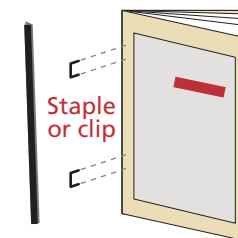
- > With some printers (especially HP) it is difficult to get the pages to centre properly. Check the Rockfax web site [www.rockfax.com/miniguides/help.html](http://www.rockfax.com/miniguides/help.html) for a solution to this problem.



Printed sides facing outwards



Insert separate folded pages inside cover page



Fasten with a large stapler, or a plastic sliding clip

www.abdet.com

Email: info@abdet.com Tel UK: 01524 35262

## Accommodation in the beautiful Guadalest Valley

With prices from just £10 per person per night you can enjoy great value accommodation with easy access to Guadalest (15 minutes), plus even more local crags just a short 5 minute walk from the village. (see our web site for free topos!). Also nearby are Echo Valley crags featured in the Rockfax Costa Blanca guide, plus several other superb venues, more info at www.abdet.com including a full virtual tour of the houses, and villages.



- Great value accommodation, Excellent base
- 2 Houses recently renovated (sleep 6 and 8+)
- Roof terraces with amazing 360 panoramic views
- Quiet location - local bars and restaurants in village
- Local info - free topos - great walks and bike rides
- Just 35 minutes to beach (if you must!)
- Discounts for couples and small groups
- Great local pools in summer months, plus a canyon trip!

Climbing at Abdet—Lovely Jabali—5a

Abdet has spectacular views over the Guadalest Valley. Escape from the hustle and bussle of the coast and discover the real beauty of the Costa Blanca!

# Guadalest

*A new crag in the Costa Blanca*

*100 routes mostly in the 'Orange' grade band - 5 to 6a+*

*Multi-pitch routes*

www.abdet.com

Email: info@abdet.com Tel UK: 01524 35262

Accommodation in the beautiful Guadalest Valley

**MiniGUIDES**  
from rockfax.com

Colin Binks on the well positioned *Pajarito* (6b+) at Guadalest. Photo: Chris Craggs

# Guadalest MiniGUIDE

by Chris Craggs

Version 1.0 - December 2006

Rockfax MiniGuide design by Alan James and Mick Ryan.  
Published by Rockfax Ltd. © Rockfax Ltd. 2006

## Copyright Notice

All rights reserved. No part of this file may be duplicated in any form, or by any electronic, mechanical or other means, without the prior permission from the publisher. This file has been branded as belonging to the registered user of the Rockfax web site shown below. The entitles the individual to free updates of the same file within the same version number. Any illegal copying of this file by any electronic, mechanical or other means negates this entitlement. Please help us fund more MiniGUIDEs by not distributing this copy. Even if you think you are just printing out an extra copy for one of your friends do you really know who your friend will give it to?

## Footnote

The inclusion of a climbing area in this MiniGuide does not mean that you have a right of access or the right to climb upon it. The descriptions of routes and grades within this MiniGuide are recorded for historical reasons only and no reliance should be placed on the accuracy of the description. Climbers who attempt a climb of a particular standard should use their own judgment as to whether they are proficient enough to tackle that climb. This book is not a substitute for experience and proper judgment. The authors and publisher of this MiniGuide do not recognise any liability for injury or damage caused to, or by, climbers, third parties, or property arising from such persons seeking reliance on this guidebook as an assurance for their own safety.



More print and PDF publications from **ROCKFAX**.com

## Guadalest

MiniGUIDES from rockfax.com

The Costa Blanca has long been known as the prime venue for winter sun-rock in Europe. Despite changing fashions and the emergence of new areas the area remains as popular as ever, new venues are developed on a regular basis, and of course many of the old favourites are worth a revisit. The rocky citadel of Guadalest has always been known for the bouldering available there, but recently the extensive walls have been developed and now the area is well worth a visit with a selection of routes across the grades, on a variety of walls.

## The Climbing

All the routes in this MiniGuide are well-bolted sport routes, a dozen quick-draws and a 60m rope should be adequate for the majority of them. Some are (shortish) multi-pitch offerings, good for an introduction to that style of climbing and there is the occasional longer pitch (30m+) amongst the rest, though mid-height lower-offs are usually installed. Some of the two pitch outings can be done in one run out providing you have enough quick-draws and a long enough rope.

There isn't too much in the way of harder climbing as generally most of the rock is the right (or should that be wrong) side of vertical.



Dave Spencer on *Coses de Turbo* (6a+), Sector Penya l'Alcalà.

## Season

The summers are very hot and dry and, although set at 600m, the place will be too warm for most. Autumn through to spring are ideal, the sun can be followed or avoided depending how hot it is. There is also a little shade to be had when it gets too hot.

## Access

There have been some sporadic incidents of people being asked to leave the newly developed climbs on the walls below the swimming pool, on the Sector Penya l'Alcalà, and this appears to happen mostly at weekends. If asked to leave please apologise and leave graciously. It would also help if you report back. The doesn't appear to be any access issues on the cliffs on the other side of the town.



Oranges at Christmas - it has to be the Costa Blanca.

### The MiniGuide

The pace of development at Guadalest is fast and there may be new routes added at any time. Additionally, we haven't yet been able to obtain grades for all the routes and many are listed with a '?' for the grade. We will be updating this MiniGuide with new routes when we receive the information. Everyone who buys the MiniGuide will be able to download any updates free of charge. Please give us your feedback.

### The Rockfax Route Database

All the routes in this guide are on the Rockfax Route Database at [www.rockfax.com](http://www.rockfax.com). If you climb a route and wish to comment on it, or offer a grade, then use the database to let us know what you think. Also, it is worth checking this before your trip since some routes may have had grades added before we have had time to update the MiniGuide.

### Guadalest Town

Guadalest is a bit of a tourist trap, with regular coach loads of tourists arriving from Benidorm to visit the 'magical mountain village' of Guadalest. Despite this, the village is surprisingly pleasant with coffee bars and selection shops where you can buy that gift for the folks back home; the Lladro shop is especially impressive. However general provisions are best brought up from the coast. Guadalest also has an outdoor swimming pool right by the main cliffs, a great attraction in the hotter months.

[www.abdet.com](http://www.abdet.com)

Email: [info@abdet.com](mailto:info@abdet.com) Tel UK: 01524 35262

Accommodation in the beautiful Guadalest Valley



### Approach

From the coastal roads Guadalest is well signed. From Calpe take the N332 south then turn inland just south of Altea Hills on to the CV755 to Altea la Vella. Take this to Callosa and continue up the winding road to arrive at the southern end of the village of Guadalest. From the Benidorm area the new CV70 road runs all the way to Guadalest, passing Polop and the huge cliffs of the Ponocho. Either approach takes about 30 minutes from the coast.

### Thanks

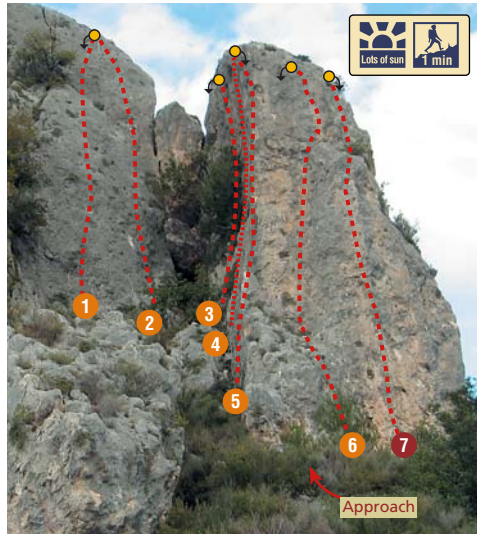
As a regular visitor to the Costa Blanca for nearly 20 years, I have often driven by the rocky village of Guadalest on trips to other places. Acting on a hot tip we called in at Christmas 2005 to be pleasantly surprised. A week and six visits later we were still turning up new routes and new cliffs. Many thanks to the locals who have done a great job in developing the area. Also thanks to the team at The Orange House for keeping an eye on things and guide David Mora for liaising with the locals. Please respect it with regard to parking and littering.

### The Rockfax Guidebook

The famous Costa Blanca Rockfax was published in January 2005. This contains information on 42 crags and over 2300 routes and is the essential companion to any climber visiting the area.

It can be purchased from the Rockfax web site - [www.rockfax.com](http://www.rockfax.com)





**Sector Penya del Castell de Benimantell**

A small crag of sharp rock, easy of access. The amazing noises made by the animals in the nearby zoo are scary making it tough to concentrate on that redpoint attempt! Not the world's best crag, but it is another venue to add to the list.

**Approach** - Turn downhill from the Guadalest/Abdet road, a short distance west of Guadalest, following signs for the zoo. Park near the cafe.

**Conditions** - Rapid drying and in a sunny position, though rather exposed to the wind.

**1 La Broca de Sant Antoni** . . . . .  6a  
14m. The left-hand route on the slab

**2 Dissabtes de pluja** . . . . .  6a  
14m. The right-hand side of the slab to the same lower-off.

On the right is a north-facing wall with three routes and a fixed hand-line to aid the scramble along its base.

**3 La rabosa curiosa** . . . . .  6a+  
12m. The short and steep left-hand line.

**4 Al temps que solsia** . . . . .  6a  
14m. The central one is easier.

**5 Lespero del Porro** . . . . .  6a  
14m. The right-hand side of the slab to the same lower-off.

**6 Savina bonsai** . . . . .  6a  
18m. Climb into the groove and follow it past the bonsai to a hard finish.

**7 Mustelid intripid** . . . . .  6b  
18m. The front face of the tower is sharp and sustained

The rest of the routes are on the right-hand side of the face.

**8 A Pel Tercer Garrofa** . . . . .  5+  
14m. Climb the steep juggy groove on the left side of the face.

**9 Al Azraq** . . . . .  6a  
12m. From the block, climb the left side of the wall direct.

**10 Teucrium Buxifolium** . . . . .  6a  
14m. The centre of the wall.

**11 Soliquer critdaner** . . . . .  6a+  
14m. Climb the battered right arete.

**12 L'Agulla** . . . . .  6a  
18m. An easy crack leads to the steep right-hand side of the upper tower.

**13 El Forat** . . . . .  6a  
12m. Head past the right-hand side of the big hollow.

**14 Quin sol fa** . . . . .  5+  
12m. The wall to the right.

**15 El badall** . . . . .  6a  
12m. The face just left of a large flake system.

**16 Temps de Joc** . . . . .  5  
10m. A final short slab.



**Sector del Castillo**

The impressive scooped wall and jutting arete below the westward extension of the castle walls.

**Approach** - Turn downhill in Guadalest, just west of the town centre, to access the lower car park. The cliff is along a path that weaves through the boulders - see map on next page.

**Conditions** - In a sunny position, though rather exposed to the wind and the tufas are slow to dry after rain.

**1 Borrosca de neu** . . . . .  5  
18m. The grey pillar on the far left above the steps.

**2 Neu ne Marc** . . . . .  5  
18m. The left side of the broad grey arete.

**3 Men isc cascat** . . . . .  5  
18m. A short steep start leads to the fine pillar.

**4 Baix la cova baix de Llus** . . . . .  5  
20m. The wall right of the arete leads steeply to the diagonal crack which is followed to the lower-off.

**5 Pajarito** . . . . .  6b+  
25m. Climb right of the hole then up to a crucial final wall.

**6 Carabassa t'han donat** . . . . .  5+  
25m. Pleasant climbing to a hard reach for the chains.

In the gap is an unlisted line of three studs with no hangers.

**7 Sang trait** . . . . .  6a  
18m. The sharp wall leads to the pocketed seam and a hard finishing section.

**8 Contes i Llegendes** . . . . .  6b  
20m. The central line of the trio has a sharp lower wall leading to a steep couple of moves to reach the lower-off.

**9 La Senda del parabol** . . . . .  6c  
20m. The right-hand line on the wall to a final steep move.



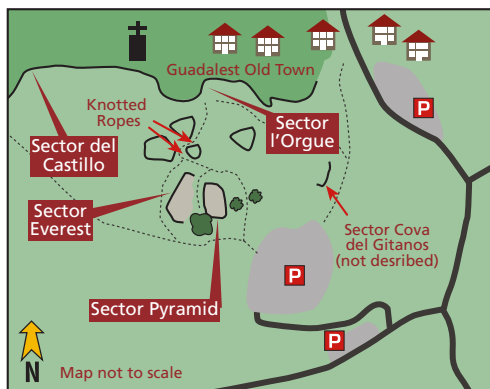
**Sector Everest**

This large boulder has a small collection of steep, strenuous and tiny pitches. Its shady aspect makes it a good option on hot days, and the routes are (a little) better than first appearances might suggest. As expected with such tiny climbs, the grades are quite tough.

**Approach** - From the car park head left past the ivy-covered Sector Pyramid, and continue round the corner

**Conditions** - A shady north-west-facing wall which may stay dry in light rain.

- 1 Mare mevia. . . . .  ?
- 2 Aitana . . . . .  6a+
- 3 Sargantana rocallera . . . . .  ?
- 4 Temporal de Llevant. . . . .  6a+
- 5 Brosseta de Penya . . . . .  6a+
- 6 La Cango del Caro . . . . .  6a
- 7 Arros amb Costra. . . . .  5+
- 8 M'han Llevat Mosquetons . . . . .  6b



- 9 Glopel de Mel . . . . .  5+
- 10 Turismo Rural . . . . .  6a+
- 11 Xe Que Bo! . . . . .  ?

**Sector Cova del Gitanos**

Above the lower parking, and left of the steps into the town, is a solitary boulder with a short steep face. There are four routes on here of the 'short and hard' variety - names and grades unknown.



**Sector Pyramid**

This large boulder has a set of slabby climbs and is the nearest piece of rock to the car park.

**Approach** - From the car park head for the ivy-covered boulder, 30 secs away. The routes are described left to right round the boulder.

**Conditions** - Most of the routes are north-facing.

- 1 La Placa Ataka . . . . .  5  
14m. The slab facing the car park.  
  
Up the slope to the right are two steeper climbs.
- 2 La Nosta terra . . . . .  6a+  
10m. A tough start leads to the pumpy flow-stoned wall.
- 3 El Meucor esta fotut . . . . .  4+  
8m. The short line just left of the arete.  
  
The rest of the climbs are on the slabby north face.
- 4 Respeta L'Entorn . . . . .  5+  
12m. The left-hand line has a tough final bulge.
- 5 Retovato glutamato  6a  
14m. Easier than its neighbours and nicely sustained.
- 6 Ai mar quina castanya . . . . .  6a+  
14m. The blank upper section gives cause to pause.
- 7 L'hedra. . . . .  5+  
14m. A good pitch just to the left of the ivy.
- 8 La panxa s'enganxa . . . . .  6a+  
14m. The clean strip with a tough bulge.



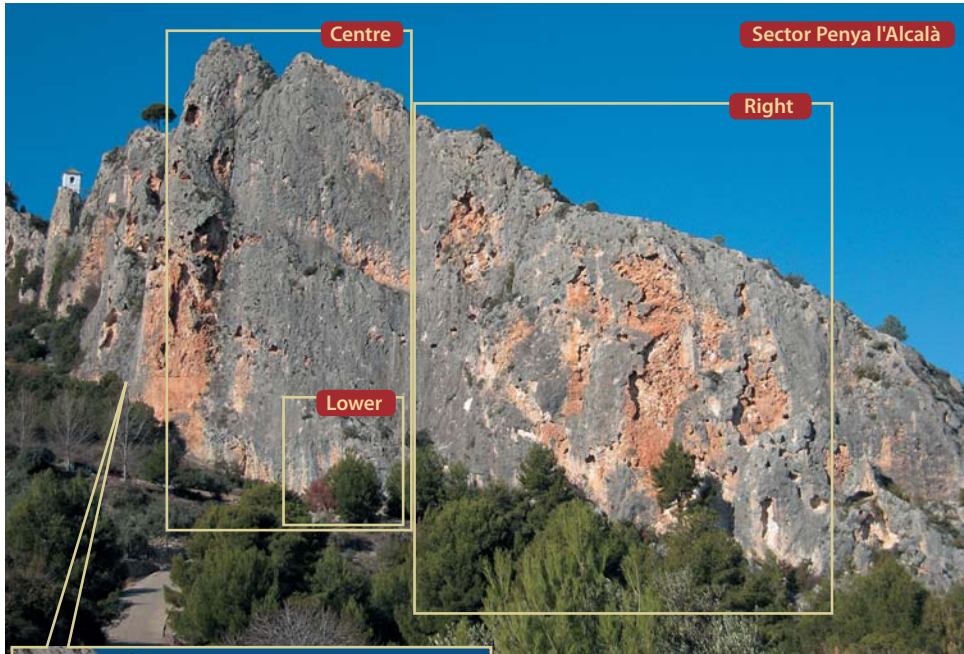
**Sector l'Orgue**

A recently developed area right under the town walls.

**Approach** - Use a knotted rope to get over the first boulder. A second knotted rope reaches the open slopes on the cliff. There is an easier way round to the right, but this is best located on the way out.

**Conditions** - A sunny and sheltered the crag gets all the sun that is going.

- 9 Badallant . . . . .  6a  
22m. The soaring crack-line in a tall tower has a hard approach via a painful slot and a tottering bulge. Once established things improve.
- 10 Hores bruixes . . . . .  6b  
22m. The left-hand side of the tufa wall has a crisp start and a great finish. A potential future classic!
- 11 Desapinant-lo . . . . .  6c  
20m. The centre line on painful pockets to a final rib where the route loses its battle for independence and heads right.
- 12 l'Orgue . . . . .  6a+  
18m. The Reptile Smile of Guadalest! A fine pitch up the organ pipes on the right-hand side of the face, to a finish up the easier groove above.
- 13 L'Aixmeneta . . . . .  ?  
22m. The long groove round to the right.



**Sector Peña l'Alcalà**

The walls and towers that run eastwards down the hill from the town behind the swimming pool offer the best developed area at Guadalest with lots to go at across the grades, including some impressively long pitches.

**Access** - Climbers have been asked to leave this crag in the past.

**Approach** - Just east of the high point on the road through Guadalest is a right turn (when approaching over the brow from Benidorm/Polop) signed to the municipal swimming pool. Follow a short one-way system (past a very tight right turn) down the hill to extensive parking just up the slope and across the road from the toe of the crag.

**Conditions** - The cliff gets the sun from early morning until about the middle of the afternoon. It makes sense to organise the day around this.

**Sector Peña l'Alcalà - Left**

- 1 ? .....  ?  
14m. A short route from the high ledge.
- 2 **Maulets a al Lluïta** .....  ?  
24m. The left-hand side of the wall.
- 3 **Endevant** .....  ?  
24m. The bolt-line left of the flake-crack.
- 4 **Coses de Turbo** .....  6a+  
26m. The long, photogenic crack is still a bit dusty.
- 5 **Marina Baixa** .....  ?  
24m. The steep rib right of the flake-crack.



**Sector Peña l'Alcalà - Centre**

- 6 ? .....  ?  
26m. A long pitch up the left-hand side of the orange rock.

Two shorter routes climb the red wall below the convoluted caves. These may eventually be extended upwards.

- 7 ? .....  ?  
14m. Left of the grey holes and a bush.
- 8 ? .....  ?  
14m. A similar line right of the bush.
- 9 ? .....  ?
- 10 ? .....  6c  
20m. Start at a painted square - currently nameless. Battle up the leaning rib to get to easier ground on the grey wall above.

- 11 **L'Espill o llibre** .....  ?  
20m. The line just left of a couple of steps.

- 12 **Tirant lo blanc** .....  ?  
20m. Three metres right of the steps.

The next wall has a lot of closely packed routes - **Sector Peña l'Alcalà Lower**. This is described on the next page. Above is a steep grey slab with four excellent pitches. They are best reached by the first pitch of *Directa lav* - see next page.

- 13 **Green Bolts** .....  ?  
60m. No details on this one yet. It may have an extension pitch.
- 14 **Red Bolts** .....  5+  
32m. The next line is sustained but never too hard. Excellent.
- 15 **Green Bolts** .....  6a  
32m. The right-hand line of green clips has sustained moves plus a mid-height crux to access a shallow groove.
- 16 **Yellow Bolts** .....  6a+  
32m. Starting from paired rings the right-hand line is the hardest here.

**Sector Penya l'Alcalà - Lower**

A small but very popular wall next to the road.

- 17 **La disputa de l'ase** . . . . .  6a+  
14m. The rounded grey rib on better-than-expected holds.
- 18 ? . . . . .  ?  
14m. A steep start on buckets to even steeper ground.
- 19 **Fuig d'aci** . . . . .  ?  
12m. Climb the left-trending ramp then go direct.
- 20 **Contaminacio britanica** . . . . .  6c  
12m. From the base of the ramp move right then up.
- 21 **La muixeranga** . . . . .  6a  
10m. Head for the prominent blue belay.
- 22 **L'Ham de foc lo blanc** . . . . .  ?  
10m. Yellow bolts lead to the same lower-off.

**Sector Penya l'Alcalà - Right**

Some superb long routes on one of the best walls at Guadalest.

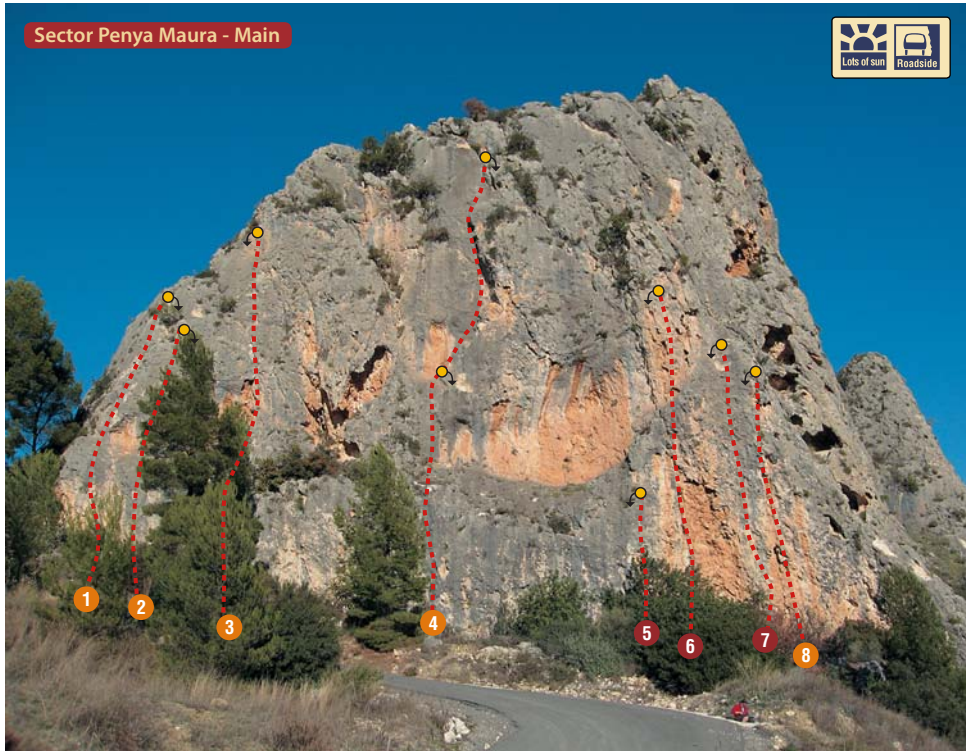
- 23 **Directa lav** . . . . .  6b  
55m. A fine three pitch outing past two comfortable stances. The pitches are 5, 6a, 6b.
- 24 **Arc de sant Martí** . . . . .  5+  
35m. A good long pitch up the rounded pillar. There is a lower-off at 10m (4+ to here). Take care when lowering off.
- 25 **Del Tossal a l'hort** . . . . .  6a  
55m. The first pitch is long and interesting after a loose start (5+). The second is shorter and on great rock.



**Sector Penya l'Alcalà - Right continued...**

- 27 **No em tokeu els ous** . . . . .  ?  
50m. A good-looking two pitch climb.
- 28 **La Lluna de Sant Joan** . . . . .  ?  
50m. Another worthwhile looking two pitch climb, initially trending right up an open groove, then back left.
- 29 **Pericana sense gana** . . . . .  ?  
20m. A steep pitch up the right-hand side of the grey shield following a line of grey bolts.
- 30 **El principi i el fi** . . . . .  ?  
24m. An unknown quantity following the red bolts in two pitches. It looks pretty good!
- 31 **Llums i Sombres** . . . . .  6b  
24m. Ring-bolts in the rib lead to a trickier section that can be done left or right, both at the same grade.
- 32 **La Pedra Ibèrica** . . . . .  5+  
40m. A great climb that can be done in one huge pitch (22 clips if we counted correctly) or use the belay (no stance) at 15m on the left edge of the cave.
- 33 **Azules** . . . . .  ?  
25m. From the stance part way up the previous climb follow the blue bolts up through the juggy bulges.
- 34 **Pilart** . . . . .  ?  
12m. The short rib on an assortment of sharp holds.
- 35 **Depredacio urbanistica**  6a+  
35m. Climb just right of the tall white hollow. A technical lower wall leads to easier ground on a stance at ledges. The second pitch is good and easier (5+).
- 36 **Prou d'ocupacio** . . . . .  ?  
25m. A new route up the arete of the cave.
- 37 **Dieta Mediterrania** . . . . .  ?  
32m. The last route on the cliff (at present!) starts just inside the canyon. It has a dusty first pitch to a high stance then an easier continuation on good rock.

*The final small collection of routes on this cliff are located above the flat area at the base of a gully. This point can be more easily reached by a constructed path that branches right, down the slope by the bend in the road.*



**Sector Penya Maura**

The final section of developed rock is down and right of the Sector Penya l'Alcalà - a prominent red tower with a short grey wall at its right-hand toe. There is only a handful of routes here, though most of the best looking gaps have been plugged.

**Approach** - Follow the one-way system through Guadalest, down past the Sector Penya l'Alcalà to roadside parking below the cliff - please park sensibly!

**Conditions** - The crag looks loose on first acquaintance though the routes are well cleaned and tend to make use of the best rock. The crag takes no drainage and is in the sun from mid-morning onwards.

**1 Cornicabra** .....  5+  
20m. The orange groove and grey rib on the far left.

**2 Margalló** .....  ?  
18m. Climb the flake-crack then move steeply up the left-hand side of the orange scoop to easier ground.

**3 Garrofer** .....  6a  
28m. A fine pitch starting up the sentry-box, passing a tricky bulge and with a final hard move.

**4** ? .....  ?  
32m. A good looking two pitch route up the centre of the crag finishing up the prominent right-slanting groove.

**5 La Perla** .....  ?  
12m. A short pitch to the red lower-off.

To the right is a leaning wall of lumpy orange rock with some steep Gogarth-type routes and also some worthwhile bouldering across its base.

**6 Roland's Route** .....  6a+  
24m. The steep leaning groove is a spooky, despite the bolts, until past the roof. The upper wall is on better rock.

**7 Økupa** .....  6c  
18m. From the thread, climb the steep grey streak.

**8 Roland's Other Route** .....  6a  
16m. The orange streak and groove above looks easier.

There is evidence of one more route to the right though it looks pretty poor. It is marked by the occasional black bolt.



**Sector Penya Maura - Right Sector**

**9 Guiris gou Jorn** .....  ?  
8m. Yellow and green bolts to a chain.

2m right is a solitary bolt, then 2m right again is the next route.

**10** ? .....  ?  
8m. Three gold bolts to a ring.

**11** ? .....  ?  
8m. Two bolts up the wall and crack.

1m right is a line with 2 green bolts to nowhere unless it joins the previous climb, then right again:

**12 Plou Poc** .....  ?  
8m. Make a powerful move on good holds up the left edge of the pale rock.

**13** ? .....  ?  
8m. Two silver bolts protect moves up the orange scar to a ring.

