

Costa Blanca

Alan James
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Text, crag photography and topos by Alan James and
Chris Craggs

Costa Blanca Ridges by Mark Glaister

Action photography as credited

Edited by Alan James

Printed in Europe by Latitude Press

Distributed by Cordee (cordee.co.uk)

Maps by Alan James

Some maps based on original source data from
openstreetmap.org

Fax73 - ISBN 978 1 873341 39 1

Published by Rockfax in March 2026

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Cover: Natalie Berry on *Kamchatka* (7a+)

- *p.461* - at L'Ocaive. Photo: Chris Prescott

This page: Clare Reading on *Diedro Edwards* (6b/E2)

- *p.255* - at Val de Guadar. Photo: Neil Foster

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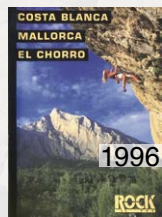
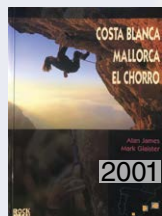
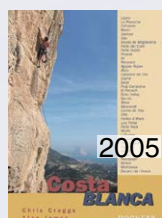
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Dominic Sutcliffe on A la miliquillo 6a, Montesa

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30 years of Rockfax guidebooks to the Costa Blanca

It all began in late 1987, Sherri suggested a Christmas trip to Spain and Denia on the Costa Blanca was the chosen venue. It was a revelation; in a busy week we climbed at Toix, Gandía, Puig Campana and the Peñón amongst others. The great weather, varied cliffs and lack of other climbers was an intoxicating mix, ensuring we were back sooner rather than later and we have been making regular trips for what is approaching forty years.

Nowadays, the Costa Blanca is rightly regarded as one of the best destinations anywhere for winter sun climbing, with a great climate and massive amount of rock available attracting visitors from all over the world. The thrill of a two hour transition from the grey and grizzly winter of northern Europe to warmth and bright Spanish sunshine still takes some beating and many climbers now make a regular mid-winter exodus to head south for a much needed tonic.

A decent climate is only part of the attraction; the variety, quality and extent of the climbing is the real draw. Cliffs available here vary from tiny roadside buttresses, to long multi-pitch full-day trad routes; from dramatic sea cliffs to super-steep sport climbing caves for the hard-core. There is simply something here for everyone, whatever grade you are looking for.

The previous edition of the Costa Blanca guidebook was published in 2013 - a new volume was slated for around 2000 but the Covid pandemic intervened, stopping people travelling a hitting sales. Around six years later and we are more or less back on schedule.

As ever, the amount of climbing available continues to expand which partly explains the size of this new guide, plus all the extra stuff on Rockfax Digital. Regular visitors will know that new cliffs will be discovered and developed for years to come. The addition of fifteen new crags since the last edition shows the quality what is still out there; long may it continue.

Chris Craggs and Alan James, February 2026



Natalie Berry on *Viaje a la locura* (7b+) - p.182 - Sector Tocayo, Busot. This is one of the major new crags that have been added since the last edition. fifteen new places offering inspiring options all over the area. Photo: Mike Hutton

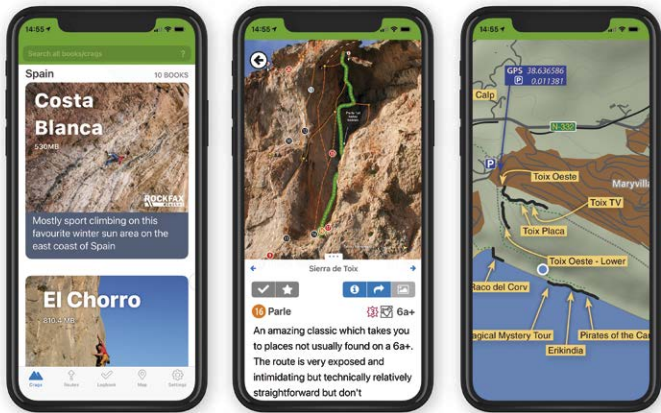
Rockfax Digital brings together 50 guides from 4 publishers covering over 86,000 routes on 1700+ crags and presents it in a user-friendly package for use on mobile devices.



The heart of Rockfax Digital is the crag and route information covering 'areas' which roughly correspond to the printed guidebooks. The main data is sold by subscription so that you purchase access to everything for a period of time, from a month to a year. Once you are subscribed, you will have everything on Rockfax Digital for the duration. You can download the main data and store it on your device so you don't need any signal to be able to read the descriptions and see the topos and maps. There is plenty of free content available without a subscription, enabling you to get a really good impression of what Rockfax Digital is like without shelling out any money.



Rockfax Digital is available as an app which is free to download and incredibly useful in its own right. It contains a detailed crag map linked to the UKClimbing crags database with basic information and route lists for crags worldwide. The map also displays all the 3,900+ listings from the UKClimbing Directory of climbing walls, outdoor shops, climbing clubs, outdoor-specific accommodation and instructors and guides, amongst others.



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UKC Logbooks

A popular method of logging your climbing is to use the UKClimbing.com logbooks system. This database has 683,600+ routes on over 25,700+ crags. So far, over 73,500 users have recorded more than 12 million ascents! To set up your own logbook, just register at UKClimbing.com and click on the logbook tab. You will be able to record every ascent you make, when you did it, what style you climbed it in and who you did it with. Each entry has a place for your own notes. You can also add your vote to the grade/star system which is used by guidebook writers to get opinions on grades and quality of routes. The logbook can be private, public or restricted to your own climbing partners only.

Rockfax Digital can be linked to your UKClimbing.com user account and logbook so that you can record your activity while at the crag. To do this you will need a 4G/5G data connection. You can also look at the UKC logbooks to see if anyone has climbed your chosen route recently to check on conditions.

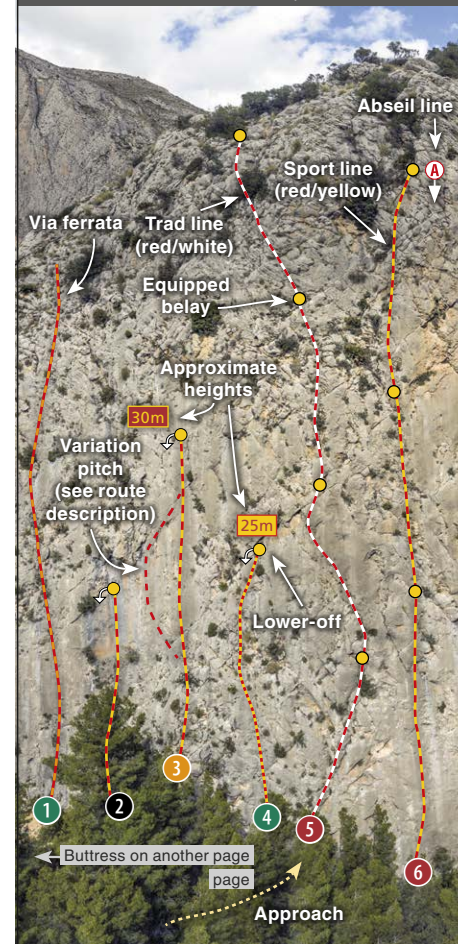
Route Symbols

- A good route which is well worth the effort.
- A very good route, one of the best on the crag.
- A brilliant route, one of the best in the area.
- A new route or a route for which we have not had much feedback and is of unknown quality.
- Technical climbing requiring good balance and technique, or complex and tricky moves.
- Powerful climbing; roofs, steep rock, low lock-offs or long moves off small holds.
- Sustained climbing; either lots of hard moves or steep rock giving pumpy climbing.
- Fingery climbing with significant small holds on the hard sections.
- Fluttery climbing with big fall potential and scary run-outs.
- A long reach is helpful, or even essential, for one or more of the moves.
- Some loose rock may be encountered.
- Graunchy climbing - wide cracks or awkward thrutchy moves.
- A route which isn't fully bolted. A rack of gear consisting of wires and cams is needed.

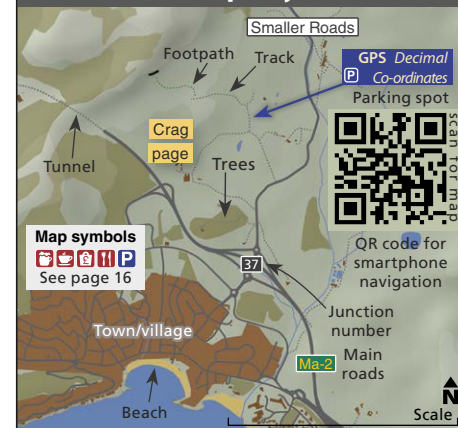
Crag Symbols

- Angle of the approach walk to the crag with approximate time.
- Approximate time that the crag is in the direct sun (when it is shining).
- The buttress has some multi-pitch routes.
- The crag is exposed to bad weather and will catch the wind if it is blowing.
- The crag can offer shelter from cold winds and it may be a good suntrap in colder weather.
- The crag suffers from seepage. It may well be wet after periods of heavy rain.
- The crag is steep and may well offer some dry rock to climb when it is raining.
- A crag that may have a no climbing restriction due to nesting birds - check signs at the crag.
- Deserted** - Currently under-used and usually quiet. Fewer good routes or remote and smaller areas.
- Quiet** - Less popular sections on major crags, or good buttresses with awkward approaches.
- Busy** - Places you will seldom be alone, especially at weekends. Good routes and easy access.
- Crowded** - The most popular sections of the most popular crags which are always busy.

Topo Key



Map Key



Murcia
Alicante
Benidorm
Calp
Xaló Valley
Gandia - Xàtiva
Costa Blanca Ridges

The production of this guide is the culmination of many dozens of visits over what is approaching a 40 year period and it remains one of our favourite foreign winter destinations. We have climbed here with many friends over the years, but this time around it has just been the two of us. Of course it was Sherri's idea that we went to Spain in 1987 - a visit that changed the direction our lives. We actually started work on this volume back in 2019 but the Covid pandemic threw a mighty spanner into the works. On the plus side, spending the first lock down in Calpe was about as pleasant as it could be under the circumstances.

The Rockfax/UKC team have been the usual tower of support, both out on the Blanca, checking routes and approaches, climbing plenty of routes and doing the donkey work back in the UK, in front of the computer, producing another great guidebook.

Chris Craggs, February 2026

The most important people who need thanking are the climbers who have equipped and climbed the routes in this book, without them we would have nothing to climb. Many thanks for all your efforts!

This is the sixth book Rockfax have published to the Costa Blanca over a period of 30 years and, as ever, we rely heavily on feedback sent in. The list of all contributors is now too long to reproduce but we are very grateful to everyone who takes the time and trouble to send us their opinions and comments - please keep them coming.

Much of the feedback we get is gathered from the amazing UKC Logbooks - ukclimbing.com/logbook/. Thanks to everyone who records their ascents there, votes and offers opinions on the routes. Several people have given more detailed help with certain sections, these are: Mark Eddy, Neil Foster, Trevor Massiah and Jonathan Emmett. Also Mark Glaister contributed the welcome chapters on Costa Blanca Ridges which offer something a bit different at the back of the book.

A significant number of the action photos came from the reliable camera and skills of Mike Hutton - thanks to him for his efforts over many trips. Other photos have been supplied by Neil Foster, Mark Glaister., Dave Pickford, Jack Geldard, Mark Eddy, Chris Wallis, Rich Mayfield, Nick Brown, Mike Whitehurst, Will Fitzmaurice, Desirée Verbeek Massiah, Matthew Kessel, Tom Dale, Ed Coughlin and Trevor Massiah - many thanks to all of them.

Chris Craggs has once again put in a tremendous amount of work at the crags and in front of the computer. I am grateful to him for his efforts.

Alan James, February 2026

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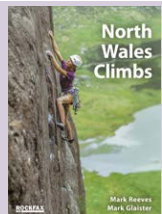
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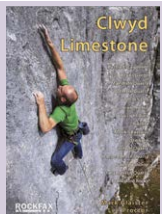
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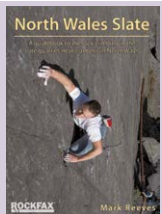
Wayne Gaudin on the *Bernia Ridge* (6a+) - [p.558](#) - one of the great ridge climbs of the Costa Blanca. We have included four classics of the area in a dedicated separate chapter at the back of the book to reflect their popularity. Photo: Mark Eddy



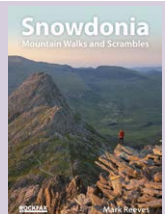
North Wales Climbs
March 2023
October 2023



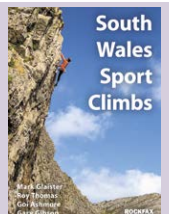
Clwyd Limestone
December 2015
December 2015



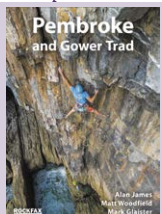
North Wales Slate
September 2018
March 2023



Snowdonia Scrambles
December 2020
December 2020

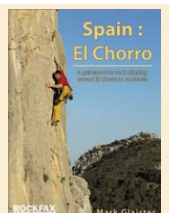


South Wales Sport Climbs
November 2024
November 2024



Pembroke
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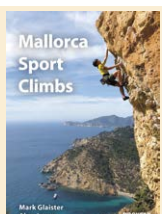


El Chorro
December 2018
December 2018

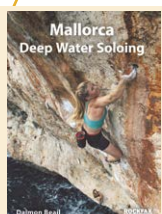
Catalunya 2016
Madrid Area 2017
Sierra de Gredos 2024
Zaragoza 2016
Tenerife 2020
Northern Spain 2023



Costa Blanca
March 2026
March 2026



Mallorca Sport Climbs
April 2025
April 2025



Mallorca DWS
April 2025
April 2025



The Dolomites
November 2019
November 2019



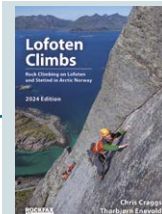
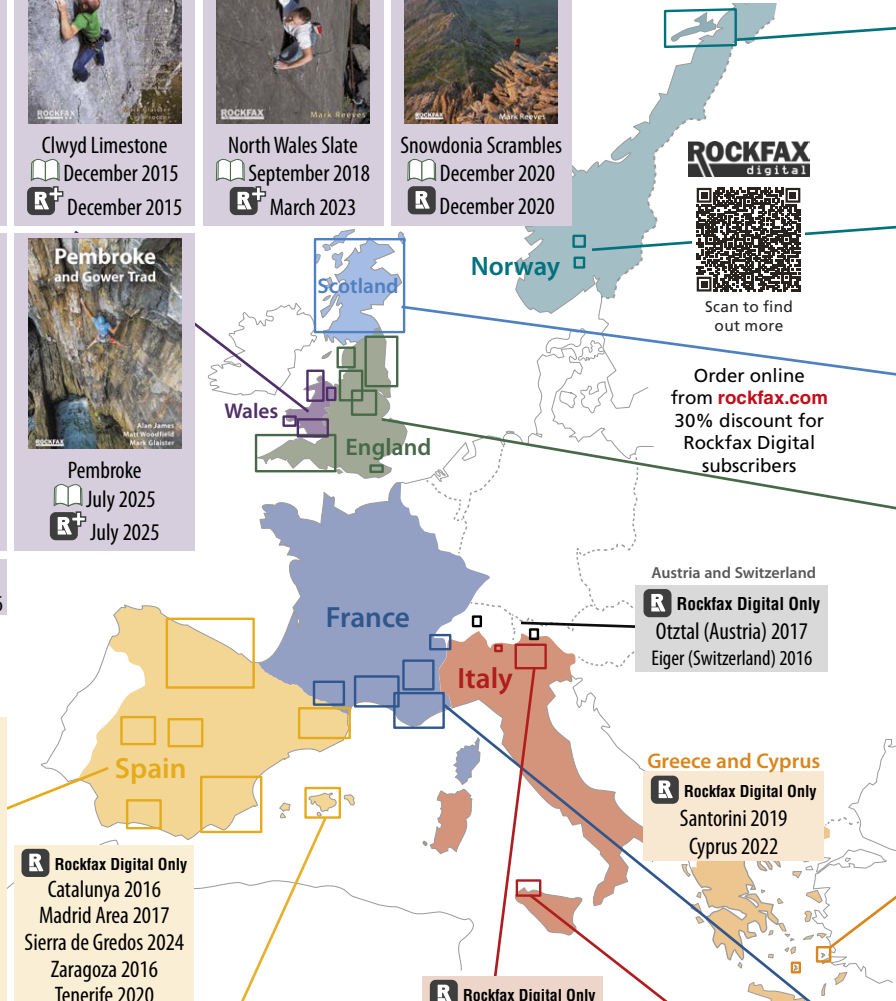
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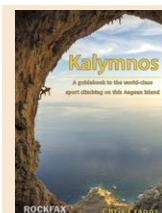


Lofoten Climbs
May 2024
May 2024

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Rjukan 2016
Nissedal 2016

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Scottish Rock Climbs 2024
Scottish Winter Climbs 2019
Highland Scrambles 2020

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Yorkshire Bouldering 2025

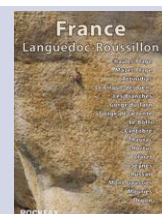


Kalymnos
May 2018
April 2023

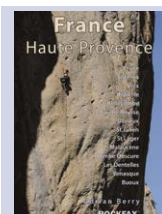
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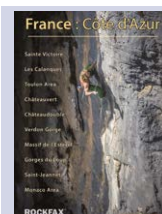
France: Ariège
December 2012
April 2021



France: Lang.Roussillon
November 2011
November 2011



France: Haute Provence
December 2009
November 2022



France: Côte d'Azur
February 2017
February 2017



Chamonix
July 2022
July 2022

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Calp

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Gandia - Xàtiva

Costa Blanca Ridges

Murcia

Alicante

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Xaló Valley

Gandia - Xàtiva

Costa Blanca Ridges

Costa Blanca Logistics

A team on *El Dorado* (6a+) - *p.354* - on the sea cliffs at Sierra de Toix. The superb wall of Raco del Corv on the Toix sea cliffs was an early one to be developed. The routes are slightly mixed with some trad gear needed on many and old bolts and fixed gear adding to the sense of adventure. The main routes though are worth seeking out for something a bit different. Photo: Chris Craggs

When to Go

The Costa Blanca has long been associated with winter sun climbing when virtually everywhere else is too cold or wet. The optimum time to visit is November through to April and many have spent a happy Christmas here in perfect temperatures, under clear blue skies and with cheap flights and accommodation as an added bonus. Having said that, the winter months can also have periods of cold and unsettled weather (the autumnal Gota Fria is the best known of these) with occasional periods of very heavy rain that fill the usually-dry rivers and can even deposit snow on the summits. More usually it will be sunny and settled with cool nights and fresh days with climbing in the sun a complete pleasure.

Average Temp °C	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alicante (maximum)	17	18	20	21	23	27	30	31	29	25	20	18
Alicante (minimum)	7	8	9	11	13	18	20	21	19	15	11	8

The spring and autumn months of May and October can be hot and you will probably have to confine your climbing activities to the morning and evening, or seek shady crags. You may be lucky to get periods of cooler weather, but that might also bring rain with it. Overall though these months are still well worth considering.

Hours sun / day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alicante (average)	6	7	7	8	10	11	11	11	8	7	6	6

From June to September the chances are it will be in the 30s or higher and dawn starts and seeking shade will be the only real options. It is also busy and expensive so is best avoided.

Rain days / month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alicante (average)	8	6	7	7	7	4	2	3	7	8	7	8

Getting There by Air

Alicante has an international airport with regular flights from all over Europe. The whole area is a massively popular holiday destination and the cost of flights can reflect this. The key to getting the bargains is to be flexible, avoid school holidays and book early. If Alicante doesn't have an option, then it may be worth considering flying into Murcia or Valencia.

Getting There Without Flying

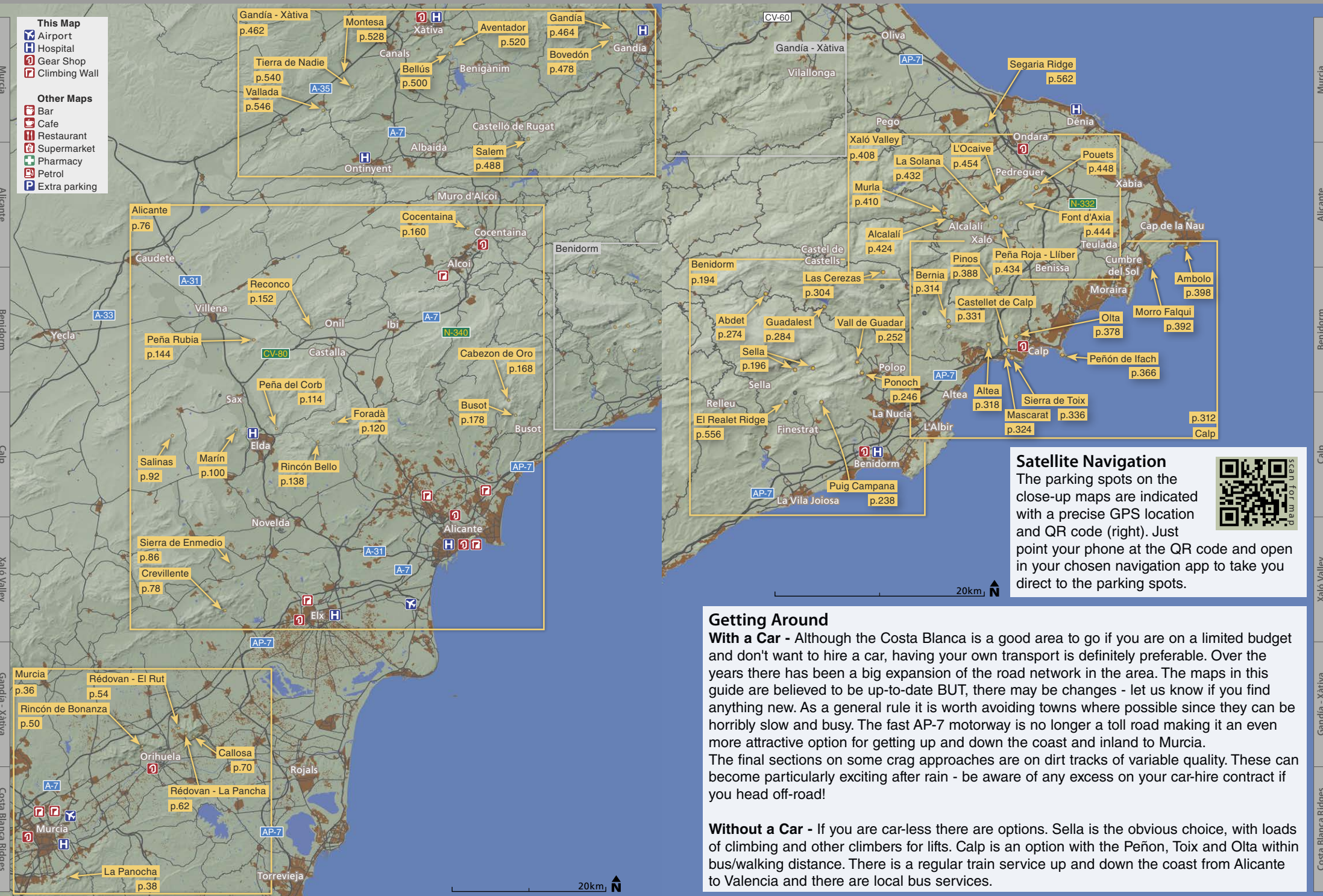
Driving by car is possible in about 15-20 hours. High speed trains can be used from London to Paris, then Paris to Barcelona, then Barcelona to Alicante. This should take around 24 hours or so. A much cheaper option is to use a service like flixbus.co.uk. This can take 35-40 hours but is by far the cheapest method to travel there.




Alison Athroll on *Pascual Navarra* (6a+) - *p.117* - on the Southwest Face of Peña del Corb. The climate in the Costa Blanca can be very localised. Often bad weather in the Calp - Benidorm area doesn't mean bad weather inland. The area from Alicante to Murcia sees significantly less rainfall than on the coast and can be worth a look if it is wet where you are. Photo: Mike Hutton

Murcia
Alicante
Benidorm
Calp
Xaló Valley
Gandia - Xàtiva
Costa Blanca Ridges

- This Map**
- Airport
 - Hospital
 - Gear Shop
 - Climbing Wall
- Other Maps**
- Bar
 - Cafe
 - Restaurant
 - Supermarket
 - Pharmacy
 - Petrol
 - Extra parking



Satellite Navigation
 The parking spots on the close-up maps are indicated with a precise GPS location and QR code (right). Just point your phone at the QR code and open in your chosen navigation app to take you direct to the parking spots.



Getting Around

With a Car - Although the Costa Blanca is a good area to go if you are on a limited budget and don't want to hire a car, having your own transport is definitely preferable. Over the years there has been a big expansion of the road network in the area. The maps in this guide are believed to be up-to-date BUT, there may be changes - let us know if you find anything new. As a general rule it is worth avoiding towns where possible since they can be horribly slow and busy. The fast AP-7 motorway is no longer a toll road making it an even more attractive option for getting up and down the coast and inland to Murcia. The final sections on some crag approaches are on dirt tracks of variable quality. These can become particularly exciting after rain - be aware of any excess on your car-hire contract if you head off-road!

Without a Car - If you are car-less there are options. Sella is the obvious choice, with loads of climbing and other climbers for lifts. Calp is an option with the Peñon, Toix and Olta within bus/walking distance. There is a regular train service up and down the coast from Alicante to Valencia and there are local bus services.

Apartments, Villas and Casitas

There is masses of accommodation available along the Costa Blanca; cheap and cheerful beach-front self-catering apartments, all-in package deals in high-rises in Benidorm, huge villas with pools and delightful inland casitas - the choice is massive.

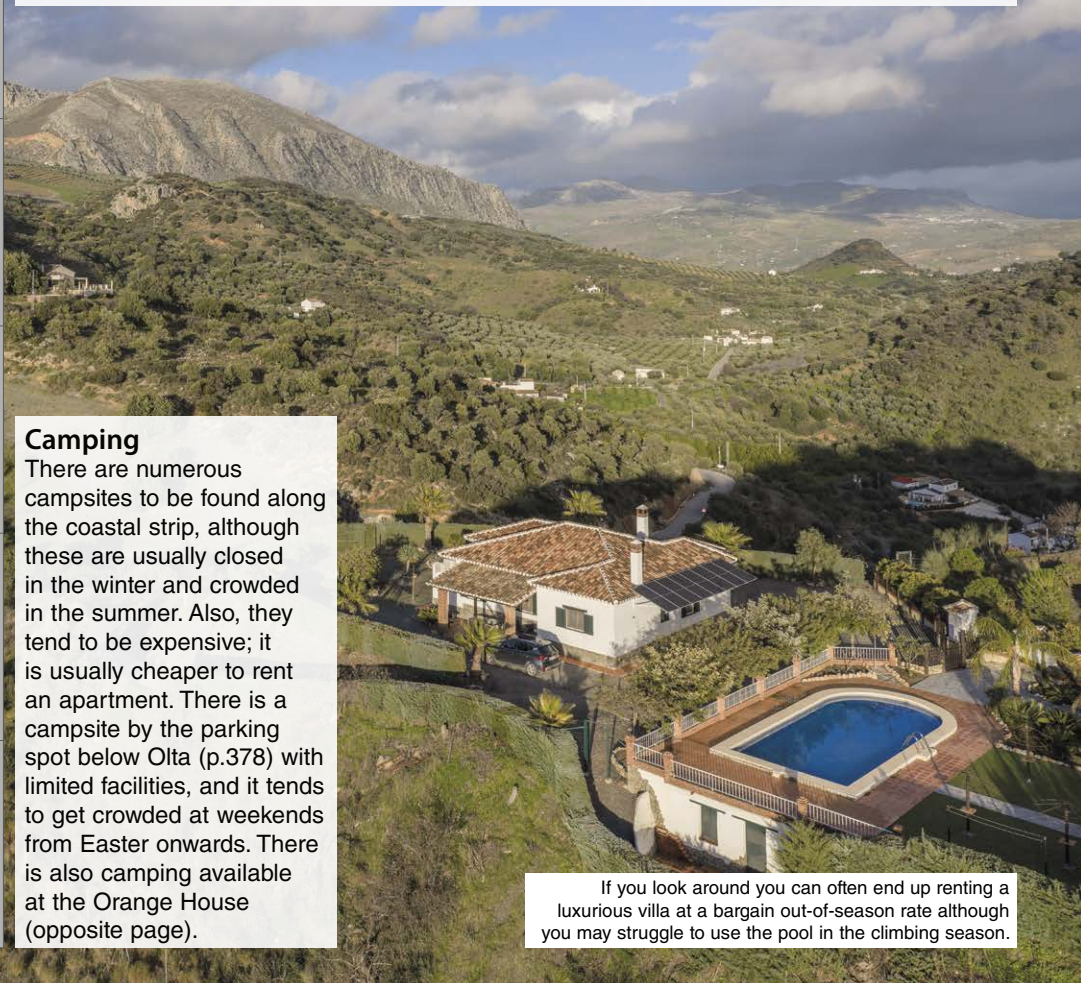
For villas, a premium is paid for stopping down by the coast, up in the hills things are considerably less expensive. Most will offer a degree of luxury seldom experienced on a UK climbing trip and, for large groups visiting out of season, hiring a villa may well still be the cheapest option wherever it is situated. The inland casitas are a good option for those who wish to get away from the hustle and bustle of the coast.

Many are beautifully located, close to the climbing, and provide a good opportunity to see a different side of Spain.

Abdet.com See page 21
 Self-catering house for 6 people in Abdet
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Email: info@abdet.com

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Camping

There are numerous campsites to be found along the coastal strip, although these are usually closed in the winter and crowded in the summer. Also, they tend to be expensive; it is usually cheaper to rent an apartment. There is a campsite by the parking spot below Olta (p.378) with limited facilities, and it tends to get crowded at weekends from Easter onwards. There is also camping available at the Orange House (opposite page).

If you look around you can often end up renting a luxurious villa at a bargain out-of-season rate although you may struggle to use the pool in the climbing season.

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Shops

There are big supermarkets in, or on the outskirts, of all the main towns (often shut Sundays). Villages often have a small shop and a bakery which may be closed in the afternoons. BE AWARE that climbers cars have been targeted at supermarket car parks - leave someone with the vehicle if you stock up on the way from the airport.

Climbing Shops

There are a couple of good climbing shops in the centre of Alicante, worth a visit on a rest day, or if you find you have forgotten/worn out any of your gear. There is a small sport shop on the main shopping street in Calp (Ifac Sports) with a few climbing basics. Many of the major towns have Decathlon's and these may well have a good supply of climbing gear.

Tourist Info

Most decent sized towns in the area have a Tourist Office with friendly, helpful staff who speak good English. These should be your first port of call if you need accommodation, details about local transport, market days, things worth seeing and ideas for a rest day. There is also plenty of information on costablanca.org

Travel Insurance

UK citizens have reciprocal health care rights in Spain under the GHIC card. Despite this, it is strongly recommended that personal travel insurance is taken out to cover rescue, medical and repatriation in the event of an accident.

ABDET.COM

Situated in the small rural village of Abdet in the Costa Blanca mountains Casa Serrella is the ideal location to relax amidst spectacular scenery

SELF CATERING HOUSE FOR UP TO 6 PEOPLE

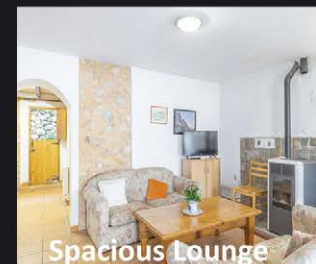
Above - Sunrise from the roof terrace - the Bernia Ridge - One of the great mountaineering expeditions in the area



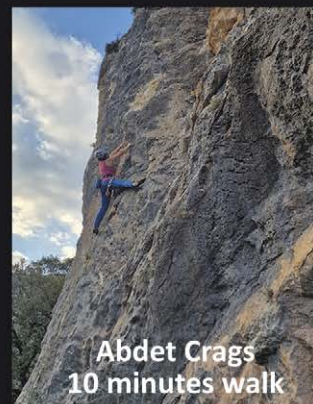
Roof Terrace



Outdoor Dining Area



Spacious Lounge



Abdet Craggs
10 minutes walk



Local Swimming



Mountain Walks



Relaxing for a beer after a day's climbing at Guadalest.
Photo: Mark Glaister

abdet.com



We invite you to stay in our rustic rural self catering house in the village of Abdet. The house has an amazing roof terrace with panoramic views, three bedrooms, a well equipped kitchen plus outdoor kitchen, BBQ and fast WiFi. Local crags 10 minutes walk away, it's a short drive to Guadalest, Val de Guadar (Echo Valley) and it's easy access to the crags around Alcoy and inland. But it's not just about the climbing, in Abdet you can enjoy mountain walks direct from the door, road cycling, mountain biking, gravel riding, and even swimming in pools, lakes ponds and rivers. Or of course you can just relax and enjoy the tranquility! (PS - you will never share the house and it's suitable for couples as well as groups up to 6 people)

Tom & Penny

 WhatsApp

Tom



Costa Blanca Climbing



Natalie Berry on the beautiful rock of Ojazos (8a) - p.163 - on Sector L'homme tendó at Cocentaina. Photo: Mike Hutton

Murcia

Murcia

Alicante

Alicante

Benidorm

Benidorm

Calp

Calp

Xaló Valley

Xaló Valley

Gandia - Xàtiva

Gandia - Xàtiva

Costa Blanca Ridges

Costa Blanca Ridges

Ropes

The most crucial item of gear is your rope. At the very least you need a 60m rope but, if you're buying a new rope for a trip, we strongly recommend getting a 70m rope or longer. Thin ropes are easier to climb with and lighter, which is good for the hike to the crag and your luggage allowance on the plane. Thicker ropes last longer and are better for working projects. For multi-pitch routes requiring an abseil descent, using a pair of half-ropes is preferable, or a triple-rated rope which can be used both single and double.

Belay Device - Make sure your belay device is suitable for your rope: too grabbing and you'll be cursing it each time you pay out rope, too slick and you may struggle to hold your partner. A belay device that you can abseil on is recommended if you are considering longer routes.


Route Lengths and Lowering Off

The photo-topos have approximate heights, indicated next to some lower-offs. **These are guideline heights only.** It is important to remember that crag bases often slope, and people stand in different places when belaying. Also, manufacturer figures for rope lengths vary and some ropes have had worn sections chopped off the ends in the past. Do you really know exactly how long your rope is? **The golden rule is always tie a knot in the end of the rope to prevent dropping a climber when lowering off.**



Tie a knot in the end of the rope to make sure you don't lower someone off the end.

Other Gear

Trad Gear - Amongst the sporty stuff are some routes with less fixed gear, though often with decent belays, and some kind of gear near the hard moves. The symbol  is used to identify these, usually along with a UK trad grade (with a corresponding grade colour-code - p.30).

Here are some suggested racks of gear for your trip in addition to your rope:

Sport routes only - 12 to 16 quickdraws and a helmet.

Sport routes and a few longer mixed routes -

12 to 16 quickdraws, a set of wires, a couple of medium cams, a helmet and 3 or 4 slings. Competent climbers will be able to climb many of these routes with just a rack of quickdraws and a single 60m rope although this is not advised if you are inexperienced in long run-outs and descending by short abseils between insubstantial anchors.

Multi-pitch trad routes with abseil descents - 12 quickdraws, twin 50m ropes, a full normal trad rack including wires, cams plus your helmet.

Beyond these essentials, you may find tape useful for bandaging your fingers if the prickly rock starts to take its toll. For multi-pitch routes, a small sack with a water bladder, a long-sleeve shirt and sun cream are good ideas. A good pair of approach shoes is also worth packing, as some of the crags are a bit of a walk from the parking spots.



Ann Leese abseiling in to *Erikindia* (6a+) - p.358 - on the sea cliffs at Sierra de Toix. The abseil approaches for the sea cliff routes are intimidating free-hanging descents which add to the overall route experience. However, they are also quite committing and climbers need to be confident of their ability to climb back out before setting off. Photo: Mark Eddy

In general the grades in the Costa Blanca are consistently applied in common with most other popular Spanish areas, although there are undoubtedly some anomalies. If you find a grade that is way out then go ukclimbing.com and vote on what you think it should be.

Trad Routes

There are a number of routes in the book which require gear (slings, wires and cams) to be carried to supplement the fixed (pegs and bolts) protection. These routes have been given a normal sport grade, and an overall UK trad grade in their description. The UK trad grade gives the correct impression of how serious the route is and the colour code has been adjusted to reflect this. For example, routes 15 to 18 on page 258 are allocated coloured spots higher than expected for their given sport grade. This is because the climbing on them is relatively easy but there is limited protection making them much more serious undertakings. Routes like this should be attempted by climbers operating confidently at the UK Trad grade, not the given sport grade.

Colour Coding

The routes are colour-coded corresponding to a grade band:

- Green Spots** *Beginners* - everything at grade 4c (Severe) and under.
- Orange Spots** *Experienced* - 5a to 6a+ (HS - HVS) inclusive. General ticking routes.
- Red Spots** *Advanced* - 6b to 7a (E1 to E3) inclusive. The next level routes to push yourself.
- Black Spots** *Expert* - 7a+ to 7c+ (E4 to E6). Hard routes for very experienced climbers.
- White Spots** *Elite* - 8a (E7) and above. The hardest routes for the World's best climbers.

Via Ferrata

Via farratas are graded from VF1 to VF6 with sub-divisions of A to D. VF1 is equivalent to an extremely easy rock climb or scramble; VF4 is approximately comparable to a rock climb of 4a to 4c, or around HS in UK grade.

In this book there are four via ferrata which range from the short and easy VF1B on at Coves de Canelobre (p.176) to the huge long VF5C at Callosa (p.70).

Sport Grade	British Trad Grade (for well-protected routes)	UIAA	USA
1	Mod Moderate	I	5.1
2	Diff Difficult	II	5.2
2+	VDiff Very Difficult	III	5.3
3a		III-	5.4
3b		III	5.4
3c	Sev Severe	III+	5.5
4a	HS Hard Severe	IV-	5.6
4b		IV	5.7
4c	VS Very Severe	IV+	5.8
5a		V-	5.9
5b		V	5.9
5c		V+	5.10a
6a	E1 5c	VI-	5.10b
6a+	E2 6a	VI	5.10c
6b	E3 6a	VI+	5.10d
6b+		VII	5.11a
6c	E4 6a	VII+	5.11b
6c+		VIII-	5.11c
7a	E5 6c	VIII	5.11d
7a+		VIII+	5.12a
7b	E6 6c	IX-	5.12b
7b+		IX	5.12c
7c	E7 7a	IX+	5.12d
7c+		IX+	5.13a
8a	E8 7a	X-	5.13b
8a+		X	5.13c
8b	E9 7b	X+	5.13d
8b+		X+	5.14a
8c	E10 7b	XI-	5.14b
8c+		XI	5.14c
9a	E11 7b	XI+	5.14d
9a+		XI+	5.15a



Emma Roderick on *Goldilocks* (6a) - p.218 - on Sector Doggy Guantanamo at Sella. Photo: Nick Brown

Murcia

Murcia

Alicante

Alicante

Benidorm

Benidorm

Calp

Calp

Xaló Valley

Xaló Valley


Gandia - Xàtiva

Gandia - Xàtiva

Costa Blanca Ridges

Costa Blanca Ridges

Many of the areas covered in this guide are in delicate natural environments. There have already been problems at some of the cliffs created by thoughtless actions of a few. It is up to all of us to show due respect, help to maintain access to the areas, observe any posted restrictions, park sensibly and keep the places tidy so that these fine areas remain available to climbers for many years to come.

 Three of the crags covered - Salinas, Cocentaina and Peñón de Ifach - have climbing restrictions due to nesting birds usually from 1 January to 31 June but these can vary. It is also possible that restrictions may appear on other crags as well. Keep an eye out for any signs at the crags and stick to what they say.

Remember, the inclusion of a crag in this book doesn't mean you have a right to climb there. Land ownership and access permission can change so please respect any signs and check the Rockfax website for access news. We have lost access to the excellent crag at Sax, though the exact reasons for the closure are not clear.

Climbers' Code

Park considerately - don't block access, and be prepared to climb elsewhere if there's nowhere to park. If you are in a van, then use approved locations only and don't stay overnight unless you know it is okay to do so.

Stick to the approach paths - avoid short-cuts, especially across someone's private land. If there are signs, read them and follow any instructions.

Keep the noise down at the crag - crags are often in areas popular with walkers who are keen to get away from all that.

Take your rubbish home with you - better still, make space for less considerate souls' rubbish, and remember that anything left at the crag is 'rubbish'. As an example, orange peel takes around two years to decompose and looks a mess while it does so!

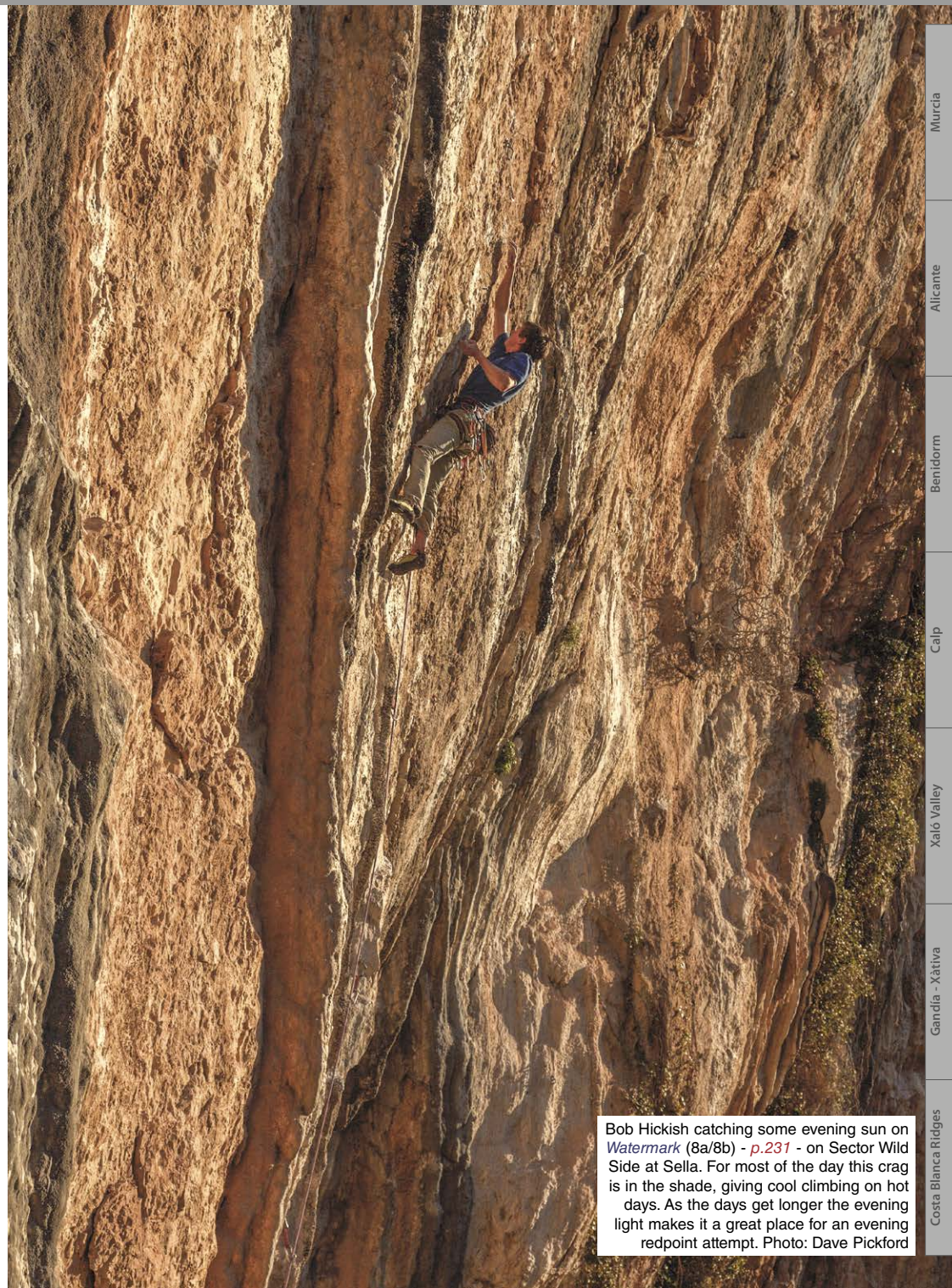
Don't light fires anywhere - the landscape is often tinder dry and an out-of-control fire could cause a national disaster.

Route Names

In order to create unique identities for the routes in our databases, on Rockfax Digital and printed books, it is essential that they have a route name. It hasn't always been possible to find local names for some routes and others are left without names by their developers. We have taken the liberty of giving names to all of the routes to aid in identification. In most cases, the 'invented' names are numerical or descriptive and inoffensive. If you know alternative names for these routes then please let us know through UKC Logbooks ukclimbing.com/logbook/

Guidebook Footnote

The inclusion of a climbing area in this guidebook does not mean that you have a right of access or the right to climb upon it. The descriptions of routes within this guide are recorded for historical reasons only and no reliance should be placed on the accuracy of the description. The grades set in this guide are a fair assessment of the difficulty of the climbs. Climbers who attempt a route of a particular standard should use their own judgment as to whether they are proficient enough to tackle that route. This book is not a substitute for experience and proper judgment. The authors, publisher and distributors of this book 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.



Bob Hickish catching some evening sun on *Watermark* (8a/8b) - p.231 - on Sector Wild Side at Sella. For most of the day this crag is in the shade, giving cool climbing on hot days. As the days get longer the evening light makes it a great place for an evening redpoint attempt. Photo: Dave Pickford

Bolts

Many thousands of bolts protect the sport climbs of Costa Blanca. A good proportion have been in place for a considerable time and are starting to show their age, particularly those on the coastal crags. Many bolts and hangers exhibit surface rust but the vast majority are still serviceable. Some are now in a poor state and a personal decision should be taken as to the safety of the bolts and hangers before embarking on a route. In this guidebook we have given a little guidance on the state of the bolts as rebolting is ongoing, hence the information can get out of date, and each climber's perception of what is acceptable will vary with experience and their own assessment of the integrity of bolts and hangers.



A rusty bolt - probably sound but difficult to trust

Bolt Funding

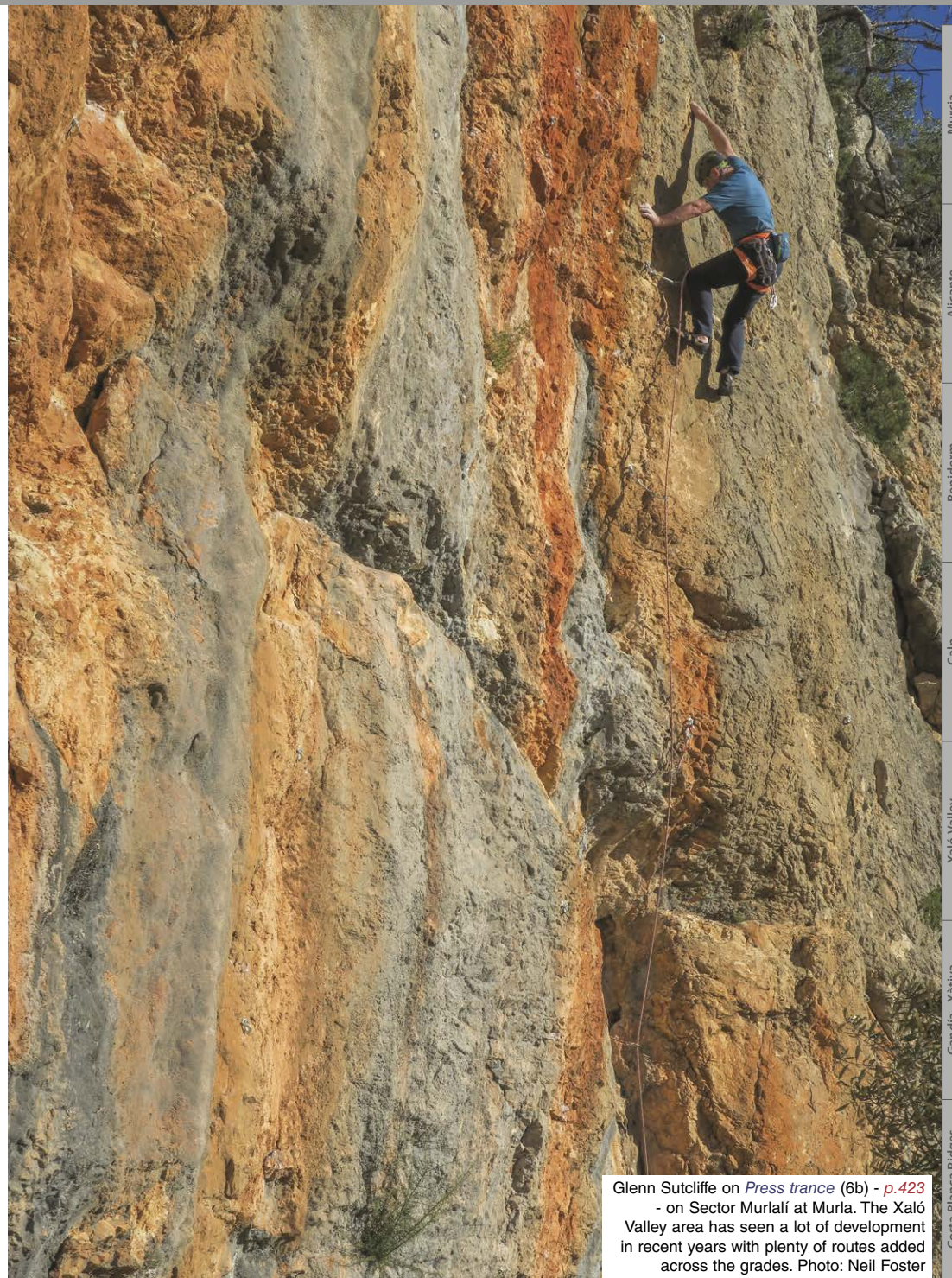
The work of bolting and re-bolting is done by local climbers mostly self-funding their activities. There is no central bolt fund run by the locals but climbers can make a donation via UKBoltFund.org which will be channelled through Rockfax and passed on directly to the local climbers in the shape of bolts and resin. Proceeds from the sale of this book, and the use of the Costa Blanca area on Rockfax Digital, will generate funds to make more donations in the shape of bolts or equipment. If you are a local climber doing re-bolting work then contact rockfax by email - info@rockfax.com



Replaced lower-off



UKBoltFund.org
Supporting local bolting volunteers



Glenn Sutcliffe on *Press trance* (6b) - p.423 - on Sector Murlali at Muria. The Xaló Valley area has seen a lot of development in recent years with plenty of routes added across the grades. Photo: Neil Foster

Murcia
Alicante
Benidorm
Calp
Xaló Valley
Gandia - Xàtiva
Costa Blanca Ridges

Murcia
Alicante
Benidorm
Calp
Xaló Valley
Gandia - Xàtiva
Costa Blanca Ridges

			up to 4c	5a to 6a+	6b to 7a	7a+ to 7c+	8a and up		Approach	Sun	Sheltered	Dry in Rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	Nesting Birds	Summary	Page
Murcia	Murcia	La Panocha	95	9	56	25	5	-	5 - 10 min							An interesting crag, overlooking Murcia, with a good variety of routes. Popular and quite polished in places. Sun and shade is always available.	38
		Rincón de Bonanza	59	-	17	18	24	-	10 min							Great tall wall of mid-to-hard routes including very long pitches. Sunny and dry hence a winter-only venue.	50
		Rédovan - El Rut	88	-	55	20	12	1	20 min							Huge wall of great rock with long pitches and multi-pitch routes. Hot and dry getting sun from mid-morning.	54
		Rédovan - La Pancha	112	13	49	43	7	-	10 min							Huge 'belly' of rock with some long single pitch and a lot of multi-pitch routes. Some extra buttresses add to the appeal. Hot and sunny from mid-morning.	62
Alicante	Alicante	Callosa	58	9	26	17	6	-	10 - 15 min							Good more sheltered walls with some mid-grade steeper routes and slabby stuff. A winter venue with a popular via ferrata.	70
		Crevillente	101	2	26	39	20	14	20 - 25 min							Three varied buttresses in a remote location. Likely to be quiet. Mid-grade routes and some very hard stuff. Likely to be hot when the sun is shining.	78
Alicante	Alicante	Sierra de Enmedio	65	7	27	28	3	-	10 min							Sheltered crag in a remote location with a good set of mid-grade climbs. A winter-only venue.	86
		Salinas	68	1	16	30	19	2	10 - 15 min						A good set of face climbs on a series of steep walls. The rock tends to be hard on the fingers. There is usually a spring-time restriction due to bird nesting.	92	
		Marín	122	24	65	29	4	-	10 min						A nicely situated and popular crag with a great spread of lower grade routes plus some decent stuff in the mid-grades. Hot and exposed, worth a look in winter.	101	
		Peña del Corb	37	5	21	10	1	-	15 - 20 min							A neat set of routes, a mini-summit and a sunny setting with a friendly slabby section as well.	114
		Foradà	176	5	45	52	48	26	35 - 40 min							Brilliant and beautifully situated fin of rock with a sunny (mid-grade) and a shady (hard) side. High and exposed so it can be 10 degrees colder here than on the coast.	120
		Rincón Bello	48	-	4	16	16	12	10 min							Superb shady wall in a very secluded setting. Best in the hard to very hard grade range. Cool and shady hence one for the warmer months.	138
		Peña Rubia	125	1	28	51	35	10	4 - 20 min							One of the older crags. The hard routes tend to be tough and battered. The easy stuff is often better. A good airport day crag.	144
		Reconco	67	5	24	30	6	2	20 - 30 min							A fine slabby crag with some excellent, fingery and sustained routes. A sunny setting, so often hot but exposed to the wind. Great multi-pitch wall as well.	152
		Cocentaina	87	-	13	30	42	2	10 min							Magnificent barrel-shaped wall of great rock with interesting formations. Long pitches in the mid-to-very hard grades. Sheltered and hot so a winter-only crag.	160
		Xaló Valley	Xaló Valley	Cabezón de Oro	100	3	19	30	25	23	10 - 35 min						A major mountain with some fine long semi-trad routes and a huge spectacular sport crag which is one of the best venues on the Blanca for the hard stuff.
Benidorm	Benidorm	Busot	157	4	51	72	27	3	12 - 20 min							Extensive set of buttresses offering loads of mid-to-hard grade routes. Mostly high quality wall climbing. Hot and sunny.	178
		Sella	449	25	126	144	95	59	0 - 18 min							The most popular venue on the Costa Blanca, with loads of routes across the grades, and plenty for most weather conditions. Some of the classics are becoming worn.	196
		Puig Campana	11	1	4	5	1	-	60 min							The most popular of the Blanca's mountain crags, with a great set of routes. Most climbs require the carrying of a small rack, plus double ropes.	238
		Ponoch	6	1	-	5	-	-	20 min							Some huge walls with only a small selection of routes covered. Stay away if the weather is unsettled. A popular via ferrata adds to the appeal.	246
		Vall de Guadar	185	21	69	57	30	8	0 - 10 min							A huge amount of rock, and a popular set of crags with both sport and trad as well as single and multi-pitch on offer.	252
		Abdet	62	8	38	16	-	-	5 - 10 min							Close to the village of the same name are a series of short walls in a sunny setting. The rock is sharp, and a bit loose in places, but the place is worth a visit.	274
		Guadalet	260	24	112	106	17	1	2 - 10 min							A major venue with lots of easily accessible routes, both single and multi-pitch, on some great rock formations. The tourist-trap of a town is worth a visit too.	284
Costa Blanca Ridges	Costa Blanca Ridges	Las Cerezas	55	-	15	21	16	3	12 - 18 min						Delightful seclude wall of super rock giving steep harder routes. Some decent easier routes on grey rock add to the appeal. Likely to be hot hence a winter-only venue.	304	
Full Book Route Totals		4849	347	1573	1807	887	234									Faded symbol means only some of the routes are affected by the symbol characteristic	

Region	Sub-Region	Route	up to 4c	5a to 6a+	6b to 7a	7a+ to 7c+	8a and up	Approach	Sun	Sheltered	Dry in Rain	Multi-pitch	Seepage	Nesting Birds	Summary	Page
Murcia	Calp	Bernia	21	-	4	7	4	6	3 - 15 min						The vast southern flank of the Bernia Ridge has a small number of quality routes, mostly in the upper grades.	314
		Altea	38	-	10	19	7	2	0 - 10 min						A couple of crags in different settings - one sheltered and slabby, the other more exposed and much steeper. Not especially popular despite easy access.	318
		Mascarat	31	2	18	7	4	-	8 - 15 min						A spooky and windy gorge with a lot of atmospheric climbing in a busy traffic setting. A good re-developed wall gives plenty of mid-grade single pitch routes.	324
		Castellet de Calp	40	-	2	15	23	-	10 min						A shady setting with a decent set of steep face climbs. Good as a hot weather venue.	331
		Sierra de Toix	242	53	110	52	24	3	2 - 30 min						Vies with Sella for popularity. Always busy, especially the easy routes on the Placa and Far West. The Sea Cliff adds another very different attraction.	336
		Peñón de Ifach	20	-	4	14	2	-	20 min						Calp's own mountain has a great set of climbs, several of which are on the 'must do' circuit. Epics and beightments are common - you have been warned!	366
		Olta	56	19	20	11	6	-	30 min						High above Calp, a decent crag in a great position with a couple of very photogenic climbs. The walk up is a bit longer than you might be expecting. Afternoon shade.	378
		Pinos	42	-	2	14	22	4	2 min						A small steep roadside crag with a decent set of generally hard and powerful routes, that are sheltered from the wind. The view out towards Calp is superb.	388
Alicante	Calp	Morro Falqui	28	2	15	10	-	-	5 - 20 min						A big sea cliff with some single-pitch routes high up and multi-pitch climbs starting from sea level. Straightforward access and a sunny and hot setting.	392
		Ambolo	73	9	29	25	9	1	2 - 8 min						Headland with varied buttresses and sun and shade options. Plenty across the grades including steep stuff and friendly slabs.	398
		Murla	179	8	56	69	35	11	10 - 18 min						A varied set of buttresses with some short and powerful routes, three easier walls and a super-steep section suitable for the power-hungry.	410
		Alcalalí	67	6	23	33	5	-	5 - 6 min						The most popular crag in the local area with a great set of routes in a really sunny setting. Quality rock and long pitches but a winter-only venue.	424
		La Solana	21	-	3	11	7	-	8 min						Small wall in a secluded setting. Some good routes including hard ones with a roof section of the right side.	432
		Peña Roja - Llíber	115	6	23	51	31	4	3 - 4 min						A collection of excellent mid-to-hard wall climbs on good rock. A choice of sun and shade is possible although it is usually hot when the sun is out - useful in the winter.	434
		Font d'Axia	33	7	20	6	-	-	10 min						A minor crag which has proved to be surprisingly popular. Some loose rock around so care needed.	444
		Pouets	62	2	17	30	13	-	3 - 8 min						A secluded crag with two walls of mid-to-hard grade routes. The right-hand crag is taller and has a dominating sloping roof. The left side is shorter. Sunny and hot.	448
Benidorm	Calp	L'Ocaive	60	2	17	18	17	6	12 min						A crag that is better and cleaner than it looks with some fine face routes on the left and amazing sustained hard routes around the cave. In the shade for most of the day.	454
		Gandía	177	9	53	74	41	-	10 - 20 min						One of the original Blanca venues has been popular for years. A really great set of routes in a sunny setting. Seeps after rain.	464
		Bovedón	123	2	24	51	32	14	15 - 2 min						A really good extensive venue with quality in the mid-to-hard grades with some sun and shade options. Also a huge steep cave with the ultra-hard stuff.	478
		Salem	143	20	44	55	22	2	0 - 10 min						An extensive set of cliffs in a secluded valley which has never been as popular as the quality of the climbing deserves. Sun and shade are always on offer.	488
		Bellús Baranco Fondo	133	4	35	70	24	-	14 - 18 min						A sheltered gorge with some fierce and fingery wall climbs. A real sun-trap hence a winter-only venue although close to Cueva Pechina to retreat to if it gets too hot.	500
		Bellús Pechina/Altet	173	15	30	85	33	10	2 - 15 min						Three very distinct walls with plenty of shady climbing on offer and a great easier wall in the sun. A popular crag that is an option in cold and warmer months.	509
		Aventador	82	2	35	36	7	2	12 min						Great rock in a sunny setting, but the grid-bolting has rather spoil the effect. The easier routes on the right are quite popular, as is the via ferrata on the left.	520
		Montesa	148	8	60	63	14	3	5 - 7 min						A curious location in a picturesque village on a hilltop. Interesting and grippy pocketed rock and a good set of middle and lower grade routes with some limited shady options.	528
Gandía - Xàtiva	Calp	Tierra de Nadie	67	-	3	46	18	-	15 min						Brilliant tall vertical wall with a stunning set of mid-to-hard routes on perfect rock. Shady and good for the warmer months.	540
		Vallada	78	-	9	41	28	-	12 - 20 min						A quality couple of walls on interesting rock. A long drive from most of the accommodation however well worth it when it is hot.	546
		Costa Blanca Ridges	4	3	1	-	-	-	3 - 10 hrs						Four ridges that are full-day outings for those who want a bit of a different adventure. They are all major undertakings and not to be underestimated.	556
Full Book Route Totals		4849	347	1573	1807	887	234									

Faded symbol means only some of the routes are affected by the symbol characteristic