



Costa Blanca



Europes best winter sun
rock climbing venue

Self-catering
Ensuite rooms
Bunks & camping

info@theorangehouse.co.uk

0044 7500 636 921

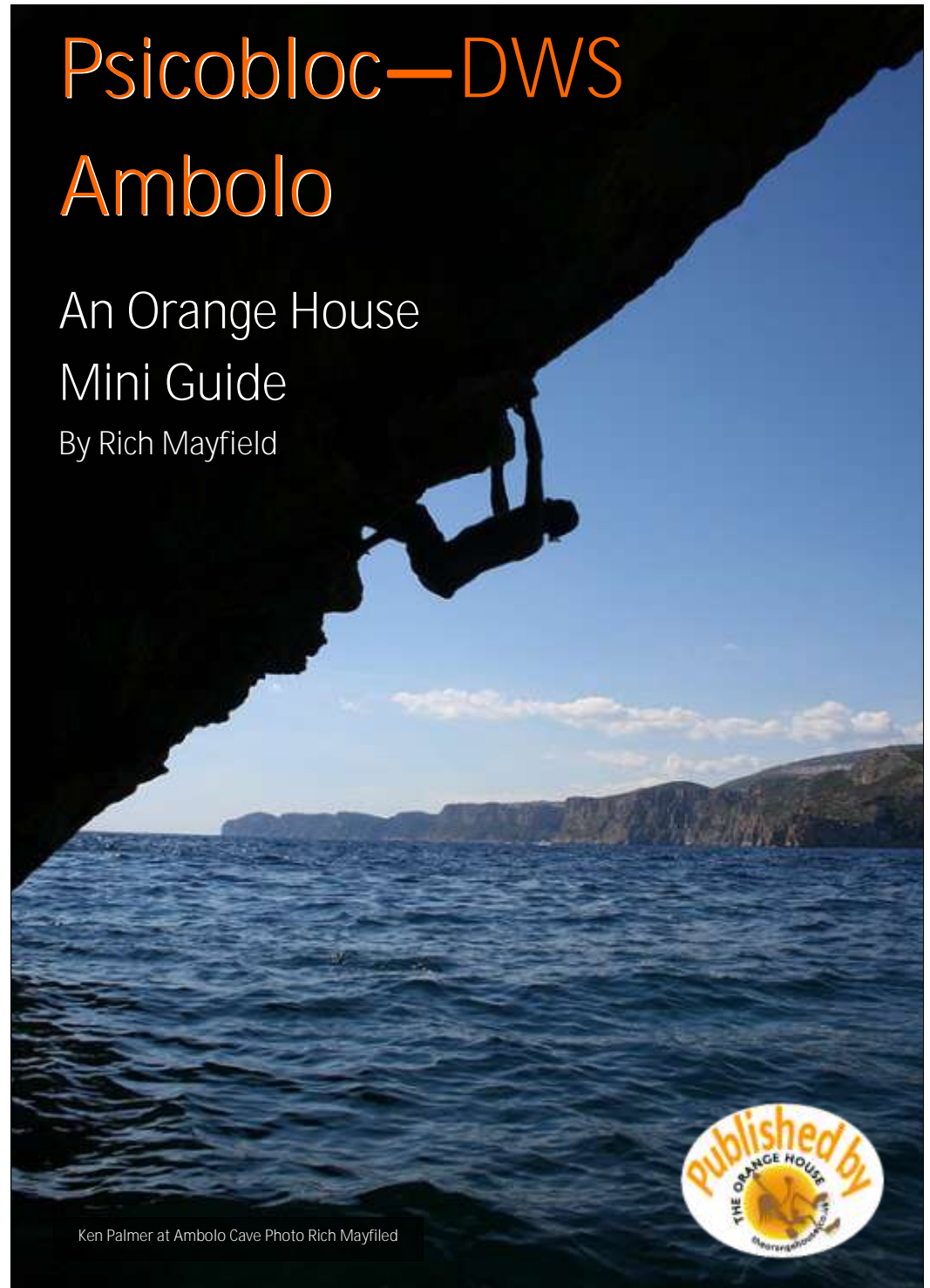
www.theorangehouse.co.uk



Psicobloc—DWS Ambolo

An Orange House
Mini Guide

By Rich Mayfield



Ken Palmer at Ambolo Cave Photo Rich Mayfield

How to assemble this mini guide.

Fold all pages in half, then place internal pages inside cover. Staple together at the spine. Place in a clear dry bag.



Text, topos and computer art work by Rich Mayfield.

Published by and copyright to:

The Orange House Ltd.

Information contained herein correct at time of publication. No responsibility is accepted for omissions or inaccuracy. The state of fixed protection may deteriorate, be updated or changed over time. This mini guide is no substitute for sound judgement.

Never DWS alone!



Ambolo

The main beach is now officially closed due to a land slide.

Introduction and History

This area was first explored with a mind to DWS in September 2005. With the Isla del Descubridor the main focus, having spent the day climbing and kayaking around the island we missed the fantastic Ambolo Cave by a matter of a few metres. The climbing we did is included in **Mikey's Rockfax DWS guide**. A Spanish topo appeared shortly afterwards detailing the Cave and other routes in the area, some information on these topos was missing. Where known this information has been included in *Italics*.

A full arrange of climbing can be had here on mostly cave features, so the climbing is steep and hard. An inflatable is really required to access the Island and will make the cave a more friendly place.

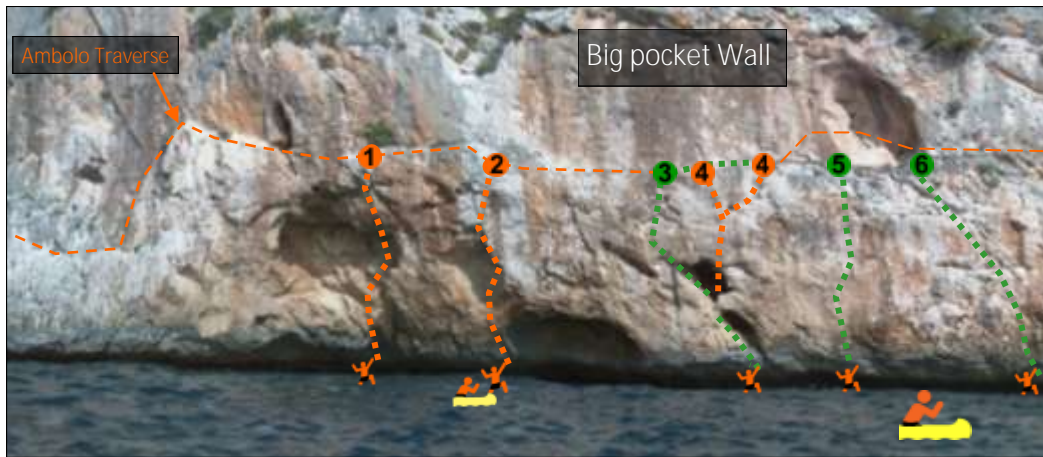
Approach by car

From the A7 take junction 63 signed Benissa N332. After the toll go straight on heading north towards Teulada for 3km. Then go right on a roundabout go straight at the second roundabout, then left on the third, then immediately right. Continue for 1km through the town, at a strange junction go left towards Benitachell 5 km away on the CV 740 continue for another 5km to a round about, go right on the the Cami Cabanes for 3.5km. At this round about take the first exit for a further 400m to the junction with the CV742 you can only go right here. Follow the winding road for 6.5km and a round about which is signed for Platja de Ambolo to the right. Park 700m down this end dead at GPS 38,43,53N 0,13,15E.



Ambolo Long Traverse 350m 6c S1

This is best done with boat support. There is no easy way back to the starting ledges. **Start on the Ambolo Ledges, scramble over the "slackline area" and continue easily for 150m.** Passing Big Pocket Wall is the crux and can be pumpy. Short tricky sections are encountered but are short lived with a rest just after the next move so stay cool and keep climbing. There are a few blind corners and ledges, and the rock becomes sandy nearer the end. Relax on the beach before swimming back or reverse the route



1 Ojo de Ambolo 8m 6a S0

Gain the cave and rest before hard moves allow access to the traverse, best to jump from the top. FA Rich Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker Aug 2012

2 Linea de Plata 8m 6a S0

Best to start from a boat with dry hands, a thin wall to gain the traverse.

FA Rich Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker Aug 2012

3 Big Pocket 8m 5+ S0

Exit the water into a cave. Dry off. Exit the cave heading up leftwards to a horizontal break, either jump or traverse to a ledge to the right.

FA Rich Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker Aug 2012

4 Big Pocket Direct 8m 6a S0

Enter the cave, then made long reaches directly up to the horizontal break. Or hang a right to a hanging groove and the ledges.

FA Rich Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker Aug 2012

5 Pocket wall 8m 5+ S0

Climb the ledges and huge crack system.

FA Rich Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker Aug 2012

6 Down climb 5m 4 S0

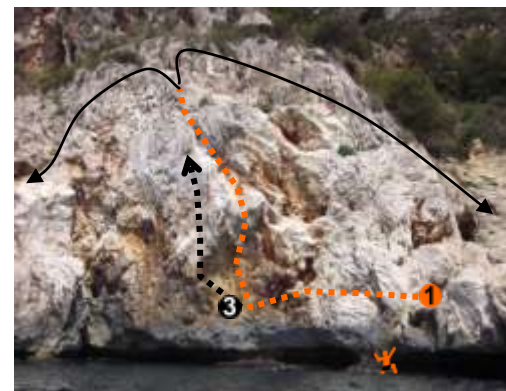
The easiest line climbs the rising leftward line of weakness to the cave feature.

FA Rich Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker Aug

Ambolo Ledges

It is possible to access Ambolo Ledges from Ambolo Beach best done with an inflatable because it is 500m as the fish swims.

It is best accessed via a different parking area at GPS 38 43 47 0 12 56 . Take the right just before (50m) the last round about to Ambolo Beach on the CV 742, then the first right and park at the end of this cul de sac. The path leads down to the right and is a well maintained concrete path with a handrail on most of it. The area is popular with fishermen so watch out for lines and hooks.



Slack line area

1 Ian Cooper Route 12m 6c S0

From the far side of the ledgers climb easily onto the steeper orange rock. Make increasing harder moves on steepening ground until a leftward ramp is gained. Either traverse back over to the top, or continue onto the Ambolo traverse.

FA DWS Fest 2005

2 Project 12m ? S0

At the end of the traverse go an extra 2m and climb the white vertical wall on power moves.

This cave is popular with the boating community so great care should be taken when jumping!

1 Ambolo Left Hand 15m 6c S0
A Ralenti 6c

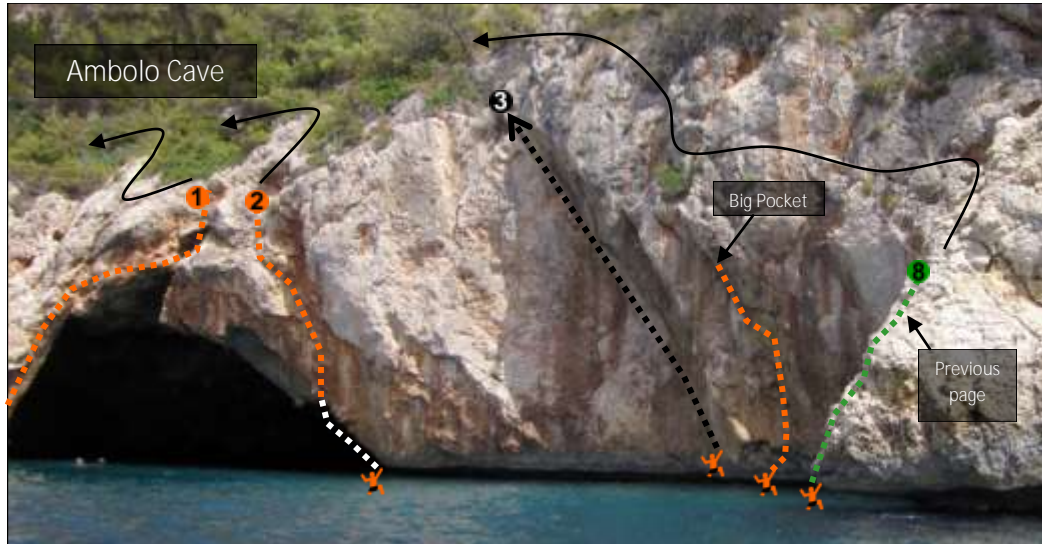
Either climb from the water or access easily from Ambolo Ledges. Climb the arête on the outside of the cave to a loose block, may have fallen out. Pull over this to the lip of the cave and continue traversing to the apex. Either jump or scramble back to the path.

FA Unknown Cir DWS Fest 05

2 Ambolo Right Hand 14m 7a S0
Apretando el Culo 6c

A fantastic line which brings a whole new meaning to "sitting starts"! Swim in doing a reverse back stroke, grab the huge holds and pull out the water. Very steep climbing to a very long reach to a poor hold. Easier climbing to the top. Either scramble back to the path or jump. Can be done dry from a boat but you miss the first 2 m of climbing!

FA Unknown Cir DWS fest 05



3 Project S3

The obvious slabby groove to the right. If you are brave, is thin not steep enough to be very safe and with ledges at the base.

The clean wall between routes 2 and 3 is about ripe for the picking. The starts are hard and best attempted dry and from a boat.

1 *Mi Lanchanchchina* 7c+

Best to start from a boat on a big jug. Storm up to the roof on good holds. Then traverse out of the cave to the right?

FA Unknown

2 Por Las Barbas be Belcebu 7c

From the same starting point as route 6, climb the arête on good holds to the roof, take a breather then launch out through the roof. Dan Varian pulled a large Tufa blob off, landing on his back

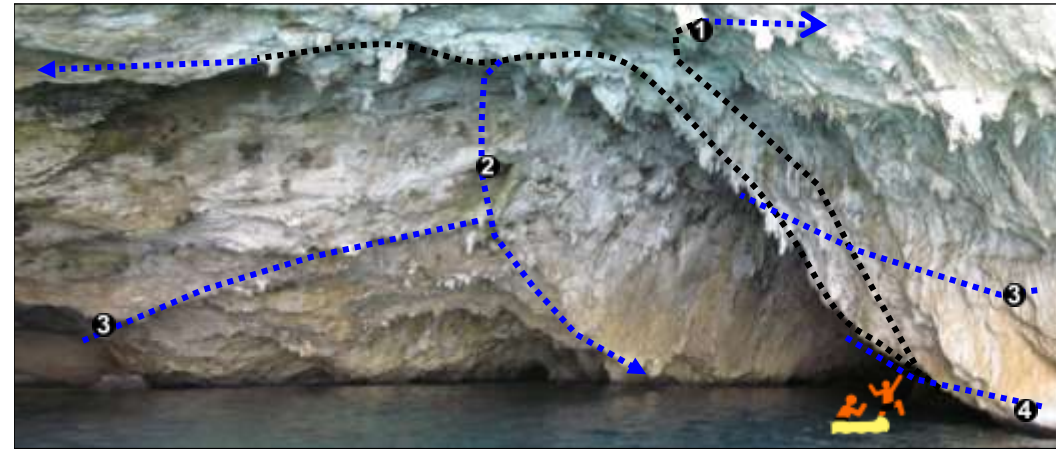
from 10m up and in the centre of the roof. After this the rock quality deteriorates to total chaos. Continue to the other side of the cave and back to the waters edge.

FA Unknown

3 *Ecotplasma* 8a+

From somewhere in the back of the cave gain the roof and exit the cave via routes 7 and then 6. More than 60m of upside down chaos pulling. I suspect this may be under graded!

FA Unknown



At the back left of the cave a fine pocketed wall provides some nice climbing on steep rock, the water is just deep enough to be able to fall from the top without touching the bottom. But it does not look like it when you are climbing.

4 *Penalva's line* 16m 6c+ S0

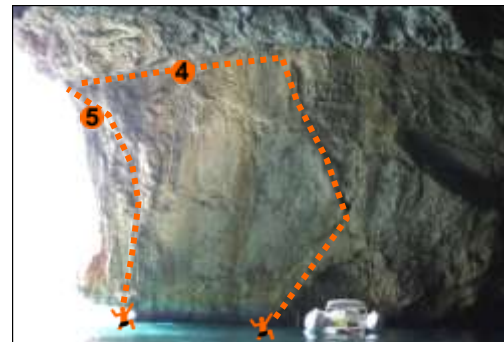
Exit the water 5m in from the edge of the left hand side arête. Climb direct to the roof then exit the cave.

FA Unknown or Cir DWS Fest 2005

5 *A Ralenti* 12m 6c S0

Exit the water on the inside of the arête via a good thread, pull on good holds to the lip of the roof. Swing out left into the sun and finish on Ambolo left hand. *A Ralenti* is show as being both sides of the arête in the local topo.

FA Unknown or Cir DWS Fest 2005

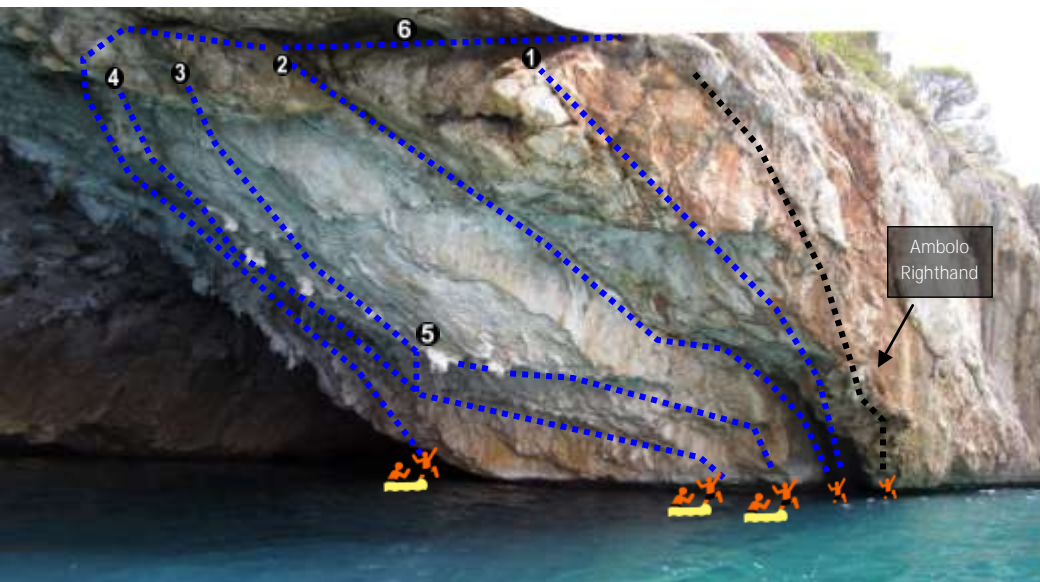


Inside Ambolo Cave

This is where it gets complicated, starting from Ambolo Right Hand or *Apretando el Culo*, working into the cave. These lines have been attempted by many notable climbers but without success! These route names and lines have been taken from the unnamed Local topo. Some lines seem very unlikely.

- 1 *no name* 7b
The underside of the arête looks really hard.
FA Unknown
- 2 *Solo Tipos Rudds* 7b+
The hanging crack line in the roof. Looks very dirty and loose.
FA Unknown
- 3 *Ocaso* 7c+
The higher traverse line of tufas into the roof. If you then climb out on Mi Lanchanchana you might be able to claim the Costa Blanca's first 8b DWS!
FA Unknown

- 4 *Conexion con Lanchanghangchina* 7c+
The lower traverse line of tufas into the roof. Which appears to be harder than Ocaso.
FA Unknown
- 5 *Ajete Por El Ojete* 7c+
A link between routes 4 to 5 at half height.
FA Unknown
- 6 *Mi Lanchanchina* 7c+
Best to start from a boat on a big jug. Storm up to the roof on good holds. *Then traverse out of the cave to the right?*
FA Unknown



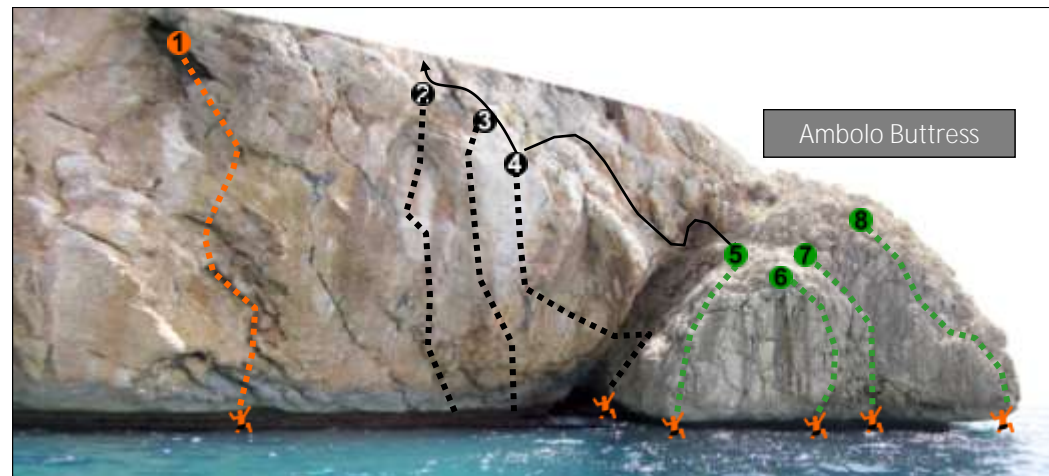
Ambolo Buttress

- 1 Big pocket 9m 6a S0
Exit the water and pull through some undercuts to reach the big pocket then jump, it has been climbed to top and easy ground. FA DWS Fest 2005
- 2 *Enkayados* 9m 7a S0
. FA unknown
- 3 *Catitan Barbaroja* 9m 7a S0
FA Unknown

4 Gav Simonds 12m 7a S1

Easily gain the slab, then make committing moves out onto the leaning wall, powerful climbing with a huge reach! Jump or traverse off. FA Gav Simonds 08

Routes 5 to 8 don't really have names. They are all really easy and very safe, good warm up climbing. They are normally climbed by swimming in and wet starts.



Never DWS alone!
Nunca Psicobloc solo!

Isla Del Descubridor

Morning Light Wall with its big pockets is easily seen from the Ambolo beach and the easiest to reach from the beach. With a 300m swim from the beach or 150m swim if you scramble closer.

Please be warned! This beach appears to be a gay nudist beach. Inappropriate behaviour has sometimes been encountered here.



Evening Light Wall faces the mainland and forms the island side of the thin channel, it can get a little rough in here if the wind is in the right direction.

Also please take extreme care whilst swimming in the channel, Jet skis, RIB's and other fast boats tend to speed through here without any thought for swimmers!

1 Evening Crack 8m 6a S1

Gain the ledge and launch up the crack to the bush. The ledge threatens any mistakes for the first few metres.

FA R Mayfield Aug 2012

2 Evening Light Wall 12m 6b+ S0

Traverse the ledge on ever shrinking and difficult to find pockets. Then pull up the vertical wall easing as height is gained. FA R Mayfield Aug 2012

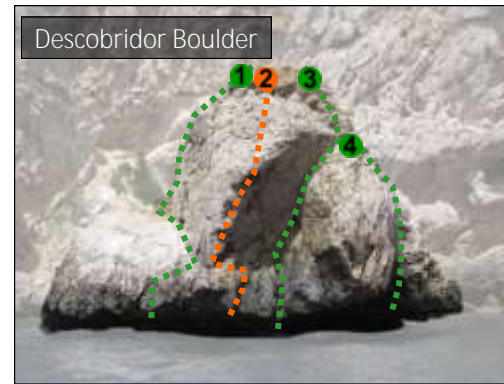
3 Evening Trav 18m 6a So

Gain ledges and a rest, dry off, then pull powerful moves through the steep arête to a slab, traverse this to ledges and a jump descent. FA A Pearson Aug 2012

Island Traverse project

A long traverse was also climbed way back in 2005, the "Disco Traverse". However this will be incorporated into the huge Isla del Descubridor Traverse, which has large sections already climbed. The odd tricky section is yet to go and the over all length is about 800m and will weigh it at perhaps 8a. A topo will be posted on the Orange House Facebook page and on the PDF page, when it has been completed.

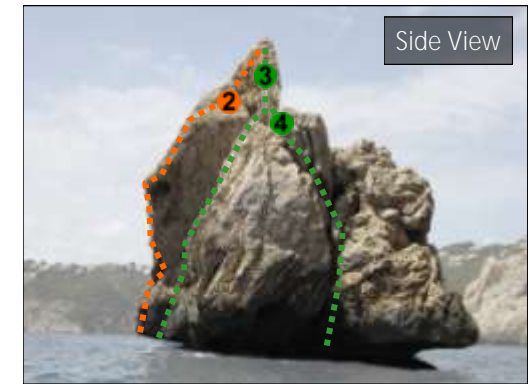
FA So far M Robertson, J Lines & R Mayfield 2005—2012



Descobridor Boulder lays 10m off the far North West side of the Descubridor Island. It is best reached via inflatable from either Ambolo Beach or Ledges. Possibly the hardest moves on the boulder are getting out the water. The rock is nice and solid and is a good introduction for beginners.

1 Das Boulder 8m 4 S2

Gain the slab then short groove and scramble up the back to the top. FA R Mayfield Oct 2005



2 Das Alright 6m 6a S0

The steep arête on good holds does not last very long but is goof fun. FA R Mayfield Oct 2005

3 Das Groove 6m 5+ S1

The lack of steepness makes the groove feel more serious than it really is. FA R Mayfield Oct 2005

4 Descent line 8m 3 S2

Up 4 and down 1 or the other way around makes a nice introduction to this area. FA R Mayfield Oct 2005



The cave 20 right of Evening Light Wall has three lines on it. These routes are unchecked and have no further information available. Updates will become available soon check facebook and the website.

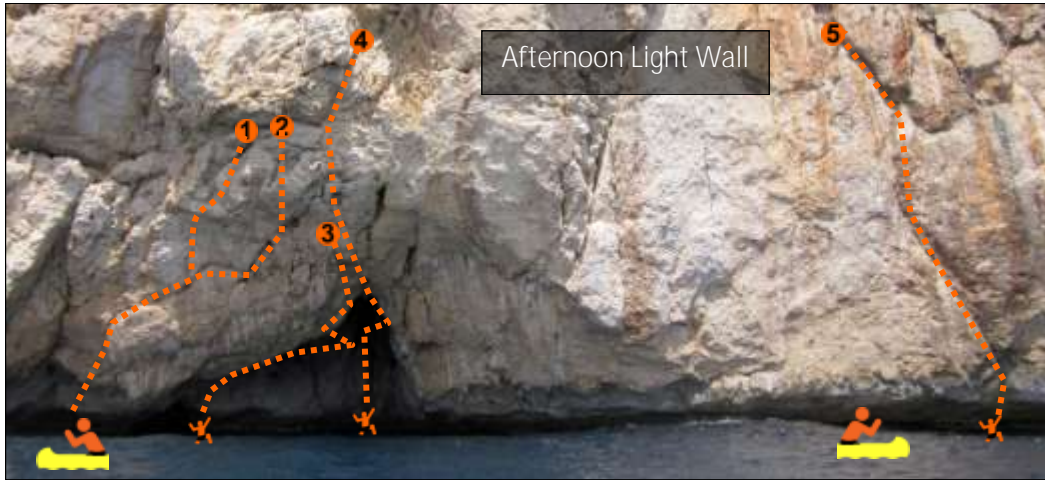
1 Gargamel 16m 5 S0

2 El Baile Del Cortejo 8m 6a S0

3 Los Destecnificados 8m 5+ S0

Lunch Time Wall

Still no development here, perhaps due to the difficult access and very often choppy sea on the tip of the Island. But for those who are prepared to push the boundaries, great rewards are waiting on the corners, cracks and arêtes.



Afternoon Light wall

This area has massive potential, it can not be seen from the main land and can only really be accessed via a boat. It is about 500m from both Ambolo Main Beach and Ambolo Ledges. Either way around the Island it is about the same distance from both beach.

1 *Maldicion* 6b+ 10m S0

Gain the juggy rail and traverse right at the first opportunity head for to the break then jump.

FA Unknown

2 *Te Queromos Pamerla* 6b+ 10m S0

As the for Maldicion but go a little further along the rail before heading up.

FA Unknown

3 Jules 6c+ 15m S0

Slightly easier than Amos, but still a good steep route above good water.

FA Julian Lines Sept 2005

4 Amos 6c+ 15m S0
Chupamela Anderson 7a 15m S0

From deep inside the cave gain the back wall and roof, head towards the light on jams and tufas in "upside-down land", until possible to swing onto the left hand side of the wall and the ledges for a rest. Jump descent.

FA Julian Lines Sept 2005 ES unknown

5 Boat People 6c 14m S0

The orange wall which is a little crinkly and fragile follow the leftward leaning crack to better holds higher up. Finish on the ledge with the big cactus.

FA Mikey Robertson Sept 2005

Another route called Disco Arete 6b+ S0 and 16m high was also climbed here but I am unsure as to where it goes.

Morning light wall

1 *Destellos Lujuriosos* 18m S0
No further information is known about this route.

2 Disco Labrador 6a+ 15m S0
ES Exuberante

Climb the steep prow in the centre of the cave/wall to a niche, and a rest. Gather your thoughts and pull through the roof into a comfy cave. Jump descent!
FA Mikey Robertson Sept 2005

3 Jazz 18m 6a+ S1
La Botella de Ron

Exit the water a few metres to the right on very sharp holds. Then make a leftward rising traverse into a cave. Exit this on the left to gain the prow of Disco Labrador.

FA Julian Lines Sept 2005

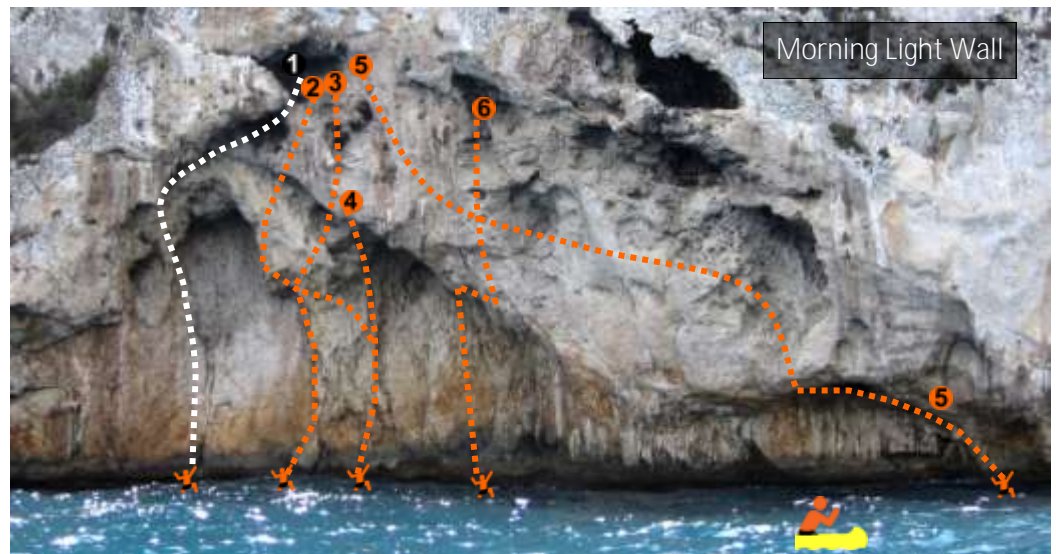
4 *No Seas Ganan* 18m S0
No further information is known about this route.

We did climb a line which linked up with "Disco Labrador" just before the roof.

5 *La Cueva de Mitch* 24m 6c+ S1
No further information is known about this route.

It was attempted in 2005 but one no was able to get through the first roof.

6 *Ke Viene la Resaka* 16m 6b S0
No further information is known about this route.



Ambolo Bouldering Island

The small island just off the beach (80m swim) is not really high enough to be DWS, but it is well worthy of a mention here. Even if it is just as a warm up for other things. Never more than 4m high, the Arch Traverse at the seaward side provides most interest and is over deep water.

A cave at the beach side has many short problems through the roofs general all on huge holds, and above good water.

The Prow back left of the Island would provide some good climbing but it is over a reef, and so we have not climbed on it.

A slackline is easily set up here at the back of the Island using slings as anchors.

It is possible for the brave, to swim from under the arch towards the beach and pop up in the other side of the island.



Jammy Wall

This small bay lays 300m to the East of the main beach, just past a little bay and beneath a small round building. It is possible to swim here and gain the ledges of either Jammy Dodger or Long Traverse.

The cracks on the left are serious propositions being both high and not steep in places. Fertile climbing ground for any brave new routers!

Where as the cracks on the Central Buttress are safe, steep and loads of fun.

1 Jammy Trav 10m 6a S0

From the reef pull up to 3m and hang a left to the arête on tiny and sloppy holds. Difficult for the grade or some find it easy! Finish on the fishermen's ledge around the corner.

FA R Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker May 2011

2 Jammy Dodger 8m 6a S0

From the same exit point climb direct to the big ledge. The short may find it dynamic.

FA R Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker May 2011

3 Strawberry Crack 20m 5 S3

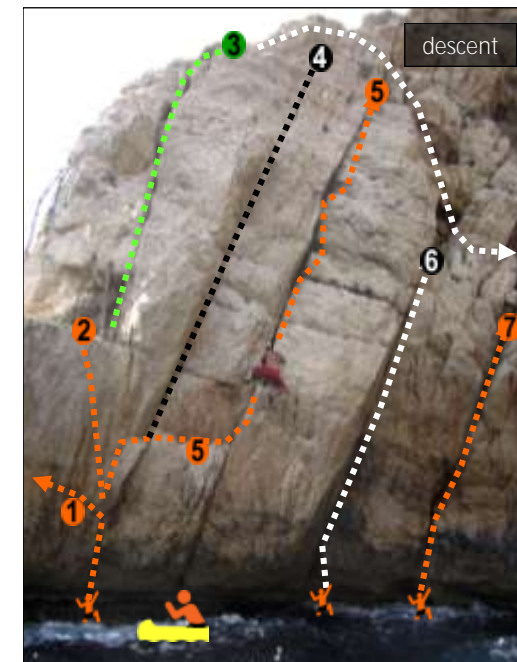
From the large ledge climb with full commitment up the easy crack, you are above the ledge the whole way. Some may question the DWS status of this route! FA R Mayfield June 2011

4 Project 20m ? S3

This does not look too hard but it does look very serious, mid grade 6 perhaps. FA NYS

5 Marmalada 20m 5+ S2+

A good route and the safest out of the longer ones here. After the traverse the steep crack line eases in angle as you get higher, which does little for your heart rate! FA Rich Mayfield May 2012



6 Project 15m ? S2

Another potentially serious outing which is yet to be climbed. Looks good! FA NYS

7 Jammed struck! 12m 6a S2

Climb the wide crack above the reef via "thrutching and utching"! Be Careful of the reef below. FA R Mayfield June 2011

For routes 3 to 7 it is safest to scramble down to the right (facing the cliff) to the top of the Central Buttress and jump descent from here. Just for the record I have not jumped from the left section and am not planning on doing so. Send me a photo if you are crazy enough to do it! Good luck.

Deep Water Solo Festival Every September Costa Blanca

Special offers Plus free topos

JOIN US ON facebook

THE ORANGE HOUSE theorangehouse.co.uk

ASSOCIATION OF INSTRUCTORS AMI

++44 (0) 7500 636 921 (UK)
++34 686 044 003 (Spain)
info@theorangehouse.co.uk

8 Sin Jams 8m 5 S1

After a hard move to exit the water onto the ledge make a rising traverse to another ledge then jump to descend. FA Rich Mayfield May 2012

9 First Jam 10m 6b S0

Make powerful moves to leave the water and get established into the groove. Take a breath and forge on through the steep ground to where the angle eases but the jamming does not.

FA R Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker May 2012

10 Last Jam 11m 6b S0

Exit the water as First Jam to the rest, then climb around the corner to even steeper and more brutal jamming which thankfully is short lived.

FA R Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker May 2012

11 **Sharks' Teeth** 11m 6b+ S0

Make some really powerful moves out the sea on super sharp rock. A long reach up and right

gains some big holds and steep but much easier climbing to the top.

FA R Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker May 2012

12 Shark Bait 6m 6a+ S3

Great climbing but very serious. Can be climbed in either direction. But this does not make it any less serious. The slabby wall below threatens any mistake. This will become safer as more people climb the route and any looseness is removed.

FA Rich Mayfield June 2012

13 Long Traverse 45m 5+ S0

It is possible to exit the sea in several places, but best to start on the left to maximise the climbing. Gain the obvious break at 8m and follow it to the arête passing some steeper and difficult sections. Keep going at about 4m until a large reef appears in a little bay. Best to jump before this or gain the large ledges above for a rest.

FA R Mayfield & M Lekkerkerker May 2012

