

Valldemossa Area

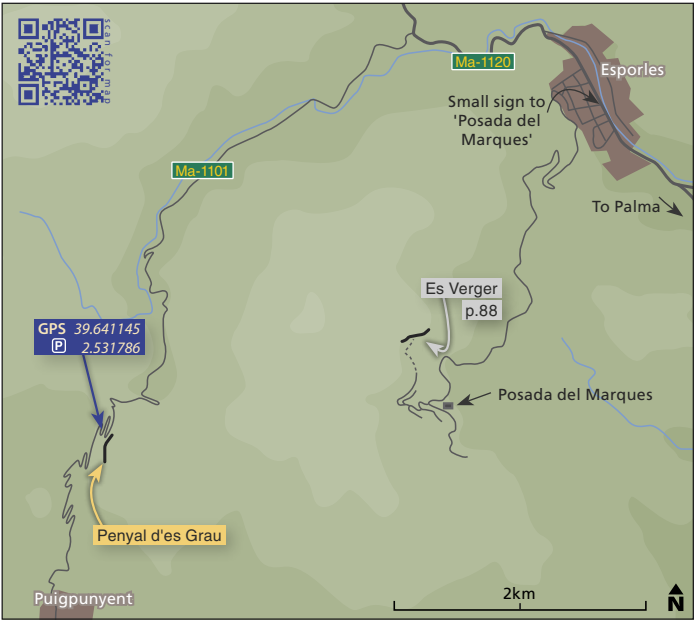


Paul Phillips eyeing up the final few metres of the steep and pumpy climbing on *Talaiot Corcat* (6c) - *p.87* - at Penyal d'es Grau. The crags in this chapter are on the steep approaches and flanks of the Tramuntana mountains and offer spectacular views and superb climbing.

One of the best smaller crags in the area, which although not extensive, has something to keep most looking for some quality 6s and lower end 7s happy for a few hours. The cliff is located in a remote wooded section of the mountains but is only a matter of seconds from the parking.

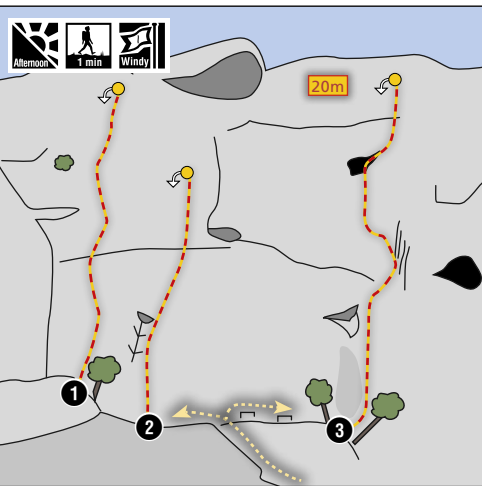
Approach

Also see map p.83
Take the road from Palma to the town of Esporles. Continue through the town to a turn on the left towards Puigpunyent. Follow this narrow road up for around 6km and over the col 'Es Grau - 468m'. Drop down and park anywhere you can on the first hairpin after the col. There is limited space on the bend with a few more places possible further down. The first buttress is almost directly above the bend with the main area being further along.



Conditions

The main crag faces west and although fully in the sun in the afternoon, has a number of trees at its base that will give some shade. The crag is up in the mountains so will catch any westerly winds and is exposed to poor weather. Seepage could be a problem following prolonged rainfall.



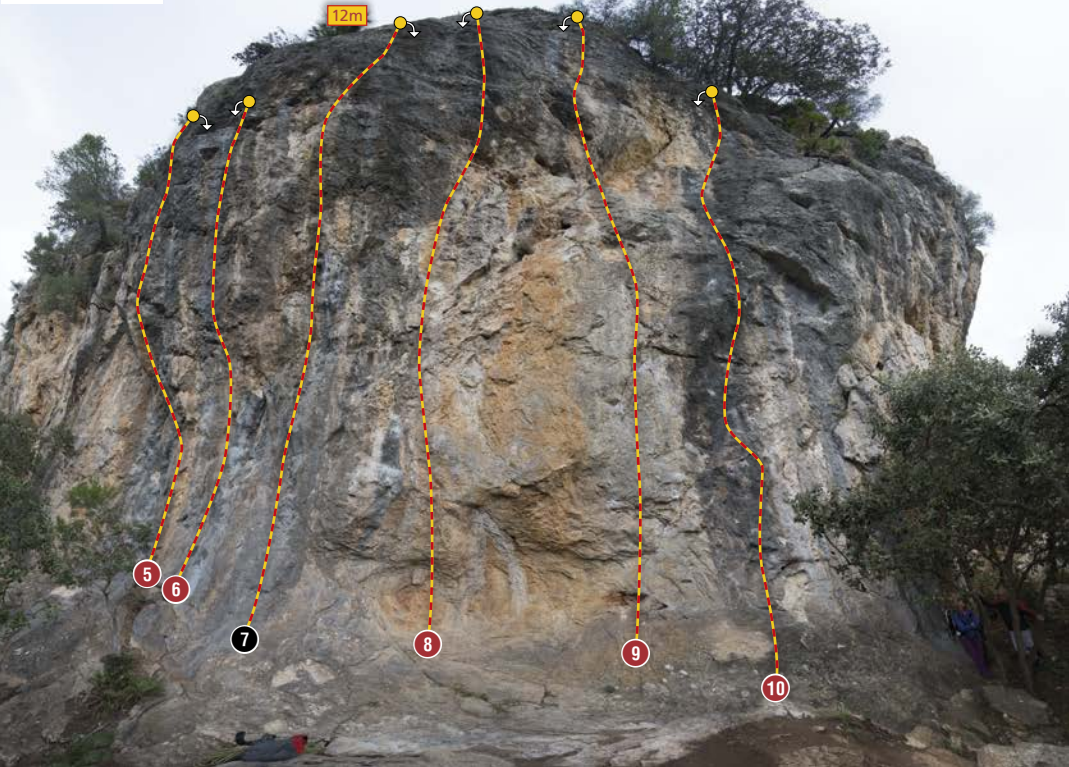
Above Road

The wall almost directly above the bend in the road has three long routes.
Approach - Scramble up to a ledge under the face.

- 1 Voltor Negra 7a+
Good moves and plenty of them. Low in the grade.
- 2 Aguila Bonelli 7b
A shorter route that has a bouldery section.
- 3 Misteri 7a+
An excellent pitch that starts up the fat slippery tufa. Above a sustained wall on varied holds gains a shakeout and final overhang.



Alan James climbing the technical middle section of *Txorrack* (5c) - p.87 - on the Main Wall at Penyal d'es Grau. The crag is only seconds from the parking and has a great line-up of mid-grade routes that are set on a remote wooded mountain side.



Main Wall

The main section consists of a wall of bulging orange and grey rock giving a series of good short routes that pack a lot in for their length.

Approach (map p.84) - Follow the path from the routes above the road bend along to the wall which quickly appears above you on the left.

- 1 Mariol.lo** 6a
A nice little wall of flowstone that gradually increases in difficulty as height is gained.
- 2 Intricate** 6a
More intricate than it looks, especially near the top.
- 3 Txorrack** 5c
Climb the wall on positive holds. Steeper than it appears.
Photo p.85.
- 4 Cafetut** 6a+
Thin moves crossing a crack.
- 5 Aquiles** 6b
The steep hanging corner/groove.
- 6 Arran** 6c
Climb just right of the leaning arete on some sharp holds.

- 7 Saltimbanquis** 7b
A hard line up the centre with a thin pull at the top.
- 8 Fatima** 7a
An unbalanced line that features a slopy start and a thin finish.
- 9 O.A.T.** 6b+
Start up a thin vertical wall to a rest and then continue up steeper ground on better holds.
- 10 Tall en Verduc** 6c
An intense sequence off the deck to easier but still interesting ground above.
The next lines are just to the right, past a couple of trees.
- 11 Es Grau** 6b+
Head up the leaning wall via holes and a fin of rock until a depressingly hard move allows access to the lower-off. Pumpy.
- 12 Black Block** 7a
The long wall to the left of tufa.
- 13 Talaiot Corcat** 6c
A challenging pitch that takes very steep rock just to the right of the tufa. Only really uses the tufa for feet. *Photo p.82.*
- 14 Steep Corner** 6c
Climb the corner via a steep entry.