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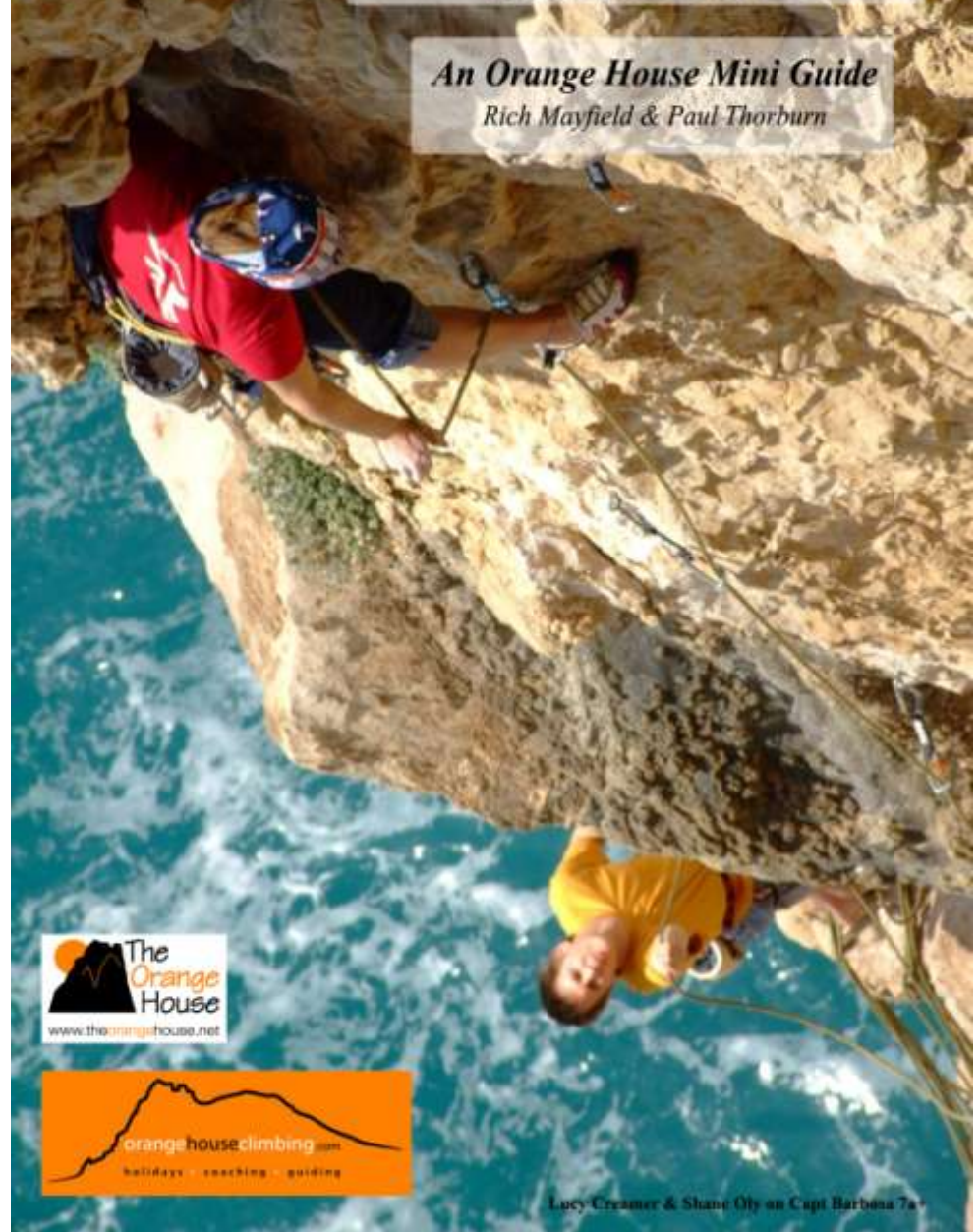
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Pirates of the Caribbean Sierra de Toix

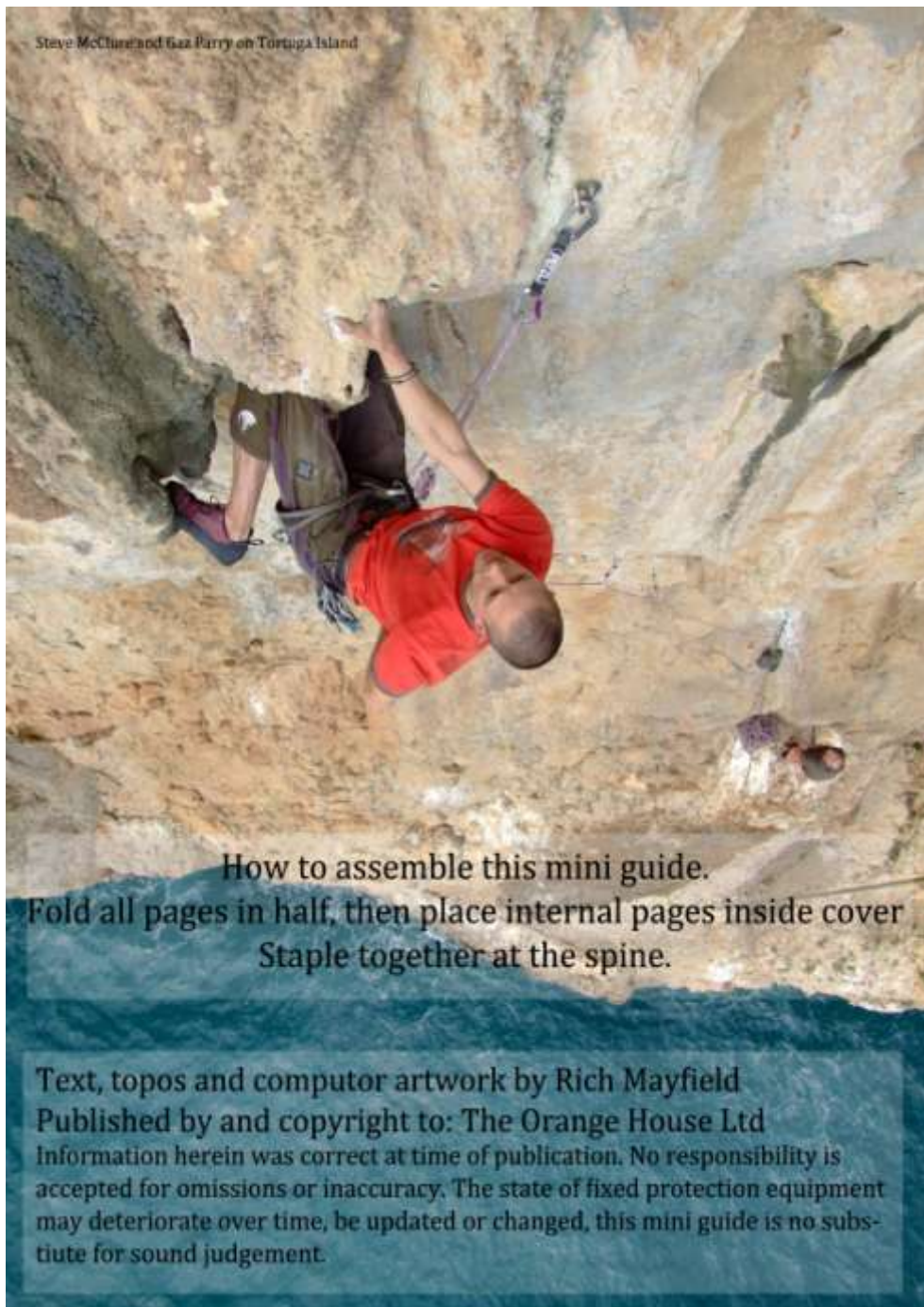
An Orange House Mini Guide
Rich Mayfield & Paul Thorburn



Lucy Cramer & Shane Oly on Capit Barba 7a+

www.theorangehouse.co.uk

Steve McClure and Gaz Parry on Tortuga Island



How to assemble this mini guide.

Fold all pages in half, then place internal pages inside cover
Staple together at the spine.

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for sound judgement.

History of the Pirates Cave

The cave has been known about, perhaps even famous in the boating and fishing fraternity for many years. Metal stakes and boating tat is abundant at the base of the cliff. Augustine Gomez, a super keen local activist, with a boat, first introduced Rich Mayfield to this feature in 2002. Somewhat inspired but intimidated by the terrain, they returned a few days later, this time from above in the company of a third party, a retired Austrian mountain guide called Fritz. Mayfield bolted an abseil station and lowered into the hole.

The party assumed no easier grade line could possibly escape through the sky lights in the cave. To the groups surprise Parle with the unbelievable grade of 6a+ was bolted shortly afterwards by Mayfield. Spaced bolts lead through some very steep ground finishing through the sky light in 3 pitches.

Piracy was about to return to the Costa Blanca!

Next was Ms Swann, intended to be the original start to Parle but the linking pitch was too hard and dirty. Capt. Sparrow the high traverse on the outside of the cave bolted on lead by Mayfield, the second Chris Tan fell and was rescued by hoist, Mayfield then reversed the pitch to clean it. Easily done when the route starts and finishes on the ground!

Next on the scene was Paul Thorburn and Marjine Lekkerkerker. With renewed rigour the pair bolted line after line, whole heartily entering into the Pirates theme. Lekkerkerkers' first ascent of Anameria (the pirate with balls) is the photo on this page. Paul has endeavoured to make the crag as accessible and safe as possible, by installing rope handrails repairing and replacing fixed gear largely out of his own pocket.

The routes here have almost doubled the number of routes on the sea cliffs. But the potential of this crag is largely untouched. Mayfield is now pursuing Toix as a DWS site. Thorburn and Lekkerkerker are still bolting so fast this topo may already be out dated!

Introduction

The Sierra de Toix is the prominent ridge that sticks out into the sea south of Calpe and north of Altea. The south side offers the sea cliff areas of Pirates of the Caribbean and Deep Water Solos which is covered under the Orange House DWS Mini Guide. The crags are steep and exposed, with powerful climbing on large tufas and leaning walls. The protection is either stainless steel (inox) expansion bolts or "Glue In" bolts. Sometimes spaced but the falls are safe. Don't forget your Prusik loops!

It is necessary to abseil into all of these routes using a 60m rope, leaving the rope in place just in case you can't get out is a good idea. It is also possible to abseil down some of the lines in two pitches, but be sure to clip into some bolts on the way down or you will end up swimming! The routes are rigged so a 60m sport rope is adequate, where the pitches are longer than 30m this is mentioned in the text and secondary lower offs are provided.



Approach

From the N332 heading south from Calpe or north from Altea. Turn into the Maryvilla. WARNING: you are not allowed to cross a solid white line, so heading south from Calpe miss the junction and turn around in a lay-by a few hundred metres further on.

Once in Maryvillas follow these instructions carefully: Take the first right head up hill for 200m. Take the first right again, very sharp, and drive to the end of the road. Park considerably as this area does get very busy.

To Pirates Cave: On foot follow the path under and past the main cliff. Turn right at the cairn and follow this path pass a wide gully dropping down slightly, a tier of rock appears above you. Candeladra Del Sol is passed by a prominate large boulder on the right. Follow a rough path which zig-zags for a further 250m until you reach the two large holes in a flat area of rock. Take a deep breath before you look over edge!



Pirates of the Caribbean Sector

It is not recommended to exit from the top of routes the first three lines unequipped and loose. Stay in contact with the rope when lowering from routes 1 – 3 or you will end up in the sea (even the first lengths). The extensions can be done on a 60m rope but there is nothing left to spare – TAKE CARE. Or use an 80m rope.

The first lengths of the first three routes all have an *in situ* carabineer, clip this when cleaning the routes; it will stop your rope falling in the sea when you pull it. If you steal it your ropes will end up in the sea and hopefully get caught down there as well.

1) Calypso, L1 6c 25m; L1 + L2 : 7b/c 40m

L1. Overhanging corner on big holds. Start from thread belay, not *in situ*.

L2. Hard moves above first belay lead to sustained but easier upper section. FA P Thorburn M Lekkerkerker

2) El Fin Del Mundo L1 7a+ 25m L1 + L2 : 7c 40m

L1. Sustained and strenuous with an unobvious crux.

L2. A powerful move directly above the first belay followed by big moves up the sustained tufa drips. FA P Thorburn

3)????? L1 7a+ 25m; L1 + L2 : ??? 40m

L1. Strenuous but less sustained than its neighbour.

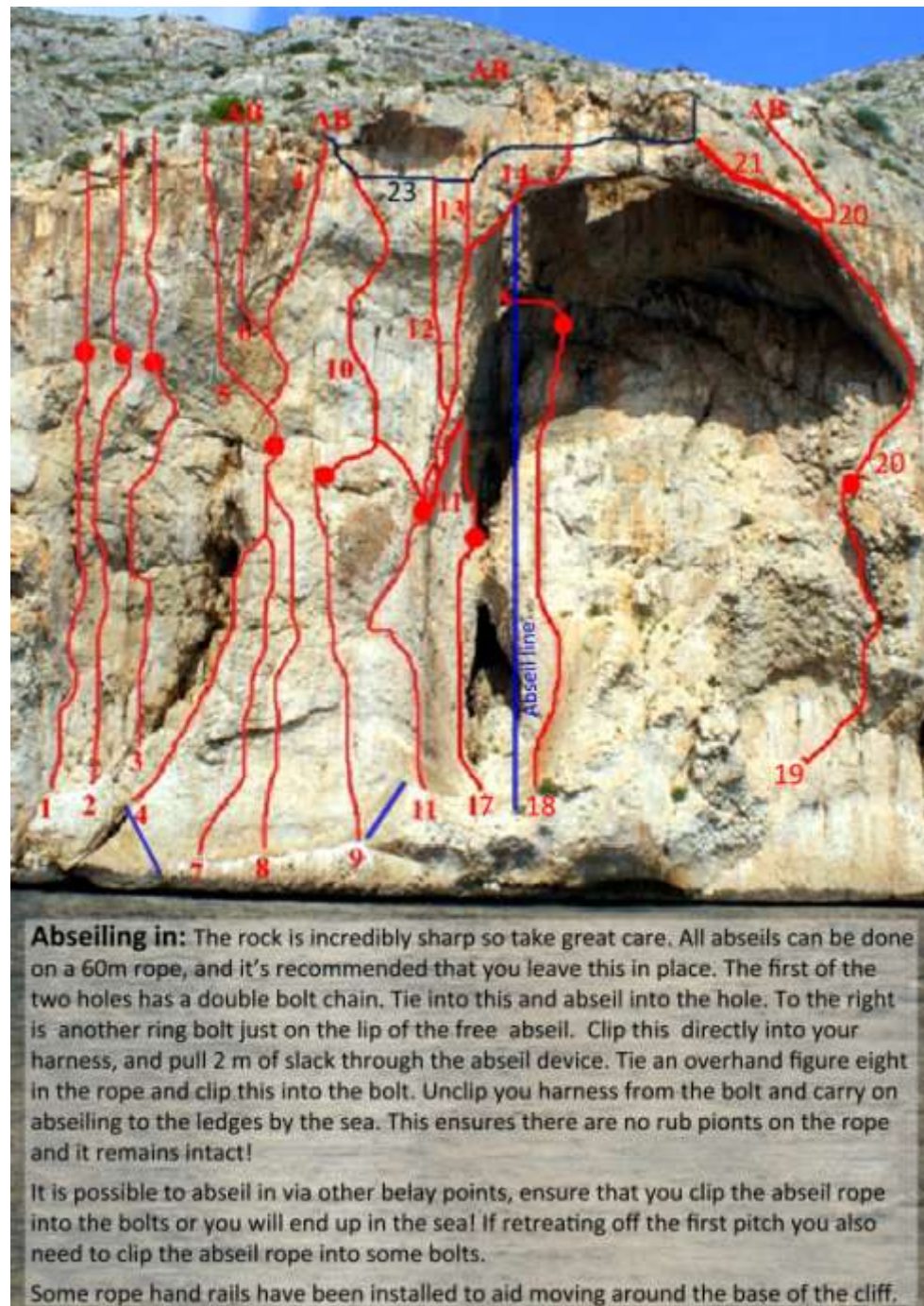
L2. PROJECT, superb powerful and technical climbing up widely spaced tufa drips. The finish is on poorer but reinforced rock.

4) Boson (L1) L1 6a 22m L2 7b+22m

L1. Pleasant but exposed climbing up the right arête of the cave. If you want to pull your rope after cleaning the quick draws, do it from the back of the cave, then your rope won't get wet.

L2. Climb up right from the belay then pull up left on good holds to a hard Crux move into a hole. The climbing above is sustained but on big holds. There is both a lower off belay and another fully bolted one over the top (take care with sharp rock). The bolts are not Inox and a bit rusty.

FA R Mayfield not seconded



5) Boson's Chair 7c 20m

Climb up leftwards from the belay to hard and boulder crux, from the shallow cave exit left to the big hanging tufa. Continue direct to a tricky finish. FA P Thorburn

6) Tia Alma 7c 22m

Start up the first bolts of Boson then pull left to sequence climbing up the bubbly rock leading to the shallow cave. Exit direct to gain a flake and Sustained climbing above. FA P Thorburn

7) Murtogg 7a 22m;

A steeper start to the belay of Boson. Staying on the outside of the arête, now fully bolted.

8) Mullroy 7a 22m

A shallow crack/ pocket line up a gently leaning wall.

9) Tortuga Approach 7a 22m

The shallow and pocket line up the gently leaning wall. Move left at the top on spaced bolts. Don't pull your ropes from this belay as they will end up in the sea.

10) Tortuga Island 7c 22m

Climb up to and follow a flake crack leading diagonally left, tricky moves lead to the left end of a tufa fringe; move right then climb direct past more hard moves to a belay below the roof. FA S McClure G Parry

11) Captain Barbossa L1 6b 22m; L2 7a+ 45m

L1. Make difficult moves over a small overlap then leftwards to gain and climb a shallow right facing groove. Take the first belay for Capt Barbossa L2 or lowering off. There is a second belay up and left for routes 10-14.

L2. Thin moves up rightwards on broccoli rock lead to some very poor rock. From here better climbing on diagonal cracks leads to a junction with Parle, continue direct until joining Parle to finish. The cracks can be greasy in damp weather. FA R Mayfield C Tan

12) ????? ?? 22m

PROJECT breaking left from the first tufa on Annamaria. Inox hanger bolts.

13) Anamaria la Pirata con Cojones L1 7c 22m L2 6b+ 15m

L1. Climb the small black tufa then move right to a tufa blob. Increasingly difficult climbing leads up and slightly leftwards to a belay below the roof or a lower off just to its right. Inox ring bolts.

L2 Climb rightwards from the belay then directly up the wall to the top (the exit of 14a). Non Inox bolts but still Ok. It is possible to link this pitch with the one before, but it is not equipped for lower off.

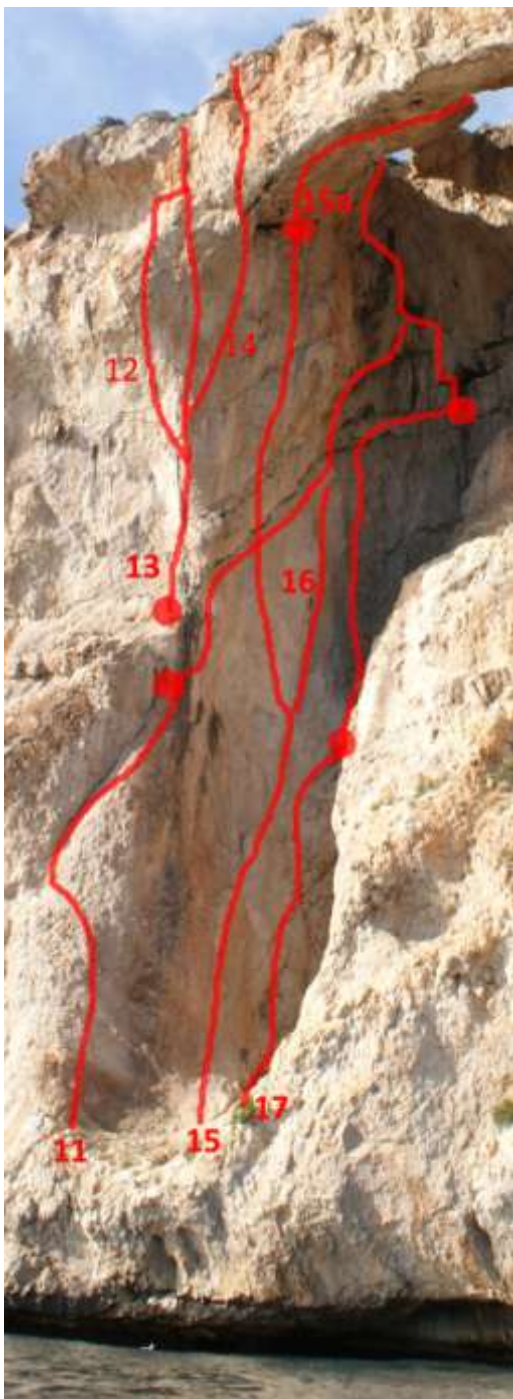
FA M Lekkerkerker P Thorburn

Marjina Lekkerkerker and Paul Thorburn on the first ascent of Anna Maria



14) Off the Edge of the Map 8a 40m

Follow Anamaria to the tufa blob then branch off rightwards up the very edge of the main cave. A crux at half height leads to the tufa stalactites, follow the lip until it is possible to pull up through a red bulge (just past a small bush, ignore the last bolt on the lip of the cave, there was once a big jug there). Easier climbing leads to a lower off just below the top, clean the route in two sections. It is worth carrying prusiks as there is nowhere to lower to. Inox ring bolts. FA P Thorburn



15) Keelhauled

L1: 7b 50m (L2: 6a+)

L1 Start 2m right of Parle, climb direct to the start of a small groove, then climb left crossing Capt Barbossa to the steepening wall which leads to a belay in the roof. 70m rope needed to lower off from here. Or.

L2 Climb right onto the last few moves on Parle.

15a) Keelhauled

Extension Project

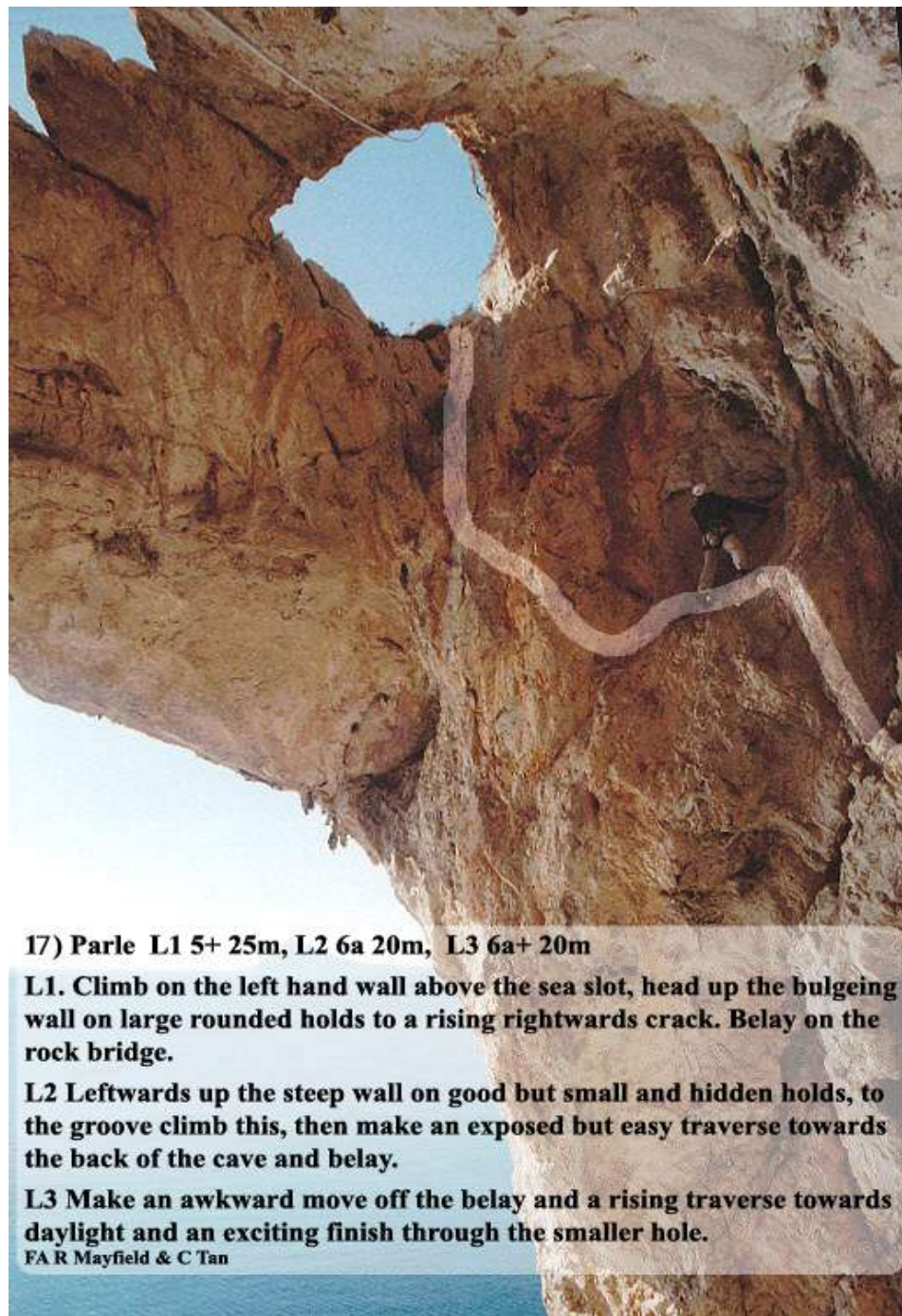
Likely to be incredibly hard, this potentially climbs the 20m roof into and then exiting through the large hole.

16) Plank Walk

6b+/c 33m

Climb Keelhauled to the groove and then continue to a two bolt lower off on Capt Barbossa. Or finish up Parle.

It is possible to scramble over to the start of Aztec Gold from the base of the abseil. About 6a and the rock is loose, but look on the bright side you're not that far from the sea!



17) Parle L1 5+ 25m, L2 6a 20m, L3 6a+ 20m

L1. Climb on the left hand wall above the sea slot, head up the bulging wall on large rounded holds to a rising rightwards crack. Belay on the rock bridge.

L2 Leftwards up the steep wall on good but small and hidden holds, to the groove climb this, then make an exposed but easy traverse towards the back of the cave and belay.

L3 Make an awkward move off the belay and a rising traverse towards daylight and an exciting finish through the smaller hole.

FA R Mayfield & C Tan

18) Miss Swan

L1 : 5+ 45m; L2 : 6b 20m

L1 The large slabby rib inside the cave is followed over various steepenings but with very few bolts (Inox rings) to a belay below the overhanging wall.

L2 Traverse left to the second belay of Parle, awkward and can often be dirty and greasy. FA R Mayfield S Mayfield

19) Aztec Gold

6b+ 20m

The bulging arête below Welcome.... gained by a traverse and abseil from inside the main cave. Follow the bolts up the overhanging brain coral jugs to the belay of Welcome to the Caribbean. FA R Mayfield S Mayfield

20) Welcome to the Caribbean 7c 35m

This route up the stunning right arête of the cave is gained by abseiling on a fixed rope (not in place) from a belay South East of the cave (one Inox ring bolt and one hanger). Abseil through a gap in a large bush and swing left at the bottom (bolts) to gain the belay. Follow Inox hanger bolts up the superb tufa dripped arête to the last cluster of tufas. From a big jug make the final difficult moves rightwards to gain an easy slab which leads to a bolt belay (not for lower off, if returning to belay lower from an earlier bolt). FA P Thorburn R Mayfield

21) Welcome to the Caribbean Ext ?? 15m

Project taking Welcome to the Caribbean to new heights, likely to be very hard in the region of 8a-b.

22) Orange Men

8a/+ 45m

Locate a bolt on the head land 80m South East of the Cave Sector and abseil down the overhanging wall clipping the bolts to a small stance. Climb back out up the superb, sustained and very fingery wall of orange rock. FA S McClure not seconded

23) Jack Sparrow

7a 45m

Locate a double bolt belay on a slab to the right of the smaller hole, (looking out to sea), not to be confused with the exit belay of 14a. Climb down 3m to a traverse right under the long roof following a series of belay chains.

Make a rising traverse across a steep wall then continue horizontally above the main cave to reach a broken corner where the top can be gained. Bolt and nut belay. It is possible to split this pitch at a small belay ledge at the end of the roof. FA R Mayfield C Tan

Available in this series

From

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The following coming soon!

