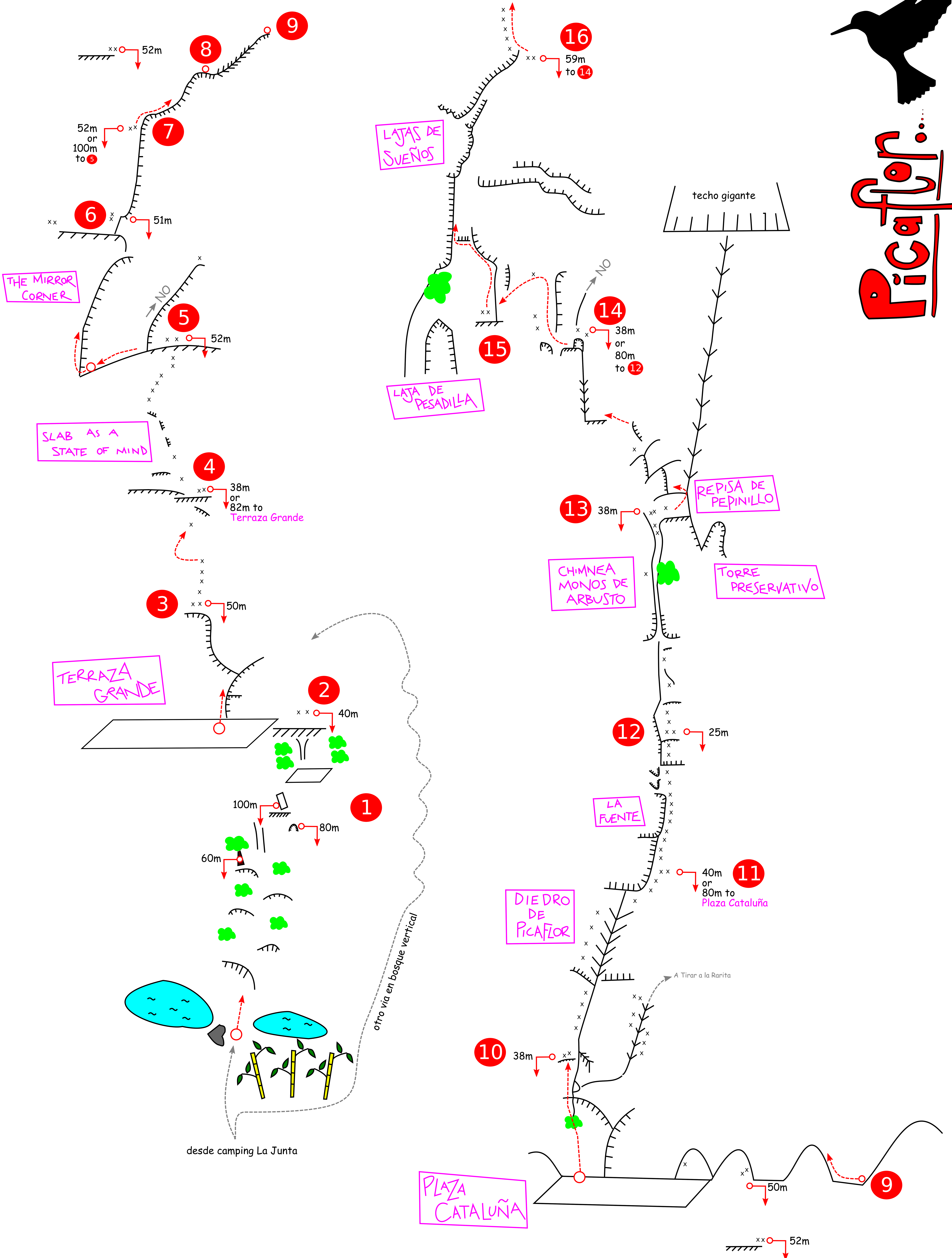
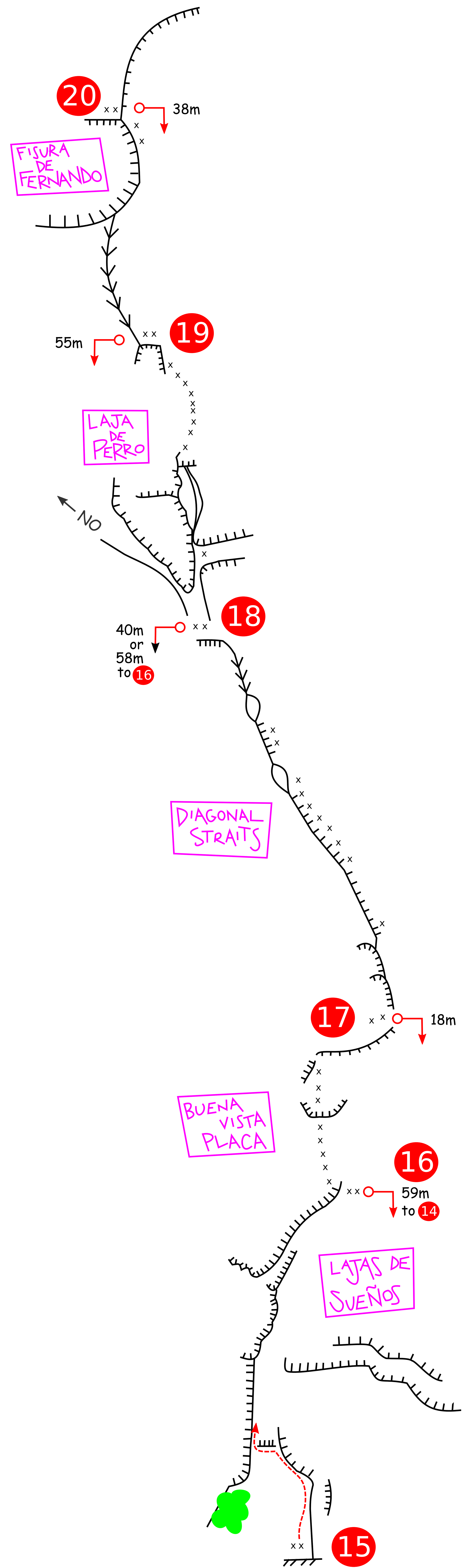


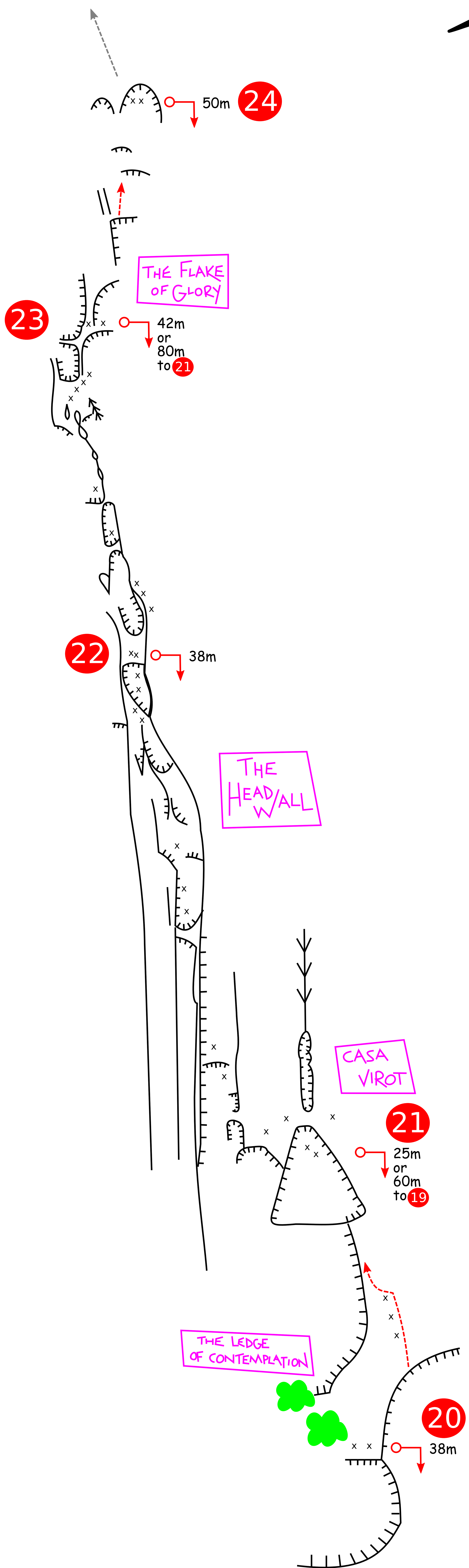


Picaflor





to the summit / hasta el cumbre
(20 minutes)



Picaflores



Picaflor Pitch Descriptions

1. 110m 5.5

This is actually a fun scramble but a pain to fix ropes on and near impossible to haul. Start up the obvious slab between the two small ponds (crux) and continue up until you are able to build a belay. From there continue up easy ground to a ledge on your right at the base of a small waterfall.

2. 40m 5.9 R

Without a doubt the worst pitch on the route. Go straight up the waterfall using the polished wall (good nut placement halfway up) and tree roots above. Bolted anchor a few metres back from the edge.

Terraza Grande

Alternative start. 4th Class.

From the two ponds, go back into the trees and around behind a patch of bamboo to find a vague vertical path to the right of the wall. Continue up until it is possible to exit across the rock to Terraza Grande (a very big ledge). This allows you to bypass the first two pitches, but is also difficult and at times dangerous vertical bushwacking and definitely not recommended with a big load. Take enough rope and gear to rappel to the base to fix lines and collect gear.

3. 50m 5.7

Move left across the Terraza Grande past the rock pools to a line right in the middle of the slab. Start up a vertical seam that later opens to a leftward trending corner. Nice climbing and well protected all the way.

4. 38m 5.10c R

Start up the obvious well bolted line on the steep and delicate slab until you run out of bolts. From here, look left to spot a bold and delicate route up to easier ground. The next bolt is a long way off. Once reached, head straight up past good gear.

5. 52m 5.10d

Slab as a State of Mind

A great pitch. Move left from the belay and look up for the bolt leading to the obvious ledge a few metres up. From here follow the only feasible line through the wall, reaching bolts higher up.

6. 52m 5.10c

The Mirror Corner

A classic pitch on a unique feature, not to be underestimated. Move 15m left from previous anchor until the ledge drops off. Build an anchor here and step out across the wall to reach the leftward facing corner. Follow this up out of sight of you belayer through a steep offwidth section (crux, very difficult with a backpack on) to reach a smooth, featureless finger crack in the corner above. Sustained climbing on small gear leads you to a small ledge, and above a large ledge and the anchor.

7. 52m 5.10d R

Good climbing but at times wet and run out. Follow the obvious corner up to an uncomfortable two bolt hanging belay. It is worth leaving a fixed line on this pitch and taking only what you need up and beyond, as it is easy to set fixed lines straight down the wall from Plaza Cataluña once reached.

8. 50m 5.10a

Similar in style to the previous pitch but easier and better protected. Continue up the corner feature



until you reach a ledge where it is possible to build a natural anchor.

9. 50m 4th Class

Easy scramble following the continuation of the corner feature until you reach Plaza Cataluña. Possible to climb unroped but not a bad idea to stay on the ropes anyway. Build a natural anchor at the top.

Plaza Cataluña

Welcome to Hotel Capicua! Here you will find plenty of space to set up camp, cook, sort out gear and relax with a fantastic view and reasonable shelter from the wind. There is also clean running water from the snowmelt above.

Moving leftwards from the top of pitch 9, you will first find the running water and next to it a two bolt anchor. From here it is possible to make two 50m rappels down to the top of pitch 7.

Continue along the terrace to find the best space for making camp. Take care when setting up to allow for water run-off as nearly the whole ledge gets covered in water quite quickly when it rains. Bailing off in the rain from here involves multiple rappels through heavily flowing water coarces and a dangerous river crossing so be ready to sit it out if needed. The route above is nearly all out of the main drainage lines and dries very quickly.

Please take care not to leave any rubbish here, keep it clean and natural!

From the largest flat spot on the ledge there is one obvious feature leading up the wall, a very large square-cut dihedral above 50m above the ledge leading up towards a giant roof. Picaflor goes straight up this. Another route, 'A Tirar a la Rarita' follows around the right side of this feature before up a smaller dihedral breaking out right higher up.

10. 38m 5.12?

Take the initial slab up the small seam in a direct line toward the Diedro de Picaflor above. Easy climbing leads to a ledge under a shallow groove. Continue up this on less than adequate holds (crux) until you reach better holds and the bolted belay. This pitch is currently not bolted at all and needs about 3 or 4 bolts to make it safe for free climbing.

Alternative Start (used on first ascent)

Climb the first pitch of 'A Tirar a la Rarita' to the anchor and do a small pendulum across to gain the anchor on Picaflor. This the obvious bolted line on the right up a smooth water worn dihedral and goes at 5.10a with quite a few thin delicate moves, recommend taking a few cams.

11. 40m 5.12?

Diedro de Picaflor (Hummingbird Corner)

Excellent, hard and unusual climbing on one of the best looking features on the wall! From the anchor follow the obvious rightward trending seam using holds on the face until you reach the impending dihedral above. Access this with difficulty (crux) and continue up the featureless corner. Very sustained and exposed stemming. A short traverse at the top leads to the anchor and an uncomfortable hanging belay. When fixing ropes on this pitch either leave a few bolts clipped or use rope protectors to avoid the edge of the roof on the right wall of the dihedral.

12. 25m 5.11?

La Fuente (The Fountain)



Technical climbing leads to a section with a lot of bolts. The flakes to the left of this are fine to climb on but should not be used for protection. Some of the smaller crimps on the right wall are a little friable but can be used with care. Tackle the small roof to arrive at the anchor on a small foot ledge.

13. 38m 5.11?

Chimnea de los Monos de Arbusto (Bush Monkey Chimney)

Excellent. Technical face climbing on bolts leads to the chimney which provides good gear and holds to enjoy the spectacular position. Continue up this until you reach the good ledge above. There is a two bolt anchor for fixing ropes and belaying but also a single bolt further round on the ledge for a more comfortable position.

Repisa de Pepinillo (Pickle Ledge)

14. 38m 5.10b

A pleasant pitch and welcome break from the harder climbing below. From the single bolt anchor, move right into the dihedral and use this to gain the ledge just above. Step left to a flake and follow this to another ledge. Step left again to climb another flake then continue up a groove past a bolt and another flake. A short traverse across the slab leads to a grassy ledge. Follow the dihedral above this to the belay on a small tower. Using an 80m rope it is possible to miss out Repisa de Pepinillo and fix both 13 + 14 in one. This makes hauling a lot easier.

15. 15m 5.10b/c

A short pitch get position for the one after. Step left from the belay and follow the steep dihedral above until it is possible to step out to a bolt out left and make a tricky traverse into a small flake leading down to the belay. It may be possible to take a direct line here and avoid the dihedral altogether. This pitch can also be linked with the next pitch using a 70m rope but be careful of the rope drag!

Laja de Pesadilla (Nightmare Flake) – next to the anchor at the end of pitch 15 is a giant, creaking, upward pointing flake. It goes without saying you need to exercise a bit of caution around this as it is just waiting to swallow your ropes and your camp is right below... Using a rope bucket is not a bad idea.

16. 60m 5.10c

Lajas de Sueños (Flakes of Dreams)

Probably the most enjoyable free climbing on the route. Follow the small flake above the anchor until it is possible to step across to the giant flake on the left above the large bush. Romp up this and the smaller flakes above until you reach the two bolt hanging belay. Set fixed lines from here straight down to the top of pitch 14 and take care when hauling to avoid the Laja de Pesadilla.

17. 18m 5.12?

Buena Vista Placa (Slab of the Beautiful View)

Leave all the gear behind. A set of quickdraws and a lot of friction will get you to the belay....

18. 40m 5.12?

Diagonal Straits

A friendly start leads into the steepest, most sustained and exposed pitch of the route so far. The crux section of powerful laybacking is bolted due to the flared crack but you will still need a good selection of cams to protect the rest. A 60m fixed line from here will reach the top of pitch 16.



19. 55m 5.11?

Laja de Perro (Dog Flake)

Head up to the right of the big flake above through a small roof and up the corner crack above. Pull through another small roof into easier angled rock but very thin, delicate slab climbing. Follow the line of bolts to a small grassy ledge.

20. 37m 5.10c

Fisura de Fernando (Fernando's Crack)

A great looking feature and obvious line but unfortunately may well be damp inside. Ascend the open coner toward the large flake and battle your way through the offwidth behind it until you finally top out to a small ledge.

Ascending fixed lines on the previous three pitches is steep and hard work and best avoided as much as possible!

The Ledge Of Contemplation

21. 25m 5.10b/c

Follow the curving flake to the right until you are standing on top of it then venture out up the slab until it is possible to step left into the dihedral. Follow this to the top.

Casa Viroi (House of the Family Viroi) – There are rally no decent bivvy ledges on the route above Plaza Catalunya, but using a Portaledge and a hammock and a load of rope it is possible to build a pretty nice camp here.

22. 38m 5.12?

The Headwall

The crux pitch of the route, very steep, exposed, sustained, hard and long. On the left side of Casa Viroi there is a small fragile spike. Stand on top of this to reach the crack above and climb a couple more metres until it is possible to step left onto a small ledge with a bolt above it. From here make an imposing move around the corner into a fist crack and follow this up until you reach another bolt. Step left and continue up a few metres of steep laybacking then weave your way up flakes and cracks to reach the crux bulge at the top. Pull up around this with difficulty to reach the anchor at a small ledge.

23. 42m 5.12?

A little less steep, but still another hard pitch. Follow the steep flared crack around the right of the bulge then step left and follow the line of flared pods up to a small overlap and pull through this to a slab and more flared pods. Follow the line of bolts leading out right and climb a final easy crack to a nice ledge. An 80m rope fixed from here will reach Casa Viroi.

24. 50m 5.10 b/c

The Flake of Glory

The obvious curving flake leading up from the belay provides fine climbing up the final pitch of the route. From the top of the pitch find your way up by the easiest line to reach two bolts right at the top.