

# Comments on Climbs at Suicide Rock

by

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The following climbs are ones that I have done at Suicide Rock. They are arranged by my ratings of their difficulty, which in some cases is different than the rating listed in the latest guidebook. Unless otherwise stated, all the climbs in this list are adequately protected.

I plan to update this document every few years. To receive a copy of the latest version of this document or of a similar one on Joshua Tree climbs, e-mail me at

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## 5.1 - 5.5

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|---------------------------|--|
| Bye Gully (5.5)           | This climb is easy scrambling, except for a clean 15' long flared chimney. The chimney is secure, but not well protected. As a descent route, the chimney can be downclimbed, or you can rappel. |
| East Buttress Gully (5.2) | A reasonably nice two pitch crack and face climb, which is not sustained.  |
| Garbage Gulch (5.1)       | The name says it all - loose, very unpleasant climbing.  |
| Little Murders (5.3)      | This is a quality lieback with good protection. It is in the shade much of the day.  |
| Minor (5.1)               | Clean, well-protected hand crack that is in the sun all day.   |
| North Gully East (5.4)    | This climb is mostly third and fourth class, with a nice, well-protected 12' vertical lieback at the top.  |
| Tabby Treat (5.1)         | A fairly nice two pitch crack climb with reasonable protection. The rock is a bit loose.   |

## 5.6

Break Out	A clean, enjoyable crack climb with two well-protected crux sections (a short hand crack and a fingertip lieback). It is in a shady location.
Continuation	This climb is easy except for a crux face move by a bolt. There is a 60' runout above the crux on fourth and easy fifth class rock.
Escalator	A poor climb, with a short crux section and a long, easy chute above. It can be used as a descent route, once you get used to downclimbing the crux, which is near the ground.
Graham Crackers	A nice two pitch climb with good protection. The climbing is fairly easy except for a 15' section of face climbing near the top. This climb is in the shade much of the day.
Le Dent	The first pitch is a fairly pleasant chimney, but the second pitch has an 80' runout on steep 5.6 moves. Sunny location.
Short Story	Two pitches of well-protected crack climbing. It is fairly sustained. This climb is in the sun all day.
Spring Cleaning	An excellent lieback. The protection is good - bring some 2" - 3" nuts. This climb receives afternoon sun.

## 5.7

5.7 Crack (just left of Noondance)	a short, varied, fun jam crack (thin hands to hands and then a lieback/offwidth flake) - much nicer than it looks
Buttress Chimney	A short, secure squeeze chimney (crux) leads to a long, wide chimney
Captain Hook	Pitch 1 is a steep, well-protected chimney with a crux overhang. The second pitch is a slick, unpleasant chimney.
Chatsworth Chimney	A short, awkward crack (crux) leads to a long, wide, fun, easy chimney. The crux is well protected.
David	A crux overhang with reasonable protection leads to a long runout on fun, knobby 5.4 face climbing.
Flake Out	A well-protected two pitch crack climb. The crux is a short offwidth near the end of pitch 1 (take a 4" nut). This climb is in the shade most of the day.
Major	An easy chimney leads to an unpleasant crux exit sequence by a bolt.
Plague, the	Mediocre crack and face climb
Root Canal	A very enjoyable, enclosed chimney (pitch 1) leads to a long, unprotected, steep 5.6 pitch.
Step Away, the	Exciting, exposed wide stemming and face climbing leads to the spectacular summit of Paisano Pinnacle. Figuring out the sequence of moves is interesting. The protection is fair.
Yours	A pleasant two pitch route with a variety of well-protected climbing - jamming, liebacks, mantles, and face climbing. The climb is in a shady location.

## 5.8

Axe of God	A difficult, unprotected undercling start leads to hand jamming and then face climbing.
Cat's Cave Inn	Unpleasant three pitch climb, with a long squeeze chimney and dirty rock. Shady location.
Delila	A clean, strenuous, well-protected lieback (pitch 1) and a long, easy chimney (pitch 2).
First Pitch	Awkward, well-protected finger jamming.
Guillotine	Fun, steep liebacks on big flakes lead to a short, well-protected squeeze chimney (crux).
Hernia	A well-protected crack climb that is not particularly enjoyable.
Innominate II	A short, clean, runout friction climb that can be easily toproped. Shady location.
Mantle of No Return	Wild, exposed steep face moves on good rock, with a bad fall if you come off.
Nawab	A clean, tight squeeze chimney on the second pitch is the crux. This chimney gets much easier after the first 15'
Paisano Chimney	A crux overhang (fairly nice) leads to a strenuous, 20' long squeeze chimney. Not recommended.
Shadow	This is a clean, unusual lieback, with a committing runout at the crux.
Shake Down (dihedral right of Warm Up)	Short, well-protected finger crack and lieback. It is in the sun most of the day.
Small Affair Direct	Classic steep face/arete climb with great moves on superb rock! It is a serious lead, with the crux (15' above a large ledge) being totally unprotected.
Superfly	A long, exposed jump onto a sloping face. Lots of fun, but you wouldn't want to fall while leading.
Surprise	A quality low angle face climb, with crack climbing on pitch 3. There are long runouts on 5.6 and easier sections. The climb is in the sun until mid-afternoon.

## 5.9

B. C's Ouch Chimney	A full pitch of sustained and varied climbing up a wide, very shallow slot, on good rock. Protection is fairly sparse - bring some wired nuts.
Commencement	A mediocre face climb with a short crux section. It gets sun until mid-afternoon.
Deception Pillar	Fairly nice finger jam (crux) and lieback. It is in the sun almost all day.
Fiend, the	A quality thin face climb. After the long first pitch (crux) you can do a 100' rappel or a short, easy exit pitch. It has reasonable protection except for a tricky 20' runout getting up to the first bolt. This climb is in the sun most of the day.
Flatman Chimney	Short crux overhang with good protection.
Flower of High Rank	Classic steep finger crack in the lower 50', with a strenuous 5.9 hand crack (right) or a 5.8 crack (center) above the tree. You can belay at the obvious pine tree, or do the climb in one long pitch. The protection is excellent.
Green Monster	Short, steep knobby face climb on superb rock, in a shady location.
Jammit	Excellent overhanging one-pitch hand crack. It receives sun almost all day, except early morning.
Hot Buttered Rump	Clean, strongly flared chimney. You can stay in the back of the chimney for good protection (wired nuts) or move outside for fun wide stemming moves. This route is in the shade most of the day.
Mogen David	Tricky lieback moves with small wired nuts for protection, leading up to the easy runout face of David.
Paisano Jam Crack	Short, clean offwidth (4" wide).
Pass Time	Mediocre climb, with hand jams and crux finger jams.
Sampson	Mediocre three pitch climb, with a mixture of face and crack climbing, and a strenuous mantle (crux) at the top. The third pitch is fairly runout. The climb is in the sun until mid-afternoon.
Sensuous Corner	Very nice climb (1 hard pitch and a short, easy exit pitch). The crux is a steep face with side pulls.

## 5.9

Serpentine (5.9-)	This is a quality 3 pitch low angle face climb, with good protection (all bolts except for a #2 friend before the first bolt). It is in the sun until mid-afternoon.
Side Show	runout face climbing - nothing special
Spatula (5.9+)	Fairly nice 1 pitch thin face climb, with the crux move right at a bolt. It receives sun until mid-afternoon.
Spooky Spike	The crux is a thin crack in a dihedral. The climb is in the sun only in the morning.
Stretch, the	Two pitch route with easy climbing, except for a short face/lieback crux which is next to a bolt.
Surprise (direct finish)	A nice face pitch with adequate protection. The rock is very polished. It is in the sun until early afternoon.
Sword of Damocles	Mediocre crack and chimney
Twilight Delight	Short thin face with adequate protection. It is in the sun after early morning.
Warm Up	Short, clean, strenuous, well-protected finger crack; in the shade all day.

# 5.10A

Breeze, the	Several holds have broken off on this climb. Getting up to the bolt 12' off the ground is committing 5.9, and the move by the bolt is 5.10A. Above that, it is a 5.6 chimney. Not a recommended climb.
B.S. Arch, Variation 2	Fun steep undercling with good handholds.
Clam Chowder	Runout face climb. It is in the sun until mid-afternoon.
Drowned Out	A nice one-pitch face climb that gets sun all day. The crux (at the third bolt) can be done via a long lunge or a static 5.10 move. There is a long runout on 5.6 knobs near the top.
Eagle's Nest	This is a strenuous and insecure route – a hand and fist jam that widens to an offwidth and then a squeeze chimney. Bring a #4 camalot.
Frustration	This climb has a crux jam move near the start, a 5.9 move about 40' up, and an easy chimney above. The quality of the climbing is so-so.
Hair Lip	Classic climb on good rock. The crux involves scary and very novel barn door liebacking, using the edge of a large overhang. The protection is fairly good, but a fall would probably involve flying over the edge, and could produce lots of scrapes. This climb receives morning sun.
Hesitation	A 5.7 ramp on pitch 1 is often covered with pine needles, but the crux pitch is a nice, fairly steep thin face, not too sustained. It is in the sun until late afternoon.
Holiday	A one pitch face climb with fairly sustained steep, balancy moves and long runouts
Jigsaw	A short face climb with a very poorly protected crux move.
Lichen Lovers	One pitch thin face with many small flakes for holds. The quality of the climbing is so-so.
Limp Dick	An aesthetic and exciting mantle and undercling lead up to a fun, easy face.
Low Pressure	Short, steep lieback on good rock. The crack will accept wired nuts, but it is very difficult to place protection while leading. The climb can be easily topoped. It receives morning sun.

## 5.10A

Munge Dihedral	Excellent clean, strenuous hand/fist jam (crux) and flared chimney above. It can be done in one long pitch (take a large rack). It is in the sun in the afternoon.
Noondance	a fun, steep, well-protected face; short
Peer Pressure	Half-pitch balancy face climb on good quality rock. It is adequately protected, but can easily be topoped. It is in the shade much of the day.
Revelation	This climb consists of three pitches of well-protected, quality low angle face climbing. Protection is from bolts, plus one wired nut placement 15' off the ground. There are hanging belays ar the end of pitches 1 and 2. The climb is in the sun until mid-afternoon.
Skigliack	Fairly steep one pitch face climb with adequate protection.
Superfluous Bolt	This is a seriously runout climb up a crack system which is mostly just a seam.
Ten Karat Gold	High quality two pitch thin face, with long runouts. It is in the sun until mid-afternoon.

# 5.10B

10B Or Not 10B	Sustained thin face climb.
Change in the Weather	Sustained, high quality one-pitch face climb, with two bolts providing the only protection. There are long runouts getting up to the first bolt, and going from the second bolt up to the belay. This climb will force you to think about your footwork! It is in the sun until mid-afternoon.
Fellatio	A fun, strenuous crux move by a bolt is followed by 140' of easy, unprotected face climbing.
Howard's Fifty Footer	Fairly nice face climb in a sunny location. The protection is reasonably good.
Jizz	A fun, balancy thin face route with some weird moves.
Johnny Quest	Classic steep finger crack (pitch 1). The 5.9 version of the second pitch is runout. The climb is in the shade after mid-morning most of the year.
Montezuma's Revenge	A superb, two pitch climb with lots of adventure. The crux is on pitch 1, with runout moves up over a small, exposed overhang. Figuring out the easiest sequence is trickier than actually making the moves. The second pitch (5.10A) involves a scary mantle onto the lip of a large roof.
Ours	Fairly nice face climb on slick rock. In the shade in the afternoon.
Sundance	Classic, well-protected steep face climbing on great rock (pitch 2), with a strenuous 5.8 lieback (take 3"-4" nuts) on pitch 1. The climb is in the sun until late afternoon.
Ultimatum	Face climb with a serious runout on 5.10 climbing above the first bolt. It is in the sun all day.

## 5.10C

Andy Dude	A clean, arching crack with several tricky sections: a flared hand crack in the middle of the route, strenuous hand and fist jamming above, and a crux reach for good holds at the top. This is well worth doing – take wired nuts to a #4 camalot.
Arcy Farcy	Enjoyable one-pitch thin face climb
Bluebeard	A short, exciting face climb. Unprotected crux moves lead up to the first bolt. A good spot (hard to arrange on the exposed starting ledge) would help if you fell. The moves above are fun and well-protected.
Dick Tracy	Short, very enjoyable steep pocketed face climb. The protection is good.
Down and Out	A nice, sustained one-pitch face climb that is in the sun all day. It is well-protected except for a runout above the first bolt, with a potential fall onto a pillar.
Duck Soup	Quality three pitch face climb on solid, water-polished rock, with hanging belays. The protection is good. The climb is in the sun until mid-afternoon
Flakes of Wrath	Strenuous lieback and hand jams on good rock. The 5.9 second pitch is runout. The climb is in the shade after mid-morning.
Free Lance	An enjoyable face route, with intriguing footwork at the crux. A bolt has been added at the crux, taking away the “R” rating.
Jackal	A poor quality, committing climb up a groove. It is difficult to let go and place protection in the thin crack.
Mike and Larry's Excellent Adventure	Sustained, one pitch thin face in a sunny location. It is just left of a gully, and the climbing is contrived at times as you avoid using large holds in the gully.
Minuet	One pitch face climb. A thin crux sequence leads to exciting and fun climbing up an arete.
Miscalculation	A full pitch of aesthetic, strenuous, varied crack climbing (finger jams, flared toe jams, unusual stemming) with good protection. The climb is in the sun all day.
Mushy Peach	One pitch, balancy face climb, fairly high quality.

## 5.10D

Blown Out	Nice, one pitch thin face climb. It is well protected except for some moderate climbing below the first bolt. It is in the sun all day.
Godzilla's Return	This is a good quality face route, although I bypassed the 5.10D R section on the second pitch via the long loop to the left. The first pitch has an interesting sequence of well-protected moves by the first bolt. The third pitch has some runout moves on low angle face climbing.
Pink Royd	Poorly protected 5.8 face climbing up a flake leads to thin 5.10 face climbing with a bolt at the crux move. A 5.9 face move higher up is very poorly protected, and a fall would be serious. The climb is in the sun all day.
Spoodge	Insecure climbing up a shallow groove and rounded arete - fairly nice.

## 5.11A

Etude	A fun, clean crack route than requires more finesse than strength. The delicate crux section, with side pulls and shallow, flared foot jams, is well protected with fixed pins. An easier finger and hand crack above leads to the belay.
Rebolting Development	A quality three pitch face climb that is in the sun until mid-afternoon. The crux move on the second pitch has a 15' runout, unless you can pause halfway through the move to clip a bolt.
Reunion	Short, gymnastic face climb with fun moves and excellent protection (bring some wired nuts and small cams for protection down low, and a #2-#3 friend for a placement between the second and third bolts).
Runout in Reverse	A fairly nice short thin face. Bring some small wired nuts to protect the crux moves, between the first and second bolts.
Valhalla	This is a classic three pitch face route. The first pitch (5.11A) is short and well-protected, with one hard sequence. The second pitch (also 5.11A) has a more extended crux, with no single move as hard as on pitch 1. Above the crux, there is a long section of great climbing on fantastic rock.

# 5.11B

Insomnia

Classic strenuous thin hands and lieback crack with great rock; 1 full pitch.

Palm Sunday

A short but very memorable arete problem, with excellent rock. I had to do a long lunge at the crux, starting from small footholds.