

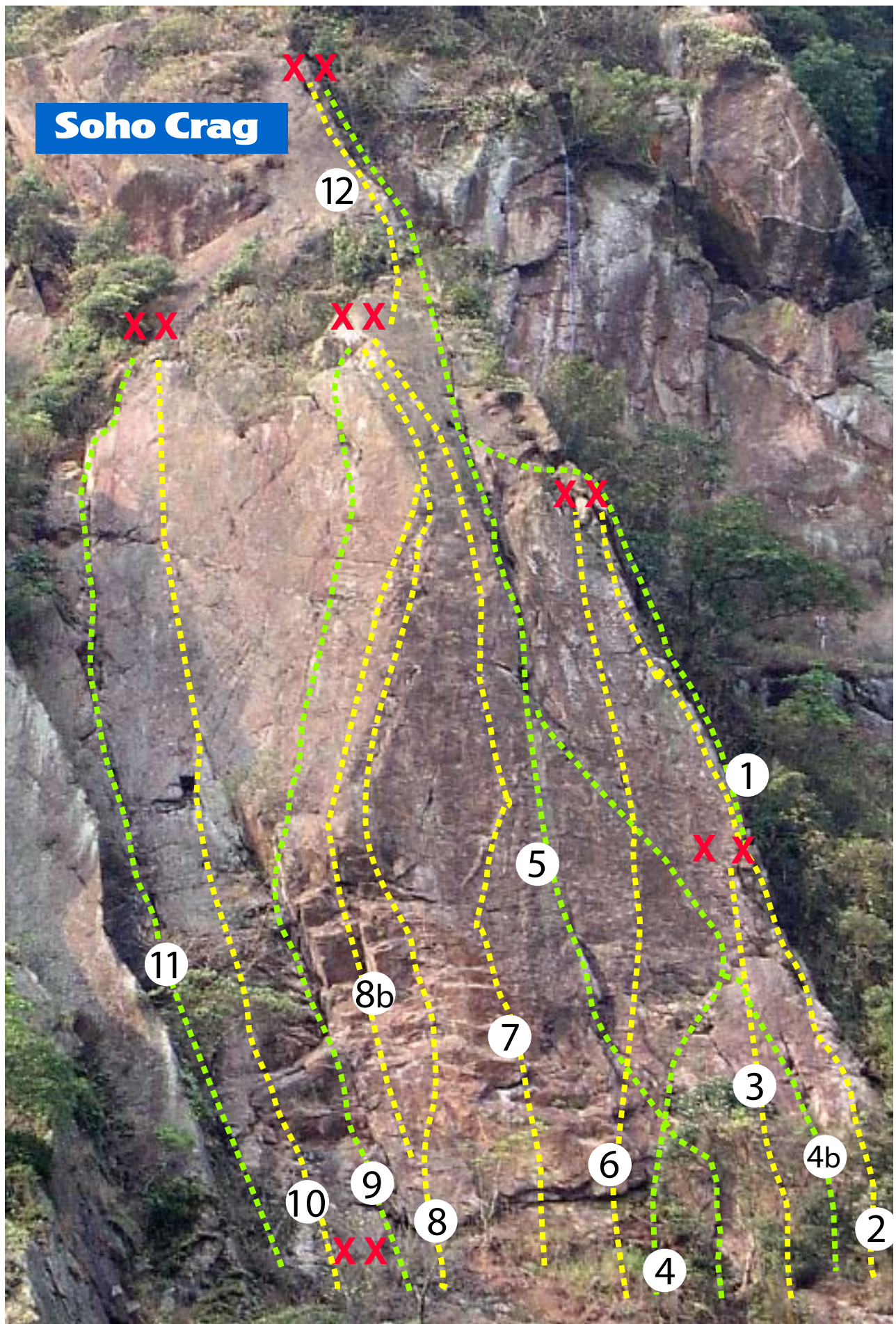
# Central Crag





- 1 Old peak route F4
- 2 Mini me F6a ★
- 3 Mini more F5
- 4 Gold member F6a (has two starts, one from below ledge and the crack to the lower right) ★
- 5 Gold weeny F4
- 6 Dr. evil F7?
- 7 Shagadelic F4
- 8 Yea baby! F6a+ ★★
- 9 Fat bastard F5a ★
- 10 Do I make you horny?
- 11 International man of mystery F4a
- 12 Penguin 6a
- 13 Gotham city 6a+ ★
- 14 Road works 5b (trad)
- 15 Jungle tracks 5a (trad)
- 16 paul's project 7?

# Soho Crag

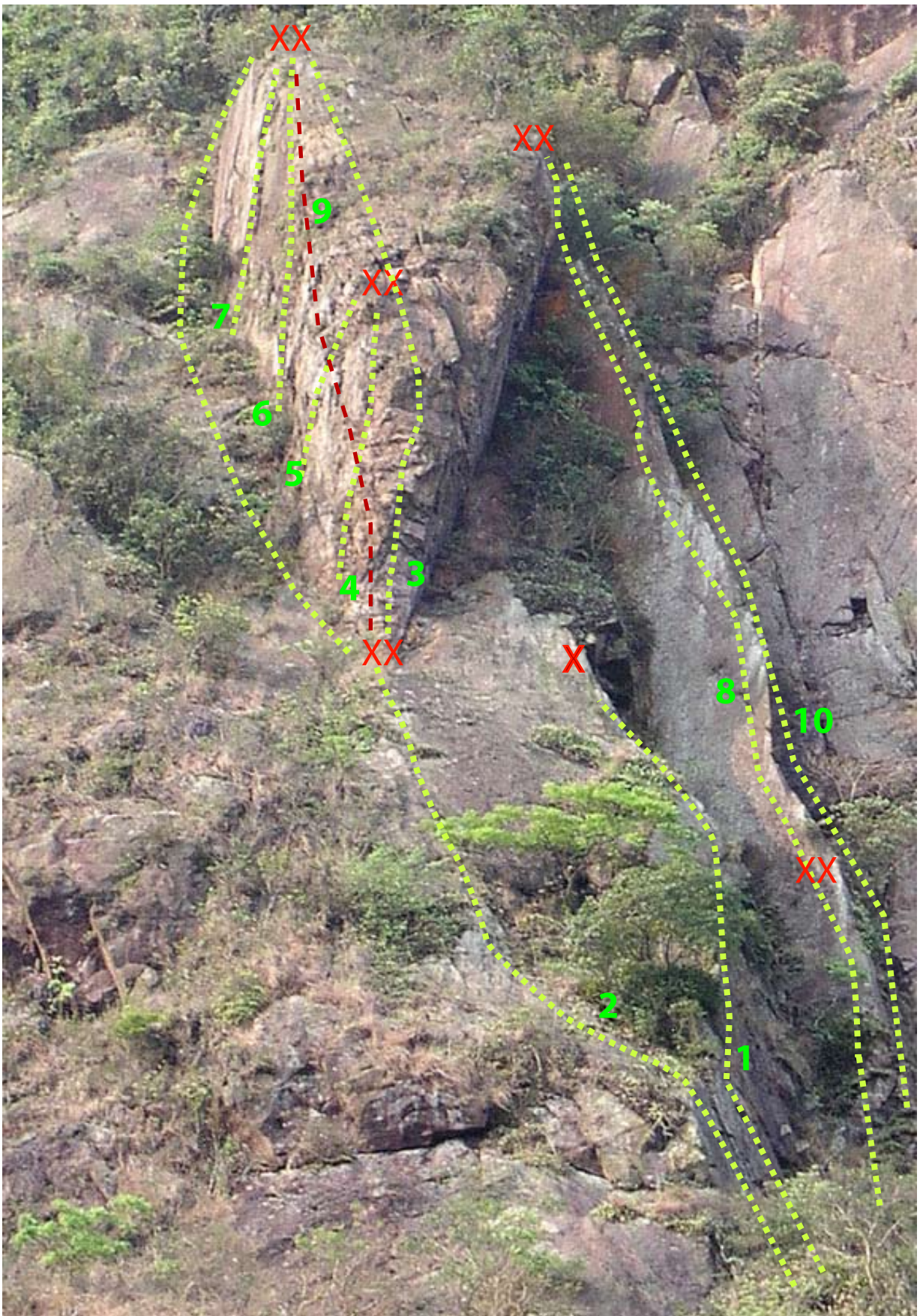


**bolted route**  
**trad route**



- 1 The botanical gardens 4a
- 2 Staunton's cafe 4a
- 3 Lang Kwai Fong 6A ★
- 4 Thunderbolt 5b (2 pitches) ★★
- 5 Centraline 6a ★
- 6 Peel Street 6b ★★ ★
- 7 Centralsaurus 6a+ ★★
- 8 The Escalator 6b+ ★
- 8b ScareMaster (variation) 6a+ ★
- 9 Old Beeley 5b ★★
- 10 Club 64 5a ★★ ★
- 11 Police station 4a
- 12 Aprils fool 4a

# Soho East



- 1) No roots allowed (UK4a trad)
- 2) Root route (F3 two pitches)
- 3) The nose (F4) ★
- 4) The nostril (F5)
- 5) Loki, the light side F5
- 6) Beal, the dark side F6
- 7) Arbuthnot flakes F6a
- 8) Bladerunner (F5) ★★ ★
- 9) Traverse F6+ (use bolts from all 4 routes to meander up to top anchor) ★
- 10) Sidewinder F4a (trad, 2 pitch)

## Soho west & Mid Level crags



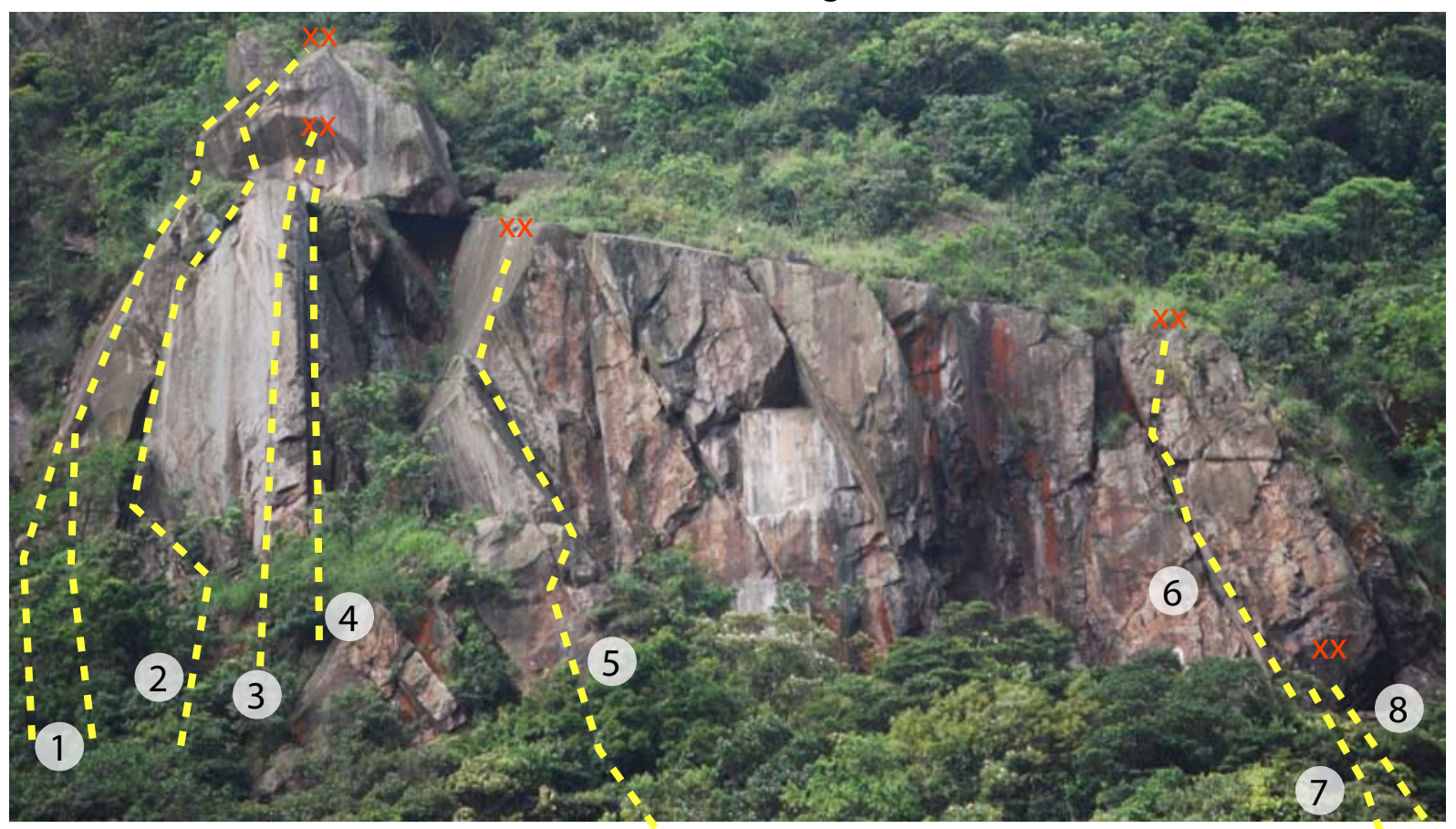
- 1) Castle Steps F5a
- 2) caramba 6a+ trad ★
- 3) wife on holiday 6b+ trad + one bolt ★
- 4) round about F5a
- 5) little bastard 6c
- 6) Single malt 6c+ ★
- 7) road to damascus 6c ★★
- 8) four way 6a-c (mixed- need some small to medium cams) ★
- 9) independence day 6a+ ★★★
- 10) fathers day F5a trad
- 11) garg off F3a

## Cave crag



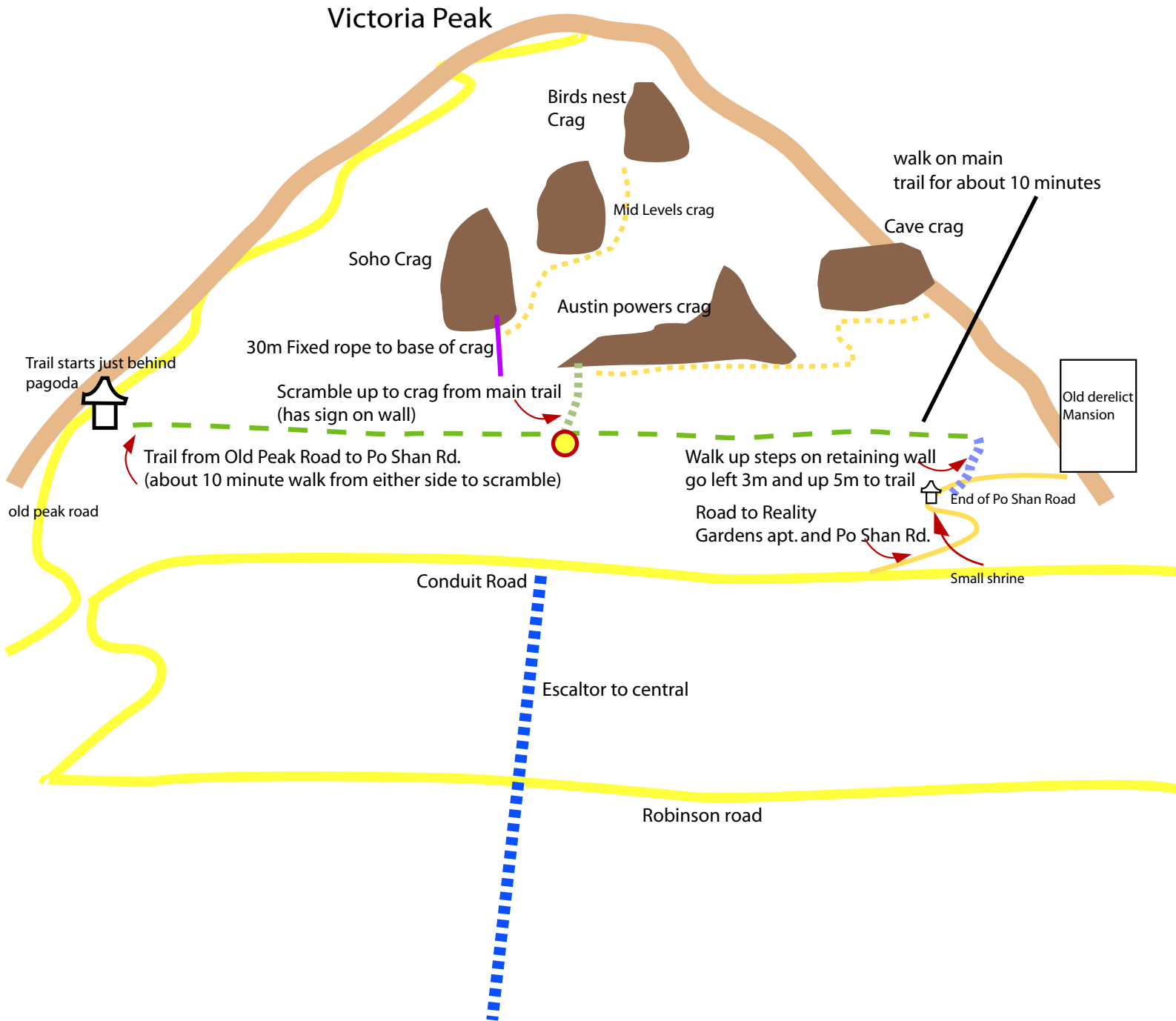
- 1) The joker 6a+ ★
- 2) The riddler 6a+ ★★
- 3) Batman and robbed 6a ★
- 4) rebar 6c
- 5) Pinhead 5a
- 6) Blood and water 6a+

## Birds nest crag



- 1) Black magic 6b (black bird alternate start to left) ★★
- 2) Birds nest soup 5a (trad) ★★★
- 3) Out with the old 7b
- 4) Easy route 4a (trad) careful of loose rock
- 5) Big bird 5a ★★
- 6) The golliwogal lives! 6a (trad) ★
- 7) Tweety bird 4a (has 6b alternate finish to left)
- 8) Dodo bird 3a (trad)

# Trail map to get to central crags



May 22, 2007  
update

## Descriptions of Climbing Routes at Central Crag

### SOHO Main Crag

All climbs on this crag in the middle of Central Slabs area use a universal “Prelude” slab starting 20m left of the waterfall/approach gully at a small tree and slight overhang. The rough low angle slab is protected with a bolted line and fixed ropes (at present) and remains wet much of the time. Above the “Prelude”, base anchors are connected by a traverse dubbed “Hollywood Road” and protected by a horizontal rope. Don’t forget that the crag base is up more than 25 m above the ground so please stay clipped in. Help keep this area great please: neither bolting of traditional routes nor littering. Ratings are Yosemite Decimal (with French for sport routes and English for trad routes). Climbs are listed from left to right when facing the cliff:

Ming Dynasty (Police Station) 5.7 (VS 4c) 29m – Start at the left base anchor and climb left up onto ledge with tree. Ascend the prominent crack up the left side of a bulge (crux) and continue up the long diagonal crack system parallel to the left side gully. Turn right directly up the most prominent vertical crack to the second (from left) bolted belay station.  
Tom Chew and Ed Pramuk, August 2005

Club 64 5.8+ (F5c) 28m \*\* – Start at left anchor and climb up the leftmost bolted line over undulating ledges and flakes up onto the small slab above to small bulge. Clear this on reasonable jugs to the big slab above which becomes thin towards the top (crux). Belay as for Police Station.  
Ed Pramuk & Phyllis Hsia, August 2005

April fools 5.4 (F3) 8m - An easy slab route to the top anchor of “Castle Steps”. Starts from Top anchor of club 64. This gives access new anchors on right or to large boulders above.  
Dan Hannah and Ed Pramuk, April 1, 2006

Optional finish to Old Bailey (HVS?) – Where the “Old Bailey” large crack runs out at the bulge of “Club 64” follow instead a small crack system diagonally right onto the wide expanse of slab above with sparse natural protection.  
Un-lead as of this printing. May need a bolt at the top for traverse to another anchor.

Old Bailey 5.9+ (HVS, 5a) 30m \*\* - Climb straight up cracks above left anchor with a thin second placement under bulge (crux 1). At the corner of large overhang, stay left and follow the long well defined left tending crack past tree and beehive. Before reaching the end of the crack, look for a small jug above the overlap and swing out onto the upper face here (crux 2). Test your route finding skill through sparse placement opportunities up the slab (crux 3) to a short crack near the top. Finish and celebrate with the view at large belay platform on bolted anchors that form a universal abseil point.  
Tom Chew & Ed Pramuk, June 2005

ScareMaster 5.10b (F6a+) 28m \*\* - Start at “Old Bailey” but head right to first bolt shared with “Escalator”. Then stay to the left for a tricky move up to overhanging blocks where great holds are available. Climb strenuously out over the nose of SOHO crag (crux) then stay on the left face of the arête to the top, sharing bolts again with “Escalator” (on the right side) to finish at the universal anchor.

Tom Chew and Ofer Fishler, Halloween, October, 2005

Escalator 5.10c (F6b) 28m \*\* – Start this the first bolted route on SOHO (Ed Pramuk and Benjack Phillips) at a small sumac tree with belay at the single bolt on “Hollywood road.” Climb very strenuously at once strait up slightly overhanging bolt line (crux sequence) to reach a happy jug. Continue strenuously up to the arête and then the universal finish slab above.

Emman Lacoste, and Ed Pramuk, July 2005

Centralsaurus 5.10b (F6a+) 28m \* – Start from same belay as “Escalator” but climb right side strenuously and slightly overhanging at first. Arrive at and pinch the namesake spinal cord skeleton shaped ribs to the right then strenuously up the steep thin slab above to the universal finish.

Dan Hannah and Ed Pramuk, September 2005

Peel Street 5.10c (F6b+) 24m \*\*\*\* - Start this classic at the small tree stump on “Hollywood Road” in front of slimy horizontal crack. Great laybacks through small blocky shapes lead to irregular cracks crossing directly vertically over “Centraline.” Climb straight up the slab over “Thunderbolt” that becomes thin and steep towards the top where balance and reach help (crux). Finish at top right side bolted anchor on small platform.

Tom Chew & Ed Pramuk, October 2005

Centraline (Thin Line) R5.10a (E1 5a) 30m? \* – Start on prominent flake directly in front of main belay site and tree cluster on right side. Follow the flake left and up over irregularities crossing “Peel Street” then tend left into the main centerline crack for thin climbing. Bring your small ballnutz and micro-wires as protection becomes sparse up this miniscule vertical crack (crux). At 2/3s height, the thin line opens up to a large crack system with bulge. After angle decreases, break left to the universal belay platform.

- Alternate start as for “Peel Street”.

Full trad lead by Tom Chew & Ed, January 1, 2006, first lead on shared bolts by Emman

Thunderbolt 5.10a (HVS) 40m \* – A meandering route with classic start, and scary traverse in middle section, it is a slightly easier scenic detour off “Centraline”.

Pitch 1 (5a, 25m) - Start on flake as for “Centraline” but turn up and right when possible following easy slab to right across “Staunton Ave” to “Lang Kwai Fong” route where a distinctive thin crack zigs sharply left. Move at first up and above the diagonal crack then traverse left back across it with run-out (crux) till only a 4” cam is possible. This thin diagonal crack joins the main crack of “Centraline” where a traditional belay can be rigged above the bulge.

Pitch 2 (3, 22m) – Jam up the crack above and scramble at low angle to the high anchor.

Tom Chew and Chen Fan, April 2006

Second pitch may be omitted by lengthening the first as for “Centraline” to main belay.  
Tom Chew and BenJack Phillips (with alternate finish), December 2005.

Lan Kuai Fong 5.9 (F6a) 25m \* – Start directly right of “Thunderbolt” flake from main belay site up good holds, steep at first till some thought required above second bolt (crux). Climb easily past midway and belay station for “Staunton Café” and stay on the front face as long as possible bending left, till forced onto the arête. Finish at top right side belay anchors and platform as for “Peel Street.” Good warm up.

Alternate start 5.7 (F5b) 24m - Use “Staunton Café” route. Stay on face longer at top for 5.8. Ed Pramuk and Tom Chew, May 2005

Aviary (Thundercrack)/Botanical Garden 5.6 (HS 4a) 28m \* – Originally two separate trad lines, they can best be put together in one nice long single pitch. Start 2m right of belay tree in wide, shallow groove. Climb straight up to midway anchors then move right of the arête near to base of “Botanical Gardens” (BenJack Phillips & Ed, May, 2005). Continue easily up the right side of large precarious chunk to a shoulder. Best to build a belay here for the second who can then move left around corner and down-climb to bolted anchor of “Peel Street”. Caution should be taken for large loose rocks and boulders near the top.

Tom Chew and Ed Pramuk, November 2005

Staunton Café 5.5 (F4) 12m – Start this easy climb at far right of crag base up gentle angle to a midway belay anchor at the base of “Botanical Gardens.” This route was put up as an easier start to “Lang Kuai Fong”.

Phyllis Hsia & Ed Pramuk, May 2005

### **SOHO East** (Routes listed from right to left)

SOHO East consists of a lower wall bounding the left side of the main crag’s apron, slabs above & their approach from below, a large tooth shaped mass hanging above, long sharp arête and gullies just left of the main crag.

Creepy Crawler 5.6 (MS 4a) 35m – Crap climb not recommended as crack placements are covered with debris from other cleanings at this time. This was the original two-pitch trad route to today’s anchors that goes up the gully on the far left side of SOHO Main Crag. Only good moves are now available on pitch 2 of “Sidewinder” below.

Tom Chew and Ed Pramuk, April 2005

Sidewinder 5.7 42m – Starting just right of “BladeRunner” base in a shallow crack and overlapping into “Creepy Crawler” then finishing at “BladeRunner” top anchors.

Pitch 1 (VS 4a) 20m – Climb up into the corner formed where the right face of the “BladeRunner” arête meets the slab then move left and pick up the prominent crack on the its right face and follow this up into the trees. Build a bomber group of placements here for the upcoming runout, or go up and share a bolt from “BladeRunner. Traverse just below the shear vertical face of the big sharp blade (crux) and build a traditional belay in the gully.

Pitch 2 (VS 4b) 22m - Start off with the best moves of “Creepy Crawler” up through the gully overhang (or straight up above and left of the belay). Once above this, move left to catch a crack system up the face that will take you eventually into easier slab territory. After reaching the big shoulder ledge, continue up the short slab to bolted anchors of “BladeRunner”.

(P2 only) Tom Chew and Stephen Skelton, August 27, 2006

Rap down 30 m as for Blade Runner to SOHO Main left base anchor.

(full climb) Tom Chew and Matt Tranter, Ramadan, September 2006

BladeRunner 5.8 (F5) 40m\*\*\* – A titillating romp up the prominent knife blade arête just left of the main SOHO crag this route will get you going with exposure even though the overall angle is gentle. Access from a steep trail with fixed rope on far left side of prelude slab. Abseil down the right side to SOHO left anchor (29m).

Pitch 1 (F3+) 12m - Start on the easy slab, tending right to pick up the very base of the arête. Follow this up to belay.

Pitch 2 (F5) 28m – Nowhere to hide or get lost now as you follow the arête looking for help within reach on either side as needed. After arriving on top of the arête itself and clipping the last bolt, swing left over the small bulge with a big move up (crux) to a hidden jug to finish on top of this large block.

Savor the views from here of other climbs on SOHO main!

Ed Pramuk, Tom Chew, Phyllis Hsia, April 23, 2006

Blade Baby 5.3 (F3) 12m – Alternate and more obvious start to “BladeRunner” on left side, sharing the same first bolt and the mid anchor as a finish.

Tom & Ed on trad gear, April 2006

No Roots Allowed route (temp) 5.7 (VS 4b) 30m – Steep slab starting near to “Mother of Slabs” climbing the prominent left leaning crack. Then tend right near the top over concrete ramparts put in by HK Slope management to keep us all tight and together presumably.

Continue diagonally up and right with protection below the top lip. One bolt re-direct at lip for protection across class 4 slab to base of “The Nose”.

Ed and Phyllis, September 2006

Root Route (Mother of Slabs temp) 5.4 – This two pitch access route goes from bottom to top of SOHO East with access to numerous routes on the large block up and left of “BladeRunner”. Start half way up the fixed rope left approach trail on the first ground platform (7m scramble above the base trail).

Pitch 1 (HVDiff 3+) 30m – Start up the promising slab and crack with parallel tree roots on your right. Above this, follow the low angle class 4 slab to anchors at the base of the tufa block. Ed and Phyllis, August 2006

Pitch 2 (Diff) 24m? – Follow mostly class 4 slabs to the left of the overhanging “Nose” route all the way to the top, or choose any of the following numerous short routes vertically on you right hand side.

Ed and Tom, August 2006

### SOHO East Left Face

The following climbs are located on a large canine tooth shaped block above the left slabs of SOHO East. Primary access is from “Root Route” whose first pitch finishes at the main base anchor of the left face. This anchor sits at the lower point of the tooth shape and routes are listed from right to left going northward. Alternate access from the Lower Wall or up to the top from “BladeRunner” and abseiling down.

The Nose (left) (temp name) 5.6 (F4a) 7m\* - Spectacular but short lived overhanging jug filled route up the nose of the large block starting at the second pitch on “Mother of Slabs”.

Grade and exposure stiffens the further right you stay. After top out, continue up to mid-height common bolted anchors. Recommend that belayer extend left to avoid rock fall.

Phyllis Hsia and Ed Pramuk, August 27, 2006

\*A note here about rock to the right of the “The Nose”. This overhanging section draws the eye, but upon tapping, the entire patch sounds hollow and seems quite unstable and a danger to anyone below. Seems it may not be suitable for bolting or climbing.

Right Nostril (New Business temp) 5.7 (F4+) 8m – Start and finish as for “The Nose”, sharing the first two bolts, but veer left before the second one. Finish at the mid-height common anchors.

Tom Chew and Stephen Skelton, August 27, 2006

Loki, the light side (Route c) 5.8 (F5) 11m - Start as for “Right Nostril” but continue traverse left (try not to use the slab), then up through some entertaining movement with three more bolts on your left. Finish at the mid-height common anchors.

Tom Chew and Stephen Skelton, August 27, 2006

Beal, the dark side (Route d) 5.9 (F6a) 12m – Start as for “Loki”, but traverse a bit further to good footholds just above the slab where one runs out of positive hand holds. Begin vertically here using slanted underclings for the right hand. Proceed upward with greatly increased difficulty sharing bolts on your right with “Loki” for which the route was originally bolted (recommend to climb “Loki” first leaving a long draw on the second bolt to avoid clipping during the crux). Finish as for twin Loki.

Tom Chew, September 10, 2006

Silk Road (traverse) 5.9+ (F6a) 27m? – Start as for the Nose to its second bolt, then begin the long traverse by clipping the first bolts of each successive route as for Lokai/Beal. Proceed up these on either side till it is possible to traverse out left near to the top where you move horizontally following the bolt line. Runout slightly moving downward at one point into the large crack system where you pick up and follow “Diagonal Stew”. Dare to follow the left most finish by continuing to traverse across the top headwall to finish near Arbuthnot Flakes at the high anchor.

Tom Chew and Chen Fan, October, 2006

Scareface (temp) 5.9 or 5.10 depending on finish () 12m – Starts halfway up the second pitch of “Mother of Slabs” at a chimney-like spot (very dangerous loose 200Kg pile of boulders now). Climb up through the chimney then begin the diagonal left traverse. After pulling up to a reasonable stance, make challenging moves leftward and up, arriving at another reasonable stance. Here is an obvious out strait up if you’ve had enough. Or, move left again for the higher finish (beware of dodgy ridge of vertical jugs).

Ed Pramuk and Phyllis Hsia, October, 2006

Arbuthnot Flakes (temp) 5.9+ (F6a) 7m – Access by lowering off the east face on a top anchor a short pitch above “BladeRunner” or by “Mother of Slabs”. Climb this 3 bolt vertical wall using prominent but small flakes to pull onto the small shelf at midway. Only thin footing, balance, and/or reach get you up from there (crux).

Tom Chew, August 12, 2006

## SOHO East Lower Wall

Allusions 5.10a (F6a+) 10m - Most obvious line up through the corner in the middle of this lower wall. Looks so easy, feels so hard (hint: look at the rope line on your way down), gives up secrets later.

Tom & Ed December 2006

## **Project B 5.10b? – Overhanging route to the right**

### **SOHO West:** (climbs listed from left to right)

SOHO West consists of two walls accessed by fixed ropes right of "Botanical Gardens": a slightly overhanging 20m wall lies at the far backside of SOHO crag with a slab on its left and a lower 10m wall forward and extending to the right. "Round About" easily connects the two.

### Upper wall

Mother's day 5.7 (F4+) 18m – Start near large tree left of "Castle Steps". Climb the low angled friction slab (crux near the bottom) then up the arête sharing the last bolt of "April Fools" on a long sling. Difficulty quickly fades after the second bolt.

Tom Chew and Andrew Irwin, Mothers Day, May 2006

Castle Steps 5.5 (S 4) 18m – Start in the left corner at small gum tree and climb the shallow slab up the intersection of rear overhanging wall with protection in the seam. Small overhanging protrusion (crux) in the middle is of some interest. Finish up and left on high bolted anchor atop "Mother's Day" and "April Fools".

Ed Pramuk and Jason Eng, 2004

iCarumba! 5.10b (E1 5b) 17m\* - Start as for "Castle Steps" but just above the overhang veer straight up by reaching right for blind placement in the vertical crack. The crux sequence begins here getting over to and up the crack, traversing diagonally right, then back vertical finishing with awkward moves to bolted belay on the right facing wall.

Tom Chew and Andrew Irwin, Mother's Day May, May 2006 (w/small aid), Clean Aug, 2006

Wife on Vacation (Cave Dweller) 5.10b (HVS 5b) Classic\*\* - Now a mixed climb with one bolt protecting a difficult first move crux up to small protrusion. Then into vertical edges for layback up to the big cave. Climb the dramatic crack strenuously out, over, and up to bolted belay or more easily stem from small slab on left.

GianFranco Bigazzi, Aug 13, 2006

### Lower Wall (SOHO West)

Round About 5.6 (F4) 10m – Follow trail up right side of SOHO and stay right. Climb this bolted route on far left of small base belaying area for easy access to top of “Little Bastard” or to “Castle Steps” and the trad projects.

Ed Pramuk and Phyllis Hsia, February 2006

Easter Sunday (Little Bastard (temp names)) 5.11a/b? (F6c/c+) 9m \* – Start just right of “Round About” up this short hard pitch in the middle of the wall on small holds and sloping block near top (crux). Good balance and crimping required.

Martin Lancaster, Easter, April 2006 (Cleaned and bolted by Ed, Tom, Cosmin)

Un-named Closed Projects on SOHO West. Can be accessed by traversing across from the top of “Castle Steps” or “iCarumba!”.

- a) Super tough sport route just right of “Wife on Vacation” severely overhanging at top. Under construction with top anchor in place (Ed & Franco) – Stale now -
- b) (Big V Overhanging cave crack) Very short severely overhanging crack on lower wall right of “Easter Sunday/Little Bastard” with foot stemming. Potentially trad, needs cleaning bad. (on Lower Wall)

### X Wall\*\*

High above SOHO West (on its west-most upper reaches), with access via a steep roped trail up the right side of the crag lay this superb traditional climbing slab. Crisscrossed with numerous cracks it can be climbed at will on many different lines in the range of 5.6 to 5.8 (S 4a to VS 4c). Most will end at a universal finish above a tree and a vertical crack leading to a roped anchor on trees above (anchors were stolen around November!!). Left most routes end at bolted anchors leading down to the Upper Wall. Reminiscent of September Crag for learning traditional techniques. Try the chimney start on bottom left hand side and finish on top left bolted anchor.

Cleaned by Ed Pramuk and first climbed on most possibilities by ED, Phyllis, Tom, and Willie, June 4, 2006

### Mid Levels Crag (climbs listed from left to right)

Easiest access is from the top of “Old Peak Route” on the Lower Crag crossing over the Grand Central Ramp, but also connects via trail past the lower wall of SOHO West, or down “Off Width (Garg-Off) Ramp”

Off Width Ramp 5.5 (F4) 8m – Bolted ramp slab to left of “Garg Off” has delicate moments. Connects Mid Levels Crag to X Wall.

F.A. Ed? Phyllis? Summer, 2006

Garg-Off 5.3 (Vdiff 3a) 7m – A prominent landmark of the Mid Levels Crag, this cavernous split in the middle of a wide low angled ramp can almost be walked up, but proves a bit awkward. Try a foot stack or jam in this Off-width crack, and bring your Big Bros. if you wish to lead it, otherwise, a bolted line left of the crack leads to the “X Wall” at this time. First Assentionist Unknown. Jason Eng, Simon, and Ed went up in 2004

Single Malt 5.11b (F6c+) 20m – Start up “Garg-off” to a prominent seam on right near the top. Turn up this strenuously to a steeply sloped ledge (first crux) with good under-cling above. Continue straight up to common anchor  
Stuart, October, 2006

Road to Damascus (Dragon Double Dyno) 5.11a (F6c) 22m?\* – Starts up foot of the “Ramp” a couple meters on a mostly smooth overhanging wall. Get warmed up on two great sets of dynamic pops to good or reasonable holds before the climbing gets really hard. Climb from tenuous “holds” tending diagonally up to the right crux targeting the promise of big visible holds further up. Traverse diagonally left up the crack to the crux head wall and large block to finish. Top anchor now on a large boulder perched atop large shelf, a little un-nerving.  
Franco Bigazzi, September 23, 2006

4 Way (Mini Slab temp) 5.11 (F7a?) Alternative mid route left of “Independence Day”, Climb the moderate angle but extremely smooth slab one of four possible ways. Rating applies to left side without use of projection to the right side.  
Ed and Stuart? September 2006

Dancing in Wanchai 5.10a (E1 5b) – Start at the base of the second of four prominent diagonal lines featuring tree and large root. Follow this all the way to the top.  
Eban, October, 2006

Independence Day 5.10b (F6b-) 19m\*\*\* – Start well right of the “Ramp” where the base trail starts up hill just below prominent diagonal groove up to the left with long tree root. After nice opening moves over the groove, cross shallow slab above to the first overhang for the first crux. After struggling over and up onto the next section, head to the second crux directly on your left. Getting tired? Shake out while you can under the next overhanging crux above. If you make it through that, you are welcomed by stiff climbing through a thin corner then onto the headwall face to your left for sustained difficulty to the top  
Ed and Franco, July 2006

**Project just right of “Independence Day” 5.11, Tom Chew, and Richard Cuncliff** – Start on boulder problem just right of diagonal groove termination. Come to first crux getting off the slab onto the vertical face on almost nothing. Careful not to pull off the only hope under-cling on way to even harder moves to the diagonal roof above. Here, another crux move out over the roof pulling onto the slab. Climb left side of the slab till possible to finish up the arête to the common anchor above. – becoming stale -

Father’s Day 5.7 (VS 4b) 17m – Located at the small tree 3m off the ground on the right side of Mid Levels Crag can be started directly, or with a bouldering problem just left and below. Climb the obvious large crack to its end at a bank of dirt and brush that tarnish the climb somewhat. Work your way then onto the slab above and left (crux), harder grade if you avoid stemming to right edge. Finish up the crack formed under a large tenuously perched boulder.  
Tom Chew, Andrew Irwin, and Chen Fan, Father’s Day, June 2006

More potential sport and trad lines exist on this crag, including what appear to be three big diagonal crack systems with trad potential. Further up the “Off Width Ramp” there is one more apparent potential vertical trad crack. Just left of “Independence Day” lay a short 6c+ or more slab (Stuart) and an easier tree route alternative just left of that (Tom).

**Lower “Austin Powers” Crag** (climbs listed from left to right)

Old Peak Route 5.6 (F4) 25m - A somewhat scrappy route that is more of a way to get to the upper crags but has a few moves of some interest. About 15m right of the entrance gully, start this first bolted route up small ramp to the right of a bulge (alternate start straight up the bulge boulder problem V1) and move up obvious seam until you reach an easy slab, which will take you to a bolted anchor at the top.

Ed Pramuk and Peter Baer, May 2005

Mini Me 5.10a (F6a) 8m\* - A short but fun three bolt route. Start up easy slab to the right of old peak route and find large black horn. Move up small flakes to a slightly overhanging finish.

Ed Pramuk and Jason Eng, April 2005

A quite difficult route to the right of the big chimney on the far left may be top-roped off the “Mini Me” anchor (could be Mr. Pickels).

Mini More 5.7 (F5) 9m - A small arête to the right of “Mini Me” is a two bolt warm up.  
Ed & Phyllis, February 2007

GoldMember 5.9 (F6a) 26m\* - Flawed by a perpetually wet start at the bottom of the trail right of “Mini Me”, start up this undulating slab to the alternate [walk in] starting point. A couple of moves put you on a slab and the start of several decisions. The standard way up keeps you on the slab till feet can span to a good sloper on the overhanging right sidewall. Pull over the sloping ledge here for an awkward and exposed feeling move onto the continued overhanging wall above, were again the standard line slides right to a rest stance and easier climbing up the top of the arête to the finish above. For the keen at heart, get off the ramps and ledges sooner for a more rigorous and direct line. Will feel stiffer for height challenged.  
Ed Pramuk and ??, December 2006

Dr. Evil 5.11a (F6c) 12m\* on right side of roof and headwall. – Start at very base on easy moss covered slab up to roof. Reach high from prominent down hanging teeth to clip in, then the crux sequence is up to you and your own combination of reach and dyno ability. Continued difficult climbing up the headwall with one great rest spot before final moves up to the top flake and jug.

Tom Chew, May 15, 2007

Shagadelic Alternate 5.9+ (F6a) 13m – Start as for “Dr. Evil”, veer under right side of the roof to alternate bolt. Roll up the arête and onto the face of “Shagadelic” above without holding the right wall. Extra style points and grade if done without use of the dihedral crack (though a bit contrived). Finish at anchor for Dr. Evil on left side to set up top rope if desired.  
Tom Chew and Richard Cuncliffe, April 2007

Shagadelic 5.7 (F5) 23m\* – Starts right of the wide roof to the right of “Goldmember” up easy steps till a tentative move left establishing oneself on the ramp. Over the top of this onto gently sloped slab with a few interesting moves to anchor near “Goldmember”.

Ed Pramuk and Phyllis, December 2006

Yea Baby! 5.10a (F6a+) 18m\*\* – Outstanding route of the lower crag starts from same point as Shagadelic, climbing straight up easy slab to overhanging bulge with ridge jutting out. Great moves over the top to find a virtually smooth slab above up to the anchor. “The crux is the easy part”

Ed Pramuk and ? April 2007

Vulcan Probe (fat bastard?) 5.9 (F6a) 24m\* – Very popular route from its onset just right of “Yea Baby!” climbs easy slab to bulge with interesting moves over the top with great hand pocket just when you crave it most. Easier climbing above with some worthy single moves if easiest route is avoided. Alternative lines over the bulge can be climbed on either side sharing same bolts.

Tom Chew and Ed Pramuk, March, 2007

Do I make your Horny? (could be fat bastard) 5.8 (F5) 9m – Bulge start through interesting moves (for short people), then that’s it. Climb easily to belay off of tree. Almost a boulder problem.

Ed and Phyllis, April, 2007

International Man of Mystery 5.4 (F3/4) 17m? – Easy route for beginners on right hand side of crag.

Phyllis Hsia, April 2007

Jungle track 5.6 (S 4a) 16m – Enjoyable dihedral climb situated above the Lower Crag with access from top of “Penguin” Pitch 1 via the steep steam bed, or rap down from near the top of Grand Central Ramp up to Bird Nest Crag

Matt Tranter and ? March 2007

Road Works 5.6+ (HS 4b) 16m – Just left of “Jungle Track” and starting from the same point lies an unusual channel shaped groove up the middle of the slab. Interesting climbing if one concentrates on using this feature.

Matt Tanter and ? March 2007

### **New Projects on Austen Powers Crag**

**Project Closed on** Long roof and headwall left side near arête. Quite stiff climbing, 5.12?.

Paul Collis & Dan Hannah

Trad route just right of Shagadelic

Trad Crack just right of “Vulcan Probe”

Far around the crag to the far right side just inside the waterfall lie many opportunities. One slab and arête finishing up a steep headwall, partially bolted is a **Project by Matt Traver**.

## Cave Crag (Batman's Concrete Jungle)

A bit above the Lower (Austin Powers) Crag and to the far western extent of the Central Crag lay hidden a great mid sized wall with numerous opportunities including the prominent concrete buttress reinforced roof boulder featuring a pinnacle entrance. Two small caves for shelter in the rain lay to the left at base level. (Routes listed from left to right)

Penguin 5.9+, 40m - This two-pitch climb connects Cave Crag to the top of Grand Central Ramp.

Pitch 1 (F6a) 10m - Peculiar crux start out of the namesake cave is a bit stiffer without use of the small ground boulders available. Pull up onto the lower face to a surprisingly awkward move upwards into easier finish

Pitch 2 (F5+) 22m – Walk left across stream gully to base of wall for start of Pitch 2 featuring some delicate slab work and nice headwall finish.

New Route 5.10a (F6a+) ?m – Just right of caves. Understood to be a shin banging event. Richard Cuncliff on Ed Pramuk's clean and bolt, May 19, 2007

Joker 5.9+ (F6a) 23m? – Funny start on concrete block using some artificial holds on this artificial material. After strenuous opening moves, the midsection is mostly more mellow slab and traverse climbing up to a reachy overhanging crux.  
Ed & Phyllis January 2006

Batman 5.10a (F6a+) 18m\*\* - Tough start right off the ground on small side-pulls & foot smears. Bridge left then climb strenuously through middle ground up to overhanging notch near the top. Easy runout to common anchor. Best route of the Crag!  
Ed Pramuk, Tom, Richard, Jim, Phyllis, December 2006

Robing 5.10a (F6a) 18m\* – Another tough balancy start with easier bridge through middle section up to small overhanging section near top. Runout up to the common anchor with “Batman”. Also great fun!  
Richard Cuncliffe, Ed, Tom, Jim, Phyllis, Hanukah, December 2006

Riddler on the Roof (temp) 5.11a (F6c) 14m – Start on some ugly rock left of concrete supporting the roof. Huge reach to bolt on chin of the roof. Desperate climbing to hidden jug to pull over on.  
Stuart, April 2007

Pinnacle Route (temp) 5.8+ (F5) 15m\* - Climbing starts on spectacular looking sharp pinnacle which proves to have a hidden third dimension to it which doesn't detract from the appearance. Teeter on top of the point to high-step across the exposed gap onto the main wall above the roof below. Then comes the crux to move upward followed by easier run up. Can finish at “Riddler” anchor or continue without protection to join “Robing”  
Stuart, April 2007

## **Bird Nest Crag**

High above the lower crag sits a small crag with a prominent flat boulder perched on top. From the top of “Old Peak Route” or scrambling up from the trickle falls mentioned below, continue to scramble on up the Grand Central Ramp (class 3-4) then up a short trail with more scrambling to reach Bird’s Nest crag on the right. (Routes listed from left to right)

Black Magic 5.10b/c (F6b) 16m\* - Starting from the left side of the base of Bird Nest, this great little climb starts on a series of vertical arêtes and finishes on a fairly smooth slab. Nice combination of climbing skills required.

Ed Pramuk, Paul Collis, Cosmin Andron, Willie, Mother’s Day, May, 2007

Bird Nest Direct 5.8 (HVS 4c) 17m \*\*\* - A classic trad line up excellent rock with beautiful natural protection starts on a rock platform with a tree for base anchor. Follow diagonal cracks up the slab to the overlap seam which Ts out under the flat boulder on top. From here pull up over the front of the boulder on unnerving ratty but trapped pieces and find bolted anchors (Ed, Tom, Dan) atop.

Bird Nest Soup (alternate finish) 5.6 (HS, 4a) 18m: - At the T turn left and awkwardly squeeze under the boulder.

Jason Eng, 2004

Out With the Old 512a (F7b) 16m – Just right of Bird Nest lies a very smooth slab, apparently with some loose blocks at the bottom. Climb the arête on the right side of the slab - mostly climbed on the right hand side. (The first move got considerably harder whilst I was working it as hand / foot holds kept exploding off.) Nasty hard first move so don't expect it'll see much traffic - shame cause the top bit is really good.

Stuart and Eban? February 2007

Easy Route I 5.3 (VD 3b) 20m and Easy Route II 5.5 (HS 4a) – At far right side of crag.

Simon Smith and Jason Eng, 2004

To the left of “Bird Nest” are a number of challenging slab routes that have been top-roped. Included among these is a route called “Just Enough” recorded by Jason, but un-graded and unclaimed FA. There is also potential for sport routes in between those listed above.

## **Other**

To the right from SOHO Prelude are other Sport and Trad climbs with potential in the area. Directly in front of the main access gully stands a trickle waterfall (except during flash floods). Up the right side is a scrambly access route with a short but worthy crack that has been lead in 2004. From here, scramble up a long ramp past Mid Levels Crag on the left side, the top of “Peak Route” on the right, and a trail straight up goes to Birds Nest Crag.

Right of Bird Nest Crag one can find “Slime Wall” pioneered by Simon and Jason with recorded trad route “Orange Gutter” 5.7 (VS 4a). Lots of potential here for someone willing to scrub.

There is another crag up and to the left of SOHO East with decent opportunity on its left and front faces that can be seen from the Old Peak Road approach trail (Almost certainly the three

story boulder mentioned in Brian Heard's "Hong Kong Climbs"). Below this are the huge often-wet slabs of varying angle that gave the original name to the Central Slabs.

Above and North of SOHO crag is a very large boulder that may or may not have been climbed previously. Some short but worthy rock patches connect the "Club 64" anchor to these boulders (have been top roped). It should be possible to clear a trail up to Luggard Road, which is visible above from here or from Bird Nest Crag.

### **Bouldering at Central Crag**

There are some fine bouldering problems to be found in Central Crag. Atop Bird Nest Crag lies "A mighty Wind" V1 by Jason Eng. All along the base trail there is a 4-meter wall with several fun challenges that have been climbed while waiting for partners, especially towards the Lower Crag. A diverting sit start here just left of "GoldMember". Mid-Levels Crag offers one prominent problem right of "Independence Day" that can be down-climbed to the right via "Father's Day". Far off the left side of SOHO East and a little hard to get to, sits a large vertical mass amongst a generally slabby area with a couple worthy efforts. More to follow here later.

## Central Craggs Routes by grade level:

<u>Route Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>
Easy Route I 5.3 (VDiff 3b) 20m	5.030	Bird Nest	T
Garg-Off 5.3 (Vdiff 3a) 7m*	5.030	Mid Levels	T
Blade Baby 5.3 (F3) 12m	5.030	SOHO East	S
International Man of Mystery 5.4 (F3/4) 17m	5.040	Lower Crag	S
Root Route, (Mother of Slabs temp) 5.4 (HVDiff 3+) 54m	5.040	SOHO East	T?
April fools 5.4 (F3) 8m	5.040	SOHO Main	S
Easy Route II 5.5 (HS 4a)	5.050	Bird Nest	T
Off Width Ramp 5.5 (F4) 8m	5.050	Mid Levels	S
Staunton Café 5.5 (F4) 12m	5.050	SOHO Main	S
Castle Steps 5.5 (S 4) 18m	5.050	SOHO West	T
Bird Nest Soup (alternate finish) 5.6 (HS, 4a) 18m	5.060	Bird Nest	T
Old Peak Route 5.6 (F4) 25m	5.060	Lower Crag	S
Orange Gutter 5.6 (VS 4a)	5.060	Slime Wall	T
Creepy Crawler 5.6 (MS 4a) 35m	5.060	SOHO East	T
The Nose (left) (temp name) 5.6 (F4) 7m*	5.060	SOHO East	S
Aviary (Thundercrack)/Botanical Garden 5.6 (HS 4a) 28m *	5.060	SOHO Main	T
Round About 5.6 (F4) 10m	5.060	SOHO West	S
Jungle track 5.6 (S 4a) 16m*	5.061	Lower Crag	T
Road Works 5.6+ (HS 4b) 16m	5.062	Lower Crag	T
Mini More 5.7 (F5) 9m	5.070	Lower Crag	S
Father's Day 5.7 (VS 4b) 17m	5.070	Mid Levels	T
Sidewinder 5.7 (VS 4b) 42m	5.070	SOHO East	T
No Roots Allowed route (temp) 5.7 (VS 4b) 30m	5.070	SOHO East	M
Right Nostril (New Business) 5.7 (F4+) 8m	5.070	SOHO East	S
Ming Dynasty (Police Station) 5.7 (VS 4c) 29m	5.070	SOHO Main	T
LKF Alternate start 5.7 (F5) 24m	5.070	SOHO Main	S
Mother's day 5.7 (F4+) 18m	5.070	SOHO West	S
X Wall 5.6 to 5.8 (S 4a to VS 4c)**	5.070	SOHO West	T
Shagadelic 5.7 (F5) 23m*	5.071	Lower Crag	S
Bird Nest Direct 5.8 (HVS 4c) 17m ****	5.080	Bird Nest	T
Do I Make You Horny? 5.8 (F5) 9m	5.080	Lower Crag	S
BladeRunner 5.8 (F5) 40m***	5.080	SOHO East	S
Lokai, the light side (Route c) 5.8 (F5) 11m	5.080	SOHO East	S
Club 64 5.8+ (F5) 28m **	5.082	SOHO Main	S
Pinnacle Route 5.8+ (F5) 15m*	5.083	Cave Crag	S
Vulcan Probe 5.9 (F6a) 24m*	5.090	Lower Crag	S
Beal, the dark side (Route d) 5.9 (F6a) 12m	5.090	SOHO East	S
Lan Kuai Fong 5.9 (F6a) 25m **	5.090	SOHO Main	S

GoldMember 5.9 (F6a) 26m*	5.091	Lower Crag	S
Penguin 5.9+, 40m	5.092	Cave Crag	S
Joker 5.9+ (F6a) 23m	5.092	Cave Crag	S
Shagadelic Alternate 5.9+ (F6a) 13m	5.092	Lower Crag	S
Arbuthnot Flakes (temp) 5.9+ (F6a) 7m	5.092	SOHO East	S
Old Bailey 5.9+ (HVS, 5a) 30m **	5.092	SOHO Main	T
Scareface (Diagonal Stew temp) 5.9/5.10 depending on finish () 12m	5.095	SOHO East	S
Robing 5.10a (F6a) 18m*	5.100	Cave Crag	S
Mini Me 5.10a (F6a) 8m*	5.100	Lower Crag	S
Dancing in Wanchai 5.10a (E1 5b)	5.100	Mid Levels	T
Allusions 5.10a (F6a+) 10m	5.100	SOHO East	S
Thunderbolt 5.10a (HVS 5a) 40m *	5.100	SOHO Main	T
New Route 5.10a (F6a+) ?m (left of Joker)	5.100	Cave Crag	S
Batman 5.10a? (F6a+) 18m**	5.101	Cave Crag	S
Yea Baby! 5.10a (F6a+) 18m**	5.101	Lower Crag	S
Centraline (Thin Line) R5.10a (E1 5a) 30m *	5.101	SOHO Main	T
Independence Day 5.10b (F6b-) 19m***	5.102	Mid Levels	S
ScareMaster 5.10b (F6a+) 28m **	5.102	SOHO Main	S
Centralsaurus 5.10b (F6a+) 28m *	5.102	SOHO Main	S
Black Magic 5.10b/c (F6b) 16m*	5.103	Bird Nest	S
Wife on Vacation (Cave Dweller) 5.10b (HVS 5b) Classic**	5.103	SOHO West	M
iCarumba! 5.10b (E1 5b) 17m	5.103	SOHO West	T
Escalator 5.10c (F6b) 28m **	5.104	SOHO Main	S
Peel Street 5.10c (F6b+) 24m ***	5.105	SOHO Main	S
Riddler on the Roof (temp name) 5.11a (F6c) 14m	5.110	Cave Crag	S
Dr. Evil 5.11a (F6c) 12m*	5.110	Lower Crag	S
Road to Damascus 5.11a (F6c) 22m**	5.110	Mid Levels	S
Easter Sunday (Little Bastard (temp names)) 5.11a/b (F6c/c+) 9m *	5.111	SOHO West	S
Single Malt 5.11b (F6c+) 20m	5.112	Mid Levels	S
4 Way (Mini Slab temp) 5.11 (F7a?)	5.116	Mid Levels	M
Out with the Old 5.12a (F7b)	5.120	Bird Nest	S
Project on left side of lower roof and arête, Paul and Dan, grade??	5.120	Lower Crag	S

Notes on grade code:

- 5.050 means 5.5 so as to be sorted properly compared to 5.10 and higher.
- Above 5.10 grade, 5.100 means 5.10a, 5.102 means 5.10b, 5.104 means 5.10c, 5.106 means 5.10d
- The third decimal place may indicate further relative feeling of + or – a bit.