



ROCK CLIMBING GUIDE

La Joya

EL SANTO (THE SAINT)

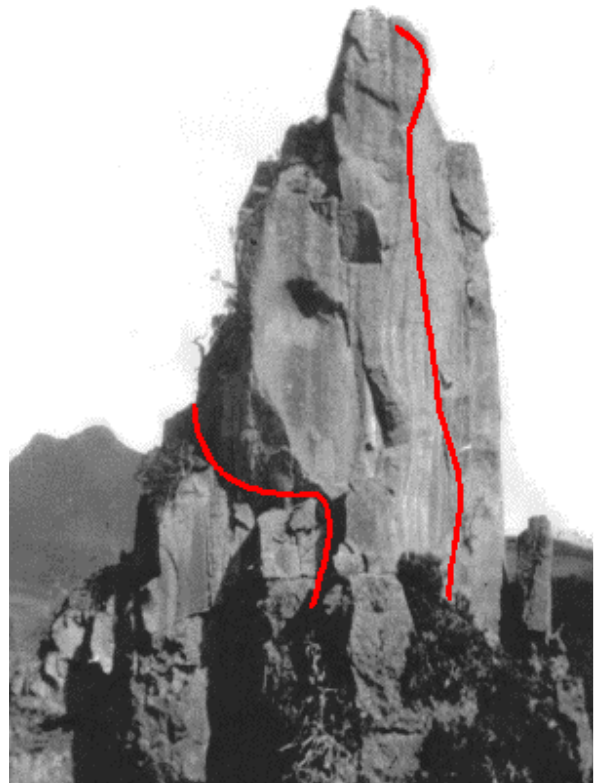
Set in the Alcalican ravine, at 3,820 m asl, this massif is visible from La Joya. From there, it's a 40-60 minute walk. As is the case with most rocks in this valley, you can climb El Santo in a day or else camp nearby.

The traditional route is approximately grade 5.8 although it is exposed. The maximum altitude is 75 m, but the climb is only 55 m. The route begins with a 10 meter passageway and climbs to a platform. Go to your left and continue around the back of the huge wall. The route has 3 parts: SE, NW (the *Paso de la Muerte* or Death Leap, a maneuver executed with 30 meters of empty space beneath you) and NE (cliff face vegetation). Small climbing nuts are required. The in situ protection bolts are very old and unsafe. First climbed by Jorge Alducín, Bernardo Pacheco, R. Freze and Luis Palafox.

The wall route was traced in 1998 by Ulises, Alfredo, and Mario Corsalini. The lead climb is grade 5.10a and the second pitch 5.10c approximately. It has never been baptized. The homemade protection bolts are painted red.

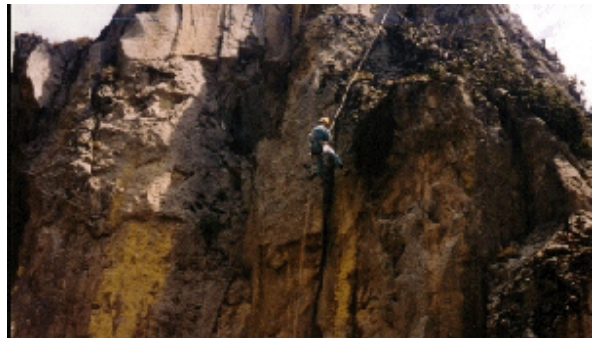
The down climb is on the side of the traditional route, but the rappel anchors are very old, so it is recommended that you bring an escape or descent cord.

For both routes it's recommended that you bring 12 rings, flat webbing, an escape cord, a 60 m rappelling rope, a safety cord, and a windbreaker in addition to



the climbing nuts for the traditional route.

Many commemorative plaques at the bottom of the rock are reminders that this climb is risky. Be very careful.



NIDO DE ÁGUILAS (EAGLES' NEST)



Located in the vicinity of El Santo, this group of rocks presents interesting climbing opportunities. The group includes:

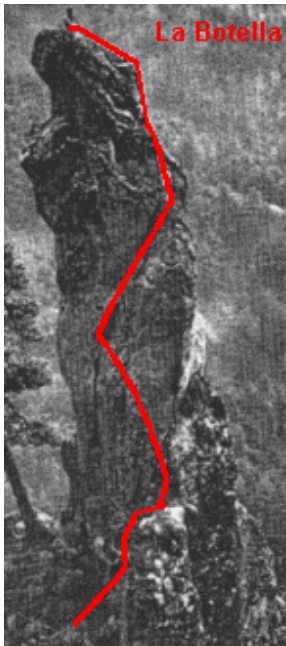
- a. *La Botella* (The Bottle)
- b. *La Llorona* (The Weeping Lady)
- c. *La Peña de la Cruz* (The Rock of the Cross)
- d. *La Ventana* (The Window)
- e. *pico sin nombre* (unnamed peak)
- f. *La Güera* (Blondie)
- g. *Nido de Águilas* (The Eagles' Nest)
- h. *La Navaja* (The Razor)

La Güera: The classic route is up the western face, approaching on a rocky ramp then following rock steps until you get to a passageway with a number of handholds. Maximum altitude: 85m. Climb: 65m. Gear: 50 or 60 m. rope, 3 rings, webbing.

Nido de Águilas: You can attack the Eagles' Nest from the "throat" area of La Güera. In situ protection old and insecure.

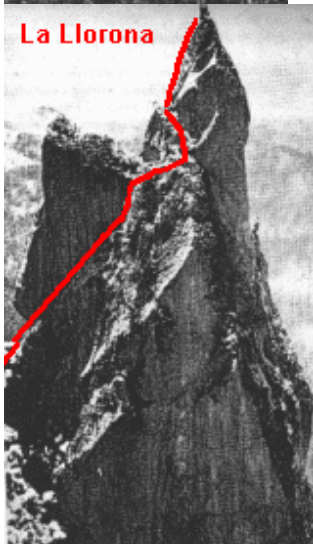
La Botella: Standing apart from the group, this is a solid rock with excellent handholds. Crevices are found on part of the rock. You climb up the SW wall although the last 5m are exposed, then over the south flank. In situ protection very old. Maximum altitude: 40m. Climb: 22m. The first ascent was by the Legión Alpina.

La Llorona: You approach this crag by walking over often slippery grassland and climbing up some rock steps to the dihedron (intersecting planes). Then you ascend to the fissure with the help of climbing nuts, protection bolts, and good handholds, which get scarce as you get higher. Then walk across to the left to the final tooth, which you must use friction to climb. There is barely room for two people at the peak.



Maximum altitude: 75 m. Climb: 45m. Summit: 3,800 m asl. First ascent by members of the Legión Alpina, on May 24, 1946.

There are no emergency rescue patrols in this area, so extreme precautions should be taken.



LA GUGLIA (THE SPIRE)

You can get to this massif, which is visible from La Joya (see photo above), by walking down through the Tlaltipitongo Basin and then hiking up to the rock (around 2—2 1/2 hrs), or by walking down from the [Portillo de la Guglia](#) (also around 2—2 1/2 hrs). In both cases you'll have to rappel about 20 m in order to get to the base.

There's a direct route over the rock wall, but you shouldn't attempt it without an experienced guide. It's a 35 m climb on the NNW face, which should be done in two pitches of 20 and 15 m respectively. The rock is unstable so special care must be taken, but the climb is technically simple. On the other side, there's a 200 m drop off.

Climb down the second pitch to the middle shelf and rappel down from there.

Gear: 50m rope, rings, escape cord, windbreaker.

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La Joya - Cont.

LA ESCARPA MUTIA (THE MUTIA ESCARPMENT)

From la Joya there is a good view of this rock ([foto](#)), which is approached by crossing the Tlaltipitongo in the direction of the Ayoloco Hut (about a 2 hour walk). The summit is at 4,200 m asl

To get to the base of the escarpment, you must do a little rappelling. Once you're at the base, climb with care because the rock on the first 20 meters is unstable although the climb is technically simple.

At the front, there's a difficult wall that was first scaled by the Costa brothers of Club España, who baptized it Escarpa Mutia.

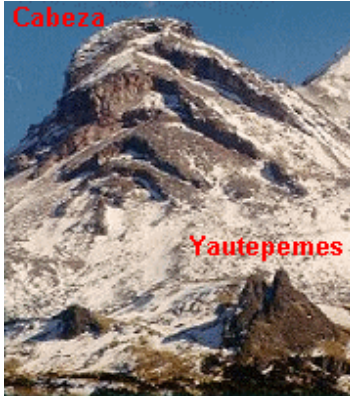


EL CENTINELA (THE SENTRY)

This is an enormous wall (some 200 m high) with strong potential for the development of rock climbing. There are a few existing routes, but the place is seldom visited. You can get to the top by following the ridge crest in between the Alcalican and Milpulco ravines, or to the bottom by walking down into the [Milpulco Ravine](#). The approach takes a total of 3 hours from La Joya. There's a spacious valley that's good for camping near Milpulco. You can get there on the dirt roads used by the logging trucks in just half an hour, but you need 4WD and a thorough knowledge of the area.

San Rafael

LOS YAUTEPEMES



The Yautepemes are not only an interesting climb, but also offer a view of the Head and Breast of Iztaccíhuatl, as well as the El Solitario monolith, the Táyotl and Telapón volcanoes, and the Valley of Mexico. There are several ascent routes for the highest rock, the Yautepeme Mayor, first climbed in 1951 by Carlos Velázquez and José Luis Costero. The ascent is 60 m or less, depending on the route. On the NW side, there's a 255m drop.

Take special care because the rock is highly eroded and some of the handholds are likely to come loose.

The exit rappel is 20m to the center of the Yautepemes, but due to the fact that the anchors are old, it's best to bring an escape cord.

The SE route is more difficult than the NE. To start out on the NE, climb to the center on the side towards Izta's Head and descend on the opposite side (facing San Rafael).

The summit of the Yautepeme Mayor is at 4300 m asl. You can get to this rock on any of the [Chalchoapan routes](#) or on those [that go to the Táyotl Hut](#).

