

BRGY. WAWA, RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL

Crag and Route List

I. Rook Area

A sign that says "Welcome Mountaineers! This way to mountain rock" greets climbers leading to this classic of classic climbs. After crossing the river, walk left past a few houses and through a basketball court. Follow the trail to your right and turn left upon seeing THE SIGN.

You have to climb over a six-foot ledge to get to the main climbing area. Most prominent would be a chimney right to where two 40-foot faces meet. To the right of that chimney is Rook.

Other Rook Area Climbs

Rook area is a cluster of exposed rock. For other climbs, try walking through the chimney and explore the innards of the area. If you walk around near the ledge, you'll find a ten-foot roof with cam-placements and thread-throughs hidden behind a small ledge. The roof exits on crimpers and open-hand grips and leads to a small tree.

1. Rook Direct (5.3)
2. Classic (5.1)
3. Oh Mama! (5.2)
4. Itik-Itik (5.5)

II. Labia

From the parking area, cross the river and follow the trail upstream, past nipa houses, for 15 minutes. This area might be overgrown with vegetation.

1. Labia (5.3 / 2, 100 feet, 2 pitches, FA Gus Guerrero, 1981)
2. Razor (5.3 / 2, 110 feet, 2 pitches, FA Bobbit Palaganas, 1982)

III. Cathedral

If you're wondering why there isn't any trail leading to Cathedral in the crag map, it's because the area hasn't been visited in recent years. Just look past the Rook Area while standing near Aling Norma's store and that will be Cathedral staring at you in the face. It has a few previously climbed trad lines and many more possible multi-pitches and potential sport climbs.

The secret trail leading to Cathedral is actually held by one St. Perot. Ask a local to lead you to the gentleman, and in exchange for two bottles of gin, he just might take you there.

1. Cathedral (5.7)
2. Greyskull (5.9)
3. Aguilla de San Rafael (5.10b)
4. Tidbits (5.7)

IV. Kapilya

The discovery Kapilya marks the latest attempt to reach Cathedral (as of printing). It's a small crag just left of Cathedral, hidden in view from our jump-off, but it simply follows the same trail going to Rook. Instead of turning left, go straight up. And up. And further up. Exhausted and out of water, you'll end up in a fenced lot. Ask for permission from the caretaker to view the quality single-pitch climbs and go back down to Aling Norma for lunch.

V. Uling Wall

For those who do not speak Tagalog, "Uling" means coal, and when you get to the wall, you will quickly realize why local climbers have christened this wall "Uling Wall." Its severe overhang protects it from the rain, making it climbable even when it rains. The approach can become a 5.12 climb though – a muddy, slushy slab. This place is also in the shade for most of the day – great for those summer days.

The walk to Uling Wall is one of the longer approaches in Montalban (20 to 30 minutes), but it is well worth the trek. Follow the path across the river and head towards the El Kanto area. When you get to the T-junction, keep heading uphill. Fifteen minutes and many curses later, you will have reached the overhanging Uling Wall.

1. Iskaplam-plam! (5.11a)
2. 3 Stitches (5.12d)
3. Uunnggghh (5.9)
4. Frankie (5.10)
5. Snake Skins (5.11c)
6. Sandman (5.12a)
7. Powder (5.11a)
8. Warlock (5.11b)
9. Café de Wawa (5.11b)
10. Mars Attacks (5.10a)
11. Born Again (5.10c)
12. Stranded Cowboy (5.11a)
13. Sunday School (5.11d)
14. Bituka (5.9)
15. Bulaklak (5.10a)
16. Dyslexia (5.10a)

VI. Boogie Wall

To follow the trail to Boogie, after crossing the river, avoid the walkway to the left leading to Rook. Instead walk straight ahead and you'll find a curving flight of cemented stars. Move up and follow the trail leading to a stream. After crossing it, take the left trail and walk past the scattered boulders until you reach the lone Balete tree. If you go straight up this will take you to Uling; so, turn right to Boogie.

You'll notice a small overhang near the base. Follow the established lines or make your own. Protection would consist of small to medium sized nuts, but small trees are strategically placed to fill in blank areas.

1. Alagad ni Mang Tomas (5.4)
2. Kinamulatan (5.5)
3. Boogie (5.4)
4. Para Kay Tatang (5.6)
5. Mojo (5.9)
6. Mahiwagang Bato (5.3)
7. Dumb and Dumber (5.4)
8. Deficil (5.3)

VII. El Kanto

Take the trail to Boogie/Uling, but turn right after the stream instead. You'll reach a clearing and these slabs of rock. You have many lines to choose from, all leading to the ledge right below White Streak. Perfect for "barkada" (a close group of friends) climbing, the view of the river (its bathers, *lavanderas*, plus a few people in their "private" moments) is great from the top.

Scattered around El Kanto's main wall are some not-so-tall but good, classic climbs. Pioneering rock classes were held on the face of Copperhead.

If you walk down the channel between Copperhead and El Kanto, you'll find more exposed faces of rock. You can climb up Sanctum and end up in the anchors of El Kanto.

1. Secret Garden (5.9)
2. Off the Wall (5.9)
3. El Kanto (5.7)
4. Sunset Arete (5.11-)
5. No Left Turn (5.8)
6. El Torero
7. Torre (5.8)
8. BPL (5.12-)
9. White Streak (5.12+)
10. Gaijin (5.12-)
11. El Kanto Left (5.7)

VIII. By Chance

Take the same trail to El Kanto but head uphill on a side trail about 100 meters before Copperhead.

1. Vertigo (5.6 / 3, 25 feet; FA Cyril Santiago, 1994)
2. Atlas (5.6 / 3, 25 feet; FA Santiago, 1994)
3. Quase'Modo (5.7 / 4, 25 feet; FA Vaca, 1994)

IX. Slayer

A 10-minute uphill scramble from El Kanto. Slayer is the imposing white wall. Routes are described from left to right. This area is definite to stay dry in a downpour, so is a favorite place for those rainy days.

1. Destruction (7a, 5.11c , 80 feet, 9 bolts plus 2 chain anchors FA,?) Shares the first three bolts with next two routes. After third bolt, traverse left to gain upper wall. Some key holds have been destroyed, making the route a bit harder.
2. Slayer (6c+, 5.11 b, 80 feet, 10 bolts plus 2 chain anchors, slings; FA Tan-Torres, Ilanan, Imao; 5/96) Consistently overhanging with a roof on top and a stalactite you can play with.
3. Dragon Slayer (7b, 5.12a) Climb Slayer and continue past stalactite to the top-most hangers. There are three more hangers after the anchors of Slayer. Some rope drag when lowering. Make sure you have at least 150 ft (50m) rope.
4. Dragon Shit (7a+, 5.11d / 85 feet, 11 bolts plus 2 chain anchors, FA ?) Shares first four bolts of Slayer, then moves right. Interesting and challenging moves guard the anchors.
5. Delirium aka "Despidida" (7b+, 5.12b / 50 ft, 9 bolts plus 2 ring anchors, FA Kristian Guerrero, Simon Sandoval, Gax Ilanan,) Start at the blank-looking wall to the right of Slayer wall. Follow bolts to an interesting crux, and scamper up the stalactite to the anchors. An alternative finish, which is rarely done due to the loose looking rock, moves to the left after the stalactite to a hanger and to a 2 ring anchor.

6. Dos Pistados (7a+, 5.11d/ 70 ft, 9 bolts plus 2 hanger anchors, FA Inigo Velasquez) Start on a ledge to the left of the cave on the far right where the next route is found. Follow the line that traverses right and up to the top. Tricky clipping the anchors.
7. Climber-in-a-hole (7c, 5.12c / 30ft, 11 bolts plus 2 chain anchors, FA Dennis Diaz / Mackie Makinano / Simon Sandoval May 2000) Start in the opening of a cave on the right of Slayer wall. Follow the bolts along the ceiling to the chain anchors.

X. Diamond Head

For a long time, this diamond was viewed but not climbed. Until one day your friendly trail providers from TM (Team Montalban) opened the wall, and soon (almost instantly, in fact) we had this three-pitch sport route. Walk past El Kanto and Slayer. The trail can get pretty slippery (and dangerous) when wet. Most of the face is still left unclimbed and is inviting new lines to be made.

1. Tanduy Route (5.6)
2. La Nina (5.11+)
3. La Loma Route (5.4)
4. Miss Moody
5. Muymuy (5.7)

XI. Banzai Wall

For the greater part of the year, it's too much of a hassle to climb on Banzai – the trail's long (following El Kanto's, but moving down close to the river) and the sun hits it too early at around 10am. A bridge is built right across it during the dry season.

Even more so than Diamondhead, this wall screams for multi-pitch sport climbs – the face is just as clean and tall, but it's much wider. Currently, there are seven quality single-pitch climbs and a second-pitch project is still waiting for its creator to get off his stoke.

1. Sashimi (5.11)
2. Tofu (5.9)
3. Arigato (5.10+)
4. Groove (5.12-)
5. Mirror (5.12+)
6. Step Up (5.11+)
7. Haiku (5.11)

XII. Copperhead

Past Labia, this low (about 30 feet) crag is below the impressive arete of El Kanto. A 15-minute walk with a short scramble toward the end.

1. That's My Girl (5.3 / 2, 30 feet; FA Me-An Cruz, 8/93)
2. Bloody Fingers (5.5 / 2, 30 feet; FA Narciso, 1992)
3. Copperhead (5.3 / 2, 30 feet; FA Vincent Christian, 1988) Easy to top rope, ideal for beginners.
4. Bored Me (5.4 / 2, 20 feet; FA Clarin, 1994)
5. Practicum (5.4; FA Christian, 1985)

XIII. Lapa Wall

Right behind Copperhead.

1. Unnamed (5.2 / 1, 40 feet; FA Narciso, 11/89)

2. Lapa Wall (5.2 / 1, 40 feet; FA Tan-Torres, 1984)
3. The Last Time (5.4 / 2, 40 feet; FA Narciso, solo, 12/89) Last time Jong did a free solo.

XIV. Inner Sanctum

Go past Copperhead then turn left before El Kanto. Enter small cave to emerge into the Sanctum.
Note: All topopes.

1. Tanggalable (5.4 / 2, 35 ft; FA Binky de Leon 4/96)
2. Taken (5.5 / 2, 35 ft; FA Gax Ilanan 4/96)
3. Unnamed (5.5 / 2, 35 ft; FA Kim Imao 4/96)
4. Transparent Emotions (5.4 / 2 35 ft; FA Joel Ramirez 8/95)

XV. Holy Wall

Access via the Sanctum.

1. Transparent Emotions (5.4; FA Joel Ramirez)
2. Kyle (5.5; FA Kim Imao, 4/96)
3. Threesome (5.2 / 1, 30 ft, med. pro; FA Narciso, 4/96)
4. Black Saturday (5.3 / 2, 30 ft topope; FA Ross de los Santos)
5. Arete Les Amie (5.3 / 2, 30 ft, topope; FA Narciso 4/96)

XVI. Klingon

No river crossing for this climb. Follow the main walkway heading east on the right side of the gorge. The top anchors of the Klingon routes are at the same level as the walkway. When you reach the short cement bridge, exit right and go under the bridge, down near the river. The hangers could be easily seen then.

1. Funky Shit (5.11+)
2. Cloaking Device (5.10-)

XVII. Walkway (no topo)

Heading towards Wawa Dam from the parking lot, this walkway is on the right side of the gorge and seems to have been carved out of the rock.

1. Spearhead (5.3)
2. Romancing the Stone (5.11+)
3. Jeans (5.7)
4. Ewan (5.6)

XVIII. Sanctuary

Pack your hammocks, food, drinks... we're gonna have a picnic. Except at high noon, this wall remains in the shade all day. The trek is easy, the base is leveled out, a tree plus nifty nut placements yielding an ideal hammock spot – you name it, this crag has it. When you reach the bridge (what's left of it), Sanctuary falls just to your right. This haven for lazy climbers holds the oldest sport route in the Philippines, and a couple of other long, exposed routes (as long as you face right and avoid the other slab to your left).

The lower half of the wall has been cleaned out but the upper half – as experienced by (see route TM's Paradise 1 or 2 info) – has plenty loose rock, i.e. loose slabs of rock. Take precaution when attempting this route.

1. Sacrament (5.10)

2. Heaa-vhen (5.11-)
3. Redemption (5.10)
4. Sanctuary (5.6)
5. TM's Paradise 1 (5.7)
6. TM's Paradise 2 (5.7)

XIX. Spillway

Another summer-only wall. Spillway is the other white-rock area to the right of Bamba, closer to the dam.

A good trad climbing area, scarce bolting on the sport routes encourages you to place intermediate nuts. Wear your helmet and bring an extra set of balls for the run-out sections.

Try the dihedral to the right of White moves which leads to the exposed arête 100 ft. up.

1. Coffee Na Lang Dear (5.6)
2. Action Tranverse (5.9)
3. White Moves (5.10+)
4. Bum Rap (5.5)
5. Unnamed (5.6)

XX. Monkey Wall

For those of you who are more of trekkers than climbers, this is the wall for you. You've got to be crazy to walk this far for a good climb. When you reach the base, closest to the trail is an overhanging section with a crack running diagonally to the left. Around it are other excellent trad climbs.

It was reported that a monkey has stolen a local's rifle and has learned to use it. If you see a monkey, do not aggravate it by showing your teeth – he might be armed and dangerous.

1. I Got You Babe (5.9)
2. The Gift (5.12)
3. Knockin' On Heaven's Door (5.9)
4. Sunshine (5.9)
5. Headache (5.6)
6. Skinless (5.10)

XXI. Lion King

If you want to see the monumental rock on top of which Mufasa had Simba lifted for his kingdom to view, add another 20 minutes to your trek and go around Monkey Wall. Mr. Lex Gerald and Florentino Narciso caught-sight of this wall – news of them climbing it is yet to be heard.

XXII. Veranda (East Face)

1. Veranda (5.9; FA Vincent Christian, 1985)
2. Picnic (5.11-; FA Tan-Torres, 8/94)
3. Vindication (5.3; FA Dia, 1993)
4. Dead Soul (5.10; FA Bong Clarin, 11/94)
5. Screwdriver (5.2; FA Tan, 1984)

XXIII. White Wall

1. The Bow (5.11-; FA Digoy Araneta & Buddy Advincula, 7/99)

2. Kalbo's Delight (5.4; FA Bong Clarin, 12/93)
3. White Lady (5.7; FA Jong Narciso, 1993)
4. Casserola Classic (5.10a; FA Bong Clarin, 12/93)
5. Lukretia (5.11-; FA Bong Clarin, 1995)
6. Bitin (5.8; FA Jong Narciso, 1996)

XXIV. Wet Top-ropes

1. Sink My Ass (5.10+)
2. Sawsaw (5.1; FA Carlos Makinano)

XXV. Pumphouse

1. Headbanger (5.7; FA Joel Ramirez, 8.94)
2. Pumphouse (5.5; FA Tan Torres)
3. Cube (5.7; FA Iva Ybanez)
4. Cousins (5.8; FA Ferdie Arage & Erwin Gozum, 11/95)

XXVI. Bamba

1. Monggo (5.8; FA Martin Foakes & Adrid Barchetta, 1997)
2. Bunot (5.9; FA Carlos Makinano & Jong Narciso, 1997)
3. AJ (5.10; FA Kim Imao & Carlos Makinano, 1997)
4. Hasta La Vista Bamba (5.8; FA Nayahangan, Bulan, Imao, Narciso, Julian, 1996)
5. Mola's Crack (5.7; FA Ferdie Bulan, Carlos Makinano, 1997)