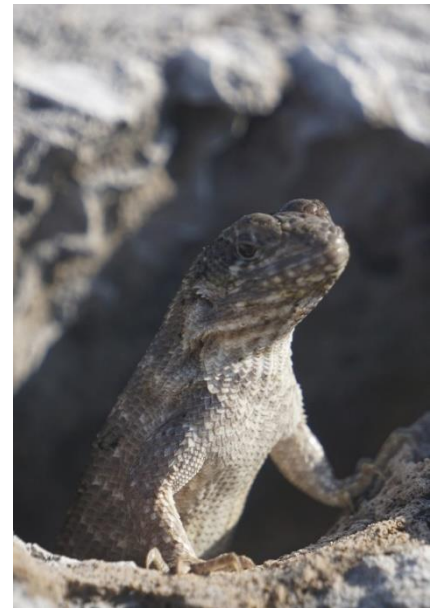
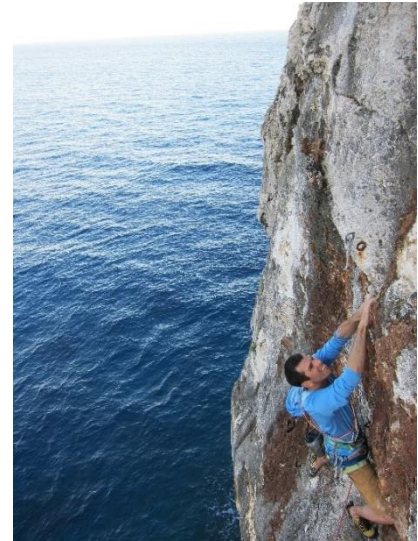


The Bluff View Guide to Climbing on Cayman Brac



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www.climbcaymanbrac.com

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Overview

Cayman Brac hosts over 130 sport climbs on steep and highly featured limestone with routes rising up to 140 feet tall out of the warm turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea. There are over 15 distinct climbing areas on the island with many more begging for development (not all areas are featured in this guide). Grades range from 5.6 to 5.13 with the bulk of the climbs in the 5.10 – 5.12 range (6a – 7b+).

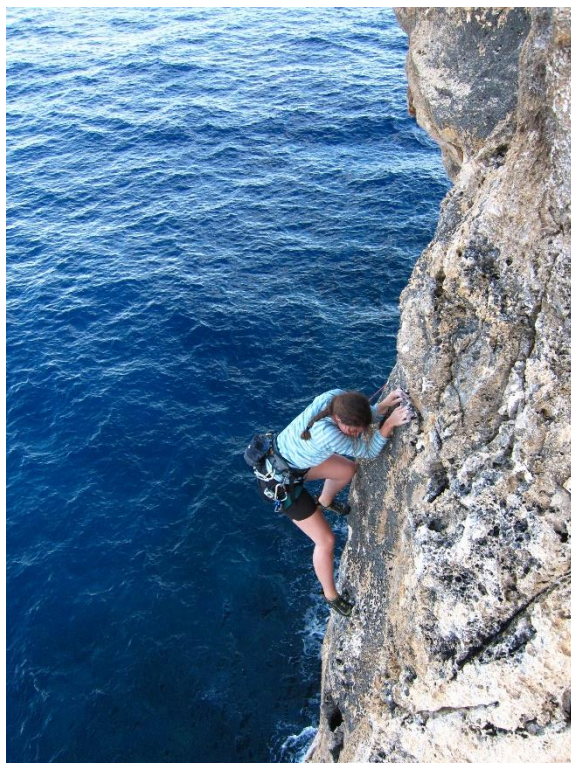
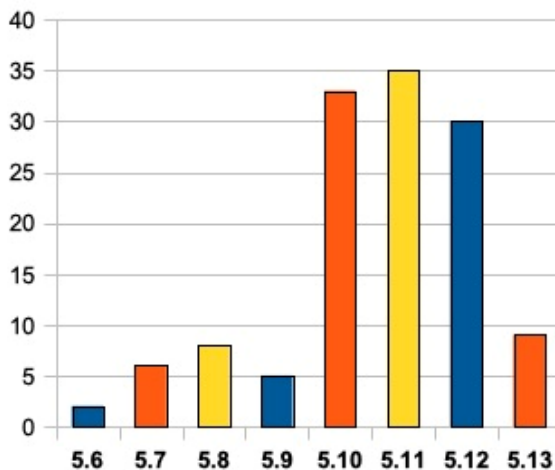
The island sees relatively little traffic from climbers compared with other warm winter destinations such as Potrero Chico and Kalymnos. In fact, it's quite uncommon to see more than one other group of climbers on the island at any given time.

Climbing development began in the mid-1990s, led by US-based climbers Skip Harper, Jeff Elison, Lizz Grenard, and Craig Leubben. More recent development and re-bolting efforts have been led in earnest by Colorado-based climber John Byrnes along with local climbing guides Angel Robledo, Will Verheoven, and David Verheoven.

There are three distinct climbing zones on the island:

- North Side
- South Side
- The Point & Edd's Place

Each zone supports a variety of different climbs and conditions. The north side climbs are generally shaded all day in winter, allowing you to climb a full day without baking in the sun. The **north side cliffs** are generally featured with flowstone and tufas, accommodating athletic and three-dimensional climbing beta. The **south side cliffs** offer steep climbs beset with pockets, edges, jugs, and caves. They are exposed to sun for most of the day during winter months and are best climbed in the afternoon shade (or in the early morning). **The Point** (including Edd's Place) offers the most unique climbs on the island. These are accessible by rappelling in from the top to hanging belay anchors above the water. The exposure is wild and the only retreat is



Hanna on Point Break (10c) at The Point. Arsenault

up. Strong winds and big swells increase the intimidation factor. Climbing at the Point and Edd's Place demands focus and self-reliance.

Bolts and Retreat

All climbs featured in this guide have been re-bolted with *Tortuga* and *Eterna* glue-in titanium (Ti) bolts. These bolts are impervious to the corrosive environment and show no signs of rust or corrosion after 24+ years. Rusted stainless steel bolts originally placed on some of the older routes are still in place on rock – **DO NOT TRUST THESE BOLTS**. The rusty condition of them should convince you of this already; these bolts will certainly fail if weighed and some are so corroded that they crumble in your hand.

Many routes have hard starts and very high first bolts that are intended to be stick-clipped. Often these also have *belay bolts* off to one side and 6 feet off the ground. Clip your rope to the belay bolt and then stick clip the first climbing bolt. This will prevent the two of you from smashing into one another should the leader fall low and still provides a dynamic belay. This is very nice if the leader outweighs the belayer by a significant amount! The belay bolt is easily reachable from the ground so after the leader has clipped #2 or #3, the belayer can unclip from the belay bolt and move out from the wall to watch.

Retreating from a Climb: **All titanium bolts can be directly threaded with the rope** so you can lower off without leaving anything, just like you do at the top anchor. **Please do not leave a bail biner or "quick-link"** as both corrode shut quickly and must be removed with a hacksaw.



The 2 types of titanium bolts on Brac: round Tortuga bolt (left) & pear-shaped Eterna bolt (right)



A severely corroded stainless steel bolt and hanger. If it hasn't fallen off yet, you can see this bolt in the cave on "Shooting the Curl" at the Wave Wall. Obviously, don't even think about clipping this or lowering off it! Hamilton

Climbing and Approach Gear

There is no climbing shop on the island, so bring everything you may want. All routes are well bolted. The longest route is 35m and requires 21 quickdraws (17 bolts plus top and bottom anchors). A 60m rope is good for all routes but be sure to tie a knot in the end for the longer routes at Wave Wall.

Many routes have hard starts, bad landings and high first bolts intended to be stick-clipped. If you're staying at Bluff View, a painter's pole with a standard thread is available so you can just bring the head: Super-clip, Squid, etc. Otherwise, bring tape since there's usually a branch at most areas and you can tape a draw to the branch.

The long routes at the Point require additional gear. You'll need a lead rope plus a rappel rope. If you're staying at Bluff View, rappel ropes are available in the shed. Ascending devices (grigri, prussik, Tibloc, Ropeman) should be taken on all routes at the Point, as well as 6 to 8 shoulder-length slings with biners. Thicker tubular webbing and/or 4–5mm cord can be used to construct a rappel anchor around boulders needed to reach the top anchors over the lip. A bucket-style rope bag and comfy climbing shoes can be nice too.

When you get back home, rinse all your gear in fresh water to get the salt off.

In addition, closed-toe and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended as the approaches to many climbs, although not long or steep, traverse exceptionally jagged and sharp stone and/or involve navigating through small thickets of thorny vegetation including cacti, agaves, and others. Work gloves or fingerless bike gloves are also a wise choice for approaches to the Wave Wall, Neptune's Lair, Valentines Wall, the Point, and Edd's Place as these approaches involve scrambles through sharp karst.

A sun hoodie, wide-brim hat, reef-safe sunscreen, water, first-aid kit, and a headlamp are also important pieces of gear to bring to the climbs. A small foam pad to sit on while putting on shoes, having a snack, or admiring the view can be a welcome addition to your gear.

Guide Service

Rock Iguana Ltd. provides AMGA certified guide services in case you need a partner or don't want to bring gear with you. They also provide lessons and adventure tours. Lots of photos on their website. Contact them at (345) 936-2722 or www.climb.ky

Weather and Climbing Strategy

As they do everywhere, conditions vary depending on the weather and usually the most important determining factors are the sun and the wind. The sun on Cayman Brac is oppressive and climbing in the direct sun rarely is a good idea. There is a small window of time in the morning (before ~9:00am) to sneak in a couple sunny climbs in before it gets too hot or perhaps a little longer if you get an overcast day. Throughout the winter and spring months (December – April), most of the north side cliffs, including many of the Point climbs, remain shaded nearly all day. The south side cliffs generally start seeing shade between 2:00 – 3:00pm in the winter months (Stargazer and Love Shack Walls are later).



Angel on Canopus (a stellar 11a) during the shady afternoon, Stargazer Wall

Winds from certain directions can make some climbing areas inaccessible or others feel dreamy. Northerly winds make the north side cliffs such as Dixon's Wall particularly pleasant while making the south side cliffs quite hot and stagnant (and vice versa). The climbing areas most affected by wind-driven waves are:

- Neptunes Lair – northerly winds (generally over 15 mph) can soak this wall with waves and salt spray; because it doesn't see much sun during the winter months, it can remain wet and smarmy for extended periods following a wave battering.
- The Point – strong north or northeast winds (generally over 15–20 mph) can create strong swells that soak the lower portions of the climb with waves and salt spray.
- Wave Wall – south or southeasterly winds (which are common in winter) generally over 15 mph can cut off access to this wall and soak the lower portion of the climbs with waves and salt spray; more than one climbing group has been stranded at the Wave Wall when winds picked up during their climbs, forcing a retreat to the top of the bluff and an abrasive bushwhack out.

We recommend having a flexible climbing agenda as conditions change by the day. If you get northerly winds and have the ambition to climb all day, Dixon's Wall, Iguana Wall, and Heritage Wall are probably your best bet. However, these walls can feel rather humid with thick air if the winds are coming from the south, making a full day session challenging. In our opinion, a half-day climbing agenda is best. Get a quick morning climb or 2 in on the south side and then go diving, snorkeling, caving, or just hang out in the shade with a book for the late morning – early afternoon before heading out to climb for the afternoon once the south side cliffs go into the shade.

If it rains, the south side cliffs generally dry quite fast once the sun hits them. Because the north side cliffs are shaded, they can seep and stay damp for extended periods of time after rains and can sometimes feel slimy due to algae growth, especially if they haven't seen

much climbing traffic. If you have ambition to climb at the Wave Wall (which is highly recommended), go at the first calm sea window you get as there is no guarantee that those conditions will stick around for another day. Climbing at the Point can be time-consuming to find the climb and get your rigging set up; it's rare to get more than a few climbs in at the Point in a given day. Nesting brown booby birds at the Point or Edd's Place (also known to nest on occasion near the Seahorse and Neptune's Lair) can also force you to alter your climbing agenda – these are a protected species and their numbers have dwindled significantly to critical levels. **Please find another climb if you find an active brown booby nest near the top of your desired climb.**



The Wave Wall getting battered by high seas. Arsenault

Stalactites and Tufas

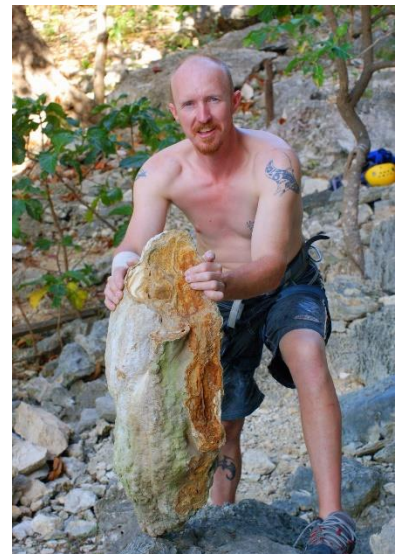
Free hanging stalactites break!

Over the years many of the amazing free-hanging stalactites have been broken off by climbers unfamiliar with this type of hold. This significantly changes the character and grade, as well as diminishing the enjoyment of the climb. If you undercling/pinch a stalactite **at its base (top)** or pull mostly down, it'll stay there. ***However, if you crank or stem on the bottom end, or knee-bar behind it, it'll probably hurt you and then hit your belayer!***

Flowstone features, also called tufas, look like a stalactite that's glued on the wall for its entire length. These are quite solid and have taken a lot of use from a lot of climbers; don't worry about these.

Caves

Don't dive head-first into caves along the route, they are often full of fine silt composed of dried guano, bones or other items that act as a lubricant on your hands and shoes. Climb on the outside edges. Caves on the island are fun places to explore in between climbing.



This 50lb (23kg) stalactite broke when Vance knee-barred behind it. It gave him 7 stitches in his arm (note bandage) and almost killed his belayer. Kroll

Climbing Areas and Route Descriptions



This guide is organized starting at Love Shack and progresses counter-clockwise around the island. Routes over land are listed in the order you approach them looking at the rock. Routes over the water requiring rappel access are referenced right-to-left, while looking towards the water.

There are a few climbing walls that are literally in someone's backyard and are not included in this guide. These include the "Backyard" and "Yogi" walls. As I'm sure you can understand, just having strangers walk in unannounced isn't cool. If you have a chance to hang-out and climb with some of the local climbers and guides, ask for permission and access beta about these walls and they may invite you to climb there (there are also additional areas under development and they may share beta for these new areas as well).

A 4-star (*) rating system is used to indicate the relative quality of the climb. Bolt counts and credit to the first ascensionist(s) are also provided.

South Side Areas

All the south side areas are accessed from the South Side Road. These areas receive considerable amounts of sun exposure during the winter months and dry very quickly following rain.

- Love Shack Wall
- Stargazer Wall
- Valentines Wall
- CBRAC Wall
- Orange Cave
- Sector Theology
- Orange Streak Sector
- Seahorse Sector
- Wave Wall

Love Shack Wall

Located on the South Side Road, 2.7miles (4.3km) east of the Ashton Reid Road (a.k.a. the Bluff Road), it is easily identifiable from the road by its left angling crack and steep white rock behind a partially open and shrubby lot. It's a three-minute walk west from the Bluff View house. Shade about 4pm in March, noon by May. Routes listed left to right. A stick-clip is recommended.

******Leapin' Lizards Ti, 11d/12a** 7 bolts + anchor. The far left route. Have you seen those lizards who jump from branch to branch? Get established on the wall and make a huge throw to a bucket. Repeat. Again! JE, LG, DN.

****Parrot Trooper Ti, 12c/d** 4 bolts + anchor. A hard boulder problem start leads to a rest and tough technical finish. Bring small fingers. LG



*Kirk doing his lizard imitation on Leaping Lizards.
Donaldson*

*** **Throwin' the Hoola Girl Ti, 12a** 7 bolts + anchor. A Houdini route, the moves are never quite what they seem. If it looks hard, it's easy and vice versa. JE

***Bric-a-Brac Crack Ti, 12b** 6 bolts + anchor. The left diagonal seam. Shares last bolt & anchor with *Hoola Girl*. LG & JE

*****Cayman Daze Ti, 13-something** 6? bolts + anchor. Unblemished, marble-like stone. Climb small, technical holds to 11+ exit moves. *Open project*. VW 2011

*****Cayman Nights Ti, 12c** 6 bolts + anchor. The far right route. Powerful, fingery, dynamic moves on perfect rock. MS 2011

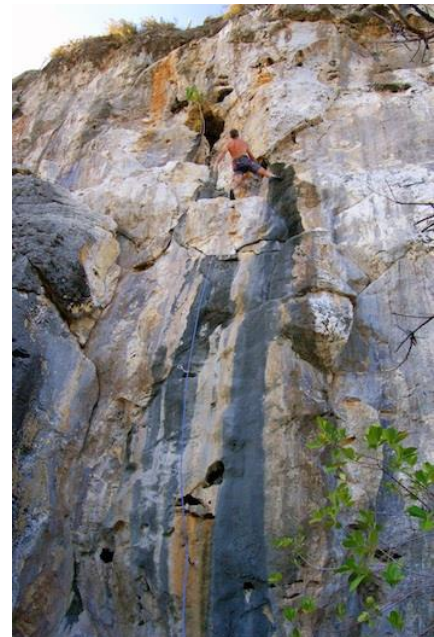
Stargazer Wall

About 35m east of Love Shack, and a two minute walk west of Bluff View, is a stellar panel of marble-like white stone. It has a conspicuous round cave at the top with a tree growing out of it. Shade about 4pm March 1st. A cairn marks the start of the trail. A stick clip is strongly recommended. These routes would all have four stars if they were longer!

*****Betelgeuse Ti, 9+** 7 bolts + anchor (a.k.a Not so Sirius) The red giant of Orion's shoulder. Stem, bridge and mantel to the top of the dihedral then swing over to join *Sirius* for the last two clips. Venturing into the black rock on the left will get you a taste of Orion's sword. JB 2011

*****Sirius Ti, 11d/12a** 6 bolts + anchor. The brightest star in the sky. Start from either side and power up big pockets for two bolts then crank continuous thin moves to a Thank-God pocket. JB 2011

*****Canopus Ti, 11a** 6 bolts + anchor. Low in the Southern sky, known as "the Jewel Box". This jewel of a route starts at the blocky dihedral on the right side of the wall. Perfect stone. JB 2011



*John on the 1st ascent of Sirius.
Kroll*

Valentines Wall

This wall is invisible from the road and is a little bit hard to find. It faces more East than the other South Side walls, therefore it goes into the shade first, about 1:30 by March 1st, although it may take 30 minutes for the rock to cool off. It's far enough from the surf to avoid the sea spray and it gets baked in the sun every morning. The result is dry crisp edges and excellent friction on perfect stone. The larger and deeper holes and caves found on these routes sometimes support bats; they will emerge at sunset. It's fine to grab or step on the edges of these caves, but don't reach into them as you'll encounter a silty dry guano lubricant.

Located 0.8km East of Love Shack or .7km (half-mile) East of Bluff View. Drive or walk past Bluff View to a pale-blue house (on stilts) on the sea-side of the road and start counting power poles. The fourth pole has a small Silver Thatch palm growing next to it. Park there ([Lat. 19.725367° / Long. -79.749318°](#)). From the palm tree, look across the road at about 10 o'clock to see the "arch" in the trees, marked by some pale blue fisherman's cord (photo). This is the trail head. Follow the trail to the cliff, turn right and scramble about 20m to the wall. *Fear of Commitment* is the first route you'll come to.



The trailhead to Valentines Wall

All the routes have low cruxes and high first-bolts, so you'll need a 9–10' (3m) stick clip. The routes are characterized by square-edges, tufas and pockets with distinct, and usually short, cruxes. Have fun!

****Fear of Commitment Ti, 11b/c** 8 bolts + anchor. Climb the left side of the huge detached flake then make an insecure move onto the main wall (stick-clip #2 if you wish). Easier if you stay left at the main bulge. JB 2019

******Norwegian Wood Ti, 12a** 7 bolts + anchor. The stone on this route has been called "the best limestone I've ever seen." Smooth, brown-purple with grain running through it, it looks like wood but won't burn. JB 2019

****The Nose in a Day Ti, 12a** 6 bolts + anchor. Thought you'd never be able to tick the Nose in a day? Start up the right edge of the obvious huge detached flake. Climb to the nose and pull directly over the bolts. An +/- easy-to-onsight two-move-wonder with fun moves and clean air. JB 2018



Derek ticking The Nose in a Day

******Date-less on Valentines Day Ti, 12a** 7 bolts + anchor. The king-line on the wall with perfect stone and cool moves. Start at a right facing flake and move up on a series of diagonal ramps and edges. Balance up to the V-shaped Valentines pocket then the broken heart pocket. Continue up immaculate stone. After the crux, stay left for an independent grey tufa finish. Shares the anchor with *Free Snakin'*. JB 2018

****Free Snakin' and Drawless Ti, 11b** 6 bolts + anchor. *Free Snaking* is when you top rope a steep route on the side of the rope that's not through the draws, so if you fall, you swing out and can't get back on. Face climb orange rock and then mantle onto an orange ramp.

Continue on pockets and tufas and finish on the black tufa. Shares the anchor with *Dateless*. JB 2018

*****I Remain Tied to the Mast Ti, 11d** 8 bolts + anchor. This route will try to lure you onto the rocks. After deciphering the opening boulder problem, follow the pockets upward but avoid the ugly bat cave half-way up. Work up perfect stone to some tufas, then right to the anchors. JB 2020



Jeff S milks a stalactite as he eyes the final moves for Free Snakin' and Drawless. The climb to his left is Date-less.

******Black Hole Ti, 11a** 6 bolts + anchor. Broaden your Event Horizons! This route has very cool moves right from the get-go. Pop up to the first good edge, then follow side-pulls, edges and pockets to a tricky crux. Beware, the obvious black hole at the base of the route will suck in your rope, Gri-gri and belayers! JB 2018

****Mo' Betta Beta Ti, 11d/12a** 4 bolts + anchor. You can always get better beta! Two ways to start: Start just left of the bolt and climb up and slightly right (V4+) or start 7 feet right of the bolt on a large detached flake (V4). Both methods use small powerful edges and obscure footers. Once on the brown rock it turns into pocket pulling with three distinct ways of doing the final moves to the anchor. JB 2018

CBRAC Wall

This is a newly developed wall secured by the conservation efforts of the Coast to Bluff Recreation Access and Conservation (CBRAC) group. There are about 4 routes as of this writing courtesy of Rock Iguana staff (AR, DV, and WV). All of which ascend a fun low-angle slab (5.9–5.10 range) to intermediate anchors with upper extension pitches ascending steep and slightly overhung terrain to higher anchors (5.11–5.12 range). Contact Rock Iguana for more beta on route descriptions.

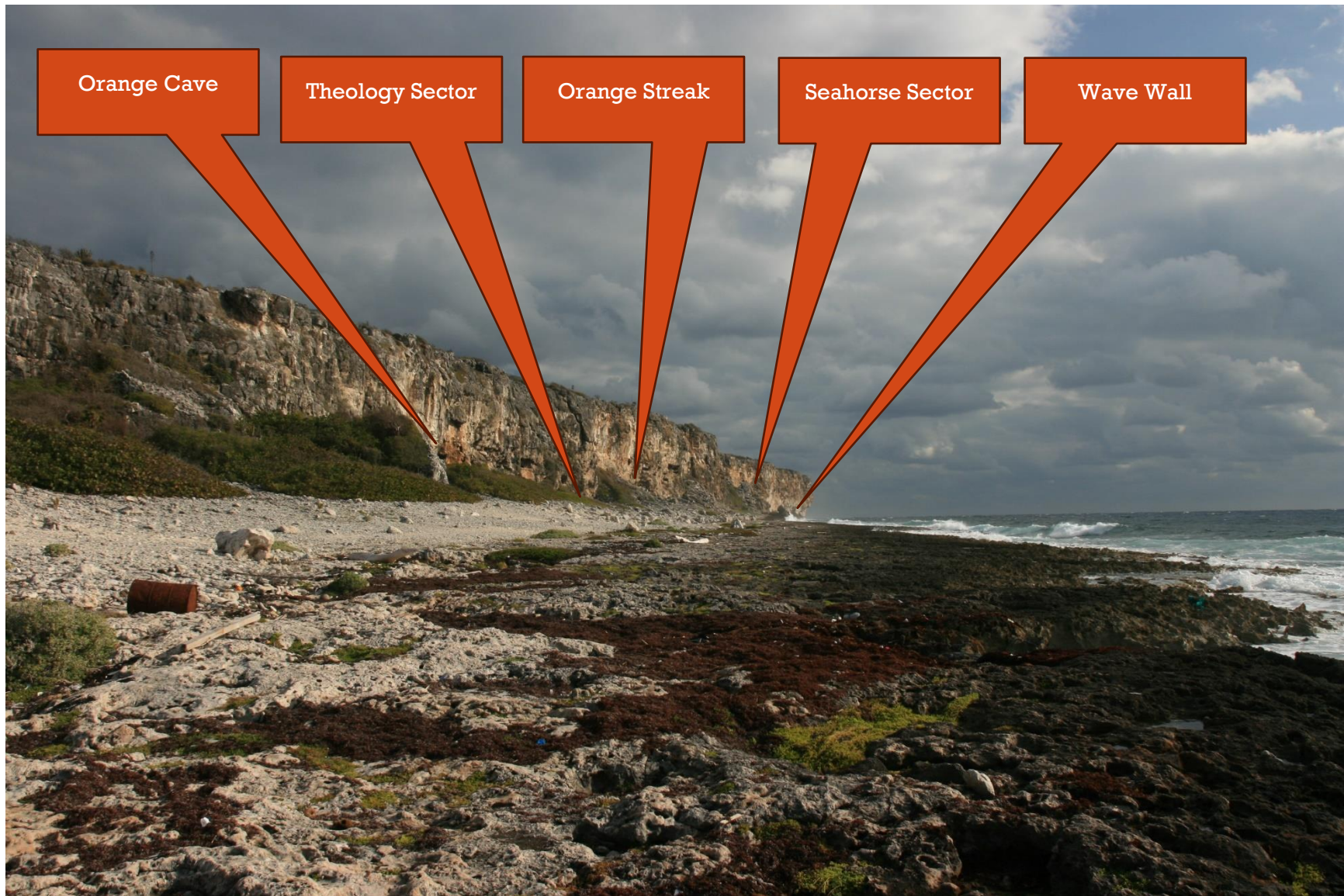
Located approximately 500 feet east of the yoga studio on the South Side Road. Look for a faint rock-lined path leading towards the bluff across from a partially cleared lot with a few coconut trees ([Lat.: 19.727778° / Long.: -79.746186°](#)). Follow the path to the cliff and start looking for bolts when you approach the obvious clean slab at the cliff base.

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The approach for the next 5 climbing areas all start at the east end of the South Side Road. Park at the end of the road and follow the shoreline path east to find the climbs (walking on the iron-shore is easier than on the loose sand and coral heads). Shade about 3pm March First.

Walking times are for a casual pace. Routes are listed left to right. A stick clip is recommended.

South Shore Area Climbs



Orange Cave

From the parking, hike about 5 minutes east along the iron shore until you're opposite the obvious Orange Cave (cairn), then hike up to the base; 10 minutes total. **CAUTION: About 30–40ft right of Lord Slime are two old routes with steel glue-in bolts. DO NOT CLIMB THESE as the bolts would not likely hold body weight!**

****Chum Buckets Ti, 10b** 5 bolts + anchor. The left-most route starts outside the left side of the cave. Fun big moves on big holds leads to thoughtful climbing on the headwall. The very first route on the Brac. SH

CAUTION: When cleaning or top roping *Goin' to Cayman* or *Orange Fantasea*, be very aware that rope-stretch may cause a swinging climber to **crash into the boulder at the cave mouth!** Clean the bottom bolt by clipping directly into the bolt above. Stand up to belay and keep the rope tight!

****Goin' to Cayman with a Snorkel in My Jeans Ti, 10d** 5 bolts + anchor. Gymnastic climbing up the left side of the cave leads to a devious headwall. Obviously, you should stick-clip the first bolt. CL

****Orange Fantasea Ti, 11a/b** 7 bolts + anchor (shares anchor w/*Goin' to Cayman*). Start inside the cave on the right (often dirty and algae-covered). Powerful pulls lead to a bizarre rest. Pull the lip while the cameras click and navigate the cruxy headwall to the anchor. Use double-draws on the third and fourth bolts to avoid rope drag. CL

****L' Orangerie Ti, 8d** 5 bolts + anchor. Starts just right of the cave. Find a good sequence for the start and it's 5.8. SH

***Boy Georange Ti, 8d** 5 bolts + anchor. Was that a Karma Chameleon? Stick clip #1. Better than it looks with a tricky crux at the last move. JB & VW 2011

**** Lord Slime Ti, 7+** 4 bolts + anchor. Lots of options until the steep finish. Don't be fooled, even though it looks blank, climb directly over the last bolt. JB & VW 2011



Climbers at the Orange Cave



Matt on Orange Fantasea (Goin' to Cayman ascends the bulge to the right). Keating

Theology Sector

A two minute hike on the flat past the Orange Cave, is a cave-riddled wall with a large undercut / "caved-out" area with a low roof at its base above a flat bouldery terrace.

*****Ick! Theology! (I'd Rather Study Cod) Ti, 10b** 9 bolts + anchor. After piling cheater stones as high as your conscience allows, boulder past a bolt, pass a small cave, then haul steep jugs to the top. A perennial favorite. The direct bouldery start out of the undercut without the use of the cheater stones would be a notable accomplishment!
EH/SRB/AP 2000

****Nameology Ti, 10c.** 8 bolts + anchor. A harder boulder problem than *Ick!* makes stick clipping #2 a smart move. The climbing above is steep fun. A double-draw in the cave will prevent rope drag and cross-loading the biner. MS & JB 2011



Climbers at Theology Sector. Keating

Orange Streak Sector

About 15 minutes from the car, or 100' (30m) past *Ick! Theology!* is an obvious orange streak above a talus cone and a cave on the right. Hike to the bottom-right of the talus cone, then weave your way towards the cave following a very rough path. This area is popular with guided clients.

***Brac Snack Ti, 6** 3 bolts + anchor. Too short but sweet. SH

****Orange Streak Ti, 7** 6 bolts + anchor. Climb cool pockets and edges, then lay back and stem the dihedral. Unknown

***Shark Bait Ti, 9+** 5 bolts + anchor. Climb moderate fun rock to a big crux move right at the end. Unknown

*** Caymanite Bite Ti, 5.6** 3 bolts + Caymanite anchor. Beautiful fossil and formations form huge jugs. Short and sweet, a good beginner lead. WV-2019

*****Fake Left, Move Right Ti, 10d** 7 bolts + anchor. Bolted during March Madness. Some people love this route, others not so much. The white holds in white rock can be hard to see. The route jukes and weaves with some spicy sections, so both you and your belayer need to be alert! And yes, Virginia, there is a clipping hold at the anchor. JB 2012



Orange Streak Sector. Fake Left, Move Right passes the cave on the left then follows the white rock above. Byrnes

Seahorse Sector

About 20 minutes from the car. Hike past First Cay (photo) to the bottom of the Seahorse, a 40-foot pinnacle. You can scramble up left of the Seahorse, pass below *Ocean Pony*, to get to *Bananaquit*. Or, when the swells are moderate, pass below it and then up, as you would for the Wave Wall.



First Cay with Wave Wall in distance. Keating

These first two routes are on the Seahorse itself. They are short but have an outstanding position, overlooking the ocean on both sides. Bring your photographer! In the winter, there is shade only in the early morning until about 10am. In the summer there is shade most of the day, except around high noon and the routes are very exposed to sea spray in agitated seas, making this a better summer crag. Frigate birds (a.k.a. Man'O'War) begin to roost on top of the pillar about an hour before sunset – please finish climbing before they arrive and be quiet as it gets dark.

**** Sea Stallion Ti, 5.11b/c** 6 bolts + anchor. Starts on the west side of the pillar in the white overhanging rock. Sequential moves lead to a full rest, followed by a difficult boulder problem before the last bolt. Mandatory stick clip. RI-WV 2020

****Ocean Pony Ti, 5.9+** 6 bolts + anchor. Climb up the northwest arête of the Seahorse on the darker rock. Fun and technical but pumpy, so you might want to warm up on something else. Traverse left to the last bolt and the anchor, and take a minute to enjoy the spectacular views at the top. RI-WV 2020

The next two routes start on a small terrace right of the Seahorse and left of a large, orange undercut section of wall that contains a multi-tiered cave system (see photo).

****Bananaquit Ti, 7** 11 bolts + anchor. Although a lot of work was done on this route in 2015, the bottom section is still a bit sharp. Surmount a cruxy bulge, then drift a bit right and up into a steep and enjoyable groove to finish on a small ledge on the left. The anchor is a titanium U-bolt with lowering ring, plus a standard glue-in for backup. JA 2014



Climbers on Bananaquit (left) and Flying the Colors with the Seahorse Pinnacle behind them. Donaldson

*****Flying the Colors Ti, 11c/d** 12 bolts + anchor. Start 10' right of *Bananaquit*

and scramble up (5.1) to the first bolt. Work through the grey rock to good stone above. The climbing is continuously interesting as it wanders left and right across the bolt line, getting steeper all the time, and finishes on an exposed prow. Tremendous position! JA 2014

Anemone Ti, 12c/d 10? bolts + anchor. This starts from the high point of the boulder pile to the right of the undercut orange cave, starting in spongy gray rock (easy but unnerving), up pockets, then out an overhanging wall. JA 2014

The next route, and its extension, require some unusual rope-work because of its overhanging start followed by a low-angle slab. If you were to fall on the upper part of the route, or took while working it, the rope would be dragged hard over the steep-to-slab prominence — possibly damaging your rope.

*Here's one way to avoid damage when you only have **one rope**. Climb to and clip bolt #6 on the slab. Then downclimb (5.4) to bolt #5 (good stance) and clip directly into it with a draw. On the belayer's side of the rope, tie an 8-on-a-bight and clip it to your harness; now you're anchored to bolt #6, too.*

Have your belayer take you off belay. Pull the rope up and through the first four quickdraws (not #5), dropping it back to your belayer, who will put you back on belay and tie a stopper knot in the end of the rope. Check each other, undo your anchors and continue!

*** **Man'O'War Ti, 11d** 13 bolts + anchor. Scramble down the pile of loose rocks, about 100' past Anemone to the steep white rock. A tough boulder problem off the ground (stick clip #2) from a side-pull rail leads to sustained 5.11 moves for the first 5 bolts. Bring 3 – 4 long draws for the easy slab after the 5th bolt. Continue up the steepening wall and **move right from the 13th bolt** for the final crux and the anchor. A long adventure! RI-DV/WV 2020

** **Kleptoparasite Ti, 12d/13a** 3 bolts + anchor (Total 16 bolts + anchor) Extension to *Man'O'War*. **From the 13th bolt bust left** to reachy & powerful moves between small 2-finger pockets. Continue up and left to the dihedral and the bouldery crux on tiny invisible crimps. A 60m rope just barely gets you back down; tie a knot in the end of your rope. Takes you all the way to the top of the Bluff! RI-DV 2020

Wave Wall

The Wave Wall is another 10 minutes of scrambling past the Seahorse (30 minutes total from the car) and offers a variety of long, high quality routes. It goes into the shade about 2pm in March. Unfortunately, it is only approachable during calm to moderate seas. Boots and gloves recommended for this approach. Since carrying a clip-stick on this approach is difficult, the first bolt will be reachable from a good stance.

Park as for Orange Cave (above) and hike east to First Cay (photo above). Pass above it, then below the Seahorse pinnacle. **Here is the test:** if you can't pass below the Seahorse, even by timing your crossing between waves, it's pretty certain you won't be able to safely cross the sloping rock shingle beyond either.

Once past the Seahorse pinnacle scramble through a boulder field at mid-height (cairns often present) and come to a section of sloping rock with the overhanging wall on the left and the water on the right (photo). Even moderate waves can make this section dangerous and climbers have been trapped by high seas! When the sea is calm, walk low to the last large shelf (~100m) and it's 2nd class. Moderate seas, stay halfway up the slope on dark rock: 3rd class. Big seas, stay on the white rock: **5th class (not recommended)**!

If you get trapped by big waves climb Jumbo Shrimp (see below) to the top of the bluff. Then walk away from the edge, on a 20 degree angle to the right, about 200m to a road. Turn left on the road, and walk about 1.5 miles to the Lighthouse Rd, passing a goat farm and a gate along the way. At the road, go left again to a round house for help, or follow Peter's Road down to Spot Bay. Alternatively, carefully walk west (climber's left) along the bluff edge for 600–700 feet and look for the top anchors to Flying the Colors shortly before you are directly opposite the Seahorse pillar (be prepared for an abrasive thrash through the vegetation along the bluff edge). Rappel from these anchors to the base.



The approach to Wave Wall during moderate seas. When the waves are breaking high enough to wet the dark rock, it's basically suicide to try this approach. Donaldson

****The Huckster Ti, 12c/d** 6 bolts + anchor + belay bolt. The first route you come to starts about 50' past the stalactite pillar (photo above) and below an obvious cave. Big moves between pockets. Hucking amazing! JA 2013

*****Get It Together Ti, 12d/13a.** 8 bolts + anchor. Starts about 10' left of the belay pillar described below. Steep, sustained, juggy climbing leads to a very difficult, small-hold boulder problem past the last bolt. Angle right to finish at the *Pirates* anchor. JE

The next two routes start atop a nice belay pillar with a very white and clean face above.

******Pirates of Penance Ti, 12b.** 5 bolts + anchor. Steep climbing with big holds and big reaches leads to a tricky crux layback sequence past the last bolt. A sporty run out on good pockets takes you up and left to the anchor. On you the whole way! JE

*****Pirates of Pissants Ti, 12d.** 6 bolts + anchor. Powerful, continuous pockets on a steep, white shield of rock. Bring small fingers. JE & LG

******Conched Out Ti, 10d.** 7 bolts + anchor. After deciphering the starting moves (climb directly over the bolt), pull through beautiful Caymanite bands and crystal grape-clusters in a small cave. Angle right to the last bolt and anchor of *Frolickin' Frigates*. LG

*****Frolickin' Frigates Ti, 10c.** 8 bolts + anchor. Climb up to a ledge, and then crank directly over the bolt on the finger of rock (or worm your way around it). Now race the pump to the anchors. LG

*For the next two routes, about 25' past **Frigates**, dump your packs on a comfortable platform, about 10' above the approach shelf, which has many little "stash caves" and a 5 foot long caymanite band below **Blackened Durgon**.*

*****Booby Trap Ti, 10b.** 8 bolts + anchor. A few feet left of the platform, at about head level, is a solid thread and a flat spot for your belayer's feet. Anchor your belayer here with some long runners. Traverse left to the first bolt then climb a panel of perfect white stone. Climb the white pillar on either side (left is harder). JB 2014



The Wave Wall during calm seas; climbers are below The Legend of the Big Black Dick. Keating

Locals were fishing while John was bolting the next route. I thought they were crazy, dodging big waves in bare feet on sharp rock. They thought I was crazy hanging from a rope on a cliff. We bought a dozen black durgons from them and cooked them in Cajun spices that night.

****Blackened Durgon Ti, 9/10a.** 11 bolts plus anchor. Start at a 5' long caymanite band and climb to the big roof/bulge. Clip the bolt over the roof, then move up and right. (Going right earlier is easier but very sharp.) This route is loaded with fossils and caymanite. A new-style titanium anchor is at the top: thread both the fat ring and backup bolt. JB 2014

Recognize the next two climbs by the vertical, white rock which leads into a shallow alcove, then up to a scooped dark roof, and then over this to a vertical white head wall. You need a 60m rope to lower from the top anchors, although you can lower/rap twice by using the Ray's Gar and Krill anchor with a 50m.

****Reef on This! Ti, 10d.** 13 bolts + anchor. Pick a hold, any hold...until the finish. Shares the anchor with *Parrot Preserves*. LG

******Parrot Preserves on Rye Ti, 10d.** 11 bolts + anchor. Climb moderate rock to the overhang, crank that and find the technical crux above. LG

Jumbo Shrimp Ti, 10c. 2 bolts + anchor. An extension to *Reef on This / Parrot Preserves* will get you to the top of the bluff and **within 15 minutes of *Spiral Staircase* (see *Edd's Place*)**. A 60m rope will just barely get you down (**tie a knot in the end**) or rap/lower twice using the *Ray's Gar and Krill* anchor. EH 2000

****Ray's Gar and Krill Ti, 8.** 3-4 bolts + anchor. Climb either *Reef on This* or *Parrot Preserves* to the two-bolt anchor below the big overhang. EH 2000

******The Legend of Big Black Dick Ti, 10d/11a.** 12 bolts + anchor. Start climbing about 30ft right of *Parrot* on featured vertical rock just right of a blunt pillar. Negotiate the slab, then power up the pockets. Don't be strikin' yer colors before the anchors on the overhanging arete. JB 2012

For several decades a life-sized statue of a black pirate, cutlass in hand, dominated the departure lounge at the Grand Cayman airport. Next to him was a story-board titled "The Legend of Big Black Dick" in large print. Unfortunately, we have lost his grinning visage, and a good chuckle, but his legend will live on!

*****Unsuspecting Remora Ti, 12a** 10 bolts + anchor. Climb pockets up a black and white streaked face (watch out for shark-bite!) to a rest. Steep jugs left of the cave lead to a devious, difficult finish. Take a doubled draw for the first bolt on the headwall. EH

*****Shooting the Curl Ti, 10a** 8 bolts + anchor. This route is easily identified by the bright orange rock, right-diagonal crack and caymanite band at the start. Take a double draw for the bolt in the cave. SH

****Hang Ten Ti, 10d.** 9 bolts + anchor. A difficult start leads to a good rest. Use it because it's pumpy the rest of the way to a difficult blind finish. Put most of your draws on the right! Shares the anchor with *New Wave*. SH

*****New Wave Ti, 10b.** 8 bolts + anchor. After a stiff start, jug-haul into a small cave. Climb out the roof of the cave (look down here!) to another crux at the final bolts. Take a double-draw for the bolt in the cave. JE

The next route starts off the end of the large shelf, where it becomes impossible to walk further along the cliff.

******Old School Ti, 8** 7 bolts + anchor + 2 belay bolts. Starts on a stepped shelf with two belay bolts. If you're not on a bucket, you're off route. Best route of its grade. JE

The next two routes usually require a belayed traverse. *Get on belay and clip the Old School anchor. Stay low at the start following a line of footholds (5.4) and clip a bolt or two on your way to the belay bolts. When lowering, cleaning or following these routes, **stay trammed-in** to your belayer's rope all the way down, or you'll be swimming! Your belayer must be clipped into the belay bolt, of course. Astounding position over the crashing waves.*

*** **Crab Dance Ti, 11c/d.** ~9 bolts + anchor + belay bolt. Start from the third bolt of the via ferrata, about 40' right of *Old School*, at a stance just big enough for a belayer and a flaked rope. Lots of variety and steepness, but some sharpness too. Feedback on grade, bolt count and quality welcomed. JA 2014

*** **Salty Dog Ti, 12a.** ~11 bolts + anchor + belay bolts. Approach as for *Crab Dance* but continue for several more bolts to an exposed belay station below an extensive cave hidden in the cliff above. Climb an overhanging pillar on the right side of the cave, past one difficult section, to a no-hands rest at a "window" in the cave. Engage the very steep, pocketed bulge above and continue to anchors. Lowering directly off this route will land you in the breakers, so remember to stay trammed-in (see above). Still a bit sharp in places. Feedback on grade, bolt count and quality welcomed. JA 2014



Climbers out for a late afternoon stroll. Keating

The Point and Edd's Place

Read this TWICE before climbing a route at the Point or Edd's Place!

Climbing at the Point and Edd's Place is an amazing and unique experience. However, it can turn into a serious situation should anything go wrong. Remember that unless there are some other climbers around, and you somehow manage to communicate with them, **no one else on the island can rescue you but you! Always carry ascenders (prussik, Tiblock, Ropeman) on all routes!**

Often the wind and the sea breaking on the cliff make it impossible to hear each other while climbing. Establish rope signals (see below) or make other arrangements to communicate with your partner *before* rappelling over the edge

Always evaluate the surf conditions before rappelling. Be sure your targeted belay stance isn't being hit by big waves or wind-driven spray. If the belay looks wet it often means it's been hit by a big wave within the hour and will be again! You might choose another route or a different area for the day.

Finding the Routes

A **T** in the route description indicates the route area has been Tagged with a yellow marker . at the top of the cliff to help you orient yourself. These are often tucked into pockets or depressions to keep them out of the elements. Nonetheless, each year a few tags deteriorate and disappear. We replace them regularly, but we apologize if some missing. They are tied on with white clothesline, which never blows away.



Look for yellow tags to identify routes when on top of the Bluff.

Nesting Birds

The Brown Booby is a protected species that climbers must be considerate of. Their population on Brac has reached a critically low level (largely due to feral cats). They nest on top of the Bluff and on ledges alone or in small groups. One year they will be nested in one area and the next year somewhere else. If you find a nest (a sitting adult with eggs or puffy white chick) please be respectful and keep your distance. You don't want to flush the parent leaving the egg/young unprotected for any length of time. If the parent flushes, they will usually return immediately if you move away. **Please be respectful of this special bird and find another climb if one happens to be in the proximity of where you initially wanted to climb.**



Please be considerate and avoid climbing next to nesting brown boobys. Keating

Bolt Counts

At the Point and Edd's Place the bolt count is designated as: **2/10/2**, meaning there is a 2 bolt belay at the bottom, 10 bolts on the route and 2 bolts at the top. Always take a couple extra draws and a half-dozen long runners.

Setting up the rappel (abseil)

The rappels present unusual, time consuming challenges for many climbers, especially since most routes overhang and you'll be rappelling on a single rope. In addition, you'll be in the sun during the set-up and while belaying up your second. I've seen a lot of really nasty sunburns!

Slide a piece or two of garden hose (in the shed at Bluff View) over one end of your rappel rope and using slings, anchor it to a tree or thread on top of the bluff. Slide the hose into position to protect the rope from any sharp edges and/or stuff some other padding under it. Don't throw the rope yet.

Tie a figure-8 on a bight (below the hose) with enough slack for the knot to hang about **2' below** the bolt anchor that's over the edge of the cliff. (This slack will allow you to get on rappel.) Use a locking biner on your belay loop to clip into this "safety knot" and down-climb to the anchor.

Now, clip two quickdraws to the anchor bolts and clip directly to their **top biners** using two runners girth-hitched to your harness (not your belay loop) — now you have both hands free.

Leaving about 10' of slack between knots, tie another 8-on-a-bight and clip it to the quickdraws in the anchor. Move your runners down, one at a time, to the bottom biners on the quickdraws. You should have enough slack to get on rappel — you'll be hanging from the quickdraws and can unclip from the safety knot.

Clip the free end of the rappel rope to the back of your harness to keep it out of the sea. Now you can toss the rope (or if windy, stack it on your lap) and get on rappel in the normal way. The slack you left between knots allows your partner to pull up the safety knot, clip it, and down-climb to the anchors while you're rappelling.

Depending on your device, you may want to add friction for a single rope rappel. Adding a

The first person to rappel takes the quickdraws and lead rope in a bag; a bucket-type rope bag is best. As this person descends, **they must clip the rap line into enough of the bolts to stay in contact with the cliff!** If they don't they may find themselves hanging 10' from the wall and 30' above the water. (Shit, time to get out the ascenders!)

When the first person gets to the belay anchors, they clip-in using the slings girth-hitched to their harness, then clip the end of the rap line into the anchor too. **It's very important to maintain control of the end of the rap line.** The second person down unclips the rap rope from the draws as they descend and may end up free-hanging over the sea. The first person then pulls them into the belay.

NEVER use a long (70/80m) rope or do a double-rope rappel and pull it down to use for leading. If the wind doesn't make it get impossibly snagged on something, it will certainly end up in the sea. Furthermore, having a fixed rope is essential for self-rescue (prussik, Tibloc, Ropeman) if for any reason you should not be able to climb the route.

One of the most common mistakes is for both climbers to rap down and then discover they left the lead-rope on top of the cliff! To combat this, we've developed the "one-two-three" check before starting the rappel:

1. **Am I safe?** Double check your rap setup, anchors and harness.
2. **Am I taking everything I want?** Such as the lead rope, draws, ascenders, camera and chalk bag. *The person still on top can get things for you.*
3. **Am I leaving everything I don't want?** Such as sunglasses and hat (you'll be in the shade). If I'll be leading, I stuff my hat and sunglasses into any convenient hole near the top anchor so I can put them on while belaying my second and not get sunburned.

After the leader reaches the top of the climb, they should belay from the anchors below the rim. Since it's often difficult to hear each other, the leader can pull up the rap rope as an unmistakable "Off Belay" signal. Afterwards, I use 3-slow-tugs for "On Belay" and a 2-tug response for "Climbing." In general, any sharp tug on the rope is "take" and a long slow pull is "slack".

Obviously, you can belay your second up and over the top and take them off-belay. Then clip to the safety knot, clean the anchors and climb up yourself.

Edd's Place

Edd's Place is the most remote climbing spot on the Brac but its wild positioning makes the effort to find it worthwhile. Climbs get shade about 1:00 in March. Edd's Place is located about 40 yards west of DOS concrete survey monument #155. Once you find #155, look for a rock cairn marking the top of the climbs shortly past this marker. There are 3 ways to find this:

1. **Lighthouse Access:** Park at the lighthouse at the east end of the Lighthouse Road. Follow the path to the edge of the bluff and turn right (southwest) and walk along the edge of the bluff for about 45 minutes (3/4 of a mile). This approach traverses daunting and exposed terrain where a slip or trip on the jagged razor-sharp karst can spell disaster. Sturdy footwear, gloves, and sun protection are strongly recommended. Keep your eyes out for square concrete survey markers intermittently placed along the bluff edge (often a small pipe extends above the monument). The numbers will be ascending as you walk.
2. **Goat Farm Access:** a recently constructed road off of Lighthouse Road across from Peters Road for a goat farm ("Bluff Farms" [19.747763° / -79.740795°](#)) will bring you within 15 minutes of Edd's Place. However, access here is tricky. The road is posted with no trespassing / keep out signs and is gated on weekends and late afternoons. If the gate is open and you choose, drive in and see if you can find a worker and ask if you can park there to go climbing. Be sure to ask them when the gate will be closed

or whether they trust you to lock it on your way out. If the gate is locked and if the keep out signs are up, try another access option. If you do get permission to access this route, follow the road for 1.24 miles to a second pull-off on the right (from here you can see the rock cairn at the top of the climbs). From this point, walk about 100m further up the road find a path of least abrasion through the vegetation to the cliff edge, looking for monument #155 and the cairn at the top of the climbs.

3. Wave Wall Access: from the Wave Wall, climb Jumbo Shrimp to the top of the bluff. Walk easterly (climbers right) for 15 minutes, looking for survey monument #155 and the rock cairn.

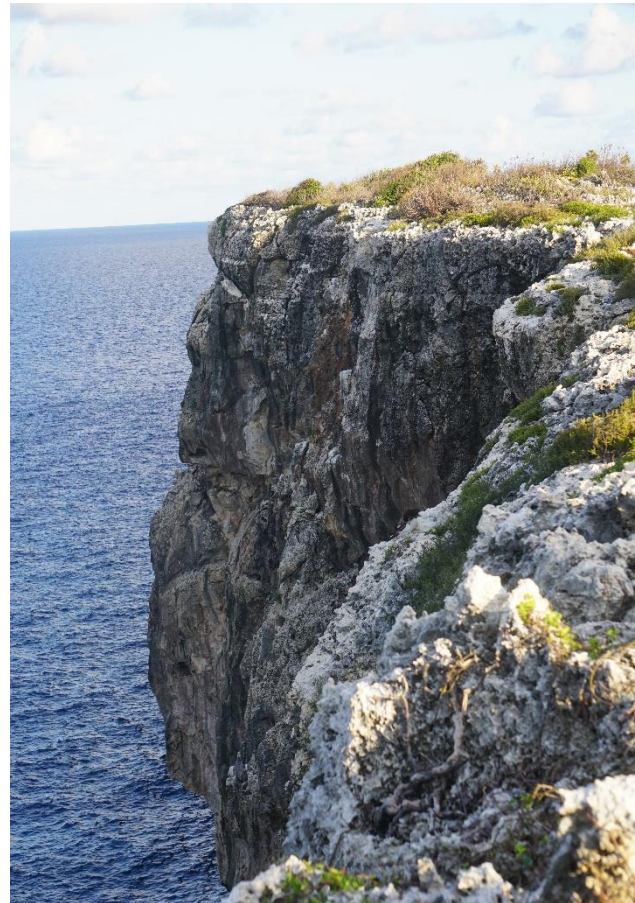
******Spiral Staircase Ti, T, 10a.** 2/12/2 One of the island's best tens with an outstanding lower belay position! Shares lower belay with *Limestone Pirate*. Girth-hitch slings to the bolts instead of draws so you don't cross-load the biners. **Pre-clip the first bolt while still on rappel to prevent a factor-two fall onto the belay.** Smooth pocketed rock leads to a cave with a spiral staircase, or crank straight up at the bolt (mid-5.10). JE

******Limestone Pirate Ti, 11a.** 2/12/2. Steep and excellent! Fun moves with a couple of exciting reaches. Shares *Staircase* lower belay. Top anchor bolts are hard to see from above, under a small overhang. **Pre-clip the first bolt while still on rappel to prevent a factor-two fall onto the belay.** JE

The Point

Drive down the Lighthouse (Major Donald) Road about 6 miles (10km) to the east end of the island and park at the lighthouse. Follow the obvious trail to the left. Boots and gloves highly recommended for these approaches! Routes listed right to left as you look towards the water. Look for turtles and sharks while you belay! Shade almost all day in winter, starts to get morning sun at the top in late-March. By May there's shade on most routes by 3pm.

****I Got 99 Turtles Because A Shark Ate One Ti, 510c/d** 2/11/2. The closest route to the parking area. Walk approximately 100 feet from the parking area and spot the conspicuous cactus near the edge. 99 Turtles is just behind this cactus in an obvious gray dihedral. Beautiful holds and movement on a clean slightly overhanging wall. Sustained jug pulling to stemming corner at the top. Comfortable belay in a small cave at the bottom. Be sure to look for



The Point features routes from 100 to 140' long

turtles and big fish from the belay. Well protected. Goes into the shade about 2pm in March.

About 100m from the Lighthouse parking there is a cairn next to the trail. From this **first cairn**, look straight out towards the edge to see some large bushes and a few palm trees. To get to this group of routes, walk towards the edge from the first cairn, then angle right (easiest walking) to find the route of your choice.

*****Point Break Ti, 10b/c** 2/14/2 Shares the anchor and top 3 bolts with *What's the Point?* and angles to climber's left onto the East face; goes into the shade about 2pm in March. Steep jug hauling through huecos on clean white rock, stalactites and Caymanite, a face climbing crux, the only disappointment is when it joins *What's the Point* and gets a bit sharp.

***What's the Point? Ti, T, 5.9** 2/13/2. A little run out if 9 is your limit, and sharp at the top, but an impressive position. Anchors are over the edge on a slab. Beware the waves! One day a wave broke OVER my belayer, like a surfer in a tube, and left her scared but dry! GB

******Freedom Ti, T, 12c** 2/17/2. About 60' left of *What's the Point*. Anchors are just below the left side of a large block. Three 5.12 cruxes: technical, mono pulling and a roof. LG & JE

******Throwin' the Tortuga Ti, 11b** 2/11/2. 5' left of *Freedom*; anchors are next to a diagonaling crack that splits the cliff edge. Shares bottom belay with *Freedom*. Beautiful huecos filled with globular crystals lead to an airy, orange arête. Then up a steep flake system and over a bulge to a final technical finish. Rock & Ice #69 cover photo! JE

*****A Porcupine Named Fluffy Ti, 11c.** 2/12/2. 20' left of *Tortuga* look for the anchor bolts just above a small reddish ledge with a small bush. A steep wild start leads to a devious technical crux. The first bolt will prevent a factor two fall onto the belay. Clip it with a long runner or back-clean it after clipping the next one to reduce rope drag. Shares top and bottom anchors with *Renegade*. JE

****Renegade Ti, 11d/12a.** 2/14/2. Shares top and bottom anchors with *Fluffy*. Cast off to



Point Break, What's the Point, and I Got 99 Turtles when viewed from trail from parking



Matt on Throwing the Tortuga. Ludwig

climber's right while on rappel and follow the bolts down. Amazing steep start, a rest, then technical cruxes on sharp rock in the headwall. JE & LG

***The Devil Wears Flippers Ti, T, 11a** 2/16/2. 40' left of *Fluffy* around a bush. Anchors are drilled straight down in a pothole at the cliff edge. Girth-hitch these with long slings to prevent cross-loading your biners. Long, sustained, steep and annoyingly sharp in places. Trends left, then right; take a long sling for the left-most clip. CL



The Devil Wears Flippers tag and anchors (circled in red). Arsenault

*****Spermy the Whale Ti, 11c/d** 2/14/2. 5' left of *Devil*. Shares *The Devil Wears Flippers* lower anchor. Nifty long diagonal huecos above the low crux. Technical and sustained. JE

*Approach the next climb by staying on the trail and walking past the first cairn about 20m to a **second cairn**; or about 120m from the car park. Now head towards the edge and slightly right to a lone palm that's on the edge of the bluff. This avoids scary bushwhacking on the cliff edge.*

*****Shiver Me Timbers Ti, 10b** 2/13/2 Located in the first big dihedral with a convenient palm tree anchor. An easy rappel set-up, short crux and a belay ledge high off the water makes this a good choice for your first Point route. SH

*Approach the following four routes by staying on the trail for about 75m past the second cairn until you find **two more cairns**. Walk between the cairns on a faint trail that angles left to a rocky area. Then angle right following the path of least resistance to a narrow break in the*

brush. This will put you a few feet right of *Blackbeard's Revenge*. **These routes are a good choice for days with rough seas as the belay ledges are about 8m above the water!**

****Blackbeard's Revenge Ti, T, C, 10b** 2/9/2 Find the top anchor bolts just below a flat shelf, in a square-cut alcove. Shares *Walking the Plank* bottom belay, so you can do both routes without moving the rap rope. Interesting line with fun moves on duos, edges, and side-pulls. SH

*****Walking the Plank Ti, 10c.** 2/12/2 Top anchor is 8' left of *Blackbeard's*. Bottom belay is to the left when rappelling. Find the hidden pocket, pull over the first bulge and grab the handle! More amazing holds in the black & orange dihedral lead to the blind crux. SH

****No Problem, Mon Ti, C, 10a.** 2/9/2 Top anchors in a big white dihedral about 20' left of *Plank*. Perfect belay ledge is to your left on rappel. Go right and up a somewhat blind arete/bulge to photogenic moves on the white arete. Make a pretty step-across to the belay. SH

******Porpoise Christi Ti, C, 11b** 2/4/2 Direct start to No Problem, Mon. Exquisite white limestone, big pulls, big holds! It can be top roped from the *No Problem* belay ledge, but it's a unique lead with a memorable lower belay. JE

To find the **Wall of the Early Morning Flight** follow the trail approximately 125m past the *No Problem Mon* double cairns to another cairn. Angle slightly right to a lone bush near the edge. There's also a square, faded-red painted, concrete "DOS" survey marker about 5m to the left of the routes.



Katy on *Walking the Plank* on a calm day. Donaldson

****Holy Huecos Batwo-mon Ti, Tag, 5.10c** 2/14/2 Look for the anchors down low, on the left side of large, ugly "V" cleft. Remember Charybdis, the terrifying whirlpool in the *Odyssey*? This route will make you feel like a Greek hero if the seas are rough. A hook-shaped rock protrusion creates an inverted-whirlpool effect and rogue waves can inundate the belay! More than one person has gone through the wash cycle and it's never on "Delicate". After rappelling to the first set of double bolts, look for wet rock below you and examine the surf for a few minutes before committing. You can belay from the higher set of anchors, so you miss the lower crux, but it's still 10c. LG

*****Spine-less Ti, 11d** 2/15/2 Top anchor bolts are just right of the large bush, on the right side of a triangular ledge, just below a 4-inch overlap. Shares the *Holy Huecos* bottom anchor and the *Chicken* top anchor. Travel up incredibly smooth, steep hueco-ed rock. Enter a rest cavern with optional thread. Straight up and out to an incredible tricky thin crispy finish. JE & LG

******Chicken of the Sea Ti, Tag, 12a** 2/10/2 Shares *Spine-less* top anchors. Exposed and sustained! Follow the big holds past the last bolt for a true "photo finish" or head straight for the anchor. JE & LG

*****Hot Tuna Ti, 12a 2/8/2** Top anchors easily seen 6 feet left of the *Chicken* anchors. Bottom anchors in a cave. Follow smooth, steep, white rock. JE & LG

***Beach Fire Ti, C, 10c 0/1/2/6/2** (2 pitches) 165' past *Tuna*, rap a chimney system past a nasty ledge to a unique and very isolated rock "beach" (great position, calm seas only!). Climb back out in two pitches, starting with a left arching crack-like system. The first pitch (crux) is excellent; unfortunately the second is mostly just pointy. EH, SRB

Mud Falcon Ti, 5.11b Top-rope variation to Beach Fire. Thread the intermediate anchors on your way down (in a shallow groove off to climber's left), and top-rope the steep straight-in crack system. VW



A brown booby parent and their chick at The Point. Please be respectful of these special birds. Keating

North Side Areas

The north side areas are found in the Spot Bay area along the North Side Road. These areas are shaded nearly all day during the winter months. However, because these areas don't get much sun, they can be seepy for periods after rains and are prone to feeling slimy from algae growth, especially if they haven't seen much climbing traffic. When the winds are coming from north, great sending conditions can be found at Dixon's Wall in particular.

Neptune's Lair

Park at the east end of the North Side road in the Spot Bay turnaround. Follow the trail east

and then walk the Long Beach toward the big pointed rock in the sea and the micro-island "Little Cayman Brac". If the water's calm, stay close to the water when entering the boulder area. Otherwise, you can scramble at mid-height, aiming for the steep white face. About 20–25 minutes from the car. Wear gloves & boots.



Neptune's Lair approach on a calm day. Arsenault

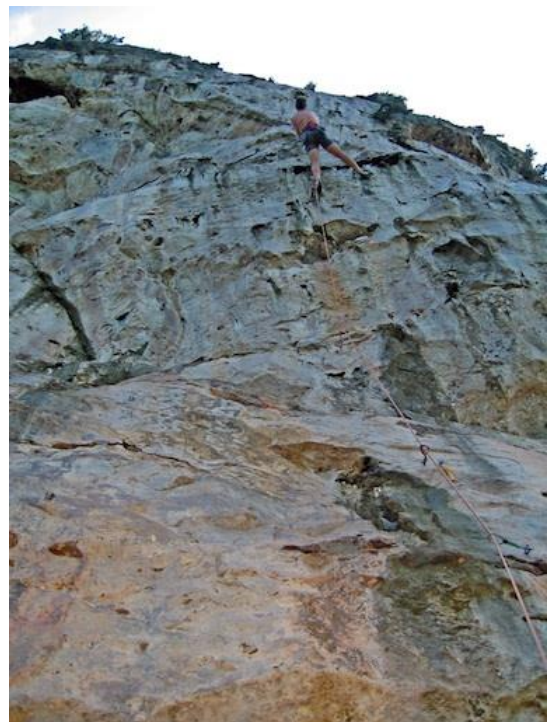
The routes face due north (early morning shade) and in winter can take a long time to dry after being hit with sea spray, so it can be very smarmy. By March, April and May the wall is baked dry by the late-day sun and you should find it crisp the next morning. I've been there when it was crisp and also when it was so slippery it was almost unclimbable.

The routes are described from right to left as you walk to the cliff along the Long Beach, so Little Mermaid is the first route you will encounter as you approach.

****Little Mermaid Ti, 5.8** 4 bolts + anchor. Great introduction to tufas up the Mermaid's tail. Fun but unfortunately short too.

Walk another 150' (45m) to find the following four routes:

*****Calypso Ti, 11c** 7 bolts + anchor. Several cruxes and a throw will sweep you off your feet. LG



John on The Poseidon Adventure during an early redpoint attempt. (Hamilton)

****Booby Eggs for Breakfast Ti, 11a** 10 bolts + anchor. Follow the crack to the cave, and then power up to the top. Tape your right index finger between the first and second knuckle (middle flanges)! LG

******The Poseidon Adventure Ti, 12a** 10 bolts + anchor. Several people have called this the best 12a they've ever done! Steep and wild. LG

*****The Tempest Ti, 13-ish,** 11 bolts + anchor. This route has never seen a free ascent to my knowledge. Shares *Poseidon* top anchors. Two hard, powerful cruxes getting past big bulges using small pockets. Open project. Rebolted 2012 JB. LG

Pinky's Buttress

Pinky's Buttress is located at the south end of Neptune Drive off the North Side Road in Spot Bay. The best place to park is at a small pull-off approximately 700 feet west along the North Side Road or in the school parking lot (weekends) here ([Lat.: 19.754003 / Long.: -79.750357](#)). Follow Neptune's Way, staying on the right near the chicken coops, to reach the beautiful orange wall. Alternatively, walk east from the Iguana Wall, 3 minutes.

Access to this wall in the past has been challenging and as a result, Pinky's Buttress doesn't see much climbing traffic these days; it's also a little trashy at the base and very close to houses. Recent access beta is not available so the following information may be defunct:

In the past, Mr, Ernie, who lives in the last house on the left (opposite the chicken coops), would come out and yell at you. He would tell you Neptune's Way is a private road but actually it's a public road. He would say you're on his property but you're not. The cliff itself and the land adjacent to it is Crown Land, which is public. The land immediately next to the buttress is not his either, and we have had permission in the past from the owner to cross it. He's put up "No Trespassing" and "Keep Out" signs, but they are not on his property and he has no right to do so. He has no right at all to keep you from climbing. Basically, he yells at you and makes it unpleasant to be there, hoping you'll go away

Our recommendation: See if there's a vehicle parked at his house. If there is, you'll probably find it more pleasant to climb somewhere else. Or, feel free to take initiative and say "Hi" if you see someone at the house, introduce yourself, and explain that you plan to go rock climbing. A smile and a "Good morning/afternoon!" goes a long ways with the locals. If there's no vehicle, go ahead and climb and be assured there's nothing illegal or wrong with you being there.

From left to right:

***Hand Me The Can of Tuna, Boy Ti, vhard** 4 bolts + anchor. A very tall boulder problem. Open project. Mandatory stick clip. Crank like a disease to the lip then dance to the anchor. JA 2013

******Full Metal Jackfish Ti, 12b** 12 bolts + anchor + belay bolt. Mandatory stick clip. A boulder problem (V5) leads to excellent climbing on the beautiful orange wall above. Don't feel bad about just pulling up to bolt #1 and continuing from there for a ****** 11c**. The belay bolt holds the rope out of the way for the boulder problem. Unclip it when the climber gets to #2 and you can walk out and see them for the rest of the route. JA 2013

Iguana Wall

This wall is loaded with tufas, stalactites and pockets. **Most routes have hard starts and high first bolts** (stick clip), **and a belayer's bolt**. Clip the belayer's rope to the belayer's bolt to keep leader and belayer from a hard meeting should there be a fall low on the route. After clipping #3, the belayer can unclip their rope and move out to watch.

From the school parking lot, walk or drive east on the road about 5 houses. Turn right down a paved lane which is opposite the *Cayman Catboat Marine Heritage* sign ([Lat.: 19.754229 / Long:.- 79.748907](#)). Pass a cream colored house, #154, on your way to the end of the lane. If you're driving, you can park here. Follow a faint path straight back to the wall, turn left for the *Tufa* routes, right for *Iguana & Turtle Tufa Tango*.



Sarah doing the Turtle Tufa Tango. Thomas

To approach from Dixon's Wall (see below) stay relatively close to the wall on a rough trail. Cross a trashy area, climb "up & over" twice via easy scrambling to reach the Iguana wall. About 5 minutes. An easier 2-minute walk from Pinky's Buttress.

These three routes are on the far left end of the wall, described left to right.

*****Larry the Lime Lizard Ti, 11d** 5 bolts + anchor + 1. Powerful and fun movement on a variety of hold types. JB 2015

*****Tufa One Ti, 11c** 5 bolts + anchor + 1. A sequential boulder problem leads to a jug-tufa. Go hard left at bolt #3, pull the bulge on good holds, then climb back right to the bolt-line. (*Variation: climb straight up on micro-crimps, reportedly 12-*) Fun, steep finish. JB 2015

*****Tufa Two Ti, 12a** 6 bolts + anchor + 1. Same start as Tufa One. Crank the boulder problem, clip (rightmost) bolt #2, traverse right then up. Pull the bulge and finish on hero holds. JB 2015

*The next two routes start at the far **right side** of the wall.*

******Iguana without a G Ti, 12a** 9 bolts + anchor + 1. Starts just right of an obvious rock shelf. Optional right knee pad. Powerful dynamic moves between great holds. JB 2013

****Turtle Tufa Tango Ti, 11a** 11 bolts + anchor. A good route marred by a lack-luster bolting job. About 30' right of *Iguana* on top of a shelf. Start with pinch moves up a double tufa system for several bolts to a tricky bulge. *Put a long (12") draw (not a double-draw) on bolt #6 (crux bulge) to prevent biner cross-loading and possible rope damage.* SH & CT 2018.

Dixon's Wall

This wall is world-class. You'll notice lots of quality stars and it's no exaggeration. North facing with large trees at the base, it's shady almost all day in Winter. Access to the cliff is through the Dixons' back yards. Park at the roadside pulloff opposite the Spot Bay primary school ([Lat.: 19.754003 / Long.: -79.750357](#)) or in the school parking lot on weekends.

Try not to swear loudly if it's not your day, your voice will carry to the school across the road.

The green and white house with white picket fence opposite the school belonged to Mr. Hindenberg "Berg" Dixon, sadly now deceased, who welcomed climbers to his backyard wall for 25 years. Park in the open field next to the house and then follow the trail to the wall. The fruit trees are mango, papaya, naseberry, tamarind, pomegranate, lime and ackee. His son, Mr. Peter, owns the red house to the left (west).

Don't wander far off the trail — there's a rusty barbed-wire fence hiding in the weeds. The trail ends at *Lizzard the Gizzard*, where a faded red bulls-eye is painted on the rock. Routes described from left to right when facing the cliff.

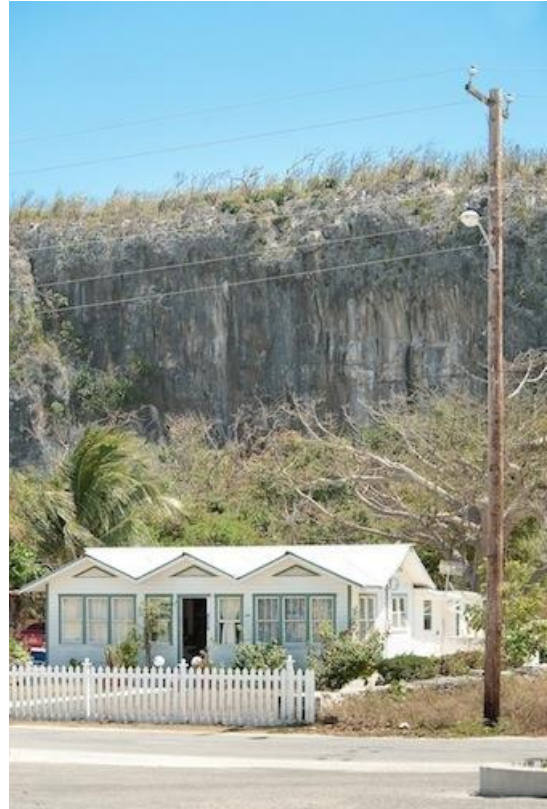
Water Boarding Ti, 12c 4 bolts The far left route is a direct start to *Chinese Water Torture*; small crimps and a tricky compression move (or big dyno). RG 2016

****Chinese Water Torture Ti, 11d** 11 bolts + anchor. Starts in an obvious dihedral 30' left of *Peaceful Warrior*. A climb for all you crimp-lovers with some attention-getting bolt placements. The anchors are in a weird place. Stick clip #1 and put a long draw on #6. RG 2016

*****Peaceful Warrior Ti, 12a** 6 bolts + anchor. Starts 10 feet left of *The End Justifies...* and shares its last bolt and anchor. Easy to set up a top-rope. Sequential, powerful and dynamic climbing on pockets. RG 2016

******The End Justifies the Knees Ti, 10b** 8 bolts + anchor. **Starts at a fence post set in concrete that marks the property line.** Tufa and stalactite climbing on a moderate route! Climb pockets and edges, clip #4, and sneak right. Put a double-draw on #5 then sneak up and left on good edges. Continue left then up on columns, stalactites and tufas. JB 2015

*****OMG! Ti, 10a** 8 bolts + anchor. Start 20' right of the property line post on pockets in orange rock. Crank a boulder problem then pass the small cave using OMG-holds so good they made me LOL. Continue up the dihedral. JB 2015



The Dixon's house with Dixons Wall rising behind. You can park on the grass just right of the utility pole. Donaldson

****Rodeo Lover Ti, 10c** 1 bolt + anchor. Extension of *OMG!* Check your spurs and hold on tight for this 8-second ride. JB 2015

***Wait! Wait! Stop The Bus! Ti, 11d** 8 bolts + anchor. (Overheard as the school bus pulled away.) Starts off a flat boulder. A difficult, sharp boulder problem (V4) on small pockets right off the deck makes stick clipping #2 a good idea. Pulling up to #2 and then climbing is **10+**. SK 2013

******Bussy's Bulge Ti, 11c/d** 9 bolts + anchor. Start off the flat boulder, 3' right of *Wait!*, and do a boulder problem directly over the bolts, or sneak around to the right. Face climbing to an excellent steep enduro finish. JE

******Lizzard the Gizzard Ti, 11d/12a** 10 bolts + anchor. Stick-clip the first bolt and boulder straight up, or climb in from the left. Fun pocket pulling leads to several powerful and somewhat baffling sequences in the overhanging headwall. JE & LG (The first route on the wall, Jeff Elison bolted this on lead!)

******Dixon's Delight Ti, 11b** 10 bolts + anchor. This classic starts at a small arching roof with a flat orange hold below it. Climb straight over the 4th bolt on hidden pockets. Gain the ledge then decipher the moves into tufa territory. Beware a big chalked sucker-hold at the crux! JE & LG



Flowstone and stalactites are characteristic of Dixons Wall. John tops out Dixon's Delight. Donaldson

******Hindenberg's Harmonica Ti, 12b** 12 bolts + anchor. Mr. Berg would play his harmonica at church every Sunday evening. The great pockets suddenly give out, making bolt #5 hard to clip. Get to the big lonely pocket, decipher the thin, insecure crux then finish on steep tufas and flowstone. MS 2011

******Out of Africa Ti, 11d** 10 bolts + anchor. A favorite, this route has everything. Climb up the grey elephant trunks, decipher the blank-looking mid-section (use the mono) then finish on steep flowstone features. JE

******Buffalo Soldier Ti, Tag, 12a** 11 bolts + anchor. Starts just right of *Africa* on a buffalo nose. Crimp, pinch and pocket your way to a good rest then launch into the powerful, pinchy, pumpy crux moves. *Be gentle with the large stalactite on this route, and beware if you have large digits.* JE

*****Captain Kirk's First Voyage Ti, 10c** 8 bolts + anchor. This nuevo classic starts on stacked blocks where a sea grape tree grows near to the wall. Stick clip, reach the first hold then link discontinuous tufas to the anchor. Great movement, great warmup. JA & JB 2013

*** **Picard's Dilemma Ti, 11c/d A0** 9 bolts + anchor. Warp power or tractor beam? Starts 8' right of *Kirk's* at the edge of the Dixon's old hurricane cave. Excellent but perplexing movement on a wide variety of cloaked holds might overload your sensors). The original tractor beam start involves stick clipping and pulling up to #1. There's a rope ladder stashed in the cave. **Variation: Warp Power V5.** Added after the first ascent, linking the direct boulder problem start results in **12b.** JB 2020, RI-DV 2020.

******Boom! Ti, 12a** 9 bolts + anchor. About 8' right of *Picard's*. Mandatory stick clip. Start off the boulder or as many stacked blocks as you need to reach the starting holds. Jump onto the wall and follow a continuous line of tufas through the bulge. Brilliant! *Please don't break the small stalactite at the bulge! There's a perfect pistol-grip pinch at its base (top) so there's no need to grab the end of it.* JB 2013

******Carpe Stalactite Ti, 12b** 7 bolts + anchor. Starts 20' right of *Boom* below an obvious large stalactite. Optional right knee pad. Stick clip #1. Climb pockets and tufas to bolt #4 then seize the stalactite, step out onto it and climb it on the outside! Excellent movement on amazing holds leads to a sequential crux right at the end. **Caution:** *There is a long, thin, grey stalactite in the "armpit" of the big stalactite that is purely decorative **Do NOT** grab or stem it; it will likely break! As a precaution, position your belayer and rope well left of the drop zone.* JB 2014



John reaching for the mono on Out of Africa. Donaldson



Jeff at the powerful lower crux of Carpe Stalactite.

******In Vino Veritas Ti, 13b 8** bolts + anchor + belay bolt. Right knee pad. Start about 15' right of *Carpe* on the flowstone at the bottom of an almost blank face. A boulder problem leads to the crux jump up to a jug pocket. Stick that, negotiate the tricky face and find a knee-bar rest in the steepness. Pull the big bulge and try not to whip off the final thin crimps. JB 2016



John at the bulge at the top of In Vino Veritas. Donaldson

******Pole Dancer Ti, 13a 7 bolts** + anchor + belay bolt. *Climbing Magazine* called it “a power-endurance masterpiece”. Start at the end of the big rock shelf. Sequential climbing leads to the top of a coarse tufa. Bust left, then up, then back right to the long tufa-pole. Dance strenuously upward. Equipped by JB 2016

Heritage Wall

The crag behind the Cayman Brac Heritage House on the north side (about 0.5 miles West of Dixon's Wall) – look for the fountain from the road ([Lat.: 19.752091 / Long.: -79.758337](#)). This is a public park with plenty of parking. Park in the back of the park and look for the trail towards the right side of the property. Please don't step on the pumpkin/watermelon vines. Trail is to the far right of the obvious boulder. Follow the telephone wire railing.

Trail leads directly to the crag. Routes from right to left at the bottom of the wooden stairs. May Cow is the first route where the trail meets the bluff.

*** **May Cow Ti, 5.9+** 7 bolts + anchor. You might stick clip #2, but definitely put a long draw on #3. Interesting line around corners and bulges. The May Cow has red eyes and haunts the caves of Cayman Brac, preventing dishonest persons from stealing mangoes. RI-MP 2017

** **Rolling Calf Ti, 11c/d** 1 bolt + anchor. Skip the anchor to May Cow and head left up the big roof. The May Cow dragged a chain and made lots of noise in May (coincidentally around harvest time for farmers). RI-MP 2017



Miha on the first ascent of his route Bracchanal.

Anansi Ti, 13a 6 bolts + anchor. Hard, steep, blank. Might benefit from more cleaning. Clever spider from Caribbean folk tales, considered to be the spirit of all knowledge and stories. RI-MP 2017

Head up the wooden stairs and scramble up the rocks to the next set of routes.

*****Bracchanal Ti, 5.12b** 7-8 bolts + anchor. Throw up the big pockets on the blank arete, then up the beautiful flowstone. A bit sharp at the top. First ascent was made on the day of the Bracchannal parade. RI-MP 2017

*****Greasy Pole Ti, 5.10c** 5 bolts + anchor. Tufas up the corner of the dihedral. Super fun and funky moves for the grade. Bolted right after the greasy pole competition at the annual Agriculture Show (which Miha won!). Not as slippery as it looks (or sounds). RI-MP 2017

*****Ping ping ping Ti, 5.10b** 6 bolts + anchor. Very enjoyable face climbing up orange rock. The tree is off-root! *Ping, ping, ping I am coming* – Folk song by the late Mrs. Leila Ross describing a vicious attack of mosquitoes. You might bring bug spray to this crag. RI-MP 2017

****Iguana Crossing Ti, 5.10c/d** 5 bolts + anchor. Shares first 2 bolts with *Ping*, head left at the second bolt to the anchor of *Iguana Droppings*. Face climbing. RI-MP 2017

***Iguana Droppings Ti, 5.7** 5 bolts + anchor. The easiest route on the north side. Fun climb but a bit sharp in places. Shares the anchor with *Crossing*. RI-MP 2017

****Iguana Hideaway Ti, 11c** 1 bolt + anchor. Head straight up from the *Droppings/Crossing* anchor for a short, powerful and fingery face climb. RI-MP 2017

Route Credits

- SH Skip Harper 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997
- GB George Bracksiek 1995
- JE Jeff “Mort” Elison 1995, 1996, 1997
- LG Lizz Grenard 1995, 1996, 1997
- CL Craig Luebben 1995
- DN Dave Newton 1996
- JW Jonny Woodward 1996
- JY John Young 1997
- SB Susan Bolton 1998
- AP – Al Pacifico 1998
- EH – Eric Hirst 1998, 2000, 2001
- VW – Vance White 2000, 2011
- SRB – Simone Brisson 2001
- MS – Mike Snyder 2011
- JB – John Byrnes 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020
- SK – Sam Kabota 2013
- JA – Jeff Achey 2013, 2014
- RG – Ryan Galloway 2016
- RI-MP Rock Iguana – Miha Popovic 2017
- RI-AR Rock Iguana – Angle Robledo 2017
- RI-DV Rock Iguana – David Verhoeven 2017, 2020
- RI-WV Rock Iguana- William Verheoven 2019, 2020
- SH & CT – Sarah Hudson and Chris Thomas 2018, 2019

Support Brac Climbing

Your help is needed to provide more climbing on Cayman Brac.

As you know, the only safe bolts for Cayman Brac are titanium. Back in the year 2000 a small group of dedicated climbers developed, paid for, and installed over 500 titanium bolts on the island. Almost 25 years later, these bolts have proven themselves to be impervious to corrosion. They still look brand new, which is astonishing in a place where every other metal, even stainless, shows obvious corrosion in a few weeks or months.

After that initial effort, production of titanium bolts was halted due to lack of sales until 2010, when climbers from the Thaitanium Project (mostly Josh Lyons) [ThaitaniumProject](#) did a lot of work to have Ti bolts produced again and invited the Cayman climbers to join forces and pool their money.

In the last 15 years (2011-2020) nearly 90 **routes** have been bolted with titanium: 10 old routes were re-bolted and **70+ new routes** were put up and several new areas were developed (Iguana, Pinky's, Heritage, Seahorse, and CBRAC). This expanded the grade range on both ends so that now there are more easy routes and also more hard routes from 5.6 to 5.13+).

We gladly donate our labor and time but the bolts cost over \$12.50 each not including the glue, glue-guns, drills, air fare, baggage fees, duty, etc. that go along with them. One climber (Byrnes) has spent over \$20,000 to put up routes on Cayman Brac. For example in 2015, he placed 44 bolts. The bolts alone cost \$550.

So we are asking for your support. Donations of any amount are very much appreciated and will be used for new routes. Please contact us if you are interested in supporting Brac climbing.

John Byrnes: jbyrnes@ezlink.com

Matt Arsenault: bluffviewbrac@gmail.com

There has been great support over the years for developing and maintaining safely bolted climbs and we are very grateful for the following contributors.

2000/2001

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the re-bolting effort. Their expertise, time, equipment, money and labor were all greatly appreciated: Mike Shelton, Jim Bowes, Skip Harper, Vance "Victor Blanco" White, Eric Hirst, Ken Cline, Sue Rusch, Mike Kleker, Chris Kantarjiev and Susan Bolton.

2011

I must thank a large number of people for making this bolting trip successful. Besides the usual suspects, Jim Bowes, Mike Shelton, Victor Blanco and Eric Hirst (who "found" a box of Tortugas under his bed!), there were a number of new players to whom I am very grateful.

First and foremost is Josh Lyons, founder of the Thaitanium Project, who did so much work to qualify a new supplier of titanium bolts: [ThaitaniumProject](#) Thanks so much Josh! Many thanks to Greg Barnes and the American Safe Climbing Association for help with funding and consolidation of our order.

And just when I thought I'd go broke funding it, people came forward with donations: Kirk Donaldson, Larry Hamilton, Lori Lee, Manne' Dona Dalle Rosa, Ian Fox, Brett Johnson, Jim and Kelly Didio, Jen Connell, Katy Dartford, Saagar Kadiyala, Rob Barton, Alistair MacDonald, Ruardt Prozesky, Darek Krol, Mike & Meg Snyder, and probably some others I forgot (sorry!).

2012

I'd again like to thank, for the second year in a row, Manne' Dona Dalle Rosa and Saagar Kadiyala for their help and support. And many thanks to Sam Kobata, Holly Rock and Don McGrath for their hard work, expertise and sweat!

2013

When I was quite young I read many books about intrepid British jungle explorers, "Doctor Livingston, I presume?" Having grown-up in the U.S. I couldn't visualize everything I read, but now having spent many hours thrashing about on top of the Spot Bay wall, I've come to fully appreciate the phrase *impenetrable jungle*, especially said with a British accent.

I'd like to thank all the people who either worked to open new routes or donated to make this years effort a success: Jeff Achey, Sam Kobata, Dawn Alguard, Arthur "Spike" Lynch, Pat Cusack, Susan Rusch (again), Mike Underwood, Nan Karsh, and for the third year running, Saagar Kadiyala, without whom we'd have no glue. Also, many thanks to Ifrane, Lauren and Holly for hacking out a trail from Dixon's to Pinky's! Thanks!

2014

I want to emphatically thank everyone who donated to this year's effort, especially the Grand Cayman climbers, Saagar, Ryan, Ioana, Tristan, Verity and Jo, for their generous support. I also want to thank Jeff, my solid bolting partner, and Kirk for his continued photographic documentation of the scene there.

Special thanks to Jim Ewing and **Sterling Ropes** for the donation of the 9mm semi-static ropes we've been using for bolting the last three years. Best static rope I've ever used!

2015

Many thanks to those who supported me this year either with donations, drinks, dinners, belays, labor and patience! Specifically: Gordon Larsen, Peter H, Elvis and Tanya, Marcus and Eve, Matt R, and JoBee.

2020

Thanks to Christine for her generous donations.