

Gaudi Wall & Super Slab

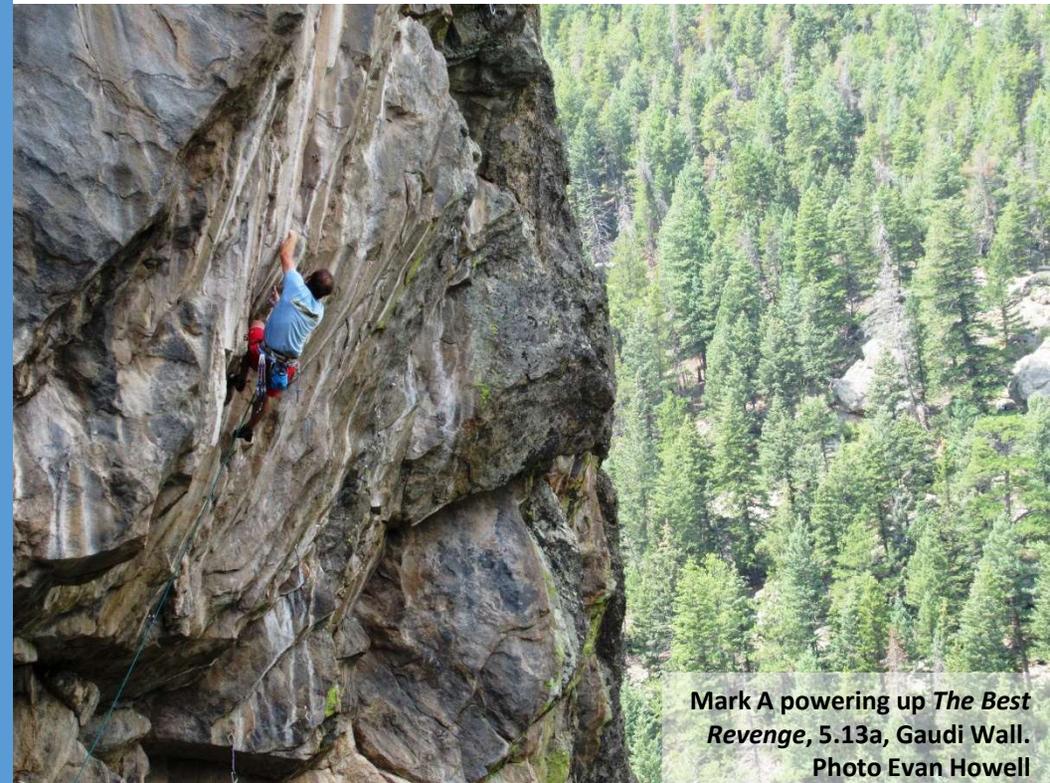
Top Ten

- Casa Batllo, 5.10b***
- Littering And..., 5.10b***
- Mustache Ride, 5.10b***
- Mindians, 5.11a***
- Wrench Wrun, 5.12a***
- Sagrada Familia, 5.12a***
- The Underflinger, 5.12b***
- Don't Let Go, 5.13a***
- On Till the End, 5.13c***
- Striking Distance, 5.14b***

Gaudi Wall & Super Slab

This tight collection of crags offers the best climbing in this book, and some of the best metamorphic sport climbing on the Front Range. The quality of the rock and proximity to Denver ensure these crags will be incredibly popular. As such, it is **ESSENTIAL** that climbers treat these areas with respect. In particular, be courteous to the many local residents who have enjoyed this quiet canyon for decades:

- **DRIVE SLOWLY** throughout the canyon, but especially in residential areas
- **CAR POOL** – An abundance of cars along the road will be our undoing
- **KEEP NOISE DOWN** – this is a wobbler-free zone: Please no screaming, honking horns, playing music or foul language
- **PETS ON LEASH** – There are many wild animals about (including moose, mount lions & bear), but mostly we don't want to disturb the locals
- **BE COURTEOUS** & respectful to anyone you encounter—it never hurts to say “Thank you for sharing this beautiful area with us”



Mark A powering up *The Best Revenge*, 5.13a, Gaudi Wall.
Photo Evan Howell



Not even halfway up the magnificent *On Till the End*, 5.13c, Gaudi Wall

Gaudi Wall

The Gaudi Wall comprises the incredible overhanging northwest face of a remarkable leaning tower of highly-featured metamorphic stone. The phenomenal northwest wall is among the tallest, consistently steep crags in the Denver area, with routes up to 40-meters long. The rock is superb-quality gneiss with intrusions of highly featured pegmatite reminiscent of the slabs of The Monastery. For some reason, the rock is twisted and curved into bizarre shapes and structures, calling to mind the seminal works of famed Spanish architect Antoni Gaudi. The routes really shine in the mid-5.12 to 5.13-range, but anyone who can climb 5.11a will find something worthwhile to climb here.

A handful of rusty button-head bolts and other artifacts affirm the passage of previous generations, but the original name of this tower, and the exploits of its original suitors, remain a mystery.

In 2017, I “re-discovered” this unique formation by accident while researching approach options for the forgettable Aqueduct in upper Clear Creek (coincidentally, the crag was independently discovered by multiple groups of developers within the span of a few months). The original name of the tower is unknown, and will remain unnamed in this guide until the proper name comes to light. Some local residents refer to it as “The Alligator.””

The Gaudi Wall sits at an altitude of approximately 8,300 feet, faces north-northwest and receives shade till late afternoon (in winter, it receives no sun at all). The crag is noticeably cooler than even the chilliest Clear Creek venues, with send-able temps into late May and resuming in early September. Due to its free-standing nature, seepage is never a concern here, making it a great alternative to Clear Creek during wet Springs.

An 80-meter rope is ideal, but you can get by with a 70 thanks to many intermediate lower-offs. Be advised, most of the routes in the Sagrada Familia Sector begin from exposed, sloping ledges unsuitable for children or pets.

*Gaudi Wall
Overview*

*Casa
Batllo
Sector*

*Park Guell
Sector*

*Sagrada
Familia
Sector*



Ben Lindfors finishing up On Till The End, 5.13c, Sagrada Familia Sector.



1. This is 40, 5.11a, *** A good route with inconsistent climbing. A juggy start leads to the easy ramp, then follow jugs up the left side of the steep pillar. The crux comes above the big ledge on the arête, with a balancy move pulling over the bulge (hint: attack the bulge directly, from below, not from the big ledge on the left). Save some gas for another intimidating move pulling onto the final, knob-covered slab. Climbed to commemorate the FA's 40th B-day.

2. Wrench Wrun, 5.12a **** The best route in this sector, with some incredible rock and fun moves. Start up the easy dihedral, then follow incut jugs up the short steep wall. Easier climbing leads to a ledge below the steep pillar (bolt here is shared with *This is 40*). Weave up this impeccable feature with a pumpy

crux near the top. While bolting this line, the equipper drilled two bolt holes for the anchor, hammered in the bolts, went to tighten the bolts and discovered he had no wrench. He rappled to the ground, hiked to the car, drove to Home Depot (in Bergen Park) to buy a wrench, and returned to install another 35 bolts that day! Perhaps on the soft side.

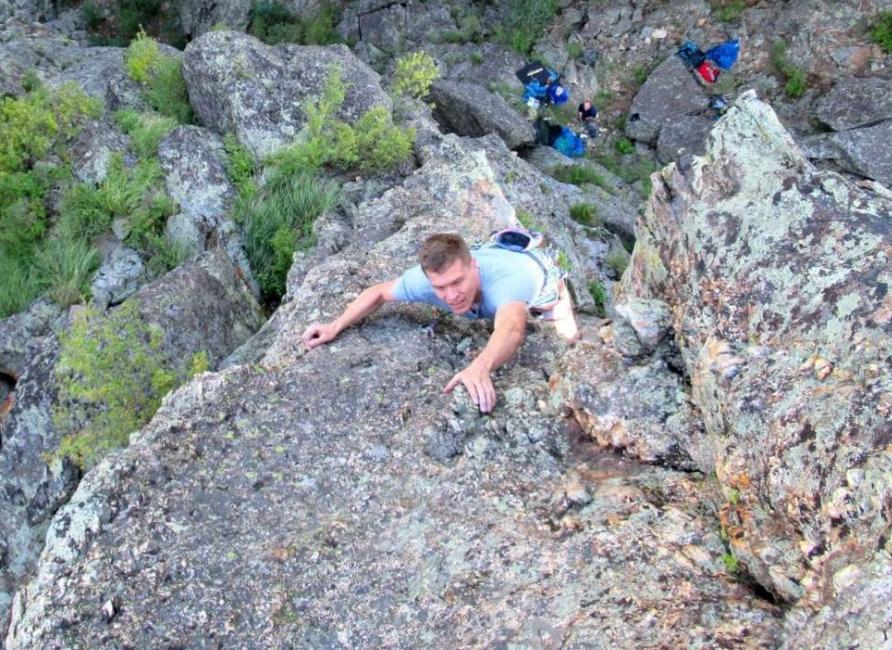
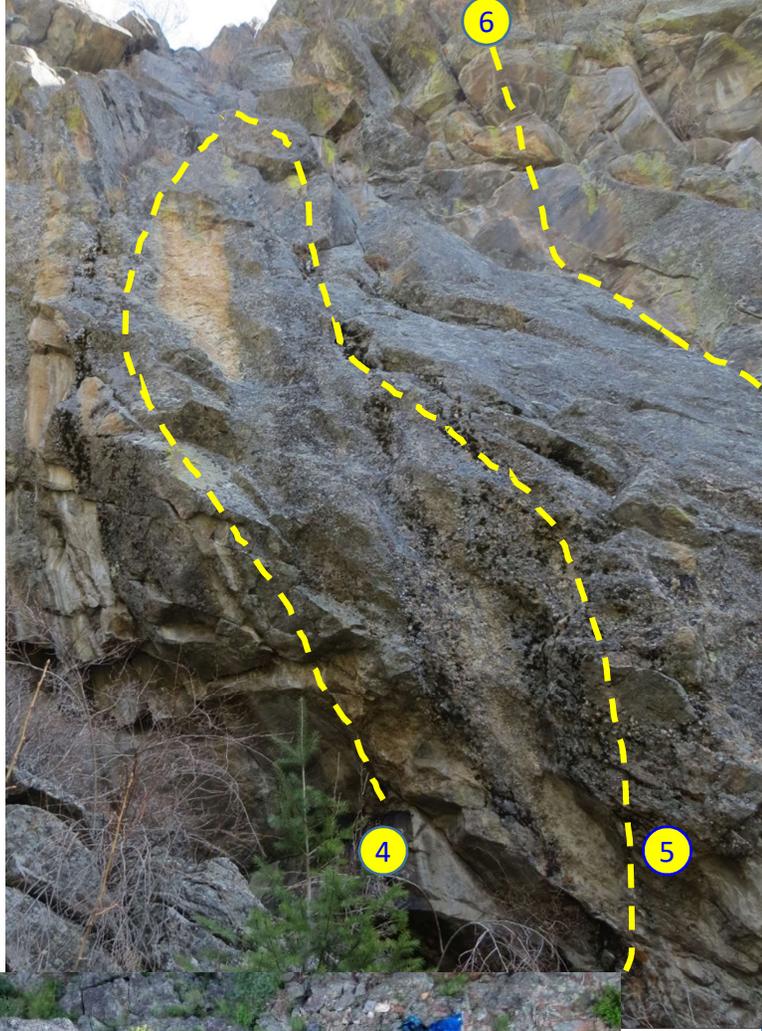
3. Casa Batllo, 5.10b **** An excellent moderate line with good rock and interesting features. Start as for 2, but cut right along a crack to tackle the short cruxy bulge on good incuts. Cruise big knobs to a ledge, then follow a short but stellar panel to another ledge. Pull onto the rad knob-studded prow and follow it to the top. 11 bolts to 2BA



Evan Howell flashing *Wrench Wrun*, 5.12a, at Casa Batllo.

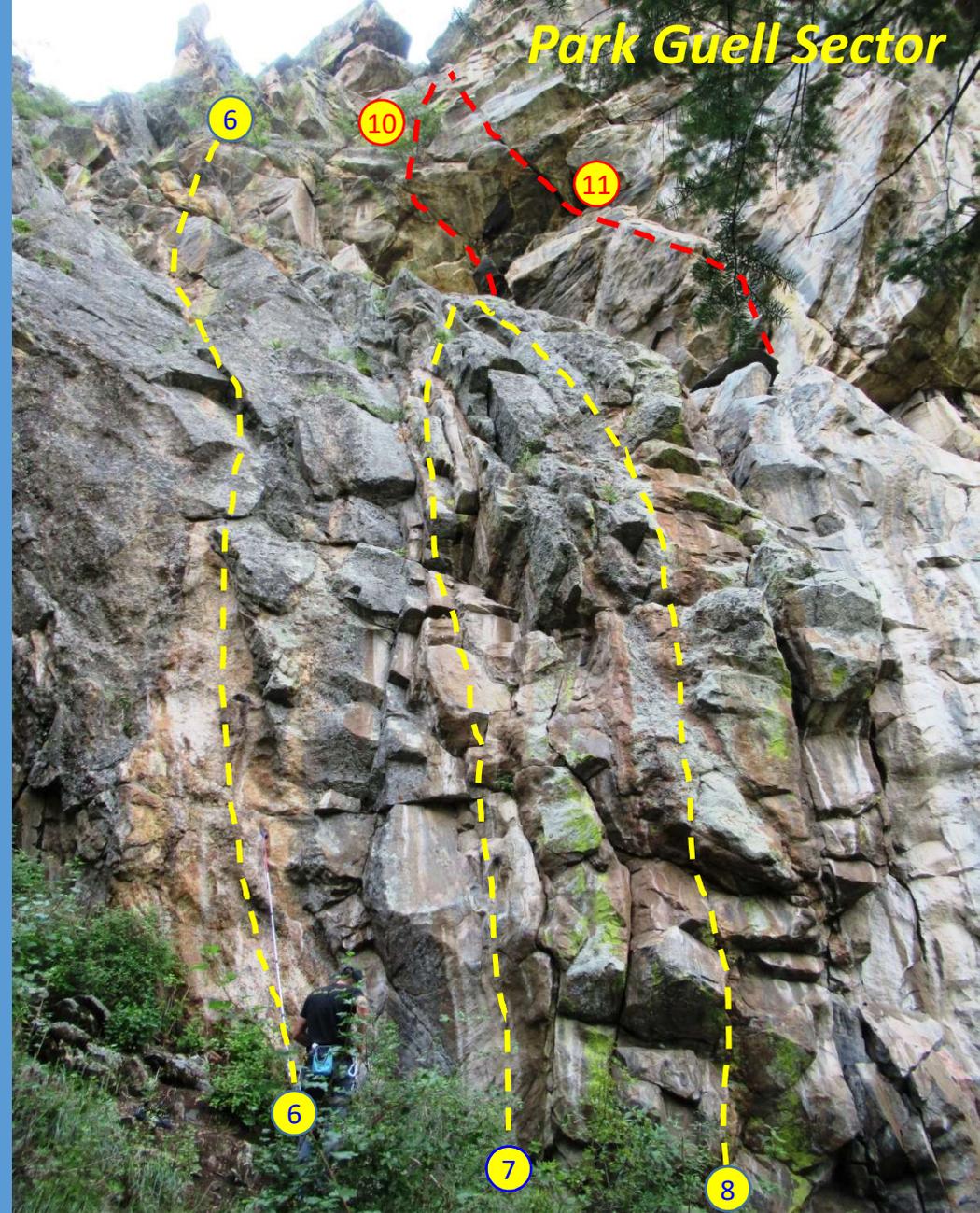
4. Until There Was Rock You Only Had God, 5.11c, *** The highlight of this line is the fun, cruxy start, which involves a mix of juggy horns thin edges, heel hooks and rockovers. Above, fun mellow climbing leads up the rib. Shorties will notice one thin move just below the final ledge. 4b to 2BA shared w/ #5.

5. Golden Gumby-versary, 5.10a, *** To those who never graduate from Gumbyhood, no matter how long they climb. This is the easiest line on the Gaudi Wall, despite the steep start. Begin with gymnastic moves along huge jugs with undercut feet, followed by fun climbing on big chicken heads up the slab. At the top, slopey dishes along the arête and crisp edges on the face lead to the anchor. 5b to 2BA shared w/ #4.



Myles Lawler cruising the rad knobby groove atop Casa Batillo, 5.10b.

Park Guell Sector

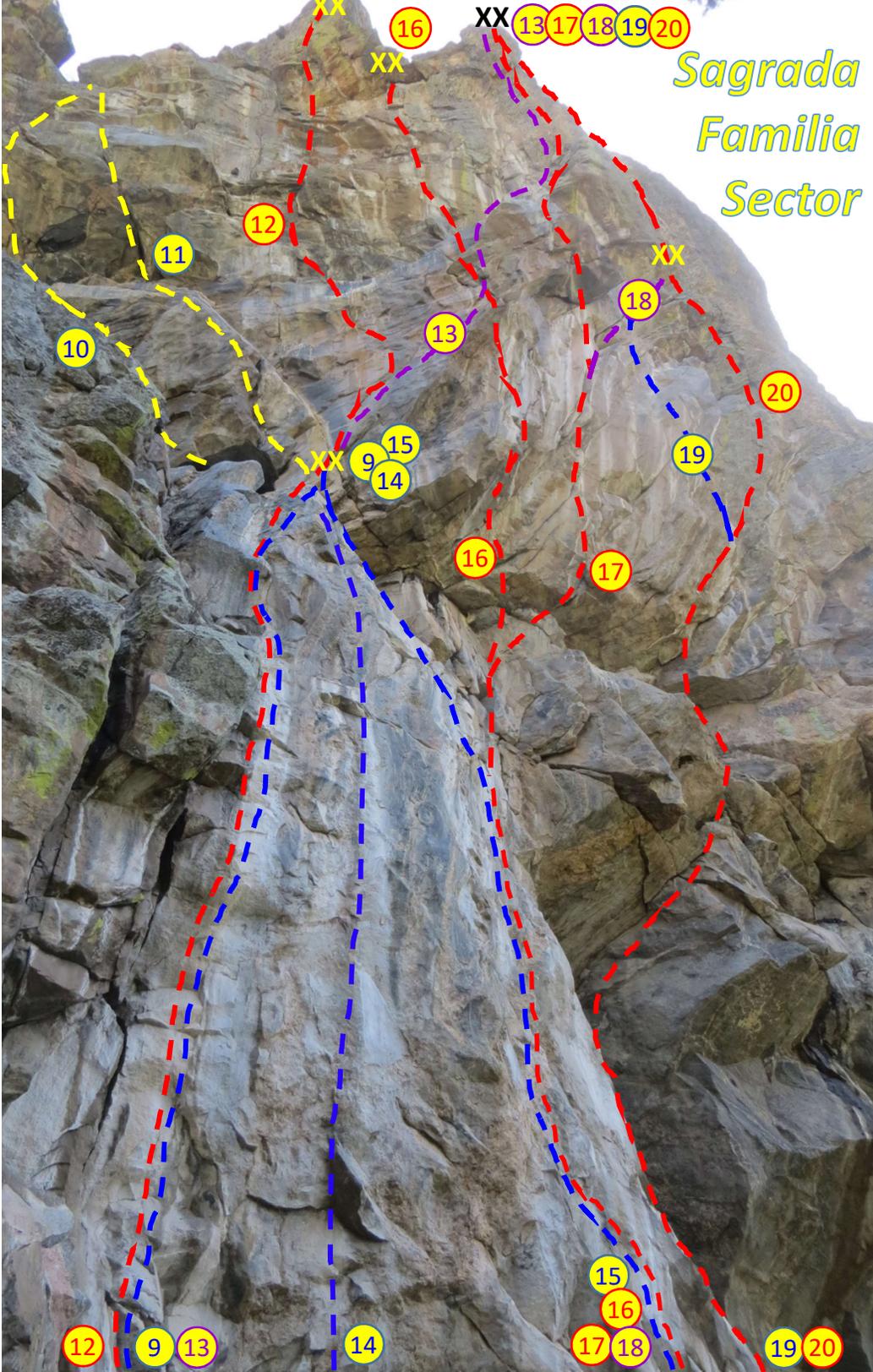


6. Mindians, 5.11a, *** Maybe the most enjoyable 5.11 at the crag, with cool features and fun moves. A cruxy, slightly overhanging start up a tufa-like rib leads to fun weaving up the mossy slab. The clean corner is capped by a steep wall with big jugs. 8b to 2BA (recently retro-bolted)

7. Park Guell, 5.10b, *** The least physical line on the wall has good rock and big holds, but a tricky, cruxy start. There are two ways to tackle this, either just right of the 1st bolt, or about 8'

left on a juggy orange flake. Above, big sidepulls and bulbous jugs lead to lower-angle liebacking and a trivial finish. ~5b to 2BA shared w/ #8

8. Kick Names and Take Ass, 5.11b/d *** This line offers gorgeous rock and a burly crux at the 2nd bolt. It's possible to avoid this by following the crack that angles left, then cutting back right along the horizontal break (5.11b). The holds get bigger as the angle eases, resulting in another trivial finish. 5b to 2BA shared with #7



Sagrada Familia Sector

9. Time to Make the Chimchangas, 5.10c, ** This line is sure to disappoint: too trutchy for the sport crowd, too many bolts for the tradiban. Still, it's one of the easiest options on the wall and the rock is good. Follow the short crack to the 1st anchor, with an awkward crux near the second bolt. ~4 bolts to 2BA shared with #14 & 15.

10. Maximum Effort, 5.12b ** This short-lived ceiling features an excellent gymnastic boulder problem, albeit with a long "approach." Climb #9, then head left up the ramp to the corner. Pull onto the short slab, then crank out the roof on awesome jugs. A bouldery dyno just below the lip leads to more incut jugs and easy terrain to the anchor. ~9 bolts to 2BA shared w/ #11. 34m

11. The End of the Beginning, 5.12b, *** More sustained than it appears, with lots of fun moves, though a bit dirty in spots. Begin up #9, back-clean the anchor after clipping the first bolt on the pillar, then lieback up to a good stance below the ceiling (the guano can be avoided). A hard slap in the roof leads to jugs and a tricky mantle over the lip, followed by long reaches to the anchor. ~12b to 2BA shared w/ #10. 34m

12. On Till The End, 5.13c, **** A magnificent, snaking odyssey to the summit of the tower. Excellent rock, challenging moves and an incredible position make this an uber classic. There are several cruxy bits, but the hardest is right at the top, with sequential knob pinches up the summit pinnacle. Deduct a letter if you step left onto the big ledge below the high crux. Climb #9, head up the clean panel above, then keep left until you reach the summit. 40m, ~17 bolts.

13. Sagrada Familia, 5.12a, **** An absolute classic at the grade! The easiest path to the top of the wall and an incredible journey with rad movement and killer rock. Begin up #9 or 15, then continue past the first anchor clipping 1 bolt on #12, then veer right, clipping 1 linkup bolt, then join #16 for two bolts. Once you reach the ledge, move right to finish on #17. The final stretch along the arête is glorious 5.10.

14. Is This Really Necessary, 5.12d ** This is a bit squeezed-in but the rock is excellent and the movement is independent. Unfortunately the difficulties are all-too short, but the face climbing is brilliant while it lasts. Dance up the snow-white wall right of #9's corner crack. The insecure crux comes right at the first bolt, followed by easier but fun edging. 3B to 2BA shared w/ #9 & 15.

15. White Stripes, 5.11b, ** This cerebral line has good rock, but off-balance movement and hard-to-find holds make for a challenging onsight. Follow angling ribs on the white wall up and left to the first anchor (shared w/ #9). ~6 bolts.

16. Never Surrender, 5.13b, **** Another classic and cerebral line with great rock and cool moves. The intimidating overhanging groove succumbs to fun kneebar trickery, making this much less cruxy than it appears. Begin as for #15, but head straight up through the mungy & slightly spooky "fangs", then tackle the steep swell via the large jutting flake, eventually turning the corner to the left to reach the ledge. From there, follow the left line of bolts up beautiful stone to a tricky finish.

17. Don't Let Go, 5.13a, **** Another great 5.13 with sequential edging over a steep swell. Like all the lines on this section of cliff, the rock is stellar and the movement is rad. Begin up #15, then veer right at the mungy & slightly spooky "fangs" to snake up the center of the sweeping overhang, eventually tackling a dark brown roof/arête to reach the big ledge. Follow the right-most line of bolts from the ledge.

18. The Best Revenge, 5.13a, **** This nice linkup includes all the best climbing of #17, but swaps the intimidating capping roof with some challenging liebacking. Climb #17 through the steep swell, but stay right, along the killer finger crack, to avoid the dark brown roof/arête (clipping 1 linkup bolt along the way). Lower at the anchors or follow #20's stellar finish to the top of the wall.

19. Living Well, 5.13b, *** A bit of an eliminate, but with spectacular rock and really cool moves. Begin as for #20, but veer hard left halfway up the overhanging lieback crack (between the 8th and 9th bolts) to reach a pair of burly underclings. A tough dyno leads to 1 linkup bolt, then join #18 (and clip its linkup bolt). Lower at the 1st set of anchors or follow #20's finish to the top.

20. The Underflinger, 5.12b, **** A classic 5.12 jughaul with great rock and fun, forearm-bursting moves. Tiptoe up the slab (all the guano can be avoided), then stem up the chimney and traverse right under the roof (which is easier than it looks). From the ledge, follow the burly, increasingly difficult lieback crack to blocky rock & a well-needed shake just below the 1st anchor. Pull into the steep groove, pinching and liebacking tufa-like features, eventually moving back left to clip an anchor shared with #10 and #12. 38m, 16 bolts



Mark A entering the burly crux of *Striking Distance*, 5.14b



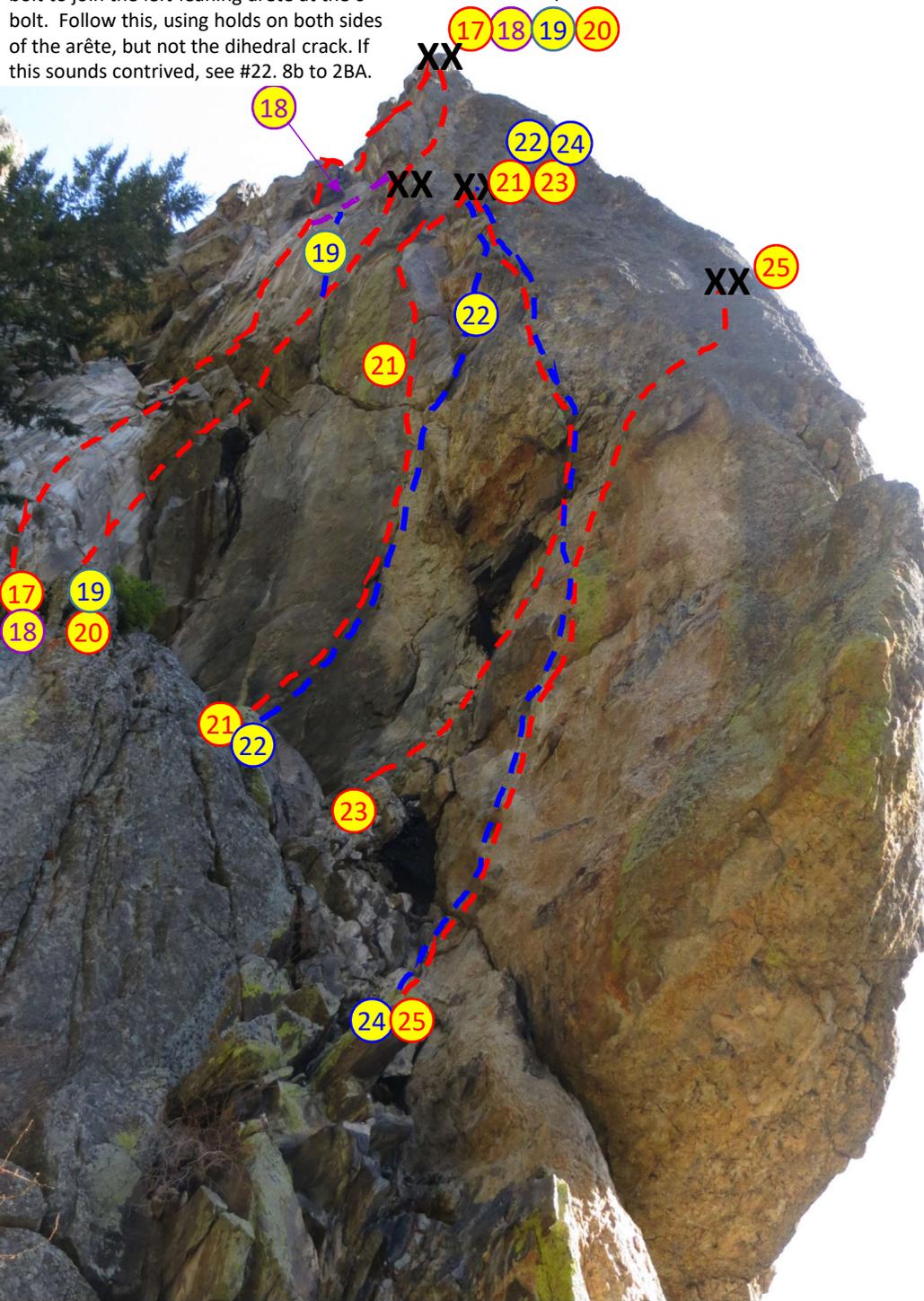
Ben Lindfors slapping through the high crux of *On Till The End*, 5.13c, Sagrada Familia Sector.



Derek New onsighting high on *The Underflinger*, 5.12b.

21. Striking Distance, 5.14b, **** Is this the best chunk of gneiss in Colorado? Follow the incredible, gymnastic seam to a great rest at the break. Move back left along the break, then climb straight up, directly over the 5th bolt to join the left-leaning arête at the 6th bolt. Follow this, using holds on both sides of the arête, but not the dihedral crack. If this sounds contrived, see #22. 8b to 2BA.

22. Thundercack, 5.13c, **** All the best climbing on *Striking Distance*, but without the brutal (and arguably contrived) upper crux. Burl up the seam to the big rest at the horizontal-ish break, then slink up the leaning corner crack until its possible to join #23 (clipping its last two bolts).



Mike slapping up *Oh Wow*, 5.12a, Sagrada Familia Sector

23. Shit Show, 12a, ** This one climbs better than it looks and the big features are solid. Still, expect to encounter some guano, creaky knobs and finally, mossy rock. Really though, it's better than it sounds, haha. Weave around poop, crank over the spooky-but-apparently-solid tooth, then angle up and left along killer (though mossy) chicken heads, with a cruxy reach around 2/3 height.

24. 4 I Want 2 B w/ U, 5.12b, *** The name of "Oh Wow's" hypothetical hit single, of

course! This line offers an excellent long pitch of climbing, and allows hanta-virus averse climbers to enjoy the best climbing of #23 without all the poop. Start up *Oh Wow*, moving left at the ledge to join #23 at its 2nd bolt.

25. Oh Wow, 5.12a, *** What I said when I first stood below this wall, and the name for a hypothetical "Boy Band" my friend Bobby G imagined. This line is rad if you like gym-style sloper bouldering. Weave up bulbous features to a thin section moving right and onto an exposed ledge. Crank up to the next ledge, then make a few more knobby moves to the anchor.