

CHIMNEY ROCKS

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Intro

The Chimney Rocks area is comprised of roughly six granite formations with routes from 1 pitch to 700 feet. There are dozens of beautiful climbs with everything from clean cracks to thin slab, and even some knobs. Many routes are trad, but close to 20 of the routes on Crystal Wall are bolted so there is something for everyone.

Chimney Spire, the most popular formation, has at least thirteen routes of it's own, with Duet (5.8++) being the most popular. The other formations include Chimney Rock, Crystal Wall, Dinner Wall, The Monk, Moccasin Ridge, and Sasquatch Spire. The area has a sporadic first ascent record as attention grew and waned over the years. Many of the routes were pioneered by employees at a nearby Christian Camp that is now closed.

Although the area has some of the best, and most easily accessed, climbing in SEKI, it only has a short window when it is open. The dirt road accessing the formations closes with the first snow and the entire area is closed during peregrine nesting season from April 1st to August 15th (or until nesting has ended). It is still possible to ski the road when the gates are closed but please do not enter the area during the falcon closure. Crystal Wall used to remain open year-round but climbers abused the privilege and went into closed areas, resulting in a complete seasonal shutdown of the area. Work is being done to regain the trust of the forest service so please do not jeopardize access for everyone. For closure updates and information you can reach Sequoia National Forest wildlife biologist Jeff Cordes at (559) 338-2251 x380.

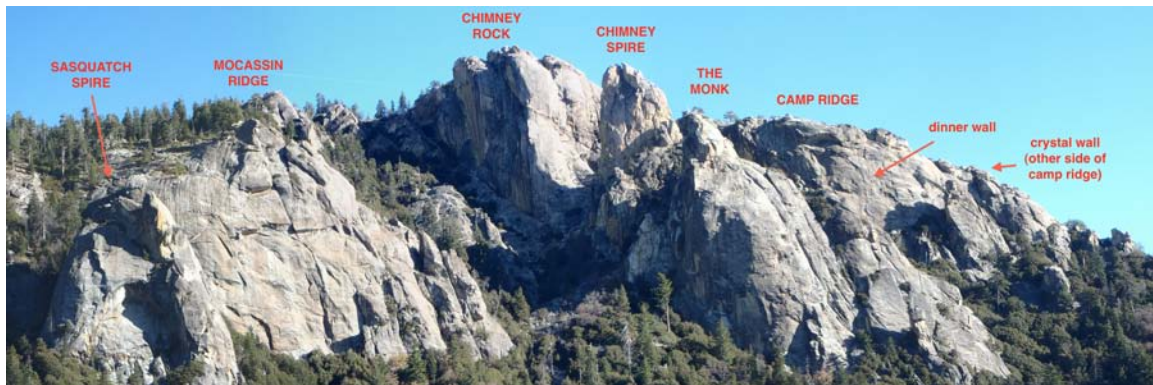
Directions

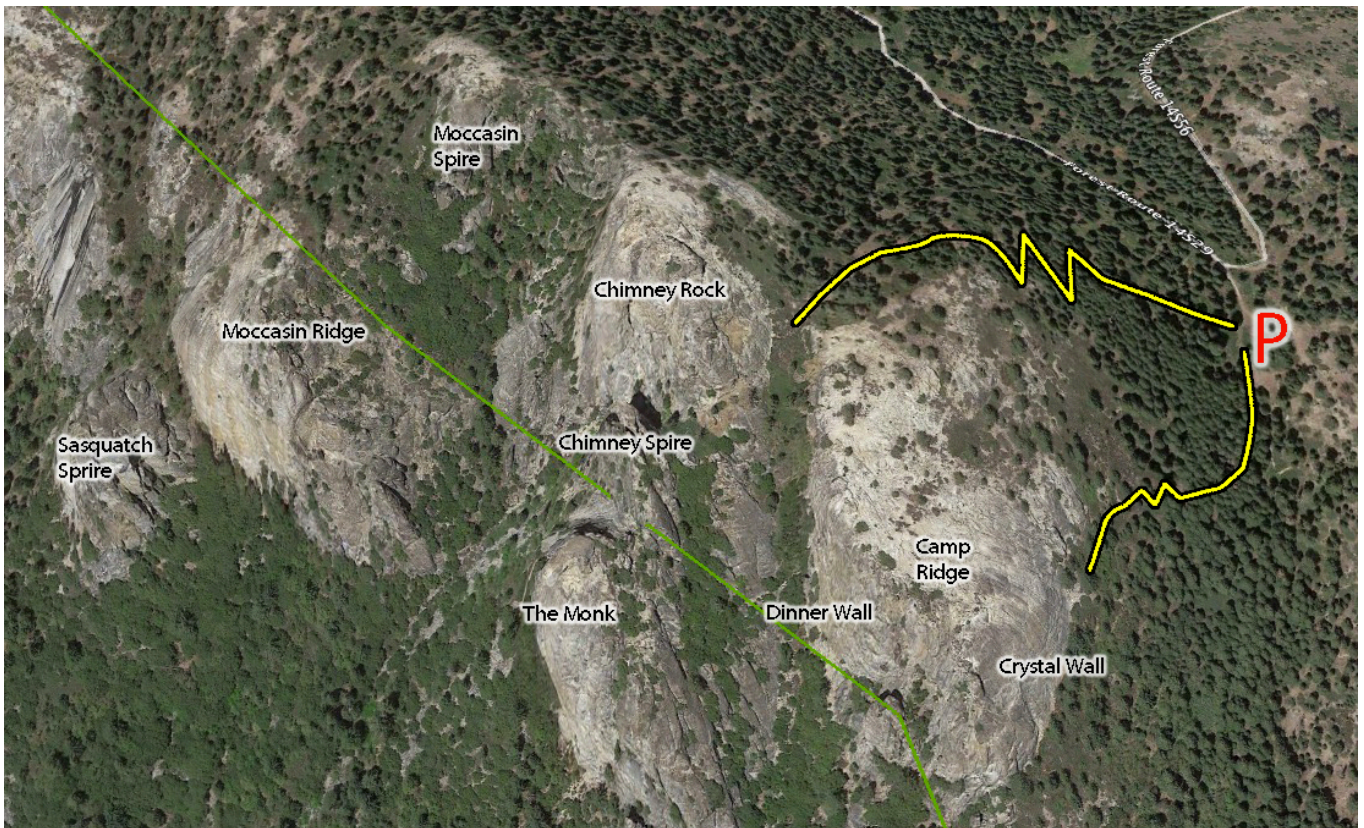
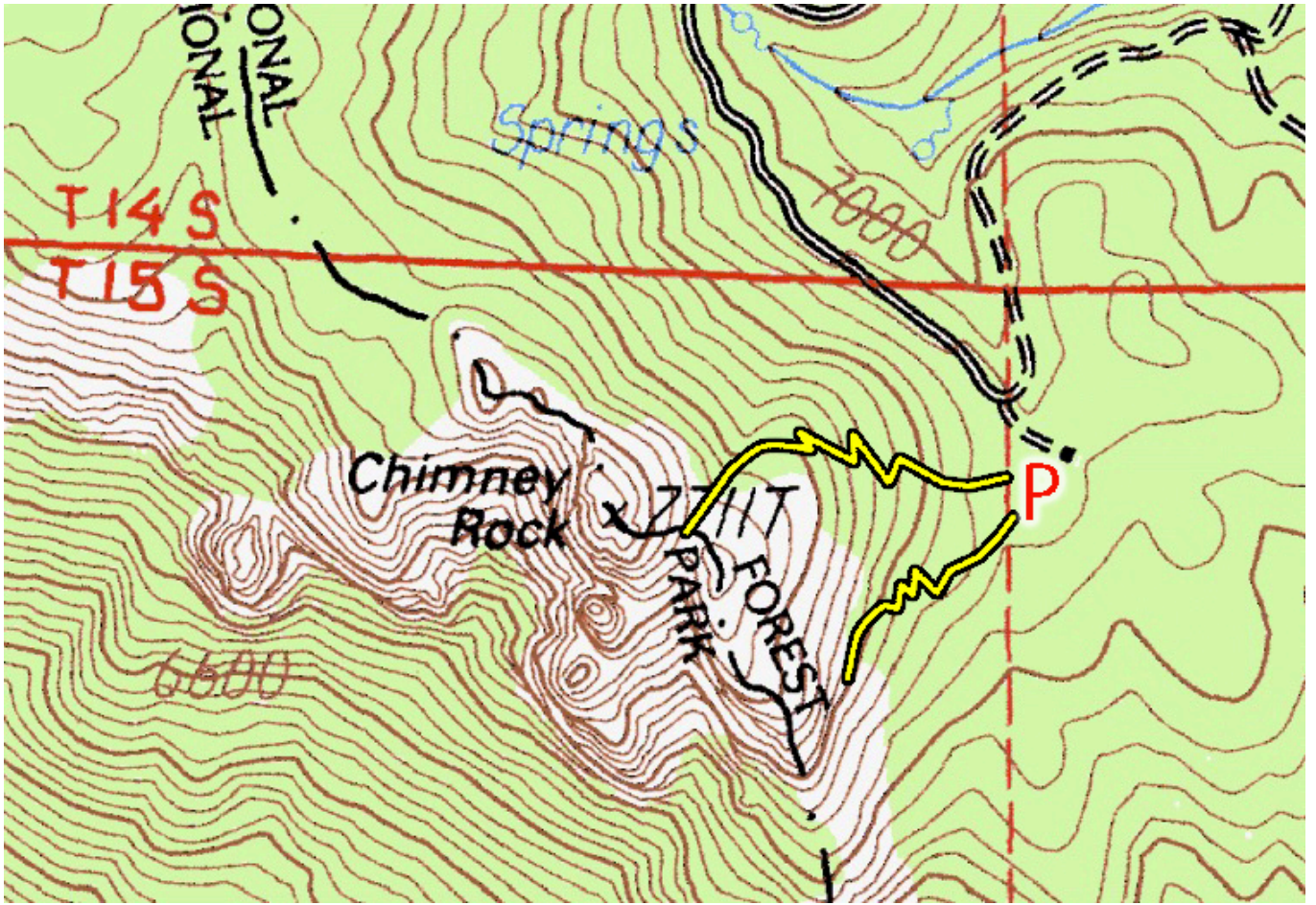
From Fresno take highway 180 east into Kings Canyon National Park. From Visalia take highway 198 east into Sequoia National Park. The two highways are connected and called the Generals Highway within the parks,

From the Generals Highway between the Big Baldy trailhead and the Stony Creek Lodge, take Road 14S29 West. There is a sign that reads "National Forest Organizational Camps, San Joaquin Far Horizons." Follow the main road and signs for about four miles until the road makes a hard left down the hill and begins to worsen. Just before this turn a spur continues off the right side of the road to the parking area.

At this point you can take a trail (by the old sign post) south to approach via Crystal Wall (10 min), or West to approach via Camp Ridge to the notch above Chimney Rock Spire (20 min). The trail West leaves from the north side of a downed tree that blocks part of the loop at the end of the road. The two trails can be connected by scrambling along the north side of Crystal Wall. Follow the path of least resistance to other formations, which are usually accessed from the top.

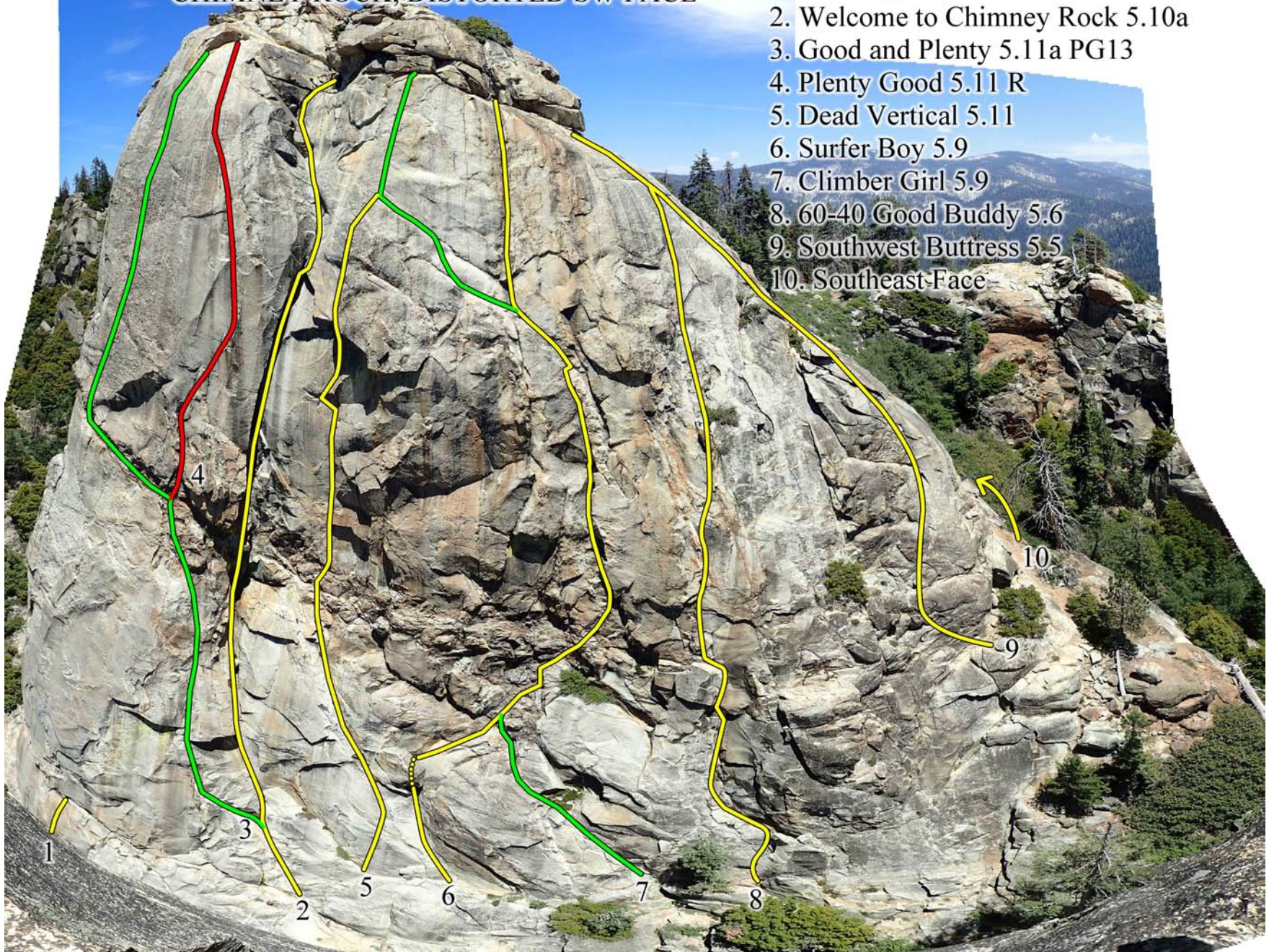
See the maps for more detail and be sure to pay attention on the approach. Although it's short and looks easy, several people have gotten lost on the way back to the car and been benighted.



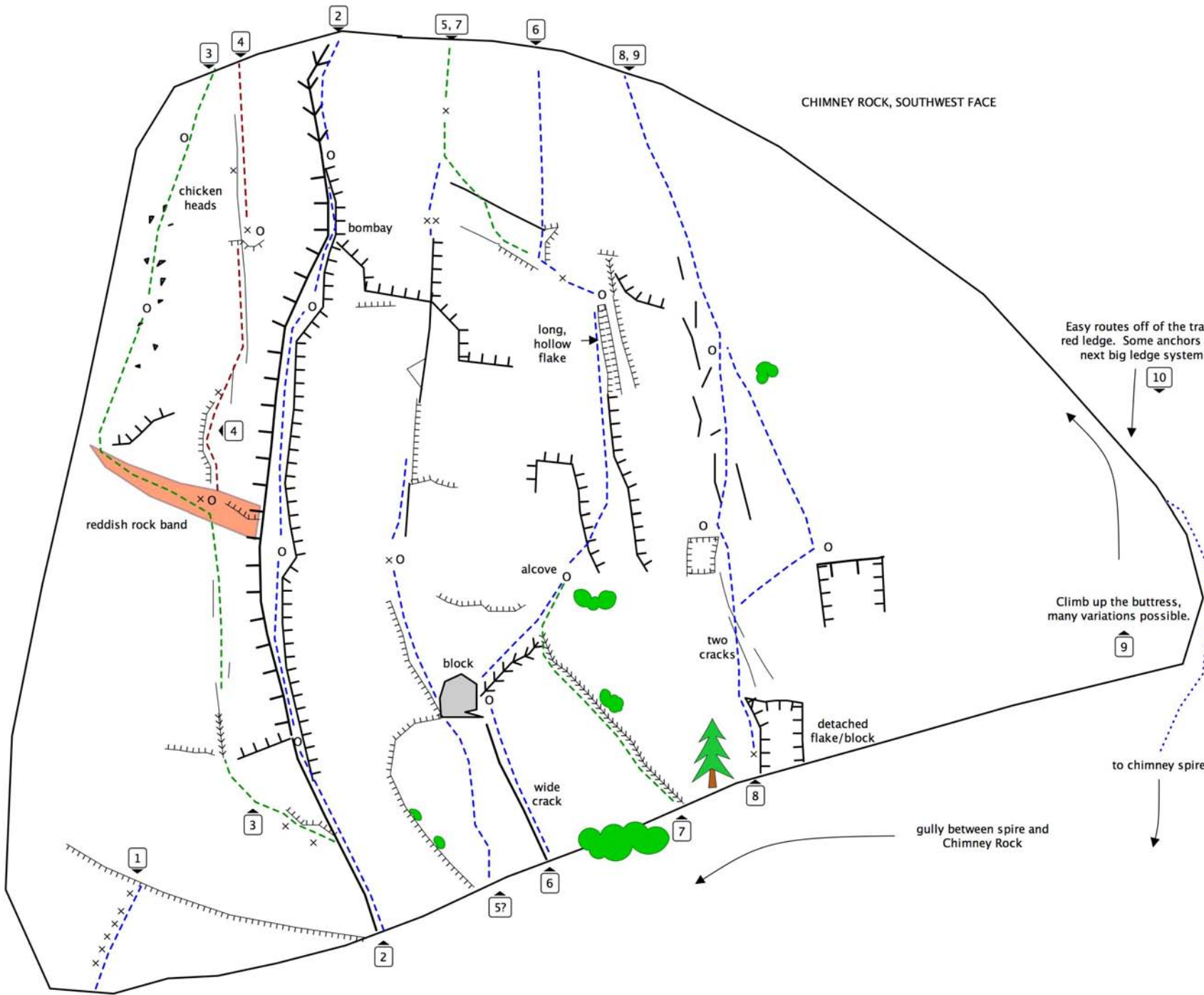


CHIMNEY ROCK, DISTORTED SW FACE

1. Mustang Clover 5.10c
2. Welcome to Chimney Rock 5.10a
3. Good and Plenty 5.11a PG13
4. Plenty Good 5.11 R
5. Dead Vertical 5.11
6. Surfer Boy 5.9
7. Climber Girl 5.9
8. 60-40 Good Buddy 5.6
9. Southwest Buttress 5.5
10. Southeast-Face



CHIMNEY ROCK, SOUTHWEST FACE



Easy routes off of the trail and red ledge. Some anchors on the next big ledge system up

10

Climb up the buttress, many variations possible.

9

to chimney spire

gully between spire and Chimney Rock

CHIMNEY ROCKS – CHIMNEY ROCK, SOUTHWEST FACE (Updated 11/5/2018)

This is the main wall facing Chimney Spire and also includes a learning area along the approach trail. Take the upper approach trail from the parking lot like you're heading to Chimney Spire. All routes can be walked off.

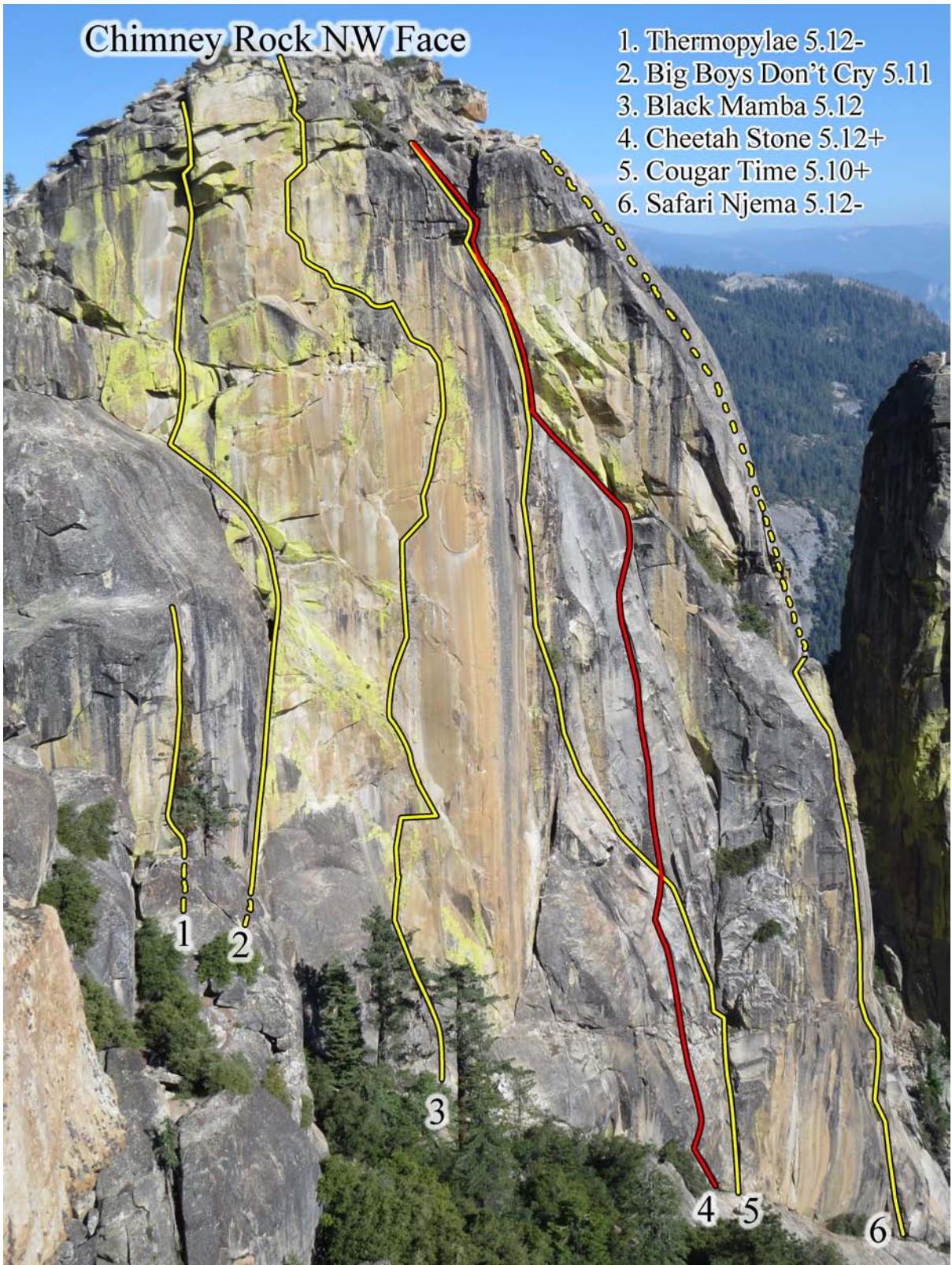
For Your Information: The overlay is a composite of a bunch of pictures taken from the spire, so it is distorted. The lower pitches look shortened and slanted, while the upper pitches have correct proportions.

1. **5.10c** 1 pitch **Mustang Clover** *6 bolts, small cams and nuts to supplement.*
Toward the very bottom of the gully, look for the first bolt about 12 feet off the ground. Ends on a ledge even with the start of Welcome to Chimney Rock.
FA: Herb Laeger, Eric Rhicard 6/1986
2. **5.10a** 5 short pitches **Welcome to Chimney Rock** *Doubles to 4"*.
P1 Look for the big obvious chimney on the left side of the face. Climb the corner to the roof at the start of the chimney.
P2 Climb around the bulge and 80 feet to an alcove.
P3 Continue until underneath the Bombay roof.
P4 Climb past the awkward roof (crux).
P5 Follow the groove to the summit blocks.
FA: Herb Laeger, Dick Saum 7/1982
3. **5.11a PG13** 4 pitches **Good and Plenty** *Gear to 3"*.
P1 Start in the corner that heads towards the big Welcome to Chimney Rock chimney, but move out left under a left facing corner past a couple bolts. Head up between two roofs and belay in the red rock band.
P2 Traverse left along the red rock about 40 feet, passing under an overhang, and then head up the chickenheads until you can build an anchor.
P3/4 Keep going up the chickenheads.
FA: Herb Laeger, Eric Rhicard 9/1986
4. **5.11 R** 3 pitches **Plenty Good** *Gear to 3" with extra finger size and smaller cams.*
P1 Same as good an plenty, see above.
P2 From the red band belay, go up a small right facing corner to a bolt, then up and right to a steep thin crack. Follow it to a stance.
P3 Easy climbing up the crack and chicken heads to the summit.
FA: Herb Laeger, Eric Rhicard 9/1987
5. **5.11** 3 pitches **Dead Vertical** *Doubles up to 3"*.
P1 Supposedly starts about 30 feet right of the big Welcome to Chimney Rock but it can also start in the wide Surfer Boy crack 50 feet uphill from the WTCR chimney. Either way, get to the big block, then trend up and left along a corner until in the red band below the vertical crack/corner system.
P2 Follow the cracks and corners straight up, over a roof and to a two bolt anchor.
P3 face climb up and right, past one bolt and to the summit.
FA: Eric Rhicard, Herb Laeger 9/1986
6. **5.9** 4 pitches **Surfer Boy** *Doubles to 3"*.
P1 50 feet uphill from the big Welcome to Chimney Rock chimney is a wide crack that leads to a big block. Belay from behind the big block.
P2 Follow a sloping corner up and right to an alcove and belay to reduce rope drag.
P3 Face climb up and right to a left facing corner. Follow the corner until you're on top of a long, hollow flake.
P4 Go up and left, past a bolt to the first vertical corner/crack system under a small roof. Follow it straight up to the summit.
FA: Paul Martzen, Tim Tidyman-Jones 1982

7. **5.9** 4 pitches **Climber Girl** *Doubles to 3''*
P1 Start in an indistinct corner about 100 feet uphill from the big Welcome to Chimney Rock chimney, between some bushes and a young tree. Follow the corner until it intersect a right sloping corner, go up that and belay in an alcove near some bushes.
P2 Face climb up and right to a left facing corner. Follow the corner until you're on top of a long, hollow flake.
P3 Traverse up and left, past a bolt onto a sloping ledge/crack. Follow it until the ledge disappear then climb up to the next crack. Follow the new crack up and left until it ends.
P4 Straight up, past a bolt, to the summit.
FA: Paul Willis, Sally Notthoff. FFA: Bruce Hendricks, Slick Watts 1977
8. **5.6** 2 or 3 pitches **60-40 Good Buddy** *Doubles to 3''*.
P1 100 feet down from the end of the southwest face is a big detached block. Climb the left side of it to a bolt, kinda behind it, and then follow cracks and corner up, where you can either traverse right to the huge ledge over there, or go straight up onto a smaller ledge.
P2/3 Follow easy, disconnected cracks up.
FA: Paul Willis, Don Wheeler 1977
9. **5.5** 3 pitches **Southwest Buttress** *Doubles to 3''*.
Many variations possible, just stay on the buttress between the southeast and southwest faces.
FA: Paul Willis and friends 1977
10. **5.5** 1-3 pitches **Southeast Face** *TR or choose your own adventure*.
Along the approach trail you can climb up just about anywhere up this face. Halfway to the summit there are some anchors on the next big ledge system. You can climb, or walk around, to these anchors to set up topropes.
FA: Paul Willis, Don Wheeler and friends 1977

Chimney Rock NW Face

1. Thermopylae 5.12-
2. Big Boys Don't Cry 5.11
3. Black Mamba 5.12
4. Cheetah Stone 5.12+
5. Cougar Time 5.10+
6. Safari Njema 5.12-



CHIMNEY ROCKS – CHIMNEY ROCK, NORTHWEST FACE (Updated 11/5/2018)

To reach this face, take the upper approach trail in the introduction, but before the notch leading to Chimney Spire go right (north) and contour around the backside of Chimney Rock. It's a bit slippery, going all the way to the summit and then down along the top of the cliff may be easier. Go down the gully between Chimney Rock and Moccasin Spire to reach these climbs.

1. **5.11+** 1 pitch (40m) **Thermopylae** *Doubles to 0.5, singles to 2", bolted anchors.*
As you head down the gully look for a very steep flaring corner that starts near a large tree. If you get to the big chimney you went a bit too far.
FA: Kevin Daniel, Rico Miledi.
2. **5.11** 3 pitches **Big Boys Don't Cry** *Doubles to 2", singles to 6".*
P1 About halfway down the gully look for the obvious big chimney slanting toward the headwall. Climb the chimney and belay in a cave.
P2 Move right into the main corner, after about 25 feet climb up the exposed face on the left. Belay at the start of a steep, right slanting crack that heads towards the summit overhangs.
P3 Follow the cracks and corners up to and through the roofs at the summit (crux).
FA: Herb Laeger, Dick Saum. FFA: Herb Laeger, Bob Yoho 7/1982
3. **5.12** 3 pitches **Black Mamba** *Doubles to 0.75, singles to 3", draws and runners*
P1 Starts 20m to the right of big boys don't cry at double cracks which lead to a left facing corner and a two bolt anchor. Take the left crack to the corner between the brown and grey rock. After passing 5 bolts traverse down and right to the main left leaning ramp. Follow the ramp past 4 bolts to the anchor. (9 bolts and gear)
P2 Follow bolts through a series of face climbing and shallow cracks to a two bolt anchor. (16 bolts and singles to .4)
P3 Traverse left to a bolt and then down and left to a flaring hand crack. Continue up to a .4 layback traverse followed by a .3 placement. Go up and left through steep jugs to a mantle top out. (1 bolt and full rack with a gear anchor)
FA: Reuben Shelton, Townsend Brown 10/2018
4. **5.12+** 3 pitches **Cheetah Stone** *Doubles to 0.75, singles to 3", 16 draws/slings.*
P1 Start 7m right of cougar time at a few face holds which lead to a left leaning layback and a roof. After pulling through the roof follow a slab tending right and then up to a shallow right facing corner with a tips crack. (8 bolts and many small cams to #1)
P2 Follow the thin crack with face holds past 7 bolts to a power layback and a two bolt anchor. (7 bolts and full rack)
P3 A face move off the stone leads to a finger ledge and the main corner. Follow bolts to the summit and a two bolt anchor (8 bolts and singles)
FA: Nicky Dyal, Reuben Shelton, Brandon Thau and Townsend Brown 9/2018
5. **5.10+** 3 pitches **Cougar Time** *Doubles to 0.75, singles to 3".*
P1 Climb the obvious left facing corner to a ledge with 5 bolts leading left. (5 bolts and full rack)
P2 Follow the bolts up the slab and to the middle crack at the corner to a two bolt anchor. (9 bolts and singles)
P3 Follow bolts up the corner to a crack to the summit and a two bolt anchor. (8 bolts and full rack)
FA: Nicky Dyal, Reuben Shelton, Brandon Thau and Townsend Brown 9/2018
6. **5.12-** 4 pitches **Safari Njema** *doubles to 0.75, singles to 3".*
P1 Climb the left leaning corner, just before the low point on the wall, to bolts at a power layback and steep face climbing. (9 bolts and full rack)
P2 Follow 2 bolts to the stem corner up to a ledge and a 2 bolt anchor. (2 bolts and full rack)
P3 Follow 2 bolts to the stem corner. Continue to a ledge and then up the slab on the SW face with bolts to a 2 bolt anchor. (9 bolts and full rack)
P4. Continue up the featured face to a bolt anchor (2 bolts? and singles)
FA: Brandon Thau, Townsend Brown 8/2018