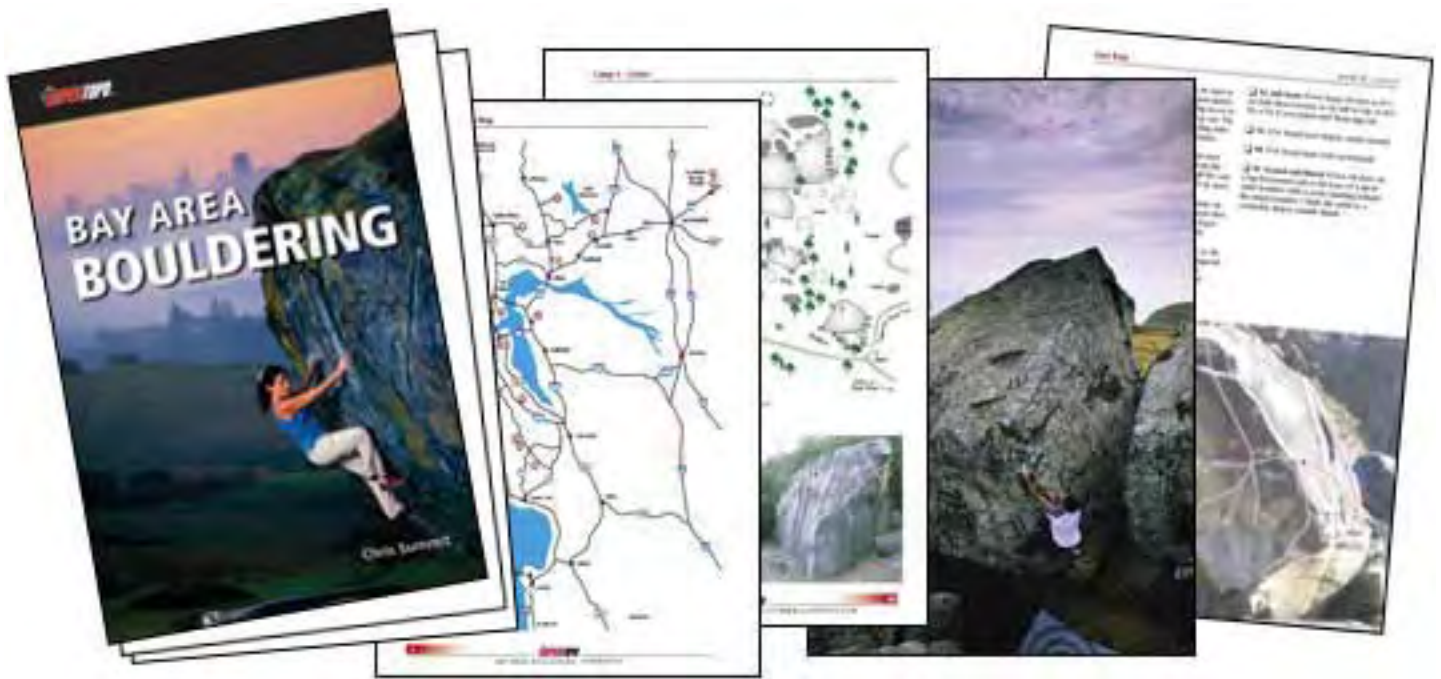


Topo Excerpted From:
Bay Area Bouldering



The best guidebook for the Bay Area's most classic problems.
Available at the SuperTopo store: www.supertopo.com/topostore

[MORE INFO](#)

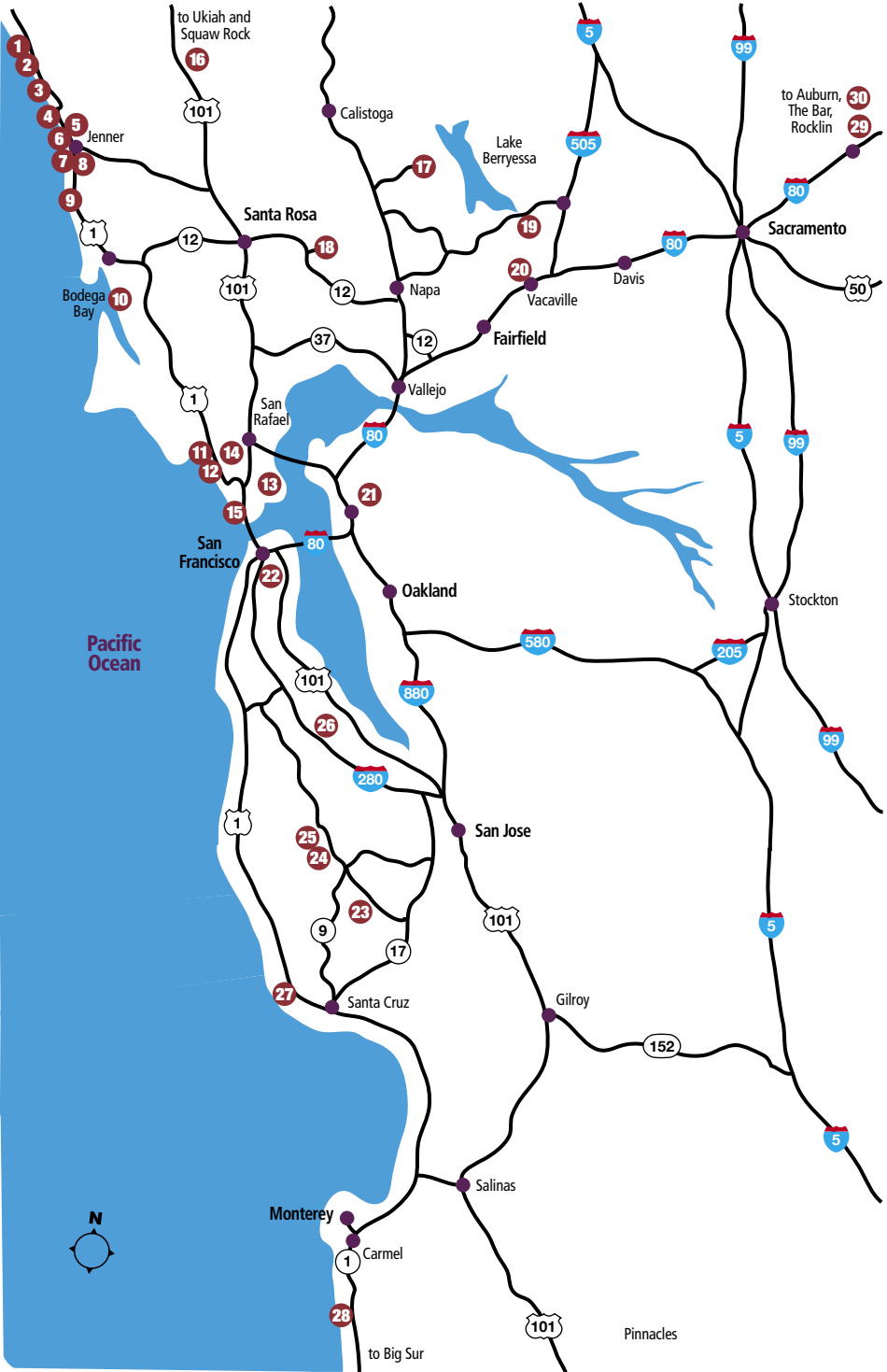
[PURCHASE](#)



Bay Area Bouldering



Bay Area Overview Map





Contents

Introduction	9	East Bay/San Francisco	
When to Climb	9	Berkeley	90
Dining	10	Indian Rock	93
Bouldering Ratings	13	Mortar Rock	97
History	14	Little Yosemite	99
North Coast		Remillard Park	99
Salt Point	17	Grizzly Peak	100
Fort Ross	18	Glen Canyon	102
Sea Crag	24	South Bay	
Twin Coves	25	Castle Rock	106
Super Slab	26	Castle Rock Boulders	112
River Mouth	30	Castle Rock Falls	115
Goat Rock	32	Goat/Billy Goat Rock	116
Pomo Canyon	40	Klinghoffers	117
Marshall Gulch	44	Indian Rock	119
Dillon Beach	45	Aquarian Valley	122
North Bay		Skyline	128
Stinson Beach	46	Farm Hill	129
Mickey's Beach	52	Panther Beach	130
Ring Mountain	60	Granite Creek	132
Mount Tamalpais	64	East of The Bay	
Marin Headlands	65	Rocklin	136
Squaw Rock	66	The Bar	137
Mossy Rock	67	Appendix	
Sugarloaf Ridge	68	More from SuperTopo	138
Putah Creek	76	About the Author	140
Vacaville	82	Index	141

Warning.

Climbing is an inherently dangerous sport in which severe injuries or death may occur. Relying on the information in this book may increase the danger.

When climbing you can only rely on your skill, training, experience, and conditioning. **If you have any doubts as to your ability to safely climb any route in this guide, do not try it.**

This book is neither a professional climbing instructor nor a substitute for one. **It is not an instructional book. Do not use it as one.** It contains information that is nothing more than a compilation of opinions about bouldering in the Bay Area. **These opinions are neither facts nor promises.** Treat the information as opinions and nothing more. Do not substitute these opinions for your own common sense and experience.

Assumption of Risk

There may be errors in this book resulting from the mistake of the author and/or the people with whom they consulted. The information was gathered from a variety of sources, which may not have been independently verified. Those who provided the information may have made mistakes in their descriptions. The author may have made mistakes in their conveyance of the information in this book. **The author cannot, therefore, guarantee the correctness of any of the information contained in this book.** The topographical maps, photo-diagrams, difficulty ratings, protection ratings, approach and/or descent information, suggestions about equipment, and other matters may be incorrect or misleading. Fixed protection may be absent, unreliable, or misplaced. **You must keep in mind that the information in this book may be erroneous, so use your own judgement when choosing, approaching, climbing, or descending from a route described in this book.**

DO NOT USE THIS BOOK UNLESS YOU [AND YOUR ESTATE] PROMISE NEVER TO TRY TO SUE US IF YOU GET HURT OR KILLED.

Disclaimer of Warranties

THE AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER WARN THAT THIS BOOK CONTAINS ONLY THE AUTHOR'S OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. THEY MAKE NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR PURPOSE, OR OTHERWISE, AND IN ANY EVENT, THEIR LIABILITY FOR BREACH OF ANY WARRANTY OR CONTRACT WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTENT OF THIS BOOK IS LIMITED TO THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE BOOK. THEY FURTHER LIMIT TO SUCH PURCHASE PRICE THEIR LIABILITY ON ACCOUNT OF ANY KIND OF NEGLIGENT BEHAVIOR WHATSOEVER ON THEIR PART WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTENTS OF THIS BOOK.

Acknowledgements

Thank you local boulderers for your first ascents:

Russ Bobzien, Scott Frye, Chris Sharma, Greg Loh, Scott Cosgrove, John Sherman, Barry Bates, John “Yabo” Yablonski, Dave Caunt, Bruce Morris, Mike Papiak, Nat Smale, Ken Ariza, Tom Richardson, Harrison Dekker, Jim Thornburg, Mark Howe, Marcos Nunez, Richie Esquibel, Charlie Barrett, Sean Brady, Ryan Tolentino, Jerry Dodrill, Kevin Jorgeson, Shawn Rogers, Frankie Ocasio and Aaron Rough.

Special thanks to these people for their help with the guide:

My wonderful mom Jeanie Anderson-Saludes and awesome step-dad Bony Saludes, Valentine Cullen and her beautiful daughter Holly Anne (inspiration), Chris McNamara (obviously), Bruce Morris, Scott Frye, Jim Thornburg, John Sherman, Russ Bobzien, Richie Esquibel, Charlie Barrett, Sean Brady, Ken Ariza, Marcos Nunez and Dave Buchanan.

Book Credits

Written by Chris Summit
Photos by Chris Summit (unless otherwise noted)
Edited by Steve McNamara, Chris McNamara
Layout by Chris McNamara

Cover Photo: Valentine Cullen at Turtle Rock. *Photo by Jerry Dodrill*

Back Cover Photo: Chris Summit on the Hard On Traverse, Goat Rock. *Photo by Jerry Dodrill*

Contents photo: Granite Creek.

Cover Design by David Safanda Design Solutions.
www.safanda.com



Introduction

By Chris Summit

The rock of the Bay Area is as diverse as the landscape and people who live here. Sandstone, schist, rhyolite, basalt, and chert are the most prevalent types of stone found locally and they each offer a unique experience. A few crags with sport and trad climbing can be found around the Bay, but the abundance of rock is just the right size for bouldering. All along the breathtaking Pacific Coast, from the Mendocino County line south past the Golden Gate to Big Sur, is a rich variety of stone to choose from in an incredibly scenic environment. Inland hills, mountains, rivers, and lakes also have great bouldering in lush forests and on golden, grassy hillsides. Most boulders are close by cities and highways and on the many fine beaches and offer an almost endless supply of easily accessible problems. As I am sure you will find in this guide, great bouldering is never too far away from wherever you are around the Bay.

SuperTopo.com

All the Bay Area info below is available at www.supertopo.com with links directly to the sources for easier trip planning.

When to climb

You can boulder year round at all areas in this book. That said, each area has its own sweet time to visit. The Bay Area is full of many microclimates and the weather at each area changes drastically throughout the year and often throughout the day. It can be 50 degrees cold and foggy at Stinson Beach and at the same moment 100 degrees hot and muggy at Vacaville.

Kevin Jorgeson on the Hard Arête (V2), Goat Rock State Park.
Photo by Jerry Dodrill www.jerrydodrill.com.

Short of a massive winter storm, there is usually always some place in the Bay Area with good bouldering conditions. I have done my best to provide an overview of the weather for each specific area but it will still take some time to understand the ever-changing conditions and be able to plan your bouldering accordingly.

North Coast Camping

Jenner/Fort Ross

Just a couple miles north of the Fort Ross bouldering area and about 16 miles north of Jenner on CA-1 is Stillwater Cove Campground. call (707) 847-3245.

A few miles north of Fort Ross and Stillwater Cove and about 20 miles north of Jenner on CA-1 is the amazing Salt Point State Park and the radical Salt Point bouldering areas. Camping is available at Gerstle Cove Campground and Woodside Campground. Call (707) 847-3221. or 1 800 444 PARK.

Jenner/Bridgehaven

Pomo Canyon Campground is off CA-1 just south of Jenner and CA-116 and just north of Goat Rock State Park in Bridgehaven. Take Willow Creek Rd. east from CA-1 for about 2.5 miles to the right turn onto the dirt road that leads to the campground. CLOSED IN WINTER.

Jenner/Guerneville

Austin Creek State Recreation Area in Guerneville is adjacent to the awe-inspiring Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve. The majestic grove of giant primeval redwood trees is a glimpse of how the whole area used to look before logging. Camping is available at Bullfrog Pond for \$15 per night. Call (707) 869-2015. Between Jenner and Guerneville on Moscow Rd. off of River Rd. (CA-116) in Duncan's Mills is the popular riverside campground, Casini Ranch. Call (800) 451-8400.

North Coast Dining and Amenities

The nearest climbing gear retailers for the North Coast are Sonoma Outfitters and REI in Santa Rosa, an hour drive inland (east).

Jenner

A gas station/mini mart/deli is the main stop in Jenner. The excellent River's End restaurant offers fine food, wine, and sunsets. The Sizzling Tandoor on the corner of CA-1 and Willow Creek Rd. (the road to Pomo Canyon Campground and bouldering area) just south of Jenner also has great food and views.

Bodega Bay

Less than ten miles south of the Jenner climbing areas is the quiet fishing village and beach getaway of Bodega Bay. Get gas at the Texaco on CA-1 and food, beer, and supplies at Diekman's Store, also on CA-1. Enjoy the catch of the day with great views of the bay at The Tides Wharf and Restaurant (seen in Alfred Hitchcock's classic *The Birds*).

Guerneville

More than you may ever need can be found in Guerneville about 12 miles east of Jenner. From Jenner (CA-1) take River Rd. (CA-116) east for about 12 miles to Guerneville and gas, a 24hr Safeway, the mui delicioso taco wagon usually in the Safeway parking lot and the scrumptious Andorno's Pizza (16205 1st St.).

North Bay Camping

Marin County

Marin has camping available at Mount Tamalpais State Park (near the Mount Tamalpais bouldering areas), Samuel P. Taylor State Park (15 minutes west of US-101 on Sir Francis Drake Blvd.) and Point Reyes National Seashore. For reservations at Mount Tamalpais or Samuel P. Taylor contact Reserve America or for information about camping at Point Reyes call (415) 663-8054.

Napa/Lake Berryessa

Lake Berryessa has seven private resorts that have camping. Most of the resorts are on the west and south shores off CA-128 or Knoxville Rd. only a few miles from the Vacaville and Putah Creek bouldering areas. Napa has a good campground: Skyline Wilderness Park on 2201 Imola Ave., which is about 15 miles west of Lake Berryessa and the Putah Creek bouldering area. Call (707) 252-0481.

Santa Rosa/Kenwood

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park off CA-12 just west of Kenwood and east of US-101 in Santa Rosa has good boulders within walking distance of the campground. Take Adobe Canyon Rd. from CA-12 for a few miles to the park entrance and campground. Call (800) 444-PARK.

North Bay Dining and Amenities

Marin County

Brooklyn Pizza at 900 Andersen Dr. near Class 5 and High Tech Burrito at 484 Las Gallinas or 2042 4th St., San Rafael. Just off US-101 in Corte Madera (south of San Rafael) is an REI with almost everything you'll need for climbing or camping. Take the same Paradise Dr./Tamalpais Dr. exit as for the Ring Mountain bouldering area, but go to the shopping center on the west side of US-101 off Tamalpais Dr. A couple miles west of 101 on Tamalpais Dr. is downtown Larkspur and the historic Lark Creek Inn at 234 Magnolia Ave. Partake in the happy hour (M-F half off beer and cocktails) and enjoy delicious, seasonal, farm fresh cuisine. The Oceanside town of Stinson Beach (near Stinson and Mickey's Beach bouldering areas) has a good market: Beckers by the Beach has good food, drink, and supplies. Other fine dining in town can be found at the summertime snack bar adjacent to the beach that has good hot dogs and soda or for a bit more fancy try the Sand Dollar on CA-1. You can find rock gear and indoor climbing in San Rafael at Class 5 Fitness.

Napa/Sonoma

An assortment of gas stations, stores and restaurants can be found off CA-12 and CA-29 in downtown Napa or Sonoma. In Napa try the muy bueno High Tech Burrito 641 Trancas St. (off CA-29). In Sonoma enjoy a Bay Area original, the delicious Mary's Pizza Shack in the Sonoma Plaza and on Sonoma Hwy. (CA-12).

Santa Rosa/Kenwood

Santa Rosa is one hour north of San Francisco on US-101 and has all the amenities you might need: gas, climbing/camping gear (Sonoma Outfitters, REI and Vertex) and indoor climbing at Vertex. A wide variety of dining is available in Santa Rosa. Try the Russian River Brewing Company on Fourth St. in downtown or the tasty Taqueria Santa Rosa or China Room in Rincon Valley. Or just east of Santa Rosa in quiet little Kenwood try the Mexican/Spanish cuisine at the Vineyards Inn on the corner of Sonoma Hwy (CA-12) and Adobe Canyon Rd. (the road to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park bouldering area and campground).

East Bay Camping**Oakland/Berkeley**

Southeast of Oakland and Berkeley camping is available at Lake Chabot in Anthony Chabot Regional Park. From I-580 east in Castro Valley take the Redwood Rd. exit and turn left onto Redwood Rd. or from I-580 west take the Castro Valley exit and turn left onto Castro Valley Blvd., then right onto Redwood Rd and follow it to the park. Call in advance (510) 562-2267.

Oakland/San Jose

Camping is available in the hills between Oakland and San Jose at Sunol Regional Wilderness near Pleasanton. Take I-580 east to I-680 south to Calaveras Rd/CA-84, turn left onto Calaveras, then take Geary Rd. to the park. Enjoy a short hike and some fine basalt cragging at Indian Joe Caves on Indian Joe Creek Trail inside the park. Call in advance (510) 562-2267

Vacaville/Lake Berryessa

Lake Berryessa has seven private resorts that have camping. Most of the resorts are on the west and south shores off CA-128 or Knoxville Rd. only a few miles from the Putah Creek and Vacaville bouldering areas.



East Bay Dining and Amenities

Oakland/Emeryville

Try the eclectic mix of food vendors at the Emeryville Public Market (5959 Shellmound St.). It's off I-80/I-580/I-880 in Emeryville south of Berkeley and north of Oakland. Take the Powell St. exit east to Shellmound St.

Berkeley

Gas, food, climbing/camping gear (REI and Marmot), and the largest indoor climbing gym in the Bay Area: Berkeley Ironworks. Enjoy an eccentric assortment of food and shops on the busy Telegraph Ave. in downtown Berkeley (take Ashby Ave. a few miles east of I-80).

Vacaville

Gas, food and shopping malls right off I-80 only a few miles from the Vacaville Open Space bouldering areas.

South Bay Camping

Big Basin

Big Basin Redwoods State Park (the first State Park in California) – 25 miles north of Santa Cruz and about 65 miles south of San Francisco on CA-236 near the town of Boulder Creek and just a short drive from the Castle Rock, Aquarian Valley and Skyline bouldering areas. Call (800) 444-PARK

San Jose/Castle Rock

Camping is available at Castle Rock State Park about a three mile hike from the parking lot. The primitive sites are about \$10 per night and are first come, first serve. Near the city of Saratoga on Big Basin Way is a nice campground called Saratoga Springs with RV and tent camping.

Monterey/Big Sur

South of Monterey, Carmel, the Granite Creek bouldering area and the Bay Area, the bold and beautiful Big Sur has an abundance of camping available in State Parks, National Forest, and private resorts. Try Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Call (837) 667-2315

South Bay Dining and Amenities

San Francisco

Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf have good food and fun. San Francisco's Chinatown is one of the largest outside of Asia and offers fine food all day and all night. Mission Cliffs has indoor climbing and gear in a good atmosphere. For gear go to The North Face at 180 Post St. Get gas and food on either CA-1 or US-101.

San Jose/Santa Cruz

For great beer and food at reasonable prices enjoy Gordon Biersch Brewing Company on 33 E. San Fernando St. (downtown San Jose). A gas station/mini mart/deli and popular motorcycle hangout is at the intersection of CA-35 (Skyline Blvd.) and CA-84 in Sky Londa a few miles north of the Aquarian Valley and Skyline bouldering areas and across the street from the infamous Alice's Restaurant (where you can get what you want). Pacific Edge is a great indoor climbing gym and gear retailer in Santa Cruz (104 Bronson St.). If you feel like having more fun in the sun then don't miss the oldest amusement park in California: the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

Monterey

Gas, food, supplies, climbing gear and indoor climbing (Sanctuary Rock Gym in Sand City) are all located just a few miles apart near CA-1. Don't miss the restaurants on the famous Cannery Row and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Bouldering Ratings Compared

Hueco	Y.D.S	Font
VB	5.0-5.8	<3
V0-	5.9	3/4-
V0	5.10a/b	4-/4/4+
V0+	5.10c/d	4+
V1	5.11a/b	4+/5-
V2	5.11b/c	5/5+
V3	5.11c/d	6a/b
V4	5.12a/b	6c/c+
V5	5.12b/c	7a
V6	5.12c/d	7a+
V7	5.13a/b	7a+/7b
V8	5.13b/c	7b/7b+
V9	5.13c/d	7b+/7c
V10	5.14a	7c/7c+
V11	5.14b	7c+/8a
V12	5.14c	8a+
V13	5.14d	8b
V14	5.14d/5.15a	8b+
V15	5.15a/b	8c
V16	5.15b/c	8c+

History

By Chris Summit

Bouldering in the Bay Area started as far back as the 1920s on the volcanic rhyolite crags at Indian Rock Park in Berkeley. Some of the original rock climbing pioneers of Yosemite and America, Dick Leonard, “the father of modern rock climbing,” and David Brower learned and practiced rock climbing and the first dynamic belays at Indian Rock. They used ropes mainly, but scrambling and bouldering were also practiced. The first modern day bouldering in the Bay Area also took place at Indian Rock and its partner in climb Mortar Rock up the road in the late 1960s and early 1970s. A few young soon-to-be rock stars, John “The Verm” Sherman (inventor of the V-scale for rating difficulty) and Scott Frye (first ascents of some of the best sport climbs of the west), and an unknown (except in Berkeley) rock climbing star named Nat Smale (popular for putting up Nat’s Traverse at Mortar Rock in 1976, which for a short time was the hardest boulder traverse in the country) and a few other characters all sent the problems and greased the holds long before the rest of the country even heard of bouldering.

The late 70s and early 80s were the heydays for first ascents around the Bay Area as bouldering grew in popularity. While Berkeley’s volcanic boulders were getting developed, across the Bay a young Marin County climber named Russ Bobzien was busy establishing the original North Bay classics on the schist of Ring Mountain, Stinson Beach and Mickey’s Beach. The awesome Parking Lot Boulder at Castle Rock (the sandstone boulder forest reminiscent of France’s famous Fontainebleau) was also getting developed at that time by more of California’s soon-to-be rock stars like J-Tree stone master Scott Cosgrove, John

“Yabo” Yablonski, Barry Bates, and even the Yosemite stone master, Ron Kauk. I guess sport climbing took over for most of the later 80s because I can’t remember much bouldering development going on after the early part. (Hold on, I can’t remember much of the eighties at all.) I think cleaning new problems would have got our fancy tights dirty and besides, with a new wave of bolted sport climbs all over the country back then, why pebble wrestle? Silly tights wearing kooks (myself included), we could have scored many great first ascents around the Bay Area that would sit untouched until another wave of bouldering madness took over in the 1990s.

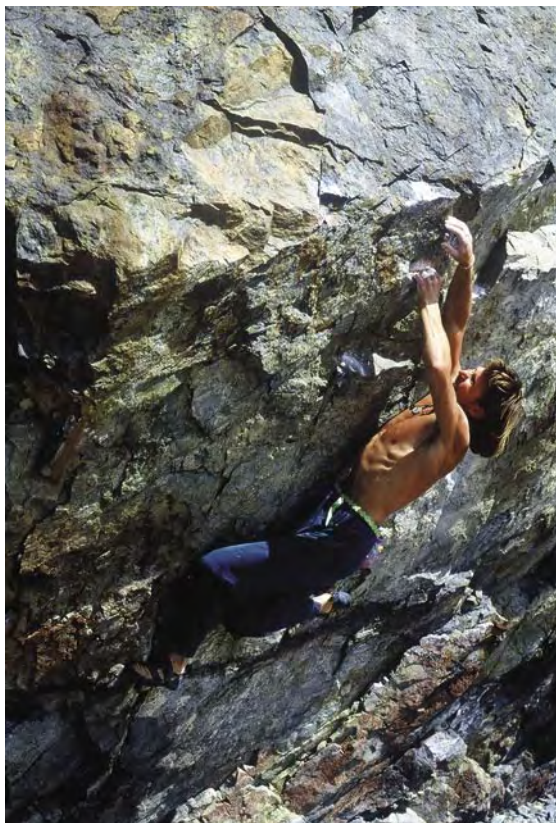
The creation of the crash pad in the 1990s more than doubled the potential bouldering that could be done and reignited the bouldering flame. The Bay Area, along with all the other bouldering areas in the world, were changed forever. New boulder problems were found and put up right next to old school classics and sit starts were added to everything. One of the best problems in the Bay Area was put up in the late 1990s, an old Yabo project at Castle Rock climbed by the local and now world famous Chris Sharma, called Eco Terrorist V10. Berkeley has also seen a constant flow of new problems, along with talented boulderers to send them. Greg Loh, Randy Puro, Mike Papciak, Mark Nicholas, and the relentless Scott Frye have all added test-pieces of their own over the last decade, culminating with Frye’s newest classics on Grizzly Peak and Sharma’s 2004 ascent of The Impossible Traverse V13 at Mortar Rock (the hardest problem in the Bay Area, so far). The future project at Mortar would be to do the complete traverse starting on Nat’s Traverse (V8), then reversing the crux moves on Marks Traverse (V11) into The Impossible Traverse to finish. To the east The Vacaville Boulders got a lot of new problems in the late 90s and into the 21st century courtesy of the Bezerkly Crew, local Aaron Rough, and also my buddies and I. At Mickey’s Beach Kenny Ariza established some new problems on the South Side Boulders and the strong, talented Frankie Ocasio has also been busy doing new, hard

problems right up to press time. The boulders that got the most development in the last decade and are still being developed are on the North Coast. Locals and friends Marcos Nunez, Richie “The Pirate” Esquibel, Jim and Jason Campbell, Sean Brady, Charlie Barrett, Ryan Tolentino, Kevin Jorgeson, Mark Howe, Jordi Morgan, and I have done hundreds of first ascents from V0–Vhard on the schist, chert and sandstone crags on and around Sonoma County’s one-of-a-kind coastline.

The present and the future look good for the Bay Area bouldering scene. New problems are still being found at old areas and new areas are still being found and developed. While making this guide I had to stop the press several times because someone showed me new problems. The first time I had to stop the press was when local climber/photographer extraordinaire Jerry Dodrill showed me some new problems he found at Marshall Gulch, a place I had climbed for the first time as a child. My mom said the other kids would run out to play in the water, but I would go the opposite direction and climb up the cliffs and boulders.

The next stop the press came when my good friend and local boulderer Ken Ariza told me about the obvious classics on the boulders on Dillon Beach. An area I had driven by hundreds of times—doh!

The final stop the press was one day when I was inspired by the view of Mount Tamalpais from Mac’s home in Mill Valley while working on the guidebook. I decided to avoid the 101 rush hour and take the much longer route home over Mt. Tam and up the coast to look for new boulders. I parked at the first area I saw potential on Panoramic Hwy. and, needing some exercise I gladly charged off into the forest. After checking out a few small obvious chunks



Russ Bobzien on Manitou (V11). Photo Russ Bobzien Collection.

with some barely worthy problems I was about to call it and hit the road when my intuition pulled me over one more hill right to a couple big virgin boulders and the best line on the mountain. I call it Intuition.

History has many lessons to teach us, two of the most important being to enjoy yourself and to make the most out of what you’ve got. Get out there and hike around your neck of the woods and look in those unexplored areas where you think new boulders might be hiding. They’re out there waiting to be found and climbed. We don’t need to travel all the time or give up and climb in the gym all the time. Incredibly diverse, world class bouldering is right in our own backyard.



Salt Point

Number of problems: 100+

Rock: Sandstone

Difficulty: VB-V9, mostly V0-V7

Tafoni sandstone cliffs and boulders abound in this marvelous natural playground. Some of the original streets of San Francisco are paved with stone from this park that was brought down the coast by boat. All of the bouldering in the park is a bit far from the Bay Area but it is all totally worth the drive. Sport and traditional climbing, hiking, diving, mushroom picking, whale watching, fishing, surfing, and oh-yes, bouldering can all be enjoyed in the park year round. Peace and solitude can also be found on the many secret beaches and forgotten boulders. There are hundreds of established boulder problems on the unique sandstone, starting from 3rd and 4th class scrambles up huge spires to radical V0-V9 problems on gritty slopers and amazing pocketed tafoni.

Shroomland/Waterfall Boulders

Shroom Boulder Classics: **Vise Grip V4** (east face of the Shroom Boulder).

Waterfall Boulders Classics: **Waterfall Crack V3r**, **High Times V0x** (face/crack).

Diamond Boulder Classics: **Diamond in the Rough V3** (right face), **Matrix V5** (center), **Left Eye V7** (left arête).

Directions: Park on the east side of CA-1 in a small turnout next to the Shroom Boulder 22.0 mi. north of the CA-116/CA-1 intersection and 6.0 miles south of Skaggs Springs Rd. The Waterfall Boulders are across CA-1 to the west and along the beach south of the tranquil waterfall. The gem of the area, The Diamond Boulder, is the furthest south.

Johnny Cash Boulders

Classics: **Yellowfoot V3**, **Johnny Cash V5**.

Directions: For North Shroomland, park on the west side of CA-1 in a small turnout next to an old picket fence just north of the parking for South Shroomland. Hike across



Marcos Nunez gets high over the surf.

the highway into the forest toward a big rock. The Johnny Cash Boulders are up and left of Big Rock and the turnout and The Hourglass Boulder is up and right. Big Rock is visible from CA-1 and has a few good V0-3 problems.

Fisk Mill Cove Boulders

Classics: **Off The Heezey V1r**, **Jugular V1r** (lower cliff). **Fisk Mill Traverse V3** (upper cliff). **Directions:** 22.7 miles north of the CA-116/CA-1 intersection and about 5.3 miles south of Skaggs Springs Rd. off CA-1. Just north of the parking for Shroomland is the left turn into the parking lot of Fisk Mill Cove. Park in either the south or the first north parking area. The boulder problems are on the rocky hill visible from the road between the north and south parking areas. The far north parking area accesses more boulder problems and sport climbs around Sentinel Rock.

Fort Ross

Number of problems: 25

Rock: Sandstone

Difficulty: VB-V11, mostly V1-V6

The Fort Ross Boulders were discovered by the visionary local climber Richie Esquibel in the summer of 1996. His discovery helped usher in a new era of bouldering on the sandstone of the North Coast. Richie, along with Marcos Nunez, developed the original classics on the main overhanging face of the Fort Ross Boulder. These are some of the best and most challenging problems on the entire Pacific Coast. The steep problems on the main face start low and top out high, with big moves between blocky edges and sandpaper slopes. Most of the year they have soft sandy landings that allow for fearless dynos and carefree falls.

About the rock

Mostly solid and steep, overhanging sedimentary and conglomerate sandstone. The main face of the main boulder is about 12 to 15 feet high in summer and about 15 to 20 feet high in winter when the sand is low. The rest of the boulders are mostly smaller with rocky landings and require a low tide.

When to climb

Good conditions all year except for mid-winter. Sand levels change throughout the year—in the middle of winter the sandy landing under the main boulder drops down to its lowest point exposing ankle breaking rocks. Big waves crash onto the beach and deposit driftwood and seaweed, making the landings even a bit nastier still. During this time the boulder problems are almost R-

Number of problems by difficulty

VB	V0	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	≥V11
2	6	5	4	12	6	5	2	3	2	1	1	0



Richie Esquibel "Living a Dream" (V6).

rated solos. This three-four month period fluctuates between the months of November and March and is the only time when conditions are unpredictable. In summer the sand is usually at its highest and can make the problems feel almost too low. Sometimes the higher sand level can also make a few of the classic sit starts un-climbable for a few months unless you do a little digging for footholds. The rest of the year it's usually perfect, with soft sandy landings and good dry conditions. With the minor exception of foggy days just after a rain when this north-east facing boulder gets no sun and may take up to a whole extra day or two to dry compared to other rocks on the coast.

Driving directions

From the Bay Area, take US-101 north to Petaluma, exit East Washington St. and

follow it west through town. Washington St. turns into Bodega Ave. and then to Valley Ford Rd. before connecting with CA-1. Go north on CA-1 about 18 miles (about nine miles north of Bodega Bay) to the CA-116 (River Rd.)/CA-1 intersection just south of Jenner.

From Santa Rosa area, on US-101 exit Mark West Springs Rd./River Rd. Head west on River Rd. for about 15 miles to Guerneville and the CA-116 intersection. Continue west on River Rd./CA-116 for about 12 miles toward CA-1 and Jenner. Just before (south of) Jenner you'll come to the CA-1 intersection.

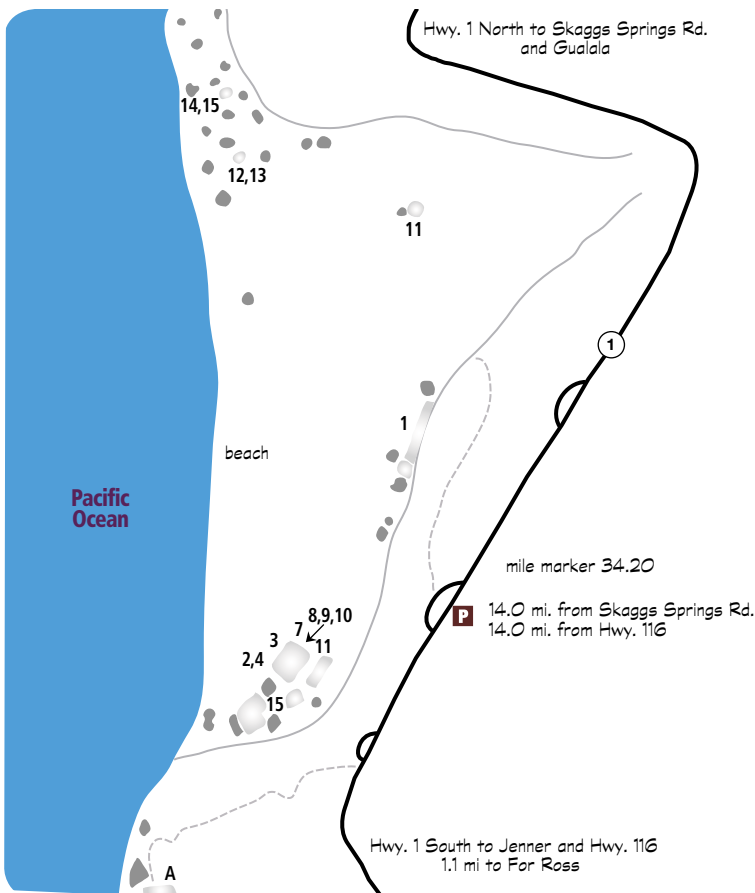
From the CA-116 (River Rd.)/CA1 intersection just south of Jenner turn right (north) onto CA-1. Set your odometer and drive for 14.0 miles (thru the town of

Jenner) to the parking in pullouts on the left (west) side of CA-1.

Coming from north of Jenner (Mendocino) on CA-1 set your odometer at Skaggs Springs Rd./CA-1 intersection (south of Annapolis and Gualala) and drive south on CA-1 for 14.0 miles to the parking in a pullout on the right (west) side of CA-1 about 1 mile north of Fort Ross State Historic Park. GPS for the parking lot is N38 31.410 W123 15.799

Approach

Fort Ross Boulders are on the beach also known as Kolmers Gulch about a hundred feet below the highway. A short (two-minute) steep downhill hike from the car will get you to the beach and the boulders.





Traverse Cliff

☐ **1. The Fort Ross Traverse V1★★★** Stand start on the far right or far left side of cliff face and traverse, using all holds from side to side. V2 Low.

Main Boulders

GPS: N38 31.390 W123 15.829

☐ **2. Swiss Cheese V0★★** Stand start on swiss cheese pockets and go up right arête.

☐ **3. Swiss Cheese Traverse V1★★** Same stand start as #2 but traverse up and left, past sloper into highball slab face.

☐ **4. Irie Traverse V8★★** Stand start same as #2 and #3, then traverse left same as #3 to slab. Catch a rest, then turn the corner and pass #7. Continue traversing left to the jug on #9 and drop down a few moves to the ball on the sit start of #9 and then do the sit start of #10 to finish. V7 Start on #7.

☐ **5. Living La Vida Loca V8★★★★** Sit start on right hand edge and left hand sloper gaston, then wrestle your way up past sloper meat-wraps on mini arête into #7. FA: Chris Summit.

☐ **6. Grand Finale V9★★★★** Sit start on sloper pinch, then up into #5 to finish. FA: Ryan Tolentino.

☐ **6a. Relentless V10★★** Do V9 #6 sit start into #4 to finish.

☐ **7. Living a Dream V6★★★★** Stand start on right hand side-pull and left hand under-cling. Ascend highball face left of arête. Row gently downstream for life is but a dream. FA: Marcos Nunez/Richie Esquibel.

☐ **8. The Shazinky V8★★★** Sit start on the loose ball-shaped hold, then angle up and right staying below the jug/ledge on #9 and #10 up into #7 to finish.

- ☐ **9. Fort Rossta V6★★★★** Same sit start as #8 on the ball, then straight up past under-cling side-pulls to jug. Throw a big move to gain the rails below the lip and top out. V4
Variation: Stand start on under-cling side-pulls, to jug, to top. FA: Marcos Nunez.
- ☐ **9a. Flying Monkey V7★★★★** Stand start same as #9, then dyno/lunge/fly from the jug/shelf in the center of the face all the way to the sloper rail below the top. V8 sit start.
- ☐ **10. Living a Nightmare V7★★★★** Same sit start on the ball as #8 and #9 and same first crux as #9 to jug, then traverse the sloper ledge to the right up into #7 to finish.
- ☐ **11. Left Arête V6★★** Same sit start as #8, #9 and #10 on the loose ball, then diagonal traverse up and left into the left arête. V5 if you stand start from the jug rail.
- ☐ **12. Left Hook V7★★** Same sit start as #11 on ball, then traverse to far left to top of #13. It's a V6 if you stand start from jug rail.
- ☐ **13. V1★** Stand start slopy, sandy mantel.
- ☐ **14. V1★** Stand start roof on backside.
- ☐ **15. Scrunch and Munch V2★★** Sit start on a big horizontal rail at the base of a short arête boulder with a rocky landing behind the main boulder. Climb the arête to a scrunchy, slopy mantle finish.



North Cove

The boulders in the North Cove are much less traveled and therefore have much sandier rock. A quick brushing will take care of the sand. The rock can also be more brittle, so be careful. Be careful not only for your own safety (duh) but also be careful not to break the precious holds off the boulders. Take extra caution not to climb the rocks in the North Cove or any of the sandstone at Fort Ross, or anywhere else on the North Coast for that matter, when it is damp because it will be even more brittle than it already is. Most of the boulders in the North Cove have rocky landings. Pads are good.

☐ **16. The Creek Boulder V0★** Climb the north or south face.

☐ **17. Octopussy V2★★** Sit start on sloper ledge and traverse right along ledge to topout.

☐ **18. Orca V0★★** Sit start on detached block or stand start in hueco to rail to top.

☐ **19. Albatross V4★★** Sit start on right hand lie-back—go up past pockets to topout up and right on top of #18. V2 if you stand start at pockets.

☐ **20. Apocalyptic Bebop V4★★** Same sit start as #19 and pocket crux, then top out up left. V2 if you stand start at pockets.

Jerry Dodrill takes a cruise on You Snooze You Loose, (V3).





South Cove (AKA The Tide-line Boulders)

Local climbing angler Marcos Nunez discovered the Tide-line c.2000. He had the place to himself until 2005 when a few psyched locals re-discovered it and gave it the nickname The Tide-line Boulders. Most boulders have rocky landings, so bring many pads.

- 21. Tide-line Traverse V4★★** Sit or stand start on tafoni jugs on the far right side of the rightmost of the two main boulders. Traverse left across the face, then bridge the gap from one boulder to the other and continue traversing left into #27 to finish.
- 22. V0★★** Sandy prow.
- 23. Smearnoff V4★★** Sit or stand start same as the Tide-line Traverse (#21) but only traverse across the face of the first boulder, then drop down into #25 to finish.
- 24. V1★★** Sit start on right hand lie-back crack pinch and left hand pocket, then go up the short juggy lie-back crack to the slopy topout.
- 25. Borscht V3★★** Same sit start as #24 on right hand lie-back crack pinch and left hand pocket, then make a few moves up and left past a small pocket/slot and up out of the mini cave.
- 26. Been There Done That V2★★★** Sit start on the right side of the leftmost of the two main boulders on large bulbous knobby features and go up and left to tafoni topout.
- 27. You Snooze You Loose V3★★** Sit start just down and left of the bulbous knobs start of #26 on a left hand scoop and a right hand pinch and go up and left to the arête or top out straight up.
- 28. Mangel Wurzel V5★★** Sit start below #27 finish on the base of the left arête (#29), then traverse right past #26 into #25 to finish. V4Variation: Traverse past #22 to far right.
- 29. V0★★** Sit start left arête same as #28.
- 30. ??**