

Rancho Penasquitos Canyon (RPC) Bouldering

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Intro

I never climbed at RPC until 2019 and for a small local area it has some serious merit. After all my developing in late 2019 the area has about 50 total problems ranging dramatically in quality. I wont go into too much detail, the [Mountain Project](#) ↗ for RPC is pretty comprehensive, but a quick Must-Do list for the area: Green Go (V0), Where Eagles Dare (V0), Smorgasbord (V1), Hangnail Left (V2), Amphibian (V3), Mr. Longarm (V4), Tea, Earl Grey, Hot (V5), Data And Picard (V6), Fly, you Fools! (V6), Gwaihir the Windlord (V6), and The Penthouse (V7).

Warnings

1. Bouldering is an inherently dangerous sport. Please proceed with caution and at your own risk. Basically its not my fault if you get hurt, or riddled with poison oak.
2. RPC is a state preserve with explicit [Rules and Regulations](#) ↗. The biggest for boulders is:

All plants, animals, rocks, artifacts, and structures are protected. Do not remove, disturb, deface, or collect.

This means that it is basically against the rules to climb here. Most of the boulders are “off-trail” and it is impossible to climb without leaving some trace on the rock itself, the landing or the climber trails. The Rangers understand that bouldering is a unique sport (and most boulders love nature more than the average Joe) but they CAN AND SHOULD close all access if the area is mistreated. Do your part in keeping RPC clean. Always take out more trash than you bring in, be friendly to other hikers/adventures, do your best to brush chalk off of rocks and do not trample or otherwise damage the wildlife.

3. Poison Oak. I was riddled with it a few weeks back and its nasty. Especially on the north side and especially from spring into summer. In the Topo provided I included some spattering of pinkish-red to illustrate particularly poison oak full areas.

Getting there

Again [Mountain Project](#) ↗ is pretty well documented but for the sake of completeness. Park at the end of Park Village Road (32.938898, -117.168862). This starting point is called Power Line trail which makes sense because you start by walking under the large power lines. There is a gate at the beginning of the trail, head past the gate and follow the power lines down into the canyon. After about a quarter mile of down hill you will turn right (head west), following the signs for the

waterfall. Overall the hike is 1.2 miles long. The following link will open in google maps with the directions: [Parking to Boulders ↗](#)

Overview Topo



Figure 1: RPC full area Topo - [Full Resolution Image ↗](#)

For simplicity RPC is further broken down into three areas: **Mr. Longarm**, **Main Falls** and **Lower Falls**. Mountain Project only had a few problems added slowly over the years so most problems are all added to their own boulder. Now that there are more established routes it makes more sense to divide the area up. Hopefully this is more simple.

For start descriptions and climb pictures use [Mountain Project ↗](#). This simplified guide is meant only to provide the Topos.

Mr. Longarm

I will warn you again, BE CAREFUL OF POISON OAK! You are only immune until you are not, they you will be riddled with it. There is tons of it around the north cluster, I have marked a few sections in the topo with pink splatter, but there is a lot of it, and it probably changes year to year.



Figure 2: RPC Mr. Longarm Topo

Climb List

1. **V0** Face Climb Left
2. **V0** Face Climb
3. **V3** Face Climb Left to Right
4. **V5** Globetrotting
5. **V5** We Call Them Lines
6. **V0** Face Climb Center
7. **V0** Face Climb Right
8. **V2** Face Climb Right to Left
9. **V2** Desigual
10. **V4** Mr. Longarm
11. **V9** Tax Evasion
12. **V7** The Penthouse
13. **V10** Estate Tax

Main Falls



Figure 3: RPC Main Falls Topo

Climb List

1. **V3** Solar Essence
2. **V3** Super Bowl
3. **V1** Scylla
4. **V2** Chayrbdis
5. **V2** Still Waters Run Deep
6. **V3** Still Waters Walk Deep
7. **V3** Swift Waters Run Shallow
8. **V2** South Face
9. **V4** Purist Face
10. **V3** Another Overhang
11. **V2** SW Overhang
12. **V2** West Overhang
13. **V2** Hangnail Left
14. **V4** Hangnail Right
15. **V3** Amphibian
16. **V5** Preservation
17. **V0** Where Eagles Dare
18. **V6** Fly, you Fools!
19. **5.10a** Ipai Crack
20. **5.10a** Tipai

Lower Falls



Figure 4: RPC Lower Falls Topo

Climb List

1. **V0** Smorgasbord Left
2. **V1** Smorgasbord
3. **V0** Smorgasbord Traverse
4. **V2** Garbage Compactor
5. **V4** Garbage Compactor Low
6. **V5** Threepio Save Us
7. **V0** Wan Too
8. **V0** Green Go
9. **V2** Traversito
10. **V1** Traversito Stand
11. **V0** Bubble & Squeek
12. **V2** Wet Cheeks
13. **V0** Cave Crack
14. **V6** Gwaihir the Windlord
15. **V0** Lower Falls Crack
16. **V0** Why does she even have that lever?
17. **V6** Data and Picard
18. **V5** Tea, Earl Grey, Hot
19. **V5** When I Plucked the Rose
20. **V2** Come Cheer Up, My Lads

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