

# The Hospital Crag

## Miniguide

The information for this miniguide was collected some time ago from Walt Wehner with the help of Luke Laeser, Rick Smith, Rick Bradshaw, Jon Butler, Josh Smith, Gary Clark, Cameron Burns, Jason Schweid, Max Minnerop, Chris Hamston, Shems Baker-Jud, Lee Brinckerhof, Theo Takeda, Shibli Fazal, and Nathaniel Walker. Although the book they planned to publish never made it to completion, Walt passed all the info to me hoping to make it more accessible for all the climbers that like to, or already enjoy the crags and cliffs of the Los Alamos & White Rock area. I added some pictures and edited the contents. If you have suggestions for changes or additions to this downloadable guide, please send the information to Guido Bender: [guido@lanl.gov](mailto:guido@lanl.gov).

### Caution

Outdoor recreation activities are by their very nature potentially hazardous. There are inherent dangers and other risks involved that include the risk of personal injuries, including paralysis and death. All participants in such activities must assume the responsibility for their own actions and safety. The information contained in this guidebook cannot replace sound judgement and good decision-making skills, which help reduce risk exposure, nor does the scope of this guide allow for disclosure of all the potential hazards and risks involved in such activities.

Learn as much as possible about the outdoor recreation activities in which you participate, prepare for the unexpected, and be cautious. The reward will be a safer and more enjoyable experience.

### General

The Hospital Crag is a 50 foot south-facing welded tuff cliff band in Los Alamos Canyon featuring some decent bolted sport routes. Bolts are legal here, and potential exists for many more routes. Unfortunately, some of the rock in the area is very soft - if you plan to bolt, use at least 1/2 X 3 inch expansion bolts or glue-ins. Another important caveat: it might well be illegal to climb here. Land ownership is unclear. We take no responsibility for your possible trespassing.

The Hospital Crag offers routes with ratings from 5.9 to about 5.12. It's easily possible to top rope most routes by slinging trees or access of the anchors from the top.

If you want to lead the climbs of the hospital crag, bring a clipping stick and if possible a helmet. Some of the rock is brittle and chunks come off every now and then. Belay from the side and be very careful.

### Directions

Drive up the Main Hill Road (highway 502) and into Los Alamos (Trinity Dr.). Continue through three traffic lights, then take a left at the fourth traffic light onto Diamond Dr. At the next light (after 50m) turn left again into the parking lot of the medical center and park here. Don't park in the canyon. You might not be allowed to be there. Cross over Diamond Drive and walk down to Omega Road on the pedestrian way and a small trail. Turn left on the road and after the bridge left again to the cliff. You can access the cliff from above as well, but then you have to bushwhack your way on steep and loose slopes. We strictly recommend the described way.



Figure 1: Directions to the Hospital Crag.

### Routes

## Hospital Crag

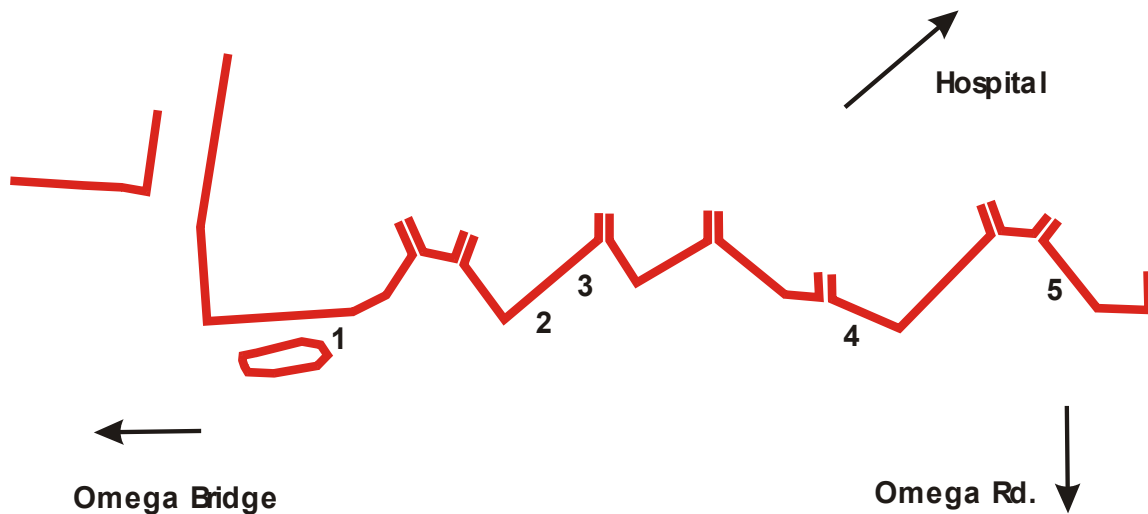


Figure 2: Schematic of the Hospital Crag



**Figure 3: Hospital Crag**

1. **Code Orange**  
5.9+ \*\*\*\*, 4 bolts, 2-bolt anchor. The slightly overhung orange-streaked rock with enormous holds. Pre-clip the first bolt by standing on the boulder at the base or using a clipping stick. Some chunks came off when I led it. Protect yourself. Excellent route.
2. **Project**  
5.11a? ?, 2-bolt anchor. Just left of #3. Uncompleted project.
3. **Unknown**  
5.10d/11a \* 4 bolts, 2-bolt anchor. Starting in a huge, loose pocket, go up the face with small pockets.
4. **Teeth in My Pocket**  
5.11a/b \*\*, 3 bolts, 2-bolt anchor. Up the steep 3-bolt face on the featured buttress. Easier if climbed with the arête in the upper part.
5. **Project**  
5.12? ?, 2 anchor chains, one anchor protruding and not properly glued in, very poor, better avoid this one and top rope from tree. Uncompleted project on the right side of the crag.