

The Underlook

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.

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 Underlook is a tiny cliff that is very close to the well-known Overlook climbing area. It often offers shade when climbers on the main wall of the Overlook are fried by the sun and usually it doesn't see any traffic. The routes are short and not of the highest quality, but *Little Miss Polly* is definitely worth a visit in the shade.

Directions

Drive to the scenic Overlook in White Rock. Park at the dead end and hike to the end of the pointed cliff. The easiest way down is to the left, then hike around the pointed end and follow the obvious trail down the second cliff, that leads to the Overlook climbing area. Go to the pointed end of the second cliff, then head northeast and downhill on a smaller trail. After a couple of minutes you should approach the small northwest-facing Underlook. Total approach time about 15 min.

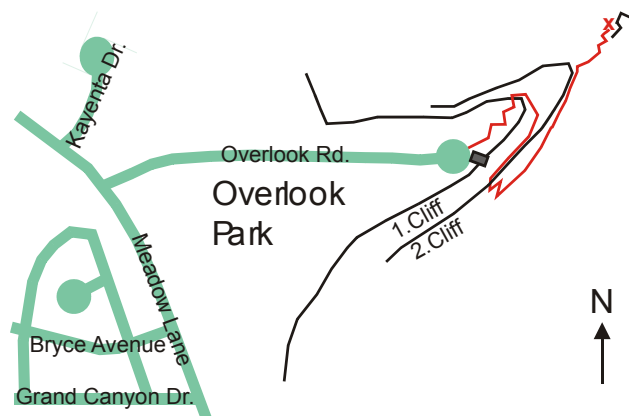


Figure 1: Directions to The Underlook.

Routes

It is possible to toprope the routes of the Underlook. The top of the cliff is easily accessible. But you have to rappel to the anchors and obvious rappel anchor points are not available.

The Underlook

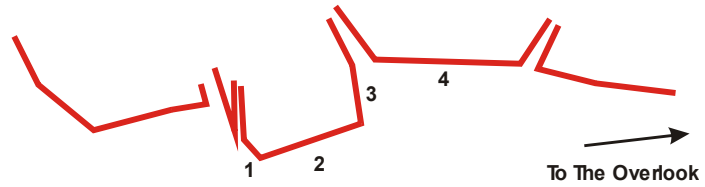


Figure 2: Schematic of The Underlook

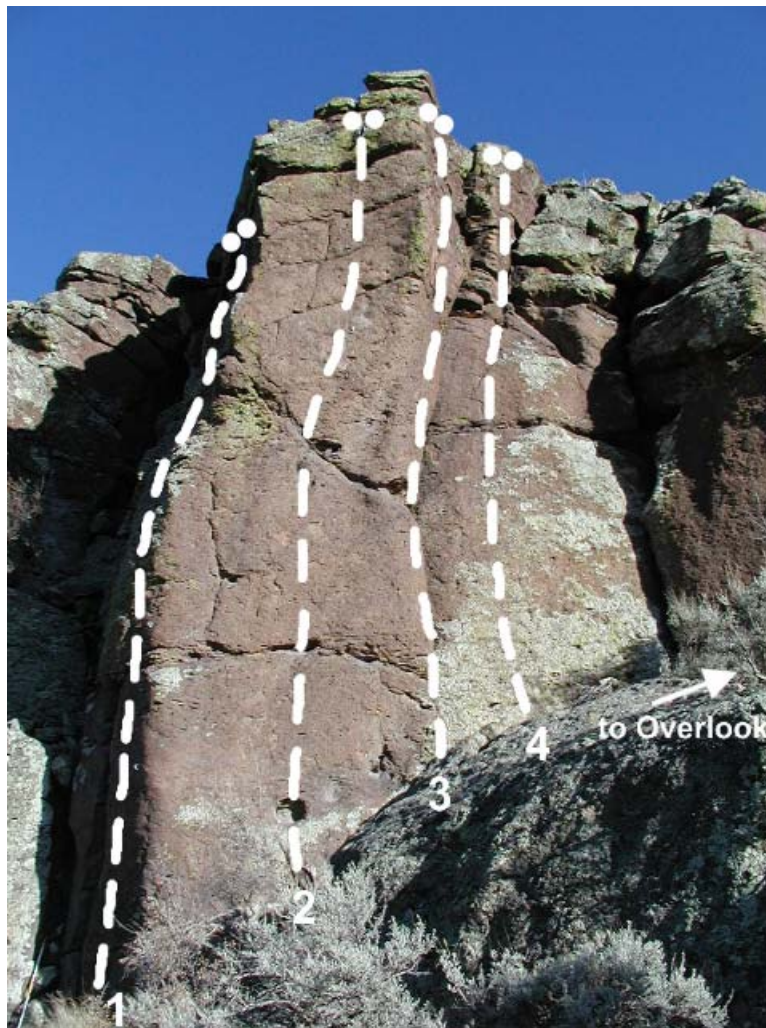


Figure 3: The Underlook

1. Thunder & Lichen

5.9- ** 4 bolts, 2 anchor chains. Follow the arête for the first three bolts. Then turn to the face and easier climbing up to the anchors. Be careful, above the anchors is a loose stone that could not be removed from the rock. Don't drop it on your belayer.

2. Simon Bar Sinister

5.11a * 4 bolts, 2 bolts with small anchor chain. Straight up the somewhat loose and sharp face. Very short overhanging route. (Some rate it as a 5.11c.)

3. Under the Weather

5.10d * 3 bolts, 2 anchor chains. Up the arête right of Simon Bar Sinister. Thin and contrived.

4. Little Miss Polly

5.10a ** 2 bolts, 2 small anchor chains. A bouldery start leads up a short slab. Better to pre-clip the first bolt with a clipping stick. If you grab the crack on the left, it's a little less scary to clip the second bolt, but easier. Long run out to the anchors. A trad placement of a bigger nut or hex would help to increase safety.