

First Alcove

Scramble up the rocks to the right of the main trail and around a boulder until you reach the clear ledge under the right-most overhang.

1 Nieve de Mayabe 6c ★★★.....□

This route climbs the right outside edge of the alcove, starting from the corner at the edge of the ledge. When lowering, have the belayer toss the free end of the rope to the climber to pull back to the ledge. Two ropes will get you all the way down into the trees.

1 pitch (30 M), 10 bolts FA: Craig Luebben, 1999.

2 Najita 6c+ ★★★★★.....□

Start on the cracks behind the boulder where you get onto the ledge. The route climbs to

the stalactites and traverses right (crux) to a bolt anchor. It is best to lower from here and avoid rope drag, but if you prefer, two more bolts above connect to *Mayabe*.

1 pitch (30 M), 12 bolts FA: Craig Luebben & Cameron Cross, 1999.

Second alcove

Stay on the main trail for a few metres beyond the turnoff to the First Alcove. Watch for an obvious path that leads to the right and up.

3 Cuba Libre 7a+ ★★★★★.....□

This excellent route was the first on the wall and is a classic of the grade in Viñales. Some fixed threads supplement the bolts.

pitch 1 (5, 20 M) Start on the first pillar to the right as you enter the alcove. To landmark, look for the fixed threads. Belay under the roof.

pitch 2 (6a+, 20 M) Traverse right and around the corner to a belay under the final roof.

pitch 3 (7a+, 10 M) The upper section is a spectacular roof with a very unusual offwidth move just before the anchors. Bring a second rope for the 50-metre rappel.

3 pitches, bolts FA: Craig Luebben & George Bracksieck, 1999.

4 The Rum Diaries 7b+ ★★★★★.....□

This a direct start to *Cuba Libre* and joins that route at the start of the final roof, allowing the wall to be climbed in a single, sustained pitch. The start is reached through a little cave on the right side of this alcove; note that the first bolt is high. The rating and quickdraw count is for the complete route to the rim.

1 pitch (27 M), 13 bolts FA: Charlie Woodburn, 2002.



FIRST ALCOVE

Moscow Mule (7b) Sneaking through stalactites on a spectacular pitch of limestone.