

Mount Lemmon

Mount Lemmon, a 9157 feet high mountains outside of Tucson in the Santa Catalina Mountains. On the South side the Mount Lemmon Highway winds up for about 27 miles to the top of the mountain. There are many climbing areas along this road. Some very close by like the Green Slabs, others a bit further away and more remote like the Hidden Jewels. The most famous area is Windy Point. Unfortunately was this area closed in December 2004 due road construction.



When to go

Mount Lemmon is a very good 4 season climbing area. In winter you can stay at lower elevation at sunny walls. In spring and fall climbing is possible all over the mountain. In summer you may climb only at the crags around the summit or some shady walls.

Restriction, Access, Ethics and Family Issues

Most of the mountains is in the Coronado National Forest and is unfortunately fee area (Golden Eagle Passes accepted) . No restriction except that some walls are closed due nesting birds. Some areas might be closed due the fire in Summer 2003. Furthermore might there an access problem due road construction. Please contact the Forest Service for more information. Dogs are allowed but supposed to be on leas all the time. Many easy climbs for your kids. However, some approaches are along the road and a bit steep.

Hazards and Emergencies

Rattle Snakes and Tarantulas are common at the lower areas. Emergency call 911. Kino Community Hospital, 2800 East Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ 85713, 520-294-4471

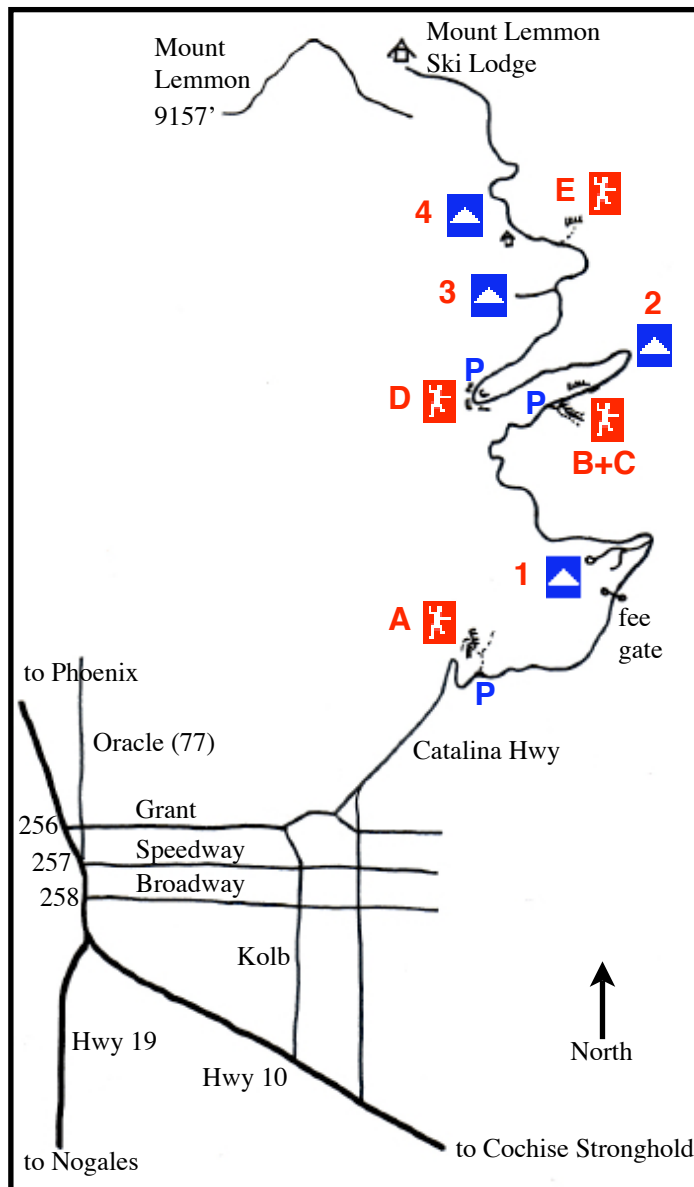
Camping

Several fee campgrounds on Mount Lemmon,

Guidebooks

Squeezing the Lemmon by Eric Fazio-Rhicard

Overview



Getting there

Exit 257 of I-10 to Speedway West, Follow signs to Mount Lemmon,

Climbing

- a Hidden Jewels
- b Green Slabs
- c Chimney Rock
- d Windy Point (not covered)
- e Ridgeline (not covered)

Camping

- 1 Molino Basin Campground
no water and showers
- 2 General Hitchcock Campground
no water and showers
- 3 Spencer Canyon Campground
no water and showers

Contents

The Hidden Jewels	3
The Upper Cliffs	4
The Lower Cliffs	4
The Green Slabs	5
The Green Slabs	6
Chimney Rock	7
Chimney Rock	8
Services and more	9
For your convenience	9
Other activities and attractions	9
Other climbing areas close by	9
RaM Experience Board	9
Warnings - Please read this	9



The Hidden Jewels

A Hidden Jewel indeed. The scenery is awesome and the climbs are fun. The Upper Cliffs offer a few bolted routes with good protection. Especially the Lazy S (5.10a) is a lot of fun. Just the rope drag is a pain in the a...

The Lower Cliffs are crack and trad area. Most of the routes do not have any or just a few bolts.

The cliffs face North West and do only get sun in the late afternoon if at all. However, the Hidden Jewels are still a good place to go if it is cold and windy further up the mountain.

The Lower Cliffs with Tucson in the back

Type		Approach		about 20 - 30 min	Altitude	4000 ft / 1250m
Style		Descent		bolts with chain	Length	100 ft / 30m
Rock	Gneiss	Gear	220 ft / 70m rope, 12 quick draws, Helmet, Friends, Nuts and maybe Hexentrix for Lower Cliffs		Exposure	North West
Grade	US 5.6 to 5.10a	Protection			Commitment	



The approach is a nice little hike through a desert like area. The view over Tucson is nice too.



Unknown climber on Lazy S, 5.10a (Upper Cliffs)

The Upper Cliffs

The Upper Cliffs offer a view very nice but fairly easy climbs. Still they are a lot of fun and well worth climbing. All climbs are bolt protected and the anchors are in a good shape.



Approach

Park at Soldier Trial trailhead. Hike up the Soldier trail. Once the trail flattens out look for a stone pile and a triangular-shaped rock. Take a climber's trail to the left. Careful with all the cactuses. This trail brings you to the Upper cliffs.



- a Lazy S, 5.10a
- b The Left One, 5.7
- c The Right One, 5.8

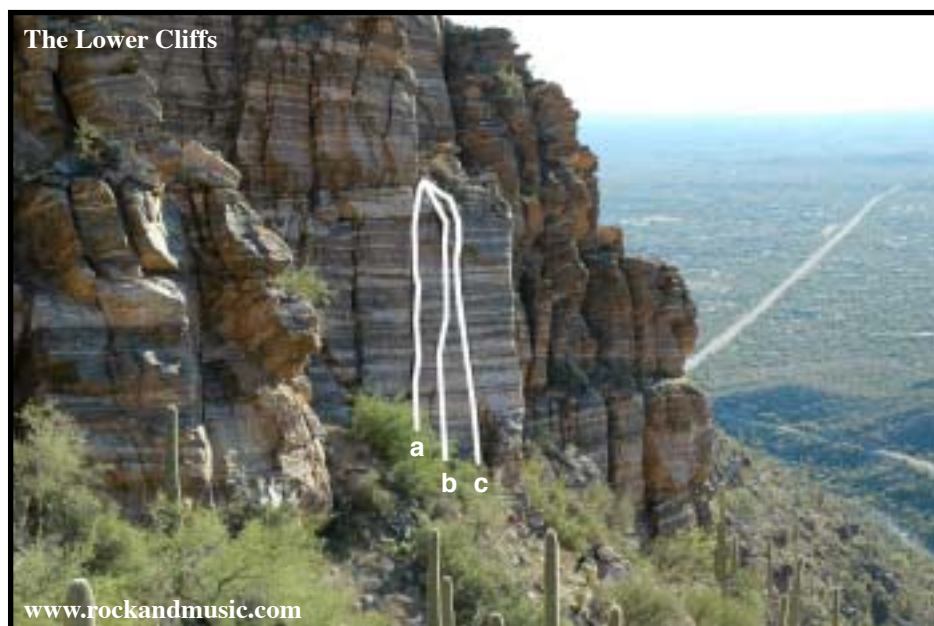
The Lower Cliffs

The Lower Cliffs offer some very nice and easy crack climbs. Some are mixed, others are only trad. Anyway, a decent rack is needed. Still, the anchors are in a good shape.



Approach

Same as for the Upper Cliffs. Walk/scramble down the canyon below the Lazy S of the upper Cliffs



- a The Crescent, 5.6 (trad)
- b Soldier Blue, 5.9+ (mixed)
- c Soldier's Revenge, 5.7 (trad)

more routes further to the right (not topos)

- d Cactus Corner, 5.8+ (mixed)
- e Tread Softly, 5.6 (mixed)
- f Soldier of Contortion, 5.9 (mixed)









The Green Slabs

The Green Slabs are a nice are to get too know the rock at Mount Lemmon. A good quality of sport climbs with good, so so or some fix protection. The climbs are fun and you can leave the monkey back home. Instead take the ballerina with you. Good balance and even better footwork is needed.

The cliff is facing South West and gets sun just before noon. Unfortunately hides the sun behind the mountains around mid afternoon in the colder months.

Jacques on David and Goliath. 5.10c

Type		Approach	 5 min	Altitude	5500 ft / 1680m
Style		Descent	 bolts with chain	Length	up to 100 ft / 30m
Rock	Granit	Gear	200 ft rope, 12 quick draws, set of friends and nuts	Exposure	South East
Grade	US 5.6 to 5.12a	Protection		Commitment	



Don't forget a small rack of gear. Not all the climbs are totally bolt protected!

The Green Slabs

The Green Slabs are a good place to start your Mount Lemmon climbing experience. Some good protected moderate to hard climbs together with some easy mixed or none protected climbs. Still all the anchors are in a good shape.

**Approach**

Park at milepost 10.0 to your right. Look for a climber's trail going up to the cliff.



- a Highway Robbery, 5.12a
- b Green Banana Jam, 5.9
- c Mother Psycho's Little Darlins, 5.12a
- d Banana Cake, 5.7
- e Monkey Business, 5.7
- f unknown, easy
- g Here and Gone, 5.8
- h David and Goliath, 5.10c
- i Toy Roof, 5.9
- j unknown, 5.10a ??



The sun hides behind the mountains pretty early. At least in the cold winter months.



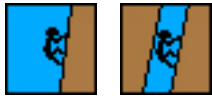





Chimney Rock

The Chimney Rock is trad land. The only fixed protection you will find are for some anchors. Most of the routes follow crack system. A good selection of big cams help to protect the climbs safe. Kind of a drawback is the close road. Feels like belaying just from the road.

The cliff is facing East and gets sun early in the morning. Late afternoon shade guaranteed on hot days too.

No more desert like flora at this elevation

Type		Approach	 about 5 min	Altitude	5500 ft / 1680m
Style		Descent	 mostly walk left and down	Length	1 to 6 pitches
Rock	Granit	Gear	200 ft / 60m rope, 12 quick draws, Helmet, large Friends, Nuts and maybe Hexentrix	Exposure	East
Grade	US 5.7 to 5.10d	Protection		Commitment	



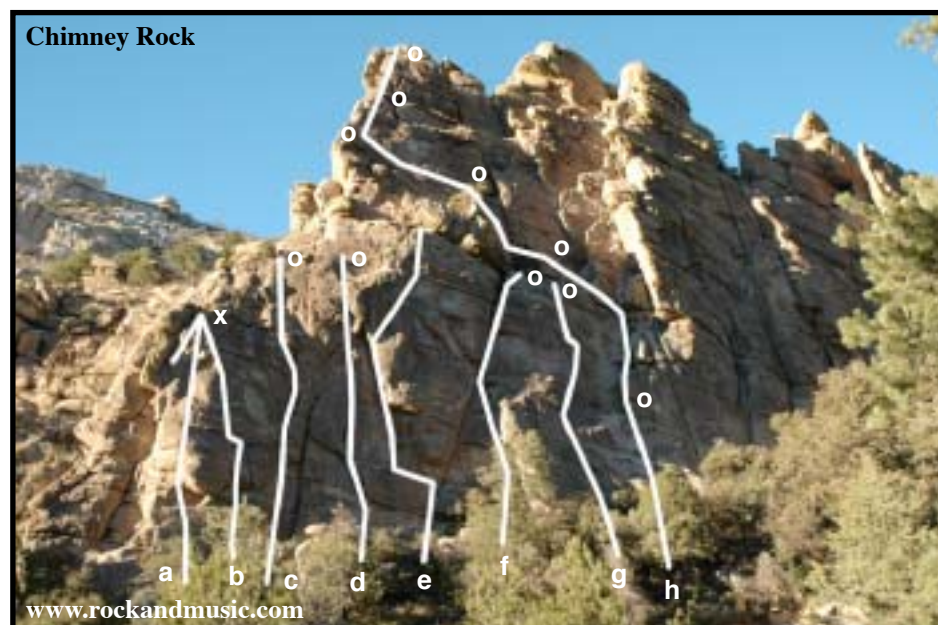
Jacques topping out a nice climb at the Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock is trad and crack land. No fixed protection and only some anchors. Travers to the left and walk down from all the climbs except George's Buttress and Mistaken Identity.

**Approach**

Park at small pullouts around milepost 11.0 to your right. Walk back/down the road. Watch for a climbers trail going up to the base of the cliff to your right.



- a George's Buttress, 5.7
- b Mistaken Identity, 5.9
- c Stoner's Boner, 5.9
- d Centerpiece, 5.10-
- e Single Lens Reflex, 5.10-
- f Copperhead, 5.10
- g Jungle Gym, 5.10d
- h Standard Route, 5.7



The view from Mount Lemmon is spectacular (looking East).

Services and more

For your convenience

Grocery:

- Several shops in and around Tucson

Water

- Drinking Water can be found in front of most grocery stores (0.25US\$ a gallon)

Internet Access:

- Several Starbucks and Borders in Tucson
- Public Libraries in Tucson (signs all over)

Outdoor Gear:

- Summit Hut, 5045 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85712, www.summithut.com

Other activities and attractions

- **Road Biking** is popular in the area. Many people bike up the Mount Lemmon Highway
- **Hiking / Back Country** Many possibilities
- **Jogging** is nice around the the campgrounds
- Check out www.rockandmusic.com for more information

Other climbing areas close by

- **Superstition Mountains** 30 minutes East of Phoenix on Highway 60 (on www.rockandmusic.com)
- **Queen Creek Canyon** 1 hour East of Phoenix on Highway 60 (on www.rockandmusic.com)
- **Cochise Strongholds** 1 hour East of Tucson on Interstate 10 (on www.rockandmusic.com)

RaM Experience Board

Always check out the RaM Experience Board before you head out to a climbing area. There might be an important message. Should you encounter anything special could we kindly ask you to add your experience/comment to the RaM Experience Board. A big thanks from all the other climbers.

Warnings - Please read this

We were in all the covered areas and climbed there too. The pictures, the Real Picture Topos and the given information are from us. However, there is no guarantee that the given information and the line of the routes are correct. Climbing is a risk and everybody should be aware of what he/she is doing and be able to judge the situation. We can not be responsible for any problem, accidents or other consequences that may happen while using information given in this guide.



The beautiful Cochise Strongholds with the famous long routes Moby Dick and Warpaint