Trashcan Rock at the Quail Springs Picnic Area is one of Joshua Tree’s quintessential “roadside crags.” A short hike leads to Hound Rocks and two classic 5.10 crack climbs. Farther down the trail, sitting high on a hillside, is the White Cliffs of Dover, featuring Yosemite-like dihedrals and cracks plus a couple of excellent face climbs, all on very smooth, high-quality granite.

**Getting there:** Drive 5.7 miles from the West Entrance and turn right at Quail Springs Picnic Area. From the Intersection Rock Junction, drive north 2.8 miles and turn left. Here you’ll find Trashcan Rock. There is ample parking on the south and west sides of the rock, as well as picnic tables and an outhouse. The trail to Hound Rocks and the White Cliffs of Dover begins at the south end of the parking lot (GPS: N34° 02.388’ / W116° 11.835’).

**Descent:** The easiest approach to and descent from the top is a 4th-class scramble up the northwest side (the far left side of the west face).
Trashcan Rock—East Face

1. **Filch** (5.6) Begin off a boulder. Climb the wide crack to thinner jamming.

2. **Ripper** (5.11a) Crank the overhang to a lieback/jam. Often done as a boulder problem (V2), downclimbing Filch.

3. **Wallaby Crack** (5.9) Jam an awkward flare to the top.

4. **Hermanutic** (5.10c R) Climb the face and thin crack to a tricky crux with poor pro.

5. **Butterfly Crack** (5.11c) Jam the classic fingertip crack, with a very hard start.

6. **Left Sawdust Crack** (5.10c PG/R) Climb the left crack, avoiding the one on the right. Using both cracks at the top makes the route significantly easier.

7. **Right Sawdust Crack** (5.9) Solid hand jams lead to the top.
### Trashcan Rock—West Face

**1. Karpwitz (5.6)** Face climb up to a well-protected thin crack crux.

**2. B3 (5.3)** Smear and jam up the groove.

**3. Profundity (5.10b)** Friction climb and mantle past two bolts. Reachy.

**4. B2 (5.3)** Smear and jam up the groove. It’s 5.9 if you climb the slab just left of the crack.

**5. Tiptoe (5.7)** This little gem has you edging and smearing up a thin dike past three bolts. The easiest way to get to the first bolt is by starting up B2, then stepping right to the first bolt. Some large camming devices (#4 camalots) are handy to set up a toprope.

**6. B1 (5.1)** Ascend a groove that leads to a nice combination of face climbing and jamming.

**7. Walkway (5.5 R)** Make delicate friction moves to an easy jam crack. A 5.6 lieback start can be done just to the right.

**8. Baby Point Five (5.10a R)** No pro, but a good toprope. A thin move on polished holds leads to easier friction.
9. **Tulip** (5.6 R) Jam a short groove and finger crack, then smear your way up the slab. One bolt provides rather inadequate protection.

10. **Bimbo** (5.10a R) Lieback a flake to a seam, then make some very delicate friction moves (crux) to easier smearing.

11. **Eschar** (5.6) Mantle up to the big ledge, then face climb up to the left-slanting jam crack.

12. **Cranny** (5.8) Mantle up to the big ledge, then climb a steep wall with two vertical cracks. Nice stemming on the upper section.

13. **Bloodymir** (5.9) From the big ledge, climb the face on the right past a bolt, then jam the left-slanting crack.
HOUND ROCKS
Hound Rocks consist of two rock formations split by a narrow canyon once used as a miner’s camp.

Finding the crags: The trail begins at the south end of the Quail Springs parking lot. Walk west for a few hundred yards to where the trail climbs gently over a sand dune, then drops down and slightly left, crossing a broad, sandy wash. After another few hundred yards, the trail leads directly to the Hound Rocks. The Right Baskerville Crack is on the first cliff you come to. Tossed Green is on the next formation to the west, accessed by walking around the left side of the first cliff. Both of these climbs face east and receive morning sun and afternoon shade. Crag GPS: N34° 02.028’ / W116° 12.089’

1. Right Baskerville Crack (5.10b)
Start up a delicate slab, then jam and lieback the steep, thin crack. Route GPS: N34° 02.028’ / W116° 12.089’
Descent: Downclimb (4th class) off the opposite (west) side of the formation. Pro: Some large cams are useful for the anchor.
2. Tossed Green (5.10a) Climb the steep finger crack to a 2-bolt belay/rappel anchor. Route GPS: N34° 02.011' / W116° 12.104'. **Descent:**

Rappel from the bolt anchor. **Pro:** Take a good selection of cams from .5 to 2.5 inches.

**Beavertail cactus bloom in the late spring.**
White Cliffs of Dover Overview

White Cliffs of Dover

These cliffs feature Yosemite-like cracks and corners, along with some stellar face climbs, all on very smooth, fine-grained granite. The east-facing cliffs receive early morning sun, then shade for the rest of the day. In the winter this cliff gets very little sun.

Finding the crag: The trail begins at the south end of the Quail Springs parking lot. Walk west for a few hundred yards to where the trail climbs gently over a sand dune, then drops down and slightly left, crossing a broad, sandy wash. After another few hundred yards, the trail leads directly to the Hound Rocks. Head left and follow the trail as it parallels the base of the hillside to your right for several hundred yards, until it merges into the base of a steeper hillside. From here the trail climbs directly up the hillside to the base of the routes. Approach time is about twenty-five minutes. Crag GPS: N34° 01.820’/W116° 11.950’

1. Scientific Americans (5.8 PG/R)
Begin at the base of Popular Mechanics and climb up to a pillar left of a chimney. Clip a bolt, make an extended reach out left, then face climb up to a horizontal crack. Climb past another bolt on the arete/face of the pillar, then follow a crack system and flake up to the 2-bolt anchor shared with Ace of Spades. **Descent:** Rappel 100 feet from the bolt anchor shared with Ace of Spades. **Pro:** thin to 2 inches.

2. Ace of Spades (5.9)
Climb through the crux of Popular Mechanics, then climb double cracks on the steep left wall up to a bolt anchor. **Descent:** Rappel 100 feet from the bolt anchor.

3. Popular Mechanics (5.9) Jam, stem, and lieback up the spectacular corner. The crux is about 15 feet up. **Descent:** Rappel 85 feet from the bolt anchor. **Pro:** medium nuts, cams to 3 inches; bolt anchor.

4. Good Housekeeping (5.11b)
Begin 20 feet right of Popular Mechanics. Crank steep face moves past a bolt (5.10d) up to a crack (2-inch pro here), traverse left across a thin seam, then climb thin slab moves (5.11b) past a second bolt. At the third bolt move left to the arete, then smear and slap your way up the rounded arete past two more bolts (5.11b) up to a sloping ledge. Gear anchor (1.5 to 3 inches). **Descent:** Belay down to the rappel bolts on Popular Mechanics and rappel 85 feet.

**White Cliffs of Dover**
Quail Springs

To Intersection
Rock Junction

To West Entrance

Park Boulevard

Trashcan Rock

Quail Springs picnic area
outhouse

Hound Rocks

hillside

Wash

White Cliffs of Dover
Contents

Acknowledgments xii
Introduction xiii
How to Get to Joshua Tree xiv
Camping xv
Supplies and Showers xv
How to Use This Book xvi
Climbing Seasons xvii
Leave No Trace xvii
Park Regulations xviii
Standard Joshua Tree Rack xix
Climbing Safely at Joshua Tree xx
Emergencies xxi
Climb Finder xxii
Map Legend xxv

1. Quail Springs 1
   Trashcan Rock 1
   Hound Rocks 5
   White Cliffs of Dover 7

2. Mongolia 9
   Eastern Siberia Cliff 11

3. Lost Horse Road 17
   Freeway Wall 17
   Rock Garden Valley 20
   Lost Horse Wall 21

4. Hemingway Buttress Area 23
   Ken Black Memorial Dome 23
   Hemingway Buttress—Main Wall 26

5. Hidden Valley Campground 35
   Intersection Rock 36
   Old Woman 41
   The Blob 44
   Rock Hudson 47
   Watanabe Wall 48
   Hot Tub Formation 50
   Sidewinder Cliff 51
   Grain Surgery Cliff 52
   Chimney Rock 53
   Cyclops 54
   Peewee Rock 56

6. Real Hidden Valley 57
   Tumbling Rainbow Formation 58
   The Sentinel 60
   Locomotion Rock 64
   Sports Challenge Rock 65
   Hidden Tower 67
   Houser Buttress 69

7. Echo Rock Area 71
   Echo Cove Rock—Southwest Face 71
   Echo Cove—West End 73

IRS Wall 27
Dairy Queen Wall—Right Side 29
Dairy Queen Wall—Left Side 30
Dihedral Rock 31
Rusty Wall 76
Echo Cove—East End 78
Echo Rock—Main Slab 82
Echo Rock—EBGBs Block 85
Touch and Go Formation 86
Echo Rock—South Face 87
Snickers 90
Little Hunk—South Face 92
Anasazi Wall 94
Little Hunk—Northeast Face 95

8. Wonderland of Rocks 97
   Astro Domes 98
   Lenticular Dome 107

9. Cap Rock 109

10. Ryan Campground 113
    Headstone Rock 115

11. Hall of Horrors 117
    South Rock 118
    Middle Formation 120
    North Rock 122

12. Saddle Rock 125

13. Jumbo Rocks 133
    Conan’s Corridor 134

14. Split Rocks 135
    Rubicon Formation 136
    Isles in the Sky 137
    Future Games Wall 139

15. Indian Cove 141
    Pixie Rock 142
    Campfire Crag 144
    King Otto’s Castle 146
    Moosedog Tower 148
    Feudal Wall 150
    Short Wall 154

Index 157
About the Author 163
How to Use This Book
To select a few hundred “best” routes from 8,000 is no easy task because of what you have to leave out: thousands of good ones and hundreds of great ones. The routes in this book were selected based on rock quality; purity of line (natural lines of weakness up the cliff); fun, interesting, unique, or noteworthy climbing; existing climber access trails; and approaches and descents that do not cause degradation to the fragile desert plant life.

Directions (right or left) are given as if you are facing the route from the base of the route. Directions for climbing, downclimbing, descending, rappelling, etc., are given for the same orientation (as if you were facing the route from the start of the route).

GPS Coordinates
GPS coordinates are given for parking areas, trailheads, key trail turnoffs, and most rock formations. GPS coordinates for rock formations are in most instances taken not at the very base of the cliff, but at key vantage points where you can best survey the routes on the cliff.

Mileages
For climbs in the northwest section of the park, mileages to the parking areas are given from the West Entrance (GPS: N34° 05.612’ / W116° 15.900’) and also from the intersection of the main park road (Park Boulevard) and the turnoff for the Intersection Rock parking area (referred to as the Intersection Rock Junction, GPS: N34° 00.894’ / W116° 09.867’). For climbs in the southeast section, mileages are also given from the North Entrance to the park.

Rappels
Rappel descents are generally less than 30 meters (approximately 100 feet) and can be done with a standard 60-meter rope. Rappels of more than 100 feet require two ropes, or sometimes can be done with a single 70-meter rope where indicated (35 meters, or 113 feet). To prevent rappelling off one or both ends of your rope, or having an accident while lowering, always close your rope system by tying knots in the ends of your rope!

Climbing Instruction
Vertical Adventures Rock Climbing School offers rock climbing classes and guided climbs in the park. Visit www.verticaladventures.com or call (800) 514-8785.
Map Legend

- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Highway
- County Road
- Gravel or Dirt Road
- Unimproved Road
- Trail
- Town
- City
- Rock Formation
- Cliff Edge
- Wash
- Mountain Peak
- Parking
- Restroom
- Building
- Camping
- Gate
- Trailhead
- Ranger Station
- Picnic Area
- Visitor Center

Topo Legend

- Belay stance with gear anchor
- Fixed piton
- Single piece of fixed protection (bolt or piton)
- Fixed belay station
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