

SETHAN

Bouldering Guidebook

Authored by **Yadu Bhageria**

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SPRING 2023

Sethan Bouldering Guidebook

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Leave no trace while climbing in Sethan.
Visit www.LNT.org for more information.

Be mindful of locals and their various ways of life.

Treat peple with respect.

Treat the forest with respect.

Treat the rock with respect.

Bouldering areas and problems are subject to change due to natural events, human activities, and other factors. The information provided in this guidebook is based on the authors' best efforts to compile accurate and up-to-date information, but it is impossible to guarantee its accuracy or completeness. Climbers should use this guidebook as a general reference only and be aware that conditions can vary from those described in this guidebook. It is the responsibility of each individual climber to assess the local laws, risks and conditions of each climbing area and problem, and to use their own judgment to make informed decisions about climbing. The authors, publishers, and distributors of this guidebook are not liable for any injuries, damages, or other claims that may arise from the use of this guidebook, including any inaccuracies or omissions in the information presented. By using this guidebook, you assume all risks associated with climbing and agree to hold harmless the authors, publishers, and distributors of this guidebook from any liability for injury, damages, or other claims that may arise from your use of this guidebook.

Note: all uncredited photos are taken by the author.

This guidebook is very much a work in progress.

If you have any corrections, submissions, and/or information you'd like to have corrected/included please email **yadu@boulderbox.in**.

Our collective knowledge can help inform countless others.

Up in the Himalayas, there is the isolated village of Sethan. It is roughly 16km from the town of Manali which itself contains much climbing and many climbers. Sethan however sits higher at ~3000m, with beautiful towering pine trees and a river right around the corner. It is on the base of the well-known Hamta pass trek which connects to Chhatru, another potential high density bouldering area. Sethan's granite has a few hundred developed boulders with easily potential for thousands. Although it is more popular for bouldering, Sethan's looming valley cliffs have immense scope for sport, trad and multi-pitch climbing. The best dry seasons are April to June and September to November. Weather conditions can be unpredictable and cold especially due to rain and snow. Highly remote, cellular reception is forgone in the depths of the valley, even though the village is well connected. If dreamy forests and technical climbing are your calling then this is a must visit destination!



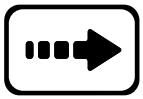
LIST OF AREAS

Nearthaj 8
Monkey Area 16
Sandwich Area 26
Opposite Django's Dhaba 34
First Forest 38
Meadow 58
Second Forest 68
Tunnel Area ..... -
River Area ..... -
Dam Area ..... -

← Easier | Grades | Harder →

Upto 5C+	6A/+	6B/+	6C/+	7A & beyond
Upto V2	V3	V4	V5	V6 & beyond

The best climber is the one having the most fun! - Alex Lowe



Extension



Sit Start



Unknown

NEARTHAJ

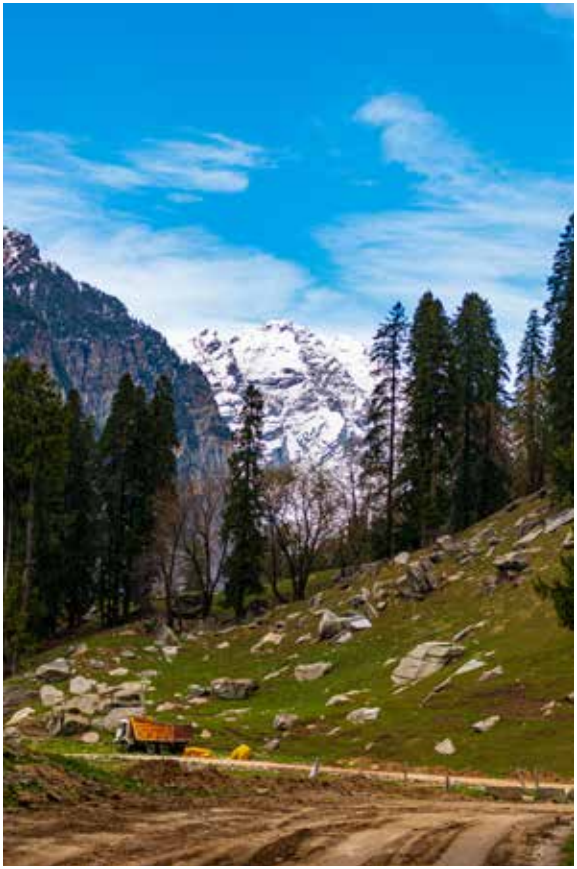
Approach: Nearthaj is the first area that one finds themsevles in walking from Sethan village along the road.

Notable Boulders Missing:
Multiple projects exist in the area as boulders get quire large in some places. Much exploration is still required further up in the area.

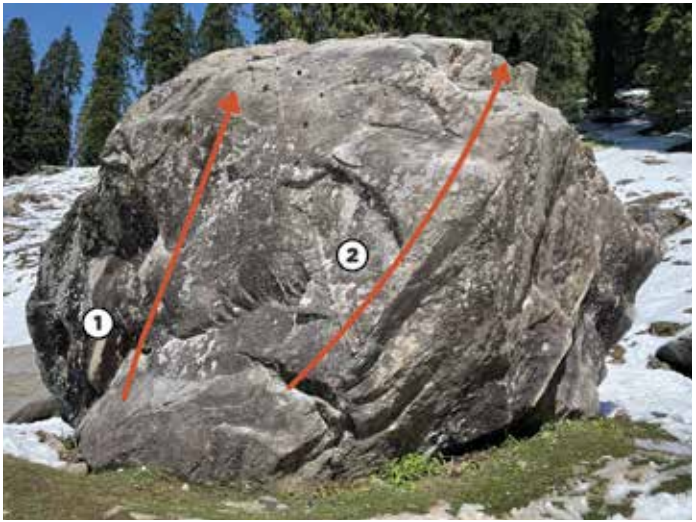
Boulder Locations:
- Boulder 1 is placed prominently in the open right by the road side
- Boulder 2 is found straight up the hill from Boulder 1 inside the tree cover
- Boulder 3 and 4 are located ~20m higher and ~100m along the tree cover



Varun Mishra jumping down from the mega slab - Laid Back/ Last Message (6C)



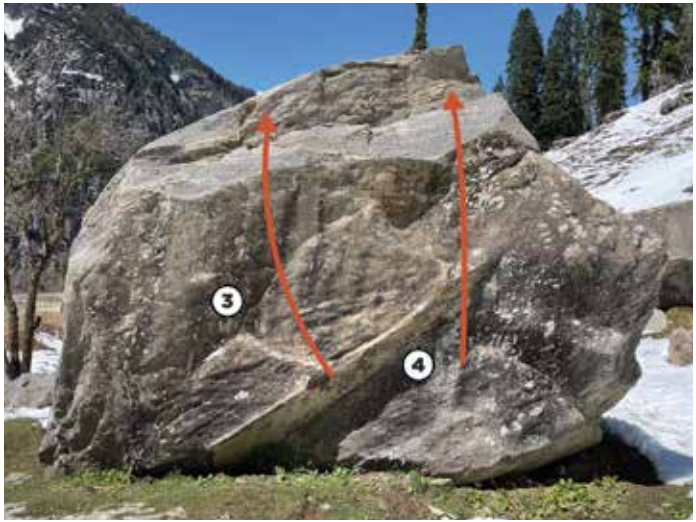
View from road at the start of Nearthaj



Boulder 1

1. (Sit start possible) 5C

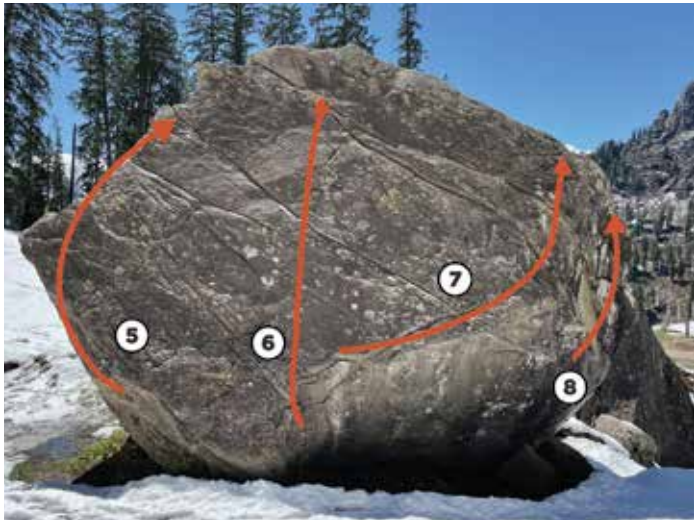
2. (Crimps up the middle) 5C



Boulder 1

3. (Balance to jump) 6B+

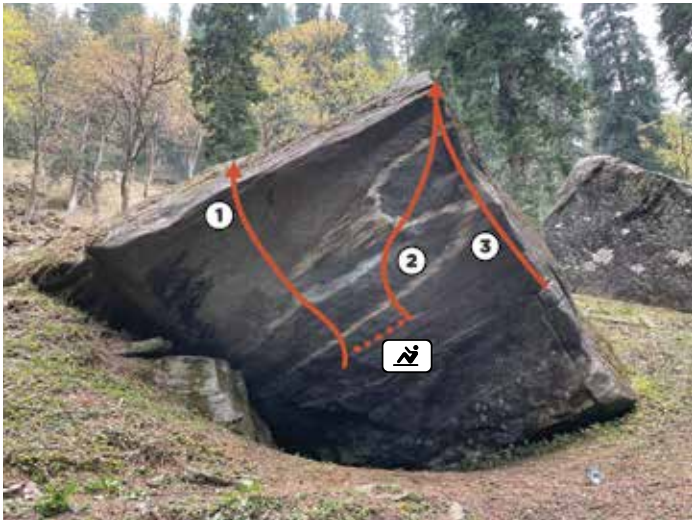
4. (Tricky mantle) 6A



Boulder 1

5. (Arete)	6B+
6. (Slab)	5A
7. (Traverse)	5C
8. (Straight up)	6A+

This boulder unfortunately now has construction attached to it due to the skiing, snowboarding and igloo activities being run here in the winter season.



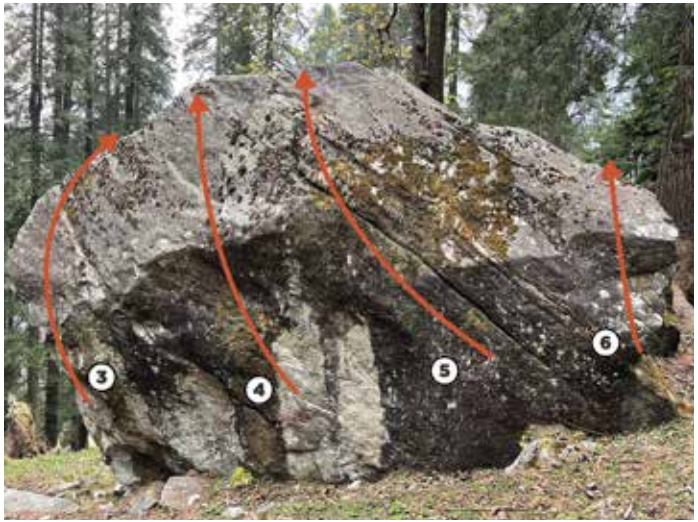
Boulder 2

1. Sandeep's Line 7C
2. Mr. Amazing 7A+
   [SIT] 7B
3. Dirty Diamond Arete 6C



Boulder 3

1. (Top out) 5C
   [EXT] 6A
2. (Dyno) 7B



Boulder 3

3. Walk in the Park 7A

4. Lazy Line 6C

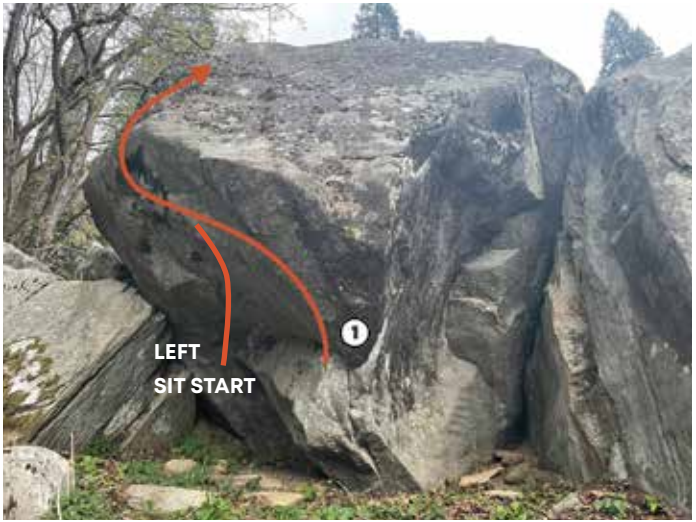
5. ?

6. Maybe Next Time 5C



Boulder 4

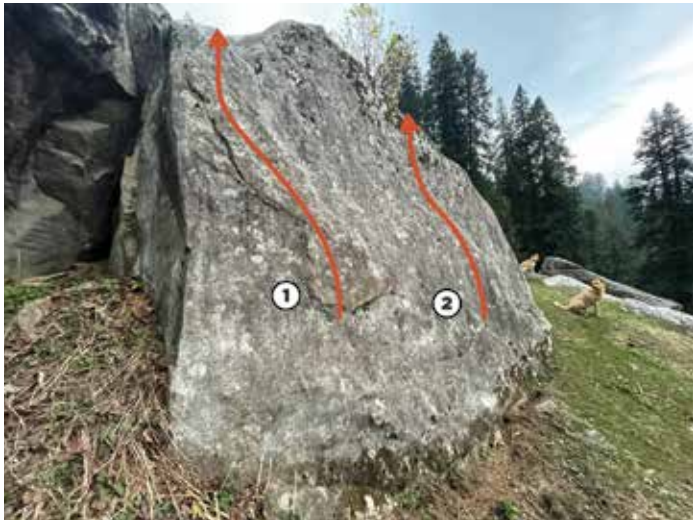
1. Laid Back / Last Message 6C



Boulder 5

1. Midnight Theories 7B+
   [Right Sit Start]

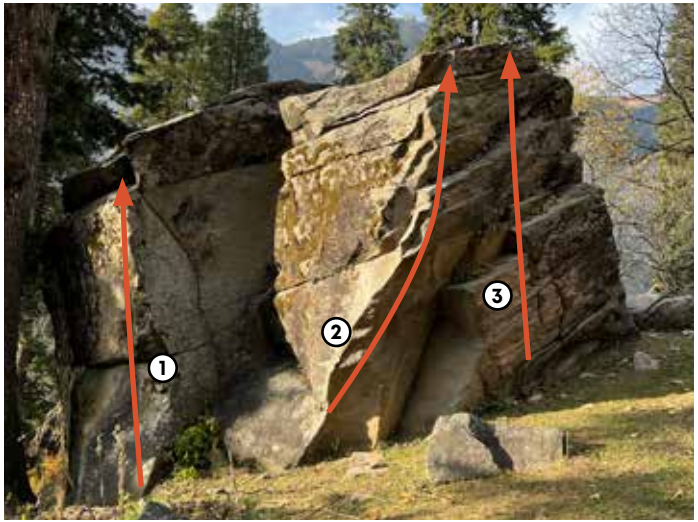
   Insolution 8A
   [Left Sit Start]



Boulder 6

1. (Slab) 5C

2. (Slab) 5B



Boulder 7

1. ? 6A

2. (sit start along the arete) 6B

[STAND] 5C

3. (straight up) 5C

MONKEY AREA

Approach: Monkey Area is almost visible above the village of Sethan. An unhill endeavour, the walk starts by going up some steps right after village monument. Then you follow along the left hand side of a fence for 20-30mins.

Notable Boulders Missing:
Monkey area includes boulders that come before the ones listed in the walk up. There is also a cluster further along on the same level as the boulders shown ahead. Some classics such as Coffee and Walnuts (7A) can be found in this neighbouring cluster.

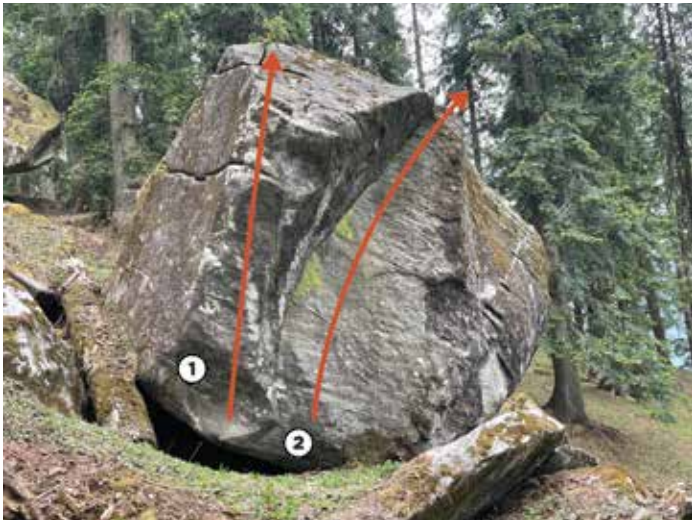
Boulder Locations:
- Boulder 1 can be seen across a perpendicular fence (to the slope) on the walk up to Monkey area.
- Boulder 2 is opposite and slightly higher from Boulder 1
- Boulder 3,4 and 5 can be found ~20m up from Boulder 2



Rishabh Garg on Boulder 3



Mukesh Pawen on Simian (6C)



Boulder 1

1. (Compression)

2. (Dihedral)

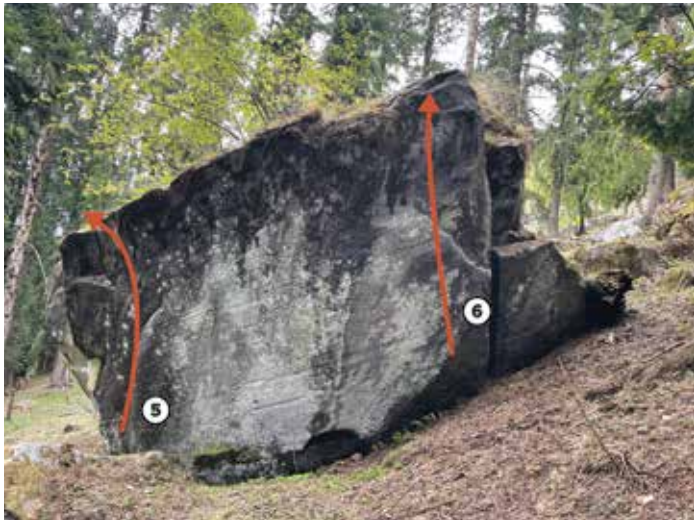


Boulder 1

3. ?

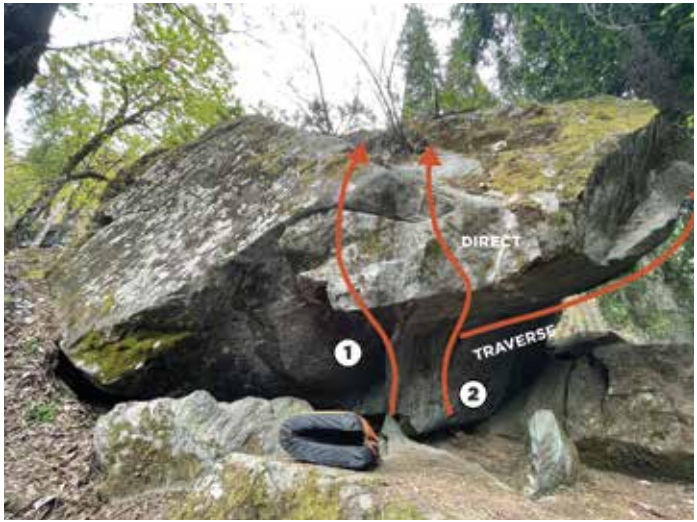
4. Planet of Apes 6C

5. (Crack)



Boulder 1

6. Ape index 6C



Boulder 2

1. Knee Nightmare 7A

2A. (Direct) ?

2B. (Traverse) ?



Boulder 2

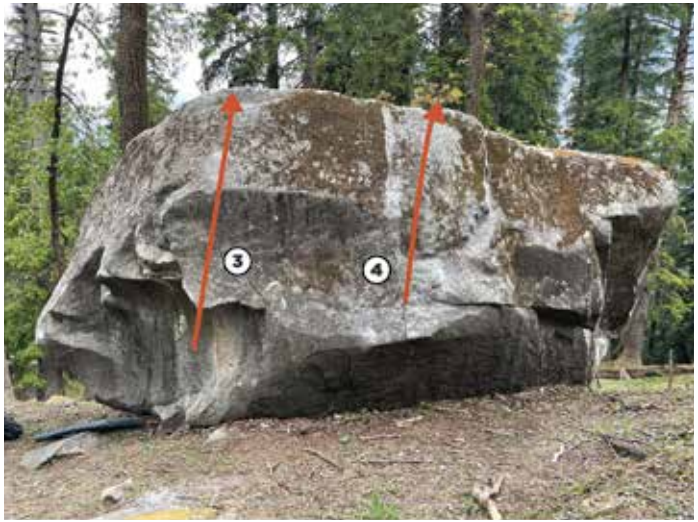
3. (Dihedral) 5C



Boulder 3

1. Dance of Heels 7A

2. Brazilian Funk 6A



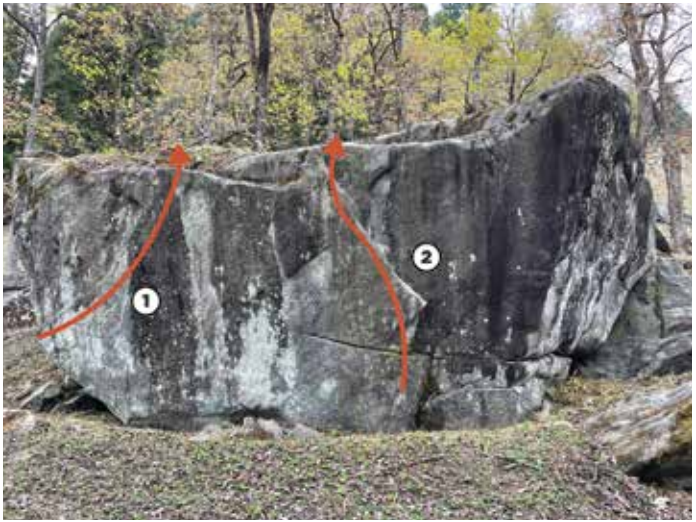
Boulder 3

1. (Overhang into Slab) 5C
2. (Slab) 5C



Boulder 3

1. Little Fucker 7B



Boulder 4

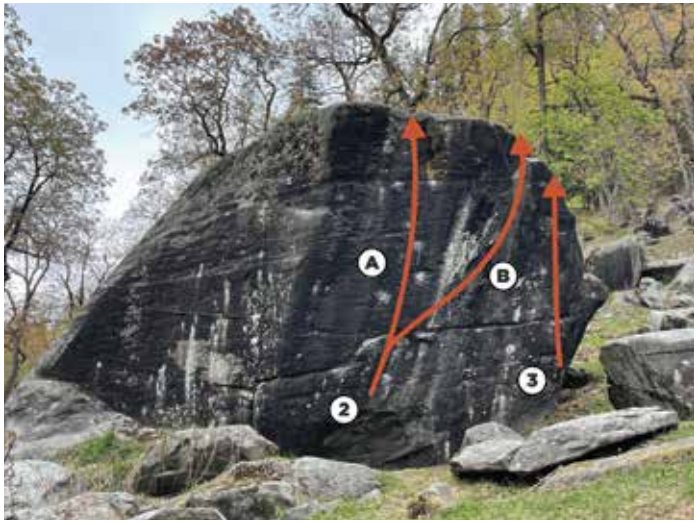
1. (Heel, smear and crimps) 6A

2. (Fun top out) 6A



Boulder 5

1. Deus 6B



Boulder 5

2A. Simian 6C

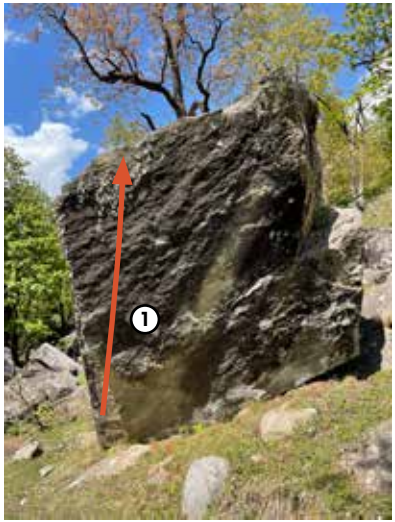
2B. Sapien 6C

3. (Crimps ledges) 6B



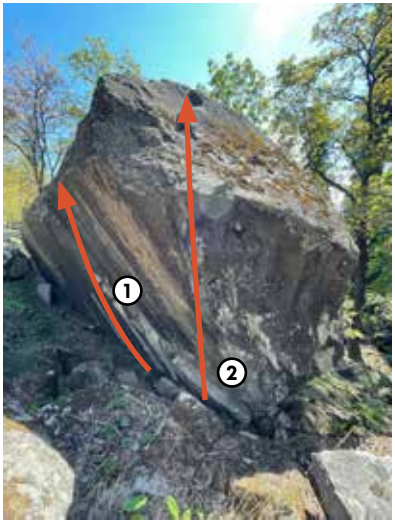
Boulder 5

4. (Crimps up the middle) 6A



Boulder 6

1. ? 7C?



Boulder 7

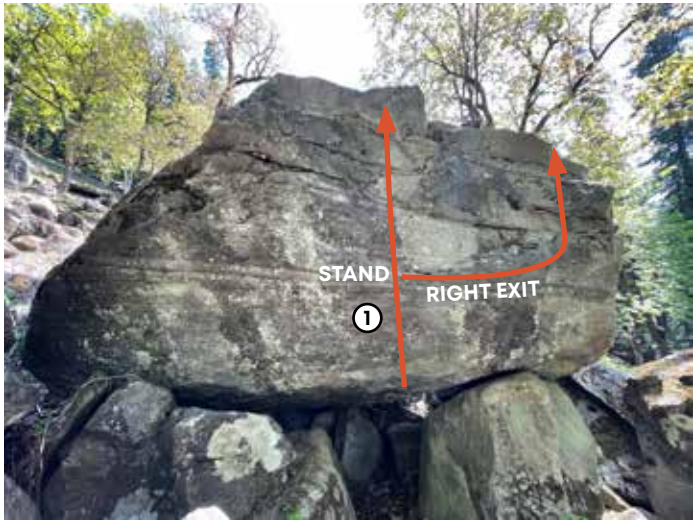
1. ?

2. ?



Boulder 8

1. ? 6C



Boulder 9

1. Coffee and Walnuts (start on lower crimps) 7A

[STAND] 6A

[RIGHT EXIT] 7A

SANDWICH AREA

Approach: Sandwich area further down the road from Nearthaj on the left hand side (when walking away from the village). There is an old shed and power pole near the area.

Notable Boulders Missing:
Further climbs exist down the slope such as Science of Chai. This is not a particularly dense area although the quality and access is superb.

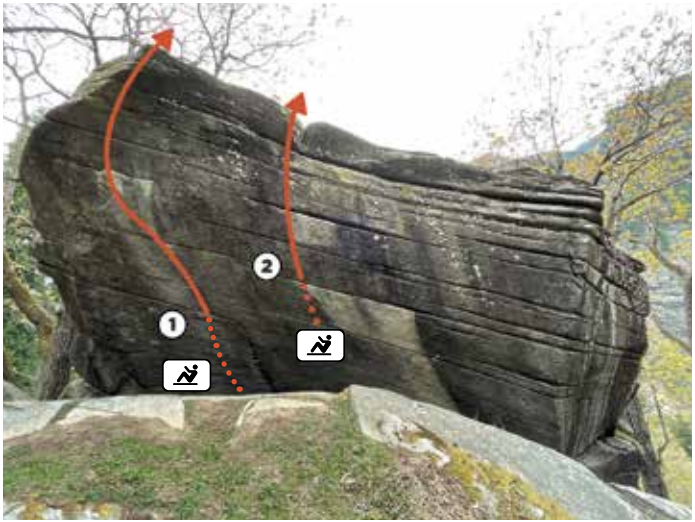
Boulder Locations:
- Boulder 1,2 and 3 are all located close together. Boulder 1 is called the



Shreyya Rajagopal on the starting holds of Parallax (6B)



Vikrem Simonel on Bleeder (6B)



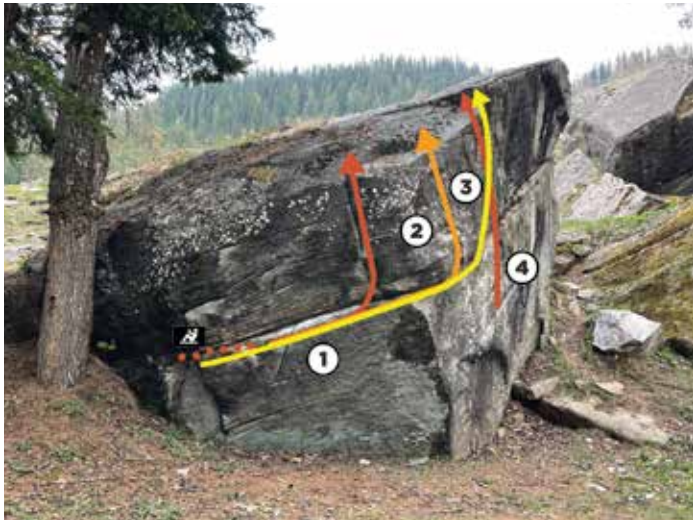
Boulder 1

1. Karma 8A

[SIT] 8B?

2. Sandwich Line 6B+

[SIT] 7B



Boulder 2

1. Bleeder 6B

[SIT] 6B+

2. (Continue to good holds) 6A

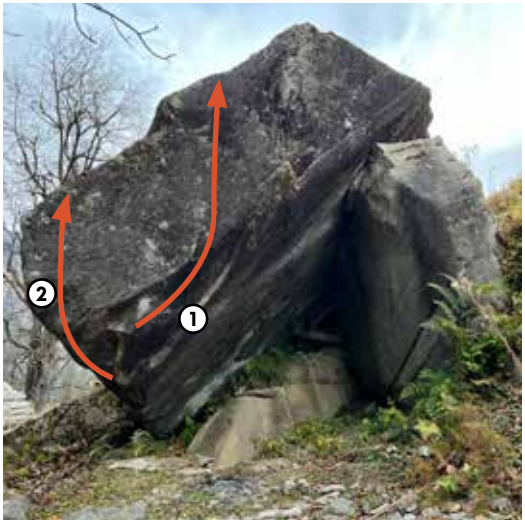
3. (Continue to vertical crack) 6B

4. Parallax 6B



Boulder 3

1. Slice of Bread 6C



Boulder 4

1. (Stand start on crimps) 7A

2. (Start on low crimps) 7C?



Boulder 5

1. (Slab) 6A

2. (Start on arete and traverse) 6A



Boulder 5

3. Mantle Matrix 6A

4. ? ?



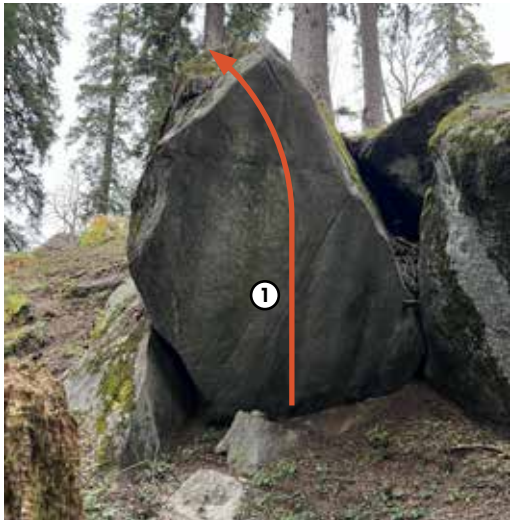
Boulder 6

1. ? ?



Boulder 7

1. Zero Expectations 8A



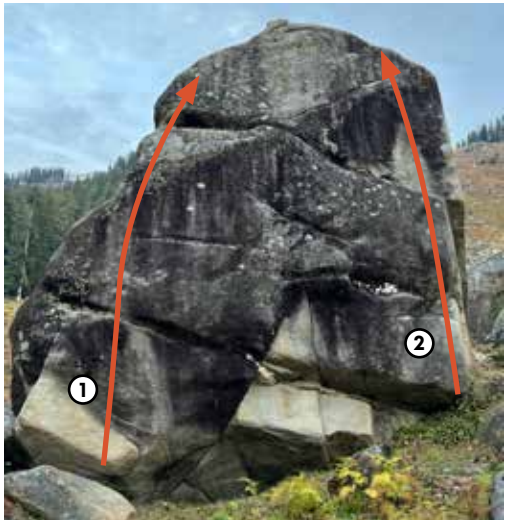
Boulder 8

1. ? 6B



Boulder9

1. ? 7B



Boulder 10

1. Science of Chai 6C

2. Walnut Tree 6C

OPPOSITE DJANGO'S DHABA

Approach: Django's Dhaba is scenicly located at the bottom of the open meadow between first and second forest. This photographic cluster of rocks is located opposite the road from Django's. Warm up with a cup of lemon tea while spotting!

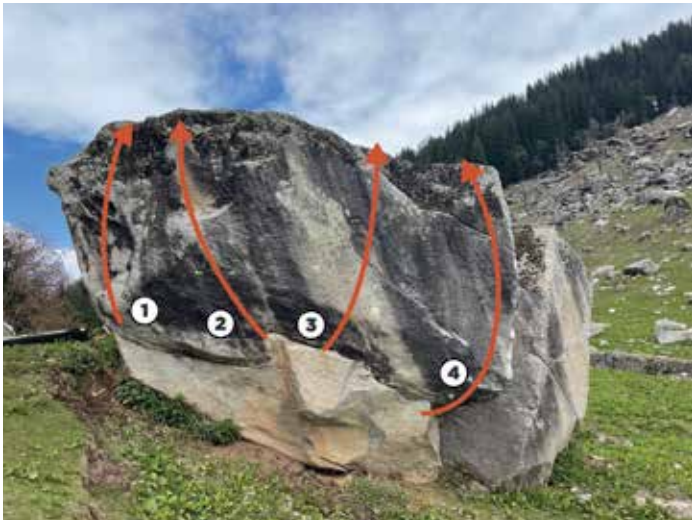


Walking down from First Forest to Django's Bhaba



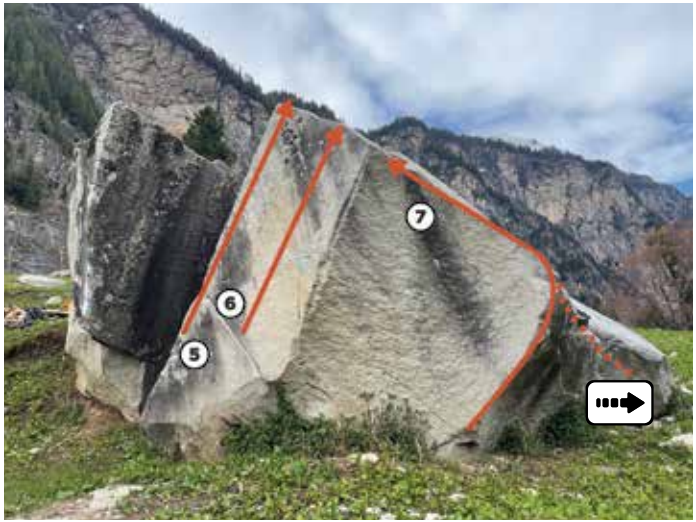
Ashish Khanijao holding holds from
Result of Envy (7C)

OPPOSITE DJANGO'S DHABA



Boulder 1

1. Along Came Django — 7B+
2. Mr. Crimp — 7C
3. Campsite Surprise — 6B
4. Result of Envy — 7C



Boulder 2

5. (Arete) — 6A
6. (Face) — 6B
7. (Arete) — 6C

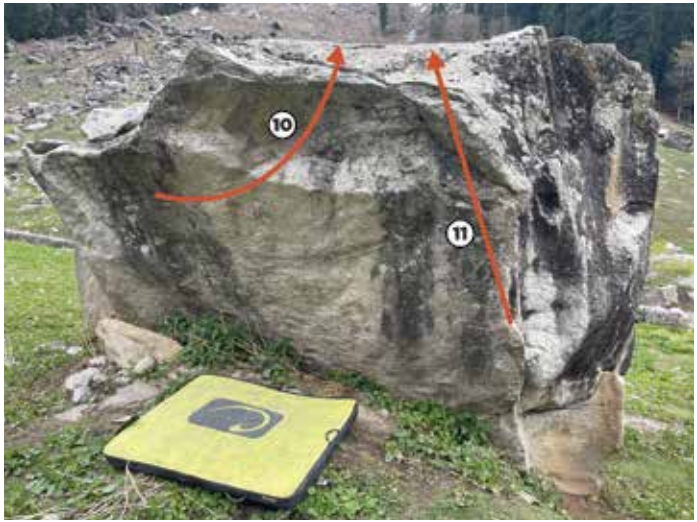
Narayan's Traverse [EXT] — 6B+



Boulder 1 & 2

8. (Arete)

9. ?



Boulder 1

10. Paratha Power 5C

11. ? 5B

FIRST FOREST

Approach: The first forest is the first covering of trees beyond the tunnel with running water that comes along a big bend in the road. It is most easily approached by road and then walking up into the rocks upon seeing the local holy lake.

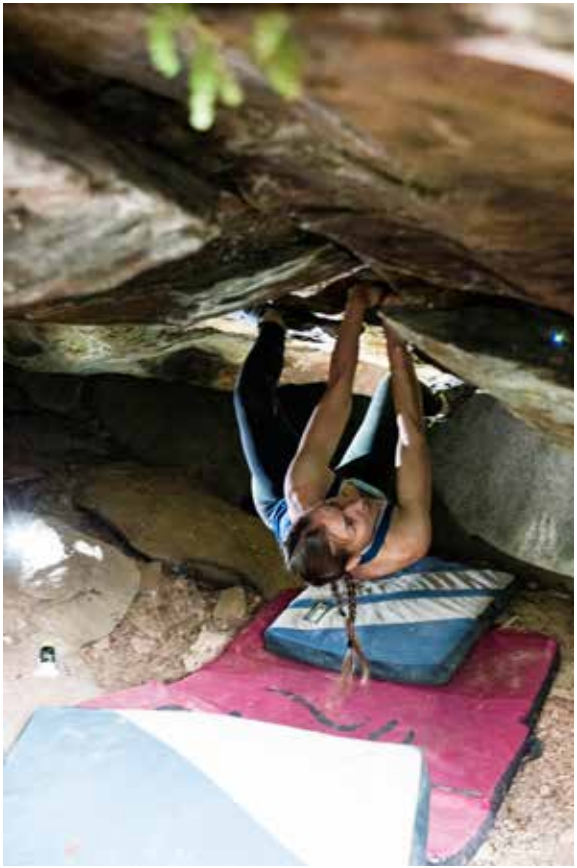
Notable Boulders Missing:
First Forst is vast and possibly the most dense area of bouldering in Sethan. There is much still to explore in the further up reaches of this sector.

Many known lines in the upper areas have been realised but are missing. For example: Dear Goblin (7C)

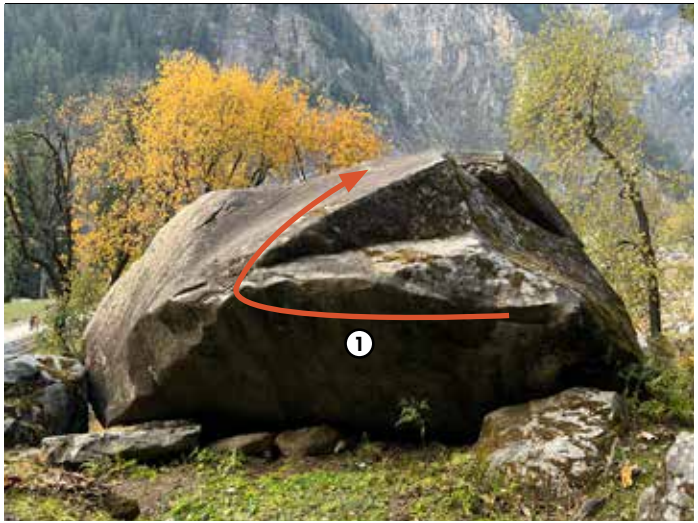
Boulder Locations:
- Boulders 1-9 are located relatively low down in the forest, outside of tree cover.
- Boulders 10-16 are clustered close together little further up. This is still next to the tunnel area periphery of the forst.



Vrinda Bhageria on Sea Creature Crack (6B)
Photo by Abhijeet Singh



Dasha Fogel on Cave of Games (6A)



Boulder 1

1. ? 6B



Boulder 2

1. ? 6A

2. (Arete) 6A

3. (Dyno/dead point) 5C



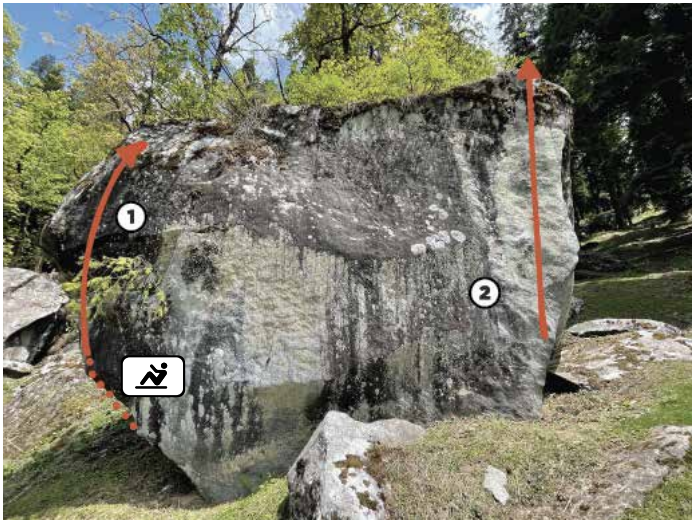
Boulder 3

1. ? 5C?



Boulder 4

1. ? 5A

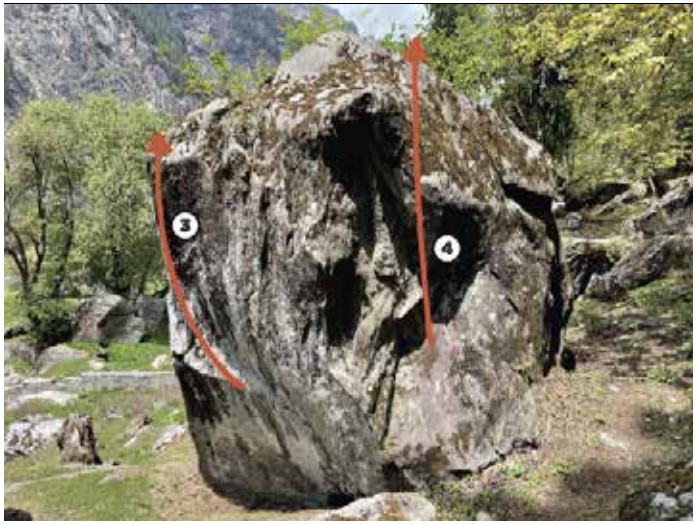


Boulder 5

1. ? 6C

[SIT]

2. ?



Boulder 5

3. ?

4. ? 6A



Boulder 6

1. Bedtime Mantle 5C



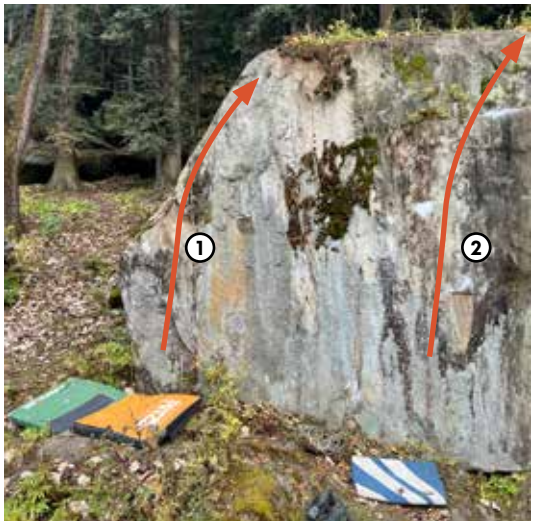
Boulder 7

1. Bedtime Stories (sit start) 7A+



Boulder 8

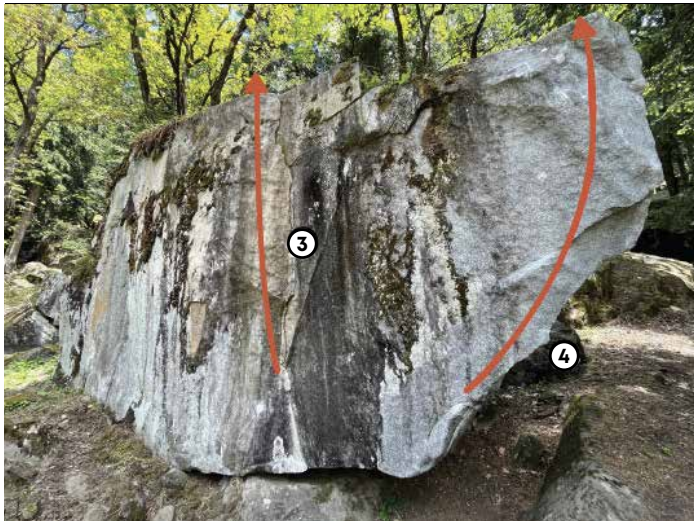
1. Bhoot Picture 6C
   (easier with lower bloc)



Boulder 9

1. Leviathan's Lumbar 6A
   (start on low flake)

2. (jump start?) 7C+?
   (jump between 2 ledges)



Boulder 9

3. Sea Creature Crack 6B

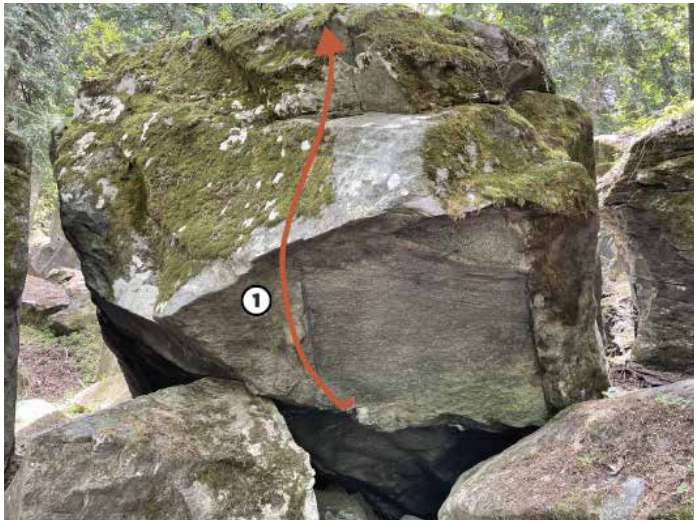
4. Mixed Feelings 8B+



Boulder 9

5. ? 8A?

6. (up the crack) 6A



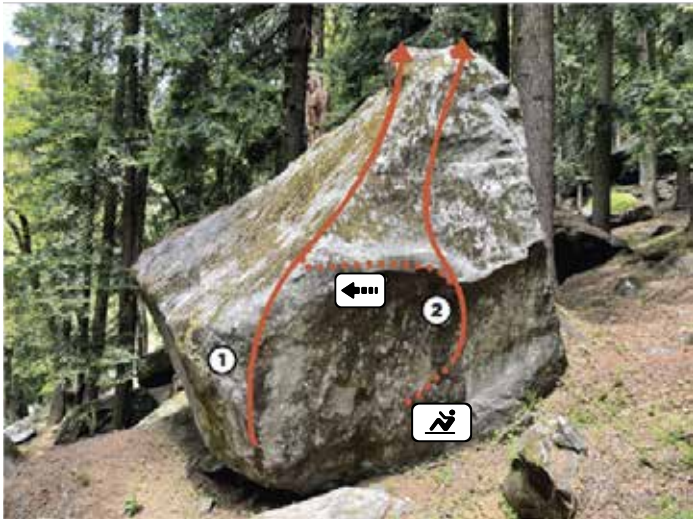
Boulder 10

1. ?



Boulder 11

1. Theory of Natural Selection 8A+



Boulder 12

1. Beta Spoiler (sit start) 7A

2. ? 6B

[SIT] 6B+

[EXT] 6C



Boulder 12

1. ? 6A



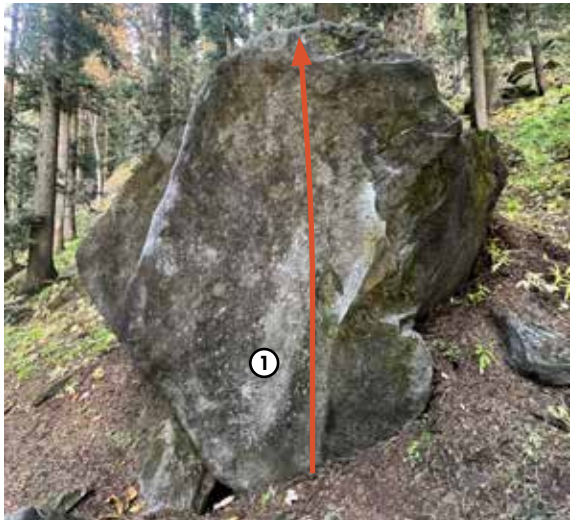
Boulder 13

1. Arlo's Arete 5B



Boulder 14

1. ? 6B+



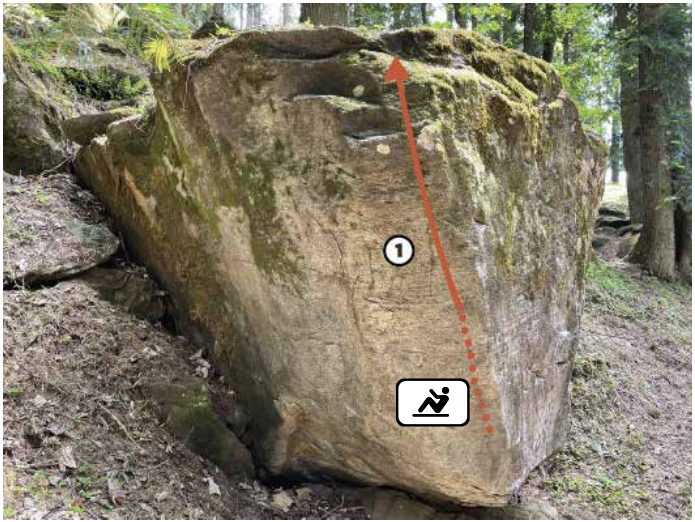
Boulder 15

1. ? 6A



Boulder 16

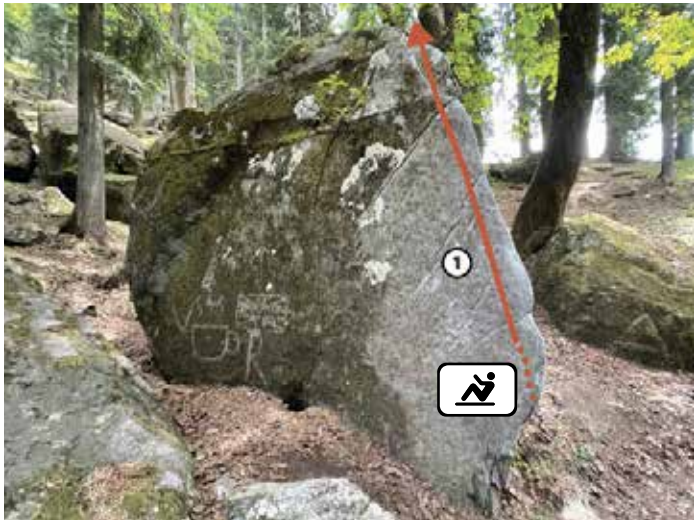
1. Cave of Games 6A
(start inside cave)
(careful of loose rock)



Boulder 17

1. Disobedience 7A

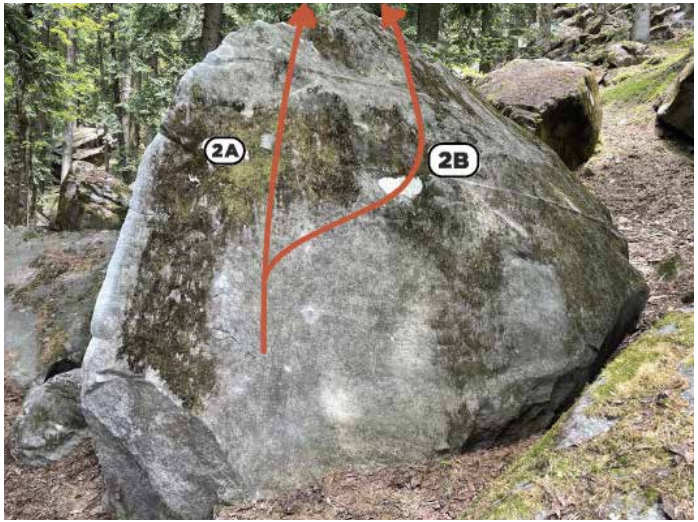
[SIT] 7C



Boulder 18

1. English Tea Parle-G 6A

[SIT] (technical) 6B



Boulder 18

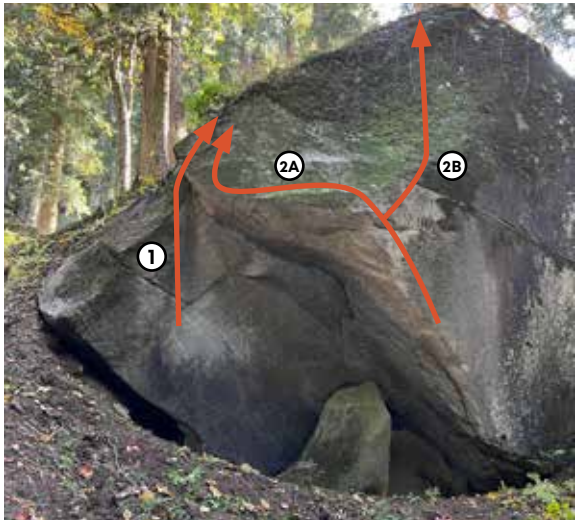
2A. (Slab Direct) 5C

2B. (Right Exit) 6A



Boulder 18

3. ? 6B



Boulder 19

1. ? **7A?**

2A. ? **8B?**

2B. ? **8A?**



Boulder 17

1. ?

2. ?

3. ?



Boulder 20

1. Mysterion (dyno) 7A+



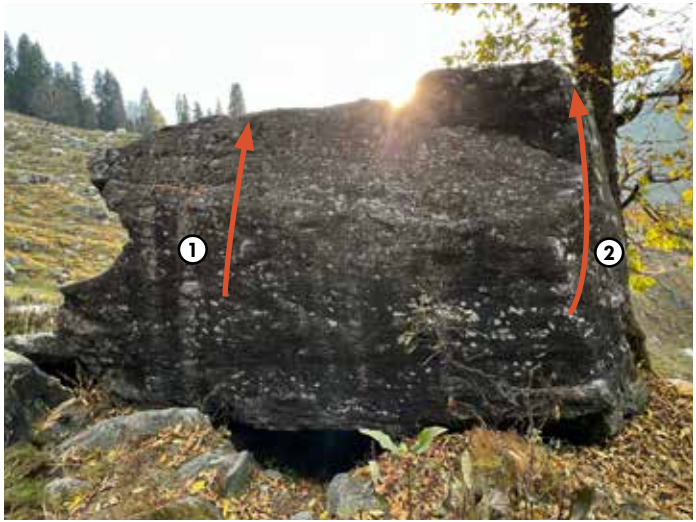
Boulder 21

1. ? 6A+



Boulder 22

1. ?



Boulder 23

1. ? 5A

2. ? 5C



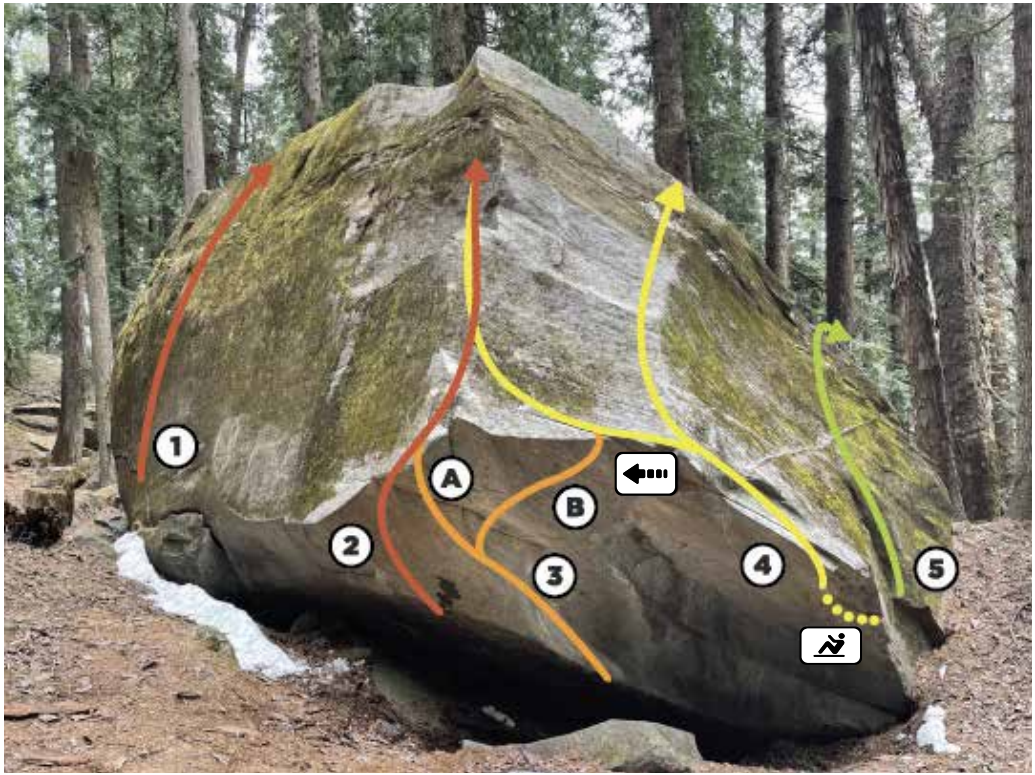
Boulder 1 (Tunnel Area)

1. American Sankrit (start on low crimps to dyno) **7A+**



Boulder 2 (Tunnel Area)

1. Road Romeo **7A**



Boulder 24

1. Indian Express 6B
   (start on undercling & ledge)

2. Deccan Herald 7A+
   (start in compression)
   (harder for shorter climbers)

3A. The Last Chapter 8A+
   (exit into Deccan Herald)

3B. I Ate Your Lunch 8A+
   (exit into the overhang)

4. Denver Post 6B+

   [SIT] 6C

   [EXT] 6B+

   [SIT] [EXT] 6C+

5. The Onion 5C



Boulder 24

6. ?



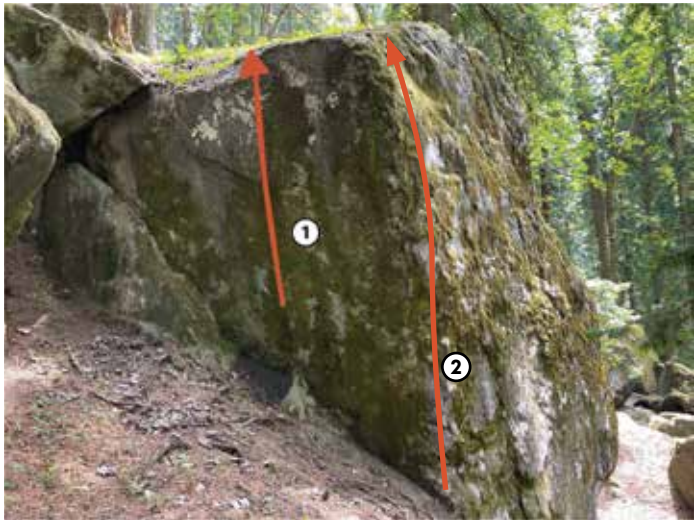
Boulder 24

7. ?



Boulder 25

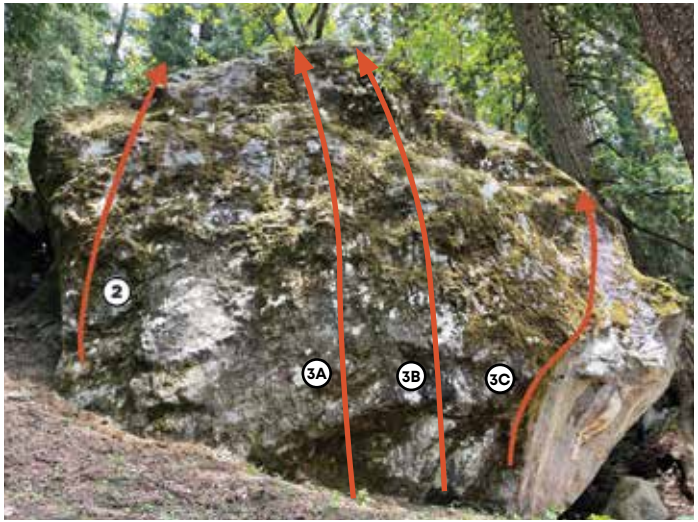
1. ?



Boulder 26

1. ?

2. Discarded Pragmatism 6A+

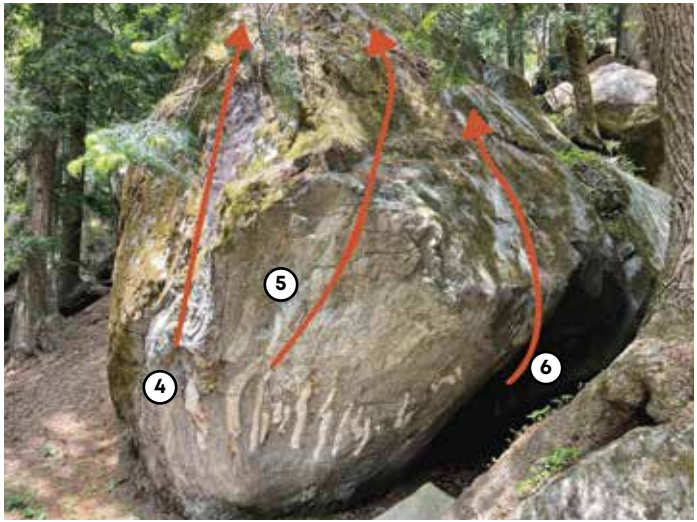


Boulder 26

3A. ?

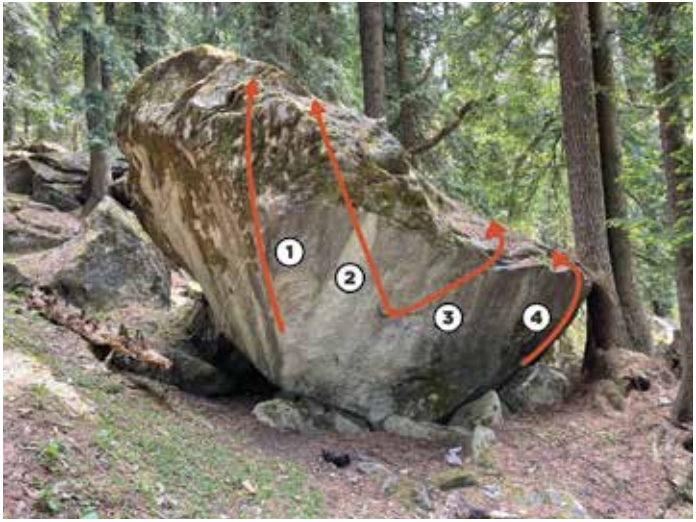
3B. ?

3C. ?



Boulder 26

4. (Direct Stand)	6A
5. White Lines	7A
6. Trouble in Paradise	7C



Boulder 27

1. Birds of Prey **7C**
2. No Fly Zone **7B+**
3. Fly Zone **6C**
4. Scavenger **7A+**



Boulder 28

1. All seasons (sit start) **8A**



Boulder 29

1. Amaterasu 6C+



Boulder 30

1. Brahma Sit 6A+
2. Carnage 7A
3. Project Mahakal ?

MEADOW

Approach: Above from Django's Dhaba and between First and Second Forest, Meadow is not one to be missed easily. Boulders are scattered all throughout the area.

Notable Boulders Missing:
An endless landscape of boulders. Knowledge on boulders is missing!

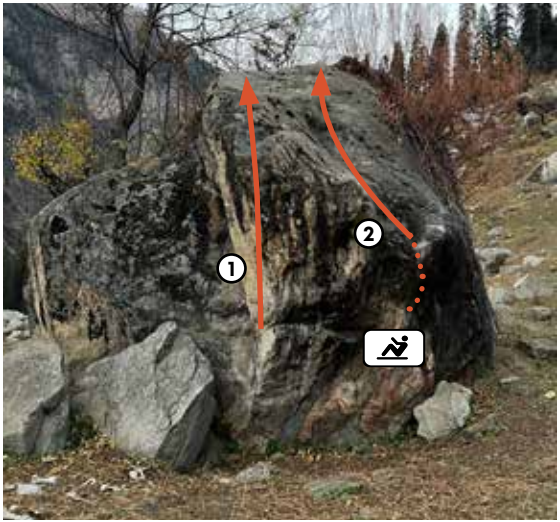
Boulder Locations:
- Boulders 1 is on the periphery of First Forest in viewing distance from the road.
- Boulders 14-15 are located further up along this periphery about 15 mins uphill.
- Boulders 9-13 are towards the Second Forest edge about 20 mins uphill.



Sneha Deogharkar on Wet Party (6C)



Keith Peter in the meadow looking out from Fourth Law of Motion (8A)

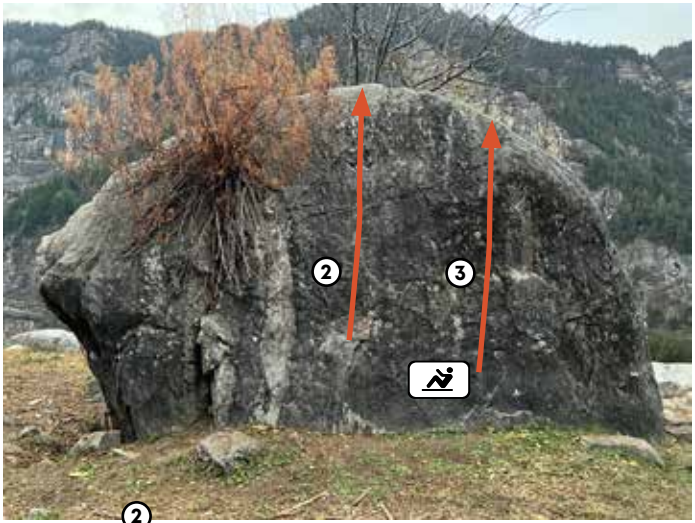


Boulder 0

1. ? 7A?

2. (Stand start) 6A

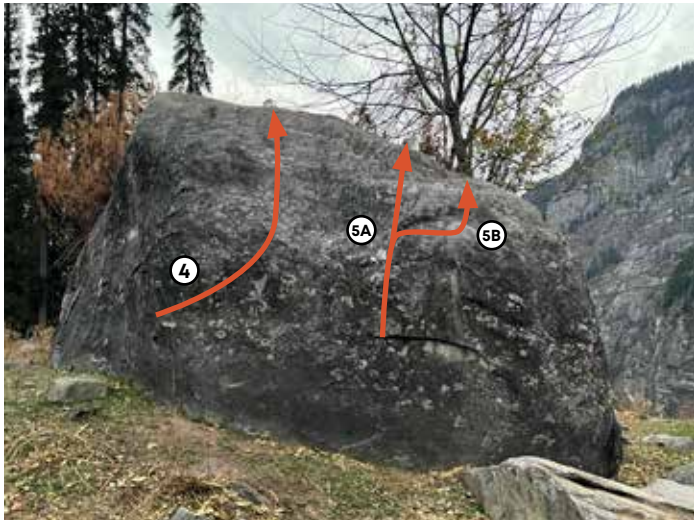
[SIT] 6B



Boulder 0

2. ? 5C

3. (Sit start to bad crimps) 6B+



Boulder 0

4. ?	6B+
5A. ?	6B
5B. ?	6A



Boulder 1

1. Pocket Rocket 6B

2. Pick Pocket 5C



Boulder 2

1. ?

2. ?



Boulder 3

1. Kicking Calf 7A



Boulder 4

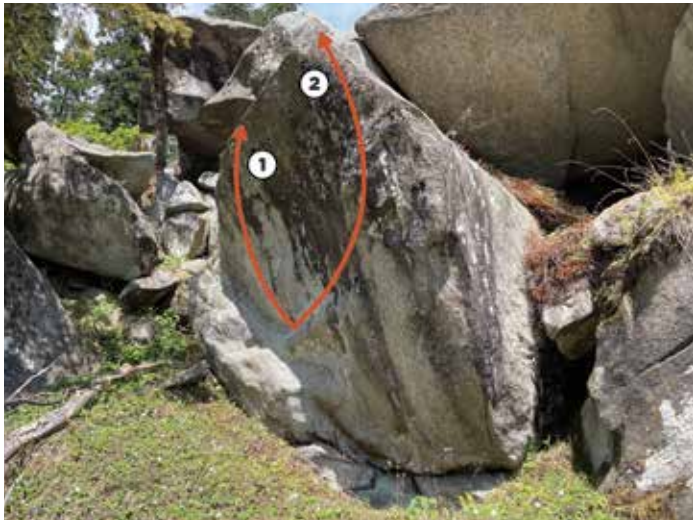
1. ?



Boulder 5

1. ?

2. ? 5C



Boulder 6

1. ?

2. ?



Boulder 7

1. Slabatha 6A



Boulder 8

1. ?

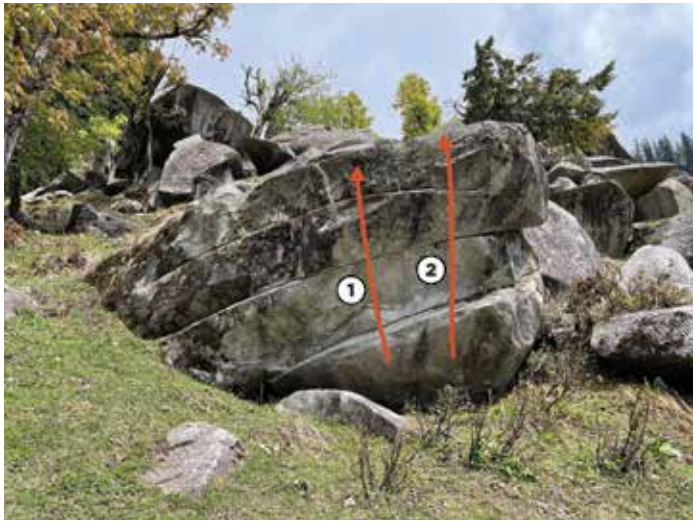


Boulder 9

1. (Traverse) 6A

2. (Direct) 6B+

3. Wet Party 6C



Boulder 10

1. ?

2. ?



Boulder 11

1. Fourth Law of Motion 8A



Boulder 12

1. ?



Boulder 13

1. Rockfall 6A+

SECOND FOREST

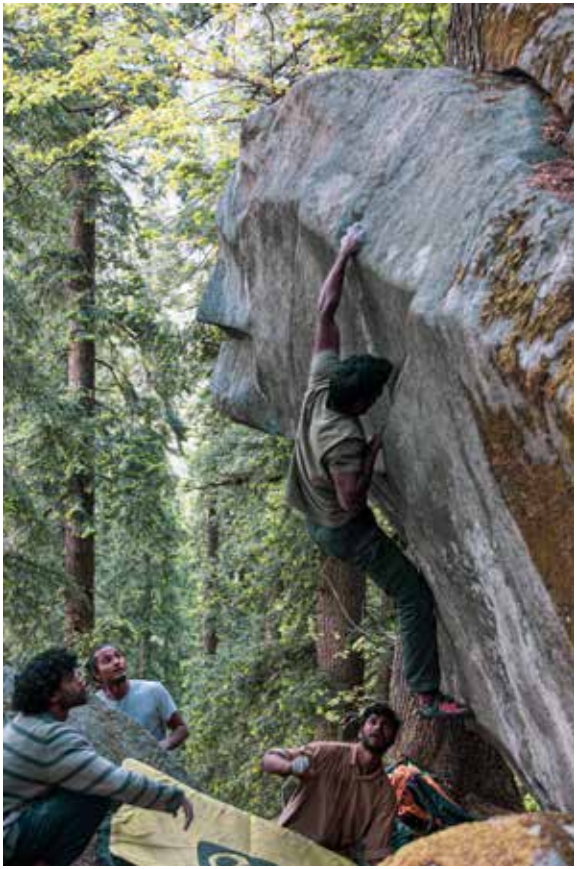
Approach: There are 2 options, one is to walk along the road and approach in from near Haldiram Boulder. This is near the reservoir. The other option is to walk in from little further up Django's Dhaba.

Notable Boulders Missing:
Climbs near Exposure for Breakfast (7A) are in the middle of the forest between the other listed boulders and missing from the guidebook right now.

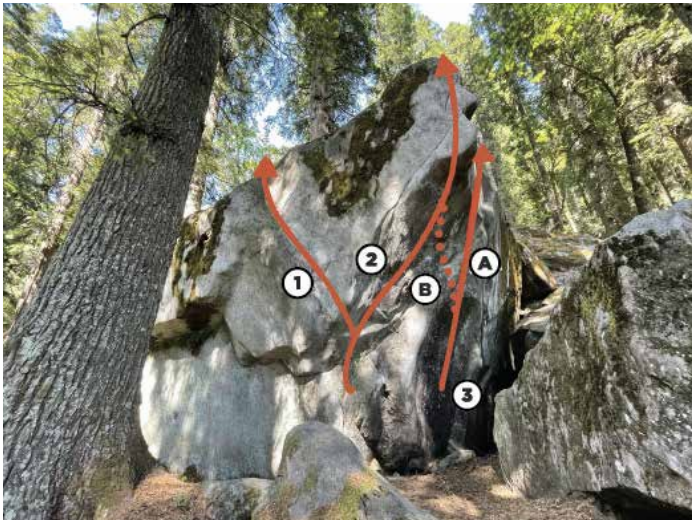
Boulder Locations:
- Boulders 1-10 are near the second forest edge
- Boulder 11 onwards are near the reservoir



Viraj Sose on Exposure for Breakfast (7A)



Vidyut Pradhan on Dead Crow (6C)



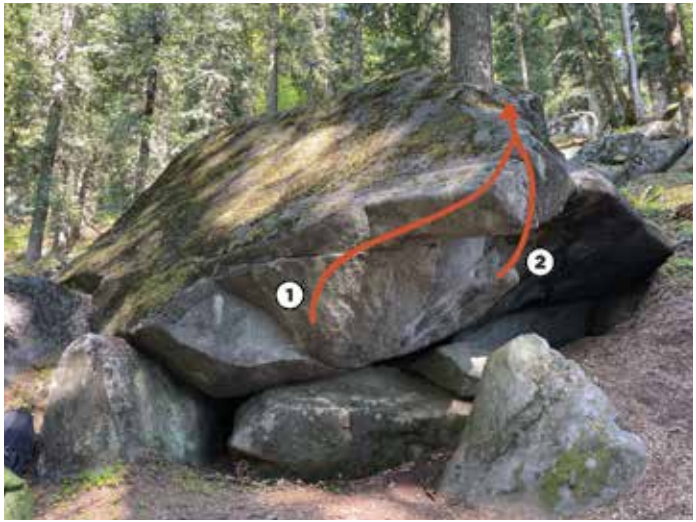
Boulder 1

1. ?

2. (Bernd's Face ?) 7C+?

3A. (Dead Face ?) 7B+?

3B. Dead Crow 6C



Boulder 2

1. Cycle of Matter 6C

2. Alpha Minus 6B



Boulder 3

1. ?



Boulder 4

1. ?



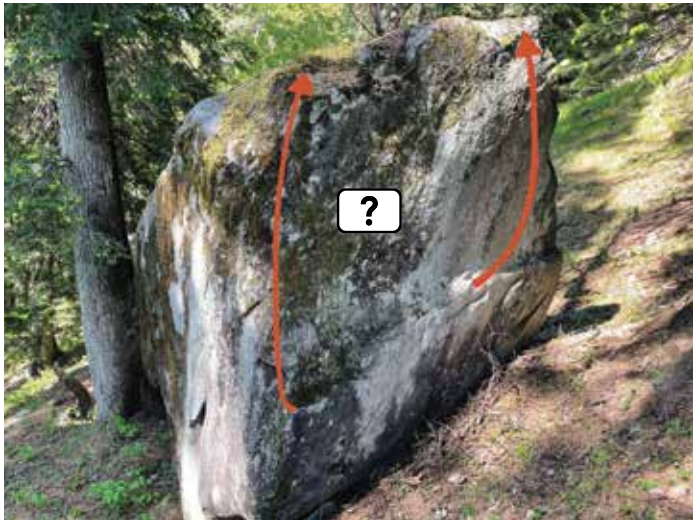
Boulder 5

1. ?



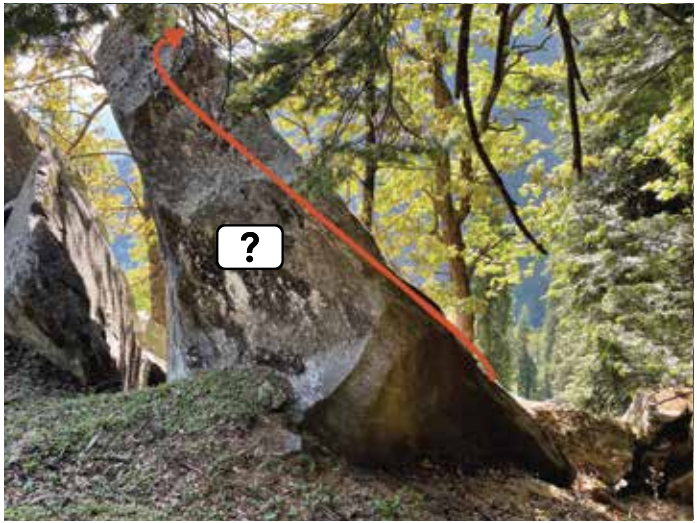
Boulder 6

1. ?



Boulder 7

1. ?>



Boulder 8

1. ?



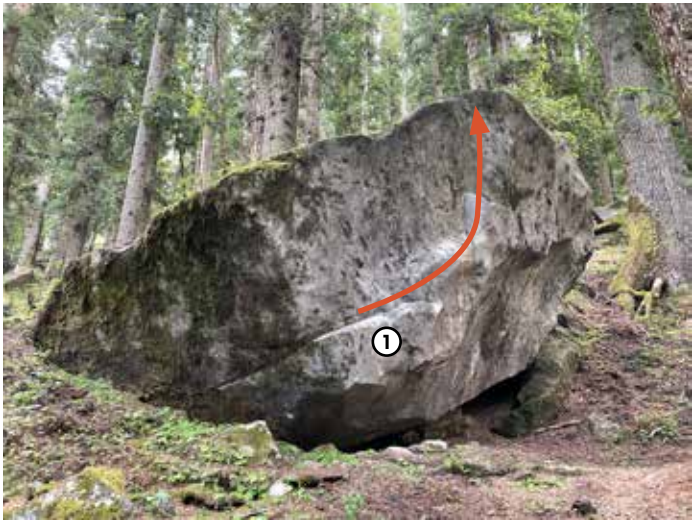
Boulder 9

1. ?



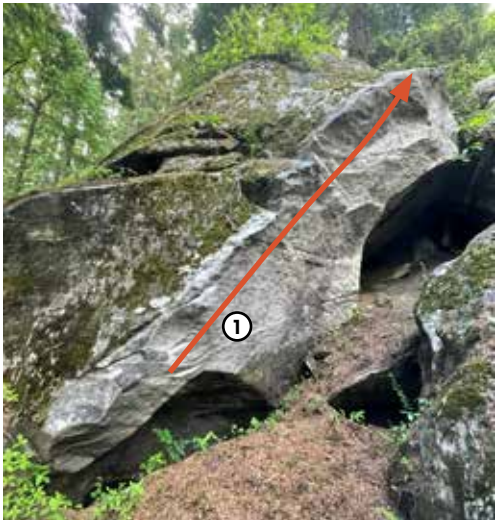
Boulder 10

1. ?



Boulder 11

1. Exposure for Breakfast 7A



Boulder 12

1. Kalyug Max 6C+



Boulder 13

1. ?



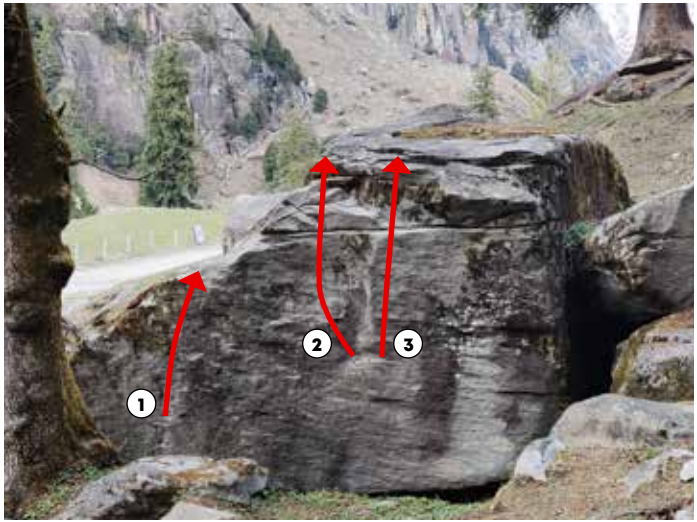
Boulder 14

1. ?



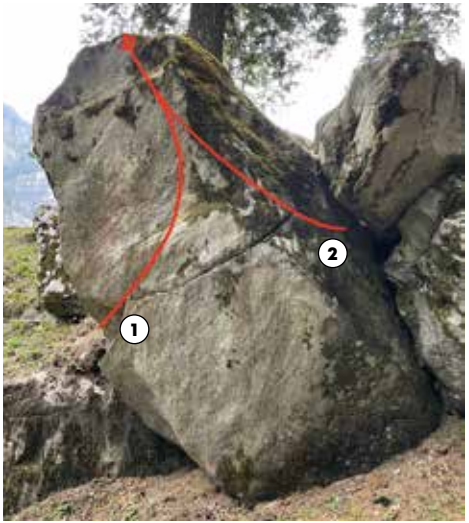
Boulder 15

1. Haldiram's Edge 7B



Boulder 16

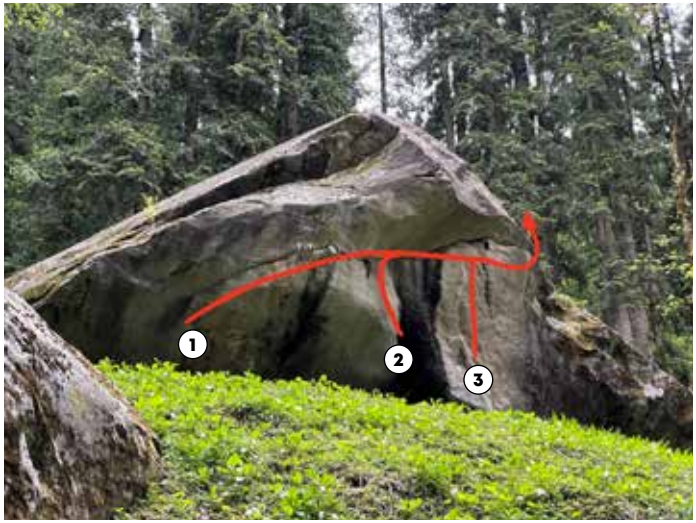
1. Letterbox 6A
2. Bubbles 6C+
3. Girl Scout Cookie 7B



Boulder 17

1. Bhujia 6A

2. Aloo Bhujia 6A

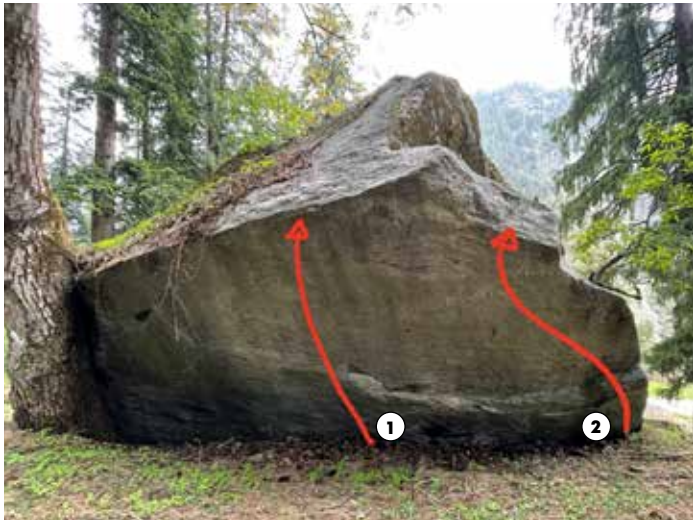


Boulder 18

1. Mega Crack Project ?

2. ?

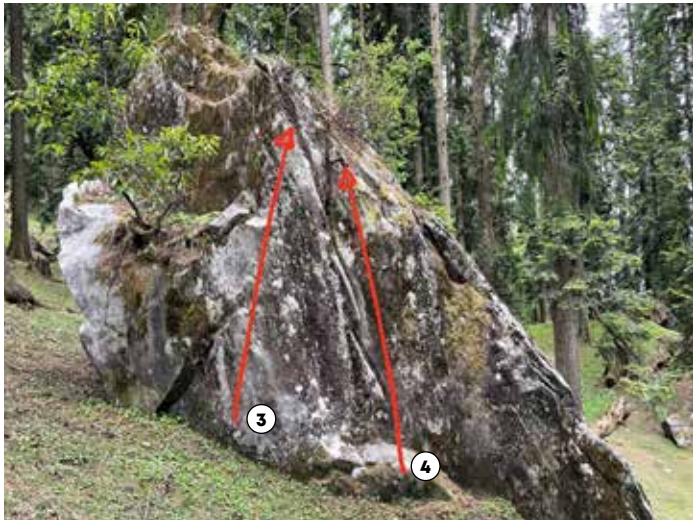
3. Commitment Issues 8A
   (Dyno)
   (Harder for shorter people)



Boulder 19

1. Project 8B?

2. Arete [SIT] 6A+



Boulder 20

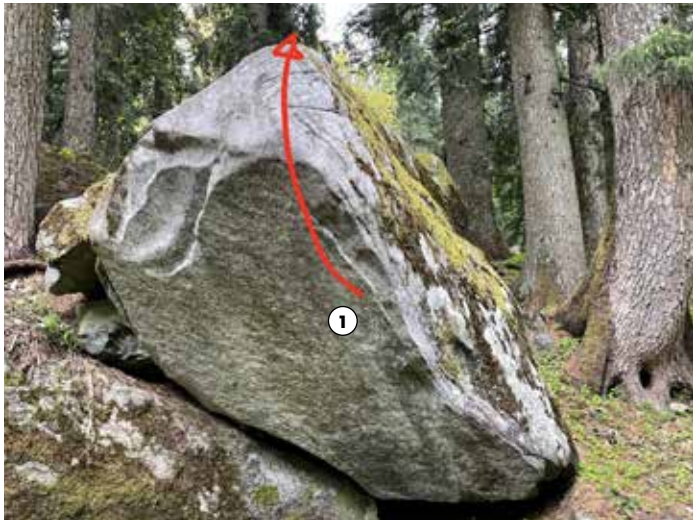
3. (Straight up) 5C

4. Four Point Start 5C



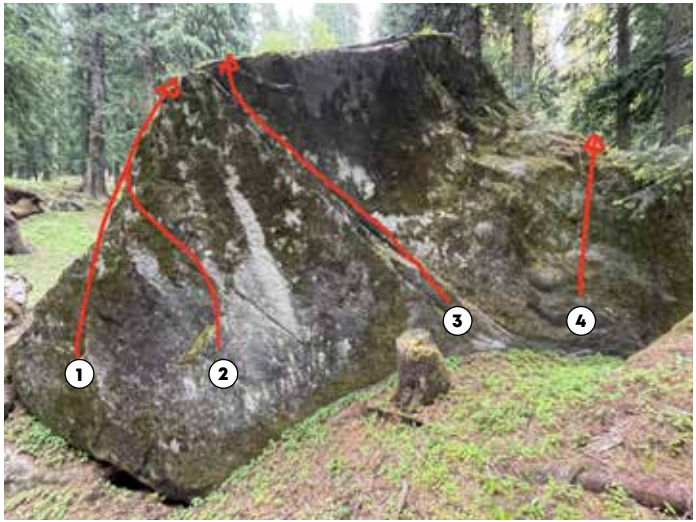
Boulder 21

5. Undertaker **7A+**



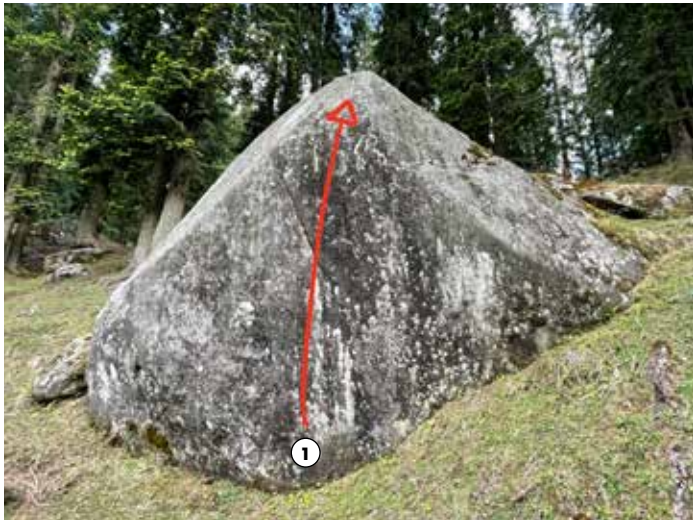
Boulder 22

1. Fool's Gold **7B**



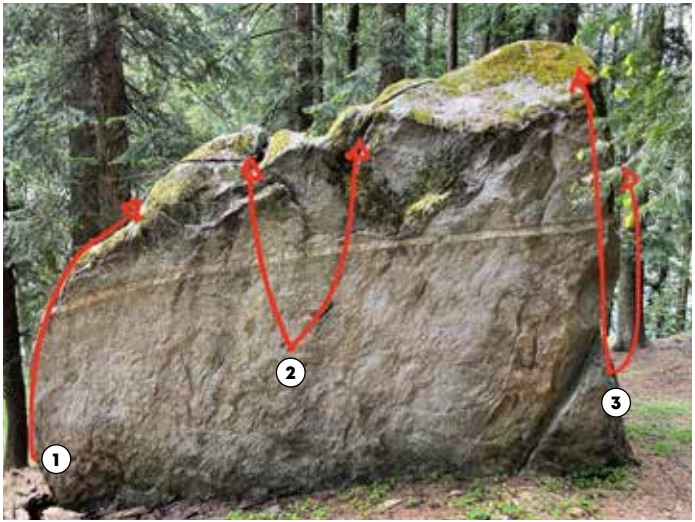
Boulder 23

1. Pulp Friction 5C
2. Kati Patang 6A
3. ?
4. ?



Boulder 24

1. ?



Boulder 25

1. Mango Slice 6A

2A. Half Donut Left 6A

2B. Half Donut Right 6A+

3A. PB&J 6A

3B. Peanut Butter 5C

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First and foremost thanks goes to Uncle, Aunty, Sunil, Akaash, Django, and all the others of Sethan for hosting, feeding, and making us visitors feel at home.

Climbing development in Sethan has created a space for many to challenge themselves, enjoy the beauty of nature, and build a sense of community around a shared love for the sport. Thank you to all that have helped in this process and contributed to the area.

Lifetimes work is involved in scouting and cleaning climbs, improving access trails, and maintaining the area. Please do support these efforts in whatever ways you know best.



Dhillan Chandramowli

A special note of thanks to Dhillan who has been a pivotal figure in Sethan. He has dedicated many years developing boulders here. A constant presence in the area, Dhillan is not one to shy away from conversation. Seek him out if you're looking for someone to discuss bouldering, coffee, life, or whatever else comes to your fancy. He is also currently working on his own detailed Sethan guidebook!



Yadu Bhageria



Varun Mishra



Adarsh Singh



Ishaan Dasgupta

The inception of this book came to being during an unexpected 2 month long Sethan season in Spring 2021.

Varun and Adarsh provided and continue to provide constant help in the process of identifying, scouting, and realising boulders.

Ishaan, while not present there that season, has been instrumental in helping catalogue and digitise all this information.

Many others have contributed to the book and deserve thanks. Kriti and Atreyo for the initial design work. Vrinda di for the printed version. Viraj for his contemplations. Mohit Sir for the inspiration. Plus all the lovely friends for their support and help along the way in this project.

This guidebook is very much a work in progress.

If you have any corrections, submissions, and/or information you'd like to have corrected/included please email **yadu@boulderbox.in**.

Our collective knowledge can help inform countless others.



Scan for the online guide: a live map of every boulder,
with lines, grades and a link to open each one in Google Maps.
climbinginindia.org/areas/sethan/guide

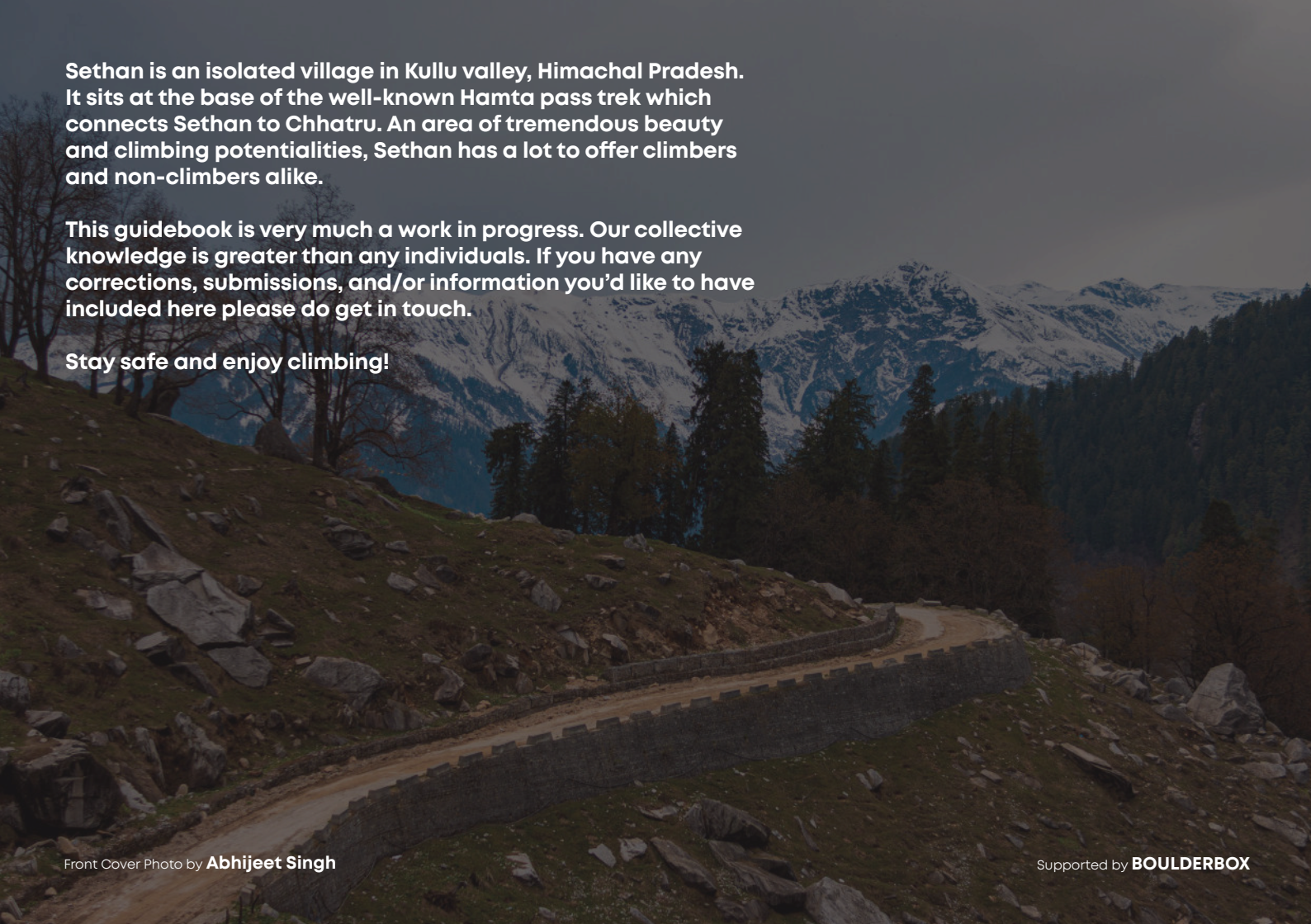
Leave no trace while climbing in Sethan.
Visit www.LNT.org for more information.

Be mindful of locals and their various ways of life.

Treat peple with respect.

Treat the forest with respect.

Treat the rock with respect.



Sethan is an isolated village in Kullu valley, Himachal Pradesh. It sits at the base of the well-known Hamta pass trek which connects Sethan to Chhatru. An area of tremendous beauty and climbing potentialities, Sethan has a lot to offer climbers and non-climbers alike.

This guidebook is very much a work in progress. Our collective knowledge is greater than any individuals. If you have any corrections, submissions, and/or information you'd like to have included here please do get in touch.

Stay safe and enjoy climbing!

Front Cover Photo by **Abhijeet Singh**

Supported by **BOULDERBOX**