

# Lizard Wall



Photo Credit: Cody Auerbeck

Robyn's Route at Lizard Wall, 12b

As you round the corner to the Lizard Wall, you realize it is unique to the canyon. As it stretches out of eye-sight, you notice the slightly overhanging nature (lowering from the anchors on most routes will put you 10-15 feet from the base) that seems featureless. Once at the base, however, you will see that lines of edges, side-pulls, and jugs smatter the grey sandstone wall. Look

down the wall and you notice the lack of a canopy that engulfs most climbing areas which allows the wall to bake on the coldest, sunny winter days. Looking up you notice a massive 30 foot roof that shelters the wall even in the most heinous downpours. The only way the wall will see moisture is from the dreaded condensation, but it is the last place in the canyon for that event to happen.



**Wall Quality** - A Must

**Approach Time** - 10 minutes

**Parking and Approach** - 5.9 Miles from park entry on left

Park in a small pull-off on left side of the road that will accommodate 6 cars. DO NOT PARK IN DRIVEWAY OR GRASS. If parking is full, park at Wolf Creek Overlook or Crow Point Overlook just down the road. From the pull-off, head down the road 30 feet to a small trail leading to a 15 foot downclimb section. Walk right at the bottom and head across the waterfall area to regain the trail along the cliff. As you turn the corner (after passing the waterfall section), a steep wall with a low choss band appears just ahead. Shadow Dancer will be the first route. Routes are described from right to left as you approach.



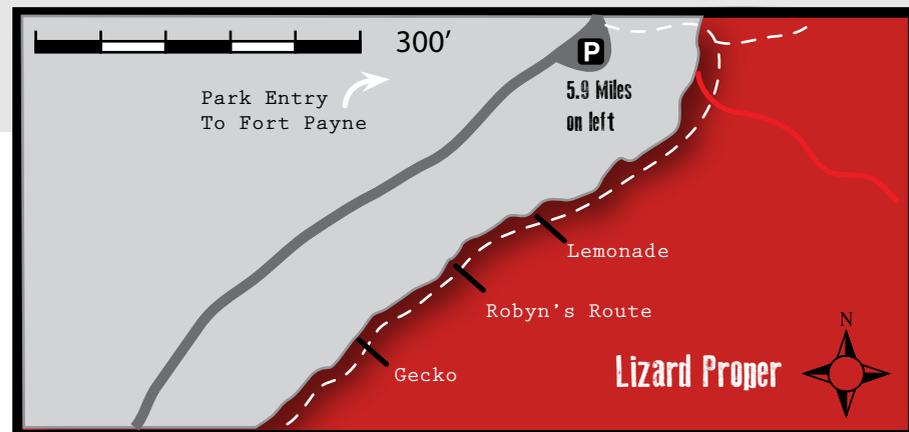
## Conditions

Lizard Wall is synonymous with rainy day cragging. It is quite possibly the driest rainy day crag in the Deep South, but don't cheat yourself; make a trip during good temps and weather to experience this wall in its full glory.

## History

The Lizard Wall was first discovered by the Reed brothers while searching for steep, dry rock in the winter of 1987. The brothers bolted most of the wall until finally sharing their find with James Dobbs and Porter Jarrard, who gleaned classics such as Cardboard Cowboy and Distorto. As in usual fashion the route names were forgotten other than the recollection that the first routes were named after Grateful Dead songs. Later contributions from Philip Fisher, Robyn Erbesfield, and Travis Eiseman would fill in the blanks left by the

Reeds with Robyn's Route, Permatorque, and Dark Star. Shortly thereafter the route names and grades were written on the wall, but were quickly removed by Alabama trad climbers who visited the area and just couldn't take the seeping European influence. If you look closely you can still make out the names, grades, and a bit of art design at the base of some of the routes. The final filling-in came from Dave Shewell, Shep Townsend, and Adam Henry during wet winter seasons - trying to find some motivation to revisit a wall we had visited too many times.



Lizard Wall

MIDDLE CANYON

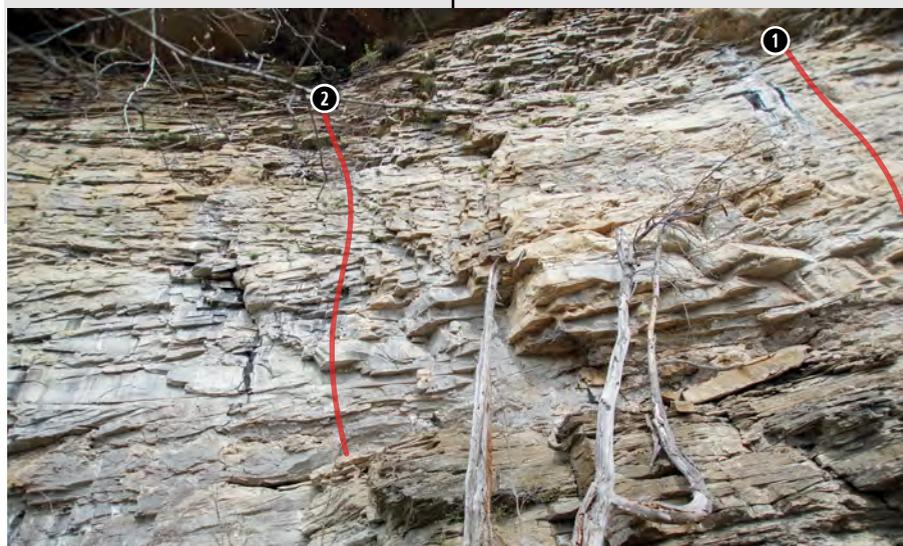
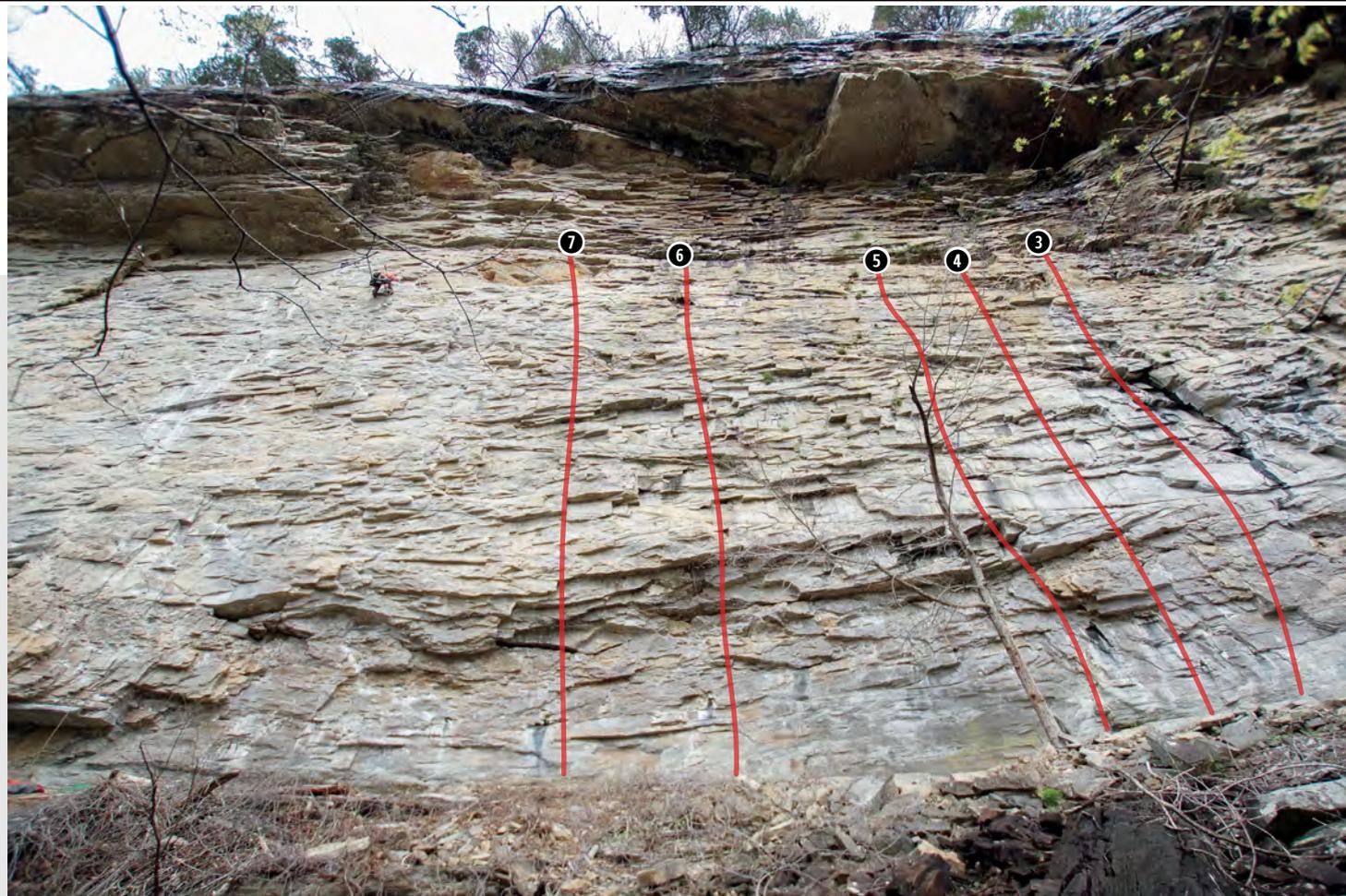
With 39 routes on the Lizard Wall proper, and since the routes lie within close proximity to each other (usually 10 feet), it has been compared to an outdoor climbing gym. The routes do not differ much in climbing style with the only difference between an 11d and 12d being a rest. If steep face climbing is your game, then this is the wall for you.

## 1 Shadow Dancer (12a)

 Climb rippling grey rock to a blocky section. 7 bolts and anchor. *Shannon Stegg.*

## 2 Lee Trevino (11c)

 Done in a lightning storm with Porter feeling he was about to be struck by lightning as the famous golfer the route is named after he had experienced it twice. Located on chossy ledge on far right side of wall. Boulder through the start, then follow good holds to an easier boulder problem at the last bolt. 5 bolts and anchor. *Porter Jarrard.*



## 3 Cedar Poke (10c)

 Climb up chossy ledge to hardest move at first bolt. Continue up jugs to anchors just below twisted cedar stump. 4 bolts and anchor. *James Dobbs.*

## 4 Stella Blue (11b)

 Climb short face to enter chossy left-facing corner. Tread lightly... 5 bolts and anchor. *James Dobbs.*

## 5 Clementine (12a)

 Could be harder if you lack a bit of lock-off power or reach. Climb overhanging face. 4 bolts and anchor. *Dave Shewell.*

## 6 Remains of the Day (12a)

 Probably the longest moderate on the wall. Punch through sustained 5.11 climbing to a bit of adventure jugging. Save a little for the top. 7 bolts and anchor. *Shep Townsend.*

## 7 Shewell Route (11d)

 Climb through chossy section to crux at roof. Easier climbing ensues but the rock quality is not so good. 6 bolts and anchor. *Dave Shewell.*

## 8 Ripple (12a)

 Climb through funky section to crux pulling the first roof. Follow jugs for a bit to final move near the last bolt. 8 bolts and anchor. *Mavrice Reed.*

MIDDLE CANYON



### Short Doug (12c)



Local lore goes that the legendary Rob Robinson did this one with a backpack filled with 50 lbs. of rock while barefoot. I didn't see it, but I know at the time Rob was more than capable. Sustained pulls on distant edges up perfect stone. 4 bolts and anchor. **Doug Reed.**