



AAC Publications

Pico Independencia, North Face, The Life You Can Save

Mexico, Nuevo León, Parque La Huasteca

On April 2, Carlos Flores and I made the first ascent of the Life You Can Save (350m, 13 pitches, 5.12d) on the north face of Pico Independencia in Parque La Huasteca, just west of Monterrey.

The route first required three weeks of preparation, alone on my part, which included 22 days of cleaning and eight days of bolting, both ground-up and top-down. Once the bolting was completed I was glad to recruit the tenacious hands of Carlos Flores, a straight-talking, rope-savvy Mexican who is respected in the local community. Together, Carlos and I climbed ground-up to the summit in a single push. I was able to climb everything first go but the final 5.11 pitch near the top. We descended the south face via three rappels.

The route climbs a direct line up the central pillar of Pico Independencia, located just right of the unrepeated route Directísima (300m, 5.9+ A3+). It has eight pitches of 5.11 or harder and is well-equipped with bolts in the harder sections. It would be possible to bivy under a roof on pitch seven, but I would recommend a hammock. [Editor's note: Climbs on Pico Independencia have not been well-covered in past AAJs. See the PDF mini-guide below for detailed beta about the routes on Pico Independencia.]

– Gareth “Gaz” Leah, U.K.

Images



Carlos Flores climbing fine, white limestone on the Life You Can Save (350m, 13 pitches, 5.12d).



Gareth Leah on the Life You Can Save (350m, 13 pitches, 5.12d).



Gareth Leah leading, high up on the Life You Can Save (350m, 13 pitches, 5.12d).



The north face of Pico Independencia (center-left summit). The Life You Can Save (350m, 13 pitches, 5.12d) climbs a direct line up the tallest part of the wall.



Gareth Leah cleaning a loose block on the Life You Can Save (350m, 13 pitches, 5.12d).

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