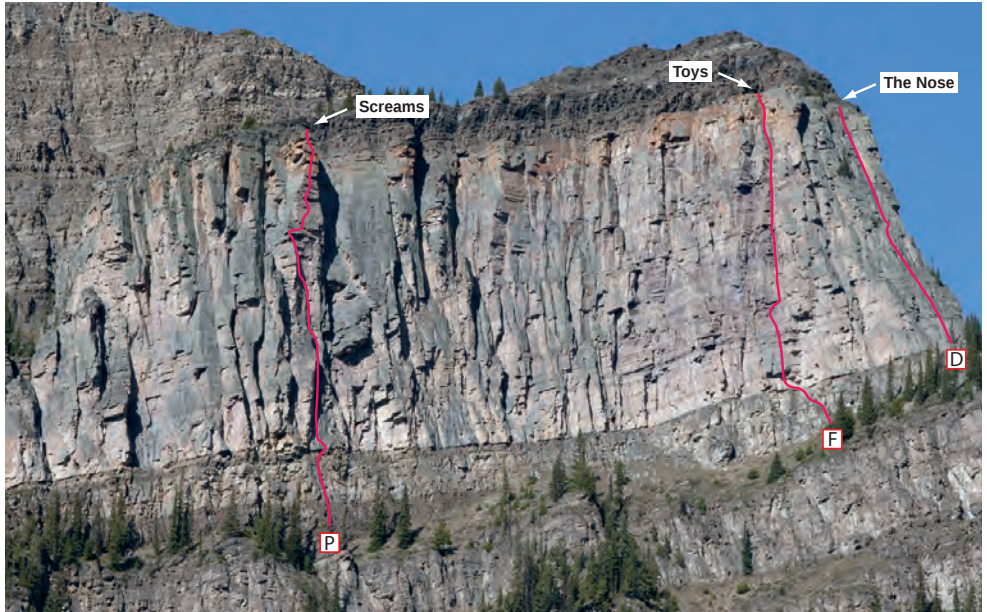


Saddle Mountain – Introduction

SADDLE MOUNTAIN

On the south side of **Saddle Mountain**, overlooking **Paradise Valley** and **Mount Temple**, is a large quartzite cliff visible from many locations on the **Trans-Canada Highway** east of **Lake Louise**. It is one of the most impressive exposures of **Gog Quartzite** in the area and has rock climbs up to 200 m in length. The cliff compares well with the large cliffs on the south side of **Lake Louise**, but its remote location and previous lack of information have made it much less developed. It also stays in the sun until mid-afternoon and has a much longer climbing



The cliff has been climbed on for years, but many of the early routes have gone unrecorded. The information given here has been gathered from many sources and is most likely incomplete. There are plenty of unclimbed lines and interesting areas of rock to explore, but old pitons and fixed gear may turn up in unexpected places. The older climbs follow mainly crack and corner lines and are gear-protected. Only recently have bolts been used. The first climb to do so was **Screams from the Balcony** but then only on its final pitch up the blank upper prow. In the search for harder climbing away from the crack and corner lines several full-on sport routes have been added with a corresponding rise in climbing standards. The crack lines tend to be continuous and require large amounts of gear. A double set of cams is recommended for most climbs, including big gear when specified in the route description.

The approach takes about 1½ hours, with an elevation gain of 500 m, but the cliff offers excellent multi-pitch quartzite climbing in a remote location and with superb views. The classic of the crag is undoubtedly **Toys in the Attic** (5.10c), but **Screams from the Balcony** (5.11b) and the **MacTrump Route** (5.10b) are also highly recommended. The two full-height sport routes **Dodging Wives** and **Fools in the Rain** and good modern routes with lots of hard climbing.

Chapter 13 LAKE LOUISE

Approach: From the upper parking lot at Lake Louise, walk towards the lake and then turn left on a trail signposted *Fairview Lookout* and *Saddleback*. A few minutes further on, the *Saddleback* trail branches off to the left and climbs diagonally left across the hillside, passing through a large avalanche slope. A small undeveloped quartzite cliff band is visible above the trail as it climbs the left edge of the slope and then begins to contour left again. At an unmarked intersection beyond a second avalanche slope, the lower left-hand fork is the better option and leads to more open slopes, where the north-facing portion of the cliff comes into view. After a couple of long switchbacks the trail traverses left to a small, dry creek bed and then begins to zigzag up towards the saddle (50–60 minutes; elevation gain: 440 m; GPS: 51° 23.809' N & 116° 12.683' W). Although it is possible to branch off the main trail at this point and begin traversing left across towards the cliffs, a better alternative, which has less impact on vegetation, is to continue up the switchbacks for about 100 m and then traverse across the boulder field (marked by two large cairns). On the opposite side, a well-marked trail leads through broken cliff bands, with a short hand line to descend at one point, until a broad gully is reached (*North Gully* – used for descent). The trail then goes directly across through scattered trees and large boulders to a flat area on a rib about 40 m below the cliffs. A cairn marks the top of a short gully which leads down to easy slopes and a more obvious trail. Further left the trail passes below *Buddha Buttress*, across a small bowl, and as it turns the corner the impressive south face finally comes into view. Paradise Valley lies far below, with Mount Temple on the opposite side and the cliff curves away in a series of steep corners and arêtes. Total time: 1 hour 15–30 minutes; elevation gain: 500 m.



Saddle Mountain - Introduction

Orientation: Before the main south face is reached, the approach trail passes below a section of east-facing cliffs with two well-defined buttresses separated by a wide bowl – see photograph opposite page. The buttress on the right is *Buddha Buttress*, and the one on the left is the prow at the beginning of the main face. There is a rappel descent route on the prow (see below, and photo opposite). The left-facing corner on the left side of the prow is climbed by *The Nose*. The approach trail rounds the corner beneath the prow, drops down slightly, and the south face comes into view. Directly overhead is a long, right-facing system of corners capped by a curving crack/chimney with an overhanging prow on its left side. The *MacTrump Route* begins just left of the corners and climbs the wall left of the prow. About 300 m away, almost on the skyline, is another prominent overhanging prow with a square-cut upper face. *Screams from the Balcony* climbs the prow and passes through an impressive series of stepped overhangs on the upper face. In between are innumerable corners and arêtes, many of which are unclimbed. An unusual feature of the face which stands out in a certain light is *Saddle Spire*, a large, blocky pinnacle at about half height, just to the right of *Screams from the Balcony*.

Photo: View of the main south face from where the approach trail turns the rib.

Descent: A band of loose shale overlies the quartzite and forms the upper layer of the cliff. Its thickness is not significant at the west end but it complicates the exit from some of the climbs in the middle section. Sometimes it can be negotiated quite easily – above *Toys in the Attic*, for example. From the top of the cliff, descent can be made via *South Gully*, an easy gully at the left end which is useful for returning to the base of the climbs. The gully drops down quite low, however, and is surprisingly time-consuming. Alternatively, it is possible to walk over the top and descend *North Gully* back to the approach trail. The gully has some easily negotiated cliff bands, but snow can complicate descent early in the season. A bolted rappel route has been established on the prow at the right (east) end of the main cliff and is particularly useful for climbs near *Toys in the Attic* – photograph opposite page. The route can be descended in 30 m rappels and is reached by scrambling down a ridge in the shale band to the top of the prow. The first station is just below a small tree. The moderate gear route *Rapping the Wrong Way* climbs the rappel route and is the first climb on the main, south face of the mountain.



The Climbs: The climbs are described from right to left as they are reached on the approach trail. The first two are on the section of east-facing cliffs overlooking the *Trans-Canada Highway* – photograph previous page.

East-Facing Cliffs

Crystal Quartzite Arête 60 m, 5.7 [A]

Geoff Thornton-Trump and Isabelle Lemelin, 1993

Where the approach trail descends a short gully and then goes left onto steep, grassy slopes, there is a well-defined, slightly left-facing, blocky arête in the cliff band directly above. The route starts slightly on the left and follows intermittent cracks on the arête for 60 m to a natural belay at a ledge just below the upper shale band. Gear to 4 inches is required and some long slings for a girth runner. Climb through the shale band (short at this point) and use the *North Gully* descent on the right.

Buddha Buttress 125 m, 5.9 or 5.6 (alt.) [B] ★

Geoff Thornton-Trump and Isabelle Lemelin, 1993

On the section of cliff that faces the *Trans-Canada Highway* there are two well-defined buttresses separated by a wide bowl – photograph previous page. *Buddha Buttress* is the right-hand buttress and rises directly above the trail. The route taken may be varied somewhat and the best climbing is not on the buttress itself but in an upper corner system on its left-hand side. The original ascent followed this corner system and is described first. A less continuous but more direct route up the buttress itself is included on the topo and described as a variation.

A good selection of gear to 3 inches is required, and two ropes if descent is to be made by rappel.

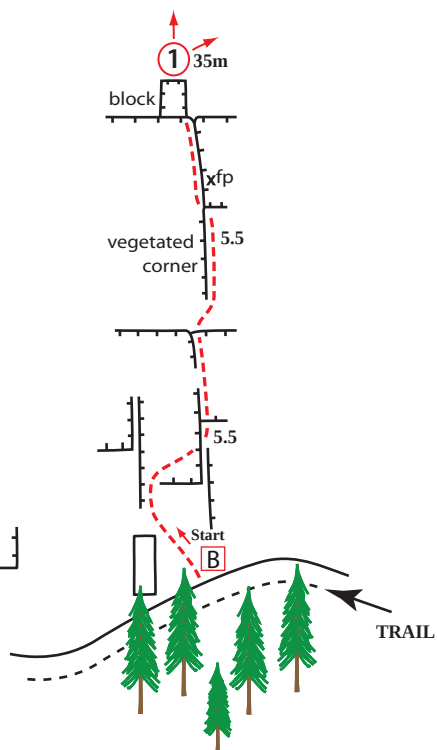
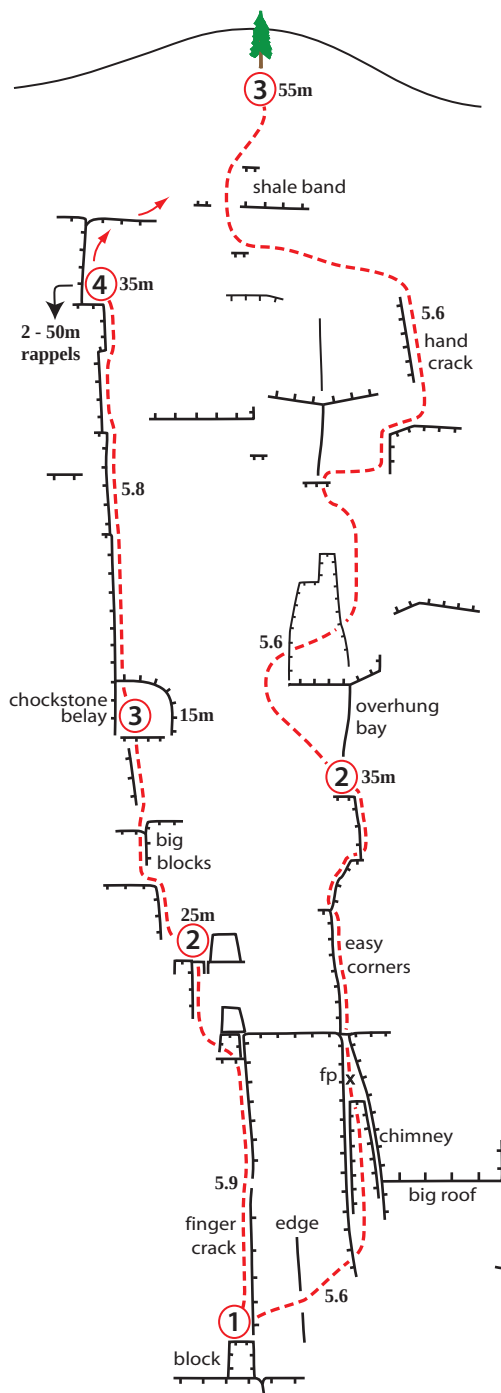
Start right off the trail, at the lowest point of the buttress.

- 1. 35 m, 5.5.** Move up left and then back right to the right-hand of two short cracks and climb up this on good holds to a grassy ledge. Continue up the vegetated corner above past a piton to a second large ledge. Belay on top of a block.
- 2. 25 m, 5.9.** Step left and climb a finger crack past an awkward bulge to ledges on the left. Move up to belay at a block.
- 3. 15 m, 5.4.** Climb blocky ground, up and slightly left to a chockstone belay in an alcove at the base of a long corner/crack.
- 4. 35 m, 5.8.** Excellent climbing up the corner/crack leads to a good ledge on the left a short distance below the upper shale band.
- 5. 15 m, 5.5.** Climb to the top of the corner and then angle up and right through the shale band to a small tree at the top.
- 2. alt. 35 m, 5.6.** Move out right past the broken crest of the buttress and go up to a corner/chimney on the left side of a prominent roof. Climb the corner past a piton higher up to ledges. Continue up easy, blocky corners trending slightly right to a large, overhung bay.
- 3 alt. 55 m, 5.6.** Climb the left side of the bay to bypass the first overhang and then traverse across to the right-hand side of the wide corner above. Go up to a ledge below a large overhang and then move right and up to a good ledge on the right arête. Climb an obvious hand crack that angles up and left to ledges below the upper shale band. Traverse left to find a break in the shale band and make a couple of steep moves up to easier ground and a small tree a short distance above. The pitch could be split at the ledge below the upper roof to minimize rope drag.

Descent: Go down grassy slopes to the right and descend *North Gully* to reach the approach trail. Alternatively, a rappel route has been in place in the past from the top of pitch 5 of the original route but is currently decommissioned. Pitons and nuts are required for the upper station, from which a diagonal rappel leads to a large block in the grassy bowl on the left side of the buttress. A second 50 m rappel reaches the approach trail.

Saddle Mountain - East-Facing Cliffs

Buddha Buttress



Main Face – Right

Rapping the Wrong Way 120 m, 5.9/5.10a [C] ★

Greg Golovach and Mark Klassen, 1995

Rapping the Wrong Way climbs the rappel route on the prow of the buttress and is the first climb on the main, south face of the mountain. The lower part is a little scruffy, but the top two and a half pitches are some of the best in their grade and on perfect, purple quartzite.

1. **30 m, 5.6.** Start immediately left of the prow and find the best line from a number of options, aiming for just left of the tree at the first station.
2. **30 m, 5.8.** Climb broken, grassy ledges up and right to a good hand and finger crack on the left wall of a large corner with a tree partway up it. Climb the crack and step right at the top to the station.
3. **30 m, 5.9/10a.** Either step right from the station and climb a fractured face up to parallel cracks (5.9), or step left and climb a finger crack to a roof, and then undercling/smear right to reach the same point (5.10a). Climb the cracks to a short, right-facing corner and continue up to the station above.
4. **30 m, 5.8+.** Climb a face crack up to the intimidating stepped corner system above and follow it on good gear to the upper station.

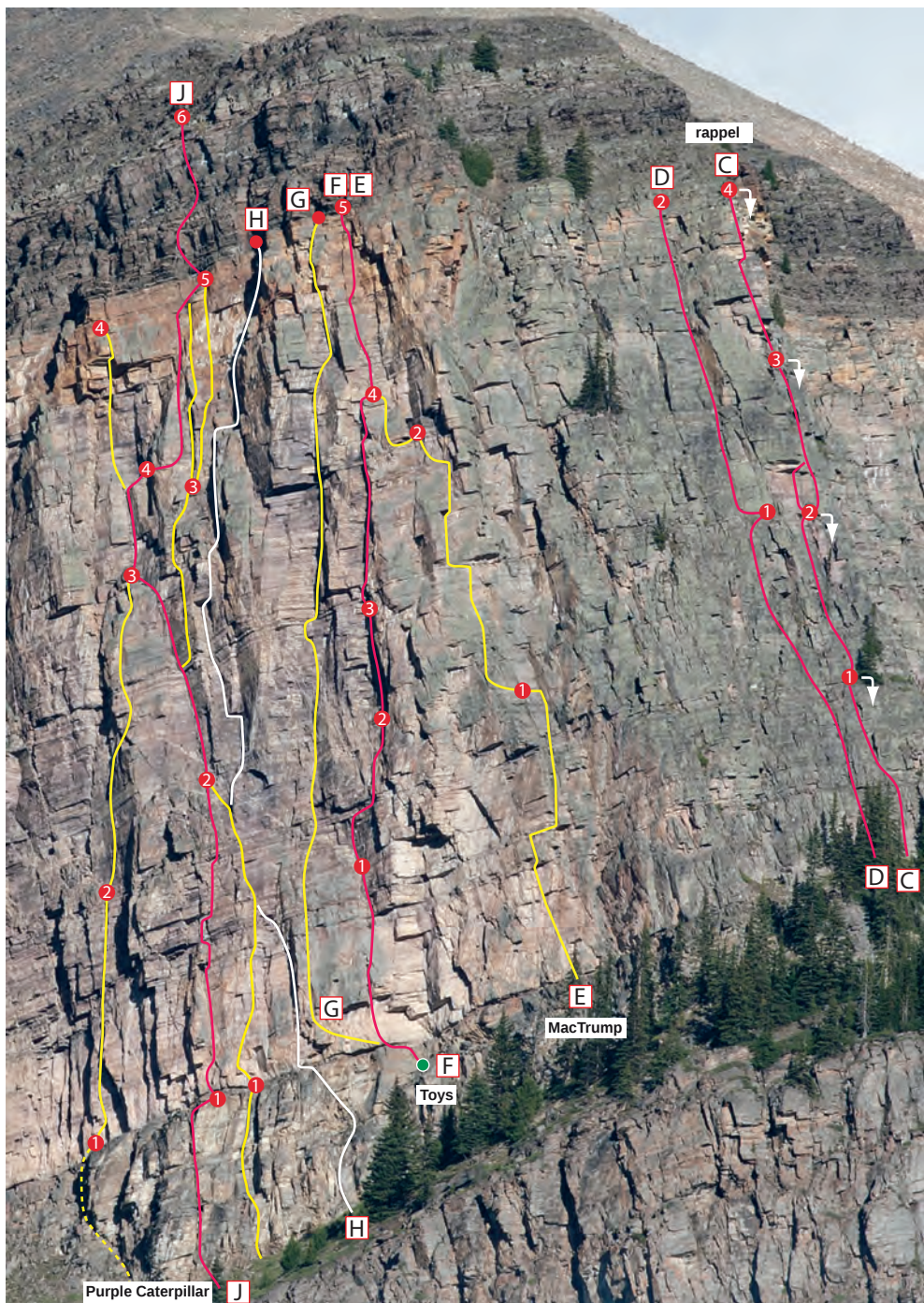
The Nose 120 m, 5.9 [D]

First recorded ascent: *Geoff Thornton-Trump and Isabelle Lemelin, 1995*

The main feature on this route is a prominent left-facing corner in the upper part of the cliff immediately left of the prow. The corner is reached by climbing a broken corner system directly above the trail where it begins to drop down after crossing the rib. The climb is a little broken and vegetated in its lower section, but the upper corner gives good climbing.

Start just left of the prow and follow a broken corner system for 60 m (5.6) to a break. Belay on the right. Move back left and climb up to the prominent, left-facing corner. Climb the corner and continue up to a fixed belay (two pitons and a wire) just below the top (60 m, 5.9). The fixed rappel route is on the prow immediately to the right.

Saddle Mountain - Main Face Right



MacTrump Route 150 m, 5.10b [E] **

Geoff Thornton-Trump and Kelly MacLeod, 1996

The first obvious line on the south face is a long, right-facing system of corners capped by a curving crack/chimney with an overhanging prow on its left side. The lower corner is vegetated and the **MacTrump Route** starts up a thin finger-crack 6-7 m to its left. Higher up, the route moves to the left of the overhanging prow and finishes near the final pitch of **Toys in the Attic**. It is of comparable quality to that route and is highly recommended. The standard Saddle mega-rack is required, including gear to 4 inches.

Start about 30 m down and left from the end of the face, below the upper overhanging prow. Scramble up to a narrow ledge and a piton belay about 5 m left of the large corner.

1. 50 m, 5.10a. Move left from the piton and climb a thin finger crack to a small roof about 15 m up. Climb over the roof and then traverse right along a break a little higher to gain a right-facing corner above a square-cut roof. The pitch can be split at this point. Continue up the right-facing corner past a small roof to a slabby section on the left. Move left to a small ledge on the slab with a good gear crack to belay.

1 alt. 50 m, 5.9. Start a few metres right of the piton, just left of the vegetated corner, and climb a left-slanting weakness to a corner leading up to the square-cut roof. Move left around the roof to join the original route in the right-facing corner.

2. 50 m, 5.10b. From the belay on the slab, traverse left past a small arête and climb up to a piton below a thin finger-flake. Make a few difficult moves up the flake to a small ledge on the left, level with a large overhang. Climb the right-facing corner directly above, past a small roof, to where it ends. Move up and left to a good belay in an alcove below a small, stepped roof.

3. 50 m, 5.9. Climb up directly out of the alcove and follow a small corner until it is possible to move left onto ledges. Go up to a shallow, left-facing corner (pitch 5 of **Toys in the Attic** is immediately to the left) and climb the corner to ledges with a continuation corner directly above. Climb either the corner or the wall on its left (same as **Toys in the Attic**), moving left at the top. Belay a short distance higher at the break below the shale band. The pitch can be split by moving left to ledges below the final off-width of **Toys in the Attic**. Also, it is possible to move left from the belay in the alcove, around an arête and up to join either the upper part of the route or the last pitch of **Toys in the Attic** a short distance further left.

4. 30+ m, 5.5. The shale band is not too difficult to negotiate at this point. Move up and then right on ledges to easy ground leading up to the top. The rappel descent route is on the rib on the right.

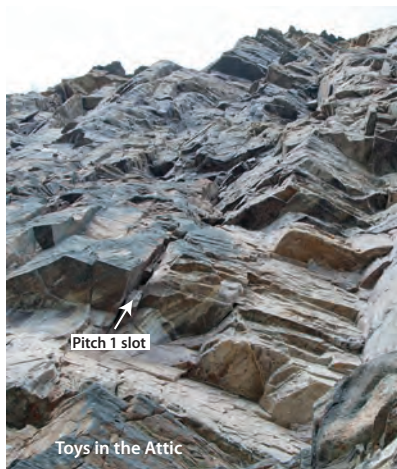
Toys In the Attic 160 m, 5.10c [F] **

Peter Arbic and Tim Auger, June 1988

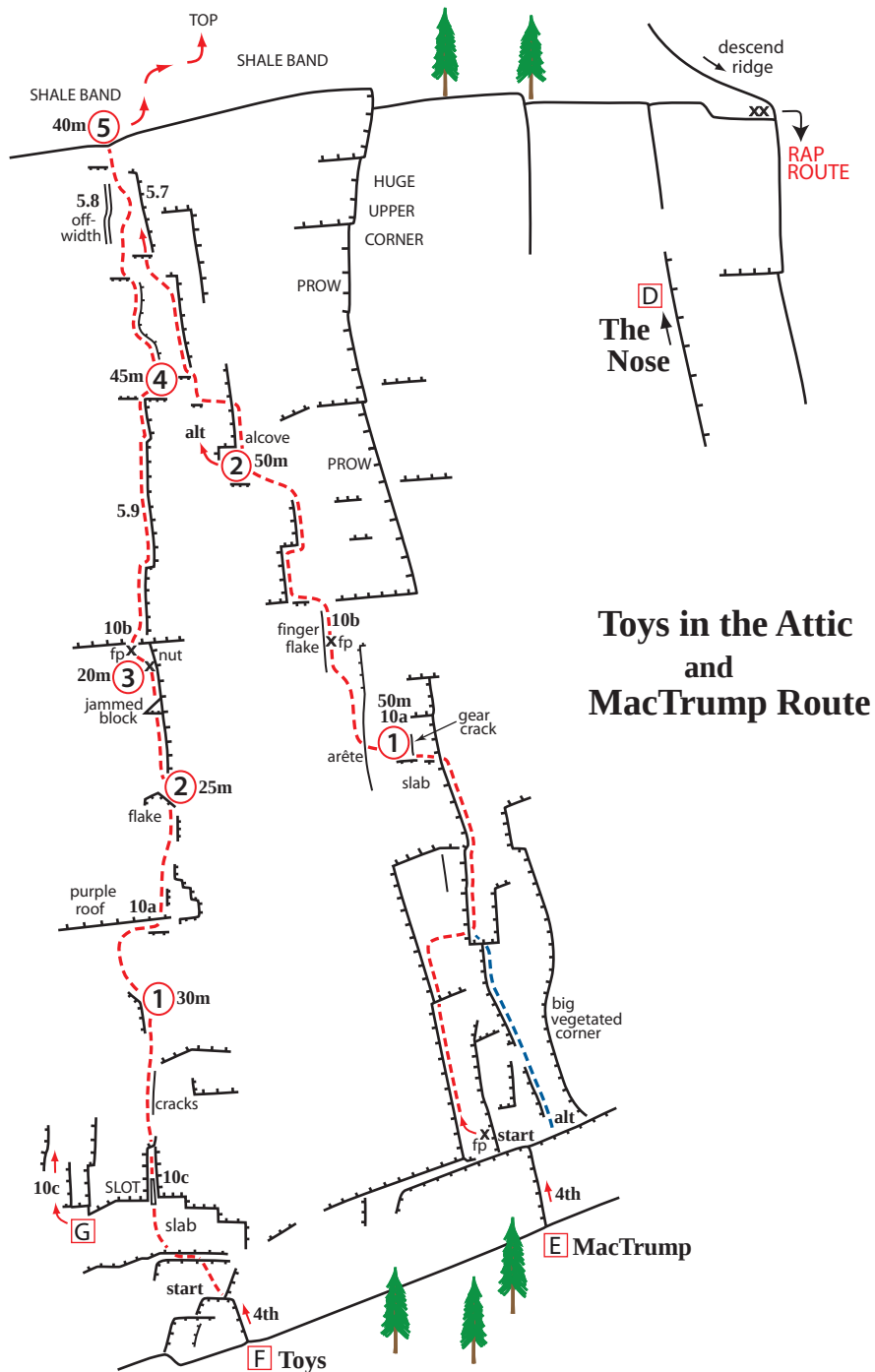
Toys in the Attic is the classic hard route of the cliff and one of the best rock climbs in the guidebook area. It climbs through a notorious slot in a lower band of overhangs to gain access to a superb system of corners in the upper part of the face. The slot flares down and outward and several difficult moves are required to gain more secure ground above. The pitch was originally graded 5.9, but constant upward revisions currently put it at 5.10c (or harder!).

The climb starts about 75 m down and left from the edge of the face below a prominent square-cut slot in a band of stepped overhangs a short distance up the cliff (see adjacent photograph). Scramble up for about 6 m to a good ledge below and right of the slot.

A good selection of gear is required, including an essential 3.5 Camalot or #4 Friend for the slot.



Saddle Mountain - Main Face Right



Chapter 13 LAKE LOUISE

The climb starts about 75 m down and left from the edge of the face below a prominent square-cut slot in a band of stepped overhangs a short distance up the cliff (see adjacent photograph). Scramble up for about 6 m to a good ledge below and right of the slot.

A good selection of gear is required, including an essential 3.5 Camalot or #4 Friend for the slot.

1. 30 m, 5.10c. Move left along the ledge and climb up to the roof. Make a few awkward moves up through the slot to good cracks on the wall above. Follow these up past a roof on the right to a belay in a right-facing corner.

2. 25 m, 5.10a. Continue up towards a long purple roof, moving left slightly and then back right to a small ledge below it. Traverse right and climb up through the roof into a steep corner above. Climb the corner to a small ledge and flake belay on the left.

3. 20 m, 5.9. Continue up the corner above past a large jammed block and belay at a fixed nut below a large roof.

4. 45 m, 5.9 Move left past a fixed piton and climb through a break in the roof (difficult stemming) to gain the long upper corner. Steep and strenuous climbing up the corner leads to a ledge on the right – the best pitch on the route.

5. 40 m, 5.8. Follow a shallow, left-facing corner directly above to a ledge below an off-width crack. Either go up the off-width (5.8), or a much better option is to climb the wall immediately to its right on superb in-cut edges (5.7). Belay at a good, horizontal gear crack at the base of the shale band.

6. 30+ m, 5.5. Finish through the shale band, as for the *MacTrump Route*. Move up and then right on ledges to easy ground leading up to the top. The rappel descent route is on the rib to the right.

Walk This Way 160 m, 5.10c [G]

Peter Arbic and Ward Robinson, 1990

Very little is known about this route except that it climbs a thin crack (5.10c) at the end of the roof a few metres left of *Toys in the Attic* and then follows the next corner system left of that route to the top of the crag. The line drawn on the photograph is approximate but the overall line is obvious. The climb appears to be more difficult in the upper section than *Toys in the Attic*.

Saddle Soar 200 m, 5.11b [H]

Peter Arbic and Geoff Creighton, 1990

Immediately left of the overhang on *Toys in the Attic* is a shallow bay set in lighter-coloured rock and topped by an arch. There is no detailed information available about the climb, but basically, it goes up the right side of the bay, crosses over left to break through the roof and follows a right-facing corner up to a high ledge (junction with *The Eagle and the Slug*). It then goes directly up the wall, past the left side of two small roofs (11b), heading for a V-groove capped by a square-cut overhang – an obvious feature in this part of the face. From a belay above the overhang, the original climb finished up a broken corner system on the right. However, it may be possible to join the *Right-hand Finish* (5.11a) of *The Eagle and the Slug* and end at its bolted station and rappel line just below the shale band.

Saddle Mountain - Main Face Right

The Eagle and the Slug 135 m, 5.11c [I] *

Jesse Horne, Bodhi Somersun and Tim Johansson, August 2011

This modern route was climbed without prior knowledge of existing climbs and crosses both **Purple Caterpillar** and **Saddle Soar**. It moves away from the major crack lines, however, onto the steeper faces, which are climbed using mixed bolt and gear protection. Descent is made by rappel, thus avoiding the shale band. The climb starts about 20 m down and left from **Toys in the Attic** at a row of bolts going up through the first rock band.

1. 30 m, 5.10a. Follow the bolts slightly left of a shallow, left-facing corner to a bolted station at the first break (10 bolts).

2. 40 m, 5.11c. Move up left into a corner/crack and climb up and then out left (bolt) around an edge on good holds. Continue up and back right to an arête which leads up towards the "Slug". Climb a difficult section past three more bolts to easier ground and a ledge higher up (junction with **Saddle Soar**). Climb either a corner on the left (5.10a) or an amazing finger crack on the right (5.10c) to ledges above. Ignore a rappel station on the right and continue up and left to a bolted station at the base of a long, left-facing corner (junction with **Purple Caterpillar**). There is another rappel station directly to the left.

3. 35 m, 5.11c. Follow the corner to a bolt (with a quicklink for rappel) on the right wall just above a small roof. Traverse out right using a finger crack (gear) to three bolts in a steep wall. Climb up past these (5.11c, strenuous) and continue up towards a roof, passing one more bolt. Climb through the roof on good gear and then up over two steps to a bolted station.

4. 30 m, 5.10a/5.11a. There are two options for this pitch. **Left-hand Finish** (5.10a): Step left and climb a crack, continuing past three bolts into a corner. Move right onto the face and go up past two more bolts. Continue up a series of small corners with good gear to a bolted station on the right below the shale band (5 bolts). **Right-hand Finish** (5.11a): Move right from the station and follow a line of bolts up the arête. Continue past a roof onto the face and climb steeply up to easier ground. Finish up the orange face above directly to the station (10 bolts).

Descent: Rappel the route (possible with one 70 m rope). On the second rappel, ensure that the rope does not run through a slot left of the station. The rappel is 37 m long but can be split at a single bolt and quicklink at the start of the traverse. The third rappel is short (15 m) and diagonals right (east) over ledges to a separate station – see photo/topo for **The Purple Caterpillar** next page.

The Purple Caterpillar 215 m, 5.10b [J] *

Jeff Relph and Jeff Perron, August 2000

About 25 m left of the slot on **Toys in the Attic** and a similar distance up the cliff is an undercut pillar about 15 m high protruding from the face. The route climbs up to this downward-pointing "caterpillar" and continues up a series of corners to the top. There is a long and quite difficult exit pitch through the shale band at this point, but this can now be avoided using the rappel route on the previous climb. The first five pitches are reported to be excellent and the sixth, on the shale, gives "good adventure climbing".

A good selection of gear to 4 inches is required, plus a few pitons for the shale band.

Start about 25 m down and left from **Toys in the Attic** in a corner just to the right of a short, overhanging prow that sticks out at the base of the cliff. The "purple caterpillar" is directly overhead.



Eagle and the Slug, pitch 4 (5.10a)
Climber: Bodhi Somersun
Photo: Jesse Horne

1. 25 m, 5.9. Either climb the corner directly to a ledge or reach the same point by climbing a blocky wall on the right and traversing across. Continue up a second, short corner to the break/ledge that runs along the base of the main cliff and traverse right below the “caterpillar” to a fixed piton in an alcove.

2. 50 m, 5.10b. Make a few difficult moves up to the “caterpillar” and then step right into the deep corner on its right-hand side. Climb the corner past a blocky roof and up into a short finger crack. Above the crack (5.10b), continue up past a piton to easier ground and a bolted station below a long, left-facing corner (junction with Eagle and the Slug).

3. 40 m, 5.8. Climb the open corner directly above and continue past some blocks and through a slot with a large chockstone to a ledge below a steep corner.

4. 15 m, 5.9. Climb the corner to a ledge on the right in an alcove.

5. 45 m, 5.9. Make a steep and exposed traverse right to reach a corner. Climb the corner using holds on the right wall to a ledge and continue up a second corner to a bolted station at a ledge just below the shale band (junction with *Eagle and the Slug*).

6. 40 m, 5.9. The next pitch is loose and difficult to protect. Move left and climb up past a fixed piton to a ledge. Continue up, trending slightly right, past a steep section to slabs which lead to broken ground at the top.

Dragonfly Effect 125m, 5.12a [J+]

Jeff Moore, Silas Ehlers and Craig Smith, September 2021

This modern, mixed-protection climb follows mainly natural features with good gear placements and bolts on some of the steeper, face-climbing sections. It climbs through the two stunning features, the *Dragonfly* face on the second pitch and a 3 m roof on the third and final pitch. The climb has a fixed, rappel descent from just below the shale band but two ropes are required (45 m rappels).

Start in a large bay to the left of *The Purple Caterpillar*, above and left of the short, overhanging prow near the base of that route. The *Dragonfly* feature is visible from this point with the two wings set in slightly lighter coloured rock and a double crack system outlining the tail above.

Approach: 15 m, low 5th class: Scramble up on the left side of the overhanging prow at the base of the cliff and then break out right onto a wide ledge leading back to the side of the prow. Scramble up a ramp-like, left-facing corner (protection options) to reach the large belay ledge and station below the first pitch.

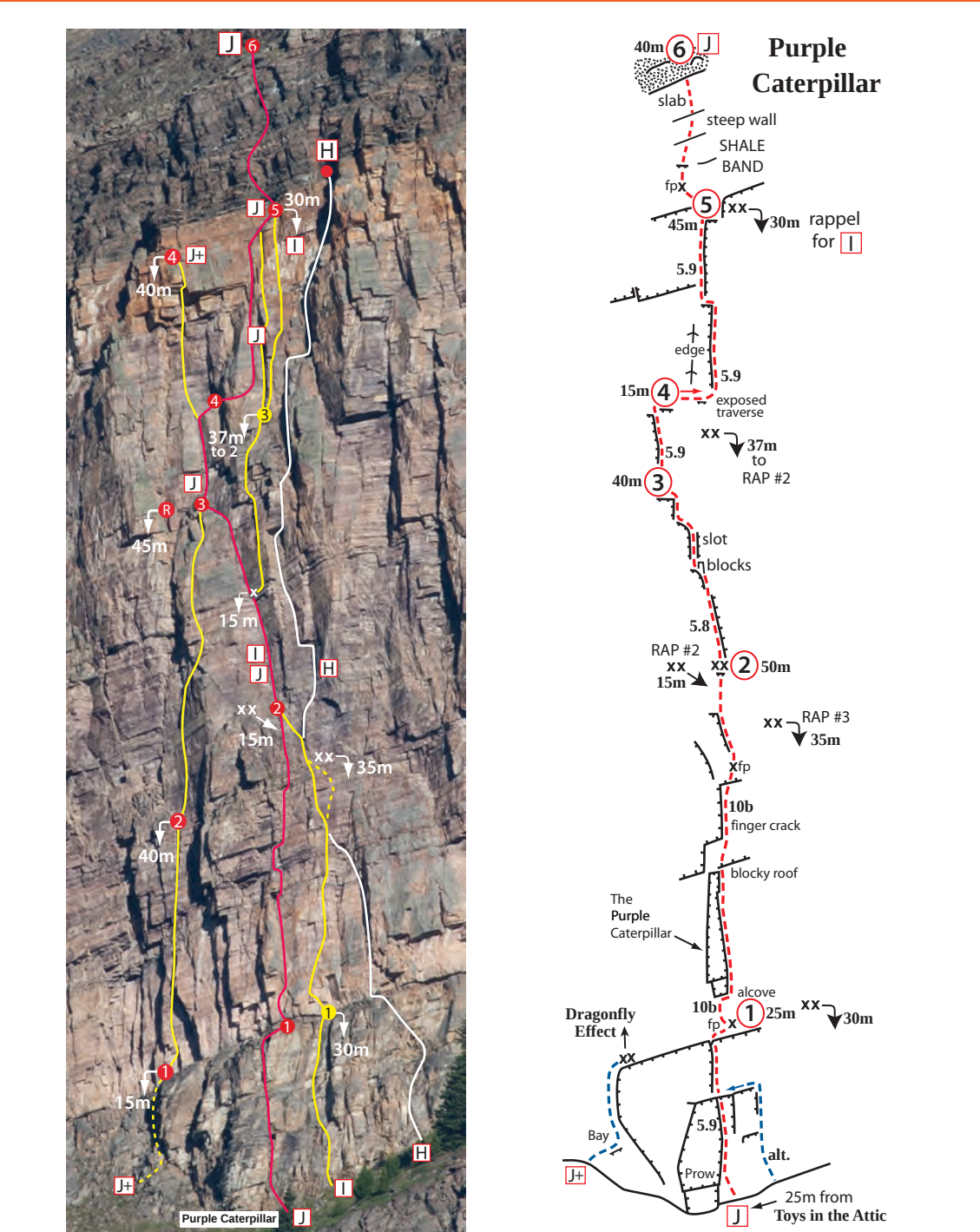
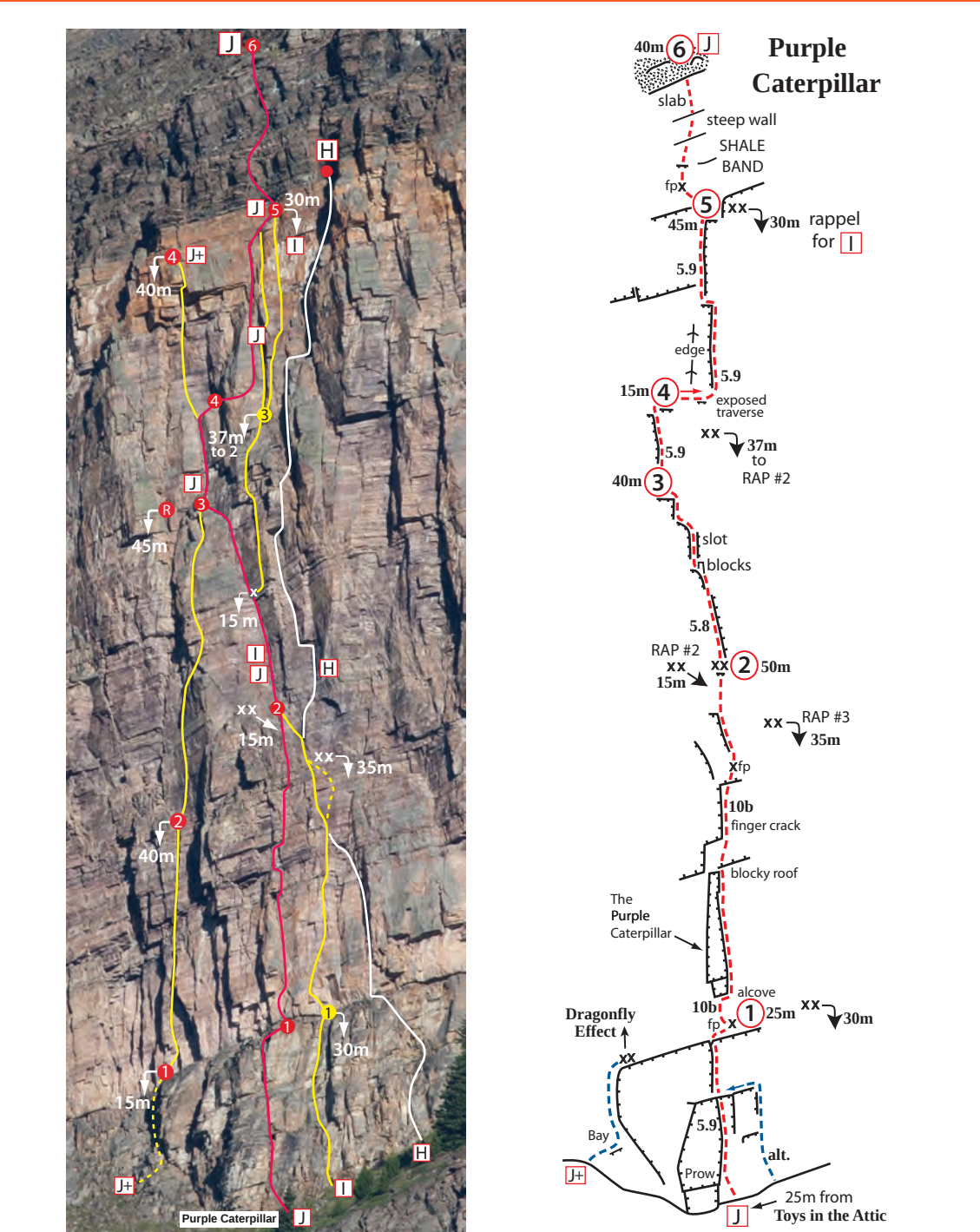
1. 40m, 5.11a. Just right of the belay, start up an inviting, left-facing corner capped by a small roof at about 4 m height and a bolt for protection. Follow the long crack system above to a weaker band (old station from an unknown climb/attempt). Step right and make a couple of face moves protected by bolts and then rejoin the crack system via a hand-crack in a left-facing corner. As the hand-crack widens make another step right and climb a bolt-protected face to the station.

2. 45m, 5.12a. Start up a corner system that begins just right of the belay and continue up a double crack system (the dragonfly tail) until it eventually ends. Exit with face moves on the right to reach a good rest beneath a roof. Move up and around the roof on its right side and then trend left to reach a bolt-protected flake. Climb the flake and continue with face moves until under a blocky roof. Climb the roof either on the left or directly through a weakness on the right to the belay above. The station on the left is on the rappel line for the route.

3. 40m, 5.11a. Climb the obvious left-facing corner and at the top make a move left (bolt protected) to join a crack system on the left that leads to the large and impressive roof. Traverse out on a good handrail to overcome the roof (bolts) and continue up to the final station.

Rappel: There is a separate rappel station at the bottom of the third pitch, left of the belay, which is directly below the top station. The rappel from above the roof is completely free-hanging and caution is required as it is 40 m in length. The next rappel is 45m in length and two ropes are required.

Saddle Mountain - Main Face Right





Main Face - Centre

The central portion of the face is considered to extend leftwards from the route *Welcome to the Jungle* to the detached pinnacle of *Saddle Spire* - see inset photograph and opposite. There are some older, less frequently climbed routes on this section of the face but recently, two fully equipped sport routes have been added which represents a departure from precious styles of "adventure" climbing. They are both steep and sustained outings, however, with a lot of good climbing up to 5.11c in difficulty.

Welcome to the Jungle 215 m, 5.10b [K]

Jeff Relf and Jeff Perron, 2000

The climb starts above, and slightly to the right of a prominent grove of large trees on a promontory, just beyond the first gully that runs all the way down the hillside to the scree. It begins in the centre of three corners, capped by a roof, and heads for a steep, black corner high up on the face. As on the previous route (*The Purple Caterpillar*), the final shale pitch is long and quite difficult, and a fixed rappel route would be worthwhile.

A good selection of gear to 4 inches is required (four pitches have wide cracks) and a few pitons are worth taking, primarily for the shale band.

1. 55 m, 5.10b. Climb the lower broken cliff band via a short, wide crack to reach the ledge below the main wall. The centre corner begins as a wide slot and is followed for about 35 m to a large roof where it ends. Traverse left below the roof to a ledge and move up to a higher ledge below a left-facing corner/crack.

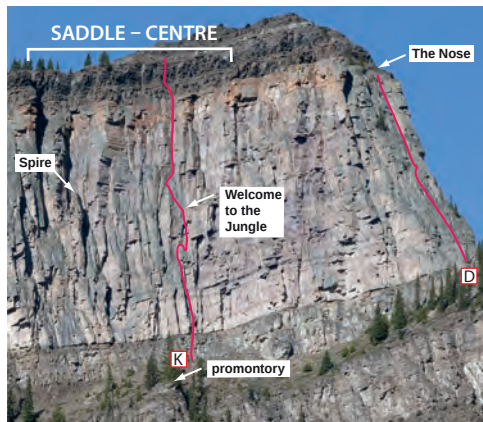
2. 20 m, 5.8. Climb to the top of the corner/crack which widens higher up and then drop down the other side to a ledge below a blocky wall and a roof.

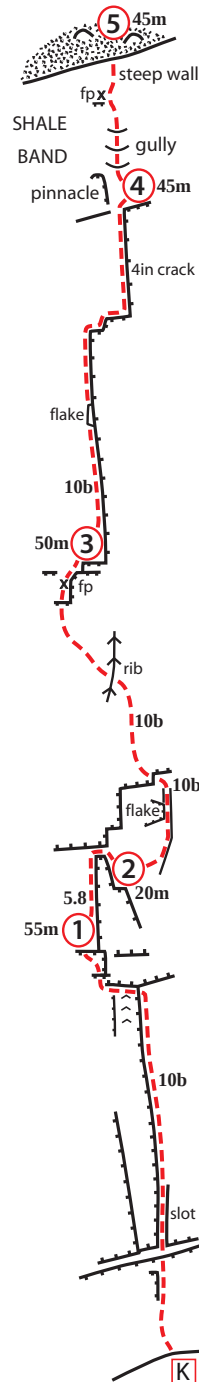
3. 50 m, 5.10b. Move right and climb the blocky wall past a big flake to the roof. Go left over the roof on good holds and continue up the face above angling left to a rib (minimal gear). Move left past the rib and continue up and left to ledges below the big, black-streaked corner. Climb up past a piton to a ledge at the base of the main corner.

4. 45 m, 5.10b. Climb the corner to its top and continue up a wide corner/crack on the right to a ledge just below the final shale band.

5. 45 m, 5.10a. The shale pitch is loose and difficult to protect. Climb the right-hand side of a small pinnacle and continue up into a broken gully. Where the gully steepens higher up, move left on to a ledge (piton) and then climb a steep wall to the top.

Topo: Next Page





**Welcome
to the
Jungle**

Jungle Book 185 m, 5.9 [L] ★

Tim Auger and Reg Bunyan, August 1987

The exact line taken by this route is uncertain, although the left-facing corner and long roof on the final pitch are easily identified. The climb and its companion route, **Flash Back**, both start directly above the treed promontory that juts out from a lower cliff band below the trail. Looking up from the promontory, there is a wide, right-facing corner slightly to the right in the lower part of the main cliff. It has a diagonal right-facing corner/crack in white rock on its right wall and a steep groove set in purple rock in the prow on its left-hand side. **Jungle Book** starts in the diagonal corner/crack (probably), and **Flash Back** climbs the steep groove in the prow. Both climbs head up and left to two corners that break through a long horizontal roof system near the top of the cliff. The description given below is taken from the original topo with a fair degree of interpretation. Some details may be incorrect and there is a finite chance that the route could be somewhere else entirely!



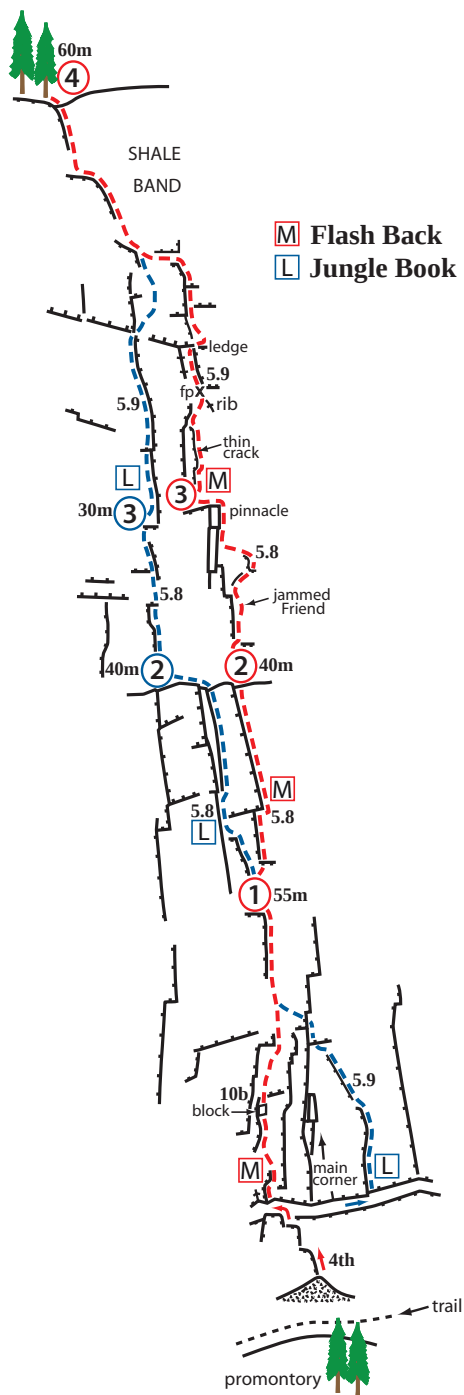
1. 55 m, 5.9. Scramble up to the band of overhangs that undercuts the main cliff at the base of the big corner. Traverse right on ledges to the right-facing corner/crack in the right wall and climb it, and the sloping crack above, to an overhang in the main corner. Move over up and left across the corner and go up to join **Flash Back**, where easier climbing leads to its first belay.

2. 40 m, 5.8. Move left and climb up for a short distance before traversing right and up to the base of a wide, right-facing crack. Climb the crack and then the corner above to a long ledge system. Belay on the left below a crack.

3. 30 m, 5.8. Climb the crack to where it ends at a small roof and then go directly up the wall above to a good ledge below a steep left-facing corner leading up to a break in a long, horizontal roof system.

4. 60 m, 5.9. Follow the corner to the roof and break through it on the right, where easier climbing leads up to the shale band. Either belay here or continue up an easy gully to a good tree at the top of the cliff.

Topo: Next page.



Flash Back 185 m, 5.10b [M] ★

Ian Perry and Chris Perry, August 2008

This route was first climbed during an attempt to locate *Jungle Book* and joins that route for the final part of pitch 1 and the first part of pitch 2. The *Jungle Book* start is easier and if combined with the upper pitches of *Flash Back* would make a more balanced route.

Topo: Opposite.

1. 55 m, 5.10b. Scramble up to the band of overhangs that undercuts the main cliff and start below a short V-corner in yellow rock, left of the main corner and directly beneath the steep groove in the prow. Climb over the overhang into the corner and continue up to the steep groove above. Stem up to a roof formed by a detached block and make steep moves up (5.10b) to a recess below another roof. Climb up and right around the roof onto greenish rock and continue more easily to a short, right-facing corner (*Jungle Book* comes across from the right at this point). Follow the corner to a good ledge on the left.

2. 40 m, 5.8. Move left and climb up for a short distance before traversing right and up past the base of a wide, right-facing crack (*Jungle Book*) to a good ledge at the base of a right-facing corner with a prominent, square-cut roof a short distance above. Climb the thin crack in the corner (5.8) to the roof, move out right beneath it and follow the easier groove above, past an intermediate ledge, to a large break.

3. 30 m, 5.8. Climb the broken corner above to where it steepens and there is a jammed Friend in a crack on the right wall. Make a few steep moves up and then go across the right wall on good holds to a ledge by a short corner. Make an awkward move up the corner to good holds on the left and traverse left into a corner. Climb the corner, which forms a small pinnacle, to a belay ledge on the left below a steep groove. The ledge at the top of the third pitch of *Jungle Book* is a short distance down and left from the belay, at the base of its steep upper corner.

4. 60 m, 5.9. Climb a thin crack in the right wall of the groove to where it rejoins the main corner. Move up and right onto a sharp, exposed rib and climb up past the left side of a small roof (piton) into a steep crack capped by a roof (5.9). Climb the crack to reached better holds higher up and make a steep exit up and right onto a ledge. Go up to a roof and climb over it on good holds to an obvious traverse line leading left to a wide, easy corner (the pitch could be split here). Climb up to the shale band and continue up a shattered, easy gully to a good tree on the left at the top.



Sport Climbs - Main Face Centre

The next two climbs are both sport routes which are entirely bolt-protected and can be descended by rap-pel. They were established by different first ascent parties at roughly the same time and follow parallel lines which in places are quite close to one another. The overall difficulty is about the same on each, although the bolt spacing is a little more friendly on *Dodging Wives*. Both are excellent climbs.

The location of the start of each route is shown on the adjacent photograph which is taken from a highpoint in the trail where it crosses a small promontory. For *Dodging Wives*, scramble up for a short distance directly above the promontory to a ledge below a short, left-facing corner with a single belay bolt on its right wall. *Fools in the Rain* starts higher up on the right, at a ledge below a small roof (single belay bolt just above).

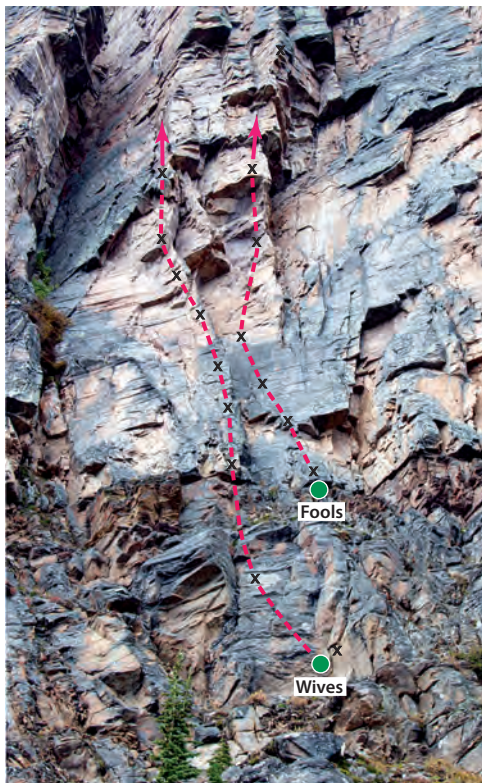
Dodging Wives 130 m, 5.11b/c (sport)

[X] ***

Jesse Horne, Evgenii Kozhushko and Ben Greenwood, August 2013

Start at the lower ledge a short distance above the trail - as described above.

1. 50 m, 5.10b/c. (23 bolts). Follow a line of bolts on the prow trending left to a small roof. Move past the roof with difficulty and continue up a nice layback flake and intermittent crack system until level with a large roof and a rappel station farther right. Follow the bolt line up and slightly right via sustained face climbing to the left side of the prow and then go up to the station. Just to the right is the station for *Fools in the Rain*.



Saddle Mountain – Main Face Centre

2. 20m, 5.11b. (10 bolts). Begin up a corner with a 1-2" crack to clip the first bolt on the left. Move left onto a blank-looking slab where a few technical moves lead to easier ground and up to a station in a small, overhung bay.

3. 40 m, 5.11c. (14 bolts). Start up the obvious corner and make an awkward first clip on the face. Once out of the corner, pull out onto the face and traverse up and left to an arete. Turn the arête and follow an intermittent crack system on its left side making a difficult move back right higher up onto the arête itself. Hard, thin climbing up the arête eventually eases and the station is reached.

4. 20 m, 5.10b. (11 bolts). Climb straight above the belay passing a couple of small, but engaging, roofs to a station below the start of the shale band.

Descend in five rappels (30m) using the intermediate station between the two routes to split the first pitch - see photo/topo. The second rappel from the top is a full 30 m and requires a bit of a swing to reach the next station.

Fools in the Rain 120 m, 5.11c (sport)

[Y] **

Sonnie Trotter, Derek Galloway and Lydia Zamorano,
September 2012

Start: Scramble up to the higher ledge on the right a short distance above the trail, as described above.

1. 50 m, 5.11a. (15 bolts). Follow the first few bolts up and left into a purple bay and onto a steep prow, left of a big, right-facing corner. Climb through a series roofs on the prow (some awkward clips), past an intermediate rappel station on the left, and up via a cracked wall on the right side of the arete to a bolted station on a ledge. The station on the left is for *Dodging Wives*.

2. 40 m, 5.11b. Climb the shallow corner above with difficulty (third bolt is high). Go up to an overhang and then move out right onto the prow. Follow the prow (7th bolt hidden on the right) and pass an overhang higher up on its left side. Continue up on nice in-cut edges to a station at a ledge, above and left of the base of the big, left-facing corner on the last pitch of *Jungle Book*.

3. 30 m, 5.11c. Continue straight up the wall past several small overlaps to an obvious break in the large overhang above. Climb through this and continue up to a rappel station just below the shale band.

Descend in four rappels (35 m) using the intermediate station between the two routes to split the first pitch - see photo/topo.



Saddle Spire – Corner Finish 190 m, 5.9

Geoff Thornton-Trump, Mike Verwey
and Barry Furlong, 1993

[N] ★

Saddle Spire is not easy to see from below and is best located soon after rounding the edge of the buttress from below *Toys in the Attic*. It stands out as a large blocky pinnacle detached from the face at about half height, near the far left end of the cliff. The base of the spire can be reached in two pitches and the climb finished either up the big corner system on the left or directly from the notch after climbing the spire. These are described separately as the **Corner Finish** and the **Spire Finish**. A good selection of gear to 3½ inches is required.

The climb starts below and right of the pinnacle, near a group of three small trees and below a prominent, deep, right-facing chimney with a bush growing in it. Scramble up and left to the left end of the overhangs that undercut the main face and set up a belay there.

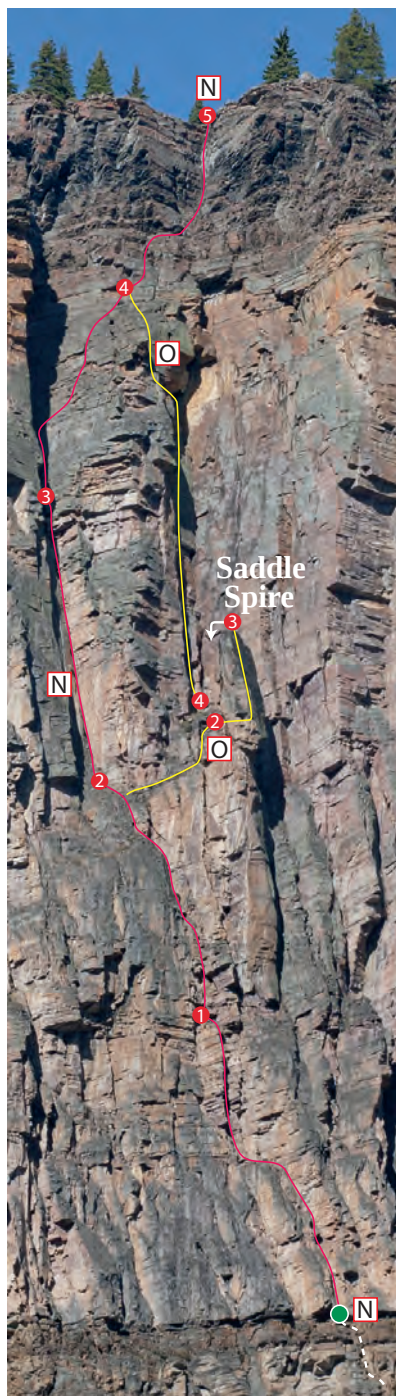
1. 50 m, 5.9. Climb the corner, which is quite sustained (small gear), to a large ledge on the left. Continue up the steeper corner above to a belay on the left under a roof.

2. 40 m, 5.8. Climb a steep, blocky section to the upper corners. Follow these to a large ledge system that leads across right towards the **Spire**. Either belay on the left below a steep, in-cut corner or on the right if the **Spire Finish** is to be climbed.

3. 40 m, 5.9. Climb the steep, in-cut corner to its top and move up into a blocky alcove at the base of the huge upper corner.

4. 30 m, 5.8. Climb the big corner for a short distance and then move onto the right wall following intermittent cracks (run-out) to a good ledge about 10 m below the shale band.

5. 30 m, 5.6. Climb up to the shale band and move up right to a wide, shattered corner. Go up this to a tree belay at the top.



Saddle Mountain – Main Face Centre

Spire & Spire Finish 210 m, 5.10a

Geoff Thornton-Trump
and Dean Flick, 1995

[O] ★

To climb the spire itself, traverse right from the top of pitch 2 along the big ledge system and move up to a belay below a huge chockstone at an obvious traverse line (horizontal crack) leading out right past a bolt to the outside edge of the spire.

3. 15 m, 5.10a. Clip the bolt and make a very committing hand traverse right on sloping holds and poor feet, past a piton, to the outside edge. Take a rest, place some gear and then climb cracks in the face (5.8) to the top of the spire and a bolt belay.

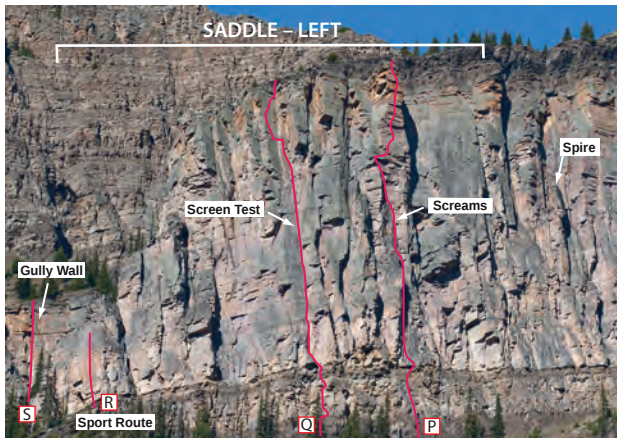
4. 10 m. Rappel into the notch.

5. 55 m, 5.9. From the notch, climb a steep crack system on the left side of the wide, left-facing corner up to large roofs. Traverse left onto the outside face and climb a crack up to the ledge at the top of pitch 4 of *Corner Finish*, 10 m below the shale band.

6. 30 m, 5.6. Climb the final pitch of *Corner Finish* to the top.



Main Face – Left



The left portion of the face extends from the big overhanging prow of *Screams from the Balcony* to the far west end of the cliff. It includes a small sport-climbing area where there is currently only one route, and an obscure crack climb on the far side of *South Gully* – see photograph.

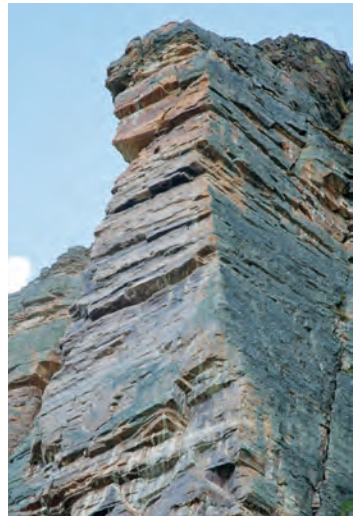
Currently (2025), there are three climbs left of the big prow, the earlier route *Screen Test*, and two newer ones situated on each side. They are all predominantly gear-protected routes, climbed ground-up, that go the full height of the cliff.

Screams from the Balcony 175 m, 5.11b [P] **

Andrew Langsford and Mike Vervey, July 2001

Screams from the Balcony climbs the square-cut, overhanging prow which is very prominent near the left end of the cliff when the face first comes into view. The final pitch goes up a series of stepped overhangs and must be one of the most sensational anywhere! The position is unparalleled, with extreme exposure and the *North Face of Mount Temple* as a backdrop. See inset photograph.

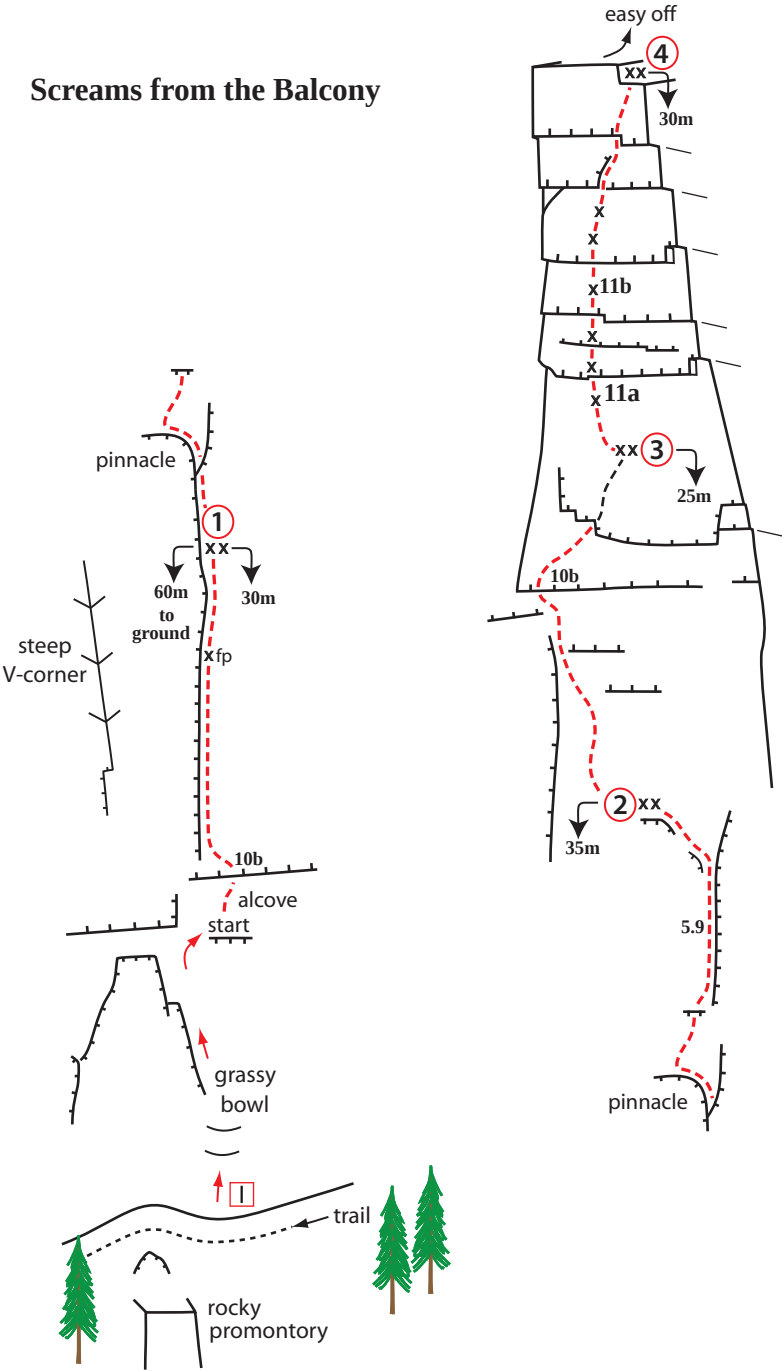
The climb starts about 300 m left of *Toys in the Attic* above an obvious rocky promontory just below the trail. The upper prow is directly overhead. A normal-sized rack to 4 inches is required (some doubles are useful) with at least 6 quickdraws for the bolts on the final pitch. All the stations are bolted and it is possible to rappel the route with double ropes. Some sling material may be required and the rappel is exposed. Alternatively, the upper shale band is small at this point and a walk-off descent can be made to the left.

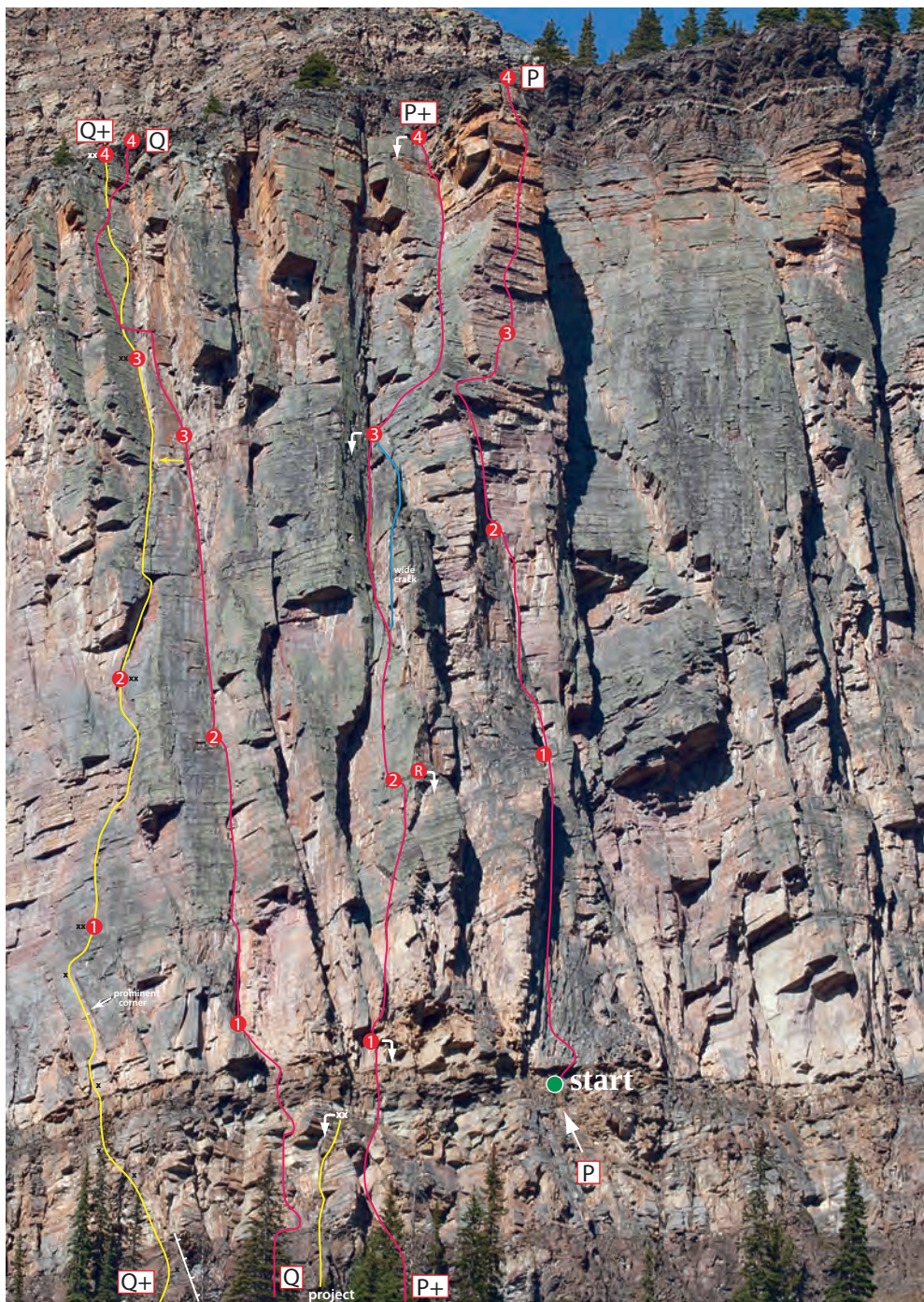


1. **40 m, 4th.** Scramble up a broken, shallow bowl (easy 5th class) and belay in an alcove under a roof, below and to the right of a long, right-facing corner (a bolt belay would be useful here).
2. **30 m, 5.10b.** Climb loose rock up to the roof and move right to a break in more solid rock. Make a difficult move up over the roof (5.10b) and then go back left into the corner. Follow the corner past a piton higher up to a bolted station.
3. **45 m, 5.9.** Climb to the top of the corner, which forms a small pinnacle, and continue up the face above to a corner on the right. Follow the corner (5.9) until an exit left can be made to a bolted station.
4. **30 m, 5.10b.** Go up left from the belay and climb a shallow corner that curves up left onto the rib. A long overhang crosses the face directly above. Move left to a break in the overhang and climb through it (5.10b) onto the face above. Go up and right to a small alcove on the left side of an overlap, move right onto the outer face and make a series of thin moves up to a bolted station.
5. **30 m, 5.11b.** Make some tricky moves up past the first bolt (5.11a) and continue over a series of spectacular roofs, following the bolts (5.11b at fourth bolt) until an exit crack leads to the final station just below the top – awesome!

Saddle Mountain – Main Face Left

Screams from the Balcony





Saddle Mountain – Main Face Left

Orientation: After passing beneath the overhanging prow of *Screams from the Balcony*, the trail ends at a steep drop-off into a gully and it is necessary to scramble up for a few metres and begin a higher traverse along rock ledges. After some awkward moves around a bulge and a series of foot ledges the trail goes up around a high point on a ridge and then angles down to a group of large trees close to the face. The next three climbs are located as follows: the climb *Tiny But Tough* begins at the end of the footledges before the trail climbs up to the ridge, *Screen Test* starts a few metres down on the far side of the ridge, and *Greek Wedding* begins at the group of large trees 30 m down from the ridge.

Tiny But Tough 170 m, 5.10b [P+]

Mike Stuart and Kris Irwin, August 2020

Locate the climb as described above, just beyond the awkward bulge on the trail and just before the ridge. There are no protection bolts in between anchors and all the climbing is on good gear.

Gear: A double rack to 3", one 4" and 13-14 extendable draws.

- 1. 30m, 5.8.** Climb straight up the shale band moving left when the climbing steepens, then back right and straight up to a small stance and ring bolts below an overhang.
- 2. 42m, 5.10b.** Climb straight up from the belay a couple of meters, then move right through blocky orange rock and make exposed moves up and right to get into the main corner system. Climb up the main corner a few meters before stepping right onto the steep wall above. Climb this wall on good edges and good gear for 30m to the base of a hand crack. Gear belay.
- 3. 45m, 5.10a.** Climb the hand crack straight up from the belay, a few meters right of the main corner and continue up into the next main vegetated corner. Either follow the corner for 30m to a good ledge and a ring-bolt station or climb the obvious wide crack on the right wall (5" cam needed) to a small ledge and a large block. Step right and climb straight up to the same ledge and ring-bolt station.
- 4. 52m, 5.8.** Move up and right on a lichen covered wall right of the corner or climb directly above the belay to a short hand crack and traverse right under a roof and into the next corner. Climb up trending left and exit to ring bolts on the left wall.

Descent: Make three rappels with two 60m ropes, and one 30m rappel to ground. On the second rappel locate a 2-ring bolt station, 5 m right of the second pitch gear belay, as shown on the crag photo.

Screen Test 175 m, 5.9 [Q] *

Ian Perry and Chris Perry, July 2010

The route follows an attractive corner line near the west end of the cliff just beyond an awkward section on the trail where it crosses a small gully and then passes over a small ridge (see **Orientation** above). The corner begins partway up the cliff and is best located above the lower broken section by walking out for some distance away from the cliff.

Start below and slightly right of the upper corner on a broken face to the right of a prominent corner in the lower cliff band.

- 1. 40 m, 5.8.** Scramble up a broken lower section of dark-coloured rock to a ledge angling across to the right. Traverse right along it and make a few awkward moves up and left to reach easier ground. Continue up and slightly left past the left side of a small roof to a short V-groove capped by an overhang. Climb around the right-hand side of the overhang and go up to a steep, blocky band of rock. Move steeply up and left through it and then climb a short, right-facing corner on the right. An easy groove leads up to a steep, right-angled corner with a perfect belay ledge on the left.
- 2. 40 m, 5.9.** Climb the steep finger crack at the back of the corner for about 10 m until the angle eases. (It may be possible to avoid this section by moving left around the outside edge and climbing an easier face – possibly difficult to protect and less interesting.) Continue up the corner on mainly good holds to a large block on a square-cut ledge on the left.
- 3. 45 m, 5.8.** Nice climbing up the corner leads past a steeper section of yellow rock to a wide, left-facing chimney. Belay in the chimney a few metres above a hand-traverse line leading left into another left-facing corner. Alternatively, the hand traverse line could be followed left into the corner to join *Greek Wedding* and then its bolted station a little higher - see photo/topo.

4. 50 m, 5.8. Move left onto the face and go up to an arête overlooking the second corner line. Make a few steep moves up and then traverse left across the corner to a small ledge a little higher up on its left wall. Follow a line of good holds on the left wall, up and left slightly at first and then trending back right into the top of the corner. Continue easily to broken rock and a small tree at the top of the cliff. There is a bolted station on the left for **Greek Wedding** - see photo/topo.

Descend easily to the left via **South Gully**.

Greek Wedding 165 m, 5.10c [Q+] *

Jeff Moore and Silas Ehlers, August 2013

The climb starts about 25 m left of **Screen Test** at a group of large trees growing close to the face - see **Orientation** above. It starts on the left wall of prominent left-facing corner set in white-painted rock (the first bolt is visible about 8 m up) and aims for an attractive, left-leaning corner on the main face just above the lower, broken cliff band. It is named after the number of "dinner plates" that were smashed to pieces while cleaning the first pitch on a ground-up ascent. The first pitch requires some navigation through the weaker band (aided by a few bolts) but the climbing on the upper pitches is excellent. The route wanders onto **Screen Test** near the finish and a more independent line could probably be climbed by trending left from partway up the third pitch and finishing up a large corner system.

1. 50m, 5.10b. (5 bolts) Start up an open-book corner that leads up towards the slanting, left-facing corner noted above. Climb through the weak band of rock, which gradually improves, to gain the start of the corner. Once the corner ends (final bolt), move up and right to a bolted belay.

2. 35m, 5.10a. Continue up a beautiful crack system that offers solid protection throughout. Move left higher up to a station below a large roof.

3. 50m, 5.10c. Move back right into the crack system and climb up around the right-hand side of the roof. Interesting climbing and good protection lead up into an easier crack system which is followed, trending slightly right, to a long, left-facing corner. Follow this to a bolted belay on the right.

4. 30m, 5.8. Climb up to a small ledge on the left wall (junction with **Screen Test**) and continue on good holds moving right towards the main corner at first and then left towards a bolted station at the top (see photo/topo for the slightly different lines taken by this route and **Screen Test**).

Descent: The route can be rappelled with two ropes but there is an easy walk-off descent to the left via **South Gully**.

Cragmont 30 m, 5.12a (sport – 12 bolts) [R] *

Jesse Horne, August 2011

This is the only single-pitch sport route on the cliff and is situated on a small buttress at the far left end. The buttress gets the sun for longer than the main cliff and the climb is reported to be "a good burn if you feel you need it" at the end of the day. The climb is sustained for the first 20 m and then eases to 5.9 to the anchors.

Back In the Day 60 m, 5.10 [S]

Joe Buszowski and Peter Arbic, 1990

This obscure route follows a prominent crack system in the gully wall directly across from the sport route at the base of **South Gully**. The crack extends the full height of the cliff, on the right-hand side of a bay, and there is an old sling on a ledge at two-thirds height. The climb was completed but no other information is available.