

Guide's Rock Update 2015

The Banff Climber's Club did the following updates in the summer of 2015:

For Sure

With permission of the first ascensionist, a few bolts were added to reduce runouts on the original pitch. It is a well-protected 5.8 lead now and suitable for someone who would be challenged by the grade. There is one bolt that may seem extraneous but it can be used as a directional to get to the first anchor of Aftonroe and this would avoid the tricky friction crux of For Sure. The anchor was updated.

A short bolt-protected second pitch was added that leads into the top of the second pitch of Aftonroe. Make a crux move above the anchor (5.8), then traverse right on a big ledge to get to the last bolt of Aftonroe pitch two.

Cheese Grater

With permission of the first ascensionists a few bolts were moved/added to better protect the climbing on the original first pitch. The anchors were updated on both original pitches.

Three additional pitches were added and these lead past the big ledge halfway up the cliff and join Aftonroe at the top of that route's pitch 5. An updated description follows:

Cheese Grater 5.8+

10 QDs

Not as high-quality as Aftonroe but nevertheless a fun outing that is harder than its neighbour. The 8+ rating is given for a few tenuous but well-protected moves on the first pitch. If you are comfortable with high-angle friction climbing you may feel it is easy, if you have been spending too much time pulling on plastic in the gym it may feel harder!

Start: This is the furthest left bolt line. Begin at the end of the gravelly ledges at the base of the cliff, where it drops off into the gully. There is a single belay bolt at the base of the route.

1. 5.8+ 25 m. Climb high angle friction and edges, initially slightly right of the bolts. At the fifth bolt step left and get into a stem between two runnels (crux). A few moves up you get good finger edges. Continue past bolts to the ledge above.

2. 5.7, 20 m. Go up to an overhang and a bolt. Either pull over the roof (5.7) or climb to the left of it (easier). Above there is slab climbing with short steeper bits, protected by bolts. Climbing on the left is a bit easier (5.6) than climbing directly on the bolt line (5.7).

3. 5.8, 30 m. Climb the corner past two bolts. Scramble across a ledge to another bolt at the start of a steep wall with a wide crack and ear of rock on the left. Some thought provoking and potentially awkward climbing utilizing the ear, the wide crack and the face on the right leads past 2 more bolts. Make a few moves up a break then step right to below a smooth face. Climb this past two bolts to a small ledge.

4. 5.8, 30 m. Ascend to a bolt, then move left into a grey runnel. A few moves up this then step back right at the second bolt. Now go up steep friction climbing with some good edges for the fingers and several more bolts.

Either rappel the route with one 60 m rope or continue on to Aftonroe:

5. 5.3, 20 m. Carefully avoiding the gravel, walk up the ledge to a short corner on the right. Clip a bolt and move up the corner to an easy ledge. Traverse the ledge right past bolts to the top of pitch 5 of Aftonroe. Finish on that route.

Take it for Granite

With permission of the surviving first ascensionist the original two protection bolts and a fixed piton were replaced. It is still runout by modern standards. The anchor as shown at the top of pitch 1 in the Banff Rock guide was updated.