

Path of the Goatman ** 5.11b, 345m

Andy Genereux & Peter Gatzsch June, 2006

This climb is located on the upper reaches of Goat Mountain following the good grey rock left of the climb "The Wild Colonial Boys" described in "Bow Valley Rock" page 87. The route has been put up in the modern "Mixed Trad Style" that is a mixture of protection bolts with extensive natural protection. All bolts were installed while on lead using a power drill sans hooks. All belays but the final one are bolted. The rock on this climb is overall quite good with a few sections requiring a more delicate touch. The pitches are generally quite long, due to the traveling nature of the upper half of the climb above the third pitch retreat becomes quite difficult if not impossible without a bolt kit. Parties will require an extensive rack to 4" with 16-18 draws several being longer. Allow about 7 hrs. for a competent party to ascend this climb.

Approach: takes approximately two hours via the the Goat/Yamnuska Col from the Yamnuska parking lot using the "climbers approach trail" and the "base trail" below Yamnuska's south face and traveling west. From the top of the Col travel west to the buttress on the eastern most reach of Goat Mountain and drop left off the ridge onto the scree slope below the south face. Traverse westward along the base of the face for 10 minutes to reach the start of the climb. Locate a small spruce tree on a ledge about 25m above the base of the cliff below some impressive grey rock. Scramble up a shallow groove to the tree and locate a single bolt on a ledge left of the tree to belay.

Descent: drop down to a faint trail 25m below the top edge and head eastward on continuous scrambling some of it upward but mostly downward to regain the Goat/Yamnuska Col allow about a half hour to reach this point and then return via the Yamnuska trails to the parking lot roughly an hour from the Col.

P1: 5.5, 25m. Easy but loose climbing up a shallow groove to gain a broken ledge. Move up to the small spruce tree and locate a single bolt to belay above a ledge to the left of the tree.

P2: 5.11b, 50m. Trend up and left from the belay for 15m to a bolt leading up to a shallow corner. Climb into the corner and move left to a small pillar as the corner ends. From the bolt above the pillar make a difficult series of thin moves up and right to a small hidden rib (crux or A0 off the bolt to reach the rib makes the pitch 5.10c/A0). Continue up and then right past bolts to a semi-hanging belay.

P3: 5.10c, 55m. Move right to a bolt, slightly right again make thin moves up to a second bolt and then traverse right for 5m to the base of a shallow right facing dihedral. Climb the corner sustained for 15m and move rightward 10m to a shaky, blocky pillar.

Climb to the top of the pillar and make a series of thin moves past two final bolts to gain a semi-hanging belay.

P4: 5.10b, 60m. Move right to a bolt and make thin moves up and slightly left to a second bolt. Awkward moves lead back right to gain a shallow corner. Climb the corner and take a shallow rising traverse leftward for 20m on generally easy ground. Step down and cross a bay to reach an obvious crack splitting a curving slab. Climb the crack which eases after a few meters to a bolted belay.

P5: 5.10c, 55m. Traverse left for 10m and stem an overhanging slot and crack. At the top of the slot traverse leftward for 10m to a bolt. Move left and up to a second bolt make thin moves to enter a shallow corner. Awkward moves past a tight slot to gain a shallow groove/corner. From small cam placements in the mid section of the corner make a long reach left to gain easier climbing moving back right into the corner a few moves above. Positive moves through a steep bulge to a bolt then traverse left to a good belay on ledge.

P6: 5.9, 40m. Traverse leftward on a series of rising ledges to a bolt in a bay with a right facing corner to the left. Take the easy loose gully right until a good foot rail can be taken left to a bolt. Move left into the right facing corner and climb cracks up to a broken ledge with a bolted belay on the left.

P7: 5.8, 45m. Take the right leaning dihedral 3m right of the belay to the top of the wall. This pitch has less desirable rock and requires a delicate touch. There is good protection available on larger cams. Belay on the backside off natural gear.

A) Path Of The Goatman *

5.11b, 330m, rack to 4"
16+ draws several long

B) The Wild Colonial Boys
5.10c, 295m



