

# Cascade Mountain – Bankhead Buttress

## Purple Haze in the Penthouse 5.10d/11a, 75m

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After climbing *Valley View* a few years ago, one of the first ascentionists saw more climbing potential above its final ledge. In the spring of 2013 the team pushed up a pitch and a half before they had to retreat due to lack of energy and courage so early in the rock climbing season. They returned a few month later, feeling stronger and more confident and pushed the route to the top. This route was put up on lead and all bolts except one were drilled free and without using any aid. Bolts on the easier sections are generously spaced, but all crux moves are bolt protected. You should be confident leading at the grade.

### Gear:

Eight quickdraws, including two longer ones for pitch one, are sufficient. If you plan to link pitches on *Valley View*, or are climbing *The Lost 500*, bring nine quickdraws. Some parties may also want to bring a small selection of medium gear (.75" to 2") for additional protection on pitch one.

### Approach:

From the Lake Minnewanka road, continue past *Mother's Day Buttress* and the turn-off to *Two Jack Lake* on the right hand side. Find a prominent drainage and a gravel parking area just past it on the north (left) side of the road. The distance from the Texas gate at the Trans Canada Highway to the parking area is 1.1 km. Hike up the drainage, following a good trail on its east side. Continue through an open area to reach the base of the cliffs just to the right of the deep gully that separates it from *Mothers Day Buttress*. Follow the trail diagonally up and right below the cliffs to where it crosses a small scree gully and climbs its right-hand bank. A short distance higher up the trail begins to level off below the cliff. Scramble up a shallow, low-angled bay leading up to the start of "*Valley View*" and "*The Lost 500*". Climb one of these routes to reach the big ledge at the end of *Valley View*. Information about this climbs can be obtained in Chris Perry's Banff Rock guide book (*Valley View*) or on [www.tabvar.org](http://www.tabvar.org) (*The Lost 500*). The easiest and fastest way to get up to the beginning of Purple Haze is to climb *Valley View* (5.9) and link the pitches (~2 hrs from the car).



**Pitch 1 - 5.10a/b R**

Start about 10m right of the top of *Valley View* in between two trees. Climb up easy slabs (5.5) for about 15m to reach the first bolt. Continue climbing up heading for the dihedral underneath a big roof (piton). Stem up the dihedral (bolt) and traverse right underneath the roof (bolt) to a bolted station. While traversing underneath the roof avoid the lowest hollow handholds directly below the roof, but use the more solid ones just above. (30m; 3 bolts, 1 piton)

**Pitch 2 - 5.10d/11a**

Follow the bolt line, climbing the first roof (10.d/11a) on extremely sharp rock. Watch for loose rocks below the second roof, that can be easily avoided. Climb the second roof (10c/d) and follow the bolt line ending up on a bolted station slightly right of the last bolt on a small ledge. (25m; 8 bolts)

**Pitch 3 - 5.7 R**

Clip the first bolt and head left (5.7), cruising up over easy slabs (5.6) and passing two bolts to exit up and right into a groove. Top out and belay from a bolted station on a big block just a few meters up. (25m; 3 bolts)

**Descent:**

The route can be rapped using a 60m rope. After rapping the route, follow the regular *Valley View* descent described in Chris Perry's guide book.

