

Apollo (South Ridge of Mt. Hector) - 5.9

This is the left skyline of Mt. Hector that is viewed when driving east towards Lake Louise



Apollo (South Ridge of Mt. Hector) - 5.9

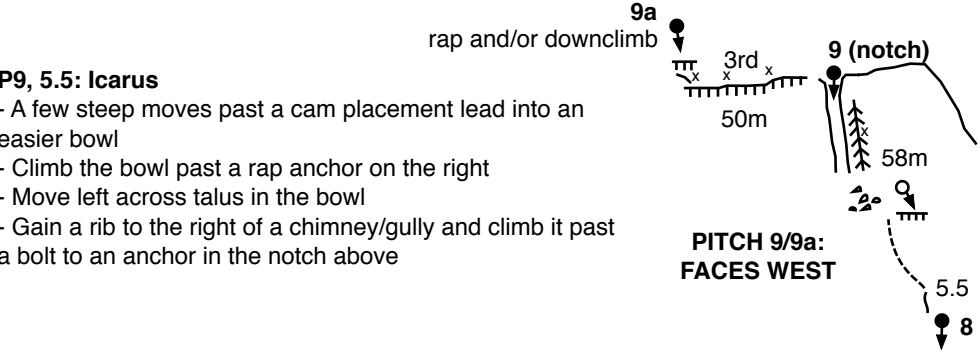
Route type: Alpine rock climb with mixed protection, some loose rock and a long approach
Length: 10 pitches with some easy scrambling between pitches
Descent: 16 rappels
Aspect: South
Top elevation: 3395 m

Gear: wires, 3 micro-cams 1-2.5 cm (C3s 0-2), 6 cams 1.5-8.5 cm (Camalots 0.4-3), 10 alpine draws, 6 quickdraws; one 60m rope; approach shoes for descent; hand warmers.

Parking
- From the off-ramp just west of Lake Louise, drive 14 km up Highway 93 North (10 minutes).
- Park in a small and very indistinct gravel pull-out on the right side of the road, with a camouflaged stream on the north end of it.
- The parking is at 1850m, 51° 32' 50.46" N 116° 17' 18.21" W and it is worthwhile using a GPS to find it.

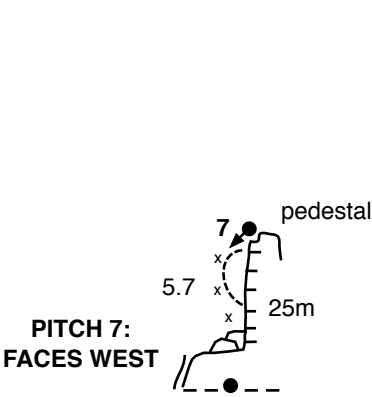
Legend
○ rap
● belay/rap
● belay

P9 to anchor 9a - 4th
- Belay, or coil the rope and scramble, across a loose, exposed ledge (3 bolts)
- Gain a higher ledge and a high anchor on the steep wall

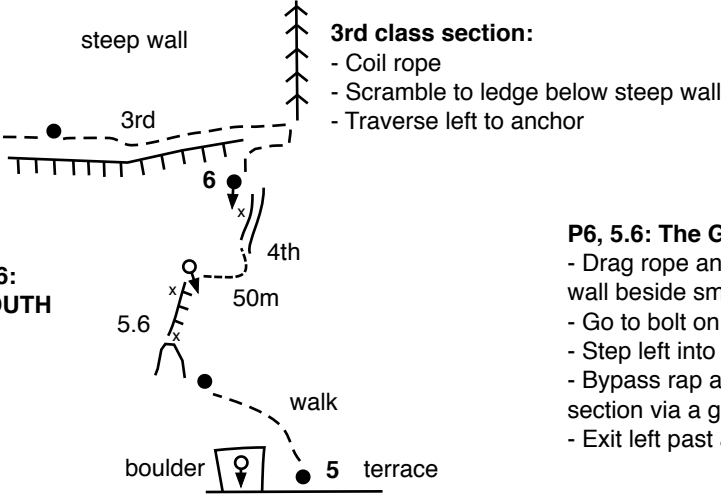


P9, 5.5: Icarus
- A few steep moves past a cam placement lead into an easier bowl
- Climb the bowl past a rap anchor on the right
- Move left across talus in the bowl
- Gain a rib to the right of a chimney/gully and climb it past a bolt to an anchor in the notch above

P7, 5.7: The Gigantomachy Part 1
- Walk left to a break and climb it to a ledge (it may be possible to start straight up the wall)
- Continue past a cam placement to a bolt below a corner
- Move up the corner a few moves then left to a bolt
- Up to another bolt then traverse right to the corner and an anchor on a pedestal
- P7 and P8 may be linked

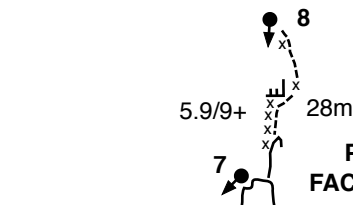


**PITCH 6:
FACES SOUTH**



**PITCH 6:
FACES SOUTH**

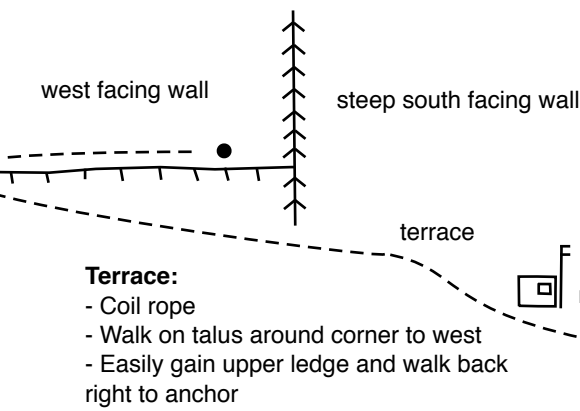
3rd class section:
- Coil rope
- Scramble to ledge below steep wall
- Traverse left to anchor



**PITCH 8:
FACES SOUTH**

P8, 5.9/9+: The Gigantomachy Part 2
- Climb the groove past cam placements
- Clip a bolt and step onto the left wall when able
- Steep climbing on small holds up grey rock past bolts (aiding possible) leads to a yellow roof
- Large holds lead past the roof to another bolt
- More easily up and left past a cam placement and a bolt to a hidden anchor
- P7 and P8 may be linked

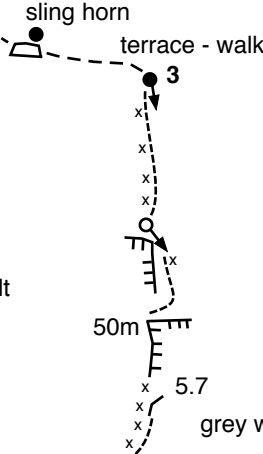
P6, 5.6: The Gorgon
- Drag rope and walk up to anchor on next steep wall beside small tower
- Go to bolt on left behind tower
- Step left into corner (large cam) and go to ledge
- Bypass rap anchor and climb the next loose section via a gully
- Exit left past a bolt to anchor



**PITCH 4:
FACES EAST**

P3, 5.7: Ananke
- Belayer must be careful of rockfall
- Gain pedestal and climb face past small cam placement and bolts
- Medium cams in loose corner
- Move right on ledge to gear placement then bolt on gravelly wall
- Bypass rap anchor and climb wall past bolts to next anchor

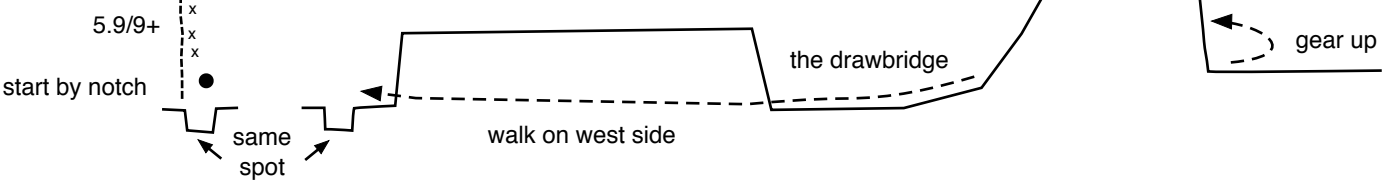
P4, 5.6: Cronus
- Drag rope to large boulder and sling horn for anchor
- Looks loose but is solid
- Climb wide crack (large cams) right of chimney
- Easier ground (small cams) lead to anchor up and right



P2, 5.7: Gaia
- Climb onto face above anchor (hold moves but doesn't come out)
- Micro-cams protect step left into corner
- Large cams up corner
- Bypass rap anchor and go to next anchor at base of grey wall

P1, 5.9/9+: Chaos
- Hand warmers recommended
- Start beneath groove and climb steep, small holds past bolts (aiding possible)
- At cracks move left past small cam placements
- Up wide crack to short flat ridge and anchor at next wall

**PITCHES 1-3:
FACE SOUTH**



FINAL APPROACH: VIEW FROM WEST

Strategy
- Choose a day when the 3000 m forecast calls for temperatures of at least 10C, winds less than 15 kph, sunny, with no afternoon lightning.
- The route may be done in a long day, or from one of two camp spots which could save a couple of hours.
- Start relatively late so that you get to the first pitch after it has had a chance to warm up.
- GPS the approach so you can find your way down in the dark if necessary.
- Bring hand warmers for your chalk bag - especially for the first pitch!
- Bring your approach shoes on the route and use them on the descent to make the scrambling sections easier.
- Although the route has bolts and cleaning has occurred, loose rock can still be expected. There is gravel on ledges and holds, some sections are brittle and small holds can be expected to break, and there is the potential of pulling a large block off if a gentle touch is not exhibited in a few spots.

walk on east side

walk on west side

same spot

the drawbridge

gear up

Apollo (South Ridge of Mt. Hector) - 5.9

The Names

Hector: Hector was a warrior-hero from Troy, brother of Paris who eloped with Helen, which started the Trojan war.

Apollo: During the Trojan war Achilles killed Hector. Paris killed Achilles, but only through the divine intervention of Apollo (one of the Greek Olympian gods), who directed Paris’ arrow to strike Achilles in the heel (which was the only part of his body that missed getting dipped into the river Styx by his mother when he was a baby, making him immortal, or nearly so). So Achilles may have been more powerful than Hector, but Apollo kicks Achilles’ ass. Get it?

Chaos: The primordial Greek gods were born from the void of Chaos - literally it means “chasm”. You’ll see why it was called this when you stand at the base of this pitch.

Gaia: Was born of Chaos and is the ancestral mother of all life. But she was no pushover - check out what she did to her husband Uranus. Ouch.

Ananke: Daughter of Gaia, the “personification of inevitability, compulsion and necessity”. It was inevitable that my compulsion would necessitate a pitch like this.

Cronus: Youngest of the Titans, he overthrew his father Uranus (that guy got no respect) and ruled during the mythological Golden Age.

Aphrodite: The most beautiful of the Greek goddesses and the best pitch of the route.

The Gorgon: A Gorgon is a woman of horrifying visage, with snakes for hair, and those who looked at her turned to stone (Medusa was a Gorgon).

The Gigantomachy: The mythical battle between Olympian gods and the Giants (Gigantes), for supremacy of the cosmos. Guess what? The Giants lost.

Icarus: A victim of hubris. He became over-confident and flew too close to the sun, which melted the wax holding his wings together. Fell to his death. I kind of felt like Icarus when first climbing this pitch, and then looking at what came next.

Zeus: King of the Gods and he doesn’t let you forget it.



First Ascent Information

2015: Carla Demyen, Aaron Beardmore, Mark Klassen (pitches 1-4, investigated pitch 5)

2016: Margie Smith, Tim Johnson, Mark Klassen (consolidated pitches 1-4, established pitch 5)

2017: Marco Deleselle, Mike Stuart, Mark Klassen (FA of pitch 5 and established pitch 6; established pitches 7-10 for the first ascent on September 6)

I first envisioned this climb while working at the Lake Louise Ski Area in 1988-89 but I did not actually investigate the route until a ski tour in April 2014. In the summer of 2015 I walked to the base and decided to begin working on it. Although I first envisioned the route I would never have got up it without the help of everyone else who participated.

The climb was established over 8 days across three summers. I spent another 8 days on various scouting missions for the approach and climb and portering loads up and down.

The route was established ground up. However, pitches 3 and 5 were first explored, cleaned and bolted top down after climbing around them on the east side of the ridge on easier but very loose terrain.

- Mark Klassen



Pitch 1: Chaos



Pitch 8: The Gigantomachy, Part 2



Pitch 5: Aphrodite



Pitch 10: Zeus

Pitch 7: The Gigantomachy, Part 1