

## **Diamonds are forever, Mount Louis, 5.12-, 10 pitches (12 pitches to the top of Mount Louis)**

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With Help from Jesse Bouliane, and Lindsay Andersen

**This route is located on the East face of mount Louis and climbs up onto the summit of the Diamond**

**Approach:** Approach as per 'Homage to the spider'. When you are at the highest part of the 4th class terrain on the approach (just before heading down to the start of Homage), look up to the absolute highest point, where you will find 2 belay bolts and the beginning of the first pitch. 2-3 hrs from the car.

**Gear:** 10 + quickdraws, 4 shoulder slings, a single rack of cams from from.3 to #4 (Double from .3 to #2 depending on your comfort). Small to mid-sized nuts. Two ropes if you plan to rappel the route.

A varied climb that offers some excellent technical face climbing mixed with some honest crack climbing up to an amazing position!

**Pitch 1) 5.8, 20m** (2 bolts and 1 X 1-2 inch piece) Climb straight up and reach a high first bolt. After a few meters, climb up a short right trending hand crack. After this crack, step left to another bolt to avoid the loose 4th class terrain out right. Find the next belay on the prominent ledge.

**Pitch 2) 5.11+, 45m** (14 bolts and 2 cams) 45m. Follow the line of bolts up and left for 45m of excellent technical climbing. At the small alcove after the last bolt, place the only gear required on the pitch (a 3-inch, and a finger size piece), then move up and slightly left to the obvious end of the difficulties and the belay. Using longer slings on the mid-way traverse will help with rope drag.

**Pitch 3) 5.6, 30m.** This belay is exposed to rockfall from the low-angle terrain above, so take care. The next belay is directly above you. Climb up and slightly right and then abruptly left when level with the next belay. Not much gear in the pitch, but it is relatively easy climbing.

**Pitch 4) 5.11- 25m** (4 bolts and gear up to 3 inches) There is a high first bolt directly above you; however, you want to access it from the ledge system out to your left. Once at this bolt, climb straight up (2 more bolts) following the right-facing corner above you. After the crux, you will need a crucial .75 cam (and a finger-size cam to back it up if you want), then continue to another bolt before the easier terrain. After the last bolt (4th), step right to wider cracks. Follow these cracks up left to the next belay ledge.

**Pitch 5) 5.12-, 45m,** (10 bolts and gear up to .75) Another excellent and technical pitch. Head out left ( 3-4' cam) for 5m, then steep back right onto the face and a bolt. Climb straight up to the base of the steep wall and then head left up cracks (finger size cams). A few meters before a

sizeable right facing (loose looking) corner, step right onto the main face and follow bolts up the steep headwall. Midway up the wall, you will reach two flakes (crux), these flakes have been torqued on with a hammer, but it is still advisable to tread lightly on them. A medium-sized nut is useful just before the anchor. Longer draws are helpful early in this pitch. No stopper moves, but more sustained than pitch 2.

**Pitch 6) 5.9, 20m** (1 bolt and gear to 4'). Step right up to a hidden bolt, then up to the right and to the ridgeline. Once on the ridge, follow wider cracks up left to the next belay.

**Pitch 7) 5.7, 30m** (1 bolt and gear to 1'). Climb up to the top of the pinnacle above you (easy), then step down a few meters to the left, and then traverse left (bolt) to the main ledge below the Diamond and the next belay.

**Pitch 8) Two options:**

- **5.10- 40m** (6 bolts and gear to 4') Head straight up towards the main off-width and the first bolt. After 3 bolts, follow broken cracks a few meters right of the off-width to a small stance. From this stance (where option B intersects), continue climbing the face cracks to the right of the off-width through a small roof. Continue up to the next bolts and then climb the off-width up to the next ledge and belay.
- **5.10- 40m** (4 bolts, 1 pin, and gear to 4'). From the belay below the Diamond, step down past option 1) to the base of a steep hand crack. Follow this crack until it ends, clip a pin, then a bolt, then follow a seam back across to the right and into the main off-width mid-way up option 1). Follow option 1) to the next belay.

**Pitch 9) 5.11- 32m** (Gear to 4', small nuts beneficial at the crux) Climb the prominent cracks out left from the belay. After a ledge, climb steeply up a thin cruxy dihedral; small nuts are very useful in this section.

**Pitch 10) 5.10-, 32m** (gear to 4') Continue following cracks to the left of the main ridgeline. Near the top, continue up the steep off-width corner that protects with some hidden cams and 2 bolts. When you get to the exposed stance above, step right onto the main ridgeline and a bolt. Continue to the top of the Diamond! It is possible to avoid the off-width section by stepping right onto the main ridge and following looser rock to the top.

**Summit:** From the top of the Diamond, it is possible to rappel into the gulley between the Diamond and Mount Louis and then continue up the route 'The Shining' to the top of mount Louis. The Shining's last two pitches are 5.11d and 5.10c.

**Descent(s):**

**If on the top of Mount Louis:** rappel the standard descent route

**If on the Diamond:** Rappel back down 'Diamonds are forever'; however, you will have to reverse the traverse of pitch 7). At the top of pitch 2, rappel straight down (36m) and find a hidden anchor on the ledge equal to the top of pitch 1). From here, rappel either 30m to some 4th

class terrain or 60m to easier terrain. All (rap) anchors are currently set up with 1 carabiner attached by cord to the two anchor bolts.

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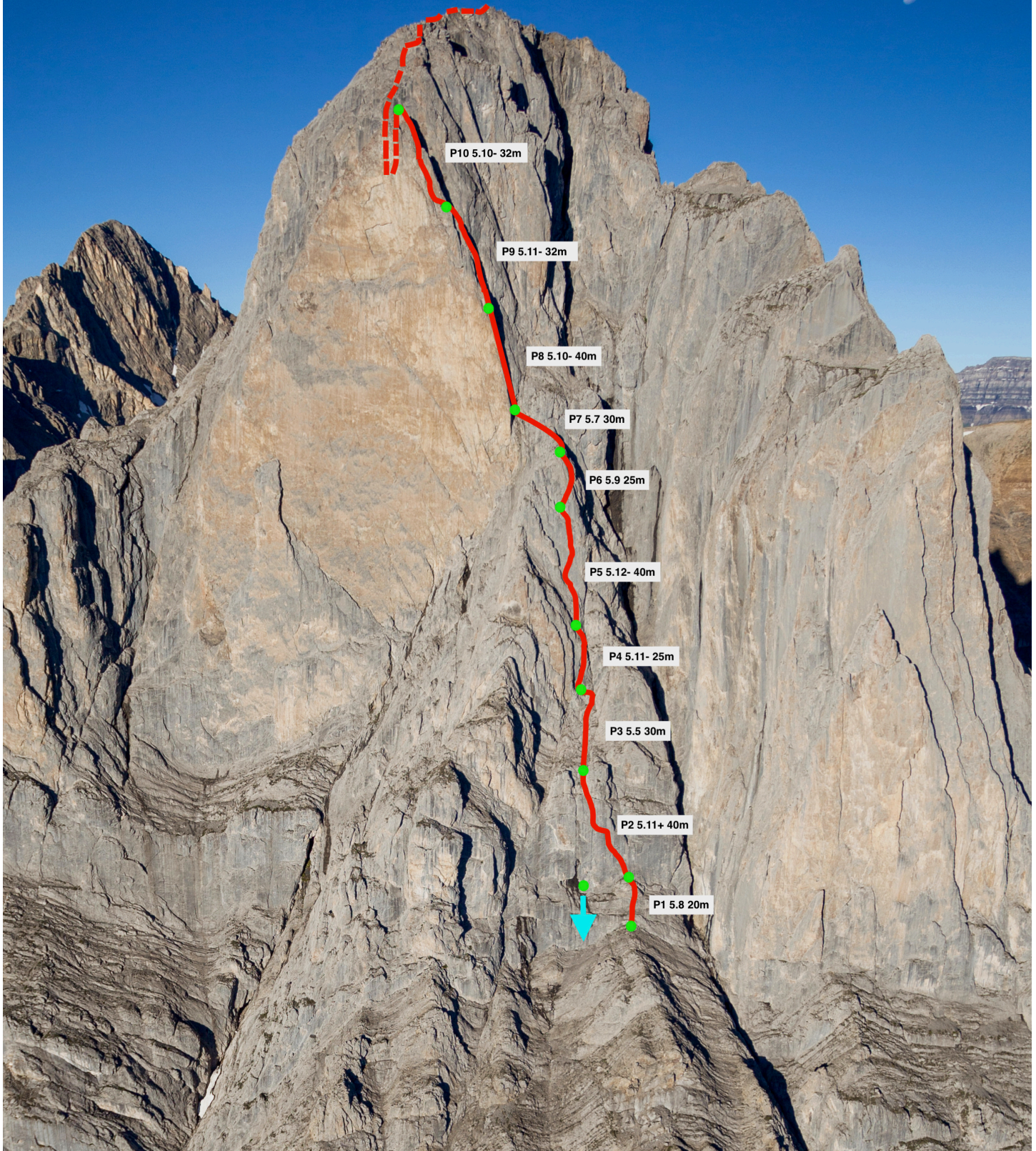
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**Pitch 8**

**Option 2)**

**Option 1)**

