

# Grotto Corner update

**Description:** Grotto corner is detailed in the out-of-print 'Bow Valley Rock'. A pdf of the original topo can be [found here](#). The rock is excellent quality limestone and offers high quality opportunities for trad climbing. Since the original topo was published, 2 new routes have been added which are described below. The cliff faces West and gets sun from approx noon onward.

**Approach:** Park at the parking lot at the south east end of Grotto mountain (622193E 5657086N). Walk up the Grotto mountain traverse trail for ~45min until a turnoff (621841E 5658495N) with a cairn. Descend slightly on a climbers trail using some fixed ropes until you reach the drytooling crag Eldorado. Continue traversing right along the base of the cliff, following a faint trail. Do not go up the first gully that you come across. Start climbing up at a break in the cliff marked by a cairn. From here you want to trend left following a faint trail marked by a few cairns rather than bash straight up the scree! The base of the new routes (622080E 5658627N) is next to a tree on a small ledge. You will see a bolt about 5m straight above. ~1hr 30min.

Other approach options detailed in Bow Valley Rock pg 416-417.

**Prickly Pear** (115m): Gear: 70m rope, 12 quickdraws, Optional cams #1 and #2 for P1.

A bit runout in spots. High quality water worn face climbing in a cool setting.

P1: 5.5, 35m. Climb up and clip a bolt. Continue up placing a couple cams (#1 and #2 camalot) until reaching a ledge. Trend left clipping a single bolt along the way to gain a 2-bolt anchor at the base of the steep wall above.

P2: 5.10c, 35m. Climb straight up on beautiful rock clipping bolts.

P3: 5.8, 45m. Step left from the belay and follow bolts up the featured slab.

FA: [Christian Schlumpf](#), Tom Wolfe. June 2021.

**Evergreen Alley** (115m): Gear: 70m rope, Cams #0.3-#3, Doubles of #0.5-2, Nuts, Quickdraws.

A variation on the route 'Jughaul wall' (shares P1 and most of P2). P2 is given the grade 5.7 to correspond with the original grade of 'Jughaul wall' but feels more like a modern 5.9.

P1: 5.5, 25m. Climb up and clip a bolt. Continue up placing a couple cams (#1 and #2 camalot) until reaching a ledge. Continue up to a 2-bolt anchor on a small ledge with a tree.

P2: 5.7, 45m. Climb up and left from the belay and clip a single bolt next to an old piton. Continue up the nice crack system below the obvious whitebark pine above. Sling the tree and trend left to gain the 2-bolt anchor shared with 'Prickly Pear'.

P3: 5.7, 45m. Continue up the obvious crack system, passing a rappel anchor along the way.

FA: Logan Grasby, Sara Lilley. August 25, 2018.

**Descent:** 4 rappels with a 70m rope. The second rappel is a short one.

**Note:** The cliff has downsloping loose rock above that makes it particularly prone to natural rockfall. Wear a helmet, keep your eyes open, and do not climb if it's been raining etc.



# Grotto Corner

— Grotto Crack - 5.8+

— Prickly Pear - 5.10c

— Evergreen Alley - 5.7

— Jughaul Wall - 5.7

— Pasta Jam - 5.9

— Heartburn - 5.8

● Bolted rappel anchor

● Bolted anchor

