

## **Lookout Buttress, Castle Mountain - Lower Cliffs, 8 pitches, 10a, 345m**

*Tim Auger and Dwayne Congdon, June 1986*

### **Pitch 1, 5.7, 40 m**

Climb the corner on the left side of the bay for about 15 m until several metres below two old pitons. Move across to the wide crack on the right-hand side of the bay and go up this easily to the single bolt at the top of a grassy section (optional belay). Either continue easily up the chimney on the right to a ledge and two bolt belay by a rock tower, or move farther right onto the ridge and go up to the same point.

### **Pitch 2, 5.7, 55 m**

Follow an elegant, left-curving crack line staying mostly on the face just to the left of the corner. Near the top move out further left and up slabby rock past a bolt to a two bolt belay at the edge of the large scree ledge. (The original route shown in red stays further left near the top).

Move the belay up and left across the large scree ledge to cracks right of a cairn. (An easy walk off right to the descent gully exists here if needed)

### **Pitch 3, 5.6, 35 m**

Climb easy rubble for 8 m to a good crack. Move up a little and then back right to good rock. Climb easily to another big scree ledge directly below the main buttress at the start of the steep corner/crack.

### **Pitch 4, 10a, 35 m**

Move the belay 15m right across the scree ledge to the right side of a bowl (3<sup>rd</sup> Class). Climb up the middle of the bowl, then up and left easily to the steep corner/crack. Climb the crack to a ledge on the left. Excellent climbing, with good rests. (Alternatively climb directly up into the corner/crack from the belay above pitch 3).

### **Pitch 5, 5.8, 40 m**

Climb up and right (awkward 5.6) to easy ground and then go up a steep crack/corner system on the left (5.8). Where this widens into a loose gully feature, step left and climb a crack which reaches a ledge directly on the buttress (cairn).

### **Pitch 6, 5.5, 45 m**

Move easily up a blocky ramp to a ledge. Above this, climb face holds up and slightly right on good rock to a series of right facing corners (don't get pulled too far right on easy ground). You are aiming for a ledge below a final short steep wide corner/crack about 15m right of the buttress. Belay on large cams. You can see the first bolt on the next pitch from this stance.

### **Pitch 7, 5.7, 35 m**

Climb the short steep wide corner/crack above the belay to a small grassy ledge about half a metre wide. Move left to the middle of the ledge and climb past two bolts trending left above this to the skyline ridge (5.7). Follow the ridge easily to its top and belay.

### **Pitch 8, 5.5, 30 m**

Move right across the ledge to a crack/depression. Climb up about 10m and then two options exist to finish. Trend up and left to finish directly on top of the Lookout Buttress at a two bolt belay, or continue straight up the face with good cracks past an old piton to a gear belay a few meters below the lip of the scree ledge. Finish this option by stepping onto the scree ledge and belaying on the wall above in a broken crack.

**Exit** by walking right on the scree ledge to the main lower Castle Mountain descent gully.

**Gear used:** Doubles from #0.4 to #4 Camalots, #0.2 & 0.3 Camalots, set of nuts, 10-12 alpine draws and anchor material.



Lookout Butress, 8p, 10a

