

GROTTO CANYON

THE ARMADILLO

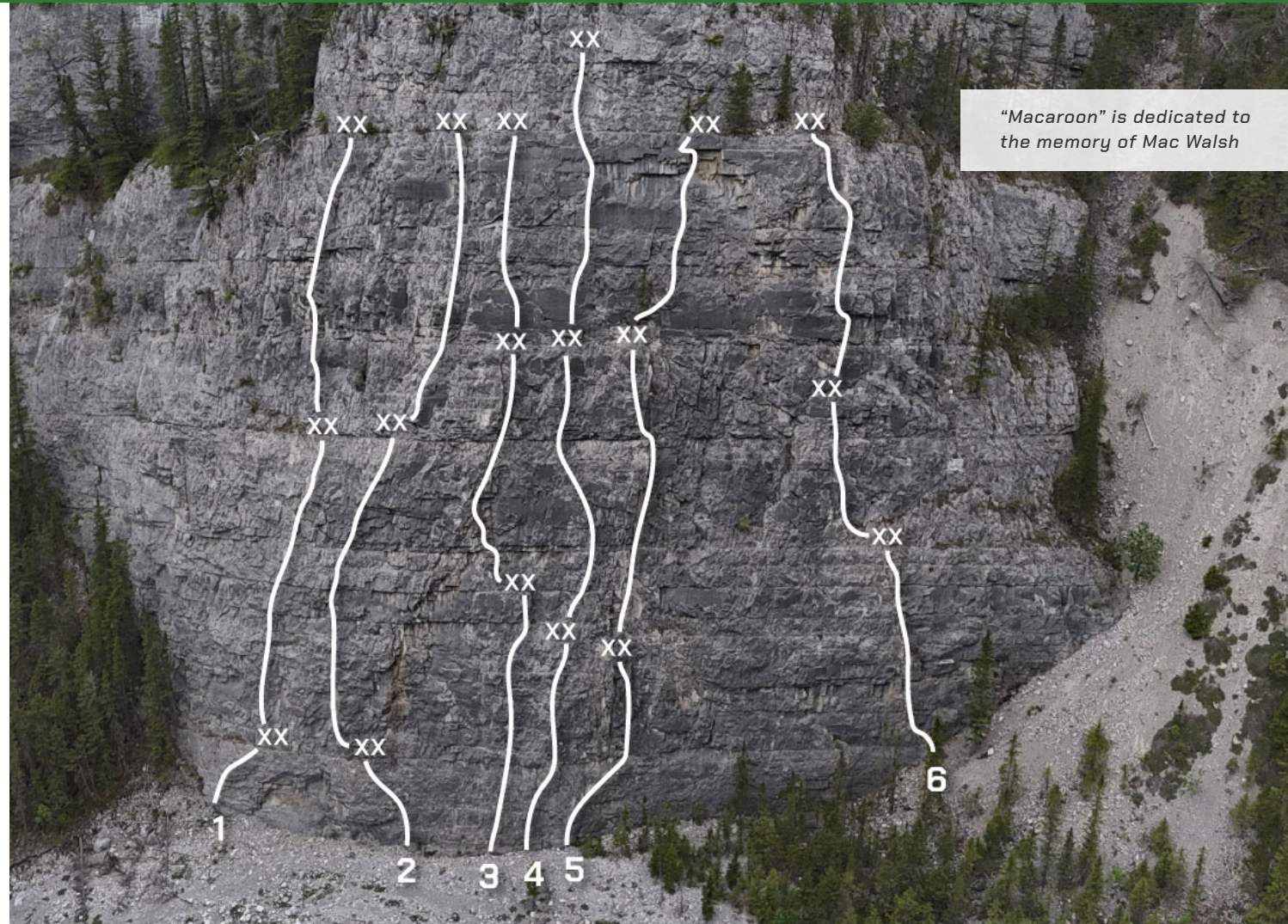
To date, all the routes can be climbed and rappelled with a 60 meter rope - but use caution - some of the rappells are rope stretchers. Tie Knots! A 70 meter rope would be more comfortable, although not entirely necessary.

Bringing 14 draws would allow ultimate flexibility to climb any route on The Armadillo. Now that there are 6 unique routes, the obvious challenge would be to climb all of them in one day!

14 Quickdraws + 70m Rope

From the parking lot follow the trail through the trees walking SouthWest, this is the only obvious hiking/ walking trail from the parking lot and is made obvious by a big sign. The trail soon passed a dried wash (Steve Canyon) and continues past a gravel road and abandoned quarry to the north. Keep walking following the broad and obvious trail long a powerline. Once at the Baymag plant, look for a trail heading north (right) into the trees and follow this for a few minutes to the canyon mouth. From here, either take a steep trail on the right of the canyon mouth up into the trees (this bypasses canyon mouth bottle neck) or easily scramble up smooth polished rock into the canyon. From here follow the creek bed for another 10 minutes past the cragging on either side of the canyon to the Grotto Waterfall. Once at the waterfall turn left to follow a narrower canyon with walls on either side as it snakes and leads into a wide dried open river bed. Follow the open riverbed further passing sand dunes eventually leading to the buttress.

The mostly flat approach should take no longer than 40 minutes.



"Macaroon" is dedicated to the memory of Mac Walsh

1. ARMADILLO ADVENTURE

5.10A 72m

Ethan Woodside & Jörg Wilz, 2024

Pitch 1 5.07 12m 6 bolts

A short chossy pitch puts you on the ledge above.

Pitch 2 5.10a 35m 12 bolts

Follow bolts up on enjoyable rock.

Pitch 3 5.10a 25m 12 bolts

Follow bolts straight up to final anchor.

2. A FINE PLACE FOR A FRIEND

5.10B 73m

Ethan Woodside & Nikki Gilman, 2024

Pitch 1 5.09 12m 4 bolts

Trend left and climb up the shallow bay.

Pitch 2 5.10b 31m 14 bolts

Nice climbing through a series of roofs.

Pitch 3 5.10a 30m 14 bolts

Follow shallow corners to final anchor.

3. STIMULUS CHEQUE

5.11A 75m

Matt Laird & Friends, 2020

Pitch 1 5.10b 30m 11 bolts

Fun face climbing brings you to a small roof.

Pitch 2 5.11a 25m 9 bolts

Steep rock guards the anchor.

Pitch 3 5.10d 20m 8 bolts

Techy crimping on blind feet eases off to final anchor.

4. GIFT CARD

5.10C 90m

Ian Greant & Brian Spear, 2013

Pitch 1 5.09 28m 10 bolts

Trend right and break through a small roof.

Pitch 2 5.10c 31m 11 bolts

Unlock the tricky sequence between bolts 4 and 5.

Pitch 3 5.10b 32m 12 bolts

Watch for loose rock as you approach final anchor.

5. ASYLUM ESCAPE

5.10D 75m

Cory Rogans & Matt Laird, 2020

Pitch 1 5.10d 25m 11 bolts

Head straight up the steep, technical face and fin feature.

Pitch 2 5.10c 30m 13 bolts

Work up into the large right facing corner.

Pitch 3 5.10c 20m 9 bolts

Pull through the roof on good holds to final anchor.

6. MACAROON (2024)

5.11A 74m

Matt Laird, Carson Long & Matt Campbell

Pitch 1 5.10a 26m 11 bolts

Head left through multiple right facing corners.

Pitch 2 5.10b 18m 8 bolts

Interesting flakes begin the vertical face climbing out left.

Pitch 3 5.11a 30m 14 bolts

A midway ledge offers rest before gaining final anchor.