

# South Ghost - Shithead Canyon

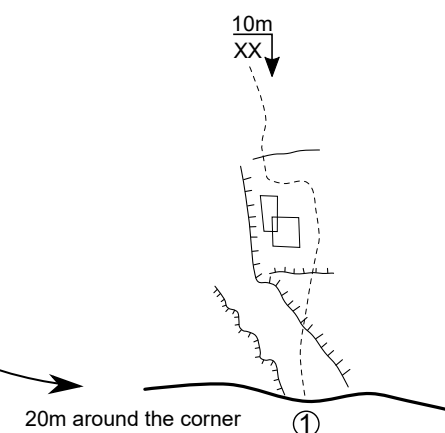
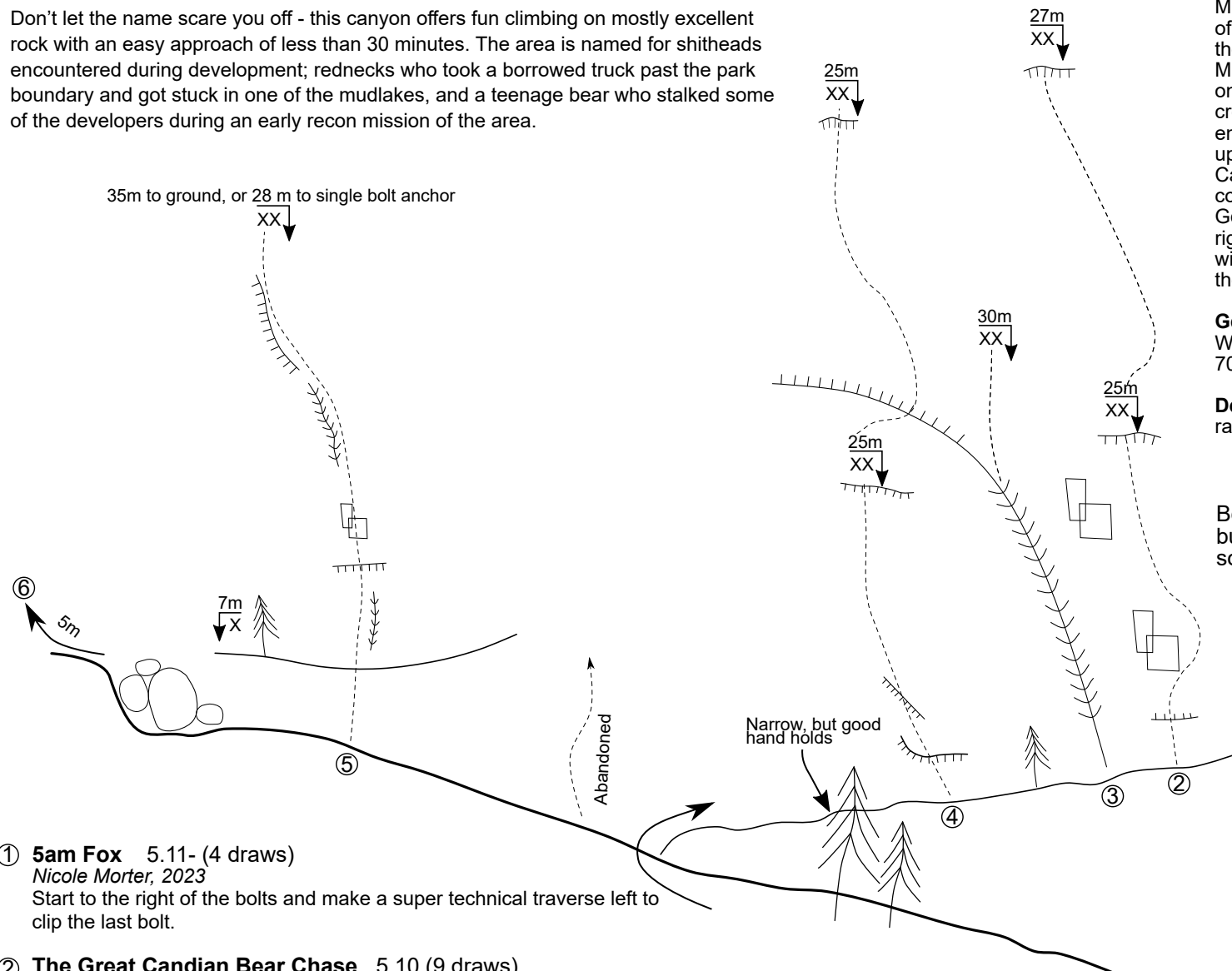
Don't let the name scare you off - this canyon offers fun climbing on mostly excellent rock with an easy approach of less than 30 minutes. The area is named for shitheads encountered during development; rednecks who took a borrowed truck past the park boundary and got stuck in one of the mudlakes, and a teenage bear who stalked some of the developers during an early recon mission of the area.

**Approach:** The area is included in the Lake Minnewanka seasonal closure, which requires groups of four or more from July 10 to September 15. Park at the Devils Gap kiosk and head west towards Lake Minnewanka. Turn left into Platens Valley (first valley on your left) and follow the trail on the right of the creek. At a big dead tree with flaging, just after you enter into more dense trees, turn sharp right and up a small hill and follow falgging to the base of Cacatuète Wall. After passing that wall a slot cayon comes down from the right. This is Shithead Canyon. Go up that canyon and the first route will be on your right just where the canyon narrows again after it widenes for a short section (5 min from the mouth of the canyon).

**Gear:** 60m rope, sport draws (if you want to top rope Wildfire Blues or rap it down at once, you will need a 70m rope)

**Descent:** All routes are set up so they can be rappelled with a 60m rope.

Best efforts have been made to clean the rock, but it is still a new crag without many ascents, so some loose rock might be still present.



- ① **5am Fox** 5.11- (4 draws)  
*Nicole Morter, 2023*  
Start to the right of the bolts and make a super technical traverse left to clip the last bolt.
- ② **The Great Candian Bear Chase** 5.10 (9 draws)  
*Tobias Link, 2022*  
Start at the, climbers far right side of the access ledge. Fun, technical climbing for two pitches.
- ③ **Pinch Me** 5.11- (13 draws)  
*Paul Taylor, 2021*  
A great pitch with immaculate rock.
- ④ **Grosser Laster, kleine Eier** 5.10+ (10 draws)  
*Tobias Link, 2022*  
Starts just after the narrow section of the approach ledge, has a bit of everything.

- ⑤ **Wildfire Blues** 5.11- (19 draws)  
*Nicole Morter, 2023*  
A 70m rope gets you all the way to the ground, a 60 m gets yout t o a single bolt anchor behind a tree.
- ⑥ **Tarzan Warmup** 5.10- (10 draws)  
*Paul Taylor, 2021*  
Starts 5m before the large, obvious chockstone blocking the canyon.