

The Hellfire Club



The second fully bolted sport route on the Stanley Headwall. Positioned just right of the winter mixed route, “Suffer Machine”. While the rock is not quite as good as the multi-pitch routes left of the waterfall (Nemesis), it is quite good by rockies standards.

Approach

Park in the Stanley Glacier Trail parking lot. Start the hike by leaving the parking lot on the main hiking trail across a bridge and up multiple switchbacks through trees. Eventually cross second smaller wooden bridge as the terrain flattens and continues into the valley.

The trail runs parallel to the river and has some short uphill sections as the forest on either side begin to thin. Continue

until you reach a hiking sign that points up and left (4km from parking lot). The main trail turns left 90degrees and appears to continue up hill. At this point leave the designated trail and descend diagonally through the bolder field aiming for a break in a small narrow cluster of trees. Find a short path that cuts through the trees and march upwards towards the wall. The easiest way up the hillside is to find the narrow drainage that’s runs off of ‘Suffer Machine’ and follow that up.

Small platforms have been stomped out at the base of the wall just left of the obvious gully where the route begins.

Beta

Fresh glacier water can be accessed at various points during the approach and a final fill-up may be done 80m left of where the route starts in a shallow drainage. If you’re comfortable drinking this water, don’t bother hiking in your own.

Climbing on the first two pitches can easily be done in approach shoes.

The wall gets brief morning sun and goes into the shade around noon. This makes for a great warm weather objective.

At mid height on pitch 4, in the corner, a rock 'pillar' exists that threaten the belay below. At the time of writing this, the pillar has been pried with a crowbar and will not move. Although it sounds hollow, and looks rotten, it seems to be stable and not going anywhere. Climb with care.

Gear

70m rope and 12 quickdraws. If linking pitches to utilize the best belay stances bring 17 draws total, 3-4 alpine draws would be ideal.

The Climbing

P1: 5.05 25m 3 bolts

Either walk up the loose scree in the gully or start up a narrow rock spur on the right of the gully. Either way, gain the short rock face to step up onto a round buttress of solid rock. Follow this ramp to the first belay.

P2: 5.05 35m 5 bolts

Leave the belay rightward weaving through loose rock and dirt as the pitch kicks back onto a scree field / terrace. Can be linked with P1 with use of runners.

P3: 5.11a 25m 9 bolts

Staying out of the loose gully, climb up on solid black rock. As the bolts trend left a hard bouldery sequence finishes at a large hidden jug at the base of a scoop. Climb out of this scoop on good flakes into a thin crack leading the way to a good ledge. Belay on the ledge at the base of the corner on the right.

P4: 5.11c 35m 12 bolts

A long pitch with a sting at the tail. Enter the corner and employ a variety of stemming, jamming and face climbing. Mid way up the corner, a hidden bolt out left leads the way to a committing and delicate moves onto the face. Eventually pull over onto a ledge and step up to rejoin the corner again. Brief face climbing leads into strenuous layback moves pulling over a small overlap just below the anchor.

P5: 5.08 15m 5 bolts

An easy pitch that weaves through a weakness in a obvious geology change. Leave the belay up and right into a shallow chimney. As this is a more comfortable belay than the previous, it's possible link with P4 if mindful of rope drag.

P6: 5.10c 35m 12 bolts

A great pitch on outstanding black, sharp, solid, stippled limestone. Leave the belay stepping left and follow bolts straight up dancing between two vertical parallel grooves. Pull a bulge mid pitch and continue up to the belay.

P7: 5.11a 25m 6 bolts

Leave the belay into a groove on easy ground to a high first bolt. Follow this groove up into the base of an overlap. A difficult sequence blocks the path to the continuing corner above. Exit the corner left on good ledges to pull onto a large ledge with a comfy belay stance.

P8: 5.11c 15m 6 bolts

Off the belay clip a bolt and work through thin holds to get established in the obvious crack. Easy climbing leads to the top of crack. Clip a bolt and traverse hard right on small feet. A hard sequence on thin holds ends the traverse as vertical climbing continues to the anchor above.

P9: 5.11a 25m 8 bolts

Walk off the belay ledge out right and continue up into a roof. Big moves to reach positive holds over the roof lead to techy and exposed climbing. Pull over onto a grass ledge and into a shallow alcove to belay.

Descent:

All belay stations equipped to rap. Depending on if you're climbing with a single rope, double rope, or with a tagline will determine what ledges you stop at while rappelling.

