

The Milk Road

Tantalus Wall

Squamish

9p: 5.10d, A0 (5.11d)

The Milk Road is similar in difficulty to the Grand Wall route. Most pitches involve 5.10 crack climbing. After a new first pitch, the route follows 3 pitches of Milk Run before angling left on or near Crescent Ramp. All stations are fixed. Double ropes are needed to retreat.

This route has been some 44 years in the making, with contributions from Fred Beckey & Eric Bjornstad, Eric Lance & John Wurfinger, Peter Croft & Tami Knight, Matt Maddaloni, Kai Hirvonen & Colin Moorhead, and completed by Jeremy Frimer & friends.

Rack: standard Squamish rack to 4" with triples or quadruples in the finger sizes for the Milk Run corners.

Approach: 5 minutes. Find the trail at the north end of the Tantalus Wall (paved) parking lot. Walk up the trail to the base of Tantalus Wall. The climb starts about 100m to the right of Freeway on a wooded terrace and two cracks forming a 'V'.

pitch 1 (5.9 A0 or 5.11b, 20m, 5 bolts) Boulder up a short V-shaped double crack then follow rambling terrain left (slow to dry). After 15m, step left and climb a slab with 5 bolts for aid (free at 5.11b). Nick Elson & Frimer, 2010.

pitch 2 (5.10c A0, 20m, 4 bolts) A complex pitch. Climb an arching flake. Pull over the top of the flake, clip a bolt, then move left. Aid three bolts (free at 5.11d) then move left, downclimb a shallow corner, step left again, and move up to the belay. Pitches 2,3,4: FA Lance & Wurfinger, 1966. FFA Croft & Knight, 1982; recleaned Maddaloni, 1998

pitch 3 (5.10b, 20m). Fingers in a left-facing corner with good rests.

pitch 4 (5.10d, 40m) The crux pitch. Fingers in a left-facing corner without many rests. Pumpy. Slow to dry.

pitch 5 (5.10b, 30m, 4 bolts) Changing Corners. Continue up the left-facing corner (#4 Camalot needed off the belay) then face climb left to a right-facing corner to gain Tantalus Ledge. Frimer & Kelly Franz, 2010

pitch 6 (5.8, 55m, 1 bolt) The Ramp. Follow cracks up and left in a fine position to gain the base of a dirt/grass slope and a chain. First part by Beckey & Bjornstad, 1966; Kelly Franz & Frimer, 2010.

pitch 7 (5.10a, 30m, 4 bolts) Crescent Tower. Pull up a chain then climb a chimney/corner for 10m until just below a large block/chockstone. Step left, exiting the chimney, into a splitter face crack. When the crack divides, finger traverse left (not right), then climb cracks near the arête. Belay at a tree. First part by Beckey & Bjornstad, 1966. Frimer & Kelly Franz, 2010.

High Octane Variation: A 5.11b variation is found to the left. Climb a thin corner (bolt) to a hand crack through the roof then follow the splitter to join the other variation. Moorhead & Hirvonen, 1999.

pitch 8 (5.10c, 20m, 7 bolts) Crescent Dyke. Step onto a dyke, then delicately foot traverse the sustained dyke. Paul Cordy & Frimer, 2009

pitch 9 (5.0, 10m, 1 bolt) Walk right and make an easy slab move at the end of the ledge to reach the top of the wall. Tree belay. Frimer & Kelly Franz, 2010

Descent: 30 mins. Follow a trail up to the Bellygood Ledge descent trail, and then on to the Backside trail.

