

La Superplanche 5.11b (5.10a, A0)

This pleasant day out is a good introduction to longer moderates in Squamish. Get stoked for lots of 5.10 punctuated by big ledges, beautiful scenery, and a gondola ride back to civilization. If you're too tired to free the last two pitches, pulling on a few bolts drops the grade of the whole multi to 10a.

Approach as for A Scottish Tale (W3+), but keep following orange flagging for 10 min below an apron-like feature. On the left side of this feature, scramble through ferns and over logs to the base of the dyke.

P1 - 5.7 (45m) - Climb the dyke doing a slightly tricky move to get over the hump onto the striking white dyke clearly seen from the Chief. A very pleasant pitch indeed.

P2 - 5.9 (30m) - Clip 2 bolts then traverse hard right, through some scrub to a stance, then straight up a 3-4" crack for a few meters. Two bolt belay on a nice shelf. Crux between bolt 1 and 2. The worst pitch.

P3 - 5.8 (50m) - Continue up the crack, place bomber gear before it fissiles out, then do a few meters of friction slab (crug) to the right, then a slick-slab/dish shelf with equalized pitons. Go up lower ledge terrain to the right following an overlap. Pull onto the face to gain a short (5m) sealed-up finger crack to a large shelf. Clip another piton and head up the low angle groove into the forest.

2nd class - move the belay along a trail using a steep rope pull.

P4 - 10a (55m) - Now that you're warmed up, layback and jam the overlap. Pumpy. Tricky slab moves at the top could foil your oversight. Walk into the forest and pick a tree to belay from.

P5 - 10a (20m) - The obvious clean splitter. Pull into the crack using a small tree, then work through the sizes from BD #2 to #5.

3rd class (30m) - Walk to the right past some 3rd/4th class to a 2-bolt station in a dry stream bed.

P6 - 10a (60m) - Easy crack climbing on good gear for 25m. Possible to belay here at an intermediate rap station if you've used all your cams. Work through steeper terrain clipping 5 bolts along the way. Technical, well-bolted stemming keeps you from chimney-ing. Hopefully you've still got a BD #5, 1, 2, and 3 for the headwall's gear-protected stop moves. Belay from the rap-rig anchor on Boulder Ledge.

2nd class (5m) - Move the belay left a couple meters to the base of the obvious clean cracks.

P7 - 10a (35m) - Enjoy chill crack climbing (with infinite gear placements) to a lower-off anchor near a tree. Clip it and start slab climbing up and rightwards (2 bolts). Tree belay in the forest with a nice view. Soft end of the grade.

Hike (5 min) - Follow orange flagging up and to the right. This will take you to a trail at the base of a crag with some single pitches. Keep hiking right using purple hand lines to move across exposed terrain. Welcome to the Amphitheater. Go to the right side at the base of the obvious dihedral.

P8 - 10a (30m) - Climb the dihedral. Clip a bolt near the top and move left. Undercling/ layback leftwards around/over the small roof. Belay off 2 chains at the base of the obvious left-leaning crack.

P9 - 10c - (10a, A0) - (35m) - Jam the diagonal crack and pull into a stem corner on BD 4 finger holds. Halfway look right for a bolt. At the top of the corner go right (right) using a stump (left is a variation and closed project), 4 bolts of slab climbing to the anchor. Bolts are placed so you can aid through. Rock quality improves significantly in the 2nd half of this pitch. Comfortable belay by fallen log.

Low 5th (25m) - Move the belay up and eventually rightwards to rap rings on a nice ledge. There are old static ropes and chains on this ledge (leftover from an old highline access trail). Don't trust this gear.

P10 - 11b - (10a, A0) - (60m) - Go right off the belay and head up parallel cracks above a bush. Place cams to gain the steepness. As the cracks flare, bolts begin to show themselves. Boulder through 3 bolts of technical and burly flaring cracks. Go hard left from the 3rd bolt to good holds. Clip another bolt and go up jugs to a sidewalk in the sky. Walk back rightwards along this for a few meters then clip a 5th bolt and slab climb up to a dyke. Follow the dyke up and right into the dry waterfall. Eventually a ledge will appear on your left with a log and chains. Either make an intermediate belay here to keep an eye on your follower, or keep climbing up the dry waterfall to an anchor in the forest above.

Hike up the trail (2min) to the Panorama trail and onwards to the gondola (10min).

Alternatively rap with a single 70m paying careful attention to the topo for rap stations. Rope-stretcher rappels.

DR .3-.3, 1 x #4, #5, nuts, 10 alpine draws

FA (P1) Felix Wilberg, Katelyn Maharrie, 2022; FA (P1-3) Felix Wilberg, Liam Henderson 2023; FA (P1-6) Felix Wilberg, Dylan Hardy (alts), 2025; FCFA Felix Wilberg, Liam Henderson (alts), 2025;

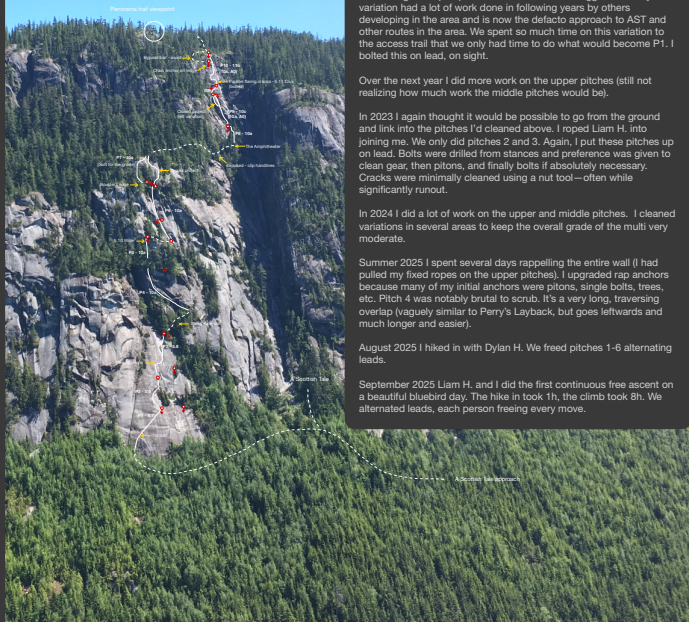
Notes

Runouts: The first 3 pitches go up low-angle granite and were established on lead by climbers who cut their teeth in Squamish. Bolts were placed from stances and preference was given to natural gear. The first bolt may remind you of Sunblesed.

Pitches 4 and above are very well protected so the climber can focus on the movement. I will likely replace the fixed pitons with bolts and may be convinced to add more bolts over time.

Gears: The FA team brought BD #4 and #5. There are only a few meters of offwidth out of the 450m of technical climbing, however the big gear can be placed on pitches 4,5,6, 7, and 9 to protect underclings, laybacks, stemming, etc.

Evolution: Development in this area is far from done. With this 'highway' up the face, access to more crags and hard pitches will open up.



Notes

History: I noticed this line after climbing Sunblesed one day in June 2022. Specifically, the diagonal white dyke caught my eye. I took pictures and tried to piece together a route.

On Canada Day my friend Pep and I had the day off, so we went rappelling down the face to check out the rock. We found some cool features, but more exploring had to be done.

Over the next two months I scrubbed rock near what would become the upper pitches (using the gondola for access).

In September, I convinced Katelyn M. to hike in and try to find the bottom of the wall with me. I was hoping to work ground-up to connect with the upper pitches I'd already scrubbed. We spent most of the day cutting and flagging a trail to the base. We innovated on the original AST access trail making a variation that took a less severe angled slope up from Olesen Creek. We flagged it heavily. This variation had a lot of work done in following years by others developing in the area and is now the default approach to AST and other routes in the area. We spent so much time on this variation to the access trail that we only had time to do what would become P1. I bottled this on lead, on sight.

Over the next year I did more work on the upper pitches (still not realizing how much work the middle pitches would be).

In 2023 I again thought it would be possible to go from the ground and link into the pitches I'd cleaned above. I roped Liam H. into joining me. We only did pitches 2 and 3. Again, I put these pitches up on lead. Bolts were drilled from stances and preference was given to clean gear, then pitons, and finally bolts if absolutely necessary. Cracks were minimally cleaned using a nut tool—often while significantly rounut.

In 2024 I did a lot of work on the upper and middle pitches. I cleaned variations in several areas to keep the overall grade of the multi very moderate.

Summer 2025 I spent several days rappelling the entire wall (I had pulled my fixed ropes on the upper pitches). I upgraded rap anchors because many of my initial anchors were pitons, single bolts, trees, etc. Pitch 4 was notably brutal to scrub. It's a very long, traversing overlap (vaguely similar to Perry's Layback, but goes leftwards and much longer and easier).

August 2025 I hiked in with Dylan H. We freed pitches 1-6 alternating leads.

September 2025 Liam H. and I did the first continuous free ascent on a beautiful bluebird day. The hike took 1h, the climb took 8h. We alternated leads, each person freeing every move.