

The Curmudgeon 5.10- R 4p 300m (985ft)

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Grade III

This starts on a ledge near the start of The Goldilocks Zone and charts a path of minimal resistance up to The Balconies at the top of p11 of Goldi where you can join the original route to the top of the wall and either continue up Habrich or call it a day and head back.

Origin

This route was FAed onsite as a result of following:

One-Pipeline Road closure in the summer of 2026 dictated approaching the Stawamus River Headwall from above.

Two-We were aiming to get on The Goldilocks Zone and in our excitement turn off the approach trail too early and ended on a bushy ledge with good looking rock above.

Three- We're idiots. Once we figured out where we were and the location of p1 of Goldi, we decided to rope up and commit to the adventure.

Thanks

Many thanks to Marc Bourdon from Quickdraw Publications and his excellent new 5th edition Squamish Select guidebook who was kind enough to provide the topo photo.

Much appreciation to Colin, Jamie and the Nicks who put up two massive routes in The Goldilocks Zone and Life In Space, and is the reason we were out there in the first place. Wonderful routes.

Disclaimer

The result is a super fun mostly easy route that take a parallel line to The Goldilocks Zone (kudos to the developers of that beast). We were having too much fun to note exact locations and detailed features as we were questing up. But with the help from Marc Bourdon's excellent new 5th edition Squamish Select guidebook and a great photo he was kind enough to share after the fact (thanks Marc!), we were able to piece the route together with reasonable accuracy. That being, this route is a full on adventure and we did not plan to nor had the gear to clean or make it safer. We estimate some cleaning and minimal bolting of the upper slab on p4 will make the route significantly safer. Will it be more enjoyable depends on the climber and what they consider an adventure to be.

We have no qualms about making this route safer, but aren't planning on heading back out there anytime soon. Feel free to reach out if you're interested.

Approach

If coming from the Indian Arm FSR, approach as if for The Goldilocks Zone. Once on the ledge at the base Goldi there are two options-

- 1- Move right about 40-50m and rope up at the far end of the shaded ledge. Climb roughly a full rope length to gain the original first pitch. Climbing from here looks doable and of similar grade

to the rest of the route, but we did not do this and cannot confirm. This option is clearly visible in the topo pic.

- 2- Once at the base of the headwall, instead of heading straight uphill for Goldi, continue up and right on the flagged trail for another 100m or so. A path will reveal itself following a small vegetated ramp back towards the headwall (left). Follow for a few dozen meters until the bushes are gone. You can rope up here and add about 10m to the first pitch, or make some class 4 moves to gain an obvious ledge where the original route starts. Refer to topo for reference.

If coming from Habrich, follow the decent description from the col down towards the headwall and the FSR (excellent description and photos in Marc's book, as well as some good waypoints in mt. project). About 100m above The Goldilocks Zone ledge the path from point 2 above will appear. Follow it to the route.

Description

P1

Move right of the belay into a splitter 5.8 right facing corner hand crack to the top of a pillar. Climb the slick lighter colored slab above. Build an anchor before the cracks in the slab end. Extending everything will eliminate drag. 60m 5.8

P2

Follow path of least resistance up and left to a ledge, once at bushes climb up and right to gain another 5.8 splitter hands. Above the crack climb easy terrain to a ledge. Build an anchor. 70m 5.8

P3

Trend up and left on easy blocky terrain. At a large ledge gain a crack system straight up. When the seem closes and there's blank slab above (roughly where the last piece of gear would go), make a big stepover left to gain a series of good sized edges. Follow to a large ledge and build an anchor. If not comfortable simuling consider building an anchor at about 50m. Running out easier terrain helps with drag. 90m 5.9

P4

Pack your brown pants and a straw, this is the business. Crux 1 off the deck. Get established in the corner and work the dirty stem box (5.9+). Follow the second corner above and make thin moves traversing left on slab. Follow a crack trending right into a light colored shallow corner with thin fingers. Crux 2 at the headwall. Travers right smearing feet on crunchy rock and crimping tips on the dirty edge. Fun! Pull up onto the slabby arret and place your last piece. Suck it up and follow the path of least resistance up the slab trending up and left until gaining the big ledge at the top of P11 of Goldilocks to build an anchor (5.10- R/X 40m runout). The drag on the second half of the pitch is harder to manage than actual climbing. Still, a fall here would have dire consequences. Your partner will need to start simuling once you're at your last piece. If that doesn't appeal to you consider building an anchor at the bottom of the shallow corner before crux 2. 80m 5.10R/X.

Continue up pitches 12-16 of The Goldilocks Zone to the top of the headwall.

What now

Continue onto one of Mt. Habrich routes (Life In Space etc.), or descent back down to the FSR (see descent description in the Squamish Select guidebook), or head towards the gondola via the Habrich-Polar dome trail (Life In Space approach description in the Squamish Select guidebook).

Protection

Standard double rack and one #4.

70m rope.

