

The Zen Garden

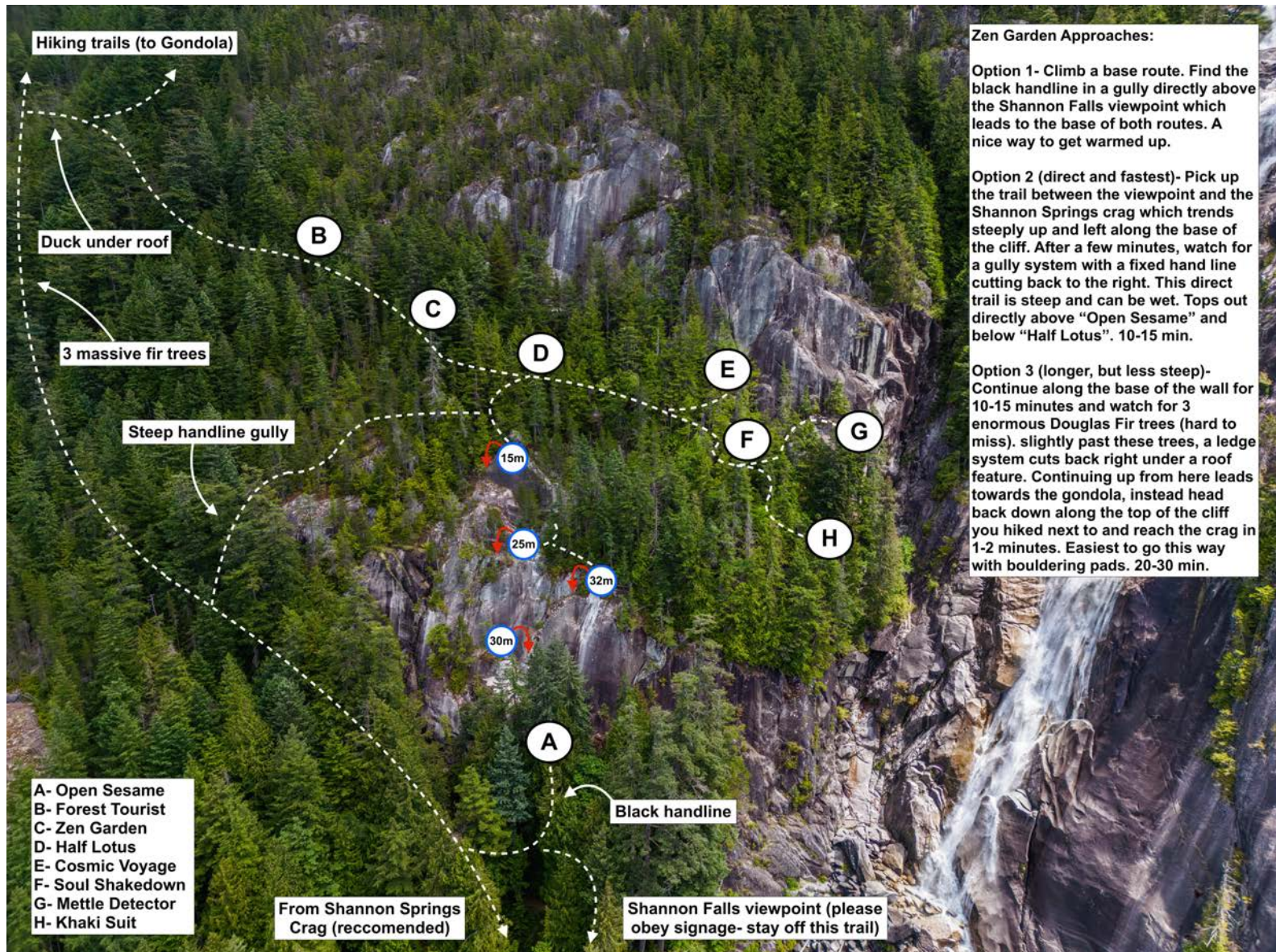


Nick McNutt on Cosmic Voyage 5.11a
Photo: Jeremy Allen

This significant new crag hosts over two dozen routes, from 1-3 pitches in length, ranging in difficulty from 5.7-5.12a, with the majority falling within the grade range of 5.10a to 5.11a. Primarily, these routes are steep crack climbs with a sprinkling of fine face climbing on the beautiful dyke-infused granite that Shannon Falls is known for. There is also a collection of boulder problems from V0 to V7, including a few exceptional roof crack problems!

Expect solid grades, physical climbing, and bring a full rack to 4" with a good set of wires, various micro cams and some extra cams in the common sizes to be prepared to sample what is up there. Larger (#5-6) cams can be used on a couple of routes. Many of the routes with two to three stars are worthwhile and most people climbing solidly in the 5.10 grade will have a few good sessions worth of climbing to choose from.

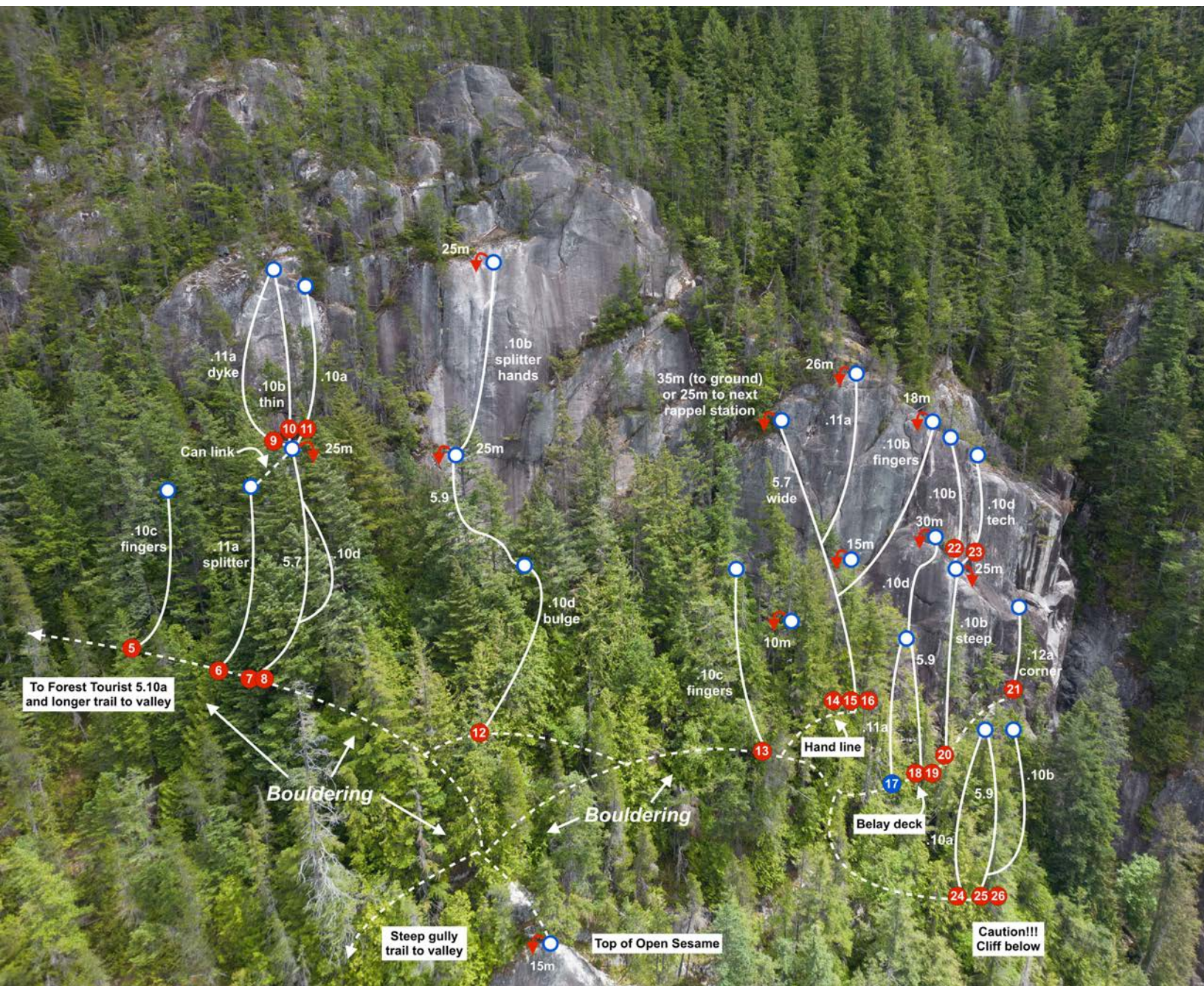
A 70m rope isn't critical, but works best for some routes. That said, all routes can be done with a 60m if using extra rappel stations. **Always tie knots in your rope!** Hardware for this area was provided by the Sea-to-Sky bolt fund; your donation is very appreciated and if you enjoy these and other new routes, please consider donating at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/sea-to-sky-route-development-fund-phase-2>



~Climbing Strategy~

Like much of Squamish, this area primarily faces west and the best bet for shade will be before mid-afternoon. That said, some of the single pitch routes in the woods are well shaded (including *Zen Garden*) and if the sun is on the main wall there will still be places to escape it. The majority of the routes dry quite quickly after rain, but during especially wet periods one could assume some areas around *Soul Shakedown* and *Mettle Detector* as well as parts of the base routes may suffer from seepage.

The 3 pitch 5.8 route *Open Sesame* is a nice way to warm up, and the climbing is very reasonable with a backpack on for most. A good tactic if climbing *Gatekeeper* is to have the leader drop half of the rope down and tag up the pack if both climbers are preferring to climb without. Many who are heading up to crag will likely just hike instead, but both of these routes make for nice outings on their own and are worth seeking out.



Base routes:

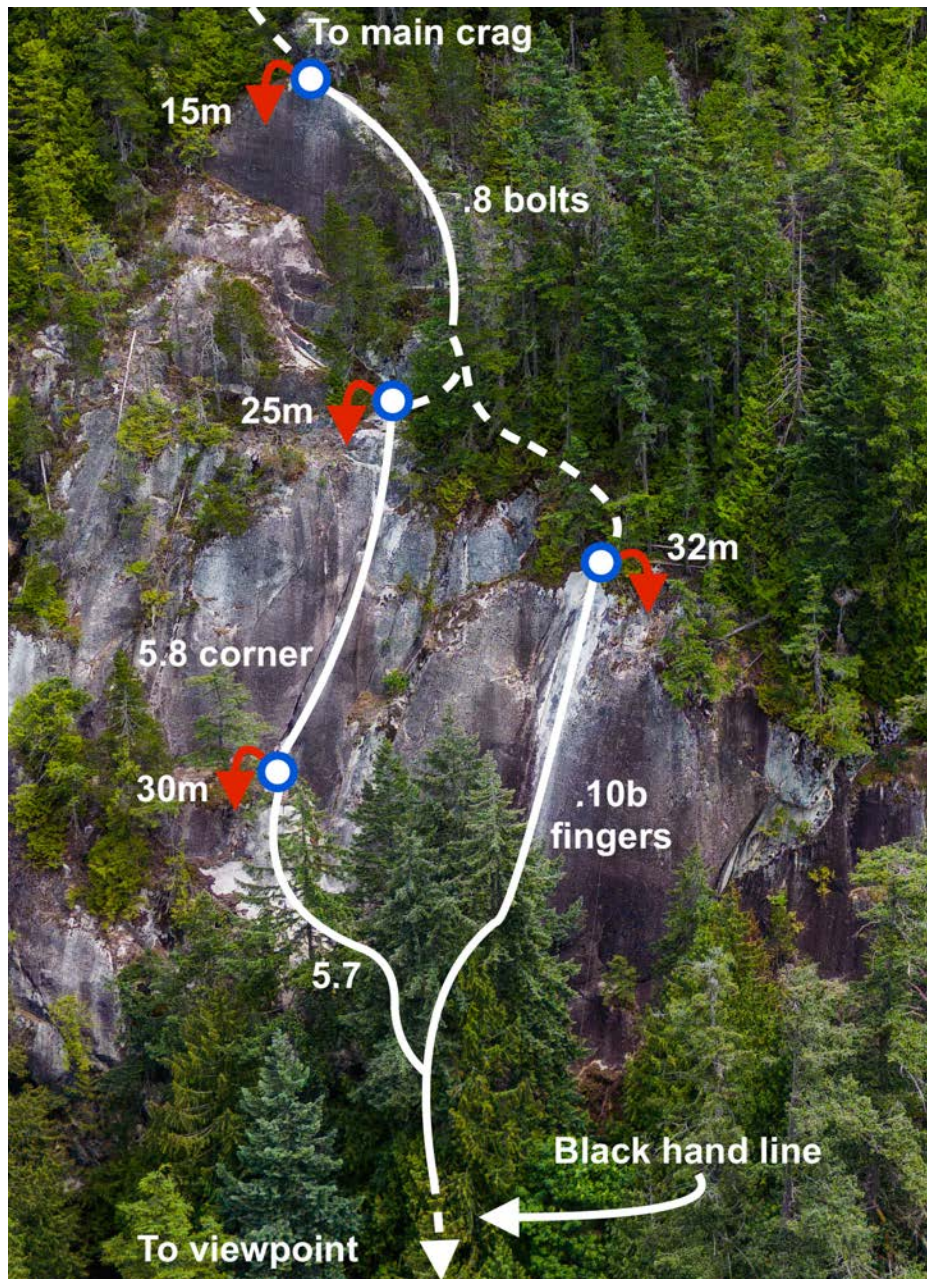
Start immediately above the upper falls viewpoint. Along the base, look for a black hand line up a steep gully scramble to the start of both routes. ***Please obey BC Parks signage and approach from the trail closer to Shannon Springs crag, avoiding the trail directly above the viewpoint*** Walking off is preferred over rappelling onto others.

1 **Open Sesame 5.8*****

The highlight of this route is the second pitch's dihedral. Walking off via the steep, direct approach trail is best, but you can rappel from any anchor with a 60m rope. P1.) Climb up past a bolt (shared start with *The Gatekeeper*) and a short way up the dihedral, looking for the first chance to step out left around the corner. Finger traverse left and step across a groove to a short crack and a nice belay by the curved tree. **5.7** P2.) An awesome hands/fingers corner to the forested terrace. **5.8** P3.) Move the belay up a short rock step to the base of the next wall and climb the fun bolted arete to reach the main crag directly below "Half Lotus". **5.8** S.R. to 3.5"
FA Nick McNutt, Jack Fieldhouse 2021

2 **The Gatekeeper 5.10b******

From the base, climb straight up the corner to an arch, reaching an excellent splitter finger crack. Scramble up from the top to reach P3 of *Open Sesame* and the rest of the crag. If lowering off, this pitch is a **rope stretcher with a 60m**. High quality! S.R. to 2", **32m**
FA Nick McNutt 2021



Climbs in the main area are listed from left to right (as encountered on the longer hiking approach from the valley). The steep gully trail arrives below "Half Lotus".

- 3 **The Space Between 5.8** **
The obvious wide crack takes gear from #4-#6 and requires some real OW moves. Can be TR'd by walking around if you didn't bring the big cams and want to give it a go. A rarity for the style in Squamish!
Cams 4"-7", 12m
FA Nick McNutt 2022

- 4 **Forest Tourist 5.10a** **
A tricky start leads to fun, moderate crack climbing. A bit short, but worthwhile.
SR, 14m
FA Nick McNutt 2022

One minute downhill to the base of the next climbs.

- 5 **Slice of Paradise 5.10c** ***
This right-kinking line starts off a stump. Traverse right along a bouldery, positive rail to reach the nice vertical finger crack.
SR, 14m
FA Nick McNutt 2021

- 6 **Zen Garden 5.11a** *****
This unmistakable ringlocks splitter packs a punch. Bring an extra green 0.75 cam or two for the first half, easing to fingers. Can continue past the anchor to the *Kaleidoscope* ledge.
SR, extra #0.75 cams, 16m
FA Nick McNutt 2021

- 7 **Level Up 5.7** ***
Climbs the striking, obvious corner. The lower anchor is for lowering/TR, higher anchor on the ledge to belay for the upper 3 routes.
SR to 3.5", 25m
FA Nick McNutt, Jack Fieldhouse 2022

- 8 **On the Level 5.10d** ***
A harder variation to *Level Up* leaves the corner out right to reach a short but quality off-fingers crack. A good warm up for what you'll encounter on *Zen Garden*.
SR to 3.5", 25m
FA Nick McNutt 2023



Will Stanhope on *Zen Garden 5.11a*
Photo: Nick McNutt

The next 3 routes start above “Level Up”. Climb one of the lower pitches to reach the higher anchor on the comfy ledge.

- 9 **The Seeker 5.11a *****
Take the left-most line through a finger crack to reach technical face climbing past bolts along a dyke. Bring a few cams to supplement the bolts. Shares an anchor with *Kaleidoscope Glasses*.
SR, 18m
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2022

- 10 **Kaleidoscope Glasses 5.10b ******
The excellent center crackline has a varied, thought provoking nature with a good mix of steep jamming, leading into exciting, techy face moves. Takes gear down to black alien/#0.1 size.
SR, small cams/wires 18m
FA Nick McNutt 2022

- 11 **Fractal Visions 5.10a *****
The right-hand crack starts with a bit of a burly transition from right-leaning into vertical, finishing with cruiser, enjoyable crack climbing above.
SR, 17m
FA Nick McNutt 2022

Walk downhill ~30 seconds to the next routes.

- 12 **Half Lotus 5.10d *******
This striking crack line is visible when topping out “*Open Sesame*” and offers one of the best pitches here. Most will want doubles in hand sized cams and a single #4. Two rappels to the ground with a 60m.
P1.) Climb a right-trending ramp system to an overhanging roof. Clip a bolt from the juggy flake and crank over the lip on incut holds to the belay. Can be linked with P2 if the second climber is comfortable pulling the roof with quite a bit of rope out. **5.10d**
P2.) Ramps and cracks head left to reach a short finger crack and a nice stance. **5.9**
P3.) The reason you’re here. This beautiful, splitter hand crack is pretty sustained in the #3 size and will leave a smile on your face. Two rappels to descend. **5.10b**
SR to 4”, double hand-sized cams
FA Nick McNutt, Jack Fieldhouse 2021

- 13 **Dhyana 5.10c *****
This steep crack starts directly beside a tree. Crank a few burly jamming moves to reach an easier but enjoyable crack with a thought-provoking crux up high.
SR, 16m
FA Nick McNutt 2021

The next 3 routes are long and share a common start. Scramble up along the ledge using the fixed line directly right of "Dhyana" to reach the base.

14

Tricycle Dumptruck 5.7 ***

This quality route tackles the wide-looking crack and chimney system that trend left up the wall. Plenty of face holds and smaller cracks for gear make this route a lot less thuggish than it appears from below. Unlikely and wild for the grade! Can be climbed with a standard rack to #4, but some will appreciate extras in the bigger sizes if wanting to sew it up. Larger cams can be placed if desired, although won't be necessary for most. Save a #4 cam for the top. Lower all the way to the ground with a 70m rope, or **rappel twice with a 60m**. SR to 4", 2x 3-4" cams, **33m**
FA Nick McNutt 2023

15

Cosmic Voyage 5.11a ****

Start up *Tricycle Dumptruck* until reaching the deep bay. Stem and climb out right into an exposed position along a great traversing crack that leads to a rest. Continue up the steep hand crack to its top where a crux awaits moving past a bolt. More cracks take you to the top of the wall in one long blockbuster lead. Bring up the second and hang out on the perfect ledge with a stunning view of Shannon Falls and the ocean. **Rappel twice to descend**. Most will want a full rack including a selection of small cams (black Alien or equivalent) and plenty of extendable quickdraws. SR to 4", small cams, **40m**
FA Nick McNutt 2023



Nick McNutt high on Cosmic Voyage
Jeremy Allen photo

16

Inshallah 5.10b ****

This excellent line climbs from the base to the top of the wall along a right-leaning crack. Start up *Tricycle Dumptruck* and when possible, head right along the the ramp with a hand crack to reach a steep, sustained crack while the position gets better and better. **Belay up the second and do two rappels to get down**. Outstanding!
SR to 4", 2x #0.4-2, **35m**
FA Nick McNutt 2023

Follow the stairs down to the belay balcony for the next routes

- 17 **Densu's Dance 5.11a *****
This fully bolted sport route climbs nice face features directly above the belay balcony. Shared anchor with *Sacred Geometry*.
7 Bolts, 18m
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2021
- 18 **Sacred Geometry 5.9 ******
Steep for the grade, this splitter crack offers physical climbing between good rests. A good warm up for many of the other routes here.
SR to 3", 18m
FA Nick McNutt 2021
- 19 **Karma Checkpoint 5.10d ******
This crack is a great extension to *Sacred Geometry*. Clip the station and continue up a wild, pumpy layback crack to reach a hand-size traverse below a massive flake. Lower off (**tie knots in the 60m rope!!!**), or if climbing a route on the upper wall, use the rappel anchor to the right to bring up the second climber in comfort. Quality!
SR to 3", 2x #0.3-2, **30m**
FA Nick McNutt 2023



*Jeremy Allen on Sacred Geometry 5.9
Photo: Nick McNutt*

- 20 **Soul Shakedown 5.10b *******
A highlight of the crag, and a standout route for its style. Starting just right of the balcony, climb up the steep crack systems using jams, jugs and side pulls through various bulges to reach the stunning ledge below the upper head wall (*Special Vacation* is directly above). Thought provoking moves and good gear throughout characterize this must-do pitch.
SR to 2.5", 25m
FA Nick McNutt 2021

The next route lies on the far right of the crag. Scramble up from the belay deck.

- 21 **Mettle Detector 5.12a *****
This excellent dihedral provides a very technical challenge in a wild position. Step right off the ledge, face climbing past 3 bolts gains the fingery right-leaning corner where a puzzling sequence awaits moving past a high bolt. Bring a variety of small gear up to finger sized. Look for the belay bolt at the base.
4 bolts + small cams, 15m
FA Nick McNutt 2022

The next two routes start directly above “Soul Shakedown”. Best to belay from the rappel rings at the base of these routes to keep that pitch’s anchor available for others.

- 22 **Feel Your Vibration 5.10b *****
The left-hand line climbs through a thin crack to gain bolts up the nice dihedral and face climbing above.
5 Bolts + small gear to #0.4, 18m
FA Nick McNutt, Taran Ortlieb 2023

- 23 **Special Vacation 5.10d ******
The right-hand route features technical face moves on outrageous dyke-riddled stone past a lone bolt to reach a crack. Enjoy the position!
SR, 15m
FA Nick McNutt 2022

Below the belay deck there is a small crag with 3 moderate routes.

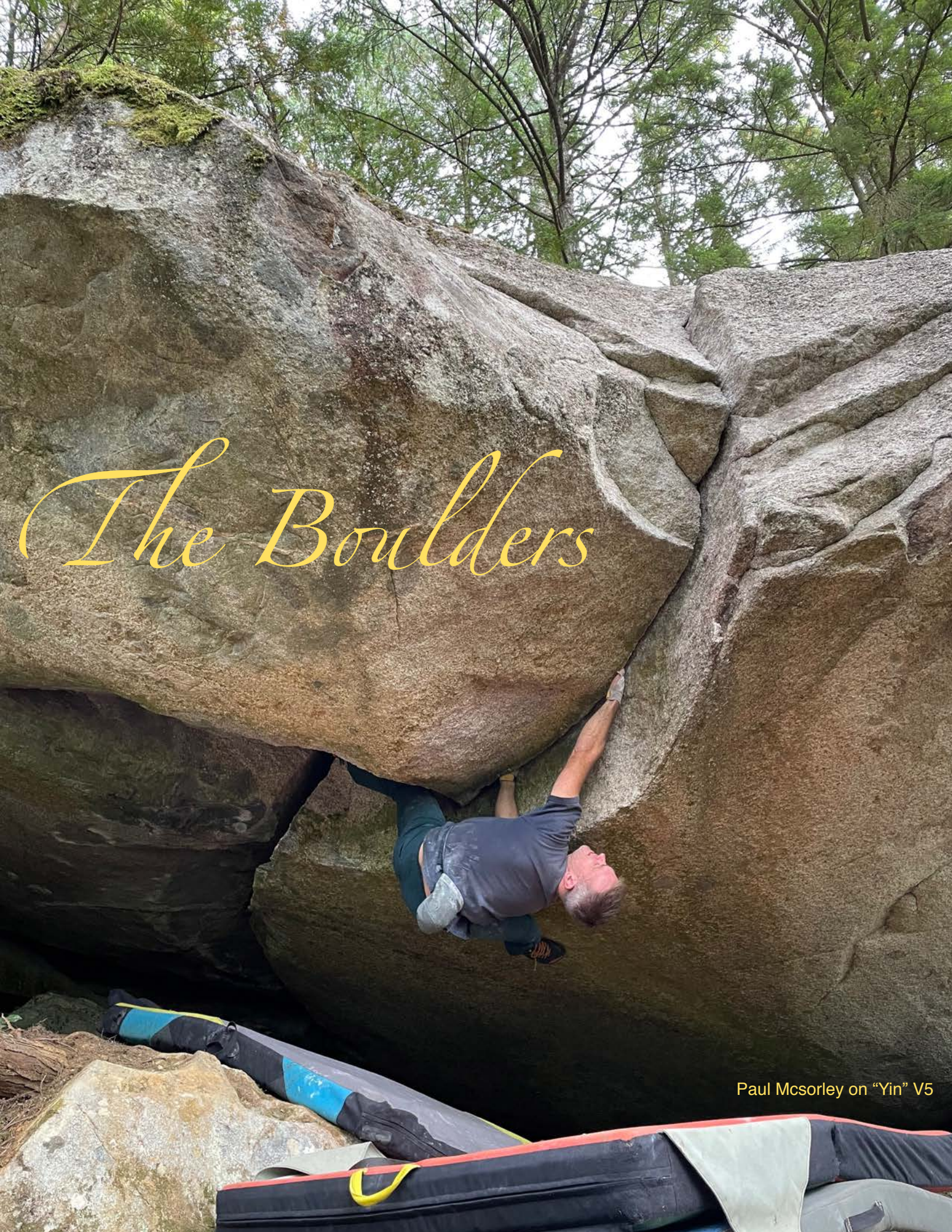
- 24 **Float On 5.10a ****
Start left of the crack on awesome, edgy dyke rock past bolts. Easier climbing on gear above gains the ledge and a shared anchor with *Khaki Suit*.
SR, 15m
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2022

- 25 **Khaki Suit 5.9 ****
Climb the main crack line in the middle of the wall to a mantle top out. Somewhat tricky protection at the start; with the exposure it may be prudent to place a good piece from the ground.
SR, 15m
FA Nick McNutt 2022

- 26 **Skydive Pitstop 5.10b *****
Start up *Khaki Suit* and when first possible, move right past a couple of bolts. Cool moves past horizontal cracks head up through perfect stone out right to a separate anchor. Might feel a bit reachy for shorter folks.
SR, 15m
FA Nick McNutt 2022



*Paul Mcsorley on Slice of Paradise 5.10c
Nick McNutt photo*



The Boulders

Paul Mcsorley on "Yin" V5

The large forested tier at the heart of the crag holds some quality problems that are certainly worth the walk with a crashpad. Roof crack problems in Squamish are rare, and there are 3 in this area as well as quite a few problems more typical of the style you would find in the areas below other cliffs in town. Landings are very good compared to many areas below the Chief, and few pads are required to safely enjoy a good session of mostly shady bouldering. If coming up for the first time, travel light on foam.

The best strategy with pads is likely to bring just one per person; for most people this will allow easier passage up the direct, steep handline trail. Although the longer trail is probably a little bit easier, it is nearly twice as long and the direct trail is over quickly.

Boulders are described from left to right, as encountered from this longer approach. The first problems are on an obvious block directly left of *Slice of Paradise*.



1) Tethered Peacock V3

This tricky compression problem starts low on the left side of the boulder. Squeeze the bottom of the edges and slap your way up to the top. High quality. FA Jack Fieldhouse 2021

2) Humble Flamingo V1

Start on the bottom right on the positive lip and climb along the top to a mantle finish. FA Jack Fieldhouse 2021

Walk downhill past the obvious "Zen Garden" crack to reach the next big boulder. It will be on your right with the tough mantle problem "Downward Frog" coming into view first.



3) *Downward Frog V7*

Much harder than it looks like it should be, this obvious problem starts matched on the huge jug and involves a magic trick to reach the lip. Get creative!

FA Neil Dyer 2023

4) *Cow Face V1*

Start standing using a small crimp for the left hand and a large right side pull block. Move straight up into *Lord of the Fishes*.

FA Jack Fieldhouse 2022

5) *Lord of the Fishes V3*

Start seated using the large triangular hold and crank up right towards the high jug using a small intermediate.

FA Jack Fieldhouse 2022

6) *Fire Log V0*

Start seated matched on the good edge and climb straight up.

FA Jack Fieldhouse 2022

Move downhill to an obvious lip traverse.

7) *Backwash V2*

Sit below the corner of the boulder. Starting on the best hold above, climb over the lip.

FA Nick McNutt 2023

8) *Surf the Universe V3*

This long, pumpy lip traverse is a good workout. Start on the far left side and finish on *Backwash*.

FA Nick McNutt 2023

9) *The Grom Wall VB*

Various lines on this low-angle wall provide a mellow way to limber up.

FA Chip Munk (year unknown)





The next boulder problems are on the detached mini-crag along the base of the main cliff directly across the trail.

10) King Pigeon V1

Start this highball liebacking the arete through some barn-door moves down low to gain the easier, juggy ridge that tops out the left side of the large boulder.
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2021

11) Kensho Corner V4

This aesthetic dihedral problem starts on the huge foothold with a delicate sequence moving right, followed by technical moves in the corner to a great top-out jug. High quality.
FA Nick McNutt, 2021

12) Wide Eyed V2

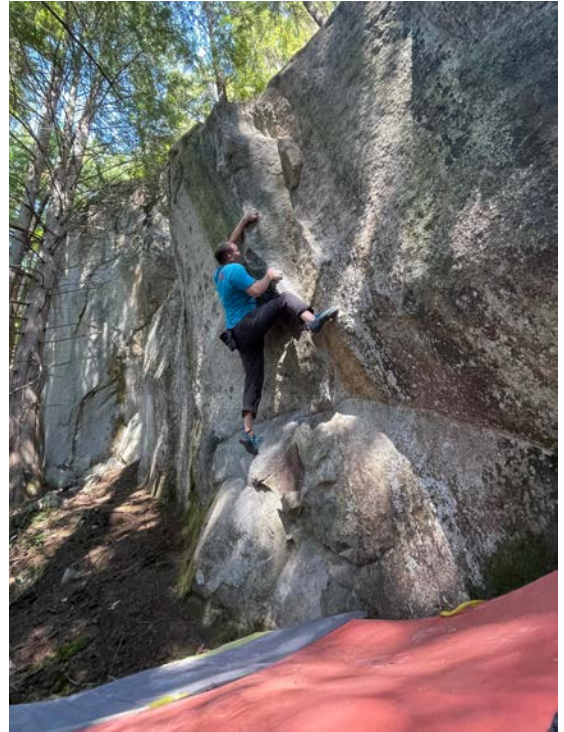
Start on the prow, using vertical seams on either side for your hands. Move up on the left side of the arete.
FA Nick McNutt, 2021

13) Little Thunderbolt V2

Use two opposing underclings at 1m to pull onto the wall and up leftwards to the arete.
FA Jack Fieldhouse, 2021

14) Crooked Monkey V3

Start using two small opposing edges at 1.5m and crank upwards.
FA Jack Fieldhouse, 2021



Jack Fieldhouse on Kensho Corner V4

Move downhill to the next smaller boulders.

15) Contemplation V1

Mantle onto the undercut block using a positive side pull and a high foot edge.
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2021

16) Concentration V1

Start seated using a left edge just over the lip to pull onto the slab above.
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2021

17) Visualization V0

Start seated, matched on the obvious rail and rock up over the lip.
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2021



Slightly downhill, at the top of the direct approach gully is an impressive overhanging block with three high-quality problems on it.

18) Tao Prow V6

This eye-catching line starts matched on the lowest edge with poor feet. Crank leftward along the increasingly better holds and mantle over the lip.

FA Neil Dyer 2023



19) Yin V5

The prize of this bouldering area climbs the long crack starting at the very back of the cave using a hand jam and a good edge. Positive holds along the lip of the wide crack lead to a burly section of thin hands narrowing to fingers. A rare problem for the style and worth a trip up here on its own.

FA Paul Mcsorley 2021

20) Yang V4

The next roof crack shares the start with *Yin* at the back of the cave. Move out left through a nice hand crack to reach a large jug, then jam straight up through the splitter fist crack to top out.

FA Nick McNutt 2021



Slightly towards the waterfall is the next boulder, the mouth of a deep cave.

21) Unstoppable Force V1

Start seated using compression on the square-cut edge for your left hand and a blocky hold for your right.
FA Nick McNutt 2021

22) Clear Headspace V4

This wild problem starts all the way inside the cave. Climb the hand crack out the entrance (don't dab!) and solve a puzzling horizontal chimney sequence to exit out on the right side. You'll likely need a light source (phone works well enough) in the cave.
FA Nick McNutt, Jack Fieldhouse 2021



23) Immovable Object V0

Start seated, matched on the low rail. Mantle up onto the slab above.
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2021

Just beyond and uphill lie the next two problems.



24) Extended Puppy V1

Start on the far left corner using a big undercling and a good crimp. Traverse the lip and top out above the crack.
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2021

25) Rock the Baby V2

Start matched on the low hold liebacking with a small vertical edge foothold. Fight the barn door and climb up the nice crack.
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2021

Slightly downhill is another boulder with the final problems.

26) Mind at Large V0

Climb along the nice cracks until able to reach up on good edges.
FA Jack Fieldhouse 2023

27) Think About Not Thinking V2

Start with your right on a small edge and your left on a poor slab crimp. Use the good feet and move up towards better holds.
FA Nick McNutt 2023

