

Gallow's Edge

Miniguide

The majority of this downloadable miniguide was copied from Walt Wehners excellent website at: <http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/9507/gallowsedge.htm> . We found that the original (html) format was not practical for printing. In addition, a couple of changes were made, a route added, and other little things. Please give Walt full credit for this miniguide. If you have suggestions for changes or additions to this downloadable guide, send info to Guido Bender: guido@lanl.gov .

Caution

Outdoor recreation activities are by their very nature potentially hazardous. There are inherent dangers and other risks involved that include the risk of personal injuries, including paralysis and death. All participants in such activities must assume the responsibility for their own actions and safety. The information contained in this guidebook cannot replace sound judgement and good decision-making skills, which help reduce risk exposure, nor does the scope of this guide allow for disclosure of all the potential hazards and risks involved in such activities.

Learn as much as possible about the outdoor recreation activities in which you participate, prepare for the unexpected, and be cautious. The reward will be a safer and more enjoyable experience.

General

Gallow's Edge features pleasant southern exposure, moderate sport and traditional routes, and fun moderate bouldering. There are sport and traditional routes from 5.4 to 5.9 (with one, out of place 5.12). Boulder problems range from 5.6 to V3, and the nearby Pit crag offers some more difficult top rope problems. This area is best for leading, rather than top roping, due to rather difficult anchor sets.

The crag was discovered by Carlo Torres, Jon Butler, Lucas Laeser, and Mike Lyons, among others, and remained almost totally undeveloped until very recently. Most first ascents were done solo.

Directions

To get to "Gallow's Edge," park near 719 Meadow Lane in White Rock, being careful not to block mailboxes or driveways (several residents have complained in the recent past). Take the public access trail between 719 and 721 Meadow Lane. "Gallow's Edge" is on the third cliff band below the parking level. Walk almost straight out, but veer left (north) somewhat, and start down the faint trail that leads to the base of the "Old New Place." Take a very faint trail south-east through the talus. When you arrive at the base of the third cliff band you will see several bolted routes. Total approach time should be no more than 5-10 minutes.



Figure 1: Directions to Gallow's Edge

Routes

Please note that the top of the cliff is EXTREMELY loose and dangerous. DO NOT attempt to set up topropes here when there are other climbers below. In general, it is best to lead all of the climbs, though a few on the left side of the crag can be toproped with gear or long runners.

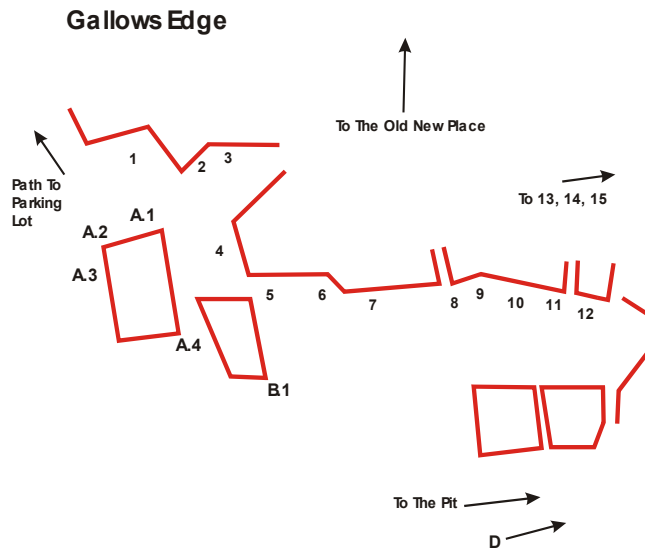


Figure 2: Schematic of Gallow's Edge

Gallow's Edge



Figure 3: Gallow's Edge

1. **Butler Route**
5.5 ***, no bolts, anchor with gear (or traverse to #2 anchors). The leftmost route at the crag. Climb cracks up a ramp. Probably one of the best beginner traditional routes in White Rock, with solid pro and fun moves. A little loose at the top. 40 feet. Can be set up as a toprope with gear, might get a bolted anchor in the future.
2. **Planet of the Apes**
5.8+ **, 4 bolts, 2 bolt anchor. The furthest left sport route, which climbs a 40-foot face just right of a jagged arete (the arete is on route). Can be set up as a toprope with gear.
3. **Unknown**
5.7 *, no bolts, anchor with gear. Offwidth right of *Planet of the Apes*. 30 feet.
4. **Prince Humperdink**
5.12a **, 3 bolts. The crag's hardest route. Powerful and thin, but short. Just around the corner from *The Fire Swamp*. Easier if you use the righthand arete. Bolted March '98, no anchor.
5. **The Fire Swamp**
5.8- ***, 4 bolts, 2 bolt anchor. The left side of the wide, low-angle face. Excellent. 40 feet.

6. **Unknown**
5.7+/5.8 **, 3 bolts, #5 anchor. Climbs up just left of the bulge, then continues straight up on slightly steeper, but heavily featured rock to the top. Bolted March '98.
7. **Princess Buttercup**
5.6 **, 3 bolts, 2 bolt anchor. Face route in the middle of the large, slabby wall. A good first lead. 35 feet.
8. **99 Red Balloons**
5.8 ***, 4 bolts, 2 bolt anchor. Just right of the grungy chimney. If arete is used, route is 5.8. If you avoid using the arete, it's a contrived 5.9-. Watch out for a loose flake near the 4th bolt - it won't seem to come out, but jiggles unnervingly.
9. **Unknown**
5.7 **, no bolts, anchor with gear. Lieback this offwidth crack just right of *99 Red Balloons*. Will have an anchor in the near future. 40 feet.
10. **Once Were Warriors**
5.8- ***, 4 bolts, 2 bolt anchor Face right of the of the offwidth crack. Enormous jugs. 40 feet.
11. **Pejo's Route**
5.7 **, 5 bolts, 2 chain anchor. Bolted in July 2001.
12. **Giant Killer**
5.4 **, TR or solo. Furthest right, short face. A fun solo, might be bolted in the future.

A few decent short solos can also be found to the left of the Butler route, though the rock is loose in spots.

As of the spring of 2001, three new routes exist on the small cliffband above the Gallow's Edge, which can be easily reached via a short scramble. They are:

Gallow's Edge Upper Ledge



Figure 4: Gallow's Edge Upper Ledge

13. Dave and Crissa's Route

5.9- ***, 4 bolts, 2 bolt anchor. A blunt arete with fun moves and interesting position. Classic. FA: Ben Hatcher

14. Quality Control Be Damned

5.7 *, 3 bolts, 2 bolt anchor. Shorter, less well bolted, and generally less interesting than its neighbour. Good warm up for *Dave and Crissa's Route*. Watch for loose rock near the anchors. FA: Ben Hatcher

15. Forgotten Crack

5.9 ****, no bolts, splitter hand jam. Belay from top possible, tied off with a bolt from a big boulder and a tree 20 feet back from the edge.

Right of *Quality Control be Damned* is an Offwidth, one crack further right comes the *Forgotten Crack*. Start back in an alcove, stemming off a huge block to the right. Go into the crack for 15 feet, followed by hand jams up some bulges. Pure fun, never the same move twice, from layback to stemming, everything included. This classic is a must. The top sounds hollow, be aware that it might be possible to pull off rocks. FA: Ben Hatcher

Gallow's Edge: Bouldering

A. Traverse Boulder

This is the boulder that sits directly behind *Prince Humperdink*. It features several short, difficult problems, as well as an uncompleted traverse of the north face (V6?).

Problems:

- A.1) **V1. From the leftmost portion of the west face, slap your way across the lip of the boulder and up.
- A.2) *V1. Sit start the south-west prow of the boulder. Crunchy.
- A.3) *V0. The south face. Hollow flakes, short, but fun.
- A.4) ***V2. Sit start at the north-east corner of the boulder. Climb straight up, then traverse rightwards on the lip to the highest point and top out.

B. One Problem Boulder

Sits 5' east of *Fire Swamp*. The only problem on this boulder is on the north-east corner, a steep, crimpy, 2-move overhang B.1, V2, no stars)

C. Pocket Plethora Boulder

A plethora of fine V0 (5.6 to 5.10, * to ***) boulder problems are all over this boulder. Eliminates could be done here too.

D. Bad Landing Boulder

The obvious, overhung square boulder that sits 30 yards north of the crag. The best problem (though it has an extremely bad landing) is the *Theo Takeda Memorial Sped Route* ***V1. Up the overhung east face on large pockets. Other problems on the boulder have better landings, and are easier (V0, from 5.8 to 5.10). The easiest descent is on the north face.