

# Gift Card 90M 10C

## Armadillo Buttress, Grotto Canyon, Alberta.

Ian Greant, Brian Spear - 2013

This three pitch route is fully bolt protected with rap rings at each station.

I believe it crosses *Asylum* (10D, 1984, pg 423 Bow Valley Rock banffrock.ca for PDF copy) on the 3rd pitch.

Gear required: 70m rope (a 60M may work for descent but have not tested it)

14 draws (if you use a directional off the belay and want to clip the station when you arrive)

Approach: Up Grotto Canyon, left at waterfall through narrows. 15 minutes up canyon.

Armadillo Buttress is large dark cliff just past the hoodoo cave and shortly before the ice route, *Crystal Tear*.

### **Pitch 1. 5.9 ~28 Metres. 10 bolts**

Start left of the obvious corner system in centre of cliff. Trend right and break through a small roof and move through easier ground to the station.

### **Pitch 2. 10c ~32 Metres. 11 bolts**

Move right from belay, unlock the tricky sequence for bolts 4 and 5 and finish up slightly easier climbing to station.

### **Pitch 3. 10c ~32 Metres 12 bolts**

Make a tricky mantle /side pull to move through fairly blank wall. Gain easier ledge, trending right into harder climbing as you cross into the corner with roof. Pull roof on good holds. Watch for some loose rock as you approach final station. Use caution as you are almost directly above your belayer. Ignore bolt to the left in the bay.

### **Descent:**

Single rappels with 70M rope. It should work with a 60 but it may be close when rapping into the 2nd anchor. Use knots if you plan to test this.

It is possible to scramble off top of route to trees above, and traverse right descending into scree gully on right side of buttress.



This pic is pre-flood. There are no trees at base anymore. Red dots show approximate line. XX marks anchors.





Brian Spear drilling first pitch on lead.





Brian getting into the business section of pitch 3.





Brian working the drill - great views down the valley.

Story behind the route name - most of the protection used on the route was purchased using an assortment of MEC gift cards that had been given to me as birthday presents. A good portion of the drilling was done with a drill gifted to me by L.R. so some credit is due to him for getting me rolling on this route. IG