

Canmore Wall: “Kurihara” (5.10d, 430 m)

This route was put up in tribute to Jiro Kurihara who passed away in an avalanche in Alaska in May 2011. Jiro was a passionate climber who lived in Canmore because he loved the Canadian Rockies.



Jiro on Yamnuska in 2008.

Approach:

Park at the far South East end at “Peaks of Grassi” in Canmore (Three Sisters Drive / Wilson Way) and follow the “Highline” mountainbike trail up through the forest. After about 30 min. you get to a big drainage. From here you can see the top of the climb and the left half of the wall. Follow the drainage (stay right where it splits) to the base of the climb just around the corner from where the trees come close to the wall. 1.5 hours.

Ship’s Prow

Canmore Wall

Ha Ling



View from Cougar Creek trailhead

Gear:

Rock:

14 quickdraws (some long ones) and two 60 m half or twin ropes (essential for rappel!). No extra gear is required for protection. All anchors are equipped with two bolts and set up for rappelling.

After pitch three the quality of rock improves quickly.

First ascent:

The route was bolted ground up on four days in July 2011. Mike Shoemaker, Christoph Spiegel, Aki Tawara, and Patrick Lindsay were patient belay partners on the first four days. Thank you very much.

I climbed using little bolts on the way up and added more on the way down to make use of the battery power efficiently. The first two pitches were bolted rappelling on August 2nd, the day when the first free ascent was done by Michael Duerr, Hubi Zilbauer and me. The original start was by scrambling in from the left but is not recommended due to poor rock.

Christoph Hummel

Route description:

Pitch 1 (5.6, 25 m, 2 bolts): Climb the short gully and continue up to the anchor on the right.

Pitch 2 (5.9, 60 m, 11 bolts): up the corner trending right where it splits.

Pitch 3 (easy ridge, 40 m, 2 bolts): Follow the ridge to the right. The anchor is on the right, just before it gets steep.

Pitch 4 (5.7, 55 m, 4 bolts): Stay on the left by the second bolt. The anchor is on the right (in the shade).

Pitch 5 (5.10a, 55 m, 11 bolts): Climb up a short corner and straight up the face above. Continue up and left to a shallow corner. Finish up the slab to the right.

Pitch 6 (5.10b, 28 m, 5 bolts): Continue up the slab to a nice ledge.

Pitch 7 (5.10c, 45 m, 11 bolts): Up straight for about 20m, then across a ramp to the right and up to the anchor just left of the corner about 5 m below the roof.

Pitch 8 (5.10d, 40 m, 11 bolts): Traverse out right staying low until past the second bolt. Then climb up to a corner and further left to a crack/corner. The anchor is on a ledge on the right.

Pitch 9 (5.10a, 35 m, 8 bolts) Climb the face up and right, then turn left into the corner. Follow the steep black stripe from the left to the right and up to the anchor.

Pitch 10 (5.9, 45 m, 8 bolts) Up the corner, through the chimney, up the gully. Pull over the edge after the last steep 8 meters. Find a single bolt anchor 5 m back and down from the edge.

Rappel (60 m half ropes!!!):

5 m down and left (climber's left) of where you top out there is a rap anchor on solid rock.

Rappel the route from here!

Skip the anchor of pitch 6 making sure there are knots in the ends (use a prusik – you will get close to the ends of your ropes!)

Downclimb the ridge of pitch 3! It is safer to use the two bolts and climb down on belay!

"Kurihara"

**5.10d, 430 m
July 2011**

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8 bolts**

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