

Calabogie Bouldering

Part 2: Cliffline Boulders

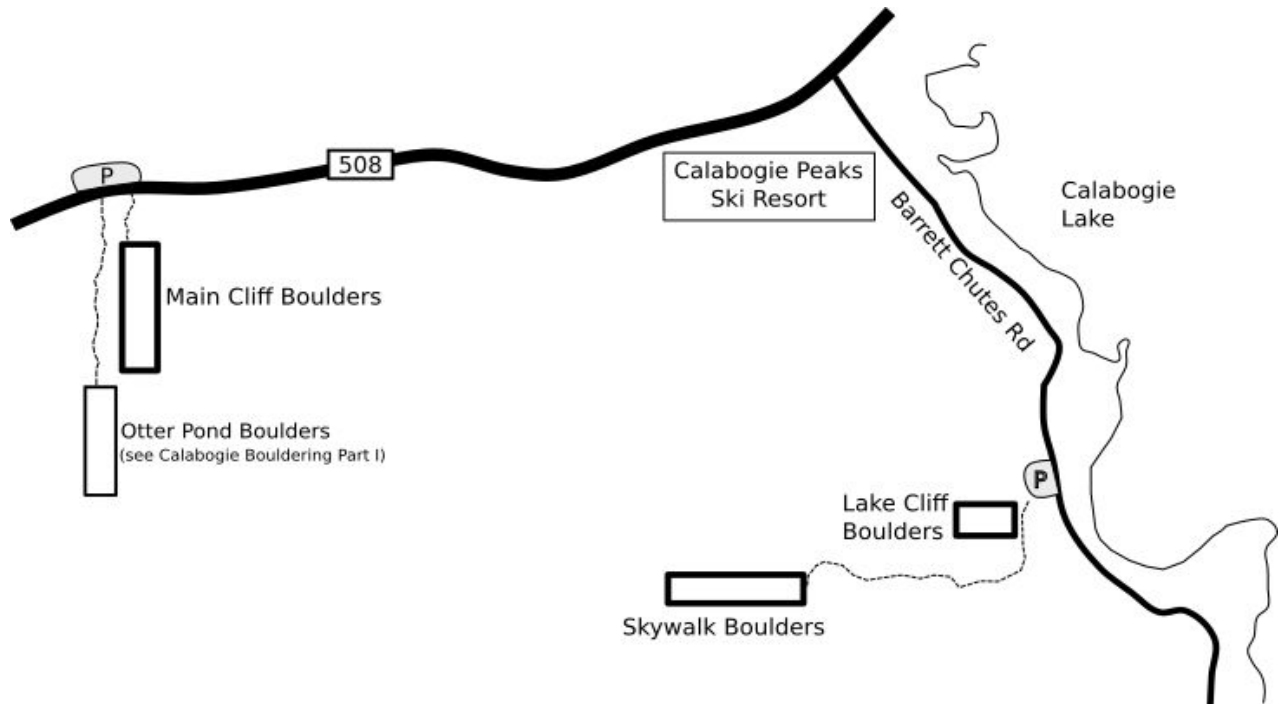
2023 Preliminary Version

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There are several less trafficked bouldering spots near Calabogie. This guide describes the three located beneath the cliffs - Main Cliff Boulders, Lake Cliff Boulders and Skywalk Boulders.

Location

The boulders are located just outside the small town of Calabogie. Note that the parking area for the Main Cliff boulders is about 5 km from the parking area for the Lake and Skywalk boulders.



Access, Ethics and Etiquette

Please be respectful of the area and the people you encounter, so we do not to jeopardize our ability to use the area for climbing. Follow the etiquette guidelines below and consider joining the Ottawa Crag Care Community to learn how you can help keep this site open to climbers. You can find them on Facebook or Instagram.

Leave no trace. Obviously, clean up your garbage, but also remember to scrub away your tick marks, pick up spilled food and bits of tape, and don't haul in a twin mattress and then leave it behind.

Don't build fires. Fire rings are unsightly, the township often has fire bans, and fires beside rocks destroys holds. See the West Nile boulder for evidence.

Do not alter the rock. Don't chip holds to make them bigger and don't pry off rock that is not a safety hazard.

Bury human waste. And pack out your toilet paper.

Minimize erosion at the base of the boulders by picking up your pads instead of dragging them. Don't let dogs dig up the vegetation. Try to avoid sprawling out with your group excessively. Stay on established trails.

Do not use blowtorches or fire to dry wet holds. The uneven heating will weather the rock quickly and lead to broken holds.

Clean your shoes before jumping on a problem. Cleanliness is next to sendliness.

Not everyone likes to listen to your music. Ask the others in the area first.

Safety

It's important to assess the safety of every boulder problem you attempt. Consider how flat the landing is and if you have enough pads and spotters for the height of the problem. (Your crash pads are not as cushy or big as the mats in the gym!) Check the quality of the holds, remembering that the freeze/thaw cycle that occurs during the winter can make a once solid hold break off easily. If a hold is marked with an "X", that's an indicator that it is loose. Don't pull it off on your head.

Quality Ratings and Symbols

🌟 A top ten problem! Fun climbs with good landings. If you are only spending one day at Bogie, try these.

*** One of the best problems of the grade in the area, enjoy.

** A good problem, climb it.

* A decent problem, worth climbing.

no stars - Short, chossy, contrived or otherwise uninteresting.

⚠️ A problem that is high or has a somewhat sketchy landing. Take care.

☺️ A problem that is easier to climb solo or with only a single pad. If you've never climbed outside, this is a great place to start. This doesn't mean the problem is actually any good. See the star rating for that.

↑ A 'reacky' problem. The grade of these problems will vary depending on your height.

Grades

Please remember that this is merely a guide. Many of the problems have not seen much traffic or many repeats, so there hasn't been much consensus grading. If you have suggestions for the grades for some problems, feel free to track us down (instagram/facebook) and let us know. Keep in mind the boulder field is in a very humid environment, and the conditions will affect how good the friction is. In the height of summer you can expect many problems to feel considerably harder than on a crisp October day.

If you're new to climbing outdoors, you should note that modern gym grades, especially on the lower end, can feel significantly easier compared to outdoor grades. V3 in the gym might feel like V0 at Calabogie.

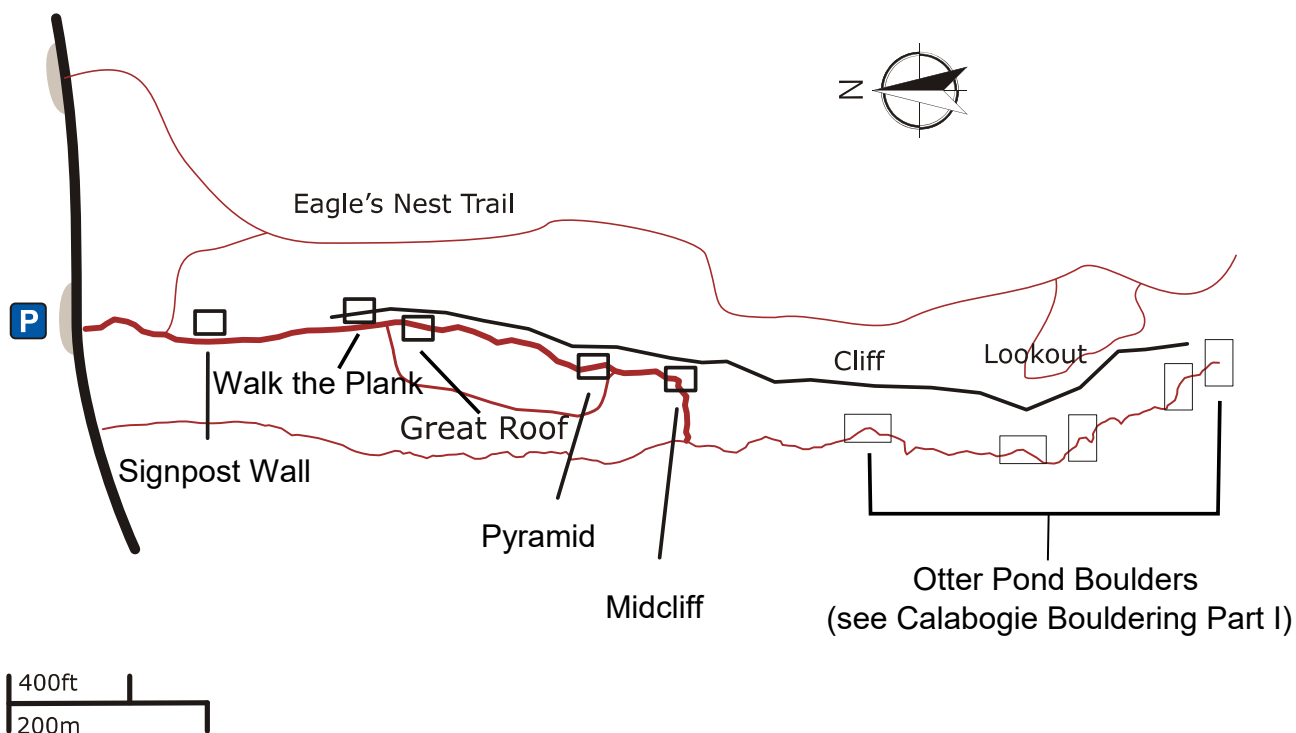
Main Cliff Boulders

These boulders are directly below the main roped climbing at Calabogie. While climbers have known about them for years, they typically have seen less attention from boulderers than the Otter Pond boulders. Some of the established problems here are really high quality and the area still has potential.

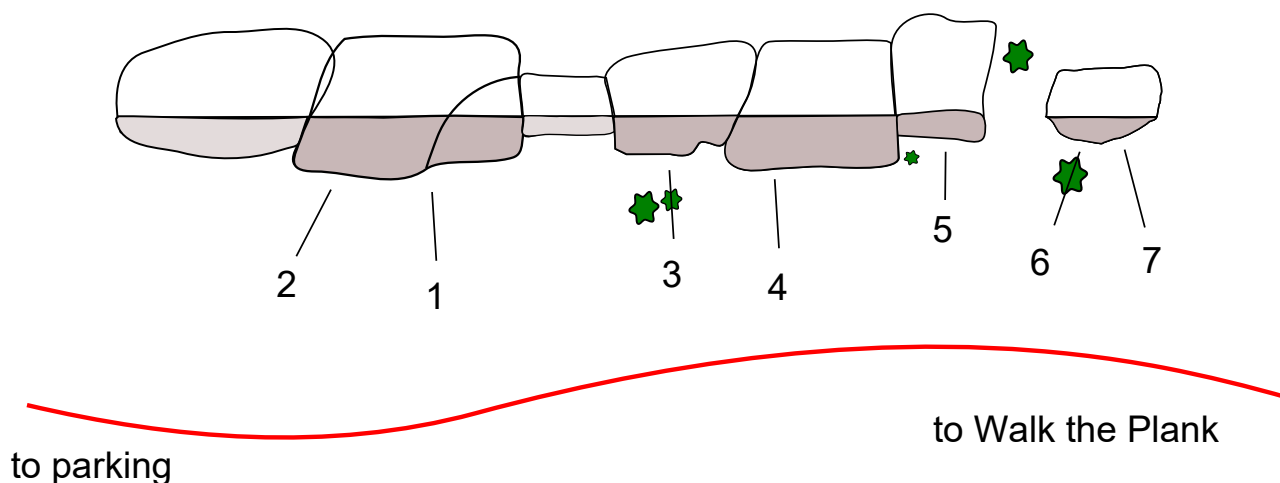
Approach

From Calabogie, drive past Calabogie Peaks ski hill and park in the large parking lot, 2.5 km past Barrett Chute Rd (the turn off for the ski hill). Don't forget to pay the parking fee (currently \$5 per day, season pass is also available). Follow the main trail, but at the first junction, go straight. The Signpost Wall is visible within 10 m of this junction. All of the other boulders stretch out along the climbing access trail.

to Calabogie



Signpost Wall



A fun, steep wall with good holds and a flat landing. It is the first wall you'll see down the trail. Please re-direct lost hikers to turn around and go back up the hill to the Eagle's Nest lookout.

1. Line Rider V3/4 **

Start on the distinctive pinchy thing under the corner. Go up to the lip and traverse right to top out in the next notch. You can also top out directly above (try it, you'll love it :/)

Line Rider straight up Project

There is a potential problem that goes straight up from the same holds, but the block above is loose. Don't pull this off on your head.

2. Line Rider Extension V5 *

Start several feet left of Line Rider on a small crimp and undercling. Traverse right into Line Rider.

3. Robloxian V2 ** ☺

Sit start on the good incut rail and climb up! Super fun.

4. Confidently Incorrect V5 **

Sit start on good holds to the right of Robloxian, climb through crimps on the lip to top out to the right in the notch.

Forest Guide V4 ?? *

Sit start as for Confidently Incorrect and climb straight up through slopers. Pretty height dependent.

5. Masters of Applied Manteling V5 *

Start under the super steep roof and figure out how to climb over it.

6. Wrong Way V1 * ☺

Sit start on the left facing crimp/rail. Move left to the arete using the foot that's to the left and then top out over the bulge.

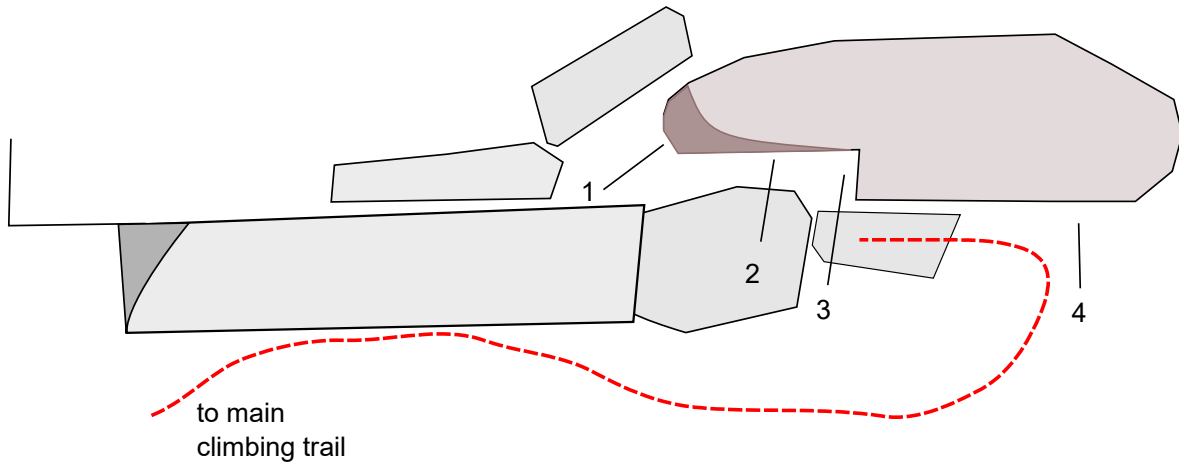
Turn Around V3 ***

Start as Wrong Way, but climb straight up avoiding the holds off to the left.

7. Go Back V1 *

Start with left hand on the left facing crimp/rail and right on the sloping ledge. Move up and right to top out right of the trough.

Walk the Plank



Follow the climber's trail for ~150 m and look through the trees to see a tall slab with a large horizontal crack at its base. The best approach is to cut off the main trail onto a faint trail before you see the boulder.

1. Ice Breaker V5 ? ***

Sit start with a good jug and pinch. Climb out the prow using holds on both sides to a dramatic finishing move. The best problem at Calabogie if you are 5'2" :) Likely easier if you are taller.

2. Gunwale V4/5 **

Sit start with small crimps in the middle of the face (no, not that pinch thing over near the corner) and climb straight up. Easier if you are short.

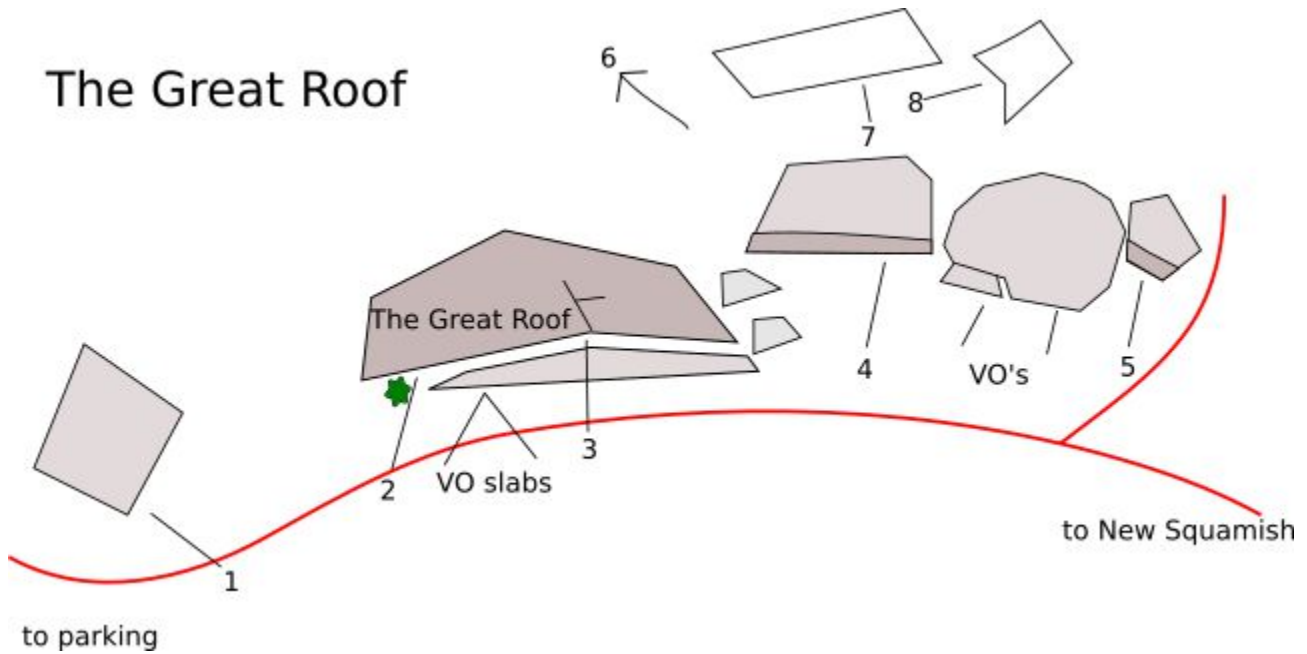
3. Jolly Roger V0 *

Climb the right corner. Eliminating the left wall is fun as well.

4. Walk the Plank V5 ? **

Start on the right end of the enormous horizontal ledge, hanging under the roof, and traverse left and up on small crimps to the lip and top out.

The Great Roof



Follow the climber's trail and you can't miss The Great Roof. You'll know it when you see it.

□ 1. Trailside Arete V1

Sit down start below the arete. Awkward first move to establish on the face, which is pleasant climbing.

□ 2. Silk Road V4 ★ □

Start on the lip, just to the right of the tree. Traverse the lip without turning over onto the slab, all the way to top out as the Great Roof.

□ 3. The Great Roof V4 ★★★ □

Climb out the seam in the roof to top out through the crack. Don't botch the top out!

Great Roof Extension V ?

See how far into the cave you can start from. Some versions of this have been done. Talk to Yves.

□ 4. Fire One V0 ★★

Start on the good rail and climb up.

□ 5. Compressor V6 ? ★★

Sit start squeezing both sides of the short block and climb up. Pretty condition dependent.

□ 6. Bird's Nest V2 ★

Located above the great roof, an obvious clean overhanging face to the left of a cave. Start on the sloper jugs and climb the obvious line up slopers and crimps to top out. There is an extension that starts in the cave and climbs into this at about V4.

□ 7. Direct Hit V? ★

Talk to Pat Brown

□ 8. Just Eight More Inches V5/6 ★★ ↓

Sit start on the jug and figure out how to top out the steep prow. Fun climbing, but very reachy.

A little further down the trail, just past the second "2 Easy Way Down" sign is the Prow Boulder.



□ 9. The Prow V2 ? ★★

Stand start and climb the sharp arete. The sit start adds some awkward difficulty.

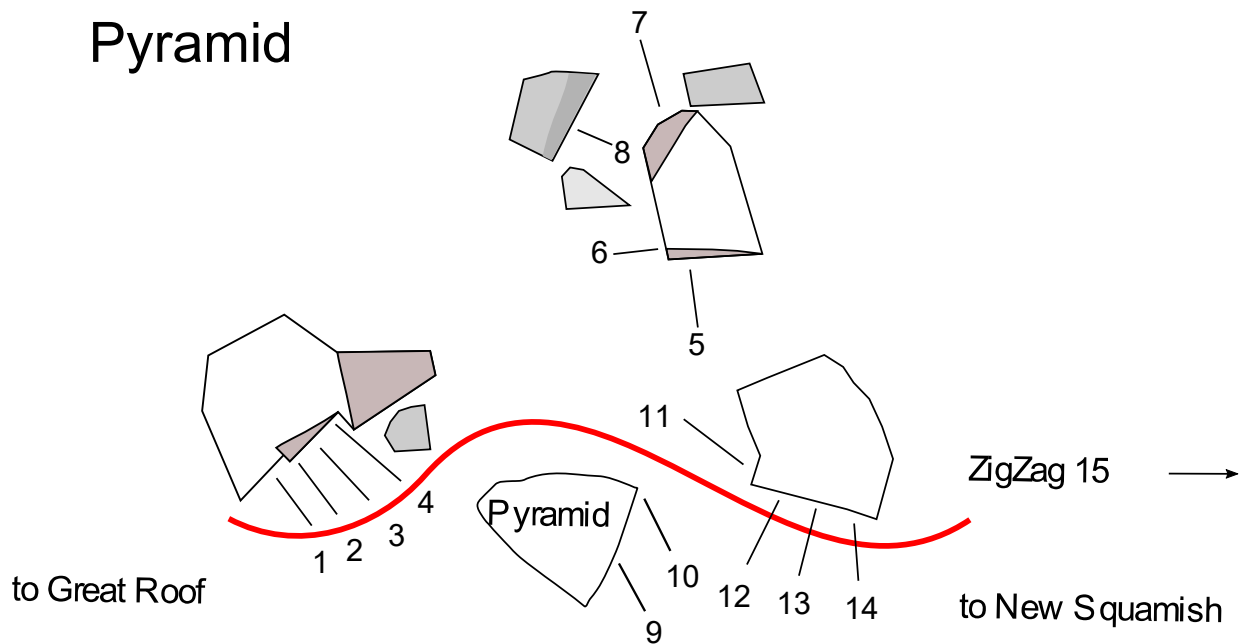
□ 10. Port ★ V0

Stand start on good sloping edges to the right of the roof and left of the huge ledge. Climb straight up.

□ 11. Slab ?

The slab in the corridor to the left of the The Prow has been half cleaned. It looks pretty chill if you use the arete and pretty unpleasant if you attempt to climb the face on the small, sharp crimps.

Pyramid



This area has a high concentration of easier problems with mostly good landings. It does, however, take a long time to dry in the spring (as in, there is a foot of water below the Pyramid boulder).

□ 1. Dull Razor V0/1 ★ ☺

Sit start on the left side of the face, pop up to the lip and traverse right to top out.

□ 2. Stubble V0/1 ★ ☺

Start just right of dull razor with left hand on a high meat hook and right hand on your choice of edges. Go up right to the pinch and then straight up, just to the left of the razor jug. Top out onto the slab on the left.

□ 3. Razor Jug V2 ★★ ☺

Sit start on the somewhat obvious start holds below the razor jug (feel around up high, you'll find it), climb up to the lip, through the razor jug and traverse left to top out.

□ 4. Razor Burn V2 ★ ☺

Sit start on low edges just left of the corner. Climb up, somewhat awkwardly and finish as Razor jug.

□ 5. Breaky Face V2

Stand start with left hand on the arete and right on a high jug. Top out directly above. To our disappointment a key hold broke. There's probably a line that traverses in from the right that's possible too.

□ 6. Cleopatra V1 ★

Climb the face left of the arete.

□ 7. Back Problems V0 ★ ☺

Sit start in the cave on a good ledge and climb up the steep face on good holds.

□ 8. King Tut ★

Sit Start on good holds in the cave and climb up.

□ 9. Pharaoh's Peak V1 ★★ ☺

Sit start on the large crack and top out at the peak. Flooded in the spring.

□ 10. Jenn Queen of the Nile ★

Climb the right arete. Flooded in the spring.

□ 11. The Curse ★

Sit start and climb the left side of the arete moving a bit left to top out.

□ 12. Tomb Raider V0 ☺

Start with left hand on arete and right on a crimp. Climb up the tall face using the left arete. Super fun.

□ 13. The Sphinx V0 ★

Start with left hand on crimp and right hand pressing, climb up the corner.

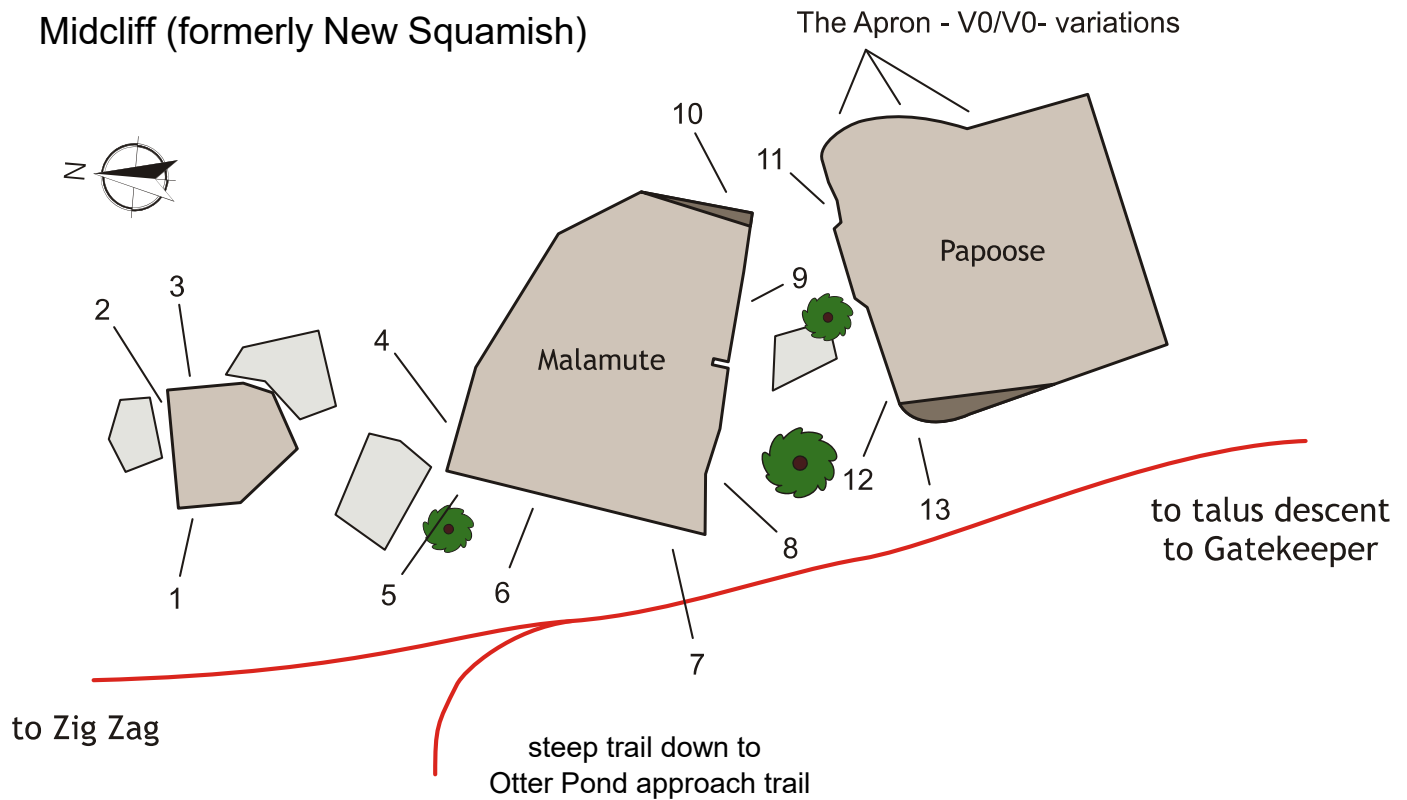
□ 14. Sarcophagus V1 ★

Climb the slab, eliminating everything left of the vertical seam and the right arete.

□ 15. Zigzag Crack V0- ★

A little further down the trail is an obvious blank face split by a zigzag crack. Climb the crack. Possibly some other problems in this area.

Midcliff (formerly New Squamish)



These problems aren't quite as epic as their namesakes, but there are a couple of good easy ones. Problems 1-3 need re-cleaning as does the Apron slab. From here, a steep trail will take you down the hill to the Otter Pond approach trail.

□ 1. **The Facebook Insult V3**

Start sitting below the arete and climb it.

□ 2. **Heavy Fest V2**

A bit of a squeeze job. Start sitting between the two boulders and climb the right side of the arete, trying your best not to dab the boulder behind you.

□ 3. **Heavy Duty V1 ***

Sit start at the low lip of the slab.

□ 4. **Squamish Buttress V2 ***

Climb the face left of the arete. The face climb that eliminates the left arete is only marginally harder.

□ 5. **Over the Rainbow V0- ****

Climb the left side of the slab.

□ 6. **Banana Peel V0 ☺**

Start on the high crimp and climb the tall slab, trending slightly right through the obvious L shaped corner/ledge. Climbing straight up and eliminating the L is also worth doing and only slightly harder.

□ 7. **Diedre V0- ******

Climb up the right side of the tall slab using the arete.

□ 8. **Dreamcatcher V0 *****

Climb the broken face left of the offwidth to a glorious juggy lip at the top.

□ 9. **Cobra Crack V0-***

Climb the face anywhere between the off-width crack and the right side of the face. Several variations. The left side, using the crack is Cobra Crack.

□ 10. **Angel's Crest V1 ****

Sit start and climb the right side of the short arete.

□ 11. **The Grand Wall V0 ***

Climb the shallow, broken corner. Watch for loose rock!

□ 12. **The Ultimate Everything V1 ***

Sit start with your right hand on a sidepull jug near the short, blunt arete. Climb up and slightly left through the ledge.

□ 13. **Zombie Roof V3***

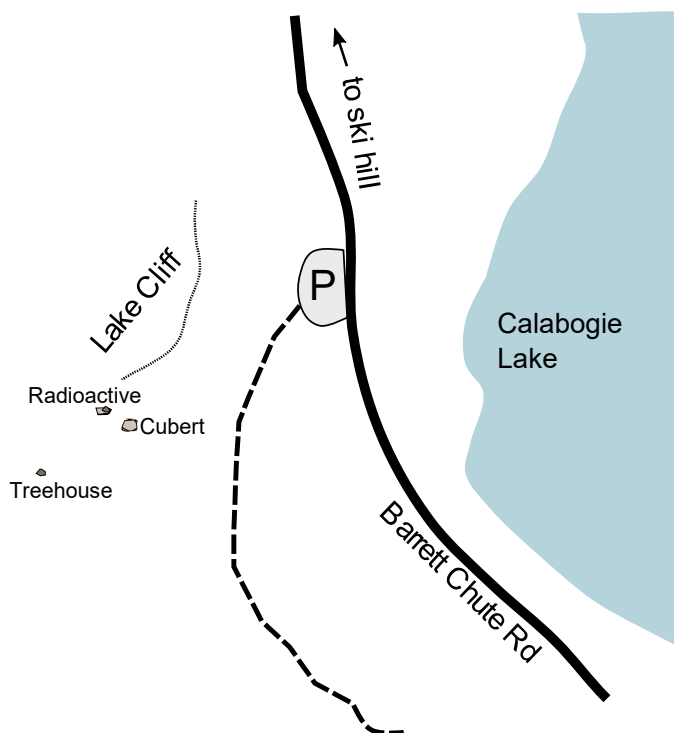
A real shorty. Sit start on the low jug and surmount the blunt arete.

Lake Cliff

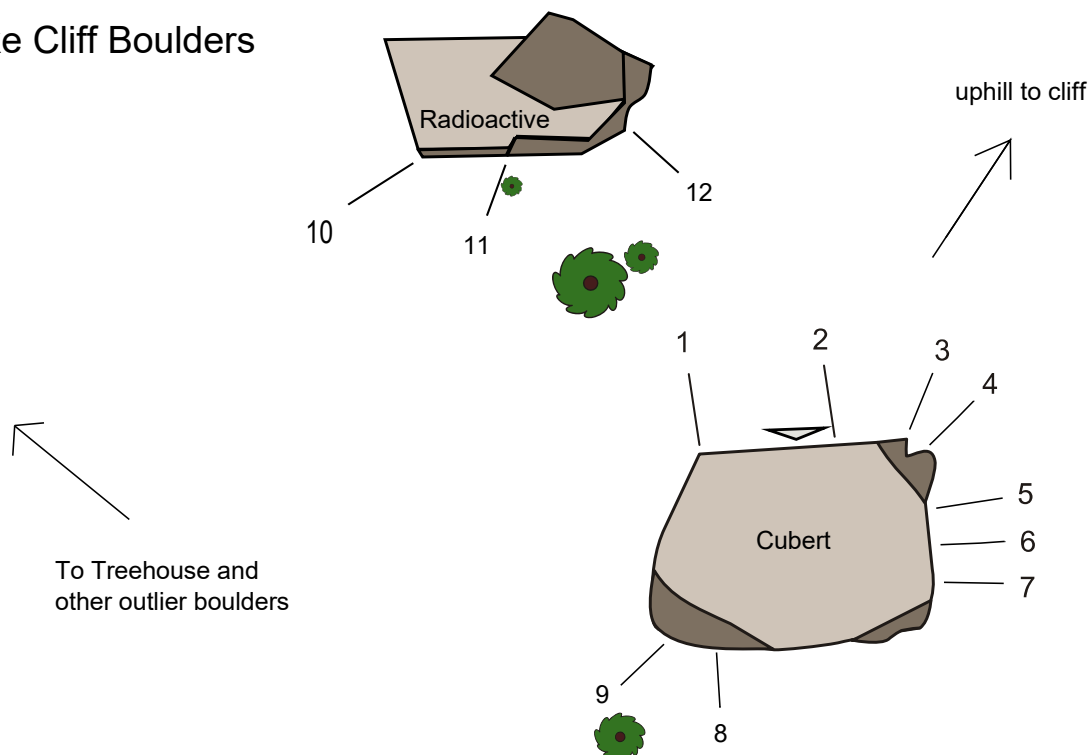
The boulders under the Lake Cliff have seen little traffic over the years, but it's a fun spot to spend a few hours especially when combined with the sport climbing. The Cubert boulder has the most problems and the best landings. Some of the boulders in the talus directly under the cliff may offer more potential for those ambitious enough to scrub them.

Approach

At the ski hill, turn left onto Barrett Chute Road and drive 2.7 km to park at the Manitou Mountain/Barrett Chute trail head. Currently, there is no fee for this parking area. Follow the Manitou Mountain Trail for a few minutes, until you are below the left hand side of the cliff. Turn right into the woods and bushwhack up the hill. The first boulder to keep an eye for will be the Cubert boulder.



Lake Cliff Boulders



1. The Smell-O-Scope V0

Start on the right side and traverse the lip to top out at the apex.

2. Planet Express V3 **

Sit start on crimps just to the left of the detached block (which is out). Go left and then up to the lip. More fun if you're short.

3. Underclockwise V1

Climb the right facing corner.

4. Overclockwise V2

Start on the huge rail, go up to the jug and horn and top out.

5. Coily 1 V ?

Climb up the right side of the face.

6. Ugg 2 V ?

Climb up the middle of the face.

7. Slick 3 V ?

Start on crimps on the left side of the face. Move to the lip and top out.

8. Parallel Doomsday V2 *

Sit down start on sidepull and figure out a way up through the roof.

Nerd Academy V2 *

Sit start as Parallel Doomsday and head left to the arete and up.

9. Awesome Express V1

Start on the left side of the low overhang. Lip traverse all the way to the right to top out.

10. My Eyes V0

Sit start on the left corner on low sidepulls. Work sidepull rails and slab into dihedral.

11. These Goggles Do Nothing V1

Sit start at the centre of the boulder on a sidepull. Go up to the finger crack and then left into a sidepull. Make a big move to the peak and top out. Easier to escape left into the dihedral.

Radioactive Man ?

Has this been sent? Up straight through the roof avoiding the sides.

These Goggles Do Everything V3

Start as for These Goggles Do Nothing, and go right to gain the arete and top out.

12. Fallout V2

Sit start under the corner on opposing sidepulls. Get into the bucket and join These Goggles Do Everything to top out.

Treehouse of Terror is a low, horizontal roof located uphill and away from the parking lot. It has one established problem.

13. Bam Bam V4

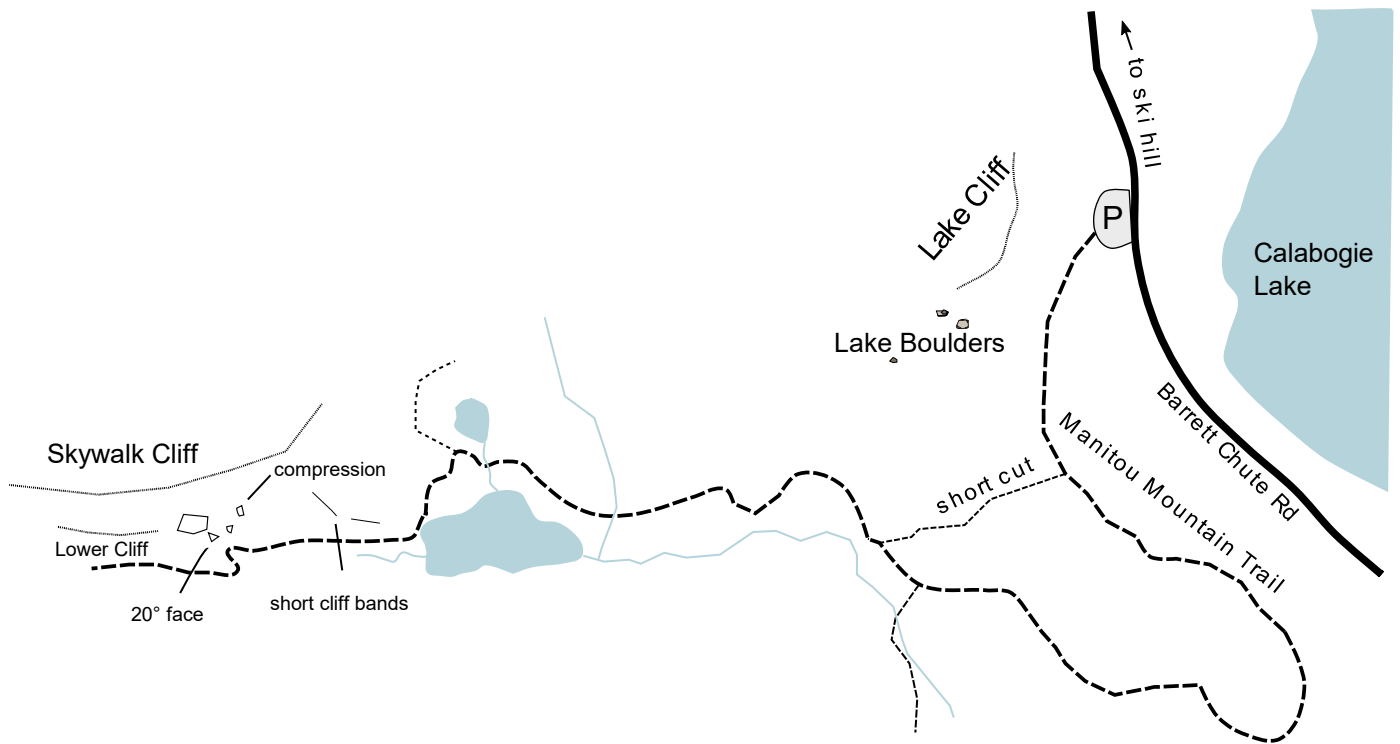
Start under the roof, gain the lip and head up.

Skywalk Boulders

This is an area for those looking to explore. There are some established boulder problems under the Skywalk Cliff, however, we thought they were a bit disappointing. The boulders directly under the cliff are kind of a jumbled mess. There are also several, predominantly vertical, short cliff bands in the area that could be bouldered if you are ambitious.

Approach

To approach, park as for the lake cliff boulders and start up the Manitou Mountain Trail. To save time, take a short cut up hill (look for orange flagging tape) and to the next established trail. Turn right when you reach the main trail again, then stay to the left at every junction until you reach the Skywalk Cliff. The approach takes ~25-30 minutes.



Overhanging Compression problem ~V4



Suspended Prow



20 ° Overhang with several variations

