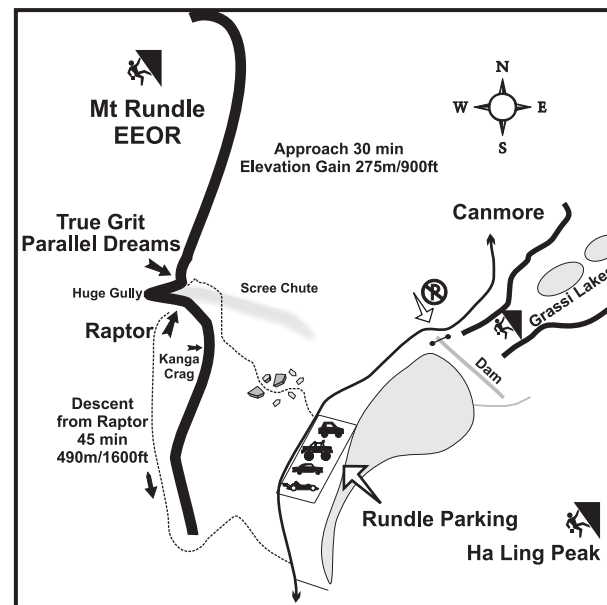


MT RUNDLE



Photo: Roger Chayer/TALUS photographics

Richard Jagger at the crux on the 1st pitch of Parallel Dreams



"I love it when I actually get a hold on this rock!"

Chris Miller

1. Raptor
2. Parallel Dreams
3. True Grit

Approach





The approach shouldn't take you more than a casual 30 minutes. Park at the Rundle parking lot and find the path on the other side of the road. This track is well-traveled and the face you're aiming for will be intermittently visible to the northwest. You'll be walking up a shallow depression until you meet the rock at *Kanga Crag* (10–15 minutes), where you'll see bolts on recent and past projects (not covered in this book). The trail then runs to the right across a talus slope and steeply up beside loose ground 'til you can cross to the base of the routes. *Parallel Dreams* and *True Grit* are situated a few metres apart on the face of EEOR, to the right of the large dividing gully, *Raptor* is on the face to the left of this break.

NB: Rocks can fall onto the approach slope from above, dislodged by wind, rain, big-horn sheep, or other parties on the routes themselves. The traditional trail, for no good reason, follows closely under the face for a distance, exposing you directly to unnecessary danger. If you must walk close, wear a helmet, and consider taking one of the fainter tracks that traverse the slope further down the hill.



TIP Wear your edging shoes. There is more edging than friction climbing on these routes, and the holds can get a bit small for standing comfortably on in slippers.

RAPTOR - Mt RUNDLE

30 min 220m     10c Mark Whalen

Raptor

Raptor enjoys the best situation and more moderate climbing than its companions on *EEOR*. The rock is solid, clean, and comforted by both natural forces and the passage of many scuffing boots. The line is well-equipped and has (mostly) roomy and convenient stances at belays. The climb even seems to be sheltered a bit from the wind by the shoulder of the mountain. Be particularly aware of a couple of things, however - 1) other parties on the route can be the biggest hazard and impediment to progress, and 2) though there are long stretches of straightforward rambling from bolt to bolt, there are demanding passages both at the beginning and near the end of the route. Psyche yourself accordingly.

Take

....at least 14 quickdraws and a 50 metre rope, plus helmets and a couple of long slings and locking carabiners. Be prepared for wind and foul weather, which can appear suddenly from the west, over the top of the crag. Some shoes for the descent, water, and food will all help the outing feel more like a holiday.

If you're successful, you'll be coming down a trail along the ridge of Mt. Rundle and won't be returning to the base of the route. Plan to carry everything you'll want for the day and the descent with you on the climb.

The Route

Get organized at the last trees to the right of the big gully. The gully can be a bit of a bowling alley for loose rocks, so try to limit the time you spend on the talus at its mouth. Cross over to the left side, where you can see bolts going up a discontinuous buttress, and get going. Bolt count includes clipping rap-stations.

1) 5.10c 7 bolts 29m

Flip for the first lead. You get the hardest move of the whole climb at the 3rd bolt. It's unfortunate that this greasy crank and mantle has to be part of an otherwise pretty nice route. Bear down on tiny edges and sidepulls, seek in vain for secret footholds, and paw for purchase on the slopers over left. Or just pull on the draws like everyone else does. Find the chains and a semi-hanging stance a little further along.

2) 5.9 13 bolts 46m

Hardest over the terrain above the station, past bolts #1 and #2. Friction, sidepulls, and mantling. Then on the other side of the rap-station there's some low-angle interest, with nifty spans and rockovers. Hit a positive break and ramble up right to chains.

3) 5.5 8 bolts 43m

50 metres of memory-loss. Follow widely-spaced bolts pretty much straight up. Then trend right a bit over big ledges to chains in a corner. If you're having trouble spotting the next clip from the one you're leaving, just follow the trail of boot rubber on the rock.

4) 5.7 12 bolts 38m

Better fun. Up the corner on flat edges. The climbing stiffens a bit circa #5, and then you get a neat layback move at #7. This would be your crux. Find more of the same up a ledgy corner with some cool stemming. The chains are over easy ledges to the right, beneath an evil-looking overhanging corner.

5) 5.10a 8 bolts 26m

Traverse a bit left, then move up and ease back right into the bottom of the bomb-bay corner (thought you were going to miss it, eh?). Grind and grapple your way up the slot, stretching precariously for clips on the left wall. The moves are positive, and the holds are all there, but there *could* be some cursing. Chains are immediately over the last overhanging bit, in a little cockpit to the right.

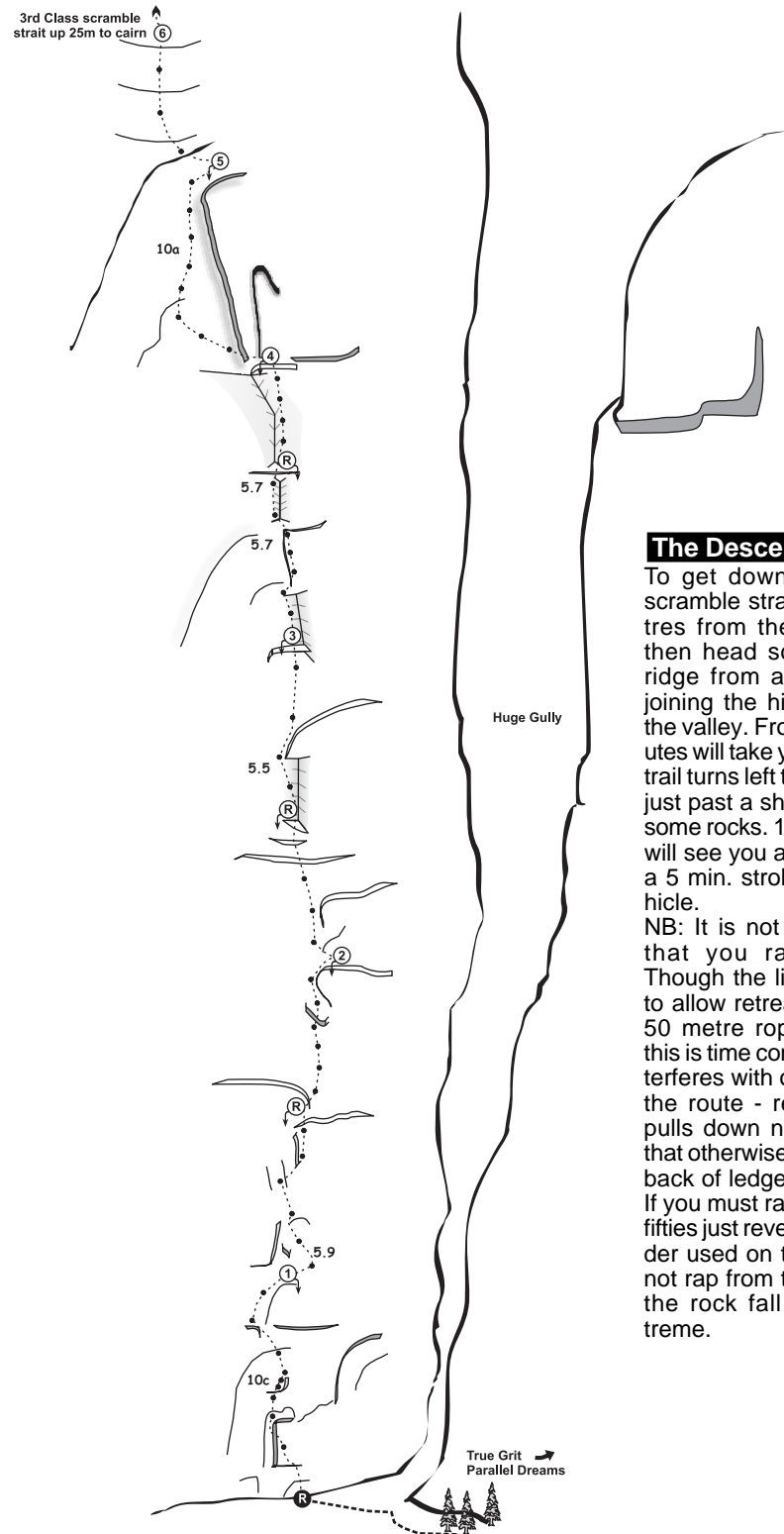
6) 5.3 3 bolts 28m

Basically up, through a rotten band, then over better, cleaner, grey rock to the final station where some ledges run left. Though it might be tempting (you're at the top, after all), don't traverse out on the ledges. Rather, have the second lead through and carry on straight up 3rd class ground another 25 metres to a cairn on the ridge. This is the TOP.

To the man with no knowledge, rocks are just rocks, and trees just trees. To the man with a little knowledge, rocks are more than just rocks, and trees not only trees. To the man with complete knowledge, rocks are just rocks, and trees just trees.

Old Buddhist Proverb

3rd Class scramble
straight up 25m to cairn



The Descent

To get down from *Raptor*, scramble straight up 25 metres from the final anchor, then head south along the ridge from a cairn, quickly joining the hikers' trail from the valley. From here 25 minutes will take you to where the trail turns left toward the lake, just past a short slot through some rocks. 15 minutes more will see you at the road, only a 5 min. stroll from your vehicle.

NB: It is not recommended that you rappel *Raptor*. Though the line is equipped to allow retreat with a single 50 metre rope (25m raps), this is time consuming and interferes with other parties on the route - retrieving ropes pulls down numerous rocks that otherwise lie safely at the back of ledges.

If you must rap and have two fifties just reverse the pitch order used on the way up. Do not rap from the 6th pitch as the rock fall hazard is extreme.

PARALLEL DREAMS - Mt RUNDLE

Parallel Dreams

In the midst of all the squawk about *True Grit* in 1990, a couple of lads from Calgary immediately began building what was to become *Parallel Dreams*. Their quick follow-up was presumably intended to entrench the contentious top-down method deeper in the local consciousness, before counter-revolutionaries could mobilize the climbing population in opposition to the idea. Motivations aside, the effort resulted in a route that is worthwhile in its own right, taking a steep and continuous line on flawless rock just left of *TG*. Hard to dispute, *Parallel Dreams* employs as many as 15 fewer bolts to climb the same distance as *TG*, at a level of difficulty that is consistently several letter-grades harder. This rig is safe enough if your head can handle it, but expect the level of intimidation to be a step up from conventional sport climbs of similar grade.

Take

...at least 10 quickdraws. Most belay stances are simply twin hangers at minimalist ledges. Don't expect chains, and go with enough extra slings and 'biners to tie everyone and everything to the anchors. You might want to carry a knife for removing the retreat tat left clogging key clips at some of the scarier bits. One 50m rope will do it (60m recommended), but better to bring a second rope for rappelling. Though little is loose and likely to drop on you, anticipate that a long fall on the prickly rock, while not life-threatening, could leave you at least temporarily unrecognizable to even your own mother – wear a helmet.

The Route

Get your stuff together at the trees on the last flat spot below and to the left of the route. Scramble up and traverse over right on some broken ledges to find twin belay bolts just left of a dirty break.

1) 10b/c 6 bolts 26m.

Take a few nervous steps up the gully before reaching for the first clip over right. Swing up nice ramps and flakes. The moves get more committing, hiking your skirts and underclinging right around the small roof (crux). Above this, climb more typically to a semi-hanging stance.

2) 10b 8 bolts 40m.

Work vague corners up and right, 'round an overhang. There will seem to be a number of stupid little cruxes following on top of each other as you hesi-

tantly cast about. Belay at bolts set in the big flake several metres back from the edge.

When your party is together, shift your belay further right, the *True Grit* anchors, before embarking on the next pitch.

3) 10a 7 bolts 28m.

Pull up the short, nervy corner directly above the belay and hand-traverse right, around the roof. Yes, this is *True Grit*, but since you're stretching left to the darker hangers for the first two clips, it's technically an independent line. However, this strategy is soon exhausted, and the line of protection will pull you through fun sidepulls on the face proper, rising left to the slab. Up the arête to the left. Another semi-hanging belay.

4) 10b 7 bolts 32m.

Up steeper ground, but on better holds. Mostly. Weave up nondescript face to a sling stance at a ledge break below a prominent roof.

5) 11a 9 bolts 50m.

The business. Crux of the climb. This could feel a little intimidating – finding, then clipping, then flipping up to stand above the 2nd bolt, hidden from sight a few inches past the lip of the overhang. And it isn't like you get great holds once you're up and over, either. Warm down with some neat swinging back and forth up big plates. Easier and easier to the galley chains on the walkabout top.

Photo: Roger Chayer/TALUS photographic

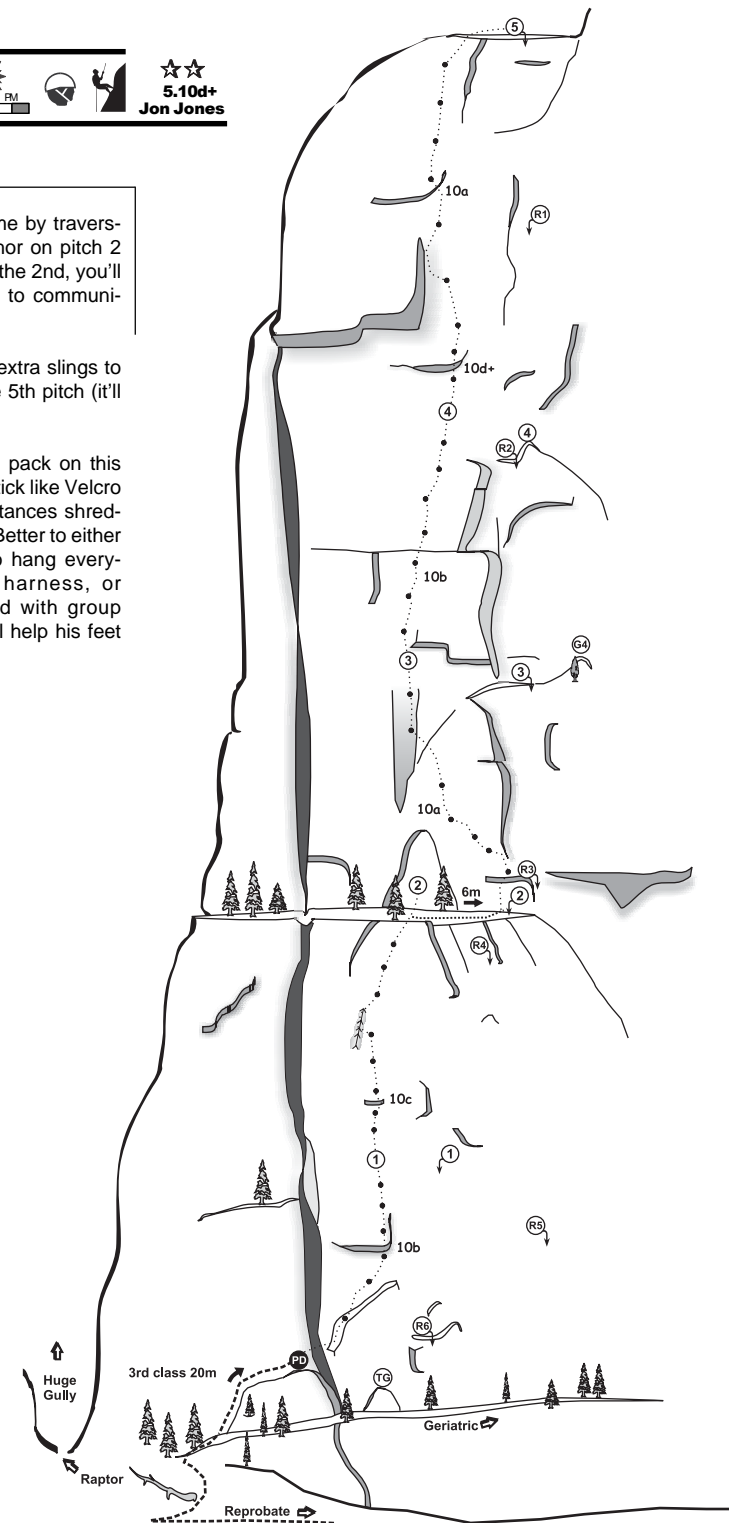


30 min 180m **☆☆**
5.10d+
Jon Jones

TIP Don't try saving time by traversing to the TG anchor on pitch 2 before bringing up the 2nd, you'll only waist it trying to communicate and pull rope.

Consider bringing extra slings to aid the crux on the 5th pitch (it'll still be hard).

Don't try to haul a pack on this spiny rock - it will stick like Velcro and come to the stances shredded like coleslaw. Better to either go light enough to hang everything from your harness, or saddle the second with group gear tell him it will help his feet stick better



TRUE GRIT - Mt Rundle



True Grit

The first multi-pitch route in the Rockies to be installed using top-down tactics. This climb became instantly controversial when it was put up in 1990. But *True Grit* is now an area staple and floats high on any visitor's tick list. Easy to access, scenic, and straightforward, it has some nice climbing that you can enjoy unencumbered by the packs and complex tackle often required for alpine rock climbs.

Take

..... at least 14 quickdraws. Be prepared for semi-hanging stances with some longer slings and a few locking carabiners. One 60m rope although a 50m will do it. Better still, bring a second rope for rappelling. You are climbing the rap route for this part of the mountain and may be in the path of descending parties, ropes, gear, and rocks. Wearing a helmet brings with it a certain confidence, misplaced or not.

The Route

Gear up at the last trees on the dirt ledge, below and to the left of the route. Walk right, then scramble across and up the right side of a small pedestal to the two bolts that mark the beginning of the climbing. Bolt count includes clipping rap-stations.

1) 10a 11 bolts 35m

Right from the deck, this thing is all over you with small grips and high steps. The demanding body positions set you peering about for good feet, and fretting about making even the slightest slip on the cheese-grater textured rock. There's a thin crux between the 5th and 6th clips and then again further up, perhaps 3 bolts below the chains. It's a semi-hanging stance, with only small foot ledges.

2) 10a 8 bolts 33m

Follow the bolts. Find the crux swinging around a vague buttress at clip #7 (you've stepped left just before, so watch close for the bolt out to your right). Then more easily up, trending right past a chained rap anchor. Scramble to a ledge, and a stance over right, below a roof. Lots of room.

3) 10a/10c 8 bolts 20m

Thin climbing up the wall directly above the belay, then muscle right, around the roof. (*Don't* try to sneak up the scary, shattered rock off the ledges around to the right.) Work up and left of the arête, then right – this is the hardest single move on the climb – at

an odd vertical split in the face. Things get rapidly better to a stance on ledges rising left.

Alt. After the 3rd clip move more easily right up a shallow groove past 3 bolts to the anchor.

4) 10a 9 bolts 32m

Up the long dihedral, staying on its right side. Lots and lots of fun climbing as you turn and stem. Eventually you'll emerge to find a rap anchor staring you in the face, pass it to a stance up and right on a small pedestal.

5) 10b 13 bolts 50m

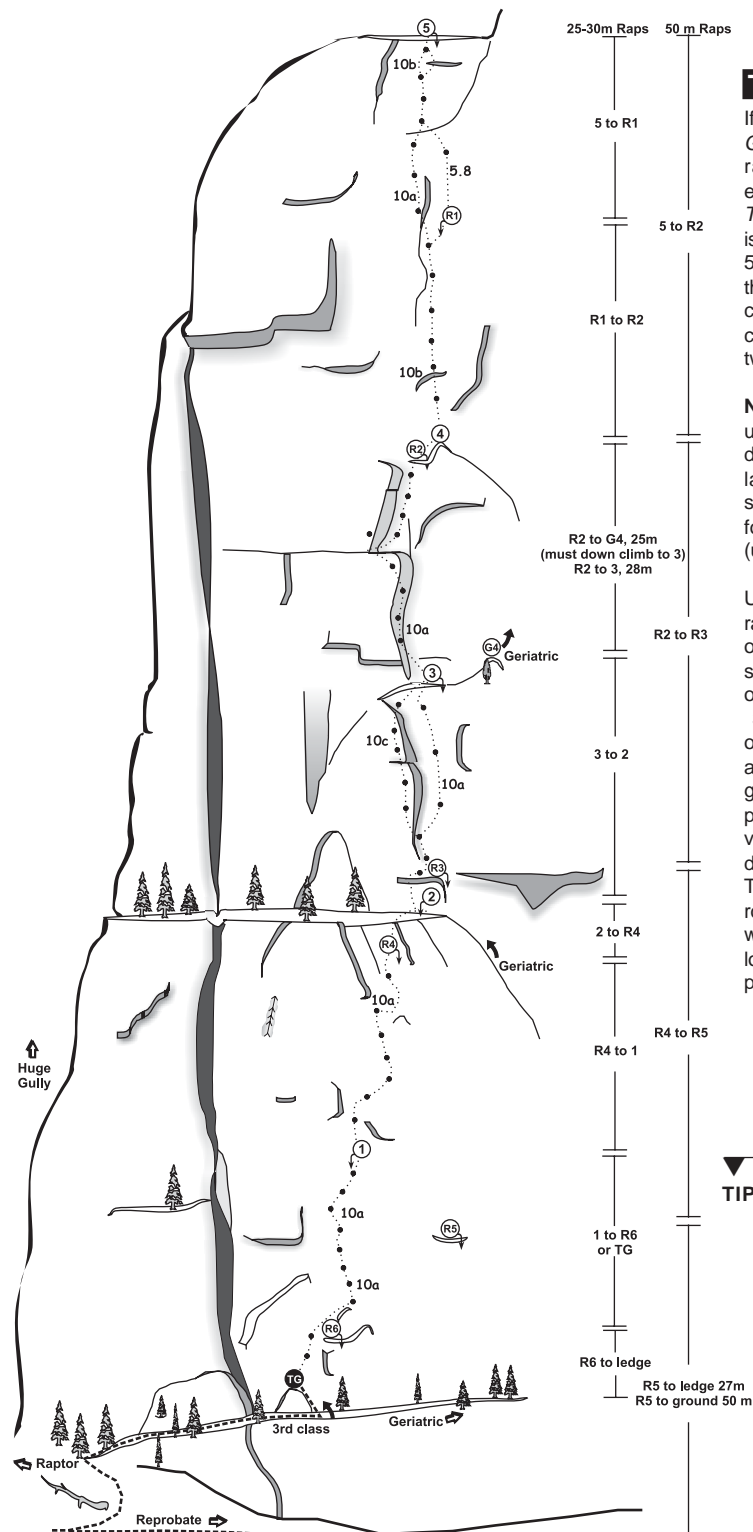
Just when your toes are tired and you're trying to hurry... can you say "rope drag"? 50 metres will get you over the top from here. There's a hanging station midway, if you'd like to split the pitch up. Otherwise, maybe work it so your partner leads. Surmounting a small roof at the second bolt and getting established on the greasy slab above will keep you fueled for the final steep moves near the top. Multiply-chained and bolted rappel/belay setup at the top. Break out the picnic.

Alt. At the 6th clip continue straight up clipping the rap anchor and a single bolt before rejoining the regular route.



Photo: Roger Chayer/TALUS photographics

TIP For BRITS: The name "True Grit" has nothing to do with the rock you might find near Sheffield. It refers rather to an obscure Audrey Hepburn/John Wayne film glorifying stubborn iconoclasm.



The Descent

If you've climbed *True Grit* or *Parallel Dreams*, rappel the chain-equipped stations on *True Grit*. This descent is possible with a single 50m. rope (25m raps), though tedious and includes some down climbing, better to bring two 50's or 60's.

Note: A 50m rap route uses stations independent of the climbing belays and is completely separate from the route for the last two pitches (use R2, R3, and R5).

Use caution when rappelling down on top of other parties, there is still plenty of loose rock on this route.

Some folks walk west on ledges to scramble and rappel down the big gully, but this is an alpine-style solution involving down climbing, dirt, and loose rock. Taking such a descent route sorta misses the whole point of doing a long sport rig in the first place.

TIP This rig is a pain to rap with a 50m rope. If you are just taking a single rope make it a 60m.