

WEST TO INDY PASS

Independence Pass has long been a favorite summer climbing destination. Bouldering areas like the Ice Caves have seen world wide exposure and bouldering and route development has been widespread in the last 20 years. This section covers just two of the countless areas between Twin Lakes and Aspen. Monitor Rock in particular sees lots of traffic from the transient Leadville climbing crowd.



MONITOR ROCK

Monitor Rock is the largest chunk of stone in Lake County with climbs up to 700' long (The Nose, 5.6). Many of the routes on the west face are about 450' long and the average difficulty is bolt protected 5.10 which makes Monitor a fun and popular place to climb. The base of the west face offers up about 50 single pitch bolt protected climbs. Lance Hadfield and friends spearheaded much of the original development (if first ascent info is missing from any of the older lines he was likely in the FA party). New routes by Drew Spaulding, Lynn Sanson, Josh Gross and others have been great recent additions.

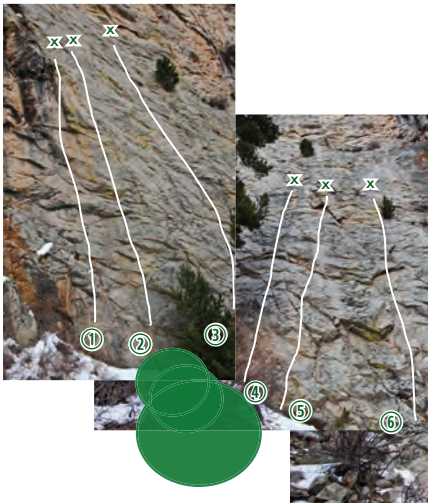
To get to Monitor, from HWY 24, take HWY 82 toward Aspen. About 8 minutes after you drive through the town of Twin Lakes Monitor Rock will be on your right. Monitor is about 45 minutes from Aspen on HWY 82 (obvious as you approach from the west). See page 155 for information on the three parking areas and approach trails.

Crag Rack: 70m rope (a 60m will work but makes top-roping routes like Squid Kid more difficult). A second rope can make rappelling faster and is necessary for a few of the longer pitches. 18 draws and 4 shoulder length slings.



FOREVER YOUNG WALL

ENDLESS WALL



ENDLESS WALL
This wall is marked by broken orange rock on the left and the large left facing corner on the right. See page 166 for more information on some of the multi-pitch routes on this wall.

- 1 Transformation ★★ .11d 60'
- 2 Go Down Gambling ★★ .10c 60' Starts just left of the three trees.
- 3 The Maze ★ .10b 90' Starts behind the large tree.
- 4 Wildflower ★ .10a 60' FA L Hadfield
- 5 Room Service ★★ .10 60' FA S Buchanan, J Gross, L Sanson
- 6 Printer Boy ★★ .10a 70' FA W Peterson (.11b pitch 2)

IRON SIDE WALL
This wall begins on the left with steep routes on the orange buttress and the right end of the wall is defined by a broken right-facing corner. See page 169 for more information on the left side of this wall.

- 7 Climax ★ .11d 60' FA L Hadfield
- 8 The Purist ★ .11c 60' FA L Hadfield
- 9 Black Cloud ★★ .11d 60' FA L Hadfield
- 10 Glory Hole ★★ .12a 60' FA L Hadfield
- 11 Twin Flakes ★★ .10b 80' FA W Peterson, L Hadfield
- 12 Last Chance ★★ .11b 130' Rap to Twin Flakes anchor.

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IRON SIDE WALL

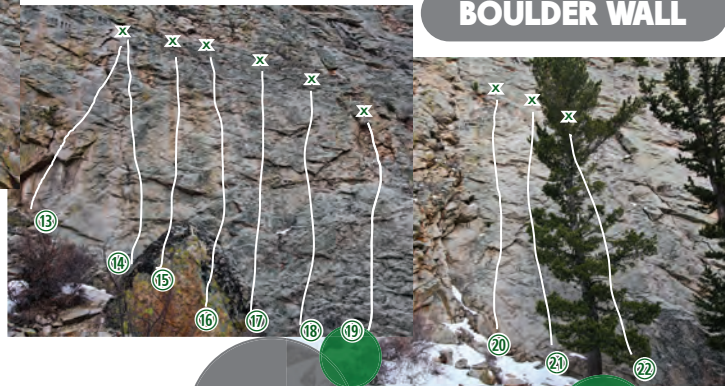


x 2 Bolt Anchor

Tree Near the Base

- 13 Prospector ★★ .10a 60' FA W Peterson, L Hadfield
- 14 One Thin Line ★★ .11a 70' FA L Hadfield
- 15 Molly Brown ★★ .11c 70' FA L Hadfield
- 16 Red Dawn ★★ .11b 60' FA L Hadfield, D Ranck
- 17 Spin Drift ★ .12a 80' FA L Hadfield, W Peterson, D Ranck
- 18 Silver Dollar ★★ .10d 60' FA L Hadfield, W Peterson
- 19 Baby Doe ★★ .8 50' FA D Jensen, W Peterson

BOULDER WALL



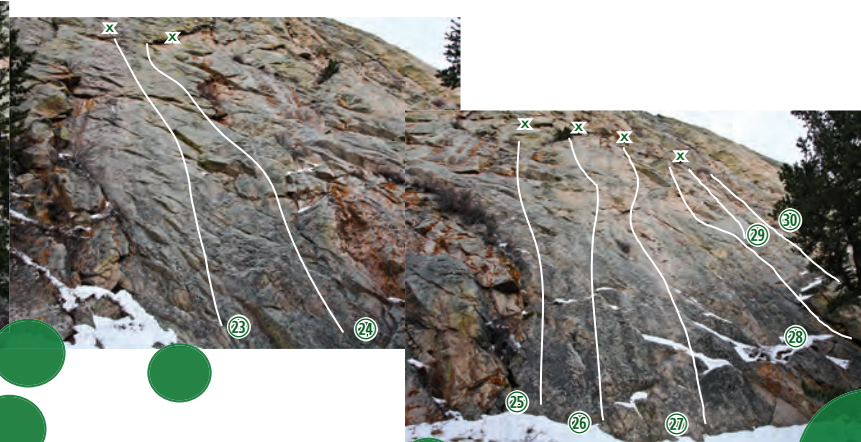
BOULDER WALL
This 30' wide wall is just right of a broken right facing corner. The right edge of the Boulder Wall is the Ramp Route (.6 trad) that can be used to access Chemical Dependence on the Iron Stone Wall.

- 20 Grave Line ★★ .10a 70' FA L Hadfield, W Peterson
- 21 Slip... Not! ★★ .10d 70' FA L Hadfield, W Peterson
- 22 Livin' on the Edge ★ .12a 70' FA L Hadfield

TRAILHEAD
The Trailhead Wall has routes that start behind the large tree and on the clean wall to the left. See page 162 for more information on the multi pitch routes on this wall. A 70m rope is recommended for all these routes although you can TR or rap with a bit of relatively easy down climbing if you only have a 60m. Longer sling extensions on the anchors of 26 & 27 are recommended to TR.

- 23 Matchless ★★ .12a 90' FA L Hadfield (see pitch 2 page 160)
- 24 Perpetual Doubt ★★ .11b 70' FA Josh Gross, Lynn
- 25 Meltdown ★★ .10b 100' FA Josh Gross, Lynn

TRAILHEAD WALL



- 26 Rad Lad ★★ .11b 105' M Tompson
- 27 Squid Kid ★★ .10a 110' Most popular pitch at Monitor.
- 28 The Other Road ★★ .10c 110' Start in short left facing corner (#3 cam). Bring some small and medium gear for the last 40 feet.
- 29 Hemp Seeds Sowed ★★ .11a 110' Same start and first 3 bolts as 26.
- 30 Brother Toad ★★ .10b 110'

BASE AREA QUICK REFERENCE

On a windy or cold day a few hours of cragging at the base of Monitor can be super fun. Most of the routes are less than vertical and involve relatively straightforward face climbing in the 5.10 range. A few harder pitches feature technical crimping.

This spread contains all of the one pitch bolted routes along the main wall of Monitor Rock from the Trailhead Wall at the south end to the Endless Wall on the north end. Use this as your guide for getting started with multi-pitch routes in the area. I have not included the strictly gear routes or top rope variations.



TROOPER TRAVERSE

THE NOSE

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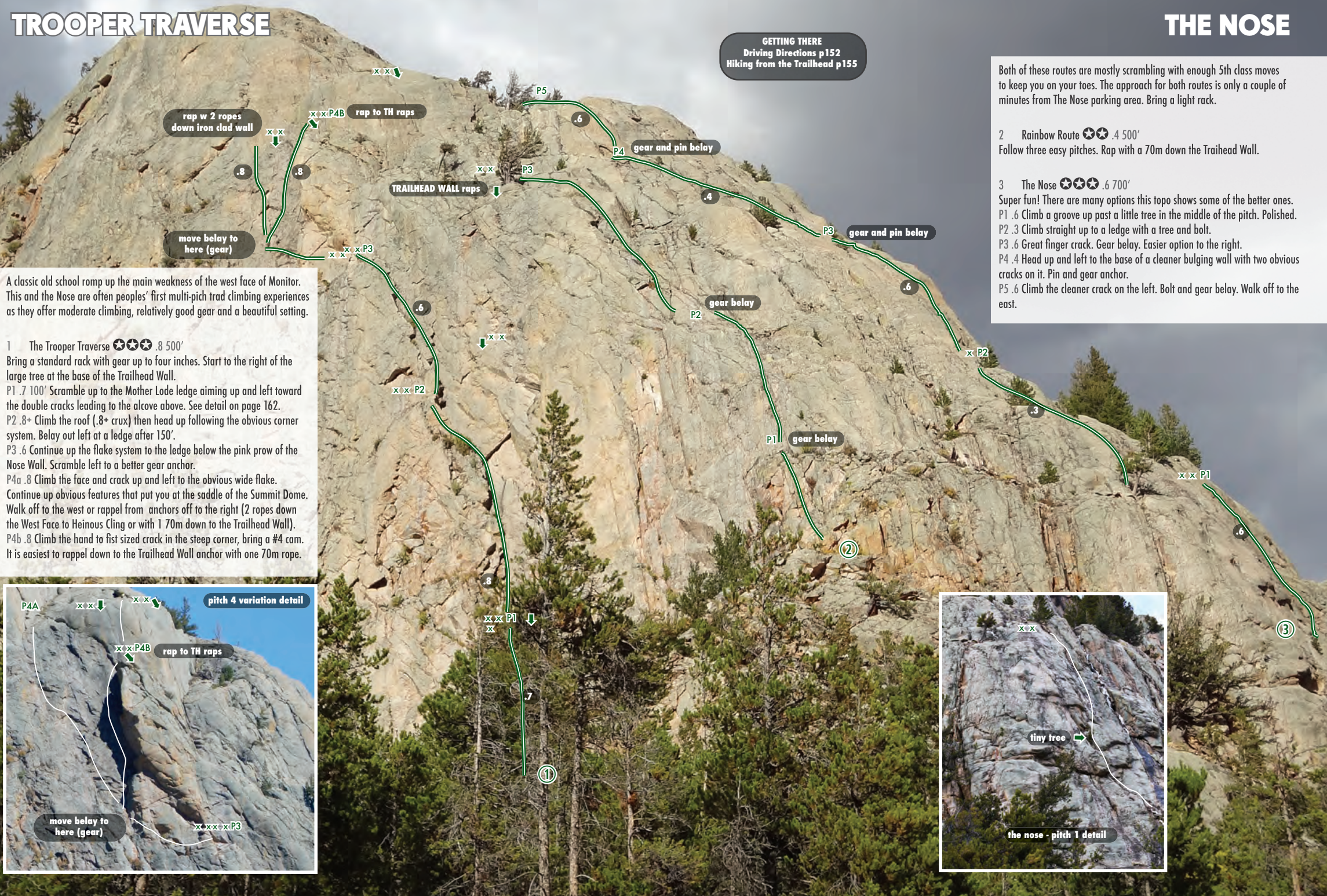
Both of these routes are mostly scrambling with enough 5th class moves to keep you on your toes. The approach for both routes is only a couple of minutes from The Nose parking area. Bring a light rack.

2 Rainbow Route ★★.4 500'
 Follow three easy pitches. Rap with a 70m down the Trailhead Wall.

3 The Nose ★★★.6 700'
 Super fun! There are many options this topo shows some of the better ones.
 P1 .6 Climb a groove up past a little tree in the middle of the pitch. Polished.
 P2 .3 Climb straight up to a ledge with a tree and bolt.
 P3 .6 Great finger crack. Gear belay. Easier option to the right.
 P4 .4 Head up and left to the base of a cleaner bulging wall with two obvious cracks on it. Pin and gear anchor.
 P5 .6 Climb the cleaner crack on the left. Bolt and gear belay. Walk off to the east.

A classic old school romp up the main weakness of the west face of Monitor. This and the Nose are often peoples' first multi-pitch trad climbing experiences as they offer moderate climbing, relatively good gear and a beautiful setting.

1 The Trooper Traverse ★★★.8 500'
 Bring a standard rack with gear up to four inches. Start to the right of the large tree at the base of the Trailhead Wall.
 P1 .7 100' Scramble up to the Mother Lode ledge aiming up and left toward the double cracks leading to the alcove above. See detail on page 162.
 P2 .8+ Climb the roof (.8+ crux) then head up following the obvious corner system. Belay out left at a ledge after 150'.
 P3 .6 Continue up the flake system to the ledge below the pink prow of the Nose Wall. Scramble left to a better gear anchor.
 P4a .8 Climb the face and crack up and left to the obvious wide flake. Continue up obvious features that put you at the saddle of the Summit Dome. Walk off to the west or rappel from anchors off to the right (2 ropes down the West Face to Heinous Cling or with 1 70m down to the Trailhead Wall).
 P4b .8 Climb the hand to fist sized crack in the steep corner, bring a #4 cam. It is easiest to rappel down to the Trailhead Wall anchor with one 70m rope.





ENJOY THE ALPINE OR THE BOWLING ALLEY



LEADVILLE, COLORADO

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IRON SIDE WALL

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This section of the Iron Side Wall is home to the steepest routes at Monitor. Routes to the right of Twin Flakes are described in the Base Area Overview p154. There are a couple of short seldom climbed bolted routes above this wall.

- 1 Climax ★.11d 60' FA L Hadfield
Climbs the arête. Another decent and pumpy route.
- 2 The Purist ★★.11c 60' FA L Hadfield
Tackles multiple overhangs on mostly good holds.

3 Black Cloud ★★.11d 60' FA L Hadfield
Popular. Fun climbing up the middle of the buttress.

4 Glory Hole ★★.12a 60' FA L Hadfield
Great climbing. Easily top roped from the Twin Flakes anchor.

5 Twin Flakes ★★.10b 80' FA W Peterson, L Hadfield
Steep climbing on huge holds. Two climbs to the right is Prospector, another popular 10a (starts by going over the right side of a small roof).

40 minutes from Leadville



rock climbing notes . . .