

Route Synopsis Bugaboo / Vowell Area

- All information is relevant to having a camp at 6600 located near the toe of the Vowell Glacier. Refer to Maps 82K/10 and 82K/15. Information sources- Guides and Leaders 1997 GMC
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Ø Bugaboo Spire (10,450)

- v **Route** - East side of Vowell Glacier to Snowpatch/Bugaboo col. Follow Kain(S. Ridge) route. At first step move right to base of first pitch, climb crack to ridge crest in one long pitch that is 5.4ish. Follow ridge for 200 mtr to base of gendarme. Useguide book topo for gendarme pitches.

Descent five rappels all on east side

- ü **Party Size** - 3 maximum
 - ü **Length of trip** - 12 to 14 hours depending on group and traffic at gendarme
 - ü **Equipment Required** - ¾, 1, 2 Cams, 5 or 6 nuts, few runners, few long slings
 - ü **Highlights** - One of the nicest rock climbs anywhere
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Ø Northpost Spire (9550)

- v **Route** - Gain NE ridge by way of trail to Cobalt Lk and then diagonal S until final ridge. Scramble to summit.

Descend same route.

- ü **Party Size** - Unlimited, watching rockfall last 300 to summit

- ü **Equipment Required** - Helmet, ice axe, 9mm rope is adequate
 - ü **Length of time** - 6 to 7 hours
 - ü **Highlights** - Good views of Cobalt Lk, Vowells, Bugaboos. Rock is loose but some variations near summit can provide some decent climbing.
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Ø Crescent Spire (9350)

Route - East side of Vowell Glacier up to Bugaboo/Crescent col. Scramble S. ridge to first summit and then follow ridge to next two summits.

Descend same route.

- ü **Party Size** - Unlimited
 - ü **Equipment Required** - Helmet, ice axe, harness,
 - ü **Length of trip** - 8 hours
 - ü **Highlights** - classic ridge walk, easy 4th class, excellent view of NE ridge on Bugaboo Spire. Nice top roping in many places.
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Ø Brenta Spire (9650)

v **Route** - East side of Vowell Glacier, head east up scree slope following base of Brenta Up glacier until snow steepens, climb right side of main gully following ledge systems. (5.2ish) Gully is sloppy and not recommended. Up south ramps to ridge leading to summit block. At first large block follow east side ledges around to crack system that will lead you to summit.

Descend via two rappels(station is there for first rap) or downclimb.

- ü **Party Size** - 5 to 6
- ü **Equipment required** - Helmet, ice axe(leave at snow), two long slings
- ü **Length of Time** - 10 hrs

- ü **Highlights** - Nice rock climbing, some exposure, good intro to area climbing
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∅ Wallace Pk (9650)

- v **Route** - W. Side of Vowell Glacier, up steep snow and around S. Side of Pilley Pk.

Continue around and into Wallace cirque. Gain S. ridge about ½ way along ridge, just right of gendarmes. Rock is loose. Follow ridge, drop down on south to avoid slab. Follow snow right of ridge to summit.

Descent retrace ascent route.

- ü **Party Size** - Unlimited
 - ü **Equipment required** - helmet, ice axe, slings
 - ü **Length of Time** - 8-10 hrs
 - ü **Highlights** - Challenging scramble, excellent first look into the Vowells
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∅ Juniper Pk. (9150)

- v **Route** - Same approach as Wallace. Stay low along S. side of Wallace crossing glacier

to base of N. ridge on Juniper. Follow ridge, ascending 45 degree snow slope. Rock scramble to summit.

Descent - Scramble down rocky E. ridge to obvious col. Take steep snow slope down to glacier.

- ü **Party size** - Unlimited
- ü **Equipment required** - helmet, ice axe, slings
- ü **Length of Time** - 8 hrs
- ü **Highlight** - Nice snow ascent, excellent and different views of Vowells and Bugaboos

∅ Pilley Pk. (9250)

v **Route** - W. side of Vowell glacier to upper bench on glacier. Scramble S. ramp to summit.

Descent retrace ascent route

- ü **Party Size** - Unlimited
- ü **Length of Time** - 7 hrs
- ü **Equipment Required** - Ice axe, helmet
- ü **Highlight** - Short day, easy scramble

∅ Little Howser

v **Route** - Follow E. side of Vowell glacier until reaching upper bench. Straight line to NE face on Little Howser. Cross schrund on N. side and up steep snow to ridge. Follow ridge to summit.

Descend same route.

- ü Party size - Unlimited
- ü Length of Time - 8 - 10 hrs.
- ü Equipment Required - ice axe, helmet, slings, ice screws
- ü Highlights - Great views of routes on Howser. Easy day.

∅ Pigeon Spire (10,250)

v **Route** - E. side of Vowell glacier to Bugaboo/Snowpatch col. Head S. to gain

base of W. Ridge. Follow ridge and up obvious chimney to base of finger crack. Crack leads to last pitch which takes you to the summit.

Descend. Double rope rappel works best to get down to snow slope near col. Follow ascent route the rest of the way.

- ü **Party Size** - 3
- ü **Equipment Required** - Helmet, ice axe, 2-3 midsize friends and 3 midsize nuts.
- ü **Length of Time** - 12 hours
- ü **Highlights** - Great views, lots of exposure, great rock, classic route

Ø Brenta/Northpost Traverse (9650)

v **Route** - ascend Brenta as per Brenta route description. From Brenta summit descend on W. side ledges. Follow ridge along to short rappel. After rappel follow ridge (dropping off on E or W sides as required) to block. Crux pitch follows (on E. side) crack system down, traverses across and then back up to ridge. Crux is 5.7ish. Continue on ridge working left whenever up against difficult pitches. At large block follow ledge system(very exposed) around W. side to scree gully which leads to Northpost summit.

Descent - via E. snow slope and into 40 degree couloir.

- ü **Party Size** - 4
 - ü **Length of Time** - 8-10 hours
 - ü **Equipment Required** - helmet, ice axe, 5 cams, 2 small wires, slings
 - ü **Highlights** - Lots of 5.1 - 5.4 climbing with exposure. Great views. Spectacular ledge system at end of traverse. Quick descent.
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∅ Archduke Trio (8750)

v **Route-** Toe of Vowell glacier, ascend moraine to base of Tamarack Pk. Scree benches and snow patches around Tamarack into basin S. of Archduke. Stay high on snow to Archduke/Tamarack col. Rope up at start of ridge. Route follows ridge proper most of the way with key exceptions. On most occasions that the ridge is impassable traverse on the N. side ie the very beginning of the climb, just before Peaks 2 and 3. The route includes 1 rappel and 1 1/2 pitches of down-climbing. The crux (just before Pk. 3) begins by climbing a wall to gain sharp ridge. Follow ridge until it is possible to downclimb to the N. until the ledge is suitable for belaying from. Traverse along N. side(exposed) for a full rope length(old fixed piton). Belay below a narrow chimney, ascend squeeze chimney and onto wall that leads to ridge. Crux is 5.7. One half rope length to Pk. 3 summit. Several raps to snow.

ü **Party Size** - 2

ü **Equipment Required** - helmet, ice axe, full set of wires, sets of cams, slings

ü **Length of time** - 11 hours, 4-6 hours on rock

ü **Highlights** - Brilliant exposure, one of the most exposed routes anywhere, good rock,