



AAC Publications

Goat Mountain, Sugar Mummy

Canada, British Columbia, Coast Mountains, Pacific Ranges, North Shore Mountains

On February 9, Matteo Agnoloni, Tom Schindfessel, and Antony Wood completed the first known winter ascent of the north face of Goat Mountain via Sugar Mummy (600m, AI4 R). Goat Mountain (1,401m) lies within the North Shore Mountains, just north of the Grouse Mountain ski resort. It is often overlooked due to its close proximity to Crown Mountain, which holds popular routes such as the Widowmaker Arete and the Crater Couloir. The north face of Goat had been attempted once prior in winter, to my knowledge, by Steve Harnge and Jordan Peters (date unknown). There was at least one ascent via an obscure summer rock route in the late 1950s.

We approached by hiking up the Grouse Grind trail, along Goat Ridge, and dropping in to Hanes Valley. With Antony and Tom being Squamish locals, the idea of not using a gondola to access the route was a bit foreign, but they were still able to get a cappuccino from a ski resort coffee shop after slogging it up the Grouse Grind.

We reached the base of the route after four hours and climbed nine rope-stretching pitches to top out the face. The cruxes were on the second, fourth, and seventh pitches, involving difficulties up to AI4 and 90° snow. As the previous party to attempt this face found, it largely consisted of vertical sn'ice. Future parties should expect large runouts, marginal gear through the cruxes, and non-ACMG-certified belays.

This area holds potential for some of the biggest and hardest alpine climbing on the coast, for those patient enough to wait for perfect conditions. However, I fear with global warming, this low-elevation alpine zone will never live up to its potential.

— Matteo Angoloni, Canada

Images



Climbing on the north face of Goat Mountain, just north of the Grouse Mountain ski resort.



Climbing the short ice steps and s'nice of the north face of Goat Mountain.



Steep ice and snow in the fog on the north face of Goat Mountain.



The line of Sugar Mummy, the first known winter route up the north face of Goat Mountain, just north of the Grouse Mountain ski resort.

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