



Sam Lightner, Jr. on the first ascent of *Renaissance* in 1991—5.13c (p. 46). *Renaissance* remains unrepeated. Photo: Jacob Valdez.

Tram Area – Corbet's and S&S Couloirs

Elevation: 10,245 feet

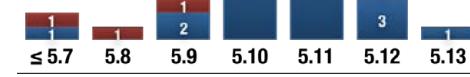
Approach Time: 5-10 minutes (from tram dock)

Primary Aspect: Eastern, Northern, Southeastern

Number of Routes: 30

Routes by Rating & Type:

Top Rope—0
Traditional—7
Sport—23



The famous Corbet's Couloir holds an international reputation amongst skiers and snowboarders. Yet to the delight of climbers, both Corbet's and S&S Couloirs have more to offer than world class skiing. Excellent sport climbing awaits you on steep, pocketed, and well-protected dolomite. In addition, you get a stunning and picturesque setting amidst a high alpine mountain environment.

The Tram Area is a great place to take in the awe-inspiring beauty of the valley. Yet on-looking tourists, who often stop to point and stare at climbers, tend to detract from the overall experience. It may seem as if you have become part of the tourist attraction when you find yourself the subject of a photo shoot. In fact, applause from urban sightseers is not that uncommon!

The top of the mountain is the place to be in mid-summer when the valley floor is sweltering. Even so, the Tram Area is high alpine sport climbing so bring warm clothing, a rain jacket and extra sunblock. Afternoon thunderstorms are common at this altitude and even a light breeze can be bone-chilling on an otherwise hot day. Make sure you do not miss the last tram down!

Snow Conditions

Waiting for the majority of the snow to melt is highly recommended. The descents into the couloirs, and awkward belay stances, are difficult enough without snow. Visit the JacksonHole.com summit webcam for up-to-date snow conditions.

Recommended Equipment

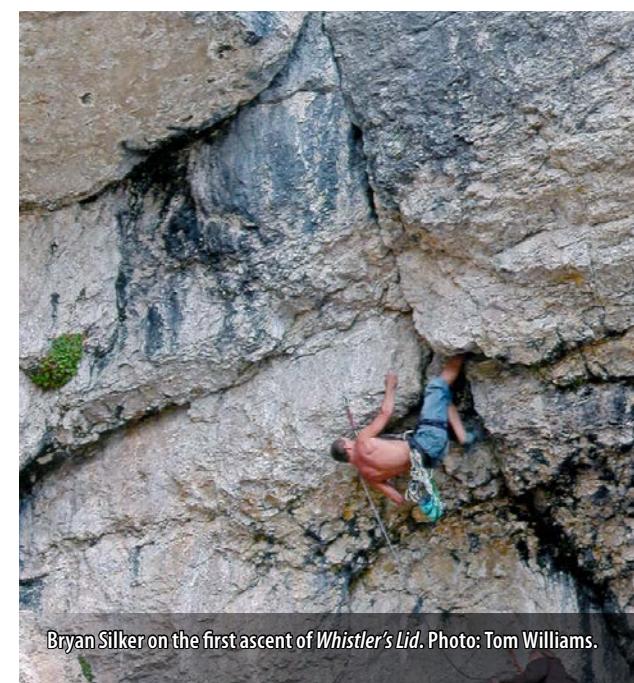
A 60-meter rope or longer is required and up to 16 quickdraws for the longer routes. For the small medley of natural routes, bring a standard rack covering up to 3-3.5 inches. Many of the routes are mixed. See individual route descriptions for specialized gear.

Driving Directions, Aerial Tram & Map

Refer to the introduction on see page 38.

Approach Trail

Hiking the 4,139 foot vertical rise from the parking lot is reserved for the insanely ambitious and/or incredibly fit. For everyone else, there is a painless 5-10 minute walk from the summit tram dock. From Corbet's Cabin, link up with a well-marked trail heading straight down the mountain.



Bryan Silker on the first ascent of *Whistler's Lid*. Photo: Tom Williams.



Corbet's Southerly Facing Wall

Descend into Corbet's Couloir via a single bolt rappel from the upper end of the southerly facing wall. Be mindful of loose debris and teams below when scrambling down the scree gully!

1 Diffs & Biffs ★★ 5.10c

Diffs & Biffs is an excellent and well-bolted route. The crux is obvious and easier than it appears. Still, the roof can be intimidating and airy, contributing to the route's quality. Straying to the right at the roof is easy, just try not to wander too far.

★★ 5.10c

6 Harebell

★★★ 5.11b

The bottom is tricky but the top has beautiful movement and sequence. Bring long slings for the anchors which are shared with *Sky Pilot*.

7 Nature Hike ★★★ 5.11a

★★★ 5.11a

A classic line that is stiff for the grade. The bolts are spaced, nonetheless, the getting is good. The crux is on the top block. *Nature Hike* was the first route bolted in Corbet's, hence its old-school style.

8 Ravin' Roof Bypass ★ 5.12a

★ 5.12a

A 12-bolt, technical, and crimping climb. The crux is a boulder problem just below the anchors. One can eliminate the top crux by stopping at a ledge below the last two bolts; in doing so, you will need to build an anchor on top and walk-off. Avoiding the crux is a disreputable finish, but doing so, lowers the grade to 5.11b.

9 Ravin' Roof

5.12a

A short but powerful problem ascending a very sharp crack through a roof. Mixed pitons, bolts, and some gear. Make sure you tape up for the roof crack and bring a hand-sized cam or two to supplement the bolts.

★★ 5.10b

★★ 5.11c

2 Saxifrage ★★ 5.9

★★ 5.9

Saxifrage is a great warm-up; a good introduction to the area's dolomite, and an all-around enjoyable route. The climbing is consistent and the going is satisfactorily easy.

3 Grey Crowned Crack ★ 5.10a

★ 5.10a

A clean, easy to protect, and continuous crack. Arm yourself with an assortment of finger-to hand-sized gear. There are no bolts on top and the only viable option to build a solid anchor is at the cliff's edge.

4 RUS's

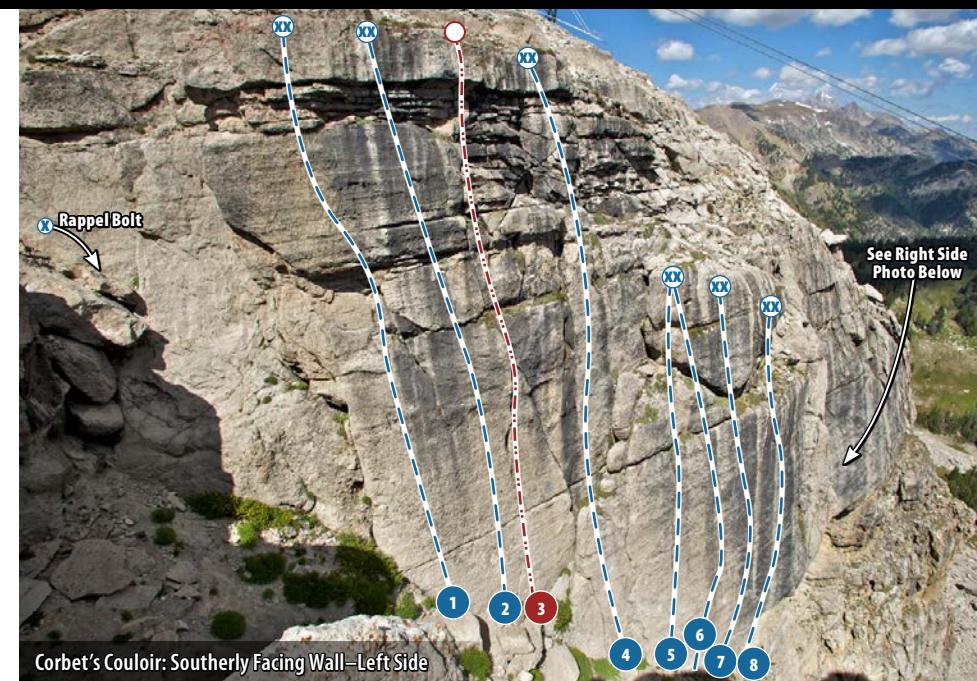
★★ 5.10b

RUS's is longer than it appears (13 bolts). The rock is inconsistent but the climbing is fun.

5 Sky Pilot

★★ 5.11c

A tough start with a rewarding finish. Bring long slings for the top anchors.



10 Whistler's Lid ★★★ 5.12b

★★★ 5.12b

If you are really hot-to-trot, this steep route has your name written on it. *Whistler's Lid* is destined to become a classic. The climbing is hard from the start and powerful through the roof. Above the roof is a delicate and airy arête to the end. Bring a long draw for the fourth bolt.

11 Brogistics

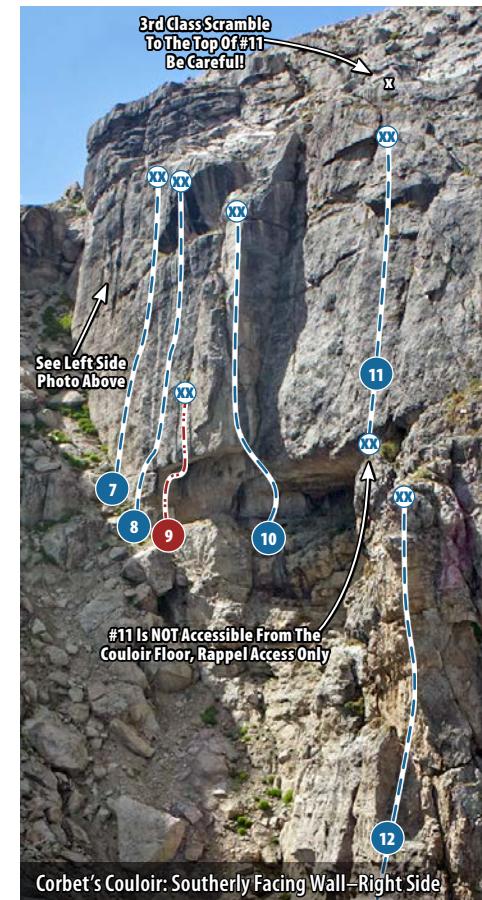
★ 5.10b

Brogistics is the only route in Corbet's that cannot be accessed from the couloir floor. The logistics require a rappel down to a semi-hanging belay. Some may find the exposed 4th class downclimb to the rappel anchors sketchy. To simplify the downclimb, a single bolt has been placed about 20 feet above the top anchors on a good ledge, requiring only a 3rd class scramble. Regardless of the less than desirable logistics, hence the name, the climbing is good.

12 The Grand Arête

★★ 5.10c

A long arête climb (60m rope required) with a crux near the top. The feature-rich arête has fairly solid rock despite an appearance that implies otherwise.





Corbet's Northerly Facing Wall

Access the Upper Deck via a rappel from route #20's anchors. To access the Lower Deck, rappel from a set of anchors in a large notch above *Renaissance*. There is an exposed gap between the Lower Deck and *Turbulence*. One can rappel from the notch and pendulum across the gap.

13 Dark Ages ★★ 5.11d

An aesthetic and airy line on an overhanging finger crack. A must-do for any naturalist that climbs the grade. The crack takes bomber gear, but has been known to shut down good climbers.

★★ 5.11d

15 Right Wing Politics 5.11a (R)

The top right traverse is unprotected, but the climbing on the traverse is easy. The harder face moves are protected. From the anchors, one can easily pendulum across an exposed gap to the base of *Turbulence*.

5.11a (R)

14 Renaissance ★★★ 5.13c

While most of the tram area's routes require more technique than muscle, *Renaissance* requires both. This testpiece has never been repeated! The crimpiest crimpfest on an overhanging and seemingly blank wall. When Sam Lightner, Jr. first climbed *Renaissance* in 1991, he gave it a 5.13a rating, although he admits that rating could be sandbagged by a letter grade or two, hence the 5.13c rating.

★★★ 5.13c

16 Clash of Cultures ★★ 5.11b

An old-school pumpy route on mixed gear, pitons, and bolts. Keep your wits about you; you will need all of them on this burly, yet aesthetic route. If you want to test how mentally tough you actually are, pick a fight with this climb, but be prepared for a humbling experience. The first half requires several large natural pieces of protection, up to 4.5 to 5 inches. The top half is protected with pitons and bolts.

17 Turbulence ★★ 5.11b

Turbulence is a sporty climb that ascends up a monolith-like pillar, directly below the Upper Deck. Great climbing, but not for the faint of heart; the bolts are spaced. Plans have been made to re-bolt *Turbulence* in 2011. Refer to the overview photo (p. 44).

★★ 5.11b



18 Shining Path 5.12b (X)

A stunning line up an overhanging arête. Be that as it may, this climb is extremely hard with serious consequences. The X-rating is given because of the high ledge fall potential.

5.12b (X)

19 La Chica Grande ★ 5.10b

La Chica Grande is the Upper Deck's only viable warm-up. Start off with a sporty first half, then stem up a dihedral to finish. The anchors are cold-shuts.

★ 5.10b

20 Upper Deck Escape Route 5.5

From the Upper Deck, this is the preferred method out of the couloir. Alternatively, one can also escape the Upper Deck via an easy chimney about twenty feet to the looker's right of this route.

5.5

21 Sound Chaser ★★ 5.11c

Good rock, great setting, & pumpy climbing.

★★ 5.11c

22 Gut-rot 5.11c

Gut-rot is a bouldery 4-bolt climb. As of spring 2011, *Gut-rot* had only seen one ascent; expect some dirty rock.

5.11c

Corbet's Couloir: Newton Wall

The Newton Wall is located halfway down and centered in Corbet's Couloir. The approach is the same as for the Southerly Facing Wall. Both routes have camouflaged bolt hangers.



23 It's Fruit n' Cake ★★ 5.9

A fun line up good rock. The crux is fairly hidden and the top gets a bit slopey.

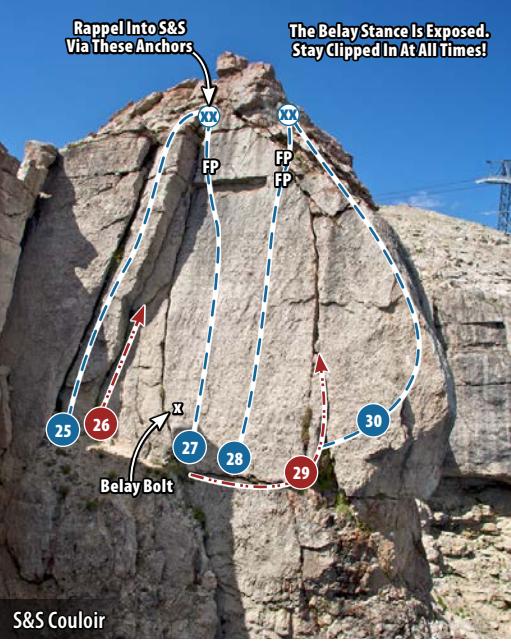
★★ 5.9

24 It's Not a Cookie 5.11c

Pumpy climbing with an obvious crux. Short people will find the crux easier than 5.11c, while taller people generally struggle.

5.11c

Corbet's Couloir: Newton Wall



S&S Couloir

Anneka Door on *High Boltage*. Photo: Gabe Rogel.

S&S Couloir

Routes #25-30 are located on the large thumb-like rock formation above the S&S Couloir, easily identifiable from the base of the mountain. The climbs begin partway up the northern sidewall. The position of the routes, accompanied with the steepness of the couloir and high altitude, greatly intensifies the exposure. Rappel into the couloir via the anchors atop routes #25-27. A single bolt has been added to simplify the belay situation. If you do not feel comfortable belaying from a single bolt, bring extra protection to backup the belay and make sure you are clipped in at all times. To say the least, tumbling down S&S Couloir would be disastrous to your health!

25 Shadow Silence 5.10b

Shadow Silence feels a bit unnatural. Half the time you will be tempted to climb the crack to the left and the rest of the time the face. If you are not the boldest of leaders, bring some larger gear to supplement the bolts.

26 S&S Crack ★ 5.8

The *S&S Crack* will be directly below you on the rappel in and thus can easily be top roped or optionally led. Many teams warm-up on this route. Bring mid-sized to large gear.

27 New World

★ 5.10c

The climbing on both *New World* and *Fire in the Hole* is very similar: hard, thin, and technical. Some climbers argue that the 5.10c rating for both routes is sandbagged, but you can be the judge. Bring one cam (.75-1.25 inches) for the top.

28 Fire in the Hole

★ 5.10c

See description for *New World*. There are two fixed pins near the top, and unlike *New World*, no natural protection is required.

29 Right Crack

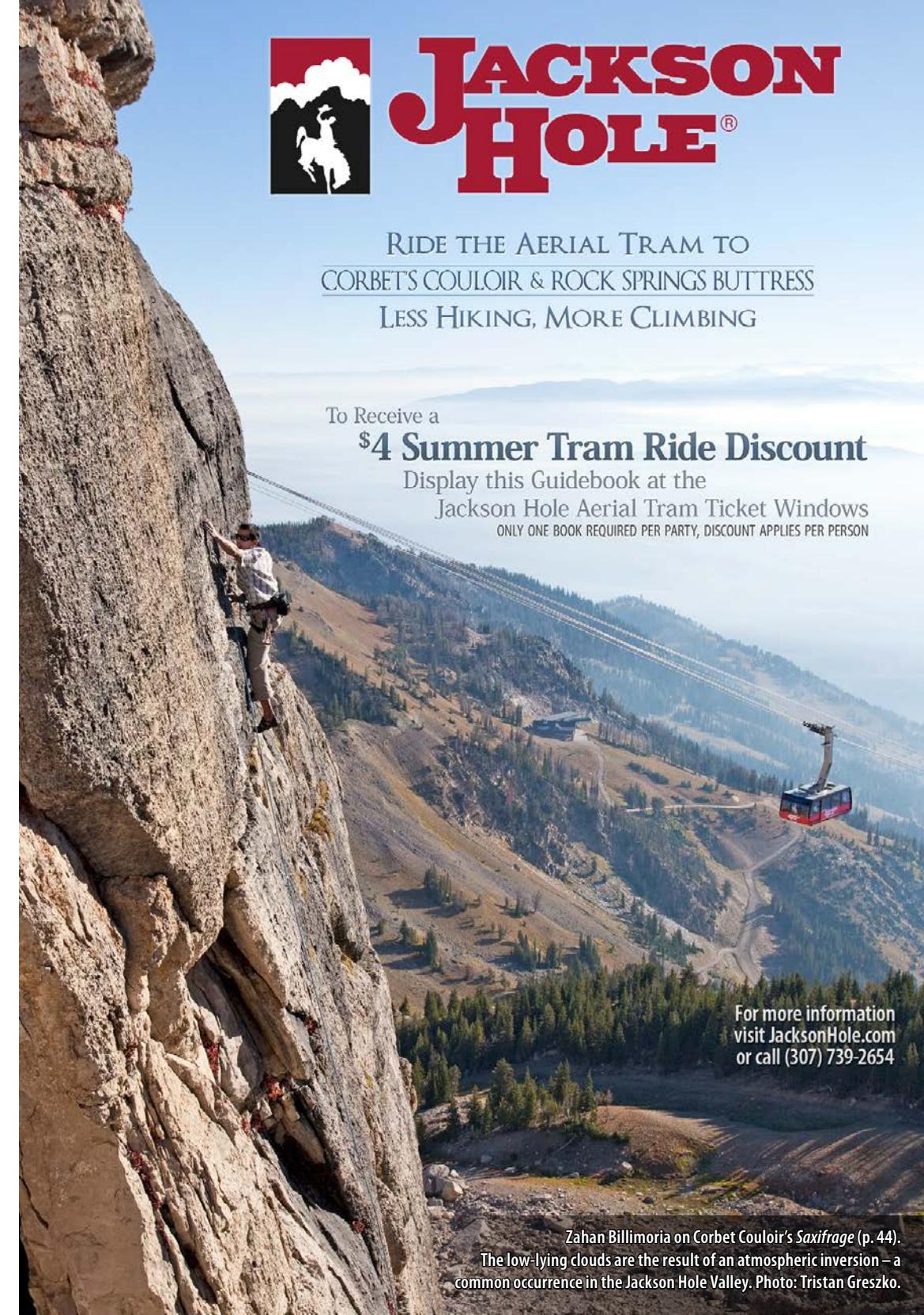
5.9

The crack on the right side of the S&S thumb is a hand-to-fist-sized crack, just to the left of *High Boltage*. The *Right Crack* is seldom done, but does offer good setting. Unfortunately, the start of the climb is a little dirty.

30 High Boltage

★★★ 5.7

High Boltage is considered by many to be the best route on the S&S thumb. An airy arête climb with a little bit of everything. Although the climbing is easy, the exposure and setting are stunning to say the least. Start by traversing right (bring several hand-to-fist-sized cams to protect this traverse), then continue up the face and arête above.



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Zahan Billimoria on Corbet Couloir's *Saxifrage* (p. 44).
The low-lying clouds are the result of an atmospheric inversion – a
common occurrence in the Jackson Hole Valley. Photo: Tristan Gresko.