



Nate Brown on the first ascent of *The Skid* – 5.12a (p. 52) as the Aerial Tram passes above.

Tram Area – Tower Five

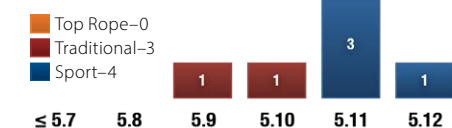
Elevation: 9,910 feet (base of cliff)

Approach Time: 15-30 minutes (from tram dock)

Primary Aspect: Eastern

Number of Routes: 7

Routes by Rating & Type:



The Tower Five Wall is named after the last and highest tower of the Jackson Hole Aerial Tram, which is situated directly above this cliff. Although the Tower Five Wall has some great sport and mixed climbing options, this area is recommended for expert climbers with experience on loose terrain. The style of these routes are more of a Canadian-rockies mountaineering adventure, not a sport climbing experience! If you are looking for sport climbing visit the Happy Hour Wall (p. 56) or Rock Springs Buttress (p. 67) instead.

All climbs are accessed via the Aerial Tram and climb back to the Tram! The last Tram down is either 5/6pm depending on the season (the tram operator will announce times). If you miss the last tram down, hike to the top of the Bridger Gondola to down load, which stays open late to service the Bridger Restaurants.

Driving Directions, Aerial Tram & Map

Refer to the introduction on page 38. See page 39 for an overview map and introduction to the Tram Area.

Snow Conditions & Closures

This is a summer only crag. During the winter ski season this cliff is permanently closed – violators will lose lift access for life! Access doesn't begin until the snow above the cliff has melted to allow for safe access to and from the cliff. Check the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort's web cams for current snow conditions.

Warning – Expect Loose Rock!

The rock here is Dolomite but is less consistent than the rock in Corbet's Couloir. Sections of this cliff are really solid but regardless, any

route you climb here will require some sections of loose rock. Approach these climbs in an alpinist style for safety.

Recommended Equipment

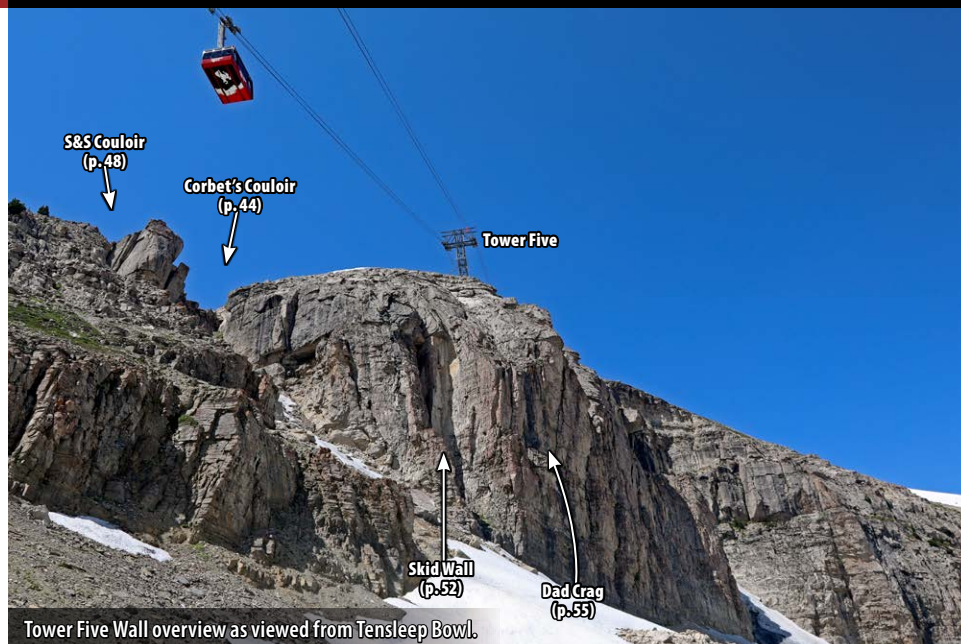
A minimum 70-meter rope is required. Helmets are mandatory! Some routes are engineered to rappel in on the approach, in this case, you'll want two ropes – one to leave as a single line rappel to retrieve when you top out and the other for climbing. See individual route descriptions and approaches for details. For gear bring 15 sport draws and a few 24-inch draws. If you're planning to climb a traditional route a standard rack up to 3-inches will do. Most belays are fixed (pitons and/or bolts).

Hike Down Approach

For those planning to climb from the bottom up, approach via the Cirque Trail which wraps down and around the cliff from the Tram dock. Check each route's description before committing to the approach.

Rappel Approach

A few routes can be rappel accessed. Check each route's description for the best approach option. There is one rappel station located a few hundred feet south (skier's right) of Tower Five in a band of good dolomite. If you choose the rappel option, fix a rope off the rappel anchor and do a single rope rappel (55m). Bring a second rope (70m length) to rappel off the next anchor and retrieve the fixed line when you climb back to the Tram. Note that the top rappel is down a low-angle couloir with loose rock. Be careful!



Tower Five Wall overview as viewed from Tensleep Bowl.

Tower Five – Skid Wall

This is the looker's left side of the Tower Five Wall. All routes except *The Skid*, are approached via hiking down from the Aerial Tram via the Cirque Trail. Climb back to the Tram to down load off the mountain.

1 Unnamed Crack

★ II, 5.9

Use the hike approach and climb back to the tram.
[Interview Mike Abbey & Rewrite]

» PITCH 1 (TRAD)5.8?
[Pitch Description...]

» PITCH 2 (TRAD)5.9?
[Pitch Description...]

» PITCH 3 (TRAD)5.7?
[Pitch Description...]

2 The Skid

★★ II, 5.12a

Use the single fixed-rope rappel approach from above and climb back to the tram. The first

two pitches are really fun with technical arete climbing and a finishing roof pull! This route is positioned directly under the Tram cables. Well bolted with a really cool position. Dress warm.

» PITCH 1 (SPORT)5.10c
Fun arête and face climbing on solid rock that ends at a semi-hanging belay. A good warm up for the next pitch.

» PITCH 2 (SPORT)5.12a
Continue climbing directly up the sharp arête. The crux is very delicate and airy. Pull the thug-gish roof using the left-hand bolt line.

» PITCH 2 VARIATION – SKIDDER ROOF (SPORT)5.12c
Stay directly on the arête to gain the roof, then veer up and right via an under cling crack out the airy edge of the roof. Powerful climbing.

» PITCH 3 (TRAD)5th Class
Easy climbing back to the tram. Bring a small rack if you aren't ascending up a fixed line.



Tower Five Wall. Photo: Nate Brown.

3 Shatter Face**II, M6+ (R)**

Overall, this route is a decent alpine dry-tooling trainer. Approach from hiking down via the Cirque Trail and climb back to the Tram. Do NOT rock climb this route – this route was designed to be a dry-tool-only route for climbers with expert abilities!

» PITCH 1 (DRY TOOL/MIXED)M6+ (R)
Climb 50 meters of dry tooling on a combination of decent and bad rock for about 10-12 bolts. Strenuous for a stretch but the crux has some good dry tooling with positive hooks for most of the pitch. Finishes on a slanting ledge after stemming up a 25 foot bolt-protected dirt groove.

» PITCH 2 (DRY TOOL/MIXED) M5+
A 40 meter pitch to gain the top chain anchor. Three bolts protect the crux above the belay

Wesley Gooch on *The Skid*. Photo: Nate Brown.



ledge to a 75-degree hummock-filled dihedral. Good hooking and protection along the right wall of the gully/dihedral. Fully tool-able and front-point-able grass makes this easier pitch.

4 Toon Stand**II, 5.10a**

Expect a fair amount of climbing on loose rock but the second pitch does have some fun climbing. It's possible to traverse into pitch two from the Dad Crag ledge to avoid the first loose pitch. Approach from hiking down via the Cirque Trail and climb back to the Tram. Bring a rack of cams to three inches, a set of stoppers, and an assortment of sport and trad draws. Belays are bolted.

» PITCH 1 (TRAD)5.7
Easy climbing past loose rock gains a nice ledge.

» PITCH 2 (TRAD)5.10a
This is the best pitch on the route. Climb a hand crack in the middle of a corner system or thin cracks on the adjacent face.

» PITCH 3 (TRAD)5.5
Continue straight up the right edge of slabs past an optional anchor at about 100 feet. Alternatively, you may choose to bump the belay right to finish on *The Long Night*.



Wesley Gooch climbing *Husbandry*. Photo: Andrew Wheeler.

Tower Five – Dad Crag

The best rock on the Tower Five wall is located above a large ledge halfway up the center of the wall known as the Dad Crag. There are two ways to access the sport routes on this wall: 1) climb the first two pitches of *The Long Night* or 2) rappel in from above via a set of anchors at the top of Chick Brain Couloir – a 55m fixed line! If you rappel in, bring two ropes; one to fix a single line rappel down Chick Brain Couloir and the second rope (70m length) to rappel to the Dad Crag ledge and climb out on. Retrieve the fixed line on your way back to the Tram. The best way to top out is via the final pitches of *The Long Night*. All three routes at the Dad Crag are worthy.

5 Fatherhood**★★ 5.11a**

An excellent sport pitch on the left side of the Dad Crag mid-height on the wall. The route climbs perfect black varnished dolomite rock that is protected by 12-14 bolts.

6 Husbandry**★ 5.11c**

Middle of the three bolted pitches coming off the Dad Crag Ledge. Climb cool features with a definitive crux and some sustained 5.10 climbing. A worthy route.

7 The Long Night**★★ III, 5.11a/b**

This is the premier “Dad Crag” route. Five short sport pitches that finishes on a cool alpine-feeling ridge right under the tram cables. The best approach is to walk down the east ridge trail and traverse to the route under Corbet's Couloir. Bring 14 sport draws and some assorted slings. Optionally bring a few small cams to protect the runout final 5.5 pitch.

» PITCH 1 (SPORT) 5.8
A short 15 meter approach pitch to the top of a large pillar. Be careful of some crumbly rock. Five bolts to a two-bolt belay anchor.

» PITCH 2 (SPORT)5.11b
The crux of the route is a quarter of the way up this 25-meter pitch. Twelve bolts to a low belay anchor – skip this anchor and continue up to the larger Dad Crag Ledge.

» PITCH 3 (SPORT)5.10d
A long 35 meter bolted pitch on flakes, cracks, and stemming moves. Probably the best pitch of the route. This is the rightmost of the three sport pitches off the Dad Crag Ledge. Fourteen closely spaced bolts.

» PITCH 4 (SPORT)5.7
Gain an exposed knife edge ridge by climbing 25 meters of 5.7 that hugs the left side of a huge roof to a great belay ledge on the ridge, just below Tower Five. This is a glory pitch with about eight bolts.

» PITCH 5 (SPORT) 5.5 (R)
Finish the route with 35 meters of 5.5 with about 3-4 bolts and some loose rock. A little bit run out but easy climbing (a few small cams helps protect this pitch). Finish on a big ledge just below the highest layer of dolomite. Scramble back to the tram.

Sam Macke rappelling into the Dad Crag.

