

Lizard Rocks Pinedale, Wyoming

A FREE MINI-GUIDE FROM



by

Wesley Gooch

All Uncredited Photos by Wesley Gooch

Special Thanks To

Ben Franklin (photos), Jason Burton (beta), Mark Keller (photos), & Josh Hattan (editing)

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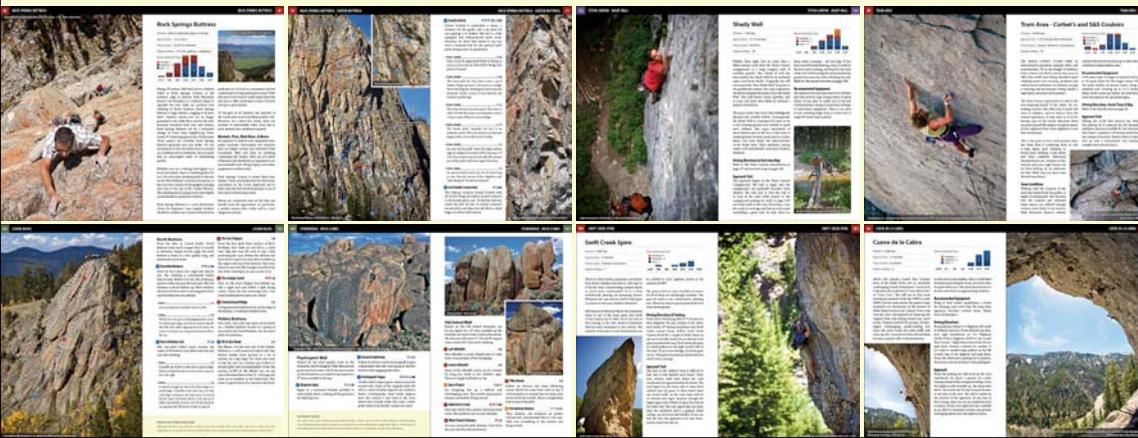
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Lizard Rocks

Elevation: 8,820 feet

Approach Time: 15 minutes

Primary Aspect: West

Number of Routes: 17

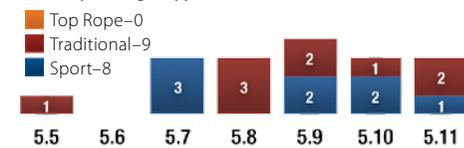
Lizard Rocks, also called Hansel & Gretel, is primarily known as an easy to moderate crag with a relaxed style. The climbing here is not for everyone, but nobody can complain about the area's absolutely stunning vistas.

Lizard Rocks' close proximity to Pinedale and short approach make this destination a great place to catch a few climbs after work. For the most part, the routes are safe and well suited for the beginner to moderate climber. In addition, several of the climbs are family friendly.

Recommended Equipment

The longest sport route here requires 16 quickdraws. If you intend on climbing some traditional routes, bring a standard rack that covers small cracks from 0.5 to 3 inches. For *Crankin'*, bring a large cam (#4 or #4.5 Camalot). A set of stoppers are useful.

Routes by Rating & Type:

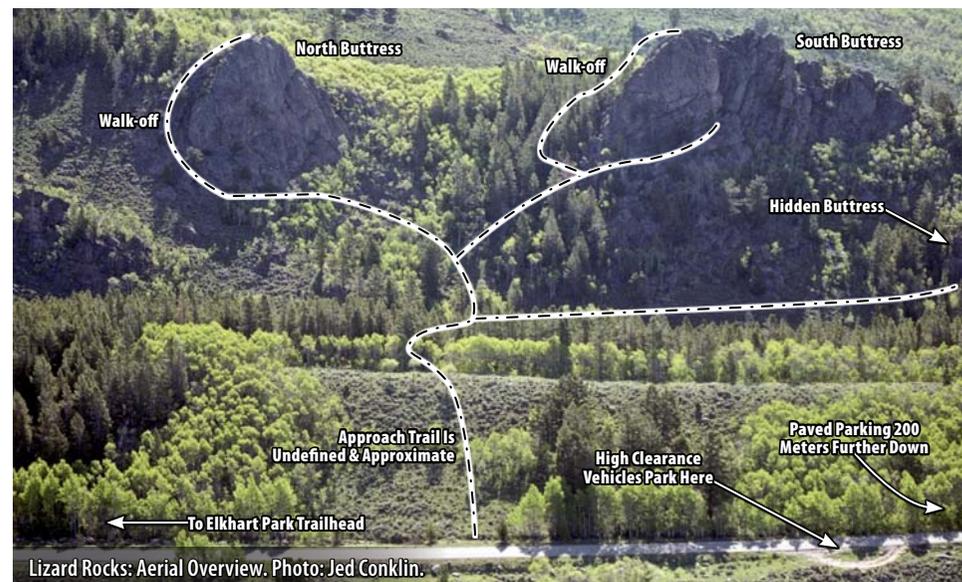


Driving Directions

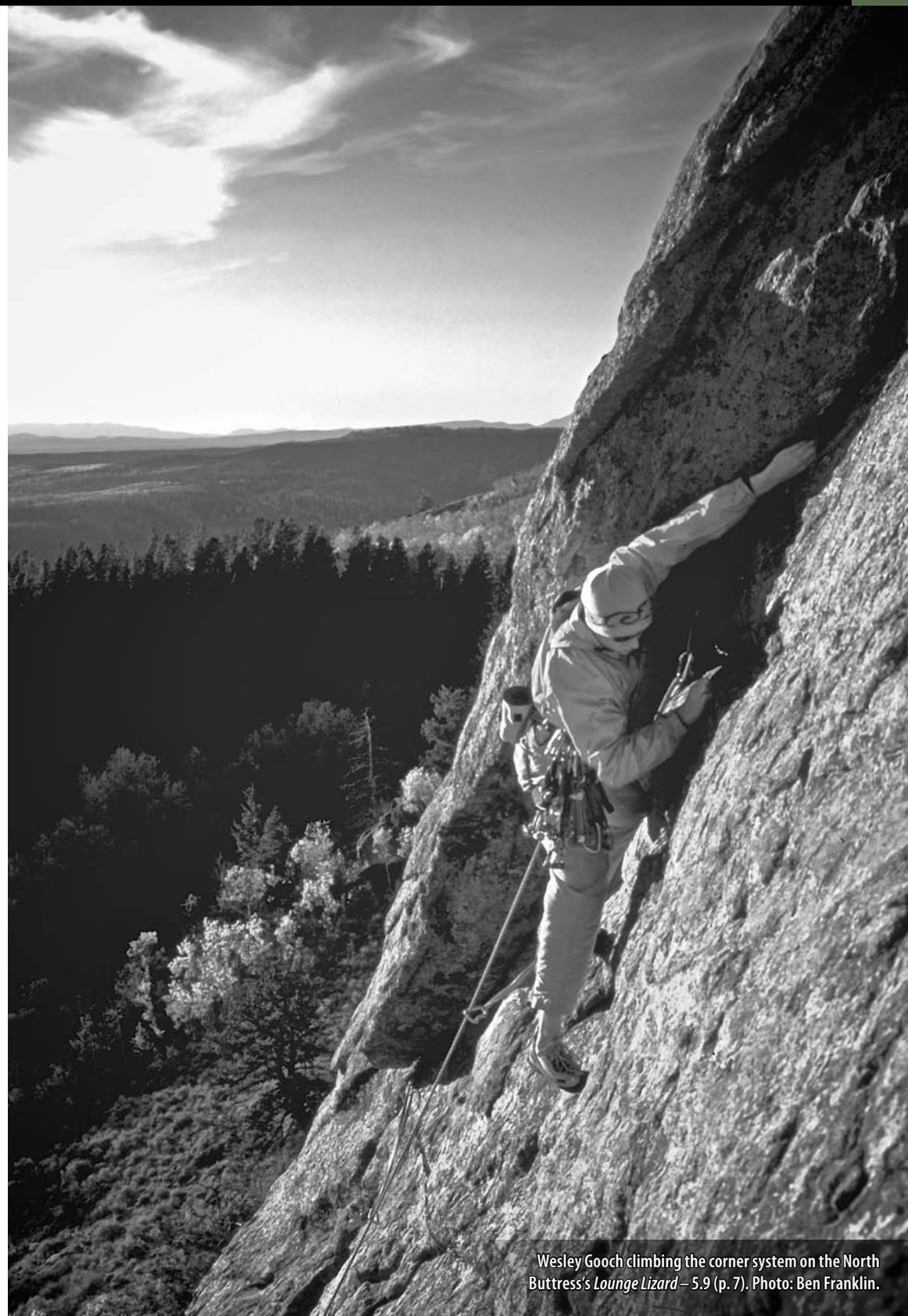
From Pinedale, follow Skyline Drive north for 11.5 miles. Park at a large paved pullout on the left (west) side of the road – known as the Upper Fremont Lake Overlook. For vehicles with high clearance, there is another dirt pullout about 150-200 meters further up (north) Skyline Drive road from the Upper Fremont Lake Overlook.

Approach Trail

From the paved parking lot, hike further up Skyline Drive until you come across a clearing in a group of aspen trees on the east side of the road. Hike up this clearing. At the time of this writing, Lizard Rocks did not have a defined approach trail. For the approach of least resistance, follow the approximate trail route outline in the Aerial Overview below.



Lizard Rocks: Aerial Overview. Photo: Jed Conklin.



Wesley Gooch climbing the corner system on the North Buttress's Lounge Lizard – 5.9 (p. 7). Photo: Ben Franklin.



Lizard Rocks: North Buttress, as viewed from the top of the South Buttress.

North Buttress

Despite the North Buttress's low angle, there are several quality moderate routes that are well worth your time. Either walk-off the northwestern end (fastest and easiest option), or rappel in two sections from *Deceitful Business* or *Ben's Birthday Suit* (60-meter rope required).

1 Deceitful Business ★★ 5.10a/b

Don't let the low angle slab deceive you. The climbing is technical and considerably harder than it looks. Believe it or not, the overhang a quarter of the way up is the easy part – the real business is about halfway up.

- » PITCH 1 5.4
An easy approach scramble with two lead bolts.
- » PITCH 2 5.10a/b
Charge up an overhanging dihedral. To reduce rope drag, un-clip the first bolt after safely clipping the bolt above the overhang. Carry 12 quickdraws.

2 Vultures & Company ★★★ 5.9

Vultures & Company is arguably Lizard Rock's best sport route. The crux is brief but fun and the rest of the route is a rewarding cruiser on knobs and edges. Break the route into two pitches and walk-off.

- » PITCH 1 5.7
Follow a line of 4 bolts up a slab with two overlaps to a good belay ledge.
- » PITCH 2 5.9
The obvious roof crux is reachy and much easier for tall climbers. Bring 12 sport draws and use a longer draw on the bolt below the roof.

3 Ben's Birthday Suit ★ 5.9

A worthwhile route with fun slab climbing, a stout move past an overlap, and an intriguing roof pull.

- » PITCH 1 5.8
Follow a line of 4 bolts to a belay ledge. Try not to stray too far to the right.
- » PITCH 2 5.9
Continue straight up above the belay ledge to a small overlap. Carefully work your way over this crux bulge on balancy and thin moves. A second

but far easier roof awaits above. Lock into good holds and pull the second roof. 11 lead bolts.

4 Lounge Lizard ★★ 5.9

Climb the first pitch of *Ben's Birthday Suit*. The second pitch tackles a roof with a tricky layback move protected by a bolt. The top half gains the buttress's obvious right-facing corner system. Enjoy, *Lounge Lizard* is an excellent traditional route. Bring a standard rack up to 2.5 inches and several long trad draws.

5 Donkey Day ★ 5.7

For the grade, expect fun, interspersed moves for 29 meters of climbing to a bolted rappel anchor. Trad gear is not required, but there is an opportunity for a thin hand-sized piece on the first pitch.

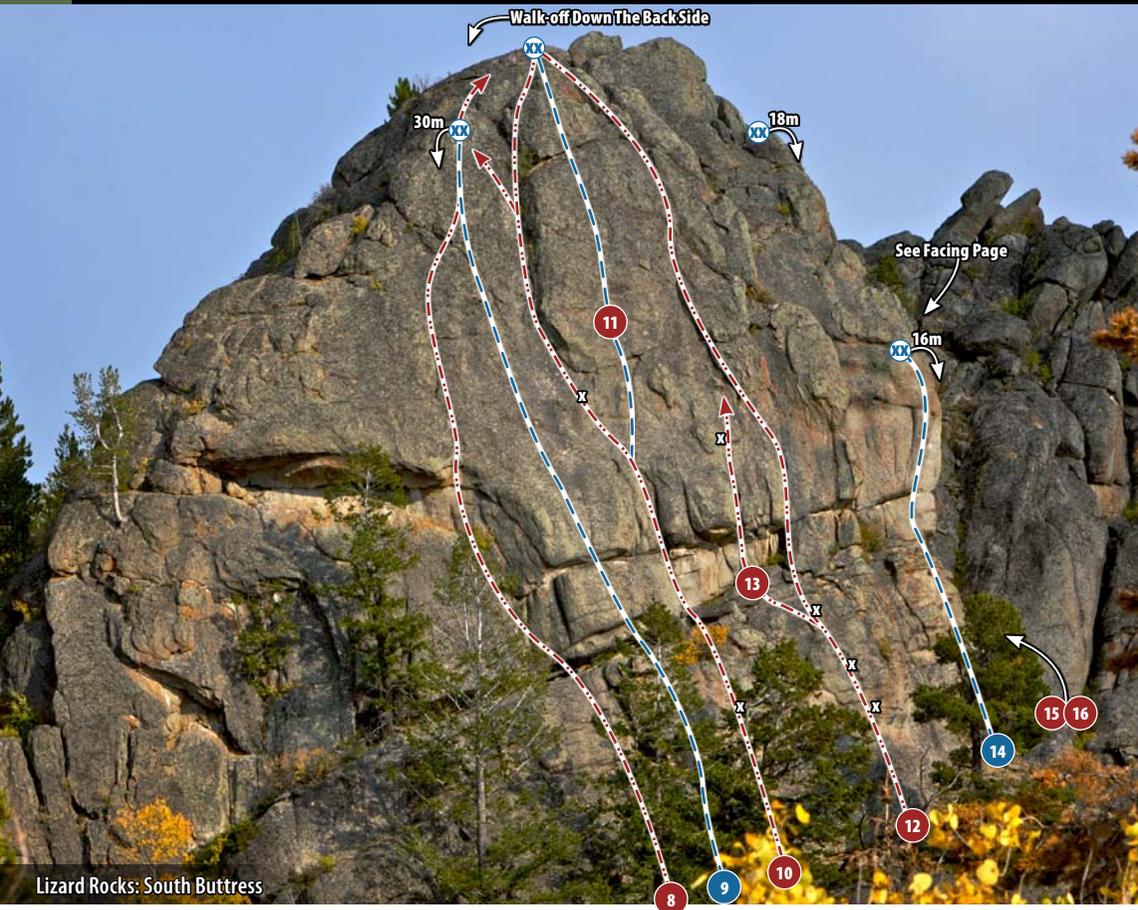
- » PITCH 1 5.7
Climb an easy slab with a short crux near halfway. There are 10 lead bolts plus the rappel anchors. Continue up a second pitch if you wish to top-out, otherwise, rappel from the first set of anchors.
- » PITCH 2 5.7
A series of four bolts above the rappel anchor gains the summit. This pitch is a one-move wonder at the roof; the rest of the pitch is 5.5.

6 No Doubt 5.7

A line of seven bolts is drawn up a rock rib on the buttress's right side. For the grade, *No Doubt's* thin crux can be thought provoking, but is otherwise a simply warm-up.

7 Twisted Lizard Ridge 5.5 (R)

A seldom-climbed route that offers nothing more than a practice trad lead. The protection is spaced but the climbing is easy.



Lizard Rocks: South Buttress

South Buttress

The South Buttress is steeper than the North Buttress but less consistent. Climbers may choose to walk-off or rappel the South Buttress. Walk-off via a 4th class scramble down the backside (east end) – refer to the Aerial Overview (p. 4). Optionally, descend via a set of rappel anchors located on the south end of the summit – see above topo.

8 Crankin' ★★ 5.9

Start up a low angle crack to an inside corner with a perfect hand-crack that ends at a large roof (#4-#5 Camalot). Climb the roof crux directly (5.10 layback) or indirectly to the right (5.9 face). Continue up the crack for another 4-5 meters before moving right to clip the last few bolts of *Journey Around the Sun* (lowering from the chains requires a 70m rope). Scramble further to another bolted belay on the summit.

9 Journey Around the Sun ★★ 5.11b

Begin your journey up a steep slab to a roof that is solved with either a dyno or a strenuous heal hook. The third bolt above the roof

is easy to clip; use a medium-length draw on the second bolt. The definitive crux, is a bulge at one-third height – a powerful yet technical boulder problem. Finish with a rewarding 5.8 cruiser. The route is exactly 30-meters tall with 14 lead bolts and a chain anchor.

10 Front & Center ★ 5.8

Begin in an arching right-facing corner. Four meters up, step left out of the corner to a face (protected by a .75-inch cam and one bolt). Continue up the line of least resistance above to join a left facing corner system on the upper half. Finish at a bolted belay on the summit. Bring a standard rack to 2.5 inches.

11 Sure-fire ★ 5.8

Sure-fire is a more-direct bolted finish to *Front & Center*. Start by climbing the first half of *Front & Center* (same gear plus extra draws) but at mid-height stay to the right in favor of seven bolts up a wavy face to the summit. Fun face climbing with intriguing movement.

12 A Walk in the Park ★ 5.8

Clip three bolts up a slab leading to a ledge below a roof system. Bypass the roof to the right via an obvious crack that winds its way to the top. The crack passes several clusters of chickenheads and is well protected. Bring a small rack up to 2.5 inches.

13 Call It What You Want ★ 5.10a

A roof variation to the left of *A Walk in the Park*. Clip the third bolt with a 24-inch draw and tackle a layback crack through the roof system at one-third height. Clip a bolt above the roof and regain *A Walk in the Park*'s crack system. Bring a small rack to 3-inches.

14 Sinful Wager ★★ 5.10d

Begin on easy terrain to a rest-ledge. Then commit to an attached pillar and bear hug your way to the anchors. The top is fairly sustained with difficult transitions.

15 Status Quo 5.11a/b

Around the corner and right of *Sinful Wager*, is a stout fingers-to-thin-hands mixed crack problem. Utilize a rest ledge before the crack steepens to pre-strategize your gear placements. The sustained crack above has few rest stances.

Hidden Buttress

One route, and a few top ropes, can be found on a the west end of a Hidden Buttress located in a group of trees below the South Buttress. See the Aerial Overview for reference (p. 4).

South Buttress: Southern End

Jason Burton on *Godzilla Crack*. Photo: Mark Keller.

16 Godzilla Crack ★ 5.11b/c

Follow a rightward slanting crack system that ends at the South Buttress's summit rappel anchor. *Godzilla Crack*'s worthy start is a powerful and steep layback problem that eases at one-quarter height. If your trad skills aren't up to par, try an alternate 5.8 start to the right.

17 Fill in the Blank 5.7

Not Shown. The Hidden Buttress's only route is a well bolted slab that follows double water grooves. From the anchors, it is easy to setup a few top ropes in the 5.6-5.7 range, but none are as aesthetic as the bolted line. A good choice for someone's a first lead.