

Nolichucky Climbing



By Andre Chiquito

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About The Area

While it's probably not worth a big drive, climbing at the Noli is super worth it if you're into adventure trad climbing and/or whitewater rafting. It makes for a great multisport adventure day! You can even extend your time out there by camping at a beautiful beach on the river.

The gear and rock seem solid and was plentiful enough on the routes that have been established. There's the expected amount of choss due to having no traffic there, but no holds have pulled.

As of yet there has only been one expedition out there to my knowledge, which established two climbs (10/12/2023). There is potential for more routes, both hard, overhung sport and trad. Both Prime Rib and Hex were put up ground up onsight style.

Get out there and get after it! If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out. You can find my contact information at the link below.

AND please let me know how your trip goes and if I should add anything to this guidebook :)

Getting There

Park at: Poplar River Access on the Nolichucky. Word on the street is that overnight parking is allowed and safe.

Hike downriver along the train tracks for 1.7 miles.

Ford the river to the basecamp beach. I use a packraft, but it is a safe to swim as well if you have dry bags for your gear.

From the beach, hike downriver for ~200ft before you start switchbacking up the gorge. Try to hit the base of the buttress where it is easier to routefind and there are fewer sketchy slab traverses.

From the base of Prime Rib, it is possible to continue uphill to access the top of the first tier without roping up.



Helpful Resources

<https://caltopo.com/m/R447C>

Note: The train tracks are private property. Traverse them at your own risk!

Getting Around

The crag has three tiers split up by large vegetated ledges. It is possible to walk to each ledge by scrambling up the gorge then cutting climbers left to the buttress at the appropriate point, so no climb is required to be done before any other climb.

Each rappel can be done with a 70m rope, but a 60m is unlikely to reach. Each rappel station is a slung tree with a biner or quicklink.

Editors note: If anyone is going out there, please contact me so I can gift you with some tat and a rap ring for the second rappel station! I'd like to beef it up.



X = Belay | O = Rappel station | ___ = The line of a climb

Prime Rib

FA: Andre Chiquito & Abby Lamoutte, 9/2023

Grade: 5.10a

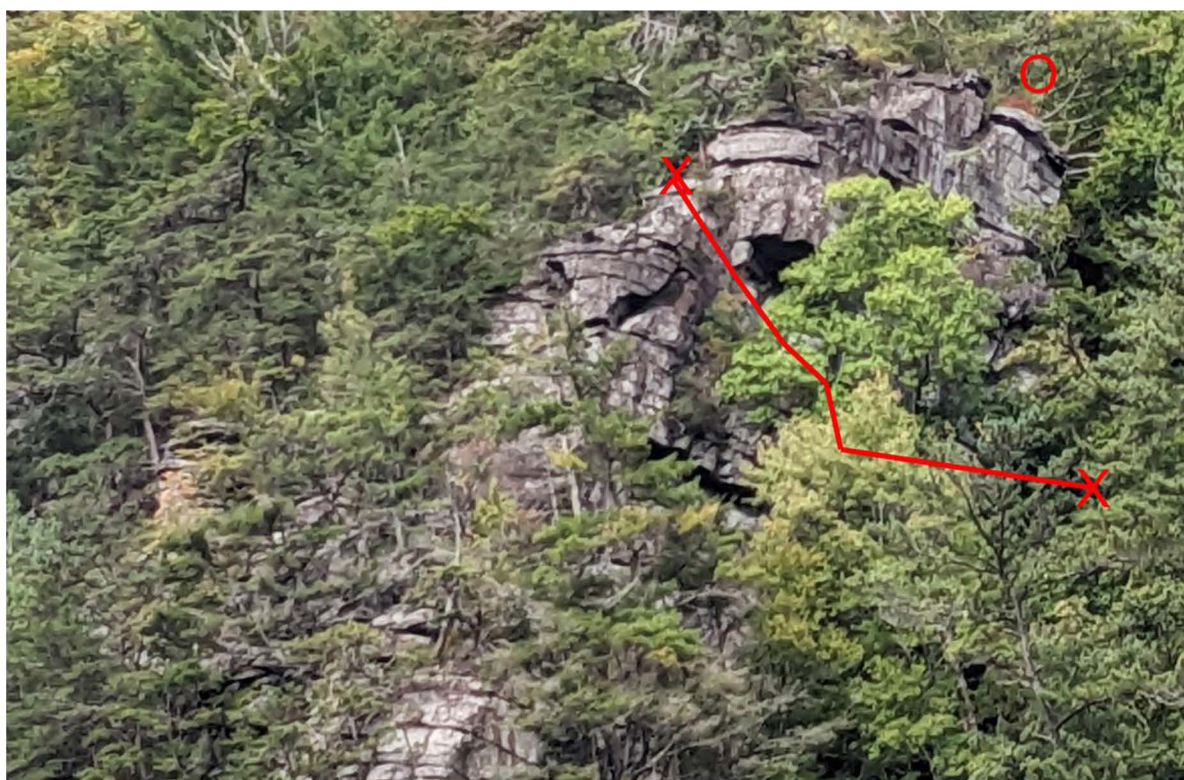
Gear: Standard NC rack. Make sure to bring two 3s. If you really want to sew it up, bring triple 2s.

Length: ~60-70ft

Location: The only climb on Tier 1 right now. Scramble up the gulley, eventually scrambling through a rhododendron tunnel right up against the foot of the buttress. When you reach a really tall, overhanging section, you should be able to see the distinctive horizontal hand crack and vertical striations that mark Prime Rib.

Description: Stem from the gulley's edge to stand on a good ledge at the start of a perfectly horizontal, 30ft hand crack. Crux is beginning the traverse on alright crimps on bomber gear to reach the good jams. Traverse to a good ledge and belay here or gun it up and left through some ledgy face climbing. Protection exists but can be tricky, and parts of this are a no fall zone. If you break right at any point you may get into hot water. Top out and make a gear belay or use a tree.

Getting Down: Bushwack up and climbers right to find a slung tree with a quicklink. Rap on a 70m rope to take you right back to the start.



19'-hexanoyloxyfucoxanthin

FA: Abby Lamoutte & Andre Chiquito, 9/2023

Grade: 5.9

Gear: Standard NC rack.

Length: ~110ft

Location: The only climb on Tier 2 right now. From the top of Tier 1, bushwack to the base of the rock for Tier 2. Find a great, somewhat vegetated corner on climbers left side of Tier 2

Description:

P1: Stem your way up the corner. Towards the top, break right, top out the rock, then scramble up dirt and leaves under rhododendron to a rocky outcrop directly below the P2 face. Gear belay here, watch for loose blocks.

P2: Climb up off the belay, allow the holds to take you to the left after ~20 feet. Shoot up to top out at your earliest convenience. Crux is only a couple moves right at the end to reach the lip.

Getting Down: Scramble up and climbers right to a rap anchor on a tree with a 240cm sling with a biner. (message me if you go up there, I want to donate gear to beef up this rappel station) Once on the ground, bushwack back to the base of the climb and make your way to the Tier 1 rappel.

