

LITTLE BALDY

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Intro

Little Baldy is a granite dome that rises to just over 8,000 feet in Sequoia National Park. Anyone who visits its summit will enjoy a commanding view of the Great Western Divide to the east and a layer of haze to the west. The easiest way to get the view is the one and a half mile trail from Little Baldy saddle.

If you're looking for a more interesting way to the top you can enjoy some high quality granite slab and crack routes. Most climbs range from one to four pitches, the easiest is a 5.6 ramp and the more difficult routes are in the 5.11s.

Spring, Summer and Fall are the best times to climb, but some of the slab routes dry up quickly and can be climbed during sunny weeks in the winter. The routes generally dry off from right to left on the face, so the Regular Route stays wet well into spring and the slab routes on the far right can be climbed almost year round.

Don't forget your helmet, some folks can't resist throwing rocks off the top!

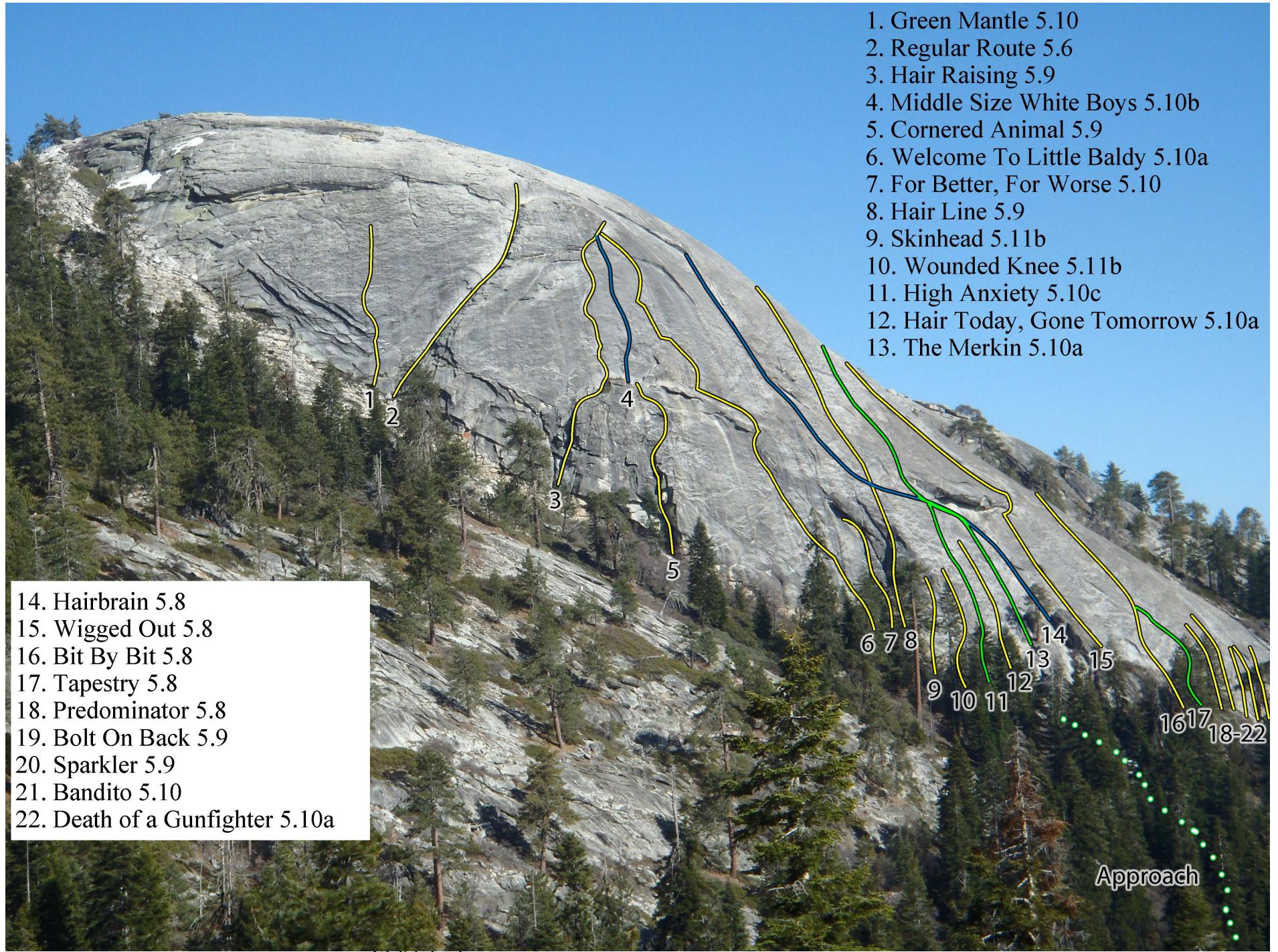
Directions

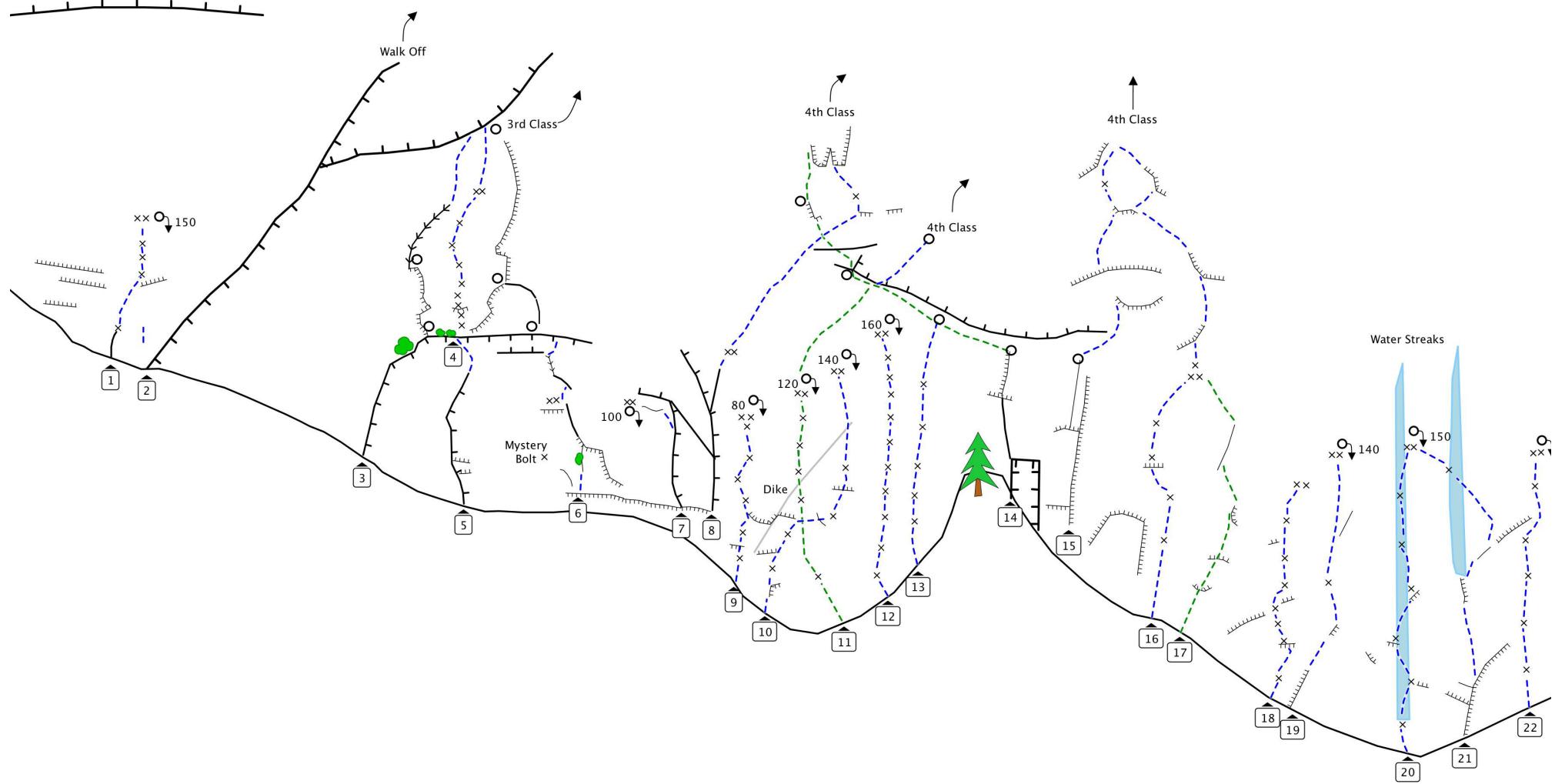
Little Baldy lies just off of the General's Highway about 6 miles north of Lodgepole if you come up the 198 through Three Rivers. Coming from the north on the 180 it's a couple miles south of Dorst Creek campground.

The best approach is from a large turnout just south of the Little Baldy trailhead where you can see the rock up the hill. Pick the route of least resistance up to the base.

For a view of the rock to help get oriented, walk up the hill across the road from the Little Baldy trailhead for a couple minutes.

For routes that reach the summit, descend along the west face back to the base.





LITTLE BALDY

1. **5.10** 1 pitch **Green Mantle** *Draws, small stoppers, 0.4" and 3" cams.* Climb into the crack coming off of the ledge 20 feet left of the Regular Route. Pass under and to the right of a bulge and follow bolts to the anchor.
FA: Rhicard, Laeger, Laeger 6/89
2. **5.6** 3 pitches **Regular Route (Boone/LaRue)** *Takes any gear you want to bring.* Follow the large right leaning ramp on the upper part of the dome.
FA: Boone, LaRue
3. **5.9** 3 pitches **Hair Raising** *Gear up to 3" with extra small stuff.*
P1 Climb the large dirty corner system to a large ledge. This pitch can be bypassed by climbing Cornered Animal or Welcome to Little Baldy.
P2 Start off the left side of the ledge and follow the right facing flakes up to a small ledge below a right arching dihedral.
P3 Follow the right arching dihedral until the crack disappears, then head up to the large roof above.
FA: Laeger, Laeger, Dick Saum 5/82
4. **5.10b** 1 pitch **Middle Size White Boys** *Draws and half a dozen small pieces up to 1".* Follow the (old) bolts off of the ledge in between Hair Raising and Welcome to Little Baldy. This climb must be approached via other routes.
FA: Jolley, Jeff Jackson, M. Barnes 9/88
5. **5.9** 1 pitch **Cornered Animal** *Gear from small to 3".* Follow the path of least resistance up the large corner broken by roofs.
FA: Dick Saum, Laeger, Rich Smith 9/83
6. **5.10a** 4 pitches **Welcome to Little Baldy** *Doubles from small to 2" and single 3, 4 and 5 inch pieces or similar.*
P1 Ascend the left leaning corner/crack system until you see two anchor bolts off to the left.
P2 Continue up the same system, through the crux corner, until a small roof. Skirt around the small roof to the right and walk up and left to belay at the base of the arching crack (5.10a).
P3 Follow the fun, clean arching crack up. As it turns left it gets wider but can be climbed without many off-width moves. Belay where the arching crack ends.
P4 Climb up the small left facing dihedral through the big ear/flake thing. A big piece comes in handy here. Friction off the belay is the hardest part of this pitch. Belay once you get to 4th class at a large right facing roof/corner.
FA: Rich Smith, Herb Laeger 9/83
7. **5.10** 1 pitch **For Better, For Worse** *Singles to 3".* Climb the left side of the big corner next to Welcome to Little Baldy and traverse the crack left under the roof to a two bolt anchor.
FA: Jolley, Pete Delzado 7/87
8. **5.9** 3 pitches **Hair Line** *Doubles to 3".*
P1 Begin by climbing directly in the large left facing corner. As the corner curves left, take a crack up and right to a two bolt belay.
P2 Continue up and right, passing a large roof in its left to a bolt on a small ledge.
P3 Climb up the center of the "W" shaped roof above and belay.
FA: Art DeGoede, James Cook 6/89
9. **5.11b** 1 pitch **Skinhead** *Draws and a few small cams.* Follow the furthest left bolts on the toe of the rock past a few gear placements.
FA: Herb Laeger, Roger Peart 7/90
10. **5.11b** 1 pitch **Wounded Knee** *Draws and a 1" and 2" cam.* Start in a small left facing corner near the low point. After the second bolt traverse right, crossing over Little Baldy Hoodwink to the next bolt, then continue up.
FA: Tim Slover and friends 8/91

11. **5.10c** 3 pitches **High Anxiety** *Draws and some small gear.*
 P1 Start to the right of the left facing corner, after the first bolt climb to the right of the roof above and follow the bolts up to a two bolt anchor, crossing a white dike. Most rap from here and call it "Little Baldy Hoodwink" but the original line had fewer bolts and continued as follows
 P2 Trend up and right to where Merkin goes over the roof into runout 5.6 and a sloping ledge.
 P3 Head up and right through runout 4th and low 5th class terrain.
 FA: Eric Erikson, Guy Keese 1977
12. **5.10a** 1 pitch **Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow** *10 draws.* Step left into the first bolt and follow the trail.
 FA: Herb Laeger, Rhicard, Eve Laeger 6/89
13. **5.10a** 3 pitches **The Merkin** *Draws and singles to 1".*
 P1 Follow five bolts and meet with Hairbrain on a ledge with flakes.
 P2 Go left a few feet, climb over the overlap and smear up runout 5.6 to a sloping ledge.
 P3 Head up and right through runout 4th and low 5th class terrain.
 FA: Todd Swain, Peggy Buckey 6/88
14. **5.8** 4 pitches **Hairbrain** *Standard rack to 3"*
 P1 Start right of the tree and climb the left side of the big clock into the crack system that goes up to the large roof.
 P2 Head left, staying under the roof, until it ends.
 P3 Trend up and left, past a horizontal crack, and belay at a small right facing corner.
 P4 Head straight up to the left side of the roof/corner system.
 FA: Dave Hickey, EC Joe 6/84
15. **5.8** 4-6 pitches **Wigged Out** *Standard rack to 3"*
 P1 Start to the right of the large block in a left facing corner and belay under the large roof.
 P2 Go right of the large roof and up to a ledge under another smaller roof.
 P3-6 Head up and track towards natural features to place gear. The bolt towards the top of the climb, near the large right facing corner, may be missing. These pitches can be broken up as desired.
 FA: Dave Hickey, EC Joe 6/84
16. **5.7** 4 pitches **Bit by Bit** *Draws and gear up to 1"*
 P1 Climb up to the right of a small triangle roof, past a horizontal crack, and trend up and right to a bolted anchor.
 P2 Climb up and belay at the start of a left facing dihedral.
 P3 Continue trending up and left to large ledge.
 P4 Climb the corner straight up off the right end of the ledge. The end of this pitch is very runout but essentially 4th class crab walking.
 FA: Tim Slover, Dale Haskamp, first pitch Jeff Scheuerell 8/91
17. **5.8** 1 pitch **Tapestry** *Standard rack*
 Head down and right from the triangle shape arch in the rock past the first bolt of Bit by Bit until you're under a small roof.
 FA: Dave Hickey, Ken Awbrey 84
18. **5.8** 1 pitch **Predominator** *Draws*
 While walking down towards the low point of the dome there is a right facing corner, this route follows the bolts just to it's left.
 FA: Unknown
19. **5.9** 1 pitch **Bolt on Back** *Small to medium gear*
 Follow the right facing corner near the low point of the dome until it's top. Head mostly up searching out the features and the one bolt.
 FA: Art Degoede
20. **5.9+** 1 pitch **Sparkler** *Draws and gear from small to ½"*
 Start from the toe of Little Baldy and follow the bolts up or near the water streak.
 FA: Jolley, S. Gilbert, Jackson, V. West 7/87
21. **5.10a** 1 pitch **Bandito** *Standard rack*
 Start in the left facing corner right of the low point on the dome. Head towards the water streak above and stay left of a small roof.
 FA: Art Degoede, Mike Daly 9/89

22. **5.10a** 1 pitch **Death of a Gunfighter** *Draws, one 0.5" piece and one 0.75" piece.*
Furthest right route on Little Baldy. Follow the bolts and pass the small roof on it's right.
FA: Roger Hayashi, Dave Daly 8/00

- * **5.8** 1 pitch **Crazy Bald Heads** *Small gear.*
Supposedly in between Bit By Bit and tapestry and links up with tapestry after one pitch. I have not found this climb.
FA: Jeff Scheuerell, Steve Bumgardner
- * **5.7 PG13** ? pitches **Air Heads** *Gear to 4"*
Left of Bandito. Crack starting a bit left of Bandito going up to a face, then to a roof, then going right. Easy runout face climbing after that. I have not seen this climb either.
FA: Jeff Scheuerell, Chad 8/84