

Haus Rock – Summit County Cragging

by Dave Cooper



Climber on the popular -Feet Do Not Fail Me Now, 5.8-small.jpg

Getting to the Trailhead: Drive to the intersection with Montezuma Road on Highway 6, 0.3 miles west of Gondola Road or 4.8 miles east of the Arapahoe Basin Ski Area.

Follow Montezuma Road, bearing left at 0.2 miles and reaching a small parking area on your left at 1.3 miles, just after the road makes a righthand bend following a long straight section.

Statistics: The approach gains 290 feet in 0.3 miles.

Difficulty: Haus Rock offers mainly sport climbs in the 5.6 to 5.14a range.

Gear: The longest routes have 8 bolts in 70 feet, so plan accordingly. A single 60 meter rope is sufficient.

USGS Quad: Keystone, CO

On a day when the Front Range flirts with three - digit temperatures, you may want to consider a trip up to the high country to check out some of the rock climbing there.

Scattered throughout the mountains are small cragging areas that offer good climbing in temperatures that are perhaps twenty degrees cooler

than those in Eldorado Canyon and other Front Range locations. Often the location of these crags is a closely-guarded secret, but a guidebook to many of the developed climbing areas in Summit County reveals some of those secrets. Written by Rick and Laura Karden, "Summit Climbing Guide" may be difficult to find (look on Amazon, in local climbing shops or go to <http://www.signature-book.com/NewBooks/karden.htm> for ordering information).

One of the areas mentioned in the book that is worth a visit is Haus Rock, located between Keystone and Montezuma. This small crag has seen quite a bit of route development and offers at least 24 routes, primarily well-bolted sport routes ranging in difficulty from 5.6 to 5.14a. Most if not all climbs are equipped with chain anchors.

Approach

From the parking area follow the trail initially north under the power lines. After 100 yards the trail turns east then northeast and almost immediately starts to climb steeply. The trail is braided in some areas but is

well-cairned. After hiking for about 15 minutes (0.2 miles) you'll come to a trail junction on a small rock rib. Take the left fork which heads across a short talus slope before continuing on to Haus Rock, 20 minutes and 0.3 miles from the parking area.

Climb Description

As you approach the rock your first view is of the south side climbs. These are all very hard – most are more than vertical. Don't despair. Continue around the left side of the rock past several good-looking steep routes to the north face. Here there are a number of moderate routes.

One of the most popular, and also the longest (70 feet), is in the center of the north face. This 5.8 route, well-named "Feet Do Not Fail Me Now", climbs the face past 8 bolts to a two chain anchor. The climb starts just to the right of a prominent crack system and climbs through a section of quartz (white rock), then up a steeper section of granite, to reach the chain anchors a couple of feet to the left of the apex of the face.



