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Notes: This feild guide is updated regularly so check back to the Broughton page on the Next Ascent website. For a full, comprehensive guidebook download the Next Ascent guidebook app for this area.

Broughton Bluff, OR



Area Description
by Jack Lewis | 05/08/2020

Area Overview

Towering over the gateway to the Columbia River Gorge, Broughton Bluff is one of the most popular and high-quality crags in Portland. With over a 60-year history of climbers clinging to its 160-foot high walls, this crag is a popular after-work and weekend destination. The climbs here are excellent and the area offers dozens of trad, sport, and mixed routes. There is even a little bouldering at the Magma Zone Bouldering Area west of the main crag.

APPROACH: 12 min

ROUTES: 212

Approach Distance: 0.3 mi

Walk Time: 10-25 min

GPS 45.541, -122.38

Ownership: Public

Bouldering

Bouldering is located at a small area called the Magma Zone. Local climber Mike Pajunas developed a lot of the early bouldering at this area. To get to this spot continue along the trail past the North Face and walk the low-travel trail to the bouldering outcrops. This area is covered in the Pacific Northwest Bouldering guidebook Portland Edition.

WATER

A water supply to fill bottles and get water access can be found at the northwest side of the parking lot.

TOILETS

There are public toilets at the parking area. They are clearly visible once you are in the main parking lot.

TOPROPES

Although there is access to the top at a few select areas, particularly at the Hanging Gardens left side. For most of the area leading is required to set TRs.

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Directions

Take exit 18 off of I-84 and go left, heading away from the highway and toward a railroad trestle. Immediately after the trestle park at the parking area on the left. This is not the first parking area that is along the highway exit ramp, rather this is the lot just down the road, on the left, near a large green area and obvious state park signage. There is always available parking. Park and walk toward the hillside and Broughton Bluff. In the back of the field is a switchback-trail that leads up to the climbing area. From the parking lot wind uphill along the trail that heads toward the cliff base. The approach trail leads to Hanging Gardens Wall. From Hanging Gardens Wall walk east along the base and around the corner headed towards the Columbia Gorge and you locate the climbs at North Face. Walking east will take you to Hanging Gardens Wall first, then the North Face. Walking right or southwest at the top of the approach trail will bring you to the other walls such as Red Wall, Bat Wall, Jungle Cliff, etc. Most areas at Broughton Bluff can be accessed within a 15 minute walk or less.



Carolyn Taylor
Natural Area

Northeast Jordan Road

Lewis and
Clark State
Park State
Recreation Site

NORTH FACE

Broughton
Bluff

HANGING GARDENS
RED WALL

THE ZONE

BRIDGE CLIFF

SPRING ROCK

BAT WALL

BROKEN & TRINITY

BERLIN WALL

JUNGLE CLIFF

NEW FRONTIER

84

84

84

84

Historic Columbia River Highway