

WILD ISLE

Route Guide

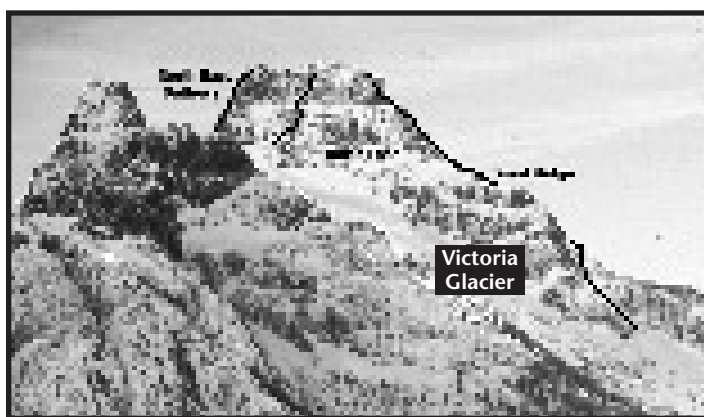
Victoria Peak



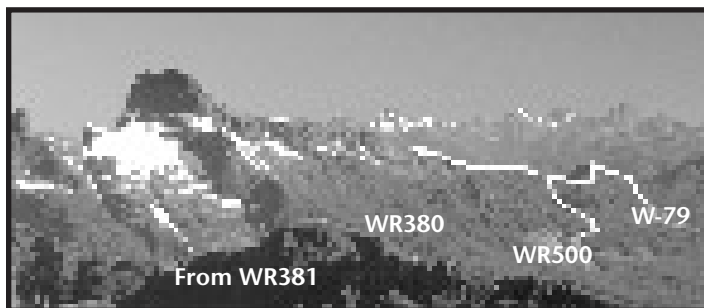
Victoria Peak

2,163m (7,095 ft)

Victoria and Warden Peaks are distinctive landmarks from Campbell River, rising high out of the White River with no mountains of comparable elevation nearby. The peaks have excellent rock and an alpine scale and character unrivalled outside of Strathcona Park.



Warden & Victoria Peaks northeast aspect from Kokummi Mtn, Dec.



Warden & Victoria Peaks north aspect

Approach:

The access to the Victoria-Warden massif has been greatly improved recently, at the cost of the timber on the north and west flanks. Climbing routes on the south and west sides of Victoria Peak can be reached either from Sayward along the White River Main or from Gold River via the West Main and Twaddle Lake. Logging roads climb to around 3,500 ft from the White River side (branch WR500) and from the Gold River side to 4,000 ft (branch W-79) of West Main. Recent editions of logging road maps or Backroads Guidebook are an asset navigating these roads.

Access on these roads will vary with seasonal snow cover, logging activity and the alpinist's nemesis - deactivation. From either WR500 or W-79, a short steep hike through the remaining forest reaches the crest of Victoria Peak's lower south ridge. This ridge is a beautiful hike in its own right with small alpine lakes and incredible views of Campbell River, the Discovery Islands, Strathcona Park and Nootka Sound.

To reach the Victoria Glacier and Warden Peak, the fastest access is now from a new branch of WR380 which is currently at an elevation of around 2,700 ft. A long traverse is still required from this road so while it may save elevation gain it may still be faster just to head directly up to the glacier from WR381 on the old route.

Summer Routes

*** North East Buttress: 5.8 400m (III)

Approach base of buttress from Victoria Glacier. Eight pitches direct up the steep buttress crest with good protection and solid rock. Incredible exposure, views toward Campbell River and big alpine character. Finish on Northeast Summit. To reach the Main Summit traverse boulder field across ridge crest. Descend route by rappel back to Victoria Glacier or take the South Face route down to the lower south ridge. It is possible to drop down the west side off the lower south ridge and traverse back to the Victoria Glacier under the west face (see photo above) if camping on that side.

FA: Greg Foweraker & Don Newman 1986

*** East Ridge: 4th class 300m (II)**

Reach the snowfield as for the South East Face Route. Straightforward scramble onto the NE Summit, traverse across boulder field to main summit.

FA: John Roberts et al 1990

*** South East Face: 5.5/4th class 300m (II)**

Standard route up Victoria Peak but not without difficulty. Approach via the lower south ridge. Follow the well worn path along the ridge almost to the "notch". A well cairned route descends slightly on the east side down to a large snowfield. Traverse and climb up the snowfield under the "notch" to reach the base of a ramp and a slightly off balance 5.5 corner system that leads up from the snow onto the South East Face. Head rightward then directly up 4th class terrain to one last steep step before the top. Descend same route. Rappel anchors in place at corner.

FA: Syd Watts, Otto Winnning et al 1950's

**** West Ridge: 4th class 800m (III)**

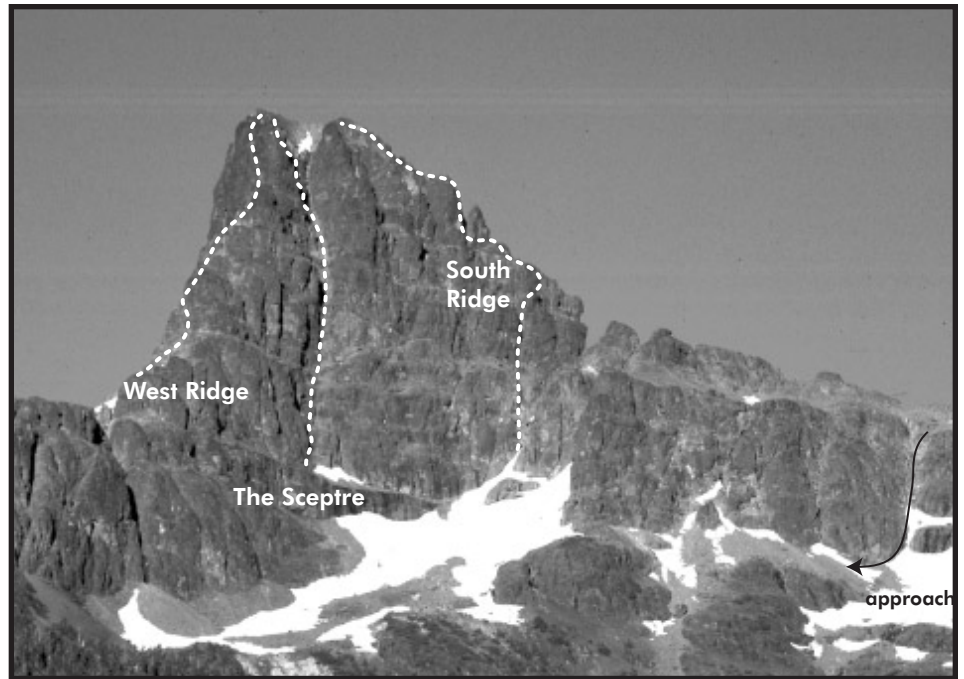
A long and easy scramble, wild exposure but lots of loose rock. Best reached from White River approach.

FA: Unknown

*** South Ridge: 5.8 500m (III)**

Start up the right side of the west face to gain the crest of the south ridge above "the notch". Continue up the crest with two 5.8 pitches.

FA: Mike Norton & Scott Jackson 12th June, 2000



***** The Sceptre: 5.8 600m (III)**

Climbs the awesome coulior that splits the west face of Victoria Peak. Can be reached by heading up direct from WR500 or via the South Ridge and descending slightly to traverse in to base of the route. The rock is excellent and the climbing fun with steep sections seperated by good belay ledges. Near the top the coilior narrows to a chimney, break off left avoiding the chimney to finish up a steep headwall joining the West Ridge right to the Main Summit.

FA: Curtis Lyon & Philip Stone 14th August, 1997

Winter Routes

***** North Face: 5.10 AI4 300m (IV)**

Approach from Victoria-Warden col. Steep mixed climbing up ice falls and rock bands. 5.10 pitch near the top. First ascent party did not complete the route to the summit.

FA: R. Johnson et al January, 1986

