Frigid Air Buttress  5.9+

Frigid Air Buttress, Icebox Canyon            Red Rocks, Las Vegas, NV

Larry Hamilton, Joe Herbst, 1976

9 pitches   20-30 minutes   Mid-morning sun (in spring/summer)

5-7 hours   1½-2 hours to base

About the Route

Frigid Air Buttress is a long and varied climb with a nice ledge at every belay. The route has a lot of crack climbing and has a nice adventure feel to it, making it stand out from other Red Rocks classic routes. The route protects well and even has a fun chimney section. To top it off, an amazing finger crack crux section is saved for last. The route is usually not very crowded, but it deserves to see more traffic.

Despite it’s name, this route can get very warm, depending on the time of day and time of year. Early and later in the year, the route sees no or little sun, and can live up to its name. However, it can get very hot around summer time. On hot days, you’re better off starting late, but remember that this is a long climb, and you definitely don’t want to get caught in the dark.

The descent is almost as much an adventure as the climb itself and can be a little tricky to find. Although only a few rappels are needed to get back down, the rappel stations could use some improvement. On your first time up the Frigid Air Buttress, make sure you have plenty of daylight left, and don’t let your guard down until you are back on the canyon floor.

Possible Combinations

Although it is possible to join the first belay of the route Middle Earth (5.9) after 3 pitches, we recommend staying on Fridgid Air Buttress since it provides better quality climbing overall. It is also possible to climb the route Burlesque (5.9) since you’ll be rappelling this route on your way down. See if you have enough time left.

The Necromanser wall is only 5 minutes away from Frigid Air Buttress and has several very fun short routes (1-2 pitches). If you need more climbing after Fridgid Air Buttress, you should have a look at this wall. Routes range from 5.7 to 5.10a.

Similar Climbs

If you want to try something at the same grade and similar length, go for Black Orpheus (5.9+) or Dream of Wild Turkeys (5.10a). For an even longer and more committing route you should try Epinephrine (5.9).
The GearLoopTopo

Our GearLoopTopo for Frigid Air Buttress contains all the information you need for the climb, starting from the Icebox Canyon Parking. This parking is located just past the Willow Springs picnic area.

The GearLoopTopo for this and other great multi-pitch routes in Red Rocks is available at Desert Rock Sports, 8221 W Charleston Blvd, (702)-254 1143. Opening hours: Mon-Sat: 9am-7pm, Sun: 10am-6pm. Their helpful staff can also give you more advice on routes for your next climbing adventure.

Icebox Canyon Overview

1. Frigid Air Buttress (5.9+)

⚠️ The information provided is aimed at helping you choose the best routes for your next multi-pitch climbing adventure, and hopefully helps to maximize your climbing pleasure. The actual Gear Loop Topo for the route contains much more detailed and precise information about the approach, the climb, and the descent. Note that our suggestions for combinations and similar climbs are mainly GearLoopTopo routes, but many other options exist.