

DEVIL'S THUMB, LAKE LOUISE

This (July 2010) was our second attempt on the Devil's Thumb hike, after having seen the use trail take off from the Big Beehive Trail then finding the use trail marked on a TOPO map in the Lake Louise Visitors Center. This photo is of Lake Agnes, with the Lake Agnes Teahouse visible just left of center; luckily for our second attempt on this hike we had excellent weather:



Looking up at Devil's Thumb from Lake Agnes:



On our first attempt of this hike (August 2009) the weather was very cloudy and wet:



In 2009 we decided that the Devil's Thumb use trail was too wet and slippery to complete the hike; plus we wouldn't get much of a view with the weather. The Devil's Thumb use trail takes off from where the Big Beehive trail splits off from the main trail from Lake Agnes (so at the high point, of the trail from Lake Agnes to Big Beehive, there is actually a 4-way junction even though it is signed as a 3-way junction). It heads up the ridge towards the Devil's Thumb, then crosses a ledge (which is only about 6 feet tall but needs to be climbed, and is above a cliff so can be a little scary if it's raining). The trail next veers off to the left and gives some views of Lake Louise and the Plain of the Six Glaciers trail, if its not too cloudy as it was in 2009:



The trail finally turns and heads to the saddle just before Devil's Thumb. Here it's very slippery and steep, so care must be used in ascending this section of trail:



Looking back down the use trail, from the saddle:



From there it's only a short scramble to the top of Devil's Thumb; the views from here are astonishing:



Many previous hikers seem to have built lots of rock cairns here. This would not be a good place to be in very windy weather:



Panorama from the top of Devil's Thumb. As can be seen from this photo, the top of the thumb is quite narrow, and there are very steep dropoffs on each side:



Looking down towards where the Plain of the Six Glaciers trail goes, in the valley far below:



Looking over towards the saddle between Mt. Whyte and Mt. Niblock (which I think is much easier to access from the other side, above the Plain of the Six Glaciers teahouse, and is a hike/scramble I hope to do someday):



Looking over towards Mt. Saint Piran (the trail ascends the side to the right, out of view; previously I've hiked the side to the left, which is steeper than it appears):



Looking over at Mt. Fairview (which I've hiked twice so far):



One final view from the top of Devil's Thumb, looking down on the top of the Big Beehive, with Lake Louise to the right:

