

Shilo on Monkey Space: Smith Rocks, OR

The Monkey's Face, an icon of Smith Rocks, Oregon, is an intimidating pillar of rock resembling the head of a monkey. Overhanging on all sides, it is home to some of the oldest and hardest rock climbing routes in North America.

Shilo and I climbed 'Monkey Space', on the airy downhill face of the pillar, covering difficult, extremely exposed terrain. This small cave is gained just before a short, overhanging pitch to the summit. Below Shilo's feet, the rock drops away nearly 120 metres to the valley floor.

Finally on top, we enjoyed some time in the sun on the wind-swept summit before descending via a single, long, free-hanging rappel.

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