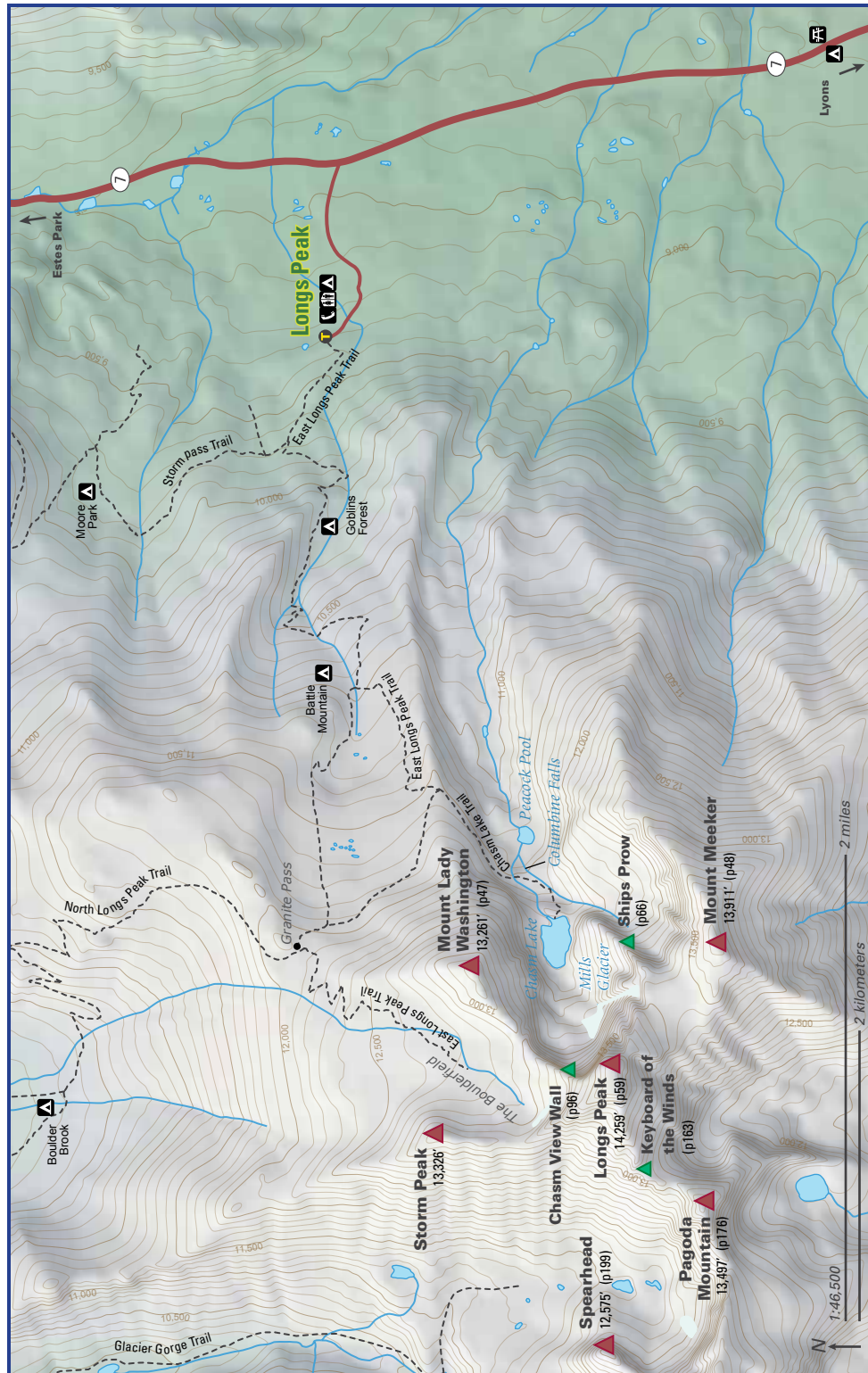


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LONGS PEAK AREA

Area Overview: The East Longs Peak Area comprises perhaps the most important climbing venue in Rocky Mountain National Park. An enormous cirque is enclosed by Mount Meeker to the south, Longs Peak to the east, Mount Lady Washington to the north, and is split down the middle by the Ships Prow. The usual approach to this area is the East Longs Peak Trail and Chasm Lake Trail. The North Longs Peak Trail and Boulder Brook Trail offer pleasant (but longer) alternatives to the very busy East Longs Peak corridor, as well as additional camping opportunities.

Driving Directions: To reach the Longs Peak Ranger Station and East Longs Peak Trailhead from Boulder, drive US 36 to Lyons and go to a T-intersection at the west side of town. Turn left onto CO 7 and follow it for about 28 miles. Turn left (west) on a signed road that leads in one mile to the Longs Peak Campground, the Longs Peak Ranger Station, and the East Longs Peak Trailhead (9,400'). From Estes Park, drive 8.5 miles south on CO 7 and turn right (west) onto the same road, just beyond a long hill climb out of the Estes Park valley. It is worth taking into account that the popularity of this trail far exceeds available parking and it is best to arrive very, very early, especially on weekends, during mid to late summer.

East Longs Peak Trail: Start at the ranger station and after 0.5 miles, go left at a junction with the Eugenia Mine/Storm Pass Trail. At 1.7 miles the trail passes through Goblins Forest (campsites), and at 2.5 miles, the trail reaches a junction at Battle Mountain Campsites (formerly known as Jims Grove). (There is an unsigned trail that branches right and curves around the north side of the old campsites and eventually gains Granite Pass.) The current East Longs Peak Trail goes left (south and west) onto the Mills Moraine and leads to a junction with the Chasm Lake Trail below the east ridge of Mount Lady Washington, 3.5 miles from the trailhead. The trail continues across the east side of Mount Lady Washington to a junction with the North Longs Peak Trail, just south of Granite Pass, 4.2 miles from the Longs Peak Ranger Station. Stay left and reach the Boulder Field (p158) in another 1.7 miles.

Chasm Lake Trail: This important trail begins from the junction below the east ridge of Mount Lady Washington, 3.5 miles from the Longs Peak Ranger Station along the East Longs Peak Trail. The trail leads into the Chasm Lake Cirque and provides access to the north face of Mount Meeker, the Loft, Ships Prow, Mills Glacier, Chasm View Wall, the Diamond, etc. The trail ends at Chasm Meadow, just below and east of Chasm Lake (0.7 miles from the junction). An avalanche destroyed the old patrol cabin, and a new stone structure has been erected

75 yards to the east. The cabin is used by the Park Service and is not open to the public.

To reach the following two trails, start from Estes Park and drive US 36 into the Beaver Meadows Entrance to RMNP. Pass through the toll gates, go 0.2 miles, and turn left on Bear Lake Road.

Boulder Brook Trail: Drive Bear Lake Road for 6.5 miles and park at the Storm Pass Trailhead (8,820') on the left. This is just before the Bierstadt Lake Trailhead (6.8 miles, on the right). The Boulder Brook Trail is a nice, direct route to Longs Peak. However, the main drawback is the relatively low elevation of the trailhead. The trail climbs almost straight south and reaches a junction with the North Longs Peak Trail at 2.5 miles. Lower and upper Boulder Brook Campsites are accessed from this trail.

North Longs Peak Trail: Drive Bear Lake Road for 8.3 miles and park at the Glacier Gorge Trailhead (9,200') on the left. Hike to the Glacier Gorge Junction in 0.3 miles. Go left on the Glacier Gorge Trail and reach a junction with the North Longs Peak Trail in 1.1 miles. Go left and follow the trail to a junction with the Boulder Brook Trail and Upper Boulder Brook Campsite, then continue another 2.9 miles to Granite Pass (this is 6.9 miles from the Glacier Gorge Trailhead). It is another 1.7 miles from here to the Boulder Field.

15. Stromboli II 5.7

This early route follows the large dihedral/chimney system that slants up and left across the right side of the east face. Climb two short pitches up this system, then traverse to the left edge of the corner. Do two more pitches to a ledge at the base of the headwall. Climb the left of two chimneys to reach the top of the face (5.7). FA: George Lamb, Dallas Jackson, Gorman 1954

Variation 1: 5.7 A1 From the second belay, continue straight up the chimney to a big ledge.

Variation 2: 5.8 From the ledge at the base of the headwall, traverse left and climb a right-facing dihedral.

Variation 3: 5.8 Climb the right of the two chimneys at the top of the face.

Variation 4: Climb an aid crack to the right of these variations.

16. Portal II 5.9 ★★

This route ascends the vertical, left-facing dihedral to the right of *Stromboli*. Begin as for *Stromboli*. FA: Stan Shepard, Bob Boucher 1963 at 5.9 A1

P1: 5.9 Climb past grassy ledges and a chockstone, and then traverse right to a big ledge at the base of the dihedral. (130')

P2: 5.9 Stem and jam the steep corner past some fixed pins to a sloping ledge. (100')

P3: 5.9 Continue up the corner to a ledge at the base of a chimney. (100')

P4: 5.9 Wiggle up the chimney, which is followed by an overhanging offwidth section. After that, continue to the top of the face. It is also possible to climb the face to the left of this last section. (120')

Rack (2) to 0.5, (1) .75 - #3, optional #4-#5 Camalot, (2) nuts

17. Ship of Fools III 5.11a ★★

Begin as for *Stromboli* and *Portal*. FA: Andy Brown, Rick Guerrieri 1996

P1/2: 5.9 Climb the first pitch of *Portal* and belay to the left. (130')

P3: 5.10b Traverse right past a fixed pin and two bolts and belay from a bolted anchor on the arête. (150')

P4: 5.11a Head up and right past a bolt to the bottom of a thin crack (5.11a). Climb the crack past another pin, and belay at a good ledge with a fixed anchor (5.10a). (80')

P5: 5.10a Follow a thin crack to the top.

Rack to #2 Camalot, nuts, RPs

Variation: Man Overboard 5.10d ★★ This is an alternate, and dryer first pitch, to *Ship of Fools*. Begin 30 feet left of the first pitch of *Stromboli*, as for *Step One* (p70). Climb a short right-facing dihedral followed by a shallow corner. Then traverse right into the *Stromboli* chimney. FA: Mike Schlauch, Bernard Gillett 1998 RPs, nuts, (2) to 0.5, (1) .75 - #2 Camalot (130')

18. Gangplank III 5.7 A4

This route ascends the imposing wall to the right of *Portal*. Begin just right of *Stromboli*, scramble up to a ledge, and belay. FA: Royal Robbins, Pat Ament 1963

P1: Traverse right for six feet, then nail a vertical crack to a sloping ledge on the right. Free climb for 15 feet, hand-traverse left, and then nail another crack to belay on a narrow ledge.

P2: A3 Go left on the ledge for 35 feet, then nail a crack up and right for 75 feet until it is possible to nail left along a horizontal groove. After 25 feet, move up to the next groove and belay in slings.

P3: A4 Nail straight up the left of three white streaks into an overhanging dihedral, which is climbed for 30 feet. Exit right and hook a flake to a sling belay.

P4: 5.6 Climb an easy crack to a good belay out right. (90')

P5: 5.7 Work straight up a left-facing dihedral to the top of the wall. (90')

19. Gangway! III 5.10b A4

This creative route straightens out the line of *Gangplank*. Start on a large sloping ledge just right of the left-leaning chimney of *Stromboli*. Climb a crack to a ledge (5.10b). Step left and continue up the crack to an obvious diagonal break (crack) that angles up to the left. Follow the crack up and left, then work back right to join the original line of *Gangplank*. Follow *Gangplank* to a horizontal crack (A2), and continue straight up through a roof to a discontinuous crack (A4). From here, go up through some bulging rock, and belay out left. Move back into the big dihedral, and finish as for *Gangplank* (5.7). FA: Keith Lober, John Gillett 1989; FFA: P1/P2 to the big roof: Mike Munger, Moe Hershoff 2002

20. Keelhaul III 5.13 ★★★★★

Keelhaul is the hardest of the "trad" climbs on Ships Prow and is possibly the hardest climb without bolts in the high country of RMNP. FA: Topher Donahue, Tommy Caldwell 08/05; FFA: T. Donahue, Emilie Lee 08/06

P1: 5.10 Climb a vertical crack to reach the ledge at the beginning of the steep wall and belay at the cable rappel anchor.

P2: 5.13a Step right and follow the two discontinuous cracks of *Gangway!* through the first roof to a hanging belay. Take extra small cams for the anchor.

P3: 5.13 *Gangway!* moves left into the obvious left-facing dihedral while *Keelhaul* goes straight up and slightly right on overhanging rock to an alcove/roof. From the alcove, climb straight left via unobvious and difficult terrain until it is possible to crank up onto the orange headwall. Place a #1 Camalot and run it out on easier terrain up and right to a second alcove with two fixed pins and a fixed Lowe ball. Move left again (5.11 R) to the roof at top of the wall and belay to the left. This pitch is characterized by big, clean air potential.

P4: Traverse left into the big dihedral of *Gangplank*, and belay at the fixed anchor on *Ship of Fools*.

(3) sets of cams, assorted nuts, RPs, extra slings



SHIPS PROW - EAST FACE (right side)

- 17. Ship of Fools 5.11a ★★
- 18. Gangplank 5.7 A4
- 19. Gangway! 5.8 A4
- 20. Keelhaul 5.13 ★★★★★
- 21. Yardarms 5.13a ★★★
- 22. The Bilge 5.8 A3
- 23. Etch-a-Sketch 5.13a ★★★★★
- 24. Sarchasm 5.14a ★★★★★



Tom Dickey on *Crazy Train*, WI5 M7, p90.
 ☒ Topher Donahue

14. Nassewand III 5.7 A3 ☐☐

Climb up and right beneath the big arch (right of *The Question Mark* p85) to a point short of *Slippery People*, then rappel back to the Mills Glacier. FA: Michael Covington, Steve Hickman 1969

15. Morning Dew M7 WI6+ X ☐☐

P1: Climb a moderate pitch to a ledge and belay.
P2: Climb (rock) along a right-leaning seam with thin gear. This is followed by a vertical smear with no pro. FA: Topher Donahue, Kevin Cooper 2000 (200')

16. Slippery People V 5.12b ★★ ☐☐

Begin from flake-ledges beneath the center of the arching roofs, 200 feet right of *The Question Mark* (p85) and 100 feet left of *The Diagonal* (p92). The first three pitches climb through a broad black streak. FA: Greg Davis, Todd Bibler 1988; FFA: Isaac Cortez, Jonny Copp 2002

P1: 5.10a Climb past a bolt to a left-facing flake; belay on top of the flake.
P2: Angle left past two overlaps, clipping two bolts and a fixed pin along the way. Belay below a roof.
P3: 5.12b Work right under the roof, then climb through a bolt ladder. Belay on top of a pointed flake.

P4: 5.11a Go up and left to another roof. Surmount its right side and belay at another pointed flake.

P5: 5.10b R Head up and left along right-facing features to the central ledge system that is also used by *The Question Mark* and *Endless Summer* (p85).

P6: 5.11b Move the belay up and left on the central ledges to beneath a system of left-facing corners. Climb up through the corners past two fixed pins to a two-bolt belay (same as P5 of *Endless Summer*).

P7: 5.11b Go up and right past two bolts, then straight up past a left-facing marble arch to a bolted belay shared with P6 of *Endless Summer*. This was the original high point; rap from here or continue with P8 of *Endless Summer* (5.12a R)

10. Yellow Wall V 5.11b R ★★★★★

Yellow Wall can also be climbed at 5.10b if you follow the variations. This magnificent line was the second route completed on the Diamond, and is among the most coveted alpine rock climbs in North America. There are two variations, of which the *Briggs-Candelaria* is the one most often climbed. From the Broadway Bivouac Cave, scramble up and left along a ramp for about 75 feet, to the bottom of a shallow left-facing dihedral. FA: Layton Kor, Charlie Roskoz 1962 at 5.8 A4; FFA: of dihedral on P1, Roger Briggs 1976; of A4 Traverse on P5, Charlie Fowler, Dan Stone 1978

P1: 5.11b Climb the initial left-facing dihedral and continue to the top of the crack. Work up and left to belay at the base of another crack. (120')

P2: 5.9 Jam the crack to a stance on the right. (130')

P3: 5.10d Continue up the crack and shallow left-facing dihedral (often wet), and make a difficult move left to Crossover Ledge. (120')

P4: 5.9 Climb a left-facing dihedral above the right end of the ledge, and step right into the *Black Dagger* crack system. Climb a short ways, then move right again into the *Forrest Finish* crack, and a semi-sling belay beneath an offwidth section. (100')

P5: 5.11b R Climb a shallow, right-leaning, left-facing corner, then make a desperate traverse right with marginal pro to another shallow corner. Follow this up and right to a vertical crack that leads to a ledge in the *Grand Traverse* dihedral. Belay here, or continue to the Yellow Wall Bivouac Ledge. (180')

P6: 5.10a Begin from the right side of the ledge and climb an inset (5.9+), followed by a narrow chimney (5.8). Pass a bulge (crux), and belay at Table Ledge Crack. (130')

Most parties stop here and traverse left to Table Ledge (5.8). However, the route continues above.

P7: 5.11a Traverse 15 feet right, then climb a steep and exposed crack system to a sling belay beneath the right corner of a roof. (100')

P8: 5.9 Climb a right-facing dihedral to the top of the wall. An easy chimney leads to *Kiener's*. (130')

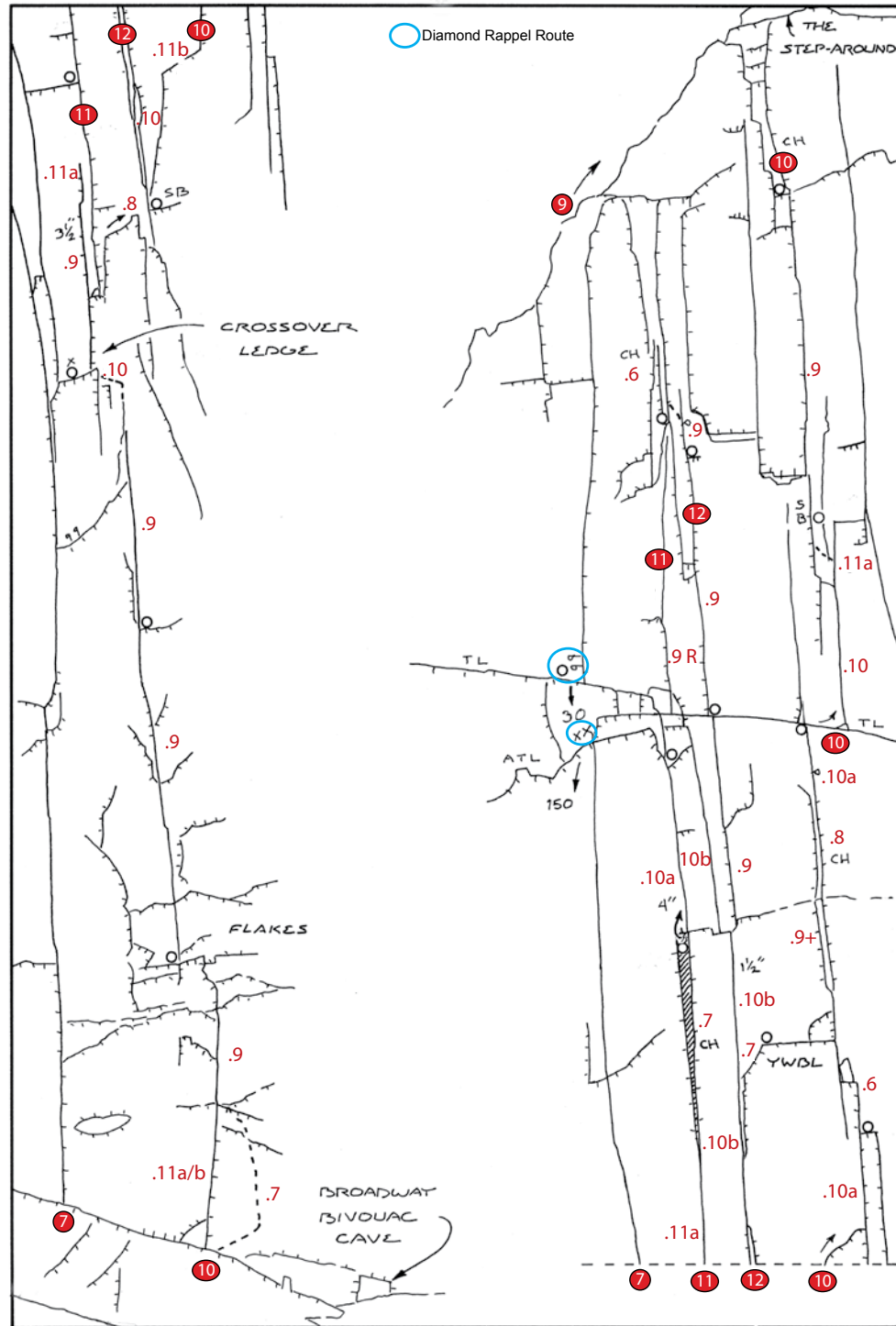
The easiest decent is probably via the *Cables* route (p156). It is also possible to reverse *Kiener's* to Table Ledge, and do the Diamond Rappel Route.

Rack doubles to #1, (1) #2 - #3 Camalot, nuts, RPs

P1 Variation: 5.9 Work up and right across the face, then go up and left to gain the crack above the dihedral. (120')

P5 Variation: 5.10b Climb the wide section (*Forrest Finish*), and continue up the crack of varying width. Break right along a ramp and belay on the Yellow Wall Bivouac Ledge. FA: Roger Briggs, Rob Candelaria 1976 (160')





7. D7 5.11c ★★★★★ 10. Yellow Wall 5.11b R ★★★★★ 12. Forrest Finish 5.10b ★★★★★
 9. Keiner's Class 4 ★★★★★ 11. Black Dagger 5.11a ★★★★★

11. Black Dagger V- 5.11a ★★★★★ □ □

This unique route takes *D7* (p128) or *Yellow Wall* (p130) to *Crossover Ledge* (p128), then continues straight up into the long, tapered chimney for which the route is named. FA: *Wayne Goss, Roger Dalke* 1966 at 5.7 A3; FFA: *Duncan Ferguson, Lisa Schassberger*, c. 1980

P4: 5.11a From the right side of *Crossover Ledge*, climb a thin left-facing corner for 40 feet to gain the bottom of another left-facing dihedral. Bypass a wide crack via the face on the right (or climb the slot), then jam a difficult hand crack to a sloping ledge on the left. (130')

P5: 5.11a Climb the shallow left-facing dihedral above the ledge (mostly fingers and hands) with a wide section that tapers to hands, and gain the *Black Dagger Chimney*. Climb the chimney to near its top and belay on the right. (150')

P6: 5.10b Climb out the right side of the roof (5.10a), and traverse six feet right on a narrow ledge, then climb a difficult crack to *Almost Table Ledge*. *Forrest Finish* is just around a corner to the right. (90')

P7/P8: The original finish to *Black Dagger* goes straight up a crack system (A3) into a chimney, that is climbed free (5.6) to the top of the face.

Rack to #4, with doubles or triples 0.5 - #2 Camalot, nuts

P6 Variaton: 5.11a Climb out the left side of the roof (crux), and gain a wide crack with a bolt that goes straight up to *Almost Table Ledge*. (90')

12. Forrest Finish V- 5.10b ★★★★★ □ □

This direct route, which parallels *Black Dagger* on the right, was the first solo ascent of the Diamond. It climbs the first four pitches of *Yellow Wall* (p130), then follows an independent crack system straight to the top of the face. FA: *Bill Forrest* solo 1970 at 5.7 A3

P5: 5.10b From the belay, where *Yellow Wall* goes up and right, climb straight up the crack, which varies from a 12-inch chimney to fingers. Belay just down and left from the *Yellow Wall Bivouac Ledge* (p128). (150')

P6: 5.10b Continue up the same crack, which begins wide then tapers to a beautiful hand crack, and gain the top of a smooth wall. Easier climbing (5.9) leads to *Table Ledge Crack*; belay at the base of a right-facing dihedral. (150')

P7: 5.9 Climb the dihedral and belay on a small ledge. (120')

P8: 5.9 Work up and left to climb a moderate chimney to the top of the wall. (110') Continue to the summit via *Kiener's* or down climb *Kiener's* to *Table Ledge*, and descend the *Diamond Rappel Route*.

Rack to #4 with doubles from #1 - #3 Camalot, nuts

Climbers on *Yellow Wall*, 5.11b R, p130. © Andrew Burr

