

FOURTH EDITION

COLORADO'S FOURTEENERS



FROM HIKES TO CLIMBS

GERRY ROACH

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— **FOURTH EDITION** —

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Mount of the Holy Cross and Angelica couloir.

Preface

Colorado's Fourteeners: From Hikes to Climbs is a celebration of the joys that come from climbing Colorado's highest peaks. Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks offer the hiker and mountaineer one of the finest arrays of alpine challenges in the Rocky Mountains. You can be in the heart of Colorado's Fourteener country in a few hours from its metropolitan areas, and the proximity of these peaks to population centers makes them even more precious. A lifetime of adventures is waiting for you in Colorado's mountains. Climbing Fourteeners has become increasingly popular in recent years, and the challenge of climbing all the Fourteeners captures many people. The elevation celebration continues.

This guide offers a broad view of Colorado's Fourteeners. Besides the often-climbed standard routes, it describes many alternate routes on the easier Fourteeners and, also, several technical routes. Most of the routes on Colorado's Fourteeners are walk-ups ([Class 1](#), [Class 2](#), [Easy Snow](#)) or scampers ([Class 2+](#)), but there are many wonderful scrambles ([Class 3](#), [Moderate Snow](#)) and technical climbs ([Class 4](#), [Class 5](#), [Steep Snow](#)) on these peaks. For the best routes, regardless of difficulty, I use the designation *Classic*, and have given 49 routes this accolade. Most climbers on Colorado's Fourteeners climb the standard routes, and these routes are becoming crowded. However, you can still spend days climbing Fourteeners and never see another person. If you are tired of crowded routes, try Longs' Loft Route, Democrat's North Ridge Route, Yale's East Ridge Route, or El Diente's South Slopes Route. Colorado is still full of wilderness!

Over the years, I have cherished the easy routes as much as the harder ones, and I have included a mixture of routes that will titillate the senses of almost anybody. All the routes described in this guide lead to the summit of a peak.

This is a guidebook, pure and simple. It describes where to climb but not how to climb. No book can make judgments for you, but there are several good instructional books that can aid the process of learning the fundamentals. For an introduction to the sport of mountaineering, I recommend *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills* by The Mountaineers book staff (Seattle: The Mountaineers, 2017).

The trailheads I describe are places most vehicles can reach. Sometimes these places are well-marked parking lots at the end of a road, and sometimes they are just places along a continuing road where the road becomes too rough for low-clearance vehicles. Four-wheel-drive vehicles can shorten many of the ascents in Colorado, but I have never felt like this aid was necessary. I need more mountain, not less.

Unlike most guidebooks, which are compilations of many people's route descriptions, this book is the result of one man's labor of love. I started climbing



Mount Massive from the southwest.

in Colorado in 1955 and have spent the last seven decades climbing Colorado's Fourteeners. I have not rushed through my Fourteeners. I spent a leisurely 20 years climbing them all for the first time. Then I leisurely climbed them all again. I climbed many routes specifically for this guide and documented them immediately after each climb. I continue to field check this guide extensively. Because one person has climbed and reported on these routes, the descriptions are consistent. I believe climbing is a very personal activity, and I seldom give opinions that might intrude on yours. Still, my bias creeps in from time to time.

This guide is not comprehensive in its coverage of the routes on the Fourteeners. I have not revealed all the secrets of these special peaks. There are many more routes that I could have included. For every route I climbed, I saw two more! Never lose your spirit of discovery. You should finish each climb and each book wanting more.

I welcome route information and constructive criticism from readers. E-mail your comments to gerryroach@me.com.

Anyone who climbs all the Colorado Fourteeners deserves the title Dr. Colorado. Anyone who climbs every route in this guide has graduated Summit Cum Laude! Climb safely and don't forget to have fun.

Introduction

Safety First

Climbing is dangerous, and each individual should approach these peaks with caution. Conditions can vary tremendously depending on time of day and time of year. The route descriptions in this book assume good summer conditions. Lightning is always a serious hazard in Colorado during the summer months. Snow conditions and cornices vary from year to year. Spring and early summer avalanches can be a function of winter storms that occurred months earlier. The previous winter's snowfall determines snow conditions in August.

Before charging forth with your city energy and competitive urges, take some time to understand the mountain environment you are about to enter. Carefully study your chosen route and don't be afraid to retreat if your condition, or the mountain's, is unfavorable. Better yet, do an easier climb nearby to become familiar with the area. When both you and the mountain are ready, come back and do your dream climb.

Lightning

Colorado is famous for apocalyptic lightning storms that threaten not just your life, but your soul as well. This section will have special meaning if you have ever been trapped by a storm that endures for more than an hour and leaves no gap between one peal of thunder and the next. The term *simultaneous flash-boom* has a very personal meaning for many Colorado climbers.

Dangers

- Lightning is dangerous!
- Lightning is the greatest external hazard to summer mountaineering in Colorado.
- Lightning kills people every year in Colorado's mountains.
- Direct hits are usually fatal.

Precautions

- Start early! Be off summits by noon and back in the valley by early afternoon.
- Observe thunderhead buildup carefully, noting speed and direction; towering thunderheads with black bottoms are bad.
- When lightning begins nearby, count the seconds between flash and thunder, then divide by 5 to calculate the distance to the flash in miles. Repeat to determine if lightning is approaching.
- Try to determine if the lightning activity is cloud-to-cloud or ground strikes.
- Get off summits and ridges.

Protection

- You cannot outrun a storm; physics wins.
- When caught, seek a safe zone in the 45-degree cone around an object 5 to 10 times your height.
- Be aware of ground currents; the current from a ground strike disperses along the ground or cliff, especially in wet cracks.
- Wet ropes are good conductors.
- Snow is not a good conductor.
- Separate yourself from metal objects.
- Avoid sheltering in potential spark gaps under boulders and trees.
- Disperse the group. Survivors can revive one who is hit.
- Crouch on boot soles, ideally on dry insulating material such as moss or grass. Dirt is better than rock. Avoid water.
- Do not put your hands down. Put elbows on knees and hands on head. This gives current a short path through your arms rather than the longer path through your vital organs.
- Do not lie down; current easily goes through your vital organs.

First Aid

- Know and give CPR. CPR has revived many lightning-strike victims.
- Treat for burns.
- Evacuate.

Avalanche

Hazard Forecasting

- Avalanches are the greatest external hazard to winter mountaineering in Colorado; gravity never sleeps.
- Loose-snow avalanches start at a single point and fan out downward; the danger is highest after new snowfall.
- Slab avalanches occur when an entire slope of snow starts in motion at once.
- Consistent winds of more than 15 miles per hour can build up soft slabs.
- Consistent winds of 25 to 50 miles per hour can build up hard slabs.
- Hard slabs develop more rapidly at low temperatures and are sensitive to temperature changes.
- Most avalanches occur on slopes of 30 to 45 degrees.
- Most avalanches that trap people are triggered by the victims themselves.
- Most avalanches that trap skiers are relatively small.
- Avalanches occur on open slopes, in gullies, and in open stands of trees. Ridges, outcrops, and dense stands of trees (too dense to ski through comfortably) are safer.
- Beware of avalanche danger during and after heavy winter storms. The danger factor decreases with time. The rate of decrease depends strongly on temperature. Near 32°F, the danger may persist for only a few hours. Below 0°F, it may last for many days or even weeks.
- Deep snow smooths out terrain irregularities and promotes avalanching.
- Warm snow will bond to a warm surface much better than cold snow will bond to a cold surface. Therefore, monitor the temperature at the start of a storm.
- It generally takes 10 to 12 inches of new snow to produce serious avalanche danger.

- Prolonged snowfalls of 1 inch or more per hour should always be viewed with suspicion.
- Snowfalls that begin warm and then cool off tend to be more stable than those with the opposite trend.
- Extensive sloughing after a fresh snowfall is evidence of stability.
- Sunballs (balls of snow rolling down a slope on a sunny day) are indicators of rapid changes taking place in the snow. The danger is not high if the sunballs are small and penetrate only a few inches into the surface layer. If these balls grow in size during the day and eventually achieve the form of large snow wheels that penetrate deeply into the snow, wet-snow avalanching may be imminent.
- "Talking snow," a hollow drumlike sound under your footsteps or skis, or a booming sound with or without a drop in the snow level is a sign of serious avalanche hazard.
- Other things being equal, convex slopes offer more slab-avalanche danger than concave slopes. However, many avalanches do start on concave profiles.

Precautions

- Never travel alone. Your best chance of surviving a burial is to have unburied companions.
- Avoid avalanche areas and times of high danger. The probability of being caught in an avalanche is directly proportional to the time you spend in the danger zone.
- Carry at least one shovel and avalanche beacons if possible.

If you must cross an avalanche slope:

- Travel through the danger zone one person at a time. If you are buried, your rescue depends on your unburied companions.
- Remove the wrist loops of your ski poles from your wrists.
- Unhitch any ski safety straps.
- Put on hat and mittens, and close your parka.
- Loosen pack straps.

If you are caught in an avalanche:

- Discard poles, skis, and pack.
- Attempt to stay on the surface with a swimming motion.
- Attempt to work to the side of the avalanche.
- Grab trees.
- Close your mouth.
- As the avalanche slows, cover your face with your hands.
- Make an air space.
- Don't shout when buried. Sound goes into but not out of snow.

Rescue

- Don't panic. A buried person only has a 30 percent chance of survival after 30 minutes. Organized rescue in most backcountry situations is at least one hour from the scene. The lives of your buried companions depend largely on what you do.
- Assess any additional avalanche hazard and plan escape routes.
- Mark the last-seen point.

- If equipped with avalanche beacons, the entire unburied party must turn their beacons to "receive." Search in a pattern that zeros in on the strongest signal. Turn down the volume and pinpoint the victim's exact position, then dig.
- Do a quick search below the last-seen point. Scruff around. Look for any clues and mark their location. Search likely areas near trees, on benches, and near the end of the debris.
- Start a thorough search. Search the most likely area first. Use ski poles as probes if that's all you have. Do a coarse probe, making probe holes about 2 feet apart. Have all searchers form a straight line and move uphill. A coarse probe has a 70 percent chance of finding a victim buried in the probe area. Repeat a coarse probe of the most likely area several times, then move to the next most likely area.
- Go for help. Determining when to send some of your party for additional help is a judgment call that depends on the size of your group, how far into the backcountry you are, and the availability of trained rescue groups.



Longs Peak from the south, showing the upper part of the Kiener's Route.

Leave No Trace

If you use the wilderness resource, it is your responsibility to help protect it from environmental damage. The old adage "Take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints" is no longer good enough. The footprints of thousands of visitors can cause extensive damage to fragile alpine areas. The ground plants above treeline are especially vulnerable because they cling to a tenuous existence. If you destroy a patch of tundra with a careless step, it may take a hundred years for the plants to recover. In some cases, they may never recover.

The routes in this book all pass through the alpine zone. Tread lightly. Stay on the trails. Where trails do not exist, travel on durable surfaces like rock and

snow. Walk on rocks in the tundra, not on the tundra itself. If traveling over tundra is the only option, be sure to disperse use over a wide area. Let your eyes do the walking sometimes. You do not have to explore every inch on foot. Respect the environment you are entering. If you don't show respect, you are an intruder, not a visitor.

Leave No Trace (LNT), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to educating people about responsible use of the outdoors, recommends a few simple techniques for minimum-impact travel through fragile alpine environments. Learn them. Abide by them. For more information about LNT and minimum-impact outdoor ethics, call 800-332-4100 or visit the LNT website at www.LNT.org. The seven tenets of the LNT movement are:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map, compass, or GPS to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns, or flagging.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

In popular areas:

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

In pristine areas:

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, or trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

4. Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting nonnative species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

6. Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or in winter.

7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

The Rating System

I have used an extended Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) to rate each route's difficulty. Each route's rating has five parts: R Points, round-trip mileage, round-trip elevation gain, Class, and Snow Steepness. I present this information right below each route name.

R Points

My R Point number denotes the effort required by a route and its difficulty, or the route's "efferculty," as I prefer to call it. A route's R Point value expresses the route's efferculty based on the peak's elevation, the length of the approach and climb viewed in both time and distance, elevation gain, and the technical difficulty of each pitch. The R Point value does not express the route's objective dangers, exposure, the probability of bad weather, or the difficulty of retreat. You can compare the R Point numbers for two routes and know which is tougher overall. You can also use the R Point number to determine how long the climb

will take you. Climbers' speeds vary, but many climbers average 20 to 25 R Points per hour. For example, if you have determined that you can average 25 R Points per hour and a route has a rating of 150 R Points, then your projected time for that route is 6 hours. In this book, my R Point value can be used instead of the Yosemite Decimal System's Grade. I feel it is a better measure of efferculty. Here is a sampling of R Point numbers for several popular Colorado hikes and climbs.

Route Name	R Points
Mount Sanitas via Dakota Ridge	26
Green Mountain via Saddle Rock Trail	44
South Boulder Peak via Shadow Canyon	67
Mount Audubon Trail	120
Grays Peak Trail	147
Bison Peak Southwest Ridge	157
The Decalibron	241
Wetterhorn Peak Southeast Ridge	291
Longs Peak Keyhole Route	348
Pikes Peak via Barr Trail	419
Crestone Peak South Face from 8,770 feet	535
Evans Egis	987
"Sunlight Spire" from Needleton	1,000



At the top of the Lost Rat couloir on Grays Peak.

Mileage

The mileage is the round-trip hiking and climbing distance from the starting point to the summit and back to the starting point. The starting point is usually a trailhead, but I often list the mileage from 4WD parking places, lakes, and other important points along the route. For harder routes, I often list the mileage if you descend an easier route.

Elevation Gain

The elevation gain is the total elevation gain encountered from the starting point to the summit and back to the starting point. Where different, I include both the net gain from trailhead to the summit and the total gain, which includes any extra gain that you will encounter going over passes or false summits, both on the ascent and on the return.

Class

A route's Class is denoted by the word *Class*, followed by a number from 1 to 5.14, in ascending order of difficulty of the route's most difficult free-climbing rock pitch. Used elsewhere, a Class rating refers to a single pitch or move. Difficulties from **Class 1** to **Class 4** are described with a single digit only. When the difficulty reaches **Class 5**, the description includes decimal places. In this guide, **Class 5** difficulty ranges from 5.0 to 5.10. I have made no attempt to distinguish between 5.0, 5.1, and 5.2. I indicate difficulty in this range with the rating **Class 5.0–5.2**. Occasionally, I also combine 5.3 and 5.4 with the rating **Class 5.3–5.4**.

I have not used adjectives such as *easy*, *difficult*, or *severe* to rate the rock pitches. What is easy for one person may be difficult for another, and words like this only confuse the issue. In place of adjectives, I use examples to describe difficulty. The answer to the question “Just how hard is **Class 3** anyway?” is “Climb Longs’ Keyhole Route, then you will know.” A list of example routes follows that includes some of the classic Front Range rock climbs for comparison. I have ordered the routes roughly from easiest to hardest within each Class.

Class	Route
Class 1	Grays Peak – North Slopes
	Mount Elbert – East Ridge
	Pikes Peak – East Slopes
	Quandary Peak – East Slopes
Class 2	Mount Massive – East Slopes
	Mount of the Holy Cross – North Ridge
	Handies Peak – Grizzly Gulch
Class 2+	Mount Yale – East Ridge
	Windom Peak – West Ridge

Class	Route
Class 3	Challenger Point – North Slopes
	Mount Sneffels – South Slopes
	Mount Lindsey – North Face
	Kit Carson Peak – West Ridge
	Longs Peak – Keyhole
	Longs Peak – Loft
	Wilson Peak – West Ridge
Class 4	Crestone Needle – South Face
	Sunlight Peak – South Slopes (final summit block)
	Mount Wilson – North Slopes (final 150 feet)
	Second Flatiron – Freeway
Class 5.0–5.2	Crestone Peak to Crestone Needle traverse
	Crestone Peak – North Buttress
	Little Bear to Blanca traverse
	Third Flatiron – Standard East Face
Class 5.3–5.4	Longs Peak – Notch Couloir
	Longs Peak – North Face
	Longs Peak – Kieners
Class 5.5	First Flatiron – North Arête
	Third Flatiron – East Face Left
	Longs Peak – Keyhole Ridge
Class 5.6	Boulder Canyon Dome – East Slab
	Longs Peak – Alexander’s Chimney
	First Flatiron – Direct East Face
	Eldorado Wind Tower – Calypso
Class 5.7	Mount Sneffels – North Buttress
	Crestone Needle – Ellingwood Arête
	Boulder Canyon Castle Rock – Cussin’ Crack
Class 5.8	Third Flatiron – Friday’s Folly
	Longs Peak – Stettner’s Ledges
	Eldorado Bastille – The Bastille Crack
	Kit Carson Peak – The Prow
Class 5.9	Crestone Needle – North Pillar
	Eldorado Bastille – West Arête
	Lizard Head – West Finish
Class 5.10	“Sunlight Spire”

These difficulty ratings are for good, dry conditions. High-country rock rapidly becomes more difficult as it becomes wet, and a route becomes a different climb entirely when snow-covered. For example, the difficulty of Longs’ Keyhole Route can jump from **Class 3** to **Class 5** when it is wet or snow-covered.

I discuss descent routes only occasionally. You can descend by reversing the ascent route or by descending easier routes. When I include technical routes on a peak, I always discuss an easier route, and this is usually the logical descent route. There are often several easy routes to choose from. You must use good mountaineering judgment when selecting descent routes.

Because I have defined difficulty on rock by example, people unfamiliar with the YDS will have to do some climbs before they understand what the different Class ratings mean. This is particularly true for the more difficult ratings. The following descriptions can help.

Class 1 is trail hiking or any hiking across open country that is no more difficult than walking on a maintained trail. The parking lot at the trailhead is easy **Class 1**, groomed trails are midrange **Class 1**, and some of the big step-ups near the top of the Barr Trail are difficult **Class 1**.

Class 2 is off-trail hiking. **Class 2** usually means bushwhacking or hiking on a talus slope. You are not yet using handholds for upward movement. Occasionally, I use the rating **Class 2+** for a pseudo-scrambling route where you will use your hands but do not need to search very hard for handholds. Most people are able to downclimb **Class 2+** terrain facing out. I use the term *scampering* for **Class 2+** movement.

Class 3 is the easiest climbing category, and people usually call it “scrambling.” You are beginning to look for and use handholds for upward movement. You are now using basic climbing, not walking, movements. Although you are using handholds, you don’t have to look very hard to find them. Occasionally putting your hand down for balance while crossing a talus slope does not qualify as **Class 3**. That is still **Class 2**. Many people feel the need to face in while downclimbing **Class 3**.

Class 4 is in the realm of technical climbing. You are not just using handholds; you have to search for, select, and test them. You are beginning to use muscle groups not involved with hiking, those of the upper body and abdominals in particular. Your movement is more focused, thoughtful, and slower. Many people prefer to rappel down a serious **Class 4** pitch rather than downclimb it.

Class 5 is technical climbing. You are now using a variety of climbing techniques, not just cling holds. Your movement may involve stemming with your legs, cross-pressure with your arms, pressing down on handholds as you pass them, edging on small holds, smearing, chimneying, jamming, and heel hooks. A lack of flexibility will be noticeable and can hinder your movement. Your movement usually totally occupies your mind. You have come a long way from walking across the parking lot and entertaining a million thoughts. Most people choose to rappel down **Class 5** pitches.

Class ratings of individual moves and pitches are solidified by the consensus of the climbing community at large and the local climbing community who are most familiar with the area. Only when there is considerable consensus for a rating can it be used as an example of that difficulty. Therefore, Class ratings

can vary from location to location; many **Class 3** routes in California would be rated **Class 4** in Colorado.

The Class ratings do not make any statement about how exposed a move or pitch is. Exposure is a subjective fear that varies widely from person to person. Exposure usually increases with difficulty, but there are some noticeable exceptions to this rule. Some **Class 2** passages are very exposed. A good example of this is the Catwalk on Eolus' northeast ridge. The upper part of this route is **Class 3**, but most of the Catwalk is only **Class 2**. If exposure bothers you to the point where it impairs your movement, increase my ratings accordingly.

I do not define difficulty in terms of equipment that you might or might not use. Historically, **Class 3** meant unroped climbing and **Class 4** was roped climbing. Unfortunately, there is a lot of historical momentum behind those old definitions. Under the old definition, when people tell me that they “third-classed” a pitch, all I know is that they climbed it unroped. I do not know how hard it is. After all, the Diamond on Longs Peak (5.10) has been “third-classed.” I know how hard a pitch I am willing to do unroped, but I do not know how hard a pitch you are willing to do unroped. There are many people who can free-solo up and down every route in this guide, and many more who cannot do any of the routes, with or without a rope. The decision of when to rope up must always be the individual's.

Snow Steepness

Part of the rating system used in this guide refers to the route's steepest snow or ice. The Snow Steepness rating is not part of the YDS, but I have added it to provide more information about a route. If there is no snow or ice on a route, this designation is absent. Because a slope's steepness can be measured, this part of the rating is easier to define. The following adjectives refer to a snow slope's angle:

Snow steepness adjective	Steepness
Easy	0 to 30 degrees
Moderate	30 to 45 degrees
Steep	45 to 60 degrees
Very Steep	60 to 80 degrees
Vertical	80 to 90 degrees

Climbers seldom measure a slope angle accurately. They usually estimate the angle by the slope's feel, and these feelings vary widely. Even experienced climbers are notorious for guessing a slope angle to be steeper than it is. I have kept this in mind when determining the slope angles used in this guide. When a slope angle is hovering around the critical junction between Moderate and Steep, I apply the Steep rating.

Other Rating Systems

The Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) is widely used in the United States and

has evolved as the national standard. The National Climbing Classification System (NCCS) was intended to be the standard, but it has not gained wide acceptance. The difference between the YDS and NCCS numbers is confusing. The table below lists the correspondence between these two US systems and several of the popular international systems. Note that the British system started with adjectives. It became confusing with Just Very Severe (JVS), Very Severe (VS), and Hard. These adjectives have been replaced with numbers.

YDS	NCCS	UIAA	French	British	Australian	German
Class 1	F1	I		Easy		
Class 2	F1	I		Easy		
Class 3	F2	I, II		Easy		
Class 4	F3	I, II		Easy		
Class 5.0–5.2	F4	I, II	1	Moderate	10	I
Class 5.3	F5	II	2	Difficult	11	II
Class 5.4	F5	III	3	Very Difficult	12	III
Class 5.5	F6	IV	4	4a (Severe)	12, 13	IV
Class 5.6	F6	V-	5	4b (Severe)	13	V
Class 5.7	F7	V	5	4b, 4c (JVS)	14, 15	VI
Class 5.8	F8	V+, VI-	5+	4c, 5a (VS)	15, 16, 17	VIIa, VIIb
Class 5.9	F9	VI	6a	5a, 5b (VS)	17, 18	VIIb, VIIc
Class 5.10a	F10	VI+	6a+	5b (Hard)	19	VIIc
Class 5.10b	F10	VII-	6a+, 6b	5b, 5c	20	VIIIa
Class 5.10c	F11	VII-, VII	6b	5c	20, 21	VIIIa, VIIIb
Class 5.10d	F11	VII	6b+	5c	21, 22	VIIIb, VIIIc
Class 5.11a	F12	VII+	6c	5c, 6a	22, 23	VIIIc, IXa
Class 5.11b	F12	VII+, VIII-	6c+	6a	23	IXa
Class 5.11c	F13	VIII-	7a	6a	24	IXb
Class 5.11d	F13	VIII	7a+	6a, 6b	25	IXb, IXc
Class 5.12a	F14	VIII+	7b	6b	25, 26	IXc
Class 5.12b	F14	VIII+, IX-	7b+	6b	26	Xa
Class 5.12c	F15	IX-	7b+, 7c	6b, 6c	26, 27	Xb
Class 5.12d	F15	IX	7c	6c	27	Xb, Xc
Class 5.13a	F16	IX	7c+	6c	28	Xc
Class 5.13b	F16	IX+	8a	6c, 7a	29	Xc
Class 5.13c	F17	X-	8a, 8a+	7a	30, 31	XIa
Class 5.13d	F17	X	8b, 8b+	7a	31, 32	XIb
Class 5.14a	F18	X+	8c	7b	33	XIc

Datums and Coordinates

The USGS has recently switched both their horizontal and vertical datums. The horizontal datum changed from the old NAD27 to the newer WGS84, and the vertical datum changed from the old NGVD29 to the newer NAVD88. A datum is a set of reference points on the earth's surface against which position measurements are made to create a model of the shape of the earth. Horizontal datums are used for describing a point on the earth's surface, and vertical datums measure elevations.

The old datums were not wrong, just different. Datums are based on different earth shapes or ellipsoids. The old datums were based on the best technology at the time. The newer horizontal datums are stronger because all previously existing horizontal stations and newer GPS surveyed stations were adjusted simultaneously. The positions for the old NAD27 datum were adjusted in arcs as the networks progressed across the country. Errors between stations adjusted in different arcs could have been substantial.

With the changes, the elevations of Colorado's Fourteeners went up from three to seven feet. The peaks haven't changed, the new vertical datum just gives a better estimation of their height. The USGS has published a list of new elevations for the Fourteeners and determined that there are no new Fourteeners. Colorado's highest ranked Thirteener is 13,988-foot Grizzly Peak, which is 12 feet below the mark with the old datum and at least 5 feet below the mark with the new datum.

The USGS has not published new elevations for Colorado's numerous other peaks and places. All of the 7.5' quadrangles covering the Fourteeners have elevations based on the old NGVD29 vertical datum. These are the familiar numbers that climbers have been using for many decades. The new elevations from the NAVD88 datum seem strange to most climbers, and they do not appear on the USGS maps. I present the new summit elevations in the essentials table for each peak and in the lists of Fourteeners in the appendices. All other elevation references are from the old NGVD29 datum and agree with the USGS maps.

Be aware that the vertical heights displayed by your recreational GPS receiver will not agree well with USGS map elevations. The main reason for this discrepancy is the poor geometry available for vertical determinations, since the earth is always blocking some of the desired satellites, and the use of different reference surfaces for the vertical measurement. Do not use GPS elevations for critical navigation decisions.

The coordinates given in this book are based on the new WGS84 horizontal datum. These coordinates are derived from online map sources and may not be accurate. They may be inaccurate for other reasons as well. Be aware that most recreational GPS units default to the WGS84 horizontal datum. Thus, a position from your GPS set to the new datum will not accurately transfer to a USGS map constructed with the old datum. This difference can be as large as a

hundred yards, which is certainly enough to cause a problem. My book coordinates should agree with GPS coordinates set to the same datum, but experience has shown that they do not match very well. This is for a variety of technical reasons, and always remember that the coordinates in this book may be wrong for other reasons. Do not rely on any coordinate in this book, especially for a matter involving safety.

Goals

Goals on Colorado's Fourteeners are as numerous as the people who climb them. Some people are content just to look at the Fourteeners. Some people are excited if they manage to climb one. Many are content to climb the [Class 1](#) and [Class 2](#) routes and just admire the harder Fourteeners. These people can climb two-thirds of the Fourteeners. The standard goal is to climb all the Fourteeners on some list. Choose your list. The number of people who have climbed all the Fourteeners is approaching 3,000.

Purists accept the goal of not only climbing all the Fourteeners, but gaining 3,000 feet on each one. This is a much harder goal, one that I did not achieve until recently. This goal can be harder than climbing all the Fourteeners twice. For example, consider Lincoln, Democrat, and Bross. Even if you are careful to start 1,000 feet below 12,000-foot Kite Lake on your initial climb of all three, you have only gained 3,000 feet on one of the three peaks. To gain 3,000 feet on all three, you will have to do this standard climb three times, or do alternate routes to the other two peaks on two more occasions. Then, if you want to gain 3,000 feet on unranked summits such as Cameron, you will have to make a fourth trip to the same area.

At least two groups have climbed all the Fourteeners and used human-powered transport between each group of peaks. Hard-core mountaineers climb all the Fourteeners in winter. This is a difficult goal for a single individual. Extreme skiers ski from the summit of all the Fourteeners. Lou Dawson was the first to do this, finishing in spring 1991. The record for the most times one person has climbed all the Fourteeners is now more than 12. There is a youngest and an oldest person to complete all the Fourteeners. Tyle Smith finished climbing all the Fourteeners in 1968 at age eight. Seven-year-old Megan Emmons broke his long-standing record in 1997. In recent years, it has become popular to organize events that place someone on top of each Fourteener on the same day. Ham radio enthusiasts have attempted broadcasting from all the summits simultaneously.

There is, of course, a speed record for climbing all the Fourteeners. In 1960 Cleve McCarty climbed the then recognized 52 Fourteeners in 52 days. This stately record receives my vote as the most elegant. Then the mania began. In 1974 the Climbing Smiths climbed Colorado's Fourteeners in 33 days. They went on to California and Washington and completed the then recognized 68 Fourteeners of the contiguous 48 states in 48 days. In 1976 Steve Boyer

climbed Colorado's Fourteeners in a 22-day tour de force. In 1980 Dick Walters smashed the 20-day mark and climbed them all in 18 days, 15 hours, 40 minutes. This impressive record stood for a decade.

In 1990 the quest for speed intensified. With detailed knowledge of the routes, Quade and Tyle Smith ascended and descended 54 Colorado Fourteeners in an astonishing 16 days, 21 hours, 25 minutes. They were careful to ascend at least 3,000 feet on foot to the first peak of a series. After that, traverses were allowed. Then they would descend at least 3,000 feet back to their vehicle. Ah, competition. In 1992 the superbly conditioned ultramarathoner Adrian Crane took more than a day off the Smiths' time, setting the record at 15 days, 17 hours, 19 minutes. The Smiths hiked fast, but Adrian ran on the trails. Adrian was careful to observe the 3,000-foot rule set as a standard by the Smiths in 1974. In 1993 Jeff Wagener summited 55 Colorado Fourteeners in 14 days, 3 hours, but he did not observe the 3,000-foot rule.

In 1995 a powerful pair of Colorado mountain runners, Rick Trujillo of Ouray, a five-time winner of the Pikes Peak Marathon, and Ricky Denesik of Telluride, climbed the traditional 54 Colorado Fourteeners in 15 days, 9 hours, 55 minutes, taking more than 7 hours off Adrian's 1992 record. The two Ricks, or "Rick squared" as they were called during the event, were careful to observe the 3,000-foot rule. They gained a total of 156,130 feet and covered 337 miles.

Applying their experience, Rick squared went at it again in August 1997. Bad El-Niño-related weather hampered their effort on most days. Rick Trujillo dropped out of the record attempt on day nine but remained in support. Ricky Denesik continued and was on track to finish in 13 days, 16 hours when a heinous storm drove him back from the Keyhole on Longs—his last peak. A silver moon and I accompanied Ricky on his second attempt. After moonset and an icy home-stretch, we reached Longs' silent summit at 1 AM. Ricky logged a time of 14 days, 16 minutes; a gain of 153,215 feet; and a distance of 314.2 miles.

In September 1999, Andrew Hamilton became the first person to observe the 3,000-foot rule and break the elusive 14-day mark. Suffering terrible weather and a flawed logistical plan, Andrew dug deep, climbed 15 peaks in darkness, and finished in 13 days, 22 hours, 48 minutes. His impressive record lasted less than a year.

In the early summer of 2000, Ricky Denesik made his third record run and, using better planning and conditioning, smashed not just the 14-day barrier, but the 13-day barrier as well. Ricky's time of 12 days, 15 hours, 35 minutes set a high bar for the ultrafit to ponder. Also in 2000, Danelle Ballengee became the fastest woman, with a time of 14 days, 14 hours, 49 minutes. Her stunning record has remained intact for more than a decade. Some thought that Ricky's record would stand for a long time as well, but it did not.

A little more than a month after Ricky raised the bar, superfit Teddy Kaiser from Breckenridge went for the record. He had scouted and planned his attempt for two years, and he executed a flawless strategy. He employed a bold

nonstop tactic: when his vehicle arrived at a trailhead, he got out and started hiking. Time of day and weather made no difference—he started hiking. His conditioning, planning, and strategy worked, and Teddy vaulted the record to an astonishing 10 days, 20 hours, 26 minutes. Teddy, aka Cave Dog, finished at 10:56 PM on September 14, 2000, after dashing down the Trough on Longs—a clever finishing tactic that saved time. Cave Dog’s time is so daunting that a decade has passed and no one has even attempted to best it.

When setting your goals, remember one thing: records can be broken, but a victory is yours to keep forever. In pursuit of your goals, you might choose to rely on the standard 10 essentials.

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Sunglasses and sunscreen
4. Extra food
5. Extra clothing
6. Headlamp/flashlight
7. First aid supplies
8. Firestarter
9. Matches
10. Knife

I choose to rely on my Classic Commandments of Mountaineering:

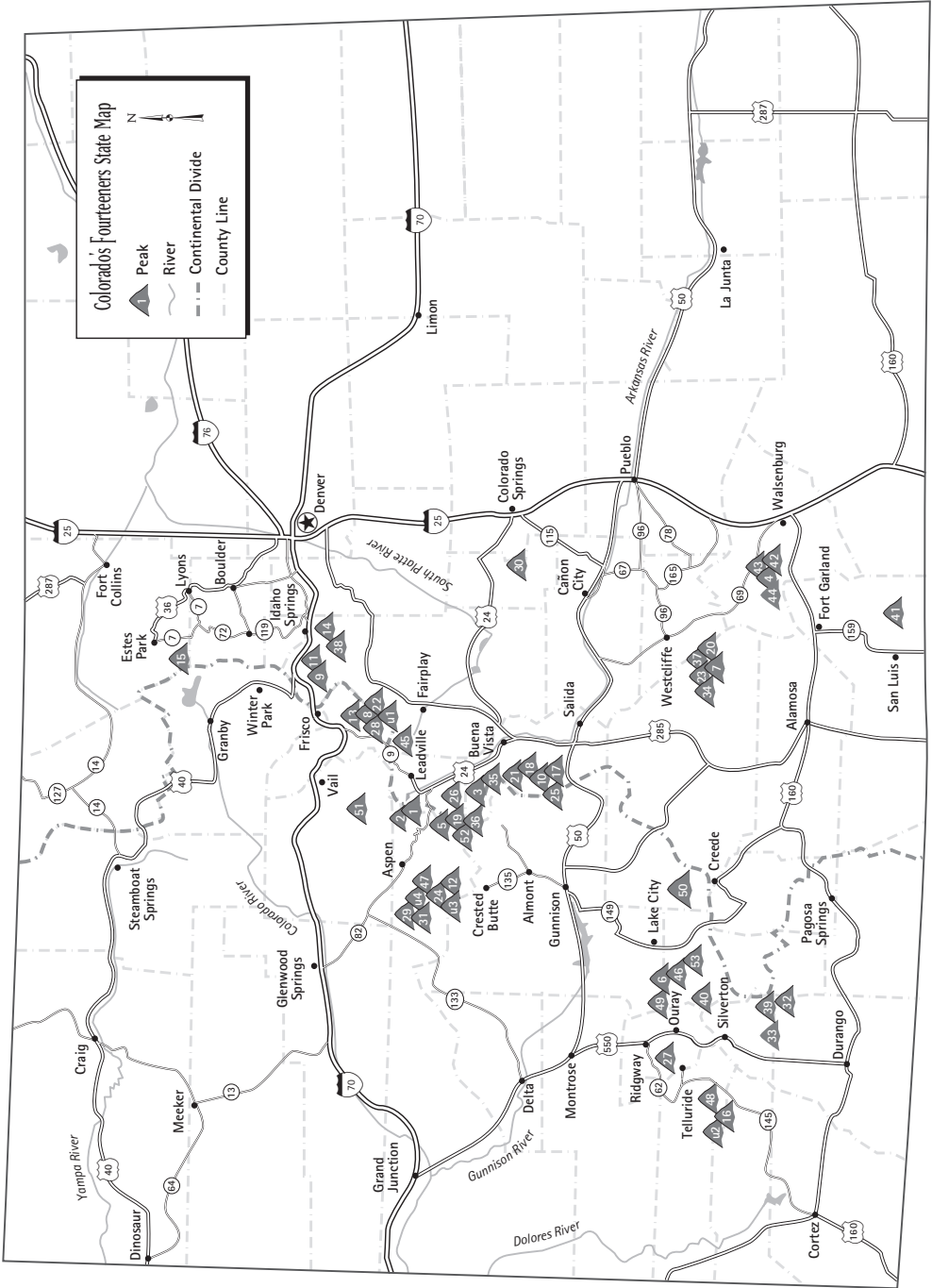
1. Never get separated from your lunch.
2. Never get separated from your sleeping bag.
3. Never get separated from your primal urges.
4. Carefully consider where your primal urges are leading you.
5. Expect to go the wrong way some of the time.
6. First aid above 26,000 feet consists of getting below 26,000 feet.
7. Never step on the rope.
8. Never bivouac.
9. Surfer Girl is not in the mountains.
10. Never pass up a chance to pee.
11. Don't eat yellow snow.
12. Geologic time includes now.
13. Experience does not exempt you from danger; physics wins.
14. Have fun and remember why you started.

¡Vaya con Dios!

Colorado's Fourteeners

Ranking and Key to Map on page xxiv

1	14,433'	Mt Elbert	28	14,148'	Mt Democrat
2	14,421'	Mt Massive	29	14,130'	Capitol Pk
3	14,420'	Mt Harvard	30	14,110'	Pikes Pk
4	14,345'	Blanca Pk	31	14,092'	Snowmass Mtn
5	14,336'	La Plata Pk	32	14,087'	Windom Pk
6	14,309'	Uncompahgre Pk	33	14,084'	Mt Eolus
7	14,294'	Crestone Pk	34	14,081'	Challenger Point
8	14,286'	Mt Lincoln	35	14,073'	Mt Columbia
9	14,270'	Grays Pk	36	14,067'	Missouri Mtn
10	14,269'	Mt Antero	37	14,064'	Humboldt Pk
11	14,267'	Torreys Pk	38	14,060'	Mt Bierstadt
12	14,265'	Castle Pk	U3	14,060'	Conundrum Pk
13	14,265'	Quandary Pk	39	14,059'	Sunlight Pk
14	14,264'	Mt Evans	40	14,048'	Handies Pk
15	14,255'	Longs Pk	41	14,047'	Culebra Pk
16	14,246'	Mt Wilson	42	14,042'	Mt Lindsey
U1	14,238'	Mt Cameron	43	14,042'	Ellingwood Point
17	14,229'	Mt Shavano	44	14,037'	Little Bear Pk
18	14,197'	Mt Princeton	45	14,036'	Mt Sherman
19	14,197'	Mt Belford	46	14,034'	Redcloud Pk
20	14,197'	Crestone Needle	47	14,018'	Pyramid Pk
21	14,196'	Mt Yale	48	14,017'	Wilson Pk
22	14,172'	Mt Bross	49	14,015'	Wetterhorn Pk
23	14,165'	Kit Carson Pk	50	14,014'	San Luis Pk
U2	14,159'	El Diente Pk	U4	14,014'	North Maroon Pk
24	14,156'	Maroon Pk	51	14,005'	Mt of the Holy Cross
25	14,155'	Tabeguache Pk	52	14,003'	Huron Pk
26	14,153'	Mt Oxford	53	14,001'	Sunshine Pk
27	14,150'	Mt Sneffels			



Front Range

Introduction

Colorado's Front Range extends from the Wyoming border southward for 175 miles to the Arkansas River Valley west of Pueblo. It is Colorado's longest range. When you approach the Rocky Mountains from the east, the Front Range provides an abrupt scenery change. The land is flat, then roars up like crazy!

The Front Range contains six Fourteeners, and because most of Colorado's population lives in the urban corridor east of the Front Range, these peaks are easily reached. You can climb any of these Fourteeners in one day from most Front Range cities. People climb Front Range Fourteeners more often than any of the other Fourteeners scattered across the state.

1. Longs Peak ^{14,255 feet}

Longs Peak is unquestionably the monarch of the Front Range and northern Colorado. It dominates all within sight of it. Longs is the highest peak in Rocky Mountain National Park and Boulder County. It is also Colorado's northernmost Fourteener and the Rocky Mountains' only Fourteener north of 40 degrees north latitude. Its summit attracts thousands of people each year, and it is one of the most popular peaks in the western United States. The reason for its popularity is obvious. Longs enraptures all but the most heartless soul.


Longs has a tremendous east face, and its great sweep has struck emotion into many hearts. Emotions range from awe to terror. Longs' closest neighbor, Mount Meeker, has a huge, sweeping north face, and these two faces combine to form Colorado's greatest mountain cirque. Beautiful Chasm Lake nestles at the base of Longs' east face. Ships Prow, a large promontory, separates Longs' east face and Meeker's north face. Ships Prow rises directly above Chasm Lake's south side to the Loft, which is the broad, 13,450-foot saddle between Longs and Meeker.

Longs' slabby north face rises above the Boulder Field, which you can reach by the popular East Longs Peak Trail. Longs' northwest ridge contains the famous Keyhole, which allows easy access between the peak's east and west sides. Longs' large west face sweeps above Glacier Gorge with the well-named Keyboard of the Winds on its south edge. Longs' broken south side rises above Wild Basin and contains the Palisades' west-facing cliffs. The Notch is prominent on the ridge above the Palisades and is easily seen above Longs' east face.

Utes and Arapaho called Longs and Meeker *Nesotaieux*, meaning "the two guides," and indeed these peaks are siren sentinels when seen from the plains to the east. Longs has more than 100 routes, but most are serious technical climbs

on the great east face. I only include a dozen of Longs' easier routes in this guide. Somehow, Longs' popularity makes people feel safer, but the opposite is the case. Many people believe the greatest climbing hazard today is being below other people. With or without other people, any route on Longs is a serious undertaking.

1E – Longs Peak Essentials

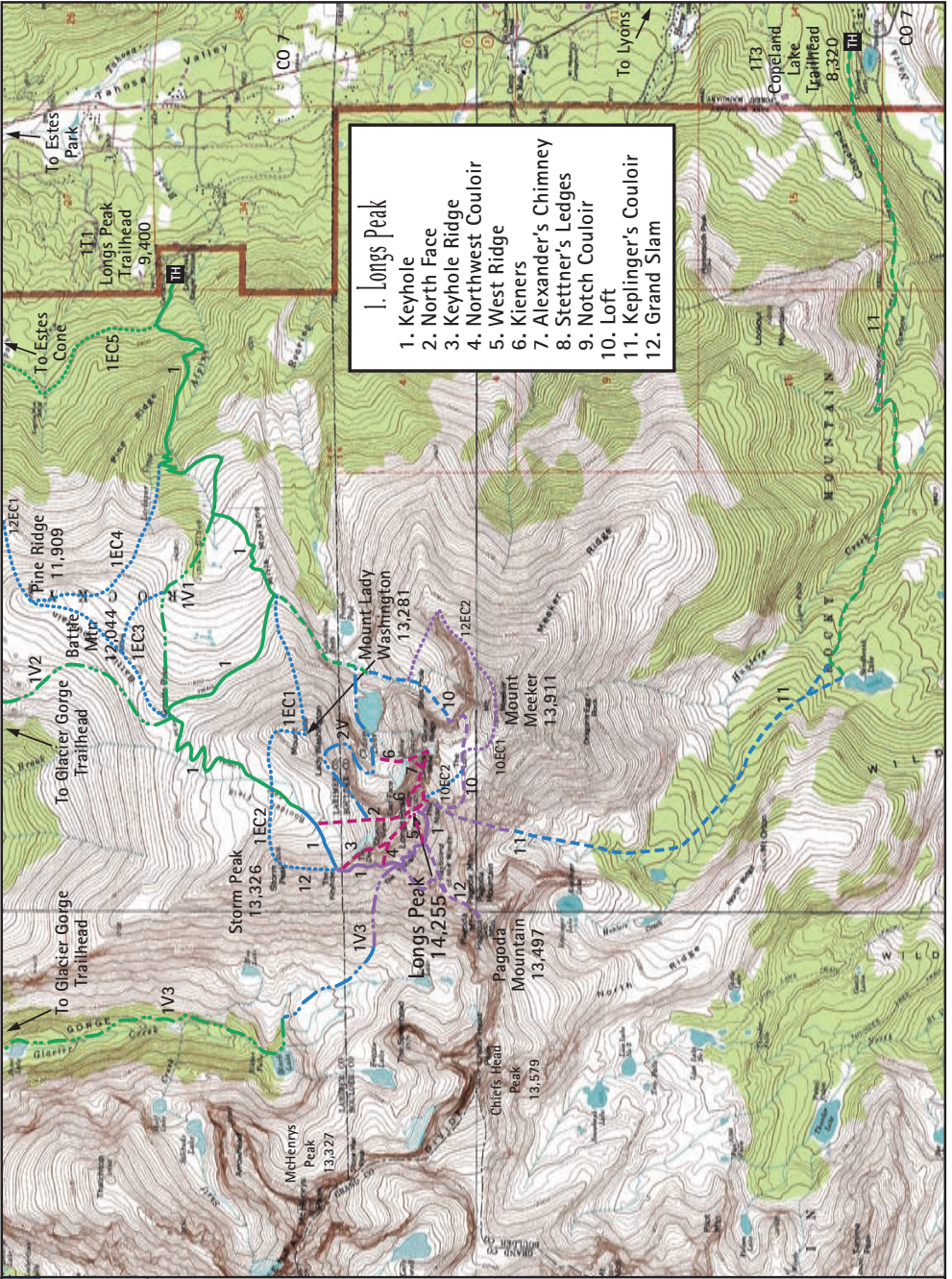
Elevations	14,255' (NGVD29) 14,261' (NAVD88)
Rank	Colorado's 15th highest ranked peak
Location	Northern Boulder County, Colorado, USA
Range	Northern Front Range
Summit Coordinates	40.2457° -105.6153° (WGS84)
Ownership/Contact	Rocky Mountain National Park – Public Land National Park Service – 970-586-1206
Prominence and Saddle	2,940' from 11,315' Berthoud Pass
Isolation and Parent	43.71 miles to Torreys Peak
USGS Maps	Longs Peak, McHenry's Peak, Isolation Peak, Allens Park
USFS Map	Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest
Trails Illustrated Maps	Map #200 Rocky Mountain National Park Map #301 Longs Peak/Bear Lake/Wild Basin
Book Map	See Map 1 on page 3
Nearest Town	Estes Park – Population 6,000 – Elevation 7,522'
Longs Peak  Easiest Route	1R1 – Keyhole – Class 3 A long Class 1 trail approach, a Class 2 boulder hop to the Keyhole, then a Class 3 scramble to the top
Longs' Accolades	Longs is the highest peak in Rocky Mountain National Park and Boulder County. Longs is also Colorado's northernmost Fourteener and the Rocky Mountain's only Fourteener north of 40° north latitude.

1T – Longs Peak Trailheads

1T1 – Longs Peak Trailhead 9,400 feet 40.2724° -105.5572°

This trailhead provides access to the East Longs Peak Trail. This major trail serves all sides of Longs Peak. The trailhead is west of Colorado 7, and you can reach it from either the north or south.

If you are approaching from the north, measure from the junction of US 36 and Colorado 7 east of Estes Park and go 9.2 miles south on Colorado 7. If you are approaching from the south, measure from the junction of Colorado 7 and Colorado 72 on the Peak to Peak Highway and go 10.5 miles north on Colorado 7. Turn west onto a paved road signed for the Longs Peak Area (40.2720° -105.5425°) and go 1.0 mile west uphill to the trailhead and the Longs Peak Ranger Station. Overnight parking in the trailhead parking lot is not allowed without a permit. This trailhead is accessible in winter. With Long's increasing popularity and the need for an early start, the trailhead parking lot is often



- I. Longs Peak**
1. Keyhole
 2. North Face
 3. Keyhole Ridge
 4. Northwest Couloir
 5. West Ridge
 6. Kieners
 7. Alexander's Chimney
 8. Stettner's Ledges
 9. Notch Couloir
 10. Loft
 11. Keplinger's Couloir
 12. Grand Slam

Map 1
Longs Peak

- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4
- Class 5
- Standard Route
- Alternate Route
- Variation
- Extra Credit

1 1/2 0 1 mi
1 1/2 0 1 km

MN 13.1
Magnetic North
Declination

N
Contour Interval
40 feet

full by 2:00 AM on a summer weekend, and vehicles have been parked on the approach road all the way down to Colorado 7. This inconvenience can increase the length of your climb. Plan accordingly.

1T2 – Glacier Gorge Trailhead 9,240 feet 40.3103° -105.6373°

This trailhead provides access to Longs' north and west sides. From Rocky Mountain National Park Headquarters on US 36, go 1.2 miles west to the Beaver Meadows Entrance Station into the park. Continue 0.2 mile west on US 36 to Bear Lake Road. Turn south (left) onto Bear Lake Road (paved) and go 8.1 miles to the large trailhead, which is on the south side of the road. You can take the Bear Lake shuttle bus to this trailhead in summer, and this trailhead is usually accessible in winter with your own vehicle.

Another alternative is to park at Bear Lake and follow a trail 0.4 mile south-east from Bear Lake to the Glacier Gorge Trail near a switchback in the road. This switchback used to be the Glacier Gorge Trailhead, but with little space here and increasing use, the trailhead was moved a half mile down the road.

1T3 – Copeland Lake Trailhead 8,320 feet 40.2198° -105.5358°

This trailhead provides access to Longs' south side. The trailhead is west of Colorado 7, and you can reach it from either the north or south.

If you are approaching from the north, measure from the junction of US 36 and Colorado 7 east of Estes Park. Go 13.1 miles south on Colorado 7 to Wild Basin Road. If you are approaching from the south, measure from the junction of Colorado 7 and Colorado 72 on the Peak to Peak Highway. Go 6.6 miles north on Colorado 7 to Wild Basin Road.

From the Wild Basin Road–Colorado 7 junction, go 0.4 mile west on the old highway to another turnoff for Wild Basin and Copeland Lake. Turn west (right) and pass through the Rocky Mountain National Park entrance fee station. The trailhead is immediately north of the entrance. This trailhead is accessible in winter.

1R – Longs Peak Routes

1R1 – Longs Peak – Keyhole *Classic*

From Longs Peak TH at 9,400' 348 RP 14.4 mi RT 4,855' net; 5,255' total Class 3

From Boulder Field at 12,750' 154 RP 2.6 mi RT 1,505' net; 1,905' total Class 3

This is the easiest route on Longs. People climb it more than any other route in this guide. Climbing the Keyhole Route on a late summer weekend is like walking on a crowded city sidewalk through a construction zone. Queues form on the Homestretch, one going up and the other going down. At midday, there can be more than 100 people on the summit. The Keyhole Route attracts several thousand people each summer.

This is a long, arduous ascent on a high, real mountain. The route's difficulty increases dramatically when conditions are bad, and many people have

died here. Sudden summer storms can turn the Homestretch into a bobsled run. The Trough usually contains snow until mid-July, and an ice ax is useful until then. The Keyhole Route spirals almost completely around the mountain, and any escape from the route takes you down into Wild Basin or Glacier Gorge. Your return to the Longs Peak Trailhead from these drainages can assume epic proportions. Even when conditions are good, the route is crowded, which does not make your ascent safer. Understand current conditions before attempting an ascent. Don't be misled by someone else's energy. Stay true to yourself and mountaineering's fundamentals.

From the Longs Peak Trailhead at 9,400 feet, follow the well-marked East Longs Peak Trail to the Boulder Field. En route, stay left at the Eugenia Mine-Storm Pass junction (9,680 feet) at 0.5 mile (40.2750° -105.5646°), pass the Goblins Forest campsite (10,240 feet) at 1.5 miles, and cross to Alpine Brook's south side at 10,690 feet (40.2731° -105.5802°). Pass treeline, enjoy your first views of Longs, turn left at the Jims Grove junction (10,960 feet) at 2.5 miles (40.2707° -105.5846°), and reach the Chasm Lake junction on Mills Moraine (11,540 feet) after 3.5 miles (40.2658° -105.5929°). Do not go to Chasm Lake, but take a moment to marvel at Longs' east face. There is a solar-powered toilet east of this trail junction. Turn right at the Chasm Lake junction and hike northwest on the trail to 12,080-foot Granite Pass (40.2740° -105.6054°) on Mount Lady Washington's north side, where you can look north to many peaks. Turn left at the North Longs Peak Trail junction in Granite Pass at 4.5 miles, and continue southwest up into the expansive Boulder Field below Longs' slabby north face. There are campsites at 12,660 feet (permit required), and there are solar-powered toilets north of the campsites (40.2642° -105.6158°). The trail continues 200 yards beyond the campsites to end at 12,750 feet, 5.9 miles from the trailhead.

From the Boulder Field, continue southwest over large boulders toward the Keyhole, which you can see on Longs' northwest ridge. The Keyhole consists of a large overhanging rock jutting out to the north. The Keyhole allows easy access between Longs' east and west sides and is indeed the key to the route.

There is a small, open, conical-topped stone shelter 100 feet southeast of the Keyhole. This shelter memorializes Agnes Vaille, who died near here in January 1925 along with a would-be rescuer during a prodigious winter storm. Agnes and Walter Kiener had just made the first winter ascent of Longs' east face. Walter survived, but suffered severe frostbite. The route beyond the Keyhole is more serious in any season, and if conditions warrant a retreat, this is a good place to turn around.

After you scramble up the rocks into the Keyhole at 13,150 feet (40.2609° -105.6213°), you will have a great view of Glacier Gorge to the west. The Thirteens ringing the head of the gorge, Pagoda, Chiefs Head, and McHenrys, are sure to spark your attention. Scramble through the Keyhole to the ridge's west side and traverse south on a series of ledges. The route is marked with painted bull's-eyes on the rock, so it is hard to become lost. This part of the route is appropriately

called the Ledges. Climb above west-facing boilerplate slabs and negotiate a nifty V-slot in this section. Traverse above the boilerplate slabs, descend south of the slabs, then climb gently and reach the large couloir called the Trough (40.2558° -105.6207°), which is 0.3 mile south of the Keyhole. The route gains very little elevation between the Keyhole and the Trough. This section of the route is exposed to the west wind, but the views of Glacier Gorge are excellent.

The Trough is a long couloir extending all the way from Glacier Gorge to a point high on Longs' west side. Climb the Trough from 13,300 feet to the top of the couloir on Longs' west ridge at 13,850 feet. When the Trough has snow in it, try to avoid it by staying on the rocks north of the couloir. Just below the ridge, at 13,850 feet, you must pass a chockstone; this may be the route's hardest move. You can climb around either side of the chockstone; either side is **Class 3**.

On the small platform at the top of the Trough (40.2543° -105.6187°), you are close to the summit, but steep cliffs rise above you on both the west and south faces of the peak. A new vista appears to the south, and this is a dramatic place. Cross to Longs' south side and traverse east across Longs' south face along a convenient exposed ledge called the Narrows. At one point, you have a choice of either wiggling between a block and the wall above or stepping neatly around the exposed outside of the block.

Beyond the Narrows, go east, climb up a 10-foot slot, then scamper up ledges to the base of the Homestretch. It is 250 yards from the top of the Trough to the bottom of the Homestretch. The Homestretch is the weakness in the summit cliffs that the route has circled all the way around the peak to find. It consists of some parallel cracks angling up to the northeast across low-angled slabs. The Homestretch is easy **Class 3** when it is dry, but more difficult rock lurks nearby. People have encountered trouble on the smooth slabs near the cracks. At the top of the Homestretch, scramble through a short cleft, then Longs' large, flat summit appears abruptly. The highest point is a boulder 100 feet north (40.2547° -105.6153°).

In the 1930s, guides would tell their clients that if they looked sharp they could just see the recently completed Empire State Building, and people would stare intently to the east. Today, there is cell service on the summit, and while you can't even see Kansas, you can see into Wyoming and Nebraska. Looking east from the summit on a clear day, you can see over 130 miles. You can see Pikes Peak 102 miles to the south and Mount Massive 86 miles to the southwest. The monarch is yours! Scan the sky for storms and remember that the summit is only halfway.

1R1 V1 – Variation – Jims Grove Trail

From Longs Peak TH at 9,400' 343 RP 13.9 mi RT 4,855' net; 5,255' total Class 3

At 10,960 feet (40.2707° -105.5846°), 2.5 miles above the Longs Peak Trailhead, you have a choice of two trails. The East Longs Peak Trail climbs southwest to Mills Moraine, then takes a long tack northwest to reach Granite Pass. The

Jims Grove Trail goes north from the junction, climbs west past the Jims Grove trees, then switchbacks north around an enduring snowfield in a small basin west of Jims Grove. The trail then climbs steeply west to rejoin the East Longs Peak Trail at 11,920 feet (40.2720° -105.6033°), just below Granite Pass.

The Jims Grove Trail is 0.25 mile shorter one way and provides different scenery. You miss the spectacular view of Longs' east face from Mills Moraine, but you will pass through wind-twisted trees and can enjoy the little basin above Jims Grove. Perhaps you can go up one trail and down the other.

1R1 V2 – Variation – North Longs Peak Trail

From Glacier Gorge TH at 9,240' 391 RP 18.1 mi RT 5,015' net; 5,415' total Class 3

From the Glacier Gorge Trailhead at 9,240 feet, follow the North Longs Peak Trail for 6.35 miles to Granite Pass and join the East Longs Peak Trail and the Keyhole Route there. This approach to Longs is significantly longer but provides expansive views of the Mummy Range to the north and allows the possibility of a circle tour.

1R1 V3 – Variation – The Trough

From Glacier Gorge TH at 9,240' 385 RP 13.8 mi RT 5,015' total Class 3, Mod Snow

With descent of North Longs Peak Trail 410 RP 16.0 mi RT 5,015' net; 5,215' total Class 3, Mod Snow

From the Glacier Gorge Trailhead at 9,240 feet, follow the Glacier Gorge Trail for 5.0 miles to Black Lake at 10,620 feet (40.2661° -105.6404°). Hike southeast above the lake, enter the bottom of the Trough at 11,600 feet (40.2578° -105.6289°), then climb it to the west ridge at 13,850 feet (40.2543° -105.6187°). Follow the Keyhole Route to the summit. This good, early summer snow climb can provide more than 2,000 vertical feet of moderate snow.

When it is in good condition, this is one of Colorado's longest snow climbs. As summer progresses, so does the probability of rockfall from the large number of people climbing in or near the upper part of the Trough. By August this is an undesirable route. Going up this way and down the North Longs Peak Trail makes a long but wonderful Tour de Longs.

1R1 EC1 – Extra Credit – Mount Lady Washington 13,281 feet 40.2634° -105.6072°

From Longs Peak TH at 9,400' 194 RP 8.6 mi RT 3,881' total Class 2

From Mills Moraine at 11,540' 91 RP 1.6 mi RT 1,741' total Class 2

From Boulder Field at 12,660' 40 RP 1.0 mi RT 621' total Class 2

One of Longs' major buttress peaks, Mount Lady Washington is 0.8 mile northeast of Longs. Lady Washington's rounded mass interferes with your view of Longs' east face from many viewpoints, including Battle Mountain and Estes Cone. To eliminate this obstacle, climb it. The view from Lady Washington is impeccable.

If you are at the Mills Moraine trail junction (40.2658° -105.5929°), climb 0.8 mile west up talus directly to the summit. If you are in the Boulder Field near the campsites at 12,660 feet, hike 500 yards east, then 300 yards south up



Longs Peak's north face.

blocky talus to the summit, which is the eastern of two highpoints. By swinging east, you avoid some troublesome talus on Lady Washington's northwest face directly above the Boulder Field. Lady Washington's talus is tedious, but you will never tire of the view from the summit.

1R1 EC2 – Extra Credit – Storm Peak 13,326 feet 40.2656° -105.6205°

From Longs Peak TH at 9,400' 202 RP 12.4 mi RT 3,926' total [Class 2](#)

From Boulder Field at 12,750' 32 RP 0.6 mi RT 576' total [Class 2](#)

From Keyhole at 13,150' 20 RP 0.7 mi RT 180' total [Class 2+](#)

Another of Longs' major buttress peaks, Storm Peak is 0.8 mile northwest of Longs. Storm Peak provides a superlative view of Longs' north face and the Glacier Gorge sanctuary.

From the end of the trail in the Boulder Field, go northwest up blocky, sometimes loose talus directly to the summit. In early season, this slope holds snow that the winds of winter have packed rock-hard. You can avoid this snow by climbing north-northwest from the Boulder Field onto Storm's north ridge. From the Keyhole, scamper north over large blocky talus on the east side of the ridge. Don't cut up for the summit too soon, because Storm's highpoint is the farthest point north.

1R1 EC3 – Extra Credit – Battle Mountain 12,044 feet 40.2781° -105.5987°

From Longs Peak TH at 9,400' 112 RP 7.8 mi RT 2,644' total [Class 2](#)

From East Longs Peak Trail at 11,600' 28 RP 1.0 mi RT 444' total [Class 2](#)

From Granite Pass at 12,080' 24 RP 1.0 mi RT 300' total [Class 2+](#)

Battle Mountain is a minor highpoint on the ridge northeast of Granite Pass and the East Longs Peak Trail. As you walk up the trail on a warm summer morning, you may wonder why such an innocuous area received this contentious name. Come back in winter. This ridge catches winds the Continental Divide couldn't handle. Never mind Longs Peak; Battle Mountain provides a tough test on occasion.

If you are hiking from the Longs Peak Trailhead, take the Jims Grove Trail above the signed trail junction at 10,960 feet (40.2707° -105.5846°). Switch-back above Jims Grove, hike west to 11,600 feet, leave the trail and hike 0.5 mile north up talus to the rocky summit (Class 2). If you are descending from the Boulder Field, leave the East Longs Peak Trail at Granite Pass (40.2740° -105.6054°) and scamper 0.5 mile northeast over two other highpoints to reach Battle Mountain's summit (Class 2+).

1R1 EC4 – Extra Credit – Pine Ridge 11,909 feet 40.2852° -105.5936°

<i>From Longs Peak TH at 9,400'</i>	114 RP	5.6 mi RT	2,509' total	Class 2
<i>From East Longs Peak Trail at 10,500'</i>	73 RP	2.2 mi RT	1,409' total	Class 2

This unranked summit is at the junction of Pine Ridge, which rises from the southeast above the East Longs Peak Trail, and a long ridge running northeast from Granite Pass below Mount Lady Washington. Overlooked by millions and minions alike, Pine Ridge provides many stout viewpoints of its surrounding giants. This humble summit makes a good winter outing.

From the Longs Peak Trailhead at 9,400 feet, hike 1.5 miles up the East Longs Peak Trail to the crossing of Larkspur Creek at 10,260 feet (40.2744° -105.5771°). From here, continue another 0.2 mile to the fourth switchback beyond the crossing. Do not confuse the crossing of Larkspur Creek with the crossing of Alpine Creek, which is farther up the trail. Leave the East Longs Peak Trail here, at 10,500 feet (40.2748° -105.5793°), and hike 0.15 mile west-northwest up through open trees to the south of Larkspur Creek to reach treeline at 10,700 feet. Continue 0.5 mile west-northwest up sweeping, open slopes to a break in the slope angle at 11,720 feet (40.2788° -105.5917°). From here, you will be able to see both summits of Pine Ridge to the north as well as the summit ramparts of Battle Mountain to the west. Continue 0.25 mile north to Pine Ridge's first rocky summit, with the extrapolated elevation of 11,940 feet (40.2824° -105.5927°), then continue 0.2 mile north to the second rocky summit, with the given elevation of 11,909 feet (40.2852° -105.5936°). This is the summit of Pine Ridge.

The map indicates that the summit with the extrapolated elevation of 11,940 feet is the summit of Pine Ridge, but I carefully hand leveled from both these summits and determined that the northern, 11,909-foot summit is indeed higher than the alleged 11,940-foot summit. Thus, the map is wrong. Since the northern summit has a given elevation, it is reasonable to assume that the highest contour line on the 11,940-foot summit is spurious, and that it is less than 11,909 feet. Accordingly, I use 11,909 feet for the elevation of Pine Ridge.

1R1 EC5 – Extra Credit – Estes Cone 11,006 feet 40.2951° -105.5673°

<i>From Longs Peak TH at 9,400'</i>	66 RP	6.4 mi RT	1,606 net; 1,826' total	Class 2
<i>From East Longs Peak Trail at 9,680'</i>	56 RP	5.4 mi RT	1,326 net; 1,546' total	Class 2

Estes Cone is the symmetrical, craggy-topped peak 1.7 miles northwest of the Longs Peak Trailhead. You can see it north of the trailhead above the road.

From Estes Cone's summit, you have a sweeping view of Meeker, Longs, Lady Washington, and Storm Peak.

From the Eugenia Mine–East Longs Peak Trail junction at 9,680 feet (40.2750° -105.5646°), 0.5 mile northwest of the Longs Peak Trailhead, go 0.9 mile north to Eugenia Mine. Descending gently, go 0.6 mile east, passing the Moore Park campsites en route to a signed trail junction just east of Moore Park at 9,780 feet (40.2877° -105.5653°). Turn north (left) and hike 0.5 mile north to Storm Pass at 10,260 feet (40.2928° -105.5745°). Turn east (right) and hike 0.7 mile east on the Estes Cone summit trail to the west side of the rocky summit. Scamper up a break in the cliff (Class 2) and continue to the highest point, 100 feet farther east.

1R2 – Longs Peak – North Face

From Longs Peak TH at 9,400' 410 RP 13.0 mi RT 4,855' total Class 5.3

With descent of Keyhole 433 RP 13.7 mi RT 4,855' net; 5,055' total Class 5.3

This is the old Cables Route that used to be the standard route up Longs. In 1973 the National Park Service removed the cables, and this route reverted to its original difficulty. The eyebolts for some cables remain and provide solid belay or rappel anchors. The route is often used as a descent route. One 140-foot or two 70-foot rappels overcome the difficulties.

Follow the Keyhole Route (1R1) to the Boulder Field. From the Boulder Field, hike south up toward the eastern quarter of the north face. Do not go to the exposed eastern edge, as this is the top of the vertigo-inducing east face. The route exploits a series of small west-facing corners and slabs for one long or two short Class 5.3 pitches to reach easier ground. This is where the old cables used to be. Once you are above the slabs, angle southeast (left) up through broken ledges on the upper part of the north face, then climb south to the summit.

1R2 V – Variation – The Camel

Class 2+

The Camel is a hidden gully that provides easy passage from the basin west of Chasm Lake to the Boulder Field. It lets you enjoy an excursion into the sanctuary below Longs' great east face before escaping from it at the last moment. It offers a sporting start to your ascent of Longs' North Face Route. Climbers often use the Camel as a descent route after a technical ascent on Longs.

Hike up the East Longs Peak Trail to the Mills Moraine trail junction, 3.5 miles from the trailhead. Instead of hiking northwest on the trail up to Granite Pass, hike 0.6 mile west to Chasm Meadows and scramble 200 yards west up a small gully to the east end of Chasm Lake at 11,800 feet. The west-facing Camel Couloir is hidden from here; don't despair. Hike around Chasm Lake's north side and look northwest to spot the namesake Camel Rock high on Lady Washington's southwest ridge. Camel Rock is a miniature keyhole overhanging

to the west. To some it appears as a kneeling camel. It is distinctive in any case. Camel Rock is visible from Chasm Lake and the Boulder Field, and is the landmark that guides you to the hidden passage.

From Chasm Lake's west end, hike 300 yards west to 12,000 feet (40.2584° -105.6099°), turn around and look up Camel Couloir, now east of you. Scramble east up the couloir on steep grass and talus (Class 2+) to 12,400 feet (40.2598° -105.6083°). The already overpowering view only improves as you make your escape from the basin. In winter the couloir holds hard-packed snow. As you approach the top of the couloir, stay north (left) and swing 100 feet west to dodge a higher cliff band. Camel Rock will be visible above you. Climb directly northwest up talus to Camel Rock at 13,060 feet. Your escape is complete.

From Camel Rock, hike 180 yards down to the southwest to the 12,980-foot saddle between Longs and Lady Washington. Continue 0.25 mile southwest up talus to join the North Face Route below its crux slabs.

1R2 EC – Extra Credit – Chasm View 13,500 feet 40.2574° -105.6156°

Class 2+

The small detour required to go to the famous Chasm View is worth it for the world-class view that awaits there. When approaching the north face, stay east (left) of some lower slabs and scamper into the small 13,500-foot notch just below the north face's northeast edge. This vantage offers an awesome near-profile view of the Diamond on the east face, and you might be able to spot climbers inching their way up the wall. While the rocks near the edge are solid, this is a bad place to suddenly become jittery. As proof, there is a hole near the edge through which you can look down 800 feet. Slabs make it inconvenient to traverse directly west from Chasm View to rejoin the North Face Route. To minimize difficulties, go down and around the slabs.

1R3 – Longs Peak – Keyhole Ridge

<i>From Longs Peak TH at 9,400'</i>	<i>553 RP</i>	<i>13.8 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' total</i>	<i>Class 5.5</i>
<i>With descent of North Face</i>	<i>559 RP</i>	<i>13.4 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' total</i>	<i>Class 5.5</i>
<i>With descent of Keyhole</i>	<i>561 RP</i>	<i>14.1 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' net; 5,055' total</i>	<i>Class 5.5</i>

This is an excellent technical route in a spectacular setting. The exposed route is on or near Longs' northwest ridge. Follow the Keyhole Route (1R1) to the Keyhole. Stay on the east side of the northwest ridge and scramble 200 yards up a Class 3 ramp to a higher notch in the ridge known as the False Keyhole. This takes you past the first tower on the ridge.

Continue up the ridge to the steep part of the second tower (Class 4), then follow a ramp east of the ridge (Class 4). At the end of the ramp, climb to the top of the second tower (Class 5.4). Descend 10 feet west to a ledge and follow it south to the notch south of the second tower. Scramble up yet another ramp to a belay below and east of a steep face. Angle 75 feet up to the left onto this face, then climb up excellent rock to regain the ridge (Class 5.5). This face is

the route's crux. You can pass any further difficulties by staying just off the ridge crest; near the summit, stay on the ridge. This route provides a unique approach to Longs' sizable summit plateau.

1R4 – Longs Peak – Northwest Couloir

<i>From Longs Peak TH at 9,400'</i>	<i>392 RP</i>	<i>13.9 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' net; 5,255' total</i>	<i>Class 5.0</i>
<i>With descent of North Face</i>	<i>408 RP</i>	<i>13.7 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' net; 5,055' total</i>	<i>Class 5.0</i>
<i>With descent of Keyhole</i>	<i>405 RP</i>	<i>14.3 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' net; 5,255' total</i>	<i>Class 5.0</i>

This short, obscure route has gained in popularity in recent years. Its modest technical difficulty combined with mostly solid rock make it a scintillating way to summit Longs. Follow the Keyhole Route (1R1) to the Keyhole. Pass through to the west side of the Keyhole, go two-thirds of the distance south toward the Trough, and look up to the east for the last big gully before the Trough. A distinguishing feature to help you identify the Northwest Couloir is a spire high above the south side of the couloir that looks like a horse's head or the knight chess piece. The horse head is facing north. Also, there is a series of four overhang-studded throne-room towers north of the Northwest Couloir.

Leave the Keyhole Route (40.2573° -105.6209°), scamper up toward the throne-room towers, and get into the bottom of the couloir (Class 2+). Scramble up the narrowing Class 3 gully, taking great care not to knock any loose rocks down on the Keyhole climbers below you. After a few hundred feet of thoughtful scrambling, you will see the crux of the route above you, which is a stack of pancake-shaped rocks wedged above a chimney. Climb up toward the stack, angle right up a 20-foot Class 5.0 slab past an old fixed piton, and wiggle into a hole below the largest pancake rock, which is now overhanging above you. Crawl to the back of the hole, make a U-turn, and escape the cave onto the top of the large pancake rock. Go a few exposed feet north and climb around the upper pancake rock.

The route from here to the summit is much easier. Scamper up Class 2+ rocks to reach the Keyhole Ridge at 13,960 feet (40.2567° -105.6182°). Scamper and sing 250 yards southeast up joyous rocks to reach the northwest corner of Longs' summit plateau and stroll to the capstone.

1R5 – Longs Peak – West Ridge

<i>From Longs Peak TH at 9,400'</i>	<i>480 RP</i>	<i>14.3 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' net; 5,255' total</i>	<i>Class 5.4</i>
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First climbed in 1924 by J. Alexander, this historic route provides a fine technical finish to the Keyhole Route, and your airy ascent is bound to attract a lot of attention. Follow the Keyhole Route (1R1) to the platform at 13,850 feet above the Trough (40.2543° -105.6187°). The route ascends the west ridge above this point. To get started, scramble up 40 feet and belay behind a large flake. Pitch 1: Climb left up ledges and flake systems on the north side of the ridge, then angle back right up a tiny, steep gully to a stance on the ridge crest. Pitch 2: Climb up the ridge, overcome a small overhang, and continue up the ridge to an exposed

stance. Pitch 3: Scramble up broken ledges and pass a final steep section on the south side of the ridge. Arrive abruptly at the southwest corner of Longs' summit plateau and strut to the capstone.

1R6 – Longs Peak – Kieners *Classic*

<i>From Longs Peak TH at 9,400'</i>	<i>607 RP</i>	<i>11.4 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' total</i>	<i>Class 5.3-5.4, Mod Snow/Ice</i>
<i>With descent of North Face</i>	<i>623 RP</i>	<i>12.2 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' total</i>	<i>Class 5.3-5.4, Mod Snow/Ice</i>
<i>With descent of Keyhole</i>	<i>619 RP</i>	<i>12.8 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' net; 5,055' total</i>	<i>Class 5.3-5.4, Mod Snow/Ice</i>

This is the finest mountaineering route on Longs Peak and, perhaps, the finest mountaineering route in Colorado. First climbed in 1924 by Walter Kiener, it is the easiest route on Longs' east face and is a mixed climb involving both snow and rock climbing. Kieners is a serious undertaking, and you should not tackle it lightly. It is a difficult route to escape from. Above Broadway, the best retreat is a forward one over Longs' summit. This can be very difficult in bad weather. I recommend an ice ax, crampons, and helmet for this route.

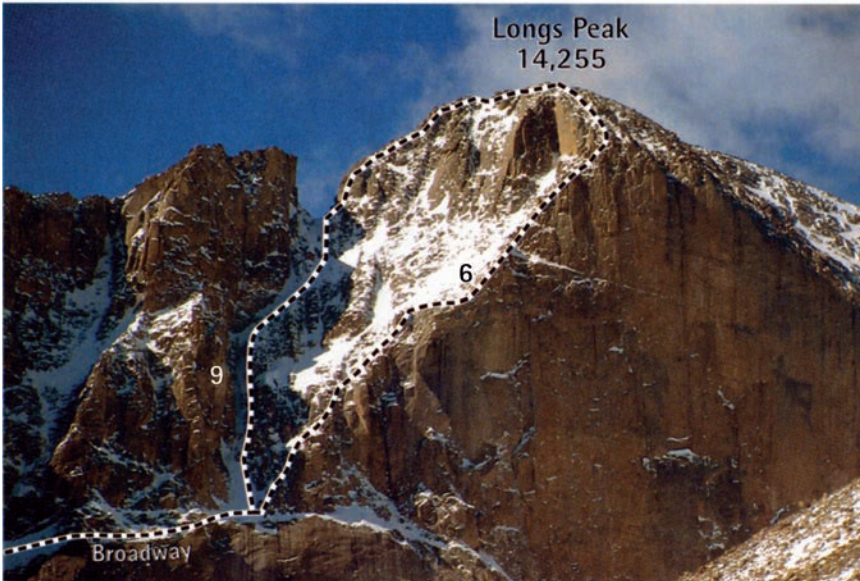
From the Longs Peak Trailhead at 9,400 feet, follow the East Longs Peak Trail for 4.5 miles to Chasm Meadows below Chasm Lake. Scramble 200 yards west up a small gully to the east end of Chasm Lake at 11,800 feet. The view of the east face from here is world-renowned.

You can see the upper part of the route from Chasm Lake. Study it carefully. Broadway is the large ledge system traversing completely across the face at half height. The vertical Diamond forms the upper, northern part of the face. The Notch is on the skyline south of the summit. The Notch Couloir rises from Broadway to the Notch. The upper part of Kieners crosses the broken face between the Notch Couloir and the Diamond. The Kieners Route is sometimes called the Mountaineers Route.

Go west around Chasm Lake's north side and continue 0.25 mile west toward the base of the great face. Mills Glacier is a permanent snowfield at the base of the lower face. Lambs Slide is a north-facing couloir connected to Mills Glacier that rises along the south side of the lower east face. You cannot see all the way up Lambs Slide until you reach the bottom of the face. There is permanent snow in Lambs Slide. It is prone to avalanching in early June; as August progresses, the snow turns to ice.

Climb Lambs Slide to 13,000 feet, where Broadway's multiple ledges intersect Lambs Slide. Leave Lambs Slide, climb to the highest ledge, and traverse 250 yards north (right) along Broadway. The scrambling is easy initially, but the exposure increases rapidly as you traverse out over the lower face. Just as the exposure reaches a maximum, Broadway narrows and you must make a delicate, exposed, **Class 5.1** traverse around a block. Many parties rope up at this point.

The bottom of the Notch Couloir is a short distance north of the block. Go north across the bottom of the couloir to the rock just north of the couloir; this often requires crossing snow or ice. The Notch Couloir begins at Broadway



The upper east face of Longs Peak.

above 800 feet of nearly vertical rock. The prospect of being flushed out of the couloir is something to consider carefully and avoid. This is an exciting place.

There are two ways to proceed from your stance on the north side of the couloir. Option 1 is a point easier, but may require snow or ice climbing up the couloir, and has north-facing rock. Option 2 is a point harder, but is rock only.

Option 1 (Class 5.3): Climb 40 feet west up the north (right) side of the couloir to an alcove. Traverse 20 feet back east (hard right) on a ledge to the base of a short wall. Climb the wall and go up a dihedral that becomes a chimney. Climb to the top of the chimney and reach a ledge on the right side of the chimney.

Option 2 (Class 5.4): Just north of the Notch Couloir, leave Broadway and climb onto the rocks north of the couloir. The rock is steep here but not as difficult as it looks. Climb a Class 5.4 pitch by zigzagging up steep rock. Climb a second, Class 5.0 pitch up a wide chimney to a ledge on the right side of the chimney.

From the ledge on the right side of the chimney, escape north through an unexpected slot, traverse north (right) across a long ledge, climb back (left) up steps and corners (Class 5.0), and reach the broken upper part of Kieners. From here, scramble 700 feet northwest, angling right, up gullies and open slopes. When the rock is dry, the difficulty here does not exceed Class 3.

There are several steep cliffs above this broken section that bar easy access to the summit. Climb a series of steep steps called the Staircase, traverse north (right), go behind a flake just below the summit cliffs, and traverse north (right) below the summit cliffs to reach a spectacular point above the Diamond. Step north around an exposed corner, climb up a slot through the cliffs, and scamper up steep talus to the summit. The flat summit provides an abrupt scenery change.

1R7 – Longs Peak – Alexander's Chimney

<i>From Longs Peak TH at 9,400'</i>	<i>793 RP</i>	<i>11.2 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' total</i>	<i>Class 5.5</i>
<i>With descent of North Face</i>	<i>813 RP</i>	<i>12.1 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' total</i>	<i>Class 5.5</i>
<i>With descent of Keyhole</i>	<i>816 RP</i>	<i>12.8 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' net; 5,055' total</i>	<i>Class 5.5</i>

First climbed in 1922 by J. Alexander, this is a time-tested rock route on the south side of the lower east face. It is one of the easiest rock routes on the east face. Alexander's Chimney ends on Broadway and, by itself, is not a summit route, but it is often used as a more technical start to Kieners. This option avoids the snow and ice in Lambs Slide. To descend from the top of Alexander's Chimney, traverse south on Broadway and descend Lambs Slide. This option usually requires crampons and an ice ax. The bottom of Alexander's Chimney is often wet in early summer. Also, beware rockfall from climbers traversing Broadway above you. Leave early.

Start at the Longs Peak Trailhead at 9,400 feet and follow the Kieners Route (1R6) to the base of Lambs Slide. Alexander's Chimney is the first major break in the lower face north of Lambs Slide. When you are standing at the bottom of Lambs Slide, the route is above and to the south (left). Go 200 feet up Lambs Slide, climb onto the rock, and do an ascending traverse back (right) across a **Class 4** slab to reach the bottom of the chimney. To avoid as much snow as possible, cross the bottom of Lambs Slide and do a longer ascending traverse left across the **Class 4** slab to reach the chimney.

You can do the route in four long pitches. Pitch 1 (150 feet): From the highest ledge below the chimney, climb an often-wet wall to the left (**Class 5.0**) or a crack to the right (**Class 5.6**) to a sloping ledge. Stem up the chimney above, then angle up to the right (**Class 5.5**). Belay 20 feet below a huge chockstone. Pitch 2 (150 feet): Move right to escape the chockstone, then do an ascending traverse to the right on a convenient ledge system called Alexander's Traverse (**Class 4**). Belay behind the northernmost of several flakes called the Dog Ear Flakes. Pitch 3 (130 feet): Climb 40 feet up a right-facing dihedral (**Class 5.5**), then angle 80 feet up to the left (**Class 5.5**) to a large ledge. This is very enjoyable climbing on clean rock. Pitch 4 (160 feet): Traverse 75 feet left into a recessed area known as the Yellow Bowl (**Class 4**) and climb the left side of the bowl (**Class 5.4**) to Broadway.

1R8 – Longs Peak – Stettner's Ledges *Classic*

<i>From Longs Peak TH at 9,400'</i>	<i>1,030 RP</i>	<i>11.2 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' total</i>	<i>Class 5.7+</i>
<i>With descent of North Face</i>	<i>1,055 RP</i>	<i>12.2 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' total</i>	<i>Class 5.7+</i>
<i>With descent of Keyhole</i>	<i>1,051 RP</i>	<i>12.8 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' net; 5,055' total</i>	<i>Class 5.7+</i>

First climbed in 1927 by Paul and Joe Stettner, this remained the hardest climb in Colorado for 20 years. It remains a classic climb today. The route is on a small buttress flanked by right-facing dihedrals on the south part of the lower east face. The bottom of Stettner's Ledges is 300 feet north of the bottom of Alexander's Chimney. When looking at the east face from a distance, Stettner's Ledges is below and south (left) of the bottom of the Notch Couloir. The climb is

normally done in six pitches. As with Alexander's Chimney, you can continue on Kieners or traverse south on Broadway to Lambs Slide.

Follow the Kieners Route (1R6) to Mills Glacier. Climb the south tongue of Mills Glacier and scramble up broken rock to the highest ledge below some right-facing dihedrals. Pitch 1 (150 feet): Climb a corner (Class 5.4), move right, and climb a right-facing dihedral (Class 5.6) to a ledge. Pitch 2 (90 feet): Go around the right side of a flake, then climb another right-facing dihedral (Class 5.4) to a large ledge. Pitch 3 (140 feet): From an alcove formed by a flake, climb a steep corner with fixed pins (Class 5.7+). This corner is called the Piton Ladder and it is often wet. Continue up a shallow dihedral (Class 5.6) to a large ledge called Lunch Ledge.

Pitch 4: From the south end of Lunch Ledge, climb a corner (Class 5.5) and continue up and left (Class 5.4) to another ledge. Pitch 5: Climb up and left to a ledge system (Class 5.4). Traverse left on the ledges, then climb up and left to join the Alexander's Chimney Route (1R7) and its last pitch. Pitch 6 (160 feet): Traverse 75 feet left into the Yellow Bowl (Class 4) and climb the left side of the bowl (Class 5.4) to Broadway.

1R8 V – Variation – Hornsby's Direct

Class 5.8

This direct finish replaces the last two pitches with steeper, harder climbing. Pitch 5 (120 feet): From the top of pitch 4, climb shallow dihedrals (Class 5.6) to a ledge below a steep section. Pitch 6 (140 feet): Climb a right-facing dihedral and pass a roof (Class 5.8) to reach Broadway.

1R9 – Longs Peak – Notch Couloir *Classic*

<i>From Longs Peak TH at 9,400'</i>	<i>548 RP</i>	<i>11.4 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' total</i>	<i>Class 5.2, Steep Snow/Ice</i>
<i>With descent of North Face</i>	<i>564 RP</i>	<i>12.2 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' total</i>	<i>Class 5.2, Steep Snow/Ice</i>
<i>With descent of Keyhole</i>	<i>567 RP</i>	<i>12.9 mi RT</i>	<i>4,855' net; 5,055' total</i>	<i>Class 5.2, Steep Snow/Ice</i>

When it is in good condition, this is the most spectacular snow climb in the park. The Notch Couloir rises from Broadway to the Notch on Longs' east face. Prior to mid-June, the couloir may still be avalanching. It is in the best condition for snow climbing from mid-June to mid-July. By August the snow melts and the couloir no longer provides a snow climb, but often an intermittent ice climb. Conditions vary greatly in this couloir, so you should study it carefully before undertaking an ascent.

Follow the Kieners Route (1R6) to the bottom of the Notch Couloir. Climb the couloir as it twists up the face to the Notch. The couloir is not consistent in its steepness, and there are short, steep sections along the way. In particular, there is a narrow crux halfway up. There are several places where you can escape north (right) onto the upper part of the Kieners Route. The angle in the couloir eases as you approach the Notch and, once past the narrow crux, it is best to continue all the way into the Notch.