

these  
are the  
QUOTES  
of our  
ROPES...

# Telluride Rocks 3rd Edition

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# Introduction

## About This GuideBook

This book covers selected rock climbing and bouldering areas in the east end of San Miguel County of southwest Colorado. Over 450 routes are recorded, as are some of the many bouldering spots in the area. A more detailed guide to area bouldering is in the works. Classic high country climbs on some of Telluride's surrounding peaks are recorded in the final chapter. For information and updates please visit: [www.mountainworldmedia/info.html](http://www.mountainworldmedia/info.html) .

## The Climbs

Most of the climbs in this guide have been repeated by the authors and friends; nevertheless, the information here is only approximate—use good judgment and climb at your own risk. This guide records only selected routes in various areas—routes of poor quality that requiring hammer aid are omitted.

Rock climbs in this guide range from 30 to 900+' long; most are short, less than 80' high. Many of the climbs are bolt-protected, the others require gear. A selection of 2-3 sets of cams and wired nuts is sufficient for most gear routes. Some bolted routes require as many as 25 quickdraws. A 60m rope is recommended and two ropes are needed for descents on the Ophir Wall and in Bear Creek. Some routes are equipped with fixed belay/rappel anchors on top, however many routes, especially in Ophir, lack a lot of fixed gear. Many of the routes in this guide have seen only a few ascents, therefore ratings should be considered tentative. High country climbs usually require an ice axe and crampons for approaches and descents and loose rock makes a helmet advisable.

## Seriousness Warnings

PG 13: Long fall possible, but fairly safe when led by an experienced climber

R: Could be serious consequences in event of a fall, injury not unlikely

X: Potentially very serious consequences in a fall, serious injury or death not unlikely. Lack of a seriousness warning does not imply that a climb is safe.

All climbing is dangerous; risk cannot be eliminated from the sport. Many of the routes in this guide are serious undertakings that should only be attempted by experienced climbers.

## Quality Ratings

Some routes are rated for quality:

- \* Pretty darn good
- \*\* Highly recommended
- \*\*\* Excellent climb, gotta do

Routes without a star are still worth climbing.

## New Route Information

People who contributed to the establishment of a route or an area are noted, along with dates and other information, when known. Please send all new route information or corrections to: [info@mountainworldmedia.com](mailto:info@mountainworldmedia.com) .

## Access

Most of the climbing areas in this guide are located on USFS land, however, there are some that are either on private land or cross it for access. Restrictions are in place in numerous areas in this guide, please read the restrictions as noted throughout and check locally for changes. Inclusion of a route or mountain in this book does not imply that access is guaranteed. For current status, check locally or contact The Access Fund ([www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org), 303-545-6772).

## Seasons

Climbing is possible year-round, but the prime time for most crags is from mid-spring through late fall. Summertime is the best time for climbing in the region; however, afternoon thundershowers are common. For high country climbs, including rock routes in Bear Creek, mid-June through mid-September is the best time.

## Camping

There are a few free camping spots near the climbs; the parking area at the base of the Ophir Wall is one such area. Important: Limit the impacts from camping here! Campfires are banned during periods of high wildfire danger. Camping is no longer allowed in the east end of the Telluride Valley and in most of the Ilium Valley due to high impacts. Pay camping areas, opened seasonally (late spring until mid fall) include: Telluride Town Park: East end of town. Sunshine Campground (USFS): Between Telluride and Ophir on Highway 145. Matterhorn Campground (USFS): A few miles south of the Ophir Wall on Highway 145. Ilium Campground (USFS): On the Ilium Road a few miles west of the Ophir Wall.

## Services

Telluride is the nearest town with a full range of services, including grocery stores, lodging, and gas. Sawpit and Placerville have some limited services, including gas, food and beer. There are several outdoor shops in Telluride and a number of local climbing guide services.

## Nearby Climbing Areas

Our other book, *The Wild Wild West*, records many sandstone climbing areas to the west, including Paradox Valley, Big Gypsum Valley, Naturita and Norwood.

## Emergency Medical

The closest clinic is in Telluride on Pacific St and Townsend St. Call 911.

## Minimize Visual Impacts

Remove all garbage and incidental climbers' shwag such as slings, tape, back-off 'biners and abandoned gear. Always camouflage fixed anchors. Be discrete. Dispose of human waste properly: Use toilets where available, otherwise, bury it or pack it out.

Use Existing Trails and camp in designated or pre-existing sites.

## Do Not Disturb Cultural Or Historic Artifacts

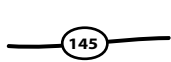
Areas described in this guide contain many archeological sites; it is a Federal crime to disturb them. Ruins older than 50 years are considered historic and are protected by law. Federal land managers commonly enforce a 50' buffer around rock art and other cultural sites.

## Fixed Anchors

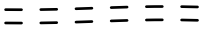
All fixed gear should be placed for safety and resource preservation only, not for convenience. Webbing anchors should be avoided—they degrade quickly and are unsightly. Many of the routes in this guide have fixed anchors. It is imperative that climbers visually inspect these anchors and be prepared to fix or replace those that are deemed unsafe. Some routes do not have fixed anchors due to poor rock, so plan accordingly. Do not lower directly off fixed anchors—they will wear out quickly and become dangerous.



# Map and Topo Symbols



paved road  
(with designation)



dirt road



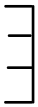
trail



crack



left facing corner



right facing corner



ledge



roof



chimney



groove or  
straight-in corner



arete or outside edge



fixed protection



fixed pin

XX fixed anchor

face climbing



cliffband



boulder or tower

descent



major descent  
path/fixed  
anchor



tree



bush



***Approximate range  
of cracks:***

thin - less than 1/2"

fingers - 1/2" to 1 1/2"

hands - 1 1/2" to 3"

fist - 3" to 4 1/2"

ow - 4 1/2"+

# How To Use This Book

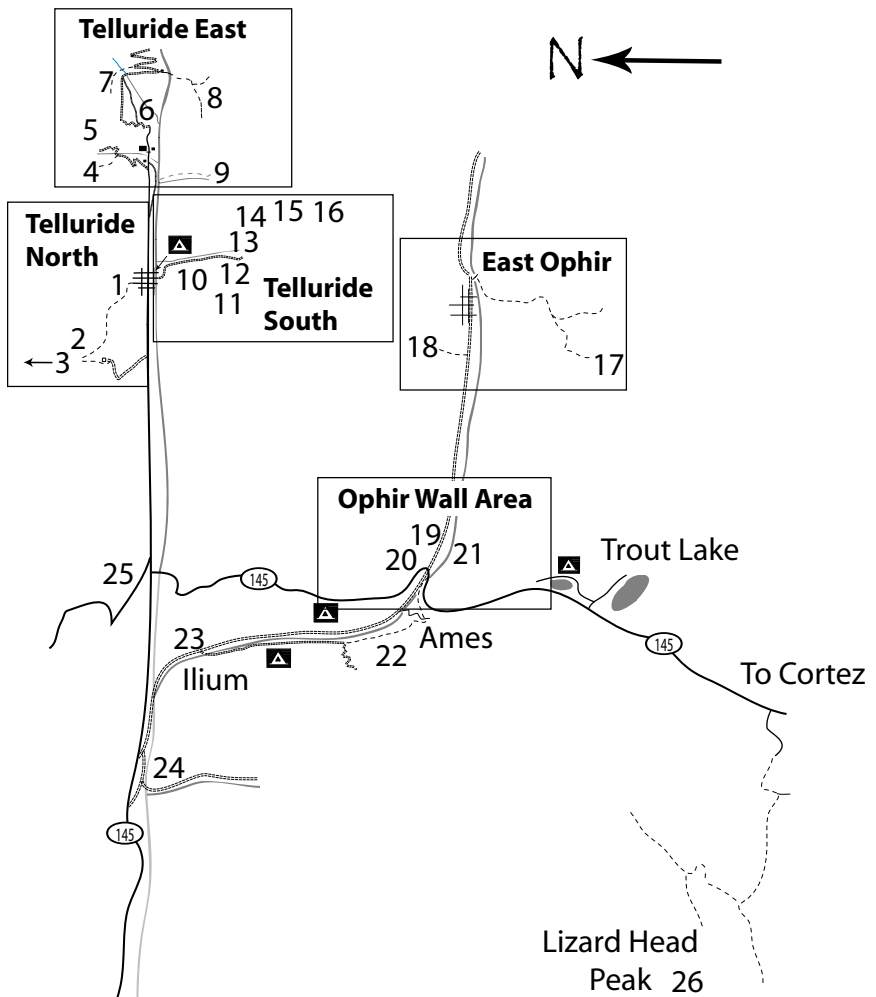
This book breaks down the climbing into three categories: rock climbing, bouldering and mountains. The rock climbing portion of this book is broken down into five parts: Telluride North, Telluride East, Telluride South, Ophir and Ames (see Telluride Area Map to the right). Bouldering has been treated in brief. Lastly, the mountain section of this book has been expanded to incorporate more mountain peaks and more accurate information than did previous editions of this guide. Climb safe!

## First Ascents (FA)

The following people are acknowledged for establishing and climbing the first ascents herein:

C. Abbot (CAb), Bert Adams (BA), Tor Anderson (TA), Conrad Anker (CA), Henry Barber (HB), Mike Bengé (MB), Chuck Berry (ChB), Doug Berry (DB), Josh Borof (JB), Chris Boskoff (CB), Jose Bouza (JB), George Braun (GB), Scott Burbank (SB), D. Byrum (DBy), Daiva Chesonis (DC), Kate Clayton (K8), M. Cody (MCo), Stan Cole (SC), Kevin Cooney (KC), Michael Covington (MC), M. Craddick (MCr), Mike Cravens (MC), Jeff Cristol (JeC), Greg Davis (GD), Lyle Dean (LD), Mark Dean (MaD), Sandy East (SE), Paul Emrick (PE), Bruce Eriksen (BE), Charlie Fowler (CF), M. Frazier (MF), Norm Gray (NG), J. Gribin (JG), Becky Hall (BH), Alex Hamilton (AH), James Hebert (JH), Paul Herbert (PH), Terry Herscher (TH), Lynn Hill (LH), Julie Hodson (JuH), Chris Holtcamp (CH), Mary Hubbard (MH), Jim Hurst (JiH), Jim Jennings (JJ), Steve Johnson (SJ), Damon Johnston (DJ), D. Jones (DJo), Chip Kamin (CK), Teri Kane (TK), Bill Kees (BK), Max Kendall (MK), Mike Kennedy (MK), Axel Koch (AK), Jack Koffman (JK), Tim Kudo (TiK), Ace Kvale (AcK), Mike Lake (ML), Dan Langmade (DL), Lance Lillian (LL), Alec Livesey (AL), Pete Livesey (PL), John Long (JL), Chip Lee (CL), Rick Lovelace (RL), Jeff Lowe (JeL), Marion Mackay (MM), Jim Manning (JM), Nathan Martin (NM), Billy Mason (BM), Dan McGee (DM), Doug Metcalf (DM), S. Moran (SM), Bill Myers (BiM), Troy Mayr (TM), Tristan Newbon (TN), John Noe (JN), Jared Ogden (JO), Timmy O'Neill (TO), Kim Pairish (KP), Allen Pattie (AP), Dave Perlman (DP), Amy Peterson (AmP), Rick Poore (RP), Alf Randell (AR), Chris Renn (CR), Dennis Richter (DR), Mona Rizzo (MR), Royal Robbins (RR), Shirley Ross (SR), Barry Rugo (BR), Anne Ryall (AnR), John Ryng (JR), Ken Sauls (KS), Antoine Savelli (AS), Andrew Sawyer (AnS), Mike Schlauch (MS), Danny Smith (DS), Scott Spencer (SS), James Stevens (JS), Sean Stogner (SeS), James Stover (JaS), Mugs Stump (MuS), Bob Sullivan (BS), Jim Sweeney (JiS), Rick Sylvester (RS), Eric Tanguay (ET), Drake Taylor (DT), Kevin Thaw (KT), Eric Trommer (ErT), Ren Turgeil (RT), John Turk (JT), Chris Vandiver (CV), Peter Walker (PW), Robin Waxman (RW), Mark Wilford (MW), John Wineburge (JW), Sue Wint (SW), Eric Wright (EW), Gary Wright (GW) ... and others. Thanks for all your hard work. Cheers!

# Telluride Area Map



- |                     |                           |                    |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Telluride Edge   | 10. Needle Rock           | 19. Cracked Canyon |
| 2. Mill Creek Wall  | 11. Sesame Street         | 20. Ophir Wall     |
| 3. Mill Creek Spire | 12. Wasatch Wall          | 21. The Dark Side  |
| 4. Pandora Wall     | 13. Wasatch Boulder       | 22. Ames Wall      |
| 5. The Good Book    | 14. Bear Creek Boulder    | 23. Ilium Boulders |
| 6. Mine Boulders    | 15. Rock of Ages Boulder  | 24. Bilk Wall      |
| 7. Pipeline Wall    | 16. Wasatch Mtn Wall      | 25. Society Turn   |
| 8. Falls Walls      | 17. Wall of Justice       | 26. Lizard Head    |
| 9. Last Light Wall  | 18. Gertrude's Bell Spire |                    |

# TELLURIDE NORTH

