

# NORTHEAST RIDGE OF THE PINNACLE (III 5.7)

Huntington Ravine, Mount Washington, New Hampshire

Storied ridge-running in alpine New England



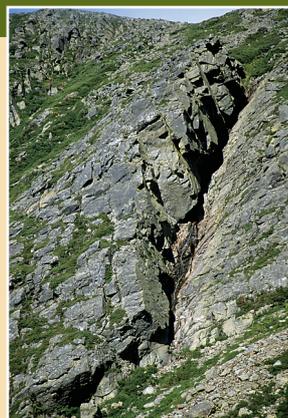
Unknown climbers on a summer ascent of the Northeast Ridge of the Pinnacle (III 5.7), Huntington Ravine, New Hampshire.

WHILE NEW HAMPSHIRE'S ROUNDED TOPOGRAPHY makes long ridge routes scarce, there are some gems, including the seven-pitch Northeast Ridge of Pinnacle Buttress (the Pinnacle), in Mount Washington's Huntington Ravine. The peak is infamous for extreme weather and record-breaking winds, but on a nice day in August 1910, George A. Flagg, Mayo Tollman, Paul Bradley, and "Mr. Dennis" made the FA of the Pinnacle via *The Old Route* (II 5.5)—the first documented roped ascent of technical terrain in the White Mountains. It was here that North American climbing, in the modern sense, came to be...even if the climbers used clothesline (or a horse rope) and knew no belay techniques.

In the following years, teams made partial ascents of the nearly 800-foot-long Northeast Ridge, on which *The Old Route* finishes, but

to the ridge proper. After some fourth class, you reach a 5.7 dihedral, followed by P4's Allis Chimney—a weird, tapering squeeze. A few ancient pins here provide nominal protection as you heave into the punishing slot.

From a ledge, the route rambles on easy terrain back ridge-ward, where it leads out onto the sixth pitch and the spectacular "fairy-tale traverse." This improbable 5.3 hand traverse crosses a green, lichen-covered wall that hangs over 500 feet of air. Far below bubbles the stream that forms *Central Gully* (II, WI2) in the winter. Two more pitches of easy climbing and traversing put you atop the Pinnacle, with the summit cone of Mount Washington behind you and the Atlantic Ocean squarely ahead. ⚔



## The Beta

**Guidebook:** *Rock Climbs in the White Mountains of New Hampshire*, Third Edition, by Ed Webster (Mountain Imagery, 1996)

**Guide Services:** Eastern Mountain Sports Climbing School—[emsclimb.com](http://emsclimb.com); International Mountain Climbing School—[ime-usa.com](http://ime-usa.com); Mahoney Alpine Adventures—[newhampshireiceclimbing.com](http://newhampshireiceclimbing.com); Synnott Mountain Guides—[synnottmountainguides.com](http://synnottmountainguides.com)

**Equipment Shops:** Eastern Mountain Sports—[ems.com](http://ems.com); International Mountain Equipment—[ime-usa.com](http://ime-usa.com); Ragged Mountain Equipment—(603) 356-3042

**Season:** For a pure-rock experience, best is late May thru early October.

**Rack:** Cams from 1 to 3", small Tricams, nuts, extendable draws

**Topo:** Visit [climbing.com/exclusive/classicclimbs](http://climbing.com/exclusive/classicclimbs) for topo, gear Beta, and a list of nearby classics.

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