

11. ENDLESS WALL

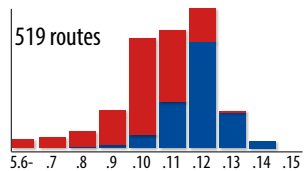


10-30 min

sun p.m.

all-day sun

SEASON: Year-round



RECOMMENDED

See page 286



Fern Creek parking area.



Nuttall parking area.



Beauty Mountain/Upper Endless parking area.

Endless Wall is the New River Gorge’s showpiece crag. It stretches unbroken for nearly three miles with an average height of 80 feet, and seems to have been tailor-made for climbing. Affectionately known as “Sendless Wall,” its climbs are generally steep, technical, and stout. The rock is bullet hard and rises high above the tree line, helping it dry quickly after a rain. The wall faces south and gets good sun, making the fall or spring the best season for a visit. That said, there are so many twists and turns of the wall that shade or sun can be found at nearly every sector. If you have only one day at the New River Gorge, this is the wall to visit.

APPROACH

Refer to the overview map on page 286 to familiarize yourself with the many access points along the wall. There are three main parking areas, three sets of ladder access points, and multiple rappel points.

THE PARKING AREAS

1. From Court St 16 in Fayetteville head north on Hwy 19 for 2.3 miles. Turn right on Lansing Rd and continue down Lansing for 1.3 miles to the **Fern Creek parking area**. This is the best parking area for all routes downstream (climber’s left) of Diamond Point.
2. Another 0.5 miles past the Fern Creek parking area is the **Nuttall parking area**. This is the best parking area for routes upstream (climber’s right) of Diamond Point all the way to the Cirque and the downstream end of Upper Endless.

ENDLESS WALL LEFT



3. Continuing another 1 mile past the Nuttall parking area you will come to **Beauty Mtn. Rd**. Turn right and drive 150 yards to a three-way split in the road. Park straight in between the middle and right fork, leaving plenty of room for others. This is the parking area for the upstream end of Upper Endless as well as the Super Mario area.

THE APPROACHES

The Endless Wall Trail leaves the Fern Creek parking lot and winds its way through a beautiful hemlock forest, eventually crossing Fern Creek at a footbridge. Shortly after that, you will find yourself at the rim of the gorge. The trail continues along the rim all the way to the Cirque where it cuts back out to the road at the Nuttall parking area. Access points will be listed in this order (west to east). Refer to the individual sections for the best approach method for the crag you want to visit.

Fern Creek Ladders: Approach from the Fern Creek parking area. You will reach the rim of the gorge at a sign indicating “climbing access.” Head down the hill, down a ladder, through a corridor, and down a ladder. This is the best approach for all the Fern Point areas as well as Idol Point and the Kaymoor Slabs. Total hiking time to the ladders is about 15 minutes.

Diamond Point Rappel: This rappel point is about a 20-minute hike from either the Fern Creek or Nuttall parking area. Look for the “Diamond Point Overlook” sign. You can also access the rappel anchors atop *Remission* — they are located at a dead tree that stands below the rim on the downstream end. Use extreme caution. This is a fast access for Diamond Point and the Kaymoor Slabs. The rappel is 85 feet, and a 50-meter rope is just long enough for a single-rope rappel.

Honeymooner’s Ladders: Most people park at the Nuttall parking area. Hike along the trail until you reach the rim of the gorge at the top of the Cirque Ladders. Turn right and hike downstream along the rim of the gorge. A “climbing access” sign will indicate the turnoff after about a 20-minute hike from the car. The Honeymooner’s Ladders can be used to access everything from the Kaymoor Slabs to the Fantasy Area.

Fantasy Rappel: Park at the Nuttall parking area. Hike along the trail until you reach the rim of the gorge at the top of the Cirque Ladders. Turn right and hike downstream along the rim. About 15 minutes from the car, the trail will come fairly close to the cliff and 20 feet of well-worn trail bring you to a spectacular overlook at a tree. A bolt anchor has been added directly below the



tree to minimize impact. Use caution accessing it. A single 60-meter rope will barely get you down with rope stretch. This free-hanging rappel drops you in directly over the route *Fantasy* in the Fantasy Area (see photo at left).

Central Endless Rappel: Park at the Nuttall parking area. Hike along the trail until you reach the rim of the gorge at the top of the Cirque Ladders. Turn right and hike downstream along the rim of the gorge. About 15 minutes from the car is a stout rappel tree that hangs over the edge. This offers a speedy approach to The Undeserved Area, Kline Wall, and Jacob's Ladder Area (see photo opposite).

Jacob's Ladder: This is not a ladder at all — it is a fifth-class scramble and is best used as a climb-out. Identify it by using the route photo that appears in the Jacob's Ladder Area (page 357).

284 FANTASY RAPPEL

Cirque Ladder: Park at the Nuttall parking area. Hike along the trail until you reach the rim of the gorge at the top of the Cirque Ladders. A sign indicating "climbing access" will lead you to the ladders. This is the best access point for Mungolian Wall, the Cirque, and the section of Upper Endless downstream of the Poison Ivy Grotto. Total hiking time is about 10 minutes.

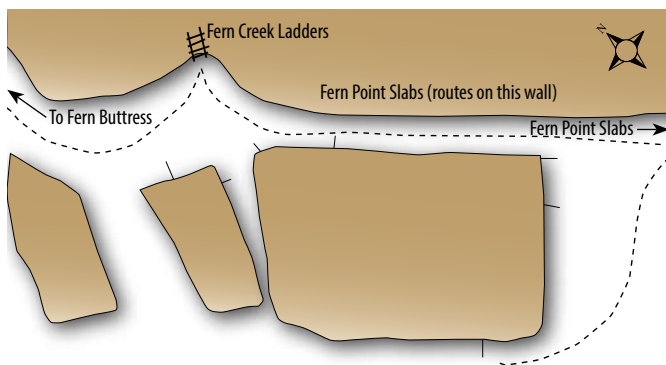
Beauty Mountain Parking: Parking off of Beauty Mountain Rd is the best way to access the Super Mario Area and the routes upstream of the Poison Ivy Grotto at Upper Endless. From the parking area, hike down the middle gravel road past a park-service gate. The road leads downhill and wraps to the right around a house-sized boulder. This is the Super Mario Area. Continuing downstream along the cliff-line (climber's left) leads to Upper Endless. The gravel road ends at a historic mine that is worth a visit.



285 CENTRAL ENDLESS RAPPEL

11.1 FERN POINT BOULDERS

A handful of routes are located on the large boulders at the base of the Fern Creek Ladders. The routes are generally short and bouldery (go figure). Due to the multifaceted shapes of the boulders, sun or shade is always available.



Approach: Park at the Fern Creek parking area. Come down the Fern Creek Ladders. The boulders are directly in front of the base of the ladders. Total approach time is about 15 minutes.

1 Standing Up in the 5.12c ★★

Big Tent
This route climbs the face on the boulder directly opposite the ladder. Fun climbing up the steep pocketed face. Part of the crux is not "dabbing" the tree.
40 ft. 3 bolts, 1 pin. no anchor. Eric Hörst, Rick Thompson 1989

2 Unnamed 5.9

Start just inside the corridor between the two boulders. Climb the very short right wall past a hard-to-see pin.
30 ft. 1 pin. no anchor. Kelly Faust 1990

3 Whip It 5.12b ★

Climb the arête just across from the base of the ladder. The name alludes to the potential airtime you might experience past the second bolt.
70 ft. 5 bolts. bolt anchor. Eric Hörst, Rick Thompson 1989

4 Salvador Raleigh's 5.12c ★★

Blow-Up Dolly
Begin inside the corridor between the boulder and the main cliff. Start by stemming between the walls to gain the first bolt. After this the back wall is "off," but stemming is a convenient way to cheat the crux and make the route 5.11.
70 ft. 6 bolts. bolt anchor. Eric Hörst, Rick Thompson 1990

5 The Ribbon 5.12a ★★

This beautiful arête is on the upstream edge of the corridor. Lieback and smear up the right side of the arête past three bolts and a bit of gear.
70 ft. 3 bolts. bolt anchor. Phil Heller, Joseph Schwartz 1988

6 Fidget 5.11c ★

Start from the ledge just left of *The Ribbon*. Angle up and right to finish just left of the arête. The name hints at the tricky protection.
70 ft. no anchor. Phil Heller, Joseph Schwartz 1988

7 Express Yourself 5.12d ★★

On the back side of the boulder is this bolted thin crack that leads to a face.
60 ft. 6 bolts. bolt anchor. Eric Hörst 1989



Tech-nicians Wanted

Do you aspire to climb some of the best technical sport routes in the world? Work your way through these classics and you'll have done just that. Applicants should bring tight shoes, precise movement, steel fingers, and the footwork of a skilled artisan.

- 5.9 *Fool Effect* ENDLESS WALL
- 5.10a *Rico Suave* KAYMOOR
- 5.10b *Strike a Scowl* ENDLESS WALL
- 5.10c *First Steps* KAYMOOR
- 5.10d *So Freakin' Fun* BUBBA CITY
- 5.11a *Tongulation* BUBBA CITY
- 5.11b *Homer Erectus* ENDLESS WALL
- 5.11c *Aesthetica* ENDLESS WALL
- 5.11d *Disturbance* BEAUTY MOUNTAIN
- 5.12a *Hell Bound for Glory* ENDLESS WALL
- 5.12b *Jesus and Tequila* ENDLESS WALL
- 5.12c *Techman* ENDLESS WALL
- 5.12d *Slash and Burn* KAYMOOR
- 5.13a *Quinsana Plus* ENDLESS WALL
- 5.13b *The Racist* ENDLESS WALL
- 5.13c *The Travisty* BEAUTY MOUNTAIN
- 5.13d *Jazz Rock Confusion* ENDLESS WALL
- 5.14a *Mango Tango* LOWER MEADOW (Vol. 2)

JON FOWLER WONDERING WHAT COMES NEXT ON *Le Futuriste* 5.12b, NEXT PAGE. PHOTO MICHAEL TURNER.



7 Can I Do It 5.10c ★★★★★

Till I Need Glasses?

A couple struggled with how to deal with their son's chronic masturbation problem. They decided to tell him that if he continued to do it with such regularity, he would likely go blind. His response was precious. Start on *Remission* but immediately traverse right to a finger crack. Continue up the crack until it is possible to traverse right again to the base of a right-facing dihedral, which is climbed to the anchors. The direct start climbs the thin crack directly below the main finger-crack section. It is 5.11a.

90 ft. bolt anchor. Rick Thompson, Mike Artz 1985

8 Straight Up and Stiff 5.11a ★★★

Start on *Can I Do It till I Need Glasses?*. Climb the first 40 feet to where the original route traverses right. Instead, continue straight up the crack to a roof. Pull onto the face and climb directly up to anchors.

90 ft. bolt anchor. Andrew Barry, Jon Regelbrugge 1985

9 Fine Motor Control 5.12a ★★

Climb the bolt line just left of *Raging Waters*. The crux comes in the first two bolts, but the climbing stays sustained. The bolts near the top are a bit spaced, so if you often find yourself a bit gripped on Endless Wall sport routes, some TCUs might ease the sting.

80 ft. 7 bolts. bolt anchor. Eric Hörst, Bob Rentka 1989

10 Raging Waters 5.11a ★★★★★

Start at the crack just left of the tree. Make sure to place good gear in the flake before committing to the crux, then crank up to a stance at the base of the right-facing corner. Stemming off the tree through this section is frowned upon. From the stance, head up the corner until it ends, step right to the left-facing corner, and climb it to a ledge. Dismiss the easier-looking climbing out right and head straight up the face to an anchor. Remember to turn around and take in the killer view of the route's namesake.

90 ft. bolt anchor. Rick Thompson, Tom Howard 1985

11 Crack a Smile 5.10a ★★

Begin at the wide hand crack 10 feet right of *Raging Waters*. Jam, grunt, and struggle your way to the top of Diamond Point.

90 ft. no anchor. Eddie Begoon, Glenn Thomas 1986

12 Strike a Scowl 5.10b ★★★

See description opposite.

13 Supersymmetry 5.7 ★★

This route climbs the huge right-facing chimney flake. Start from the high ledge and step onto the wall. Follow the flake until it ends and finish up the face to the top. Reportedly hard for the grade. Bring some big gear.

80 ft. no anchor. Andrew Barry, Mike Artz 1985

14 Palingenesis 5.12c ★★★★★

Climb the overhanging crack of *Ovine Seduction* for 35 feet to a stance. Place gear high in a slot then traverse left 15 feet. Fiddle in a key #0 C3 then use sidepulls and bad crimps to climb straight up to bigger holds and more bomber gear. Move back right 10 feet, then follow a shallow right-facing flake until it is possible to traverse left on a small horizontal crack to gain big holds that lead straight up. Double ropes recommended. Most of the climbing after the crack of *Ovine Seduction* was at one time part of two separate sport climbs bolted by Andreas Audetat in 2000 and subsequently chopped by an unknown person. Photo page 365.

95 feet. no anchor. Pat Goodman, Jessa Goebel 2011

12 Strike a Scowl 5.10b ★★★

This route was originally established as a 10d R trad route that started at the seam a few feet right of the bolt line. Start by scrambling onto the high ledge from the small corridor on the right side near *Ovine Seduction*. This ledge is a great spot to soak up the sun and view. Step off the block and finesse the delicate face and wide flake.

70 ft. 7 bolts. Eddie Begoon, Kris Kline 1987

