



Alabama Hills - California - USA

The Alabama Hills, home of some Hollywood movies. Many western classics were filmed in the area. One of the latest film was the Gladiator. But there is more than just a nice scenery. About 15% of those granite blocks have good or excellent rock for climbing.

The Alabama Hills are underneath the Sierra Nevada. Mount Whitney (14495 ft / 4419m), the highest peak in lower 48 States, and the impressive Lone Peak make the scenery very special. If you want to you can even climb/hike those peaks, but only if you are lucky enough to get a permit!

Lack of power? You will love the hills. Lots of routes are thin and technical. Trust your feet and balance up the rock. But that is not all, there are plenty of steep and overhanging climbs as well.

Mount Whitney on fire at sunrise

Type		Approach		roadside to 10 min	Altitude	4500 ft 1350m
Style		Descent		chain on two bolts	Length	up to 110 feet / 35m
Rock	Granite	Gear	240 ft / 70m, 12 quick draws, clip stick for some climbs, (maybe trad gear)		Exposure	all directions
Grade	US 5.6 - 5.13??	Protection			Commitment	

When to go

The Alabama Hills are underneath the Sierra Nevada. Those mountains keep the rain most of the time away. The sun shines often but only a few walls are actually in the sun. It is possible to climb in winter but you will chase the sun. Fall and spring are the best times. Summer might be good as well as long you climb in the morning or evening.

Restriction, Access, Ethics and Family Issues

No restrictions or access problems. Use common sense and don't leave anything behind. Some easy climbs for your kids. Excellent playground too. Dogs are allowed.

Hazards and Emergencies

Rattle Snakes and Tarantulas are common in the area. Emergency call 911.

Camping

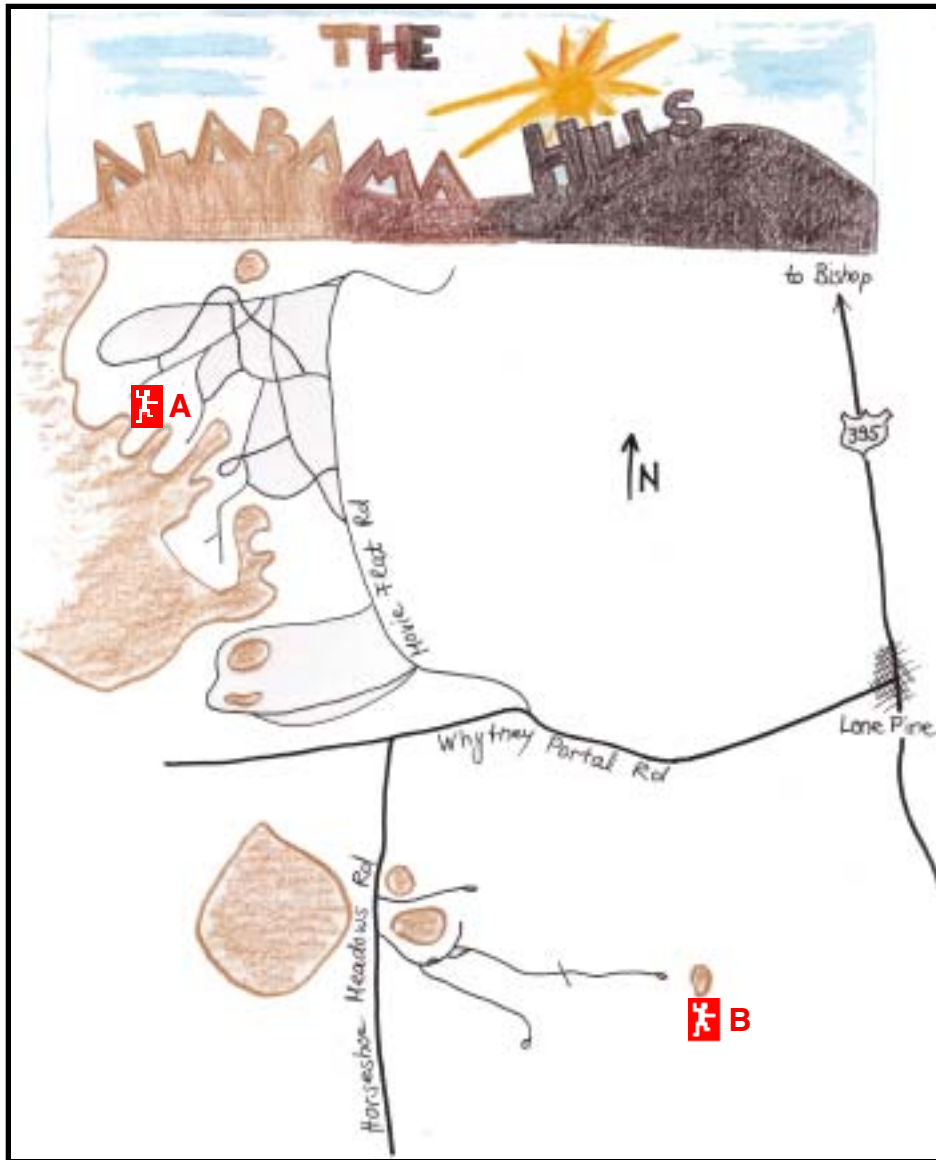
Official free camping at Tuttle Creek. Allowed to camp for free all over the hills.

Guidebooks

A Rockclimber's Guide to the Alabama Hills by Michael Strassman

Other Information

Visitor Center in Lone Pine, just follow the signs.



Getting there

Lone pine is on Highway 395, take Whitney Portal Road up to the Alabama Hills. Climbing is either on the right (North) or on the left (South of that road. For the right side take Movie Flat Road, for the right side use Horseshoe Meadows Road

Sectors

- a Western Wall Area (Page 3)
- b Whitney Cave (Page 5)

There are several other climbing areas in the Alabama Hills. If you have time just walk around and explore the area. You will find for sure more routes. Especially on the west side of Movie Flat Road (same as A) and on the east side of horseshoe Meadows Road.



The Sierra Nevada, near Lone Peak, keeping most of the bad weather away.

Sunset over Mount Whitney

The Western Wall Area

One of the best area in the Alabama Hills. Rock quality is very good and the diversity of climbs is wide. Some of the walls, especially the Tall Wall, catch a lot of sun. Not many walls in the Alabama Hills can offer that.

The Tall Wall

If you like long, technical and balanced climbing is the Tall Wall the place for you to start or end your day in the Alabama Hills. Even if you are a hardcore climber take your time and climb those easy climbs. They are a lot of fun! All climbs are bolt protected (except Banana Split). Anchors are in a good shape too.



Approach

Very obvious. The Tall Wall is just in front of the parking area. Please stay on the made trails.



- a Rotten Bananas, 5.7
- b Bananarama, 5.8
- c Banana Split, 5.9+ (Trad)



Wilfred on Bananarama, 5.8 (The Tall Wall)

The Western Wall

One of the best walls in the hills. All of the climbs here deserve best ratings. Don't count on big handholds, but trust your feed. Hardly any sun in the cold months. All routes are bolt protected and the anchors are in a good shape.



Approach

The wall is easy to see from the Tall Wall to your left. Getting there is a bit tricky. Follow the trail to your left through the creek and scramble up over and through boulders.



- a High Plains Drifter, 5.10b
- b Hang'em High, 5.10d
- c Call of the Canyon, 5.10b
- d Bad Day at Blackrock, 5.10d
- e Boom Boom Mancini, 5.10b
- f Git Along Little Doggies, .10c
- g Giddyup, 5.10a

Please notice that all routes start a bit lower behind the boulders in the front. Routes e,f,g can be done in two pitches.

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The Hangin' Tree



The Hangin' Tree

Where is this name coming from? However, the two routes can't be any better. Hardly any sun in the cold months. Both climbs are bolt protected and the anchors are in a good shape.



Approach

The wall is easy to see from the Tall Wall to your left. Getting there is a bit tricky. Follow the trail to your left through the creek and scramble up over and through boulders.

- a Redneck Cracker Motherfuckers, 5.11a
- b Flappy, 5.10c

Please notice that both routes start a bit lower. Climb a in the little canyon and b behind the boulder in the front.

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The Whitney Cave

The cave used to be a place where the teenagers hang out. Today they might still do but it is also the first camping spot to be taken by climbers. The cave has a fire pit and offers shelter from wind and rain. Best thing is that there are two routes going out of the top of the cave.

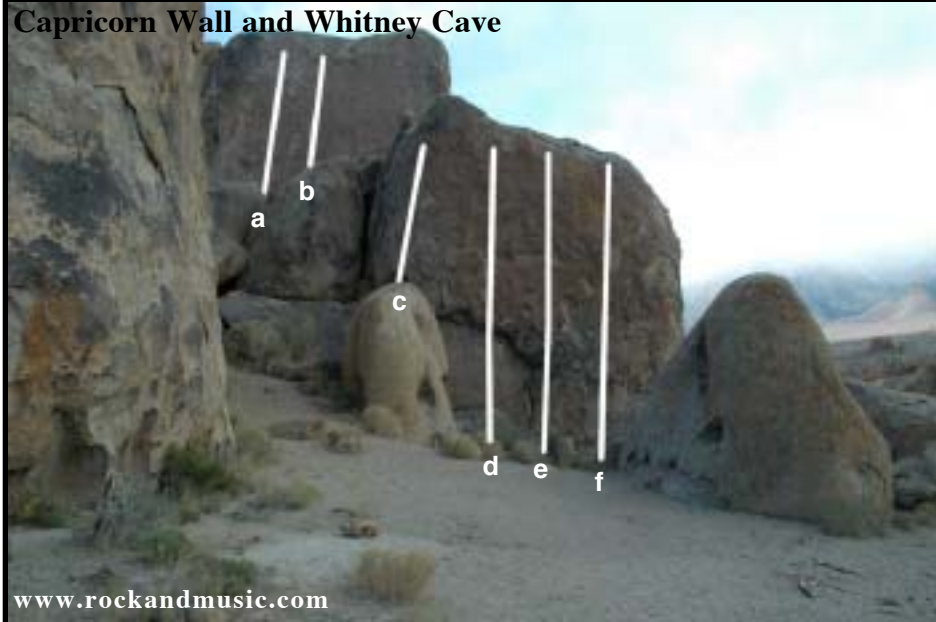
The Capricorn Wall and Whitney Cave

The climbs at the Capricorn Wall are for a change pretty powerful. The two routes out of the cave are great face climbs. Hardly any sun in the cold months. All climbs are bolt protected and the anchors are in a good shape.



Approach

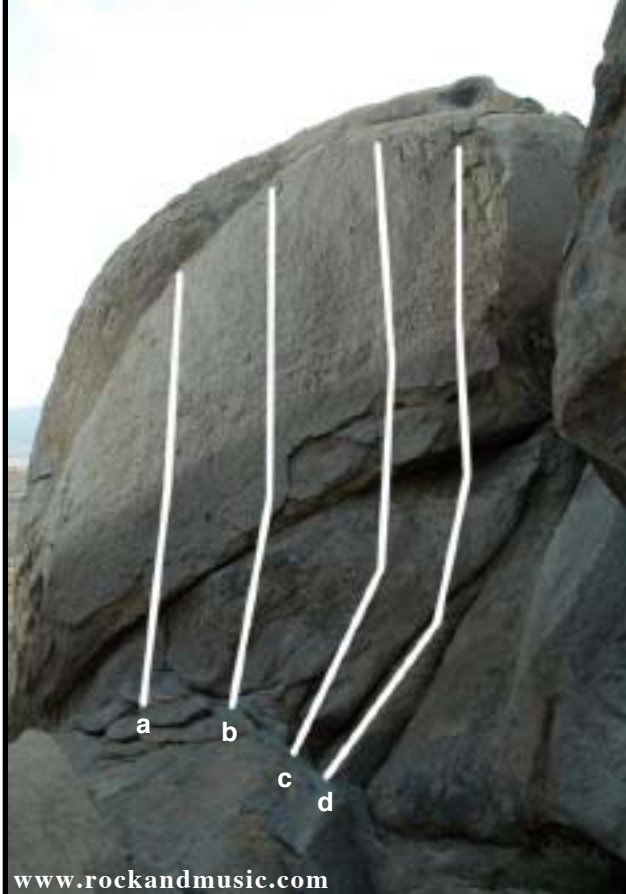
Very obvious. Capricorn Wall is just a few yards from the parking area. The entrance of the cave is a bit further up to the left.



- a Skylight, 5.10c
- b Pipe Dreams, 5.10b
- c Wounded Knee, 5.10a
- d Capricorn, 5.10c
- e Dec. 29, 5.11a
- f Happy Cappys, 5.11a

Please notice that routes a and b start out of the cave. Route c starts lower behind the boulder.

Pu Pu Platter



Pu Pu Platter

Looking for something for your hands? Keep on looking, it is hard to find. All climbs are bolt protected and anchors are in a good shape



Approach

Take a left before the entrance of the Whitney Cave and scramble up the boulders. The Pu Pu Platter is around the corner on your right.

- a Hot and Sour, 5.11c
- b Lucky Family, 5.11a
- c Why you call me alltime & make a big ha ha?, 5.10d
- d Precious Auntie, 5.10a

Services in Lone Pine:

- **Grocery:**
A little store at Main Street
- **Water / Showers:**
Boulder Creek RV Park and Campground, 2550 S. Hwy. 395, Lone Pine, CA 93545
- **Restaurant:**
The Mt. Whitney Restaurant at the junction of Main and Whitney road is a nice restaurant. Lots of pictures from movie stars
- **Internet Access:**
nothing official but there is wireless access at the bank close to Carl's Junior
- **Outdoor Gear:**
Wilson's Eastside Sports, 224 North Main street, Bishop, CA 93514, www.eastsidesports.com
Lone Pine Sporting Goods, 220 S. Main St. Lone Pine

Other activities and attractions

- **Mountain Biking** is very popular in the Alabama Hills.
- **Hiking / Back Country** A lot of possibilities. Just walk around in the hills or sign up for a permit to hike Mount Whitney.
- **Jogging** is possible all over the hills.
- **Horse Back Riding** is very popular in Lone Pine. Ask at the visitor center for rental possibilities.
- Check out www.rockandmusic.com for more information

Climbing areas close by you will find on www.rockandmusic.com

- **Owens River Gorge** in Bishop 1 hour North on Highway 395
- **Happy Boulders** in Bishop 1 hour North on Highway 395

Other climbing areas close by

- **Buttermilks** (Bouldering) in Bishop 1 hour North on Highway 395
- Lots of alpine rock climbs in the Sierras

RaM Experience Board

Always check out the RaM Experience Board before you head out to a climbing area. There might be an important message. Should you encounter anything special could we kindly ask you to add your experience/comment to the RaM Experience Board. A big thanks from all the other climbers.



above Full moon over the White Mountains
left Last sunlight above the Sierra Nevada