

Palatine Wall



► Overview

With an elevation of 8600' and nearly all-day shade, the **Palatine Wall** is a good summer option for **Mount Charleston** climbers. Although the rock quality isn't as good as **The Hood**, there are some nice sections of rock, notably on **Creamfields**, **Via Appia**, and **Cursus Honorum**. The **Second Tier** boasts a selection of moderate routes while the **Third Tier** offers more-difficult selections. Although climbing on both tiers concurrently is problematic, an empty crag is the norm.

► Season

The wall stays shaded all-day, with the exception of early mornings in June and July. In spring, seepage can be an issue on some routes and the snow pack at the base of the wall and on the ledges may impede walking. While there are many beautiful days in summer, some may find certain days too warm or too humid. Fall is the prime time to climb. Snow typically begins to fly in late September.

! Caution

The terrain on the ledges and around the crags is comprised of loose blocks and scree. Aside from the dangers of slipping and falling,

rock fall occurs

– sometimes at seemingly random times – and must be taken into consideration.

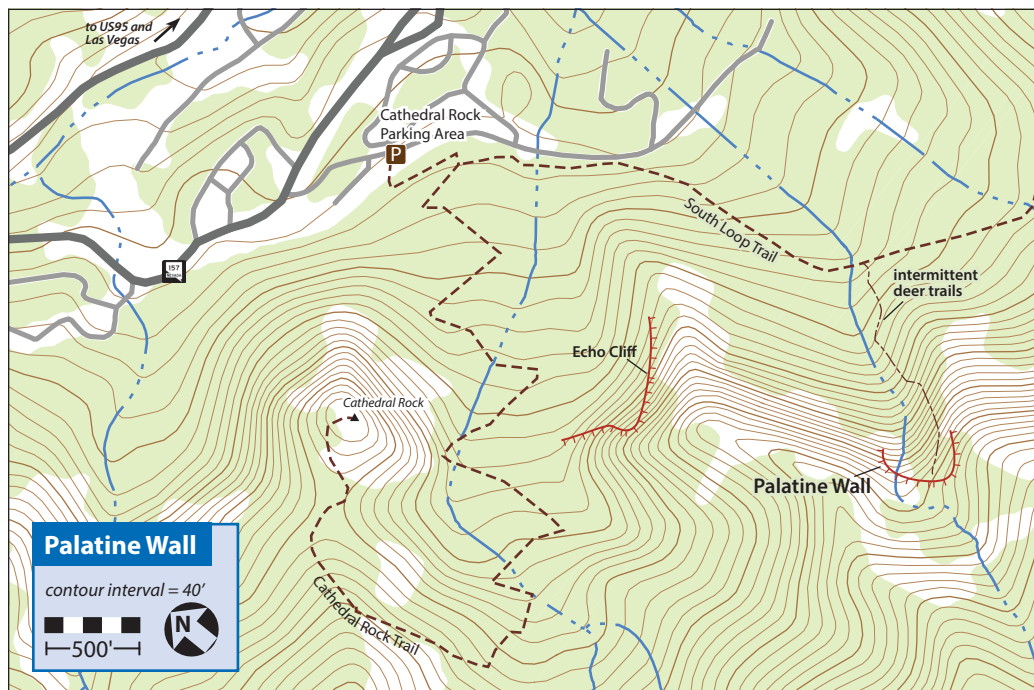
► Directions

Park at the **Cathedral Rock Trailhead**

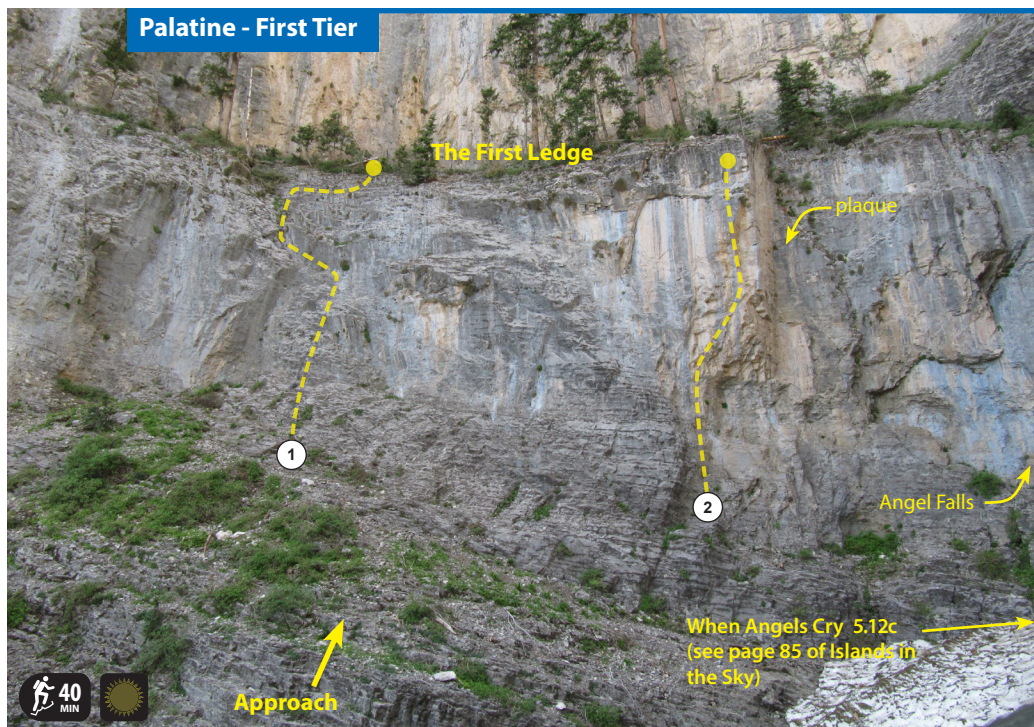
(36.256081°, -115.645504°).

Hike about 0.5 miles on the **South Loop Trail** until you can see a clean, grey and blue streaked wall with numerous right-slanting features in a deep recess about 0.25 miles right (south) of the trail (36.250051°, -115.642251°). From the **South Loop Trail** it is possible to follow the **Angel Falls** drainage up to the wall. However, the drainage is difficult to navigate due to loose rock and down trees. Therefore, it is advisable to follow the slight shoulder climbers-left (east) of the wash. Follow an intermittent set of deer tracks up the shoulder, then skirt around to the base of **The First Tier** (36.247723°, -115.643996°). Although the terrain is loose, the distance from the **South Loop Trail** to the wall is not too far. Total Approach time: 40 to 45 minutes, 0.75 miles.

Once at the wall, moving between the tiers is currently facilitated by routes ① and ⑧, which have double-rope hand lines that can be used via-ferrata style for fall protection.



Palatine - First Tier



The following two routes climb the first tier of rock immediately left of **Angel Falls**.

① **Second Tier Approach 5.4**

Bolts to LO. ~70'

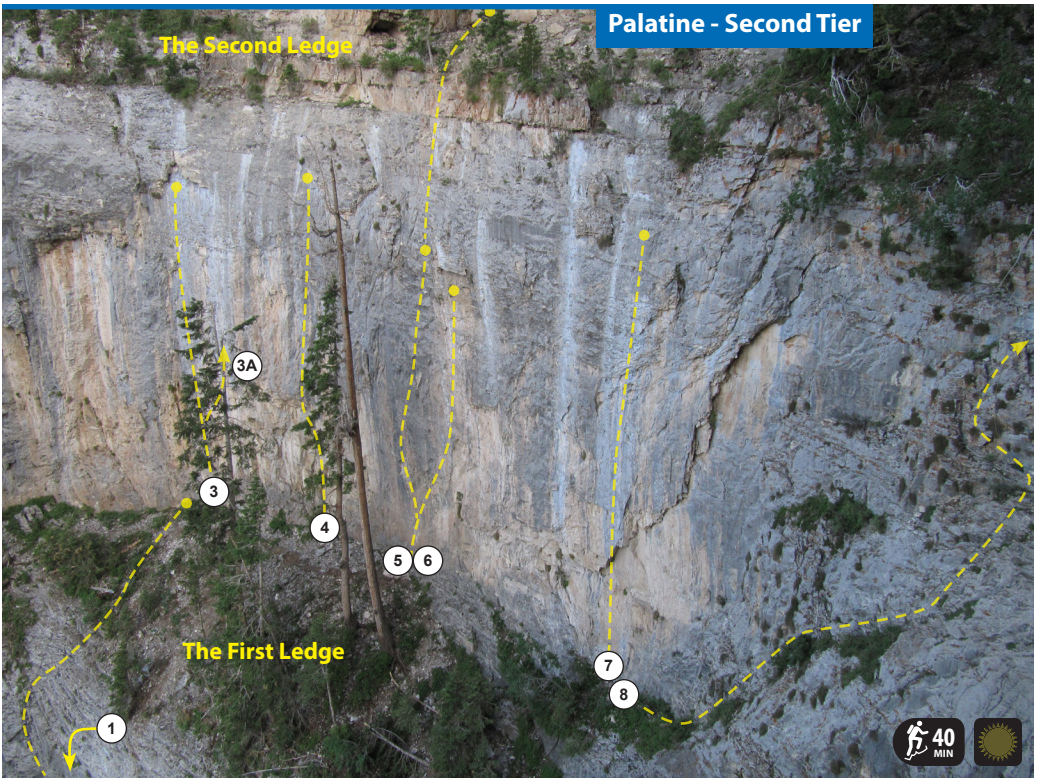
Begin about 20' right of a small dihedral. Follow the path of least resistance. Caution: loose rock in spots.

Status: There is currently a double-rope hand line in place.

② **Gatecrasher ★ ~5.11c**

4 Bolts to LO. ~60'

This route climbs the prominent prow through the first tier. Begin in a ramp-dihedral feature then follow the undercut face right to the prow which leads to the anchor. Good rock, awkward movement. It is possible to mantle above the anchor and belay from trees to access the first ledge.



The following five routes climb the second tier of rock immediately left of **Angel Falls**. The wall is roughly 100' in height and varies from just-under vertical to just-past allowing for a number of enjoyable routes with relatively easy access. There is a trail which leads from the top of the **Second Tier Approach** route to the **Third Tier Approach** route. There are belay anchors below **Creamfields** and **Angel Spray**.

③ **Creamfields** ★★ 5.12b
7 or 8 Bolts to LO. ~75'

The best route of its grade at the cliff. Begin at the left side of the wall and climb the left-most light blue streak to an anchor below a small roof. Great rock, pleasing movement.

③A **PO Wall undone**

This route breaks right from **Creamfields** and climbs the blue streak left of that route.

Status: The bolting of this route has not been completed. Ask Pat Olson.

④ **Afro Jack** ★ 5.11d
8 Bolts to LO. ~70'

Begin about 30' right of **Creamfields**. Climb through a tricky roof at ~25' and follow blue-grey rock to the anchor above.

⑤ **Tri-Tonal** ★ 5.11c
7 Bolts to LO. ~70'

Begin about 20' right of **Afro Jack**. Climb up, then left, weaving a bit to find the best sequence through the grey wall. There is a 2-bolt extension which leads to the second ledge.

⑥ **God's Kitchen** ★ ~5.11c
6 or 7 Bolts to LO. ~60'

Start as for **Tri-Tonal** and move right after the first bolt. Delicate moves lead through the whitish-brown rock to the anchor below a small roof.

⑦ **Angel Spray** ★★ 5.12a
7 Bolts to LO. ~70'

Another area gem, this blue streak offers balancy, technical climbing with, sometimes, small holds. Begin at the far right side of the first ledge. Climb up to a right-angling roof at 15' and follow the blue streak above. Sequential.

⑧ **Third Tier Approach** 5.2
Bolts to LO. ~110'

Begin as for **Angel Spray**, follow ramps and ledges up and right, then straight up to the second ledge. Caution: loose rock in spots.

Status: There is currently a double-rope hand line in place.

The following routes are on the third tier of rock immediately left of Angel Falls. The wall is roughly 220' in height and varies from just-under vertical on the left side to overhanging in the center.

There is a faint trail which leads from the top of the **Third Tier Approach** route to the base of the routes. The second ledge is narrow in spots and can be loose.

There are three anchors at the second ledge, which allow top-rope access to all routes on the second tier. To access **Creamfields** use the anchor below **Lex Julia**. To access **Afro Jack** use the anchor below **Crossing the Rubicon** with a tree-directional. To access **Tri-Tonal** and **God's Kitchen** use the same anchor, below **Crossing the Rubicon**. To access **Angel Spray** use an anchor about 25' left of where the **Third Tier Approach** route comes up.

The third ledge, is narrow (at times only a couple feet). To facilitate movement there is a hand line in place from **Via Appia** to **Crossing the Rubicon** along the third ledge.

⑨ **Via Appia** ★★ 5.12a

While the first pitch of this route is an area classic, the second is more just a way to reach the third ledge.

P1: 9 Bolts to LO. 85' (5.12a)

The first pitch climbs the white and blue streak on the left side of the third tier with sometimes creamy features. Powerful and subtle down low, technical higher up. A stick-clip is useful for the first bolt.

P2: 10 Bolts to LO. 115' (5.11c)

The second pitch features interesting stemming with a distinct crux and a fair bit of easier terrain.

Descent: Rappel Cursus Honorum with a 60m rope.

⑩ **Novus Homo** ★ 5.13a

10 Bolts to LO. 85'

Begin about 15' left of **Cursus Honorum**, climb around a roof with substantial difficulties, continue up the tannish colored face and grey slab above. Bouldery. A stick-clip is useful for the first bolt.

⑪ **Cursus Honorum** ★★★ 5.13b

A classic of the grade for Mount Charleston.

P1: 11 Bolts to LO. 85' (5.13a)

Begin off a desk-sized block and climbs a short right-angling offset then pulls around a roof into a dihedral. It exits left from the dihedral and follows the grey-tan line to an anchor. Technical, powerful, then pumpy.

P2: 7 Bolts to LO. 65' (5.13b)

The second pitch climbs the beautifully streaked, vertical face above the anchor. Sequential and balency. It may be prudent to aid-clip the second bolt to prevent a climber-belay collision.

Descent: Rappel with a 60m rope.

⑫ **Suo Anno** ★★ 5.13c

14 Bolts to LO. 120'

Begin with chossy blocks left of the two bolt anchor at head height. The unappealing start leads to much nicer climbing on the vertical face and overhang. A stick-clip is useful for the first bolt.

⑬ **Lex Julia** ★★ proj. (5.13d?)

15 Bolts to LO. 120'

Begin with a chossy flake above the two bolt anchor at head height. Attractive movement in the dihedral then a powerful finish. Shares the last two bolts with **Suo Anno**. A stick-clip is useful for the first bolt.

⑭ **Jupiter and Mars** ★ proj. (?)

Status: The bolting of this route has not been completed.

⑮ **War in Gaul** ★★ 5.13c

8 Bolts to LO. 90'

Start with the 20' step to a ledge just right of the dead tree. Bouldery sequences lead to the chain anchor at the roof.

⑯ **Casus Belli** ★ proj. (5.14+?)

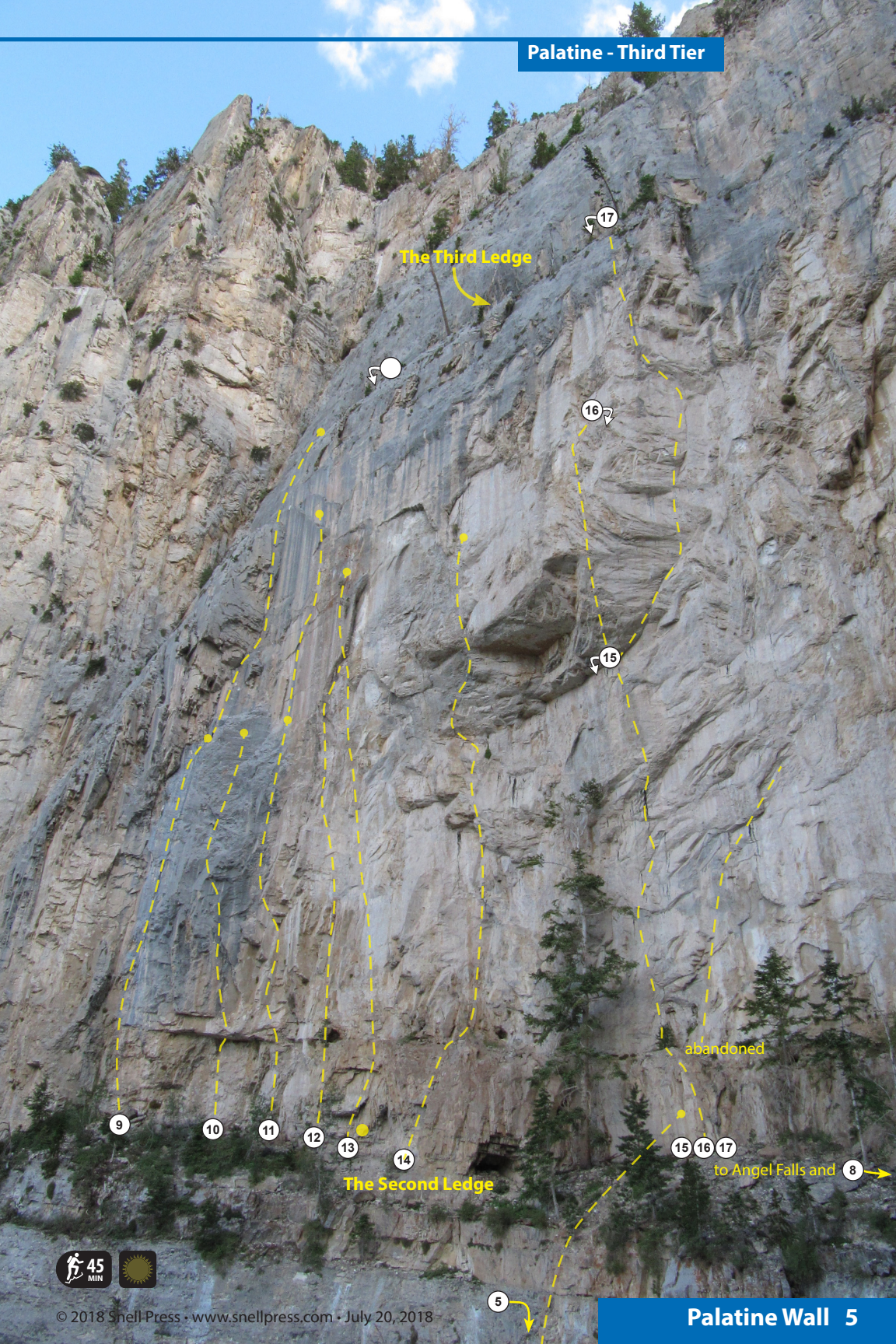
Status: The bolting of this route has not been completed.

⑰ **Crossing the Rubicon** ★★★ 5.14b

22 Bolts to LO. 215'

An epic journey, this 200' pitch has a bit of everything and climbs like a symphony of motion. The first 8 bolts feature bouldery fireworks and the remaining 14 bolts are sustained endurance climbing.

Descent: Rappel Cursus Honorum with a 60m rope.



The Third Ledge

abandoned

to Angel Falls and 8

The Second Ledge

