

Rock Formations

IMP PROFILE: This profile, a peak in Carter Range, is said to resemble a distorted human profile. It can best be seen from the Dolly Copp Road (off Route 16 in Pinkham Notch) at the monument marking the site of the Dolly Copp house. Early settlers Hayes and Dolly Copp settled in Pinkham Notch in the early 1830's. Dolly named Imp Profile which was clearly visible from her cabin door.

GIANT STAIRS: The Davis Path leaves from a large parking lot on the west side of Route 302, 2.1 miles north of the Sawyer River Road. Found on the Montalban Ridge, it is a 4.5 mile hike to these two massive steplike terraces between Mt. Resolution and Stairs Mountain that suggest giant stairs, giving Stairs Mountain its name.

LION HEAD: This profile, as seen from the Glen House, lays on the southeast shoulder of Mt. Washington. Look for the Glen House on Route 16 opposite the Mt. Washington Auto Road. Originally this formation was known as St. Anthony's Nose but around 1875 was changed to Lion Head due to its shape resembling a lion's head. The more distant crags on the left are the Hanging Cliffs of Boott Spur.

DAVIS BOULDER & GOODRICH ROCK: These two are found on the shoulder of the east peak of Mt. Osceola and can be reached by hiking the Goodrich Rock Trail, an easy 1 mile. From the parking area on Livermore Road (FR53), leave the Livermore Trail and follow an old truck road, veering left at 0.9 to the Goodrich Rock Trail. The Goodrich Rock is one of the largest glacial erratics in New Hampshire.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BOULDER: Near the Christmas Farm Inn on Route 16B in Jackson, this profile on Thorn Mountain can be seen facing Mt. Washington and the Presidential Range. Though named for George Washington, some find he more closely resembles Alfred Hitchcock.

DUCK'S HEAD: Look for this profile on a spur of Iron Mountain west of Jackson, N.H., near the Iron Mountain House. An easterly ridge descends almost to Route 16 ending in this cliff called Duck's Head. Its name was derived from the shape as seen from nearby pastures.

GLEN BOULDER: This immense rock perched on the end of the spur on a high bare ridge is found about 8 miles north of Jackson, N.H. on the west side of Route 16 (Pinkham Notch). As seen from the Glen Ellis Falls parking lot, its outline against the sky makes it look as though its about ready to topple into the Notch. For closer inspection hike the Glen Boulder Trail, a moderate to difficult 1.6 miles leaving from the same parking area.

CATHEDRAL LEDGE: Both Cathedral Ledge and White Horse Ledge can be found in the Echo Lake - Cathedral Ledge State Park. From North Conway, take the road just north of the Eastern Slope Inn and bear left onto West Side Road. The park is on the right. Check the map provided at the entrance for directions to the parking lot of Echo Lake for the best views of this ledge on the east side of the Moat Range. Look for a resemblance to a cathedral in the face of the cliff. It was named in 1859 by members of a family named Parsons but had previously been known as Harts Ledge. There is a path to the summit of this ledge as well as an auto road.

WHITE HORSE LEDGE: The face on this cliff is a light colored patch that some believe resembles a dashing white horse. Legend has it that if an unmarried woman wished to get married she would look at the cliff. If she saw a white horse, then counted to 100, the next man she saw would become her husband. The best views of this can also be seen from the Echo Lake parking lot. A 1.7 mile hike to summit leaves from the rear (east) of the parking lot.

MADISON ROCK: From Conway, take Route 16 south to Route 113. On a side road off Route 13 in Madison is one of the largest glacial "erratics" in the world. An erratic is any rock that is significantly out of place. During the ice age, this massive rock was pulled off the mountaintop and carried along by a glacier reaching this spot. It is about 3 stories high and more than 80 feet long and is designated as a National Natural Landmark.

INDEX ROCK: From Colebrook, take Route 26 to the Balsams in Dixville Notch to Mt. Sanguinari which forms the north wall of the notch. The trail starts at the Flume Brook picnic area of the Dixville Notch State Wayside on the north side of NH 26 east of the height-of-land. The trail ascends 1 mile to a ridge, then descends past Index Rock to the entrance road at the Balsams Hotel, 1.5 mile in all. A short hike with breathtaking views.

TABLE ROCK: This platform, no wider than a table, juts out from the north side of Mt. Gloriette in Dixville Notch. The vertical slabs are less than 10 feet wide at the narrowest point and extend over 100 feet from the mountain. It can be accessed from Table Rock Trail beginning at a parking area east of Lake Gloriette. It is a steep 0.3 mile path to the rock. From its 700 foot height it offers excellent views.