

ACQUIESCENCE 130m E4

Shady Circus, Wadi Ghailah

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An outstanding route up the amazing dry cascade line in the centre of Shady Circus. Thanks to regular - if infrequent - waterflow, the rock quality is excellent. There are some protection bolts but this is essentially a trad climb. Acquiescence is a must-do route for anyone with the required ability visiting the UAE.

Start as for Exit Surprise, described in the guidebook. Just a five minute horizontal walk from your vehicle.

Pitch 1: 30m F7a Follow the burly Exit Surprise corner crack for about 17m (the only chossy part of the route) until it is possible to move left carefully to a small ledge under the obvious hanging corner. Hard pulls through the overhang past two bolts to gain the corner. Follow the smooth corner for 7m on to bolt anchors.

Pitch 2: 30m F6c Bridge and layback up the amazing clean-cut dihedral on perfect but slick rock, past two bolts. Move left at the top to bolt anchors.

Pitch 3: 45m F6b+ Up the short wall left of the anchors, past one bolt, to the major horizontal break. Follow a well-defined layback crack for 7m then make a hard move right past a second bolt into another groove. More hard moves straight up lead to an obvious short chimney. Layback steeply above this, past a third bolt, then continue straight up easier cracks to reach bolt anchors on a small ledge.

Pitch 4: 25m F6b traverse 15m diagonally left on a ramp then up the wall above past three bolts, to gain the incredible eyrie ledge above the cascade.

Descent: abseil the route (needs double 60m ropes) or ascend the gully to join the normal Shady Circus descent terrace, described in the guidebook.

Gear: double set wires, double set small and mid size cams (up to Camalot #2 or equivalent), several large cams (up to Camalot #4 or equivalent) for pitch 1. All stances have double bolt anchors with abseil rings.

Don't go anywhere near this route if there is any chance of rain!

