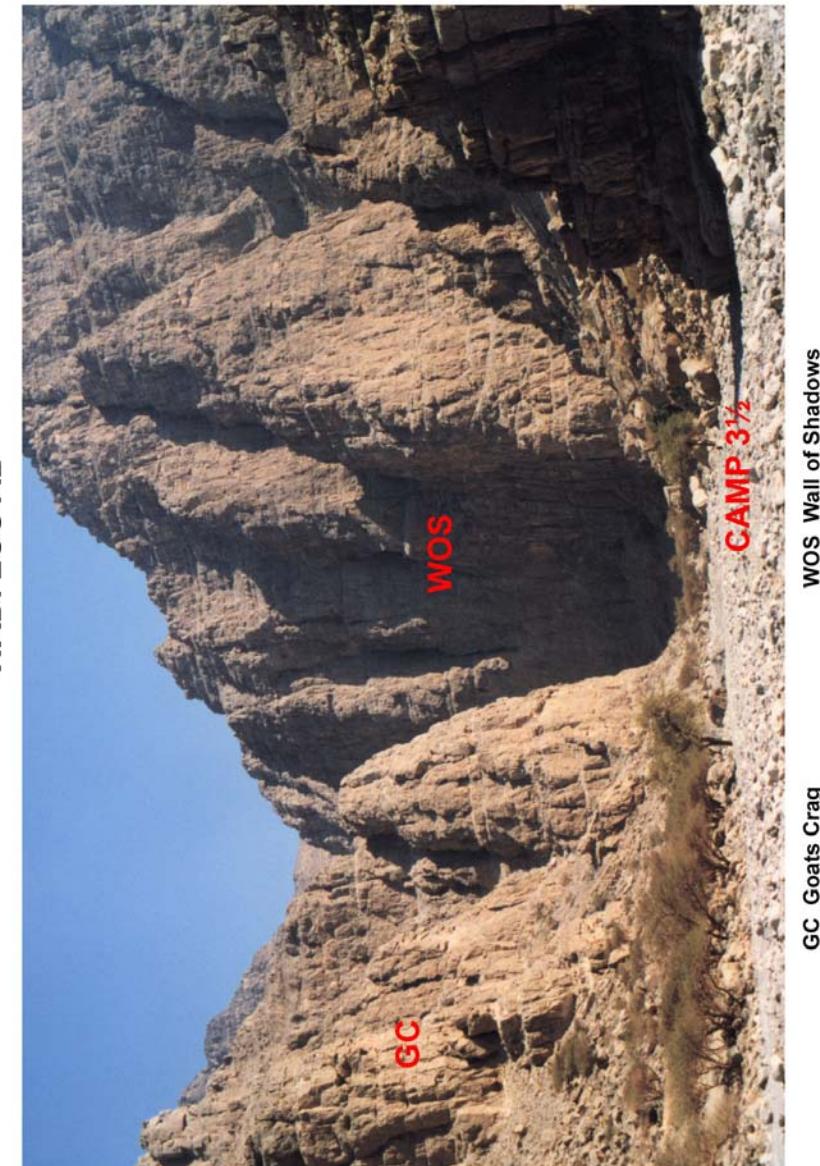


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The upper section of Wadi Bih, contains some of the best and most accessible climbing in the whole of the region, with routes of all grades and lengths, to cater for all tastes. The scope for further development is almost limitless.

WADI LOU'AB (JUNGLE BOOK CANYON)

Wadi Lou'ab, some 7.5km from the police station, is a long narrow winding canyon, leading off to the right of Wadi Bih, which contains some of the biggest rock walls in the area reaching heights over 400 metres. A small group of dwellings sit on a terrace guarding its entrance.

It is possible take a 4WD some 3 - 400m into the wadi. There are good camping spots in the wadi bed, but camping in the walled fields on the right hand side is actively discouraged by the locals DON'T DO IT. The goats are a ***ing nuisance. Don't leave any food, paper, cardboard or drafts of climbing guidebooks lying around. The goats have developed a taste for all of these items.

An excellent walking / scrambling route follows the wadi to its head, where a steep ascent of a hillside allows access to the road at the top of the Wadi Bih pass. Average time 3½ - 6 hours – although it has been done in 1¼ hours !!! A very smooth and polished 10 m section of climbing at about Difficult standard, with penalty clauses on each side, gives access to the head of the gorge. In recent times a fixed rope has appeared, but may not be present at all times.

The location of the climbing areas is given relative to the direction of approach, i.e walking up the wadi. Just above the campsite on the left side (true right) of the wadi is a fine buttress of steep rock.

GOATS CRAG - LEFT HAND



GOATS CRAG

Goats Crag is on the left-hand side, approx 300 metres from the main Wadi Bih track. The main face is about 50 to 60 metres high whilst the section on the left around 45 metres. The descent is easy as there is a convenient ledge at the top that leads to the scree slope on the left. The climbs are described from left to right. The rock is generally good as the routes were well cleaned. The crag generally faces south west, but with two distinct faces it is possible to be in the shade during the morning and again in the late afternoon.

On the left-hand wall to the right of the scree slope is a deep crack.

****VANISHING LADY 45m Sev** D.McEnery, J.Gregory 1998 May 22nd
One of the best of the easier climbs in the wadi. Superb rock and good positions.

1 18m Climb the chimney to a good stance and belay

2 27m Move up the chimney to a ledge below an off width chimney and overhang. Move a delicate traverse across the steep wall on the left round the arete and climb steeply upwards on superb holds directly to the top. It is possible but much more strenuous to tackle the off width chimney!

***SABOTAGE 45m VS 4c** J.Gregory, D.McEnery 1998 May 29th

Start 3 metres to the right of Vanishing Lady. Climb the corner crack for 25 metres to a ledge on the left. Move to the right and up across the top wall for 4 metres and then go straight up to finish just to the left of a small overhang, a good sustained climb.
To the right is an obvious gully. 8 metres right of this is a crack line.

FRENZY 40m VS 4c J.Gregory, D.McEnery 1998 May 23rd

1. 30m 4b. Climb the crack line that leads in a leftwards direction to a good ledge and belay.
2. 10m 4c. Continue up the wide crack at the back of the ledge to the top.

SUSPICION 45m VS 4c J.Gregory, D.McEnery 1998 May 23rd

Just to the right of Frenzy at the bottom of the wall is a patch of dark rock.
Start just to the left of this dark patch up a crack. The climb then follows in the same line up a series of cracks and corners, good climbing.

REBECCA 60m VS J.Gregory, D.McEnery 1998 May 15th

Start just to the right of the lowest point of the crag.
1. 30m 4c. Climb the obvious corner crack which moves rightwards around a series of overhangs to the top of a detached flake.
2. 30m 4a. Move left from the stance and up a wide crack that runs up the face above to an overhang. Move right at the overhang and straight up the undercut nose or more easily up the groove to the right.

ALFRED 60m VS J.Gregory, D.McEnery 1998 May 15th

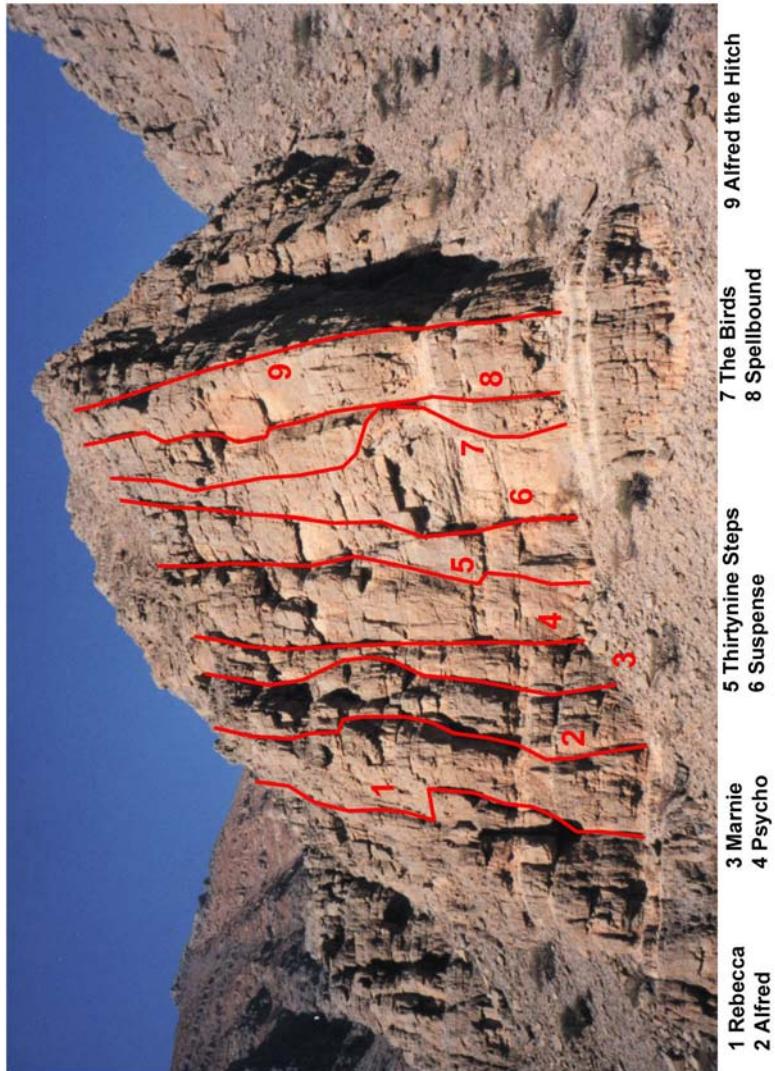
The next crack line some 10 metres around to the right from Rebecca.

1. 15m Climb the crack to a good ledge and belay.

2. 35m 4c. Continue up the crack and either go straight up over the overhang or move out to the right and then climb straight up to a ledge below a large overhang.

3. 10m Mod. Climb easily up the crack to the left of the overhang.

GOATS CRAG - RIGHT HAND



MARNIE 60m VS

Start to the left of a dead tree.

J.Gregory, D.McEnery 1998 May 15th

1. 10m. Climb easily to a ledge on a white band.

2. 35m 4c. Continue up the crack behind the belay to an overhang. Move out to the right and then bear right again before moving back leftwards to share the same belay as Alfred under the large overhang.

3. 15m 4a. Traverse right from the stance and climb the crack some 4 metres to the right.

****PSYCHO 50m E2**

T Kay, I Gregory, S Davidson 1999 Dec 31st
Above the scree slope, on the L is a jumble of boulders under the face with a crack line above

1. 25m 5c. Climb the crack for 15 metres to a bulge and where the crack is very thin. Move out to the left for 3 metres and up the edge of the wall, bold climbing, and then back into the crack to a stance.

2. 25m 4c. Continue in the same crack line to the top.

THIRTYNINE STEPS 55m E2 5c

J.Gregory, I.Gregory 1999 April 23rd
At the top of the scree at the centre of the crag is a pillar about 7 metres high.

1. 30m 5a. Climb the crack up the left side of the pillar. From the top of the pillar climb the short wall above to a band of loose rock. Move 3 metres to the left and then climb back right onto the smooth grey scoop of rock above. Climb straight up the thin crack line in the scoop to a small overhang and move right onto a good ledge and belay.

2. 25m 5c. Climb up over the bulging crack behind the stance with difficulty and up to and over a larger bulge with more difficulty (this section can be avoided by climbing around to the left). Continue more easily up the crack above to the top.

****SUSPENSE 55m E1**

I.Gregory, J.Gregory 1999 April 30th
To the right of the pillar is an obvious corner crack topped by an overhang.
The climb starts up this corner crack. A good climb with two interesting pitches.

1. 25m 5b. Climb the corner to the overhang and move delicately onto the left wall and then round onto the front wall. Pull up strenuously to reach a stance just above.

2. 30m 5b. Move 2 metres to the right and climb the crack which tends slightly rightwards. Climb over a bulge (strenuous) and continue more easily to the top.

****SPELLBOUND 60m E1**

J.Gregory, D.McEnery 1998 May 29th
On the right-hand side of the face is an obvious line with an overhang near the top. Start from a ledge some 6 metres up from the lowest point.

1. 20m. Climb the crack to a wide ledge below a corner crack.

2. 20m 4c. Climb the corner crack to a small ledge 5 metres below the overhang.

3. 20m 5b. Continue up to the overhang and then around to the right on good jams and up the crack above to a ledge and then easily to the top.

ALFRED THE HITCH 60m VS

I Gregory, J Gregory 2000 July 25th
The very right-hand arete. Follow the arete all the way finding the most interesting line.

The crag now becomes more broken and loses height as it runs round into the scree slope on the right. To the right of the scree slope a short (10-12m) overhanging wall offers some entertaining bolted sport routes.

THE GALLERY

So named because of Shihuh shooting platforms below the crag.

Six lines were climbed by the Gregory Clan during August 2000. The two cracks on the left - VS 4c, HVS 5a, and four bolted lines F6b, F6b, F6c, F6a. A further line to the right has been bolted but not yet climbed.

The next climbing is reached by a 20 minute walk up the wadi bed where steep walls rise over 400 metres in height on either side. All of the climbing to date has been done within 1.5km of the wadi entrance. Much more awaits the adventurous.

WALL OF SHADOWS

The Wall of Shadows is located on the right side of Wadi Lou'ab, 20 minutes walk from the junction with Wadi Bih. It is clearly visible from the mouth of the wadi. It has two main faces, north west and north east and is in the shade for virtually the whole day. The first 200m are very steep, but the upper part of the wall is at a shallower angle and interrupted by several terraces. The descent is quite long, approximately 1 - 1/2 hours. From the top of the wall, traverse more or less horizontally rightwards towards the west to gain the head of the descent couloir, which leads back in to Wadi Lou'ab. The couloir has two steep sections with abseils (pegs in place ?).

The North West Face of the wall has three prominent pillars. The following route takes a line up the central pillar

SHADOW BOXING 350m TD - (VS 4c) 8-10 pitches G Hornby, S Sammut 2000 Feb
Starts to the left of a flaring chimney.

- 1 Cross the chimney above the narrows, and follow the crack to a ledge.
 - 2 Trend leftwards to below some yellow overhangs, and pull through a weakness at the left hand side.
 - 3 Climb the rib above, left of a prominent crack, to a ledge.
 - 4 Follow a line of cracks, for several pitches to the top of the pillar.
- Scramble upwards to gain a horizontal traverse that eventually leads to the descent couloir.

The North East Face was the first in the Wadi to catch Antoine's eye. The first route in this important wadi, bears testament to the fact that Antoine and Bill seriously underestimated the size of the route, the length and arduous nature of the descent, and the amount of water they needed to carry on such a big route, even one that stayed in the shade all day in February. They finished the day seriously dehydrated, and in danger of becoming benighted without shelter. Needless to say they didn't make that mistake again.

WALL OF SHADOWS - CENTRAL PILLAR



SB Shadow Boxing

WALL OF SHADOWS - NORTH EAST FACE



FLS Feeling Like Shit

FEELING LIKE SHIT 350m TD (VS 4c)

A Fabre, B Wheeler 1998 Feb

Start in a corner on the right side of a small tower 20m high in the middle of the wall. The route then follows the poorly defined crack system on the right part of the wall.

1 40m: climb the corner (IV) and follow a ramp rightwards (IV) to reach a crack.

2 40m: climb the crack to reach a ledge (IV+) and traverse 5m to the right.

3 40m: climb a crack (V).

4 45m: climb vertically on poor rock (V) and then obliquely in a plate with loose flakes toward the left to reach the bottom of a corner (V delicate).

5 45m: climb the corner up to a large ledge (V).

6,7,8 40m, 40m,40m The wall becomes less steep and is cut by several terraces: continue up a crack/corner system (IV) to the top.

JUNGLE BOOK WALL

About 1km up the wadi on the left-hand side is Jungle Book Wall. This wall is very impressive and is over 400 metres high. The narrowness of the wadi means the routes are grossly foreshortened when viewed from below.

There are several main crack lines and scope for some bold routes on the walls. Some of the loose rock was taken off on the first ascents but more remains. Although the climbs are not technically difficult apart from the odd section they are very much mountain routes. Most of them will take between 5-9 hours climbing time and it would be best to carry adequate water depending on temperatures. All the climbs finish at the same level on a ledge below a scree slope. The wall faces and receives a fair amount of sun. There are shaded areas in some of the crack lines.

For the descent traverse leftwards for about 500 metres to a flattish area that overlooks Wadi Bih and Wadi Louab. At this point it is possible to pick up an old Shihuh trail in the direction of Wadi Louab. Follow this down to the top of a gully. Continue down the gully as far as an obvious square block on a spur on the left. Traverse around to the left at this level, through a hole, and down a chimney to the scree below and back into Wadi Louab.

The main feature on the left-hand end of the wall is a crack line that runs up into an obvious open book corner Shere Khan.

SHERE KHAN 305m Sev (Hard) (D+, V-)

D.McEnergy, J Gregory 1999 Feb 5th

The first main crack line at the LH end of the face. The upper section is an open book corner. The route starts up a crack that leads directly up into corner. There is a hidden cave at the start of the climb formed by an huge detached slab of rock leaning against the wall. The climb is enjoyable, on good rock, and makes a good introduction to the other climbs.

1. 35m . III Climb out of the cave around wedged blocks and up the crack.120 metres of scrambling lead to the foot of a deep wide crack line.

2. 45m II. Climb the corner.

3. 45m II. Continue in the same line.

4. 35m III. Continue up the crack, pleasant climbing, to belay in recess below a bulge.

5. 30m IV. Climb up to and out around the bulge and continue easily to under a large jammed block. Traverse 8 metres to the right along a ledge to belay below and the right of a bush.

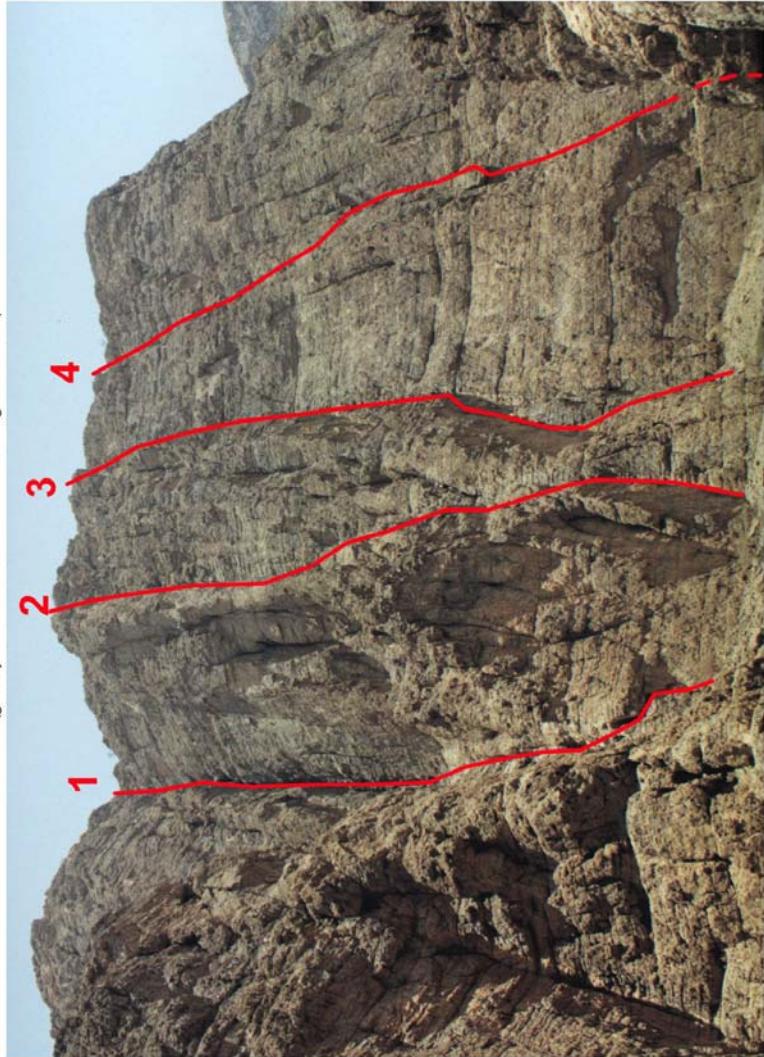
6. 45m V-. Climb the wall behind the stance for 6 metres, then traverse back to the left into the main crack line to under another overhang. Climb the wide crack to pass the overhang and up to the terrace above below the final open book corner.

7. 30m III. Climb the crack to a block with a ledge and bushes to the R.

8. 40m IV. Follow the crack line and over an awkward bulge just below the top.

JUNGLE BOOK WALL - LEFT HAND

(grossly foreshortened -- 24mm wide angle lens used)



1 Shere Khan 2 Jungle Book 3 Kaa 4 The Bear Necessities

JUNGLE BOOK WALL - CENTRE



1 The Great Corner 2 Jungle Book 3 Kaa 4 The Bear Necessities 5 Hot Spot 6 Afghan Meeting

JUNGLE BOOK 380m D+, V+

J.Gregory, D.McEnergy 1998 April 3rd

The next main crack line to the right of Shere Khan. The main crack is very loose so it is best to start on the grey rock on the right wall.

1. 40m II. Climb straight up the grey wall to a good ledge.
2. 35m V. Continue up the wall and then move left into the main crack and climb through an overhanging section and up the crack above.
3. 30m III. Continue in the same line on good rock.
4. 30m III. Continue in the same line, on good rock, to the beginning of a scrambling section.
5. 35m. Scramble up to the bottom of a steeper crack.
6. 40m III. Very pleasant climbing up the crack on solid rock.
7. 30m III. Same again.
8. 35m V. More interesting climbing that leads to a flattish area below a steep corner.
9. 40m V+. Good climbing up the corner, (crux). Belay on a ledge on the right.
10. 20m II. From the belay move into the crack at the end of the ledge and up this to wide ledge below an impressive chimney crack.
11. 45m III From the belay move L onto a large block and climb straight up the face to the top.

A harder finish would be up the chimney crack or the crack line just to the right. The finish described is probably more in keeping with the rest of the climb as the chimney crack certainly looks much harder than anything else on the route.

THE GREAT CORNER 400m TD, V+ A Fabre, B Wheeler 1998 March

The route follows a similar line but takes the challenges avoided by the previous route. Surprisingly it is only slightly more difficult, but has more loose rock. It would be possible to combine the best pitches of both routes to give an excellent alternative.

- 1,2,3 40, 45, 45m: follow the corner directly (IV, V, V).
- 4 70m: climb easily for 20m and then 50m where the corner becomes steep again (IV, V).
- 5,6 45m, 45m: Continue in the corner (IV, V).
- 7 40m: The crack and corner give good climbing(V, V+), (this section can be avoided on the right), it marks the end of the main corner line.
- 8 40m: Climb straight up 30m and traverse on a ledge to the left up to a large block (it would be possible to continue straight up but more difficult).
- 9 40m: Climb to the top of the wall (IV).

KAA 355m TD - V+

J.Gregory, D.McEnergy 1998 April 27th

Starts at a small cave at the foot of the face. Follows this line all the way up the wall. Protection is adequate on the easier pitches and plentiful on the harder pitches. The rock is mainly sound.

- 1,2,3,4 40m, 45m, 40m, 35m III. Follow a line on grey rock just to the right of the crack.
- 5 30m III. This leads to a section where the wall steepens and the crack line is topped by an overhang.
- 6 30m V+. Move left into the crack and follow the right-hand crack to the overhang. Move left under the overhang on a good hand rail and continue up the crack to a belay just above.
- 7 50m II. Continue up the crack to a grassy area and belay beneath a steep corner.
- 8 30m V. Climb the crack for a few metres to where the rock deteriorates. Move onto the right wall and up to a ledge. Traverse horizontally right for 7 metres and up to the next ledge. Traverse horizontally L for ten metres and then climb up for a short distance to a belay.
- 9 35m IV. Continue up the crack to a grassy area and belay below the final steep corner.
- 10 50m V+. Climb the right-hand crack to the top, a good pitch.

THE BEAR NECESSITIES 420m TD - J.Gregory, D.McEnergy 1998 May 8th

The next main crack line to the right of Kaa with a deep chimney at the start and an obvious arch about 150 metres up the climb. An interesting route on good rock with good protection and belays.

1. 20m. Scramble up to a good ledge at the base of the chimney.
2. 45m. V. Climb the chimney past a jammed block to a belay on the grey wall on the right.
3. 35m IV. Continue up the grey wall behind the stance and after 20 metres move left into the main crack line to a belay under jammed blocks.
4. 35m III. Climb over the blocks and continue in the crack line to a stance on the grey wall about 15 metres below the arch.
5. 35m V. Climb the wall for a couple of m and traverse round to the R. Go diagonally up to the right to the top of a detached pillar. Move back left and up to a ledge and then traverse horizontally left for 8m into a crack above the arch and up to a small stance. A good pitch.
6. 35m V-. Continue up the crack past a bulge and then a good ledge on the left to a belay 7 metres above.
7. 45m III. From the belay move right into another crack line and continue up this to below a massive detached block.
8. 40m IV-. Climb up under the block and follow a crack at the back to the top of the block. From the top of the block climb up to a ledge and then straight up the undercut wall above, with difficulty, to belay in the crack on the left.
9. 15m II. Continue up the crack to a wide ledge.
10. 45m V. Climb the steep wall behind the ledge to a crack line on the right and up this more easily to a smaller ledge and stance.
11. 40m IV. Step left into another crack line and follow this to a good ledge.
12. 20m II. Continue up a solid slab and crack to the top.

HOT SPOT 400m TD+ V+

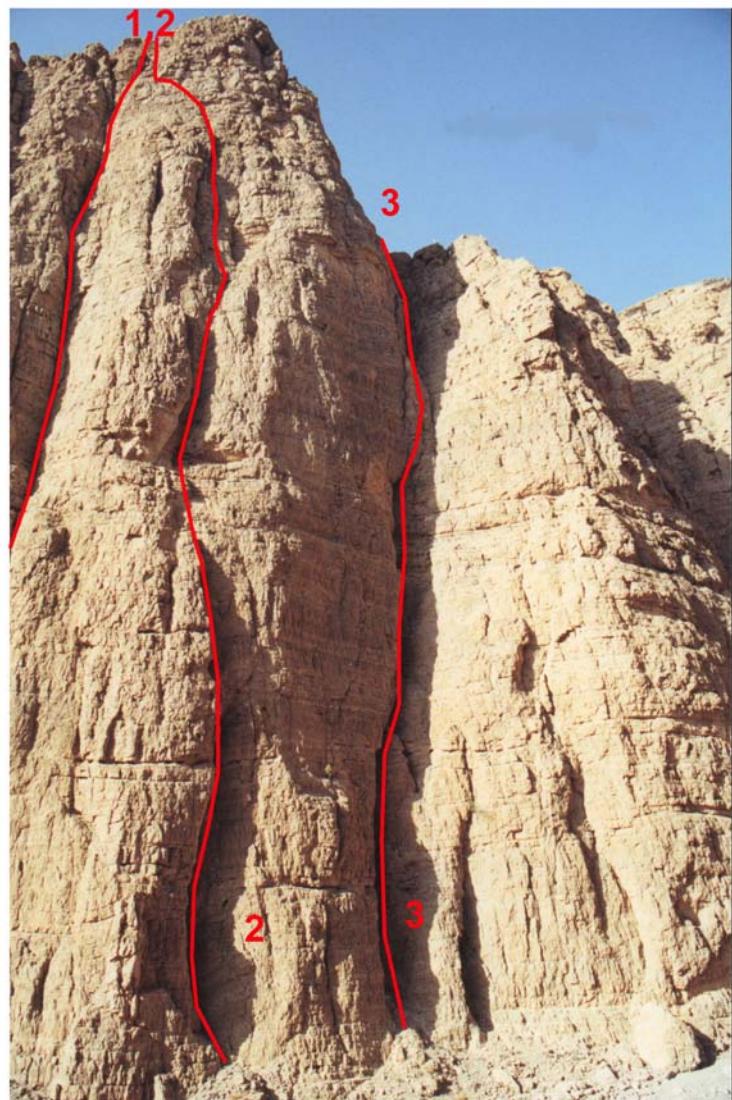
A Fabre, B Wheeler Nov 1998

The route starts 50m left of Afghan Meeting on a terrace located 20m above the base of the wall, which is gained easily (III). The route follows a major gully/ chimney/ corner/crack system which starts some 120m above the foot of the wall.

The first 100 metres (pitches 1&2) follows a poorly defined crack system which is whitish from the water cascading from the main gully system above.

- 1 45m Climb up, trending rightwards toward the main gully (V, V+, 1 peg at the belay).
- 2 45m Climb the crack leading toward the gully (V+, V, IV).
- 3 50m: Continue easily up the gully (III).
- 4 45m: Follow the gully which becomes steeper (IV) belay below the roof.
- 5 45m Climb the chimney, past the roof (V), continue in the crack line (IV) and pass a slightly overhanging crack to the right (V+).
- 6 45m: Follow the main crack line (IV, IV+) belay in a niche with wasp nests.
- 7 30m: Climb 15m up to a ledge (IV) below a small overhang in bad rock, traverse 5m left along the ledge, climb 5m straight up a corner (V) and traverse back to the right into the main crack line.
- 8 30m: follow the main crack line (V) and traverse 2m to the right and belay into a niche (junction with Afghan meeting).
- 9 35m: Move back left 2 m and climb the corner/chimney (V) and traverse to the left to belay on a ledge.
- 10 45m: Up a nice corner crack for 20m (V) to reach a ledge and continue easily to the top (III).

JUNGLE BOOK WALL - RIGHT HAND



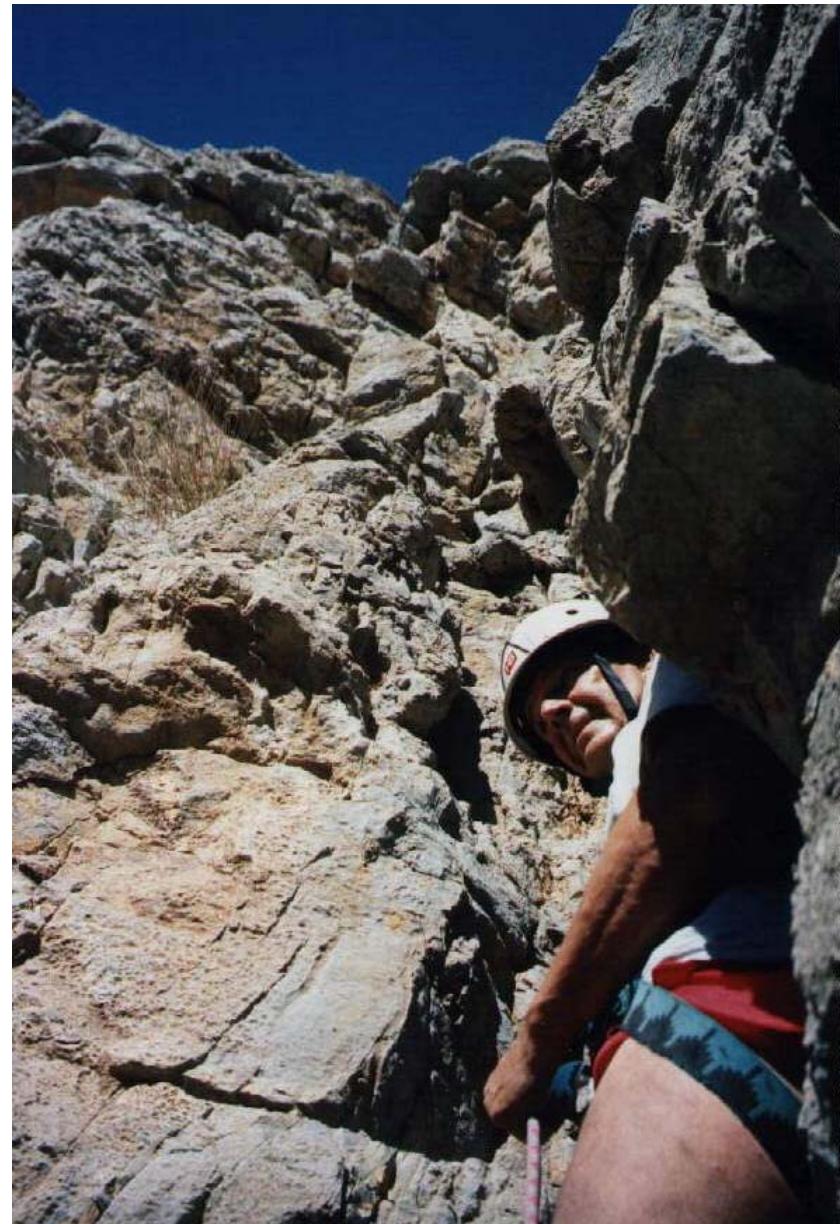
1 Hot Spot

2 Afghan Meeting

3 Mowgli

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Bill Wheeler high on the first ascent of Hot Spot
(Photo Antoine Fabre)

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AFGHAN MEETING 400m TD V

A Fabre, T Richards 1999 April

The route starts in a well defined crack/chimney system.
1 50m Follow the crack leading to a chimney (IV).

2 50m Climb in the chimney for 40m and traverse obliquely 10m up to the left to reach a ramp system. Continue on the ramp for 10m and climb up to reach the beginning of a very well defined crack/corner system

3,4,5,6,7 180 m approx. Continue up the crack / corner system for 5 pitches, each 40 - 50 m long. (IV, V). The 7th belay is on the top of a tower that marks the end of the crack system.

8 50m: Climbs up for 20m on fairly loose rock in a poorly defined crack (**DO NOT** continue toward an abandoned sling) but traverse 20m left and then 10m up to join a major chimney system, belay in a niche.

9 40m: Traverse 2 m left and climb straight up the corner/ chimney for 30m (V), exit to the left to belay.

10 50m: Climb a nice crack/corner for 20m (V) up to a ledge and continue to the top of the wall easily (III).

MOWGLI 475m TD, (V)

J.Gregory, D.McEnery 1998 May 1st

Follows a crack line on the right-hand side that runs up to shoulder at about two thirds height.

1. 50m. III Climb the wall just to the right of the main crack.
2. 45m II. Continue in the same line.
3. 40m IV. Continue up the wall passing a long overlap to the right and then move back left to belay under a brown overhang.
4. 40m IV. From the stance traverse 7 metres horizontally right and follow the crack line above.
5. 45m II. Continue easily in the same line.
6. 45m II. Continue easily in the same line.
7. 35m III. Bridge up past jammed blocks in the crack avoiding a loose brown overhang to the right to a belay behind a fig tree.
8. 35m III+. Climb past jammed boulders to a wide ledge and belay under a very large detached block.
9. 35m V. Climb up the left-hand side of the block and continue in the same line over a bulge to a ledge.
10. 40m V. Continue up the crack and a steep white groove to a wide terrace. Belay at a small block 20 metres to the left of a massive block.
11. 45m V. Climb the crack behind the block, on conglomerate rock, to a small ledge. Traverse 3 metres to the left and climb another corner crack to a good ledge just below the top.
12. 15m Climb easily to the top.

100 METRE WALL

A little further up the wadi, beyond the end of Jungle Book Wall, a prominent white cascade line is seen on the right (true left side) of the wadi.

WHITE CASCADE CRACK 100m HVS

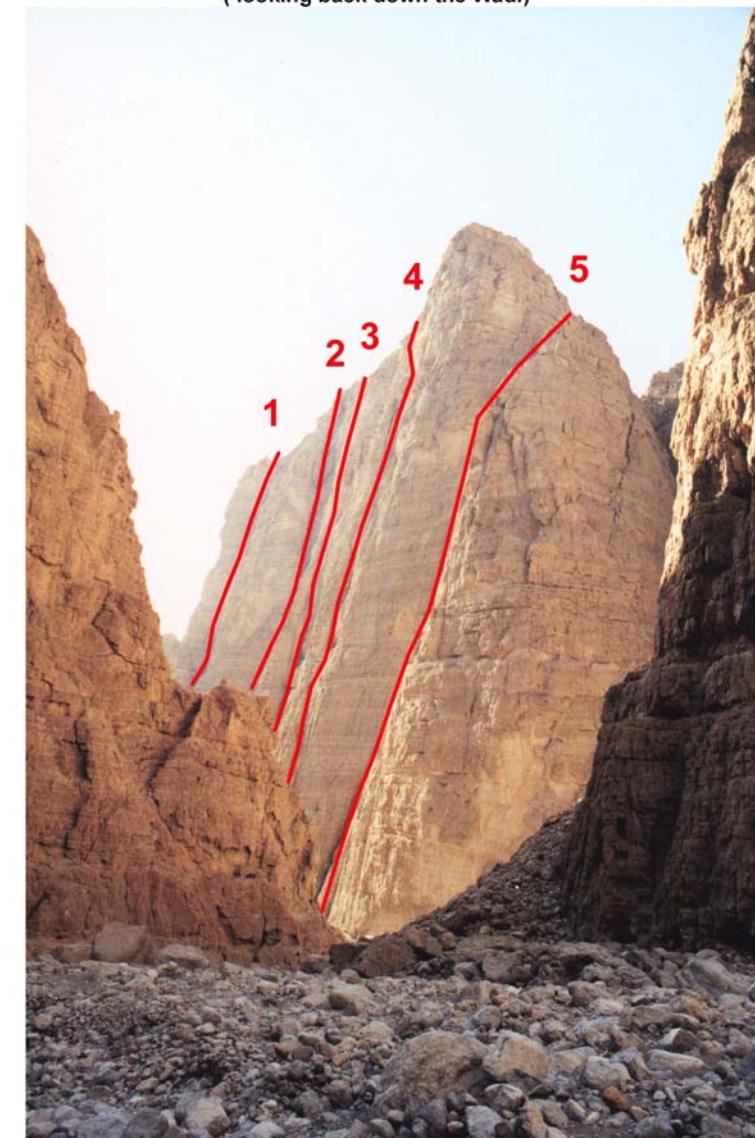
A Fabre, B Wheeler 1999

The route starts to the left of the white cascade line and then follows the main crack of the cascade line.

- 1 40m: 4b Climb to a ledge at the base of the main crack
- 2 40m: 5a Pass a small overhang to gain the crack (1 peg), and follow the crack up to a niche
- 3 20m: 4b Follow the crack which ends in a gully.
Descent is by abseil -- 2 x 50m -- Pegs left in place

JUNGLE BOOK WALL

(looking back down the Wadi)



1 Jungle Book 3 The Bare Necessities
2 Kaa

4 Afghan Meeting 5 Mowgli

The next routes are some distance further in to the wadi. Continue up the wadi bed, until a steep boulder jumble at the left hand side bars progress. The wadi takes a fairly sharp bend to the left at this point. This obstacle is bypassed by a vague track on the right. Above the track to the right is a prominent stepped pillar, with a slabby wall to its right.

STEPPED PILLAR



Juice on the Loose

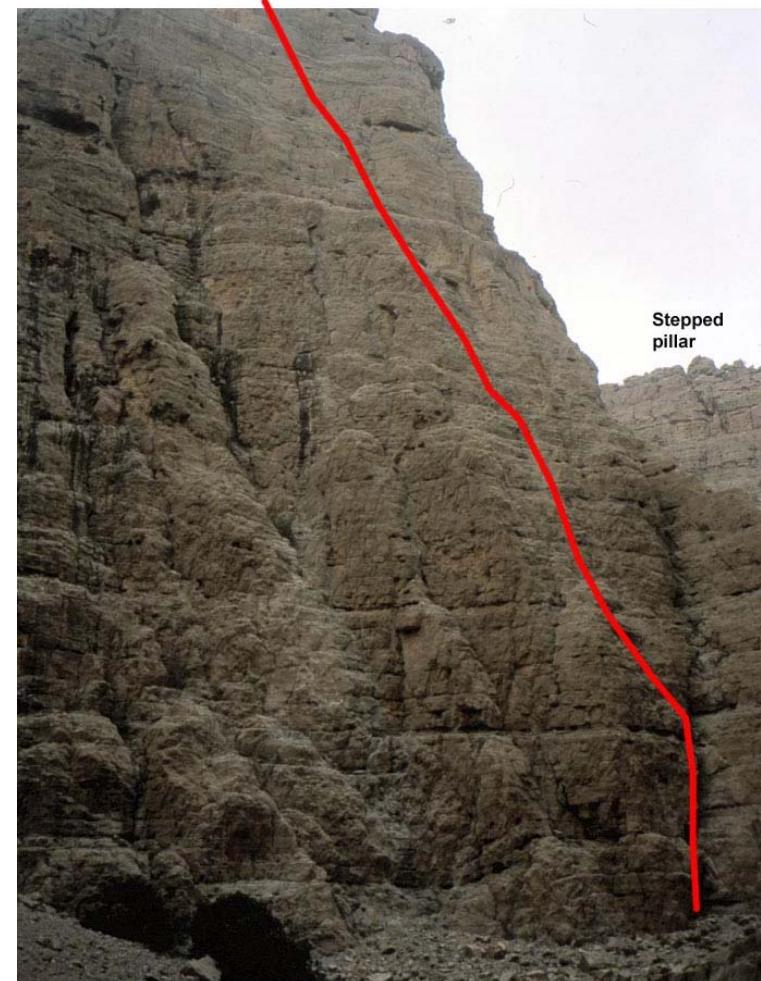
JUICE ON THE LOOSE 300m D+ (VS4c)
No description -- see diag

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To the left of the pillar is a deep recess with a further pillar to its left -- Torre Nino.

TORRE NINO



Giovanni's Wall

GIOVANNIS WALL 350m TD (HVS 5b) G Hornby, S Sammut. 2000 Feb
(named in memory of Susie Sammut's father.)

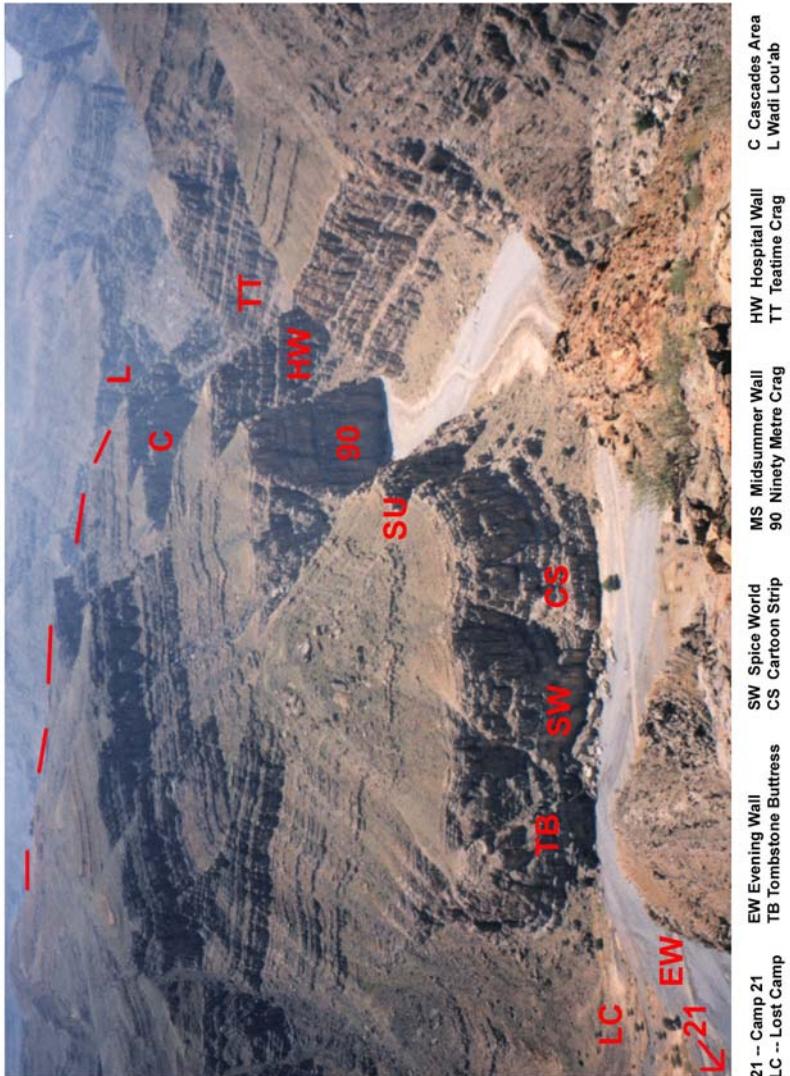
The wadi continues further, and has many more smaller cliffs, offering vast potential for the adventurous, who are prepared to walk a bit further.

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UPPER WADI BIH

(Looking south from the ridge above Evening Wall)



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UPPER WADI BIH

Upper Wadi Bih possesses the greatest concentration of accessible crags in the whole region, and is quite rightly the most popular venue. The first cliff described is located some 300 metres beyond the entrance to Wadi Lou'ab, overlooking the right side of the track.

SWANSONG BUTTRESS

It is approximately 100 metres high, with a prominent pinnacle at its base. The left side of the buttress is fairly complex, with many bulges and overhangs, whilst the right wall is more slabby. Directly above the pinnacle is a prominent crack line. Being at a less steep angle, rope drag can be a problem.

SWANSONG 80m Sev A Stark, T Richards 2000 Oct 6th

- 1 25m Starts 10m to the right of the pinnacle, below a crack. Climb the crack to a ledge, then up another crack to a broad ledge. Traverse left to the base of the main crack.
- 2 30m Climb the crack to a good stance and belay.
- 3 25m The continuation crack is climbed directly to the top, giving a fine airy finish.
(Ignore the easier alternative corner on the left.)

There is scope for many more routes on this and surrounding buttress.

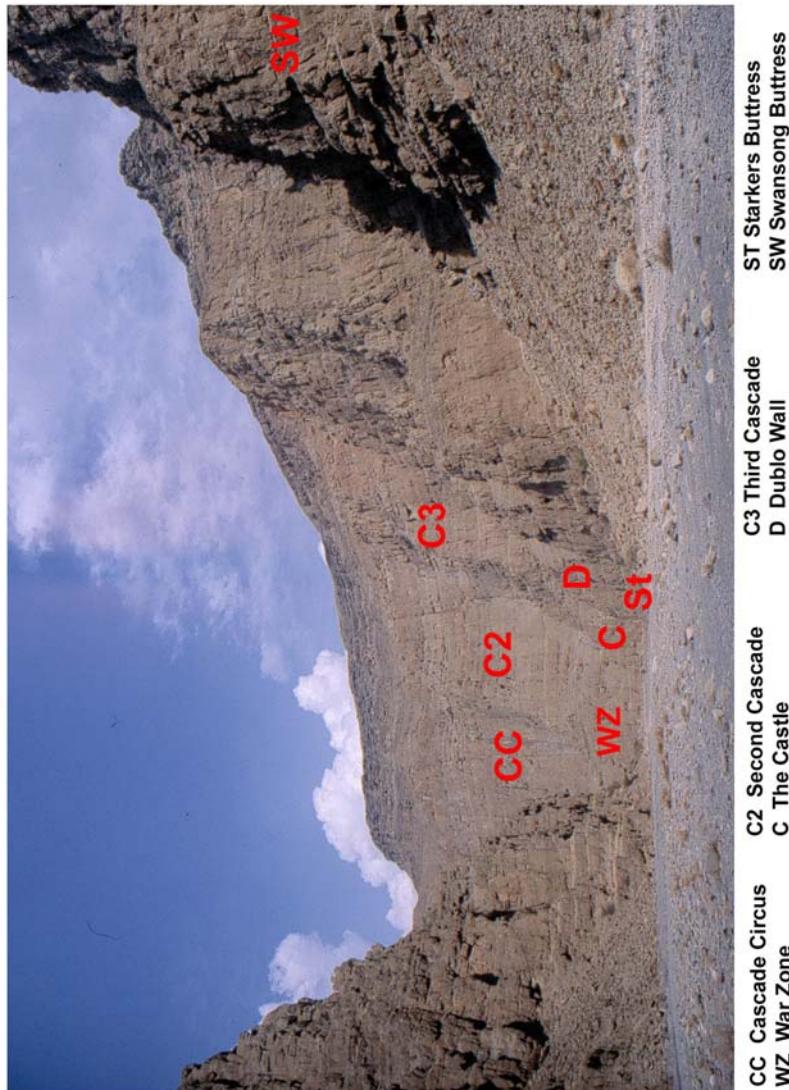


Swansong

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UPPER WADI BIH - CASCADES AREA (from the entrance to Wadi Lou'ab)

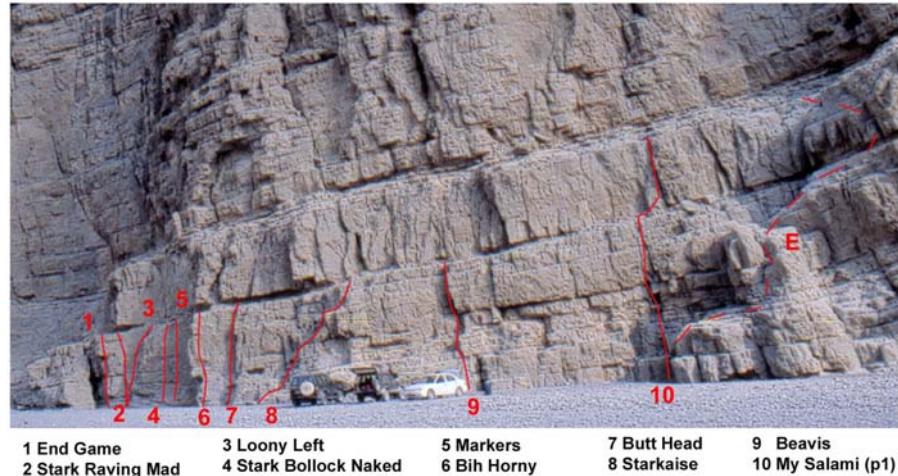


CASCADES AREA

About 1km beyond Wadi Louab, and about 8.5km from the Police post, the main wadi becomes narrower, with steep crags rising from the floor of the wadi on both sides. On the right hand side of the track is an area of steep walls, characterised by several blackened cascade lines. There are a number of distinct climbing areas, which offer a wide variety of climbing, from short single pitch beginners routes, which are suitable for top roping, to extreme multi pitch adventures on the steep walls above.

The low level crags, rising from the wadi floor are described from right to left, as one approaches up the wadi, are **Starkers Buttress**, **Dublo Wall**, **The Castle**, and **War Zone**, whilst above them are the cliffs of **Cascade Circus**, which are described from left to right, starting with **First Cascade** which lies above and left of War Zone, **Second Cascade**, which is above the Castle, and **Third Cascade**, which lies above Dublo Wall, / Starkers Buttress.

STARKERS BUTTRESS



The lowest tier of rock, some 6 - 10 metres high, lies below and to the right of Third Cascade and Dublo Wall. It offers a number of short routes or boulder problems of all grades suitable for beginners. A good practice area.

The routes are described from Left to Right. Immediately to the right of the left hand descent route is a shallow bay containing a right slanting corner.

END GAME 6m, 5a

M Ashton (solo) 2000 Mar 24th

Climb the left arete to an overhang. Pull over to the ledge.

STARK RAVING MAD 7m 4b

G Hornby (solo) 1999 Oct 31st

Climb the wall to the left of the slanting corner – penalty clause above as you top out. OUCH!

LOONY LEFT 7m Diff

A Stark (solo) 2000 Mar 16th

The right slanting corner. Traverse left along the ledge to finish.

STARK BOLLOCK NAKED 7m 5a

G Hornby (Solo) 1999 Oct 31st

Climb the blunt rib to the right.

MARKERS 7m 5b

M Ashton (solo) 2000 Mar 24th

Climb the blank wall to gain a slanting flake. Finish straight up.

HORNY BIH 8m 5a

The obvious corner, exiting right.

STARKERS 9m 5b

T Nonis, G Hornby 1999 Oct 31st

Right of the corner is an arete. Climb directly up the bulging wall to the left of the arete

BIH HORNY 9m 4b

B Wheeler, A Stark 2000 Mar 17th

The thin steep corner R of the arête is climbed avoiding holds on the arête itself.

BUTT HEAD 9m 4a

J Young (solo) 2000 Mar 16th

Right of the arete, Up the wall to gain a large hole. Straight up to the ledge.

Penalty clause above -- OUCH!! – Helmet advised

STARKAISE 15m Mod

A Stark (and cast of thousands) 2000 Mar 16th

A right slanting staircase line leads to the ledge. A good descent route.

BEAVIS 12m V Diff

A Stark, J Young 2000 Mar 16th

Further right is another corner crack. Easier for the tall.

Towards the right hand end of the buttress, the upper section becomes less broken and offers the following good route. There is still some suspect rock, but the worst has been removed.

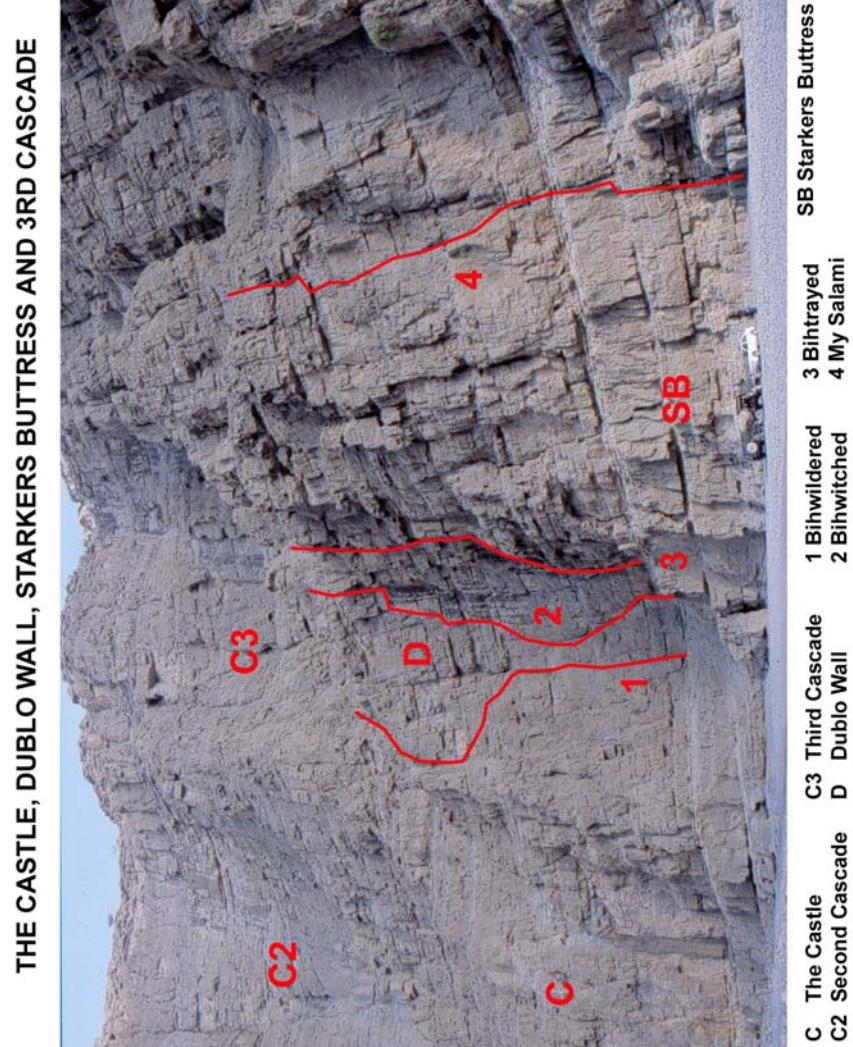
MY SALAMI 75m VS.

T Richards, A Stark 2000 Oct 6th

Start to the left of the blunt rib, which offers a decent from the lower ledge system.

1 35m 4c Climb the black water stained rock to below a block overhang. Pull over this with difficulty and climb the crack above to the first ledge. Continue up the next corner crack to a good stance and belay below the main crack line.

2 40m Climb the crack passing an awkward bulge and some suspect rock, to better holds at the foot of a thin crack. Climb the crack to below an overhang, where a delicate traverse right leads to another steep crack. Climb this to a steep and airy finish.

**THE CASTLE, DUBLO WALL, STARKERS BUTTRESS AND 3RD CASCADE**

THIRD CASCADE



DUBLO WALL and THIRD CASCADE

The **Third Cascade** is a recessed amphitheatre lying above and to the right of the **Castle**, and to the left of **Starkers Buttress**. It drains into a cleft to the right of the Castle, ending in an overhanging waterfall line. To the right of the fall line is an area of unattractive rock and broken arête which extends to the wadi floor. Further right, but to the left of Starkers Buttress, is a recessed bay (**Dublo Wall**) which starts at a higher level, and has with a number of blackened water streaks. The following routes take lines up the steep walls to a terrace, from which point, a short scramble leads up leftwards in to the amphitheatre below Third Cascade. The amphitheatre can also be reached easily from the Gully between the Castle and War Zone.

Routes are described from left to right.

BIHWILDERED 300m TD VI (E2 5c -- last pitch only) 100m VS 4c -- to terrace

P Ramsden, G Hornby (p1 - 3) 1999 Nov 2nd
G Hornby, S Sammut (p4 - 10) 2000 Jan 24th

The only route so far to climb the Third Cascade starts in the centre of Dublo Wall, before breaking leftwards to the terrace. It is possible to escape at this point. Scrambling then gives access to the upper pitches.

1 40m 4c Starts at a jutting block near the centre of the back of the recess, below a vertical crack. Climb the crack, passing to the left of a small green bush, to gain the ledge above.

2 35m 4b Thin moves leftwards lead to an easy rising traverse line and chimney.

3 25m 4a Climb the chimney / corner to the terrace.

From this point you can either escape via ledges to the left (as for the other climbs on the lower wall) or scramble upwards to a stance below the obvious cleft of the upper cascade.

4,5,6 VDiff / Severe 105m Climb the grey rock some 5m left of the obvious crack / cleft to gain a further broken section. Scramble upwards for 70m to belay at the right on the front face of the central pillar.

7 30m 5a Climb the obvious crack in the front of the pillar.

8 30m 5a Continue up the white slabby pillar to an overhang. Move right round the bulge and finish on a ledge.

9 30m 5b The Black Crack -- Muscle your way up the crack until a move right at half height allows easier face climbing to gain the final groove on the left.

BIHWITCHED 95m HVS G Hornby, T.Nonis 1999 Oct 31st

1 35m 4b Start below the black streaks in the centre of the wall. Climb up to gain a leftward trending crack. Belay below and to the right of a green bush.

2 30m 5a Move up to a small overhang, move right, up a crack, and trend rightwards to gain a crack at the left of the upper water streak. Belay at the top of the crack.

3 25m 4c Climb the perfect water worn crack to the terrace.

BIHTRAYED 90m VS

P Drew, R Spillett, G Hornby 2000 Feb 2nd

Starts below the righthand streaks below a crack in an overhang.

1 45m 4c Pull over the overhang with difficulty to gain a ledge. Climb up to the left of the streaks to a bulge below a leftwardward leaning crack. Move up and right across the streaked wall to a good ledge and belay.

2 45m 4b Climb corners and chimneys to the terrace.

THE CASTLE

A steep crag some 45 metres high. It has a prominent green bush about 8 metres above the ground which once had some interesting yellow flowers – plastic perennials !! They may still be there -- Nice one Geoff !! . The descent is to the left of the crag in a gully which gives access to the top of War Zone and the Second and Third Cascades. The right hand end of the crag is characterised by a deep notch and steep water marked cascade line. The climbs are described from left to right. Most of the routes have been well cleaned. The first climb starts just to the right of the descent gully.

BORN SLIPPY 30m 5b/c

A low level traversing line, gives an entertaining and surprisingly sustained boulder problem.

MILLENIUM 30m VS 4c

J Gregory, D McEnery 2001 Jan 1st

Start at a thin crack line some 4 metres right of the descent gully. Climb the crack and continue up the steep crack to an overhang traverse right to a ramp and continue up the crack above.

RAPUNZEL'S CRACK 30m HVS 5a

J Gregory, D McEnery 2001 Jan 19th

Starts 3 metres right of Millenium. Climb the steep wall to a horizontal break, then up the overhanging crack above -- strenuous. Finish as for Millenium

PORTCULLIS 30m VS 4c

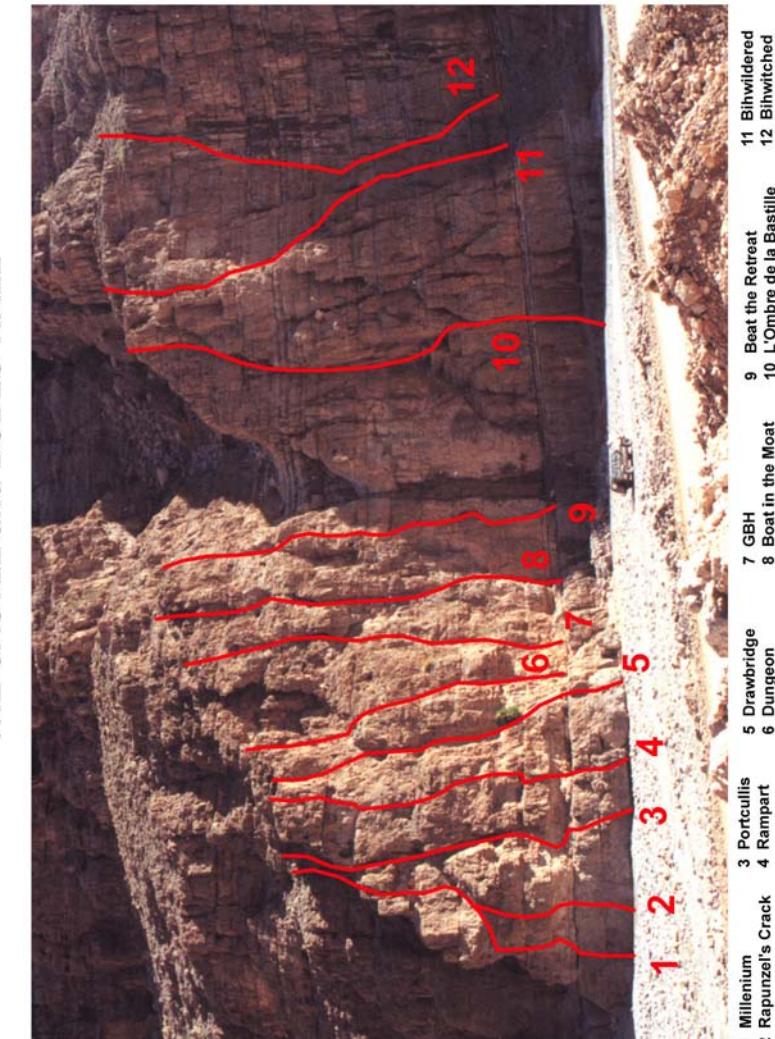
J Gregory, G Noble 5 Feb 2000

The first crack line on the left, the climb starts at an undercut below this crack. Climb over the undercut, strenuous, to a ledge below a bulge. Climb over the bulge into the crack line to the top.

**RAMPART 40m E1 5b

I Gregory, J Gregory, Jonathan McEnery 2000 Apr 13th

Start 5 metres R of Portcullis. Over the undercut to a ledge, then up into the short hanging corner crack, awkward. Move up to the right and back left over a bulge to a ledge. Climb the wall above to a steep crack. Up this to a roof, move R and up the final short groove.



THE CASTLE and DUBLO WALL

DRAWBRIDGE 45m VS 4c

I Gregory, J Gregory, D McEnery 2000 Apr 13th

Start below an obvious bush at around 10 m. Climb easily up to the left of the bush into a crack line. Follow this to a ledge and continue up leftwards to the top.

DUNGEON 45m V.Diff

S Frost, D Addison 1999 Oct 22nd

There is a block on the wadi floor below a crack line. Follow this crack line for 30 metres and up leftwards.

GBH 45m VS 4a

J Gregory, D McEnery 1999 Nov 5th

A crack line with a tree at around 10 metres. Climb up to the tree, then into the crack line on the right and follow this to the top.

BOAT IN THE MOAT 45m VS 4C

J Gregory, D McEnery 4 Nov 1999

Start up a corner crack behind some rocks on the floor of the wadi. Follow this line to the top via a bulge at about two thirds height.

*****BEAT THE RETREAT 55m E2**

J Gregory, D McEnery 1999 Dec 24th

Start 2 metres to the left of the obvious waterfall streaks.

1. 40m 5c. Climb the crack to a well defined rectangular roof which is climbed to the right up to a ledge with two bolts. Move up to the right and continue steeply in the same line to a ledge. Climb straight up for a further 4 metres and move diagonally left towards a large recess (runners in the recess). Go up the wall to the right of the recess to easier ground and a belay.

2. 15m Climb easily up to the right and up the arete to the top.

L'OMBRE DE LA BASTILLE 60m VS

J Gregory, D McEnery, Violaine 2001 April 20th

Some 15m right of the waterfall streaks is an obvious left facing corner.

Start at a ledge below a short clean groove.

1 20m 4a Climb the clean groove to a ledge, then up the wide crack to a terrace below the corner crack.

2 40m 4b Climb straight up the corner crack, continue up a short undercut groove above and finish to the right.