

JEBEL FAYAH



This newly discovered area is the most northerly described in this section, and lies to the west of the Madam / Dhaid road. It can be reached in under an hour from Dubai

A long line of west facing cliffs, with several distinct areas, it was previously overlooked, as being close to Jebel Meleliah (Fossil Rock) it was thought to be too broken and friable to offer worthwhile climbing. – Just goes to show what a closer look can do!

The rock is similar in nature to that at Hatta Crag, and parts of Wonderwall, and has yielded a number of sports routes. It receives morning shade, so the really hardy can climb there on summer mornings before heading off to Hatta for the afternoon!

Approach

From Madam Roundabout, follow the road north passing through another small village and straight on past two further roundabouts. Approx 25km from Madam Roundabout there is a large open walled barn on the right hand side. Continue along the road for a further 2km and make a U-Turn onto the southbound lane, at the first turning point. Follow the road back towards the barn.

Turn right off the carriageway, almost opposite the barn, crossing a cattle grid, which gives access to a good graded dirt track. The track heads round the North end of the Jebel Fayah ridge. On passing the end of the ridge, follow a track southwards towards a small power line. Shortly after passing the point where the power lines cross the road for the first time there is an eroded path in the side wall of the road on you left (marked by small pile of rocks). Turn left here on to a rocky path (4x4 or rental car needed here). Follow the rocky path that leads straight up the hill follow this till you can go no further. Park Here

If you get to the cement factory signs you have gone too far. Turn around, beat your head against the steering wheel and shout out loud "I am an Idiot and should not be let out without an escort". (nice description Gordon!)

The first climbs lie on a small butress at the northern end of the cliffs.

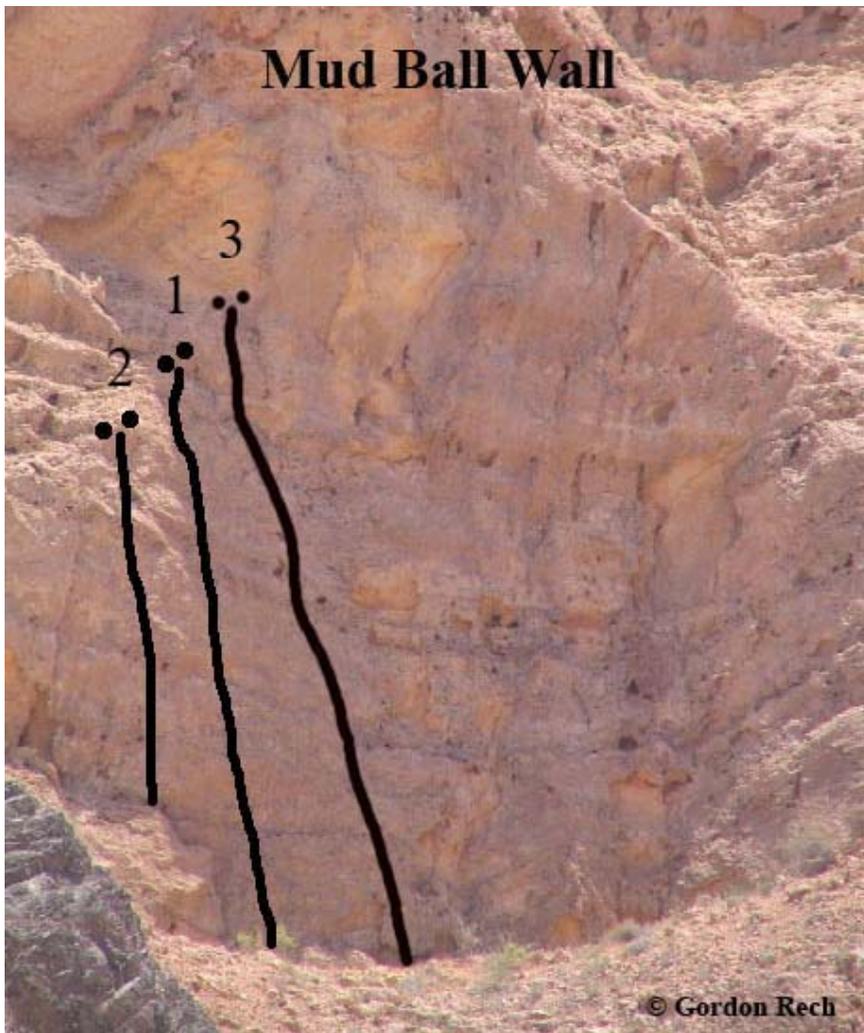


Mud Ball Wall

The rock is similar in nature to areas of Wonderwall. There are some sound areas, but some caution should be exercised.

The routes all have bolt protection and lower off chains.

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| 1 Fayah Starter | Fr 6 | (SA 18) |
| 2 Shaikhen Not Stirred | Fr 6a | (SA 19) |
| 3 Mud Slide | Fr 5a | (SA 16) |



JEBEL SUMAYNI GROUP

The mountains to the South of the Dubai - Hatta Road, generally offer little in the way of climbing, as most are composed of heavily shattered igneous and metamorphic rocks. However the mountains making up the Jebel Sumayni group are composed mainly of limestone, and in places can provide sport for the adventurous climber. Few of the accessible faces are particularly steep or continuous, and in general the rock tends to be less sound than elsewhere.

Approach – From the Madam – Shoaib road, a broad valley can be seen striking in to the western fringe of the mountains. Follow rough tracks (suitable for 4wd only) to gain the valley, and continue up this to below the cliffs on the right hand side.

JEBEL SUMAYNI -- EAST FACE

Located in a pleasant valley, which is only approachable by 4WD, or by a walk in of about an hour from the main Madam - Madha track. A very secluded location.

The rock is a type of limestone conglomerate, with the appearance of a Swiss cheese - full of holes, and with plenty of hollow flakes to avoid. There is a large amount of fairly steep rock, but unfortunately closer inspection reveals many broken areas, making worthwhile routes difficult to find.

Four routes have been climbed varying between V.Diff and mild VS.

The three lines shown were not named, but are shown to indicate what is possible. All are 2-3 pitches long, with loose or friable sections. Climbed in late 1995, by Tim Richards, Alan Stark & Bill Wheeler, before many of the better areas were found. They've not been back.

Even so, the area does have possibilities for those of an adventurous nature, and who are prepared to waste a lot of time finding the soundest rocks.

Further to the south, a good track leads from Al Shoiab, via a manned minor border post, through the mountains to link up with the Madam – Mahda track near the villages of Rayy and Fayy. There are a couple of areas, visible from the track, that look as though they may have potential for some sounder rock and 2-3 pitch routes.

To the north of the Border post, there is a hidden valley, which is only accessible by foot. A wild and beautiful place to visit. It offers a walking route through the mountains, and passes some ancient abandoned settlements and burial grounds. If you are lucky, you may get a sighting of the extremely rare Arabian Tahr – a sort of cross between a wild goat and an mountain antelope. Unfortunately the valley has little to offer in the way of decent climbing although the narrow gorge which bars vehicular access may offer some sports routes or bouldering. Beyond the gorge, the valley opens out into a broad plain, surrounded by mountains, which would offer some brilliant secluded camping sites. It is almost totally devoid of the rubbish that blights so many of the accessible wadi and desert areas. Long may it remain so.

JEBEL SUMAYNI - EAST FACE



Approximate lines of 3 un-named routes