

Black Dog

A way up the walls to the right of Stairway to Heaven, consisting of 245m of climbing on good rock on the lower buttress, 350m of scrambling and 360m of climbing on the upper buttress. The lower buttress is straight ahead where Stairway goes up the big scree slope/boulder field on the left (one hour from parking). The upper buttress can be accessed by an easy traverse from just above the start of Stairway to Heaven proper (2.5 hours from parking).

The first continuous ascent of the route was in 8 hrs 30 mins by Pete Thompson and Pete Myers on 5-2-11 from a bivi at the bottom of the route. So the route can easily be climbed in a day, but a fast time is needed to get back down Stairway to Heaven before dark.

Initially the route was climbed in two stages:

Lower Buttress HVS 27-11-10 Pete Thompson, Luke Hefferman

- 55m 4c Start up cracks up the middle of the buttress behind the stone wall enclosures.
- 25m Easily upwards.
- 55m 5a Up a thin crack up past roofs. Continue more easily.
- 25m 4c Climb the lay back crack to a big ledge.
- 30m 5a Climb a crack diagonally leftwards.
- 30m 4c Traverse right for 8m and follow the crack to a pedestal. Belay on the left.
- 20m Climb the unprotected slab.
- 50m Scramble up to the next buttress. Start 20m right of the ridge crest.
- 15m 5a Climb the smooth off-width crack.
- 300m Pleasant scrambling up the ridge crest.

Upper Buttress VS 24-12-10 Pete Thompson, Mat Etheridge (AL)

- 50m 4c Start at the crest of the ridge. Climb up to the yellow rock beneath overhangs. Traverse left for 6m and continue upwards.
- 55m 4b Continue upwards.
- 120m Easily upwards trending left.
- 55m 4b Traverse left 10m and trend left to join the gully next to a crack in the left wall. Move up to a ledge.
- 55m 5a Climb a chimney and corner crack 3m right of the gully. Continue more easily.
- 25m 4b Continue directly to the top.

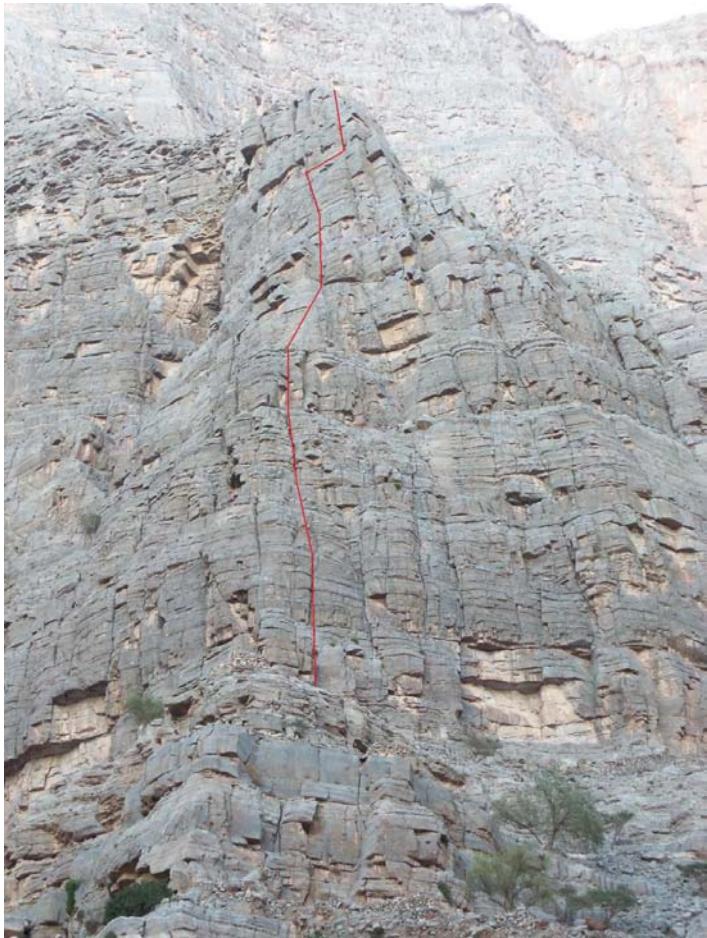
Descent: Go left across the gully and the hillside. Descend to the village and the top of Stairway to Heaven.



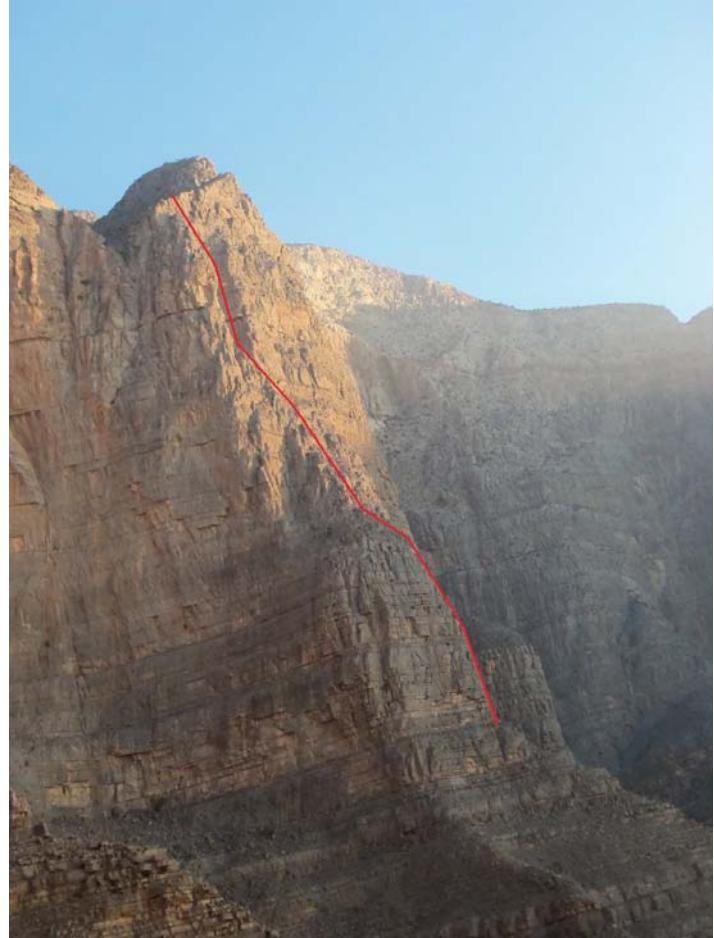
Ghalilah Headwall.



Black Dog



Lower Buttress.



Upper Buttress.



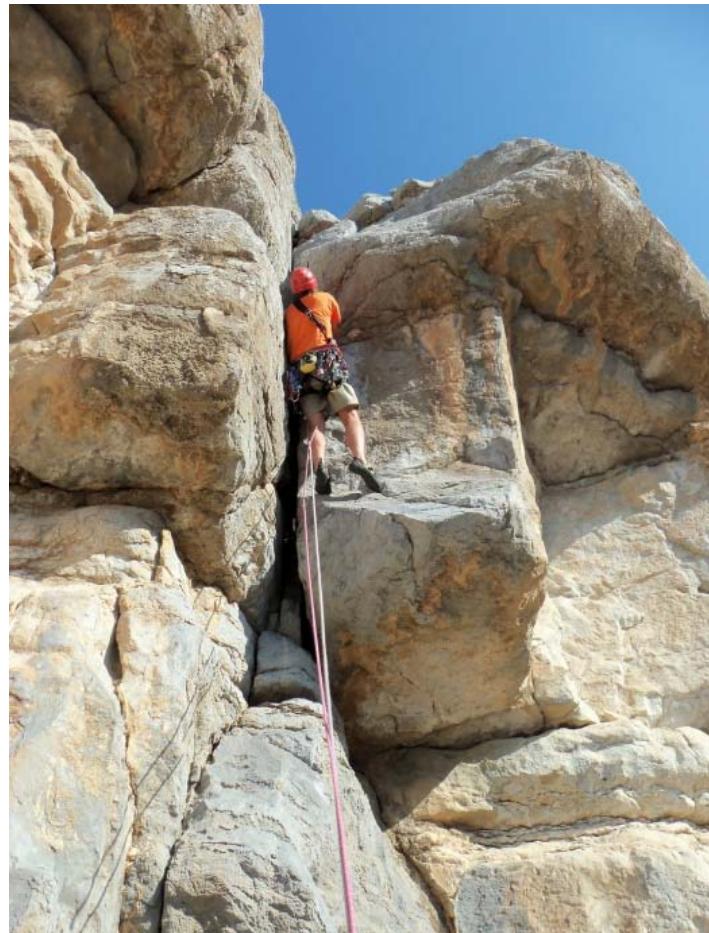
Pete Thompson on pitch 3.



Luke Hefferman on pitch 4.



Pete on pitch 6.



Pete on pitch 8.



Luke scrambling.