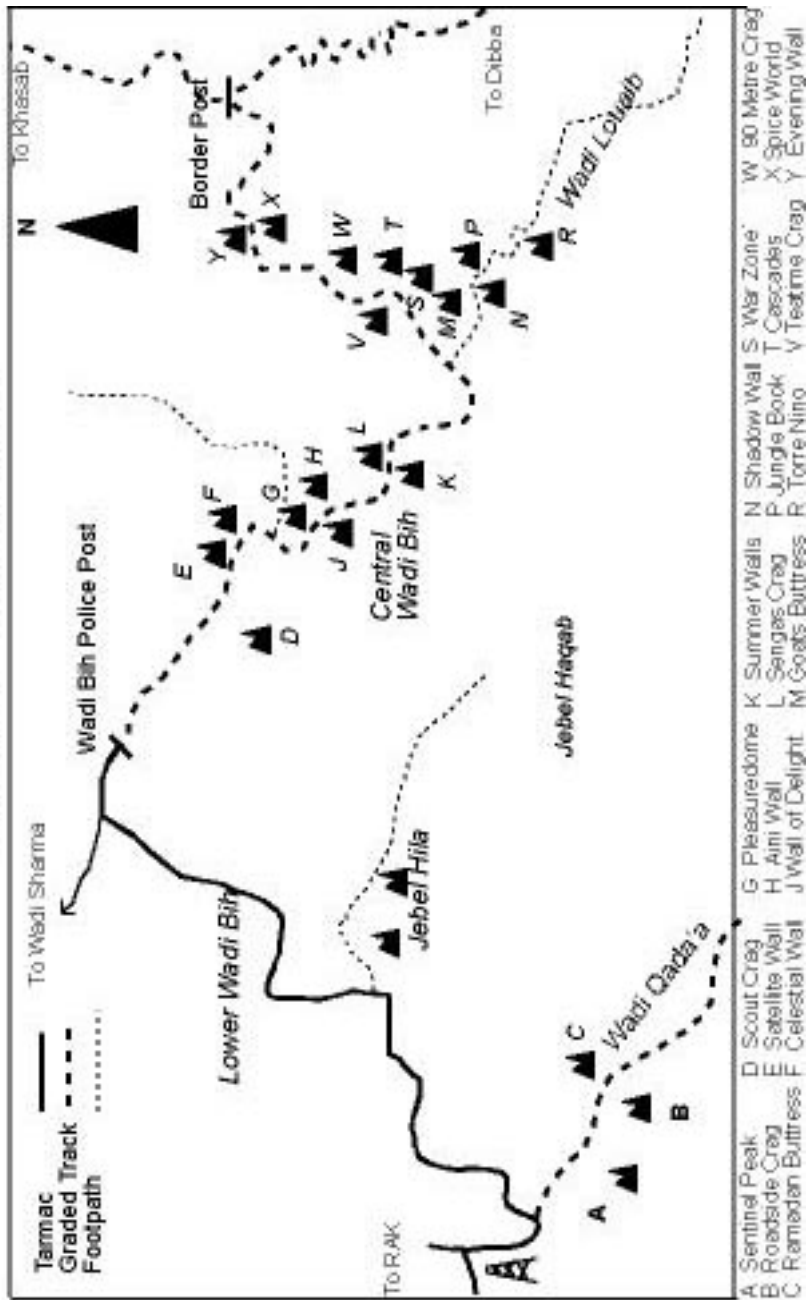


Wadi Bih -- Main Features



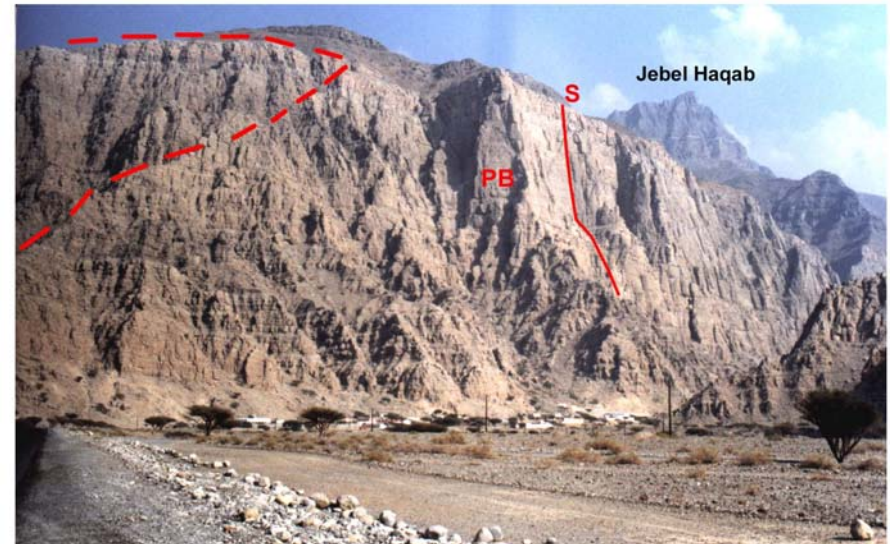
LOWER WADI BIH JEBEL HILA AND WADI HAQAB

Jebel Hila is the western outlier of Jebel Haqab, a striking high peak with horizontal dark and light bands, which is clearly visible from Ras Al Khaimah. Approx. 4km beyond the entrance to Wadi Qada'a is the village of Hila, which guards the foot of an impressive face, with a prominent steep pillar extending down towards the village. Jebel Hila has three major faces. The South Face, to the right of the pillar, is 350 - 400 m high, the South West Face, to the left of the pillar is 400 m high. The hidden North Face, is the most impressive, at 500 metres, and set at a steep angle.

The walls of the south and south west faces can be reached by a 15 to 20 min walk from the village. It is advisable to park vehicles before entering the village. A lower tier approximately 80-100m high is separated from the upper 300m high cliff by a broad ledge system.

The north face is reached from Wadi Haqab, which passes under the face. A little further along the road, there is a water tower, (and water cooler). Behind the water tower, a rough track (4wd only) leads, after 1km or so, to a group of uninhabited (but not disused) buildings, and gives access to Wadi Haqab, which offers an interesting alternative route to the summit of Jebel Haqab, avoiding the long tedious ascent of the gully leading from Wadi Qada'a. Park a respectful distance beyond the furthest dwelling.

JEBEL HILA -- SW FACE



PB Prophet Buttress

S Straight Line to the Sky

The descent from all the routes is via a straight gully on the northwest side of the mountain some 500 - 1000m from the top of the various routes. The top is marked by a cairn. (The Shihuh were here first!) Approx 1h. Mainly walking with some short sections of easy climbing.

JEBEL HILA



The Ascension of the Prophet

JEBEL HILA- SOUTH WEST PILLAR

The south west pillar is reached via a steep wadi system halfway through the village. The first route was climbed on the holiday marking of the Ascension of the Prophet Mohammed.

****THE ASCENT OF THE PROPHET 270m VS (TD-)** A Fabre, T Richards Nov 1998

A pleasant and interesting route, that takes the line of least resistance on the left of the pillar. It finishes in a spectacular and exposed position. The route is in two sections, broken by a large ledge system.

Climb two pitches (III, III) on a subsidiary buttress to the left of the main pillar up to the ledges. (It may be possible to avoid these pitches scrambling further up the main gully to the left and then traverse right along the ledges).

Above the ledges the route follow a poorly marked crack system on the R side of the South West Wall (to the left of the obvious corner line). The wall is not as steep as it appears from below, giving a straightforward climb for the first 3 pitches, but more interesting near the top.

- 1, 2, 3 45m III+, 45m IV, 40m IV+
- 4 50m Pass a bulge (V+) and follow the main crack line to a ledge (V) left of a large roof.
- 5 45m Traverse to the right above the roof in an exposed position (IV+) to reach the edge of the pillar and climb up along a crack line (V).
- 6 45m: Continue straight up to the top (IV)

Descent -- contour leftwards for about 500 m, to a cairn marking the head of a steep gully.

JEBEL HILA, SOUTH WALL

For the south wall, go straight through the village, and after passing the SW pillar, make an ascending traverse of the slopes to gain the base of the wall - about 30 mins from the village.

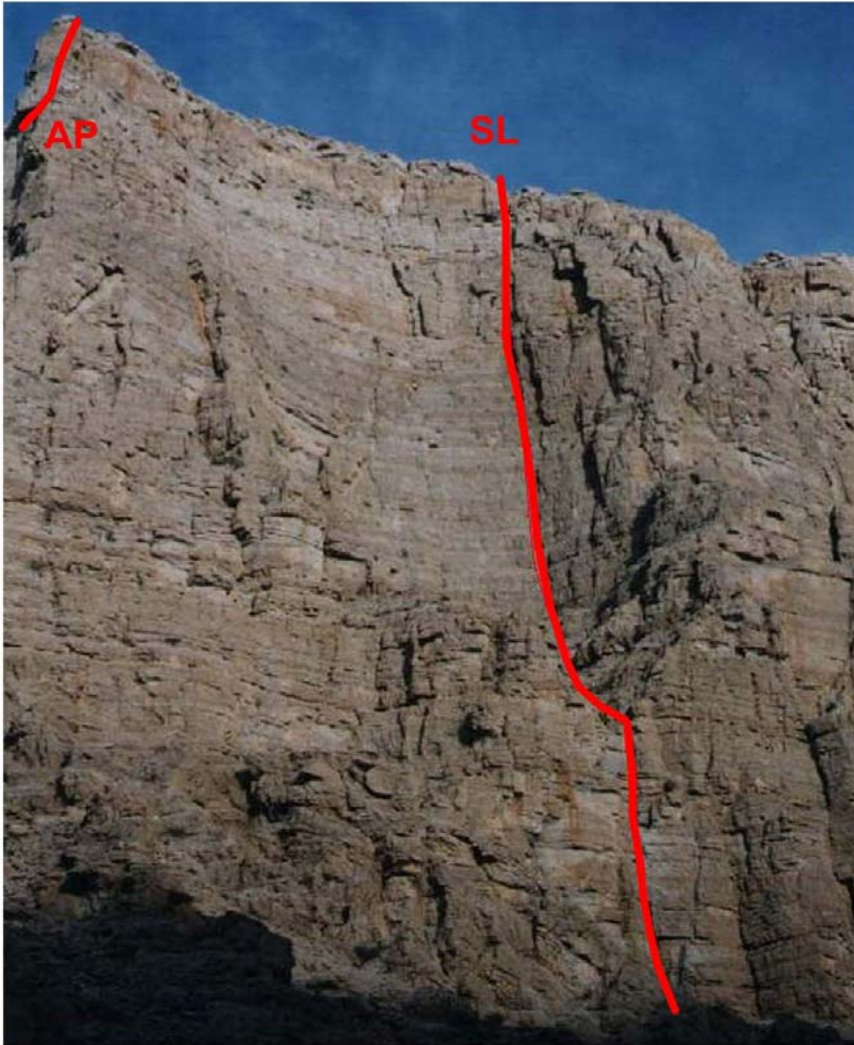
***A STRAIGHT LINE TO THE SKY 400m TD+** A Fabre, B Wheeler Nov 1998

This serious route takes a direct line and follows the crack system at the right hand side of the wall. The lower section follows a white dry cascade line. The upper section follows a very obvious straight crack line on the right side of the wall, to where it intersects a prominent ramp line that cuts across the face.

- 1 50m Climb the crack line in the cascade to a terrace (IV, V).
- 2 35m Climb a crack above to the main ledge system (V, V+). Scramble up for 100m, over ledges, to the base of the main crack line.
- 3 50m Climb the main crack (IV+, V). Belay below a small roof, to protect the second from stone-fall on the next pitch
- 4 40m Continue up the crack on bad rock (V, V+ delicate, 1 peg,) to a small ledge. Belay on good rock in a crack 4m right of the main crack.
- 5 45m Climb 3m above the belay, and move back left to the main crack where the rock improves, follow the crack to a niche (V).
- 6 50m Continue in the crack which becomes vertical (V+,VI). Belay on a terrace where the crack intersects the ramp.
- 7 50m Scramble up the ramp and then straight up toward a nice corner and climb it (V)
- 8 50m Continue to the top following the same line (III).
Descent -- as for the SW Pillar route

Further right is a large area of steep rock, which is currently unexplored. It receives full sun for most of the day, and also requires a longer approach on foot.

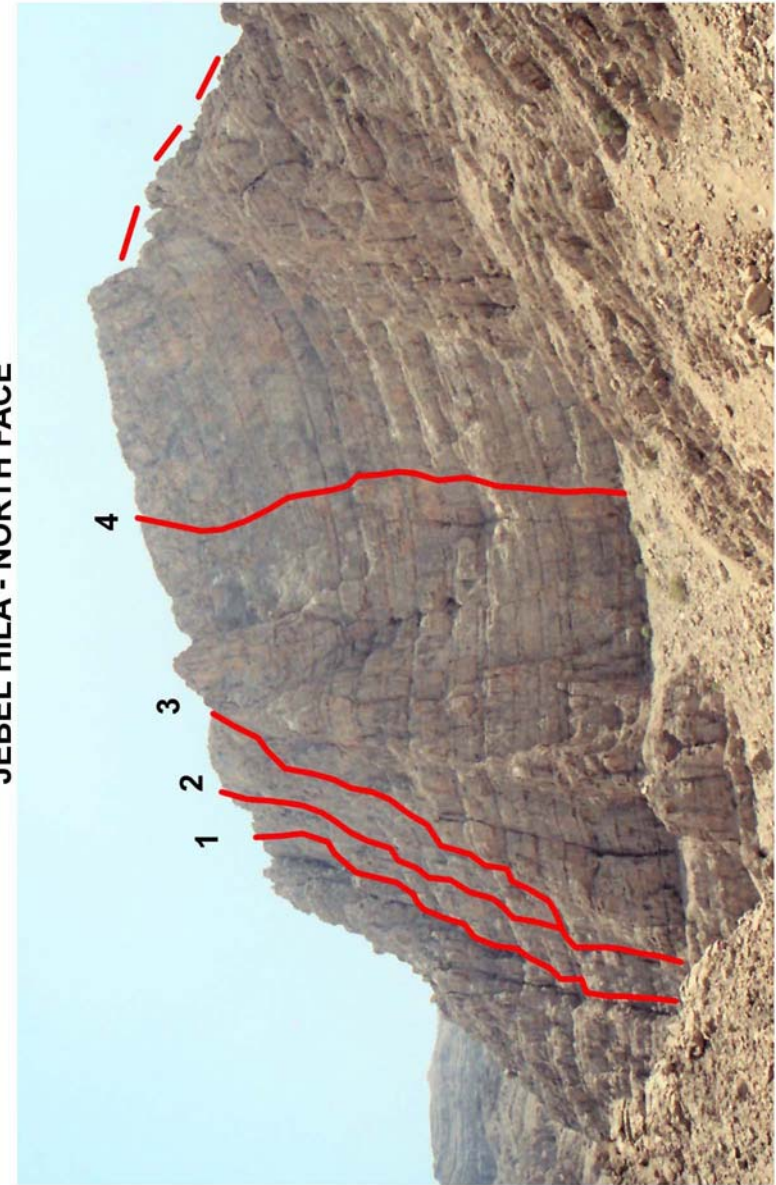
JEBEL HILA S FACE



AP Ascension of the Prophet
(Top Pitch)

SL Straight Line to the Sky

JEBEL HILA - NORTH FACE



1 Barracuda
2 Annie est en Vacances
3 Edge of Reason
4 North West Face Direct

WADI HAQAB

Wadi Haqab is a long winding valley, similar in character to Wadi Lou'ab, having much climbing potential within ½ to 1 hour walk from the end of the track.

JEBEL HILA - NORTH FACE

The northern flank of the mountain has a major wall, 500 metres high, set at a high angle. Only the upper portion is visible from the Wadi Bih road, and the whole face can only be seen from Wadi Haqab itself. It has two major facets, separated by a prominent pillar, to the left of a curving chimney system. The pillar appears to reach the top of the wall, due to foreshortening, but is in fact only about 350 metres high. Below the pillar is a subsidiary buttress, which would appear to offer some pleasant one or two pitch routes, though none have climbed to date with so many big lines to go at.

To date only four routes have been climbed, one of which takes a fairly direct line up the main north west face to the right of the pillar, whilst the other routes lie to the left of the pillar on the north east face. The potential for future development is immense.

NORTH WEST FACE

NORTH WEST FACE DIRECT **500 m TD+** A Fabre, B Wheeler 1999

14 pitches with sections of V+ and VI
No detailed description, -- see diagram for approximate line.

NORTH EAST FACE

The left hand side of the face is marked by deep corner system. The following route takes a line up the wall to the right of the corner.

BARRACUDA **425m TD- (V) (HVS 4c)** D Wallis, G Hornby 2001 Feb 9th

- 1 50m Climb the wall to the right of the corner crack.
- 2 50m Move right and up, passing two overlaps to gain the upper corner (4b)
- 3 30m Easier climbing (V Diff)
- 4 30m Easier climbing (V Diff)
- 5 30m Easier climbing (Diff)
- 6 30m Up the right wall of the chimney (Severe)
- 7 50m Move right and then follow the leftward ramp back to the corner. (VS 4b)
- 8 30m Climb the chimney passing some big blocks. (V Diff)
- 9 50m Crux. Climb the crack line up the wall above to a ledge. (HVS 4c)
- 10 10m Climb the layback crack (VS 4b)
- 11 50m Continue up the wall above (VS 4b)
- 12 15m Easier climbing leads to the top (V Diff)

The next two routes ascend the centre of the face, and start at approximately the same point, but diverge after 2 pitches following independent prominent crack and corner systems.

ANNIE EST EN VACANCES **400m TD** A Fabre, Annie Anderson 1999

A typical Antoine route on an unclimbed face -- Up the middle !! No detailed description available. 12 pitches, with difficulties of V and V+

EDGE OF REASON **450m TD+** G Hornby, Susie Sammut 2000 Jan 26th

Takes a line up the right hand side of the face to the left of the obvious pillar. Start 50 metres to the right of a major right facing corner system at the left hand of the face. A 60m rope is recommended, to avoid having to move together. Whilst a good standard is maintained throughout, the crux is near the top,

- 1 55m Climb directly up the wall. IV+
- 2 55m Climb directly up the wall. IV
- 3 30m Climb the wall to the base of a R facing corner IV+
- 4 25m Climb the corner. IV+
- 5 30m Continue up the corner V
- 6 30m Climb up ledges and bulges, to the base of a big right facing corner. IV
- 7 35m Climb the obvious right facing corner crack V
- 8 40m Continue to the top of the crack IV
- 9 30m Climb over ledges and bulges to the big ledge system IV
- 10 55m Traverse easily rightwards along the ledge system to belay at a tree. II
- 11 30m Continue traversing across to the base of a dirty crack III
- 12 20m The corner crack is hard and dirty, and leads to a ledge. VI
- 13 15m Climb the beautiful water worn corner crack to the finish. IV+

Descent for all these routes is to contour rightwards until the main Shihuh track and descent gully can be found.

Beyond the North Face, the main wadi contains a number of attractive looking buttresses, which are as yet unexplored.

As you continue up the main Wadi Bih road, the road bends rightwards. A long ridge extends almost to the road, separating Wadi Haqab from Wadi Bih. The crag above the scree slope has had a cursory inspection, but the rock is generally less sound than elsewhere. Further on, to the right, another short steep buttress rises from the wadi bed. Looks can be deceptive, as again the quality of the rock leaves a lot to be desired. It is also fairly close to dwellings, and so has been left alone.