

## WADI AL BIDEY

Wadi Al Bidey is to be found behind the village of Al Bidey. It is approached from the Dibba - Khasab track, about 2km from the police station R/A. The track to Al Bidey is signposted to the left. When entering the village, the main wadi system splits, with the right hand fork leading to a small village, from where you can gain access to the cross country high level route over the summit of Jebel Qiwh and down into Wadi Qada'a. The left hand wadi soon narrows to a secluded gorge containing a number of virgin faces approaching 300 m in height. On first acquaintance, the almost black limestone appears to be some of the best in the area, and will be sure to give some very hard 2-3 pitch routes. A place for future development.

## VALLEY CRAGS

The first climbing area is located about 7.6km from the roundabout. A number of buttresses of good quality rough brown limestone are scattered on the hillside above a number of abandoned stone dwellings on the east (right) side of the valley. Several good short routes have been climbed on the various buttresses, but activity was curtailed after a local took a "pot shot" in our direction with a rifle. There are better places to climb.

Directly above the dwellings is Split Buttness. Gully Buttness Lies above and to the right. Bullet Buttness lies to the left.

To date Split Buttness has one route, Gully Buttness about 3 routes, and Bullet Buttness one unfinished route with a hastily placed abseil peg!

## VALLEY CRAGS



B Bullet Buttness  
(where we were shot at!)

S Split Buttness

G Gully Buttness



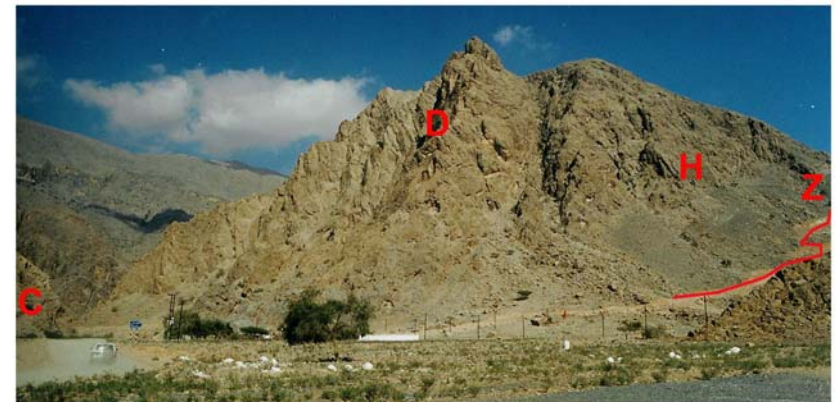
Tim Richards on an un-named route - Split Butress, Valley Crag

## ZIGHI AND JEBEL SUWAYT

At 8.5Km from the roundabout there is a small Helipad on the right hand side (East) of the track. During 1999, a new track was bulldozed over the col on the right to give access to the remote village of Zighi, which was previously only accessible by foot or by boat. There is a tourist viewpoint at the top, but the track to the village is extremely steep, and has a loose gravel surface. Access to the village and beach is difficult even for 4WD vehicles only, and not recommended if there is any likelihood of rain. The track **will** wash out, which could mean vehicles being stranded for many days until the track is repaired. Stay well clear of the village, as its inhabitants have not taken too kindly the disruption to their traditional isolation. **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.**

Above and right of the Helipad are a number of small buttresses of dark brown limestone which may yield some single pitch routes.

### JEBEL SUWAYT



C Cracker Butress    D Diamond Face    H Helipad Slabs    Z track to Zighi Beach and viewpoint

## JEBEL SUWAYT (DIAMOND PEAK )

Immediately after the junction, a striking triangular peak rises almost 1000m above the valley bed. A number of impressive alpine scale faces and ridges are visible, but have the disadvantage of a southerly aspect, and proximity to the coast. The South Ridge appears to offer a promising long mountaineering route. To the left of the south ridge is a large steep Diamond shaped face, which unfortunately seems to be broken by bands of loose looking overhangs. A gully runs up below the face, leading to the upper slabs, and this has produced one long mountaineering route and severe dehydration for the Cook Brothers.

### GOT TO GET A BIGGER BOTTLE 600m approx VS (D-, IV )

Jan 2000 Damian and Jonathan Cook,

Takes the gully below the Diamond Face, and follows a line leftwards up the slabs, to gain the sweep of slabs leading to the summit. A long and weary scramble down from the summit leads to the col on the Zighi track.



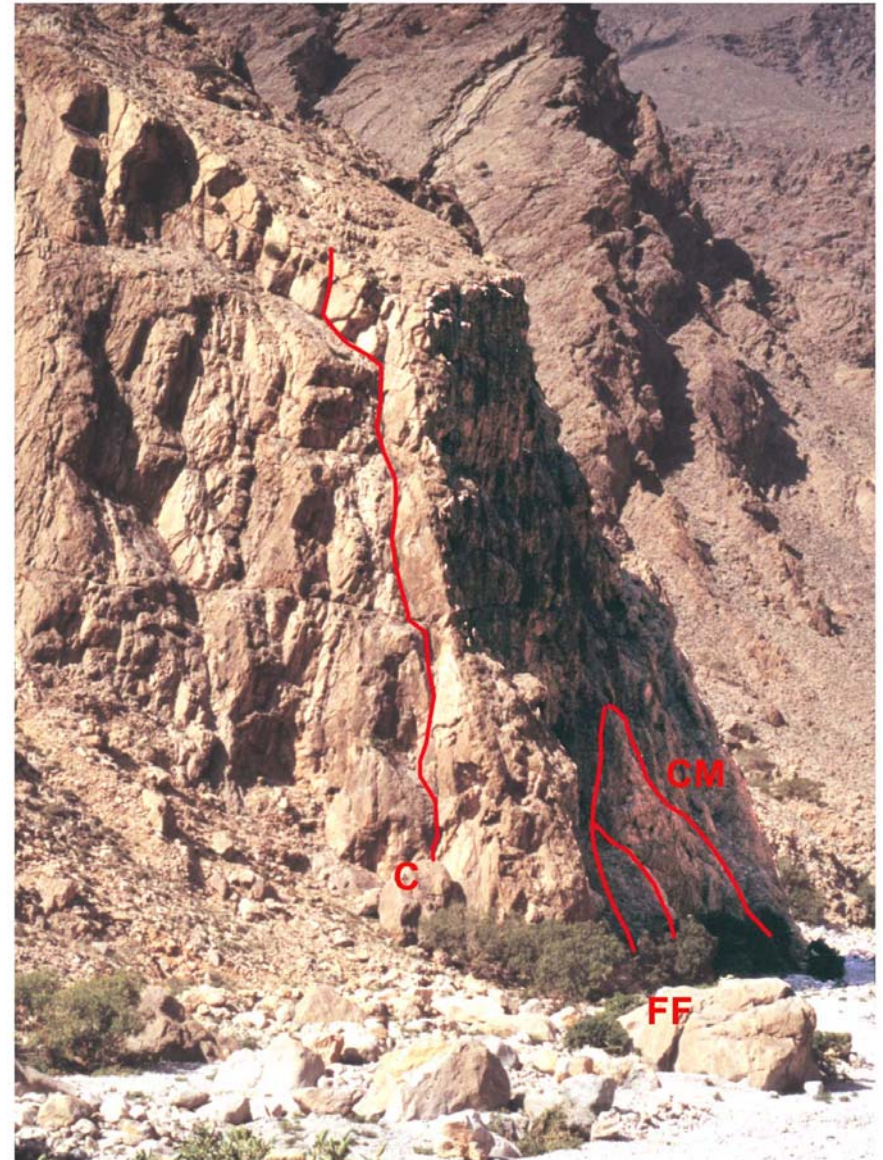
Gonna Need a Bigger Bottle  
The upper slabs



Climber -- Damian Cook -- Photo Jonathan Cook  
( it might be the other way round - the credits not the photo)

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## CRACKER BUTTRESS - S FACE



C Cracker

FF Funny Face

CM China Moon

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At 9 km, just past a bend is a small parking place which gives access to the main Diamond Face, and to Cracker Buttress which is situated about 300 metres further on the opposite (West) bank.

## **CRACKER BUTTRESS**

On the left, a series of corner cracks separate the broken hillside from the front face of the buttress.

### **CRACKER 75m VS**

1996 November 29th

B Wheeler, A Stark, F Poltrioneri

A good route, giving varied climbing and some doubtful rock, particularly on pitch 2. Protection is generally quite good

1 20m 4c Climb to the first bulge, which is overcome by bridging and precarious jams. Climb carefully over dubious flakes to a good stance and belay.

2 20m 4c Move up more easily to the next steep corner crack. Climb this, avoiding the obvious hanging blocks to another good stance and belay.

3 25m 4a The next crack is easier, but has more suspect rock on the left wall. The last 5m to the ridge are extremely loose, and threaten the stance below, so belay on ledges to the left, some 5 m below the ridge.

4 10m 3b Move up easily L round into a corner. Climb the corner for a few metres and exit via the R Wall to good holds. Good belay 10m higher.

Descent. Scramble up the shallow groove, to a saddle, where an obvious ascending traverse line leads to an easy descent rake.

Direct access to a large part of the front of the buttress is prevented by dense vegetation.

The next route has 2 variation starts, and climbs the obvious groove to a cave belay. First ascended by a large jolly party including beginners and small children!

### **FUNNY FACE 35m Diff**

1996 November 15th

F Poltrioneri and party

Two starts are possible. Either start left of a large bush, climb a short wall, and scramble up easily to the foot of the main groove, or start to the R of the bush and climb directly to the base of the groove. Climb upwards to a large belay in the cave.

Any progress upward passes through extremely steep ground with some loose rock, so unless more serious fare is required, decent by abseil is recommended. (2 good pegs in situ)

### **CHINA MOON 35m Sev ( mild)**

1996 November 22nd

A Stark, B Wheeler

Starts 15m right of the bush below a deep groove. Climb the L wall of the groove keeping to the outside for maximum exposure, moving out onto the face when the groove steepens. Climb directly up the rib to join the previous route just below the cave.



## WADI HILTI



1 Each Perfect Second    2 Shooting My Mouth Off    3 Groovey Chick    4 Potters Field

Further up the wadi and to the right are two attractive areas of slabby rock which will yield some longer traditional routes.

At 11km the track passes a small village of stone huts, on the far bank. Aggressive little urchins have been known to leap out at vehicles, demanding baksheesh or feloos, before letting vehicles past. DON'T STOP IF YOU CAN AVOID IT.

12.3km a series of long impressive buttresses on the west (left) side of the wadi mark the start of the main gorge.

## LOWER GORGE WALLS

The walls are more than 300m high, with many areas of steep and unstable rock. Routes going to the top of the walls will invariably have to overcome some of these sections. Due to the height of the walls, pre-inspection and cleaning will inevitably be difficult, dangerous and extremely time consuming. All routes to date have been climbed on sight. Descents are generally by abseil.

## LOWER GORGE WALLS



F First Buttress    B Beggars Buttress    A Assassins Buttress

The lower gorge walls are bounded on the left by a broad, steep gully system.

### FIRST BUTTRESS

To the right of this gully is an area of steep slabs, ending in big overlap, with no visible protection and some poor rock. One attempt on the slabs, ended in an abseil escape below the overlap. A poor peg is still there. A possible sports climbing venue.

Further right is another steep gully system that is water washed and contains a number of caves.



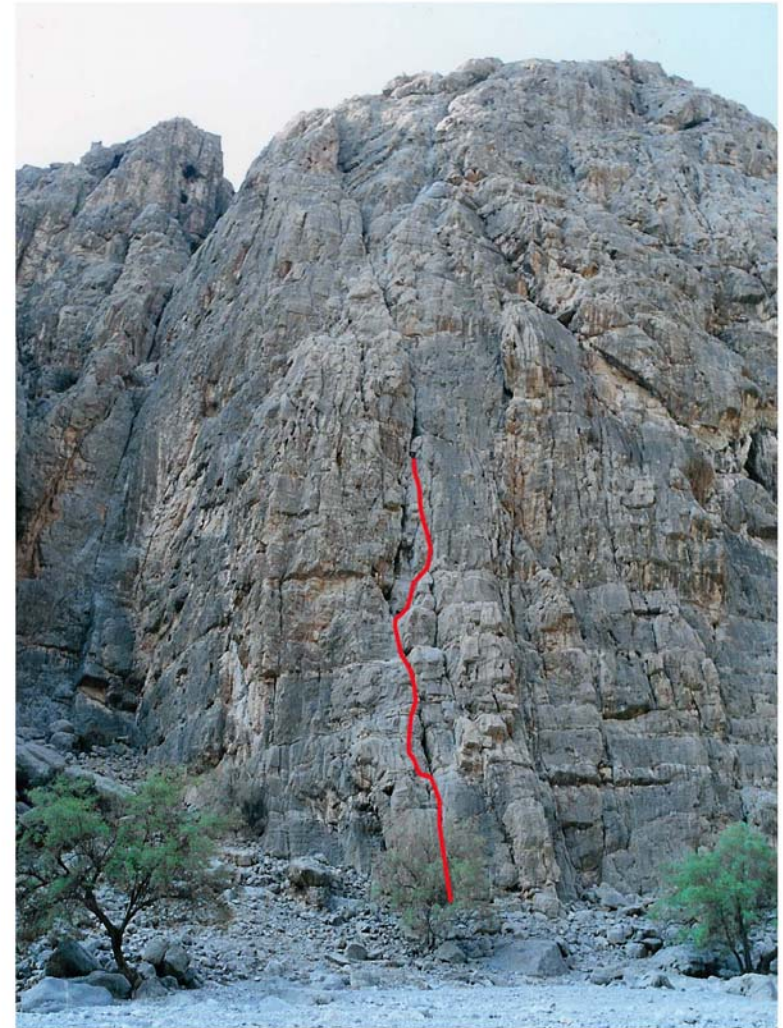
## FIRST BUTTRESS



## BEGGARS BUTTRESS

To the right of the gully, a thin water washed line can be seen falling from the top of the cliff.

## BEGGARS BUTTRESS



**Foul Ole Ron**  
(the picture is grossly foreshortened)

The following route attempted to follow the line, but progress was halted by some very unstable rock.



**FOUL OLE RON 55m VS** T Richards, A Stark 1997 Nov 1st

Starts at the foot of a crack to the right of a water washed wall.

1 30m 4b Climb the crack which is more awkward than it appears, and step left onto the slab. Move up passing a bold mantelshelf move to gain the groove above. Continue up the groove passing the odd doubtful hold to gain a good stance and belays.

2 25m 4c Climb the corner above the belay, and move round the rib to gain the slab on the right. Continue up the corner groove line until progress was halted below some very loose blocks. 2 nuts left in situ.

**ASSASSINS BUTTRESS**

Some 100 metres or so beyond Foul Ole Ron is a fine, clean, left facing corner system. The following excellent pitches were climbed on different visits, which can be combined to give an outing of some difficulty

**\*\*\* MISTER TE-A -TIM -E 35m HVS 5a**

T Richards, A Stark 1997 February

An excellent sustained pitch, mostly at 4c, but with a bold and delicate crux. It ascends the prominent left facing corner. If you struggle on this pitch, forget the next one.

Climb the corner for about 8 metres, move up and right to gain cracks in the right wall. Climb these to a below an overhanging block. Move down slightly, and make a bold, delicate stride right to a small foothold on the arete. Move up boldly for 4-5m, until a good runner (small wire) can be arranged on the left. Continue up the groove to below a bulge, and climb the steep crack on the right, avoiding loose blocks at the top, to an excellent stance and belays.

**\*\*\*MERICET , 45m E2 5c**

T Richards, A Stark 1997 Nov 11th

A fine companion to the previous pitch, that provides a test of a leader's ability. Steep, strenuous, and sustained at 5a with 3 crux sections that are certainly harder. Protection is adequate, with small to medium wires and friends being useful. The rock is generally good.

Climb the awkward chimney above the belay to the overhang. Make a series of difficult moves to gain the thin crack and groove to the right, and continue up to below an overhanging block. Move onto the left wall and make a bold move upwards on poor holds until a difficult traverse leads back right over the top of the block to gain a crack containing better holds and protection. Climb the crack to another small overhang, which is overcome with difficulty, until it is possible to move left to easier angled rock and excellent belays. Piton and rock spike abseil points.

Above this point, the angle eases considerably. It appears possible to reach the top of the cliffs in a further 3-4 pitches of climbing to give a superb expedition.

**\*PTEPPIC 20m VS 4c**

T Richards , A Stark 1997 April 4th

A good companion pitch to Mr Te-a-tim-e, that climbs the fine crack in the right wall above the abseil block. Unfortunately there is no obvious way above from the top of this pitch.

From the belay at the top of Mr Te-a-tim-e, climb directly above the block, on the right wall, passing 2 bushes to the foot of a prominent crack. Straight up the crack using jams and layaways. At the top, the rock deteriorates, and care is needed, although the main difficulties have finished. Move up to a ledge and short chimney (good but awkward thread), and climb this to a good ledge with superb pinnacle belay. Descent by abseil.

**ASSASSINS BUTTRESS**



T Mr Te-a-tim-e M Mericet P Pteppic IT Interesting Times





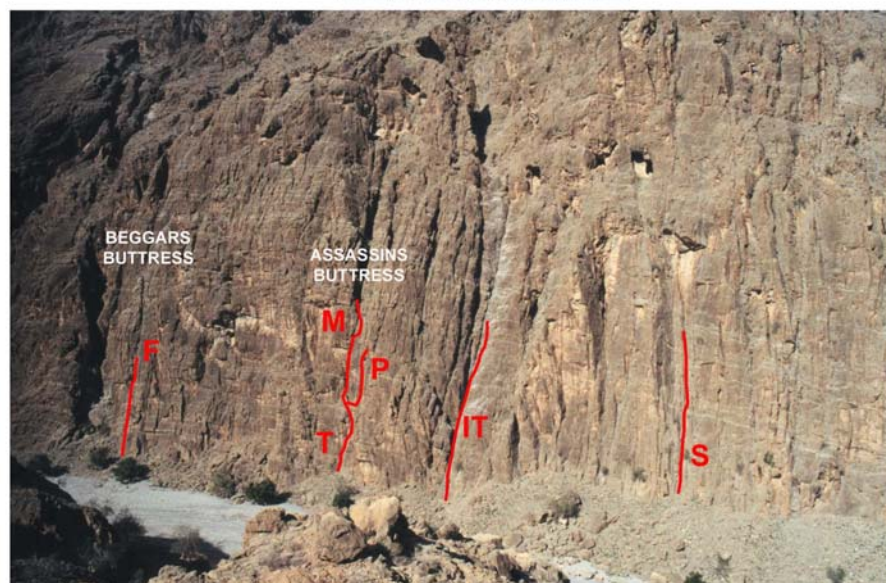
**Mr Te-a-tim-e (climber Tim Richards)**



**Tim Richards prepares to be examined by Mericet.  
( the third rope was for hauling the water!)**



## LOWER GORGE WALLS



F Foul Ole Ron    M Mericet    P Pteppic    IT Interesting Times    S Stakabollix  
T Mr Te-a-tim-e

About 100m to the right of Assassin's Buttress is an obvious waterfall / gully system.

**INTERESTING TIMES 75m VS (Mild )-, 4b**      A.Stark, T.Richards (alt) 1998 January 29th  
A good climb on very smooth rock, giving some precarious moves.

1 35m The gully is easy to start but becomes progressively steeper and bolder as height is gained. Continue up pleasantly to a good stance and belays. 2 abseil pegs in place.

2 40m Climb the corner above, until loose rock makes the flared crackline on the right seem more attractive. Continue up the cracks, until bold and delicate moves lead back to a recess with belays. Peg and chockstone abseil points.

The way above appears much easier, and may provide a way to the top of the wall. If equipped with pegs or bolts, it would also offer a feasible line of descent from the top of this section of wall.

100m further right is a corner and crack-lines which lead to prominent yellow overhangs.

**STAKABOLLIX 70m HVS 4a,5a**      A.Stark, T.Richards (alt) 1998 January 29th  
A good line, steep and serious. The upper section of the corner and overhangs above still wait an ascent. However the belay and ropes are in direct line of fire from any blocks becoming dislodged higher up.

1 40m Climb the obvious clean corner to where it becomes vegetated and scrappy. Move delicately leftwards round the arete to a narrow ledge, passing a large detached block. Resist the temptation to trundle this, and move left to below a steep crack leading to a tree. Step on the block and climb the crack, passing the tree on the left. The climbing is now easier. Continue upwards to a good stance below the soaring corner.

2 30m Climb the corner and cracks on the right wall with difficulty, passing a number of highly dubious perched flakes (the Stack of Bollocks), to a peg belay and abseil point.

Above this point the way appears to be even more serious, with many loose looking blocks.

## GANG BANG BUTTRESS

Further right again is a slabby corner with a water -washed corner to it's right.

**WHAM BAM 45m V.Diff**      A Stark, Dan ?, Charles ? 1996 October  
Climbs the corner, moving right at the top where it steepens to a good ledge. Belay round in the corner of Thank You Ma'am.

**GANG BANG 40m Sev ( hard)**      T Richards, R Thornton, Lydia Hooley 1996 October  
Climbs cracks in the slab near the arete.

**THANK YOU MA'AM 50m Sev ( Hard)**      A Stark, D Coustick 1999 December 14th  
The water washed corner and chimney system right of the slab.

1 35m Climb the corner and awkward chimney above to gain cracks in the slab. Climb these to a good stance and belays below the final steep corner chimney.

2 15m 4b Climb the corner above the belay moving into the cracks on the right. The cracks are formed by stacked hollow blocks and should be treated with caution. Higher up they form a shallow chimney, which give an awkward couple of moves passing a small bush and avoiding the obvious doubtful holds. Move up and traverse left to excellent ledges and belay points.

Descent from all 3 routes is by abseil down the line of Thank You Ma'am, from an excellent large block. (Scramble up 10m from the top of the first 2 routes). A very long sling (3m) is needed, to ensure that there are no problems in recovering the ropes. The original polypropylene one will have probably rotted by now! 50m ropes are needed to reach the bottom in a single abseil.

## TREE DEGREES AREA

At 13km there is a pull in on the right hand side of the track, opposite some impressive unclimbed corners.

30m right of the big vertical corner / groove line is an obvious sweeping grey slab, which is overhung by a prominent yellow wall. A large tree is at the foot of a deep corner which forms the left side of this slab. Just to the right of the tree, a pleasant 3 pitch route has been climbed at about severe standard by Bill Wheeler and A. N.Other . -- Descent by Abseil.

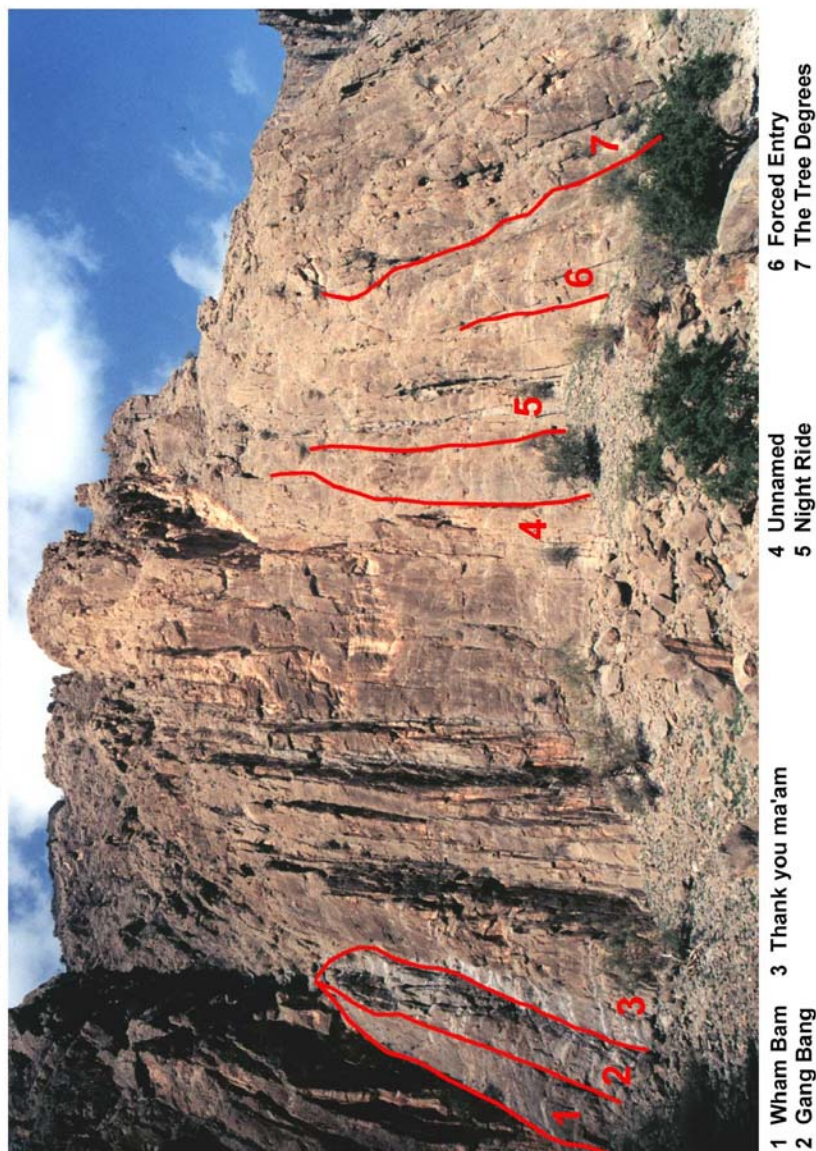
10m to the right of the tree, a vertical crack rises from a small cave.

**NIGHT RIDE 55m VS,**      B Wheeler , S Clarke 1996 January  
1 30m **4c** Gain the crack with difficulty, and continue directly until a ramp line leads to a belay.

2 25m **4b** Move back down the gangway a little way, and climb the continuation crack and easier slabs above to a belay.      The onset of darkness prevented further exploration !!



## GANG BANG, THE CORNERS AND TREE DEGREES AREA



Just right of Night Ride is a deep water washed chimney line. Another deep chimney / corner is a few metres right again at the high point of a scree cone. Descending rightwards from the high point of the cone is a prominent crack line which gives a good single pitch route.

### **FORCED ENTRY 30m Severe ( Hard)**

B Wheeler, F.Poltrioneri 1997 February

Climb the crack directly, moving right at the top to a block belay.

At the bottom of the cone is a prominent chimney / groove line.

### **\*THE TREE DEGREES 85m VS**

T Richards / A Stark (alt) 1995 December

1 30m **4c** Start just right of the chimney and climb boldly up the wall on small but positive holds, until a line of holds leads back leftwards to gain the main line. Continue to the first tree.

2 30m **4c** Continue more easily up the off width chimney to where it bulges, and climb the bulge by awkward bridging until the angle eases, and an escape can be made leftwards to the second tree.

3 25m **4b** Climb the slabs above, trending rightwards to belay on the third prominent tree. The climbing eases considerably as height is gained. Descent by abseil from tree to tree.

The route can be extended for some considerable distance at a lower standard, and over less solid ground -- probably not recommended

30m r of Tree Degrees is an easier angled slabby area, which gives some single pitch climbs in the easier grades. The rock is generally sound, and may be suitable for beginners, or as an access to the impressive steep slabs and overlapping corners above. The routes start in a scree filled bay, with obvious twin cracks to the right of centre.

### **EENIE 50m V Diff**

P1 A Stark, B Wheeler , R Petersen. 1997 March 21st

(P2) H Trillo, D.Coustick 1998 March 13th

1 27m Left of the cracks is a slab containing a leftward slanting crack. Climb the slab and crack, avoiding the scrambling to the left, and continue up short slabs and grooves to a ledge and good belays.

2 23m From the belay, climb diagonally leftwards to gain the slanting gully. Continue more easily to a good stance and belay.

### **MEENIE 27m Sev**

B Wheeler R Petersen A Stark 1997 March 21st

The obvious central crack and corner line.

Climb the crack and corner on good holds until a steep little wall leads to a ledge and belay.

### **SPARE RIB 27m V.Diff**

H Trillo, D Coustick 1998 March 13th

Climb Meenie for 5m, and step right on to the pillar, Climb this directly to ledges and belays.

### **MYNEE 27m Sev**

RPetersen B Wheeler A Stark 1997 March 21st

Just R of the last route is a narrow slab sandwiched between deep cracks. Climb the slab avoiding straying into the cracks until the angle eases. Either step left onto the front of the rib, or layback up a steep groove on the left wall for a few feet, and continue directly to the stance and belay.

### **MO 27 m Diff**

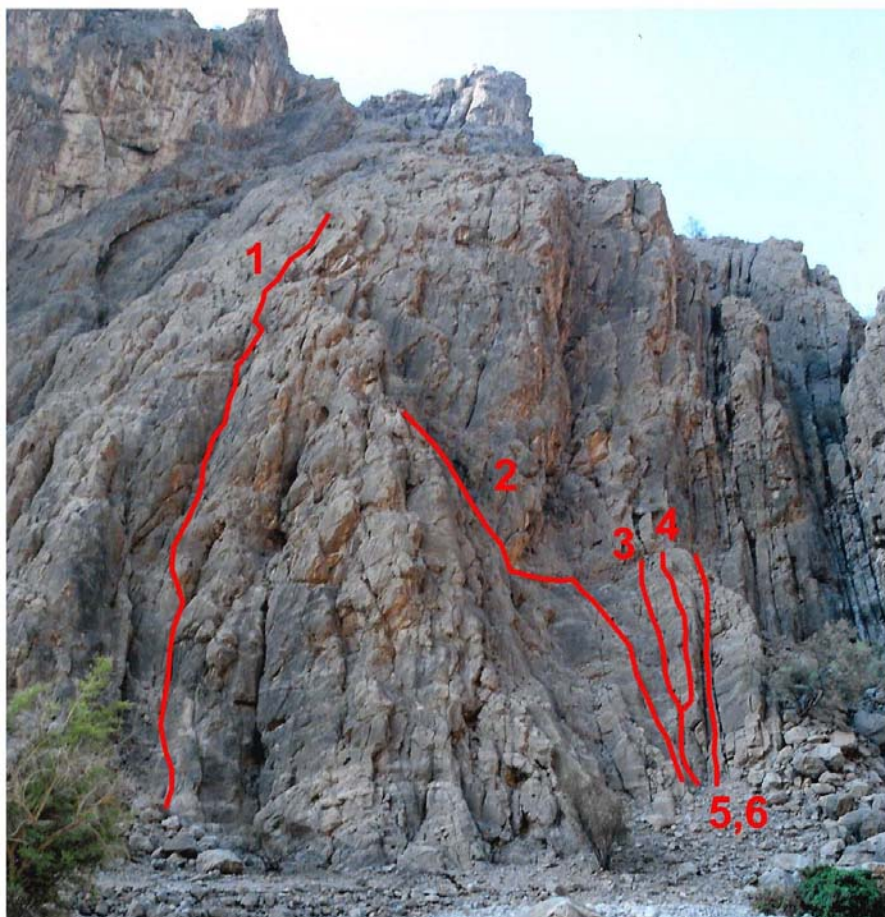
A.Stark, H Stark 1998 March 13th

A natural line, and an easy variant on Mynee, which finds the easiest way up the twin cracks and slab.

From the top of these shorter routes, an easy scramble rightwards leads to a descent line, which involves some moderate down climbing for about 10m.



## TREE DEGREES BUTTRESS



1 The Tree Degrees 2 Eeenie 3 Meenie 4 Spare Rib 5 Mynee 6 Mo

## MIDDLE GORGE

### SHAKING STEVENS Sev

B Wheeler, Steve Clark, Steve Marlborough 1995

On a slabby outcrop, some distance above the right of the track. Takes a direct line up the slab

## LITTLE BUTTRESS

Located on the right, at a bend in the wadi, just before entering the narrows. The buttress rises directly from the wadi bed, and since the severe flood, the starts of the routes are about 1 metre lower than on the first ascent which makes for some boulder problem starts. Parking below the face is now impossible, and the nearest parking place is not within sight. The descent is down a loose gully on the left. The climbs are described from right to left.

### SINGING THE BOOZE 35m HVS

T Richards, A Stark 1997 May

1 15m 5a On the front wall is an obvious thin hanging crack which ends in a bulge. Make an awkward pull to gain a slab below the crack. Climb the crack to a niche below the overhang, and climb this (crux) to a good stance and belays.

2 20m Continue more easily up grooves and slabs to a spike belay.

### IRON MIDDEN 35m VS 4c

T Richards, A Stark 1996 April

6m to the left is a prominent corner crack.

Climb the crack to where it widens then make a couple of precarious moves up the left wall to gain some superb but very painful jams in the crystal encrusted crack below the roof. Traverse left to the lip and make an even more painful pull round to easier angled ground. Continue up the easier angled slabs, avoiding the tree, to the spike belay at the top of the crag.

### TIGHT SAID FRED S 40m

A Stark, Colin, A.N Other, and "Fred" 1996 March

To the left, an obvious diagonal line goes from left to right, which separates the overhanging front of the crag from the easier angled slabs above. Climb the bulge to a ledge and move along this to gain the groove line. Climb this, and swarm up round a prominent tree to easier ground and the belay at the top.

To the left is a short steep groove leading to a ledge at 6m, with a bulge and slabs above.

### SHORT AND SWEET MVS 4b

B Wheeler S Clark 1996 April

Climb the groove, avoiding the easy alternative on the left, and exit right onto the ledge. Pull up onto the undercut slab, and climb delicately upwards on perfect rock to belays some way to the left of the previous routes.

Just before the narrowest point of the gorge, a water tank is located on the left hand side near the foot of a gully system.

## WATER TANK WALL

At the left of the gully is a steep black wall, with a small tree at its top.

### WORRABUGGA 55m HVS

T Richards, A Stark 1998 October 27th

1 30m 5a From the foot of the wall, climb up easily to the foot of a groove which contains a bush. Climb the groove with increasing difficulty, until a move can be made rightwards to a blunt rib. Continue upwards to a good ledge and belay.

2 25m 4b From the belay, climb up to gain the prominent crack line. Follow this to the top, exiting with care. Piton belays to the left.

Descent by abseil.

The 'Bugger' was chopping the rope whilst cleaning a possible direct finish, which brought an end to the day's activity.



## THE BENDS BUTTRESS



Topping out on The Bends (Fr 7c+)  
Climber D Cook

After passing through the narrows, continue for some distance until the wadi becomes wider and less threatening. You are now in the upper gorge.

## UPPER GORGE AREA

Between the Narrows and Cave Buttress, a couple of buttresses to the left of the track have been climbed by Bill Wheeler, Steve Clarke and others, giving some 2 pitch routes of about VS standard, which required abseil descents

## CAVE BUTTRESS.

On the right of the wadi is a buttress containing an enormous cave. The scramble in and out of the cave gives an interesting excursion.

To the left of the cave is an area of slabs.

### GILA MONSTER 70m XS 4c

B Wheeler, Shelley ? 1995

Unrepeated and likely to remain so !!!

The second, although an Extreme leader in the UK, was so freaked out by the route, she didn't climb in the UAE again. Even Bill said he doesn't want to climb it again.

1 40 m Climb directly up the slab following pleasant cracks and grooves to a good ledge.

2 30m 4c An extremely serious pitch, sustained at its grade, on highly suspect and unstable rock, above a yawning chasm, with virtually no worthwhile protection. From the belay move up and right to the apex of the arch above the cave entrance and follow the diagonal crack line leftwards to the top and safety.

## HAZELS BIRTHDAY Sev 70m

S Clark A Stark ( alt) 1996 March 8th

By contrast, this route is positively friendly.

1 40m Pitch 1 of Gilammonster

2 30m Climb the steepening wall on good holds until a move can be made up and left on to a ridge. Move up to an overhung recess, where an airy traverse right onto the face leads to good holds and easy ground. Belays well back. Descent down a gully to the left.

## CAVE BUTTRESS



H Hazel's Birthday

G Gilammonster