



Dibba Coast
DWS Update May 2011



ABOUT THIS UPDATE

This update should be read in combination with the Dibba Coast chapter of the book "UAE Rock Climbing", which includes notes on renting boats, DWS safety and other practicalities as well as details of most of the pre-2010 DWS routes recorded on the coast. The update documents all the DWS routes that have been done since then plus some re-discovered routes from earlier. In the long term maintaining a definitive record of what's been done will probably be impossible, because of the vast amount of rock. But for now it seems appropriate while the parameters of what's worthwhile and what isn't are getting established.

The route information is categorised within three broad geographical zones with separate maps for each: Dibba to Limah, Limah to Habyalayn, north from Habyalayn. The maps plus the topo photos should be adequate to find the cliffs, especially if you pay attention to the major landscape features en-route, such as the bays, headlands and taller sea cliffs.

There are no star ratings in the updates as most of the new routes have only had one or two ascents so far. A tentative list of classics is on the back page - don't take it too seriously!

Similarly route lengths are not given. You can guess.

People interested in establishing new routes might want to consider some of the following:

- it's quite easy to find areas with just one interesting climbable line. It's much harder to find areas with multiple interesting lines but in the long run these are more likely to prove popular.
- rock quality is very variable, even between cliffs in close proximity, but is hard to assess from a distance. You can't really tell without pulling on the holds. However there are a few generalisations that seem to hold mostly

true from Dibba right up to the Straits of Hormuz: the red/ orange patina is usually good; the coal black rock is usually brittle; white and grey stuff needs a closer look.

- some areas are plagued by shallow water. For example, almost the entire inner coastline of Khor Habyalayn has a protruding coral shelf just below the low tide mark.
- whilst some of the more remote areas of the coast are very pretty, routes established there are less likely to be popular than areas within a hour or two from Dibba. That said, powerboats can travel a surprisingly long way in a couple of hours; at least as far as Khor Habyalayn.
- the sport is called Deep Water Soloing - not Boulderling. Spare us any three move "routes" please.

A few other things worth keeping in mind:

- always carry enough water and sun screen.
- no one regrets bringing snorkelling gear, for checking depth as well as a diversion from climbing.
- avoid slipping on barnacled rock as it will rip your skin to shreds.

The Indian Ocean coast of Musandam is a very special place. The climbing is pretty good, sometimes great, but the overall experience is exceptional. Please do whatever you can to keep it that way.

The author is very interested in any feedback on climbing visits to the coast, whether new routes, repeats or just cool wildlife pictures. Please get in touch via the contact page at redarmadapublishing.com/blog

Toby Foord-Kelcey, May 2011

DIBBA TO LIMAH

Ⓐ Conga Line (p128 of the book)

No new additions or re-gradings. The traverse remains very popular.

Ⓑ Rotisserie Stack (p129 of the book)

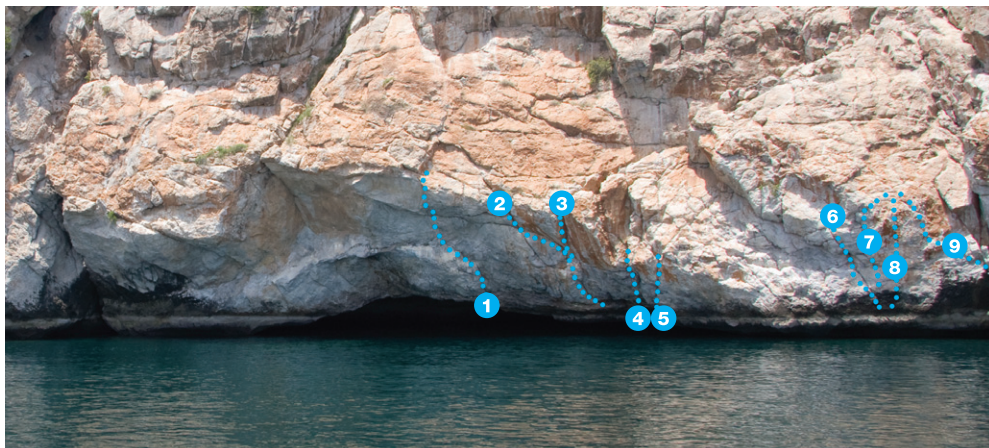
No new additions or re-gradings.



© Gen's Cave Area (p130 of the book)

Many new routes have been done and information gathered on older ones that were not recorded in the guide. This should now be regarded as one of the major DWS areas of the coast, and - being close to Dibba - one of the most convenient. There are now four distinct sectors. Of these, the **Lefthand Buttress** (p130 of the book) has no new additions or re-gradings.

The Cave



1 Generation-X F7b+ S1

The stunning central line out of the cave. Start from a jug on the lip of the cave entrance, which should be accessible at most tides, pull up then continue more easily to a ledge at 5m. Cross the bulge above heading slightly leftwards to the break then exit with difficulty up to the left again. Neil Gresham, 25 April 2011

2 Battle of the Bulge F6b+ S0

Steep flake into rising traverse line. Read Macadam, 2006

3 Thick Red Line F6a+ S0

Earlier exit to the previous route. Read Macadam, 2006

4 O-toro F6a S0

The short fat crack. Read Macadam, 2006

5 Maguro F6c+ S0

The leaner crack. (Photo p131 of the book) Read Macadam, 2006

6 Gender Bender F6a+ S0

The leftwards trending line into a niche. Seb Grieve, 25 April 2011

7 The Gennie F6b S0

Rightwards trending line starting left of the shield feature. Seb Grieve, 25 April 2011

8 Friday the 13th F6c+ S0

Central line up the shield feature on crimps. Mike Robertson, 25 April 2011

9 Irish Cream F5+ S0

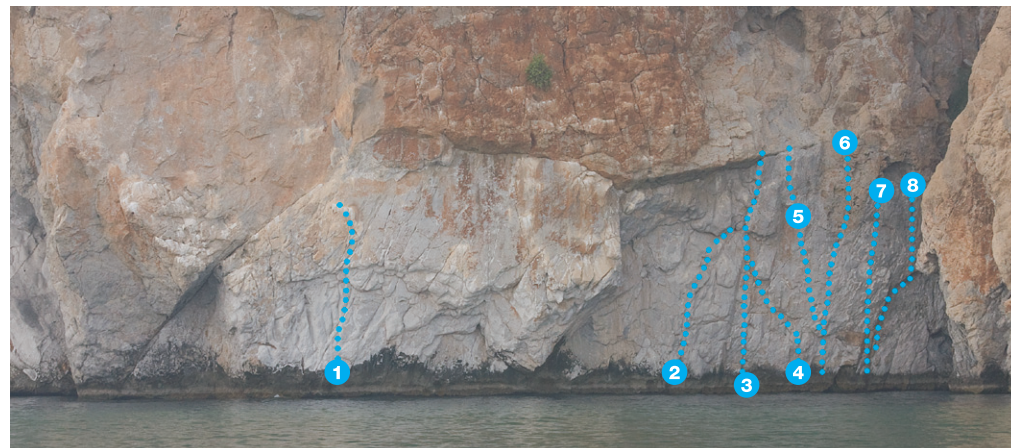
Leftwards trending line starting right of the shield feature from "fangs". Mike Robertson, 25 April 2011

10 Scaramanga F6a S1

[not in topo] Weave between overhangs up the buttress about 8m further right. Grant Farquhar, 25 April 2011

Gogarth East

The tall wall of solid white rock about 50m right of the cave named for a vague resemblance to Gogarth Main Cliff in North Wales. All the routes are worthwhile. The descent jumps are from a significant height – take care.



1 The Weird and the Wonderful F6a S1

Line up the left side of the wall. Read Macadam, 25 April 2011

2 Exile on Main Cliff F6a+ S1

Rightwards trending line into the niche on The Fixer. Grant Farquhar, 25 April 2011

3 The Professionals F6b+ S1

Direct start to the niche on the Fixer. Seb Grieve, 25 April 2011

4 The Fixer F6b S1

Leftwards trending line into a shallow chimney/ niche. Jump from here or continue to the ledges above. Mike Robertson, 25 April 2011

5 Positron F7a S1

Thin moves direct to the ledges. Tim Emmett, 25 April 2011

6 Rat Race F6b S1.

Start as for the previous route but break out rightwards to finish through crozzley rock. Read Macadam, 25 April 2011

7 Washed Out F6b+ S1

Direct line up to a cave/ledge. Read Macadam, 25 April 2011

8 The Investor F6b+ S1

Start up the rightwards trending crack then break out upwards to a cave/ ledge. Mike Robertson, 25 April 2011



Neil's Wall

Wall about 200m right of the Cave.

1 First off the Blocks F6c S1

The steep bulging wall on pockets and slots. Neil Gresham, 20 April 2011



⑩ Read's Stack

The next deep bay north of Gen's Cave has a sand beach and an obvious pointy stack.

About six routes were done here by Read Macadam in 2006. Details not known.



⑨ Birdshit Buttress

A tall white wall topped by guano ledges.

① Holiday Tourettes F6c+ S1

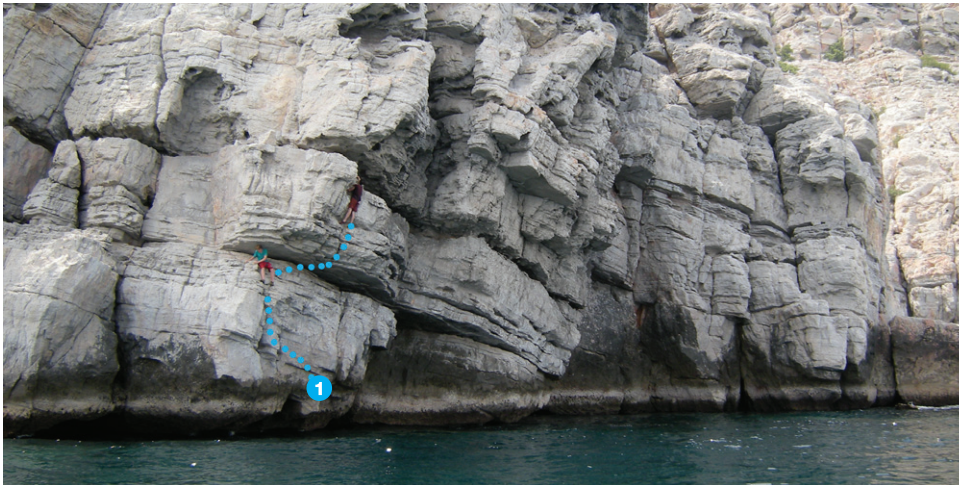
Left hand line linking slot features. Neil Gresham, 19 April 2011

② Happy Snappers F6c S1

Right hand line linking slot features. Read Macadam, 19 April 2011

③ Amelie F6b S0

Shorter route up to the oval scoop. Mike Robertson, 19 April 2011

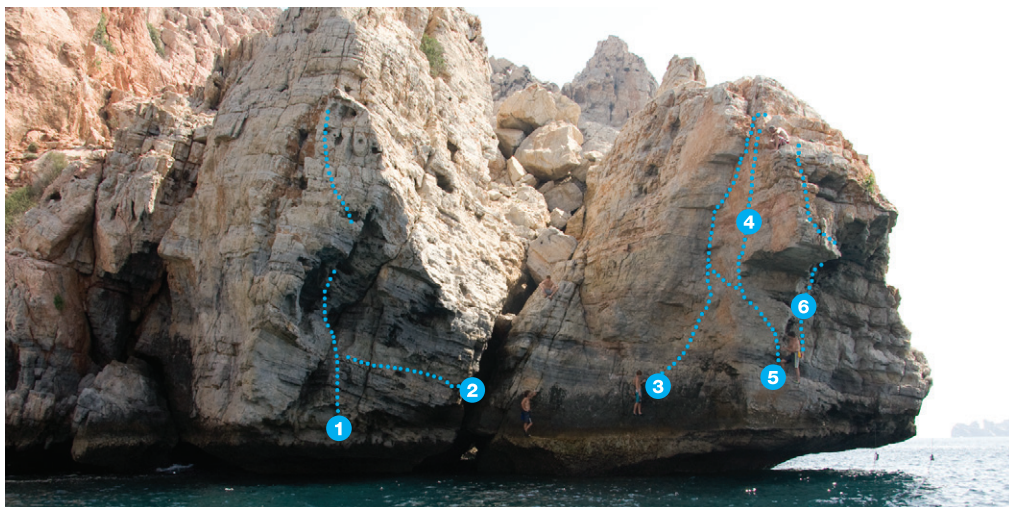


⑦ Mike's Roof

Neat horizontal overhang feature on the left side of the bay before the Limah peninsula.

① Rumours of Bob but never Bob F6b+ S0

Shuffle under the roof to the obvious crack. Reach out to the lip and struggle past this to the ledge above. Toby Foord-Kelcey, May 2010



© The Badger Set

Compact area with a prominent corner on the south side of the peninsula across from Limah Rock

1 Homoerotica F5+ S0

Steep line of jugs. Mike Robertson, 25 April 2011

2 The Straights of Hormuz? F6a+ S0

Adds more steep moves with a pumpy traverse start from the right. Mike Robertson, 25 April 2011

3 Cheshire Cat F6b+ S1

The corner starting from the left. Beware shallow water at the start. Exit horizontally right on crimps at the top. Tim Emmett, 25 April 2011

4 Greased Lightning F7a S0

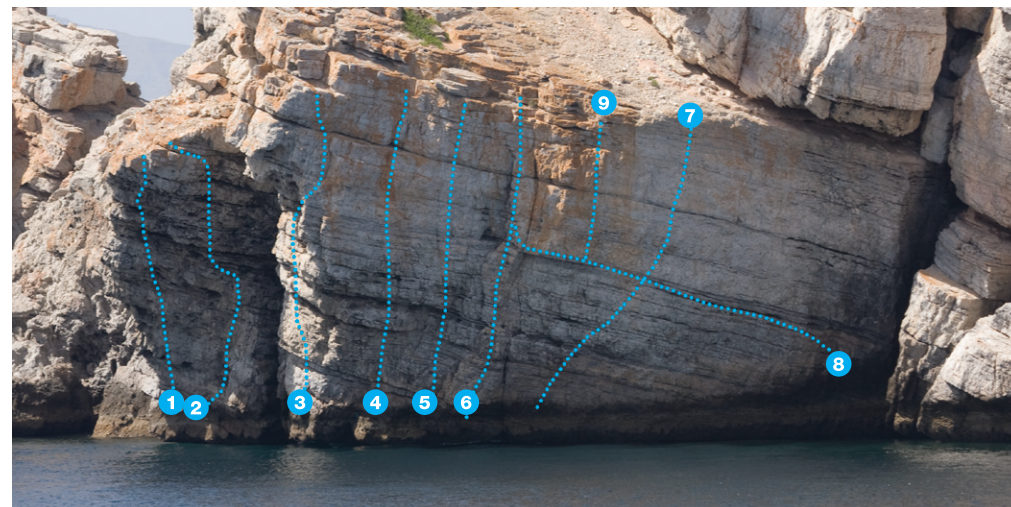
Thin wall right of the corner starting from ledges to the right. Tim Emmett, 25 April 2011

5 That's the Badger F6b+ S0

Safer righthand start to Cheshire Cat. Toby Foord-Kelcey, 25 April 2011

6 Bat Man F5+ S0

Juggy traverse line through the roof. Grant Farquhar, 25 April 2011



© Limah Rock (p132 of the book)

1 Lobbing Limah F6c S1

The continuously overhanging left side of the roof feature (keeping right of the arete) to a dramatic central exit. Neil Gresham, 20 April 2011

2 Limah Roof F6b+ S1

Easily up to the pedestal ledge at half-height, then step left and climb the juggy overhanging wall to an exit just right of centre. Toby Foord-Kelcey, May 2010 (helpfully pre-cleaned by Mike Oliver)

3 Cesta Nejmensiho Odporu F6b S1

Climb first left of the blunt arete then on its right side. (Photo p133 of the book). Jiri Vystejn, 3 July 2009

4 Nice Wrasse! F6b S1

Straight up the wall. Read Macadam, 20 April 2011

5 Limah Love You Long Long Time F6b S1

The gap just to the right. Seb Grieve, 20 April 2011

6 Limah Flake F5+ S1

The obvious flake/ crack line. Tim Emmett, Read Macadam, 20 April 2011 (in descent!)

7 Turbo Timmy F7a+ S1

Diagonal line from base of the flake finishing rightwards. Tim Emmett, 20 April 2011

8 Eastern Taste F6a S1

Crack line from right to left finishing in the flake. Tim Emmett, 20 April 2011

9 Limah's Limeys F6a S1

Break out of the previous route to finish up the wall right of the flake. Read Macadam, 20 April 2011

LIMAH TO HABYLAYN

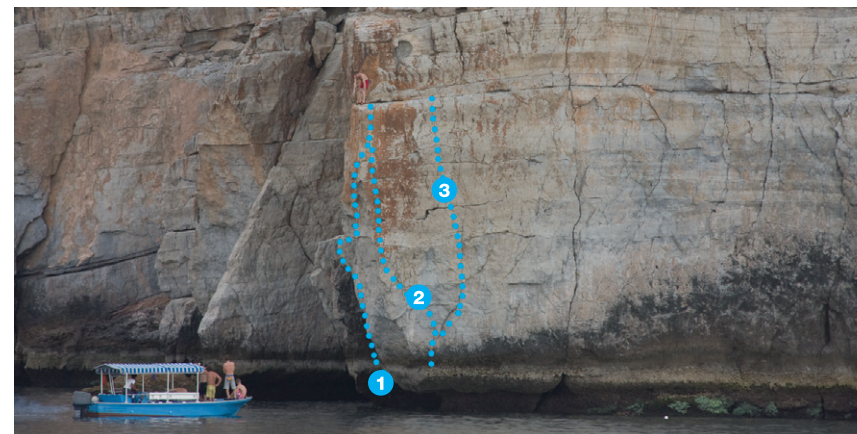


f Barracuda Stack (p134 of the book)

No new additions or re-gradings. The Pyramid feature has now been climbed. See the separate topo at redarmadapublishing.com/updates.php

9 Golden Stack (p135 of the book)

No new additions or re-gradings.



A The Red Pillar

An obvious pillar feature about 200m left of the entrance to the deep bay.

1 Grievous Intentions F7b S1

Sharp arete to an obvious mid-height ledge, hand traverse right then make difficult moves up the scooped wall, finally exiting on the finish of the next route. Read Macadam, 20 April 2011

2 Free Diving F6b+ S1

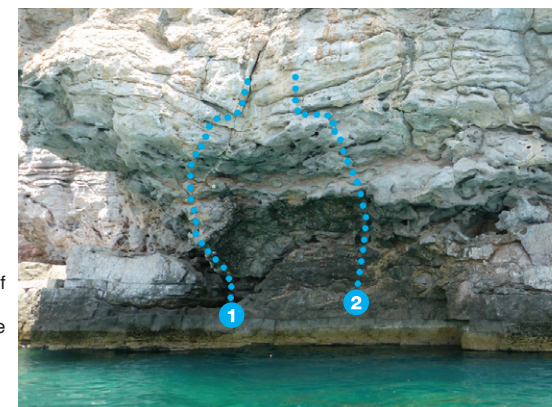
If you only climb one route in this guide, make it this one! Start 2m right of the main arete at a short crack, then move immediately leftwards to join and climb the dramatic arete. Tim Emmett, 20 April 2011

3 Decompression F6b S1

Similar climbing up the wall slightly to the right from the same start. Neil Gresham, 20 April 2011

B The Salt Mine

Hidden a few hundred metres left of the Red Pillar. A juggy roof feature, giving 7-8m horizontal routes above deep water. Just to the left is an easily accessible viewing gallery/ lunch ledge.



1 Drunk Brunch F6b+ S0

Climb a short prow to a small ledge then jug out on big holds to the lip. A hard pull round gains a standing position at the obvious flake. Matt Pfeifer, 21 May 2011

2 Prestuplenie i Nakazanie F6b+ S0

Similar to the previous route but without the half-way ledge so more sustained. Make a short leftwards hand traverse at the lip before pulling over. Toby Foord-Kelcey, 21 May 2011

© The Choss Roof

Nicely structured short overhangs with disappointing rock.
(The location wasn't recorded well so try a few of the bays to left and right of the marked spot.)

1 Choss't in Time F6a S0

Lefthand vague groove. Seb Grieve, 21 April 2011

2 Choss Adjuster F6a+ S0

The next vague groove. Toby Foord-Kelcey, 21 April 2011

3 Nachoss F6b S0

Rightward trending line through the biggest roof. Neil Gresham, 21 April 2011

4 Chosstown Traffic F6b S0

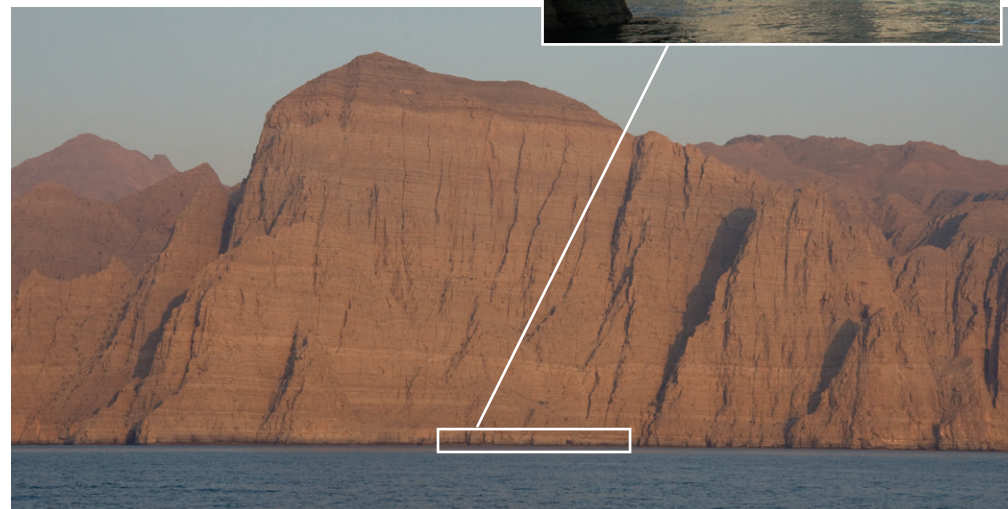
Leftward trending line through the biggest roof. Read Macadam, 21 April 2011

5 Choss Don't Do It F6a S0

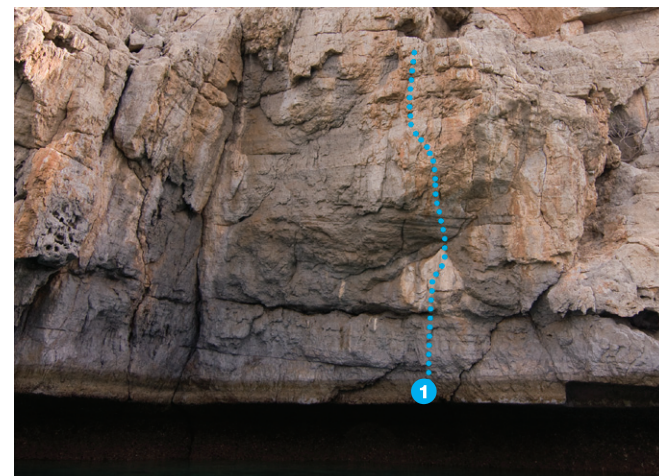
[not in topo] Overhang just right. Seb Grieve, 21 April 2011



© Big Wall Bay



Probably the best DWS area discovered on the coast so far. There are good quality routes across a broad range of grades and climbing styles. The bay is easy to find, being directly under the tallest cliff (600m?) on the whole coast. The rock on the DWS walls is notably solid, because of water-polishing from the multiple cascade lines than drain the giant face above during rain and empty into the sea here. There are several distinct sectors. Generally the routes are taller and/or harder on the left, shorter and easier at the right.



© Urchin Cove

There are various walls on the north side of the deep bay near a pretty cove with a beach and abandoned village. Only one route has been climbed so far.

1 The Equaliser F7a+ S0

The steep bulge. Neil Gresham, 21 April 2011



At the left-end of the cliff line is a protruding buttress with large horizontal ceilings. Several excellent routes are here.

1 Quip Trip F5 S1

Bridge carefully up the slimy corner then climb diagonally out to the arete above the next route. Grant Farquhar, 23 April 2011

2 One-Liner F7a+ S0

The obvious left-to-right horizontal rail to a tricky lip encounter. Reaching the start of the route is awkward at low tide. Neil Gresham, 21 April 2011

3 Pick-Up Tricks F7b S0

The mirror-image of One-Liner on a right-to-left rail to an even harder lip encounter. Read Macadam, 23 April 2011

4 No Pressure F7a S2

Traverse awkwardly out of the corner just above the overhang lip for a few metres then launch boldly up the tall face. The crux is near the top. Tim Emmett, 23 April 2011

5 Super Woods F6c S1

Extend the traverse on the previous route rightwards to the arete, then climb the arete to the top. Tim Emmett, 21 April 2011

6 Cross the Line F6c S1

Climb the previous route until a few metres up the arete, then traverse the obvious break across the front face of the buttress to the other arete and finish up that. Neil Gresham, 23 April 2011



1 Partheon Slots F8a S1

A very long right-to-left rail (hard to access) leads to big campus moves on the overhanging front face of the buttress between the obvious slots. Finish up Cross the Line. Read Macadam, 24 April 2011



The next four routes start at an obvious crack/ corner above shallow water right of the start of the previous route.

2 The Ecologist F6b S2

Carefully up the corner for a few moves then traverse leftwards to the arete just above the overhang, then up the arete to join the finish of Cross the Line. Tim Emmett, 23 April 2011

3 Prawn Star F6b S2

A similar line to previous route but taking the next horizontal break. Grant Farquhar, 23 April 2011

4 Blackie Collins F6a+ S2

The horizontal break above the previous route. Mike Robertson, 23 April 2011

5 Goldie McLaren F6a+ S2

Follow Blackie Collins to half-way along its traverse then climb straight up to the overhang above and traverse off left. Grant Farquhar, 23 April 2011

About 50m to the right is a rather dank zawn with a crack system in its back and a cleaner wall to its right.

6 All the Good Route Names are Taken F5+ S1

The crack line. Grant Farquhar, 24 April 2011

7 Cuttle Family F6a+ S0

Short technical climb past the obvious pink blob. Mike Robertson, 24 April 2011

8 Kayak Arete F4+ S0

Very easy climbing between large breaks, Toby Foord-Kelcey, 21 April 2011 (or possibly 2006?)



The next feature to the right is a long low vertical wall with an obvious horizontal crack crossing its full length.

1 Islam's Traverse F3 S0

Very easy traverse, possible in either direction. Islam the boatman, 23 April 2011

2 Punter Arete F5 S0

The arete at the wall's right end, with a slightly delicate slab finish. F4 if you jump off below the slab. Toby Foord-Kelcey, 23 April 2011

Further right is an obvious vertical wall of red rock.

3 Dreaming of Trevalen F6c S1

Very fine wall climbing straight up then rightwards and up the obvious flake crack. Hand traverse right at the top to gain an easy exit. Neil Gresham, 23 April 2011

4 Big Fish F6b+ S1

Struggle creatively up the shallow chimney/ hanging corner. Read Macadam, 23 April 2011

5 Fisherman's Arete F6a S0

Climb the arete initially starting on the right wall. Seb Grieve, 21 April 2011

The next feature is a long low wall of black rock.

6 Jenna Jameson F6a S0

Wall left of the obvious slanting groove. Grant Farquhar, 21 April 2011

7 Linda Lovelace F6a S1

The slanting groove then flake up to the right. Slightly slabby so don't fall high up. Mike Robertson, 21 April 2011

8 Charlie Sheen F5 S1

The blunt rib. Also a bit too slabby for comfort. Toby Foord-Kelcey, 21 April 2011

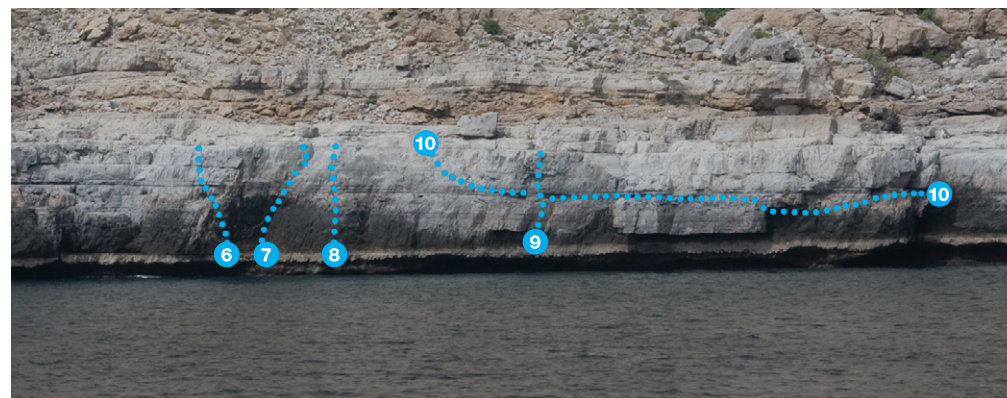
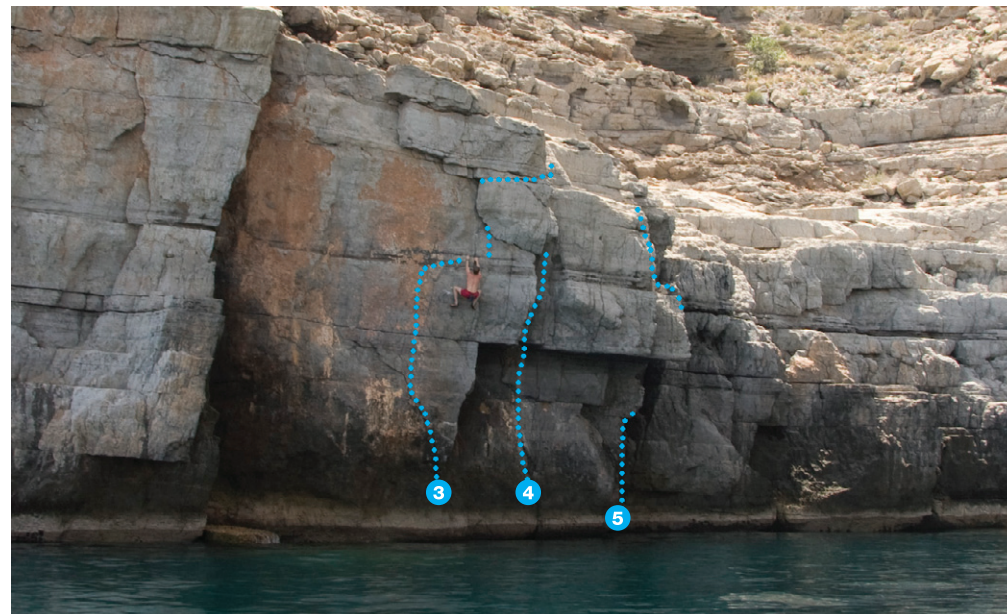
9 Flipper F6b S1

Up to the overhang then pull straight through it carefully. Mike Robertson, 21 April 2011

The next wall is a split by an obvious horizontal break

10 Two Day Traverse F6a+ S0

A long right-to-left traverse. Start in the gully/ zawn at the right end of the wall. Swing carefully out to the arete then head leftwards passing under a wide black overhang (the crux). Continue all the way past Flipper to exit to its left before Charlie Sheen. Mike Robertson, Toby Foord-Kelcey, 21/23 April 2011



NORTH FROM HABYLAYN



North of Habylayn the deep bays host yet more rock, but as yet nothing superior to the cliffs to the south has been found. However the scenery is stunning and the unique lifestyles of the Musandam fishing villages more prominent. Worthwhile to visit on a multi-day trip.



A Platforms Cove

Some short routes on orange patina'd rock on a promontory semi-detached from the mainland. Possibly of more interest than the climbing are the numerous platforms and shelters built into the cliffs, presumably for fishermen keeping watch for large shoals.

1 Waiting for Timmo F6a S0

[not in topo] Climb a face heading up rightwards to an arete. Starts about 10m left of the opening of the sea tunnel behind the promontory on its left side. Seb Grieve, 21 April 2011

2 Luciferin Madness F6a S0

Nice column feature exiting right to a ledge. Toby Foord-Kelcey, 21 April 2011

3 The Glider F5+ S0

Little arete to the same ledge. Read Macadam, 21 April 2011

4 Eagle Ray F6b S1/2

Face above shallow water exiting left to the ledge. Mike Robertson, 21 April 2011

Ⓔ Far North Bays

There are several very attractive bays here with beaches and a variety of cliff features. So far one route has been done in each of three adjoining bays. All are worthwhile. The most southern bay has a long line of cliffs on its north side. Look for an obvious flake.

1 Drop Zone F6c+ S0

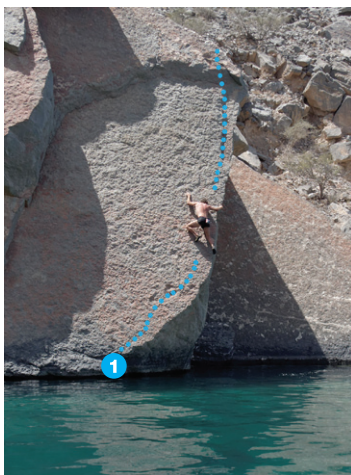
Swing easily up the flake to a wild move leftwards to distant holds then pull up to small ledges above. Neil Gresham, 22 April 2011



Ⓒ The next bay has a geometric block forming an elegant slab. The diagonal lean of the arete makes this a rare example of a (fairly) safe slab DWS.

1 Prohibition F6b S1

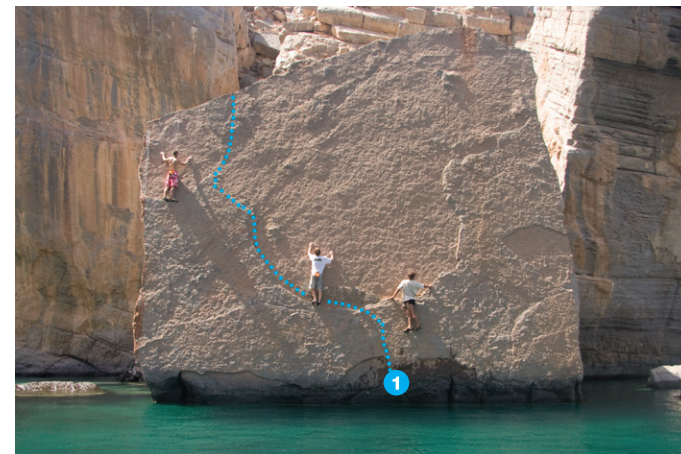
The arete eases with height. Try to fall to the right if you come off! Walk off to the right. Mike Robertson, 22 April 2011



Ⓓ And the third bay has a similar but steeper block.

1 Team Slab F6c S3

From the centre head leftwards up the flake then step up right to a ledge. A couple of thin moves gain the top. Don't fall! Read Macadam, 22 April 2011



The author's recommended list

the best first taste: **Punter's Arete** F4 easily to the first ledge then jump ... page 8
up a notch: **Barracuda Arete** F5+ past its perfectly-positioned crux ... page 134 of the book
if going high scared you: the **Conga Line** traverse F6b+ ... page 128 of the book
and up another notch: committing but not too tall **Finger in the Dyke** F6a ... page 130 of the book
short but every move is good: **Cuttle Family** F6a+ ... page 9
beautiful, compelling and unusual: **Prohibition** F6b ... page 10
perfect rock, tall but full of helpful surprises (I am told): **The Fixer** F6b ... page 2
classic upside-down action: **Drunk Brunch** F6b+ ... page 5
tall but on fantastic rock and eases with height: **Free Diving** F6b+ ... page 5
classic committing frightener: **Limah Roof** F6b+ ... page 4 (**Lobbing Limah** F6c similar but gnarlier)
varied crimp continuous excellence to a brilliant finish: **Dreaming of Trevalen** F6c ... page 9
an incredible wall for the brave (not me): **No Pressure** F7a ... page 7
too obvious to ignore and *looks* so easy: **One Liner** F7a+ ... page 7
posing perfection, THE iconic route of the coast?: **Generation-X** F7b+ ... page 2
as if!: the amazing **Partheon Slots** F8a ... page 7



Thanks to: the visiting Brits/ Canuck (Mike Robertson, Read Macadam, Tim Emmett, Seb Grieve, Grant Farquhar, Neil Gresham) for kicking the DWS scene up several gears; Mike, Read and Seb for photos; Hamad Sajwani for diligent boat negotiation services, and a photo; Theo Giani also for a photo; Ian Ganderton for northern coast beta; Mike Olver for solo-crag-cleaning and general inspirational eccentricity; Jose Molina, Sara O'Rourke and Matt Pfeifer for psyche and support.