

TOPO WADI GNAI

Wadi Gnai

Wadi is a 30 minutes drive from the center of Dahab. Waterfalls & Connection have fully bolted sport routes, and Camel Canyon has a mix of sport & trad routes with bolted starters.

At the furthest end of Wadi Gnai there are the boulder fields - Aragon & Dali are the two areas nearest the road, with many many more problems to be found above them.

We highly recommend a walk up the Wadi to the second Waterfall and beyond - boulder addicts will easily see why this area is also known as "Little Hampi"

About Wadi Gnai

The first crag to be bolted in Dahab was Wadi Connection, by Enzo Verrari some time in the late 1990's.

Next to come along were the Oostra brothers, Erik and Ralph, who re-bolted parts of Connection and found Waterfalls.

In 2009 Mondy and Juerg Meyer set up a beginners area at Middle Gnai, just for top roping.

Finally in 2010 the 'Hot Rock' expedition came through and bolted 11 routes in Camel Canyon.

If you head up to the end of Wadi Gnai you'll find Little Hampi, the boulder area. Fred Stone and John set most of these problems, which Fred then mapped. He came back in February 2010 and continued his work above the waterfall boulder, stretching right up to the second waterfall. John and Anne Arran are also keen boulderers and set and mapped some boulders near Sharm (www.thefreeclimber.com).

Getting there

Wadi Gnai is 30 minutes from the centre of Dahab. The best way to get there is by taxi, but we do advise you ask your driver to stay with you all day in case of emergency, as mobile phone reception is almost non-existent.

Seasons

The best time of the year for climbing is September to May. In October to April it's possible to climb all day; early mornings and evening being better outside of those dates.

Connection, Waterfalls and Middle Gnai are in shade during the winter. In Camel Canyon you can chose which side of the road to climb on according to where the sun is. It can be a little chilly in the shade in the winter, it is a good idea to bring a jumper with you.

In the summer you will need at least 3 litres of water per person.

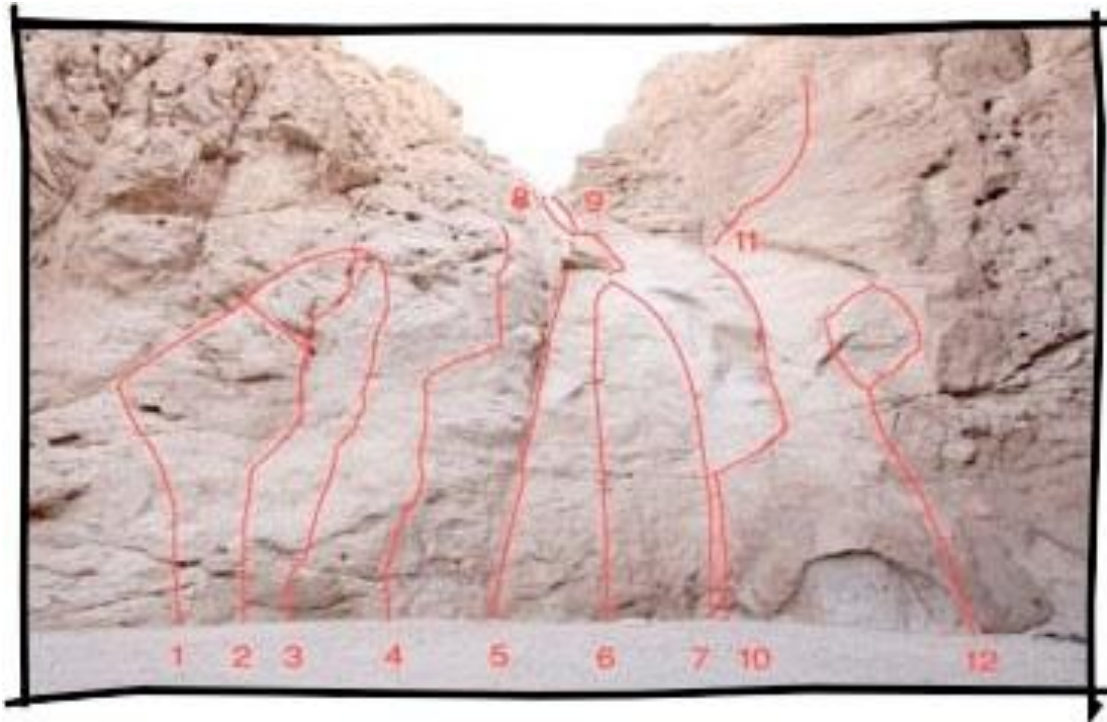
Grading

We have used French grades for the sport routes, Font grades for the boulder problems, and UIAA grades for the trad routes at St Katherine. If you put up a new route please let us know so we can include it for others.

Sites in Wadi Gnai:

1. [Waterfalls](#)
2. [Connection](#)
3. [Camel Canyon](#)

Waterfalls



All the routes are closely bolted. The lower-offs for routes 1-7 consist of two chains linked by a large maillon. Routes 8 and 9 have a dodgy bolt and piton, but continue past those to two further (and rather more secure) bolts. Routes 10-12 have two bolts each with a maillon on each bolt. All the routes are around 20m with the exception of Bedouin Take Away which is around 26m (but is possible on a 50m rope if you strip the route as you descend) and Hampus Digit which is around 29m.

There are a few bolts above Bedouin Take Away to enable access to the top, they are on loose rock, and fairly widely spaced.

Routes are described left to right.

1. **Kid's Dream 3a** 8 Bolts. Easy scramble up the left to right diagonal rib. Lower-off shared with Bedouin Dinner and Mundi's Snack.

2. **Bedouin Dinner 4c** Follow the crack straight up, more vertical than it looks.

2.a **Bedouin Dinner Light 4b** 9 Bolts. An easier variation, escape to the left just before the 'roof' of Bedouin Dinner.

3. **Mundi's Snack 5a** A fine, finery crack line between Bedouin Dinner and Bedouin Take Away. Unbolted at present.

4. **Bedouin Take Away 5b/c** 11 Bolts. A meandering line following the positive hand and foot placements.

5. **Heartbeat 5b/c** 12 Bolts (inc. 1 extra long on bolt 9). The slab route to the right of the obvious crack. Believe in the friction!

6. **Who Ate The Bolt? 6b** 10 Bolts. The main line up the centre of the slab.

7. **Hala's Camel 6b+/c** 9 Bolts. Follow the vertical crack up to the water carved half pipe.

8. **The Entertainer 6c+/7a** The left hand line up the top waterfall.

9. **Right Waterfall 6c+/7a** The right hand line up the top waterfall.

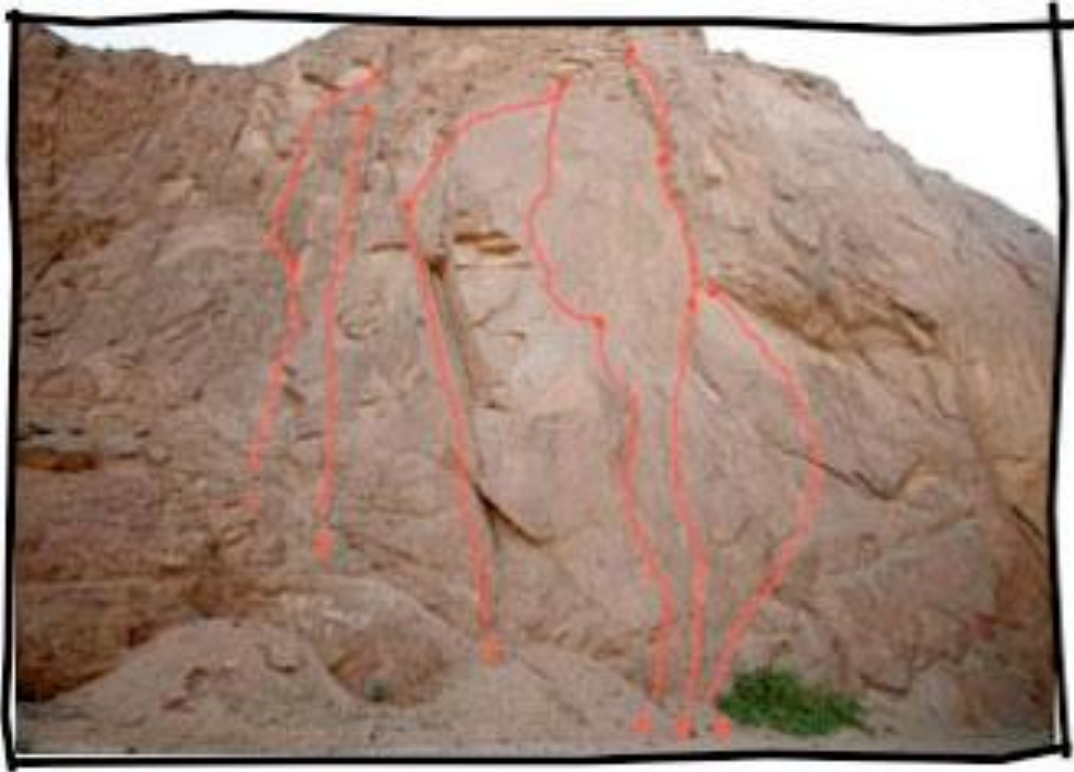
10. **Hampus Digit 6a+** 13 Bolts. The line of the crag. Start at the base of Hala's Camel for three bolts, then traverse along the horizontal break, heading up the crack next to the frictionless slab.

11. **Oasis 6b** The second pitch of Hampus Digit. Head up the centre of the wall to the right.

January 2010 a large section came away to the left of the line, so staying on route (close to the bolts) is advised

12. **Shwia Shwia 6b+ (7a?)** Two variations, the right being slightly more protected.

WADI CONNECTION



This crag is directly in front of the checkpoint, permission maybe required before climbing, but the police are often happy just to have some entertainment.

Routes 1-6 are on the East side of the road, and get the sun in the morning even in winter, 7 and 8 are on the West side, and are more shaded.

It is possible to descend after one or two pitches on all the routes.

Routes are described left to right.

1.1st Pitch 4a 12m 6 bolts. A good warm-up slab route up the crack on the far left of the crag. 6th bolt loose.

2nd Pitch 6a 28m 9 bolts. A good initial start gives way to loose rock further up.

2 bolts at top- no chain. Not recommended!

2.1st Pitch 5c+ 26m 13 bolts. Friction start leads to big holds, more of a 'power' route than most in the area. Slings (4ft)/long quickdraws needed on bolts 3 and 11.

2nd Pitch Unknown 10m.

3.1st Pitch 6a 26m 10 bolts. Easy angled slab with very fine, delicate moves.

2nd Pitch 6c 26m 13 bolts. Continue up the right face and around the corner onto the main face for maximum exposure! Long traverse to the right is made slightly less intimidating by closely spaced bolts. Watch out for rope drag around the corner! *It is JUST possible to abseil down to the lower off of pitch one on route 4 on a stretched 60m rope.*

4.1st Pitch 4c 20m 4 bolts. High first bolt, the rest widely spaced.

2nd Pitch 7b? 30m. Straight up the crackline on the main face.

5.1st Pitch 4a 22m 5 bolts. High first bolt, the rest widely spaced.

2nd Pitch 6b+ 15m 7 bolts. Head straight up the obvious hand jam crack to the large belay ledge. Another 'power' route, with an overbearing feel. More vertical than it looks.

3rd Pitch ?? 20m.

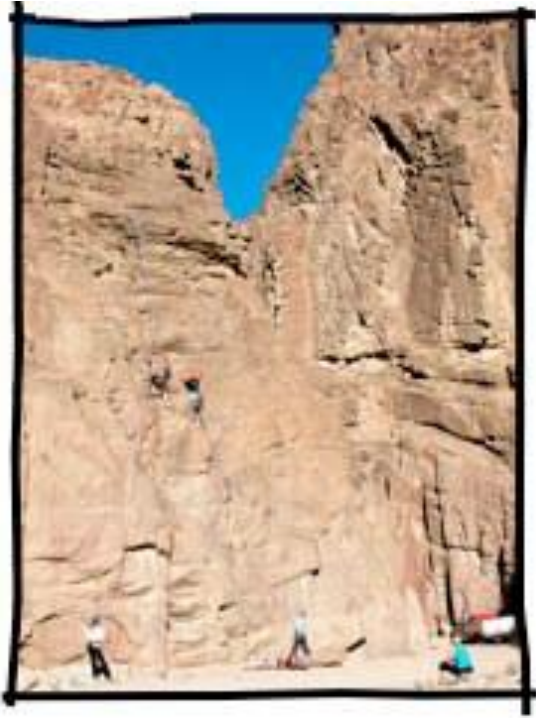
6.1st Pitch 6b 24m 10 bolts. An easy slab start, progressing steadily more difficult to the steeper crux at the top. Sling (4ft)/long quickdraw recommended on bolt 4. A good alternative start to route 5.

7.1st Pitch 4a? 20m 2 bolts!

8.1st Pitch 4b? 25m 5 bolts, 1st bolt loose.

2nd Pitch 15m No bolts, just stance?!

CAMEL CANYON



| No. | Name | Grade | Type of Climbing |
|-----|--------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Judy | 3+ | Wall climbing on black basalt |
| 2 | <u>Katia</u> | 5b | Wall climbing |
| 3 | <u>Inka</u> | 5a | Wall climbing |
| 4 | Melina | 5b | Wall climbing |
| 5 | Mariam | 4a | Corner / <u>Piaz</u> |
| 6 | Anna | 4b | Wall climbing |
| 7 | Simone | 4a | Corner |
| 8 | Lena | 6a / 4a | Little Roof |
| 9 | Fatima | 5b | Little Overhang |
| 10 | Nora | 4a | Crack / Wall |
| 11 | <u>Fola</u> | 3- | Mixed |

Routes are a mix of trad with bolted stations, fully bolted and trad with the odd bolt.

This area is still being worked on, there are plenty of new routes to be had. Top out's on the whole are not possible due to the loose nature of the rock higher up.

Routes are described left to right.

1. **Burning Camel 6a+/5.10b** 20-25m. Sport Slippery layback up through an overhanging crack to hand crack and flakes above (bolted belay, 5 bolts on route). Belle classique! Roger Buser and Laura Knogler.
2. **The Sensitive Drummer 5+** 25m. Sport Sloping grade 5 ledges lead to an exposed boulder (5+) beyond which there is easier low angled slab (4-4+). Bolted belay, 6 bolts on route. Roger Buser, Rhonda Shippy and Laura Knogler.
3. **The Sand-Witch 6a/b?** Start in the corner (bridging), up above small roof to the right in 2nd corner. To ledge. Climb last face (2 moves) to belay. Remi Tourmier and Roger Buser.
4. **First Bolt 20m 6a+?** Follow the slab straight up to bolted station on the right. Unfinished project.
5. **Smokey BroadSides 45m** Climb the block to the ledge and up the crack, head to the right to a small ledge and traverse right up the ramp to the corner crack to a bolted belay. Charles Upton and Rhonda Shippy.
6. **Castle Anthrax 5** 20m. Go up bulgy corner. 4 bolts, to 2 bolt anchor. Rhonda Shippy and Charles Upton.
7. **Camel-lot 6a** 20m. Up the crack! Small crux at the beginning. 2nd crux after 5m, then very easy to belay. Remi Tourmier and Shu Gok.
8. **Africa King 6b/c** 15m. 2 bolts and small cams for the top. Big move (6b if tall, 6c if short!). Climb to the anchors. Patrick Davey.
9. **Africa Queen 5-** 15m. Climb the crack to the right of 2 bolts to stance and bolt belay. Patrick Davey and Lauren Walters.
10. **Up Periscope** Follow obvious crack on left side of crack. Small wires to protect. Rhonda Shippy and Charles Upton.
11. **Dive, Dive, Dive!** Climb up slab to the right of crack to 2 bolt anchor. Top rope.

