

D MAID MARION ROCKS

Drive from Tafraout: **20 minutes**
Walk-in: **2 to 10 minutes**

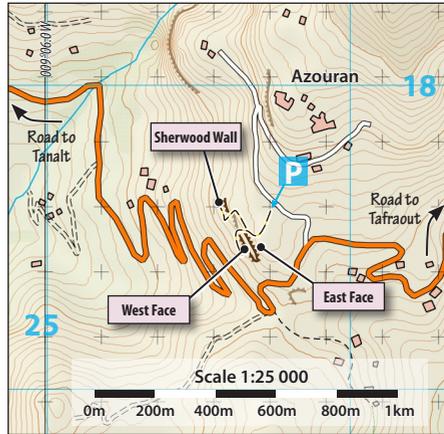
This small crag holds a selection of nice single-pitch climbs on both its east and west faces. The approach is short, the rock is excellent, and the crag is ideal for families, picnics, or a quick evening climb. This is also one of the closest quartzite crags to Tafraout, thanks to the very short walk-in.

The rocks are somewhat difficult to spot when travelling west, but are located 11km from the Anergui turnoff from the main Ameln Valley road, at a set of hairpins that drop down into the dispersed settlements west of Tagmout. Just before the hairpins are reached a small track turns off up the hillside to the right to the village of Azouran. Just after reaching the top of the short hill the track levels out onto an attractive plateau, from where the tiny east face of the crag is visible some 50 yards across fields on the left. The larger west face of the crag is easily reached around either end.

East Face

The east face holds a handful of tiny micro-routes above the pleasant flat plateau, and is a useful spot for families, kids, and picnics.

Approach: Easily, 2 minutes across fields.



1. Mini Jedi VS 4b ★

7m. The wall on the left end.
Laurence King & Grace Aldridge, February 2011.



2. Porda Severe 4a ★

7m. The wide crack is a very pleasant route.
Steve Broadbent (solo), November 2012.



3. Bowie's Bulge HS 4b

7m. The small crack 3m to the right has a tricky steep exit.
Laurence King & Grace Aldridge, February 2011.

4. Pointless Difficult

7m. The chimney.
Laurence King & Grace Aldridge, February 2011.

5. Keercat Difficult

7m. Start next to the previous route and climb up rightwards via the obvious weakness.

Steve Broadbent (solo), November 2012.

6. Quartz Break VS 4c ★

7m. The diagonal quartz break has runners just before the crux, but is bold nevertheless.

Fruit & Lorna Fewtrell, November 2013.

7. Conga Very Difficult

7m. Nice climbing up flakes at the right side of the wall.

Steve Broadbent (solo), November 2012.

8. Tinga Severe

7m. The rib just right of the descent.

Steve Broadbent (solo), November 2012.

9. Dude, Where's my Nut? Severe

7m. This route climbs the sidewall on the left side of *Rock Goblin*. Climb the wall and crack to a jug, then swing left to finish up the arête.

Nicholas Lokuciewski, April 2014.

10. Rock Goblin Difficult

7m. The corner to the right. Using the left arête is 'out' if you want to be pure about such things...

Mark Cunnington, April 2014.

11. Toddy Teapot Moderate

7m. The corner / gully.

12. Lightning Beer Severe ★

7m. A nice mantelshelf up the right-hand wall.

13. Stolen Bread Very Difficult ★

7m. The quartz crack line running diagonally up the wall.
Laurence King & Grace Aldridge, February 2011.

The next route is located on an undercut slab, some 20m to the right of *Stolen Bread*.

14. Edgy Severe ★

7m. Make a difficult move out of the corner to gain a pocket on the left edge of the slab. Continue up the edge of the slab to an easier finish.

Fruit & Lorna Fewtrell, November 2013.

15. Popty Ping'd Wibbly Wobbly VS 4b ★

7m. Start easily up blocks right of *Edgy* to reach the cracked rib, and climb this to a block. Move slightly left and continue up a thin crack in the rib above to a blocky ledge.

Fruit & Lorna Fewtrell, November 2013.

16. Plastic Tax Very Difficult

7m. The short wall immediately right of *Popty Ping'd*.

Steve Broadbent (solo).

The next routes are located at a short steep wall at the right-hand end of the crag, about 20 metres beyond the previous route.

17. Monkey Brains VS 4a

7m. Straight up the steepest part of the overhang.

18. Twin Cracks Severe ★

7m. The twin cracks just right of *Monkey Brains*.

19. 5 Kilos of Tangerines Hard Difficult

7m. The face right of *Twin Cracks*.

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AM 2m East Face

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Sherwood Wall

This excellent steep wall is located at the far left-hand end of the West Face. Some loose rock requires care, but there are some fine, steep pitches in the mid grades.

Approach: From the parking, walk across fields to the East Face, then turn right and keep going downhill for approximately 150 metres until it is possible to cut left down a gully to the foot of the wall.

20. Dance Monkey MVS 4c ★

18m. A very fun climb, if slightly contrived. Start up *Anti Climb Axe* to gain the ramp, step right, then continue up the steep wall to a good nut runner. Traverse left from here via excellent moves to huge jugs at the top of the left arête.

Steve Broadbent & Dave Arthur, November 2017.

21. Anti Climb Axe HS 4a

20m. Climb up the right-slanting ramp, then finish up the groove above.

Melanie Grünwald, Anna Lewy & David Brock, November 2017.

22. Outlaw's Overhang MVS 4b ★

20m. A good, if short-lived climb. Pull up left through the bulge then continue up the steep rib at the top.

Steve Broadbent & Mark Stevenson, November 2017.

23. The Smuggler E1 5b ★

25m. The vague groove immediately left of *The Juggler* gives a steep pitch. Low in the grade, but with some big moves between good holds.

Steve Broadbent & Dave Arthur, November 2017.

24. The Juggler HVS 4c ★

25m. Brilliant, strenuous and juggy climbing up the steepest part of the wall.

Mark Stevenson & Steve Broadbent, November 2017.

25. Sheriff's Crack VS 4c ★

30m. The left-hand crack line gives an excellent steep pitch. Pull up through steep ground (some questionable rock) to gain the superb right-slanting crack.

Steve Broadbent & Mark Stevenson, November 2017.

26. Sherwood Wall VS 4c ★

30m. The central crackline, via a prominent spike at half-height, gives more excellent climbing.

Mark Stevenson & Steve Broadbent, November 2017.

27. Quiver HVS 4c ★

30m. The right-hand crack line is excellent, but very bold in its lower section. Move up right to good holds, then finish up the short groove above.

Steve Broadbent & Mark Stevenson, November 2017.

The next routes are located in the descent gully:

28. November Foothold Crisis MVS 4b ★

10m. An amusing climb, steeper and better than it looks, up the centre of the north wall of the descent gully. Start up a vague seam to an awkward niche, then swarm up left to the arête and easy ground.

Steve Broadbent & Dave Arthur, November 2017.

29. Who's Lead is it Anyway? V.Diff

10m. A solo up a shallow groove in the blank slab, near the top of the south wall of the descent gully.

Steve Broadbent (solo), November 2017.

30. Trebuchet Rib MVS 4b ★

20m. Start just below the argan tree and make difficult moves up steep grooves, moving rightwards to gain the easy rib to the top.

Steve Broadbent & Dave Arthur, November 2017.

West Face

Not visible from the parking area, the West Face is located behind the short East Face. It holds several good long pitches on excellent rock.

Approach: The best approach is around the right-hand (north) end of the East Face. A short scramble down beneath *Sweaty Edam* gains the base of the climbs.

31. Sweaty Edam Hard Severe ★

15m. This route climbs the largest crack on the slab at the left end of the face.

Laurence King & Grace Aldridge, February 2011.

32. Merry Men Very Difficult ★

20m. The slab up the left side of the main crag is well-protected and has some good holds.

Steve Broadbent, Melanie Grünwald & Anna Lewy, November 2017.

33. Champhur HS 4b ★

38m. Start up *Sulphagne* to gain the bay, then move left and go up a short corner crack, swinging left onto a steep slab. Climb up, then trend right to finish up an easier corner.

Lindsay Griffin & Sue Hewitt, October 2017.

34. Sulphagne HS 4a ★

35m. Some nice climbing linking ledges and chimneys up the left side of the buttress. The climb starts with an excellent technical traverse up the lower wall to gain the first ledge. From here, exit with ease up a chimney, then escape left up broken ground. *The Direct Finish* (VS 4c) continues up the curving slab to a difficult finish.

Steve & Katja Broadbent, Elie Dekoninck, December 2008.

Descent: Scramble down east side, then turn left to gain the approach gully.

35. Imhotep Severe ★

35m. A tremendous climb on immaculate rock, that more than justifies a visit to the crag for climbers operating in the lower grades. Start with difficulty to gain the wide corner crack, then exit right on superb holds to more cracks to a ledge (possible belay). Head straight up a diagonal crack in the slab above to a steep direct finish...

Steve & Katja Broadbent, Elie Dekoninck, December 2008.

36. Crossbow HVS 5a ★

35m. An excellent climb, tackling the overhanging blunt prow right of *Imhotep*. Make steep but safe moves through the overhang to join *Imhotep*, then step left onto a bold slab, which gives some excellent technical moves. Finish with interest up the corner above.

Steve Broadbent, Melanie Grünwald & Mark Stevenson, November 2017.

37. c'Donalds Theorem E1 5c ★

30m. A strenuous test-piece that consumes gear and energy in equal amounts. Climb the wildly overhanging crack to gain easier ground and a finish up the pleasant upper arête.

Steve Broadbent & Peter Hill, October 2010.

38. Iron DeHavilland HVS 5b ★

40m. The bold-looking blunt arête in the bay to the right of *Imhotep* is accessed with difficulty from the right.
 1) 20m (5b) Step up from a cactus to gain a large niche and follow the wide horizontal break out left to the arête (some loose rock). Excellent, delicate climbing then leads up the left side of the arête to a good ledge.
 2) 20m (4c) A short overhanging layback crack followed by an easy finish up a cracked slab.

Steve Broadbent & Elie Dekoninck, December 2008.

39. Berber Man Watches Kissy Wissy Difficult ★

35m. The kinked crack on the far right of the crag. From the crack head up left to a large ledge, then climb a groove onto easy-angled slabs above.

Laurence King & Grace Aldridge, February 2011.

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