

Katja Broadbent making the fun stride across from the pinnacle on pitch 4 of *Almond Ridge* (F5c) on Almond Buttress. This fun roadside climb is the closest multi-pitch route to Hotel les Amandiers, and provides a pleasant evening amusement.
Photo: Steve Broadbent

A ALMOND BUTTRESS



Drive from Tafraout: **5 minutes**
Walk-in: **5 minutes**

This is the vague buttress on the south side of the valley, just southwest of Hotel les Amandiers. Although much of the route is scrambling and it is possible to walk off from all of the belays, it gives a surprisingly fun climb with excellent views across town.

The route stays in the shade until mid afternoon, so is a good choice on hot mornings. Likewise, it provides an excellent evening outing during cooler winter months.

Approach: Almond Ridge is one of the closest multi-pitch climbs to Tafraout, and can be reached on foot from anywhere in town. If approaching by car, park on the loop road just southwest of Hotel les Amandiers, from where the climb is reached in 5 minutes, diagonally up the hillside.

Descent: Walk leftwards past the first rocky summit until it is possible to scramble down left onto the hillside above the parking. This can be descending easily to the road.

1. Almond Ridge F5c



155m. A fun, low-commitment route with easy access from Tafraout. Difficulty is concentrated in the lower section, but the hard moves are well bolted and very safe. The upper section features some very easy but well positioned climbing on good rock. The climb is fully bolted – take 12 quickdraws.

1) 40m (F5c) Start up the mossy slab to gain the left side of the vertical prow above. Excellent moves up this lead to an easier slab. Belay on a good ledge next to an argan tree.

2) 30m (F5b) Go up easy cracks and blocks to a steep wall. Step on from the right and make a tricky move past a bolt to an easy slab.

3) 25m (F5a) Go up easy ground to the left side of the steep wall above. Move right across a hanging slab and pull onto a short cracked slab above. Belay at a pinnacle.

4) 30m (F4) Walk down left and make a long stride across the gap to gain the easy angled rib. Follow this to a belay where it levels off.

5) 15m (F3) Walk along the ridge and scramble past a banana gendarme to belay beneath the summit block.

6) 15m (F5a) Climb the slabby wall to the top.

Steve & Katja Broadbent, January 2018.

Area Map on page XXX



ALMOND BUTTRESS