

João Miquel

THE BOOK

Tanomah

Rock Climbing Guide

2022 Edition

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DISCLAIMER

Rock climbing can be a dangerous sport that may lead to serious injuries or death. All routes in this guide are to be climbed with proper equipment, training, preparation and experience.

If you are not familiar with this sport, including multi-pitch climbing, search certified training before venturing on any of the climbs.

All information in this guide, including grades, protections and heights are to be treated with extreme caution, and should be used only as a guide for experienced climbers. Caution and common sense are essential for a safe climbing experience.

Descriptions of maps, drawings, grades, approaches, descents, suggestion on gear and other matters may contain errors.

Climbing routes can change with time due to usage or natural events. Some of the information may be outdated. It is the responsibility of the climber to judge the condition of any route before and during climbing.

Grades are subjective and a matter of opinion. They should be used as a general guideline.

The authors and route developers accept no liability arising from the use of this guide. Use of this guide and its information indicates your acceptance of full responsibility and liability for yourself and others that may be affected by your actions.

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INTRODUCTION

Looking northwest from the base of Al Sharaf crag you will see Jebel Jalala. This is the highest peak in sight with an elevation of nearly 2500 m. This prominent feature towers high above the city of Tanomah. The summit offers a spectacular 360° view of the area.

On its western flank, the peak takes a prominent place on the escarpment separating the plateau from the plains. The mountain exposes two perpendicular cliffs about 180 m in height: the east and south face. These make the rock look like an opened book, which is why Jebel Jalala is also called Al Qitab by the locals, meaning The Book.

This area was first climbed by Bernie Caddey and others in the 1990's. Approximately 30 m to the right of the chimney, you can still find a line of old anchors from those days which are not recommend for use.

WEATHER

Good conditions all year round. The wall faces southeast with morning sun. The shaded line reaches the main chimney around noon, shading the east face. This is a good time to start climbing as the south face will become progressively more shaded in the afternoon.

Be aware that afternoon rain and lightning are common during summer. Thick fog can also form quickly, clouding your vision. Be sure to check weather forecasts to ensure condition are suitable.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost, a word of acknowledgment to the climbing community of Saudi Arabia. Although climbing is a new sport in the kingdom, it is rapidly growing in numbers. Its enthusiasm and thirst for climbing is nothing short of contagious, having motivated the authors of this guide to further explore new vertical worlds.

A special mention to Arnoud Sloodman and Nathan Mathy. Arnoud, *the man with the vision*, took it upon himself to tackle the giant project of creating the first sport climbing multi-pitch in Saudi Arabia. Nate joined later, greatly contributing with his expertise and constant support.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in the scouting, bolting, cleaning or hauling of gear: Abdulrahman Alabdu, Ali Saad Abu Tarish, Aref Alkouatli, Ayman Waseem, Azeez Basri, Ibrahim Al Kadhim, João Miquel, Phung Ly and Yahjah Al Ameer.

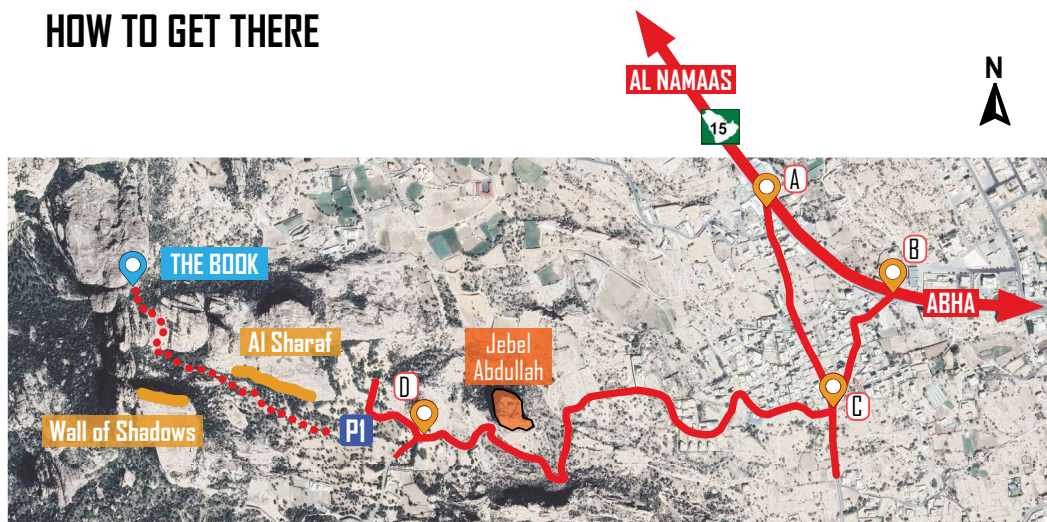
Lastly, thank you to the Riyadh Climbing Turtles for their financial support.

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HOW TO GET THERE



COORDINATES



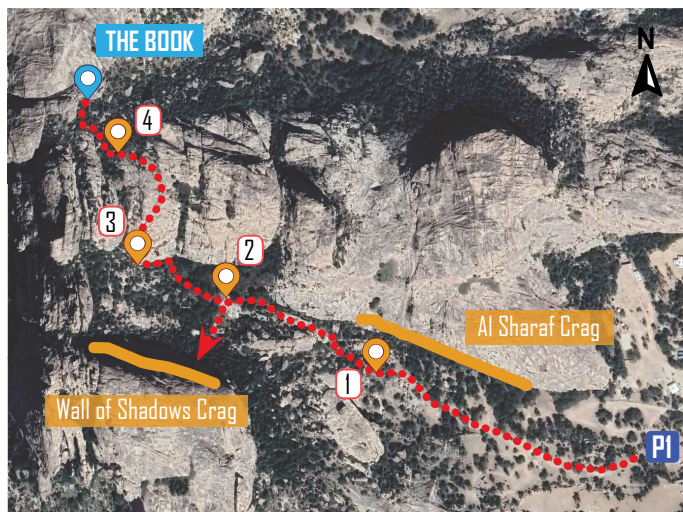
From the Abha or Al Namaas take Route 15 (King Faisal Rd) to Tanomah and exit at coordinates **A** or **B**.

At the intersection **C** drive up towards a big rock tower (Jebel Abdullah). After passing Jebel Abdullah the road becomes more leveled. At the next intersection **D** turn right into a narrow asphalt road.

The parking area **PI** will be on your left through a small entrance in a stone wall.

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APPROACH



COORDINATES



Approach time: 30 -45 minutes

From the parking **P1** walk past the campgrounds next to Al Sharaf crag until reaching the edge of the campsite **①**. Continue on a rocky forest scramble following the same approach as the Wall of Shadows crag. When reaching a solid rock platform overseeing the Wall of Shadows **②** go west into a forest trail.

Walk the forest trail until reaching a solid rock face. Stay close to the rock and scramble up to a highpoint **③**. Climb up to a big rock platform overseeing The Wall of Shadows on one side and The Book on the opposite.

Continue north to descend on the other side of the rock platform into the forest. The trail zigzags leading to an area close to a rock cliff on your left. Use a broken tree branch **④** to get up to a platform on the cliff.

Continue on the trail close to the rock face making your way to higher ground, reaching the ridge. From here head towards the tree line at the base of the climbs.

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Yalla Jalala (6a+) | Photo by Nathan Mathy



Nathan Mathy overnight during bolting works @ Ikigai (7b) | Photo by Arnaud Slaatman

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○ Belay station



Rappel point

25m Distance to next rappel point bellow



Orientation: southeast
Shade in the afternoon

ROUTES:

1 Ikigai (7b)

2 Genesis (6b)

3 Yalla Jalala (6a)

4 Flight of the Hudhud (6a+)

All routes bolted using VERTICAL EVOLUTION Ø 10 X 100mm 316L stainless steel glue-in bolts with HILTI RE 500 V4 epoxy mortar.

All belay stations and rappel points have 2 rings or chain-rings group from VERTICAL EVOLUTION.



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|----------------------|------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Ikgai (7b) | 60 m | Gear: 70 m rope | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> |
| Author: Nathan Mathy | | 15 Quickdraws | 6c+ | 7a+ | 7b |

Exposed climb that becomes progressively harder. Sustained technical climbing on good quality crimps and pockets. **Pitch 1 (6c+)** starts on a well featured wall passing a small overhang. **Pitches 2 (7a+)** and **3 (7b)** continue on a sustained slightly overhang climb.

Abseil down using the rappel points of the route.

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|-------------------------|-------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2. Genesis (6b) | 135 m | Gear: 70 m rope | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>8</u> |
| Author: Arnoud Slootman | | 14 Quickdraws | 5a | 5b | 5b | 4 | 6a+ | 6b | 6a | 4 |

This route is the 1st *chapter* of The Book. Fun easy climbing up to pitch 4 offering good practice grounds for climbers new to multi-pitch. From there it turns into more technical climbing following the obvious chimney. **Pitch 1 (5a)** starts on an easy small pillar. **Pitch 2 (5b)** follows a dihedral finishing under a big boulder. **Pitch 3 (5b)** goes up the cave behind the big boulder into a narrow chimney. **Pitch 4 (4)** is an easy slab climb towards the anchor at the base of the big chimney. **Pitch 5 (6a+)** introduces more technical climbing starting on a pillar that then continues into the big chimney. **Pitch 6 (6b)** continues the sustained chimney climb finishing above a small roof. This belay station is small and exposed, less suitable for climbing parties larger than 2. **Pitch 7 (6a)** continues on the sustained chimney climb. **Pitch 8 (4)** finishes the route with an easy climb through the chimney all the way to the top.

Abseil down using the rappel points in *Flight of the Hudhud* and *Yalla Jalala*.

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|-----------------------------|------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 3. Yalla Jalala (6a) | 55 m | Gear: 60 m rope | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> |
| Author: Arnoud Slootman | | 14 Quickdraws | 5b | 6a | 5c | 5a |

Fun 4 pitch route finishing at the base of the chimney. Perfect practice route for multi-pitch. **Pitch 1 (5b)** is the access to the start the actual climb. Do not combine pitch 1 and 2. **Pitch 2 (6a)** is a nice vertical climb on finger pockets or using the crack system on the left. **Pitch 3 (5c)** continues on an easy climb with one 5c crux on well featured rock. **Pitch 4 (5a)** makes for an easy slab climb towards the anchor at the base of the big chimney. Pitch 3 and 4 can be combined into one long pitch, but keep in mind this creates rope drag and loss of visual contact between belays.

Abseil down using the rappel points of the route.

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|--------------------------------------|------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 4. Flight of the Hudhud (6a+) | 60 m | Gear: 70 m rope | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> |
| Author: Arnoud Slootman | | 14 Quickdraws | 5c | 6a+ | 4 |

Inspired by the story of King Solomon and his cheeky bird, *The Flight of the Hudhud* offers an easier but more exposed alternative to the harder chimney pitches of Genesis. **Pitch 1 (5c)** starts on a diagonal towards the right to an exposed belay station. **Pitch 2 (6a+)** is the crux of the route with a series of long moves on nice holds. **Pitch 3 (4)** finishes with an easy climb to the top.

Abseil down using the rappel points in *Flight of the Hudhud* and *Yalla Jalala*.

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Nathan Mathy and João Miquel during bolting works | Photo by Phung Ly

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Ali Tarishi' abseiling | Photo by Phung Ly

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HIKE TO SUMMIT



COORDINATES

A  18.956533° N
42.159887° E

C  18.951504° N
42.161765° E

E  18.962181° N
42.143156° E

P2  18.961130° N
42.141258° E

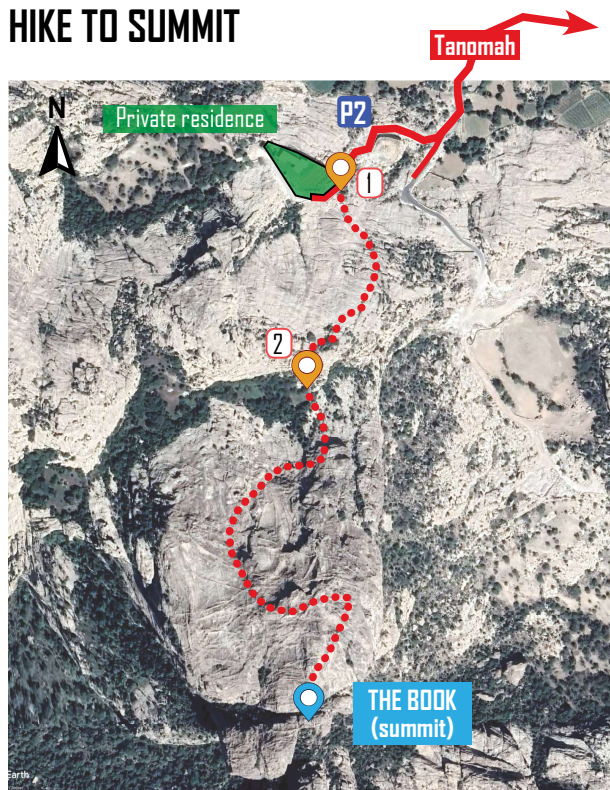
The summit can also be reached by hiking from the north via a steep walk on solid rock. To get there, make your way to the intersection **A** very close to the main road. Turn left if you are driving from intersection **C** or right if you're coming from Route 15.

Continue the road uphill past an area of rural houses and agricultural fields. At the intersection **E** stay left and continue on a steep road until arriving at a big retaining wall from a private summer residence.

Before reaching this wall, park at a small dirt patch on the right side of the road **P2**.

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HIKE TO SUMMIT



COORDINATES



Hiking time: 1 - 1.5 hours

From the parking **P2** walk a few meters on the asphalt road and climb over a low stone wall on your left **1**. Walk up a steep slab heading southeast (left). Shift directions turning southwest (right) straight up the rock slab. Scramble down making your way to a forested, grassy patch **2**. From here start a long hike up the massive rock plateau. There is no defined route here. Zigzag your way up the slab aiming for the highest point.

No rope is needed for those used to scrambling in approach shoes. Some scattered expansion bolts may be found along the way.

Once you reach the top, cross a grassy moat with some trees separating you from the summit. Make your way down to the green patch and scramble up on the other side. There are some expansion bolts that can be used for aid.

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João Miquel and Phung Ly @ top of Flight of the Hudhud (6a+) | Photo by Arnoud Slootman



Steep hike to the summit | Photo by Phung Ly

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