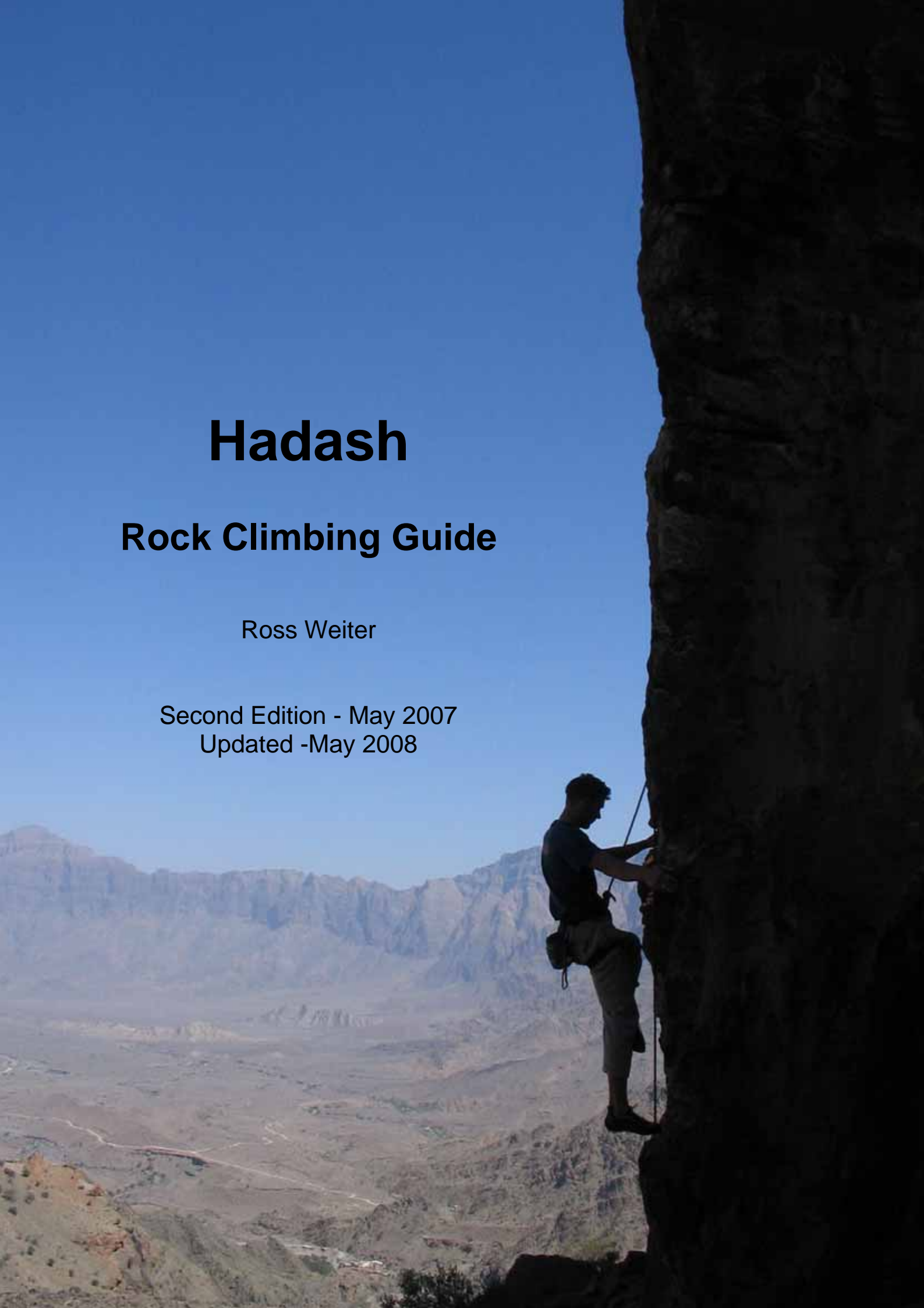


Hadash

Rock Climbing Guide

Ross Weiter

Second Edition - May 2007
Updated -May 2008



A WARNING ABOUT ROCK CLIMBING

Climbing is a sport where you may be seriously injured or killed. Read this before you use this guide.

This guide is a compilation of often-unverified information gathered from many different climbers. The author(s) cannot assure the accuracy of any of the information in this guide, including the route descriptions and the difficulty ratings. These may be incorrect or misleading as it is impossible for any one author to climb all the routes and confirm all the information. Some routes listed in the guide have had only one ascent and the information has not been verified. Also, ratings are subjective and depend on the physical characteristics such as height, experience, technical ability, confidence and physical fitness of the climber who supplied the ratings.

Therefore, be warned that you must exercise your own judgement with regard to the route location, description, difficulty and your ability to safely protect yourself from the risks of rock climbing. Examples of these risks are: falling due to technical difficulty or holds breaking off, falling rock, climbing equipment dropped by other climbers, equipment failure and failure of protection including fixed protection such as bolts.

You should not depend on any information gleaned from this guide for your personal safety. Your safety depends on your own experience, equipment and climbing skill. If you have any doubt as to your ability to safely attempt any route described in this guide, do not attempt it.

INTRODUCTION

Hadash is the place to go to for peace, views and most importantly cool dry air. 1500m above sea level, far from the coast, and with a shady northern aspect, it has all the attributes ensuring that rock climbing can be enjoyed here from late August to late April, 8 months a year. (It can be chilly in winter months; bring a jacket or fleece.)

Add to this the great views of Wadi Mistal below and the secluded location 1km from the small village of Hadash on a path to nowhere. As a bonus, the rock (Prepermian limestone) is actually of reasonably good quality. It takes 2 hours to cover the 150km from Quorum (Muscat), slow going, largely due to the last 30km of dirt road, and in particular the last 3km which is slow crawling uphill in first gear of low range 4WD.

In 2005 the local French guides Patrick Cabiro and Nathalie Hanriot, along with Thierry Renault, bolted four lines in The Pit. Further development took place beginning in 2006 when Americans Bill Huguelet and Kim Vaughn and Australian Ross Weiter developed the rest of the area, with 20 bolted climbs today from French 5b to 7a+.

GEAR AND ETHICS

Helmets are absolutely essential for belayers as there is loose rock. Although most of the climbs are in the 20m range, many of the routes are 30m long, so you would be well served by a 60m rope. Routes are bolted and have lower-offs. Bring 10 draws plus 2 slings for the belay. Top ropes are easily set up for some of the climbs as you can walk to top of crags, particularly at Sulfureuse Crag.

Climb preferably in long trousers. It will not only be in keeping with local customs (you will be walking in through the village of Hadash) but also save your legs from scratches. The village has many goats and many children, all of whom are afraid of dogs. **Please do not bring your dog to the crag!**

Remember that continued access to this crag will depend on maintaining good relations with the villagers. While meeting the locals it is wise to be respectful and apply plenty of smiles, "Hello – how are you" (something the local kids are well versed with) and "salaam aleikum" (Arabic: "peace be upon you"; reply is "aleikum as salaam") – i.e. you are going to climb in their neighbourhood.

HOW TO GET THERE

This area is in the Ghubrah Bowl, at the head of Wadi Mistal. From the Quorum roundabout in Muscat, drive towards Sohar until the large Barka roundabout. There turn left towards Nakhal; you will reach it after 31km. Continue on the main road for 15km past Nakhal. At the Wadi Mistal sign turn left, then continue for 27km up the main dirt road, then turn left for Hadash (in 2008 the sign was missing; veer left at the sign showing Al Hegar to the right) and continue up the steep track for 4km to the tiny village of Hadash (low-range 4WD required). While on dirt roads, if passing any pedestrians or people in open vehicles please drive very slowly and do not cover them with dust. Hand greetings and accepting requests for lift will be appreciated. Park just before the village (before the flat area and 30m before the walking track sign) where there is a nice flat pull-out for 2 cars on the right side.

Walk on the road right (west) through the village, where it ends. Traverse the rubbish-filled gully at the back of the village and then follow the path along the purple scree slope to the large cliff on the other side. Follow the path along a contour past the cliff until it eventually leads past all the climbing crags, some 1km from the village and out of line of sight. You will first walk 20m below the Sulfureuse and Black Crags, then right under the Wall with Roofs and into The Pit. The whole walk should take at most 20 minutes.

The approach path from the car parking area



THE CLIMBS

The routes are bolted sport climbs. Grades are French, see comparison table at the end. All climbs are described from left to right, as you come across them.

For all new routes and comments to help keep this guide correct and up to date, please utilise the *New Routes* forum on www.omanclimbing.com (set up by Tony Robson).

Index to first ascentionists: (thanks a lot /merci beaucoup!) (KB) Kim Vaughn & Bill Huguelet; (PN) Patrick Cabiro & Nathalie Hanriot; (R) Ross Weiter; (S) Soren Henningsen; (T) Thierry Renault

SULFUREUSE CRAG

This small crag is perhaps best fun of the lot with every square inch eminently climbable at a moderate grade, hence the number of bolts. Setting a top rope is easy also. In the shade from mid-morning, depending on season. The rock dust smells of sulphur, hence the name.

* **Canned Fish (16m, 6a+)** (KB) 10/06

Alternative nutritious snacks may see you through also, but why risk it? 5 bolts.

*** **Czech Mate (18m, 6a+)** (R) 10/06

Pocket-filled black face, excellent rock, sustained and fun! 6 bolts.

** **Bolting Pardi (18m, 6a+)** (KB) 10/06

The bouldery start is followed by the shattered crack at half-height. 6 bolts.

** **Pump Now, Pay Later (18m, 6b)** (R) 10/06

When ever you want a rest, there isn't one. Sustained and pumpy indeed, with unobvious holds. 5 bolts.

** **Big Girl (18m, 6b+)** (R) 10/06

Another pumpy enterprise, this time with a panic-inducing crux up top. Levitate past 5 bolts.



***** Tufa Man (18m, 6b) (R) 9/06**

The white streak forming the right side of the face. Part of the tufa fell off, but the belayer jumped in time! 5 bolts.

*** The Ramp (18m, 6a) (R) 9/06**

The ramp just L of the ominous overhang, somewhat more awkward than it looks. Easier to the right of the 5 bolts.

**** Sulfureuse (18m, 6a+) (KB) 9/06**

The leaning pillar; the overhanging finish of this unique climb requires some determination. Rock at this crag does have a high sulphur content. 5 bolts.

BLACK CRAG

The face 10 meters right (west) of the Sulfureuse Crag on the shaly path. Three bolted routes.

***Hubble Bubble (12m, 6b) (KB) 3/08**

A short route to get your forearms pumped. 4 bolts.

****Barney Rubble (18m, 5b) (R) FA 10/06; bolted 11/07(KB)**

The easiest route at the crag, but still with a tricky move or two. 7 bolts.

*** Toil and Trouble (18m 6a+) (KB) 4/08**

Well named! Don't pull on the big flake/block to the left of the sixth bolt. 8 bolts.

WALL WITH ROOFS

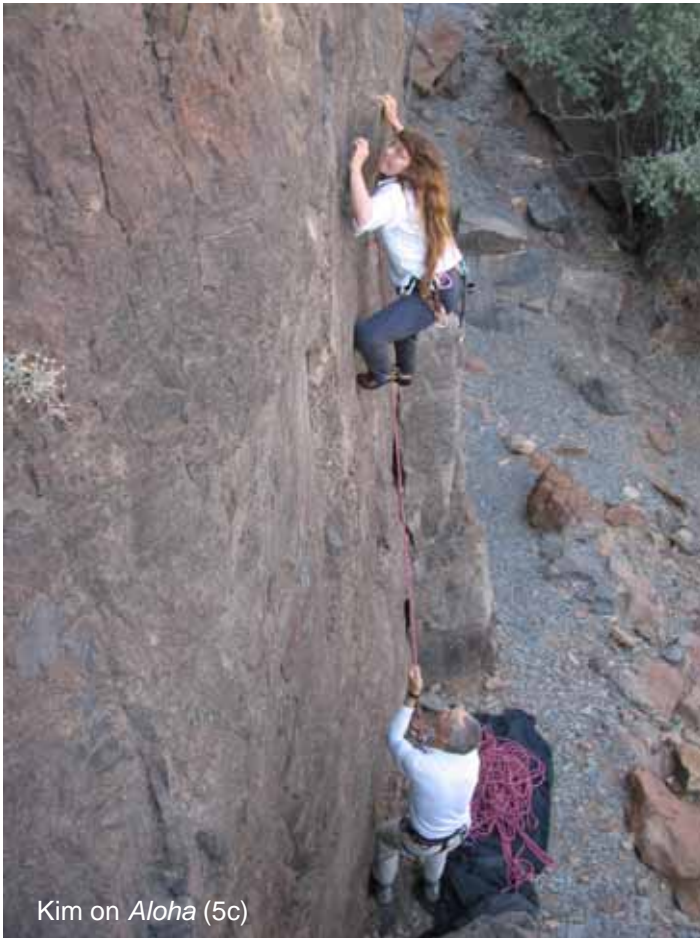
20m right (west) of the Hidden Face the walking path goes right under this tall cliff capped with overhangs. This place is in the shade until early afternoon in autumn/spring, or all day in winter.

**** Thunder Bolt (30m, 5c) (KB) 10/06**

Bolted in a thunderstorm. The left-most climb on the face, just to the right of the corner with a large tree. This is a pleasant excursion which bypasses the roofs to their left. A good one for a first lead or to top rope. 10 bolts.

**** T.K.O. (30m, 6c) (R) 10/06**

Just when you think you have it bagged....Easily wander up face following an intermittent crack (5b) until below the



Kim on Aloha (5c)

roof; the business is getting through this. Very well protected with 10 bolts, so have a go and bring some slings as you can aid the crux if need be.

*** Aloha (30m, 5c) (R) 8/06**

Start on the left side of the detached block, then clip bolt and step left onto face. Up to second bolt (crux), then easily up crack and right under the large roof. Doesn't top rope well; leader should bring second to the belay and then both rap down. 8 bolts.

**** Dawn Raid (25m, 6c) (R) 10/06**

The right end of the wall repeats many comers by its stern appearance and crimpy crux. 7 bolts.

Beginner's Luck (30m, 3) (R) 8/06, solo

The gently sloped slab just right of Dawn Raid. No bolts, bring a 10m rope or sling to set up a top rope (large bush at top for anchor).



Bill gets irritated on Insecurus (6b), The Pit

THE PIT

The next climbing area is The Pit, a nice atmospheric place to hang out and picnic or bivouac. At the right side of the entrance you will find a detached boulder, with a bolted climb up its left side.

Shredder (20m, 6b) (PN) 05

After the awkward start, flail your way up and left to the belay. You may be shredded, but pose for a spectacular photo when lowering off!

Back on the left side of the entrance there are 4 bolted climbs.

*** Mental Recharge (22m, 7a+) (S) 07**

This gnarly crack has it all: jamming, pump and a boulder surprise. Climb the overhanging hand crack 3m left of *Smokey* to the ledge, take a good rest, and while you climb the hard overhanging top wall prepare yourself for the final crux move!

*** Smokey (30m, 5c) (PN) 05**

A chimney route to practice your opposition (and swearing) technique. (Spits rocks; belayer beware!)

*** La Lierre, engl.: Ivy (35m, 6b) (T) 05**

Tricky start, then interesting layback moves under the hanging bush. The traversing line makes it necessary for the second to clean the gear on the way up.

Insecurus Irritating (35m, 6b) (PN+T) 05

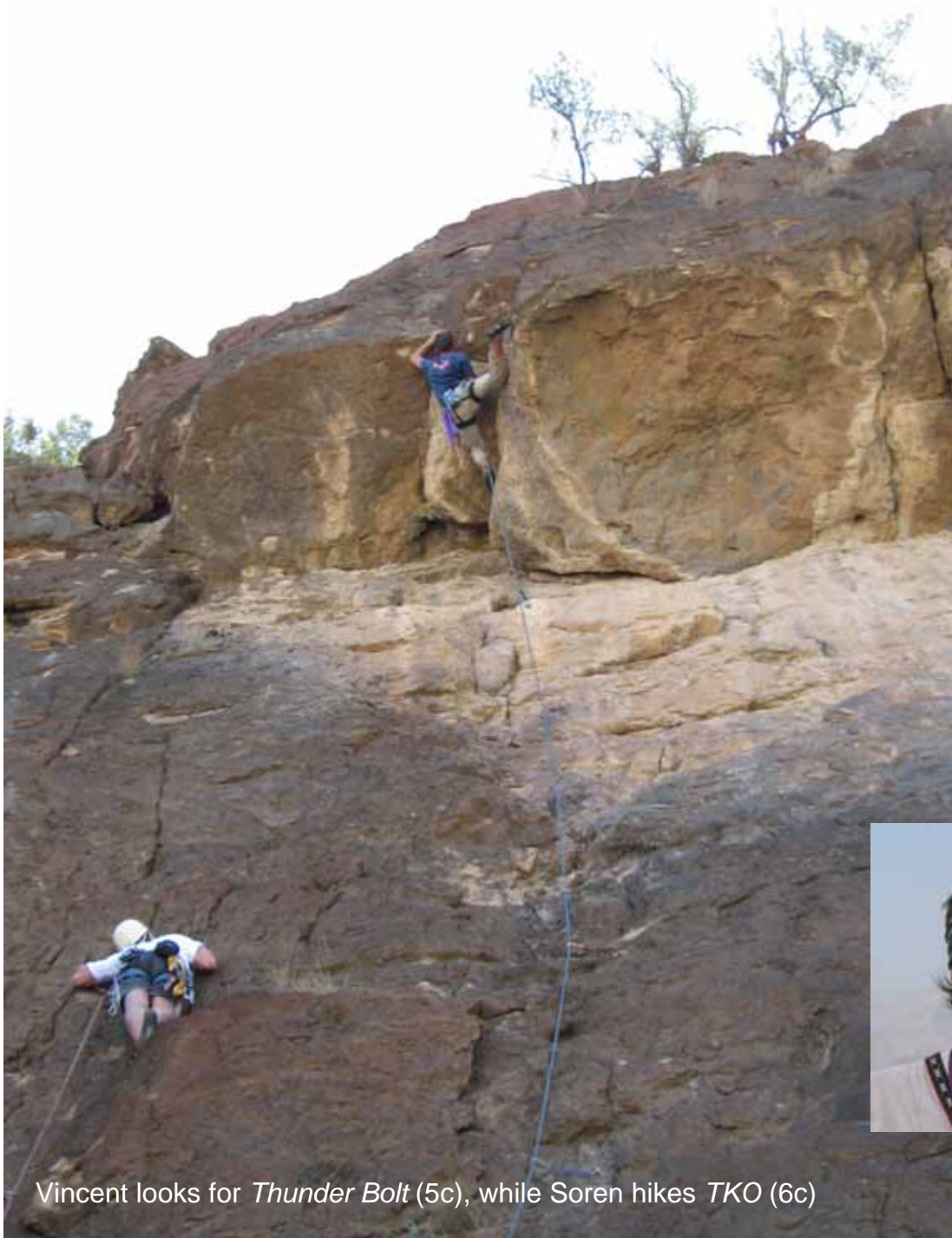
Technical face climbing on the polished buttress, up to the final under cling traverse left to the belay. A long sling on the bolt before the traverse eliminates the rope drag problem. Second cleans the gear.

International Grade Comparison Table

France climbing	USA climbing	Australia climbing	UK climb adjective	UK climb technical	USA bouldering	France bouldering
5a	5.7	15	HS	4b		
5b	5.8	16	VS	4c		
5c	5.9	17	HVS	5a		
6a	5.10a	18	E1	5b		
6a+	5.10b	19	E1	5b		
6b	5.10c	20	E2	5c	V0-	4a/b
6b+	5.10d	21	E3	5c	V0	4c
6c	5.11a	22	E3	5c	V1	5a/b
6c+	5.11b/c	23	E3	6a	V2	5c
7a	5.11d	24	E4	6b	V3	6a/b
7a+	5.12a	25	E4	6b	V4	6c



View of the site from the opposite ridge



Vincent looks for *Thunder Bolt* (5c), while Soren hikes *TKO* (6c)