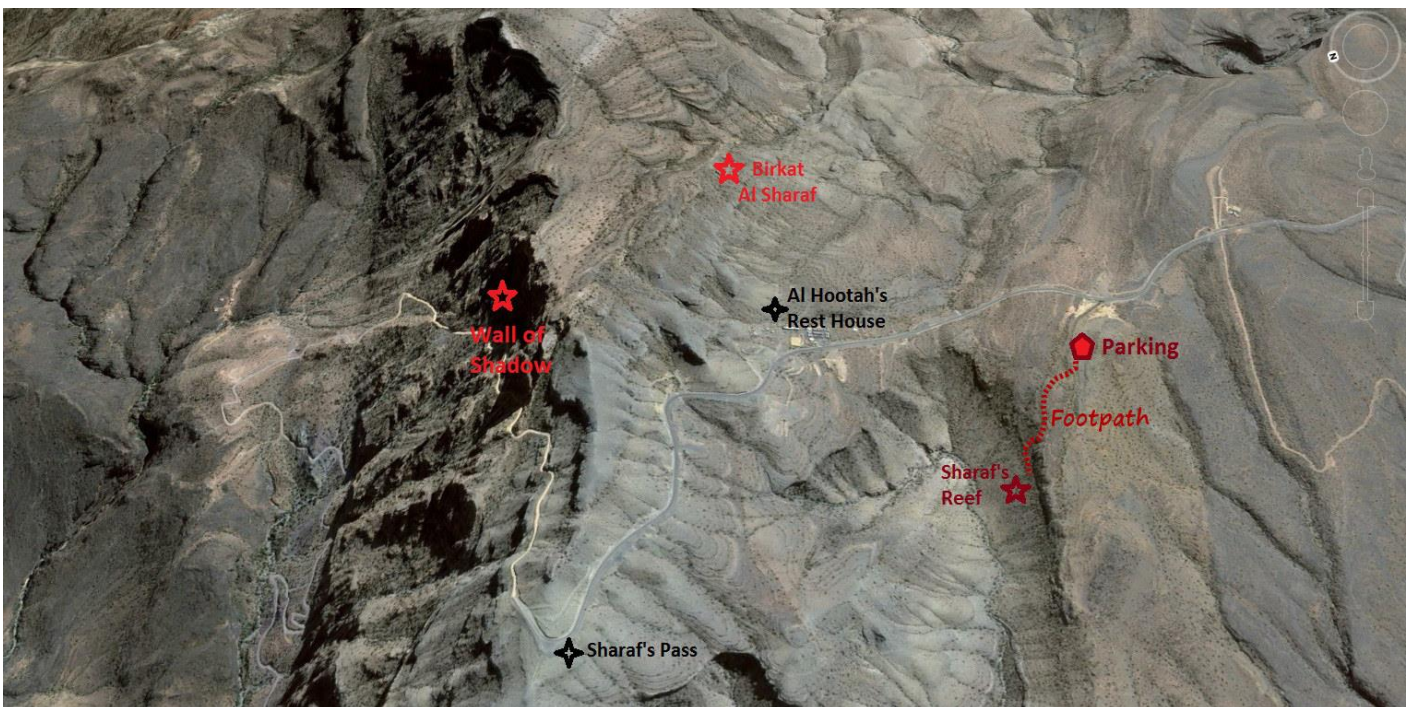


Sharaf Al Alamein : Le Reef-Access



Le Reef is the obvious rock barrier almost facing Al Hootah rest house, easily visible from Birkat Al Sharaf. The wall varies in height from 15m (rarely) to 30-40m (most of the time) and stretches for more than one kilometer. The most common profile is slabby but has some stepper and even overhanging sections. Rock quality seems excellent. I reckon this place could take more than 30 routes (probably 50) ranging from easy 4 to high 7, and will be a paradise for 6th graders. The crag has an altitude of around 1900m and faces north. The foot of the crag is very comfortable.



Road/pedestrian access: Park about one kilometer before (driving up) Al Hootah Rest House, opposite to the new villa construction (23deg 09' 07"N; 57deg 25' 22" E). Then walk north-westward first horizontally then downhill until reaching the rocks. Some cairns. 10 min for the first sector.

Unfortunately, due to its subtropical location, the crag is in the sun all day in June/July and only allows (late) afternoon climbing in April/May and August/September. Conversely it's in the shade all day in the winter, bring a jacket and a hat. But this is the best rock formation I witnessed since I'm in the region and I believe there could be as many as a 50 high quality (long) routes.