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### **APPROACH**

- 1. Drive from anywhere in UAE or Oman and take E11 to small local turn with a sign Wadi Rahbeh.
- 2. Follow the asphalt road forward.
- 3. Turn left on the dirt road before the industial looking area. Thre should be a small sign saying Rahbeh Dam.
- 4. Follow the road into the wadi and drive pass the Rahbeh flood control dam.
- 5. After 3 km you will reach a goat farm on your right. Proceed forward as you keep to the right side of the wadi.
- 6. Approx. 100 m after the goat-farm you will see Sector 1 on your right.
- 7. Park anywhere you feel comfortable (be aware of falling rocks)

#### WHAT IS SUITABLE FOR

- Sport Climbing
- Vertical cave training and rope work (Official outdoor training area for MECET caving club of Dubai)

### RESPECT THE SETTING

This is a very serene and tranquil place. We have discussed our presence with the goat farm owner. He has no objections of us being there provided we preserve the ambiance. The only exception is the presence of dogs. They must be kept away from the farm animals, on leash or better be left at home. We hope we keep the wadi clean and joyous.

#### WEATHER AND THE ELEMENTS

Stardust is located in Ras Al Khaima approximately 0.5 km from the coast inland. As in all outdoor locations in UAE the optimum climbing season is from October to mid-May. The comfortable camping season is November to March. Be aware that humidity is very unpredictable and might impact substantially the atmospheric experience. Take storm forecasts seriously as the wadi could flood rapidly to dangerous levels.

Google Mapping

Latitude: 25.926360 Lonaitude: 56.090104

The north wall (where most climbing routes are) goes in shade sometime at 10 - 11 AM or earlier in the winter. Although the rock dries up relatively fast, it might become more brittle after intense rain (those do come from time to time) so it is good practice to wait a day before climbing.

#### **AMENITIES**

At the end of 2018 His Highness Sheikh Saud Bin Sagr Al Qasimi (the ruler of Ras Al Khaima) build the facilities at the climbing area, for the climbing community and visitors alike. In approximately one month, a group of stone masons and craftsmen built a state-of-theart facility for the benefit of the wadi visitors. They feature western style toilets, water tank, showers, interior lighting controlled by motion detection and adjacent rest shed. Be aware that the facilities water is not drinkable and with light salinity. Additionally, there are stairs leading up to a cavern above (shown as RAK Cave on Google maps) with installed artificial lighting inside and observation deck in front of it.

### **NO TRASH SERVICE IN STARDUST**

Pick up your trash and transport it away out of the wadi.















WEATHER FORECAST [stardust relevent]

**MOUNTAIN FORECAST** Jabal Bil Ays

**ACCUWEATHER** Ras Al Khaima

### **BRIEF HISTORY and DEVELOPMENT**

While Ras Al Khaima is an established UAE climbing destination, this particular wadi has been developed since 2016. After the beloved Hatta Crag and Wave Wall in near Oman became inaccessible, a group of climbers sought new sport climbing destinations within UAE. They discovered the towering wadi, in the area by mere accident. Its discovery coincided with the untimely passing of David Bowie. In his honor they called it Stardust. There have been persistent efforts since, of setting new lines and creating more opportunities for great climbing. The past and current development are subsidized by Ludmil Trenkov with some occasional contributions by local climbing community.

#### THE SETTING / LOCATION

Wadi Rahbeh [ **Illeria**], aka Stardust I - after the goat farm, is approximately 30 m wide and 400 m long and constitutes the original climbing crag. In the adjacent wadies one can find many remanences of old villages and individual duallings at different levels of the canyon. There are rock walls on both sides with varied angles, breakages and features. The rock is limestone with mixed levels of weathering. Occasional and unpredictable rock falls might occur so please be alert around the whole climbing area. There are opportunities for hiking around the main wadi. There is a natural spring at the base of the visible big wall (Jabel Jais), an hour's walk up the wadi from the crag. You could see a transmission tower on Jebel Jais (25.926836, 56.118219) from the climbing area floor. One can also find a few shallow caves embedded into the canyon walls. The area has grown in popularity and all visitors are invited to follow the established rules of use









While many efforts have been made to clean all climbing lines, rock continues to fall from time to time. Please wear a helmet while climbing or standing at the base of the climbs. Always be alert and on a look out for falling rock.

# **EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

## **MEDICAL**

RAK Hospital, Ras Al Khaima | Emergency Room

Dist: 32 km (31 min) Ph: +97172225555

GPS: 25.768767, 55.976354

GOOGLE MAPS DIRECTIONS --> RAK Hospital

Saqr Hospital, Ras Al Khaima

Dist: 32.2 km (31 min) Ph: +97172223666

GPS: 25.770278, 55.976589

**GOOGLE MAPS DIRECTIONS --> Sagr Hospital** 

Al Zahrawi Hospital, Ras Al Khaima

(Private hospital, general services)

Dist: 32 km (31 min) Ph: +97172288544 / +97172288141

GPS: 25.802432, 55.975145

GOOGLE MAPS DIRECTIONS --> Al Zahrawi Hospital

Obeid Allah Hospital, Ras Al Khaima

Dist: 24.3 km (28 min) Ph: +9712465500

GOOGLE MAPS DIRECTIONS --> Obeid Allah Hospital

**NATIONAL AMBULANCE** 

Ph: 8004367677

### **MOUNTAIN RESCUE**

**CIVIL DEFENSE** 

Ph: **997** 

**SECURITY** 

**POLICE** 

Ph: 999 - 998

**GENERAL** 

**FIRE (CIVIL DEFENSE)** 

Ph: 997

### ANIMAL WELFARE

**RAK Animal Welfare Center, Ras Al Khaima** 

Dist: 61.6 km (47 min) Ph: +971563576029

GPS: 25.650377, 55.777212 URL: https://www.rakawc.com/

**GOOGLE MAPS DIRECTIONS --> RAK Animal Welfare Center** 

## **FOOD / SUPERMARKET**

**RAK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY AL RAMS BRANCH** 

Dist: 14.4 km (17 min) GPS: 25.869556, 56.016758

GOOGLE MAPS DIRECTIONS --> RAK CO-OPPERATIVE

# STARDUST USER GUIDE

Stardust currently stands as the most visited climbing crag in the UAE. It was chosen as a destination in UAE that had potential for many routes, of many different grades, for the community to enjoy. We are glad that we found it and we are thankful to the few who have put their time, energy, and money into developing Stardust into what it has become.

With this growing popularity, Stardust is also facing new challenges. It is our common and individual responsibility to mitigate these issues. If you come to Stardust to enjoy its magic, you are responsible for preserving the magic too.

This users' guide is based on PRINCIPLES. "Principle: a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning."

### THE PRINCIPLES ARE:

BE SAFE | BE KIND | BE RESPECTFUL

# **BE SAFE**

- 1 Learn, practice and teach safe climbing techniques. You, your partner and all the climbers around you will benefit from it. If you don't do it for you, do it for the rest of us. A severe accident at the crag will jeopardize the access to climbers to this area.
- 2 Share positive recommendations for safety. If you see someone being unsafe, kindly suggest a safer way of doing things. If someone suggests a safer way to you, listen up and take mental notes. There are many right ways, try to find the safest.
- 3 Life savers for Stardust:

- a. **Wear a helmet** (leaders, belayers, spectators). One of the leading causes for rock climbing fatalities is trauma to the head, which can be greatly mitigated by wearing a helmet, especially during a head-first fall or due to rock fall (which is common at this crag).
- b. Bring the right equipment. Make sure your rope is long enough and you have enough draws (some climbs at Stardust are longer than your usual 30m13bolt sport route).
- c. Partner-check and self "double-check" before starting the climb, at anchor, and during lowering/rappel.
- 4-Check weather forecasts. Have emergency numbers with you (they are included at the end of the topo), have an action plan, carry a first aid kit, and learn/update your first aid techniques.

5-Learn/refresh rescue and self-rescue techniques for climbers, especially if you are venturing into the multi-pitch territory.

## **BE KIND**

- 1 Look around you. You are not alone at Stardust and each individual at the crag deserves to have a positive experience.
- 2 Don't hog routes. You may not be the only one working on that project. Communicate and share with others.
- 3 Keep noise levels down during the day. Climbers and belayers need to clearly communicate commands to each other. If you like a soundtrack for your send, ask around if it is ok to have music at a low volume.
- 4 Keep quiet hours at night. Climbers need to rest, locals and their goats need calm, and wildlife lives here. You are a guest to a public natural space, be a good guest.

# STARDUST USER GUIDE - continued

5 - Share Stardust! Bring your friends and new climbers, just take it upon you to pass these principles along to them, so Startdust and the UAE climbing community keep on thriving.

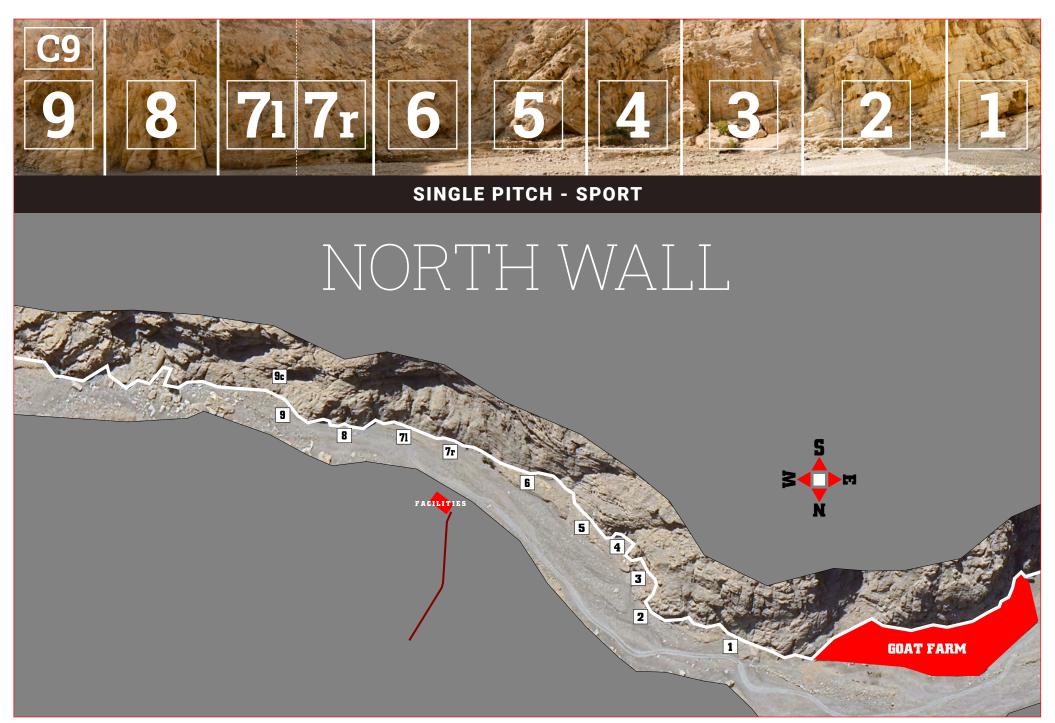
## BE RESPECTFUL

- 1 Respect nature or go home. Bring your own firewood, avoid littering, and use the restrooms.
- 2 Respect local residents. They have agreed to us developing their land for our recreational use and have even provided some infrastructure for our benefit and comfort. They deserve nothing but our utmost respect: Keep noise levels down, observe quiet hours at night, and avoid disturbing their goats (keep dogs on leash if they can't help themselves). DO NOT turn Stardust into a "party campsite". The owners of the land have opened their doors to climbers, in return we promised to respect the place. These doors can easily close if we betray that agreement.
- 3 Respect infrastructure. Avoid pitching your tent in the gazebo/common area. Conserve water (short showers, effective dishwashing). Pack-out your own trash bags (the canister in place is only for small items, it is not meant for general garbage collection). Keep the bathrooms clean.
- 4 Respect the developers' vision. Check in with them before bolting. Use the crag for climbing and caving practice only. Stardust is not meant to be a campsite for large groups that just want to hang out (nothing wrong with that, this is just not the place).
- 5 You are encouraged to contribute in whatever way you can: Donating funds or engaging in community service. Be part of good Karma.

<sup>\*</sup>All of the original and current developers of Stardust have either contributed to or agreed with the following publication.



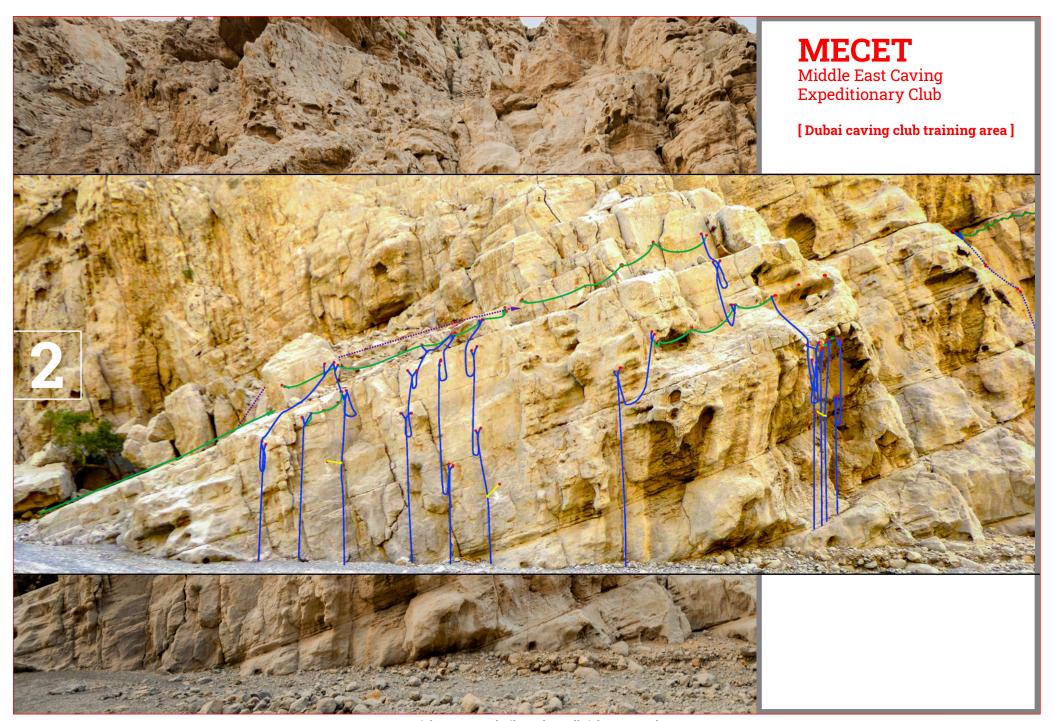
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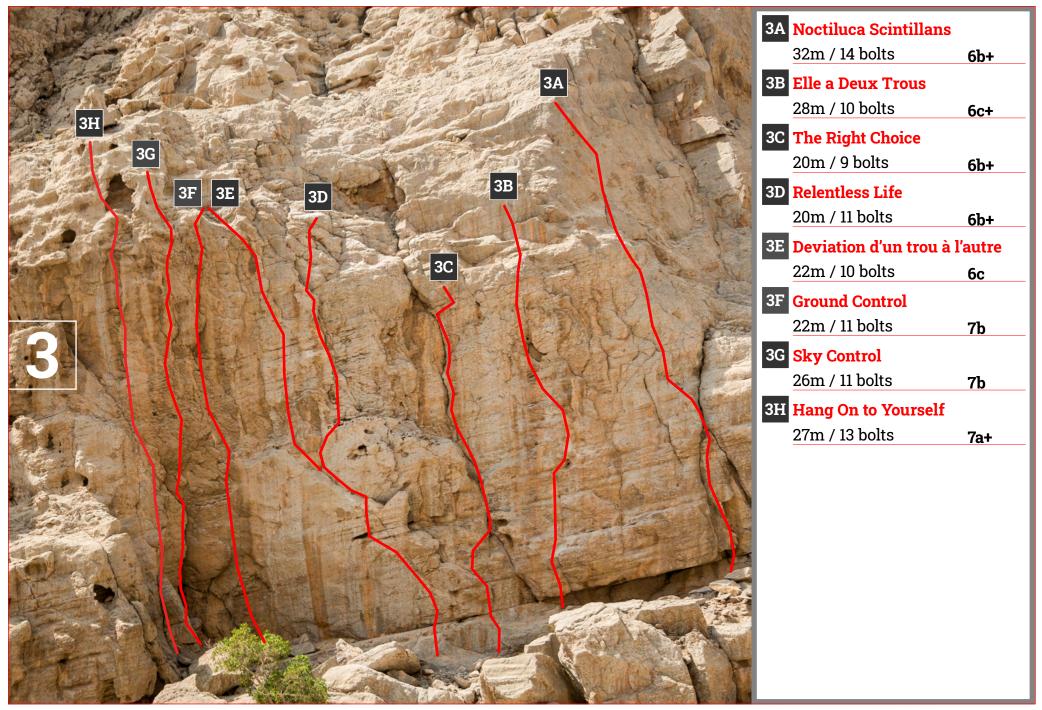
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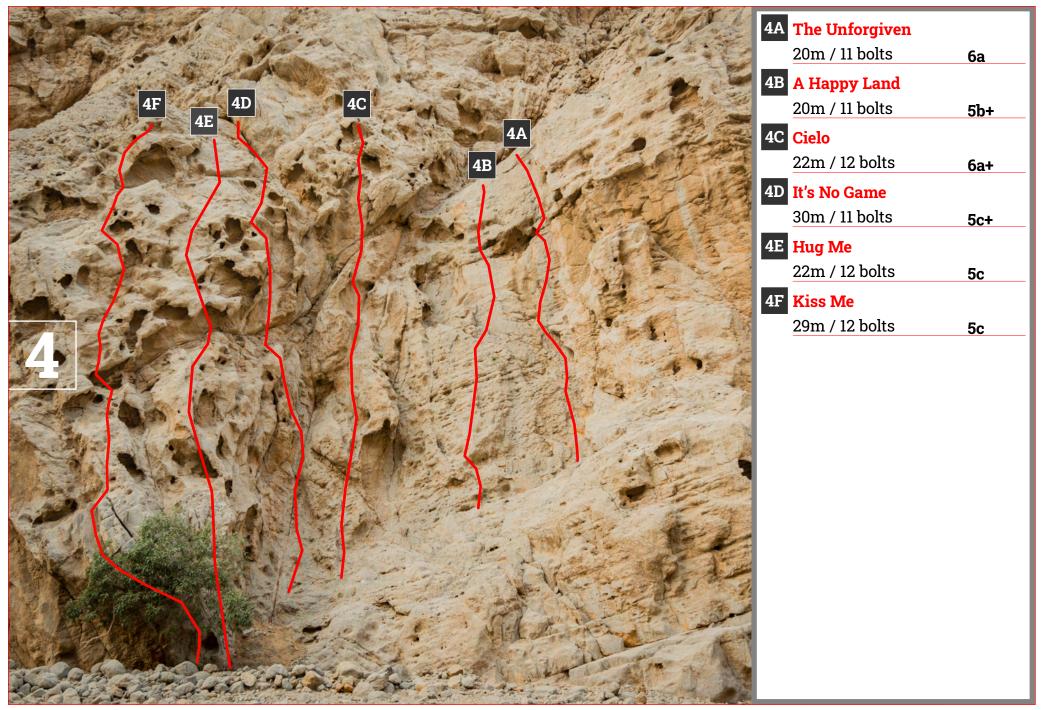
- 1A Because We Are Young
  28m / 11 bolts 6a+
- 1B Youthful Indiscretion
  29m / 13 bolts 6a+



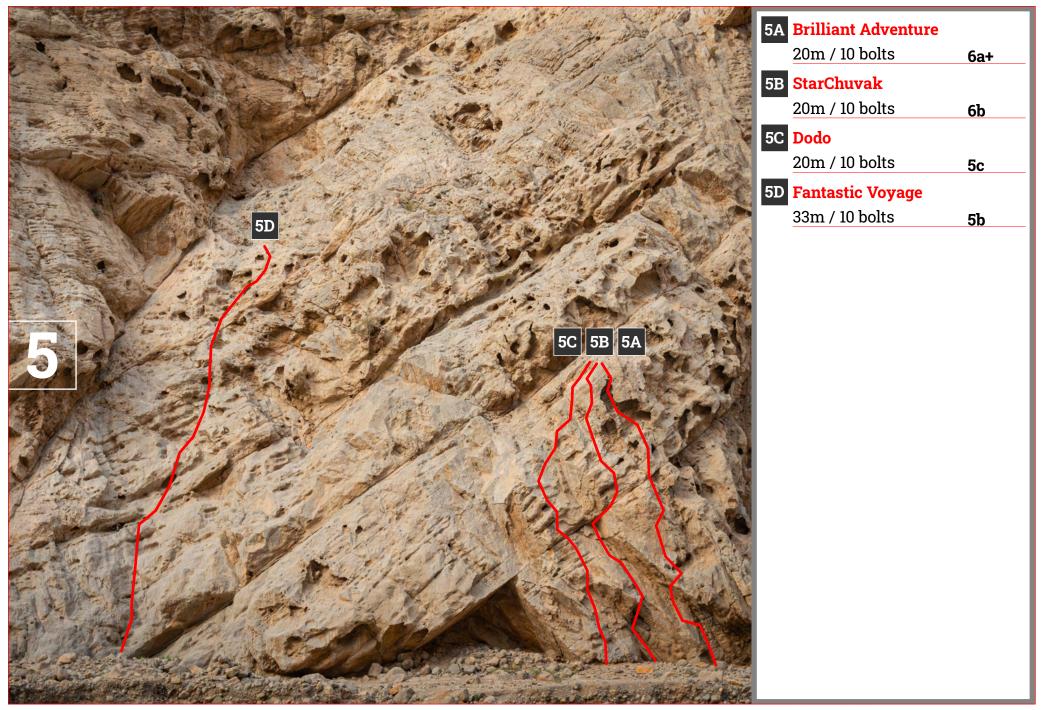
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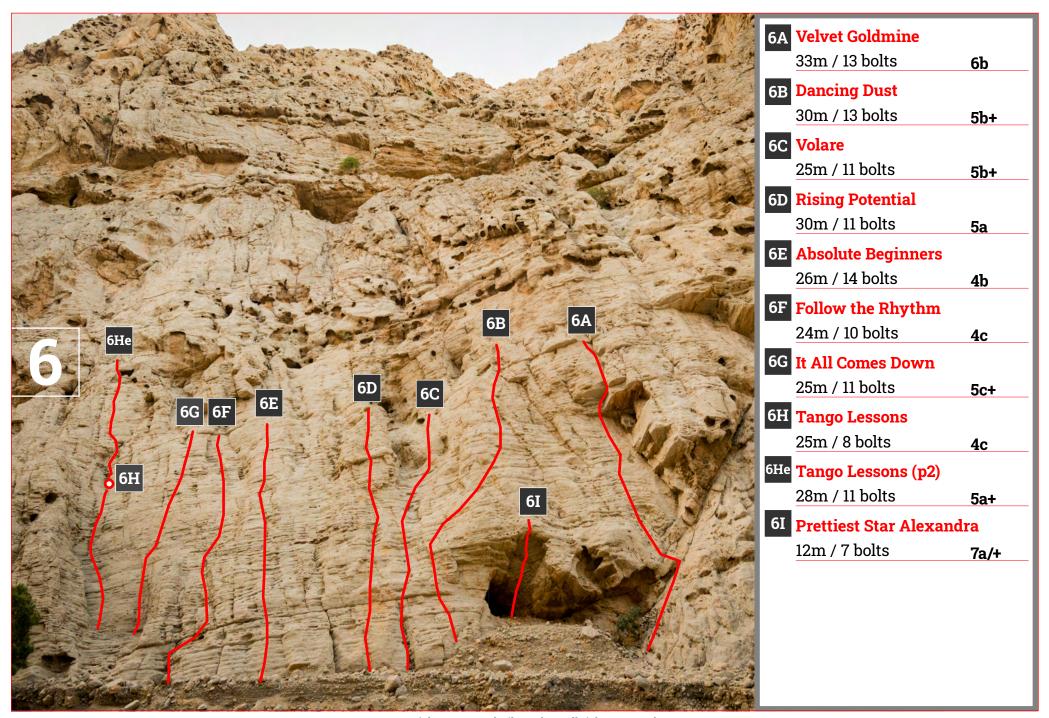
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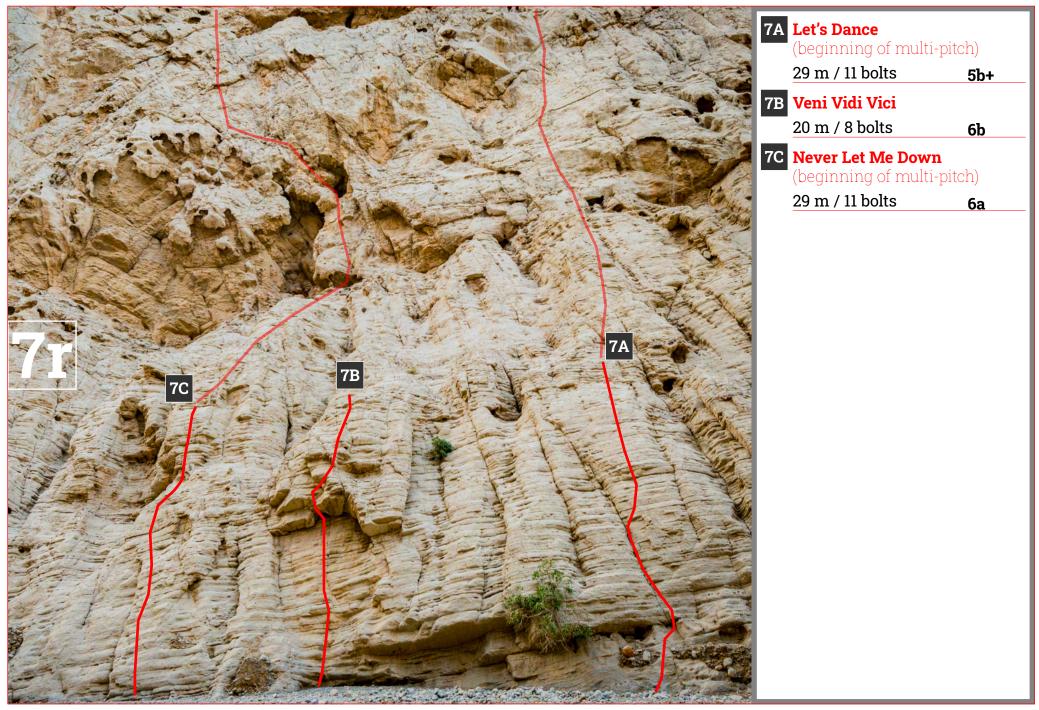
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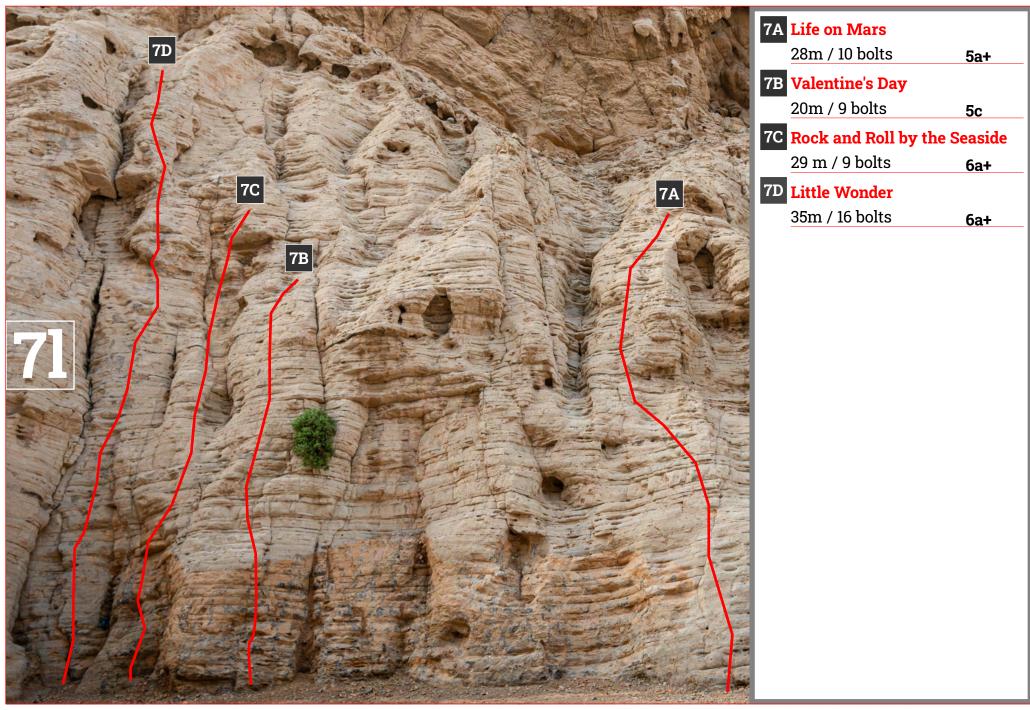
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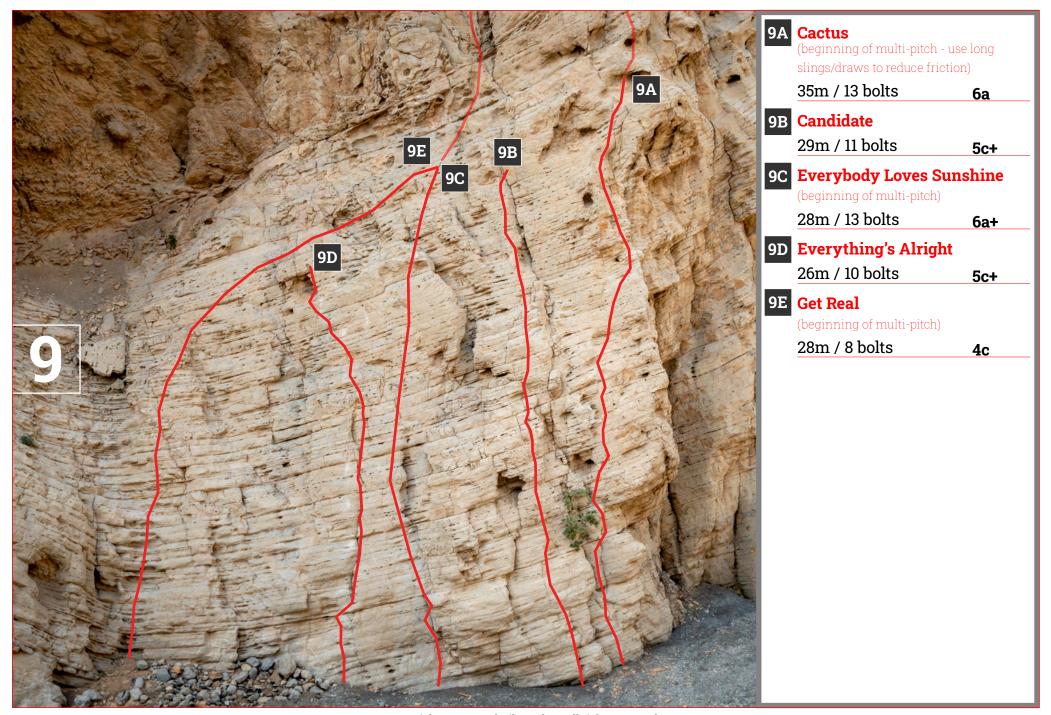
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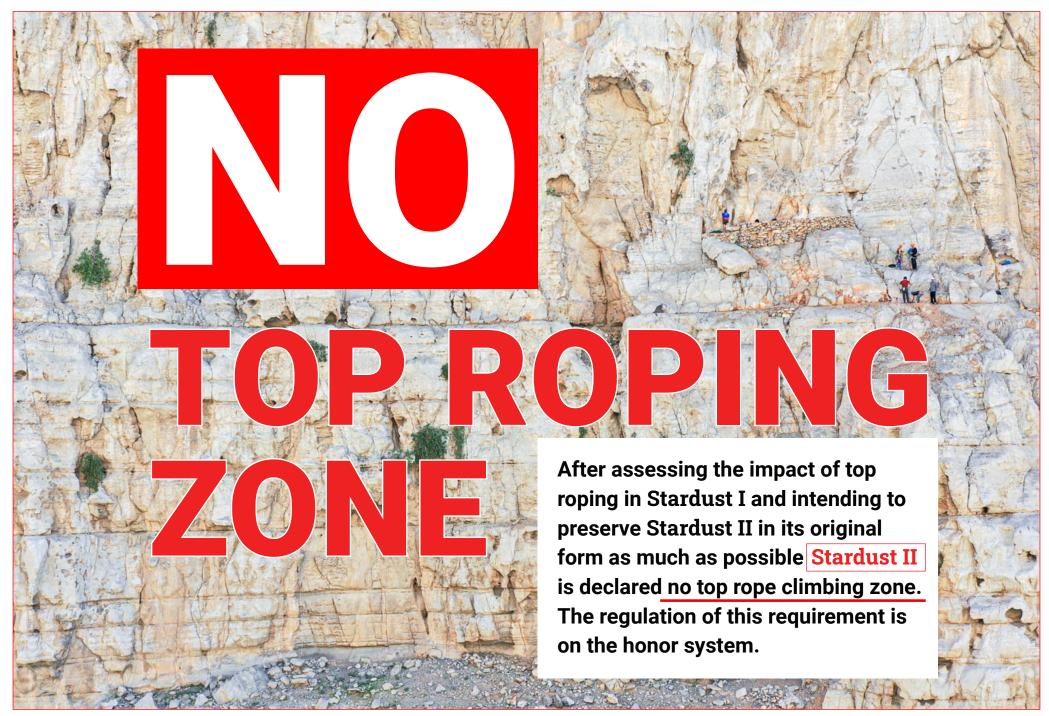


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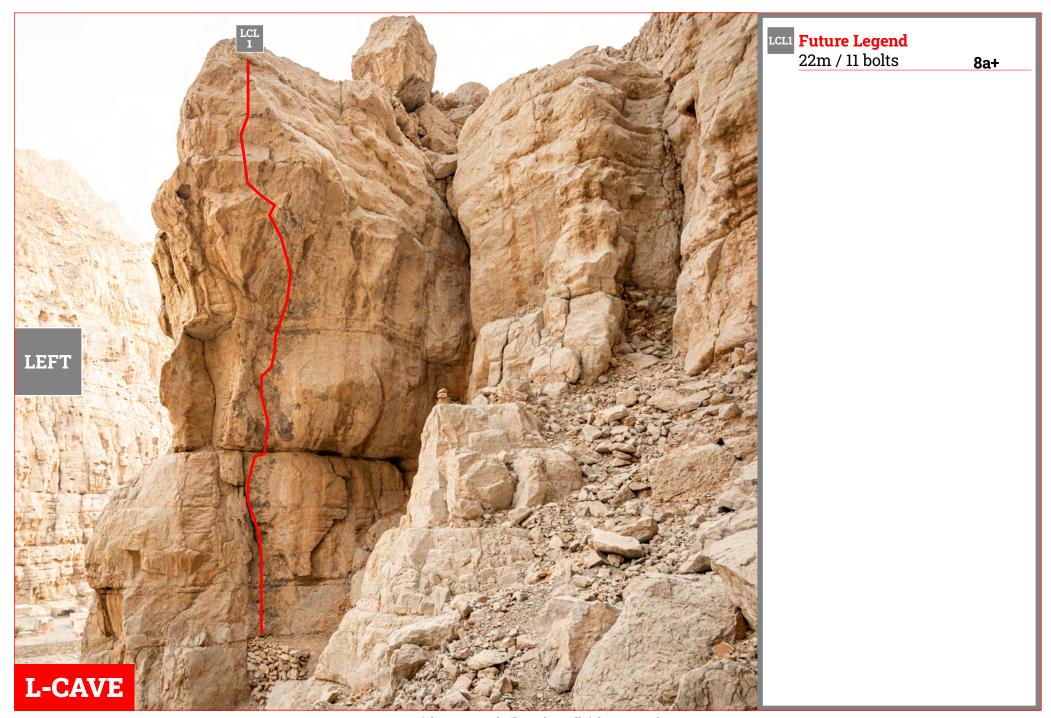


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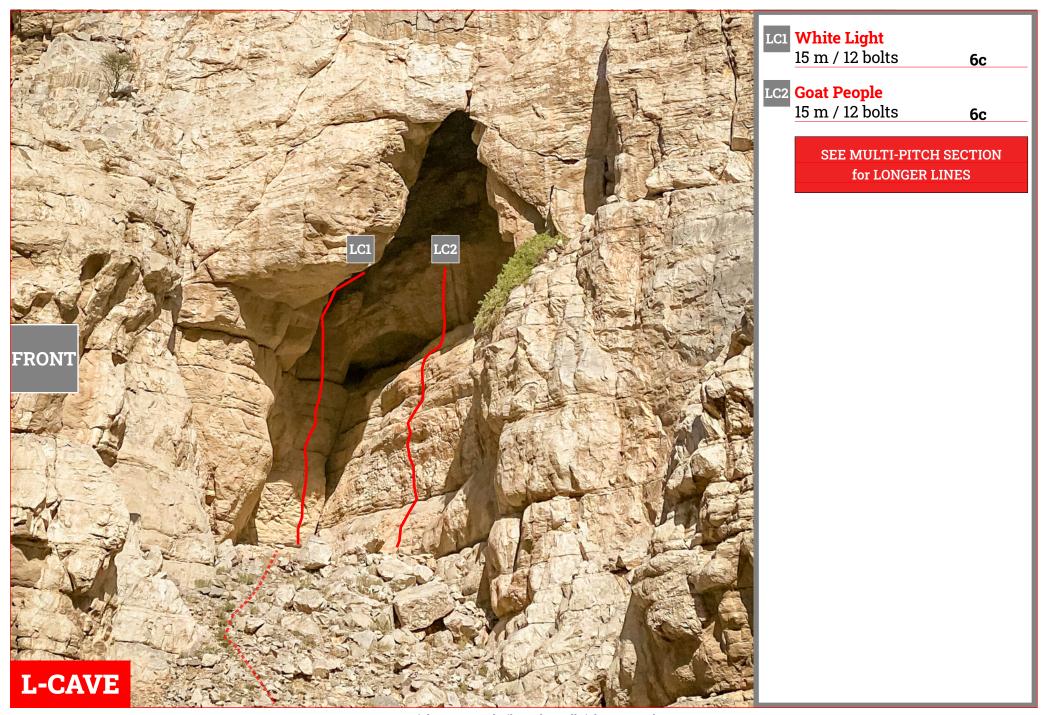




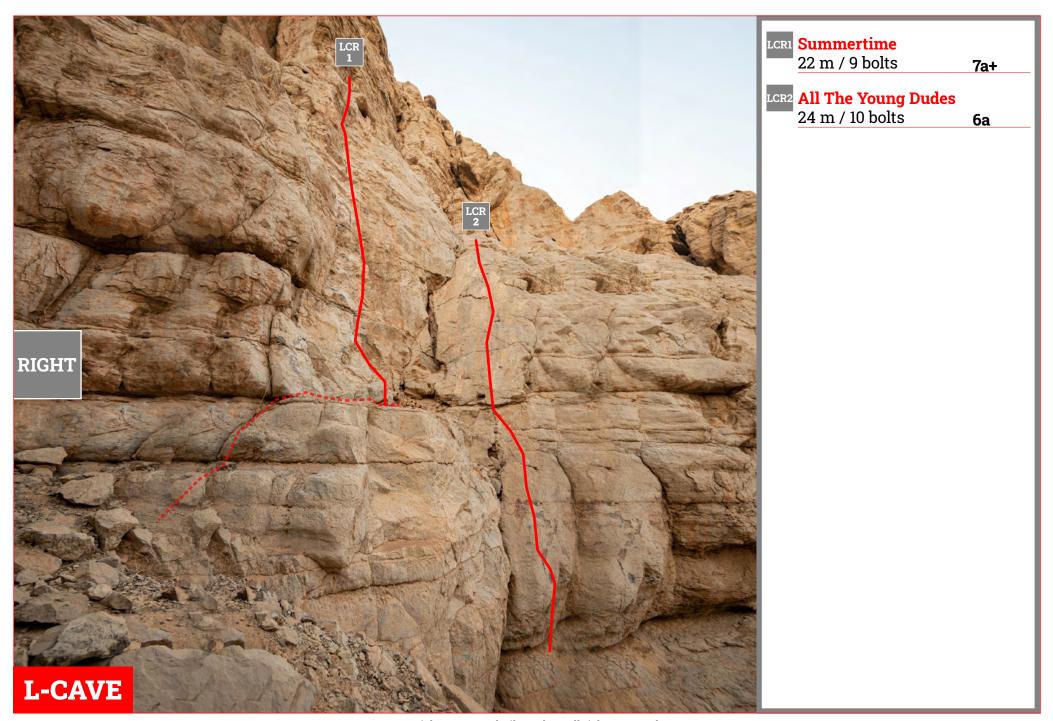
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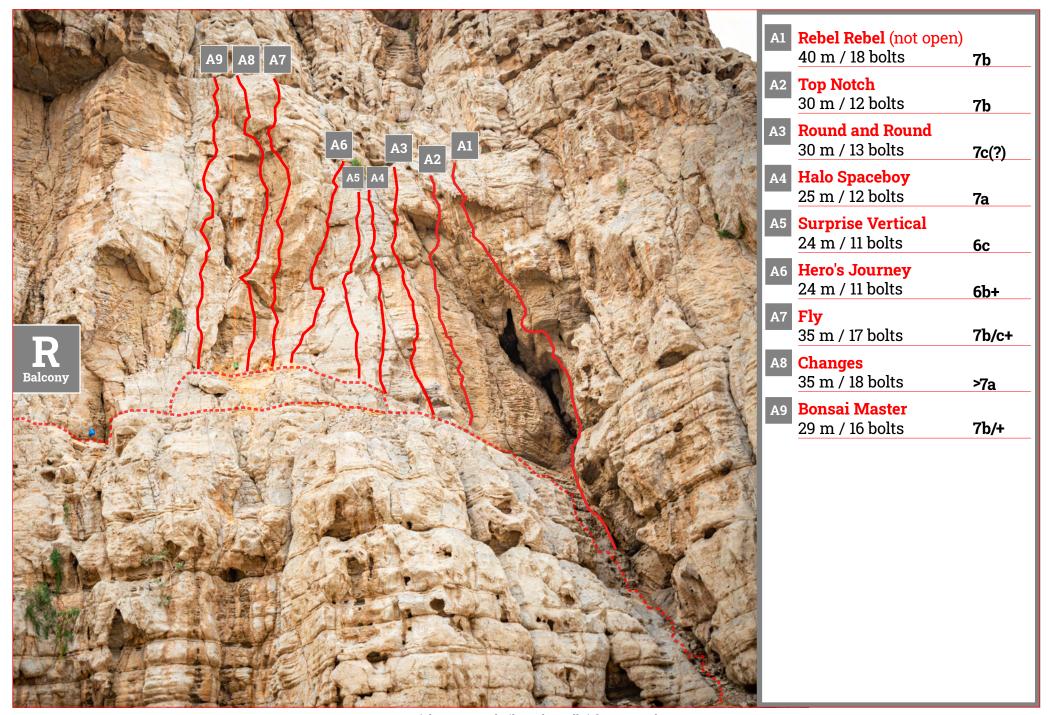
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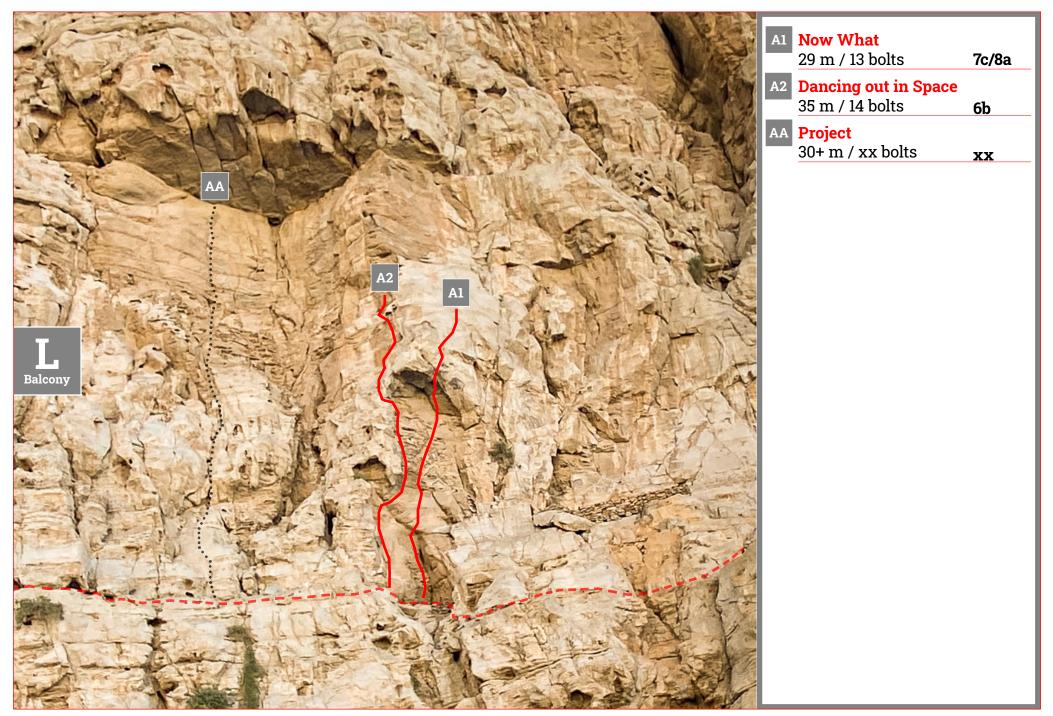
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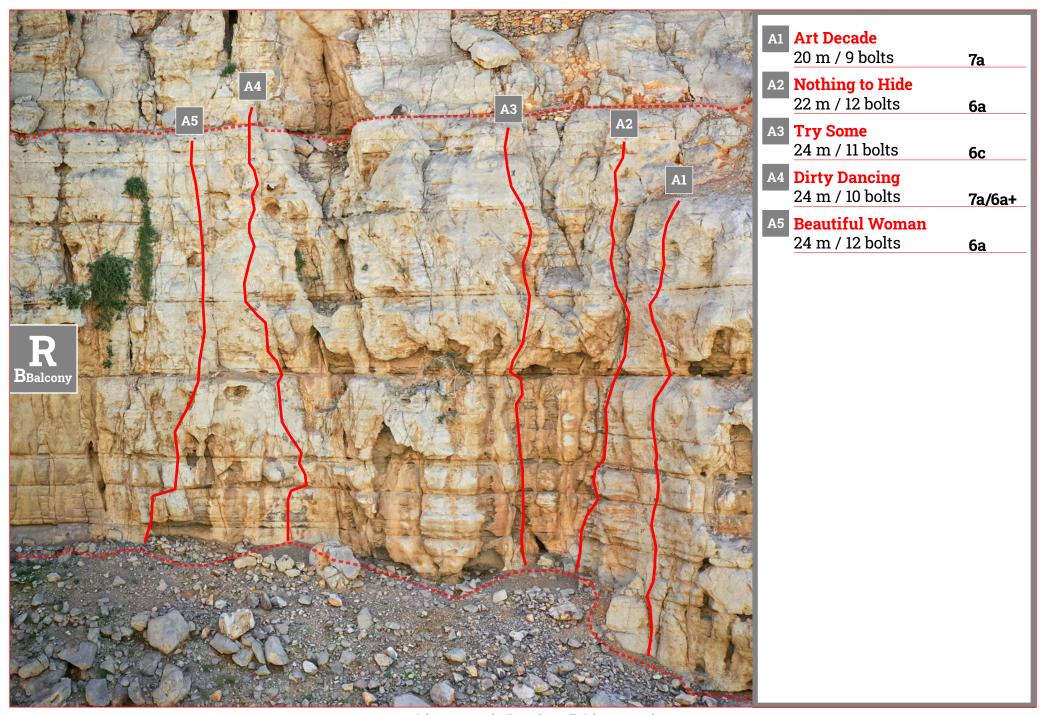
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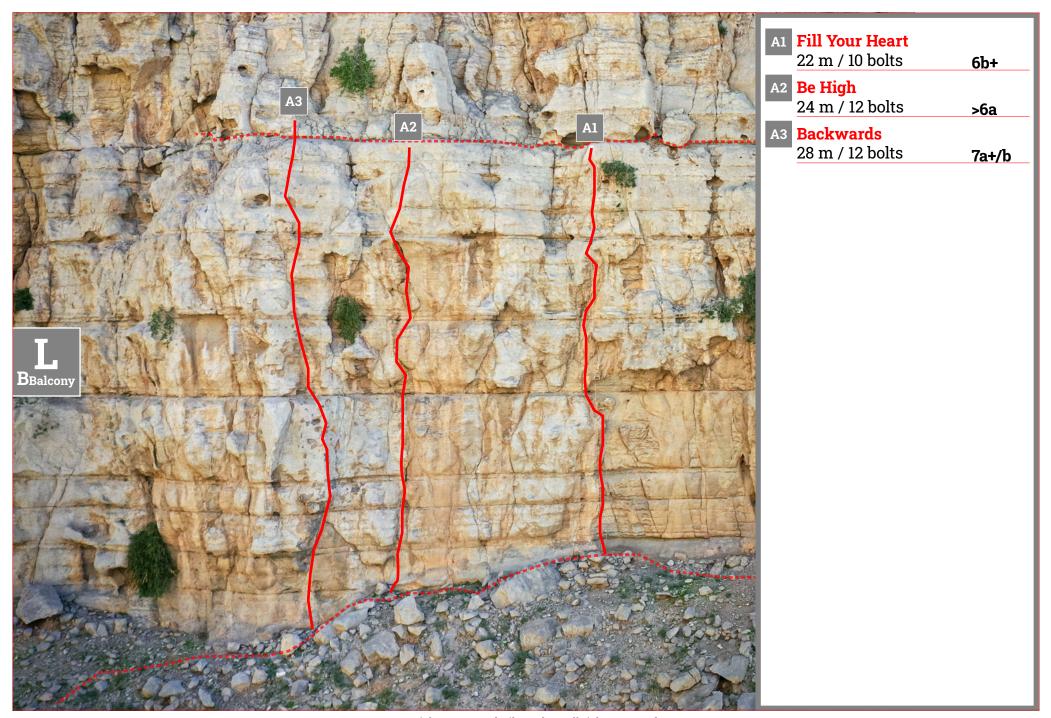
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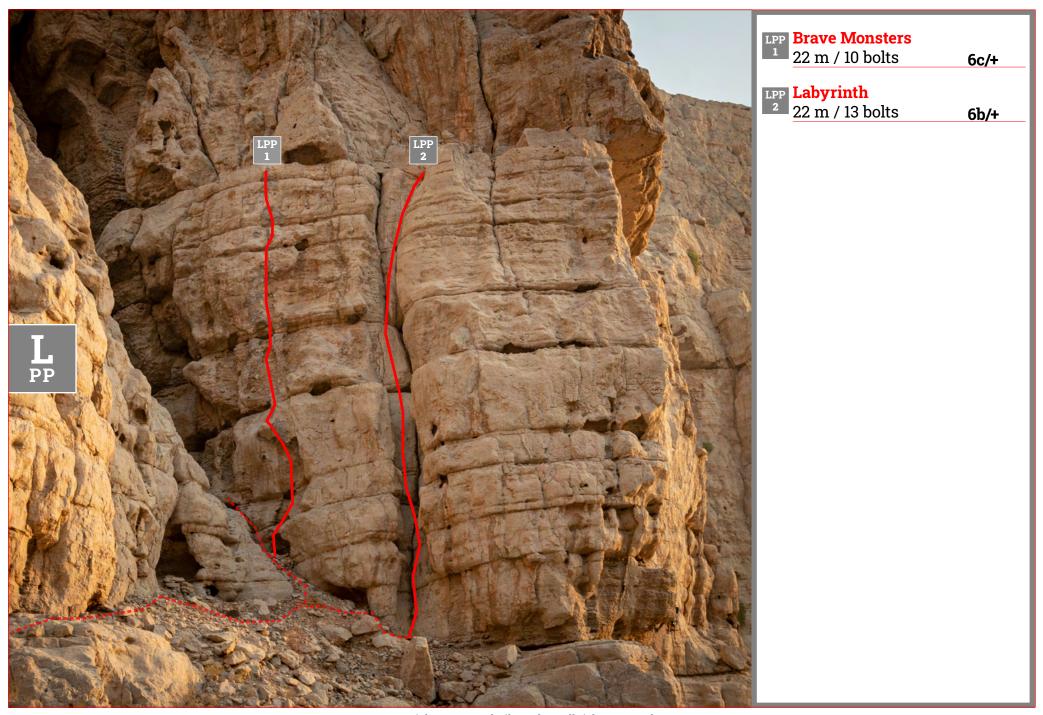
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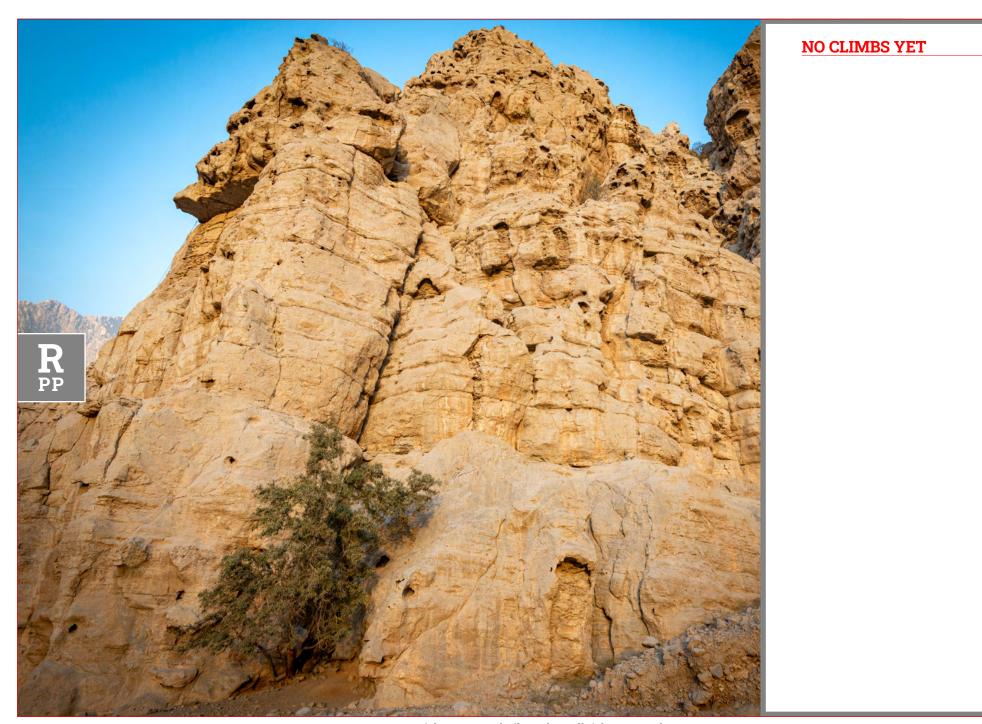
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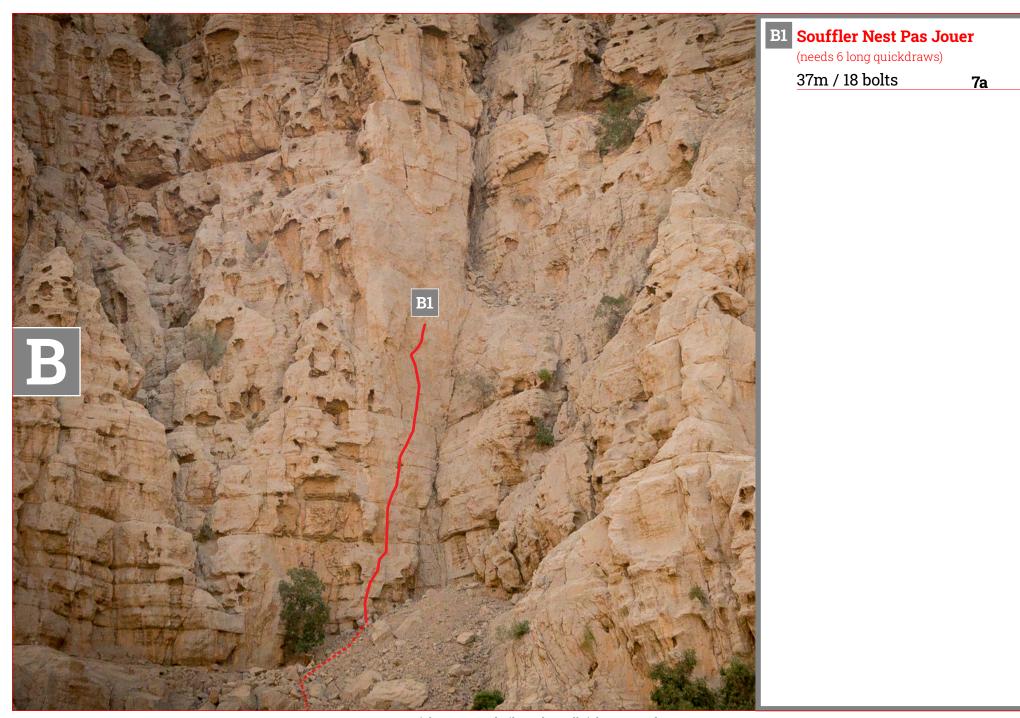
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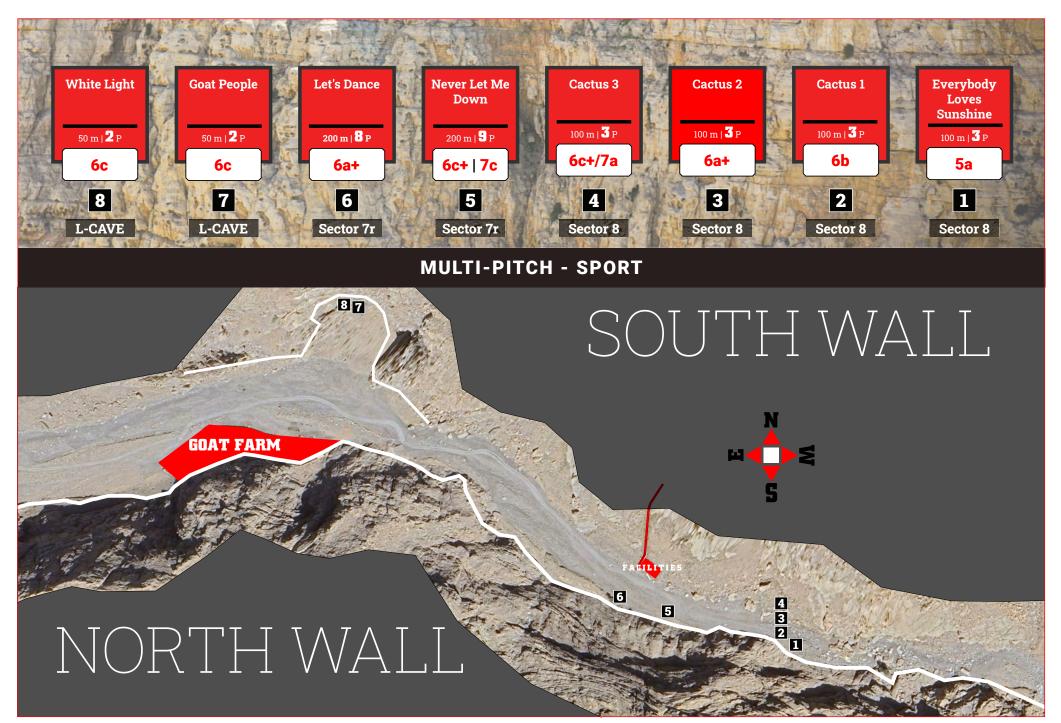
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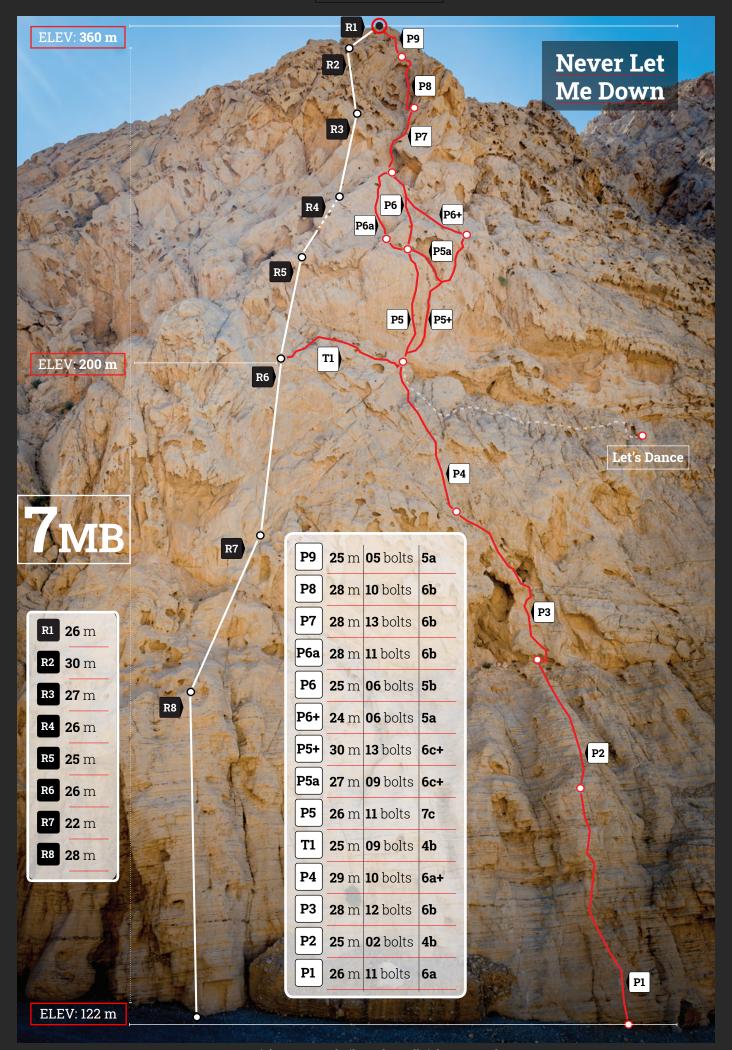


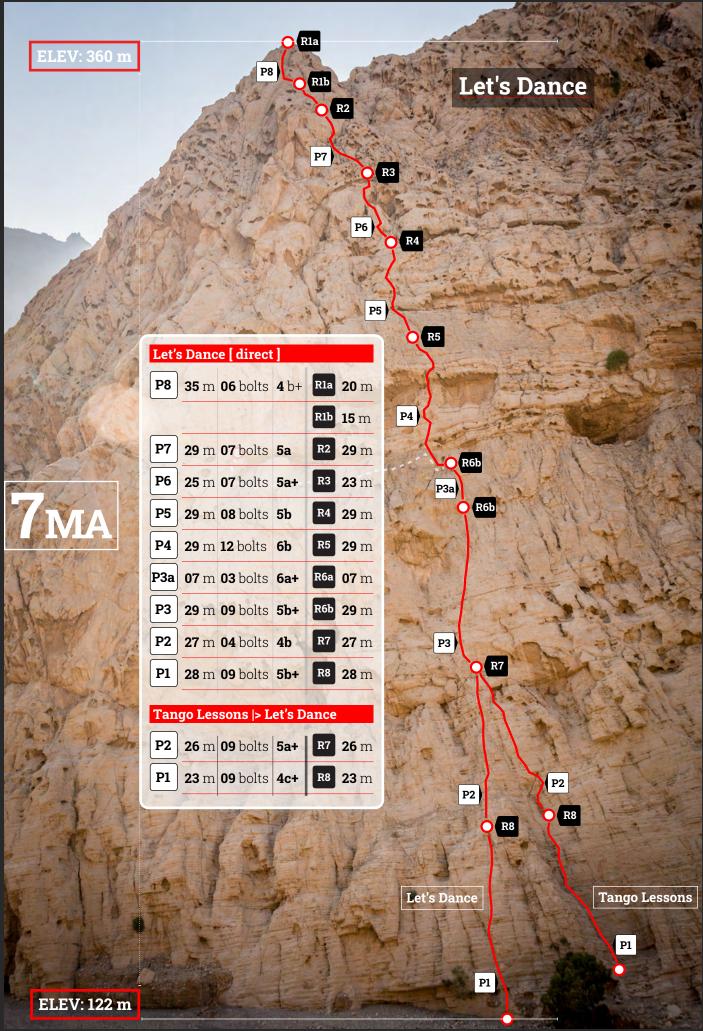
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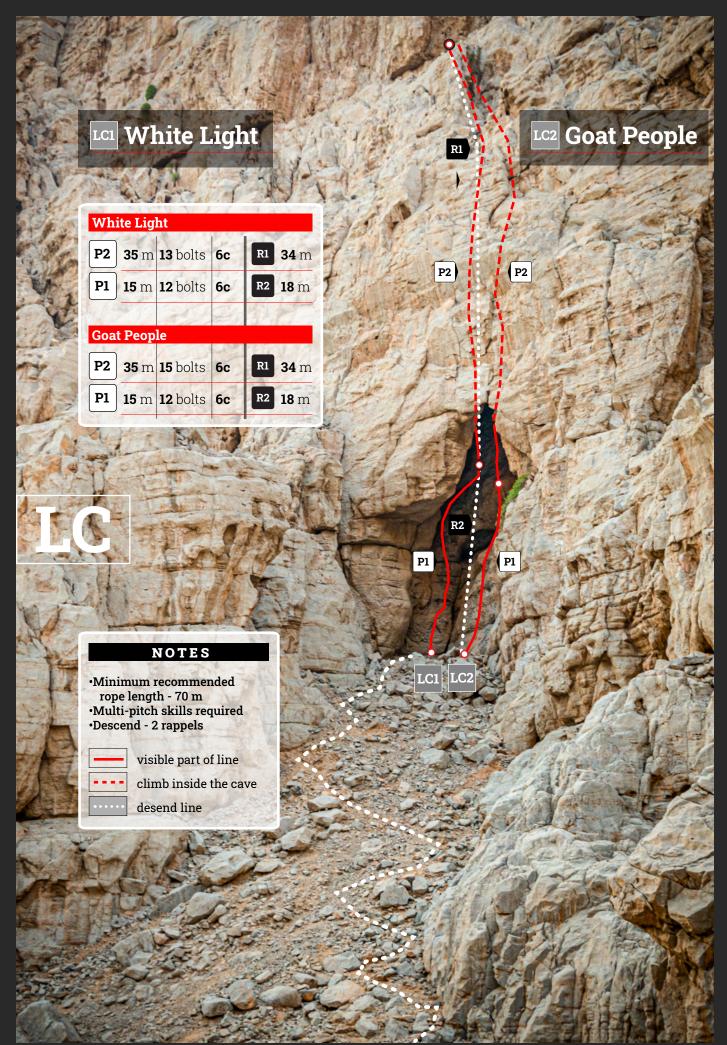


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# LIST of CLIMBS [87/8]

				87		
0						100
0						10
				3		
NAME	GRADE	AREA SECTOR	NAME	GRADE	AREA SE	ECTOF
GRADE 4			<b>Dancing Dust</b>	5b+	SD.I	6
Absolute Beginners	4b	SD.I 6	A Happy Land	5b+	SD.I	4
Follow the Rhythm	4c	SD.I 6	Let's Dance	5b+	SD.I	7r
Get Real	4c	SD.I 9	Dodo	5c	SD.I	5
X Tango Lessons	4c	SD.I 6	<b>X</b> Hug Me	5c	SD.I	4
GRADE 5			Kiss Me	5c	SD.I	4
X Rising Potential	5a	SD.I 6	Valenvine's Day	5c	SD.I	<b>7</b> 1
Life on Mars	5a+	SD.I 71	Candidate	5c+	SD.I	9
X Tango Lessons (p2)	5a+	SD.I 6	Everything's Alright	5c+	SD.I	9
Fantastic Voyage	5b	SD.I 5	It All Comes Down	5c+	SD.I	6
Volare	5b+	SD.I 6	It's No Game	5c+	SD.I	4

# LIST of CLIMBS | continued

NAME	GRADE	E AREA SECTOR		NAME	GRADE	AREA	SECTOR
GRADE 6				Rock and Roll by the Seaside	6a+	SD.I	71
All the Young Dudes	6a	SD.II	LCR	<b>X</b> Youthful Indiscretion	6a+	SD.I	1
Beautiful Woman	6a	SD.II	BBR	Little Wonder	6a+	SD.I	71
Cactus	6a	SD.I	9	Baby Loves That Way	6a+/b	SD.I	<b>C9</b>
Never Let Me Down	6a	SD.I	7r	Dancing Out in Space	6b	SD.II	BR
Nothing to Hide	6a	SD.II	BBR	Labyrinth	6b	SD.II	LPP
Someone Up There Likes Me	6a	SD.I	8	StarChuvac	6b	SD.I	5
X The Unforgiven	6a	SD.I	4	Velvet Goldmine	6b	SD.I	6
Be High	>6a	SD.II	BBL	X Veni Vedi Vici	6b	SD.I	7r
Because We Are Young	6a+	SD.I	1	Fill Your Heart	6b+	SD.II	BBL
Briliant Adventure	6a+	SD.I	5	Hero's Journey	6b+	SD.II	BR
Cielo	6a+	SD.I	4	Noctiluca Scintillans	6b+	SD.I	3
Everybody Loves Sunshine	6a+	SD.I	9	Relentless Life	6b+	SD.I	3
One Bolted Over the Cuckoo's Nest	6a+	SD.I	8	The Right Choice	6b+	SD.I	3

# LIST of CLIMBS | continued

NAME	GRADE	AREA	SECTOR	NAME	GRADE	AREA	SECTOR
The Man Who Sold The Bolts	6b+	SD.I	8	GRADE 7			
Thunderbolt (right finish)	6b+	SD.I	8	Art Decade	7a	SD.II	BBR
You Preatty Thing	6b+	SD.I	<b>C9</b>	Dirty Dancing	7a/6a+	SD.II	BBR
Magic Dance	6c	SD.I	8	Lazarus	7a	SD.I	<b>C9</b>
Try Some	6c	SD.II	BBR	Souffler N'est Pas Jouer	7a	SD.II	С
Under the God	6c	SD.I	8	Halo Spaceboy	7a	SD.II	BR
Deviation d'un trou à l'autre	6c	SD.I	3	Ziggi's Dance	7a	SD.I	<b>C9</b>
Goat People	6c	SD.II	LC	Closer	7a+	SD.I	<b>C9</b>
Surprise Vertical	6c	SD.II	BR	Prettiest Star Alexandra	7a/+	SD.I	6
Thunderbolt (left finish)	6c	SD.I	8	Summertime	7a/+	L-C	LCR
White Light	6c	SD.II	LC	Hang On to Yourself	7a+	SD.I	3
Elle a Deux Trous	6c+	SD.I	3	Backwards	7a+/b	SD.II	BBL
Brave Monsters	6c/+	SD.II	LPP	Lady Stardust	7a+/b	SD.I	<b>C9</b>

# LIST of CLIMBS | continued

NAME	GRADE	AREA	SECTOR	NAME	GRADE	AREA S	SECTOR
Under Pleasure	7a+	SD.I	<b>C9</b>	Changes	>7a	SD.II	BR
Modern Love	7a+/b	SD.I	<b>C9</b>	GRADE 8			
Ground Control	7b	SD.I	3	Future Legend	8a+	SD.II	LCL
Top Notch	7b	SD.II	BR	MULTI-PITCH			
Rebel Rebel (not open)	7b(?)	SD.II	BR	Everybody Loves Sunshine	5a	SD.I	MP
Bonsai Master	7b/+	SD.II	BR	Cactus - Left (CL)	6c	SD.I	MP
Sky Control	7b	SD.I	3	Cactus - Center (CC)	6a	SD.I	MP
Fly	7b/c+	SD.II	BR	Cactus - Right (CR)	6b+	SD.I	MP
Round and Round	<b>7</b> c	SD.II	BR	Let's Dance	6b	SD.I	MP
Now What	7c/8a	SD.II	BL	Goat People	6c	SD.II	MP
Who's Afraid of Americans	7c/+	SD.I	<b>C9</b>	White Light	6c	SD.II	MP
Cat People	7c+	SD.I	<b>C9</b>	Never Let Me Down	7c	SD.I	MP
Warszawa	7b+/c	SD.II	FPP	(variant)	6c+		



# PAYED CLIMBING IN STARDUST IS FORBIDDEN

