

A tall, thin, weathered rock formation stands prominently on a rocky outcrop. The rock is light-colored with some darker, possibly mineral-rich, streaks. The background shows a clear blue sky and a hazy, rocky landscape. The overall scene is bright and clear.

# Le Reef

v 3.0

## BRIEF HISTORY

Le Reef is the obvious rock wall right facing as observed from Al Hoota Rest House. The crag was envisioned as a climbing destination by Théo Giani, circa 2014. There were already two established crags at Al Sharaf, Oman – Birkat and Wall of Shadows. After some thorough planning and preparation, a team of UAE based bolters and climbers descended on the area during the month December 2015. In five days 14 new routes were established and a new crag was born. Over the years many more sport routes have been added and others are being set. The area offers a wide range of lines from 4b to 8b with the majority in the 5b to 6b range. The name suggests a resemblance to a reef, while the French phraseology refers to the myriad French and francophone initial route setters.

## THE SETTING / LOCATION

The area is located in close proximity to Al Hoota Rest House at approximately 1900-meter elevation. Le Reef is a single limestone wall (approximately 150 m long) with North – North/East orientation with a wall incline of 65 – 90 degrees including a cave area in the center. The quality of the rock is good to excellent with rare rock falls. However, wearing helmets is highly recommended as in all climbing areas. All climbs are single pitch, as the height of the wall does not exceed 50 meters.

## WHAT IS SUITABLE FOR

- **Sport Climbing** (only kind of route setup)
- **Rappelling / Abseiling**
- **Camping** (at the beginning at the approach, where the vista of the soundings of the surroundings is the most impressive)

## WEATHER AND THE ELEMENTS

The weather is very season dependent. Generally, the air temperatures are 15 - 20 degrees lower than Bahla - the closest big urban center. In the winter months (January – March) temperatures can drop to 10°C, while in the summer they could go as high as 30°C. In the summer months (June – August) a predominant part of the wall is exposed to the sun during the day. In the winter months the Wall is in the shade during the daylight hours. The area experiences occasional storms and precipitation, all year round. The winds can reach high speeds in the winter, which could alter one's, perception of shade, sunshine and overall temperature.

# APPROACH

**D**

Drive from anywhere in Oman to Al Hoota Rest House, near Bahla, Oman. At a point before The Land of the Moon | أرض القمر , Sharaf turn left into the obvious dirt road in front.



## Beginning of the approach:

Lat: 23° 9' 11.06" N  
Lon: 57° 25' 14.622" E  
(23.1530722, 57.4207283)



## Road turn:

Lat: 23° 9' 4.29" N  
Lon: 57° 25' 21.042" E  
(23.1511917, 57.4225116)



## Front Walkdown:

Lat: 23° 9' 20.87" N  
Lon: 57° 24' 57.18" E  
(23.1557972, 57.415883)



## Front Walkdown Bottom:

Lat: 23° 9' 18.28" N  
Lon: 57° 25' 6.708" E  
(23.1550778, 57.41853)



## Back Walkdown:

Lat: 23° 9' 20.88" N  
Lon: 57° 24' 57.09" E  
(23.1558, 57.4158583)



## Back Walkdown Bottom:

Lat: 23° 9' 19.81" N  
Lon: 57° 24' 58.26" E  
(23.1555028, 57.416183)

After heading west from the parking spot, follow the immediate upper rim. 10-15 min into the walk look for obvious step down to the right. Continue in westward direction and move to the right until you reach the rocky rim. Walk until you see the first big break in the rock wall, which dips down to the base. This is the

beginning of the Front Walkdown. Scramble down following series of cairns until you reach the bottom and see the Le Reef sign. Start walking westward at the base of the wall.

To access the Back Walkdown continue westward on the upper end of the rim. Pass an obvious wade rock

channel end continue until you see the next obvious break in the rim. Continue scrambling down as you follow the occasional cairn to the base of the rock. Use caution and your best judgment. When at the base of the wall, head East to reach No More Sector (6) and beyond.

# Google Mapping

Latitude: 23° 9' 19.878" N

Longitude: 57° 25' 1.95" E

Decimal Degrees  
GPS

23.1555217 57.4172083  
N 23 09.331 E 57 25.032

# SECTORS



1

2

3

4

5

6

Welcome Wall

The Flats

Musketeers Wall

The Cave

The Plaza

No More Sector



1

Welcome Wall



1A	<b>Gotama</b>	25m / 12 bolts	6b
1B	<b>Siddartha</b>	25m / 12 bolts	6a+
1C	<b>Run with the Flow</b>	27m / 14 bolts	6a

2

The Flats



No climbs yet

3

The Musketeers Wall



3A	<b>d'Artagnan's Revenge</b>	22m / 10 bolts	5b
3B	<b>The Three Musketeers</b>	25m / 10 bolts	5b
3C	<b>Crackling Fire</b>	25m / 10 bolts	5b+

# 4

## The Cave



4A	<b>Levre Majeure</b> 25m / 12 bolts	6b
4B	<b>Just Breathe</b> 25m / 12 bolts	7b+
4C	<b>Levre Inferieur (Project)</b> 20m / 10 bolts	8a
4D	<b>Shakti (Project)</b> 20m / 10 bolts	8b
4E	<b>Stairs of Happines</b> 15m / 8 bolts	4b
4F	<b>Origami</b> 15m / 8 bolts	5a

# 5

## The Plaza



<b>5A</b>	<b>Denisa</b> 22m / 11 bolts	<b>5c+</b>
<b>5B</b>	<b>Le Big Mac</b> 20m / 10 bolts	<b>6b+</b>
<b>5C</b>	<b>Bulgarian Strudel</b> 25m / 12 bolts	<b>6b+</b>
<b>5D</b>	<b>Red Hawk</b> 25m / 12 bolts	<b>7a</b>
<b>5E</b>	<b>Diamonds are Forever</b> 18m / 9 bolts	<b>6a+</b>
<b>5F</b>	<b>Red Rabbit</b> 18m / 9 bolts	<b>6a+</b>
<b>5G</b>	<b>High on Crack</b> 20m / 9 bolts	<b>5c+</b>
<b>5H</b>	<b>Psycho Billy</b> 26m / 11 bolts	<b>6a+</b>
<b>5I</b>	<b>Adrenaline Shot</b> 27m / 11 bolts	<b>6a+</b>

# 6

No More Sector



<b>6A</b>	<b>There will be light</b> 30m / 13 bolts	<b>6a+</b>
<b>6B</b>	<b>Blue fingernails</b> 25m / 12 bolts	<b>5c+</b>
<b>6C</b>	<b>Mina Maria</b> 25m / 10 bolts	<b>5c+</b>
<b>6D</b>	<b>Illumination</b> 30m / 14 bolts	<b>6a+</b>
<b>6E</b>	<b>Step into the sunset</b> 30m / 13 bolts	<b>6a+</b>
<b>6F</b>	<b>C'est Fini</b> 30m / 14 bolts	<b>6c</b>
<b>6G</b>	<b>Three to tango</b> 20m / 8 bolts	<b>7a</b>

# LIST OF CLIMBS [28]

NAME GRADE SECTOR

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GRADE 4

**Stairs of Hoppines** 4b 4

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GRADE 5

**Crackling Fire** 5a 3

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**Origami** 5a 4

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**d'Artagnan's Revenge** 5b 3

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**The Three Musketeers** 5b 3

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**Blue Fingernails** 5c+ 6

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**Denisa** 5c+ 5

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**Mina Maria** 5c+ 6

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**High on Crack** 5c+ 5

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GRADE 6

**Run with the Flow** 6a 1

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**Adrenaline Shot** 6a+ 5

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**Diamonds are Forever** 6a+ 5

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**Illumination** 6a+ 6

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NAME GRADE SECTOR

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**Siddartha** 6a+ 1

**Step into the Sunset** 6a+ 6

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**Psycho Billy** 6a+ 5

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**Red Rabbit** 6a+ 5

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**There Will be Light** 6a+ 6

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**Gotama** 6b 1

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**Levre Majeure** 6b 4

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**Le Big Mac** 6b+ 5

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**Bulgarian Strudel** 6b+ 5

---

**C'est Fini** 6c 6

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GRADE 7

**Red Hawk** 7a 5

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**Three to Tango** 7a 6

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**Just Breathe** 7b+ 4

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GRADE 8

**Levre Inferieur** 8a 4

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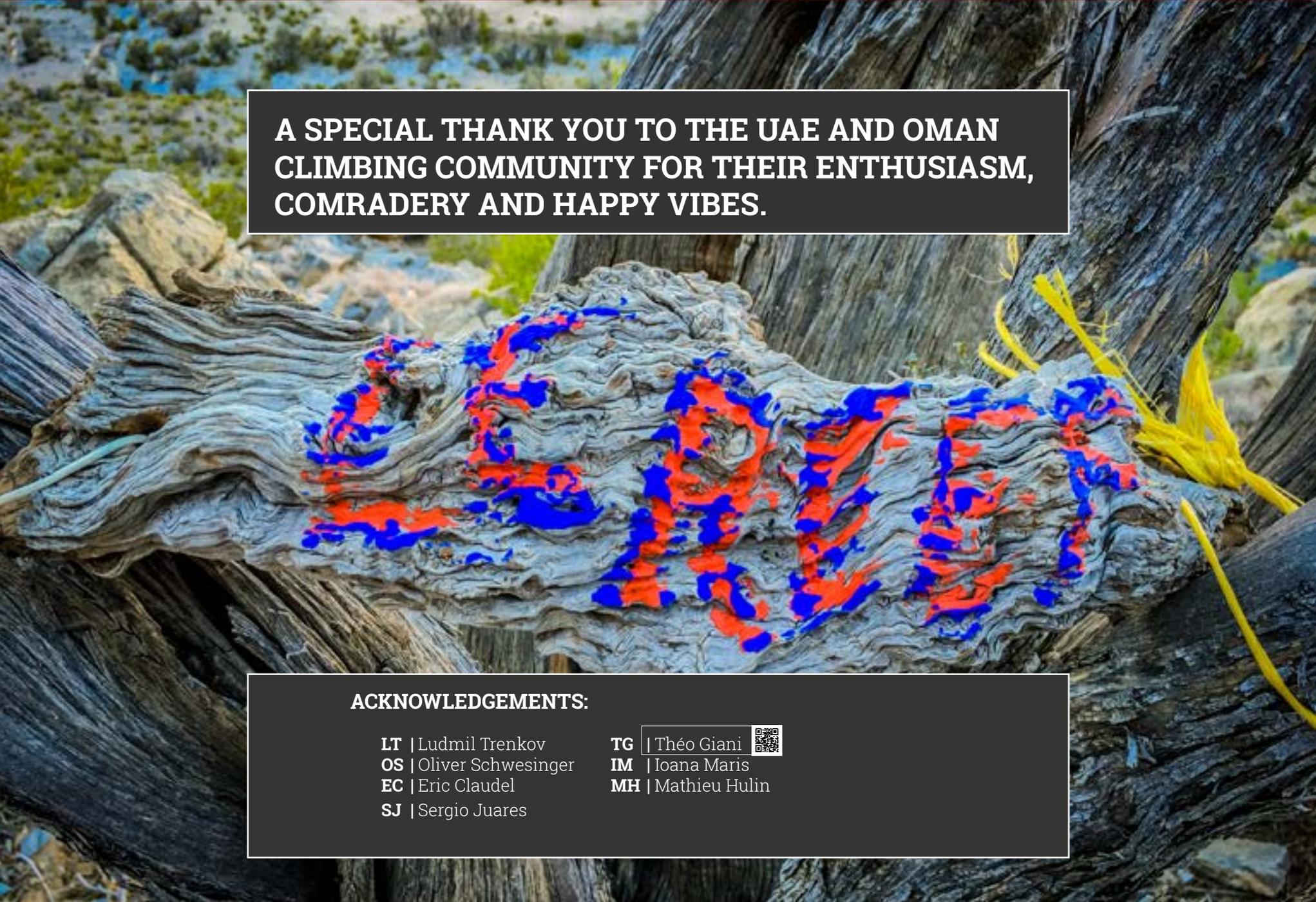
**Shakti** 8b 4

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A person in a dark jacket and helmet is climbing a dark, jagged rock face. The background is a lighter, textured rock surface. The text 'THE MAKING OF A CRAG' is overlaid in large, red, outlined letters.

# THE MAKING OF A CRAG

It was fortunate that the initial development efforts of Le Reef were captured in a short documentary, which could be found here: [goo.gl/pYqZt7](https://goo.gl/pYqZt7)



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE UAE AND OMAN  
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