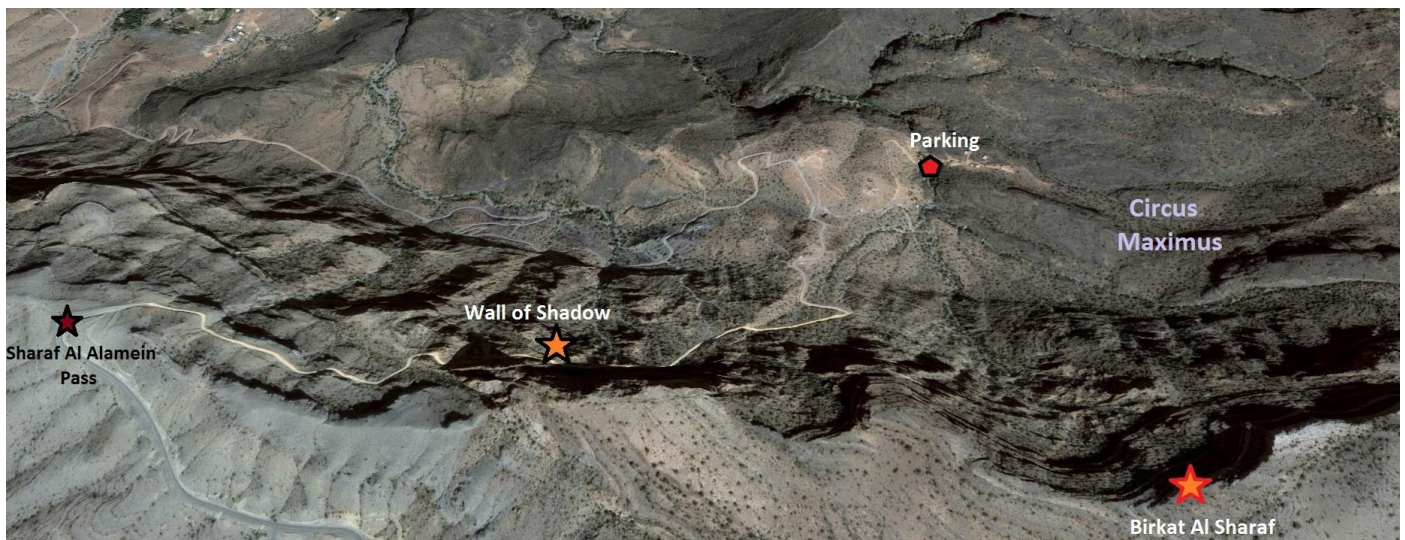


Sharaf Al Alamein : Circus Maximus



After being hinted at the place by Ales and Zdenko we explored a new crag situated near Sharaf Al Alamein, about 2.5km after the pass on the track going down to Hat/Bilad Sayt/La Gorgette. From what we observed, we reckon it could yield more than 50 new routes, ranging from grade 4 to 8+... With a height comprised between 15m and 30m and a limited share of cleaning (rock quality felt good if not excellent) this could be the most promising venue in the region (after, maybe, Nant Bidy). Access from the top seems fairly easy which would facilitate route development. The crag is facing north so should get a fair amount of shade (except maybe in the summer) but has also some parts facing east and north-west. The altitude is approximately 1700m. The area is rich of potentially sustained crimpy routes, slabs, steep long (25m) pitches, overhangs with small and occasionally huge tufas, small roofs... Circus Maximus is also pretty much secluded and quiet, about 1km away from the main track and enjoys a spectacular view on the surrounding mountain range. Access on foot takes from 10 to 15min depending on the sectors.



Road access: From the top of Sharaf's Pass (23deg 10' 02" N; 57deg 24' 55" E), drive down 2.3km down the track then turn right on a winding dirt road and drive approximately 500m. Park at the lowest point of the road before the small houses. (23deg 10' 24" N; 57deg 26' 00"E).

Then walk eastwards and uphill in the direction of evident walls. The first one would probably yield the easiest routes around as well as some steeper and more sustained ones.

Some pictures



Some amazing tufas



Steep and crimpy



The super steep sector (home of the tufas)



Varied profiles



Steep and/or slaby