

north side of Aroudan (3359m), there are three kilometers of crags up to 800 meters in height. The nearby area just south of Taghia is equally impressive. A number of routes, up to ED VI A3, are described in *Le Maroc: Les Plus Belles Courses et Randonees*, by Bernard Domenech. Considerable further potential almost certainly exists.

Further east, new route potential exists on an extensive and somewhat more accessible 300-meter crag on the north side of Irhil ou Abbari, near Sidi Yahia ou Youssef in the Jbel Masker range. Here, too, French climbers were active in earlier decades.

The limestone escarpments and wooded hills of the Middle Atlas offer little at this scale, but do have the allure of frequent rock outcrops with no visiting climbers. Unfortunately, most of the crags turn out to be of poor quality. Exceptions include single-pitch routes in the Fom Kheneg Gorge on the Azrou-Midelt road near Timahdite, and limestone bouldering off the Ifrane-Dayet Hachlaf road. The former yields a wealth of well-protected natural lines best approached outside the nesting season. Also worth investigating are sizeable steep limestone crags near the Sources de l'Oum-er-Rbia and the possibility of short ice climbs near the summit of Jbel Tichchoukt.

Other ranges worthy of investigation include the granite of the Anti Atlas near Tafraoute, visited by British climbers since the early 1990s, and the rocky summits of the Eastern end of the Jbel Sahro massif. In Morocco in general much potential remains, especially for those with the time to invest in penetrating well beyond the reach of the tarmac road.

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MALI

Hombori Mountains, Various Ascents. It was reported that a number of climbs went up on or near Le Main de Fatima in the winter of 1997-'98. On the Grimari Dagana Massif, on December 13, B. Regien and C. Dumont d'Ayot put up *Vendredi XII* (6a, 250m) on the north pillar of Wambe Ballo. Salvador Campillo and B. Marnette established *Soleil Noir* (TD/TDsup, 160m) on the east summit of the Ciseaux de Grimari on January 28. On Taganagategue in the Boni-Loro Massif, Campillo and Marnette put up the 180-meter *Khili-Khili* (6a A1). In the Bani-Kani area on the Fifth Tower of the North Dyoude Massif, Campillo and Marnette put up a 220-meter TDinf. route via its northwest spur.

The Hand of Fatima, Harmattan Rodeo. For many years, my regular gang of climbing partners—Todd Skinner, Bobby Model, Andy deKlerk, Ed February, Scott Milton, Bill Hatcher and Peter Mallamo—and I were intrigued by photos we had seen in Spanish magazines of Le Main de Fatima ("The Hand of Fatima"), a lovely grouping of giant pinnacles resembling the hand of the prophet Mohammed's favorite daughter that rises from a parched landscape of massive quartzite towers and walls in Mali. From mid-December to mid-January, 1997-'98, we found ourselves living below and on these beautiful towers. To ensure we were choosing the finest climbing objective, we spent two days hiking around many of the area rock formations. The team unanimously agreed upon the region's most outstanding challenge: a new route up a severely overhanging outside corner of a 1,400-foot spire called Kaga Pamari, the little finger of Fatima's hand.