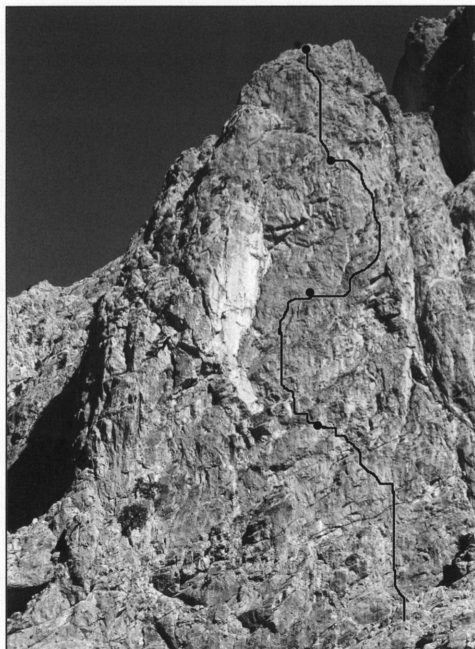


Ala Daglar, Cimbar Valley, The Power of Silence, So It's Life. Although climbing in Turkey has only recently come into vogue, the place is becoming well developed. Paolo Stoppini and I visited the Ala Daglar, where we put up two new routes in the Cimbar Valley. We had to be content with the lower walls; higher there was far too much snow, a pity, as we would have been able to climb beautiful routes up to 800m long. The rock in the Cimbar is a sandstone that is similar to limestone, with good and varied climbing. The number of long routes is increasing each year, and there are currently several well-equipped routes. On October 3 we put up Safak, the Power of Silence (150m, 6c+) and two days later So It's Life (330m, nine pitches, 6b+). Both routes are bolted, but some gear is required. The latter lies 30 minutes up the valley on the northwest face of Kizil Catlak.

ALBERTO ZUCCHETTI, *Italy*



The 150m Safak, the Power of Silence in the Cimbar Valley. Belay points and pitch grades are marked. *Alberto Zucchetti*

Oman

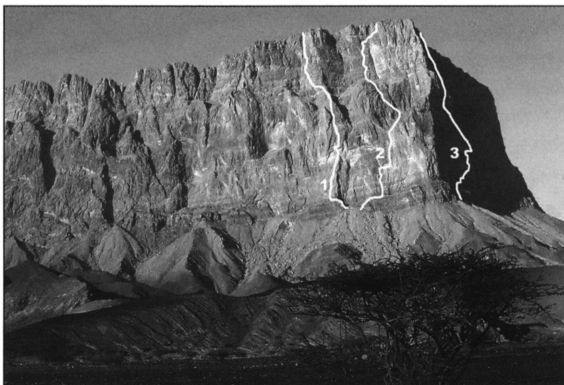
Western Hajar, Jabal Misht (2,090m), southeast face, Yel-la Sadike; south face, Kabir Hajar. I knew little about climbing in Oman until January 3, 2008 when Pavle Kozjek showed me a picture of Jabal Misht. Things then progressed fast, and by the 20th we were standing on top of the mountain watching the sun set over the desert. We had just climbed a new route on the 1,000m southeast face in nine hot hours. We named it Yel-la Sadike, which means Hurry, My Friend, because we got up late; both of our alarm clocks were set to Slovenian time, not Oman time, which is three hours earlier. It cost us, because though we reached the top of the route in daylight, we made the classic descent of the north face, and much of the 25km walk through the desert back to base camp, under full moonlight. We soloed the first 100m to the big terrace and then belayed nine long pitches using a 80m rope. The first four of these (V to VI-) led rightward beneath large roofs to the crux fifth pitch (VII-). We continued straight up (V to VI-) between the bolted route Make Love Not War (7b, 2003) and Shukran (VII, 2006). Above the ninth pitch we climbed unroped up the remaining 250m (generally II with some IV+), possibly following the line of The Empty Quarter (British E2 5a, 2000).

On the 29th I completed my second route on Misht, this time on the south face, with Knavs Matej. We chose a bold line that offered an uncertain outcome. This gamble paid off, and we had a great day, climbing steep, perfect limestone and topping out at 1 a.m. We named this 1,000m route Kabir Hajar (Big Rock, VIII-). We started on the big terrace 100m left of the French Pillar and climbed about 15 long pitches (generally V to VI, with the crux on pitch

three) to the summit in 18 hours. We used traditional removable protection on both routes. Though we brought hammers and a few pitons, they proved unnecessary.

Oman has much potential for climbers of all interests: bouldering, DWS (deep water soloing), sport climbing, and the big faces of the Hajar. The locals are friendly too. We tried a bit of everything and promised to come back. Logistics for climbing in Oman are simple: all you need is some Internet action and money.

DEJAN MISKOVIC, *Slovenia*



The south (left) and southeast faces of Jabal Misht (2,090m), showing the three new routes climbed in 2008. (1) Flying Pegs (900m, VIII+). (2) Kabir Hajar (1,000m, UIAA VIII-). (3) Yel-la Sadike (1,000m, UIAA VII-). Heiko Wilhelm

Western Hajar, Jabal Misht (2,090m), south face, Flying Pegs; various short routes. Barbara Bacher, Jakob Oberhauser, Thomas Scheiber, Heiko Wilhelm, and I, all from Austria, established a series of new routes in Oman. We kicked off our winter season with the first ascent of 40 Räuber, a technical 8b in Little Gourgette, a crag close to the idyllic oasis of Balad Seet in Wadi Bhani Awf. After establishing a series of easier multi-pitch routes in various wadis, we traveled to the immense Jabal Sham Plateau where, awestruck by the canyon overhangs, we found a line through the easiest sections of the upper canyon to establish the three-pitch Al Hamar (8b, 8a, 7a). This bold 110m route overhangs by 50m, with protection from a mixture of bolts, threads, and cams. This may be the most demanding route in the country.

No journey to Oman is complete without a trip to Jabal Misht, and before heading home, Scheiber and I made a swift repeat (a little over five hours, probable third ascent) of Shukran (Gargitter-Trenkwalder, 2006) on the southeast face, which we thought to be VII-. With Oberhauser, we completed a seven-hour first ascent of Flying Pegs, which lies on the south face, one of the most beautiful in Oman, and is comparable to the south face of the Marmolada in the Dolomites. We completed the 900m (16 pitches, VIII+) route on January 4, using traditional removable gear and a few pitons, some of which we dropped. [Editor's note: In 2003 Oberhauser attempted this line with Sepp Joechler but retreated after six pitches of excellent climbing due to technical difficulties and loose, unprotectable rock. They tried again in 2005, but just 5m above the 2003 high point, Oberhauser fell, and the pair had to descend. In 2007 a four-man Italian team attempted the line and left bolted belays during their retreat. The Austrians found the bolts in 2008 and thought the line had been completed but not reported. However, when they got to the start of the hard section, the bolts stopped. Auer led the difficult, loose, unprotected middle section to reach much better rock.]

HANSJÖRG AUER, *Austria*