

We had left some of our equipment, including bolts, at Mohammed's gîte (village guest house) in Zaouiad-Ahansal, so this time we had no problem with excess baggage on the flight. However, reaching Taghia gave unforeseen problems, due to the long, cold winter. Even by April the main pass to Zaouiad-Ahansal was still closed by deep snow, and the river crossings on the trek were difficult. We found much snow in the deep canyons and experienced a cold start to our climbing.

On our previous visit there had been two sheltered bivouac caves in the canyon, only 20 minutes from the start of our proposed route, but we discovered that one had been destroyed by rockfall during the winter. The other was good, but had room for only three people. Tino Kohbach, Michael Petters, and I stepped inside and slept there for nearly two weeks.

We worked on the route ground-up, finding the first third of the wall to be perfect gray, vertical limestone with excellent features. But due to the cold, our progress was slow, and at best we added only two new pitches each day. Once we got higher, the sun hit the wall earlier and stayed longer, motivating us to push hard. In the middle section of the face we followed a thin crack, which gave outstanding climbing at 7a+ and proved to be one of the best pitches on the route. Above, we discovered a good bivouac ledge below the overhanging headwall. Route-finding skills now became important as the rock was loose in places, unclimbable in others. But we found a weakness, traversing the lip of the big roof right, with great exposure. Two more airy pitches through the orange headwall led to easier ground and a system of corners. After 14 pitches, many 60m in length, we reached the top, having climbed nearly 700m with difficulties up to 7c.

After a couple of days' rest in Taghia village, we returned for the redpoint, adding a few more bolts in crucial areas and establishing a direct rappel line through the headwall to make descent more convenient. Our route name, Raum der Wünsche (Room of Requirements), was inspired by the Harry Potter stories. During our days on the wall and resting in the village all of us found what we were looking for: peace and quiet; friendly people; a great landscape, deep emotions, and an outstanding climbing experience. We hope the next party on our route has the same pleasures. For more information on climbing in Taghia, we recommend visiting the excellent Spanish website [www.onaclimb.com](http://www.onaclimb.com).

RÜDIGER HELLING, *Germany*

*Tagoujimt N'Tsouiant, northeast face, Cosmic Roof.* At the end of April, Luka Krajnc, Alenka Lukic, Miha and Milena Praprotnik, and my wife Tanja and I, accompanied by Moroccan climber Jonathan, traveled to Taghia village, situated in an incredible canyon landscape of the High Atlas. Snowy peaks, green river valleys, traditional local life, vast houses of stone and mud, and transportation provided by mules and donkeys made us feel we were in the Himalaya, not Africa.

The first afternoon saw us running to the nearest wall, and in the next 20 days we climbed meter after meter, route after route. Formations above the village rise to an altitude of more than 3,000m, and the region has more than 10 walls over 800m high. There are more than 100 routes of all difficulties. We climbed a number of excellent routes, both easy and hard.

Luka and I also made a spectacular first ascent, Cosmic Roof (a.k.a. Separate African Reality, 7b, 750m) on the northeast face of Tagoujimt N'Tsouiant. We followed the obvious crack/corner system to the left edge of a huge 20m roof in the middle of the wall, climbed



Vast northeast face of Tagoujimt N'Tsouiant with Cosmic Roof marked. *Andrej Grmovsek*

over it, and exited via the ramps of Via del Sostre (UIAA V+ and A3). In the lower part we crossed the bolted route Fantasia (7c) and in the chimneys above found two old bolts. Above, we climbed virgin rock, occasionally quite loose and dirty. On the super-steep crux roof I battled gravity for more than half an hour, negotiating gravel-covered loose rock and wide cracks, with poor protection. (We took only one 4 Camalot). We climbed the route in 13 hours, and in contrast to other ascents on these walls, used only traditional removable protection. We recommend future parties take two sets of Friends up to #4.

We repeated many difficult and beautiful routes, including: Fantasia (Luka and I; I made a redpoint ascent); Les Rivieres Pourpres (7b+, 545m) on Taoujdad (Luka and I, both onsight or flash); L'axe du Mal (7c, 500m) on Tadrarate (Luka and I, both redpoint); Canyon Apache (6c+, 355m) on Timrazine (Alenka and Tanja, Tanja on-sight); Au nom de la Reforms (6c, 340m) on Taoujdad (Alenka and Tanja, Tanja onsight); La Zebta (7b+, 260m) on the Paroi des Sources (Miha and Milena, Miha redpoint). Our trip to Taghia was excellent. We were enraptured with its diversity and the hospitality of local people. And especially with the unbelievable amount of fine red walls, making it one of the best limestone regions we know.



Luka Krajnc on (or off?) Fantasia pitch five (6c), Tagoujimt N'Tsoiant. *Andrej Grmovsek*

ANDREJ GRMOVSEK, *Slovenia*

*Timrazine Canyon, Capitan Tajin.* Climbing almost every day from October 5 till the 17th, Abigail Pickett from France and Andrea Cattarossi, Daniele Geremia, Silvano Gosso, Marco Zaffiri, and I from Italy repeated beautiful routes and over three days created our own. This route is situated in Timrazine Canyon, known colloquially as Canyon Apache after the name of its most famous route, opened in 2003 by Arnaud Petit, Michel Piola, and Benoît Robert (6c+,