

Walks and Scrambles in the Anti-Atlas.

Cicerone Update: Route 25 Jebel-el-Kest from Tagdicht

Description

Distance: 10 km. **Height gain:** 1100m. **Time:** 7 hrs return. **Grade:** Difficult

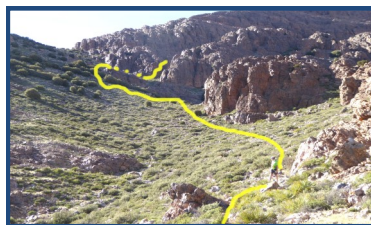
Parking: Top of the village on right near a water pipe just before final bend (two cars).

① Starting from the revised parking place turn the corner and branch right at A-shaped wooden cable carrier where the road gives way to gravel. Go up concrete steps through a narrow passage and descend to cross a concrete bridge. Ascend a few switchbacks then contour westwards along a good path to turn a corner turning rightwards towards the mountain. Pass through a notch and down steps to cross the stream bed (15 min).

② Climb the zig-zags to a flat sandy area (grassy after rain). Find the faint path and continue to cross the second stream bed. About 5 min from here, at around 1700m, you reach a junction with a partially formed new path which leads leftwards towards Anergui. Ignore this and continue now above the stream bed to where the stream meets the left prow of a steep rock buttress (approx. 45 min).



③ From the rock (and ignoring any paths to the left), continue ahead to cross the stream and trend rightwards up a slope to emerge at a flat area at the left edge of another rock buttress. Continue towards the mountain to reach the toe of a third buttress which may, if not faded, bear some writing in Arabic requesting shepherds not graze to graze their livestock there.



④ From this buttress head towards the leftmost tree-lined, gully, grandiosely named the Great Ramp. This is left of the wide slope bordering the west side of Tagdicht Buttress. (Note in descent to stay close to the mountain on leaving the summit). To avoid the hidden depression that stands in your way bear left and climb up above



the 2000m level to contour around and descend slightly to the (now un-cairned) foot of the Gully. Weave up the Great Ramp gaining 300m for what seems like a long time then traverse leftwards just below the summit ridge to the South Summit. Return by the same route if not visiting the north summit or confident in crossing steep scree (red route).

This update to pages 166-177 of the guidebook follows the appearance of some new paths and change in status of the Descent Route. The direct descent (red and blue) is still the fastest way down from the North Summit and was possibly once the accepted 'trade route' between the northern villages and Tagdicht. It is not favoured by guides because of steep loose scree in its lower part but it is manageable by those with good navigation and confidence in descending such terrain. However, even on the *voie normale* paths can be loose and covered by vegetation in springtime. Magnetic compasses are not always reliable on this mountain and hand held GPS phone apps may be not be 100% accurate so make sure you take time to look back on ascent to check the path and work out your descent route. All considered it would make good sense to prepare yourself by doing some easier walks before aiming for the highest peak. If in any doubt take a guide (available next to the main mosque near the Hotel Salama square).



Descent route viewed looking SE towards Adrar Mqorn.



Updates can be found at-
www.cicerone.co.uk/809.

Maps are used on licence and can be obtained from
www.oxfordalpineclub.co.uk

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