

## Ramim Ridge

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### General

Regardless of climbing, Ramim ridge and the Ahula valley are situated in one of the nicest areas of Israel; it's a unique and beautiful countryside. With loads of stuff to do around, it's hard to choose... From natural attractions like the Ahula lake visitor center, Nahal Kadesh hike, Keren Naftali view point, and lots of springs all around, to the man-made attractions like the Manara cable car and the downhill bicycle singles descending from it, the romantic zimers of Ramot Naftali, Manara and other villages nearby. It is recommended for combining different activities and interests for all ages or partners.

### About the climbing:

Here too, like many other spots in Israel, the largest and best cliff is located inside a natural reserve, making it off limits for climbers at this point. The large and obvious wall seen from the main road down below and from Kiryat Shmona has potential for lots of both trad and sport routes. However, until we'll receive a permit to climb it, there are 3 other "mini crags" along the ridge we can enjoy, as they are not within the reserve boundaries: The Vanishing cliff, The Lying cliff and Nir's cliff. What makes the 3 of them unique is the very special atmosphere mostly created by the beautiful scenery and views.

The most popular of the 3 is the Vanishing cliff, located pretty low on the ridge, relatively close to the main road leading to K. Shmona. The crag is well known for its long slabs and easy routs just above a very convenient camp spot, drawing many climbers for overnight climbing & camping sleepovers. The Lying and Nir's cliffs demand a few more minutes of driving up to the top of the ridge, but offer absolutely stunning views and welcome climbers with cool mountain air, nice varied routes and permanent "coffee spots" equipped with all the necessities for a nice picnic.

### Reaching the 3 crags:

#### The Vanishing cliff

From Mahana'im jct., head north on rd. 90 towards Kiryat Shmona. Drive past Gomeh jct. Until the (left) turn to Manara cable-car, where you take a U-turn. After 1 Km leave the main road right - to a dirt road (look carefully, it is almost hidden). After 200m turn left (west) to a trail winding through the woods. Continue along the trail and turn left at the intersection after about 400m. Drive another 200m until the 2<sup>nd</sup> intersection, where you park the car (please don't block the road) and continue on foot. Head west on the 2<sup>nd</sup> left turn, after 30m the trail curves right to a steep ascent. Here we leave the road on a narrow path to the left (westward) ascending to the bottom of the cliff. The path is marked by rujums (piles of stones).

### **The Lying / Nir's cliff**

Head north on rd. 90 towards Kiryat Shmona. At Ko'ah jct., turn left to rd. 899 towards Sasa and reset your car's odometer. Drive past Yesha jct. (4.5 Km), and after 600m turn right (north) to rd. 886 towards Manara and Misgav-Am. Drive another 10 Km, just after milestone 70, turn right off the main road towards Manara cliff. Head right again, following the sign to the observation point and the cemetery. Curve right on a short segment of paved road. Take a hard left, and a harder (almost U-turn) right to a dirt road, just before the cemetery gate. Drive another 100m until you reach a clearing on your right.

**The Lying cliff:** Park the car in the clearing. Continue on foot on the dirt road for another 20m, until you see 2 rujums on both sides of the road. The descent to the cliff starts from the obvious path on the left; from there follow the rujums along the path, always walking down, until reaching the top of the cliff (watch your step, don't roll down rocks accidentally). From here, you have two options: Either use the fixed rope and scramble down (slippery after rain), or continue right, circling the cliff along the path for another 5-10 minutes walk.

**Nir's cliff:** From the Lying cliff's parking area, Continue driving for another 200m till the path veers left. There, you can park to the right of the path. The trail down to the cliff is marked by a small rujum and is about 10m east from a red tube. Follow the rujums along the path, always walking down.

### **General Notes:**

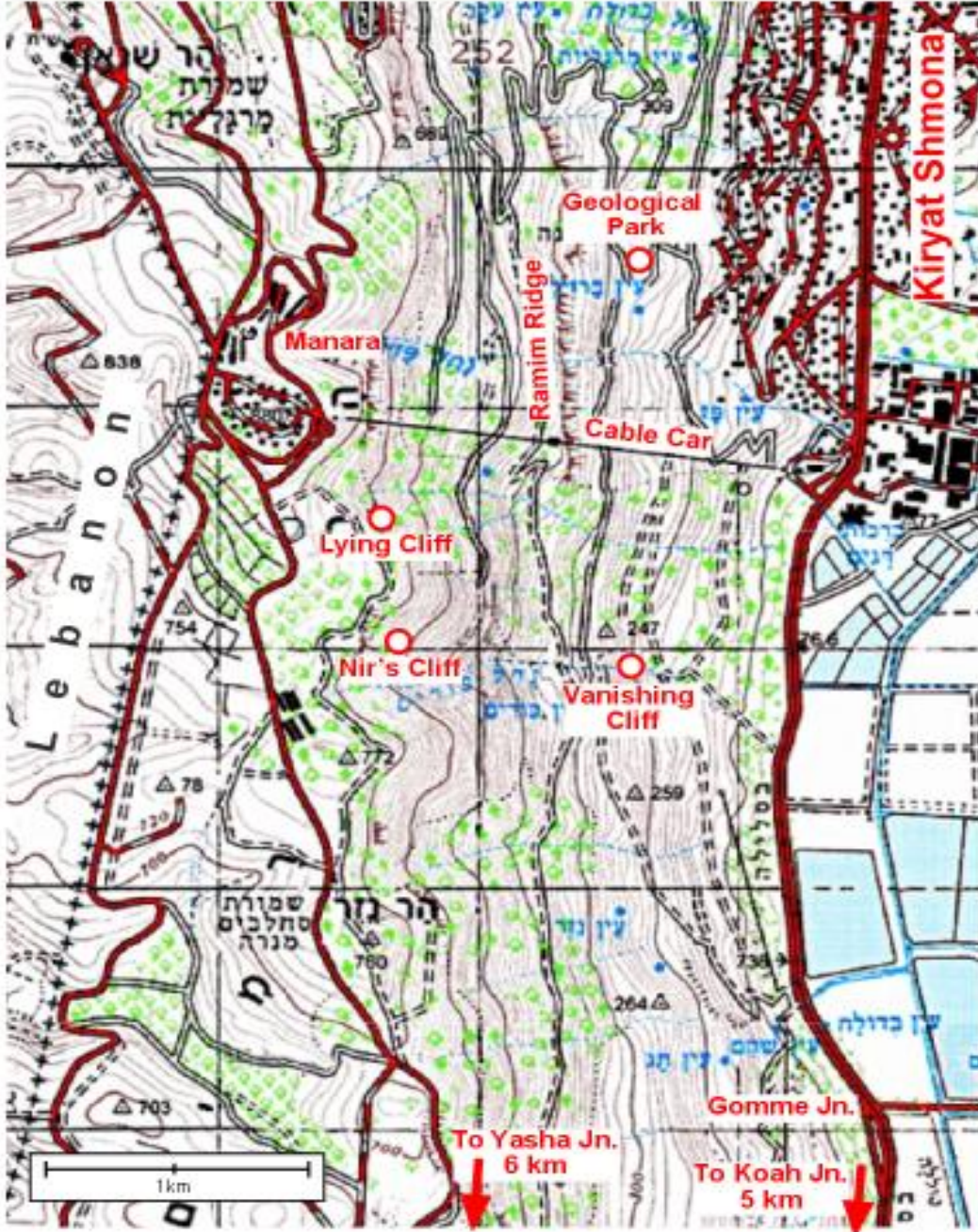
- \* Not all the paths described in the arrival instructions appear on the Area Map.
- \* All cliffs offer good camping spots.
- \* The Lying cliff and Nir's cliff are surprisingly cool in summer.

### **Other climable spots around:**

- \* Some boulders and a nice picnic spot at the geological park just above Kiryat Shmona.
- \* Just under Shafan HaSella's site (midway up the cable car line) you can find a piece of rock with 3 bolted routes (the first routes ever bolted on the ridge). All 3 routes are grade 5 and can also be trad climbed. Today the spot is used for abseiling group activities...
- \* Shafan HaSella's site also offers a small climbing wall built on one of the cable car's poles.
- \* Very hard to reach, about 200m directly down hill from Nir's cliff, lies a small cliff with over 20 very short routes bolted on it. None of the routes' grades exceed 6b. The place was used for the 2007 Israel Alpine Club bolting course.



# Area Map



## Guide's Key

	Standard bolted anchor
	Bolt
	A "must do" route. Don't miss it!





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### "Mr. Bolt"

If there is one person "to blame" for all these climbing goods Ramim Ridge has to offer, it's one Alon Malahi. Alon was born and raised in Kibbutz Hulata, in Ahula valley. Around the age of 25 Alon decided he has to "check out the rest of the planet", and after a multi-year world-wide trip which included paragliding, mountaineering, climbing and trekking he returned to build his home in Ramot Naftali on the ridge above the valley. In 1998 he founded "Shafan HaSella" (rock rabbit), a small business arranging trips and activities in the valley and around it. Today it's a well known company featuring an outdoor store in Gomme junction, a rope park and a resting area under one of Manara's cable car poles and above all, it runs the biggest and maybe the best climbing gym in Israel, located in Haifa. Even till today, the company still organizes lots of outdoor activities for a variety of customers, who return year after year for their northern experience.

With much love to the place, Alon spotted, developed and opened all 3 of the small crags described here, including establishment of the approach paths, cleaning and exposing the crags and of course, climbing and bolting all the routes. Probably the one experience you won't find here is the fear of standing 2 meters above your last bolt and looking up to see the next one 2 meters above you... Alon is known for his "passion for bolts" and his thoroughness. This may be another one of the reasons why these crags attract so many climbers.

Of the various attractions that Ramim Ridge has to offer, many can be credited to the guy known as Mr. Bolt... Malahil- keep up the good work!







Right & middle: Alon in his favorite surroundings. Left: Alon and Nir Melech on one of those "special missions"...  
Photos: Shafan HaSella, Ran Shadmi, Bezalel Melech

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## Ramim Vanishing Cliff

### Tech

**General crag grading:** ★★

**Rock:** Solid limestone, mostly slabs.

**Route lengths:** 4 - 25 meters.

**Route quantity:** 45, all sport

**Season:** Year round – though in summer, since the crag is pretty low on the ridge and close to valley, you can sometimes find it very hot! This is a good time to go to the Lying or Nir's cliff which are higher up on the ridge.

**Shade:** In summer, you can climb in the early morning, when the forest trees still shade the lower part of the wall. Between 09:00 -13:30 the slabs get lots of sun. On a cool day, you might be OK climbing in the sun but if you're more of a low temp climber, you best aim for those cool breezy afternoons to climb through. In winter, there is no heat problem and you might even want to dress warm.

**Gear & conditions:** a standard sport rack would be fine here. 50m rope. 10-12 draws. After heavy rains, the place is very muddy.

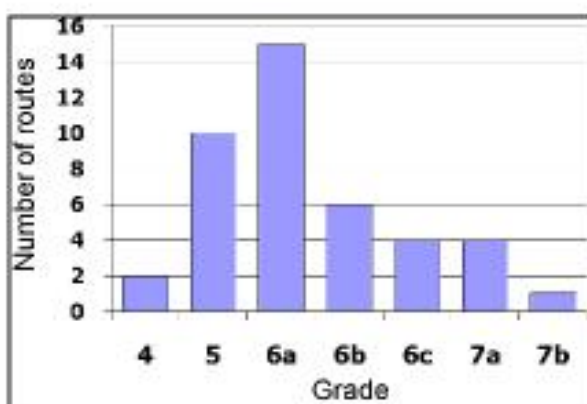
**Cellular coverage:** yes

**Cliff Coordinates:** 202-592 / 1287-925 (Israel Old Grid)

**Camping:** A great and well known camp spot welcomes you just as you reach the wall. Just be sure to keep the fire within the fire ring and to leave the place as clean or even cleaner than you found it. Enjoy!

### A few words...

The first bolts were drilled here in 2000. After about a year, the wall was covered with probably all the routes you see today. Most of the routes' cruxes are on the very first moves, due to the special nature of the rock. Some climbers even tend to climb up as far as the 3-4th' bolt and then come down because the rest is sometimes just an act for the full redpoint. The grades here are very subjective, as rock slabs sometimes tend to throw down even strong climbers. If you ever find the first bolt surprisingly high, that's because Alon bolted the route and then discovered an interesting way to extend it: dig the ground under it! The grid bolting, as you will see on the wall, is very confusing. It was confusing to map. and likewise. its sometimes confusing to climb. First of all. we are sorry



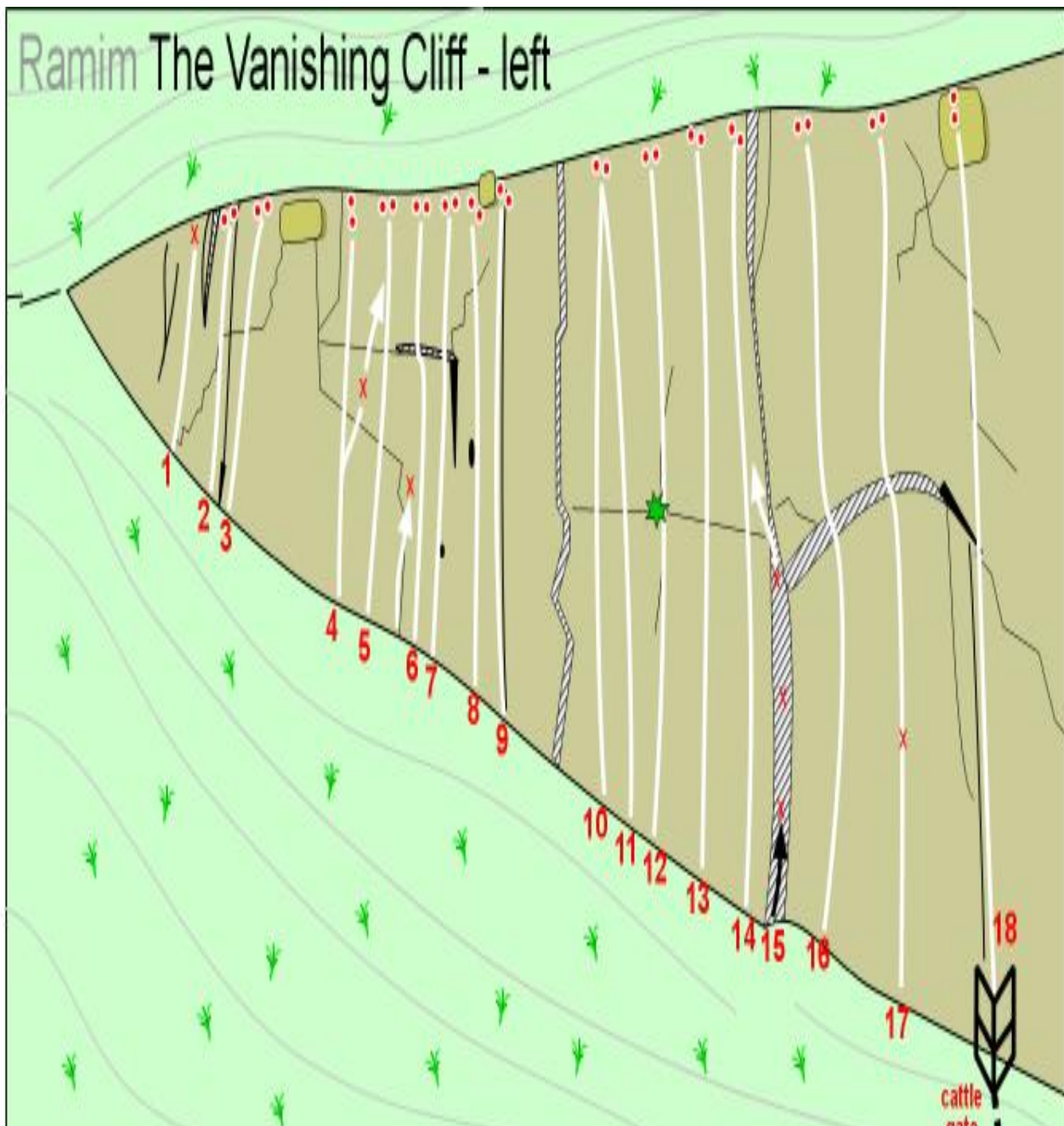
if there are some inaccurate details in the topo, and second, feel free to use any bolt that happens to be in your way while climbing, it's probably yours...



A panoramic view of the valley, as seen from the crag. Photo: Ran Shadmi

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- 1. **5+** Single bolt anchor.
- 2. **6a**
- 3. **6a**
- 4. **6b+** Variation via a single bolt between route 4&5.
- 5. **7a/7a+**
- 6. **Delicate Foot work: 7a**

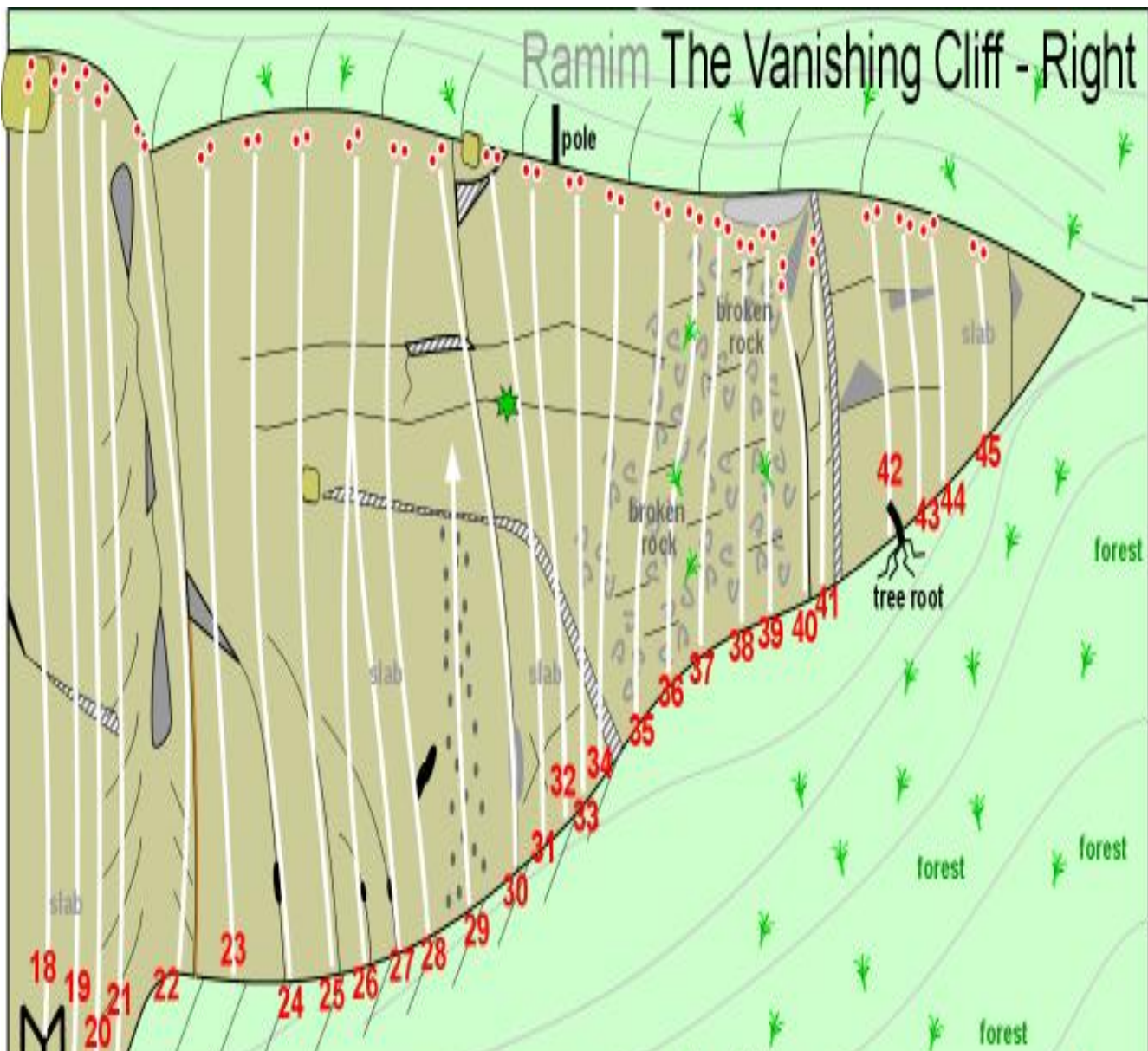
- Via the small roof. For an easier start, use the crack on the left.
- 7. **6c** Big hole and through the small roof.
- 8. **the Cute: 6a**
- 9. **the Delicate: 6a**

- 10. **5**
- 11. **5** American anchor.
- 12. **6a+** High first bolt.
- 13. **6a+** Low belayer bolt.
- 14. **Project.** On the arete.
- 15. **6b** Joins route 14 mid-height.

- 16. **6a+** High first bolt.
- 17. **Arc de Triomphe: 6c** High first bolt.
- 18. **the Barrel: 5**

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18. The Barrel: 5	24. Adon Gute: 6a	30. King's Road: 6a	36. 5	43. 5
19. Sason: 6b	25. Arafat: 6b	31. Agama: 6a+	37. 5	44. 6a
20. Himler: 6c	26. Bin-Laden: 6b	32. Tricky: 7a Very hard beginning to an easy finish.	38. 4	45. ?
21. Lizard: 6b+/6c	27. Trad: 6c	33. 6a+	39. 5-	
22. No Chalk: 5	28. Muff: 6a	34. 6a	40. 4	
23. 7a Slab. run and jump to the first hand hold.	29. Running With Wolves: 6b	35. 5+	41. ?	
			42. ?	

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## Ramim Liar Cliff

### Tech

**General crag grading:** ★★

**Rock:** Solid limestone.

**Routes length:** 4 - 18 meters.

**Routes quantity:** 44, all sport

**Season:** Summer! This place is way up high on the ridge. Even when it's very hot down in the valley, here you will find cool temps. Winter is not totally out of the question, but go prepared: dress warm!

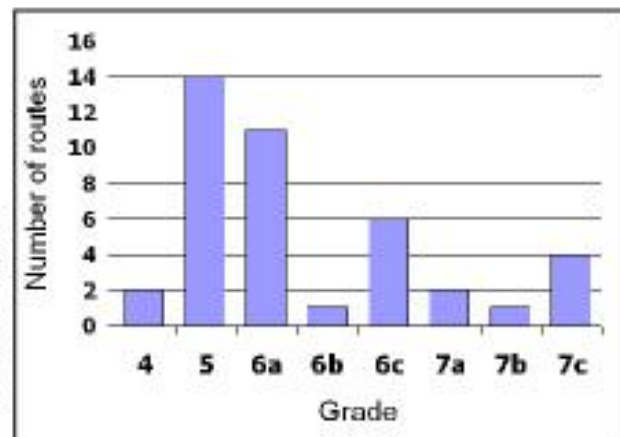
**Shade:** In summer, the Gray and Black sectors slide into the shade pretty early, around 10:00-11:00. The White sector becomes shaded around 13:00. You can climb till dark.

**Cellular coverage:** yes

**Coordinates:** (Israel Old Grid)

**Parking:** 201-533 / 1288-522 **Cliff:** 201-668 / 1288-530

**Camping:** A great camping spot is located just under the black sector, by the coffee spot. Enjoy the altitude and the great open views!



### A few words...

This crag was born only a couple years after the Vanishing cliff. The White sector, with most of the routes you see today was the first to be revealed, cleaned up and bolted, back in 2004. The gray and black sectors featured only a small amount of lines. It was only till late 2008 and the starting of 2009 that

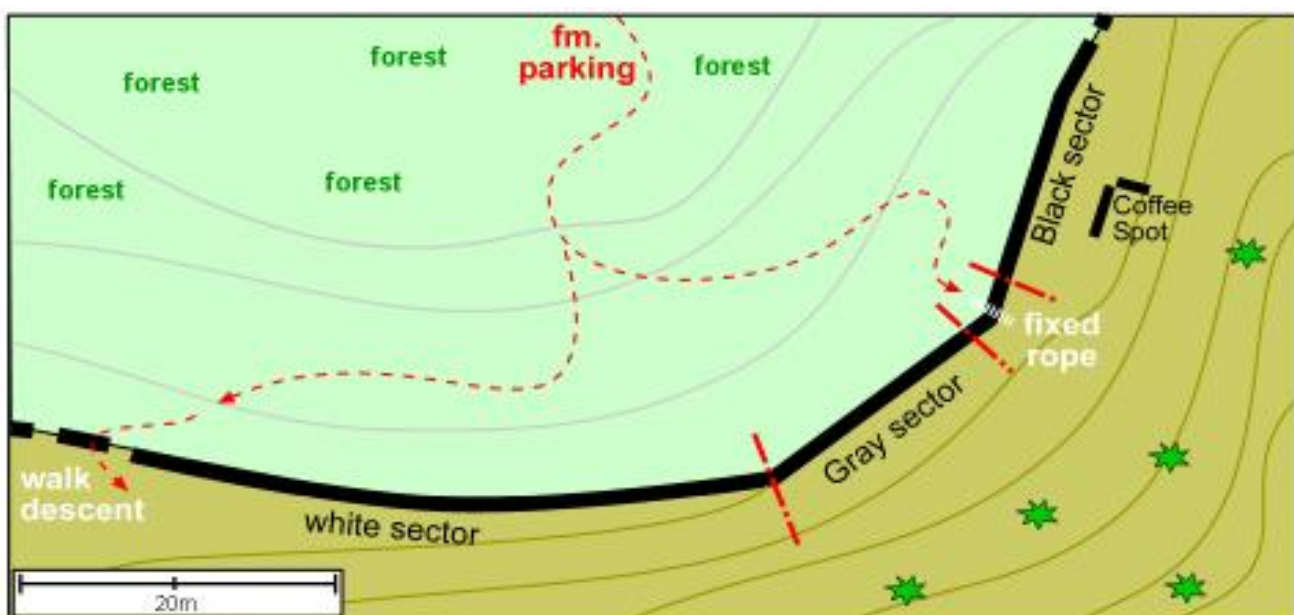


Alon Malach and lots of other good friends returned and almost doubled the number of routes. This crag is great for having a nice picnic with your friends, enjoying the views and climbing a variety of routes from easy scrambles to hard technical lines.

Although it's only a few hundred meters uphill from the popular vanishing crag, this place sees much less visitors. It's a shame, because it's well worth the drive up. Alon left some treats for those willing to put in the extra effort and come all the way up here: under the benches in the coffee spot you'll find a tea pot, sugar, matches and other surprises. Under the boulder on the right (facing the view) you can even find some water and some plastic rags for your ropes! Notice the new planted Almond, Carob and Judas trees all around the 3 sectors; at the end of your day, you are more than welcome to supply them with leftover water.

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## Ramim Liar Cliff - Sector Devison





Clockwise: **Ofer Blutrich** on the FA of Head-strong, White Sector, **Nimrod Nachmias** using valuable climbing skills to get a good photo perspective of the Gray Sector, Ramim ridge in the background, **Mt. Hermon** "hovering" above the valley at sunset, as seen from the crag.

Photos: Shafan HaSella, Ran S.





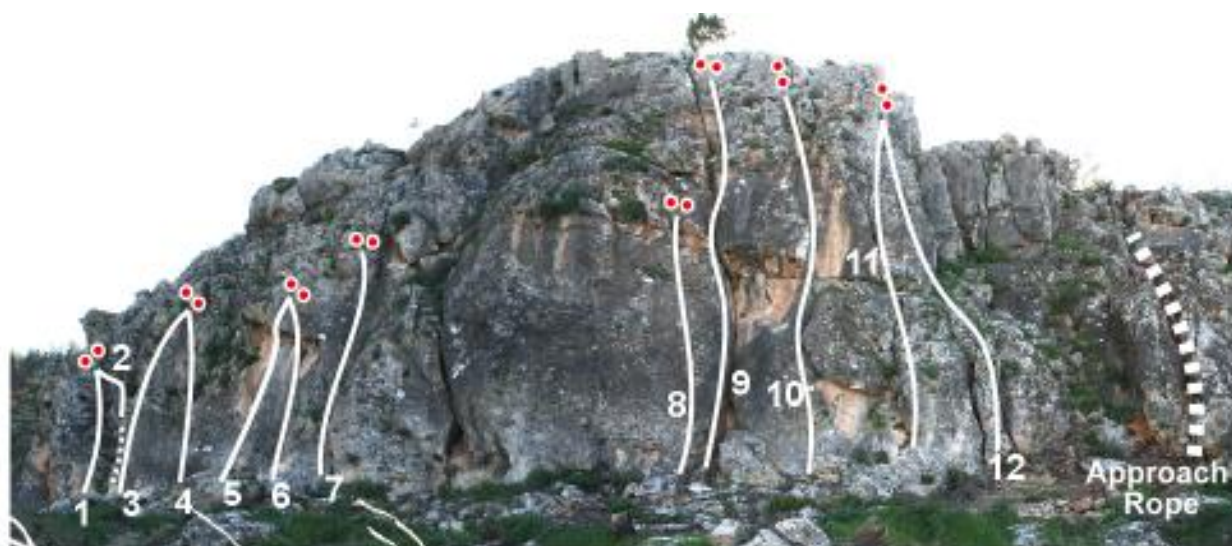


## Ramim The Lying Cliff - White Sector

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>1. 5+</b> "American" anchor.</p> <p><b>2. The Hole 6a</b> "American" anchor.</p> <p><b>3. 6a+</b> Same anchor as #2.</p> <p><b>4. 6c</b> "American" anchor</p> <p><b>5. 7a</b> Goes right to "American" anchor.</p> <p><b>6. The Owl: 6a</b> A harder extension option to #5's anchor: 6a+</p> | <p><b>7. 7b+</b> On the black stripe.</p> <p><b>8. 7b+</b> Same anchor as #7</p> <p><b>9. A0</b> (Too hard to free climb)</p> <p><b>10. Project.</b> Same anchor as #9.</p> <p><b>11. Head-strong: 7c+</b> Follow the crack heading left</p> <p><b>12. Ginger: Project</b> Same anchor as #13.</p> <p><b>13. 6a+</b> ☆☆☆ Left and up to #12's anchor.</p> | <p><b>14. 7b</b> On the arete.</p> <p><b>15. 5+</b> Slightly left on the slab.</p> <p><b>16. 5</b> Slabby.</p> <p><b>17. 6c+</b> On black stripe then up&amp;right to #18's chain anchor.</p> <p><b>18. 6a+</b></p> <p><b>19. Pocket Dance: ?</b> Low first bolt. Chain anchor with #20.</p> | <p><b>21. 6a</b></p> <p><b>22. 6c</b> Same anchor as #21</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

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## Ramim The Lying Cliff - Gray Sector

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1. 5</b> Anchor on your left. same anchor as #2</p> <p><b>2. 5</b> On the north face of the dihedral.</p> <p><b>3. 4</b></p> <p><b>4. 4</b> Shares anchor with #3</p> | <p><b>7. 5</b> "American" anchor.</p> <p><b>8. 5+</b> Left of the arete.</p> <p><b>9. 6a</b> Left of the crack.</p> <p><b>10. ?</b> Slab veer left of the big flake</p> |
|---|---|

- 5. 5+
- 6. 5+ Shares anchor with #5.

- 11. 5+
- 12. 5+ Same anchor as #11.



## Ramim The Lying Cliff - Black Sector

- 1. 5- Slab.
- 2. 5 Slab. same anchor as #1
- 3. 6c+ 1 glued hold...
- 4. 7a Same anchor as #3
- 5. 6c+ Start with the reinforced undercling
- 6. 6c Same anchor as #7
- 7. 6b High first bolt.
- 8. 6a Left of the arete
- 9. 5+ The arete
- 10. 6a

**\* Avoid using the approach rope after rain! Slippery and dangerous!**

## Ramim Nir's Cliff

### Tech

**General crag grading:** ★

**Rock:** Solid limestone mostly slabs.

**Routes length:** 4 - 15 meters.

**Routes quantity:** 20, all sport

**Season:** Same as the Lying cliff.

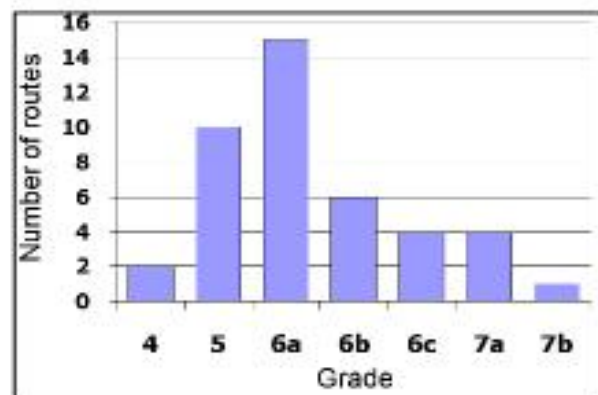
**Shade:** From midday on.

**Gear & conditions:** A simple sport rack would be fine here. The path down to the crag gets seriously muddy after any rain.

**Cellular coverage:** Yes

**Cliff Coordinates:** 201-682 / 1288-024 (Israel Old Grid)

**Camping:** Like the Lying cliff, Nir's cliff offers a superb tent spot just below the cliff. Be sure to keep the place nice and tidy after you leave... welcoming those who come after you.





## Nir Melech

Nir was born in 1976 in Petch-Tikva to Lea and Bezalel Melech. He grew up in the city up until he joined the army in 1994. After serving 3 years in the "Duvdevan" unit he resigned and took off pretty fast after that for a 9 month trip in South America. Nir started climbing back at the age of 15, visiting the Kiryat Uno rock gym quite frequently. During his army service and the long trip he developed his passion for the great outdoors and vertical world even more. When he returned, Nir was eager to live far away from the mess and noise of the city. He soon hooked up with Alon Malachi and joined Shafan HaSella as an employee, leading groups, outdoor activities and other creative missions the company organized. Nir worked with Alon for 7 long years, becoming a permanent and irreplaceable part in the company. As a local in the valley and the Ramim ridge area he helped Alon with the development of the surrounding crags. Sometime late 2005 they both reached this small piece of rock and noticed its idyllic setting. Bolting started pretty soon afterwards and the place became known as one of the most peaceful and beautiful climbing spots around.

Nir died on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2006 in a tragic accident at Keshet cave, Western Galilee. Nir fell while arranging equipment for an abseiling group activity. It was all but inevitable for Alon to finish what he started with his dear friend and name the place after Nir. The development didn't end without a permanent sitting spot along with tea, coffee, water and a fire ring being set up just below the rock. The place doesn't see many visitors, mainly due to the longer approach. Also, before this guide was available people knew about the existence of the place, but not much more than that. The setting is peaceful, quiet and pastoral - a perfect memorial for Nir Melech.



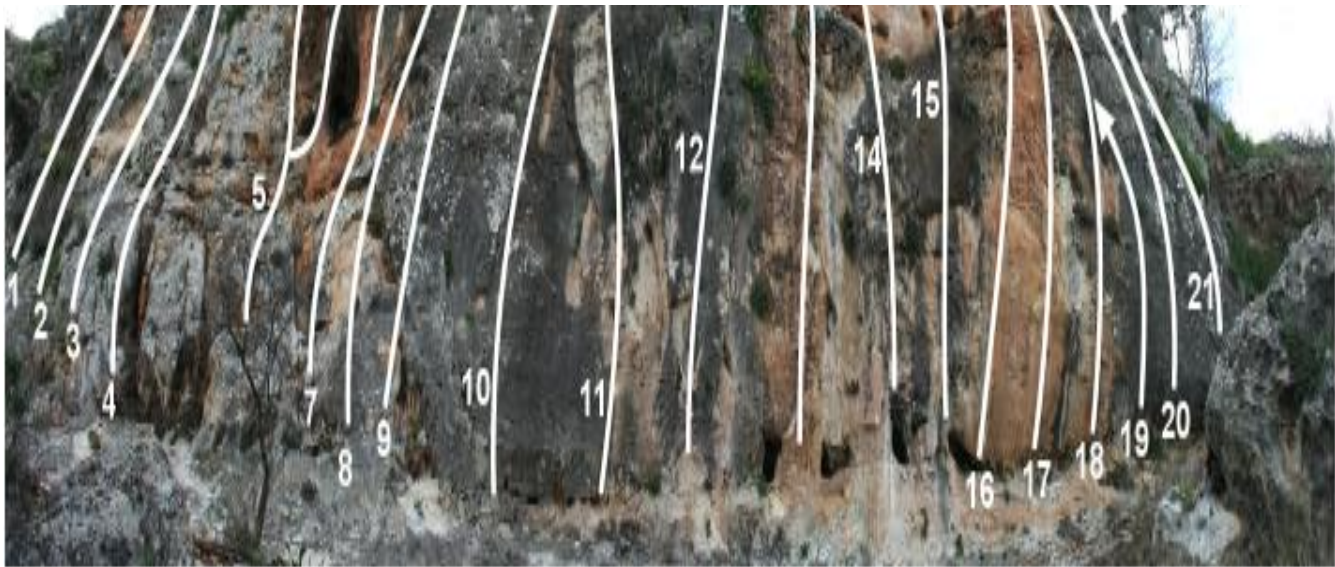
Photos and info: **Bezalel Melech**

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## Ramim Nir's Cliff

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>1. <b>5-</b> Links anchor.<br/>           2. <b>5-</b> Links anchor.<br/>           3. <b>5-</b><br/>           4. <b>5-</b> Shares anchor with #3.<br/>           5. <b>5+</b> Left of the cave.<br/>           6. <b>6a+</b> Through the cave.<br/>           7. <b>6a</b> Right of the cave.<br/>           8. <b>6a</b><br/>           9. <b>6a+</b> ★★ About 3m</p> | <p>to the right of cave.<br/>           10. <b>6a+</b> Low first bolt. Same anchor as #9.<br/>           11. <b>6a+</b> ★★★ Stay on the bolt line.<br/>           12. <b>6b</b> ★★★ On the black face.<br/>           13. <b>6b+</b> On the white-brown</p> | <p>face.<br/>           14. <b>Bees 6a+</b> start above the hole. Links anchor.<br/>           15. <b>6c</b> Chain anchor.<br/>           16. <b>7b+</b> 4 bolts to the shelf and then up to the anchor.<br/>           17. <b>6c+</b><br/>           18. <b>7a</b><br/>           19. <b>6c+</b> Start on the black</p> | <p>rock and then join route 18's bolts and anchor.<br/>           20. <b>6a+</b> Low first bolt. High anchor (hidden in the photo)<br/>           21. An easy grade 3/4 scramble up to the top of the cliff. A few bolts on the way, single bolt at the top.</p> |
|---|---|--|--|