



## Wied il-Bassasa

**Introduction** Wied il-Bassasa is a small picturesque valley to the south of Żurrieq. This actually consists of two valleys that meet at the same sea inlet. The east wied had a few routes recorded in the 2007 guidebook, while the west wied had no recorded climbs. The area, while well frequented by hunters and fishermen, has a remote feel. A recommended trad rack includes a selection of nuts, offset nuts, hexes, cams, and tricams. A threader and thin 60 cm slings are also useful.

**Access** There is space for a few cars on an access path heading south from Triq l-Iskultur Fabri. From here, walk back to a fork, taking the right path, which soon becomes a rough path across the garrigue. Stay with the path until you reach the head of the west wied. Turn left here, following a wall south on the other side of the wied. Eventually, find a path back across the wied to head to the crag.

**Bolting Ethic** Wied il-Bassasa is largely undeveloped. There are no sport routes, and no fixed protection (including top anchors) on trad routes. Published guidance, in both the 2007 and 2013 guidebooks, is that this should remain a bolt-free area.

In general, we believe that one should avoid bolting routes where adequate natural protection is available. Furthermore, bolts should not be within reach of adjacent trad routes. In any case, trad routes should not be retro-bolted without the consent of the first ascensionist.

**Route Information** French grades are given for sports routes, while trad routes are graded in the English system. Both grades are given for trad lines that were retrobolted. Except where otherwise stated, pre-existing sport routes are documented in the 2013 guidebook or in topos issued by the bolters, while trad routes are documented in the 2007 guide book. Where a description is given, this indicates our best interpretation of the historical records. Information about the first ascent is listed where this is known or has been previously published.

**Maps** Crag location and access maps use base maps © [Thunderforest](#), based on data © [OpenStreetMap contributors](#), and are projected on a WGS 84 / UTM Zone 33N (EPSG:32633) coordinate reference system, as recommended by the Planning Authority. Maps are given at 1:5 000, which provides enough detail to navigate to the crags. Where data is available, boundary walls, tracks, and paths are also shown, together with elevation contours. All maps are North-up, to facilitate use of a compass where needed.

**Disclaimer** Climbing is an activity with a danger of personal injury or death. By using this guide you acknowledge that you understand these risks and accept responsibility for your own actions. While every effort has been made to check the accuracy of this guide, inaccuracies cannot be reasonably excluded, and the authors or publishers shall not be responsible for any errors or omissions, or any injuries or damage resulting

from its use. If you find any inaccuracy in either the text or the topos, please write to the author

through the website below.

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## Forbidden Pool

📍 35.81623, 14.47266

*This is the last cave on the west-facing wall of the west wied, closest to the sea. It consists of a low shallow cave on the bottom right, and a larger, deeper cave above and to the left. The upper cave is reachable with an easy scramble. Grades are tentative, pending further ascents.*

### 1 Off-Season Hunting

S 4a

Start below the leftward slanting crack that splits the slab to the left of the cave. Straight up and follow the crack to a wide ledge. Traverse left to tackle the overhang at its weakest (crux) then straight up the vertical face until the angle eases.

F.A. Johann A. Briffa, 16-Oct-2021

### 2 Take a Break

VD

Start 2m right of OSH, at the R edge of the face. Climb the face close to the edge, easily to a wide ledge. At the face above, reach for good holds at a shallow pool, then easily to the top.

F.A. Johann A. Briffa, 3-Mar-2024

### 3 Camila

VD

Start on the blocks just R of TaB; continue on the face to the R of a corner crack. At the overhang move R to stay with the face to a wide ledge, then straight up the vertical wall and easily to the top.

F.A. Stefano Sorrentino, 3-Mar-2024

### 4 Forbidden Pool

VVS 4c

Start at the rightmost edge of the low cave. Follow the crack, trending left. Traverse left below the roof to exit at the leftmost edge of the continuing crack. Vertically above to a good stance.

F.A. Hendrik-Jan Klijn, 16-Oct-2021

### 5 Forbidden Pool Direct

HVS 5a

Start as for Forbidden Pool, but exit vertically at the rightmost edge of the roof.

F.A. Johann A. Briffa, 16-Oct-2021