



Two demanding classics on one of the most beautiful crags in the Calanques

In the National Park Calanques, located between Marseille and Cassis, the Concave is one of the most beautiful crags with some excellent routes of superb limestone. As the routes are short and oriented to the west, it is possible to climb in the shade until 13:30 (Daylight Saving Time). On days with strong Mistral (the typical wind from the North), however, it is not recommended to climb on this crag. The approach is long, but you are rewarded by one of the most beautiful corners of the Calanques where you are often all alone.

Both routes lead through the steep central sector of the Concave where the rock is only gray and white. Both date back to the 80s, and although the bolts are of excellent quality after the well done re-equipment of L. Catsoyannis, the distances between the bolts remain demanding and the grading is hard. Although they are 30 years old the routes are not at all polished.

L'Enfant des Étoiles is the harder and more challenging of the two routes. Already the first pitch shows the character of the route where a very good foot technique is required to climb the steep face (6b+). To find the optimal way in P2 is not quite easy. Only a few meters after the belay there is the crux (7a+, bloc) which you climb keeping left, then traverse to the right. P3 starts with steep face climbing in gray rock, and after a few meters in less perfect rock it ends in white rock with the belay to the right (6c+). The most beautiful and spectacular pitch is P4 with a good-natured overhang and an exposed exit on gray "gouttes d'eau"-rock (7a).

Porque Te Vas?, the more beautiful and more homogenous route of the two, is located only a few meters to the right of *L'Enfant des Étoiles*. The climbing is similar, but easier and better protected. All pitches are excellent and the rock quality is impeccable.

From the route exits go left on the hiking trail leading past. After about 50 meters there is a large tree on the left which is reached by a slight descent (cairn). There the abseiling chains are located. With a 70 m single rope you reach the bottom of the cliff by abseiling 4 times along the route *L'Œil de Sauron*.

Other recommended routes at the Concave are *Au Delà de la Verticale* (on the left side of the actual concave, in red rock and strongly overhanging), *Elle Est Pas Belle la Vie?* (very beautiful and fun climbing) and *Tradition Commères* (the direct line of *Belle Vie*).

Approach: Parking outside the campus of the University Aix-Marseille in Luminy (terminal stop of the bus lines 21 and 24).

Start of the routes: Take the broad path to the *Col de Sugiton*, then follow the green mark to the left. After the large right curve at a barrier, descend to the left and follow the red marks, past the *Socle de la Candelle* (the Concave can be seen for the first time). Now climb the *Val Vierge*, pass iron chains and the *l'Œil de Verre* until you reach a turn-off. Follow the mainly horizontal path to the right until below the routes, then ascend left to the starts of the routes. Approximately 1.5 hours from the parking lot.

Guidebook and further information: Escalade Les Calanques, Edition 2017; J.-L. Fenouil, P. Bracco, Escalade Les Calanques, 2016 VTOPO; <https://www.camptocamp.org/routes/57211/fr/val-vierge-concave-l-enfant-des-etoiles>, <https://www.camptocamp.org/routes/128362/fr/val-vierge-concave-porque-te-vas>

L'Enfant des Étoiles ED, 7a+ (6c), S 2-3 W, 200 m a.s.l.	F. Élichabe et al. (1988) (L. Catsoyannis 2005) 130 clm (200 vam)
1 2 3 4 5	overall impression ★★★★★
7a+ 7a 6c+ 6c 6b+ 6b 6a 5c	climbing ratio 50% variety ●●● scenery ●●● exposure ●●● rock quality ●● steepness \

Porque Te Vas? ED, 6c+ (6c), S 2 W, 200 m a.s.l.	A. u. F. Bergasse et al. (1987) (L. Catsoyannis 2005) 130 clm (200 vam)
1 2 3 4 5	overall impression ★★★★★
6c+ 6c 6b+ 6b 6a+ 6a	climbing ratio 46% variety ●●● scenery ●●● exposure ●●● rock quality ●●● steepness \



L'Enfant des Étoiles

Porque Te Vas?



The start of *L'Enfant des Étoiles*: 4 Fixe bolts at the beginning, then cemented bolts.



The crux pitch P2.
The optimal way is hard to find.



P3 starts in gray rock and ends in white rock.



The ingenious P4. The bolt before the overhang is difficult to clip.



The start of *Porque Te Vas?*



A beautiful environment without comparison.



The first meters of P2.



The left traverse in P4.