Les Prades

Cascade de Les Prades,Les Fontanilles,Còrrec de les Prades

Info: The quality of this description has not been checked yet or was rated bad.
If you know this canyon, please check this description and file a report with a rating for this description using *Reports -> +New Report.* Should you notice any error, please let us know or join the community in order to fix this description yourself.

Create: 2023-11-20 21:18:47	**Update:** 2025-10-23 13:17:46	**Print:** 2026-10-31 01:10:30
Country: France **Region:** Occitanie **Subregion:** Pyrénées-Orientales **Town:** Maureillas-las-Illas		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v4 a1 II	**Total time:** 1h35
Approachtime: 20min	**Tourtime:** 1h	**Returntime:** 15min
Altitude entry: 310m	**Altitude exit:** 210m	**Delta Altitude:** 100m
Canyon length: 250m	**Highest rapell:** 55m	**Amount rapells:**
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 0 ()	**Info:** ★ 0 ()	**Belay:** ★ 0 ()

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 35m

Summary: (machine translated)
Open rappel canyon—with water year-round

Hydrology: (machine translated)
Once you start, there's no turning back, but it doesn't take long to reach the bottom.
There's always a little water flowing, except in the summer; it's ideal after heavy rains.

Access: (machine translated)
In Maureillas, drive toward Las-Illas.
After less than a kilometer, cross the Pont des Fontanilles bridge and then turn left immediately onto the D13C.
Park behind the hamlet and drive up the road toward the village of Riunoguès until you see a large parking lot on the right.

Approach: (machine translated)
Les Prades: From the large parking lot, walk down Departmental Road 13C to the entrance of Les Fontanilles, then follow the straight path from the Mas Quinta farm for two hundred meters.
Walk along the meadow past the stream bank, cross the chain blocking vehicle traffic that leads to the Vallon de Marie, and ignore Émile's bridge, the road leading up to Mas Quinta, the fields of La Perdrix, and the Élie waterfalls (the Élie waterfalls are another small canyon along the Roca Corba river).
Continue straight ahead to the pedestrian bridge that leads directly to the base of the Salt des Prades.
Climb the stairs on the left before the wooden bridge and follow a wide path for ten minutes as it winds its way up to the Rock of the Virgin.
The path leads to a railing, which you must follow until you reach the base of the large waterfall.

Roca Corba (the Élie Waterfalls): Just before the Prades Waterfall, near the statue, you'll see where the Prades and Roca Corba streams converge.
A sign with an arrow points to the Élie Waterfall on the left bank. Do not follow this direction, as it leads to the exit of the canyon; instead, take the path on the right bank, which leads back up to the starting point in just five minutes.
The starting point is easy to find; it is located on the right side behind an electric fence, which you must be sure to close behind you (Rocquecourbe sign).

The starting point is the rocky plateau above the canyon (anchor point on the ground: AN/Monopoint), the Rocquecourbe viewpoint with its beautiful view of the Maureillas Valley.

Upper parking lot: Access to these two canyons is also possible from the D13C via a forest road well before the hamlet of Riunoguès at an elevation of 293 meters (see IGN).
Parking for a maximum of four vehicles; driving on the DFCI road is prohibited.
Walk 100 meters along the path to a junction that leads down to the right, then pass through the open pedestrian gate for hikers next to the chain blocking vehicle access, and close the electric fence around the pasture behind you.
Follow several small signs that make the trailhead quite easy to find.
First, you'll pass a large, concrete power pole marked 4513-100, then continue toward the partridge fields and take the "Chemin de la Prade" path on the left, which leads down to the next small sign indicating the "Vallon de Marie" valley at the bottom right.
Walk through the underbrush, cross the stream twice, until you reach the final sign, "Belvédère Rocquecourbe," located on the right bank of the Cascades d'Élie (the starting point of this canyon). Close the electric fence behind you.
You can either walk down to the confluence of the streams, where the statue is located, and then follow the C55 sign toward the Cascade des Prades if you wish.

Alternatively, you can descend to the confluence of the rivers, where the statue is located, and then follow the C55 sign toward the Prades Waterfall if you'd like to hike down just one canyon.

The approach takes just as long as the ascent from below via Les Fontanilles. A little closer by is the Roca Corba Canyon (the Élie Waterfalls).
This way, the site—which is meant to remain as peaceful as possible—is disturbed less, as it is a place of prayer, even though access is free and open to everyone.

Tour: (machine translated)
Les Prades: A large, 55-meter-high waterfall that descends in several rappelling sections through a vertical and technically challenging environment.

Rn°1: MC/AN R8 RD (rappelling handrail on a tree required)
Rn°2: R12 RG (1st step)
Rn°3: R25 RD (2nd step)
Rn°4: R10 RD

Roca Corba (the Élie Waterfalls): v3a1ll
The first rappelling route (R12) begins at the lookout point with a natural single-point anchor on the far left of the rock face (tree + slab) and leads into the canyon opposite the first, well-formed, split waterfall, C33.
This vertical waterfall begins with an R8 RD + R10 RD + R15 RD and transitions into a small, narrow corridor that extends downward and leads to a small C4 RD + C10 AN RG.

- Caution: This is a very sensitive area, accessible to everyone; please respect the peace and quiet of the Roche D'or community.
- In strong currents, exercise caution at the belay station on the right bank of the second step of the Salt des Prades (C55)! The belay station at the base of the waterfall is also used to rappel down with a 50-meter rope and prevent slipping in strong currents.
- You can continue on to the neighboring Roca Corba Canyon (the Élie Waterfalls),
which is located just a hundred meters away.
- If you'd like to do both descents, it's best to start with Roca Corba by coming from the parking lot above through the fields of La Perdrix.

Return: (machine translated)
The way back is very easy and straightforward; you just have to follow the path to the base of the waterfall.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 42.4704 2.8078
Canyon End 42.4710 2.8074

Reports:

2026-03-02 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👎 Not done
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Prades & Roca Corba Vu Les Prades et Roca Corba qui coulent. Roca Corba vraiment en tout petit filet. Les équipements OK. On était pas loins dans une petite ouverture d'il y a plusieurs années (Pont de Nierga, voir IGN) je vous laisse deviner. Équipement et nettoyage aujourd'hui. S1 + C8 RG + C10 RD + C10 Centre Abalakov, sortie au pont de Nierga dit Niergue (route de Las-Illas). On va bientôt installer des points de tyrolienne dans l'étroit obscure entre la C10 RD et la C10 Centre Abalakov.Petite descente sauvage à faire avec des enfants ou en balade. Jungle très sympa. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/24036/observations.html)

2026-02-07 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Prades & Roca Corba (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/24036/observations.html)

2025-11-05 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Low | 👎 Not done
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Prades & Roca Corba (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/24036/observations.html)

2023-03-09 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | |
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