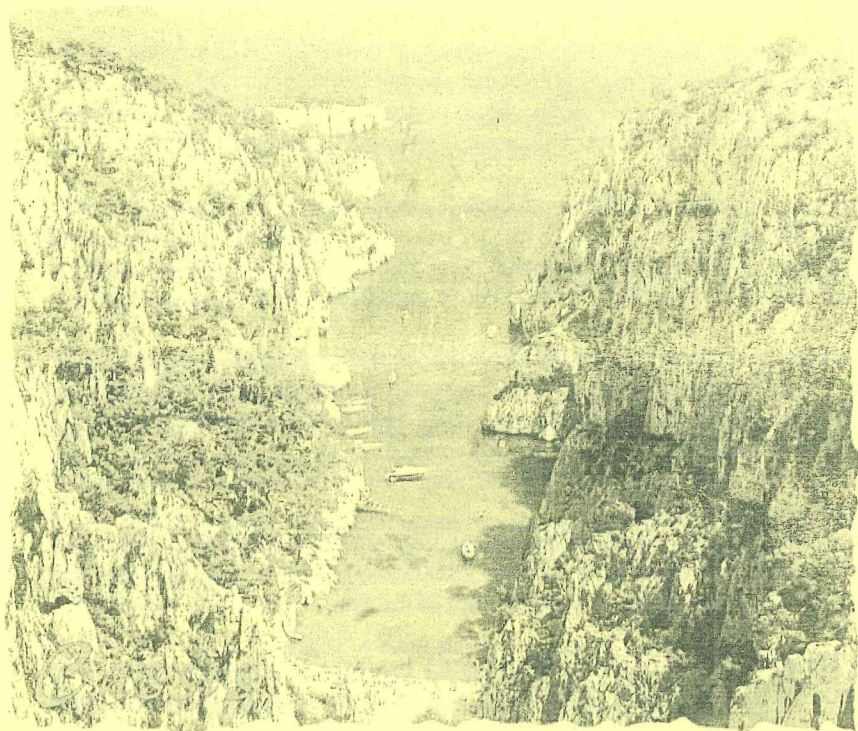
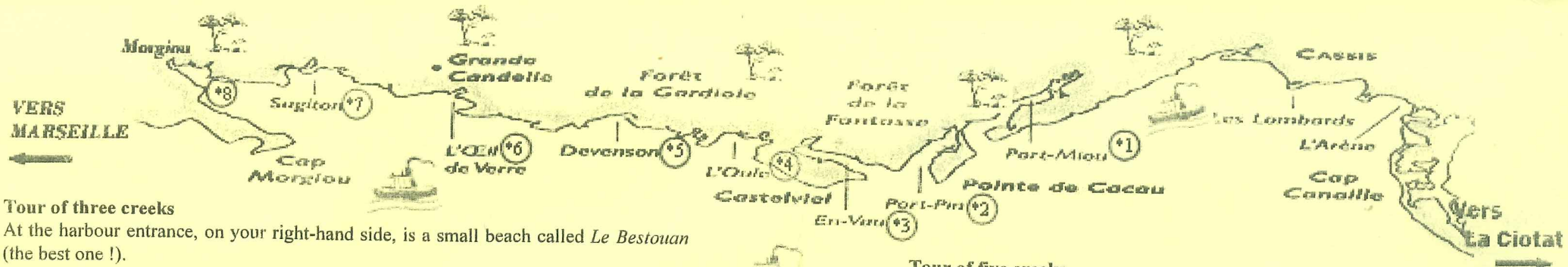


Visit to the creeks from the port of Cassis



Good morning ladies and gentlemen, and welcome aboard.

We invite you to join us for a short and enjoyable cruise, visiting three, five or eight creeks along the coast from Cassis.



Tour of three creeks

At the harbour entrance, on your right-hand side, is a small beach called *Le Bestouan* (the best one!).

A little further along, flying international flags, is the oldest hotel in Cassis, the *White Rock Hotel*, where Sir Winston Churchill spent much of his time painting *Cap Canaille*.

We are now close to a peninsula, which belongs to the well known Mr Paul Ricard. There is a first-class restaurant here, and shaded parking under pine trees.

We are approaching the point of "Bonne Mère" (Good Mother), as the people from Provence call the Holy Virgin Mary. This point is also appreciated by nudists!

1. We are now entering *Port-Miou* calanque, which means in provençal: "well sheltered from the wind".

Up above on the right-hand side, and secluded by pine-trees, lies the chapel of *Notre Dame*, which was constructed in 1649 in order to give thanks for having survived the plague.

The low wall that you can see on the left-hand side marks the beginning of the GR 98, a cross-country footpath which follows the coast and the creeks as far as Marseille, which is about a 12-hour hike away, but we advise you to take a good pair of shoes, plenty of water, and above all, a strong dose of courage!

Approximately 500 small boats moor here all year long. It is the longest creek in the area measuring 1 mile in length.

The quarry which you can see ahead opened in 1901 and finally closed in 1981. It's stone-blocks were used to construct different Mediterranean ports such as Alger, the Suez Canal, among many others... and the plinth of the statue of liberty in New York!

2. We are passing *La Cacaou* point, which means "warm" in provençal. Indeed, it is the southern most point of Cassis. There is an English cannon off this point at a depth of 3 metres...

We are now coming into *Port Pin*. It is named after the alep pine trees that grow between rocks and require very little soil to survive.

3. We are arriving at the third calanque, *En Vau*, which means "in the valley" in old French. It is the pearl of the creeks according to many, and a meeting place for climbers that come from all over the world to pursue their passion.

On the right-hand side "God's finger" points to the sky (90 metres high), and at his foot is "Devil's hole".

On the left, the cliffs are 130 metres high. You may be able to see some climbers there...

Tour of five creeks

We are now following *Castelvieu* (old castle), where you can marvel at a natural open-cave arch shaped by water erosion over the centuries.

4. We are now approaching an imperceptible creek called *L'Oule*. It's entrance is barely visible in the left-hand corner, and it's passage between the rocks ends at a deep round bowl. It's name is derived from the word "cauldron", because, whenever there is stormy weather, the water seems to boil!

5. We are passing *Devenson* creek bounded by a circular cliff 150 metres high, and dedicated to the God of winds. Only the best climbers train here. Just in front of you are twin "camel islands". The first camel is facing the coast, and the second one is looking out to sea - lifelike, isn't it?

Tour of eight creeks

6. We are now crossing *L'Oeil de verre* creek. At the top of the cliff, you can see a big round black eye-shape. In fact, at it's centre a crystalline stone reflects the setting sun-rays, like the sparkle of an eye.

7. We are now entering *Sugiton* creek. It was one of the first places for naturists in France. It takes about an hour on foot to reach this creek from the University of Luminy, Marseille.

8. And here is the last creek, *Morgiou*. It is a typical fishing port with small pleasure craft. Around the port are situated Marseille-style fisherman's cottages (*cabanons*), where you can appreciate a *siesta*, *pétanque* (a game of balls), and even enjoy a refreshing *pastis* (a local alcoholic drink).

On top of cape Morgiou, you can see the ramparts of Morgiou fort (*fortin de Morgiou*), constructed in 1614, and occupied subsequently by English soldiers called upon to support the royalist counter-revolution in 1793.

Behind Cape Morgiou lies a prehistoric cave at a depth of 37 metres. It is named after a local diver from Cassis, Henri Cosquer. Cosquer cave (la grotte Cosquer) was discovered between 1985 and 1991, and it's primitive wall paintings, dating back 27000 years, are well documented today.

Behind you, in the far distance, there is the archipelago of *Riou*. These islands, south of Marseille, are only inhabited by rats, rabbits, sea-birds and snakes!



We are now returning to the bay of Cassis. On your right-hand side, is a well-known cliff called *Cap Canaille*. It is the third highest sea-cliff in Europe and rises 394 meters above sea level. You can drive along the cliff-top road, which links Cassis to *La Ciotat*. A fantastic panorama awaits you up there!

At the foot of this cliff, above the main beach, lies a castle built in the 13th century for the Earl of Baux. You cannot visit this castle.

And in front of you, the starboard lighthouse, topped green, stands up proudly to welcome you back to the port of Cassis. It was built with local stone, destroyed during World War 2, and then reconstructed in 1945.

We hope that you have enjoyed this cruise with us, and if you have, please spare a thought for our sailors and their aperitif! If the boat needs its diesel oil, so the crew needs it's *pastis*, and I don't know which one is the heaviest drinker!!!

We ask you to remain seated until the engines stop.

Enjoy the rest of your visit, goodbye and thank you !

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