

Via: Viatge Apatxe

Montserrat – Clot de la Mònica | Serrat de la Pastereta | 6b (MD+), 100 m | Sport, fully bolted

English translation of the original topo sheet published by escalatroncs.com. Above is the original topo diagram; below is the route description. Grades and route names are left in their original form.



Key to the topo annotations

On the topo (Catalan)	English
R0 – R4	Belay stations (reunions)
IV-	Pitch 0 — approach scramble
V / V+ / 6a / 6b / III	Pitch grades (French sport grade)
40m · 30m · 18m · 30m · 25m	Pitch lengths
NO!!	“Don’t go this way” — warning not to stray onto the neighbouring line, El Kraken
Diagonal amb bona presa, bonic!!!	“Diagonal with good holds, lovely!!!”
Continuïtat, bonic!!!	“Sustained, lovely!!!”
Recomanable cinta molt llarga	“A very long quickdraw recommended”
Molt vertical, bústies!!!	“Very vertical, pockets!!!”
Panxa!!	“Bulge!!” (the crux)

Title box, translated: SERRAT DE LA PASTERETA · Viatge Apatxe (6b, 103m) · First ascent: J. Vidal (September 2010) · Gear: 11 quickdraws.

Note: the topo box gives the length as 103m while the written description says 100m — the same route either way.

Viatge Apatxe - route description

English translation from the original Catalan topo (escalatroncs.com). Route names, grades and personal names left as printed.

Joan Vidal scores with this fun, sporty line that takes the free space on the left-hand side of the route El Kraken. Very well protected — the only thing we need to concentrate on is enjoying this fine panel of wall, leaving exposure and commitment, so to speak, back at the foot of the route. The wall's westerly aspect makes it a good target for the hottest mornings.

Route	Viatge Apatxe	Length	100 metres
Area	Montserrat - Clot de la Mònica	Aspect	West
Difficulty	6b (MD+ — Catalan adjectival grade, 'very difficult+')	Exposure	Low
Obligatory difficulty	6a	Commitment	Low
Equipment	Fully bolted (parabolts)	Gear	11 quickdraws

Approach

We enter Collbató along the Passeig Llonganies and turn right into the Passatge Fumada. We continue to Carrer de la Muntanya (left), which leads to Carrer Pau Bertran. We carry on to the end, where it becomes a track in good condition. We follow the track for some 900 metres and park on the right-hand side. We leave the car beside the track and follow the path marked with blue paint, which after a while becomes a narrow trail. We follow the trail until we come to a turn-off to the right that leads to the west face of La Pastereta. We traverse left below the route Diedre Bonington. We continue until we reach a fork that climbs to the base of the route, with a fixed rope on the final section.

L0 (IV-)

Before starting the route proper we have to scramble up a slabby incline to reach the first belay. Halfway up we'll find a bolt. 40 metres.

L1 (V+)

The first pitch is a lovely leftward diagonal (don't go straight up the route El Kraken), very well protected — like the whole route — where we'll keep finding all sorts of pockets and features that turn the act of climbing into a thoroughly satisfying experience. We may find a couple of places where the difficulty is a little higher, but nothing that can't be overcome with a bit of body positioning. 30 metres, 11 bolts.

L2 (6a)

The second pitch, though short, is beautiful. We move up a fine vertical slab, dotted with small pockets, where we'll have to zig-zag our way looking for the best option, and where good footwork will help a great deal. 18 metres, 8 bolts.

L3 (V+)

The third pitch starts with a powerful move that puts us on a beautiful slab of superb rock, where we'll enjoy a few metres of quite vertical climbing before the wall gradually eases off, arriving at the belay with a pleasant scramble. 30 metres, 9 bolts.

L4 (6b)

Without a doubt the star pitch. We set off leftwards (don't go right up the Kraken) to tackle a fantastic wall, at times slightly overhanging. We climb straight up for a few metres, then trend right, and then back left again, always moving from pocket to pocket in climbing that is athletic rather than technical. On the rightmost bolt it's worth clipping a very long quickdraw, to save the ropes from dragging. Before reaching the belay we have to overcome a pronounced bulge, which is the crux of the pitch. 25 metres, 11 bolts.

Descent

The route can be abseiled, but we can also walk down, following the ridge of La Pastereta (printed as 'Petereta' in the original) until we meet the path coming down from Sant Joan. We take it in the direction of the Clot de la Mònica.

What I liked most

- Very varied in its moves; all the pitches are good.
- Sustained, with a last pitch that leaves your arms pumped.
- Very good rock.

What I liked less

- The second belay is very uncomfortable.

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