

VILLECROZE LES GROTTES



4 hiking trails for all levels of difficulty

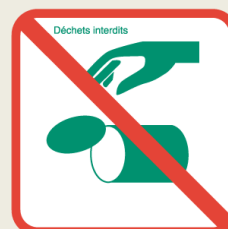
- Most hiking trails are marked with **yellow** paint on the ground, except the one at the departure from the wine domain of Saint-Jean de Villecroze which is marked in **red**.
- The indicated duration of the hike is an average time only. We recommend you make a note of your departure time!
- Equip yourself correctly: Good quality walking shoes & plenty of water.
- During summer, check **daily if access to the forest is permitted** on www.var-adm.net/massifs83_web/massifs83.gif or by calling 04.98.105.541



*Remember the
markings:*

*Follow the yellow signs
shown on the trails*

Lacs et Gorges
du Verdon
TOURISME



Villecroze Tourist Office:

04 94 67 50 00 - 12 rue Ambroise Croizat – VILLECROZE

Emergency: 112

Fire brigade: 18

Walk No. 1

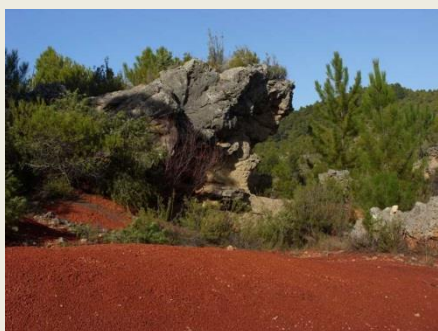
FROM THE ROMAN WAY TO THE BAUXITE ROCK

Round trip of around 7 km
Ascent: 260m

Time taken: Less than 2 hours
Level: Stroll – Walk – Hike

Cross the Place General de Gaulle in the shade of the plane trees. Walk to the right of the village school and after 100m, turn right over the little bridge and immediately start the ascent. That's it; you are now on the path.

After 200m, on the left, you will see a small chapel at the rear of a large building. Go straight on. Shortly after there is a metal railing on the left, the tarmac ends and you go straight up the hill onto the stony track which is the Roman Way, ignoring the stony track on your right. No more problems, just follow the Roman Way.



After about half an hour you will come across a fairly wide tarmac track and you go straight on, keeping the fence and wall of the first villa in Tourtour on your right. There are several more houses on each side. The track then levels out and you will be able to see the village of Tourtour above and ahead of you.

About an hour after setting off, take the right hand fork, towards Beauluc, Bernadin les Laurons, la Moliere.

Shortly further on, at the next fork, turn right onto Chemin des Tuiliers.

At the next intersection, turn right and continue on the Chemin des Tuiliers to immediately tackle a fairly rapid descent which overlooks the valley. Just before the tarmac ends, take the track which descends on your right following the marker on the ground. (The entrance to a private property, no. 682, is ahead where the tarmac ends, so make sure you have turned right just before that). Continue the descent. Further down at the junction, take the path on the left which will snake around and bring you to the Alumines. The soil becomes red and bauxite was extracted here in former times.

You arrive at a fork. In front of you, through the trees, you will notice a large building with red brick walls. Take the track on the right for about 200m. Immediately after the left hand bend, keep to the right, paying attention to the markers on the ground. Having got over a little bank, leave the first path on the right and continue onto the second right a few meters further on, taking you through the pines. You are about half an hour from the finish now.

5 minutes later, you will see and hear the main tarmac road into Villecroze 100m to your left, but leave that and go straight ahead up the path where there is a house on the left. This will take you back to where you started.

Walk No. 2

CHAPEL SAINT-VICTOR TO THE COMBE D'AILLAUD

Distance: 8.5 km (Short hike)
Ascent: 250 m

Less than 3 hours
Level: Stroll – Walk – Hike

The walk begins opposite the entrance to the cemetery.

Take the steps which go down alongside the Chapel Saint-Victor.

Go down the steps in front of the gazebo, follow the path and you will arrive at the Villecroze-Salernes road.

Turn right and then right again onto the Chemin des Espèces for about 20 meters, then take the first right before number 76, the first house.

Continue uphill turning right after about 50 meters onto the track made of flat rocks.
Go to the barrier and pass underneath it and continue to ascend the side of the hill.
Follow this track for approximately 20 – 30 minutes.
You will come upon a larger track and turn right onto it.
You follow this track for about 10 minutes. You will then come to the Villecroze – Aups road.

Cross the road and take the track to the right of the water tank. A bit further on, leave the track on your left which goes westwards and take the one which turns right.
After 50m the path clearly turns left at a right angle, leaving, to the right and ahead, 2 other tracks which you should not take.
Do not be distracted by the small paths adjacent and follow the track.

There are very good views of Tourtour and the Massif des Maures. You will be able to see the Saracen Tower of Grimaldi.

You will have left the water tank about 35 - 45 minutes ago when the track becomes less visible but turns northwards. Look for the markers on the ground. 50m farther on you arrive at a fork and you should go right. Shortly afterwards you will come to the foot of a collapsed walled terrace which you cross. Ahead there is a large open space with a caravan at the bottom.



Go along the walled terrace on the right, through the copse, where you will find a clear path after about 100m which turns right.

The path crosses a plateau of pines and green oaks and then starts to descend the hillside.

The path is now rather chaotic and rocky.

Continue until you reach a road, which you cross. (Villecroze to the right, Tourtour to the left).

Take the track opposite, slightly to the left, which crosses a meadow.

In the distance you will hear a waterfall.

(On the left of the meadow you will find the river where there is a marvelous place for a picnic. Afterwards return to the meadow.)

At the end of the meadow a small path begins to the right of a large pine.

Go along the stream amidst the dense vegetation of creepers, and then leave the stream to follow the path.

Ignore the small path which descends to the left and stay on the path ahead in a fairly flat area.

The path leads at a road and you take that to the right.

You then come out onto the Villecroze/Tourtour road, and you take this to the left approximately 30m.

There a small path goes off to the right and goes down the hill.

Further on there will be the road which goes down to a metal security barrier ahead. Pass behind this barrier and descend about 50m. Watch out for the markers on the ground and take the right-hand track for another 100m, where a small path goes down to the right on the old road going to Tourtour.

Go towards the left and then take the main road, still to the left, which leads to the village. 100m after the village sign, take the Boulevard des Pins opposite the Hotel le Rocher and stay on this until you reach the cemetery road on the right.



Be careful, heavy traffic 100m ahead!

Walk No. 3

CIRCUIT ABOVE THE DOMAINE OF VALCOLOMBE

Distance: 4 km Time: 1 ½ to 2 hours Level: Stroll – Walk – Hike

The walk starts at the Domaine of Valcolombe

To get there: from the center of Villecroze take the D51 towards Salernes. Around 100m after the sign saying you are leaving Villecroze the D51 turns sharp left, but immediately ahead is a small lane. Take this lane – it is the Chemin des Espèces. After 1.3km you will arrive at Valcolombe on your left. Enter the Domaine and park your car in front of the cellar.



Walk amongst the vines through an alley of Cyprus trees. At the end of this Cyprus alley you turn left and you will be back on the Chemin des Espèces where you turn right. You will be retracing the way you arrived by car, but before arriving back onto the D51 you should turn left at house no.76 and go along the side of it. After 100m take the flat rocky path immediately ahead of

you and follow the yellow markers.

Go under the barrier ahead of you and continue to go up the side of the hill: you will stay on this path for around 40 minutes following the yellow markers. Take the time to stop on this part of the ascent to admire the views of the countryside.

The path ends at a track in the forest. Attention: ignore the yellow markers now (which continue to the left) and take the track to the RIGHT.

You continue on this wooded track for about 10 to 15 minutes, keeping left (this part of the walk does not have markers). When you see a green water tank, carry on to the left (leaving the tank to your right). You will arrive at the end of the track near some pylons.

A narrower path continues ahead and goes downhill: follow this path to the bottom (you will notice the yellow markers again). Remember to stop and admire the views en route!

When you reach a surfaced road, you are back on the Chemin des Espèces; turn left and after 600m you will arrive back where you started.

At the end of your walk don't miss a tasting of the Valcolombe wines!

Walk N°4

CIRCUIT ABOVE THE SAINT-JEAN DE VILLECROZE'S VINEYARD

**Distance: around 4 km Time: 1h30
Level: Stroll – Walk – Hike**



The walk starts at Saint-Jean de Villecroze's vineyard

To get there: from the center of Villecroze, take the D567 towards Draguignan and drive approximately 2 kilometers. The Domaine Saint Jean's vineyard is on your left. Enter inside the domaine and leave your car in front of the cellar.

Saint-Jean's path has been carefully designed so that visitors could discover an impressive site and a unique vegetation all at once.

Hikers will have the opportunity to admire the Roman aqueduct as well as two outstanding waterfalls.

About 50 meters at the back of the cellar, you will see a first red arrow; this is the start of the walk.



At the end of your walk don't miss a tasting of the Saint-Jean's wines!