



TOURTOUR & VILLECROZE Les Grottes *5 hiking trails*

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!



During summer, check daily if access to the forest is permitted on <https://www.risque-prevention-incendie.fr/var/> or by calling 00 33 4 98 10 55 41

➤ Equip yourself correctly:
Good quality walking shoes & plenty of water



	PR
Suite du sentier	—
Tournant	⋈
Erreur de parcours	✗



Secours : 112 Pompiers : 18

Lacs et Gorges
du **Verdon**
TOURISME



There and back - From the Tour de Grimaldi in Tourtour

1



Distance: 3.4 km

Time needed: 1h

Gradient: 10 m

The walk starts at the Tourist Information Center of Tourtour

Cross the place des Ormeaux, take a right turn into the 'rue du Lavoir' continue along the paved road, 'Chemin de Chavardet', until you come to the Route Départementale 51.

Cross the main road with caution and continue along the old 'Chemin d'Aups' until you see a small sign on your right 'Tour de Grimaldi'. (There are garbage cans at the beginning of the path).

You are now on a lane or pathway, keep straight on until you arrive at the tour, which gives you a beautiful view.

Your way back is the same in reverse.

The 'Tour de Grimaldi' is 12 meters high with walls 1.40 meters thick and dates from the 12th century.



Loop circuit above the Domaine of Valcolombe

Distance: 5.5 km

Time needed: 2h

Gradient: 245 meters

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. Take the track to the RIGHT. You continue on this wooded track for about 10 to 15 minutes, keeping left. 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 THE WALK, DON'T FORGET TO DO A LITTLE WINE TASTING!

Loop circuit above the Saint-Jean de Villecroze's vineyard



Distance: about 3.5 km

Time needed: 1h15

Gradient: 90

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

To get there: Take the Draguignan road out of Villecroze for about 2 kilometers. The Domaine Saint Jean's vineyard is on your left: drive up to the Domaine and leave your car parked next to main entrance.

About 50 meters behind the wine cellar, on your left you will see a red arrow pointing in the direction of your walk.

The whole walk is signaled with these red arrows; all you need to do is follow them. You will be walking amongst the grape vines and into the woods behind. Cross the bridge going over the stream and a little further on towards a waterfall with small grottos.

It's a lovely walk almost on the same level. Just one part is rather steep and stoney.

It can be slippery, so take your children by their hands.



AT THE END OF THE WALK, DON'T FORGET TO DO A LITTLE WINE TASTING!

Distance: 8 km

Time needed: 3h

Gradient: 285 m

The walk starts at the Tourist Information Center of Tourtour

Possibility of starting from the tourist Office Villecroze. Enquire.

Cross the 'Place des Ormeaux' until you reach the fountain then turn left into 'Rue Grande', until you get to the hair dresser 'Adam et Eve'. Go down the stairs opposite the hairdressers, taking the first hair pin bend on the left.

When you get to the intersection, go to your right and keep going till you reach the cross roads. Carry straight on, then turn left at the 'Chemin des Tuilliers' direction Villecroze. At the next intersection turn right, and keep on the 'Chemin des Tuilliers' down a steep slope that dominates the valley.

You will arrive close to a private property, so take the path that descends to the right, following the signs painted on the ground. Keep going.

When you get to the bottom there is a bifurcation. Go to right on the paved path for about 200 meters. Straight after a bend to the left, start walking to the right. Be careful to follow the painted signs on the ground. After crossing a small ditch, leave the first path and continue along the second path to the right which will take you amongst the pine trees. You are now about half an hour from Villecroze. Continue to follow the path until you reach the village.

We invite you to stop off in Villecroze and rest before climbing up again.

If you are beginning the walk from Villecroze start reading here:

To climb to Tourtour: from the village square walk along beside the school for about 100m then turn right over a little bridge. 200m further on, you will see a chapel on your left. Keep straight on. Just after a metal fence you will leave the paved path and 50m higher stay on the left to take the Roman Road. Don't go to the right which was the way you came down. Just follow the Roman Road, easy easy.

About half an hour later you will arrive at a tarmac road and you will arrive on your right the first Tourtour villa. Go straight on. You have come to the end of the Roman Road.

You will find yourself on a small plateau, lift your head to see Tourtour at the top of the hill. Continue until the stop sign, then go to the right on to the 'chemin des clos' until you come to the sign 'La Petite Auberge' on your left at the beginning of the path.

More climbing ahead. To your left is the 'chemin de la Gardure' it's a steep climb but you are almost there, so take courage. When you get to the top at the last intersection, keep straight on. Then turn to the right, a little more effort and you will be in the village.

If you have no more water in your bottle you can fill it up at the fountain under the weeping willow tree, the water is delicious and you deserve it!

Distance: 8 km

Time needed: 2h30

Gradient: 240 meters

The walk starts at the Tourist Information Center of Villecroze

Cross the main street (Rue Ambroise Croizat) and turn into Rue Joseph Gabriel, then take the first right turn. Follow this road and at the bottom of the car park, turn right onto the Route de Salernes, which will take you to the Chapel Saint-Victor.

By the cemetery, take the steps on your left which go down alongside the Chapel Saint-Victor. Then go down the steps past 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 main road with caution (lots of traffic) 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 at 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 to a road that you take to the right.

You then come out onto the Villecroze/Tourtour road, that you take 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 and stay on it until you reach the cemetery road on the right.

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