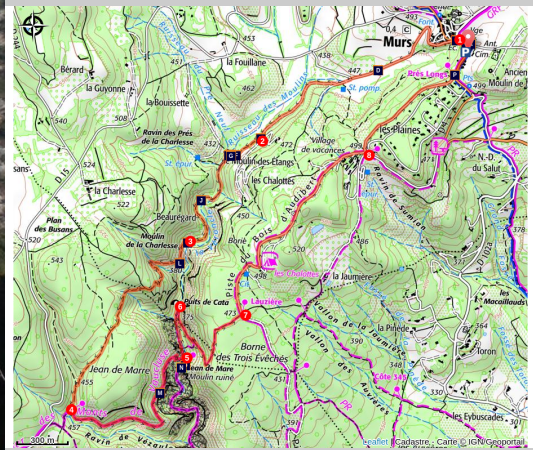


## The upstream sections of the gorges of Véroncle

Murs



Gorges de Véroncle et Mont-Ventoux au fond (©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon)

*A harmonious hilltop village, an amazing natural site, singular hydraulic remains and a rural heritage of beauty!*

"The trail of the Gorges is a luxury offered to the visitor to forget time, to be overwhelmed by the great outdoors, feel the harmony between nature with its harshness and the imprint of mankind living there. Landscapes which were left to us were partly shaped by human activities and reflect its genius to adapt to the constraints and possibilities of the environment. A good balance, which remains fragile!" ". Says Anne-Marie Le Mat, a former mayor of Murs, Comissionner at the Luberon RNP.

### Useful information

Practice : WALKING

Duration : 3 h 30

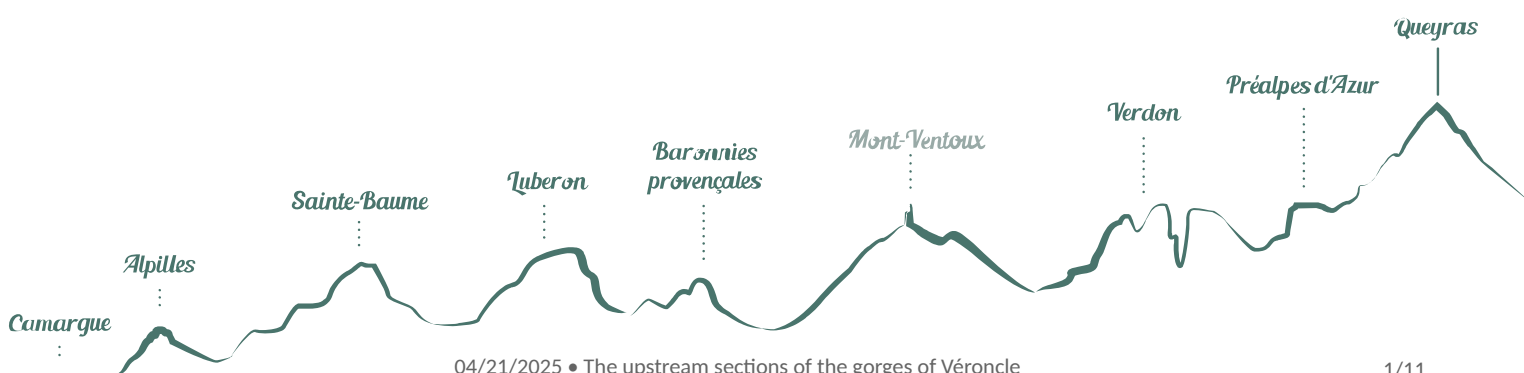
Length : 9.4 km

Trek ascent : 310 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Geology, Heritage and history



Departure : Outside the town hall of Murs

Arrival : Village of Murs

Markings :  GRP®  PR

At the entrance of the village, at the junction of the D4 and D15, take the little road going down which is across the school yard. Leave the village, take a beautiful hairpin bend, then lower (point 447) take the track across. 700m further, do not miss the start of the trail to the right (PR). Go down two rocky switchbacks, pass the ruins of the old dam and the mill ponds, then continue to the valley bottom. Pass the Devissé windmill and continue going.

**1** - In front of the ruins of the Charlesse mill and its penstock, rise right on a rocky path that winds around the foothills of the Gorges (PR). Switch to the left over the undergrowth and turn left at the intersection of a trail.

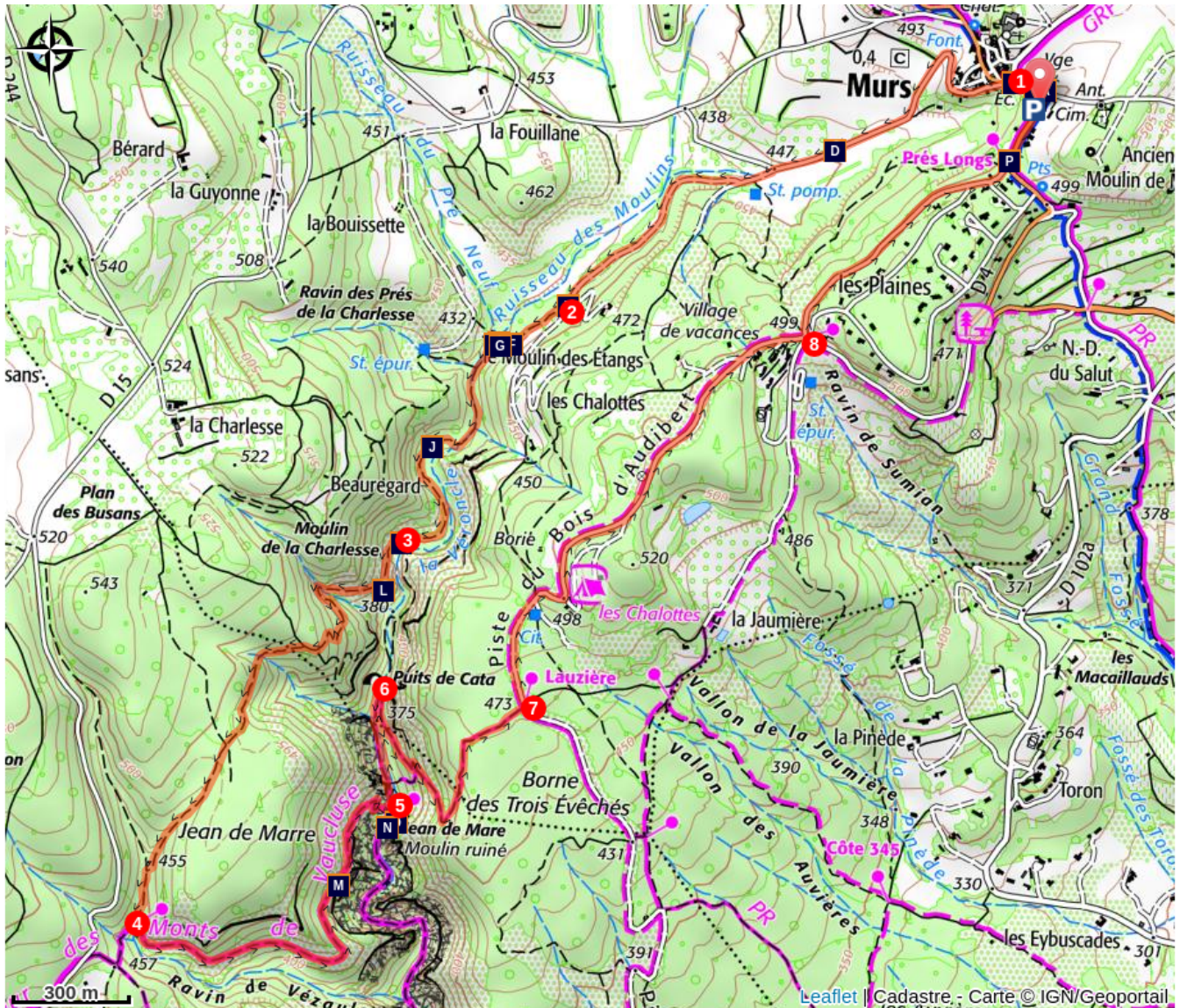
**2** - At the intersection "Vezaule", continue left the balcony trail. After four hairpin bends, come out at the bottom of the Gorges.

**3** - Make a short back and forth to the right to see the Jean de Marre mill located just downstream, then go up some thirty meters upstream to a rocky slab. Do not climb the steep path to the right but continue on the one that runs along the river bed. 200m further after a small leap, cross a ford, take the path on the opposite bank in the downstream direction. Climb two stony steep paths, reach the old track and continue climbing the milder slope. Reach the plateau and continue the path until the track.

**4** At the crossroads "Lauzière", turn left and follow the trail. Pass two curves and the entrance to the campsite and continue on the small road of Bois d'Audibert. At the crossroads just after the entrance to the vacation center, go left. Reach the D4 (calvary), turn left and reach the heart of the village of Murs.



# On your path...



- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  The castle of Murs (A)                             |  Crillon le Brave, life of a warrior (B) |
|  First wood fuel boiler of PACA (C)                 |  The ditch of Murs (D)                   |
|  Grasslands of Murs (E)                             |  The mills of Véroncle (F)               |
|  Small garrigue (scrubland) in Genêt de Villars (G) |  The dam of the pond (H)                 |
|  Moulin de l'Etang (I)                              |  Moulin du Dévissé (J)                   |
|  Moulin de la Charlesse (K)                         |  Gorges de Véroncle (L)                  |
|  Millers of all trades! (M)                         |  Jean de Marre I mill (N)                |
|  The tuff waterfall (O)                             |  Here, time stops... (P)                 |

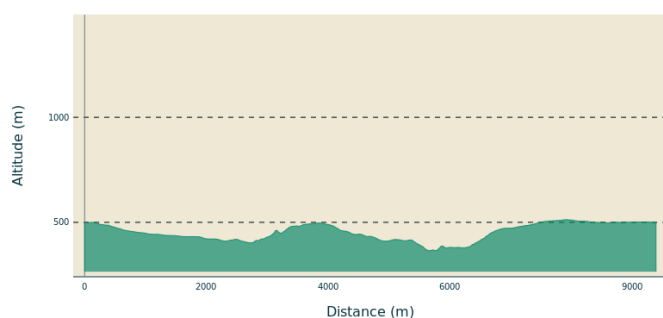
# All useful information

## **Advices**

Caution with your ankles and some of the steep, rocky or stony passages.

Before point 1 and point 3: ravine bottom passages that can be tricky after a big storm.

## **Altimetric profile**



Min elevation 365 m

Max elevation 513 m

## **Access**

At 17km from Apt through the D4 and D2.

## **Advised parking**

Parking at the entrance of the village coming from Apt

## **Source**



**unesco**  
Géoparc mondial

Luberon Géoparc mondial  
UNESCO

## **Information desks**

### House of the Luberon Regional Nature Park



60, place Jean Jaurès, 84400 Apt

[accueil@parcduluberon.fr](mailto:accueil@parcduluberon.fr)

Tel : +33 (0)4 90 04 42 00

<https://www.parcduluberon.fr/>

### Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark

60, place Jean Jaurès, 84400 Apt

[stephane.legal@parcduluberon.fr](mailto:stephane.legal@parcduluberon.fr)

Tel : +33 (0)4 90 04 42 00

<https://www.parcduluberon.fr/unesco-geoparc/>

### OTI Pays d'Apt Luberon

788 avenue Victor Hugo, 84400 Apt

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Tel : +33 (0)4 90 74 03 18

<http://www.luberon-apt.fr/>



# On your path...

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## The castle of Murs (A)

It was around year 1.000 that the land of Murs is given to the Agoult family who will build a castle. For four centuries, it was mainly a stronghold for the soldiers of the lord and the dungeon was then built there. After the Agoult family, came the weapons of the Astouaud family which you can see on the castle gate. The church was built in a Romanesque style in the 12th century inside the castle. The building is private and therefore closed to the public.

Attribution : ©Alain Hocquel - VPA

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## Crillon le Brave, life of a warrior (B)

At the heart of the village of Murs hides the birth house of Crillon le Brave, born in 1543. Born Louis de Berton des Balbes, he will then become Crillon and will continue to wage war. He accompanied 5 kings of France, Henri II, François II, Charles IX, the Duke of Anjou who became Henri III, and it was Henri IV, his comrade, who gave him the name Brave Crillon. His life was made of battles, wounds and victories. He died in 1615 in Avignon, a victim of his countless injuries.

Attribution : ©Alain Hocquel - VPA

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## First wood fuel boiler of PACA (C)

All of Remourase houses the very first collective energy wood boiler in the Luberon ... and even in the region! Established in 2000 during the redevelopment of a former holiday camp, it can heat 6 public housing, a lodge, a community hall and 5 local professionals. It is a renewable energy that contributes to the maintenance and the enhancement of the forest land. Since then, more than 40 boiler rooms of this type were carried out in Luberon.

Attribution : ©Hervé Vincent

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## The ditch of Murs (D)

The village of Murs dominates to the southwest a depression occupied by farmland. These grounds fit perfectly with the limestone and clay outcrops bordered by an imposing limestone mass. About 35 million years ago, during the Oligocene, deep fractures (faults) outlined a zone which sunk gradually: a Graben (german for ditch). This is the story of the ditch of Murs, which is also the story of Sénanque ...

Attribution : Françoise Delville - PNR Luberon



### Grasslands of Murs (E)

Until the late 19th century, 15ha of natural hay meadows and pastures of this valley floor were partly submerged by the dam water feeding the mills of the Gorges. Today, these grasslands are wetlands, biodiversity supports, which fill the role of water storage, purification, protection against soil erosion and the run-off of the stream. They also have an important place in the local agricultural economy which is based on livestock.

Attribution : ©Jérôme Brichard - PNR Luberon



### The mills of Véroncle (F)

Since the imposing dam placed on the ponds (now filled in) from the village of Murs to the Hameau des Cortasses, about ten flour mills operated from the 16th to the mid 19th centuries. Despite the places hard to reach, following along the ravine are amenities of a rare quality,: penstocks and channels carved in the rock, reservoirs and retaining walls.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



### Small garrigue (scrubland) in Genêt de Villars (G)

On this arid hillside, you can see a discreet broom (shrub) against the ground: Villars broom (*Genista pulchella subsp. villarsii*). Its meagre look is an adjustment to sunny and dry environments: It sweats very little! While fearing competition from other species, he deigns to share its habitat with few neighbours hand-picked, like here, Perennials (*Minuartia capillacea*) family of carnations with beautiful white flowers.

Attribution : Laurent Michel - PNR Luberon



### The dam of the pond (H)

Built in the 16th century, This large tank was used to supply the first three mills of the Gorges belonging to the Lord of Murs. It also served as a fishing reserve. Remodelled several times over the centuries, it no longer works nowadays but remains in place. Two parallel walls 80m long held back a pile of earth forming a earth-fill dam. On a quoin, we can see a badge dated 1584 which could be a date of remodelling of the building.

Attribution : ©Jérémy Haye - PNR Luberon



### Moulin de l'Etang (I)

First mill of the Gorges and located on the lands of the Lord of Murs, the current building was probably built in the 16th century, as evidenced by the date 1581 on the lintel of a door. It was probably enlarged in the 18th century and more recently converted into a private housing. Initially, it operated with an horizontal wheel turned into a vertical wheel at the end of the 19th century. It was fed by a resclause (small reservoir upstream) located near the old pond.

Attribution : ©Jérémy Haye - PNR Luberon



### Moulin du Dévissé (J)

It is the second mill of the Gorges in Murs. Also built in the 16th century as indicated by the year 1573 engraved on a stone from the entrance door, it is now in ruins. It was fed by a béal (channel) which is none other than a leak of the mill of the pond. Today, we can only make out the grinding room which is in flint. Below stood the water chamber today obstructed, and above, the dwelling of the miller.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



### Moulin de la Charlesse (K)

The third mill of the Gorges in Mursit is based on the same construction principle as the first two (a water chamber which is under the grinding room and the dwelling). The year 1753 is engraved on a stone corresponds most likely to the year of remodelling than the initial construction. Here, we can easily distinguish the cannon in ashlar stone which allowed to create a waterfall and so a driving force between the resclause (small reservoir upstream) upstream and the water area below.

Attribution : Jérémy Haye - PNR Luberon



### Gorges de Véroncle (L)

The water flow between the collapsed ditch of Murs located on the heights of the limestone plateau and the Apt basin downstream, dug this impressive canyon called "raccordement". Then the corrosive action of rain water containing carbon dioxide has gradually, through dissolution, enlarged cracks to create true underground networks. The Gorges de Véroncle are not used or hardly used by water, but contain an amazing industrial heritage.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon





### Millers of all trades! (M)

As of the 19th century, the lack of water and the inability to operate the mills of Véroncle more than two months in the year are being noticed. So to adjust to this, millers had to find other sources of income. This is how they started small farming units, mixed farming, firewood or silkworms! And when water would refuse to flow well in the Gorges again, the millers would return for a while to their milling business.

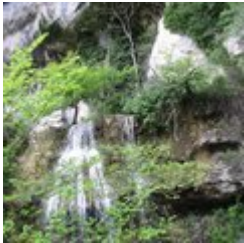
Attribution : ©David Tatin



### Jean de Marre I mill (N)

It is the first mill of Gordes. Built in the 16th century, it was expanded in the 18th century, as evidenced by the collages of masonry. It is a more complex construction on 4 levels: the water chamber, the grinding room, the sack floor and the dwelling (you can still see a fireplace and a sink). In the 19th century, an independent farming developed with arable lands, vineyards, mulberry trees, olive trees, almond trees, pigs, chicken coops.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



### The tuff waterfall (O)

The waterfall, where the Jean de Marre I mill was strategically located forms also a beautiful natural curiosity called tuff! Product of dissolved limestone redeposited, having captured plant and animal debris, the tuff is a very tender and friable rock. When the river is not dry, it is home to lush mosses and ferns particularly enjoying the saturated humidity of the place. This habitat is still rare and located in Provence.

Attribution : ©Georges Guende - PNR Luberon



### Here, time stops... (P)

Between Ventoux and Luberon, this wooded limestone massif opens onto rare agricultural parcels. Contemporary human presence is discreet but the wealth of the dry stone heritage is a reminder of its historical presence. A network of winding roads and ancient mule tracks serve the hilltop villages alongside the massif. These roads, dotted with remarkable oaks, reinforce the bucolic character of this countryside that seems frozen as if it was timeless.

Attribution : ©Françoise Delville - PNR Luberon



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Ce projet partenarial rassemble également le Comité Régional du Tourisme, les agences départementales de développement touristique, les offices de tourisme et les syndicats d'initiative.

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