

Veroncle, through its depths!

Gordes



Marmites de Véroncle (Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon)

*Themeanderings of the gorge of
Veroncle: see the water for the
prodigious show it left, more than for
its rare lapping...*

"Themastery of water and its uses is a dominant feature of Mediterranean civilization. If the gorgs of Veroncle, with its canals and windmills, are a striking proof of it, we too often forget the genius of which it was necessary to deploy and to exploit the water in our drymountains! " From "Mills of the Combe de Véroncle" OT of Gordes - Maurice Chabert, president of the departmental council of Vaucluse, formermayor of Gordes.

Useful information

Practice : WALKING

Duration : 4 h

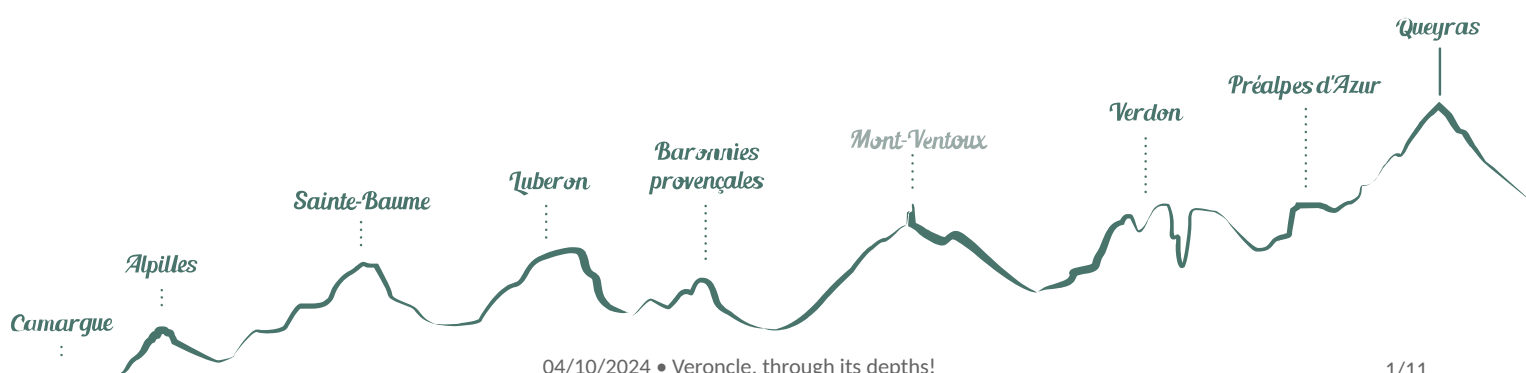
Length : 7.1 km

Trek ascent : 389 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Traversée



Themes : Flora, Heritage and history,
Waters and rivers



Trek

Departure : Hameau des Grailles, foot of the gorge of Véroncle, Gordes

Arrival : Village of Murs, at the top of the gorge of Véroncle

Markings :  Non balisé  PR

Before attacking the long ascent of the gorges, take the time to go and park a vehicle in the village of Murs to facilitate your return. Otherwise, return by the same path, or else by a part of the neighboring road "the integral of the gorge of Veroncle".

From the small car park on the edge of D2, go along the trail and join themill of the Grailles (private, can not be visited).











1 Go on the trail that leaves under the hamlet of the Grailles and, 60m further, take on the right the bottom of the ravine. Reach the Cabrier windmill. Slip along the wall on the left, cross a narrow passage in balcony, then pass the water supply channel. Weave along the wall to the left, cross a narrow balcony passage, then pass through the water carrying canal. Climb a first ladder, pass a ledge and continue alternating between the two banks. Higher up, cross a rocky ledge (handrail), then move left to rise. Pass a flat area and go down to the right. Go left to the bottom of the Gorges. Pass the Jean de Marre windmills (I and II) and then reach the crossroads upstream.

2 - Continue straight ahead for 30m. Leave on the right the path that goes up towards Murs and sneak straight into the bottom of the ravine. Stay on the right bank (left side ascends) and find themill of the Well of Cata. Ascend to the left to pass the offset and continue upstream of the gorge. Join the foot of the Charlessemill. Climb left to reach the entrance of its forced pipe.

3 - Turn right and continue along the trail in the bottom of the valley. Pass the Devissé windmill and continue going. Go past themill of the ponds (private, can not be visited) and before the ruins of the dam, climb two winding paths on the right. At the end of the trail, continue straight ahead. Farther, go up the small road on the right and reach the village of Murs.

On your path...



- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Moulin Cabrier (A) |  Jean de Marre II mill (B) |
|  Jean de Marre I mill (C) |  The tuff waterfall (D) |
|  Moulin du Puits de Cata (E) |  Moulin du Dévissé (F) |
|  Moulin de l'Etang (G) |  The dam of the pond (H) |
|  The mills of Véroncle (I) |  Small garrigue (scrubland) in Genêt de Villars (J) |
|  Grasslands of Murs (K) |  The ditch of Murs (L) |
|  Crillon le Brave, life of a warrior (M) | |

All useful information

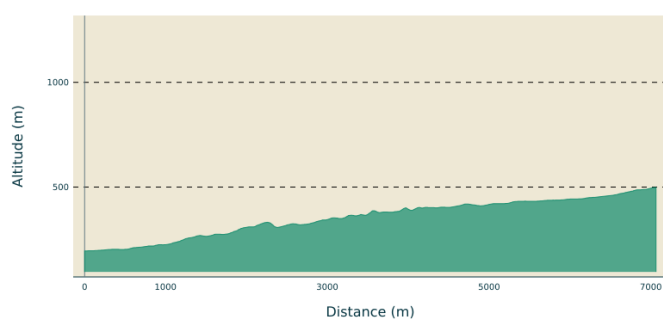
Advices

Do not go after a thunderstorm or in rainy weather; certain passages in the bottom of the ravine can prove to be very delicate or even dangerous!

In the downstream part of the gorge, be very careful on the crossings of more or less aerial offsets (ladder, handrail).

Caution with your ankles on rocky and slippery passages at the bottom.

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 195 m
Max elevation 498 m

Access

20km northeast of Cavaillon, by the D2

Advised parking

Small parking lot(private!) at the beginning of the trail of the Grailles, bordering the D2 between Gordes and Joucas

Information desks

House of the Luberon Regional Nature Park



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On your path...



Moulin Cabrier (A)

Dating most probably from the 16th century also, this mill did not have a dwelling unit. Given the modesty of the building, the hydraulic device upstream is spectacular. The pipe carved on the side of the rock comes out on a triangular well in ashlar stone. It is fed by a substantial resclause (small reservoir upstream) partly under rock. In 1874, the owner then built a dam across the Véroncle to increase his water reserves.

Attribution : David Tatin



Jean de Marre II mill (B)

This mill probably dates back to the 16th century. The building is simple in form: a water chamber partially collapsed and the grinding room above. Special feature of the site, the resclause (water supply) is quite far from the mill. Also, in order to emphasise the waterfall effect, a vertical well was used in way of the water chamber. Like all the mills of Gordes and unlike those of Murs, they did not belong to the Lord but to several private owners.

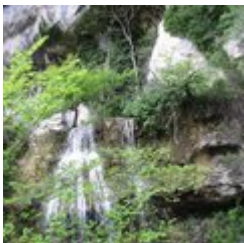
Attribution : DR



Jean de Marre I mill (C)

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 : ©Jérémy Haye - PNR Luberon



The tuff waterfall (D)

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



Moulin du Puits de Cata (E)

It is the fourth and last mill of Murs. It owes its name to an abyss probably belonging to the karst-hydraulic system of Monts-de-Vaucluse which feeds Fontaine-de-Vaucluse. From this mill, only the cannon cut into the rock remains and which carried a vertical wheel, which is quite unusual here. We can assume that this is not a flour mill for which an horizontal wheel is preferred; it was probably used for industrial purposes:: a grinder to sharpen.

Attribution : Jérémie Haye - PNR Luberon



Moulin du Dévissé (F)

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 : Jérémie Haye - PNR Luberon



Moulin de l'Etang (G)

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 : Jérémie Haye - 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 : DR



The mills of Véroncle (I)

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 : David Tatin



Small garrigue (scrubland) in Genêt de Villars (J)

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



Grasslands of Murs (K)

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 : G. Landru



The ditch of Murs (L)

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



Crillon le Brave, life of a warrior (M)

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 : DR



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www.cheminsdesparcs.fr

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