

Duchy of Uzès

Uzege – circular walk

Distance: 7 miles

Challenge: [Moderate](#).

Duration: 3 hours at 2.5 miles per hour; Add time for picnic and sightseeing at roman aqueduct remains and water source.

Exposure: some shaded forest walking, ridge walking exposed to the sun for about half the walk.

Total Climb: 600 ft

Equipment: walking boots, sun hat, water (1.5 liters per person), picnic or snacks; walking stick not essential. Any other standard equipment on walker's checklist presented in Essential Provence.

Water Sources: Shops in Uzès.

Trail Markings: yellow PR waymarkers along some sections as noted.

Walkers' Map: [2941 O - Uzès](#) IGN 1:25,000 supplied

The appropriate original IGN 1:25,000 walker's map is the only valid source of navigation for walkprovence.com walks. Any extracts supplied with the Trail Notes are for supplemental, secondary information only.

General Location:



See your itinerary and road map for specific directions.

Parking: The municipal parking lot behind the Tour Fenestrelle and St Theodorit church in Uzès is ideal; anywhere else convenient in Uzès.

Walk Start: The square in front of the St Theodorit church.

At A Glance

Depart lovely Uzès, first Duchy of France, on a medieval trail along the Alzon valley. Track the Roman aqueduct's path of toward the Pont du Gard and Nimes. Circle back onto a high plateau with a magnificent view of Uzès. Descend to admire little known remnants of the aqueduct and see its still gushing water source, the Eure spring.

Principal Sights

The enchanting medieval-renaissance town of Uzès is the walk's point of departure. Here there is much to do and see above and beyond this walk. See the Uzege Practical Area Guide and your [Michelin Green Guide](#) (supplied) for details. The 12th century Italianate Tour Fenestrelle on the walk's departure square is a major highlight of Uzès.

The little known remnants of the Roman aqueduct near the walk's end provide an intriguing insight into Roman engineering and an understanding of how the aqueduct worked.

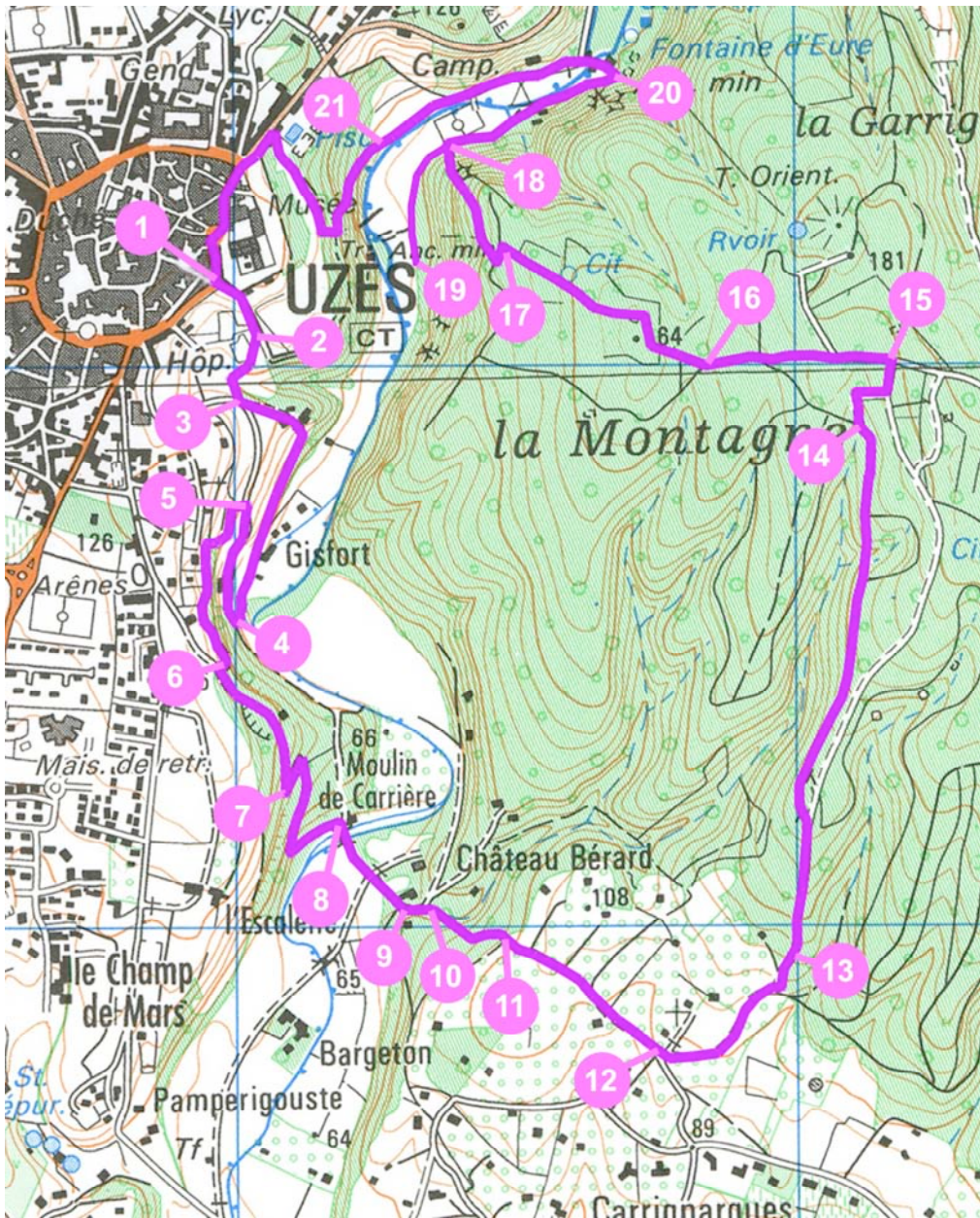
It is also interesting to see how well the Roman's chose their water source. The stream of the Eure gushes forth naturally just as powerfully as it did two thousand years ago - the aqueduct could be rebuilt today. But would it be on time and on budget as it was in Agrippa's day?

Buying a Picnic

Uzès spoils you for choice to get a picnic organized. Butchers, bakers, produce sellers, traiteurs and wine shops are at your beck and call. Look under Uzès in the Uzege-Practical Area Guide.

Saturdays and Wednesdays are market days, from about 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

If you prefer a supermarket for a quick one stop picnic shop, the Carrefour on the D981 just out of town toward Remoulin and Avignon is the place.



1. Start in Uzès in the square in front of the St Theodoric church and Tour Fenestrelle. As you stand in front of the church facing Uzès, find the set of ornate stairs to your left diagonally across the square. Take these stairs down to the road level. Here, mounted on the wall you will see a memorial to native son Amiral Bruey, hero of Abubakir. You will also see a fountain marked eau potable (drinkable water), and the sign Chemin Andre Gide. Face the sign. The paved lane to your right leading down into the green valley as you face the sign is the Chemin Andre Gide. Take this lane and walk between two ancient stone walls to the T junction ahead, which is reference point 2. Along the way you will see single yellow waymarkers indicating a marked local walk.

2. At the T junction you find a set of yellow trail signs. Turn right to follow the signs for the Pont du Gard and Chateau Berard along the stony path (you will pass by the chateau later in the walk). Follow the path to reference point 3.

3. At this point you come to an intersection where you could continue straight or turn left. Turn left. The direction is confirmed by a yellow waymarker indicating a left turn on the telephone pole on your left. You also see the nameplate of Mas Cazotte and a US Mail box embedded in the stone wall on your left. Follow this trail, which is well marked by yellow waymarkers, to reference point 4.

4. At this point the trail makes a 180 degree turn doubling back toward Uzès and descends slightly. Follow it. Ignore the narrow trail into the woods straight ahead, blocked by a stone and marked by a yellow X. Proceed to reference point 5.

5. As you walk along the trail you reach a well marked sharp turn to the left up the hillside. A yellow waymarker and a sign for PR39 (a local walk) indicates the left turn. Climb up this narrow path passing a padlocked wrought iron gate on your left. A stone wall is to your left as you climb. When you reach the point where the wall on your left turns left, follow it. You are now on a level path between stone walls and occasional old stone houses. Follow the trail to reference point 6 at the end of the stone wall on your left.

6. At this point the trail turns right very briefly and faces a tree up ahead which bears a yellow waymarker indicating a left turn down a broad unpaved path. Follow this path and pick up another stone wall on your left.

You soon reach a lookout on the left, partly concealed by foliage, with a fine view back toward Uzès of the Tour Fenestrelle. Beyond the lookout you emerge on a broad grassy area. On your right are remnants of an old stone quarry. Continue straight ahead, bearing slightly left along the stone wall, which eventually ends as the path enters an oak forest. Proceed to reference point 7.

7. Here the trail makes a sharp left and continues to descent via a couple of switchbacks. Eventually you see a massive gate through the forest at the trail's apparent end up ahead. The trail actually bisects an old country lane. This is reference point 8.

8. The massive building behind the big gates is an old mill. Turn sharply right at the gates to follow the country lane and cross the Alzon river on a modest stone bridge with no guard rails. As you continue along the path on your left you see the Chateau Berard, a typical 18th century pink spun sugar provincial chateau still in private hands. There is also a battery of mailboxes and a road to the right. Do not follow

this road. Continue straight to reference point 9, the signs for the Pont du Gard and Uzès

9. At the signs Pont du Gard 16 km (to the right) and Uzès 2.4 km (to the left), follow the sign for Uzès to the left along a slightly rising paved lane. Very soon after this spot, about 20 yards, you come to a not too well marked turn to the right onto a climbing path off the paved lane. The turn is indicated by a sign for PR39. This is reference point 10.

10. The turn to the right at this point climbs steadily, tracked on the left for awhile by another impressive stone wall. Continue on. The route is waymarked fairly well by yellow markers. After some time you pass a small enclosed stone compound on the right, and soon thereafter the path comes out onto an unpaved lane at reference point 11.

11. Bear left onto this diagonally climbing lane. It almost immediately comes out into an unpaved square with a garden and house on the left and a paved lane straight ahead. Follow the paved lane, which turns unpaved, tracking large gardens behind low stone walls on either side to reference point 12.

12. At this point there is a fork in the road. Bear left at the fork. This turn to the left is by a yellow X, indicating that this is not a waymarked trail. IGNORE THIS SIGN. (the waymarked trail to the right is for another walk) BEAR LEFT but be careful Not to take the unpaved lane that goes off ninety degrees to the left. The road soon turns unpaved and curves further left. On the right you pass a borie by the road, an ancient conical stone structure. It is thought by some to be a shelter for fieldworkers, but nobody really knows. Continue on straight, sticking to the wide main lane. Ignore a lane past the borie that branches off to the right at a spot that almost looks like a fork in the road. The trails starts to climb and the landscape starts to open. You reach a large sign marked Forêt Communale d'Uzès (on your left). This is reference point 13.

13. Continue past the Forêt Communale d'Uzès sign climbing onto an open plateau. You reach a point where a branch lane gently splits to the left of the main lane and tracks it along a parallel line. Branch off to the left on this lane for a better view toward Uzès and the mountains in the background. Follow this path. Eventually the ridge curves left, but keep going straight to reference point 14, which is, of all things, a red fire hydrant (against forest fires).

14. Keep the fire hydrant to your left and continue straight along the trail to a T junction. Turn right at this junction. Within 50 yards it runs into the main forest road at another T junction. Turn left and within another 50 yards you arrive at yet another T junction with a paved lane. On your right is a small sign on a fencepost saying Uzès-St Siffret Sentier La Dorsale, the trail marker for the Uzès-St Siffret dorsal trail, another medieval path. This spot is reference point 15. Across the lane is a red and white barrier and a sign Education Canine.

15. At indicated by the Uzès-St Siffret Sentier La Dorsale sign, turn left for Uzès at this T junction. The paved lane soon turns right and leads to an orientation table which you can check it out if you feel like it but it is not particularly memorable; more of a gathering place for visitors who prefer to drive up here. Better to continue straight on the trail toward Uzès. In about 100 yards a fencepost sign at a

fork directs you to bear left toward Uzès. Soon you come to a second fork where there is no sign. Here it is important to bear right, staying on the wide forest lane. This is reference point 16.

16. If you took the correct lane you will soon see spectacular views of Uzès open up before you as you descend back toward town through the garrigue. Enjoy the views and proceed to a point where a trail comes into the lane from the left and the lane descends sharply to the right. This is reference point 17.

17. At this point, bear left onto the secondary lane as indicated by the Uzès direction on the fencepost sign. But almost immediately you need to turn sharply right onto a small descending trail. This is a stony, slightly difficult trail, so be careful and take your time. It ends at the wide grass fields of the Uzès communal grounds at reference point 18.

18. Turn left along the path here to walk to the remains of the Roman aqueduct to the Pont du Gard and Nîmes at reference point 19. It is an interesting, little known site, fully intact sections of water channel and an excavated flow regulating station, worth the detour, especially for toga buffs.

19. A stroll back along the path to reference point 20 brings you to the original spring that fed the aqueduct to Nîmes. It still bubbles forth at a rate that would do the original job.

20. Cross the Eure at the spring's source, circle back on the other side along the campsite to a waymarked spot where trail begins to climb again, and follow it back to Uzès.

Trail Waymarking Conventions (see Essential Provence for details)

