

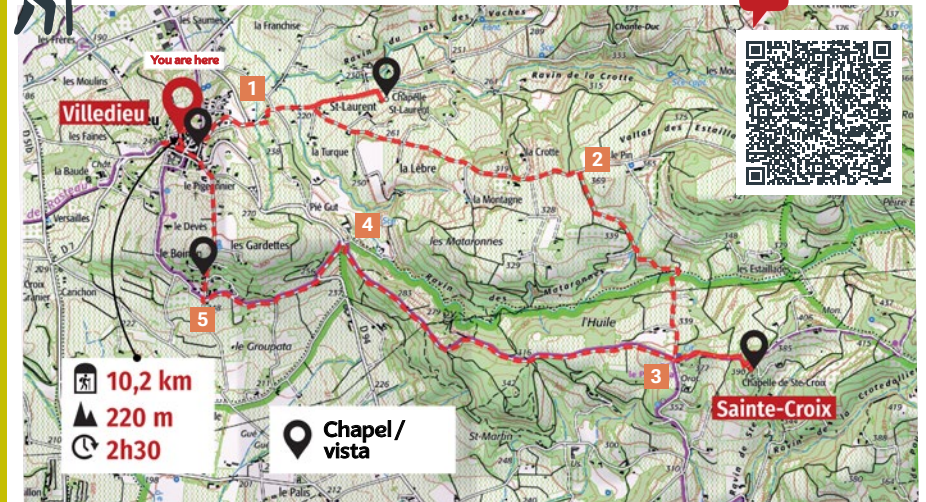
THE BROTHERHOOD CHAPELS

ROUTE 1



This hike sets off from the pretty village of **Villedieu**, taking you across the square and along the ramparts before diving into the Coustias Valley towards **Saint-Laurent Chapel and its leafy chestnut trees**. You then walk up a narrow road towards the mountain and another valley covered with vineyards and olive trees, up to **Sainte-Croix Chapel** and its woods with unobstructed views of Mont Ventoux. The way back runs through a pine forest with endless vineyard views, before climbing above the village of **Villedieu** to end on a high with breathtaking views of its belfry and church tower.

This route is *a fantastic introduction to brotherhoods*, how times of real community brought them to life and how important they have been to most of our villages since the 13th century. Some still exist today!



Start: Villedieu, car park on the way into the village coming from Roaix, Place Général de Gaulle (start sign).

Head to the village square and walk along the ramparts on your left until you reach the viewpoint and Chapel of the White Penitents. Take a right down to the crossroads, then go straight on (D7 for 300m).

1 At the hairpin bend, turn right onto the narrow Chemin de la Montagne until you reach a fork (cross) and turn left onto Chemin de Saint-Laurent for 300m. Look out for an uphill path on the right to **Saint-Laurent Chapel**. Make your way back to the cross on Chemin Saint-Laurent then turn left up the narrow Chemin de la Montagne for 1.5km.

2 Turn right onto Chemin des Estailades at the Domaine des Fouquettes sign, taking you down into the valley then back up to the junction with Chemin de Sainte-Croix in "Le Poupera".

3 Turn left onto Chemin de la Sainte-Croix and make your way to **Sainte-Croix Chapel**. Retrace your steps along the tarmac road until you reach the junction (marker 3). Follow the GR de Pays Tour de Rasteau trail's yellow/red waymarkers straight on towards Saint-Claude hill in Villedieu. Walk next to a cypress hedge and head into the forest for 2km until you reach the D94 road.

4 At the stop sign, take a left onto the D94 for 250m. At the bend, turn right and stay on Chemin des Roucas for 200m. Keep right at the fork for 400m.

5 Exit the GR de Pays trail at the crossroads and walk up a steep path on the right (retaining wall, tennis court on the right) to the water tower. Vista and information board where the **Saint Claude Chapel** once stood. Continue straight down (statue of the Virgin Mary on the left) towards the village and walk through the centre back to the car park.

TOP TIP:

Sainte-Croix Chapel is a convenient place to park and has a wheelchair-friendly visitor route.