

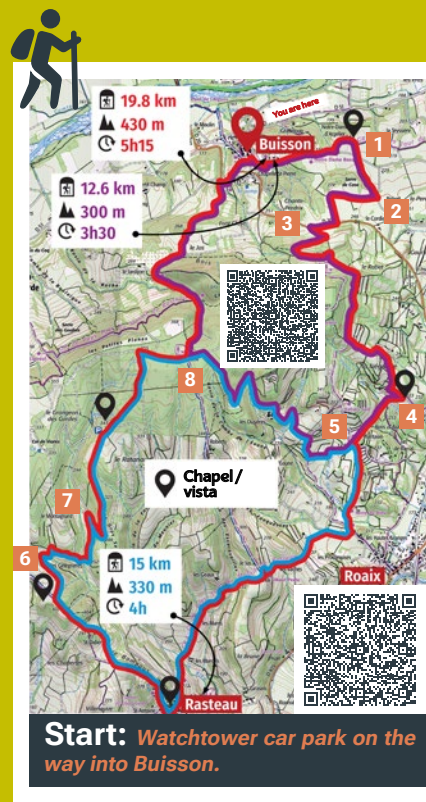
THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND HOSPITALLER CHAPELS

ROUTE 2



The lengthy and lofty route is never far from the forest's edge and has stunning views of the Drôme mountains to the north, the Baronnies and Mont Ventoux to the east, and the Dentelles de Montmirail to the south.

You can also explore *these ancient Templar lands and the commandery* on two shorter loops (one covering the north-east side starting in **Buisson** and the other covering the south-east side starting in **Rasteau**), taking you on a trip back in time to the age of cathedrals and epic pilgrimages to Jerusalem.



Turn left towards the village square and its fountain to get onto the GR de Pays trail (yellow/red waymarkers). As you leave the village, you drop down into the valley and turn right towards Notre-Dame-d'Argelier Chapel. 200m after the "Notre Dame Basse" sign, follow waymarkers for Notre-Dame-d'Argelier Chapel. Continue along the path that leads back to Chemin d'Argelier.

- 1 Leave the GR trail to cross the narrow road and go straight on up the track until you reach Chemin du Petit Pereyrol.
- 2 Turn right, pass a house on the left and veer right towards the outbuilding; the track takes a left turn to reach the D20.
- 3 Turn right onto the D20 for 250m, then left ("aire de picnic" signs 600m, R.C.10) onto a wide track up to the top of the hill (Les Abri-geaux Nord 313) and go straight on at the crossroads until you reach the picnic area.

At the Côte 324 elevation sign, turn left onto Chemin de la Négresse until you reach the Templar Commandery.

- 4 Retrace your steps slightly onto the GR 4 trail (white/red waymarkers) and the GR Tour de Pays de Rasteau trail (yellow/red waymarkers).

- 5 Make your way to the crossroads at the Côte 242 elevation sign (Plantavin). Turn left then right towards Roaix. Turn right onto the narrow Chemin Vieux de Roaix to Rasteau. Just before the square on the right when you come into Rasteau is *Notre-Dame-des-Vignerons Chapel*, a peaceful and welcoming place of worship that is usually open. Climb the cute little well-kept steps up to the church for a breathtaking views over the village.

Continue along the GR de Pays trail via Chemin de Saint-Didier, until you reach *the chapel tucked away in a small grove at the top and across the road*. From *Saint-Didier Chapel*, get back on the narrow road and pass a picnic area on the right.

- 6 Just after, take a right off the road (and the GR trail) down a smooth track to Les Géléquières. Turn right at the next two junctions to reach Route Saint-Roman-de-Malegarde. Turn left up the road for 450m.

- 7 Take a right off the road onto a wide track. Walk 350m then turn left at the crossroads up a fairly steep track to the 343 elevation sign. Enjoy amazing 180° views of the vineyards of Roaix and Rasteau, Mont Ventoux and the Dentelles from the edge of the forest. Continue straight on and walk into the forest until you reach a T-junction (water tank no. 244 on the left) with the wide DFCI track spanning the mountain range from east to west. Take a right onto the track until you reach the crossroads with a large shelter and picnic benches.

- 8 From here (Côte 364 elevation sign), turn left down a track that later joins the GR de Pays trail (yellow/red waymarkers), goes past Jardijon and returns to Buisson.

Alternatives: visit Mhikes.