

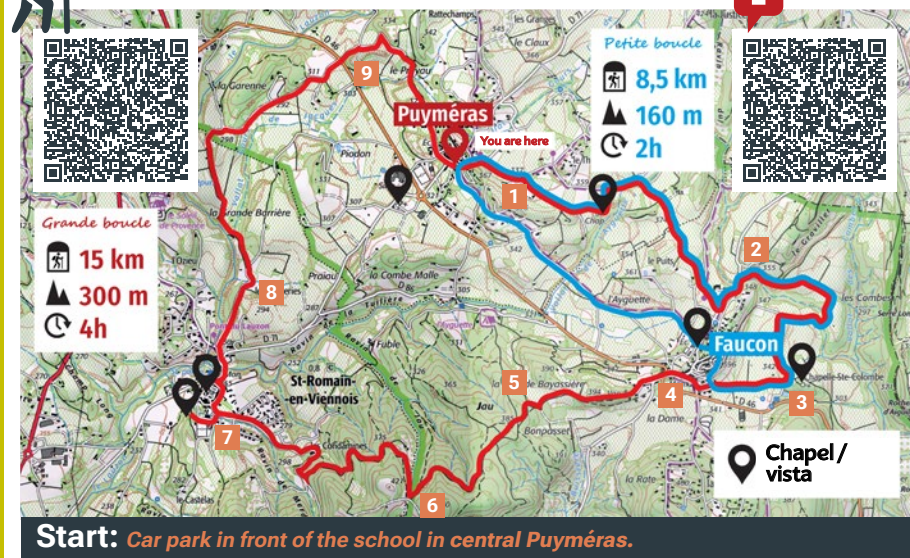
CHAPELS IN THE HAPPY HILLS

ROUTE 5



Provence's very own author **Jean Giono** nicknamed this rolling landscape the "happy hills". This is your chance to explore **Faucon** and the path winding around the hilltop village, **the beautiful forest of Jau** with its sprawling orchards and the hills between **Saint-Romain-en-Viennois** and **Puyméras** along the Lauzon River.

What makes them "happy hills"? They saw peace return to the land after the devastation wrought by the Wars of Religion in the 16th century, fanned by the flames of fanaticism on both sides; they saw peace return with enlightened politicians and edicts of tolerance, accompanied by the great surge of spirituality in the 17th century which sparked efforts to rebuild chapels.



Walk past the café and take the D147 towards Mérindol. At the bend, turn right towards Saint-Flavien Chapel and Chemin du Jas.

1 Turn right onto Chemin du Tourdoutet, then take the track on the left after 350m. Go down and pick up the track on the right. Continue along Chemin du Jas until you reach Faucon.

2 When you reach "Le Serre", turn left and cross the Pont du Gourrier bridge, then turn right onto Chemin du Claux. Turn right just before a large tree and head to the bottom of the valley then back up to the village. Turn left at the junction onto Chemin des Argiliers to reach *Sainte Colombe Chapel*.

3 Retrace your steps and walk back up the narrow road to Faucon until the main crossroads with the D46.

4 Go straight on along Route d'Entrechaux for 50m. Take a right off the road, cross the housing estate and turn onto a path on the right opposite a building. Walk up the path into the Jau woodland ahead.

5 At the crossroads, turn right and walk uphill for 80m then follow signs to the D422 at the next crossroads.

6 At the junction when you come out of the woods, turn right onto a small path down into a valley and pass a house on your right. Climb back up into the forest and rejoin the track. Take a left to Route de Saint-Romain-en-Viennois.

7 Turn left towards the tennis court when you get into the village. Go to the end of the path into the grove and up to *Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation Chapel*. Go back to the village. Turn right along the old ramparts. Go past the war memorial at the traffic lights on the right. Turn left onto Route des Abeilles after the plane trees. Turn right onto Chemin des Vacheries before the bridge.

8 After a bend, turn left onto the track next to an oak grove. Take a left 150m after the bridge and walk 80m uphill until you reach a track on the left which hooks up with Chemin de la Garenne and leads to the D46.

9 Cross the D46 and walk along Chemin du Lauzon for 150m. Turn right at the fork onto the narrow road then walk on Chemin de Leuze to get back to Puyméras.

Shorter alternative (blue route): visit Mhikes.



Experience the 360° immersive tour of Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs Chapel in Faucon.