

CHAPELS ON THE VENTOUX BALCONY

ROUTE 7



Explore one of the routes from the Mont Ventoux foothills heading to the East and the Alps in the magical Toulourenc Valley. The chapels you find along the way protected locals from the plague, suffering and childhood disease; they were part of everyday life here as residents toiled in the harsh, fertile and beautiful land beneath the majestic mountain.

The route takes you up from **Saint-Léger-du-Ventoux** and the bridge over the Toulourenc to a mountain pass, where your calves get a good workout before the path levels out across the plateau, taking you on a gentle downhill slope to **Brantes**. The further you walk, the better the views of the valley floor and the top of Mont Ventoux, giving a sense of grandeur and majesty to the mountain amidst almost unspoilt nature. A dusting of snow on the peak brings quiet wonder to your hike in winter.



Go back up the D40 and turn right onto the access ramp to the cemetery.

1 At the cemetery, follow the botanical path along the wall on the right and up to the pass with pretty enamelled information boards about the abundant flora. Follow the GR91 trail's red/yellow waymarkers until you reach the Col de Fontaube.

2 Turn right onto the D41 for 600m and another right down a path (keep your eyes peeled: it's easy to miss) into the valley with fabulous views of Mont Ventoux. The path turns into a track and brings you to a narrow road leading to Brantes and the Chapel of the White Penitents. Enjoy beautiful views of Mont Ventoux in front of the little church. Turn right down wide steps that lead onto a path and veer left below the village. At the end of a steep and pretty cobbled street, take a right down a path to the cemetery and Saint-Jean-Baptiste Chapel. Then hook back up with the path to the D40.

3 Head left onto the D40 for a round trip to Saint-Roch Chapel, tucked away below the road on the slope 400m away. On your way back from the chapel, turn left onto the track to Toulourenc bridge (it's so pretty it is sometimes called the "Roman Bridge", despite being built in the 18th century).

Continue straight on until you reach Route de la Frache.

4 Walk 200m up the narrow road, then turn right onto the waymarked track, crossing the Combe de la Mure. The wide path takes you to La Barbette.

5 At a junction, take the path on the right to a wide track with Saint-Basile Chapel on your right, behind a large house. Keep to the track until you reach Monin mill then the D40. If you haven't parked on the open land by the road, follow the road back to Saint-Léger-du-Ventoux car park.

