

2019

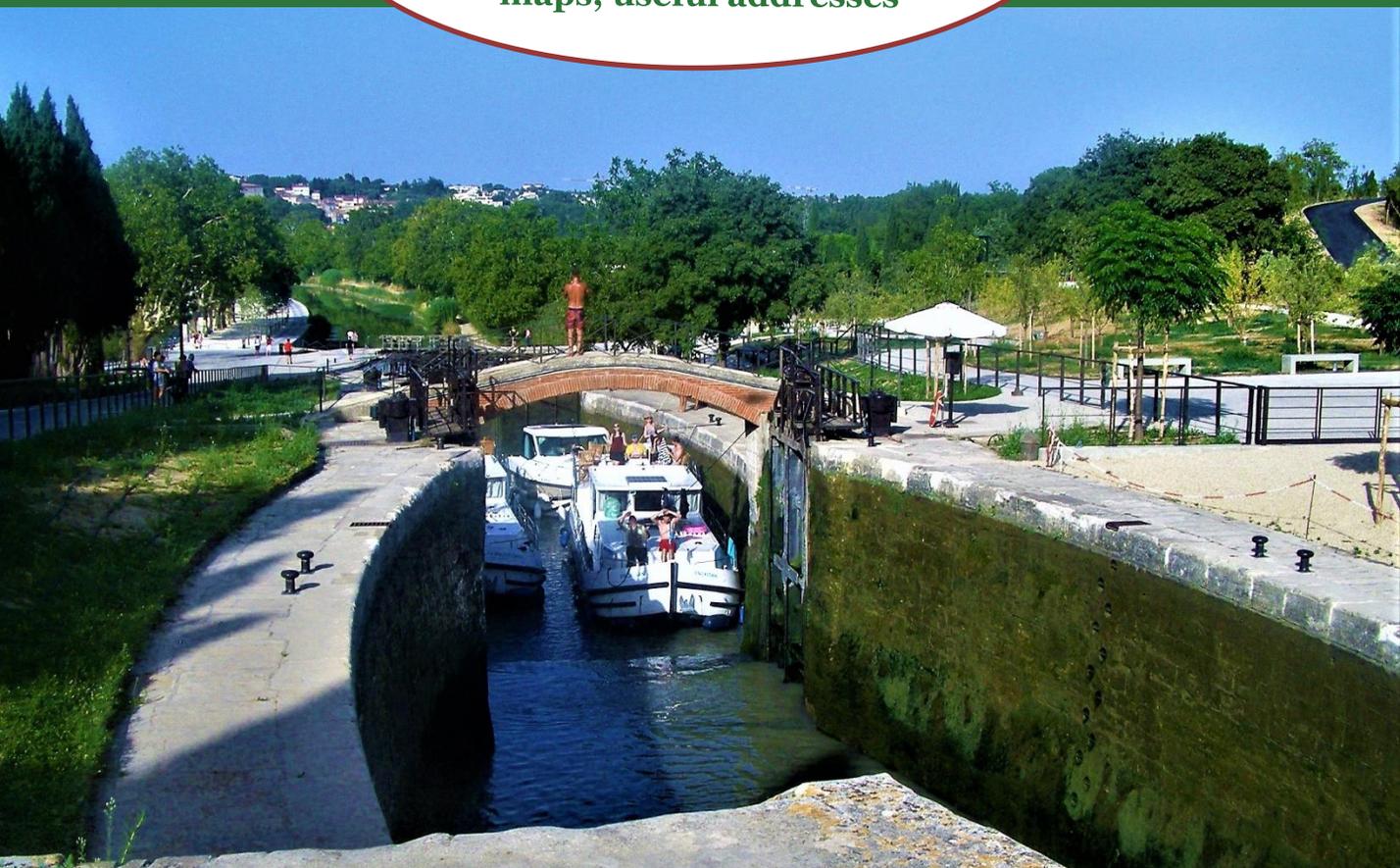


# The Canal du Midi, its source

## The Canal de Jonction and the Canal de la Robine

**Boat, canoë,  
hiking, cycling, car**

**Information, advice, photos, videos,  
maps, useful addresses**



# Canalfriends Travel Guide

The community of canal and river enthusiasts  
[www.canalfriends.com](http://www.canalfriends.com)



# This is YOUR guide

In 2014, we created canalfriends.com, the first collaborative waterways tourism platform in order to share our passion and that of enthusiasts.

The interest shown by participants in our 2016 Canal du Midi and Channels Discovery weekend, encouraged us to produce collaborative travel e-guides in the same community spirit.

Special thanks to all the enthusiasts we met (hikers, cyclists, boaters), who gave us a better understanding of their expectations.

With thanks also to the professionals from both the private and local government sectors that are collaborating with us in greater numbers every year to develop our guides.



This new edition goes beyond the Canal du Midi and its channels to the Canal de Jonction and the Canal de la Robine.

Explore these regions on your own, with family or friends.

The guides provide information on waterways activities, accommodation, restaurant, local produce and events.

For travellers with disabilities, the guides specify accommodation and activities providers able to cater to their needs. The holiday will give you the desire to come back again. Our [other free downloadable guides](#) are there to help you plan your next holiday.



Let us know what type of information you would like to find in this guide.

Recommend a site or activity.

Contact us with your comments, add your activity or accommodation.

Receive free updates.

[contact@canalfriends.com](mailto:contact@canalfriends.com)

See you soon

Canalfriends Team



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# The Canal du Midi, its channels and water supply system

In 1666, the decision was made to build the Canal du Midi to link the Mediterranean to the Atlantic ocean and avoid the long and risky passage via the Gibraltar straits.

The canal was to start at the Mediterranean (Sète) and connect to the Garonne river (Toulouse). It took 14 years to build and its creator faced numerous technical and financial difficulties.

This summit-level canal (with its watershed at Naurouze) is unique in many ways, in particular, its impressive water supply system conceived and designed by Pierre-Paul Riquet in the 17th century.



This wealthy tax collector from the Languedoc was neither architect nor engineer, which made the technical prowess even more astonishing.

He devised the canal's entire water capture system from the Montagne Noire, consisting essentially of the Alzeau, Sor and Laudot rivers.



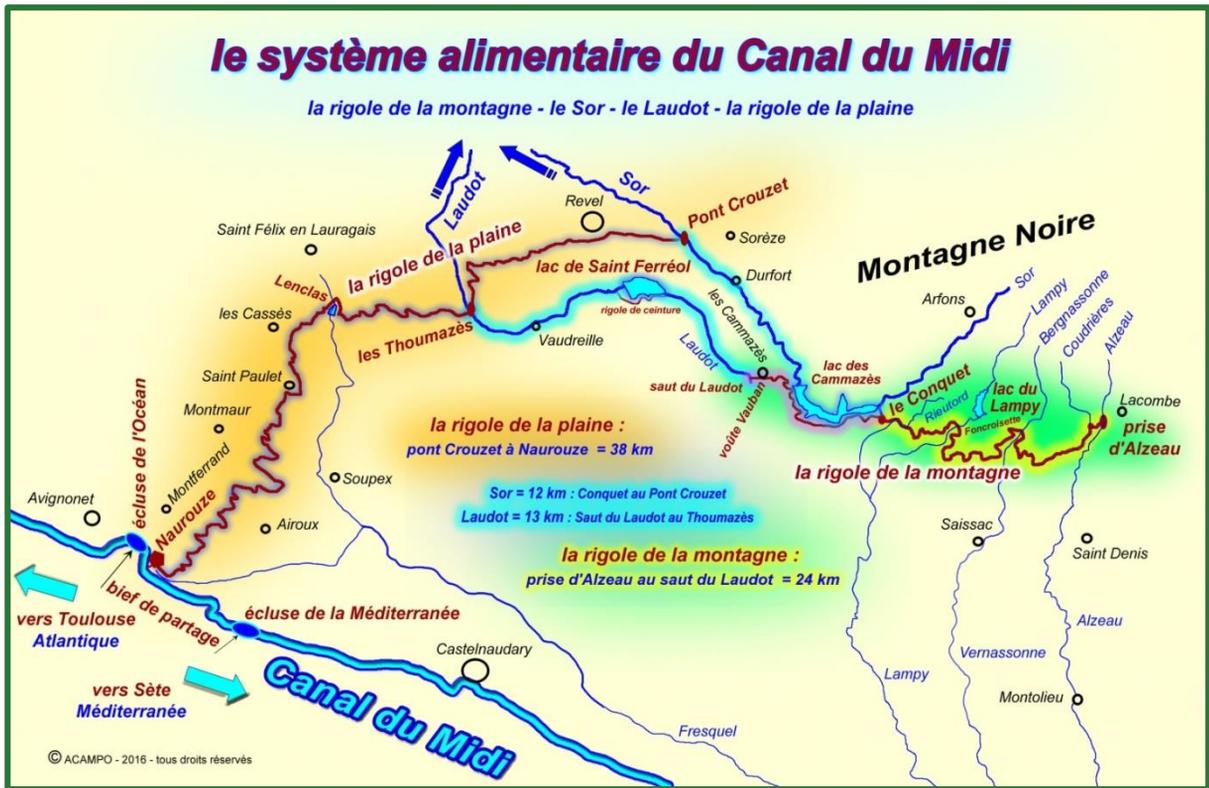
Riquet had the 17 km channel dug to feed the Sor from the Mediterranean versants: Alzeau, Coudières, Lampy, Rieutord. The Saint Ferréol dam provides a water reserve on the Laudot in order to regulate water output in all seasons. The 38 km Plaine channels from Crozet bridge to Naurouze enable the diversion of some of these rivers to the canal's highest point. This system was improved and reinforced over time, especially in 1687, by Vauban who among others, extended the 7km Mountain channel, creating a link with the Laudot. In order to achieve this, a 122 metre tunnel, known as the Vauban Vault, was built at Cammazes. These channels are not the only constructions providing water to the Canal du Midi, but they are the most important source.

The Canal du Midi and its water supply system are listed World Heritage sites by UNESCO in 1996.

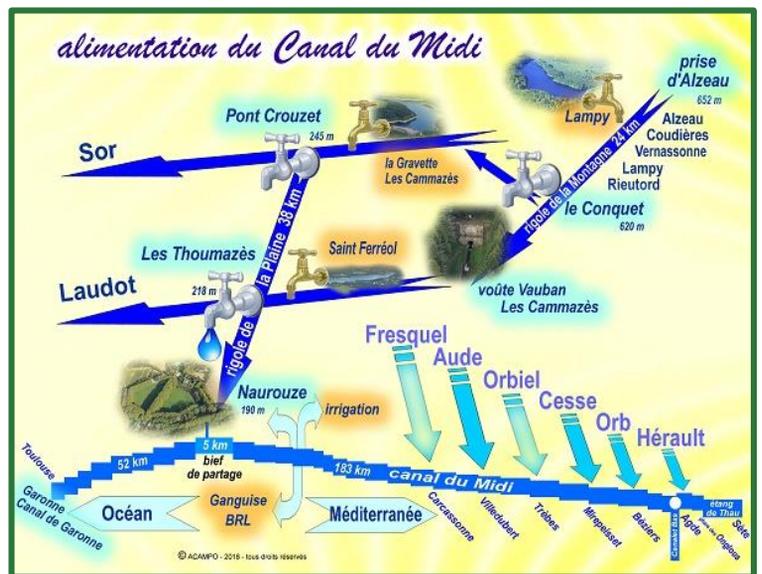
A film on the life of Pierre Paul Riquet will be released in 2019. Shot on location on the Canal du Midi and its supply channels, the film is produced by the association "Un film sur Riquet" [www.un-film-sur-riquet.fr](http://www.un-film-sur-riquet.fr)



# Map & layout : Canal du Midi water supply system



By l'association l'Acampo, conferences-slide shows



# The canal and its channels in figures

- 1665 : Creation of a test channel to check the project's feasibility between Alzeau and Naurouze
- 1666 : Royal Edict allowing the navigation channel to be built - Works start on the creation of the port at Sète
- 1667 : 1st stone laid for the Saint Ferréol reservoir and for the Garonne to Toulouse lock
- 1668: Inauguration of the Plaine channel with navigation between Revel and Naurouze
- 1672 : Toulouse / Naurouze section filled
- 1673 : Water in the Naurouze / Castelnaudary section
- 1680 : Death of Pierre Paul Riquet
- 1681 : Filling and first navigation between from Toulouse and Sète in May
- 1682 : First ships in the port of Sète
- 1687 : 7 km mountain channel extension, construction of the Vauban vault at Cammazes, extension of Saint-Ferréol
- 1782 : Lake Lampy created
- 1827 : Obelisk erected in Naurouze by Riquet's descendants
- 1839 : Construction of the Garonne Canal begins
- 1855 : Exploitation rights of the Canals granted to the Pereire brothers, head of the Compagnie des Chemins de Fer du Midi
- 1857 : Bordeaux / Sète railway line inaugurated
- 1858 : Canal du Midi concession granted to the *Compagnie des chemins de fer du Midi et du canal latéral à la Garonne* founded by the Pereire brother in 1852.
- 1898 : Government acquires the Canal du Midi
- 1957 : Cammazes dam is built
- 1991 : VNF (Voies navigables de France) is established to manage the Canal
- 1996 : Canal and its water supply system are listed World Heritage sites by UNESCO
- 2001 : Inauguration of the Galaube dam on the Alzeau



## The Canal du Midi :

- 240 km
- 63 locks
- 160 bridges
- 7 canal bridges
- 1 tunnel.

## The water supply system :

- 24 km Mountain Channel / (Rigole de la Montagne)
- 38 km The plain channel / (Rigole de la Plaine)
- 12 km Sor river
- 13 km Laudot river



# Inland waterways transportation from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean

Before the arrival of the railway, the waterways were the main mode of transporting goods. Merging into maritime waterways, they facilitate trade with the outside world. Initially, nearly all the merchandise transported were of agricultural nature (plums, pastels, cereals, wines, draperies). Subsequently, manufactured goods such as building materials and hydrocarbons were also transported.

Until the creation of the Garonne Canal, boats arriving from the Canal du Midi had to sail the Garonne river. Several cities and villages developed along the river and its tributaries (Tarn, Lot, ..) and along the Garonne Canal: Bordeaux, Toulouse, Auvillar, Lamagistère, the Passage d'Agen, Tonneins, Cadillac, ..

Freight transport ceased in 1989 on the Canal du Midi and 2000 on the Garonne Canal.

Today, as part of the ecological transition, companies are once again interested in this mode of transport. In 2016, VNF and the Nouvelle Aquitaine and Occitanie regions launched a feasibility study, the first results of which show significant potential.



In 2017, SAS L'Equipage transported a 100 ton transformer from Lyon to Port la Nouvelle.

On the Gironde estuary, industrial facilities have been installed on the right bank, with the Blaye nuclear power plant and the Bec d'Ambès oil refinery; on the left bank with the industrial port of Pauillac. These activities generate container and supertanker traffic.

The only barges that now go beyond Bordeaux to Langon are the ones transporting the A380 fuselage parts from Saint Nazaire.



River transport also reduces traffic in urban areas. Since 2016, in Bordeaux, the collection of waste from boats is done via river transportation in order to reduce road traffic.



## The flora of the Canal du Midi



An aerial view shows the canal winding through farmland and cities in almost a continuous tree-lined expanse for hundreds of kilometres. The characteristic winding tree-lined route reflects both aspects of its landscape: the artificial consisting of planted trees and the wild species that have made the habitat their own. Together, they form a vegetation and biodiversity corridor between the Mediterranean and Toulouse.

Along the canal, one frequently comes across a double row of trees beside the towpath. Consisting mainly of the Midi plane trees, there are also a number of unusual species such as the stone pines, Provence cypress as well as the more common bald cypress, Paulownia, weeping willow, hornbeam etc.



In places where nature gets the upper hand, you may come across several species of oak (sessile, pubescent, common, green), the field elm, the glutinous alder, the black locust, the black poplar and the high ash or even the large-leaved lime and flat-leaved maple. Hard hit in recent years by a pathogen fungus, the plane trees are being replaced little by little by new indigenous and foreign species such as the Provence Micocoulier (Nettle trees) with edible fruits, the white poplar or the Judea tree.

The current tree planting programme is more in keeping with soil and climate conditions and vary from Sète to Toulouse. The differences in soil and climate can be seen in the type of shrub and herbaceous flora that grow in the semi-wild areas.



## The flora of the Canal du Midi



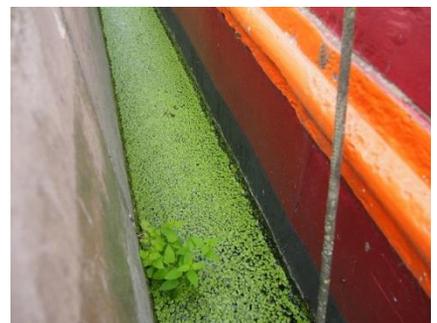
The shrub floor includes, for example, in the southernmost areas, the Mediterranean buckthorn, fig tree, judas tree, phyllaire, cane de Provence, cane, Barbados cherry. In more continental areas, there are dogwood, charcoal, privet, black elder, hazel, juniper or hawthorn. Dog rose, brambles, honeysuckles, ivy and various clematis are also commonly found.

The semi-wild meadows at the foot of the trees and on the banks are home to a range of flowers and plants in Spring. Some are edible, others medicinal: goat orchid, salsifi with leek leaves, wild garlic, birthwort, rock-rose, sword lilly, Chervil, Brachypoda, Poppy, Burdock, honesty...



In shallow waters, we find the loosestrife, the common Lysimachia, rushes, a variety of sedges sometimes forming bushes, hemp, great willow herb, common reed ... In deeper waters, you may spot flowering plants such as the pondweed, eelgrass or the curly grass also found in aquatic meadows. Others include the small leaved species such as the submerged hornwort and the Cabomba caroliniana, a recent addition to the Canal.

Beside the hulls in the ports' stagnant waters, there are carpets of duckweeds; a multi root duckweed has purple coloured leaves under surface. Among the ancient brick structures, there are often sticky-weed, maidenhair, spleenwort and the more unusual maidenhair fern, tetterwort and fumewort; the last two being known for their medicinal properties.



# Explore the Canal du Midi's channels (Source)

From the Alzeau water Intake to Naurouze



# 1. From the water intake la Prise d'Alzeau to Saint Ferréol

## The mountain channel and the Laudot river



The starting point, "La Prise d'Alzeau", is signposted from Lacombe and Saint Denis, where there are few parking facilities. Cross the bridge spanning the Alzeau to see the stele erected by a Riquet descendant. Begin your tour here along the channel on foot or by bike.

Stop at Foncroisette, where Riquet had built an aqueduc across the waters of the Lampy river. Vauban replaced it with a re-inflation dam " the old Lampy ", located under the current road. Drained and filled in 1920, it was replaced in 1943 by the current concrete aqueduc. On foot or by bike, take the sloping path on the right leading to "Lampy neuf" lake. This lake was created in 1782 to supplement the water supply required following the creation of a junction canal between the Canal du Midi and the Canal de la Robine to Narbonne.



Vauban's improvements can be seen at Le Conquet. Initially, Riquet oriented the Mountain channel towards the Sor, located below to the right. Its waterfall is called Sor's leap "le saut du Sor". Vauban extended this channel a further 7 km to Cammazes to increase supply to the Laudot. Thus, from Le Conquet, the water supply system continues in two directions: one passes through the Sor and the Plain channel, the other via the Mountain channel before flowing into the Laudot that in turn feeds the Saint Ferréol reservoir.

While following the Mountain channel, look through the trees to the Sor Valley to see the Gravette dam and the Cammazes lake. Further along the route, Vauban's vault, built in 1687, provides the link to the Laudot. As it's 122 m long and given its narrow interior passage, it's best to go around it. Once on the other side, continue a few yards to Laudot's leap where the channel's waters flow into the river 8 m below. You are now at the end of the Mountain channel and, as the banks of the river Laudot are relatively inaccessible, we suggest you return to the village and continue to Saint Ferréol basin via the road.



## 2. St Ferréol lake & The RESERVOIR



At Saint Ferréol, you can admire this reservoir of over 67 hectares, 4.7 km in circumference and 31 deep. Located at the foot of Saint-Ferréol (17th century) and centerpiece of the Canal's water supply system, it is listed as a Heritage Monument. For cyclists, there is a bike park at the RESERVOIR discovery area of the Canal du Midi, classed Accueil Vélo. A hiking trail will take you around the lake. Depending on the season, you may swim or enjoy water sports.

However, swimming is forbidden at Lampy and Cammazes. [Video of the Saint Ferréol lake being emptied.](#)

The Palace of Versailles and the Canal du Midi are the greatest achievements during Louis the XIVth's reign. Registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Saint-Ferréol dam is the keystone to the canal's water supply. Behind the dam, in what used to be the engineer's house, is the RESEVOIR discovery area of the Canal du Midi.



Here you can find a life-size presentation of the canal's history with its engineering structures and ingenious water supplying system but also the great people who contributed to its creation. In addition, you may also visit the 'Tap' Gallery, beneath the dam's embankment. There are daily guided tours in July and August. Outside this period, group visits are possible (10 people minimum) on reservation only.

Another must-see are the romantic gardens; admire the water spout and waterfalls before following the channel circuit around the lake.



### 3. St Ferréol to Naurouze Laudot & rigole de la Plaine



Two starting points are possible. The first, from lake Saint Ferréol and signposted from the Chemin de Calès, begins with a slope of more than 18 %, so care should be taken. At the Plaine channel "Rigole de la Plaine" climb a few metres to the Riat bridge to admire Riquet's statue where he is shown sitting on the watershed, before turning back and continuing along the channel.

The start of the second route is near Revel further upstream at Pont Cruzet, where the rigole de la plaine begins. Follow the river, pass the Riat bridge and continue to the Thouzazes River where the waters of the plaine and those of the Laudot, flowing from Saint Ferréol basin, meet. The Laudot station is a regulation system, in the form of a spillway-weir, controlling the water flow to Naurouze for the needs of the canal as well as evacuating any surplus from the Laudot.



To see the canal bridge over the old railway, you will need to cross the D624 (beware of traffic). Before setting off on the 20 km to Naurouze, take a break at Lenclas lake not far away.

This last section of the path is not well-maintained (unlike the first) and harder for cycling in rainy weather. It is nevertheless extremely pleasant, shady and wild.



## 4. Naurouze



From the rigole de la montagne, make your way to Naurouze by bike or foot. Start your visit here; there are buildings dating from the creation of the canal on your right : the engineer's house, a large mill, now a flour mill and the foreman's house. Stay on your right and head towards the public car park to see Paul Riquet's obelisk, erected in 1827 by his descendants. This site is usually only open to the public during special events such as heritage days. Outside these periods, you can see the obelisk through the railings.

Retrace your steps, cross the row of plane trees planted in 1809 leading to the Ocean lock "écluse de l'Océan" and walk along the channels. They follow the path of the old octagonal basin that was designed by Riquet as a new town and endowed with a port as well as a statue of Louis XIV at its centre. In 1686, Vauban noticed the basin was silting from alluvial deposits in the channel and decided to open a trench to connect the two reaches serving the basin.



A new 5 km channel between the current Ocean and Mediterranean locks was then created. The original locks and octagonal basin were no longer navigable. The basin's perimeter became a decanting channel for the Plaine channel's deposits. At the end of the channel, see the structure that regulates and distributes the Montagne Noire waters at the watershed.

Continue a few meters further to the watershed and you will be at the highest point of the canal (189 m). The water from the structure is directed by gravity, according to supply needs, towards the Atlantic via Toulouse or towards the Mediterranean via Sète.



## 5. Things to look out for along the channels



The intake valves, control valve and spillways regulating the flow or draining the channels, operated by VNF staff. In the past, this was achieved via a crank system but is now remotely controlled.

Spillway: barriers enabling overflow to evacuate on reaching the maximum level.



Step check dams: On a steep slope, they help prevent erosion of the channel.

The 7 km Mountain channel was built by Vauban between Le Conquet and Cammazes to extend Riquet's channel and supplement the Laudot river's waters. The channel increases lake Saint-Ferreol's capacity. It is steeper and completely made of masonry (side walls and pavings).



All along the channels, access to water was created for different uses: wash houses, drinking troughs and even for navigation to Port Louis near Revel.



# Explore the Canal du Midi

## Toulouse to Sète



# 1. Toulouse



Its position in the heart of south-west France means Toulouse has always had an important role. Once capital of the Visigoths, now aeronautical and space capital; you can explore its two thousand years of history. Here a Romanesque basilica, there a discrete mansion with an imposing portal, further along, a converted industrial building, a facade with amazing terracotta decorations, the sound of a fountain, a hidden courtyard. The Garonne river crosses the city over a distance of 16.3 km. Its banks offer magnificent views of the Pont Neuf, the Hôtel Dieu St Jacques or the Grave dome.

Admire the sites offshore on boat trips (see addresses). For the locals, Toulouse's banks are busy and lively spaces. In summer, enjoy activities organised as part of Toulouse Plage festivities. Recent developments by the city and Toulouse Métropole have enhanced the Garonne's attractiveness. Take the time to explore them. From the Espace Bazacle, la place de la Daurade to the Tounis quay, the river draws you into a dreamscape. Further along, the Ile du Ramier, is a nautical activities base which is improved year by year via the "Grand Parc Garonne" development project.



Saint Etienne cathedral with its commemorative plaque on the Orleans pillar, reminding us that the Canal du Midi's creator, Pierre Paul Riquet, is buried here. Then make a stop at the port. Located in the heart of town, close to all shops, it is served by public transport. Its harbour office, an old warehouse, has been entirely restored and has a lovely view of the Canal du Midi. The port is an important stop for boaters of all nationalities. It's also a cycling stop with an "Accueil Vélo" accreditation.

Since 2014, its quality services and environmentally friendly initiatives have led to it being awarded the Blue Flag "Pavillon Bleu". Three canals pass through Toulouse: Canal du Midi, Canal de Brienne and Canal de Garonne. Discover these canals on foot, bike or boat. In summer, the green and tranquil waters, bordered by tree-lined avenues provide shade and freshness. Smart City heritage street signs installed by Toulouse Métropole, as part of the "Plan Canal" project, guide you in your exploration of Toulouse's canals.



# 1. Toulouse



The Canal du Midi starts at the former Garonne lock (PK0: kilometric point 0). In fact, there are 3 bridges spanning 3 canals (Canal du Midi, Canal de Brienne and Canal de Garonne) that converge towards this vast expanse of water. The first two were built on the Canal Royal and Canal de Brienne during the construction of the latter in 1774. The 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge was built in 1843 for the opening of the Canal de Garonne.

The Saint Pierre canal, renamed the Canal de Brienne as a tribute to the Archbishop, was built 80 years after the Canal du Midi and rendered the town centre accessible via the waterway. Before the Canal de Garonne's construction, boats arriving from the Canal du Midi would stop at this port. Goods bound for Bordeaux were then transferred to boats adapted for navigation on the Garonne river, which they joined via a descent lock that no longer exists. Since the construction of the Garonne canal, boats have been entering the river in Castets-en-Dorthe.



Start your journey on the Canal du Midi, by boat, by bike on the Greenway or by car on the local roads. After the port authority office at Saint-Sauveur port and before the Demoiselles bridge, the Radoub slipway (PK6) is on your right.

These slipways were built in 1839 to house the refitting, maintenance and boat building activities originally located at St Sauveur port. Consisting of a large basin and 3 dry slipways, one of which is covered, boat repair activities are still carried out at this VNF managed site. Listed as a Historical Monument, this site is occasionally open to the public.



## 2. Ramonville to Mas Saintes Puelles



On reaching Ramonville, you can admire a range of boats with varying origins and histories. One of them, the Dionysus, was one of the Canal des 2 Mers last "Pinardiers", transporting wine from Languedoc and Bordeaux to Toulouse until 1980. Like the barge Le Tourmente, the Dionysus was designed to pass through the "canal des 2 mers" locks (Canal de Garonne + Canal du Midi), as, at 30 metres long, it's smaller but wider than the Freycinet boats. [Vidéo](#)

To continue towards Port Lauragais (pk49), leave the route at Maraval bridge, 2 kms after the Emborrel lock, then take the CD80 for 500 metres. On this site, accessible on the motorway, visit the exhibition on the Canal du Midi. On your way back to the canal, you will be in the Aude department. For cyclists, this also means the end of the asphalt surface; you then continue on dirt track.



The Ocean lock (PK51) at Montferrand takes you to the watershed. You are then at the highest point of the Canal du Midi. Take the opportunity to explore the canal's Naurouze basin (see part 1 of the guide).

If you lack time, on your left you can still glimpse the water supply structure. From here, the direction is the Mediterranean Sea, hence the name of the following lock at Mas Saintes Puelles is Mediterranean (PK56).



### 3. Castelnaudary to Trèbes



Castelnaudary (PK64), the cassoulet capital, is also known for its energetic boaters, many of whom reside there year-round. After le Pont Vieux (old bridge), you come upon the Great Basin "Grand Bassin", the largest lake on the canal. Cybelle Island, on your right, was built in 1754 (73 years after the inauguration of the canal) to serve as a breakwater and prevent the boats from being thrown against the banks under windy conditions.

The Grand Bassin serves as a supply reservoir at the Saint Roch locks (PK65) comprising 4 basins over an altitude of 9.42 metres. Next to Fonsèranes with its 8 locks, the Saint Roch locks has the highest number of successive locks. From the Foucaud spillway (PK101), you are now on a section of the canal that is not part of the original structure.



The Canal du Midi was initially located 2 km from Carcassonne. Due to the topography, crossing Carcassonne would have involved digging deeper and lengthening the canal. The town's consuls did not want to bear this extra cost. Therefore, it was not until 1810, on seeing the benefits to Castelnaudary and Trèbes, that the decision was made to bring the canal to Carcassonne. The bridges bear the names of the Napoleonic period: Marengo, Peace and Jena. Jena being the highest at 20 m (picture).

At Trèbes (PK117), you are at the Canal's halfway point. Trèbes was the terminus of the first company declared by Royal Edict in 1666. Riquet then considered continuing to the Mediterranean via the Aude river. It would have been necessary to make the Aude navigable to Narbonne. To connect this section to the Mediterranean, Riquet abandoned the Aude route, preferring to continue towards Béziers and Sète. Until the deviation of the canal to Carcassonne in 1810, Trèbes port was a trading centre. Today, restaurants and cafés along the canal provide a pleasant break.



## 4. Puichéric to Le Somail



At Puichéric, Joël, the sculptor lockkepper has erected sculptures of strange creatures, unusual animals and other figures at the Aiguille lock (PK133). He has fun and amuses the public, nothing is serious and nothing should be! Here, the works are distorted with humour and derision, a snub to established art. [Vidéo](#)

On your right, after the Fabrique (PK140) port at La Redorte, there's the Argent Double weir-spillway built to evacuate flood water from the river and drain the mill for maintenance (bottom valve). It is based on a Vauban design. A few metres further along, the aquaduc enables flood water overflow. Be careful when crossing on foot or bike as it can be slippery when there is water on the towpath.



On leaving Paraza, cross the Repudre bridge (PK158) erected over this unpredictable stream in 1676. Riquet only had time to build 3 canal bridges (Répudre, Aiguille and Jouarres). All other river crossings were via paths (easier to build, faster and cheaper). The Repudre is now the world's oldest canal bridge in use.

The delightful village of Le Somail (PK165) has maintained the charming characteristics of the Canal du Midi villages, with its many 17<sup>th</sup> century constructions.



## 5. Le Somail to the Canal de Jonction



Before it became a marina, Le Somail was an important commercial and passenger port from the 17th to the 19th century with no less than 28 000 passengers in 1831. The postal barge passengers stopped here overnight; “la couchée” included somewhere to sleep and an evening meal. The tourist office provides information on the canals’ history (Midi, Jonction and Robine). Also see Mrs Craddock’s hologram recounting her misadventures. Funny and informative! She was an 18th century English tourist who really existed.

Then admire the hamlet’s architecture including the humpback bridge’s remarkable basket arch (anse de panier). There’s the chapel that welcomed the crews and passengers stopping overnight at the inn. Spot the old guard house with its trough fed by the canal; its now a restaurant. There’s also, the ice house for storing ice from the Montagne Noire until summer. Stop by the famous bookshop where it’s said you will find books on any subject and of course there are boat trips and numerous restaurants.

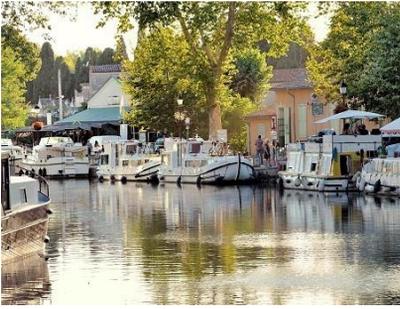


At Mirepeisset (PK168), You are now at the Port La Nouvelle branche (PK168). You may continue to the Mediterranean by boat or bike via this junction canal and the Canal de la Robine (cf p30 Discover the Port la Nouvelle branche)

To continue along the canal, cross the little bridge over the Canal de Jonction. You will start to see a very different vegetation from what has been on the canal till now. The presence of stone pines is a reminder that you have now arrived in the "Midi" (South) [Vidéo](#)



## 6. Capestang to Poilhes



In Capestang, you cross the Saisse bridge, the smallest on the Canal du Midi. The port is one of the most important on the canal, with 8000 night stays a year! With its numerous services, it's an ideal base when exploring this delightful area. Start with Capestang itself, a charming and authentic village, whose collegiate Saint-Etienne church surges like a lighthouse in the middle of a vast sea of vineyards.

Climb to the top of its bell tower for an extraordinary panoramic view. Then see the paintings in the Archbishops' palace, especially its illustrated painted ceiling. Explanations of the illustrations is available on site.

Take a break and enjoy a plate of a local gourmet meal that mixes the flavours of olive oil, local garlic and garrigue herbs, such as thyme, rosemary and lavender.



A wine growing destination par excellence, this is the heart of the oldest vineyard in France, which includes three Appellations of Protected Origin (Languedoc, Minervois, Saint-Chinian) and two Protected Geographical areas (Coteaux d'Ensérune and Pays d'OC). There are a thousand and one ways to discover the local culture: wine tastings, vineyard walks, wine workshops, museum visits and exhibitions.

The tourist office, located at Capestang port, has practical information, a paper chase and treasure hunt to help you and your family learn about the important aspects of the Canal du Midi when it was built and today (cf address). There to assist you, don't hesitate to ask them for information on local activities and those in the surrounding villages.

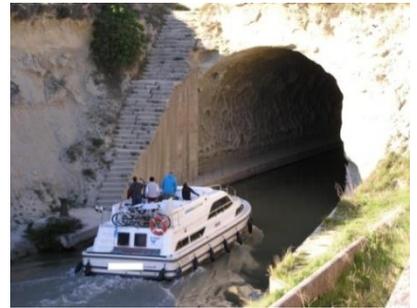


## 7. Poilhes to Nissan Lez Ensérune



Poilhes, a small rural village marked by history with its remains of the Via Domitia (Roman road connecting Italy to the Iberian Peninsula). There are two 18<sup>th</sup> century English canons at the port which is still a popular stop.

The 165m Malpas tunnel is the next stop. (PK198) Faced with an insurmountable hill, Riquet accelerated the task of digging the tunnel hence ignoring orders to bypass it from Colbert, the King's minister, who feared risks from the fragile soil.



Colbert later had to concede that the tunnel was safe. [Vidéo](#) There's a very narrow passage for crossing on foot. However, cycling is prohibited.

Take the opportunity to climb to the Oppidum Ensérune summit located a few metres from the tunnel.

At this archaeological site at 100m from the canal, admire the 'étang de Montady'. In the 13th century, the 'étang' was divided to strips with drainage channels to dry this former wetland. There is a lovely panoramic view that includes the Cevennes mountains in the distance.



## 8. Béziers



The most spectacular construction on the Canal du Midi: the 9 locks of Fonseranes in Béziers (PK206)! Originally consisting of 9 successive locks, it now has 8 oval shaped basins enabling passage of the 300 m distance and 21.5 m drop. Today, only 7 locks are still in use. Right next to this staircase lock is a water slope built to accommodate larger boats.

A common technical solution on the northern canals, the water slope arrived too late on the Canal du Midi, where commercial traffic was already scarce. Even before its completion in 1984, design flaws were already obvious. In 1990, it only operated 68 days and two days in 1995 before it was finally decommissioned. Today, tourists / boaters at Fonseranes gaze in astonishment at this useless machinery; a strange modern contraption next to and slightly mocked by Riquet's still reliable locks.



Riquet designed a complex system for crossing the river Orb. However, the barges had to face the hazards of flooding and some capsized attempting the crossing. In 1858, the canal Bridge took over. Since then, the barges have crossed the Orb at 12 m above the river on the bridge, which is 28 m wide and 240 m long. The canal was diverted at the 7th lock at Fonseranes for the bridge. For some of the most beautiful views of the Béziers acropolis (acropole biterroise), head for its canal bridge.

The Orb-Quai Port-Neuf lock is the Canal du Midi's newest and tallest lock. Built and inaugurated in 1858, at the same time as the canal bridge, it is 40 m long and 5.40 m wide. It has a 6.19 m drop, the equivalent of a 3-storey building. It opens on to Béziers port, the Quai Port-Neuf.



## 8. Béziers



From April to the end of October, Béziers Méditerranée tourist office has a varied weekend programme of free events at the locks called "Rendez-vous at the 9 locks": giant picnics; farmers' markets; "contemplative Saturdays" (yoga, ...); concerts ... events that give meaning to the word sharing, whether you attend alone, as a couple, tribe, with family or friends.

The "divine evenings of Béziers Méditerranée" is a programme of entertainment events held on Tuesdays (in Valras), Thursdays (in Béziers) and "Afterworks", organised by the Tourist Office from April to the end of October. The concept: local wines, tapas, music and ... fun evenings!



The Béziers region is also a land of vineyards. 65 certified professionals (winemakers, hoteliers, restaurants, activity providers) are committed to making you love their wines, their vineyards, their cuisine, their nature trails and "their" sea ... Since obtaining the Vignobles & Découvertes accreditation in 2015, the locals are even closer to their canal than before and continue to discover it, so prepare to be pleasantly surprised.

New in 2019 : Treasure hunt and botanical trail at Fonsèranes. Join us on a walking treasure hunt on the site of the 9 locks, with a real treasure to be found of course. An ideal activity for families on this site that's accessible for all! On the botanical trail, discover how the Canal du Midi is a real ecosystem, teeming with life and a variety of plants, qualities and attributes you may never have suspected.



## 9. Villeneuve les Béziers à Agde



A few kilometres after Béziers, take a break at Villeneuve-les-Béziers port. It is managed by the “floating” tourist information office located nearby. (see address Béziers Mediterranean). This welcoming village has a market and a number of restaurants on the main square next to the town hall.

The uniqueness of the **Libron lock** (PK225) is evident; built to enable the crossing of the Libron stream as it flooded regularly causing the canal to silt up and hindering navigation. On flat terrain and lying virtually at sea level, the stream was difficult to cross. Since 1856, the lock has consisted of 2 structures each comprising 4 chambers on each side.



These chambers can be linked in the event of flooding; enabling the Libron waters to flow over the canal. Warning, the barriers at the locks 2 access points meant to hinder motorbikes also obstruct cyclists with saddlebags or trailers. Expect to carry your bike/equipment over the barriers for an easier passage.

On reaching Agde (PK231), the round lock makes it possible to navigate the final section of the Canal du Midi or join the Hérault river that leads to the Mediterranean. The bike path is poorly signposted; turn right towards the city centre, cross over the Hérault, turn right after the bridge, continue along the river before turning left onto “chemin de la vallée”. Follow this path to rejoin the canal. If in doubt, the tourist office is on the right at the roundabout.



## 10. Marseillan à Sète



The Onglous lighthouse (PK240) marks the end of the Canal du Midi and the entrance to the Etang de Thau (lagoon). The tramontane wind often creates treacherous sailing conditions and it's at times necessary to wait until the weather improves before continuing. (further information p35) [Vidéo](#).

Unjustly referred to as a pond, it is strictly speaking a lagoon, separated from the sea by a thin sand strip, the lido. The rich biodiversity of this small inland sea has made it famous for its oysters and mussels. The lagoon is connected to the Mediterranean by an inlet (a link between brackish water and the sea) in Marseillan and Sète (Royal Canal).



To cycle to Sète, take the Lido greenway that runs parallel to the sea. The sea and beach beckons. By car, avoid the lagoon by heading north towards Balaruc-les Bains and Bouzigues for tasty seafood specialities.

Thanks to Louis XIV, the sun king in person, who chose the cape of Sète as the link between the Canal du Midi and the Mediterranean. It was inaugurated on July 29, 1666 with jousting tournaments that have become a symbol of the town.

Thanks to the wine trade, the port made Sète's fortune. Its urbanisation and architecture bear witness to this. The port with its cargo ships, liners, boats and fishing boats is the heart of the city. Here, a very special breeze has inspired great writers, poets, singers: Paul Valery, Jean Vilar, Georges Brassens, as well as painters who exhibit in galleries around the world.



## 11. Sète



Sète, a maritime city with lots of character, can be explored on its canals which are the town's real backbone. The canal embodies the life of Sète with its boats moored in the city and rows of restaurants on the quays. It is also a big stage, since it hosts the summer jousting tournaments.

Sète is of course picturesque with neighbourhoods to be discovered on boat trips.

The Upper District with its tall, narrow and colourful houses; the scent of Italy floats in the air.

La Pointe Courte, the lagoon's fishing district with its village atmosphere.

Mont Saint-Clair and its two remarkable viewpoints, ideal for spectacular panoramas.

The Marine Cemetery, with its unparalleled view of the sea "la grande bleue", is the final resting place of the poet Paul Valéry and the playwright Jean Vilar.



Les Pierres Blanches (white stones), the forest on the summit of Saint Clair, is an ideal place from which to admire the sunset over the lagoon and the sea.

The beach is 12 kilometres of sand stretching to Marseillan and bordered by the cycle path. A break for a swim is called for!

Les Halles (covered market) is an important place in the life of Sète. There you will find all types of fish, shellfish, fruits and vegetables. Finally, for an extraordinary panoramic view, finish your walk by climbing the 126 steps of the lighthouse.

Sète is also a cultural city with its numerous summer festivals, museums and galleries dedicated to art in all its forms and to its famous children: Georges Brassens and Paul Valéry.



At the end of your holiday, send us your thoughts and suggestions for improving this guide.



# Discover the Port la Nouvelle branche (Canal de Jonction + Aude + Canal de la Robine)



## Le Somail to Port La Nouvelle



If you choose to head for the Mediterranean via the Jonction and Canal de la Robines, you will see varied and equally magnificent landscapes. Over the 5 km of the Canal de Jonction, umbrella pines line your route. If navigating, you sail the Aude river for 800m before joining the Canal de la Robine. By bike, you need to continue on a country road to get to the Canal de la Robine (marked in green on the geolocation map with link on p 32).

Pause in Narbonne, this city of art and history, founded in 118 BC. In its streets and museums, you will see evidence of its 2500 years of history. Polished cobblestones from the Via Domitia, the Archbishops' Palace, its 8 centuries of history to the birthplace of Charles Trenet.



Before Port La Nouvelle, you go through the Saint Lucie regional nature reserve, a beautifully preserved 825 hectares site: an island, disused salt mine and isolated beach [Vidéo](#).

Reconnect to nature with a short hike on the island. Numerous Narbonnaise Mediterranean region activities are held here in the Narbonnaise Regional Park from April to October.

Port-La-Nouvelle has been attracting holidaymakers since the 19th century. We love looking at the old photos of bathers and the ever present pier and lighthouse. They represent the soul of the village: boats and the good things in life. Tempted by the wide and beautiful fine sandy beach of over 10 km with the Corbières mountain range in the background? Well, just take the plunge!



# Map and geolocation



(\*) : You may have to download Google Maps

Click [HERE](#) to access the interactive map\*

Select for geolocation:

- Routes
- Canal locks
- Activities, restaurants & accommodation
- Points of interest
- Disabled-Friendly providers: accredited "Tourism & Handicap" & PMR Friendly

Find these addresses in the second part of the guide



The channels discovery weekend in pictures, click : [HERE](#)



# A better experience for disabled passengers on our waterways

To facilitate experiences that make a trip unforgettable, Canalfriends is working to promote the use of our waterways by members of the public with disabilities.

This project was conceived in 2018 with Fabienne, Kim and Thierry who are passionate road and small route hikers, using motorized equipment (3 wheel disabled bike or electric all terrain wheelchair).

From 2019, Canalfriends will help identify suitable facilities and providers:

- "Accreditation Tourisme & Handicap" : accreditation tourism and Disability, for one or more disabilities: auditory, mental, motor, visual;
- "PMR Friendly": facilities accessible to people with reduced mobility. The amenities are specified in the adverts so that users can determine how suitable they are for their own needs.



Canalfriends.com features an accommodation and activities category "Disability Friendly Tourism"(Tourisme & Handicap and PMR Friendly), which makes it easy to identify establishments and providers.

The adverts contain information on the disability concerned as well as degree of accessibility.

The addresses in the downloadable guides indicate the providers that are disability friendly. Click the advert's title to access the provider's information.

The geolocation map on page 34 of the also includes a category "Tourisme & Handicap and Disability Friendly". Establishments that are:

-  **Accredited Tourisme & Handicap**
-  **PMR Friendly**

For further details on

- The origins of the Disability Friendly project, Click [HERE](#)
- Thierry's trip on the Canal du Midi and water supply channels: [HERE](#)
- Tourism and Disability Accreditation: [HERE](#)

# Guidelines

Produced in association with VNF as well as the associations and professionals featured in the guide. They are at your disposal should you require further information.

The Canal du Midi was badly affected by the floods in the Aude in late 2018. The steps taken by the VNF teams will assure the start of the tourist season scheduled for mid-March 2019, unless there are unforeseen developments.

For further information [VNF News](#)

## By bike :

### *Along the Canal du Midi's channels*

Conditions vary along the channels:

- Alzeau to Cammazes: good dirt tracks
- Cammazes to St Ferréol: RD629: Caution
- Saint Ferréol at Riat bridge: shared route: slope at 18%, follow safety guidelines on signs. To avoid this incline, continue upstream from Crouzet bridge to Riat bridge.
- Riat bridge to Naurouze: dedicated path becomes shared. In rainy conditions or after rainfall, this section presents difficulties unless you have a mountain or hybrid bike.

Carry water, a puncture repair and first aid kit as well as the Canalfriends guide. Also, in wooded areas, mobile network connection is unpredictable.

### *Along the Canal du Midi, Canal de Jonction and Canal de la Robine:*

The quality and width of the route vary a lot:

- Toulouse to Port Lauragais, Béziers to Portiragnes, Marseillan to Sète: asphalt / greenway
- From Port Lauragais to the Mediterranean and on the Canal de Jonction: the towpaths are dirt tracks, sometimes narrow and sandy. Permission is required from VNF to use them ([www.sudouest.vnf.fr/les-chemins-de-halage-r65.html](http://www.sudouest.vnf.fr/les-chemins-de-halage-r65.html)).

Better to use a mountain or hybrid bike. It is best to be equipped with a mono wheel trailers, given narrowness of some paths. Handbikes and tandems are not recommended on certain sections of the route.

Carry water, a puncture repair and first aid kit (for sores and mosquitoes), as well as the Canalfriends guide.

Temperatures can be high in summer, particularly where the plane trees have been felled. Carry sun protection (cream, clothing, cap) and adjust your travel times, especially if you are travelling with children.



# Guidelines

**Produced in association with VNF as well as the associations and professionals featured in the guide. They are at your disposal should you require further information.**

## **Boat :**

The canal's supply channels are not navigable.

On the canal, allow for half to 1 full day for a boat trip and 3 to 5 days minimum for a boat cruise.

Boats can be hired from professional rental companies; boat licence not required.

Details on boat trips and boat rental company addresses (cf addresses). The Canalfriends team can also help you find the offer that best meets your need.

On p39, 40 & 42, the locks and services on the canals (from a VNF survey that we try to keep updated).

Caution is required when crossing the Thau lagoon: Sailing the lagoon is forbidden when the wind exceeds 26 knots.

Always read VNF's guidelines for navigating the canal and the Etang de Thau. (VNF's contact details below).

Further information:

- [The essential guide for boaters](#)
- [Rules and regulations](#)

## **Car, motorhomes and motorbikes:**

Motorized vehicles are forbidden on towpaths.

The sites mentioned in this guide are accessible by road.

Parking: there is little parking near the canal's water supply channels. The exceptions are the outskirts of Cammazes, Saint Ferréol lake and museum and at Naurouze.

## **Canoë :**

The canal is not really suitable for canoeing. Sharing the waterway with boats can be dangerous and you would have to get out of the canal at every lock; it could be exhausting.

Canoeing is best carried out on nearby rivers, such as Aude.

Find details of canoe hire companies in this guide.

If you are using your own equipment, make sure you find out the water levels and weather conditions beforehand by contacting the hire companies in this guide.

### **Best practices for hikers:**

- In the park, minimise your footprint and avoid damaging the natural surroundings;
- Do not litter the park or the villages (pavements and drains). All waste and litter will end up in the rivers and sea;
- Take a bag with you for your waste;
- Do not light fires;
- Do not make too much noise, respect the wildlife and other users.



## Itinerary (rough guidelines)

Channel / river	Places of interest GPS	Distance (walking, cycling, car)	Altitude	Note
<b>Mountain Channel</b>  (Rigole de la Montagne)	Prise d'Alzeau Latitude : 43°23'46,0" N Longitude : 2°13'37,7" E	0	654 m	Accessible by bike and on foot. No parking facilities
	Foncroisette Latitude : 43°23'38,1" N Longitude : 2°09'53,6" E	+ 13 km / + 16 km	630 m	No parking facilities
	Lampy lake and dam Latitude : 43°23'51,5" N Longitude : 2°10'16,8" E	+1 km /+ 1,5 km	646 m	Option. Slight difficulties via the slope leading to Lampy. No parking facilities
	Le Conquet Latitude : 43°23'48,3" N Longitude : 2°07'56,1" E	+4 km/ +11,6km	620 m	Start of the channel built by Vauban
	Vauban's Vault Latitude : 43°24'35,0" N Longitude : 2°04'49,8" E	+7 Km/ +6km	600 m	Have a torch to help you cross on foot or bypass it. Parking in the Cammazes village
<b>Laudot</b>	Laudot Leap 'Saut du Laudot' Latitude : 43°24'34,4" N Longitude : 2°4'37,4" E	+0,3 km	594 m	From the Saut du Laudot, return to the village and head to Saint Ferréol lake via the RD629
	St Ferréol lake/Hermitage Latitude : 43°26'04,7" N Longitude : 2°02'24,8" E	+6 km/ +6km		Several car parks around the lake
	Canal Museum Latitude : 43°26'13,4" N Longitude : 2°01'10,4" E	+2 km/+2km	342 m	Car and bike parking
	Start of the Rigole de la Plaine's cycle path Latitude : 43°26'18,924" N Longitude : 2°01'7,86" E			Difficulty at the start with a slope of 18%, so wear helmet and check your brakes...
<b>Plain Channel</b>  (Rigole de la Plaine)	Riat bridge Latitude : 43°27'04,3" N Longitude : 2°00'18,6" E	+2,8 ? / +2,8km	224 m	Riquet Statue . No parking facilities
	Les Thoumazes Latitude : 43°25'48" N Longitude : 1°57'14,2" E	+6,7 km ?/ +6,7km	217 m	No parking facilities
	Lanclas lake Latitude : 43°25'36,3" N Longitude : 1°53'50,3" E	+7 km/+7km	209 m	No parking facilities
	Naurouze Latitude : 43°21'08,7" N Longitude : 1°49'25,9" E	+18 km/+15km	190 m	No parking facilities
<b>Canal du Midi</b>	Naurouze to Toulouse	52km	132 m	
	Naurouze to Sète	208km	0	



# Canal du Midi Locks

N° / Name / City / km
Port de l'Embouchure /Toulouse/0km
1. Béarnais /Toulouse / 1,1 km
2. Minimés / Toulouse / 2 km
3. Bayard / Toulouse / 3,6 km
4. Castanet / Castanet-Tolosan / 15,7 km
5. Vic / Castanet-Tolosan / 17,4 km
6. Montgiscard / Montgiscard / 24,9 km
7. Aygues-Vives /Aygues-Vives / 28,1 km
8. Sanglier / Aygues-Vives / 29,6 km
9. Négra / Montesquieu-Lauragais / 33,3 km
10. Laval / Gardouch / 37,5 km
11. Gardouch / Gardouch / 38,9 km
12. Renneville / Renneville / 43 km
13. Encassan / Avignonet-Lauragais / 45,9 km
14. Emborrel / Avignonet-Lauragais / 47,5 km
15. L'Océan / Montferrand / 51,6 km
16. La Méditerranée / Mas-Saintes-Puelles / 56,8 km
17. Roc / Mas-Saintes-Puelles / 57,5 km
18. Laurens / Mas-Saintes-Puelles / 58,7 km
19. La Domergue / Mas-Saintes-Puelles / 59,7 km
20. La Planque / Mas-Saintes-Puelles / 60,9 km
21. Saint-Roch / Castelnaudary / 65,4 km
22. Gay / Castelnaudary / 67,1 km
23. Vivier / Saint-Martin-Lalande / 68,7 km
24. Guillermin / Saint-Martin-Lalande / 69,1 km
25. Saint-Sernin / Saint-Martin-Lalande / 69,7 km
26. Guerre / Saint-Martin-Lalande / 70,6 km
27. La Peyruque / Saint-Martin-Lalande / 71,7 km
28. La Criminelle / Saint-Martin-Lalande / 72,2 km
29. Tréboul / Pexiora / 73,6 km
30. Villepinte / Villepinte / 77,4 km
31. Sauzens / Bram / 79 km

N° / Name / City /km
32. Bram / Bram / 80,3 km
33. Bêteille / Montréal /85,9 km
34. Villesèque /Caux-et-Sauzens / 93,4 km
35. Lalande / Carcassonne / 98,2 km
36. Herminis / Carcassonne / 98,5 km
37. La Douce / Carcassonne / 99,9 km
38. Carcassonne / Carcassonne / 105,5 km
39. Saint-Jean / Carcassonne / 108 km
40. Fresquel Double / Carcassonne / 108,8 km
41. Fesquel Simple / Carcassonne / 109 km
42. L'Evêque / Villedubert / 112,6 km
43. Villedubert / Villedubert /113,4 km
44. Trèbes / Trèbes / 118 km
45. Marseillette / Marseillette / 127,2 km
46. Fonfile / Blomac / 130,4 km
47. Saint-Martin / Blomac / 131,6 km
48. L'Aiguille / Puichéric / 133,4 km
49. Puichéric / Puichéric / 136,4 km
50. Jouarres / Azille / 142,7 km
51. Homps / Homps / 146,4 km
52. Ognon / Olonzac / 147,1 km
53. Pechlaurier / Argens-Minervois / 149,8 km
54. Argens / Argens-Minervois / 152,3 km
55. Fonseranes / Béziers / 206,6 km
56. L'Orb / Béziers / 208 km
57. Béziers / Béziers / 208,4 km
58. Arièges / Villeneuve-Lès-Béziers / 212,5 km
59. Villeneuve / Villeneuve-Lès-Béziers / 212,8 km
60. Portiragnes / Portiragnes / 218,3 km
61. Agde / Agde / 231,4 km
62. Prades / Agde / 232,9 km
63. Bagnas / Agde / 235,3 km
Phare des Onglous / 240 km



## Services on the Canal du Midi

City	Services
Toulouse Port St Sauveur	Rings, electricity, water, discharge station, water recycling / bilge, bins, fuel, port office, internet access, shower, laundry, ramp, 24-hour sanitary access, bike facilities
Ramonville Port Sud	Rings, electricity, water, unloading station, bins, fuel, port authority, WC, shower, laundry, ramp
Ramonville Port technique	Electricity, water, water recycling/bilge, bins, port authority, WC, shower
Montesquieu Lauragais	Rings, electricity, water, bins, port authority, WC, shower
Gardouch	Rings, discharge station, bins
Emborrel	Water fountain, WC
Avignonet Lauragais	Rings, electricity, water, bins, port authority, internet access, WC, ramp
Labastide d'Anjou/ Le Ségala	Water fountain, WC
Castelnaudary	Rings, electricity, water, discharge station, bins, fuel, port authority, internet access, shower, laundry
Castelnaudary Le Boat	Electricity, water, water recycling/bilge, bins, fuel, port authority, internet access, WC, shower
Bram	Rings, electricity, water
Carcassonne	Rings, electricity, water, discharge station, bins, port authority, internet access, WC, shower, laundry
Trèbes	Electricity, water, water recycling/bilge, bins, WC, shower, laundry, ramp
La Redorte	Rings, electricity, water, bins, port authority, internet access, WC, shower, laundry, ramp, water fountain
Homps	Rings, electricity, water, bins, port authority, internet access, WC, shower
Homps (Le Boat/canalous)	Electricity, water, discharge station, water recycling/bilge, bins, port authority, internet access, WC, shower, laundry
Argens	Rings, electricity, water, bins, port authority, internet access, WC, shower
Le Somail	Rings, electricity, water, discharge station, water recycling/bilge, bins, internet access, WC, shower,
Port La Robine	Rings, electricity, water, bins, fuel, port authority, internet access, WC, shower, laundry, ramp
Salleles d'Aude	Rings, water
Capestang	Rings, electricity, water, bins, port authority, internet access, WC, shower, laundry, ramp
Poilhes	Rings, electricity, water, bins
Colombiers	Rings, electricity, water, bins, port authority, internet access, WC, shower, laundry, ramp
Béziers	Rings, electricity, water, bins, port authority
Villeneuve lès Béziers	WC, water fountain
Portiragnes	Rings, electricity, water, water recycling/bilge, port authority, bins, fuel, WC, shower
Vias	Electricity, water, bins
Agde	Rings, electricity, water, water recycling/bilge, bins

(\*) : « Water » = boats bollards, « water fountain » = free water point for walkers





## Markets



City	Day & location
Toulouse (31)	Tuesday morning : Square Charles de Gaulle /capitole – organic Sunday morning : marché de Saint Aubin – place Saint Aubin Tuesday to Sunday morning : marché Cristal – Bld de Strasbourg Tuesday to Sunday morning: marché Victor Hugo – Place V. Hugo
Villefranche Lauragais (31)	Friday morning
Castelnaudary (11)	Monday morning: place de la République Saturday morning : place de Verdun
Carcassonne (11)	Saturday morning : place Carnot
Trèbes (11)	Sunday morning : les Arènes
Capestang (34)	Wednesday & Sunday morning : place Jean Jaurès
Colombiers (34)	Wednesday morning : place du Illeme Millénaire
Béziers (34)	Tuesday & Thursday mornings : fruits & vegetables :allées Paul Riquet Wednesday evenings : farmers market : place Jean Jaurès Friday morning : food : place David d'Angers. General : place du 14 Juillet. Flower market : allées Paul Riquet Every morning except Mondays : covered market, place Pierre Sépard
Villeneuve Lès Béziers (34)	Tuesday & Thursday & Saturday morning : place Michel Solans
Portiragnes (34)	Sunday morning : avenue de l'Egalité
Agde (34)	Thursday morning : town centre
Marseillan (34)	Dailly (mornings) : allée André Fillol
Sète (34)	Morning (7j/7) : centre ville



# Locks, services and markets on the Canal de Jonction & Canal de la Robine

## Locks on Canal de Jonction

N° / Name / City / km
1. Cesse/ Sallèles-d’Aude
2. Truilhas /Sallèles-d’Aude
3. Empare / Sallèles-d’Aude
4. Argeliers / Sallèles-d’Aude
5. Saint-Cyr / Sallèles-d’Aude
6. Sallèles / Sallèles-d’Aude
7. Gailhousty / Sallèles-d’Aude

## Locks on Canal de la Robine

N° / Name / City / km
1. Moussoulens / Moussan
2. Raonel / Narbonne
3. Gua / Narbonne
4. Narbonne / Narbonne
5. Mandirac / Narbonne
6. Sainte Lucie / Port-La-Nouvelle

## Services on the Canal de Jonction & Canal de la Robine

City	Services
Sallèles d’Aude	Rings, water, discharge station, bins, fuel, port office, WC, shower, laundry, ramp
Narbonne	Electricity, water, water recycling/bilge, bins, port office, WC, shower, careening
Ecluse Sainte Lucie	Water fountain, WC
Port La Nouvelle	Rings, electricity, water, bins, port office, WC, shower



## Markets on the Canal de Jonction & Canal de la Robine

City	Day & location,
Narbonne (11)	Saturday morning, place du forum – Marché bio Daily 7j/7 : Les halles 1 boulevard Docteur Ferroul Thursday & Sunday morning : in front of les halles – general, no food
Port la Nouvelle (11)	Wednesday and Saturday morning, place Léon Blum Monday & Thursday morning, 1 June to 14 septembre, avenue de la mer Wednesday 18h till midnight June to Septembre, place Saint Charles: regional products and arts and crafts



# Activities

## Boat : cruise

### Aude



Carcassonne

[Mirage Péniche hôtel](#)

Ecluse d'Herminis - 28 rue du Canal 11000 Carcassonne

T : +33 (0)6 88 11 94 75 - info@mirage-hotes.fr [Website](#)

## Boat : boat trips

### Haute-Garonne



Toulouse

[L'Occitania](#) -10% : code [Canalfriends](#)

Bateau Restaurant : face au 4 Bld Bonrepos 31000 Toulouse

T : +33 (0)5 61 257 257 - infos@toulouse-croisieres.com [Website](#)



Toulouse

[Les Bateaux Toulousains](#)

108, av Raymond Naves 31500 Toulouse

T : +33 (0)5 61 80 22 26 - contact@bateauxtoulousains.com [Website](#)

### Hérault



Agde

[Les Bateaux du Soleil](#)

6 rue André Chassefières 34300 Agde

T : +33 (0)4 67 94 08 79 - lesbateauxdusoleil@wanadoo.fr [Website](#)



Béziers

[Les Bateaux du Soleil](#)

Ecluses de Fonsérannes 34500 Béziers

T : +33 (0)4 67 94 08 79 lesbateauxdusoleil@wanadoo.fr [Website](#)

## Boat : hire boat

### Aude



Argens Minervois

[Locaboat](#)

Port Occitanie 11200 Argens-Minervois

T : +33 (0)3 86 91 72 72 - info@locaboat.com [Website](#)



Bram

[Locaboat](#)

Port de Bram 1150 Bram

T : +33 (0)4.68.13.02.38 info@locaboat.com [Website](#)



Carcassonne

[Les Canalous](#)

15, quai Riquet 11000 Carcassonne

T : +33 (0)3 85 53 76 74 commercial@lescanalous.fr [Website](#)



Homps

[Les Canalous](#) PMR Friendly

Port Minervois 11200 Homps

T : +33 (0)3 85 53 76 74 - commercial@lescanalous.fr [Website](#)



# Activities

## Boat : hire boat

### Aude



Saint Nazaire

[Nicols](#)

Allée de la Glacière - Le Port du Somail 11 120 Saint Nazaire

T : +33 (0)2 41 56 46 56 - nicols@nicols.com [Website](#)

### Haute Garonne



Avignonet-Lauragais

[NaviCanal](#) PMR Friendly

Aire de Port Lauragais 31290 Avignonet-Lauragais

T : + 33(0) 6 75 28 60 83 - info@navicanal.com [Website](#)



Avignonet-Lauragais

[Nicols](#)

Aire de Port Lauragais 31290 Avignonet-Lauragais

T : +33 (0)2 41 56 46 56 - nicols@nicols.com [Website](#)



Montesquieu-Lauragais

[Locaboat](#)

10 rue de Villeneuve - Ecluse de Negra 31450 Montesquieu-Lauragais

T : +33 (0)3 86 91 72 72 - info@locaboat.com [Website](#)

### Hérault



Agde

[Les Canalous](#)

Bassin de l'écluse ronde - Route de Bessan 34300 Agde

T : +33 (0)3 85 53 76 74 commercial@lescanalous.fr [Website](#)



Colombiers

[Les Canalous](#)

Port de Plaisance 34440 Colombiers

T : +33 (0)3 85 53 76 74 - commercial@lescanalous.fr [Website](#)

### All waterways



[Canalfriends](#)

Information and advice on cruises & boat hire

T : +33 (0)5 53 96 72 50 - contact@canalfriends.com [Website](#)

## Boat: port & marina / other services

### Aude



Castelnaudary

[Harbour master's office - Castelnaudary Tourisme](#) Tourisme & Handicap

3 quai du Port 11300 Castelnaudary

T : +33 (0)4 68 23 69 09 - capitainerie@castelnaudary-tourisme.com [Website](#)

### Haute Garonne



Toulouse

[Port Saint Sauveur](#) PMR Friendly

7 Port Saint Sauveur 31000 Toulouse

T : +33 (0)5 61 22 22 17 - port-saintsauveur@mairie-toulouse.fr [Website](#)



# Activities

## Boat: port & marina / other services

### Hérault



Capestang

[Port de Capestang](#) PMR Friendly

Maison cantonnière- Quai Elie Amouroux 34310 Capestang

T: +33 (0)4 67 37 85 29 - capitainerie@tourismecanaldumidi.fr [Website](#)



Poilhes

[Port de Poilhes](#)

Maison cantonnière - Quai Elie Amouroux 34310 Capestang

T: +33 (0)4 67 37 85 29 - capitainerie@tourismecanaldumidi.fr [Website](#)

### Canal des 2 mers



[Le Tourmente](#)

Waterways transport

31520 Ramonville

tél : 06 12 94 47 15 - lequipage31@gmail.com [Website](#)



[Canalfriends BoatStop](#)

Learn about navigation whilst accompanying a boat owner

contact@canalfriends.com [Website](#)

## Canoës

### Aude



Puichéric

[Eaurizon](#)

51 route Minervoise 11700 Puichéric

T: +33 (0)4 68 49 99 82 - contact@eaurizon.eu [Website](#)

## Cycling: hire bike & services

### Aude



Castelnaudary

[Paulette – Bike hire](#)

88-108 avenue Arnaut-Vidal 11400 Castelnaudary

Tél : +33 (0)5 82 28 05 10 - contact@paulette.bike [Website](#)



Lacombe

[A La Prise d'Alzeau](#) PMR Friendly

Restaurant & location de vélos : 11310 Lacombe

T : +33 (0)4 68 25 46 94 - prisedalzeau@gmail.com [Website](#)



Narbonne

[Paulette - Bike hire](#)

11 boulevard Condorcet 11100 Narbonne

Tél : +33 (0)5 82 28 05 10 - contact@paulette.bike [Website](#)

### Haute Garonne



Ramonville Sainte Agne

[Avélo 31 – Location de vélos](#)

Rue Jacques Prévert 31520 Ramonville Ste Agne

T : +33 (0)6 77 03 24 87 - contact@avelo31.fr [Website](#)



# Activities

## Cycling: hire bike & services

### Haute-Garonne



Toulouse  
[Bagafrance – Trailers](#)  
26 rue Saint Bruno 31000 Toulouse  
T : +33 (0)6 41 19 20 11- reservation.midi@bagafrance.com [Website](#)



Toulouse  
[Paulette – Bike hire](#)  
58 bd des Minimes 31200 Toulouse.  
T : +33 (0)5 82 28 05 10 - contact@paulette.bike [Website](#)



Toulouse  
[Pierre qui Roule Toulouse](#) PMR Friendly  
2bis rue Boyer Fonfrède 31000 Toulouse  
T : +33 (0)9 54 15 01 30 atelier-toulouse@pierrequiroule.fr [Website](#)

### Hérault



Béziers  
[Paulette Bike hire](#)  
83bis avenue du Président Wilson 34500 Béziers.  
Tél : +33 (0)5 82 28 05 10 - contact@paulette.bike [Website](#)



Cap d'Agde  
[Paulette Bike hire](#)  
8 avenue des Sergents 34300 Cap d'Agde  
Tél : +33 (0)5 82 28 05 10 - contact@paulette.bike [Website](#)



Sète  
[Website](#)  
9 rue de Madrid 34200 Sète  
Tél : +33 (0)5 82 28 05 10 - contact@paulette.bike [Website](#)

## Local food & grocery stores

### Aude



Argens-Minervois  
[La Fille du Midi - Argens](#)  
Base Loacaboat - Port Occitanie 11200 Argens-Minervois  
T : +33 (0)4 68 72 47 09 lafillemidiumidi@gmail.com [Facebook](#)



Bram  
[La Fille du Midi - Bram](#)  
Base Locaboat – Port de Bram 11150 Bram  
T : +33 (0)4 68 72 47 09 lafillemidiumidi@gmail.com [Facebook](#)



Carcassonne  
[La Fille du Midi - Carcassonne](#)  
Epicèrie fine et décoration : 76, rue Trivalle 11000 Carcassonne  
T : +33 (0)4 68 72 47 09 lafillemidiumidi@gmail.com [Facebook](#)



# Activities

## Local food & grocery stores

### Aude



Castelnaudary

[Chez Christophe](#) PMR Friendly

Fromagerie, épicerie fine : 19 place de la République 11400 Castelnaudary

T: +33 (0)4 68 60 35 75 [contact@chezchristophe11.com](mailto:contact@chezchristophe11.com) [Website](#)



Castelnaudary

[Les Jardins de Lucien](#)

Légumes de saison : 1460 Chemin St Roch 11400 Castelnaudary

T : 06 70 72 68 53 [wilthe@hotmail.fr](mailto:wilthe@hotmail.fr)



Mirepeisset

[Domaine de l'Herbe Sainte](#) PMR Friendly

Producteur de vin : Route de Ginestas 11120 Mirepeisset

T : 04 68 46 30 37 [herbe.sainte@wanadoo.fr](mailto:herbe.sainte@wanadoo.fr) [Website](#)

### Haute Garonne



Avignonet Lauragais

[Maison de La Haute Garonne](#) Local food : PMR friendly

Aire de Port Lauragais 31290 Avignonet-Lauragais

T : +33 (0)5 61 81 69 46 [mhg@tourismehg.com](mailto:mhg@tourismehg.com) [Website](#)



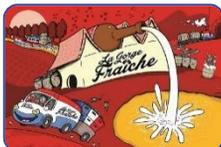
Montesquieu Lauragais

[La Fille du Midi - Négra](#)

Base de Locaboat 10 rue de Villeneuve Ecluse de Negra 31450 Montesquieu-Lauragais

T : +33 (0)4 68 72 47 09 [lafilledumidi@gmail.com](mailto:lafilledumidi@gmail.com) [Facebook](#)

### Hérault



Béziers

[La Gorge Fraîche](#)

craft brewery : 2 avenue Joseph Lazare 34500 Béziers

Tél : +33 (0)4 34 45 00 63 [contact@lespiliersdusud.fr](mailto:contact@lespiliersdusud.fr) [Website](#)

## Tourist offices, heritage sites

### Aude



Carcassonne

[Acampo – Animations diaporamas](#)

L'Horto 2, rue du Général Laperrine 11000 Carcassonne

T : +33 (0)6 07 04 44 66 [acampo11@orange.fr](mailto:acampo11@orange.fr) [Website](#)



Castelnaudary

[Castelnaudary Tourisme](#) Tourisme & Handicap

Tourist office : Place de la République 11400 Castelnaudary

T : +33 (0)4 68 23 05 73 [accueil@castelnaudary-tourisme.com](mailto:accueil@castelnaudary-tourisme.com) [Website](#)



Montferrand

[Pavillon de Naurouze](#)

Information desk : 285 route de Ségala 11320 Montferrand

T : +33 (0)4 68 23 05 73 [accueil@castelnaudary-tourisme.com](mailto:accueil@castelnaudary-tourisme.com) [Website](#)



# Activities

## Tourist offices, heritage sites

### Haute Garonne



Avignonet Lauragais

[Maison de La Haute Garonne](#) Tourist office: PMR Friendly - Exhibition : Tourisme & Handicap  
Aire de Port Lauragais 31290 Avignonet-Lauragais  
T : +33 (0)5 61 81 69 46 mhg@tourismehg.com [Website](#)



Bonrepos Riquet

[Domaine Bonrepos Riquet](#)  
Place Pierre-Paul Riquet 31590 Bonrepos Riquet  
T : +33 (0)5 67 16 16 18 visitesdomaineriquet@hotmail.com [Website](#)



Montlaur

[Ekoumène Cartographie](#)  
12 Rue de la Comtesse Jeanne 31450 Montlaur  
T : +33 (0)5 34 66 55 18 canalriquet@orange.fr [Website](#)



Revel

[Le RESERVOIR](#) Tourisme & Handicap  
Boulevard Pierre Paul Riquet 31250 Revel  
T : +33 (0)5 61 80 57 57 contact@museecanaldumidi.fr [Blog](#)



Toulouse

[Espace EDF Bazacle](#) Tourisme & Handicap  
11, quai Saint-Pierre 31000 Toulouse  
T : 05 62 30 16 00 visites.edf.bazacle@manatour.fr [Website](#)

### Hérault



Béziers

[Béziers Méditerranée](#) Tourisme & Handicap  
Maison du Site Canal du Midi : 9 écluses de Fonseranes 34 500 Béziers  
T : +33 (0)4 99 41 36 36 accueil.tourisme@beziers-mediterranee.com [Website](#)



Capestang

[Office de Tourisme du Canal du Midi au Saint-Chinian](#) PMR Friendly  
Maison cantonnière : Quai Elie Amouroux 34310 Capestang  
T : +33 (0)4 67 37 85 29 accueil@tourismecanaldumidi.fr [Website](#)

### Canal des 2 mers



[Le Tourmente](#)

Exhibition 31520 Ramonville  
T : 06 12 94 47 15 lequipage31@gmail.com [Website](#)

## Transport

### Haute Garonne



Toulouse

[Bagafrance – Trailers](#)  
26 rue Saint Bruno 31000 Toulouse  
T : +33 (0)6 41 19 20 11 reservation.midi@bagafrance.com [Website](#)



# Restaurants & cafés

## Restaurants & cafés

### Aude



Carcassonne

[Chez Fred](#) Tourisme & Handicap

31 boulevard Omer Sarraut 11000 Carcassonne

T : +33 (0)4 68 72 02 23 renaissancedu11@outlook.com [Website](#)



La Redorte

[La Table de Riquet](#) Tourisme & Handicap

11 Port La Fabrique 11700 La Redorte

T : +33 (0)4 68 90 67 64 latablederiquet@gmail.com [Website](#)



Labastide d'Anjou

[Le Relais de Riquet](#)

12 esplanade du Canal - Le Ségala 11320 Labastide d'Anjou

T : +33 (0)4 68 60 16 87 [Website](#)



Lacombe

[A La Prise d'Alzeau](#)

11310 Lacombe

T : +33 (0)4 68 25 46 94 prisedalzeau@gmail.com [Website](#)



Mas Saintes Puelles

[La Bonne Planque- Restauration rapide](#)

Chemin de la Planque 11400 Mas Saintes Puelles

T : +33 (0)6 36 78 72 48 [Website](#)



Montferrand

[Le Pas de Naurouze](#) PMR Friendly

80 route de Ségala 11320 Montferrand

T : +33 (0)4 68 23 31 15 Naurouze-restauration@orange.fr [Website](#)



Trèbes

[Le Moulin de Trèbes](#)

2, Rue du Moulin 11800 Trèbes

T : +33 (0)4 68 78 97 57 contact@lemoulindetrebes.com [Website](#)

### Haute Garonne



Avignonet Lauragais

[Restaurant La Dinée & Midi Pile Cafétaria](#) PMR Friendly

Aire de Port Lauragais - Autoroute A61 - 31290 Avignonet Lauragais

T : +33 (0)5 61 27 14 50 contact@ladinee.com [Website](#)



Toulouse

[L'Occitania](#) -10% : code Canalfriends

Bateau Restaurant : Face au 4 Bld Bonrepos 31000 Toulouse

T : +33 (0)5 61 257 257 infos@toulouse-croisieres.com [Website](#)



# Restaurants & cafés / Accommodation

## Restaurants & cafés

### Hérault



Béziers

#### [La Gorge Fraîche](#)

Café - craft brewery : 2 avenue Joseph Lazare 34500 Béziers

Tél : +33 (0)4 34 45 00 63 [contact@lespiliersdusud.fr](mailto:contact@lespiliersdusud.fr) [Website](#)

### Tarn



Les Cammazes

#### [Le Salon de Vauban](#) PMR Friendly

Culture et gastronomie : 1 Chemin d'en Bosc 81540 Les Cammazes

T : +33 (0)5 63 74 26 34 [lesalondevauban@gmail.com](mailto:lesalondevauban@gmail.com) [Website](#)



Les Cammazes

#### [Snack bar de La Rigole](#)

Route du Barrage 81540 Les Cammazes

T : +33 (0)5 63 73 28 99 [campings.occitanie@orange.fr](mailto:campings.occitanie@orange.fr) [Website](#)

## Accommodation

### Aude



Azille

#### [Résidence du Château de Jouarres](#) PMR Friendly

Hameau de Jouarres 11700 Azille

T : +33 (0)4 68 40 45 00 [residence.chateau.jouarres@orange.fr](mailto:residence.chateau.jouarres@orange.fr) [Website](#)



Carcassonne

#### [Gît'Ostal](#) Tourisme & Handicap

Chemin de Félines 11100 Carcassonne

T : +33 (0)4 68 72 53 79 [vacances@gitostal.com](mailto:vacances@gitostal.com) [Website](#)



Carcassonne

#### [Mirage Péniche hôtel](#)

Ecluse d'Herminis - 28 rue du Canal 11000 Carcassonne

T : +33 (0)6 88 11 94 75 - [info@mirage-hotes.fr](mailto:info@mirage-hotes.fr) [Website](#)



Castelnaudary

#### [Chambre d'hôtes Aux Coquelicots](#)

3 rue Louis David 11400 Castelnaudary.

T : +33 (0)6 11 33 26 03 [gbourdarie@gmail.com](mailto:gbourdarie@gmail.com)



Castelnaudary

#### [Maison d'hôtes le Grand Bassin](#) PMR Friendly

301 quai Edmond Combes 11400 Castelnaudary

T : +33 (0)7 67 95 35 88 [legrandbassin@outlook.fr](mailto:legrandbassin@outlook.fr) [Website](#)



La Redorte

#### [Chambres d'hôtes La Marelle](#)

19 Avenue du Minervois 11700 La Redorte

T : +33 (0)4 68 91 59 30 [reservations@chambres-lamarelle.com](mailto:reservations@chambres-lamarelle.com) [Website](#)



# Accommodation

## Accommodation

### Aude



Mas Saint Puelles

[La Bonne Planque - b&b](#)

Chemin de la Planque 11400 Mas Saintes Puelles

T : +33 (0)6 36 78 72 48 labonneplanquecanaldumidi@gmail.com [Website](#)



Mas Saintes Puelles

[La Bonne Planque - Le Yacht](#)

Chemin de la Planque 11400 Mas Saintes Puelles

T : +33 (0)6 36 78 72 48 labonneplanquecanaldumidi@gmail.com [Website](#)



Mas Saintes Puelles

[La Domergue - Le gîte](#)

11400 Mas Saintes Puelles

T : +33 (0)6 36 78 72 48 labonneplanquecanaldumidi@gmail.com [Website](#)



Mirepeisset

[Domaine de l'Herbe Sainte](#) PMR Friendly

11120 Mirepeisset

T : 04 68 46 30 37 herbe.sainte@wanadoo.fr [Website](#)



Narbonne

[Centre International de Séjour](#) Tourisme & Handicap

Place Roger Salengro 11100 Narbonne

T : +33 (0)4 68 32 01 00 contact@cis-narbonne.com [Website](#)



Villesèquelande

[Apartment O'Canal](#)

Pont du Canal 11170 Villesèquelande

T : +33 (0)6 24 08 00 48 ocanaldumidi@gmail.com

### Haute Garonne



Avignonet Lauragais

[Relais Fasthôtel](#) PMR Friendly

Aire de Port Lauragais - Autoroute des 2 mers /A61 - 31290 Avignonet Lauragais

T : +33 (0)5 61 27 17 12 contact@ladinee.com [Website](#)



Toulouse

[Péniche Kairos](#)

2 Boulevard Montplaisir 31400 Toulouse

T : +33 (0)6 52 97 20 10 gauthiergallician@gmail.com



Vaudreuille

[Camping en Salvan](#) 4\*

Route du lac de Saint Ferréol 31250 Vaudreuille

T : +33 (0)5 61 83 55 95 campingensalvan@orange.fr [website](#)



# Accommodation & resources

## Accommodation

### Hérault



Béziers

[Domaine du Manteau Bleu](#)

1451 Route de Narbonne d 609 34500 Béziers

T : +33 (0)6 37 54 01 26 marielle.goebel@hotmail.fr [Website](#)



Villeneuve-les Béziers

[Maison d'hôtes La Maison du Canal](#)

34 boulevard Pasteur 34420 Villeneuve-lés-Béziers

T : +33 (0)4 30 41 24 21 maisonducanal@sfr.fr [Website](#)

### Tarn



Les Cammazes

[Camping de La Rigole 4\\*](#)

Route du Barrage 81540 Les Cammazes

T : +33 (0)5 63 73 28 99 campings.occitanie@orange.fr [Website](#)

## Resources



[Canalriends Waterways bookshop](#)



VNF

[Archives des canaux du Midi](#)

2 Port Saint Etienne 31000 Toulouse

samuel.vannier@vnf.fr [Website](#)



VNF

[Direction Territoriale Sud Ouest](#)

2 Port Saint Etienne 31000 Toulouse

T : +33 (0)5 61 36 24 24 [Website](#)



## A community of waterways enthusiasts and professionals

Did your stay give you the desire to come back again?

[Download our other free e-guides in French and English.](#)

The e-guide "Garonne canal, Garonne river & Gironde estuary" provides an overview of the Canal des 2 Mers to Atlantic.

The e-guide "The Leyre to the bassin d'Arcachon" will help you discover this small coastal river, sometimes referred to as the "Little Amazon" that transforms into a delta as it flows into the bassin d'Arcachon. A map shows you how to get there via the cycle path from the Garonne Canal.



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### For further information :

Website : <http://www.canalfriends.com/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/canalfriends.fr/>

Instagram : [https://www.instagram.com/canal\\_friends/](https://www.instagram.com/canal_friends/)

Twitter : [https://twitter.com/Canal\\_Friends](https://twitter.com/Canal_Friends)

### Contact us:

contact@canalfriends.com

Tél : 05 53 96 72 50

Rivière Développement /Canalfriends is a member of :



Join Canalfriends, the community of waterways professionals and enthusiasts.

We can help you plan your waterways holiday

- Discover BoatStop by accompanying boat owners on their normal journeys and learn the techniques that will help you sail serenely with a group or on your own.
- Take part in our waterways discovery events and experience the passion of enthusiasts and professionals.
- Get free advice from our team in planning your waterways vacation with friends, family or on your own. Find the best offers for you.

Tourism professionals; list your accommodation and activity on our bilingual platform.



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