

Walking in Provence - East

Update received from reader Mick Borroff, January 2016. Thanks to Mick.

Note: Mick walked this walk - Route 19, on 22nd October 2015.

The route described by Janette has recently been upgraded with an improved path and additional railings in place along all of the Verdon Canal wall. The old ladders adjacent to the tunnel have been replaced by metal stairs. The small hut beside the tunnel entrance now houses a series of fascinating information boards about the canal.

The direct ascent to the Chapelle Ste-Maxime from the beginning of the Vallonet de Ste-Maxime described under the main route has been permanently closed by the authorities for safety reasons due to severe stonefall danger. The line of this path forking left has been blocked by trees at the bottom but there was no signposting of the closure here. Once the chapel was reached, the closure notice was displayed beside the line of the former route and a second notice attached to the signpost.

The route now continues up the Vallonet de Ste-Maxime and circles around the south side of the chapel to join Janette's alternative route. The new route is clearly waymarked and well signposted. This adds about 1.2km to the original main route.

The description on page 163/164 could be modified to read:

"Bear left away from the edge of the gorge into a narrow bushy valley called the Vallonet de Ste-Maxime, where you glimpse tall cliffs each side. About 5 mins later, ignore a blocked former path on the left and continue up the valley through boxwood and oak following the red/white markings of the GR99. The path traverses above the Ravin de Ste-Maxime and after about a kilometre reaches a T junction. Turn left as signposted to Chapelle Ste-Maxime. In another 200m, turn left at a signpost at a second T junction where the alternative route avoiding the tunnel is joined and followed on a narrow footpath with the gorge on the right, until you reach the Chapelle Ste-Maxime (2hrs 5mins).

Return the same way following the yellow waymarked path signposted to Carrefour de Ste-Maxim/Quinson back to the signpost at the junction with the GR99, so the markings are red/white instead of yellow (2hrs 20mins).

Follow the sign ahead to the Carrefour de la Draille des Vaches and Quinson. The wide path still climbs ..."

NB Add 20 mins to all subsequent timings.

Updates received from reader Phil Dover, November 2015

Walk 9: Esterel Circuit

There was no sign marking the path along the Ravin des Trois Terms and Lac Ecureuil, and the top third is badly washed out.

Note from the updaters of this guide: It sounds as if this section is no longer maintained, probably due to repeated flooding. It is therefore best to use the shorter route from point 1 to point 3.

Walk 19: Lower Verdon Gorge

The start of the narrow path from the Vallone de Ste-Maxime has no markings now and have been obstructed with brushwood and at the top by the chapel there is a "Sentier interdit" notice but we didn't find it difficult to do.

Note from the updaters of this guide: This part of the route was flood damaged some years back and may be unstable. The tourist office does not want to signpost it until it has been fully secured.

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Updates from [Walking in Provence - East](#)

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