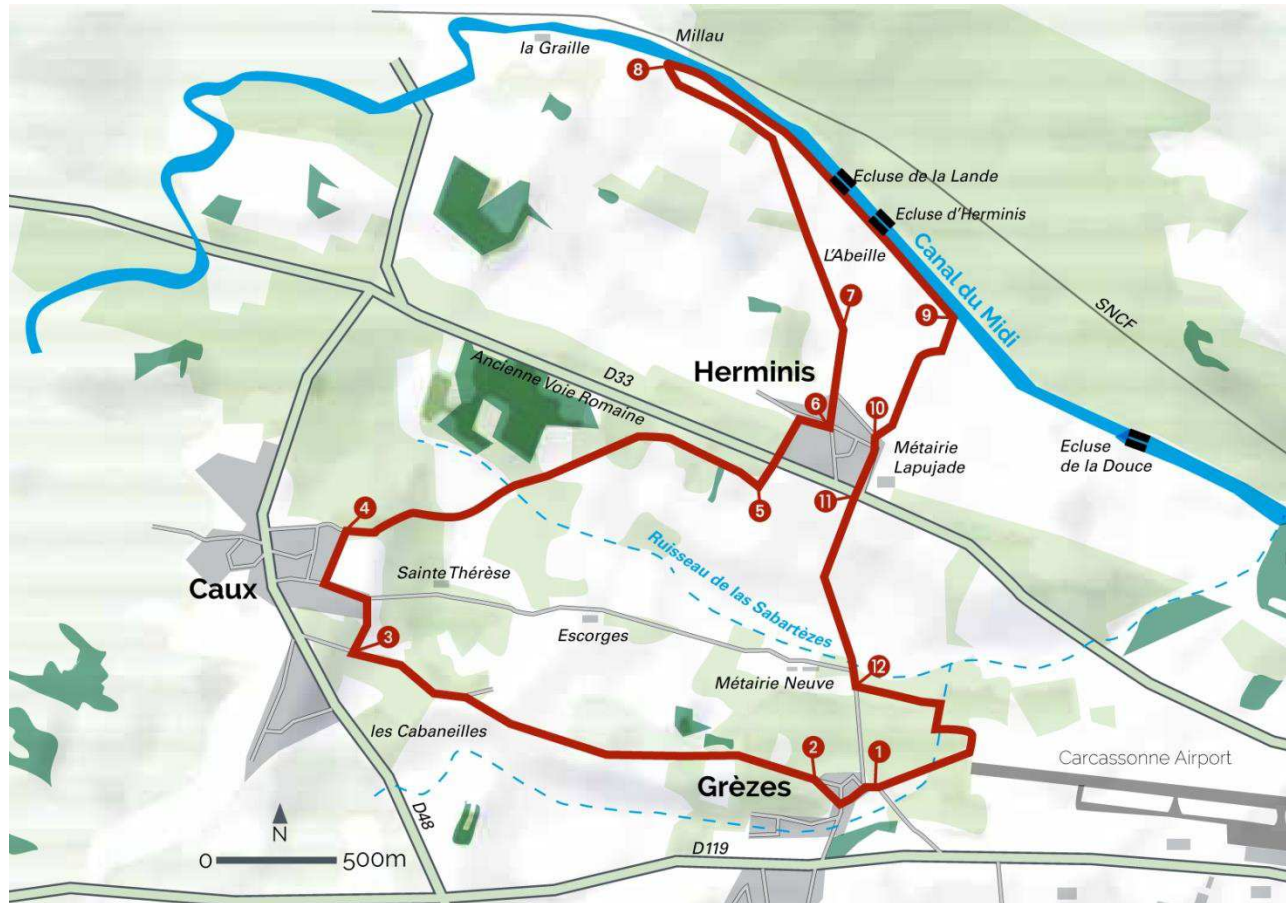


GRAPES, FRAGRANCES AND DISCOVERIES

At the gates of Carcassonne on the path of the roman road between Hebromagus (Bram) and the via Domenetia (Narbonne), this walk over fields, through vines and the shade of the Canal du Midi has been developed by the “Amis du Patrimoine de Grèzes-Herminis” (Friends of the Heritage of Grèzes-Herminis) especially for you to enjoy.



Distance : 11 km

Difficulty Level : Easy

Duration : 2h30

Start : At the entrance to Grèzes (In the direction of the airport), beside the cemetery. (7 km from the center of Carcassonne)

Signage : 



Route description :

- ① Opposite the carpark in front of the castle which housed Catherine de Médicis during her stay in 1579, take the rue des Saumes . *In the village, the adjoining house displays a cross in the foyer, (the Paschal lamb carrying its cross), with an entirely modelled façade, whilst opposite, a semblance of a seat has taken the place of a fountain and a drinking trough dating from the last century.* Go back up the GrandRue on your right, turn left and you are on rue Maissonnier. At N°7, you are in front of the house which belonged to a man called Albert, a poet and farmer – 1905-1968.
- ② Go right and continue straight on the Caux path. *(There is a rogation cross on the left at the start of a grassy slope which leads to the peak from which the beautiful Pyrenees and montagne noire are visible on a clear day).*
- ③ Take the rue des cerisiers on the right, then the 2nd left down Avenue St Marc, then Avenue Maurette on the right
- ④ Take Avenue d’Herminis on the right. *This climb takes you through the middle of the local vines stock including Cabernet, Merlot, Syrah and Chardonnay. On your right there is a vine with a majestic stump, Carignan, which will catch your eye!* After the cabin and the slight slope in the path, continue right through the closely cropped vines and the hedge which continues. Keep following the cropped vines.
- ⑤ At the end, turn left to enter Herminis; be careful when crossing the D33 and keep going straight on to the Colombies estate path : *one of the four fiefs of Herminis from the 11th century with Lapujade, Marrel and Bellissens.* Continue to the estate’s exit and take the Pech-Redon path on the right: *This offers a panoramic view of the montagne noire and the Pic de Nore as well as the Limousis, Cuxac and Pradelles wind farms*
- ⑥ The circuit continues down a steep tarmac road for 600m with the rue du canal on the left
- ⑦ Then take the path on the left (Chemin Lalande) across the vineyards and fields which are very colourful from the spring. There is rape, then golden swaying wheat and lastly, magnificent sunflowers before you get to Milhau : *This route allows you to get an idea of man’s labour over the past centuries; hard labour for all those involved: the Canal du Midi*
- ⑧ Keep going along the canal, the Lalande and Herminis locks to arrive at Abreuvoir : *this place, built with large stones, goes down a slight slope into water to allow cattle, cows and horses to drink.*
- ⑨ Leave the canal and go back up on the right via the grassy path. Keep going straight, pass the water treatment plant.
- ⑩ Get onto rue du Préfet Poubelle: *innovator of waste separation (1884).* View of another fief, Lapujade, *property of the château de Serres.* 100m away is the 3rd fief, Bellissens. *(Old residence of prefect Poubelle)* . Cross the D33.
- ⑪ Take the tarmac route towards Grèzes to the stadium and the rogation cross
- ⑫ Then turn left through the short-cropped vines in an easterly then southerly direction to reach the foot of the runway of the Sud de France airport.

⇒ Get back to the carpark which adjoins the cemetery.



History / Good to know : Prefect Eugène Poubelle

Eugène-René Poubelle was a jurist, administrator and French diplomat. He gave his name to waste bins following decisions that he made, as prefect of the Seine from 1883, to make Paris more hygienic. It was this that led to the decisions he made on the 24th November 1883 and the 7th March 1884 which obliged property landlords to provide their tenants with communal containers equipped with a lid and sufficient capacity to hold domestic waste. The decision also anticipated waste separation: three boxes are compulsory, one for general waste, one for paper and cloth and one for glass, earthenware and oyster shells. He was the general counsellor of Aude for the Saissac region between 1898 and 1904, president of the Société centrale d'agriculture de l'Aude (Aude Central Agricultural Society) and an ardent ambassador of midi wine. He is buried in the cemetery in Grèze.