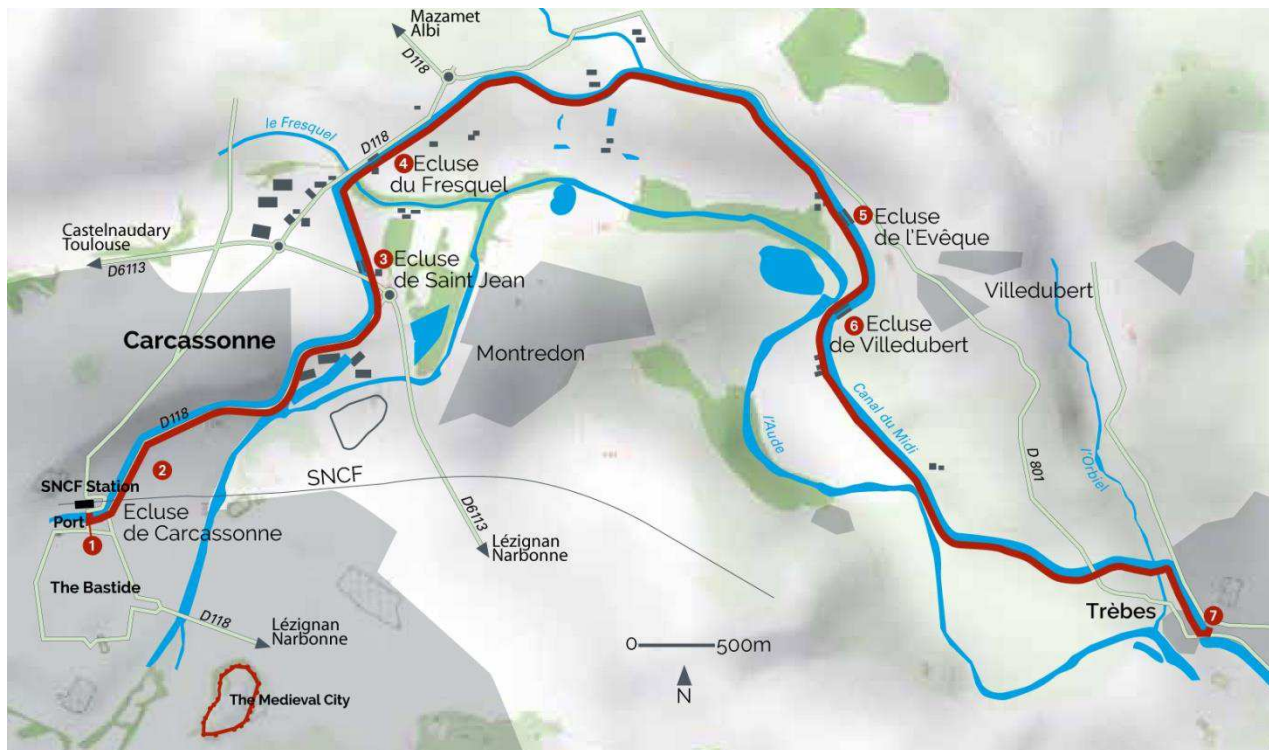


RIVERBANKS AND LOCKS

This small part of the canal du Midi allows you to discover the diversity of the landscapes bordering the riverbanks, the range of fragrances from the trees as well as the bridges and locks. A veritable haven of peace at the water's edge where you can see the locks and their keepers, river and fishing boats...



Distance : 11 km (One Way)

Difficulty Level : easy

Duration: 2h30

Start : Port de Carcassonne

Signage : None. Follow the canal via the towpath.

=> From Trèbes, return by bus is possible (Line n°10) Stop Pierre Loti. (Monday to Saturday only)

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This circuit is suggested, but the canal du Midi, with a length of 240km, also offers other linear circuit walks. Everyone is free to choose their own distance whether it be long or short.

Route description :

- ① Cross the bridge which passes over the canal and join the towpath which goes along the B road for Mazamet-Albi, passing in front of the Hotel Bristol.
- ② Keep following the towpath until Trèbes which passes by 5 écluses (locks)



- ③ Ecluse de Saint Jean
- ④ Ecluse du Fresquel
- ⑤ Ecluse de l'Evêque
- ⑥ Ecluse de Villedubert
- ⑦ L'écluse de Trèbes and its port.

Opportunity to visit the village of Trèbes. Return via the same itinerary on foot or bike or return on the bus n° 10 (go to the port, cross the canal bridge and turn left, rue Pierre Loti with a bus stop of the same name).

History / Good to know : The canal du Midi and its technical prowess

To realise the impossible dream of “linking the Atlantic to the Mediterranean”, it required the genius of an engineer along with considerable resources. Pierre Paul Riquet was the man who personally engaged a considerable amount of money in this enterprise with the support of Louis XIV and the General Estates of Languedoc. Between 1662 and 1681, the work was carried out from a bypass at the waters of the Lac de Saint Ferreol in order to direct them to the edge of Naurouze, which is the joining point where the waters meet in order to feed the canal. One section of the water goes towards the Mediterranean and the other towards the Garonne. This project, particularly in Carcassonne, underwent many trials. In 1681 during the initiation of this project, it passed 2km to the north of the Bastide. Effectively, the town refused to finance the works for the passage of the canal. It was only between 1787 and 1810 that the people of Carcassonne accepted the new route when they realised the problems it could solve. Today, it is property of the state and managed by Voies Navigables de France. It has been recognised by Unesco since 1996 and has become a true tourist destination.