

A detailed itinerary

➔ After exiting the Tourist Office, turn right and walk up the street that will take you past the **Saint Louis Church**.

➔ Continue down the road that runs parallel to the **Florans Castle** and take the *Silvacane Avenue*.

➔ Once you come upon a cross to your left, turn down the road named « *Dévalade*. » Mid-way down the road you will come upon the « **Moulin** » canal, the first canal built in La Roque d'Anthéron. Continue down the road until you reach the intersection. Here you can observe the « **Craponne** » canal.



➔ Turn right and walk parallel to this historical canal while observing the aquatic plant life. The canal has become an ecological reserve for numerous kinds of plant and animal life.

➔ Continuing towards the east, gaze at the unique view of the Abbey : the Northern façade that view visitors know.

➔ When the « **Craponne** » canal starts to bend off to the North-East, turn right down a small trail that crosses the fields (marked in blue) and meet up with the Abbey.

Once on the Abbeys parking lot, turn right down the small path that runs along the borders of the **oak-tree field**. Below, you will come upon the source of refreshing water at your disposition...

➔ Return to the parking lot, cross the road and take the small footpath in front of you that passes before an iron grating barrier. You are now walking upon the **old railroad tracks** of La Roque d'Anthéron.

➔ Follow the trail that rises towards the hills, pass beneath the tunnel of the **canal of Marseille**, and join up with the road of the « *Hameau de la Baume*. »

➔ Walk down towards the right and pass over the bridge that straddles the **canal de Marseille** and join up with the « *boulevard de la Paix* » ; turn left and follow this road until you read the « **Monument aux Morts**. »

➔ Walk down the « *boulevard Adam de Craponne* » and come upon the Tourist Office's parking lot.

Walk on the left

Be careful when walking along the road : Take careful watch of children

Be careful when crossing



Walking & Hiking Trails

FOLLOWING THE WATER CANALS

La Roque d'Anthéron invites you to walk along the ancient, dried out marshland of the XVth Century in order to walk along side the various village canals while making your way to the « **Reed Abbey** ».



Follow the aged « **Moulin** » canal, the clever « **Craponne** » canal that waters the region of Salon, the canal of Marseille and the large EDF canal.

Let yourself be cradled by the sound of fresh water as you stride comfortably down numerous paths while following the Trails of Water...

Distance : 5 kilometers

Time : 2 H

Difficulty: none

Departure : Tourist Office

Arrival: Tourist Office



LA ROQUE
D'ANTHERON

*Office Municipal de Tourisme
Cours Foch - 13640 La Roque d'Anthéron
Tél : 04 42 50 70 74 - omt@ville-laroquedantheron.fr
www.ville-laroquedantheron.fr*

1 - Le « Moulin » Canal is the oldest canal of La Roque, it's source comes from the Durance river in order to water the old mill. To this day, the canal reaches the Florans park.

2 - The « Craponne » Canal was built in 1554 by Adam Craponne, an engineer to King Louis XII. The canal supplies water from the Durance river to the city of Salon due to a natural sloping terrain. Today, more than 400 years later, this canal still traverses numerous Provençal villages and branches out for more than 200 kilometers.



5 - One of the "Three Provençal Sisters", the Silvacane abbey was built by the Cistercian monks in the XIIth Century and is the best representation of the Cistercian abbeys in Provence (the others being the Sénanque Abbey and Le Thoronet Abbey). It is the most recent and the only one that has not continued its monastic activity.

The construction of the abbey church occurred between 1175 and 1230, and the inside is practically void of any décor. The chapter hall and the monastery room were built at the beginning of the XIIIth Century, and during the second-half of the XIIIth Century, the cloister was constructed. The complex was pillaged and abandoned in the 15th century and then restored as a parish church in the 16th century.

Its interior is devoid of any decorative elements, making it a perfect, if not austere, example of XIIth Century Cistercian architecture. The purity of its lines, its well balanced proportions and size make it a place filled with peace and light.

The monastery was dissolved during the French Revolution. The dilapidated buildings and the land on which they stand were bought by the government in 1846, turned into a historic site and gradually restored for the public.



3 - A little known view of the monks refectory. Various hoops used to secure small boats can be observed upon the old walls.

4 - the Source erupts from a large geological fracture in the "Chaîne des Côtes." This area was subjected to some of the most violent earthquakes known in France during the month of June, 1909.

Ever since 2005, the water Source of Silvacane has undergone large reductions in quantity and speed of it's water flows. Today, the Source is but a small stream that runs beneath the wash-houses of Silvacane. The drought that has lasted these past few years seem to be the reason for the stunning irregularity of water known to this Source.



6 - Le Canal de Marseille is more recent : after living the construction of a canal that supplies water to Salon (XVIIth Century), La Roque lived the construction of another canal that supplies water to Marseille (XIXth Century). It is one of the fresh-water provision sources to the city of Marseille. It was constructed under the direction of the engineer Franz Mayor de Montricher (1810-1858), taking water from the Durance river to the city starting from 1849.

