

## DISCOVERY OF THE OLD VILLAGE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

This family walkabout will allow you to discover the old village of Laroque des Albères and the surrounding area.

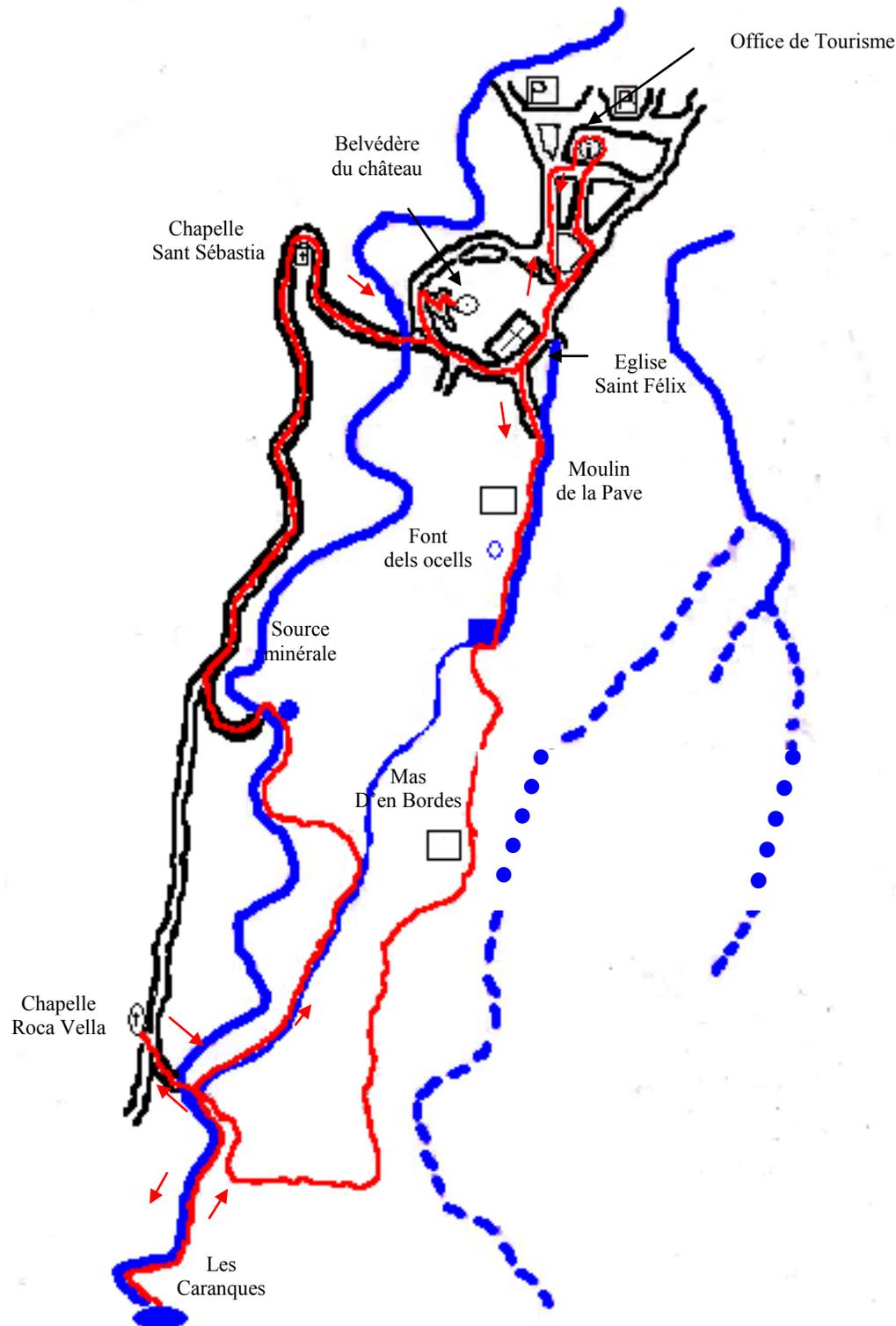
**Easy walk**

**Climb** : less than 100 m.

**Duration** : 1H 30 approximately, not including stops.

**Advice** : It is an easy walk but don't forget to follow the general safety tips; (take sufficient drinking water, wear appropriate footwear and clothing; hats, sunglasses, sun-cream and don't stray from the indicated path).

**Practical Information** : All along the route, you will find pleasant spots for pick-nicking. Each spot on the map indicated in bold text corresponds to a stop on your child's activity sheet.



**OFFICE DE TOURISME**  
**Maison de la Randonnée**

**Rue du Docteur Carboneill - 66740 Laroque des Albères.**  
**Tél . 04 68 95 49 97**

*From September 1st to June 30th*  
*Monday to Friday : 9h00 – 11h30 / 14h00 – 17h30*  
*From July 1st to August 31st*  
*Monday to Sunday noon : 9h00 – 12h30 / 15h00 – 18h30*  
**CLOSED ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

### ▪ **Departure from the ‘Office du Tourisme’.**

Go up to the centre of the old village by taking the steps next to the office du tourisme and then cross the small square by the *Mairie*, onto the *Rue du Puig* opposite; Take the *Rue du 14 Juillet* and go right onto the *Rue Maréchal Joffre*.

- After the steep rise you come to the *Place de la République* square and its superbe platane tree planted in 1830. Go towards the church, l'**église Saint Félix** (formerly an armoury). Opposite the church porch take the *Rue de l'Eglise* cul-de-sac, this leads onto the path, flanked by a stream. The path exits the village.



- On the right the **Moulin de la Pave** ( ancient flour mill ), currently being restored, it dates from the 14th century and operated until the mid 19th century. Several metres higher up there is the picturesque shaded **Fontaine des Oiseaux**, (Fountain of the birds). The path continues on upwards following a partly buried water pipe.

- Go up to the junction and go right. You will come to a pool. Several metres

- You come to the Mas d'en Bordes ( the house on the right ) .

- Pass in front of the house and follow the path by continuing straight on instead of going left.

- You come to a junction with signposts. Don't go left (Puig Neoulos) but take the right path which goes down to the river. Be careful because this path is very uneven at certain points.

- On arriving at the path junction situated above the river go left and follow the irrigation canal on your left until you come to les Caranques.

- **Les Caranques.** Natural river pool. This has over the years been a bathing spot for many generations of young Rocatins (people from Laroque) **BE CAREFUL !** There is now a law prohibiting bathing for safety reasons.



- Turn around and go back to the strategic junction. This time go left down to the river « Roc del Grèvol » .

- Cross the river via the ford and then go up until you get to a small tarmacked road. Go right along this road for several metres and you come to the ruins of the **Chapelle Roca Vella**. This edifice originally measured 9 m high.



- Go back to the strategic junction. Go left following the irrigation canal on your right and join the path which goes down to **la Source Minérale** (Spring) ( post on the left with the n° 2 ) .

- Go down this path which descends to the spring . You come to the river: picnic benches. **BE CAREFUL !** Do not cross the dam wall which accesses the spring .



- Follow the river down using the yellow marked path and cross the ford. Go through a small cops of trees and come to a lane then turn left up to the tarmacked road. Turn right down this road.

- The village will reappear along the *Rue de Roca Vella* and you will have a superb view of the village .

- **Chapelle SANT SEBASTIA**, a single naved edifice with a trapezoidal apse covered by a semicircular vault. Go alongside the wall of the chapel and take the *Chemin de la Florentine* which will lead you towards the old village passing through the allotments.



- Cross the metallic bridge over the stream, to rejoin the *Rue du Château*. Follow this road up towards the church. Just before the church turn left up to the **belvédère du château (Belvedere castle)**. Dating from 1100 the belvedere provides a superb panoramic view of Pic Neulos 1256 m (South), Canigou 2784 m (West), the Roussillon plain (North) and the Mediterranean coast (East).

- Go back down to *Place de la République* and then down the steep road on to the *Avenue du Maréchal Joffre*. At the intersection look up to observe **the sun dial**.

- Take a left onto the *Rue Arago* to return to the *office de tourisme*.