

Pont du deluge walk

Time 1 - 1.5hrs

Difficulty 3 - 4

Leaving 'Le Monastere' by car, turn left out of the car park onto the D31 heading towards Mervant.

Straight across roundabout as you leave Vouvant, then take 2nd turning on right signposted Parc Pierre Brun.

After 1km road appears to come to T-junction but stay with main road which actually continues to left signposted Parc Pierre Brun.

Pass parking for 'Arbre Remarkable' on right and 'Maison Foristiere' on left.

Continue on road until stop sign, T junction where you need to turn left following yellow sign for Point Du Deluge.

After S-bend park on right just before sign on right warning of hikers/pedestrians.

Leaving car take the path on right by pedestrian sign, walking downhill following path of small stream which brings you down to a small clearing by river.

*You will see stone steps on your left leading up to the road where you would see signs for Point du Deluge. You can join the Maison Foristiere walk at this point.

Looking up at the rivers edge you will see the tall narrow bridge which crosses the river, in summertime children are often seen paddling and enjoying the wonderful echoes they can create beneath the bridge.

We are going to head in opposite direction crossing over the small stream which we were following taking the path alongside the river which is now on your left. In summer it is often nearly dry and children (and young at heart grown-ups!!) enjoy playing stepping stones along the dry river bed.

For a short distance the path is a little tricky, erosion has left roots and rocks which can be slippery exposed and the path very narrow, after ducking under the fallen tree and navigating the worst part of the path where care needs to be taken, you are back onto a much easier path adjacent to the river.

Passing a wooden bridge on your left we continue on the main path straight ahead, although this appears to be taking you away from the river you quickly return to it but on higher ground.

We now follow its course for about 10 - 15mins where we come to the junction with the larger river, if you look up to your right you will see a charming woodland chalet which must have wonderful views across

the river and has its own mini beach and mooring.

Continue on the path which turns sharply right and follows the main river. By a sign on your left prohibiting fires, camping etc the path forks and we need to take the right hand fork away from the river heading up into the wood.

At this point you need to take a deep breathe as the going is going to get a little tougher. The stones and gravel are often a loose underfoot hear as the water gushes down in heavy rain, persevere and you will be rewarded.

As you get towards the top of the hill, probably puffing a bit!, you will see a post on your left with a red and yellow stripe, a small path on the left before this will take you to a fantastic viewpoint where the locals absail, Don't know if I would recommend jumping of backwards, such a waste of an amazing view, but a good reward for that uphill climb.

Returning back to the main path, as you reach the top of the hill the path opens to the Aire du Pierre Blanche parking area.

Continue along the main path to your left. Please be aware if you have children or dogs with you that you may meet a car along this section.

As you get to the top of what you will now class a very small hill you will see a path on the right with a log barrier. You pass between trees marked 65 and 66 leading you back into the forest.

As the path starts to descend sharply take the next path on your left heading towards the road.

Just before the road take the path on your right which runs along side it, crossing another path continue straight on until you reach the main road.

A few steps along the road you can choose to take the path on your right, which forks, you need the left uphill path to take you over the hill and down to where you left the car, this is a sharp steep slope which you can avoid if you would rather by walking along the road for two minutes back to your car.

Alternatively, if not tired and wanting more you can cross the road and join the Maison Foristierre walk half way round, to double the length of your walk.