



A land of sport

With family or friends, advanced or amateur, Gourdon is the ideal place to practice diverse sporting activities such as, paragliding, rock climbing, fishing, canyoning, speleology and cycling.

Gourdon is internationally renowned for the practice of free flight paragliding. Every year the village hosts numerous competitions. The cycling addicts will find their happiness too, particularly on the famous route « Les Balcons d'Azur ».

Labelled « Cyclists welcome », the tourist information centre keeps repair kits at the disposal of cyclists and will gladly inform them on all the local sporting activities.



Parc naturel régional des Préalpes d'Azur & Natura 2000

Gourdon is a member amongst 48 villages of the **Parc Naturel Régional des Préalpes d'Azur**, engaged in linking leisure activities and environmental protection. A place celebrating nature and culture, the parc duties are providing information, organizing events and raising awareness. The label Valeur Parc signifies the recognition of traditional and local skills putting forward multiple tourist services and local products, guaranteeing reliability. See www.parc-prealpesdazur.fr

The European **Natura 2000** programme aims to preserve the local habitat of threatened species.

3 specific sites have been identified in this area : « Les Préalpes d'Azur », the Loup river and its canyon.



Hiking trails

The village of Gourdon is the starting point of numerous hiking trails : « Le plateau de Cavillone », « Le Haut Montet » and « Le Chemin du Paradis ».

Le Chemin du Paradis, meaning the path to Heaven was once a donkey trail between Le Bar sur Loup and Gourdon. It is a name given by the locals living in the valley using the trail to bury the deceased in the closest graveyard which was then located up in Gourdon. The children were also known to walk the steep trail to go to school in Gourdon.

For more information on the hiking trails in the area, please visit www.randoxygene.org



A « must see » village

You will find restaurants, craftsmen, retailers and art galleries in the narrow and picturesque streets of the village. Local events occur all year, such as the rural festival of the Gorge Valley in May, the lavender festival in July, and the truffle festival in December. Furthermore, from April to October, every Sunday morning there is a local product market.

For more information on the restaurants, accommodation and other activities in the area, the tourist information centre welcomes you.

ACCESS INFO

- Grasse : 15km
- Tourrettes-sur-Loup : 20km
- Cannes : 28km
- Antibes : 31km
- Nice : 37km
- Gréolières 1400 : 32km



By bus :
> On demand shuttle service with Icilà for the area of : Caussols, Châteauneuf, Cipières, etc.

TO GET AROUND BY BUS
With Enivibus network and Icilà, the on-demand transportation service : www.enivibus.fr
Or by downloading the Enivibus CapAzur application

By car :
> via the D6 by taking the Gorges du Loup road
> via the D3 coming from Châteauneuf
> via the D2 coming from Caussols

Town hall and Postal agency :
« La Colombière », 263 Chemin du Colombier
Tel : 04 93 42 92 00 / contact@mairie-gourdon06.fr



[villagesetvalleesdazurtourisme](https://www.facebook.com/villagesetvalleesdazurtourisme)
 [villagesvalleesdazur.tourisme](https://www.instagram.com/villagesvalleesdazur.tourisme)



Gourdon Balcony of the Riviera



TOURIST OFFICE « VILLAGES & VALLÉES D'AZUR » TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

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www.villagesvalleesdazur-tourisme.fr | www.gourdon06.fr
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Open from 9:30am to 12:30pm and from 1:30pm to 5:30pm from Monday to Saturday
From October 1st to May 31st, and every day from June 1st to September 30th.
Closed on public holidays except July 14th and August 15th.

Do not throw on the public highway © CASA 2024 © Photos CASA





Place Victoria

Built on a rocky peak at 760 meters, the village of Gourdon overlooks the Loup Valley and offers one of the most prestigious views on the Cote d'Azur, revealing Nice to the east, the islands of Lerins to the south and The Esterel rocky peaks to the west. On the square Place Victoria, named after the queen's visit in 1891, there are three orientation tables where visitors can gather information on the 180-degree view.

The name Gourdon comes from the Ligurian word « Gord » meaning « mountain ».

In the early 1990's, the village became part of the renowned association « Plus Beaux Villages de France » a label that guarantees protection to local culture and historical heritage.



Church and Chapels

The typical Roman Provençal church **Saint Vincent**, was built between the 10th and 12th century. The church was then rebuilt during the 17th century and listed as a historical monument in 1931. Visitors will find a well-preserved frontage to the building, a font and the bust of Saint Vincent the Patron Saint of the village. **The Roman Saint Pons chapel**, dates from the 12th century is located at the bottom of the village in an area once used for treading wheat. Today, the area is used as a public carpark but the chapel, hidden behind a small garden, is still standing and beautifully maintained.

The Saint Vincent Roman chapel, dating from the 12th century is located on the road leading to Caussols. Inside the chapel, the walls are covered with naive frescoes.



A preserved tradition

The wild lavender has been used in the first distillery located in a cave under the Cavillone mountain pass outside the village, since 1940.

In the 1970's, the explosion of trade and crafts encouraged the local villagers to open their ground floors and cellars and transform them into shops and workshops where, until to this day, skills are handed down from generation to generation. Many shopkeepers and craftsmen are to be discovered along the narrow streets, such as perfume makers, soap makers, glassmakers, jewellers, local sweetshops, honey, olive oil, mustard and ginger bread manufacturers.

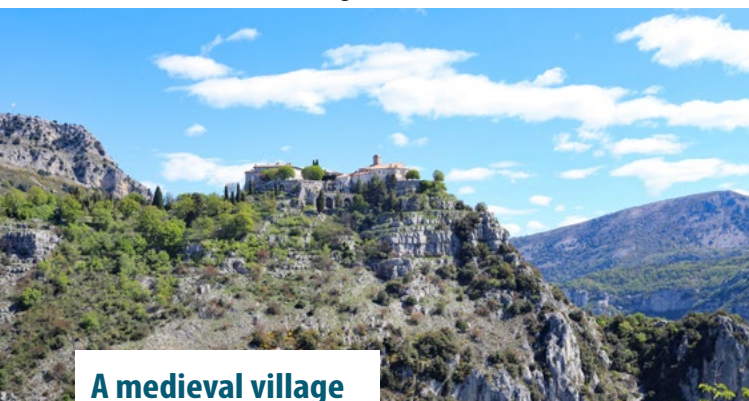


The Gorges and Loup Valley

The Gorges du Loup are renowned for their spectacular vertical stone walls that expand 5 km from the hamlet of Bramafan to Pont du Loup.

The Loup is a small river which takes its source in the village of Andon and meets the sea between Villeneuve Loubet and Cagnes sur Mer. The water shapes the karstic landscape of the plateaux of Calern, Cavillone and Caussols to the west and the plateau of Saint Barnabé to the east.

The river Loup and its canyons are a place of refuge for numerous species of animals and plants due to the enclosed aspect of the valley which brings about a safe haven for the flora and fauna.



A medieval village

Only 10 km as the crow flies from the Mediterranean, Gourdon was a shelter and has often served as a stronghold in ancient times. Numerous traces bear witness to this. From the 8th century onwards Gourdon suffered Saracens invasions and a first fortress was constructed on the actual site of the castle and rebuilt in the 12th century by the Counts of Provence.

The ownership of the castle will be passed on by marriage and inheritance between several noble families of the region. Its present Provençal style flanked by three towers and a dungeon, were destroyed during the Revolution and restored by Louis de Lombard who bought the castle in the 16th century. Private property now, the castle is definitively closed to the public and registered as a historical heritage site since 1972.



Water History

The fountain, was built in a classical style in 1852 thanks to a financial donation of Jean-Louis Cavalier to the community. This fountain provided water for the village so that residents did not have to climb down to the spring located 2 km below the village.

The covered wash-house dates from 1870. Next to it are two large stone basins in which they washed the local grown pulses. The Foulon aqueduct was built at the end of the 19th century to supply the town of Grasse with water. It can be seen from the view point of the Place Victoria and is 22 km long with 22 tunnels. Originally made of stonework, its pipes were replaced by iron ones. Recently renovated with more resilient materials, it continues to supply the towns of the middle country as well as those of the coast (with no access to the public).



Pont du Loup

Situated at an altitude of 230 m and 13 km from the village, the hamlet of Pont du Loup covers 2 communities: Tourrettes-sur-Loup on the left bank and Gourdon on the right bank. Pont du Loup was a popular tourist resort for high society during « La Belle Epoque ». Visitors came by train to savour the trout offered by the riverside restaurants. Sometimes they would venture into the Gorges to discover the various aspects of the river and its waterfalls, now accessible and visible by car via the D6 road. The pillars of the 11 arches of the former viaduct of the Chemin de Fer de Provence (railway) that spanned the River Loup, still remain. Some of these were blown up in August 1944 following the Provence landings, causing the closure of the line.



Guided tour

The Tourist Office invites you to discover Gourdon and its history on a free guided tour. A programme is published each year with the dates of the tours on offer in July and August. During the rest of the year, and for groups of 4 or more, a tour can be organised on request, depending on the availability of the guide.

To book a tour, contact the Tourist Information Office or visit visite.guidée@agallo-casa.fr