



En Labau Aqueduct

With its steep hills and gigantic rocks shaped by the Têt river, the wild beauty of Rodès speaks for itself. But then amid these remarkable natural landscapes, in the Guillera gorges, the hand of man reappears. Colomère Rock (a ledge on the left-hand side) and the *En Labau* Aqueduct, whose origins remain a mystery, rise before you.

ORIGINS THAT REMAIN MYSTERIOUS

The history of *En Labau* Aqueduct is closely linked to the Corbère Canal (or Royal Canal of Thuir) and Sant Pere Aqueduct, located further upstream near the current Vinça dam (of which a few traces still remain).

Its construction is thought to date back to the early 14th century, or possibly earlier. Oral tradition claims that this aqueduct was built by the Saracens: its name “Ponts dels Sarrahins” also features in an official document between the lords of Corbera and Bula, dated 1430. However, the Arab occupation of the area (lasting about thirty years at the start of the 8th century) would have occurred too early and been too brief for the aqueduct to have been constructed under their orders.

A STORY OF WATER

In any case, it seems that the *En Labau* Aqueduct played a role in directing water to the Roussillon plain. The canal began downstream of Vinça, crossed the Têt River once, then continued along the left bank to power a mill. At the far end of the Guillera gorges, the canal returned to the right bank via the *En Labau* Aqueduct. The 35-km-long canal then irrigated Thuir, Canohès, and Perpignan (including the Palace of the Kings of Majorca), before flowing into Canet lake.

En Labau was a mighty giant, yet fragile at its base: its location at a narrow point in the valley meant floods could rise quickly, threatening its structure. Numerous signs of repairs still bear witness to this vulnerability. The final blow came in 1725 when part of the bridge collapsed during another flood. This event marked the end of the Royal Canal of Thuir. A new canal was then established, following the route of Rodès, which was subsequently widened. The canal no longer crossed the Têt river.

INFO & CONTACTS

Pont aqueduc
d'En Labau
Gorges de la
Guillera
66 320 Rodès
[www.villederodes
.fr](http://www.villederodes.fr)

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HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS

The French term “pont”, meaning “bridge” is often used for this monument. It was not however designed to be crossed on foot. In certain special cases (war, smuggling, escape, etc.) or unofficial situations, it was possible to cross it.

En Labau has been listed as a Historic Monument since December 2011.



The *En Labau* Aqueduct was originally built using marble from the nearby Ternera quarries, before flood damage was repaired using locally sourced granite. Originally, its arches spanned the Têt river. Later, a deck supported by wooden beams allowed water to flow towards the right bank.

Find out more at [tourisme-roussillon-confient.fr](https://www.tourisme-roussillon-confient.fr)

