

# Springs, fountains and wash houses



Visorando



Walk No. 4098349

A walk proposed by Tamtraductions

## Marked hike N°7.

This hike is themed by springs and wash-houses. The water flowing from the springs supplies the groundwater of the Parisian Basin on the one hand, and the Seine by way of the Loing River on the other hand. It's a very well-marked path (#7), through an unspoiled natural environment. This track can also be done on horseback or mountain bike. It is listed on the departmental walking and hiking map (PDIPR) established by the department of the Yonne.

<b>Duration :</b>	4h 50	<b>Difficulty :</b>	Moderate
<b>Distance :</b>	15.19 km	<b>Return to departure point :</b>	Yes
<b>Vertical gain :</b>	168 m	<b>Activity :</b>	Walking
<b>Vertical drop :</b>	171 m	<b>Region :</b>	Puisaye
<b>Highest point :</b>	341 m	<b>District :</b>	Sainte-Colombe-sur-Loing (89520)
<b>Lowest point :</b>	245 m		

EN BOURGOGNE  
**LA PUISAYE**  
A DU GÉNIE.

## Description

(S/F) Starting at the church in the village of Sainte-Colombe, take the small road that heads up towards Perreuse (SW). After 200 m, take the path on your left. Once you get to Saint Nicolas' Cross, turn left and follow the path until you reach the sealed road.

(1) At the intersection, take the small road that goes downhill on your right. After 200 m, you get to the spring of the Loing River (2) and the stele put up in 1994 which describes the course of the river. Keep following this road. At the next intersection, turn right and keep on until you get to the hamlet of Les Guittons.

(3) Leaving the village, take the small path on your left. This leads to the spring which is actually the first resurgence of the Loing River. In fact, from its source, the Loing River flows beneath the ground and emerges at this spot, only to disappear again a few steps further. Turn back. Once you get to the road, turn left and continue through the hamlets of Les Gressiens and Les Rameaux.

(4) Leaving the latter, take the path on your left for 200 m and go downhill taking the path on your right. This will lead you to the spring of Montillon. After a further 100 m, turn right onto the road. Watch out for traffic here!

(5) Go uphill and when you have almost reached the village of Sainte-Colombe, take the road on the left-hand side heading towards Les Landris. Go through the hamlet and keep going 150 m after passing the last houses until you get to the path that turns right.

(6) This path crosses the Loing River and climbs back up to the hamlet of Les Thomas.

Once you get to the road, turn right and immediately take the dirt path on your left (7). This is one of the most beautiful sunken lanes in the Puisaye region; it takes you through the woods and can be muddy in places. Take the time to admire the pollards described by Colette in her novels, mostly hornbeams pruned by removing the upper branches or young coppiced trees, which allow to abundantly harvest wood a few years later. You will get to a small road where you turn right until you reach the Desleaux fountain. Go down to the spring and the wash-house.

(8) Continue on the road until the intersection 100 m further down, cross over to the other side and continue to the next road.

## Waypoints

- S/E - Eglise de Sainte-Colombe-sur-Loing  
N 47.569096° / E 3.236669° - alt. 270 m - km 0
- 1 Down the tarmac road to the right  
N 47.555753° / E 3.23911° - alt. 341 m - km 2.21
  - 2 - Source du Loing  
N 47.553308° / E 3.23305° - alt. 318 m - km 2.74
  - 3 First Loing River resurgence - Loing (le)  
N 47.556509° / E 3.225969° - alt. 304 m - km 4.6
  - 4 Path on the left outside the village  
N 47.564863° / E 3.229016° - alt. 304 m - km 5.89
  - 5 Road to the left towards Landris  
N 47.569761° / E 3.23329° - alt. 280 m - km 7.19
  - 6 Path to the right after Landris  
N 47.576355° / E 3.220034° - alt. 277 m - km 8.58
  - 7 Dirt path to the left of the D7  
N 47.584577° / E 3.229583° - alt. 262 m - km 9.93
  - 8 Fontaine des Desleaux  
N 47.586701° / E 3.23715° - alt. 282 m - km 10.97
  - 9 Straight ahead crossing the road  
N 47.58174° / E 3.24853° - alt. 315 m - km 12.07
  - 10 Spring and wash-house of Boutin  
N 47.579788° / E 3.252622° - alt. 292 m - km 12.47
  - 11 Crossing the D6  
N 47.571338° / E 3.243938° - alt. 264 m - km 14.17
- S/E - Eglise de Sainte-Colombe-sur-Loing  
N 47.569081° / E 3.23668° - alt. 270 m - km 15.19

(9) Heading down this path, you will pass the spring and the wash-house of Boutin. A little bit further, near the pond (10), you will pass over a significant underground river which supplies the groundwater of the Parisian Basin. Go uphill until you reach the road, there turn right. On the stretch going downhill, take the open path which will lead to the Fontanelles spring. Go back up this path, turn right onto the road and continue until you get to an intersection with a perpendicular road. Watch out for traffic.

(11) Turn left and after 50 m turn right on the dirt path which will lead you back to your starting point (F).

### Practical information

There is a parking lot next to the village hall (route de Sainpuits), 100 metres from the starting point.

A pleasant hike in all seasons, it's really beautiful between April and October. Remember to take some water and a picnic. You need appropriate shoes and sunscreen/hat when the sun is out.

This walk can be done in two separate loops: when arriving at point (6), return 100 m to the village (restaurant) or have your picnic near the Fontaine d'Aubert on your left.

This tour #7 is part of the walks listed by the Office de Tourisme Portes de Puisaye-Forterre.

### In the nearby area

Here's a little story about the Desleaux fountain (8) where locals, who regularly went out for some fresh air under the vegetation and met up for an "aperitif", experienced quite an unusual mishap: one day, a rat came out of nowhere frightening the small group who left without finishing their aperitif. Ever since that day, people say the spring gives off a smell of pastis!

The church of Sainte-Colombe, its altarpiece, statues, relics and stained-glass windows.

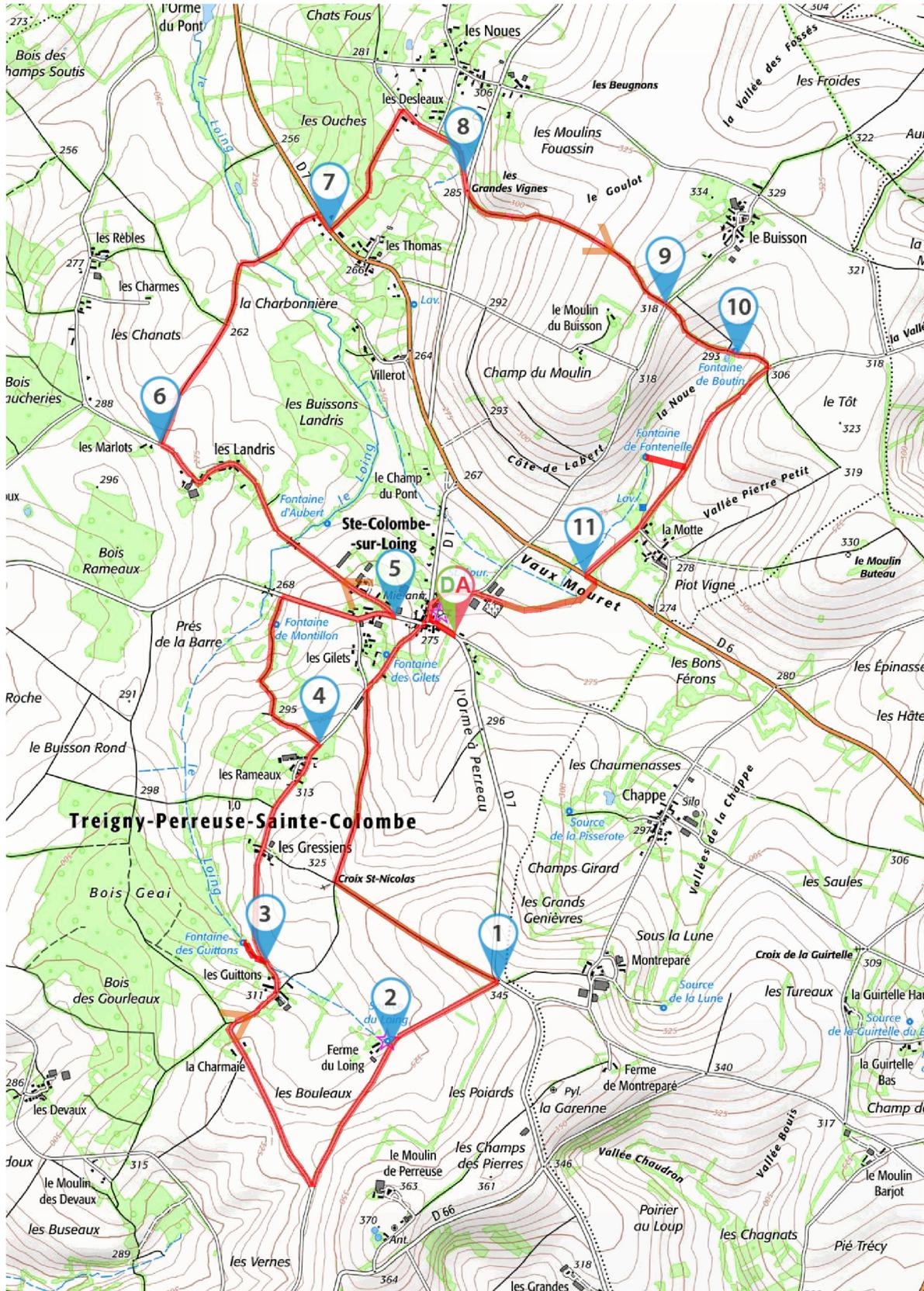
At Saint-Sauveur-en-Puisaye, the Musée Colette, the Tour sarrasine.

Nearby, in Treigny, the cathedral of the Puisaye region, the Château de Ratilly, the medieval Guédelon Castle, the Bois de la Folie and its adventure park in the trees.

Let us know your opinion on : <https://www.visorando.com/en/walk-springs-fountains-and-wash-houses/>

**Find out more :** Office de Tourisme de Puisaye-Forterre - 3, Place de la République 89170 SAINT-FARDEAU

Tel : 03 86 45 61 31 - Email : [loisirs@puisaye-tourisme.fr](mailto:loisirs@puisaye-tourisme.fr) - Website : <https://www.puisaye-tourisme.fr/>



↑ N 1km  
 Extract of IGN map c - Paris - 2024 Authorisation n 70. 14010

Always stay careful and alert while following a route. Visorando and the author of this walk cannot be held responsible in the event of an accident during this route.



# THE WALKER CODE

Visorando

by Visorando

## Before the walk



### CHOOSE YOUR WALK CAREFULLY

by matching its difficulty and duration to your skill and physical ability.



### CHECK THE WEATHER FORECAST

and look for other important information, such as snow, temperature, tide times, wind speed, fire risks, etc.



### BE PROPERLY PREPARED

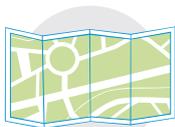
by taking suitable equipment with you, such as whistle, first-aid kit, appropriate clothing and something to eat and drink.



### LET SOMEONE KNOW

where you will be walking.

## During the walk



### STAY ON THE PATH

Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.



### RESPECT THE COUNTRYSIDE

by not damaging fences, fields and crops and not picking fruit or vegetables..



### RESPECT LOCAL RESTRICTIONS

such as bans on fires, barbecues, camping, fishing, swimming, etc.



### LEAVE GATES AS YOU FIND THEM

be cautious of farm animals : try to go around, not through herds or flocks.



### TAKE YOUR RUBBISH HOME

and do not leave any trace of your journey except your footprint.



### DON'T MAKE LOTS OF NOISE

and do be respectful and courteous to people along the route.



### KEEP YOUR DOG ON LEAD

and have it close to you at every crossroads of other users. Bag and bin its dog poo. Walking with a dog is not recommended on routes where there are farm animals.



### THE COUNTRYSIDE IS A LIVING ENVIRONMENT

that evolves with time. Waling is an adventure and there are risks associated with it. Be responsible, and know when it is better to give up and turn around than get into danger.

Countryside Code for England and Wales : <http://www.gov.uk/countryside-code>  
Countryside Code for Scotland : <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/>  
Countryside Code for Northern Ireland : <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/countryside-code>

Emergency contact : 999 (UK) or 112 (Worldwide)

In case of accident, please do not sue the owners of the places where it happened because hikers could be prohibited there then. However, feel free to report to us any risk encountered.