

PONT du GARD DESTINATION GUIDE



Introduction

The *Pont du Gard* is a Roman-era aqueduct spanning the Gardon River in southern France. It is part of a 30-mile system of canals, tunnels, and aqueducts designed to carry fresh water from a spring in Uzès to a water tank/reservoir in city of Nîmes.

The aqueduct was constructed in the 1st c. A.D. It is the highest of all Roman aqueducts and is second only in its preservation to that in Segovia, Spain.

At the point where the aqueduct bridge crosses the Gardon, it stands on three tiers at 160 feet in height. It is estimated that it carried 44 million gallons of water daily to Nîmes, for use in homes, fountains, and bathes. Over the course

of its 30-mile run, the aqueduct drops only 160 feet in elevations. It only drops about 1 inch at the point it crosses the Gardon River.

The aqueduct bridge is constructed with and estimated 50,000 tons of stone laid by a crew of over 1,000 workers. There is no mortar used in its construction. Each stones was chiseled to precision, then uniformly stacked and linked together by classical arches, held in place with keystones. The largest arch spans 80 feet and is the widest and tallest built by the Romans.

VIEWS— From the visitors center, cross the bridge to the rive droite (right bank), take the steep trail (marked panorama). The best view are at the top, just as the trial begins to descend. On the visitor center side (rive gauche), steps lead down to the trail that runs along the river.



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