

Nearby Swimming Lakes

If you fancy a swim, but don't want to drive all the way to the seaside, its worth exploring, one of the three near by lakes, the closest being the lake at Puivert, more correctly known as Lac du Fontclair, is only 15 minute drive.

This lake, has a large sandy beach, which is the summer month's is manned by lifeguards, making it a very safe swimming spot, and is popular not just the local population, but also with visitors to the area.

The town also has the remains of a Cathar Castle, first mentioned in 1170, the original structure, was subjected to a three day siege in 1210 by the army of Thomas Pons de Bruyère, lieutenant of [Simon de Montfort](#). While parts of the original structure are visible the castle itself dates from the 14th Century. There is also the [Musee du Quercorb](#), which provides a fascinating insight into all aspects of the traditional local lifestyle. Finally if you are feeling adventurous, make your way to the Puivert airfield which is the home to the local [gliding club](#) who offer flights to visitors.



Not far from Couiza, just off the D613, you come to the village of Arques, about 25 minutes drive from the Villa, where there is another swimming lake. The Lac d'Arques. This is a small and very pretty artificial lake, with lots of idyllic picnic spots with tables and benches, or if you fancy messing around on the water, you can hire boats and pedalos, as well as having a dip.

The village its self is a typical small French village, with a Café, which has an unusual "Pub" influence, and is packed with interesting objects, giving it an almost museum like quality, and there are riding stables on the River side of the village. To the west of the village there is a classical chateau-fort with free parking, but to visit the castle cost s €5

A short distance up from Puivert, there is Lac du Montbel, this is the largest of the lakes covering an area of 570 hectares. The beaches are on the Montbel side, on the Leran side numerous activities can be undertaken including Windsurfing, Canoeing, and the hire of peddle boats. The area around the lake is also a good spot for bird watching as it is a stop off for numerous migratory birds.



