



Chemin de CLUNY : GUYENNE - GASCOGNE

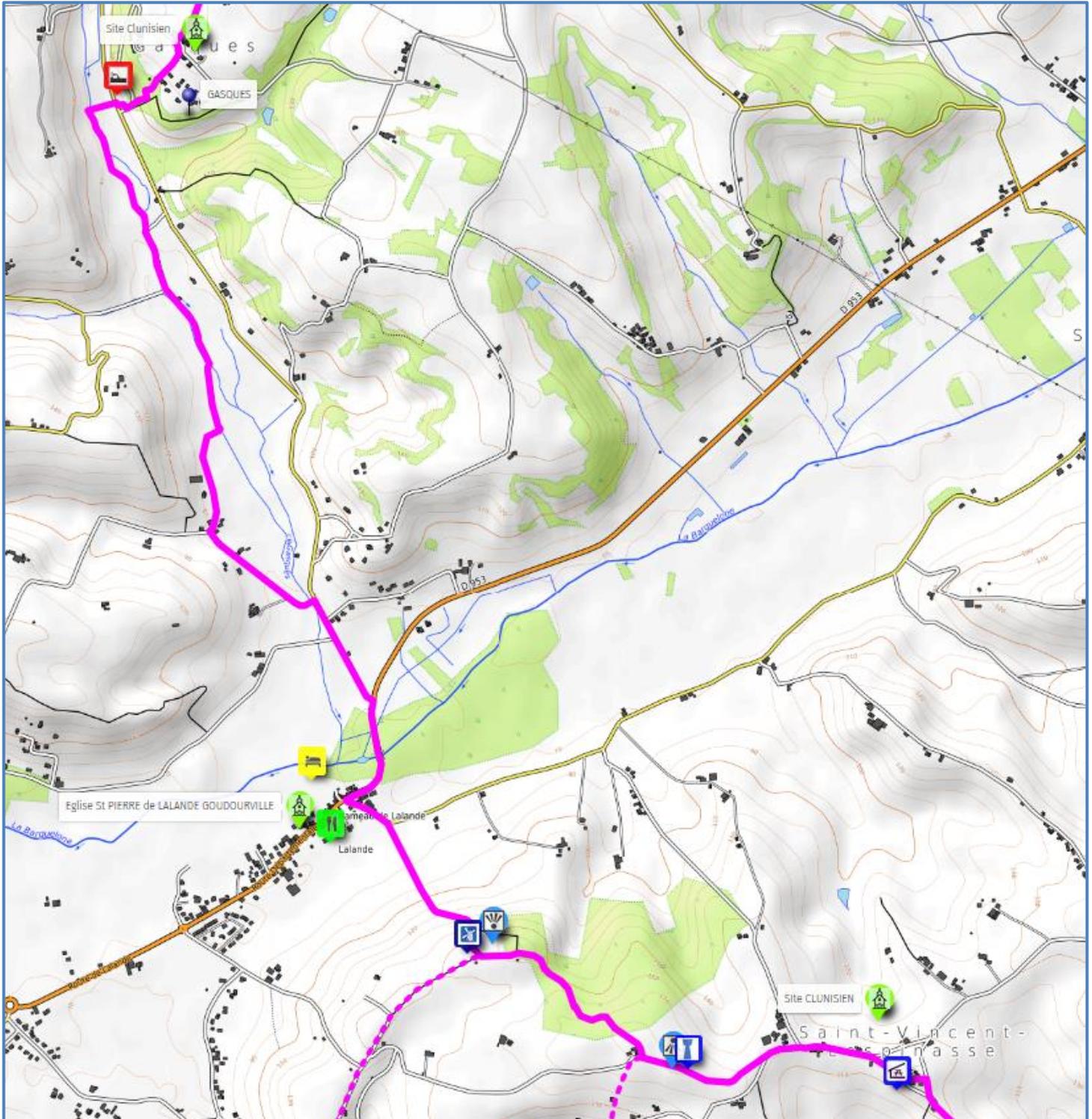


DIRECTION EAST-WEST : MOISSAC- AGEN



STAGE 3A : St Vincent Lespinasse - Gasques

Sectionlength: 6.9 km Allow: 2h00mn Height difference: +127m / - 145m Difficulty: Medium



Waymarking: Red and green  

Driving distance to St. Vincent Lespinasse is 34km from Agen and 14km from Moissac

Parking: Large car park below the 'Place de la Mairie'. Picnic benches near the hall.

Start point: Place de la Mairie, St. Vincent Lespinasse

St Vincent Lespinasse

The Romanesque church of the parish of St. Vincent Lespinasse is a former Cluniac dependency.

The parish was originally part of the bishopric of Agen. One part was a dependency of the Agenais region and the other of the Quercy region. In 1278, the ecclesiastical rights of the bishopric of Agen were given over to the Benedictine Cluniac Abbey of St. Maurin.

Go up a steep road '**Place du Bourg**', near the old covered market hall. This leads to the church and the 'Marie' (Town Hall). Continue down the hill to the main road and turn right (**Route de Goudourville**). Continue for approximately **600m**, heading out of the village.

Just after the last house on the right (shortly after a sign '**Chemin de Rouzet**') the road bends to the left. Continue straight on along a farm track, which goes slightly uphill. (After about **150m** along this track, make sure you keep to the left of the bank. The track to the right is a dead end).

The track goes past a water tower and trees on the right and has a beautiful panoramic view across the Garonne valley. After the water tower continue for approx. **200m** until a farm '**Magret**'.

At this point there is a possibility of a 'variante' (alternative route) leading to Gasques via Goudourville (see itinerary No. 3 bis).

Take the grassy track to the right before the first building. The track goes down and then up through woodland and eventually becomes an open grass track leading to an old windmill (locally known as the 'Peppermill').

At this point there is a possibility of a 'variante' (alternative route) leading to St. Vincent Lespinasse via Goudourville (see itinerary No. 3 bis).

Immediately before the mill, turn right onto a grass track. Follow the main track downhill, going between hedges. After a while the track bends to the left. Continue on the main path all the way down into the valley, where the path terminates at a road (**D57**).

Turn left along the road into the village of **Lalande**. After about **100m**, turn right onto the main road (**D953**), signposted '**Lauzerte**'. Follow the **D953** out of Lalande over a stone bridge which crosses the river '**Barguelonne**'. At the next road junction turn left onto the **D46**, signposted **Gasques**.

In Lalande: Restaurant and B&B ('Le Petit Robinson').

Follow the **D46** for about **450m**, passing a bus shelter on your left. Continue and take the next road on the left, going over a little bridge by the signposts to '**Peyrandrieu**' and '**Colombier**'.

After about **500m** the road splits. Here take the right turn after passing a small brook. Follow the road until it becomes a grass track adjacent to wooden building with a solar roof. This grass track bends to the right and then to the left and skirts a line of trees on the right. It then bends to the right over a small concrete bridge crossing a stream. Continue with the trees and the stream now on your left.

Just after a house on the right, the grass track becomes a tarmac road. Follow the road straight on for about **300m** until it bends to the right towards a concrete bridge. Do not cross the bridge. Carry straight on along a narrow woodland path with a small stream on your right.

This woodland path bends to the right and terminates near another concrete bridge. Cross over the bridge onto a grassy track which after **100m** leads onto the main road (**D46**).

Turn right on the **D46** (near a bus shelter) and then almost immediately left onto the **C1**, towards **Gasques**. After about **20m**, leave the **C1** and take a steep woodland track to your right going uphill. (Also signposted GRP Quercy – Pays de Serre).

At the top of the path turn left opposite a rock face. You will immediately see a picnic area and a 'lavoir' (former wash-house). Take the small track above the 'lavoir' leading up the hill. Proceed up stone steps cut into the cliff.

At the top of the steps, enter the village of **Gasques** via a narrow grassy path. There is a stone wall and fencing on your left. When the path widens and enters the village, continue straight along a gravel road until you reach the main village road (**D46**). Turn left.

Take a moment to appreciate the beautiful old Romanesque church, a former dependency of the Cluniac Abbey of Moissac.

Almost immediately turn right next to a house called '**La Grange au Chêne**' to continue towards Castelsagrat.