



Chemin de CLUNY : GUYENNE - GASCOGNE

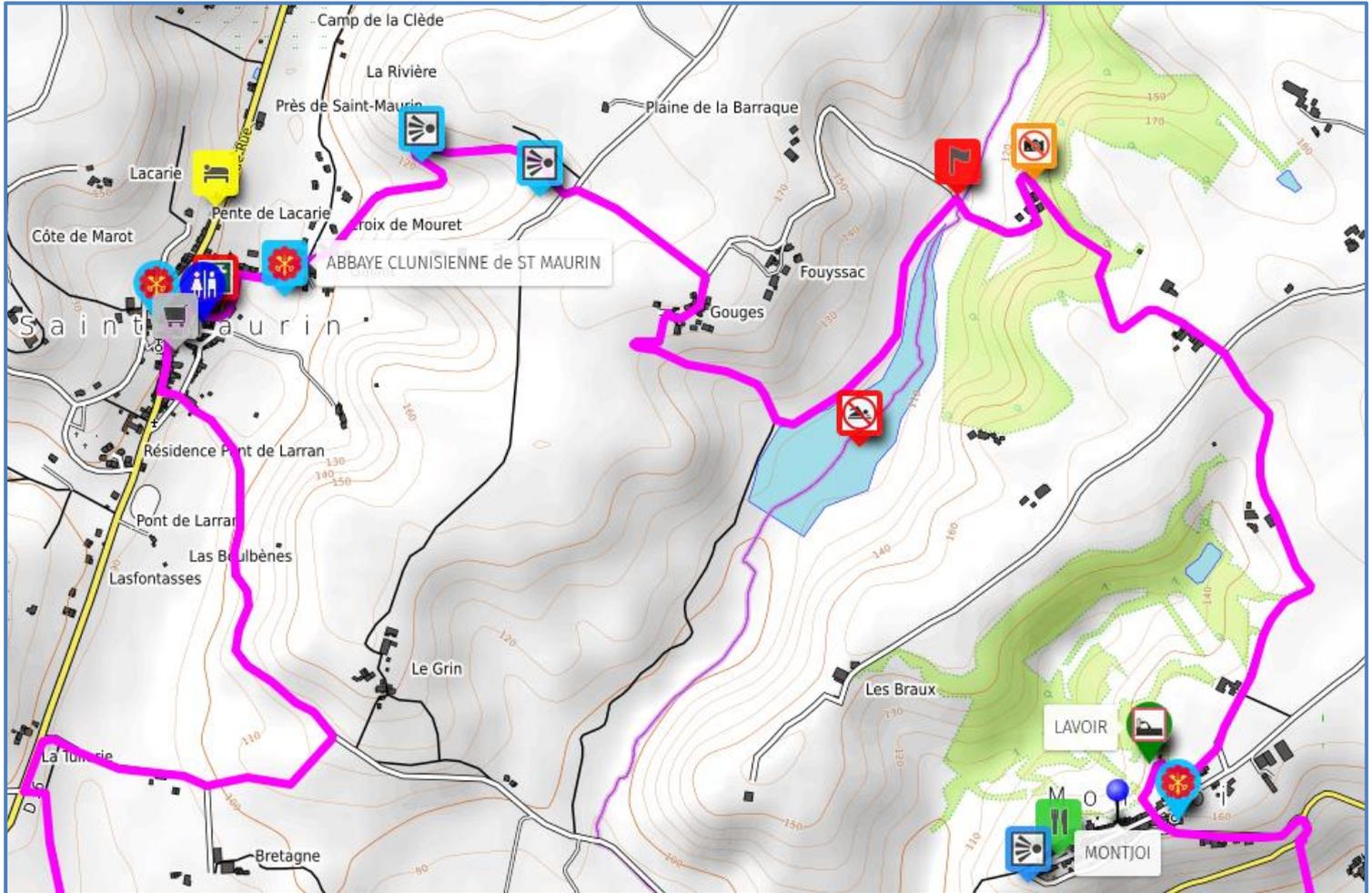


DIRECTION EAST - WEST : MOISSAC - AGEN

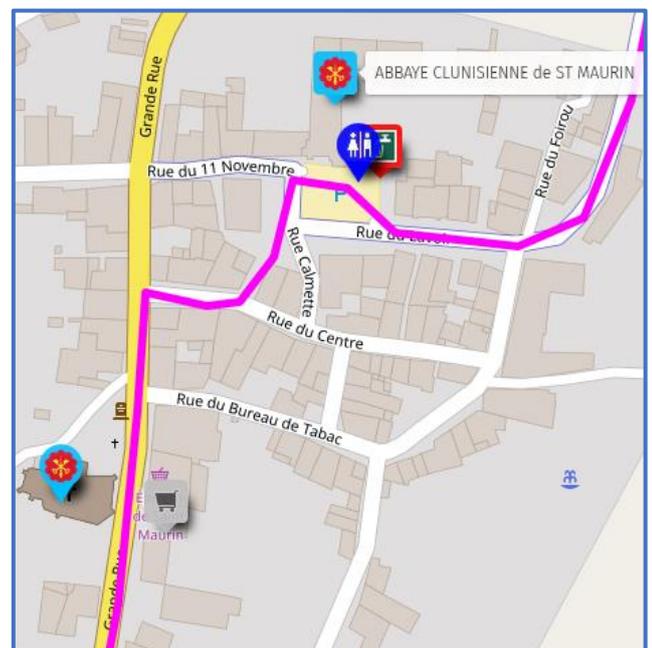


STAGE 5A : Montjoi -St Maurin

Section length: 5,6 km Allow: 2h00mn Height difference : + 146m /- 207m – Difficulty : Medium



Waymarking: Red and green



Driving distance to Montjoi is 30km from Agen and 21km from Moissac

Parking: Car park in front of the 'Salle de Fête' (on the main road, 200m from the arched stone entrance to the village)

Start point: Arched stone entrance to village

Montjoi and its church of St. Martin were former dependencies of the Cluniac Abbey of St. Maurin. Montjoi is situated at the boundaries of the regions of 'Nouvelle Aquitaine' and 'Occitanie' and the départements of the 'Lot et Garonne' and 'Tarn et Garonne'.

It is well worth visiting the pretty fortified village ('bastide') of Montjoi. To do so, pass through the 14th Century stone arched entrance and walk along the road through picturesque medieval houses. At the end of the village continue past the green and you will come to a view point overlooking the valley of the river 'Séoune'. Just below the viewpoint, follow a path to the left, which leads you below the village and back near the stone arched entrance. This path gives beautiful views of the surrounding countryside.

At the point where the **D46** turns sharply away from the village, carry straight on, keeping the arched stone entrance to Montjoi on your left and a war memorial to your right. Go straight down the hill. After approximately **30m** turn right on a path towards a 'lavoir' (former wash-house). Continue on the path on the right above the lavoir and then turn left onto a grass track near the 'Salle de Fete'. This track goes behind the school and leads to a tarmac road.

Turn left and continue along the road for just over **2 km**. At the top of the hill, at a crossroads, carry straight on (passing a farm called '**Naudette**'). From here the road descends into the valley, making several sharp bends. After passing through a smallholding (*please do not disturb the animals or take photos*) continue over a small stone bridge and you will come to a metal barrier on your left. Turn left, going under the barrier.

This takes you onto a grass track which leads to a lake on your left. *Note: strictly no bathing.*

Continue on the track, skirting the lake for about **800m**. Where the main track bends slightly to the left, turn right and continue on an uphill track between trees (2nd track on the right after the barrier).

At the top of the hill, follow the track round to the right, with a cliff face on your left. When you reach a tarmac road, turn right and follow the road through the hamlet of '**Gouges**'. At a T-junction turn left (next to a large green electricity box). After **300m** (at the next road junction) turn left and follow the road. This bends to the right and goes downhill into St. Maurin. There are beautiful views of St. Maurin and its Cluniac Abbey. At the bottom of the hill follow the road into the village. Turn left at the 'lavoir' (former wash-house) into '**Rue Basse**' which leads to the square ('**Place du Chateau Abbatial**') with its abbey and covered market hall dating from the 17th century.

*In **St. Maurin** it is well worth visiting the remains of the ancient Benedictine Cluniac abbey. Follow the arrows of the bilingual information signs, taking you from the cloisters to the choir, passing the absidioles, the clock tower and the Abbot's garden.*

During the summer there are late afternoon guided visits of the abbey. The ethnographic museum in the abbey building is also open between 15.00hrs and 19.00hrs.