



Chemin de CLUNY : GUYENNE - GASCOGNE

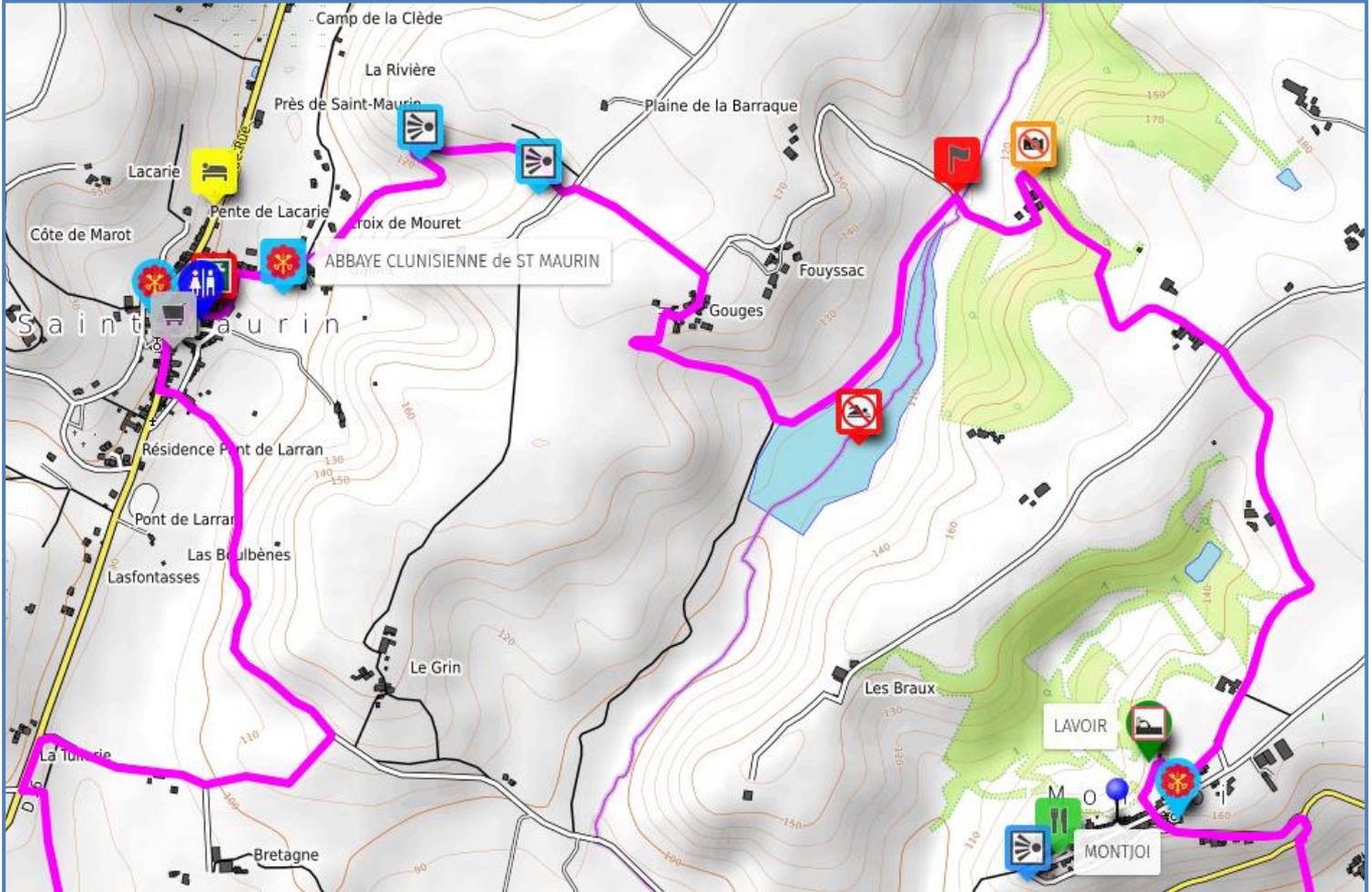


DIRECTION WEST - EAST : AGEN - MOISSAC

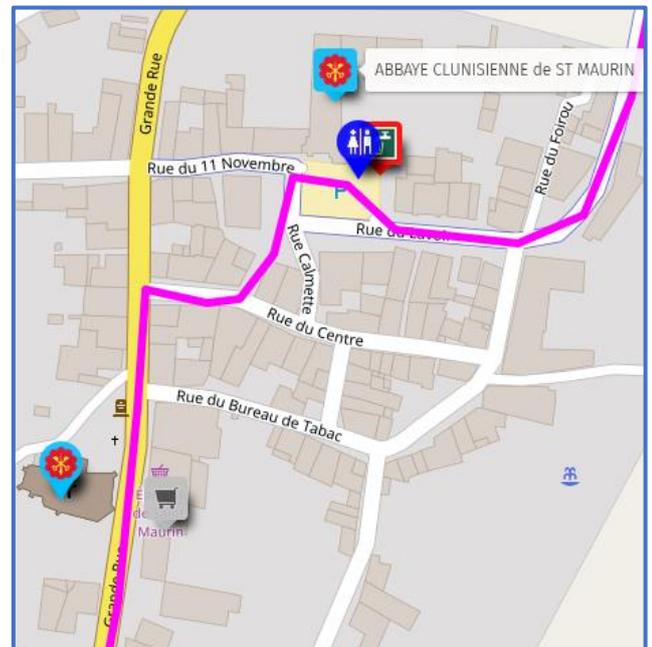


STAGE 5R : SAINT-MAURIN - MONTJOI

Section length: 5,6 km Allow: 2h00mn Height difference : + 207m /- 143m – Difficulty : Medium



Waymarking: Red and green



Driving distance to St. Maurin is 26km from Agen and 24km from Moissac

Parking: In the old square in front of the Abbey and the Mairie, or on the outskirts of the village near the sports ground

Start point: In the old square in the village centre, in front of the Abbey

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.

At the lower end of the square ('Place du Château abbatial') follow the '**Rue du Lavoir**' downhill and round to the left following a stone wall'. At the 'lavoir' (former wash-house), turn right into '**Rue de la Tourellette**'. Go over the bridge over the stream ('l'Escorneboeuf'). At the stone cross ('**Croix de Mouret**') continue up the hill for approx. **1.2 km**, following the bends in the road.

At the top of the hill, carry straight over onto a road sign-posted '**Fouyssac**' & '**Gouges**'. After **500m**, near an electric transformer box, turn right into the hamlet of '**Gouges**'. The road goes between houses and bends to the right. Towards the end of the hamlet, where the tarmac finishes, turn left onto a grass track.

Follow the track downhill, going towards a lake. (Note: *bathing strictly forbidden*).

At the bottom of the hill, turn left and continue alongside the lake for about **800m** until you come to a metal barrier and a road. (Go under the barrier, do not try to open it).

Turn right and follow the winding road uphill for about **1km**. (The road passes through a smallholding, please do not disturb the animals or take photos). At the crossroad at the top of a hill, (after a house called 'Naudette') carry straight on for a further **1.1 km**. Just before the school of Montjoi (approx. **40m** before you reach the main road) turn right onto a grassy track.

Follow the path behind the school of Montjoi then turn right, going downhill behind the 'Salle de Fêtes'. You will see the 'lavoir' (former wash-house) to your right below the path. Carry on the track for about **50m** until the path crosses a concrete track. Turn left and follow the concrete track uphill for about **30m** until you reach the **D46**, going between a war memorial and the arched stone entrance to Montjoi.

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.