



Chemin de CLUNY : GUYENNE - GASCOGNE

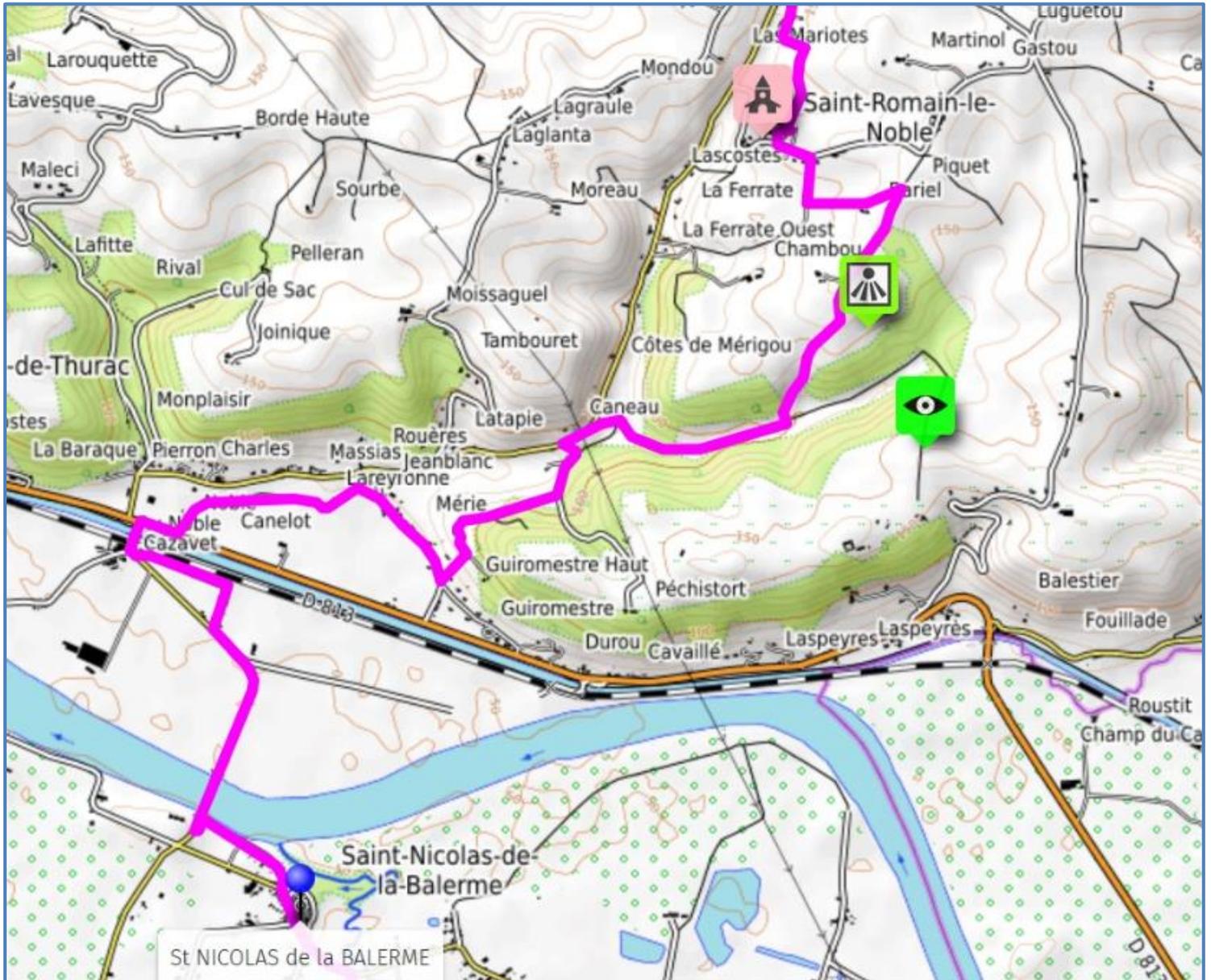


Direction EAST – WEST : MOISSAC - AGEN



Stage 8A : Saint Romain le Noble - Saint Nicolas de la Balerme

Section length: 7km Allow : 2h15mn Height difference : + 54m / - 153m Difficulty : Medium



Way marking are red and green



Saint Romain is 20km from Agen and 33km from Moissac.

Parking at north side of the church. Walk starts here.

Passing in front of the church steps, turn left onto the road.

Take the first right near the sign indicating the end of the village.

After about **200m**, and before the bend, turn left uphill on a grassy track.

Reaching the road, turn right and continue towards a farm « **Prestin** »

Do not approach the building, but continue ahead on a grassy track. *Good view here of the domaine at château Goth.* Keep left where the track forks and walk ahead downhill into the valley. At the bottom turn right and follow the **Barrère** stream at the edge of the fields.

Walk through the hamlet and turn left uphill on a tarmacked track to reach the road. Keep left. After **50m** turn left downhill (Chemin de la **Chappe**). Cross the stream and walk ahead on the road. After the left-hand bend, near the large oak tree, turn right on a grassy track. Further on, in a gap, there's a pretty valley view on the right.

Cross two stiles which enclose a field. Continue to the tarmac track. Turn left on the track, then right downhill on a concrete road (rather steep). At the bottom, turn right and continue along the road (**Chemin de Merle**).

Near the dovecot branch left on a grassy track beside a fence and poplar trees. At the ash tree turn left on a deepish track (you can see the main road across the fields). Pass the restored farm house « **Lareyrone** », turn right immediately after the barn and keep to the right of a hedge. At the STOP sign, cross the main road and walk right, until next junction. Take care – busy road.

At the junction, turn left and cross the canal and railway line. A little further on, immediately after the bridge turn left (Chemin de **Bellerive** ». Opposite the old station turn right and continue to the road. Turn left and walk towards the bridge over the Garonne.

Crossing the road bridge, *note the 15thC château Saint Philippe (right)*. Turn left immediately after the bridge (dog-leg bend) and continue towards the village of Saint Nicolas de la Balermé.

SAINT NICOLAS DE LA BALERME

*The 15th century **chateau of St. Phillippe** is a fine example of a Gascony style castle. It occupies an exceptional site above the flood zone on the left bank of the Garonne. It can be seen from the nearby bridge over the Garonne.*

*The **church of Saint Nicolas de la Balermé** was destroyed during the religious wars and was reconstructed towards the end of the 16th century. It is a mixture of Romanesque and Gothic architecture. It houses a wooden statue of Saint Roch, who became the patron saint of the parish. This listed statue was carved by a local craftsman in the 15th century.*

SAINT ROMAIN LE NOBLE

In the village is a richly-decorated cross, with four hearts in the quarters forming a Greek cross in which is inscribed the Crucifixion scene. The church of Saint-Romain dates from the start of the 16th century. Note the impressive wall of the bell tower. The building is panelled and the chapel is dedicated to Our Lady. The church was re-modelled after a fire, and the bell tower - formerly triangular - became rectangular. Apart from the building itself, note the 14th century doorway decorated with early Renaissance sculptures representing monsters, chimeras and foliage in a somewhat coarse manner. Inside, we can admire the stone font dating from 1750 and a 19th century statue to the Virgin and Child.