



Chemin de CLUNY : GUYENNE - GASCOGNE

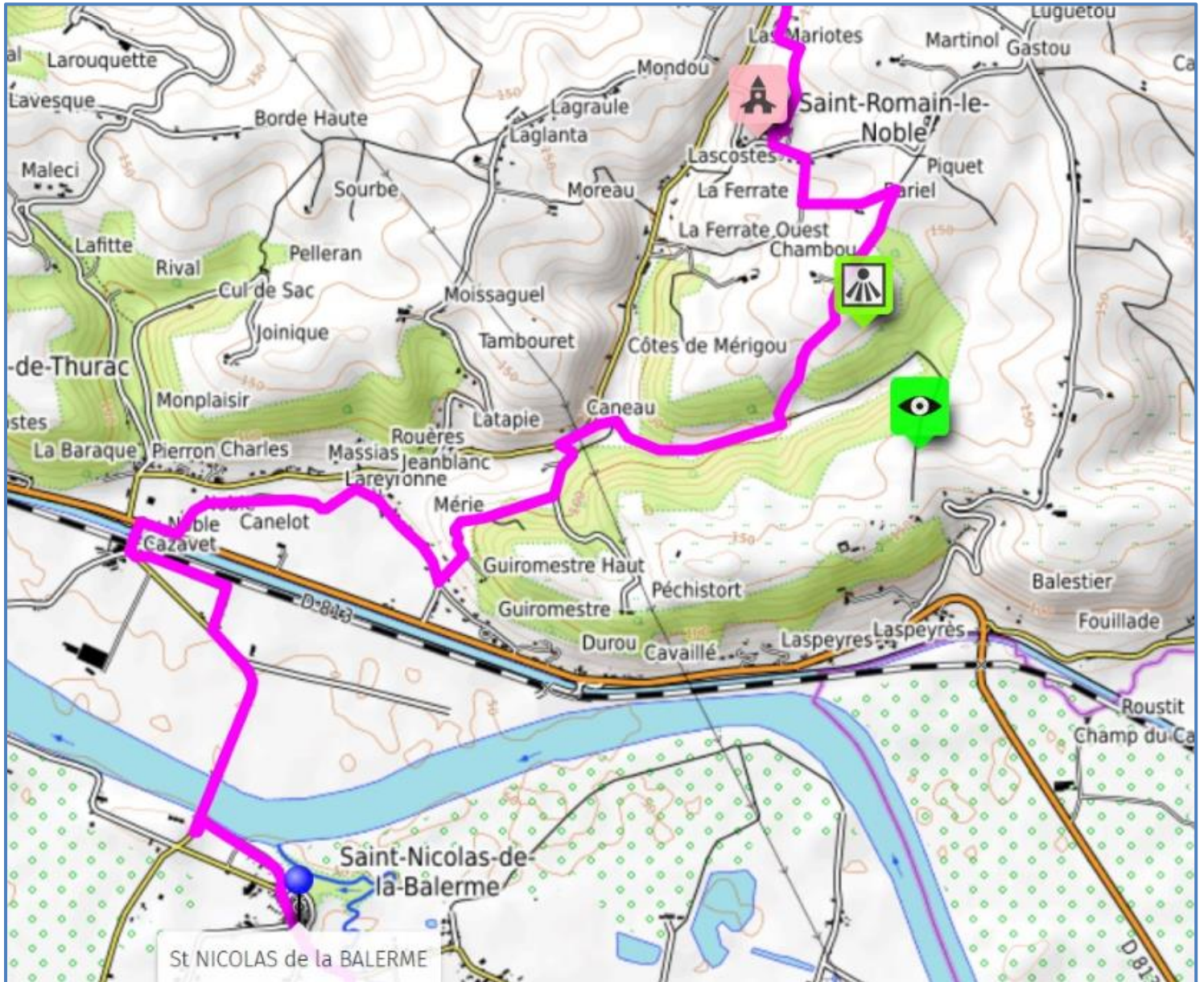


Direction WEST - EAST : AGEN - MOISSAC



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

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



Way marking are red and green



Saint Nicolas de la Balerme is 18km from Agen and 33km from Moissac

Park in front of the mairie. Walk starts here.

Join the center of the village, then take on the left rue **Garonne**, walk to the bridge to cross the river. Keep ahead. After the left-hand bend, take the first road on the right towards the old railway station. Turn left in front of the station building and walk parallel to the railway line. At the intersection, turn right and cross the small bridge, the railway line and the canal.

Cross the main road **D813** (take care, busy road) turn right, keeping along the verge and after about **150m** turn left. This is a tarmac road servicing various building, which becomes a grass track between fields. Keep ahead. Immediately after the barn « **Lareyrone** » turn left along a hollow track. Turn right and keep along a fence bordered by poplar trees to reach the road.

Keep right and continue along the road for **400m**, then turn left uphill (**Chemin de Merle**). This is a concrete road and rather steep. At the top, turn left for **70m**, then climb up right onto a grassy track between 'stiles'. Walk along this track (further on there's a good view to the left). Keep on towards the road. Here turn left downhill, crossing a stream and climbing up to another road. Turn right, then after a **100m** right again (towards **La Pointe**).

Walk between the houses and keep ahead on the track beside the **Barrère** stream. Further on, the track goes left uphill. You will eventually arrive near a farm (*good views to rear including the fine ensemble at château Goth*). Ignoring the **Prestin** farm buildings, keep ahead along the road until you reach another house. Turn sharp left downhill on a grassy track towards another road. Turn right here in the direction of the village and at the next junction turn left. The village lies ahead.

SAINT NICOLAS DE LA BALERME

*The 15th century **chateau of St. Phillipe** 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 Balerm** 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.