

The way of Vezelay – Landes

This way begins in Vézelay, Bourgogne, and goes through Les Landes during 90 kilometers. It goes through Mont-de-Marsan, the biggest city in the department and through the Saint Sever abbay (classified in Humanity's World Patrimony by the UNESCO). Saint Sever was the evangelist of the Gasconne region, he was beheaded during the Vth Century.

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1 - Captieux > Limit of les Landes - Distance : 12,5 km

0km - At Captieux's Church head towards Maillas on the N624.

0,650km - When you face the old house of the barrier guard (n°41) turn right and go straight (on an old railway).

6km - Cross the « Le Billon » way.

9,900km - You arrived on an asphalt road, turn left.

10,800km - After you cross the highway on the bridge, turn right and follow the way on the side of the highway.

12,500km - At the signpost « Voie de Vézelay » you arrived in les Landes. Take the left track.

2 - Arrival in les Landes > Bourriot - Distance : 8,500 km

0km - When you are at the direction board « Voie de Vézelay » take left (abandoned railway).

1,600km - You will arrive on a tar road. Follow it on the right for 300m.

1,900km - When you see the big hangar « Saus de Bas », take left before the electric transformer.

4,500km - You will go by the agricultural exploitation « La Plante », then 500m further by « Grand Loucaucus »'s and 500m further again by the poultry farming « Petit Loucaucus ». The road will then be very curved to the right.

5,800km - Attention. In this curve leave the road on the left and take the sandy track heading South in the pine forest. Around 400m further you will find the aerial of the « Petit Bétera ».

6,400km - You are now on a private property. Please be discreet and nice just like you would expect someone crossing your garden to be. As soon as you past the houses, take the path on your right. It will lead you very near the small river « Pouchiou ». 20 meters before reaching the river, you can take a break and see the fountain and the small statue of Virgin Mary. Once you cross the river you can admire a beautiful water reserve. 50 meters further from the river, take the path on the left direction « chemin du « Pouchiou ». Follow this path towards the South/South-East after you go by the poultry farming.

7,900km - You arrive on the D24 road. Turn left to reach the BOURRIOT village.

8,500km - At the Church of BOURRIOT take the D224 road on the right in the direction of RETJONS. 200 meters later turn left CD 379 in the direction of St Gor. After going down on 500 meters you will cross the river of Lugaut, then the road goes up on 400 meters.

9,700km - Attention ! Once you reach the top of the hill leave the road and take the sandy path on the right. 1km further away, the road splits in two : take the left path (SE).

11,300km - There is a house on your right. At the intersection : take the path on the right, it is an old railway.

12,100km - Take the bridge up the Lugaut.

12,700 km - You arrive on a very well indicated intersection. You can take three different directions : all straight to Roquefort, on the left there is a cute and modest chapel that deserves a visit (you can get the key at the cityhall of RETJONS), and on your right 2,500km away : the city of RETJONS.

Take the direction of ROQUEFORT and follow the ballast.

13,700km - Go over the river the « Retjons » by the bridge « La Moulasse » (picnic area down below).

14,400km - You are passing by the former train station of Retjons. Right after the residential area you will cross an asphalt road and go straight on the path.

15,400km - Cross the « Ribarrouy » river and go straight.

17,400km - You arrive on an asphalt road, take the direction of the Lagune of Nabias in front of you slightly on the left.

17,700km - Take the grassy path on the right.

18,800km - You arrive on an asphalt road, follow it on 20 meters and take the path on the left before the house of the barrier guard.

19,800km - Take the path on the left.

20,200km - Take the path on the right (W), (in front, there is an abandoned industrial building).

20,900km - Take the path on the left.

21,200km - After the nautic base you arrive on an asphalt road (there is a big house in front), turn right.

21,600km - Turn left and right after take the path on the right.

22,000km - You arrive on the D932. At the stop turn left and 50 meters further turn left, take the « chemin de Coupet ».

22,200km - Take the small bridge over the « l'Estampon » river. You will go up and then reach the ROQUEFORT place Georges Lapions. Go down all straight in Portelang street.

22,700km - You are in Gambetta street in front of the Church.

3 - Roquefort > Mont de Marsan - Distance : 26,800 km

0km - Departure in front of the house of the Pilgrims. Go back to the gate of the Church using the small stone staircases in the former wall of the ramparts. Go under the porch and cross the garden. After the wrought iron gate, take left in street C.Hubert Crohare and get to the Cagots plaza. From there, go down towards the bridge going over the « Douze », also called as the 'gothic bridge'. Here, you can enjoy a nice view over one of the towers of the former castle. Go up the Penecadet street during a hundred meters, until the turn on the right. After this turn, the pilgrim can choose between two options:

1°) For the pilgrim in a hurry : go straight up until you reach the D932 road. When the road splits in two and offers the direction of Pau on one side, and Mont de Marsan on the other, take right to Mont de Marsan. Go straight on this road (D932) until you reach a crossroad sign displaying C101 - towards RD934.

2°) For the pilgrim who has time to walk around : after you exit the turn, take the small stairs called the 'Boque' on your left. It will lead you to the D932 road. Cross this road to take the small earthy path called 'Brunot' up on over forty meters. You will arrive on the plateau close by a small asphalt road (the path of the Pouy). Take this path to the right on 200m until when the road splits in two. This intersection is called the "barrack" (la caserne).

Take the D934 road on the left in the direction of Pau on over 100m. Cross the D934 and join the small asphalt road going towards the right (path of Bostens). You will follow this road until a bridge going over the peripheral road of Roquefort. Right after, turn right to go along the deviation. Before you reach the big road, take left the path of Balloche. It will become a earthy path before going back on the D932. Take this big road on the left and 300m further, you will reach the intersection indicating C101 - towards RD934.

The pilgrim in a hurry will have walked 2km200. The pilgrim who had time to walk around will have walked 2km700.

2km700 - At the intersection indicating C101 - towards RD934, take left and take the earthy path going into the woods. Keep on going straight (south) without taking any of the paths that will appear on your way. The road you are following will become quite grassy. When the road splits in two, take the left path. Walk by a tas de terre over 300m, and you will get to a perpendicular path. On your left there is the gate of a private property, take right.

4km500 - ATTENTION 50m further turn left (south) on a way going up a little bit. Soon the path will become sandier, and you will go by a house on your left. The path goes down following an electrical line and becomes even sandier. Soon you will be able to see the houses of CORBLEU.

5km500 - When reaching the asphalt road keep on going straight to reach the Church of Corbleu. Pass by the graveyard. At this place, there is a source of water famous for healing toothache. Go down towards the little bridge and take the path going up. Ignore the road on your right. Now you can follow the same road until Gaillères. At the crossroad « Garroua » keep on walking in the pine forest.

7km300 - Intersection with the Pouydesseaux road, keep on going straight in the direction of Bostens.

8km300 - Here you reach the Church of BOSTENS that does deserve a visit ! Ask the key in the house right in front.

10km600 - In the city of Bostens, keep on walking straight in the direction of Gaillères. 800m after you leave the city, you can enjoy the view of a crucifix on your left, and beautiful old oak trees along the road. Still on the road heading towards Gaillères, the view will switch from forest to fields as you are getting close to the big asphalt road to Mont-de-Marsan in Houillès (D933). Intersection with the D933 road. ATTENTION ! Take the big road on the left, but turn right away on the right in the direction of Gaillères.

11km600 - Facing the Church of GAILLERES, you can observe a path marker on its wall. Right above this marker, the stained glass represents Holy Jacques of Compostelle the saint. Take the road on your right in the direction of Bougue by heading towards the water tower.

13km200 - (taking the shortest way) Keep on heading south towards Bougue. Pay attention not to turn on the right in the direction of St-Avit.

17km000 - Crossing the bridge over the Midou river.

17km800 - The road goes down and you arrive in Bougue. At the intersection with the road of Mont-de-Marsan, close by the wash-house, take left to reach the esplanade between the Party room and the Church. Ask in the bar how to get access to the refuge.

Begin to walk from the plaza of BOUGUE. Take the direction of LAGLORIEUSE (Landmark Michelin). Walk over 500m and you will reach a crossroad with a bicycle path (on the left there is the house of the security guard).

18km300 - Take this path on the right and follow it until you reach Mont-de-Marsan regardless of the crossroads you may pass by. Walk on the left side of the path, you will not hear the cyclists coming from behind you.

21km100 - After walking this road on 2km800, you arrive at a crossroad indicating « Beaussiet » on your right and « Mazerolles » on your left. Keep on walking straight and you will soon be crossing the peripheral road by under, 1km200 further away.

23km800 - You are now reaching another crossroad indicating « St-Médard » on the left. Keep on going straight and you will be in the surroundings of Mont-de-Marsan. There will be houses on each side of the road.

24km600 - After walking past two crossroads offering paths towards houses of the residential area you are now at another crossroad with the "Avenue de Lacrouts". From there you can see the bell tower of the roman Church of Saint-Médard. Keep walking straight this way.

26km300 - You are now at a crossroad with traffic lights ("Boulevard du Chemin Creux"). Turn right to cross along the boulevard you were going along so far ("Boulevard d'Alingsas") and walk straight by the Boulevard Jean Larrieu until the Avenue Eloi Ducom. Take this Avenue by the left. Walk in the direction of the city center. At the traffic lights, take the road Rue Lesbazeilles slightly on your right.

26km800 - You are now in front of the refuge. To obtain the key, follow the instructions detailed on the door. Credential is mandatory. To get out of the town from the refuge, take the Rue Lesbazeilles again until Rue Gambetta. Take this street on the left and keep on walking in direction of Grenade-sur-Adour.

4 - Mont de Marsan > St Sever - Distance : 15,5 km

City center of Mont-de-Marsan. Take the Rue Gambetta street until the roundabout « Jean Jaurès ». Take the direction of PAU - TARBES - GRENADE SUR ADOUR by the D624 road. You are still in the surroundings of the city, and you will be slowly leaving the city on this straight road slightly going up and down.

0km700 - You are not at a crossroad (you can see a roundabout 100m away) indicating the direction of Saint Pierre du Mont on your right by the D321 road. Take this road. 150m further there is a signpost indicating Lareigne. Take this direction. You will go under an asphalt peripheral road. Keep on walking this road.

2km000 - You will pass by two houses on your left, then one on your right and it will be the end of the road. Keep on walking straight

by taking a stony path, and then a path going into a pine forest. 600m further, a path will cross yours. Take it on the right. ATTENTION ! Only 250m further, take the first path on the left you will see. You are still in a pine forest.

3km700 - You are now on an asphalt road. Turn left and follow this road all straight. At the crossroad keep on walking straight. You will go by a drugstore and then the Church of the Benquet village. Keep on walking straight.

6km000 - You are now in the village of Benquet.

At the exit of the village, you will go by schools and you will be in a turn, then a roundabout. At the roundabout, take left towards Saint Maurice. 900m further at the crossroad ("route de Loustaou") keep going straight, then 300m further you will go by the Church of Saint Christau, and 1.3km further you will be at another crossroad ("route du Catalan"). Keep walking in the direction of Saint Sever another 700m, there will be another crossroad ("chemin du Parroc"). Keep going straight towards Saint Sever.

10km000 - You are now at a crossroad (« chemin du Coye »). Keep on going straight and 700m further you will be at another crossroad ("chemin de Laouzère"). ATTENTION. Turn left in the direction of the "chemin de Laouzère". Take this small asphalt road and after 400m you will take the earthy path in front. Walk 2km until you see a stony transversal path. Take this path on our left, it will lead you to an asphalt road.

14km000 - Take right on a small asphalt road and follow it during 1km500. 200m before the roundabout you can see from far, take the left marked path. It will lead you on another road you will take on the right. Cross the D924 road ATTENTION (be prudent, it is a busy road). You will soon be reaching Sainte Eulalie after 150m.

15km500 - In Sainte Eulalie go by the Church and head towards the terraces of Sainte Eulalie. Follow the road parallel to the river, walk under a railway bridge and you will reach a bridge going over the Adour river. From the bridge, bronze shells fixed to the floor will guide you in your crossing of Saint Sever. Take the bridge to get to a crossroad located in the turn down the way going up. 300m after the turn, turn left in the direction of "Côte de Brille". On top of this way up, you will be in Saint Sever. Keep walking straight in the direction of Abbatiale Xème.

Once you arrive at the Abbatiale (the Tourism Office is right in front of it), take the Rue des Arceaux on the left and keep walking straight by the Rue du Général Lamarque to reach the "Cloître des Jacobins" where is the refuge.

5 - St Sever > Sault de Navailles - Distance : 27 km

0km - From the « Cloître des Jacobins » take the Rue du Général Lamarque and then the Rue de la Guillerie. At the end of this street turn right to finally arrive at the crossroad Route de Montaut (traffic lights). Take right Boulevard de l'Espérance. After having walked 300m take left (next to the leisure center), and follow the Cemin de Laburthe. Then 900m further, take left Chemin de Laboye (stony path) heading towards the water tower. You will arrive 1300m later on a transversal road Chemin du Barthe. Take right and 300m further take left at the crossroad in the direction of Chemin de Pugnerette.

2km000 - Follow this road and you will reach the bridge going over the Gabas river.

4km000 - Cross the bridge of the Gabas river. The asphalt road is heading South and goes by a nice mill and a pumping station on your right. The road heads full South and crosses the river it has been going along since the mill. 100m further, leave the road and cross the railway. Immediately take the path on the left going along the way. The path is covered by asphalt at the beginning but ATTENTION you will have to leave it around the first house to take an earthy path going down by the railway. The path will soon go by the stone bridge of the railway, go along the river (of Laudon), and then crosses it at the entrance in AUDIGNON.

6km000 - At the outlet on the D21 road, plaza Compostelle, take the big road in the direction of HORSARRIEU.

6km500 - Crossroad : take left the D78 road. The railway is still visible on the left. The road slowly goes up and goes by a few farms. On top of the road, around a crucifix, turn left in the direction of the Chemin du Camps by a small road going down towards the railway.

9km000 - You will cross the railway by going under the bridge. The small road then goes up until a crossroad signed with a crucifix. Keep walking straight to go under the railway again. The road slightly goes down. You can see HORSARRIEU in the heights in front of you. At the crossroad, keep going straight while going up, and ignore the « no entry » sign. You will arrive by the Church of the village.

11km000 - Cross HORSARRIEU straight by the Rue St Blaise heading towards the D78 road. It will lead you up to the entrance in HAGETMAU. On your way you will see the oldest monolithic crucifix of les Landes, at the lieu-dit Lespitaou.

13km000 - You arrive at the roundabout at the entrance of HAGETMAU.

Two options are offered to you:

1°) If you feel tired or are willing to go shopping a bit, or look for a refuge: walk all straight in the direction of the city center. The main road crosses the city quasi straight. This path is marked.

2°) If you are willing to walk around a bit more and visit the crypt of SAINT GIRONS, the way is marked in the direction of ORTHEZ. ATTENTION 100m further after the roundabout turn left. The road goes down towards the crypt of Saint Girons. By taking the road marked by a STOP sign, the pilgrim willing to visit has to turn right to get to the crypt around 150m away. After the visit, he will have to go back to this STOP sign to get into the marked path again.

The pilgrim who does not wish to visit the crypt can keep walking straight at the STOP sign, taking the small path going down until a second STOP sign (in front of a bakery). Then turn right and immediately on the left (towards the small craftsmanship area). Keep on walking straight. Go by the municipal abattoirs to get to the big road close by the bridge on Le Louts. Right after the bridge, take the small path going along the river. Walking 1km by the river will lead you to the bridge of the D933 road at the exit of the city.

Between the roundabout of the entrance of the city and the bridge of the D933 road on Le Louts, the distance is of 3km by going by the crypt, and 1k800 by directly crossing the city.

At the bridge of the D933 road going over the Louts river at the exit of Hagetmau. Keep on walking on the D933 road up to the top of the road. There, take the small path on the left ("chemin de Lafargue"). 300m further, it will cross the D357 road Route de Labastide-Chalosse. Take this departemental road on the right.

14km000 - From this crossroad up to Argelos, you will be on the D357 road for most of the way. You will only leave it to take a shortcut at Labastide-Chalosse. Keep heading south in the direction of Labastide-Chalosse 300m after getting on the D357 road.

When the road splits in two (sign “Quartier de Coupés”), take the right branch. Keep on the D357 road in a landscape of fields slightly hilly.

16km000 - Crossing of a river. Keep on walking on the D357 road.

16km800- Arrival at the intersection with the Route de Momuy. On your right, you can see the nice fountain of Beogos which has been rehabilitated by Suzon Leglise, the founder of the Association of the Friends of Saint-Jacques and of the Compostellan Studies of Les Landes. Keep on walking on the D357 road. 200m further you can see on your right a beautiful statue of Saint-Michel. Soon you will be able to see the bell tower of the Church of Labastide-Chalosse.

17km800 - Church of Labastide. ATTENTION 200m after the Church, take the path on the left : it is small and goes down steep through the woods during 400m. It will lead you to a small road, take it on the right to join back the D357 road on your left in the direction of Argelos. The road goes through the valley ; woods on the left, fields on the right until the bridge going over the Luy de France.

19km800 - Bridge of the Luy de France. Cross this bridge. The road goes along a son river of the Luy. Do not take the road to Poudenx on your left, instead stay on the D357 road going along the river. ATTENTION a road marked in yellow goes soon on the right. Remain on the D357 road, which will go steeper and smaller. At the crossroad with a central crucifix, take on the right to get into Argelos.

21km800 - 150m before the Church, on a small plaza surrounded by plane trees, take a small road on the right going down in the shadow. The road arrives in the valley and goes steeply up in the forest until the intersection with the Route de Soulens. Take this road on the left until the city signpost of Beyries on a crossroad.

23km800- Crossroad of entrance in Beyries. Two solutions are offered to the pilgrim :

1°) If he is in a hurry, the pilgrim can : take right and follow the marks to join Sault de Navailles more directly.

2°) If he wishes to be sheltered at the municipal refuge of Beyries or simply visit the nice chapel of the village : join the cityhall 300m further away by walking straight. To take back the marked road, you will have to go back to the crossroad. To go to Sault de Navailles, take right (south-west direction) then 50m further take left in the direction of Lahitte. The small road goes between the spare houses amongst which the Castle of Beyries. If the weather is clear, you may see the Pyrenees in the back.

ATTENTION 200m after the castle, do not take the road, instead take the small path of white stones that goes straight and then plunges into the forest until a small asphalt road (“chemin du moulin”). Take the road on the right by crossing the small bridge ; you will arrive into Sault de Navailles 300m further.

27km000 - Sault de Navailles. Friend pilgrim, you are now in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques department. By following the same road marks as we proposed you, you will soon arrive in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port. The beautiful and ‘powerful’ journey in the Pyrénées will take you into the steps of Roland until the Abbay of Roncesvalles. In front of you will then lay this Spain, maybe concerning at the moment, but that will become more and more attaching as you will plunge into it ... Saint-Jacques is waiting for you 800km west : may the force be with you.

ULTREIA !!!