

Paris Route -Via Turonensis

Prepared October 2014

Guide Books

Unfortunately there have been so many changes to the route and to the availability of accommodation we are no longer able to produce a CSJ Guide to the Paris Route.

There is a lot of information on the web, mostly however, in French.

The main places on the route:

Paris – Chartres-Tours OR Paris- Orleans- Tours;

Tours- Poitiers- Melle- St-Jean d'Angély- Saintes- Pons- Mirambeau –Blaye (ferry across the Gironde)- Bordeaux-(Les Landes)- Dax- Saint-Palais- Ostabat- Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port)

More complete list on

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Via_Turonensis

Maps -web

Peter Robins

<http://maps.peterrobins.co.uk/routes.html>

interactive maps and resources available

Maps -paper

Top 100 IGN series

http://www.themapcentre.com/ign-top-100-1100000-15-c.asp?qclid=CN_iv_TZ3b0CFdShtAodsJEABg index to maps

Maps show GRs (long distance paths)

Paris 118; Orleans 127; Chartres 126; Tours 133; Poitiers 139; Saintes 138; Bordeaux 145; Mont de Marsan 152; Bayonne 166

Accommodation -General

Formule Une: chain budget hotels in Paris, Linas, Orleans, Tours, Poitiers, Saintes, Bordeaux (useful as back up)

Guides -available from www.stanfords.co.uk

Le Chemin de Paris et de la Tours: de la Seine et de la Loire aux Pyrénées, £25.95

Published by Rando Guides

<http://travel.stanfords.co.uk/search?w=gr655>

GR655/GR36/GR48: Sentiers de St-Jacques, Tours – Mirambeau, £22.99

published by FFRP , the French walkers' Guides

Bruxelles-Paris-Tours, 2013, 1st edition, Prix : 15,50€

<https://www.ffrandonnee.fr/boutique/le-catalogue-des-topo-guides.aspx?t=gr&v=655>

Tours-Mirambeau

Ref. 6552 , 1ère édition -juin/2012, Prix : 16,00€

<https://www.ffrandonnee.fr/boutique/le-catalogue-des-topo-guides.aspx?t=gr&v=655>

Paris-Tours-Roncevaux

(2014: supplement on accommodation available)

published by Lepère Guides available from www.stanfords.co.uk

Getting to Paris from England -Cyclists

The Avenue Verte takes cycle friendly paths from the London Eye (London SE1) to Notre Dame Cathedral. 312Kms or 246kms. Channel crossing Newhaven-Dieppe.

<http://www.avenuevertelondonparis.co.uk>

Avenue Verte London to Paris by Bike: official Guide, Sustrans, 2014, £12.95, available from Stanfords.

Getting to Paris from England -Walkers

Vanguard Way 107km from E Croydon to Newhaven

<http://www.vanguardway.org.uk>

Route Dieppe-Rouen-Chartres

[http://www.chemins-pelerins-](http://www.chemins-pelerins-normands.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=145&Itemid=83)

[normands.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=145&Itemid=83](http://www.chemins-pelerins-normands.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=145&Itemid=83)

http://www.webcompostella.com/L-Association-Sur-Les-Chemins-de-Compostelle-de-ROUEN-vous-informe_a721.html

Places on the way

Paris

Société des Amis de Saint-Jacques, rue des Canettes 8, 75006 Paris

www.compostelle.asso.fr

Le vin Pelerin, 2nd Friday of month (not August)

In Paris

Visit the **Tour Saint-Jacques**

Built between 1509 and 1523 as the tower of the church of Saint-Jacques-de-la-Boucherie, the tower was a meeting point and landmark for pilgrims gathering to set off for Santiago. The newly restored tower is open for visits in Spring-Autumn.

Route across Paris from Chantilly

http://idf.ffrandonnee.fr/data/SitesComites/CR10/file/GR655_Nord.pdf

Topo Guide V175: Paris à Pied, includes north-south route from Porte de la Villette (NE) to Notre-Dame (centre) and Porte d'Arcueil (south), £22.95 from Stanfords.

Chartres

www.compostelle28.org for local information and itineraries

Illiers l'evêque to Chateaudun

www.compostelle41.fr

http://www.compostelle41.fr/?page_id=296

Tours

www.compostelle-37.com

Châtellerault, the most important town on the route is easily reached by train from Tours (or Poitiers - it lies between the two) and worth a visit, for pilgrims with time, for the fine sixteenth-century bridge across the river Vienne and for the church of Saint-Jacques. The former Priory church of Saint-Jacques is a twelfth/thirteenth-century pilgrimage church with, in the north aisle, a map of the pilgrimage routes through France and the Camino Francés (1981), a plaque of the Centre d' Etudes Compostellanes Chemin de Saint-Jacques and in the north transept, a seventeenth-century polychrome statue of Saint-Jacques with scallop shells. There is a matching statue of Saint-Roch in the south transept. Saint-Jacques appears as apostle in the frieze on the west front and in wood as a pilgrim above the trumeau of the main portal.

Poitiers

www.compostelle-vienne.org

(NB path alterations due to construction of LGV-high speed line)

Accommodation list Port de Piles to Melle

<http://www.compostelle-vienne.org/>

Deux-Sevres FFRP

Alternative Route GR36 from Thouars-Partenay-Niort

Thouars - Saint-Maixent

If your route takes you through Thouars and Saint-Maixent you may wish to know that:

- i At Thouars is the church of Saint-Jacques de Thouars with a statue of Saint-Jacques Pèlerin inside - key from l'Ancienne at No 4 opposite.
- ii Saint-Maixent has a good cycle shop - Garage Gilbert Courtois, 87 rue G.Clemenceau, 79400 Saint-Maixent (tel 05 49 76 13 42).

Parthenay-le-Vieux/Parthenay

In **Parthenay-le-Vieux** 53km west of Poitiers along the RN149 is the church of Saint-Pierre where Aimery Picaud may have been a monk. Nearby is the ancient pilgrimage town of **Parthenay** where the rue de la Vau Saint-Jacques, entered by the thirteenth-century Porte-Saint Jacques, is as evocative a pilgrim street as any in France. Museum at 1 rue de la Vau Saint-Jacques has a sixteenth-century statue of Saint-Jacques.

Tourist office contacts for accommodation <http://deux-sevres.jimdo.com/hebergements/>

Poitou-Charente

Region includes route before Poitiers-Mirambeau in the south

Charente Maritime

www.compostelle17.fr

Accommodation list Melle-St-Jean-Pied-de-Port

http://www.compostelle17.fr/IMG/pdf/HEBERGEMENTS_VOIE_DE_TOURS_23_septembre_2014.pdf

(frequently updated) Refuge at St-Eutrope church in Saintes

<http://www.compostelle-vienne.org/chemin/h%C3%A9bergement/>

Saintes –Youth Hostel <http://www.fuaj-aj-saintes.org/en/>

Acquitaine

http://www.saint-jacques-aquitaine.com/voie_tours.php

Bordeaux

contact@bordeauxcompostelle.fr, www.bordeauxcompostelle.fr

New Maison du Pelerin open from 15 May 2014

Vous pouvez nous contacter par e-mail ou par téléphone : [\(33\) 05 56 97 69 65](tel:(33)0556976965) – [\(33\) 06 47 67 50 14](tel:(33)0647675014) - [\(33\) 06 79 99 55 82](tel:(33)0679995582)

Run by Association Bordeaux Compostelle Hospitalité Saint-Jacques . It is located in the historic part of the city centre at 28 Rue des Argentiers, has 16 places and is run by volunteer *hospitaliers* during the months of June, July, August and September.

Gironde (33)

<http://www.saint-jacques-aquitaine.com/index1.php>

Landes (40)

<http://www.compostelle-landes.org/index.php?p=tours&lng=fr>

http://www.compostelle-landes.org/documents_pdf/hebergements/20140327173530.pdf
accommodation list downloadable

Pyrenees Atlantiques (64)

<http://www.aucoeurduchemin.org/>

Connecting from Normandy / Brittany

Portsmouth to Cherbourg/Barfleur ferry

Waymarked route Barfleur to Mont-Saint-Michel

(via Saint-Vaast, Montebourg, Ste Mère-Eglise, Carentan, Périers, Coutances, Granville)

Lightfoot Guide Three Saints Way: Vol 1: Winchester-Mont St Michel

Vol2: Mont St Michel to St-Jean d'Angely (available from CSJ bookshop)

Or, in French:

[http://www.chemins-pelerins-](http://www.chemins-pelerins-normands.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=378&Itemid=66)

[normands.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=378&Itemid=66](http://www.chemins-pelerins-normands.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=378&Itemid=66)

Route from Tours to Mont St Michel

Guide book <http://assostjacques72.free.fr/menu.html>

Brittany website to Loire/Nantes

Vienne

www.compostelle-vienne.org 07 81 38 15 23 (based in Poitiers)

Route information

Accommodation Port de Piles via Antran, Chatellerault, Jaunay, Poitiers, Ligugé, Lusignan, to Melle

Additional Background Reading

Paris Pilgrim, Hilary Hugh-Jones and Mark Hassall, CSJ City Guide no 1, 2007 (available from CSJ bookshop £5)

Two walking tours of sites of pilgrim interest in central Paris

The Pilgrimage to Santiago: Edwin Mullins (1974, copy in CSJ Library)

Art Historian Edwin Mullins follows the Paris Route by car before the rebirth of the pilgrimage in Spain or France. Good historical background.

Walking to Santiago: Diary of a Pilgrimage : Mary Wilkie (2001, copy in CSJ Library)

One of few published Diary accounts, by intrepid Australian walker. ISBN 0864281986

The Great Pilgrimage of the Middle Ages: V & H Hell (1966, copy in CSJ Library)

Large format art historical book, with 180 b/w photos of architectural features and towns

La Via Turonensis from Paris to Spain (Pilgrimage Trails), Sylvia Nilson, available from Amazon, Kindle edition only, 97pp
A useful English Guide for starters –a diary account

Pursuing the Chemin and Coquilles de St-Jacques in Paris, Kathy Gower
Article on finding St James in Paris <http://peregrinations.kenyon.edu/vol1-3/gower.pdf>

Weblinks

Stages of a 2001 Pilgrimage
<http://pelerin-detoiles.net/Compostelle/les-etapes-en-2001.html>