

Voie Littorale Update

June 2015

P2 From **Soulac-sur-Mer** : Bus service details are now on www.rome2rio.com/s/Bordeaux-Airport-BOD-France/Soulac-sur-Mer

P3 From **L'Amélie** : The campsite of Les Oyats now offers rooms in its hostel (Prés St Gervais) for 12.50 euros/night. No food is now available. The campsite has its own coquille stamp.

P4 From **L'Amélie** : The 3rd paragraph should read 'Where the road turns right (2.3km from the roundabout), keep ahead on the cycle track alongside a forest road. In 2.5km cross over a road, then 0.5km later, turn right with the cycle track. In 1.5km, the track reaches a tarmacked road ahead, with holiday accommodation buildings on the left. Turn L here and KSO through a residential area - - -'

P5 From **Montalivet-les-Bains** : It is now not possible to cross the camp site at le Pin Sec. Instead you should turn L around the periphery of the site to reach the reception building. Cross the road directly here, and go into the camping field opposite, keeping to the left hand side. At the top left corner walk round a barrier to join the wide sandy track in the forest. KSO on this track for 4km to the Carrefour de Brémontier.

P8 From **Picqueyrot** : 2nd line down. The hard-surfaced road appears quite suddenly on the right. Bear slightly left to join this road and keep to it as far as the clearing. There now appears to be no signed track paralleling the road on the left, and the signs are on the roadside. Beware one 'rogue' sign with an arrow underneath which seems to indicate you either turn left or go backwards. Ignore it!

The clearing near the Maison Forestière de la Gracieuse now has a display board and prominent signpost. From here the former cycle track (the one signed to 'Bombannes') is definitely an easier option than the signed *Chemin* just to its right.

P8 From **Bombannes**, and P9 **Maubuisson** : If you want to visit Maubuisson, continue on the main track descending to the Place du Pôle as described. However, the signed *Chemin* now by-passes Maubuisson. Immediately before the first houses of Maubuisson, take a track descending on the right, signed Circuit des Lacs Médocains (ignore the scallop pointing to the Église de Carcans here). The path is soon confirmed with a *Chemin* logo post. Continue on this track to meet the main road, turn L to the roundabout, then cross the D 207 to the cycle track almost opposite (signed Circuit des Lacs Médocains). After about 600m go L on a wide gravelled road (this has replaced the original path), and after about 1 km, on being re-united with the cycle track, go L and continue to the Carrefour de Cousseau as described

P10 From **Maubuisson** : 2nd paragraph. The 'concrete ribbon' of cycle track is now wide and tarmacked.

P13 From **Lacanau-Océan** : Last sentence. Cross over as signed, and where this track bears L (SP le Porge), go through a gap in the hedge on the right. A yellow-topped post concealed behind the hedge confirms this. Continue past a couple of houses and then on a track through evergreen vegetation to reach the road. Turn R here and continue as described under 'Longarisse'.

P13 From **Longarisse** : 1st paragraph. At the 'second smaller clearing' the narrow track bearing L now bears *Chemin* logo posts. Going that way, you will reach the same signpost on the sandy track in about 400m (rather than 100m!)

2nd paragraph. The 'unsigned' fork in the track is now signed

P14 From **le Porge** : The caravan once offered is no longer available

P15 From **le Porge** : 2nd paragraph. 5th line down should now read 'Keep ahead on this track for 3.5km crossing many junctions, all waymarked, to reach a cross-tracks with a new-ish plantation ahead. Turn L here, - - -'

P15 From **le Porge** : Bottom line. You can now easily miss this underpass! On reaching the busy D106, turn R on the cycle track for 250m, then go down the bank on the right to the side of the canal (logo post here). Pass under both cycle track and road on a metal walkway above the canal. On the far side, turn L, then in 250m, go R into woodland

P16 From **Arès**. The Office de Tourisme in Arès is now sited a few yards up the Avenue de la Plage (left at the tower).

P16, bottom line. You need to bear L, then R (as signed) to get around the small lake

Presumably due to its increasing popularity, there is now a lot more pilgrim-orientated accommodation on offer on the Voie Littorale. The website of the Association des Amis de Saint-Jacques de Compostelle en Aquitaine provides a fairly comprehensive list of what is available between the Pointe de Grave and Sanguinet.

http://www.saint-jacques-aquitaine.com/doc_pdf/littorale/20150714101945.pdf

Farther south, the Société Landaise des Amis de Saint Jacques provides similar information on
http://www.compostelle-landes.org/documents_pdf/hebergements/20150430120535.pdf

May 2014 from Lewis Mairis

P19 FROM ANDERNOS-LES BAINS. After Camping Fontaine Vieille and Rue Roger Belliard isn't Avenue but ALLEE Isabelle.

P22 FROM FONTAINE ST JEAN. Alongside the drainage channel (the book says this isn't signed). THERE IS NOW A VERY NICE AND USEFUL FINGER POST HERE.

P26 FROM SANGUINET. Branch L on an unsigned track. THIS IS NOW SIGNED. Soon after the water tower turn R onto a lesser road. This is NOT now sign posted Parentis although the R turn itself is obvious from your description.

P28 FROM SAINT-PAUL-EN-BORN. Approaching Mimizan on the cycle track NOTE: there is more than one road R to Aureilhan AND behind the refugio in Saint Paul (and on the cycle track) a sign is put up if flooding makes the Aureilhan option impossible. If this is the case use the cycle track all the way to Mimizan. This was the case when I went through that way.

P32 FROM BIAS. Log piles in 2009-still there at the end of April 2014. Shortly afterwards, where the track starts to climb, leave it and branch L. THIS IS NOW WAYMARKED. At a fork approx. 150m later take a track curving back to the R. THIS AREA IS SUBJECT TO FLOODING ALTHOUGH SHOULD BE PASSABLE WITH DIFFICULTY AND CARE. 300m later, still climbing...track parallel but above. THIS IS NOW CLEARLY SIGNED.

P33 FROM ST JULIEN-EN -BORN. ...presently (2009) all waymarking is obliterated-2014 NOW ALL VERY WELL WAYMARKED. Reaching the Courant de Contis, turn L and walk upstream 1km. THIS AREA IS SUBJECT TO SEVERE FLOODING AND CANNOT ALWAYS BE WALKED IN BOOTS. I had to walk that km in plastic deck shoes and waded through deep water and mud on several occasions because the river had burst its banks. It was super fun but slow going!

P34 The picnic table mentioned was very useful for drying my feet and putting my boots back on BUT that field was also flooded. If in doubt continue in the same direction you were following along the path to the table until you reach the trees and line of the river then turn R to the end of the field. Turn R again and you will find the gate along that edge of the field. This could be useful not only when it is flooded but also in poor visibility conditions. AT LIT-ET-MIXE. Lessalle has a refugio (free) with optional breakfast (donations) at the beginning of the season when the caravan for pilgrims hasn't been cleaned out. On the road to the campsite your book says there is a supermarket but I didn't see one there.

P35 The road with wide verges for 4.5km-THERE IS NOW A NEW CYCLE TRACK ALONGSIDE THAT ROAD FOR MUCH OF THE WAY. Bearing R after Maison Forestiere to join the piste cyclable -THERE IS A WIDE TRACK SIGNED FOR WALKERS AND IT RUNS NEAR AND PARALLEL TO THE CYCLE TRACK. Both meet the road at the same point so track or tarmac-it's your choice.

P37 AFTER CHAPELLE DE MAA. the L turn is NOT on to Chemin de Bousouagre. It is CHEMIN DES RESINIERS.

P41 FROM MOILIETS-ET-MAA. At the top of the rise-your book says there is no scallop sign. NOW IT IS CLEARLY SIGNED. ...continue 300m to a hard surfaced track and soon bear R -NOT L. Follow the track for 800m to arrive at the foot of a dune. DEPENDING ON THE TYRE TRACKS THIS COULD LOOK LIKE A NATURAL L OR A NATURAL R CONTINUATION OF THE TRACK. DO NOT BEAR L/CONTINUE L. INSTEAD HEAD INTO THE PINE TREES WHERE EVENTUALLY YOU PICK UP THE CHEMIN SIGNS AGAIN BUT THE TRACK INTO THE PINES IS NOT MARKED IN ANY WAY.

P42 FROM VIEUX-BOUCAU. Turn R on the cycle track and KSO to reach 2 (not 1) roundabouts. KSO on both.

P43 FROM SEIGNOSSE-LE-PENON. Keep R here (SP Estagnots) then at the 2nd roundabout...I became confused as to the number of roundabouts but just follow the shells-it's all clearly signed.

P44 FROM CAPBRETON. Cross Pont de la Halle to a T junction-this is now a roundabout. I suspect that recently the French have been given a generous roundabout fund...

P45 Rue Barrat. The signs seem to peter out but just keep going down the road leading to Barrat-keep on the R-until; just after the Institute Grenadines and there it is. I was up and down that road thinking I had passed Barrat because I saw no more signs then after some perseverance topped with stubbornness I found it.

P47 FROM LABENNE-OCEAN. Fork immediately L on this then L again NOW IS WELL SIGNED.

P49 FROM TARNOS PLAGE. After about 3km the main road bears L to a roundabout. THE CHEMIN NOW DIRECTS US STRAIGHT AHEAD AND TO STEPS ON THE L DIRECTLY TO THE BRIDGE.

P53 FROM BAYONNE. 3rd large roundabout at Maignon is now 4th one. It's these roundabouts again...