

1st, thanks for the guide – if all we'd had to hand had been our tour organiser's (Camino Ways) notes, we'd have had many difficulties we were excused. It was our constant guide from Montenaud, where we started, to Toulouse. Thanks.

Speaking of Montenaud, Camino Ways recommended a different way of avoiding Montpellier suburbs – take the 117 bus from Mosson (served by tram lines 1 & 3) to Montenaud. Unfortunately, we can't tell you if we'd recommend this as we set off on a public holiday when the bus wasn't running, which meant a bit of an ouch by way of a taxi fare.

P23

Aniane There is a bar/restaurant on the main road. Turn left immediately in front of the church.

On exiting the village, the route is poorly way-marked on the road, and caution needs to be exercised as you will be walking with your back to the traffic as you walk on the one-way system. KSO 50+ meters, then bear left around curve & R on to the minor road

P24

Pont du Diable Bar/restaurant and farm shop must be beyond R turn for St Guilhem – you will miss these if you cross the new bridge and turn R for St G

Re current description of route from Pont du Diable to St G, "After a while" rather under-emphasizes the distance to

P25

Re St G-de-D: we found no pilgrim-friendly/practical shops open on the morning we set off from here – i.e no boulangerie or boucherie/charcuterie. It wouldn't have been a problem if our waitress of the previous evening had passed on her promise to the morning staff to prepare a picnic for us, but as it was we only had a couple of scraps of bread and cheese salvaged from the breakfast table + a couple of mars bars from the tabac in the square at the W end of the church to fuel us through the whole day to St Jean. A warning to this effect –or, if we *missed* said practical shops, a guide to where they are, would be helpful.

Re Cirque de Inernet – maybe worth adding some kind of comparison with UK walking routes. We were somewhat concerned about it being rather height-phobic, but really it's a doddle compared e.g. to any of the "edge" walks in the Lake District

PP25-6

Worth adding a note to anyone carrying (as we did) an older IGN map – the GR653 is now markedly redirected via Barry, Montperoux, Arboras.

P26

Worth noting also that walkers wishing to be excused a meter or two can turn L at D130 (meeting the route again at "Turn R back on to D130") instead of going

up to village, which isn't of a great deal of inherent interest, especially if (as we found it) the café is closed.

P27

Reference to La Petite Fringale – the restaurant is much more than a snack bar, at least in the evening – a very good restaurant, with very reasonable prices given the quality of the food – our hosts at Le Domaine de Flo (about 500 meters beyond the village – which we'd highly recommend) told us that at weekends they need to reserve a table as much as two weeks in advance

P28

Lodeve – Thurs appears to be ½ day closing.

P29

3rd paragraph – path from Bernagues – the cypress trees have gone

Final paragraph – current GR653 turns off road for two final climbs and descents – the old GR653, according to my old IGN map continues straight down the road to Joncels. This might be worth noting for worn out pilgrims who could do without those final efforts

P31

Reference to identification of each col. As of May this year, although there are several way marks and distance notices, most of the col identifiers were missing

P33

Final paragraph – worth noting that there are few way marks on this section, so some care should be taken re route

P34

Just before Maison de Sayret, there is a KSO balise, which some might find confusing as the track bears R at a hairpin there, and there *is* a narrow path going straight on into the woods, although this peters out very quickly, and there is quite a distance before the next balise is met on the correct track

Division of GR653 and GR7. You're right that the route goes straight ahead over the cross roads. However, the first balise walkers will meet is the GR7's directing them Right. Someone on autopilot, without the book open might well follow this – we met a man at Murat who had made precisely this mistake. Additional warning *not* to follow the 1st balise at the top of the climb could be helpful.

P35

Re staying on road in wet weather – it might be worth adding that this isn't because of the condition of the path, but because of the level of the lake making the path impassable.

P37

Steps down from Place des Penitents Blancs – v treacherous in wet weather – better to KSO to bottom of street and turn R

P40

On turning L on to route des Crêtes, after 3-400m, GR turns R, descending through trees. The path is of clay and slippery in wet weather. It joins another minor road at the crown of a bend; turn L on this, which climbs back up to the route des Crêtes at a diagonal cross roads. KSO here.

Just after Saint-Hyppolyte, the GR route now turns R on to minor road, past large building on the L before a R turn on to a gravel path & then a quiet road, descending between villas before rejoining the main road just before the clinic.

P41

Leaving Castres. The guide is accurate, but the route is easy to miss, as passing the Hotel du Ville, it's easy to mistake the KSO route as a dead end & therefore to climb the steps up into the Jardin d'Eveque. In fact there is a confusing balise at the top of these steps suggesting that that is the correct route & our travel company's v. basic route map suggested going that way and crossing the river at that point. The rather dark tunnel just beyond the steps is correct, but describing this as a cycle track is a little confusing as it isn't high enough to cycle through.

P45

Leaving Revel "KSO at two roundabouts" – the route is poorly marked at these points and appears slightly different from the book's description. Rather than KSO at two roundabouts, take second exit from 1st roundabout (i.e. ½ R) – go to end of this street, where you will find a grassy area, turn ½ L at this & almost immediately ½ R again to be on course for junction with La Rigole.

P49

Villefranche-de-Lauragais. May be worth adding that foodshops and café/s are mostly on the main street/ D813 (at least that's where we found them. To reach these KSO rather than turning into Place Gambetta & turn R onto main street & regain the camino by turning R again between the Crédit Agricole bank & a pharmacy.

P50

You weren't wrong about the overgrown fieldpath! Especially overgrown with nettles, so pilgrims should equip themselves with sticks of some sort if they aren't already carrying them. A further caution might be useful at the Keep R point (line 3) – the path falls away to its right side & being so overgrown this was difficult to see – a fall would be v. easy here. We found this stretch v. unpleasant, so if anyone is able to describe an alternative as per the directions to chapelle Sainte-Colombe, that would be helpful

By way of contrast, the field-edge path mentioned at the start of the Baziège paragraph was pleasantly grassy, but not overgrown.

& thanks for mentioning the kangaroos – if we hadn't been forewarned we might well have thought the sun had got to us.