

The GPX / KML files put the facilities in their right place on the digital map. We use markers for this, in different shapes and with different colors. Below you will find a brief explanation:

















































1. the meaning of the markers
2. the use of the map
3. the facilities































1. The markers

In the table below you will find an overview of the markers and their meaning. As you can see there, the various apps for your smartphone use other markers (shapes and colors) than on the digital map on the Portal:

<https://www.voiedevezelay.eu/en/tracks-guides>

The markers on the digital map best show the various facilities. If you have an internet connection, you can consult the digital map – via the Portal - on your smartphone. The difference with the various apps is, that on the digital map you cannot see where you are.

Type of facility *)	Digital map	Maps.me	Garmin	View-ranger	Osmand	Google Earth	Location of the markers
Home hospitality for pilgrims							Exact location, unless (see explanation 3.)
Pilgrims hostel							Correct location
Hospitality by a church/religious organization							Correct location
Hotel or B&B ('chambres d'hôtes')							Correct location
Holiday house ('gîte')							Correct location
Youth hostel / Accommodation for young workers							Correct location
Camp site							Correct location
Train station ('gare SNCF')							Correct location

Type of facility *)	Digital map	Maps.me	Garmin	View-ranger	Osmand	Google Earth	Location of the markers
Tourist Office or (touristic) information.							Correct location
Post Office / Agency							Correct location
Bar/Café/Restaurant							(Mostly) correct location, unless (see explanation 3.)
Shop(s)							(Mostly) correct location, unless (see explanation 3.)
All facilities							Center of larger cities

*) GPXViewer uses the same symbols as Garmin

2. The map

Via the menu on the left of the map you can successively:

- zoom in and out (+ / -)
- find a place (via the magnifying glass)
- choose a different map background
- switch on and off the categories 'On foot to Vézelay', 'Via Lemovicensis' and 'Facilities' (via the eye on the left).
- choose more options (via the white triangle).

The extra options are, in order:

- open or close full screen
- center the map
- determine the distance between two points.

If you click on a marker, additional information will appear. You will also see the 'feedback' option. Please use this to inform us about: changes, errors, new information.

3. Facilities

3.1 Accommodation

We focus primarily on **pilgrim accommodation**. This accommodation is often simple and affordable. Many hostesses and hosts have themselves been pilgrims. So they know what you are doing and fully support that. You can also meet other pilgrims at these places.

Furthermore, a pilgrim accommodation often offers an evening meal plus breakfast and / or the possibility to prepare it yourself. The accommodation is usually located along the route or at a short distance from it. (If further away, sometimes an accommodation offers a pickup and return service.)

Often a 'donativo' is requested for pilgrim accommodation. This means: a gift, a voluntary contribution. Your contribution makes it possible that the accommodation can also be offered to the pilgrims who come after you.


We also mention **other accommodation**, especially where there is no pilgrim accommodation. However, you will not find a 'complete' overview, especially in the larger cities. If necessary, you can consult (the website of) the 'Office de Tourisme'. Moreover, you can search for accommodation via websites such as: [Booking.com](#), [Airbnb](#) en [Couchsurfing](#).

Not to forget: ask your hostess/host for advice on a good accommodation for the next day. She/he is often willing to call for a reservation, if necessary.

Attention:

- the **markers** indicate the location of the accommodation. Sometimes no address is published. The hostess / host then gives instructions via telephone or e-mail. In those cases the marker is in the center of the village or town.
- if applicable, and as far as we know, we indicate whether meals are offered on site, whether animals are welcome, what the price is (always check yourself!), which languages are spoken, etc. Explanation of abbreviations used: B = bed, BB = bed & breakfast, HB = half board), PP / PN = per person / per night, P2P / PN = for 2 persons / per night.
- If under the 'extra information' about an accommodation is indicated 'reserve', this usually means: 24 hours in advance. Sometimes a longer period applies, which is then specified.

3.2. Transport

If there is a train station in town, this is marked. 

The Vézelay Route generally passes through sparsely populated areas. Great for walking, but it also means that there are few train and bus connections. But that is why there is a good alternative if necessary: hitchhiking (using your common sense). Everyone knows that there is hardly any public transportation.


3.3. Other facilities

- **Tourist Office** ('Office de Tourisme') 

This symbol indicates the tourist offices, but also: the pilgrim offices (in Vézelay and Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port), and the monuments which in 1998, within the framework of the 'Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France', have been designated as World Heritage (UNESCO).

- **Post Office / Agency** ('Poste') 

- **Bar, café, restaurant** 

- **Shops** (bakeries, butcher shops, groceries, supermarkets, etc.) 

At both 'Bar, café, restaurant' and 'Shops' we have tried as well as possible (via Google StreetView) to mark the exact location of a particular facility closest to the route. If there are several comparable facilities in one place, the others are not individually marked.

- **'All facilities'** 

In the larger cities there are, of course, many bars, cafés, restaurants, shops and hotels. Moreover, usually there are special facilities such as: a hospital, shoemaker, bicycle repair shop, outdoor sports shop. All these facilities are indicated with one marker, in the center of town.

To conclude...

... a few tips that you can safely ignore. After all, it's your journey!

With so much information available, the idea of 'everything under control' can arise. But that is not how it works. Hosts can decide overnight to stop receiving pilgrims without passing on the message. The bar or grocery that you have been really looking forward to, appears to be closed that day due to family circumstances. And so on and so on.

So make sure that, on your journey through these sparsely populated areas, you always carry a small, nutritious emergency supply with you,

Moreover: 'everything under control', is that really great? Your decision to go on a pilgrimage, wasn't it also a decision to leave behind you the familiar and certainties?

We think improvisation is part of that. While walking, you get a feel for the right direction, even without markings. Along the way you will discover that most cemeteries have a water tap, that post offices in smaller towns have limited opening times, that the presence of a tourist office usually indicates that there other facilities also.



To go one step further: don't try to plan everything in advance. Be open to what comes your way. Sometimes that is demanding, but often - in retrospect - these are highlights on your journey. Moments when you could experience true hospitality and help and/or you discovered that you can handle just fine.

Feel free to ask for help on your way, even if you do not speak French fluently. You will discover that most people are happy to help. And sometimes it leads to very special encounters.

BON CHEMIN!