

Moselle cycle route update Nov20

Since the guide was written in 2013 there have been a number of route changes. In Luxembourg and Germany (stages 9 onwards) these are generally small and are the result of minor changes to roads and infrastructure. However in France (stages 1–9) much work has been undertaken by local councils to either convert unsurfaced tow-paths into asphalt cycle tracks or divert the route along suitable alternatives. So much so that there are now only a few short stretches that are awaiting improvement, all in Meurthe et Moselle département. Two of these are on stage 4, from lock 37 to Roville-devant-Bayon and from Crévéchamps to Flavigny-sur-Moselle. The Boucles de la Moselle route, which is followed in part by stages 4,4A,5 and 5A is almost complete apart from a section through Frouard at the end of stage 5A. All have suitable alternatives which are described in the original guide. It is anticipated that these will all be improved in the near future. The French route from Épinal all the way to the French/German/Luxembourg border at Schengen is now officially part of vèloroute V50 Charles-le-Téméraire.

Getting there and back by rail

p22 The requirements and cost of taking a cycle on Eurostar have changed. The most convenient route is to take the Eurostar to Paris Nord, cycle the short distance to Paris Est then catch a TGV Est high-speed train to Strasbourg and change there for a RER regional express to Mulhouse. There is no longer a service from Brussels to Strasbourg and Mulhouse.

Eurostar tickets can be booked up to six months in advance at www.eurostar.com. A separate reservation needs to be obtained for your cycle which cannot be done on-line and must be made by 'phone (0344 822 5822) or by e-mail to EuroDespatch@eurostar.com. There are six cycle spaces per train, two for fully assembled bikes and four for dismantled bikes packed in a special fibre-glass case provided by Eurostar. Prices vary from £30–£55 depending on how far ahead you book. and whether the bike is fully assembled or dismantled. Bikes need to be delivered to EuroDespatch at the back of St Pancras station beside the coach drop-off area, one hour before train departure time (90minutes for a dis-assembled bike as you will need time to pack it; Eurostar will provide the tools). On arrival at Paris Gare du Nord, cycles can be collected from Geoparts baggage office which can be reached by a path L of platform 3.

SNCF (French railways) operate frequent TGV high-speed trains from Paris Gare de l'Est to Strasbourg, although only a few carry cycles. There is a cycle carrying service around lunch-time which will enable you to reach Mulhouse in a day provided you leave London early in the morning. Details can be found and bookings made at the SNCF (French Railways) website, www.oui.sncf. Cycle reservations, which cost €10, must be made at the same time as purchasing passenger tickets. You travel with your bike in a dedicated compartment at one end of the train. The SNCF booking system cannot handle cycle reservations which require more than one train, so passenger tickets for the RER service from Strasbourg–Mulhouse (on which bikes travel free without reservations) must be booked separately.

Stage 2 (Remiremont to Épinal)

p55 The cycle route has been altered in St Étienne-lès-Remiremont.

After joining Rue de Seux, continue ahead (do not turn L) to reach a roundabout and bear L (still Rue de Seux, second exit, D42, sp Éloyes). Re-join the old route by going ahead over the crossroads in Seux.

p57 The cycle route has been altered at the beginning of Épinal.

At the roundabout at the start of Épinal, fork R uphill (first exit, sp Épinal centre) using a cycle track R. At the top of the hill, continue ahead past an army barracks R and continue past a roundabout into Bvd

Maréchal Victor. Turn L at crossroads (Rue Gilbert Grandval) steeply downhill. At the bottom of the hill, turn L at a T-junction and immediately bear R beside the Loire (Ave des Templiers, D42, sp Épinal centre). After 40m, cross the road to re-join the original route on a cycle track between road and river.

Stage 4 (Charmes to Nancy)

p68 Pass Grippont lock 34, and after 500m, just before a green bridge, bear R on a 4wd track away from the canal (the route no longer passes under the bridge). Go ahead over a crossing of tracks and bear R back towards the canal.

p70 The turn R off the D570 after the 53km post has been altered.

It is now an asphalt road 270m past the 53km post. Follow this curving L to run parallel with the D570, then when road bends R towards aggregate pits, continue ahead on a track beside an electricity pylon re-joining the old route to reach the canal bank.

Stage 4A (alternative route via Toul)

p79 The track has been re-routed between Chaudeney-sur-Moselle and the junction with the D77 road.

From Rue Edmond Gérard in **Chaudeney**, turn L at the staggered crossroads (Rue Capitaine Paturaud). Go ahead over the next crossroads then pass under a railway bridge. Turn immediately R then fork R on a track parallel with the railway. Follow this bearing L to reach the Moselle and continue beside the river under a motorway bridge. Turn sharply L on a cycle track that crosses the river over Chaudeney dam then turn R onto a cycle track beside the D77 road. Follow this turning L across the road and bearing L to re-join the original route passing through woods to reach the Moselle canalisée.

Stage 5A (alternative route via Toul)

p86 A continuous cycle track has been constructed between Villey-St Étienne and Liverdun.

After passing below **Villey**, follow the cycle track beside the Moselle R, then turn R over a bridge across the entrance to Le Terrouin lagoon. Continue on the cycle track, crossing and re-crossing a minor road, then pass Aingeray dam R. The cycle track now winds through riverside meadows to reach a T-junction in **Liverdun**. Turn R (Ave Eugène Lerebourg) to re-gain original route.

p88 The cycle track L of the D90 main road that starts immediately after crossing Liverdun bridge now continues almost to the beginning of **Frouard**.

p88 After Clévant lock, turn R at the roundabout then L on a road leading into a re-cycling centre. Just before the re-cycling centre, bear R on a cycle track leading down to the river Meurthe where the route turns R to join stage 5.

Stage 5 (Nancy to Pont-à-Mousson)

p93 North of Custines, two new sections of cycle track have been constructed to avoid cycling along the D40 main road.

After passing through **Custines** follow the D40 north, soon joining a cycle lane R of the road. Where this ends in the hamlet of La Mine. Turn L across the road onto a cycle track that passes under a motorway bridge then bears R beside the Moselle. After 2km, pass back under the motorway and bear R along the D40. Pass an electricity substation L then turn L (sp Belleville) and immediately R onto a concrete cycle track. Where this ends, re-join the D40 and continue on the road through **Millery** and past **Autreville-sur-Moselle**.

Where the D40 bears R away from the Moselle, turn L across the road onto a cycle track beside the river and continue under a motorway bridge. After 500m, follow this bearing R away from the river through woods. Emerge on a quiet road, then fork L on road winding between the lakes of old aggregate pits. Turn R at a T-junction, then immediately L onto a concrete cycle track that continues to wind through woods past aggregate lakes. After 2km, reach a road (D10) and turn L on a bridge across the Moselle, re-joining the original route. Halfway over the bridge turn R on an asphalt cycle track beside the canal L and the Moselle R.

p95 The waymarked route into Pont-à-Mousson has changed.

After passing under the pipe bridge, bear R away from the canal on a cycle track winding past sports fields to reach the Moselle. Turn L beside the river, then after 500m cross a bridge over a small side stream and turn L beside the canal. Turn R over a bridge at Pont-à-Mousson lock to re-join original route.

Stage 6 (Pont-à-Mousson to Metz)

p98 A long stretch of unsurfaced tow-path N of Pont-à-Mousson has been replaced by an asphalt cycle track on the opposite side of the canal.

Just after leaving **Pont-à-Mousson**, pass under a road bridge and after 70m turn sharply L to cross the canal. Turn R at a T-junction beside the entrance to grain silos R onto a cycle track parallel with a railway L. After passing the silos bear L along the tow-path with the canal R and follow this for 6km cycling past **Norroy-lès-Pont-à-Mousson** and **Vandières**. Pass under a railway bridge that carries the TGV Est high-speed line from Paris to Strasbourg, then where the cycle track ends, turn L away from the canal. Bear R (Impasse du Moulon) opposite the entrance to a sewerage works then turn R (Rue Jean Bouin) at a T-junction. Continue through the edge of **Pagny-sur-Moselle**, [passing a turn L that leads to Pagny town centre], then cross the canal and bear L past Pagny-sur-Moselle lock R. Go ahead (Quai du Canal) at a road junction then after 100m, turn L onto a cycle track and bear R alongside a dis-used canal. After passing a wooded area R and railway yards across the old canal L, turn R opposite an old lock L to follow a cycle track through woods back to the riverbank. Continue beside the Moselle R, eventually curving sharply L to reach a crossing of tracks. Turn R to re-join the original route which follows a muddy unsurfaced track for 300m before becoming a surfaced cycle track. [To avoid the unsurfaced section, continue ahead following the alternative route for touring cycles via **Arnaville** described on p99].

Stage 7 (Metz to Thionville)

p107/109 A new section of cycle track has been opened just N of Metz. This avoids 2km of cycling on a road busy with trucks through Metz port and past a huge Ikea warehouse. It is waymarked throughout as Vêloroute Charles-le-Téméraire.

After passing under the combined road and rail bridge (bottom of p107), turn R onto a new cycle track following the Moselle [the original route follows the main road which bears L away from the river]. Continue beside the river for 1.6km, then follow the cycle track bearing L and ascending to cross a new bridge over the entrance channel to Metz port. Bear R to regain the riverbank and after 1km follow the track bearing L away from the river parallel with a canal R that takes coal barges to **La Maxe** power station. The cycle track emerges onto a road and continues ahead to reach a crossroads. Turn R over the canal, [re-joining the route described in the guide] and R again on an asphalt track between two small canals.

Stage 10 (Trier to Leiwen)

*p151 Building work and a road closure between Trier and Ruwer has necessitated a revision of the route. The waymarked Moselle cycle route now crosses the river before reaching Trier, then makes a long diversion on the left bank of the Moselle, by-passing the city. It then continues through **Ehrang**, **Quint** and **Issel** before re-joining the original route at **Schweich** bridge. The route described here is shorter than both the original route and the new waymarked route, while enabling you to visit Trier. It is all on dedicated asphalt cycle tracks apart from 1.25km along a busy main road.*

After passing the Nordbad swimming pool complex, fork L continuing parallel with the Moselle. Just before the entrance road of a shopping centre turn R away from the river to reach a main road. Turn L on a cycle track beside this road (Zurmaiener Strasse, B49) and continue ahead over the next side road. After 150m turn R under a motorway bridge then turn L on a cycle track beside Loebstrasse. Follow this winding through a series of carparks then, where the cycle track ends just before a railway bridge, join the road (now Ruwerer Strasse) and continue out of Trier [Ruwerer Strasse is a busy main road with no cycle lane]. After 1.25km, bear L onto a cycle track along the trackbed of a disused railway and follow this into **Ruwer**. Turn L in the village to re-join the original route.

Stage 14 (Cochem to Koblenz)

p182 There has been a small change to the start of the stage in Cochem.

From the start under **Cochem** bridge, cross a small bridge then fork L through gardens. Continue beside a carpark L and through a parking place for tour buses then bear R to re-join the original route on a riverside track.

Excursion 2 (Koblenz to St Goar)

This stage uses the Rhine cycle route and there have been two small changes to this route, one where it leaves Koblenz and the second passing through Boppard.

p191 After passing the Kaiserin Augusta memorial R, go ahead on a cycle track through gardens with the marina L, passing under a bridge [the original route turns L just before this bridge]. Continue past the Rheinliche lagoon L and fork R to reach a road. Bear L and immediately fork L (Sebastian-Bach-Strasse) at a roundabout. Follow this bearing R then turn R (Schillerstrasse) at a crossroads. Pass under railway and motorway bridges and continue ahead on a cycle track (Jahnstrasse) passing the Oberwerth stadium of FSV Mainz 05 football club R. Continue past a training pitch, then fork L onto a cycle track through woods to reach a T-junction. Turn R parallel with the Rhein, re-joining the original route, and continue past the **Königsbacher** brewery.

p194 Follow Rheinallee through **Boppard**, passing under the clubhouse of a sports club. Turn second R (St Martin-Strasse) [the original route continues ahead] then L at the end onto a cycle track beside Mainzer strasse. Follow this out of town to reach the riverbank and re-join the original route.

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