



Moncaup

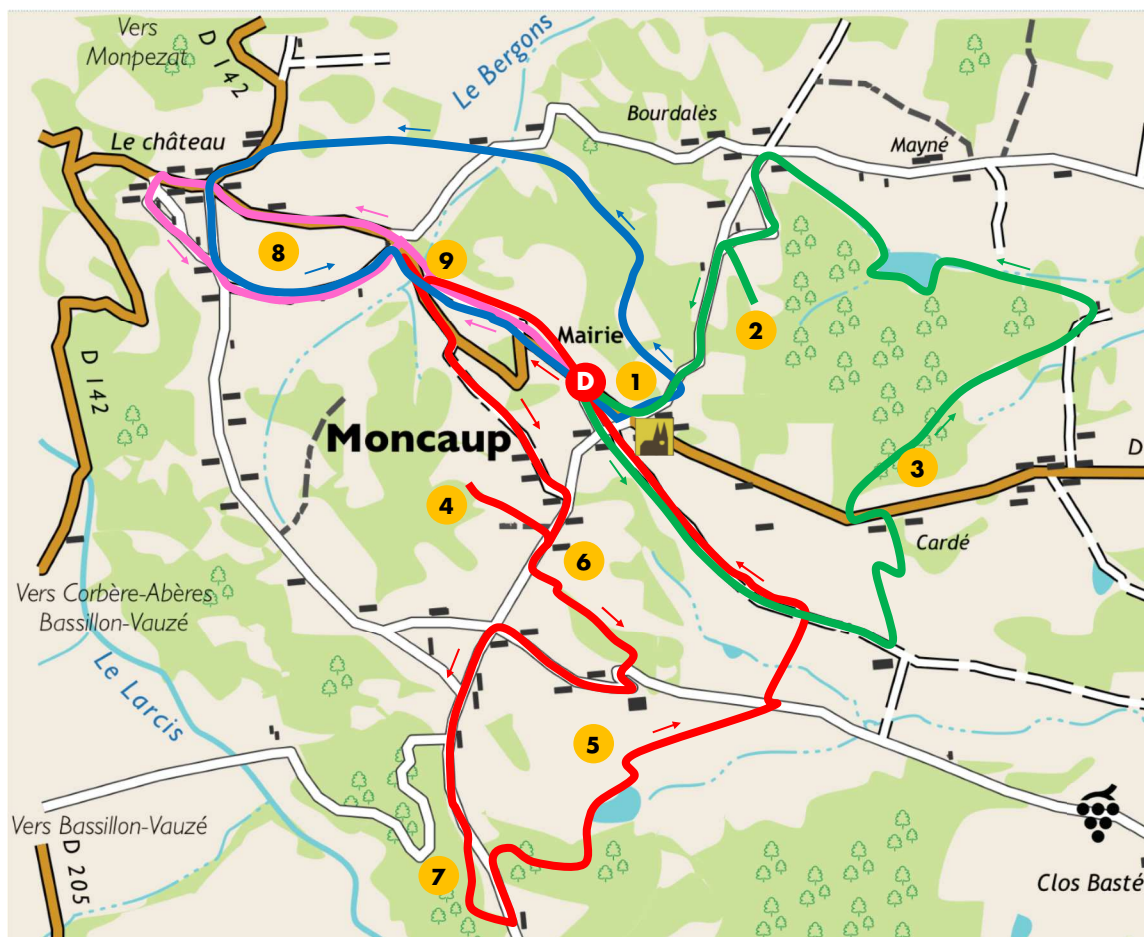
The village of the 9 fountains



4 circuits from 3 to 7 km

THE VIC-Bilh

IN THE VINEYARD OF MADIRAN



Fountains :

- 1 Floris
- 2 Page
- 3 Puyo
- 4 Navarre
- 5 Boune Houn
- 6 Passe
- 7 Béliér
- 8 Latrilhe
- 9 L'Estipe
- D Departure : town hall.
- Church Sainte-Lucie
- Vineyard Clos Basté

The Blue Circuit - 2 fountains

3,8 km - 120 m of difference in altitude

The blue and the yellow circuits follow the same way. From the townhall go left and take the Chemins des Mariés on the right. Turn left, walk past the church. At the STOP road sign, cross the road and walk straight ahead to the « Chemin des Bourdales ». 50 meters away turn left and follow the path under the foliage to the **Fontaine de Floris**. Take the track above on the right and walk through the wood. Walk past the ruins of the « lavoir de Bertrand » (an ancient washing place). Once on the road, turn left and take the path on the right. At the junction of the D142 road, turn left, then, once at the Mission Cross, turn left. At the STOP road sign go straight ahead to the « Chemins des Marlères ». Turn left to the « Chemin de Lartigue ». Walk down the path and take the D221 road on the right. Walk across the road and take the path to the **Fontaine de l'Estipe**. Back on the road cross the bridge. The blue and the yellow circuits take different routes. Turn left to the Chemin de l'Estipe, walk up the road back to the carpark at town hall.

The Green Circuit - 3 fountains

6 km - 140 m of difference in altitude

From the townhall the yellow and the green circuits follow the same way. Go left then take the « Chemins des Mariés » on the right. The green and yellow trails take different routes. Walk across the road and go to the Chemin Debat. Once at the big house, turn left. You are back on the yellow trail. Cross the road, go left to the corner of the wood. Walk into the wood and walk along the path on the right. Reach the **Fontaine de Puyo** down the path. Take the path back through the wood. At the edge of the wood, walk along a man-made pond. Once on the road turn left twice. At the next junction walk down the path to the **Fontaine de Page**. Back on the road turn left and walk up the road to the **Fontaine de Floris** on the right, down a path under the foliage. Back on the road, turn right at the STOP road sign. Walk down back to the carpark at town hall.

Blue, green, red and pink markings



The Red Circuit - 5 fountains

7 km - 140 m of difference in altitude

From the town hall, turn right to the Chemin de l'Estipe. Turn right, cross the bridge and take the path to the fountain on the left. Back on the road the red and yellow tracks follow the same way. Walk up the road and take the path on the right. You will walk past a nice house where Henry IV is said to have spent the night. On the road turn right at the junction and go right again to the **Fontaine de Navarre**. Back on the road, 50 metres away, walk along a hedge on your left. At the corner of the field, walk down to the **Fontaine de Passe**. Walk out of the wood, turn right then go left. At the STOP road sign turn left and take the road to Latisnère. At the branching junction, take ahead the Chemin des Maquisards. Take the path on the right to the **Fontaine du Béliér**. Walk on and climb the steps on the left.

Once on the road, turn left, walk past the « Stèle des Maquisards », then take the path through the wood on the right. Leave the wood and walk along a field on the right. At the border of the pond take the footbridge to the **Fontaine de Boune Houn**. At the end of the pond walk along the vineyards on the right. Walk up to the road, cross it and walk 20 metres on the right. Turn left, cross the bridge, then take the path on the left. There you leave the yellow circuit. Cross the road, go to the Chemins des Mariés leading back to the carpark at town hall.



The Pink Circuit - 2 fountains

3 km - 95 m of difference in altitude

From the townhall, turn right to the Chemin de l'Estipe. Turn right, cross the bridge, and take the path to the **Fontaine de l'Estipe**. Back on the road turn right. At the junction take the road on the left. Walk past the **Fontaine de Latrilhe** with its drinking trough and its laundry. At the junction walk past the Mission Cross. Walk on. There is a first signpost to go left. It is the Chemin de Lacourtiade, the track is tarred. The second trail, a few metres away, leads to the same place by a grassy footpath. Go left then turn right. Take the Chemin de Lartigue on the left. Once on the road, go right, then after the bridge, walk up the Chemin de l'Estipe on the left. Take the road on the left, back to the carpark at townhall.



The history of the fountains



The commune of Moncaup stretches out on a large area. There are a lot of water springs and resurgences. A decree was adopted on 14 September 1789 creating the municipalities and giving them budgetary independence. The communes were compelled by a set of laws to set up the facilities necessary to ensure that their inhabitants lived in healthy living conditions. About 1800 the inhabitants could use about twenty water fountains, a dozen of which can be seen today. They are the vestiges of a lifestyle which came to disappear in the 1960s with the development of clean water adduction. The fountains were built after a single model which adapted to their sites and purposes. The spring water is collected into a small vaulted kiosk leaning on to a mound with a square shaped opening at the front. Depending on its purposes the fountain can be extended with a drinking trough, a pool or a laundry collecting the spring waters before they flow through nature and merge into the Adour river. The use of high quality building materials (stone, bricks, rocks and wood) and the outstanding craftsmanship in the execution of the works (stone façades, brick vaults, pebbled walls) testify to proven know-how. The fountains, the retention ponds, and the drinking troughs all constitute an exceptional collection of hydraulic equipment combining functional and aesthetic design.



Mission crosses

Only 4 crosses remain today: la Croix de Bourdales, la Croix de l'Eglise, la Croix du Château, et la Croix de Floris.

The quality of their materials (brick, stone, cast iron) and their skilled realization (pillars, cornices carved in stone, an interplay of solid and open brickwork , creating a game of shifting and relief in a sophisticated pattern) make these crosses exceptional works.

For more informations, contact :

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