

I have used Google maps (<http://maps.google.fr>) and Michelin maps (www.viamichelin.com) to follow this route. I think the Michelin map is clearer, particularly for the last part of the journey as the mountain roads are better marked.

When you leave the airport, turn right onto the D119 Route de Montréal. There is a small roundabout not long after you leave the airport, go straight on at this, staying on the D119 and following the signs to Montréal.

Keep going straight on this road, mostly vineyards on both sides, and fields with sunflowers.

Drive through the village of Montréal, keeping on the same road.

Eventually the D119 joins the D623, and becomes part of the D623 for a short distance. As you join, you are heading to the right.

Quite quickly you come to a roundabout, where you take the last exit, signposted Fanjeaux/Mirepoix/Foix. This is once again the D119, which you follow around the edge of Fanjeaux, heading towards Mirepoix.

As you approach Mirepoix, the road bends sharply to the left and you cross the bridge over the river. The signpost to Foix (your next target town) then tells you to turn left, but it is better to go straight on down a very narrow single file only bit of street, then turn right into a wider street with shops on both sides.

You are heading down this road, to turn left at the end, then to turn immediately right. You are now heading out of Mirepoix, re-joining the D119 from D119a (which is just the short bit through the centre of the town) a small roundabout, where you keep straight on, following the signs to Foix.

Keep going straight on this road, eventually you will pass through a village called Les Pujols, and then see a small private airfield on the left. Shortly after this you need to take the fork off to the left onto the D12, signposted Foix, and head towards the motorway N20/E09. You are going to head south for a short time on the motorway, following signs to Foix.

To get onto the motorway, you go straight across a couple of little roundabouts, then have to go right around the last one to double back and get access to the slip road. This is not as complicated as it sounds; just follow the signposts for Foix.

You join the motorway at Junction 7 and you are leaving at Junction 10 and heading towards Foix centre ville. The road into Foix keeps the river on the right and has shops and businesses on both sides, with several sets of traffic lights. Keep going straight on until you reach a large roundabout type junction, where you go to the right and over the river, signposted Centre Ville and/or St Girons. Follow the road up through the centre of Foix, the area to the left is the market place, keep alongside this until you reach a roundabout at the top of the hill, where you need to turn right, following the sign to St Girons.

The road bends round sharply to the left and BEFORE it turns to the right over the river bridge, you need to take a left turn which looks a bit unlikely, but follows alongside the left bank of the river for a short distance, called 'Rue de Faubourg Planissolles'. If you find you are on the main road, the D117 heading to St Girons, then you have missed the turn.

Quite soon after you have taken the left turn before the river bridge, there is a mini roundabout and you need to turn left there, signposted to the village of Saint Pierre-de-Rivière. After this

village, you begin to climb quite steeply into more mountainous terrain. You basically just follow the road keeping climbing upwards for over half an hour, passing through several villages and eventually getting beyond the villages and into more open mountain forest where there are very few buildings.

You need to be looking out for your arrival at the highest point, which is the Col de Peguère. There is a stone barn type thing on the right hand side as you approach the Col, and it is very important here to take the right fork signposted St Girons, and don't be tempted by the road heading downhill signposted Massat. If the weather is clear, there is the most magnificent view of the pyrénéen mountain chain, and it is worth a stop, particularly as there is a ceramic map type thingy detailing all the peaks that you can see.

After all that, having found the right fork, you should be driving along the ridge, keeping beautiful views of the mountains to your left. Keep going along here, you start to descend a bit, and find yourself at the Col de la Crouzette, where once again there is a choice of roads. Take the left fork, which is signposted Biert, and heads rather precariously down the mountainside. You can't go wrong now as there are no other choices, and you follow the road straight down into the village.

As you arrive in the village, you pass the back of the Mairie building on your left, with the cemetery in front of you. The road bends to the left in front of the cemetery, and then you follow it straight down, finding the church on your left. Just past the church, alongside the side of the church in fact, is a small square with a parking area, where you can leave the car.

Walk down the little street between the back of the Auberge (which is on one corner of the square) and the back of the church, and you will find our house, the fourth on the right, with blue shutters and flowers outside.