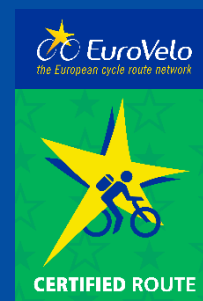




EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route in France

Certification Report



European Cyclists' Federation

7 October 2024



www.eurovelo.com





Certification of EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route in France (also called *La Vélodyssée*)

Background

The French part of EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route was surveyed and analysed with the [European Certification Standard \(ECS\)](#) methodology in 2019, in the frame of the AtlanticOnBike project, co-funded by the Interreg Atlantic Area programme. The survey was performed by EuroVelo Route Inspectors Corentin Lemaître (C-Mobilité) and Adrien Caillot. The last daily section of the route, from Saint-Jean-de-Luz to Hendaye, was surveyed again in 2023 by EuroVelo Route Inspector Aurélie Périgaud, following a major change of itinerary.

The analysis of the data collected in 2019 indicated that several critical issues were preventing the route to be eligible for EuroVelo Certification at that time. From 2021 to 2024, the collective of “La Vélodyssée” chose, as a priority activity, to “assist territories in resolving non-conformities identified in the ECS quality diagnosis and initiate the submission of justifications for a future EuroVelo Certification application”. During this period, the partners along EuroVelo 1 in France gradually resolved the critical issues that had been identified through the survey and collected evidence of the improvements via pictures or other means.

The collective of “La Vélodyssée” submitted a final EuroVelo Certification application in July 2024, consolidating the work done over these 5 years and giving an overview of the current parameters and quality standards achieved by EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route in France. ECF then undertook a detailed analysis of the route parameters and justifications received, to assess if EuroVelo 1 in France now meets the required ECS quality criteria to become a Certified EuroVelo Route (i.e. ECS essential criteria met on 100% of the route and ECS important criteria met on at least 70% of the route).

Let us note that this Certification process is different from what ECF generally advises, as the survey results used for most of the route are from 5 years ago. However, ECF agreed to follow a different process due to the strong governance system established by “La Vélodyssée”, which allowed to perform quality checks and to gather proofs of solving the main issues that had prevented to reach EuroVelo Certification back in 2019.

Results

EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route in France, from Roscoff to Hendaye, is Certified as a high-quality route within EuroVelo, the European cycle route network, until October 2029.

The EuroVelo Team congratulates the collective of *La Vélodyssée* for the impressive work done since 2020 to build a strong governance with an effective partnership along the route and collect evidence on the resolution of critical issues.

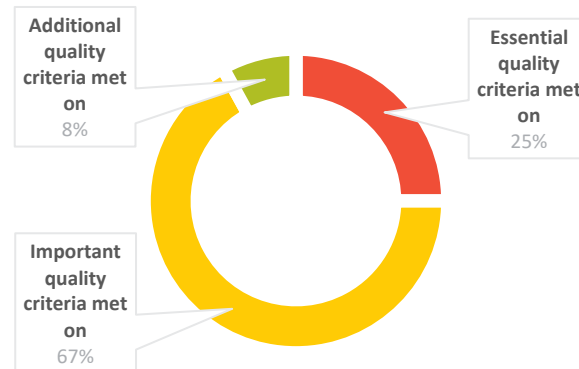
The full Certified route is **1,291 km** long and comprises **38 daily sections**. Overall, according to the justifications received on improvements made to the route’s infrastructure and services, as well as commitment letters from the departments along the route to solve the remaining issues within a short timeframe, **87% of the route length meets essential and important criteria** and **13% of the route length meets essential**



criteria only. Sections meeting essential and important criteria in their entirety can be recommended for occasional and regular cyclists. Others can be recommended for regular cyclists.

The resolution of issues related to meeting additional criteria were not reported, as this is not required for EuroVelo Certification. However, based on the 2019 survey results, 3 daily sections, corresponding to 8% of the route length, were already meeting additional criteria and can thus be recommended to all kinds of users.

Overview of quality levels along the Certified EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route in France



The EuroVelo Certification label is valid for 5 years, from September 2024 to September 2029. In order to renew the route’s Certification after this period, the collective of *La Vélodyssée* should send a new EuroVelo Certification application to ECF by June 2029, based on the results of a new ECS survey.

Communication

On www.EuroVelo.com and other communication tools, the following changes will be implemented to communicate about the route’s Certification:

- EuroVelo 1 in France will appear in green (*Certified*) on the interactive maps of the relevant stage pages ([here](#) and [here](#)) and [country page](#).
- EuroVelo 1 in France will also appear in green in the next version of the EuroVelo printed map.
- The EuroVelo Certification label will be added to the page of EuroVelo 1 in France.
- The EuroVelo Certification label will be added to relevant bookable offers in the [bookable offers search engine](#).

The certification status of each daily section and the user groups for which the section is recommended are laid out in the table below. The collective of “La Vélodyssée” and its partners are encouraged to communicate about the EuroVelo Certification of the route to the relevant target group(s) for each section and use the Certification logo in their communication materials accordingly.

Certification table & map

Daily section id	Start (Place)	Stop (Place)	Length (km)	Certification status	Essential criteria met?	Important criteria met?	Additional criteria met?	Recommended for which user group?
341	Roscoff	Morlaix	30	Certified	100%	100%	50%	Occasional & regular cyclists
342	Morlaix	Carhaix-Plouguer	48	Certified	100%	100%	96%	Occasional & regular cyclists
343	Carhaix-Plouguer	Rostrenen	33	Certified	100%	100%	91%	Occasional & regular cyclists



Daily section id	Start (Place)	Stop (Place)	Length (km)	Certification status	Essential criteria met?	Important criteria met?	Additional criteria met?	Recommended for which user group?
344	Rostrenen	Mûr de Bretagne	31	Certified	100%	100%	100%	All kinds!
345	Mûr de Bretagne	Pontivy	23	Certified	100%	100%	96%	Occasional & regular cyclists
346	Pontivy	Josselin	48	Certified	100%	100%	100%	All kinds!
347	Josselin	Peillac	46	Certified	100%	100%	96%	Occasional & regular cyclists
348	Peillac	Redon	17	Certified	100%	85%	85%	Regular cyclists
349	Redon	Blain	45	Certified	100%	91%	48%	Regular cyclists
350	Blain	Nort sur Erdre	24	Certified	100%	80%	48%	Regular cyclists
351	Nort-sur-Erdre	Nantes	35	Certified	100%	97%	72%	Regular cyclists
352	Nantes	Le Pellerin	25	Certified	100%	100%	58%	Occasional & regular cyclists
353	Le Pellerin	St-Brevin-les-Pins	37	Certified	100%	95%	80%	Regular cyclists
354	St-Brevin-les-Pins	Pornic	40	Certified	100%	85%	48%	Regular cyclists
355	Pornic	Bouin	34	Certified	100%	100%	79%	Occasional & regular cyclists
356	Bouin	La Barre de Monts-Fromentine	34	Certified	100%	100%	74%	Occasional & regular cyclists
357	La Barre de Monts-Fromentine	Saint Gilles Croix de Vie	36	Certified	100%	95%	86%	Regular cyclists
358	Saint Gilles Croix de Vie	Les Sables d'Olonne	37	Certified	100%	100%	52%	Occasional & regular cyclists
359	Les Sables d'Olonne	La Tranche sur Mer	44	Certified	100%	67%	70%	Regular cyclists
360	La Tranche sur Mer	Marans	46	Certified	100%	64%	73%	Regular cyclists
361	Marans	La Rochelle	26	Certified	100%	67%	63%	Regular cyclists
362	La Rochelle	Rochefort	50	Certified	100%	98%	76%	Regular cyclists
363	Rochefort	Marennes	38	Certified	100%	97%	31%	Regular cyclists
364	Marennes	Royan	45	Certified	100%	100%	85%	Occasional & regular cyclists
365	Royan	Montalivet les Bains	30	Certified	100%	100%	59%	Occasional & regular cyclists
366	Montalivet les Bains	Hourtin	20	Certified	100%	100%	67%	Occasional & regular cyclists
367	Hourtin	Lacanau	32	Certified	100%	100%	88%	Occasional & regular cyclists
368	Lacanau	Lege Cap Ferret	37	Certified	100%	97%	65%	Regular cyclists
369	Lege Cap Ferret	Arcachon	42	Certified	100%	88%	46%	Regular cyclists
370	Arcachon	Biscarosse Plage	26	Certified	100%	100%	70%	Occasional & regular cyclists
371	Biscarosse Plage	Parentis en Born	26	Certified	100%	100%	100%	All kinds!
372	Parentis en Born	Mimizan Plage	31	Certified	100%	100%	97%	Occasional & regular cyclists
373	Mimizan Plage	Léon	47	Certified	100%	94%	88%	Regular cyclists
374	Léon	Capbreton	33	Certified	100%	97%	47%	Regular cyclists
375	Capbreton	Bayonne	29	Certified	100%	97%	77%	Regular cyclists



Daily section id	Start (Place)	Stop (Place)	Length (km)	Certification status	Essential criteria met?	Important criteria met?	Additional criteria met?	Recommended for which user group?
376	Bayonne	Biarritz	16	Certified	100%	76%	71%	Regular cyclists
377	Biarritz	Saint Jean de Luz	14	Certified	100%	88%	81%	Regular cyclists
378	Saint Jean de Luz	Hendaye	20	Certified	100%	86%	8%	Regular cyclists

Certification map

EuroVelo 1 - Atlantic Coast Route in France





Remarks and attention points

ECF has listed the following points of attention for the collective of *La Vélodyssée* to follow-up on with its partners, in order to ensure a continued high quality for EuroVelo 1 in France until 2029 and to allow for the route to be recertified after 5 years.

- *Ground signage missing a mention of “EuroVelo 1” or “La Vélodyssée”, in Saint-Brévin-les-Pins and around Les Sables d’Olonnes, should be completed by an identification of the route or route information panels.*
- *Clarifications on the planned works and implementation timetable should be obtained from the communes’ community of Sud-Vendée-Littoral, given that their commitment email for improving cycling infrastructure on Av. Amiral Courbet and Route de la Tranche was lacking precise timings.*
- *By end September 2024, the resolution of the most important EuroVelo 1 signage issues along the Canal de Nantes à Brest and in Saint-Brévin-les-Pins should be verified, in accordance with the Loire-Atlantique Department’s commitment from their letter dated 2 July 2024.*
- *By June 2025, improvements made to EuroVelo 1 signage in Brittany should be verified, in accordance with the Brittany Region’s commitment from their letter dated 21 June 2024.*
- *By June 2025, improvements made to EuroVelo 1 signage in Vendée should be verified, in accordance with the Vendée Department’s commitment from their letter dated 27 June 2024.*
- *By the end of fall 2024, the construction of a new cycle and pedestrian path in Rochefort to resolve a very high traffic section should be verified, in accordance with the works planned by the Charente Maritime Directorate for Environment and Mobility.*
- *A solution to improve the safety of the Pont de Seudre should continue to be looked for, in order to have a safe route outside of the boat operating times. In particular, test solutions to widen the existing cycling lane should be followed up on. Indeed, the current working time of the ferry allowing to avoid this dangerous is from June to September, which is acceptable but a bit short considering the extent of the cycling season.*
- *Between Royan and Hourtin Plage, EuroVelo 1 stickers should be replaced by full EuroVelo Route Information panels as soon as possible. In the meantime, maintenance works should be organised to avoid the stickers deteriorating.*
- *Clarification on the planned works and implementation timetable should be obtained from the Gironde Department, given that their commitment email for harmonising EuroVelo 1 signing was lacking precise timings.*
- *Clarification on the planned works and implementation timetable should be obtained from the Pyrénées Atlantique Department, given that their commitment letter for improving the safety of the route was lacking precise timings. In particular, the Department should realise additional counting of the levels of motorised traffic along the route and act depending on the results.*
- *In Nantes (along Route de Pornic), in La Rochelle and before Lacanau, where itinerary changes were introduced to improve the cycling conditions of the route, verifications should be made to check that no other quality parameters were altered by these modifications.*

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