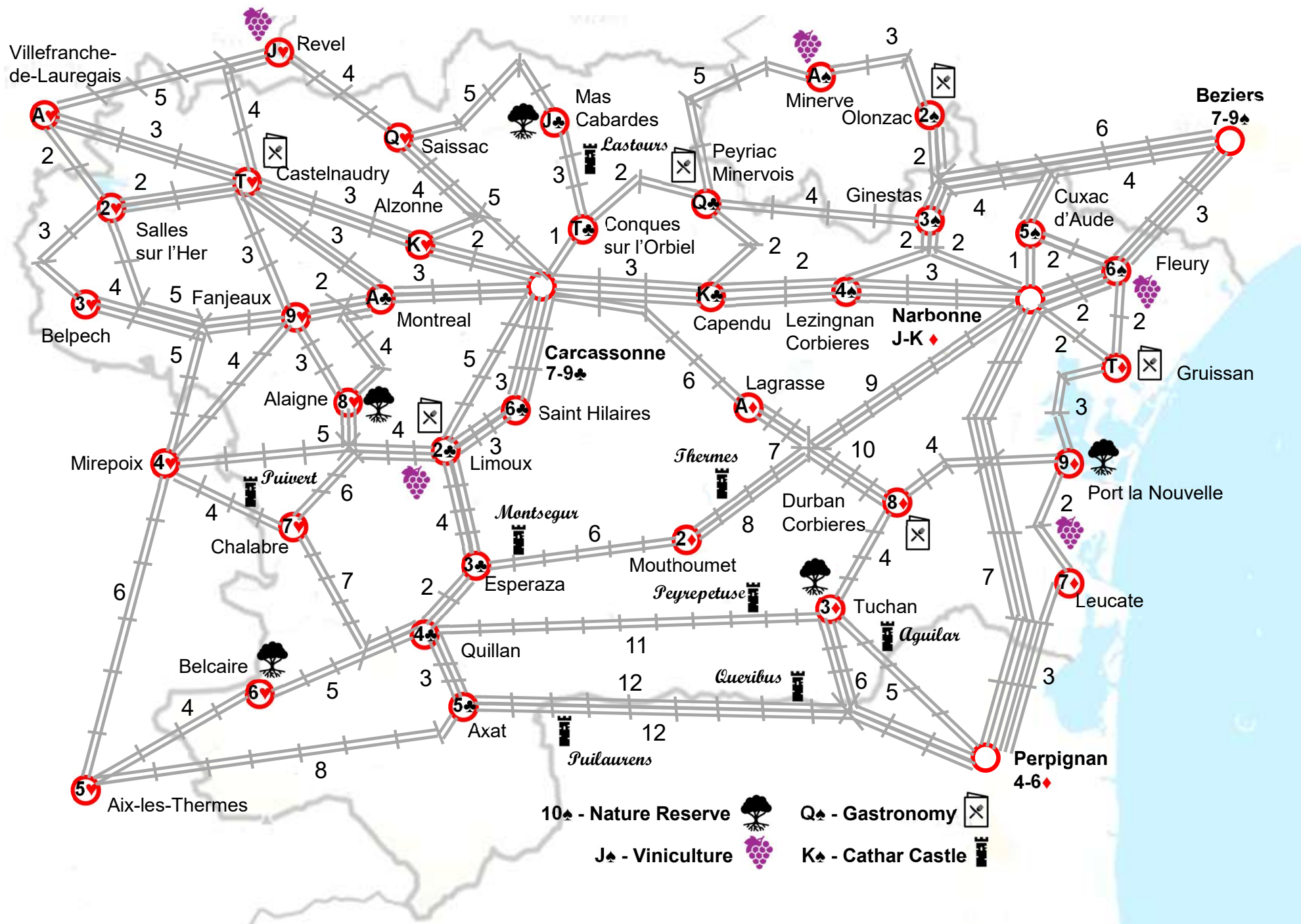




Bus Boss Map: Pays Cathare

The Pays Cathare (Cathar country) is a region in the Southwest of France, mostly in the Departement l'Aude. It is a popular tourist region, famous for its many medieval castles, villages, and Romanesque abbeys set in the Corbieres and Pyrenees mountains. The walled city of Carcassonne is a UNESCO World heritage site. The "Cathars" were the followers of a dissident church that flourished in several parts of Europe during the early Medieval period. Cathars believed that Earth was ruled by a malevolent God, and that Heaven was the world of the good God. This concept was not unique to Catharism, but it was sufficient for the Catholic church of the time to brand Catharism as a heresy.

Pope Innocent III launched the notorious Albigensian Crusade - a crusade against the "heretical" Cathars in 1208 and for twenty years, crusaders sacked and pillaged the area, massacring Cathars or converting them by force to Catholicism. A second wave of crusades, led by King Louis VIII and later Louis IX finally subjugated the area and by 1229 the region fell under the French crown under the Treaty of Meaux-Paris. Pockets of Cathar resistance held out for the next twenty-six years until the last castle, Peyrepetuse, fell in 1255*.

This map was designed by Jim Reader in late 2025 and finished in January 2026 with help from Richard Smith and Bob Gingell. Bus Boss is a game by David Watts and published by Rostherne Games. The map is intended for 4 – 5 players.

Castle destinations (KS) are located out of towns and along the marked routes e.g. Montsegur is 2 spaces east of Esperaza or 5 spaces west of Mouthoumet. Each castle can only be raced to once during a postal game, so different locations must be used in the second racing round in postal play. The other special destinations (10S, JS and QS) are all located in towns.

10S Natural Wonders - Port la Nouvelle (Coastal Lagoons), Alaigne (Razes and Medieval Village), Belcaire (Pays de Sault), Tuchan (Corbieres National Park) and Mas Cabardes (Montagne Noires)

JS Viniculture – Minerve (Minervois), Fleury, Leucate, Revel and Limoux.

QS – Gastronomy – Castelnaudry (Cassoulet), Olonzac (Olive Oil), Peyriac-Minervois (Truffles), Gruissan (Oysters), Durban-Corbieres (3 star Michelin restaurant) and Limoux (Wine Festival)

*<https://about-france.com/tourism/cathar-country>