

# The Ossau Valley

LEV  
1 CIRCUIT N° 2

## Le vieux château



*With this short loop, reach great heights with little or no effort! It offers beautiful views of the village of Rébénacq, the foothills of the Pyrenees and the plain to the north, and can be combined with the more urban circuit known as “La Bastide” (2.2 km). These two routes will give you an idea of the variety and richness of Rébénacq’s heritage.*

**D** Cross the D936 (Road to Nay) to reach Place de l’Eglise(church). Turn right onto Chemin dous Marrous and walk up to the end (passing Chemin las Bignes on your right). At the signpost, turn left onto the rural road: Chemin dous Marrous. It runs along the wall surrounding the outbuildings of the former seigneurial castle.

0h10

**1** 711899E - 4782055N After 100m, turn left onto a narrower track below, alongside a large meadow. Once it has passed a bend, it goes around the top of the meadow (be careful: livestock may be present). After a second bend followed by a gate, go up the path across the field until you reach a ridge and Chemin Sansans (a second gate).

0h35

**2** 712582E - 4782147N Enjoy the beautiful panoramic views, especially of the foothills of the Pyrenees, and then head north, on the flat. The path soon forks to the left and passes through a small woodland area.

At the end of the woods, climb the grassy slope to the right, staying on the edge of the woods. Go through a third gate. The path climbs gently up to the Barbet district. You are at the highest point of the walk. The GPS indicates an altitude of 414 m.

**0h55** **3** 712217E - 4782561N Follow the small road north. At the intersection, turn left onto Chemin Montoulieu, and walk all the way down. At the last houses (with a lovely view of the bastide), take the rural road of the same name on the right. Note: The second part of the route is slightly haphazard and can be very wet or even muddy during periods of heavy rain.

**1h20** **4** 711656E - 4782225N At the bottom, after the farm, turn left onto Route de Bosdarros back towards the starting point. It runs along the right bank of the Nééz.





**D** Place de la Mairie  
(City hall car park)

**GPS** WGS 84 UTM 30T  
711686 E - 4781864 N

1h30

3,6km

135m

**Don't miss:**

- The beautiful views of the village, the foothills and the mountains.

**Note:**

- Close all gates behind you (animals present). Be careful walking down Chemin (road) Montoulieu in wet weather (wear appropriate footwear)

**Yellow markers**

**The former seigneurial castle**

A local seigneurie is mentioned in a deed dating back to 1484. Occupying the hills to the north-east of the village, it passed through several hands until, before the French Revolution, it belonged to the Marquis of Saint-Chamans. As the Marquis went into exile in England, the property was seized in 1794 and sold as a national asset. The castle was completely dismantled by the buyer, a local master mason. A local edict then ruled that the head of each family in the village add at least one of the pieces to his own house "as a sign of solidarity with the Revolution". These remains can be found as you stroll through the bastide, like a treasure hunt! The castle on the hillside to the west of the village has a very different story: Jean-Baptiste de Bitaubé, a cadet, built it around 1775-80 after having made his fortune in trading in Cadiz. It was not disturbed during the Revolution.

**Information :**

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# Choose your hike

For each route, you will find technical and practical information to help you choose your hike

## Levels of difficulty

The hikes are classified by order of difficulty defined by a colour code following the recommendations of the French Hiking Federation:

- NIV 1** Very easy, less than 2 hours walking. Ideal for families, on well-marked tracks.
- NIV 2** Easy, less than 3 hours walking. Suitable for families, on tracks with sometimes more difficult passages.
- NIV 3** Difficult, less than 4 hours walking. For hikers used to walking, with some quite intense sections or steep slopes.
- NIV 4** Very difficult, more than 4 hours of walking. For experienced and fit hikers. The itinerary can be long and technical (strong elevation gain, tricky passages).

**GPS** 30T 7107030 - 4776694N

## GPS coordinates

## D Start



Walking time, given in hours. This estimated time takes into account the length of the hike, the elevation gain and the possible difficulties.



Elevation gain, expressed in metres. For each circuit, the value corresponds to the cumulative elevation gain.



Distance, the value expressed in kilometres corresponds to the total length of the route.

## Markers

Direction	Local routes and PR®	GRP®	GR®
Right way			
Turn left			
Turn right			
Wrong way			



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## Recommendations

### Before you leave

Check your equipment, the difficulty of the circuit and the weather conditions  
If you are going alone, communicate your itinerary to friends and family  
See the map of controlled fires

### In the mountains / pastoral areas

Follow the marked paths and close gates after passing through  
Respect nature and bring waste back  
If accompanied by a dog, make sure that it is allowed on the chosen route and keep it on a lead  
During the hunting season, avoid hunting areas or turn back  
Go around herds and do not approach farm dogs (do not feed them or pet them)

### National Park

The heart of the National Park is a natural territory and is open to all, but is subject to a code of conduct. Dogs are not allowed, even on a lead. No fires, no mountain bikes, no wild camping, only bivouacs are allowed - a small tent can be set up for the night from 7 pm and taken down in the morning before 9 am. It must be set up more than an hour's walk from any motorised access.

European emergency call : 112