

The Ossau Valley

LEV
1

La jurade



It is said that Bielle was built on an ancient Gallo-Roman villa. Remains such as mosaics, sarcophagi and terra cotta pipelines have been found there. The village was a prosperous religious centre and stopover on the Way of Santiago de Compostela, and had a hospital and an abbey in the Middle Ages. The abbey was demolished during the Wars of Religion. Bielle was the capital of the Ossau Valley until the 19th century with the Jurade and then the Syndicat d'Ossau. The village has kept all the riches of its long history within its walls and on its houses. The route proposed below allows you to go from house to house and find the signs of this rich past.

D Cross the bridge and immediately turn left into the Allée des Arrius.

1 Opposite, note the motto on the house from 1633 "May the door be open, and not closed to anyone who is honest". Turn right down the street.

2 On the right, a doorway with commas on a sun sign brings protection and prosperity to the house.

3 A 16th-century house where the family of the musketeer Aramitz used to stay.

4 Further to the right, the courtyard of a house made of pebbles from the Gave.

5 Going down to the left, the Château de Bielle, dating from the 18th century, was built by the Marquis de Laborde as a wedding present for his nephew

6 On the right, a keystone with a snake intertwined in the letters "IHS", Iesu Hominum Salvator. These inscriptions mark the religious affiliation of the house and place it under the protection of God. The snake was used to fight against evil. Continue straight on.

7 On the house opposite, sculptures of angels from the former abbey, the former awning of a butcher's shop and the inscription "IHS". Continue straight on.

8 On the right, a cartouche with a builder's square

engraved on an 18th century house. The small head indicates that the house was cogot.

9 On the left, "1538" on the door lintel is not written in Roman numerals as usual. This is the earliest date recorded in the valley.

10 Opposite, the family motto has been inscribed in Bearnais on this 19th century house.

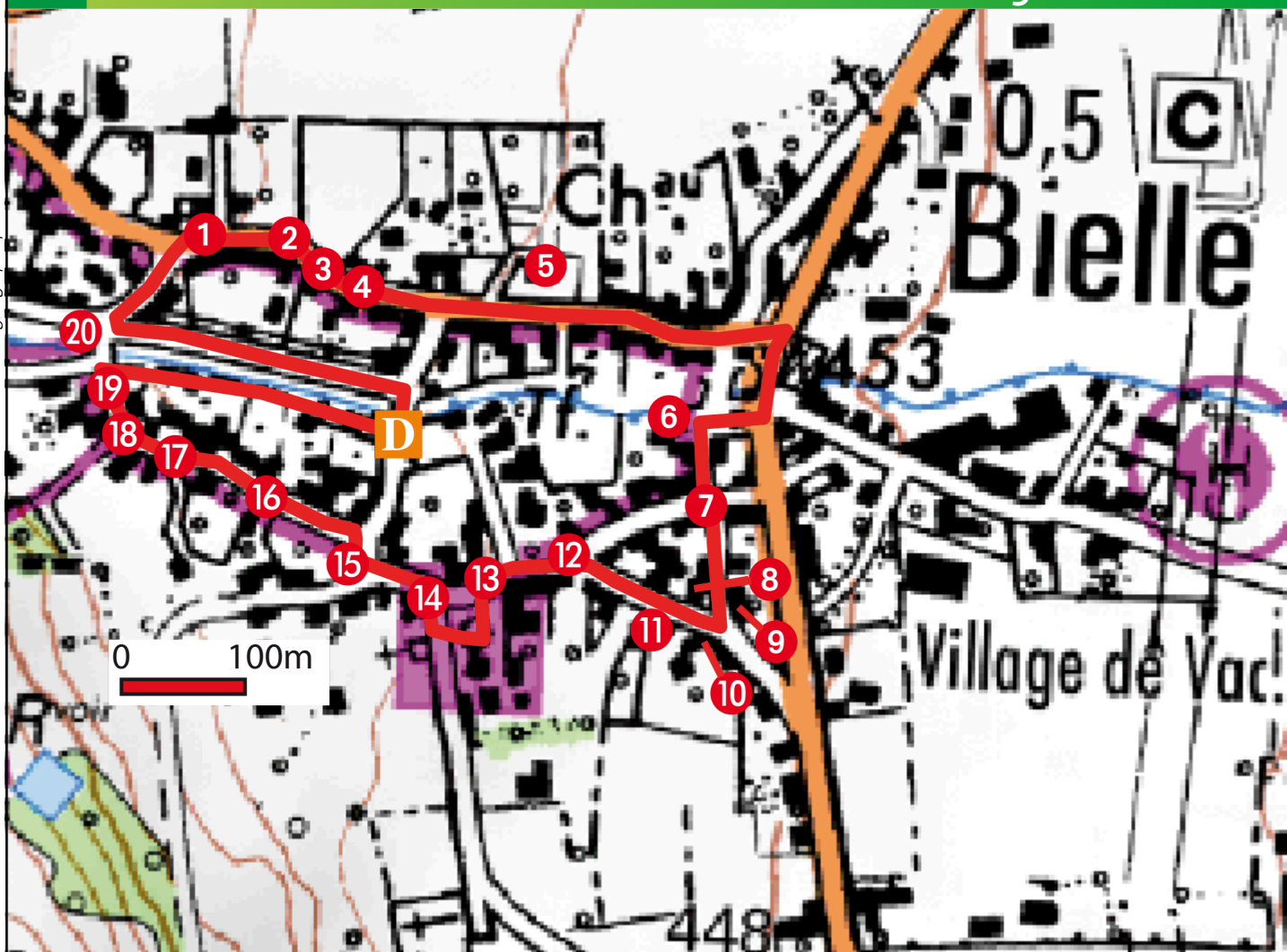
11 A little higher up, the heart and comma are signs of protection found on the painted wooden collars of cattle. Go up the street.

12 At the crossroads, a house with angels, remains of the abbey. Turn left.

13 At the back of the church, the small stone staircase leads to the room where the jurats of Ossau used to meet. All the records of the valley were kept in a chest locked with three keys. The jurats of Laruns, Bielle and Sainte-Colome each had a key.

14 The 16th-century church of Saint-Vivien has kept the columns of the old villa. On the doorway, the broken bear and cow are the symbols of the Ossau Valley. After going around the church, turn left.

15 Opposite is a more "modern" 18th-century house with a carriage gate for the livestock and a smaller one for the inhabitants.



16 On the right, the former capital of the abbey.

17 On the left, the remains of a watchtower.

18 Further up on the right, a bread oven on a house with angels. Turn right.

19 On the left, a farmhouse, another improvement in housing over time.

20 A fairly recent washhouse, opposite. Before the bridge, go down to the right along the Arriu Mage to the car park.

D Village of Bielle,
Place du Poundet

GPS WGS 84 UTM 30T
708974E - 4770091N



1h



1,5km



30m

★ Don't miss:

- Engraved stones on houses
- The church of Saint-Vivien and its segari (church room)



Blue markers



Made by:

Communauté de Communes de la Vallée d'Ossau
1 avenue des Pyrénées – 64260 Arudy +33 (0)5 59 05 66 77

Information :

Ossau Valley Tourist Office, Pyrenees - Headquarters in Laruns - +33 (0)5 59 05 31 41
www.valleedossau.com

All outdoor sports activities are available on the Vallée d'Ossau Pyrénées mobile app...
and on the website terredaventures.valleedossau.com

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 Coordinates

GPS 30T 710703O - 4776694N

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			



GR®, GRP® and PR® are registered trademarks of the French Hiking Federation. Some routes have been selected by the French Hiking Federation according to quality criteria. They are PR® certified.

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

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and on the website terredaventures.valleedossau.com