

The Ossau Valley

LEV 1 CIRCUIT N° 14 - Heritage

Les thermes

Perched on the side of a mountain, Eaux-Bonnes, with its Second Empire architecture, is very different from the traditional Béarn village. Here the nobility took to the waters and as you stroll along the imperial promenades, you can't help but imagine the ladies in crinolines, the gentlemen in top hats, occupied by spa therapy and idleness.



D Start from the Darralde gardens. Go up Rue Valery Meunier just to the left of the road towards Gourette. At the top, cross the road to Gourette and go up a grassy path: the Eynard promenade. Go up a zig-zag. The view over Eaux-Bonnes is beautiful as the path overhangs the village.

0h10

1 On the left, continue along the Eynard promenade. Zig-zag upwards.

0h25

2 Turn right and climb the Butte au Trésor. Go there and back. Come back to the promenade on the right and walk down to the top of Eaux-Bonnes.

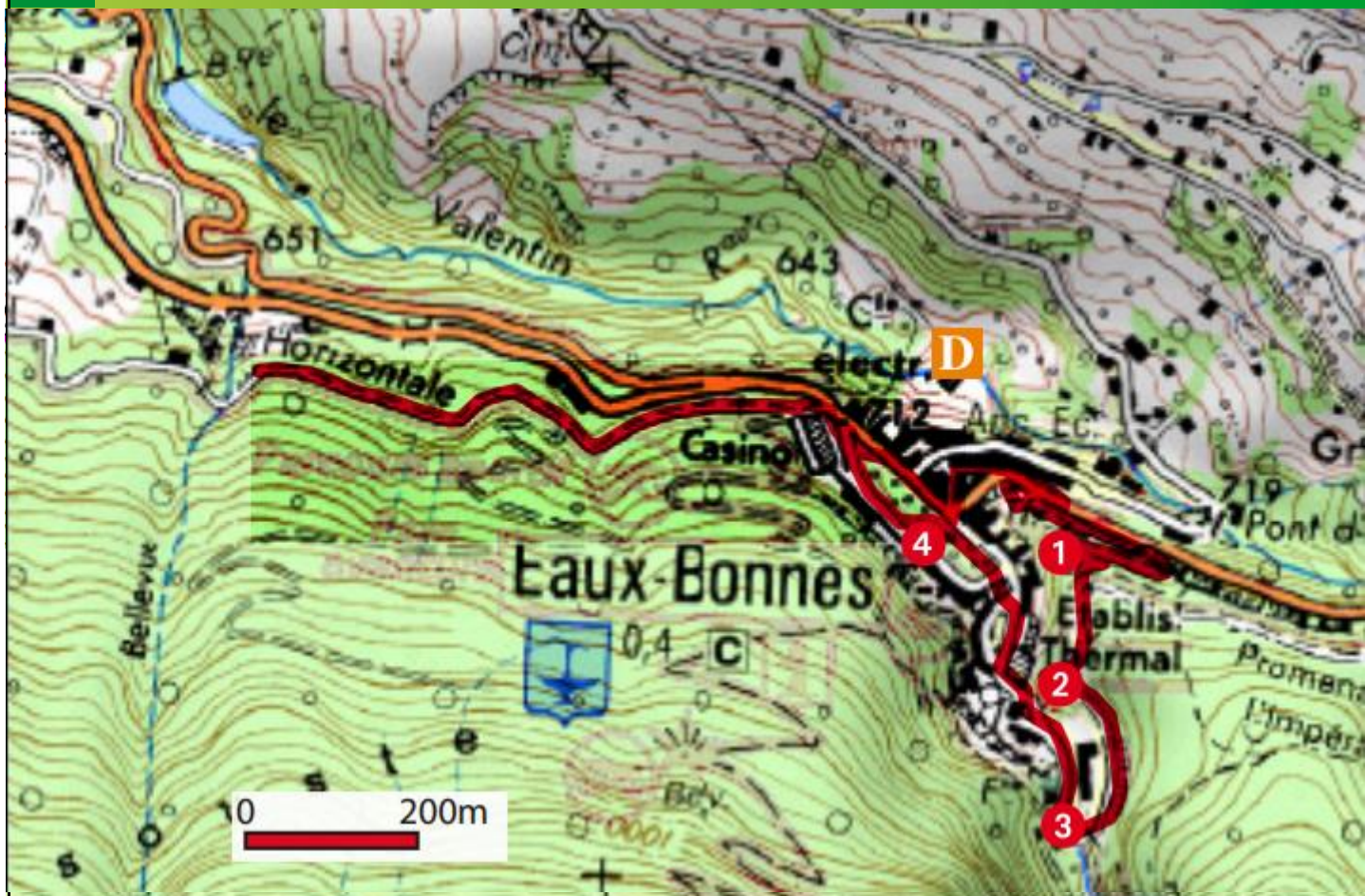
0h50

3 Cross the bridge over the Sourde (start of several hiking trails). The river has been modified to contain its overflow during rough storms. Go down the road, past the cold spring, the church, and the thermal baths. At the Place de la Mairie, take the small passage on the left. You can hear the Sourde river flowing under Eaux-Bonnes, crossing the Darralde gardens.

1h00

4 At the large kiosk, turn left, cross the road and go up to the casino. Walk past it and continue along the horizontal promenade to the kiosk. From there, turn back. Return to the garden by going down the beautiful stone staircase of the casino.





D Darralde Gardens

GPS WGS 84 UTM 30T
709924 E - 4761068 N

→ 1h30

3,8km

330m

330m

Yellow markers

Since the XVI^e century, Eaux-Bonnes has been known for the beneficial quality of its waters. Several lords from Bearn came to be treated here. The water was given the name “eau d’arquebusade” for its reputation as a cure for arquebus wounds.

In the 19th century, the thermal resort really developed when the Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III, made it her official spa. Once a major resort and worldly entertainment centre, all that remains are the buildings as a reminder of the hustle and bustle of this great era. The baths were crowded and people lined up to drink the water according to their doctor’s prescription. Beyond bathing, people tended to get bored. Local guides offered their services for excursions to Aas, to the Eaux-Chaudes cave and for the more adventurous to the summit of the Pic de Ger. People strolled along the promenades, lazed about in the Darralde gardens or met at the casino for lavish receptions. Far from the local architecture of the time, Haussmann-style buildings were built to accommodate all these people.

Nowadays, Eaux-Bonnes regains some of this effervescence during the summer months when tourists and spa lovers come with their families to enjoy the benefits of the mountains.

Information :

Laruns/Artouste Tourist Information Office : +33 (0)5 59 05 31 41
Eaux-Bonnes/Gourette Tourist Information Office : +33 (0)5 59 05 33 08
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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			



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