

# The Ossau Valley

LEV  
4

CIRCUIT N° 33

## Le Lac d'Er



*This hike is featured in all the guidebooks that mention the most beautiful lakes of the Pyrenees.*

*Hidden high up in a wild mountain range, Lake Er is a prime destination for all those who love challenging hikes surrounded by rich, well-preserved nature.*

**D** From the car park, cross the road and take the path leading into the forest. Follow several zig-zags and then after a steep climb, leave the forest. Go straight up the bank formed by the edge of the Arrec d'Ayguebère stream.

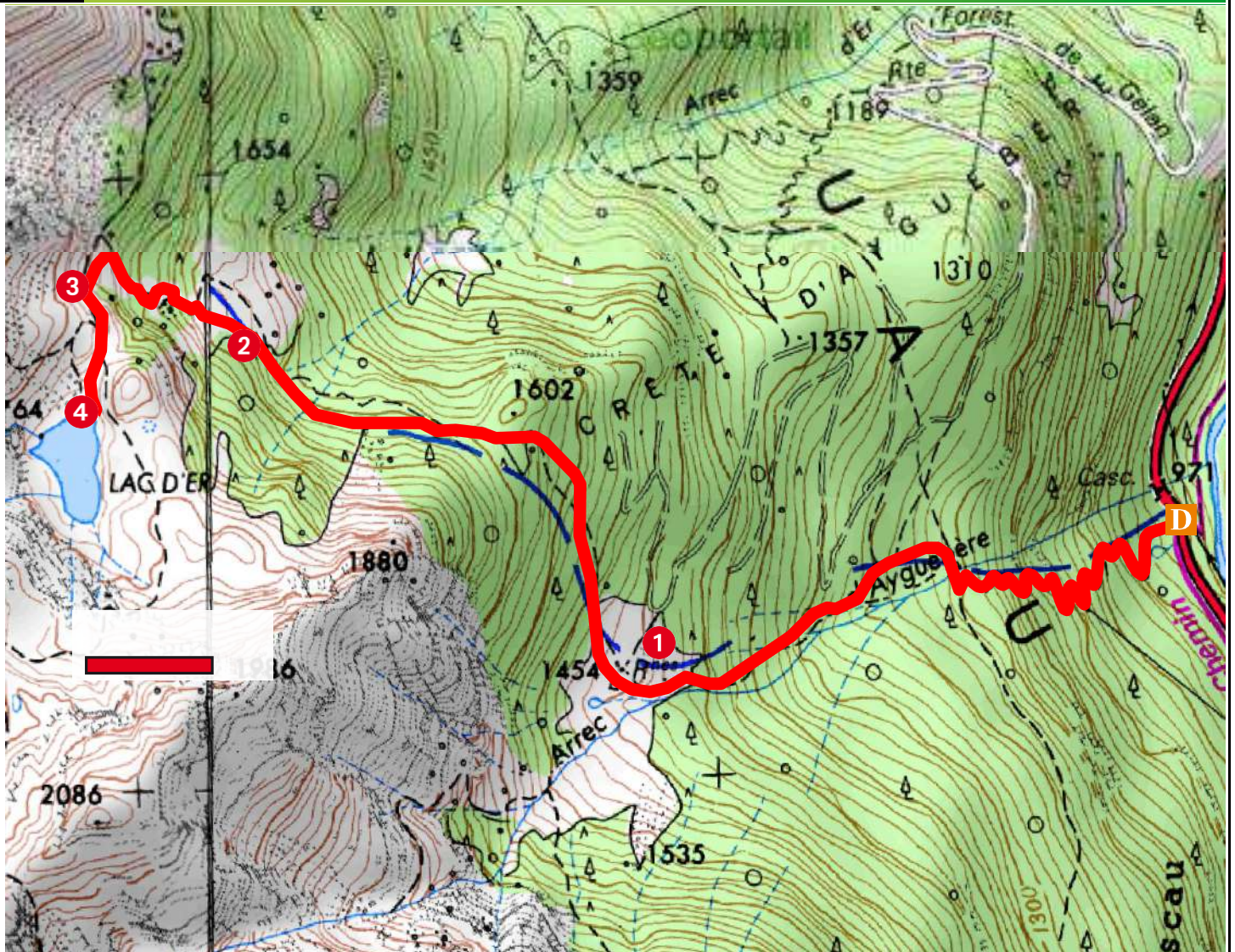
**1h00** **1** 708639 E - 4752486 N Go straight up into the clearing and then head right along the edge of the forest. Go into the forest again and climb upwards, slightly to the right. Go over a small pass after a clearing and carry on to the right. The track goes down slightly through a steep area. As you walk, note the beautiful fir trees with impressive trunks.

**2h00** **2** 707969 E - 4753049 N Climb to the left at the edge of the forest and then cross to the right up a rocky area that is covered in flowers in spring and summer. When you get to an area of scree, carry on climbing.

**2h40** **3** 707685 E - 4753096 N Go down slightly to the left, and then climb across, again to the left. You will arrive at the lake from the top.

**3h00** **4** 707700 E - 4752912 N From the lake, go back down by the same route.





**D** Car Park on the D934 about 1km before Gabas.

**GPS** WGS 84 UTM 30T  
709582 E - 4752809 N

 5h

 8,3km

 1079m

**★ Don't miss:**

- The beautiful trees of the beech and fir forest.
- The botanical garden offered by Mother Nature.
- The lake, of course!
- Marmots on the Ayguebère plateau.

 **Yellow markers**

**Fishing in high altitude lakes**

Sometimes artificial but more often natural, mountain lakes are a unique experience for the fishing enthusiast. The hike to get there and the setting make this a truly exceptional activity. The fishing is sometimes generous, sometimes difficult; you can never be sure of bringing something back despite all the efforts made. The dominant fish species are brown and rainbow trout, Arctic char and brook salmon. You can fish with a lure, a bombette, a fly or bait. Fishing is allowed from June to early October.

**Information :**

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Eaux-Bonnes/Gourette Tourist Information Office : +33 (0)5 59 05 33 08  
Arudy Tourist Information Office : +33 (0)5 59 05 77 11

Vallée  
**OSSAU**  
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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).

 30T 710703O - 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