The Ossau Valley

LEV 4

GRP ®53

Col d'Aubisque / Gourette / Eaux-Bonnes

This stage, which goes from the Col d'Aubisque to Gourette and ends in Eaux-Bonnes, links three major sites in the valley's tourism developments. The setting is sumptuous, dominated by the Pic de Ger.

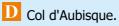


- From the car park, take the track on the right just before descending to the Col du Soulor. Under the radio antenna, take a path on the right. Climb to the ridge and follow it towards the right. Go over the Col de Casteix and continue along the ridge.
- 0h30 1 71791 E 4760694 N Turn left, leaving the ridge for a path that runs along the side.
- 1h00 2 718660 E 4760549 N At the Col d'Arbaze, go down into a valley. When you get to a flat area, go down to the right.
- 1h20 3 719202 E 4760473 N On the right, take the path upwards. Pass a ridge, go down and then turn right. Join the GR®10 and climb up.
- 2h00 1718765 E 4759777 N At the Col de Tortes, go down, following the path.
- 2h30 **5** 718049 E 4759898 N Turn left onto the flat track. Then zig-zag your way down.
- 2h40 6 717881 E 4759719 N Above Gourette, take the left-hand track which goes slightly uphill. Pass a water supply and go down. At the Cardet car park, go down the road, take the first left, cross the car park and go up the hill. Walk past the cable car station, towards the right and then to the foot of the ski slopes.

- Take the stony road that passes above the "La boule de neige" hotel. Climb about 700 m.
- 3h20 716844 E 4759687 N At the first bend in the road, turn right and then left, climbing to the top of the Bois Noir. Go down, and at a pond, go up to the right on the ski run. Continue to climb the ski run. Reach the arrival station of the Bezou cable car, walk past it and go down the ski slope to the bottom. Go up slightly to the right.
- 4h20 **3** 716898 E 4758955 N Take the path on the left over the reservoir. Then go up towards the antenna. Walk 200 m along the track.
- 4h30 9 716392 E 4759091 N On the right, take a path that cuts across. Cross an avalanche path and follow the track to the Bouy plateau, which you walk around to the left, staying at the same level.
- 5h00 10 715355 E 4759347 N At the pass, go down into the woods. Join a track and follow it downhill. On the road, go down to the Darralde gardens in the centre of Eaux-Bonnes.
 - A 712655 E 4761063 N Arrival at Eaux-Bonnes.

Col d'Aubisque / Gourette / Eaux-Bonnes









6h30



16,6km



950m

Yellow and red markers

Don't miss:

• The view from the three passes. The Cabane (hut) de Bouy.



Note:

- Do not walk this route in fog.
- Take an IGN Top 25 map of the area.

The history of skiing in Gourette.

It all began in 1903 when a young 22-year-old from Pau discovered the existence of skiing with the adventurous story of the explorer Nansen who crossed Greenland on skis in 1888.

He then ordered his first pair of skis and went to try them out with a friend on the Benou plateau and then in Gourette.

Henri Sallenave and Louis Falisse were hooked, and many others followed in their footsteps. Thanks to the two intrepid Béarn locals, the history of winter sports in the Pyrenees began. In the 1930s, tarsealed roads arrived in Gourette and hotels were built, but it was not until the 1960s that the sport became a major part of the local economy.

"White gold" led to the construction of the infrastructure we know today.

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 Arudy Tourist Information Office: +33 (0)5 59 05 77 11

Arudy Tourist information Office: +33 (0)5 59 05 77 1

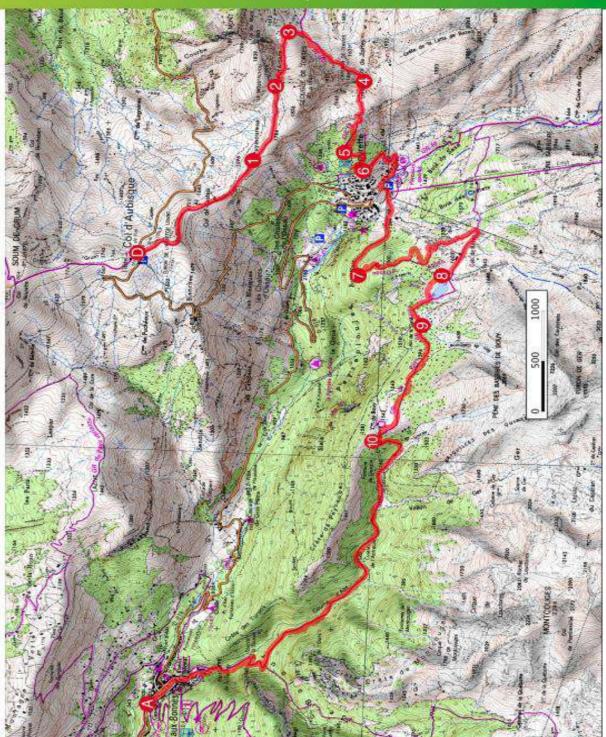


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Choose your hike

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

Markers

Direction	Local routes and PR®	GRP®	GR®
Right way	0		
Turn left	L.	Ţ	-
Turn right		-	F
Wrong way	×	×	×



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Levels of difficulty

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



Very easy, less than 2 hours walking. Ideal for families, on well-marked tracks



Easy, less than 3 hours walking. Suitable for families, on tracks with sometimes more difficult passages.



Difficult, less than 4 hours walking. For hikers used to walking, with some quite intense sections or steep slopes.



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





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.

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