

GR 108A From Gabas to Sallent de Gallego via the Col de Peyrelue

Gabas

 Difficult - Level 3

To reach Spain, an alternative to the Col des Moines and Col du Somport is to take the direction of the Brousset Valley and the Col de Peyrelue. This route was used from the 16th century by merchants and pilgrims on their way to Sallent de Gallego and the Tena Valley, as the ruins of an old inn along the way testify.



	Start : GABAS Arrival : ASTUN		Distance : 14.1km		Elevation gain: 1035m		Duration : 5hrs
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 Emergency
call : 112



Stages

1-Artouste-Fabrèges

From the chapel of Gabas, cross the hamlet by the D934. After the bridge over the Gave de Bious (signposted exit from Gabas), of the two paths on the right-hand side of the road, take the left-hand path (signposted GR108A). It joins the Route du Pourtalet a little further up; cross over (with care) to another path opposite. It will pass by a water catchment and then go back onto the D934. Walk along the tar-sealed road to the left, uphill (caution, heavy traffic). At the entrance to Artouste, leave the GR10 markers on the left to continue along the roadside alongside the hydroelectric installations, then beyond for 500 m. At the end of a right-hand bend, you will see the Fabrèges lake dam; leave the road for a small path on the left, just before a blue building (2.2 km / 40min). Go down along the fence to a footbridge, then a path that climbs the opposite bank, winding through a forest of beech and fir trees. At the top, step onto a grassy platform (former quarry and tennis court); take a few steps to the right for the lookout point. The route continues along the wide path to the left. It cuts across a stream and then leads you downhill to the resort town of Artouste. When you reach the bend in the road, follow it to the left to pass under the cable car and reach an intersection at the entrance to the Artouste-Fabrèges car park.

2- Cabane (hut) des Quèbes

Walk 30m on the access road to the station and then go down to the right on a grassy path, which soon flattens out, overlooking the lake for its entire length. At the end, cut across the road and climb an embankment to continue on the marked path above the road. After passing under a water pipe, it goes down to the D934. Turn right onto the Pont de Camps (caution) and immediately left onto a secondary tar-sealed road (signposted "Port Vieux de Sallent"). At the first bend in the road, leave the tar-sealed road and take the path opposite; it enters the Pyrenees National Park (signposted). There are now fewer markers; proceed on the wide grassy path of the Brousset Valley (the river should be on your left). Pass a hut and slalom through the boulders of the Brousset Valley. There is an intersection after the Quèbes hut (7 km / 2h30). Ignore the bridge on the left and continue along the grassy path upwards on the right. Ignore a footbridge further on and walk straight along the valley floor.

3- Col de Peyrelue

Intersection of paths under the Caillou de Soques (8,7 km / 3hrs). Leave a footbridge on the left and the path to the Refuge de Pombie on the right, to continue on a slightly ascending path, between thicket and grass (keep to the most clearly-marked path). At the end of a small boxwood forest, you will see the ruins of the Caze Brousset (1390 m). Continue on the path going up, overlooking the ruins. Ten minutes further up, cross through a meadow (cairns), then, before reaching the beech forest, make sure to climb up the grass on the right, at the edge of the forest (off the path). On the upper part of the clearing (around 1490 m), follow the path that goes into the forest on the left (you will see a dolmen). The path drops down a few metres to reach a recent and imposing footbridge over the river (10.5 km / 3h 45). On the opposite bank, take the path to the left; it climbs in short zig-zags towards a large boulder, then shifts slightly to the right to pass under the road, which it soon joins upstream of an avalanche barrier. Go up along the D934 for 500 m (caution). Just before the stone bridge of Peyrelue, leave the tar-sealed road for the marked walking track on the left (towards the Cabane de Peyrelue). It emerges from sparse woodlands and then climbs in short zig-zags. At the Cabane de Peyrelue (water), go down to the bottom of the valley and walk along one of the horizontal paths towards the south. Passing from one side of the stream to the other, the route brings you closer to the border. Continue in the same direction as the valley widens, moving forward through the grass (walk past a hut high up on the left). Go around a wetland on the left to reach the Col de Peyrelue on the border (14.1 km / 5hrs), which is not very clearly marked (fence). A path continues among the boulders and irises to descend to the Spanish side.