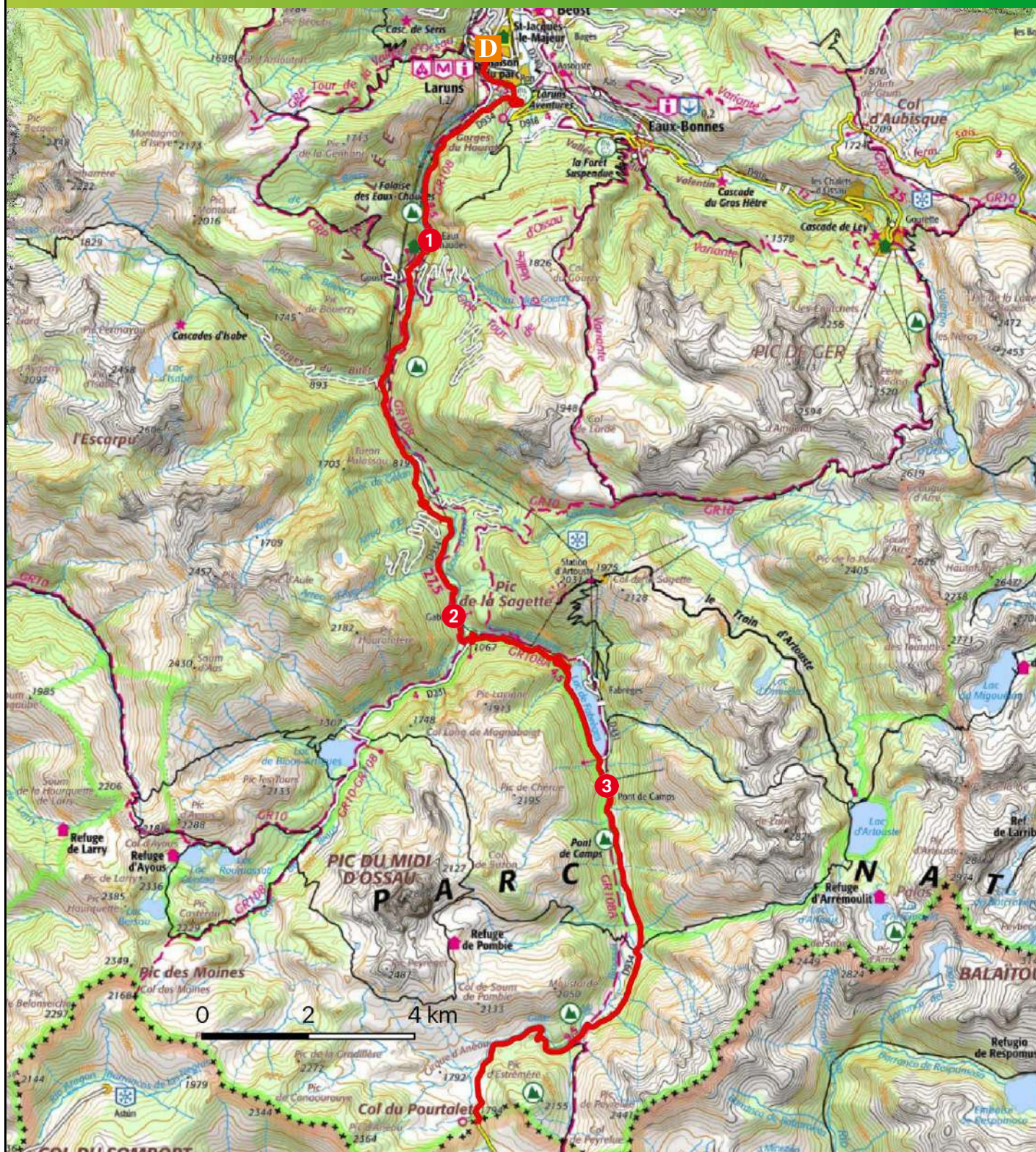


CIRCUIT N°3

# Col du Pourtalet - with Electric bike



Vallée  
d'OSSAU  
PYRÉNÉES  
Office de Tourisme

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# The Ossau Valley Col du Pourtalet with electric assistance

## Electric bike circuit

The Col du Pourtalet is a border crossing to Spain, accessible via a fairly long road passing through a wide variety of landscapes. Beyond the physical challenge, although helped out by the electric assistance, climbing this route by bike allows you to immerse yourself in the heritage and historical surroundings.

The Col du Pourtalet sits at the border between the Ossau valley and Spain, and can be reached by a fairly long but never too steep road, passing through a wide variety of landscapes. Beyond the physical challenge, although helped out by the electric assistance, climbing this route by bike allows you to immerse yourself in the heritage and historical surroundings. The road to Pourtalet has long been a thoroughfare and has seen merchants and peddlers, smugglers, pilgrims and traffickers pass through. The Gabas valley also welcomes the annual transhumance of herds as they are taken to the generous summer pastures of the Pic du Midi d'Ossau. On leaving Laruns, the road boldly defies the Hourat gorges, before making a long, easy approach between the river and the boxwoods, crossing the Eaux-Chaudes thermal resort and the village of Gabas, with its cheese cellars. The hydroelectric plant at Fabrèges announce the exit from the forest and the final climb towards the high pastures, Brousset and Anéou, for a panoramic view upon arrival at the pass and its shops.



**D**

In the square in the centre of Laruns, go around the fountain and follow street that goes up (marked "toutes directions") to the left. Turn left twice to pass behind the fronton wall, then right, following the road sign towards "Espagne" to leave the village heading slightly downhill. After the Lauguère bridge, the road climbs to an intersection heading either to the Col d'Aubisque or Col du Pourtalet (1.8 km): turn right to begin the ascent of the Col du Pourtalet. With the electric assistance in action, go through a rocky tunnel and climb up the narrow Hourat gorges (keep close to the right). After the gorges, the road climbs gently towards the Eaux-Chaudes resort.

**D** Laruns, Town Hall Square  
(Place de la Mairie)

GPS WGS 84 UTM 30T  
709833 E - 4762712 N

29,5km

510 m  
Mini

1794m  
Maxi

1300m

1300m

**★ Don't miss :**

- Cheese salting rooms in Gabas
- The Aneou cirque, high place for pastoralism.

**⚠ Note**

- Hourat gorge, narrow tunnel and road on 1km, stay on the right side.
- Brousset Valley, narrow bridge, be careful when crossing with cars or trucks.

**D**

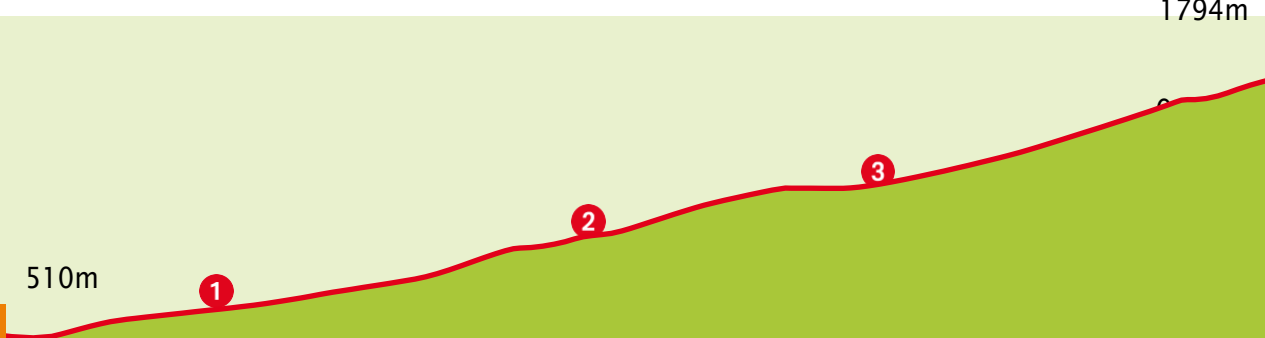
510m

1

2

3

1794m



## Electric bike circuit

- 1 708890 E – 4758977 N At the entrance to Eaux-Chaudes (5.5 km), follow the road to the left that winds up between the houses. At the exit of the village, the Pont d'Enfer takes you over to the left bank of the valley. Another 4 km with little incline, as you pass the Miégebat power station, then the road has an average incline of between 6 and 7%, where you should not hesitate to use electric assistance. The opportunity to enjoy the beautiful beech forests with boxwood, or the impressive cliffs of Césy, overhead. Around the twelfth kilometre, the Pic du Midi d'Ossau comes into sight, announcing your arrival in Gabas.
- 2 709981 E – 4751899 N Half of the climb was covered in crossing Gabas (14 km), where a break will be much appreciated. As soon as you leave the village, two hairpin bends start a 3 km section with an average incline of 7%, with some parts reaching 9%. In the second bend, leave the Bious-Artigues road to the right and be sure to use your battery to cross this stage passing by the Artouste power station (16.1 km). After the two bends downstream of a dam, the road takes you to the large Fabrèges reservoir. Follow the water's edge on the flat, tree-lined road, then ignore the direction of Artouste on the left.
- 3 713050 E – 4748938 N As you go over the bridge (20 km), you leave the woods and the road opens out onto high pastures. The view opens up to the high, long valley of Brousset. The slope is reasonable (4 to 5%) until the bend at Caillou de Soques (23.3 km), then you should not hesitate to use more electric assistance as you pass under four avalanche barriers, where the climb is more sustained (7% over 2.5 km), but the views are magnificent. After these long straight lines, nice curves appear in the Tourmont gorges and the road soon joins the mountain pastures of the Anéou plateau, a Mecca of pastoralism. One last effort and the Col du Pourtalet is all yours (with the Pic du Midi d'Ossau behind you)!



# Choosing your bike circuit


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

## Levels of difficulty

The various loops are classified by level of difficulty and identified by a colour code following the recommendations of the French Cycling Federation:

- LEV 1** Very easy, wide and smooth path. Suitable for all levels, and for touring bikes.
- LEV 2** Easy, fairly smooth path. Suitable for occasional mountain bike riders.
- LEV 3** Difficult, technical route. Experienced mountain bike riders, requiring technical skills.
- LEV 4** Very difficult, very technical trail. High technical and physical level.

## GPS Coordinates

**D**  30T 710703O - 4776694N

You will find GPS coordinates for each reference point on the route. The geodetic system used is WGS84, compatible with GPS; the projection is in UTM zone 30T for the Southwest of France. The values of the point in longitude and latitude are given in metres followed by O for West (*ouest*) or E for East and N for North. Download the GPS tracks of the routes on: [www.valleedossau-tourisme.com](http://www.valleedossau-tourisme.com).



Duration, given in hours. The estimated duration takes into account the length of the route, the elevation gain and any difficulties, without stops.



Elevation gain, expressed in metres. For each route, the elevation gain corresponds to the cumulative distance climbed.



Distance, the value expressed in kilometres corresponds to the total length of the route.

## The markings

Straight ahead



Turn right



Turn left



Wrong way



Caution, danger



Liaison



## Recommendations

**Weather** 08 99 71 02 64

**Emergency number in Europe** 112

Here are some tips for your mountain biking experience

### Keep yourself safe

- Use the marked paths for your safety and respect the direction of the routes.
- Don't overestimate your abilities and stay in control of your speed in all circumstances.
- For your safety, remember to wear a helmet.
- Bring food, drink and suitable clothing.
- If you are going alone, let someone know where you are going.

### Take care of nature

- Do not disturb wild animals.
- Avoid picking flowers, fruit and vegetables and mushrooms in the wild.
- During the hunting season, watch out for hunting on the ground and pigeon hides.
- Keep your rubbish with you, be discreet and respect the environment.

### Respect activities and people

- In farming areas, keep your distance from herds of animals and dogs.
- Be careful and courteous when overtaking or crossing hikers.
- Mountain bikers will respect road rules, and know that pedestrians have the right of way.
- Respect private property and cultivated fields, close fences behind you.
- Beware of agricultural and forestry machinery, do not get in the way.
- To make the most of your excursions, we recommend contacting the professionals

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