



A climb that is surprising both for its landscape (forested and very wild) and for the irregularity and difficulty of its slopes: after seven practically flat kilometres, the rest of the climb is made up of very tough slopes (more than 10%) alternated with a few unexpected flat patches.

Getting to the start:

● from Oloron Ste Marie, follow the D919 in the direction of Tardets/Aramits. Cross Aramits towards Montory, and at the crossroads after 1 km, continue straight on the D 918 until you reach the centre of Lanne-en Barétous. Soon after the church, park on the left opposite the swimming pool near the mairie (water point ok in the village).

D From the car park, head left (west), almost flat to begin with, then on a small ascent. After the road bends to the right, turn left on the D632 towards Pierre St Martin and Issarbe (km 1).

① Ride along almost flat, then among low foothills, with a slightly tougher part among beautiful isolated barns surrounded by meadows for 6 km.

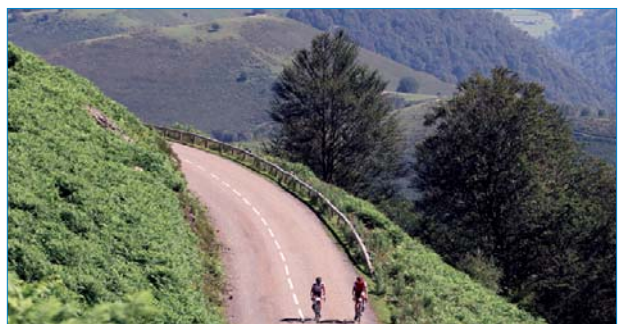
② Mount the first tough slope (a taste of what's to come) at 11%, followed by a false flat where you can recover (bridge of Blancou) then throw yourself into another hill to the left through bracken (at 12%) until you reach a ledge (km 8.5).

③ What comes next is a succession of slopes between 12 and sometimes 14% followed by gentler slopes of 6/7% (km 10) by the banks of a stream.

④ You will have to stand on your pedals to get through the next 'scary' 1.5 km at 13%. Thankfully it is followed by a flat stretch (400 m). You will climb the next 4.5 km with a regular slope of 10% in the middle of dense forest, and then negotiate a series

of no less than twelve bends. After that, there is a very beautiful view over the plain as you follow a strong curve surrounded by meadows before taking two tight bends out of the woods (km 16).

⑤ Take another bend (the 15th) towards the left then ride back among pines for one last effort at 9%, followed by a relatively steep slope (7%) among beautiful sloping meadows until you arrive at the car park of the ski resort in Issarbe.

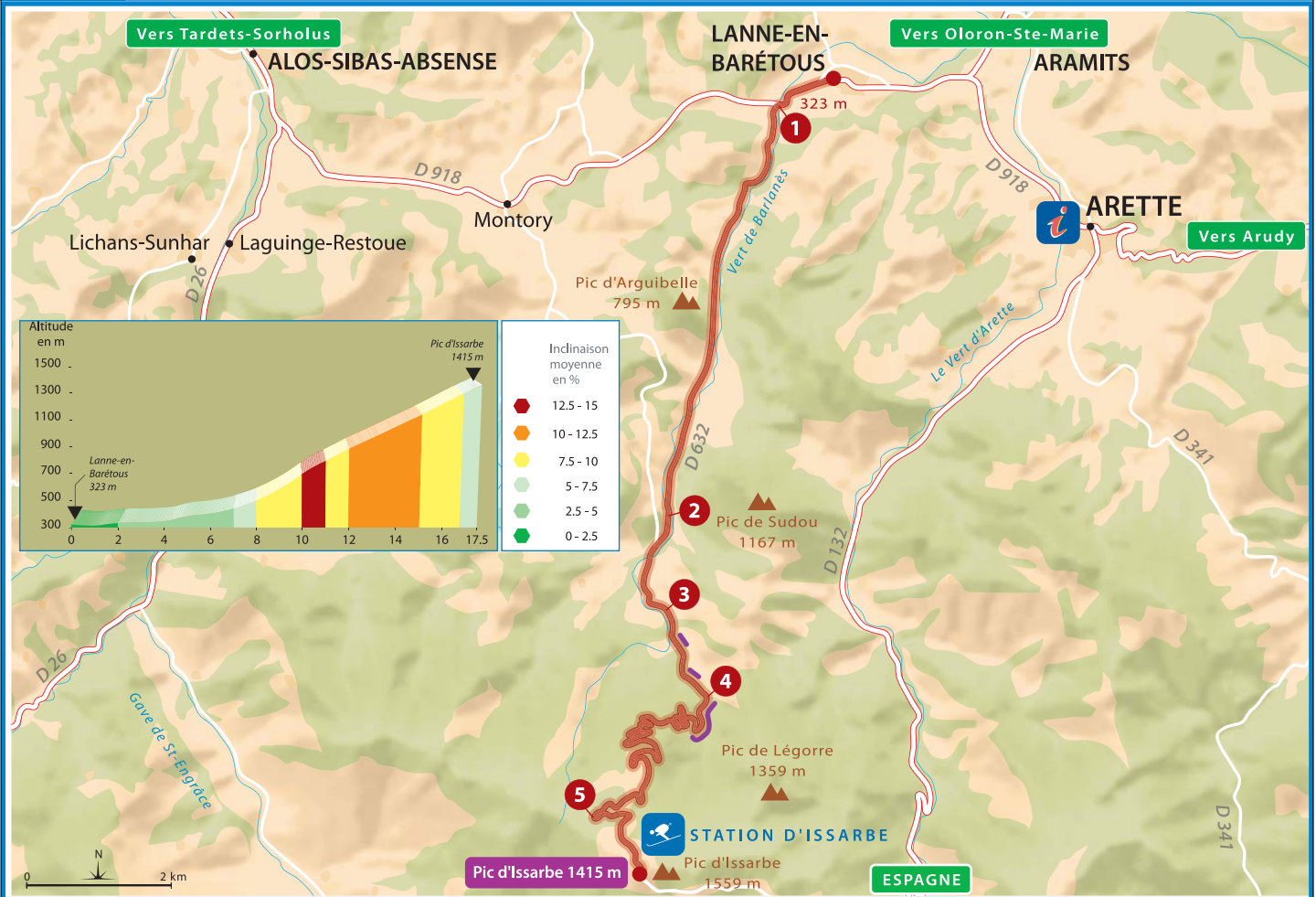


Niveau
TRÈS
DIFICILE

Station d'Issarbe (17,5 km)



"the surprising"



Village of Lanne en Barétous
Parking: car park opposite the mairie and the swimming pool



Record time: 0h47
author's time: 1h05



Distance: 17.5km



Min/max altitude: 323m - 1415 m

Cumulative ascent: 1100m

Average percentage: 6.29%; over 10km: 9.42%;
over 7km: 10.3%; over 4km: 10.75%

Maximum slope: 14% over 500m

Recommended gear ratio: 38X26
corresponding to a climbing time of 1h25

Motor traffic: light

Road surface: good

IGN map at 1/25000: 1446 ET

Strong points:

- a real col largely unknown by the general public with tough slopes; the wild side of the road without traffic; the landscape at the summit.

Nearby:

- the climb to the **Chapelle de la Madeleine**
- the col de la **Lie**; the col de **Soudet** by Ste Engrâce.

Other side:

- from the start at the church of Ste Engrâce via the **col de Suscousse**, quite difficult and very forested with 'stages' and some slopes of more than 10% (11km and about 850m in height).

Difficulties/tips:

- no reliable water point after the hamlet of Barlanès, no service at the summit.

Renseignements complémentaires auprès de l'office de tourisme de :



la vallée de Baretous
Tel : 05 59 88 95 38
www.valleedebaretous.com



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