



URRUGNE

Xoldoko gaina



Distance	Height	Duration	Typology	Signposting
6,2 km	280 m	2h00	Circuit	PR (yellow)

From Urrugne (exit n°2 on the A63 motorway), follow the direction of col d'Ibardin and Ascaïn on the D4. Drive for 3.5km and turn right on the D404 towards col d'Ibardin. Turn right on the pass and park on the first large car park on the right

Start GPS : UTM : 606552 - 4796046 Lat/Long : 43.30969/-1.68613

Col d'Ibardin is famous for its "ventas" (local border shops). It is a starting point for easy routes with a beautiful view on the Atlantic coast. You can walk on one of them to the Xoldokogaina lake. You walk uphill at the beginning on a rather difficult passage to the highest "venta" before walking down on the Manddale path and enjoy a wonderful view. After having left a small pinewood, you can see the entire Xoldokogaina massif with moors and shaded valleys. It is a real paradise for "pottok" (a local small horse race). After going down towards the lake, you can enjoy a break in the shade of hundred year old oak trees. The way back through the woods is easy and also has a few interesting views



SECTION 1 > From Ibardin pass to the Manddale cave intersection

UTM : 606552 - 4796046

At the bottom of the Ibardin pass car park (325 m), take a left-hand path that leads back to the road, between restaurants and shops. At the venta Gorria, keep going left on a steep slope to the highest shop (venta Elizalde): at this point leave two paths (including the GR10) and follow a horizontal path (antenna) to the right. After the gate, go straight ahead for 50 m and then, at the Y crossing, go on the left-hand path. It climbs steeply up in two bends, with a view of the Atlantic coast. Leave the first forest track on the right and a second one on the left to keep going on the main track ahead of you.

SECTION 2 > Way down to the Xoldokogaina lake

UTM : 605390 - 4796242

At the end of the upper edge of a pine wood, reach a junction (505 m) close to a cave entrance (on your left): leave the GR white and red signposted path here to go down to the right in the grass, straight along the edge of the forest (steep slope). At the bottom, go along a beech wood and then, still on the main path at the edge of the wood, avoid a bump on the right. Behind, the slope becomes steeper and gets to an intersection.



SECTION 3 > From the lake path to Oneaga pass

UTM : 604701 - 4797040

At the T-junction under a large oak tree (270 m), turn right to follow the path along the edge of the lake, which can be seen from time to time through the leaves. At the eastern end of the lake (256 m), a clearer gap lets you get closer. After having enjoyed a break by the lake, keep going on the good path which starts to climb again towards a first T-junction (oak tree): keep walking on the left on the main path.

SECTION 4 > Back to Ibardin Pass

UTM : 605420 - 4797255

At the Oneaga pass (295 m) intersection of several paths, turn right to walk on a slight upward slope (view of the lake). At the next intersection (315 m) at the foot of a large oak tree, keep going straight ahead. After a quick view on the left on Saint-Jean-de-Luz bay, notice a more open view of the Rhune. the almost horizontal track goes by the woods back to the ventas and the Ibardin pass.



POINTS OF INTEREST

❖ Red sandstones (2,8 km)

The pinkish or wine-coloured rocks on the path, beyond the aesthetic aspect, can raise questions about their origin. They are sedimentary rocks attributed to the Triassic period (250 to 215 million years BC), composed of siliceous sands. They took on this red colouring due to the oxidation of their iron compounds under an arid climate. UTM : 604863 - 4796973

❖ Xoldokogaina lake (3,5 km)

Even if the dam is invisible from this bank, it is used as a water tank at the intersection of the first Pyrenean streams. UTM : 605390 - 4796242

❖ Pollarded oaks (4 km)

On the Oneaga pass, you can take a break in the shade of an oak tree wood. Oak trees have enigmatic shapes with massive trunks topped by strange blisters and many branches. It is the result of repeated felling and removal of wood by generations of local people. UTM : 605447 - 4797248

ÉQUIPEMENTS ET SERVICES

Ventas of the Ibardin Pass, shops and restaurants.

UTM : 606552 - 4796046



Hiking and biking trails

Useful things to know

LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY

The degree of difficulty is detailed in the guide leaflet for each trail and is categorised according to the classification used by the French Hiking Federation (Fédération Française de Randonnée Pédestre).

Very Easy. Less than 2 hours along well-marked paths. Ideal for families with young children.

Easy. Less than 3 hours, can be walked with children; slight difficulties may be encountered on some sections of the path.

Medium. Less than 4 hours. Suitable for walkers used to hiking; some sections of the trail may require a higher degree of effort, with some elevation gain.

Medium. Over 4 hours. For experienced and seasoned hikers. The trail is long and/

or difficult (elevation gain, challenging sections).

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

Veru easy. Wide, smooth rolling trail, less than 300 m elevation gain.

Easy. Fairly smooth trail, less than 300 m elevation gain.

Medium. Technically challenging trail, less than 800 m elevation gain.

Difficult. Very difficult terrain, 300-800 m elevation gain.

HEIGHT

The cumulative uphill climb.

DURATION

The amount of time required is given as an indication only. It takes into account the length of the trail, elevation gains and any potential difficulties. The duration is calculated without taking any rest breaks into account.

PR® CERTIFIED HIKING TRAILS®

These trails have been given the French Hiking Federation (Fédération Française de Randonnée Pédestre) seal of approval based on various quality criteria that take into account environmental, touristic, technical and other accreditation aspects. (Further information available at www.ffrandonnee.fr)

GPS COORDINATES

The coordinates of the departure point are given in latitude/longitude so that you can log the GPS position into your device. All other data (stages along the trail) are provided in UTM coordinates. The reference format is as follows: WGS 84 - UTM 30T TRAIL MARKERS

MARKING

The trails presented here are PR® certified and are marked in yellow. Some stretches of the path may also be part of a long-distance GR footpath, in which case red and white markers will show the direction to take. This will be fully explained in the guide leaflet.

	LOCAL FOOTPATHS AND PR®	REGIONAL FOOTPATHS GRP PAYS	LONG DISTANCE FOOTPATHS GR®	MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
RIGHT direction	—	—	—	▲
Turn LEFT	↙	↙	↙	◀
Turn RIGHT	↘	↘	↘	▶
WRONG direction	X	X	X	✖

The Dos and Don'ts

when hiking and biking

Enjoying Basque Country footpaths and trails means behaving in an appropriate and respectful way, not only towards nature but also towards the men and women who work in this countryside. It is very important to ensure some rules are followed.

Be prepared before you set off:

- Don't leave without all the necessary equipment (map, water, suitable clothing and footwear, etc.)
- Avoid going alone. Remember to inform a relative or friend, or even the town hall of your itinerary. The lack of telephone network in some areas may prevent you from contacting someone or being contacted.
- Don't drink water from the streams and rivers, and don't swim in them.
- Check on the forecast just before setting off; the weather can change very quickly.

Find out about any scheduled events taking place along your itinerary: stubble burning, hunting, forestry activities, etc.

Preserve and protect nature

- Put a recyclable bag in your backpack so that you can take your rubbish home.
- Don't approach animals; observe them in silence from a distance.
- Don't pick wild flowers, berries or mushrooms without permission to do so.

Pay careful attention to signposting and stay on the marked paths.

Show respect and consideration for agricultural and pastoral activities

- Slow down when driving near herds or flocks. Only park in especially provided places so you don't impede traffic.
 - Avoid hiking with your dog. If you do take your dog, it must be kept on a lead at all times.
 - If you open a gate, make sure you close it behind you.
 - Show respect and consideration for private properties situated along your itinerary.
 - Keep your distance from free-roaming animals. Don't feed them.
 - Don't light any fires or barbecues.
- Only camp in authorised areas.

Managing your waste when hiking and biking

Keep your rubbish in your backpack when out enjoying the Basque countryside. Then, you can sort through your waste for recycling when you get home!

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Météo France (weather forecast): 08 99 71 02 64 or 32 50 or www.meteofrance.fr

- Assistance / Emergency services : Europe-wide emergency number 112, Fire Brigade: 18, Police / Gendarmerie: 17, Emergency SMS number for the deaf and hard of hearing : 114



YOUR FEEDBACK

The greatest care and attention has been given to the itineraries that we have recommended to you. So we would be delighted to have your impressions and observations with regard to the condition of the trails and footpaths. Your feedback will also enable us to ensure they are maintained in good condition. Please inform us of any problem you encountered or if you have any useful comments to make, go to sentinelles.sportsdenature.fr

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Basque Country Tourist Information Office

- ESPELETTE, rue principale +33(0)5 59 93 95 02

- SAINT-PÉE-SUR-NIVELLE, rue du fronton +33(0)5 59 54 11 69

- AINHOA, rue principale +33(0)5 59 29 93 99

- SARE, mairie +33(0)5 59 54 20 14

- ASCAIN, rue Oletako bidea +33(0)5 59 54 00 84

- URRUGNE, place René Soubelet +33(0)5 59 54 60 80

- CAMBO, Herriko Etxeko etorbide +33(0)5 59 29 70 25

CONTACT THE PROFESSIONALS

Numerous professional guides and qualified activity coordinators are available to accompany you off the beaten track. To find out more, just contact the front desk at the Basque Country Tourist Information Offices.