

The Béarn des Gaves

This trip is extract from a guide book Rando 64 available in the Tourism Offices of Navarrenx, Orthez, Salies-de-Béarn and Sauveterre-de-Béarn.

Level 1. The green way Salies-de-Béarn

D) Car park in front of the music school and from the Hameau Bellevue

Road marking

Variations

Possible liaisons towards: Escos, the mountain stream riverbanks, Labastide-Villefranche, Lou Marcadé

Common sections: Salies “Lou Padu” number 31. Castagnède “Lou Hour” (wood) number 37.

The former railway

This path, from about 8 kilometers, (16 kilometers with two-way trip) takes the former railway that links up Salies to Saint-Palais and Mauléon. It has been built entirely between 2011 and 2013, and permits from on now to offer a quiet walk under the woods before to come out on the fertile prairie of the Oloron mountain stream. When we carry on, we arrive on the Eiffel bridge of Castagnède that enables to cross the mountain stream, before to reach Escos railway station and to pursue until the level crossing in the limit of the municipality of Abitain. Junctions with others itineraries of the local plan of hiking are possible in different points of the route. You have to take back to the guide book in sale in the tourism Office.

There is a variation after the point 4 30T0666183-4814726, by the “chemin d’Augas”, crest path, a beautiful view on the Saleys valley. You have to turn one time on the left and 100 meters further a second time on the left, “chemin de Mur”. (Be careful at 100 meters at climbing, stay on the tarmac path. At the summit of the coast, turn to the right and follow the road marks that will take you back on the green path.

There is a variation between the points 5 and 6 30T00662746-4813573 towards the mountain stream and the fishing part (2 kilometers), turn to the right at the level crossing at the level 7 and follow the signage that bring you until the mountain stream (picnic tables) before to go back at the centre of Castagnède village where you will have the opportunity of liaison with the track 38. “La Pène du Mur” to admire the view on the mountain stream valley 400 meters after the Oloron mountain stream, opportunity to enter in the Escos village (castle Carrère, beautiful houses of the Béarn).

This bridge of Eiffel type has been built in 1884 in the frame of the construction of the railway line Puyoô-Salies-Mauléon.

You park on the car park of the music school, former railway station; you will see on the left the Hameau Bellevue of which several buildings have architecture from the XIX century very characteristic of the spa of this era. To the right the salines managed by the consortium of Bayonne ham where the salted water is transformed in salt. Go on the avenue de la gare.

Oh05, 1) 30T06667025-48115122

After the last houses of the housing estate, on the right there is a ramp that kindly climbs towards the path that you should follow.

0h10, 2) 30T666802-4814966

Pass the bridge crossing the Saleys.

0h30, 3 and 4)30T06665033-4814344

During the walk, you go across two times by a small tarmac road.

0h45, 5) 30T0663560-4814158

You have to pass under a bridge that holds up the D27. More further, if you are in bike, be careful on the slab in concrete on the small bridge.

0h55, 6) 30T00662746-4813573

In front of the crossing-keeper number 7, you cross over the road and continue the path until the bridge of the railway that spans Oloron mountain stream. At the crossing-keeper number 10, at the border of the Escos municipality, the return trip is made in the same itinerary.

Additional details in the Tourism Office of the Béarn des Gaves.

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It can only be sold by a Tourism Office of the Pyrénées Atlantiques.