

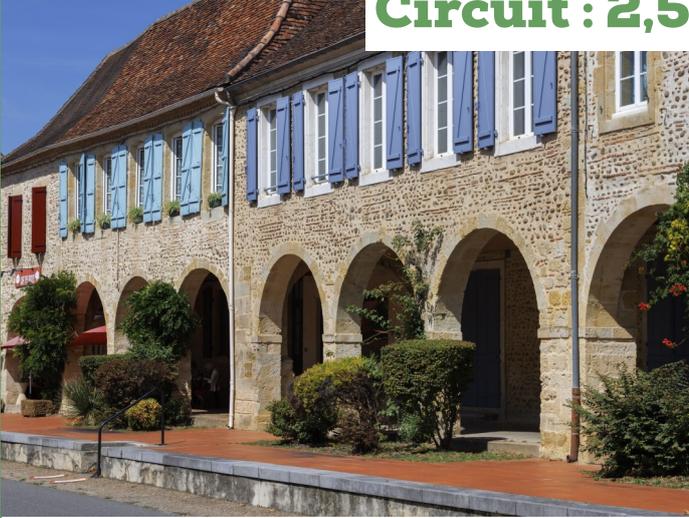


**Coteaux
Béarn
Madiran**
Tourisme & Loisirs

ARZACQ-ARRAZIGUET

Bastide of Béarn

Circuit : 2,5 km ♦ 1h30



A Gallo-Roman settlement, the Domaine d'Arsius, is the origin of the name Arzac, which later became Arzacq. Arraziguet could come from the word "arrasic", meaning "heap of roots", linked to the numerous clearings that took place on this site. Former hamlet of the Viscounty of Louvigny, united with Arzacq in 1845 by royal decree, and now a district of Arzacq.

Mentioned as far back as the 11th century, the village of Arzacq stands at the end of a spur, making it an excellent defensive site. Atop a powerful motte surrounded by moats, stands a wooden castle serving as a lookout and final refuge. The Basse Ville and its motte were the birthplace of Arzacq. This is the "castelnau".

Since the end of the 13th century, the land and seignery of Arzac have been "Land of the Royal Domain", located in Chalosse, in the "Duchy of Guienne". It was administered by the English until the 15th century, then by the French at the end of the Hundred Years' War (1453). It became part of the Béarn region during the Revolution in 1790, with the creation of the départements.

Over the centuries, Arzacq-Arraziguet became an important crossroads, ensuring its renown and prosperity. It established itself very early on as a stronghold thanks to its position on the borders of the Viscounty of Béarn. But it was its market that determined its development. The "bastide" is a veritable new town that was created as an extension to the east of the existing village in the early 14th century. This is today's Place de la République, with its surrounding buildings, covered arcades and covered market in the middle (destroyed in 1888). A second extension took place later (in the 16th to 17th centuries), again to the east, with the creation of a market stall: the Place du Marcadiou.

Symbolism of the Arzacq-Arraziguet coat of arms :

- « **The three golden shells** »: Arzacq's status as a stopover town on one of the major pilgrimage routes to Compostela, that of Le Puy en Velay.
- « **the crescent moon** »: this bears witness to the lord of Arzacq's participation in the wars against the Muslims in the Middle Ages, either in the Holy Land (the Crusades) or in Spain (the Reconquista), or perhaps both.
- « **The greyhound** »: two hypotheses

* The hare was king on the moors and in the woods that once populated our territory, so the greyhound was widely used for hunting.

* the greyhound appears on the coat of arms of the Gramont d'Aure family. This family of great nobility acquired (through marriage in the 16th century) the County of Louvigny and in 1628 bought the "land and seignery of Arzac".

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1 The Place of the République

The square in the 14th century English bastide, with its triangular shape, was designed for the market. The Arzacq market was one of the largest in Guyenne and remained so until the Second World War. In the middle was the market hall, demolished at the end of the 19th century. All around, covered galleries with pillars and arcades sheltered the merchants.



2 The Errecart house

N^o8. Dating from the early 19th century: long facade, bull's eye openings, triangular pediment, pavilion on the left with high 4-sloped roof. Garden and parklands to the rear.

This is the former home of the doctors Bailac and then Boulin (who were also mayors of Arzacq).



3 The division

Between the market hall and Errecart's house was the Place du Sel and de la Résine (2 highly consumed products from the neighbouring Landes). On festival days, this became the Place de la Course Landaise, closed off by makeshift barriers. Beyond, to the west, was the Place du Grain, where wheat, barley, millet, beans and chestnuts were traded (quays).



4 Le Café des Arcades

N^o9. Built in the 19th century and restored today. This noble house once belonged to the Guichané-Gondrin family, then to the Peich family in 1789. On the left, in the courtyard, are the former stables.



5 The Peich tower

On the right, the café's inner courtyard. A vestige of the old "château", this is where Henri IV is said to have stayed on his way to Hagetmau to meet the beautiful Corisande d'Andoins. Louis XIII also passed through Arzacq on 14 October 1620 on his way to Pau to restore Catholic rights. In fact, he annexed Béarn to France.

Note the original humpbacked roof (restored in 1991).



6 The church

Built in 1860, it houses a listed wooden Christ statue, a stained glass window depicting Santiago de Compostela, and a polychrome limewood statue of the Virgin Mary dating from the late 15th and early 16th centuries. This "Virgin and Child" is thought to have been a royal gift from Louis XIII and Anne of Austria on the occasion of the long-awaited and much-desired birth of the heir to the French crown in 1638: Louis Dieu Donné, the future Louis XIV. The King had placed the Kingdom under the protection of the Virgin (Queen's Vow).



7 The Town Hall

N°13. It dates from the 19th century.

Continuing under the arcades, there are old studded wooden doors and old brick paving (N°. 15 and 15 bis).



8 The lower town

The oldest part of Arzacq (the Castelnaud). The old cob houses have been replaced by more modern buildings around two small squares: Place Craco and Place Picard, where the pillory once stood. On the right, the feudal mound (inaccessible).



9 The houses on Place de la République

At the crossroads and on your right (at N° 2 on the Route d'Orthez) is an old bourgeois notary's house whose dormer windows have unfortunately been removed. Cross the road and walk under the arcades. The Gouze (*hairdresser's*) and Salles (N° 34, *Maison de la Presse*) houses are typical with their double roofs and nasturtium dormers. The Momas house (N°35) has been restored in its original style, with pebble and tile walls.



10 Passage to the lake

Between the optician and the hairdresser, head down towards the lake on the chemin de Larrouze, then turn right onto the chemin de Saint-Jacques. Once at the lake, turn right.



11 The wash-house

Just after the lake embankment, below. A beautiful wash-house with a horseshoe-shaped roof dating from the 19th century. A 2nd identical wash-house can be found at the other end of the lake in the commune of Vignes.

Retrace your steps and take the same path again. At the crow's feet, turn right.



12 Chez Donney

On your left is the current butcher's shop at N° 49, a 16th century building with mullioned windows. Note the sculptures: flute and tambourine player, vine branch topped by a crowned figure, scribe and grotesque (half-man, half-animal).



13 La maison Mimbielle

This house (N° 50) is a former gentleman's residence (manor house) dating from the 18th century. It was bequeathed to the commune, which recently restored it in keeping with the original architecture (except for the west facade: gallery and dormer window). The east facade features a central body with a double picon roof (flat tiles made in the region), masonry dormers and end pavilions. This house is the former home of the judges of the Viscounty of Louvigny, the Ducasse family, judges from father to son, ennobled in the 17th century under Louis XIV. The grounds of the manor house extended to the rear, where the retirement home now stands. The old well from that era can still be found here.



14 Maison de Maîtres

Maison de Maîtres (to the right of Maison Mimbielle, at N° 49) with 19th century arcades, projecting first floor and sundial at the top of the pavilion.



15 Place Marcadieu

This square was once a cattle market. This is where the livestock markets were held. On one side were oxen, cows and calves; on the other, horses, mules and donkeys. Pigs and piglets were sold elsewhere (on the bakery side).



16 Sculpture on the road to Santiago de Compostela

Opposite the hotel restaurant La Vieille Auberge du Soubestre, an original creation by the architect Canet, evoking the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela and its difficulties.



17 The presbytery

Built in the early 19th century and bequeathed to the commune in 1854 by Curé Dufau-Fortis, it was restored in 1990. The walls are of rolled pebbles and old-fashioned mortar. The door and window frames are in local stone and the dovecote is now a studio flat. The tower with its spiral stone staircase leads to all floors. It comes from a castle, probably in the Landes region. You can enter the courtyard to see the tower.

