



ESPELETTE

The mountain circuit

Distance 17,5 km	Height 844 m	Duration 6h00	Typology Circuit	Signposting PR (yellow) and GR (red and white)
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The starting point of this hike is on Espelette market square in front of "Chez Doxpi" restaurant.

Start GPS : UTM : 625886 - 4799685 Lat/Long : 43.339484/-1.446993

This route on the discovery of two pre-Pyrenean mountains is recommended for experienced hikers. Climbing on Mondarrain starts with a passage in the middle of Espelette beautiful houses to follow with a mountainous atmosphere on its slopes. Its natural environment is diverse : wetlands, tiny carnivorous plants and "Betizu", a local race of small cow... At the top, the viewpoint on the Labourd province is amazing. The hike goes on through pastoral areas where cows, horses and sheep can be met before getting to Soporro mountain. Then walking gets easier and you can enjoy the many viewpoints and natural points of interest on the route.



SECTION 1 > The village of Espelette

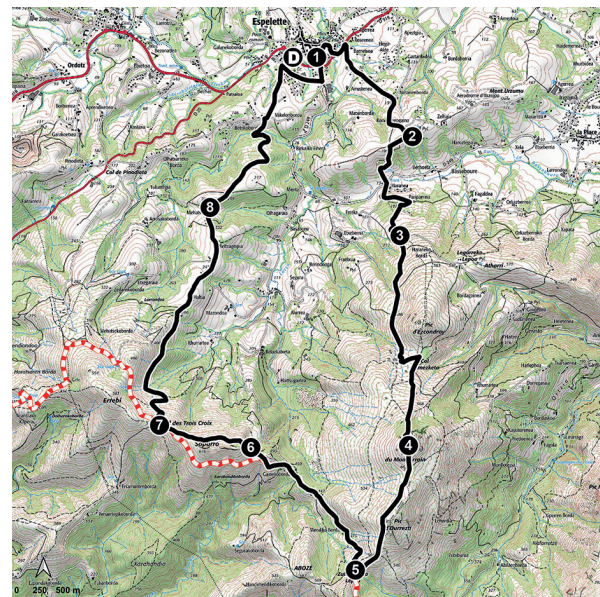
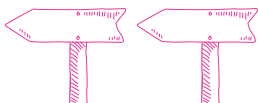
UTM : 625886 - 4799685

At the market square in front of "Chez Doxpi" restaurant, take a lane between two box hedges towards the castle. At the end of the lane, turn left. Pass the "Syndicat du Piment d'Espelette" house and turn right at the bottom of the castle. Follow this street until the main road. Cross it carefully and keep walking up on the left before turning right. Pass a block of houses and let a dead-end road on the right. At a Y intersection, keep going to the right. Stay on the road until you reach another Y intersection where you turn right. After a short climb on an asphalt road, turn right on a dirt track between meadows.

SECTION 2 > Crossing Haranea area

UTM : 626901 - 4798874

Walk along this wide ridge between meadows for about 200 m and turn left before three beautiful beeches on a grassy path. The narrow path widens afterwards and becomes stony. Cross a beautiful undergrowth before reaching a road at Haranea area. Go straight ahead towards Mondarrain. After about 100 m turn left at the intersection towards Venta Burkaitz restaurant. Pass a fronton on the right and keep walking on the road. After a series of uphill bends, leave the road and take a path that climbs through gorse.



SECTION 3 > Climbing to the top of Mondarrain

UTM : 626854 - 4797784

After an upward slope, join a track and turn right. Stay on this track around Ezkandrai mount. Cross several small streams before the track splits. Take the first path on the right, walk on the path for about 50 m before taking a path on the left. Reach the Amezketa pass. Walk along the edge of the grove and keep walking up to the Mondarrain. The steep slope leads into a beautiful beech forest. The path disappears through the undergrowth, follow yellow markings.



POINTS OF INTEREST

❖ The Barons of Ezpeleta castle

The remains of this emblem of the village date back to the Middle Ages. It was destroyed and rebuilt by the Ezpeletars after a revolt and was bequeathed to the municipality in 1694. It now houses various municipal services and the tourist office.

UTM : 625896 - 4799708

❖ Betizu

Betizu is small Basque wild cow. It is characterized by its fawn coat and its skinny look. This rare species can be seen on the slopes of Mondarrain and Artzamendi. Be careful when you see them particularly when calves are near their mother.

❖ The top of Mondarrain mountain

There is an exceptional viewpoint over Labourd and Basse Navarre from the top of Mondarrain on clear days. From there you can also watch the beginning of the Pyrenean chain towards Bearnese high summits..

UTM : 627166 - 4795534

❖ The Espelette chilli pepper information center

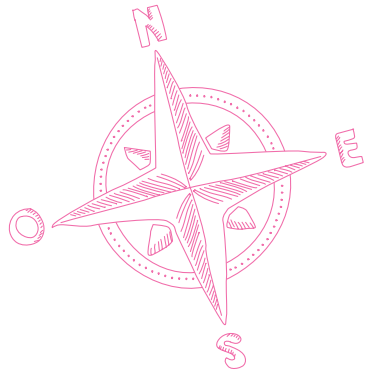
It was created by the Espelette chilli pepper producers union. The visit explains chilli pepper culture through a guided tour about the history, local agriculture and organoleptic characteristics of the chilli pepper. It ends with a short film and pepper tasting on demand.

UTM : 625916 - 4799801

Continued on next page



The mountain circuit (second part)



SECTION 4 > Along Ourrezti ridges

UTM : 627166 - 4795534

Enjoy the view at the top and keep going on the route on the opposite side. Pass the cross on the right side before starting to go down. Be careful on the first steep section. Keep going on the left side of a rocky wall, walk between imposing rocks before going down on a grassy area towards a pass. Go to the right of a pen and follow a well-marked path along the mountain. Cross a hawthorn shrub covered area that goes towards a grassy ridge, keep going down to reach a track. Stay on it until Zuharreta pass.

SECTION 5 > Towards Soporro massif

UTM : 626682 - 4794143

Go to the other side of the pass and go to the right on the track. Go through an undergrowth, go through a first pass where you can see a lovely sheepfold and go to a second pass in the middle of a various tree species plantation. Leave a track on the left of a thuya hedge and take the second GR red and white signposted track. Leave the GR shortly and climb on the ridge which is at the right of the climbing track. After a steep slope, go to a small plateau before going on climbing on the ridge towards a bush of hawthorn shrubs.

SECTION 6 > To the "Trois Croix" pass

UTM : 625445 - 4795376

Go to the other side of the ridge towards a chestnut tree wood on the mountain side. Walk on this lovely path, go under the grove to an moor and grass area. The path divides into two parts in a hawthorn shrub, turn right

on the mountain side. Reach a ridge with hunting lodges and keep going until the "Trois Croix" pass.

SECTION 7 > Towards Mehatsea farmhouse

UTM : 624449 - 4795573

Turn right in a sunken path which turns into a track. After a few sharp turns, walk along a fence before crossing a stream. Keep going in the undergrowth under hazelnut trees before reach a track in a turn. Take the track towards a road after a cattle grid. Keep going on this road and take Mehatse dead-end road at the following intersection. At the end of the dead-end road, turn right on a track at Mahatsea farmhouse.

SECTION 8 > Back to Espelette

624836 - 4797957

Go through a gate after 250 m towards a meadow. Go through another gate, the track goes down among a few beautiful oak trees before going in an undergrowth along a stream. Cross the footbridge and keep going on the track. Go through a fence with a gate before reaching a road. Turn right. At the end of the road, turn right at the give way road sign. At the end of the road, turn left at the stop road sign. Reach the roundabout and the market square.

POINTS OF ATTENTION

- Departmental road crossing.
UTM : 626179 - 4799831

- Steep slope which is slippery in rainy conditions.

UTM : 627166 - 4795534

- Pastoral area : close the gates, do not frighten the animals, keep dogs on a leash, always stay a way from the cattle.

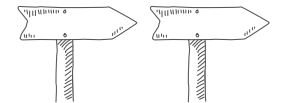
FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Public toilets

UTM : 625898 - 4799724

- Picnic tables

UTM : 625942 - 4799718



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.