

Véloroute 81 Bayonne Perpignan - Traversée du Pays de Nay

FACILE

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The Pays de Nay cycle path forms part of the long-distance route that links the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean and then swings to the north of Europe via the EuroVelo 1 route. It's a pleasant ride from village to village, enabling you to discover the local heritage and history, in particular the Baburet footbridge. Built in 1930 to relaunch iron mining in Baburet, the footbridge was a key component of the railroad that linked the mine with the Coarraze-Nay railway station. From the 16th to the 19th century, Baburet's iron deposits supplied many forges in the Pays de Nay and the valley of Ossau. The closure of the forges in 1866 led to the shutting of the mine. In 1930, to meet the needs of new factories all over France, the mine reopened and the railroad was built. After the final closure of the mine in 1962, the track was dismantled.

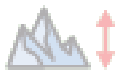


Départ :
LESTELLE-BETHARRAM

Arrivée :
BALIRO



Distance : **25 km**



Dénivelé : **144 m**

Dénivelé négatif cumulé : **230 m**

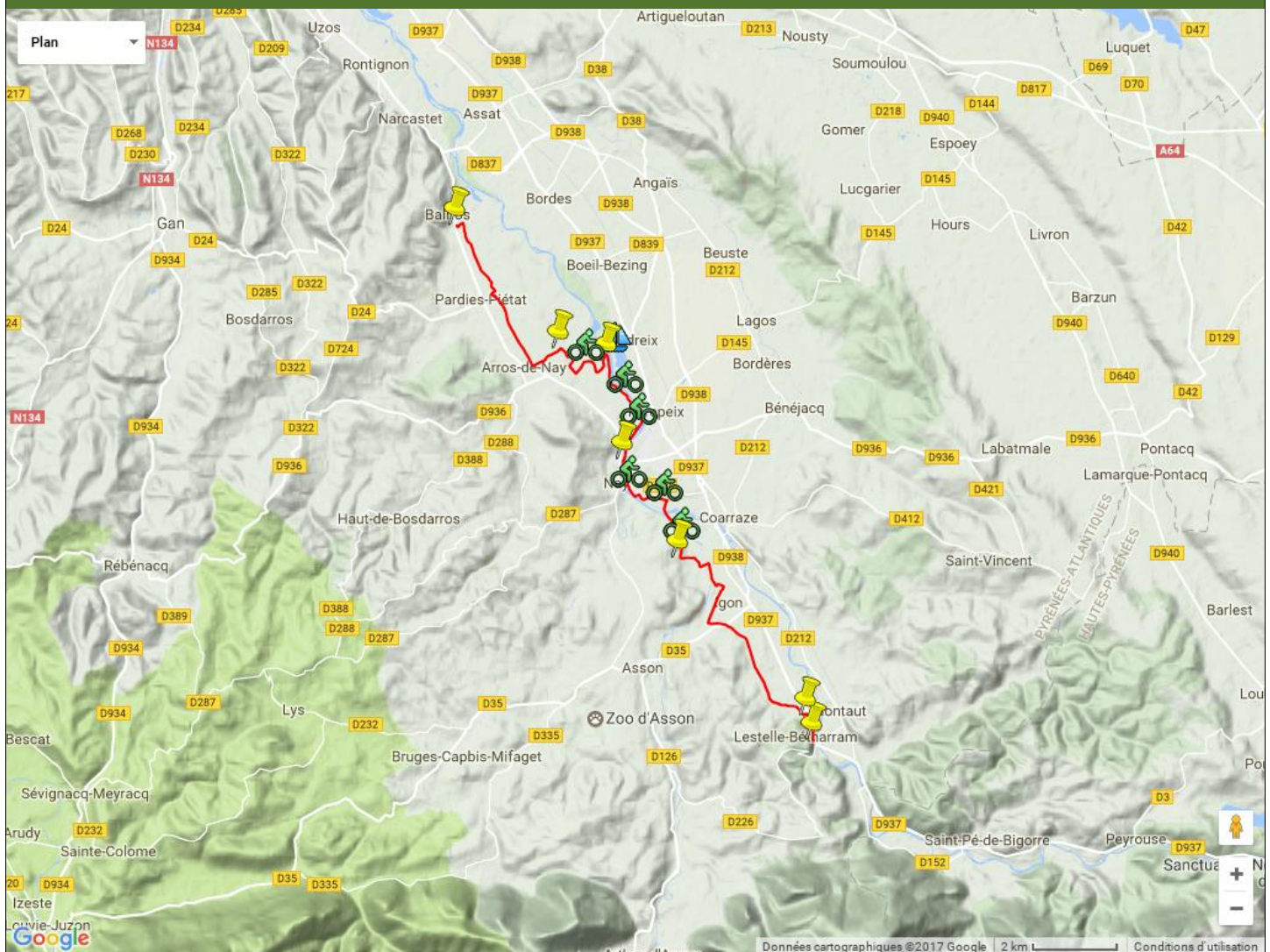


Temps de parcours : **2h**

Balisage : **Green**
(marquage : Panneau avec pictogramme de la France)

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Étapes

Step 1. From Lestelle to Igon. Start from the sanctuaries, go to the centre of Lestelle-Bétharram village. At the cross turn left. Go through the square Place Saint Jean, lined with plane trees, then turn left and then right. Ride for 3km (?1,9 mi.). Cross the D35 and continue on the greenway. At the end turn right. After 800m (?0.5mi), at the entrance of Igon, turn left twice then to the right by the multi-purpose hall. At the stop sign, turn left past a washhouse and two bridges. Turn right then left in front of a blind alley

Step 2. Towards the Baburet footbridge. . After the washhouse and two bridges, turn right then left in front of a blind alley. Turn right, follow the greenway. Cross the footbridge and turn left in direction of Pau.

Step 3. From the Baburet footbridge to Claracq bridge.. At the end of the greenway turn left. Pass in front of the former flour mill (La Minoterie), cross the canal and turn right. Go along the riverbank.. Turn right in front of a washhouse. At the roundabout (rotary) turn left. Cross the bridge of Claracq then turn right.

Step 4. From Nay to Bourdettes. From Claracq bridge, turn right towards Nay fire station then stay by the river. Keep straight at Baudreix footbridge. Turn left, cross a bridge then turn right. Below Bourdettes' church turn right. The greenway starts again through fields

Step 5. Towards Baliros. From Bourdettes, after an old mill, turn left at a small bridge on a canal, in direction of Pau and Saint-Abit. Enter the village of Arros-de-Nay and turn right on to the street Rue de la Roundade. At the first stop sign, keep straight. At the second stop sign, in Pardies-Piétat, turn right then left towards Baliros. At the next crossroads, turn right then left. Go into Baliros, go alongside the church and keep straight. At the end, turn left then

right. Provisional end of the route in Baliros, at the crossroads with the road D37.

À ne pas manquer

- **Sanctuaries of Betharram.** Lestelle-Bétharram is the first great site of Pyrenean Marian pilgrimage. Legend has it that at the riverbank of the Gave of Pau, young shepherds found a statue of the Virgin Mary. The priest at Lestelle, (“the star” in béarnais), wanted to keep it but the statue kept returning to where it had been found. The faithful built an oratory dedicated to what the church called “the Morning Star”. The story also goes that a young girl washed away by the stream called on “Holy Mary”, the protector of the place. A branch was extended towards her and she was saved. This “beautiful branch” (“beau rameau” in French), is “beth arram” in béarnais, which gave the name to the place. The Oratory became a Catholic shrine and, long before Lourdes, countless pilgrims flocked to this place of Marian devotion.
- **Baburet footbridge.** Built in 1930 to relaunch the mining of iron in Baburet, the footbridge was a key component of the railroad that linked the mine with the train station of Coarraze-Nay. From the 16th to the 19th century, the Baburet iron deposits supplied many forges in the Pays de Nay and the valley of Ossau. The closure of the forges in 1866 led to the shutting down of the mine. In 1930, to meet the needs of new factories all over France, the mine reopened and the railroad was built. After the final closure of the mine in 1962, the railtrack was dismantled. The renovated footbridge now plays a part in the new era of low environmental impact travel.
- **Farms with sculpted lintels.** Farms with sculpted lintels and gates
- **The flour mill (La Minoterie)..** La Minoterie was an industrial wasteland. This former flour mill, which had fallen into oblivion for 15 years, has been rehabilitated into a place of modern art where artworks are exposed all year in temporary exhibitions.
- **Claracq bridge.** The bridge crosses the Gave, which flows from Pau to Nay.
- **The leisure centre at Baudreix.** At the Baudreix leisure centre you can find an equipped lake with a sandy beach, a water slide, waterski ropeway and water jump as well as a climbing wall, games for kids, a fitness trail, tennis and basketball courts and a picnic area.

Attention

- Stay safe ! Be careful when riding on the road
- Stay safe! Do not go near water during floods

Recommandations utiles

Appel d’urgence : **112**

Préservez-vous

Préservez la nature

Respectez la montagne

Les montagnes basques et béarnaises sont des espaces pastoraux. Evitez de partir avec votre chien. Dans tous les cas, tenez-le en laisse. Merci !



www.tourisme-bearn-paysdenay.com



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