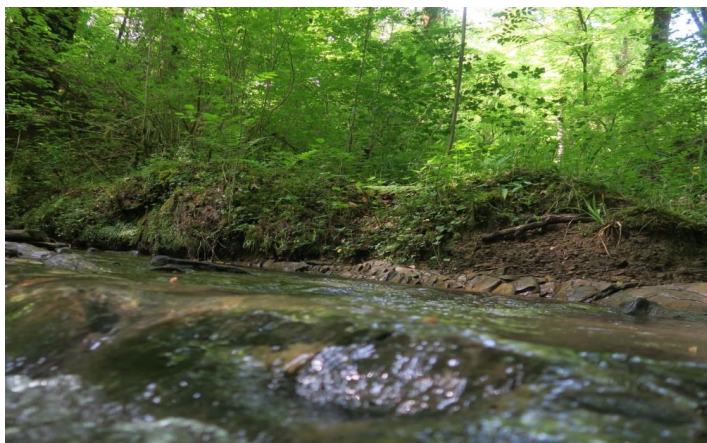


# N° 88 Camp de César

OLORON-SAINTE-MARIE

WALKING

As you climb up to Camp de César and go around the ramparts, you can just picture Obelix popping out with a few wild boars under his arms. As you explore trails and winding paths, the whisper of the Béliandre and the sweet golden oriole's birdsong is your soundtrack.



<b>Départ : OLORON-SAINTE-MARIE</b> Arrivée : OLORON-SAINTE-MARIE	<b>Distance :</b> 8.4 km	<b>Dénivelé :</b> 235 m	<b>Durée :</b> 2h30
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Voir étape 1

Appel d'urgence : 112

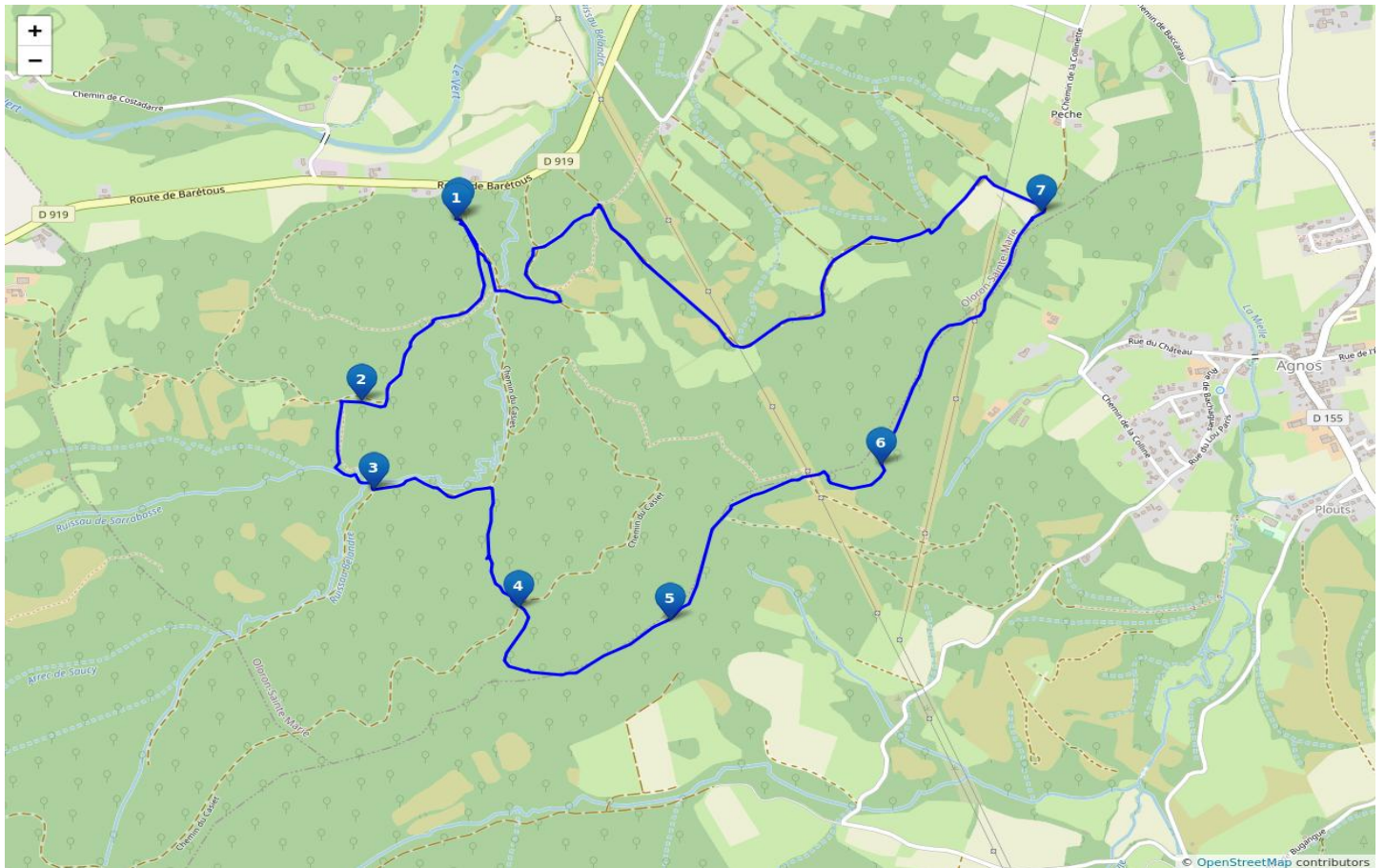
Balisage

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

## ★ À ne pas manquer

- **Sarrabase.** The first stream you cross, the Sarrabasse, is just one among the network in the woods. Just like the springs, there are lots of them.
- **Camp de César.** When you go up to Camp de César you're going back to the dawn of time. You'll find a leafy hill surrounded by a huge hillock and large ditch. This fortified building called an oppidum was home to the first Agnos people in protohistory well before it protected the Romans.
- **Checker tree.** There are unknown trees that would be famous if we knew what a godsend they are. The checker tree is one of them. It doesn't exceed 25m high and grows quietly under oak, ash and beech trees. Its foliage is similar to the maple tree and can cause confusion. Its very resistant, dense and stable wood is used in marquetry, making music instruments, rifle butts and snooker cues.

Apparently since an Arab Emir ordered a piece of furniture with checker tree plating, the price of the wood has soared and reached record levels for a European forest species.



## ★ Étapes

**Step 1. Start point.** From Oloron Sainte-Marie, take the direction of Saragosse and follow direction of Arette (D919). In approximately 1 km after leaving Oloron, take on the left after a little stone's bridge (indication "Forêt communale de Saint-Pée du Haut"). The parking is 150 meters after. Leave the car park and go back up the piste. Go on the next road on the right and walk to a U-turn area. Climb the dirt path ahead: it starts out steep but flattens out and gets narrow. Continue to the top of the hill.

**Step 2. Bélandre river.** Before the descent, go on a lovely path on the left. A little further it crosses another, turn left. Cross the stream and take a right at the next fork. Pass a footbridge and come out onto a lovely piste.

**Step 3. Woods from the top.** Turn left and go along the Bélandre. Ignore the piste and path on the right then, in a slightly steep left-hand bend, go up right into an embankment. The path starts out steep and craggy and reaches a knoll. The slope softens and crosses a carriageway.

**Step 4. Soum des Paloumères.** Carry on ahead on a wide dirt path that forks right then left. Continue until you reach a track. Go on it and carry on going up the ridge. When the descent begins, there's pigeon-hunting equipment on the edge.

**Step 5. Camp de César.** Continue the descent on this path that branches out in places. Pass the Cor Dès Curès and stay on the ridge as it goes up. Cross a clearing (electric line) and carry on ahead. Come out on an embankment and keep right to go around the Camp de César.

**Step 6. Descent.** Take the right-hand path on the other side of the Camp that goes down the entire ridge. Once on the flat, go along a meadow and past a wooden barrier, then another, then a third... After a series of barriers you'll reach a carriageway.

**Step 7. Return.** Turn left then left again. At the T-junction, take the path in the left-hand corner. Pick up the piste and continue on the left. Pass the overhead power line and the short ascent and, at the foot of the descent, take a path on the left. Get back on the path and turn left. Before the end of the path, go on a trail that goes into the woods completely on the right. Once on the path, go along the Bélandre until the car park.

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