

Col d'Osquich (12,6 km) "the panoramic"



An unmissable col, part of the legendary "Hendaye-Cerbère" crossing. After the easy first 7km, it climbs the beautiful foothills with a fairly moderate slope averaging 7%. Its northern setting, clear of the main peaks, allows some surprising views of the Pyrenees and the plains in the Landes...

Getting to the start:

● from Pau, take the A64 Pau-Bayonne motorway and get off at exit n°9, passing through Artix, then turn left onto the D281, cross Mourenx in the direction of Navarrenx on the D281 which becomes the D111 then the D67 in Navarrenx. Cut across the D936 (the road from Bayonne to Oloron) and reach Mauléon by the D2 (water point ok, all shops).

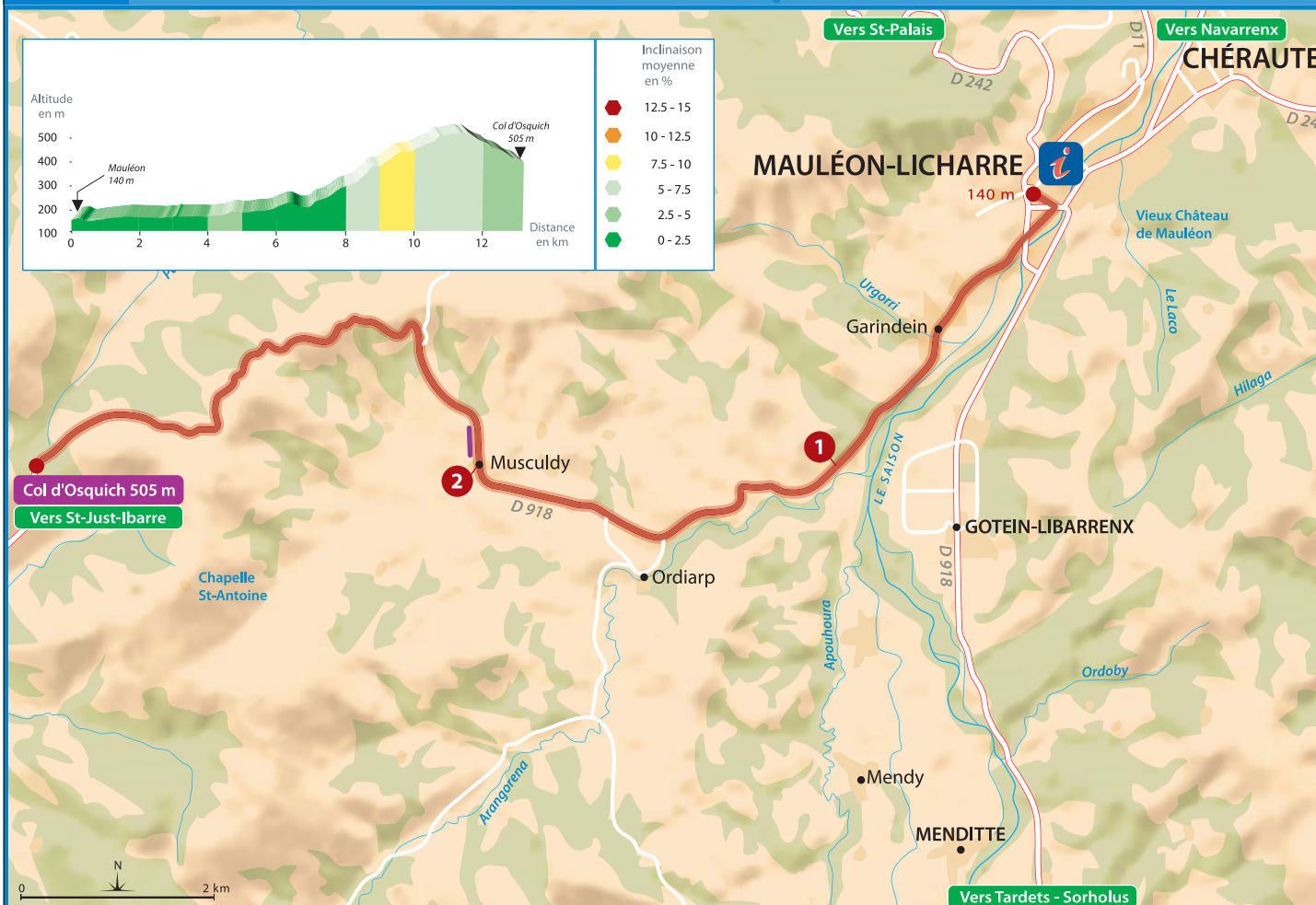
● from Bayonne, take the A64 Bayonne-Pau motorway and get off at exit n°7, heading towards Salies-de-Béarn on the D430 then the D933 after Salies, via Sauveterre-de-Béarn. Turn left towards Mauléon on the D23 then the D11 until you reach Mauléon (water point ok, all shops).

D From the car park, go left towards the castle and take the first road (de la Navarre) on the right towards Garindein. Continue straight ahead on a light false flat, and at the roundabout climb towards St Jean Pied de Port on the D918. Cross Garindein then arrive at a fork in the road (km 3.3; 161m).

① Turn right on the D918 towards Musculdy and after 700m on the flat, you will begin the first 'hills' at 4% then at 5%. A long false flat takes you past the village of Ordiarp on the left before a brief 7% steepening, followed by a steep descent (km 7.6; 190m). This is where the col's climb truly begins, with the crossing of Musculdy (km 8; 230m).

② The steepest part of the col (300m at 9%) will require you to stand on your pedals before a fairly steady slope of 7% then 6% until you reach the peak of the climb, which is not the 'true' geographic col. On the road to the south (left) and further to the north (right) the road provides some very interesting panoramic views...





The town of Mauléon.
Parking: car park in front of the tourist office
(the Maison du Patrimoine).



Record time: 0h19
author's time: **0h26**



Distance: **12.6km**



Min/max altitude: **140m - 505m**

Cumulative ascent: **400m**

Average percentage: **3.17%**; over 7km: **4.67%**;
over 4km: **6.5%**

Maximum slope: **9% over 300m**

Recommended gear ratio: **42X20**
corresponding to a climbing time of 0h34

Motor traffic: **heavy**

Road surface: **average to good**

IGN map at 1/25000: 1446 ET and 1346 ET or
Rando Editions map at 1/50000 n°2

Strong points:

● wonderful views of the mountain chain; the villages of **Ordiarp** and **Musculdy**; a cycling Mecca.

Nearby:

● the **Pagolle** rise, the climb to the **Chapelle de la Madeleine**, the col de **Napale**, the climb to **Ahusquy**.

Other side:

● only one, by **Larceveau**, with the first 6km of 'rollercoaster' hills, then the next 6km marking the true climb, with a nicely regular 5 ou 6% in pastoral surroundings (12km and 450m).

Difficulties/tips:

● the geographical col d'Osquich is 2km further than the peak described here.

Renseignements complémentaires auprès de l'office de tourisme de :



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