

Talaia - The coastal footpath

LEVEL

4

DIFFICULT

HONDARRIBIA to PASAIA

A very beautiful stage by the edge of the ocean. Begins by the sea until Cabo Bioznar, rocked by the waves breaking on the cliffs, a gradual climb to the Balcon du Jaizkibel, temporarily turning your back on the ocean. Next, you will follow a nice shoulder of land with your right foot to the ocean and your left towards the inland Basque mountains, before the extraordinary plummet to the harbour in Pasaia.



Talaia

Getting to the start :

Leave the motorway at Irun, follow 'Irun, airport' then Hondarribia. Bypass the town on the left by following Jaizkibel, then head towards the Cabo Higuer... (Route GI 3361). The car park is in front of the Higuer lighthouse and the campsite.

Alternatively, take the sea shuttle to the marina in Hendaye, follow Hondarribia's seafront until the fishing port and walk up to the Cabo Higuer.

For your return :

Local network bus and train, or taxi from Pasaia to Hondarribia.

Departure from the car park of the Cabo Higuer (explanatory panel, Talaia and a signpost indicating : Pasaia, 21 km, 6h55), take the flat path parallel to the road, then go past the treatment plant on the right. After a short descent, leave the rising path and take a narrower footpath to the right. Enjoy the pretty views to the west of the cliffs and the ocean below. Cross a wooden footbridge, climb up into a pine forest and follow the flat path closest to the water. Arrive at a : ① crossroads (1 km). Follow the main path to the right which comes out to a new coastal view. Go down, following a few bends, until a collected spring (huts), wade through the small stream, and climb back up over slabs of rock to get back on the footpath that reaches another crossroads: do not go to Guadalupe on the left, but keep going straight on the footpath that passes close by a stele (Iker Alberdi). Further on, you will reach a nice creek (observation point for watching penguins). ② Artzu creek (3,2 km). Again, do not take another road to Guadalupe on the left, but keep straight on the path that descends to reach the Port d'Artzu. Cross a cattle grid and keep going straight (Argorri Point on the right). Go straight across gently rolling grasslands and ferns. Ignore a nice track on the left leading to Ustiz (1h25, 4.4km). Keep going straight, cross a small stream and then a cattle grid. Soon after this, (1h35; 5.2km), take a footpath that descends to the right. Cross a third cattle grid, noticing a very nice, orange, hole-filled slab of rock on the right, and climb back up first towards the left, then strongly to the right, passing next between large boulders. Descend to a thalweg (huts) and go back up on the right, passing a small rock ledge until a large flat grassy patch marked by a point extending a long way into the sea. ③ Cabo Bioznar (7,2 km) . Leave the seaside here to to left (and then south) up a wide path. Higher up, reach a col (25') and follow a gently sloping, wider track on the right to reach a technical building (red brick roof). After 1' arrive at a crossing of tracks (235m, 2h50; 9.2 km): take the nice flat track that goes straight ahead, and stay on this track for

3h00

4h05

5h20

6h30

6h55

700m, passing a first thalweg. Just before a second thalweg, leave the track and go left up a nice footpath towards Pasaia. ④ Crossroads (9,7 km). Navigate a few hairpin bends, go through a pine forest, then pass a natural porch carved into large erratic boulders. Cross cattle grids alternating with footbridges, then take a wide, gently descending track to the right (3h30; 11.8 km). Reach a very beautiful view, keep on this wide track for 500 m, and leave it when you get to a concrete ford in order to climb a footpath to the left (cattle grid) towards Pasaia. Cross the 'border' between two communes. Go through a pine forest with majestic trees, veer left (south), cross another cattle grid, then cut across a major road. ⑤ road (12,7 km). Cross several cattle grids and keep on the southwest footpath on a balcony above the road. Reach a GR crossroads, continue straight on towards a former redoubt (bigarren torrea, 5h00, 15km). Follow a wide shoulder of land straight ahead, generally towards the west, and go back up to a little hillock. Swing to the right, passing another redoubt on the left, and after a pretty pine forest, reach a road. ⑥ road (16,2 km). Cut across the road and take a nice, gently sloping path ahead, cross a cattle grid, descend to a small stream, and go back up, crossing a pleasant oak grove. Pass the ruins of a sheep barn on the left and, higher up, reach large erratic boulders in the middle of meadowland. Next, take a gently rising track to the right, bringing you to the edge of the ocean, but higher up than before. Cross a cattle grid and follow a footpath to the left, sloping down (boulders on the right, plunging towards the ocean). Continue straight on (west) staying on the 'land side' along this rocky spur until you reach a lighthouse (surprising view of the harbour in Pasaia). ⑦ lighthouse (19,2 km). On the left, go down a steep concrete ramp, taking you gradually to sea level and entering the harbour. Go under a porch and into Pasaia until you reach the village centre, Town Hall (herriko etchea) on the left of the little square, just after the church : Pasaia (21 km).



 **Hondarribia – Cabo Higer**



7h



21km



780m

Signposting :  on the GR121.

Don't miss :

- The Cabo Higer, the highest point in the western Pyrenees.
- The series of little creeks.
- The view from Mont Jaizkibel.
- The descent to Pasaia.
- A still undeveloped coastal sector.

Special advice : no water point anywhere on the crossing. Careful of strong winds on the high passages at the end of the stage!

Hondarribia.

The village faces Hendaye, on the other bank of the Bidasoa. The Marine district has cobbled streets with flowered terraces and little fishermen's houses, whitewashed and painted in bright colours.

Up above, the old town is hidden behind the historical battlements, protecting its narrow houses, its magnificent 17th and 18th century residences, and above all its beautiful Place d'Armes.



Hondarribia



Further information at :

- Hondarribia Tourist Office
Tel : 00 34 943 643 677 - www.hondarribiaturismo.com
- Pasaia Tourist Office
Tel : 00 34 943 341 556 - www.victorhugopasaia.net

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