



SAINT-PÉE-SUR-NIVELLE / QUARTIER IBARRON

Santa Barbara

Distance **7,4 km** | Height **260 m** | Duration **2h15** | Typology **Circuit** | Signposting **PR (yellow)**



From Saint-Jean-de-Luz (exit n°3 on A63 motorway), follow the D918 towards Saint-Pée-sur-Nivelle and Cambo-les-Bains. Pass Ascain and drive another 5.5 km to the Ibaron district, located 2 km before Saint-Pée-sur-Nivelle's Ibaron district. Car park around the "fronton" pelota court.

Start GPS : UTM : 615 950 - 4801 295 Lat/Long : 43.35555/-1.56918

There are beautiful Basque houses, a one hundred-year old stone bridge. Ibaron is a secret and wild valley to discover: the route goes to Sainte Barbe cross, a beautiful spot with a remarkable view from the Atlantic coast towards the Basque mountain.



SECTION 1 > From Ibaron to Aroztegia farmhouse

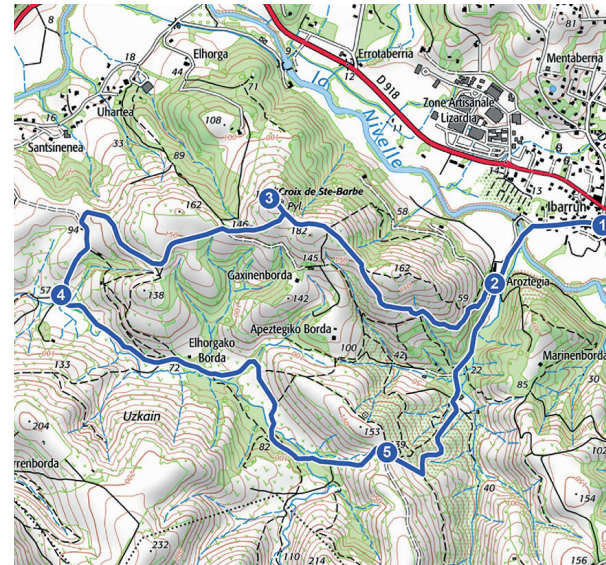
UTM : 615950 - 4801295

Opposite the Ibaron pelota court and to the right of a traditional house, follow Aroztegia street. Leave the area in the middle of beautiful Basque houses. After 300 meters, take the path on the left and cross an old stone bridge that spans the river by a single arch. On the other side of the river, the path joins the Aroztegia farm. Go past it walking on the road.

SECTION 2 > From Aroztegia farmhouse to Sainte Barbe cross

UTM : 615490 - 4800975

Just after Aroztegia farmhouse, ignore the Bidartia road on the right and immediately afterwards turn right on a dirt forest track. Start slowly on this steep slope. At the T-junction, keep going left on another path. After having crossed a stream, the path crosses a track: now go up to the right on the gullied track. It comes out of the wood and broom to an open space with a view of the Rhune at a small grassy pass (hunting lodge). Keep walking on the obvious ridge path. Leave a path intersection and keep walking up to the Sainte-Barbe cross.



SECTION 3 > From the Sainte-Barbe cross to the Uzkain stream

UTM : 614454 - 4801306

Walk back from the cross on the same path and turn right at the first intersection. A large path goes down opposite the Rhune towards a bend in a stony track, which you follow to the right (cattle grid). After a second cattle grid, keep going on the track down to the right. Then reach a T-junction with a new track: continue walking down to the left (ruined barn) and 100 m further on (shed on the left), follow the dirt track to the right and then the stony path that drops down opposite along a fence. You can have a break on a bench under a beautiful isolated oak tree.

SECTION 4 > The Uzkain Valley

UTM : 613503 - 4800786

At the end of the slope there is a T-junction at the edge of the Uzkain stream. Follow the sandy, stony path to the left up the Uzkain valley. At the Elhorga hay shed, pass under beautiful oak trees and follow an embankment. The path then crosses an area of clearings and goes down to cross the river. Cross the ford and follow the main path on the opposite bank. After a second ford, go straight up under an alley of remarkable oak trees. Ignore a path to the right and climb a dirt track to leave the Uzkain valley.

SECTION 5 > Back to Ibaron

UTM : 615048 - 4800180

As you go through a pass (gate on the left), ignore the path on the right and go down on the wide dirt track back to Ibaron. It bends a few times and comes to an intersection at the bottom of the valley. Keep going right on the wide track that runs along the left side of the main stream. Walk back to the Aroztegia farmhouse and cross the old bridge to the car park on Ibaron "fronton" square.

POINTS OF INTEREST

❖ The bridge of the Virgin of Ibaron (0,35 km)

Ibaron is the oldest part of Saint-Pée-sur-Nivelle, and its old stone bridge has probably spanned the Nivelle for seven centuries. A single overhead arch crosses the river and supports a paved roadway with two slopes. A building subject to flooding is placed under the protection of Virgin Mary, hence its dedicated niche and name...

UTM : 615596 - 4801213

❖ Sainte-Barbe cross (2 km)

Although fascinated by the panorama of the Sainte-Barbe cross, do not forget to observe the ground at the top of the hill. 50 cm south of the cross, you can see the remains of a stone circle (or cromlech), a tumulus which testifies of human presence in protohistoric times.

UTM : 614454 - 4801306

❖ Pollarded trees (5 km)

In several places in the Uzkain valley, you can observe trees with enigmatic shapes: massive trunks surmounted by strange blisters, multiple and slender branches. These profiles are the result of repeated felling and removal of wood by generations of local people.

UTM : 614548 - 4800187

❖ The riparian forest (6,2 km)

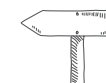
The riparian forest is essential to the ecological balance of a watercourse (soil maintenance, animal shelter). Within a few meters near watercourse, you can find a variety of species adapted to cool and damp soil: ferns, alders, willows, locust trees, ash trees, plane trees, hornbeams, elder trees.

UTM : 615344 - 4800514

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Ibaron, "fronton" pelota court, drinkable water point, toilets, picnic tables.

UTM : 615 975 - 4801 313



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.