



BIRIATOU Xoldo

Distance 8,4 km	Height 550 m	Duration 3h00	Typology Circuit	Signposting PR (yellow) and GR (red and white)
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From Urrugne (exit n°2 of the A63), Follow Behobie on D810. Turn left before Irun international bridge towards Biriattou. Go to the upper part of the village and park in one of the car parks available. The route starts at the upper part of the road.

Start GPS : UTM : 601892 - 4798591 Lat/Long : 43.33326/-1.74311

Climbing up to Xoldo mountain from the nice village of Biriattou offers the opportunity to admire the Basque coast, from Hendaye to Saint-Jean de Luz. The route is partly of the GR 10, an emblematic hike that crosses the Pyrenean chain from the Atlantic ocean to the Mediterranean sea.



SECTION 1 > From Biriattou to the high voltage line intersection

UTM : 601892 - 4798591

Cross the "Fronton" pelota court square to climb the steps and turn left on the alley standing on the left of Hiribarren inn. Keep walking on the next street to the left after the church. At the next intersection, turn right on Mendiko Bidea (GR10 signposts). At the following Y intersection, go up to the right on the red and white signposted street. At the end of the asphalt road, keep going up straight away on a stony path to an intersection at the foot of a high voltage pylon.

SECTION 2 > The Rocher des Perdrix belvedere and the top of Xoldo mountain

UTM : 602620 - 4798372

At Errekaldea intersection, turn left and quickly right to go up on the rocky path that passes at the foot of the high voltage pylon. Walk gently up towards small cliffs. At the foot of the Rocher des Perdrix, the path goes left and passes in front of a viewpoint information board. Walk on a flat area for 50 m and take the path that climbs up to the right, avoiding a rocky steep slope on GR10 and walking on a grassy zigzag path. Keep walking higher between fern and gorse on the panoramic path. The path joins another one that comes from the left : keep walking up on easier slopes.



SECTION 3 > From the top of Xoldo to Pitare pass

UTM : 603628 - 4797776

After having enjoyed the viewpoint, cross the top of Xoldo and start walking down straight away on a path. It turns on two large curves and reaches Osin grassy path. Keep walking on the left path with the Rhune at eyesight. It goes down to Pitare pass.

SECTION 4 > From Pitare pass to Ihiztoki wood

UTM : 604061 - 4796840

At the Pitare pass, leave the GR red and white signposts to turn right on a path that quickly goes in two directions : go left to go into the woods. The path goes down the woods in two large bends and then runs along a stream. Once you reach a dirt track, cross the stream and follow the track on the right. At Lantzererrea intersection, follow the second track on the right. After a Y intersection, take the lined with vegetation path on the left. At the end of a bend, stay on the left and walk down and turn right after 80 m.

SECTION 5 > Back to Biriattou

UTM : 602685 - 4797422

Join an intersection under a large oak tree right after a gate. Choose the path that goes up to the right. Pass a gate after the climb and walk on a forest path on the edge of a fence. Walk down through several valleys and undergrowth. At the Y intersection, keep going up to the right under the oak trees and the chestnut trees. After passing under the high voltage line, walk back towards the village of Biriattou

POINTS OF INTEREST

❖ The Fronton square of Biriattou (0 km)

A "fronton" is a court where villagers play pilota. It fits harmoniously between the traditional houses and the inn. Pilota games come from "jeu de paume" which is also an ancestor of tennis games. In the lower area of the village, there is also a covered pilota court inside the Xoldo village hall.

UTM : 601892 - 4798591

❖ The GR10 (1,5 km)

GR 10 is a 870 km hiking trail that runs along the Pyrenees from the Atlantic ocean to the Mediterranean sea.

UTM : 603119 - 4798527

❖ Viewpoints on Bidassoa valley (2,6 km)

You can see the whole coastline from the top of Xoldo mountain and notice small island with no building between Irun and Hendaye. Plaiaundi nature reserve is worth a visit.

UTM : 603628 - 4797776

❖ The hollies (3,6 km)

You pass through a holly tree grove on this ramble. On the upper part of the tree and out of reach for animals, prickles disappear from the leaves.

UTM : 603891 - 4797063

❖ Pitare tumulus (3,95 km)

Pitare pass is well known for the presence of tumulus although they are hidden by vegetation. They form a pile made of soil and stones, they probably were monuments built from prehistoric times to antiquity period.

UTM : 604053 - 4796818

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Toilets and drinkable water point.
UTM : 601900 - 4798601

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				

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.