


Factsheet | Self-guided walk | Level 3/5  | 6 walking days on the GR10

Crossing the Basque Country :

from the Mountains to the Ocean

Your route in brief

- Easy walk
- Family walking, with friends or as a couple
- Possibility of a comfort version with 6 nights in a room
- Access to main luggage every day depending on the option chosen
- Access and return possible via Hendaye and Saint Jean Pied de Port
- Duration 7 days/6 nights

Strong points

- Discovery of the Basque coast and mountain landscapes
- The charm of the villages crossed: Sare, Ainhoa, St Etienne de Baigorri, St Jean Pied de Port...
- A well-established local terroir: gastronomy, culture, architecture...
- Many small peaks with beautiful views
- The magnificent Iparla ridges
- Hiking on the mythical GR10



This hike, which will take you from the Basque mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, follows the famous GR10 route, the great Pyrenees Crossing (415km from one sea to the other). It features a variety of landscapes specific to the Basque Country, nestled in the heart of the Atlantic Pyrenees. Here, perhaps more than elsewhere, when heading towards the coast, the landscapes crossed have an originality and an entity that are unique. The Basque Country is not to be defined in terms of high mountains and peaks, but rather by describing exceptional charms and cultural originality. From Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, the historic capital of the Basque Country, you will walk towards Saint Etienne de Baïrorri, with the sumptuous Iparla crest in the background, and then towards Bidarray. From rolling hills to small peaks, you will then cross villages with magical names, such as Ainhoa, Sare, Dancharia, with bright and shimmering tones, built in the purest Basque tradition. You will taste the Spanish atmosphere when reaching the border at the Col d'Ibardin, before descending towards Hendaye, to enjoy the charms of this lively coastal town bordered by the superb bay of Txingudi.

www.gr10-liberte.com / www.respyrenees.com

www.maison-iputxainia.com

Tél : (33) 5.34.14.51.50 ou (33) 6.10.97.16.54

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•PROGRAM

Day 1 : Start of holiday in Saint Jean Pied de Port

Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port is the capital of the Pays Basque region. It lies in a circle of hills at the foot of the Roncevaux pass into Spain. After checking into your hotel you may choose to do a walk in the surrounding area. A chance to discover the many delights of this seductive region.

Explore St Jean and its surroundings

Walk through the Irouléguy vineyards and the village of Ispoure, in the surroundings of the capital of the Basse Navarre - a region with many touristic assets.

Kurutxamendi loop

The Kurutxamendi is a small hill dominating Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port. This pedestrian loop can be the object of a pleasant short and easy stroll at the side of the pilgrims who go to St Jacques de Compostela. Despite the low altitude, you will have good visibility on the peaks of Navarre, and even Labourd.

- Distance : 8km, duration : 3h, altitude gain : +280m, descent : -280m.
- Distance : 5km, duration : 1h30, altitude gain : +145m, descent : -145m

Day 2 : From Saint Jean Pied de Port to Saint Etienne de Baïgorry

A challenging first stage in the heart of the Basque Country, with the ascent of the Mont Munhoa, culminating at 1021m, and the Oylarandoy massif, before reaching the wonderful village of Saint Etienne de Baïgorry.

- Distance : 19,5km, duration : around 7h, altitude gain : +950m, descent : -950m.

Day 3 : From Saint Etienne de Baïgorry to Bidarray

Today is another challenging walk that is one of the most beautiful hiking of Basque Country. It will lead you to Bidarray through some breath-taking scenery, such as extraordinary red sandstone cliffs along the famous crest of Iparla and its culminating peak at 1044m. From there, you will enjoy an immense panorama... Then you will go down towards the charming village of Bidarray.

- Distance : 18,5km, duration : around 7h30, altitude gain : +1250m, descent : -1250m.

Day 4 : From Bidarray to Col des Vaux

From Bidarray, you'll quickly reach Harpeko Saindua, a famous miraculous cave with curative virtues. Then, as you climb towards the Col de Méhatché and the Col des Veaux, you'll pass the Peñas de Ichusi, into a rocky landscape that is home to the griffin vultures that circle high above. As the stage is short, a return trip to the top of Artzamendi is possible, giving you a wide panorama: from the ocean to the first high peaks of the Pyrenees.

- Distance : 11,5km, duration : around 4h30, altitude gain : +750m, descent : -350m.
- Distance : 14km, duration : around 5h30, altitude gain : +950m, descent : -550m (via Artzamendi)

Day 5 : From Col des Vaux to Sare

Passing small summits and passes, the itinerary winds its way through the Zuccuta Pass, a superb lookout, and bypasses the Atxulegi (617m), and further on, the Ereby (583m). Then, you descend to the magnificent village of Ainhua, a 12th century bastide village. Finally, via the pleasant and preserved Basque countryside, you will reach Sare, another pretty village in the Basque Country.

- Distance : 22km, duration : around 6h45, altitude gain : +300m, descent : -800m.

Day 6 : From Sare to Ibardin

During this stage, the trail will pass through the massif of La Rhune (Iarrun: place of grazing, in Basque language), considered as the first Pyrenean summit of the chain and which, with its 905m, remains the sacred mountain of the Basque people and a place full of history. You spend the night at the Col d'Ibardin, located on the border, with its ventas. An opportunity to taste the Spanish atmosphere and admire the superb views over the valley.

- Distance : 16,5km, duration : around 6h45, altitude gain : +1000m, descent : -700m.

Day 7 : From Ibardin to Hendaye

From the border, through lush green landscapes against the backdrop of the ocean and sites with a strong Basque imprint, you will gradually leave the first foothills of the Atlantic Pyrenees, leaving the Rhune behind you, to reach the shores of the Atlantic Ocean and Hendaye, a lively coastal town bordered by the superb bay of Txingudi.

- Distance : 15km, duration : around 5h, altitude gain : +450m, descent : -850m.

This program is an example of the itinerary we aim to adhere to. It may be necessary, if situations arise that are beyond our control, for the itinerary to be modified.

• DATES ET PRICES

Departures

Every day from the beginning of April to the end of October (according to availabilities).

Booking from 2 people (solitary traveller: consult us).

From 01/04/2025 to 31/10/2025 :

Prices with luggage transfer:

Price per person for a group of 2 persons	665€
Price per person for a group of 3 persons	615€
Price per person for a group of 4 persons	585€
Price per person for a group of 5 persons	575€
Price per person for a group of 6 persons	565€

Prices without luggage transfer:

Price per person for a group of 2 persons	535€
Price per person for a group of 3 persons	530€
Price per person for a group of 4 persons	525€
Price per person for a group of 5 persons	520€
Price per person for a group of 6 persons	515€

Extras :

- Extra comfort version (6 nights in room) : 105€/pers
- Extra for a single room (if comfort version) : 130€/pers
- Extra departure in July/August/September : 15€/pers
- Transfer back from St Jean Pied de Port to Hendaye on week days : 175€/transfer
- Transfer back from St Jean Pied de Port to Hendaye on Sundays or public holidays: 195€/transfer
- Extra night in St Jean Pied de Port Bed & Breakfast shared dormitory : 45€/pers
- Extra night in St Jean Pied de Port Bed & Breakfast double room : 75€/pers
- Extra night in St Jean Pied de Port Bed & Breakfast single room : 115€/pers
- Extra night in Hendaye Bed & Breakfast shared dormitory : 60€/pers
- Extra night in Hendaye Bed & Breakfast shared dormitory July/August/September : 70€/pers
- Extra night in Hendaye Bed & Breakfast double room : 75€/pers
- Extra night in Hendaye Bed & Breakfast single room : 115€/pers
- Extra night in Hendaye Bed & Breakfast double room July/August/September : 90€/pers
- Extra night in Hendaye Bed & Breakfast single room July/August/September : 140€/pers

The price includes :

- Half-board except day 1 in Bed & Breakfast
- Luggage transfers depending on the option chosen
- Dossier containing maps, route notes (1 for 4 persons, given in 1st accommodation)
- GPS tracks if you ask us + access to the detailed itinerary on the Mhikes GPS mobile application

The price does not include :

- Holiday and travel insurance
- Evening meal day 1
- 15€ for booking fees
- Drinks and picnics

•TAILOR MADE HOLIDAYS

We can put together a suitable holiday for you taking into account all your specific requests and budget. Many individuals and trekking companies have relied on us for years. With our tailor-made holidays we always aim to provide you with the best quality at the fairest price.

If you want to :

- increase the comfort of your accommodations,
- change the duration of your trip,
- organize additional activities or visits,
- get a transfer from/to an airport,
- organize an extra night

Contact Gaetan
Tél : 0033 5 34 14 51 50
gaetan@respyrenees.com

•ORGANIZATION

We propose a self-guided, independent formula. You choose your departure date and we will take care of all the rest from the initial meeting time through to the dispersion point. We book your accommodations, we transport your bags between accommodations (depending on the option chosen), we provide the maps and detailed walking route notes sent on the first accommodation as well as access to the detailed itinerary on the Mhikes GPS mobile application. This is a way of enjoying complete flexibility, you dictate the pace and rhythm of your holiday. Moreover, our team will answer all your questions, and will provide all useful advice in order to make this holiday a success.

• TECHNICAL INFORMATION**Level 3/5**

Regular walker, in good physical condition with experience of mountain hiking. Hiking 6h-7h per day on average, altitude difference 700m-1000m on average, on fairly easy trails, with some small technical difficulties. The walking times mentioned are given as an indication, they are average times that only take into account the duration of the actual walking without counting the break times. Depending on the weather conditions, the walking pace can also vary, ranging from +300m to +500m of climb per hour.

Guide

Self-guided walking, without guide.

Carrying

You will need to carry a day backpack only. Our bag-moving service means you can travel light during your walks. Your main luggage (that should please be easily transportable) will be transported by vehicle between the different night stops, unless you have chosen the version without luggage transport.

•ACCOMMODATION/FOOD**Accommodation**

Half board except day 1 in Bed and Breakfast
1 night in Spanish venta in room day 2
1 night in gite in room day 4

4 nights in gite in shared dormitory days 1, 2, 3 and 5

COMFORT VERSION (with extra) :

5 nights in hotels** in room days 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6

1 night in gite in room day 4

For nights in shared dormitory, bring a sleeping bag liner (blankets are provided).

Food

- Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, bread, butter, jam)

- Evening meals, often based on local specialities include a starter, a main and a dessert. Evening meal in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port not included, restaurants available.

They can be reserved in advance (with extra). Or you can buy them directly at your accommodation or at the grocery stores, mini-markets and bakeries listed in the roadbook.

- Drinks not included.

•PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Starting : Day 1 at your accommodation in St Jean Pied de Port, according your time of arrival.

Ending : Day 7 in Hendaye, after your walk.

How to reach Saint Jean Pied de Port by public transport :

Trains from the main towns to Saint Jean Pied de Port (with connections) : <https://www.sncf-connect.com/en-en/>

How to leave Hendaye by public transport :

From Hendaye, train to main cities (with occasional connections) : <https://www.sncf-connect.com/en-en/>

How to reach Saint Jean Pied de Port from Hendaye by public transport :

Train from Hendaye to Saint Jean Pied de Port with connection in Bayonne : <https://www.sncf-connect.com/en-en/>

Nearest airport :

Biarritz airport

Pau airport

Tarbes-Lourdes airport

Toulouse-Blagnac airport

Parking lot in St Jean Pied de Port :

All paid and free parking lots visible on this page: <https://www.st-jean-pied-de-port.fr/decouvrir/ou-stationner/>

Parking lot in Hendaye:

All paid and free parking lots visible on this page: <https://www.hendaye-tourisme.fr/en/parking-car-parks/>

If you are leaving your vehicle for the duration of your stay, please check with the tourist office to find out whether any events (festivals, markets, etc.) will be taking place at your car park.

We recommend to arrive by train to avoid returns to departure to recover your car, because itineraries can be very long and badly served and very expensive if you take a taxi. If you insist to come with your car, we recommend you to leave your car on the arrival point the first day and to do the run to the departure point because the first day you have plenty of time to do the run and you will not be tired by a week walking.

•WHAT TO BRING AND PACK

Your main luggage (if package includes luggage transport between accommodations) :

For logistical reasons, we ask you not to bring more than one item/person. Its weight should not exceed 12kg - 15kg.

Your day backpack

The size of your bag varies upon the type of activity.

For a walk without portage : 30L minimum

For a walk with partial portage : 50L minimum

For a walk with portage : 60L minimum

Whatever activity you participate in, you should always carry in your rucksack :

- Rainwear, warm clothing, spare T-shirt, sunglasses, sun cream, first aid kit, picnic kit, personal items, etc.)
- Picnic lunch of the day (bring a plastic box)
- Sufficient water (minimum 1.5 litre water bottle)

Walking Boots

The type of boot depends upon the activities you take part in however they are one of your most important items. They should be comfortable, waterproof and breathable. For the best protection we advise ankle boots.

We recommend our young walkers to wear flexible walking boots with a good sole and back.

For mountain walking for more than 4 hours long we recommend a boot with a fairly ridged sole.

If you need to buy a new pair of boots, we advise you wear them in before the start of your holiday. Don't wear boots that are too small because feet have a tendency to swell up. Be careful with your shoes that have been left in the wardrobe for too long. The lifespan of a shoe is 2 to 5 years. After a while the soles will come off and the seams can tear.

Clothes:

- A wind and rainproof jacket
- A thick jumper or a fleece
- Comfortable walking trousers
- Shorts, t shirts as well as breathable base layers
- Spare clothes
- Swimwear and towel
- For the start and end of season, hat and gloves suitable for GR10 walks at altitude.

For Sleeping

- Sleeping bag liner for all nights spent in the gites and mountain shelters (blankets are provided)
- Earplugs

For Picnics

- Sealed plastic box (0.5L) to carry salads
- Cutlery (folding knife and fork)
- A 1,5L minimum flask

Small equipment

- A pair of tennis shoes, or sandals for the evening
- A pair of telescopic poles (optional)
- Sunglasses and sun cream
- Hat, cap or bob
- Camera...
- A small toilet bag, with towel
- Torch or headlamp
- Toilet paper
- A mini-pharmacy: personal medication, Compeed for blisters, elastoplast, gauze, disinfectant, arnica granules and aspirin in case of minor injuries, a survival blanket.