

Factsheet | Guided walking | Level 3/5  | 6 walking days

Great Crossing of the Basque Country: From the Mountains to the Ocean

Your itinerary at a glance:

- Guided hike with a BE AMM specialist of the region • Minimal transfers
- A long and beautiful full-route journey
- Luggage transportation between each stage
- Comfortable accommodation 100% in rooms for a "relaxed" evening experience!
- **Easy access at the train stations of Saint Jean Pied de Port and Hendaye, thanks to the many TGV trains.**

Highlights:

- Discover the landscapes of the Basque mid-mountains as well as the coastline (swimming)
- A cross-border route between France and Spain, from ridges to valleys and summits with beautiful panoramas
- The charm of the villages visited: St Etienne de Baigorry, Bidarray, Dancharia...
- A strong local heritage: gastronomy, culture, architecture...
- Hikes on the legendary GR10, as well as on off-the-beaten-path trails and wild ridges



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AN INTEGRAL JOURNEY, 100% COMFORT IN A ROOM

This Great Crossing of the Basque Country, which will take you from the mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, partly follows the famous GR10 trail, the great crossing of the Pyrenees (866 km from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean). It will allow you to discover the dual facets of the Basque Country: a wild and inhabited land, a place of culture and traditions shared between two countries, the green of the mountains and the blue of the Ocean.

This hike offers a sporty approach to everything that makes the Basque Country unique, and as always, our team will be eager to share it with you in a way no one else can, thanks to our local presence, our knowledge of the terrain, and the long-established relationships with our partners. Yes, we've designed this crossing as the culmination of our work and our love for the Basque Country!

After a first comfortable night in our accommodation, the Maison IPUTXAINIA in Saint Jean Pied de Port, we will reach the first ridges of the Basque Country for beautiful viewpoints.

Then, let's start our game of leapfrog with the border, which will be our guide throughout the week!

Along the way, between panoramic ridges flown over by vultures seemingly watching us, typical villages, modest summits that are nonetheless rewarding, forests full of legends... the thread of the Basque Country will unfold before you, offering its final burst before the vastness of the blue Ocean engulfs it... gifting you a final, restorative swim as a farewell... or rather, a "see you later!"



•PROGRAM

Day 1: Arrival in Hendaye (or St Jean Pied de Port)

Meet at 5:30 PM in front of the Hendaye SNCF train station.

ECO-FRIENDLY TIP: Why not take the train to St Jean Pied de Port? It's less convenient, but it's more eco-friendly! To do so, you'll need to take the Bayonne-St Jean Pied de Port train line. Feel free to contact us for more details!



Settle into your accommodation in Saint Jean Pied de Port, our guesthouse, where you can enjoy the pool and jacuzzi to recover from your journey and prepare for the hike ahead. Welcome drink and briefing on the trip.

Day 2: From Lasse to St Etienne de Baigorry

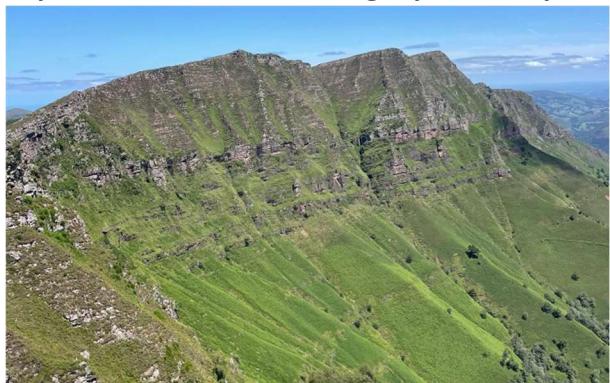


A warm-up hike that, through the ascent of Munhoa (1021m), offers a wide panorama with breathtaking views of the surrounding valleys and, in the distance, the high peaks of the Pyrenees. A true discovery of the Basque mountains awaits you before heading to the lovely village of St Etienne de Baigorry, passing through part of the Irouléguy vineyard.

• **Distance: 16 km, duration: about 7h00, Ascent: +800m, Descent: -1090m. Transfer: 15 min**

Note: On certain dates, accommodation is in Banca, without affecting the difficulty of the hike or the quality of the accommodation.

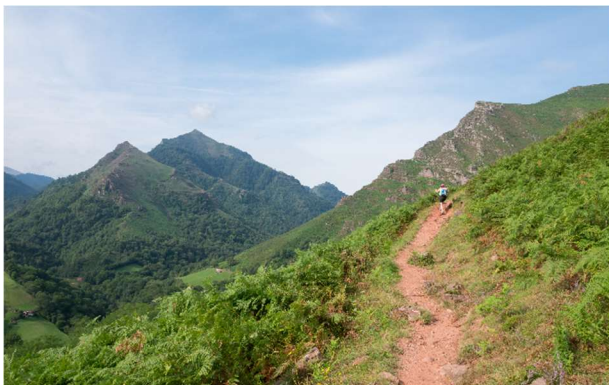
Day 3: From Saint Etienne de Baigorry to Bidarray



Today's stage, entirely on the GR10, will take you to Bidarray, a beautiful village perched above the Nive valley, through the pink sandstone cliffs of the Iparla ridge with its peak rising to 1044m. A panoramic hike offering magnificent views of both France and Spain!

• **Distance: 16 km, duration: about 7h, Ascent: +1000m, Descent: -1190m. Transfer: 10 min**

Day 4: From Bidarray to the "Xareta" region, where the word "border" does not exist



A stage between small summits and villages with a strong Basque identity. During the ascent to the Col des Veaux, passing through the Peñas de Itsusi, "the wicked rocks," you'll get a closer view of the impressive flight of vultures circling above your head. Then, the ridge of Gorospil offers a breathtaking view of La Rhune, with the Ocean seeming very close.

Distance: 21 km, duration: about 7h30, Ascent: +950m, Descent: -1000m.

Day 5: From Dancharia to Sare



Crossing the "land of witches," a territory full of legends and caves... and where the ridge of the modest but very beautiful Atxuria (759m) stands, offering superb views of the imposing Rhune massif, which will be part of tomorrow's hike. Then, through forests and pastures, we will cross wood pigeon hunting zones before reaching Sare.

• Distance: 17 km, duration: about 6h30, Ascent: +900m, Descent: -600m.

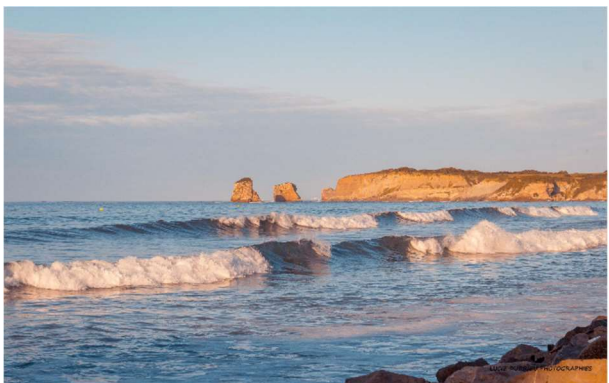
Day 6: Crossing the Rhune Massif



For this second-to-last day of the week, we face the Rhune massif (905m), the final barrier of the Pyrenees, seemingly defending the mountains from the Ocean! A magnificent massif with varied landscapes, which we approach from its southeastern side, the least frequented. After a well-deserved refreshing drink at the summit, the descent to the Ibardin pass follows a beautiful ridgeline path.

• Distance: 13 km, duration: 6h00, Ascent: +1100m, Descent: -1100m.

Day 7: Arrival at the Ocean... final hike followed by a swim!



From the border and through lush landscapes, we gradually leave the first foothills of the Pyrénées Atlantiques to descend toward the village of Biriadou. Leaving behind La Rhune, we head to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean and Hendaye, a lively coastal town bordered by the beautiful bay of Txingudi. A final picnic, a swim... some may be tempted to extend their stay!

• Distance: 15 km, duration: about 5h00, Ascent: +450m, Descent: -850m.

End of the trip around 4:00 PM, in Hendaye.

The programs have been established based on the latest known details at the time of writing: unforeseen events are always possible, and situations beyond our control may alter the course of the trip. On-site, our guides are the best judges and may need to modify the itinerary based on weather conditions or if the safety of the group requires it.

•MEETING POINT AND END OF STAY

Meeting Point:

On Day 1 at 5:30 PM in front of the Hendaye SNCF train station (64) for a transfer to Saint Jean Pied de Port (1h05).

IMPORTANT: Please inform us of your train schedule or arrival method at Hendaye at least one week in advance via SMS at 06.10.97.16.54.

ECO-FRIENDLY TIP: Why not take the train to St Jean Pied de Port? It's less convenient, but it's more eco-friendly! To do so, you'll need to take the Bayonne-St Jean Pied de Port train line instead of continuing to Hendaye. Feel free to contact us for more information!

Accommodation on the day before or the last day: Please refer to our "Accommodation" section.

End of Stay:

On Day 7, around 4:00 PM, in Hendaye. Luggage storage will be available to allow you to enjoy the beach and the town.

•DATES AND PRICES

Number of Participants

Group of 4 to 12 people.

Departures

Guaranteed departure with a minimum of 4 participants.

- From Saturday, April 5, 2025, to Friday, April 11, 2025
- From Saturday, April 19, 2025, to Friday, April 25, 2025
- From Saturday, May 3, 2025, to Friday, May 9, 2025
- From Saturday, May 24, 2025, to Friday, May 30, 2025
- From Saturday, June 7, 2025, to Friday, June 13, 2025
- From Saturday, June 21, 2025, to Friday, June 27, 2025
- From Saturday, July 5, 2025, to Friday, July 11, 2025
- From Saturday, July 19, 2025, to Friday, July 25, 2025
- From Saturday, August 2, 2025, to Friday, August 8, 2025
- From Saturday, August 16, 2025, to Friday, August 22, 2025
- From Saturday, August 30, 2025, to Friday, September 5, 2025
- From Saturday, September 13, 2025, to Friday, September 19, 2025
- From Saturday, September 27, 2025, to Friday, October 3, 2025
- From Saturday, October 25, 2025, to Friday, October 31, 2025

Price:

€935 per person

€965 per person from June 21 to September 19

Supplements:

-Single room supplement: €195 per person, subject to availability.

The single room supplement is available from Saturday (Day 1) to Wednesday (Day 5). The final night will be in a shared room with 2, 3, or 4 people.

The Price Includes:

- Full board accommodation from dinner on Day 1 to the picnic on Day 7
- Transfers mentioned in the program
- Luggage transport between each stage
- Guidance by a certified mountain leader (BE AMM) specialized in the Basque Country
- Luggage storage in Hendaye until 4:00 PM

The Price Does Not Include:

- Insurance
- Meals not specified in "The Price Includes"
- Transfers not included in the program
- Drinks
- Entrance fees for visits
- €15 registration fee per person

•TECHNICAL INFORMATION**Type of Terrain**

Hikes on well-marked trails; the terrain is varied but often rocky.

Level: 3/5

For hikers with prior mountain hiking experience and good physical condition.

The indicated walking times are for reference only—they represent average durations that account for actual walking time, excluding breaks. Depending on weather conditions, the walking pace may vary.

Guiding

The hike is led by a certified guide specializing in the Basque Country.

The RESPYRÉNÉES guiding team is 100% local. Based in the Basque Country or the Pyrenees, we know the landscapes, culture, and history of these regions inside out!

Carrying

During the hike, you'll only need to carry your personal belongings for the day, your picnic, and enough water.

•ACCOMMODATION / FOOD**Accommodation**

3 nights in a 2-star hotel or equivalent, and 3 nights in comfortable guesthouses. Accommodation is in double rooms (except for the last night, which may be in shared rooms of 2 to 4 people).

Single rooms are available upon request, with an additional charge and subject to availability.

Meals

- Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, bread, butter, jam)
- Evening meals often featuring Basque specialties, including a starter, a main course, and a dessert
- Picnics included
- Drinks not included

Accommodation Before or After the Trip:

Hôtel BELLEVUE: A comfortable 2-star hotel located near the train station and the bay
36, Boulevard du Général Leclerc

64700 HENDAYE

Tel: +33 5 59 20 00 26

<http://hotelbellevue-hendaye.com/>

Another option: Our accommodation in Saint Jean Pied de Port

www.maison-iputxainia.com



• PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Start: Day 1 at 5:30 PM at the Hendaye (64) SNCF train station. **Alternatively, you can choose to meet us directly in Saint Jean Pied de Port by train—we will pick you up at the station.**

End: Day 7 around 4:00 PM in Hendaye (64). Luggage storage is available until 4:00 PM, allowing you to enjoy the beach and the town.

How to Get to Hendaye:

- By Air: Biarritz Airport offers daily flights to and from Paris, London, Lyon, Clermont-Ferrand, and more.
- By Train: Numerous TER trains depart from major cities towards Bayonne, then Hendaye.
<https://www.oui.sncf>
- By Car: From Bordeaux: A63 motorway, 207 km From Toulouse and Bayonne: A64 motorway, 293 km, then from Bayonne to Hendaye via A63, 32 km

Parking in Hendaye:

All paid and free parking options are listed here: <https://www.hendaye-tourisme.fr/fr/infos-pratiques/parkings-et-stationnement/>

If you plan to leave your vehicle for the duration of your trip, please check with the tourist office to ensure no events (festivals, markets, etc.) are scheduled at your parking location.

ECO-TIP: Why not take the train directly to Saint Jean Pied de Port? It's less convenient, but much more eco-friendly!

To do this, take the Bayonne–Saint Jean Pied de Port train line instead of continuing to Hendaye.

Feel free to contact us for more details!

How to Get to Saint Jean Pied de Port by Train:

Several high-speed TGV trains run to Bayonne from major cities.

From Bayonne, take the TER Bayonne–Saint Jean Pied de Port line with four departures every Saturday:

- Departure Bayonne: 8:16 AM, Arrival in St Jean Pied de Port: 9:17 AM
- Departure Bayonne: 11:24 AM, Arrival in St Jean Pied de Port: 12:25 PM
- Departure Bayonne: 2:19 PM, Arrival in St Jean Pied de Port: 3:20 PM
- Departure Bayonne: 6:19 PM, Arrival in St Jean Pied de Port: 7:20 PM

IMPORTANT:

Please notify us one week in advance via SMS at +33 6 10 97 16 54 to inform us of your train schedule or your means of arrival in Hendaye.

•TO PACK IN YOUR LUGGAGE**Luggage**

- A hiking backpack with a capacity of around 35 liters, useful for carrying your personal belongings during the day.

Clothing

- 1 sun hat or cap
- T-shirts (1 for every 2 to 3 days of hiking). Avoid cotton as it dries slowly; prefer short-sleeved, breathable fabric t-shirts such as Capilene (Patagonia), Dryflo (Lowe Alpine), Light Effect (Odlo), etc.
- 1 lightweight pullover or long-sleeved shirt (same fabric recommendations as above)
- 1 fleece jacket
- 1 pair of trekking pants
- 1 pair of comfortable pants for the evening
- 1 lightweight, simple Gore-Tex-style jacket
- 1 swimsuit and a bath towel
- Warm underwear
- Hiking socks (1 pair for every 2 to 3 days of hiking). Avoid cotton "tennis" socks, which dry slowly and increase the risk of blisters; prefer socks made with Coolmax, for example.
- 1 pair of waterproof hiking boots with good ankle support (Vibram sole recommended)
- 1 pair of comfortable shoes for the evening

The clothing list should be adjusted according to the season.

Small Equipment

- 1 pair of high-quality sunglasses
- 1 water bottle (minimum 1 liter)
- 1 pocket knife (to be packed in checked luggage)
- Toiletry kit
- Toilet paper, sunscreen, and lip balm
- Cutlery for picnics

Personal First Aid Kit

- Your regular medications
- Vitamin C or multivitamins
- Pain relievers: preferably paracetamol
- Elastic adhesive bandage (e.g., Elastoplast, 6 cm wide)
- Adhesive bandages and disinfectant wipes
- Blister treatment (e.g., Spenco's Second Skin, available in sports stores, pharmacies, and drugstores)

Group First Aid Kit

- A first aid kit managed by your guide