

# The Ossau Valley

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## Les pierres



*Arudy, a small village at the gateway to the Ossau Valley, has an incredibly rich history: from the prehistoric caves hidden in the cliffs to the marble quarry, it is all about stone...*

*The walk in the village, through its diverse architecture of carved and engraved stones from as far back as the 15th century, offers numerous examples of an undeniable taste and art of building.*

**D** Go to Foirail Square via the nursery school. Turn right and, before the traffic lights, turn left into the street that runs above the car park. On the right, go up Rue Escoubet with, on the corner, a small 17th century noble house with a stoop, sculpted door and window mullions. At number 11, you will see an 18th century house with a white marble cartouche. On the houses of n°1 to 3, keystones from the 17th and 18th centuries have been integrated into the restored walls.

**1** At the end of the street, turn left and walk up Rue Carnot with its 19th century gates. Turn right in front of a house with a cross into Rue Tilhou. The 17th and 18th century houses were renovated and their facades remodelled in the 19th century. On the square, turn right into Rue Lapasseigt and then right into Rue Lacazette.

**2** Turn left. On the square, pass the fountain built in 2002 during the renovation of the square. Its grey marble comes from the quarries of Arudy, the coloured one from the quarry in Benou. On the left, the obelisk-shaped war memorial displays a Marianne and four coats of arms of the town (cow, lion and fleurs-de-lis), the Ossau Valley (bear, oak and cow), Béarn (two cows) and Navarre (chains). Go up to the left behind the church. Walk past the old grain barn.

**3** Take the first left into Rue Mayos. Walk past a 16th century house with carved white marble doors and windows and a stone bench. Go down and turn right.

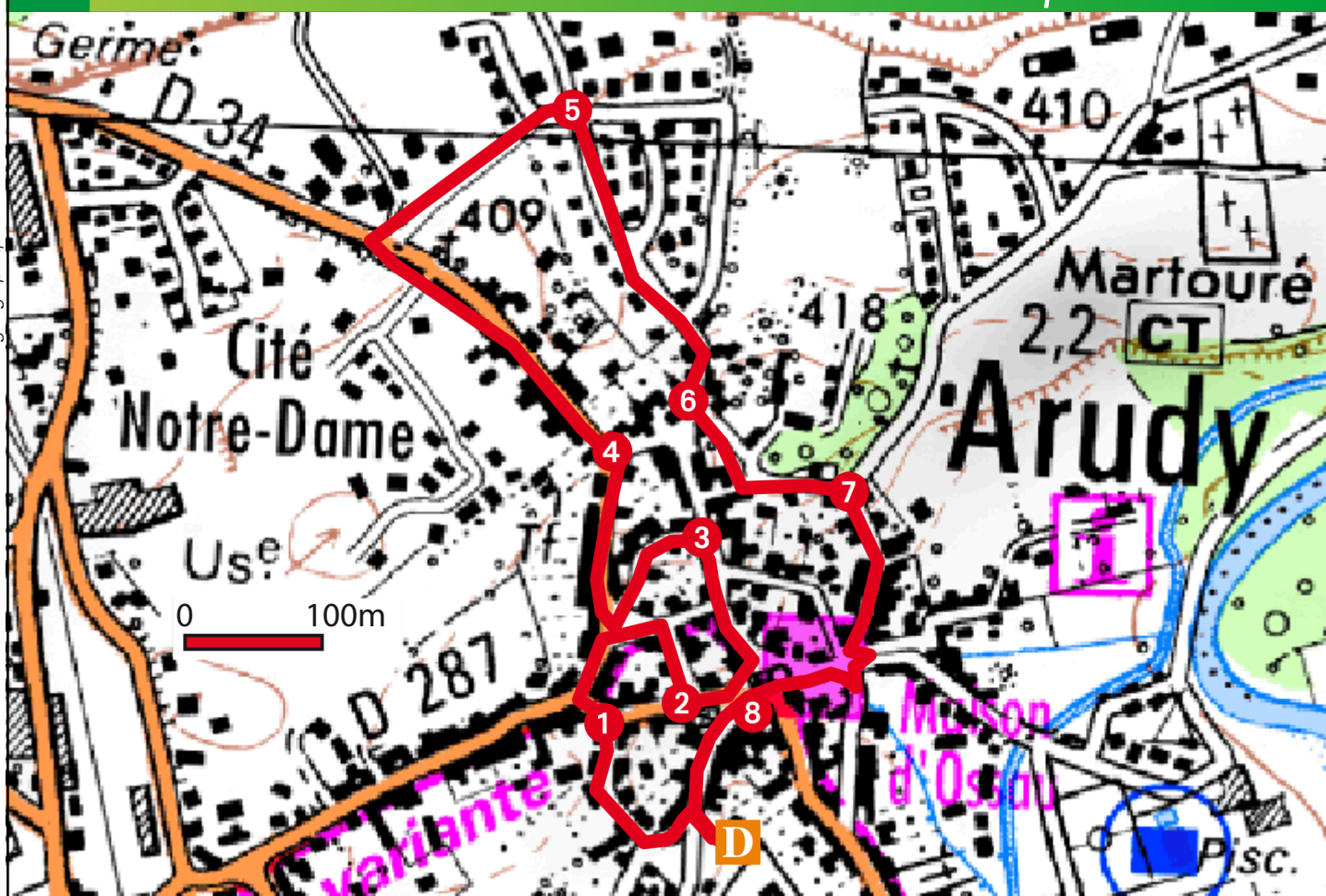
**4** At the end of the street, turn left into Rue Saint-Germe, then 200 m further on, turn right into Rue du 19 Mars 1962.

**5** At the roundabout, turn right onto Rue Sassoubre. Walking through a 1960s housing estate.

**6** Back in the older part of town, take the small street on the left. Walk past Château Martouré and continue to the left.

**7** Turn right into Rue Saint-Gaudens. Two lovely 17th century houses face each other. One of them bears the signs of the "compagnons" or journeymen on its lintel. Turn right again. At a small roundabout, on your left, there is a series of washhouses used for washing hides. The small canal that feeds them also operated several mills.

Take the path opposite. Walk past the Maison d'Ossau, a former lay abbey in the 17th century, with carved doors and windows, a richly ornamented door and of imposing size.



It is now the Arudy Museum, and houses a collection of regional archaeology, an exhibition on the Pyrenees National Park, one on marble work and another on Ossau costumes and pastoralism.

A visit to the building alone is worthwhile, to admire the stone staircase, monumental fireplaces and imposing framework.

Further to the right, the early 16th century Saint-Germain church with its flamboyant portal dates back to the transitional period between Romanesque and Gothic. Opposite the church, the town hall with its covered market hall and its large marble staircase dates from the 19th century. In the square, a Renaissance house has carved door and window frames.

8 Walk past the left side of the town hall to return to the starting point.

**D** Carribot Square in Arudy

**GPS** WGS 84 UTM 30T  
709277E-4775567N



1h



2,3km



30m

**★ Don't miss:**

- The photographic tour of Arudy's heritage with the mobile app "Ma vallée d'Ossau"



**Blue markers**



**Made by:**

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**Information :**

Ossau Valley Tourist Office, Pyrenees - Headquarters in Laruns - +33 (0)5 59 05 31 41  
[www.valleedossau.com](http://www.valleedossau.com)

All outdoor sports activities are available on the Vallée d'Ossau Pyrénées mobile app...  
and on the website [terredaventures.valleedossau.com](http://terredaventures.valleedossau.com)

# Choose your hike

For each route, you will find technical and practical information to help you choose your hike

## Levels of difficulty

The hikes are classified by order of difficulty defined by a colour code following the recommendations of the French Hiking Federation:

- NIV 1** Very easy, less than 2 hours walking. Ideal for families, on well-marked tracks
- NIV 2** Easy, less than 3 hours walking. Suitable for families, on tracks with sometimes more difficult passages.
- NIV 3** Difficult, less than 4 hours walking. For hikers used to walking, with some quite intense sections or steep slopes.
- NIV 4** Very difficult, more than 4 hours of walking. For experienced and fit hikers. The itinerary can be long and technical (strong elevation gain, tricky passages).

## GPS Coordinates

**GPS** 30T 710703O - 4776694N

## D Start



Walking time, given in hours. This estimated time takes into account the length of the hike, the elevation gain and the possible difficulties.



Elevation gain, expressed in metres. For each circuit, the value corresponds to the cumulative elevation gain.



Distance, the value expressed in kilometres corresponds to the total length of the route.

## Markers

| Direction  | Local routes and PR® | GRP® | GR® |
|------------|----------------------|------|-----|
| Right way  |                      |      |     |
| Turn left  |                      |      |     |
| Turn right |                      |      |     |
| Wrong way  |                      |      |     |



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## Recommendations

### Before you leave

Check your equipment, the difficulty of the circuit and the weather conditions  
If you are going alone, communicate your itinerary to friends and family  
See the map of controlled fires

### In the mountains / pastoral areas

Follow the marked paths and close gates after passing through  
Respect nature and bring waste back  
If accompanied by a dog, make sure that it is allowed on the chosen route and keep it on a lead  
During the hunting season, avoid hunting areas or turn back  
Go around herds and do not approach farm dogs (do not feed them or pet them)

### National Park

The heart of the National Park is a natural territory and is open to all, but is subject to a code of conduct. Dogs are not allowed, even on a lead. No fires, no mountain bikes, no wild camping, only bivouacs are allowed - a small tent can be set up for the night from 7 pm and taken down in the morning before 9 am. It must be set up more than an hour's walk from any motorised access.

### European emergency call : 112

All outdoor sports activities are available on the Vallée d'Ossau Pyrénées mobile app...  
and on the website [terredaventures.valleedossau.com](http://terredaventures.valleedossau.com)