

The Ossau Valley

LEV
2

Les cercles de pierres (Bilhères)



This family walk starts from one of the most beautiful villages of the valley. It offers superb views from a height and a journey back in time to the mysterious site of the cromlechs of Lou Couraus.

D Opposite the church, take the road leading north. Pass the cemetery and at the end of the road, turn right towards the Auberge du Chemin de Perchades. At the crossroads, turn left and then left again on a road leading up between the houses.

0h10 1 708011 E – 4770856 N At a one-way street, follow the track. 100m further on, cross the D 294 and take the track that goes up opposite, then immediately turn left onto the path in the grass.

0h40 2 708514 E – 4771385 N Continue to climb upwards. Turn left on the path between low walls. At the edge of the forest, cross a stream and walk into a fern grove.

1h05 3 708765 E – 4771916 N Walk 100m and turn left. Follow a path through grass and ferns with a beautiful view over the valley. Pass under the power line, then a stream.

1h25 4 707860 E – 4771318 N After going onto a stony path, turn right onto it and continue for 300m.

1h40 5 708119 E – 4771609 N Go up to the left on a grassy path. Leave the Tour de la Vallée d'Ossau track on your right. The cromlechs are on the left at the top of the climb. After the cromlechs, go down and into the forest. Pass a stream and then a wetland.

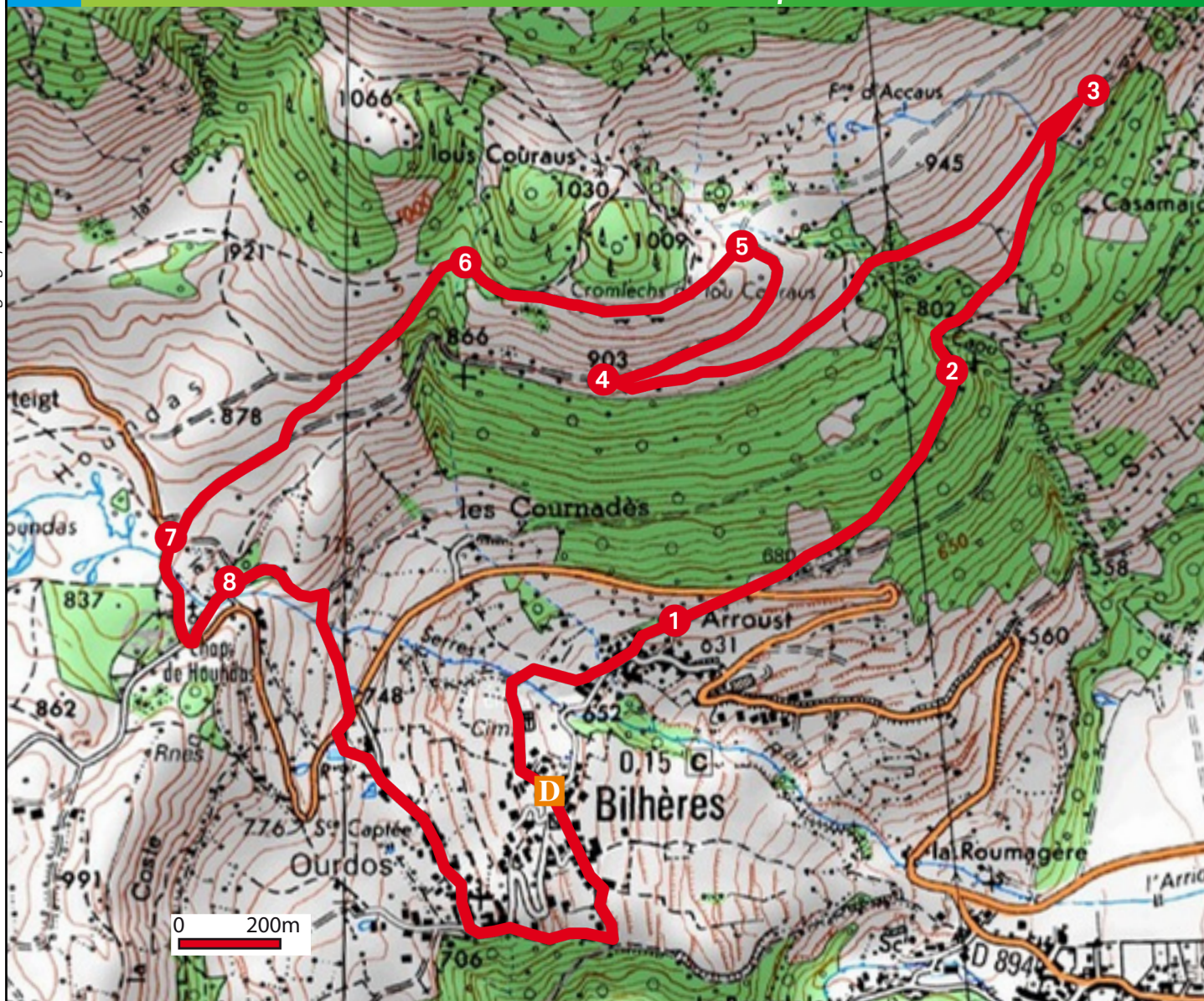
2h00 6 707508 E – 4771542 N At the end of the woods, turn left. Go down a rocky path and at the bottom, turn right onto a grassy path.

2h20 7 707004 E – 4770958 N Turn left down the road to the chapel. Pass in front of it, then over a small bridge. After 100 m, turn right.

2h30 8 707123 E – 4770910 N Go downhill, through a gate and turn right onto a path between low walls. After an open grassy area, turn right at a gate above a barn. Follow a stony track. Cross the D 294, then a parking area and walk down the road to the next intersection. Turn left and then immediately right onto a grassy path. At the cross, turn left towards the church.



Bilhères-en-Ossau village.



D Church of Bilhères

GPS WGS 84 UTM 30T
707767E - 4770532N

3h

7,3km

360m

★ Don't miss:

- The village of Bilhères-en-Ossau and its traditional houses.
- The cromlechs.
- The splendid view over the Ossau

⚠ Note:

- Be careful when crossing the D294

Yellow markers

Bilhères, a belvedere

The view over the Ossau Valley from the cromlechs shows a magnificent flat-bottomed trough worthy of the best geography lessons. Its villages with tightly packed houses were built on the edges of the valley, where springs flow, leaving plenty of room for pasture and crops. Further up the hill, Bilhères-en Ossau looks more like a mountain village. Its pale-coloured houses, facing the sun, are dotted along a winding road. The terraced fields still bear witness to the hard work of the people of the mountains who, in order to gain flat land, shaped the landscape for centuries.



Made by:

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Information:

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All outdoor sports activities are available on the Vallée d'Ossau Pyrénées mobile app...
and on the website 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			



GR®, GRP® and PR® are registered trademarks of the French Hiking Federation. Some routes have been selected by the French Hiking Federation according to quality criteria. They are PR® certified.

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

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and on the website terredaventures.valleedossau.com