The Ossau Valley

LEV 1

La bastide

The route offers both beautiful views of nature and a journey through history. It is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the creation of towns in the South-West during the economic boom of the 12th and 13th centuries. These foundations continued in the 14th century: Rébénacq is one of the last bastides of Aquitaine.

Creating a bastide involved establishing agrarian and fiscal reform, reflecting the changes in society: the new inhabitants were free, but had to pay taxes to the Lord. Rébénacq was established on uncultivated land, but was on a transhumance route: this enabled the viscount of Béarn to strengthen his power over the communities of the mountain valleys.

The founding charter was signed on 25 June 1347 (hence the church of St John the Baptist). The village owes its name to the lieutenant general Roger d'Arrevenac who signed the charter on behalf of Gaston Fébus. The central square (la Bielle) was reserved for the market on Thursdays every fortnight, and the church is therefore situated further away. The houses were built, rebuilt or remodelled at different times: the oldest (dates visible above the doors), date back to the 1600s.

D When facing the town hall turn left, then go down the street on the right at the end of the square; after the bend in the road, the facade features a 1631 frame.

1 Near the wash house, take a look at the crank pump, the equipment for shoeing oxen and the weighing scale. The centre of the bastide was elevated, surrounded by three streams.

2 Walk around the Place de la Bielle. Its dimensions and those of the properties with gardens date from 1347. The door lintels follow the evolution of decorative techniques from 1600 to 1900.

3 At the bottom of the square, the Chemin de Ménard leads to the Route de Laruns. A grassy path leads to the river and the road along the bank. This area, known as "la Garenne", is an extension of the village, dating from before the 19th century.

4 Further along in the grass, the small fountain "Dou Cassou" (oak) provides ferruginous water. Above, is the home of the Palisses family, who ran a marble mill and factory. The water of the Néez was used very early on: the charter provided for a fulling mill (to felt wool). Following the Revolution, Rébénacq had up to 7 mills.
Turn back on the same path and take the first right.

5 Return to the Route de Laruns, leave the footbridge on the left and go to the football pitch: this was originally municipal land, and probably served as grazing for the community's animals. After the football pitch, take the stone steps on the left up to the road. Turn right here.

6 Just like around "la Bielle", in the 18th and 19th centuries weavers lived in this area known as "Haute Bielle". Note the repurposed door lintel (placed upside down). After the first bend in the road, turn left and walk past the petanque area.
Follow the stony path on the right. At the corner of the building, the track goes down to a grassy path. Turn right, cross the footbridge and join a wide cul-de-sac, and walk up. At the top, turn left to reach the road to Nay, and walk 100 m down this road.

7 You will first cross the old road to Bruges, abandoned in favour of the D 936, created around 1780 by d'Étigny. Take the next road on the right, it leads to the "Chemin de Las Bignes" (seigneurial vineyards) and used to lead to the castle, which was destroyed during the Revolution.

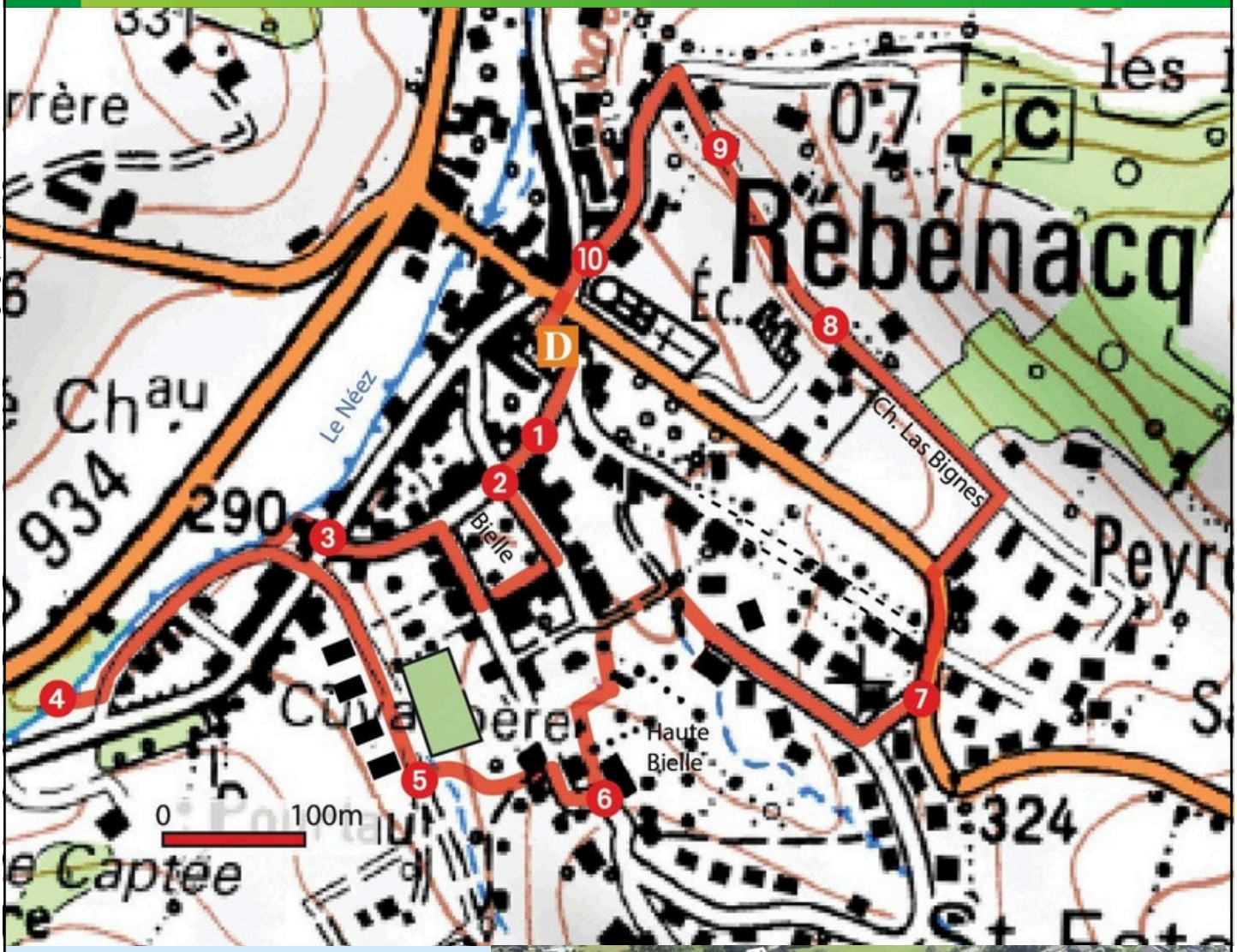
8 Near the school there is a beautiful view of the church and La Bielle.

9 A panoramic view of the Lazerque ridges and, looking back, towards the Moulle de Jaut. To the west, a castle was built on the top of the hill around 1775 by the merchant J.B. Bitaubé; the castle and its gardens are listed as a Historic Monument. At the intersection, turn left into Rue(street) Dous Marrous.

10 The post office in Place de l'Eglise (church) was the presbytery before 1907 (cross and decorative door frame). The church was rebuilt and extended from 1874. It features stained glass windows by the famous Mauméjean workshop, sculpted capitals, and a painting of the Baptism of Christ, a copy of a Murillo.

LEV
1

La bastide



Extrait de Carte 1 :25 000 Institut géographique National

D Place de la Mairie
(City Hall)

GPS *WGS 84 UTM 30T*
711686E - 4781864N

1h

2,2 km

50 m



Don't miss:

• Place de la Bielle (picture), the wash houses, the banks of the Néez and the view from the Chemin (road) de Las Bignes.

Blue markers

Made by:
Communauté de Communes de la Vallée d'Ossau
1 avenue des Pyrénées – 64260 Arudy +33 (0)5 59 05 66 77

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

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

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