

The Ossau Valley

LEV
2

Les carrières

Huddled against the steep slopes of the mountain, the village of Louvie-Soubiron is renowned in the valley and far beyond for its white marble quarry, which is no longer in operation. This easy loop offers a beautiful view over the village of Laruns. A fascinating walk in the footsteps of the former quarrymen, and an opportunity to bring back a little piece of the Pyrenees.



D At the exit of the car park, walk 50 m up the main street and turn left towards Listo. Walk up the steep road to a flat area marking the start of the track to Listo (a good view over the village and the valley floor).

begins a descent through the boxwood. In the middle of the woods, take a small path on the left which goes up to join the track to Listo, where you will see a heritage information sign (and a lovely panoramic view).

Oh10 | 710802 E - 4764152 N Take the path on the left lined with ash trees, which runs horizontally, until you reach the signpost.

Oh05 4 711231 E - 4763842 N Go down the concrete track to point **I**. Turn left towards the village, passing a very pretty wash house. The street opens onto the town hall square and then down to the car park where you began the walk.

Oh20 2 710850 E - 4764591 N Take 10 minutes to walk up the small path heading east and back. It leads to blocks of "marble", signs of the former quarrying activity. Head back to the signpost and climb diagonally up the slope towards the south-east. At first the path is quite clear, running alongside a low stone wall, a vestige of the old mule track. You soon reach the first small stone quarry. These sunny slopes are covered in flowers; wild geraniums and carnations. The path continues just above some isolated birch trees. It is a "pioneering" species that reclaims areas abandoned by humans. Shortly afterwards, you reach the white marble quarry (picnic table).

Oh50 3 711117 E - 4764204 N The path crosses a section of scree, a vestige of the quarry work, and



White marble quarry



D Louvie-Soubiron
municipal car park

GPS WGS 84 UTM 30T
710726E - 4763968N

1h30

3,1km

220m

★ Don't miss:

- This heritage trail features several panels on the theme of quarries

⚠ Note:

- Avoid hot afternoons.

Yellow markers

The marble of the valley

The Ossau Valley is famous for its grey seashell marble, which was once quarried around the villages. Marble is a metamorphic rock derived from limestone. The richly sculptural nature of the door and window frames demonstrates the symbolism and importance given to this stone. The marble from the valley has been exported throughout Europe and even to the United States, where it was used in the Empire State Building. The origins of the quarries can be traced back to the Middle Ages. Today, only the quarries around Arudy continue to operate, as well as a vein of green marble (breccia) above the Benou plateau.



Made by:

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Information :

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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

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