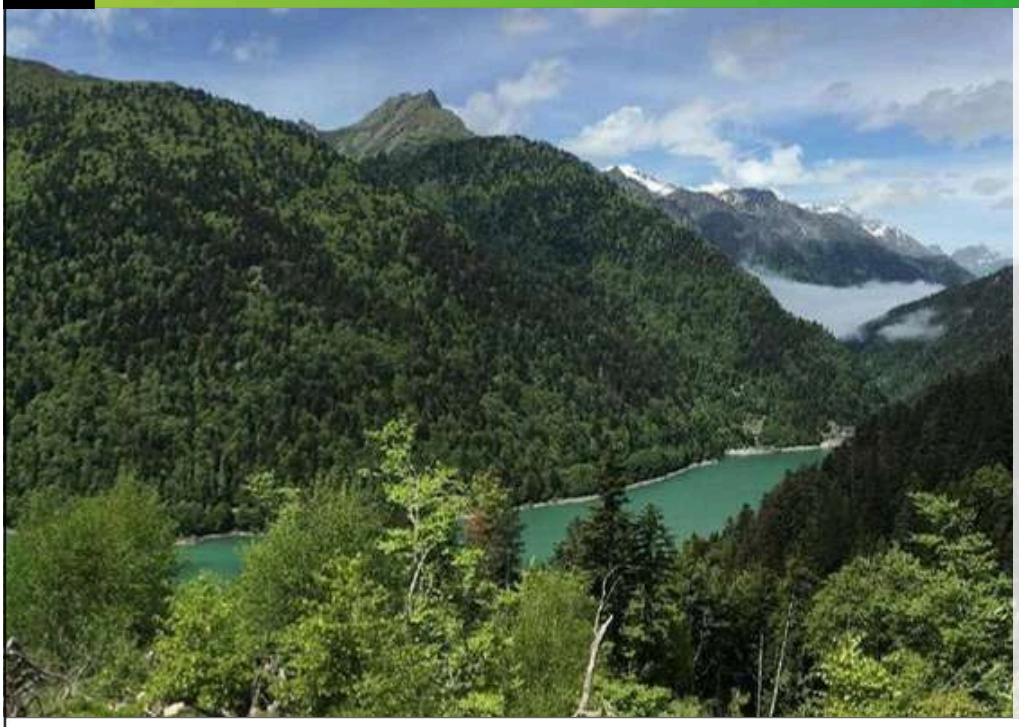
The Ossau Valley

NIV 4

GRT®19 (GR®108A)

De Gabas au Col de Peyrelue



To reach Spain, an alternative to the Col des Moines and the Col du Somport is to head towards the Brousset Valley and the Col de Peyrelue. This route was used as early as the 16th century by merchants and pilgrims travelling towards Sallent de Gallego and the Tena Valley, as evidenced by the ruins of an old inn encountered along the way.

D ***Stage 1: Artouste–Fabrèges.*** From the chapel at Gabas, walk through the hamlet along the D934. After the bridge over the Gave de Bious (sign marking the exit from Gabas), of the two paths on the right-hand side of the road, take the left-hand path (signposted GR®108A). It joins the Route du Pourtalet a little further up; cross over (take care) to a new path opposite. It passes close to a water intake and then rejoins the D934. Follow the tarmac road to the left, uphill (take care, heavy traffic). At the entrance to Artouste, ignore the GR®10 signposting on the left and continue along the roadside past the hydroelectric facilities, then for a further 500 metres. As you emerge from a right-hand bend, you'll see the Fabrèges Lake dam; leave the road and take a discreet path on the left, just before a blue building (2.2 km / 0h40). Head down alongside the fence to reach a footbridge, then a path that climbs the opposite bank, winding through a beech and fir forest. At the top, step onto a grassy platform (a former quarry and tennis court); take a few steps to the right to reach the viewpoint. The route continues along the wide path to the left. It crosses a stream and then leads you downhill towards the Artouste resort. When you reach a bend in the road, follow it to the left to pass under the cable car and reach a junction at the entrance to the Artouste-Fabrèges car park.

Stage 2: Cabane des Quèbes. Walk 30 metres along the access road to the resort, then head down to the right onto a grassy path, which soon levels out and overlooks the lake along its entire length. At the end, cross the road and climb a slope to continue along the signposted path above the road. After passing under a water pipe, the path descends towards the D934. Cross the Pont de Camps bridge to the right (take care) and turn left immediately afterwards onto a secondary tarmac road (signposted 'Port Vieux de Sallent'). At the first bend, leave the tarmac and take the path opposite; this enters the Pyrenees National Park (signposted). The signposting is now less frequent; continue along the wide grassy path through the Brousset valley (with the mountain stream on your left). Pass a hut and weave your way through the boulders of the Brousset. There is a junction after the Quèbes hut (7 km / 2 hrs 30 mins). Ignore the bridge on the left and continue along the grassy path climbing to the right. Further on, ignore a footbridge and keep walking straight ahead at the bottom of the valley.

Stage 3: Peyrelue border pass. Junction of paths below the Caillou de Soques (8.7 km / 3 hours). Pass a footbridge on your left and the path to the Pombie refuge on your right, then continue straight ahead on a gently ascending path, between copses and grassy areas (stick to the most well-trodden track).

De Gabas au Col de Peyrelue

Extrait de Carte 1 :25 000 Institut géographique National

On the left is a footbridge and on the right the path to the Pombie refuge; continue straight ahead along a gently ascending track, between copses and grassy areas (stick to the most clearly marked path). On emerging from a small boxwood copse, you'll come across the ruins of the Cabane Brousset (1,390 m). Continue along the ascending path overlooking the ruins. Ten minutes further up, cross a meadow in the middle (cairns) then, before reaching the beech wood, make sure you climb up through the grass on the right, at the edge of the wood (off the path). At the top of the clearing (around 1,490m), follow the path which enters the forest on the left (note a dolmen). The path descends a few metres to reach a recent, imposing footbridge over the Gave (10.5 km / 3 hrs 45 mins). On the opposite bank, take the path to the left; it climbs in short switchbacks towards a large boulder, then veers slightly to the right to pass under the road, which it soon joins upstream of an avalanche barrier. Walk along the edge of the D934 for 500m (take care). Just before the stone bridge at Peyrelue, leave the tarmac and take the signposted path to the left (towards the Peyrelue hut). It emerges from a sparse woodland and then climbs in short switchbacks. At the Peyrelue hut (water source), head down to the valley floor and walk along one of the level paths heading south. Crossing from one bank of the stream to the other, the route takes you closer to the border. Stay on course as the valley widens, continuing through the grass (ignore a hut high up on the left). Go round a wetland area on the left to reach the Peyrelue border pass (14.1 km / 5 hours), which is not very clearly marked (fence).

A path takes over amongst the boulders and irises, leading down the Spanish side of the slope.

Text and description: ADT64



Pyrenean iris

D Gabas

GPS *WGS 84 UTM 30T*
709987 E – 4751881 N

5h

14,7km

910m

White and red markers

Don't miss:

• The 'quèbes' of Le Brousset. A 'quèbe' is the name given in the valley to a rudimentary shepherd's shelter, the precursor to the hut. Built of dry stone, without any binding material, it was a small, makeshift refuge, sometimes built up against a large rock that could serve as its roof. The imposing boulders of Le Brousset served as a 'working base' for some of these rudimentary structures. Today, as uses have changed, these boulders are frequented by rock climbers.

• Viewpoint over Lake Fabrèges. From this promontory, one can enjoy the view of the Lake Fabrèges reservoir, dominated by the border ridges. Situated in the catchment area of the Gave du Brousset, the dam supplies the Artouste power station, owned by the Société Hydroélectrique du Midi. On the eastern shore, the hamlet of Fabrèges is the departure point for the cable car serving the Artouste resort.

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

Information :
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***

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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...
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