

# From the Nive to the Basque coast

All routes can be found in ►►  
Available from tourist offices



LEV  
4

DIFFICULT

## 'DOUANIERS' PATHWAY SENTIER DES DOUANIERS - MUGAZAINEN BIDEXKA



Cromlechs

BIRIATOU

This itinerary includes part of the pathway which was formerly used by the customs officials (douaniers) who kept watch over border area, looking for the smugglers who worked by night. Don't worry, the smugglers have long since disappeared!

**Access:** Before getting to the village centre, at the bottom of the hill, turn right (*Chemin de la forêt*) at the "Ongi Etorri-Bienvenue" tablet. Go straight on for 5km until you get to *Chemin de Lizarlan*. Park at the starting point.

**D** Take the *Chemin de Lizarlan* south-bound towards Lizarlan farm, where you'll go through the courtyard. Don't be put off by the dogs, who are friendly! Follow the pathway which goes down through the forest, until you get to a stream, where you should follow the right bank. Then, cross the wooden footbridge. After some thirty metres, at the small gate **1** 0602822-4795460, which you don't go through, follow the pathway which goes up through the woods along a ridge line which leads to mount Akozpe **2** 0603722-4794981 then goes along the French-Spanish border. Take advantage of the flat ground to find the cromlechs at the pass crossing. On the sides of mount Mandale, turn off to the left

0h50

**1h10** **3** 0604532-4795153. Carry on until the Bizkartzu pass. Follow the yellow signage, go left at the pathway which goes down towards the Poiriers pass **1h50** **4** 0604066-4796829. At a place called "Pitara", go left down the pathway which runs alongside the plantation of larches and goes deeper into the forest. At the crossroads **5** 0603230-4796473, leave the right-hand pathway (GR10) and go straight on. After crossing over 2 streams, at the junction, follow the signage to get back to the starting point. **2h15** **2h45**



Betizu

**LEV  
4****DIFFICULT****'DOUANIERS' PATHWAY**  
SENTIER DES DOUANIERS - MUGAZAINEN BIDEKXA

**D** (departure)  
South of **Biriatou**  
Chemin de Lizarlan  
after the Chemin de la forêt

**GPS** : 0602914-4795990

**2h45**

**Signage**

**D** to **5**

**7,8 km**

**+551 m**  
**-551 m**

**Must-see**

- Impressive views over the Basque coastline
- Cromlechs, burial mounds

Beware of Betizu (wild cows)  
- Keep your distance

**NIGHT WORK**

Throughout history, administrative borders have brought with them bans, customs duties and trade taxes, with the knock-on effect of stimulating the development of trafficking and smuggling.

The Second World War and the German occupation saw many fugitives leave France by crossing the Pyrenees.

In the 1960s, Portuguese immigrants travelled to Paris and Lot-et-Garonne, to harvest fruits and vegetables, and to the Bordeaux region for the grape harvest.

In the 1980s, during the border blockages enforced in res-

ponse to outbreaks of horse sickness, thousands of cattle left France to feed in Spain, sneaking past the lookouts and mountain passes.

Alcohol\* was a popular contraband, with Cognac flowing towards the south and wine and other spirits heading north. Different foodstuffs (coffee, saccharine, clams...) have also been trafficked at different periods in time.

\*Alcohol abuse is detrimental to your health. Enjoy responsibly.

Further information is available from:

**Town hall**

Le bourg – 64700 BIRIATOU – Tel. : (+33)5 59 20 37 51  
contact@mairie-biriadou.fr – www.biriadou.fr

**TERRE & CÔTE BASQUES**  
PAYS DE SAINT-JEAN-DE-LUZ - HENDAYE  
www.terreetcotebasques.com

**www.rando64.fr**

on foot, by bike or by horse, discover Béarn and the French Basque country!

# CHOOSE THE RIGHT WALK

## Levels

The change in altitude indicated in each guide represents the total increase. Times are calculated without stops.

Walking routes are classified by difficulty and are differentiated by colours in each route's practical guide. These classifications have been made following recommendations from FF Randonnée.

**Very easy** under 2 hours of walking  
Ideal for families, using clearly marked paths.

**Easy** under 3 hours of walking  
Can be done as a family. Follows footpaths,

with some more difficult parts.

**Average** under 4 hours of walking  
For those with some walking experience. Contains some fairly challenging aspects or changes in altitude.

**Difficult** more than 4 hours of walking  
For experienced walkers. Routes are long and/or challenging (steep ascents, difficult parts).

**Walk times:** The time taken to complete each route is given as a guide only, taking account of the length of the route, the change in altitude and any difficult aspects.



A local photo of footpath signposting

## Signposting

Use the signposts to stay on the right track

Signposting	Regional and PR® footpaths	GR® footpaths
The right direction		
Turn left		
Turn right		
The wrong direction		

GR®, GRP® and PR® are registered trademarks of the Fédération Française de Randonnée Pédestre.

## Walking labels

### PR® routes:

A number of hiking trails are designated as PR® routes by the FF Randonnée in accordance with quality criteria. They are selected using environmental, tourist, technical and attractiveness criteria. (Further information is available at [www.ffrandonnee.fr](http://www.ffrandonnee.fr))

## Your views on our footpaths - Ecoveille®

The routes we offer have been carefully selected. We would like to hear your opinions and observations about the state of the footpaths as this will enable us to ensure they are well maintained. We invite you to send us your comments by contacting the Agglomération Sud Pays Basque on (+33)5 59 48 30 85.

You can download an Ecoveille® observation form at [www.rando64.com/ecoveille](http://www.rando64.com/ecoveille)

## GPS co-ordinates for routes

GPS co-ordinates for each stage of the route are provided for all routes.

The reference format is as follows:

**WGS 84 - UTM 30T**

## Useful recommendations

Weather forecast (+33)8 92 68 02 64 or 32 50 or [www.meteofrance.com](http://www.meteofrance.com)  
European emergency number 112

Visitors who use the Nive-Nivelle footpaths in the Southern Basque country are required to behave in a respectful manner towards the natural environment and the inhabitants of the area. It is important that certain rules are followed.

### Taking care of nature

- Take a bag with you to carry your waste
- Ensure you respect the wildlife
- Stay on signposted footpaths

### Taking care of yourself

- Do not set off without the necessary equipment
- Avoid walking alone
- Do not drink water from streams
- Make sure you are aware of weather conditions

### Respecting local activities and inhabitants

- Make sure you close gates
- **Avoid walking with a dog. If you do have a dog with you, ensure it is kept on a lead at all times.**
- Starting fires is strictly forbidden
- Ensure you respect private property located near footpaths

### Please note!

It is advisable to avoid certain routes during the wood pigeon hunting season (October and November) and the controlled burning season (December to March).

[www.rando64.fr](http://www.rando64.fr)

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