



TOURS AROUND  
ETSAUT

②

ETSAUT - URDOS

Very  
easy

4,3km

1h35\*

d<sup>+</sup> 155m  
d<sup>-</sup> 035m



GÉOTRAIN  
GeolVal PYRÉNÉEN

2025 edition

## RECOMMENDATIONS

You will criss-cross the valleys of Haut-Béarn. You will become familiar with a rich and delicate nature and learn about the turbulent history of the rocks, some of which are 450 million years old. The surrounding flora and fauna are the legacy of ancestral living species, sometimes frozen in the form of fossils in the rocks...



Nature will have a new friend in you! You will respect the cleanliness of the area by taking home your garbage and remembering to close the gates to protect the livestock. You should refrain from bringing your dog to the pastoral areas and make sure to keep clean the huts left open by the shepherds. Avoid taking samples from geological and botanical sites.



Choose a tour that suits your physical abilities. A hearty breakfast and a good snack will keep you safe from cravings. Drink water regularly, with an adequate reserve; Avoid water in streams that can contain germs.



Leave early to avoid the heat, protect yourself (hat, cream, sunglasses, waterproof windbreaker, warm clothes). Walking shoes are a must, and a good stick will do the trick. Refrain from provoking dogs when approaching herds. Do not start out if the weather is uncertain: beware of thunderstorms and fog in the mountains.



Don't go alone and let a loved one know (probable route and time of return). In the mountains, the mobile phone is often off-grid: stay on the marked paths. In difficult situations, know how to turn back to familiar and safe ground. The minimum documentation is the 1:25,000 IGN map but a hiking GPS loaded with maps, tracks and spare batteries is always useful.

Traces are available for download here:



## USEFUL INFORMATION

MAPICN: TOP 25 1546 OT

MÉTÉO FRANCE: 32 50

Line 55 TER timetable:

[www.ter.sncf.com/nouvelle-aquitaine](http://www.ter.sncf.com/nouvelle-aquitaine)

EMERGENCY CALL: 112



## TO DISCOVER

One way between the TER stops of Etsaut and Urdos, this is the fifth stage of the Voie d'Arles, which goes across the Verrou de l'Escalé.



### The Etsaut National Park House

The National Park exhibits the rich flora and fauna of the Pyrenees in this former railway station. This building was constructed from local limestone\* rubble\*, cemented with lime mortar\*, and slate\* for the roof.



### Quaternary glacial striations

Alongside, a slab of gray limestone formed in the Carboniferous\* is streaked with horizontal striations. They tell the movement of the glacier in the Quaternary\*, which had caused erosion of the rocks in contact.



### The "Griotte" Limestone stair steps

The steps leading down to the footbridge are made of Griotte limestone\*: This hard rock with siliceous bands\* from a quarry north of Eygun dates from the Upper Devonian\* (-370 Ma to -359 myr), and adorn the thresholds of the doors of many houses in the valley.



### Coral Limestone

The coral fossils\* present in this limestone allow us to date its formation to the Devonian period. It was on this rock that Fort du Portalet was built, and from which were extracted the rubble for its construction.



### The overhanging footbridge

To ensure the safety of anyone walking towards Urdos, an overhanging footpath\* was constructed along the road. This metal structure rests on a stone wall reinforced by iron pins\*.



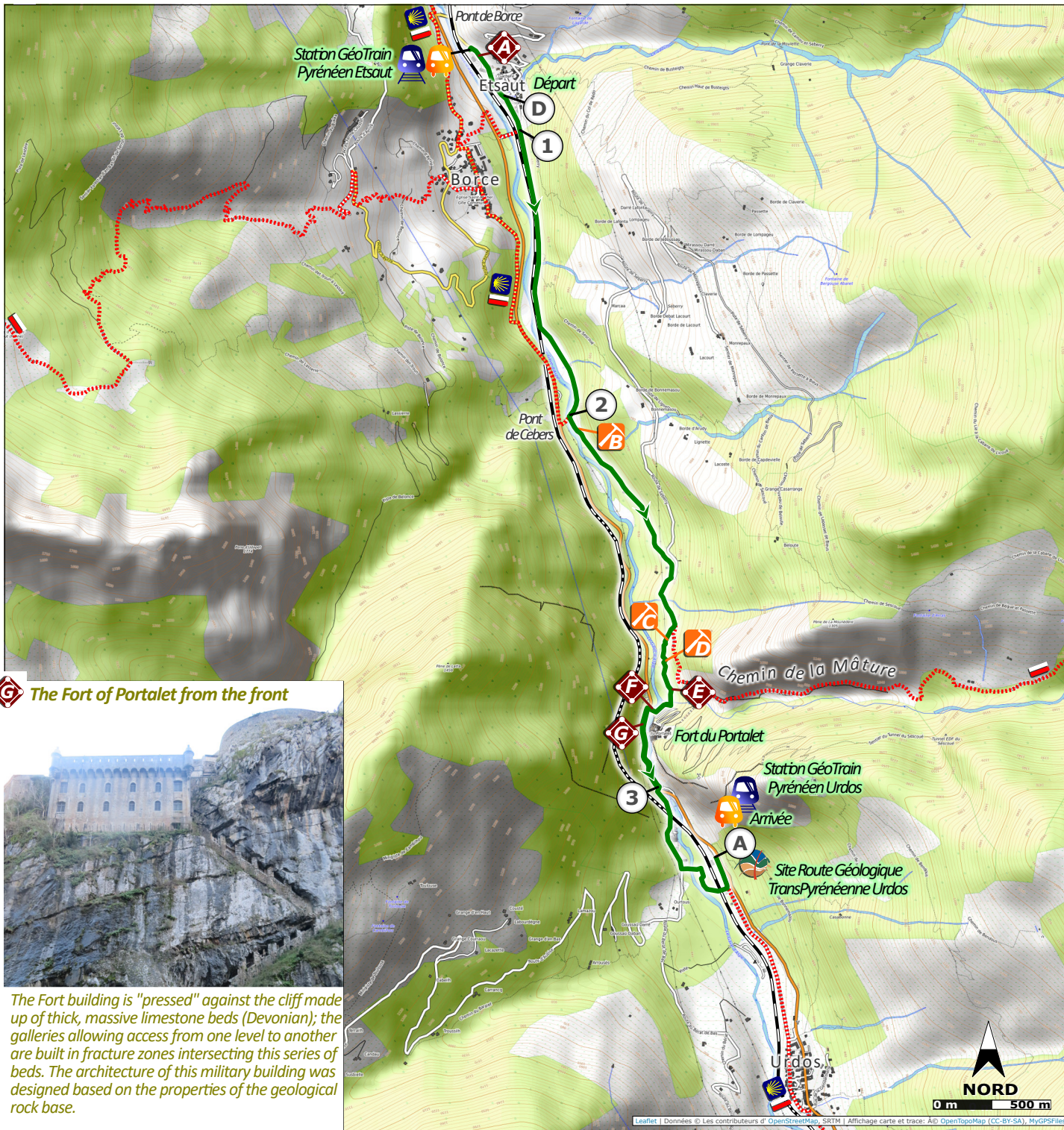
myr: Millions years

\* consult the geology glossary:

[www.geolval.fr/index.php/geotrain/903-le-glossaire-de-geologie](http://www.geolval.fr/index.php/geotrain/903-le-glossaire-de-geologie)

\*hike duration without stop



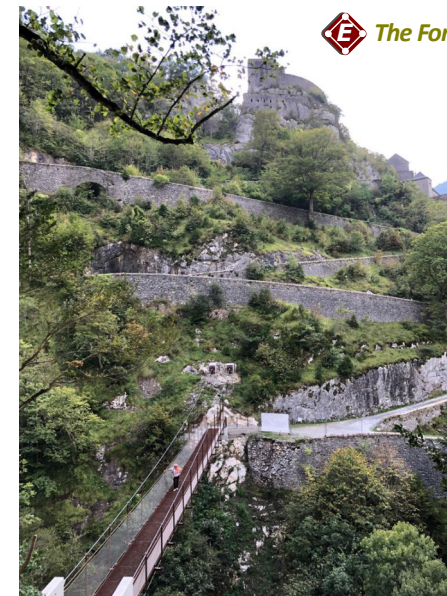


The Fort building is "pressed" against the cliff made up of thick, massive limestone beds (Devonian); the galleries allowing access from one level to another are built in fracture zones intersecting this series of beds. The architecture of this military building was designed based on the properties of the geological rock base.

## The Fort of Portalet and its footbridge

This fort is a military defense structure dating back to the 19th century. Formerly used as a garrison, it was later used as a political prison. It stands as a sentinel above the limestone gorge of Portalet.

A Himalayan footbridge was recently built over the Sescoué ravine, connecting the GR®10 to the fort, thus facilitating access for hikers to the valley floor. During its construction, a study of natural risks\* such as "rockfall and rockslide" was necessary to propose active and passive ward-offs to secure the footbridge.



## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

Departure

**D** From the TER bus stop on Place d'Etsaut, you can go down to the old train station (A) - (B), 250 m to the north along the main street. Then, retrace your steps and cross the village, heading towards Spain.

**1** Leave past a bridge on the right that links to N134 and go on the old road, followed by the GR®10 and GR®653 (C). It runs alongside the railway and arrives at the Pont de Cebers at the Chemin de la Mâtüre car park.

**2** Continue straight ahead on the GR®10 and GR®653 (D) (E), and leave the road at a bend. Follow the GR®10 and GR®653 trail for 250 m. Branch to the right and down, following the GR®653 route (F)(G)(H), to join the footbridge spanning the Ravin du Sescoué (I), on the other side reach the Fort du Portalet track. Turn right onto the Pont d'Enfer (J), then left onto the footbridge along the N134 (K).

**3** Carefully cross the road and take the path under the viaduct. Go along the hydroelectric power station. After the last building and a parking lot, take a left and cross over a bridge above the Gave, go right to go back up towards the Urdos Station (L)-(M).

Arrivée 1h35  
700m

