



TOURS AROUND
URDOS

1

URDOS - ETSAUT

Very
easy

4,3km

1h35*

d⁺ 155m
d⁻ 035m



trail marking

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

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 overhanging footbridge

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



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 "Griottte" 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.



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 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.

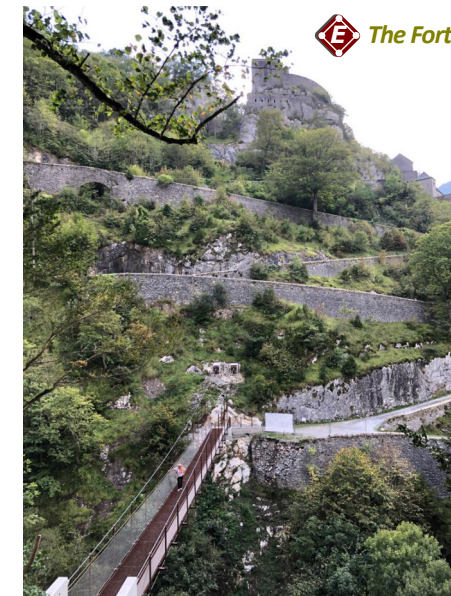
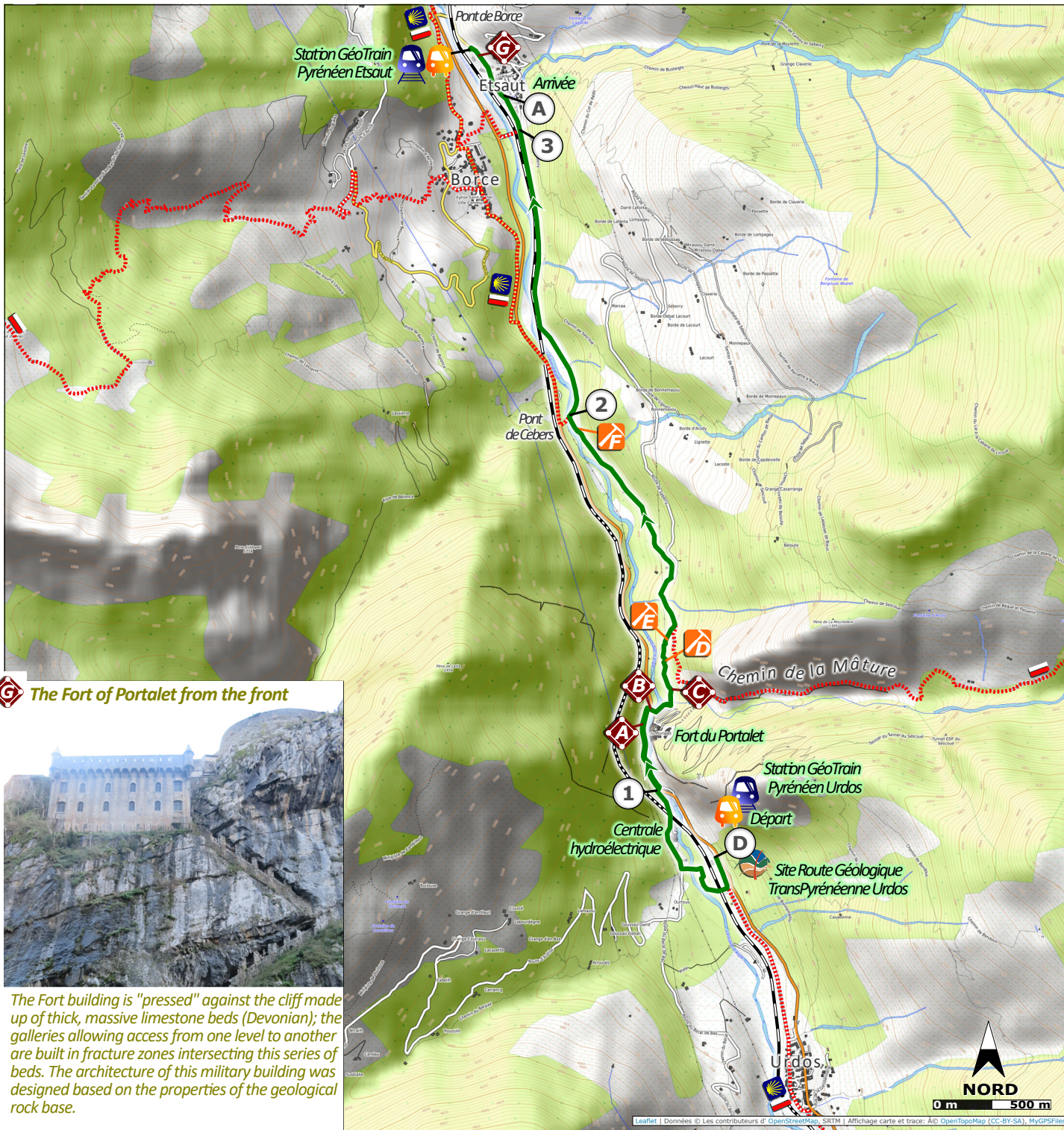


myr: Millions years

* consult the geology glossary:

www.geolval.fr/index.php/geotrain/903-le-glossaire-de-geologie

*hike duration without stop



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 Opposite the Urdos train station (🚂) - (🚗), take the path on the left that leads to the campsite. Just before an old derelict building, turn right, and cross the old railway line. The path veers further to the right, crosses over the Gave and joins a path. Pass in front of a house with red shutters, the hydroelectric power station, then under the viaduct to reach a pedestrian crossing.

1 0h50 Cross and go along the RN134 via the footbridge (🚶), then take the Pont d'Enfer (🚶) on the right. Continue left along the Fort du Portalet track. Cross over the footbridge that spans the Ravin du Sescoué (🚶) (🚶). Continue along the path (🚶) (🚶) until you find the road at a bend. Continue left in the direction of Etsaut (🚶).

2 1h05 Pass past the Cebers Bridge on the left and continue straight towards Etsaut by the old road followed by the GR10 and the GR653 (🚶), along the old railway line

3 1h25 Leave past a bridge on the left and proceed straight ahead. Cross the village by the main street. Pass the Etsaut square and continue to the old train station - Maison du Parc National des Pyrénées (🚶) - (🚗). Retrace your steps to the square, to the TER bus stop (🚶).

Arrival 1h35

