



# Ax Valleys Tour, 7 days

- ✓ Sport trek, over 7 years old.
- ✓ 7 days, or 6 days.
- ✓ All inclusive package (board in gîte) or simple rent of a donkey.
- ✓ Accommodation, campsite or wilderness camping.
- ✓ Starting point : Unac,
- ✓ End of walk: Orлу.
- ✓ Height level: from 700 to 2000m.
- ✓ From July to September
- ✓ Dogs are prohibited.

First part of the trek :average heights between 700 and 1500 m on marked paths, for all walkers particularly children.

The path goes through the Ax Valleys, connecting villages. The landscapes are very varied: mountain villages with narrow streets and short grass fields, North slope forests, South slope pastures.

Last stages: through higher mountains, in Orлу National reserve, on 4250 ha, with very rich fauna (Pyrenean chamois, marmots).

Dogs are strictly forbidden in Orлу Reserve, so it can't be your companion for this trek.

It's a sport tour because of the important height differences each day. The children can't rise on the back of the donkey for most of this trek because paths are steep.

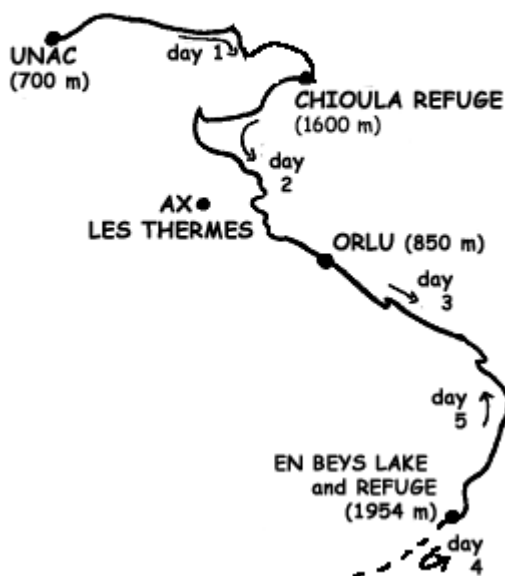
So children over 8 years old can hike on this trek.

## All inclusive package, half board or full board

With the all inclusive package, you eat and sleep in an accommodation each night (refuge and gîte). You have 1 donkey for 2 or 3 people. We take charge of your booking in accommodations.

### The steps day by day

1cm for 2,5km



#### Day 1 : from Unac (700 m) to Refuge du Chioula (1600 m) 5h

You leave the bottom of the valley where Unac is sheltered to reach the first heights and discover a wonderful panorama of the Pyrenean range. You sleep in Chioula refuge. +33(0)5 61 64 06 97

[www.refugeduchioula.com](http://www.refugeduchioula.com).

#### Day 2 : from Refuge du Chioula (1600 m) to Comus (1200 m) 4h

Through marvellous forests and Aillou summer fields you reach the « Aude » department.

Gîte d'étape 04 68 20 33 69 [www.gites-comus.com](http://www.gites-comus.com)

#### Day 3 : from Comus (1200 m) to Refuge du Chioula (1600 m) 5h

You cross the Aillou plateau 1000 m high, good in winter to cross country ski. The background thanks to mediterranean influence and calcareous ground and is very different from the High Ariège one. You walk through Montailou village, famous for its cathar history which inspired the history book by E. Leroy Ladurie, then you reach Chioula refuge.

#### Day 4 : from Refuge du Chioula (1600 m) to Orлу (850 m) 5h

You go down until Orлу valley. Very varied landscapes, going through typical sunny villages and forests. You will come to Orлу,

small village by the side of the Oriège river. You sleep in Le Relais Montagnard at Orлу. +33(0)7 84 29 50 61 [www.le-relais-montagnard.fr](http://www.le-relais-montagnard.fr)

#### Day 5 : from Orлу (850 m) to En Beys lake (1950 m) 6h

Fairly long and difficult step because of the big climb. Fortunately, all your efforts will be rewarded when getting to Orлу National Reserve, wide natural space, privileged observation spot of wild animals. You enjoy the high mountain

atmosphere: summer flocks with ringing bells, swift isards, marmot whistling, rhododendrons flowering round the lake.  
 You stay 2 nights at En beys Refuge. +33(0)5 61.64.24.24 www.refuge-enbeys.com.

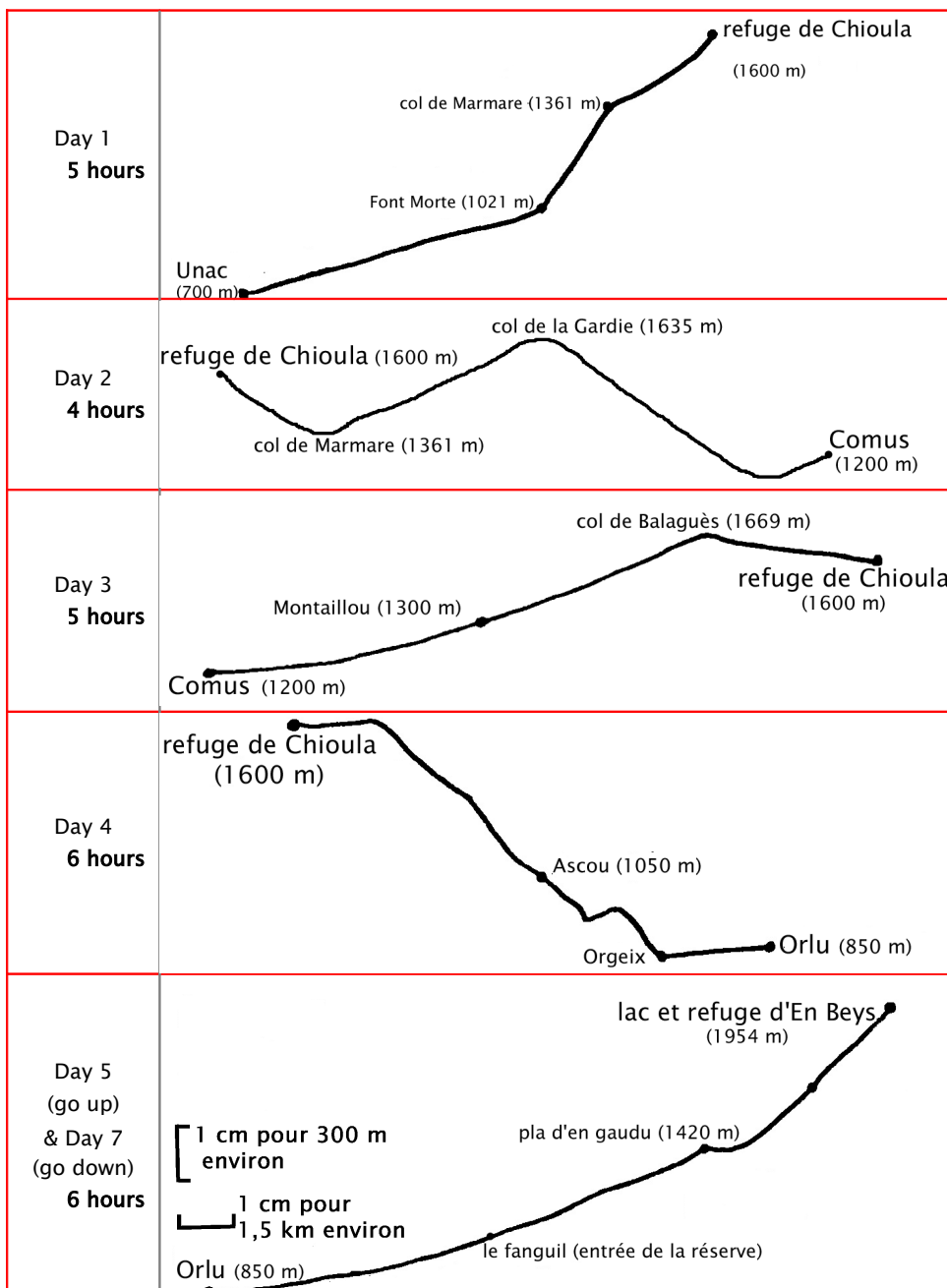
**Day 6 : Orlu Reserve (2000 m), you can choose the duration**

Beyond the En Beys refuge, the paths are not suitable for donkeys. So you'll leave them in the fence and walk for a day or a few hours, discovering lakes, flora, and fauna, both particularly abundant.

**Day 7 : from Refuge d'En Beys (1950 m) to Orlu (850 m) 5h**

Well, you have to walk away from those enchanted areas! You stop walking at Orlu. You leave the donkeys in a stockyard and go back to Unac with your car.

The times indicated are the time you go on hike, excluding breaks.



**Prices 2020 per person (from 2 people)**

Tour des Vallées d’Ax is a 6 days trek. If you want to do it in 6 days, you can take off the day 6 but you cannot enjoy the high mountain landscape. With 6 days, we think it’s better to stay 2 nights in Refuge du Chioula because you can hike around the refuge a whole day (and you don’t go to Comus).

|                         | Adult        |              | Child 4-11 years old |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
|                         | Half board   | Full board   | Half Board           | Full Board   |
| <b>7 days(6 nights)</b> | <b>520 €</b> | <b>588 €</b> | <b>403 €</b>         | <b>459 €</b> |
| 6 days(5 nights)        | 445 €        | 502 €        | 349 €                | 397 €        |

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| 5 people or more  | -6%  |
| 10 people or more | -12% |



This all inclusive package includes the donkey (1 donkey for 2 or 3 people), its pack-saddle and bags, accommodation, transportation of the donkey and maps (IGN 1/25000ème TOP 25 Ax les Thermes n°2148ET and Bourg Madame 2249 ET) and:

- **half-board** (night+breakfast+evening meal)
- **full board** (night+breakfast+evening meal+picnic except picnic of the day 1)

It's not included: hot shower in Chioula and En Beys refuges, drink, the board the day before your trek.

You need a sheet sleeping bag to sleep in refuge and gîte. They have blankets. You need your towel, soap... You may be in shared rooms. There is a stockyard near each accommodation for your donkey. We explain you how to give it some hay and water.

### Simple rent of a donkey

You can hike the same trek with just the rent of the donkey. You can organize yourself the booking of your accommodation or choose to camp near the accommodation or do wilderness camp. You can camp and book your meals in accommodation.

#### You want to camp near accommodation :

At refuge du Chioula : you can camp near the refuge and you have to pay something. You can use toilets and can enjoy of the common area (but you can't cook because there isn't common kitchen) if it's not full. [www.refugeduchioula.com](http://www.refugeduchioula.com) +33(0)5.61.64.06.97.

At Comus : The gîte d'étape Le silence du Midi has a camping ground. You can go in the common area where you can use an equipped kitchen. [www.lesilencedumidi.com](http://www.lesilencedumidi.com) +33(4).68.20.36.26.

At Orlu : municipal campsite with swimming-pool. <http://www.vallee-orlu.com/fr/le-camping-des-ioules/presentation.html> +33(0)5.61.64.30.09.

At refuge d'En Beys. You can camp near the refuge. It's free <http://www.refuge-enbeys.com/> +33(0)5.61.64.24.24.

#### You want to camp on the wilderness:

When we meet the day before your trek, we explain you where you can camp on the wilderness, near springs. But in Orlu, you have to camp in the municipal campsite.

#### Maps

You need Map 1/25000ème TOP 25 **AX LES THERMES n° 2148 ET** IGN.

You can have map **BOURG MADAME 2249 OT** for the day 6 in Orlu reserve (hiking above the refuge).



#### Prices 2020

Rent of a donkey with its pack-saddle, rope and bags. A donkey carries 40 kg, the luggage of 2 or 3 people.

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>7 days</b>                | <b>337 €</b> |
| 6 days                       | 309 €        |
| Transportation of the donkey | <b>35€</b>   |

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Donkey 2 : -10%</b>          |
| <b>Donkey 3 and more : -15%</b> |

For more information: +33(6).85.34.20.22 or [contact@la-ferme-aux-anes.com](mailto:contact@la-ferme-aux-anes.com)

For all inclusive package : You have to fill this [form](#) to book and to do a transfer bank of 30% of the price.

For simple rent of donkey : You have to fill this [form](#) to book and to do a transfer bank of 30% of the price.