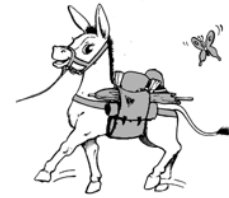


## LA FERME AUX ÂNES

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### ■ ACCOMODATION AND PROVIDING

This walk has to be planned without any accomodation and without any providing. So you must carry a tent and the quantity of food for several days. Think about it to reckon your load.

Merens Village- you walk by it in the morning of the second day offers a gite and a grocery but it means you have to walk a little more.

Besines refuge offers gite and couvert.

### ■ THE DIFFERENT STAGES

Most of them are relatively short. If you wish to walk more, several nice loops are possible from every camping spot (without the donkeys) to explore the ridges and the peaks of the area.

### ■ EQUIPMENT

Compass and height mesure may be useful in case of nasty weather.

Pack up with warm clothes.

### ■ MAPING

1/25 000 TOP 25 reference BOURG MADAME  
2249 OT (INSTITUT GEOGRAPHIQUE  
NATIONAL edition) is compulsory.

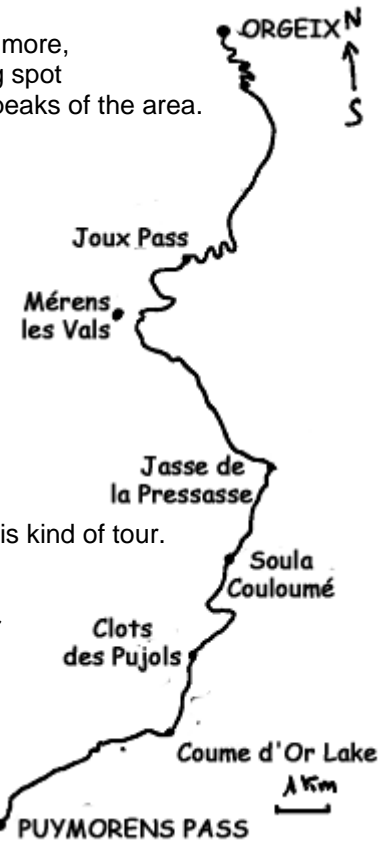
### ■ PERIOD OF THE YEAR

Possible walk from July to September.

In case of bad weather forecast, you should avoid this kind of tour.

This is why, we advice you not to book your accomodation in Besines refuge in case you want to make a stop there. Only after consulting the weather forecast, you can think of booking.

Price
■ one week hire/one donkey- year 2011 275 €
including only the donkey, its pack-saddle and bags
■ Add donkeys transportation back to Unac 75 €



### TECHNICAL LEAFLET

# Bésines Tour

- Tent compulsory
- Difficult walk
- 7 days
- Starting point  
Orgeix
- End of walk  
Puymorens Pass

This tour goes through the Besines, unspoilt mountain offering marvellous landscapes. Most of the walk goes between 2000 and 2500 m.

The difficulty is neither owed in the number of kilometers, nor in the heights but in the harsh progression on steep and rocky paths with or without painting marks. You will have to ford several mountain-streams. Any month of the year might bring snow falls at that height.

For those reasons, we wouldn't advice this walk to families with young children (who couldn't be carried on the back of donkeys anyway) or to people having no experience at all with a donkey.

You can become friends with your donkey during the first part of the randonnee which is fairly easy, through the woods.

Wilder, the second part takes you to high mountain Besines area, scattered with stones and small lakes.

The walk ends on Puymorens Pass.

## ■ TOUR DESCRIPTION

### ■ DAY 1: from ORGEIX (820 m) to JOUX PASS (1700 m)

Walking all the way through the forest, you'll get to the mild pastures of Joux Pass. There, the soft lines, nearly like those of Vosges or Jura, contrast sharply with the landscapes you'll come across later on.

### ■ DAY 2: from JOUX PASS to JASSE DE LA PRESSASSE (1832 m)

You nicely walk down to Mérens les Vals village, then follow up the Nabre Valley along a rocky path (GR 10) up to Pressasse « Jasse ».

The word « jasse » is used for a flat area and throughout that very steep area, « la Pressasse » is really the only flat spot, big enough to pitch a tent.

### ■ DAY 3: from JASSE DE LA PRESSASSE (1832 m) to the ancient SOULA COULOUME ORRY (2180m)

You keep walking up to « Porteille des Bésines » (porteille means pass) which overlooks, up above 2333 meters and which shows the border between the Nabre Valley and the Bésines circus. You walk up first along the Nabre mountain stream among a certain rocky environment, but still very green. When getting under « la Porteille », you come across in a very impressive universe full of granite blocks, and all size rocks, and you really wonder how can donkeys go through such obstacles!

La Porteille being behind, the path is easier, and you stick to it until you come to Soula Couloumé orry (orry is primitive stone shelter used as a shepherd's cabin in the old days)

### ■ DAY 4: walk around SOULA COULOUME

At 2300 m, Soula Couloumé Lake overlooks your camping spot. Leaving the donkeys around the tents, where they will enjoy the « réglisse », a famous plant on those pastures, you will discover that nice lake looking like those of the postcards.

If the weather is doubtful, if you think of a shower or a nice meal, you can walk as far as the managed Bésines refuge, you'll reach within one hour.

### ■ DAY 5: from SOULA COULOUME ORRY to CLOT DES PUJOLS (2245 m)

After crossing the valley, you will then be facing your camping spot of the day before.

After walking down to « Pla » and to Bésines Lake, you follow up the hill a small path, leading to Clot des Pujols, through pastures and hookpine woods.

### ■ DAY 6: from CLOT DES PUJOLS to COUME D'OR LAKE (2466 m)

You walk up along the stream. Behind you, the huge Bésines circus stretches under « la Porteille ». The grassy path is steep but progressive up to the small suspended Coume d'Or Lake. If brave enough, you can reach Pedrous Summit quite near, overlooking the big Lanoux Lake.

### ■ DAY 7: from COUME D'OR LAKE to PUYSMORENS PASS (1920 m)

Smooth walk down to Puysmorens Pass.

