

■ ACCOMODATION

This walk has to be planned without any accomodation. So you must carry a tent. You will come across pastoral shelters. Generally they stay opened and free for all but, of course, we can't guarantee they are available when necessary!

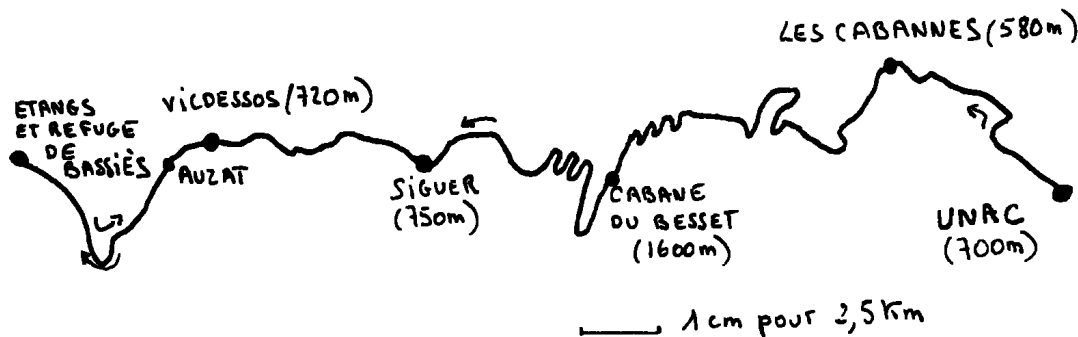
As no shop is to be found on the way, you will have to carry the quantity of food for several days.

Think about it to reckon your load.

When using the services offered by the refuge or gite manager (sanitary, common room, camping site) a basic charge is sometimes paid.

■ MAPING

1/25 000 TOP 25 reference VICDESSOS 2148 OT (INSTITUT GEOGRAPHIQUE NATIONAL edition) is compulsory.



Price

■ one week hire/one donkey- year 2012

294 €

including only the donkey, its pack-saddle and bags

■ Add donkey transportation back to Unac

66 €



LA FERME AUX ÂNES

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TECHNICAL
LEAFLET

Crossing Higher Ariège range

Starting from Unac in Ariège Valley, this trip ends in auzat in Vicdessos Valley.

Between 700 and 1900 m, within a week, you will discover this mountain range whose flanks formerly used to provide iron, which made the reputation and the riches of ariège.

The walk is partly on a green grass ridge. From here, you can see the highest summits of Andorra and the night lights of Toulouse, more than 100 kms away.

You follow the wide minors'paths and you can even watch an ancient « mining hole » dug in the slope where the metal ore emerges.

In the end, you will be led to Bassiès Lakes, in a wild circus.

■ Tent compulsory

■ All types of walkers

■ 7 days

■ Starting point

Unac

■ End of walk

Auzat

TREK DESCRIPTION

■ **DAY 1 :** from UNAC (700 m) to ASTON (600 m)

Following the corniche paths you will need 5 hours to reach Aston village without any difficulty. This is the best opportunity to discover the most beautiful roman churches in Higher Ariège, built in the heart of the villages. You will see the rocky hill crowned with the ruins of Lordat Castle. You can also admire the large panorama of the Ariège Valley.

Camping providing at Les Cabannes.

■ **DAY 2 :** from ASTON (600 m) to BESSET SHELTER NEIGHBOURHOOD (1600 m)

This is a harder walk that takes you from the bottom of the valley to the high crests, the border line between Ariège and Vicdessos Valley.

■ **DAY 3 :** from BESSET SHELTER NEIGHBOURHOOD (1600 m) to SIGUER (750 m)

You keep going up to Pla de Montcamp, where you can admire a 360° landscape : Toulouse and Pamiers to the North, Andorra peaks to the south. Then you will walk down the pastoral tracks to Vicdessos Valley, among one of the wildest areas in Ariège.

In Siguer village, you must spot, Gaston Fébus' () Foix Count) hunting house.

■ **DAY 4 :** from SIGUER (740 m) to AUZAT (750 m)

You first walk up to Lercoul pass (1549 m) and then down through the woods. On that day, you will stick to the old minors' path leading to Rancié iron mine famous for its particularly rich and abundant metal ore.

Camping providing – swimming pool.

■ **DAY 5 :** from AUZAT (750 m) to BASSIES BOTHY(1650 m)

You follow for 1 hour, the bottom of Vicdessos Valley and, later walk up to Bassies Lakes , set in a chain in a rocky circus.

Refuge 05 61 64 89 98 Possible camping near the refuge. Meals at the refuge.

No providing

■ **DAY 6 :** walk around BASSIES REFUGE

You can enjoy marvelous walks up to the numerous surrounding peaks, an occasion to come across many « orrys » primitive stone shelters. Admire their remarkable architecture.

■ **DAY 7 :** from BASSIES REFUGE(1600 m) to AUZAT (700 m)

You walk all the way down to Auzat, end of your trip.

