



Crossing Higher Ariège Range

- ✓ Average level, from 8 years old.
- ✓ 7 days, possible in 6 or 8 days.
- ✓ Simple Rent of a Donkey.
- ✓ Camping ou camping in wilderness, accommodation in 4 stages if you want.
- ✓ Starting Point : Unac.
End of walk: Auzat.
- ✓ Height level: from 700 to 1900m.
- ✓ June–October
- ✓ Dogs allowed

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.

For this trek, you have to choose the Simple Rent of a Donkey and you need your tent because there are some stages where you don't find any accommodation. The trek is good for children from 8 years old. The children can't go on the donkey back in steep paths. For this trek, the donkey only carries the bags.

Simple Rent of a Donkey

The steps day by day

Day 1 : from Unac (700 m) to Verdun (600 m) 5h

Following the corniche paths you will need 5 hours to reach Verdun village, near Les Cabannes, 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.

Farm Camping at Verdun +33(0)6 23 94 94 24 <http://www.campingvalleedebeille.com/>. Providing at Les Cabannes.

Accommodation at Les Cabannes : les Oustallous <http://www.les-cabannes.com/> +33(0)5.61.64.95.40

Day 2 : from Verdun (600 m) to Besset Cabain neighborhood (1600 m) 5h

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. You camp in the wilderness near Besset shelter.

Day 3 : from Besset Cabain (1600m) to Siguer (750m), 4h

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. You camp near the village of Siguer. There is a municipal dormitory with 6 places and lavatories.

Day 4 : from Siguer (750m) to Auzat (720m) 4h

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.

Municipal Camping with swimming pool : +33(0)5 61 64 84 46. Providing.

Accommodation :Gite d'étape : <http://www.aubergedumontcalm.fr/> +33(5) 61 03 83 23

Gite d'étape at Goulier (you have to make a detour compared to the classic route), above Auzat +33(0)5 81 29 57 96 / +33(0)5 61 03 87 72 le-relais-dendron.com/

Day 5 : from Auzat (720m) to Refuge de Bassies (1650m) 5h

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 +33(0)6 89 40 65 00 Possible camping near the refuge. Meals at the refuge. No providing.

<http://bassies.free.fr>

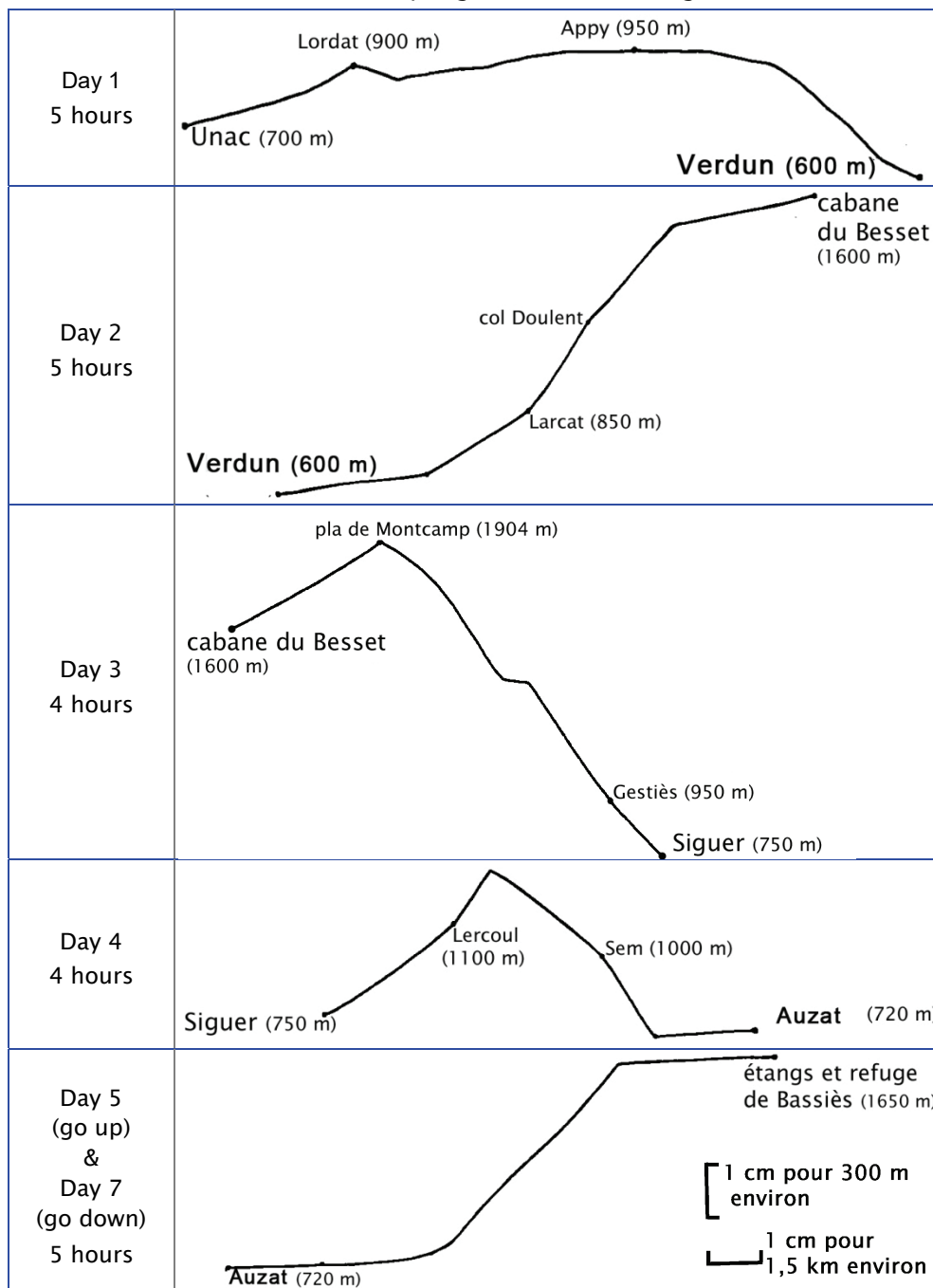
Day 6 : Walk around Bassies Refuge

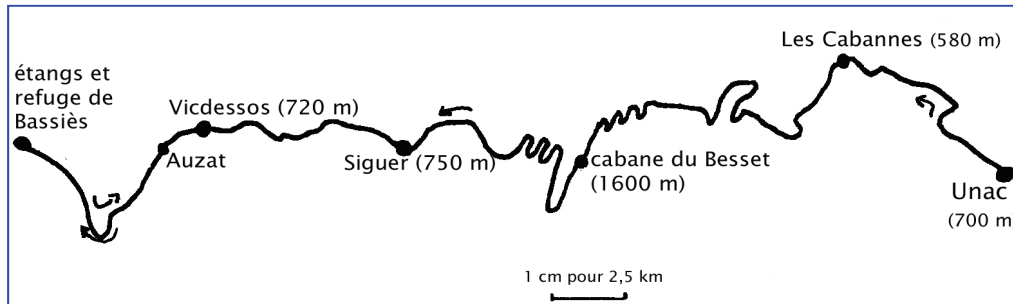
You can enjoy marvelous walks up to the numerous surrounding peaks, an occasion to come across many « orrys » primitive stone shelters. Admire their remarkable architecture.

Day 7 : from Bassiès Refuge (1650m) to Auzat(720m) 5h

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

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





Map

Map 1 / 25000ème TOP 25 Vicdessos 2148 0T by Institut Géographique National is compulsory.

Prices

“Crossing Higher Ariege Range” is a 7 days trek, at least. Day 6, you don’t change the place of your camp and you can enjoy the high mountain landscape. But it may be a day you use before: you can’t hike because there is a bad weather, you like a place where you camp and you want to stay 2 nights, you are tired... Therefore, we don’t recommend you to do this trek in 6 days.

With young children, it’s better to have 8 days to be sure to go until the beautiful site of Bassiès.

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

7 days	318 €
6 days	292 €
8 days	356 €
Transportation of donkey(s) (1 or more donkeys)	68€

Donkey 2 : -10%
Donkey 3 : -15%

For more information: +33(6).85.34.20.22 or contact@la-ferme-aux-anes.com
 You have to fill the [form](#) to book and to do a transfer bank of 30% of the price.