

THE “PASS’ARAN” TOUR

The “Maison du Valier” – The “Gîte d’Eyliè” 9h25

Elevation : +1642m / -1582m

The “Maison du Valier” 950m 0h

Tel 05 61 01 01 01

Follow the GR10 (red and white markings) heading North to the parking, then quickly rises into the forest. The ascent becomes steep; the path crosses a stream (often dried out) and leads to “la cabane de l’Artigue”. The GR10 is less marked going through the fields but you quickly come to “la Cabane du Trapech” 1546m 1h55.

The path rises above the hut and will lead to your left across a rocky crest. It goes up into a new valley and you will cross the same crest a bit further on. You will soon arrive at the crossroads of several GR paths. Do not go to your left (GR red and white cross-border marking) but go straight ahead on the GR10 (red and white markings) until the pass and the “Cabane du Clot du lac” 1821m 2h50.

Slightly to your left, you begin to descend to the “Cabane de Besset” (1540m). The GR10 continues steeply downwards (you cross the “Biros tour” red and yellow markings) until the next fork (marked with panels) 1040m 4h30.

Do not go to your right but follow the GR10 on your left that crosses the stream. A few minutes later you will come to the “Flouquet” fork (panels) 1090m 4h50.

Do not follow the red and white markings that lead up to the “Port d’Orle”. Follow the GR10 that crosses a field and the footbridge “Graouillès”. The path leads upwards again to join the beech forest. Further on, you leave the forest and cross a ravine, pass through some ferns before climbing a steep twisting path leading up to the forest track of “l’Arech” 1553m 6h35.

On your left, you climb rapidly up to come to the “Cabane de l’Arech”. One hundred metres before reaching the hut, the GR10 leaves the track (water point) on its left and follows a long bend to come to the “Col de l’Arech” 1802m 7h30 (hut 200m on your right).

Just on your left, the path crosses a rocky ledge (going up about 10 metres) and follows the ridge for several minutes before going back down through the rhododendrons. You then join the variant of the GR10 and the shepherd’s stone shelter 1660m 7h50.

Do not follow the variant to Bonac but descend by the GR10, firstly through the wild blueberries, then through the forest. Further on, you will have a wonderful view of “Laspé” and after a steep descent you will come to join the forest tracks of the “Cirque de la Plaque”. Go to your right until the mine, “Le Bocard”. Just after the bridge, on the left, the GR leads you up to the “Gîte d’étape d’Eyliè” 985m 9h25.

The “Gîte d’Eyliè” – The mountain refuge de “l’Etang d’Araing” 4h35

Elevation : +1221m / -311m

The “Gîte d’Eyliè” 985m 0h

Tel 05 61 96 14 00

On your left after leaving the gîte and without crossing the stream, the GR10 rises rapidly in the forest of “the Bois Rouge” then you come out of the forest and you will come to the ruins of a mountain hut 1550m 1h45.

The path continues upward and crosses a mining site and leads to a little cirque (hollow) and the pass “Col de la Cataouère” 1700m 2h15

The path is very steep for several minutes and you will come to the “EDF” path. On your left, and on the same level you come to the Mines du Bentailou 1900m 2h45

From the first huts onwards, the GR10 becomes steep once more. Above the mine, be careful to follow the markings, leaving behind you on your left, the cross-border path (also red and white markings) of “The Port de la Hourquette (Spain). When you reach a wall go to your right and follow the GR10 leading up to the pass “Col de La Serre d’Araing” 2222m 3h35

You overlook the lake all the way down to the dam (stone). Just below it, you will come to the fork leading to the “Tour du Biros”. On your left the path leads in a couple of minutes to “the CAF Refuge of l’Etang d’Araing” 1965m 4h35

Tel 05 61 96 73 73 or 06 88 69 46 07

From the lake following the GR10 and then the path is good and it is possible to climb to the summit of the “Crabère”.(3h hours there and back)

The refuge de “l’Etang d’Araing” - The mountain refuge “Montgarri”

Elevation : +872m / -1072m

“The CAF Refuge of l’Etang d’Araing” 1965m 0h

Go back down to the lake by the dam and climb back up on the GR10 until you come to the pass “Col de La Serre d’Araing” 2222m 1h

You leave the GR10 (which on your left goes back down to the mines “Les Mines du Bentailou) and go straight on (yellow markings) along the crest. When you reach the electricity pole, head along the east slope following the cairns (compact frozen snow at the beginning of the season).

This path stays about ten meters below the crest and slowly gains altitude. You will pass to the right of a small lake often dried out in autumn. The cairns marked yellow head upwards to come to “L’épaupe du mail de Lauzès” 2390m 1h40

The itinerary is almost flat crossing the “Albe” coomb (valley). You pass above the Albe lake “l’Etang d’Albe” and arrive at some scree (compact frozen snow at the beginning of the season) that you will climb up until reaching the pass “ Le Col du Portillon d’Albe” 2457m 2h15 (steep compact frozen snow at the beginning of the season)

Here you are in Spain, the yellow markings continue. Walking on you will soon discover another lake and a path on the right that will take you round it. Follow the markings and cross the stream with an overflow. Follow the track down for a few minutes and then cross on the left

all of the south-west slope of the “Pic de Serre Haute”. After about forty minutes, the Pass’Aran itinerary joins the red and white markings and you come to a fork. Be careful not to go down on your right but carry on to your left. Our itinerary climbs south, south-east following the red and white markings and they will lead you rapidly to “Estanhets de Maubermé” 2350m 3h25

To the left of the lake, follow the markings that lead up a small valley, crossing more and more scree, until you come to a small pass (2435m). To your left the red and white markings lead you across to a kind of ledge and the fork to the South of “The Maubermé” 2530m 4h10.

From this point you can follow the cairned path to the top of the “Maubermé”(2h there and back)

Do not follow the red and white markings that will lead you up to the Port d’Uretz in ten minutes (solid stone hut), but go down on your right (south-east) and follow the yellow markings (be careful if the rock is wet). You will soon arrive at the pass “ Col du Maubermé”. The descent is quite easy to the “overflow” of the “Montoliu” lake 2340m 4h30

On your left, to the east, you go up the track (red and white markings) until a fork. Follow the path on the right (the markings are now yellow) until you arrive at the “Coth de Montoliu” 2470m 5h

You leave the track to go down on the right of the valley. The yellow markings follow the bottom of a scree and will lead you to an open field. Follow the left side of the ravine. Be

aware that after about ten minutes walk you will completely change direction to go south-west towards the bottom of the valley. The path twists and turns before coming to a stream, often dried up.

On the right bank, a very good path crosses and descends deeper into the valley and you will end coming to a berm (flat bank). Right at the end you will have to cross the river on your left and in a few minutes you will join the confluence of the river “Arriu deth Horcalh” 1780m 6h50

Cross the second river (foot bridge) and carry on down to your right (red and white markings, yellow ones as well) through a forest of mountain pines. You will then come across an old renovated farm and a track on your left leading to the mountain refuge “Amics de Montgarri” 1670m 8h

Tel 00 34 97 36 41 681 or 00 34 63 94 94 546

The mountain refuge “Montgarri” – The mountain refuge “Estagnous” 6h40

Elevation + 1158m - 563m

The mountain refuge “Amics de Montgarri” 1670m 0h

Follow the red and white markings to the east, behind the chapel. The path climbs gently up through a field (all the paths are the same) leading up the valley until a berm (flat bank). Cross the river (foot bridge) and turn to the left* on the path marked red and white leading up through the vegetation, the hedges and the mountain pines. After having crossed yet another field you will walk once more through the forest up until the pass “Col d’Era Solana 1940m 1h20

The path leading down towards the bottom of the valley is arid. You arrive at a small canyon that you will need to cross to come to the big berm (flat bank) “Grand Replat” 2050m 2h

It is quiet easy to reach by the North, North-West the summit of the “Barlonguère”(off track and without markings)

The markings follow the berm (flat bank) and climb up on the right. The slope becomes very steep and the path will lead you, after several bends, to the edge of the “Clot dera Renhatja” 2442m 3h20 (Port de la Girette” on the French map)

There you are in front of a sort of crater not long ago returned to Spain. That is why you will come across several different names for the “Port de la Girette”... Descend a few meters and follow on your right the path that goes round the crater. The path is not readily visible but the markings will lead you to the “Port de la Girette 2503m (on the Spanish maps) 3h50

Be careful not to descend but turn right where the markings go round and cross over on the right to join the easy mountain ridge of the “Tuc Blanc”. You will find the “Etang Long” and you will descend until the “Port de Barlonguère” 2400m 4h30

Descend towards the East on the path in the direction on the “Etang Long”. Be careful because frozen compacted snow remains a long time in this large mountain corridor and the descent becomes steeper.

After about thirty minutes, you will come to the “Etang Long”. A path goes round it on its’ left near the water’s edge. (The path has handrails in several places). It then climbs up to go round a very steep rocky ridge before leading back down to the lake overflow. Once more you descend a steep slope secured with hand cables. The path then goes round the “Etang Rond” on its’ right which quickly leads to a fork “Birfurcation” 1935m 5h40

Be careful, you will leave behind you on your left a good path that follows the lake. Turn right to follow the red and white markings up a steep ascent where you will find “the mountain refuge “Les Estagnous” 2245m 6h40

Tel 05 61 96 76 22 or 06 74 28 46 26

A good footpath with yellow markings will lead from the refuge “Les Estagnous”, towards the East, up to the summit of the “Mont Valier”.

**From that area, it is possible to climb directly along the valley direction North-North-East (outside paths and without markings) to the summit of the “Barlonguère”. The ascent is steep and sometimes very steep. From the summit, a ridge to the East-South-East leads readily to the “Port de la Girette”.*

The mountain refuge “Estagnous” – “Maison du Valier” 5h15

Elevation + 262m – 1522m

The mountain refuge “Estagnous” * 2245m 0h

Right behind the refuge, the yellow markings lead up into the “stone blocs” and you will easily reach the “Col de Pécouch” 2462m 50mn

Descend due North following the yellow markings and the cairns (be very careful if there is mist). The itinerary crosses big granit blocks, along the left side of a glacial cirque (hollow) and joins the lake overflow of “l’Etang de Milouga” 1959m 2h10

Cross the overflow and walk down through the rocks following the markings. Just a bit further down you will come to a fork and a panel. Do not go back up to your right, but continue straight ahead. This crosses several little streams and goes up and down. You will soon arrive at the “Cabane du Taus 1890m 2h50

The trail continues upwards and you will then cross a wide ridge (with a sheep pen) to join the fork “Bifurcation du GR10” 1892m 3h05

Turn left and follow the long winding path of GR10 (red and white markings) leading to the bottom of the valley “Vallée du Riberot”. Cross three foot paths and you find on your right the “Maison du Valier” 950m 5h15

**Alternative in case of bad weather: From the mountain refuge “Les Estagnous”, it is possible to descend directly North-West by a good foot-path (red and white markings) to the “Maison du Valier”.*