



Route N°9 - La Madeleine (col de Sustary)

OLORON SAINTE-MARIE

CYCLING



Classified in all subjectivity as the most confidential and most aesthetic route in the Basque-Bearnese foothills, these 50 km to be savoured as an aperitif for the "little queen". A wide range of profiles, atmospheres and perspectives follow one another to the delight of visiting cyclists and locals. The col of Sustary has to be won and the last km can make weakest put their feet on the ground. The climber may choose the "Madeleine" option with the possibility of adding 3 km and 350 m of elevation gain to the odometer. To avoid any risk of hypoglycaemia, refills are strategically placed throughout the course. Cheese producers at the foot of La Madeleine, gourmet restaurants in Barcus and Esquiule are some of the options to add to this adventure. In short, a concentrate of Bearn and Soule to enjoy without hesitation, but well prepared.



📍 Départ : OLRON SAINTE-MARIE
Arrivée : OLRON SAINTE-MARIE

📏 Distance : 49.3 km

🏔️ Dénivelé : 524 m

🕒 Durée : 1/2 jour

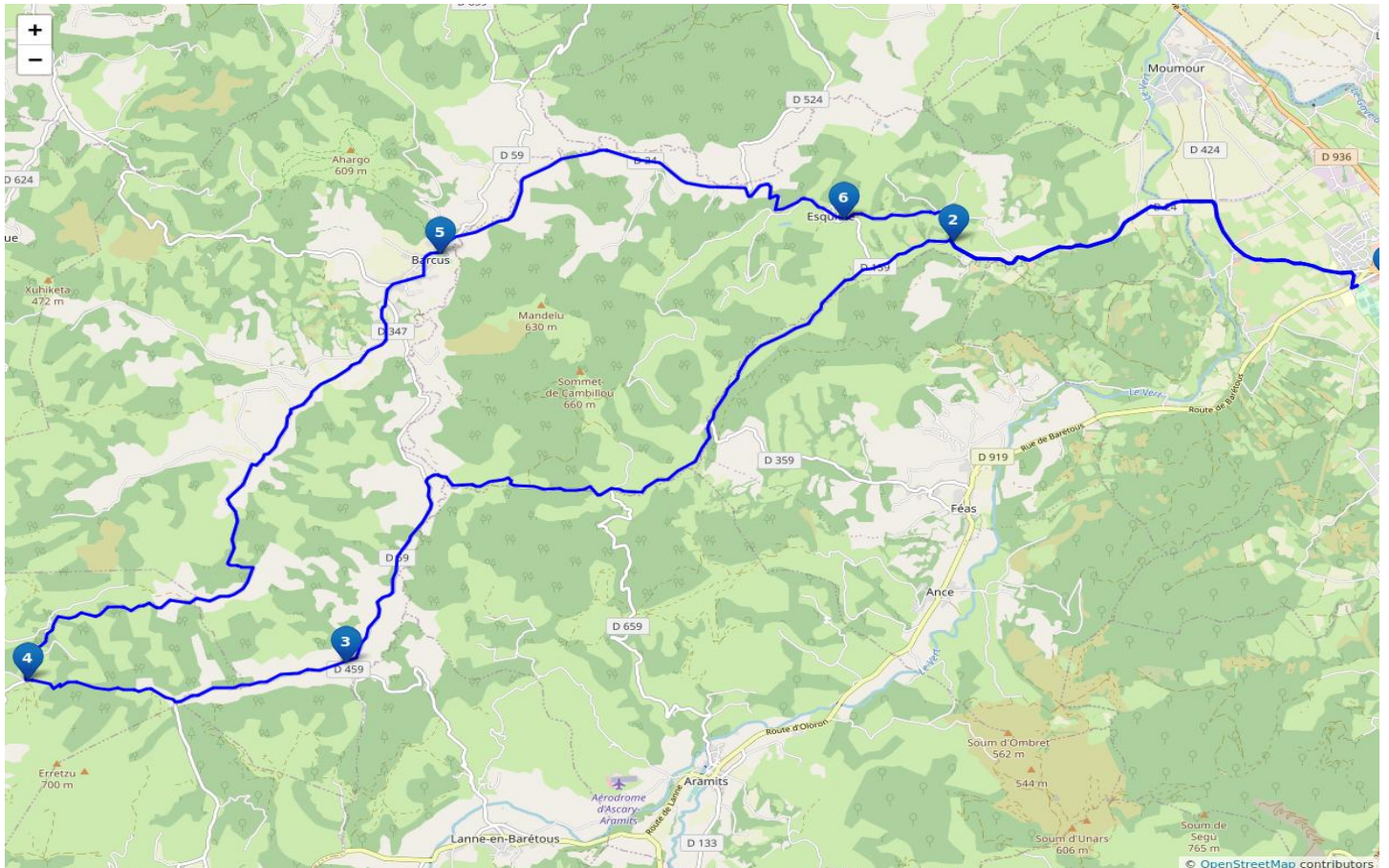
☎️ Appel d'urgence : 112

⚠️ Les montagnes basques et béarnaises sont des espaces pastoraux. Evitez de partir avec votre chien. Dans tous les cas, tenez-le en laisse. Merci !

★ À ne pas manquer

- **Pigeon hunting (23,27 km).** In Col de Sustary, as in many passes in the sector, "shot-on-the-fly" poles are installed in hedges or trees. These positions are occupied by hunters during the month of October for shooting sessions on wood pigeons in full migration.

- **La Madeleine (3 km off the circuit)**. Named after the chapel built on its top, this hill, which peaks at 795 m, is an ancient pagan place of worship. Replacing Sainte Madeleine, now there are a few wireless operators that release a maximum of waves. A road suitable for cycling leads to the top and offers an extraordinary viewpoint over the Soule.
- **Sheep cheese (24,24 km)**. Excellent local breeds sheep cheese are produced and directly marketed by many farms. Known under the AOC "Ossau Iraty", the "ardi gasna" in Basque should be tasted and slipped into some pockets of the jersey.



Étapes

Step 1. From Oloron Sainte-Marie to Esquiule (junction D159). From the car park, follow the direction Bayonne / Pau. At the "Tibet Roundabout", take the third exit and continue right (D24) towards Esquiule. This peaceful departmental road runs through the wide valley of the Gave suitable for a warm-up phase of about 4 km. Follow an alternation of slight mounds that announce the entrance to the Basque province of Soule. The sequence is easy in a pastoral, wooded environment. Beautiful farms line the route until it reaches the intersection with the D159.

Step 2. From Esquiule (junction D159) to the D459 junction. Continue on the D159 towards Montory. The quiet path to the bottom of the valley announces a slight incline and joins the well-shaded banks of the Littos. The profile still offers no resistance and the minimal mound can be compensated by a bigger descent. Km 15.4, at the junction with the D59, leave the road on the right towards Barcus and turn left. Now we must follow on a path to the south of the Joos Valley showing us the Pyramid of Pic d'Anie. 3.5 km further on, you come to the junction with the D459.

Step 3. From the D459 junction to col de Sustary (alt. 444m). Let the D459 turn left towards Lanne-en-Barétous and follow the D59 for a little over 2 km. At the first bend, cross a small bridge, leave the D59 and follow a discreet path to the right. Road surfacing requires vigilance. The road enters a brush dotted with slight hillocks. Nothing alarming up to the level of the farm (sheep cheese), announcing the start of hostilities. The ramps at 15% follow one another in the small km that leads to the col. You will have to stand up and step on the pedal to overcome the obstacle and reach the col.

Step 4. From col de Sustary to Barcus. From the col, turn right towards Barcus on the D347. The route follows the eastern flanks of La Madeleine with a less demanding profile. You have to take advantage of the few descents to gain speed and

pass the next section. A kilometer further on, leave the access road to La Madeleine on the left. The path in balcony, now without difficulty, offers an exceptional panorama on the mountains. From the Croix d'Aguerret (alt. 497m), a long descent goes towards Barcus. Pass the Burgia neighborhood and stay on the D59 to enter the village passing one last mound.

Step 5. **From Barcus to Esquiule.** From the town hall square (36.3 km), leave Barcus on the main road and then, on the Y, take the D24 to the right towards Oloron. After a 4 km flat part in the Joos valley, a new rather undulating hill will approach, drawing wide curves (5.5% in 1.5 km). At the top (cross), you go right into Esquiule, and then turn right again at the church junction to go under the town.

Step 6. **From Esquiule to Oloron Sainte-Marie.** On the opposite side of the village -rue d'Esquiule (43 km), continue on the D24 that passes through a high panoramic point, then start a beautiful, fast and winding descent. At the bottom, follow the main road down the valley. After a right-angle bend in the middle of the fields of the Oloron plain, the road runs through the entire Saint-Pé d'en Bas neighborhood and meets the avenues that surround the city. After the stop sign, at the "free Tibet roundabout", turn right towards Huesca (bike path) to find the school and the swimming pool.

★ Équipements

- Picnic area
- Water point
- Ablutions
- Power Point (supermarket, restaurants)

★ Attention

- Oloron Sainte-Marie, Free Tibet roundabout and D6, heavy traffic.
- Ascent to col de Sustary, bad road

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