

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

■ Canyoning / Speleology

- **Pyrénées Aventures Nouvelles:** canyoning and speleology.
- **Eau Sud:** canyoning and speleology.
- **La Verna Cave:** speleology only.

■ Electric bike hire

- **Chalets d'Iraty:** reservation recommended. 2hr - 1/2 day - Full day

■ Rafting, kayaking, hydrospeeding and hot-dog canoeing

- **Soeix** in Oloron-Sainte-Marie.



CRAFTS

■ The espadrille

Since the 19th century, the craft manufacture of espadrilles has set the pace of life in Mauléon, capital of the Soule province. Push open the workshop door and you'll find the right fit for you.

- **Espadrille Don Quichosse** in Mauléon: hand-sewn espadrilles. Direct sales
- **Espadrille Armaite:** made according to time-honoured traditions. Direct sales

Other products

- **Vannerie Lur Saskia** basket making in Arrast-Larrebieu: traditional and contemporary basket weaving, creations, bespoke items
- **Owantshoozi craft** capmaker in Ordiarp: retail outlet and workshop, caps and fashion accessories made from recycled waste

SOULETIN, A MYSTERIOUS LANGUAGE

The Souletin dialect is different from Basque spoken in the other provinces; for example, its "ü" sound and more emphasized tonic accent.

Egün hon = hello • **Honki jin** = welcome

Otoi = please • **Eskerrik hanitx** = thank you very much

ART OF LIFE: SINGING AND DANCING

Here, everyone sings and dances... everywhere! You will get a taste of this during the many cultural and festive events, such as pastorals and maskarakak that draw on the legacy of medieval folk theatre.



KEY EVENTS

January-March: Maskarakak

February: Haute Soule Carnival

March: Mauléon Carnival and Xiru Festival

May: Mai-en-Scène theatre festival and Tulalaika.

July: Mauléon fête and pastoral

August: Pastoral, Xibero trail, Basque song festival, Espadrille festival, Tardets fêtes

September: Rallye des Cimes and Transhumance Festival in Licq

December: Christmas market in Ordiarp

The Basque Country Tourist Information Office is at your disposal to answer any questions regarding accommodation, hiking trails, entertainment, transport, visits and leisure activities...

TO CONTACT US:

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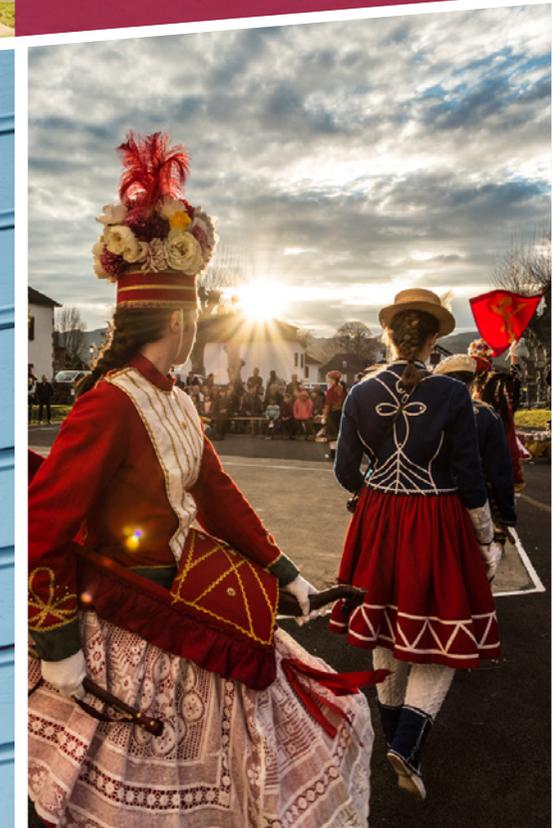
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SOULE XIBEROA

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MARKETS AND GASTRONOMY
HERITAGE / NATURAL SITES
HIKING AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
CRAFTS
SOULETIN, A MYSTERIOUS LANGUAGE
ART OF LIFE AND KEY EVENTS



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**PAYS
BASQUE** OFFICE DE TOURISME
EUSKAL ELKAROGOKO TURISMO
EREGIA

Soule, Xiberoa, is the most discreet of the seven Basque Country provinces.

You will be able to explore the gentle, verdant landscapes of the lower valley, discover its rich architectural heritage and find a pair of must-have, Made-in-Mauléon espadrilles.

Nature is more rugged higher up towards the summits where the lush green land, intersected by gorges and canyons, is covered by vast forests.

In the summer pastures, along the mountain ridges, you will come across countless grazing herds.



MARKETS, GASTRONOMY AND SOUVENIRS

■ TRADITIONAL MARKETS

- In Mauléon, on Saturday morning
- In Tardets, on Monday morning (every other Monday in low season)

■ TASTY LOCAL CUISINE

From the producer to your plate or shopping basket: garbure stew, home-made pâté and foie gras, ham, garden-grown tomatoes and pimento peppers, pigeon and milk-fed lamb served with cep mushrooms from the surrounding woods, sheep's milk cheese with black cherry jam, piñolet dessert and gâteau Basque...

■ GASTRONOMY AND SOUVENIRS DIRECTORY

- **Fred and Co** in Tardets: regional products, Basque linen, tableware, decorative objects...
- **Gohetxea** in Trois-Villes: Farmers' retail outlet for Idoki quality products: cheese, Espelette pimento pepper, charcuterie, honey, beer...

- **Rucher des Marmottes in Montory**: direct sale of organic honey, propolis, royal jelly.
- **Uhartia in Barcus**: local duck breed, direct sales
- **Boulangerie Mandelukogia** in Barcus: hand-kneaded dough, bread baked in wood-fired oven
- **Crèmerie Xirikota** in Mauléon: on-site tasting and sale of cheeses, ciders and wines



- **Goxokia** in Mauléon: cakes and pastries, Gâteau Basque
- **Xibero Bio** in Mauléon: organic retail outlet with a vast range of local products
- **Etche Deco** in Mauléon: Basque linen
- **Vinaigrerie Saint-Jacques** in Mauléon: production and sale of craft vinegar
- **Beaudeant bee farm** in Ordiarp: direct sale of honey, propolis...
- **Biscuiterie Okina** in Idaux-Mendy: craft-made biscuits
- **Arrokain in Musculdy**: Kintoa Basque pork sold direct from the farm
- **Orocbat** in Viodos: production and canning of Basque pâté, rillettes, axoa...Gâteau Basque



HERITAGE

■ Église de l'Hôpital Saint-Blaise

A key hospice for voyagers and pilgrims on the Way of St. James, the church is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. Audio tours in English, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, German, Basque and French. Son et lumière show.

■ Mauléon fortified castle

The castle dates from the 12th century. Inside, a scenographic display retraces its tumultuous history and wooden games are also available for children. A must-see view over Mauléon. Written translations in English and Spanish.



■ Château d'Andurain de Maytie in Mauléon

Built in the 1660s by Arnaud de Maytie, a son of Mauléon, the dwelling is listed as a Historical Monument. Guided visits in high season, paper translation in English and Spanish.

CHARACTERFUL VILLAGES!

It is "Etxea", or home, that is the cornerstone of Basque society. Here, people are often called by the name of their house! Take the time to visit our numerous typical villages: Ordiarp, Gotein, Sainte-Engrâce, Larrau, Hopital-Saint-Blaise, Tardets....



NATURAL SITES

■ In Larrau (free)

With its footbridge suspended over the gorge at a height of 150m, this is one of the most spectacular natural sites in the region. The path begins at Logibar Inn. It is about a 1-hour walk (200m gradient) to the footbridge. The path is clear and accessible to everyone in good health. Wear walking shoes or boots. Parking space is very limited at the site. From 12 July to 22 August, 7 days a week, shuttle bus service every 35 mins, from 10am to 7pm, Tardets/Licq Athérey/Holzarte car park/Larrau.



■ La Verna Cave in Sainte-Engrâce

In Sainte-Engrâce. 1 hr, 1hr30 or 2hrs. An outstanding geological site of extraordinary size in the heart of the Pierre Saint-Martin chasm. Different types of visit are possible, all accompanied by speleologist guides.

HIKING

Reservation required.

Topographic trail guides available at the front desk

- Kaskaborro to Idaux-Mendy: 3hrs-9km-240m+
- The Pic des Escaliers d'Arthanolatze to Larrau, Iraty: 3hrs - 7km - 520m+
- Saint Grégoire to Ordiarp: 5hrs - 11.5km - 448 km
- Ahüzki Fountain to Aussurucq: 4hrs - 10km - 575m+
- Erretzü to Tardets: 4hr30 - 11.8km - 570m+
- Chapelle de Saint-Antoine to Musculdy: 5hrs - 12km - 545m+
- Chapelle de la Madeleine to Tardets: 5hr30 - 12km - 600m+
- Holzarte footbridge to Larrau: round trip 2hs - 3.80km - 200m+ Olhadübi loop: 5hr30 - 12.5km - 968m+