

grand
auch

cœur de
gascogne

MAGAZINE

ATMOSPHERE, INSPIRATIONS, MEETINGS

Discovering of the villages, visiting Auch, people, quizz, games for children, tourism with a bike, delicious food

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Leisure, sites, restaurants, holiday accomodation, farms, vineyards...

AUCH-TOURISME.COM





Bureau d'information Auch
3, place de la République
BP 20174 - 32003 Auch Cedex
Tel. : +33 (0)5 62 05 22 89

Bureau d'information Castéra-Verduzan
8, place du 8 juillet 1977
32410 Castéra-Verduzan
Tel. : +33 (0)5 62 68 10 66



INFO@AUCH-TOURISME.COM

AUCH-TOURISME.COM



Document imprimé sur papier certifié PEFC issu de forêts gérées durablement et de sources contrôlées.

Impression : BCR Gimont - **Conception graphique** : ASA Communication - Anne-Sophie Anduze - **Crédits photos** : L'instant C photographe_Office de Tourisme Grand Auch cœur de Gascogne ; Lionel LIZET_Officede Tourisme Grand Auch cœur de Gascogne ; Daniel ADOUE ; Isabelle SOURIMENT ; Office de Tourisme Grand Auch Cœur de Gascogne ; Grand Auch Cœur de Gascogne ; CIRCa ; Valérie SERVANT ; Jérôme NARBONNE ; Hervé ABBADIE ; David AYMOND ; Hervé LECLAIR ; Sophie DUPUY LUCAS ; Lilian DUNOGUE ; Nicolas GRANENA ; Vincent TOURAILLE ; MS BONAFFÉ / Baludio ; G. BEZAULT ; Corde Game ; Mark EMMERSON ; Yohann @fotofoly ; Myriana SONCIN @manoush_ka ; Jean-Pierre BIERE ; CRTL Occitanie W2P Production ; Mairie Auch ; JP. GRANDIN ; Neddîr DEBBICHE / La Dépêche ; Ian GRANDJEAN ; Patrice NIN et les structures listées après la page 35.

Sommaire

CULTURAL HERITAGE

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Auch encounter | P. 4 |
| Miss these at your peril | P. 5 |
| Lavardens tour by 2CV | P. 10-11 |
| Museum of the Americas – Auch | P.12 |

FAMILY

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Notebook | P. 6-7 |
| What's laid on for families | P. 8-9 |

GASTRONOMY

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Recipe | P. 13 |
| In the kitchen | P. 14-15 |

EVENTS

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Farm shop | P. 16 |
| Cultural season | P. 20 |
| History and the arts | P. 21 |
| The Gascon test | P. 24 |

ADVERTORIALS

| | |
|---|-------|
| Brûlot | P. 17 |
| Let's go to the farm ! | P. 23 |
| You post, we share and everybody likes it | P. 25 |

SPA WELL-BEING

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Spa village | P. 22 |
|-------------|-------|

LEISURE, ACTIVITIES

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Fun | P. 18-19 |
| Hiking around Saint-Lary | P. 26-27 |

PRACTICAL GUIDE

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Map | P. 28-29 |
| Heritage visits | P. 30-32 |
| Craft workers | P. 33 |
| Growers | P. 34-37 |
| Craft breweries | P. 38 |
| Local and gourmet stores | P. 39-40 |
| Leisure | P. 41-48 |
| Restaurants | P. 49-55 |
| Accommodations | P. 56-81 |
| Just in case | P. 82 |

Auch encounter

historic centre

of Auch

One fine morning, I met up with Georges Beauvais, a B&B owner who hails from Franche-Comté. I was intrigued by what he would make of the city's heritage, so I let him lead the way.



Aline: Hello Georges, tell me how you first got acquainted with Auch.

Georges: I came to set up home with my wife Edith who was living here. She took me into the maze of poussteries to show me her favourite spots.

A: What are you particularly fond of?

G: I have a soft spot for the Town Hall where the Hall of Fame and the Italianate theatre match each other for beauty.

A: Did you know that the portrait of Hector de Galard, the Jack of Diamonds, hangs in the Hall of Fame? He's said to be Hector from the original French deck of cards. Do you enjoy having a flutter Georges?

G: I challenge our guests to find "Napoleon's column" when they go on their walk around town.

A: Will you take me to it?

G: Yes, it's on the Auch city centre guided walking tour promoted by the Tourist Office.

A: Do you enjoy going on guided tours?

G: I've had good fun on the wackier tours of the Greater Auch Art and History Country, such as the one on the city's criminals or the sensory tour of the cathedral when you walk around with a mirror under your nose!

A: Tell me about the last tour you took

G: I went to see the "new" Museum of the Americas-Auch. I just loved its garden entrance and the ultra-contemporary displays.

We walked towards the monumental staircase where we took in the fabulous views.

A: The way the city's organized with its two faubourgs – the lower town and the upper town – took me by surprise. We always encourage our hosts to carry on walking once they've crossed the bridge over the Gers so that they get the feel of the whole city.

A: Do you think that Auch, known as the best surprise of the southwest, keeps its promise?

G: Definitely! This town is packed with surprises.

I thank Georges, having really enjoyed the time spent with this lively, insatiably curious ambassador.



Miss these at your peril



Sainte-Marie Cathedral

The cathedral, whose construction spanned two hundred years, was finished in 1680 and exemplifies the transition between Flamboyant Gothic and classic Renaissance style. It houses some absolute treasures:

- the oak-panelled choir, its stalls featuring more than 1,500 carved figures,
- the 16th-century stained glass windows, by Arnaut de Moles, that throw wonderful light in shimmering colours,
- the Jean de Joyeuse organ played during summertime concerts.

Museum of the Americas – Auch

It houses a fabulous collection of Pre-Columbian art – the 2nd largest in France after the Quai Branly Museum – as well as sumptuous Egyptian, Gallo-Roman, Medieval collections, fine arts, sculpture, and also traces the traditions of Gascony.



The Monumental Staircase and d'Arthagnan

The Monumental Staircase, finished in 1863, links the new town to the historic city. The bronze statue commemorating d'Arthagnan, the most famous Gascon, appears to dare you to walk up the 234 steps. The top landing awaits you with the contemporary sculpture, "l'Observatoire du temps".

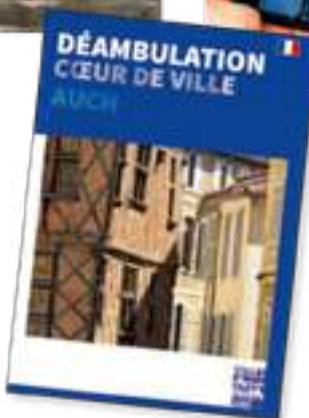


Walkabout



If you fancy doing a self-guided tour, you can make up your own route and explore the capital of Gascony, a former Gallo-Roman settlement that became the county seat of Armagnac and an archdiocese. It will take you 2 hrs to complete the tour.

Available from the Tourist Office or you can download it from www.auch-tourisme.com



Explore Auch (app)



Set off on an adventure in Auch's lanes and help Baptistou find his goose... on the way you'll meet a king, a mapmaker, a musketeer and...

Free from Android and Apple stores. The Auch Tourist Office will lend you tablets and headphones.

What's laid on for families?

In the spring of 2019, @Team Ballet hit the road for another discovery trip of our beautiful country over the long Easter weekend, this time setting off for Auch and its surroundings in the Gers!

Photo flashback of some of the highlights of their short stay:



"We tested 'Explore Auch' to visit Auch. The app **takes you on a great tour around the city's iconic sights**. You could say, the Ballet-yettes were totally sold on the concept."

"All-round fun for the whole family". Fancy having over 60 hectares of land to **quad** around on! Kids and adults alike can have a go. The tracks are graded by difficulty and take you to spectacular viewpoints of the Gers. What makes Quad Concept so special is that everyone pitches in together for a bundle of laughs. Francis is there to guide you and you can't help getting carried away by his enthusiasm for the sport out there in the open. Ella overcame her reticence to drive her own quad and it really was a good way to encourage her!"





Ferme de Bidache Black Gascon Pig breeding farm visit. "Here, pampered piglets are watched over by a one of a kind keeper. For when we go shopping, animal well-being and buying local produce are at the top of our wish list. Visiting this sort of farm gives you an inkling of how committed some of our French farmers are to provide us with high quality produce. They take their preparations to heart by ensuring that their animals live in the kind of conditions that enable them to thrive and by keeping the environment top of mind."



📍 Team Ballet's stay here coincided with two events that are ideally suited to family enjoyment.

"Every year, about 90 troupes of artistes come to Auch rehearse and perform. We were lucky enough to come during the annual **Pirouette Circaouette festival** that is specially for the kiddies and families."



Pirouette Circaouette Festival

Every year for the April school holidays at Auch – ask us for the programme.



"You could say that 'Cheers' was the byword this Easter weekend when we went on an organized **bottle hunt** instead of an egg hunt. All the stops were pulled out to ensure we had a good time – a super local group played music, the food was fantastic and there was an Easter egg decorating activity for the children, and of course estate-bottled wine tasting for the grown-ups."

"When we were out and about around Auch, we were delighted to meet this incredibly fascinating family that **makes soap from their sweet asses' milk**. They showed us the high quality products that they make with love and dedication. The **Ferme du Hitton** family also grows plants for creating essential oils and floral waters."



Team Ballet is a nomadic family that shares tales of its travels as it roams around France and abroad. You can read more about their stay at Auch on their blog: <https://www.teamballet.fr/auch>

📍 @TeamBallet
📍 @teamballetrips

Easter at Herrebouc

Easter weekend every year – ask us for the programme.

Details

- Explore Auch, page 5
- Quod Concept at Auch, page 69
- Ferme de Bidache at Costérou-Verduzan, page 62
- Ferme du Hitton at Biran, page 62
- Domaine de Herrebouc at Saint-Jean Poutge, page 60

Lavardens tour by 2CV

Enjoying a country road trip together as the seasons change..

I've lived here for over fifteen years, and there are still plenty of places I have yet to explore in my beloved Gers. What I enjoy most is taking my friends and family who turn up at any time of the year to my favourite places and sharing my love of this delightful corner of France.

One of my favourite spots just a few kilometres from home is **LAVARDENS**.

It's one of the **"Most beautiful villages in France"** (there are six of them in the Gers).

I like its quiet, charming lanes, the mellow stonework, and when it holds summer evening markets the magic that works its spells (I just love watching the children dance to the band playing in the square), its castle and the exhibitions it puts on, its two little restaurants, its rather special feel, the vintage car rally in August (**Retromotion**), its hiking trails and the countryside that constantly changes as the months go by. The colours are a feast for the eyes in spring and autumn! When you drive from Auch, the first thing you see are the vine rows with the castle and village in the background. 😊



One of the reasons why I like this trip, is because of the way the route takes us to our destination... It's full of bends and lush, green countryside when we take to the road on fine days, never mind the season.



More to the point, I love giving our Belle Deuche - our 2CV - an outing.

We set out in the morning in time to drop in on one of the restaurants, either on the way there or in the village itself..

In the middle of winter, we tend to plump for the Auberge du Cousteau at Saint-Lary.



“ We go out of our way to go to the centre of this tiny village just to admire the colours of the pretty stone façades. ”

Yann knows us well now. Just looking at the fireplace brings back the colour to our cheeks, and the generous servings say everything for Gascony's cuisine served up for friends that have travelled far to enjoy it...

I often sit down on our favourite outdoor bench to take in the countryside view that's "So Gers".



In the summer, we prefer to picnic in the Vassevin gardens at Jégun, or by the old wash-house at Lavardens. However, should we decide on a cooked meal, the two village restaurants are fine by us! They're different and we chop and change depending on our guests and their tastes.

Jégun is often the watering hole on our way back, where we drop in on an Irishman who's well known around these parts. We down a pint* at La Légende Irlandaise of a late afternoon... and sometimes linger on as the evening continues with a tuneful concert! Summer Sunday evenings just can't be matched. We never miss the **Jégun Wine Fair** on the 2nd Sunday in August.



We generally take ourselves round the castle. One summer we were taken on a Pass en Gers guided tour, and the guide took us round the village as well.

The exhibitions are constantly of high standard and that's another reason for going back to the castle. There are always fine new works to be discovered in the summer shows, while the iconic, huge display of nativity scene figurines – santons – in the autumn, never fails to impress our guests. Last summer we absolutely adored the creations of an artist that we're particularly fond of... Perry Taylor! This man of the Gers just couldn't be more British! Every one of his drawings is as witty, realistic and "cute" as the next. His art faithfully captures the Gascon soul and the easy life as relished in the Gers...

Details

- Auberge Le Cousteau, see pages 36 & 58
- Retromotion, Wine Fair: dates and programme from the Tourist Office
- Le Malthus, page 57
- Restaurant du château, page 57
- Château de Lavardens, page 55
- Jardin de Vassevin, signposted from the centre of Jégun
- Lavardens wash-house, on the PR6 trail, check out the hiking trails on www.nuch-tourisme.com

*Niche pour le dimanche et pour Noël - 2014

CULTURE

Museum of the Americas – Auch

Second largest
Pre-Columbian
arts collection in France
after the Quai Branly Museum.

Pre-Hispanic cultures

meticulousness of the feather work

precious creations

age-old techniques

Other collections:

antiquity, fine arts, sculptures and
arts of Occitany

Free access to the garden during
the opening days of the museum

Booklets of games are available for
children, adapted to different ages

In practice, page 34

www.ameriques-auch.fr



Take a look at this,
tickle your taste
buds, arouse your
senses..

Recipe

Floc de Gascogne revisited as a cocktail: try the Moji-Floc!

- 6 cl of red Floc de Gascogne
- 2 teaspoons of caster sugar
- ¼ of a lime, cut into quarters
- 1 red label strawberry, cut into quarters
- 5 mint leaves
- 5 cl of Perrier
- 2 drops of Angostura bitters (optional)

*Alcohol abuse is dangerous for your health. Drink responsibly.

CHEERS!

One chef, one product at the Hôtel de France

Vincent, the head cook, presents his dish based on **Noire d'Astarac Bigorre**, an exceptional old breed of chickens raised in the Gers, and elsewhere.

At the hob

The breast (the supreme) poached on one side, the thigh cooked in red Côtes de Gascogne wine served here with organic chickpea hummus from the Gers and garnished with Jerusalem artichoke crisps.



It's a super bird,
I like those who cook it!

That's very much the philosophy of the house. What they serve their guests is the result of how strongly the Casassus family is rooted to the terroir and the local region.

In the dining room

Bruno, the head waiter, who wears the prestigious tricolour band¹ on his shirt collar, suggests two wines of character to drink with the Noire d'Astarac Bigorre.

• **Colima Oeste 2015**²: produced from old vines with three local grape varieties, tannat, merlot and malbec vinified together. Ripe berries and a hint of freshness add softness to set off this dish.

• **Montus blanc, Pacherenc-du Vic-Bilh sec**³: a superior fine, elegant dry white wine that strikes a balance between minerality and delicate woody notes, fruit and floral aromas... marvellous with the softness of the poached chicken and its thigh prepared coq au vin style!

Where to eat Casassus family cuisine in Auch

- **La Grande Salle**, page 52
- **Le Neuvième**, page 54
- **Table**, page 55

¹ For more details about the Noire d'Astarac Bigorre chicken: <https://www.facebook.com/gp/hoteldefranceauch>

² Bruno Casassus-Builhe was awarded the Médaille d'Or du Grand Cru de France du Terroir et des Arts de la Table 1988 et 2009.

³ From the Domaine d'Arques.

⁴ Alain Brumont.

⁵ Alcohol abuse is dangerous for your health. Drink responsibly.

4 seasons for 4 products

They are top chefs or bed & breakfast proprietors. We asked them to reveal their favourite seasonal terroir product.

Spring

Morels for Maxime Deschamps and Stéphane Mazières, chefs at the **Domaine de Baulieu**.

For their potency and subtlety, cooked whole stuffed, infused, duxelles... Here's a storage tip: keep them in the fridge in slightly damp paper wadding or poached and kept in their broth or dehydrated. Supplied by Stéphane Garros at Labejan. Suggested dish: organic egg from the Gers, foam of the season's first peas, **morel duxelles**.



Autumn

Duck breast for Jean-Bernard Cano who runs the **Chartreuse de Dane**. He likes serving it to his guests because it is what they expect... local produce. He buys them in from Lilian Soulan's farm. Suggested dish: double-cooked breast in a port wine sauce, fig conserve and candied onions, with a gratin of potato and the season's ceps, or roast butternut cubes!



Summer

Lavardens **chickpeas** from the GAEC SARAY for Anaïs Senat, who runs the **Gouté Bed & Breakfast** and brews craft beer.

"I tend to prepare chickpea hummus with tahini, lemon, a little garlic depending on the season, salt, pepper, water, and nothing else! Everyone likes hummus, children as much as adults. It goes well with all salads, come summer, come winter."



Winter

Fermented red cabbage for Thomas, the chef at **JEFF envoie du bois!!! Bistrot & Cantine**. He likes it for its originality and colour compared to the other winter vegetables. Here's a storage

tip: put it in a glass jar with untreated coarse salt and apples. Supplier: Ferme de Cantauzel.

Suggested dish: **red cabbage in jelly**, with foie gras ravioles...



Details

- **Domaine de Baulieu**, pages 36 & 53
- **Anaïs, Chambres d'hôtes du Gouté**, page 35
- **Jean-Bernard, Chartreuse de Dane**, page 35
- **JEFF envoie du bois!!! Bistrot & Cantine**, page 50

My holidays

Dear Grandma and Grandpa

My holidays have begun really well. It was Sunday yesterday, and we went to a farmers' market*.

We drove along lots of narrow roads to get there, and saw fields of very big sunflowers. Mummy wanted to stop to take photos.

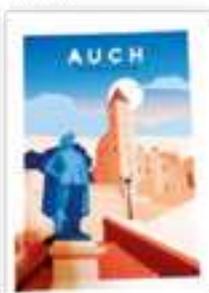


When we got there, there were lots of little awnings with farmers selling from stalls, they told us all the details or invited us to taste for ourselves! There were big bouncy toys, so I made my way towards them with Matty, but when I saw that there were pony rides, I went there, and Daddy came with me. That was really cool! When we got back, Mummy and Matty were listening to singing musicians. They call that a banda.

A lady explained how they make Armagnac. There were loads of huge neatly stacked barrels that gave off a peculiar smell.

The lads ate a cake. They bit into it scattering what looked like little golden leaves everywhere, that made me chuckle. Tomorrow it'll be Tuesday evening and we're going to a circus show!

Lots of love and kisses.



Flore

Farmers' markets in the area in 2020:

- Sunday 20/07 at the **Domaine du Grand Comté**, page 59
- Sunday 03/08 at the **Ferme de Bidache**, page 62
- Friday 14/08 at the **Domaine de Lalhou**, page 59
- Tuesday 18/08 at the **Domaine de Bliè**, page 60

Gourmet evenings at Auch:

Fridays 17/07 and 07/08

TERROIR & TRADITION

What we call the « brulôt » end the distillation period of the Armagnac. By the years, we find it during festive moments around this brandy which is our pride and that of our winemakers.



Brûlot at the Domaine du Grand Comté at Roquelaure, page 43

As impressive for the eyes as for the taste, the brulôt consist in liberating the « Blanche d'Armagnac » of the power of alcohol to discover the fruity and authentic taste of this brandy. The Blanche d'Armagnac, mixed with sugar, is heated then flambéed.

A warm-hearted show, fascinating for all age groups by its mesmerising and majestic flame with changing colors: blue at the beginning, yellow at the end...



On **holiday** you'll be spoilt for choice

Take up the monumental Ascant challenge, way-does-it or athletically (mid-September to Auck)



Mother and daughter geocaching during the autumn half-term break



The good life at the kids' club - At the falouch camp site, Horewille during the summer



Passion Triathlon trails in and around Auck



Superb demonstration of Double Dutch at the Les arts de la rue festival - Every June at Auck





What class? - A round of golf at Auch



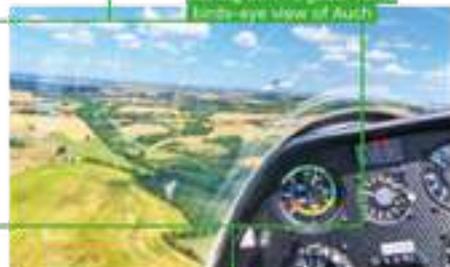
Girl power paintball at Auch

Pumptrack, the paradise for bikers and budding triathletes at Auch



Splash away at Auch!

Taking off is a gifter for a bird's-eye view of Auch



The countryside beach! Sunbathing, picnic, water slide... for all the family at Castéra-Verdun

Run short of ideas under cover for the kiddies? Head straight for Bingo café at Auch



What's on... the highlights

"La voix dans tous ses éclats!"

Just before summer comes, here's a festival that brings together, classical music, jazz, lyric art and popular music to stage some memorable concerts. The **Éclats de Voix** festival seeks to champion originality, excellence and eclecticism.



Ciné 32

The cinema building won the Midi Pyrenees prize for Architecture in 2013 and Le Monde ranked it in the top five finest cinemas of Europe, but first and foremost Auch cinema is an environment for getting together with its bistro, concert films, opera films, classic movies, captivating screenings for the little ones, and... since 1999, its annual **Indépendance(s) et Création** film festival has programmed preview screenings of fifty art house films from all over the world. "A festival, whose sole purpose is to share its special love for the cinema."



Cultural season

A rich variety of shows is performed at the **Dôme de Gascogne**, the Italianate theatre, in marquees or in neighbouring villages from October to May: theatre, music, dance, circus arts, shows for children, there's something for everyone!



Amplified music at CRI'ART

All year round, the Auch amplified music scene is at **Cri'Art**, including Pop - Rock - Soul - Rap - Blues - Reggae concerts ... and under the same roof, lessons are given to budding musicians and regular exhibitions staged.



Details

- Festival **Éclats de Voix**
8-14 June 2020 at Auch
www.eclatsdevoix.com
- "**Indépendance(s) et Création**" Festival
30 September to 4 October 2020
www.independancesetcreation.com
- **Cultural season**, www.circa.auch.fr
- **Cri'art**, www.lma32.fr/criart

Long live the circus at Auch

Auch's romance with the circus began 45 years ago when Abbot Lavenère-Lussan created the Pop Circus School. Circus showman Achille Zavatta gave his blessing to the city's commitment for this popular form of performance by taking up his winter quarters in Auch.

Enthusiasm grew from year to year and the **first festival was staged by volunteers**. Auch soon attracted circus schools, artistes and professional, spurred by the passion and energy of those running the circus arts centre. New forms of circus arts were showcased there: **dance, theatre and music were added to the circus disciplines** in performances that perpetually reinvented the art form. **The National Circus Centre was established.**

CIRC (the centre of innovation and circus research) is based in the heart of the redeveloped former cavalry district of Auch. Its colourful habitat is organized around the permanent big top, the Dôme de Gascogne, that was inaugurated by no less than Bartabas and his Zingaro Equestrian Theatre.



Tents spring up around town every autumn half-term break, and artistes from all walks of life and countries amble about, rounds of applause thunder in the Dôme de Gascogne. That's the **Contemporary Circus Festival** that continues to this day! Contemporary circus offers all its generosity, daring and poetry in this setting with a line-up boosted by circus initiation workshops, screenings, music and more.



All year round, CIRC supports circus arts creation primarily by welcoming circus troupes for residences who offer to show their work free of charge at the **end of their residence!**

And **Pirouette Circaouette** is THE festival for children and families! Events geared to all ages (from 2 years upwards) are programmed: circus (performances and initiation), theatre, dance, puppets, free open stage sessions, etc.

Details

- **Contemporary circus festival ("Circa")**
18-26 October 2020.
- **Pirouette Circaouette**
from 25 March to 24 April 2020

Stopover at Castéra-Verduzan

Castéra-Verduzan is a small spa resort half-way between Auch and Condom.

The little village has a few shops and holds a pleasant **Sunday morning market** that you might precede by strolling along the banks of the River Auloue to the hamlet of old Castéra.



There are several restaurants in the village, the nearby **black pig** farm and regionally famed bric-a-brac-antique dealer await you. The ODOST Laboratory (that makes the Buccotherm® range of dental hygiene products) is based there.

Besides, it's peaceful at Castéra, the atmosphere is tranquil, just right for **cures** and treatments...



The thermal water is soothing, anti-inflammatory and treats buccolinguo-mucous membrane conditions and periodontal disease. It **relieves digestive problems and helps burn off fat**.

You'll be sure to wind down at the **well-being centre** with its spa, Turkish bath, pool and gym.

While the **Blue Pavilion bathing lake*** is an area that bustles with fun aquatic activities in summer, it is a peaceful site the rest of the year. It is also an excellent haven for the animal and plant species that thrive there.

Hiking trails, casino, playground amenities at the Lannetongue Park, concerts and other events round off the list of local recreational activities.

In September, the village stages the **N'Amasse Pas Mousse Festival** street arts festival.



* At the lake, water slides, grass and sandy beach, snack bar on site, skate-park, picnic tables and outdoor barbecues.



Hire a bike at the Castéra-Verduzan Tourist Information Office.



Details

- Un coin du passé, * bric-a-brac-antiques dealer, page 63
- Leisure park, page 68
- Spa, page 67
- Casino, page 72

WITH CHILDREN

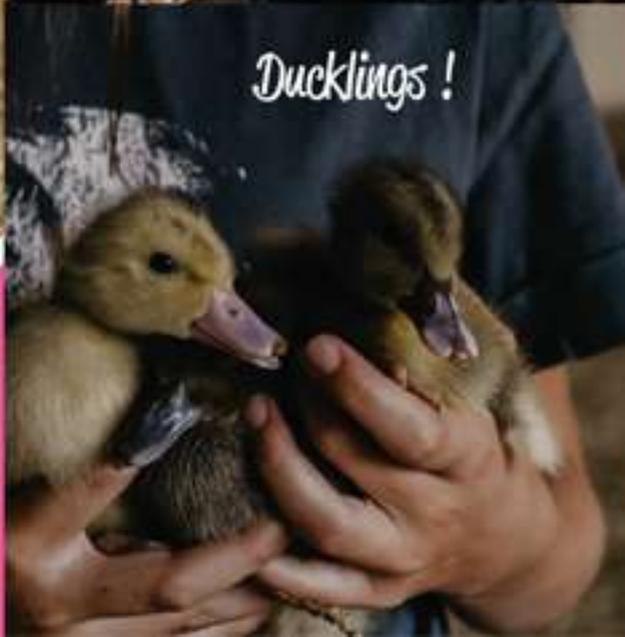
Let's go to the farm !



Donkeys are so soft !



Oh look at the pigs !



Ducklings !

Bidoche's farm, page 46

The Hilton's farm, page 47

La Ferme en Costéra, page 48

And very close to us, at the Vallons des Rêves
at Labéjan, you can see loads of animals on
the Farm, an ideal spot for children.

You can't claim anything about the **Gascons** if:



- You haven't seen this.
- You haven't found a pretty spot from which to admire the Pyrenean mountains...
- You haven't tasted Armagnac.



- You don't know where the statues of Porthos, Athos, Aramis and d'Artagnan are...
- You haven't seen any corks like these.



- You think that **Pastis gascon** is served in a glass...
- You don't know when many Gascons are decked out in sailor tops.



Answers

- With Gascons when you meet them
- With us
- On our blog www.auch-tourisme.com/a-vivre/

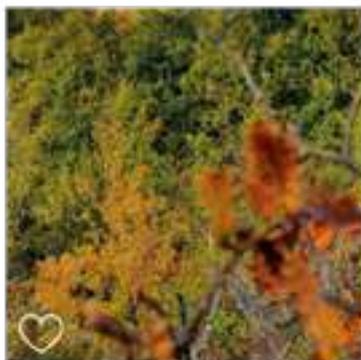
LET'S SHARE

You post, we share and everybody likes it

Tag **#effetOIE** on your beautiful photos taken in Auch and its surroundings, we will easily see them and we'll be able to share them...



@maldubroca



@lulu_divine32



@otrosstroud



@amandine_rtlc

Follow us and share your photos on Instagram with **@tourismeauch** and **#effetOIE**



On the Saint-Lary hiking trail

The state-owned Larrama forest, ode to the gentle landscapes of the Gers.

Suitably shod, and with water and cereal bars in my backpack, I decided to head for Saint-Lary for an 11.5-km hike.

The guidebook purchased at the Tourist Office showed me that I had to set off from the village church, which has ample parking space. The first footpath panel is quite conspicuous, so I was all set for about 3 hours of bliss.



I took the little tarmac road that rises behind the church and changes into a path on the village outskirts. So much for the steep warm-up! I sat on a bench to get my breath back and take in the fabulous vista unfurling before me. I glanced over to the picturesque village of Saint-Lary and its charming little square.



I turned right and walked along the tarmac road for 1200 m towards Castillon-Massas. Once past the village limit panel, there are fields in places, which offers some respite from the sun. The gentle, typically rolling Gers landscape couldn't be more attractive.

I left the little road at the "la Julian" hamlet and took the right hand path. This is actually the **pays Cœur de Gascogne GR**, a 155-km circuitous path that links two Saint James Way paths (GR 65 and GR 653). The gravel path is overhung with trees, which offers some respite from the sun. The fabulous countryside was bedecked in all its splendour and was very uplifting.

The path continues along the gently undulating terrain.

As I approached the beekeeper's house, the track changed to grass. I walked around the farm on the right and along the edge of the wood for 100 m before I took the right-hand path that plunges deep into the Larrama forest.





The path now meanders **across fields**. In fine weather you definitely need a hat, cap or some other head covering!!



I could see the lines of trees far way on the south crest.

The grass track crosses a large field and ends at the D930. **WATCH OUT FOR VEHICLES!!!**

I crossed the road, skirting "Las Gougines" the country cottage and then made off to the right, my heart thumping as I crossed the **tiny bridge** over the brook.

I got close to some **imposing ruins** of a former religious community. Look at this tree. Its trunk is very strange, deformed...



The stone path is bordered by cypress trees, suddenly I imagined I'd been spirited to **Tuscany**.



The atmosphere in the forest is quite different. I started by negotiating a fine 800-m descent.

Then the forest path becomes broader and straightens out before rising again. After the last few hairpin bends, the deciduous trees make way for conifers to great effect. The **panorama over the countryside** soon comes into view.



At "la Bruchette" hamlet I picked up a little ridge road and followed it to the next downhill slope path on the right.

In the distance, I could make out Saint-Lary and its **private chateau** (it once belonged to Countess Berthie von Colloredo-Mansfeld the mother of the Bogdanoff brothers 🍷).

The slope took me down to a house that I skirted leaving the dovecote to my right. The beaten earth path hugs a large enclosure with a sign saying that it's a boar reserve.

I found myself back at the edge of "la Loustère" brook that I crossed before making my way back up towards the D930 and returning to the church.



At this point I left the GR and followed the yellow PR markers.

Watch out! If you get to a wrought-iron cross, you have overshot the mark, turn round and walk back 20 paces.



PR: short hiking route - GR: long hiking route

Advice

• Always pack in your knapsack:

- water
- sweet snacks
- a hat
- sunglasses

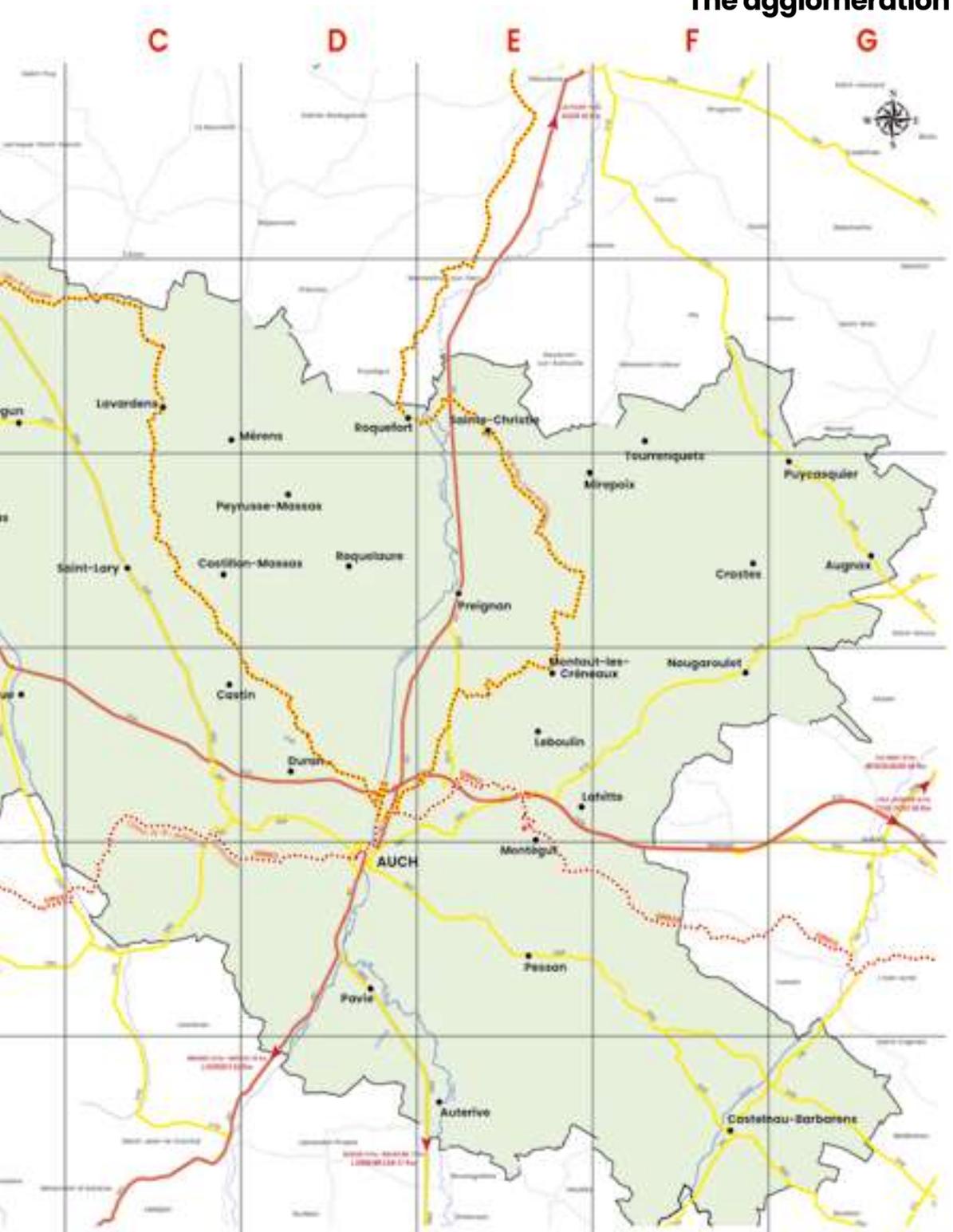
• Seasoned hikers:

- there are about twenty hiking circuits in the area, with guide leaflets available from the Tourist Office.

• If you have a problem or want to give feedback on the marked walking trails...

Flag it up on <http://sentinelles.sportsdenature.fr/> or at your Tourist Office.

The agglomeration



MEET

Area for your events

For a family or professional event, for a wedding or a team building, the domains and hotels of Auch and Gers welcome you and offer you tailor-made formulas 1 hour from Toulouse and the airport of Toulouse-Blagnac.

More informations :



PRODUITS RÉGIONAUX PLATS C
APÉRITIFS • FROMAGES • FOI
ERIES • VINS ARMAGNACS •
EAUX • PRODUITS FRAIS • CO
PLATS CUISINÉS COFFRETS CA
DIE GRAS • PRODUITS RÉGIO
ACS • APÉRITIFS • FROMAG
S • CONFISERIES • VINS AR
RETS CADEAUX • PRODUITS
ONAU • LIQUÈRES • MÛS
OMAGNACS • VINS



Auch
Produits
régionaux

Parc Commercial
Grand Chêne
32000 Auch
☎ 05 62 66 31 76
le lundi
9h30 -13h 14h - 19h
du mardi au samedi
9h30 - 19h

espace
Fromagerie



Plateau à Partager

