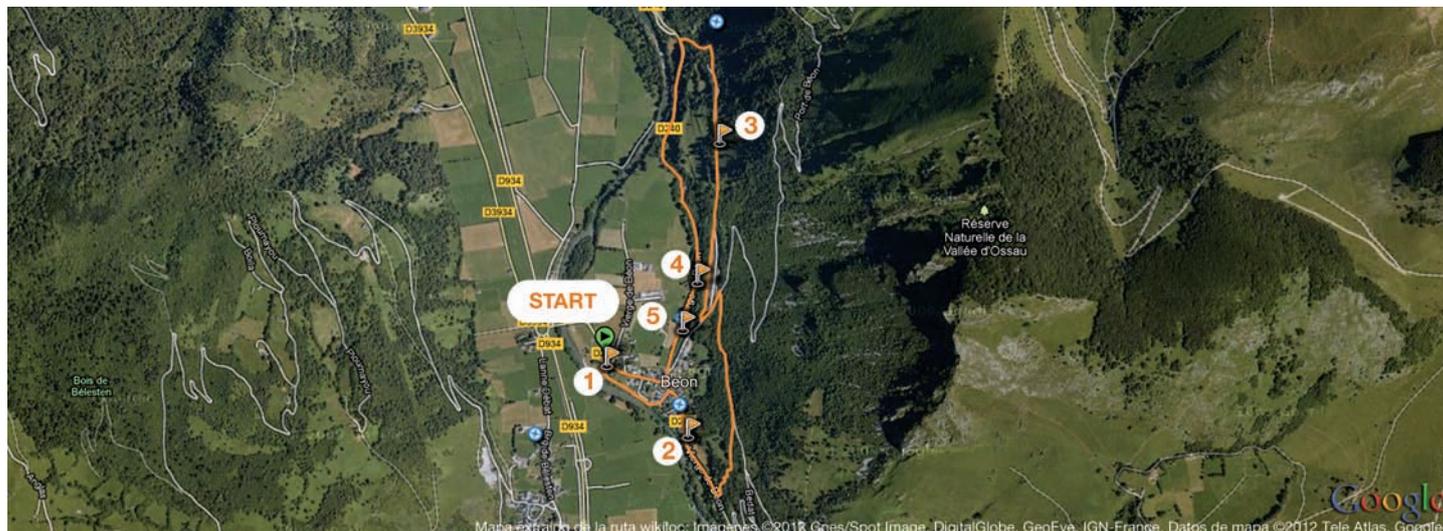


VULTOURIS ROUTES: Aste-Béon: The Promenade of the Vultures (Vallée d'Ossau)

DIFFICULTY: EASY



Information on the Vultouris birding routes can be found at the Centre d'Interprétation de la Falaise aux Vautours (Cliff of the Vultures Education Center).

The start and finish point of the route is at the Center parking area. The walk tours the cliffs of the Ossau Nature Reserve, where some hundred pairs of Griffon Vultures nest.

Commonly observed: griffon vultures taking flight from the cliffs, red kite, Egyptian vultures feeding in the meadows near the farms. Occasionally observed: short-toed snake eagle, lammergeier (bearded vulture), European honey buzzard, common buzzard, booted eagle, peregrine falcon, common kestrel, Eurasian hobby, Eurasian sparrowhawk, forest passerines, and riverside birds.

1) Cliff of the Vultures Education Center (Centre d'Interprétation de la Falaise aux Vautours)- In the heart of the town of Aste-Béon, at the foot of the Ossau Nature Reserve, the Falaise aux Vautours is a unique observatory where the visitor is taken on a journey discovering the largest vultures of the Pyrenees as well as the lives of the local shepherds (hours and cost of admission: www.falaise-aux-vautours.com).

2) The Saint Felix church (L'église Saint Félix) is thought to be quite old, 13th or 14th century, with a gothic door and naïve art sculptures. A polychrome wood representation depicts a peculiar battle between the local lord and proprietor with a Norman ruler (The Legend of la belle Margalide et du seigneur de Béon).

ROUTE FILE



Distance: 4.05km.
Maximum elevation: 441m.
Minimum elevation: 523m.
Total ascent: 82m.

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3) The cliffs around Castet and Béon were designated as the Ossau Nature Reserve in 1974, assuring the conservation of the environment where the colony of griffon vultures nests year-round. The vultures are ever present in the air as they alternate between resting, incubating and feeding their chicks.

4) To the left, the ruin of the ancient forges of the village and farther; on the other side of the small bridge which crosses the canal, the ruins of a mill. This mill had become private in the revolution, it was the mill of the castle where the families of Béon went to grind their bead. Contrary to Aste, where there was no castle and where the big families possessed each their mill. The canal of adduction of the old forge is still visible on 800m and has the particularity to use the water of plentiful let source who spring in a continuous way in the north of Béon.

5) The town washing place (lavoir) built in 1905 and restored in 2005 by the Aste-Béon town hall. This washing area is fed directly by the adduction channel of the old forge.