

# Navarre

## LONGUIDA, AEZCOA AND ARCE



200 kilometres long, this route ascends parallel to the bed of the Irati river, crossing the fertile valley of Lónguida, land of small agricultural and livestock villages, and a glorious past where medieval palaces whose towers and battlements stand out against the mountain landscape.

There are no sudden changes in villages, houses with steep flat tile roofs, when the traveler enters the lower Navarrese valley. There are agricultural villages where the granaries are almost artistic monuments.

One can reach over 1,400 metres climbing in the Sierra de Abodi, walk through the Irati forests, full of towering oaks and sturdy beeches to the banks of the Irabia reservoir or visit the former royal arms factory in Orbaiceta.

From here, one must visit the beautiful medieval enclave of Roncesvalles. The Collegiate Church, the Cloister and the Chapterhouse are authentic treasures worth knowing. To finish to approach the legendary village of Valcarlos, customs post, scene of trade and border smuggling and starting point of a branch of the French route of the Saint James' Way, through Roncesvalles to Puente la Reina and through the Erro valley.

Down the Arce valley, following the course of Urrobi river, the landscape changes. Beech trees in the shade populated by roe deer; oak forest with red sandstone soil, ash, maple and alder at the end of the valley offer an almost virgin environment barely touched by humans cultivation, poplar groves, the scattered hermitages and small towns of fine Romanesque and Gothic houses.



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