

## VISIT GUIDE



### **Garden & Park**

Two gardeners, Isabelle Auricoste (2000 National Landscape Award) and Lionel Hodier planted hundreds of flowers, shrubs and trees from all around the world. Their creation evokes the landscapes of Basse-Navarre crossed for thousands of years by a Great Path of Humanity going from Northern to Southern Europe. Here, in Saint-Palais at the European crossroads of the 3 main roads towards Compostela (GR 655,654 and 65), take the time to discover this garden and its park, an oasis of peace that awaits your presence, on these great roads of yesterday and today, crossed every day, by countless walkers.

### **Cloister**

Open without hesitation all the doors of the different spaces that await your visit in the renovated cloister of this former Franciscan convent built in the 1850s and very recently renovated. Discover the paths of art, history and knowledge that this stop of peace invites you to browse. In the center, the seven sculptures of Christian Lapie watch over your presence as is their giant sisters installed at the top of Mont Saint-Sauveur on the new path of Xibaltare (GR 654) about 1 hour walk from here.

### **Film « Compostelle »**

Next step of your visit, you can see, in this room, a film of about twenty minutes "Compostelle" directed by Christine DIGER and Arno LABAT. With the words of those who study the history of it but also the faces and words of those who walk, this film tells us, in depth, this path always vibrant humanity.

### **Paths of art and knowledge**

To understand better the history of Basse-Navarre and shed some light on its future in the wider world, Espace Chemins-Bideak offers throughout the year conferences, workshops, trainings, meetings ... open to all on the major environmental issues that we face. The exhibitions or the successive installations of visual artists, painters, sculptors, photographers ... are also able to awaken our minds by other ways.

### **The great fresco**

Here in Basse-Navarre, women and men from very different times and cultures have lived in these spaces for more than 50,000 years and have left there the fragile but abundant traces of their passages.

Drawn by Guillaume TROUILLARD, from a plot established by 7 renowned historians, the Grande Fresque offers over 50 meters long, a rigorous but simplified chronological story of these thousands of years, from ancient times to our days.

Above all, it invites you to catch a glimpse of the very long history of these human groups that are moving or settling, struggling and warring, being born and dying, appearing and disappearing through the ages in this country in constant environmental, cultural, political and social change.

All, since prehistoric times, have taken this Great Way of Humanity which crosses the Pyrenees in Navarre and connects northern Europe with Spain. Almost always for a thousand years, the Pilgrims to Compostela continue to browse it to seek the graces of heaven or the meaning of their lives ...

An illustrated booklet of about 60 pages, available at the reception building, extends this visit by bringing you knowledge and a complementary bibliography.

### **The Auditorium**

This auditorium with beautiful acoustic qualities welcomes outstanding speakers able to illuminate our common future, but also talented musicians, singers and beautiful choirs to cheer our hearts.

Connected to the entire world, it can also receive many other uses and users.

### **Paths of immigration**

From the 19th century, many Basques and Béarnais, especially "the cadets without hope" took the path of immigration to the unknown and distant worlds of the Americas. Part of their stories are told in this room through several beautiful or tragic examples, for example the immigration to Argentina of a family from Saint-Palais. If you write your name on the small computer, you may find one of your ancestors or their descendants among the more than 100,000 names listed in this database.

### **Architecture**

To enter into deep connivance with the simple, sober and peaceful spirit of this place, to easily pass from the outside of the garden within the cloister by its vault now aspired towards the azure, to invent an auditorium to bring the visitors closer to the music and words, a thousand others of form, color or materials, working in the greatest harmony with all the other designers or bearers of this project: it is the work of the architect Xavier Gauche and his teams!