



Getting here - a MountainBug Information Sheet

Chalet Les Cailloux, 8 Rue Mme de Maintenon, Bareges, 65120. France.

Introduction

Mountainbug is based in the village of Barèges, in the High Pyrenees of Southern France. We are situated South of the cities of Pau and Tarbes, and share our valley with the pilgrimage town of Lourdes.

There are various options for getting to the French High (Hautes) Pyrenees and then to Barèges. The most popular options are listed below.

Please note that we are not responsible for your travel arrangements, and we always recommend that you have travel insurance covering your mode of transport in case of delay or cancellations.



Barèges, home of Mountainbug



By air from the UK

The airports that are closest to this part of the Pyrenees are:

- 📍 Lourdes (50 minutes drive)
- 📍 Pau (1 hours 30 mins drive)
- 📍 Toulouse (2½ hours drive)
- 📍 Biarritz (2½ hours drive)

The current flight options, that we're aware of, to these airports from the UK are:

- 📍 Ryanair from London Stansted to **Lourdes**
- 📍 Pyrenees Direct from Manchester to **Lourdes** (<http://www.pyreneesdirect.com/>) Summer only
- 📍 Ryanair also fly from London Stansted, Manchester and Dublin to **Biarritz**
- 📍 City Jet from London City to **Pau**
- 📍 EasyJet from Gatwick to **Toulouse**
- 📍 EasyJet also fly from Bristol to both **Toulouse and Biarritz**
- 📍 British Airways from Heathrow to **Toulouse**
- 📍 Jet2 from Manchester to **Toulouse**
- 📍 There are also various airlines operating into **Bordeaux**, but this is over 3 hours drive away

We recommend you keep an eye on the airlines' websites for new routes, deals, and changes to routes.

There are connecting flights into Lourdes via Paris with operators like British Airways and Air France from the main UK airports.

Please note this is not a comprehensive list - do let us know if you come across other flight options.

Getting from the airports to us

Lourdes Airport

You can drive, get a taxi or in the winter, take the village ski transfer bus. We can also arrange private group transfers, please contact us if you would like a quote for this.

Ski Transfers - Winter only.

Transfers from Lourdes airport are run and organized by the airport, they cost €30 return per person and are dependent on which flight you arrive on, how many people there are in your group and our other travel commitments for the day. The online reservation can be made here: <http://resa-navette.tourisme-hautes-pyrenees.com/fr/voir-faire/a807132/navettes-a%C3%A9roport-tarbes-lourdes-pyr%C3%A9n%C3%A9es-%3E-stations-de-sk/afficher-les-details?filter=c%3D29472>.

By taxi

Taxis from Lourdes airport cost around 80 € each way.

We can help out with pre-booking your taxi. Please request this when you make your holiday reservation.



Hire car

If you hire a car you can then enjoy the straightforward drive up into the mountains.

To drive to us from Lourdes airport, follow signs for Lourdes - only about 10 minutes drive from the airport. Once at Lourdes, follow signs for Argeles-Gazost/Gavarnie and then Luz-St. Sauveur. From Luz-St. Sauveur go up the valley to the left following signs for [Bareges](#).

If you drive, please see **Notes for all drivers** for important information.

Public Transport

You can catch a bus from Lourdes airport to Lourdes railway station (for the latest timetable see):

<http://www.tlp.aeroport.fr/gp/Parking-et-Transports/239>

From Lourdes SNCF, you can then catch the SNCF coach to Bareges. You must make one quick, easy change at Pierrefitte.

The timetable is:

	Monday to Saturday Except holidays		Everyday		Everyday		Everyday		Everyday	
Lourdes SNCF	8.15		9.50		13:45		16.10		18.30	
(other villages)	-		-		-		-		-	
Pierrefitte Nestales	8.45	8.50	10.20	10.25	14.20	14.25	16.40	16.45	19.00	19.05
Luz St-Sauveur	-	9.10	-	10.45		14.45	-	17.05	-	19.25
Bareges	-	9.20	-	10.55		15.00	-	17.15	-	19.35

Bareges to Lourdes SNCF

	Monday to Saturday Except holidays		Everyday		Everyday		Everyday		Everyday	
Bareges	6.50		9.35		11.20		15.00		17.45	
Luz St-Sauveur	7.00		9.50		11.30		15.10		17.55	
Pierrefitte Nestales	7.20	7.25	10.05	10.10	11.50	11.55	15.30	15.35	18.15	18.20
(other villages)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lourdes SNCF	-	8.00	-	10.45	-	12.30	-	16.10	-	18.55



Pau airport

You can either get a taxi from Pau airport drive or come on public transport.

By taxi

Prices by taxi are in the region of 150 € each way, depending on your group size.

Please ask and we can make a reservation for you.

By car

To drive to us from Pau airport, follow the road towards Pau centre then either take the A64 (toll road) to Tarbes, coming off at exit 12 signed to Tarbes and Lourdes exit 12 or take the national route road (green signs, and just as quick if traffic is normal) signed to Lourdes.

Once at Lourdes, follow signs for Argeles-Gazost/Gavarnie and then Luz-St. Sauveur. From Luz-St. Sauveur go up the valley to the left following signs for [Bareges](#).

Please see **Notes to all drivers** at the end, if you do decide on this option.

By public transport

To reach Bareges by public transport from Pau, the easiest way is:

1. Get the shuttle bus or a taxi to Pau station
2. Get a direct train to Lourdes
3. Get the local bus from Lourdes station to Bareges, changing at Pierrefitte. See page 3 for the latest timetable

If you choose this option, please check carefully all the times for each section of transport.

Toulouse-Blagnac airport

From Toulouse airport, you can either hire a car at the airport, take public transport to Bareges via Lourdes, or get a taxi.

Public transport

For public transport, you have to take the airport bus to the train station. Then it's a 2 hour train trip to Lourdes train station.

From Lourdes SNCF, you can catch the SNCF coach to Bareges – See page 3 for the latest timetable.

You have to change at Pierrefitte to get the bus to Bareges (again, timed to leave 5 minutes after the Lourdes bus arrives). The total bus journey including change is 1 hour.

We are then approximately 5 minutes walk from the bus stop in Bareges.



Your train and bus ticket to Bareges can be booked together, as SNCF operate the bus.

By car

To drive to us from Toulouse-Blagnac airport, follow signs for the A64 direction Bayonne/Tarbes/Lourdes. Stay on the autoroute until Junction 12 then follow signs for Lourdes.

Once at Lourdes, follow signs for Argeles-Gazost/Gavarnie and then Luz-St. Sauveur. From Luz-St. Sauveur go up the valley to the left following signs for [Bareges](#).

Please see **Notes to all drivers** if you decide on this option.

By taxi

A pre-booked taxi costs up to 450 € each way, depending on group size.

Please contact us if you would like a quote for a taxi transfer.

Biarritz airport

From Biarritz airport, you can either drive or get a taxi or go by public transport.

By car

Get on to the A63 to Bayonne/Bordeaux, then take exit 5.1 toward Pau/Toulouse/Saint Pierre d'Irube/Mouguerre-Centre de Fret/Hasparren, then merge onto the A64. Drive 116km before taking exit 11 toward Lourdes/Soumoulou/Pontacq.

Once at Lourdes, follow signs for Argeles-Gazost/Gavarnie and then Luz-St. Sauveur. From Luz-St. Sauveur go up the valley to the left following signs for [Bareges](#).

Please see **Notes to all drivers** at the end, if you do decide on this option.

By taxi

Please enquire if you would like us to get a quote for a taxi transfer.

By public transport

To our knowledge, there is no shuttle bus from the airport to the train station, so you need to take a taxi. You can then catch a train from Biarritz to Lourdes. Some are direct but some require a change.

From Lourdes SNCF, you can then take the SNCF coach to Bareges – See page 3 for the latest timetable.



By ferry from the UK

The Northern ferry ports (Calais, Dunkirk etc)

It's about a 10-12 hour drive to us from the Northern ferry ports via Bordeaux, and then the national route to Pau and Lourdes. You might like to stop overnight and break the journey. When calculating the cost of this option, you can look up motorway tolls on www.viamichelin.com, which calculates journey time, toll prices and fuel consumption.

The Brittany ferry ports (Caen, Le Havre, Roscoff)

Again, the most direct route from these ferry ports is via Bordeaux, and then the national route to Pau and Lourdes. It is around 10 to 12 hour drive from Brittany, depending on the port you choose.

The Spanish ferry ports

Alternatively, the Spanish ports at Bilbao and Santander are 4 hours and 5 hours drive respectively from Baresges, passing through the Basque country before coming over the border into France.



By train

Our nearest railway station is at Lourdes. The Paris mainline services are met by a connecting bus service run by SNCF (the French railway company) up to Bareges. See page 3 for the latest bus timetable.

There is a direct train from Paris Montparnasse, via Bordeaux, to Lourdes, which takes about 6 hours. As well as regular daytime services, there is also a sleeper option.

All trains in France are run by SNCF (Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer).

The website <http://www.seat61.com/France.htm> provides information on rail travel in France, as well as useful tips and links to buying train tickets.

Many of our guests who take this option from the UK combine this with a night or two in Paris for the city life before heading for a more sedate pace with us in the mountains!

From Lourdes SNCF to Bareges

By taxi:

Taxi fare is around 65 € each way. Please ask if you would like us to pre-book a taxi for you.

By bus:

From Lourdes SNCF, you can catch the SNCF coach to Bareges – See page 3 for the latest timetable



By car

Please see the section “By ferry” as this covers most of the routes.

The key is that wherever you are coming from, **you need to head to Lourdes**. Once at Lourdes, follow signs for Argeles-Gazost/Gavarnie and then Luz-St. Sauveur. From Luz-St. Sauveur go up the valley to the left following signs for [Bareges](#).

www.viamichelin.com helps you calculate distances, toll and fuel costs, as well as providing information on services and picnic stops along the way.

Notes to all drivers

1. France has toll roads, where you pay to use the road. Please come armed with change or a credit/debit card to pay for them.
2. In winter, generally the roads here are extremely well maintained, especially up to Bareges as it is a major ski resort. Only rarely will snow chains be necessary. However, we do recommend our guests carry them, in case of that unexpected blizzard!
3. In France, you must carry in your car at all times, by law:
 - ☒ a valid drivers' license
 - ☒ your vehicle registration document
 - ☒ a warning triangle
 - ☒ two breathalysers
 - ☒ a spare-lightbulb kit
 - ☒ a fluorescent jacket/vest
 - ☒ A Green Card (supplied by your insurer) is recommended and a European Accident form.

If hiring a car in France, the car hire company should supply all of these. Please do check with your insurer or breakdown company for the latest in legal requirements.

****Note for GPS/Microsoft Autoroute users****

4. These will direct you via Bagneres de Bigorre and the Col du Tourmalet. **DO NOT** attempt this road in Winter – the Col du Tourmalet is **CLOSED**. You must come via LOURDES.

In Summer the Tourmalet road is a very scenic, slow and winding route – enjoyable in fine weather, but if you are trying to get here quickly, please come via LOURDES.



Finding the chalet

As you enter [Bareges](#) on the main street, you will see the big cinema building and main village car-park on the left.



On the right hand side of the road, look out for the Hotel Alpee, Sport 2000, then the butcher's shop - Sabathie. There is a small lane **just before** the butcher's shop, opposite the steps up from the square.

The chalet is visible from the street about 20m up this lane, on the left. You can park your car in the turning area below the house to drop off your baggage, but for long-term parking we recommend the central car park.

Alternatively, you can park behind the house on Rue Madame de Maintenon. Continue past the butcher's shop and you will see the Mairie/Tourist office on your right. Just afterwards, turn right before the pharmacy. Drive up behind the Mairie and there are parking spaces either immediately on your right, or 50m further along the road, also on the right. The chalet is situated below the road on the right hand side, accessed by two pedestrian walkways descending from the road round to the front of the house.

The chalet is cream coloured with blue shutters. Please knock on the main door or just open it and give us a shout.

Chalet Les Cailloux, 8 Rue Mme de Maintenon, 65120, Bareges, France.

***Note for GPS users: although our address puts us on Rue Mme. de Maintenon, you will not find us there because we are actually situated just below this road, fronting onto a pedestrian lane.**

Some useful websites

These are some useful websites to help you plan your journey. The list is certainly not extensive and we would always recommend you check that your travel information comes from a good source.



www.biarritzaeroporto.fr

www.pauaeroporto.fr

www.seat61.com for advice on rail travel in Europe

www.raileurope.co.uk to book train tickets

www.viamichelin.com

www.voyages-sncf.com French rail tickets