

Walk 30: LOGIBAR • PASSARELLE D'HOLTZARTE • HOLTZARTE FOREST • OLHADÜBI GORGE • OLHADÜBI BRIDGE • PLATEAU D'ARDAKOTXIA • LOGIBAR

Distance: 11km/6.8mi; 4h20min
Grade: strenuous, with an ascent/descent of 600m. The route to the hanging bridge of Holtzarte is quite steep in places, but a handrail provides assistance on the steepest parts. The path as far as the bridge is well used, and a shorter alternative would be to just go there and back (3.2km/1h25min). Following the main

walk, the final descent to Logibar (on the GR10) is extremely taxing on the knees. The walk is waymarked in green and white as far as the Plateau d'Ardakotxia, and from there in red and white (GR10).

Equipment: see page 55

Access: 🚗 Follow Car tour 8 to the car park behind the bar/refuge of **Logibar**. *No public transport.*

The Himalayan-style hanging bridge of Holtzarte, suspended over 200m above the Gorge of Olhadübi, is probably the best-known landmark in Xiberoa and a must for all visitors to the area. This circuit visits the bridge as part of a somewhat longer walk than the usual two-hour return trip, offering the chance to explore the Holtzarte Forest and the upper reaches of the Olhadübi Gorge, with a return descent on the GR10.

Start out from the car park behind **Logibar** (375m): cross the river bridge and turn right to enter the forest and walk alongside the river. The route starts to climb quite steeply over rocks (15min) and, on reaching a clearing, the

Holtzarte Gorge and the mountain peaks beyond it come into view (20min). Continue along this clear path until you reach the confluence of the **Holtzarte** and **Olhadübi gorges**, a spectacular viewpoint (40min),

with the incredible **Passerelle d'Holtzarte** above the latter gorge to the left. When you reach the bridge (580m; 45min) cross it. Despite its swaying movement, no accident has ever been recorded here! It was originally built in the 1920s as part of a programme of forestry exploration in the area. Once on the far side, take the path zigzagging up through the **Holtzarte Forest**, with tantalizing glimpses through the trees of the Holtzarte Gorge to the right. This path was once part of the GR10, but it is no longer much used, so the red and white markings have faded considerably; still, the path is reasonably clear.

On reaching a wider forest track (780m; 1h10min), turn left, following the sign to **OLHADÜBI** along a wide, level path which crosses a stream just below a small **waterfall** (1h35min). A little further on, a larger **waterfall** in the main Olhadübi Gorge is visible through the trees (1h45min), and we soon reach the small wooden **Olhadübi Bridge** (840m; 1h50min) at the head of the

Below: Passerelle d'Holtzarte

Olhadübi Gorge.

Cross the bridge, following the sign to **ARDAKOTXIA/LOGIBAR** along a path which leaves the forest and continues along the hillside with increasingly open views to the gorge. After crossing another stream, the path gently climbs to a flat grassy area (2h30min) with stunning views. From here we veer right, up the hillside, to a track. Follow this to the left, to a GR10 signpost at the top of the **Plateau d'Arkatotxia** (980m; 2h50min), the highest point of the walk. Follow the sign directing you down the track, descending gently towards Logibar and re-entering the forest. Turn sharp left on a waymarked path (3h20min) and go over a **stile**, emerging from the forest onto a **grassy spur** (3h45min), from where there are fine views down to the Larrau Valley ahead. The final descent, beginning at the bottom of the spur (4h05min), is extremely tough going, but steps help over the steepest sections as the path enters the forest again and descends to the car park at **Logibar** (4h20min).

