



## Tour

## South West France & Northern Spain

SW FRANCE PÉPINIÈRES MAYMOU  
ARBORETUM DE CHOCHA • BED BEDER, SAUBUSSE  
ARBORETUM DE LA BERGERETTE • PLANBUISSON  
BAMBOO PLANTATION • ARBORETUM DE SAUTET  
ARBORETUM DES POUYOULEIX

NORTHERN SPAIN ITURARRAN BOTANICAL GARDEN

FOR BOOKING DETAILS &  
FURTHER INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE  
TOUR ORGANISER

## Dates

29 September to 4 October 2021

## Organised by

Elisabeth Ryelandt

Email: [elisabeth.ryelandt@gmail.com](mailto:elisabeth.ryelandt@gmail.com)

**22**  
PARTICIPANTS  
MAXIMUM

Photos © Elisabeth Ryelandt



Above from left, Iturraran Botanical Garden, Pagoeta National Park, northern Spain and right, Arboretum de la Bergerette, St Sardos, France.

## TOUR INTRODUCTION

The Tour will start in Bayonne and will give the participants the opportunity to discover various botanical jewels of the Basque country on both sides of the French-Spanish border. We will be visiting an old nursery which is still active, the famous Iturraran Botanical Garden (close to San Sebastian in northern Spain) and three different oak collections (all of them planted and owned by IDS members).

We then will have a long journey crossing the Landes to join the Perigord region where the soil is particularly well suited for growing oaks.

Comfort will be basic: you can expect one seated lunch a day (dinner), picnic lunch everyday. Be aware that some accommodation will be in youth hostels, with private showers but shared restrooms(!) This is rough travel across a wide geographic area to locations with steep ground and some challenging terrain! Distance covered 735 km over 6 days.

“an energetic tour for the more adventurous, across a wide geographic area to locations with steep ground and some challenging terrain.



Photos © Pépinières Maymou



## TOUR SCHEDULE

### DAY 1

WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

#### Arrival, 14:00

Tour participants to meet at 14:00 at the TGV Railway Station in Bayonne (TGV Railway Station, 64100 Bayonne).

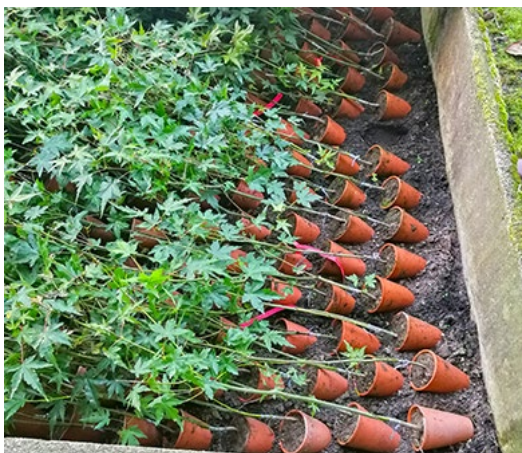
#### Pépinières Maymou

■ 3 ha ■ West-exposition ■ Clay-sandy soil, pH 4,5 > 6

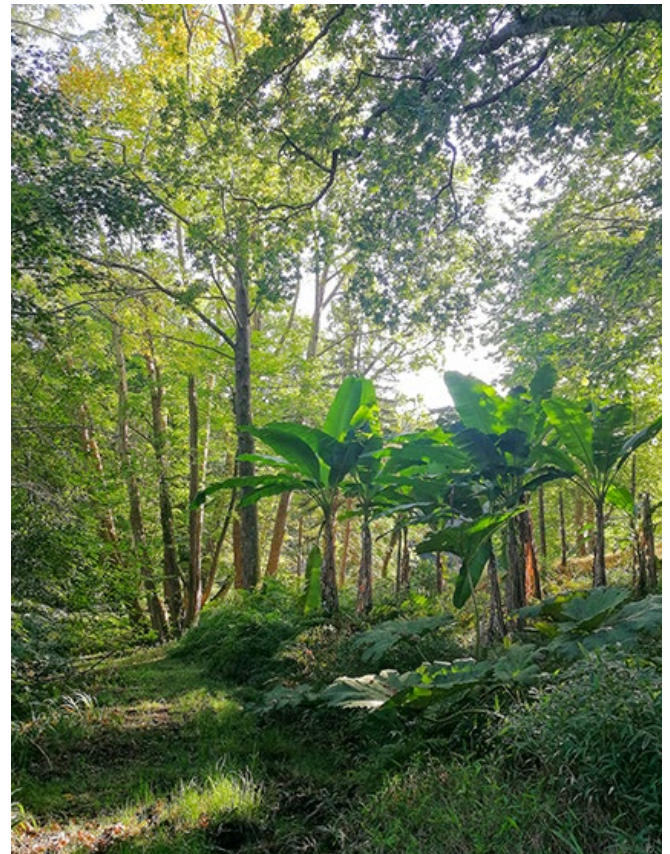
Transfer by coach to the famous Nursery, Pépinières Maymou, in Bayonne, France, for our first visit.

#### History

The first plantations date back to 1884. The park was then a nursery. Part of it was converted into an arboretum in 1937. The most remarkable part, in a valley with peaty soil with several springs, has been redesigned since 1968 by the current owner and her father, Mr Paul Maymou with ornamental trees and shrubs well adapted to the Basque country: 328 woody taxa from 132 different species, including *Abies spectabilis*, *Cercis racemosa*, *Daphniphyllum himalense macropodum*, *Castanea mollissima* and *Abies pinsapo* planted in 1907.



Photos © Elisabeth Ryelandt



#### Transfer

Transfer by coach to the Suburbs of San Sebastian, SS, Spain: 80 km, 1 hour journey time.

#### Overnight and dinner

Heredad de Unanue Hotel  
Errotazar Bidea, 142,  
20018 Donostia, San Sebastian, SS, Spain



# IDS Tour information

Photo © Iturraran Botanical Garden



Iturraran Botanical Garden, Pagoeta National Park

Photo © Elisabeth Ryelandt



## DAY 2

## THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

### Iturraran Botanical Garden

Transfer by coach to visit Iturraran Botanical Garden 23 km, 30 minutes journey time.

The Iturraran Botanical Garden is at the heart of the Pagoeta National Park, close to San Sebastian (Spain).

The first plants were planted in 1986, in an area of 10 hectares. More than 4,000 taxa from all over the world, with interesting collections of magnolia, acer, quercus and berberis.

Light sandwich lunch at Iturraran.

Return to the hotel, 30 minutes by coach.

Photos © Elisabeth Ryelandt



Iturraran Botanical Garden, Pagoeta National Park

### Overnight and dinner

Heredad de Unanue Hotel  
Errotazar Bidea, 142,  
20018 Donostia, San Sebastian, SS, Spain



Photographs © Elisabeth Ryelandt



Arboretum de Chocha, Ustaritz, France

## DAY 3

## FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER

### Morning departure, 08:30

Coach transfer from the hotel in the suburbs of San Sebastian to Ustaritz, France. 65 km, 1 hour journey time.

### Arboretum de Chocha

Visit to the Arboretum de Chocha (approx. 3 hours)

A small, three-hectare arboretum with collections planted from 1975 by the current owner on a very steepy place. More than one hundred species of woody quercus from Mexico and the Southern part of the USA (*Quercus bicolor*, *Q. laurifolia*, *Q. insignis*, *Q. vaseyana*, *Cyclobalanopsis gilva*, *Amomyrtus meli...* and others.)

### Afternoon departure, 12:30

Bus transfer from Ustaritz to Saubusse, 59 km, 1 hour journey time with picnic lunch en route, on the coach.

### Bed Beder, Saubusse

The plantations in the Park, overlooking the Adour river, were started around 1840, as witnessed by a remarkable *Magnolia grandiflora* from wild collected seeds. Other remarkable trees here include *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, *Cryptomeria japonica*, *Diosporos kaki* planted in 1935 as well as about 10 *Camellia japonica* of which some reach as high as 10 metres.



*Magnolia grandiflora*, Bed Beder, Saubusse



Photographs © Elisabeth Ryelandt



*Quercus hinckleyi* at Arboretum de la Bergerette, France, with leaf detail, above right.

## DAY 3

FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER

### Depart for Auch, approximately 15:30

175 km, 2 hours 30 minutes journey time, arriving 18:00.  
Auch is about 80 km due west of Toulouse.

### Overnight and dinner

Dinner for 20:00 at the hotel in Auch.

Le domaine de Beaulieu

Chemin du Barrail - 822 Chemin de Luss, 32000 Auch.

Website: <http://www.ledomainedebaulieu.com/index.php/fr/le-domaine>

## DAY 4

SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

### Morning departure, 09:00

Arboretum de la Bergerette

65 km, 1 hour journey time arriving 10:00

The 15 ha **Arboretum de la Bergerette** descends 50 metres via natural terraces from a summer-dry plateau to moister valleys. Variable soils are normally neutral and poorly drained. Average annual rainfall is 600 mm, usually with summer drought; temperatures range between 40 °C and -7 °C. Planting commenced in 1990, and trees are mainly



*Quercus hinckleyi* in front of other trees that tolerate the dryness of the plateau at Arboretum de la Bergerette. In the photo, *Genista aetnensis*, *Pinus sabiniana*, *Eucalyptus glaucescens* and a *cupressus*.



# IDS Tour information

wild-collected: there is a National Collection of around 200 species of oak; a collection of carya; and an eclectic mix of other species. Their own seed collections have been much augmented by others, particularly Allen Coombes in the 90s and subsequently those of Béatrice Chassé.

*Prunus zippeliana*, an evergreen tree from warmer regions of east Asia extremely rare in European collections. Here it is just starting to show the adult exfoliating bark, arbutus-red underneath.

*Quercus affinis*, a beautiful, graceful and fast-growing evergreen oak from Mexico, the largest planted in 1993 and now around 18 metres tall. *Quercus hinckleyi*, critically endangered slow-growing drought-tolerant shrub oak from West Texas, planted here in 1999, and still only 2.2 metres tall.

*Quercus microphylla* from the drier areas of Mexico, another shrubby oak very rarely seen in collections and now 3.2 m tall but spreading at the root. *Q. rysophylla*. A group here has wild-collected specimens from both Allen Coombes and Thierry Lamant, the largest, around 18 m tall, planted in 1997.

## 13:00

Transfer from Arboretum de la Bergerette, 82600 St Sardos to Jardin de Planbuisson (bamboo garden) at Le Buisson-de-Cadouin, France 136 km 2.15h.

Lunch during the bus transfer.

## 15.30

Visit to the **Planbuisson bamboo plantation**. A small landscape garden of 1.5 ha with an intimate atmosphere contains more than 200 bamboo taxa (*Chimonobambusa*, *Semiarundinaria*, *Phyllostachys*), as well as a collection of herbaceous.



Jardin de Planbuisson

Photo © Elisabeth Ryelandt



Arboretum de la Bergerette

## 17:00

Transfer to l'Abbaye de Cadouin (10 minutes, 7.4 km).

## Overnight and dinner

Youth Hostel de Cadouin, Abbaye de Cadouin, 24480 Cadouin  
Dinner at 19:30, le Cloître de Cadouin

## DAY 5

SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER

## 09:30

Visit to **Arboretum de Sautet**.

The collections were planted under the cover of existing oaks and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) on clay and clay-chalky soil. Most plants come from China, Mexico and the USA and from various arboretums. Only species, no hybrid plants. Among the remarkable trees, the following trees can be spotted: *Quercus miquihuanensis*, *Lithocarpus hancei*, *Hemiptelea davidii*, *Mahonia oiwakensis* and *Zelkova sinica*.

## 13:00

Lunch at Sautet.



# IDS Tour information

Photographs © Elisabeth Ryelandt



Arboretum des Pouyouleix



## DAY 5

SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER

### 17:30

Transfer to le Cloître de Cadouin, 8 km, 15 minutes.

### Overnight and dinner

Youth Hostel de Cadouin, Abbaye de Cadouin, 24480 Cadouin

### 19:30

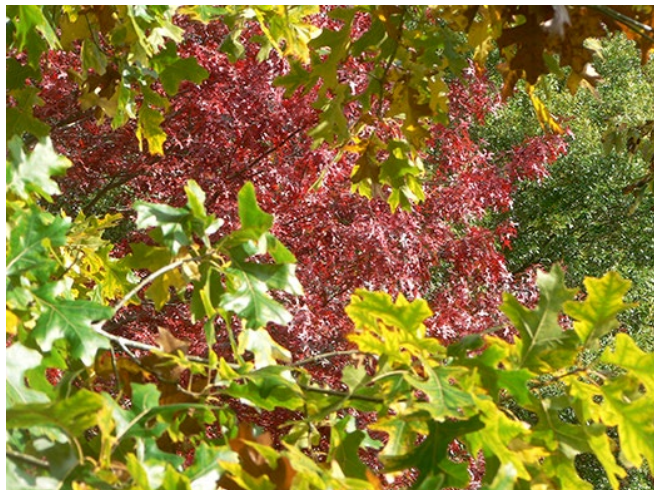
Dinner at 19:30, le Cloître de Cadouin

## DAY 6

MONDAY 4 OCTOBER

### 08:30

Transfer to Arboretum des Pouyouleix, 24800 Saint-Jory-de-Chalais. 100 km, 1 hour 30 minutes.



Arboretum des Pouyouleix

### 10:00

Visit to the **Arboretum des Pouyouleix** including lunch.

The Arboretum des Pouyouleix is located in Saint-Jory-de-Chalais between Périgueux and Limoges, in the northern part of the Dordogne, in a hilly area. The arboretum comprises 25 hectares, bordered on the western side by a river, in a largely metamorphic zone between the Aquitaine basin and the Massif Central. The soil is acidic and comes predominantly from the decomposition of the crystalline substrate.

The arboretum harbours approximately 750 taxa, with more than 300 taxa of the genus *Quercus* (National Collection for the genus *Quercus* since 2012) with a majority originating from wild-collected seeds. The first plantations date back to 7 December, 2003. Average annual rainfall is generally about 1,000 mm. The temperature during the day in the winter never falls below 0° Celsius. In 2020, the arboretum has had 23 nights with frost (lowest temperature, -5 °C).

Remarkable plants include *Quercus depressa*, *Q. macvaughii*, *Q. carmenensis*, *Q. sideroxylla*, *Q. tatakaensis*, *Chilopsis linearis*, *Torreya taxifolia*, *Pinus culminicola*, *Robinia neomexicana* and *Castanopsis purpurella*.

### 15:00

Transfer to Angoulême TGV Station 80 km, 1 hour 30 minutes.

### 16:30

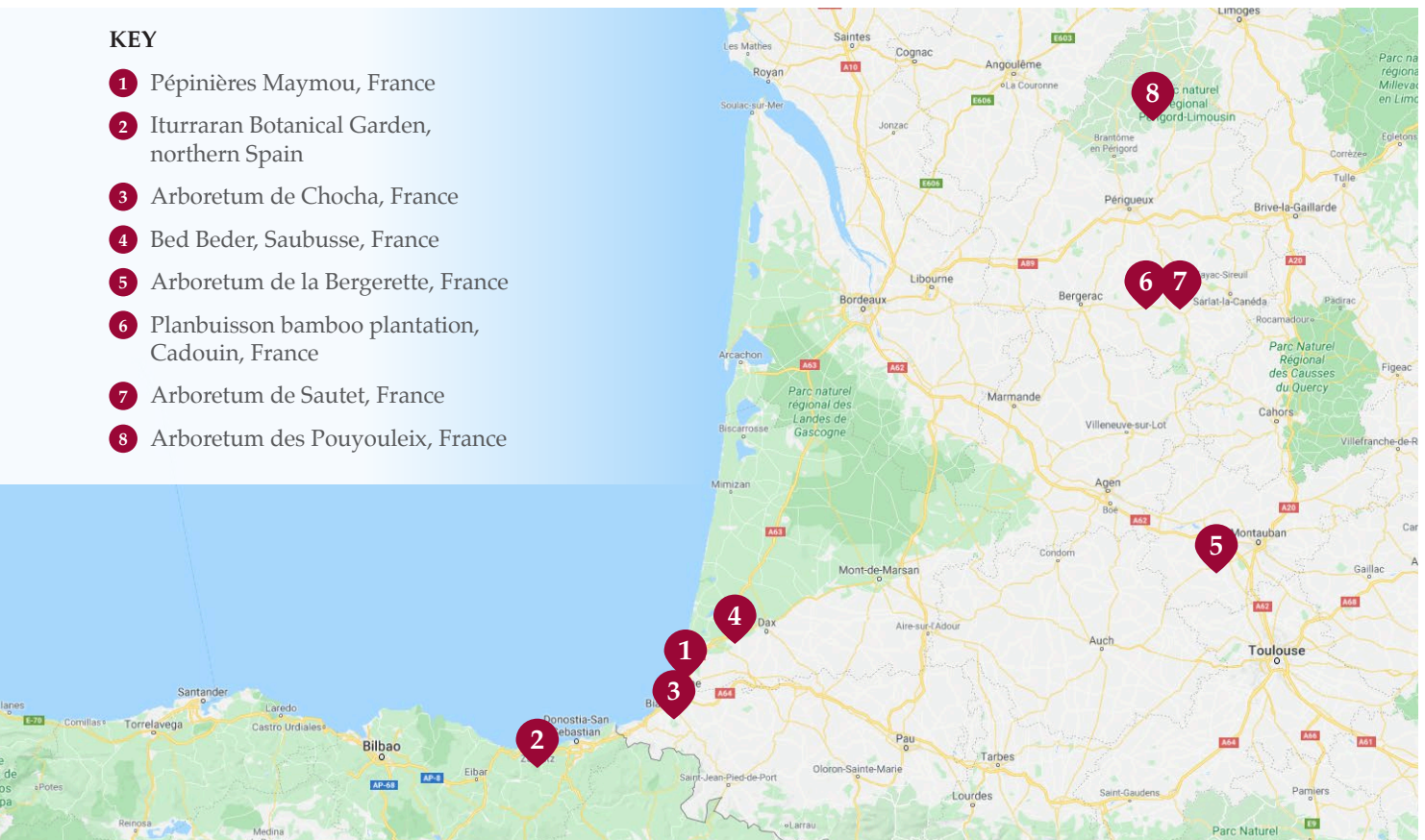
End of the Tour



## LOCATION MAP

### KEY

- 1 Pépinières Maymou, France
- 2 Iturraran Botanical Garden, northern Spain
- 3 Arboretum de Chocha, France
- 4 Bed Beder, Saubusse, France
- 5 Arboretum de la Bergerette, France
- 6 Planbuisson bamboo plantation, Cadouin, France
- 7 Arboretum de Sautet, France
- 8 Arboretum des Pouyouleix, France



Map data © 2020 Google

## TOUR SUMMARY

**Location** South West France & Northern Spain

**Dates** Starts, Wednesday 29 September 2021  
Bayonne TGV Railway Station (direct connections to Paris)

Ends, Monday 4 October 2021  
Angoulême TGV Railway Station

**Tour organiser** Elisabeth Ryelandt  
Email: elisabeth.ryelandt@gmail.com

**Availability** Tour restricted to 22 participants.

**Accessibility** Walking difficulty: 4-5.

A good level of fitness required for this tour.  
Please check with the tour organiser if you have any concerns.  
Long distance walks on steep ground and challenging terrain.  
Not suitable for wheelchairs.

**Accommodation** The standard of accommodation will range from basic to good.

**Approximate cost** €1200 per person (no single rooms available)

**What's included?** Hotel accommodation, coach transport, all meals and soft drinks, tips, entrance fees.

**What's not included?** Travel insurance, laundry services, wine at dinner or alcoholic drinks.

