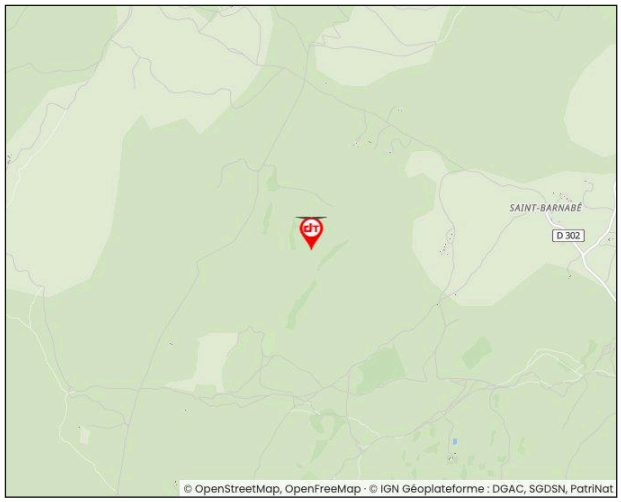
The limestone plateau of Saint Barnabé

Unusual · Alpes-Maritimes

GPS coordinates	43.76276, 7.02726
Elevation	998 m
Maximum height	120 m max
Access	Direct access by car
Nearest aerodrome	Cipieres Alpes Dazur ULM 13 km W · spot 157 m lower
Spot reference	303677



Spot location and restrictions (Drone-Spot map image)

Sun (local times, UTC+01:00)

Day	Dawn	Sunrise	Sunset	Dusk	Day length	Golden hour
Sat 21 Nov	07:02	07:34	17:02	17:33	9 h 27	07:34–08:18 · 16:17–17:02
Sun 22 Nov	07:04	07:35	17:01	17:32	9 h 25	07:35–08:20 · 16:16–17:01
Mon 23 Nov	07:05	07:36	17:00	17:32	9 h 23	07:36–08:21 · 16:15–17:00

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Cipieres Alpes Dazur ULM	Aerodrome	13 km W	1,155 m
Sophia Antépolis Heliport	Heliport	16 km S	235 m
Hôpital L'Archet 2 Heliport	Heliport	18 km SE	185 m
Hôpital Clavary Heliport	Heliport	18 km SW	168 m

Description

This limestone plateau with an almost naked landscape of vegetation, stretching for kilometres at an altitude of almost 1000 metres, this strangely silent silence, which is not found elsewhere, gives an unusual atmosphere, at once very restful and soothing. Its vast expanse will allow you to wander around and let your imagination do the rest on these curious limestone formations. Also called "Field of Idols" a really unique corner where erosion has carved bizarrely shaped rocks, semblance of faces, really a very strange place. Magnetic disturbances of unknown origin may panic your GPS or your hiking watch, so don't be surprised if you turn around a bit! There is also talk of extra-terrestrial phenomena in this place isolated from civilisation. Yes, it is indeed "the enigma of St-Barnabé" that "les Invisibles du Col de Vence", a group of ufologists, are trying to solve....

Scan to open the up-to-date spot page: weather, map and restrictions.

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=303677

Before every flight: check the UAS zones map, NOTAMs and temporary areas, the weather and the Kp index.

Preparing the flight

Pre-flight Check-List

- ☐ Area checked: UAS zones, restrictions, protected areas
- ☐ NOTAMs and temporary areas checked
- ☐ Weather: wind, gusts, rain, visibility; Kp index
- ☐ Operator number displayed on the drone
- ☐ Training certificate or licence with me
- ☐ Third-party liability insurance checked
- ☐ Batteries charged: drone, controller, phone
- ☐ Propellers, motors and frame in good condition
- ☐ Memory card inserted and empty
- ☐ Software up to date, compass and IMU calibrated
- ☐ Return to home: home point and return height set
- ☐ Electronic signalling or remote ID active
- ☐ Take-off area clear, people informed and at a distance
- ☐ Observer present for FPV flights

Key rules of the open category

Recreational flying in France: European open-category rules, applied by the DGAC.

- Maximum height: 120 m above the ground, lower where a restriction requires it.
- Always keep the drone in sight; when flying FPV, an observer keeps it in sight next to you.
- Never fly over crowds and keep the distances of your subcategory (A1, A2 or A3).
- Respect UAS geographical zones: around aerodromes, prohibited or restricted areas, protected areas, sensitive sites.
- Register as an operator if the drone weighs 250 g or more or carries a camera (toys excepted), and display the number on the drone.
- Training: online A1/A3 certificate from 250 g or for a class C1 drone; A2 certificate to fly closer to people with a class C2 drone.
- Always give way to manned aircraft and land if one approaches.
- Respect privacy: no images that identify people without their consent; aerial photography is prohibited in some areas.
- Check your third-party liability insurance.
- In France: registration and training on AlphaTango (DGAC); a drone of 800 g or more must broadcast electronic signalling (or the remote ID of class-marked drones).

Non-exhaustive summary: rules change. Reference: the DGAC open-category guide and the country's regulations.

Useful links

UAS zones map around the spot : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/carte-uas.aspx?lat=43.76276&lon=7.02726
Drone pilot library : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/bibliotheque
DGAC open-category guide (French) : https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/bibliotheque/guide-categorie-ouverte
Registration and training (AlphaTango) : https://alphatango.aviation-civile.gouv.fr
NOTAMs and temporary areas (SOFIA Briefing) : https://sofia-briefing.aviation-civile.gouv.fr

My flight notes

Information sheet generated by Drone-Spot from community data: it replaces neither official aeronautical information nor the regulations. The remote pilot remains responsible for the flight.