drone-spot

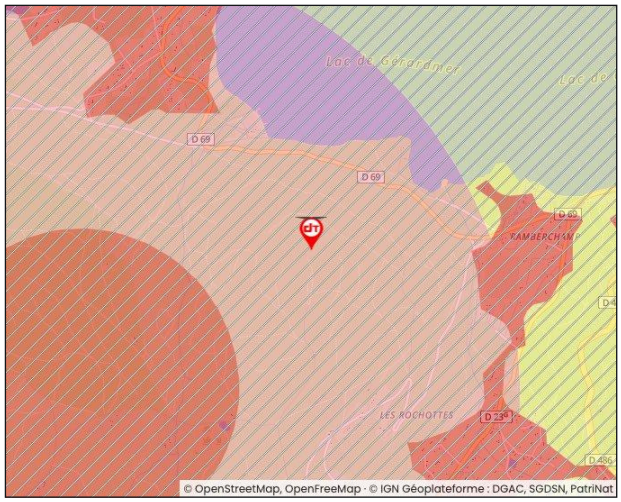
FLIGHT CARD

Generated on 21 November 2026

Observatory of the Tour Mérelle - Gérardmer

Mountain · Vosges

GPS coordinates	48.06396, 6.84412
Elevation	874 m
Maximum height	30 m max
Access	On foot < 1,000 m
Nearest aerodrome	La Tête Des Champs Altiport 16 km S · spot 96 m lower
Spot reference	304239



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	07:14	07:48	16:49	17:23	9 h 00	07:48–08:38 · 15:59–16:49
Sun 22 Nov	07:15	07:49	16:48	17:23	8 h 58	07:49–08:39 · 15:58–16:48
Mon 23 Nov	07:16	07:51	16:47	17:22	8 h 56	07:51–08:41 · 15:57–16:47

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
La Tête Des Champs Altiport	Aerodrome	16 km S	970 m
Ramonchamp ULM	Aerodrome	20 km S	577 m

Description

After an easy hike and a beautiful flight of stairs, you can reach the top of the Tour Mérelle. It is an ideal take-off platform to discover the lake of Gérardmer, its valley, the town and in the distance the ski slopes. This tower was built in 1964 by the Scouts de France at an altitude of 897m. Attention altitude recently limited to 30 m. No interference found on the day of the flight, but be careful. The area is known to be very windy. To the west because of an antenna, you have a no-fly zone, but the valley opens in front of you on almost 270° and not far from 500 m before reaching the first houses. Above the lake, the flight is even free, but limited to 50 m of altitude. You will therefore be down below from your take-off platform. If you push the hike a little, you can also see the Mérelle waterfall on the stream of the same name in the valley bottom. Have a good flight!

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=304239

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=48.06396&lon=6.84412
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.