Rock of the Castle

Mountain · Corse

GPS coordinates	42.25416, 8.65088
Elevation	344 m
Maximum height	120 m max
Access	On foot > 1,000 m
Spot reference	304601



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	06:53	07:23	16:59	17:30	9 h 36	07:23–08:06 · 16:16–16:59
Sun 22 Nov	06:54	07:24	16:59	17:29	9 h 34	07:24–08:07 · 16:16–16:59
Mon 23 Nov	06:55	07:26	16:58	17:29	9 h 32	07:26–08:09 · 16:15–16:58

Description

The take-off site is located on one of the three rocky platforms at the end of the hike from the Castle to Piana. This viewpoint offers an impressive panorama of the Gulf of Porto, the Scandola nature reserve, part of the Calanches of Piana and an access to the Heart of Piana cut into the rock. Be sure to choose a calm day, as this mountainous and maritime site is full of turbulence and updrafts. No interference was observed on the day of the flight, even though the Coeur de Piana site is beginning to be very busy for dronists. No NFZ nearby and free flight zone on nearly 1.5 km in diameter and 150 m in altitude. Be careful however not to fly over the numerous hikers and tourists that frequent the site.

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=304601

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=42.25416&lon=8.65088
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.