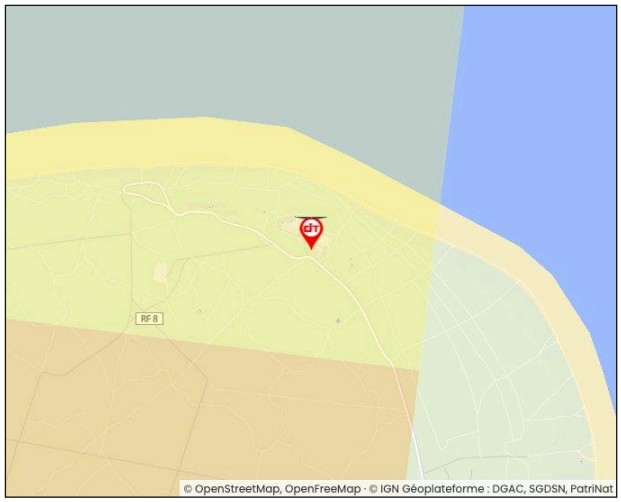
Saumonards Fort

Heritage · Charente-Maritime

GPS coordinates	45.98741, -1.24680
Elevation	9 m
Maximum height	60 m max
Access	On foot < 1,000 m
Nearest aerodrome	St Pierre d'Oléron Airfield (LFDP) 6.2 km SW · same altitude as the spot
Spot reference	305016



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	07:41	08:14	17:28	18:01	9 h 14	08:14–09:01 · 16:41–17:28
Sun 22 Nov	07:42	08:15	17:27	18:00	9 h 12	08:15–09:02 · 16:40–17:27
Mon 23 Nov	07:43	08:16	17:26	18:00	9 h 10	08:16–09:04 · 16:39–17:26

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
St Pierre d'Oléron Airfield	Aerodrome	6.2 km SW	6 m
Centre Hospitalier Heliport	Heliport	21 km NE	15 m
La Rochelle-Île de Ré Airport	Airport	22 km N	23 m
Aérodrome de Marennes - Le Bournet	Aerodrome	22 km SE	5 m

Description

Together with the forts on the mainland and above all Fort Boyard, the Saumonards forts were meant to lock down the straits and prevent "Perfidious Albion" from once again threatening the safety of the French fleet's ships, as it had in fact been doing for centuries. Thanks to the innovations of the Corps of Engineers, honored under the First Empire, these two structures were set to revolutionize the techniques and practices in use for building military works, notably with the model towers, those fully self-sufficient fortified retreat points and other compact structures that would inspire, among others, the famous blockhouses of the Atlantic Wall for the German officers held prisoner in 14/18. Quickly overtaken by the constant progress of the art of fortification, they soon became obsolete, notably because of advances in artillery. These forts bore different names depending on the era: …

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=305016

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=45.98741&lon=-1.2468
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.