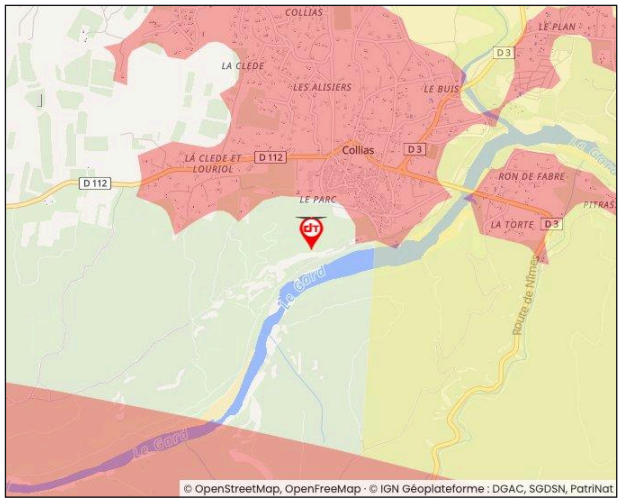
Collias, the Gardon gorges, and the Pont du Gard

Unusual · Gard

GPS coordinates	43.95114, 4.47477
Elevation	95 m
Maximum height	120 m max
Access	On foot < 1,000 m
Nearest aerodrome	Nîmes Courbessac Airport (LFME) 12 km SW · spot 35 m higher
Spot reference	308217



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	07:13	07:45	17:11	17:43	9 h 26	07:45–08:29 · 16:27–17:11
Sun 22 Nov	07:14	07:46	17:11	17:42	9 h 24	07:46–08:31 · 16:26–17:11
Mon 23 Nov	07:15	07:47	17:10	17:42	9 h 22	07:47–08:32 · 16:25–17:10

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Nîmes Courbessac Airport	Aerodrome	12 km SW	60 m
Uzès Airfield	Aerodrome	16 km NW	270 m
Nîmes-Arles-Camargue Airport	Airport	22 km S	94 m
Aérodrome d'Avignon-Pujaut	Aerodrome	23 km E	45 m

Description

By carving its way through the Urgonian massif over 6 million years, the Gardon has shaped very picturesque and often spectacular landscapes. The relief comes from a limestone block several hundred meters thick that was uplifted and that the Gardon slowly carved into a winding canyon, running roughly west to east. Deeply cut (up to 120 meters) and almost enclosed, it is notched along its sides by numerous combes (depressions) and a network of dry valleys leading above the gorge, which are usually without water. This steep-sided valley is bordered to the north and south by plateaus and hills covered with garrigue vegetation of holm oak, interrupted here and there by islands of meadows with Mediterranean grasses. The flow of the Gardon's waters is unusual. Its waters disappear through countless fissures and sinkholes, completely in summer in some sections, and reappear further on through …

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=308217

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=43.95114&lon=4.47477
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.