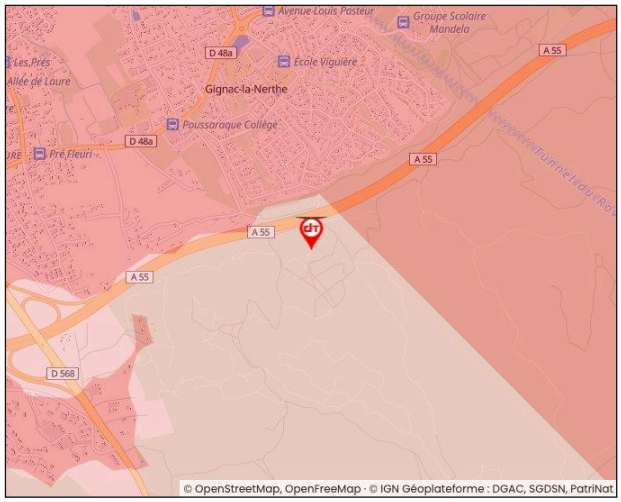
Gignac la Nerthe, La Chapelle St Michel

Heritage · Bouches-du-Rhône

GPS coordinates	43.38336, 5.23600
Elevation	105 m
Maximum height	30 m max
Access	On foot < 1,000 m
Nearest aerodrome	Marseille Provence Airport (LFML) 6.3 km N · spot 82 m higher
Spot reference	308868



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	07:09	07:40	17:10	17:41	9 h 29	07:40–08:24 · 16:26–17:10
Sun 22 Nov	07:10	07:41	17:09	17:40	9 h 27	07:41–08:25 · 16:25–17:09
Mon 23 Nov	07:11	07:42	17:08	17:40	9 h 26	07:42–08:27 · 16:24–17:08

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Marseille Provence Airport	Major airport	6.3 km N	23 m
Berre/Marignane Seaplane Base	Seaplane base	7.6 km N	2 m
Nord Heliport	Heliport	10 km E	187 m
Marseille Hydro	Seaplane base	13 km SE	0 m

Description

Although it stands on the hill a few steps from Gignac-la-Nerthe, anchored on a rocky outcrop, the chapel is in the municipality of Le Rove. Dating from the 12th and 13th centuries, it marks the early beginnings of the Provençal Gothic style. The fortified chapel of the castle, of which only a section of wall remains, it was known as "Sainte-Marthe & Saint-Michel" and belonged to the Templars, who held a military commandery here. The Hospitallers of Jerusalem settled there after the Templars abandoned the site in 1309. In 1388, Raymond de Turenne spared it while he destroyed everything around it: houses, castle and ramparts. The small bell tower dates from the 17th century. Unused since the 18th century and restored in 1874, it has been listed as a historic monument since 29 July 1977. Today, it overlooks the protected natural area of "la Côte Bleue" and is part of the Natura 2000 …

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=308868

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=43.38336&lon=5.236
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.