Rochemaure, the Himalayan footbridge

Unusual · Ardèche

GPS coordinates	44.58146, 4.71288
Elevation	73 m
Maximum height	30 m max
Access	On foot < 1,000 m
Nearest aerodrome	Aérodrome de Montélimar - Ancône (LFLQ) 2.2 km E · same altitude as the spot
Spot reference	314177



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	07:46	17:09	17:40	9 h 22	07:46–08:31 · 16:23–17:09
Sun 22 Nov	07:15	07:47	17:08	17:40	9 h 20	07:47–08:32 · 16:22–17:08
Mon 23 Nov	07:16	07:48	17:07	17:39	9 h 18	07:48–08:34 · 16:21–17:07

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Aérodrome de Montélimar - Ancône	Aerodrome	2.2 km E	73 m
Aérodrome de Pierrelatte	Aerodrome	20 km S	60 m

Description

The Rochemaure suspension bridge was an important crossing between the Drôme and the Ardèche. It linked Rochemaure to Ancône and Montélimar. Built in 1858, the Marc Seguin-type suspension bridge replaced the first suspension bridge of 1842, which was swept away by the flood of 31 May 1856. It remained in service from 1858 to 1968. After an eventful life, with two deliberate destructions in 1940-1944 and two major accidents that destroyed part of the deck in 1937-1968, its final demolition would probably have gone ahead without the mobilization of the people of Rochemaure. It was reborn in 2013 with the restoration of its piers and the construction of the Himalayan footbridge, which allows the ViaRhôna to cross the Rhône on a structure enjoyed by all walkers.

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=314177

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=44.58146&lon=4.71288
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.