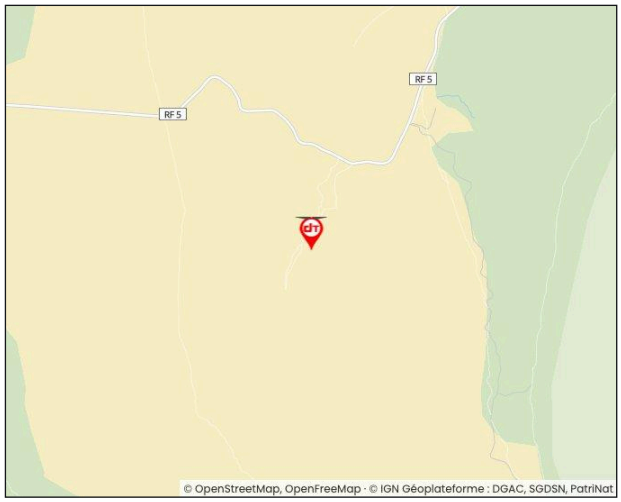
Réunion, the volcano seen from the sky

Mountain · La Réunion

GPS coordinates	-21.23754, 55.66760
Elevation	2,406 m
Maximum height	120 m max
Access	On foot < 1,000 m
Spot reference	314995



Spot location and restrictions (Drone-Spot map image)

Sun (local times, UTC+04:00)

Day	Dawn	Sunrise	Sunset	Dusk	Day length	Golden hour
Mon 23 Nov	05:02	05:27	18:41	19:05	13 h 14	05:27–05:58 · 18:09–18:41
Tue 24 Nov	05:02	05:26	18:41	19:06	13 h 15	05:26–05:58 · 18:10–18:41
Wed 25 Nov	05:02	05:26	18:42	19:06	13 h 15	05:26–05:58 · 18:11–18:42

Description

In this video, I take you to see 3 sites of the Fournaise volcano on Réunion Island, a French overseas department in the Indian Ocean. The Plaine des Sables is a lunar-like plateau, completely devoid of vegetation. It is covered with volcanic scoria, rock fragments thrown out during eruptions. The colors of the Plaine des Sables vary with the daylight, ranging from red to yellow through brown. The Piton Chisny is a dormant volcano, peaking at 2,440 meters above sea level. It offers a stunning view of the Plaine des Sables and the Piton de la Fournaise. The Aubert de la Rüe crater is a maar-type volcanic crater, formed by the explosion of underground gas. It is located on the flank of the Piton Chisny.

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=314995

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=-21.23754&lon=55.6676
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.