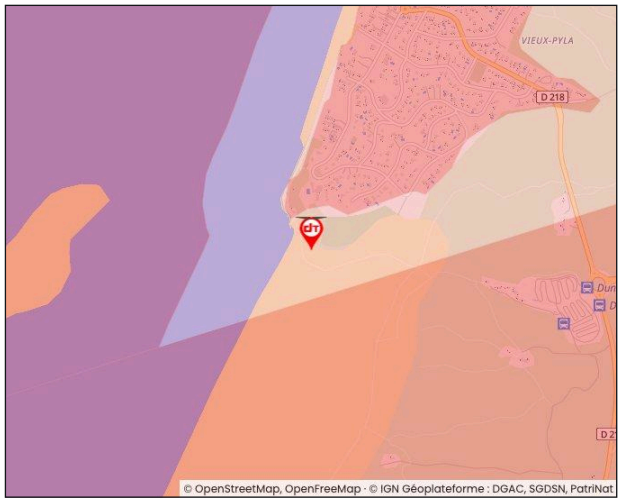
Dune du Pilat

Water · Gironde

GPS coordinates	44.59942, -1.21036
Elevation	13 m
Maximum height	30 m max
Access	On foot < 1,000 m
Nearest aerodrome	Centre Hospitalier Heliport 5.2 km NE · spot 7 m higher
Spot reference	315699



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	07:37	08:09	17:32	18:04	9 h 22	08:09–08:55 · 16:47–17:32
Sun 22 Nov	07:39	08:11	17:31	18:03	9 h 20	08:11–08:56 · 16:46–17:31
Mon 23 Nov	07:40	08:12	17:31	18:03	9 h 18	08:12–08:57 · 16:45–17:31

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Centre Hospitalier Heliport	Heliport	5.2 km NE	6 m
Aérodrome d'Arcachon-La Teste-de-Buch	Airport	7.9 km E	16 m
Cazaux (BA 120) Air Base	Airport	10.0 km SE	26 m
Aérodrome d'Andernos	Aerodrome	21 km NE	20 m

Description

The Dune du Pilat is located in Gironde (33) at the entrance to the Bassin d'Arcachon, on the edge of the Landes de Gascogne forest. It is notable for being the highest dune in Europe (its highest point was measured at 103.6 meters in May 2023). It stretches almost 3 km long and about 600 meters wide. It faces the Banc d'Arguin, and at its northern end lies the Corniche beach, with the legendary restaurant of the same name perched above it. Every year, the Dune du Pilat welcomes more than 1 million visitors. The view from the top is breathtaking.

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=315699

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=44.59942&lon=-1.21036
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.