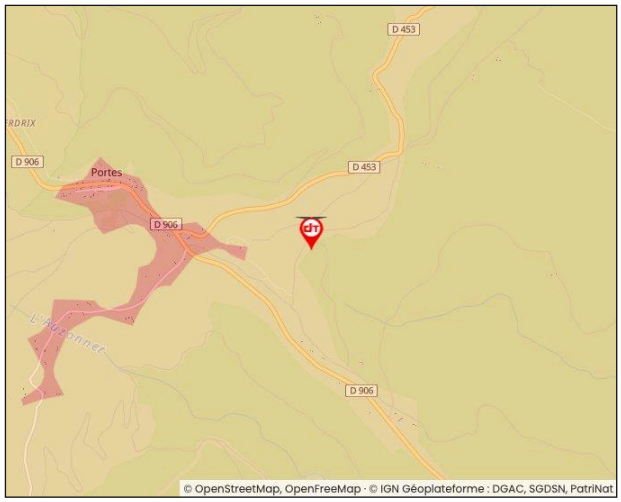
The Château de Portes

Heritage · Gard

GPS coordinates	44.26801, 4.03089
Elevation	513 m
Maximum height	50 m max
Access	Direct access by car
Nearest aerodrome	La Grand'combe Airfield (LFTN) 3.0 km SW · spot 11 m higher
Spot reference	316218



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	07:16	07:47	17:12	17:44	9 h 24	07:47–08:32 · 16:27–17:12
Sun 22 Nov	07:17	07:49	17:11	17:43	9 h 22	07:49–08:34 · 16:26–17:11
Mon 23 Nov	07:18	07:50	17:11	17:43	9 h 20	07:50–08:35 · 16:25–17:11

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
La Grand'combe Airfield	Aerodrome	3.0 km SW	502 m
Aérodrome d'Alès Cévennes	Airport	24 km S	204 m

Description

A true gateway to the Hautes Cévennes at the foot of Mont-Lozère, the Château de Portes lies on the edge of the Cévennes National Park, which was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in June 2011, and has stood for more than 10 centuries of history. The Château de Portes offers an unrivaled view from 32 meters up over the surrounding valleys, and plenty of opportunities for hiking nearby. A blend of a medieval fortress and a Renaissance bastion, the château went through many successive phases of construction starting in the 11th century. Around 1700, the building of a spur forming a 42° angle gave the structure a spectacular architecture shaped like a ship's bow, unusual and unique in Europe, which earned it the nickname "Vaisseau des Cévennes" (the Ship of the Cévennes). Following the intensive exploitation of the coal mines during the war, the ground collapsed, ruining the …

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=316218

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=44.26801&lon=4.03089
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.