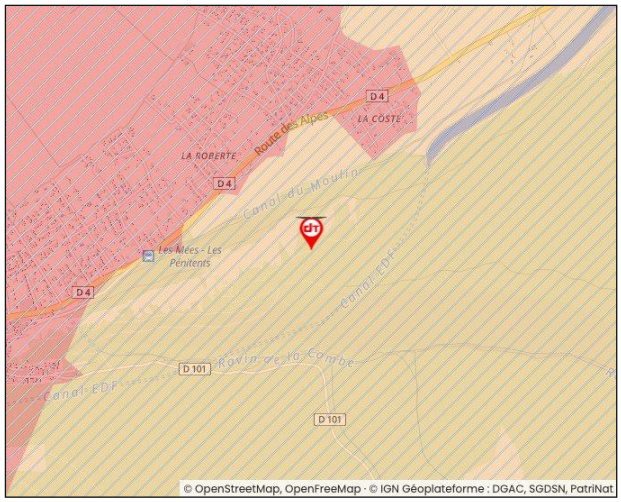
# LES MEES (04)

Unusual · Alpes-de-Haute-Provence

| | |
|---|---|
| **GPS coordinates** | 44.03267, 5.99248 |
| **Elevation** | 537 m |
| **Maximum height** | 50 m max |
| **Access** | On foot < 1,000 m |
| **Nearest aerodrome** | Aérodrome de Château-Arnoux - Saint-Auban (LFMX)<br>3.0 km N · spot 77 m higher |
| **Spot reference** | 316990 |




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** | 07:07 | 07:39 | 17:05 | 17:37 | 9 h 26 | 07:39–08:23 · 16:20–17:05 |
| **Sun 22 Nov** | 07:08 | 07:40 | 17:04 | 17:36 | 9 h 24 | 07:40–08:25 · 16:19–17:04 |
| **Mon 23 Nov** | 07:10 | 07:41 | 17:04 | 17:35 | 9 h 22 | 07:41–08:26 · 16:19–17:04 |

## Nearby aerodromes

| Aerodrome | Type | Distance | Elevation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aérodrome de Château-Arnoux - Saint-Auban | Aerodrome | 3.0 km N | 460 m |
| Puimoisson Airfield | Aerodrome | 23 km SE | 769 m |

## Description

The Pénitents des Mées originate from a fascinating geological process. Formed several million years ago, the rocks were shaped by the erosion of materials made of cemented pebbles called conglomerate (poudingue). The cliffs have taken on conical shapes that can look like a line of figures in monk's robes, hence the name. The site is home to diverse flora and fauna, some of which are protected species, such as the purple moor-grass (molinie tardive) and the eagle owl. The Pénitents des Mées are among the nationally listed sites and the 34 priority sensitive natural areas of the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence Department. The Pénitents are narrow rocks that rise more than 100 meters high in the commune of Les Mées.

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=316990

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=44.03267&lon=5.99248
**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.