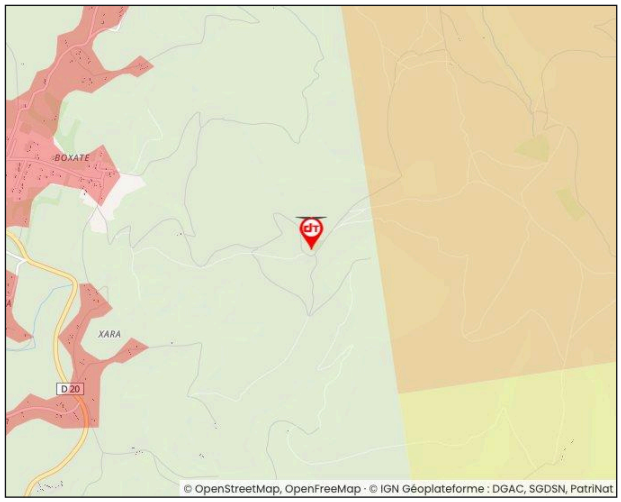
Ainhoa, Chapel of the Hawthorn

Mountain · Pyrénées-Atlantiques

GPS coordinates	43.30367, -1.48223
Elevation	368 m
Maximum height	120 m max
Access	On foot > 1,000 m
Nearest aerodrome	Itxassou Airfield (LFIX) 6.1 km NE · spot 183 m higher
Spot reference	317082



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	07:36	08:07	17:37	18:08	9 h 30	08:07–08:51 · 16:53–17:37
Sun 22 Nov	07:37	08:08	17:36	18:07	9 h 28	08:08–08:52 · 16:52–17:36
Mon 23 Nov	07:38	08:09	17:36	18:07	9 h 26	08:09–08:53 · 16:51–17:36

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Itxassou Airfield	Aerodrome	6.1 km NE	185 m
Biarritz-Anglet-Bayonne Airport	Airport	19 km N	75 m
Centre Hospitalier De La Côte Basque Heliport	Heliport	20 km N	23 m

Description

On the heights above the village, at 389 meters above sea level, Mount Atsulai is home to a small sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady of the Hawthorn, reached after a 45-minute walk. The chapel and its 26 discoidal and tabular steles, symbols of Basque funerary art, offer a magnificent panorama over the Xareta valley, La Rhune and the Ocean.. In the 19th century, Canon César Duvoisin and Abbé Etchegoyen wrote fine pages on the chapel, its history and its practices, but it is to Abbé Olhagaray, parish priest of Ainhoa from 1930 to 1938, that we owe the only study devoted to it in the Basque language. The legends and mythical figures give this place a set of beliefs hovering between magic, religion and history.

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=317082

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=43.30367&lon=-1.48223
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.