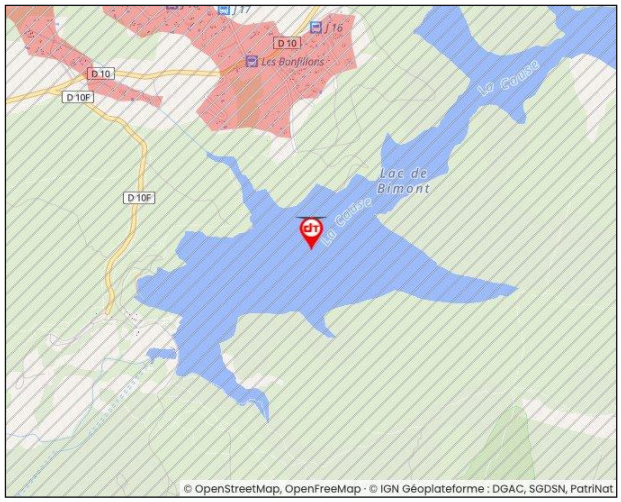
Sainte-Victoire: ZOLA and BIMONT Dams

Water · Bouches-du-Rhône

GPS coordinates	43.54400, 5.54289
Elevation	359 m
Maximum height	50 m max
Access	On foot < 1,000 m
Nearest aerodrome	Pays d'Aix Medical Center Heliport 8.2 km W · spot 137 m higher
Spot reference	317086



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	07:08	07:39	17:08	17:39	9 h 29	07:39–08:23 · 16:24–17:08
Sun 22 Nov	07:09	07:40	17:07	17:39	9 h 27	07:40–08:25 · 16:23–17:07
Mon 23 Nov	07:10	07:42	17:07	17:38	9 h 25	07:42–08:26 · 16:22–17:07

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Pays d'Aix Medical Center Heliport	Heliport	8.2 km W	222 m
Aix - Les Milles Airport	Aerodrome	15 km W	112 m
Saint Suffren private UL strip	Aerodrome	22 km NW	270 m
Nord Heliport	Heliport	23 km SW	187 m

Description

The Bimont dam is an arch dam commissioned in 1952 in the French commune of Saint-Marc-Jaumegarde, in the Sainte-Victoire mountain near Aix-en-Provence. It is fed mainly by water from the west branch of the Canal de Provence, brought in through an underground tunnel that empties onto the right bank shortly before the dam wall. It is accompanied by a counter-dam at its foot on the left bank, which takes the discharged water to feed the Marseille-North branch of the Canal de Provence. It serves as a reservoir to secure the water supply of the Aix region, as far as the Étang de Berre, and of Marseille.

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=317086

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=43.544&lon=5.54289
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.