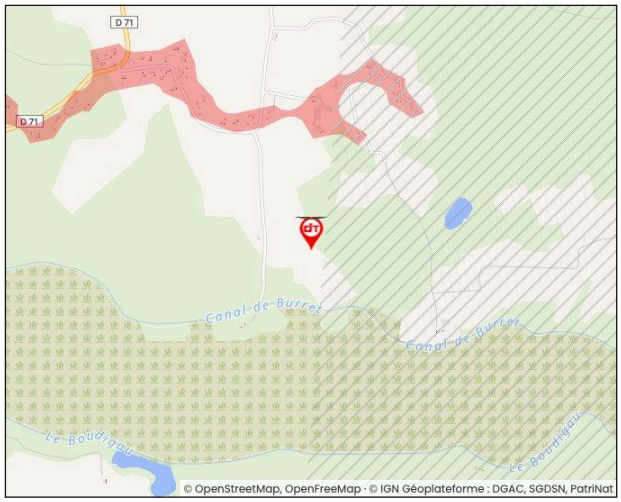
The Orx marshes

Water · Landes

GPS coordinates	43.59056, -1.36673
Elevation	6 m
Maximum height	120 m max
Access	Direct access by car
Nearest aerodrome	Centre Hospitalier De La Côte Basque Heliport 15 km SW · spot 17 m lower
Spot reference	317109



Spot location and restrictions (Drone-Spot map image)

Sun (local times, UTC+01:00)

Day	Dawn	Sunrise	Sunset	Dusk	Day length	Golden hour
Tue 17 Nov	07:31	08:02	17:39	18:10	9 h 36	08:02–08:46 · 16:55–17:39
Wed 18 Nov	07:32	08:03	17:38	18:09	9 h 34	08:03–08:47 · 16:54–17:38
Thu 19 Nov	07:33	08:04	17:37	18:08	9 h 32	08:04–08:48 · 16:53–17:37

Nearby aerodromes

Aerodrome	Type	Distance	Elevation
Centre Hospitalier De La Côte Basque Heliport	Heliport	15 km SW	23 m
Biarritz-Anglet-Bayonne Airport	Airport	19 km SW	75 m
Tinon Heliport	Heliport	22 km NE	46 m

Description

In the south-west of the Landes department, the Orx marsh is the last large protected wetland on the Aquitaine coast. Given its great ornithological interest, this vast property of the Conservatoire du littoral, covering nearly 1,000 ha (1989), was designated a nature reserve over 774 ha in 1995 and is part of the European Natura 2000 network under the Habitats and Birds Directives. Drained under Napoleon III for farming, this former polder surrounded by canals is now a prime stopover for migratory birds, which find rest and food here. Made up of a mosaic of habitats (open water, willow groves, reed beds, meadows, rush beds), the Orx marsh hosts a great diversity of waterbirds in particular (Eurasian spoonbill, osprey, Eurasian curlew), and has become a site of Community importance for wintering anatids (greylag goose). A large number of species tied to wetlands can also be seen …

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

https://www.drone-spot.tech/en/fiche-spot.aspx?id=317109

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=43.59056&lon=-1.36673
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.