



Discover the Park




Parc naturel régional de Camargue

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The Park of Camargue offers a large diversity of landscapes : beaches, reedbeds, rice and wheat fields, ponds and the Mediterranean Sea. The delta of the Camargue is one of the richest ecosystems of Western Europe, created by the confluence between the Rhône river and the Mediterranean sea.


The Park is one of the principal migratory stopovers for birds migrating from Northern Europe to Africa. The biodiversity here is incredible, especially the fauna : flamingos, bulls, horses, european bee-eaters, slender-billed gulls, sea swallows, heron, beaver, and the black-winged stilt.

The Camargue is full of contrasts and its changing nuances occur hourly and throughout the seasons. There will always be a surprise for the visitor. We wish you a very good trip in the Camargue. Enjoy it !


Some of the Camargue's animals




► Pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*)



► Fan mussel (*Pinna nobilis*)

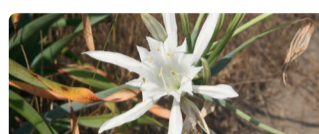


► Black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)




► Guépiér d'Europe (*Merops apiaster*)


Some of the Camargue's plants to admire, but not touch




► Sea daffodil (*Pancratium maritimum*)



► Chardon des sables (*Eryngium maritimum*)




► Sea lavender (*Limonium narbonense*)



► Annual saltwort (*Salicornia annua*)



Contact



Parc naturel régional de Camargue

Tourist information

Tourist office of Arles
City center
Esplanade Charles de Gaulle - 13200 Arles
Tél. +33(0)4 90 97 82 10

Salin-de-Giraud
Rue Tournaire - 13200 Arles
Tél. +33(0)4 42 86 89 77
www.arlestourisme.com - ot-arles@arlestourisme.com

Tourist office of Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer
5 avenue Van Gogh - 13460 Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer
Tél. +33(0)4 90 97 82 55
www.saintesmaries.com - info@saintesmaries.com

Tourist office of Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône
Tour Saint-Louis - Quai Bonnardel
13230 Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône
Tél. +33(0)4 42 86 01 21
www.port-saint-louis-tourisme.fr
contact@port-saint-louis-tourisme.fr

Camargue régional nature park
www.parc-camargue.fr - contact@parc-camargue.fr

Museum of Camargue
Mas du Pont de Rousty
13200 Arles
Tél. 0+33(0)4 90 97 10 82
www.museedelacamargue.com - musee@parc-camargue.fr


Domaine de la Palissade
13129 Salin-de-Giraud
Tél. +33(0)4 42 86 81 28
palissade@parc-camargue.fr

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Discovering the natural and cultural heritage of the Camargue

1 Musée de la Camargue



To discover the Park, start by visiting the Museum of Camargue. You will learn of the special relationship between the inhabitants and nature through objects, images and videos. The Tadashi Kawamata observatory is the beginning of a 5 km trail where you will encounter a variety of landscapes.

Mas du Pont de Rousty
RD 570 - Arles
Tél. +33 (0)4 90 97 10 82
musee@parc-camargue.fr - www.museedelacamargue.com

October to March : every day from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.
Closed on 25/12, 01/01 and weekends from November to January (except for school holidays). April to September : open every day from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm except for 01/05. Entrance fee, 7€/4€. Tourism and Handicaps Label and « Musée de France ».

6 Étang du Fangassier

Visite avec le Bureau des Guides Naturalistes



A guide tour of « étang du Fangassier » owned by the Conservatoire du Littoral, allows you to know everything about the Rhone Delta and discover the only site in France where Flamingos reproduce.

Étang du Fangassier - Salin-de-Giraud.
In case of nesting by flamingoes on the site : guided tours from 01/04 to 30/09, fee for the visit and reservation by phone at 06 95 90 70 48. www.guide-nature.fr

2 Domaine de la Palissade




Located outside the Rhône dikes, the Palissade houses a rich and varied flora and fauna. Ponds and lagoons in connection with the river and the sea constitute a habitat particularly remarkable for fish, and birds are ubiquitous. 3 hiking trails with observatories, disabled access on 700 m of trail and platform view Rhône, guided tours by reservation.

Salin-de-Giraud - Tél. 04 42 86 81 28
palissade@parc-camargue.fr - www.palissade.fr

Information, opening periods and schedules on:
www.parc-camargue.fr and www.palissade.fr
Paid visit. Shop, picnic area.
Equestrian discovery and kayak ride from 01/04 to 31/10, by reservation with service providers:
Manu Kayak - 06 73 11 28 99 - kayak-camargue.fr
Horse riding - Nathalie - 06 72 29 79 99

7 Réserve naturelle nationale des Marais du Vigueirat



Meadow and flooded wood, The Camargue largest reed bed constitute an environment teeming with life with thousands of birds, 5 herds of bulls and Camargue horses. Thematic boardwalks - walking tours, carriage ride, kayak, and pony and horse rides.

Mas Thibert
Tél. +33(0)4 90 98 70 91
visites.mdv@espaces-naturels.fr
www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org

Opening times 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, February to 15 November.
Free trails and guided tours on reservation. Boutique, refreshment and organic food. Access by bike from the ViaRhôna. Labeled « Accueil Vélo ».

Réserve naturelle nationale de Camargue



One of the largest wetlands conservation reserves in Europe, the Reserve of Camargue covers 13 200 hectares from the Vaccarès lake to the Mediterranean beaches. The landscapes are wild and authentic.

8 Maison du riz



Rice growner in the Camargue for five generations, the Rozière Family welcome you to their farm where they have created a visitor centre about rice-growing. Free visit of about 1h30 including, small rice fields, an exhibition room, demonstration on a microrizerie, space projection videos, educational path.

Mas de la Vigne, Albaron - Arles - Tél. +33(0)6 31 03 40 11 - maisondu riz@orange.fr www.maisondu riz.com - Open every day EXCEPT SATURDAY, from April to November, from 9.30am to 12.30pm and from 2pm to 6pm. Shop of local products.(Subject to COVID-19 regulations) Booking required!


3 La Capelière / Accueil Réserve naturelle nationale de Camargue



Information center of the National Nature Reserve of Camargue, the Capelière offers: a 1.5 km trail to discover a mosaic of Camargue environments, 4 observatories to approach the fauna of the marshes, an exhibition on the Camargue, a naturalist shop, guided tours and workshops for all audiences.

C134 route de Fiérouse - Arles - Tél. +33(0)4 90 97 00 97
reserve@camargue@espaces-naturels.fr - www.snpn.com/reservedecamargue
Opening times : April to 30 September : every day from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm ; October to March : open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Closed every Tuesday except during school holidays. Occasionally closed in winter, inquire beforehand. There is an admission charge. Shaded picnic area. Labeled « Tourisme et Handicap ».

9 Château de Tourville - Tour du Tampan



Built at the beginning of the 17th century to control and monitor the access of ships to the Rhône delta and to the port of Arles. It underwent various transformations to become an agricultural farmhouse until the middle of the 20th century; the Tampan tower then took the name of Tourville castle. This tower now has a 9 m high observatory, which today allows you to discover lagoons, marshes and beaches. This tower bears witness to the many faces of the long history of the Camargue and of the men who lived.

Tourville Castle - 13129 Salin de Giraud
GPS coordinates : 43.418691° N, 4.675096° E


4 Phare de la Gacholle et digue à la mer



One of the starting points for a tour of the sea dyke : 20 km of pathways for pedestrians or cyclists (but not cars). Although the dunes themselves are out of bounds, the sea is accessible via marked paths. The birds include gulls, terns and flamingos. Exhibition on the subject of the Camargue coast, and an observatory.

Open every day during school holidays, on week-ends and public holidays from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Occasionally closed in winter, inquire beforehand. Free entrance. Picnic area. Strictly forbidden access to motor vehicles. Free access on foot and by bike on the dyke at all times.

10 Maison du cheval Camargue



Find out about the Camargue horse breed, its history, the way it is raised, its involvement in the management of natural areas, etc. by means of a guided walking tour (1,5 km) in the heart of the Mas de la Cure estate.

Mas de la Cure, Chemin de Bardouine
Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer (in front of the Castle of Avignon) - Tél. +33(0)4 90 97 76 37
contact@masdelacure.org
www.maisonduchevalcamargue.com
Guided visit by reservation only, fee charged.

all year for groups (12 people min.) and from April to September, wednesday and friday from 10:00 to 11:45 am for individuals.

5 Parc ornithologique de Pont de Gau




An ideal birdwatching site for the many species of Camargue, especially flamingos. Trails and observatories bring you alongside wild fauna and amongst the various settings of marshes, ponds, reedbeds and salt-marsh scrubs.

Parc Ornithologique de Pont de Gau
RD 570 - Saintes-Maries-de-la-mer
Tél. +33 (0)4 90 97 82 62
contact@parcornithologique.com

www.parcornithologique.com - The reception desk is open every day (except for 25/12) from 01/04 to 30/09 : 9 am to 6 pm. From 01/10 to 31/03 : 10 am to 6 pm. The Park exit is independent of the reception desk and remains open until sunset all year. Bar/terrace open from April to October. Labeled « Tourisme et Handicap » and « Park brand ». Buvette/terrace open from April to October.

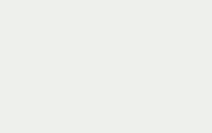
11 Point de vue du sel



The Giraud salt works, near the mouth of the Grand Rhône, covers 6 000 hectares and produces various compounds that are used by the chemical industry, including 340 000 tonnes of sodium chloride a year. The Salt works observatory is on the road. Between Piémanson and Salin-de-giraud.

Route de la plage de Piémanson
Salin-de-Giraud.

12 Tour Saint-Louis




Built in 1737, this historic monument is an active lighthouse. It houses the Office de Tourisme, the largest ornithological collection in the Camargue, temporary exhibitions and a terrace with an exceptional viewpoint.

Office de tourisme - Quai Bonnardel
Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône - Tél. +33(0)4 42 86 01 21
contact@port-saint-louis-tourisme.fr
www.port-saint-louis-tourisme.fr

Opening times summer : monday to friday, 8:30 am to 12:00 am, and 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm. The opening hours are extended during the tourist season. There is an admission charge.

More informations


Walking and cycling tours



The Camargue Regional Nature Park offers 14 walking or cycling discovery tours within its borders, in order to observe the full diversity of Camargue lands-capes : from the vineyards in the north to the beaches in the south via the salt meadows and marshes. Starting in Arles, Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer or Port - Saint-Louis-du-Rhône, the tours are arranged thematically so as to give you all the keys to understanding this exceptional area.

Pack available in French, English and German.
On sale at Arles and Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône tourist offices, the Museum of the Camargue and the Vigueirat Marshes. Can be downloaded from : www.parc-camargue.fr/itineraires.html

Chemins des Parcs



On this website www.cheminsdesparcs.fr all the information is available to prepare for your trip in the Camargue and in the 8 others regional parks of the region. Website and smartphone application are available for park information.

Where to watch birds ?



Nearly 2/3 of the birds observed in Europe can be seen in the Camargue, which makes it a popular place with ornithologists, both professional and amateur. Discover the booklet « Where to watch birds in the Camargue Regional Nature Park », which tells you 11 good sites for birdwatching, and more generally for observing Camargue plants and wildlife.

Available in French and English Downloadable : www.parc-camargue.fr/ou-observer-les-oiseaux-en-camargue.html

The marine environment in the Camargue



Camargue's coastal environments are characterized by beautiful sandy beaches inherited from the history of the Rhone Delta. The muddy or sandy beaches are very important for the coastal ecosystem. There are many populations of invertebrates, food of choice for marine fauna or birds, and sea-leashes that feed the associated animal plants.

To adopt practices that respect the marine environment, consult the practical guide to ecogestes.

<https://paca.ecogestes-mediterranee.fr/les-ecogestes/>

Biosphere Reserve



Since 1977, the Camargue has been designated by UNESCO as a « Biosphere Reserve » covering the whole biogeographical delta of the Rhône. This designation involves the setting up of a sustainable development project whose results are assessed every 10 years. The project concerns the conservation of natural areas, support for human activities in harmony with the environment, including sustainable tourism, and also backs research and awareness-raising about the Camargue's exceptional biodiversity.

www.mab-france.org/en/

Ramsar Label



The french state is a member of the Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, since 1986. One of the most varied and rich ecosystems, wetlands are threatened all around the world. The park of the Camargue is a Ramsar site, and exemplifies the protection of wetlands through the sustainable use of resources.

What is a Regional Nature Park ?

- A regional natural park is both :
- A inhabited rural territory recognized for its strong heritage and landscape value, open to all but whose fragile balance requires the greatest respect ;
 - a public institution of consultation between the authorities, the local people and the economic decision-makers. Its remit is to reconcile human development and nature conservation.
- Like the other 58 regional natural parks in France, the Camargue Regional Natural Park mobilizes a multidisciplinary team that works as well :
- Protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage ;
 - Land use planning ;
 - Economic, social and cultural development ;
 - Reception and public awareness of wealth and heritage fragility ;
 - Experimentation and research for the development of new environmentally sound practices.

The Park in numbers

Three towns > Arles > Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer > Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône	► Animal and plant species (not including invertebrates) : 1 100 of which 489 are protected, either nationally or worldwide
► Population : 10 848 inhabitants	► Migrating birds : 150 000 each year. Three quarters of France's bird species, half of its freshwater fish species and a quarter of its plant species are to be found in the Camargue !
► Area : 101 200 hectares	
► Coastline : 75 k, Highest point 4 metres above sea level !	

Marque « Valeurs Parc naturel régional » :

On the back of this brochure, you will be able to spot on the map :
- all the natural and cultural heritage sites presented above ;
- all professionals that carry the « Valeurs Parc naturel régional » brand.

Marque « Accueil Vélo » :

« Accueil Vélo » is a national brand that guarantees the reception of quality services along the cycling routes for itinerant cyclists.

Certified service providers :
Hôtel/Restaurant le Flamant Rose, Hôtel Mas de la Grenouillère, Chambre d'hôtes et gîte Maerliu Camargue Provence, Marais du Vigueirat, Parc ornithologique du Pont de Gau.



Park rules

- You are in a Regional nature park
- Remove your trash!**
- ▶ Respect the dunes.
 - ▶ Stay on the trail, do not enter private property.
 - ▶ No fires or barbecues.
 - ▶ No loud noises.
 - ▶ Park only in designated areas.
 - ▶ Dogs must remain leashed.
 - ▶ In summer time, don't forget sunscreen, water and mosquito repellent.

www.parc-camargue.fr/les-bons-comportements-a-adopter-sur-le-territoire-du-parc-de-camargue.html

Professionals commit to sustainable tourism in the Camargue with the « Valeurs Parc naturel régional » brand

Owned by the Ministry of the Environment, « Valeurs Parc naturel régional » is a brand to help foster sustainable development in local areas. It promotes local products and human-scale tourist businesses, local economy players who respect the specific features of the area and its environment.

SITE TO VISIT
 Voir encart spécifique sur la carte

HORSE TREKKING
 (by réservation)

- 13 **Bergerie d'Alivon**
www.bergeriealivon.com 06 03 54 10 94
- 14 **Manade Coule**
www.manadecoule.com 06 72 29 79 99
- 15 **Mas de la Grenouillère**
www.masdelagrenouillere.fr 04 90 97 90 22
- 16 **Manade de Méjanes**
www.mejanes-camargue.fr 04 90 97 10 10 - 04 90 97 10 62
- 17 **Layalle**
promenade-a-cheval-layalle.fr 07 86 56 44 04
- 18 **Chez Elise**
www.elise-camargue.fr 06 24 28 30 82
- 31 **Mas de Calabrun Hôtel*****
www.mas-de-calabrun.fr 04 90 97 82 21
- 32 **Manade des Baumelles Chambres d'hôtes, gîtes, aire de camping car**
www.manadesbaumelles.fr 04 90 97 84 14
- 33 **Bergerie d'Alivon**
www.bergeriealivon.com 06 03 54 10 94
- 34 **Mas de Bouvet Chambres d'hôtes**
www.mas-de-bouvet.com 06 12 13 59 02
- 35 **Mas Trinita Gîtes**
www.mastrinita.fr 04 90 96 52 45
- 36 **Le Flamant rose Hôtel** - Restaurant**
www.leflamantrose.com 04 90 97 10 18
- 37 **Mas de la Vigne Gîtes**
www.masdelavigne.com 06 19 32 62 42

BULL HERDING
 (by réservation)

- 19 **Manade Blanc**
www.manade-blanc.fr 06 87 01 43 08
- 20 **Manade Cavallini**
www.masdepioch.com 04 90 97 50 06
- 21 **Manade Mailhan**
www.manadejacquesmailhan.fr 06 15 09 09 11
- 22 **Manade de Méjanes**
www.mejanes-camargue.fr 04 90 97 10 62
- 23 **Manade Raynaud**
www.manade-raynaud.com 06 13 24 95 52 - 06 25 88 54 39
- 38 **Mas de l'Ange du Vaccarès Chambres d'hôtes**
www.masdelangeduvaccarès.com 06 08 88 76 15
- 39 **Mas de la Forge Chambres d'hôtes**
www.masdelaforge.fr 04 90 97 00 76
- 40 **Mas Saint-Germain Gîtes**
www.massaintgermain.com 06 19 92 34 38
- 41 **L'île Saint-Pierre Gîtes et Chambres d'hôtes**
www.islesaintpierre.fr 04 90 98 70 30
- 42 **Mas de Peint Hôtel**** - Restaurant**
www.masdepeint.com 04 90 97 20 62

WINE MAKERS

- 24 **Mas de Valérieole**
www.masdevalerieole.com 04 90 97 10 41
- 25 **Domaine de Beaujeu**
www.domainebeaujeu.fr 09 64 18 90 33
- 43 **Maebriliu Camargue Provence Chambres d'hôtes et gîtes****
maebriliu-camargue.fr 06 23 49 60 22
- 44 **Un nid en Camargue Chambres d'hôtes**
www.gites-de-france.com 06 24 00 34 56
- 45 **Mas des Barres Hôtel*****
www.mas-des-barres.com 04 90 97 50 20

ACCOMMODATION

- 26 **Mas de la Grenouillère Hôtel****
www.masdelagrenouillere.fr 04 90 97 90 22
- 27 **La Palunette Hôtel****
www.palunette.fr 04 90 97 86 30
- 28 **Vila de la Mar Hôtel****
www.viladelamar.com 04 90 97 06 68
- 29 **Mas du Tardone Résidence**
www.masdutardone.com 04 90 96 33 52 - 06 15 73 77 52
- 30 **Mas Farola Gîte**
www.masfarola.camargue.fr 06 20 68 14 07
- 46 **Les Lodges de Camargue**
www.lodgesdecamargue.com 04 86 17 68 81
- 47 **Mas Constantin**
www.masconstantin.fr 07 82 06 28 52
- 48 **L'effet mer Chambres d'hôtes**
leffetmerchambrehotel.fr 06 84 55 17 83
- 49 **Manu Kayak**
kayak-camargue.fr 06 73 11 28 99

DISTANCES BETWEEN THE MAIN TOWNS :

	Car	Bike	Boat
Aigues-Mortes - Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer	30 km	30'	1h34
Aigues-Mortes - Arles	47 km	45'	4h10 (par la ViaRhôna)
Arles - Salin-de-Giraud	38 km	37'	1h51
Arles - Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer	37 km	35'	1h50
Arles - Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône	40 km	40'	3h26 (par la ViaRhôna)
Albaron - Salin-de-Giraud (par bord du Vaccarès)	40 km	34'	1h55
Salin-de-Giraud - Port-Saint-Louis (via bac de Barcarin)	9 km	20'	33'



Cultivated land
 20% of the Camargue is used to grow rice. The water taken from the Rhône for this purpose desalinates the soil to a certain depth, and the rice fields are also home to nesting birds such as the heron. They are flooded in April and allowed to dry out in September for the harvest.

Freshwater marshes and reed beds
 These are common in the upper Camargue and on the banks of the Rhône. Water plants such as bullrushes, cane and reeds are abundant in the marshes, which are used for hunting and, in summer, pasturage. They provide shelter for nesting and wintering birds. Reeds (« sagno », in Provençal) are cut in winter by the « sagneurs ». They are used as a roofing material.

The salt plains (« sansouires ») and meadowlands
 Salt plains are a feature of the lower Camargue. Their salt content is so high that only a few plant species such as glasswort, saltwort, obione and static can survive there. They are prone to periodic flooding, and in summer are marked by white traces due to the presence of salt. Meadowland occupies only small, fragmented areas in which the effects of salt are less obvious.

The salt ponds
 These are to be found along the sea. In reality they are lagoons that have been adapted to maximise their salt concentration. The salt ponds are extensive and rich in invertebrates, which makes them an important source of food for birds, and in particular the flamingos, which spend most of their time there.



The ponds and lagoons
 The shallow ponds of the lower Camargue are separated from the sea by a sandbar. They are more or less salty, and communicate with the sea via sluice gates. They provide a refuge for birds and fish, and play a major role in water management.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES (presented overleaf)

- 1 Musée de la Camargue
- 2 Domaine de la Palissade
- 3 Réserve naturelle nationale de Camargue (La Capelière)
- 4 Phare de la Gacholle
- 5 Parc ornithologique du Pont de Gau
- 6 Étang du Fangassier
- 7 Marais du Vigueirat
- 8 Maison du riz
- 9 Château de Tourvieille - Tour de Tampan
- 10 Maison du cheval Camargue
- 11 Point de vue du sel
- 12 Tour Saint-Louis



The beaches and dunes
 The Camargue has some 50 km of beaches. Outside the perimeter of the protective dykes - and thus subject to the caprices of the sea - the coastline is in a permanent state of change. The dunes are inhabited by spectacular flowering plants and a number of rare insects.

- Tourist path (by bike / by car)
- Discovery route for pedestrians and cyclists (closed to cars)
- Cycle path ViaRhôna
- Naturist beach
- Boundary of the Camargue Regional Nature Park
- Gas station
- Viewpoint
- River stop