

SALIN DE GIRAUD

OUR HISTORY IN THE CAMARGUE

Discovery booklet



COURSE MAP

QUARTIER PÉCHINEY



The numbers on the map correspond to the order of appearance of the stop descriptions in this booklet.



ARLES



ÉGLISE DE BARCARIN
CABANE DE GARDIAN

AVENUE JOSEPH IMBERT

BOIS SACRÉ

D 36

5

PLACE NAUDOT

4

RUE DES ARBRES

RUE DE LA VICTOIRE

15

RUE LOUIS PASTEUR

ARENES

DÉPART

14

PLACE DES GARDIANS

BOULEVARD DE LA GARE

3

12

RUE DES ÉCOLES

RUE DE PROVENCE

CENTRE VILLE

LES CORONS

13

RUE DES OLIVIERS

ROUTE DE LA MER

2

RUE DE LA REPUBLIQUE

BOULEVARD PIERRE TOURNAYRE



BAC DE BARCARIN
TRAVERSÉE DU RHÔNE

QUARTIER SOLVAY

Salt lakes view point
Domaine de Palissade
Piemanson beach

200 m





H Solvay plant

(Photograph: Carle Naudot, coll. Musée de la Camargue, PNR de Camargue. Num. David Huguenin)

R Construction of the arena of Salin-de-Giraud

(Photograph: Carle Naudot, coll. Musée de la Camargue, PNR de Camargue. Num. David Huguenin)



Q At the beach of Salin-de-Giraud

(Photograph: Carle Naudot, coll. Musée de la Camargue, PNR de Camargue. Num. David Huguenin)

P Solvay plant market

(postcard: collection PMatic)



SALIN-DE-GIRAUD, BETWEEN LAND AND SEA

Salin-de-Giraud is the story of two companies and their working-class housing projects. It is also the memory of its inhabitants: people of the Sea and people torn from their land. People who came from different backgrounds to gather in this small town. The residents of Salin wanted to share this history and created a poetic heritage path in 2015 on the occasion of a consultation conducted by the Camargue Regional Natural Park and its partners: the Conservatoire du Littoral, the Tour du Valat, the Natural Reserve of the Camargue as well as a local group of volunteers including economic stakeholders.

Let this booklet be your guide on your tour through this town built at the end of the road thanks to its sea salt resources. It all started in 1855, when the engineer and chemist Herni Merle (Péchiney) created a company to harvest sea salt which he sold to soda ash industry plants in the neighboring Gard district. In 1892, Ernest Solvay, a Belgium engineer and chemist, founded the company Solvay on this salty lands. Solvay needed salt for its sodium carbonat production.



YOUR ADVENTURE TOUR THROUGH SALIN STARTS HERE !

Follow the path and the pink flamingo and discover the unique life of the people of Salin. Follow the guide and dive into the special history of Salin.

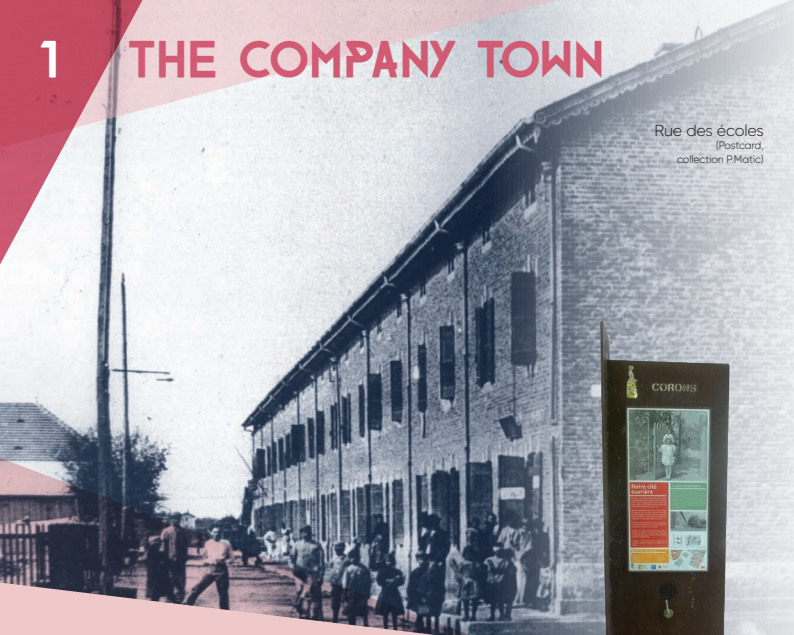
MYSTERY WORD

Watch out ! At certain stops you will have to answer a question to discover the mystery word.

As you move along, enter the letters in the boxes on page 19 of this booklet.

1 THE COMPANY TOWN

Rue des écoles
(Postcard,
collection P.Matic)



Take a look at the signboard on your right, turn the crank to listen to **Christiane** talking about her home and her childhood (or scan the QR code).
(French only)

MYSTERY WORD What's the name of these emblematic dwellings which look much alike those in Northern France ?

Enter the first letter to start to uncover the mystery word. You also have to enter the letter in the first box at the top of page 19!

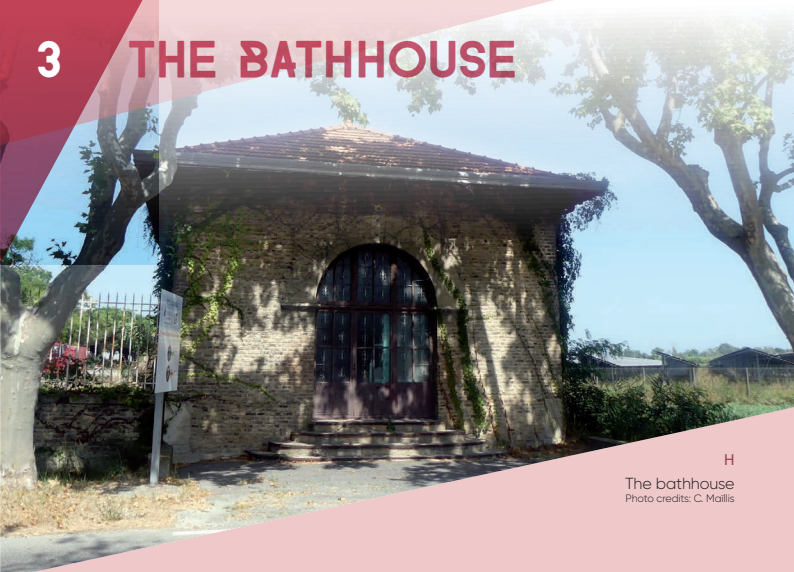
2 THE FERRY



The ferry - February 2004
Photo credits: A. Floutier/SMTDR

Q The first ferry
(Photograph: Carle Naudot,
coll. Musée de la Camargue,
PNR de Camargue. Num. David Huguenin)

3 THE BATHHOUSE



H

The bathhouse
Photo credits: C. Mallis

In order to best host the company's workers, Solvay built a bathhouse. The shower cabins were separate with simple showers or bathtubs. The children fought over the bathtubs. For little girls, the bathhouse was open on Thursday mornings, for boys on Thursday afternoons and for their mothers on Fridays. Factory workers had access to the showers every evening.

QUESTION And you? On which day would you have been allowed to use the bathhouse? Circle your answer!

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday



On your right you will see the **Barcarin ferry**. Originally, Salin-de-Giraud was exclusively connected to Arles and the Camargue. The Rhône was a natural obstacle stopping any access to the eastern part of the Bouches-du-Rhône territory. In 1933, the first ferry was put into service, creating a fast connection between Salin-de-Giraud and Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône.

Take your turn and cross the great Rhone aboard the ferry!
www.smtdr.fr/bacs-de-barcarin



4 THE SILHOUETTE OF CARLE NAUDOT



Photo credits: J.E. Roché

Carle Naudot (1880-1948)

was a boilermaker and later became a foreman. Known for his photographs and his passion for *bouvino**, he was also a gifted storyteller, relating tales of the Camargue which are still well known today thanks to his heritage. The house behind his silhouette is the one he lived in when he became a foreman.

MYSTERY WORD

Look at the façade! Which two colors can you see?

Keep the two letters corresponding to the bricks' colors in mind and add them to the mystery word on page 19.

Clue: put them in alphabetical order in cases two and three of the mystery word!



THE CARLE NAUDOT SQUARE



H

School excursion
(Photograph: Carle Naudot,
coll. Musée de la Camargue, PNR de Camargue,
Num. David Huguenin)

Q Work of peace (P. Matic)
Photo credits: J.E. Roché

This neighborhood created in the 1960s, was the place where **Solvay** and **Péchiney** people met:

- at Solvay School, where children of the two plants could access to education.
- at the balls celebrating July 14th national day.

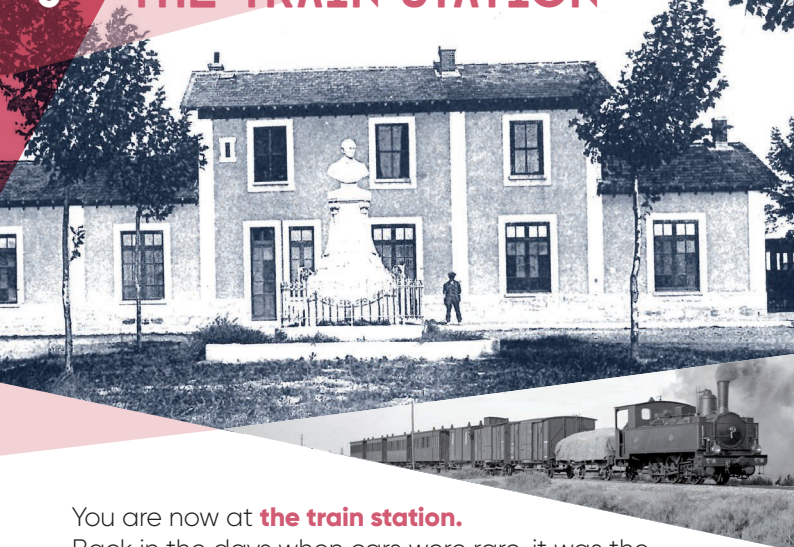
The sculpture «*Work of Peace*» on this square represents workers both of the Solvay and the Pechiney plants. One has a bag of soda showing the plant produce. The other one holds a salt worker's shovel which was used to collect salt and fill the wagons.

R

When you move on to stop 6, the train station, you will cross the borderline between the two neighborhoods of the town, leaving Solvay behind you and entering Péchiney.



6 THE TRAIN STATION

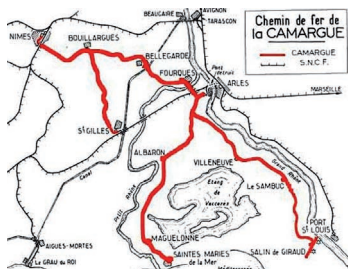


You are now at **the train station**.

Back in the days when cars were rare, it was the train that connected Salin to the rest of the world. It was also used to go to mass or to the beach.

QUESTION I have to be in Salin on Sunday 8 p.m. When do I have to leave Arles ?

Circle the right answer on the schedule below.



Ligne d'Arles au Salin-de-Giraud

	SERVICE FERROVIAIRE			SERVICE D'AUTOCARS		
Départ d'ARLES (Station-Bar)	—	—	—	8.15	12.00	14.10 (2)
Arles-Trinquetaille .	6.00 (1)	18.25 (1)	19.10 (3)			
Arrivée au Salin . . .	7.19	19.40	20.24	9.25	13.20	15.30
Départ du Salin	6.20			11.15(2)	13.25	16.50
Arles-Trinquetaille .	7.37					18.04
Arrivée à ARLES (Station-Bar)	—			12.25	14.35	18.10

Ligne d'Arles aux Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer (Autocars)

Départ d'Arles (Station-Bar)	8.20	11.35 (2)	14.15	18.40 (1)	19.20 (3)
Arrivée Stes-Maries .	9.30	12.45	15.25	19.50	20.30
Départ Stes-Maries .	6.20	11.15	13.00 (2)	17.00	
Arrivée à ARLES (Station-Bar)	7.30	12.25	14.10	18.10	

Ligne d'Arles à Nîmes (Autocars)

Départ d'ARLES (Station-Bar)	6.45 (1)	7.45 (3)	13.00	18.35(1)	19.15(3)
Arrivée à NÎMES, Café du Casino	7.45	8.48	14.00	19.38	20.18
Départ NÎMES, Café du Casino	6.55	11.30	17.15(1)	18.25(1)	18.00(3)
Arrivée à ARLES (Station-Bar)	7.55	12.30	18.18	19.25	19.03

(1) Semaine

(2) Samedi seulement

(3) Dimanches et Jours fériés

H Rue des écoles (Postcard, collection P.Matic)

H The mini-train of the Camargue

(Photograph: Carle Naudot, coll. Musée de la Camargue, PNR de Camargue. Num. David Huguenin)

7 THE SILHOUETTE OF A FISHERMAN



Observe the landscape and the buildings around you: are you able to find the silhouette of a fisherman?

Péchiney authorized fishing and hunting on its land which allowed workers to improve their income and feed their families.

H

Salins du midi
Fishing at Beauduc
Photo credits: Patrick Box

8 THE RESTAURANT LA CAMARGUE



Have a look to the right. You will see the restaurant **La Camargue**.

Originally, this building was the **Péchiney Hotel** which hosted visitors and temporary employees of the plant.

H

The Péchiney Grand Hotel (1928)
(Postcard, C. Hemery)

9 THE BADIN SQUARE



H

Inauguration du monument
en mémoire d'Adrien Badin
(Photograph: Carle Naudot,
coll. Musée de la Camargue,
PNR de Camargue. Num. David Huguenin)

Adrien Badin (1873-1917)

He was a professor at the Alès School of Mines (Gard district) and the third managing director of the Pechiney company. A remarkable man, he instituted a retirement and protection system for his workers, long before the law, in order to improve their comfort, hygiene and quality of life. The statue you can see on this square was erected in his memory in 1917.

Next to the statue, try the «Badinscope» and discover photographs of the former salt workers' life.

MYSTERY WORD Which company
was managed by
Adrien Badin ?

Take the 7th letter of the
company and add it to
the mystery word cases
on page 19!



Photo credits: C. Mallis



10 THE ORTHODOX CHURCH



The orthodox church of Salin-de-Giraud
Photo credits: C. Mailis

During the First World War, the **Péchiney** plant participated to the war effort. It operated a weapons plant and produced powders and combat gases from chlorine derivatives manufactured by the Solvay plant, both derivatives of the production of sea salt. This plant was put on standby between the two world wars.

During the Second World War, the German army was convinced that the landing would take place on the beaches of Camargue and used it as a rear base for manufacturing bunkers that border the beaches. After the «Liberation», the weapons factory was completely razed. Today only remain the cylindrical buildings which served as warehouses and stables. In the early 1950s, the Greek community was granted the use of one of the warehouses to establish an Orthodox church. In 2009, the Compagnie des Salins du Midi donated this building and its surrounding land to the Greek community of Salin-de-Giraud.

QUESTION The colors of this church are identical to the flag of a European country. For many people living in Salin-de-Giraud it is their native country. Do you know which community we are talking about?

GAME Link each image to its name. Take the only letter of the word «Flora» which will not be crossed through by your lines and enter it in the next empty box on page 19.



F

L

O

R

A

THE CAMARGUE

● **Reed** - *Phragmites australis*

It is widely spread in the Camargue and grows both near fresh and brackish water. In the marshes, it forms reed beds and is home to numerous breeding birds. Reed is harvested in winter and mainly used to make the roofs of the Gardian houses.

● **Sea-lavender, the flower of Gardians** - *Limonium*

At the end of summer, Sea-lavender lines lawns and pastures with purple. Growing on salty soil, it absorbs too much **salt and** must excrete it through its leaves. There are six species of sea-lavender in the Camargue, two of which are very rare and protected in France.



● **Saltwort** - *Suaeda vera*

This perennial and halophilic (salt-loving) plant grows mostly at the edge of the Sansouire, on earth walls, because it does not tolerate prolonged immersion. It was once used for glass making and continues to be used today for Aleppo soap production. Its leaves are green all year round.

● **Salicornia** - *Sarcocornia fruticosa*

In autumn, the plant stops the production of chlorophyll and the green colour leaves room for the red of the anthocyanins. A source of vegetable soda, it was once used to make soap and glass. Candied in vinegar, the tender shoots of an annual *Salicornia* (*Salicornia europaea*) are eaten as hors d'oeuvres.

● **Tamarix** - *Tamarix gallica*

This emblematic shrub of the lower Camargue has very small scaly leaves which are signs of its adaptation to the wind conditions and salinity of the Camargue coastline. Its hardwood was once used to make small barrels for wine.

12 THE SOLVAY CINEMA



On your left, you will see the former **Solvay cinema**. Saturday night was movie night, followed by a second film show on Sunday afternoons. The inhabitants could thus have a nice time out and enjoy film classics. Due to its architecture, Salin-de-Giraud has also been the shooting spot for some famous films: *Heureux qui comme Ulysse*, *Le Petit Baigneur* by Robert Dhery and more recently *Les Tuche!* The mining village of the film is actually Salin-de-Giraud and not a village in the North of France.

H

Film shooting «Les Tuche»
Photo credits: E. Matic

13 THE SPORTS BAR

You will then walk past the sports bar, which was originally the **Solvay canteen** where seasonal plant workers ate and slept.

MYSTERY WORD Help the «tellinier» to catch a tellin!
Entre the right letter on page 19!



L

T

N



14 THE ECLIPSE



H

Observation of the eclipse in 1912
(Photograph: Carle Naudot,
coll. Musée de la Camargue,
PNR de Camargue. Num. David Huguenin)

Right in front of you,
you will see the statue of a woman observing
the sky. This cut-out actually is a reproduction
of one of the women you can see on the postcard
above, showing spectators of the **eclipse of 1912**.

MYSTERY WORD Hold up this
page against the sun. Out
of transparency, the letter
grid will reveal the last
letter of the mystery word.

If you don't manage to see the letter in
transparency, here's a hint :
it's the 15th letter of the alphabet.

A	D	B	O
C	A	R	P
M	V	E	Q
T	H	V	U

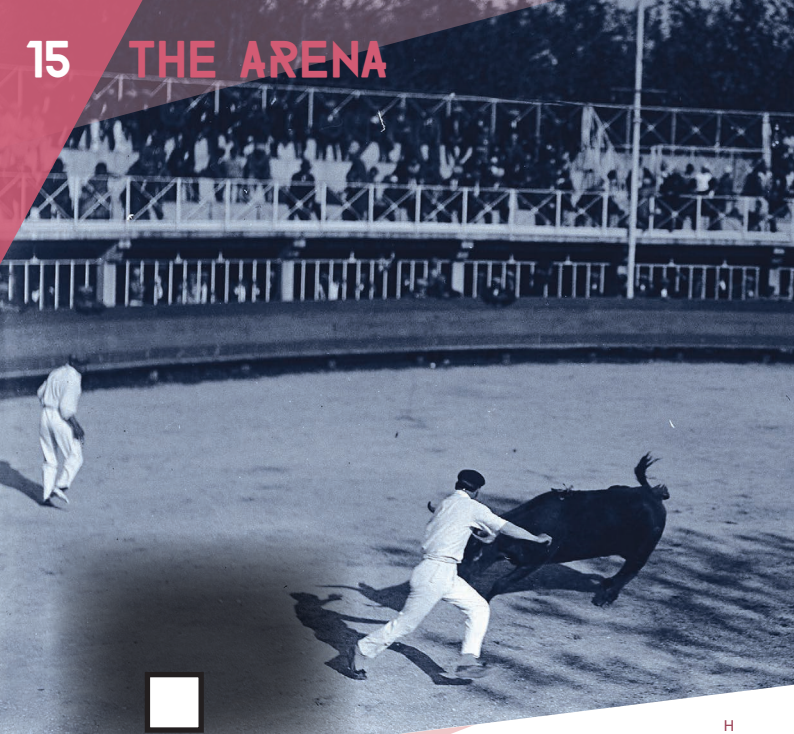


Recipe: tellin with aioli

1. Rinse the dried tellins*, gently roast them in a pan at medium heat, turning them over with a skimmer. As soon as all the shells are open, drain and reserve.
2. Prepare the aioli (provençal garlic mayonnaise): peel the garlic and grind it with 1 pinch of Camargue salt and 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Add the egg yolk at room temperature and a bit of mustard. Mix well. Add the rest of the oil by pouring it little by little while turning the pestle in the same direction to obtain a firm mayonnaise. Season with pepper. Add some lemon juice if you like.
3. Mix the tellins and the aioli and cool them in the fridge before serving.

* Tellin: edible marine mollusc living in the sand, characterized by a triangular shape and tentacles.

15 THE ARENA



H

«Course camarguaise» in Salin-de-Giraud
(Photograph: Carle Naudot,
coll. Musée de la Camargue,
PNR de Camargue. Num. David Huguenin)

The Camargue bull race holds a very important place in the village. In this traditional Camargue sport, the «raseteurs» (dressed in white) try to catch award-winning attributes (rosettes, tassels, strings) attached to the frontal of the bull. The biòu (bull) is the star of the arena.

QUESTION Do you know the difference between a Camargue and a Spanish bull?

Answer: the main difference is the shape of the horns:

- Lou biòu (Camargue bull) has lyre-shaped horns pointing upwards
- El toro (Spanish bull) has horns pointing forwards



P

Games in the arena
Collection François Castellani



MYSTERY WORD



Congratulations, you have found the mystery word!

The provençal word **«camello»** means «big pile». The salt harvested from July to mid-September in the salt marshes is stored in piles. Some can reach tens of meters in height and length.

You can admire these «mountains» of salt with your own eyes from the salt lake view point taking the direction of the Piemanson beach.

You have now returned to your starting point. We hope that you enjoyed the walk and the discovery of the secret history of Salin-de-Giraud, our history.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with our local guides to learn even more about our town.

Reservation and information:
06 76 82 57 12 or 06 32 19 08 37
salindegiraudconte@gmail.com

Guided tours on Wednesdays and Sundays at 10a.m. (French only) or on demand. 7€/person (under 12 free)

See you soon for another stroll through our town!



This heritage path has been created by a group of passionate volunteers who love their town. With the help and support of the Camargue Regional natural park: H. Bernard, C. Gouvernet, C. Hemery, C. Maillis, E. Matic, S. Meyer, V. Paliard, C. Pillier, E. Séguier.

This booklet has been produced with the financial support of the European Union programme «European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe invests in rural areas» and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regional council.

- Projet management: Camargue Regional natural park
- Coordination: M. Cervilla
- Partners: Tourism board and town of Arles
- Concept, research and texts: N. Bramand, M. Cervilla, C. Hemery, G. Herrera (orthodox church)
- Grafic design: Christophe Alglave
- Special thanks to P. Box, wife of F. Castellani, A. Floutier, C. Hemery, C. Maillis, E. Matic, P. Matic, for providing illustrations and photographs.



Heritage path design: Le Chronographe in cooperation with the inhabitants
idea and design of the pink yarn: Agence Conopée

Cover image: workers moving the factory in the snow - Spine inside: Level
Photographers: Carle Naudot, cc - Musée de la Camargue PNR de Camargue Num. David Huguenin

SALINDEGIRAUD.FR



L'Europe investit dans les zones rurales