Nîmes

Aigues-

Mortes

Le Grau-du-Roi

The Espiguette

Lighthouse

Camargue



its scenery and the culture of Provençe in all its historical grandeur.



Aix-en-Provence

Le Sambuc

The Camargue is a large wetland in the Rhône delta. It is exceptionally diverse in its flora and fauna,

Whether you are interested in nature or in the traditions of the Camargue, we can give you the information you need to appreciate the park, bearing in mind its vulnerability.

Visiting museums or natural features, between the sea and the pools, on foot or on horseback, following the tourist routes or relaxing on the beach - you can organise your visit according to your preferences, while also respecting the quality of your surroundings.

Alpilles Regional

Arles

Nature Park

To Avignon

ou are in a Regional nature park

Respect the dunes.

Stay on the trail, do not enter private property.

No fires or barbecues.

No loud noises.

Freshwater marshes

and reed beds

Park only in designated areas.

These are common in the upper Camargue and on the banks

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.

Dogs must remain leached.

In summer time, don't forget sunscreen, water and mosquito repellent.

the Camargue with the « Valeurs Parc naturel

regional » brand

Owned by the Ministry of the Environment, « Valeurs Parc naturel regional » 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

1 Museum of

the sites on the back

Camargue **5** The Pont de Gau

bird park

reproduction site

8 Home of rice

Camargue horse

HORSE TREKKING

13 Bergerie d'Alivon

15 Marais du Vigueirat -Manade Coule

www.manadecoule.com +33 (0)4 90 98 70 91

16 Mas Saint-Germain www.massaintgermain.com +33 (0)6 16 92 34 98

17 Mas de la Grenouillère +33 (0)4 90 97 90 22

18 Domaine de Méjanes

www.mejanes-camargue.fr +33 (0)4 90 97 10 10

BULL HERDING (by réservation)

19 Manade Blanc www.manade-blanc.fr

20 Manade Jacques Bon

21 Manade Cavallini

22 Manade Mailhan

+33 (0)9 74 56 51 89

23 Manade de Méjanes www.mejanes-camargue.fr +33 (0)4 90 97 10 62

WINE MAKERS

+33 (0)4 90 97 10 41

ACCOMMODATION

26 Bergerie d'Alivon

www.bergeriealivon.com +33 (0)6 12 62 04 57

Mas de Bouvet

+33 (0)6 12 13 59 02

Mas de Calabrun

www.mas-de-calabrun.fr +33 (0)4 90 97 82 21

29 Gite Mas Farola

www.masfarola.camarque.f

28 Hôtel-restaurant****

27 Chambres d'hôtes

24 Domaine de Beaujeu

+33 (0)9 64 18 90 33 25 Mas de Valériole

6 Flamingo

7 The Vigueirat marshes

10 Home of the

(by réservation)

+33 (0)6 03 54 10 94

14) Écurie de l'Auberge cavalière du Pont des Bar www.ecurie-camargue.fr

+33 (0)6 20 68 14 07 +33 (0)6 63 65 26 08 30 Hôtel-restaurant** Le Flamant rose

www.leflamantrose.com +33 (0)4 90 97 10 18

31 Chambres d'hôtes Mas de la Forge +33 (0)4 90 97 00 76

32 Gîtes Mas Saint-Germain

+33 (0)4 90 97 00 60 33 Hôtel***

Mas de la Grenouillère www.hotel-la-grenouillere.fr

+33 (0)4 90 97 90 22 34 Gite de l'Isle Saint-Pierre +33 (0)4 90 98 70 30

35 Guest rooms Maebrilu http://maebrilu-camargue.fr +33 (0)6 23 49 60 22

36 Le Mas Montredon www.lemasmontredon.com +33 (0)4 90 52 07 50

37 Chambres d'hôtes **Un nid en Camargue** www.gites-de-france.com

+33 (0)6 24 00 34 56 +33 (0)6 24 00 34 57

Mas de Peint www.masdepeint.com +33 (0)4 90 97 20 62

www.masdelavigne.com +33 (0)4 90 97 11 29

STANCES BETWEEN THE MAIN TOWNS:

n-de-Giraud - Port-Saint-Loui hac de Barcarin)

The ponds and lagoons

play a major role in water management.

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

1,0000

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.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL

HERITAGE SITES (presented over

(2) Domaine de la Palissade 🗘

Museum of the Camarque 🗘

5 The Pont de Gau bird park (Parc ornithologique de Pont de Gau)

6 Flamingo reproduction site (Étang du Fangassier)

8 Home of rice (Maison du riz)

(11) The Salt works observatory

13 Maison du Grand Site de France

Musée de la Camargue - Park reception area)

(3) The Camargue National Nature Reserve (La Ca

7 The Vigueirat marshes National Nature Reserve

(10) Home of the Camargue Horse (Maison du cheval Camargue)

4 La Gacholle ligthhouse (Phare de la Gacholle)

(9) The Scamandre Regional Nature Reserve

12 The Saint-Louis Tower (Tour Saint-Louis)

Pin Fourcat

NORTH Saint-Gilles

Pioch-Badet

Les Saintes-Maries-

Find the details of

the sites on the back

de-la-Mer

Gimeaux,

Albaron

la-Trinité

Les Impériaux

Wan Gogh Bridge Saliers

Beaucaire A

Gageron (25)

Villeneuve 🔪 Mas-Thibert

Vaccarès Pond

The Gacho

Salin-de-Giraud

The Faraman Lighthouse

Tourist path (by bike / by car) Discovery route for pedestrians and cyclists

•••• Boundary of the Camargue Regional Nature Park

by spectacular flowering plants and a number of rare

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

The Beauduc Lighthouse

Cycle path ViaRhôna

River stop

© Carte et illustrations Vincent Brunot / Incent Brunot

and meadowlands Marseille 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 statice 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 plains («sansouires»)

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,



Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône

Piémanson Beach

+33 (0)6 87 01 43 08 +33 (0)4 90 97 28 50

www.masdepioch.com +33 (0)4 90 97 50 06

38 Hôtel-restaurant****

39 Gites Mas de la Vigne

& Camargue

Parc naturel régional

AVIGNON SALON-DE-MONTPELLIEF

Tourist information

Tourist office of Arles City center Esplanade Charles de Gaulle - 13200 Arles Tél. +33(0)4 90 18 41 20

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



www.saintesmaries.com - info@saintesmaries.com



Tour Saint-Louis - Quai Bonnardel Tél. +33(0)4 42 86 01 21 www.portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr contact@portsaintlouis-tourisme.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

Tél. +33(0)4 42 86 81 28 palissade@parc-camargue.fr













This document is printed on unbleached paper



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.

the Camargue Regional Natural Park mobilizes a multidisciplinary team that works as well:

Like the other 54 regional natural parks in France,

- 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

- > Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer
- **Population**: 10 848 inhabitants
- ▶ Area : 101 200 hectares **▶** Coastline : 75 k, Highest point

4 metres above sea level!

- including invertebrates): 1100 of which 489 are protected, either > Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône nationally or worldwide
 - ▶ 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!

▶ Animal and plant species (not

Parc naturel régional

* Camargue



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

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,

The Camargue is full off 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







▶ Black-winged stilt (Himantopus himantopus) **▶ Guépier d'Europe** (Merops apiaster)

Some of the Camargue's plants







Sea lavender (Limonium narbonense)



Annual Saltwort (Salicorna annua)

Discovering the natural and cultural heritage of the Camargue

Museum of Camarque



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 3.5 km trail where you will encounter a variety of landscapes.

Mas du Pont de Rousty 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€.

The Domaine de la Palissade



The Domaine de la Palissade is a Conservatoire du Littoral property open to the public. Here, on pedestrian and horseback trails it is possible to observe the principal wetlands of Camargue, the natural habitats of birds and fish. Exhibitions and guided tours Salin-de-Giraud - Tél. +33(0)4 42 86 81 28

palissade@parc-camargue.fr - www.palissade.fr Opening times: February and November, wednesday to sunday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; March to mid-June and

mid-September to end October, every day from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Mid-June to mid-September, every day from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Closed and January, 1st May and 11th November. Horseback and kayak excursions from 01/04 to 31/10. There is an admission charge. Boutique and picnic area.

Natural Reserve of 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.

The Natural Reserve House. La Capelière

This is the information center of the Reserve, including a museum and a shop, as well as the departure point of a 1,5 km trail winding through the Camargue's various habitats. You will especially appreciate the 4 observatories placed among the marshes. By appointment : a visit on the Salin de Badon trail, heart of the

C134 route de Fiélouse - Arles - Tél. +33(0)4 90 97 00 97 reservedecamarque@espaces-naturels.fr - www.snpn.com/reservedecamarque Opening times: April to 30 September: every day from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm; October to March: open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Closed every Tuesday except during school holidays. Occasionally closed in winter, inquire beforehand. There is an admission charge. Shaded picnic area. Labelled « Tourisme et Handicap ».

The light house La Gacholle and the sea dike

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. Motor vehicles are prohibited. Picnic area.

5 The Pont de Gau bird Park



An ideal birdwatching site for the many species of Camargue, especially the rose flamingos. Trails and observatories bring you alongside wild fauna and amongst the various settings of marshes, ponds, reedbeds and saltmarsh 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). In April: from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm;

In September: from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm From October to March: from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. The Park exit is independent of the reception desk and remains open until sunset all year. Bar/terrace open from April to October. Labelled « Tourisme et Handicap » and « Park brand ». Buvette/terrace open from April to October.

From May to August: from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

régional » brand



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

6 Etang du Fangassier / Guided tour with The 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. n 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

The Vigueirat marshes National **Nature Reserve**



Meadow and flooded wood, The Camargue largest reed bed constitute an environment teeming with life with thousands of birds, 6 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@espacesnaturels.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

8 Home of Rice



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. The visit includes a trail with small rice fields, an exhibition room, a demonstration of the rice whitening process and a tasting session on request.

Mas de la Vigne, Albaron - Arles Tél. +33(0)6 31 03 40 11 maisonduriz@orange.fr

www.maisonduriz.com - Open every day from April to end of November, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Local produce shop.



Meadow, « sansouire » (saline scrub), reed bed and pond represents a variety of environment conducive to the faunistic and floristic diversity typical of a Mediterranean

Route des Iscles - Gallician - Vauvert Tél. +33(0)4 66 73 52 05 contact@camarguegardoise.com www.camarguegardoise.com - Opening times : Tuesday to Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm, shop 9 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 6 pm. Sales of guide. Reservation required for groups

10 Home of the Camargue Horse



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 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.

11 The salt works observatory



The Giraud salt works, near the mouth of the Grand Rhône, covers 6000 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 Piemanson and Salin-de-giraud. Route de la plage de Piémanson

12 The Saint Louis Tower



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@portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr www.portsaintlouis-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

13 Maison du Grand Site de France Walking trail, permanent exhibition of Camarque



landscapes, activities, events, temporary exhibitions. Open from Tuesday to Sunday (except for public holidays). February to March: from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm;

April to June: from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm; July to September: from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm Free admission uided tour 6€ (full rate), 3€ (reduced rate).

A new life is being invented...







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 thema-tically 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 Camarque, which makes it a popu-lar 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 bird watching, and more generally for observing Camargue plants and wildlife. In addition to the descriptions of each site and the species to be seen there, the booklet highlights outdoor activities, restaurants and accommodation situated close to the sites; most of which are committed to sustainable



Booklet available in French and English from tourist offices and heritage and cultural sites, or can be downloaded from : www.parc-camargue.fr/ou-observer-les-oiseaux-en-camargue.html

▶ Biosphere Reserve



CAMARGUE

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.

The Parc naturel régional de Camargue celebrates 50 years of service!

its residents and some local, national and international partners. A highlight moment

is scheduled close to the anniversary date, and we invite the public to join us on the

week-end of 26th and 27th of September, to celebrate this fiftieth anniversary!



On September 25th, 1970, Prime minister Jacques Chaban-Delmas decreed the establishment of the Regional nature park

For 50 years, the Park has worked with the inhabitants, tourism

professionals, authorities and associations for the preservation

and the development of the Camarque. The Park acts in the following domains: water, biodiversity, land use planning, heritage, agriculture, education and sustainable tourism. To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Parc naturel régional de Camargue will accommodate throughout the year a variety of activities and events, organised with

This program is supported by the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region.

Downloadable on the Parc's website: www.parc-camargue.fr

