# Camargue





A new life is being invented...







# Camargue

MONTPELLIE

**TOURIST INFORMATION** 

Accueil centre-ville

Tél. +33 (0)4 90 18 41 20

**Accueil Salin-de-Giraud** 

www.arlestourisme.com

avenue Van Gogh

Tél. 04 42 86 01 21

Rue Tournaire - 13200 Arles Tél. +33 (0)4 42 86 89 77

ot-arles@arlestourisme.com

Tél. +33 (0)4 90 97 82 55

OFFICE DE TOURISME DES SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA-MER

3460 Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer

Tour Saint-Louis - Quai Bonnardel

13230 Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône

contact@portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr

Musée de la Camargue Mas du Pont de Rousty - 13200 Arles Tél. +33 (0)4 90 97 10 82

www.portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr

Domaine de la Palissade

Tél. +33 (0)4 42 86 81 28

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13129 Salin-de-Giraud

OFFICE DE TOURISME PORT-SAINT-LOUIS

CAMARGUE REGIONAL NATURE PARK

www.parc-camargue.fr - info@parc-camargue.fr

mosdnito repellent, sunscreen and water.

Respect the wildlife, and avoid making

paths. Do not stray onto private property.

When walking round the park, remain on the

Remember that the dunes are sensitive areas.

You're in a Regional Nature Park

Some advice for visitors

I sugremed and in the Camargue!

cies and a quarter of its plant species

species, halt of its freshwater fish spe-

year. Three quarters of France's bird

▶ Migrating birds : 150 000 each

of which 489 are protected, either

including invertebrates): 5 700,

• Animal and plant species (not

nationally or worldwide

Park only in designated areas.

unnecessary noise.

No fires or barbecues!

take your waste home!

Highest point: 4 metres above sea

Some figures

▶ Help us keep the Camargue clean

Between May and October, don't forget to bring

OFFICE DE TOURISME D'ARLES

splanade Charles de Gaulle - 13200 Arles

batc naturet regional

AVIGNON

SALON-DE-PROVENCE

# The natural heritage

Regional Nature Park is multifarious.

Born out of a struggle between river and sea, the

Camargue, in biological terms, is one of Western

Europe's richest regions, and an important

stopping-off point for migratory birds as they go

back and forth between Europe and Africa.

Parc naturel régional

## The Camargue National Nature Reserve



With its 13 000 hectares of ponds, lagoons and salt plains at the heart of the Camargue, the Camargue National Nature Reserve is among europe's largest wetlands. It extends out to the shore, and takes in vaccarès lake. It is totally protected, and its visitors will discover some real treasures, notably 237 species of birds in pristine environments.

Beaches and reed beds,

rice and wheat, the salt

ponds and the Mediter-

ranean - the Camargue

## 17 La Gacholle ligthhouse (Phare de la Gacholle)

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.

Opening times: school holidays, public holidays and weekends, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission free.

## 24 La Capelière

La Capelière is the Information Centre of the Nature Reserve, where you can walk a 1,5 km trail that crosses a patchwork of Camarque habitats. There are 4 hides including 2 equipped with telescopes to get closer to the wildlife of the marshes, an exhibition, and a shop for nature

C 134 de Fiélouse - Arles - Tél. +33 (0)4 90 97 00 97 camargue-rn@espaces-naturels.fr - www.reserve-camargue.org Opening times: 1 April to 30 September, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm; 1 October to 31 March, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm (except tuesdays). Closed on 25 December and 1 January. There is an admission charge. Labelled « Tourisme et Handicap ».

## 13 The Pont de Gau bird park (Parc ornithologique de Pont de Gau)



Here you can observe birds in a natural environment of 60 hectares. And there are 7 km of paths that link up the marshes, ponds, reed beds, meadowlands, salt plains and irrigation channels. The diversity of habitats is matched by that of the birds themselves, both sedentary and migratory, and much has been done to facilitate the observation of flamingos, herons, storks, egrets, teals, sparrows, wading birds and raptors.

Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer - Tél. +33 (0)4 90 97 82 62 contact@parcornithologique.com - www.parcornithologique.com Opening times: April to 30 September, 9:00 am till sunset, and 1 October to 31 March, 10:00 am till sunset. There is an admission charge. Labelled « Tourisme et Handicap » and « Park brand ».

## 18 Flamingo reproduction site (Étang du Fangassier)

It is also France's only nesting site for the flamingo,

its world-famous emblem. And then there are

the bulls, horses, beavers, owls, gulls, terns,

The Camargue is a subtle blend of contrasts,

both entrancing and ever-changing. It reveals

itself in a multitude of ways, depending on the

time of day and the season. There are always

herons and wading birds.

surprises in store for the visitor.

Enjoy your visit...

For more than 20 years, the Camargue Regional Nature Park has been managing the only site in France where flamingos reproduce, at Fangassier, owned by the Conservatoire du Littoral. The Bureau des Guides Naturalistes, in partnership with the park, the Office de Tourisme in Arles, the Tour du Valat and the Conservatoire du Littoral, organises visits, during the nesting season, to one of the western Mediterranean's largest flamingo colonies.

Étang du Fangassier - Salin-de-Giraud. Opening times : 1 April to 30 September. By reservation only, in the Arles and Salin-de-Giraud tourist Offices, fee charged, tél. + 33 (0)4 42 86 89 77 or + 33 (0)6 95 90 70 48. ot-arles@arlestourisme.com - www.guide-nature.fr - Labelled « Park brand ».

## 21 Domaine de la Palissade



Here you will find ponds and lagoons that communicate with the river and the sea, and unique landscapes with a rich variety of flora and fauna. The aquatic environment provides a remarkable habitat for fish and birds. Walking and riding discovery trails with hides, an exhibition room and guided activities. Salin-de-Giraud - Tél. +33 (0)4 42 86 81 28

palissade@parc-camargue.fr www.palissade.fr

Opening times: February to 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 in December and January, 1st May and 11th November. Equestrian initiation sessions take place from the start of April to October. There is an admission charge.

## The Vigueirat marshes National Nature Reserve (Les Marais du Vigueirat)



There is a range of different landscapes : flood plains, salt plains, ponds and woods, and the Camargue's largest reed beds. An environment teeming with life, with thousands of birds, 4 herds of bulls and Camargue horses: 15 km of paths built on piles, thematic boardwalk trails and guided tours for young and old, on foot, by horse & cart and on horseback (new).

Mas Thibert - Tél. +33 (0)4 90 98 70 91 visites.mdv@espaces-naturels.fr www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org - Opening times : 15/01 to 20/12,

9:30 am to 5:30 pm. Trails free of charge and open-access. Guided visits (reservations necessary). Labelled « Tourisme et Handicap » and

## 30 Scamandre Regional Nature Reserve (Réserve naturelle régionale du Scamandre)

This typically Mediterranean wetland is exceptional in its biodiversity. A number of remarkable bird species nest close to the reception area itself. There are 9 species of heron, and the majority of France's glossy ibises. Protected species include the European pond turtle.

Route des Iscles - Gallician - Vauvert - Tél. +33 (0)4 66 73 52 05 contact@camarguegardoise.com - www.camarguegardoise.com Opening times: tuesday to saturday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Closed on bank holidays. Free admission (reservation required for groups).

## Some of the Camargue's animals



Common scarlet-darter (Emys orbicularis) (Crocothemis erythraea)



**Black-winged stilt** 



Pied avocet

## Some of the Camargue's plants



Sea daffodil





Sea lavender (Limonium narbonense)



Strawflower (Helichrysum stoechas)



**Annual Saltwort** (Salicorna annua)

## To explore the Camargue

## Walking and cycling tours The Camargue Regional Nature Park offers 14 walking

# this exceptional area.

or cycling discovery tours within its borders, in order to observe the full diversity of Camargue landscapes: 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

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

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 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

Booklet available in French and English from tourist offices and heritage and cultural sites, or can be downloaded from: www.parc-camargue.fr/where-to-watch-birds-in-the-camargue.html

## ▶ Biosphere Reserve

committed to sustainable tourism.



Since 1977, the Camargue has been designated by UNESCO BIOSPHERE 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 CAMARGUE 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/

## The cultural heritage

## Camargue produce shop

(Maison des produits de Camargue)

Direct sale of Camargue products and craftsmanship. Rond point du Mas du Sonnailler - RD570 - Route des Saintes-Maries - Arles

Tél. +33 (0)4 90 49 15 26. Opening times: tuesday to saturday from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and 3:30 to 7:00 pm

## 2 Museum of the Camargue (Musée de la Camargue)



This museum provides an indispensable introduction to the territory, from a societal viewpoint. The permanent exhibition « Le fil de temps... le fil de l'eau » (The flow of water, the flow of time, in the Camargue) shows how, on this island formed by the Rhône and the sea, change can be deep and rapid, and people constantly have to adapt to their environment in order to live and work there. At the start of the 3,5 km disco-

the visitor can look out over the surrounding landscape. Mas du Pont de Rousty - RD 570 - Arles - Tél. +33 (0)4 90 97 10 82

musee@parc-camargue.fr - www.parc-camargue.fr - The museum is open daily except on tuesdays: from 1 April to 30 September, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

## Home of Rice (Maison du riz)



The Rozière family, rice growers in the Camargue for 5 generations, 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 with information panels, a demonstration of the rice whitening process, and a tasting session. Local produce shop.

Tél. +33 (0)6 25 74 68 90 / +33 (0)6 19 32 62 42 maisonduriz@free.fr - www.maisonduriz.com

Open every day from April to end November, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and 2:00 to 7:00 pm. Guided visit, fee charged.

# 8 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 Tél: +33 (0)4 90 97 76 37 - contact@masdelacure.org www.maisonduchevalcamargue.com - Guided visit by reservation only, fee charged: May to September, wednesday and friday from 10:00 am to 11:45. October to April, ask us.

## 20 The Salt works observatory



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 Piemanson and Salin-de-giraud

The Giraud salt works, near the mouth of the

## 22 The Saint-Louis Tower (Tour Saint-Louis)



the Camargue, including the Saint-Louis canal, the mouth of the Rhône and the salt ponds. It was built in 1737, for use as a lookout post and a lighthouse. It is now a classified historic monument, and houses the Office de Tourisme, along with

This tower provides an exceptional view of

a permanent exhibition of the largest ornithological collection in the Camargue, and temporary Quai Bonnardel - Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône - Tél. +33 (0)4 42 86 01 21 contact@portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr - www.portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr

## Regional Mature Park The Camargue

supervises the « Valeurs Parc naturel régional de Camargue » brand.

cultural heritage. It also provides facilities and information for visitors.

reconcile human development and nature conservation.

for agriculture and tourism. It emphasises sustainable development, and

It works to improve the quality of life of the local population, with support

Its multidisciplinary team is responsible for the protection of nature and the

the local people and the economic decision-makers. Its remit is to

The park is run on the basis of consultations between the authorities,

### ▼ Coastline: 75 km ▶ Area : 100 000 hectares 000 0↑: noitaluqoq ● > Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône > Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer > Arles Three towns

very walk there is an observation point in wood, created by the artist Tadashi Kawamata for Marseille Provence 2013, from which

and 1:00 to 6:00 pm / 1 October to 31 march, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Labelled « Tourisme et Handicap ».

Mas de la Vigne, Albaron - 13200 Arles

The main features of the Park's natural and cultural heritage are to be found on the map overleaf; sites indicated in orange have the « Valeurs Parc naturel régional » brand.

Opening times summer: monday to friday, 9:00 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



n 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**

5° Home of rice (Maison du riz)

maisonduriz@free.fr - +33 (0)6 25 74 68 90 / +33 (0)6 19 32 62 42

13 The Pont de Gau bird park (Parc ornithologique du Pont de Gau)

frederic@parcornithologique.com - +33 (0)4 90 97 82 62 18 Flamingo reproduction site (Étang du Fangassier

**WINE MAKERS** 

+33 (0)9 64 18 90 33

27 Mas de Valériole

hpmichel@wanadoo.fr

+33 (0)4 90 97 10 41

26 Domaine de Beaujeu

domainedebeaujeu@yahoo.fr

**ACCOMMODATION** 

4 Hôtel-restaurant\*\*

lacave.frederic@orange.fr

5<sup>b</sup> Gites Mas de la Vigne

11 Hôtel-restaurant\*\*\*

beatrice.chomel@gmail.com

Mas de la Grenouillère

19 Chambres d'hôtes

unnidencamargue@gmail.com

Hôtel-restaurant\*\*\*\*

Un nid en Camarque

+33 (0)9 73 16 04 68

contact@masdepeint.com +33 (0)4 90 97 20 62

28 Chambres d'hôtes

Mas de la Forge

Mas de Peint

infos@hotel-la-grenouillere.com +33 (0)4 90 97 90 22

aurelie.coral@mas-de-calabrun.fr

+33 (0)4 90 97 10 18

masdelavigne@free.fr +33 (0)4 90 97 11 29

Mas de Calabrun

+33 (0)4 90 97 82 21 14 Gite Mas Farola

+33 (0)6 20 68 14 07

15<sup>b</sup> Hôtel\*\*\*

Le Flamant rose

avec le Bureau des Guides Naturalistes) contact@guide-nature.fr - +33 (0)6 95 90 70 48

29 Marais du Vigueirat

visites.mdv@espaces-naturels.fr - +33 (0)4 90 98 70 91

(by reservation)

6 Bergerie d'Alivon

infos@bergeriealivon.com +33 (0)6 03 54 10 94 +33 (0)4 90 97 10 37

7° Domaine Paul Ricard manadepaulricard@wanadoo.fr +33 (0)4 90 97 10 62

12 Les Cabanes de Cacharel info@camargueacheval.com +33 (0)4 90 97 84 10 +33 (0)6 11 57 74 75

15° Mas de la Grenouillè equitation@hotel-la-grenouillere.f +33 (0)6 80 25 68 58 +33 (0)4 90 97 90 22

16 L'Écurie de l'Auberge

jerome@ecurie-camargue.fr +33 (0)6 63 65 26 08

## **BULL HERDING** (by reservation)

Manade Mailhan iacques.mailhan@vahoo.f +33 (0)4 90 97 00 12 +33 (0)6 15 09 09 11

**7** Manade Paul Ricard manadepaulricard@wanadoo.fr +33 (0)4 90 97 10 62

9 Manade Clauzel contact@manadeclauzel.com

+33 (0)6 10 66 02 12 10 Manade Cavallini contact@manadecavallini.com

+33 (0)4 90 97 50 06 23° Manade Jacques Bon contact@manade-jacques-bon.com masdelaforge@live.fr

25 Manade Blanc

contact@manade-blanc.fr +33 (0)4 90 97 27 73

+33 (0)4 90 97 28 50 +33 (0)4 90 97 00 76

DISTANCES BETWEEN THE MAIN TOWNS:

42 km 37 km Arles - Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer 37 km Arles - Port-Saint-Louis 36 km