The «Petit-Rhône»

The «Petit-Rhône» is the branch of the Rhône River delta which separates two administrative regions — Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur and Occitanie — between the Bouches-du-Rhône (13) and the Gard (30) departments. It also symbolizes the separation between the “Petit Camargue” (in the Gard) and the “Grand” Camargue. It leaves the Greater Rhône River north of Arles and flows into the Mediterranean Sea near Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer.

Along the way

Bar and restaurant
- Bars et restaurants des Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer
- La table de Sylvéréal : +33 (0)4 66 73 74 35
- La Régie de Frigoulès, route de Cacharel : +33 (0)4 90 97 52 92

Rent a bike
- Le Vélociste (Saintes-Maries) : +33 (0)6 25 32 07 03
- Le Vélo Saintois (Saintes-Maries) : +33 (0)4 90 97 74 56
- 100% Camargue (Sylvéréal) : +33 (0)6 09 56 06 47

Don’t miss
- The town of Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer (Notre-Dame-de-la-Mer church and crypt)
- Boat cruise on the Petit-Rhône (Le Tiki) - +33 (0)4 90 97 81 68
- Canoeing on the Petit-Rhône (Kayak Vert) - +33 (0)6 09 56 06 47

The «gardian’s” hut

Along the way you will see “gardians’” huts. The hut has white-washed walls and a thatched roof (made with marsh reeds). The form of these huts is original: the walls are straight except the north-west side, facing the mistral wind, which has the form of an apse (round) to better resist the wind. At the top of the apse roof there is usually a cross or a horn which was formerly used to anchor the hut to the ground on windy days.

Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer Tourism Office
5 Av. Van Gogh – 13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer
Tel : +33 (0)4 90 97 82 55/Fax : +33 (0)4 90 97 71 15
E-mail : info@saintesmaries.com
Website : www.saintesmaries.com

Emergency numbers

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<thead>
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<th>French</th>
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<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marseilles treatment center for poisoning</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3250</td>
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</tbody>
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Caution! Consult the weather forecast before starting and avoid the mistral wind.

The Bac du Sauvage ferry

The ferry has been crossing the Petit-Rhône since 1974 and was completely renovated in 2004. It is powered by two side paddle-wheels, and moves along a cable with no possibility of changing directions. It leaves every half hour. Check the timetable at the Tourist Office in Les-Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer

The “Petit-Rhône” meanderings

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The Bac du Sauvage ferry and Cacharel ranch

Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer

Starting point : Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer Tourism Office
Distance : 30 km loop
Take note :
- Dangerous crossings : the Sylvéréal bridge and Route D570 at Pioch Badet
- Check the timetable for the Bac du Sauvage ferry crossings at the Saintes-Maries Information Center

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Caution! Consult the weather forecast before starting and avoid the mistral wind.

Trekking
City, trekking or mountain bike, car

2h30 à 4h
1h30
At the Tourism Office, follow Avenue Van Gogh (D38) on your left toward the arena and Aigues-Mortes. Go along beside the sea, the port and the arena where bull games are regularly organized. Cross the hamlet Dromar. After km 6, turn left to take the Bac du Sauvage ferry (check the ferry timetable at the Tourism Office). Continue on Route D85 toward Aigues-Mortes. Cross the Peccais Canal and at the crossroads turn right on D58 toward Arles. Take care, this road is dangerous! Cross the Sylvéréal bridge.

400m after the bridge turn right on the narrow road (toward S33) and go through Astouin. At the next crossroads turn right, then 500m later, turn left (D38b). At the Y-shaped fork, take the road to the left to Pioch-Badet. At the crossroads in the center of the hamlet cross Route D570 (Caution, dangerous road) and take Route D85a toward Arles-Pioch-Badet by the Cacharel Road (Route de Cacharel). For 10 kilometers you will go along beside first the Consecanière and then the Impérial ponds (étangs).

Possible alternate route through Cabanes de Cambon on Route D38.