



Petit-Rhône meanderings

The «Petit-Rhône»

The « Petit-Rhône » is the branch of the Rhône River delta which separates two administrative regions -- Provence-Alpes-Côtes 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 (8 vehicles max.).

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



A gardian's hut

The "gardian's" (cowherd's) hut

Along the way you will be able to see « gardian's » huts. This traditional Camargue dwelling has white-washed walls and a thatched roof (made from "sagne", swamp reeds). The architecture of these huts is original : straight vertical walls on all sides except the side exposed to the "mistral" wind (northwest), which has the form of a church apse (rounded) to better resist the wind. At the top of this apse generally can be found a cross or a horn that was traditionally used to attach the hut to the ground on windy days. The oldest dwellings in the Camargue, which are still being built today, are these typical huts, wrongly called "gardian's" huts, because they were also used by farmers, shepherds and fishermen. Today they are built just for the fun of living in this traditional house.

Emergency numbers



European emergency number
112



Marseilles treatment center for poisoning
+33 (0)4 91 75 25 25



15



18



17



14



Caution! Consult the weather forecast before starting : the Camargue is regularly exposed to the mistral wind



The Bac du Sauvage ferry

Along the way

To eat and drink

- Bars et restaurants in 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 / repair 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
- Jungle - Trott Camargue (Sylvéréal) : +33 (0)6 58 10 92 75
- TROT' NALEX (Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer) : +33 (0)6 62 39 39 74

Don't miss

- The town of Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer (Notre-Dame-de-la-Mer church and crypt)
- Boat cruise the Petit-Rhône
 - Le Tiki : +33 (0)4 90 97 81 68
 - Le Camargue : +33 (0)4 90 97 84 72 / +33 (0)6 17 95 81 96
 - Les Quatre Maries : +33 (0)4 90 97 70 10 / +33 (0)6 16 17 21 60

Photo credits : Opus Species, P. Daniel, Vinzi Studio / Parc de Camargue / Bac du Sauvage



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



**Trekking
City, trekking
or mountain bike, car**

6

Between the Bac du Sauvage ferry and Cacharel ranch Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer



**mountain bike
city bike**

2h30 à 4h



1h30



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





6 Between the Bac du Sauvage ferry and Cacharel ranch Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer

How to get there

- Start from the Tourist Information Center at Les-Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, Avenue Van Gogh.

At the **Tourism Office** **1**, 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** **2** (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 **3**.

400m after the bridge turn right on the narrow road (toward S33) and go through **Astouin** **4**. 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** **5**. 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** **6** on Route D38.