

Where to watch birds

IN THE ALPILLES AND CAMARGUE REGIONAL PARKS, SOUTHERN FRANCE



UNION EUROPÉENNE
Fonds Européen Agricole
pour le Développement Rural



Pays
d'Arles
POÛR MÉDITERRANÉE
TRADITIONNELLE & RURALES



Parc
naturel
régional
de Camargue



Parc
naturel
régional
des Alpilles

THE DESTINATION
IS NOT IMPORTANT.

*What matters
is the journey.*



**CHEMINS
DES PARCS.FR**

WALKS AND HIKES in the
Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur regional nature parks



Access routes by
scanning the QR-code



ALPILLES AND CAMARGUE:

two adjacent and very complementary regional parks

The Alpilles and Camargue regional parks include wetlands areas with brackish coastal lagoons, salt marsh, reed beds and riparian habitats, but also rocky uplands, open agricultural areas mixed with olive groves and vineyards, green oak forest and scrubby aromatic garrigue and maquis.

Many species that are common throughout Mediterranean France and of great interest to birders from the north of Europe are likely to be seen here in the correct habitats and appropriate time of year.

This small guide is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all species that may occur at each site but rather a selection for naturalists from northern Europe of the more interesting species that are likely to be seen at the site during the appropriate period.















The two areas covered in this booklet are very close to each other and complementary. They provide the naturalist with the possibility of visiting a variety of different habitats and seeing very different fauna and flora.

More information on the web site: www.birdingfrance.info

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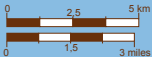
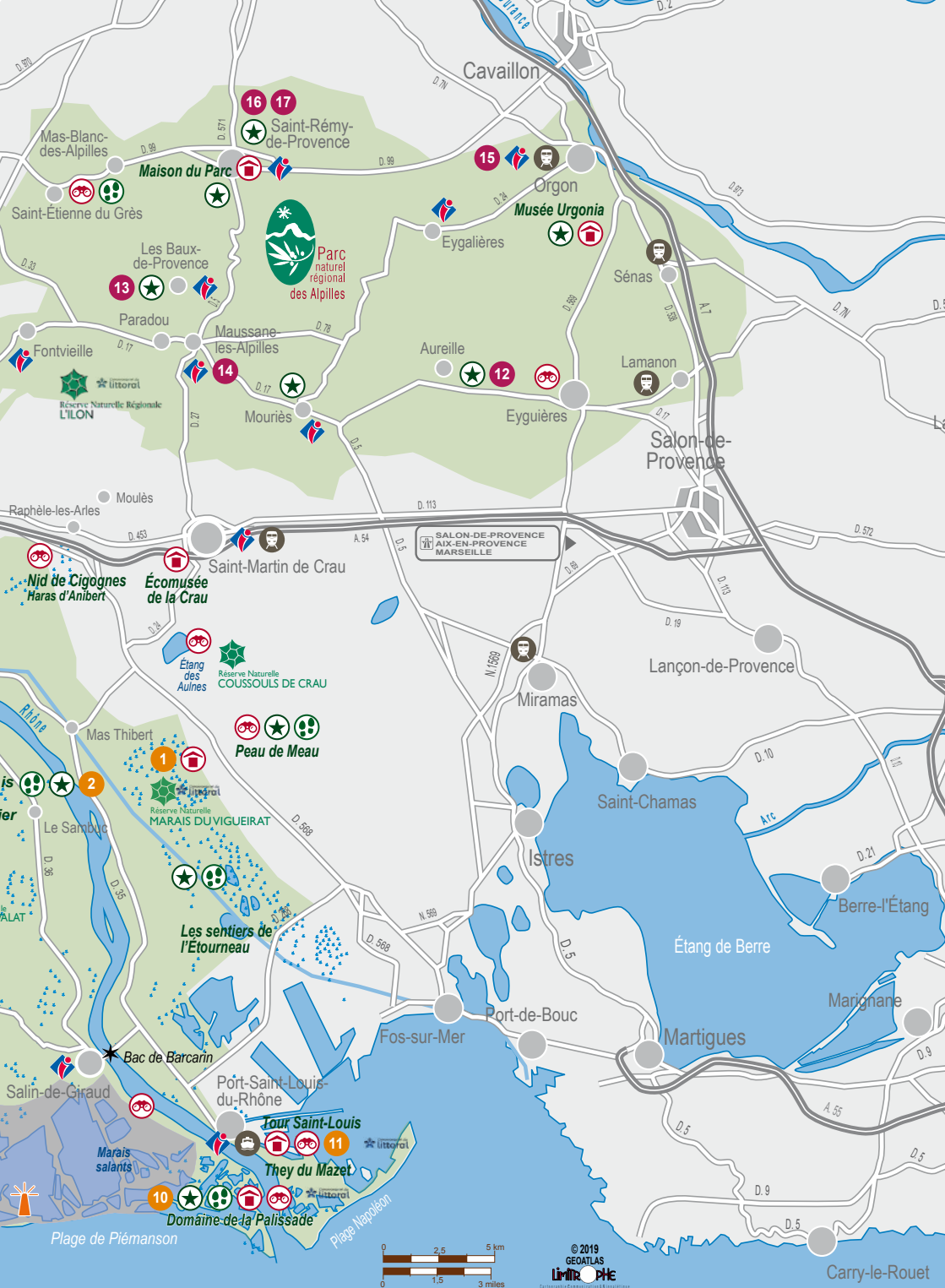
KEY

-  Tourist office
-  Train station
-  Airport
-  River port
-  Marina
-  Natural reserve
-  Natural site to discover
-  Hide/Viewpoint
-  Reception and visitor site
-  Interpretation trail
-  Regional nature Park
-  Salt marshes
-  Camargue observation sites
-  Alpilles observation sites



Mediterranean Sea

Camargue and Alpilles nature regional Parks



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GEOATLAS
Littoral
PNE





Parc naturel régional de Camargue

Une autre vie s'invente ici

Welcome to the Camargue

The Camargue is the largest wetland in France. It is internationally recognised for nature conservation and bird protection.

Nearly 400 species of bird occur in the Camargue, making it a popular spot for birdwatchers, both professional and amateur. In this land shaped by man and nature, the Camargue Regional Park spans an area from the Mediterranean to the interior of the Rhône delta, mainly between the two branches of the river, covering more than 100,000 hectares and with 75 km of coastline.

Its geographical location and climate make the Camargue, which is ideally situated on migration routes, a feeding ground, resting place and stopover for hundreds of thousands of birds. In spring and summer, it is transformed into a gigantic nursery.

Several species occur throughout the Camargue and are likely to be seen at many of the sites mentioned at the appropriate time of year.

Birds: Great and Cattle Egrets, Night and Squacco Herons, Glossy Ibis, Crested Lark, Fan-tailed, Cetti's and Great Reed Warblers, Iberian Grey Shrike (uncommon)

Dragonflies: White Featherleg, Blue-eye, Lesser Emperor, White-tailed Skimmer, Red-veined Darter

Butterflies: Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail, Bath White, Woodland Grayling

Orchids: Giant Orchid



Camargue horses



Salt pans

© P. Daniel

© M. Cervilla

Camargue

1

Marais du Vigueirat

national nature reserve

The Marais du Vigueirat extends over 1,200 hectares and is at the junction of two remarkable ecosystems, the Rhone delta and the stony steppic plain of the Crau. Many plant and animal species can be seen (more than 300 species of birds have been recorded). Fifteen kilometres of waymarked tracks allow the visitor to explore this exceptional natural area, on foot or in a horse-drawn carriage, independently or with a guide. For those interested in wildlife, there is a 5 km guided walk with a naturalist into the heart of the nature reserve. Camargue bulls and horses are reared on the reserve.

- Open all year round (except December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st) 9am to 5pm (check website for opening times).
- Light refreshments available April to September.
- Free picnic areas and parking.
- The “Starling nature trails” are free to access, with optional paid guided tours available by reservation.
- “Accueil Vélo” Label.
- Mobile app “Mes Marais du Vigueirat”.



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

1

ACCESS AND CONTACT

Address:

Les Marais du Vigueirat
13104 Mas-Thibert

GPS:

Lat. 43.536292
Long. 4.753211

Tel: +33 (0)4 90 98 70 91

Email:

visites.mdv@espaces-naturels.fr

Website:

www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org

Birds

Year-round:

Great Egret, Bittern,
Glossy Ibis, Flamingo,
Greylag Goose,
Red-crested Pochard,
Moustached Warbler

Summer:

Purple, Squacco and
Night Herons, Little Bittern,
Short-toed Eagle,
Black-winged Stilt,
Great Spotted Cuckoo,
Great Reed Warbler

Winter:

Duck (various species),
Booted Eagle,
Penduline Tit

During migration:

Black Stork, Spoonbill,
Gull-billed, Caspian, Black,
White-winged Black and
Whiskered Terns,
Black-tailed Godwit



Common crane

Fauna

Dragonflies, Butterflies
(including Southern
Festoon), European Pond
Turtle, snakes (including
Western Montpellier Snake),
Wild Boar

Flora

Reeds, salicornia, Sea
lavender, Aristolochia,
Sedges, Lilies



European pond turtle



© Vigueirat Marshes

More info

ARLES TOURIST INFORMATION

Email:

ot-arles@visitprovence.com

Website:

www.arlestourisme.com

Arles office:

Boulevard des Lices

☎ +33 (0)4 90 18 41 20

Salin-de-Giraud office:

Rue Tournaire

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2

The Verdier marshes

The Verdier marshes were acquired in 2003 by the Tour du Valat Foundation, a research station dedicated to the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands. The site is managed by the “Les Marais du Verdier society” as part of a joint management approach with local residents of the neighbouring village Le Sambuc. The Verdier marshes are made up of four ponds of a former fish farm covering 120 hectares with a variety of habitats (reed beds, areas of bulrush, saltwater meadows, ponds, tamarisk groves). The Verdier is particularly good for wetland birds. An observation platform and a hide make it easier for visitors to see the wildlife.

- A nature trail is free to access and open all year.
- Hunting takes place in the western part of the site, from mid-November to the end of January, on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Park in the village square in Le Sambuc, then walk alongside the sports field/stadium and cross the wooden footbridge.
- A notebook is available under cover for naturalists to record their sightings.



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

2

ACCESS AND CONTACT

Address:

Le Hameau du Sambuc
13200 Arles

GPS:

Lat. 43.5252715
Long. 4.7061412

Website:

www.lesmaraisduverdier.fr

Birds

Year-round:

Bittern, Glossy Ibis,
Purple Swamphen,
Moustached Warbler

Summer:

Little Bittern, Stone Curlew,
Collared Pratincole, Great
Spotted Cuckoo, Great
Reed Warbler

Winter:

Greylag Goose, Teal,
Red-crested Pochard,
Bluethroat, Penduline Tit

During Migration:

Spoonbill, Little Crake,
Black-winged Stilt,
Bearded Reedling



Eurasian Bittern

Fauna

Dark Spreadwing, Migrant
Spreadwing and Blue
Chaser dragonflies.
Montpellier and Ladder
snakes. Parsley Frog

Flora

Two pricklegrasses:
Crypsis aculeata and
Crypsis schoenoides
and Horned Pondweed
the *pediculata* sbsp. of
Zannichellia palustris



Zitting Cisticola



Pesquier reed beds

More info

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3

The Camargue national nature reserve - La Capelière

Covering some 13,000 hectares, the Camargue national nature reserve is one of the largest wetland reserves in Europe. What sets the reserve apart and highlights its international conservation interest is the diversity of habitats and the species that occur here (in particular the 276 species of birds, including 258 of conservation interest), as well as its ecological systems. The site has been managed by the National Society for the Protection of Nature (SNPN) since 1927 and was officially classified as a national reserve in 1975. La Capelière is the reserve's visitor centre providing information about the various nature trails (La Capelière, Salin-de-Badon, Étang du Vaccarès, etc.).

- For opening times and prices, please check the website.



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

3

ACCESS AND CONTACT

Address:

La Capelière
13200 Arles

GPS:

Lat. 43.533733
Long. 4.6521497

Tel: +33 (0)4 90 97 00 97

Email:

reservedecamargue@snpn.fr

Website:

www.snpn.com/
reservedecamargue

Birds

La Capelière

Year-round:

Great Egret, Bittern,
White Stork, Kingfisher,
Cetti's Warbler

Summer:

Little Bittern, Black-crowned
Night Heron, Black-winged
Stilt, Green Sandpiper,
Spotted Redshank,
wetland warblers

Winter:

Teal, Shoveler, diving ducks,
Snipe, Penduline Tit

During migration:

Various waders and ducks



*Black-crowned
Night Heron*

Vaccarès lagoon

Year-round:

Various egrets, herons and
ducks, Slender-billed Gull,
Bearded Reedling

Winter:

Black-necked and Slavonian
Grebes, Red-breasted
Merganser

During migration:

Osprey, Little Gull, Sandwich
and Caspian Terns

Salin de Badon

During migration:

Greylag Goose, Spoonbill,
Curllew, Marsh Sandpiper,
Yellow Wagtail (various
bsbp), Red-rumped Swallow



Penduline Tit



© Camargue National Natural Reserve - La Capelière

More info

ARLES TOURIST INFORMATION

Email:

ot-arles@visitprovence.com

Website:

www.arlestourisme.com

Arles office:

Boulevard des Lices
☎ +33 (0)4 90 18 41 20

Salin-de-Giraud office:

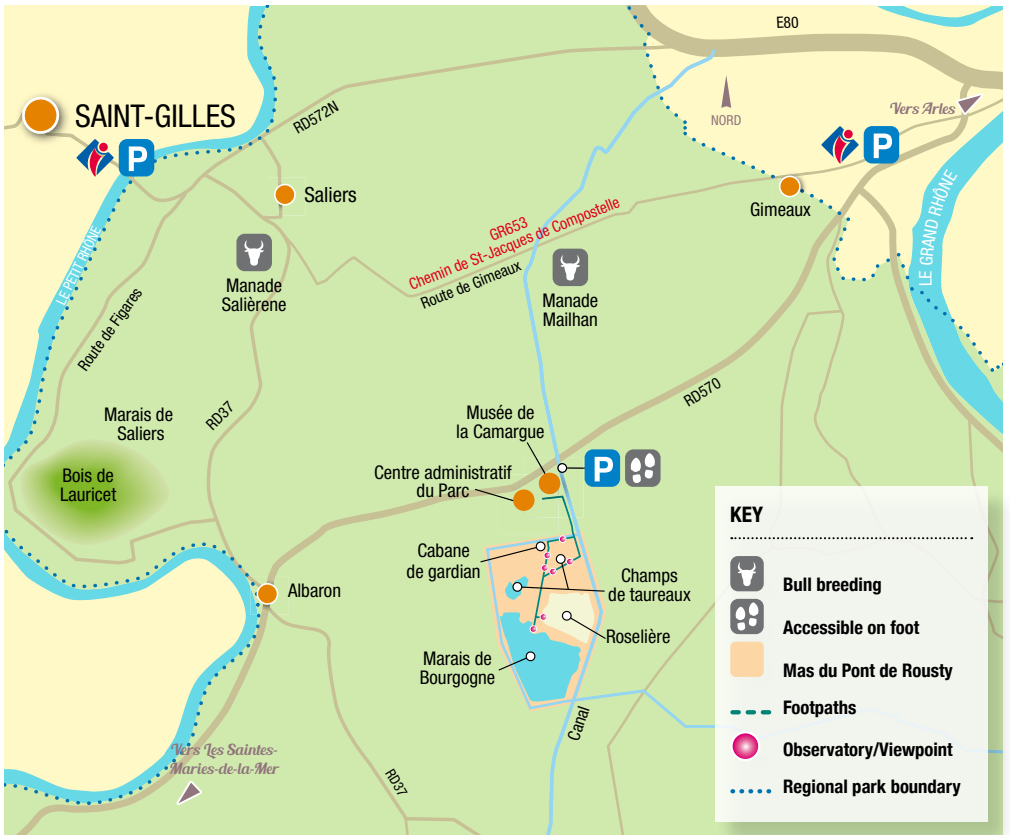
Rue Tournaire
☎ +33 (0)4 42 86 89 77

4

Mas du Pont de Rousty

The Mas de Pont de Rousty nature trail takes visitors to the heart of the lagoons and river delta habitats, where fresh water from the Rhône floods vast areas of reed beds and salt marsh. Longstanding agricultural activities (rice growing, bull rearing) also contribute to the famous Camargue environment. You can look out over vast reed beds covering 80 hectares and enjoy the birds that occur here (herons and wetland passerines) and temporary bulrush marshes that serve as feeding areas for waders in spring and ducks in winter. A hide facilitates birdwatching in the vegetation-rich marsh (ducks and waders). A nature trail with hides has free year-round access. Entrance and information at the Camargue Museum.

- A discovery trail with hides is accessible all year round.
- More information at the Camargue museum (free parking).



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

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ACCESS AND CONTACT

Address:

Mas du Pont de Rousty
13200 Arles

GPS:

Lat. 43.6245079
Long. 4.8100102

Tel: +33 (0)4 90 97 10 82

Email:

contact@parc-camargue.fr

Website:

www.parc-camargue.fr

Birds

Year-round:

Great Egret, herons,
Bittern, Flamingo,
Marsh harrier,
Purple Swamphen,
Kingfisher

Summer:

Squacco Heron,
Glossy Ibis, Black-winged
Stilt, Collared Pratincole,
Bee-eater, Blue-headed
Wagtail

Winter:

Teal, Shoveler,
Common Crane

During migration:

Spotted Redshank, Snipe,
Whiskered Tern, Great
Spotted Cuckoo



Purple Heron and Camargue bull

Fauna

European Pond Terrapin,
Western Green Lizard,
Mediterranean Tree Frog,
Southern Festoon butterfly

Flora

Limonium narbonense
(a localised Sea Lavender),
Roast Beef Plant (Stinking
Iris), Glasswort
(omni present)



Purple Swamphen



More info

ARLES TOURIST INFORMATION

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The Pont de Gau ornithological reserve

Just 4 km north of les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, the Pont de Gau ornithological reserve provides visitors with access to a protected natural area of 60 hectares entirely dedicated to the discovery of the Camargue's fauna and flora. Seven kilometres of nature trails equipped with hides pass through different habitats such as marshes, ponds, reed beds or salt marshes, providing opportunities to observe many species of sedentary and migratory birds.

- Check the website for information about the entrance fee, opening times and availability of refreshments.



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

5

ACCESS AND CONTACT

Address:

Pont de Gau- RD 570
13460 Les Saintes-Maries-
de-la-Mer

GPS:

Lat. 43.4891318
Long. 4.4038581

Tel: +33 (0)4 90 97 82 62

Email:

contact@parcornithologique.
com

Website:

www.parcornithologique.com

Birds

Year-round:

Cattle and Little Egrets,
Night Heron, Flamingo,
Bearded Reedling

Summer:

Avocet, Black-winged Stilt,
Mediterranean and
Slender-billed Gulls, terns,
Hoopoe, Bee-eater

Winter:

Shoveler, Gadwall and
Wigeon, Peregrine,
Booted Eagle,
Marsh and Hen Harriers

During migration:

Various waders including
Greenshank, Wood and Green
Sandpipers, Ruff, Curlew,
Ringed Plovers..., also
Caspian Tern



Grey Heron

Fauna

Montpellier, Aesculapian,
Ladder and European Grass
snakes; Western Green
Lizard, European Pond Turtle,
various dragonflies

Flora

Nine species of orchid can
be found here including
Fragrant Bug Orchid, also
Gerard's Sea-Lavender

© Agence Caméleon



Greater Flamingos



© Pont de Gau ornithological reserve

+d'infos

SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA-MER TOURIST INFORMATION

Email:

info@saintesmaries.com

Website:

www.saintesmaries.com

Office:

5 avenue Van Gogh
13460 Saintes-Maries-
de-la-Mer

☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 82 55

6 7

Draille des 5 gorges and the Digue à la Mer

Draille des 5 gorges

A “draille” is a drover’s way and the “Draille des 5 gorges” includes all of the typical Camargue landscapes. It runs along the edge of the Impériaux, Malagroy and Vaccarès coastal lagoons, where many species of shorebirds and ducks can be found. This trail also highlights the agricultural activities of the Camargue such as rice growing and the rearing of bulls and horses in an extensive way. The Draille is freely accessible year-round.

Digue à la mer - Sea wall or embankment

This embankment protects the land from the sea between Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer and the Salin-de Giraud, it crosses the Camargue national nature reserve. It provides access to 20 km of walking and cycle paths allowing visitors to explore the wild expanses of salt marshes and lagoons. The “dyke” is freely accessible all year round. There is strictly no access to the dunes however, even on foot.



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

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ACCESS

GPS Draille des 5 Gorges:

Route de Cacharel car park:

Lat. 43.4852274

Long. 4.4453371

Domaine de Méjanes car park:

Lat. 43.5707716

Long. 4.5064601

GPS Digue à la Mer:

Car park "Est Saintes-Maries-de-le-Mer":

Lat. 43.4567338

Long. 4.445432

Fangassier lagoon car park:

Lat. 43.4076627

Long. 4.5981305

Birds

Draille des 5 gorges

Year-round:

Great Egret, Flamingo

Summer:

Spoonbill, Stone Curlew, Kentish Plover, Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits

Winter:

Greylag Goose, Red-crested Pochard, Spotted and Booted Eagles

During migration:

various waders



Eurasian Spoonbill

Digue à la Mer

Year-round:

Spoonbill, Flamingo, Avocet, Kentish Plover, Curlew, Slender-billed Gull, Crested Lark

Summer:

Oystercatcher, Little Tern, Tawny Pipit, Blue-headed Wagtail, Spectacled Warbler

Winter:

Dunlin, Little Stint, Sanderling

During migration:

Whimbrel, Caspian Tern, various passerines



Crested Lark



Yellow Wagtail

More info

SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA-MER TOURIST INFORMATION

Email:

info@saintesmaries.com

Website:

www.saintesmaries.com

Office:

5 avenue Van Gogh
13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer

☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 82 55



© Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer Tourist Office

8 9

Etang du Fangassier and the Pointe de Beauduc

The Etang du Fangassier and the Pointe de Beauduc are part of a vast area of over 6,500 hectares belonging to the French coastal conservation agency, including the lagoons and salt marshes that were part of the former Camargue salt pans. Visitors to this site can see the diverse fauna and flora typical of Mediterranean coastal habitats.

The Etang du Fangassier is accessible throughout the year on foot following the dike separating the Etang du Fangassier and the Etang du Galabert. Guided tours are available with the Bureau des Guides Naturalistes, who have special restricted access to a breeding colony of flamingos.

The Pointe de Beauduc includes exceptional vegetation and dunes that are unique in the Rhone delta. Free access to the site is possible throughout the year. N.B. the 10 km access track is poorly maintained and has a width restriction of 2m.



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

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ACCESS

GPS Etang du Fangassier car park:

Parking:

Lat. 43.4076627

Long. 4.5981305

GPS Mas Saint-Bertrand

(guided tours):

Lat. 43.4489629

Long. 4.660796

GPS Pointe de Beauduc:

Lat. 43.4076627

Long. 4.5981305

Birds

Etang du Fangassier

Year-round:

Shelduck, Flamingo, Kentish plover

Summer:

Black-winged Stilt, Slender-billed Gull, Little Tern, Blue-headed Wagtail

Winter:

Hen Harrier, Golden and Grey Plovers, Curlew, Green Sandpiper, Short-eared Owl

During migration:

Curlew and Whimbrel, godwits, various other waders



Flamingo

Pointe de Beauduc

Year-round:

Flamingo, Dunlin, Little Stint, Sanderling

Summer:

Redshank, Sandwich, Little and Common Terns

Winter:

Eider, seabirds, Black-throated Diver, Oystercatcher

During migration:

Raptors, Curlew, Whimbrel, various other waders, passerines



Black-winged Stilt



Pointe Sablons

More info

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Email:

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Boulevard des Lices

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Salin-de-Giraud office:

Rue Tournaire

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10 *Domaine de la Palissade*

Owned by the French Coastal conservation agency, the *Domaine de la Palissade* covers 702 hectares in the south-east of the Camargue, near the mouth of the Grand Rhône and the Mediterranean. The main vocation of the estate is to protect its natural habitats and encourage public awareness of the environment. It is an interesting site as it presents the last un-dyked natural area of the Camargue. Either independently or part of a guided visit, three nature trails varying between 1.5 and 8 km allow the visitor to enjoy landscapes typical of the Camargue as well as its fauna.

- Open daily: from March to June and in October - 9am to 5pm / July to September - 9am to 6pm.
- Check the website for opening dates, times and entrance fees.
- Guided tours can be booked in advance.



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

10

ACCESS AND CONTACT

Address:

Domaine de la Palissade
13129 Salin-de-Giraud

GPS:

Lat. 43.376238
Long. 4.8100102

Tel: +33 (0)4 42 86 81 28

Email:

palissade@parc-camargue.fr

Website:

www.palissade.fr

Birds

Year-round:

Red-crested Pochard,
Gadwall, Flamingo,
Kentish Plover, Bearded
Reedling

Summer:

Black Kite, Black-winged
Stilt, Slender-billed Gull,
Tawny Pipit, Spectacled
Warbler

Winter:

Greylag Goose, ducks
including Wigeon and Pintail

During migration:

Osprey, various waders,
marsh terns, passerines

Fauna

Beaver, Genet, Twaite Shad
(fish) and various butterflies
(Southern Frestoon, Clouded
Yellow...)



Osprey

Flora

Kickxia commutata,
the Mediterranean Fluellen,
Daucus pumilus
(a Mediterranean umbellifer
found in the dunes),
Small-flowered Tongue
Orchid, Glasswort,
Sea Lavender...



Squacco Heron



© Domaine de la Palissade

More info

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Email:

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www.arlestourisme.com

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Boulevard des Lices
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Salin-de-Giraud office:

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To the south of the town of Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône towards Napoleon Beach, the “They du Mazet” was acquired by the French coastal conservancy agency in 1980. A “they” is a sandy area shaped by the sea and the river. It is an integral part of the Camargue delta and is a feeding, resting and breeding area for many birds. It is also of botanical interest, notably for the salt marshes made up of salt resistant vegetation that is regularly flooded.

- Nature trails are equipped with information boards.
- Free access throughout the year (except for periods of heavy rain).



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

ACCESS AND CONTACT

Address:

Route Napoléon
13230 Port-Saint-Louis-
du-Rhône

GPS:

Lat. 43.370750
Long. 4.845981

Tel: +33 (0)4 90 98 70 91

Website:

www.cheminsdesparcs.fr

Birds

Year-round:

Little Egret, Flamingo

Summer:

Oystercatcher,
Kentish plover,
Little Tern

Winter:

Red-breasted Merganser

During migration:

Red Kite, Green Sandpiper,
Caspian Tern, Bee-eater



Redshank

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Kentish Plover



Grey Plover

Fauna

Montpellier snake,
Red-vained darter

Flora

Limonium gerardianum
a localised static,
Glasswort, Sea Lavender,
Sea rush, *Zostera marina*
and *noltii* (Eelgrass and
Dwarf eelgrass)

More info

PORT-SAINT-LOUIS- DU-RHÔNE TOURIST INFORMATION

Email:

[contact@portsaintlouis-
tourisme.fr](mailto:contact@portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr)

Website:

www.portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr

Office:

Tour Saint-Louis
Quai Bonnardel
13230 Port St-Louis du Rhône
☎ +33 (0)4 42 86 01 21



© They du Mazet



View to les Baux-de-Provence village © M. Bollo



Une autre vie s'invente ici

Welcome to the Alpilles

In the Alpilles Regional Park, the varied landscapes have been shaped by a thousand-year combination of the forces of nature and agricultural practices.

Several species are quite common throughout the Alpilles and are likely to be seen during any of these walks at the appropriate time of year.

Birds: Alpine Swift, Crag Martin, Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Sparrow

Butterflies: Cleopatra, Scarce Swallowtail, Two-tailed Pasha, False Ilex Hairstreak, Southern Gatekeeper, Southern White Admiral, Great Banded Grayling, Striped Grayling

Flora: the area is particularly interesting for its large number of plant species, many of which will be very interesting to visitors from farther afield. Blue aphyllanthes, Shrubby globularia and many orchids including Early Spider, Sombre Bee, Yellow Bee, Woodcock, Late Spider, Berteloni's (rare) and Giant.

The craggy limestone escarpments are home to many sought-after species, including Wallcreeper during the winter months, Egyptian vulture in summer and Bonelli's eagle all year round. These dry, rugged landscapes also include olive groves and fruit orchards that attract a variety of species, including Roller, Bee-eater, Hoopoe and Rock Sparrow, as well as many other emblematic Mediterranean species.

The warm, sunny climate makes the Alpilles a tempting year-round destination for birdwatchers from Northern Europe, and is particularly worth a visit in winter.

© O. Fougeroux



Les Caisses de Jean-Jean

© PNRA



Gros Calan forest trail

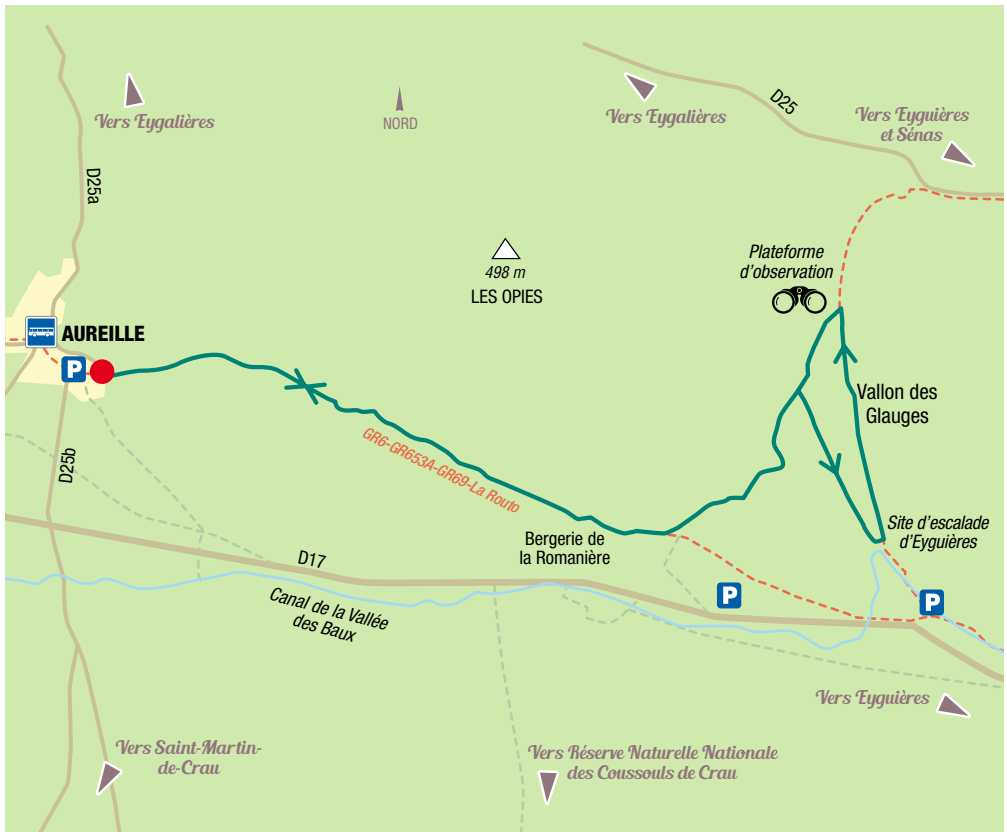


12 Aureille, a Mediterranean bird festival for all seasons

Aureille - The Mediterranean bird trail

An easy walk at the foot of the Opies hills along an old drover's road linking the Alpilles with the Crau offers visitors a good chance of seeing both rare and more typical bird species of the Alpilles. Enjoy an early walk on a spring morning, accompanied by birdsong and see if you can spot Black-eared Wheatear, Iberian Grey Shrike or a Bonelli's Eagle...

- **Starting point:**
43.70599626130102, 4.951605635357191
- **Distance:**
13.2 km and 189 m of elevation gain
- **Duration:** 4.5 hours (a whole day is required to allow for birdwatching, a visit to the observation platform and a picnic break)
- **Type of walk:** Loop walk
- **Best time of year/day:**
 - All year round:
At dawn, morning or dusk for better bird watching.
 - In winter:
At dusk looking for Eagle Owl.



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

12

Birds

Year-round:

Bonelli's Eagle, Eagle Owl, Crag Martin, Blue Rock Thrush, Iberian Grey Shrike

Summer:

Egyptian Vulture, Short-toed Eagle, Black Kite, Lesser Kestrel, Roller, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Alpine Swift, Black-eared Wheatear (rare), Black Kite

Fauna

Spanish Festoon butterfly, *Saga pedo* or Predatory bush cricket, Ocellated Lizard, Montpellier Snake

More information:

<https://www.cheminsdesparcs.fr/en/trek/39855-A-Mediterranean-bird-festival>



Black-eared Wheatear
© A. Hugues



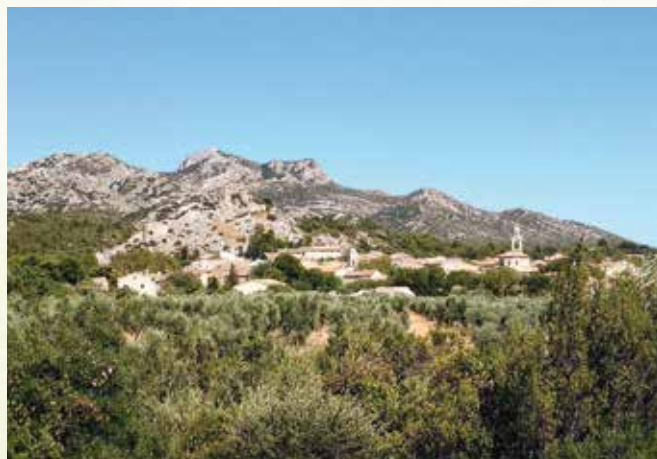
© N. Issa

Short-toed Snake Eagle



© B. Dubois

Eyguères observation platform



© A. Walker

View towards Aureille from the St Joseph oratory



Focus on

The Vallon des Glauges observation platform in Eyguères

To the north of the Vallon des Glauges, on a narrow agricultural plain between the summit of Les Opies, the highest point in the Alpilles massif (498 m) and the Mont Menu, is an observation platform.

From it, you can observe a wide range of natural environments (rocky escarpments, farmland, scrubland) in complete peace and quiet, you might even spot some of the species that are emblematic of these areas.

GPS:

43.712502, 5.005804

Information Alpilles regional nature Park HQ:

☎ +33 (0)4 90 90 44 00

Website: www.parc-alpilles.fr

Les Baux-de-Provence, Mountain

13

birds that winter in Provence

Aux Baux-de-Provence - Les Trémaïé trail

In a magnificent setting overlooking the Entreconque plain, at the foot of the rocky spur where the Château des Baux-de-Provence stands, take the time to watch and listen to the birds sing in the first light of a winter's day. A birding visit in winter around this must-see site is probably one the best chances in France of having close views of Wallcreeper, Blue Rock Thrush and Alpine Accentor.

- **Starting point:**
43.744111, 4.798220
- **Distance:**
1.8 km and 164 m of elevation gain
- **Duration:** 1h or 2h with time for birding
- **Type of walk:** Loop walk
- **Further interest:**
Extend your walk by visiting the picturesque village of Les Baux-de-Provence, listed as one of France's Most Beautiful Villages



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

13

LES BAUX-DE-PROVENCE



Les Baux-de-Provence, which has been awarded the “Plus Beaux Villages de France”® label, sits on a rocky spur.

The village centre is dominated by its castle, a testament to the power of the des Baux family, but the narrow, cobbled streets of the village include all the elements that make up the charm of Provencal villages: small squares, shady terraces and cultural heritage from different eras.

Les-Baux-de-Provence

Tourist office:

+33 (0)4 90 54 34 39

<https://www.lesbauxdeprovence.com>

Birds

Year-round:

Eagle Owl, Crag Martin, Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Sparrow

Summer:

Alpine Swift, Roller, Bee-eater, Common Rock Thrush

Winter:

Wallcreeper, Alpine Accentor, Rock Bunting

More information:

<https://www.cheminsdesparcs.fr/en/trek/43884-LES-BAUX-DE-PROVENCE---Chemin-des-Tremaie>



Eurasian Crag Martin
© A. Hugues

Fauna

Cleopatra, Provence Orange Tip and Scarce Swallowtail butterflies, Ocellated lizard, Three-toed skink

© Estivillm/ - stock.adobe.com



Les Baux-de-Provence

© Aragon



Wallcreeper

© Adobe Stock



Les-Baux-de-Provence from Entronque plain



Focus on

The Wallcreeper

The Wallcreeper breeds at high altitude in the mountain ranges of Europe. It migrates to lower altitudes during the winter months, when it occurs regularly in the Alpilles.

A small bird, it measures less than 15 cm and weighs no more than 25 grams.

Despite bright red wing patches, it is predominantly grey and its plumage provides effective camouflage making it difficult to spot in its rocky environment when stationary.

14 Mouriès and Maussane-les-Alpilles, in search of the Blue Rock Thrush

Mouriès (Caisses de Jean-Jean trail) and Maussane-les-Alpilles (Castellas trail)

A pleasant walk amongst agricultural land, aromatic garrigue and rocky outcrops, to look for some of the most colourful birds in Europe. Amongst the picturesque cliffs and varied landscapes, naturalists will find a very wide range of fauna and flora. This is the realm of the Eagle Owl, but in winter a remarkable little bird is also a regular sight: the Wallcreeper.

- **Starting point:**
43.69763700311015, 4.868248226753667
- **Distance:**
11 km and 264 m of elevation gain
- **Duration:** 4h15 (2h for the Caisses de Jean-Jean trail and 2h15 for the Castellas trail) - Allow a full day to include birdwatching and a picnic break
- **Type of walk:** Two loops
- **Best time of year/day:**
Best visited in the morning when birds are more active
- **Mouriès Tourist office:**
☎ +33 (0)4 90 47 56 58
Website: www.alpillesenprovence.com



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

DID YOU KNOW?

Hidden between the limestone cliffs, the Caisses de Jean-Jean are one of the most remarkable landscapes in the Alpilles.

With its geology, flora, fauna, agricultural and natural landscapes, rock climbing and, above all, the remains of a Gallic oppidum, this is a site not to be missed.

Discover the waymarked trail with the whole family, following the interpretive signposts.

Birds

Year-round:
Crag Martin, Blue Rock Thrush, Eagle Owl,

Summer:
Roller, Bee-eater, Alpine Swift, Common Rock Thrush, Lesser Kestrel

More information, Sentier des Caisses de Jean-Jean:
<https://www.cheminsdesparcs.fr/en/trek/40041-MOURIES---Caisses-de-Jean-Jean>



Blue Rock Thrush
© A. Hugues

Flora

Asplenium petrarcae,
Ophrys passionis,
Ophrys Fusca

Fauna

Mediterranean Tree Frog,
Ocellated Lizard,
Natterjack Toad

© Schertzinger



European Roller

© Adobe Stock



European Bee-Eater

© O. Fourgeroux



Caisses Jean-Jean



Focus on

The Blue Rock Thrush

Known as the "Blue Blackbird" for its resemblance, the male's plumage is slate-blue and brown for the female and juvenile.

This rupestrian bird cannot live without rocky escarpments and cliffs.

A restless bird, it is very good at hiding in these habitats. Its food includes insects, lizards and seeds, and berries in winter.

Over the last century, populations have declined sharply due to overgrowth of vegetation, increased human presence and the use of pesticides.

A magnificent walk above the Durance and Orgon village. Today, this vast plateau is home to birds that are emblematic of open environments, such as Woodlark, Tawny Pipit, Dartford Warbler and Iberian Grey Shrike. It is also a hunting ground for Bonelli's eagle and Short-toed Eagle, which you can see looking for reptiles as they hover. Enjoy a moment at the edge of the cliff to admire the view over the Durance and the Petit Luberon, and try to spot Alpine Swift and Crag Martin.

- **Starting point:**

43.783666222097615, 5.041617910996465

- **Distance:**

9 km and 370 m of elevation gain

- **Duration:** 4 hours (a full day to allow for birdwatching and picnic break)

- **Type of walk:** Loop walk or there-and-back

- **Best time of year/day:**

The morning will be better for hearing and seeing birds.

- **Further interest:** Extend your birdwatching walk with a visit to the interactive exhibition on birds at the Urgonia Museum

<http://www.musee-urgonia.fr/fr/nature-a-preserver>



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

15

DID YOU KNOW?

The Sentier de la Pierre is a trail created by Orgon town council to help visitors discover geosites in their natural environment. The trail, which starts at the Musée Urgonia, leads through an old fossil quarry to the Notre-Dame de Beaugard chapel, from where you can enjoy a 360° panoramic view.

This trail was awarded the "Valeurs Parc naturel regional label in 2018".

Birds

Year-round:
Bonelli's Eagle,
Crag Martin,
Blue Rock Thrush

Summer:
Tawny Pipit,
Subalpine Warbler,
Common Rock Thrush,
Short-toed Eagle

Fauna

Scarce Swallowtail,
Spanish Festoon,
Cleopatra, Provence
Orange Tip, Natterjack
toad and Common
Parsley Frog

Flora

Ophrys provincialis,
*Himantoglossum
hircinum*



Short-toed Snake Eagle
© A. Hugues

More information:
www.cheminsdesparcs.fr

**Orgon Tourist office /
Musée Urgonia:**
04 90 73 09 54
<https://www.orgon.fr>



© N. Sadailhan

Scarce Swallowtail



© AdobeStock

Common Rock Thrush



Lavau lake, Orgon

© Adobe Stock



Focus on

The Short-toed Eagle

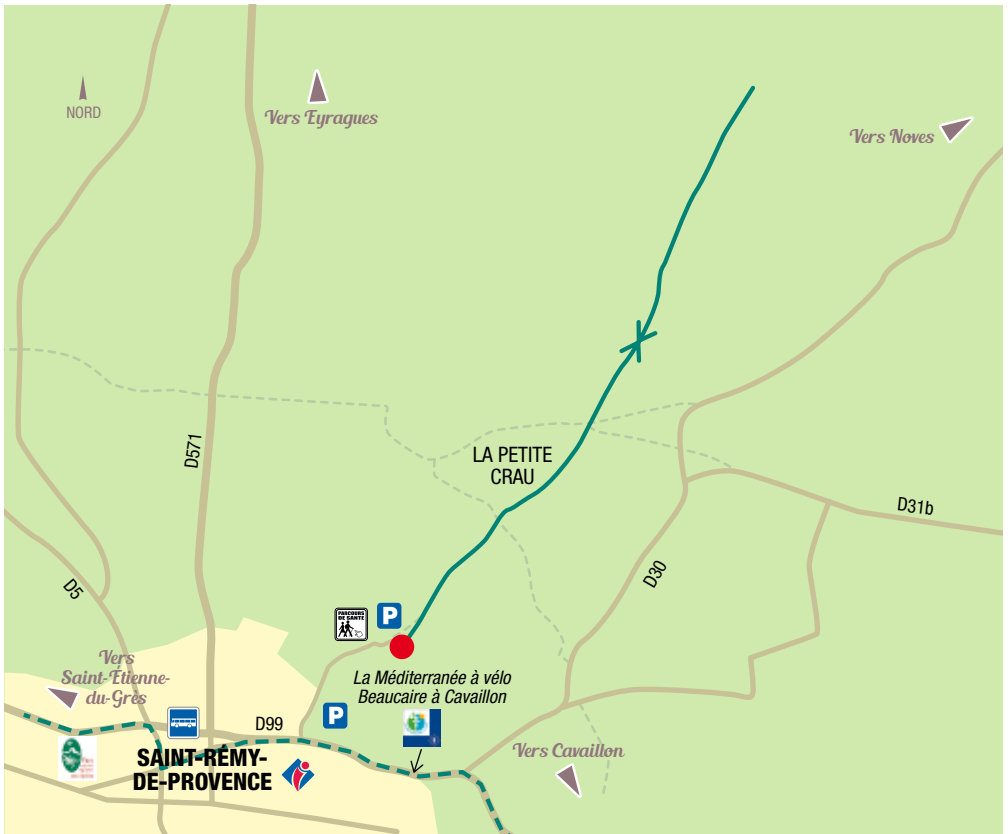
This large bird of prey (wingspan 160 to 180 cm) builds its nest well away from humans, generally in the heart of a wooded area. Particularly discreet during the nesting season, it returns to the Alpilles at the beginning of March and leaves again in September.

It feeds almost entirely on reptiles, which it finds in wide open spaces (scrubland, rocky areas, etc.).

16 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, birds of the Petite Crau

Close to Saint-Rémy-de-Provence village, an easy and unusual walk in the Petite Crau. Typical steppe landscapes (Coussouls) and lowland agricultural environments (vineyards, wheat, alfalfa) provide diverse habitats for a multitude of Mediterranean species. This is a very good area during autumn and spring migration to see passerines and various birds of prey. The views of the north side of the Alpilles are exceptional. To see a maximum number of species, make sure you scan the tops of hedges and isolated bushes with binoculars or a telescope.

- **Starting point:**
43.797720450840586, 4.84483401248262
- **Distance:**
7.6 km without any elevation gain
- **Duration:** 3 hours (allow half a day with time for birdwatching)
- **Type of walk:** There-and-back
- **Best time of year/day:**
Spring, autumn and winter.
In Spring, being there at dawn at the edge of the fields gives you the best chance of seeing Little Bustard.



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

16



© AdobeStock_bios

HOW TO BEHAVE WITH A PATOU

Sheep in this area may be guarded by a protection dog (Patou).

Be sensible, do not approach the flock, keep calm and please keep dogs on a lead.



© D. Ledan

Woodlark



© A Rocha

Southern Festoon



© O. Fougereux

Petite Crau de Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

Birds

Year-round:

Little Bustard, Woodlark, Iberian Grey Shrike

Summer:

Scops Owl, Nightjar, Roller, Great Spotted Cuckoo

During migration:

Blue-headed Wagtail, Wheatear



European Nightjar
© A. Hugues

Fauna

Cleopatra, Provence Orange Tip, Scarce Swallowtail, Southern Festoon butterflies, Natterjack Toad and Common Parsley Frog

Alpilles en Provence Tourist office:

04 90 92 05 22
www.alpillesenprovence.com

More information:

<https://www.cheminsdesparcs.fr/trek/132146-SAINT-REMY-DE-PROVENCE---A-la-rencontre-des-oiseaux-de-la-Petite-Crau>



Focus on

The Nightjar

This bird nests on the ground, often close to a shrub, in moorland, scrubland or undergrowth. A nocturnal bird, it is most active at dusk and dawn, when you can hear its characteristic song (a continuous purring).

With a wingspan of around 55 cm, it is very difficult to observe because it is well camouflaged and often hidden.

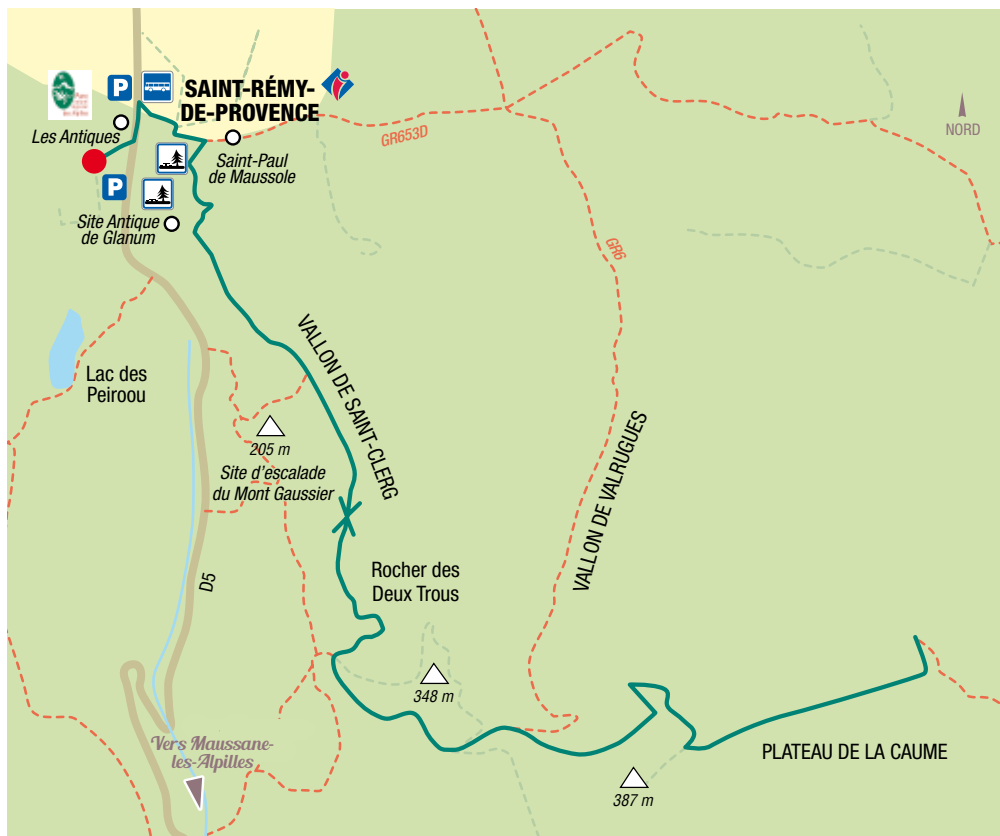
It spends its winters in tropical and eastern Africa and is **present in the Alpilles from May to September**. It feeds exclusively on insects.

Le Plateau de la Caume

In the heart of the hills within the protected area; a walk amongst shady valleys and arid plateaus where large raptors can often be seen: Short-toed Eagle, Egyptian Vulture and Bonelli's Eagle, one of France's rarest species of birds of prey. Visit the Plateau de la Caume at different seasons to see most of the species that are emblematic of the Alpilles!

These landscapes were painted by Van-Gogh and the Glanum archaeological site is nearby, so a bird watching outing can easily be combined with a cultural visit.

- **Starting point:**
43.77602792764382, 4.830188133988583
- **Distance:**
10 km and 350 m of elevation gain
- **Duration:** 4h (plan the day, including observation time and a picnic break)
- **Type of walk:** There-and-back
- **Best time of year/day:**
Spring, autumn or winter



WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR

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DID YOU KNOW?

The southern heights of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence are home to a **particularly sensitive natural area**. It is for this reason that most of the Caume plateau has been placed under a Biotope Protection Order. **In fact, strict visitor rules apply here: dogs must be kept on a lead, free camping and drone flights are prohibited...**

Birds

Year-round:
Bonelli's Eagle,
Crag Martin, Chough,
Blue Rock Thrush

Summer:
Egyptian Vulture,
Short-toed Eagle,
Alpine Swift, Common
Rock Thrush



Egyptian Vulture
© A. Hugues

Fauna

Cleopatra, Provence
Orange Tip and Scarce
Swallowtail butterflies,
Ocellated lizard and
Montpellier snake

Flora

Ephedra major
(Mediterranean Jointpine),
Helianthemum marifolium,
Tulipa australis (Wild Tulip),
Crepis suffreniana

Alpilles en Provence Tourist office:

04 90 92 05 22

www.alpillesenprovence.com

More information:

<https://www.cheminsdesparcs.fr/en/trek/39578-SAINT-REMY-DE-PROVENCE---Between-valley-and-plateau>



La Caume

© PNRA



Provence Orange Tip

© M. Fouchard - LPO PACA



Ocellated Lizard

© AdobeStock



La Caume

© PNRA



Focus on

The Egyptian Vulture

The Egyptian vulture is a species that requires rocky environments for nesting and open environments for feeding.

It is the smallest vulture in Europe (wingspan 160 to 170 cm). It is migratory, spending winter in the Sahel area of Africa, and arriving in France around mid-March to breed, before leaving again at the beginning of September.

Essentially a scavenger, it feeds on the corpses of mammals, birds and excrement.



The Écomusée de la Crau gives visitors a chance to understand the interaction between man and nature on this plain, which has been grazed by sheep for thousands of years, and to discover the rich natural heritage that makes this Mediterranean steppe unique in Europe.

PEAU DE MEAU INTERPRETATION'S TRAIL

Located the heart of the Coussouls de Crau Nature Reserve, this 4.7 km trail features fifteen interpretation boards presenting the history and natural heritage of the Crau. A permit must be obtained from the Écomusée to access the trail.

Plus d'infos : www.cen-paca.org

Gravés à l'aide d'intercompi © Guillaume VILLETTE



Let's protect together the natural heritage of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region



cen-paca.org



In 2024,
I'm taking action
for nature

Ph. Agnès B. Monin © B. Villet / M. Villet



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LA NATURE
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sur paca.lpo.fr

Agir pour
la biodiversité



“Birds of the Alpilles” exhibition in Orgon

Created in collaboration with Orgon town council, this flagship eco-tourism project was carried out as part of the European LIFE programme for the Alpilles*. Located at the heart of the Urgonia museum, the aim of this exhibition is to inform and educate the public about the birds of the Alpilles and the actions of the LIFE des Alpilles programme, in particular through a permanent ornithological exhibition with subtitles in Braille devoted to the thirteen protected bird species covered by the programme, including Bonelli's Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, Lesser Kestrel and Eagle Owl. An interactive touch-screen terminal features games and videos of particular interest to younger visitors.

* The LIFE programme is a financial instrument of the European Commission, dedicated to supporting innovative projects, both private and public, in the fields of environment and climate.



MUSÉE URGONIA - ☎ +33 (0)4 90 73 09 54
www.musee-urgonia.fr/fr/nature-a-preserver

LIFE OF THE ALPILLES

Nature walks
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Birdwatching calendar

This table lists some of the species you are likely to see in the Camargue and Alpilles, as well as the months when you are most likely to spot them.

For a full list, visit: www.birdingfrance.info

KEY

X Camargue

X Alpilles

X Camargue & Alpilles

BIRD SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alpine Accentor	X	X	X								X	X
Alpine Swift			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Bearded Reedling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Kite				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Black Redstart	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Stork			X	X	X				X	X		
Black-crowned Night Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-necked Grebe	X	X								X	X	X
Black-tailed Godwit		X	X	X				X	X	X		
Black-winged Stilt				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Blue Rock Thrush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bluethroat	X	X	X						X	X	X	X
Bonelli's Eagle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Booted Eagle	X	X	X	X						X	X	X
Broad-billed Sandpiper			X	X	X			X	X			
Caspian Tern			X	X	X				X	X		
Cetti's Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cirl Bunting	X	X	X							X	X	X
Collared Flycatcher				X	X							
Collared Pratincole					X	X	X	X	X			
Common Raven	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Crane	X	X	X							X	X	X
Common Crossbill	X	X	X							X	X	X
Common Eider	X	X	X							X	X	X
Common Firecrest	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Greenshank	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Nightingale				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Common Quail				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Common Rock Thrush				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Crested Lark	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Curllew Sandpiper			X	X	X		X	X	X			
Dartford Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Egyptian Vulture			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Eleonora's Falcon					X	X	X	X				
Eurasian Bittern	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eurasian Crag Martin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

BIRD SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Eurasian Golden Oriole				x	x	x	x	x				
Eurasian Hoopoe			x	x	x	x	x	x				
Eurasian Scops Owl			x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Eurasian Spoonbill	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Eurasian Stone-curlew			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Eurasian Wimbrel			x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Eurasian Woodcock	x	x								x	x	x
Eurasian Wryneck				x	x				x	x		
European Bee-eater				x	x	x	x	x	x			
European Crested Tit	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
European Honey Buzzard					x	x	x	x	x	x		
European Nightjar			x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
European Pied Flycatcher				x	x			x	x			
European Roller				x	x	x	x	x	x			
European Serin	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ferruginous Duck	x	x	x						x	x	x	x
Garganey		x	x	x			x	x	x			
Glossy Ibis	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Golden Eagle	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Great Egret	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Great Grey Shrike			x	x					x	x		
Great Reed Warbler					x	x	x	x	x			
Great Skua	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x
Great Spotted Cuckoo		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Greater Flamingo	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Greater Short-toed Lark			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Greater Spotted Eagle	x	x									x	x
Griffon Vulture	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Gull-billed Tern				x	x	x	x	x	x			
Hen Harrier	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x
Iberian Grey Shrike	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Jack Snipe	x	x	x						x	x	x	x
Kentish Plover	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Bittern				x	x	x	x	x				
Little Bustard	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Gull			x	x	x					x	x	x
Marsh Sandpiper							x	x	x			
Mediterranean Gull	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Melodious Warbler				x	x	x	x	x				
Montagu's Harrier		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Moustached Warbler	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Northern Goshawk	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ortolan Bunting				x	x	x	x	x	x			
Pallid Harrier		x	x						x	x		

BIRD SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Peregrine Falcon	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x
Pochard	x	x									x	x
Purple Heron				x	x	x	x	x				
Red-backed Shrike					x	x	x	x	x			
Red-billed Chough	x	x	x							x	x	x
Red-crested Pochard	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Red-footed Falcon				x	x			x	x			
Red-rumped Swallow				x	x	x	x	x				
Rock Bunting	x	x									x	x
Sardinian Warbler	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Short-eared Owl	x	x	x	x						x	x	x
Short-toed Snake Eagle			x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Short-toed Treecreeper	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Slender-billed Gull	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Spectacled Warbler			x	x	x	x	x	x				
Spotted Redshank	x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x
Squacco Heron					x	x	x	x	x			
Subalpine Warbler			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Tawny Pipit				x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Temminck's Stint			x	x	x		x	x	x			
Terek Sandpiper		x	x				x	x	x			
Wallcreeper	x	x	x							x	x	x
Water Pipit	x	x	x								x	x
Western Barn Owl	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Western Black-eared Wheatear				x	x	x	x	x				
Western Bonelli's Warbler				x	x	x	x	x				
Western Cattle Egret	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Western Orphean Warbler				x	x				x	x		
Western Osprey			x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x
Western Swamphen	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Whinchat			x	x	x				x	x	x	
Whiskered Tern			x	x	x							
White Stork	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
White Wagtail	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wood Sandpiper			x	x	x			x	x	x		
Woodchat Shrike				x	x	x	x	x				
Woodlark	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Yelkouan Shearwater	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Zitting Cisticola	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Where to watch birds in the Alpilles and Camargue regional parks - Publication: June 2024

Parc naturel régional de Camargue: Mas du pont de Rousty - RD 570 - 13200 Arles

Parc naturel régional des Alpilles: 2 boulevard Marceau - 13210 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

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Credits cover photos and watercolours of the Camargue: © Agence Caméléon / PNRC Camargue © D. Tatin © C. Girard

Good practices in natural areas

Natural areas are extraordinary but also extremely fragile!

Here are a few tips to follow to avoid disturbing the fauna and flora, follow the official, signposted routes or those proposed on www.cheminsdesparcs.fr

Understand the times of year that wildlife is particularly vulnerable, thereby ensuring better protection:

- January-February / July-August: **High**
- March to June: **Very high**
- September to December: **Moderate**

Stay on official, waymarked paths or those suggested on www.cheminsdesparcs.fr to limit erosion and disturbance:

- Do not leave the path
- Do not cross fields

Behave with respect for nature:

- Avoid stressing wildlife, **keep dogs on a lead** (obligatory in the Caume Protected Area and the Nature Reserves)
- Be **discreet**, especially at night
- Do **not pick flowers**, take a photo instead
- **Free camping is tolerated** with a sleeping bag only or a lightweight tent, from sunset to sunrise (forbidden in certain listed sites, ask for information)
- **Avoid building cairns**, as these piles of stones contribute to the spread of visitor numbers and can be disorienting
- **Avoid disturbing animals** hiding in bushes, cracks in the rock, cavities...



Not forgetting:

- **Motorised vehicles are prohibited** in natural areas other than on roads open to traffic
- **No fires in the forest:** no barbecues or cigarettes
- Keep **nature clean**, take your rubbish with you
- Natural areas are **not always public, but sometimes private**, with access tolerated not a right
- The **banks of canals are closed** to visitors
- Park in a designated car park, **respecting emergency access points**
- **Respect the remains** of archaeological sites
- Report any problems you encounter to www.sentinelles.sportsdenature.fr

Share the space with other users of the area:

- **Respect land management structures:** forestry plantations, fire-fighting structures, water management structures...
- **Respect the work of farmers**, cultivated areas and orchards should be avoided
- **Drive calmly and carefully around flocks and herds**
- **During the hunting season, be aware of the safety instructions**, hunting is indicated by sign



Access to the forests

In summer, forest areas are particularly exposed to the risk of fire; traffic, presence of people and work in forest areas are regulated from 1 June to 30 September.

Access, circulation and parking of motorised vehicles are prohibited all year round on the tracks and paths.

Find out before you go out for a walk:
+33 811 20 13 13 (0,06 €/minute)

Or consult the map of access to the massifs on:

<http://bpatp.paca-ate.fr/>
www.myprovence.fr/enviedebalade

Bureau des Guides Naturalistes

The Bureau des Guides Naturalistes offers guided visits and nature breaks in the Camargue - Crau - Alpilles area!

All year round:

- Private / personalised guided tours and nature breaks
- Nature / birdwatching breaks open to bookings
- A programme of visits open to bookings
- Professional nature guides with 20 years' experience in the Camargue - Crau - Alpilles area
- The opportunity to discover certain species in greater detail and to visit remarkable sites that are only accessible on guided tours



BUREAU DES GUIDES NATURALISTES - ☎ +33 (0)6 20 70 09 61 - www.guide-nature.fr - contact@guide-nature.fr

Tours in Provence

Nature walks with birdwatching: whether you're an enthusiast, a specialist or novice, rediscover the pleasure of observing rare species of birds!

Discover the birds on the trails of the Alpilles, the Sainte-Victoire and the Camargue. One-day birdwatching tour in a private minivan.

Cécile has been a naturalist and a guide for 10 years, and is passionate about her region and birds. She will accompany you to the birdwatching sites in Provence and the Camargue.



TOURS IN PROVENCE - ☎ +33 (0)6 24 19 29 91 - www.tours-in-provence.com/fr - cecillebeillieu@yahoo.fr

Your stay with Escursia

With over 20 years' experience, Escursia has become the French benchmark for nature and birdwatching trips around the world. In 2020, we joined forces with the Regional Nature Parks to obtain the «Valeurs Parcs» brand, and create a range of holidays to discover France's Regional Nature Parks

In the Alpilles and Camargue Regional Nature Parks, Escursia offers 4 original holidays original breaks :



📍 *Camargue and Alpilles: the golden triangle of biodiversity*

Discover an area where three ecosystems exist side by side in the heart of the Mediterranean landscape.

📍 *Between the Alpilles, Crau and Camargue, an introduction to winter birds*

Accompanied by a guide from the Ligue de Protection des Oiseaux de la Région Sud (Bird Protection League for the Southern Region), this birdwatching course is based around three major landscapes : the Crau, the Alpilles and the Gulf of Camargue.

📍 *Between the Luberon and the Alpilles: introduction to and training in ornithology*

Discover an abundance and variety of birdlife, including rare and heritage species such as Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian vulture, golden eagle and European eagle owl...

📍 *Wintering birds in the Camargue*

In winter, the Camargue is a must-see destination with its many remarkable species: Greater Spotted eagle, White-tailed eagle, Grey crane, Bewick's swan, Pink flamingos... and sometimes much rarer ones !

Contact : +33 (0)2 53 35 40 29 - contact@escursia.fr - www.escursia.fr





Discover

THE VALEURS REGIONAL NATURE PARK BRAND

STAY
IN THE PARKS OF
*Camargue
and Alpilles*

Choosing a product, activity, visitor site, restaurant or accommodation with Regional Nature Park Values means meeting professionals who contribute to the sustainable development of their region, so you can discover the best it has to offer.

In practical terms, the professionals, according to their own specificities:

- * Are committed to the life of their villages and take part in the Park's actions
- * Guide you on a gentle and authentic discovery of their region
- * Contribute to the protection of biodiversity
- * Measure the impact of their activities on the environment
- * Favour short circuits and quality local products
- * Preserve and renovate old buildings
- * Are part of a network of tourist operators, farmers and craftspeople who promote and defend the values of gentle tourism and sustainable agriculture
- * Through all these commitments, they wish to pass on to you the keys to their region

Discover more than
330 services bearing
the Valeurs regional nature
park label in the South
of France and all the services
in France on



valeurs-parc.fr

Our values

- * *Respect for nature,*
- * *the development of
men and women,*
- * *the local economy.*

#ValeursParc



© Aurélie Grellet - Promenade à cheval Layolle



© Lou Major Photos - Panorama des Alpilles



PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL DE CAMARGUE



PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL DES ALPILLES

Administrative centre

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☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 10 40 - contact@parc-camargue.fr
www.parc-camargue.fr

Musée de la Camargue

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☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 10 82 - musee@parc-camargue.fr
www.museedelacamargue.com

Domaine de la Palissade

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



@parc.naturel.regional.camargue

While you're here

BIKE RENTAL:

- **Accueil Vélo:**
www.francevelotourisme.com/accueil-velo
- **Parc des Alpilles website:**
www.parc-alpilles.fr/a-voir-a-faire/preparer-son-sejour-venir/venir-et-se-deplacer
- **Parc de Camargue website:**
www.parc-camargue.fr/visitez_la_camargue.html

ACCOMMODATION IN THE CAMARGUE AND ALPILLES REGIONAL PARKS:

- www.parc-camargue.fr/professionnels_marque_parc.html
- www.parc-alpilles.fr/se-loger
- www.parc-naturels-regionaux.fr/valeurs-parc

FIND A TOURIST OFFICE:

- **Arles:**
+33 (0)04 90 18 41 20
www.arlestourisme.com
- **Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer:**
+33 (0)04 90 97 82 55
www.saintesmaries.com
- **Alpilles en Provence:**
www.alpillesenprovence.com
- **Arles/Crau/Camargue/Montagne:**
www.agglo-accm.fr/tourisme
- **Les Baux-de-Provence:**
+33 (0)04 90 54 34 39
www.lesbauxdeprovence.com
- **Maussane-les-Alpilles:**
+33 (0)04 90 54 23 13
https://maussane.com
- **Port-Saint-Louis du Rhône:**
+33 (0)04 42 86 01 21

Alpilles regional nature park HQ

2 boulevard Marceau - 13210 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence
☎ +33 (0)4 90 90 44 00 - contact@parc-alpilles.fr
www.parc-alpilles.fr



@parcalpilles

Getting here

COME BY TRAIN:

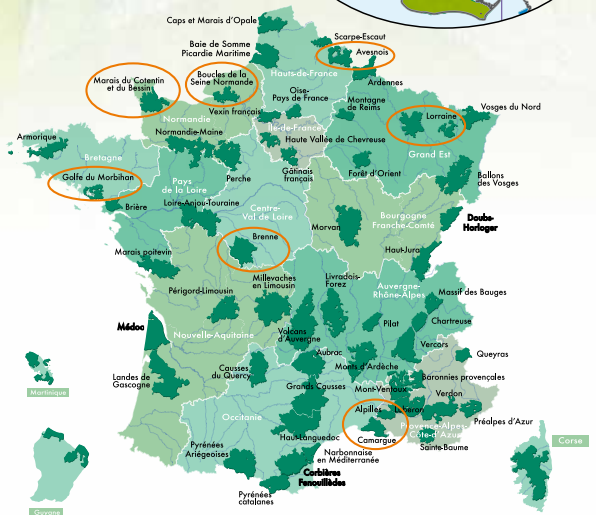
- **TGV stations:** Avignon, Nîmes-Pont du Gard
- **Train stations:** Tarascon, Arles, Saint-Martin de Crau, Orgon, Sénas, Lamanon
- **Useful links for travelling by train from Northern Europe:** Thalys, Eurostar, SNCF / Ouigo, Raileurope, Interrail

COME BY BUS:

- **International routes to Avignon:** Blablabus, Flixbus...
- **Regional routes:**
ZOU ! Région Sud: https://services-zou.maregionsud.fr/fr/
Lio Occitanie: https://plan.lio-occitanie.fr/fr
La Métropole Mobilité: www.lepilote.com

CARPOOLING:

- A wide range of websites for travel from all over France



French Parks involved in promoting Birding