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



river and the Mediterranean sea.



Parc naturel régional

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

Some of the Camargue's plants

* Camargue







Sea lavender (Limonium narbonense)

Annual Saltwort (Salicorna annua)





Parc naturel régional





Tourist office of Arles City center

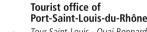
Esplanade Charles de Gaulle - 13200 Arles Tél. +33(0)4 90 18 41 20

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

Tourist office of



Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer 5 avenue Van Gogh - 13460 Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer Tél. +33(0)4 90 97 82 55 www.saintesmaries.com - info@saintesmaries.com



ır Saint-Louis - Ouai Bonnarde 13230 Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône Tél. +33(0)4 42 86 01 21 www.portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr contact@portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr



Camargue régional nature park

Museum of Camargue Mas du Pont de Rousty Tél. 0+33(0)4 90 97 10 82 www.museedelacamargue.com-musee@parc-camargue.frDomaine de la Palissade 🛐

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

13129 Salin-de-Giraud Tél. +33(0)4 42 86 81 28 palissade@parc-camargue.fr This document is printed on unbleached paper,

using wood from sustainablymanaged forests. 2022 This document is co-financed by the Tourist Offices of the territory.





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.

Like the other **57** regional natural parks in France, the Camargue Regional Natural Park mobilizes a multidisciplinary team that works as well:

- ▶ 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 > Arles
- > Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer > Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône
- **▶** Population :
- 10848 inhabitants
- ▶ Area : 101 200 hectares
- **▶** Coastline : 75 k, Highest point 4 metres above sea level!

▶ Animal and plant species (not including invertebrates): 1100 of which 489 are protected, either 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!

Discovering the natural and cultural heritage of the Camargue

💶 Musée de la Camargue 🙎



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 RD 570 - Arles 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€. Tourism and Handicaps Label and « Musée de France ».



Domaine de la Palissade



Located outside the Rhône dikes, the Palissade houses a rich and varied flora and fauna. Ponds and lagoons in connection with the river and the sea constitute a habitat particularly remarkable for fish, and birds are ubiquitous 3 hiking trails with observatories, disabled access on 700 m of trail and platform view Rhône, guided tours

Tél. +33(0)4 42 86 81 28 palissade@parc-camarque.fr - www.palissade.fr Opening times: February and November, wednesday to sundayfrom 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; From 01/03 to 30/06 and October, every day from 9 am to 5 pm; From 07/01 to 09/30 every day from 9 am to 6 pm. Closed in December and January, 1st May and 11th November.



Réserve naturelle nationale de Camargue

Horseback and kayak excursions from 01/04 to 31/10.

There is an admission charge. Boutique and picnic area.



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.

La Capelière / Accueil Réserve naturelle nationale de Camargue

Information center of the National Nature Reserve of Camargue, the Capelière offers: a 1.5 km trail to discover a mosaic of Camargue environments, 4 observatories to approach the fauna of the marshes, an exhibition on the Camargue, a naturalist shop, guided tours and workshops for all audiences.

C134 route de Fiélouse - Arles - Tél. +33(0)4 90 97 00 97 reservedecamargue@espaces-naturels.fr - www.snpn.com/reservedecamargue Opening times : April to 30 September : every day from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm -2:00 pm to 5:30 pm ; October to March : open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm to 4:30 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 ».

4 Phare de la Gacholle et digue à la mer

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. Picnic area. Strictly forbidden access to motor vehicles. Free access on foot and by bike on the dyke at all times.

5 Parc ornithologique de Pont de Gau



An ideal birdwatching site for the many species of Camargue, especially 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) from 01/04 to 30/09: 9 am to 6 pm. From 01/10 to 31/03: 10 am to 6 p.m. 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.



6 Étang du Fangassier Visite avec le 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. In 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

7 Réserve naturelle nationale des Marais du Vigueirat



Meadow and flooded wood, The Camargue largest reed bed constitute an environment teeming with life with thousands of birds, 5 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. and organic food. Access by bike from the ViaRhôna.



8 Maison du riz



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. Free visit of about 1h30 including, small rice fields, an exhibition room, demonstration on a microrizerie, space projection videos, educational path.

Mas de la Vigne, Albaron – Arles - Tél. +33(0)6 31 03 40 11 - maisonduriz@orange.fr www.maisonduriz.com - Open every day EXCEPT SATURDAY, from April to November, from 9.30am to 12.30pm and from 2pm to 6pm. Shop of

local products. (Subject to COVID-19 regulations) Booking required!

9 Château de Tourvielle - Tour du Tampan



Built at the beginning of the 17th century to control and monitor the access of ships to the Rhône delta and to the port of Arles. It underwent various transformations to become an agricultural farmhouse until the middle of the 20th century: the Tampan tower then took the name of Tourvieille castle. This Tower now has a 9 m high observatory, which today allows you to discover lagoons, marshes and beaches. This tower bears witness to the many faces of the long history of the Camargue and of

GPS coordinates: 43.418691° N, 4.675096° E

10 Maison du cheval Camargue



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 (1,5 km) 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,

(12 people min.) and from April to September, wednesday and friday from 10:00 to 11:45 am for individuals.



11 Point de vue du sel



The Giraud salt works, near the mouth of the 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.

Route de la plage de Piémanson

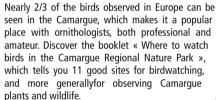
12 Tour Saint-Louis



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. There is an admission charge



Where to watch birds?

Available in French and English Downloadable www.parc-camarque.fr/ou-observer-les-oiseaux-en-camargue.html



▶ The marine environment in



the Camargue

Camargue's coastal environments are characterized by beautiful sandy beaches inherited from the history of the Rhone Delta. The muddy or sandy beaches are very important for the coastal ecosystem. There are many populations of invertebrates, food of choice for marine fauna or birds, and sea-leashes that feed the associated annual plants.

To adopt practices that respect the marine environment, consult the practical guide to ecogestures.

https://paca.ecogestes-mediterranee.fr/les-ecogestes/

▶ Biosphere Reserve



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.

Marque « Valeurs Parc naturel régional » :

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

régional » brand. Marque « Accueil Vélo » :

« Accueil Vélo » is a national brand that guarantees the reception of quality services along the cycling routes

Other certified service providers:

Hôtel/Restaurant le Flamant Rose, Hôtel Mas de la Grenouillère, Chambre d'hôtes et gîte Maebrilu Camargue Provence, Marais du Vigueirat, Parc ornithologique du Pont de Gau.







A new life is being invented...



More informations



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















* Camargue





Whether you are interested in nature or in the traditions of the Camargue, we can give you the

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.

'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.

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.

« Valeurs Parc naturel regional » brand

SITE TO VISIT

the sites on the back

13 Bergerie d'Alivon

Marais du Vigueirat **Manade Coule**

15 Mas Saint-Germain

16 Mas de la Grenouillère

17 Manade de Méjanes

BULL HERDING (by reservation)

18 Manade Blanc www.manade-blanc.fr

06 87 01 43 08 19 Manade Jacques Bon

www.masdepeint.com 04 90 97 28 50

20 Manade Cavallini www.masdepioch.com 04 90 97 50 06

21 Manade Mailhan

www.manadejacquesmailhan.fr 06 15 09 09 11 22 Manade de Méjanes

www.mejanes-camargue.fr 04 90 97 10 62 23 Manade Raynaud

www.manade-raynaud.com 06 13 24 95 52 - 06 25 88 54 3

NINE MAKERS 24 Mas de Valériole

www.masdevaleriole.com 04 90 97 10 41

www.domainedebeaujeu.fr 09 64 18 90 33

ACCOMMODATION

26 Hôtel***

04 90 97 90 22 27 Hôtel*** La Palunette

www.palunette.fr 04 90 97 86 30

06 24 00 34 56

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.

28 Hôtel**** Vila de la Mar

29 Résidence Mas du Tadorne

04 90 96 33 52 - 06 15 73 77 52

www.masdutadorne.com

30 Gîte Mas Farola

www.masfarola.camargue.fr

04 90 97 06 68

06 20 68 14 07

31 Hôtel****

04 90 97 82 21

06 34 43 58 32

Mas de Calabrun

www.mas-de-calabrun.fr

32 Chambres d'hôtes,

Manade des Baumelles

33 Bergerie d'Alivon

gîtes, aire de camping car

Professionals commit

meiruot eldaniateue o n the Camargue with the

See specific insert on the map.

> HORSE TREKKING (by reservation)

www.bergeriealivon.com 06 03 54 10 94

www.manadecoule.com 04 90 98 70 91

www.massaintgermain.com 06 16 92 34 98

www.hotel-equitation-saintes-maries.fr 06 80 25 68 58

www.bergeriealivon.com 06 12 62 04 57 www.mejanes-camargue.fr 04 90 97 10 10 - 04 90 97 10 62 34 Chambres d'hôtes

Mas de Bouvet 06 12 13 59 02

35 Gîtes Mas Trinita www.mastrinita.fr 04 90 96 52 45

36 Hôtel**-restaurant Le Flamant rose www.leflamantrose.com

04 90 97 10 18 **37** Gîtes Mas de la Vigne

www.masdelavigne.com 06 19 32 62 42 38 Chambres d'hôtes

Mas de l'Ange du Vaccarès 06 08 88 76 15

39 Chambres d'hôtes Mas de la Forge www.masdelaforge.fr 04 90 97 00 76

> 40 Gîtes Mas Saint-Germain www.massaintgermain.com 06 46 88 81 28

41 Gîte de l'Isle Saint-Pierre www.islesaintpierre.fr 04 90 98 70 30

42 Hôtel****-restaurant Mas de Peint

www.masdepeint.com 04 90 97 20 62

43 Chambres d'hôtes et gîtes*** Maebrilu **Camargue Provence**

Mas de la Grenouillère maebrilu-camargue.fr www.hotel-equitation-saintes-maries.fr 06 23 49 60 22

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

ISTANCES BETWEEN THE MAIN TOWNS: 🛛 🛱 🕬

© Carte et illustrations Vincent Brunot Ament Brunot

Cultivated land

The Camarque is a large wetland in the Rhône delta. It is exceptionally diverse in its flora and fauna, its scenery and the culture of Provençe in all its historical grandeur.

information you need to appreciate the park, bearing in mind its vulnerability.

Freshwater marshes

Beaucaire NORTH

Alpilles Regional **Nature Park** To Avignon Arles **Saint-Gilles** Gimeaux.

Les Impériaux

Pont Van Gogh Saliers Aix-en-Provence **Gageron**

Étang de Vaccarès

Mas-Thibert * Villeneuve

Le Sambuc

Salt plains are a feature of the lower Camargue. Their salt content is so high that only a few plant species such there. They are prone to periodic flooding, and in summer are marked by white traces due to the presence areas in which the effects of salt are less obvious.

The salt plains («sansouires»)

and meadowlands

as glasswort, saltwort, obione and statice can survive of salt. Meadowland occupies only small, fragmented

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, which spend most of their time there.



Port-Saint-Louis-

du-Rhône

c de Barcarin

Salin-de-Giraud Phare de Phare de

Beauduc

Naturist beach Boundary of the Camargue Regional Nature Park (River stop

Le Grau-du-Roi

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.

Aigues-Mortes 20 Pioch-Badet de-Cambon

Phare de l'Espiguette

NATURAL AND CULTURAL

The ponds and lagoons

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 play a major role in water management.

gates. They provide a refuge for birds and fish, and

12 Tour Saint-Louis

HERITAGE SITES (presented overleaf) 🚺 Musée de la Camargue 💆 🦞 2 Domaine de la Palissade 🚇 🗘

3 Réserve naturelle nationale de Camargue (La Capelière) 4 Phare de la Gacholle

5 Parc ornithologique du Pont de Gau 🧶 6 Étang du Fangassier

7 Marais du Vigueirat 🕮

8 Maison du riz 9 Château de Tourvieille - Tour de Tampan

(10) Maison du cheval Camargue 11) Point de vue du sel

Find the details of he sites on the back

Les Saintes-Maries-

de-la-Mer

The beaches and dunes The Camargue has some 50 km of beaches. Out-

side 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 by spectacular flowering plants and a number of rare

Discovery route for pedestrians and cyclists Cycle path ViaRhôna

43),