



## Where to watch birds...

in the Camargue Regional  
Nature Park - France

**The Camargue is the largest wetland in France** and is renowned internationally for nature conservation and the protection of birds. Approximately two thirds of all birds found in Europe can be observed in the Camargue, making it a favourite destination for both professional and amateur ornithologists.

Situated on the crossroads of Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean, the Camargue represents **an important stopover** for the hundreds of thousands of migrating birds that pass through each year. It is also home to **the only Greater Flamingo nesting site** in France.

With the aim of promoting and protecting its unique natural and cultural heritage, the Camargue was classified as a **Biophere Reserve** by UNESCO in 1977 and a large section of it has been designated as a **Regional Nature Park since 1970**.

## Where are the main observation sites ?



### The park in numbers

- Created in 1970
- Covers 3 districts :
  - Arles
  - Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer
  - Port Saint Louis du Rhône
- 10 000 inhabitants
- 100 000 hectares
- 75 km of coastline
- 400 observed bird species
- 3/4 of bird species, 1/2 of the freshwater fish species and 1/4 of all plant species found in France can be seen in the Camargue
- Distances :
  - Arles to Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer : 40 km
  - Arles to Salin-de-Giraud : 40 km
  - Arles to Port Saint Louis : 52 km
  - Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer to Port Saint Louis : 70 km

The vast wetland zone of the **Camargue Regional Nature Park**, on the delta where the Rhone meets the Mediterranean Sea, is of huge environmental and cultural interest.

Various economic activities have developed in this rural area, such as tourism, hunting, fishing, rice production and horse and cattle farming... The Camargue is made up of a number of private estates which are not always open to the general public.

To help you to enjoy your birdwatching experience in the best possible conditions, we've put together this booklet describing a number

of the best observation sites and their different approaches for observing birds :

- trails with free access on sites of low sensitivity
- trails with purpose built hides on sites of special interest
- guided tours on highly sensitive and protected sites

We wish you a very enjoyable stay in the Camargue and hope you make the most of your time here. Please keep in mind that it's the responsibility of each and every one of us to safeguard the area's natural beauty.

1	The Marais du Vigueirat Nature Reserve	4-5	6	Draille des 5 gorges	14-15
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4	Mas du Pont de Rousty	10-11	9	Pointe de Beauduc	16-17
5	Pont de Gau bird sanctuary	12-13	10	Domaine de la Palissade	18-19
			11	They du Mazet	20-21

## The Marais du Vigueirat Nature Reserve

The Vigueirat marshes belong to the « Conservatoire du Littoral » coastal protection agency. They stretch over 1 200 hectares where meet the remarkable ecosystems of the Rhone delta and the Crau steppe. Many plant and animal species can be observed here including **over 300 species of birds**. Explore this exceptional reserve via a **15 km network of tracks**, either with or without a tour guide, by foot or by horse and cart. For a closer insight, choose the option of a 5 km tour at the heart of the reserve with a professional nature guide.

Open from February to December 10:00 - 17:00.

Cafe open for drinks and snacks from April to September.

Free parking and picnic areas.

Access to the « Starling » trails is free. Advance booking necessary for guided tours.



### CONTACT

**Address :** Les Marais du Vigueirat  
**Town :** 13104 Mas-Thibert  
**GPS :** Lat. 43.536292 - Long. 4.753211

**Phone :** +33 (0)4 90 98 70 91  
**Email :** visites.mdv@espaces-naturels.fr  
[www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org](http://www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org)

### > Fauna and flora found here



#### BIRDS

• **All year round :** Glossy ibis, Red-crested Pochard, Bittern, Moustached Warbler, Egret, Greylag Goose, White Stork, Greater Flamingo

• **During the summer :** Purple Heron, Little Bittern, Squacco Heron, Night heron, Bee-eater, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Common Tern, Short-toed, Eagle, Black-winged stilt

• **During the winter :** Ducks, Booted Eagle, Penduline Tit

• **During migration periods :** Black Stork, Spoonbill, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Black Tern, White-winged Tern, Whiskered Tern



Bee-eater

#### FAUNA

Dragonflies, Butterflies (Southern Festoon), European pond turtle, snakes (Malpolon monspessulanu), wild boar, Camargue horses and cattle...

#### FLORA

Reeds, salicornia, sea lavender, Summer snowflake, Iris spuria, Aristolochia, Sedges, Lilies

### > In the surrounding area

#### ACTIVITIES

**Coussouls de Crau Nature Reserve**  
Museum Ecomusée de la Crau  
Boulevard de Provence  
13310 Saint-Martin de Crau  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 47 02 01  
[www.reserve-crau.org](http://www.reserve-crau.org)

**ViaRhôna cycle route**  
[www.viarhona.com](http://www.viarhona.com)  
Accessible from Arles, Port Saint Louis du Rhône and Mas-Thibert

#### FOOD

**Marais du Vigueirat Cafe**  
(open from April to September)  
Marais du Vigueirat  
13104 Mas-Thibert  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 98 70 91

**Ô Bistrot**  
15 rue Alain Guigue  
13104 Mas-Thibert  
☎ +33 (0)9 67 10 77 85

#### ACCOMMODATION

**Domaine de l'Isle Saint-Pierre**  
RD 35 - 13104 Mas-Thibert  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 98 70 30  
[www.islesaintpierre.fr](http://www.islesaintpierre.fr)

**Gîte du Vigueirat**  
RD 24 - 13104 Mas-Thibert  
☎ +33 (0)6 77 86 70 56  
[www.abritel.fr/location-vacances/p1019654](http://www.abritel.fr/location-vacances/p1019654)

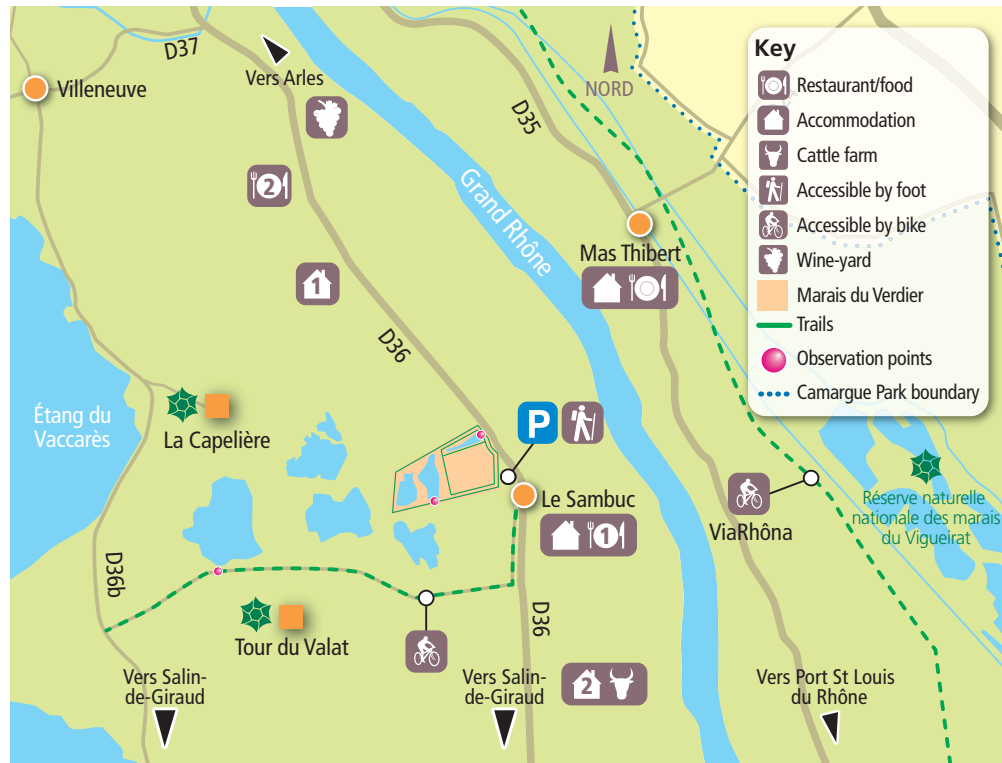
#### ARLES TOURIST INFORMATION

**E-mail :** [ot-arles@visitprovence.com](mailto:ot-arles@visitprovence.com) / **Website :** [www.arlestourisme.com](http://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

## 2 Marais du Verdier

Acquired by the « **Tour du Valat Foundation** » research centre in 2003, the **Verdier marshes** are managed by the organisation « Les marais du Verdier » in association with the residents of the adjacent village, Sambuc. The site covers **four ancient fishing basins** totalling 120 hectares and consists of **a variety of different habitats** (reedbeds, freshwater and salt marshes, lagoons, Tamarix groves). **It's a haven for waterbirds. An observation platform and hide** provide convenient viewing points.

*Nature trails are free to access all year round. Park in Sambuc village then pass down the side of the football field and cross the wooden footbridge. A notebook has been made available in the cabin where you are invited to make a note of your observations.*



### CONTACT

**Address :** Hameau du Sambuc

**Town :** 13200 Arles

**GPS :** Lat. 43.5252715 - Long. 4.7061412

[www.lesmaraisduverdier.fr](http://www.lesmaraisduverdier.fr)

## > Fauna and flora found here



### BIRDS

- **All year round :**  
Glossy ibis, Purple Gallinule, Moustached Warbler, Bittern
- **During the summer :**  
Collared Pratincole, Great Reed Warbler, Little Bittern, Stone Curlew
- **During the winter :**  
Penduline Tit, Bluethroat, Greylag Goose, Red-crested Pochard, Teal
- **During migration periods :**  
Spoonbill, Black-winged Stilt, Bearded Reedling, Little Crake



Collared Pratincole

### FAUNA

Dark and Southern Emerald Damselflies, Scarce Chaser, Montpellier Snake, Ladder snake, Parsley Frog...

### FLORE

Crypsis aculeata, Crypsis schoenoides, Zannichellie pédonculée...

## > In the surrounding area

### ACTIVITIES

#### Guided tour of the Tour du Valat Regional Nature Reserve

Bureau des Guides Naturalistes  
☎ +33 (0)6 95 90 70 48  
[www.guide-nature.fr](http://www.guide-nature.fr)  
[www.tourduvalat.org](http://www.tourduvalat.org)  
Advance booking only

#### Visit an organic wine and rice farm

Domaine de Beaujeu - Sambuc  
13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)9 64 18 90 33  
[www.domainedebeaujeu.fr](http://www.domainedebeaujeu.fr)

### FOOD

**L'Estrambord**  
7 rue de l'École du Sambuc  
13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 20 10  
[www.lestrambord.fr](http://www.lestrambord.fr)

**La Chassagnette**  
Route du Sambuc - 13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 26 96  
[www.chassagnette.fr](http://www.chassagnette.fr)

### ACCOMMODATION

**Mas de Guinot**  
Route de Guinot - Le Sambuc  
13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 20 68  
[www.mas-guinot.camargue.fr](http://www.mas-guinot.camargue.fr)

**Mas de Peint**  
Le Sambuc - 13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 20 62  
[www.masdepeint.com](http://www.masdepeint.com)

### ARLES TOURIST INFORMATION

**E-mail :** [ot-arles@visitprovence.com](mailto:ot-arles@visitprovence.com) / **Website :** [www.arlestourisme.com](http://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

+ info

## The Camargue Natural Reserve La Capelière

Covering 13 000 hectares in the heart of the Camargue, **the Natural Reserve is one of the largest wetland nature reserves in Europe**. Its uniqueness and special interest to international heritage rests in its ecological function, as well as **the vast diversity of inhabitants and species** that are found there (**in particular the 276 bird species, of which 258 are of special interest**). The site has been managed by the national society for the protection of nature since 1927 and was officially classed as a nature reserve in 1975. **The Capelière visitor centre on the reserve** is where you can find all the information that you need concerning the various nature trails and sites of interest in the area (La Capelière, Salin-de-Badon, Etang du Vaccarès, etc).

Open every day from April to September : 09:00 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 18:00 and from October to March, apart from on Tuesdays : 09:00 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 17:00. Entrance : 3€.



### CONTACT

Address : La Capelière  
Town : 13200 Arles  
GPS : Lat. 43.533733 - Long. 4.6521497

Phone : +33 (0)4 90 97 00 97  
Email : [infos@reserve-camargue.org](mailto:infos@reserve-camargue.org)  
[www.reserve-camargue.org](http://www.reserve-camargue.org)

### > Birds that can be seen here



#### LA CAPELIÈRE

##### • All year round :

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

##### • During the summer :

Little Bittern, Night Heron, Black-winged stilt, Green Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, reed warblers

##### • During the winter :

Teal, Shoveler Duck, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Snipe, Penduline Tit

##### • During migration periods :

Ducks, waders, plovers, redshanks



Night Heron

#### ÉTANG DU VACCARÈS

Greater Flamingo, Osprey, Great Crested Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Red-breasted merganser, Coot, ducks, Egret, Slender-billed Gull, Bearded Reedling, herons, Caspian Tern, Sandwich Tern, Horned Grebe, Cormorant, Little Gull

#### SALIN DE BADON

Spoonbill, Greylag Goose, Marsh Sandpiper, Eurasian Curlew, Red-rumped Swallow, Yellow Wagtail...

### > In the surrounding area

#### ACTIVITIES

**Manade Blanc**  
Domaine de Paulon  
Le Sambuc - 13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 72 27 73  
[www.manade-blanc.fr](http://www.manade-blanc.fr)

**Guided tour of an organic winery**  
Domaine de Valériole - Le Sambuc  
13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 10 41  
[www.masdevaleriole.com](http://www.masdevaleriole.com)

#### FOOD

**La Telline**  
Villeneuve - 13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 01 75  
[www.restaurantlatelline.fr](http://www.restaurantlatelline.fr)

**Chez Bob**  
D 37 - Route du Sambuc  
13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 00 29  
<http://restaurantbob.fr>

#### ACCOMMODATION

**Mas Saint-Germain**  
Villeneuve - 13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 00 60  
[massaintgermain.com](http://massaintgermain.com)

**Mas Antonelle**  
Villeneuve - 13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)490 97 00 32  
[www.antonelle.net](http://www.antonelle.net)

#### ARLES TOURIST INFORMATION

E-mail : [ot-arles@visitprovence.com](mailto:ot-arles@visitprovence.com) / Website : [www.arlestourisme.com](http://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

To follow the tracks around Mas de Pont de Rousty is **to immerse oneself in the fluvio-lacustrine zone of the Camargue** where the **natural habitat** (reedbed marshes) is influenced by freshwater sediments brought in by the Rhone and **various agricultural activities** such as rice and cattle production. Here, **80 hectares of reedbeds** provide home to a wide range of birdlife (herons and reed passerines). **The seasonal flooding of these fields of bulrushes** creates feeding grounds for waders in spring and ducks in winter. A purpose-built hide allows for the easy observation of these birds.

*Nature trails with observation points and hides. Open all year round. Free to enter.  
Information and starting point at the « Musée de la Camargue ».*



### CONTACT

**Address :** Mas du Pont de Rousty  
**Town :** 13200 Arles  
**GPS :** Lat. 43.6245079 - Long. 4.8100102

**Phone :** +33 (0)4 90 97 10 82  
**Email :** info@parc-camargue.fr  
**www.parc-camargue.fr**

## > Fauna and flora found here



### BIRDS

- **All year round :**  
Flamingo, herons, Bittern, Great Egret, Reed Bunting, Bearded Tit, Marsh Harrier, Purple Gallinule, Kingfisher
- **During the summer :**  
Glossy Ibis, Squacco Heron, Collared Pratincole, Bee-eater, Black-winged Stilt, Common Tern, Yellow Wagtail
- **During the winter :**  
Teal, Shoveler Duck, Common Crane
- **During migration periods :**  
Spotted Redshank, Snipe, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Whiskered Tern



Purple heron / Camargue bull

### FAUNA

Southern Festoon butterfly, Pond Turtle, Mediterranean Tree Frog, Green Lizard, Rabbit...

### FLORA

Sea lavender, Stinking Iris, Salicornia...

## > In the surrounding area

### ACTIVITIES

**Camargue Museum**  
Mas du Pont de Rousty  
13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 10 82  
[www.parc-camargue.fr/musee.html](http://www.parc-camargue.fr/musee.html)

**Manade Mailhan**  
Mas de Bernacles - 13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 00 12  
[www.manademailhan.com](http://www.manademailhan.com)

**Manade Salièrene**  
Saliers - 13123 Albaron  
☎ +33 (0)4 66 87 45 57  
[www.manadesalierene.com](http://www.manadesalierene.com)

### ACCOMMODATION / FOOD

**Hôtel 2\* Restaurant le Flamant Rose**  
Route Départementale 37  
13123 Albaron  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 10 18  
[www.leflamantrose.com](http://www.leflamantrose.com)  
Logis de France, 8 double rooms  
Fish and local beef specialties

### ACCOMMODATION

**Gîtes du Mas de la Vigne**  
Chemin de Figares  
13123 Albaron  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 11 29  
[www.masdelavigne.com](http://www.masdelavigne.com)

**Mas du Grand Arbaud**  
Gageron - 13200 Arles  
☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 02 17  
[www.topcamargue.com/mas-grand-arbaud](http://www.topcamargue.com/mas-grand-arbaud)

### ARLES TOURIST INFORMATION

**E-mail :** ot-arles@visitprovence.com / **Website :** [www.arlestourisme.com](http://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

+ info

## 5 Pont de Gau bird sanctuary

The « **Parc ornithologique de Pont de Gau** » is situated 4 km north of the seaside town of « **Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer** » and offers **60 hectares of nature reserve** dedicated to the fauna and flora of the Camargue. **7 km of nature trails and observation points** cross different habitats, such as lakes, reedbeds and salt marshes. Many types of sedentary and migratory birds can be seen here. The sanctuary is also home to a **wild animal care centre** that nurses around 500 injured birds each year.

Open all year round from 9:00 am (April - Sept) or 10:00 am (Oct - March) until sunset.

Cafe open for drinks and snacks from April - Sept.

Entrance : Adults 7,5€, Children 5€.



### CONTACT

**Address :** Route d'Arles  
**Town :** 13460 Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
**GPS :** Lat. 43.4891318 - Long. 4.4038581

**Phone :** +33 (0)4 90 97 82 62  
**Email :** frederic@parcornithologique.com  
[www.parcornithologique.com](http://www.parcornithologique.com)

## > Fauna and flora found here



### BIRDS

- **All year round :**  
Greater Flamingo, Grey Heron, Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Night Heron, Bearded Tit
- **During the summer :**  
Little Terns, Mediterranean Gull, Slender-billed Gull, Pied Avocet, Hoopoe, Bee-eater
- **During the winter :**  
ducks (Shoveler, Gadwall, Widgeon), Peregrine Falcon, Booted Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier
- **During migration periods :**  
Waders, Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Ruff, Curlew, plovers, Caspian, Tern, Black and White Stork



Grey Heron

### FAUNA

Montpellier Snake, Aesculapian Snake, Grass Snake, Ladder Snake, Dragonflies, Pond Turtle...

### FLORA

9 species of orchid are found on site, including (O. fragrans), Sea Lavender...

## > In the surrounding area

### ACTIVITIES

**Manade Cavallini**  
 Mas de Pioch - RD 570  
 13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
 ☎ +33 (0)4 90 75 00 06  
[www.masdepioch.com](http://www.masdepioch.com)

**Auberge Cavalière du Pont des Bannes**  
 Route d'Arles - RD 570  
 13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
 ☎ +33 (0)6 63 65 26 08  
[www.aubergecavaliere.com](http://www.aubergecavaliere.com)

### FOOD

**Cookery course with Roger Merlin**  
 Mas des Colverts  
 13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
 ☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 83 73  
[www.cuisineprovence.com](http://www.cuisineprovence.com)

**L'Hostellerie Pont de Gau**  
 Route d'Arles  
 13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
 ☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 81 53  
[www.hotelpontdegau.com](http://www.hotelpontdegau.com)

### ACCOMMODATION

**Gîte Mas Farola**  
 Route du Bac du Sauvage  
 13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
 ☎ +33 (0)6 20 68 14 07  
[www.masfarola.camargue.fr](http://www.masfarola.camargue.fr)

**Hôtel 3\* Mas de la Grenouillère**  
 Chemin Haut des Launes  
 13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
 ☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 90 22  
[www.hotel-la-grenouillere.fr](http://www.hotel-la-grenouillere.fr)

### SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA-MER TOURIST INFORMATION

**E-mail :** [info@saintesmaries.com](mailto:info@saintesmaries.com) / **Website :** [www.saintesmaries.com](http://www.saintesmaries.com)  
 5 avenue Van Gogh - 13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
 ☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 82 55

# 6 Draille des 5 gorges

## 7 Digue à la Mer

### Draille des 5 gorges

This driveway borders the Imperial lakes or « étangs » Malagroy and Vaccarès and **presents various typical Camargue landscapes** within a relatively short distance. **Many species of ducks and waders** can be observed here. The track crosses a number of agricultural developments typical of the Camargue, such as **rice fields and wide open horse and cattle farms**. Free access and open all year round.

GPS coordinates for the car park on the Cacharel road : Lat. 43.4852274 - Long. 4.4453371

GPS coordinates for the car park at the Domaine de Méjanes : Lat. 43.5707716 - Long. 4.5064601

### Digue à la mer

This sea embankment stretches from Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer to Salin-de-Giraud and **crosses the southern sector of the Camargue Nature Reserve**. It offers 20 km of foot and cycle paths from which you can discover **the wild open spaces of the lagoons and saltmarshes**. The track across the embankment is open throughout the year. It is strictly forbidden to leave the track and venture onto the dunes, even on foot.

GPS coordinates for the car-park at Saintes-Maries : Lat. 43.4567338 - Long. 4.445432

GPS coordinates for the car-park at Etang du Fangassier : Lat. 43.4076627 - Long. 4.5981305



### > Birds that can be seen here



#### DIGUE À LA MER

- **All year round :** Greater Flamingo, Shelduck, Spoonbill, Avocet, Curlew, Redshank, Mediterranean Gull, Kentish Plover, Dartford Warbler, Crested Lark
- **During the summer :** Little Tern, Oystercatcher, Tawny Pipit, Yellow Wagtail
- **During the winter :** Dunlin, Little Stint, Sanderling
- **During migration periods :** Passerines, Caspian Tern, Whimbrel



Spoonbill

#### DRAILLE DES 5 GORGES

- **All year round :** Pink Flamingo, Great Egret
- **During the summer :** Kentish Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Spoonbill, Eurasian Stone-curlew
- **During the winter :** Red-crested Pochard, Greylag Goose, Greater Spotted Eagle, Booted Eagle
- **During migration periods :** Stints, sandpipers

### > In the surrounding area

#### ACTIVITIES

- **Manade Saint-Antoine**  
+33 (0)6 10 66 02 12  
www.manadesaintantoine.com
- **Bergerie d'Alivon**  
+33 (0)6 03 54 10 94  
www.bergeriealivon.com
- **Domaine de Méjanes**  
+33 (0)4 90 97 10 10  
www.mejanes-camargue.fr
- **Boat trips le Tiki III**  
+33 (0)4 90 97 81 68  
www.tiki3.fr

#### FOOD

- **À fleur de sel**  
43 avenue Frédéric Mistral  
13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
+33 (0)4 90 97 83 42  
www.camargue-restaurantaflurdesel.com
- **La Casa Romana**  
6 rue Joseph Roumanille  
13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
+33 (0)4 90 97 83 33

#### ACCOMMODATION

- **Mas des Grandes Cabanes du Vaccarès**  
Route Départementale 570  
13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
+33 (0)6 03 67 72 80  
www.masdesgrandescabanes.com
- **Hôtel 3\* Mas de Calabrun**  
Route de Cacharel  
13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
+33 (0)4 90 97 82 21  
www.mas-de-calabrun.fr

#### SAINTE-MARIES-DE-LA-MER TOURIST INFORMATION

E-mail : info@saintesmaries.com / Website : www.saintesmaries.com  
5 avenue Van Gogh - 13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer  
+33 (0)4 90 97 82 55

+ info



# 8 Étang du Fangassier

## 9 Pointe de Beauduc

The Fangassier lagoon and the coastline of Beauduc make up part of the vast stretch of 6 500 hectares of the ancient Camargue salt works and lagoons that now belong to the coastal protection agency the « Conservatoire du Littoral ». A large number of species typically found along the Mediterranean coast can be found here.

You can visit « **L'étang du Fangassier** » all year round, with or without a professional guide. From April to September, a special guided visit is available to discover the unique colony of approximately 10 000 breeding couples of Pink Flamingo.

GPS coordinates for the car-park at the « étang du Fangassier » : Lat. 43.4076627 - Long. 4.5981305

GPS coordinates for the Mas Saint-Bertrand (guided tours) : Lat. 43.4489629 - Long. 4.660796

Unique to the site at « **La pointe de Beauduc** » is a system of dunes and an exceptional vegetation pattern that are found nowhere else in the Rhone valley. The site is open and free to access all year round. Take care : the 10 km track to access the site is poorly maintained and is limited to vehicles < 2 m wide.

GPS pointe de Beauduc : Lat. 43.4076627 - Long.4.5981305



### > Birds that can be seen here



#### ÉTANG DU FANGASSIER

- **All year round :** Greater Flamingo, Avocet, Kentish Plover
- **During the summer :** Little Tern, Black-winged Stilt, Slender-billed Gull, Yellow Wagtail
- **During the winter :** Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Sandpiper, Dunlin, Little Stint, Curlew, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl
- **During migration periods :** Curlew, godwits, plovers, redshanks



#### POINTE DE BEAUDUC

- **All year round :** Greater Flamingo, Dunlin, Little Stint, Sanderling
- **During the summer :** Sandwich Tern, Little Tern, Common Tern, Redshank
- **During the winter :** Eider Duck, Black-throated Loon, Oystercatcher, Widgeon, sea-birds
- **During migration periods :** waders, Curlew, Whimbrel, birds of prey, passerines

### > In the surrounding area

#### ACTIVITIES

**A guided tour of « étang du Fangassier »**  
Bureau des Guides Naturalistes  
☎ +33 (0)6 95 90 70 48  
☎ +33 (0)4 42 86 89 77  
www.guide-nature.fr  
From April to Sept.  
Advance booking only

**Bike rides**  
www.parc-camargue.fr/  
itineraires.html

#### FOOD

**1 Les Saladelles**  
4 rue des Arènes  
13129 Salin-de-Giraud  
☎ +33 (0)4 42 86 83 87  
www.hotel-salin-beauduc.fr

**2 La Camargue**  
58 boulevard de la Camargue  
13129 Salin-de-Giraud  
☎ +33 (0)4 42 86 88 52

#### ACCOMODATION

**Mas Saint-Bertrand**  
13129 Salin-de-Giraud  
☎ +33 (0)4 42 48 80 69  
www.mas-saint-bertrand.com

**Un nid en Camargue**  
15 rue de la Victoire  
13129 Salin-de-Giraud  
☎ +33 (0)9 73 16 04 68  
www.gdf13.com

#### ARLES TOURIST INFORMATION

E-mail : 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

# 10 Domaine de la Palissade

**Property of the « Conservatoire du Littoral » coastal protection agency**, the Palissade estate reaches over 702 hectares on the south-eastern territory of the Camargue, **on the estuary of the Grand Rhone**. The estate works actively to promote environmental protection and education. From here is a great place to visit the last remaining natural space in the Camargue that hasn't been the subject of embankment work. **Choose between three trails of 1 km, 5 km or 8 km** from which you can discover, with or without a professional guide, an archetypal Camargue landscape full of many types of wildlife.

Open every day from 09:00 - 17:00 (closed on Mondays and Tuesdays from mid-November to February)

Closed 11/11, 25/12, 01/01 and 01/05.

Entrance : Adults 3€ (Children go free).

Advance booking necessary for guided tours.



## CONTACT

**Address :** Domaine de la Palissade

**Town :** 13129 Salin-de-Giraud

**GPS :** Lat. 43.376238 - Long. 4.8100102

**Phone :** +33 (0)4 42 86 81 28

**Email :** palissade@parc-camargue.fr

**www.palissade.fr**

## > Fauna and flora found here



### BIRDS

#### • All year round :

Greater Flamingo, Kentish Plover, Redshank, Bearded Tit, Gadwall, Mallard, Red-crested Pochard

#### • During the summer :

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

#### • During the winter :

Teal, Shoveler, Wigeon, Pintail, Greylag Goose

#### • During migration periods :

Osprey, Marsh Tern, passerines, waders (sandpipers, curlew...)



Osprey

### FAUNA

Eurasian Beaver, Common Genet, Alosa Agone, butterflies (Southern Festoon, Painted Lady, pieridae...)

### FLORA

Iris Maritime, Sandcarrot, Serapias parviflora...

## > In the surrounding area

### ACTIVITIES

#### Horse riding

Domaine de la Palissade

13129 Salin-de-Giraud

+33 (0)6 87 84 33 72

www.cheval-camargue-palissade.fr

From April to October

#### Bike rides

www.parc-camargue.fr/

itineraires.html

#### Piémanson beach

### FOOD

#### Les Saladelles

4 rue des Arènes

13129 Salin-de-Giraud

+33 (0)4 42 86 83 87

www.hotel-salin-beauduc.fr

#### La Camargue

58 boulevard de la Camargue

13129 Salin-de-Giraud

+33 (0)4 42 86 88 52

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Un nid en Camargue

15 rue de la Victoire

13129 Salin-de-Giraud

+33 (0)9 73 16 04 68

www.gdf13.com

#### La Cabane de Salin

6 rue d'Arles

13129 Salin-de-Giraud

+33 (0)4 42 86 82 10

www.cabanedesalin.fr

### ARLES TOURIST INFORMATION

E-mail : 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

# 11 They du Mazet

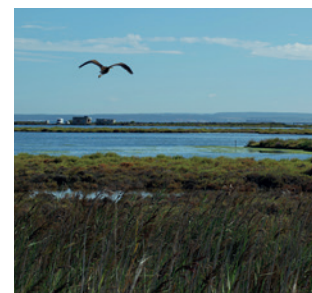
Situated on the south side of the town Port Saint Louis du Rhône, the « **They du Mazet** » was acquired by the « **Conservatoire du Littoral** » coastal protection agency in 1980 and consists of a dune formation sculpted by the actions of the river and sea. An integral part of the Camargue delta, **this zone is a feeding, resting and breeding ground for many types of birds**. During high waters, the area becomes flooded by seawater, giving rise to a saline soil and a unique and abundant vegetation pattern.

*A purpose-built track with information panels is open and free to access all year round, (outside of rainy conditions).*



**CONTACT**  
**Address :** Route Napoléon  
**Town :** 13230 Port Saint Louis du Rhône  
**GPS :** Lat. 43.370750 - Long. 4.845981  
**Phone :** +33 (0)4 90 98 70 91  
[www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr/siteLittoral/170/28-theys-du-mazet-et-du-levant-13-bouches-du-rhone.htm](http://www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr/siteLittoral/170/28-theys-du-mazet-et-du-levant-13-bouches-du-rhone.htm)

## > Fauna and flora found here



### BIRDS

- **All year round :**  
Greater Flamingo, Great Crested Grebe, Mute Swan, Little Egret, Grey Heron
- **During the summer :**  
Redshank, Kentish Plover, Little Tern, Oystercatcher, Gadwall
- **During the winter :**  
Hoopoe, Teal, Shoveler Duck
- **During migration periods :**  
Caspian Tern, Red Kite, Bee-eater, Green Sandpiper



Redshank

### FAUNA

3 species of reptiles (snakes and lizards), 3 species of amphibians, dragonflies...

### FLORA

Sea lavender, salicornia, Marsh Daisy, Limonium girardianum, Dwarf Eelgrass, Seawrack, Mediterranean grasses...

## > In the surrounding area

### ACTIVITIES

- **Bike hire**  
Capitainerie du Port  
13230 Port Saint Louis du Rhône  
☎ +33 (0)4 42 86 39 11
- **For a guided tour of the Saint-Louis Tower (18<sup>th</sup> Century)**  
Quai Bonnardel  
13230 Port Saint Louis du Rhône  
☎ +33 (0)4 42 86 01 21

☂ **Napoleon beach**

### FOOD

- **Joaline coquillages**  
Avenue de la première Division Française Libre  
13230 Port Saint Louis du Rhône  
☎ +33 (0)4 42 86 01 90  
[www.joalinecoquillages.fr](http://www.joalinecoquillages.fr)
- **Joséphine**  
Presqu'île le Mazet  
13230 Port Saint Louis du Rhône  
☎ +33 (0)4 42 48 84 60

### ACCOMMODATION

- **Mas du Grand Peloux**  
Chemin Départemental 35  
13230 Port Saint Louis du Rhône  
☎ +33 (0)4 42 86 26 04  
[www.grandpeloux.fr](http://www.grandpeloux.fr)
- **Meublé Lou Cigalou**  
51 rue Crémieux  
13230 Port Saint Louis du Rhône  
☎ +33 (0)6 08 58 82 70  
[www.loucigalou.info](http://www.loucigalou.info)

### PORT SAINT LOUIS DU RHÔNE TOURIST INFORMATION

**E-mail :** [contact@portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr](mailto:contact@portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr) / ☎ +33 0(4) 42 86 01 21  
**Website :** [www.portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr](http://www.portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr)  
 Tour Saint-Louis - Quai Bonnardel - 13230 Port Saint Louis du Rhône

## Park advice

This booklet has provided the opportunity to showcase the work of environmental managers, farmers, restaurant owners and people working in the tourist industry that have committed to high quality standards and sustainable development via the following labels :



### The label « Camargue Regional Nature Park »

is given to produce and services that are specific to the region. Holders of this label must build their business on a human scale, upkeep local traditions and value and preserve the environment in which they work in conjunction with solid local connections.



### The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in protected areas

aims to assure that tourism within protected spaces throughout Europe contributes to a balanced economic, social and environmental development. Tourist operators that sign up to this charter promote responsible and sustainable tourism.



### Le « Conservatoire Grand Sud des Cuisines »

is an association between professional chefs and local producers with the aim of promoting Mediterranean culinary heritage. The prerequisite of this label is the utilisation of fresh, authentic, seasonal produce and the valorisation of its regional identity and taste, as well as its nutritional aspects.

## + info

### Birdwatching with a specialist guide

Bureau des Guides Naturalistes

+33 (0)6 95 90 70 48

contact@guide-nature.fr - www.guide-nature.fr

### Scientific and naturalist database

- Gateway to the collaboration on regional biodiversity : [www.faune-paca.org](http://www.faune-paca.org)
- Database of the « Tour du Valat » : [www.obsnature-camargue.net](http://www.obsnature-camargue.net)



### Conservatoire du littoral

The « Marais du Vigueirat », the « Camargue », the « Mas du Pont de Rousty », the « étang du Fangassier », the « Beauduc », the « Domaine de la Palissade » and the « They du Mazet » are all natural spaces that belong to the « **Conservatoire du Littoral** », a government agency that pursues a policy of the acquisition of coastal land in order to preserve a biological heritage, landscape and identity and make it accessible to everyone. In the Camargue, 25 000 hectares fall under its protection.



Works by Cyril Girard

### The illustrated guide to birds of the Camargue and the Mediterranean lagoons

Ed. Marais du Vigueirat, 2014

Available in french and english

Works by M. Gauthier-Clerc et Y. Kayser

### Observez les oiseaux en Camargue « Birdwatching in the Camargue »

Ed. Delachaux et Niestlé, Tour du Valat, 2012

Available in french only

## ADVICE...

### You are in a Regional Nature Park

- Park only in designated areas and don't leave anything valuable in your vehicle
- Don't forget to carry a bottle of drinking water at all times
- Don't forget your sun cream and insect repellent
- Stay on the path, do not enter onto private property and don't climb over any fences
- Do respect animals and keep the noise down
- Don't leave anything behind, especially rubbish
- Nature is at its best early in the morning or late in the afternoon
- Avoid going out before 9:30 am during the hunting season (mid-September - mid-January)
- Check the weather forecast before leaving the house and avoid going out in high wind

## EMERGENCY NUMBER

**SOS 112**

European emergency number

**15**

Ambulance

**17**

Police

**04 91 75 25 25**

Anti-poison clinic in Marseille

**18**

Fire Brigade

**3250**

Weather



This project has been brought to you with the help of funding from Europe and the region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and with the technical support from our partners :



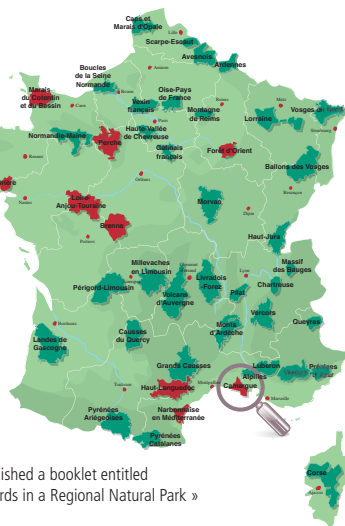
- December 2014 • Coordination : Capucine Ser - Camargue Regional Nature Park • Picture : Tour du Valat (P1, 7) - Marais du Vigueirat (P5) Société nationale de protection de la nature (P9) - Parc naturel régional de Camargue (P11, 13, 15, 17, 23) - Parc ornithologique du Pont de Gau (P13) J. E. Roché / PNRC (P15) - Bureau des Guides Naturalistes (P17, 22) - E. Vialet / PNRC (P19) - OT Port Saint Louis du Rhône (P21)
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- Printing : Pure Impression • Printed using vegetable-based ink and certified chlorine-free white paper sourced from sustainable forests



# The Camargue Regional Nature Park

## LIST OF PARKS THAT HAVE PUBLISHED A BOOKLET OF THIS KIND « WHERE TO WATCH BIRDS »

- The Brière Regional Nature Park  
[www.parc-naturel-briere.fr](http://www.parc-naturel-briere.fr)
- The Brenne Regional Nature Park  
[www.parc-naturel-brenne.fr](http://www.parc-naturel-brenne.fr)
- The Forêt d'Orient Regional Nature Park  
[www.pnr-foret-orient.fr](http://www.pnr-foret-orient.fr)
- The Haut-Languedoc Regional Nature Park  
[www.parc-haut-languedoc.fr](http://www.parc-haut-languedoc.fr)
- The Loire-Anjou-Touraine Regional Nature Park  
[www.parc-loire-anjou-touraine.fr](http://www.parc-loire-anjou-touraine.fr)
- The Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin Regional Nature Park  
[www.parc-cotentin-bessin.fr](http://www.parc-cotentin-bessin.fr)
- The Narbonnaise Regional Nature Park  
[www.parc-naturel-narbonnaise.fr](http://www.parc-naturel-narbonnaise.fr)
- The Perche Regional Nature Park  
[www.parc-naturel-perche.fr](http://www.parc-naturel-perche.fr)



- Parks that have published a booklet entitled « Where to watch birds in a Regional Natural Park »



**Camargue Regional Nature Park**  
Mas du Pont de Rousty - 13200 Arles

☎ +33 (0)4 90 97 10 40

E-mail : [secretariat@parc-camargue.fr](mailto:secretariat@parc-camargue.fr)  
[www.parc-camargue.fr](http://www.parc-camargue.fr)

[www.facebook.com/parcnaturelregionaldecamargue](https://www.facebook.com/parcnaturelregionaldecamargue)

## HOW TO GET TO THE CAMARGUE

The **Camargue Regional Nature Park** is situated on the Mediterranean coast, in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region in the south of France. Close to the town of Arles, the park is 45 km south of Avignon, 75 km east of Montpellier and 80 km west of Marseille.

**BY CAR** [www.viamichelin.co.uk/](http://www.viamichelin.co.uk/)

### Motorways, direction ARLES

- **A6 & A7** : Paris - Lyon - Orange - Avignon - Marseille (Rhône Valley)
- **A9** : Orange - Nîmes - Montpellier - Narbonne - Barcelone (Spain)
- **A54** : Nîmes - Salon-de-Provence

**BY TRAIN** [www.voyages-sncf.co.uk](http://www.voyages-sncf.co.uk)

**Arles train station** : trains direct from the Gare de Lyon station in Paris, and from regional networks coming from Bordeaux - Carcassonne - Toulouse, Nice - Montpellier - Marseille, Avignon and Nîmes...  
Cycle compartments are available on some trains.

### BY PLANE

- **Nîmes airport (20 km)** : destination London and Liverpool
- **Marseille airport (70 km)** : destination London, Edinburgh, Dublin
- **Montpellier airport (70 km)** : destination London, Edinburgh, Dublin
- **Beziers airport (150 km)** : destination London, Manchester, Bristol, Edinburgh
- **Carcassonne airport (230 km)** : destination London, Liverpool, Bournemouth, East Midlands, Glasgow, Dublin, Cork

