



The «Petit-Rhône»

Petit-Rhône meanderings

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

The Bac du Sauvage ferry

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



A gardian's hut

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

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

Emergency numbers

SOS European emergency number **112**

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

15 **18** **17** **3250**

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



The Bac du Sauvage ferry

Along the way

Bar and restaurant

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

Rent a bike

- Le Vélociste (Saintes-Maries) : +33 (0)6 25 32 07 03
- Le Vélo Saintois (Saintes-Maries) : +33 (0)4 90 97 74 56
- Kayak Vert Camargue (Sylvéreal) : +33 (0)6 09 56 06 47

Don't miss

- The town of Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer (Notre-Dame-de-la-Mer church and crypt)
- Boat cruise the Petit-Rhône
 - Le Tiki : +33 (0)4 90 97 81 68
 - La Camargue en zodiac : +33 (0)9 64 42 06 65 / +33 (0)6 64 10 14 64
 - Le Camargue : +33 (0)4 90 97 84 72 / +33 (0)6 17 95 81 96
 - Les Quatre Maries : +33 (0)4 90 97 70 10 / +33 (0)6 16 17 21 60
- Canoeing on the Petit-Rhône (Kayak Vert) - +33 (0)6 09 56 06 47

SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA-MER TOURISM OFFICE
 5 Av. Van Gogh – 13460 Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer
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 E-mail : info@saintesmaries.com
 Website : www.saintesmaries.com



Trekking City, trekking or mountain bike, car

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Between the Bac du Sauvage ferry and Cacharel ranch

Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer

<p>mountain bike ✓ trekking bike ✓ city bike ✓</p> <p>2h30 à 4h</p>	<p>1h30</p>
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Starting point : Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer Tourism Office

Distance : 30 km loop

Take note :

- Dangerous crossings : the Sylvéreal bridge and Route D570 at Pioch Badet
- Check the timetable for the Bac du Sauvage ferry crossings at the Saintes-Maries Information Center



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How to get there

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

At the **Tourism Office 1**, follow Avenue Van Gogh (D38) on your left toward the arena and Aigues-Mortes. Go along beside the sea, the port and the arena where bull games are regularly organized. Cross the hamlet Dromar. After km 6, turn left to take the **Bac du Sauvage ferry 2** (check the ferry timetable at the Tourism Office). Continue on Route D85 toward Aigues-Mortes. Cross the Peccais Canal and at the crossroads turn right on D58 toward Arles (⚠ Take care, this road is dangerous!). Cross the **Sylvéreal bridge 3**.

400m after the bridge turn right on the narrow road (toward S33) and go through **Astouin 4**. At the next crossroads turn right, then 500m later, turn left (D38b). At the Y-shaped fork, take the road to the left to **Pioch-Badet 5**. At the crossroads in the center of the hamlet cross Route D570 (⚠ Caution, dangerous road) and take Route D85a toward Arles-Pioch-Badet by the **Cacharel Road** (Route de Cacharel). For 10 kilometers you will go along beside first the Consecanière and then the Impérial ponds (étangs).

Possible alternate route through **Cabanes de Cambon 6** on Route D38.