



Rice

Stalks of rice

Rice-growing has been an important activity in the Camargue since after WWII. The paddies are irrigated with fresh water and then drained, allowing farmers to use land which is very salty. Yearly farm activities start in spring when the paddies are levelled off. The rice is sown at the end of April; by May it has grown higher than the surrounding water and will be harvested in September-October. During that period a Rice Festival (“Prémices du riz”) takes place in Arles and Salin-de-Giraud.



Camargue horses


The Camargue horse





The Camargue horse belongs to a very old race only officially recognized in 1978; it may be a descendant of the Solutré prehistoric horse. It measures about 1.4 m high at the withers, is brave, strong, and hardy. Its hide, dark when it is born, becomes definitely light grey around the age of 4. It is raised in the Camargue and lives on large stretches of pasture land. The horse is not only the cowherd’s companion, but also a working tool indispensable for raising bulls. It is also used by tourists for horse-back rides.


The “Tour du Valat”

The “Tour du Valat” is a private research center created in 1954 and not open to the public. It covers 2400 ha of land and works in favor of promoting and preserving Mediterranean wetlands.

Emergency numbers

SOS European emergency number **112**  **Marseilles treatment center for poisoning 04 91 75 25 25**

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

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



Flooded rice paddies

Along the way

Bar and restaurant

- Longo Mai Hotel (Le Sambuc) – 04.90.97.21.91
- L’Estrambord (Le Sambuc) – 04.90.97.20.10
- Café du Sambuc – 04.90.99.82.73 or 04.90.97.92.62
- Mas Saint-Bernard – 04.42.48.80.69

Rent a bike

- Longo Mai Hotel (Le Sambuc) – 04.90.97.21.91
- Mas Saint-Bernard – 04.42.48.80.69
- Restaurant Chez Germaine (Salin-de-Giraud) – 04.86.63.60.05
- Bois Sacré Service Station (Salin-de-Giraud) – 04.90.58.93.03

Don’t miss

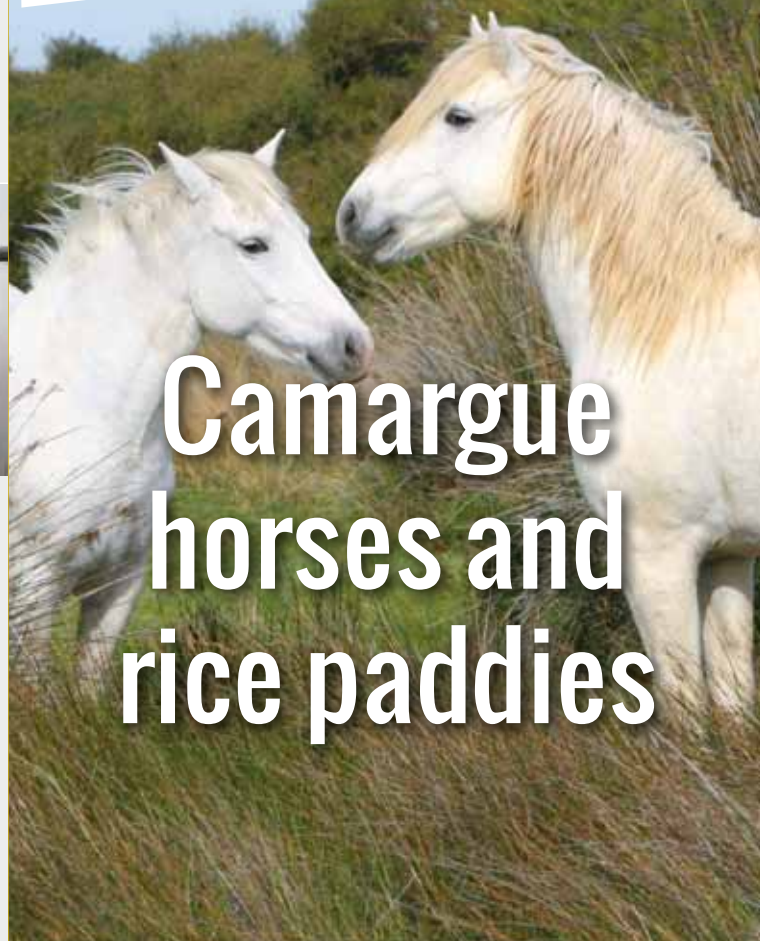
- Manade Jacques Bon (ranch) – 04.90.97.0.62
- Rice Museum – reservations necessary – 04.90.97.29.44
- Salin-de-Badon – reservations at La Capelière – 04.90.97.00.97

ARLES TOURISM OFFICE


Downtown Arles Information Center : Bd. des Lices – 33 (0)4 90 18 41 20
 Salin-de-Giraud Information Center : Rue Tournaire – 33 (0)4 42 86 89 77
 Mailing address : BP 21- 13633 Arles Cedex
 E-mail : ot-arles@visitprovence.com
 Website : www.arlestourisme.com



  **Trek Bike / Car** 5



Camargue horses and rice paddies

 **mountain bike** ✓
 **trekking bike** ✓
 **city bike** ✓
 **1h to 1h30** ✓


3h to 4h





-  **Starting point** : Le Sambuc
-  **Distance** : 29 km
-  **Extension to the rice museum** : 2 km round trip
-  **Take note**
 - Crossing heavily travelled roads
 - Difficult trek when the mistral wind is blowing

Photo credits : P. Daniél, M. Mercier / Parc de Camargue – OT Arles, J.P. Boscuf



5 Camargue Horses and Rice Paddies



1 Leave the village on the road south to Salin-de-Giraud. When you see the sign marking the end of the **Le Sambuc** town area, take the bike trail along the right hand side of Route D36 to point **2** (or take Route D36 by car). After km 1.8 turn right onto C136 "de Fiélouse au Sambuc". After km 4.5 cross the little bridge over the Fumemorte Canal, and pass La **Tour de Valat** on your left. **3** After km 5.5, you can stop on the right hand side of the road at the bird observation tower where you can observe the landscape and the birds from 2 meters high. **4** After km 7.5 you will reach the **Mas de Fiélouse** crossroads. Turn left toward the south (here the itinerary is marked by a "Conseil Général" sign). **5** At km 10.5, you will go by a large house : this is Salin-de-Badon, on land belonging to the Camargue Nature Preserve, which maintains a discovery trail on the property. (To follow this trail you must get permission from La Capelière **4bis** at 04.90.97.00.97. **La Capelière** is located 7 km from the Mas de Fiélouse crossroads – take D36b to the right). **6** At km 13.5 turn left following the "Salin-de-Giraud vers Beauduc" signs. Mas Saint-Bernard is located 500m further on; this is the only spot where you can find food and drinks on this tour (Careful, they are closed on Wednesdays). **7** At km 15.5 turn left onto **Route C139 "du Petit et Grand Badon"**. At km 20 you must cross Route D36 (⚠) and head toward the bus stop going toward Arles (Be careful!). Take a narrow road lined with pine trees. **8** 500m further on take Route C156 "**Draille du Beurre**" to the right. After km 22 you will go by an old mill on your right. **9** 500m after the end of the 1-km long straight stretch, at km 23.5, at the Y-shaped "Grand Manusclat" crossroads, turn right toward the north. **10** You will go by the "Petit Patis", the "Commanderie" and the "Grand Patis", then at km 27.5 turn left to the west on the "**Chemin de l'église**" toward Le Sambuc. Cross the village to reach route D36 (⚠). Be careful crossing this road to your parking spot.

How to get there

- From Arles, follow signs for Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, then for Salin-de-Giraud via Route D36 and stop in Le Sambuc. Park your car in the village beside Route D36.



Farm raising Camargue horses

Extension to visit the rice museum

The R68 will take you to the rice museum (reservations necessary – 04.90.97.29.44) by following the trail called the "Draille de la **Commanderie**". Then you must go left on D36 (⚠).