



Flamingos in flight

## Pink Flamingos

The pink flamingo is the emblem of the Camargue. It owes its color at least partially to the carotene contained in the shellfish it feeds on. In the spring the flamingos nest in colonies. The male and the female take turns keeping warm their single egg laid in a nest of mud. The baby flamingo will be grey when it hatches, will be able to fly at an age of about 10 weeks, and will become pink around the age of 3 years.

## Salin-de-Giraud

The town of Salin-de-Giraud was created at the end of the 19th century to house the workers from the Pechiney and Solvay factories. Its architecture is thus characteristic of factory towns. Each company built its own quarter, including roads. The work was done by foreign workers from Italy, Armenia or Greece.



Salt pans

## Salt production

Salt has been harvested in the Camargue since Roman times but it became an industry in the 19th century when Pechiney built a factory here. Today the salt production is owned by the Salins du Midi. Sea water is pumped from March to September and flows across different salt flats before arriving in the salt pans. By then it is saturated in salt, and the water is evaporated by the sun and the wind so that the salt can crystallize. It will then be harvested between late August and early October before being used on winter roads or for industrial products.

## 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.**



Salins - Salin-de-Giraud

## Along the way

### Bar and restaurant

- La Camargue Restaurant – 04.42.86.88.52
- Les Saladelles Restaurant – 04.42.86.83.87
- Bar des Sports – 04.42.86.81.15
- Bar de l'amitié – 06.82.70.01.58
- Restaurant Chez Germaine – 04.86.63.60.05
- Mas Saint-Bertrand – 04.42.48.80.69

### Rent a bike

- Mas Saint-Bertrand (Salin-de-Giraud) – 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

- The village of Salin-de-Giraud
- Guided tour of the Fangassier pond from April thru September 04.42.86.89.77
- The salt production observation platform

## ARLES TOURISM OFFICE

Downtown Arles Information Center : Bd. des Licés – 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



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## Trek Mountain bike/Trekking bike /Hiking

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# Pink flamingos and salt pans

mountain bike ✓  
 trekking bike ✓  
 city bike ✓  
 3h30 to 5h

5h to 6h

**Starting point :** Salin-de-Giraud Tourist Office

**Distance :** 29 km

**Extension to Piémançon Beach :** +23 km round trip

**Take note**

- Trek to be avoided on a rainy day
- Difficult in the mistral wind



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## Pink flamingos and salt pans



## How to get there

Starting point in Salin-de-Giraud. In the village at the red light go straight ahead then take the first right toward the city center. The Tourism Office is located on rue Tournayre, 150 m before the arena.

Leave from the **Tourist Information Center in Salin-de-Giraud** **1**. Take Route D36 toward Arles. After 1 km turn left toward the Vaccarès Pond (Etang du Vaccarès) **2**. At the first crossroads turn left toward **Bélugue** **3**. At the end of this road take the dirt path on your right **4** until you reach the paved road beside **the Tourvieille ruins** (tower built in 1607). **5** Continue along this track for 5 km until you reach **the Symadrem gate, white with red stripes** **6**. Go through this barrier and you will be on the sea dike (Digue à la mer), accessible only on foot or bike. Go along between **the Fangassier Pond** (Etang du Fangassier on your right), and **the Galabert Pond** (Etang de Galabert on your left), until you reach the second Symadrem barrier. Go through the gate and continue straight ahead toward the **flamingo observation hut** **7**. Follow the dirt track and then the road to the next crossroads **8**, then turn right on Route D36c toward Mas Saint-Bertrand. Stay on the main road then turn right to get back to Salin-de-Giraud.



## Extended tour to the Piémanson beach

11.5 km, 23 km round trip if you go as far as the beach.

Continue on Route D36d south toward Piémanson beach (Plage de Piémanson). There are three possibilities to choose from : **the saltworks observation platform, the Domaine de la Palissade, Piémanson beach.**

**From Salin-de-Giraud to the salt observation platform : 2 km, 4 km round trip.**

2 km south of Salin, on the bike path along the left hand side of Route D36d, you will notice to your right an observation platform (9). This artificial mound will give you a look out over the landscape from a high viewpoint, rare in the Camargue. You can admire the way man has transformed the land : the salt pans used for salt harvesting, and the “camelles”, the piles of salt where it is stored waiting to be sold.

**From the salt observation mound to the Domaine de la Palissade : 6 km, 12 km round trip.**

(10) The natural landscape that you will be crossing is one of the last in the Camargue that has not been imprisoned by a dike. It is naturally and regularly flooded by the river and the sea, resulting in a particularly interesting ecology. The “Conservatoire du Littoral” manages the Domaine de la Palissade, open to the public under certain rules and regulations.

**• From the Domaine de la Palissade to the Piémanson Beach : 6.5 km, 13 km round trip.**

(11) You will be astonished by the size of this beach, the last land area of the Rhone River delta. The Piémanson beach is just a tiny part of the 40-km long sand bar that stretches from the mouth of the Grand Rhone to Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer. The beach can be 250 m wide and sometimes even 500 m : it is a rare sight.