The Camargue is a large wetland in the Rhône delta. It is exceptionally diverse in its flora and fauna, its scenery and the culture of Provence in all its historical grandeur. Whether you are interested in nature or in the traditions of the Camargue, we can give you the information you need to appreciate the park, bearing in mind its vulnerability.

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.

Freshwater marshes and reed beds
These areas are common in the upper Camargue and on the banks of the Rhône. Several species of waterfowl, such as black swans and greylag geese, are abundant in the marshes, which can be hard to find in other areas. In summer, waterfowl stop here for resting and mating. Birds (e.g., teals, in Provence) can be seen in water, by the « coq végétal ». They are found in a semi-floating material.

The salt ponds
These are found along the sea. In reality, they are lagoons that have been adapted to the salt (« sansouires »), which spend most of their time there. They are lagoons that have been home to salt. Meadowland occupies only small, fragmented sites. They are prone to periodic flooding, and in summer, they provide shelter for nesting and wintering birds. Ponds (e.g., in Provence) are not to be seen by the « coq végétal ». They are found in a semi-floating material.

The salt plains (« sansouires ») and meadowlands
Salt plains are a feature of the lower Camargue. Their salt content is so high that only a few plant species such as grasses, reeds, alders and reed canes can survive. They are prone to periodic flooding, and in summer, they are inhabited by salt-tolerant birds due to the presence of salt. Meadowlands occupy only small, fragmented areas to which the effects of salt are slow.

The beaches and dunes
The Camargue has some 50 km of beaches. Outside the perimeter of the protected areas, and subject to the capture of the sea - the coastline in a permanent state of change. The dunes are inhabited by spectacular flowering plants and a number of rare birds.

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 connected with the sea via sluice gates. They provide a refuge for birds and fish, and play a major role in water management.

The Camargue has some 50 km of beaches. Outside the perimeter of the protected areas, and subject to the capture of the sea - the coastline in a permanent state of change. The dunes are inhabited by spectacular flowering plants and a number of rare birds.
The Camargue Regional Natural Park offers a wide diversity of landscapes: beaches, reedbeds, rice and wheat fields, 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 river and the Mediterranean sea.

The Park is one of the principal migratory stopovers for birds migrating from Northern Europe to Africa. The biodiversity here is incredible, especially with fauna: flamingos, bulls, horses, European bee-eaters, slender-billed gull, sea swallow, herons, beaver, and the black-winged stilt.

The Camargue is full of contrasts and its changing seasons 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!

Discovering the natural and cultural heritage of the Camargue

**Some of the Camargue’s animals**

- Plane trees
- Rice fields
- Marshes
- Ponds with bullrushes
- Marshland

**Some of the Camargue’s plants**

- Denudat
- Cistus albidus
- Acacia

**The Park in numbers**

- 10,848 inhabitants
- 13,046 hectares
- 375 km (233 miles) of roads
- 360 km (224 miles) of footpaths

**Walking and cycling tours**

The Camargue Regional Nature Park offers 15 walking or cycling discovery tours within its borders, in order to discover the full diversity of Camargue landscapes: from the oaks to the south to the dunes. In the north, you will find the waterfront, with the Corbiere Saltworks, near the mouth of the Grand Rhône, which are protected under the Ramsar Convention. The Park is also home to the Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer site, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Thanks to DestiMED, the Park has been able to create a nature trail that offers 12 thematic trails.

**More information**

- [www.montpellier-tourisme.fr](http://www.montpellier-tourisme.fr)
- [www.portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr](http://www.portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr)
- [www.cheminsdesparcs.fr](http://www.cheminsdesparcs.fr)
- [www.parc-camargue.fr](http://www.parc-camargue.fr)

**What is a Regional Nature Park?**

A regional nature park is both:

- A rural area that has been designated as a site of special interest for its strong heritage and landscape value, open to all but where fragile balance requires the greatest respect.
- A public institution of consultation between the authorities, the local people and the economic decision-makers. Its role: to reconcile human development and nature conservation.

Like the other 52 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;
- Leisure 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.

**Walking and cycling tours**

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Since 1992, the Camargue has been designated by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve, the Agenda 21 concept. The Camargue is also a Site of Exceptional Biodiversity. The Park is managed by the Conservatoire du Littoral, which ensures the protection of the natural resources and ecosystems.

**Biosphere Reserve**

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**Ramsar Label**

This label is a creation of the Convention on Wetlands, which states that: “The biosphere reserves are characterized by their biodiversity, their economic importance and their cultural, educational and recreational significance. They are committed to sustainable tourism.”

**DealthED : an eco-tourism package being tested**

**Parc naturel régional de Camargue**

**The Park is full of contrasts and its changing seasons occur hourly and throughout the seasons.**