How to visit Arles

**TOURIST OFFICE**

**Why should you visit the Arles Tourist Office?**

Because 363 days a year, our advisors are on hand to give you customised tips.

What else you need to know about Arles

- **The light of Van Gogh**
  Arles is intimately associated with Van Gogh. In February 1888, the painter moved to Arles. He was fascinated by the light of Provence, and he stay in Arles proved to be the most productive period of his life with over 350 paintings and drawings in the space of 15 months. Follow the walks in the footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh as you visit the Vincent Van Gogh Arles Foundation and the Réalt Museum.

- **Arles, city of traditions**
  The language, costumes and traditional festivals help make Arles the capital of Provence:
  - Gardens Festival on 1 May.
  - Election of the Queen of Arles every 3 years (May 1, 2020).
  - Arles Festival (Puppets, costume festival, the Golden Cockade) late April - early July.
  - Arles, city of festivals and culture
  - 2 fairs a year at Easter and in September (bullfights in the arena and street activities)
  - international festivals and events all the year round:
    - Arles Le livre, Arles Le cinema
    - Jazz in Arles
    - Rencontres d'Arles (50th anniversary in 2010)
    - Les doucets de l'Arles
    - Arles and the Region film festival

- **Arles markets**
  Every Wednesday and Saturday morning. The Saturday market is the biggest and most varied market in the region, with vegetables, Provencal herbs, fish, meat, vines, Camargue rice, Bouches-du-rhône cheeses and plus handcrafts, fabrics, clothes, etc.

- **Arles capital of the Camargue**
  The Camargue Museum, in a converted arsenal, is in the heart of the Méditerranée. This museum presents the history of the Camargue and the Stream of Time in Camargue** highlights the relations between man and nature through the activities in the delta from the 10th century to today.

- **An umanted, sandy beach**
  At the southern end of the town, the sand marshes near the curious industrial village of Sainte-Cécile are the Penmument of pins (Arles beach) a vast sandy beach that is 45 km long and 500m wide. Here you will come across harbouries on the drive out through the middle of the marshes.

- **The Viguerie marshes**
  The 1,500 hectares of marshes are located at Max Tricot 83 km from Arles. This protected natural site is one of the major areas of land acquired by the Provencal Coastal Conservancy.

- **Domaine de la Palsis**
  The estate is situated between Sainte-Cécile and the coast, beyond the Rhone delta. It was acquired by the coastal conservancy in 1976. You can visit it on foot along the paths or on horseback.

- **La Capelière**
  Camargue National Reserve Resource Information Centre. The reserve covers 13,000 hectares of laps and semiarid ecosystems. It is one of the biggest wetland areas in Europe.

**The Arles Countryside**

- **Two regional nature parks within 10 km**
  Arles is the gateway to the natural parks in Southern France. It includes three remarkable nature reserves, including the "Golden Thorns" Biodiversity, the hills of the Alpilles Regional Natural Park to the north and the Daurade, a dessert-like cape that is partially irrigated and farmed, to the east. And the southernmost by the presence of the River Rhone, which crosses the town centre before forming the Camargue delta.

- **Montmajour Abbey**
  This exceptional architectural site was founded by Benedectine monks in the 8th century in the Middle Ages. The abbey church was finished in the 11th century and added to in the 12th century. It includes a 17th-century Cloister, a 14th-century Cloister, a 13th-century Cloister and a 10th-century Cloister, a 9th-century Cloister and a 8th-century Cloister. The abbey church was restored by the impressionist painter Auguste Renoir in the 19th century with his classical architecture.
Aries has been a Greek trading post, a Roman city, the capital of a empire and a major site of Christianity and a rich cultural legacy. The town is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. First, for its Roman and Romanesque monuments and second, as part of the “Way of Saint James in France”. But Arles is also a contemporary city, with remarkable works of contemporary art, as the Parc des Ateliers. This is a city on a human scale, a city of culture and traditions as envisioned by Frédéric Mistral. He created the Museum Arlesen, a recently renovated ethnographic museum.

### Roman and Romanesque monuments listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites, 4 museums.

- **The Roman amphitheatre (the arena)** - E3
  - The Roman amphitheatre (158m x 107m) was built in the late 1st century A.D. It had a capacity for about 21,000 spectators, compared with 12,500 today. Here people watched games for about 21,000 spectators, compared with 12,500 today. Here people watched games and gladiator fights. In the Middle Ages, the amphitheatre was turned into a fortress, before it was pillaged for centuries to provide materials for building work. Its role in Antiquity was gradually forgotten for about 2,000 years before it was rediscovered in 1830.

- **The Roman Theatre – get the double ticket.**
  - In 3 days or more, you can visit a different area of the site or one of the three museums. Don’t miss the amphitheatre and the Mausoleum of Alyscamps.

- **The Roman Theatre – E4**
  - The Roman Theatre is Arles’ one century older than the city itself. It was completed for 20,000 spectators, compared with 12,500 today. Here people watched games and gladiator fights. In the Middle Ages, the amphitheatre was turned into a fortress, before it was pillaged for centuries to provide materials for building work. Its role in Antiquity was gradually forgotten for about 2,000 years before it was rediscovered in 1830.

- **Saint Trophime and cloister – E4**
  - The portal of St Trophime was built in the late 12th century. It is one of the finest examples of the Provençal Romanesque style with a strong influence from antiquity. The cloister stands next to the church, and the tombs inside date from the early 4th century and have been partially excavated.

- **Mausoleum of Alyscamps – D3**
  - The Mausoleum of Alyscamps is one of the largest and best-preserved mausoleums in the Mediterranean. It was built in the late 1st century A.D. and had a capacity for about 21,000 spectators, compared with 12,500 today. Here people watched games and gladiator fights. In the Middle Ages, the amphitheatre was turned into a fortress, before it was pillaged for centuries to provide materials for building work. Its role in Antiquity was gradually forgotten for about 2,000 years before it was rediscovered in 1830.

- **Constantine thermal baths – D3**
  - The baths had hot public places and vital elements of urban comfort in Roman times. Here people came to relax, take physical exercise, and bathe. The baths also played a major social role as a meeting place. The Constantine thermal baths date from the early 4th century and have been partially excavated.

- **Lyceum Arles Parc des Ateliers – G6-E4**
  - Luna Arles is a transdisciplinary cultural centre located in Parc des Ateliers, a fast-changing former industrial area. It is a centre of activity for research, production and experimentation, an essential place to think, create and develop new projects and members of civil society are working together to develop our understanding of issues linked to creation, environment, human rights and education. Each year, a series of exhibitions and multi-disciplinary projects are organized in the very first ethnography museums created in France in order to preserve traces of unique local culture.

### Visiting Arles

- **In 2 hours**
  - Head for one of the monuments listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site or one of the three museums. Don’t miss the amphitheatre and the Roman Theatre – get the double ticket.

- **In 1/2 a day**
  - Same time, look the booklet “9 City Strolls and Tours” and choose your theme (UNESCO, Vincent Van Gogh, Renaissance and Classical, Contemporary Arles, Historical Arles).

- **In 1 or 2 days**
  - The Advantage Pass is a must. The Pass gives access up to ten monuments and museums. After 8pm, it is not possible to enter the site or one of the three museums. Don’t miss the amphitheatre and the Roman Theatre – get the double ticket.

### In 3 days or more

- Make the most of your stay. Because Arles also means the Camargue, a Regional Nature Park and a World Heritage site and a wonderful landscape of heathland, beaches, and horses, but also a jumble of just a few minutes from the Cours Paul and the Alpilles Regional Nature Park. You can visit these areas alone or as part of a group with a guide.

### With the children
- **The Roman-style garden Réattu** (near the Arles Antique departmental museum). Game kit available from the museum reception.
- **Museum Arlesen, Provence-departmental museum of ethnography** - D3
  - Reopening Dec. 2019. The museum was launched by the poet Frédéric Mistral (1830-1914). It provides a panorama of daily life in Provence, from the late 17th century to today. This ‘year in a bottle’ is one of the best ethnography museums created in France in order to preserve traces of unique local culture.

- **The Vincent Van Gogh Arles Foundation - D3**
  - The Vincent Van Gogh Arles Foundation pays homage to the work of Van Gogh, while exploring its impact on present-day art in the temporary exhibitions, original paintings and drawings by the Dutch master are displayed side by side with contemporary art works, setting up a fruitful and innovative dialogue.

- **LUBA Arles Parc des Ateliers – G6-E4**
  - Luna Arles is a transdisciplinary cultural centre located in Parc des Ateliers, a fast-changing former industrial area. It is a centre of activity for research, production and experimentation, an essential place to think, create and develop new projects and members of civil society are working together to develop our understanding of issues linked to creation, environment, human rights and education. Each year, a series of exhibitions and multi-disciplinary projects are organized in the very first ethnography museums created in France in order to preserve traces of unique local culture.

- **Réattu Museum (fine arts, modern and contemporary art) – E3**
  - The impressive museum collections are housed in a remarkable building, the former Great Palace of the Duke of Malta. They were brought together in the 19th century by the British collector Sir Charles Oman. The museum’s innovative orientation. Pablo Picasso admired the museum’s innovative orientation. Picasso's works are exhibited in a glass and concrete building designed by Frank Gehry in 1995.