

The Van Gogh bridge

The original bridge, painted by Vincent Van Gogh in 1888 in one of his most famous paintings, was located closer to the city center, over the Arles-Bouc Canal. It was replaced in the 1930s by a concrete bridge, which was destroyed in 1944 when the city was bombed. The bridge we can see today, identical to the one Van Gogh painted, comes from Port-de-Bouc and was transferred to its present location in 1960. It has been completely restored and can still be opened and closed.

The "Saumoduc" (brine pipe line)

During this tour you will cross a pipe line, similar to gas or petroleum pipes, heading to or from the Fos-sur-Mer industrial and port zone. A "saumoduc" carries brine, in other words salt water. It is an industrial pipe line, carrying brine from the place where it is produced (salt marshes, caves or rock salt mines...) to factories for use in industrial products.



Along a swamp boardwalk

The Vigueirat swamps (Marais du Vigueirat)

The Vigueirat swamps are owned by the "Conservatoire du Littoral", a government agency, and cover 1.900 ha of which 919 ha are part of the National Nature Preserve. The visitor can observe numerous animal species and a variety of landscapes including pasture land, flooded woods, "sansouires" (salt plains), bodies of water and the largest protected reed marsh in the Camargue. Along 15 km of paths (including an ecologically-responsible path unique in France), you can discover, on foot on your own or with a guide, on horseback or in a carriage, this exceptional natural site. www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org

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.**



Marais du Vigueirat

Along the way

Bar and restaurant

- Bar at the Marais du Vigueirat (summer season)

Rent a bike

- Europbike (Arles) : +33 (0)6 38 14 49 50
- Hôtel Régence (Arles) : +33 (0)4 90 96 39 85
- 1Véloc (Arles) : +33 (0)7 68 21 76 68
- Holiday Bikes (Arles) : +33 (0)4 90 52 07 27
- Taco and Co (Arles) : +33 (0)6 50 29 60 00

Don't miss

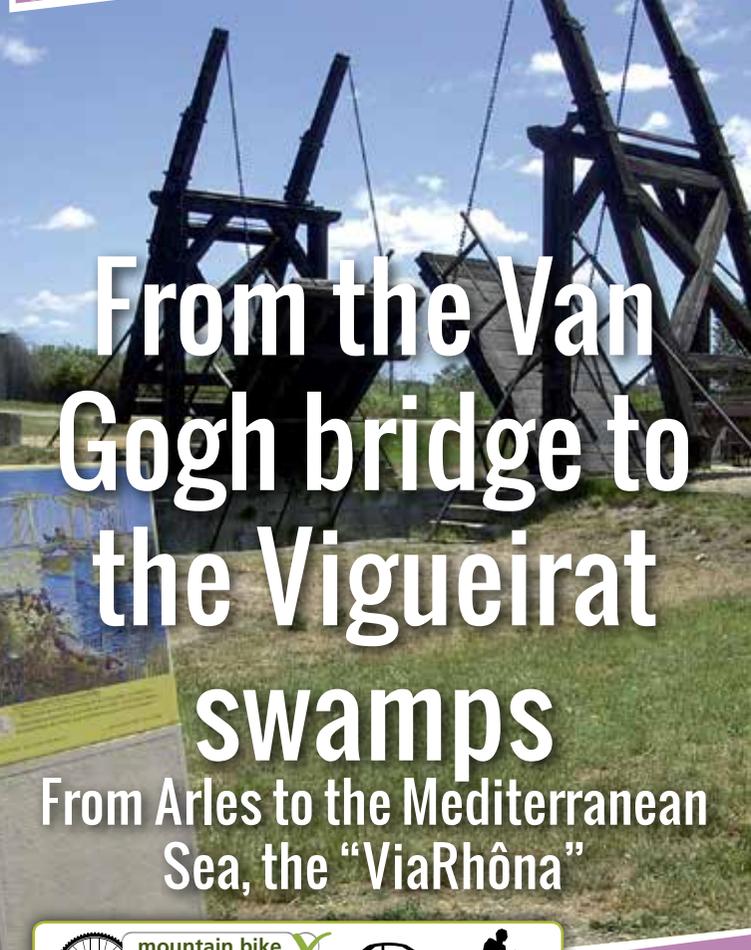
- The Van Gogh bridge
- The banks of the Rhône River
- The Vigueirat swamps : +33 (0)4 90 98 70 91

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@arlestourisme.com
Website : www.arlestourisme.com



Trek Mountain bike / Trekking bike 13



From the Van Gogh bridge to the Vigueirat swamps

From Arles to the Mediterranean Sea, the "ViaRhôna"

 mountain bike ✓
 trekking bike ✓
 city bike ✗
 car ✗
 person with walking stick ✓

3h to 4h

-  **Starting point** : Van Gogh bridge in Arles
-  **Distance** : 38 km round trip
-  **Extension Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône, Méditerranéan sea , ViaRhôna** : + 62 km round trip
-  **Take note** :
 - Difficult tour coming back (Marais du Vigueirat-Arles) when the mistral wind is blowing
 - Dangerous crossroads in Mas Thibert



Photo credits : M.SucReev, Marais du Vigueirat, OT Arles

13 From the Van Gogh bridge to the Vigueirat swamps

How to get there

- From the Arles Tourist Office Information Center, Boulevard des Lices, take the bicycle lane going by the music kiosk. Continue along Boulevard Clémenceau, then left in the bike lane and follow signs for Barriol, cross the Sixte Quenin parking lot (P3), cross the bridge across the Arles-Bouc Canal and continue beside the canal (keep it on your left) along the bike route until you reach the Van Gogh Bridge.
- From the Arles Youth Hostel (Auberge de Jeunesse), free parking along Avenue du Maréchal Foch beside the stadium. Almost directly across from the Youth Hostel, beside Rue Germaine Richier, the former SNCF railroad right-of-way has been transformed into a bike route. A sign will direct you toward the Van Gogh bridge (Pont Van Gogh). At the end of the SNCF railroad bridge go left and take the bike route along the Arles-Bouc Canal to the Van Gogh bridge.

From the **Van Gogh bridge** 1, take the bike route "Arles – Mas-Thibert du Léman à la Méditerranée" ("Arles – Mas-Thibert on the bike route from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean") which follows the Arles-to-Bouc Canal. The passage is a former railroad right-of-way. Go through the gate 2. 1.5 km after the Van Gogh bridge you will come to the **Aling bridge** 3. All the remaining distances until your next successive destinations are posted : 4 4.5 km to Pont de la Ville, 5 6.5 km to Pont de Mollegès, 6 12 km to Pont Calada. 7 At 15.3 km you will arrive at the bridge at the entrance to the hamlet of Mas-Thibert on Route D24. (Dangerous crossroads). Cross the road and take the bike path 8 along the canal on the other side toward the "Marais du Vigueirat". At the end of the bike path, you will share 500m of slightly stony track with the cars.

Extension from Arles to the Mediterranean : the "ViaRhôna"

62 km round trip

From the Vigueirat swamps you can continue on to the Mediterranean Sea. Leaving the Vigueirat swamps, take the bike path again. As you leave the village on Route D24, cross the bridge and take the ViaRhôna again along the right bank of the Arles-Bouc Canal as far as Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône (22 km), then to the Plage Napoléon (Beach) (9 km).

ARLES

The « ViaRhona » from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean

The bicycle path between the Van Gogh bridge and Mas Thibert is part of the "ViaRhona" which follows the valley of the Rhone River from Geneva to Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhone (800 km). A section between Mas Thibert and Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhone will be created to reach the mouth of the Rhone River at Napoléon beach (Plage Napoléon).

Map symbols

Restaurant, snack bar	Bicycle rental
Bar	Observation point
Camp grounds	Danger
Campers park	
Waste disposal, drinking water	

1 km