Camargue bulls

The Camargue bull differs from the Spanish bull by its lyre-shaped horns. It is raised to be used in bull games known as “course camarguaise”, whereas its Spanish counterpart is raised for bullfights.

The Santiago-de-Compostela pilgrimage route

The Santiago-de-Compostela pilgrimage route is a reminder of the apostle James (alive at the time of Christ) who is supposed to have been beheaded around 41-44 AD. His tomb was discovered during the reign of Charlemagne and Alphonse II the Chaste (759-842). This route attracts numerous pilgrims. The “Via Tolosana” that starts in Arles is one of four routes through France to James’ tomb.

Vineyards

Today there are about 1000 ha of vineyards in and around Arles. Twenty-five grape-growers have founded an association. They grow traditional varieties (grenache, syrah, cinsault and carignan) as well as more noble grapevines (chardonnay, sauvignon, merlot, cabernet, caladoc, marselan…) Some vineyards have developed organic or rational agriculture. Searching for better quality and new varieties has led to a wide range of quality wines of the three different colors: red, white and rosé.

The brand name “Valeurs du Parc Naturel Régional de Camargue” is used by Camargue wine-growers who respect the specificity of this fragile land and its important environmental challenges.

Emergency numbers

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

Along the way

Bar et restaurant

- Bars and restaurants in Arles
  - Crin Blanc Camp Grounds (Saliers) (snack-bar from April thru September) - +33 (0)4 66 87 48 78

Rent a bike

- Europbike (Arles) : +33 (0)6 38 14 49 50
- Hôtel Régence (Arles) : +33 (0)4 90 96 39 85
- Holiday Bikes (Arles) : +33 (0)4 90 52 07 27
- Taco and Co (Arles) : +33 (0)6 50 29 60 00
- Méjanes (Arles) : +33 (0)4 90 97 06 17
- 1Véloc (Arles) : +33 (0)7 68 21 76 68

Don’t miss

- Mas des Bernacles (Mailhan manade or ranch) +33 (0)6 15 09 09 11
- Salièrène Ranch (Manade) - +33 (0)4 66 87 45 57
- Mas du Rey (wine produced in Arles) - +33 (0)4 90 96 11 84
Extension to Saint-Gilles

- **On the GR653** (trekking or mountain bike necessary): turn right, go 500m and then turn left on “Route des Cabanettes”. Cross the Petit Rhône River and then turn left on route D179.

  - !! You must carry your bike to cross the two foot bridges. At the end of the bridges, leave the GR653 trail and turn left on a dirt path leading to the port. The village is on your right.

- **On route D37** (all types of bicycles): turn left, cross the bridge and continue straight ahead until you reach the village (⚠️ dangerous road!)

How to get there

**Arles**: start at the Arles Tourism Office, Bd. des Lices

Leave from the Arles Tourism Office 1, turn left on the Boulevard des Lices, then right in rue Gambetta toward Trinquetaille. Cross the Rhône River and follow directions for Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer. After km 1 at the roundabout 2, take route C108 toward Gimeaux. You are on hiking trail GR653, marked by two red and white stripes. After km 2.5 you will reach the village of Gimeaux 3. At the Mas du Tort crossroads, turn left, go by the wooden Gimeaux arena, then turn right on route C113 “Chemin de Palunlongue”. At the next crossroads turn right on route C197 toward Mas des Bernacles. Go by this farm, where days of Camargue activities are organized for tourists (on reservation). 4 **When you reach route D37**, turn right, go 500m then turn right again on route C118 toward Saliers. Go through the village of Saliers.

5 **When you reach route D572n** (Careful! This road is dangerous!) turn right toward Arles, go straight for 500m then turn left on the “Route de Cazeneuve à Rigaudon” (toward Grand Mas du Roy). Go by the former Bühler wine cellar, across the bridge over the motorway, and by the Mas de Rey. 6 **When you reach the abandoned train tracks**, take the narrow road opposite. At the next crossroads, turn right on route VC105, “Chemin des Prêcheurs”, and cross the railroad tracks. At the next stop sign, turn right, then at the second stop sign turn left on the old Saint-Gilles road toward Trinquetaille (⚠️ Careful! This road is dangerous!) Go straight into the city on Avenue du Docteur Morel, then turn right on Avenue Edouard Herriot toward the Arles city center. Follow signs to Arles center and then the Tourism Office to get back to your point of departure.