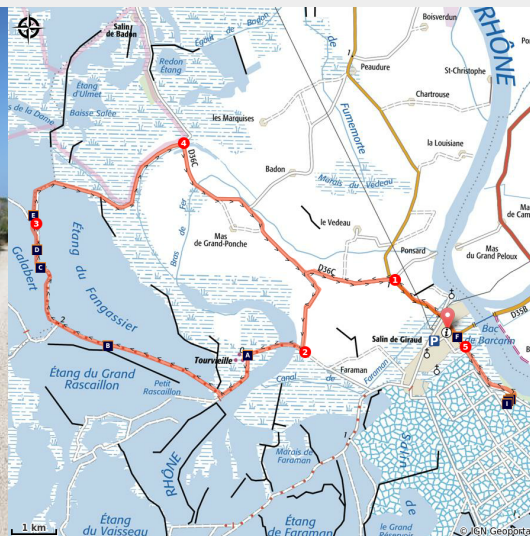


Pink flamingos and salt while you bike

Arles



Cyclistes effectuant le circuit des Flamants roses et du sel (Pauline Daniel - PNR Camargue)

This bike loop is an opportunity to observe flamingos in their protected natural environment and under the influence of salt.

Flamingos as companions and ponds as far as the eye can see, this hike can be found in the heart of the Camargue! You will appreciate the peace and the wide spaces that offer this course. Take the height, from the salt point of view, to have a sight on the salting tables and the camels: salt hills more than 10 m high.

Useful information

Practice : BIKE

Duration : 5 h

Length : 34.6 km

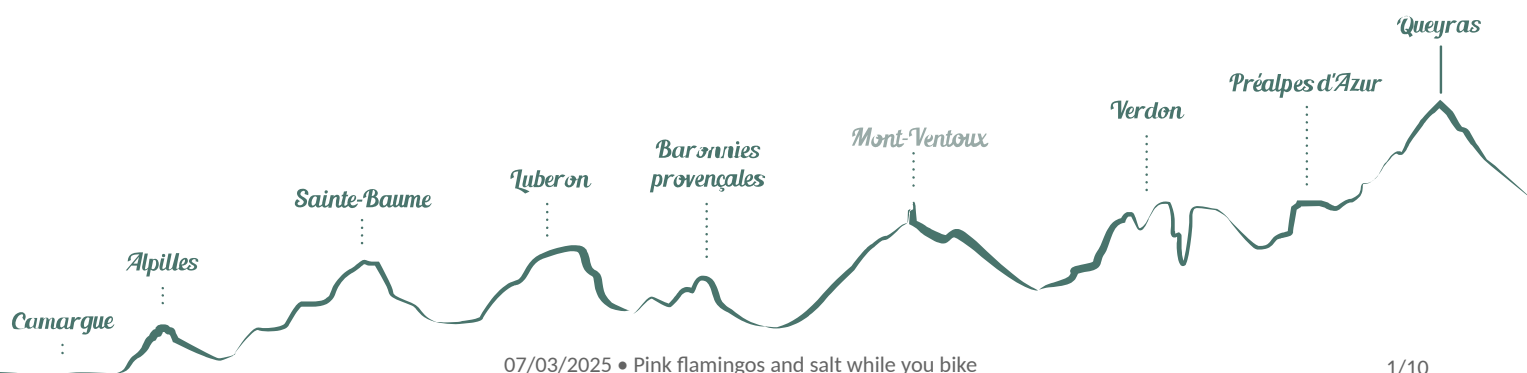
Trek ascent : 22 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : A lookout, a viewpoint, Fauna, Heritage and history

Accessibility : Hybrid bike



Trek

Departure : Tourist Office, Salin-de-Giraud

Arrival : Salin-de-Giraud

From the Tourist Office of Salin-de-Giraud, join the D36 towards Arles, then continue straight for 2 km.

1 - Turn left towards the Vaccarès pond and continue for 2 km. Do not miss the path to the left to go towards the Belugue and continue the path of the Belugue.

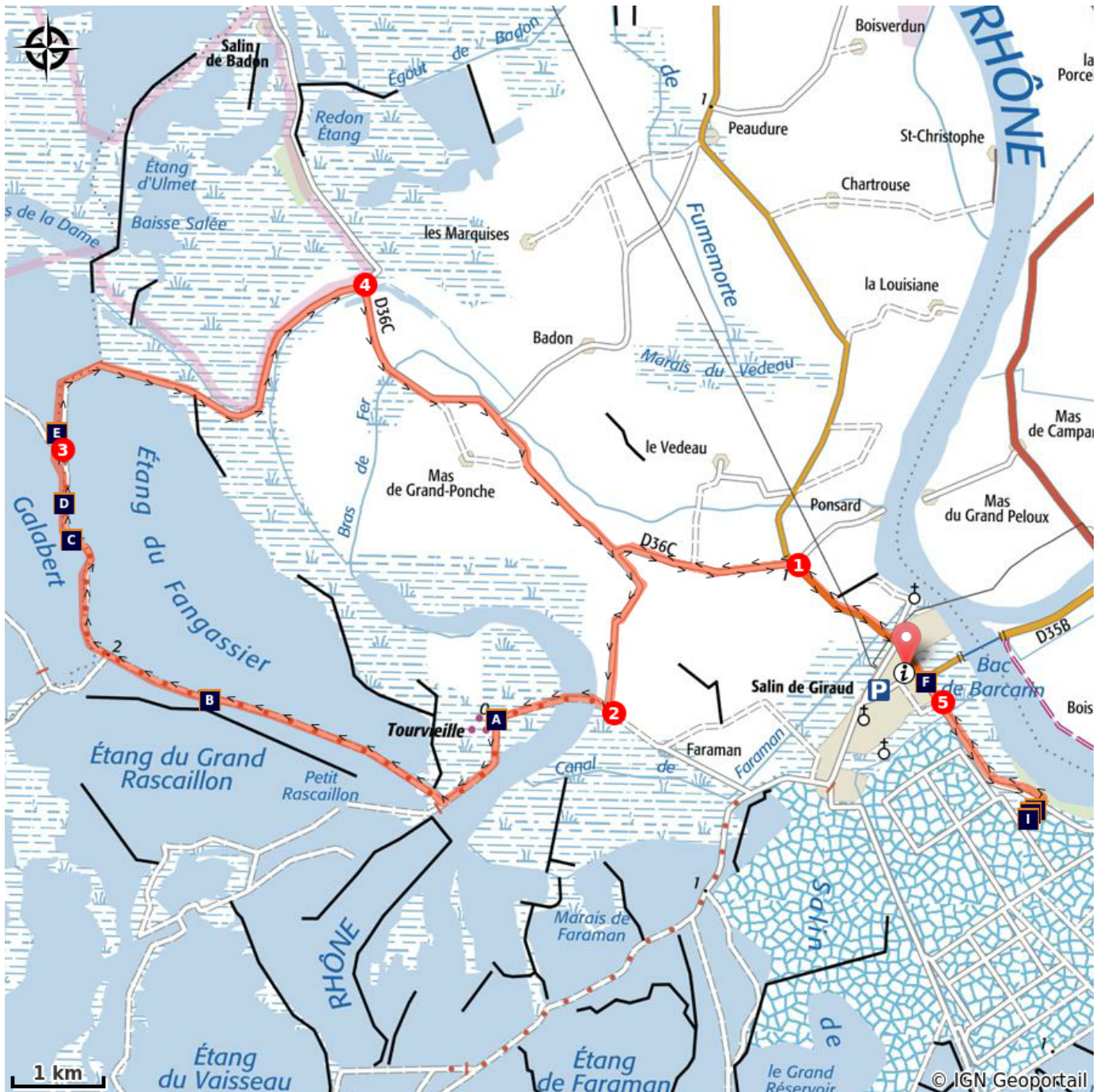
2 - Turn right after the stop sign and take the dirt road to the concrete car gauging. Pass the gauging (car over 2 m wide) located in front of the ruins of Tourvieille. Continue on the trail to the red striped barrier. Pass the barrier and walk along the Fangassier and Galabert ponds. The route is then only accessible on foot and by bike to the next barrier.






3 - Continue after the second barrier and pass in front of the flamingo observatory cabin. Continue straight on the track to the paved road, follow it for 4 km.

4 - Turn right on the D36c towards Saint-Bertrand Mas and Salin-de-Giraud. Leave the Saint-Bertrand Mas on the left and stay on the road in the direction of Salin-de-Giraud. Turn right and return to Salin-de-Giraud by the main road, the D36.

5 - In Salin-de-Giraud, take the bike path along the D36d on the left and then the road to reach the salt point of view. Then return to the Tourist Office of Salin-de-Giraud by returning on your path.

On your path...



-  The Tourvieille (or the Tourvieille or the Tanpan tower) (A)
-  Migratory Birds (C)
-  The Little Egret (E)
-  The salt history (G)
-  Salt perspective on salt marshes (I)

-  Glasswort (B)
-  Salt marshes (D)
-  The old hospital (F)
-  Salt (H)

All useful information

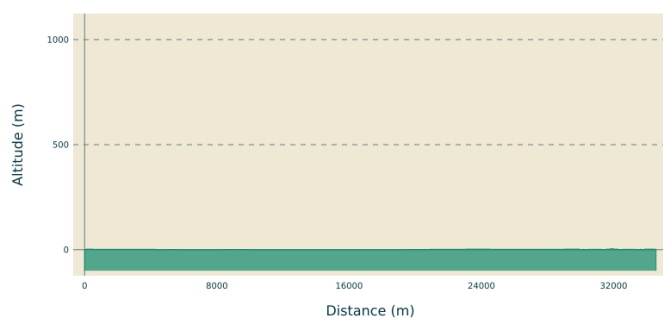
AdVICES

Stay alert on the D36, road frequented by cars!

Respect the rules of the road on roads open to public traffic.

Difficult traffic on dirt roads and tracks in case of rain or rising water. Difficult route in case of wind.

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 0 m

Max elevation 6 m

Transports

Envia transport network : Agglo 10> Arles / Salin-de-Giraud by Gageron and Villeneuve >>
www.tout-envia.com; www.pacamobilite.fr

Access

38 km south-east of Arles, by the D570 and the D36.

Advised parking

Stationnement devant l'Office de Tourisme, Salin de Giraud ou Parking Boulevard de la Gare, Salin-de-Giraud

Information desks

Domaine de La Palissade
BP 5, 13129 Salin-de-Giraud
palissade@parc-camargue.fr
Tel : +33 (0)4 42 86 81 28
<http://www.palissade.fr/>

OT Salin-de-Giraud
1 Boulevard Pierre Tournayre, 13129 SALIN DE GIRAUD
ot-salindegiraud@arlestourisme.com
Tel : +33 (0)4 42 86 89 77
<http://www.arlestourisme.com/>

On your path...



The Tourvieille (or the Tourvieille or the Tanpan tower) (A)

In the 15th century, the city was authorized by King René to build a defense tower (1614) at the main Rhone estuary at the time. Less than 50 years later, too far from river estuary, the tower became unnecessary. There are only a few remains visible in the heart of a terroir, where salty vegetation dominates as far as the eye can see. This building was listed as a historic monument in 1933 and integrated into the heritage of the littoral conservatory in 2008, which plans to preserve and enhance it.

Attribution : Chloé Scannapiéco - PNR Camargue



Glasswort (B)

Glasswort is a halophilic plant (magnet salt) that is a sansouïre feature. The leaves are replaced by small segments nested in each other. Those extremities store the excess salt and the plant gets rid of it periodically. This plant also recovers rainwater that it stores in its fleshy parts to lower the salt concentration in its tissues. Annual species are edible: stems harvested in spring are crisp and salty.

Attribution : Emmanuel Vialet - PNR Camargue



Migratory Birds (C)

Thanks to its tranquillity and food resources, the Camargue is a travel hub for migratory birds. Two great seasons punctuate the year. September sees trans-Saharan migrants arriving from northern and eastern Europe preparing for their journey to Africa. They are joined soon after by the ducks and the thousands of sparrows who will stay in the marshes for the winter. At the same time, sedentary species, such as the flamingo, fled from Camargue to warmer regions.

Attribution : Capucine Ser - PNR Camargue



Salt marshes (D)

Salt marshes are landscaped ponds in order to allow the concentration of water in sodium chloride. From this sodium chloride, companies manufacture the caustic soda necessary for the manufacture of Marseille soap. These marshes, because of their size and their richness in invertebrates, are areas appreciated by the birds, in particular by the pink flamingo which finds abundant food there and spends most of its time there.

Attribution : Chloé Scannapiéco - PNR Camargue



The Little Egret (E)

The Little Egret is one of the most famous birds in the Camargue. White plumage, black legs and yellowish fingers make it easily identifiable. In nuptial plumage, the neck of adults is adorned with two hoopoes about twenty centimeters and their back long silky feathers very thin with separate beards. Today widespread in the southern half of Europe, this species was on the verge of extinction in the early twentieth century, hunted for its feathers that decorated the hats.

Attribution : Chloé Scannapiéco - PNR Camargue



The old hospital (F)

Ernest Solvay was a social precursor, he integrated a system of social security. As a result, workers at Solvay benefited from health and social protection. Ernest Solvay's hygienist project is reflected in the landscape by equipment such as the hospital and bath-showers. A doctor and a midwife were hired. In addition, a pharmacy was developed and social funds were proposed. The social adventure of the Solvay factory is associated with its industrial history.

Attribution : Juliette Pimpier - PNR Camargue



The salt history (G)

The salt exploitation dates back to antiquity but took an industrial turn in the 19th century. with the installation of the Pechiney factory whose first production was that of soda. A supply of sea salt being necessary, Henri Merle, began the creation of the exploitation of Salin-de-Giraud. The development of chlorine and soda requirements led to the growth of the farm. Today, the company that operates the site is the Salins du Midi.

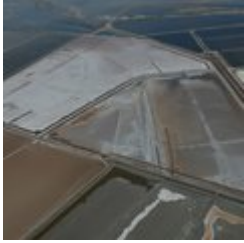
Attribution : Julien Faure - PNR Camargue



Salt (H)

In Camargue, the salt is very widely present in the soil. The proximity of the sea and the nature of flat and very clay soils favor the extraction of sea salt by evaporation of water. It is cultivated and harvested at the end of the summer on immense expanses, called "salins", under the combined effect of sun and wind. The white gold is then raised in long mounds of ten meters high, called camels, then washed, drained, ground, conditioned, and shipped.

Attribution : Emmanuel Vialet - PNR Camargue



Salt perspective on salt marshes (I)

A unique point of view on the Giraud salt which covers 6000 ha and produces about 450 000 tons of salt every year. Between June and September, large plots filled with water of a beautiful pearly pink sparkling in the sun appear. The pink colour of the salty table water comes from a microscopic seaweed living in the Mediterranean. On the left, we see the "camels", salt hills of more than 10 m high. The salt of Giraud production is intended for the salting of roads.

Attribution : Opus Species - PNR Camargue



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L'outil Geotrek a été financé par l'Union européenne, le Parc national des Ecrins et le Parc national du Mercantour.

Le projet Chemins des Parcs est financé par la Région Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur et les Parcs naturels régionaux des Alpilles, de Camargue, du Luberon, du Queyras et du Verdon.

Ce projet partenarial rassemble également le Comité Régional du Tourisme, les agences départementales de développement touristique, les offices de tourisme et les syndicats d'initiative.

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The Geotrek tool was funded by the European Union, the Ecrins National Park and the Mercantour National Park.

The Chemins des Parcs project is funded by the Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur Region and the regional nature parks of Alpilles, Camargue, Luberon, Queyras and the Verdon.

This project was developed in partnership with the Regional Tourism Committee, the departmental tourist development agencies, and tourist offices.

www.cheminsdesparcs.fr

*Tours et détours dans les Parcs naturels régionaux
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