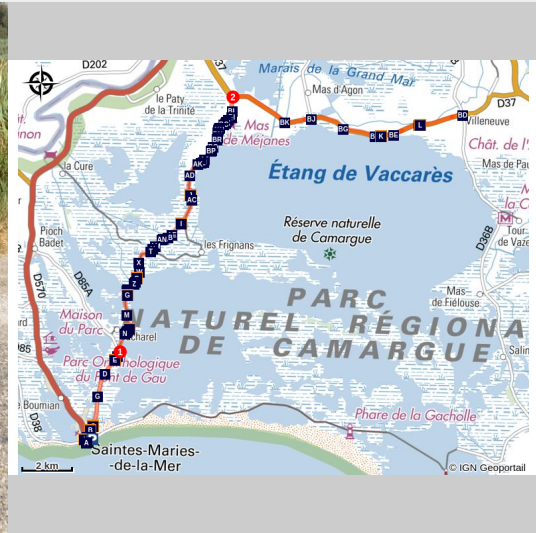


## L'étang de Vaccarès à vélo - jour 1

Arles



Cycliste le long du Vaccarès (Laurie Vanel - PNR Camargue)

*Cette balade le long de l'étang de Vaccarès, entre roseaux et sansouïres est un véritable appel au calme et à la flânerie.*

Ce premier jour de randonnée à vélo vous amène sur la rive ouest de l'étang de Vaccarès. Parmi les grandes étendues, vous pouvez observer les flamants roses et autres oiseaux typiques de Camargue. Cette première approche facile est l'occasion de découvrir des paysages exceptionnels.

### Useful information

Practice : BIKE

Duration : 3 h

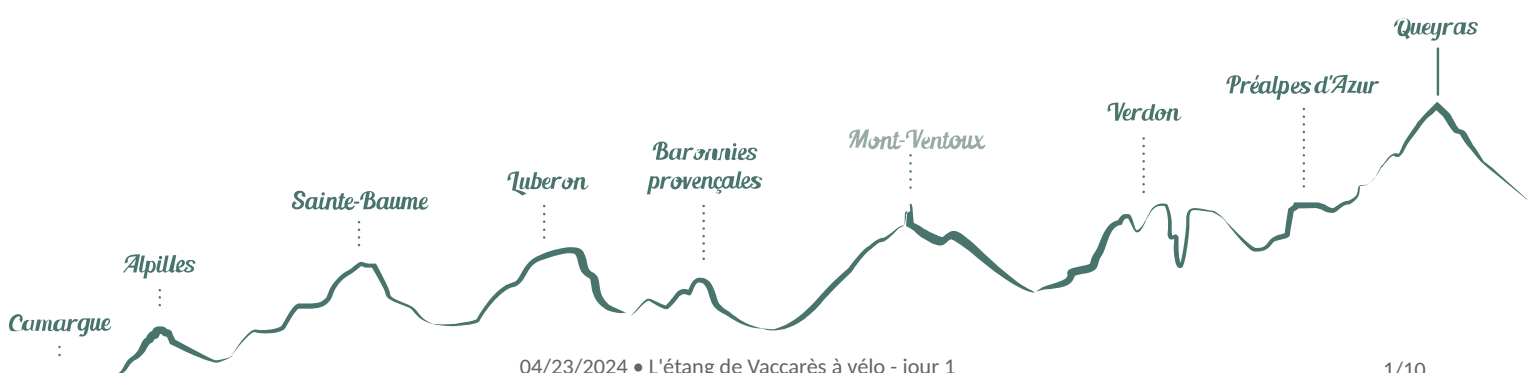
Length : 27.2 km

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Itinérance

Themes : A lookout, a viewpoint, Fauna, Flora

Accessibility : Hybrid bike



# Trek

Departure : Office de tourisme, Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer

Arrival : Carrefour D37 - D36B, hameau de Villeneuve, Arles







Dos à l'Office de Tourisme sur l'avenue Van Gogh, se diriger à droite. Au rond-point, emprunter la deuxième sortie et traverser le village en direction de la route de Cacharel sur 4 km.

**1** - A hauteur du petit parking, avant le mas de Cacharel, emprunter la piste des Cinq Gorges (dites de Méjanès) sur la droite. Poursuivre sur 11 km jusqu'au Domaine de Méjanès.

**2** - Après le Domaine de Méjanès, au panneau "cédez le passage", se diriger à droite sur la D37 et continuer sur 8 km. Longer l'étang du Vaccarès. Passer devant le point d'observation du Mas neuf du Vaccarès (mis en place par le Parc naturel régional de Camargue). Après l'observatoire, continuer en direction d'Arles et de Salin-de-Giraud jusqu'à Villeneuve.

# On your path...



-  The fortified church of Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer (A)
-  The Departmental Reserve of Imperialists (C)
-  The Mosquito (E)
-  Ponds or lagoons (G)
-  The European bee-eater (I)
-  The Camargue National Nature Reserve (K)

-  The eel (B)
-  Le Bouvau d'Aubanel (D)
-  Sweet and reed marshes (F)
-  The Bois des Rièges (H)
-  The Sansouïre (J)
-  Cultivated environments (L)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

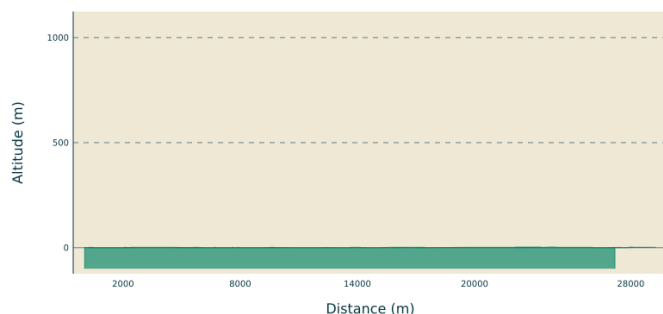
Respecter le code de la route sur les voies ouvertes à la circulation publique.

Rester vigilant sur la D37, route dangereuse et fréquentée !

L'itinéraire peut être effectué en 2 jours ("A vélo, le tour de Vaccarès en 2 jour", continuer le parcours de Villeneuve aux Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer par La Capelière), penser à réserver un hébergement en fonction de la distance à parcourir le premier jour. Contacter les Offices de tourisme des Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer et de Salin-de-Giraud.

Se garer dans un endroit sécurisé.

## **Altimetric profile**



Min elevation 0 m  
Max elevation 0 m

## **Transports**

Réseau de transport Envia : Ligne 20 > Arles/Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer par Albaron (Porte-vélos gratuits) >> [www.tout-envia.com](http://www.tout-envia.com); [www.pacamobilite.fr](http://www.pacamobilite.fr)

## **Access**

A 37 km au sud-ouest d'Arles, par la D570.

## **Advised parking**

Parking Avenue Gilbert Leroy, Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer

## Information desks

OT Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer - Tourisme en  
Camargue



5 Avenue Van Gogh, 13460 Saintes Maries de la Mer

[info@saintesmaries.com](mailto:info@saintesmaries.com)

Tel : 04 90 97 82 55

<http://www.saintesmaries.com/>

the Camargue museum

Mas du pont de rousty, 13200 Arles

[info@parc-camargue.fr](mailto:info@parc-camargue.fr)

Tel : +33 (0)4 90 97 10 40

<http://www.parc-camargue.fr/>



# On your path...

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## The fortified church of Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer (A)

True highlight of the Camargue (15 m), the church offers a breathtaking view of the village and all the Camargue. The 53 steps of a spiral staircase lead to the roof of the church where the panorama unfolds in all its splendour : up there, you can take advantage of a wide angle vision on the city, the sea and the ponds. Intense and sparkling blue of the Mediterranean Sea, purple hue of the Imperial pond The wind, the sun, the view of the calm expanse of the sea invite you to discover this landscape.

Attribution : Chloé Scannapiéco - PNR Camargue

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## The eel (B)

At the graus level (or passages), communication canals between the sea and the littoral ponds, you will find fish, towards the flooded sansouïre and the ponds or towards the sea. Migrating species include mullet, sea bass, but also sea bream, sole and especially eel. Born in the Sargasso Sea, she joined the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts after a long journey. She comes to grow in the coastal ponds or rivers where she spends several years of her life.

Attribution : Julien Faure - PNR Camargue

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## The Departmental Reserve of Imperialists (C)

Classified Departmental Reserve, Imperial and Malagroy Ponds were acquired by the Departmental Council of Bouches-du-Rhone in 1964 to protect these fragile natural environments (2,770 ha) which are home to many species of birds. The fishing, a traditional activity in Camargue, is practiced in the Imperial reserve in a boat without motor which imposes the use, as formerly, of the "partygue" (pole). Fishermen are looking for shrimps, eels.

Attribution : Chloé Scannapiéco - PNR Camargue

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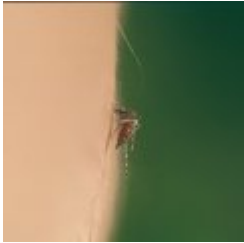


## Le Bouvau d'Aubanel (D)

The Baroncelli marquis, famous character of Camargue life, gave to his manade the name of Manade Santenco which means, in Provençal, manade of Saintes-Maries. At the death of the marquis, his son-in-law Henri Aubanel then manages the Santenco manade.. On June 15, 1996, the Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer inaugurate the Henri Aubanel bouvau, a circular enclosure where bulls are grouped after selection. At the death of Henri Aubanel, his son Pierre manages the manade that he renames Aubanel Baroncelli Santenco manade.

Attribution : Juliette Primpier - PNR Camargue

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## The Mosquito (E)

There are 40 species of mosquitoes but only ten are biting. Females recover protein from the human blood that are necessary for the maturation of their eggs. They lay thousands of eggs on the soil dried up that are waiting, sometimes years, the rise of the waters to hatch. The mosquito is inconvenient for the man but it is useful to many species: dragonflies, fish, bats ... that feed on them. It is therefore an indispensable link in the Camargue biodiversity.

Attribution : Emmanuel Vialet - PNR Camargue



## Sweet and reed marshes (F)

The "soft" marshes are characteristic of the upper Camargue, where the influence of salt is less marked. Consisting of a dense and high vegetation (reeds, cattails, bulrushes), they are a sanctuary for many birds (ducks, stilts ...), amphibians and reptiles. The reed beds, interspersed with open water, extend into these slightly brackish freshwater marshes. Habitat of waterfowl, some are cut in winter for harvesting the reed, which is used to cover the thatch roofs.

Attribution : Chloé Scannapiéco - PNR Camargue



## Ponds or lagoons (G)

The Vaccarès, ruler of the average Camargue, and the lower salt ponds are the heart of the Camargue. Separated from the sea by a sandy cordon, they are in intermittent communication with the sea. A favourite place for birds and fish, they play a vital biological role in the delta and play a major role in water management. Millions of young marine fish come here to spend the first year of their lives before returning to the sea.

Attribution : Chloé Scannapiéco - PNR Camargue



## The Bois des Rièges (H)

Located in the heart of the Camargue National Nature Reserve, the Bois des Rièges has been classified as an integral reserve since 1927. The wood consists of 8 massive wooded dunes, the last vestiges of a Camargue coastline some 3000 years ago! There is also: large juniper groves, centennial Phenicia and umbrella pines. No incongruous remains that dot so often Provençal nature, the Bois des Rièges is the last space of the Camargue where nature has retained its rights.

Attribution : Chloé Scannapiéco - PNR Camargue



## The European bee-eater (I)

Brown top, blue-green underside, black-necked yellow throat, wings and olive-green tail, one would believe the bee-eater escaped from an exotic aviary. He digs his nest in the embankments or canal banks where he lives in the colony. His name comes from his diet, composed of big insects: dragonflies, beetles and wasps that he can seize without being bitten by his long beak. Agile, he crushes his victims against his perch, ejecting the venomous sting, before offering it to his little ones.

Attribution : Chloé Scannapiéco - PNR Camargue

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## The Sansouïre (J)

Representative landscape of the lower Camargue, the sansouïre constitutes an environment where salt exerts a total influence. She lives to the rhythm of the seasons: large body of salt water in winter, mudflats in spring and autumn, cracked ground and salt-white desert in summer. The vegetation, low and sheepish, is brown in winter, green in spring and red in autumn. Only a few specialized plant species develop there, because of the strong presence of salt: salicornia, soda, obione, saladella .

Attribution : PNR Camargue

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## The Camargue National Nature Reserve (K)

The Camargue National Reserve was created in 1927 by the National Society for Nature Protection (association) to protect animal and plant species. True heart of the Camargue, the Reserve covers 13,117ha, much of which is formed by the Vaccarès pond. The reserve offers many accomodation possibilities and tours: the Capelière, Salin-de-Badon and the lighthouse of Gacholle. The Capelière is the welcome point of the Reserve. You will find exhibitions, documentation, discovery trails. Entry authorizations for the observatories in Salin-de-Badon are issued at La Capelière.

Attribution : G. Caffier - PNR Camargue

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## Cultivated environments (L)

The Camargue is both an extensive breeding ground (bulls and horses) but also a field crop area (rice and wheat). Cereal and oilseed crop growing areas occupy the uplands. The strong natural constraints that weigh on these productions require important investments in terms of irrigation and drainage. On the other hand, extensive rangeland systems are spread over natural environments (pastures, reed beds, marshes).

Attribution : Opus Species - PNR Camargue

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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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[www.cheminsdesparcs.fr](http://www.cheminsdesparcs.fr)

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