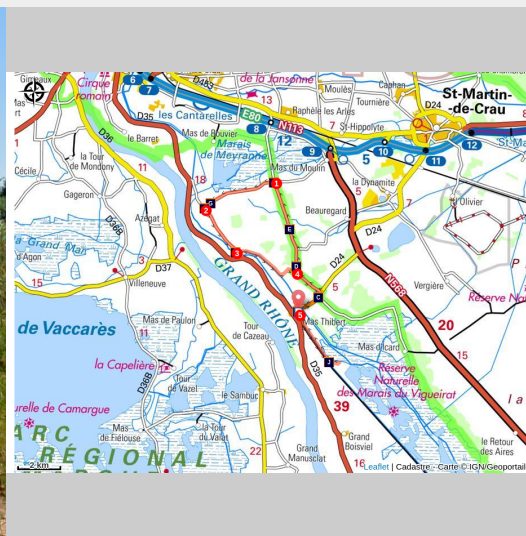


Cycling from Crau to the Vigueirat marshes.

Arles



(©Juliette Primpier - PNR Camargue)



Discover the Crau and its exceptional steppe

From the village of Mas-Thibert, this loop is a good introduction to discover the natural heritage of the Crau lowland. It is not uncommon to see near or near the horses and bulls of Camargue but also sheep. The smell of Crau hay and the lapping water of the Vigueirat canal will accompany you during your journey. To end this pleasant hike, it will be the bee-eaters, during the summer season, that will escort you to the Vigueirat Marshes.

Useful information

Practice : BIKE

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 27.9 km

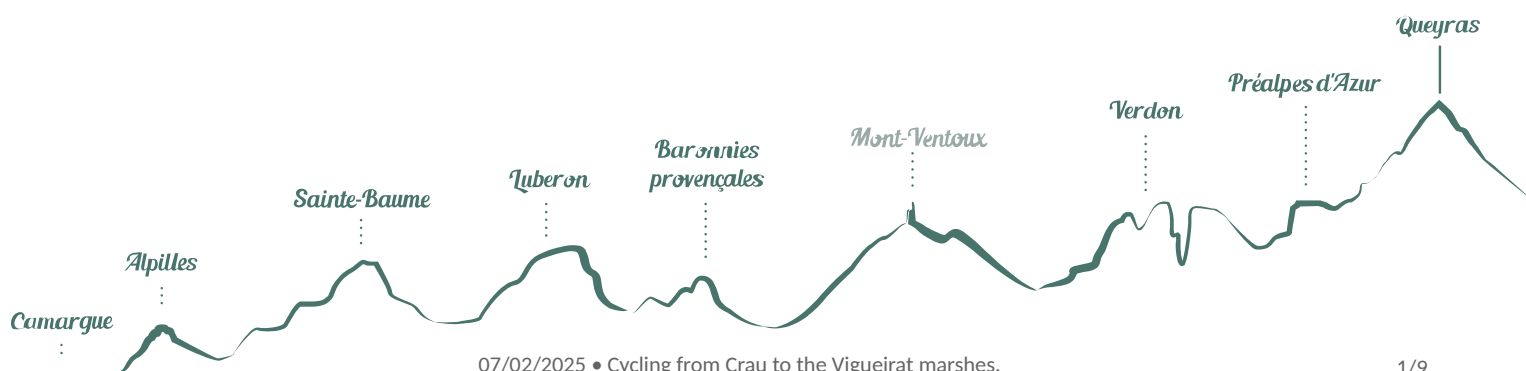
Trek ascent : 30 m

Difficulty : Very easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : Farming and pastoralism,
Flora, Waters and rivers


Accessibility : Hybrid bike



Trek

Departure : Stadium, Mas-Thibert

Arrival : Mas-Thibert

Markings :  Vélo

Back to the stadium, head to the right. At the intersection with the D24, turn right. Cross the canal du Vigueirat then 1.5 km after, go left on the C66 towards Raphèle-les-Arles. Continue for about 6.5 km.

1 - At the junction, turn to the left and take the path of the Canons (C64). Continue for about 4 km, past Tapie Saint-Léger and Le Mas de l'Hoste.

2 - At the intersection with the path of the Pont Calada (C65), head to the left. Continue for 2.5 km.

3 - At the Vigueirat Canal, take the dirt road C67 Volpeliere, take to the left. Walk along the canal for 3.5 km.

4 - At the junction with the C66, turn right to join Mas-Thibert on the same route as to go back to the Mas-Thibert stadium.

5 - From the Mas-Thibert stadium, continue on Avenue Alain Guigue, follow the signs "Marais du Vigueirat" by the bike path then the dirt road. Continue on the Etourneau path (C71). Take the opposite way to return to Mas-Thibert stadium.

On your path...



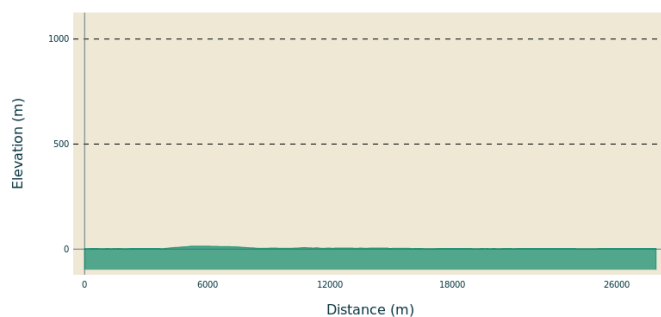
- | | |
|---|---|
|  The saddlery (A) |  The Mas-Thibert village (B) |
|  The fighting bulls (C) |  La Crau (D) |
|  The Crau's hay (E) |  The Camargue Regional Nature Park (F) |
|  La Crau, land of sheep (G) |  Rice fields (H) |
|  The Vigueirat canal (I) |  The Vigueirat marshes (J) |

All useful information

Advices

On the D24, caution, dangerous road!
Respect the rules of the road on roads open to public traffic.

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 2 m
Max elevation 14 m

Access

19 km south of Arles, by the D35.

Advised parking

Stationnement le long du stade, Mas-Thibert

Information desks

OT Arles

9 Boulevard des Lices, 13200 Arles
ot-arles@arlestourisme.com
Tel : +33 (0)4 90 18 41 20
<http://www.arlestourisme.com/fr/>

the Camargue museum
Mas du pont de rousty, 13200 Arles
info@parc-camargue.fr
Tel : +33 (0)4 90 97 10 40
<http://www.parc-camargue.fr/>



On your path...



The saddlery (A)

Mr. Mison, master saddler and best worker of France with the presentation of a saddle gardiane in 1961, worked in guardian cabin known as "upholstery Jean Mison", located along the D35. There were cabaniers and a saddlery workshop in Mas-Thibert. Ferrand Meffre, his cousin and best worker in France, has returned to his workshop.. The saddlery has gained an international reputation, they did Gardianes saddles for Ronald Reagan but also for Johnny Hallyday
Attribution : ©Juliette Primpier - PNR Camargue



The Mas-Thibert village (B)

Mas-Thibert joined the Camargue Regional Nature Park in 2011. In the 1960s, a community of Harkis settled in the village, now constituting one of the largest harkis communities in France. The village is the only cycling stop of the ViaRhôna between Arles and Port-Saint-Louis. The presence of Vigueirat's 'Marshes, protected natural site that belongs to the Conservatoire du Littoral, near the village allows visitors to discover the local natural heritage.

Attribution : ©Muriel Cervilla - PNR Camargue



The fighting bulls (C)

Two breeds of bulls exist in Camargue. For the most part we find the bull from Camargue (Raço di bioù) used for the traditional Camargue race. The second breed is of Spanish origin or fighting breed and was introduced in 1869. It provides bullfighting animals. Mas-Thibert has a large concentration of breeding bulls fighting, we find the ganaderias of Roland Durand, d'Alain and Frédérique Tardieu, of the Tardieu4s brothers and Gallon4s brothers.

Attribution : ©Chloé Scannapiéco - PNR Camargue



La Crau (D)

Former delta of the Durance, the Crau is the last steppe of Western Europe. Fragile natural space, it is partly devoted to vegetable and fruit crops and sheep farming. The Crau flora is diversified : scrubland (rosemary, thyme, lavender), wetlands and cushionoul, a stony steppe with arid character. These Crau cushions benefit from a strong protection status: a Nature Reserve of more than 7400 ha.

Attribution : ©CEN PACA



The Crau's hay (E)

First choice, the Crau's hay is the first non-human food, which obtained a Denomination of Controlled Origin (AOC), in 1997. This notoriety, and this quality, stemming from ancestral know-how allow the Crau's hay to be sold in many French regions and abroad. The hay is watered by the Durance which is loaded with silt and mineral matter, so the soil is rich. Of the 52,000 ha of Crau, 12,000 ha are grassland through irrigation.

Attribution : ©Juliette Primpier - PNR Camargue



The Camargue Regional Nature Park (F)

You are entering the Camargue Regional Nature Park! Located in the migration pattern of North European birds who pass through the Rhone valley towards Africa, this area offers to countless species a territory where they can move freely in huge protected areas. Horses, bulls, flamingos, waders ... It is also one of the few parks with a significant coastline sharing borders with a Natural Marine Park.

Attribution : ©DR



La Crau, land of sheep (G)

The Crau is a grazed land, there are about 100,000 sheep that roam the lowland between mid-October and April, most are Arles Merinos. This local sheep breed comes from a cross between the rustic Crau breed and merino. Arles Merino is bred for lambs and its wool is elastic, light and warm. The landscape is composed of many sheepfolds, some of which date from the Gallo-Roman era. Livestock farming has been important for millennia.

Attribution : ©DR



Rice fields (H)

Rice farming has been present in the Camargue since the post-war period. Complex, this culture follows several stages: lifting, tillering, bolting, return and flowering. The land is flooded to promote the germination of rice grains and prevent the proliferation of fungi. Rice farming therefore requires freshwater irrigation and extensive drainage to develop the saltiest land. Huge amounts of water between the two arms of the Rhône (400 million m3 per year) are needed.

Attribution : ©Marjorie Mercier - PNR Camargue



The Vigueirat canal (I)

This canal was built between 1642 and 1647 in order to clean up the "Vigueirie" (an agricultural plain between the Montagnette and the Alpilles) by draining the waste water to the sea. The Vigueirat Canal, which begins in the town of Tarascon, is 46 km long. It is partly classified in the Marais du Vigueirat. National Nature Reserve. Its outlet is located in the Canal from Arles to Bouc. It is automated since 1996 and managed by the large maritime harbour of Marseille.

Attribution : ©Juliette Primpier - PNR Camargue



The Vigueirat marshes (J)

The Vigueirat marshes is one of the largest territories (958 ha) acquired by the Conservatoire du littoral in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. This area is a mosaic of wetlands characteristic of the Camargue and offers a great diversity in terms of flora (more than 400 plant species) and fauna (more than 270 bird species). The marshes are composed of natural environments typical of the ecosystems of the Rhône delta: sansouires, ponds, sculpies and reed beds

Attribution : ©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

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