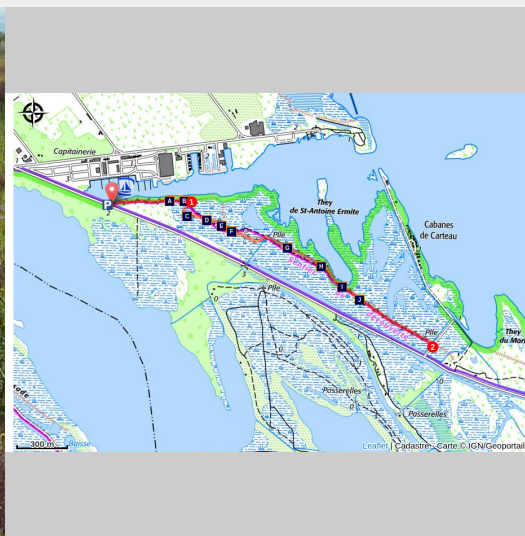


## They du Mazet, the Rhône estuary

Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône



They du Mazet (©OT Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône)

### *The They du Mazet, a remarkable wildlife and a wild coastal landscape of great beauty !*

In the direction of the Napoléon beach, discover the they du Mazet, a sandy formation modelled by the sea and the river. The round trip on the trail of the they du Mazet allows you to enjoy the typical landscapes of the Camargue and the wildlife that lives there ! You will stroll along the sansouires while being able to see pink flamingos or herons. A feeding, resting and breeding area for many birds, the they du Mazet is home to exceptional wildlife !

### Useful information

Practice : WALKING

Duration : 2 h 30

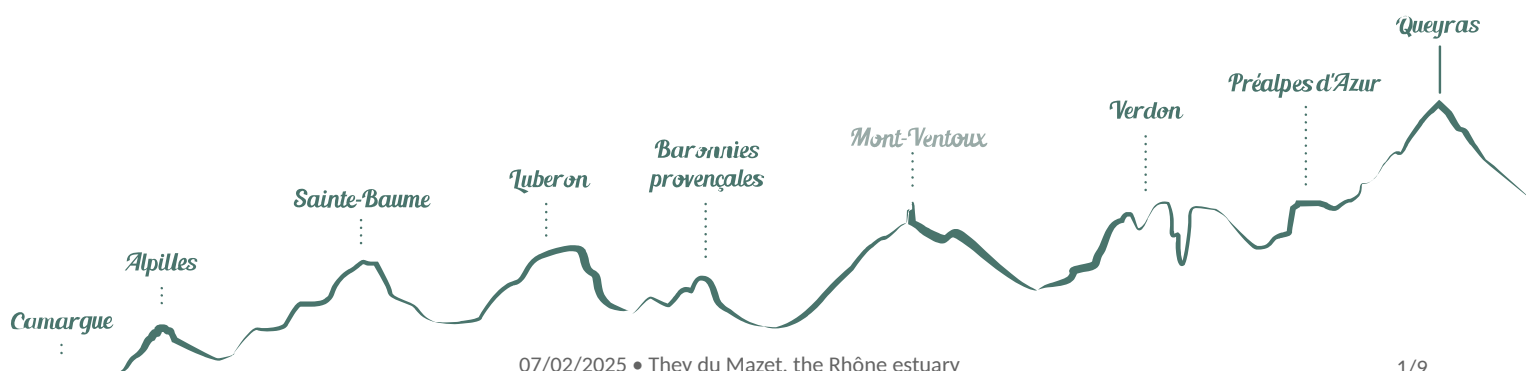
Length : 4.7 km

Trek ascent : 4 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Aller-retour

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Waters and rivers



# Trek

Departure : Route de la Plage Napoléon, Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône

Arrival : Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône

On the Route de la Plage Napoléon, start hiking to the Conservatoire du Littoral sign : " They de l'embouchure du Rhône". Continue the sandy path for more than 400 m.

**1** - After passing the "cordon dunaire" sign, at the bend, turn right to go to the "Le canal de Saint-Antoine" sign. Then follow the red arrows that lead to the sign "La Faune du Mazet" and continue to the next sign "Le Chevalier Gambette : une espèce en danger ". Continue to the gateway. After the gateway, follow the path to the next gateway.

**2** - At the second gateway, turn around and take the path in the opposite direction to return to the starting point.

# On your path...



The dune cord (A)



The sansouire (C)



The Mazet coastline (E)



The industrial interface (G)



The Grand-Rhône estuary (I)



The Saint-Antoine canal (B)



The Redshank, a species in danger (D)



The Mazet fauna (F)



The pink flamingo (H)



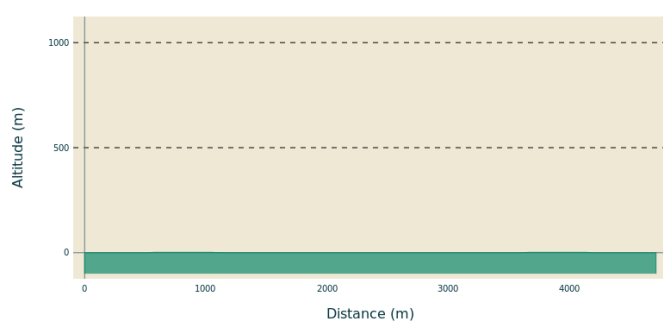
The theys of the mouth of the Rhone (J)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Respect the footpath so as not to trample the vegetation.  
Respect the surrounding animals.  
Discovery trail with landscape reading boards.  
Circuit not recommended in rainy weather.

## **Altimetric profile**



Min elevation 0 m  
Max elevation 2 m

## **Transports**

Envia transport network : 40 km south of Arles, by the D35. [www.pacamobilite.fr](http://www.pacamobilite.fr); [www.lepilote.com](http://www.lepilote.com)

## **Access**

40 km south of Arles, by the D35.

## **Advised parking**

Le long de la route de la plage Napoléon, Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône

## **Information desks**

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

OT Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône  
Tour Saint Louis - Quai Bonnardel, 13230 Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône  
[contact@portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr](mailto:contact@portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr)  
Tel : 04 42 86 01 21  
<http://www.portsaintlouis-tourisme.fr/>

# On your path...

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## The dune cord (A)

The dunes are the result of rearrangements following the creation of the Saint-Antoine canal. The sandy substrate more or less coarse is a set constantly remodeled by winds and spray, experiencing a severe drought. This typical Mediterranean habitat is populated by characteristic and fragile species that must be protected. L'Immortelle des Sables is very present on the dunes of Mazet, it owes its name to the exceptional longevity of its flowers.

Attribution : Juliette Pimpier - PNR Camargue

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## The Saint-Antoine canal (B)

Sea trades have always been an important sector for the development of Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône. The area around the canal, locally known as the "new canal", has recently been developed to favor the establishment of businesses oriented towards the maritime sector. At the edge of this canal, we find a booming recreational sector, a shellfish farming sector (mussel and oyster farming) and a fishing and seafood processing sector.

Attribution : Juliette Pimpier - PNR Camargue

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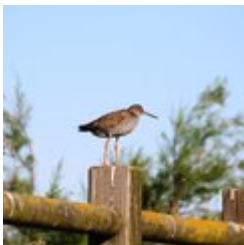


## The sansouire (C)

The sansouire is characterized by the high salt content of a non-irrigated soil whose silt is bleached by the rise of salt. Only halophilic plants resist: salicornia, saladella, Obione and soda. The combustion of soda produces crystals formerly used for the manufacture of Marseille soaps or in the manufacture of glass. From the 13th to the 19th century, this plant is harvested and marketed by Camarguais, then it is replaced by chemical soda.

Attribution : Juliette Pimpier - PNR Camargue

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## The Redshank, a species in danger (D)

This elegant wading bird is easily recognizable by its average size (25 cm). This bird has long legs and a bright orange bill, the brown colour of its plumage reveals a white area on the back. His flute song is bi-syllabic. The theys of Mazet and Levant welcome each year several couples; the first arrives in March. The period extends until the month of July. The nests are very discreet, hidden on the ground or in the dense clumps of the salicorne.

Attribution : Emmanuel Vialet - PNR Camargue





## The Mazet coastline (E)

The Mazet coastline is part of the Carteau cove, which is characterized by a shallow water depth and regular freshwater inputs from the Rhone, suitable for a wide variety of plant and animal species. The pink flamingo and many waders feed on the micro-fauna buried in the ground. Its muddy bottoms host varied seashells and the waters a great diversity of fish such as gilthead sea bream. This beach is very popular with fishermen.

Attribution : Muriel Cervilla - PNR Camargue



## The Mazet fauna (F)

Several species benefit from the Mazet spaces. The Garenne rabbit is a small twilight and nocturnal rodent that lives in colonies in burrows, galleries dug in the sandy soil (garennas). The nutria is a rodent of 6 kg on average who lives in the roubines (small canals). The fox is an easy-going predator that feeds on birds and small mammals. One can easily spot the traces of plowing from wild boar that he makes with his snout to eat.

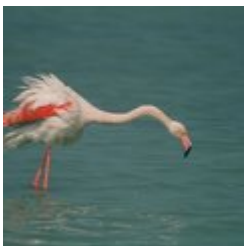
Attribution : Emmanuel Vialet - PNR Camargue



## The industrial interface (G)

The industrial-port area, built in the 1970s, is a vast site of almost 10,000 ha. This strategic location is explained by the presence of the sea and sandy bottoms facilitating the development in favor of navigation. Natural spaces remain and it is important to protect them. The Mazet is a witness of the changes to the Rhone estuary in the course of time. This sandy formation modeled by the sea and the river is regularly submerged.

Attribution : Muriel Cervilla - PNR Camargue



## The pink flamingo (H)

Emblem of the Camargue, the pink flamingo owes its colour partly to the carotene pigments contained in its food (crustaceans, algae and invertebrates). This species moves around the Mediterranean but it is in the Camargue that there is the largest population, single reproduction island. In the spring, they nest in the colony, the male and the female incubate in turn the only egg deposited in a mud nest. Gray at birth, he will fly when he is around 10 weeks old and will turn pink around 3 years old.

Attribution : Emmanuel Vialet - PNR Camargue



### The Grand-Rhône estuary (I)

Over the centuries, the formation of the Rhone delta has shaped the aspect of its estuary. The strong floods of 1711 created the current bed of the Rhone River. The current estuary is the widest of the last two Rhone estuary, which counted up to seven! The Rhone estuary is accessible from the Napoléon beach by walking towards the north-west (2h).

Attribution : Opus Species - PNR Camargue

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### The theys of the mouth of the Rhone (J)

A they is a sandy formation modeled by the sea and the river. Around the Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhone, the theys have gradually become interconnected. They are called ships or captains. The They du Mazet, acquired by the Conservatoire du littoral since 1980 is a feeding, resting and breeding area for many birds and an abundant and original flora. They of the Gracieuse mark the entrance of the Cove of Carteau and that of Roustan leads to the Napoleon beach.

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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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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