

CAMARGUE

Authentic

A land between
sea and sky

Among sea,
Rhône and Les
Saintes, living
is good, God
knows.

Folco de Baroncelli



SAINTE
MARIES
DE LA MER
TOURISME

Welcome to Saintes Maries de la Mer

You are entering into “terra incognita », on a territory unlike any other. Even those who live a few kilometers away come looking for a change of scenery, just for an afternoon. A place out of time. You are here in Camargue, an authentic and preserved territory, proud of its traditions. The village, sea, nature, pilgrimages and festivities ... provide the set and actors for experiences that will broaden your perspectives.



OUR HIGH POINTS



January

EXPOSITION OF A PROVENÇALE NATIVITY SCENE

February

CAMAGRI, CAMARGUE HORSE FAIR

March

START OF COURSES CAMARGUAISES

April

RAYNAUD'S DAY - CAMARGUESES EASTER

May

AUBANEL'S DAY - FESTIVAL OF CAMARGUE AND RHÔNE'S DELTA PILGRIMAGE - BARONCELLI'S DAY

June

VAN GOGH'S WEEK - VOTIVE FEAST
FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE

July

HARBOR'S FESTIVAL - HORSE FERIA - SONGE D'UNE NUIT EN CAMARGUE (LIGHTS AND SOUND, FREE) - FÊSTE VIERGINENCO - EQUESTRIAN AND BULLS SHOW IN THE ARENA

August

"CAMARGUE PLURIELLE" TRADITIONS AND TAUROMACHIES - EQUESTRIAN AND BULLS SHOW IN THE ARENA

Septembre

RACES OF TAÛ (ON WENESDAYS AT THE ARENA)
SALADELLE FESTIVAL - CLUB TAURIN MIREILLE'S PARTY - LOCAL MERCHANTS'S SALES
HORSE FESTIVAL

Octobre

RACES OF TAÛ (ON WENESDAYS AT THE ARENA)
PILGRIMAGE OF OCTOBRE - EVOCATION OF THE SAINTES MARIES'S ARRIVAL - MAINTENANCE FESTIVAL - ACOSO Y DERRIBO - HALLOWEEN

Novembre

ABRIVADO'S FESTIVAL - BEACH CHALLENGE

Decembre

PILGRIMAGE OF DECEMBER
WINTER FESTIVITIES

“The first aurochs, it's the sea that stopped their wild run”



In the heart of Camargue

Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer is not a go through : it a go to.

The vast plain of Camargue was formed by alluvium left by the ancient branches of the Rhône, wich, over the centuries, have changed bed several times. The containment of the large and small Rhône has made Camargue into an island, prefectly delimited, to the North by Arles, to the South by the the Mediterranean, to the East by the Rhône and the mouth of the river, to the West by the small Rhône that ends in the sea at Saintes-Maries.

Despite a very dry appearance, the marines dunes hold a fresh water reserve that allows a rich and colorfull flora

to grow.
The lagoons, shallow brackish ponds with numerous connections to each other and, in the past, to the sea via the “graus” (estuaries). Grasslands, sought-after by breeders who contribute to the quality of the Camargue landscape: daffodils in winter, daisies in spring, saladelles in summer... Marshes supplied with fresh or slightly salty water by a network of “roubines” are often of major ornithological interest.

TO SEE EVERYTHING : Rent a mountain bike for a ride on the trails and paths, or take a horse or carriage ride to take some height.

Experience the incredible sense of space offered by a protected territory. Untouched lands, dry or wet stretches, pine forests, ponds, meadows, sansouïres, rice fields, vineyards...each walk offers a new discovery.

Flamingos, bulls and horses remain the unavoidable guests of these lands. They share this space with dozens of other plant and animal species that the discerning eye quickly learns to detect.



The Camargue cross

Water, earth and the sky together form Camargue... This emblematic symbol of Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-mer is the ideal souvenir to give to loved ones for a message of affection.

In 1926, at the request of Marquis Folco de Baroncelli, painter and sculptor Hermann Paul created a work symbolically associating the gardians and the fishermen, the two components of the people of Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer. It symbolizes the three theological virtues :



Respect the Nature

Les bons Gestes

Respect the local environment

- Don't throw garbage into nature
- Do not throw cigarette butts on the beach, use pocket ashtrays

Avoid polluting transport, favour soft mobility

share your experiences

Take a stroll through the markets at and discover local products and crafts.

Use natural products good for the ecosystem

Carefully read the advices on how to behave in nature

Clean the beach after your visit, clean nature when you leave it

Sort your waste

Use water bottles

Meet the local population

Visit the tourist office to find out more about the natural world around you

Choose activities that respect the environment

Avoid over-consumption of water
Showers, dishwashing, laundry

Reduce considerably the use of air conditioning

Learn how to conserve flora and fauna

Enjoy nature

- Use walking and cycling paths
- Don't walk on the dunes
- Be careful where you walk, there may be nests

Turn off the lights and do not leave the television on standby.





The Camargue horse

Between entertainment and tradition

Stocky, rustic, used to walking in the brackish waters of the ponds, white to fight the summer sun, this little horse will take you around at its own pace to help you appreciate the natural environment at its best: at a slow speed to respect the peace and quiet of the flamingos, herons, ducks and other species.

“To be happy on horseback is to be between heaven and earth, at a height that doesn't exist.”



The Camargue bull

The “Raço di Biou” has been present in the Camargue since time immemorial. It can be identified by its black coat and lyre-shaped horns. The bull is the real attraction of the Course Camarguaise. In fact, some bulls become legends, and grateful enthusiasts don't hesitate to erect statues to them.

Experience the thrill of a Camargue race in the arena



In the Camargue race, the raseteurs challenge the bulls to remove the attributes (cockade, tassels, strings) attached to their horns. The “raset” technique consists in meeting the bull, getting as close as possible to its head in order to snatch its attributes with a hook, disengaging as quickly as possible and running back to the fence, pursued by the animal, to take shelter behind the planks. A

bull's run lasts 15 minutes, and a bull runs many races over the course of its career (from 8 to 15 years). The Camargue bull is never put to death.





History of the Saintes

The Saintes-Maries, land of pilgrimages

Since time immemorial, the village has been the center of popular pilgrimages.

The Saintes Maries has been a place of pilgrimage since the 12th century. The relics of the saints (Marie Jacobé and Marie Salomé) discovered in 1448 during excavations ordered by King René are particularly venerated during two pilgrimages.

The May pilgrimage, dedicated to Sara the Black, saint of Gypsies on May 24, and to the Saintes Maries on May 25 (feast of Marie Jacobé).

The October pilgrimage, the weekend closest to October 22 (feast of Marie Salomé)

The December pilgrimage, the first weekend of December (history has kept the date December 4 for the discovery of the relics).

These gatherings, especially the one in May, attract huge crowds, especially on "Gypsy Day".



The Church

Notre Dame de la Mer

More than a monument, a symbol



When the church was built in the 9th and 12th centuries, pirates were raiding the coast and it was necessary to defend against invasions. The church overlooking the village can be seen from 10 km inland. It is a true fortress. The roof is surrounded by a parapet walk, with battlements and machicolations, and served as a watchtower. It comprises a single 15-metre-high nave, a choir and an apse surmounted by a semi-circular keep containing the former guardroom known as the "high chapel". The church walls are pierced with loopholes.

La Festo Vierginenco

It's the moment when each young girl leaves the costume of Mireille to wear the one of the Arlésienne and enter adulthood. Created by Frédéric Mistral in 1904, this festival takes place every July in Les Saintes Maries de la Mer.



The village



Let yourself be overwhelmed by the village's authentic charm. Experience the majesty of the fortified church, learn the history and traditions at the museum, then the vitality of the lively, colorful shopping streets. Admire the light of the small white houses from the seafront promenade. Settle down on the terrace of a good restaurant to enjoy the local flavors. Discover the capital of the Camargue, set timelessly between sea and marsh.

DON'T MISS: a tour of the village on the little train, a climb to the roof of the church, shopping in the charming shopping streets, strolling through the Monday or Friday market on the gypsy square, ending the day with a flamenco evening. The Tourist Office also offers guided tours of the village.



The Nature

A specific and inspiring



The Camargue, located between the Rhône and the Mediterranean, is a unique delta with a variety of landscapes: wild beaches, bathing areas and rich ecosystems. This unspoilt, sparsely populated territory is home to a remarkable fauna, including pink flamingos, and serves as a migratory stopover for over 150,000 birds. The

village of Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, at the heart of the region, becomes a popular summer spot, while remaining a protected natural paradise. The region, with its immaculate beaches and protected areas, offers an ideal setting for nature lovers.

NAVIGATE & ENJOY THE BEACH: sail out to sea and then up the Rhône on a tour boat, go kayaking, enjoy the comfort of private beaches...

The gardian's ♥ house

Originally a modest habitation for “people of the land”, gardians, fishermen, salt workers, paluniers and shepherds.

The traditional hut can be recognized by its low, rounded shape to the north and its sagne (reed) roof. The traditional architecture of this hut is the fruit of simplicity and ingenuity.

Its apse turns its back to the mistral, its low whitewashed walls offer protection from the wind and sun, and its steeply pitched roof allows rainwater to run off. Crossed by a rafter, the end is topped by a cross-shaped piece of wood. In the past, hut walls were built from marsh materials: clay and reeds.

Today, other materials are used and the cabins have been converted into attractive homes, but the architecture has been preserved for the pleasure of keeping tradition alive.

At Les Saintes-Maries, on the western outskirts of the village, visitors can admire an avenue of traditional huts, the first of which date back to 1945-50.



the sea wall

As far as eye can see

“Accessible on foot, by bike or on horseback, it offers a superb crossing of the Camargue”



The Gastronomy



Saintois' secret

Don't forget to add a dash of IGP Camargue fleur de sel to your dishes, salted or even sweet !



Between land and sea

Thanks to their seafood (tellins, fish, eels, crabs...) and local produce (Camargue rice, fleur de sel, Camargue bull...), the chefs have been able to develop a local gastronomy rich in color and taste. To share their knowledge and passion, they have formed the Conservatoire des Cuisines de Camargue, which plays an active role in the Salon du Goût et des Saveurs de Camargue.



Between sea and ponds

It was built in 1859 to protect the Camargue from marine intrusion. Water is exchanged between the sea and the ponds via a series of valves known as pertuis.

Accessible on foot, by bike or on horseback, it offers a superb crossing of the Camargue between sea and lagoon as far as the Gacholle lighthouse. A must for nature lovers and hikers in the heart of the National Reserve (24 km round trip). You can continue on to Beauduc and Salin de Giraud.

The dike that isolates the Rhone delta from the influence of the sea, reveals astonishing wilderness and beautiful lagoons where seabirds and birds from brackish environments thrive. Visit the flora and fauna exhibition and take advantage of the observatory at the Phare de la Gacholle.

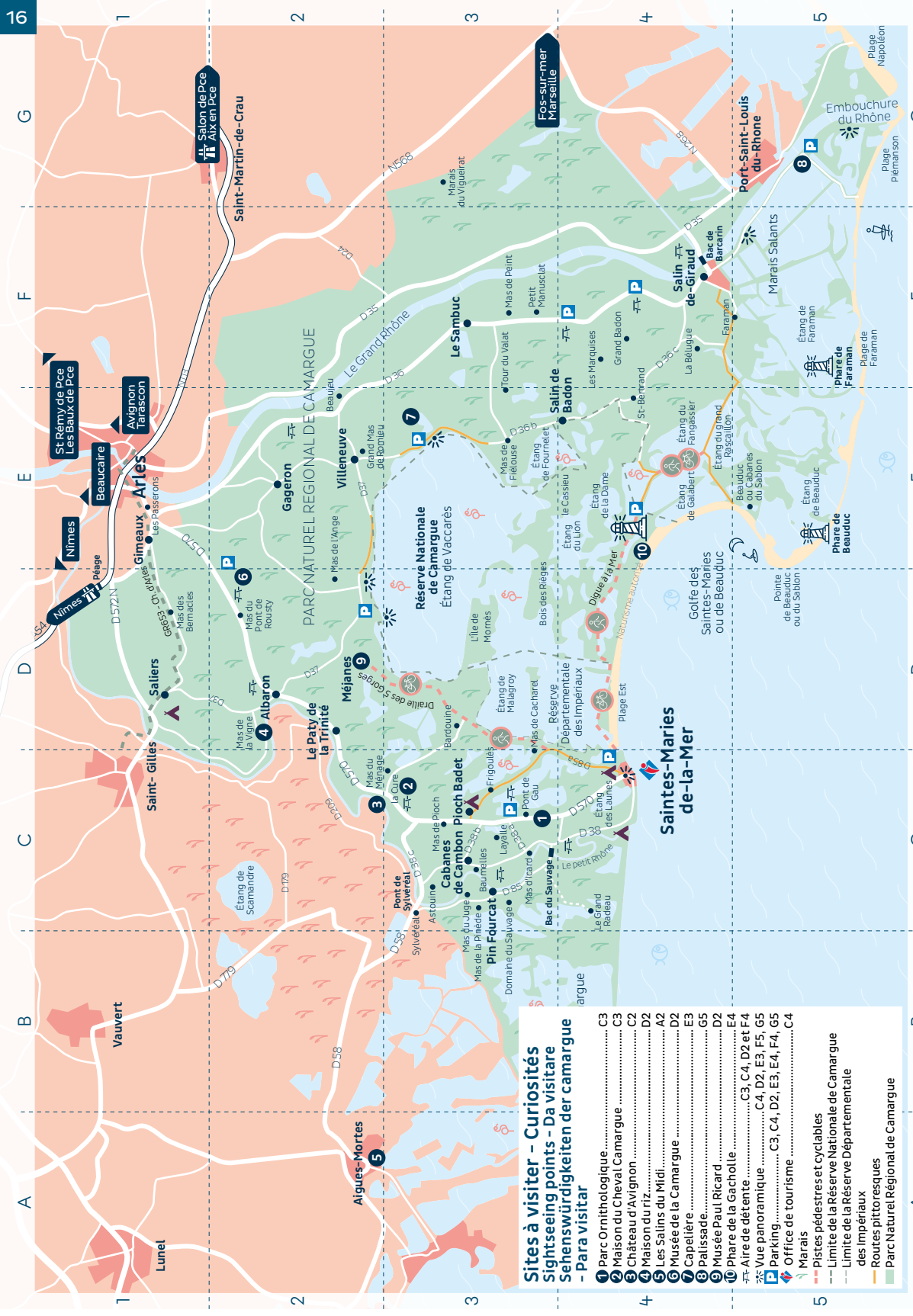


Treat your taste buds

The sea and ponds

Tellines (small candy-shaped shellfish often prepared with garlic, parsley, white wine and cream), clams, Camargue oysters and mussels, razor clams, murex, periwinkles...



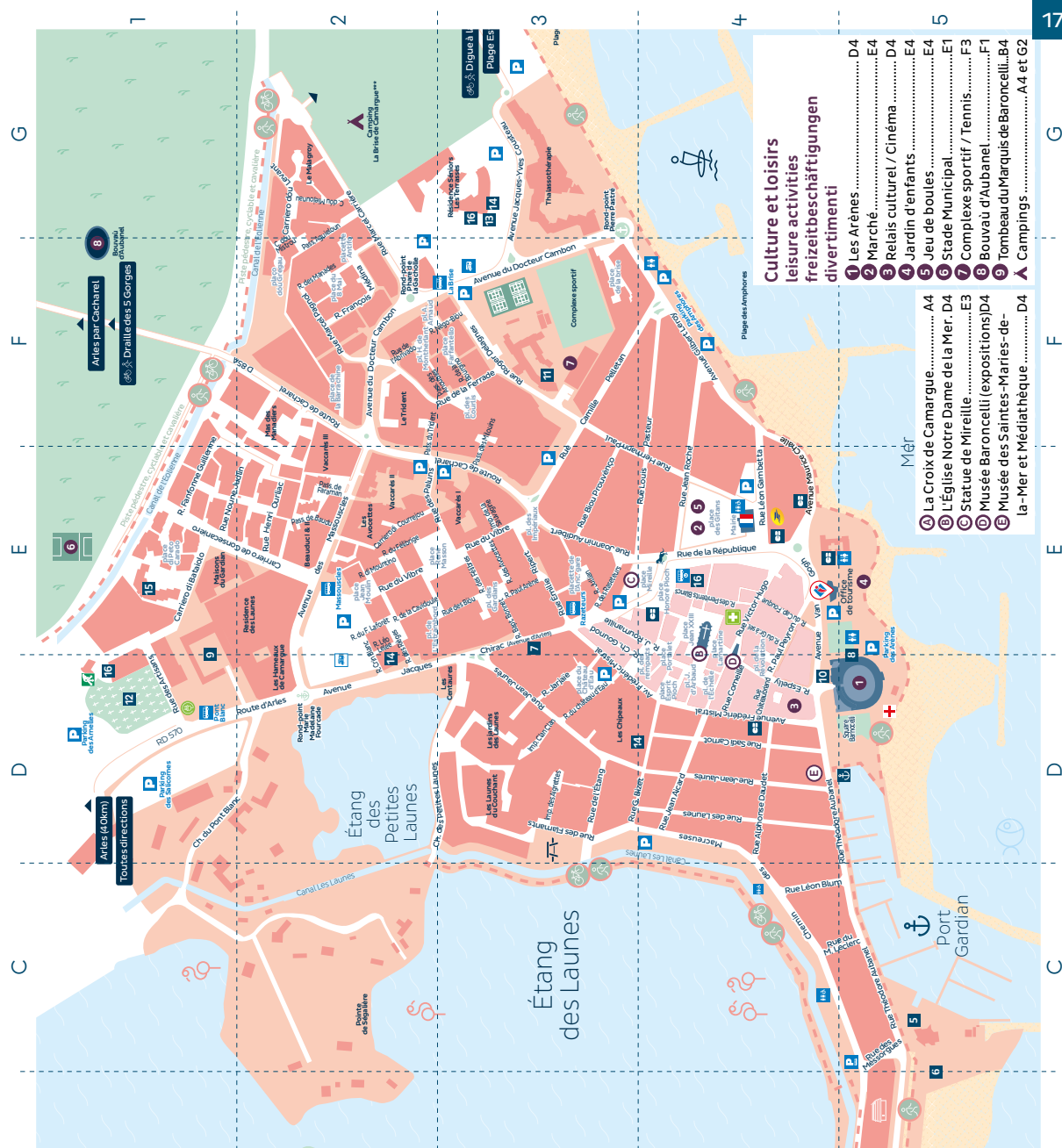


Sites à visiter - Curiosités
Sightseeing points - Da visitare
Sehenswürdigkeiten der camargue
- Para visitar

- 1 Parc Ornithologique.....C3
- 2 Maison du Cheval Camargue.....C3
- 3 Château d'Avignon.....C2
- 4 Maison du riz.....D2
- 5 Les Salins du Midi.....A2
- 6 Musée de la Camargue.....E3
- 7 Capelière.....E3
- 8 Palissade.....G5
- 9 Musée Paul Ricard.....D2
- 10 Phare de la Gacholle.....E4
- 11 Aire de détente.....C3, C4, D2 et F4
- 12 Vue panoramique.....C4, D2, E3, F5, G5
- 13 Parking.....C3, C4, D2, E3, E4, F4, G5
- 14 Office de tourisme.....C4
- 15 Marais
- 16 Pistes pédestres et cyclables
- 17 Limite de la Réserve Nationale de Camargue
- 18 Limite de la Réserve Départementale des Impériaux
- 19 Routes pittoresques
- 20 Parc Naturel Régional de Camargue

Services Publics divers
leisure activities - divertimento
freizeitbeschäftigungen -

- 1 Mairie.....E4
- 2 Office de Tourisme.....C5
- 3 Port Gardian.....E4
- 4 Gare Maritime.....D4
- 5 Distributeur bancaire.....D4, E3 et E4
- 6 Poste.....B5, D4 et G2
- 7 Pharmacie.....E4
- 8 Bornes véhicule électrique.....D1
- 9 Déchetterie.....D1
- 10 Capitainerie.....C5
- 11 Aire de carénage Eric Tabarly.....C5
- 12 Gendarmerie.....E3
- 13 Police Municipale.....D4
- 14 Services Techniques.....D1
- 15 Maison des Jeunes.....D4
- 16 Ecoles maternelle et primaire.....F3
- 17 Microcrèche.....F3
- 18 Cimetière.....D1
- 19 Pôle Santé.....D2, D3 et G3
- 20 Masseur-Kinésithérapeute.....E1
- 21 Centre de secours "Joël Larnaudie".....D1, E4 et F2
- 22 Infirmières.....D1, E2, E3 et F2
- 23 Arrêts des bus.....C4
- 24 Parkings.....E3
- 25 Parking Bus.....E3
- 26 Dépose Minute.....B4, F2
- 27 Aire de camping-cars/journalière gratuite.....B4, F2
- 28 Aire de camping-cars payante.....C4, E4 et F3
- 29 WC publics.....C4, E4 et F3
- 30 WC publics pour personnes handicapées.....C4 et E4
- 31 Promenade



Culture et loisirs
leisure activities
freizeitbeschäftigungen
divertimenti

- 1 Les Arènes.....D4
- 2 Marché.....E4
- 3 Relais culturel / Cinéma.....D4
- 4 Jardin d'enfants.....E4
- 5 Jeu de boules.....E4
- 6 Stade Municipal.....E1
- 7 Complexe sportif / Tennis.....F3
- 8 Bouvaud d'Aubanel.....F1
- 9 Tombeau du Marquis de Baroncelli.....B4
- 10 Campings.....A4 et G2

- 10 La Croix de Camargue.....A4
- 11 L'Église Notre Dame de la Mer.....D4
- 12 Statue de Mireille.....E3
- 13 Musée Baroncelli (expositions).....D4
- 14 Musée des Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer et Médiathèque.....D4

Nomenclature

A	Abrivado (rue de l')	F2
	Aguiejoun (passage)	E3
	Aicard (rue Jean)	D3-4
	Algrettes (impasse des)	D3
	Antifo (placette)	F2
	Ancienne-gare (placette de l')	E3
	Anoules (passage des)	F2
	Arbaud (place Joseph d')	D4
	Arène (rue Paul)	E3
	Ariès (avenue d')	D2-E3
	Ariès (route d')	D1-2
	Arnaud (place Alfonse)	F2
	Artisans (rue des)	D1
	Aubanel (Av. Riquette)	AB4
	Aubanel (rue Théodore)	CD4
	Audbert (rue Joannin)	E3
	Aupy (espace Edmond)	A3
	Avocettes (place et rue des)	E3
	Aymes (espace Laurent)	B4
B	Baroncelli (square)	D4
	Barrachine (pl. de la)	F2
	Bataïolo (carrero di)	E1
	Baudu (passage de)	E2
	Biou (rue des)	E2
	Bizet (rue Georges)	D3
	Blum (rue Léon)	C4
	Bonnet (rue Baptiste)	E5
	Bourgino (rue de la)	F2
	Brasivert (carrero de)	E1
	Brise (place de la)	F3
C	Cacharel (route de)	F1-2 à E2-3
	Carnot (rue Sadi)	D3-4
	Carrière (rue Marcel)	FG2
	Cavidoule (rue de la)	E2
	Cerdan (rue Marcel)	E4
	Chabaud (place Auguste)	E4
	Challe (av. Maurice)	F4
	Châteauubriand (rue)	D4
	Château d'eau (pl. et r.)	D3
	Chirac (av. Jacques)	D2-3-E3
	Clan (impasse)	D3
	Clos du Rhône (chemin du)	D3-4
	Consecaniero (carrero de)	B4-3
	Cornelle (rue)	E1-2
	Courtils (place des)	D4
	Courtejou (carrero di)	E2
	Cousteau J.-Y. (av.)	E2
	Crin blanc (rue)	FG3
D	Daudet (rue Alphonse)	DE2
	De Gaulle (Promenade Charles)	D4
	Delagnes (rue Roger)	DEF4
	Dr-Cambon (av. du)	F3
E	Echelle (pl. de l')	F2
	Espelly (rue)	D4
	Estrambord (pl. de l')	E3
	Estrambord (r. de l')	E3
	Etang (rue de l')	D3
F	Faraman (passage de)	E2
	Farrantello (place)	F2
	Fébrères (rue des)	E2-3
	Fébrige (rue du)	E2
	Ferrand (rue de la)	F2-3
	Filamants (rue des)	D3
	Fouque (r. du Capitaine)	E4
	Fourcade (rond point Marie-Madeleine)	D2
G	Gacholle (passage de la)	E2
	Gambetta (rue Léon)	E3
	Gardiens (pl. des)	E4
	Gitans (pl. des)	E3
	Gounod (rue Charles)	DE3
	Gregau (place d'ou)	F2
	Grenier à Sel (rue du)	E4
	Guillierme (r. Fanfonne)	E1
H	Hugo (rue Victor)	E4
I	Impériaux (pl. des)	E3
J	Jarjate (rue)	D3
	Jaurès (rue Jean)	D3
	Jean XXIII (place)	E3-4
	Judlin (rue Nounne)	E1
	Jullian (rue)	E3
L	Labé (carrero d'ou)	G2
	Laforêt (r. du Félibre)	E2
	Lamarline (pl.)	DE4
	Launes (r. des)	D4
	Leclerc (r. du Maréchal)	C4
	Lelée (r. Léo)	D2
	Leroy (av. Gilbert)	F3-4
	Levant (carrero d'ou)	FG2
M	Macreuses (chem. des)	CD4
	Mai (pl. du 8)	F2
	Manjo-fango (plazo d'ou)	G2
	Manades (rue des)	E2
	Masson (pl. René)	E2
	Massoucles (av. des)	E2
	Medina (r. François)	F2
	Messorgues (r. des)	C4
	Miejourna (carrero d'ou)	G2
	Milouins (passage des)	G2
	Mirages (impasse des)	E3
	Mireille (pl.)	E3
	Mistral (av. Frédéric)	E3-4
N	Négo biou (rue)	D3-4
	Négo biou (rue)	F2
O	Ourliac (r. Henri)	E2
P	Pagnol (r. Marcel)	F2
	Paluns (r. des)	E2
	Pasteur (rue)	EF3
	Pastré (rond point Pierre)	F3
	Paul (rue Hermann)	E3
	Pennes (jardin Lucette)	D4
	Petites Launes (chem. des)	D2
	Pecheurs (rue des)	E3
	Pelletan (r. Camille)	EF3
	Penitents Blancs (r. des)	E3-4
	Peto Carrado (plazo di)	E1
	Peyron (r. Paul)	DE-4
	Phare de la Gacholle (rond point)	F2
	Piluro (androuno de)	E1
	Pioch (pl. Esprit)	D3
	Pioch (pl. Honoré)	E2
	Pompidou (espace Georges)	DE2
	Pont-Blanc (chemin du)	F1-2
	Portalet (pl. et r. du)	DE-3
	Pounetau (carrero d'ou)	G2
	Pramnikott (r.)	DE3-4
	Prieurs (passage des)	E4
	Prouvenço (r. Blou)	E3
Q	Quatre-Maries (r. des)	E2
R	Razeteurs (r. des)	E3
	Remparts (pl. des)	D3
	République (r. de la)	E4
	Revolution (pl. de la)	D4
	Ricard (espace Paul)	D4
	Rièges (r. des)	DE2
	Rieu (r. Charlotin)	E3
	Ripert (r. Emile)	E3
	Roche (r. Jean)	EF3-4
	Roubine-de-la-Ville (r. de la)	E3
	Roumanille (r. Joseph)	DE3
S	Saladelles (r. des)	E4
	Sauvagine (imp. de la)	E3
T	Taute (androuno d'ou)	E1
	Tremoutano (plazo de la)	F2
	Trident (passage du)	EF2
V	Vaccarès (ruelle du)	E2
	Vallée des Lys (rd point)	G3
	Van Gogh (av.)	E4
	Vent di Damo (carr. d'ou)	FG2
	Vent dou Souleu (carr. d'ou)	FG2
	Vibre (r. du)	E2
	Villamanrique de la condesa (espace)	E2
	Vovo (pl. du) (r. du)	G2

The tourist office



THE OFFICE STAYS OPEN



The tourist office is open all year long
except Decembre 25th
& January 1st.

- **January - February - March**
November - December : from 9:30am to 4:30pm
- **April - May - June - September - October** :
from 9am to 6pm
- **July - August** : from 9am to 7pm

We are at your disposal, for any information
about activities, cultural or sport events,
locals and regionals. We also offer :

GUIDED TOURS

Guided tour of the village.



If our opening hours came to be
changed, you can scan this code QR to
find our updated informations on the
website.

CONTACT

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Phone : +33 (0)4 90 97 82 55
info@saintesmaries.com
www.saintesmaries.com
fotsaintesmariesdelamer
@otsaintesmariesdelamercamargue



HOW TO GET HERE ?

S.N.C.F

Info: Phone. 36 35 - www.oui.sncf.fr

Train : Arles (38km), Avignon (80km),
Nîmes (54km), Montpellier (60km)
Train stations served by TGV.

CAR

Highway A7 to Marseille
(exit Salon-de-Provence - Arles by the A54,
exit Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer D570),
Highway A9 (follow Arles by the A54 exit
Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer D570).

BUS

Arles - Les-Saintes-Maries : direct connection
everyday except January 1st, May 1st
and December 25th.

Autocars Envia : www.tout-envia.com
www.agglo-accm.fr (AGGLO50)
Phone. +33 4 90 54 86 16

FERRYS

Est : Bac de Barcarin - Phone. +33 4 90 96 34 70
West: Bac du Sauvage (free)
Phone. +33 4 90 96 34 70 - www.smtdr.fr
(Timetable available at the Touristic office).

AIRPLANE

Airport : Marseille - Provence (100km)
Phone. +33 8 20 81 14 14
Nîmes - Arles - Camargue (45km)
Phone. +33 4 66 70 49 49
Montpellier - Méditerranée (55km)
Phone. +33 4 67 20 85 00





Saintes Maries de la Mer

Take a walking tour of the village and discover its main monuments.

GUIDED TOUR



Bookings at the Tourist Office.
Tel : (+33) 04 90 97 82 55

Prices on www.saintesmaries.com.
Accès included on the church's panoramic terrace.