



At the heart of the Camargue  
... pure emotion



Les Saintes Maries de la Mer  
Capitale de la Camargue

DISCOVER



# Welcome to Saintes Maries de la Mer

You are about to enter into unknown territory in an area that is unlike any other. Even those who live just a few dozen kilometres away come here looking for a change of scenery for an afternoon. This is a place beyond time and space. Here you are in the Camargue, an authentic, preserved area that is proud of its traditions. The village, sea, nature, pilgrimages and festivals... will provide the setting for experiences that will broaden your horizons.

## Festivals and Traditions

- January  
**PROVENÇAL AND CAMARGUE MANGER**
- February  
**CAMAGRI, CAMARGUE HORSE FAIR**
- March  
**ACOSO Y DERRIBO CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL**
- April  
**CAMARGUE-STYLE EASTER RAID « DES SABLES »**
- May  
**GYPSY PILGRIMAGE**
- June  
**PORT FESTIVAL**
- July  
**VILLAGE FESTIVAL**
- August  
**HORSE FESTIVAL – FESTO VIERGINÉNCO**
- September  
**« CAMARGUE PLURIELLE »**
- SEA LAVENDER FESTIVAL
- TASTES AND FLAVOURS FAIR
- October
- PILGRIMAGE OF THE SAINTS
- November
- ABRIVADO FESTIVAL
- December
- CHRISTMAS IN THE CAMARGUE





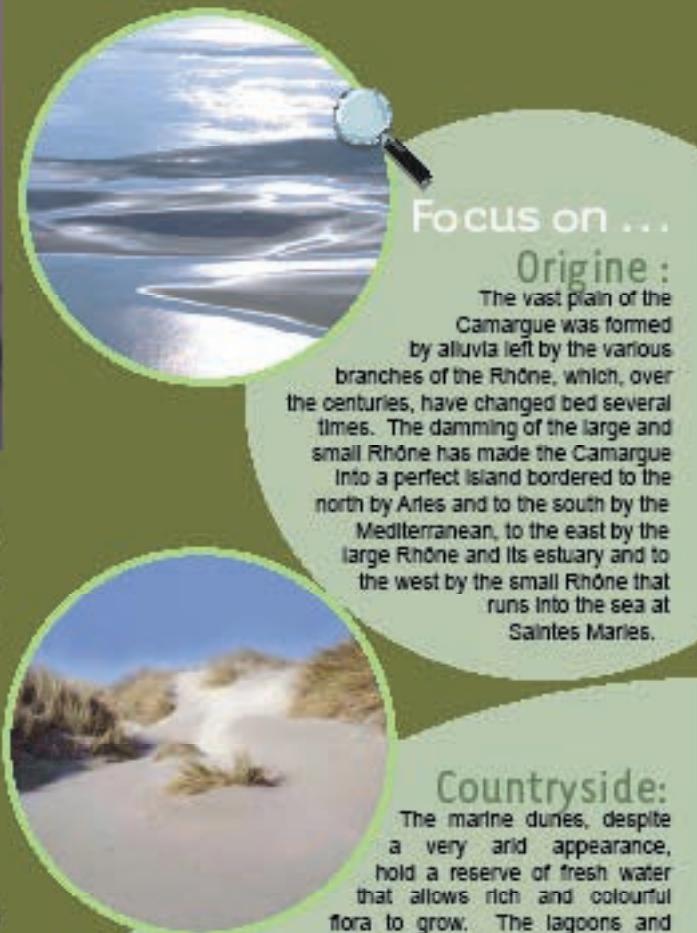
Space...



Experience the fantastic feeling of space that a protected area offers. Unspoilt land, dry or wet plains, pine groves, ponds, prairies, sansouires, paddy fields, vines ... every walk is a new discovery.

# The Camargue

**TO SEE EVERYTHING :** rent a mountain bike for an outing on cycling tracks and paths - go for a ride on a horse or in a horse-drawn carriage to see things from a height.



## Focus on ...

### Origine :

The vast plain of the Camargue was formed by alluvia left by the various branches of the Rhône, which, over the centuries, have changed bed several times. The damming of the large and small Rhône has made the Camargue into a perfect island bordered to the north by Arles and to the south by the Mediterranean, to the east by the large Rhône and its estuary and to the west by the small Rhône that runs into the sea at Saintes Maries.

### Countryside:

The marine dunes, despite a very arid appearance, hold a reserve of fresh water that allows rich and colourful flora to grow. The lagoons and shallow brackish ponds have many links between them and used to have ones with the sea via the "graus" (estuaries). The grasslands are much sought after by breeders and contribute to the quality of the Camargue landscape with narcissi in winter, daisies in spring, sea lavender in summer ... The marshes, which are supplied with fresh water or water that has a low salt content by a network of "channels", are often of major ornithological interest (ducks and shorebirds in winter, herons and Passeriformes in spring).



Nature



# Fauna and Flora

Pink flamingos, bulls and horses are the key attractions of this area. They share this space with dozens of other plant and animal species that are easy to spot after a little guidance.

TO SEE EVERYTHING : enjoy a visit of the Pont de Gau ornithological park, a Camargue day at a manade, a walk by marsh and palun.



## Focus on...

### The Camargue horse

White, rugged, courageous ... this horse lives in harmony with its environment. It is a vital companion of the gardians and is used for working with cattle. It is perfectly adapted to various activities and is also used for rides.



### The Camargue bull

The "Raço du Blou" has been present in the Camargue since ancient times. It can be identified by its black coat and its tyre-shaped horns. The bull is a real attraction in the Camargue races. Moreover, some bulls become true legends and amateurs who recognise their talent don't hesitate to put up a statue to them.



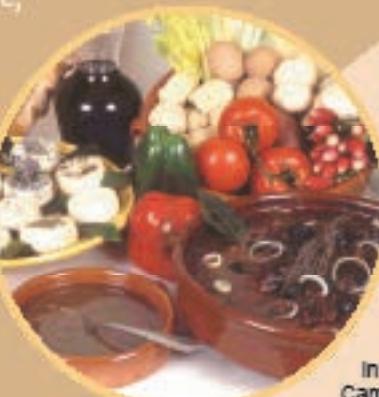
Way of life...



# The village

Admire the light of the little white houses from the promenade along the sea front. Have a seat on the terrace of a good restaurant to appreciate the local flavours. Discover the capital of the Camargue, set out of time, between sea and marsh.

**NOT TO BE MISSED :** a visit of the village on the little train, go up onto the roof of the church, visit the museum, do some shopping in the charming shopping streets, go round the Monday or Friday market on the Place des Gitans, round the day off with a game of mini-golf or by a wild flamenco evening. The Tourist Office also offers guided visits of the village.



## Focus on... The church

When it was created in the 9th and 12th centuries pirates roamed the coast and people had to defend themselves from invasion. The church that dominates the village is visible from 10km away inland. It is a real fortress. The roof is encircled by a round way, with slots and machicolations and was used as a lookout tower. It has a unique nave that is 15 metres high, a choir and an apse overlooked by a keep in a hemicycle enclosing the old guard room called "high chapel". The walls of the church are dotted with murder holes.

## Way of life & gastronomy

Thanks to the sea produce (wedge-shells, fish, eels, crabs, etc.) and to that of the land (Camargue rice, fleur de sel, Camargue bull meat, etc.) the chefs of Saintes Maries have been able to develop a colourful and tasty local gastronomy. In an endeavour to share their knowledge and their passion, they joined together in the Conservatoire des Cuisines de Camargue which actively participates in the Camargue Tastes and Flavours Fair.

A photograph of a group of men on horseback in a rural setting. The men are dressed in traditional or semi-traditional attire, including wide-brimmed hats (cowboy and fedora styles) and patterned shirts or vests. They are riding light-colored horses, possibly white or cream. The background shows a clear blue sky and some distant, low hills or fields.

Enthusiasm



Share in the passion of the Provençal culture. The Camargue has given Provence its most wonderful traditions. It's not surprising that the maiden voyage of Mireille, imagined by Frédéric Mistral, ended in Saintes Maries de la Mer. The costumes, gardians, Camargue races and abrivados... set the pace for the year in this village. This surprising vitality is expressed in the heart-felt wish to have everyone who comes here discover and share in these traditions.

NOT TO BE MISSED : abrivoado and bandida, Camargue races.

# Traditions

## Focus on...

### The Festo Vierginenco

This is the moment when each young girl takes off her traditional Mireille costume and puts on her Arlésian one and come of age. This festival, created by Frédéric Mistral in 1904, takes place every year in July in Saintes Maries de la Mer.



### Camargue races

In the Camargue races, the "taseteurs" challenge the bulls and try to take off decorations (rosettes, tassels, ribbons) hanging from their horns. The "taset" technique involves going towards the bull and getting as close to its head as possible in order to grab the decorations using a hook and then get away as quickly as possible by running run to the barrier followed by the animal and hiding behind the boards. A bull race lasts 15 minutes and a bull participates in many races during its career (5-8 years). Let's not forget that the bull is never killed in the Camargue races.

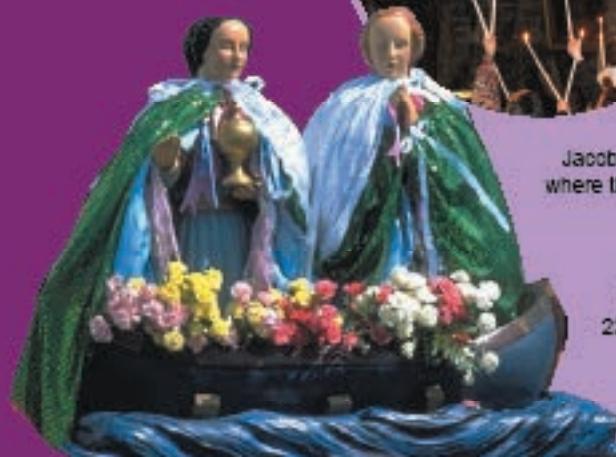
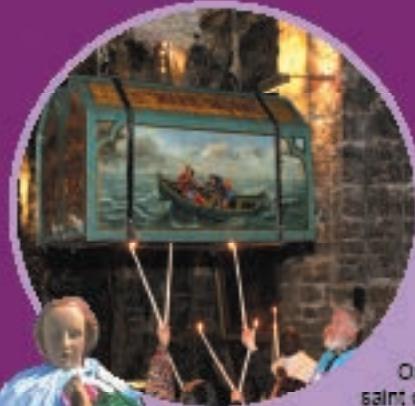


Fervour ...



Since the 12th century, Saintes Maries has been a place of pilgrimage. The relics of the Saints (Marie Jacobé and Marie Salomé) discovered in 1448 during digs ordered by King René are particularly revered during two pilgrimages.

# Pilgrimages



## Focus on...

### Pilgrimage in May

On 24th May, the statue of Saint Sara (the patron saint of gypsies) is carried to the sea in a procession. The 25th is devoted to the saints of the village, Marie Jacobé and Marie Salomé, which are taken in a cortege to the sea where they are blessed by the bishop. During these two days, there are many services and prayers in the church.

### Pilgrimage in October

The second pilgrimage takes place on the closest Sunday to 22nd October. On Saturday there is a ceremony to take down the shrines, a mass and a prayer vigil. On Sunday there is a solemn mass, a procession to the sea and blessing and a ceremony to bring up the shrines.



Wild...



# The Sea and the Beaches

Experience the freedom of a wild beach or enjoy the safety of a supervised bathing area. The village offers over 30km of beaches, the closest are a few metres from the town centre and the wildest ones are several kilometres away. This diversity allows everyone to enjoy the sea as they like it: isolated sunbathing, family outings to the beach, the comfort of private beaches or the most sporty water activities.

**SAIL AND ENJOY THE BEACH :** Sail on the sea then go back up the Rhône on a boat ride, go for a trip on a kayak, enjoy the comfort of private beaches...



## Focus on...

### The port

The harbour of Saintes Maries de la Mer, Port Gardian, welcomes pleasure boats that coast on the Mediterranean and offers 22 moorings for fishermen, 153 moorings for rentals, 111 for farm out and 84 for temporary visits. At the port of Saintes Maries, those with pleasure boats enjoy their pastime on a human scale, in a good-humoured atmosphere where everyone lives and shares their passions.



### The sailing school & nautical activities

The sailing school welcomes adults and children from eight years old for week-long courses or one-day courses on windsurfing, sailing an Optimist, dinghy and catamaran. The sailing school is run by certified trainers and is accredited by the French Sailing Federation.

**Direction  
Arles - Nîmes  
Toutes directions**

**Direction Déchetterie**

**Services Publics Divers**

- 1 Centre de secours
- 2 Médecins
- 3 Gendarmerie
- 4 Pharmacie
- 5 Infirmières
- 6 Masseur-Kinésith.
- 7 Bureau de Police
- 8 Bibliothèque
- 9 M.J.C
- Poste secours 1
- Poste secours 2
- Poste secours 3
- La Poste

- Mairie  
Office de Tourisme  
Relais Culturel  
Cinéma  
Port Gardian

- Capitainerie  
Parkings Bus  
WC publics handicapés

- WC publics  
Square Barconcelli  
École Maternelle / Élémentaire

- Jardin d'enfants  
Résidence Senior

- Place du Marché / Jeu de boules  
Complexe Sportif

- Terrain de Tennis  
Stade Municipal  
Bouvau d'Aubanel

- Monument aux Morts  
Espace Paul Ricard  
Espace Villamanrique

- de la Condesa  
Aire de Camping-cars journalières et gratuites

- N4/Mo/A10

A Croix de Camargue

B Église Notre Dame de la Mer

C Statue Mireille

D Ancien Hôtel de Ville

**ETANG  
DES LAUNES**

- Chemin des Macreuses  
Chemin des Macreuses

- Rue Théodore  
Avenue Riquette Aubanel  
Aire de Carenage  
Eric Tabary  
Capitainerie





# Nomehclature

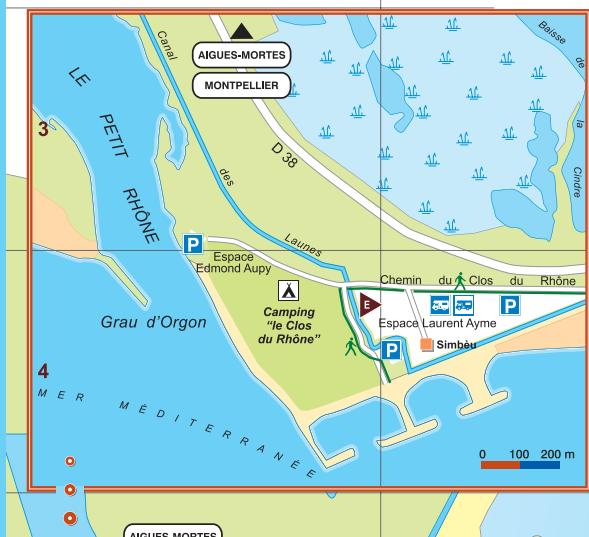
<b>A</b>	Abrivado (r. de l')	<b>N</b>	Négo biou (r.)	M3
N1	Fangassier (carrieroun dou)	K2	O	Ourliac (r. Henri)
F7	Faraman (passage de)	I3	P	Paul (r. Hermann)
F5	Farjantello (pl.)	I4		Pagnol (r. Marcel)
N2	Félibres (r. des)	I3		Paluns (r. des)
I5	Ferrade (r. de la)	I5		J/K3
H7	Flamants (r. des)	I8		Pasteur (r.)
I4	Fouque (r. du Capitaine)	J2		Gacholo (passage de la)
H4	Gardians (pl. des)	K8		Gambetta (av. Léon)
M3	Gitans (pl. des)	H4		Pelletan (r. Camille)
A/B10	Gounod (r. Charles)	J7		Pénitents-Blancs (r. des)
E9	Grégaud (placo dou)	H6		Pêcheurs (r. des)
J5	Grenier-à-Sel (r. du)	N1		Poste Carrado (plaço di)
I4	Guillermo (r. Fantonne)	H8		Peyron (r. Paul)
L2	I	J/Ko		Pitulo (androuno de)
Jo	Impériaux (pl. des )	J4		Pioch (pl. Esprit)
J1	J			Pioch (pl. Honoré)
I3	Jarjaïe (r.)	H5		Pont-Blanc (chemin du)
F6	Jaurès (r. Jean)	I7		Portalet (pl.)
E9	Jean XXIII (place)	H7		Portalet (r. du)
I4	Judlin (r. Nouné)	J/Ko		Pounentau (carrierou dou)
L3	Jullian (r.)	I5		Prasnisnikoff (r.)
Jo	L	Pi		Prouvenço (r. lou)
N6	Labé (carrierou dou)	H2		Quatre-Maries (r. des)
K3	Laforêt (r. Félibre)	H7		R
G7	Lamartine (pl.)	C5		Razeteurs (r. des)
O2	Large (av. du)	I7		Remparts (pl. des)
J2/3	Launes (r. des)	D9		République (r. de la)
I3	Leclerc (r. Maréchal)	H2		Révolution (pl. de la)
I7	Lelée (r. Léo)	L7		Rièges (r. des)
K8	Leroy (av. Gilbert)	O1		Rieu (r. Charloun)
K8	Levant (carrierou dou)	G9 à E6		Ripert (r. Emile)
G8	Macreuses (chem. des)	N2		Roche (r. Jean)
G5	Mai (pl. du 8)	Pi		Roubine-de-la-Ville (r. de la)
G4	Manjo-fango (placo dou)	N1		Roumanille (r.)
I1	Manades (r. des)	J3		S
H7	Masson (pl. René)	J2		Saladelles (r. des)
C5	Massoucous (av. des)	M2		Sauvagine (imp. de la)
H2	Médina (r. François)	B10		Stade Municipal
F8	Messorgues (r. des)	Pi		T
G10 à K9	Mietjournau (carrierodou)	K4		Taute (androuno dou)
L4	Milouins (passage des)	I4		Tremountano (plaço de la)
L4	Mirages (impasse des)	I6		Tident (Imp. du)
L2	Mirelle (pl.)	G7		V
H7	Mistral (av. Frédéric)	N1		Vaccarès (r. lle du)
H7	Mistrau (carrierou dou)	H7		Van Gogh (av.)
H8	Molière (r.)	M3		Vent d' Damo (carr. dou)
I3	Montherlant (pl. Henri de)	I2		Victor Hugo (r.)
I3	Moulin (pl. Jean)	I2		Vibre (r. du)
I3	Mountihoo (r. di)	I2		Vovo (r. du)
F5	Musée (r. du)	H8		Vovo (pl. du)



**Saintes Maries de la Mer**  
Capitale de la Camargue

1

A



2

B

**SERVICES PUBLICS DIVERS**  
DIFFÉRENTS PUBLIC UTILITIES  
OFFENTLICHE EINRICHTUNGEN  
UFFICI SERVIZI PUBBLICI

- Mairie.....E4
  - Office de Tourisme.....E5
  - La Poste.....E5
  - Pharmacie.....E4
  - Postes de secours.....B5, D5 et G3
  - Distributeur bancaire.....D4, E3, E4 et E5
  - Déchetterie.....E1
  - Port Gardian.....C5
  - 1 Capitainerie.....C5
  - 2 Aire de carénage Éric Tabarly.....C5
  - 3 Gendarmerie.....E3
  - 4 Police Municipale.....E5
  - 5 Services Techniques.....E1
  - 6 Maison des Jeunes.....DE5
  - 7 Écoles maternelle et primaire - Microcrèche.....F3
  - 8 Cimetière.....DE1
  - 9 Médecins.....D3
  - 10 Centre de secours "Joël Larnaudie".....E1
  - 11 Masseur-Kinésithérapeute.....D4 et E3
  - 12 Infirmières.....C5
- Arrêts des bus.....E2, E3 et F3
  - Parking Bus.....C5
  - Aire de camping-cars journalière et gratuite.....B4, F1 et F3
  - Aire de camping-cars payante.....B4, E2 et G3
  - WC publics.....E5 et F4
  - WC publics pour handicapés.....E4
  - P Parkings

C





<b>A</b>	Consecaniero
	Abriuvado (rue de l') .....F2
	Aguieloun (passage)....FG2
	Corneille (rue).....DE4
	Aicard (rue Jean) .....D4
	Aigrettes (impasse des) ..D3
	Antifo (placette) .....F2
	Ancienne Gare (placette de l').....E3-4
	Anoubles (passage des). F3
	Arbaud (place Joseph d') .....E4
	Arène (rue Paul).....E3
	Arles (avenue d') .....E2-3
	Arles (route d') .....D1-2
	Arnaud (place Alphonse) .....F3
	Artisans (rue des).....DE1
	Aubanel (avenue Riquette).....ABC5
	Aubanel (rue Théodore) .....CD5
	Echelle (place de l').....DE4
	Espely (rue).....DE4-5
	Estrambord (place et rue de l').....E3
	Audibert (rue Joannin) .....E3-4
	Étang (rue de l') .....D3-4
	F
	Quatre Maries (rue des) .. E2
<b>R</b>	Raseteurs (rue des).....E4
	Remparts (place des)....E4
	République (rue de la).....E4-5
	Révolution (place de la).....E4-5
	Faraman (passage de) ..E2
	Farfantello (place).....F3
	Félibres (rue des).....E3
	Barrachine (place de la). F2
	Bataiolo (carriero di).....E1
	Ferrade (rue de la).....F2-3
	Baudu (passage de).....E2
	Biou (rue des) .....E3
	Bizet (rue Georges).....D4
	Blum (rue Léon).....D5
	Bonnet (rue Baptiste) ..E3
	Bourgino (rue de la).....F3
	Brasinvier (carriero de) ..E1
	Brise (place de la).....D4
<b>C</b>	Cacharel (route de).....EF1 à 3
	Gambetta (rue Léon) ..EF4-5
	Gardiens (place des) ..E3
	Gitans (place des) .....E4
	Gounod (rue Charles) ....E4
	Gregau (placó dòu).....F2
	Grenier à Sel (rue du).. E4-5
	Cerdan (rue Marcel).....E4
	(rond-point Pierre).....FG4
	Chabaud (place Auguste).....E4
	Paul (rue Hermann).....EF4
	Pennes (jardin Lucette) ..D4
	Petites Launes (chemin des).....D3
	Châteaubriand (rue) ..DE4-5
	Pêcheurs (rue des).....E4
	Château d'Eau (place et rue du) ..DE3-4
	Pelletan (rue Camille).....EF3-4
	Vibre (rue du) .....E2-3
	Clos du Rhône (chemin du) .....B4
	Villamanrique de la Condesa (espace) ..EF3
	Vovo (place et rue du) ...E2



# SIGHTSEEING POINTS

-  IN THE VILLAGE : • The church in romanesque style. Sara's crypt, the black Virgin • The statue of Mireille • The Baroncell Museum and its folklore • The Marquis de Baroncell's gravestone • The Gardiane cross at the "Pont du Maure" • «Port Gardian»: fishing and pleasure-harbour.

WALKING AND CYCLING TRACKS\* : • Along the sea and along the sea-dike, up to the Gacholle lighthouse (12 Km) • The Miljanes trail (15 Km).

SIGHTSEEING ROADS : • The fauna, the birds : along Cacharel road, with view points on the marshes • Possibility to visit the bird park (4 Km) • Visit of Miljanes Domain (25 Km) • The lagoons and salt marshes of Sain de Giraud, La Capeline (45 Km) and La Palissade (60 Km) • Avignon Castle (12 Km) • Information Centre of the Camargue Horse (12 Km) • The Camargue Museum (30 Km).

## BOATS TRIPS - HORSE BACK-RIDING

- JEEP-SAFARIS • CANOE-KAYAK • LITTLE TRAIN.

# SEHENSWÜRDIGKEITEN DER CAMARGUE

 IM ORT : • Die Kirche im romanischen Baustil. Die Krypta der Sara, der heiligen Schwarzen Jungfrau • Das Mireille standbild • Im Museum Baroncell kann man sich über die Volkskunde der Camargue informieren • Das Grab des Marquis von Baroncell liegt c.a. 1 Km westlich von Stes Maries • Das Gardiane Kreuz ist am "Pont du Maure" zu besichtigen • Der Port Gardian ist der Fischerei- und Seehafen von Saintes Maries.

WANDER-UND RADWEGE\* : • Am Meer entlang, auf dem Deich, führt ein Weg zum Leuchtturm von Gacholle, (12 Km) • Parcours Miljanes (15 Km).

RUNDFAHRTEN MIT DEM PKW : • Die Tierwelt, die Vögel der Camargue : der Straße von Cacharel entlang • Besichtigung des Vogelschutzparks (4 Km) • Besichtigung von Miljanes (25 Km) • Fahrt nach Sain de Giraud. Besichtigung der Zentren des Naturschutzparks La Capeline (45 Km) und La Palissade (60 Km)

- Das Schloss von Avignon (12 Km)
- Informationszentrum Pferdezucht (12 Km)
- Das Camargue Museum (30 Km).

## SCHIFFFAHRDEN - AUSRITTE - JEEP-SAFARIS

- KANU-KAJAK • ZUG.

# TE BEZOEKEN

 IN HET DORP : • De kerk is een juweel van Romaanse kunst. • De crypte van Sara de Zwarte Maagd. • Het museum Baroncell. Het graf van Marquis de Baroncell. • Het kruis van de veehoeder uit de Camargue op de Pont du Maure. • Port Gardian : een vissershaven en plezierhaven.

## WANDELROUTES EN RIETSROUTES :

• Langs de zee, over de dijk tot de vuurtoren van la Gacholle (12 km). De route van Miljanes (15 km).

AUTOROUTES : • Langs de route van Cacharel kunt u een bezoek brengen aan een vogelpark van de Camargue (4km). • Bezoekt u ook eens het Domaine de Miljanes (25 Km). • De meren en zoutpan van Sain de Giraud. • De Capeline (45 Km) et de Palissade (60 Km). • Het kasteel van Avignon (12 Km). • Het centrum van het Camargue-paard (12 Km). • Het museum van de Camargue (30 Km).

## BOOTTOCHTEN - WANDELINGEN TE PAARD

• TOCHTEN IN EEN VIERWELDRIVE - KANOТОЧТН EN KAJAKTOCHTEN - EEN RIT MET HET KLEINE TREINTJE.

• Itinéraires détaillés auprès de l'Office de Tourisme.

• Further information on the trails at the tourist agency.

• Circuit disponibili presso l'ufficio.

• Weitere Informationen im Verkehrsverein.

• Mas Informaciones en el oficina del Turismo.

• Gedetailleerde routebeschrijvingen verkrijgbaar bij het Office de Tourisme.





## Saintes Maries de la Mer Tourist Office

5 av Van Gogh - 13460 LES SAINTES MARIES DE LA MER - FRANCE

Tel. 04 90 97 82 55 - Fax 04 90 97 71 15

From abroad : Tel. 0033 4 90 97 82 55 - Fax 0033 4 90 97 71 15

[www.saintesmaries.com](http://www.saintesmaries.com)

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



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Capitale de la Camargue