



# Arles & the Camargue

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## Best Places to Eat

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## Best Places to Stay

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## Why Go?

Forget all about time in this hauntingly beautiful part of Provence roamed by black bulls, white horses and pink flamingos. This is slow-go Provence, a timeless wetland chequered with silver salt pans, waterlogged rice paddies and movie-style cowboys. Birds provide the most action on this 780-sq-km delta wedged between the Petit Rhône and Grand Rhône. Grab your binoculars, squat in a shack between bulrushes and know, as another flamingo flits across the setting sun, that these magnificent waters, steeped in legend and lore, have a soul of their own.

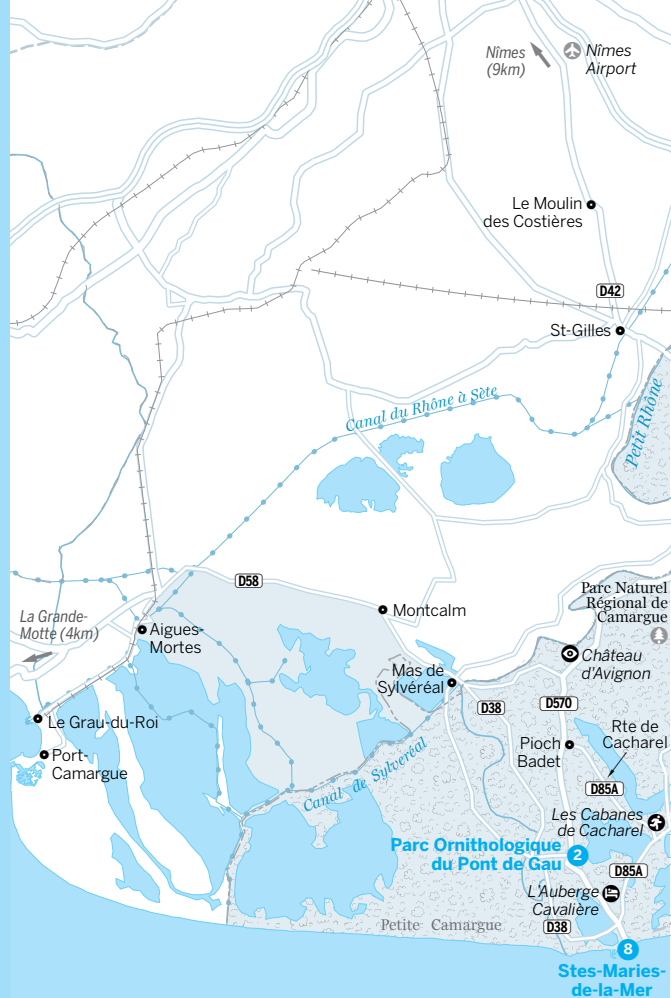
The main town of the region, diminutive Arles, is a show-stopper. Wander the narrow golden-hued streets that inspired Van Gogh and find the town's lovely restored Roman amphitheatre, top-notch art and history museums, and world-class restaurants. It'll be hard to tear yourself away.

## Driving Distances (km)

Le Sambuc	15				
Stes-Maries-de-la-Mer	61	59			
La Capelière	22	13	41		
Aigues-Mortes	70	62	33	56	
Arles	38	31	37	21	51
	Salin de Giraud	Le Sambuc	Stes-Maries-de-la-Mer	La Capelière	Aigues-Mortes

## Arles & the Camargue Highlights

- 1 Discover Roman **Arles** (p180), trail Van Gogh and enjoy some of Provence's finest restaurants.
- 2 Watch rose-pink flamingos at the wondrous **Parc Ornithologique du Pont de Gau** (p186).
- 3 Spot local flora and fauna from the trails around **La Capelière** (p187) and **Salin de Badon**.
- 4 Pick a fine restaurant to try near **Le Sambuc** (p189).
- 5 Gallop like the wind on a horse trek at **Domaine de la Palissade** (p187).
- 6 Bike along the edge of the world to a 19th-century lighthouse on the **Digue à la Mer** (p187).
- 7 Birdwatch on the **Étang de Vaccarès** (p186) then dine with lighthouse keepers at legendary **Le Mazet du Vaccarès** (p189).
- 8 Follow in the footsteps of pilgrims to **Stes-Maries-de-la-Mer** (p189) and its hallowed church.



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