



Le cheval camarguais

Hiking Camargue

France's Unique, but Fragile, Multi-faceted Delta

Tour Highlights

- ☞ 4-night, light hiking tour.
- ☞ Experience the Camargue as few other visitors do.
- ☞ Stay in welcoming 2-star hotels, savour the Mediterranean cuisine.
- ☞ Start in Roman Nîmes, finish in the walled crusader town of Aigues-Mortes on the Med.
- ☞ Hike a mix of pilgrimage route [GR700 & 653] and Costière and canal trail.
- ☞ Walk a delta rich in flora and wildlife: beaver, bull, flamingo and white horse.



Fact File

- ✓ Self-guided, inn-to-inn tour across western Camargue.
- ✓ Average 5 hours walking and 11 miles/17½ kms a day.
- ✓ Convenient access from Nîmes.
- ✓ Start any day all year round*.
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout.
- ✓ Carefully-selected '2-star standard' hotels.



Theme



Hiking Camargue has been likened to hiking the "French Texas" due to its wild and untamed nature. Yet the comparison ends there. The Camargue is a unique and magical country, where preserved natural spaces share a fragile sanctuary with man's economic and domestic endeavours.

Hiking Camargue is a multi-faceted experience and its main themes are threefold:

1. An exceptional natural environment delineated and defined by river and sea. The Rhône is the only river in France that has a delta. This has given rise to a mosaic of environments, including salt plains, lagoons and dunes, salt and freshwater marshes and reed beds, pasture land and forest. Whilst topographically flat, varied walking is guaranteed.



The ancient walled cité of Aigues-Mortes

2. Walking in Camargue immerses you in an area of outstanding European flora and fauna: rare plant species like the glasswort, giant provençal reeds and the summer sand lily - of the 4700 species of flowering plants recorded in France, over 1000 are found in the Camargue; yes, the ubiquitous white horses and black bulls, but also thousands of birds who breed or use it as a resting place on the great north-south migratory route, such as the white egrets (often seen sitting on the backs of horses or bulls) and the emblematic pink (great) Flamingos, who have chosen La Camargue as their only regular nesting ground in Europe.



3. Diverse economic activity has evolved as a result of local circumstances, especially the 'water war' between stakeholders concerning what constitutes the optimum water and salinity level at any given time: the growers of the protected Camargue rice; the winemakers of the unique 'sand wine/vins de sables'; the producers of salt for culinary and chemical use and for the manufacture of Marseille Soap; reed harvesters, the largest in France and, last but not least, the 7000 permanent inhabitants of the Delta who require water for drinking. Add to this the tourist influx and pressures start to build.

Hiking Camargue gives you the opportunity to explore these issues on the ground and witness the splendour of this protected, but fragile, ecosystem. Binoculars are de rigueur. Enjoy this trip, any time of year, as a self-standing mini-tour and introduction to Camargue, or as part of a longer sojourn in the territory, that is best supplemented by the dreaded car.

* Note: we do not recommend you walk this tour between 1st July and 20th August due to the intense levels of heat and tourism.



The wetlands; paradise for bird-spotters and home to the charming beaver



Hike through one of Europe's oldest wine domains

4-night Itinerary¹

Day 1 Arrival Day in Nimes

Best access via Fast train/TGV from Paris or Lyon or RyanAir flight. Check in and enjoy an urban stroll around the historic centre.
Night in Nimes.

Day 2 Nimes to St-Gilles.

[10 miles-16 kms, approx. 5 hrs walking.]

Collection from Nimes and transfer to the start of the day's walking. Enjoy a hike through one of Europe's oldest wine domains, with vines being foremost on the day's agenda. Celebrate your arrival in the sacred town of St-Gilles with a bottle of its finest red Costieres de Nimes.
Night in St-Gilles.



Day 3 St Gilles to Vauvert.

[10½ miles/16½ kms, approx. 4½ hrs walking].

A chance to savour a section of the Arles Route or Chemin d'Arles, the GR 653, and one of the four trails in France that lead to Santiago de Compostella in Spain.
Night in Vauvert.



Day 4 Vauvert to Aigues-Mortes.

[13 miles/20 kms, approx. 5½ hrs walking].

A gentle day's walking across some fine Petite Camarguaise countryside comprising costieres, shaded river bank, ranch, celebrated watch tower and the Canal de Rhone a Sete.
Night in Aigues-Mortes.

Day 5 End of Tour

Breakfast and onward journey. Bon voyage et a bientôt!





The emblematic Flamant Rose Photo © Andrea Bonetti

What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights B & B [incl. local taxes] in '2-star standard' hotels - see below.
- ✓ Industry-leading hiking notes, 1:25,000 maps and themed dossier
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout ²
- ✓ Transfer to the outskirts of Nîmes on Day Two.
- ✓ Telephone help-line service with 7/7 native English and local support.



Not included

- ⊗ Remaining meals and all drinks and extras - lunch and dinner options are listed in your dossier and notes
- ⊗ Personal expenses
- ⊗ Entrances into any optional cultural visits and venues
- ⊗ Hiking, personal and travel insurances
- ⊗ Single rooms - unless booked at the single-person rate
- ⊗ Travel to and from the tour start and finish points.



Four welcoming Hotels

“Carefully-selected accommodation based on knowing our partners well.”

Accommodation is of a good standard and comprises a range of carefully-selected and comfortable 2-star hotels. All offer a warm welcome and en suite facilities.

Evening meals are either in the your hotel at your own expense or in a restaurant of your choosing in the town/village in question. This allows you greater choice and personalisation according to budget and taste. The contents of packed lunches can be purchased before you commence each day's walking. Relevant details are in the tour dossier and walking notes.





Le Tour Carbonniere - see it as few locals or tourists do

Access & Departure

How to get to Nimes

Due to the popularity of Nimes, the options for getting to the City are plentiful.

By Air

Getting to Nimes is relatively straightforward from the following airports:

1. Nimes airport - flights from the UK and Brussels via RyanAir.
2. Lyon International Airport, with onward connections by fast train [60 mins] to Nimes.
3. Montpellier International Airport, with onward connections by train [30 mins] to Nimes.
4. Avignon International Airport, with onward connections by train [30 mins] to Nimes.
5. Marseille International Airport, with onward connections by train to Nimes.
6. Clermont-Ferrand Airport, with onward connections direct to Nimes via Ales by regional [TER] train on 'Le Cevenol'.



By Rail

Best access is via SNCF [TGV] railway station to Nimes [4 hrs fast train/TGV from Paris or Lille, 1½ hrs from Lyon]

Alternative regional [TER] train ['Le Cevenol'] to Nimes via Ales from Paris, with a change at Clermont-Ferrand.

There is a direct train back to Nimes from Aigues-Mortes as well as frequent buses. Please ask us for details.

Our customers recommend RailEurope.com for research and ticketing.





The port of Aigues-Mortes

Ten reasons to book with The Enlightened Traveller®



- ❶ Best accommodation, better service
- ❷ Benefit from French-based expertise and our total focus on France
- ❸ Buy direct from us, the tour provider, and get great value for money
- ❹ Personalise your trip to meet your requirements
- ❺ Industry-leading walking notes make orientation easy
- ❻ 1:25 000 full scale maps & insightful dossier
- ❼ 7/7 telephone support in native English
- ❽ We transport your luggage from hotel to hotel. Option to travel along with your luggage if you need a rest day: subject to availability, places are limited².
- ❾ Peace of mind: your money is safe when booking with us - all passengers are fully insured for the initial deposit and balance, irrespective of the means of payment, in the unlikely event of insolvency.
- ❿ Anglo-French family business that tries harder: We'll look after you like one of the family!



Canal du Rhone a Sete



Fine wine domains a plenty

2024 prices:

Per person in double or
twin-bedded room:
£755.00 Pounds Sterling or
€895.00 Euros



Booking

Email, phone, LiveChat or Skype us and we will email you everything you need to reserve your tour.

Notes

¹ We reserve the right to alter parts of the above programme for the benefit of safety and the quality of the overall experience.

² This covers one piece of luggage per person up to 20 kgs in weight. Supplements may apply for extra and overweight luggage – please ask. We accept no responsibility for lost valuables. We advise you not to bring computers and business-related equipment.

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