

Cultivated land

20% of the Camargue is used to grow rice. The water taken from the Rhône for this purpose desalinates the soil to a certain depth, and the rice fields are also home to nesting birds such as the heron. They are flooded in April and allowed to dry out in September for the harvest.

NORTH

Freshwater marshes and reed beds

These are common in the upper Camargue and on the banks of the Rhône. Water plants such as bullrushes, cane and reeds are abundant in the marshes, which are used for hunting and, in summer, pasturage. They provide shelter for nesting and wintering birds. Reeds (« sagno », in Provençal) are cut in winter by the « sagneurs ». They are used as a roofing material.

Find the details of the sites on the back

The salt plains (« sansouires ») and meadowlands

Salt plains are a feature of the lower Camargue. Their salt content is so high that only a few plant species such as glasswort, saltwort, obione and statice can survive there. They are prone to periodic flooding, and in summer are marked by white traces due to the presence of salt. Meadowland occupies only small, fragmented areas in which the effects of salt are less obvious.

The salt ponds

These are to be found along the sea. In reality they are lagoons that have been adapted to maximise their salt concentration. The salt ponds are extensive and rich in invertebrates, which makes them an important source of food for birds, and in particular the flamingos which spend most of their time there.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES (presented overleaf)

- 1 Musée de la Camargue
- 2 Domaine de la Palissade
- 3 Réserve naturelle nationale de Camargue (La Capelière)
- 4 Phare de la Gacholle
- 5 Parc ornithologique du Pont de Gau
- 6 Étang du Fangassier
- 7 Marais du Vigueirat
- 8 Maison du riz
- 9 Château de Tourvieille - Tour de Tampan
- 10 Maison du cheval Camargue
- 11 Point de vue du sel
- 12 Tour Saint-Louis

Find the details of the sites on the back

The beaches and dunes

The Camargue has some 50 km of beaches. Outside the perimeter of the protective dykes - and thus subject to the caprices of the sea - the coastline is in a permanent state of change. The dunes are inhabited by spectacular flowering plants and a number of rare insects.

- Tourist path (by bike / by car)
- Discovery route for pedestrians and cyclists (closed to cars)
- Cycle path ViaRhôna
- Naturist beach
- Boundary of the Camargue Regional Nature Park

- Gas station
- Viewpoint
- River stop