



les marais du
VIGUEIRAT Réserve Naturelle
MARAIS DU VIGUEIRAT



ARLES
MAYENNE COMMUNE DE LA CAMARGUE



Conservatoire
du littoral



The Vigueirat Marshes

A National Nature Reserve open to the public in the Camargue



Preserved natural site of 1200 hectares at the junction of two remarkable ecosystems that are the Rhone delta and the stony desert-like Crau, the **Vigueirat Marshes** are one of the most remarkable properties of the **Coastal Conservation Authority** in the Camargue

Located within the Regional Park, the natural heritage of the Vigueirat Marshes is recognized nationally and internationally, and received in 1982 the rank of National Nature Reserve.

We find here...

A great floristic diversity

A mosaic of natural wetlands characteristic of the Rhône delta.
885 plant species, 5 nationally protected and 19 regionally protected.

Some emblematic species : phragmite, glasswort, sea lavender, yellow flag iris, spickey rushes, smearwort, saltmarsh bulrush, water lilies...

Thousands of birds

Over 300 species of birds

All year : Glossy ibis, red crested pochard, European bittern, moustached warbler, purple swamphen (rare), white stork, zitting cisticola, greater flamingo

Summering birds : purple heron, little bittern, squacco heron, black-crowned night heron, European bee-eater, European roller, great spotted cuckoo, common tern, short-toed snake eagle, sardinian warbler

Wintering birds : Common Crane (rare), penduline tit

During migration : black stork, Eurasian spoonbill, gull-billed tern, Caspian tern, black tern, white-winged tern, whiskered tern

A diverse wildlife

Dragonflies, butterflies, Pond terrapin, grass-snakes, wildboars, Camargue bulls and horses...

Discovery activities all year

Since **1996**, the Vigueirat marshes are committed to an open approach to the public.

The goal ? Valuing the remarkable natural heritage of this area, and public awareness of the need to preserve and pass on to future generations.

How ?

Through the management plan for the establishment of a principle of zoning which sets the rules of use :

- 90 % of the site area is dedicated to the **protection of natural heritage**, the welcome is highly regulated and can be done only escorted tour.
- 10 % of the site area is dedicated to the **discovery of nature**, public reception is favored by the establishment of facilities and appropriate reception facilities.

In 2015, The Vigueirat Marshes welcomed nearly **30 000 visitors**, making it the natural protected site busiest in the Camargue.



Summer programme 2016

Vigueirat Marshes, Mas-Thibert (13)

Free discovery, guided tours, exhibitions, photo workshops, festive events...

The program for this summer 2016 :

- o Etourneau trails with free access
- o guided walks of the Palunette Nature trails
- o guided tours in a horse-drawn carriage
- o guided walks in the heart of the Nature Reserve
- o thematic events to discover the fauna and flora of the Camargue
- o photography workshop to discover and improve nature photography skills in a floating hide
- o cultural, artistic and musical events
- o exhibitions of art including paintings, drawings and photographs...

NEW :

- o the sounds trail « *The Ways of the Rhône - Attention ! sensitive landscapes* »
- o the ethno-botanical garden
- o the equestrian discovery
- o the nature breakfast

AND : bicycle access to the Vigueirat Marshes by Via Rhône !

Informations pratiques :
Ouvert du 15/01 au 20/12/2016
de 9h30 à 17h30
Informations : + 33(0) 4 90 98 70 91
Mail : visites.mdv@espaces-naturels.fr
www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org

Activities

The Etourneau trails

Open all year, with free access, the three Etourneau trails have different themes :

- o The Cabine's trail : an entertaining and educational trail, 500m long on a boardwalk with eight interactive cabins. Discover all of Mother Nature's secrets with your children.
- o The Palunette trail : discovery of Camargue's landscapes and wildlife on a 2,5km long path with two hides and a viewing platform.
- o The sharp ecologist trail, interactive walk designed to raise awareness of eco responsibility issues and the use of natural resources.

(Every day from sunrise to sunset) - FREE

Guided tour of the Palunette Trail

Experience the Palunette trail with a guide and discover landscapes along the Vigueirat canal and birds from the hides - not to mention the herd of Camargue mares and their foals.

Departure according to demand all day 1h30 duration

Every day from April to September – €5

Tour in a horse-drawn carriage

Along the dykes that criss-cross the marshes, discover the Camargue to the rhythm of the hooves of draft horses. See fauna and flora, including herds of Camargue bulls and experience local traditions.

Every day, starts at 10am and 3pm.

*Duration 2hours, reservation – €15 **

Naturalist guided walk

Between meadows, reedbeds and marshes, life in the mosaic of landscapes is waiting to be discovered. After spending the winter in warmer climates, migratory birds are back ! Their colours, shapes and songs complement those of species present throughout the year.

April, May and September : departure at 2.30pm every day and 10.30am every day except Wednesday and Sunday

June, July and August : daily at 4.30pm

Duration 2h30 - €13 reservation

Nature hike

In the heart of the marshes, discover the National Nature Reserve by taking the Sanctuary Path, a five kilometre circuit with varied landscapes. This is recommended for families with children who are 6 years old or older.

The route takes us into the reedbed and then along the canal past the dunes and tamarisk shrubs. Before the salt marshes, the path wanders between a pond and some temporary pools. Hides and towers allow to observe the wildlife at close quarters with the help of a telescope provided by the naturalist guide who will be here to explain it all to you.

All year, Starts at 9.30am, wednesday and Sunday (except 25 December and 1st January)

Duration 6 hours – €17 reservation required

The garden

Alone, or with the gardener, come to discover fruits, vegetables and sweet smelling plants growing in our garden, and then, enjoy them in our refreshment bar !

Free access, every day from April to October

New in 2016

The Ways of the Rhône - Attention ! Sensitive Landscapes

With the help of a Sound Bubble, secrets and the history of the Marius Canal will be revealed. During your 'voyage', you will be accompanied by Corinne Landuré, archeologist at the Regional Archeology Service at the Vigueirat Marshes and Otello Badan (the one who reads underground). Following the exhibition « the Camargue ; its archeology and geography -' The Way of the Rhône », you will be invited by the Museum Départemental d'Arles Antique to walk in the Camargue, ears pricked, to visit the landscapes shaped over centuries by the river and by men.

Information and recommendations :

- It is necessary to pass through the reception of the Vigueirat Marshes to access the free paths and reach the place where you can listen to the Sound Bubble.
 - You can listen to the Sound Bubble using your mobile phone. Headphones and mp3 are also available at the Vigueirat Marshes reception.

You can download all Sound Bubble tracks on the next page : [parcours sonores](#)

Download the '[Parcours Sonores](#)' brochure (sound tracks)

Free access from the Vigueirat Marshes reception daily from 10am to 5pm.

The Ethno-botanical Garden

The ethno-botanical garden has a discovery trail where you will find plants from the Camargue displayed in ways inspired by gardens abroad. Developed by the Curator of the Vigueirat Marshes since 1999, the ethno-botanical garden project will be opened in June 2016. The aim of the garden is to make you familiar with the plants found in the Arles area so that you be able to appreciate their influence on the local landscape and the people who live there.

Free access from sunrise to sunset

The Equestrian Discovery

On horseback in the middle of the marshes.

We invite you to discover the landscapes, flora and fauna of the Camargue on horseback highlighted with the crossing of a field of Morucha bulls- the only breeding herd in France. You will learn about their husbandry and their behaviour.

Opening Sunday, June 26, 2016

Ouverture en juin 2016, times and prices, please contact us

Nature breakfast

*Exclusively, we suggest that you come to breakfast with our nature guide at the top of an observation tower in the heart of the Nature Reserve or in a traditional hunter's hut. Then, with the rest of the group, you will go to wildlife hides, equipped with a telescope, where you will discover the many species of birds present on the ponds. June, July, August : Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, departing at 8am - € 18 * (breakfast included)*

Thematic events

The last Saturday of each month from February to November, the Vigueirat marshes and the Naturalist Guide Office offer a themed guided tour. Moustached warbler, beaver, bittern, dragonflies, every season its particularity and discoveries.

Saturday February 27	A spring note in winter, the Moustached warbler (2h30 - €13)
Saturday March 26	On the beavers's tracks (2h30 - €13)
Saturday April 30	The awakening of the marshes (4h30 - €15)
Saturday May 28	The bittern's song at dusk (2h30 - €13)
Saturday June 25	The African wings, discovery of bee eaters (2h30 - €13)
Saturday July 30	Dragonflies and damselflies world (2h30 - €13)
Saturday August 27	Small wading birds, amazing migratory birds (4h30 - €15)
Saturday Sept 24	Incursion in the reeds among the bearded reedling (2h30 - €13)
Saturday 26 Nov 26	Wintering birds, ducks honored (6h - €17)

Photography workshops

Beginner's Nature Photography Course with David TATIN

This course teaches the basics of nature photography including the technical and artistic aspects of it. It also aims to improve your knowledge and understanding of nature in order to achieve better photographic results but will emphasise that we must respect the environment, including the plants and animals, by working in a responsible manner.

Dates : Sunday, March 27, Saturday, July 23

Price per person : €80 - contact : ORBISTERRE Association - Phone : 06 70 58 68 57

Photography course , with David TATIN

The objective of these courses, open to all, whatever your photographic equipment, is to improve your knowledge in nature photography. Learn how to use the right settings on your camera according to your subjects (macro, wildlife, landscape). The duration of a week-end allows to combine theory and practice, and to alternate sequences inside and on the field, on a rich natural site and on which we will spend the night.

Dates : May 7 and 8, November 26 and 27

Price per person : €190 - contact : ORBISTERRE Association - Phone : 06 70 58 68 57

Photography course in a floating hide, with Gérard SCHMITT

Become familiar with the technique of using a floating hide and to capture images. Learn how to use your camera equipment under real condition. This is 100% pure nature photography !.

Improve your knowledge and understanding of nature. Be more aware of the fragility of the natural environment and the wildlife that inhabit it.

Dates : June 25 to July 1st , from July 2 to 8, 6 to August 12 and August 13 to 19

Information 04 92 65 18 39

Exhibitions

Suzanne Hetzel , « For Mas-Thibert, 2015 »

From February 7 to March 27 – free access from 10am to 5pm

« For a year, we offered a look at the village. We wanted to link Mas-Thibert to the world around it. So we produced eleven posters (about a month) that were stuck in various places in the village. These images, photography half and half text, punctuating events (eg the junction with via Rhôna), the seasons, or recall the history of the village. They are not a look of the village and the landscape, but a work-up proposal of collective memory in order to confront the present. »

Pendant un an, hors de toute commande, nous avons offert un regard sur le village. Nous avons envie de lier Mas-Thibert au monde qui l'entoure. Nous avons donc produit onze affiches (environ une par mois) qui ont été collées dans divers lieux du village. Ces images, moitié photographie et moitié texte, ponctuent des événements (par exemple la jonction avec la Via Rhona), les saisons, ou rappellent l'histoire du village. Elles ne sont pas un regard sur le village et le paysage, mais une proposition de mise en travail de la mémoire collective afin de la confronter à l'actuel ».

Suzanne Hetzel & Jean Schneider

The program for the rest of the year is being developed

Events

From January 30 to February 7

Saturday, March 26

Sunday, April 10

Saturday, April 23

From May 5 to 10

From May 18 to 22

From May 30 to June 5

From June 3 to 5

The 11 and 12 June

The 17 and 18 September

Sunday, September 25

Saturday, October 8

World Wetlands Day

Beavers's spring

Producers Day

Frogs operation day

Festival of the Camargue

Nature Day

Ponds Day

Rendez-vous in the garden

Welcome to my garden

European Heritage Days

Festival of Gastronomy

Festival of Science

The refreshment bar of the Vigueirat Marshes

Come and taste our local produce grown in our own garden

Sandwiches and light meals from €5

Desserts and granitas from €2

Cold drinks and hot drinks from €1

The bar is open daily from 11am to 4pm + Toussaint bank holidays



Useful Information

Welcome house
Shop
Shaded Car park
Picnic area
Kennels for pets
Organic Refreshment bar open from April to September

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Opening hours :

The reception office is open from 15 January to 30 November in 2016

From April to September, it is open from 9.30am to 5pm

Information : + 33(0) 4 90 98 70 91

Mail : visites.mdv@espaces-naturels.fr

www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org

Les Marais du Vigueirat – 13104 Mas-Thibert



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