Nature trails in the Camargue
(numbers refer to a description on the back)
1 **LA CAPELIÈRE**
Established in 1979, this is the Information centre of the Camargue National Nature Reserve:
- Permanent exhibitions, information on where to go and what can be seen;
- 1,5 km of nature trails, 4 hides: presentation of the different habitats in the Camargue (forest, grassland, salt steppe, reed beds), flora and fauna of freshwater marshes (ducks, herons, passerines of the reedbeds, corpus...);
- Open daily from 01/04 to 30/09, closed on Tuesdays from 01/10 to 31/03. Groupes by appointment.

2 **SALIN DE BADON**
This former royal salina has been transformed into an area particularly favourable for observing wildlife:
- Information panels, 4.5 km of footpaths, three hides;
- At the junction of fresh, brackish and salt waters it is rich in birds throughout the year (ducks, herons, shorebirds);
- Tickets and permission can be obtained at La Capelière.

3 **THE GACHOLLE AND THE DIGUE A LA MER**
The sea-dyke was built in 1850 in order to isolate the delta from the influence of the sea. The lighthouse, built in 1882, was automated in 1967. Partially destroyed during the 1939-45 war it was renovated in 1947. The buildings are now used by the Camargue National Nature Reserve.
- Information centre open weekends and during school holidays from 11 am to 5 pm;
- 20 km of cycling tracks and footpaths from the Comtesse car park.
Access to the shore is south from the car park or 2 km west of the lighthouse;
- The finest stretches of wild salt steppe and lagoons in the heart of the National Nature Reserve. Birds of the sea shore and brackish areas: flamingos, gulls, terns, ducks, herons, shorebirds...;
- Strictly forbidden to motorised vehicles;
- The dunes are out of bounds, even on foot.

4 **THE FANGASSIER**
An island in the Fangassier lagoon is home in spring and summer to 10,000 pairs of flamingos and is the only flamingo breeding colony in France. Terns, avocets, flamingos, shelducks... can be seen throughout the year from the neighbouring dykes.

5 **THE POINTE DE BEAUDUC**
An area of dunes and lagoons where in spring and autumn many migratory passerines and shorebirds can be seen:
- Birds of the sea shore and flamingos can be seen throughout the year;
- The sea shore is accessible on foot or by bicycle.

6 **THE PALISSADE AND BAISSE DE 500 FRANCS**
- Landscape at the mouth of the river: salt steppe, lagoons, riverine forest and marshes;
- Information centre, sign-posted footpaths, hides, guided visits;
- Ducks, herons, gulls, terns, flamingos, shorebirds.

7 **THE GRENOUILLET**
Varied landscape of marshes, grassland and salt steppe grazed by herds of cattle and horses:
- Interesting throughout the year for herons. In summer, bee-eaters, stilts, marsh terns; in winter ducks, geese and great egrets;
- Raised platform for observing provided by the Tour du Valat.

8 **VERDIER MARSHES – Le Sambuc**
Former fish farm now managed for a variety of activities by the inhabitants of the village and by the Tour du Valat, footpaths, a hide: pratincoles.

9 **MAS NEUF**
Vantage point provided by the Camargue regional park on the edge of the Vaccarès:
- Interesting for migrants and breeding birds: stilts, godwits, pratincoles, herons, marsh passerines.

10 **THE GRAND MAR – on the Mas d’Agon road**
Extensive landscape of freshwater marshes and rice fields on the north side of the Vaccarès:
- Remarkable site in spring and summer for the numbers and diversity of breeding birds: herons (7 species), pratincoles, stilts, glossy ibis, terns, reed passerines...;
- Observations from the road.

11 **CAMARGUE MUSEUM**
In a converted sheepshed at the Mas du Pont de Rousty, it portrays human activities in the delta from the 19th century to the present. A 3,5 km footpath.

12 **LES IMPERIAUX, CONSECANIÈRE**
Extensive landscapes of lagoons (Impériaux) and brackish water marshes (Consécanières):
- Wintering of ducks and great eagles, breeding of gulls and terns, spoonbills, great cormorants... Flamingos and herons can be seen throughout the year;
- The Cinq Gorges track is accessible on foot or by bicycle.

13 **THE PONT DE GAU BIRD PARK**
Trails throughout marshes, ponds, reed beds, grasslands, salt plains, irrigation channels:
- Easy birdwatching of flamingos, herons, white storks, egrets, ducks, raptors.

**SOME ADVICE**
In spring and summer (April to October), it is best to observe in the early morning or in the evening.
When it is hot, be aware that you will not find drinking water in the Camargue away from the villages.
From April to November mosquitos can be a nuisance, so be prepared!

**WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE MAKE SURE THAT YOU DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEMS OF VALUE INSIDE.**