

## The Van Gogh bridge

The original bridge, painted by Vincent Van Gogh in 1888 in one of his most famous paintings, was located closer to the city center, over the Arles-Bouc Canal. It was replaced in the 1930s by a concrete bridge, which was destroyed in 1944 when the city was bombed. The bridge we can see today, identical to the one Van Gogh painted, comes from Port-de-Bouc and was transferred to its present location in 1960. It has been completely restored and can still be opened and closed.

## The "Saumoduc" (brine pipe line)

During this tour you will cross a pipe line, similar to gas or petroleum pipes, heading to or from the Fos-sur-Mer industrial and port zone. A "saumoduc" carries brine, in other words salt water. It is an industrial pipe line, carrying brine from the place where it is produced (salt marshes, caves or rock salt mines...) to factories for use in industrial products.



Along a swamp boardwalk

## The Vigueirat swamps (Marais du Vigueirat)

The Vigueirat swamps are owned by the "Conservatoire du Littoral", a government agency, and cover 1.900 ha of which 919 ha are part of the National Nature Preserve. The visitor can observe numerous animal species and a variety of landscapes including pasture land, flooded woods, "sansouires" (salt plains), bodies of water and the largest protected reed marsh in the Camargue. Along 15 km of paths (including an ecologically-responsible path unique in France), you can discover, on foot on your own or with a guide, on horseback or in a carriage, this exceptional natural site. [www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org](http://www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.org)

## Emergency numbers

**SOS** European emergency number **112**

Marseilles treatment center for poisoning **+33 (0)4 91 75 25 25**

**15** **18** **17** **3250**

**Caution! Consult the weather forecast before starting and avoid the mistral wind.**



Marais du Vigueirat

## Along the way

### Bar and restaurant

- Bar at the Marais du Vigueirat (summer season)
- Tabacco – press – drinks – coffee – bread (Mas Thibert) : +33 (0)9 67 10 77 85 / +33 (0)4 90 54 77 85
- Chez Pépé : +33 (0)7 69 75 68 81 / +33 (0)6 30 44 95 65
- Café de l'avenir +33 (0)6 59 46 61
- La Guinguette aux perroquets +33 (0)7 49 82 20 99)

### Rent a bike

- Europbike (Arles) : +33 (0)6 38 14 49 50
- Hôtel Régence (Arles) : +33 (0)4 90 96 39 85
- 1Véloc (Arles) : +33 (0)7 68 21 76 68
- Taco and Co - Réparation (Arles) : +33 (0)6 50 29 60 00
- RS Cycles Veloland - Réparation (Arles) + 33 (0)4 90 49 94 02
- Kustom green bike - Réparation : +33 (0)6 60 50 02 57
- Véloc Arles - Réparation : +33 (0)6 50 94 55 63
- Les Clés en Provence : +33 (0)7 87 48 54 76

### Don't miss

- The Van Gogh bridge
- The banks of the Rhône River
- The Vigueirat swamps : +33 (0)4 90 98 70 91
- Barcarin ferry et Beachs

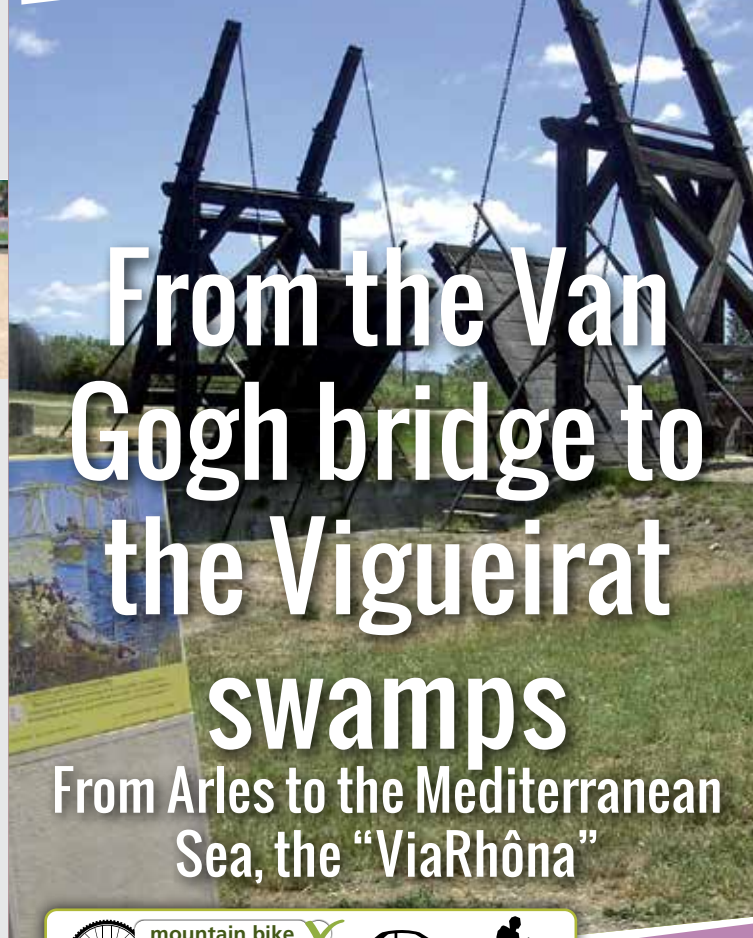
## ARLES TOURISM OFFICE

Downtown Arles Information Center : Bd. des Lices - +33 (0)4 90 18 41 20  
 Salin-de-Giraud Information Center : Rue Tournaire - +33 (0)4 42 86 89 77  
 Mailing address : BP 21 - 13633 Arles Cedex  
 E-mail : [ot-arles@arlestourisme.com](mailto:ot-arles@arlestourisme.com)  
 Website : [www.arlestourisme.com](http://www.arlestourisme.com)

Photo credits : M.SuzBeev, Marais du Vigueirat, OT Arles



## Trek Mountain bike / Trekking bike 13



# From the Van Gogh bridge to the Vigueirat swamps

## From Arles to the Mediterranean Sea, the "ViaRhôna"

 mountain bike ✓  
 trekking bike ✓  
 city bike ✗  
 3h to 4h

- Starting point :** Van Gogh bridge in Arles
- Distance :** 38 km round trip
- Extension Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône, Méditerrananean sea , ViaRhôna :** + 62 km round trip
- Take note :**
  - Difficult tour coming back (Marais du Vigueirat-Arles) when the mistral wind is blowing
  - Dangerous crossroads in Mas Thibert

Edition 2019



# 13 From the Van Gogh bridge to the Vigueirat swamps

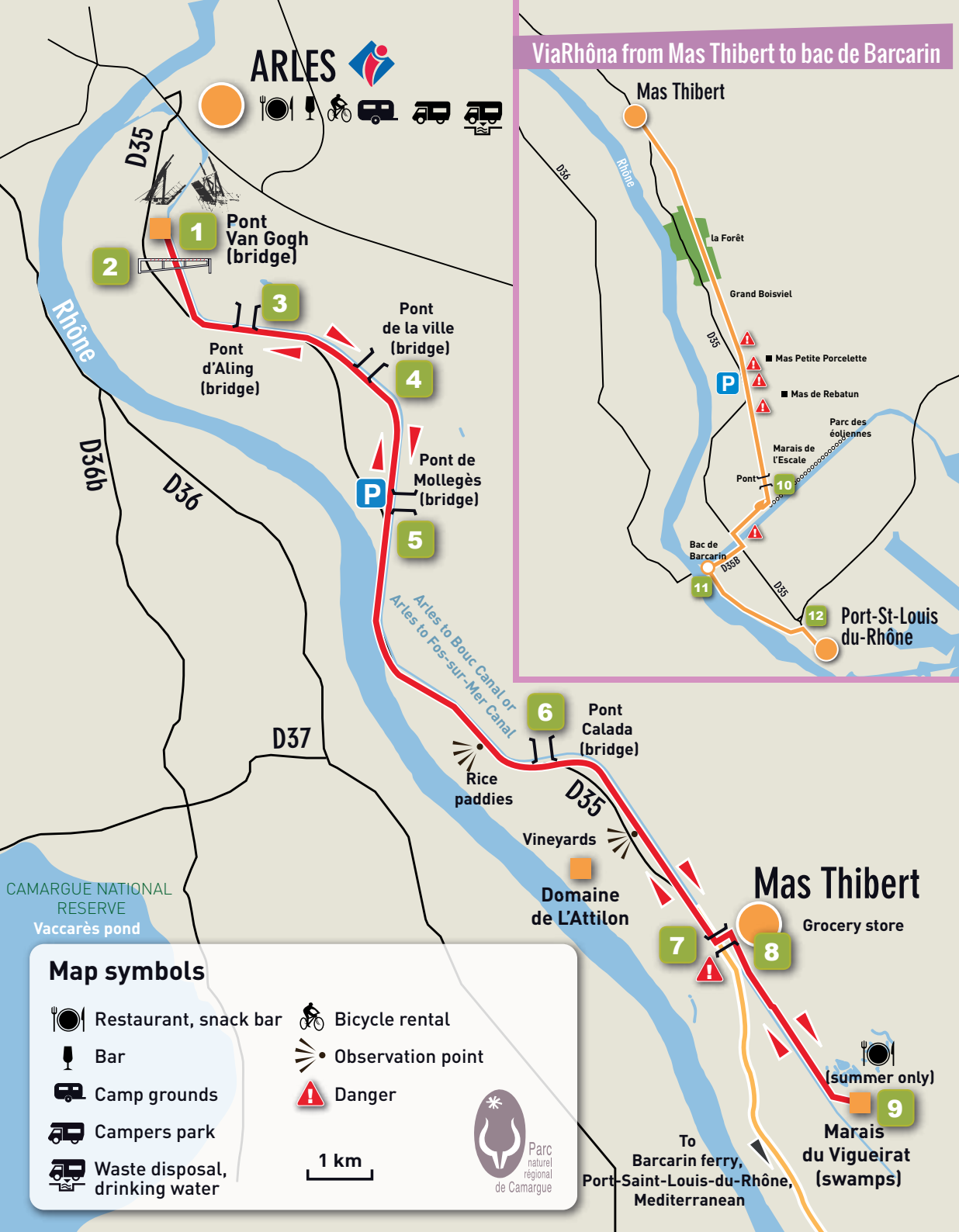
## How to get there

- From the **Arles Tourist Office Information Center**, Boulevard des Lices, take the bicycle lane going by the music kiosk. Continue along Boulevard Clémenceau, then left in the bike lane and follow signs for Barriol, cross the Sixte Quenin parking lot (P3), cross the bridge across the Arles-Bouc Canal and continue beside the canal (let it on your left) along the bike route until you reach the Van Gogh Bridge.
- From the **Arles Youth Hostel (Auberge de Jeunesse)**, free parking along Avenue du Maréchal Foch beside the stadium. Almost directly across from the Youth Hostel, beside Rue Germaine Richier, the former SNCF railroad right-of-way has been transformed into a bike route. A sign will direct you toward the Van Gogh bridge (Pont Van Gogh). At the end of the SNCF railroad bridge go left and take the bike route along the Arles-Bouc Canal to the Van Gogh bridge.

From the **Van Gogh bridge 1**, take the bike route **"Arles – Mas-Thibert du Léman à la Méditerranée"** ("Arles – Mas-Thibert on the bike route from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean") which follows the Arles-to-Bouc Canal. The passage is a former railroad right-of-way. Go through the gate **2**. 1.5 km after the Van Gogh bridge you will come to the **Aling bridge 3**. All the remaining distances until your next successive destinations are posted : **4** 4.5 km to Pont de la Ville, **5** 6.5 km to Pont de Mollegès, **6** 12 km to Pont Calada. **7** At 15.3 km you will arrive at the bridge at the entrance to the hamlet of Mas-Thibert on Route D24. (Dangerous crossroads). Cross the road and take the bike path **8** along the canal on the other side toward the **"Marais du Vigueirat"**. At the end of the bike path, you will share 500m of slightly stony track with the cars.

## Extension from Mas Thibert to Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône

**48 km round trip.** From the Vigueirat Swamps (Marais du Vigueirat) you can continue to the Mediterranean Sea. Take the cycling path to leave the Vigueirat Swamps. As you leave the village on the D24 (⚠ "Yield right of way" signs), cross the bridge ⚠ and continue along the ViaRhona on the right bank of the Arles-to-Bouc Canal. Continue for 14.2 km, cross the "Marais de l'Escale" bridge, beside the wind turbines **10** (25 turbines over 5.5 km along the Canal from the Rhone to Fos-sur-Mer), end of the bicycle path, shared road for 1.4 km. Turn left, keep right on the track parallel to the bridge (careful), the left-hand track is a private road. Go under the bridge and continue straight ahead for 1.5 km to the Barcarin ferry (Bac de Barcarin). End of the tarred bicycle path **11**, cross the road, on your left follow signs to the beach (Plage Napoléon) on the rocky path (mountain or trekking bikes only) along the Rhone River for 4 km beside the dike **12**. Meet the D35, then at the roundabout at the entrance to the town take Avenue Gabriel Péri on your right for 1.3 km, then turn right into the rue Jules Guesde to the "Port Abri" and follow the Rhone River to the St. Louis tower. It is possible to go to the beach 8 km away.



### Map symbols

- ☺ Restaurant, snack bar
- 🍷 Bar
- 🏠 Camp grounds
- 🚐 Campers park
- 🗑 Waste disposal, drinking water
- 🚲 Bicycle rental
- 👁 Observation point
- ⚠ Danger

1 km

