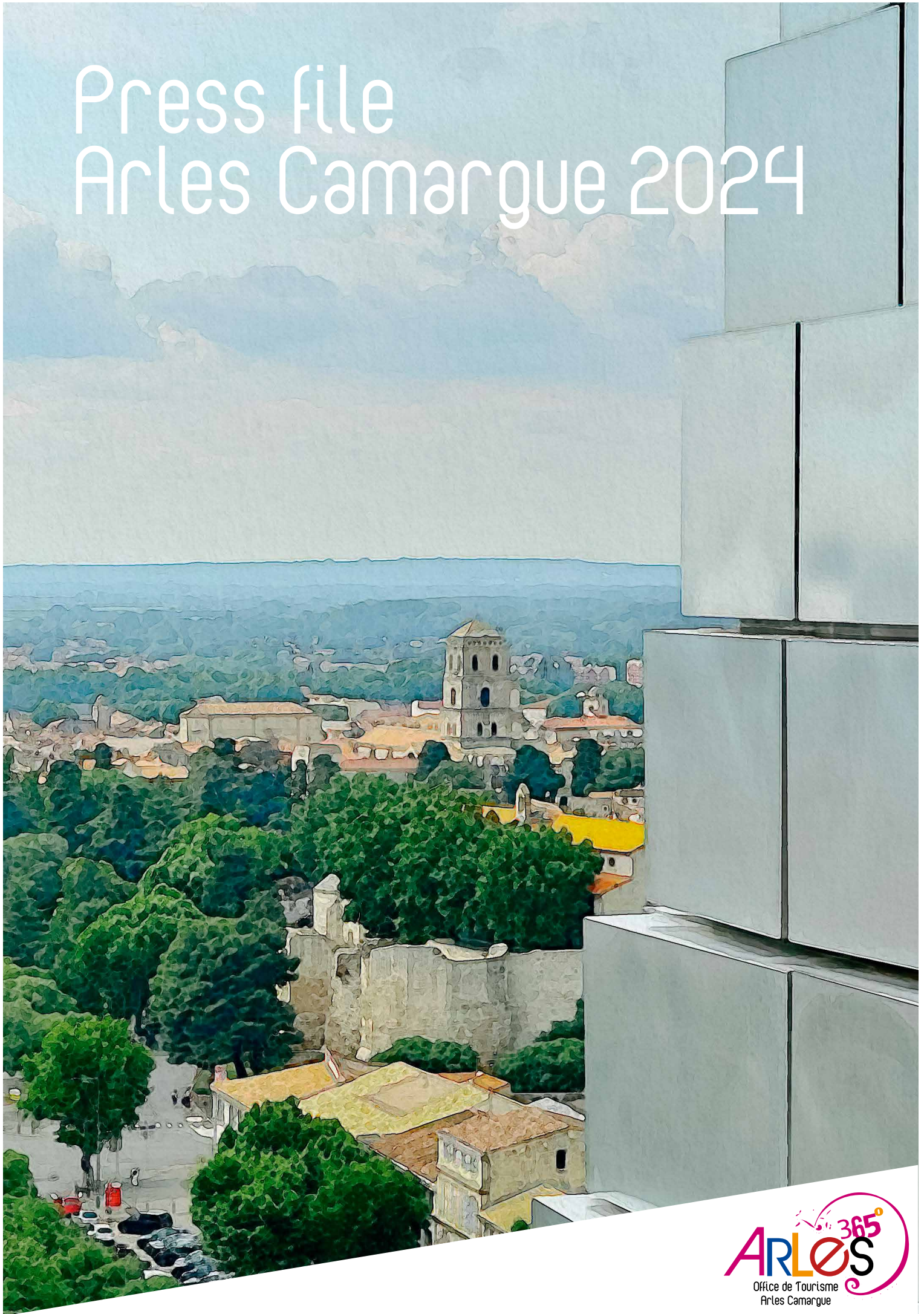


Press file Arles Camargue 2024



Introduction

Arles, land of contrasts

From the salt marshes to the Gehry Tower, passing by the Amphitheater and the rice fields in the Camargue, let yourself get lost in Arles ! Along your way, you will meet contemporary art specialists, amateur photographers, men fond of bull races, beautiful women in Arlesian dresses and nature guides... So many people and stories that make Arles so special. So many portraits and angles for your stories !



Highlights 2024

Arles gets its "starry night" back

1st June – 8th September

The Vincent van Gogh Foundation in Arles is delighted to be presenting Vincent's famous "cosmic poem", *Starry Night* (1888), one of the masterpieces in the Musée d'Orsay collection, during the summer of 2024. The arrival of this work in Arles provides an opportunity to design an exhibition that puts into perspective the sources from which the artist drew to create it, as well as the influence it had. Through a variety of approaches - scientific, historical and poetic - the work of artists past and present will shed new light on Van Gogh's work, highlighting its legacy and unshakeable strength. Conceived by Jean de Loisy and Bice Curiger, the "Van Gogh and the Stars" exhibition will highlight the erudite work and research carried out by Vincent van Gogh throughout his life, driven by his inner vision, his torments, his acute sense of observation, but also by his environment.

The Olympic Flame makes a stopover in Arles

Arles is one of 65 towns in France where the Olympic Flame will be making a stopover. Apart from Marseille, the Little Rome of the Gauls is the only town in the Bouches-du-Rhône region to enjoy this privilege. On 12th May 2024, a number of well-known figures from Arles, whose names will be announced this winter, will take it in turns to carry the Flame over 6 kilometres through the old town centre. The city's sports associations will be involved in this major event, and an Olympic village will be set up on the Charles de Gaulle esplanade.

Election and presentation of the 25th Queen of Arles

In the year of the centenary of Festiv'Arles, the town will get to know its 25th queen and her bridesmaids. As has been the tradition since 1930, every 3 years the Queen of Arles is elected. A true ambassador for the town, to be elected she must meet a number of criteria: speak Provençal, have a thorough knowledge of the town's habits and customs, know how to dress and do her own hair, etc. The candidate chosen by the jury on 1st May 2024 will be presented from the balcony of the Town Hall on Place de la République.

Summary

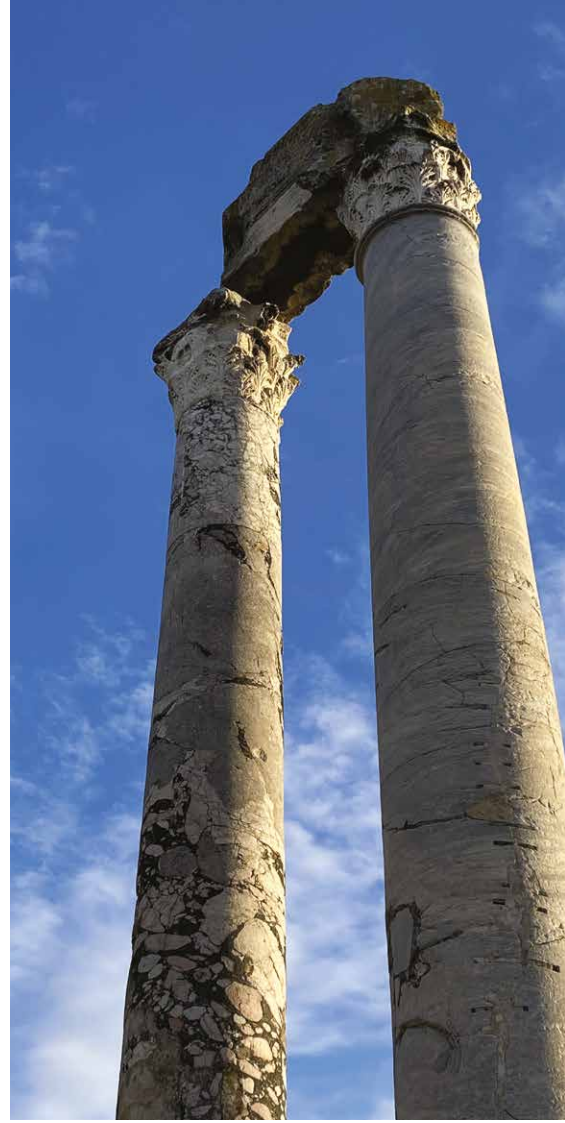
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Indispensable heritage

This Celtic city was colonized by the Greeks and then in the 1st century AD developed rapidly under the Romans. With its tapered lines, the Roman obelisk on the Place de la République is the only one, with that of the Place de la Concorde in Paris, visible in France, and a witness to this past history. Later, in the 12th century, Romanesque architecture gave the city its remarkable aspect. In the 17th century rich Provençal families competed to build the nicest townhouses, showcases of their wealth.



© The Explorers



The Roman Builders

After Rome itself, it is here in Arles that the largest number of Roman ruins can be found. At the apogee of the Roman Empire, more than 50,000 people lived in "Colonia Julia Paterna Arelate". The Roman amphitheater is remarkable : games here could be watched by 21.000 spectators. Inside and outside circular walkways, horizontal passages, alternating staircases, the construction was clever. The building is also surprising by its dimensions, more than 130m long. During the Middle Ages it was transformed into an authentic closed and fortified city, then rehabilitated in the 19th century when it was returned to its original use, as a venue for shows for the general public.

Beside the amphitheater and built during the same period, the Roman theater still reveals part of its seating and its orchestra section. This exceptional scenic venue comes to life again every summer with superb programs including the "Escala du Cargo".

Roman history fans can make deeper discoveries by going under the city. Here the Cryptoportico, a series of impressive underground galleries, formed the foundations of the Roman Forum, the invisible part of this huge public square in the center of the Roman city. On the banks of the Rhone, the Baths of Constantine were popular thanks to their hypocausts allowing hot air to circulate through hollow bricks under the floors of raised rooms.

The Alyscamps, the Christian cemetery, offers a shady walking path beside rows of remarkable sarcophagi. Vincent Van Gogh immortalized them "again" in his works.

Romanesque and classical architecture

The portal of St. Trophime's church is decorated with richly carved statues, dominated by Christ in glory in an almond-shaped mandorla. St. Trophime's cloister, built during the 12th century, is a remarkable example of Provençal Romanesque architecture. Another period, another style, the 17th century saw a flurry of building in Arles. The City Hall, designed in 1673 by the architect Jacques Peytret, in collaboration with the future architect of the Palace of Versailles, Jules Hardouin-Mansart, boasts a flat Romanesque vault covering a remarkable vestibule. About fifty townhouses spread out throughout the different quarters of the city were built by the important Arlesian families of the times. Among them, the Grille townhouse (Hôtel de Grille) is one of the most representative of the great classical architecture of Louis XIV. You can also stop in front of the Luppé townhouse (Hôtel de Luppé) and its astonishing façade that looks like a Florentine palace, across from the amphitheater. Outside the city, on the road to Fontvieille, in the heart of Arles Country, Montmajour Abbey is a fine example of eight centuries of monastic architecture. It was founded at the end of the 11th century by Benedictine monks, and the buildings and their natural surroundings inspired Van Gogh. From the top you will be able to discover a unique panorama over the Alpilles hills and the Crau plain.



Arles, World Heritage of Humanity

In 1981, Roman and Romanesque monuments of Arles have all been listed on the World Heritage UNESCO list. This heritage comes alive several times during the year : historical reconstitution of gladiator fights during school holidays in the Amphitheater, live concerts in the Roman Theater... A recreational way to discover these monuments !



© L. Cerdan



© Lionel Roux



Arles in the ♥



Christian Lacroix

fashion designer born in Arles in 1951

"As a child, I used to act in the Arena (Amphitheater), sing opera in the Roman Theater. The Alyscamps cemetery was my playground."



Vincent Van Gogh

in a letter to his brother Théo (1888)

"There's a Gothic porch here that I'm beginning to think is admirable, the porch of St Trophime, but it's so cruel, so monstrous, like a Chinese nightmare, that even this beautiful monument in so grand a style seems to me to belong to another world"



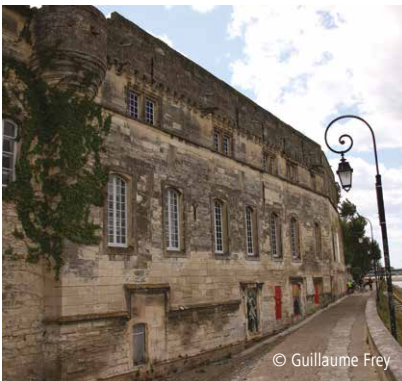
day at the museum

Day at the museum

Here beauty is inside the "package" and part of the "packaging". True showcases, the Arlesian museums are worth visiting for two reasons. You will be entering places seeped in history or resolutely contemporary, and meet artists, trends, other times. A Roman barge in a modern museum or contemporary photos in a 15th century priory.



© Fondation Lee Ufan



© Guillaume Frey



© Lionel Roux



© Guillaume Frey

Réattu Museum

Built at the end of the 15th century, magically dialoguing with the Rhone River, the Great Priory of the Knights of Malta owes its destiny to Jacques Réattu (1760-1833), an Arlesian artist who turned it into his residence, studio and the laboratory of his dreams. Since 1868 it has become a museum and preserves all of his works and his personal art collection. A place of confluences, with works ordered from contemporary artists in a mixture of disciplines, the museum offers thematic exhibitions and renewed hangings allowing us to discover art in a different way. Rare items of the collection : 57 drawings of Pablo Picasso, given by the painter since he was fond of Arles.

www.museereattu.arles.fr

Museon Arlaten

After more than 10 years of renovation, the ethnographic museum reopened Spring 2021. Created by author Frédéric Mistral in 1896 and installed in the old Jesuit College, the Museon Arlaten shows some 38.000 objects that witness ways of living, working or thinking in the lower Rhône valley during the 18th and 19th centuries.

www.museonarlaten.fr

Arles Archeological Museum

The Arles departemental archeological museum occupies a contemporary building designed by Henri Ciriani and displays the archeological collections of Arles : 1800 objects are on display for the public out of a collection of 30,000 objects (objects of daily life, architectural elements, mosaics, sarcophagi, scale models...). A visit to this museum is essential to understand the evolution of the Roman city; you will be fascinated by the Gallo-Roman barge found complete in the Rhone and exhibited in the museum, as well as by the supposed bust of Julius Caesar.

www.arlesantique.fr



Lee Ufan Arles

The South-Korean artist Lee Ufan discovered Arles for the first time in 2012 as the publishing house Actes Sud issued his monography in French. This key figure of the contemporary artistic world explained later that Arles has enabled him "to renew his thoughts". 10 years later, he inaugurated "Lee Ufan Arles", an exhibition art center located in a city-center's townhouse. In this 16th-18th century building, Lee Ufan's work is displayed, but you can also find a book store, meditation and reception spaces. With his close friend, the architect Tadao Ando, he created the artwork « Relatum – a sky underneath » which marks the beginning of the visit.

www.leefan-arles.org



Lee Ufan

Short Biography

Lee Ufan was born in South Korea in 1936. He lives and works between Paris, New York and Japan. He is the main theorist of the avant-garde movement called Mono-ha ("School of things"), a Japanese artistic current that has developed in parallel with other radical and minimalist movements. Mono-ha is regularly compared to the other pioneering movement called Arte Povera (Italia).

Arles in the ♥



Maja Hoffmann

LUMA Arles founder, born in 1956

"I have always had the desire to commit myself – both socially and civically – in places where I live. Arles is a city that is important to me. I spent my childhood here, until I was 15. My father settled here in 1948 and created the biological station Tour du Valat".

LUMA Arles

LUMA Arles is an interdisciplinary creative campus where thinkers, artists, researchers and scientists question the relationships between art, culture, environment, education and research.

Located in the Parc des Ateliers, a former railway wasteland covering an area of 11 hectares, LUMA Arles is a unique place where the LUMA Tower designed by Frank Gehry and seven former factories from the 19th century industrial heritage interact in perfect harmony.

The gardens, park and pond surrounding the campus are the work of landscape architect Bas Smets. Designed as a journey through the region by the fauna and flora that inhabit it, the 4-hectare park is a place of life, exchange and leisure open to all. As you wander around, works of art, sculptures and installations are revealed, extending the discovery.

Both a place of production and experimentation for artists and the general public, LUMA Arles hosts annual exhibitions of major artists, works by leading figures in contemporary creation, specific commissions and in-situ projects. Archives of artists,

photographers and exhibitions are accessible in conditions worthy of the greatest international institutions.

These installations and exhibitions take place in the different spaces of the Parc des Ateliers, in order to offer a year-round programme. Where always, somewhere, something is happening.

In a spirit of sharing in all its forms, LUMA Arles organises guided tours of the Parc des Ateliers and the exhibitions in French and English.

Conceived as a place for debate, dialogue and the transmission of knowledge, LUMA Arles is also transformed into a playground and offers educational programmes and family workshops in connection with its artistic programme.

The Parc des Ateliers is thus conceived as a living organism that allows for transversality so that culture can be expressed through all its facets.


www.luma.org/arles



Indomitable Camargue

Arles is also the Camargue, a wild nature preserve, a biosphere unique in the world a true full-sized postcard : horses, bulls, pink flamingos, ponds, rice paddies... as far as the eye can see. The Camargue is a wide alluvial plain created by the incessant struggle between the Rhone River and the Mediterranean Sea. It is the only French delta of its size, and stands out because of the wealth of its ecosystems. It has an international reputation for bird-watchers, as a site for both migrating and sedentary water birds and the only zone in Europe where pink flamingos reproduce !

**Arles
in their ♥**



Peter Lindbergh, photographer
(1944-2019) Fond of Arles

"To be accepted and loved by Arlesian and Camargue people, it's very easy. You have a drink outside for the aperitif and if a big mosquito lands on your arm, you don't move, you don't swat it. You just let it suck your blood."



Parc Naturel Régional de Camargue, so wild

The park spreads over 100,000 ha in several towns and boasts 75 km of coastline. At the center of the park, the nature preserve protects 13,000 ha from the mischief of man, in the towns of Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer and Arles. The Camargue is also an area where men and women work. Swamps, farmland and rice paddies string out one after another; pink flamingos and farm-raised bulls live together. Raising "Camargue Rice" is an ecological way of preserving the local ecosystem. It has been produced since the 16th century but only took off industrially in the 1940's. Another original asset is the raising of Camargue bulls, delicious in traditional

dishes like the "gardiane"(bull-meat stew). At the seaside, the dunes and the beaches create a natural barrier, but they are fragile and in constant movement. The town of Arles has 28 km of fine sandy beaches : the largest natural beach on the Mediterranean Sea (Beauduc and Piémanson). To cross this land, you can take the numerous discovery trails (Mas du Pont de Rousty, La Palissade, La Capelière, les Marais du Vigueirat) and the hiking or cycling trails between Salin de Giraud and Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer along the sea dike (Digüe à la Mer), or discover the Méjanes "draille"(path) guided by a Camargue horse, or spend a day on a bull ranch ("manade").



The Marais du Vigueirat, a hike in the middle of an exceptional nature preserve

The Vigueirat Swamps are a protected natural site covering 1,200 hectares, located at the junction between two ecosystems, the Camargue and the Crau. They have been listed as a national Nature Preserve. They belong to the Conservatoire du Littoral, a government preservation agency. They represent a complete inventory of Camargue wildlife : more than 2,000 species of plants and animals, 300 species of birds, nearly 35,000 ducks, 641 species of plants... and also ranches with horses and bulls, so emblematic

in the Camargue. You can visit the Marais du Vigueirat with your family on nature paths (a 6km raised boardwalk) or with a guide in a carriage, on foot or on horseback. Open everyday from 9am to 5pm. 6 euros to access all paths. A new mobile app was launched in 2022 to facilitate orientation and discovery of this natural site. NEW : An electric shuttle brings visitors in the Natural Reserve, which means less pollution for the environment and less noise for the birds !
www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.fr





© Cindy Avon

The Camargue Museum

The museum is housed in a former Camargue sheep barn and it traces the evolution of human activities in the Rhone River delta from the 19th century up to today : from agricultural activities (rice-growing, animal-raising, hunting, fishing, salt-gathering) to industrialization (dikes, pumping stations, irrigation canals). Your visit can continue along a 3.5 km discovery trail illustrating all the farm activities.

www.museedelacamargue.com



© Francine Riou

The Rice House

The Rozière family have been rice-growers for several generations and they receive visitors on their authentic rice farm. The Rice House is a learning center telling the history of rice-growing from its origins until today. Three different spaces are devoted to specific rice-growing machines, different stages in the transformation of rice, and a shop selling excellent Camargue products. Open every day from March to November and by appointment from December on.

www.maisonduriz.com



© M. Louvet

The Domaine de la Palissade

The Domaine de la Palissade, situated between Salin-de-Giraud and the coast, covers 702 ha on the right bank of the Grand Rhone River. It is located completely outside the dikes that protect the lower Camargue from the flood waters of the river or the sea, and thus is especially interesting ecologically, with specific wildlife. It belongs to the Conservatoire du Littoral and can be discovered on man-made paths or on horseback. A nature exhibition and a Camargue picnic site complete the proposed activities.

www.palissade.fr



The Domaine de Méjanes and Paul Ricard Museum

The famous entrepreneur Paul Ricard acquired this domaine in 1939 and repatriated all his workers there during World War 2 since distilled spirit production was forbidden by French authorities. In the 60's-70's, show-business stars came to Méjanes for movie shootings or just for holidays : Pablo Picasso, Joséphine Baker, Manitas de Plata, Johnny Hallyday... Today, the Paul Ricard Museum revives this story. Have a full "Méjanes" experience with your family thanks to its restaurant, furnished cottages, horse-riding, and the little train of Méjanes !

www.mejanes-camargue.com



© Valentin Pacaut - The Explorers

Maison du cheval Camargue (The Camargue horse farm)

Located at the heart of the Camargue Regional Nature Park, the Mas de la Cure belongs to the Conservatoire du Littoral. The farm federates a network of animal breeders, ranchers and Camargue horse lovers, all of whom are attached to Camargue culture. All year round the farm offers guided visits where you can discover the history of the rustic Camargue horse and observe him in his natural wild habitat. A unique and unforgettable experience !

www.maisonduchevalcamargue.com



La Capelière, Maison de réserve et du Vaccarès

The Camargue National Nature Preserve is a protected space unique in France and one of the largest protected wetlands in Europe. La Capelière, the Preserve information center, has a permanent exhibition, a nature hiking path with different Camargue landscapes, and walking trails on the Salin-de-Badon site.

www.snnpn.com/reservedecamargue





"Manades"(ranches), from animal-raising to fun festivities

The "manades", or farms specializing in "Camargue" horse - and bull-raising, keep traditions alive and open their gates to visitors. The "gardians"(cowherds) share their know-how and the traditions they inherited from their elders. This is where bulls are raised for the Camargue bull games, called "course à la cocarde", because a young "raseteur" must take off a ribbon or "cocarde" attached to the horns of the bull. A respectful ballet between the man and the animal.

Some manades also offer accomodation.

Manade Blanc (with cottages)
www.manade-blanc.fr

Manade Fernay
[www.masdesjasses.com`](http://www.masdesjasses.com)

Manade Jacques Bon (and its 5-star hotel)
www.masdepeint.com

Manade Jacques Mailhan (with cottages)
www.manadejacquesmailhan.fr

Manade La Grand Ponche
www.manadelagrandponche.fr

Manade Laurent
www.manadelaurent.com

Manade St Germain (with cottages)
www.massaintgermain.com

Manade Yonnet
04 42 86 82 44

Manade de Méjanès (with cottages)
www.mejanès-camargue.fr

Manade Salièrène (with cottages and Bed and Breakfast)

Salin de Giraud, between salt and sea

The village of Salin-de-Giraud is located on the southeast side of the Camargue delta, 40 km from the center of Arles. Salt has been harvested here for centuries. But the village of Salin-de-Giraud was actually created near the mouth of the Grand Rhone at the end of the 19th century, when two companies using salt established factories here, encouraging the migration of foreign workers (Greeks, Spaniards, Armenians, Italians...). In 1855, a chemical engineer from Lyon, Henri Merle, bought 8000 ha of swamps and marshes to furnish sodium chloride and other salts for his factory in the Gard department. In 1895 it was the turn of the Solvay company. Salt bought from Merle was used to make soda, an essential element in the manufacture of Marseilles soap. To have a better knowledge of this industrial period, book a guided visit with Les conteuses (storytellers) de Salin (Information at our Tourist Office in Salin de Giraud).

Visit salt marshes

From April to November, you can book an access to salt pans. Either by car, foot or bike. Don't forget your camera to capture the Faraman lighthouse or the salt mountain. Guided visit by a salt worker during summer upon reservation.

www.salindegiraudtourisme.com

Observe flamingos

The wide tracts of salt flats are interesting for both ecology and scenery. The development of a small number of invertebrate species here offers abundant food for birds, allowing for nesting colonies unique in Europe, notably for pink flamingos.

Walk along wild beaches

Salin-de-Giraud has a sea front that is very popular in the summer, with the wide wild beach of Piémanson, also known as the Arles beach, and its seven kilometers of fine sand in the heart of the Camargue, or the gulf of Beauduc, specializing in kitesurf.



Traditions and Festivities

The language, local dress and traditional festivities make Arles the capital of Provençal culture.

"Gardians"(cowherds) and Arlésiennes are the natural actors in the traditional festivities that rime with the seasons in Arles Country. Arles vibrates to the rhythm of bull games. Since 1402 when the bull games originated, each year, from the beginning of April to the end of October, the bull fans gather... The "Cocarde d'Or"(Gold Ribbon) is the most

prestigious show, and the "Trophée des As"shows are days of glory for the "raseteurs", "tourneurs"and especially for the stars of the show, the "cocarde"bulls. The Arles arena also thrills to the sounds of bullfights, the Arles "plaza"being one of the most important venues for French bullfighting.

Major traditional festivities

La fête des Gardians (Gardian Festival)

The "gardians" (cowherds) celebrate each year on May 1st. They gather on the Boulevard des Lices and then parade through town and salute the statue of Frédéric Mistral on the Place du Forum. A "messo parado" is celebrated in Provençal in the Eglise de la Major in presence of the equestrian statue of St. George, the patron saint of the "gardians". In the afternoon, games are organized in the arena. The "Gardian" Confrérie was founded in 1512 and is the oldest mutual assistance society still existing today in France.

The Pegoulado

28th June 2024

on the Friday before the Costume Festival, more than 1000 participants take part in a long evening parade in traditional costumes from all around the region on the Boulevard des Lices in Arles.

The Costume Festival

30th June 2024

it takes place on the first Sunday in July : a parade in local dress costumes finishing with a show in the Roman Theater.



The election of the Queen of Arles

The first modern Queen of Arles was elected in 1930. In all, there have been 24 since. The young lady who is chosen must maintain the culture, the Provençal dress costume and the Provençal language for 3 years. Camille Hoteman was elected in 2021. The new queen will be elected on **1st May 2024**.

The Rice Festival

13th to 15th September

Each year at the end of the summer, the Rice Festival reminds us of the economic importance of this crop. Just before the harvest, Arles celebrates this cereal grain grown around the world. Quarters, villages, associations and families busily prepare floats to create the "corso"that will go on parade Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Arles in their ❤️



Frédéric Mistral
provençal poet (1830-1914,
Literature Nobel Prize
"Arle ! O, tu que siès estado tout ço que l'on pòu estre, la metroupòli d'un emperi, la capitalo d'un reiaume la matrouno de la liberta"
"Arles, you have been everything that can be, the metropolis of an empire, the capital of a kingdom and the matron of freedom", speech to the Arlesians, 1887

Rencontres du Mérinos d'Arles

November 2024, date to be defined

The Maison de la transhumance (House of Transhumance) promotes knowledge and appreciation of pastoral farming through a programme of events, exhibitions and the transhumance of around 1,500 ewes through the streets of Arles.

The Easter Feria

29th March - 1st April 2024

The Easter Feria opens the French bullfighting season and attracts 300,000 visitors. "Bodegas"are opened where the "aficionados" can gather as soon as the "corrida"is over. "Penas"or "bandas"(groups of musicians) take charge of the animation around the arena and throughout the city.

The Rice Feria

13th - 15th September 2024

It takes place during the 2nd weekend in September. Since 2005, the major event during this feria is the "Goyesque"corrida, a unique bull race with an ephemeral scenery.





The art of the "santon"

The "santons", called in Provençal "santouns"(little saints) are statues made by hand out of clay. They are used to make Christmas manger scenes. At first, the family crib was limited to the characters of the Nativity. The santon-makers in Provence were inspired by techniques inherited from old traditional craftsmen and the characters in the "Pastorale"(Provençal Christmas play), to create their own santons. The work of each santon-maker can be recognized by specific details like no others.

Meet our santon-makers

International Santon-makers Salon

Each year, for more than 60 years now, and during two months, the International Santon-Makers Salon takes place in Arles. In 2023, the event was held at the Chapelle Sainte Anne. The large animated Provençal cot was presented in the Trinitaires church (opposite the Museon Arlaten). The city also organizes a Santon Fair at the end of November : creative workshops, molding, painting, demonstrations, music, choral singing...

The Provençal Santon Conservatory

14, rond-point des Arènes

Imagined by the santon-maker Henri Vezolles, this museum tells the history of Provençal santons from their origins until today. In an 18th century house, we can admire the works of the greatest Provençal santon-makers, past and present. About 2000 santons are on display, the work of different santon-makers such as Thérèse Neveu, Paul Fouque, Marcel Carbonel, Roger Jouve, Simone Jouglas, Thierry Deymier, Lilliane Guiomar, Christian Gayraud, Fernand Volaire.

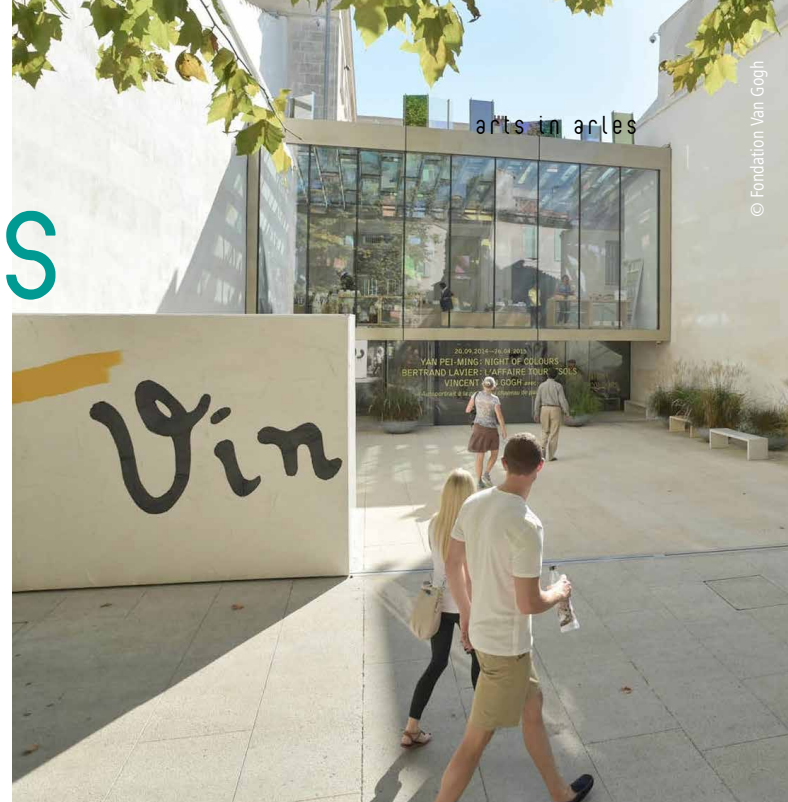


Arts in Arles

Special landscapes and light have always inspired artists and creators, either actors, painters, photographers or musicians...

Paintings

Vincent Van Gogh is certainly the artist who best captured the light of the city ! Vincent arrived in Arles on a cold February day in 1888, looking for light. He then began a period of intense and passionate work in the Southern French sunlight. His stay in Arles was the most productive of his career. He created 300 works in 15 months. Among the best known : The Café Terrace at Night and Starry Night over the Rhône. Even though none of his work is on permanent exhibit in Arles, the settings that he painted are everywhere. The Van Gogh Foundation regularly exhibits works by the artist in collaboration with major international museums.



Arles Vincent Van Gogh Foundation

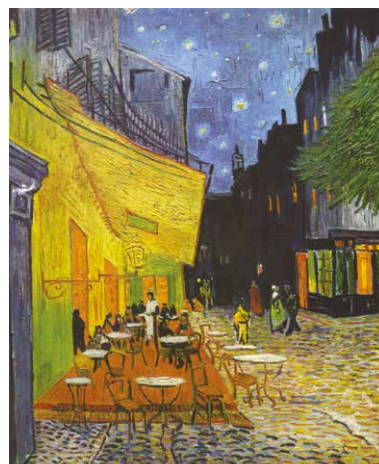
The entrance gate, by Bertrand Lavier, sets the stage and reveals the subtle alliance between this 15th-century townhouse and contemporary art. As you go through the door raise your eyes to admire the play of light in the glass work of Raphael Hefti. And don't forget the unbelievable terrace from which you have a view of the city, the Rhone River and Montmajour Abbey, a lasting tribute to the master.

www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org

The Van Gogh walking tour step by step

A pedestrian tour leads the curious visitor to the sites where the master set up his easel. A dozen "spots" are thus to be discovered on a pleasant stroll through the city. Among them : The Yellow House, on the Place Lamartine, Starry Night over the Rhone, on the Rhone River quay... The art lover is plunged into the heart of Vincent Van Gogh's paintings. Guided visits organized all year round. 10 minutes away from the city, you can see the reproduction of the Van Gogh Bridge.

www.arlestourisme.com/fr/vincent-van-gogh-a-arles



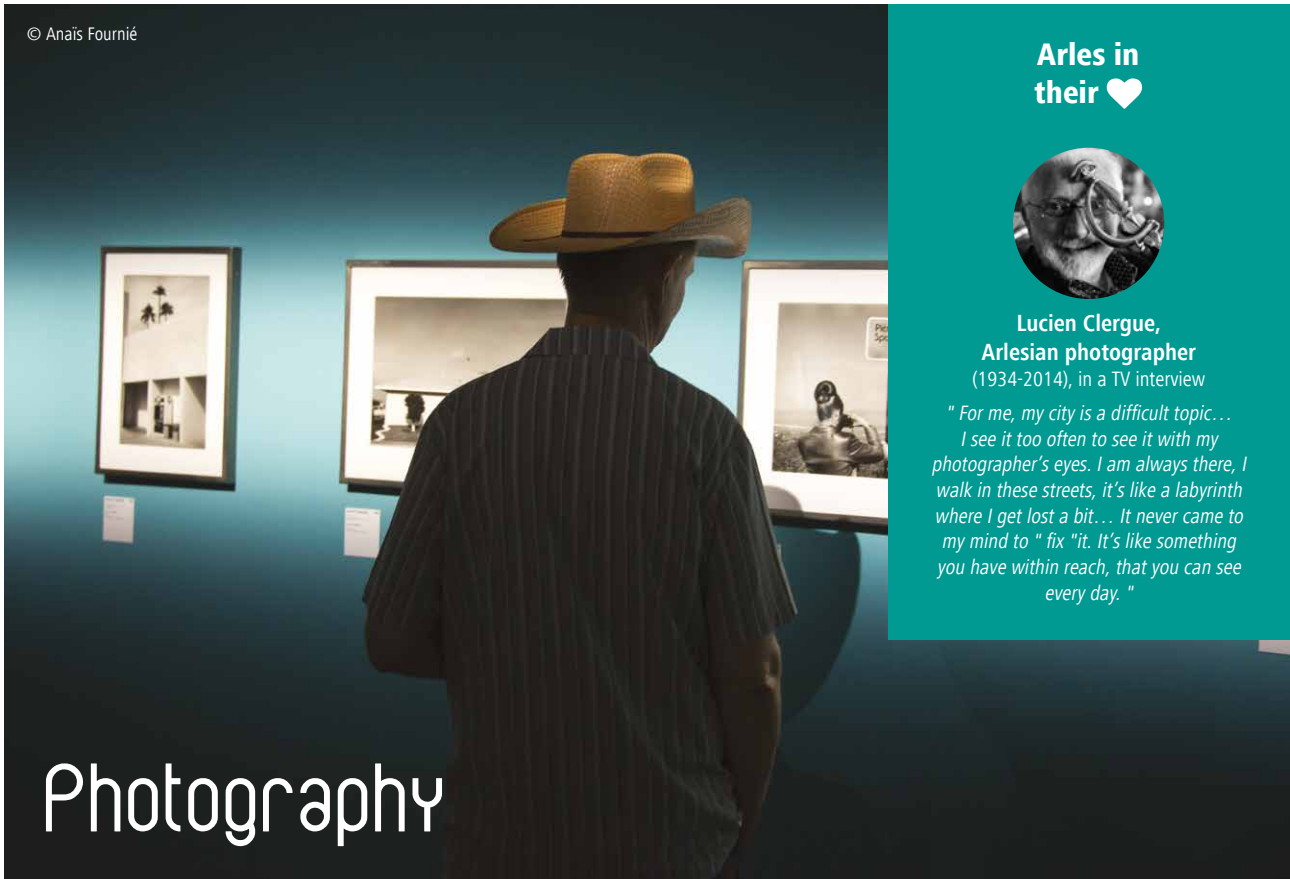
Arles in their ♥



Vincent Van Gogh

in a letter to his friend Emile Bernard, March 1888

"I want to begin by telling that this part of the world seems to me as beautiful as Japan for the clearness of the atmosphere and the gay colour effects. The stretches of water make patches of a beautiful emerald and a rich blue in landscapes, as we see it in the Japanese prints. Pale orange sunsets making the fields look blue. Glorious yellow suns. "



© Anaïs Fournié

Arles in their ❤️



Lucien Clergue, Arlesian photographer
(1934-2014), in a TV interview

" For me, my city is a difficult topic... I see it too often to see it with my photographer's eyes. I am always there, I walk in these streets, it's like a labyrinth where I get lost a bit... It never came to my mind to " fix "it. It's like something you have within reach, that you can see every day. "

Photography

Arles, photography and Lucien Clergue, a native.

The photographer, born in 1953, was a close friend of Pablo Picasso, despite their age difference. "Clergue's photographs are God's sketchbooks", once said the painter about his young friend. In the 60's, Lucien Clergue worked to create the photography collection of the Réattu Museum, which became the first Fine Arts Museum to include photographs, with prints by famous artists like Richard Avedon, Cecil Beaton, Man Ray, Dora Maar... In 1969, he created with a group of close friends Les Rencontres de la Photographie (Arles Photography Festival).



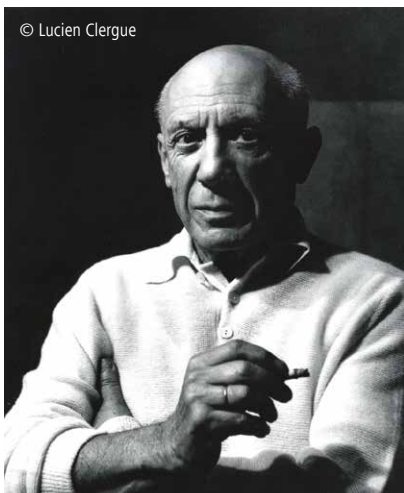
© Hélène Drouet

National Photography School

Since 1982, Arles has been home to the National Photography School (Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie). This is the only art school in France exclusively devoted to photography. In 2020, students and teachers moved to a new building, designed by architect Marc Barani, located next to Luma. www.ensp-arles.fr

The Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation

The foundation promotes photography and documentary films by diffusing and supporting young or confirmed photographers and video-film makers with a social message. www.mrofoundation.org

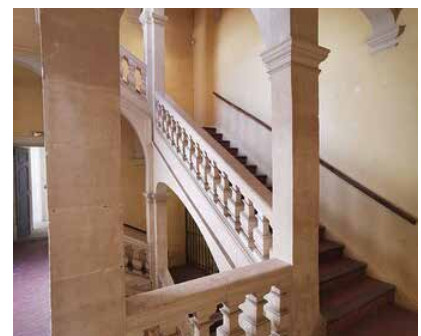


© Lucien Clergue

The Arles international Photography Festival

From 1st July to 22nd September 2024
Every summer since 1969, with over sixty exhibits installed in different exceptional heritage buildings throughout the city, the Arles Festival helps transmit world heritage photography. This melting pot of contemporary creation receives throngs of visitors from all over the world. Exhibits, projections, workshops... The whole city takes part : the museum, exhibition spaces, galleries, a church, industrial wasteland... The 2023 edition attracted more than 145,000 visitors.

www.rencontres-arles.com



Arts galleries

Arles is a city with varied cultural activities, including contemporary art events and shows all year round. There are more than 40 permanent art galleries and many more during summer !



Galerie Lhoste

Created by Mélanie Bellue and Reeve Schumacher, this gallery offers exhibition and experimentation spaces around contemporary art and music. The exhibition spaces are completed by an open kitchen, for convivial and sometimes unusual moments.
www.lhoste-artcontemporain.com



La Maison Close

A shooting studio and an art gallery, located in the Amphitheater area, in the historic center. A contemporary architecture full of light, even in the winter !
www.lamaisonclosearles.com



Anne Clergue Galerie

From Easter to October, Anne Clergue shows her "art crushes". She used to work at the Castelli Gallery in New York and at the Arles Van Gogh Foundation. She's been an exhibition curator several times and gives conferences about the friendship between her father and Pablo Picasso.
www.anneclergue.fr



Galerie Lea Lund et Eric K.

Photograph Lea Lund and her husband, dandy Eric K, are a perfect arty match : him in front of the camera, her behind. Black and white photographs, with strong contrasts, create either a poetical or a political atmosphere.
www.lealund.com



Books

Literature is everywhere in Arles, major players include the Actes Sud publishing house and the Méjan cultural pole. But literature and a taste for words also include the translators' conference, 15 other publishing houses, specialized bookshops, the Book Conservation Center, printing presses...



Actes Sud au Méjan. The Méjan is a complete cultural complex, a publishing house, an enchanting bookstore, a friendly gourmet restaurant, an art-house cinema, exhibits and even a hammam, all of this located in the Saint-Martin de Méjan chapel and adjoining buildings. On the banks of the Rhone, on Nina Berberova square, the site is a haven for lovers of books and culture, and is open to all with a desire to share.

Les Grandes Largeurs, the new bookstore in the historic city center, regularly offers readings, exhibitions, concerts and workshops for children.

De Natura Rerum : Located in a lovely Arlesian house near the Roman amphitheater De Natura Rerum (In the nature of things) is the second bookstore in France specializing in Antiquity. But it is also an art gallery and a beer cellar for locally brewed beers.

Arles BD

In a dedicated 100m2 space, the Arles BD bookshop offers a wide choice of books. Great classics, mangas, comics: whatever comic fan you are, children and adults alike will be delighted by this place.

The Librairie du Palais reopened in 2020. Devoted to photography, it has a vintage department : rare books and old photographs. It's one of the oldest bookstore in France still in activity, since it dates back to 1612 !

Other nice bookstores are worth visiting, such as **Off Print**. This editor and book seller publishes specialized works on contemporary art, photography and graphics.

The drawing

The drawing Festival

From 20th April to 19th May 2024

The 2nd edition of "the Festival du Dessin" will be headlined by Tomi Ungerer, whose graphic virtuosity and inexhaustible imagination, as well as his unwavering commitment to the cause of humanity, will be revealed in around a hundred drawings.

Around his emblematic figure, forty-two artists will be in the spotlight, some of them posthumously celebrated (Jean Dubuffet, Alberto Giacometti, Oskar Kokoschka, Félix Vallotton), others among contemporary celebrities (Kiki Picasso, Goossens, Georges Wolinski), and still others, including very young artists, whose fame is still confidential but who deserve to be widely known. As with last year's event, the exhibitions will provide a great opportunity to see and revisit the emblematic sites of Arles: the Archbishop's Palace, the chapel of the Museon Arlaten - Musée de Provence, the Musée Réattu, the Musée départemental Arles antique...

Debates, meetings, film screenings, competitions and concerts will punctuate this edition throughout, making it one of the unmissable cultural and festive events of spring 2024.



Music

Les Suds, en hiver

8th - 14th July 2024

The music Festival "Les Suds" has a winter edition. Music from around the world resonates in the city and around during one week... or more !

Les Suds, à Arles

13th - 17th February 2024

For 25 years, the "Suds" have kicked off summer festivities with a rich program of music from around the world. During 7 days and 6 nights, more than 60 concerts take place in the city center with workshops and master classes in dance, singing and world music... It is a major popular festival that attracts visitors from all over Europe.

www.suds-arles.com

Les Escales du Cargo

July 2024

A concert hall and center of Arlesian night life, the Cargo de Nuit is an institution. Each summer, in July, the "Escales du Cargo" generate vibrations for the Arles inhabitants and music lovers. The programs are always top-level.

www.escales-cargo.com

To look and taste

Here everything begins on Saturday morning. The Arles market is a regional reference, the largest, the most lavish, the most authentic, the most generous, it is showered with superlatives. People come from the Camargue and the surrounding areas to feel the vibrations. Seasonal vegetables, Camargue oysters, olive oil, Arles sausage, Camargue rice, "tellines" (tiny Camargue shellfish) from the Beauduc gulf, Carteau mussels, Alpilles goat cheeses...and also, woven baskets, clothing, Provençal fabrics, Camargue inspirations...

After the market, head for the terraces on the Boulevard des Lices and its Cafés : The Malarte with its "bistrot" style or the Waux Hall, meeting-point for Camargue bull-game lovers. Walking through the narrow streets, you will find fashion shops next to lovely townhouses, great reminders of the city's prestigious past. Take some fresh air near the Rhône banks and go explore la Roquette, the former sailors' quarter. Don't hesitate to get lost in this labyrinth where narrow houses are decorated with Virginia creeper, jasmine and laurel trees. Evening is here, let's try some

of the numerous arlesian restaurants (there are around 190 !): gastronomic, "bistrots", "guinguettes", traditional or tapas style.

The references



Les Maisons Rabanel

180 degree turn for the chef Jean-Luc Rabanel. He gave up his Michelin stars in 2021 and launched a more intimate formula. 25 reservations maximum and a motto : GREEN ! Two restaurants under the same house : Greenstronome and Greeniotage. Cooking lessons and confidential Bed and Breakfast upstairs...

www.rabanel.com



La Chassagnette

After taking a tour of the fascinating organic vegetable garden, head for the terrace under the arbor. Here the specialty is plants and chef Armand Arnal cooks with vegetables and wild herbs. A Michelin-starred restaurant.

www.chassagnette.fr



Coup de ♥



© ilyafoodstories

Inari

Located on Place Voltaire (new hotspot in the historical city-center), Inari is the first restaurant opened by Céline Pham, who was before a cheffe in residency at Septime (Paris) or more recently at Drum Café (Luma Arles). Céline Pham mixes French cuisine with her Vietnamese origins. A lucky and tasty union ! www.inari-arles.com



© Marta Pugliese

Mazette

Bio, local and committed cuisine. The first restaurant in Arles to be awarded the Ecotable label, Mazette! is a coffee shop, tea bar and restaurant in one. On the menu: brunches, vegetarian bowls, Wednesday burgers, sweets... Mazette! works exclusively with fresh, local and seasonal produce, mostly organically grown, and defends the ecological and political responsibility of a virtuous way of consuming, while striving for gastronomic excellence. www.mazettearles.com



© Adrian Dewerdts

Drum Café

Located in the "drum" of Franck Gehry's tower at LUMA Arles, this restaurant welcomes a new chef every 3-4 months. The giant round table and "Beaubourg" atmosphere won't leave you indifferent !



Not to miss

© H. Hôte



Le Cochon qui fume

New and already unmissable, this restaurant serving Italian-Corsican specialties will introduce you to new and authentic flavours offered nowhere else, by two self-taught chefs who are creating a surprise in Arles: Florent DIANI, a pastry chef by training, and Olivier ZOHAR, a former winemaker and Masterchef 2012 candidate. Special mention for the signature dishes, which reveal all their expertise.

L'Arlatan

The Arlatan boasts a restaurant offering tasty dishes following the rhythm of the seasons with fresh local produce, and in a fabulous, colorful décor created by the artist Jorge Pardo. The cocktail bar, open daily from 11 :00 AM to midnight, offers eclectic timeless cocktails www.arlatan.com



L'Oriel

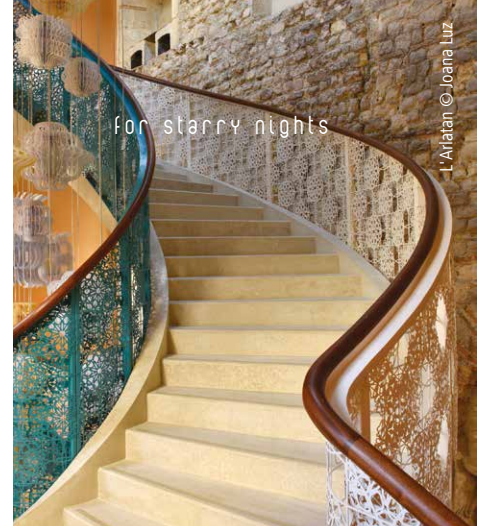
In a charming patio, a few steps away from the lively Place du Forum, enjoy meals prepared by Quentin Lepilliet. This restaurant, opened in June 2021, is a sure bet for anyone who loves French gastronomy. www.restaurantoriel.com

La Telline

Beside the Vaccarès pond, La Telline is one of the best traditional restaurants in the Camargue. The "telline" (small shellfish) is their specialty, but all Camargue products are served. A cozy dining room, wooden beams, checkered tablecloths and a lovely fireplace where bull steaks and Mediterranean fish are grilled. www.restaurantlatelline.fr

For starry nights

There are around 50 hotels in Arles. Some hide Roman remains, other have wonderful terraces to enjoy a cool breakfast during summer... Here's a short "coup de cœur" selection !



L'Arlatan © Joana Luz



© Hervé Hôte



© H. Goluzá



L'Arlatan contemporary design

The Arlatan is bursting into the 21st century thanks to the exceptional vision of the artist Jorge Pardo who has spread his colors, lighting and designs over a giant mosaic measuring more than 6000 m2.

www.arlatan.com

Hôtel Voltaire miami style

Recently refurbished, Hôtel Voltaire offers 10 bedrooms with a sober but warm decoration. Particularity : 3 bedrooms with dormitories of 4 beds, 40euros in high season, unbeatable value for money !

www.hotelvoltairearles.com

Hôtel de la Muette eco-friendly

It's the first hotel in Arles to get the Green Key eco-label (delivered in December 2022) ! The owners are very engaged in sustainable touristic development : waste separation, locally-sourced breakfast... The hotel, which partly dates back to 14th Century, offers 18 elegant bedrooms.

www.hotel-muette.com



Le Calendal photogenic

In 2018, in collaboration with the Arles National Photography School, each room of the hotel was decorated with a unique collection of photographs, representing the work of more than a dozen students. Influences : literature, architecture, cinema and painting.

www.lecalendal.com



Hôtel Présent past, present, future

Designed as an ode to the architectural heritage of the 20th century, Hôtel Présent is the setting for a large collection of lighting, objects, furniture, works and books from the 1940s to the present day. Its rooftop has been imagined as a surrealist swimming pool (without water, that is). Guests can still cool off with a cocktail of fresh products.

www.hotelpresent.fr



Hôtel and Spa Jules César couture signature

This emblematic edifice has become a true shop-hotel where the periods and the colors of the Arlesian designer Christian Lacroix make the difference. It opens onto the city and anyone can come in for a fashionable cup of tea, for every budget !

www.hotel-julescesar.fr

for starry nights



© Virginie Oveslian

Maison Volver bohemian vintage

Florence Pons and Carole Picard transformed this 50's hotel located in the Cavalerie area and made it fashionable again. Granito floor, vintage pieces of furniture, bedlinen in pure linen, its 12 bedrooms invite you to relaxation. Special mention for the terrace, very pleasant during the hot summer !

www.maisonvolver.com



Mas de Peint 5 star nature

This 17th century elegant manor house is a subtle balance between the generosity, love of hosts' house and charming hotel. Beautiful and peaceful bedrooms. Come live with the Bon family and share their universe : ride beside the "gardians" (cow herds) through the wideopen spaces, taste fresh healthy food from their vegetable garden, bull steak and rice from their estate.

www.masdepeint.com



Hôtel Voltaire © H. Goluza

Bed and breakfasts



© Roberta Valerio



Mas des 2 Platanes epicurean

Two splendid plane trees welcome you in this recently renovated mas. Bedrooms tastefully decorated. Need some advice to buy a nice bottle of wine during your stay ? The owner has a wineshop in Arles... This bed-and-breakfast was selected by Figaro Magazine in 2021 in its special edition « 100 most beautiful B&B's in France » !

Maison Fragonard delicacy

The famous perfumer has chosen Arles to open its first guesthouse. 3 suites and 3 bedrooms beautifully decorated. The love for Provence can be felt in every detail... The suite "Absolute secret" has its own terrace with a magical view over Arles' rooftops !

www.fragonard.com



Mas de l'Ange du Vaccarès little heaven

Luxury, calm and pleasure only few hundred meters from the Vaccarès pond, in the middle of the Camargue ! 5 suites and 1 cottage, all carefully renovated. In the garden, several spots to relax. The owner will be happy to make you visit his own swamps that he arranged with bird observatories !

www.masdelangeduvaccarès.com

Mas de Bouvet serenity

Located in the Camargue (in the village of Albaron), this beautiful house offers 5 bedrooms and 1 guesthouse with contemporary decoration. Lounge atmosphere when it's « apéro o'clock » ; no limited access to the swimming-pool... Should we call it heaven ?

www.mas-de-bouvet.com

The tourist office, at your service

Which street to take? Which quarter to visit ? Understand, listen, question... The Tourist Office offers 1000 ways of visiting the city, to learn the secrets of gladiators or to walk in the steps of Vincent Van Gogh. Find us on the Boulevard des Lices and at www.arlestourisme.com !



Combined tickets for monuments / museums

Pass Liberté.

Valid for 1 month, it will allow you to visit your choice of 4 monuments, a monument-museum (the Réattu) and your choice of another museum (Musée Départemental Arles Antique, Musée de la Camargue or Museon Arlaten). 15€ / 13€ (Reduced rate) per person, free for children under 18 accompanied by an adult.

Pass Avantage.

Valid 6 months, allows entrance into all the monuments and museums of Arles (Musée Départemental Arles Antique, Musée Réattu, Musée de la Camargue and Museon Arlaten). 19€ / 16€ (Reduced rate) per person, free for children under 18 accompanied by an adult. This ticket is really advantageous because you can save more than 30 euros !



The Wivisites Application

Wivisites is an application that makes it easy to discover the region's cultural heritage, from major sites to little-known nuggets. Available to download free of charge, it lets you discover a wide range of themed walks on your own: monuments on the World Heritage List, a medieval trail from St Trophime to Les Alyscamps, the places that inspired the painter Vincent van Gogh...

Themes visits

The 4 Museums of Arles, Montmajour Abbey, LUMA Arles, Lee Ufan Arles and Arles Vincent van Gogh Foundation propose tours led by guides and mediators.



Guided tours

The Tourist Office offers numerous visits of Arles and its monuments in the historic city center, in the footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh, Santiago de Compostela, Arles and the Rhone River, Arles and its townhouses, the Arles market, the Roquette section. In French or English for individuals. Other languages available only for groups.



Unexpected tours

Taco and co

Bike rental, eco-friendly transportation, guided tour for an effortless visit !

www.tacoandco.fr

Throughout the year, visitors can explore the town and discover its mysteries by solving the tricky riddles in a treasure hunt available from the Tourist Office.

Press trip



Day 1 Arles, Roman and Provence spirit

Morning : guided visit of Roman and Romanesque monuments listed on the Unesco list. Our guides will share with you some historical anecdotes about life during Roman times.

Lunch at La Cachette where Marjorie Martinez cooks mezze in a tiny but lovely restaurant. Delicious home-made hallah bread !

2pm : visit of the Museon Arlaten, Musée de Provence. Totally renovated, this ethnographic museum is full of stories and anecdotes about traditions in Provence from the 18th century until today.

4pm : little walk in the city-center to meet shopkeepers and craftsmen : Marius (a collective of creators), Dou Bochi (by fashion designer Eric Bergère), la Parfumerie Arlésienne, Bigourdan gin...

Dinner at Inari where Céline Pham combines French and Vietnamese recipes. Don't miss the upper-floor with its 12th century old chapel !

Day 2 Arles, contemporary mood

Morning : visit of LUMA Arles, opened in June 2021. Get inside Frank Gehry's tower and walk in the new park designed by Bas Smets.

Lunch at the Drum Café, located on the Gehry's tower groundfloor. Every 4 to 6 months, a new chef arrives in the kitchen, just like an artist in residence.

2pm : visit of Lee Ufan Arles, new art exhibition center for the South-Korean artist, after Naoshima in Japan and Busan in South-Korea.

4pm : visit of Arles Vincent van Gogh's Foundation. Every year, international museums lend some Van Gogh's masterpieces to the Foundation, thus creating an artistic dialogue between the Dutch painter and contemporary artists. 2 temporary exhibitions per year.

5.30pm : Discover some of Arles' galleries : photo, sculpture, installations...

Dinner at l'Arlatan, immersed in a multivitamin decor thanks to designer Jorge Pardo.

Night at Maison Volver, in the Cavalerie district, a few steps from Place Voltaire, which has recently become a lively hotspot during summer.

Day 3 Arles, capital of Camargue

9am : 45 minutes by car to reach Salin de Giraud. This village "at the world's end" became prosperous at the end of the 19th century thanks to salt production. You can visit the industrial site by car, foot or bike. You can also book a guided visit with a salt worker.

Lunch at Chassagnette, 1 Michelin star. Chef Armand Arnal daily prepares his menu according to the vegetables and herbs he finds in his organic garden.

3pm : Visit of Domaine de Méjanès and Musée Paul Ricard. Horse riding to discover its manade. Short trip with "le petit train" (20 min) along the Vaccarès Pond : flamingos, bulls and horses... The museum dedicated to Paul Ricard opened summer 2021. Learn more about this atypical French entrepreneur.

Dinner at Mazet du Vaccares, facing the Vaccares pond. A secret address for a timeless experience ! Only 1 menu : 100% fish and selffish fished by the chef Christophe himself in the Beauduc Gulf and served by his wife Muriel.

Night at Mas de Peint (5 star hotel) for an authentic and thus unforgettable experience in the family ranch. You can go horseriding to admire bull shepherd with the owner Frédéric Bon.

You're on an assignment in Arles or the Camargue?
Please share your photos and impressions on social networks with our hashtag : **#arlestourisme**

Arles, very special

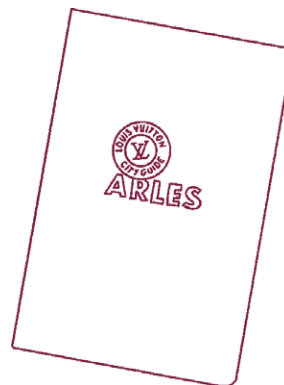


Arles is the largest city of Metropolitan France, 7 times bigger than Paris and the third city of the Bouches du Rhône department with its 53.000 inhabitants. It also includes the biggest part of Parc Naturel Régional de Camargue.

8 monuments are on the UNESCO world heritage list : the Amphitheater and the Baths of Constantine for example. Every year, more than 2 millions visitors come to Arles (except during Covid period), half of them are foreigners.

4.000 jobs depend on the cultural economy. Comfort and gastronomy : three 5-star hotels (Le Jules César, le Mas de Peint et l'Hôtel Particulier) and 1 Michelin starred restaurant (La Chassagnette).

The New York Times



In 2018, the New York Times chose Arles for its TOP 50 places to see in the world ! In 2022, Time Out magazine ranked Arles as number 1 European city to visit for a city break !

Like Paris, London and Tokyo, Arles has become part of Louis Vuitton City Guide collection. In 2022, Simon porte Jacquemus chose the salt marshes of Salin de Giraud for its fashion collection named « The Paper ».



Access to Arles



By Plane

The Marseille Provence Airport is 50min away from Arles by car. You can fly from 124 destinations in 33 countries. Passengers can take a shuttle to Vitrolles train station and then a direct train to Arles.

www.mp.aeroport.fr

Nîmes Alès Camargue airport is 20min away by car. You can fly few European destinations (London and Brussels) + Fez and Marrakech.

www.nimes.aeroport.fr

By Train

Around 4 hours from Paris (with a connexion in Marseille or Nîmes-Pont du Gard)

Around 2h30 from Lyon

Around 1 hour from Marseille

By Car

Around 7 hours from Paris

Around 2h30 from Lyon

Around 1 hour from Marseille

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