



# ARLES 2020

## Press File



[#arlestourisme](https://twitter.com/arlestourisme)



# INTRODUCTION

**February 21st 1888.**

Vincent Van Gogh arrived yesterday in Arles. In a letter to his brother Theo, the painter writes about his first impressions : «I noticed some magnificent plots of red earth planted with vines, with mountains in the background of the most delicate lilac. And the landscape under the snow with the white peaks against a sky as bright as the snow was just like the winter landscapes the Japanese did.»

Light: a key factor in painting and in photography. Arles and its surroundings gained notoriety thanks to those whose highlight its beauty : artists of course (Van Gogh, Lucien Clergue, Christian Lacroix...) but mainly people who protect and develop its traditions as well as cultural and natural heritage.

**When you stay in Arles, you go through more than 2.000 years of history !**

Your journey begins in 80/90 BC : Amphitheater (Arena), Roman Theater, Cryptoportico of the Forum, the Baths of Constantine... All these remains of the colony Arelate are listed on the UNESCO world heritage list, as well as Saint-Trophime's church and cloister, some of the finest Romanesque buildings in Provence. During the Renaissance period, numerous Arlesian families became prosperous and we can still admire today their townhouses (Hôtel de Luppé, hôtel de Quiqueiran de Beaujeu...).

The time machine speeds up.

1912 : Pablo Picasso, inventor of Cubism, arrives in Arles to satisfy two passions : Van Gogh and bullfights. The love story with the city comes to its climax 60 years later when Picasso offers 57 drawings to the Réattu Museum ! Still in the late 60's, Lucien Clergue, photographer, launches with a few friends Les Rencontres d'Arles, which sets Arles out as an international capital of photography.

**Here we are in 2020.** The Luma Foundation and its new lighthouse designed by Frank Gehry is nearly completed and the Museon Arlaten is about to wake up after a long sleep. This ethnographic museum reminds us how much Arlesians are deeply attached to their traditions, their celebrations and their territory.

Because you must never forget that Arles also means Camargue, a unique biosphere in the world. On the front of the postcard : pink flamingos, bulls, horses, rice paddies... And on the back : a fragile ecosystem, particularly exposed to climate change.



# MAIN HEADLINES



## The Museon Arlaten

After more than 10 years of renovation, the ethnographic museum reopens Spring 2020.

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](http://www.museonarlaten.fr)

## Lee Ufan Foundation

This contemporary art foundation was created by Korean-born artist Lee Ufan, a master of meditative minimalism. As expected, the Vernon townhouse, in Arles city center, will become a sanctuary for minimal art.

[www.leeufanfoundation.org](http://www.leeufanfoundation.org)



## Parc des Ateliers - Luma Arles, a cultural lighthouse

This interdisciplinary art center is being erected on former railway warehouses. The public park designed by Bas Smets and the main building conceived by Frank Gehry will fully open to the public in 2021.

Eventually, you will find there a luxurious park including a lake and over 500 trees coming from the mediterranean region. The Resource building will house international standard exhibition spaces, an auditorium, an archive program and artistic production facilities.

Luma is already presenting an exhibition program with activities open to the general public. Every summer, its doors are open to Les Rencontres d'Arles, the world music festival Les Suds and the music festival We Love Green.



**27-31 May 2020 : LUMA DAYS**, a forum of art and ideas, will be focused on the following topic : *In transit : a geography of change !*

[www.luma-arles.org](http://www.luma-arles.org)



# INDISPENSABLE HERITAGE



**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. »*

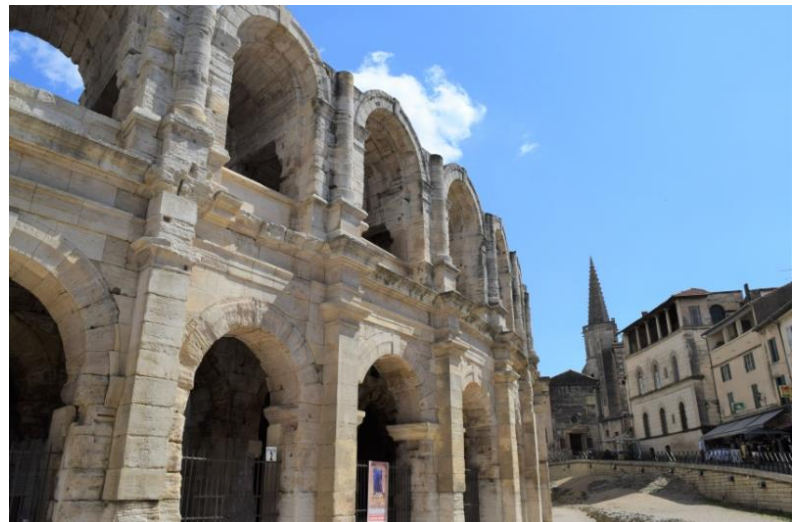
**This Celtic city was colonized by the Greeks and then in the 1st century AD developed rapidly under the Romans.** With its tapered lines, the Roman obelisk on the Place de la République is the only one, with that of the Place de la Concorde in Paris, visible in France, and a witness to this past history.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

**Arles is listed on 3 different types of UNESCO World heritage lists: First for its historical center and all the Roman and Romanesque monuments, then for the pilgrimage Route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.**

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was returned to its original use, as a venue for shows for the general public.



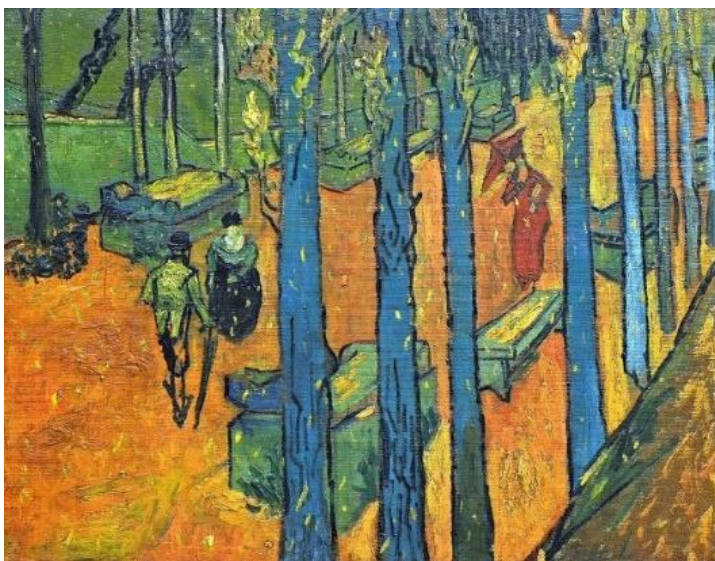


Beside the amphitheater and built during the same period, the **Roman theater** still reveals part of its seating and its orchestra section. This exceptional scenic venue comes to life again every summer with superb programs including the “Escales du Cargo”.

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.



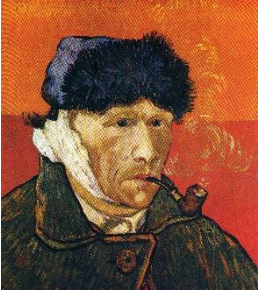
On the banks of the Rhone, the **Baths of Constantine** were popular thanks to their hypocausts allowing hot air to circulate through hollow bricks under the floors of raised rooms.



**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



### 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 »



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 12<sup>th</sup> century, is a remarkable example of Provençal Romanesque architecture.

Another period, another style, the 17<sup>th</sup> 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. Other townhouses are open to the public, such as the **Quiqueran de Beaujeu townhouse** which presently houses the National Photography School, or the **Léautaud de Donines townhouse**, occupied by the Vincent Van Gogh Foundation.

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



# MUSEUMS

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 15<sup>th</sup> century priory.



## 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.

Pandora's Box : new exhibition from February 15th to May 31st.

[www.museereattu.arles.fr](http://www.museereattu.arles.fr)

## Museon Arlaten (see page 3)

Created by the author Frédéric Mistral in 1896, this departmental ethnographical museum is a place of memory of Provençal society. The Laval-Castellane townhouse (15<sup>th</sup> century) which houses the museum has been closed for renovation for 10 years, and the reopening is announced and impatiently awaited for spring 2020.

[www.museonarlaten.fr](http://www.museonarlaten.fr)

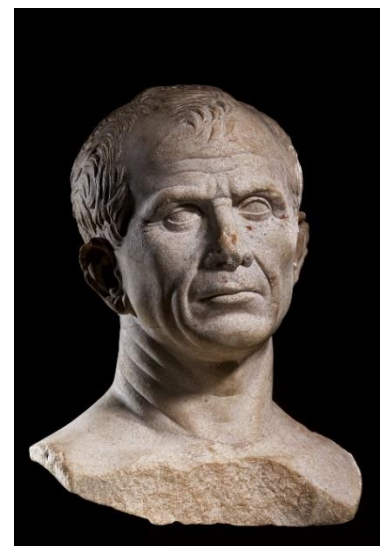
## Arles Archeological Museum

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.arles-antique.cg13.fr](http://www.arles-antique.cg13.fr)





# CAMARGUE, ANOTHER EXPERIENCE OF PROVENCE



**Peter Lindbergh, photographer (1944-1919), 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. »*

**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!**



©CRT PACA

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 (Digue à la Mer), or discover the Méjanes « draille » (path) guided by a Camargue horse, or spend a day on a bull ranch (« manade »)

A booklet containing details of 14 hiking or bike trails in the Camargue regional nature park has been co-edited by the Arles Tourism Office and the Park. It is on sale at the Tourism Office or can be downloaded from our site:

[www.arlestourisme.com/fr/assets/pdf/pdfs\\_document/pochette\\_OK.pdf](http://www.arlestourisme.com/fr/assets/pdf/pdfs_document/pochette_OK.pdf)



Numerous sites are open to the public and allow you to explore nature while respecting the Camargue wildlife. Several of them regularly organize discovery tours conducted by nature and bird guides.

#### 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.museedelacamargue.com)

#### 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 the Etourneau nature paths (a raised boardwalk) or with a guide in a carriage, on foot or on horseback.



[www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.fr](http://www.marais-vigueirat.reserves-naturelles.fr)

The Domaine de la Palissade, a good balance between environmental protection and awareness

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](http://www.palissade.fr)



The Rice House, how rice-growing has evolved in the Camargue

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](http://www.maisonduriz.com)

La 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](http://www.maisonduchevalcamargue.com)

La Capelière, The Camargue National Nature Preserve

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.snpn.com/reservedecamargue/](http://www.snpn.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.



©Lionel Roux



- Manade Blanc, [www.manade-blanc.fr](http://www.manade-blanc.fr)
- Manade Fernay, [www.masdesjasses.com/manade\\_fernay\\_arles/](http://www.masdesjasses.com/manade_fernay_arles/)
- Manade Jacques Bon, [www.masdepeint.com](http://www.masdepeint.com)
- Manade Jacques Mailhan, [www.manadejacquesmailhan.fr](http://www.manadejacquesmailhan.fr)
- Manade Jalabert, [www.manadejalabert.com](http://www.manadejalabert.com)
- Manade St Germain, [www.massaintgermain.com/](http://www.massaintgermain.com/)
- Manade Yonnet, 04 42 86 82 44
- Domaine de Méjanes, [www.mejanes-camargue.fr](http://www.mejanes-camargue.fr)

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.



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.

**Les Bois Flottés:** the new Salin-de-Giraud campgrounds, located in this former salt-harvesting city, right beside the long sandy Piémanson beaches. Kitesurf and wild-beach lovers should remember this address.

[www.camping-les-bois-flottes](http://www.camping-les-bois-flottes)





# TRADITIONS



## 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 e 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

**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.



## The major traditional festivities

### La Course de Satin (Satin Race)

The first Satin Race took place in 1529.

The Arles Festival Committee continues the tradition and reserves this competition exclusively for Camargue race horses from the best breeding farms. The riders ride bareback (with no saddle). The winner carries away the Gold-Embroidered Silk Scarf, of which a relic is on display in the Museon Arlaten. He or she will be able to keep it for a year and if he (she) wins three consecutive victories, the silk scarf will belong to him (her) permanently.

### La fête des Gardians (Gardian Festival)

The « gardians » (cowherds) celebrate each year on **May 1**. 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 election of the Queen of Arles

The first modern Queen of Arles was elected in 1930. In all, there have been 23 since. The young lady who is chosen must maintain the culture, the Provençal dress costume and the Provençal language for 3 years.  
Who will follow Nais Lesbros?

**Answer on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 !**



## The Festival of Arles

**The Pegoulado** (July 3rd 2020) : 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** (July 5th 2020) : it takes place on the first Sunday in July: a parade in local dress costumes finishing with a show in the Roman Theater.

**The Golden Cocarde** takes place on the Monday following the Costume Festival. It is the most prestigious of all the bull games.

### The Rice Festival

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 decorated with rice to create the “corso” that will go on parade Saturday night and Sunday morning at the beginning of September.

### The Easter Feria (April 10 to 13 2020)

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.

### La Rice Feria (September 12-13 2020)

It takes place during the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in September. It is associated with the “Camargue gourmande” salon, featuring Camargue rice and other agricultural products from the farms around Arles (olives, olive oil, local wines, AOC bull meat, Camargue salt...) as well as local crafts.





## 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. Each year, for more than 60 years now, and for two months, the **International Santon-Makers Salon** takes place in St.Trophime's cloister. Arles also organizes a **Santon Fair** at the end of November: creative workshops, molding, painting, demonstrations, music, choral singing...



Fans should not miss the **Provençal Santon Conservatory** and its exceptional collection. This museum, managed by an association, was opened thanks to the santon-maker Henri Vezolles and tells the history of Provençal santons from their origins until today.



### Meet our santon-makers

**Evelyne Ricord:** A sculptor, santon creator, designated one of the best craftsmen of France in her category, clay santons - 06 24 61 71 69 – By appointment only.

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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, Liliane 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 Night Café* and *the Hospital Garden*. 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.

### Letter to his friend Emile Bernard – around March 18 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.* »

### Arles Vincent Van Gogh Foundation

The entrance gate, by Bertrand Lavier, sets the stage and reveals the subtle alliance between this 15<sup>th</sup>-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.

Exhibition Vincent Van Gogh + Laura Owens from May 16th to October 18th 2020

[www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org](http://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 thus plunged into the heart of Vincent Van Gogh's paintings. Guided visits organized all year round.

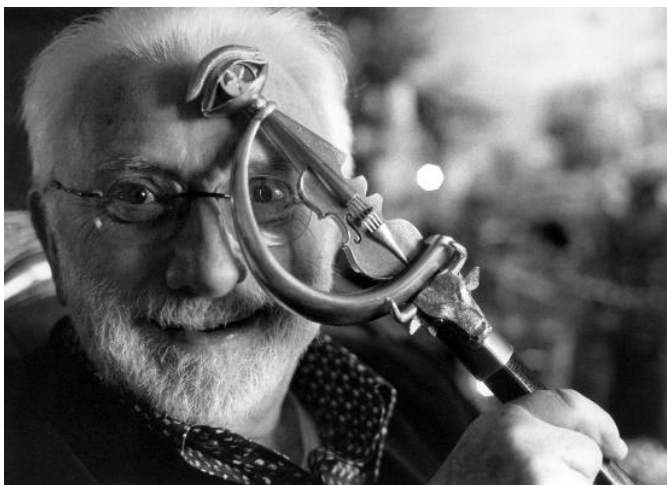
10 minutes away from the city, you can see the reproduction of the Van Gogh Bridge.

[www.arlestourisme.com/fr/le-circuit-van-gogh](http://www.arlestourisme.com/fr/le-circuit-van-gogh)

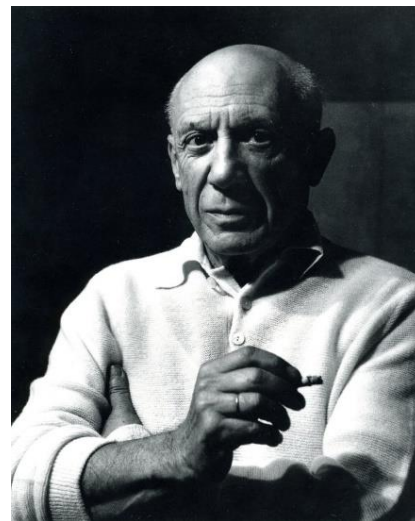


# PHOTOGRAPHY

Arles, photography and Lucien Clergue, a native.



©Robert Durand



Pablo Picasso par Lucien Clergue

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).

## The Arles International Photography Festival – starting June 29th 2020

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...

[www.rencontres-arles.com](http://www.rencontres-arles.com)



© Anaïs Fournié

## 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. The Blain Hotel will now open between April and November. [www.mrofoundation.org](http://www.mrofoundation.org)

## European Nude Photo Festival – May 8-13 2020

For nearly 20 years, the Nude Photo Festival has been exhibiting European photos, with the presence of an Arlesian artist each year. [www.fepn-arles.com/](http://www.fepn-arles.com/)



## École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie

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 January 2020, students and teachers will move to a new building, designed by architect Marc Barani, located next Luma.



© RSI Studio pour Marc Barani

## IMAGE

The MOPA, Motion Pictures in Arles, school, is a leader in French animation and educates future top-level professionals whose productions receive awards at international film and cartoon festivals. In 2018, one of their movies The Garden Party was on the Oscars' shortlist !

[www.ecole-mopa.fr](http://www.ecole-mopa.fr)





# ART GALLERIES

Arles is a city with varied cultural activities, including contemporary art events and shows all year round. There are more than 300 art galleries during summer !



## 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](http://www.anneclergue.fr)

## 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](http://www.lamaisonclosearles.com)



## Galerie Huit

The gallery hosts exhibitions, artists, and guests from around the world.

Created in 2007 by Julia de Bierre (writer, gallery-owner, curator), it also offers very stylish independent apartments.

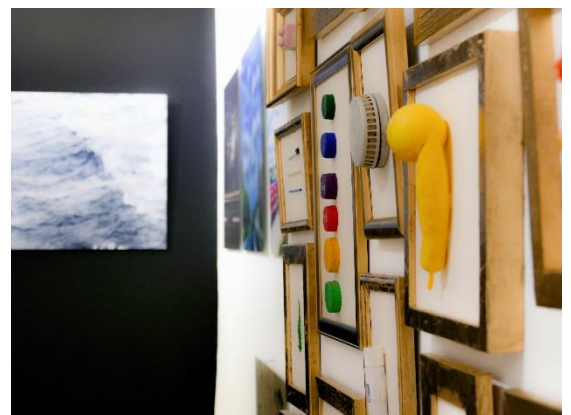
[www.galeriehuit.com](http://www.galeriehuit.com)

©François Delebecque

## Arles Gallery

Anne Eliayan and Christian Pic see themselves as artists more than gallery-owners. All year round, they exhibit their work as well as other artists, either painters, photographers or plasticians. A convivial artspace also opened for projects shared with Arlesian students.

[www.arlesgallery.com](http://www.arlesgallery.com)



©A .Eliayan

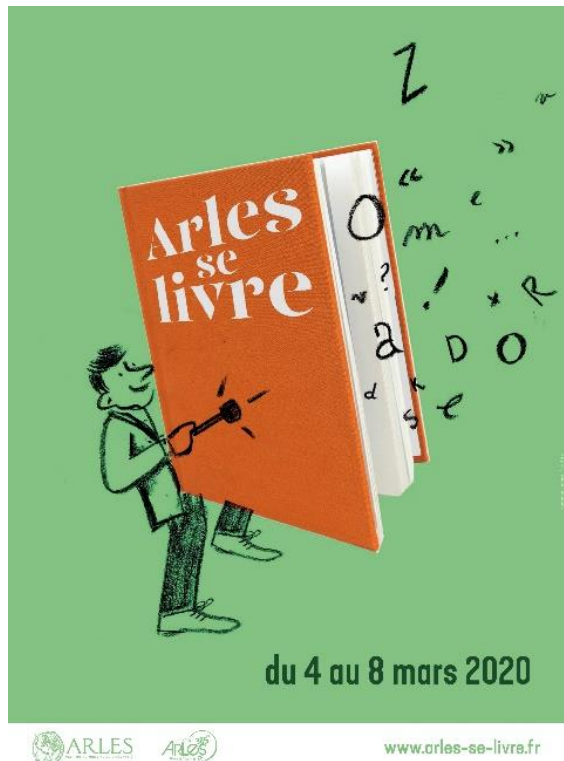
# BOOKS

## Book Festival : Arles se livre March 4-8 2020

Literature is everywhere in Arles, major players include the Actes Sud publishing house and the Méjean cultural pole. But literature and a taste for words also include the translators' conference, 16 other publishing houses including Editions Piquier, specialized bookshops, the Book Conservation Center, printing presses... and all the Arlesian cultural actors, theaters, stages, museums...

For this third edition, the city will resound with "words" for 5 days, and books will invade public spaces but also more intimate places like cafés, restaurants, shops...

[www.arles-se-livre.fr](http://www.arles-se-livre.fr)



### Actes Sud at the Méjean

The Méjean 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 Méjean chapel and adjoining buildings.

On the banks of the Rhone, on the well-named 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.

Other nice bookstores are worth visiting, such as Off Print, located in the Parc des Ateliers. This editor and book seller publishes specialized works on contemporary art, photography and graphics.



# MUSIC



Les Suds, winter edition – March 1-8 2020

The music Festival « Les Suds » has a winter edition. Music from around the world resonates in the city during one week.

[www.suds-arles.com/fr/2019/les-suds-en-hiver-1650](http://www.suds-arles.com/fr/2019/les-suds-en-hiver-1650)

Les Suds Arles – July 13-19 2020

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](http://www.suds-arles.com)



Escales au Cargo – July 22-24 2020

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. Last year, Texas chose the Roman Theatre for its unique concert in France ! On July 24, 2020, the rockband Archive will perform in Arles to celebrate their 25th birthday !

[www.escales-cargo.com](http://www.escales-cargo.com)

# THE TOURISM OFFICE IS WAITING FOR YOU



Which street to take ? Which quarter to visit? Understand, listen, question... The Tourism Office offers **1000 ways of visiting the city**, to learn the secrets of gladiators, to visit the Luma project display or to walk in the steps of Vincent Van Gogh.

Find us on the Boulevard des Lices and at [www.arlestourisme.com](http://www.arlestourisme.com) !

## Combined tickets for monuments

**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. **12€ / 10€** (Reduced rate) per person, free for children under 18 accompanied by an adult.

**Pass Advantage.** Valid 6 months, allows entrance into all the monuments and museums of Arles. 16€ (instead of 49.50€ if each ticket were to be bought individually) / **13€** (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!

## Smartphone application Arles Tour

This free application localizes nearby points of interest and immediately furnishes pertinent information. Visits, monuments but also hotels, restaurants, an agenda, tour routes through different sections of Arles on a variety of themes : Roman Arles, Medieval Arles, Arles as a UNESCO World Heritage city, In the Steps of Vincent Van Gogh, Street Art, Sonorous walking tours, Craftsmen's tour.

A plus : you can give your opinion and consult those of other users with this application.



## City theme tours

Discover Arles on foot by following the theme tours : discover the monuments listed by UNESCO, the Arles Archeological Museum and the monuments, from Saint Trophime's to the Alyscamps (Medieval Arles), in the footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh, the Réattu museum and the treasures of the Renaissance and Classical periods, a selection of town houses in the old city center, 20th- and 21st-century architecture and heritage. Documents on sale in the Tourism Office for 2 € or downloaded for free.





## Guided tour

The Tourism 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.

Book online : [www.arlestourisme.com/fr/visites-guidees-arles.html](http://www.arlestourisme.com/fr/visites-guidees-arles.html)

## Theme visits

The Arles Archeological Museum (Musée Départemental Arles Antique), LUMA Arles or the Vincent Van Gogh Foundation organize tours conducted by guides or mediators.

## On 2 or 3 wheels

Rent a bike, a Segway, taxi or rickshaw service, or a guided tour on a scooter for an unusual effortless visit !



## FOR EVERY TASTE BUDS

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** : gastronomic, “bistrots”, “guinguettes”, traditional or tapas style.



## STARRED

### L'Atelier de Rabanel

2 stars in the Michelin Guidebook and 5 chefs' hats in the "Gault et Millau". The restaurant has become an Arlesian monument, and the chef with his South-Western French accent is one of our best ambassadors for local products. A sensitive menu, with lots of vegetables, and terribly photogenic. Cooking lessons and market strolls with the chef are also organized.

[www.rabanel.com](http://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](http://www.chassagnette.fr)

## TRENDY

### L'Arlatan

The Hotel 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/fr](http://www.arlatan.com/fr)



### Le Chardon

The Paris Popup team invites chefs from all over the world to come and live and work in the rue des Arènes. A bistrot-style menu with influences ranging from Canadian to Australian and South-American...

[www.hellochardon.com](http://www.hellochardon.com)



### Gaudina

In this historic old Arlesian butcher shop, the former assistant chef of the 3-star restaurants Régis and Jacques Marcon puts the accent on meat.

[www.facebook.com/GaudinaArles](http://www.facebook.com/GaudinaArles)

### Simone & Paulette

It is the meeting between two inhabitants of Arles who share the same passion for their city, cooking and hospitality. It is also the idea of sharing happy moments around the kitchen counter in this new "mess hall".

[www.simoneetpaulette.com](http://www.simoneetpaulette.com)



### Hôtel Voltaire - restaurant

Chefs Tamir Nahmias and Or Michaeli cook delightful Mezze !  
Very pleasant terrace to have lunch and get sun tanned...

[www.hotel-voltaire.com](http://www.hotel-voltaire.com)



## NOT TO MISS

### La Bodeguita

Very popular bar and restaurant, in summer and winter !  
Be prepared for a feria-tapas atmosphere : cumin scented chickpeas, prawns on plancha, baby squids served with a persillade...

The tapas menu is as promising as the wine and cocktail menus !

[www.bodeguita.fr](http://www.bodeguita.fr)



### L'Épicerie du Cloître

During summer, people rush to the Épicerie to enjoy the shade of its huge paulownia ! While sitting at wooden tables, you will taste a simple and friendly cuisine with seasonings travelling from Provence to Japan ! You also can try a selection of food jars and ingredients, either in-store or take-away.

[www.lecloitre.com](http://www.lecloitre.com)

### Lou Marquès

The Jules César hotel's restaurant is one of the finest in Arles.

The dishes, that smell of Provence, are signed by Chef Joseph Kriz.

Why don't you try one of his Signature dishes : langoustine risotto with organic red rice from the Camargue, served with dried fennel sauce.

[www.hotel-julescesar.fr](http://www.hotel-julescesar.fr)



### 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](http://www.restaurantlatelline.fr)

# FOR STARRY NIGHTS

*Extract from a letter Vincent Van Gogh wrote to his sister about night in Arles :*

*« If you look carefully you'll see that some stars are lemony, others have a pink, green, forget-me-not blue glow. And without labouring the point, it's clear that to paint a starry sky it's not nearly enough to put white spots on blue-black. »*



## Contemporary design – L'Arlatan

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](http://www.arlatan.com)

## Miami style – Hôtel Voltaire

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.hotel-voltaire.com](http://www.hotel-voltaire.com)



## Bohemian vintage – Maison Volver

Florence Pons et 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](http://www.maisonvolver.com)



### Nomade chic - Le Cloître

Design and decoration groupies will recognize that the interior decoration is the work of India Madhavi. A miniature Provençal square, stone walls, neo-baroque and nomad chic design, the influences of this designer go perfectly with the charm of the spot.

[www.hotelduclotre.com](http://www.hotelduclotre.com)



### Photogenic - Le Calendal

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](http://www.lecalendal.com)

### Historic & trendy – Grand Hôtel Nord Pinus

This marvelous establishment boasts repeated artistic references from Picasso to Cocteau, including Peter Lindbergh and Peter Beard... True or imaginary epics, a stay here is an initiation.

[www.nord-pinus.com](http://www.nord-pinus.com)



### Couture Signature - Hôtel Jules César

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](http://www.hotel-julescesar.fr)

### 5 star Nature - Hôtel Mas de Peint

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 wide-open spaces, taste fresh healthy food from their vegetable garden, bull steak and rice from their estate.

[www.masdepeint.com](http://www.masdepeint.com)



# MAJOR EVENTS IN 2020

## **Pandora's Box at Réattu Museum : February 15 to May 31 2020**

The museum will display its permanent collection like a curiosity cabinet. You will discover some unknown facts about Arles, such as the creation of a natural history museum by the first mayor of Arles.

[www.museereattu.arles.fr](http://www.museereattu.arles.fr)



©Jerry Uelsmann



©Noah Webb

## **Vincent Van Gogh + Laura Owens at the Arles Vincent Van Gogh Foundation : May 16 to October 18 2020**

Laura Owens is a California artist, known for her large-scale paintings that combine a variety of historical art references and painterly techniques. The Whitney Museum of American Art (New York) acknowledged her work with a mid-career survey in 2018.

[www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org](http://www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org)

## **Queen of Arles election – May 1st 2020**

The election takes place every 3 years during the Gardian Festival. The young lady who is chosen embodies the local culture with the dress costume and the Provençal language.

## **The Arles International Photography Festival – starting June 29, 2020**

Since 1969, les Rencontres d'Arles have been a major influence in disseminating the best of world photography and playing the role of a springboard for photographic and contemporary creative talents. In 2019, the festival welcomed more than 145 000 visitors.

[www.rencontres-arles.com](http://www.rencontres-arles.com)

## **Les Suds à Arles du 13 au 19 juillet 2020**

Every summer, during 7 days and 6 nights, 50.000 people from all around the world come to the world music festival and attend more than 60 concerts and musical encounters in the city center.

[www.suds-arles.com](http://www.suds-arles.com)

## **« If I was a gladiator » at Arles Archeological Museum – August to December 2020**

Over the years, the Museum has received gladiatorial combat and experimental archeology specialists, such as the ACTA company which created an exhibition based on gladiator re-enactment. It will enable children and adults to experiment the « real » life of a gladiator : training, equipment and combat.

[www.arles-antique.cg13.fr](http://www.arles-antique.cg13.fr)





# Very special Arles...



It's the largest city in France, 7 times bigger than Paris and the third city of the Bouches du Rhône department with its 53.000 inhabitants.



8 monuments are on the UNESCO world heritage list: the Amphitheater and the Baths of Constantine for example.



Comfort and gastronomy : three 5-star hotels (Le Jules César, le Mas de Peint et l'Hôtel Particulier) and two Michelin starred restaurants (L'Atelier Rabanel et le Chassagnette).



Every year, more than 2 millions visitors come to Arles, half of them are foreigners.



4.000 jobs depend on the cultural economy.



In 2018, the New York Times chose Arles for its TOP 50 places to see in the world !



Like Paris, London and Tokyo, Arles has become part of Louis Vuitton City Guide collection.



Gucci chose the Alyscamps for its cruise fashion show in 2018 !

# 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](http://www.mp.aeroport.fr)

## By train :

- Around 4 hours from Paris (TGV to Marseille Saint Charles or new train station Nîmes-Pont du Gard, then connexion by TER to Arles)
- Around 2h30 from Lyon
- Around 1 hour from Marseille

[www.sncf.com](http://www.sncf.com)

## By car :

- Around 7 hours from Paris
- Around 2h30 from Lyon
- Around 1 hour from Marseille







## Jules Michelet, l'Amour, 1858 :

« A young man sees in Paris a wonderful lady with regular features. He falls in love. He marries her, then becomes curious to know his wife's origins, the city of Arles, where she was born. There, he sees the same person that he thought was unique at every corner. This miracle runs through the streets. He sees hundreds of girls and thousands as pretty. It's the beauty of a whole people, the Arlesian beauty that he fell in love with. »



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