

Arles

Arles is in Provence in the southeast of France. Remote, uneventful, but definitely no waste of time, Arles is absolutely steeped in Provençal culture. The museums are small, but have some interested artifacts. Unfortunately there are no Van Gogh's to be found in the city, despite the fact that his residence in Arles was his most productive. Chico Bouchiki, co-founder of the gypsy kings, as well as the rest of the band, is from Arles. Take a lazy stroll along the Rhône, dip into a café and continue strolling. Arles is included on the [UNESCO World Heritage List](#).

Get in

By train

SNCF Gare d'Arles. http://www.sncf.com/en_EN/flash/

By bus

There are several bus lines from towns all over the Bouches-du-Rhône from which you can reach Arles. You can always buy your passage from the conductor.

By car

Take the Autoroute from Salon or yet another from Marseille, but give preference to the smaller routes and Alpilles towns like Fontvieille, Paradou, les baux, etc.

Get around

- **Walk.** Arles is for the most part small enough to enjoy by foot, if you aren't lazy. Otherwise, rely on taxis and buses. It's not even worth doing anything besides walking. Rent bicycles for day trips in the Alpilles.

See

Centre-ville

The Roman amphitheatre (les Arènes d'Arles) was built in the first or second century B.C.E. houses Corridas at Easter and the Rice Festa in September. Throughout the summer there are various courses camarguaises.

- Among Arles other Roman attractions are the **Classical theater**, the **Cryptoporticos** and a few building that incorporate gallo-roman columns, etc.

- You can learn all about Roman Arles at the '*Musée d'Arles et la Provence Antique*.
- Other museums and monuments include **Musée Réattu**, **Lou Museon Arlaten**, the early Christian burial site called **les Alyscamps**.
- The **Pont Van Gogh** is a bit removed from town.
- Check out the **Saturday market** for sure.
- **Eglise Saint Trophime**

Do

The Market and definitely think about researching for expositions and other events of the sort.

Buy

- **markets and brocantes.**

Eat

Saucisson d'Arles (traditionally made with a bit of donkey meat), marinated olives from the market, Languedoc cheeses from the market, etc.

Plats: Gardianne de Boeuf, Daubes, Fougasse d'Arles (with duck confit inside)

For restos, check out the menus on side street restaurants.

- **La Boheme**
- **Mule Blanc**

Drink

- **Pastis**, the local wines are good with food. Take advantage of the proximity of Nîmes for wines.
- There's the embarrassingly touristy **Café Van Gogh**, painted to look like his Night Café painting and lots of Japanese tourists who seem to be on the verge of a euphoric breakdown when they see it.
- Check out some of the other cafés in place du Forum, Rue Wilson, etc...

Sleep

There is an **Auberge de Jeunesse (youth hostel)** at 20, avenue Foch. It's within walking distance of the train station. Another favored alternative is sleeping in the streets. Place de la libération offers a hospitable sidewalk with a boulder dedicated to two American WWII pilots shot down over Arles under shelter of which you may sleep.

There are a few hotels apparently built within parts of former abbeys, such as **Hôtel du Cloître** by Saint Trophime. Also, there are tons of hôtels de tourisme.

Get out

Arles is centrally located. The town straddles Provence and the Languedoc. Profit from it's positioning and enjoy the great nature that surrounds: the Camargue and beaches to the south, the Alpilles to the east, etc.

For more info see: www.wikipedia.org

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