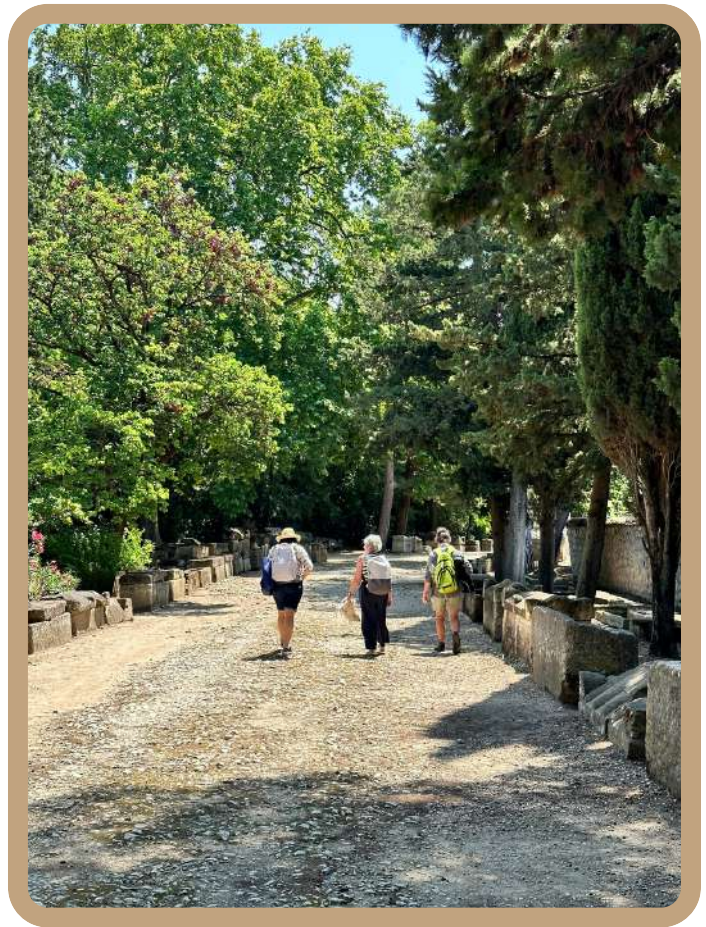


The Arles Way

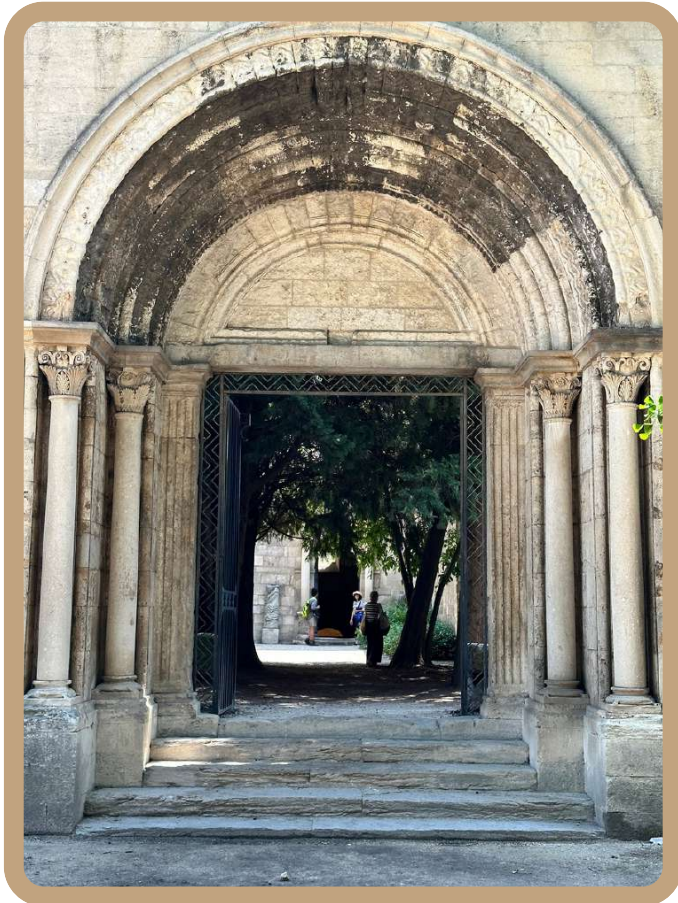
The pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

The Romanesque architecture of Arles is exceptional and remarkably well preserved. The church and cloister of Saint-Trophime and the church of Saint-Honorat des Alyscamps are part of the cultural property "Arles, Roman and Romanesque Monuments", which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981. The whole of Arles was subsequently included in the serial cultural asset "Pilgrims' Way to Santiago de Compostela in France", inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998.



Arles, a Roman city at the crossroads of the Mediterranean and Gaul, was Christianised at an early stage. From the 4th century onwards, the veneration of the relics of the martyr Genest and then of several Arles bishops led to the construction of shrines, around which vast Christian cemeteries gradually spread. The cult of relics, combined with the prestige of the Arles diocese and the city's prosperity in the 12th century, led to the architectural renewal of Arles' religious buildings in the Romanesque style.

With the concomitant rise in pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, the saints of Arles gained even wider renown. In the Middle Ages, Arles became known as the starting point for the via Tolosana or via Arelatensis. The Codex Calixtinus invites pilgrims to venerate several saints and to visit the churches or cemeteries in Arles that are dedicated to them :

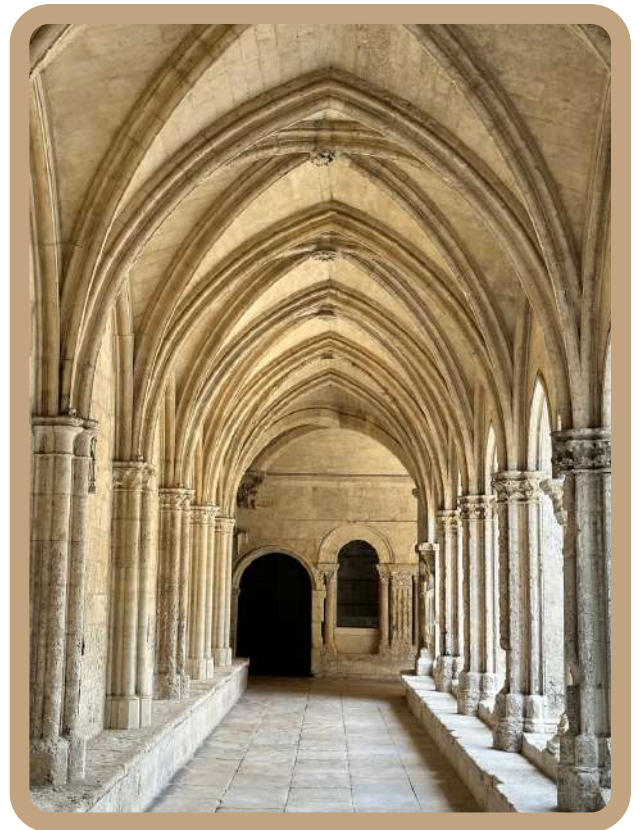


"First of all, those who go to Santiago de Compostela by the route of Saint-Gilles must visit the body of Blessed Trophime, confessor, in Arles (...). They should also visit the body of Blessed Césaire, bishop and martyr who established the rule of nuns in this city (...). And in the cemetery of the same town you should look for the relics of Saint Honorat (...). In its venerable and magnificent basilica lies the body of the most holy martyr Genest (...).

From there, you have to go and visit the cemetery near Arles, in a place called Les Alyscamps, and intercede for the dead according to custom, both by prayers and psalms and by alms; it is a mile long and a mile wide. Nowhere else in any cemetery could you find so many marble tombs, nor such large ones, lined up on the ground (...)."

The Alyscamps site and its church of Saint-Honorat are particularly important. On the site of the ancient necropolis, an early Christian cemetery grew up around the funerary basilica of Saint Genest, and in the Middle Ages became the largest Christian cemetery in the West. In the 12th century, a Romanesque church dedicated to Saint Honorat was built on the site of the basilica. Although unfinished, the church of Saint-Honorat is a fine example of Provençal Romanesque art. Here, pilgrims paid homage to seven saints buried in the crypt, including Genest and Honorat. They also drew water from a spring that miraculously gushed from an eighth tomb.

Saint Trophime's cathedral is at the centre of this devotion. In the crypt, which no longer exists, pilgrims venerated numerous relics, including those of Saint Trophime. Built at the end of the 12th century, the portal of Saint-Trophime is one of the finest examples of Provençal Romanesque style inspired by ancient architecture. The two Romanesque galleries of Saint-Trophime's canonical cloister date from the 12th century, and two other Gothic galleries were added in the 14th century.



It is no coincidence that the sculpted decorations of the portal and cloister each feature a statue of Saint James the Greater. Similarly, in the cloister, the Emmaus pilgrims are dressed like Santiago pilgrims, with saddlebags, bumblebees and caps decorated with shells.

To complete their journey through Arles, pilgrims would visit **the church of Saint-Blaise**, located in the convent of Saint-Césaire, itself built on the site of the early Christian cathedral of Arles. Rebuilt in the 12th century, this simple Romanesque church adjoins the convent buildings. The relics of Saint Césaire, a 6th-century bishop, were presented here. Exceptionally well preserved, they consist of a tunic, two pallia, an ivory belt buckle, a fragment of leather belt and sandals. They will soon be on permanent display in the Saint-Trophime cloister.

Leaving Arles on their way to Saint-Gilles, the pilgrims stopped off at **the church of Saint-Genest**, located outside the town on the right bank of the Rhône. This church was rebuilt in the 12th century on the site where tradition has it that the martyr Genest was beheaded. Its ambulatory architecture and the late-antique burial ground that surrounds it confirm its role as a pilgrimage site, making it a counterpart to the Alysamps.



The route from Arles to the Pyrenees was developed in the 1980s as a long-distance footpath: the GR653. More recently, Arles has become a crossroads for footpaths linking it to Rome. The GR653D or Via Domitia links up with Montgenèvre and the GR653A, the Via Aurelia, provides a link with Ventimiglia. A number of signs are used along the route of the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela.



The yellow shell on a blue background is the European emblem. Its purpose is not to indicate a direction, but to show that you are on the route to Santiago de Compostela. It often complements the red and white markings.



Red and white trail markings give the direction to follow. We recommend that you follow the markings issued by the Fédération Française de Randonnée: the red and white markings are affixed to trees, rocks, walls or posts.



Sometimes yellow arrows point the way. This is the rule in Spain. On the Chemin d'Arles, you'll only find them on the direct route through the city of Toulouse (off the GR): they are affixed at street name signs.

The first stage of the Chemin d'Arles is Saint-Gilles-du-Gard, approximately 22km from the ancient Roman city. This first stage is a gentle one, with no positive gradients.

To get out of Arles :

From the church of Saint-Trophime, go down the rue de la République and take the Pont de Trinquetaille, then :

- Itinerary via the GR653: turn left at the bottom of the bridge and follow the Avenue de Camargue.



Find out about the condition of footpaths



Centre d'Information de la Fédération
Française de la Randonnée Pédestre.



64 rue du Dessous des Berges
- 75013 Paris



+33 (0)1.44.89.93.93



FFRandonnée - fédération française
de la randonnée pédestre



info@ffrandonnee.fr



www.ffrandonnee.fr

The Crédencial

The credencial is a document issued by the associations of the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela that authenticates the pilgrim's spiritual motivation. This "pilgrim's passport" allows access to certain gîtes and recommends the bearer of this certificate to the various hosts and fellow pilgrims. It does not confer any special rights, but it must be stamped at each stage to certify that the pilgrim has passed through.

This accreditation gives free access to the Alysamps necropolis, starting point of the Chemin d'Arles, as well as the cloister of Saint-Trophime.

Where can you get it ?

Available from the Primatiale Saint-Trophime and the local association "Accueil Pèlerins des Chemins d'Arles", at a cost of 5 euros.

Mr Debard - Tel : +33 (0)4.90.96.29.09 - Courriel : renee.debard@wanadoo.fr

Where to stamp it ?

In the two places mentioned above and at the Arles Tourist Office, as well as at the Maison du Carmel. See times below.

Arles Parish Office :

Maison du Carmel – 13 rue Frédéric Chevillon. Tel : +33 (0)4.90.96.07.38

E-mail : paroisse.st.trophime@free.fr

Opening times of the Saint-Trophime primatial church :

Monday to Friday : 9.00 to 12.00 and 4.00 to 6.00.

Saturday : 10.00 to 12.00.

Useful addresses

Tourist Office :

9 Boulevard des Lices, 13200 Arles. ☎ : +33 (0)4.90.18.41.20

🌐 : www.arlestourisme.com

✉ : ot-arles@arlestourisme.com

Arles heritage website : www.patrimoine.ville-arles.fr

Shoe repair shops :

Cordonnerie Arlésienne - 27 rue du president Wilson. **Tel** : +33 (0)9 87 05 77 28

Norbert Poveda - 47 rue du 4 septembre. **Tel** : +33 (0)6 11 58 86 33

Mister Minit - ZC Fourchon, Géant Casino. **Tel** : +33 (0)4 90 18 33 20

La Boîte à Chaussure - 8 avenue de Camargue. **Tel** : +33 (0)4 90 93 71 32

Laundry

Au lavoir d'Antan - 50 avenue du Docteur Morel. **Tel** : +33 (0)6 24 18 52 26

Laverie automatique Arles - 13 rue André Benoît. **Tel** : +33 (0) 6 26 65 15 68

Laverie Speed Queen - 17 rue Gambetta. **Tel** : +33 (0)6 78 30 18 00

Supermarkets

Utile Arles Clémenceau - 7 boulevard Georges Clémenceau

Casino Shop - 2 et 2 bis rue Gambetta

Carrefour City - 7 rue de la République

U-tile - rue du 4 septembre

Monoprix - place Lamartine

Intermarché - 1 rue de la Verrerie

Bicycle repairer

Custom Green Bike - 1 rue Molière. **Tel** : +33 0(4) 88 65 23 86

Veloland - ZC Fourchon, 5 rue François Mesnier. **Tel** : +33 (0)4 90 49 94 02

1 Vloc - 12 rue de la cavalerie. **Tel** : +33 (0)7 68 21 76 68

Taco & co : avenue Paulin Talabot. **Tel** : +33 (0)6 50 29 60 00

Useful addresses

Cybercafés

Cybertel - 21 rue du 4 Septembre. Tel : +33 (0)09 50 97 75 98

Cyber City - 38 boulevard Georges Clemenceau. Tel : +33 (0)4 90 18 87 40

Décathlon

6 rue de Sagné, Zone Commerciale Fourchon. Tel : +33 (0)4 90 18 30 70

Accommodation in Arles

*Association APCA (Accueil Pèlerins des Chemins d'Arles) -
+33 (0) 6.83.26.13.16*

Paul DEBARD

30 avenue de Pskov, 13200 Arles

Tel : +33 (0)6.83.26.13.16

E-mail : renee.debard@wanadoo.fr

Other collective accommodation

Youth hostel (open from early March to late October)

20 avenue du Maréchal Foch, 13200 Arles

Tel : +33 (0)4.90.96.18.25

E-mail : arles@fuaj.org

*The Arles Tourist Office also offers personalised lists of-
sonnalisées d'hôtels , de campings, bed and breakfasts and
furnished accommodation.*

The associations

Pilgrimage associations bring together former pilgrims. They provide information, sometimes welcome visitors and offer events in the form of lectures, walks, etc.

Région Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur

Association régionale PACA Corse des Amis de Saint-Jacques et de Rome

BP 21 – 13850 Gréasque

Website : www.compostelle-paca-corse.info

Marseille

Association Provençale des Pèlerins de Compostelle

34 rue du Refuge – 13202 Marseille

Tel : +33 (0)6 86 36 94 35

Website : <http://www.marseille-arles-compostelle.com/>

E-mail : provencaledespelerins@hotmail.fr

Salon de Provence

Les amis de Saint Jacques en Alpilles

283, vieux chemin du Val de Cuech – 13300 Salon de Provence

Tel : +33 (0)4 66 35 51 88 / +33 (0)6 89 90 60 21

Blog : <http://www.stjacquesalpilles.com>

E-mail : stjacquesalpilles@yahoo.fr

The Jacquaires associations

Toulouse

4 rue Clémence Isaure - 31000 Toulouse

Tel : +33 (0)5 62 27 00 05

Website : www.chemins-compostelle.com

E-mail : accueil@chemins-compostelle.com

On the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela in France

ACIR Compostelle brings together regions, local authorities and associations. It is supported by the town of Arles. It promotes the heritage of the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela through consultancy, publishing, training and cultural events. It provides information to the public and offers credentials.

[Agence française des chemins de Compostelle website](http://www.chemins-compostelle.com)

On sale in the town's bookshops :

* Pocket guide for walkers and pilgrims :
On the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela -
The Via Tolosana.

Authors: François Lepère, André Dehnel

On sale in Tourist Office :

* Miam Miam Dodo: Saint-Jacques de Compostelle -
La Voie d'Arles.

Published by Editions du Vieux Crayon.

Tourist Office :

Boulevard des Lices, 13200 Arles. - Tel : +33 (0)4 90 18 41 20
ot-arles@arlestourisme.com

