



TOURIST OFFICE



Toulouse!

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# Discovery

[www.toulouse-visit.com](http://www.toulouse-visit.com)

# Itineraries €1

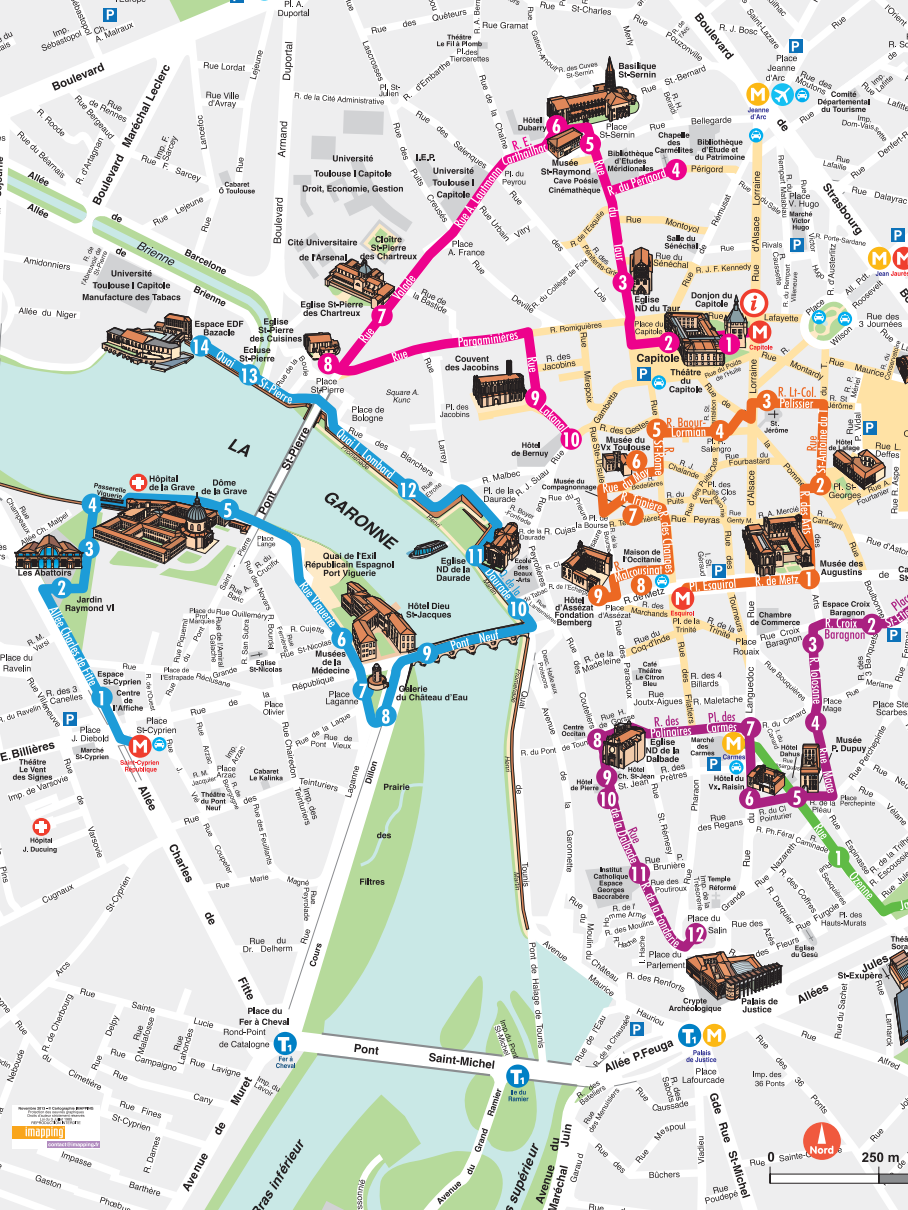


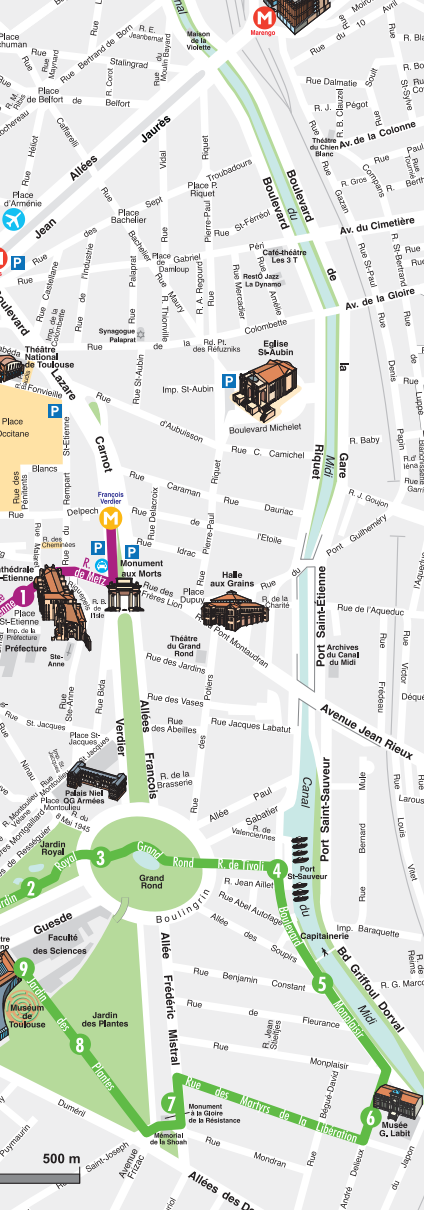
  
Grands Sites  
de Midi-Pyrénées

MAIRIE DE



TOULOUSE  
[www.toulouse.fr](http://www.toulouse.fr)





The tourist office suggests five itineraries to discover Toulouse on foot or by bicycle. Historical heritage, contemporary monuments, charming mansions, natural sites, lively streets and friendly environment, take the lead for your guaranteed immersion into the heart of the "pink city"!

### **Itinerary No. 1**

Must-see

### **Itinerary No. 2**

Art and history

### **Itinerary No. 3**

Alleys and nice mansions

### **Itinerary No. 4**

Green Toulouse

### **Itinerary No. 5**

Garonne river banks, from right to left bank

A detailed map is added prior to each circuit.

Except when mentioned otherwise, the featured sites are accessible to the public.

Please inquire for opening schedules and rates.



## Itinerary No. 1

**Starting point:** Capitole underground station.

**Length:** 2,2 kilometres.

**Estimated time:** half-day.

# MUST-SEE

This first visit into the historical centre offers a beautiful scenic coverage of the town's iconic monuments. Included in the programme are: the Capitole with its square, City Hall and medieval tower, some renowned churches, a museum, a convent and even a crypt.

### 1 The Donjon du Capitole

Built in the 16th century, this fortified looking building formerly hosted the city's archives and was used for town meetings. It is crowned with crenellated ramparts and is flanked by four watch turrets. The slate tiled belfry was an addition of the late 19th century by architect Viollet-le-Duc. The tower now houses the town's tourist office.

### 2 The Capitole

The City Hall is organized around the Henry the fourth courtyard, adorned with the French king's statue. The formal reception rooms (particularly the room of the Illustrious) illustrate, through their paintings and sculptures from the late 19th century, some renowned individuals and events that have marked the history of Toulouse. The main square's 18th century neo-classical facade shows an alternation of brick and stone.



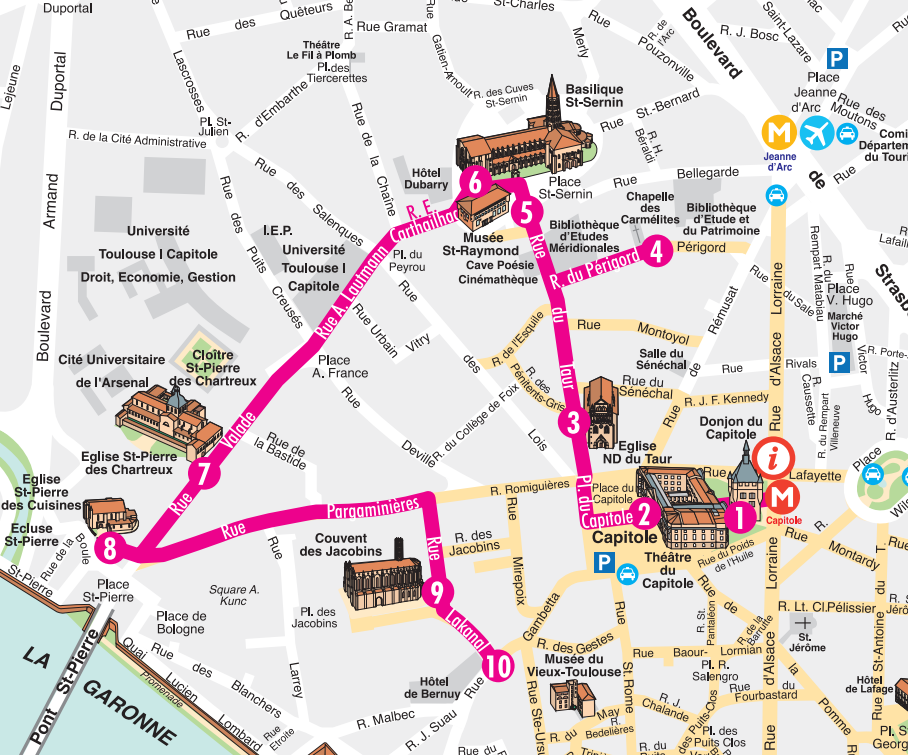
THE CAPITOLE © D. Viet

### 3 The Taur Church

This church, whose name recalls the martyrdom of St. Sernin, the town's first bishop, dragged through the streets by a bull, displays, as a special feature, its unique wall-belfry cut with triangular arches and which towers over the street.

### 4 The Carmelites Chapel

Remaining part from the former Carmelites Convent built in the 17th century, this chapel features a painted decor covering both its vaulted ceiling and its walls. These paintings are mostly the works of painter Jean-Pierre Rivalz (17th century). His successor, Jean-Baptiste Despax, put the finishing touches to this entire work assignment which is considered to be one of Toulouse's painting masterpieces.



## 5 Saint-Raymond Museum

Set within a former 16th century secondary school, St. Raymond Museum is the town's museum dedicated to Antiquity. It features an exhibit displaying an extensive archaeological collection including over a thousand pieces recounting the day to day life of the Celts and Romans in the Toulouse region.



THE DONJON'S TOWER © D. Viet





SAINT-PIERRE-DES-CUISINES © Ville de Toulouse

## 6 Saint-Sernin Basilica

Listed as a Unesco World Heritage site as a major stop on the way of St. James, the basilica was built from the 11th to the 14th century. It is one of the largest Romanesque churches in Europe. It is characterized by a portly architecture and a rich sculpted decor. The relic's treasure of this main pilgrimage church is shown along the *saint bodies'* ambulatory trail and the two level crypt.

## 7 Saint-Pierre-des-Chartreux Church

Together with the remains of the great cloister next to it, it is the main part of the former carthusian monastery built in the 17th and 18th centuries. You will find there an exceptional combination of baroque and neo-classical paintings and sculptures.

## 8 Saint-Pierre-des-Cuisines Archaeological Crypt

Initially located outside of the city, the 4th century building used to be a funeral basilica, a testimony of which are its sarcophaguses and burial vaults still displayed there. The church (11th-16th centuries) is now an auditorium dedicated to music and dance.

## 9 The Jacobins Convent

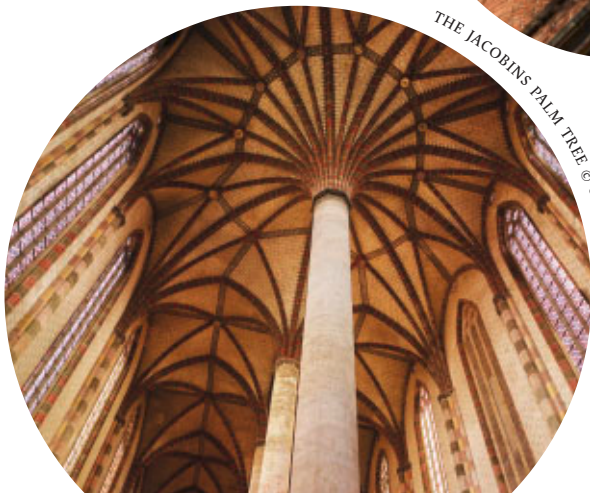
The former convent of the blackfriars (Dominicans) dates back to the 13th and 14th centuries. It is an impressive brick building, typical of the French Southern Gothic style. The inside of the church, split into two naves, is remarkable for its color combinations (wall paintings and stained glass windows) and its ribbed vaults, the most famous of which is known as the *palm tree*. The cloister and convent buildings present a beautifully unified building combination.

## 10 Bernuy private mansion

Bernuy private mansion was built during the first half of the 16th century by a wood merchant. From the street, you will notice its high staircase tower, a visual confirmation of the owner's successful life accomplishments. No access (except guided tour).



BERNUY PRIVATE MANSION © D. Viet



THE JACOBIANS PALM TREE © CRT Midi-Pyrénées, D. Viet



## Itinerary No. 2

**Starting point:** Esquirol underground station.

**Length:** 1,5 kilometre.

**Estimated time:** half-day.

# ART AND HISTORY

In the heart of the old town, your itinerary will take you back into the historical times and artistic currents which influenced the city, such as: the medieval epic time, the Renaissance golden age, the Gothic art... not to forget the local cultural roots and popular traditions.

### 1 The Augustins Museum

Housed in the preserved environment of the Augustins Convent built in the 14th and 15th centuries, the Fine Arts museum collection presents a rich combination of medieval sculptures (Romanesque pillars and Gothic statuary). Its paintings collections include masterworks painted between the 15th and 19th centuries.



THE AUGUSTINS MUSEUM © D. Viet

### 2 Saint-Georges Square

This specific square, once the largest in the city, used to be a location for assemblies and markets prior to becoming the site of capital executions. It is surrounded by beautiful houses with different types of architecture. On one side, the Lafage private mansion features one of the nicest monumental facades, typical of the 18th century. Today, it is mostly appreciated for its lively large terraces.

### 3 Saint-Jérôme Church

Behind its discreet facade, this 17th and 18th century building, all in curbs, is remarkable for its theatrical decor. It is the former "Blue Penitents" chapel, a secular guild created to counter-act Protestantism.



SAINT-GEORGES SQUARE © P. Daubert





## 4 Salengro Square

This small triangular square, inaugurated in the 19th century, is adorned with a fountain including cast iron allegorical elements. Among the beautiful brick house fronts, you may notice, at number 20, a plate indicating that French political activist Jean Jaurès lived here for a few years.





OSTAL D'OCCITÀNIA © P. Daubert

## 5 Saint-Rome Street

Saint-Rome Street follows the North/South former roman town's centre line (*cardo*) and was known until the 19th century as the town's main street, in the heart of the business district. You will notice there some beautiful brick private mansions such as Serta who's tower overlooks the crossroad. Some half-timbered houses are a testimony of the main architectural style used until the 1463 big fire. Today, this pedestrian street is carrying on its past business activity tradition thanks to its numerous shops.

## 6 Vieux-Toulouse Museum

The Vieux-Toulouse Museum is housed within a traditional private mansion dating back to the end of Renaissance. Its collection, made of documents, paintings and objects from the popular traditions, visualizes the artistic and historical past of the city.

## 7 Compagnonnage Museum (trade guilds)

This 16th century half-timbered house was restored by the "compagnons du tour de France", a centuries old craftsmen guild. It houses a museum allowing you to explore the universe of the craftsmen guild members thanks to some of their masterpieces and to some related ancient and contemporary objects.

## 8 L'Ostal d'Occitània

Hugues de Boysson, and later Jean de Cheverry, merchants and "capitouls" (town representatives), had this house built both in the Gothic and Renaissance styles. It is now the setting for l'Ostal d'Occitània, a place enhancing the image of our lively Occitan culture.



THE ASSÉZAT PRIVATE MANSION © K. Lhémon

## 9 The Assézat private mansion and the Bemberg Foundation

This town's private mansion, a major Toulouse Renaissance building was built between 1555 and 1557 for the merchant Pierre d'Assézat, whose wealth came from woad trading. It is organized around a large courtyard with frontages, balconies and access balconies. It is now the headquarters of the Bemberg Foundation (rich collection of furniture, objects and paintings) and the site of academies, including the "floral games" (Jeux floraux).



THE BEMBERG FOUNDATION © D. Viet





## Itinerary No. 3

**Starting point:** François-Verdier underground station.

**Length:** 1,9 kilometre.

**Estimated time:** half-day.

# ALLEYS AND NICE MANSIONS

From Saint-Étienne to Carmes neighbourhood passing through la Dalbade and Mage: the streets and squares of the historical quarter, with evocative names, are mainly famous for their private mansions and major religious buildings.

### 1 Saint-Étienne Cathedral

This cathedral, built mostly between the 13th and 17th centuries, holds its originality from its juxtaposition from Southern Gothic to Northern Gothic style. It is richly furnished and decorated (altarpiece, organ, tapestries and stained glass windows).

### 2 Croix-Baragnon Street

The Croix-Baragnon is one of the main centre lines of the old town. Lined up with beautiful house fronts and luxury stores, it includes at No. 15 the most remarkable medieval house (14th century), built in brick and adorned with elegant decors.

### 3 Tolosane Street

This street is lined up with 17th and 18th centuries houses emphasized by their brick frontages, cast iron work balconies, small courtyards and water fountains.

### 4 Mage Street and Square

This neighbourhood, formerly inhabited by butchers, reveals some architectural treasures such as: No. 32 monumental gate, No. 20 Gothic tower, No. 16 grotesque masks high windows, No. 4 lion head...

### 5 Paul-Dupuy Museum

The museum grounds are housed within the former Besson private mansion and its exhibits include a multitude of objects issued from graphic and decorative arts such as: furniture, goldsmith art ware, china, measurement instruments and nice watch making pieces.

SAINT-ÉTIENNE CATHEDRAL © P. Daubert







## 7 Carmes Square

This lively square is named after a former convent. It holds a very busy covered market.

## 8 Dalbade Church

With a Southern Gothic style touch, notwithstanding its late construction, the church attracts the eye: the austere brick frontage is adorned with a Renaissance portal topped with a colourful ceramic tympanum by Virebent describing the crowning of the Virgin Mary (inspired from a Fra Angelico's masterpiece). The steeple fell down in 1926.

## 9 The Hôtel des chevaliers de Saint-Jean-de-Jérusalem

First occupied by the Saint-John hospitalier friars, then a priory of the Order of Malta, the building was then converted, starting in 1668 into a classical palace by Jean-Pierre Rivalz, the then official town architect. It was restored to host the Regional Management of Cultural Affairs. Limited access.

## 10 The hôtel de Bagis (or Clary private mansion)

This unique Toulouse building was nicknamed "hôtel de pierre" (stone mansion) due to its sculpted white stone frontage. Ordered in 1608 by François de Clary, President of the Parliament, it is adorned with sculptures that were finished in the 19th century. Private access.





## 11 The Catholic Institute

The Clarisses Convent, converted into a foundry during the French revolution, is now a space dedicated to academic teaching. It features a museographical zone showing some aspects of Toulouse history, the remains of its gallo-roman wall, some craftsmen tools and some former bronze melting ovens.

## 12 Salin Square

Surrounded by a few half-timbered houses and including the court house housing an archaeological crypt, and the former treasury house converted into a protestant temple, this square used to be an entrance gate into the city and owes its name to the royal granary which was the result of the tax on salt.





## Itinerary No. 4

**Starting point:** Carmes underground station.

**Length:** 2,6 kilometres.

**Estimated time:** half-day.

# GREEN TOULOUSE

Culture and relaxation are to be met during this stroll through the town's natural sites. This itinerary may also be followed while riding your bicycle (restricted gardens access).

### 1 Ozenne Street

This street was created in the middle of the 20th century as it cut through the former parliamentary quarter. Broad and planted with trees, it displays a nice combination of 16th to 20th century's architecture, among which we will find a five sides 16th century tower located at the corner of Nazareth Street. You should not miss the pharmacy at the beginning of the street.

### 2 The Royal Garden

Created in 1754, it was the first public garden of the city. It covers two hectares and was awarded as a "remarkable garden". It includes several species (common date plums, magnolias, Siberia elms), a piece of water and numerous statues such as the ones of Saint-Exupéry and composer Déodat de Séverac.

### 3 The Grand-Rond Garden

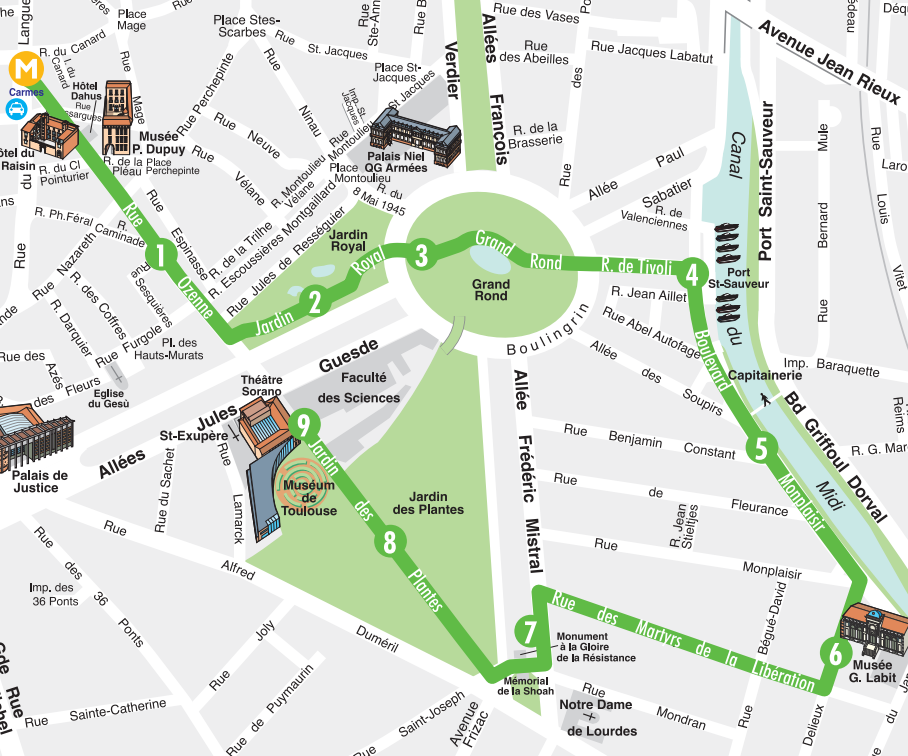
Also called Boulingrin Garden –from the English "bowling-green", a lawn on which people used to play bocce ball– this garden was created in the 18th century and reconfigured according to 19th century garden art features. It is made of several promenade alleys leading to a central water-filled pool.



THE GRAND-ROND GARDEN © D. Viet



THE ROYAL GARDEN © D. Viet



## 4 Saint-Sauveur Harbour

Located on the Canal du Midi, Saint-Sauveur Harbour was built between 1827 and 1836 as an extension of the former harbour. Initially a commercial harbour, it welcomes each year about four hundred leisure boats as well as river barges.



## 5 The Canal du Midi

Built by Pierre-Paul Riquet and listed today as a Unesco World Heritage site, the Canal du Midi is a 240 kilometres long construction. It was dug and installed during the 17th century as it was designed to link the Mediterranean Sea to Toulouse, consequently facilitating the commercial exchanges with the Atlantic Ocean. Fed by the Saint-Ferréol water reservoir, it is embellished by its locks and shaded towing paths. It is now a site mostly appreciated for people wanting to hike, bike or even wishing to navigate by boat.

## 6 Georges-Labit Museum

In the heart of an exotic garden, this Moorish style villa, built on the request of frequent traveler Georges Labit, displays a broad spectrum of art pieces from gone by or far away civilizations, such as Egyptian art antiquities and faience treasures.



THE CANAL DU MIDI © D. Viet

## 7 Monument to the glory of the French Resistance

Behind the steel monumental statue, an underground memorial illustrates WWII and French resistance actions.

## 8 The Jardin des Plantes

The “Jardin des Plantes” or plants garden was created under the impulse of naturalist Philippe Picot de Lapeyrouse, who was inspired in its completion by botanical and acclimatization gardens. Rich in numerous species, it displays for its visitors some strolling paths and relaxation areas. A body of water is located next to a hill adorned with staged fake rocks. Linked to the Grand-Rond Garden by a steel bridge, it also houses a Natural History Museum.

GEORGES-LABIT MUSEUM © Musée Georges-Labit







THE JARDIN DES PLANTES © D. Viet



## 9 The Natural History Museum

It includes a collection of over two million natural history pieces. Entirely remodeled, it gathers over a 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> surface some modern and interactive exhibit areas, scientific labs, a botanical garden as well as some kitchen gardens.

© Muséum de Toulouse, G. Millo





## Itinerary No. 5

**Starting point:** St-Cyprien-République underground station.

**Length:** 2,7 kilometres.

**Estimated time:** half-day.

# GARONNE RIVER BANKS, FROM RIGHT TO LEFT BANK

Focus on the river Garonne with an itinerary course embellished with remarkable urban sceneries and some artistic discoveries accompanying this classical Toulouse identity showplace.

### 1 The Centre de l’Affiche

This community centre exhibits on a regular basis its rich collection of graphic art including posters, post cards and specialized books.

### 2 The Abattoirs Museum

The former city’s public slaughterhouse, built between 1826 and 1833, is now dedicated to modern and contemporary art. The museum owns a collection of over 3,500 pieces displayed on a rotation basis, including a monumental stage curtain painted by Picasso.

### 3 The Rampart

Along the Raymond VI Garden, you may still spot the curtain walls and the towers of the former city walls which date back to the beginning of the 16th century.

### 4 The Viguerie foot walks

Hanging from the La Grave front and over the water, these 140 metres long foot walk links the Raymond VI Garden to the Viguerie Harbour.

### 5 La Grave

La Grave was a house of refuge for plague victims until it became a hospital. Saint-Joseph Chapel (18th century) strikes out from the rest of the site due to its impressive copper dome.

LA GRAVE © K. Lhémon



THE ABATTOIRS MUSEUM © Ville de Toulouse



## 6 Hôtel-Dieu Saint-Jacques

The former Hôtel-Dieu gave shelter in the 12th century to paupers, orphans and St. James pilgrims. Within its walls, two museums are dedicated to history and medical instruments.

HÔTEL-DIEU SAINT-JACQUES © Ville de Toulouse, P. Nin





## 7 The Château d'Eau

Starting in 1822, it was under the request of "capitoul" representative Charles Laganne that was built a water tank to collect the river Garonne water with the aim of distributing it to the town's water fountains. Since 1974, it has become a gallery dedicated to photography, created under the initiative of Jean Dieuzaide.

## 8 The Prairie des Filtres

Thanks to the sediments brought in by the river, the site was used for a long time to filter well water to make it drinkable for the town's inhabitants. Today, this garden is mostly appreciated by Toulouse citizens for its environment and for the special events taking place there (festival Rio Loco, Toulouse beaches...).

## 9 The Pont Neuf

Stretched over the river since the 16th century to give a better access to both river banks, its construction lasted nearly a hundred years. Thanks to its large overflow holes easing the water flow without putting pressure on the construction, the bridge has withstood over time the river Garonne's most catastrophic floods. It offers a beautiful general overview of the river and its banks.

## 10 The Fine Arts Academy

Located on the right bank, the Fine Arts Academy is made of ancient buildings part of the former Daurade Convent. The 19th century beautiful stone frontage, signed by Esquié, is carrying out an allegory of arts (engraving, painting, architecture and sculpture). Limited access.

## 11 Notre-Dame-de-la-Daurade Basilica

The decoration of the 6th century church gave its name to the current building – "deaurata" meaning "gold coated". The temple looking facade is from the 19th century. Inside, one may see a black Virgin Mary, dressed in lavish dresses that vary according to religious festivities.

## 12 The Embankments

A typical meeting point, the river embankments, located below the town level, are bordered by a brick wall, a testimony of the 18th century city planning and urban improvement operations.

## 13 Saint-Pierre Lock and Canal de Brienne

The Canal de Brienne makes its junction with the Canal du Midi and the river Garonne. Listed as a World Heritage site, it is lined up with century old sycamores and consists of two remarkable constructions: oval-shaped Saint-Pierre Lock, and the port of the river mouth, adorned with a Carrara marble low relief.

## 14 EDF Bazacle Area

Built on the site of former watermills, this active hydro-electrical power plant also features some exhibit grounds as well as a specific scenic view area overlooking the river Garonne (terrace and fish ladder).



Graphic design and production: studio Ogham.

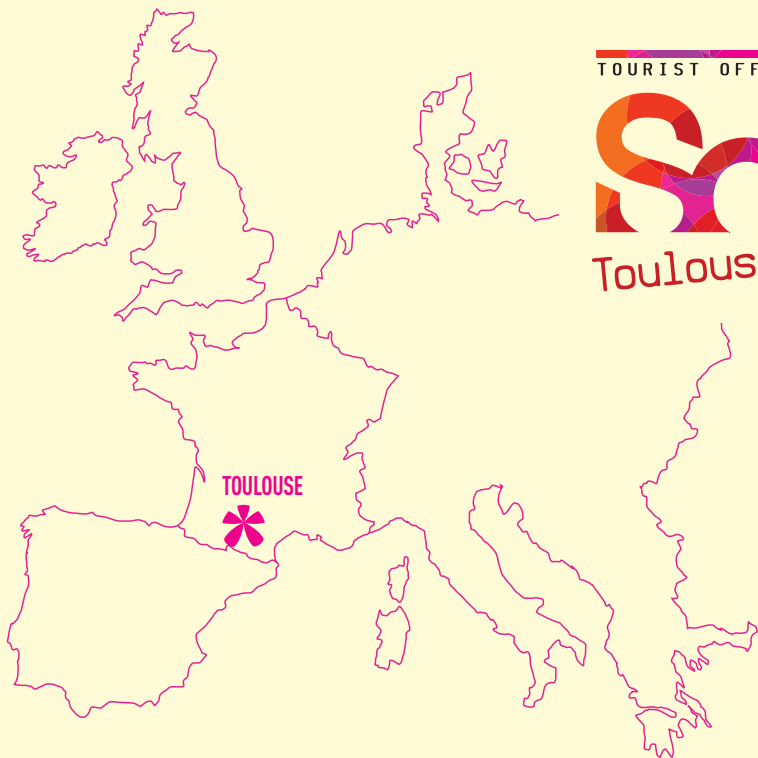
Map making: Imapping.

Printing: imprimerie Delort ISO 14001 - ISO 26000.

Document printed on PEFC certified paper, from sustainably managed forests.







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### OPENING HOURS

**From June 1st to September 30th**

From Monday to Saturday from 9 am  
to 7 pm. Sundays and public holidays  
from 10.30 am to 5.15 pm.

**From October 1st to May 31st**

From Monday to Friday from 9 am  
to 6 pm. Saturdays from 9 am to  
12.30 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm.  
Sundays and public holidays from 10 am  
to 12.30 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm.  
Closed on December 25th to January 1st.

DISCOVERY ITINERARIES

