THE CAPITOLE

On the Place du Capitole stands the town hall, an emblematic building of Toulouse built by the Capitouls from the 13th century. The façade makes an impression on all who pass by. In the interior, several artists have decorated the ceremonial chambers: Jean Martin and Jean-Paul Laurens painted the history of the city there, whilst Paul Serusier created an entire room devoted to love. Access to the interior is limited.

THE BASILICA OF SAINT-SEVERIN

Impossible to miss: this is one of the largest preserved Romanesque basilicas in Europe! This monument of brick and stone is listed as World Heritage by Unesco, built from the 11th century in honour of Saint Saturnin (a martyr dragged through the city by a bull in the 3rd century). Admire the octagonal bell tower, the organ by Cavaille-Coll, the sculpture or pictorial features, the gold plated canopy, the wealth of relics that resides in the crypt.

THE AUGUSTINS MUSEUM

This former convent of Augustinian monks with its Gothic architecture houses the Museum of Fine Arts. You can enjoy the monumental sculptures, the Roman mosaics created by Pindo, the gargoyles that are lined up along the cloister, the medicinal plants growing in the vegetable garden as they did in medieval times or the dockers where you can relax in the summer months.

When you notice that on square quadrangles de-Gassine, there is a character made of crosses carrying a large fur designed little architecture! This is the most renowned sculpture by Poussin, made in 1838-1839.

THE JACOBSINS CONVENT

The Friar preachers set up home in Toulouse in 1215 in order to face down the Catar heresy. Here they had a convent built whose austere exterior contrasts with its interior: a 28 metre tall stone built whose austere exterior contrasts with its interior. Cathar heresy. Here they had a convent that bears the signature of Viollet-le-Duc. The Friar preachers set up home in Toulouse in 1215 in order to face down the Catar heresy. Here they had a convent that bears the signature of Viollet-le-Duc.

THE DONJON DU CAPITOLE

This tower at the rear of the Capitole was built in 1252 at the behest of the Capitouls that wanted to safeguard medieval art reigns, a Gothic octagonal bell-tower…

THE HÔTEL D’ASSÉZAT

In 1555, Pierre d’Assézat, a wealthy merchant and a Capitoul, had a home built in the Renaissance style that was worthy of his success. The courtyard provides us with a stunning view: the facade of the first and storeys are decorated with masks, plants and animal motifs, whilst a tower overlooks the city. Inside, the Bertrand de Gournay use of the salons from different eras to display works of art from the 16th to the early 20th century.

THE RIVER GARONNE AND THE PONT NEUF

The Garonne is a wide and abundant river that rises in the mountains of the Pyrenees and crosses Toulouse before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean. Despite its name, the Pont Neuf is actually an old bridge: it has been rebuilt four times in the last 70 years! We are at the Saint-Raymond Museum, more than a thousand archaeological pieces retrace the past of Provence and the times of the Gipsies and Berbers. Antiquity is also here where Riquet, the engineer of the Canal du Midi, was laid to rest.

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THE TREE OF THE LEFT BANK

From the quayside, look at the monuments on the bank opposite. There is the dome of La Garonne which provides snaps that are always a hit on social media. At the end of the Pont Neuf lies the Hôtel-Dieu Saint-Jacques, a former charitable establishment and later a hospital, which is listed as World Heritage. The Château d’Eau is currently a photography gallery and the Port Viguière leads to a walkway over the water.

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If you had to sum up this trail, you could say that…
• the trail can last a few hours or all day;
• the itinerary showcases the best of Toulouse and its monuments’ history;
• there will be lots of anecdotes to share;
• your feet will pound the tarmac, but also the cobbled streets;
• you will be able to take some very pretty photos;
• you are sure to hear the sound of running water.

It’s here, it’s now, it’s all for you!