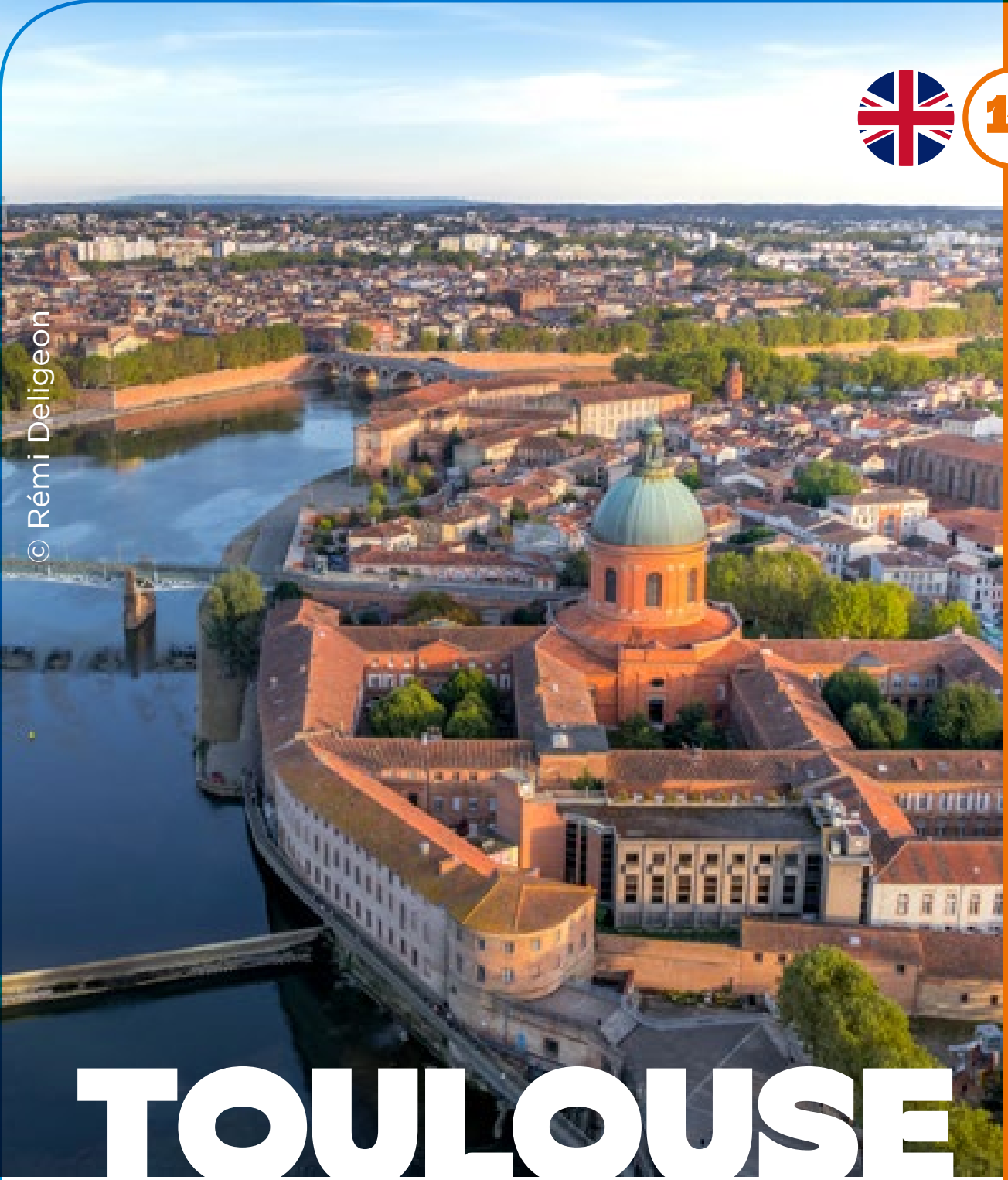


© Rémi Deligeon

Trail

TOULOUSE

in 10 places

Toulouse Team Tourist Office

1 THE DONJON DU CAPITOLE

This tower at the rear of the Capitole was built in 1525 at the behest of the Capitouls that wanted to safeguard municipal documents. Its defensive allure is countered by the belfry at its summit, a creation of the 19th century that bears the signature of Viollet-le-Duc. In the interior, a team of experts provide great ideas and good advice: the tourist office has welcomed visitors here for the last 70 years!


© Rémi Delgeon

Have you noticed that, in Charles-de-Gaulle Square, there's a miniature tower where children can play at being royalty, knights or dragons!

2 THE CAPITOLE

On the Place du Capitole stands the town hall, an emblematic building of Toulouse built by the Capitouls from the 12th century. The façade makes an impression on all passers-by. In the interior, several artists have decorated the ceremonial chambers: Henri Martin and Jean-Paul Laurens painted the history of the city there, whilst Paul Gervais created an entire room devoted to love.

Access to the interior is limited.

It's up to you to find your star sign on the immense occitan cross depicted on the floor of the place du Capitole. There are also 29 tableaux by Moretti on the ceilings of the arcades which retrace the history of Toulouse.


© Patrice Nin

3 THE BASILICA OF SAINT-SERNIN


© CRT Occitanie - Patrice Thébault

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 Cavaillé-Coll organ, the gilded canopy, the collection of relics in the crypt and the new stained-glass window, designed by the artist Jean-Michel Othoniel.

At the Saint-Raymond museum, more than a thousand archaeological pieces retrace the past of Toulouse and the time of the gods and heroes of antiquity. The garden lends itself to a tranquil little coffee break amongst the laurel trees and palms...

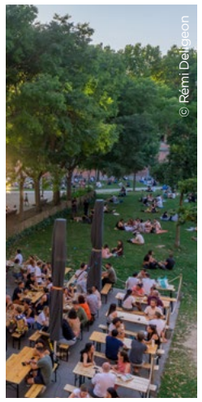
THE JACOBINS CONVENT 4

The Friar preachers set up home in Toulouse in 1215 in order to face down the Cathar heresy. Here they had a convent built whose austere exterior contrasts with its interior: a 28 metre tall stone palm tree, a cool cloister where serenity reigns, a Gothic octagonal bell-tower... The history of this gem of medieval art springs to life thanks to countless touch screens that are available to the public.

Rendez vous at the convent between 11 am and 3 pm when the sunlight, filtered through the coloured stained-glass of the great windows, illuminates the painted walls of the church...


© Chloé Sabatier

5 LA DAURADE


© Rémi Delgeon

Stretching alongside the square sits the Port de la Daurade. Its history is linked, most notably, with that of the gatherers of sand (and not *dorade* –bream– fishing!), the basic material required for cement and for constructions made of brick. Here you find yourself in a lively district, perfect for strolling around at leisure. Seated at a terrace café or at the river's edge, you can take your time... It is also the perfect spot to watch the sunset and see the monuments illuminated after dark.

Inside the church of Notre-Dame la Daurade you will find a black virgin dressed in opulent costumes created by great names in haute couture.

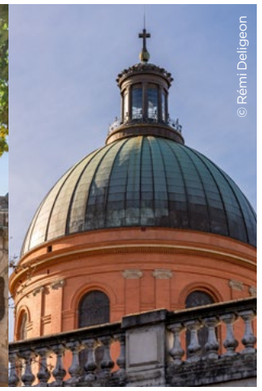
THE RIVER GARONNE AND THE PONT NEUF 6

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 spanned the Garonne for three centuries! Its design is truly ingenious: the irregular arches and the holes have allowed it to withstand any flood.

What's this? A child brazenly seated on a ledge of the pont Neuf? That is "L'enfant au bonnet d'âne" (child with dunce's cap), a sparkling red sculpture by James Colomina.


© Rémi Delgeon

7 THE VIEW OF THE LEFT BANK


© Rémi Delgeon

From the quayside, look at the monuments on the bank opposite. There is the dome of La Grave 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 Viguerie leads to a walkway over the water.

Scan the skies to find the unusual silhouette of the beluga: the cargo planes of Airbus regularly cross the skies above Toulouse...

8 THE HÔTEL D'ASSÉZAT


© Rémi Delgeon

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 façades of brick and stone are decorated with masks, plants and animal motifs, whilst a tower overlooks the city. Inside, the Bemberg Collection displays works of art dating from the 16th to the early 20th century.

On the pleasant place de la Trinité the wings of three magnificent mermaids are spread... As for the rue Croix-Baragnon, renowned for its luxury shopping, it boasts the oldest house in Toulouse, which can be seen at n°15.

9 SAINT-ÉTIENNE CATHEDRAL

Constructed, destroyed, rebuilt... it has taken centuries to build the cathedral of Toulouse! That is what makes it so original: it is a patchwork of architectural features that are harmoniously combined, from Southern Gothic to Northern Gothic, passing through Romanesque and Baroque art... In the interior, don't miss the windows and the beautiful organ. It is also here where Riquet, the engineer of the Canal du Midi, was laid to rest.

The oldest fountain can be found at place Saint-Étienne. Originally, water did not flow from the fish held in the hands of the cherubs... The sculptures were redesigned in the 17th century because the people found them too shocking!


© Rémi Delgeon

10 THE AUGUSTINS MUSEUM

The reception hall of the Musée des Augustins, built from white Dordogne stone, fits perfectly into Toulouse's tradition of grand entrances. Just like the façades of the old pastel merchants' houses or even... The Capitole itself!

This former Augustinian monastery, with its Gothic architecture, is now home to the Museum of Fine Arts. After years of restoration work, visitors can once again admire the monumental sculptures, the Romanesque capitals arranged by Pardo, and the gargoyles that line the cloister. Housed in the former post office, the new shop, with its large windows opening onto Place Esquirol, offers a chance to admire the sculpture "Le Génie de Toulouse" in detail.


© Rémi Delgeon

Toulouse
IN 10 PLACES

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!



Recommended trail

Trail stop off

Viewpoint

Metro (line A)

Metro (line B)

Playground

200 m

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Trail

Toulouse Team Tourist Office

TOULOUSE

en 10 lieux



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