

Toulouse Travel Guide

Toulouse: The Pink City

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Things to do in Toulouse

Landmarks & Monuments

Toulouse is renowned for its distinctive pink-brick architecture and iconic landmarks that reflect centuries of history and culture.



Must See

Basilica of Saint-Sernin

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

One of the most important **Romanesque churches in Europe**, this UNESCO World Heritage site features stunning octagonal bell tower and intricate stone carvings. Its 18th-century interior boasts precious reliquaries and beautiful stained glass windows. The basilica is a masterpiece of medieval architecture and remains a significant pilgrimage destination.



Must See

Capitole de Toulouse

30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

The magnificent **Renaissance Town Hall** dominating Place du Capitole is an architectural gem built in 1753. Its ornate façade, grand staircases, and luxurious apartments showcase 18th-century French elegance. The building still serves as the administrative center and hosts cultural events. Visitors can admire the exterior and attend exhibitions in its galleries.



Must See

Place du Capitole

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

One of Europe's largest squares at 12,000 square meters, this grand plaza is surrounded by Renaissance arcades with **pink brick architecture**. The square hosts markets, events, and outdoor dining. The paved surface features a golden cross marking historical significance, and the square comes alive especially during summer festivals and evening strolls.



Top Pick

Pont Neuf

20 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Built in the 16th century, this iconic **pink-brick bridge** spans the Garonne River and offers stunning views of Toulouse's skyline. Despite its name meaning 'new bridge,' it's actually one of the oldest in France. The seven arches and distinctive color make it a beloved symbol of the city and an ideal spot for sunset photography.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit the Basilica early morning to avoid crowds
- Best views of Pont Neuf at sunset
- Place du Capitole is stunning when illuminated at night
- Wear comfortable shoes for exploring the historic center



Museums & Galleries

Toulouse boasts world-class museums showcasing art, history, and culture in beautifully preserved buildings.



Must See

Toulouse-Lautrec Museum

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Housed in the 16th-century **Hôtel d'Assézat**, this museum contains the world's largest collection of **Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec works**, including paintings, lithographs, and drawings. The elegant Renaissance palace features four stunning courtyards and showcases over 2,000 pieces spanning the artist's entire career. A must-visit for art lovers.



Top Pick

Natural History Museum

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Opened in 1865, this museum features **extensive collections of natural specimens** including zoology, mineralogy, geology, and paleontology. The beautifully organized galleries showcase Egyptian mummies, dinosaur fossils, insects, and mammals. Interactive displays and detailed explanations make it engaging for both children and adults interested in natural sciences.



Top Pick

Augustins Museum

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Housed in a converted 14th-century Augustinian monastery, this art museum displays **medieval sculptures, paintings, and decorative arts**. The peaceful cloisters and vaulted galleries create an atmospheric setting for viewing masterpieces from the Romanesque period through the 19th century. The sculpture collection is particularly remarkable and nationally significant.



Notable

Paul Dupuy Museum

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

This fascinating museum displays **decorative arts and graphic design** spanning from the medieval period to modern times. Located in a 17th-century mansion, it features furniture, textiles, ceramics, prints, and documents. The collection provides insights into daily life and artistic evolution, with rotating exhibitions highlighting different periods and themes.

Tips for Museums & Galleries



- Most museums offer free entry on first Sunday of the month
- Book Toulouse-Lautrec Museum in advance during peak season
- Combination tickets available for multiple museums
- Audio guides enhance the museum experience significantly



Religious Sites

Toulouse's spiritual heritage is evident in its remarkable churches and religious buildings spanning multiple centuries.



Must See

Church of the Jacobins

30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

This stunning **Dominican church** features unique architecture with a single nave and spectacular vaulted ceiling. Built between 1260-1385, it boasts a remarkable **bell tower with octagonal sections** and contains the reliquary of Saint Thomas Aquinas. The interior's symmetry and light create a profound spiritual atmosphere for visitors and worshippers alike.



Top Pick

Cathedral of Saint-Étienne

40 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

An impressive **Gothic cathedral** showcasing architectural evolution across centuries. Built gradually from the 16th-19th centuries, it features a massive interior space, beautiful stained glass windows, and intricate stone carvings. The disparate architectural styles reflect its long construction period, creating a unique blend of religious artistry and historical layers.



Top Pick

Notre-Dame de Daurade

25 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

This beautiful baroque church overlooks the Garonne River and is known for its **gilded dome and elegant proportions**. Originally built in the 5th century as a pagan temple then converted to Christian worship, it represents layers of religious history. The golden interior reflects candlelight beautifully, and the riverside location offers peaceful contemplation.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Check opening hours before visiting, as services may limit access
- Modest dress is expected when entering religious buildings
- Lighting in churches is best during morning hours for photography
- Many churches offer guided tours with historical information



Neighborhoods & Districts

Explore Toulouse's distinctive districts, each with unique character, architecture, and local charm.



Must See

Old Town (Vieux Toulouse)

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The heart of Toulouse features **narrow cobblestone streets**, Renaissance mansions, and charming courtyards. Wandering through the old town reveals hidden squares, boutique shops, cafés, and galleries. Architecture ranges from medieval timber-framed buildings to ornate Renaissance façades. The area buzzes with life and authenticity, particularly in the evenings.



Top Pick

Saint-Cyprien District

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Located on the left bank of the Garonne, this bohemian neighborhood features **trendy boutiques, art galleries, and vibrant cafés**. Once a working-class area, it has transformed into a creative hub with street art, independent shops, and excellent restaurants. The atmospheric streets lead to riverside walks offering beautiful views of the city.



Top Pick

Rue de la Pomme

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

This historic street epitomizes **medieval Toulouse with Renaissance architecture**. Lined with beautifully restored buildings, ornate balconies, and arched doorways, it's considered one of the city's most charming streets. Galleries, small museums, and traditional shops line the way, making it ideal for leisurely strolls and discovering local artisan crafts.

Rue Croix Baragnon

Top Pick

Rue Croix Baragnon

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

A lively pedestrian street famous for its **excellent restaurants and bars** where locals gather. The street atmosphere is vibrant and welcoming, with warm lighting from shop windows and restaurant terraces. It's the perfect place to experience authentic Toulouse dining culture and soak in the neighborhood's energy during day or evening hours.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Best time to explore old town is early morning for fewer crowds
- Comfortable walking shoes are essential on cobblestone streets
- Each district has distinct character - visit multiple for complete experience
- Saint-Cyprien is particularly lively on weekends with market activities



Parks & Gardens

Toulouse offers numerous green spaces perfect for relaxation, walks, and experiencing nature within the urban landscape.



Must See

Canal du Midi Parks

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The UNESCO World Heritage Canal du Midi is lined with **beautiful parks and tree-lined towpaths** stretching 68 kilometers from Toulouse to Sète. Walking or cycling the canal offers peaceful nature experiences with historic bridges, locks, and charming villages. Multiple access points and dedicated pathways make it accessible for various fitness levels and activities.



Top Pick

Jardin Botanique de Toulouse

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

This beautiful botanical garden spans 7 hectares and showcases **diverse plant collections from around the world**. Organized by geographical regions and plant families, it features greenhouses, water features, and serene walking paths. Educational signage helps identify species. The garden provides peaceful respite from city bustle while offering horticultural inspiration.



Top Pick

Grand Rond

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

This circular garden features **tree-lined paths, fountains, and open green spaces** perfect for picnicking and relaxation. Designed in the 18th century, it remains a favorite gathering spot for residents. The surrounding area offers cafés and ice cream shops. The open layout with walking paths makes it ideal for families and leisurely afternoon strolls.



Top Pick

Jardin de la Berge Ombragée

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

A modern riverside park offering **shaded walks along the Garonne** with benches and leisure facilities. Recent renovations have made it family-friendly with play areas and recreational spaces. The park connects to the Canal du Midi towpath, creating a continuous green corridor perfect for cycling, jogging, or peaceful riverside walks.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Botanical garden is best visited in spring and early summer
- Bring picnic supplies for parks - many have designated picnic areas
- Canal du Midi paths are perfect for cycling - rent bikes throughout the city
- Early mornings offer peaceful nature experiences with fewer visitors



Tours & Activities

Engage with Toulouse through guided experiences and specialized activities that reveal the city's culture and history.



Must See Book Ahead

Airbus A380 Factory Tour

2.5 hours Book Ahead

Visit the world's largest commercial aircraft assembly plant in nearby Blagnac. **Guided tours show the manufacturing process** of the iconic A380 superjumbo jets. Visitors walk through production facilities, see assembly in progress, and understand the engineering marvel. Tours require advance booking and limited photography is permitted.



Top Pick Book Ahead

City Walking Tours

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Professional guides lead **2-3 hour walking tours** covering major landmarks, hidden courtyards, and historical stories. Tours are available in multiple languages and can focus on specific themes like art, history, or architecture. Knowledgeable guides provide context and insider perspectives that independent exploration cannot match.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Canal du Midi Boat Tours

1-3 hours Book Ahead

Scenic **boat cruises along the historic canal** provide unique perspectives of the city and surrounding countryside. Tours range from 1-3 hours with commentary about the canal's history and engineering. Passengers relax while experiencing the UNESCO site from water level, passing through charming locks and peaceful natural settings.



Notable

Cooking Classes & Food Tours

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Learn to prepare **traditional Occitanie cuisine** with local chefs in hands-on cooking classes. Market tours combined with cooking lessons introduce authentic ingredients and regional specialties. Classes typically last 3-4 hours and include tasting your creations with wine pairings. Perfect for food enthusiasts wanting culinary connections.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book activities 2-3 days in advance for better availability
- Many tours offer discounts for group bookings
- Airbus tour requires passport or ID - book well in advance
- Cooking classes work best with small groups for personalized instruction



Day Trips & Excursions

Discover fascinating destinations near Toulouse that offer history, nature, and cultural experiences within easy reach.



Must See

Carcassonne Fortified City

4-5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of **Europe's most impressive medieval fortifications**, Carcassonne features concentric castle walls, winding streets, and the stunning Basilica of Saint-Nazaire. Located 80km away, the UNESCO World Heritage site transports visitors to the Middle Ages. Explore the ramparts, visit museums, and enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.



Top Pick

Castles of Cathar Country

6-8 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Explore **dramatic cliff-top castles** in the Pyrenean foothills where medieval history comes alive. Montségur, Quéribus, and Lastours showcase incredible architecture and strategic locations. Each castle offers unique perspectives on medieval life and Cathar history. Hiking to some castles provides stunning vistas and physical adventure.



Top Pick

Saint-Émilion Wine Region

6-8 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Approximately 130km from Toulouse, this **picturesque wine village** is a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for exceptional Bordeaux wines. Explore underground quarries, visit wine châteaux, and sample regional wines. Charming medieval streets, local restaurants, and vineyard landscapes create a quintessential French experience.



Top Pick

Pyrenees Mountain Excursions

6-8 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The Pyrenees mountains are just 100km south, offering **hiking, mountain villages, and natural beauty**. Gavarnie Cirque features dramatic waterfalls and amphitheater-like rock formations. Mountain towns like Cauterets and Luz-Saint-Sauveur provide alpine experiences, skiing in winter, and hiking trails year-round with breathtaking scenery.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Rent a car for maximum flexibility with day trips
- Train connections available to major destinations like Carcassonne
- Start early to maximize time at each destination
- Combine multiple sites for more comprehensive regional experience



Christmas Market

Toulouse trades its usual pink-brick glow for twinkling lights each December, with a proper chalet village, an open-air ice rink, and illuminated shopping streets standing in for the grand Alsatian markets further north.

The season runs from late November through December 31, 2026, giving visitors plenty of time to combine the festive stalls with the city's usual sightseeing.



Must See

Village de Noel Compans-Caffarelli

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Toulouse's main Christmas market sets up on the **Esplanade Compans-Caffarelli**, a short walk north of the city center, with roughly a hundred wooden chalets selling regional foie gras, chestnuts, mulled wine, and handmade crafts. Expect the market to run from around **late November through December 31, 2026**, with extended hours on weekends. A small funfair and a carousel keep children entertained while adults browse the stalls, and food vendors serve *tartiflette*, roasted chestnuts, and vin chaud to fend off the winter chill. It gets busiest on weekend afternoons and evenings, so arriving on a weekday morning makes for a calmer visit. The setting, framed by the modern Compans-Caffarelli park and its distinctive tower, gives the market a different character than the medieval-square markets found elsewhere in France.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Patinoire Place du Capitole

1 hour Book Ahead



Map

Each winter an open-air **ice rink** is installed on the vast **Place du Capitole**, right in front of Toulouse's grand pink city hall, transforming the square into the heart of the holiday season. The rink typically operates from late November into early January, with the 2026 season expected to run through the New Year, and sessions are sold in timed slots that can be booked on site or, in some years, online in advance. Skate hire is included in the entry price, and floodlighting plus the illuminated facade of the Capitole make evening sessions especially atmospheric. It is a popular stop for families and couples alike, and the surrounding square usually hosts food stalls and seasonal decorations alongside it. Arrive early on weekends, since queues form quickly once schools let out for the holidays.



Notable

Illuminations de Noel on Rue Alsace-Lorraine and Rue Saint-Rome

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Toulouse's main shopping arteries, including **Rue Alsace-Lorraine**, **Rue Saint-Rome**, and **Rue du Taur**, are strung with festive light displays from late November through early January, turning an ordinary evening stroll into a proper holiday activity. The décor changes theme most years, but expect warm-toned garlands, suspended ornaments, and lit archways stretching across the pedestrian streets of the historic center. Shop windows join in with their own displays, and the nearby *place Wilson* and *place Esquirol* often anchor larger installations or a decorated tree. It costs nothing to enjoy, pairs naturally with dinner at one of the old-town bistros, and is at its best after dark, roughly 6pm onward. Photographers will find the brick facades of the Capitole area especially striking under the lights.





Optional

Marche de Noel des Createurs Place Saint-Georges

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A smaller, more artisan-focused market fills **Place Saint-Georges** in December, favoring local designers, ceramicists, and small-batch food producers over the larger chalet setups elsewhere in the city. It runs on a shorter calendar than the main Compans-Caffarelli village, generally opening in early December and continuing through the days just before Christmas, and is best visited on a weekend afternoon when most vendors are present. The square's cafe terraces stay open with heaters and blankets, making it an easy spot to warm up with a coffee or hot chocolate between browsing stalls. It suits visitors looking for gifts with a distinctly regional, handmade character rather than mass-produced holiday goods. Check local listings closer to December 2026, since exact dates shift slightly year to year.

Tips for Christmas Market

- Confirm exact 2026 opening dates and rink hours closer to your trip, since French Christmas markets often finalize schedules only a few weeks ahead.
- Weekday mornings are far quieter than weekend afternoons and evenings at both the market and the ice rink.
- Bundle Compans-Caffarelli, the Place du Capitole rink, and a walk down Rue Alsace-Lorraine into one evening route, they are all within a 15-20 minute walk of each other.
- Bring cash in small denominations for food stalls, as some smaller vendors do not accept cards.



Nightlife & Entertainment

When the sun sets, Toulouse trades its pink-brick charm for a lively after-dark scene built around riverside terraces, student-packed squares, and intimate live-music rooms. From flamenco-fuelled bars in Saint-Cyprien to a legendary concert hall on the banks of the Garonne, the **Pink City** keeps a distinctly southern, unpretentious energy well past midnight.



Must See

Place Saint-Pierre

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

This sprawling square on the left bank of the Garonne is the beating heart of Toulouse nightlife, ringed by a dense cluster of bars and brasseries that fill their terraces from early evening onward. It is best known for hosting the **Fete de la Musique** and other open-air celebrations, but on any given weekend the atmosphere is thick with students, live acoustic sets spilling from doorways, and the low hum of a hundred overlapping conversations. Expect *cheap pichets of wine*, easygoing crowds, and a refreshing lack of pretension compared to more polished nightlife districts elsewhere in France. Arrive around aperitif hour to snag outdoor seating, then let the evening drift from bar to bar. It is an unmissable stop for anyone wanting a genuine feel for how Toulousains actually socialize after dark, rather than a curated tourist version of it.

Bodega Bodega

Top Pick

Bodega Bodega

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A Toulouse institution since the 1990s, this multi-level bar and nightclub near Place Saint-Georges is where generations of locals had their first proper night out. The ground floor buzzes with a boisterous bar crowd swapping tapas-style plates, while the upper level opens into a dance floor that gets going late and runs into the early hours. The soundtrack leans toward **crowd-pleasing pop, French classics, and Latin rhythms**, and the vibe is deliberately unfussy and high-energy rather than exclusive. It is a favorite for birthdays, reunions, and pre-exam blowouts among the city's large student population. Come hungry and thirsty, expect a queue on weekends, and dress code is casual. For visitors wanting to dance alongside locals rather than other tourists, this is the classic Toulouse choice.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Le Bikini

3-4 hours Book Ahead



Map

Perched on the banks of the Garonne on Ile du Ramier, this riverside venue is Toulouse's most celebrated address for **live music and club nights**, having hosted touring rock, electronic, and indie acts since the 1960s. The main hall channels serious concert energy, while the outdoor terrace overlooking the river offers a far more relaxed spot for a drink between sets or on nights without a headline show. Programming ranges from international touring bands to local DJ collectives, so it is worth checking the lineup before heading over. The setting itself, surrounded by trees and water rather than city streets, gives it a festival-like feel even on an ordinary weeknight. Public transport access is straightforward via bus, and the venue draws a mixed crowd of students, longtime regulars, and music fans from across the region.





Notable

La Tintina de Burgos

2-3 hours Book Ahead



Map

Tucked into the Saint-Cyprien neighborhood, this cozy Spanish-Toulousain bar has built a devoted following for its **live flamenco and Spanish guitar nights**, a nod to the city's historic ties with its Iberian neighbor. Tables fill quickly around a small stage where musicians play late into the evening, accompanied by tapas, sangria, and a warm, convivial crowd that ranges from students to longtime neighborhood regulars. The room is intimate rather than polished, with a lived-in charm that makes it feel more like a shared secret than a tourist stop. Reservations are strongly advised on performance nights, since seating is limited and demand is high. It pairs naturally with an evening stroll along the nearby riverside before or after the show, making for one of the more distinctive after-dark experiences the city has to offer.

Tips for Nightlife & Entertainment

- Weeknights are noticeably quieter than Thursday through Saturday, when student crowds fill most venues.
- Book ahead for live-music nights at smaller venues like La Tintina de Burgos, seating is limited.
- Public transport (metro/bus) runs late on weekends, but confirm the last departure before heading to riverside venues like Le Bikini.
- Carry ID, most bars and clubs check age at the door even for older-looking visitors.



With Kids

Toulouse is a genuinely easy city to explore with children, mixing hands-on science, playful green spaces, and gentle river adventures into a day that rarely feels like sightseeing. From splashing at a space-themed park to spotting fish in a giant aquarium, the Pink City keeps young explorers entertained without a single dull museum hall.



Must See Book Ahead

Cité de l'Espace

4-6 hours Book Ahead



Map

This space exploration park is one of the most popular family outings in Toulouse, and for good reason. Kids can walk beneath a life-size **Ariane 5 rocket**, sit inside a mock space station module, and touch a genuine piece of moon rock. The *planetarium* shows are immersive without being overwhelming for younger children, and outdoor zones let them run between interactive terminals about planets, astronauts, and satellites. Older kids tend to gravitate toward the flight simulators and exhibits on Mars missions, while toddlers enjoy the more tactile, low-height displays. There is a shaded picnic area and a cafe on site, so families can easily turn this into a full-day visit. Expect to spend at least half a day here, especially if the planetarium and a 3D film are included. It is set slightly outside the center, so driving or a bus connection works best.



Top Pick

Jardin des Plantes and Museum d'Histoire Naturelle grounds

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

This leafy garden next to the natural history museum is a favorite spot for local families thanks to its shaded paths, ponds, and open lawns perfect for letting kids burn off energy. There is a small dedicated **playground area** with slides and climbing structures, plus enough open space for scooters, ball games, or simply chasing pigeons. Benches line the main walkways, making it easy for parents to relax while children explore the flower beds and small water features. The garden connects conveniently to other central attractions, so it works well as a mid-afternoon break during a longer day of sightseeing. In warmer months, an *ice cream kiosk* often appears nearby, which never hurts with younger visitors. It is free to enter and stays lively on weekends with other local families doing the same thing.



Top Pick

Aquarium Toulouse (Airbus Aquarium)

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of the largest freshwater and tropical aquariums in Europe, this underground aquarium is built around a fun aviation theme that ties in with the city's aerospace identity, including a giant shark tank framed like an aircraft cockpit view. Kids move through dimly lit tunnels surrounded by piranhas, giant catfish, and colorful reef fish, with touch pools where they can safely handle small aquatic creatures under staff supervision. The layout is stroller and buggy friendly, and the whole visit is largely indoors, making it a reliable rainy-day option. Signage includes playful facts pitched at a child's level, and several tanks are positioned low enough for toddlers to see without being lifted. A gift shop at the exit sells reasonably priced ocean-themed toys and books. Most families spend around ninety minutes to two hours moving through at a relaxed pace.





Notable

Prairie des Filtres playground and riverside walks

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

This large open green space along the Garonne River gives kids room to run, cycle, or fly a kite, with a dedicated playground and views across to the domed silhouette of the Hopital de la Grave. It is a popular gathering spot for local families in the late afternoon, especially in spring and summer when food trucks and pop-up stalls sometimes appear along the riverbank. The flat, wide paths are ideal for scooters, balance bikes, or a relaxed stroll with a pram, and there is plenty of shade from mature trees on hot days. Occasional weekend events, from small fairs to outdoor markets, add extra entertainment without any planning required. It sits close to Saint-Cyprien, making it easy to combine with other riverside activities. Entry is free and the space rarely feels crowded even on busy days.

Tips for With Kids

- Cite de l'Espace gets busy during French school holidays, so book tickets online in advance and arrive early.
- Combine the Aquarium and Jardin des Plantes on the same day since they sit within walking distance of each other.
- Bring water and snacks for outdoor stops like Prairie des Filtres, as shaded seating fills up quickly on sunny weekends.
- Strollers are welcome at all four spots, though the Aquarium's tunnels can feel tight during peak afternoon hours.



Events Calendar

Toulouse comes alive with a distinctive rhythm of festivals and public celebrations throughout the year, from riverside music series to autumn light shows. The **Ville Rose** blends its aviation heritage, Occitan culture, and student energy into a calendar of recurring happenings worth planning a visit around. Below are the city's signature 2026 events, each with approximate dates so you can time your trip.



Must See

Rio Loco Music Festival

3-4 hours per visit No Booking Needed



Map

Rio Loco is Toulouse's beloved free world-music festival, staged along the grassy banks of the Garonne at Prairie des Filtres from **June 17 to June 21, 2026**. Each edition spotlights a different region or theme, bringing international artists, DJs, and street performers to several outdoor stages. Expect food trucks serving global street food, craft workshops for kids, and a laid-back picnic atmosphere as locals spread blankets on the riverbank grass.

Evenings build toward headline concerts that draw tens of thousands, while daytime hours stay relaxed and family-friendly. It is one of the largest *free* music festivals in southern France, so arriving early for popular sets is wise. The festival captures the city's open, convivial summer spirit better than almost any other event.



Top Pick

Toulouse d'Ete Summer Concert Series

2-3 hours per event No Booking Needed



Map

From **July 2 through August 28, 2026**, the city hosts **Toulouse d'Ete**, a season-long series of free open-air concerts, cinema screenings, and dance evenings held in courtyards and squares across the historic center, including Place du Capitole and the Jardin des Plantes. Genres rotate weekly, spanning jazz, chanson, electro, and world music, giving both residents and visitors a reason to linger downtown on warm summer nights.

Many performances are staged at dusk, when the pink brick facades glow under stage lighting, and the program typically includes at least one large tango or salsa dance night open to all skill levels. Entry is free and unticketed for most shows, though popular evenings fill up fast, so arriving thirty minutes early secures a good spot near the stage.



Top Pick

Toulouse Christmas Market at Place du Capitole

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Each winter, dozens of illuminated wooden chalets fill **Place du Capitole** and the surrounding streets for the **Toulouse Christmas Market**, running from **November 27 to December 30, 2026**. Stalls sell mulled wine, roasted chestnuts, regional cheeses, and handcrafted gifts, while a large ferris wheel and ice-skating rink add to the festive draw for families.

The market is busiest on weekend afternoons and evenings, when the square is strung with lights and a giant Christmas tree anchors the scene. Local Occitan specialties like violet-flavored sweets appear alongside typical French holiday treats. It's a pleasant, walkable stop even for a short visit, and pairs well with an evening stroll through the illuminated old town streets nearby.





Notable

Toulouse New Years Eve Fireworks at Capitole

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

On the night of **December 31, 2026 into January 1, 2027**, crowds gather at **Place du Capitole** and along the Garonne Pont Neuf for Toulouses official New Years Eve celebration, capped by a midnight fireworks display over the river. Street performers, temporary bars, and warm-up music fill the square from early evening, building anticipation as the crowd counts down together.

The event is free and unticketed, drawing a mix of families with children for the earlier hours and a livelier late-night crowd as midnight approaches. For the best fireworks view, riverside spots near Pont Neuf or Pont Saint-Pierre offer an open sightline over the water. Dress warmly, as late-December nights in Toulouse can be damp and cold despite the citys generally mild climate.



Notable

Fete de la Violette Spring Festival

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Held each spring along the **Canal du Midi** and in the Compans-Caffarelli gardens, the **Fete de la Violette** celebrates Toulouses signature flower, the violet, from **February 5 to February 8, 2026**. Vendors sell violet-themed products, from candied flowers and liqueurs to perfumes and soaps, alongside a flower market and guided walks explaining the blooms century-old link to local horticulture.

The festival includes tastings, artisan demonstrations, and a floral parade that draws crowds of gardeners and curious visitors alike. It is a smaller, more intimate event than the summer festivals, with a charming old-world feel suited to a relaxed afternoon wander. Photographers particularly enjoy the violet-dyed displays set against the canals reflections.

Tips for Events Calendar

- Check exact dates on official Toulouse tourism or event websites closer to your visit, as schedules can shift by a week or two.
- Free outdoor events like Rio Loco and Toulouse dEte get crowded on weekends — arrive early for the best spots near the stage.
- The Christmas market and New Years fireworks draw large crowds around Place du Capitole; use public transit rather than driving into the center.
- Pack layers for winter events, as riverside and square locations can feel colder than forecasts suggest.



Hidden Gems

Beyond the pink-brick landmarks, Toulouse hides riverside mills turned art spaces, a water tower devoted entirely to photography, and gardens few guidebooks mention. These spots reward visitors willing to wander a few streets past the Old Town, often for free.



Top Pick

Espace EDF Bazacle

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Tucked into a working hydroelectric plant on an island in the Garonne, this **free contemporary art gallery** occupies a former watermill that has harnessed the river since Roman times. Exhibitions rotate every few months and mix photography, sculpture, and digital installations, often tied to environmental or industrial themes fitting the site itself. A glass floor section lets visitors watch the turbines still generating power beneath their feet, an *oddly mesmerizing* detail most tourists never learn about. The riverside terrace outside offers one of the best under-the-radar views of Toulouse, especially at sunset, with almost none of the crowds found at the main quays. Entry is free and the space rarely appears in mainstream itineraries, making it a genuine local secret. Pair a visit with a stroll along the nearby Garonne footbridge for a quiet, uncrowded afternoon away from the historic center.



Top Pick

Galerie du Château d'Eau

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Housed inside a disused 19th-century water tower near Pont Neuf, this is one of France's oldest galleries **dedicated purely to photography**. Three small circular exhibition rooms, stacked inside the tower's brick shell, host rotating shows spanning documentary, fine art, and experimental photography from both emerging and established names. The building's industrial past is still visible in exposed brickwork and narrow stairwells, giving the visit an intimate, almost secretive feel. Because it sits just below the Old Town on the riverbank, many visitors walk right past without realizing what is inside. Admission is inexpensive and the gallery is small enough to see thoroughly in under an hour, making it an easy addition to a riverside walk. Photography enthusiasts in particular will appreciate the curatorial focus, which is rare for a city of this size and largely unknown outside specialist circles.

Halle de la Machine

Top Pick

Book Ahead

Halle de la Machine

2 hours Book Ahead



Map

On the former Montaudran aerodrome site, this hangar-sized venue is home to a troupe of **giant mechanical creatures**, including a fire-breathing Minotaur that occasionally rides through the streets and a colossal spider used in past street performances. Visitors can explore workshops where these steampunk-style machines are built and maintained, watch demonstrations, and in some cases even ride the smaller mechanical animals. The site draws on Toulouse's aeronautical heritage, since Montaudran was once the departure point for pioneering airmail flights, and this history is woven into the surrounding exhibits. It sits well outside the historic center and is often skipped by visitors focused solely on the Old Town, despite being one of the more *genuinely surprising* experiences in the city. Check the schedule in advance, since the largest machines only appear in the courtyard on specific days. It is an unusual, highly memorable stop for visitors of any age.





Notable

Musée Georges-Labit

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

This small, easily overlooked museum near the Canal du Midi houses a surprising collection of **Asian and ancient Egyptian art**, assembled by a 19th-century Toulouse traveler and collector. Wooden Buddhist statues, Japanese armor, Khmer carvings, and Egyptian funerary artifacts fill a Moorish-style villa surrounded by a quiet garden with palm trees and a small pond. The building itself, designed to evoke an Andalusian palace, is as much a draw as the collection inside, and the peaceful courtyard offers a genuine break from the city's bustle. Because it lies slightly outside the usual museum cluster in the Old Town, it receives a fraction of the visitors of Toulouse's headline museums despite its unusual and well-curated holdings. Free admission on the first Sunday of the month makes it an easy, low-cost addition to an itinerary, and the garden alone is worth the short walk from the center.



Notable

Jardin Japonais Pierre-Baudis

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Set inside the modern Compans-Caffarelli park north of the center, this **authentic Japanese garden** was designed with the help of landscapers from Toulouse's twin city Nagasaki. Stone lanterns, a red pavilion, koi ponds, and carefully raked gravel create a meditative pocket that feels far removed from the surrounding business district. Few visitors venture this far from the Old Town, so the garden stays calm even on weekends when Toulouse's central parks fill up. The layout follows traditional principles, with paths designed to reveal new views gradually rather than all at once, rewarding a slow, unhurried walk. Spring brings flowering cherry trees and irises, while autumn colors the maples in deep reds, making both seasons especially rewarding for photography. Admission is free, and the adjoining lake and modern park make it easy to combine with a longer walk through a part of Toulouse rarely covered in standard tourist routes.

Tips for Hidden Gems

- Espace EDF Bazacle and the Château d'Eau gallery are both free or low-cost and can be combined in a single riverside afternoon.
- Check Halle de la Machine's schedule online before visiting, since the large mechanical creatures only perform on select days.
- The Japanese garden and Musée Georges-Labit both lie slightly outside the center, so pair them with a longer walk or a short tram ride.
- Visit the Château d'Eau gallery on a weekday morning for a near-solitary experience.



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Toulouse, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).



Must See

Fogo★★★★★ 4.9 (461)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Fogo is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.9★ from 461 reviews. Located at 6 Rue des Puits Clos, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 8:00 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 8:00 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

Petit Voyage - Restaurant Toulouse★★★★★ 4.9 (978)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Petit Voyage - Restaurant Toulouse is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.9★ from 978 reviews. Located at 18 Rue Emile Cartailhac, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed





Must See

Au Pois Gourmand restaurant terrasse gastronomique★★★★★ 4.9 (7,392)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Au Pois Gourmand restaurant terrasse gastronomique is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.9★ from 7392 reviews. Located at 3 Rue Emile Heybrard, 31300 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

Les Volets Rouges★★★★★ 4.9 (675)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Les Volets Rouges is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.9★ from 675 reviews. Located at 1 Rue Vélane, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:15 – 2:00 PM, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:15 – 2:00 PM, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:15 – 2:00 PM, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed





Must See

Bistrot August★★★★★ 4.9 (247)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Bistrot August is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.9★ from 247 reviews. Located at 62 Rue Pierre-Paul Riquet, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 7:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 7:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 7:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 7:00 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM



Must See

Les Sales Gosses (à TOULOUSE)★★★★★ 4.8 (1,987)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Les Sales Gosses (à TOULOUSE) is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.8★ from 1987 reviews. Located at 81 Rue Pierre-Paul Riquet, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed





Must See

Restaurant Une Table à Deux★★★★★ 4.8 (1,013)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Restaurant Une Table à Deux is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.8★ from 1013 reviews. Located at 10 Rue de la Pleau, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 1:15 PM, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 1:15 PM, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 1:15 PM, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 1:15 PM, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

L' Air de Famille★★★★★ 4.8 (812)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

L' Air de Famille is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.8★ from 812 reviews. Located at 6 Rue Jules Chalande, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 8:00 – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 8:00 – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 8:00 – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed





Must See

Mantesino★★★★★ 4.8 (961)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mantesino is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.8★ from 961 reviews. Located at 8 Rue Maury, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

BOCA - Tapas españolas★★★★★ 4.8 (1,825)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

BOCA - Tapas españolas is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.8★ from 1825 reviews. Located at 54 Rue Peyrolières, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 7:00 – 11:00 PM





Must See

Restaurant Michel Sarran★★★★★ 4.8 (1,628)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Restaurant Michel Sarran is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.8★ from 1628 reviews. Located at 21 Bd Armand Duportal, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 – 9:45 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 1:45 PM, 8:00 – 9:45 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 – 9:45 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 1:45 PM, 8:00 – 9:45 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 1:45 PM, 8:00 – 9:45 PM
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

Oh la vache !★★★★★ 4.7 (2,126)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Oh la vache ! is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.7★ from 2126 reviews. Located at 2 Rue d'Austerlitz, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 7:00 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 7:00 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 7:00 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 7:00 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed





Must See

Bistroquet Toulouse★★★★★ 4.7 (7,877)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Bistroquet Toulouse is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.7★ from 7877 reviews. Located at 10 Rue Labeda, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 4:00 – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 4:00 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 4:00 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 4:00 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 4:00 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 4:00 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 4:00 – 10:30 PM



Must See

In The Dark Restaurant - Toulouse★★★★★ 4.7 (663)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

In The Dark Restaurant - Toulouse is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.7★ from 663 reviews. Located at Au sein de l'hôtel FirstName, 84 All. Jean Jaurès, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 7:30 – 8:30 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

Les Copains D'abord★★★★★ 4.7 (1,965)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Les Copains D'abord is a highly-rated restaurant in Toulouse, rated 4.7★ from 1965 reviews. Located at 38 Rue du Pont Guilheméry, 31000 Toulouse, France.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 7:30 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:30 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 7:30 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 7:30 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 7:30 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Practical Information

Best Time to Visit Toulouse

Spring (April-May) and **Fall (September-October)** offer ideal weather with temperatures around 15-20°C, perfect for exploring. These seasons have lower crowds compared to summer.

Summer (June-August) is warm (25-30°C) and vibrant with festivals and events, but very crowded and expensive.

Winter (November-March) is mild (5-10°C) with occasional rain but fewer tourists and lower accommodation prices.

Consider your priorities: cultural events favor summer, outdoor exploration favors spring/fall, budget travel favors winter.

Getting Around Toulouse

Metro & Tram: Two metro lines and multiple tram lines efficiently connect major areas. Purchase **T-Découverte cards** for unlimited travel (1-5 days). Single tickets cost €1.70.

Buses: Extensive bus network covers the entire city. Tourist information offices provide free maps. **Vélo Toulouse** bike-sharing system offers over 2,000 bikes at 200+ stations for convenient urban cycling.

Walking: The city center is compact and very walkable. Most attractions are within 30 minutes on foot. **Taxis and Uber** available but not necessary for tourists with public transit cards.

Airport Transfer: Blagnac Airport is 7km away. Airport shuttle buses run every 20 minutes (€5), taxis cost €15-20, or rent cars at the airport for regional exploration.

➔ Airport Transfer

Toulouse-Blagnac Airport (TLS) to city center:

- **Tram Line T2:** Direct to Toulouse city center (Palais de Justice) in about 30 minutes, tickets cost €1.80
- **Airport Shuttle Bus (Navette Aéroport):** Runs every 20 minutes to Compans-Caffarelli and the train station in around 20 minutes, €8 one-way
- **Taxi:** Roughly 20 minutes to the city center, fixed rate around €25-30
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked car service to your hotel in about 20 minutes, typically €40-55

Shopping in Toulouse

Department Stores: Galeries Lafayette and Printemps in downtown offer luxury brands and fashion. **Rue de la Pomme** features independent boutiques with unique French designs and artisan crafts.

Markets: Victor Hugo Market (covered daily) and outdoor markets in Place du Capitole (3x weekly) offer fresh produce, local cheeses, flowers, and handicrafts. Shopping at markets provides authentic local experiences.

Specialty Shops: Look for regional products like Toulouse sausage, duck confit, cassoulet, Armagnac brandy, and locally-made ceramics. **Saint-Cyprien district** features independent galleries, vintage shops, and artisan boutiques with unique finds.

Shopping Hours: Most shops open 10am-7pm, closed Sundays. Markets operate mornings until 1-2pm.

Annual Events & Festivals

Toulouse Piano Festival (April/May): International piano competition and concerts at various venues.

Garonne en Fête (May): River festival celebrating with boat races, concerts, and outdoor activities along the Garonne.



Festa de la Garona (June): Three-day festival with performances, exhibitions, and street entertainment celebrating the river.

Summer Festival (July-August): Open-air cinema, concerts, and theater performances throughout the city parks.

Aeroscopia Air Show (Occasional): Spectacular aviation event at nearby Airbus facility with historic and modern aircraft demonstrations.

Christmas Markets (November-December): Festive markets in Place du Capitole with holiday decorations, gift stalls, and seasonal food. New Year celebrations include fireworks and street parties.

5 Sample Day Itineraries

Day 1: Historical Toulouse

Start at **Basilica of Saint-Sernin** (45 min), then explore **Old Town streets** (1 hour). Visit **Church of the Jacobins** (30 min), lunch in a local café. Afternoon: **Toulouse-Lautrec Museum** (2 hours). Evening: sunset at **Pont Neuf**, dinner in **Rue Croix Baragnon**.

Day 2: Art & Museums

Morning: **Augustins Museum** (1.5 hours), explore adjacent **Rue de la Pomme** (45 min). Lunch near museum. Afternoon: **Paul Dupuy Museum** or **Natural History Museum** (1.5 hours). Evening: **Grand Rond** gardens stroll, casual dinner.

Day 3: River & Nature

Morning: **Canal du Midi boat tour** (2 hours) or cycling the towpath. Lunch riverside. Afternoon: **Botanical Garden** (1.5 hours) or **Jardin de la Berge** walk. Evening: sunset walk in **Saint-Cyprien** district.

Day 4: Day Trip to Carcassonne

Early morning train or car to **Carcassonne**. Spend 4-5 hours exploring the medieval fortress, walking ramparts, visiting the basilica, and enjoying lunch with views. Return to Toulouse for evening relaxation.

Day 5: Local Culture & Markets

Morning: **Victor Hugo Market** and shopping in boutiques. Lunch with local specialties. Afternoon: **Airbus Factory Tour** (2.5 hours, book ahead). Evening: explore **Saint-Cyprien galleries**, final dinner sampling Toulouse cuisine.

Best Photography Locations

Pont Neuf at Sunset: The iconic pink-brick bridge with Garonne River creates stunning golden-hour shots. Best light 30-60 minutes before sunset from the bridge center or adjacent riverbank.

Place du Capitole at Night: The illuminated Renaissance buildings and grand square offer magical nighttime photography. Post-sunset when building lights activate (8-9pm depending on season).

Basilica of Saint-Sernin Façade: Early morning light beautifully highlights the Romanesque architecture. Golden-hour photography (early morning or late afternoon) reveals stone details and texture.

Canal du Midi Towpath: Tree-lined paths with reflections in water create serene landscape photography. Spring blossoms add color. Morning mist or golden-hour light enhances atmosphere.

Saint-Cyprien Street Scenes: Narrow streets with hanging plants, café tables, and street art provide authentic local color photography. Best during daytime for detail, early morning for empty-street shots.

Rue de la Pomme Architecture: Close-up details of Renaissance façades, ornate balconies, and doorways. Overcast days eliminate harsh shadows, brightening details. Spring flowers add color to window boxes.

Electrical Information



Voltage & Frequency: France operates on **230V, 50Hz** electrical standard. This differs from North America (120V, 60Hz) and other regions.

Plug Types: France uses **Type C and Type E plugs** with round pins. Type C is the common two-round-pin plug used throughout Europe. Type E adds grounding pins and is increasingly standard.

Adapters & Converters: Visitors from North America, UK, or Australia need plug adapters. Purchase adapters before departure or at the airport (though often more expensive). Dual-voltage devices (laptops, phone chargers) need only adapters. Non-dual-voltage devices need both adapter and voltage converter.

Where to Buy: Electronics stores, supermarkets, and airport shops sell adapters. Most hotels provide adapters at reception for guest use.

Important Note: Check device specifications before connecting. Most modern electronics are dual-voltage (100-240V), making adapters sufficient.

Must-Try Dishes & Dining

Cassoulet: Toulouse's signature dish features white beans, duck confit, pork sausage, and breadcrumb topping baked until golden. Rich, hearty, and traditionally served in winter. Try at traditional bistros for authentic preparation.

Toulouse Sausage (Saucisse de Toulouse): This coarse-grain pork sausage is fresh (not smoked) and grilled or braised. Often served with beans or in pasta dishes. Available at markets and butchers.

Duck Confit: Tender duck slow-cooked in its own fat is a regional specialty. Served with potatoes or salad. Luxurious and deeply flavorful.

Foie Gras: Fattened duck liver is a French delicacy. Served seared as a main course or spread on toast as an appetizer. Fresh versions peak in winter.

Dinner Culture: Dinner starts around 7-8pm in France. Restaurants fill around 8pm. Lunch is the main meal (noon-2pm). Always greet servers with 'Bonjour' upon entry.

Wine Pairing: Regional wines from Gascony and Armagnac brandy pair perfectly with local dishes. Try local restaurants' wine recommendations. Meals often include wine or aperitifs.

Dining Tips: Tipping is not expected but rounding up or leaving 5-10% shows appreciation. Bread and water are free. Coffee after meals is customary.

Tourist Passes

Toulouse City Card

The **Toulouse City Card** includes **unlimited public transport** (metro, trams, buses), **free entry to 5 major museums** (Toulouse-Lautrec, Augustins, Paul Dupuy, Natural History, and more), and discounts at restaurants and shops. Available for **24, 48, or 72 hours**. Valid only during consecutive calendar days. Excellent value for active sightseers planning museum visits.



www.toulouse-tourisme.com

Museum Pass France

This regional pass provides **unlimited entry to over 80 museums** across Southern France including Toulouse and surrounding regions. Available for **1, 3, or 7 days**. Beneficial if planning museum-intensive travel. Access includes skip-the-line privileges at major attractions. Particularly valuable for multi-day regional exploration.



www.museepassfrance.com



T-Découverte Transit Card

Unlimited public transportation on metro, trams, and buses for **1-5 days**. Essential for navigating the city efficiently without individual ticket purchases. Daily cards cost approximately €5-10 depending on duration. Unlimited travel encourages exploring distant neighborhoods and day-trip connections.



www.tisséo-collectivités.fr

