

Dates: October 19-27, 2025 – 9 days / 8 nights

This program is not “set in stone” and could change if a service provider becomes unavailable or a place/museum is closed unexpectedly.

Participants should arrive in Toulouse by plane (at the client's expense). The airplane ticket is not included in the rate offered.

TRIP RATES are calculated on the basis of a 15-person group and could go higher if the group is smaller.

- ➡ Please be aware that the rates could become higher if there are less than 15 participants and if service providers change their terms before all payments are made.
- ➡ Please note that the participants must all stay in the same hotel to benefit from the group hotel rate.

Rates for a double room are (subject to change because of hotel decision and tariffs...):

- ▶ With 4-star hotel: \$ 3,000 per person including tax

Rates for a single room are:

- ▶ With 4-star hotel: \$ 4,500 per person including tax

All rates will include:

- The services of an English-speaking tour guide from the Toulouse Tourist Office for airport transfer and assistance on Sunday, October 19 and Monday, October 27
- The services of an English-speaking tour guide from the Toulouse Tourist Office for a 3-hour tour of "Great Monuments of Toulouse" on Monday, October 20; two 1.5-hour groups of "Toulouse in the Renaissance" on Thursday, October 23; a morning tour of Carcassonne on Wednesday, October 22; a full-day tour of Albi and Cordes-sur-Ciel on Friday, October 24; and a full-day tour of Cahors on Sunday, October 26.
- Admission to the Saint-Raymond Museum, the Château Comtal de Carcassonne, the Bemberg Foundation, the Maison de la Violette, the Sainte-Cécile Cathedral in Albi, the

Toulouse-Lautrec Museum, the descent and ascent of the Cordes-sur-Ciel train, and the Aéroscopia Museum

- Pastel dyeing workshop with AHPY on Thursday, October 23
- Tasting tour of the Victor Hugo market with Taste of Toulouse on Saturday, October 25
- Tasting tour of a wine estate near Cahors on Sunday, October 26
- Coach service as per program
- **Meals as mentioned**
- **Accommodation in a 4* hotel in a double or single room (see rates above), with breakfast and tourist taxes included**
- Toulouse Tourism Office costs for producing and organizing the stay
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Rates do not include:

- International Travel Air Fare
- Travel Insurance (Recommended)
- Gratuities
- Personal expenses (some meals, telephone calls, medical expenses, souvenirs...)
- Some transportation (to and from Maison de la Violette, for instance, or if you want to take a taxi or Uber rather than walk)

Day 1 - Sunday, October 19

The group (or parts of the group if you all do not travel on the same flights/days) will arrive in Toulouse-Blagnac by plane (at the client's expense) during the day. Please note:

1. In general, any “foreign air companies” flying from Dulles (IAD) to Roissy-Charles de Gaulle (CDG) arrives at CDG Terminal 1
 - ➡ You will need a transfer to Charles de Gaulle Terminal 2 to catch the transfer to Toulouse-Blagnac (TLS)
 - ➡ You will go thru immigration there.
 - ➡ You will have to pick up your luggage at CDG and then go again thru check-in AND security at CDG Terminal 2.

2. If you fly on Air France from Dulles (IAD) to Toulouse-Blagnac (TLS), you will transit by Roissy-Charles de Gaulle and you will land already at CDG Terminal 2.
 - ➡ You will only have to “walk” or take the inter concourse train between, for instance, Terminal 2 E to Terminal 2 F.
 - ➡ You will go through immigration.
 - ➡ You will not need to pick up your luggage when arriving from Washington
 - ➡ You may have to go through a different security check again but without your luggage
 - ➡ Your luggage can be checked all the way from Dulles through to Toulouse-Blagnac
3. A guide will meet you at the airport for assistance upon arrival if you arrive on October 19 (time to be confirmed, not sure if the guide can come back at different times)

Then, the people who arrive on the same flight will be transferred by coach to a 4* hotel in downtown Toulouse.

Check-in at the hotel: it is usually around 3pm, but you can leave your luggage from the moment you arrive until check-in time.

Welcome dinner at the J'Go restaurant (subject to availability)

Menu includes an aperitif, starter, main course, dessert, wine, and coffee.

Day 2 - Monday, October 20

Morning: Meeting point: Toulouse Tourist Office, Capitole Keep

"Great Monuments of Toulouse" tour with an English-speaking tour guide from the Toulouse Tourist Office - 3 hours

You will discover the Place du Capitole; the Basilica of Saint-Sernin, a masterpiece of Romanesque art, a major stop on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela; the Jacobin Convent (exterior only - closed on Mondays), the mother house of the Dominicans with its extraordinary architecture; the courtyard of the Hôtel d'Assézat, then head to the banks of the Garonne, where you will enjoy splendid views of Toulouse's iconic monuments.

Lunch at the Bibent restaurant (subject to availability)

Menu includes starter, main course, dessert, wine, and coffee.

Afternoon and dinner at leisure (to finish recovering from the jet lag)

Day 3 – Tuesday, October 21

Morning: Start the morning with a private tour of the Capitol (subject to availability and schedule of the Town Council Member's schedule).

Then, continue with a guided tour of the Musée Saint-Raymond in English (subject to availability).

Housed in a magnificent 17th-century building, this museum is dedicated to the art and archaeology of Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. It is known for its remarkable sculptures, making it one of the richest museums in Europe.

Lunch at a restaurant in the Victor Hugo Market (subject to availability)

Menu including starter, main course, dessert, wine, and coffee.

Afternoon and dinner at leisure: Sarah is available to take you back to the Jacobins to visit the interior.

Day 4 – Wednesday, October 22

Morning: Coach transfer to Carcassonne accompanied by an English-speaking tour guide from the Toulouse Tourist Office.

In the heart of the city of Carcassonne, discover the ramparts (subject to availability), masterpieces of Gallo-Roman and medieval military architecture, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore one of the largest fortified cities in Europe, among the best preserved thanks to Viollet-le-Duc's restoration in the 19th century.

The Château Comtal is included in the tour.

Lunch at your leisure. OR **Optional (additional charge) lunch at a restaurant in Carcassonne.**

Return transfer by coach to the hotel, with the possibility to visit l'Envol des Pionniers (if available, it is a very small museum operated by volunteers)

End of our guide's services.

Dinner at your leisure.

Day 5 – Thursday, October 23

Morning in two groups of 6 people: each group will do both activities in alternance. Total duration for both activities for both groups: 3 hours

1. Tour of Toulouse during the Renaissance – duration 1.5 hours

Stroll through the narrow streets of the historic center in search of the private mansions built during Toulouse's golden age by pastel merchants and the Capitouls.

The guide will lead you between these facades and portals, deciphering the details that would become the subject of historical events: discoveries of remains of the great ancient Tolosa, King François I's "crush" on the Belle Paule, a plethora of towers... ultimately, this walk through a dozen sites allows you to admire the architectural developments and understand the economic context that made Toulouse a renowned center of artistic influence.

2. Pastel Dyeing Workshop with AHPY - 1.5 hours

Participants will learn about the history and techniques of pastel dyeing and will have the opportunity to dye a piece of fabric themselves.

Lunch at the Brasserie de l'Opéra (subject to availability)

Menu includes starter, main course, dessert, wine, and coffee

Afternoon: Guided tour of the Bemberg Foundation in English - 1 hour (subject to availability)

The Foundation combines the magic of the Hôtel d'Assézat, a jewel of Renaissance architecture, with the quality of the collections of patron Georges Bemberg. The collections consist of an exceptional collection of paintings, sculptures, graphic arts, furniture, and objets d'art, spanning more than five centuries of artistic creation from the 15th century to the Second World War.

Group transfer by their own means to the Maison de la Violette.

Discover the Maison de la Violette in English – duration 1 hour 15 minutes (subject to availability).

On this charming barge dedicated to the Toulouse violet, you will discover the history of this flower, its cultivation, and its processing industry, followed by a product tasting.

Group transfer to the hotel by their own means.

Dinner on your own.

Day 6 – Friday, October 24

Morning: Coach transfer to Cordes-sur-Ciel accompanied by an English-speaking tour guide from the Toulouse Tourist Office.

Round-trip shuttle provided by the Cordes-sur-Ciel train (subject to availability).

Perched on a promontory, Cordes-sur-Ciel rises amidst a sea of clouds in spring and autumn, hence its name. The medieval fortified town with its winding streets is home to remarkable residences with sculpted facades and several museums.

Continue and coach transfer to Albi.

Lunch at your leisure **OR Optional (additional charge): lunch in a restaurant in downtown Albi.**

Afternoon: Guided tour of old Albi, its cathedral, and the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum (subject to availability)

Discover the old town of Albi, a Grand Site of the Midi-Pyrénées region, and its impressive Sainte Cécile Cathedral with its extraordinary painted and sculpted decoration.

The cathedral asserts its power through a style typical of southwest France: Southern Gothic. Perched on one of the city's hills, as if on a pedestal, it bears witness to the Christian faith after the Cathar heresy. Its unique style is reinforced by its interior decoration, a veritable museum of Christian art. It is the only cathedral in Europe whose walls and vaults are entirely painted over an area covering approximately 18,500 m².

The world's largest public collection of works by Toulouse-Lautrec, including the lithographer's 31 famous posters. Early paintings, major portraits, brothel paintings, posters, and even lithographs make this an exceptional collection. Each stage of his abundant production is represented.

Return coach transfer to Toulouse at the end of the day.

End of our guide's services.

Dinner on your own.

Day 7 – Saturday, October 25

Morning: Gourmet Discovery of the Victor Hugo Market with Taste of Toulouse – 3.5 hours (subject to availability)

Tour with tastings.

Spend a morning learning the techniques and secrets of shopping in French markets with a local expert passionate about gastronomy. Embark on an unforgettable culinary journey, discovering the finest and freshest products in Toulouse.

Lunch at your leisure.

Afternoon: Coach transfer to the Aéroscopia Museum.

Guided tour in English of the Aéroscopia Museum – duration 1.5 hours (subject to availability)

Discover Aéroscopia with a guide, an aeronautical tour featuring exhibitions on aeronautical science and technology, including the Concorde, Caravelle, Super Guppy, the A300, and the main restored aircraft from the Ailes Anciennes collection.

Return transfer to Toulouse city center.

Early evening, enjoy one of the most beautiful views of Toulouse while enjoying a delicious cocktail at Ma Biche sur le toit (subject to availability)

Dinner on your own.

Day 8 – Sunday, October 26

Morning: Coach transfer to Cahors accompanied by an English-speaking tour guide from the Toulouse Tourist Office.

Guided tour of the historic center of Cahors.

From the remains of the amphitheater to Saint-Etienne Cathedral, from the shop arcades to the Renaissance windows of the merchant houses, immerse yourself in the great moments of Cahors' history.

Between the Chartreux Fountain and the banks of the Lot, the Valentré Bridge, both a defensive structure and a masterpiece of medieval civil architecture, is the true emblem of the city of Cahors.

Continue to a winery near Cahors to discover the region's wines.

Lunch at a winery near Cahors (subject to availability)

Menu includes starter, main course, dessert, a wine pairing of two glasses of the winery's own wine, and coffee.

Continue with a tour of the winery and a tasting of two wines (subject to availability)

Return coach transfer to Toulouse.

Concludes our guide's services.

Farewell dinner at a Toulouse winery (subject to availability)

Menu includes starter, main course, dessert, wine, and coffee.

Day 9 - Monday, October 27

Breakfast at the hotel.

A guide from the Tourist Office will meet the group at the hotel.

Then, transfer by coach to Toulouse-Blagnac Airport, check-in assistance.

End of our guide's services.

The group departs from Toulouse by plane (client's expense).

End of our services.

Additional Notes:

I can also take the group on one of the free afternoons to see the Galerie du Chateau d'Eau (Photography Museum) on the other side of Le Pont Neuf

I am waiting for the Season 2025-2026 of the Theatre/Opera du Capitole and the Halle aux Grains as well theatre Daniel Sorano and theatre Garonne to be released to add the possibility to attend a concert at one or both of these venues (mostly classical music or opera, or, theater play)

Should you wish to stay longer, you would have to book extra days on your own at the hotel, but I am hoping we can add that option as a group rate. The following activities are possible:

1. A visit to the Cité de l'Espace: it will be open on October 27 and 28: the visit of the space will take an entire day for the aficionado of all things space...
2. Other museums worthy of a visit include: Musée Paul-Dupuy, Musée Régional de la Résistance et de la Déportation, Musée Georges Labit (Asian Art), Les abattoirs (contemporary art... may be under renovation by October)
3. Rent a car and go for up to two day trips to Foix and/or other "Châteaux cathares" to get a glance at the Pyrénées. I can drive you.