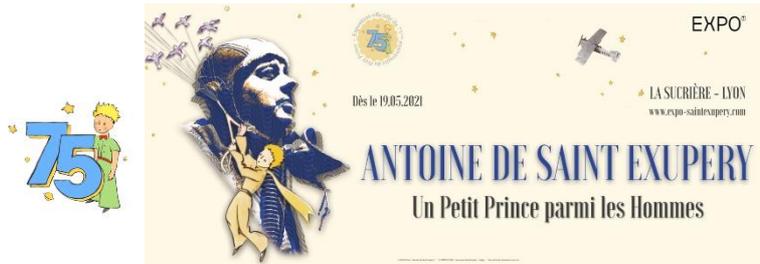


# ANTOINE DE SAINT EXUPÉRY

## A Little Prince Among Men

From 17 October 2020 to 6 November 2022  
at L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS  
Toulouse



## FOREWORD

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS at Toulouse-Montaudran invites visitors to come to relive the extraordinary human adventure of L'Aéropostale. It was from this very place that Antoine de Saint Exupéry took off for the first time as a pilot.

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS tells about the extraordinary human adventure experienced by these flying fore-runners who surpassed their limits to give birth to French civil aviation. From 1918, legendary aviators and their crews, such as Jean Mermoz, Henri Guillaumet and Antoine de Saint Exupéry criss-crossed this site and took off from the Toulouse-Montaudran airfield.



Antoine de Saint Exupéry on the Toulouse-Montaudran airfield, the location currently occupied by L'Envol des Pionniers, Toulouse. Saint Exupéry in front of the Late 28 aircraft at Montaudran. © private collection - Antoine de Saint Exupéry-d'Agay Estate -1933

## On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the French edition of *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



Antoine de Saint Exupéry's genuine pilot gloves on display at L'Envol des Pionniers. Antoine de Saint Exupéry-d'Agay Estate - Author © Manuel Huynh.

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS offers the public a unique exhibition about this legendary man. Through sound and visual installations, hitherto unseen documents (letters, newspapers, books, documents etc.) and models of legendary aircraft, visitors will find out about another facet of the creator of *The Little Prince*: the bold aviator. The exhibition traces the life of this aviation pioneer, from his winged bicycle when he was a little boy to his tragic death above the Mediterranean aboard his reconnaissance aircraft, the legendary Lockheed F-5 Lightning.

This unique setting, in a place laden with stories, allows us to understand how Antoine de Saint Exupéry's passion for aviation fed his creativity and gave life to his most famous novels: from *Wind, Sand and Stars* to *The Little Prince*.

**A new exhibition: "Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: A Little Prince Among Men" From 17 October 2020 to 2 January 2022 at L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS**

### VISITOR ROUTE

To help the public to understand the historic context of the inter-war period at Toulouse-Montaudran, with the creation of *Lignes Aériennes Latécoère*, *L'Aéropostale* and *Air France*, three companies for which Saint-Exupéry worked, L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS offers visitors the chance to explore the new exhibition "**Antoine de Saint Exupéry: A Little Prince Among Men**" as part of a standard visit to the site. So, using a [single ticket](#), visitors can access all the permanent and temporary exhibitions.

### The Legends of the Airmail



Evocation of the Lignes Aériennes Latécoère, born at Toulouse-Montaudran. Photo © L'Envol des Pionniers, Author Manuel Huynh

In the first part of the route, visitors find out about the history of L'Aéropostale, the Toulouse Montaudran site, its people and its legends through the permanent exhibition of L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS. For it was on this site, in the very place where young and old are strolling, that the famous Antoine de Saint Exupéry became a pilot for *Lignes Aériennes Latécoère* on 14 October 1926. Through presenters playing characters in period costume (pilots, mechanics, canvas workers) and **original museographic installations**, visitors will learn about the technical and, above all, human exploits of the beginnings of mail transport, beyond deserts, oceans and mountains. L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS offers visitors an unprecedented exploration of the turbulent history of L'Aéropostale.

By entering the reconstruction of Antoine de Saint Exupéry's barracks at Cap Juby (Spanish Sahara) where he was Station Head for more than a year (photo attached), by looking through the flight logbooks of his expeditions in Argentina in the permanent exhibitions, visitors discover the adventures which inspired him for his novels *Southern Mail* and *Night Flight*.

Reconstruction of the barracks at Cap Juby at ©L'Envol des Pionniers - Author Manuel Huynh



Antoine de Saint Exupéry in the Caudron Simoun in 1935-© Private Collection - Antoine de Saint Exupéry - d'Agay Estate

## A Pilot Named Antoine de Saint Exupéry

The route continues via the temporary exhibition at the heart of the 400m<sup>2</sup> aircraft hangar of L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS. Visitors then go to meet Antoine de Saint Exupéry "the Aviator." Each stage of the exhibition presents a **key moment in the rich journey of his life and the legendary aircraft associated with that time.** Consequently, visitors will find a life-size replica of the first aircraft of *La Ligne*, the **SALMSON 2A2** on which Antoine de Saint Exupéry flew during his military service.

In this way, young and old will find another facet of the famous writer: that of the bold pioneering pilot of the Aéropostale as well as test pilot and raid pilot.

## A Life Devoted to his Love for Aircraft

If Antoine de Saint Exupéry's novels are full of aerial epics, it is because the novelist had a real passion for aircraft. **His career as a pilot and his track record as a writer are intimately connected, one inspired the other.** The exhibition traces the life of the legendary pilot from his maiden flight at the age of 12 to his tragic death above the Mediterranean. In an original scenography, combining personal effects, soundscapes, accounts and legendary aircraft, the exhibition invites the public to explore the career of this courageous and profoundly humane man. Most of the aircraft he piloted are featured in large visuals across the exhibition route and tell in chronological order about the little and great moments in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's life. Among the objects on display, the public will, in particular, be able to see pieces of the legendary aircraft, the Lockheed F-5 Lightning - aboard which Antoine de Saint Exupéry disappeared on 31 July 1944 in the Mediterranean - restored by the teams of the Air and Space Museum.



Life-size Salmson 2A2 aircraft. ©L'Envol des Pionniers - Association Ailes Anciennes Toulouse. Author F Seroussi

## In the Aviator's Private Life



Henry Guillaumet and Antoine de Saint Exupéry. Photo © Air France Museum Collection

The public will also find out about the pilot's profound friendships with pioneers of the *Aéropostale* such as Didier Daurat, Jean Mermoz, Marcel Reine, as well as mechanics, radio operators and navigators, and, above all, with the pilot, Henri Guillaumet, who was his mentor and to whom he dedicated his *novel*, *Wind, Sand and Stars*. Through historical images, visitors are also immersed at the heart of Antoine de Saint Exupéry's private life: his family and his special relationship with his mother, his love for women, of course, but, above all, his meeting with Consuelo, who would become his wife in 1931, when he was Operations Manager of the *Aéropostale* subsidiary in Argentina.



Noëlle Guillaumet, Henri Guillaumet, Antoine de Saint Exupéry  
Photo © Air France Museum Collection

## An Aviator Who Was Passionate About the Arts



2 photos: above and below:  
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Photo  
@Air France Museum Collection

Saint-Exupéry was also a lover of literature and cinema. The exhibition looks back on the films which forged his reputation across the Atlantic. So, in the "film corner," visitors can watch short extracts directly inspired by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's work; either for cinema with *Anne-Marie*, for which he wrote the script in 1935 (directed by Raymond Bernard and released in 1936) or the adaptation of his first book *Southern Mail* (directed by Pierre Billon and released in 1937), as well as documentaries for Air France, like *Weekend in Algiers* and *South Atlantic* (directed by Félix Forestier in 1936 on the occasion of the hundredth crossing of the South Atlantic).

Then, like a common thread guiding Antoine de Saint-Exupéry from the stars of the cinema, to the starry sky, the last part traces his exile in New York where he wrote many of his works including *The Little Prince*. Visitors then find out about the writer's commitment to fight during the Second World War, joining a reconnaissance squad which inspired his book *Flight to Arras*. A commitment which would prove fatal to him, since he disappeared on 31 July 1944 during a reconnaissance flight. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's death was mysterious for many long years until the wreck of his aircraft, the Lockheed F-5 Lightning, was found in 2000, off the coast of Marseilles. Declared to have "Died for France," an inscription at the Panthéon honours the memory of the great writer and fighter.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0gwVEYJEJA>

## The Little Prince revisited in an original work by the artist Arnaud Nazare-Aga

Like a handover between Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the aviator and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the artist, the exhibition closes with a series of sculptures produced by [the artist Arnaud Nazare-Aga](#), in partnership with the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry Foundation for Youth. In this invitation to dream and see the world through the eyes of children, visitors slip into the imagination of *The Little Prince*.

Inspired by his life in the Cap Juby desert, the wild animals he loved to tame, his aircraft accident in the Libyan desert, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's drawings served as models for Arnaud Nazare Aga, himself the grandson of an aviator. [Each object reinterprets an original illustration from \*The Little Prince\* at a size suitable for the young.](#) In total, 14 sculptures pick up the thread of the book. Combined with a verbatim transcription of the story, they illustrate the poetic, dreamlike and philosophical dimension of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Through this exhibition, the first in Europe, *The Little Prince* continues his incredible journey across borders and generations.

## An Extraordinary Career Guided by Strong Values

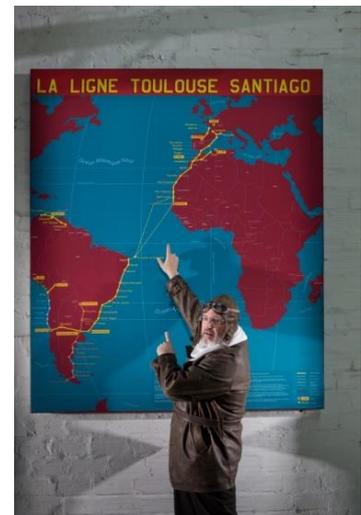
Pilot, inventor, journalist, writer, player, illustrator, filmmaker, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry had a thousand lives in one. His courage, his determination, his ambition, his freedom and his humanitarianism were all values which enabled him to surpass his limits and enter, despite himself, into legend.

Through his life and works, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry transmitted universal values which still find a special resonance today:

**A pioneering and visionary spirit**, particularly on themes of exploration and protection of the environment. "The future is not yours to predict, but to allow," he wrote in *The Wisdom of the Sands*.

> **Humanism**: all his life, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry never stopped condemning and fighting the faults which generate the evils of the world: indifference, self-absorption, intolerance ... "Why hate us? We are united, borne on the same planet, crew of the same ship," you can read in *Wind, Sand and Stars*.

> **Commitment**: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's life reflects an intellectual and military commitment, but above all a moral commitment. "If respect for mankind has a foundation in men's hearts, men will clearly end up founding in return the social, political and economic system which consecrates that respect. First of all, a civilisation is founded in substance," he wrote in *Letter to a Hostage*.



The Ligne Aéropostale Career - Thomas Jankowski-L'Envol des Pionniers - Author Manuel Huynh

## The Workshop

At the end of the visit, young and old can take to the paths of an interactive area which highlights the current relevance of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's work in the concerns of today's society. A voting box allows visitors to interact on the great values dear to the writer: [solidarity](#), [spirituality](#), [friendship](#), [responsibility](#) and [humanity](#), this interactive area invites the public to think and design a new world.

# ROLE-PLAYING PRESENTATIONS WITH "CHARACTERS" WHO WERE AROUND ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

Presenters in period costume to immerse visitors in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's daily life.



A role-playing presentation: a pilot tells the stories of L'Aéropostale in front of the Salmons 2A2 aircraft ©L'Envol des Pionniers - Association Ailes Anciennes Toulouse - Author Manuel Huynh

The success of L'Aéropostale relied on the involvement of many people motivated and committed to meet the shared task: transporting mail by air at all costs. So, up to 80 pilots, including Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 250 mechanics, 53 radio technicians, 250 sailors, 900 administrative employees and a team of around twenty canvas workers together met this unprecedented challenge.

To encounter these pioneers who inhabited this place and rubbed shoulders with the famous writer, L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS offers visitors an immersive living experience with presentations throughout the visit, of characters in period

costume.

So, addressing the public as they come through an exhibition room and telling the great and small stories of the incredible adventure of L'Aéropostale, the presenters plunge visitors into the daily atmosphere of the Toulouse-Montaudran workshops and behind the scenes of the life which so impressed Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and about which he said in *Wind, Sand and Stars*: "I do not admire men for serving the mail, but the legend of the mail is important to me because it makes such men. And these men, I admire them for being as they are."



Presenters in period costume: here a mechanic at L'Envol des Pionniers - Association Ailes Anciennes Toulouse -

## An Offer Specially for Families

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's Box of Souvenirs

Visitors will find out how aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry became the writer of *The Little Prince* through practical and sensory activities to share with the family.



Educational Workshop ©L'Envol des Pionniers - Author Manuel Huynh

## A range of books on Antoine de Saint-Exupéry or written by the Aviator-writer himself

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS shop offers a wide range of books on Antoine de Saint-Exupéry or written by the aviator-writer, including in particular: the book-catalogue "Antoine de Saint-Exupéry : un Petit Prince parmi les Hommes," directed by Jean-Pierre Guéno, published by KIWI and the graphic novel "ST-EX," by Bernard Chabbert and Romain Hugault published by Paquet.



In partnership with the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry Foundation for Youth

# EDUCATIONAL OFFERS SPECIALLY FOR SCHOOL AUDIENCES

## An Educational Offer Specially for School Audiences



"Pilots' Stories" Workshop - Photo ©L'Envol des Pionniers - Author Manuel Huynh

Accredited by l'Éducation Nationale, L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS provides an offer entirely designed for school audiences. Its educational team is constantly innovating to offer new products suitable for all ages. The workshops complement the knowledge acquired in class in various school subjects.

For example, as part of the temporary exhibition "**Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: A Little Prince Among Men**," L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS developed two educational

workshops to allow classes from Year 2 to Year 7 to come and enrich their school programme around the work and life of the famous writer aviator.

### Workshop: "Pilots' Stories"

Pupils from Year 2 to Year 4 / Duration 45 minutes

A learner pilot is preparing to experience his maiden flight. Pupils help the young aviator to find his mail in the sorting carriage and get the equipment needed for this new adventure. Through the letters, they find out together about the incredible stories of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and his comrades, pilots of L'Aéropostale.



"Pilots' Stories" Workshop Photo ©L'Envol des Pionniers - Author Manuel Huynh

Guided by the young learner pilot Louis Bonnetête, the pupils analyse, together, the contents of the envelopes and packages. Through the stories of the pilots of L'Aéropostale, they find the essential equipment for a pilot: goggles, scarf, flying helmet, compass, etc..

### Workshop: "Antoine de Saint-

### Exupéry's Adventure"

Pupils from Year 5 to Year 7 / Duration 1 hour

Toulouse, 1930: in his workshop at Toulouse Montaudran, a mechanic for La Ligne welcomes the class to prepare a surprise for the pilot Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Pupils, divided into teams, handle period objects, solve puzzles during their visit, follow the adventures of the author of *The Little Prince* and take part in a collaborative game which retraces the pilot's life at the time of L'Aéropostale.

## Educational Project: "In Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's Footsteps"

12 classes of Year 5 and Year 6 / A Year-Long Educational Project

On the occasion of the exhibition "**Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: A Little Prince Among Men**," L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS invites teachers to take part with their class in a [joint project on the famous aviator and writer](#).

Intended for classes in Years 5 and 6, the educational project "[In Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's Footsteps](#)" immerses pupils in the life of the famous aviator at the historic site of Toulouse-Montaudran. After an introductory tour guided and commented on by L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS' presenters in period costume, each class goes back to school with a mysterious briefcase in which are hidden objects and stories relating to a period of the famous aviator-writer's life.

Back in class, pupils use these objects to explore one of three episodes in the life of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, pilot of La Ligne: "[Saint-Exupéry and La Ligne](#);" "[Saint-Exupéry and the Desert](#);" "[Saint-Exupéry and South America](#)." They then produce a collective work (cartoon, play, story, song etc.) which they will come and present in spring 2021 at L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS. Presenters for a day, the pupils will meet up at L'Envol des Pionniers to tell about Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, pilot for L'Aéropostale.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Accessibility & Disability

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS attaches special importance to [making culture accessible to all](#). This is why the site implements many actions on a daily basis enabling anyone with disabilities to come to explore the place and take part in the many events, conferences and workshops organised throughout the year.

This commitment is reflected in various ways and adapts to each disability. Consequently, the layout was designed for people with reduced mobility. Videos are sub-titled and tours in French sign language are organised, booklets in braille and large print are available at reception so that people can find out about the exhibition and the history of the site. Tactile tours for visually impaired people are also available.

<https://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com/en/useful-information/information-on-our-reopening/>

#### Address & Opening Times

L'Envol des Pionniers  
6 rue Jacqueline Auriol  
31400 Toulouse  
Tel: 05 67 22 23 24

#### Open Tuesday to Sunday

Times vary depending on the period

Further information on: [www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com](http://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com)

#### Booking

[www.resa@semecel.com](mailto:www.resa@semecel.com)

#### Prices

Ticket for the whole site (permanent and temporary exhibitions)

Child: €5 (from 5 to 18 years) / Adult: €8

Tourist Group: €7 / person

School Group: €4 / child

To buy your tickets online: <https://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com/informations-pratiques/tarifs-billets/>

  
FONDATION  
ANTOINE DE  
SAINT EXUPÉRY



*In partnership with the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry Foundation for Youth*

## PRESS CONTACT L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS (TOULOUSE)

**Florence SEROUSSI**

Mobile: 06 08 96 96 50

Tel.: 05 62 71 56 46

[f.seroussi@semeccel.com](mailto:f.seroussi@semeccel.com)

@florenceseroussi

L'Envol des Pionniers

6 rue Jacqueline Auriol

31400 Toulouse

[www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com](http://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com)

Online Press Room

<https://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com/profil/presse/>

Links to L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS' sites, accounts and social networks

[https://linktr.ee/lenvol\\_pionniers](https://linktr.ee/lenvol_pionniers)

**An exhibition designed and produced by Tempora, in partnership with the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry Foundation for Youth, the Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace - Paris - Le Bourget, l'Armée de l'Air et de l'Espace and L'Envol des Pionniers - Toulouse, with contributions by La Fondation Latécoère, the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry - d'Agay Estate, the Air France Museum, the Musée Hydravion in Biscarosse, Christian Seveillac, the Musée de l'affiche in Toulouse, the Paul Vachet - Jack Mary Archives, and Les Ailes Anciennes de Toulouse.**

**An exhibition funded by Toulouse Métropole, the Region Occitanie / Pyrenees-Mediterranean and L'Envol des Pionniers.**

### **And in Lyon**

#### **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: A Little Prince Among Men La Sucrière, Lyon**

The new travelling exhibition "Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: A Little Prince Among Men" is presented in Lyon on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the French edition of The Little Prince. An immersive exhibition which will help you explore the wonderful world of The Little Prince, the amazing life of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and an imaginary meeting between the Little Prince and his creator. A life and work which marked history! [www.expo-saintexupery.com](http://www.expo-saintexupery.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/exposaintexupery/>

[https://www.instagram.com/saintexupery\\_expo/](https://www.instagram.com/saintexupery_expo/)



*In partnership with the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry Foundation for Youth*