

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

TWO DAYS TO EXPLORE THE EXHIBITIONS AT L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS FOR FREE

On 19 and 20 September 2026, L'Envol des Pionniers in Toulouse will open its doors free of charge as part of European Heritage Days. Over these two days, visitors will enjoy free access to the exhibitions, including the special exhibition 'Air France: A History of Elegance', which has recently been enhanced with a new uniform: the iconic Purotu dress. During the European Heritage Days, L'Envol des Pionniers will offer visitors a programme of events centred on the theme of elegance in the skies.

L'Envol des Pionniers is opening its doors free of charge on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September, to mark European Heritage Days.

Over these two days, **visitors will be able to explore L'Envol des Pionniers' permanent exhibition free of charge**, which traces the human and industrial history of civil aviation in Toulouse, right where it all took place.

It is also an opportunity to spend some time at the special exhibition 'Air France: A History of Elegance', which has already attracted **more than 70,000 visitors since its opening** in February 2025.



For visitors, it is also an opportunity to explore the **reconstruction of the office of Didier Daurat**, the meticulous station manager of the Aéropostale. Young and old alike can also step inside **an authentic 1930s mail carriage**, in which travelling postmen used to sort the mail between Paris and Toulouse.



OVER 70,000 VISITORS TO THE MAJOR EXHIBITION 'AIR FRANCE: A HISTORY OF ELEGANCE'

Since its opening in February 2025, the special exhibition 'Air France: A History of Elegance' has attracted more than 70,000 visitors to L'Envol des Pionniers. The European Heritage Days offer visitors the chance to discover or rediscover, free of charge, how the French airline has, decade after decade, shaped a unique travel experience, combining comfort, design and the French art de vivre.

New: discover the iconic Purotu dress.

The exhibition 'Air France: A History of Elegance' has been expanded to include a new uniform: the Purotu dress. Since 1992, this traditional outfit, inspired by the Polynesian dress, has been worn by flight attendants of Polynesian origin or those assigned to the Papeete-Paris route, making Tahiti the only destination to have its own specific uniform within Air France.



A BREATH OF POETRY AND DARING IS SWEEPING THROUGH L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS

To mark European Heritage Days, L'Envol des Pionniers is offering its visitors activities and shows inspired by aviation and the conquest of the skies.

Throughout the day, **in the courtyard, the jazz and swing tunes of Mamz'elle Bee will evoke the exuberance of the Roaring Twenties.**

Aerial silks performances by artists from the Papillons de soie company will convey the lightness and grace of flight, a poetic nod to the special exhibition 'Air France: A History of Elegance'.

Kite-making and flying.

Visitors will be able to take part in a workshop on making and decorating kites with the Cerfs volant & Cie charity.



They will be introduced to assembling and customising models inspired by the world of aviation and L'Envol des Pionniers.

On this occasion, the public will also be able to pick up some tips on how to make them fly.

A collaborative short film will be created on site by the **La Ménagerie association**. Young and old alike will be invited to step into the shoes of an aviation pioneer and take part in this stop-motion film shoot. The film will then be available via a QR code.

Inside the museum, dramatised tours devised by actors from the Amour et Psyché theatre company will bring the key figures of the Aéropostale to life.

The exhibitions in L'Envol des Pionniers will thus become the starting point for an unexpected journey between reality and imagination.

A GOURMET BREAK AT THE CAFÉ DES PIONNIERS



The Café des Pionniers invites visitors to extend their experience by immersing themselves in the atmosphere of the Roaring Twenties whilst taking a break to enjoy a selection of tapas, drinks and dishes inspired by the countries traversed by the Line's pioneers.

Open from 11.00 am to 5.30 pm. Free admission.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September 2026



From 10.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Free of charge, subject to registration from 7 September.



L'Envol des Pionniers

6, rue Jacqueline Auriol - Toulouse

HOW DO I GET THERE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT?



Bus : Linéo 12 (Auriol stop) / Linéo 8 (Piste des Géants stop) / Routes 23, 27 et 80 (Latécoère stop)



TER : Take the Toulouse-Carcassonne-Narbonne line (get off at Montaudran station)

ABOUT L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS

Dedicated to the early days of aviation, the founding of the Latécoère Airlines and the Compagnie Générale Aéropostale, and subsequently the birth of Air France, L'Envol des Pionniers is situated in Toulouse Montaudran, on the historic site from which, between 1918 and 1933, the Aéropostale aircraft set off for Africa and South America. L'Envol des Pionniers brings to life this human adventure, which contributed to the birth of civil aviation and went on to make Toulouse one of the world's aviation capitals. 'L'Envol des Pionniers' is a facility run by Toulouse Métropole, which opened in late 2018 with the support of the Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region and the ERDF, and with the involvement of the Ministry of National Education and partners Altran, Ailes Anciennes de Toulouse and the INA. L'Envol des Pionniers, like the Cité de l'espace, is managed by SEMECCCEL, a semi-public company set up on the initiative of Toulouse City Council, whose shareholders are Toulouse Métropole, Toulouse City Council, the Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, CNES, Airbus Defence and Space, Météo-France (founding members of the Cité de l'espace), as well as Thales Alenia Space, the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations and the Caisse d'Épargne de Midi-Pyrénées. L'Envol des Pionniers counts among its partners MGEN, Banque Populaire Occitane, the Latécoère Foundation, Aura Aero, Delair, Latécoère, OpenAirlines and Ascendance, and is also supported by the association Les Amis de L'Envol des Pionniers.



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