PRESS RELEASE
26 JUNE 2026
TOULOUSE

NEW!

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS OPENS THE "CAFÉ DES PIONNIERS", A NEW, FRIENDLY VENUE IN TOULOUSE SET IN THE WORLD OF THE ROARING TWENTIES

LE CAFÉ DES PIONNIERS
AMBIANCE ANNÉES FOLLES

On Wednesday 1 July 2026, L'Envol des Pionniers in Toulouse will open "Le Café des Pionniers". Inspired by the cafés of the Roaring Twenties, its carefully crafted décor promises to transport visitors back to the festive atmosphere of the 1920s. Accessible without an admission ticket, Le Café des Pionniers welcomes visitors, local residents, passers-by and businesses. Designed as a versatile and welcoming space, it will also provide an inspiring and unique setting for receptions, seminars and corporate events.

LE CAFÉ DES PIONNIERS OPENS ITS DOORS ON WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2026

From Wednesday 1 July 2026, visitors, passers-by and local residents will be able to discover **Le Café des Pionniers**. This new social space, situated at the heart of L'Envol des Pionniers, offers a unique immersive experience in Toulouse. With a bold design directly inspired by the elegance and vibrancy of the Roaring Twenties, **Le Café des Pionniers** offers a menu of savoury and sweet tapas, whose flavours echo the stopovers made by the pioneers of the Aéropostale. Open to all, it will also play a central role during events organised at L'Envol des Pionniers.

Housed in the very buildings that gave rise to the love affair between Toulouse and aeroplanes, **Le Café des Pionniers** is an inspiring, forward-looking venue where ideas, projects and talent come together. This is why it is also available for private hire by companies seeking purpose and strong values. Receptions, seminars, meetings and corporate events find a unique and stimulating setting here, designed to bring to life the pioneering spirit of today and tomorrow.

THE CAFÉ DES PIONNIERS IMMERSES VISITORS IN THE FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE OF THE ROARING TWENTIES

In a 170m^2 space with a fully realised design, every detail helps to recreate the atmosphere of the cafés that brought Toulouse to life in the early days of civil aviation. An old cash register, a wood-burning stove, a gramophone, mirrors and vintage posters sit alongside second-hand or weathered furniture to evoke the aesthetic of the 1920s. The richly decorated walls, warm colours and period-inspired crockery combine to create a vibrant setting, true to the effervescence of that decade. The immersive experience is enhanced by the soundscape, featuring jazz, Charleston and tango tunes… Right down to the service, provided by staff dressed in the style of café waiters of yesteryear, everything works together to transport visitors back to an era when cafés were places for socialising and celebration.

To extend the experience offered at L'Envol des Pionniers, guides dressed as pilots, mechanics or even fabric-coverers will occasionally pass through **Le Café des Pionniers**. Their presence adds to the atmosphere of the venue and gives visitors the impression of sharing a moment in a Toulouse café during the early days of civil aviation.



Photo : Pierre Carton © L'Envol des Pionniers

AN INSPIRING VENUE FOR COLLECTIVELY EMBRACING THE PIONEERING SPIRIT

As well as being open to the general public, **Le Café des Pionniers** is a new venue dedicated to corporate events. From September 2026, it will be able to host meetings, seminars, conferences and corporate events in a flexible 170 m² space that can accommodate up to 120 people. The café's décor, inspired by the Roaring Twenties, immerses guests in a period of excitement and collective enthusiasm, marked by the emergence of aviation and the sense that anything seemed possible at the time. It was against this backdrop that a decisive chapter in Toulouse's aviation history was written, on the very site of L'Envol des Pionniers, where Toulouse forged its destiny in this field. This inspiring setting allows companies to host their events in a venue rich in meaning. It echoes the values that drove the pioneers of civil aviation: boldness, pushing one's limits, and a sense of community...

NEW!

It is now possible to book L'Envol des Pionniers exclusively for events accommodating up to 1,500 people.



Photo : Pierre Carton © L'Envol des Pionniers

SUMMER OPEN-AIR CAFÉS (6PM–11PM)

- **WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2026**
- **THURSDAY 30 JULY 2026**
- **SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026**



Photo : Pierre Carton © L'Envol des Pionniers

Throughout the summer, **Le Café des Pionniers** will be at the heart of the open-air dance evenings organised at L'Envol des Pionniers. In a festive atmosphere inspired by the Roaring Twenties, young and old alike can enjoy free entertainment for the whole family: wooden games, a vintage merry-go-round, a band, dancing… Visitors will also have the chance to extend their evening with tapas and drinks at **Le Café des Pionniers.**

A TAPAS MENU INSPIRED BY THE AÉROPOSTALE'S STOP-OFFS

The menu at the **Café des Pionniers** draws inspiration from the destinations that have shaped the history of the Aéropostale. It offers a selection of hot and cold tapas that subtly evoke the countries traversed by the pioneers of aviation (Spain, Morocco, Senegal, Argentina, Brazil): a charcuterie platter, vegetable samosas, empanadas and more. Chilled drinks, coffees, teas, cocktails and sweet treats round off the offering, making the **Café des Pionniers** a place where you'll happily linger for a culinary journey amidst the warm atmosphere of the Roaring Twenties.



Photo : Pierre Carton © L'Envol des Pionniers

A HERITAGE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO HELP THE PIONEERS TAKE FLIGHT

The creation of the **Café des Pionniers** represents an investment of 1.4 million euros funded by SEMECCEL. The works were carried out in accordance with the heritage requirements relating to the historic building and in consultation with Bâtiments de France. With more than 50,000 visitors expected in 2025, L'Envol des Pionniers is now rounding off its offering with a key facility that enhances the site's appeal whilst preserving its historic identity.

A NEW VENUE AT THE HEART OF L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS' CULTURAL PROGRAMME

The Café des Pionniers will be open during the opening hours of L'Envol des Pionniers, as well as during major events held on the site. From 5 July 2026, to mark the free event 'Tous Audacieux!', it will host three 'audacious encounters' celebrating those who dare to imagine, take the initiative, create or explore. Visitors will have the chance to chat with prominent figures from Toulouse who have led inspiring lives.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

LE CAFÉ DES PIONNIERS

Free admission to *L'Envol des Pionniers* – no ticket required

Excluding French school holidays
Wednesday from 12 noon to 5.30 pm
Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 5.30 pm

French school holidays
Tuesday to Sunday, 12 noon to 5.30 pm

L'Envol des Pionniers
6 Rue Jacqueline Auriol, Toulouse

COMMENT VENIR ?

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

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 Lignes Aériennes Latécoère and the Compagnie Générale Aéropostale, and 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 ultimately made 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 SEMECCEL, a semi-public company established on the initiative of Toulouse City Council, whose shareholders are Toulouse Métropole, Toulouse City Council, the Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, the 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'Epargne de Midi-Pyrénées. L'Envol des Pionniers counts among its partners MGEN, Banque Populaire Occitane, the Latécoère Foundation, Aura Aero, Delair, Latecoere, OpenAirlines and Ascendance, and is also supported by the association Les Amis de L'Envol des Pionniers.

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