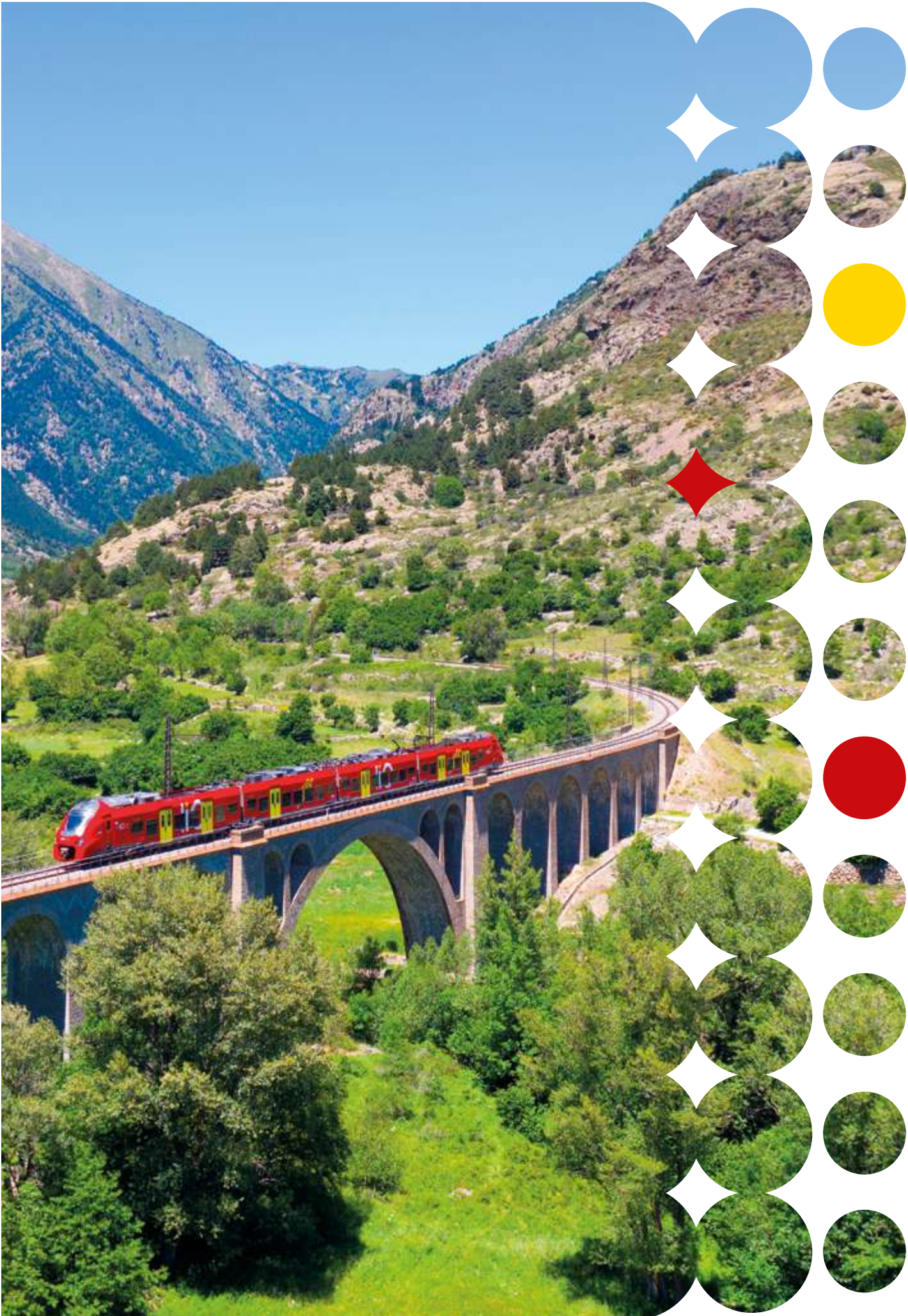


New for  
**2023 Press Pack**











# News for 2023

This New for 2023 press pack is inspired by the Occitanie Rail Tour and puts the spotlight on activities and sites in Occitanie that can be reached by public transport (regional trains or coaches). Off the back of a major international sporting event, it also covers the Rugby World Cup with Toulouse hosting 5 matches next autumn. It will be our destination's opportunity to host tens of thousands of fans from all over the world. And it will be their opportunity to uncover our region's beauty, diversity and community. Seize your opportunity to experience Fabulous Voyages in Occitanie in 2023!

**Sites that can be accessed by public transport (train or coach)**



- L'OCCITANIE RAIL TOUR, A TOURIST TRAIN IN OCCITANIE.....4**
  - FABULOUS VOYAGES BY TRAIN
- OCCITANIE, AN EVEN SPORTIER DESTINATION .....6**
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  - QUIRKY ACCOMMODATION

# The Occitanie Rail Tour, a tourist train in Occitanie



## **1 € TRAIN TICKETS FOR EVERYONE ON THE 1ST WEEKEND OF EVERY MONTH!**

The Occitanie Rail Tour isn't just eco-friendly as it reduces its users' carbon footprint; it's people-friendly and budget-friendly too. It provides discounted rates for young travellers (18-26 years old) and enables train users to switch down a gear and make the most of the experiences along the way. The regional council has implemented a fixed rate for the end of 2022 to encourage people to travel by train: 1€ tickets for any journey in Occitanie on the first weekend of the month (except in July and August).

The Occitanie Rail Tour is a pillar of the Occitanie Tourist Board's marketing campaign and an eco-friendly way to explore the Occitanie Sud de France destination using regional trains (or coaches).

The Occitanie Rail Tour takes travellers on all or some of the routes detailed to experience Fabulous Voyages in (and leaving from) each of the listed station stops. The Occitanie Tourist Board website provides an interactive map to help travellers design their own journey. It includes the top 10 things to do within 40 minutes of the station stops, a selection of 3-5\* accommodation nearby, contact details for Tourist Information and stations plus a direct link to the SNCF - TER Occitanie website to book train tickets. There are twenty identified routes so visitors can explore most of Occitanie's Grand Sites with the fifty-odd station stops taking them there.

[www.visit-occitanie.com/en/discovering/wonderful-journeys/occitanie-rail-tour-the-fabulous-voyage-by-train](http://www.visit-occitanie.com/en/discovering/wonderful-journeys/occitanie-rail-tour-the-fabulous-voyage-by-train)





## FABULOUS VOYAGES BY TRAIN

Sometimes the history, type of train you take or incredible scenery you travel through make the railway a Fabulous Voyage in itself!



### ARIÈGE - PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES **TRAIN FROM TOULOUSE TO COLLIOURE THROUGH THE PYRENEES**

Get off the beaten track on a train ride from Toulouse, the regional capital, to Collioure, the pearl of the Côte Vermeille. Unleash your inner adventurer and nature lover on a trip taking you through the mountains, with a day on the legendary yellow train among the highlights.

### AUDE - PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES

### **AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY ON BOARD THE RED TRAIN IN THE CATHAR COUNTRY AND FENOUILLEDÉS AREA**



From the Aude Gorges to the Agly Valley, Cathar country to Fenouillèdes vineyards, we're taking you on a great escape on board the "red train", a legendary slow train on a railway line between Axat (Aude) and Rivesaltes (Pyrénées-Orientales) that's over 100 years old.

### HÉRAULT - TARN

### **TRAIN-BIKE COMBO FROM MONTPELLIER TO TOULOUSE VIA HAUT-LANGUEDOC**



Avoid the regular roads and get off the beaten track between Occitanie's two biggest cities, along the coastline and Canal du Midi, through the vines and orchards in Haut-Languedoc before you switch to a Tuscan feel in Tarn. Experience the beating heart of Occitanie during stops on your bike or train ride.

View all our Fabulous Voyages in Occitanie:

[www.visit-occitanie.com/en/discovering/wonderful-journeys](http://www.visit-occitanie.com/en/discovering/wonderful-journeys)



# Occitanie, an even sportier destination



## THE EVENT



### OCCITANIE PLAYS HOST TO THE RUGBY WORLD CUP BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 8TH AND OCTOBER 28TH 2023

Occitanie is the homeland of French rugby and Toulouse stadium sets the scene for 5 matches. It's a golden opportunity to visit the pink city and experience the post-match atmosphere for yourself.

#### Find out more:

[www.visit-occitanie.com/en/activities/watch-the-rugby-world-cup-in-occitanie](http://www.visit-occitanie.com/en/activities/watch-the-rugby-world-cup-in-occitanie)

Request our "Occitanie, a rugby heart-land" press pack



### 5 MATCH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH - POOL D

**Japan - Chile**

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH - POOL A

**New Zealand - Namibie**

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD - POOL C

**Georgia - Portugal**

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH - POOL D

**Japan - Samoa**

SUNDAY OCTOBER 8TH - POOL C

**Fiji - Portugal**

Whilst we're on the theme of the Rugby World Cup, how about staying in a new rugby-themed hotel or taking home a unique souvenir made in Occitanie?

#### CASTELNAUDARY (AUDE)

### YOUR "RUGBY" ACCOMMODATION NEAR TOULOUSE



Ibis Styles Castelnaudary is a hotel designed by three figureheads in the Spanghero family (and former international rugby players) whose 69 rooms feature stylish nods to the world of rugby. The hotel's bar and restaurant display over 180 jerseys worn by the greatest international rugby players in the last fifty years. The perfect pre or post-match place to stay in Occitanie!

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/B6J1/index.en.shtml>





## GIFT IDEA

A rugby ball made of fish skin!  
Now there's a quirky gift from  
All Sport Vintage near Perpignan!  
Are you hooked?  
[www.allsportvintage.com/en](http://www.allsportvintage.com/en)



## NEW CYCLING ROUTES IN OCCITANIE

### THE TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES CELEBRATES OCCITANIE!

This year sees La Grande Boucle's little sister hit the roads of Occitanie for four days (half the length of the race), taking female cyclists through six of its départements (Lot, Aveyron, Tarn, Tarn-et-Garonne, Haute-Garonne and Hautes-Pyrénées) and over legendary mountain passes such as Col d'Aspin and Col du Tourmalet. [www.letourfemmes.fr/en](http://www.letourfemmes.fr/en)



[www.tourisme-gers.com](http://www.tourisme-gers.com)  
[www.herault-tourisme.com](http://www.herault-tourisme.com)

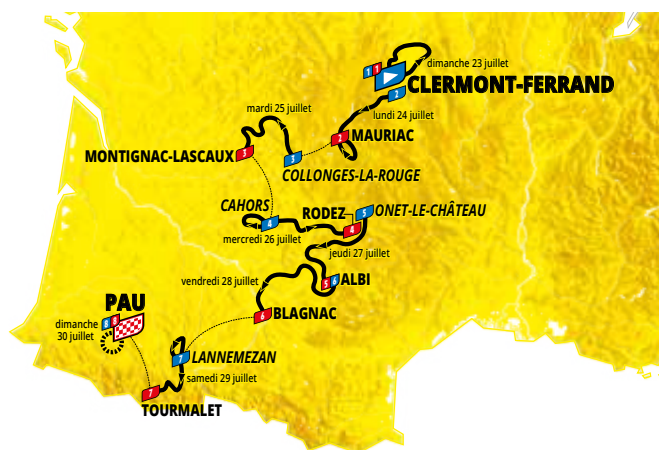
### LOT - TARN-ET-GARONNE

### LA VAGABONDE®, A 500KM INTERREGIONAL BIKE ROUTE



A Vagabonde® is a cycling adventure covering over 500km and taking cyclists (by summer 2023) as far as Montech in Tarn-et-Garonne, starting in Montluçon in Allier then through Limousin and Lot. The diverse and beautiful route brings cyclists incredible scenery in Northern Occitanie: from the Dordogne Valley and Garonne orchards to Causses du Quercy Regional Nature Park, Quercy Blanc or Montauban and its stunning main square.

[www.tourisme-creuse.com/en/all-of-creuse/la-vagabonde](http://www.tourisme-creuse.com/en/all-of-creuse/la-vagabonde)



### GERS, HÉRAULT

### TÉNARÈZE, THE HOTTEST NEW PLACE TO BE FOR MTB FANS IN GASCONY

There are 12 MTB/e-MTB loops approved by the FFCT (French Bicycle Touring Federation) for fans of the great outdoors to experience starting from the ports in Condom, Valence-sur-Baïse and Beaucaire. Bike-friendly Ténarèze Tourist Information is the first in the département to be approved by "Accueil Vélo" and provides bike repair kitslations « Saint Chinian », « Faugères », « Minervois » et « Saint Jean du Minervois ».



## WALKING AND RUNNING NEWS

### GERS, HÉRAULT THE FOOTPATH NETWORK WEAVES ITS WEB IN OCCITANIE



The Pays Armagnac GR® hiking trail in Gers and its 346km of trails now include three themed loops (3-6 days each) that you can put together: The Stones' Memory; In d'Artagnan's Footsteps; Essential Waters. The GR® From Avene Lake to Salagou Lake hiking trail in Hérault links two major local attractions: Avene Lake and Salagou Lake. The GR® Minervois, Saint-Chinian, Faugères Tours hiking trail provides 5 loops lasting 2-3 days to explore vineyards, scenery and heritage deep in the Saint Chinian, Faugères, Minervois and Saint Jean du Minervois wine designation areas

[www.tourisme-gers.com/en](http://www.tourisme-gers.com/en)  
[www.destination-languedoc.co.uk](http://www.destination-languedoc.co.uk)

### LIMOGNE (LOT)

### PECTEN MAXIMUS, A SEASHELL SHELTER ON THE WAY OF ST JAMES



An amazing place to stay has sprung up in the great outdoors near the Way of St James in Limogne-en-Quercy Designed by the artist Sara de Gouy, Pecten Maximus is made of... scallop shells! A symbolic nod to the pilgrims' symbol and the area's geological past: this spot was under the sea millions of years ago ... Pecten Maximus is open to everyone and is the second Lot installation from the Fenêtres sur le Paysage artistic project, designed by Derrière le Hublot in partnership with Causses du Quercy Regional Nature Park.

[www.derrierelehublot.fr/oeuvre/pecten-maximus](http://www.derrierelehublot.fr/oeuvre/pecten-maximus)



### CAHORS (LOT) 1ST CAHORS VINEYARD MARATHON ON MAY 7TH 2023



Runners set off from Cahors through the vineyard to Luzech and finish at Pont Valentré. Runners can sample regional produce and wine at the aid stations throughout the course.



Feel free to dress up! The winemakers and producers all get together in the marathon village so people can taste and buy their produce.

[www.cahorsvalleedulot.com/en](http://www.cahorsvalleedulot.com/en)



# New tourist attractions

TOULOUSE (HAUTE-GARONNE)

## LES HALLES DE LA CARTOUCHERIE, A THIRD PLACE DEVOTED TO FOOD AND DRINK

Les Halles de la Cartoucherie opened in Toulouse's first eco-neighbourhood on the 1st weekend of September. The multi-functional venue brings several themed areas together in its 3 buildings whose architecture captures the city's industrial past. Get your tastebuds tingling in the 3000m<sup>2</sup> food hall where 30 stands serve international street food. A brewery, coworking space and performance venue complete the picture at this quirky third place in a thriving part of the city..."

<https://halles-cartoucherie.fr>



LE GRAU-DU-ROI (GARD)

## LE GRAU-DU-ROI (GARD) L'ESPIQUETTE LIGHTHOUSE, A WATCHTOWER OVER THE CAMARGUE GARDOISE

From spring 2023, visitors can cross the dunes on a wooden footbridge to help take care of this fragile ecosystem and visit L'Espiguette lighthouse. Climb to the top for 360° views of a miniature Sahara and the sea on one side, Aigues-Mortes and the Camargue salt marshes on the other. A display area in the main building presents the site's history and the role of lighthouses on the coastline

[www.phare-espiguette.fr](http://www.phare-espiguette.fr)



### TOP 3 FOODIE MARKET HALLS IN OCCITANIE

1

Marché du Lez in Montpellier

2

Halles de Narbonne (winner of Best Market in France 2022)

3

Halles Vauban in Perpignan

LA MONGIE (HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES)

## LA MAISON DU TOURMALET PIC DU MIDI LAUNCH

La Maison du Tourmalet - Pic du Midi is preparing to open on Col du Tourmalet. The Pic du Midi visitor centre houses a 15m diameter dome where visitors can watch an immersive film about the night and night experience: legends, fears, magical starry sky, biodiversity etc. Visitors can relive the history of the Tour de France that made Col du Tourmalet world-famous in the other rooms.

<https://www.tourmaletpicdumidi.fr/en>



**AGDE (HÉRAULT)**

**CHÂTEAU LAURENS, A RARE EXAMPLE OF ART NOUVEAU IN OCCITANIE**

Château Laurens, an ornate villa built in 1897 over the River Hérault with views of Agde old town, opens to visitors on Saturday June 10th 2023 for World Art Nouveau Day. The building's extraordinary architectural style captures the energy of art movements at the dawn of the 20th century.

The unique villa's history ties into the life of Agde's very own Emmanuel Laurens, the heir to a huge fortune. The globe-trotting music lover had a weakness for avant-garde art movements, as you can tell from his home.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtBBLPL8I4I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtBBLPL8I4I)



**MONTPELLIER (HÉRAULT)**

**VILLA DES CENT REGARDS, ART DECO IN ALL ITS GLORY**

Victor Grazi fled fascism and his native Lombardy at the very end of the 19th century and moved to Montpellier in the 30s. He built his dream home on a vineyard he bought in 1950: a miniature castle built entirely from concrete (even the doors and shutters). He devoted his

life to his grand design and got the whole family involved.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsfEnxyZFJw&t=32s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsfEnxyZFJw&t=32s)

# Occitanie, a 100% culture destination

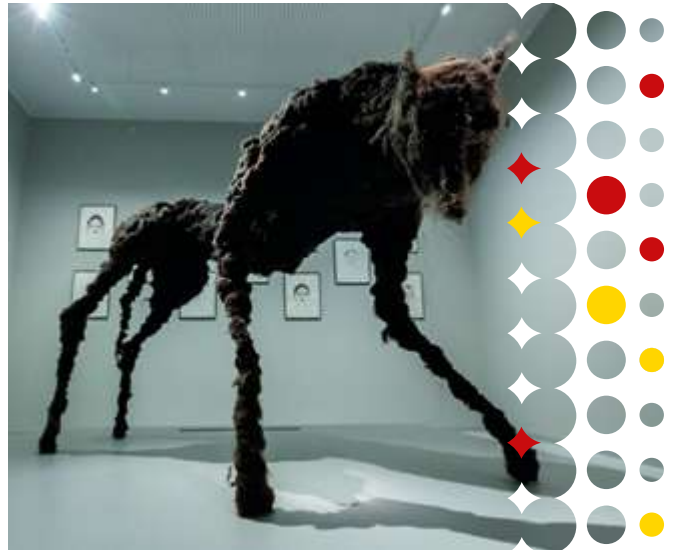
**MUSEUMS IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

**MENDE (LOZÈRE)**

**GÉVAUDAN MUSEUM, A STONE HAVEN CELEBRATING A DELICIOUSLY MYSTERIOUS LAND**

The brand new Gévaudan Museum has just opened to visitors in two outstanding 17th century buildings listed as Monuments Historiques. It's already approved as a "Musée de France" and its collections showcase the rich heritage of Lozère, the former royal province of Gévaudan, from prehistoric times to the present day, not forgetting the legendary "beast of Gévaudan"

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlzEDiy6o7A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlzEDiy6o7A)







NISSAN-LEZ-ENSÉRUNE (HÉRAULT)

## ENSÉRUNE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM AND OPPIDUM RENOVATION



The Oppidum was inhabited from 600 BC to the 1st century AD. It stands 100m high on a plain and has been brought to life by a little museum which opened in 1937. Under the Centre des Monuments Nationaux's guidance, a brand new next-generation establishment has just opened with a fantastic collection of antique vases and an educational focus presenting the different civilisations that lived here (Celts, Greeks, Iberians, Etruscans, Romans) and their funeral rites.

[www.enserune.fr/en](http://www.enserune.fr/en)

MONTPELLIER

## PARCELLE 473, A PRIVATE STREET AND CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM



Laurent Rigail works in the Montpellier art trade and decided to open his own street and contemporary art in a former family wine storehouse. 473 is the number of the last plot still planted with vines. The 480m<sup>2</sup> centre has stayed true to its winemaking legacy and hosts pieces by leading street artists from the gallery owner's personal collection, artist donations and loans from private collectors. The idea is to host workshops for children and artist experiences

[www.parcelle473.com/en](http://www.parcelle473.com/en)



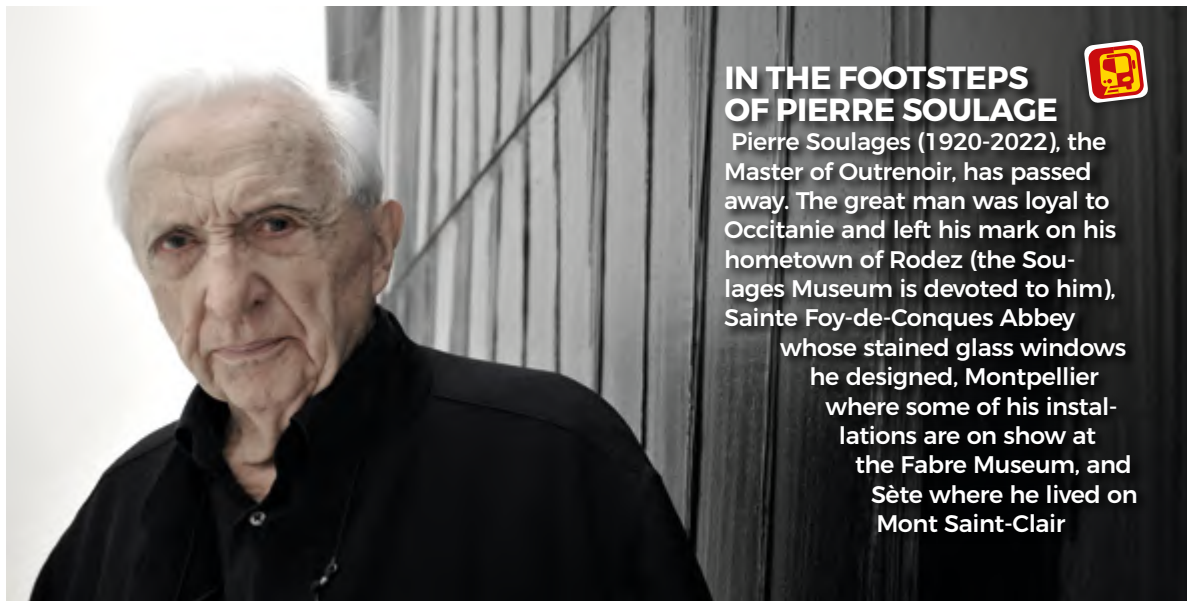
CASTRES (TARN)

## THE GOYA MUSEUM GETS A MAKEOVER



After over two years of renovations, the Goya Museum is reopening to the public with a new visitor experience and twice the surface area. That will make it the biggest Hispanic art museum in France, after the Louvre. Inside a 17th century bishop's palace designed by Jules-Hardouin Mansart, one of the architects behind Versailles, you can gaze at ornate canvases and engravings by Goya alongside a fascinating Gaudí series by Joan Miró.

[www.ville-castres.fr/fr/musee-goya-presentation](http://www.ville-castres.fr/fr/musee-goya-presentation)



### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PIERRE SOULAGES



Pierre Soulages (1920-2022), the Master of Outrenoir, has passed away. The great man was loyal to Occitanie and left his mark on his hometown of Rodez (the Soulages Museum is devoted to him), Sainte Foy-de-Conques Abbey whose stained glass windows he designed, Montpellier where some of his installations are on show at the Fabre Museum, and Sète where he lived on Mont Saint-Clair

## MAJOR TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

### TOULOUSE (HAUTE-GARONNE) MUSÉE DES ABATTOIRS



Until March 5th 2023 - Niki de Saint-Phalle showcase

[www.lesabattoirs.org/en/Exhibitions/niki-de-saint-phalle](http://www.lesabattoirs.org/en/Exhibitions/niki-de-saint-phalle)



### RODEZ (AVEYRON) SOULAGES MUSEUM



Until May 7th 2023 - "RCR Arquitectes, home and away, substance and time"  
<https://musee-soulages-rodez.fr/en>

### NÎMES (GARD) MUSÉE DE LA ROMANITÉ



April-October 2023 - "contemporary art meets antiquity"

Olivier Laric is a digital sculptor inspired by Ancient Greek and Roman statues. He scans the statues and puts his own spin on their substance and style. To celebrate the Carré d'Art's 30th anniversary, he will display fifteen of his original pieces at the Musée de la Romanité with a subtle yet effective link to highlight modern style.

### MONTAUBAN (TARN-ET-GARONNE) INGRES BOURDELLE MUSEUM

July 7th-October 12th 2023 - "Bourdelle from personal life to work"

(Exhibition in partnership with the Bourdelle Museum in Paris)

<https://museeingresbourdelle.com>





## OUR SELECTION OF UNMIS-SABLE CULTURAL EVENTS

### NÎMES (GARD) **NÎMES ROMAN DAYS ON THE THEME OF VERGINGETORIX MAY 6TH-8TH 2023**



"French Rome" is passionate about its bonds with Antiquity. This year we celebrate Vercingetorix, a hero of the Gallic resistance, to bring the arenas and old town to life with the sound of centurions and gladiators...

[www.arenes-nimes.com/spectacles](http://www.arenes-nimes.com/spectacles)



### AIGUES-MORTES (GARD) **35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT LOUIS FESTIVAL IN AIGUES-MORTES**

Aigues-Mortes celebrates its founder, King Louis IX, in late August! The town reconnects with its medieval past for a weekend. A whole host of entertainment and events take over the streets: historical parades, camps of knights, a medieval ball and market, a tavern, musicians, street theatre, acrobats and tournaments. The Saint Louis Festival ends with fireworks and the king leaving on a crusade.

<https://ot-aiguesmortes.com/en>



### CONDOM (GERS) **THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN BANDAS FESTIVAL IN CONDOM, MAY 12TH, 13TH & 14TH 2023**

Every second weekend in May, the European Bandas y Peñas Festival hosts the biggest gathering of amateur European brass and percussion bands in Condom to see which "banda" will be crowned the best. The must-anticipated event attracts "festayres" (féria fans) from all over South West France and further afield. It's a striking example of the warm and social spirit that fuels "locals".

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3w8Qu3znyY4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3w8Qu3znyY4)

### GERS **THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF D'ARTAGNAN'S DEATH**

The most famous musketeer and pride of Gascony (he was born in Lupiac, 25 miles from Auch) died during the Battle of Maastricht in 1673 (Belgium). To celebrate the 350th anniversary of his tragic death, the Gers countryside bursts to life with a whole host of events all summer long. The heart of the action will of course be the village of Lupiac (famous for its d'Artagnan Museum and d'Artagnan chez d'Artagnan Festival - August 13th this year) whilst the hero's followers can explore the sculptures in tribute to the legend throughout the département (in Lupiac, Auch and Condom). [www.lupiac.fr/?lang=en](http://www.lupiac.fr/?lang=en)



# Unique visits and experiences

## IN TOWN

**UZÈS (GARD)**

### A FRAGRANT TOUR BY CANDLELIGHT



Relive the history of scents and fragrances through the ages. This sensational tour of Uzès begins in Roman times and takes you right through to the Industrial Revolution. Venture out on a summer night by torchlight and breathe in the smell of a carriage around a street corner, or the aroma of a courtier's powdered wig on his way out of a manor!

[www.uzes-pontdugard.uk](http://www.uzes-pontdugard.uk)



**VILLENEUVE-LÈZ-AVIGNON (GARD)**

### AN EVENING TOUR MEETING THE KING AND POPE,,

Soak up the dolce vita in Villeneuve-lès-Avignon as you uncover the pretty town's history, often overshadowed by its powerful neighbour on the other side of the Rhône. Go on an evening tour from Saint André Fortress, taking in the former palaces from the popes' time in Avignon and the Val de Bénédiction Charterhouse..

[www.lesnoctambulesdavignon.com/en/the-night-owl-of-villeneuve-lez-avignon](http://www.lesnoctambulesdavignon.com/en/the-night-owl-of-villeneuve-lez-avignon)



## IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

**GARD**

### PHOTOROVERS: A "PREMIUM" E-BIKE PHOTO TREK IN THE GARDON GORGES

PhotoRovers provides a premium e-bike photo trek on a tailor-made private adventure exploring the Uzège landscapes and Gardon Gorges away from the crowds. You'll be joined by a local photographer to create outstanding photos too. An extraordinary and eco-friendly photo shoot.t.

[www.georovers.fr/en](http://www.georovers.fr/en)

**ROCAMADOUR (LOT)**

### CHÂTEAU DE ROCAMADOUR SECRET TOURS

"Let's bring the Château de Rocamadour back to life together": is the motto of the major patronage and restoration campaign launched by Notre-Dame de Rocamadour Sanctuary to save its famous château. As part of the project, it hosts secret and unique tours. Join Father Florent on a tour of the places that haven't been open to the public before: the château, its grounds, ramparts and secret staircase carved into the cliffside

[www.jaimerocamadour.com/en](http://www.jaimerocamadour.com/en)





**LOT**

**STARGAZING FACILITY AVAILABLE TO USE FOR FREE DEEP IN THE BLACK TRIANGLE**

Causses du Quercy Regional Nature Park has set up several stargazing sites in the villages inside the Black Triangle (Limogne-en-Quercy, Reilhac, Miers, Carlu-cet, Saint-Martin-Labouval and Espédaillac); all free to use all year round..

<https://uk.parc-causses-du-quercy.fr>



**INF+**

Do you want to learn everything there is to know about the stars? Have a night to remember with Emmanuel Thiers in Tour de Faure

<https://astronomade.com>



**TARN-ET-GARONNE**

**SEE ANOTHER SIDE TO TARN-ET-GARONNE ON AN E-MTB, SOLAR-POWERED BOAT OR SEGWAY!**

Join Nicolas Périé on his solar-powered boat for an eco-friendly trip on the Tarn and canal around Moissac. Olivier Brooker provides fun-filled segway rides in the Tarn-et-Garonne (Montauban, Montech) towns, villages, vineyards and protected areas to experience nature, heritage and quality time with friends or family.

[www.compagniefluviale.com/en-GB/](http://www.compagniefluviale.com/en-GB/)  
<https://www.mobilboard.com/en/agency/segway/midi-quercy>



**MILLAU (AVEYRON)**

**THE GORGES DU TARN WITH AN E-MTB/CANOE COMBO**

Do you prefer a mountain bike or canoe to explore the Gorges du Tarn? How about a bit of both? A unique bespoke trail in a fairytale setting: set off on your e-mountain bike from Mostuéjols to tackle the Causse du Sauveterre or Causse Méjean before riding to Les Vignes deep in the rocky Gorges. Then it's time to hop in your canoe: crystal-clear emerald water, rapids, hilltop hamlets, lofty cliffs... A great day out in the great outdoors.

<https://www.suncanoevt-gorgesdutarn-lerozier.fr/en-gb>



Occitanie is always such good fun, no matter your age!



## AN OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD EXPERIENCE



TOULOUSE (HAUTE-GARONNE)

### LUNEXPLORER, BLAST OFF TO THE MOON AT THE CITÉ DE L'ESPACE

Visitors to the Cité de l'Espace can experience how the astronauts feel when they take off to the moon in summer 2023 at LuneXplorer. The new event sees Toulouse's most popular attraction showcase its dynamism and seal its place among the best museums in the world devoted to space exploration.  
[www.cite-espace.com](http://www.cite-espace.com)



An escape room will open in 2023 at Forges d'Orlu to give visitors a taste of an emergency managing the hydroelectric dam and introduce them to its challenges

# Knowledge is for sharing in Occitanie



ARIÈGE

### "LES VALLÉES INGÉNIEUSES", AN AMBITIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE PROJECT TO FUEL INDUSTRIAL

The Ariège upper valleys burst with industrial heritage and have come together to provide a range of services with tours of companies that connect their area. Talc mining (the talc quarry in Luzenac is the biggest in the world) and hydroelectricity (the Orlu power plant) are integral to the fun-filled and educational visitor experience. It celebrates the work of the people who have sculpted these lands to fuel the economic growth of Haute-Ariège.  
[www.pyrenees-ariegeoises.com/en](http://www.pyrenees-ariegeoises.com/en)

## A FEW INDUSTRIAL TOURISM GEMS IN OCCITANIE

1

L'Oulibo oil cooperative in Bize-Minervois (Aude)

2

Roquefort cellars (Aveyron)

3

Laguirole knife makers (Aveyron)

4

Aigues-Mortes salt marshes (Gard)



5

Perrier bottling plant in Vergèze (Gard)

6

Airbus assembly lines in Toulouse



(2,3,4,5,6)



## OUR CRAFTSMEN HAVE TALENT

### TOULOUSE

#### A NEW PASTEL VENUE IN THE PINK CITY



Annette Hardouin (AHPY), textile expert and master craftswoman, is opening a new shop devoted to pastel deep in the violet city. Dye workshops available on request. Knowledge surrounding this dye plant is listed as intangible cultural French heritage and saw Toulouse prosper in the Renaissance.

<https://www.toulouse-visit.com/ahpy-creation-textiles-bleu-de-pastel/toulouse/commid031v50j2b4>



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## IN TOWN

### TOULOUSE

#### THE SOCIAL HUB (TSH): A NEW HYBRID HOSPITALITY CONCEPT



The Social Hub (TSH) is a new hybrid hospitality concept where clients, co-workers and students live and work together in the same environment to create a vibrant community. The concept is the first of its kind in Toulouse and brings together a future-forward hotel with 164 rooms, a student residence with 190 rooms, a work café and a rooftop with a pool and breathtaking panoramic views of the city

[www.thesocialhub.co/toulouse](http://www.thesocialhub.co/toulouse)



### TOULOUSE (HAUTE-GARONNE)

#### LA TOUR DU CAPITOLE: OUTSTANDING ACCOMMODATION IN A MEDIEVAL BRICK TOWER



La Tour du Capitole brings heritage and modern flair together for a unique and magical stay in the pink city's old town, a stone's throw from its namesake's square. The amazing apartment covers 3 floors of the tower. It has a top floor lounge "in the clouds" with views of Toulouse's rooftops, a sprawling bedroom "in dreamland" on the middle floor and a bathroom to "go with the flow" on the bottom floor. Pleasure-seekers, you've found your happy place!

[www.latourducapitole.com](http://www.latourducapitole.com)

## BY THE SEA

### LE CAP D'AGDE (HÉRAULT)

#### "LA GRANDE CONQUE", A BELVEDERE OVER "THE BIG BLUE"

This new premium hotel (4\*) enjoys outstanding sea views from the top of the volcanic cliffs in Cap d'Agde. Guests in search of peace and quiet will love the location just 20m from La Grande Conque's black sand beach, a stone's throw from the bustling port and marina. The 23 rooms have garden or sea views.

[www.hotelgrandeconque.com](http://www.hotelgrandeconque.com)



## IN THE MOUNTAIN

### LA MONGIE (HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES) **LA VOIE LACTÉE, A "SWINGING SIXTIES" 4\* HOTEL**



Deep in the International Dark Sky Reserve, La Voie Lactée hotel stands out for its modern and cosy style with a 60s vibe in a nod to the resort's heyday. This La Mongie institution is a stone's throw from the Pic du Midi station and has 20 rooms, a gym, two steam rooms, a tearoom and Milky Way bar.  
[www.hotel-lavoielactee.fr](http://www.hotel-lavoielactee.fr)



### GAVARNIE (HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES) **HÔTEL DU CIRQUE ET DE LA CASCADE: A DREAM VIEW OF THE "COLOSSEUM OF THE PYRENEES"**

After two years of renovations, the Hôtel du Cirque et de la Cascade has gone back to its roots. Olivier has revived a hotel tradition begun by his great-grandparents in 1845 by opening eight rooms with a unique and direct view over the Cirque de Gavarnie. The 4\* hotel at the foot of the natural wall welcomes diners to a fine dining restaurant serving local produce such as Pyrenees trout and Noir de Bigorre pork. The sauna in the attic is your ticket to unwind after a wonderful day out hiking.  
[www.hotel-gavarnie.com](http://www.hotel-gavarnie.com)



### SAZOS (HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES) **LE CHALET DE MINA; A FOODIE DESTINATION**

Béatrice takes care of her customers and pampers them in her guesthouse. Everyone gets the same VIP treatment, whether they're staying the night or stopping for tea. The eatery lies in a little village home to just 110 people and foodies from the area and further afield flock here. The owner fills her teatime and lunch menu full of sweet and savoury tarts, crêpes, cakes and homemade pastries. Béatrice cherry-picks all her local ingredients and sells produce at her deli among her carefully-chosen homeware  
<https://chaletmina.fr/anglais>



## IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

### CALVISSON (GARD) **VILLA OCCITANA, AN ECO-RESORT & LUXURY SPA FOR ADULTS**

This 5\* holiday resort stands among 2ha of 100 year old pine trees with cosy and modern wooden lodges, ideal for a romantic break in the peace and quiet (under 12s not allowed). With unobstructed views, interiors bathed in light from the large windows and a terrace looking onto your natural surroundings, these homes from home are the place for a totally relaxing break. <https://villaoccitana.com>



**COLLIAS (GARD)****CHÂTEAU DE COLLIAS, IN THE SECRET GARDON GORGES**

This 5\* hotel in an age-old manor lies in sprawling grounds with views of the Gardon Gorges. Its historical building is home to a fine dining restaurant, 10 unique suites and rooms, bringing guests a unique experience where they can unwind on a secret escape. <https://chateaudecollias.fr>

**AUTOIRE (LOT)****MANOIR DE LAROQUE DELPRAT AND ITS FOUR HANGING GARDENS**

Autoire's medieval and Renaissance architecture, natural cirque home to the highest waterfall in the Lot have seen it named one of the Most Beautiful Villages in France®. This is where you'll find the 17th century manor whose unique design includes four levels of hanging gardens. Its owners Aurélia and Julien have renovated it in keeping with its original materials and features to turn it into a luxury guesthouse.

[www.manoirdelaroquedelprat.fr/home-en.html](http://www.manoirdelaroquedelprat.fr/home-en.html)

**FIAC (TARN)****CHÂTEAU DE FIAC, A WELLNESS HOTEL AND SPA IN COGACNE**

Château de Fiac has lived several lives: a religious building, private school, nursing home and now a wellness haven. Inspired by a large family home, its 16 rooms have eclectic interiors where designer pieces meet vintage furniture in a joyful and merry atmosphere... A unique campaign to showcase the establishment's history and contemporary design.

[www.chateaudefiac.com](http://www.chateaudefiac.com)

**VARENNES (TARN-ET-GARONNE)****LE CLOS DU TOURON IS A FABULOUSLY RESTORED FARMHOUSE WITH VIEWS OF THE PYRENEES.**

This beautiful hillside guesthouse (awarded 4 "ears of corn" by Gîtes de France) makes a statement with its sheer size and fabulous gated courtyard overlooking the Tarn Valley. The owners bring you two spacious guest rooms flooded with light where you can relax before your adventure visiting the nearby Fronton vineyard, Aveyron Gorges or Montauban.

[www.tourisme-tarnetgaronne.fr/en/offers/le-clos-du-touron-varences-en-3643602](http://www.tourisme-tarnetgaronne.fr/en/offers/le-clos-du-touron-varences-en-3643602)





#### LISSAC-ET-MOURET (LOT)

### **VILLA MARCAUSI, A 17TH CENTURY FARM BUILDING**

After spending years working in Paris, Jorge and Daniel were ready for a change of scene and fell in love with this 17th century farm building near Figeac. They spent 2 years renovating it to create 3 premium suites blending modern interiors with vintage pieces. Large terrace, pool with unobstructed views... it has everything you need for the perfect break.

[www.villamarcausi.com/en](http://www.villamarcausi.com/en)

## **QUIRKY ACCOMMODATION**

#### SOMMIÈRES (GARD)

### **STAY IN A LUXURY BARREL DEEP IN A WINE ESTATE**

In a nod to La Tourie red wine, the Massereau winery's bestseller, Les Prés du Roi Hotel provides 10 quirky accommodations in giant barrels each with a large terrace where you can enjoy breakfast to the sound of the crickets.

[www.les-pres-du-roi.com/en](http://www.les-pres-du-roi.com/en)



#### AIGUES-MORTES (GARD)

### **AQUALOFT: A LUXURY BARGE WITH TERRACE WITH VIEWS OF CONSTANCE TOWER**

This sweet barge provides guest rooms with a spa and unobstructed views of the Constance Tower ramparts from the canalside terrace.

<https://aqualoft30.fr>



#### GER (HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES)

### **VISA POUR L'IMAGE FESTIVAL AT MOONTAIN BUBBLE**

Moontain Bubble has opened its second quirky place to stay between Lourdes and Argelès-Gazost. Switch off from the world with a night at the Cube, a haven made entirely of wood by a young local craftsman. With its unobstructed views of the Pibeste mountain









ESPAGNE





