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Cultural heritage and modernity between Atlantic and Mediterranean

Toulouse, Rocamadour, Millau, Albi, Carcassonne

Toulouse, capital of the Midi-Pyrenees region, seduces by its cheerful lightness and its exceptional cultural heritage. Located between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, the city is surrounded by a wealthy region marked by a long historical, religious and economical tradition. Beautiful churches along the route to Compostelle, nice villages, friendly people and a nature with very fertile soil producing products which spoil the palates make a perfect combination for the "art of living on French way " But this is not contradictory with modernity to which belong Airbus technical center, the breathtaking Millau Viaduct or the giant construction of an international center for cancer research.



Day 1: Arrival in Toulouse and visit of the Airbus sites

Welcome at the airport or the train station and transfer for a visit of the Airbus sites: The tour begins in the "boarding room" with a **presentation of the A380 programme**. After **visiting the outside of the Jean Luc Lagardère site by bus**, you will enter the main building and from a viewing platform, **discover the general test stations, the outside testing areas and an overall view of the entire site**. After leaving the reception area and driving around Toulouse-Blagnac runways, go to Jean-Luc Lagardère hall to see the assembly process of the A380. From a sight-seeing platform, discover the general tests stations, the outside testing areas and the general view of the entire site.

Additional opportunity is given to board **the first Concorde of the production series**. The performance of this legendary aircraft remains unique in the history of aviation. From 1973 to 1985, Concorde N°1 played a key role in the development programme, accomplishing tests and demonstration flights around the world.

After the visit continue to Toulouse. Hotel check-in, dinner and overnight

Day 2: Toulouse

This morning enjoy a guided city tour of Toulouse and discover the many treasures of the Toulouse neighbourhood. Let the warm and festive ambience of the city sink into you. The visit shows a complete panorama of the most famous monuments and sites: **the Capitole** (town hall) , **the Saint-Sernin basilica**, rich churches and private houses and beautiful vistas along the Garonne. Afternoon escorted visit to a museum. Toulouse provides a multitude of museums on various topics. From the **Museum of Fine Arts des Augustins**, passing the **Museum of Antiquities Saint Raymond** up to the house of **modern and contemporary art les Abattoirs**, you have the choice. In the evening **gourmet dinner** in a local restaurant. The Toulouse chefs reserve you a surprising compilations of sweet and salty flavours. Discover a place where culinary art, charm, creation and wellbeing are wonderfully assembled. Overnight at hotel

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Day 3 : Toulouse, Cahors, Rocamadour

This morning trip to Cahors. Guided visit of the old town with its small streets and its numerous medieval houses testifying a more than millennial history. See the beautiful **Valentré bridge** from the XIV century listed by the UNESCO as World Heritage. Visit the **Saint-Etienne Cathedral**, another jewel of the city which combines harmoniously Roman and Gothic architecture. Afternoon arrival in **Rocamadour**, pilgrimage center situated on a cliff overlooking the area and dedicated to the Black Virgin. Walk across the history and legends of Rocamadour: starting at the Castle along the Way of the Cross to the Shrine, the Grand Escalier (Great Steps), the place des Senhals, rue de la Mercerie, come to the medieval Town. (Time at leisure). Hotel check-in, dinner and overnight in Rocamadour.

Day 4 : Rocamadour, Figeac , Roquefort cellars, Millau

Departure to **Figeac** which has preserved a large number of half-timbered houses and medieval alleyways as a witness of its medieval past. Continue to **Roquefort** and visit of a famous cheese cellar. Continue over the **Millau Viaduct** and stop at the outlook point with a splendid view of the 2160-meter long structure which has a height of 343 meters. Arrival in Millau at the end of the afternoon. Hotel check-in, dinner and overnight.

Day 5 : Millau, Tarn gorges, Millau

Departure from Millau to the discovery of the **gorges de la Jonte** and the **Tarn gorges**. After **Le Rozier** we follow the road of the gorges de la Jonte to **Meyrueis** and then cross the wild landscape of the **Causes Méjan** to **Sainte Enimie**. After lunch drive over 40 km along the Tarn Gorges back to Le Rozier. On the finest stretch of the gorges from **La Malène** flat boat owners (the bateliers) offer a **boat trip of 8 miles on the river**. Return to Millau at the end of the afternoon. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 6 : Albi, Carcassonne

Departure for **Albi** one of the most beautiful town of the Midi Pyrénées region. Founded several hundreds of years ago on the banks of the Tarn the city stands proud and fascinating in its dress of red bricks usual construction material for centuries here in the whole region. Visit of the fortified Cathedral and the old town. Afternoon drive through the **Lauragais** and the Montagne Noire to **Carcassonne**. Hotel check-in. Discovery of the outstanding city with its military and religious architecture from the Middle Ages including fastening rings, 52 towers, a castle and a cathedral. Dinner and overnight in Carcassonne.

Day 7: Carcassonne, Toulouse

Morning free to stroll into the fortress city. Then transfer to the train station or airport and homeward journey

Our services:

- 6 x halfboard as per itinerary including a gourmet dinner in Toulouse
- Coach and guide for the whole roundtrip from./to Toulouse
- Admission and guided visit of the Airbus sites in Toulouse
- Visit of a Roquefort cheese cellar
- Boat ride on the Tarn Gorges

Travel issues: This region is spoiled with religious monuments. Many pilgrims on the route to Compostelle make a stop in Lourdes, one of the largest pilgrimage city in Europe since Bernadette's appearances over 150 years ago.

Industrial tourism: Airbus Industries, Millau Viaduct, Observatory of the Pic du Midi are highlights which may interest company's visits – please ask for our special programmes.



Viaduc de Millau