Toulouse is a commune in southern France. Also known as the “the Pink City”, it is the principal town in the Haute-Garonne department.

**Population**: 447,340 inhabitants

**Population Density**: 3,781 per km²

**Name of Inhabitants**: Toulousains and Toulousaines

**Région**: Midi-Pyrénées

**Postal Code**: 31000; 31100; 31200; 31300; 31320; 31400; 31500

**Maps**: [Google Maps](https://www.google.com/maps)
Nestled at the foot of the Pyrenees, Toulouse is a rather extensive city. Luckily, there are some means of transportation to make it easier to get around during your stay.

**BY PLANE**

The Toulouse-Blagnac Airport offers connections to Paris, Lille, and Corsica for example, but also to international cities. You can go anywhere in Europe, whether it is Milan, Berlin, or even Montreal or Djerba. The airport is located just 8 km west of Toulouse. You can get to the city center in just about 20 minutes thanks to the shuttles there. One trip would cost about 5.50€*. You can also take a taxi or rent a car.

**BY TRAIN**

The Matabiau SNCF train station is right in the middle of downtown. It connects Toulouse to the main cities in France: Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon, and plenty others with the TGV trains. It also offers rail connections that aren’t as far like Cerbère and Bayonne with the Intercité trains.
The TER Midi-Pyrénées network is made up of 6 lines. It starts at the Toulouse-Matabiau train station and stretches to the suburbs of the city. Prices can vary. You can even calculate the price of your trip.

BY BUS AND TAD (Transport on Demand)
The urban network of Toulouse runs on 80 lines, and offers services during the day and night. One mode of transportation is reserved to individuals with reduced mobility: the mobibus. It is available in all 86 communes in the Toulouse urban area. A single fare costs 3€*.

BY TUBE
The metro is made up of two lines (A and B). The main stations serviced by line A are the Capitol and the Toulouse Marengo station. At the Jean Jaurès stop, you have access to line B, which passes by the Jeanne d’Arc stop. Prices vary according to the number of trips.
BY TRAMWAY

The city has a tram line (T1) connecting Beauzelle to Toulouse while passing by Blagnac. It services the Palace of Justice and connects to metro line B.

Useful information:

http://www.tisseo.fr/en/home

BY SHUTTLE

It runs from Monday to Saturday from 9am to 7pm and is free.

For more information on routes, go to:

www.toulouse.fr/documents/106875/184784/Nav+Centre+13-09-13.pdf/21f00cef-f584-4e42-bf7a-4bc5d4c2df0d
BY BIKE
You have the chance to rent a bike during a whole week with VéloToulouse. However, we recommend the single-day ticket for 1.20 €*. The first half hour is free.

Useful information:
www.velo.toulouse.fr/Abonnements-et-Tickets/Tarifs/Consultez-les-tarifs

BY CYCLO-VILLE
This is a new mode of ecological transportation that you can take Monday through Saturday. It costs 1€ to use and 1€ per person and per kilometer. Flat rates are available if you want to take a map and visit the city.

BY CAR
the city offers a lot of free parking as well as parking lots with access to the bus, tramway, and metro. Prices vary according to location.
BY TAXI

Capitole taxi offers different routes to discover Toulouse. Prices vary according to the duration of the trip, the time, and the places you want to go to.

Useful information:


3/ WHEN TO GO?

Modern and cosmopolitan, Toulouse brings together heritage and the art of living. Lively with its festivities and rugby matches, it is still a relaxing place.

- **Summer in Toulouse**: At the end of June, on the banks of the Garonne you can attend the Siestes électroniques, a festival dedicated to new music that will reveal new musical talents to you. You will be able to enjoy their pleasant festivities.

During 4 weeks in July and August, the Festival de Toulouse invites talented artists for concerts bringing together classical music, including some jazz, world music, and even current music styles. There is something for all tastes. There are also street performances and theatrical performances.

During the same time, a plage is installed in Toulouse on the Ile de Ramier. There you can enjoy many different activities.

On the occasion of the Night of Stars, in August, the Cité de l’espace invites you to its impressive astronomy events.

- **Fall in Toulouse**: Two interesting festivals take place in September. One is dedicated to live performance and visual arts and is called the Printemps de Septembre and the other is the Festival Occitania. You will have the opportunity to discover Occitan culture through concerts, performances, meals, and plenty other activities!

Toulouse is the European capital of the organ, and the city organizes an international festival, Toulouse les orgues every year in October.

For some time now, in November, a world renowned festival has appeared: the Sequence International Short Film Festival. It is centered on the art of the short film.

- **Winter in Toulouse**: In December, enter into a marvelous universe with the Christmas Market.

You’ll voyage into the Asian world with the Made In Asia Festival, in January and February. There you can discover all about a culture through exhibits, films, workshops, and lectures.
**Spring in Toulouse:** In March, don’t miss out on the *Printemps du rire*, first comedic festival in Europe. There are musical, theatrical, and magic shows organized for you! The event will be attended by comedic artists and professionals.

For a wild adventure, from the end of March to the beginning of April, we invite you to go to the *Carnaval de Toulouse*. The city center transforms into a path with dazzling colors and good vibes.

The *Rio Loco* Festival is an international festival for world music, cinema, visual arts, and others. All you will be able to do is have fun! It takes place during June.

**4/ INFORMATIONS AND USEFUL ADDRESSES**

**Useful Emergency Numbers:**
- Toulouse Office of Tourism: 05 61 11 02 22
- Police: dial 17
- Ambulance: dial 15
- Fire: dial 18
- Emergency Doctors in Toulouse: 05 61 33 00 00

**Transportation:**
- Taxi: [http://www.capitole-taxi.com](http://www.capitole-taxi.com)
- Bus, métro, tramway, navette: [http://www.tisseo.fr](http://www.tisseo.fr)
- TER trains: [https://www.ter.sncf.com/midi-pyrenees](https://www.ter.sncf.com/midi-pyrenees)
- Autopartage: [http://toulouse.citiz.coop](http://toulouse.citiz.coop)

**Museums and Touristic sites:**
- Bemberg Foundation: [http://www.fondation-bemberg.fr/uk/home/home.asp](http://www.fondation-bemberg.fr/uk/home/home.asp)
- Natural History Museum of Toulouse: [www.museum.toulouse.fr](http://www.museum.toulouse.fr)
In the Surroundings of Toulouse:

Château de Merville:  www.chateau-merville.com
Musée européen d’art campanaire:
http://www.mairie-islejouardin.com/fr/musee-art-campanaire.asp
Faïences de Martres-Tolosane:
http://www.tourisme-martres-tolosane.fr/decouvrir-moderne.htm
Calicéo:  http://www.caliceo.com
African Safari  www.zoo-africansafari.com
Le Village Gaulois:  www.archeosite-gaulois.asso.fr

5/ BUDGET IN TOULOUSE

Accommodation:

The prices indicated below are just for reference and include the price of a standard double room. Prices may vary depending on the season.

- From 25 to 50€: you can stay in a 1 to 3 star hotel offering basic services
- From 50 to 80€: for this reasonable price, you might have the chance to stay in a beautiful hotel in the city center and sometimes even with 4 stars !
- From 80 to 125€: you’ll have the chance to stay in classy, high quality establishments.
- Over 125€: expect a luxurious stay in a magnificent 5 star hotel

Take a look at our website to find a place to stay in Toulouse.
Restaurants:

The following prices are indicative, they refer to the price of one course or a menu for one.

A snack (less than 15€):
Come try some delicious sandwiches and homemade desserts in the tea salon, O Délices d’Emilie, whose warm atmosphere will surely entice you. If you would prefer to try tapas made with quality products, the Spyko Bar is waiting for you. They offer original cocktails or beer straight from Belgium to accompany your dish. And all of this in an atmosphere that is brought to life by games and quizzes where you can win drinks or other goodies.

(O’Délices d’Emilie, 15 rue du Taur)
(Spyko Bar, 59 rue Pierre Paul Riquet)

A casual lunch or dinner (between 15 and 30€):
For original and savory crepes in an old-timey décor, we recommend Le Grenier de Pépé. Located in the heart of Toulouse, Le Genty Magre will serve you refined and gourmet cuisine.

(Le Grenier de Pépé, 1 rue Denfert-Rochereau)
(Le Genty Mage, 3 rue Gentymagre)

A gourmet meal (between 30 and 60€):
For an intimate and relaxed atmosphere, we suggest two lovers to go try Le Saint Sauvage where you will discover the delicacies of the southwest. In the heart of the city center, the establishment, Le Cardailhac also welcomes you in an elegant setting. It offers cuisine that is both traditional and creative.

(Le Saint Sauvage, 20 rue Salenques)
(Le Cardailhac, 21 rue Perchepinte)

A special occasion (starting at 60€ per person):
For exquisite flavors, we recommend the restaurant Michel Sarran. The quality and finesse of the dishes will entice even the most difficult taste buds.

(Michel Sarran, 21 boulevard Armand Duportal)

Where to go?
Do you want to have fun and enjoy the night life in Toulouse? We recommend the club, Le Bikini. This night club regularly hosts concerts and has become an essential step for those just starting out in live music. If you come during the summer their restaurant will be open, which we recommend. Their food is excellent!
For those who love sports and beer, the Irish bar, The Melting Pot Pub, offers a large variety of Irish, Belgian, and French beers. You can taste them while watching your favorite match,
6/ UNMISSABLE VISITS!

- The Capitole: This neoclassical masterpiece is the current Hôtel de Ville and National Theater

- Basilique of Saint Sernin: Built between the 11th and the 13th century, the Basilica of Saint Sernin is a masterpiece of Roman art that retraces a history of pilgrimage along the path of Saint-Jacques de Compostelle.

- Cathédrale Sainte-Etienne: Built in the 5th century, this unusual gothic monument is full of lavish furnishings as well as a rich collection of glass work.

- Notre Dame du Taur: A church from the 19th century, it is a lovely model of the southern French gothic development. You’ll be impressed by its astonishing steeple wall and its brick facade. Its influence has spread to different churches in the region.

- Bemberg Foundation: Come discover the personal collection of Georges Bemberg, art collector and Argentinian patron. Paintings, sculptures, and other art works are all present in the collection, and it is still an essential stop for those who love museums.

- Musée des Augustins: This is Toulouse’s fine arts museum. It brings together a vast collection of paintings and sculptures that you won’t want to miss, dating back to the start of the Middle Ages and leading up to the 1940’s.

- Natural History Museum of Toulouse: This is one of the most important museums in France and presents Earth and human sciences.

- Musée Georges Labit: Come admire the most beautiful collections of Oriental, Asian, as well as ancient Egyptian art.
- **The Ariège Collection**: Travel through time by visiting the mysterious Cave of Niaux from the Middle Ages, to the Château de Montségur at the time of the crusade against the Cathars.

- **Lisle-sur-Tarn**: We recommend visiting this charming French commune with its particular architecture, its magnificent homes, and their beautiful gardens.

- **Château de Merville**: Discover the architecture and the garden art from the 18th century and its remarkable maze.

- **Musée européen d'art campanaire**: A thousand pieces are displayed like the large oriental or occidental bells, smaller bells, musical toys, not forgetting the famous Carillon de la Bastille.

- **Earthenware of Martres-Tolosane**: Come enjoy some authentic knowhow from the earthenware makers and check out their magnificent creations. The patterns mostly include pretty flowers and birds with admirable precision.

- **Calicéo**: Who doesn’t dream of being able to dive into a relaxing and unforgettable atmosphere? The aquatic fitness center and its beauty spa, which is just a few minutes from the city center, is the place you need to be.

- **African Safari**: Come meet hundreds of animals to enjoy a marvelous time with the family. The African Safari zoo has animals from all over the world and offers surprising bird and sea lion shows.

- **The Gallic Village**: Relive the time of Gaul in a Gallic village. This location is an archeological reconstruction on a grand scale. It retraces the life of our dear ancestors during the Iron Age. You can also attend artisanal demonstrations: goldsmithing, woodworking, smithing, and plenty others.

*This travel guide was published in November 2014, prices may then vary.*