Opened in 1865, Toulouse Natural History Museum is France’s second busiest natural history museum in terms of visitor numbers. With over 2.5 million artefacts in its collections, it is the result of a long-standing tradition of excellence, the cradle of prehistoric science, and a space for sharing scientific culture.

Located next to the Jardin des Plantes (botanical gardens), the Museum of Toulouse was built around the historic red-brick walls of the cloister of the ancient Carmelite convent, set in a 6,000-square metre extension with an impressive curved glass façade.

A permanent exhibition of more than 8,000 artefacts bears witness to the Museum’s motto “Science and Awareness of the Living World”, while a temporary exhibition – part of a specific programme – explores a theme related to the museum’s collections.

The Henri-Gaussen botanical garden, snug against the curved façade of the Skeleton Wall, offers you an insight into the life of plants through its eye-catching “spiral” of ethnobotanical collections, combining plants used for food and medicine, as well as poisonous varieties.

Visitors are also invited to wander through the humid tropical greenhouses, along with those housing carnivorous plants and arid tropical plants.

The Museum gardens, an area of exceptional biodiversity, are centred around the Maourine pond in the Borderouge neighbourhood.

This site, spanning 4 hectares, evolves with the seasons, offering a precious glimpse of nature in all its forms, whether wild or tamed by humans. It is home to one of the last reed beds to thrive in an urban environment, along with the Forgotten Path and the World Vegetable Gardens.

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In the heart of the city, a gateway to natural science, the Museum offers its visitors several exhibition areas, a rich, varied programme and high-quality cultural mediation, open to all.

**The Museum for All**
Committed to ensuring easy access for everyone, the Museum welcomes all members of the public, thanks to visitor management and services designed to make the visit as user-friendly as possible. It offers specific devices, assigned mediators and structured activities for groups and individuals.

**A place designed to delight and inform**
The exhibition layout is designed to stimulate questions about the complexity of the relationship between Humans and Nature. It illustrates the Museum’s motto “Science and Awareness of the Living World”.

Every year, a temporary exhibition that is part of a specific programme explores a theme related to the collections.

Get behind the scenes at the museum via smartphone and tablets with a guided tour, as well as interviews, profiles, anecdotes, and more.

If you missed something in the exhibitions, find it on your smartphone!

**WIFI WITH NO DOWNLOAD AND NO 3G/4G SUBSCRIPTION**

**Permanent exhibition**
Ground floor and first floor:
The scientific journey comprises 4 major themed areas that progressively build up a coherent representation of our planet. By the end of their visit, visitors will be able to grasp the enduring links between Humans-Nature-Environment.

1. **THE EARTH, AN ACTIVE PLANET**
Centre, forces and movements of the planet.
2. **CLASSIFICATION OF LIVING THINGS**
The explosion of life, the notion of species and classification.
3. **CONTINUUM AND RUPTURE**
How life has evolved over geological times.
4. **LIFE FUNCTIONS OF ORGANISMS**
Reproduction, nutrition, movement, communication, protection.

**Temporary exhibition**
Basement:

- **LAB**
An original facility for adults and children aged 7 and above, the Lab is a place designed for observing and handling specimens from the Museum collections. It provides an opportunity for visitors to carry out experiments as part of fun activities, with free access or under supervision, and immerses them in the scientific world by encouraging them to make deductions and pursue experiments.

- **The Reserve Collection**
A genuine reserve, housing artefacts from our heritage and the Museum’s hidden collections, this area offers guided tours focused on the professions and missions that define a Museum.

- **Kids’ Workshop**
The Workshop, a space specially geared to children aged 3 to 6, stimulates curiosity and the senses through a series of fun experiments, arts and crafts, and verbal exchanges. It offers activities that give children their first taste of the life sciences, using a concrete, exploratory approach to the Museum’s themes: observe, name, describe, draw, play… all focused on the plant and animal world.

- **Semi-permanent exhibition**
Oka Amazonie: an inhabited forest

- **Libraries**
Open to all, they can be accessed free of charge – just ask at reception. The libraries offer you the chance to consult, on site, their collections of books, journals and multi-media resources on Life Sciences and Pre-history, Ethnology and the relationship between Humans and their environment.

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