



TOULOUSE
Cité de l'espace

Discover, Be Amazed, Understand

PRESS KIT

A STAY UP-CLOSE TO SPACE REALITY

1 or 2 days going from discovery to discovery
Photo report

A LIVING PLACE, AT THE HEART
OF SPACE NEWS

FEATURING

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a unique experience
in Europe **PAGE 6**

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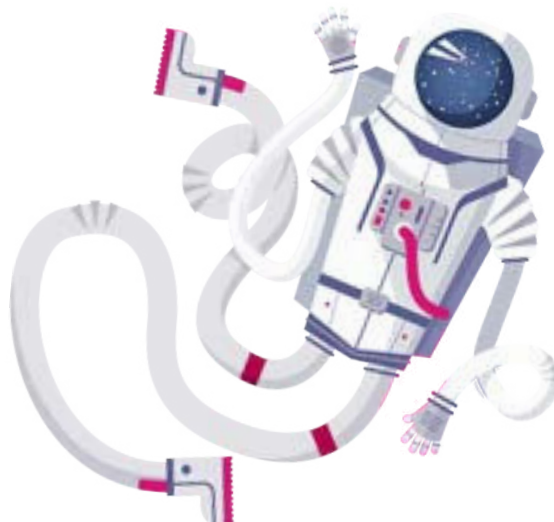
A RESOURCE CENTRE

Space news available 7 days a week,
24 hours a day

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EDITORIAL



Cité de l'espace is attracting increasing numbers of visitors. It is taking bold steps to offer ever more innovative content.



There are dates that mark us. My story with Cité de l'espace began very precisely on August 31, 1996. I had been in orbit aboard the Mir Station for fifteen days when Dominique Baudis, Mayor of Toulouse, asked me to become the patron of the establishment which was to open the following summer. I accepted without hesitation because this initiative represented a fantastic opportunity for the space sector to become more accessible to the general public. Major space projects need to be understood and supported by citizens.

Today, there is no longer any question of transmitting knowledge from the top down. Cité de l'espace has been able to make that adjustment by offering quality mediation that successfully meets the challenge of transmitting information through immersion and experimentation. The public, of whatever age, is involved in the visit. The ability of Cité de l'espace to organise and host large-scale events, such as the World Astronaut Congress or following Thomas Pesquet's missions, is a fantastic asset to widen the audience and increase the profile of space activities.

Cité de l'espace is attracting increasing numbers of visitors. It is taking bold steps to offer ever more innovative content that is directly linked to current events, with facilities such as LuneXplorer, one of the strong markers of this XXL Cité de l'espace.

I am convinced that, thanks to its strong DNA, Cité de l'espace will be able to meet the challenges of tomorrow to continue to be a fantastic showcase for French and European space activities.



**Claudie Haigneré in the exhibition
"LUNE – EPISODE"**

*First French and European astronaut,
Claudie Haigneré is the patron of Cité de l'espace.*

**CLAUDIE HAIGNERÉ,
ESA astronaut, patron of Cité de l'espace**

QUOTES [...]



**Jean-Luc
MOUDENC**
Mayor and Chair of Toulouse
Metropole

Supported by Toulouse, the European space capital, Cité de l'espace is staying on course and expanding with the opening of LuneXplorer.

« In 2023, while Cité de l'espace is already at the forefront of Toulouse's tourist sites, it is expanding and creating a new venue by offering a unique experience in Europe on a mission to the Moon, LuneXplorer. For more than 25 years, Toulouse has been home to the world's dreams. With this new facility, Cité de l'espace takes on a new dimension. An XXL dimension, since it could attract between 30,000 and 40,000 additional visitors each year to the site. Willing to support the exploration of the Universe around us and faithful to our initial desire to make space projects ever more accessible to the general public and to make the LuneXplorer adventure accessible to all. »



**Jean-Claude
DARDELET**
Chair of Cité de l'espace, Deputy Mayor
of Toulouse and Vice-Chair of Toulouse
Metropole
in charge of European and International
Attractiveness and Tourism

A public attracted to Cité de l'espace and record attendance in 2022.

« At a time of fake news and the scepticism of some of the population towards science, Cité de l'espace, the most important site in Europe for the dissemination of space and astronomy culture to the general public, is appreciated for the quality and reliability of its mediation. In 2022, Cité de l'espace reached the milestone of 423,000 annual visitors, after 25 years of sharing advances in space with local, national and international audiences. More than 8 million passengers have boarded our ship since 1997, including more than a million schoolchildren. In a quarter of a century, Cité de l'espace has become the flagship of the tourist and scientific attractiveness of the erudite and lively pink city. »



**Arnaud
MOUNIER**
Director General of Cité de l'espace

A scientific culture site aimed at all curious people.

« Cité de l'espace stands out for its cultural approach: visitors come to experience space and astronomy, as close as possible to reality and through human contact and experimentation. There is something for all tastes and ages: exhibitions, presentations, events, life-size and genuine objects (space station, Ariane 5, Moon rock, etc.), Imax ©, two planetariums, immersive Martian Ground, and recently the LuneXplorer to experience a space mission like a lunar astronaut... Thanks to our creative, painstaking and passionate teams, we want to provide an unforgettable visitor experience, for everyone: local, national and international visitors, schools, professional audiences in meetings and seminars... With our purpose anchored to the body: to transmit space and astronomy knowledge to all and bring news of these fields alive, in short, stimulating curiosity and cultural and scientific excitement, whether you are a novice or an enthusiast. »

FEATURING

LuneXplorer, an experience unique in Europe

LuneXplorer invites the public to become astronauts on a mission to the Moon and to understand how astronauts went to our natural satellite – with the Apollo program – and how they are currently preparing to return there – with the Artemis program.

LuneXplorer was produced and financed by Toulouse Metropole with the support of FEDER React-EU, Cité de l'espace, the Occitanie Region and the participation of ESA and CNES.

OPEN since November 2023



LuneXplorer: put yourself in the shoes of an astronaut on a mission to the Moon



**Christophe
CHAFFARDON**
Director of Space, Science
and Culture at Cité de l'espace

« LuneXplorer allows visitors to Cité de l'espace to experience the physical sensations of taking off and landing on the Moon. The experience of a take-off can be described with words or images, but nothing replaces physical sensations for understanding what astronauts really experience on board a rocket. This immersive learning, intellectual and physical, will mark visitors' long-term memory! Like everything on offer to the public, LuneXplorer was conceived and designed by Cité de l'espace. »



The Moon, At the Heart of the News

The return of astronauts to the Moon is one of the major challenges of coming decades. More than fifty years after humans first stepped onto our natural satellite with the Apollo program, lunar missions are more relevant than ever with NASA's Artemis program, in which ESA (the European Space Agency) is closely involved. From now on, the objective is to be able to set up long-term bases there. The Artemis missions provide for the assembly of a space station around the Moon and successive moon landings.

This is why Cité de l'espace offers this realistic experience, completely new in Europe, LuneXplorer, with which the ESA and its team of astronauts are involved, including Thomas Pesquet, Claudie Haigneré, Samantha Cristoforetti, Matthias Maurer, and CNES which is currently developing lunar habitat projects.



Live the Experience of a European Astronaut on a Mission to the Moon, Step by Step

LuneXplorer is a one-of-a-kind experience and is designed to allow the public to become familiar with human exploration of the Moon, like astronauts on a mission, and to experience the acceleration phases of take-off and landing. The public can thus understand the preparation and how a mission to the Moon unfolds. This unique realistic experience, lasting around forty minutes, is a permanent feature of Cité de l'espace.



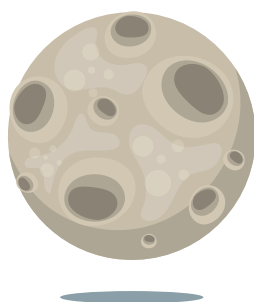
Zone 1 - Preparation Hall

Upon entering the preparation hall, visitors are greeted by a scientific presenter. In this immersive space, young and old discover and compare the equipment essential for a human mission between the Earth and the Moon at the time of Apollo in the 1970s with the current equipment of the Artemis program: rocket, spaceship, spacesuit and even the astronaut's luggage.

Zone 2 - Briefing

The "European trainee astronauts" are guided to the briefing room. Ten crews of four "astronauts" are formed to experience a mission to the Moon. Four ESA astronauts, Thomas Pesquet, Claudie Haigneré, Samantha Cristoforetti, Matthias Maurer, prepare the "European trainee astronauts" via video.





Zone 3 - Mission

It is now time for the ten crews to enter their space capsule. During this ten-minute mission, including a five-minute dynamic phase, passengers follow the countdown and will experience the authentic sensations of a space mission, from the acceleration of the rocket's take-off, through the powerful braking and the moon landing, until they discover the surface of the Moon.



Zone 4 – Debriefing, the Landing Stage

When leaving the space capsule, each "trainee astronaut" retrieves their personal flight data (altitude, speed, duration, G-force, etc.) as well as the latest news from the Artemis mission and the lunar habitat projects developed by CNES.

Cité de l'espace

The most important site in Europe for the dissemination of space and astronomy culture to the general public

Cité de l'espace in a Few Figures: Key Data



4000 m²

of permanent and temporary **exhibitions**



1
Moon Rock
lent by
NASA



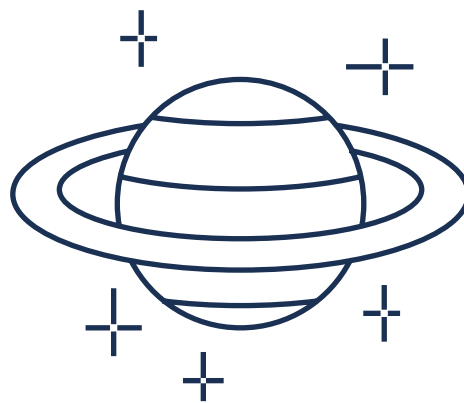
27
**life-size
space objects**
Ariane 5 rocket,
Apollo 11 lunar
module, etc.



2
planetariums



**more than
130**
astronauts
have visited Cité de
l'espace since its
opening in 1997



1
IMAX® 3D hall
with 300 seats



4 ha
**of space
gardens**



**Cité des petits: a place
dedicated to
4 to 8
year olds**
to discover the world of
astronauts and rockets
with their family



1
Martian crater
of 900 m² and
250 seats with two
life-size animated
Martian rovers,
Perseverance and
Zhurong



**up to
30**
**scientific
presenters**


401 000

visitors (in 2023)

2nd best year
since opening
(attendance)

14 %

school groups

78 %

individual visitors

8 %

visitors in groups
(excluding schools)



Visiting time:

1 to 2 days

Distribution by
geographical origin:

13 %

Foreign Visitors

47 %

France

(excluding Occitanie)

40 %

Occitanie





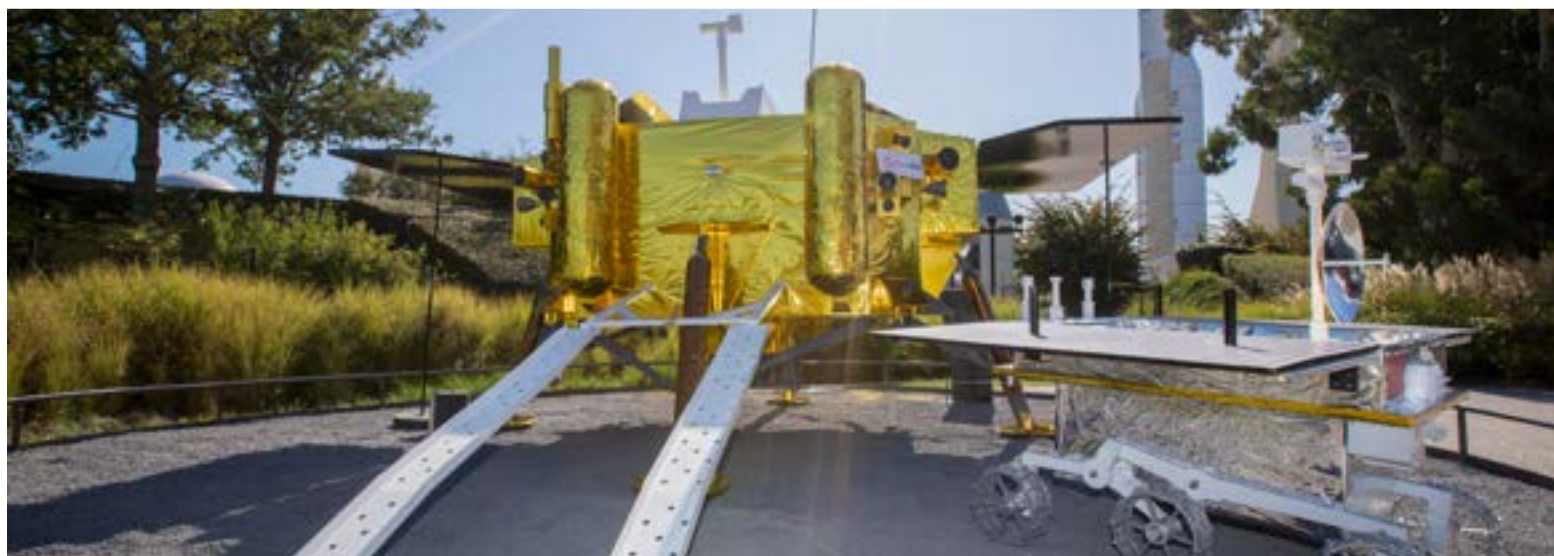
A Stay Up-Close to Space Reality

1 to 2 days going from
discovery to discovery

Photo report



Authentic Moon rock from the Apollo 15 mission (August 1971) lent by NASA to Cité de l'espace.



Cité de l'espace reflects the space programs of all countries. So, it has on display a life-size model of the lander and the rover of the Chinese Chang'e 4 mission which, in January 2019, was the first to land on the far side of the Moon.



"Mars Lab" presentation to understand the environment and atmosphere of Mars through experiments.



Visit an authentic Mir space station and understand the daily life of astronauts.



"The Eagle Has Landed" presentation to find out about the challenges of the Apollo missions around the life-size Lunar Module.



Under its 7.5m-diameter dome, a 40-centimetre telescope and a telescope dedicated to observing the Sun are housed.



Permanent exhibition "Moon - Episode II" to find out about the plans for the return of astronauts to our natural satellite and how we could work and live on the Moon in the future.



La Cité des petits, with 350 m2 dedicated to young children aged 4 to 8, is a solution adapted to families looking for cultural places for non-reading or early-reading children.



The Planetarium to explore the solar system, the stars and galaxies to the ends of the Universe. 360° hemispherical screen, very high definition astronomical simulator, voting system to interact with the presenter and the show.



The garden to understand the scale of space.

A Living Place, at the Heart of Space News

Exhibitions Constantly Renewed According to Space News



News Corner, a place to experience live, commented broadcasts of current space events.

News Corner

Dedicated to space news, the "News Corner" area invites young and old to dive into the immersive environment of a space control centre to follow the missions, spacewalks and experiments of European astronauts in the International Space Station. To keep up with current events, visitors can also find information on the current Artemis lunar space program with a life-size Orion capsule.

An exhibition produced in partnership with ESA and CNES.



NEW!

Space and Sport

For the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the Cité de l'espace is bringing together members of the space and sports communities.

Until December 2024, the Cité de l'espace invites the public to come and see a brand new exhibition on space and sport. Through large-format photos, visitors can discover themes common to both sectors, such as the body, the mind and team spirit, as well as performance, recovery, equipment, etc. Several events are also scheduled throughout the year. On Sunday 26 May 2024, as part of the Toulouse Space Festival, the Cité de l'espace will be offering a free day out in the presence of astronauts and top sportsmen and women. This exhibition has been designed by the Cité de l'espace with the participation of ESA, CNES and Stade Toulousain, and in partnership with MGEN, Banque Populaire Occitane, Comat, Kinéis and Hemeria.



**Aude
LESTY**

Manager of Exhibitions,
Heritage and Accessibility
at Cité de l'espace

« Cité de l'espace has the ability to bring the public closer to current space events by offering constantly renewed immersive, realistic and sensory experiences, to stimulate curiosity and 'experience' current events as if we were there! »

Cité l'espace Shares with the Public and the Press the News of Upcoming Exploration Missions to the Moon and Mars.

We're Going Back to the Moon

In the coming decades, the space world will have its eyes fixed on the Moon. Indeed, space agencies, particularly American (NASA), European (ESA) – with the French contribution of CNES – have made the return of humans to the Moon one of the major challenges of the coming decades. The Chinese space agency also has its own manned flight program to the Moon.

NEW!

LuneXplorer

Find Out in our Feature Dossier

To allow the general public to grasp and understand this new major space milestone, Cité de l'espace is offering a unique experience which allows you to experience the coming missions of European astronauts to the Moon. Visitors discover how astronauts have previously explored the Moon and what current plans there are to return to our natural satellite, before boarding a space capsule for take-off and then landing on the lunar surface.



Earthrise, Apollo 8 Mission /NASA.

The “Moon – Episode II” Exhibition

More than 50 years after the feat of Apollo 11 and mankind's first steps on the Moon, the Artemis program will once again send astronauts to our natural satellite. However, ambitions have evolved. From now on, the objective is to be able to settle there. The “Moon – Episode II” exhibition allows you to find out how astronauts could live and work on the Moon in the near future.

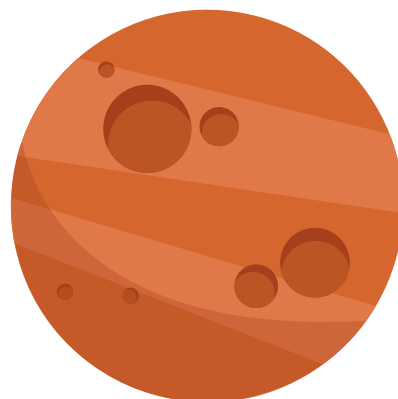
The exhibition highlights future prospects for lunar exploration, including NASA's return plans – in collaboration with ESA – with the Artemis program. This exhibition was produced in partnership with ESA and CNES.



The “Moon-Episode II” exhibition to understand the environment of the Moon and explore how we could live and work on our natural satellite in the future.

>> “Exploration of Mars”

Between NASA's mission, which has enabled its Perseverance rover to collect rock samples on Mars since February 2021, China's mission which succeeded in landing the Zhurong rover on the red planet the following May, and the forthcoming missions planned by various agencies in the years to come, Martian exploration is at the heart of space news and therefore also at the heart of the activities of Cité de l'espace, in particular with the presentation “The Rovers Take the Stage” and the “Mars Lab.”



Sensory and Immersive Experiments to Understand Major Advances in Space

Presentation: "How Does ESA Recruit Astronauts?"

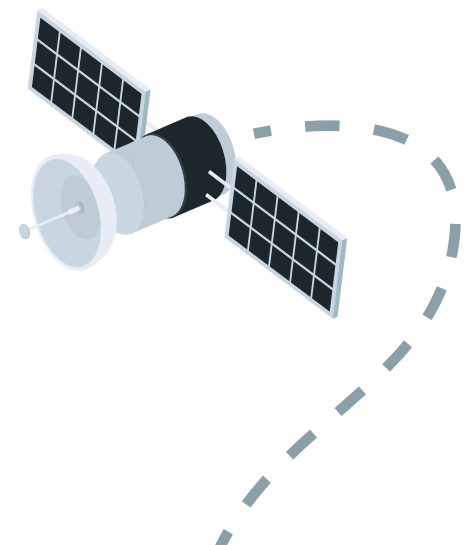
This fun and participatory activity allows visitors to discover, through a scenario, the profile of an astronaut today and the criteria by which the astronauts of the European Space Agency (ESA) are selected.



Many skills are essential: memory, logic, physical fitness, spatial awareness, collaboration, team spirit, self-control, communication skills etc.



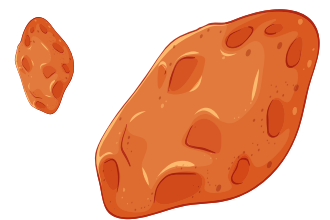
This experiment led by a presenter invites the general public to take part in the selection game by trying out, solo or in a team, some tests and scenarios inspired by the real selection process.



Immersive Presentation “The Rovers Take the Stage” on the New Martian Terrain



In a faithful reconstruction of a Martian crater, two life-size mobile replicas of the latest two rovers that landed on the red planet – Perseverance (NASA-United States mission with major French participation from CNES) and Zhurong (CNSA-China) move around.



At the heart of a 250-seat amphitheatre and thanks to an immersive and realistic setting, the presenters explain to the public the role of these new robots in Martian exploration by making both rovers move around in turn on the Martian terrain. “The Rovers Take the Stage” is a sensory and immersive presentation which captures the very unusual environment of the red planet and the objectives of the current space missions.

A presentation carried out in partnership with CNES and with the support of the COMAT company and the Occitanie Region, and in collaboration with IRAP.

Imax® 3D and Planetarium Shows to Immerse Yourself in Astronomy News

« DEEP SKY, The Adventure of the JWST Telescope » :
the new Imax® film, from June 28, 2024 at Cité de l'espace

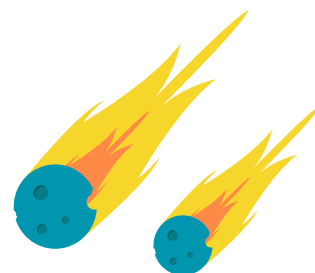


NEW!

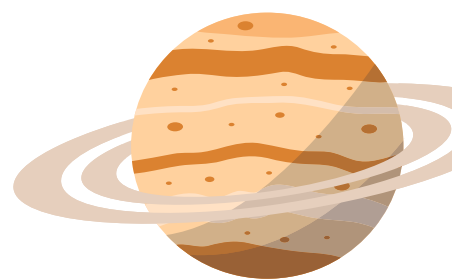
Cité de l'espace presents the new IMAx® film «**DEEP SKY, The Adventure of the JWST Telescope**» from **June 28, 2024 and throughout 2024**.

Young and old alike will be able to discover the challenges taken on by the international teams for the construction of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), an astronomical and space observatory with unparalleled technical capabilities. With this film on a giant screen, the audience will relive the take-off of the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** mission aboard an Ariane 5 rocket, from the Guiana Space Center in Kourou on December 25, 2021 and will be plunged into **the heart of astronomical images of unparalleled precision: the birth of stars, the formation of solar systems, observation of the far reaches of the distant Universe...** The adventure of the **James Webb Space Telescope** is revealed on a giant screen, in search of answers to the great question of our origins. **Show included in the entrance ticket.**

The Planetarium



Cité de l'espace has one of the most capable planetariums in the world. It is equipped with an astronomical simulator with very high definition 8K video images and a voting box system, offering the public the opportunity to interact with the show and the presenter. The latest astronomical news is regularly shared with the public. This "latest generation" planetarium was financed by Toulouse Metropole with the support of the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund).





Every summer, Cité de l'espace opens on certain evenings and allows its visitors to access its exhibitions and activities until 11 p.m., as well as observe the sky through a telescope and enjoy a show on the Ariane 5 rocket .

Many Events

Cultural Events Linked to Space News

Numerous broadcasts of space missions with live commentary are organised at Cité de l'espace. In April 2023, the public and the press were able to follow live the take-off of Juice, the first probe bound for Jupiter. The various stages of the Artemis program have been and will be broadcast live to the general public and the press, commented on by Cité de l'espace's mediation team and mission stakeholders.



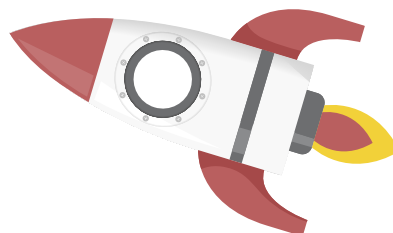
**Camille
ROSSIGNOL**
Events Manager

« Cultural and current space events are organised throughout the year at Cité de l'espace: summer nights, Night of the Stars, European Researchers' Night, conferences, special days, solar challenges and the Robotics Cup... These varied events are opportunities for the public to experience the adventure of space and its advances. »



On April 14, 2023, the public was able to witness the live take-off of ESA's Juice mission to Jupiter.

Mediators from Cité de l'espace and mission experts commented on this launch live.



Meeting with Thomas Pesquet on June 3, 2022

Several thousand people were able to listen to the account of the French ESA astronaut on his last space mission, the Alpha Mission.



Landing of the Perseverance Rover on Mars

Broadcast and commented live on February 18, 2021 at Cité de l'espace.



The Night of the Stars

A free evening introduction to sky observation, every summer at the beginning of August at the time of the showers of shooting stars, the Perseids.



An Innovative Educational Mediation to Learn to Meet the Challenges of Tomorrow!



**Vanille
DELFAU**
Education and Mediation Manager

« For several years Cité de l'espace has been developing an educational policy pursuing the same objective: to stimulate the curiosity of students from a very young age and give them confidence in their abilities to meet the challenges of tomorrow through innovative activities, but also via national and European academic projects, carried out in collaboration with different educational partners.»

DID YOU KNOW ?

50,000 schoolchildren and students are welcomed each year at Cité de l'espace: from nursery schools to universities and colleges.



Many offers are available to primary, middle and high schools to carry out educational projects such as the Children's Scientific Congress, Martian Robot Challenges, etc.

Since the beginning, Cité de l'espace has worked hand in hand with National Education and the Toulouse Academy Board of Education to extend an innovative educational offer, in line with official programmes. Assigned teachers contribute to Cité de l'espace's teams in developing the educational and cultural offer intended for schools (workshops, year-round projects, shows, etc.) according to the requirements of the programmes. Many educational projects are carried out as part of the ESERO project (ESA educational programme coordinated in France by CNES and its partners) with the participation of the Toulouse Academy and the Federal University of Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées. To find out the dates of our school events, visit our website www.cite-espace.com

Here are Some Examples...



Children's Scientific Congress

An innovative project to give youngsters a taste for science and promote self-esteem. This educational project is carried out in partnership with MGEN and as part of the ESERO project.



Martian Robot Challenges

Using adapted educational robots and educational resources provided by Cité de l'espace, students find out about computer programming step by step and carry out a major collaborative challenge organised by Cité de l'espace. This educational project is carried out in partnership with MGEN as part of the ESERO project.



Educational Workshops

At Cité de l'espace, students are entrusted with real scientific missions on the «Astronomy» or «Earth» workshops, where they put the scientific approach into practice to solve concrete problems using experiments carried out independently.

Excellent Service Throughout the Visit



**Christelle
NOT**
Operations Director

« Cité de l'espace is constantly renewing itself and expanding its visitor base while always keeping in mind service excellence, from the first visitor of the day to the last. Throughout the visit, whatever the visitor's profile, whether they come with family, friends, solo or in a group, each stage of their exploration must bring them satisfaction. From the «ma Cité de l'espace» visit app, to help prepare your route at home, the on-site welcome and explore the day's programme, set the meal time, visitor satisfaction must be the rule, whatever the time of year.. »

GOOD TO KNOW:

3 restaurant areas and a bookshop are available to the public.



To prepare your visit, simply download the **"Ma Cité de l'espace"** app to find out the details of the schedules of events, shows, exhibitions to visit, the site map, and useful information.



on Playstore & Appstore



**Nathalie
ESCOIN**
Reception, Entertainment,
Shop Manager

« The reception and scientific animation teams fulfil a common objective: meeting the expectations of multiple visitors, whether families, groups, schools, companies in seminars or visitors in groups. In turn, each team welcomes, guides, presents, stimulates curiosity, advises and adapts to each audience profile to ensure that each visitor's journey is successful. »

Accessibility: A Mission Since the Beginning



**Noémi
SCHOSMANN**
Accessibility Officer

« Keen to be accessible to all audiences, the Cité de l'espace is setting up actions to enable anyone with a disability (motor, hearing, visual and mental) to discover it. As a result, since 2018, the Cité de l'espace has been awarded the «Tourisme et Handicap» state mark, rewarding establishments that ensure good practice and compliance with accessibility standards for people with disabilities and their families. »



The Cité de l'espace's commitment to these audiences was rewarded when it was awarded the «Tourisme & Handicap» state label at the end of 2023 (for a period of 5 years) for all 4 disabilities (hearing, mental, motor and visual). This commitment includes specially adapted access for people with reduced mobility, as well as the loan of wheelchairs and folding seats. For the hearing impaired, magnetic loops are installed in the auditoriums, lecture theatres and on guided tours. Many events are translated into sign language (LSF).



HEARING DISABILITY

Guided tours in French sign language (LSF) // Sign language interpreters present for events and conferences // Videos in LSF in the exhibitions // The vast majority of videos are subtitled // Induction loops in the exhibition, show, conference, and entertainment rooms.

MENTAL HANDICAP

Signage accessible throughout the site // Organisation of special visits for groups // Advice about visits from the Accessibility Officer.

PHYSICAL DISABILITY

The entire site is accessible to people in wheelchairs, except the MIR station // Several rest areas with shaded seats are positioned in the gardens // Wheelchairs and folding seats are available for free.

VISUAL DISABILITY

Tactile visits for groups // Shows available in audio description // Several tactile elements are installed in the exhibitions // Booklet in Braille, large print available at reception.

Committed Partners

Cité de l'espace is located in the heart of the European Space Capital, Toulouse, which, together with its region, has nearly 13,000 employees working in the space sector, a quarter of the sector's employees in Europe. Supported by the largest organisations in the sector, Cité de l'espace has a privileged position to show the public this formidable human and scientific adventure taking place every day.

Stimulating curiosity, making people want to know more, creating scientific vocations, making space, astronomy and scientific culture accessible to all, these are the challenges for Cité de l'espace.

Cité de l'espace is a facility of Toulouse Metropole, opened in 1997 at the initiative of the Toulouse City Hall, with the support of the Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, its co-founders CNES, Airbus Defense and Space, Météo France, the Ministry of National Education, joined by Thales Alenia Space, the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, the Caisse d'Epargne de Midi-Pyrénées as well as: ESA, Canopé, TOULOUSE III Paul Sabatier University, CNRS, OMP, IRAP, Safran and Onera. Cité de l'espace is supported in its development of exhibitions and events by its official partners MGEN, Banque Populaire Occitane, Comat, Kinéis and Hemeria.

They Also Support Us:

The GALAXIE Club brings together around a hundred companies and institutions which represent 18,000 industrial and service jobs. This club works for the development of space and the regional economy by sharing its taste for technological adventure and entrepreneurship

The Association of Friends of Cité de l'espace is an association under the 1901 law, established in 1997, the year of the creation of Cité de l'espace, which aims to promote to all audiences, and in particular the youngest, space science, technology and applications.



A Resource Centre

Space News Available 7 Days a Week,
24 Hours a Day



**Olivier
SANGUY**

Space News Manager
at Cité de l'espace



**Benjamin
PETER**

Space News Officer
at Cité de l'espace

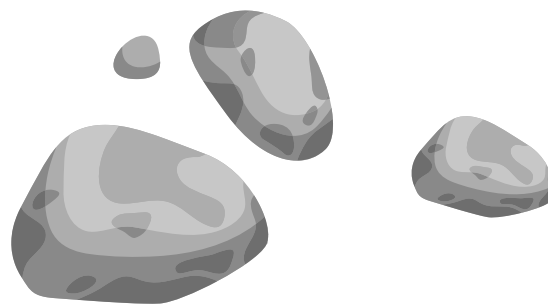
« There is a wealth of space news and scientific advances which are exciting to interpret and share with as many people as possible. Through its mediators and scientific presenters, Cité de l'espace is constantly relaying the highlights of space activity at the heart of its exhibitions, on its website and social networks and through its events. Cité de l'espace aims to explain advances in space to the public and the press, to enable everyone to experience major space moments live and to meet the space stakeholders who come to explain their role and the missions in progress. »

Cité de l'espace Space News Team, **Olivier Sanguy** and **Benjamin Peter**, are available to journalists to explain space advances in an accessible way.

To connect with us, **contact Florence Seroussi**, on the press contact page below.

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And all the space news and useful resources here:

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