

Toulouse

Toulouse (pronounced as "Tu-looz") has been a central point for trade between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic for nearly 3000 years.

It began as a local settlement called Tolosa before becoming a Roman city. In the year 418, Toulouse was taken by the Visigoths, who made it their capital, and was later attacked by Arabic armies from Spain. The armies wanted to conquer France, but were never able to get past Toulouse.

The city became a part of France around 1250, and was the site of many religious upheavals. In 1814, the final battle of the Napoleonic Wars took place at Toulouse. Napoleon had already surrendered, but the French commander in Toulouse did not know this, and defeated British and Spanish forces trying to enter the city.

Today Toulouse is the fourth-largest city in France, and is home to both the largest cancer research centre and the largest space centre in all of Europe.



Population: 864,936

1193 kilometres to Paris!