

PRESS RELEASE



A. Spáni © Narbo Via

A MUSEUM DEDICATED TO THE ROMAN HISTORY OF NARBONNE

The Etablissement public de coopération culturelle (EPCC) Narbo Via brings together three sites: the Horreum, a labyrinth of underground galleries in the heart of Narbonne, Amphoralis, which presents the remains of a town of Gallo-Roman potters and the new Narbo Via museum.

Since its inauguration on May 19th, the Narbo Via museum has become an essential place to understand Roman Antiquity, with more than 7,000 pieces, thus returning its noble letters to the capital of the Roman province of Narbonne, *Narbo Martius*.

Its monumental wall made up of 760 stone blocks, mostly from the Roman necropolises of the ancient city, surprises young and old alike. Spread over almost 28 986 ft², the exhibition area presents, with more than 580 artifact, the city of *Narbo Martius* during the Roman Empire: social organization, architecture (monumental remains and sumptuous decorations from the houses of the archaeological site of «Clos de la Lombarde», the most beautiful collection of Gallo-Roman paintings outside Italy); economic and port complex.

A strong architectural design

The building was realized by the international architecture firm «Foster + Partners», associated with the studio «Adrien Gardère» for its museography and with the operational architect Jean Capia. The architecture of the place combines simplicity and innovation. The facades of the building are made up of horizontal layers of laminated structural concrete, which is reminiscent of stratigraphy in archeology and, therefore, makes the museum a link between the past and the present. The clean and deeply modern structure of the building is also synonymous with modularity of space and offers optimal durability to the site, preserving it from heat and sun.

A collaborative project for the diffusion of cultural knowledge

Narbo Via will showcase the latest advances in archaeological research, through partnerships with research laboratories and educational institutions: the CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research), the Inrap (French National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research), the University of Montpellier (France), the University of Perpignan (France)... Narbo Via also aims to develop international partnerships with research laboratories in the future, notably from the two shores of the Mediterranean. These exchanges with the research community will allow Narbo Via to update its scientific pitch and transmit it to the public through its digital devices and its cultural mediation. Yesterday at the crossroads of Domitian and the Aquitaine routes, today just three hours away by car from Barcelona, Narbo Via is much more than a museum. Equipped with an auditorium of almost 200 places, research and educational workshops, a bookstore-shop, gardens with open-air shows and, soon, a restaurant, Narbo Via is a living space open to all visitors.

The new museum in numbers

- An almost 29 000 ft² permanent exhibition tour
- Temporary exhibition rooms of almost 5 400 ft²
- A 192-seat auditorium
- 2 educational workshops
- A shop-bookstore, gardens and, soon, a restaurant
- A restoration and research laboratory, reserves and study rooms
- Installation of the first stone: November 10, 2015
- An investment project of 56.8 million euros, led by the Occitania Region

SUMMER SEASON: THE JULY AND AUGUST PROGRAM IN NARBO VIA

The months of July and August offer the visitors of the three sites of Narbo Via a program consisting in events, visits and workshops for young and old alike. It is the opportunity to discover the Museum and its associated sites in a different way. All programming is in French except for guided tours on Tuesdays, in English.

Featured events

Festival «Radio France» - Wednesday, July 28th, from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Radio-France Occitanie Festival organizes the «Ballades au musée» program at the Narbo Via museum. The Ellipso's Quatuor (saxophones) and percussionist Sylvain Fabre dialogue with the museum and the audience during a musical afternoon where percussions meet the most beautiful musical pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach and Gospel standards.
Price: included in the entrance ticket.

Outdoor cinema - «Troie» - Tuesday August 17th, 10 p.m.

An open-air projection to (re)discover great epics on a giant screen, in the Amphoralis park. We have a limited number of loungers for movie lovers, but come equipped if you can!
Price: € 5, by reservation.

The night of the stars - Friday, August 6th, from 6 p.m. to midnight

Spend the night in the museum and discover the sky and the stars in the park of Amphoralis. Participate in the 30th edition of the Night of the Stars in collaboration with the ANAP (Astronomical Observatory of Narbonne).

6 p.m.: Lunch in the park and exhibition of photographs of the sky and the cosmic calendar

7:15 pm: Lecture «The planets of the solar system, from mythology to astronomy»

8.30 pm: «Head in the Stars» story by the storyteller Bernadette Boucher

From 10 p.m. to midnight: Observation of the sky

We have a limited number of loungers, but come equipped if you can! You can bring binoculars. Free, by reservation.

Visits

ARQUEO-NOMAD VISITS

Thursday, July 22th and August 12th - 2:30 p.m.: Archeo-nomad visit between Narbo Via and Horreum - «*Narbo Martius*, Roman capital».

Starting point: Narbo Via museum. Duration: 2h30. Limited at 25 people. Price: € 10 giving access to two sites and the visit, by reservation.

Thursday, July 8th and 29th, August 19th - 2:30 p.m.: Archeo-nomad visit between Narbo Via and Amphoralis - «the journey of the amphora».

Starting point: Amphoralis. Duration: 3h. Limited to 25 people. Price: € 10 giving access to the 2 sites and the visit, by reservation.

Thursday, August 5th and 26th - 2:30 p.m.: Archeo-nomad between Narbo Via and the archeological site «Clos de la Lombarde» - «The Roman house».

Starting point: Narbo Via museum. Duration: 2h30. Limited at 25 people. Price: € 10 giving access to the 2 sites and the visit, by reservation.

DISCOVERY TOURS

The Museum:

In English : every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

In French : Everyday from Tuesday to Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and at 3:00 p.m.

In Spanish : every Thursdays - 12:00 a.m.

Duration : 1:30h. Limited at 25 people

Price : € 2 in addition to the entrance ticket, by reservation.

Amphoralis:

Every Tuesday and Thursday - 3 p.m. (in French)

Wear a hat in case of heat and walking shoes to explore the park.

On Tuesdays, August 2 and 24, you can attend a demonstration of Gallo-Roman during your visit.

Duration: 1:30 h Limited at 25 people

Price: € 2 in addition to the entrance ticket, by reservation.

Horreum:

Every Wednesday and Friday - 3 p.m. (in French)

The galleries are especially appreciated in case of strong heat. You can bring a flashlight to observe certain details.

Duration: 1:30 h. Limited at 25 people

Price: € 2 in addition to the entrance ticket, by reservation.

The museum in a different way

MOBILE MUSEUM - AT THE MUSEUM

Every Tuesday, uninterruptedly from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Installed in the lapidary gallery of the Museum, the «Mobile Museum» allows you to discover the Roman city of *Narbo Martius* and its evolution. The 3D frieze «the factory of time» details the evolution of the city through the centuries. Models and house plans on the Clos de la Lombarde site invite you to discover the Pompeii domus organization. You can also try your luck with the coins or test your knowledge with the Narbo-quiz. Price: included in the entrance ticket.

BOTANICAL VISIT - AMPHORALIS

Every Friday at 10 a.m.

Discover an ancient garden and ancient cultivation techniques, echoing the natural cultivation practices of today. The Gallo-Roman garden of Amphoralis features the main plants listed by Latin archaeologists. They wear a hat in case of heat and sturdy shoes to explore the park.

Duration: 1:30 h. Limited to 16 people. Price: € 2 plus the entrance ticket, by reservation.

GALLOROMAN DEMONSTRATION - AMPHORALIS

Tuesday July 27th, August 3rd and 24th, interruptedly from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Observe during your visit a demonstration of the manufacture of ceramics on a rod wheel, just as it may have existed in ancient times. This tower, made entirely of wood, is known thanks to ancient representations on vases or paintings from Pompeii. Wear a hat in case of strong heat and good shoes. Price: included in the entrance ticket, by reservation.

OIL LAMP WORKSHOP - AMPHORALIS

Every Wednesday at 3, 4 and 5 p.m.

Oil lamps are made and used throughout the Roman world for lighting. From simple to elaborate forms, they are also the support of a rich iconography: gladiator scenes, mythology, theatrical masks, etc. Get your hands dirty! Duration: approximately 30 minutes. Limited to 16 people. Price: included in the entrance ticket, under reservation.

The museum ? A children's game !

THE CHILDREN'S VISIT : THE ANIMALS THAT WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE THEIR COLOURS

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Accompanied by an early childhood hero, the young visitors will get to know the animals that inhabit the Museum's works. A fun visit followed by a clay animal creation workshop, especially dedicated to young children (2-5 years), accompanied by an adult.

Duration: 1 hour. Limited to 25 people. Price: € 2, in addition to the entrance ticket, by reservation.

BESTIARY RALLYE

Every Thursday at 10 a.m.

Which animals are hidden in the Museum's collections and why are they there? Accompanied by a guide, the children will play to find the hidden animals in the Museum. A participatory meeting punctuated with riddles and scavenger hunts!

For children from 6 years old, accompanied by an adult.

Duration: 1 hour. Limited to 25 people. Price: € 2, in addition to the entrance ticket, by reservation.

MYTHS AT THE MUSEUM WITH BERNADETTE BOUCHER

Friday, July 23th, August 6th and 20th at 10 a.m.

Accompagnied by the storyteller Bernadette Boucher, young and old alike sit in front of the works to listen to stories from mythology. For children from 6 years old, accompanied by an adult.

Duration : 1 hour. Limited to 25 people. Price: 2€, in addition to the entrance ticket, by réservation.

ONCE UPON A TIME *NARBO MARTIUS*, WITH JEAN-YVES PAGÈS

Friday, July 30th, August 13th and 27th at 10:00 a.m.

The storyteller Jean-Yves Pagès offers a journey back in time, in the heart of the old city. For children from 6 years old, accompanied by an adult.

Duration: 1 hour. Limited to 25 people. Price: 2 €, in addition to the entrance ticket, by reservation.

Temporary exhibition: Veni, Vidi... Built !

From September 17th to December 31st, 2021, the Narbo Via museum presents its first temporary exhibition, «Veni, Vidi... Built!» The Narbo Via museum was designed to restore the memory of the great city to the current agglomeration ancient as it was: first Roman colony in Gallic land, capital city of the Province of Narbonnaise, an active trading port open to all Mediterranean world. Of this glorious past, no monument remains. It has been transmitted to us by written sources, excavations, and especially by a large amount of architectural elements used in re-employment in the city throughout its history.

The exhibition «Veni, Vidi... Built!» will offer a reflection on persistence of the prestigious architectural heritage of ancient Rome and will question the notion of «fragment», architectural and archaeological, as an element study and access to a broader cultural context. The way the contemporary architects continue to explore and adapt our heritage remain will be systematically treated over 5 400 ft², in 7 sequences themes: reuse, design, light, breathe, build, connect, inhabit. The exhibition will thus compare the main principles of architecture Roman (urban and social organization, light, circulation of air and water, structures and materials) with their reuse and reinterpretations contemporary to end in the Narbo Via museum building, crossroads between these two periods. 68 objects, from French institutions, Italian and English, will be presented (archaeological objects, drawings, plans, manuscripts, models, etc.).

The curator of this exhibition, Tom True, visiting scholar at the University of Kent and former deputy headmaster of the British School in Rome worked in close collaboration with the scientific team of Narbo Via and the firm Foster + Partners. The contributors solicited are specialists in ancient, Anglo-Saxon or French architecture. The Studio Adrien Gardère provided the scenography for the exhibition.

The cultural programming of the temporary exhibition

DISCOVERY TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION VENI, VIDI... BUILT!

Every Sunday at 11 a.m. from 19/09 - at the Museum

Visiting the exhibition allows you to understand the architectural techniques of the Romans, their ingenuity, their skills with the space and the materials, but also how contemporary architects continue to draw inspiration from them today. Drawings, watercolors, photos, models invite you to explore the know-how of Roman builders through the use of the light, mastery of ventilation and heating systems, the art of reusing materials and buildings, but also their talent as urban planners, from whom Norman Foster, the architect of Narbo Via, was inspired for many of his creations around the world... Duration: 1 hour. Price: € 2 in addition to the entrance ticket, by reservation (25 people maximum).

THEMATIC VISIT: ROMAN ARCHI, CONTEMPORARY ARCHI!

Saturday 09/18 at 11 a.m. (European Heritage Days), Saturday 10/16 at 3.30 p.m. and Sunday 10/17 at 3.30 p.m. (National Architecture Days) - at the Museum

Punctuated by the discovery of the monuments of Narbonne in Roman times and their architectural details, the visit invites you to explore in detail the Museum building, a remarkable new building in the modern city which in many ways recalls the past splendor of the ancient city. Duration: 1h30. Price: € 2 in addition to the entrance ticket, by reservation (25 people maximum).

MEETING WITH THE «MAISON DE L'HABITAT» OF GRAND NARBONNE

Sunday 3/10 from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. - at Amphoralis

In connection with the theme of the temporary exhibition, take advantage of your visit to the Museum or Amphoralis to question the Maison de l'Habitat du Grand Narbonne and benefit from tailor-made advice in your energy renovation projects, and why not, application of construction principles already used in ancient times!

Price: Free.

CLAY WORKSHOP

Sunday 3/10 at 2:30 p.m. - at Amphoralis

In the heart of the potters' village, in the park of the Amphoralis site, the workshop offers to discover how Gallo-Roman artisans were able to build their homes with the material they found on site in quantity: clay. Accompanied by Tanguy Wibaut («Terre en Ere» association), archaeologist specializing in raw clay construction, you work hands-on to prepare clay.

Don't forget your apron or work clothes.

Duration: 2h. Price: 8 € / 5 €. Adults and teenagers from 12 years old, by reservation.

DEMONSTRATION « A ROMAN STREET IN PIECES »

Sunday October 31, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - at the Museum

Follow the journey of a Roman citizen in the city and discover the main types of architecture thanks to the model of a Roman street and the buildings that compose it.

Yannick Maillot sets up his models at the Museum for an afternoon to discover Roman architecture and its innovations.

Duration: 30 minutes. Price: Free with entrance ticket. With Yannick Maillot d' Agathé Temporis.

Useful information

Musée Narbo Via
50 avenue de Gruissan
Newly 2 avenue André Mècle
11100 Narbonne
France
+33 (0)4 68 90 28 90

Amphoralis
Allée des potiers
11590 Sallèles d'Aude
France
+33 (0) 4 68 46 89 48

Horreum
7 rue Rouget de Lisle
11100 Narbonne
France
+33 (0) 4 68 32 45 30

Booking at +33 (0)4 68 90 28 90.

Contact

Cécile LEBRETON
Communications officer
Narbo Via
cecile.lebreton@narbovia.fr
Tél.: + 33 (0)6 49 93 35 08



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