



AMICALE DES PILOTES ROTARIENS

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS

SECTION FRANCAISE

www.iffr.club



FLIGHT OCCITANIE MAY 1st-5 2019

The 5 days of the aeronautical tour (from May 1 to 5) provided an opportunity for great encounters.

We very much regretted the last minute absences. Good recovery to those who have had medical problems and had to give up joining us (Gabriel, Jean-Pierre, we kiss you), when it is not the planes that need to be treated (too bad for Benoit and Jean-Marc).

WEDNESDAY 1st MAY

Welcome at Aéroport d'Albi-le-Sequestre LFCI

Five planes arrived in Albi without difficulty and were welcomed by the aeroclub; they opened their hangar for us and we were able to start our gastronomic regime in the South-West in an aeronautical setting.

The CROMATI Mike, Margaret, Marius family with Bob FIELD in their PA 27 AZTEC, Michael and Beate BOCK with their Pipistrel, Feroz WADIA and Robert GOETZE with the SportCruiser, Heinz ZOLLIG and Françoise GRANDIN with the Mooney, François KUSSWIEDER, solo against his will, from Alsace. Jean-Luc and I, due to the lack of a plane available at the flying club, joined the group by



car with the necessary food prepared "at home" to start our "journey".



In the afternoon, we visited the episcopal city of Albi, wandered through the old town, with a beautiful light! Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since July 2010, Saint Cécile Cathedral is the largest brick cathedral in the world. Majestic and imposing, it is visible from everywhere. An essential architectural ensemble, a must in the region! It really impressed us all with its majestic, austere appearance on the outside, but surprisingly colourful and delicate with its stone lace on the inside



THURSDAY, MAY 2



The rest of the trip went well, but with rather "demanding" weather conditions: so we left the planes in Pamiers-Pujol rather than Saint-Girons-Antichan to be able to leave the next day with a sufficient ceiling. We efficiently organize our diversion with our 5 aircraft. The bus planned for St Girons picks up the pilots in Pamiers. The Pyrenean mountains are hiding, it is a pity, but we are not letting ourselves be defeated. We meet around a country lunch as planned brought by the neighbouring "charcutier-pilote", in the room lent by the Ariège-St Girons flying club. Thank you to them; Early afternoon, guided tour of the Gallo-Roman and Episcopal city of St LIZIER and visit of an amazing old pharmacy with its Elixirs that interested us particularly.







As planned we leave for St Giron, the "Capital" of the Couserans, to discover a completely different subject of memory: the Museum of the "Way of Liberty". The exhibition covers all events related to the passage of the Pyrenees (especially in the Couserans) during the Second World War by all those who wanted either to join the Allied forces and continue the armed struggle, or to escape at all costs from the Nazis' clutches....

Another atmosphere, an evening at the Hotel Eychenne in St Giron, with Jean-Luc as the storyteller from Ariège, who introduces us to the harsh history of this mountain country.

FRIDAY 3 MAY

Flight to Castelsarrasin-Moissac LFCX



Return by bus to the abandoned planes in Pamiers while Jean-Luc and I finally got a DR400 in Toulouse Lasbordes.



The stopover at Castelsarrasin-Moissac was as much cultural (guided tour of Saint-Pierre Abbey and its cloister, the Romanesque art, the Canal Bridge, the city and the art deco,...) as aeronautical: the Bréguet XIV was there and three of us were able to make a flight!





Congratulations to François Kusswieder



while others follow a Guide passionate about his Abbey



SATURDAY 4 MAY

Flight to Sarlat-Domme LFDS

As for the "Sarlat" stage, visits and gastronomy were at the Rendez-Vous. We meet our friends Jean-Pierre Marteau and Agnès who are the main organizers of this stage!





Visit the magnificent village of La Roque Gageac, the castle of Beynac and sailing in a gabare on the Dordogne River. Visit (and tasting) of the family distillery La Salamandre in Tamniès-en-Dordogne (near Sarlat City)



SUNDAY, MAY 5

Visit of the old town of Sarlat







After the walk, of course, the comfort before all separate.

See you soon for future adventures in Toulouse from September 5th!

With an arrival on Thursday, September 5 at noon at Toulouse - Lasbordes airfield (or via La ligne, the train, or your car or a barge on the Canal du Midi). We will offer you space, aeronautical and of course cultural tours. Between the new museum "L'Envol des Pionniers", the "Halle de La Machine", an exhibition of show machines, in motion and in narrative, and of course Aeroscopia and the Cité de l'Espace, there is something to keep us busy, not to mention our old Toulouse bricks.

On Sunday 8 September we will propose you to join the Ampuriabrava aerodrome (LEAP), on the Catalan side, to be welcomed by Feroz Wadia (IFFR UK). Empuriabrava (with an E in Catalan) is one of the largest residential marinas in the world with more than 30 km of canals. On Monday, flights can be scheduled to Andorra's La Seu De Urgel airfield, where the Pipistrel of our friends, Beate and Michael Bock, is based. A program is therefore ready. Thank you for giving me your intentions now, it will make logistics easier.

Bien amicalement à tous !

Dominique BRICE

Présidente IFFR France