LES JOURNÉES EUROPÉENNES DU

PATRIMOINE

BANQUE DE FRANCE
EUROSYSTÈME

19 & 20 September 2026

An event labelled:

Ensemble, dialoguons

PLAN VISIT

* A Banque de France initiative promoting public dialogue on economic issues.

DEAR VISITOR, WELCOME TO THE BANQUE DE FRANCE FOR THE EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS!

Discover this institution of the Republic, a member of the Eurosystem: the Banque de France is proud to open its doors to you.

We wish you a very pleasant visit!

Each stop of the tour is indicated by a dot on the map.

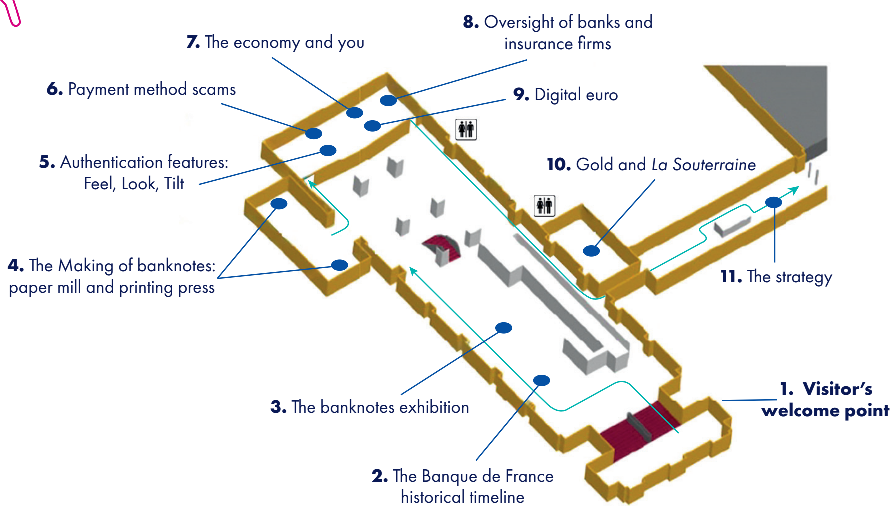
- **The first part of your visit presents the history of the Banque de France and features an exhibition on banknotes.**
- **You will then discover the Banque de France's three core missions** – monetary policy, financial stability, and services to the economy and society, meet Banque de France representatives and learn more about their work through discussions and exchanges.
- **You will also have the opportunity to learn more about the Banque de France's gold reserves**, safely stored in *La Souterraine*, the underground vault located right beneath your feet!
- **Your tour will conclude at the Hôtel de Toulouse,** where you can admire the richness of the Banque de France's architectural heritage.

We hope you enjoy your visit and learn more about our institution.

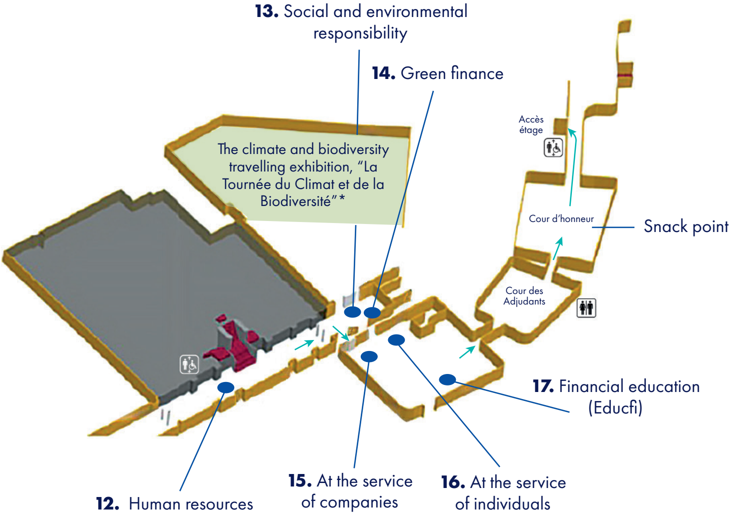
Please feel free to ask Banque de France staff any questions you may have along the way to get the most out of your experience.
At the end of your tour, please share your impressions by leaving a note on our wish tree.

Enjoy your visit!

GROUND LEVEL

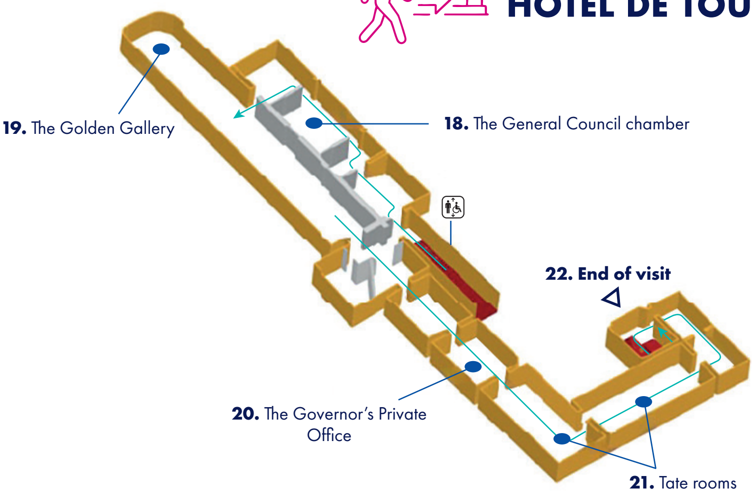


HALLWAY AND EXTERIOR AREAS



A travelling scientific exhibition focusing on issues related to climate and biodiversity. A team of scientists is at the heart of the project: they have created the displays and guide visitors through the exhibition so that they can understand, discuss and imagine a sustainable future for our planet. Perfect for families with children aged 9 and over.

HÔTEL DE TOULOUSE



1800 - 2026 THE HISTORY OF THE BANQUE DE FRANCE

1800

Creation of the Banque de France by the First Consul, Napoleon Bonaparte

1803

The Banque de France obtained the privilege of issuing paper money in Paris

1806

Although the Banque de France was originally a private institution owned by shareholders, Napoleon amended its statutes and strengthened his control over it: from then on, the Banque de France was headed by a Governor and two Deputy Governors appointed by the Emperor

1808

Because the Banque de France could not remain simply the Bank of Paris, its first offices, later to be known as branches, were established in Lyon and Rouen (1808) and then in Lille (1810). However, they didn't have much success and these branches closed between 1813 and 1817

1811

The Banque de France established its headquarters at the Hôtel de Toulouse

1836

The Banque de France attempted to expand again nationally. In 1836, the first branches were established in Reims and then Saint-Etienne: the beginnings of a regional network that now has still more than 180 sites

1848

The Banque de France obtained the monopoly on issuing banknotes throughout the country

1870-71

The gold of the Banque de France was evacuated!,
Nearly 70 years before the great evacuation of 1939-40, the threat of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 and then the Paris Commune in 1871 forced the Banque de France to evacuate its gold reserves to Brest and Bayonne

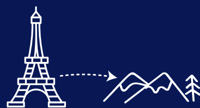
1871-73

Women at the Banque de France
Until then, the Bank had been exclusively male, but the first women were hired around the mid-19th century. However, between 1871 and 1873, their numbers increased greatly.
Most of them were employed to sort old banknotes or check new ones, which was arduous work

1906

The end of the bicorne hat?
The cash collector, an iconic figure at the Banque de France responsible for collecting money owed to the bank from merchants on a daily basis, was easily recognisable thanks to his bicorn hat and blue uniform. After a long struggle, this outfit, which was considered uncomfortable, was replaced in 1906 by a black straw boater and a jacket for the summer. However, it was not until 1928 that the General Council finally agreed to abolish the bicorne hat

1919-1921



Banknotes from the Auvergne region
After the First World War, the paper mill and printing works located in Paris and the surrounding area were deemed too exposed to the risks of military conflict. In 1919, the paper mill was moved to Vic-le-Comte in the Puy-de-Dôme, followed in 1921 by the banknote printing works, which set up nearby in Chamalières

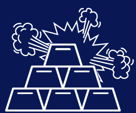
1924

Beneath your feet, 26 meters below ground, lies the legendary underground chamber, a veritable vault covering an area of one hectare (roughly one and a half football pitches), which houses over 2,000 tonnes of gold. This huge construction project started in 1924 and was finished in 1927

1936

Reform of the Banque de France
Initiated by the Popular Front, this reform gave the public authorities greater powers to intervene directly in the administration of the Bank, a first step towards nationalisation

1939-1940

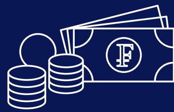


France's gold disappeared!
For the second time in its history, the Banque de France was forced to evacuate its gold reserves. On the eve of the Second World War, 3,000 tonnes of gold were evacuated to England, the United States, the West Indies and Africa from the ports of Brest, Toulon and Bordeaux

1945

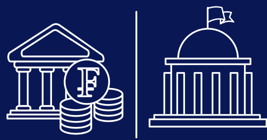
Nationalisation of the Banque de France by General de Gaulle, with all shares transferred to the state

1960



Introduction of the new franc

1993



Independence of the Banque de France
The Law of 4 August 1993 guaranteed the Banque de France's independence from the government for the management of the currency

1995

A woman honoured
It was not until 1995, with the introduction of the 500 franc "Pierre and Marie Curie" banknote, that a woman who had actually existed was depicted on a banknote. She remains the only woman to have received this honour

1999

Adoption of the euro
The Banque de France joins the Eurosystem

2002

The first euro banknotes were put into circulation
On 1 January 2002, 300 million people in 12 European Union countries gave up their national currencies in favour of a single currency. This was the biggest currency changeover in modern history

2016

In 2016, the public authorities appointed the Banque de France as the national steering body for France's financial education strategy (Educfi)

2017

Creation of the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)

Created at the *One Planet Summit* on the initiative of the Banque de France and seven other central banks and supervisors, the NGFS was established to promote the management of climate-related risks, support green investment and share best practices for greening the financial system

2023

The Banque de France was entrusted with a new mission: devising a national climate indicator for businesses

2025

The Banque de France launched the «Ensemble, dialoguons» initiative, which aims to provide greater opportunities for debate, both in person and online, to explain, listen and improve people's understanding of current and future major economic challenges

2026

Appointment of a new governor
Emmanuel Moulin succeeds François Villeroy de Galhau at the head of the Banque de France

BANQUE DE FRANCE
EUROSYSTÈME

Thank you for visiting the Banque de France during the European Heritage Days, it was a pleasure to welcome you.

Please take a moment to share your feedback by scanning the QR code below.

If you would like to learn more about our missions and heritage, please visit us at: www.banque-france.fr

Join us on our social media channels and share your experience!

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