



PRESS FEATURE 2026

Association Soierie Vivante
Atelier municipal de passementerie et de tissage

21 rue Richan 69 004 Lyon (Head Office)

Soierie vivante!



SOIERIE VIVANTE ASSOCIATION

Our goals

Soierie Vivante is a non-profit organization. It was created in 1993 to safeguard two workshops and enhance the heritage of the silk trade in Lyon. We preserve and exhibit old silk weaving looms in genuine weaving workshops in the "silk district" of Croix - Rousse. We aim to show to our visitors essential elements of the regional silk heritage. It is a way to pass on memory of this trade to the academics, young people and tourists. We make sure that the looms are presented according to the requirements of authenticity, good preservation and also the public's expectations. These working looms help us to explain how beautiful fabrics can be created. It is also important to us to maintain or create jobs. We ought to arouse vocations or researches in connection with our missions and the local silk industry, past, present or future.

Our story

Since July 1994, the association has managed the trimming workshop, which has also become its registered office. This workshop was previously owned by Mrs. Létourneau, our founder. Today it is the property of the City of Lyon and it has been completely restored.

The museum consists of an exhibition space, an area for activities and a shop. Soierie Vivante also rented a weaving workshop on Godart Street, in order to prevent its closure. We created a tour around this other family workshop in the Croix - Rousse to bring together these testimonies of the district rich history.

The tour includes a short walk from one workshop to the other, which allows visitors to discover the Croix - Rousse area. The neighbourhood is characterized by its original architecture. Indeed, a big part of the production (the weaving and the jobs related to this activity) was done at home until the end of the XXth century. Buildings were created around the needs of the silk industry.

In 2013, the weaving workshop was bought by the City of Lyon from its last owner, Mrs Ressicaud-Fighiera. She worked all her life with her family in this place. Since 2001, she trusted our organization to preserve it. The city has also entrusted Soierie Vivante to present this workshop to the public.

GUIDED TOURS FOR INDIVIDUALS

The trimming workshop (21 rue Richan, Lyon 4th)

Head office in the former workshop of Mrs. Létourneau (one of the last authentic workshops in Croix-Rousse), Soierie Vivante exhibits impressive weaving looms carved in walnut wood.

You can witness the looms working right in front of you ! Discover the secrets of weaving, the genius of Jacquard's invention and support Soierie Vivante by pampering yourself in our shop !

2 tours per day, Tuesday through Saturday :

- At 2pm: no reservation necessary
- At 4pm: no reservation necessary
- At another time: by appointment, 5 people minimum

The weaving workshop (12bis "montée Godart", Lyon 4th)

See the old workshop of the Ressicaud family. We perform weaving demonstrations on a hand-loom dating from the XIXth century and also on electric power looms. This workshop is the last weaving workshop remaining in the Croix Rousse area with its unspoiled internal architecture. The 65m2 of this living and working space include the kitchen, the mezzanine, the looms and a machine, which refills the bobbins.

2 visits a day, Tuesday through Saturday :

- At 3pm: no reservation necessary
- At 5pm: no reservation necessary
- At another time: by appointment, 5 people minimum

Fares and length

	1 workshop (40 minutes)	2 workshops (1h30)
Individual adult	8€	12€
Individual student	6€	8€

Free for kids under 6 years old / Special group fares for more than 15 persons

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Children from 4 to 6

Young children are welcome in the trimming workshop. During our morning activities, they learn about the silk history, touch raw materials ; listen to the sound of weaving looms and go back home with a little surprise !

Each first Saturday of the month from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M.

Reservation is necessary / Length: 1 hour/ Fees: 6 € per kid, 3€ per adult



Children from 7 to 12

When children arrive in the trimming workshop, they discover the inside of an authentic canut workplace !

They become familiar with little looms. They choose the colours of the threads, the final form of their fabrics (a bag, an elephant, a cat...) and learn how to weave. Every child finds their own technique and rhythm. Each child makes a unique item !

Length: 3 hours, booking necessary
Fees: 16€ Regular dates during the holidays (see our website : soierie-vivante.asso.fr)



MY BIRTHDAY AT SOIERIE VIVANTE



Soierie Vivante organizes special weaving sessions for birthdays of kids, aged 7 to 12 years old ! The birthday activity proceedings is the same as holidays weaving sessions, except that, at snack time, we celebrate the birthday ! This fare includes :

- Weaving workshop on a miniature handloom.
- Each child goes home with their creation.
- A 30 min guided tour with demonstration on looms.
- Surprises for each child and a special gift for the birthday child !
- The birthday break : we supply the beverages, sweets, candles... Parents supply the cake. Your presence is liked during the activity and necessary during the birthday break.

Fee: 185€ for 10 children maximum (including your child) Duration : 3h. Booking is necessary

GUIDED TOURS FOR STUDENTS

We organize guided tours for all students from the age of seven.

They take place from Tuesday afternoon to Saturday (9am-12pm/1.30pm-6pm) by appointment. We are closed on public holidays.

Maximum 30 students per workshop. If the group exceeded 30 persons, we divide it into 2 groups.

One workshop :

- The tour lasts approximately 45 minutes.
- Price per student : 15 students and more : 4.50€, less than 15 students : 6€

Two workshops :

- If the group exceed 30 persons, we divide it into 2 groups in order to rotate groups in our two workshops.
- The tour lasts approximately 45 minutes per workshop, followed by a ten minute walk to reach Godart street from Richan street. All together, it takes about an hour and a half.
- Price per student : 15 students and more : 6€, less than 15 students : 8€

Payment terms :

- order form
- In situ : cash, credit card or cheque
- After reception of the bill : bank transfer or cheque



WEAVING ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

Weaving activity + guided tour with demonstration on looms in the trimming workshop :

After an explanation about the technic, the students weave on small looms during 45 minutes. Then, they do a guided tour of the trimming workshop, discovering the way of life of the former owner of this appartment : Mrs Létourneau. At the end, every student goes back home with the fabric sample they did.

Length: 1 hour 30

Price : 9 euros per student

NB : If the group is more than 15 persons, one small group is doing a tour in the neighbourhood with a book with games.

Weaving activity + guided tour of the trimming workshop + guided tour of the weaving workshop :

The students weave on small looms during 45 minutes. Then, they do a guided tour of the trimming workshop and go in our second workshop with its particular and traditional architecture. They see working looms from the 19th century and the 1950's.

Length : 2 hours

Price : 13,5€ per student

NB : You can complete your visit with a guided tour of the traboules nearby with our traboules booklet (non included).



FOR STUDENTS FROM 4 TO 6

This activity takes place in the trimming workshop.

Each child can touch the raw materials : cocoons, silk threads, bobbins, diverse silk fabrics.

A simple weaving is made to understand how the threads interlace to create a fabric.

Then, the “real trimming looms” are switched on in front of the kids for an impressive display !

There will be a surprise waiting for them at the end of the tour !

Length : 45 minutes to 1h

Price : 5€ per child

30 children maximum

With more than 15 children, the group is divided into to small groups in two different rooms



GROUPS OF ADULTS (15 PERS AND MORE)

The trimming workshop :

Visit the trimming workshop, the former home and workshop of Mrs Létourneau, where, for over a century, the looms produced gold and silver ribbons.

The weaving workshop

Discover the former workshop of the Ressicaud family :
handweaving (Jacquard) and mechanical weaving in a family workshop from the 19th century (kitchen and mezzanine)



From Tuesday afternoon to Saturday (9am-12pm / 1.30pm-6pm), by appointment except on bank holidays. We can offer you special visits (in the evening, on Sundays...). Please contact us !

If the group is made of more than 30 people, we divide the group into smaller groups (maximum 30 persons per workshop). If you would prefer to see only one workshop or if the group exceeds 60 people, there will be half an hour of free time during the total time of the tours.

The visit lasts approximately 40 minutes for one workshop, followed by a ten minute walk to reach the other workshop. As a result, it takes about an hour and a half to visit both workshops.

Visits can be done in foreign languages : English, German, Italian and you can pay with Cash or Credit Card.

FARES	Visit of 1 workshop	Visit of the 2 workshops
Group of adults	7€	11€
EXTRA*	15€	20€

*out of our normal opening hours (Sundays, Mondays, in the evening...)
Free for guides.

WEAVING ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS

During a family reunion, bachelorette party, or unique activity with colleagues, discover weaving on a miniature loom and create your own textile masterpiece. In a friendly atmosphere, in the heart of an authentic Croix-Rousse workshop, send the shuttle and an unique piece that you can take home! Then discover the life of weavers during a guided tour with a demonstration on looms measuring 3.6 meters high... This activity takes place at the municipal trimmings workshop.

For the more experienced, we offer a weaving experience that will allow you to create a wall weaving. You will be guided step by step to create your weaving, combining textures and fabrics in your work. You will then discover how trimmings looms work when they are used.

"Classic" weaving session

- Duration : 3 hours
- Price (package) : 160€ for a groupe of 4 to 10 peoples

This offer includes an introduction to weaving, a guided tour of the municipal trimmings workshop with a demonstration of the looms and the creation of a woven object (sewn by us).



Wall weaving session

- Duration : 2 hours and 30 minutes
- Price : 32€ per person (up to 6 peoples)

This offer includes an introduction to weaving, explanations of the different techniques for crossing threads, and a short guided tour of the municipal trimmings workshop with a demonstration on the looms.

OUR GIFT SHOP

You will find in our gift shop a large selection of locally made items:

- We upcycle our limited fabric production and sell diverse old weaving items like shuttles, bobbins with silk thread, pillows, pencil cases...
- We sell souvenirs about your visit : postcards, magnets, cocoons, historical and technical books, educational brochures, silk sewing threads...
- We have a large selection of items "made in Lyon" like Silk scarves and accessories, thanks to our suppliers. These are 100% silk woven in the Region of Lyon : ties, scarves... Produced by our suppliers: l'Atelier de Soierie, TSD, Ateliers de canuts, Malfroy Million and Anne Lyon...

You will find a wide range of products in our shop and great gift ideas !

Everything you buy in our giftshop will help us to pursue our goal : safeguard of lyonnese heritage.



ACCESS

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Office hours and giftshop :

Tuesday: 1:30pm - 6pm

Wednesday through Saturday : 9am - 12am & 1:30pm - 6pm

(Closed on bank holidays)

The trimming workshop :

Stop "Croix-Rousse" or "Hénon"

Bus C13 stop: "Commandant Arnaud"

Car park Croix-Rousse (hôpital / théâtre)

The weaving workshop :

Stop "Croix-Rousse" Bus C13 stop : "Austerlitz" Car park Gros Caillou

