June 4, 1783 Montgolfier Balloon flight

September 19, 1783 Montgolfier Balloon flight in Versailles, carrying a sheep, a duck and a rooster

October 15, 1783 The first manned hot air balloon flight
Monument erected to commemorate the first centennial of the first hot air balloon flight in Annonay, France

Photos by Claude Dannau
Statue honoring Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier in Annonay, France
On this site, the 6th of June of 1783, in the presence of the deputies of the State of Vivarais, Joseph Montgolfier and his brother Etienne of Annonay, launched the first aerostatic balloon to the skies.

Aerial Navigation was born here
Plaques at the base of the AIAA – AAAF monument

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
and
Association Aeronautique et Astronautique de France

Historic Aerospace Site

On 4 June 1783, Joseph and Étienne Montgolfier captured the imagination of the world with their first balloon flight at Cordeliers Square. There were no passengers, but the Regional Council and the whole town population saw the machine go up and stay aloft at 500 meters for ten minutes.

The scientific world raced to make use of the Montgolfiers’ discovery, and all accomplishments made since then by aeronauts, aviators, and astronauts can be traced directly to this site.

Site Historique Aérospatiale

Le premier envol public d’un ballon à air chaud a été réalisé par les frères Joseph et Étienne Montgolfier le 4 juin 1783 sur la Place des Cordeliers, à Annecy, en présence des États Généraux du Vivarais et d’une foule nombreuse.

Le ballon vola pendant 10 minutes à plus de 500 mètres d’altitude. La communauté scientifique internationale s’empressa d’exploiter les enseignements de cette découverte qui depuis inspira les principales réalisations du monde aéronautique et astronautique.

Photos by François Ribailly