



Visiting Chateau de Fontainebleau

Plan of Chateau de Fontainebleau its grounds and gardens plus practical information when visiting this historical castle in Paris France

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PARK AND GARDENS

The Diana Garden

The smallest of the gardens takes its name from a statue of *Diana with a doe*, which adorns the fountain. This used to be the sovereigns' private garden. In the 17th century it was divided up by box hedges and decorated with statues. It was transformed into an English-style landscaped garden during the Empire period, and still retains these characteristics.

The English Garden

The English Garden, known as the Pine Garden during the reign of Francis I and comprising many smaller gardens, was redesigned during the reign of Louis XIV, then remodelled by Hurlault under Napoleon I. It features picturesque landscapes, with its river and winding pathways, its ornamental rock, and above all its remarkable collection of exotic trees.

The Grand Parterre

This is the largest French-style formal garden in Europe and has retained the geometric layout designed by Le Nôtre, Louis XIV's gardener, although its box hedge 'embroidery' no longer exists. In the summer you can admire its 45,000 flowering plants.

The Park

Beyond the Grand Parterre stretch the Park and the canal, which extends the perspective. It is 1,200 metres long and was dug in the reign of Henry IV.

- A. Diana Fountain
- B. Belle-Eau Fountain
- C. Carp Pond
- D. Waterfall Pool
- E. Queen's Fountain
- F. Canal
- G. Canal outlet
- H. Napoleon Fountain



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The Château

is open every day except Tuesdays, 1 January, 1 May and 25 December:
- October to March, from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm
- April to September, from 9.30 am to 6.00 pm
- last entry, except for the gift and bookshop, 45 minutes before closing time.

The courtyards and gardens

are open:
- November to February, from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm
- March, April, and October, from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm
- May to September, from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm
Please note that the Diana Garden and the English Garden close 30 minutes and 1 hour respectively before the times indicated.

Exceptional closures
For information see www.chateaudefontainebleau.fr

The park

is open 24 hours a day all year round.

Accessibility

The Great Apartments are accessible to visitors with reduced mobility. For greater ease, they may request vehicle access via the Mathurins Courtyard (opposite the Municipal Theatre). Pushchairs are not allowed on the visitor circuit of the Great Apartments. Baby carriers and light folding pushchairs are available, except during very busy periods.

No food or drinks are allowed in the rooms.
It is forbidden to smoke, use flash photography, or touch the collections.



Your ticket is valid all day long.

Information
tel. +33 (0) 60 71 50 70
www.chateaudefontainebleau.fr

The Château de Fontainebleau and its estate are included on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Inclusion on this list confirms the universal and outstanding value of a cultural or natural property which deserves to be protected for the good of humanity.



Château de Fontainebleau

Visiting the Château, Park and Gardens



HISTORY OF THE CHÂTEAU

The mediaeval château

The keep (1) is the only remaining part of the original château, the earliest record of which dates from 1137.

The Renaissance château

Francis I started rebuilding the château in 1528. The Golden Gate (2) is inspired by Italian architecture, and stands at the entrance to the Oval Courtyard, around which are arranged the royal apartments and Ballroom (3) completed by Henry II. This courtyard is linked to a secondary one (now the Main Courtyard) by the Francis I Gallery (4). The Belle Cheminée Wing (5) with its striking imperial staircase, was designed by Primaticcio, and is a fine example of how the Italian Renaissance style was adapted in France.

In the 17th century

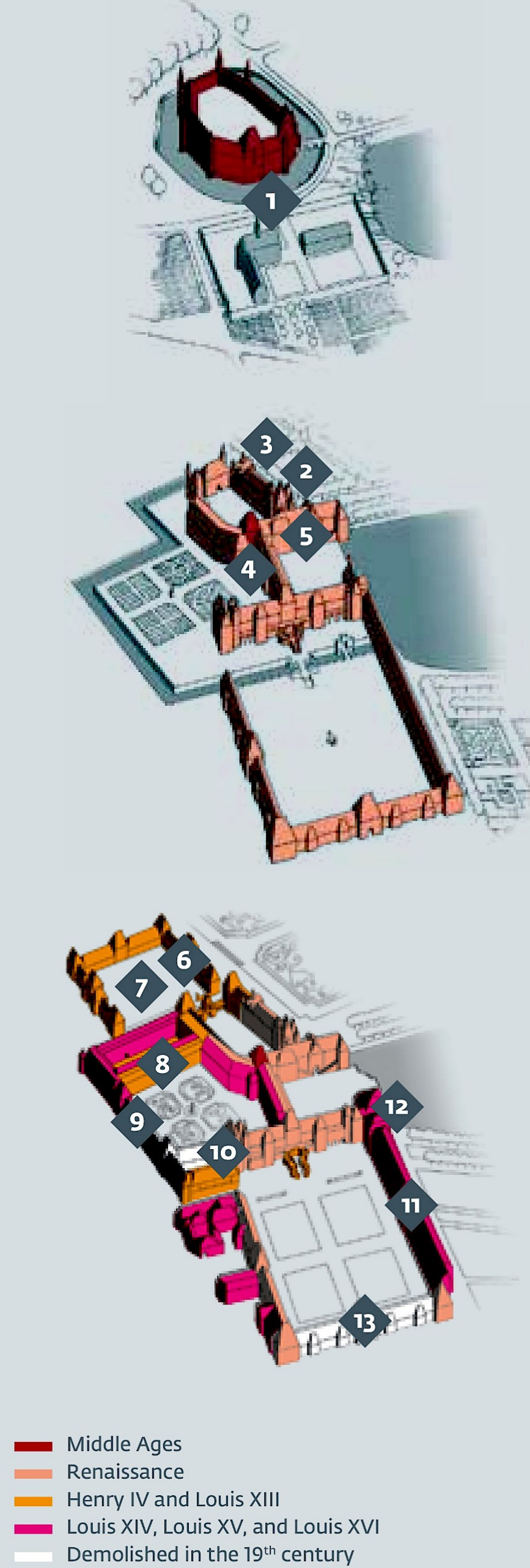
Henri IV was the other great builder of this château. He opened up and enlarged the Oval Courtyard and added the Baptistery Gate (6), named to commemorate the baptism of the future Louis XIII. It stands facing a new courtyard of service quarters, known as the Cour des Offices (7). Henri IV also built the wing with two superimposed galleries, the Diana Gallery and Stag Gallery (8), as well as the Aviary (9) and the Jeu de Paume court (10).

In the 18th century

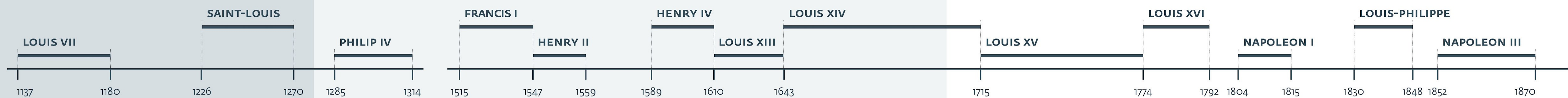
Louis XV had the former Ulysses Gallery (11) replaced by a more spacious building, and in 1750 built the Large Pavilion (12) designed by Gabriel.

In the 19th century

The château was stripped of its furniture during the French Revolution, but the buildings were spared. Napoleon I made it an Imperial residence, and had it refurbished. The Ferrara Wing was destroyed and replaced by the current wrought-iron gate (13). The Aviary was demolished during the reign of Louis-Philippe. The work carried out under Napoleon III was mainly on interior decoration.



- Middle Ages
- Renaissance
- Henry IV and Louis XIII
- Louis XIV, Louis XV, and Louis XVI
- Demolished in the 19th century



UNACCOMPANIED TOURS OF THE CHÂTEAU

Visit the château at your own pace. Visioguides are available in eleven languages.

The Napoleon I Museum

The *musée Napoléon I^{er}* presents an evocative collection of furniture, artwork and portraits which once belonged to Emperor Napoleon I or to members of his family.

The Pope's Apartment

The *appartement du Pape* was reserved for distinguished guests. Its current name derives from Pope Pius VII, who visited Fontainebleau once in 1804 and then again in 1812. Exceptional closures according to season.

The Great Apartments

This circuit includes several function rooms, galleries and apartments. The Ceremonial Gallery and the Gallery of Plates recall key events which took place at Fontainebleau. The Renaissance rooms (the Francis I Gallery and the Ballroom) are unique in France. They still have their astounding decoration of frescoes and stucco work produced by the Italian artists Rosso Fiorentino and Primaticcio during the reigns of Francis I and Henry II, when Fontainebleau was one of the leading artistic centres in Europe. The Sovereigns' Apartments, which overlook the Oval Courtyard and Diana Garden, were used by monarchs and their court. The Inner Apartment of Napoleon I is a suite that was refurbished in 1804 for the Emperor's use. It was here that Napoleon I abdicated on 6 April 1814. The Trinity Chapel, commissioned by Francis I, was completed by Louis XIII. The decoration on the vault is the work of Martin Fréminet.

GUIDED TOURS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE

Information at reception

The Chinese Museum

The *musée Chinois*, laid out in the style of the Second Empire, houses remarkable artwork from the Far East, in particular from China and Siam. It can be toured with the HistoPad, enabling interactive exploration of the collections.

General guided tour

A general guided tour is organised every day. It provides an introduction to the history of the château, from its origins until the Second Empire.

Guided tour of the Small Apartments

The private apartments of the Emperor and Empresses Joséphine and Marie-Louise.

Guided tour of the Imperial Theatre

The *théâtre Impérial*, commissioned by Napoleon III, provides a unique example of a court theatre during the Second Empire.

Guided tour of the Turkish Boudoir

Used as a private space by Marie-Antoinette, the Boudoir Turc reflects the popularity of all things Eastern under the Ancien Régime. After the Revolution, it was refurbished for Empress Joséphine, who made it her private bedroom.

Guided tour of Napoleon III's study and Eugénie's Lacquer Room

(included in a themed visit). Private and working areas of the Emperor and Empress.

Themed visits are offered according to season

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www.eutouring.com



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