

2020 PROGRAM- MATION





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MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE - INVALIDES

Located within the Invalides, the Musée de l'Armée's 15,000 m² offers an opportunity to explore the history of France through its military history. A museum combining History, Fine Arts and Science and Technology, this institution was created in 1905 and houses one of the richest collections of military history in the world, with almost 500,000 items (uniforms, weapons, armour, drawings, paintings, photographs, etc.), from the Bronze Age to the 21st century. Since its creation, it has been based in the Hôtel des Invalides, an iconic site in central Paris; its Dôme houses Napoleon I's tomb.

Today, with over 1.2 million visitors per year, the Musée de l'Armée is one of the most frequently-visited cultural institutions in France, in 7th place nationally and coming 5th within the Île-de-France Region.

Through its collections and exhibitions, the Musée de l'Armée offers keys to a better understanding of today's social, cultural and geopolitical realities. Driven by this conviction, it has embarked on an ambitious extension and transformation programme. Its objective is to open four new permanent itineraries by 2030 and improve the visitor experience.

The first of these "Les Invalides: between history and memories" itineraries, which is devoted to the history of the site, opened its doors in July 2024. By telling the story of the place that houses it, the Musée de l'Armée has become the site's own museum. The next spaces will be devoted to France's armed forces and military engagements, the post-1945 period and the Cold War, and lastly to colonisation and decolonisation.

The Musée de l'Armée's approach is global, open to the world and committed to its civic mission; it provides its visitors with keys to understanding the changing world whilst providing links between the past, present and future.





TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

FIGHTING IN EXILE ARTISTS AND FRANCE 1939 – 1945

Temporary Exhibition Rooms, East Wing, 3rd floor

26 FEBRUARY – 22 JUNE 2025

In the early days of the Second World War, numerous artists, intellectuals and fighters left their countries for exile elsewhere. Those who were being persecuted, those who opposed Fascism and Nazism, militants and political figures, intellectuals and artists – both French and foreign – left mainland France for other destinations, fleeing the Occupation and Vichy France to live in exile. “Fighting in Exile. Artists and France 1939–1945” exhibition offers a moving journey through the arts and history, revealing how exiled artists and intellectuals channelled their creativity into supporting the values of liberty.

This exhibition forms part of the national events commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Liberation. From the perspective of the arts, communication, education and the sciences, the exhibition sheds light on the intense cultural battle to gain the hearts and minds of neutral and allied countries. It also highlights the persistence of freedom of action and creation within the rallied territories. A “certain French spirit”, which was also defended by foreign artists that supported such values, such as the American sculptor and painter Alexander Calder.

This new exhibition is arranged in four geographical sections that retrace various forms of exile, and focuses both on Free France fighters and refugees living in exile outside Europe. Like General de Gaulle and his government, Free France fighters and intellectuals went to London where they led cultural and intelligence initiatives. In Marseille, the American Varian Fry was responsible for evacuating avant-garde artists and intellectuals to the United States.

From London to Sydney, via New York, Brazzaville, Buenos Aires, Cuba and also Algiers, visitors can learn about the different careers and courageous commitments of a number of important characters. These include prominent figures such as René Cassin, Germaine Krull, André Masson, Wifredo Lam, Maria-Elena Vieira da Silva, Henry Valensi, Fernand Léger, Jean Hélion, Anna Marly, Micheline Rosenberg, Georges Duthuit, Jean Gabin, and many others.

The exhibition’s scenography encourages visitors to share the destinies, emotions, battles and hopes, notably through the reconstruction of two iconic French sites within the United States: the New York studio of sculptor Ossip Zadkine, who had been living in exile since 1941, a true sanctuary of creativity and resistance; and the famous New York bookshop, Gotham Books, with its vibrant atmosphere where the French spirit flourished in the midst of war.

A catalogue published by Gallimard, and a series of cultural activities, concerts, lectures, films, guided tours and activities for young people accompany the exhibition.

Curators – Musée de l’Armée:

Vincent Giraudier, Head of Department, Historial Charles de Gaulle
Sylvie Le Ray-Burimi, Chief Heritage Curator, Head of the Fine Arts and Heritage Department

and with input from Carine Lachèvre, Assistant to the Head of Department, Historial Charles de Gaulle

Assisted by Louise Le Bars

TEMPORARY DISPLAYS



The Forgotten Battles of the Free French Forces: the Liberation of the Vosges and Alsace, Autumn 1944

6 NOVEMBER 2024 – 30 MARCH 2025

Historial Charles de Gaulle – East Wing

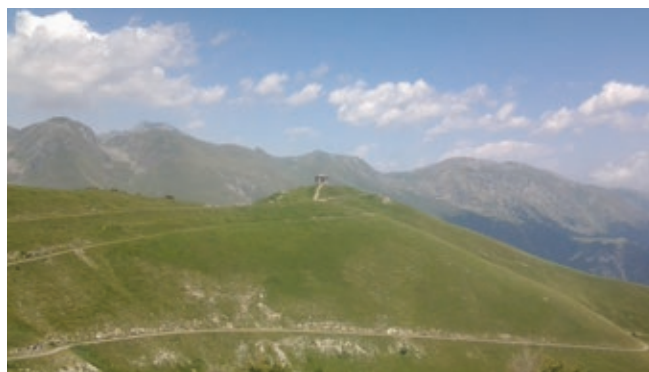
On 31 July 1943, enlistments in the Free French Forces ended; this reflected the desire to create a France that was united in combat. However, the destinies of the Free French differed. General Leclerc, the leader of the 2nd DB (Armoured Division), managed to reunite fighters of various origins – Free French, Army of Africa soldiers, and escapees from France – and liberate Paris. The 1st DFL (Free French Division), rechristened Division de Marche d'Infanterie (Marching Infantry Division, DMI), fought in Italy and was involved in the Provence landings. Fighters who had landed in Normandy and Provence met up at Nod-sur-Seine, in the department of the Côte-d'Or, then advanced towards the Vosges and Alsace where the German army retreated and regrouped. They engaged in particularly challenging battles in harsh winter conditions. Strasbourg was liberated on 23 November 1944, followed by Colmar on 2 February 1945. The exhibition retraces these unrecognised and decisive battles to liberate the entire territory.

Curators – Musée de l'Armée:

Vincent Giraudier, Head of Department, Historial Charles de Gaulle
Lieutenant-colonel Philippe Guyot, Head of the Artillery Department

With the support of the Free France Foundation

Patrol by the 1st Regiment de fusiliers marins (Marine Rifle Regiment) in the Vosges, Autumn 1944 © Paris, musée de l'Ordre de la Libération



The Forgotten Battles of the Free French Forces: the 1st DFL (Free French Division) in the Authion Massif, April 1945

9 APRIL – 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

Historial Charles de Gaulle – East Wing

In April 1945, the 1st Division Française Libre (Free French Division, DFL) was engaged in fighting in the Authion Massif in the department of the Alpes-Maritimes. Questions have been raised concerning this operation, known as "Duck", at a front that had not moved since September 1944. This small massif's non-strategic position and the German army's imminent defeat minimised this final offensive's military significance. A superfluous fight? One battle too many? Although such questions do not in any way refute the heroism of the soldiers who led the assault, responses to them can be found in the political, diplomatic and strategic issues that this exhibition seeks to highlight.

Curators – Musée de l'Armée:

Vincent Giraudier, Head of Department, Historial Charles de Gaulle
Lieutenant-colonel Philippe Guyot, Head of the Artillery Department

With the support of the Free France Foundation

Redoute de la Pointe des Trois-Communes, Authion Massif, alt. 2,080m, 2016
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MPs in 1945: women fight via the ballot box

8 OCTOBER 2025 – 8 MARCH 2026

Historial Charles de Gaulle – East Wing

On 21 April 1944, by Order of the Comité français de libération nationale (French Committee of National Liberation, CFLN) women were granted the right of “eligibility to vote under the same conditions as men”. This ruling was the culmination of a long fight for equality; it also recognised the part women played in fighting the forces of the Occupation.

310 candidates stood in the constituent legislative elections held on 21 October 1945. Most of these nurses, journalists, secretaries and female workers had worked for the Resistance; some of them had even been deported to Nazi concentration camps. 33 were elected and sat amongst the Nation’s 536 MPs. However, this proportion of 5.6 % fell in subsequent elections and did not return to this level until the 1990s.

This exhibition pays tribute to the first French female MPs by displaying objects and documents that illustrate their parliamentary work and the milestones they established along the route towards parity within political representation.

Curators – Musée de l’Armée:

Hélène Boudou-Reuzé, Acting curator of the Prints Collection, Fine Arts and Heritage Department

Vincent Giraudier, Head of Department, Historial Charles de Gaulle

Eugénie Tell-Éboué at the National Assembly
© National Assembly Archives



Nicolas Daubanes: Depicting war (1870–1945)

19 NOVEMBER 2025 – 10 MAY 2026

Two World Wars itinerary – West Wing

As part of the events commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of France, the Musée de l’Armée has invited – on a carte blanche basis – the visual artist Nicolas Daubanes to fill the spaces devoted to the Third Republic, from the end of the Second Empire to the two World Wars. This permanent itinerary is lined with his works, in a variety of media, which are associated with the commemoration of the wars’ iconic sites; within them the themes of liberty, imprisonment and resistance, which are at the heart of his approach, resonate quite naturally.

Simultaneously, on display within the Pantheon are drawings by the artist made at the ten national commemorative landmarks; these were commissioned by Office national des combattants et des victimes de guerre (French National Office for Veterans and Victims of War).

Nicolas Daubanes was born in 1983. He graduated from the Perpignan School of Fine Arts, is 2024–2025’s artist in residence at the Villa Médicis, and is represented by the Florent Maubert Gallery.

Curators – Musée de l’Armée:

Laëtitia Desserrières, Acting curator of the Drawings Collection, Fine Arts and Heritage Department

Julien Voinot, Head of Collection, Department of the 19th Century and Symbolism

Nicolas Daubanes, *La mutinerie de Fontevraud: l’incendie de l’abbatiale* (The Fontevraud Mutiny: the Burning of the Abbey Church), 2023
© Maubert Gallery / Adagp, Paris, 2024



PERMANENT ITINERARIES

LES INVALIDES: BETWEEN HISTORY AND MEMORIES

NEW PERMANENT ITINERARY OPEN ON 14 JULY 2024

The Musée de l'Armée's unique character stems from its outstanding setting: the Hôtel des Invalides, a national heritage treasure and a genuine multi-functional hub of activity. The Museum's new space opened on the symbolic date of 14 July; it offers its visitors an opportunity to learn about the extraordinary destiny of this unmissable iconic 350-year-old Paris monument founded by Louis XIV to house and care for disabled soldiers. This itinerary begins with a tour of the Salle Vauban,

the Invalides' former refectory with its wall paintings showing the Sun King's glorious conquests. The space represents three centuries of history through some of the Museum's unique works concerning the site's key figures, Louis XIV and Napoleon I. Its central walkway allows visitors to both follow the chronology and appreciate the refectory's spaciousness. Visitors then access an immersive space in order to experience the Invalides through an image-filled journey through space and time.



A RENOVATED SPACE FOR THE SECOND WORLD WAR

REFURBISHED VISITOR SPACE OPENING ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

For the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of France, the Musée de l'Armée is renovating part of its spaces devoted to the Second World War. The 110 m² that represent the last two years of the Battle of the Pacific, the advent of the atomic age, and the end of the Second World War and its aftermath have been refurbished and redesigned to support a more comprehensive historiographical discourse and a more relevant scenography.

The Manhattan Project, launched by the American authorities in 1943, was a research and development programme for designing the first atomic bomb. It resulted in the dropping of the Little Boy and Fat Man bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the 6 and 9 August 1945, precipitating the capitulation of Japan and ending the Second World War. The new itinerary uses film archives and original photographic prints to focus on the bomb's destructive consequences, and a full-size replica of the Little Boy bomb is on display above an aerial view of Hiroshima, all within a more immersive space.

The Musée de l'Armée is displaying objects from Japan and from the Pacific battlefields: Japanese soldiers' uniforms, a saké service, and a melted bottle discovered in the ruins of Hiroshima.

The itinerary's final display concerns the human and materiel costs; it has been redesigned, as has that concerning the trials of Marshal Pétain, Nuremberg and Tokyo. Features on the Occupation of Germany and Austria have been incorporated into this space; film archives are also used to show the reconstruction of Europe and the establishment of new global institutions – the beginnings of a future itinerary devoted to the post-1945 period and the Cold War.

OPERATION NEPTUNE
DAYS FOR D-DAY 6 JUNE 1944

OPERATION NEPTUNE
DAYS FOR D-DAY 6 JUNE 1944



dropping
outside

25 000



allemands répartis sur les
secteurs de débarquement
soldats déployés dans
secteurs de débarquement

25 000



opération
globo

EVENTS

Family week-end

12 AND 13 APRIL 2025

Every year the Museum provides a festive weekend for families, in order to introduce its collections and services. Storytelling tours and games, creative workshops and fun-filled strolls await visitors of all ages, allowing them to journey through time and satisfy their curiosity.

An open-access event, booking required



European Museum Night

17 MAI 2025

Illuminated specially for the evening, the Invalides site welcomes curious visitors wishing to explore the wealth of the Musée de l'Armée's collections. A great opportunity to participate in the fun-filled activities offered by its mediators, and visit the temporary exhibition, "Fighting in Exile. Artists and France 1939-1945", but also to listen to students presenting objects from the collections as part of the "La classe, l'œuvre" ("The Class and the Work") programme.

An open-access event

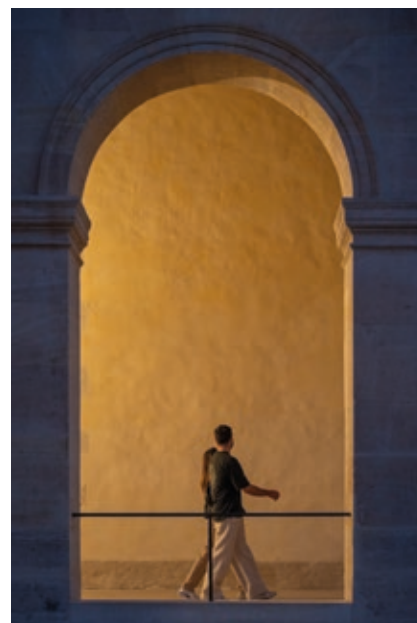


European Heritage Days

20 AND 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

Over a weekend, the museum unveils the wealth of its collections, its history, its professional skills and know-how through numerous activities. Visitors are invited to meet the Museum's teams and partners. Throughout these two days, there are workshops for younger visitors, concerts, demonstrations, guided tours of areas usually closed to the public, and a variety of activities.

An open-access event



Saint Barbara's Day

DECEMBER 2025

Every year on Saint Barbara's Day, the feast of the patron saint of gunners and firefighters, the Musée de l'Armée showcases its artillery collections: in the Cour d'honneur there are live demonstrations, marching bands, exchanges with gunners, and outstanding items that evoke key historical episodes.

*There is free access to outdoor activities.
An event produced in collaboration with
the Draguignan Artillery School*



Christmas at the Invalides

DECEMBER 2025

Over the Christmas season, the Museum is offering families creative and fun-filled opportunities to immerse themselves in its collections, and enjoy learning together.



VISITING THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE



EXPLORING HISTORY

The Musée de l'Armée is an unmissable venue for exploring the history of France. Through its outstanding heritage collections covering the period from Antiquity to the present day – armour, uniforms, arms, works of art, military ordnance, model figures, musical instruments, pieces of artillery, historical memorabilia, and much more besides – visitors, both children and adults, can fully enter into the thick of history. Throughout the year, a number of events and guided tours serve to enhance the experience.

There is suitable provision for little children aged 3 to 6:

from storytelling tours that journey through different eras to workshop tours for learning and creating together.

Young visitors aged 7+,

can participate in game tours, workshops, storytelling tours about historical characters, and join guided tours in the shoes of a period character.

Provided for children and their parents or grandparents, these shared opportunities for families can be enjoyed all year round – at weekends, on Wednesdays and during the school holidays.

Activities suitable for everyone

are scheduled throughout the year: lightning tours, guided tours, special tours, exploratory tours, etc.

The Museum's digital guide

also provides its visitors with guided tours to all the itineraries in 5 languages, and to the temporary exhibitions in French and in English.

Friday's the night.

**LATE OPENING AT THE MUSEUM
EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH,
FROM 6 PM TILL 10 PM**

Visitors can explore the site at nightfall by wandering through the Museum's collections, the Cour d'honneur and the Dôme. At these late openings, visitors are offered a range of activities: "lightning pop" tours for rediscovering History around original and popular themes, the immersive game "Mission at the Invalides", film screenings and other activities. Admission is at the flat rate of €10, plus paid activities: the immersive game "Mission at the Invalides" and guided tours of the exhibitions.



IN THE THICK OF HISTORY THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

History comes alive on the Museum's social media: objects, dates, characters, anecdotes and works are analysed, giving its subscribers direct access to the Museum's collections and knowledge. Its publications are aimed both at history enthusiasts and the curious. Just log in to learn about, see and understand fascinating aspects of our past, through varied and attractive content. In a few clicks, subscribers can dive into the world of great battles, discover the secrets of iconic historical figures and explore the details of valuable artefacts. Its social media thus become a lively extension to the Museum.



To find out more,
musee-armee.fr

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

LECTURES, SYMPOSIUM AND STUDY DAYS

The Musée de l'Armée organises lectures and scientific gatherings throughout the year, allowing experts and researchers to discuss and share the results of their work. Such lectures are open to members of the public who are interested in military history from the Middle Ages to modern times.

Cycle of lectures in partnership with the Permanent University of Paris, as part of the "Fighting in Exile. Artists and France 1939-1945" exhibition.

March to June 2025

"Provenance Research: extra-European collections" study day

31 January 2025 from 9am till 5pm, Austerlitz Auditorium

Provenance Research has recently seen significant developments, notably within the field of extra-European collections, in particular concerning colonial contexts associated with the issue of returning cultural property. Since 2019, the Musée de l'Armée has employed a permanent Provenance Research Officer. The study day allows a progress report to be drawn up and furthers reflection on issues and practices.

The Musée de l'Armée Review No.2

To be published in January 2025

In 2023 the Musée de l'Armée began publishing an annual scientific review reporting on its research and reflecting on its new acquisitions, the restoration of its collections and its scientific findings.



Lectures, symposium and study days are held in the Austerlitz Auditorium.

They are free but booking is required: reservations@musee-armee.fr

To find out more, musee-armee.fr

FILM

The Musée de l'Armée offers a rich and varied film programme, free of charge, based on thematic cycles that resonate with its temporary exhibitions. Film classics, unknown or unreleased films, fiction, documentaries and archives: each screening becomes a genuine field of study and reflection. Historians, film specialists and image professionals hold debates, bringing diverse and illuminating perspectives and thus making the Museum a unique venue where film interacts with history.

Cycle of screenings as part of the "Fighting in Exile. Artists and France 1939-1945" exhibition

from 7 March till 6 June 2025 at 7.30 pm

To complement the exhibition, this cycle focuses on seven fiction films, highlighting the Hollywood studios' war and propaganda effort as the voice of Free France, in relation to French film production that was monitored and censored by the Germans.

7 March, "Casablanca". Michael Curtiz, United States – 1942

14 March, "The Cross of Lorraine". Tay Garnett, United States – 1943

4 April, "The Impostor". Julien Duvivier, United States – 1944

17 April, "The Devil's Envoys". Marcel Carné, France – 1942

2 May, "The Devil's Hand". Maurice Tourneur, France – 1943

23 May, "The Raven". Henri-Georges Clouzot, France – 1943

6 June, "Transit". Christian Petzold, France – 2018



Series of screenings relating to the Second World War

from 5 September till 7 November 2025 at 7.30 pm

In connection with the opening of the renovated rooms concerned with the end of the Second World War, this cycle of five films focuses on the narratives and representations provided by American films concerning the outcome of the conflict.

5 September, "Flags of Our Fathers". Clint Eastwood, United States – 2006

11 September, "Letters from Iwo Jima". Clint Eastwood, United States – 2006

3 October, "Black rain, Kuroi ame". Shohei Imamura, Japan – 1989

17 October, "Judgment at Nuremberg". Stanley Kramer, United States – 1961

7 November, "Ten Seconds to Hell". Robert Aldrich, United States/GB – 1959



The films are to be shown in the Austerlitz Auditorium;
screenings are free but booking is required:
reservations@musee-armee.fr

To find out more, musee-armee.fr



THE INVALIDES MUSICAL SEASON

Fans of classical music are invited to attend the 37 concerts of the Invalides' Musical Season 2024–2025, held between October 2024 and June 2025 within the outstanding setting of the Invalides.

Renowned artists and international orchestras as well as talented members of the younger generation are heading the Invalides' 31st Musical Season, resonating within this prestigious building with its profound musical associations, the Invalides having hosted musical religious and military celebrations since it was founded by Louis XIV in 1670. Throughout the year, its Musical Season offers the public concerts related to commemorative events and the Museum's temporary exhibitions.



The Invalides Musical Season's concerts are held in the Saint-Louis des Invalides cathedral and in the Grand Salon. Find the programme on musee-armee.fr

In the mid-20th century, a period torn between war and peace, a number of artists were forced into exile where they continued to work, fight and defend the values of liberty and fraternity. Parallel with the "Fighting in Exile. Artists and France 1939-1945" exhibition, a musical cycle of 16 concerts will address the theme of exile during the Second World War. Certain musicians such as Schönberg, Korngold, Milhaud, Bartok and Stravinsky were obliged to emigrate and found refuge in the United States. Internal exile, the choice of others such as Dutilleux, Barraine and Poulenc, was equally painful.

To mark the centenary of the Locarno Treaties of 16 October 1925, which established a temporary Franco-German detente, a cycle of 11 concerts will evoke this fragile hope of peace during the inter-war years.

In 2025 visitors will also be invited to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first Invalids at this Hôtel devoted to them. To mark the occasion, the Invalides' Musical Season will include the famous Office de Saint-Louis, a church service taken from the Invalides' antiphonary, one of the Musée de l'Armée's collections' treasures and a reminder of its Musical Season's centuries-old legacy.

THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE'S PARTNERS

The Musée de l'Armée would like to offer its thanks for all the **generous support** it has received throughout the year towards the expansion, enhancement and conservation of its collections.

Key patron



Major patrons



Benefactors



Sponsors






The Drum Major Circle donors as well as **all individual donors** to the Museum.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Hôtel national des Invalides
129, rue de Grenelle – 75007 Paris
France +33 (0)144 423877
musee-armee.fr

ACCESS

M  La Tour-Maubourg
M  Invalides
RER  Invalides

OPENING HOURS

The Museum is open every day from 10am till 6pm, and has late openings until 10pm on the first Friday of every month. It is closed on 1st January, 1st May and 25 December.

PRICES

Single-ticket admission (permanent collections + temporary exhibition)

Full price €17 (from 13 January 2025)

Discounted price €12

Free for the under-18s

Free for 18–25 year-old EU citizens – excluding temporary exhibitions (€5)

Group price €10 (10 or more people)

Audioguide: 3 tour itineraries

Available in 9 languages

(included in the price of admission from 5 February 2025)

BOOKINGS

Online ticket office: musee-armee.fr

Groups: groupes@musee-armee.fr

GUIDED TOURS

Families: see the “Visitors in family groups” section on the website

Schoolchildren and students: for online booking forms, see the “Schoolchildren” section on the website

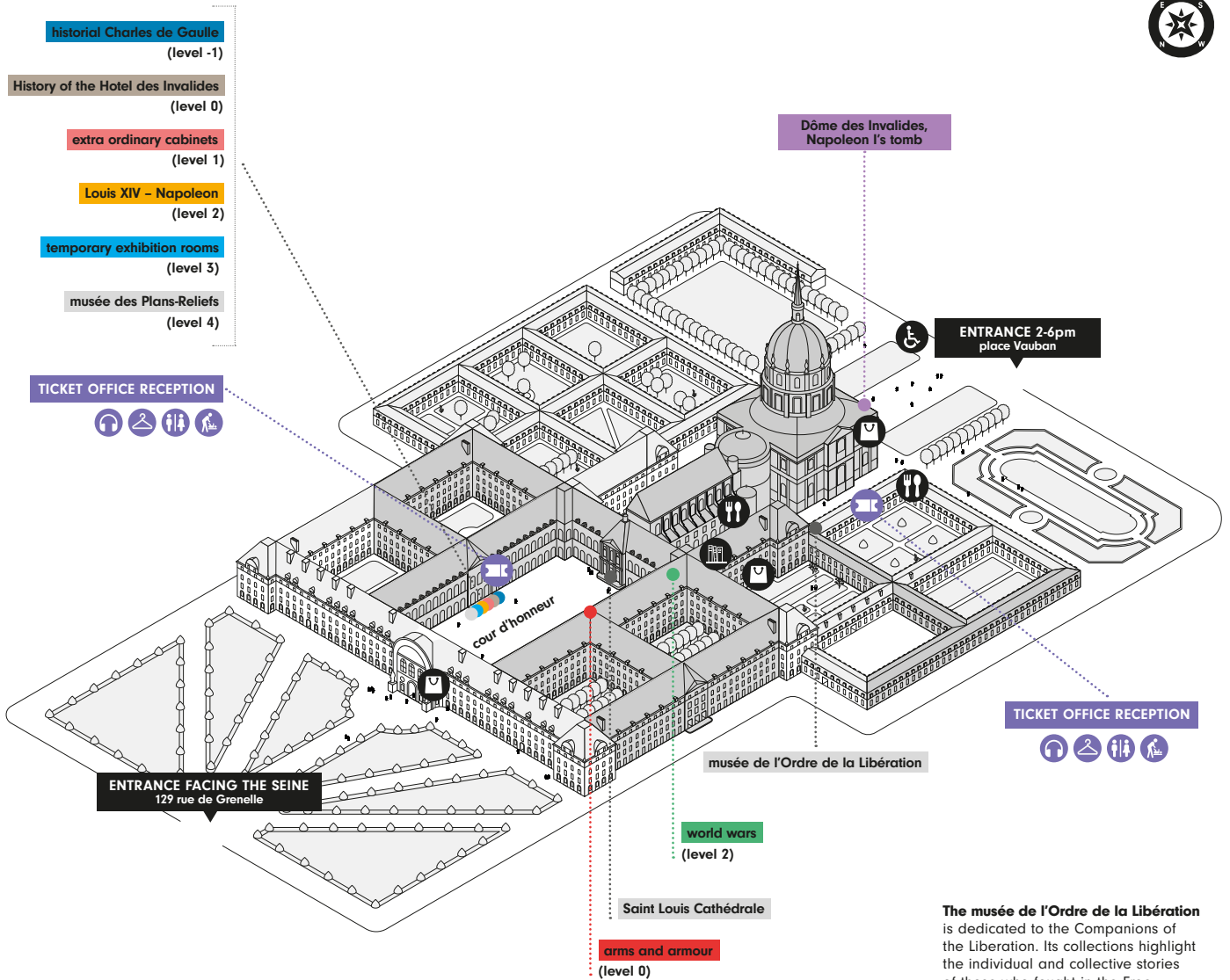
If you have any questions: education@musee-armee.fr

Adults: see the “Adult groups” section on the website

Press Contact
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PLAN



The musée de l'Ordre de la Libération is dedicated to the Companions of the Liberation. Its collections highlight the individual and collective stories of those who fought in the Free French Forces and those who joined the Resistance. Among them, some were deported for opposing Nazi oppression.

The musée des Plans-Reliefs hosts a unique collection of historical scale models that hail from 1668, under the reign of king Louis XIV and has expanded up through the centuries until the reign of Napoleon III. The musée des Plans-Reliefs depicts the key fortified sites that defended the French territory. Today it provides a fascinating insight into the history of borders, mapping, urban planning, architecture and changing landscapes.

-  reception desks / ticket
-  bookstore and gift shop
-  cloakroom
-  disabled access
-  audio guides
-  restaurant
-  documentation and library
-  toilets
-  changing table



VISIT THE MUSEUM

Musée de l'Armée-Invalides
129 rue de Grenelle – 75 007 Paris

Every day from 10 am till 6 pm Late
openings until 10 pm on 1st Friday of
every month

Prices and bookings



YOUR SCHEDULE

Exhibitions, concerts, events,
guided tours, lectures, film

musee-armee.fr



STAY CONNECTED

Social media

