Château de Fontainebleau

Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI at the Château de Fontainebleau



PRESS KIT



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INTRODUCTION

Fontainebleau, a château at the heart of the reign of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette

A preferred residence of sovereigns since the Renaissance, the Château de Fontainebleau holds a singular place in the life and reign of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette. The royal couple stayed there on eleven occasions between 1770 and 1786, primarily in the autumn, perpetuating the tradition of the grand hunting stays that punctuated Court life under the Ancien Régime.

Appreciated for its more intimate setting than Versailles, Fontainebleau was a place dear to Marie-Antoinette, who had exceptional spaces created there, reflecting the evolution of the tastes and sensibilities of her time, as evidenced by her famous Turkish Boudoir.

While Fontainebleau was a place of pleasure and entertainment — with performances, concerts, theatrical productions, and festivities enlivening the Court — the château also remained an active center of power. Louis XVI held council there, received ambassadors, and signed official acts, affirming the château's strategic role at the heart of the governance of the kingdom.

The royal couple's final stay in 1786, 240 years ago, marked the end of a centuries-old tradition. It stands as the ultimate expression of an art of living and a political system that would be profoundly transformed just a few years later by the French Revolution. Through this anniversary, the Château de Fontainebleau invites visitors to rediscover its major role in the political, artistic, and cultural history of the late Ancien Régime.

Exhibitions, tours, performances, and concerts: this season highlights the château's major role in the political, artistic, and cultural life of the 18th century and the royal couple's attachment to Fontainebleau. In 2026, Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI open wide the doors of the Château de Fontainebleau to you!

FOREWORD



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Marie-Christine LABOURDETTE
Présidente
du Château de
Fontainebleau

« Nothing is more alive than the memory of happy days, » wrote Marie-Antoinette in the turmoil of the Revolution. Was she then thinking of her life as a sovereign at Fontainebleau? No doubt, for she remained deeply attached to this château, which she discovered at the age of fifteen, as a very young Dauphine, and where she made many long and brilliant stays.

Together with the château's teams, I wished for the year 2026 to embody this sentence. We invite you to come and dream, and to rediscover this palace and its treasures, in the company of Marie-Antoinette. The last Queen of France, now a figure of fantasy, forever embodies the elegance and splendor of the 18th century, so present in the State Apartments of « the true home of Kings. »

This exceptional season will be marked by unprecedented gatherings and events recounting Court life under Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI at Fontainebleau.

On April 18 and 19, an extraordinary weekend of historical reenactments will revive the elegance, sociability, and splendor of the reign of Louis XVI. You will journey back in time as you stroll through the encampment of the Royal Guard or the Merchants' Gallery, converse with Rose Bertin, the Queen's milliner, and Léonard, her hairdresser, attend historical vignettes, and witness a spectacular equestrian fantasy conceived by the Alexis Grüss company.

In June, an exhibition of stage costumes will demonstrate how greatly Marie-Antoinette remains an inspiring figure for the theatre. These costumes, owing to the immense talent of Christian Lacroix, made possible through the partnership with the Opéra-Comique and the National Centre for Stage Costume in Moulins, whom I warmly thank, will be presented in the Queen's Apartments, sumptuously refurnished for the occasion.

After the Queen's picnic in July, the autumn will be unforgettable. The château will present a unique exhibition, « Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI at Fontainebleau: Splendor and Sweetness of Life, » showcasing artistic treasures in light of the latest scientific discoveries concerning the works commissioned by the royal couple at the château. Spaces designed for the Queen and the King will be evoked either through reconstructions, where they have disappeared, or through special displays in the case of the château's secret rooms. Thematic or theatrical tours will set your hearts racing as you uncover the secrets of the Court.

Music will accompany this journey through time: the residency of Thomas Hengelbrock and the Balthasar Neumann Ensembles will span the four seasons of 2026, with autumn devoted to works dear to the Queen, who was an accomplished musician. In September, a DJ set will recall the audacity of this château, a center of artistic modernity for several centuries.

In June, the 15th Festival of the History of Art will welcome Morocco as the guest country and will take Fashion as its theme, extending a dynamic of dialogue and discovery, in the image of Marie-Antoinette's cosmopolitan and curious spirit.

I warmly invite you to come to the château and discover the surprises we have prepared for you for this singular year. At Fontainebleau, thanks to the passionate work of our teams, Art is alive and History is never merely a memory, but an experience to be lived and shared.

See you soon!



THE CHÂTEAU IN THE TIME OF MARIE-ANTOINETTE AND LOUIS XVI

THE REFURNISHING OF THE STATE APARTMENTS
Games Room, Silver Boudoir, Turkish Boudoir, Queen's Bedchamber
From February onwards

Queen of every fashion, Marie-Antoinette left a lasting mark on the decorative arts, and the interiors she left at Fontainebleau bear witness to her perfect refinement. In 2026, her apartments will regain their original furnishings. This will provide an opportunity to see exceptional rooms — the Games Room, the Silver Boudoir, and the Turkish Boudoir — created by the greatest artists, such as the cabinetmaker Riesener, and to discover Marie-Antoinette's apartments as she knew them during her final stay at Fontainebleau in 1786.

Included with the château admission ticket.

Secretary in gilded bronze and mother-of-pearl from the Argent boudoir designed for Marie-Antoinette in 1786 at the Château de Fontainebleau, by Jean-Henri Riesener (1734-1806). Accessible in the castle tour © Château de Fontainebleau (Pierre Holley)

Focus on the Restoration of the Folding Screen

This six-panel folding screen, created during the reign of Louis XVI (1774–1792), is a testament to the exquisite refinement of the decorative arts at the royal court at the end of the 18th century. Each panel, measuring 126 cm in height and 65 cm in width, consists of a carved and painted wooden frame, accented with bronze elements, surrounding sumptuous painted silk satin adorned with polychrome floral bouquets, emblematic of the naturalistic taste of the period.

The folding screen is the joint work of the cabinetmaker Jean-Baptiste Claude Sené and the sculptors Jean Hauré and Nicolas Vallois. Restored in January 2026, it will return to its place in the Queen's Games Room from February, thus resuming both its original function and its historical context.

The screen is the only piece of furniture to have retained its original fabric; it is part of the set created for Marie Antoinette in 1786 by Sené and Vallois under the direction of Hauré, like the other chairs on display.

The restoration of Marie Antoinette's screen was made possible thanks to the patronage of the Rotary Club of Fontainebleau.





Top left : Marie-Antoinette screen from the Queen's Games salon of the Château de Fontainebleau, before restoration © GrandPalaisRmn (Château de Fontainebleau) / Philippe Fuzeau

Bottom lef t: Restoration of Marie-Antoinette's screen, soon to be installed in the Queen's Games lounge © Pierre Holley

THE GARDENS AND THE PARK



On the occasion of this exceptional year, the gardens will be adorned in the tones dear to Marie-Antoinette.

The composition of the Grand Parterre, designed under Louis XIV and created by André Le Nôtre, will be placed under the aegis of Marie-Antoinette, featuring a floral arrangement in shades of pink with pastoral evocations. The 2026 planting project for the Grand Parterre is the result of close collaboration between the Directorate of Buildings and Gardens and the Directorate of Heritage and Collections.

For this Marie-Antoinette year, the choice of flowers and textures has been carefully conceived as a tribute to the Queen's tastes and world. The dominant chromatic tone of the plant palette will be pink, illustrated by the carnation, an emblematic flower of the 18th century. Grasses with supple foliage, interspersed with cosmos and Paris daisies, will recall the pastoral aesthetic of meadows so dear to the Queen. Finally, the finely cut leaves of cinerarias and dahliettas will pay tribute to the delicate motifs of period fabrics and tapestries, notably the fireplace screen in the Games Room of Marie-Antoinette and the floral print of the Queen's summer bed hangings.



Top, right: Sketch illustrating the flowering of the Grand Parterre for the Marie-Antoinette year, produced by the Garden Service © Château de Fontainebleau
Bottom right: Aerial view of the Grand Parterre © François Lison - Cémaprod

THE QUEEN'S SHOP

She was said to be extravagant, and it is certain that she would have adored the new collections for 2026. The Château bookshop-boutique is offering four product lines specially created for this Marie-Antoinette year at Fontainebleau.

An entire range of objects and accessories has been designed based on the sumptuous décor of her Silver Boudoir, with its antique-inspired motifs: notebooks, bags, jewelry… This selection embodies the femininity and elegance of the patterns then in vogue.
From one décor to another, a second line has been inspired by the single surviving length of fabric from the Queen's bedchamber before the Revolution. Presented in the exhibition opening in October, its main motif is a charming butterfly, which has notably inspired a superb fan as well as a pop-styled notebook sure to surprise.

The current fabric of the Queen's bedchamber, commissioned by her but installed only under Empress Joséphine, has likewise inspired the designers for a third line of accessories of assertive elegance.

Finally, this offering would not have been complete without a reference to the magnificent carmine camaïeu service of Louis XV, which Marie-Antoinette, then Dauphine, knew during her stays at Fontainebleau. A mug, a small dish, and a tablecloth are directly inspired by it.
Gastronomic pleasures have not been forgotten, with an exclusive collaboration with the house of Meert, which is offering in particular two teas inspired by the Queen's boudoirs. The elegance and quality of this renowned house lend this selection all the refinement expected for an "art de vivre " shopping experience.

Lastly, a selection of reference works will of course be presented alongside these collections, including the biography devoted to Marie-Antoinette by Cécile Berly, as well as the book by Muriel Barbier, Director of Heritage and Collections, specially published for the occasion. Entitled 24 Hours in the Life of the Queen, it offers a deeper understanding of the sovereign's daily life during her stays at Fontainebleau.

"24 Hours in the Life of a Queen: Marie-Antoinette at Fontainebleau", written by Muriel Barbier, Director of Heritage and Collections at the Château de Fontainebleau, offers a sensitive and thoroughly researched immersion into the queen's stays at Fontainebleau between 1771 and 1786.



In this conveniently sized volume, readers follow Marie-Antoinette throughout a typical day, discovering her rituals, habits and the major events that marked her visits. This approach reveals a more intimate portrait of the queen.

Drawing on accounts by her contemporaries and enriched with carefully selected illustrations, the book also highlights the lasting imprint Marie-Antoinette left on the château. At the crossroads of history and personal experience, this work offers a fresh perspective on the queen and on the unique role Fontainebleau played in her life.

24 Hours in the Life of a Queen: Marie-Antoinette at Fontainebleau
by Muriel Barbier, Director of Heritage and Collections at the Château de Fontainebleau

Publisher : Éditions Le Passage
Format : 140 × 180 mm
Retail price : €14.90





















4e de couverture 1ère de couverture



2e de couverture 3e de couverture

Right: Illustrations of one of the four ranges designed by the GrandPalais RMN, on the occasion of the Marie-Antoinette year at the Château de Fontainebleau.
“Silver Boudoir” range.
Products: Notebook, fan, kit, soap, scented sachet, lip balm and mints, shopping bag, notebook details
© GrandPalais RMN / Château de Fontainebleau


MARIE
Archiducheesse
REINE DE
Née à Vienne le
Mariée à Versailles
ANTOINETTE
d'Autriche,
FRANCE,
2 Novem. 1755.
le 19. May 1770
† 1793.

EXHIBITIONS

In 2026, the Château de Fontainebleau places its exhibition program under the sign of Marie-Antoinette, an emblematic figure whose aura has continued to transcend the centuries. These events invite visitors of all ages to rediscover the Queen and her era through a renewed perspective, at the crossroads of 18th-century heritage and contemporary resonances. Visitor itineraries, focus exhibitions, and masterpieces brought together for the occasion shape an exceptional season, where history enters into dialogue with creation, and splendor with the sweetness of life.

« MARIE-ANTOINETTE: FROM THE AVANT-GARDE TO CENTER STAGE.
STAGE COSTUMES CREATED BY CHRISTIAN LACROIX »
From 5 June to 2 November



If there is one field in which Marie-Antoinette has left a lasting mark through the centuries, it is fashion. As a trendsetter of her time, she has continued to inspire designers around the world ever since.
On the occasion of the Festival of Art History, whose theme this year is '' Fashion '', the château's visitor route presents 11 stage costumes from the collections of the National Centre for Stage Costume. Designed for the opera *Le Postillon de Longjumeau,* these creations by Christian Lacroix evoke the full flamboyance of the 18th century.

In partnership with the National Center for Stage Costume and the Opéra Comique
Accessible with the castle entrance ticket
Self-guided tour

Left: Marie-Antoinette of Austria, Queen of France, Louis-Jacques Cathelin, (1739-1804), print. Coll. Palace of Versailles © GrandPalaisRmn (Château de Versailles)
Right: Costume exhibition "Marie Antoinette: from the avant-garde to the forefront. Stage costumes created by Christian Lacroix", from June 5 to November 2 © DR

« MARIE-ANTOINETTE AND LOUIS XVI AT FONTAINEBLEAU: SPLENDOR AND THE SWEETNESS OF LIFE »
From 11 October 2026 to 25 January 2027

Two hundred and forty years after their last stay, Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI return to the Château de Fontainebleau for a major exhibition organized in collaboration with the Grand Palais RMN.

Through their numerous stays there (seven visits between 1774 and 1786), rich with political and family events, these sovereigns demonstrated their attachment to Fontainebleau. The remarkable preserved interiors — the Turkish Boudoir, Silver Boudoir, Queen's Grand Cabinet, King's Powder Room, Salle des Buffets, Trinity Chapel, and more — created under the direction of architects Richard Mique, Nicolas-Marie Potain, and Pierre Rousseau, still bear witness to this moment of grace within the château.

More than 120 exceptional works related to the château — portraits, drawings, sculptures, and art objects — have been assembled thanks to loans from around twenty prestigious French and international institutions (Château de Versailles, Louvre Museum, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon, etc.) and allow visitors to immerse themselves in Court life on the eve of the Revolution, with particular attention to theatre and music.

The result of extensive research, this exhibition highlights the work and legacy of the last sovereigns of the Ancien Régime at Fontainebleau.

« THE PANACHE OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT »

From 19 september 2026 to 25 january 2027
In partnership with the Château de Pau and the Grand Palais RMN.

This exhibition, devoted to the reinterpretation of the figure of Henry IV under Louis XVI, will be presented alongside the exhibition on Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI at Fontainebleau. It will highlight the cycle of Henry IV's history painted by François-André Vincent, whose sketches are preserved in Pau. On the eve of the Revolution, the figure of Henry IV — « Father of the People » and the first Bourbon — is invoked by Louis XVI, whose reign was increasingly fragile.

Saint-Louis Rooms, on the visitor route, accessible with the château admission ticket.



Left: Henri IV and Sully at Fontainebleau © RMN-Grand-Palais (Fontainebleau) / Gérard Blot
Right: Bust of Marie-Antoinette, Lecomte Felix (1737-1817), sculpture, 1783. Work presented in the fall exhibition "Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI at Fontainebleau. Splendor and sweetness of life »
Coll. Palace of Versailles © GrandPalaisRmn (Château de Versailles) / Daniel Arnaudet





Left: Historical reconstructions "The stays of Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI at Fontainebleau" on April 18 and 19 © Château de Fontainebleau. Image created with artificial intelligence
Right: Show produced by the Alexis Grüss Company during the historical reenactments "The stays of Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI at Fontainebleau" on April 18 and 19 © Alexis Grüss Company (Eloïse Vené)

EVENTS

Throughout the year, the Château de Fontainebleau invites visitors to experience history in a new way, through a program of events offering a journey back to the time of Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI's court. Historical reenactments, open-air evenings, screenings, concerts, and festive gatherings will bring to life the vibrancy of the Court and the 18th-century art of living.

HISTORICAL REENACTMENTS : " THE STAYS OF MARIE-ANTOINETTE AND LOUIS XVI AT THE CHÂTEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU "
Saturday, 18 and Sunday, 19 April
Château and Gardens

For centuries a royal residence, the Château de Fontainebleau was one of the favored homes of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette, where they stayed on multiple occasions.

Two hundred and forty years after their last visit, the château offers a weekend dedicated to celebration, bringing to life the lively and refined atmosphere of the 18th century.

During these two days, the château and its gardens will recreate the Court's « autumn visits »:

- A **promenade** with the King through the courtyards and gardens.
- **Encounters** with the sovereigns through a series of vignettes depicting their stays and those of the Court, from Marie-Antoinette's arrival in France in 1770 to their final visit to Fontainebleau in 1786.
- **Exploration of period games** that the Queen particularly enjoyed, such as Pharaoh.
- Insight into **military life with a camp set** up in the English Garden, animated by around fifty reenactors.
- Introduction to **Jeu de Paume,** guided by our master paumier.

The highlight of the weekend will be an equestrian performance presented by the Alexis Grüss companies, recreating the equestrian show given in April 1772 before the young Marie-Antoinette, who was dazzled by it!

An exceptional weekend to reconnect with the refinement, art of living, and grandeur of an era when the heart of Fontainebleau beat to the rhythm of the sovereigns.



Price: €20 to €35. Reduced rate: €12 to €27.
Free for children under 6 years old.

Please note: the standard Château de Fontainebleau ticket is not valid for these two days. Access to the château and gardens will only be possible with a special event ticket



QUEEN'S PICNIC & BALL
4 July from 7:30 PM
English Garden

During the Court's stays at Fontainebleau, performances and dancing played a central role. While Marie-Antoinette expressed her refined musical taste, it is well known how much she loved balls. In the bucolic setting of the English Garden, visitors will enjoy a picnic and demonstrations of 18th-century dances in period costume. The most daring may even try their hand at the gavotte or the minuet!

Admission: €20
Free for children under 7
Bring your own picnic
Food trucks will also be available on site

MARIE-ANTOINETTE, QUEEN OF THE SCREEN
From 10 to 17 October
L'Ermitage Cinema, Fontainebleau

From the very beginning, cinema has been captivated by the tragic fate of Marie-Antoinette. To date, 68 films have depicted the sovereign on screen. As part of the exhibition's opening, a film series dedicated to the Queen will be presented, including two biopics:
Marie-Antoinette, Queen of France by Jean Delannoy, with Michèle Morgan in the lead role, and the very modern Marie-Antoinette by Sofia Coppola, starring Kirsten Dunst.
The full program can be found on the website.

In partnership with L'Ermitage Cinema, Fontainebleau.

LECTURE : MARIE-ANTOINETTE IN IMAGES: THE STORY OF AN UNBROKEN METAMORPHOSIS SINCE THE 18TH CENTURY "
By Cécile Berly, historian
Sunday, 17 October, ahead of the screening
Time: Available on our website

LECTURE: " MARIE-ANTOINETTE AND LOUIS XVI: BETWEEN MYTH AND REALITY "
November
Colonnes Room

Emblematic sovereigns swept away by the Revolution, Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI continue to challenge historians. On this special day, lectures, readings, and symposia will help us gain a deeper understanding of them.Information to be announced on the château's website.

More information available on our website.

THE QUEEN'S CONCERTS
Every weekend from 9 to 25 October
Ballroom

Music played a central role in the life of Marie-Antoinette, with composers such as Grétry and Gluck, whose work she championed at Court. Beneath the gilded ceilings and vaulted halls of the Château de Fontainebleau, conductor Thomas Hengelbrock and his Ensembles Balthasar Neumann, as part of their artistic residency, bring this historical gem to life through dazzling concerts, open rehearsals, meetings with the artists, youth programs, and charitable initiatives.
In this royal setting, each note resonates with the splendor of the past, and every pause promises pure emotion. Thomas Hengelbrock and the Ensembles Balthasar Neumann will reinterpret Marie-Antoinette's favorite works.

- Concert in the Ballroom, from 9 to 11 October.

Works by the Queen's favorite composers.
Price: €27 | Reduced rate: €20
Château admission ticket sold separately

- Musical promenade through the château's iconic rooms, on the weekends of 17–18 and 24–25 October.
Price: €20 to €44

The ticket includes château admission.
Times to be announced on the website.





Top left : Queen's picnic and ball © Image managed by artificial intelligence
Top, right: Residence of Thomas Hengelbrock and the Balthasar Neumann Ensembles © Émilie Brouchon
Bottom, right: Details of the Argent boudoir designed for Marie-Antoinette in 1786 at the Château de Fontainebleau, under the direction of the architect Pierre Rousseau (1751-1829), including furniture in gilded bronze and mother-of-pearl made by Jean-Henri Riesener (1734-1806). Accessible on the castle tour circuit.
© GrandPalaisRmn (Château de Fontainebleau) / Raphaël Chipault



Left: Historical reconstructions “The stays of Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI in Fontainebleau” on April 18 and 19. © Château de Fontainebleau (Marc Chaslin)
Top, right : Reproduction of the decorations of the Boudoir d’Argent as it leaves the store as part of the workshop “To your feathers” © Château de Fontainebleau (Marc Chaslin)
Bottom, right: Reproduction of the decorations of the Boudoir d’Argent coming out of the store as part of the workshop “To your feathers” © Château de Fontainebleau

TOURS AND WORKSHOPS

Through tours and workshops, the Château de Fontainebleau offers visitors an intimate look at the daily life of Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI. With a sensitive and playful approach to the 18th century and courtly customs, this program is designed for all audiences, combining education, emotion, and discovery.

WORKSHOP: " PEN IN HAND! WRITE TO MARIE-ANTOINETTE "



Until 31 July, visitors are invited to write a letter to the Queen. The project "Pen in Hand! Write to Marie-Antoinette " allows both young and old to create a unique connection where history resonates with contemporary voices. This literary initiative is led by Cécile Berly, a recognized historian specializing in the 18th century and author of numerous works on Marie-Antoinette.

At the conclusion of the project, the most beautiful and touching letters received will be compiled and published in a collection of the finest missives.
For Cécile Berly, " History is never as captivating as when it is brought to life: Marie-Antoinette remains a figure who stirs emotion even today. Daring to write a letter to the most famous queen in our history, addressed to one of her favorite residences, the Château de Fontainebleau, is both an original and meaningful gesture! I invite the public to share their emotions and what she inspires in them..."

Marie-Christine Labourdette, President of the Château de Fontainebleau, also welcomes " this wonderful initiative, which highlights the importance of Marie-Antoinette in history and in the château's grand interiors. She loved this place, transforming it and leaving her mark. Throughout her life, she devoted time to writing her correspondence, and we are delighted to invite visitors to rediscover the joy of writing at the heart of the château. The " Write a Letter to Marie-Antoinette " project is open to everyone and enthusiastically launches the great Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI year at Fontainebleau, with a rich program awaiting the public. "

Additionally, for an even more immersive experience of the 18th century, the château's boutique exit area has been completely redesigned for the occasion, adorned with a faithful reproduction of the wood paneling from the Silver Boudoir.



Participating is simple. Throughout the duration of the project, everyone will be able to:

1. Send your letter by mail to the address of the Château de Fontainebleau: " Marie-Antoinette, Château de Fontainebleau – 77300 Fontainebleau. "
2. Write it directly on-site at the château's boutique entrance, where a writing space and a dedicated mailbox will be available.

WORKSHOP: " THE FRENCH ART OF LIVING UNDER MARIE-ANTOINETTE AND LOUIS XVI "
Spring holidays, from 22 to 30 April, and during the May long weekends, from 14 to 16 May



Families will travel back in time to the heart of the 18th century and become guests of King Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette! How should one dress and avoid social missteps? A pair of experienced courtiers will offer valuable advice and reveal all the codes of the court.
This is an original, interactive living-history experience, created and performed by Duo Diapason, suitable for children aged 6 and up.

Daily at 11:00, 14:00, and 15:30.
Duration: 1 hour
Price: €27 | €10 reduced rate, including château admission.

GUIDED TOUR "THE BOUDOIRES OF MARIE-ANTOINETTE "
From October 10, 2026 to January 25, 2027



Among the hidden treasures of the castle, the Turkish boudoir, with exotic decorations and sumptuous fabrics, designed for Marie-Antoinette in 1777, and the Argent boudoir, sparkling with white and gilded gold with delicate patterns dating from 1786, offer a rare testimony to the queen's refined taste. Enter these two settings which allow the visitor to enter into the privacy of the queen.

Every Saturday
Duration: 1 hour
Price: €27 | €10 reduced rate, with castle ticket included

Left, top: Historical reconstructions "The stays of Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI in Fontainebleau" April 18 and 19 © Château de Fontainebleau (Marc Chaslin)
Left, bottom: Turkish Boudoir, designed for Marie-Antoinette in 1777 based on Richard Mique architectural plans and decorated by the Rousseau brothers. It was then refurnished for the Empress Joséphine with creations by Jacob-Desmalter. Accessible by guided tour. © Château de Fontainebleau (DR)
Right: Details of the Turkish boudoir, designed for Marie-Antoinette in 1777 based on Richard Mique architectural plans and decorated by the Rousseau brothers. It was then refurnished for Empress Joséphine with creations by Jacob-Desmalter. Accessible by guided tour © GrandPalaisRmn (Château de Fontainebleau) / Thierry Ollivier



GUIDED TOUR: " THE ROYAL APARTMENTS UNDER LOUIS XVI "

From 11 October 2026 to 27 January 2027

This guided tour immerses visitors in the history of the Grand Apartments during the reign of Louis XVI and highlights the emblematic masterpieces of the exhibition.

Schedule available on the website.
Price: €24 | €7 reduced rate, including château admission.



THEATRICAL TOUR: " MARIE-ANTOINETTE, QUEEN OF FASHION "

Autumn holidays, from 17 October to 2 November

If Marie-Antoinette set the fashion of her time, she owed her signature style to her milliner Rose Bertin and her hairdresser Léonard. Meet these two figures, who will guide you in becoming the court's ultimate fashion victims !

Daily at 11:00, 14:00, and 15:30.
Duration: 1 hour
Price: €30 | €13 reduced rate, including château admission.

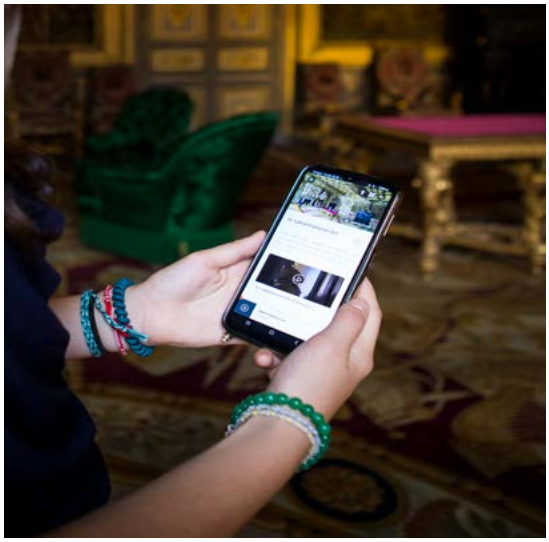


WEB-APPLICATION

The Château de Fontainebleau in your pocket! Free and accessible without download, you can explore captivating thematic tours, test your knowledge with fun quizzes, and dive into history through exclusive videos.

New

In 2026, walk in Marie Antoinette's footsteps at the palace with the new tour dedicated to the queen!
Available without download and free of charge.



Left, top and center: Historical reconstructions "The stays of Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI in Fontainebleau" on April 18 and 19 © Château de Fontainebleau (Marc Chaslin)
Left, bottom: Web-application © Château de Fontainebleau (Lucie Page)
Right: Details of the secretary in gilded bronze and mother-of-pearl from the Argent boudoir designed for Marie-Antoinette in 1786 at the Château de Fontainebleau, by Jean-Henri Riesener (1734-1806). Accessible on the castle tour circuit. © GrandPalaisRmn (Château de Fontainebleau) / Adrien Didierjean



THE CHÂTEAU OF FONTAINEBLEAU

THE TRUE HOME OF KINGS, THE HOUSE OF CENTURIES

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, Fontainebleau is the only palace inhabited by all French sovereigns from the 12th to the 19th century. An unparalleled experience awaits visitors wishing to walk in their footsteps.

The Château de Fontainebleau is unique in France. The complexity of its architecture and the variety of its decor reflect the eras and tastes of the rulers who made it their home. Strolling through the galleries, admiring Renaissance frescoes and stuccoes, walking along the enfilades of the king's or queen's apartments, and discovering the solemnity of the Throne Room are all stages of this journey into the heart of history.

Each room resonates with the memory of the sovereigns and their court. Following François I, Henry IV, Louis XIII, or Louis XV, Napoleon I also sought to leave his mark on Fontainebleau by restoring the palace after the Revolution. His apartments and the museum dedicated to him are invaluable testimonies of this imperial past.

Fontainebleau showcases both Renaissance masterpieces, the refined interiors of Marie-Antoinette, Napoleon I's state apartments, and the "comfortable" arrangements desired by Napoleon III and Empress Eugénie.

These monarchs were also aesthetes, inviting the finest artists of their time to shape this palace, where family life, court life, and the exercise of power coexisted. One can relive the stays of the Sun King, the royal weddings of Louis XV, or Napoleon I's legendary Farewell to the Guard on the Horseshoe Staircase. One can also imagine the balls during Catherine de Médicis' era, Marie-Antoinette's strolls in the gardens designed by Le Nôtre, fireworks over the Carp Pond, or nautical jousts on the Grand Canal.

Napoleon called Fontainebleau the " true home of kings. " Indeed, this palace uniquely embodies the union of pleasure and power, of the intimate and the political. Walking through its galleries and gardens, visitors witness 900 years of art and history in a single day.

THE CHÂTEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU IN A FEW WORDS!

63,500 m² of floor space spread over 11 levels
1,536 rooms
121 rooms open to the public
Exceptional collections comprising more than 40,000 works of art
130 hectares of park and historic gardens
UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1981
The most fully furnished royal château in Europe
The only Throne Room in France preserved in its original state
The first Grand Canal in France (1.2 km long) created by Henri IV
One of only two historic Jeu de Paume courts still in use in France

Aerial view of the Court of Honor © Château et Histoire – Pierre Holley | Château de Fontainebleau



PRACTICAL INFORMATION & CONTACTS

Opening Hours and Days

The château and exhibitions are open every day except Tuesday, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (last entry at 4:15 p.m.).
The courtyards and gardens are free and open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (last entry at 6:00 p.m.). The park is open 24 hours a day.

Tickets / Admission

€17 with château admission | €15 at reduced rate | Free for visitors under 26 and other exemptions

Access to the Château de Fontainebleau

By road from Paris: Porte d'Orléans or Porte d'Italie, then A6, Exit Fontainebleau.
By train (SNCF): Gare de Lyon (R Line), stop at Fontainebleau/Avon, then bus line 34.01, Château stop.
The Navigo Pass un-zoning allows pass holders to travel by train to Fontainebleau and take the bus without any additional fare.

Information and reservations www.chateaudefontainebleau.fr

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The Château de Fontainebleau and its estate are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This designation recognizes the universal and exceptional value of a cultural or natural property, ensuring its protection for the benefit of humanity.

MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

Palais et parc de Fontainebleau inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en 1981

On the cover: Bedroom of the Queen, of all the wives of kings, from Marie de Medici to Marie-Antoinette, then bedroom of the Empresses. The bed, designed for Marie-Antoinette, is flanked by quivers, cupids and her initials. It was delivered in 1787. Accessible on the castle tour.
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