

Press release

Published on 24th February 2021

Napoleon 2021: in the footsteps of the Emperor in Seine-et-Marne

2021 marks the bicentenary of the death of Napoleon I, which occurred on 5th May 1821 during his exile on the island of Saint Helena. A number of events are being organised in Seine-et-Marne, the history of which is marked by the Napoleonic epic, and the Department of Seine-et-Marne, the Town of Fontainebleau and the Château de Fontainebleau are joining forces to showcase the exceptional programme. A website dedicated to Napoleon I in Seine-et-Marne has just been launched.

Throughout his reign, and especially from the campaign in north-east France in 1813 to his farewell to the Imperial Guard in 1814, the Emperor and the Seine-et-Marne Department have been closely linked. As part of the bicentenary of the death of Napoleon I, a number of events will be held throughout the territory of Seine-et-Marne until the end of the year.

The commemoration will notably give rise to a series of highlights and events organised by the Seine-et-Marne Department, the Town of Fontainebleau and the Château de Fontainebleau, and labelled "2021 The Year of Napoleon" by the Fondation Napoleon.

As part of this, a partnership was created to promote the events linked to the Napoleonic bicentenary in Seine-et-Marne, and to have the general public learn about the history of the Emperor in Seine-et-Marne.

From May onwards, the bicentenary will include exhibitions, conferences, historical reconstructions and guided tours: you can find the whole programme on the new website napoleon-en-seineetmarne.fr, which outlines every event organised in the department on the Napoleonic bicentenary. You will also learn about the main events marking the Emperor's passage through Seine-et-Marne and read a number of anecdotes about the famous historical figure. An English version of the site will be uploaded in the coming weeks.

A few highlights from the programme:

- **May-June-July:** the Department gives carte blanche to sculptor Jean Gaudaire-Thor;
- **From 6th to 26th May:** exhibition on "L'extraordinaire collection d'armes blanches de maître Prost" ("The extraordinary collection of cold weapons by Master Prost") organised by the Town of Fontainebleau at the municipal media library;
- **7th May:** reopening of the Emperor's library in the Petits Appartements after restoration and reopening of the redesigned and enriched Napoleon I museum - Château de Fontainebleau;
- **18th, 19th & 20th May:** scientific colloquium "La Seine-et-Marne et Napoléon Ier, intimité, pouvoirs et mémoires" ("Seine-et-Marne and Napoleon I, intimacy, powers and memories") - Department Archives & Château de Fontainebleau;
- **From September:** exhibition "Un palais pour l'empereur, Napoléon à Fontainebleau" ("A palace for the Emperor, Napoleon at Fontainebleau") - Château de Fontainebleau;

- **18th & 19th September:** artistic light show at the Château du Martroy - Chauconin-Neufmontiers - Seine-et-Marne Department;
- **From 17th to 26th September:** artistic residency of Thomas Hengelbrock and the Baltasar Neumann Ensemble, Napoleon and Music - Château de Fontainebleau;
- **October:** historical reenactments - Château de Fontainebleau.

You can also download our tour application "In the footsteps of Napoleon I at Fontainebleau", designed by the Château de Fontainebleau and start-up company Little Globe Trotter. A fun, interactive tour will guide the whole family around the palace and gardens.

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