

OPENING TIMES AND PRICES

SEA MUSEUM

Royal Fort on Sainte-Marguerite Island, Cannes
Rens. 04 89 82 26 26 – www.cannes.com

Some rooms in the museum may be closed to the public when temporary exhibitions are being set up or dismantled.

PLEASE NOTE : last admission, 30 minutes before the museum closes.

October to march :

Monday : closed

Tuesday - Sunday : 10.30 am - 1.15 pm and 2.15 pm - 4.45 pm

Closed on November 1st and 11th, December 25th and January 1st.

April to May :

Monday : closed

Tuesday - Sunday : 10.30 am - 1.15 pm and 2.15 pm - 5.45 pm

Closed on May 1st

June to September :

Monday - Sunday : 10 am - 5.45 pm

PRICES

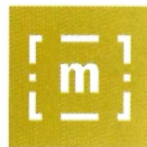
•Full price : 6 €

•Reduced price: €3 (on presentation of proof)
(18 to 25 years old, groups of 10 or more adults, Cannes Pass Culture and APC Aventura)

•Free of charge for everyone: the 1st Sunday of every month from November to March inclusive.

•Free of charge (on presentation of proof) for under 18, students aged up to 26, jobseekers, beneficiaries of disability allowances and accompanying person, beneficiaries of the minimum old-age pension, summer leisure camps, ICOM cardholders, disabled war veterans, teachers with their class.

•Monday only from October to May: €3 (Royal Fort open, museum closed).



Mairie de Cannes - Communication - Avril 2019 - Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique



VISITOR GUIDE

ROYAL FORT

SEA MUSEUM

SAINTE-MARGUERITE ISLAND



1 • ENTRANCE / EXIT

2 • BASTION

The bastion is a feature of the 'bastioned' fortification which appeared in the 16th century in Italy and is a defensive pointed structure built in the walls of the fort. Filled with earth to absorb the impact of cannon balls, it made it easier to engage in crossfire against assailants.

3 • CHURCH

This church was dedicated to Saint Joseph in 1658 and replaced an older place of worship which had become too cramped for the fort's growing population (the soldiers and their families). It has an upper gallery. Its painted decorations have been restored in accordance with the originals.

4 • CURTAIN

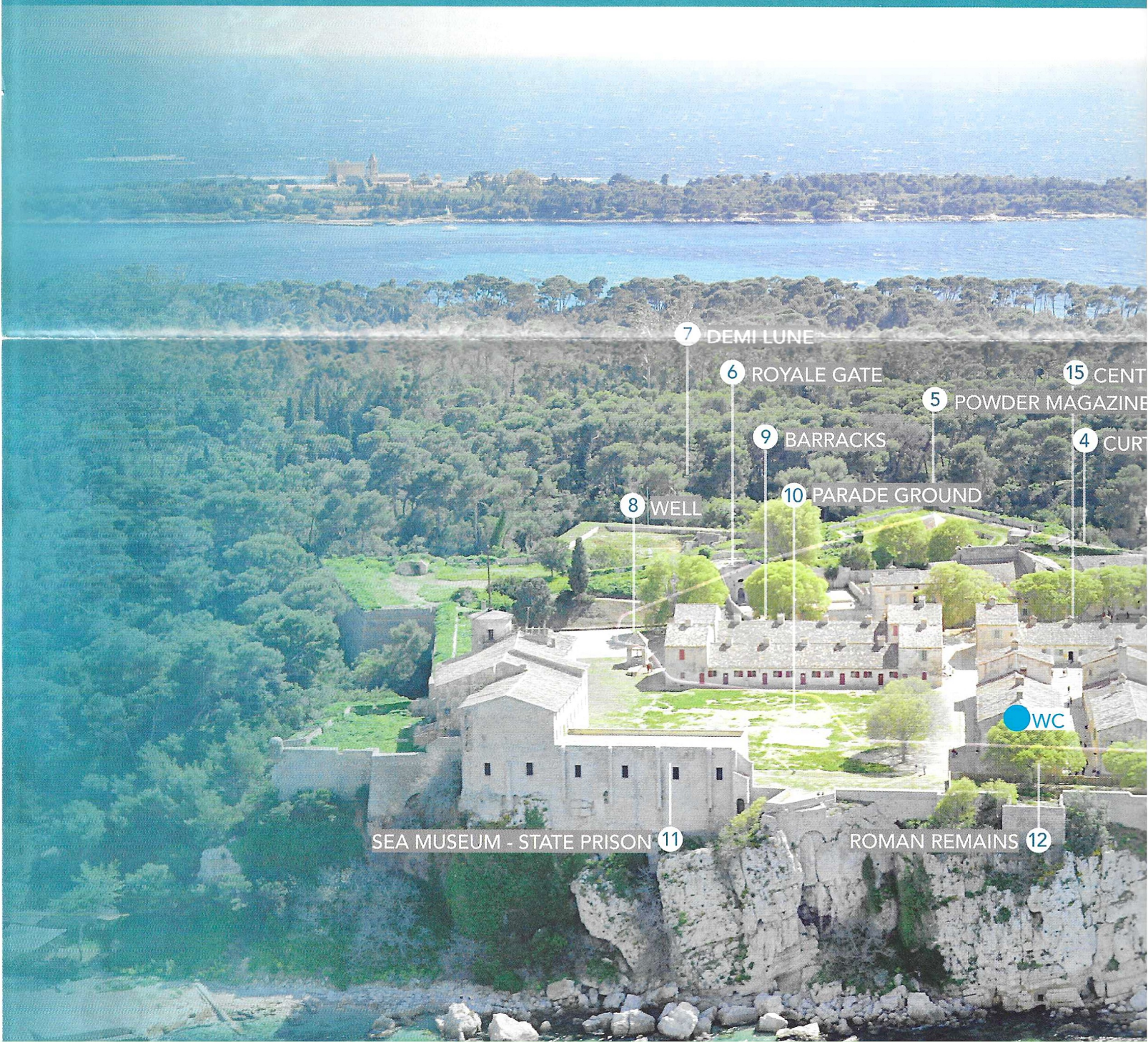
The curtain is a section of wall between two bastions.

5 • POWDER MAGAZINE

This building was used as a gunpowder storehouse. It meets very strict building criteria to prevent the powder being 'set off' by accident and to keep it dry. With a thick, 'bomb-proof' vaulted ceiling, it is protected by a hollow bastion and cannot be seen from outside the fort.

6 • ROYAL GATE

This gate was the main entrance to the Royal Fort in the 17th and 18th centuries and was defended on the ditch side by a 'demi-lune' or ravelin.



7 DEMI LUNE

6 ROYALE GATE

15 CENT

5 POWDER MAGAZINE

9 BARRACKS

4 CURT

8 WELL

10 PARADE GROUND

SEA MUSEUM - STATE PRISON 11

ROMAN REMAINS 12

the wall to protect a gate or a curtain. That was often where the enemy focused its first attack.

8 • WELL

There was once no drinking water at the Royal Fort. Since ancient times, the inhabitants of the site had built several huge tanks and a system for collecting rainwater. This 17th century well with its pyramidal roof also has tanks.

9 • BARRACKS

A building designed to house soldiers, with a long central body (the soldiers' sleeping quarters) flanked by two two-storey lodges (accommodating officers and non-commissioned officers). The Royal Fort barracks is not open to visitors.

bling a troop of soldiers.

11 • SEA MUSEUM - STATE PRISON

Located in the most imposing of the fort's buildings, the museum occupies two separate areas:

- The «Old Castle», built in the 16th century on Roman tanks (1st century) and containing the remains of a medieval tower which was transformed into a semaphore in 1860 (a maritime communications system using signals).
- The State prison built in the late 17th century, containing six cells. Dozens of famous or unknown inmates, imprisoned without trial or conviction, have succeeded each other in this place, including political prisoners who posed a threat to the King (Protestant clergy following the repeal of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, authors of pamphlets, spies, etc.) and «family» prisoners detained at the behest of their relatives (offences against honour, debts, misconduct, etc.). The Man in the Iron Mask was incarcerated there for 11 years.

The fort continued to be a prison after the French Revolution. Several hundred opponents of the colonisation of North Africa were detained there (1841-1884 approx.), including the smala of Abd el-Kader and Kabyle insurgents.

On display at the museum are archaeological objects from excavations on land and under water, such as fragments of ancient mural paintings (Iron Age and 1st century) and the cargo of two shipwrecks found off the island (Roman shipwreck from the late 1st century BCE and a 10th century Saracen shipwreck).

12 • ROMAN REMAINS

From 1972 to 1986, 14 archaeological digs unearthed significant remains dating back to the 3rd century BCE. There are 2 types of remains which can still be seen in the excavation trench:

- Foundations of walls belonging to an Iron Age dwelling (Celts-Ligurian oppidum, possibly attached to a sanctuary).
- An imposing rampart with semi-circular buttresses built by the Romans (2nd century BCE/1st century).

13 • BAZAINE TERRACE

This terrace was built on Roman remains (cryptoportico) and converted into a bakery in the 17th century. It was named after Marshal François Achille Bazaine. Charged with treason during the Franco-Prussian War, the marshal was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment at Sainte-Marguerite, but made an extraordinary escape ten months after he arrived.

Note in passing the wells on tanks and the remarkably well-preserved watchtower, (the building that juts out on the corner of the rampart where the watchman took up position).

14 • MÉDITERRANOSCOPE®

Point Info Biodiversité®. CPIE
(French environmental association) for the
Lérins Islands and the Pays d'Azur.



15 • THE INTERNATIONAL LÉRINS ISLANDS YOUTH CENTER



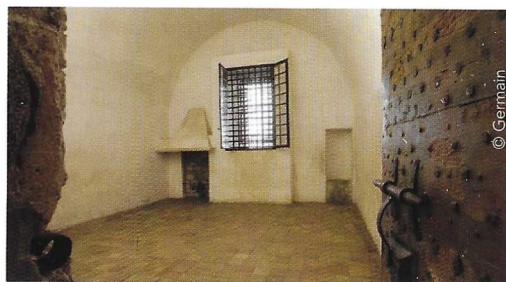


© Eric Dumas



THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK

Made famous by Voltaire and Alexandre Dumas, the Man in the Iron Mask is one of History's best known prisoners. This «prisoner whose name no-one knows, whose face no-one has seen, a living mystery, shadow, enigma, problem,» according to Victor Hugo, enthralled generations of historians and novelists. He has been given around fifty different identities, the most fanciful being that of Louis XIV's twin brother. Current research is mainly focused on the figure of Eustache Dauger (or Danger). This theory would imply a thirty-four year imprisonment. Eustache Dauger was arrested in 1669 by the King's order and taken to Pignerol Fortress in the custody of his jailer, Bénigne Dauvergne de Saint-Mars. He went with him from prison to prison: to the Château d'Exilles, in 1681, to Sainte-Marguerite Fort from 1687 to 1698, then the Bastille where he died in 1703. Saint-Mars was one of the few to have mixed with this mysterious prisoner, imprisoned for an unknown reason, without trial or conviction, whose face was hidden behind a mask (of steel, then velvet) and whose identity it was forbidden to reveal upon pain of death.



© Germain

The Man in the Iron Mask's cell

Spacious and equipped with latrines and fireplaces, the Royal Fort's cells were described by Saint-Mars, at the time they were built, as being «big, beautiful and light, and for their goodness I do not think there are any stronger or more secure in Europe», due to their system of gates and triple iron portcullises. The Man in the Iron Mask's cell was especially designed in 1687 to keep him secret and still has actual traces of his imprisonment at Sainte-Marguerite.

SAINTE-MARGUERITE ISLAND

Sainte-Marguerite is the larger of the two islands of the Lérins archipelago, which also includes Saint-Honorat Island and its monastery. It covers 210 hectares and has around 10 kilometres of coastline. A listed site, it is protected by the joint action of Cannes City Hall and the French National Forestry Commission which safeguards the national forest (140 hectares).

The unspoilt nature contrasts with the man-made severity of the Royal Fort, built in the 17th century on the highest point of the island.

This stunning site has been occupied for over 2,000 years and lies opposite the bay of Cannes and the Southern Alps. Significant archaeological remains are proof of its ancient past. Traces of a dwelling dating from the 3rd century BC have been excavated under the Roman settlement which succeeded it in the 1st century. Reinvested in the Middle Ages, the site was fortified in the 1630s and was the scene of fighting between the French and Spanish troops (Thirty Years' War).

The present state of the fort reflects Marshal Vauban's military engineering, who modified its defences during three visits to the site (1682, 1693 and 1700). Sainte-Marguerite therefore has one of the rare examples of 17th century island forts which still retains all of its characteristic features (ramparts, barracks, parade ground, powder magazine, etc.)

« On [this] island the Romans built dwellings with courtyards and mighty fortifications (as the ancient ruins still show today) to secure the royal development towards the western parts of Gaul. »

Chronicle of the monk Vincent Barralis (late 16th century), chap. Descriptio situs

CANNES

Support the nomination of the Lérins Islands to the UNESCO World Heritage List



HOW TO GET INVOLVED at www.cannes.com

Eco-citizen gestures

The Lérins Islands are natural and inhabited areas with significant heritage and environmental preservation issues. The municipality of Cannes, the Monastic Community of the Lérins Islands and the French National Forestry Commission endeavour daily to protect this peace. Every gesture counts.

DOS AND DON'TS

- **BIODIVERSITY:** Don't pull up the plants and only walk on the marked paths. Don't disturb the animals and keep your dog on a lead. Don't throw cigarettes or litter on the ground.
- **RUBBISH:** If you bring packages and cartons with you to the island, please take them back to the mainland after use. Don't litter the countryside.
- **SENSE OF PLACE:** Don't play loud music. Preserve the silence, essential for enjoying the scenery in thoughtful contemplation. Don't damage the heritage buildings or the plants.
- **SAILING:** Drop anchor in sandy areas, avoiding the Posidonia meadow. Eradicate black water at the harbour and use plant-based cleaning products.
- **WATER:** Limit your consumption of fresh water.
- **REGULATIONS:** To address the significant fire risk, fires and open flames are prohibited. Follow the rules and regulations in force so that we can continue to enjoy the islands.