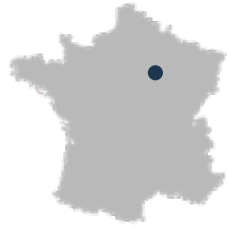


THE PALAIS
DU
TAU



BECOME A PATRON OF THE

MUSEUM
OF CORONATIONS



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The Palais du Tau, adjacent to the cathedral, two landmarks of the History of France.

THE PALAIS DU TAU IN DATES

A ROYAL CORONATION: EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELF

Historic residence of the archbishop of Reims that also served to accommodate French kings on the occasion of their coronation, the Palais du Tau has been the setting for major events in the history of France. It was in the adjoining cathedral that, from the 9th to the 19th century, thirty-three monarchs, from Louis the Pious, in 816, to Charles X, in 1825, underwent the religious anointing ceremony on which the French monarchy was based. The ceremonies lasted a full week and displayed all the splendour of the French royalty. Extended and made ever more magnificent over the centuries, that it might reflect the significance of its role and the prestige of the guests it received, and moving from flamboyant Gothic to the very purest of classical architectures, the Palais du Tau was thus named because of the T-shaped design it was given during the Middle Ages. Since March 2022, the palace has been undergoing extensive restoration work in readiness to become home to a truly unique museum, where History's story will be told through exciting, immersive experiences: the Museum of Coronations of the French kings.

A virtual re-enactment of the coronation ceremony will take place, with meticulously restored works of art from the period, many of which had significantly deteriorated. Specially commissioned works by highly prestigious contemporary artists will also feature, further enhancing the scenography of what is sure to be, at its inauguration (due to take place in autumn 2025), a truly atmospheric museum. Teams from the Centre des Monuments Nationaux have worked passionately to bring to fruition this ambitious heritage project, which will culminate in a new unmissable destination for international tourism.

Join us! Support the realisation of this unique project.

Marie Lavandier
President of the Centre des Monuments Nationaux

The sumptuous coronation coat worn for his coronation by Charles X is to be meticulously restored, before once again making its appearance at the Palais du Tau.



© PASCAL LEMAITRE / CMN

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496

Assumed date of the baptism of Clovis, King of the Franks, by the Bishop of Reims, on the site of the current cathedral, which adjoins the episcopal palace.

816

The first coronation to take place in Reims was that of Emperor Louis the Pious. Most coronations between 1027 and the Revolution took place here. The king was welcomed to the Palais du Tau on the eve of the ceremony. Following the ceremony, a banquet was held in the banqueting hall, where he received the twelve Peers of France. Charles VII would later be crowned in 1429 in the presence of Joan of Arc.

1793

When the Revolution broke out, a civil court, the commodity market and later the police station were all housed in the palace building, whilst the chapel was converted into a prison. The palace became national property in 1823.

1825

Seven years after the archiepiscopal seat was restored, Charles X reintroduced the tradition and would be the last King of France to be crowned in Reims.

1907

The Palais du Tau was listed as a historic monument.

1914

The palace was bombed and suffered significant damage, along with the cathedral, causing huge popular outcry. At the end of the war, Henri Deneux, chief architect for Historic Monuments, was given permission to devote himself entirely to restoring the cathedral and the Palais du Tau.

1972

The Palais du Tau opened to the public.



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Gargoyle spouting molten lead, representing the fire that took place at Notre-Dame de Reims Cathedral, on 19 September, 1914.



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PLAY YOUR PART IN CREATING THE MUSEUM OF FRENCH ROYAL CORONATIONS

Since March 2022, the Palais du Tau has been the site of a vast programme of restoration work on the building and its collections, in preparation for a major project – a museum where visitors will be offered an immersive experience that recreates the coronation of French kings.

A

true visitor experience

The exhibition route has been designed as a journey through time, where past and present meet so that visitors can experience the splendour of a week-long ceremony that took place thirty-three times in French History. References to this unchanging ritual are present at every turn as we move from room to room, each one arranged to provide the perfect setting for works from the period, which are all part of an elegant scenography that reflects all the grandeur and solemnity of a coronation. Next to the ticket office on the ground floor there is the museum gift and book shop and a tea-room.

Restored treasures

Many of the items exhibited were either used during the coronation ceremonies or donated by French kings to create the cathedral treasury – most have had to be carefully restored. Amongst them can be seen coronation vestments from the time of the Ancien Régime, including items connected with the coronation of Charles – his



© CASSON MANN

remarkable coat, tapestries, paintings and gold and silver ware from the cathedral treasury.

Spotlight on contemporary art

Here and there the route is punctuated with specially commissioned contemporary works, conferring a somewhat dreamlike quality on the tour. These include: a film by Thomas Jolly, providing important background information, a magnificent glass case sculpture by Hubert le



HUBERT LE GALL

A sculpture by Hubert le Gall that connects heaven and earth – a new display case for the reliquary of Saint Ampoule.



© ANNE AND PATRICK POIRIER

13 contemporary monumental stained glass windows (each 8 x 2 metres) by Anne and Patrick Poirier will embellish the windows of the palace's upper chapel, adding a dreamlike dimension to the tour.

160,000
VISITORS EXPECTED
EACH YEAR



Gall displaying the reliquary of Saint Ampoule, a sculpture by Johan Creten, and the stunning stained glass windows by Anne and Patrick Poirier that ornament the upper chapel.

Inclusive mediation

To support the scenography, a variety of mediation mechanisms are available in each room (digital labels, audio-visual devices, interactive materials, touch screens, games, etc.), selected to suit the



Computer-generated simulation of the future exhibition tour: immersion contextualised by powerful scenography (top of left-hand page and opposite).

specific needs of visitors with disabilities.

The Palais du Tau has employed this approach with the aim of meeting the requirements of the "Tourisme & Handicap" (Tourism & Disability) label. A special visitor route for families is also available, promoting dialogue between younger visitors and accompanying adults.

Estimated budget: €36 million

BECOME A PATRON OF THE PALAIS DU TAU

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he Centre des Monuments Nationaux would like to offer you the opportunity to be – from this day on – a partner of an iconic site, unique in the history of France, which was, for many centuries, the symbol of its influence across Europe.

By contributing to the rebirth of the Palais du Tau, you will be playing a decisive role in the conservation and transmission of French national heritage: you will be a stakeholder in French culture.

Your name, that of your company or of your foundation, will be associated with all the communication materials published on the project that you are supporting: dedicated press releases, recognition on the social networks and websites of the Centre des Monuments Nationaux and the Palais du Tau.

And, depending on the sum you donate, your name, that of your company or of your foundation, will

be engraved on the commemorative plaques of patrons of the Palais du Tau.

Enjoy a magical venue for your private events

Patrons of the Centre des Monuments Nationaux enjoy VIP access to all the monuments in our network. In return for their commitment, various possibilities for use of the venue will be discussed on a case-by-case basis in order to customise the event.

In our range of proposals are:

- Private tours accompanied by tour guides.
- Private receptions in monuments managed by the Centre des Monuments Nationaux.
- Free admission to our sites.

Tax deductibility, in France and abroad

Patrons benefit from the tax provisions in force in their country of origin (France, European Union, United States and Hong Kong).

- For French patrons: a tax reduction of 66% of the total amount of the donation, up to a maximum of 20% of taxable income.

- For French businesses, a tax reduction of 60% of the sum donated for the fraction of the sum below or equal to €2 million (40% of the total sum for the fraction above €2 million) up to a maximum of €20,000 or 5‰ (5 per thousand) of annual turnover exclusive of taxes (ceiling applied to all

A royal setting
for your professional
and private events.



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The Palais du Tau offers many different venues, both indoor and outdoor, where the history of France can be experienced today.

payments made, can be carried over for 5 years within the limits of the annual ceiling).

- For European Union patrons: tax reductions eligible in their country thanks to the Transnational Giving Europe system, of which the Centre des Monuments Nationaux is a partner.
- For American patrons: tax reductions eligible in their state of residence thanks to the agreement between the Centre des Monuments Nationaux and the King Baudouin Foundation.



DR / CWN

Majestic vaulted ceilings make a truly exceptional site.

CENTRE DES MONUMENTS NATIONAUX

Since 1914, the Centre des Monuments Nationaux has been delegated by the State to maintain, restore, enhance and bring to life the treasures of French cultural heritage.

It manages over 100 heritage sites across France - monuments, châteaux, abbeys, archaeological sites, remarkable gardens, etc.

The leading cultural and tourism operator in France, it welcomes over 10 million visitors every year and promotes heritage through the publications of the *Éditions du Patrimoine* publishing house.



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Detail of the Dauphin's coat, worn by the Duke of Angoulême at the coronation of Charles X.

Cover photo: Replica of the crown used for the coronation of Louis XV, Augustin Duflos (1722).

CONTACT

CENTRE DES MONUMENTS NATIONAUX

Hôtel de Sully

62 Rue Saint-Antoine

75004 Paris

Patronage & Partnership Department

mecenat@monuments-nationaux.fr

+33 (0)1 44 60 20 00

www.monuments-nationaux.fr

CENTRE DES MONUMENTS NATIONAUX