



European Heritage Days 19th-20th sept 2020



HERITAGE AND EDUCATION: LEARNING FOR LIFE!

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Contact: jepsenat@senat.fr

Phone: +33 (0)1 42 34 45 45

PALAIS DU LUXEMBOURG

Place Paul Claudel

Porte Odéon du Jardin du Luxembourg

75006 PARIS



02 | A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Created in 1984 by the Ministry of Culture, the European Heritage Days have enjoyed a renewed success every year, a testament to the public's interest in their history.

Since then, tours of the Palais du Luxembourg, the "Petit Luxembourg" -- the seat of the Senate Presidency -- and the Garden's greenhouses, have grown increasingly popular. Last year, more than 23,000 visitors walked the corridors and alleyways of the Senate, **making it one of the most visited institutions.**

This 37th edition's theme is education: "*Heritage and education: learning for life!*"

Hence why the Senate has organized this weekend of discovery in keeping with health security conditions, but in a friendly and often fun way for young and old.

On behalf of all my fellow Senators, I am delighted to welcome you to the Senate so you can discover its heritage and architectural gems.

Although the Senate is a place steeped in history, it is first and foremost the seat of a modern parliamentary assembly that is forward-looking and open to society. A guardian of individual and collective freedoms, with a deeply decentralizing role, it is attached to secularism, to the fight against global warming and for the preservation of biodiversity, and is increasingly involving citizens in public decision-making via a dedicated platform.

Although the representative and participatory sides of democracy do complement each other, legitimate decision-making in the general interest falls to elected officials. Next week, half of the senators will be elected by the body of senatorial delegates issued mainly from the 35,000 French municipalities.

For this year's European Heritage Days, the Senate is hosting real and virtual tours, as well as many events and exhibitions.

Children will enjoy games and quizzes for a fun learning experience.

Adults can take part in the audio walks "*Murmures du Palais*" -- "*The Palais' Whispers*" --, available as podcasts, which present and comment on the Senate's most emblematic spots.

There are also unusual photos posted on Instagram influencers' accounts.

In Boffrand's Grand Salon, there is an exhibition of the letters of appointment of the Pairs de France, the precursors to today's Senators.

I also invite you to visit the beautiful Jardin du Luxembourg, which is open to the public, and is managed and maintained by the Senate. Make sure to visit the greenhouses, which are exceptionally open on this occasion.

Many of us are here today to welcome you to this exceptional edition. Please feel free to ask us any questions. We hope to satisfy your curiosity about the Palais' history and the role of the Senate as a parliamentary assembly.

I wish you an excellent tour of the Senate and a lovely time on these European Heritage Days.



GÉRARD LARCHER,
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

THE LUXEMBOURG PALACE

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LUXEMBOURG PALACE BEGAN IN 1615 AT THE BEHEST OF MARIE DE MEDICIS AND WAS COMPLETED AROUND 1630. MARIE DE MEDICIS TOOK UP RESIDENCE IN THE WEST WING OF THE PALACE AS OF 1625. SHE STAYED THERE UNTIL SHE HAD TO LEAVE FRANCE IN 1631, FORCED TO EXILE BY HER SON LOUIS XIII AFTER THE EVENTS KNOWN AS THE “DAY OF THE DUPES”.

The Palace remained a princely estate lived in successively by Louis XIII's brother, Gaston of Orleans (1642), then by his widow and his daughters among whom the Duchess of Montpensier known as the *Grande Mademoiselle* and the Duchess of Guise (1660), who offered it to Louis XIV in 1694.

In 1715, the Regent Philippe of Orleans inherited it before giving it up to his daughters, the Duchess of Berry and Louise Elisabeth of Orleans, former Queen of Spain. In 1778, Louis XVI gave the Palace to his brother the Count of Provence, who would later become King Louis XVIII. He fled the Revolution. The Luxembourg Palace became a prison before being assigned to the *Directoire* in 1795 and to the *Sénat Conservateur* (Conservative Senate) at the end of 1799. It then underwent profound architectural changes under the direction of Jean-François-Thérèse Chalgrin (1739-1811) to better suit its new parliamentary function.

In 1814, under the *Restauration*, the Luxembourg Palace was allocated to the *Chambre des Pairs* (Chamber of Peers). During the July Monarchy, the increasing number of Peers of France led architect Alphonse de Gisors (1796-1866) to push the Palace's South-facing wall 30 meters forward into the Garden to allow for the construction of the current *Salle des Séances* (Senate Chamber)

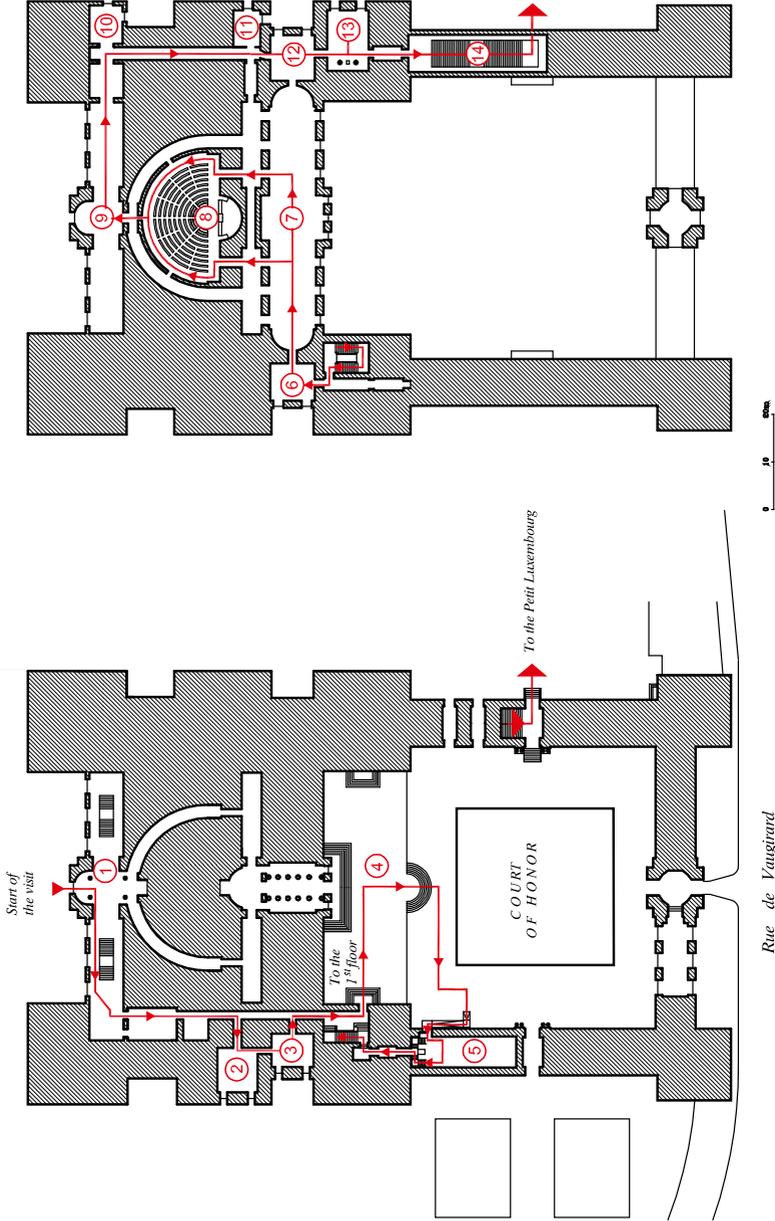
and Library. In 1852, he made the most of this enlargement by building the main gallery, then known as the *Salle du Trône* (Room of the Throne) and currently referred to as the *Salle des Conférences* (Conference Hall). The Palace was then allocated to the Senate of the Second Empire, after hosting the short-lived *Commission du gouvernement pour les travailleurs* (Workers governmental committee) of the Second Republic, in 1848.

Following the demise of the Second Empire, the Palace housed the Seine *Préfecture* and the meetings of the town council, after the Paris town hall had been set on fire during the Commune. In 1879, all seats of public offices were transferred from Versailles to Paris and the Luxembourg Palace was allocated to the Senate of the Third Republic until 1940, when it was then occupied by the *Luftwaffe* command staff for Western Europe.

In 1944, it became the seat of the provisional Consultative Assembly. The Higher Court of Justice held its meetings there in 1945 as well as the 1946 Peace Conference.

The Palace was allocated to the Council of the Republic at the end of 1946 before becoming home to the Senate of the Fifth Republic in 1958.

LUXEMBOURG PALACE
EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS 2020



PLAN OF THE 1ST FLOOR

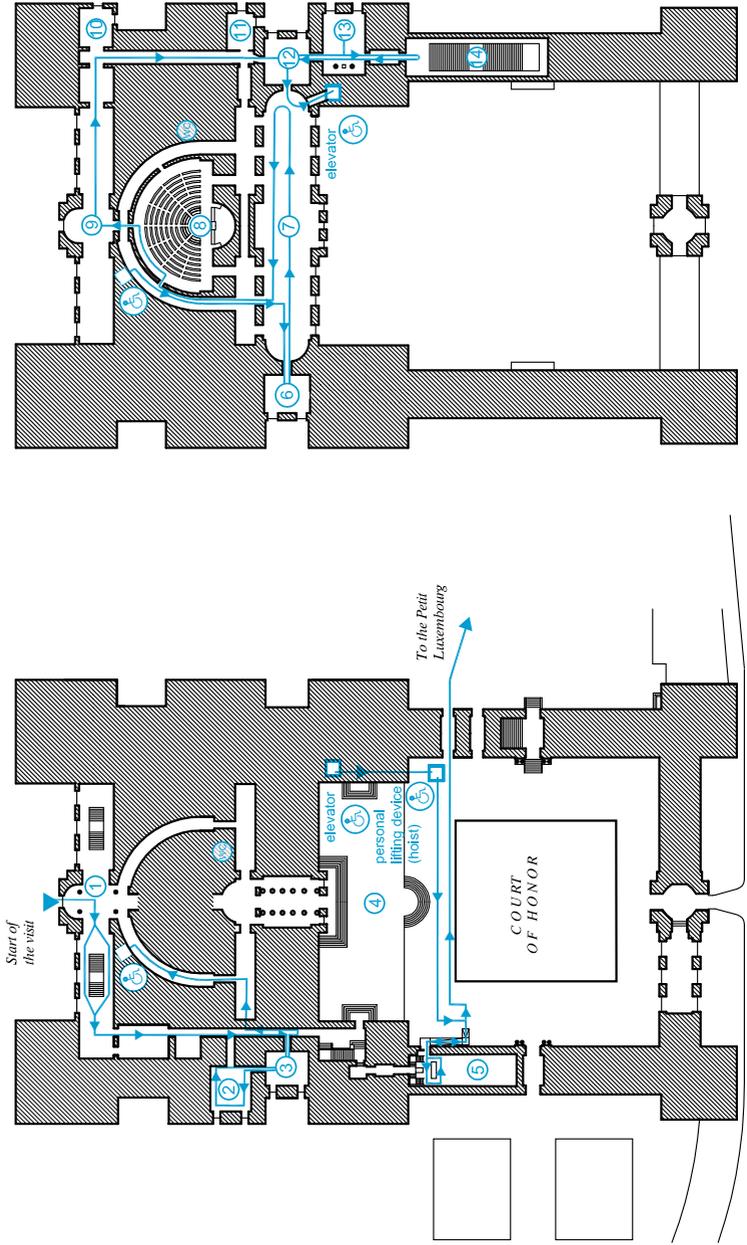
PLAN OF THE GROUND FLOOR

LUXEMBOURG PALACE

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS 2020

ROUTE FOR PEOPLE WITH REDUCED MOBILITY

The room numbers correspond to the guidebook.
Rooms are visited in the following order:
1 - 3 - 2 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 5.



PLAN OF THE 1ST FLOOR

PLAN OF THE GROUND FLOOR

06 | WELCOME TO THE SENATE

ROOM 1

GALLERY OF QUESTEURS

Designed by Alphonse de Gisors, it opens onto the garden, on the south side of the building.



ROOM 2

ROOM OF THE GOLDEN BOOK



Decorated in 1817 by architect Baraguey with painted wooden panels taken from the apartments of Queen Marie de Medicis at the Luxembourg Palace and wood panelling taken from the royal apartments of Queen Anne of Austria, at the Louvre.

ROOM 3

OFFICES OF A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Former reading room of the Peers of France.

These offices are shown to the public for their patrimonial relevance. They are not, however, the current senators' offices, which are for the most part located on 26 and 36 rue de Vaugirard and are much more functional and smaller in size.

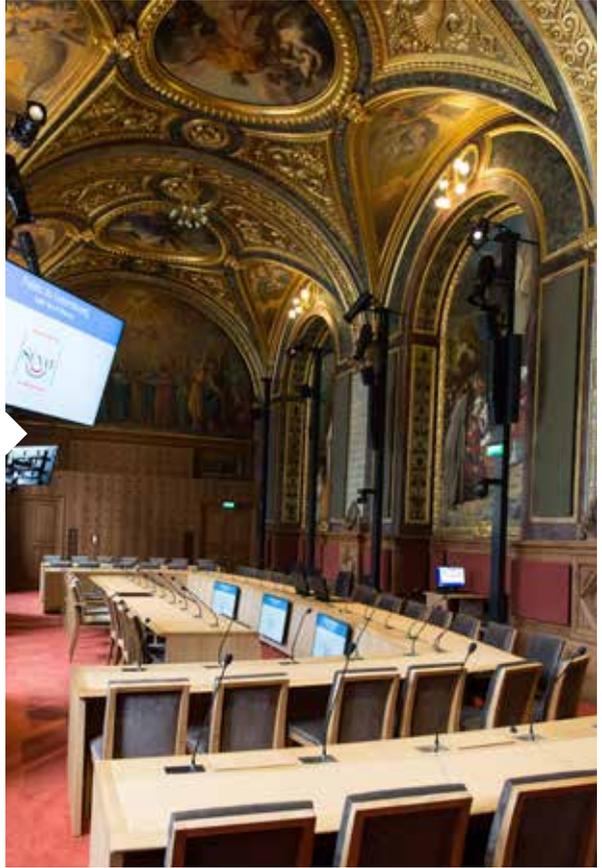
ROOM 4

MODULAR CONSTRUCTION AND THE COURT OF HONOUR

Before reaching the stairs, you will see a modular construction in the Court of Honour of the Luxembourg Palace. This building, set up in the spring of 2017, will be operational as of October 2017 for an estimated four-year period. Its 134 temporary offices spread on four floors will house some Senators and their assistants during the renovation works of the buildings located between 26 and 36 rue de Vaugirard.

ROOM 5**SALLE RENÉ MONORY**

A former chapel (1843-1870), this room still boasts several religious paintings made between 1844 and 1845 to adorn the Chapel of the French House of Peers. During the Third Republic, this chapel was used as a meeting room. The Senate has recently completed work to turn it into a modern multimedia suite equipped with an audiovisual recording system to broadcast work taking place here. The Bureau of the Senate has named this room after René Monory, as a tribute to the Vienne Senator and former President of the Senate (1992-1998). It was inaugurated by the current President of the Senate, Mr Gérard Larcher, on 17th January 2018.

**ROOM 6****VICTOR HUGO LOUNGE**

This room owes its name to the bust sculpted by Antonin Mercié in 1889 of illustrious writer and Parliamentarian Victor Hugo, who was a Peer of France from 1845 to 1848 and a senator during the Third Republic from 1876 until his death on 22nd May 1885.



ROOM 7

CONFERENCE HALL

57 meters long, 10.60 meters wide and 11 meters high (15 meters under the dome), this room designed by Alphonse de Gisors, completed in 1854, was created by assembling three separate rooms from the original building. Its decoration is a very fine example of Second Empire style. Opposite the fireplace is the throne Napoleon I sat on when attending the sessions of the Conservative Senate. At each end of the room, on the ceiling's covings, one can admire depictions of the History of France from its origins until Charlemagne (at the west end) as well as a fresco by Henri Lehmann (1814-1882) of the period running from the first Crusade to Louis XIV (at the east end). The ceiling features *L'Âge de la Paix* (The Age of Peace) and *L'Âge de la Victoire* (The Age of Victory) by Adolphe Brune. Eight tapestries from the Gobelins illustrating Ovid's *Metamorphoses* complete the decor.

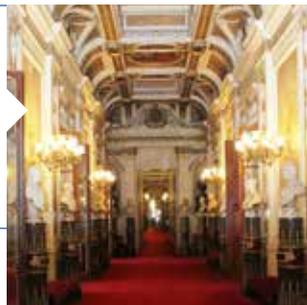
EXHIBITION OF BUSTS OF "MARIANNE"

A symbol of the French Republic, "Marianne" was portrayed in various ways since the Convention decided, in 1792, to associate the New Régime to the image of a woman wearing the Phrygian cap (liberty cap).



GALLERY OF BUSTS

Built over the original terrace overlooking garden, this long corridor is named after the busts of statesmen it is lined with.



ROOM 8

SENATE CHAMBER

Made up of two facing semicircles, it was built from 1836 to 1841 following the plans of Alphonse de Gisors. The smaller semicircle's semi-dome is supported by eight stucco columns separated by seven statues of prestigious legislators. The paintings on the left and right sides of the smaller semicircle's vault, by Merry-Joseph Blondel (1781-1853), depict the crowning of Philippe le Long and Louis XII at the *États de Tours* in 1506. The alcoves contain statues of Charlemagne by Antoine Etex (1808-1888) and of Saint-Louis by Augustin Dumont (1801-1884).



The busts of four Marshals of the Empire (Masséna, Lannes, Mortier and Gouvion-Saint-Cyr) are located between the benches.

The vaulted ceiling in front of the benches is painted with allegories of Prudence (Caution), Truth and Protection by Théophile Vauchetlet dating back to the middle of the 19th century. The room also features beautiful sculpted oak panelling by J.B. Klagmann, J.-J. Elshoëcht and H. de Triqueti. There are 348 seats, allocated in proportion to the number of members in every political group. Each senator has her or his own designated seat according to their party.

Fifteen desks display commemorative medallions of former senators Victor Hugo, Victor Schoelcher, Pierre Waldeck-Rousseau, Marcellin Berthelot, Émile Combes, Georges Clemenceau, Raymond Poincaré, René Coty, Gaston Monnerville, François Mitterrand, Michel Debré, Alain Poher, Edgar Faure, Maurice Schumann and Gaston Doumergue.

→ **Did you know ?** In the night of 27th to 28th October 1859, shortly after 1 a.m., a fire with unknown causes destroyed the roofing of the *Palais du Luxembourg* (Luxembourg Palace). This fire led to the creation of a fire station attached to the *Palais du Luxembourg* and the implementation of the night rounds.



ROOM 9 LIBRARY

Completed by Alphonse de Gisors, with ceilings by Louis Antoine Riesener (1808-1878) and Camille Roqueplan (1802-1855).

The dome features a painting by Delacroix (from 1841 to 1846) of the Limbo described in the Fourth Canto of Dante's *Inferno*, representing the Great Men of ancient times. Still in the dome, four hexagonal medallions by the same artist evoke Theology (St Jerome), Philosophy (Aristotle's Muse), Poetry (Orpheus) and Eloquence (Cicero). Between the dome and the window, on the ceiling's coving, Delacroix painted Alexander after the Battle of Arbeles, asking for Homer's poems to be deposited in Darius' golden chest. One can notice this piece of furniture, specially designed by cabinetmaker Charles Morel to provide a copy of the "*Description of Egypt*" carried out during Napoléon Bonaparte's expedition to Egypt.



ROOM 10

QUESTEUR'S OFFICE

This room, decorated by Alphonse de Gisors at the same period as the Library, used to be a study. It is now used for the weekly meetings of the Conseil de Questure, which comprises of three Questeurs elected by their colleagues to manage the Senate's administrative matters and run its budget.

ROOM 11

DEPARTURE CABINET

The former *cabinet doré* (gilded cabinet) or *mariages Medicis* (Cabinet of Medicis weddings), this is now the room the chairman of parliamentary sessions departs from in order to go to the *Salle des Séances* (Senate Chamber).

ROOM 12

MESSENGERS OF STATE LOUNGE

A former antechamber at the time of Marie de Medicis, this room was turned by Chalgrin into a lounge for the Empire's Messengers of State (who acted as intermediaries between the authorities, carrying bills and official documents).



ROOM 13**QUEEN'S BEDROOM**

This was Marie de Medicis's ceremonial bedroom and may have been the room where the first act of the *Journée des Dupes* (Day of the Dupes) unfolded.

THE "DAY OF THE DUPES"

This is the room where one of the most crucial days of French history, the "Day of the Dupes", may well have taken place. On 10th or 11th November 1630, two influential characters confronted each other under the arbitration of the young King Louis XIII: on the one hand, his mother the Queen, Regent until 1615, who wished to maintain peaceful relations with catholic powers; on the other hand, the Cardinal Richelieu who encouraged the King to support France's protestant adversaries regardless of family ties by waging a war against his father-in-law the King of Spain and his brother-in-law the Duke of Savoie.

Marie de Medicis summoned the King, asking him to dismiss Richelieu. However, the latter, informed by his agents, wormed his way into the Palace through a hidden door and managed to enter the room. The Queen reacted vividly but the Cardinal threw himself at her feet, assuring her of his loyalty. Louis XIII asked the Cardinal to leave and wait for his orders.

Marie had openly triumphed. Convinced he had lost, the Cardinal burnt his documents and had his most precious belongings sent over to The Havre. Meanwhile, Louis XIII went back to Versailles where he called in Richelieu and declared: "Sir, you have my entire trust. I am more obliged to my State than to my mother."

The Queen's partisans only realized what had just happened on the following day. They were moved away from power. Some of them, such as Louis de Marillac, were even executed. As to the Queen Marie, she was forced to exile.

ROOM 14**MAIN STAIRCASE**

It was built by Chalgrin (between 1800 and 1803) at the expense of the gallery of Rubens whose 24 paintings on the life of Marie de Medicis are now exhibited at the Louvre. The vaulted ceiling is ornamented with roses and coffers. Above the doors, various Victories are represented on stone bas-reliefs, while the side walls are decorated with ten verdure tapestries.



THE PETIT LUXEMBOURG

(RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE)



Built toward the middle of the 16th century, this mansion was purchased in 1570 by François de Luxembourg, Duke of Piney and Peer of France, before it was sold in 1612 to Queen Marie de Medicis, who had her Palace built nearby. Both buildings were named after the Duke François de Luxembourg. Since then, the former mansion has been called the *Petit Luxembourg* to avoid any confusion with the larger Palace. It was given in 1627 to the Cardinal de Richelieu, who bequeathed it to his niece in 1639.

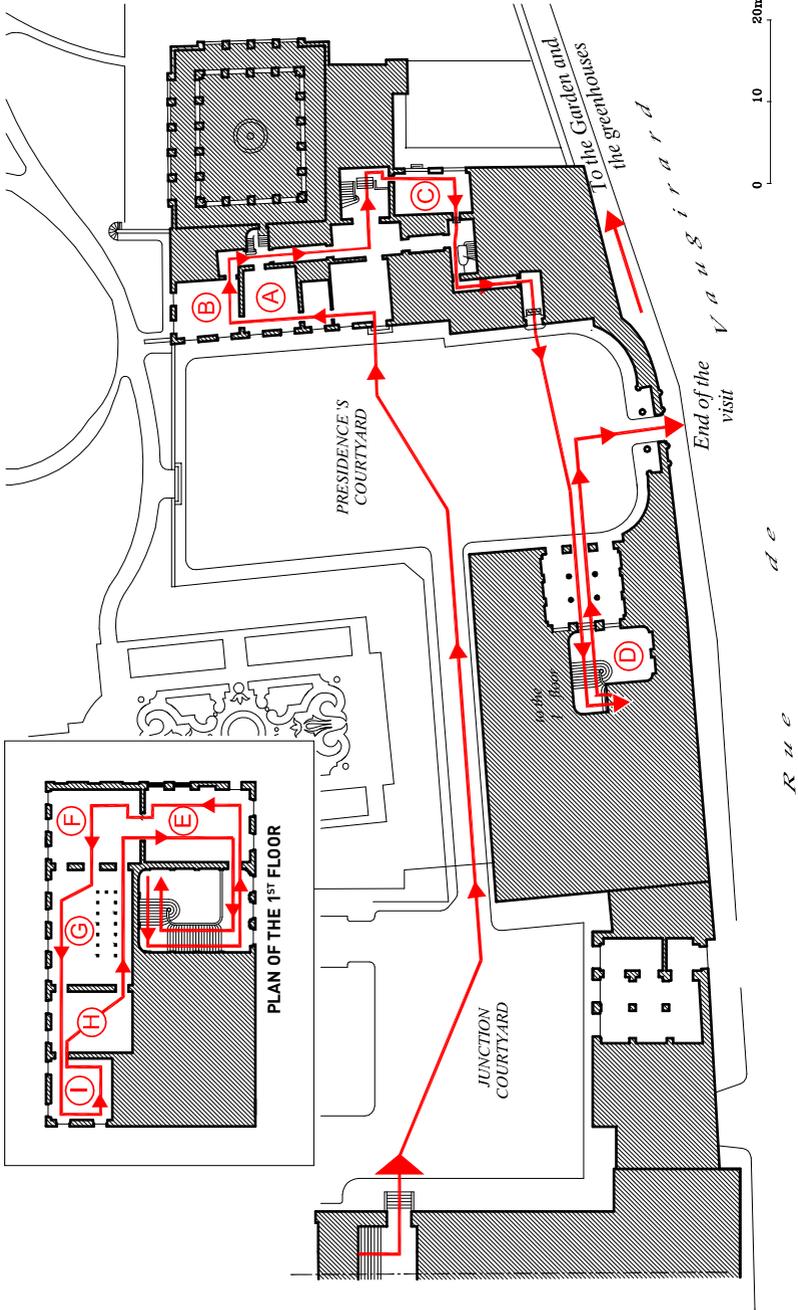
After it was inherited by the Condé family in 1674, the *Petit Luxembourg* was enlarged and redecorated by Germain Boffrand between 1709 and 1713. Louis XVI's brother, the Count of Provence, who would later become King Louis XVIII, set up house there for a time. During the Directoire, it was occupied by four Directeurs among whom Sieyès, who hosted the group who planned the coup of the 9th November 1799 (known as "18th Brumaire Year 8" in the French Revolutionary Calendar).

Napoleon Bonaparte settled down there with his wife Josephine after the coup and this is where the Constitution of the Year VIII was drafted. The Conservative Senate subsequently held its meetings there from 1800 to 1804 before moving into the Luxembourg Palace. In 1825, the *Petit Luxembourg* was given to King Charles X and used to accommodate the President of the Chamber of Peers, a lower house of Parliament, set up in 1814. It has kept its parliamentary function up to this day, except for three historical periods: in 1848, when it served as the residence of the Vice-President of the Republic and accommodated the *Tribunal des Conflits* (Court of Conflicts); from 1871 to 1879, when it was lived in by the prefect of the Seine after the fire of the *Hôtel de Ville* (town hall); and from 1940 to 1944, when it was occupied by the *Luftwaffe* command staff for Western Europe. After the War, the *Petit Luxembourg* went back to being the residence of the President of the upper house, of the Council of the Republic from 1946 to 1958 and of the Senate under the Fifth Republic from 1958 onward.



PETIT LUXEMBOURG (RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE)

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS 2020

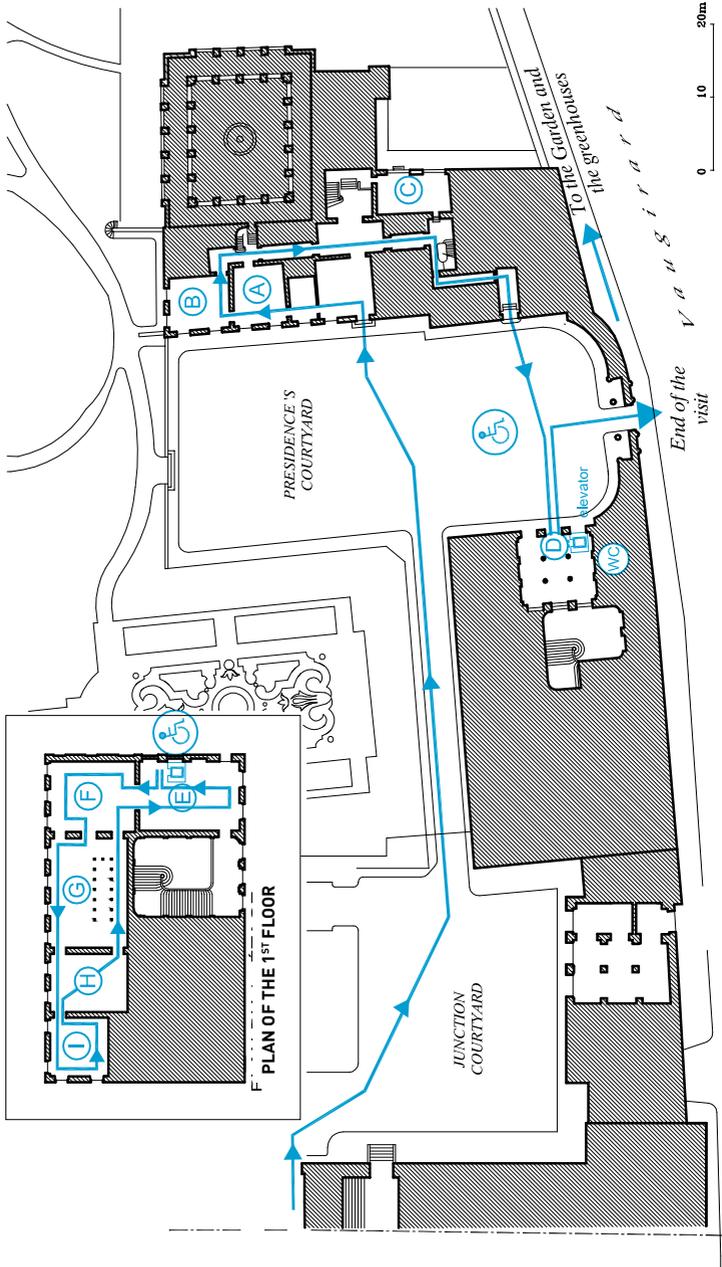


PLAN OF THE GROUND FLOOR

**PETIT LUXEMBOURG
(RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE)**

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS 2020

— ROUTE FOR PEOPLE WITH REDUCED MOBILITY —



PLAN OF THE GROUND FLOOR

LEFT WING (WEST)

BUILT AND DESIGNED BY BOFFRAND IN PLACE OF 16TH CENTURY OUTBUILDINGS, IT NOW HOUSES THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICES.

ROOM A

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CABINET

This room contains three paintings, among which "A Water Fountain in the Tuileries" ("Jet d'eau aux Tuileries") by Gaston de La Touche, kept at the Musée d'Orsay.



ROOM B

OFFICE OF MR GÉRARD LARCHER, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

This is probably where Napoleon Bonaparte, then First Consul, had his study between 10th November 1799 and 19th February 1800. The decor dates back from the beginning of the 19th century.

- "Empire" style furniture.
- Paintings: *Un prédicateur dans les ruines* (A preacher in the ruins) (1743) by Giovanni Paolo Pannini (1691-1765). *Le Champignon* (The Mushroom) nickname formerly given to the Luxembourg Garden's guardroom (1902) by Albert Marquet (1875-1947).

ROOM C

QUEEN'S CHAPEL

In 1625, Marie de Medicis set up the congregation of the "Daughters of the Calvary" next to the Luxembourg Palace. Some of these buildings were destroyed in 1844.

From 1845 to 1854, architect Alphonse de Gisors recreated a baroque style chapel in one of the aisles of the former church.



RIGHT WING (EAST)

THIS MANSION, PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY DUKE FRANÇOIS DE LUXEMBOURG. WAS REFURBISHED BY BOFFRAND (1667-1754). NOWADAYS, IT IS USED FOR OFFICIAL RECEPTIONS.



ROOM D

STAIRWAY BY BOFFRAND

A monumental stairway with a stone balustrade, the pattern of which is echoed in the mirror-covered archways above.

ROOM E

USHERS' LOUNGE

A 20th century set by Jacques Despierre on the theme of "seasons in the garden" (spring, summer and autumn).

ROOM F

TAPESTRIES' LOUNGE

The name of this room stems from the various tapestries that used to hang on its walls, including a tapestry of the Triumphe des Dieux ("Triumphs of the Gods") of which one copy remains. Three paintings by Jean-François Hue (1751-1823) represent the harbours of Lorient and Brest.

ROOM G

GRAND SALON

Decor by Boffrand restored in the 19th century. The lower part of the vaulted ceiling is surrounded by a cornice ornamented with a frieze of arabesques. Above the doors, representations of the Four Seasons painted by Louis de Boullogne (1654-1733). 19th century furniture and chandeliers.



ROOM H

PURPLE LOUNGE

Former bedroom of the Bourbon-Condé and of the Countess of Provence.

ROOM I

NAPOLEON LOUNGE

Decor by Boffrand revived under the Second Empire. Portrait of Napoleon wearing his coronation costume. Against the wall, a letter written by Napoleon to the senators is reproduced on a marble table.

During the 2020 European Heritage Days, this room will host an exceptional exhibition of two volumes of "Letters patent creating peerages" (Peers of France), displayed at the Luxembourg Palace for the first time since they were included in the French National Archives in 1848.

THE SENATE



The Senate and the National Assembly form **the Parliament**.

Senators examine **government bills** submitted to them by the government. They may also submit and examine **parliamentary bills**.

They also **control the actions of the government** and make sure that the laws that were voted are indeed **enforced**.

The Senate ensures the representation of the territorial communities of the Republic.

The Senate ensures the institutions' **continuity**, since only **half** of the Senators are renewed every three years. Furthermore, unlike the National Assembly, **it cannot be dissolved**. Finally, the President of the Senate may be called upon to **replace** the President of the Republic when required.



EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS AT THE SENATE

Follow the Senate on:

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Share your most beautiful memories of the European Heritage Days at the Senate using the hash-word **#JEPSénat**

TOUR OF THE LUXEMBOURG GARDEN GREENHOUSES

The Luxembourg Garden is managed and maintained by the Senate. Since its creation by Marie de Medicis in the 17th century, it has featured collections of orangery plants and ancient fruit varieties accessible to the public all year round.

The greenhouses of the Luxembourg Garden have always enjoyed a worldwide reputation and been recognized for their know-how by the horticultural world. They contain collections of tropical plants, the most famous of which is the orchid collection dating back from the middle of the 19th century and composed of more than 13,000 specimens. The nearby *in vitro* growing and multiplication laboratory ensures their continuity.

Within this orchid collection, the collection of *Paphiopedilums*, also called "Venus' slippers" or "fairy slippers", contains three quarters of listed species, all from South-East Asia, as well as 450 horticultural hybrids and is recognized as a National Collection by the Conservatory of Specialized Vegetal Collections (CCVS).

In 1998, the former greenhouses were demolished to give way to a new structure where an IT management system reproduces the various climates necessary for each of these plants to grow: some of them originate from coastal areas while others are to be found at 2,500 meters of altitude.



Due to the layout of the premises, access to the Senate's greenhouses is closed to the public, except on the European Heritage Days.

The Gardening Division is responsible for the Luxembourg School of Horticulture, which has been providing free public classes since 1809.

- Guided tour of the garden:
www.senat.fr/visite/jardin/infos_pratiques.html
- School of horticulture:
www.senat.fr/visite/jardin/index.html
- Central Apiculture Society:
<https://www.la-sca.net/>



The greenhouses will open exceptionally on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September 2020 from 10 am to 6 pm.



MANAGED BY
THE SENATE



→ Visiting the Palais du Luxembourg
and attending parliamentary
debates at the Senate

<http://www.senat.fr/visite/index.html>



→ Accessing the online bookshop

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→ Staff at the Senate is recruited
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SÉNAT

15 rue de Vaugirard

75291 Paris Cedex 06

Standard : +33 (0)1 42 34 20 00

www.senat.fr

