



MAP OF SAINTE- MARGUERITE ISLAND





SAINTE-MARGUERITE ISLAND

Sainte-Marguerite is the largest island of the Lérins archipelago, which also includes the monastic island of Saint-Honorat, and several islets. Spanning 170 hectares, it has approximately 9 kilometres of coastline and 22 kilometres of footpaths. The island is a listed site and protected through the joint efforts of the City of Cannes and the Office National des Forêts, which oversees the conservation of the state-owned forest (152 hectares).



UNDERWATER ECO MUSEUM JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR

Cannes is the first city in France to showcase underwater pieces by Jason deCaires Taylor. The famous English artist has chosen Cannes' coastline as the stage for his sculptures based on the faces of local people. "Jason deCaires Taylor's disturbing pieces populate the waters of Lanzarote, the Thames, the Bahamas, Cancun, Oslo and Grenada (which was listed as one of the Top 25 Wonders of the World by National Geographic)."

A dreamy ecological project promoting biodiversity

At 2m tall and weighing close to 10 tons each, the six statues are made from pH neutral marine grade cement to provide habitats for sealife. These artworks took a long time to create and form artificial reefs that encourage biodiversity. They evolve over time and are covered in seaweed and shellfish thus becoming an integral part of the

local ecosystem. Their rough texture enables larvae to grip onto their surface and thrive; while the nooks provide shelter to fish and shellfish.

Explore the artworks with a mask and snorkel

The sculptures lie 84 to 132m from the shore and at a depth of 3 to 5m, so that any swimmer with a mask and snorkel can see them. Free of charge and protected by a ban on ships anchoring.

MUSÉE DU MASQUE DE FER ET DU FORT ROYAL

Perched on a cliff overlooking the sea, the museum occupies the oldest part of a royal fortress (listed historic monument) which was built in the 17th century on the remains of an antique site. It contains monumental cisterns from the Roman era, a 330 year-old state prison (where the Man in the Iron Mask was held), a Huguenot memorial, as well as mural paintings created by Jean Le Gac in 1992. It also houses a unique collection of archaeological artefacts, found on the island itself and in its underwater surroundings (Roman and Saracen shipwrecks of Tradelière and Batéguier).



THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK

Immortalised by Voltaire and Alexandre Dumas, the Iron Mask is one of History's most celebrated prisoners. This enigmatic character, «of name unknown and face unseen», was held in secrecy at Sainte-Marguerite for 11 years (1687-98) in a purpose-built prison. The mystery of his identity has led to more than fifty different theories; the most romantic being that of a twin brother of King Louis XIV.

Recent research has focused on a man named Eustace Dauger. Arrested by order of the king in 1669, Dauger was imprisoned for an undisclosed reason, without trial or judgment, in the dungeon of Pignerol (Italian Piedmont). His jailer, Bénigne Dauvergne de Saint-Mars, was under strict instructions: «that he be guarded with utmost security and forbidden to speak to anyone» or reveal his identity, on pain of death! Dauger vanished from the official registers in 1680. Could he be the anonymous prisoner transferred from Pignerol to Exilles, thence to Sainte-Marguerite, who died in the Bastille in 1703, with his face «still masked»? His prison cell at Fort Royal is remarkably well-preserved and gives each visitor the opportunity to investigate further...



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ECO-RESPONSIBLE GUIDELINES



BIODIVERSITY: Do not pluck the plants and only walk along designated footpaths. Do not disturb the animals and keep your dog on a lead. Do not discard cigarette butts on the ground.



WASTE AND LITTER: Please ensure you take any cartons and packaging back to the mainland after use. Do not litter the natural environment: discard your trash in the containers provided for this purpose.



RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT: Do not play loud music. Help preserve the island's peaceful atmosphere and magnificent setting. Do not cause any damage to the heritage buildings or to the vegetation.



SAILING: Only drop anchor in sandy areas and avoid the Posidonia meadows. Empty all sewage at the port and make sure to use only plant-based cleaning products.



WATER: Limit your consumption of fresh water.



REGULATIONS: To avoid the significant risk of fire, all use of fire and open flames is strictly prohibited. Please follow the guidelines and regulations so that we can continue to enjoy these wonderful islands.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

MUSÉE DU MASQUE DE FER ET DU FORT ROYAL

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

Due to the current health situation, the opening days and times of Cannes City Council museums may be subject to change. For the latest information, please consult the City of Cannes website..

OCTOBER TO MARCH

Mondays: Closed

Tuesdays to Sundays:

10.30am to 1.15pm and

2.15pm to 4.45pm

Closed on 1st and 11th November

25th December and 1st January

APRIL TO MAY

Mondays: Closed

Tuesdays to Sundays:

10.30am to 1.15pm and 2.15pm

to 5.45pm

Closed 1st May

JUNE TO

SEPTEMBER

Mondays to Sundays:

10am to 5.45pm

PRICES

•Standard price: €6

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

•Free entry for all: 1st Sunday of each month, from November to March inclusive.

•Free entry on presentation of proof: Under-18s and students under 26.

Mondays only from October to May: €3 (The Fort Royal open, museum closed)



