



Musée national et domaine du  
**CHÂTEAU DE PAU**



# The castle

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At the origin of the city, the Castle of Pau offers its visitors a journey of over a thousand years through local and national history. Many well-known historical figures are associated with this place.

In the fourteenth century, as part of his «great Pyrenean plan» **Gaston Fébus** made the Castle of Pau into an outstanding medieval fortress by building the iconic brick keep.

During the Renaissance, **Henry IV**, «the only king remembered well by his people», was born at the Castle on 13th December 1553, where he was rocked in the famous turtle shell cradle. He lived a Béarnaise childhood, far from the pomp of the court, to then become one of the most popular kings in the history of France.

The current appearance of the Castle is largely due to the great restoration work undertaken in the nineteenth century by **Louis-Philippe**, anxious to legitimise his political standing by linking it with that of the first of the Bourbons, Henry IV.





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# The collections

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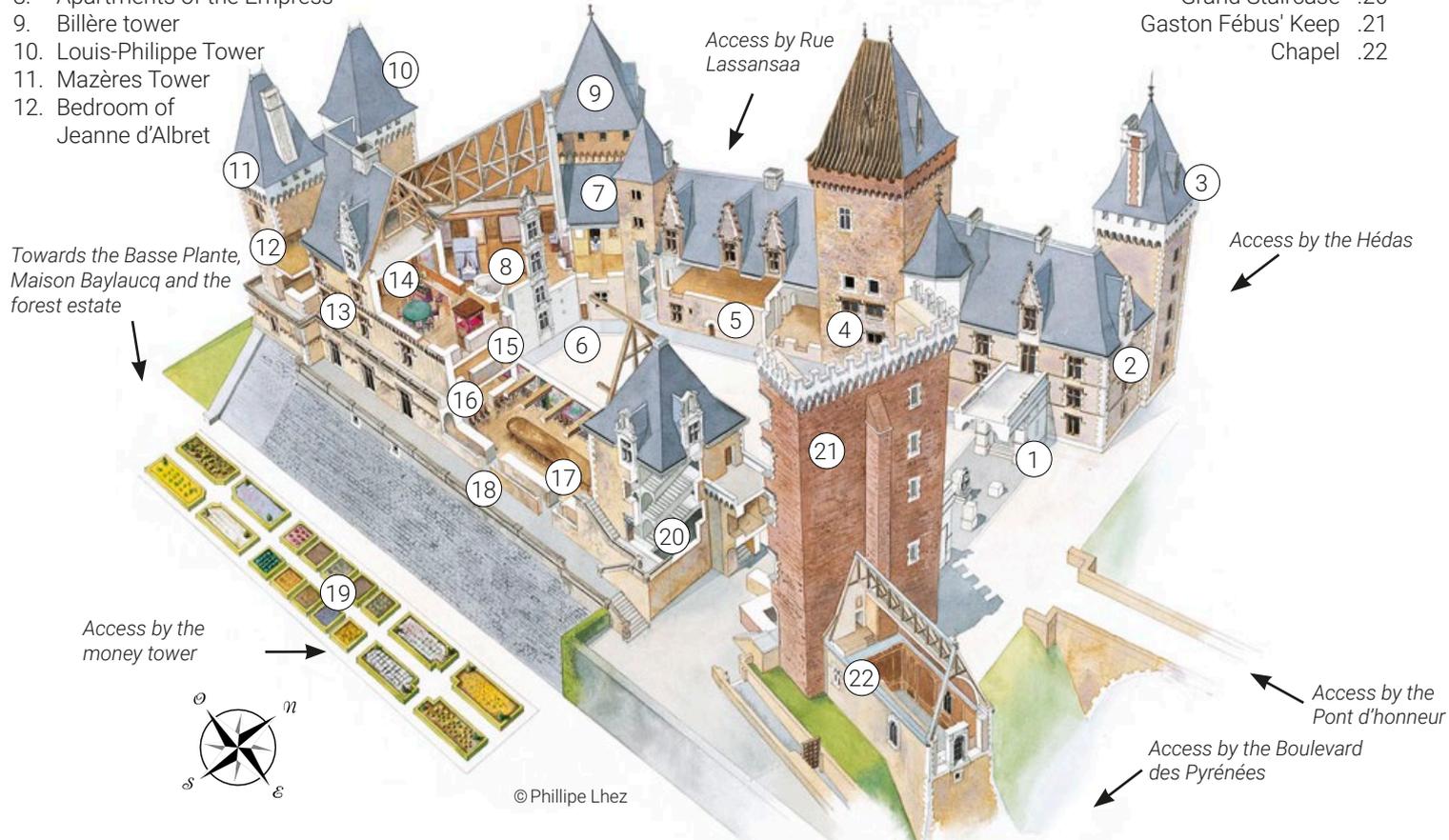
The Castle houses rich collections of drawings, paintings and sculptures and is particularly distinguished by the diversity and quality of the furniture and objets d'art.

At the initiative of **Louis-Philippe** at the time of the restoration of the Castle of Pau, the furniture, which was drawn from the collections of the Garde-Meuble of the Throne, is in the neo-Gothic and neo-Renaissance taste, in vogue at that time.

The tapestries of the Castle of Pau are, by their number and quality, one of the most important collections in France. The majority of these pieces date from the reigns of **Louis XIV** and **Louis XV**.

1. Neo-Renaissance portico
2. Napoleon III wing
3. Napoleon III tower
4. Montausier Tower - Museum entrance
5. Museum store
6. Cour d'honneur
7. Bourbon cabinet
8. Apartments of the Empress
9. Billère tower
10. Louis-Philippe Tower
11. Mazères Tower
12. Bedroom of Jeanne d'Albret

- Bedroom of the Sovereigns .13
- The Birth Room .14
- Family Room .15
- Room of the Officers on Duty .16
- Room of the Hundred Covers .17
- Terraces .18
- Renaissance Gardens .19
- Grand Staircase .20
- Gaston Fébus' Keep .21
- Chapel .22



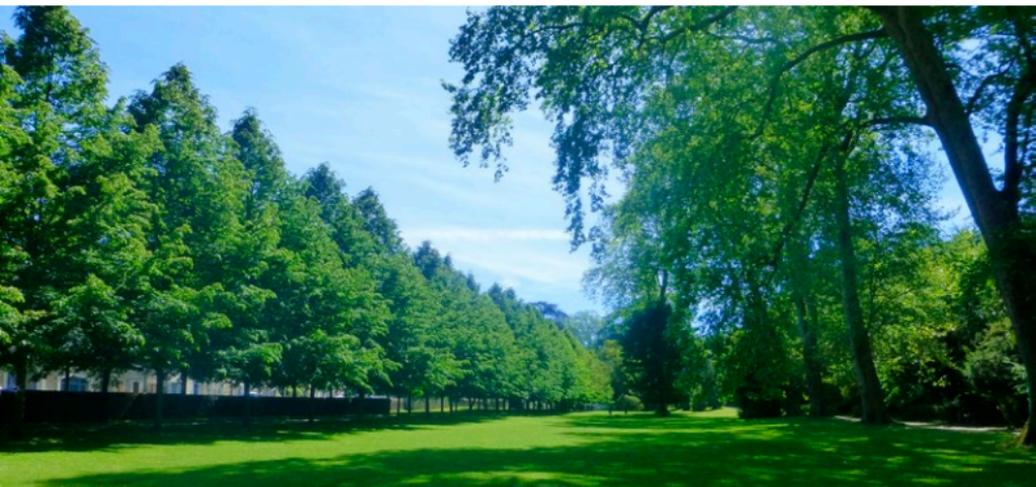


## Park and gardens

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From the fourteenth century onwards, the castle had many gardens. But it was only during the sixteenth century, on the impulse of the Albret family, that the Basse-Plante, the Haute Plante and the park were embellished to create what one traveller called «the most beautiful gardens in the whole of Europe.»

Along the pathways of the gardens, the park and the forest of the castle, there are flowerbeds and shady corners offering exceptional views over the Pyrenees. In the heart of town you will find cultural riches, and a place to relax and enjoy a walk in the forest.



# Maison Baylaucq

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In direct proximity to the Castle of Pau is the Maison Baylaucq. Formerly the «House of the King, home to the guardians of the forest» it became a bathing establishment, then a beautiful private mansion in the 19th century.

Today, completely renovated and attached to the museum, it hosts temporary exhibitions with free admission and workshops dedicated to artistic and cultural activities.

1, place Mulot - 64000 PAU

Opening hours depending on the planned activities.



# Bookshop - Shop



Open daily, the bookshop is freely accessible without a ticket. It offers a large collection of historical books, coffee table books and children's literature as well as a selection of gifts and souvenirs related to the castle's collections.



## Practical information

### Museum

Open all year except on 1 January, 1 May and 25 December

**15 June - 22 September :**

9:30 am - 5:30 pm

**23 September - 14 June :**

9:30-11:45 am / 2:00-5:00 pm

*One hour guided tours all year round and self-guided tours in summer*

**Adult : 7€**

**Group : 6€**

*(from 10 paying people)*

**Free :**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, for children under 18 and EU citizens aged 18/25.

### Park and gardens

Open every day

**1 May - 22 September :**

8:30 am - 7:30 pm

**23 September - 30 April :**

8:30 am - 6:30 pm

### Access

**Car :** Place de Verdun car park with free Coxitis shuttle

**Train :** take the funicular then follow the Boulevard des Pyrénées



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REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE



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