



## The tapestries

The tapestries on show at the château de Pau are, by virtue of their number and quality, one of the most valuable collections in France. They were specially chosen among the most beautiful hangings retained by the royal furniture repository, in order to complete the decoration created by Louis-Philippe's architects. Most of these tapestries date from the reign of Louis XIV and Louis XV. They represent mythological scenes (The story of Psyche, The Hall of Saint-Cloud) or aristocratic ones (The Hunts of Maximilian) which create, along with the furniture, a singular atmosphere.



## Between dream and History

All the ingredients of a very popular myth are already brought together in the 18th century and form a fictional presence of Henri IV<sup>th</sup>. It gave rise to numerous objects in various styles which reproduce, untiringly, those formulae associated with the memory of a jolly, heroic king. With its testimony to the Pyrenean dream of Gaston Febus, the Navarese hopes of Henri IV<sup>th</sup>'s grandparents, his own success and legend, 19th century "troubadour" reverie, at the meeting point of roads and styles, the Château de Pau offers its visitors a deep insight into the heart of History.

## Information



Musée national du château de Pau  
Rue du château - 64000 PAU - Tél.: 05 59 82 38 00  
Web-site: [www.musee-chateau-pau.fr](http://www.musee-chateau-pau.fr)

### Open

Every day, except January 1<sup>st</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup> and December 25<sup>th</sup>

### Hours\*

From September 16<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>

9.30 a.m to 11.45 a.m and 2 p.m to 5 p.m

From June 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>

9.30 a.m to 12.15 a.m and 1.30 p.m to 5.45 p.m

\* may be modified

### Visit

One hour-guided-tour only in French

Ask the guide for an English paper translation

Guided tour in english by booking only (15 pax minimum)

### Prices list\* from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011

**Full price:** 6 €; **Reduced price:** 4,50 €

Free under the age of 26

**Groups\*\*:** from 15 to 35 pax: 5 € / pax

Free entrance every first Sunday of the month

\* may be modified - \*\* we highly advise you to book in advance

### Informations-booking

web-site : [www.musee-chateau-pau.fr](http://www.musee-chateau-pau.fr)

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# Château de PAU Musée national



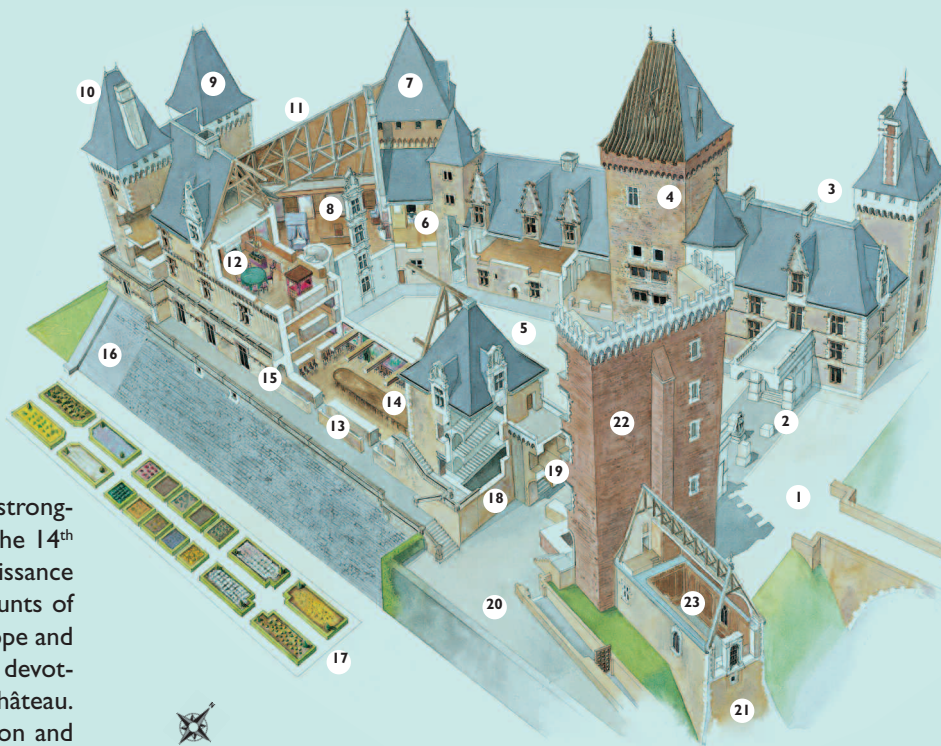




## On the footsteps of Henri IV<sup>th</sup>

The future Henry IV<sup>th</sup>, first king of France and Navarra, was born in this very castle on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1553. We still own the rekown turtle-shell which might have been his first cradle.

Henri IV<sup>th</sup>, otherwise known as "The Bearnaise", inherited lands from his mother, Jeanne d'Albret, and his grandparents, (whose monogram still adorns the grand Renaissance staircase in the château) Henri II<sup>nd</sup> d'Albret and Marguerite d'Angoulême, ythe famous classical storyteller, known for her rendering of the *Heptameron*. These outstanding figures of the political, religious and literary history of the Renaissance, are associated, through the collections of the museum, with that of the first of the Bourbons.



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## Decoration enhancing memory

Louis-Philippe, who held dear the celebration of French historical memorabilia, wanted Pau, so linked to the memory of Henri IV<sup>th</sup>, to be part of this artistic pro-

gramm, and a major contribution to his political credibility. Himself unable to visit the site, the king kept abreast of the work of his Bearnaise residence, whereas, his sons, the Dukes of Orléans, Nemours and Montpensier were entertained there with all due ceremony. The important purveyors to the Crown created fitting suits of furniture in then fashionable neo-gothic and neo-renaissance style for the château de Pau. These furnishings are an example of the authentic decoration of a royal abode under the July Monarchy.



- 1 Castle main-access
- 2 Napoléon III portico
- 3 Napoléon III wing and tower
- 4 **Montausier tower. Museum reception & administration**
- 5 Maincourtyard
- 6 1<sup>st</sup> floor. 19<sup>th</sup> century painting chamber
- 7 Billère tower
- 8 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Empress'rooms
- 9 Louis-Philippe tower
- 10 Mazères tower
- 11 Timberframe dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century
- 12 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. King's bedroom
- 13 Furring
- 14 Ground floor. Hundred guests' dining-room
- 15 Terrace
- 16 Glacis
- 17 Gardens (Renaissance style)
- 18 Main staircase
- 19 Gaston Febus passage way
- 20 Castle south-access by the "boulevard des Pyrénées"
- 21 Old fortified entrance
- 22 Gaston Febus keep
- 23 Chapel

## From stronghold to château

The town of Pau owes its origin to a medieval stronghold, wich was renovated buy Gaston Febus in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Then it was transformed into a Renaissance château by the kings of Navarra, formerly Viscounts of Bearn. In addition, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Louis-Philippe and Napoléon III commissioned architects who were devoted to history to do considerable work on the château. The result is a perfect example of the decoration and furnishing of the years 1840-1860.