

NAPOLÉON

EXPO

BEYOND
THE MYTH

STATION
LIEGE-GUILLEMINS

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THE MUSEUM VENUE AT THE LIÈGE-GUILLEMINS RAILWAY STATION IS PLAYING HOST TO EUROPA EXPO'S NEW MAJOR EVENT, "NAPOLEON – BEYOND THE MYTH"! OVER A FLOOR-SPACE OF ALMOST 3,000 M², THIS IMMERSIVE CULTURAL ADVENTURE EXAMINES THE MANY ASPECTS OF NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE, A MAJOR FIGURE IN HISTORY WHO, TWO CENTURIES AFTER HIS DEATH, CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE OUR DAILY LIFE. FROM THE MAN TO THE LEGEND, THIS EXHIBITION TAKES A METICULOUS LOOK AT THE MAIN STEPS THAT SHAPED THIS EXTRAORDINARY PERSONALITY.



Visitors will discover several hundred original and often invaluable items in impressive displays. These exceptional works, from personal collections (including Bruno Ledoux's) as well as those of renowned Belgian and foreign institutions, all pay witness to the incredible life led by Napoleon Bonaparte. They bear out the international status of this exhibition.

"Napoleon, beyond the myth" benefits from the work of historians directed by Professor Philippe Raxhon (from the University of Liège) and the patronage of the Fondation Napoléon – whose director Thierry Lentz has authored the preface to the official catalogue. The exhibition design is intended to be objective and critical. It takes care to avoid the trap of presenting an idealised image and is enhanced by serious historical studies.



THE MAIN THEMES

Beyond a conventional chronological development, the exhibition in Liège places the emphasis on ten themes to gain a better grasp of the man, but also his life and work. Three major original display sets, remarkable immersive elements, exceptional items, texts, films or also an audio-guide in four languages all come together to provide a visit that is as fascinating as it is enlightening. In a fun little touch, as with the exhibition about Tutankhamen, an exclusive Escape Game has been created to approach the exhibition from a different angle.



A UNIQUE PERSONALITY

The exhibition entrance introduces the life choices made by Napoleon and the myth that he became. A flash-back composition investigates his exile on Saint Helena, his final years, his death and the return of his ashes on the ship La Belle Poule in 1840.

THE REVOLUTION

This theme focuses on the context in which Napoleon came to power. The end of the Ancien Régime, the Revolution, the fall of the Monarchy, the Republic and also the Directorate are the major historical phases covered.

TIMELINE

Visitors can discover both the family tree of the future Emperor and the chronology of the main events in his short life (his first years in Corsica, his military training in Brienne and then in Paris, etc.).

The first of three grand immersive settings, spread over 200 m², is a battlefield with a bivouac, highlighting this essential aspect of the historical figure (complete with encampment, command post and campaign atmosphere).

A SOLDIER'S LIFE

Depending on the missions, the soldier's equipment varied and was adapted to the vagaries of the terrains, distances and routes to be covered, since Napoleon's army was renowned for its speed of movement.

MAJOR BATTLES AND COALITIONS

During his military career, Napoleon fought 57 battles (42 victories, 11 defeats and 4 with an uncertain outcome). Special emphasis is put on ten of them: the Pyramids, Trafalgar, Austerlitz, Jena, Eylau, Friedland, Wagram, Berezina, Leipzig and Waterloo.

THE MAIN THEMES

THE CORONATION

The coronation of Emperor Napoleon, in the presence of Pope Pious VII, marked the zenith of his ascension.

SPLENDOUR

This chapter evokes the man in private and the artistic movement that he created, the Empire style, which exceeded the strict bounds of interior decoration and affected architecture, monuments, arts and fashion. A second major display inspired by a ballroom at the Tuileries Palace illustrates the splendour of the court, etiquette, ablutions and food. Napoleon possessed up to 47 palaces spread throughout the territories he ruled, employing 3,500 people.

HIS MYTH AND LEGACY

Napoleon wanted to leave a lasting trace, to which writing his memoirs ("The Memorial") contributed. The Emperor's study (the third major immersive exhibition setting) explores the civil aspect of his reign, with special emphasis on the code of the same name which changed the face of France and the countries on which he imposed or attempted to impose it. Napoleon wanted a modern State,

with a penal code, the Bank of France, prefectures, universities, the land registry, the concordat... A kind of public welfare dictatorship which transformed the Consulate into the Empire. The main figures of his close entourage and the economic situation are also addressed.

BELGIUM

Many "Belgians" could be found in the entourage of Napoleon, who notably made two visits to Liège. A special zone is dedicated to these two events.

EPILOGUE

The exhibition exit illustrates the return of Napoleon's ashes to Les Invalides and the aspect of a common Europe before its time.



FURTHER INFORMATION

THIS MAJOR EXHIBITION, TAKING PLACE AS PART OF THE BICENTENARY OF NAPOLEON'S DEATH, IS INTENDED FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS. THE TEACHING MATERIAL HAS BEEN CAREFULLY DEVELOPED AND THE (FREE) AUDIO-GUIDES ARE AVAILABLE IN 4 LANGUAGES (FRENCH, DUTCH, GERMAN AND ENGLISH).



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+32 4 224 49 38



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Behind the name of Europa Expo lies internationally renowned expertise in the production and organisation of large-scale exhibitions.

PROMOTING CULTURE FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS!

Since TOUT HERGÉ in 1991, including TOUT SIMENON (1992), I WAS 20 IN 1945 (1995), MADE IN BELGIUM (2005), FROM SALVADOR TO DALÍ (2016) and most recently, TUTANKHAMEN – DISCOVERING THE FORGOTTEN PHARAOH (2020), all our exhibitions have attracted in total MORE THAN 3,200,000 VISITORS FROM BELGIUM AND ABROAD.

