CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESTORATION OF THE TOMB OF THE EMPEROR AND THE NAPOLEONIC MONUMENTS AT THE HÔTEL NATIONAL DES INVALIDES

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

With the support of:
For the bicentenary of Napoleon I’s death on 5 May 2021, the musée de l’Armée and the Fondation Napoléon are joining forces to launch an international appeal to help restore, at the Hôtel National des Invalides, the monuments associated with the Emperor and his brothers Joseph, King of Naples and later of Spain, and Jerome, King of Westphalia and later Governor of Les Invalides.

As this historic monument has gone for a century without restoration and shows the signs of wear and tear typical for a site receiving more than a million visitors a year, it is now crucial that repairs are carried out. To achieve our ambitious goal in time for the bicentenary in 2021 we need your support.

Join us to help raise 800,000 euros.
WHAT WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE?

La restauration du tombeau de l’Empereur

Completed in 1862, the majestic tomb of red quartzite receives ongoing maintenance by the musée de l’Armée. Although its general condition is satisfactory, time has taken its toll and here is what’s needed:

• The restoration of the floor: several parts of the stone, enamel and marble inlay were damaged by pieces of masonry falling from the Dome above, which itself has since been repaired.

• Renewing the gilding of the inscription, over the entrance to the crypt, “Je désire que mes Cendres reposent sur les bords de la Seine, au milieu de ce peuple français que j’ai tant aimé” (“I wish that my mortal remains may repose on the banks of the Seine, surrounded by the French people that I loved so much”).

• The meticulous cleaning of the tombstones of Generals Duroc and Bertrand, of the funeral genies which “guard” the crypt entrance, and more generally, of all the statues and other decorative elements.

• The consolidation of all the floors around the tomb itself: the circular marble and enamelled floor.
The tomb slabs from St Helena in “le Jardin de l’Intendant”:
When the French expedition undertaken by the Comte de Rohan-Chabaud and the Prince de Joinville brought back the Emperor’s mortal remains from St Helena in 1840, they also brought with them the heavy stones which had covered the Tomb on St Helena, the first burial site of the Emperor. There are four of these stone slabs: one had been buried underground, resting directly above the coffins (which were themselves placed one inside another); the other three slabs, at ground level, were visible to visitors. For many years they were displayed in the “Chapelle Napoléon” part of the Église des Soldats, but in the 1970s, these stone slabs were transferred to the “Jardin de l’Intendant”, a small garden adjacent to the cathedral.

The plan is to clean and protect the stones, and also to improve their appearance with a new landscape design, lighting, as well as installing new media tools, all of which will facilitate public visits, weather-permitting.

The Restoration of the other Napoleonic Monuments

• King Joseph’s Tomb: this tomb (1862) is currently open to the public and needs a thorough cleaning.

• King Jerome’s Tomb: this tomb (1860) has been inaccessible to the public for several years and needs the same attention as that of his brother Joseph. It is located in the ‘Chapelle Saint-Jérôme’, which is where the Emperor’s mortal remains were laid to rest when they were first brought back to France in 1840. After restoration work, the chapel will be reopened to the public.

• The Chapelle Napoléon: in the Église des Soldats served as the second chapel of rest for Napoleon’s mortal remains while the Dome Church was undergoing construction work. The chapel has only rarely been open to the public, and its decor is virtually unchanged. There are also several paintings depicting the return of Napoleon’s mortal remains, which, along with the rest of the furniture, will be included in the chapel’s restoration.

• The tomb slabs from St Helena in “le Jardin de l’Intendant”: When the French expedition undertaken by the Comte de Rohan-Chabaud and the Prince de Joinville brought back the Emperor’s mortal remains from St Helena in 1840, they also brought with them the heavy stones which had covered the Tomb on St Helena, the first burial site of the Emperor. There are four of these stone slabs: one had been buried underground, resting directly above the coffins (which were themselves placed one inside another); the other three slabs, at ground level, were visible to visitors. For many years they were displayed in the “Chapelle Napoléon” part of the Église des Soldats, but in the 1970s, these stone slabs were transferred to the “Jardin de l’Intendant”, a small garden adjacent to the cathedral.

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WHY DONATE?

By helping to restore the Emperor’s last resting place and the other monuments which surround it, you can play a key role in the preservation of a great monument symbolic of France’s historic and artistic heritage. The restoration and refurbishment of these monuments will be part of a larger “Napoleon Season”, in 2021, which will include a major exhibition, concerts, talks and many other events. What’s more, all of this will be open to the public.

Tax Benefits

Since the Fondation Napoléon is a registered charity (“reconnue d’utilité publique par décret du 12 novembre 1987”), donations made to it – either by private individuals or by companies fiscally resident in France – are therefore tax-deductible.

For individuals

- If you pay tax in France, donations known as ‘manual donations’, meaning direct payments to the Fondation Napoléon in cash, cheque or by bank transfer, result in an income tax reduction of 66% of the amount of the donation.
- Donations may result in a reduction of property tax (IFI), with the limit being 75% of a capped donation sum of €50,000.

For Companies

- If you are a company registered in France you can benefit from an income tax reduction equivalent to 60% of the donation amount, with a limit of €5 per €1000 of pre-tax turnover.
- If you live in the United States, your donation towards the restoration of the Napoleonic monuments at Les Invalides may qualify for tax rebate depending on which state you live in.
- To donate to the appeal, please go to the website of the Friends of the Fondation de France, and specify “Fondation Napoléon” as the beneficiary.

Benefits to You

- A donor’s certificate and donor’s email signature: For donations over 20 euros.
- Napoleon’s Tomb (Soteca ed.): For donations over 50 euros.
- Prestige Tour: For donations over 100 euros you will be invited to a special tour of the exhibition presented at the Musée de l’Armée as a part of the Napoleon Season in 2021. Furthermore, you will be given special opportunities to attend other events of this cultural programme.
- A backstage visit, and an evening for patrons: For donations over 1,000 euros you will be invited to a prestigious tour of Les Invalides, including a tour of the Dome with its panoramic views of Paris as well as an invitation to the evening for patrons under the Dome.
- A ‘Médaille Napoléon’: For donations over 1,500 euros you will, in addition to these other privileges, receive a medal specially minted on the occasion of this restoration.

Every donor will receive a personal letter of thanks, as well as a mention on the museum website, social network sites and the wall of donors at the Dome.

How can you make a donation?

The appeal will be open from 3 May 2019 until 1 February 2021.

To make a donation:
By credit card or Paypal: go to fondationnapoleon.org, click ‘Make a Donation’ and follow the instructions.

By cheque: please send cheques made out to the ‘Fondation Napoléon’ here:
Fondation Napoléon
Restauration du tombeau de l’Empereur
7, rue Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire
75005 Paris – FRANCE

By bank transfer: ask Alexandra Mongin for our bank details (in French RIB) by mail or telephone:
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+33(0)1 56 43 46 00

Contact Us

For any information regarding this project and press relations:
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For any other information:
Roxane Scheibli, Patrons Manager, musée de l’Armée
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I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE
in the restoration of the tomb of the Emperor
and the Napoleonic Monuments of the Hôtel National des Invalides

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I would like
to make a donation of:  Please make cheques out
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You can also make a donation online: fondationnapoleon.org, link ‘Make a Donation’

Date  Signature

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WITH YOUR CHEQUE TO THIS ADDRESS:

Fondation Napoléon, Restauration du tombeau de l’Empereur
7, rue Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire – 75005 Paris – FRANCE

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