

Château de Prangins. MUSÉE NATIONAL SUISSE. SCHWEIZERISCHES NATIONALMUSEUM. MUSEO NAZIONALE SVIZZERO. MUSEUM NAZIUNAL SVIZZER.

PRESENTATION

From nature to culture, a journey to the Age of Enlightenment



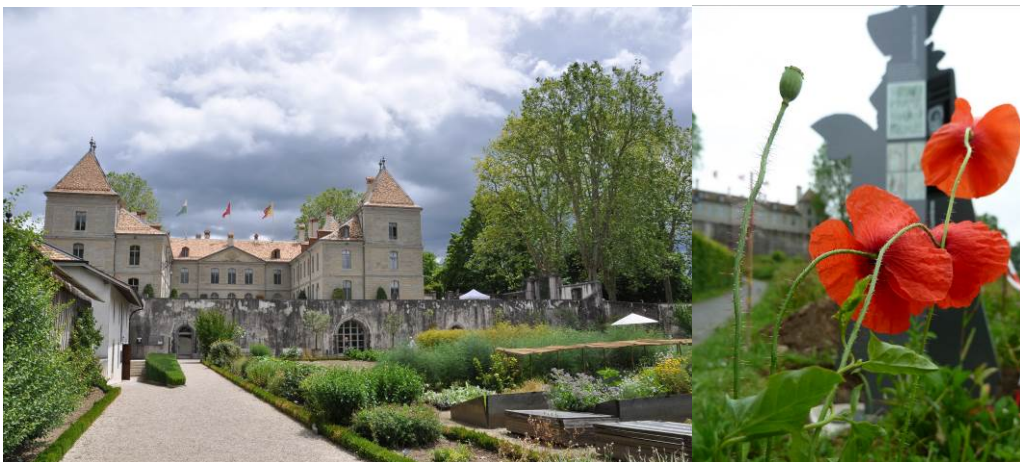
THE SITE

Situated in a beautiful location overlooking the immense curve of Lake Geneva, just a few minutes from Nyon and less than half an hour from Lausanne and Geneva, the Château de Prangins is the perfect place to enjoy a walk, view exhibitions and learn about modern Swiss history.

The building, a magnificent residence built in the 1730s in the French style, is home to the Swiss National Museum in French-speaking Switzerland and is the largest 18th-century château open to the public in the country. Past guests have included celebrated figures such as Voltaire and Joseph Bonaparte.

Formerly a baronial and princely seat and subsequently a boarding school, Château de Prangins became a museum in 1998, and houses both permanent and temporary exhibitions. It is surrounded by five hectares of parkland including a panoramic terrace and a superb kitchen garden – the only one of its kind in Switzerland – containing around a hundred historic varieties.

Château de Prangins is very much a living building, playing host to numerous events and activities organised to accompany its exhibitions. The museum shop, the Café du Château and various conference rooms with capacity for between 10 and 100 people further complement its cultural offerings.



HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM

The château was offered to the Swiss Confederation by the cantons of Vaud and Geneva in 1975 and thereafter became the base for the Swiss National Museum in French-speaking Switzerland. It opened to the public in 1998, inaugurating a permanent exhibition space devoted to life in Switzerland between 1730 and 1920. It is the only history museum of its size in the Lake Geneva region and was an immediate success with enthusiasts and tourists visiting the area. Since its inception, more than a million people have passed through its doors. It has hosted some 50 temporary exhibitions and has also been the venue for numerous music and theatre events.



Flowers of Fire – museum's 20th birthday

In 2018, the museum celebrated its 20th birthday. A packed weekend of festivities kicked off on Saturday, 29 September, with “Flowers of Fire”, a light performance and social sculpture directed by the artist Muma. Assisted by 600 volunteers, he lit up the park, the kitchen garden and the small valley next to the château with 50,000 candles. The flames reproduced shapes inspired by chintzes, the printed cotton fabrics that featured in a remarkable exhibition, which was the high point of the year. The next day, Sunday 30 September, the 10th *Déjeuner sur l’herbe* delighted visitors with its fashion show, culminating in an appearance by students from HEAD wearing creations also inspired by chintzes. The weekend’s events were attended by almost 10,000 people.

Designated one of the four establishments of the Swiss National Museum in the Federal Museums Act of 2010, Château de Prangins showcases Swiss heritage in general and works closely with other cultural institutions.

As it nears the end of its second decade, its dynamism is undiminished and its projects as numerous as ever. Following renovation work on the park and permanent exhibitions between 2010 and 2013, the emphasis is on temporary exhibitions focusing in depth on various topics related to Swiss cultural history. A wide range of tours, workshops and events accompany the exhibitions, attracting not just hundreds of children and school parties but also many adults, all eager to discover – or rediscover – elements of the past.

THE EXHIBITIONS



Since 2013, the former reception rooms of Château de Prangins, comprising the salon, dining rooms and libraries, have been returned to their former splendour and now form the backdrop for a new permanent exhibition on receiving guests in the Age of Enlightenment. Boiseries in their original colours, textiles with lustrous motifs and false-marble decorations create the perfect surroundings for some 600 objects from the era.

Entitled *Noblesse oblige! Life at a Château in the 18th Century*, the exhibition brings to life the daily existence of a noble family in the Vaud region at the end of the Ancien Régime and examines key issues of cultural history. It offers an insight into the life of a baron and the way in which he manages his estate, his duties and obligations, his family and social life. Each of the nine rooms is devoted to a specific topic that mirrors its original function: wealth and lighting in the salon, servants in the butler's pantry, and the taste for reading in the library.

Specially produced films featuring the voices of the château's inhabitants and two audioguides in French, English, German and Italian – one for adults, the other for younger audiences – allow visitors to immerse themselves in life at a château.

The museum also houses other permanent exhibitions relating to Swiss history. *Switzerland on the Move 1750–1920* offers a fascinating tour through the country's past, covering everything from culture and politics to economic and social issues. From the Breguet clock to the old-style grocer's store via a multitude of objects both artistic and everyday displayed on several floors, the exhibition presents a picture of a nation in constant development.



Outside, an original cultural walk entitled ***Discovering the Enlightenment*** welcomes visitors as they enter the grounds. In some twenty stages, this tour retraces history *in situ*, shedding light on little-known and previously undiscovered aspects of the site. Cut-out silhouettes representing famous personalities such as Mozart and Voltaire guide visitors along the way.

With around a hundred rare fruit and vegetable varieties, the kitchen garden of the Château de Prangins is an exhibition in itself. Entitled ***Discovering the garden: old varieties, current issues***, the presentation in the adjoining visitor centre links four symbolic plants to topics of present-day relevance to explore topics of botany and agronomy. There is a tour plan for children and an audioguide in various languages enabling visitors to learn more about some thirty key plants *in situ* as they explore the garden. A series of anecdotes highlight the multiple uses that human beings have made of plants over the centuries, from the medicinal and aesthetic to the gastronomic.

In 2020, we inaugurate one new permanent exhibition:

Let the journey begin! A fun exhibition for families as of 11 October 2020

Château de Prangins presents a major first: a new role-playing exhibition for families. Visitors of all ages are invited to imagine themselves as an English tourist or a young chimney-sweep from Ticino travelling around Switzerland on foot, by train or by boat.



The temporary exhibitions deal with topics related to Swiss art, culture and society. They act as a showcase of applied art, revealing to the public the remarkable collections of the Swiss National Museum, and at the same time draw on the site's rich history to examine aspects of life in Switzerland from the Enlightenment to the present day. Finally, thematic exhibitions approach the country's cultural history and current topics from a variety of different angles.

EXHIBITIONS IN 2020

Swiss Press Photo 2019

08.11.2019-23.02.2020

The Château de Prangins presents the 28th edition of the Swiss Press Photo exhibition, showcasing Switzerland's best press photography of 2018. This exhibition, through the talent of its photographers, not only presents the news of the past year, but also everyday life in our country. Sports, politics and the environment are some of the subjects covered by the images presented until 23 February 2020.



A Matter of Affinity – Love and sexuality in the 18th century

21.05.-11.10.2020

An exhibition on the subjects of love, marriage, seduction, desire and sexuality in the 18th century, as seen by the expert Casanova and through various objects, mainly of everyday life, but that will appear much less innocent once you look beyond their primary function.

World Press Photo 2020

20.11.-20.12.2020

Swiss Press Photo 2020

20.11.2020-28.02.2021

ACTIVITIES 2020



All year round, the le Château de Prangins offers various activities for big and small. Here some examples:

- Public guided tours of the kitchen garden in French and English
- Public guided tours of the permanent and temporary exhibitions in French and English
- Public guided tours on the architecture of the château
- Theatrical guided tours with the Baroness Matilda Guiguer through the permanent exhibition *Noblesse oblige!* (in French)
- Creative workshops for children during the Advent period (in French and English)
- Readings of texts in relation to our various exhibitions
- Activities specifically developed for schools

Find our complete and detailed programme online on www.chateaudeprangins.ch.

EVENTS



In addition to the guided public tours of the kitchen garden and the temporary and permanent exhibitions, the museum organises various big events in 2020 :

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|-----------------------|---|
| Sunday 26 January | Journée spéciale Photos de presse in relation to the temporary exhibition <i>Swiss Press Photo 19</i> with the participation of award-winning photographers (free admission) |
| Saturday 1 August | Swiss national day (free admission) |
| 27-29 August | Cinéma Open Air in cooperation with the festival <i>Visions du Réel</i> and GSK |
| Sunday 11 October | Opening party of <i>Let the journey begin! A fun exhibition for families</i> |
| Thursday, 19 November | Vernissage and opening of the new exhibition <i>Swiss Press Photo and World Press Photo 20</i> (free admission) |

Find our complete and detailed programme online on www.chateaudeprangins.ch.

FACTS AND FIGURES

1	single national museum in French-speaking Switzerland
20%	of visitors from abroad
41	exhibition rooms
56	temporary exhibitions to date
1,300	items on display
5,500	m ² of kitchen garden
52,873	visitors on average each year
1,163,195	visitors since 1998

Executive office

Swiss National Museum, Zurich
Director Andreas Spillmann

Château de Prangins

Director Helen Bieri Thomson



Staff

The Château de Prangins has a staff of around 50, including:

- 16 permanent employees (11.35 FTE)
- 15 guides and activity leaders on call
- 25 external staff (security, cleaning, parks and gardens, etc.)
- Additional human resources among the approximately 200 staff of the Swiss National Museum

Since 1 January 2010, the Federal Museums Act has endowed the Swiss National Museum with a legal personality and transformed it into a public institution. It comprises three exhibition locations: the Landesmuseum in Zurich, the Forum of Swiss History in Schwyz and the Château de Prangins, as well as a Collection Centre in Affoltern am Albis.



GENERAL INFORMATION



Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday and public holidays 10.00 to 17.00

How to get here

Public transport from Nyon railway station)

- Bus no. 811, stop Abériaux
- Bus no. 805, stop Prangins, musée national

CGN boat to the Nyon landing stage (20-minute walk)

By car: Motorway A1 exit Nyon or Gland, then follow the sign posts.
Parking available on the lake side.

Prices

Exhibitions (adults)	CHF 10.-
Groups (+ 10 people)	CHF 8.-
Senior citizens (AVS), disability/ unemployment benefit holders (AI, AC), students	CHF 8.-
Children until the age of 16	free admission
Schools (admission and activities)	free admission

Visitor centre, kitchen garden
and cultural walk

free admission

Guided tours by appointment

CHF 120. -/group of 25 persons max.

The museum is accessible to visitors with reduced mobility; admission free for companions

Three conference rooms

- Salle des Belles Pierres
161m², an attractive space with exposed stonework and view of the kitchen garden, seats 100
- Salle Côté Jardin
128m², 1st floor of the garden outbuilding with exposed beams, seats 50
- Salle de la Tour
38m², in the château attic with view of the lake and the Alps, seats 10

The museum shop offers a selection of books, souvenirs and original gifts

Le Café du Château, open Tuesday to Sunday, 09.30 to 16.30. Open in the evenings upon request for groups. Tel. + 41 (0)22 363 14 66 - www.cafe-du-chateau.ch

CONTACTS

Château de Prangins
Swiss National Museum
Av. Général Guiguer 3
CH-1197 Prangins
Tel. + 41 (0) 22 994 88 90
Fax + 41 (0) 22 994 88 98
info.prangins@nationalmuseum.ch
www.chateaudeprangins.ch

Helen Bieri Thomson, Director
helen.bieri-thomson@nationalmuseum.ch
Tel. + 41 (0) 22 994 88 92

Catherine Vermeil, Deputy Director
catherine.vermeil@nationalmuseum.ch
Tel. + 41 (0) 22 994 88 91

Tatiana Oberson, Communications and Marketing
tatiana.oberson@nationalmuseum.ch
Tel. + 41 (0) 22 994 88 68

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