

ÎLE-DE-FRANCE MUSEUM OF PREHISTORY

48, avenue Étienne Dailly - 77140 Nemours
Phone: 01 64 78 54 80
prehistoire@departement77.fr

Open every day except Wednesday mornings and Saturday mornings, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and until 6 p.m. in July and August. Closed on May 1st, December 25th and January 1st.



Discovery tour of the collections using 5 tactile boxes.



Adapted tours and activities for groups, advance booking required.



Permanent collections and temporary exhibitions accessible to the disabled. Adapted toilets.



Conference room equipped with a hearing loop.



Touch tablet rental for the visit.

www.musee-prehistoire-idf.fr

museedeprehistoireidf

seine-et-marne.fr



MUSÉE DE PRÉHISTOIRE D'ÎLE-DE-FRANCE

RETOUR SUR 600 000 ANS D'HISTOIRE



COLLECTIONS

AN EXCEPTIONAL SITE

Opened to the public in 1981, the Île-de-France Museum of Prehistory was created on the initiative of the Seine-et-Marne general council. It is located at the foot of a sandstone formation near the forest of Fontainebleau, on a site where pine, birch, moss and heather grows, and which is similar to the natural environment in which the last hunter-gatherers in the region lived.



A REGIONAL VOCATION

Focused on a regional mission, the Ile-de-France Museum of Prehistory exhibits and highlights the collections and scientific data

for the Prehistory and Protohistory of the whole Île-de-France region.

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

Built between 1977 and 1979, the building is the work of Roland Simounet (1927-1996). In rough formwork concrete, it has a terraced cover and large window bays that open onto the interior gardens, the wooded park and the sandstone rocks that surround it. By its shape and its materials, it merges into the mineral universe of the surrounding sandstone chaos. Its glass facades and the organisation of the rooms around patios allow a permanent dialogue between the architecture, the collections and the wooded zone. A disciple of Le Corbusier (1887-1965), but also a

self-taught architect, for the museum, Roland Simounet developed the main principles that are the originality of the three museums he worked on (Museum of Prehistory, Villeneuve- d'Ascq Museum of Modern Art from 1980 to 1983 and the Picasso Museum in Paris from 1981 to 1985):

- favour natural light,
- affirm the refined simplicity of the volumes,
- guide the visitor's journey.

Protected by the law on historic monuments, the museum is labelled "Twentieth century heritage".

THE CAROLINGIAN BOAT

Since 2005, a Carolingian boat closes the museum tour. It was dug out of a single oak trunk that was 158 years old and felled during the winter of 834/835 AD during the reign of Charlemagne's son, Louis the Pious. It was accidentally discovered in 1992,

in Noyen-sur-Seine (Seine-et-Marne). It was found in an old channel of the Seine, at a depth of 4 metres. It is 14.5 metres long. Like most "waterlogged timber", it has been impregnated with resin to guarantee its long-term conservation.

THE MUSEUM, A LIVING CULTURAL VENUE

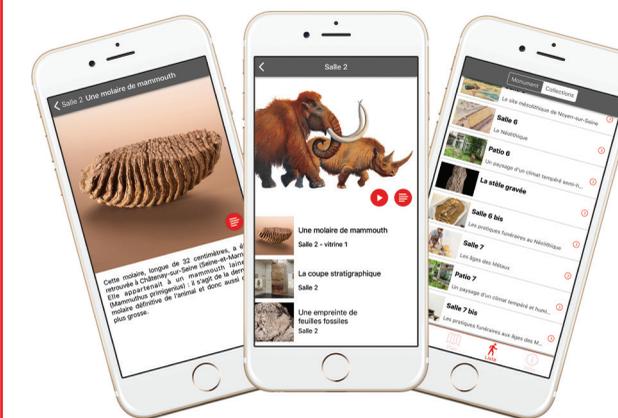
An open and living cultural venue, the Île-de-France Museum of Prehistory creates beneficial bridges between the site, the collections and

contemporary creation in all its forms (plastic arts, photography, literature, performing arts, etc.) by bringing together today's artists.

To find out more

You can download the free mobile app, "Musée de Préhistoire d'Île-de-France", from Google Play or the App Store.

It provides a virtual tour of the museum: its collections, its interior gardens, but also its building.



EVERYONE AT THEIR OWN PACE...

Two chronological tours are available: the main tour (rooms numbered 1 to 7) provides general knowledge of regional prehistory; the in-depth circuit (alternatively numbered) is recommended for visitors anxious to improve their knowledge.

ROOM 1 A PREHISTORIC DIG SITE

The cast of an area of the Etiolles site (Essonne) shows how a dig on a nomad hunter camp from the late Palaeolithic was carried out.



THE ACCESS RAMP

Illustrated panels show the evolution from pre-Australopithecus to modern man (Homo sapiens).

ROOM 2 THE LOWER AND MIDDLE PALAEOOLITHIC

APPROXIMATELY 600,000 TO 40,000 YEARS BC

The climate during this long period is marked by alternating cold and warm periods. The exhibited remains of fauna (mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, giant deer, bison and horse) are characteristic of a cold period. Cut stone tools, such as hand axes, prove the presence of man during this period. A stratigraphic cross section shows different levels of alluvial deposits which have revealed fossil prints of plants such as fig trees and willows. This type of plant, which you can see in the garden adjoining the room, grows in mild and semi-humid climates.

ROOM 3 - THE LATE PALAEOOLITHIC

40,000 to 9,000 BC

The flint tools are now shaped from blades. The discovery of tool-making workshops in Étiolles and Tarterets (Essonne) made it possible for archaeologists to understand the techniques used to make these blades. By using them rough or by transforming them, the Cro-Magnon people were able to make effective reindeer hunting

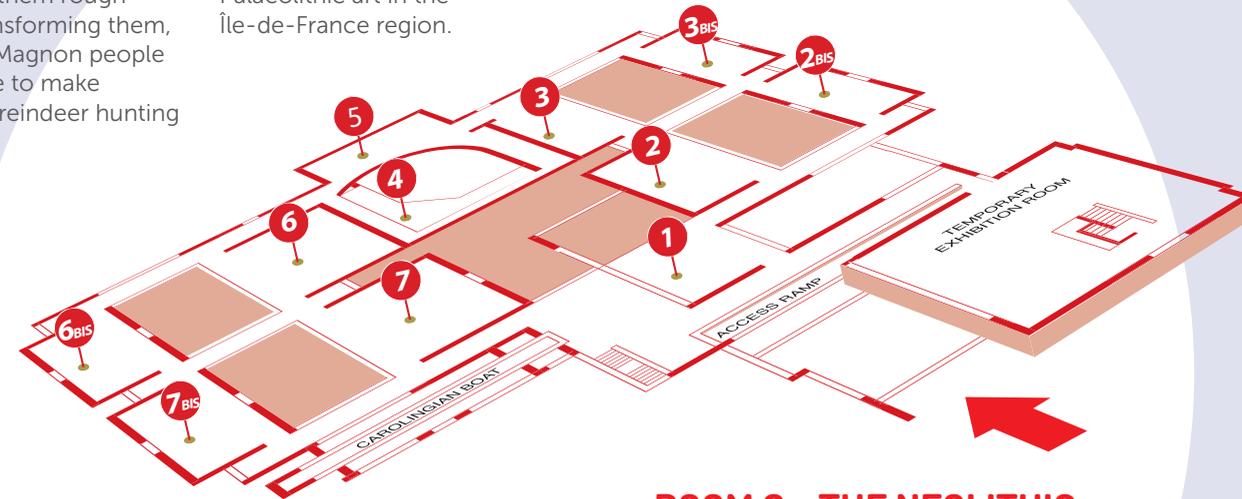
weapons and tools suitable for working materials such as wood, bone or animal hides (manufacture of clothing, blankets, tents). The Etiolles engraved stone (12,500 BC) is a very rare example of Palaeolithic art in the Île-de-France region.

ROOM 4 - PINCEVENT

LA GRANDE PAROISSE, SEINE-ET-MARNE

Pincevent is a hunting stop where communities of reindeer hunters from the Magdalenian period (around 12,000 years BC) regularly set up camp.

A cast of the ground and a slide show illustrate and comment on the discovery and excavation of this site.



ROOM 6 - THE NEOLITHIC

5,000 to 2,300 BC

The Neolithic was a period of great change: the production of means of subsistence (agriculture and livestock) gradually replaced the foraging of food from the wild. Furthermore, the first sedentary villages appear. Around 3,500 BC, in the Middle Neolithic, fortified dwelling sites begin to spread. The production of large numbers of cut and polished axes meet the need for clearance to make way for farming.

The collective graves bear witness to the development and diversity of funeral rituals at the end of the Neolithic.



ROOM 7 - METAL AGES

2,300 to 30 BC

The Bronze Age (2,300 to 800 BC)

The exhibition of a facsimile of a hearth and bellows evokes bronze metallurgy. Undoubtedly for ritual reasons, a major part of the bronze objects that you can see were deliberately buried in the ground or thrown into rivers.

At the end of the Bronze Age, around the year 1000 BC, cremation rituals became widespread. The funeral urns can then be accompanied by numerous offerings.



The Iron Age (800 to 30 BC)

Iron ore is widespread. However, its transformation being complex, its use was initially reserved for the elites and for weapons. It did not become common until the 33rd century BC. At the end of the Iron Age, the appearance of the first Gallic currencies and imported products show sustained trade with the Mediterranean world. Begun a century earlier in the South East, the conquest of Gaul by

Rome ends with Julius Caesar's campaigns (58-51 BC). By convention, the introduction of writing by the Roman administration marks the end of Protohistory. The last showcase evokes the "Roman" lifestyles which then developed.



© Gilles Tosello