

MUSÉE RODIN

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The Rodin Museum in Paris is the embodiment of French elegance. Thanks to the subtle combination of the beautifully preserved site in the heart of Paris, the garden, which is a real haven of peace, and the collection of the greatest French sculptor, this magic has worked for over a hundred years. This charming visit, voted one of the most romantic places in Paris, is what makes Paris unique in the eyes of all.

Rodin had donated all his works and possessions to the French state in 1916, a year before his death, with the proviso that the Hôtel Biron should become a museum; this donation, the founding act of the Musée Rodin, forged a lasting link between the most prominent sculptor of the period and the exquisite Hôtel Biron.



The Thinker in the garden, ph J. Manoukian, agence photographique musée Rodin

Every year, some 580,000 visitors (before Covid) from all over the world visit the Musée Rodin and its sculpture garden of almost three hectares, where they can admire iconic works such as the famous *Thinker*. The museum's two sites hold the world's largest collection of Rodin's work. The main and better known location is the Hôtel Biron, in the heart of the 7th arrondissement of Paris; the second is Rodin's former house and studio at Meudon, a short distance from the capital. Now a museum dedicated to art and cultural education, this is where visitors can grasp the essence of Rodin's art and get a sense of the atmosphere that inspired the artist's creativity.

The Hôtel Biron, an exceptional location dedicated to sculpture

This recently renovated eighteenth-century mansion, a jewel of Parisian rococo architecture, houses a chronological and thematic display in eighteen rooms. The charm and beauty of the setting—the quality of the architecture, the antique wood trim in the rotundas, the natural light that floods the rooms—

enhance the visitor experience. The presentation includes the plaster models that were part of Rodin's creative process, helping to convey an understanding of the way he worked.



The Kiss and the *Age of bronze* in the rotunda. Ph C.Weiner, agence photographique musée Rodin

The sculpture garden

Visitors to the Musée Rodin in Paris are greeted by the *Thinker*, framed by the Eiffel Tower and the golden dome of Les Invalides. The *Gates of Hell* stand in the sculpture garden, which is filled with the scent of roses in May and is known to Parisians as a haven of peace. Its leafy pathways lead from one sculpture to the next: the mournful procession of *The Burghers of Calais*, the *Monument to Balzac* with Les Invalides in the distance... The garden shows the sculptures in various lights—displayed on the large lawn, dotted along the winding paths or hidden in the shady groves.



The *Gate of Hell* almost hidden by the rose bushes of the garden.

The Musée Rodin in Meudon

The Villa des Brillants, Rodin's house in Meudon, is a more intimate setting that has preserved the atmosphere of an artist's home. The beautiful park with its sloping lawns is also a memorial site: it is where Rodin and his wife Rose Beuret are buried.

An original business model: a self-funded museum

The Musée Rodin, created to preserve and disseminate Rodin's work, is the only state-owned museum in France to be fully self-funded. In 1916, the sculptor endowed it with legal and financial independence; the donation of his copyrights allowed the museum to produce and sell original bronzes cast from the molds he bequeathed to it.

Additional funds are raised by ticket sales, special events, sponsorship, international exhibitions and an independent and enterprising museum shop, while an in-house photo agency allows the museum to control its own image.

Exhibition program

Antony Gormley, Critical Mass 17 oct.2023-03 March 2024

Wide-reaching projects

Like the other state-owned museums, the Musée Rodin fulfills its public service mission with a range of offerings, including free admission for EU residents under 26, free admission on the first Sunday of the month from October to April and free visits for school groups. A large number of art and cultural education projects are targeted at people with limited cultural opportunities (due to geographical distance, disability or social disadvantage); projects such as "Rodin in Hospital," "It's My Heritage" and "The Sculptors' Studio" are purpose-designed to make culture accessible to everyone.

Musée Rodin de Paris : 77 rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris. Open daily (except Monday), from 10 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. Admission free for under-18s and EU res. under 26

Musée Rodin Meudon : 19 avenue Auguste Rodin, 92200 Meudon. Open Saturday and Sunday, from 10am. to 6 p.m.

Program and tickets: www.musee-rodin.fr

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