



GENDARMERIE NATIONALE



PRESS KIT

Saint Tropez

MUSÉE DE LA GENDARMERIE ET DU CINÉMA
GENDARMERIE AND CINEMA MUSEUM

◆ www.saint-tropez.fr





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EDITORIAL

Another flagship project of our cultural ambition for Saint-Tropez will become reality at the end of June: the opening of the museum of the Gendarmerie and Cinema strengthens the museum offer of our town and consolidates its touristic attractiveness.

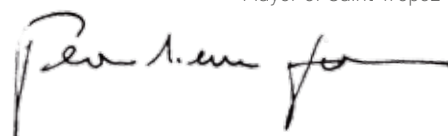
Following the example of the maritime history museum which was inaugurated in 2013 at the citadel, this new museum should enjoy a great success as suggested by the tens of thousands of visitors who, every year, take photographs of the old gendarmerie's façade, immortalized in "*Le Gendarme de Saint-Tropez*" film series.

For that very reason, it was decided to preserve the original aspect of the old gendarmerie building with a view also to paying tribute to the army corps in one of the first floor rooms. However, the scenography of the museum is largely dedicated to the 7th art to the movies that were filmed in Saint-Tropez and its peninsula, all of them having largely contributed to enhance the reputation of the Town.

Saint-Tropez, showcase in the 50's of the new "Saint-Germain des Prés", as the Parisian artistic world loved to call it, became later a myth with Brigitte Bardot and the Gendarmes series and thereafter a privileged residence for the jet-set, the industrial and international finance managers as well as a place that millions of tourists visit each year.

In addition to its permanent collections, the museum will also host temporary exhibitions to highlight a particular theme related to the gendarmerie or to cinema in Saint-Tropez. Each year, visitors will thus find a renewed interest in visiting this new jewel of the tropezian cultural heritage.

Jean-Pierre Tuveri
Mayor of Saint-Tropez



THE MUSEUM IN THE COMMUNITY

The museum of the Gendarmerie and Cinema of Saint-Tropez invites you to discover the history of this building, which, before becoming the iconic place where the Gendarmes films were shot, was home to the Saint-Tropez gendarmerie from 1879 until 2003.

The visit continues with an explanation of how the gendarmes were portrayed in these films, followed by an introduction to the history of cinema in Saint-Tropez. The museum space presents the numerous movies shot in the Var peninsula as well as the many trades and professions connected with cinema.

Afterwards, you can take the holiday trail, exploring the myth and reality of Saint-Tropez through cinema.

The museum has a temporary exhibition hall on the ground floor.

SAINT-TROPEZ

From the end of the 15th Century when there was a revival of the town, until the beginning of the 20th Century, Saint-Tropez was one of the busiest trade and fishing ports along the Provençal coast. With a maritime border, the town that



Photograph: © Jean-Louis Chaix



grew from 2.500 to 6.500 inhabitants over the centuries, has seen a great number of foreigners passing through: sailors on a port of call, military troops, travellers...

From 1830-50, the coastal navigation slowly declined, gradually giving way to pleasure boating. And from the middle of the 19th Century, the little town, "*daughter of the sea*" as Guy de Maupassant, the French writer, liked to call it, attracted artists, those in love with the sea and personalities who were looking for a town and a region that were cared for, unspoiled and protected.

Today, it is one of the most famous ports in the world, attracting several million visitors every year who like to stroll along the most modern yachts and the age-old houses. This year at the height of the summer, Saint-Tropez, which covers an area of 1 152 hectares and has 4.500 inhabitants, welcomes about 80.000 visitors per day. Saint-Tropez is truly an important touristic centre.

SAINT-TROPEZ AND THE GENDARMERIE

The first gendarmerie brigade of Saint-Tropez was created in 1838. The permanent installation of gendarmes in this small harbour town is not surprising, considering its lively economy and the vitality of its inhabitants.

Today as yesterday, a gendarme plays a key role in the life of a community. Responsible for enforcing the law, he is easily identified by his uniform and by his permanent presence in the area. Yesterday he was chasing poachers; today he can be seen all along the motorway ensuring better highway security. Summing up his duties, he guarantees above all the security of the local inhabitants.



Photograph: © Jean-Louis Chaix

SAINT-TROPEZ AND THE CINEMA

Cinema was present very early in the town. The oldest known film – admittedly an advertisement – was made in 1905 for the Michelin firm (Gaumont Archives). But it was not until between the two world wars that directors came regularly to install their cameras in the town of Bailli making films such as *The Servant*, Jean Choux (1930) or *For an Evening*, Jean Godard (1931).

It is not surprising that the two worlds, that of the gendarmes and the cinema, would end up meeting each

other. Already present in Maurin from the Maures, tracking down the handsome Maurin in the woods and villages in the Gulf of Saint-Tropez, the gendarmes end up being an essential fixture of the tropezian cinematic landscape in *The Gendarme of Saint-Tropez*, Jean Girault (1964). This was the first in a series of six films that were all immensely successful and continue to be so on television reruns.

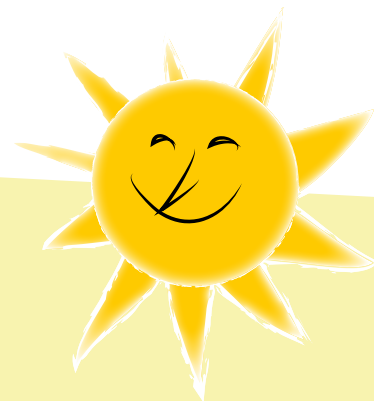
Cooperation with other tropezian museums

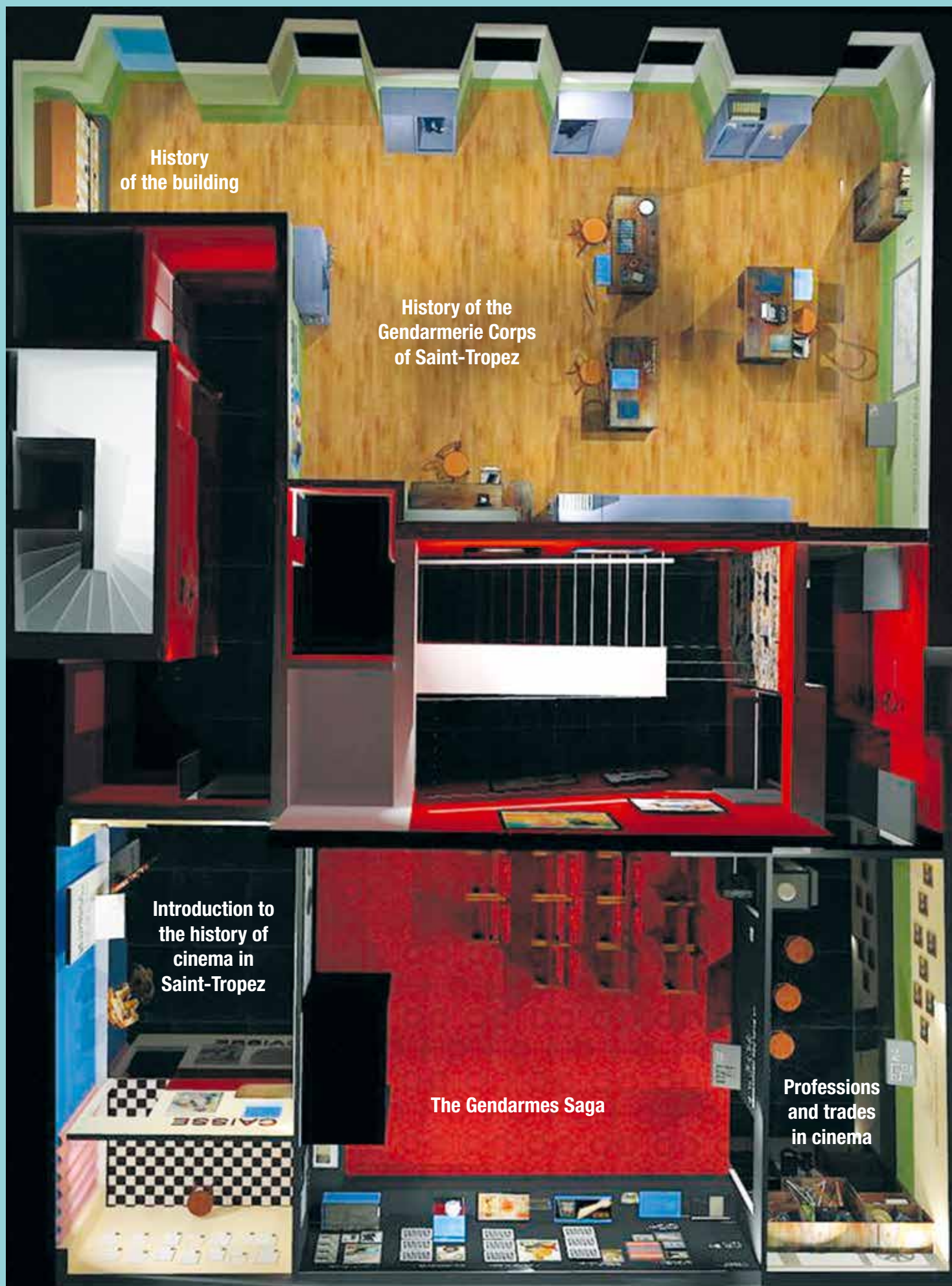
These facilities complement the current offer of museum spaces in Saint-Tropez. The town already manages the Annonciade museum which has a fine arts collection, the citadelle museum where you can discover the town's maritime history, the house of Butterflies - Dany Lartigue museum which connects natural history with artistic creation, and the château de la Moutte - domaine Emile Ollivier, home of Emile Ollivier who was the last head of government in the Second

The museum themes are the history of the building and the gendarmerie corps in Saint-Tropez, as well as the myth and reality of Saint-Tropez seen through cinema.

Empire. Furthermore, all the museums in Saint-Tropez are buildings linked to the social and economic history of the town. The museum of Fine Arts is situated in the old chapelle Notre-Dame of the Annonciade, which was used for building boats and sailmaking. The collection is connected with the Grammont family, founders of the factory for telegraphic cables, which were installed in the bay of Canebiers from 1892 until 1926. The citadelle is part of the town's ancient

fortifications, the house of Butterflies-Dany Lartigue museum is situated in the old gardens quarter. The château de la Moutte-domaine Emile Ollivier is an important part of tropezian culture and national heritage, a reminder of the great summer residences of the 19th century. Likewise, the museum of the Gendarmerie and Cinema of Saint-Tropez is housed in a building linked by its situation and most recent function to the economic and social history of the town.





History
of the building

History of the
Gendarmerie Corps
of Saint-Tropez

Introduction to
the history of
cinema in
Saint-Tropez

The Gendarmes Saga

Professions
and trades
in cinema

THE MUSEUM VISIT

First floor | Space 1

Introduction to the history of the building and the gendarmerie corps in Saint-Tropez (reconstruction of a gendarme office of the 60s).

First floor | Space 2

Introduction to the cinema in Saint-Tropez (reconstruction of a cinema foyer and also a cinema auditorium with extracts from films, interviews with actors, stories about the different films shot in the Var peninsula, various objects from filming).

Myth and reality of Saint-Tropez through cinema

From the list of films shot in Saint-Tropez, only a selection is displayed within the museum. This is based on films that mirror a background, a period, and society in Saint-Tropez at the time the film was made.

The films chosen dramatize the world around us, and also allow the spirit of the time to be recreated. In this way they are a valid aesthetic and intellectual account of the time, but sometimes they can also misrepresent and exaggerate the reality, which only gives a superficial vision or even a hackneyed version of that which is really Saint-Tropez.

Four themes present in the films shot in Saint-Tropez, pick up on either the myth, or the reality of Saint-Tropez:

- Saint-Tropez, holiday resort
- Saint-Tropez, an unspoiled setting
- A certain art of living, a world of culture and partying
- The actresses of Saint-Tropez.



Second floor | Space 1

Saint-Tropez, lieu de vacances, décors préservés

The journey by car on the Route Nationale N° 7 - also called the Blue Road, symbolic of holiday time and paid leave - is often portrayed in films shot in Saint-Tropez (*Les Biches*, *Saint-Tropez Blues*, *The Gendarme Gets Married*, *Les Randonneurs*, *The Annuity*, *In a Wild Moment*).

Second floor | Space 2

Since the fifties, the Parisian artistic and intellectual world had been bewitched by the charm of this little port and came down to Saint-Tropez for the summer. What's more, Saint-Tropez was nicknamed "*the new Saint Germain des Prés*". Artists and painters are depicted in films such as: *Saint-Tropez Blues*, *Devoirs de Vacances*, *Les Biches* and *Bonjour Tristesse*. The space here recreates the ambiance of key party places, from the 1940s to 1965, such as Chez Palmyre (in *And God Created Woman* 1956) and this scene from the film can be recreated. Extracts from films as well as interviews with Juliette Greco, Richard Balducci and Simone Duckstein evoking the ambiance of the epoch, all these can be incorporated into the set design.

A parallel, visible in the films, could be made between the party ambiance of the fifties and the ambiance of

the current festivities; appearance, the need to "see and be seen", superficiality, the jet set, the sequins... all this was well in the foreground. To experience the party atmosphere of today, a tropezian nightclub scene from *Les Randonneurs à Saint-Tropez* is reconstructed and with this and clips from films and interviews, the visitor will be able to feel the difference in ambiance between the 1950s and that of today.

The TV series *Saint-Tropez* also plays its part in passing on the Saint-Tropez myth.

In this Space, the themes listed below will be explored:

- liberty, being carefree
- pleasure
- luxurious modernity

Cinema glamour and tropezian parties



Photograph: © Georges Dudognon

Another part of this room will be devoted to fashion, with a description of the Saint-Tropez style through films and a display on monokini fashion and nudism (from where we get the famous nudist chase in *The Gendarme of Saint-Tropez*). To evoke this scene, a beach has been reconstructed with parasols as in the film, and to incorporate documents, interviews, film clips...

One section will be dedicated to the actresses of Saint-Tropez, Brigitte Bardot and Romy Schneider. Visitors will be able to go into the actresses' dressing rooms.



Saint-Tropez,
holiday resort

The Actresses

Fashion

A world of culture
and partying



Hat worn by Louis de Funès between shooting scenes in Saint-Tropez.

© Gendarmerie and Cinema museum of Saint-Tropez

*Model of a Ford Mustang identical to that seen in *The Gendarme at Saint-Tropez*.*

© Gendarmerie and Cinema museum of Saint-Tropez



THE COLLECTIONS

The museum's collection is made up of acquisitions or loans from private collectors or institutions such as the Vincennes Archives, the Var Film Commission, the French film archives in Paris, the New society of cinematography and the Lumière Institute in Lyon. It also includes previously unseen interviews with actors or people who were present when films were shot in Saint-Tropez.



*Uniform worn by the actress Nicaise Jean-Louis in *The Gendarme* and *The Gendarmettes* (1982).*

© Gendarmerie and Cinema museum of Saint-Tropez



Life size sculpture of Louis de Funès.

Pierre-Louis Gayraud

© Gendarmerie and Cinema museum of Saint-Tropez

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

GEORGES DUDOGNON

A look at Cinema
of the Côte d'Azur
Photographs 1949-1966

Georges Dudognon, the photographer famous for his vivid images of post-war Saint-Germain-des-Prés, travelled back and forth across the Côte d'Azur from 1949 to 1966 and lived in Biot from 1961 to 1963. Allied to the Humanist Movement, of which Robert Doisneau, Edouard Boubat and Willy Ronis were part, Dudognon took an uncompromising look at the Côte d'Azur cinema of the 60s – from Jean-Luc Godard to the splendour of Cannes festival, and Brigitte Bardot or Jean Cocteau to the sumptuous American productions. Now for the first time in France, this previously unseen collection is available to the public at the museum of the Gendarmerie and Cinema of Saint-Tropez. Without concession or voyeurism, these images give a daring account of the dazzling world of cinema on the Riviera.



Photograph: © Georges Dudognon

OPENING HOURS

10am-6pm every day except 1st January, 1st May, 17th May, 25th December

ADMISSIONS

Full rate: 4 €

Reduced rate: 2 € (12-18, students under 26, gendarmes and jobseekers with valid ID).

Free Admission: Under 12, for everyone on European Heritage Days, the European Night of Museums and for members of ICOM on presentation of their card.

12 Month Pass: (non-transferable card, access to the museum granted only on presentation of the card accompanied by valid ID): 12 €.



Saint Tropez

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