

THE COUR DU ROCHER

This place is nowadays known as the Cour du Rocher ("Rock Courtyard") in reference to one of the "follies" that Stanisław Leszczyński had built there. 88 automata were arranged in a setting that evoked the return to nature championed by Rousseau. Driven by an ingenious hydraulic system, they were one of the most famous attractions of the Lunéville court. Today, no visible traces of this curiosity remain. A wing built symmetrically to the ducal main building (south wing) had also been designed for this spot. The poor state of the ducal finances meant that this wing was never built.

© black and white engraving taken from "Recueil des plans, élévations et coupes [...] des châteaux, jardins et dépendances que le Roy de Pologne occupe en Lorrain", summarised as "Recueil" by Emmanuel Héré, Paris, 1752

THE GARDEN AND THE PARC DES BOSQUETS

A park designed on the same scale as the Palace of the Dukes of Lorraine, the Parc des Bosquets features geometric parterres arranged in a monumental perspective. Yves des Hours, their designer, created a garden in the French formal style for Duke Leopold. From 1737 onwards, Stanisław Leszczyński and his architect Emmanuel Héré added temporary constructions in a fanciful Rococo style to the park. Despite being badly damaged in the Second World War, the Parc des Bosquets was restored after the war, and its heritage value was recognised with its listing as a Historic Monument in 1998. A major phase of restoration work in the park and gardens began in 2011.



CHÂTEAU DE LUNÉVILLE

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le conseil départemental
de Meurthe-et-Moselle
présente

CHÂTEAU DE LUNÉVILLE

The biggest 18th-century castle
in the East of France

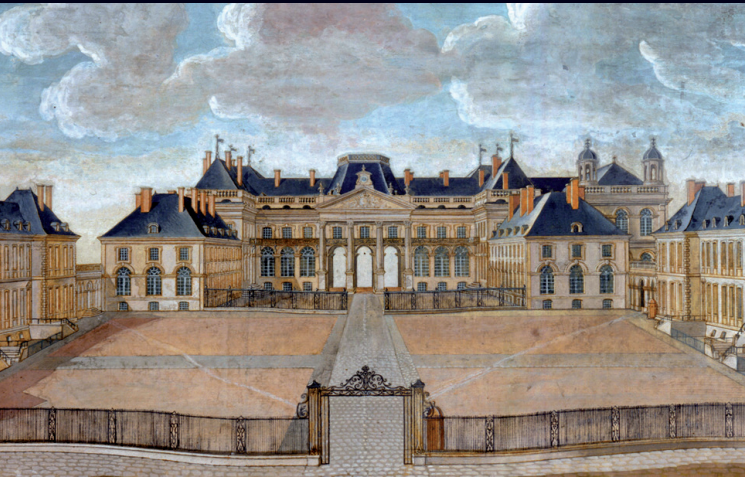


VISITORS' GUIDE ENGLISH VERSION

THE CASTLE OF LUNÉVILLE

The castle was built between 1702 and 1723. Its architecture is the work of Germain Boffrand. Leopold I (1698 – 1729), Francis III (1729 – 1737), the Regent Elizabeth Charlotte of Orleans and then Stanisław Leszczyński (1737 – 1766) all reigned here.

In 1766, the Duchy of Lorraine was annexed by France and the castle housed prestigious cavalry regiments continuously until the turn of the 20th century. The château has been undergoing restoration work since the giant fire of 2 January 2003. You are welcome to visit and enjoy the activities and events that are part of its cultural and tourism development plan.



*anonymous work from the mid-18th century (Castle of Lunéville Museum)
© T.Franz*



THE GUARDS' ROOM

Like all princely residences, the first room of the sovereigns' apartments was occupied on a daily basis by the bodyguards in charge of keeping the premises safe. The decoration and furniture there were simple because of the room's strictly utilitarian purpose.

Guards' room entrance



THE LIVERY ROOM

This first antechamber, which the court used as a waiting room for visitors to the Duke's apartments, is named after the uniform worn by the servants. Because of its public nature and size, the room was used for festivities by the court of Lorraine, especially balls and banquets.



THE CHAPEL

The seventh chapel used by Duke Leopold since 1698 was built to plans by the architect Germain Boffrand between 1720 and 1723. The presence of a tribune, creating an intermediate level, makes this a palatine chapel typical of the sovereign princes' residences. More than the lavishness of the decoration, the harmonious ratio of the proportions is what makes it truly special. Today, the chapel is a venue for baroque music and vocal performances.



THE MAIN STAIRWAY

Bottom of the main stairway

As the central point of circulation within the château, the main stairway provided a secondary entrance for the visitors from the main courtyard. It also allowed access to the upstairs apartments. Under Leopold, these were occupied by the Duke's children, and under Stanisław, by his favourites, the Duke and Duchess Ossoliński. The stone banister was rebuilt identically after the fire of 2003 and bears a double L, the monogram of Duke Leopold, who built the château. Its interlacing motifs are a replica of those on the stairway at the Château de Maisons, a masterpiece by François Mansart, the founder of French classicism in the 17th century.



Crypt

THE VAULTS

The cellar under the chapel was the cupbearer's room in the time of Leopold and Stanisław. It was through the door on Rue du Château that the barrels were brought in, containing wine which was bottled here. The bottles were then stored in other cellars, particularly the one located under the south main stairway.