REPÈRES

PERMANENT EXHIBITION

VISITOR GUIDE
The Musée de l’histoire de l’immigration opened to the public in 2007 at the Palais de la Porte Dorée in Paris. It aims to bring together and preserve materials relating to the history of immigration, making them widely accessible to the public in order to recognise and promote its role in the making of modern France.

It offers permanent collections, a cultural programme and a resources centre.

Why a Museum for the history of immigration?
The permanent exhibition *Repères* (Reference points) presents complementary approaches of perspectives and disciplines, covering two centuries of immigration history: personal accounts, archive documents, photographs and artworks interact with major events in French history since the 19th century, through a historical and thematic tour.

The Museum collections include historical documents, personal accounts, ethnographic exhibits and contemporary artworks.

The *Repères* exhibition spans two centuries of immigration over more than 1,100 m².

*Repères* follows the symbolic and thematic journeys of immigrant populations through key moments of their migration: from the reasons which led them to leave their native countries to the ways they created new cultural roots in France.

Over the course of the visit, nine thematic sequences are developed; each one is signalled by a vertical coloured panel with an introductory text.

These sequences are made up of:

- original historical documents such as photos and archive material
- display cases including items and personal accounts focusing on individual stories
- artworks bringing a cultural hindsight from contemporary and modern artists
- reference tables presenting historical content comprising texts, chronological markers, photos and archive documents
- large panels of still and moving images illustrating the relationship between these individual stories and a collective history.

*Repères* is an emotional journey, which interweaves key moments of individual immigrants’ life in France with the historical context of each period.

The tour features personal accounts and sound excerpts throughout to enhance the visit.
1. The migrant’s journey begins with departure. Immigration starts with **EMIGRATION**. Whether it is a deliberate choice or a necessity, it is an individual journey that becomes part of a collective movement.

2. From the 20th century onwards, the issue of identity papers arose in France: it governs the relationship between the foreigner and **THE FRENCH STATE**. The legal framework regulating the presence of immigrants in France mirror the history of the country in times of economic crisis and prosperity alike. Similarly, the way in which foreigners are viewed reflects different historical and political eras. It echoes prejudices, but is also challenging it.

3. This representation illustrates the paradoxical nature of destination countries: **HOST NATION. HOSTILE FRANCE**.

4. Being uprooted does not sever the bond with one’s native land. Their way of life incorporate both elements of **THE HOMELAND AND THE HOST COUNTRY**.

5. Another issue arising on a daily basis is **LIVING ACCOMMODATION** and reflects the history of housing in France. Insecurity, overcrowding, and urban planning policy – where do immigrants who settle in France live?

6. Immigration is also related to **WORK**. Work, is the main source for immigration. Whether it is hard or easy to find, depending on the period and looking beyond statistics, work is an element of personal fulfilment, pride and self-affirmation.
Through work and the working environment, linguistic, cultural and political connections are formed with the host country and deep **ROOTS** are taken. Migrants forge lasting bonds with their host country ranging from school life to acts of resistance during World War II or even trade union activism.

Sport provides a good example of this, as it creates a link with the community and therefore builds a bridge with society. Some of France’s greatest **SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN** are immigrants.

The exhibition ends with the cultural **DIVERSITY** theme: the contribution made by other cultures has enriched France through religions, languages and the arts.
The Musée de l’histoire de l’immigration is designed to be an interactive space. Visitors who wish to entrust their family’s immigration story to the museum can donate an element of their personal history, be it individual, collective, private or unusual.

Objects and photographs, often handed down from generation to generation, are presented in the Galerie des dons (Donations gallery). Alongside the permanent exhibition Repères, the Galerie des dons showcases archives and objects linked to migrants’ personal life stories. Each visitor can contribute to the collection by making a donation.

Every donation is accompanied by a personal account. These slices of life are exhibited in display cases and arranged in a deliberately subjective manner, in order to form an autobiographical account created in collaboration with the lender or donor.

The Galerie des dons, opened to the public in 2008, had been planned since 2006, when the museum was initially designed. However, it required extensive reworking in order to host its ever-expanding collection.

The 450 m² Galerie des dons offers visitors the opportunity to discover the emotional history of immigration through a rich selection of 250 exhibits, 40 personal journeys of immigrants, and new outreach resources.
**Temporary exhibitions**
Contrasting perspectives, social issues, immigration history focuses, closer looks at individual artists...Temporary exhibitions allow visitors to discover other facets of a shared history, or deepen their knowledge on immigration.

**The multimedia library**
The *Abdelmalek Sayad* multimedia library is the museum’s resources centre: visitors can extend their visit, carry out research, and learn more about the creators and their work. The library is open to all, free of charge, from 2 pm until the closing time (closed Sunday and Monday).

**The cultural programme**
The museum complements the temporary exhibitions with a cultural programme including film, theatre, and music.

**Lectures**
The *UniverCité* cycle: lectures on issues relating to immigration. All are welcome, subject to seat availability.

**Guided tours**
Visit the *Palais de la Porte Dorée*, the permanent collections and current exhibitions with a lecture guide.

**Group tours**
For guided or independent tours - all groups and all ages-, book your visit to the Museum by email at: reservation@histoire-immigration.fr, or fax: +33 (0)1 53 59 58 66 Information: +33(0)1 53 59 64 30.

**Publishing**
The museum publishes works relating to its artistic and cultural programme. They are available in the Palais de la Porte Dorée bookshop.

**The website**
Deepen your knowledge with personal accounts and interviews, familiarise yourself with the history of the *Palais de la Porte Dorée*, the museum and its network of partner associations, and much more...
Useful information

Access
293, avenue Daumesnil - 75012 Paris
Métro 8 - Tramway 3a - Bus 46 - Porte dorée

Visitors with disabilities can enter the Palais de la Porte Dorée via 293, avenue Daumesnil (office entrance).

Opening times
Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 5.30 pm
Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 7 pm
Ticket offices close 45 minutes before closing time.

Ticket prices:
www.histoire-immigration.fr/infos-pratiques/tarifs