

# AN iCONiC PLACE OF NATURAL HiSTORY

In 1879, this site came into the possession of Jean-Henri Fabre, aged 55 at the time. The estate was composed of a farmhouse and unused land, a "harmas" in Provençal.

The self-taught scientist turned the estate into an open-air laboratory. An entomologist and botanist, he endlessly observed the flora and habits of the innumerable insects found here.

Since acquiring the Harmas in 1922, the Muséum has endeavoured to preserve and disseminate the naturalist's work.



J.-H. Fabre © DR



J.-H. FABRE HARMAS  
MUSEUM & GARDEN

MAP



## WELCOME TO THE HOME OF A PASSIONATE NATURALIST

THIS LISTED SITE WAS THE LAST HOME OF THE GREAT NATURALIST JEAN-HENRI FABRE (1823/1915). THE SPIRIT AND ATMOSPHERE INSTILLED BY J.-H. FABRE CAN BE FELT THROUGHOUT THE ESTATE, FROM THE STUDY AT THE HEART OF THE HOUSE TO THE GARDEN, HIS "ENTOMOLOGICAL LABORATORY".

## WORLDWIDE RENOWN

Considered a forerunner of ethology (the science of animal behaviour), Jean-Henri Fabre is held in high esteem in Russia, the USA, South Korea and especially Japan, where he is one of the most famous and best-selling French authors. He is considered an exemplary man of science and the arts and his work features on the curriculum of primary school education. He is also internationally admired for his *Souvenirs entomologiques*, a work composed of 10 volumes and 4,000 pages, that has been translated into 14 languages.



Pelargonium © MNHN - J. Muiher

## PRATiCAl iNfORMATiON

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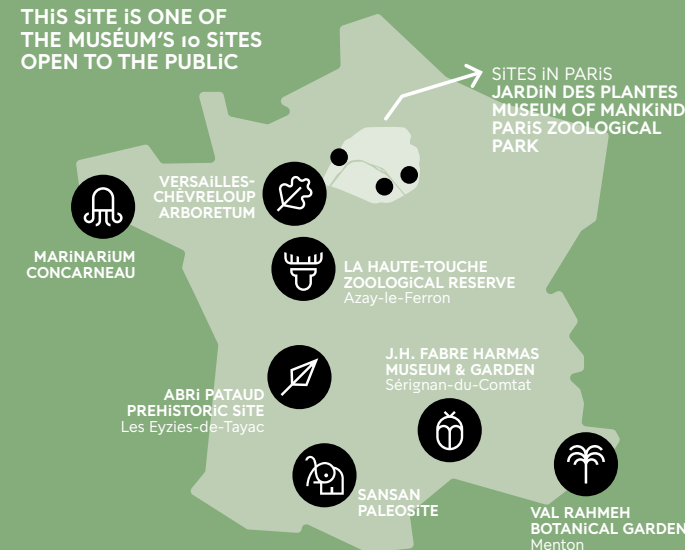


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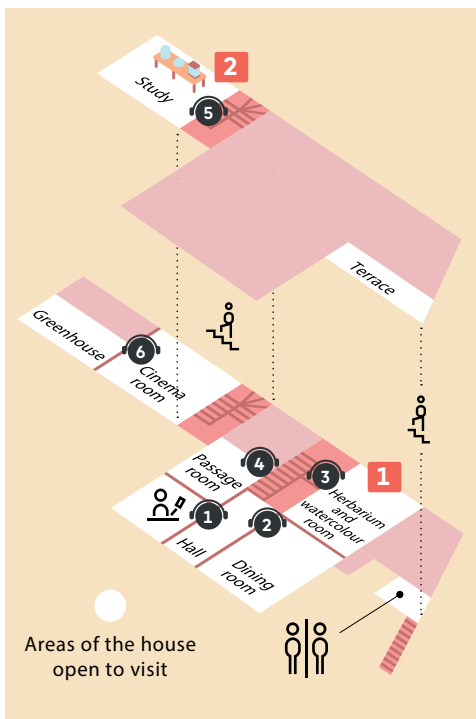
## WELCOME TO THE MUSÉUM

The Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle is a unique establishment that includes a research centre, university, museum and botanical and zoological gardens. Drawing on four centuries of scientific adventure, the Muséum aims to preserve the future of our planet. Its many visitor sites throughout France allow the public to better understand all aspects of nature and the world around us. Come and discover them!

THIS SITE IS ONE OF  
THE MUSÉUM'S 10 SITES  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC







## 1 HERBARIUM AND WATERCOLOUR ROOM

Built up over a period of nearly 40 years from 1842, this remarkable herbarium contains over 13,000 sheets of specimens from Vaucluse, the Hautes-Alpes and Corsica.

## 2 STUDY

Jean-Henri Fabre built this room when he arrived at the Harmas in order to work away from the rest of the house. This was where he studied, wrote, carried out his experiments and assembled his collections of insects, fossils and other finds, as well as his large herbarium.

## 3 MINOTAUR BEETLE OBSERVATORY

Jean-Henri Fabre designed this observatory (see map) to study the minotaur beetle, which builds its nest underground. It is one of the four observatories in the garden that the naturalist invented to facilitate his entomological observations.

## 4 COMMON LILAC

*Syringa vulgaris*  
This alley is bordered by different coloured lilacs and was reserved for the naturalist's most important guests, such as French President Raymond Poincaré in the autumn of 1913.

## 5 CHINESE PHOTINIA

*Photinia serratifolia*  
These two photinias with serrated leaves form a "green arch". They are native to the Himalayan region, which extends over several Asian countries including China, India, Nepal and Bhutan. With these plants, the naturalist invites us to enter the first part of the garden, where he grew specimens from all over the world.

## 6 MEDITERRANEAN CYPRESS

*Cupressus sempervirens*  
The naturalist planted these cypresses to create shelter and protect the garden from the local wind, the mistral. They allow the plants to flourish and insects to settle, thus fostering life in the garden.

## 7 ASPIC LAVENDER

*Lavandula latifolia*  
Lavender thrives in the wild in Vaucluse. Its narrow, velvety leaves reflect the sun's rays and make it well suited to dry conditions. The plant produces essential oils that repel phytophagous insects. Lavandin, which is a wild hybrid, is now grown for the perfume industry.



## 8 LAUREL-LEAVED ROCK ROSE

*Cistus laurifolia*  
The Harmas is home to several varieties of rock rose. Their leaves differ in shape according to the species and are adapted to arid climates. 19 species are known in France, four of which are found in Vaucluse, as well as many wild hybrids.

## 9 ATLAS CEDAR

*Cedrus atlantica*  
This tree planted by Jean-Henri Fabre occupies a central position in the garden. The species was introduced to Europe in 1839 and is now endangered in its native region. It is a majestic conifer that can grow up to 40m.

## 10 STRAWBERRY TREE

*Arbutus unedo*  
The strawberry tree grows in siliceous soils, such as in the woods near Sérignan. Its fruit is rich in vitamin C and grows throughout the year. It ripens at the start of winter.

## 11 TURPENTINE TREE

*Pistacia terebinthus*  
Jean-Henri Fabre talks of this tree that he planted in his *Souvenirs entomologiques* and describes in detail its interactions with a small wasp, the *Cynips terebinthi*. He explains how the insect lays its eggs on the tree, causing the latter to form galls (see map), which are unattractive but harmless.