

VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Musée de l'Orangerie

Paris · From 13.50€

https://musee-orangerie.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From the orangery to the temple of art

GOOGLE 4.6 ★★★★★ 25 362 reviews

TIQETS 4.6 ★★★★★ 5 993 reviews

The history of the Musée de l'Orangerie begins long before its artistic vocation. Built in **1852** to plans by Firmin Bourgeois, this building, glazed on the south side and blind on the north, had a very specific function: to shelter the orange trees of the Tuileries Garden during the harshness of the Parisian winter. It is this greenhouse architecture, designed to protect the vegetation from the northern winds, that gave it its evocative name and its unique structure within the capital's urban landscape.

Over the decades, the premises changed purpose. After hosting hunting and hawking exhibitions between 1890 and 1912, the orangery became an exhibition space for living artists as early as 1921. It was then that the museum's destiny was sealed with the arrival of the Water Lilies. The painter Claude Monet, afflicted with double cataracts, bequeathed his eight monumental canvases to the State, conditioning their installation in a dedicated venue.

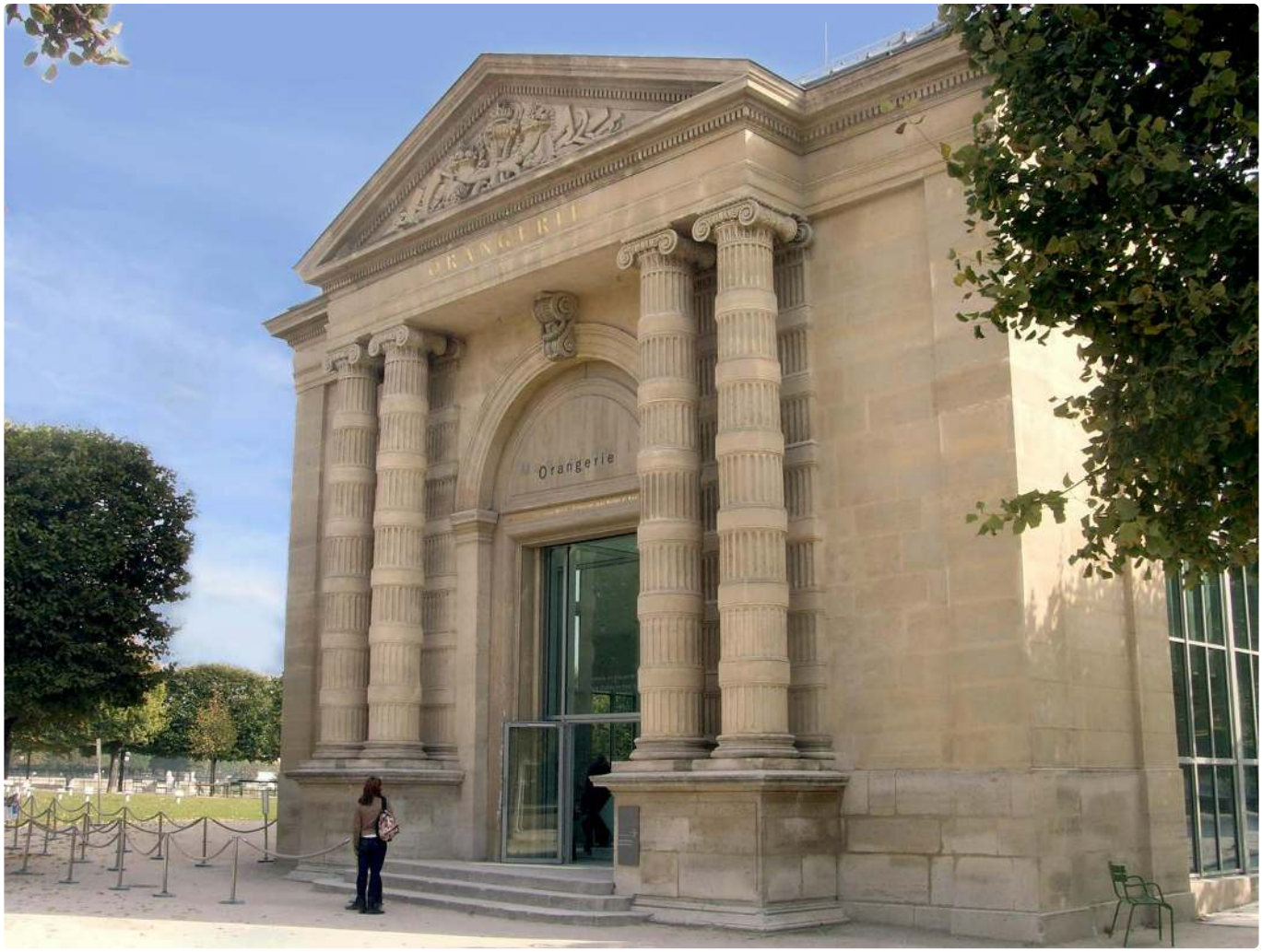
The tenacity of **Georges Clemenceau**, then Prime Minister and intimate friend of Monet, was decisive. He convinced the painter to undergo surgery to complete his work and negotiated with public authorities the creation of a specific space for these "large decorations." This political and artistic struggle allowed the Water Lilies cycle to be saved from potential dispersal and provided it with a setting worthy of its importance.

Today, the institution also carries the memory of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, whose name was added to the museum in March 2021 in homage to this former president who was passionate about art. Administratively attached to the Musée d'Orsay since 2010, the site now forms a major Impressionist hub. This union allows for the joint management of collections while preserving the singular intimacy of the Orangerie, where natural light still sculpts the walls as it did in the time of the orange trees.

THE EXPERIENCE

From the moment you enter through the glass façade, you are drawn into an atmosphere of **absolute serenity**. The zenithal light, filtered through the panes of the former greenhouse, bathes the artworks in a soft and constant glow, ideal for perceiving the subtle nuances of Impressionist pigments. The air seems calmer here, suspended between the murmur of visitors and the contemplative silence of the oval rooms.

As you move toward the two rooms dedicated to the Water Lilies, the space gently narrows to envelop you. You no longer look at a painting hanging on the wall; instead, you are immersed in an infinite aquatic landscape. The reflections of the water, the reeds, and the water lilies merge with your own breathing, creating a bubble of **soothing tranquility** where time seems to stand still. It is a total sensory experience, far removed from the city's hustle and bustle, that invites a rare meditative slowness in Paris.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS

1st arrondissement · Metro: Concorde (L1, L8, L13) or Courcelles (L13, 10 min walk).

OPENING HOURS

Closed on Tuesdays. Hours vary by season and school holidays. Check the official website before visiting.

FEES

Free entry for children depending on age (check variants). {promo}.

VISIT DURATION

Allow 1h30 to 2h to calmly appreciate the two oval Water Lilies rooms and the Walter-Guillaume collection without rushing.

PHOTOS

Photography is allowed without flash. Flash mode is strictly prohibited to preserve the delicate pigments of the Impressionist canvases.

AUDIENCE

Ideal for couples and art lovers seeking an intimate experience. Accessible to families thanks to accessibility features and reasonable duration.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

Metro / RER

: Rue Saint-Florentin — 4 min à pied

Saint-Lazare Station (10 min) · Montparnasse Station (12 min)

Bus

: Pont Alexandre III — 8 min à pied

Saint-Lazare Station (14 min) · Montparnasse Station (18 min)

Car

Saint-Lazare Station (8 min) · Montparnasse Station (12 min)

Vélib / Bike

Saint-Lazare Station (9 min) · Montparnasse Station (14 min)

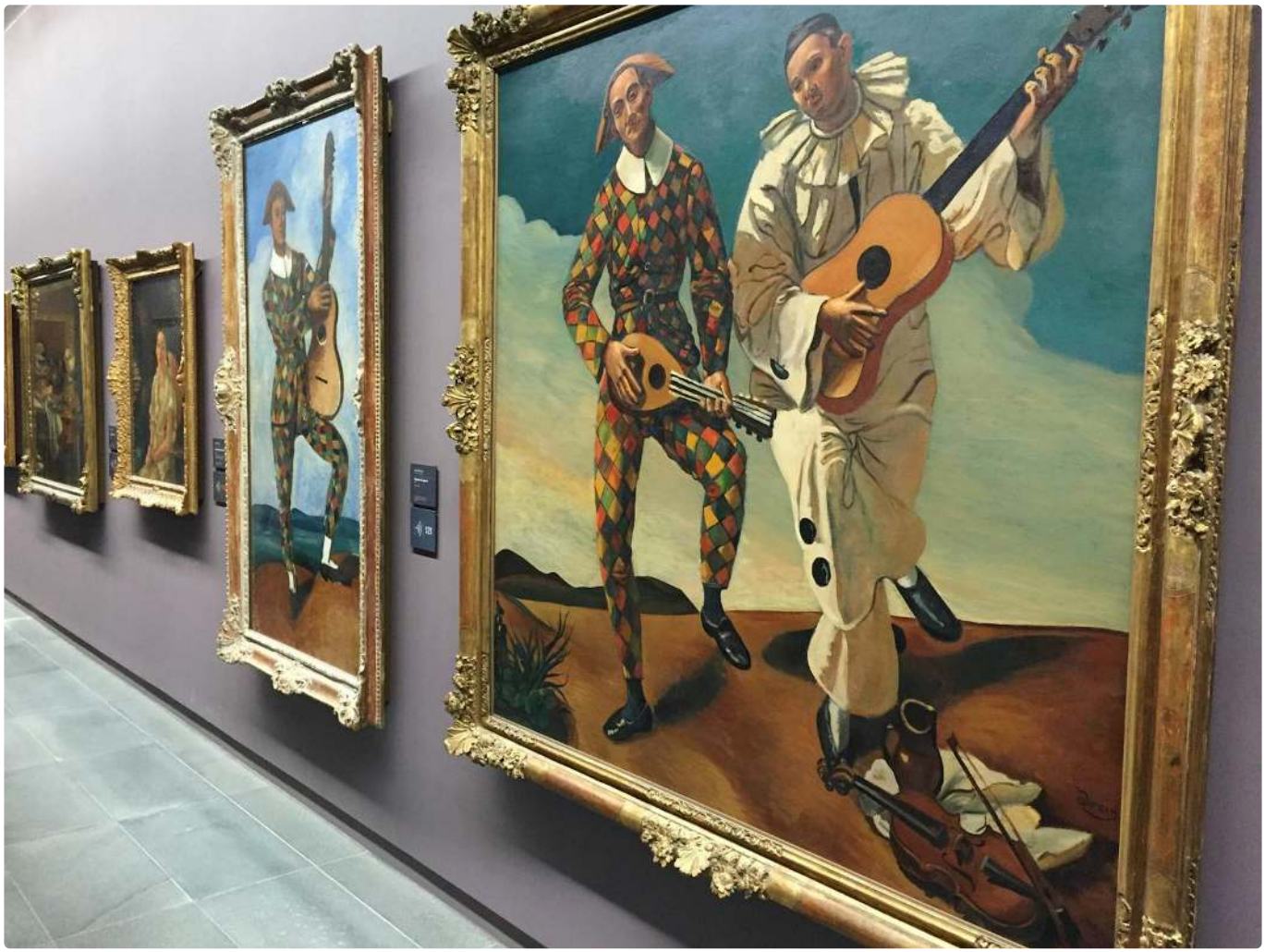
LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Musée de l'Orangerie ?



📍 Musée de l'Orangerie, jardin des Tuileries — 75001 Paris

🌐 48°51.827′ N, 2°19.360′ E



ORGANIZATION

Fluid itinerary and progressive immersion

Ground Floor (Rectangular Halls)

This is where the Walter-Guillaume collection is located, featuring masterpieces by Renoir, Matisse, Picasso, and Cézanne. The rooms are arranged chronologically to trace the evolution of French modern art. The lighting here is more diffused, allowing you to appreciate the details of the classical paintings. It is the ideal starting point to prepare your eye before the final immersion.

Level 1 (Oval Rooms - Water Lilies)

Access the two oval rooms via a spiral staircase or an elevator. These spaces are entirely covered by Claude Monet's eight monumental canvases. There is no visible floor or distinct ceiling; the artwork envelops the viewer. The light here is dim and constant, fostering silent contemplation. It is the emotional heart of the museum.

Annex Spaces & Shop

Near the entrance, you will find the official shop and a small fast-food area. Lockers are available for storing your coats and large bags. Information panels detail the history of the architecture and the conservation conditions of the works. This is the practical place to finalize your souvenir purchase before heading to the gardens.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Disabled Access**

Full accessibility for people with reduced mobility, featuring elevators and dedicated parking.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Family-friendly visit with spacious areas and the option to take a break in the Tuileries Garden.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish, Italian, German



Must-sees

SELECTION

The must-sees of the collection

01 CLAUDE MONET Oval Rooms

The Water Lilies Cycle

Eight monumental canvases covering the entire walls of the two oval rooms. The immersive effect is total, making the viewer feel enveloped by water and vegetation. Each panel captures a different hour of the day, playing on variations in light. It is the museum's masterpiece, the result of thirty years of hard work.

> 💡 Monet had to undergo cataract surgery by his own doctor to be able to finish these last paintings, encouraged by **Georges Clemenceau**, who regularly visited Giverny.

02 CLAUDE MONET Permanent Collection

The Japanese Bridge

A series of paintings depicting the red bridge at Giverny under different lights and seasons. The vibrant colors contrast with the softness of the Water Lilies. One can observe Monet's technical mastery in representing reflections on the water. These works offer a more traditional perspective before the total abstraction of the large decorations.

> 💡 The red bridge was added to the garden at Giverny in 1899, inspired by a Japanese bridge gifted by a friend, symbolizing Monet's love for Asia.

03 PIERRE-AUGUSTE RENOIR Room 4

Young Girl with a Garland of Lavender

A luminous and joyful portrait typical of Renoir's mature period. The young girl's features are softened by light brushstrokes. The blurred green background highlights her smiling face. It is a perfect example of the harmony between the human figure and nature in Impressionism.

> 💡 Renoir painted this work in 1889, when he was already suffering from the first symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis that would affect his right hand.

04 PAUL CÉZANNE Room 6

Still Life with Apples

This canvas illustrates the transition between Impressionism and future Cubism. The geometric shapes of the apples and the plate structure the composition. Cézanne seeks to give solidity to painting, in contrast to Monet's fluidity. It is a key piece for understanding the evolution of modern art.

> 💡 Cézanne said: "I want to make something solid and lasting like museum art out of Impressionism."

05 HENRI MATISSE Room 7

Seated woman

An emblematic work of Matisse's maturity, characterized by vibrant color planes. The simplified lines and black outlines give it a powerful graphic quality. The warm palette contrasts with the cool tones of the neighboring works. It shows the influence of Oriental art on French modernism.

> 💡 Matisse spent a lot of time in Nice, where he developed his freer and more colorful style, far from the academic constraints of Paris.

06 ALFRED SISLEY Room 3

The Port of Boulogne

A painter often associated with Monet, Sisley excels in the representation of urban and maritime landscapes. This canvas captures the misty atmosphere of the port with remarkable atmospheric precision. The boats and figures are treated with a rapid and dynamic touch. It is a valuable testimony to industrial life at the end of the 19th century.

> 💡 Sisley was the only Impressionist of English origin, which sometimes earned him criticism for his lack of artistic 'nationality'.

07 AMEDEO MODIGLIANI Room 8

Portrait of Madame Modigliani

Recognizable by its elongated faces and almond-shaped eyes, this portrait embodies Modigliani's unique style. Jeanne Hébuterne, the painter's muse and companion, is depicted with melancholic tenderness. The dark colors accentuate the intensity of the gaze. It is a work charged with emotion and personal biography.

> 💡 Modigliani painted Jeanne Hébuterne while she was pregnant with their second child, shortly before her premature death in 1920.

08 Shop/Information Area

The Mona Lisa (Replica/Context)

Although the Mona Lisa is at the Louvre, the Orangerie often hosts temporary exhibitions or comparative contexts. However, focus on **Vija Celmins** for the current exhibition. Her monochrome photographs of night skies offer a fascinating contemporary counterpoint. They invite meditation on light and darkness, subtly dialoguing with the Water Lilies.

> 💡 Vija Celmins works exclusively in black and white, using etching and photography techniques to create images of meticulous precision.

TIPS

Our tips for a serene visit

TIMING

Aim for opening hours early in the morning, ideally between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM. The overhead light is then perfect for appreciating the nuances of the Water Lilies, and you will avoid the large tourist groups that arrive in the early afternoon.

TICKET

Be sure to book online in advance, especially on weekends. Time slots go quickly, and booking guarantees your access without a long wait. The Paris Museum Pass does not replace the mandatory timed reservation.

TOUR

Start with the rectangular rooms of the Walter-Guillaume collection before entering the oval rooms of the Water Lilies. This progression allows for a smooth transition to the final immersion and avoids visual fatigue caused by the density of the monumental canvases.

PHOTO

Flash is strictly prohibited. Use a photo mode suitable for low light or simply use your eyes. The best photos are taken in the oval rooms by capturing the reflection of water on the canvases, without a tripod so as not to disturb others.

BREAK

After the visit, stroll through the Tuileries Garden to digest the works you have seen. Numerous historic cafés are located in the garden's arcades, offering a lush and peaceful setting for a coffee break or a light lunch.

CHILDREN

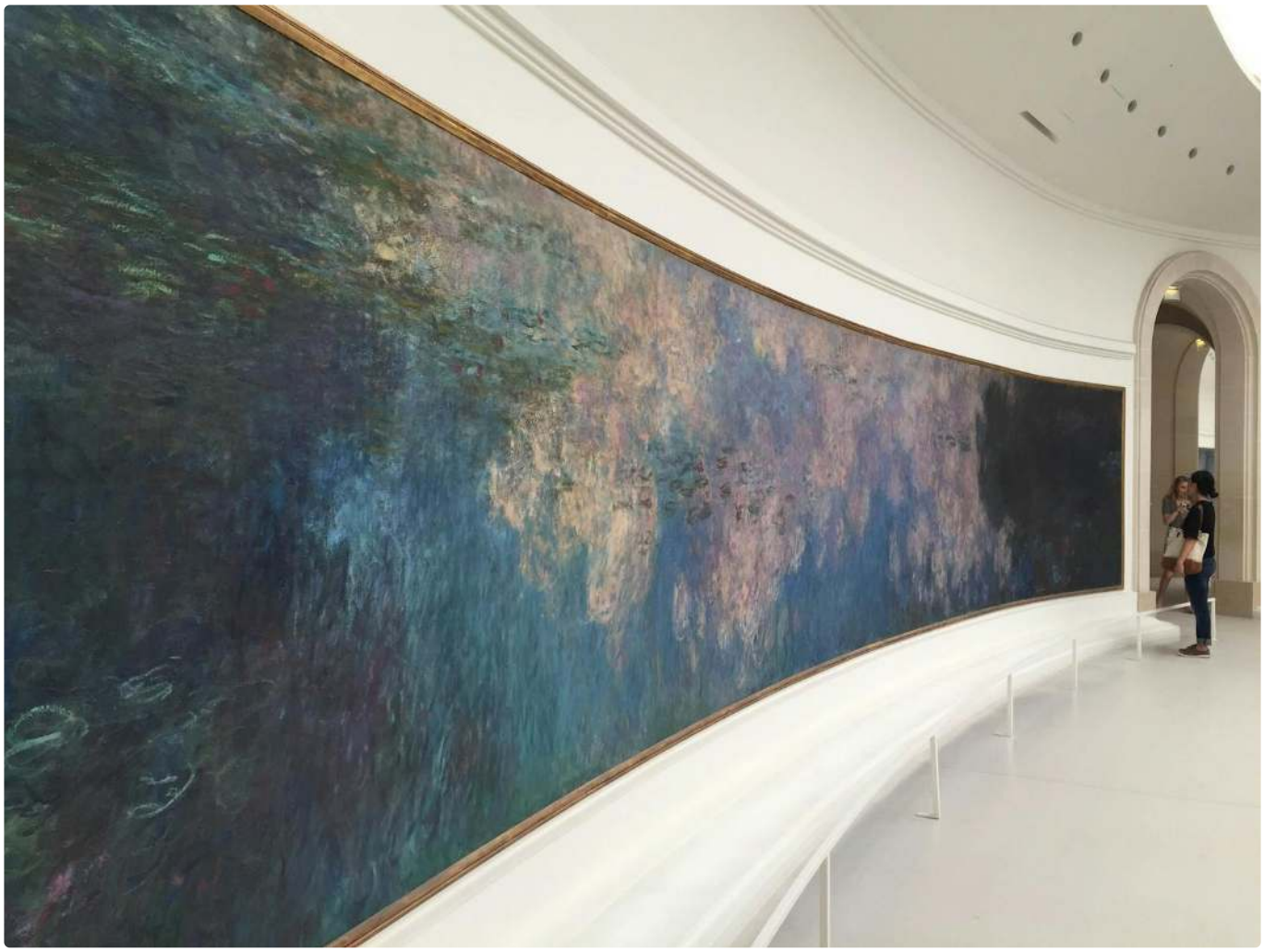
The museum is accessible to families thanks to disability-friendly facilities and a reasonable visit duration. Plan simple activities, such as observing the colors in the Water Lilies or looking for hidden details in Renoir's paintings, to keep their attention.

AUDIO GUIDE

The audio guide is highly recommended and available in several languages. It provides essential context on Monet's life and the history of the architecture, transforming a simple observation into a deep understanding of the work.

COMFORT

Wear comfortable shoes as you will be walking a lot in the Tuileries. A cloakroom is available inside to leave your coats and bulky bags, allowing you to move more freely through the rooms.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Is it possible to book without paying?

No, booking a time slot online is mandatory for all visitors. This also applies to those eligible for free entry or holding a Paris Museum Pass. Book your slot for free only on the first Sunday of the month.

Is the Paris Museum Pass sufficient for entry?

The pass grants access to the museum but does not replace booking. You must absolutely select a specific time slot on the official website. Without this slot, entry will be denied despite your pass.

How far in advance can I cancel?

This ticket is neither cancellable nor refundable once the booking is confirmed. Carefully check the date, time slot, and number of participants before paying, as no changes are possible afterwards.

Is there a current promotion?

On the first Sunday of the month, entry is free for everyone. However, booking a time slot remains mandatory even for this free entry. Regularly check the website for other occasional offers.

How long does the visit take?

Allow 1h30 to 2 hours for a complete visit. The oval Water Lilies rooms deserve slow contemplation. Allow more time if you wish to explore the entire Walter-Guillaume collection and its masterpieces.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

Birth under the orange trees

Built in 1852, this building initially housed the orange trees from the Tuileries Garden during the winter. This function explains its name and its glass structure on the south side, designed to capture solar heat. The orange trees were previously stored in the lower gallery of the Louvre, but the Orangery offered them a more controlled and aesthetic environment.

Sculpted natural light

The south façade is entirely glazed to capture sunlight, while the north façade remains blind. This architectural choice, originally designed to protect the orange trees from northern winds, today creates an ideal diffuse light for preserving the delicate pigments of Impressionist canvases.

Giscard d'Estaing's Legacy

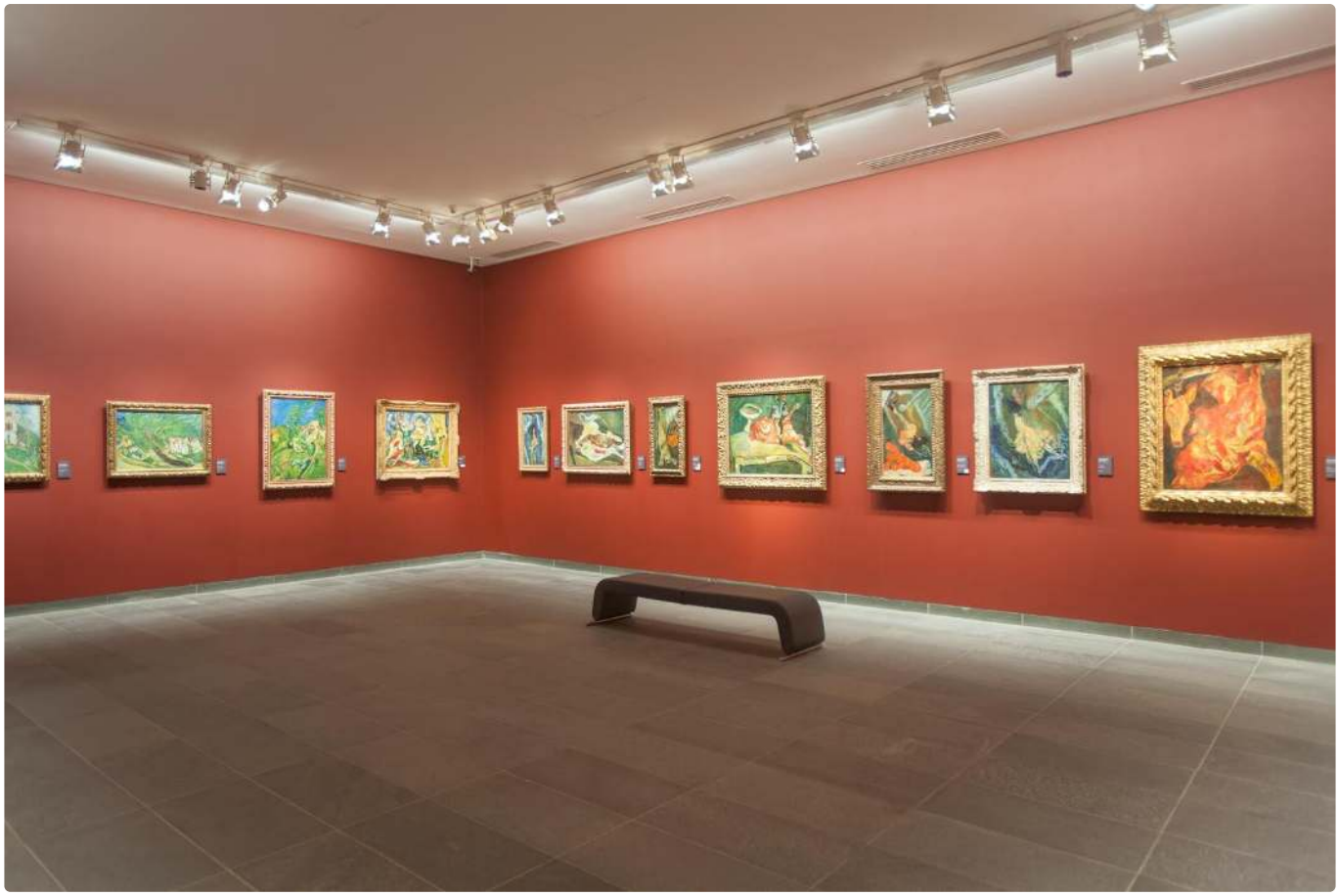
Since March 2021, the name of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has been officially attached to the public institution. This tribute does justice to the former President of the Republic, who passed away in December 2020 and was a great art enthusiast and an active defender of French culture.

Historical background

In the 17th century, a restaurant named Renard occupied this location, frequented by the nobility before the construction of the current orangery. These places were known for their discreet small rooms adorned with tapestries, testifying to a tradition of aristocratic conviviality predating the industrial era.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

The Musée de l'Orangerie enjoys an exceptional location in the heart of the **Jardin des Tuileries**. Before or after your visit, take advantage of this historic park for a shaded break under century-old trees. The terrace overlooking the Seine offers breathtaking views of Place de la Concorde and the Egyptian obelisk. To extend your cultural experience, the **Musée d'Orsay** is just a few minutes away by metro, perfectly complementing the Impressionist route. If you are hungry, several historic cafés located in the Tuileries galleries offer quick and refined meal options. Do not miss the Chapelle Expiatoire either, a discreet Neo-Byzantine testament to royal history, situated just behind the museum. This neighborhood harmoniously combines art, nature, and history, providing an ideal setting for leisurely strolls without any rush.



Leaving the Musée de l'Orangerie means carrying with you a fragment of **pure serenity**. The emotion felt before the Water Lilies remains etched in memory long after leaving. Whether you are an art enthusiast or simply a stroller seeking peace, this visit is an unforgettable inner journey. Take the time to contemplate, let your eyes drink in the light, and depart with a soothed soul, ready to face the city with a new clarity of mind.