



Naval Air Station, Caquot shed, 1936

THE NAVAL AIR STATION

[3RD FLOOR]

The Fréjus Naval Air Station was the first one in France, and was established in 1911. It is from this location that Roland Garros took off to cross the Mediterranean on September 23rd 1913. The Station became a testing centre for maritime aviation and an important military site in the field of experimentation until it closed in 1995. It is now the Base Nature François Léotard, a large natural space for recreational use.

NUMISMATIC SHOWCASE

[ENTRANCE HALL]

Forum Iulii Coin: This coin (no bigger than an old 1ct coin) was minted in Fréjus in 28 - 27 BC. A capricorn surmounting a globe and an armed vessel's bow appear on it. 2000 years of history are looking at you!

TRIBUTE TO MALPASSET

[ENTRANCE CORRIDOR]

On December 2nd 1959 at 9 :10 PM, the Malpasset dam, built upstream of the city, collapsed. 50 million cubic metres of water from the river Reyran poured onto the city, devastating several areas and causing the death of more than 400 persons. This catastrophe stirred up an unprecedented movement of emotion and solidarity, both in France and abroad. This event, still one of the greatest catastrophes of the Glorious Thirties, left a deep mark on the history of Fréjus.



The orphan, Clement Tafuri, 1959.

Fréjus belongs to the French National Association of Cities and Regions with Art and History Heritage.

The Ministry of Culture, Heritage department, awards the title « Cities and Regions with Art and history Heritage » to territorial communities maintaining, valuing and sustaining their heritage. This guarantees the skills of the Architecture and Heritage facilitators and of the tour guides, as well as the quality of their services. From the ancient remains to the XXIst century architecture, these territories put the diversity of Heritage on show. Nowadays, a network of 202 cities and regions provides its expertise throughout France.

Learn about Fréjus, a city with Art and History Heritage...

The Archaeology and Heritage department coordinates the initiatives of Fréjus, a city with Art and History Heritage. Cultural programming is presented throughout the year in order to make the public discover and better understand the City heritage. They are available to teachers to build education activities. The Tourist Office guides/lecturers welcome you on many interesting visits. They know every aspect of Fréjus and invite you to « take a new look at the city » For information contact the Tourist Office.

Opening hours

● October 1st – March 31st
From Tuesday to Saturday
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Closed on Sundays, Mondays and bank holidays

● April 1st – September 30th
From Tuesday to Sunday, including bank holidays
10:00 am – 13:00 pm
2:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Closed on Mondays and May 1st

Rates

- Single ticket : 3 €
- Fréjus Pass : 6 € (reduced : 4 €)
Admission to the Amphitheatre, the Theatre, the Archaeological Museum, the local History museum and to the chapel « Notre Dame de Jérusalem »
- Free for children under 12.
Detail of the conditions of free and reduced to the reception.

Archaeology and Heritage department

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FOCUS THE MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY



153 rue Jean Jaurès

☎ 04 94 51 64 01



Founded in 1990 by the city, the local History Museum is located in the house known as « Maison Maria » since 1995. Through its collections brought together by the association *The Friends of Fréjus*, the museum invites you to discover various aspects of the social, economic and cultural life of Fréjus in the 19th and 20th centuries.

THE SO-CALLED « MARIA » HOUSE

A municipal property, this mansion was the birth house of Father Girardin – a Doctor of Theology and parish priest of Fréjus - who published the first history of the city in French. This plot has been identified since the 16th century, at a time when the city was extending beyond the medieval ramparts. Nowadays, the house rather reflects the changes it underwent in the 19th century. You will notably discover a kitchen with a monolith-stone sink and a wide open fireplace, a reception room and a beautiful stairwell with several landings. The garden is also an essential element of the mansion, as both a space for pleasure and a utilitarian function.

A CITY FOCUSED ON LAND

[PORCH AND GARDEN]

Until the early 20th century, agriculture was the first economic activity of the city despite water supply problems and labour issues. Fréjus lived off vine, fruit trees such as peach trees and also reeds. A lot of tools are displayed in the porch and in the garden. At the back of the garden, wine presses evoke the wine-producing activity in Fréjus. You will also find the reconstitution of the last blacksmith shop of the city. Finally, the *bugado*, recalls that the household textiles were cleaned in the public washing place, an area for meeting and socializing.



LIFE IN PROVENCE [1ST FLOOR]

On the first floor landing and in the reception room, you will see a collection of authentic provençal headdresses and costumes from the late 19th century. It allows you to distinguish the light and simple artisan's costume from the richer *bastidane's* costume (the *bastidane* was a rich landowner), and also to see the differences between the fabrics used for everyday headdresses and for best day headdresses. On the living room wall, a late 17th century painting shows a view of Fréjus. We can see the start of the Roman aqueduct on the outskirts of the city, as well as the Roman and modern walls and the outline of the cathedral tower.



THE BRAVADO [1ST FLOOR]

The Fréjus Bravado is a traditional religious holiday which takes place on the third Sunday after Easter in honour of Saint Francis of Paola. This Calabrian monk was renowned for his qualities as a wonder worker, and King Louis XI summoned him in 1482 in order to relieve his pains. While travelling to visit him, he would have gone through Fréjus and would have ended the plague epidemic that was raging then.

The ritual of this feast took shape over the centuries. From 1783, the procession in the city with the monk's relics has been accompanied by men in uniform authorized to fire shots. The word **bravado** refers to this aspect of the ritual. Stopped in 1906, the Fréjus Bravado was re-established in 1952. Nowadays it is seen as a symbol of the survival of a traditional provençal celebration



THE ART OF CERAMICS

[2ND FLOOR]

From Roman Antiquity, Fréjus was an important place for ceramic production. This expertise continued in the modern age, then in the 18th and 19th centuries with the production of stamped jars. Items from Biot, Vallauris and Fréjus workshops are displayed. They reflect domestic or social practices and show the regional eating habits. One of the rooms is dedicated to Dominique Zumbo's Artwork, a renowned ceramic artist (1854-1939). Born in Calabria, he began his career in Vallauris alongside Clément Messier before creating a « Manufacture des Arènes » which produced original work with a metallic sheen, combining a very high level of technical expertise and plastic art creativity.

THE GROCERY SHOP

[2ND FLOOR]

This shop from the 1930's and 1940's was part of the most common shops in the city. The grocery shop would sell food as well as hardware, household or daily use products and would adapt to the customers' needs. It shows consumption practices that have profoundly changed over the second half of the 20th century.

THE SCHOOL [2ND FLOOR]

The shool, after becoming « public, secular and compulsory » since the Jules Ferry law in 1881, marked the beginning of the 20th century. The desks and inkwells, the stove fueled with sawdust at the back of the room, the maps, the measuring instruments and the schoolmaster's platform reconstitute the image of a school under the Third Republic.