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Built circa 1620 on the ruins of a Spanish fort that was destroyed during the wars of religion, the citadel stands at a strategic point and was, for many years, occupied by soldiers who surveyed the coastline and the Lorient roadstead. For centuries it has continued to guard the channel into the port, during which time it has undergone numerous transformations; most recently in the Second World War when a concrete bunker was built across the ramparts.

There are two exhibitions in the National Maritime Museum. «Sea Rescue» explores the history of sea-rescue operations and the remarkable bond of solidarity between seafarers. «Treasures from the Oceans» travels to distant oceans in search of ships that foundered on their way to or from trading in the east, discovered thanks to underwater archaeological excavations.

The French East India Company museum brings back to visitors the exceptional story of great trading companies during the XVII<sup>th</sup> and XVIII<sup>th</sup> centuries. Vessel models, engravings, old maps, indoeuropean furniture, China porcelains, Indian cottons: all these artefacts are the testimony of this amazing maritime epic.

Welcome to the National Maritime Museum !  
We wish you a very pleasant visit.

#### POUR MIEUX VOUS ACCUEILLIR, LE MUSÉE VOUS PROPOSE

- Un audioguide
- Un livret-jeux en famille (gratuit)
- Des activités pour tous les publics
- Du matériel de prêt : siège canne d'appoint, fauteuil roulant, porte-bébé et poussette.
- Une boucle à induction magnétique pour les personnes malentendantes

La citadelle est difficilement accessible aux personnes en situation de handicap.

Le musée national de la Marine à Port-Louis est adhérent de la Charte Accueil Familles Mom'art. The Citadel is difficult to access to visitors with limited mobility.

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## MUSÉE NATIONAL DE LA MARINE / NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

### PARCOURS « SAUVEGAGE EN MER » / SEA RESCUE

FR / EN

#### 1 Canot de sauvetage *Commandant Philippe de Kerhallet lifeboat*

*Commandant Philippe de Kerhallet* lifeboat  
It was in service at the Roscoff station from 1897 until 1953. As well as being nonsubmersible, it is also self-righting: if the boat capsized, it would recover its upright position in around five seconds.

### PARCOURS « TRÉSORS D'OcéAN » / TREASURES FROM THE OCEAN

#### 2 La cloche du Mauritius

**Bell of the Mauritius**  
A ship of the Dutch East India Company, the *Mauritius* went down off the coast of Gabon in 1609, carrying a cargo of pepper, zinc and Chinese porcelain. The wreck was discovered in 1986, c'est grâce à sa cloche en bronze que le navire a été identifié.

### MUSÉE DE LA COMPAGNIE DES INDES / FRENCH EAST INDIA COMPANY MUSEUM

#### 3 Maquette Le Soleil d'Or

**Model of the Soleil d'Or**  
This 60-gun, 1,000-ton vessel was the first large merchant ship to be built in Lorient for the French East India Company. Returning from its second voyage in 1681, the *Soleil d'Or* sank off Madagascar.

#### 4 Paravent La chasse de l'empereur Kangxi dans la réserve de Mulan

**Screen depicting the Kangxi Emperor's hunt in Mulan**  
It shows an imperial hunt in the Mulan hunting grounds, near Beijing. The grounds were created by Kangxi for the exclusive use of the emperors.

### CITADELLE / CITADEL

#### 5 Les échauguettes

**The citadel's bartizans**  
The bartizans (or échauguettes) are small, overhanging turrets that project from the corners of the bastions, where soldiers could be shielded from enemy fire and bad weather.

