



## Works by famous artists

A number of well-known artists have created works for the fortress since the year 2000. Some of those works, conceived and produced specially for the site, are on permanent display.

### Toni Grand (1935-2005)

Three works by this artist are on display, two of which can be viewed on unaccompanied tours.

#### 01. In the middle of the parade ground,

*Untitled*, 1986. Near the well whose form it imitates, this lead sculpture draws the gaze to the surrounding space and evokes the weight of time.

**02. In the south stable**, *Untitled*, 1986. A root in wood and polyester, gnarled like a vine, encounters the memory of an animal life and the echo of men's suffering.



## Glossary

**Barbican**: outwork before the entrance to the fortress.

**Counterscarp**: bank opposite the scarp, on the attacker's side.

**Demilune**: outwork housing the artillery.

**Glacis**: slope freeing up the defenders' field of vision and offering no shelter for the attackers.

**Scarp**: bank on the defender's side of the moat, on which the ramparts are built.

## Practical information

Average length of unaccompanied visit: 45 mins.

Average length of guided tour: 45 mins.

Booking required for group tours.

School parties accompanied by heritage staff.

Specially adapted guided tours for disabled visitors.



#### Gift and book shop

The guide for this monument can be found in the *Itinéraires* collection and is available in three languages in the gift and book shop.

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# Fortress of Salses

A Spanish fortress on French soil

## A barrier between Spain and France

In 1497, Ferdinand II of Aragon commissioned architect Francisco Ramiro López to build a fortress at Salses to guard the narrow passage linking France to Spain. It consumed one-fifth of the Spanish Crown's annual budget.

## A century of conflict

In 1503, the Spanish resisted a first siege when the fortress was not yet completed. In 1639 it was captured by the French, then recaptured by the Spanish in 1640. Following the Catalan rebellion against the Spanish Crown, the French army surrounded Perpignan and a besieged Salses surrendered in 1642.

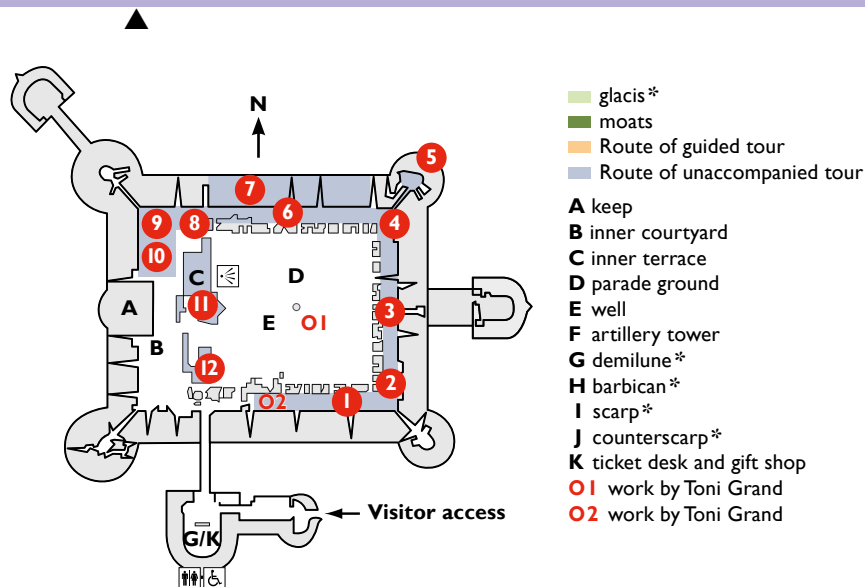
## The search for a new identity

With the Treaty of the Pyrenees in 1659, Roussillon became French and the Franco-Spanish border



was pushed back to the Pyrenees. As a result, the fortress lost its strategic importance. Louis XIV turned it into a prison in 1682. Vauban advocated

demolishing it, but since that would have been too costly, he had minimal restoration work carried out on it around 1700. Its designation as a listed historic monument in 1886 saved the fortress from destruction.

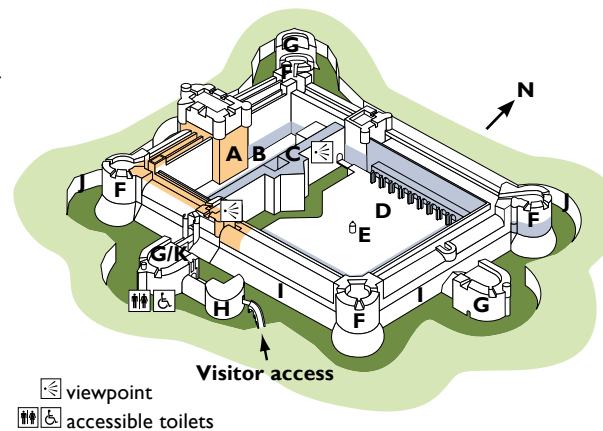


This new design of fortress was capable of resisting modern artillery and could house a garrison of 1500 men. Its massive scale (110 by 84 metres) acted as a deterrent to potential attackers.

After passing through the barbican\* and crossing the 20-metre-wide moat, visitors enter the **south demilune\* •G•**, which has been converted into the visitor reception. This structure protected the main entrance. The **parade ground •D•** with its **central well •E•**, has arcades on three sides.

On the west side, the **inner courtyard •B•**, protected by an inner moat, housed all the facilities vital to a garrison: **infirmary 8**, **valve chamber 9**, **bakery 10**, **dairy 11**, **cowshed 12**. The **terrace •C•** provided a viewpoint over the entire fortification. The parade ground is flanked by **three stables 1, 3, 6**. Above them were the troops' quarters. Only the **north barrack room 7** can be visited today. In the outwork beyond the **chapel 4**, the **northeast artillery tower 5** is one of the four corner towers that defended the fortress.

- glacis\*
- moats
- Route of guided tour
- Route of unaccompanied tour
- A** keep
- B** inner courtyard
- C** inner terrace
- D** parade ground
- E** well
- F** artillery tower
- G** demilune\*
- H** barbican\*
- I** scarp\*
- J** counterscarp\*
- K** ticket desk and gift shop
- 1 work by Toni Grand
- 2 work by Toni Grand



The lower parts of the site are accessible on unaccompanied visits. Guided tours offer access to the **keep •A•**, via terraces and galleries.

### Unaccompanied visit

#### E The well

Rainwater collection tank providing drinking water for the troops and animals

#### 1, 3, 6 The stables

Up to 300 horses could be kept here at any one time.

#### 2 Exhibition room

Display presenting the fortress's history. Classified as a Natura 2000 zone for chiroptera since, 2008 the fortress is home to ten species of bat, seven of which are protected internationally. An exhibition and a live video link to the colonies are presented.

#### 4 The chapel

Dedicated to St Sebastian, the chapel's altar bears the emblem of the "Sun King".

#### 5 The northeast artillery tower

It is equipped with a ventilation shaft to carry the smoke away, and a tank for cooling the cannons and catching the toxic gunpowder particles.

#### 7 The north barrack room

The soldiers slept on the first two floors, while the third served as a food store.

#### 8 The infirmary

Area with giant wooden games.

#### 9 The valve chamber

Located at the head of one of the site's freshwater springs, valves distributed the water along pipes.

#### 10 The bakery

Bread was the garrison's main source of nourishment. The two ovens remained lit at all times.

#### 11 The dairy

Cream, butter and cheese were made in three brick and stone basins.

#### 12 The cowshed

The fortified cowshed could accommodate up to 30 cows.

### Guided tour

From the southern terrace you can see the Corbières mountains, the former frontier with Spain, and the Pyrenees, the present-day border.

A gallery leads to the **keep •A•**. The keep was a last refuge, isolated by drawbridges and with its own defences. It had seven storeys.

Three rooms can be visited as part of a guided tour: The **governor's chamber**, with its fireplace and alcove, had the dual function of lodgings and command post.

The **dining room** has a fireplace built of stone imported from the Catalonian region of Empordà. The **store** was converted into a powder magazine in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Back on the ground floor, the tour leads you past the prison and leaves the keep via the **inner courtyard •B•**.

\* Explanations overleaf.