



## **A Fort relives again**

When I began my role as Director in 2018, the mission that was entrusted to me was to «bring Fort Chillon back to life». A mission that was striking in many aspects, for not only did this underground giant, require reinvention but for the first time in it's history, there is now a woman within it's ranks leading the team and ensuring that the Fort regains it's former glory.

After a long dormant period, this hero of the past will become host to a new episode in it's life that will resound within its walls. A place now animated by the striking scenography of François Confino and his team.

An interactive universe that will fascinate children and amaze visitors to Fort Chillon.

## **What happens when a fortress in the Swiss Alpes aspires to a new life?**

You will find out if you go to the Vaudois Riviera, opposite the Château de Chillon, within the unique environment of Fort Chillon. Invisible from the outside, this underground labyrinth is worthy of any spy movie. You will dive into the bowels of the mountain and discover the captivating history of what was for a long time one of Switzerland's best kept secrets; the National Redoubt.

All is within an interactive, fun and educational space- open for the most part of the year –encouraging a participatory, tactile and visual approach. There are also interactive projections, experiences and discoveries as well as strategy and augmented reality games. Within Fort Chillon there is a cinema room, a space

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dedicated to temporary exhibitions, a refreshments bar and a gift shop that are all awaiting you. There is an added bonus of the possibility to organize private and public events.

### **What is Fort Chillon ?**

Hidden in the hollow of the mountain, Fort Chillon- one of Switzerland's most symbolic emblems –is one of the most important military monuments within our country. Owned by the Swiss army since its creation, Fort Chillon now belongs to a public limited company. The goal has been set to put this historic colossus back into operation so that the Swiss and international public can discover it and the crucial role that it played in Swiss military strategy between 1945 and 1995.

### **Concept**

This museum, from a new era, will offer an unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages. An unprecedented space emerging from a collaboration between a team of international scenographers ; François Confino (museologist), Véronique Rozen and Michel Helsen, a specialist in virtual reality, Patrick Gaetani, and a group of military and fortress experts including Pierre Streit (historian), Christian Welter, Colonel Pascal Bruchez et Christian Vaucher.

Cutting edge technologies combining furniture, original objects and innovative virtual and augmented reality tools permeate this museum to encourage a participatory approach. The main experiences and discoveries being centred around the Swiss national redoubt, a system of fortification of which Fort Chillon was the western entry point, the « soldier's adventure », a simulation of the daily life within the Fort and an augmented 3D strategy games room that will introduce Swiss history, geography and reality from an interactive and fun perspective.

An interaction between reality and technology that also embodies the new architecture of this military structure imagined and made a concrete reality by the experience and expertise of Christophe Kaempfer (architect) and Christophe Rebetez (security).

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The message of this innovative and multi faceted concept is also reflected in our logo, created by Ladina Gisep Bachmann of the beba it. web. grafik. company in Landquart. The logo revolves around a rock and it's surrounding wall, the breach of which symbolizes the access to a secret that has been plunged, for a long time, into obscurity but is now revealed to everyone. This revelation occurs within a resolutely modern approach that respects an important and essential period within the history of our country.

### **Discover, learn and have fun**

Whatever your age or the language that you speak, Fort Chillon will provide an opportunity to discover, learn and have fun in the heart of the myth of a Swiss fortress. This was the idea that motivated the designers.

Fort Chillon thus presents itself as the first «amusement park» in Switzerland that combines a visit to a Fort, and the memories of a Swiss soldier over the years, with the discovery of the national redoubt, all within an interactive environment that is in keeping with our times.

The project grew in dimension over time as little by little a lifetime was discovered. The Clément-Jost family became the owner of the premises in 2010. The Fort Chillon Company was created in June 2013. A decisive step was taken in 2018 with the acquisition of a building permit and district permanent rights on the plot of land (DDP) surrounding the Fort were obtained. The project was then entrusted to the scenography and museography agencies that are currently at work.

«Alphabeth» under the responsibility of François Confino, «Explosion», under the direction of Veronique Rozen and «RéalisationsEurope», under the leadership of Michel Helson. All the afore mentioned are leaders in the world within the design and production of large temporary and permanent exhibitions around the world;  
**confino.com**

A spirit of discovery, a vision for something new and the desire to create a museum «open to the enhancement of an individual visit encouraging the visitor to be open

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minded and to use their imagination within an alternative approach». These were the motivational principals driving the creators and the philosophy that animates the interactive Fort Chillon museum.

### **Overview**

We invite you to plan your visit to Fort Chillon from October 2020. You can also organise an unforgettable evening, in an exceptional setting, by privatizing a reception hall or even the entire Fort. You can book your seats for our first « afterwork » that is scheduled for December 2020. You may wish to organise a visit to the Fort during which you will challenge your friends to various strategy games before ending the day with a friendly aperitif. Finally, you can also consider sponsoring Fort Chillon.

**The team from Fort Chillon look forward to welcoming you.**

Luana Menoud-Baldi, Directrice Director

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