

VISITOR'S GUIDE



MUSEUM  
STELLA MATUTINA

A HISTORY OF SUGAR AND THE PEOPLE INVOLVED



Réunion des  
Musées  
Régionaux

## THE FACTORY

- Museum
- 'Sans souci' 4D Cinema theatre
- Museum shop
- Educational zone

THE WEIGHING  
PLATFORM

## THE MUSEUM

SUGAR AND HISTORY  
SUGAR CANE AND THE ISLAND  
THE SUGAR FACTORY  
SUGAR AND SOCIETY  
THE WORLD OF SUGAR

THE FLOWER MILL

## AUDITORIUM 'La Turquoise'

RECEPTION

## THE FARMHOUSE

- Exhibition hall  
'La Doorgah'
- The 'Emile Hugot'  
documentation  
and research centre

RECEPTION  
COURTYARD

MUSEUM FORECOURT

SUGAR CANE GARDENS

PANORAMIC TERRACE

MAXIME RIVIERE  
TERRACE

PLANTATION GARDENS

THE ORCHARD

GENERAL  
MAP



# INDEX

General map	2-3
Editorial from the president	5

## MUSEUM VISIT

Sugar and history	6
Sugar cane and the island	7
The sugar factory	8
Sugar and society	9
The world of sugar	10
Useful information	11



## EDITORIAL FROM THE PRESIDENT



### JEAN-FRANCOIS SITA

Vice-President for Culture of the Regional Council of Reunion Island, and President of the Committee of Regional Museums - RMR.

Stella Matutina is a classified Museum of France, and has been an iconic and cultural landmark for our island's heritage since 1991, representing a major element of the Regional Council's cultural development policy, initiated in 2010.

As a result, the museum has benefitted from a comprehensive renovation and development program which has just been completed.

This large-scale rehabilitation was based on a new scientific and cultural program, bringing changes to both the factory's original buildings and to the museum's content itself, with a new-improved display of museum collections using the latest multimedia and interactive technologies.

Improved and with an extended array of roles, it is now:

- a site museum and an industrial museum, located in a former factory and its surrounding farmland, at the heart of an area and people who are closely linked to its history,
- a museum of techniques, presenting and explaining the agricultural and industrial processes and how they have evolved, and the successive innovations in engineering. Stella Matutina is also a way to understand our society's history, strongly shaped by sugar-related activities, and a tribute to the men and women who created the island's identity and helped to make what Reunion is today.

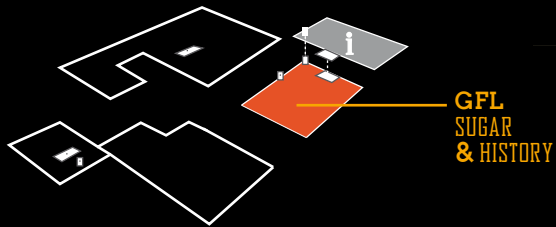
Not only does the museum chart the island's past, it also aims resolutely to reflect the present day, by developing cultural activities thanks to new facilities built during the renovation, such as the auditorium / performance venue, the documentation centre and temporary exhibition spaces, all set around landscaped gardens which continue the theme of the museum content and collections.

We modestly hope that the resulting museum experience will satisfy the expectations of as many people as possible, thus presenting a component of our unique heritage to visiting tourists and helping to bring the Reunionese closer to a chapter of their own history.

We wish you a wonderful visit, full of new discoveries.

# SUGAR & HISTORY

Ground floor level



Sail the seas and explore the continents as you follow the sugar cane trail, from prehistoric times right up to 1850. Find out how this sweet plant charmed the taste buds of the colonial powers from Europe.



All aboard a ship of the East India Company as we set sail for Bourbon Island! It was first a stopover on the spice route to the East, and then became a source of coffee and later sugar cane. Along the way we will meet industrialists and engineers but also the unsung slaves and indentured workers who brought economic prosperity to Bourbon Island, which later became Reunion.



# SUGAR CANE & THE ISLAND

Level 03

L 03  
SUGAR CANE  
& THE ISLAND



Focus on Stella Matutina: from the top of the old factory, admire the view across the former sugar cane estate which stretched from the seashore right up to the mountain summits. Founded in 1850, and equipped with its own factory in the 1870s, Stella is a fine illustration of 150 years of Reunion's sugar cane industry.



Follow the sugar cane carts from the field to the factory, and discover the know-how of farmers from both yesteryear and the present day. Stop for a moment to admire the weighing platform adjacent to the museum, a lasting reminder of the strong links between Stella and sugar cane.

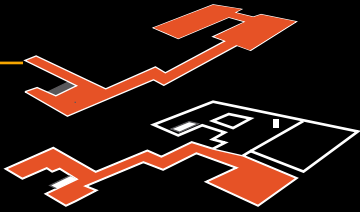


# THE SUGAR FACTORY

Levels 01 - 02

L 02  
THE SUGAR  
FACTORY

L 01  
THE SUGAR  
FACTORY



# SUGAR & SOCIETY

Level 01



As we reach the heart of the factory, the importance of the sugar industry within Reunionese society becomes apparent: nearly 300 factories have marked the landscape, people and social relations over the last two centuries.

Now we take a step back from the factory to get an overview of the island as a whole: how it was populated and marked by slavery and indentured workers, finally bringing strangers together as neighbours and then relatives.



We'll look at how each individual brought knowledge, beliefs, words, ideas, tastes and rhythms, and how their diversity eventually created a common cultural base. The boutique sinoi (Chinese shop) will take you back to days of old, and the open-sided bus will transport you on the road towards the island's modern era, right up to the gates of the 21st century.



The portraits and memories of women and men involved in the sugar industry tell the story of a difficult and not-so-distant era when their whole lives revolved around the sugar estate. Here, those who bear witness to this historic chapter reveal all the secrets of how sugar is produced, step by step, thus unveiling what Stella looked like in the 1960s.



# THE WORLD of SUGAR

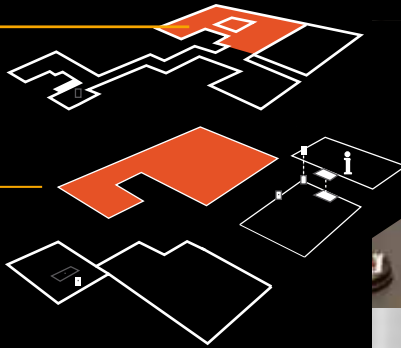
Level 01 - Ground floor

L 01

THE WORLD  
OF SUGAR

GF

THE WORLD  
OF SUGAR



The sucrose molecule in all its forms will soon hold no secrets for you. Before leaving the museum, why not stop for a moment in front of the impressive machines that were used to repair and maintain this gargantuan factory of steam and metal, now the pride and joy of Reunion's sugar history.



As we return to the factory, an array of sugar-based products reveal themselves with beautiful colours, bewitching flavours and heady aromas: chocolate rum, lemonade, sweets, and sugar in loaves, lumps or powder.

## AND ALSO...



### AUDITORIUM 'La Turquoise'

This multipurpose auditorium can comfortably accommodate 400 people.

### 4D CINEMA

The 'Sans souci' cinema theatre

will immerse you in a stunning 8-minute animated film, 'Le Monde Perdu' (the Lost World)



A UNIQUE  
EXPERIENCE!



### THE 'EMILE HUGOT' DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE

### MUSEUM SHOP

Take time to have a look around our shop, where you'll find perfect handicraft souvenirs of your visit, a taster of our local know-how...

And finally, why not take a break at our **FOOD COURT** and discover our local specialties.



## CONTACT DETAILS



Stella Matutina Museum  
6, allée des Flamboyants  
97424 Piton Saint-Leu



[www.museesreunion.re/stellamatutina](http://www.museesreunion.re/stellamatutina)



06.92.33.32.03



## OPENING HOURS

Open on Monday from 1.00 AM to 5.30 PM

Open from Tuesday to Sunday from 9.30 AM to 5.30 PM

(museum, shop, and cafeteria).

Ticket office closes at 4.45pm.

Closed on January 1st, May 1st and December 25th.



## PRICES

- Adults : €9
- Discounts : €6 (children from 4 to 12 years old, students, persons of reduced mobility, groups of more than 10 people)
- Children under 4 years old: free
- School children and accompanying monitors: €2

### EXTRAS:

- 4D Cinema screening : €2
- Guided tour with prior reservation\* : €20

Payment: cash, credit card, cheque and holiday vouchers are all accepted.

\*Book online at: [www.museesreunion.re](http://www.museesreunion.re)