

Napoleon in exile on St Helena



Bird's-eye view of Longwood
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On the island of St Helena, there is now a French enclave, called "Les Domaines Français de Sainte Hélène", which belongs to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The public can visit:

- Longwood House, the outbuildings and its gardens,
- The area of the Tomb (the burial place of Napoleon from 1821 to 1840),
- The Briars Pavilion, Napoleon's first place of exile (from October to December 1815).



St Helena 1816 - Napoleon dictating to Count Las Cases the Account of his campaigns, by Sir William Quiller Orchardson, 1892, Lady Lever Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK © National Museums of Liverpool

"I want to write the great things we have done together," declared Napoleon on 20 April 1814 at Fontainebleau to those who remained faithful to him, before leaving for Elba island, for his first exile.

More than a year later, in 1815, Napoleon took a large collection of books with him to use as a reference during his last exile.

On St Helena, he would spend many long hours dictating the story of his campaigns to Las Cases and to the Generals Bertrand, Montholon and Gourgaud.



Death of Napoleon, by Charles Steuben, 1821, Napoleonmuseum of Arenenberg (Switzerland)
© Napoleonmuseum, Arenenberg

Napoleon died on 5 May 1821 at 5:49 pm at the age of 51 years.

The painter wanted to represent the scene realistically. Numerous reproductions of this painting were made. Indeed, Napoleon's death had particularly touched the Europeans in the nineteenth century.

Napoleon's body is shown reclining on a folding bed like those which he used during his military campaigns. He is surrounded by his companions in exile, their children, his servants and his doctors.