

A low-angle photograph of the Statue of Liberty in Luxembourg Garden, Paris. The statue is made of green patinated bronze and stands on a multi-tiered stone pedestal. It holds a torch aloft in its right hand and a tablet in its left. The background is filled with the bare branches of trees and some with small red blossoms, set against a clear blue sky. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

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**THIS
EDITION
Luxembourg
Garden**

WANDER to WONDER

WANDER to WONDER

by MARTINA NICOLLS



**The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder.
G.K. Chesterson**

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editor's note

Welcome to this edition of WANDER to WONDER

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on the Jardin du Luxembourg—the Luxembourg Garden—in the 6th arrondissement of Paris, France.

Until next edition, with another theme,

Martina

MARTINA NICOLLS



map







luxembourg garden

The Jardin du Luxembourg—the Luxembourg Garden—in the 6th arrondissement of Paris is a large area opened to the public for leisure activities. Marie de' Medici, wife of King Henry IV of France, created the garden on her property in 1612. It is now owned by the French Senate which meets in the building on the perimeter of the garden.

The Luxembourg Garden covers 23 hectares and has trees, flowerbeds, lawns, greenhouses, and an orangerie, fruit orchard, rose garden, apiary (bee-house), pond, over 100 statues, the Medici Fountain, tennis courts, a petanque area, kiosks, an art pavilion, a museum, and a restaurant. A large, enclosed playground for children was added in 2019. De' Medici began with 8 hectares, 2,000 elm trees, and several gardeners. De' Medici bought more land and commissioned Jacques Boyceau de la Barauderie, who had worked at the Tuileries and the garden of the Versailles Palace. The garden was restored after the French Revolution (1789-1799) and further reconstructed in 1865 during the reformation of Paris.











medici fountain

The Medici Fountain was built in 1630 under the direction of Marie de' Medici. Tommaso Francini designed the fountain using techniques from Florence. It was originally only the grotto, but in 1811 Napoleon Bonaparte ordered the fountain to be restored.

Jean Chalgrin, who designed the Arc de Triomphe, restored the fountain from 1864-66 and moved it to its current location. He added a long rectangular basin of water flanked by trees. He also added sculptures of Polyphemus and the lovers Acis and Galatea designed by Auguste Ottin in 1866.











the senate and the palace

The Senate is the upper house of the French Parliament. The Senate is housed inside the Luxembourg Palace in the Luxembourg Garden. It is guarded by the Republican Guards. The Luxembourg Palace, designed by French architect Salomon de Brosse, was built from 1615-1645. It was originally the royal residence of Marie de' Medici. The front façade is viewed from Rue de Vaugirard, and the south façade is viewed from inside the Luxembourg Garden. In 1750, the palace became a museum to hold artworks (the forerunner of the Louvre). It was open to the public two days a week. During the French Revolution (1789-1799), it was a prison, and in 1799 it became the home of the Senate and the first residence of Napoleon Bonaparte.













pond



statue of liberty

On 28 October 1886, 134 years ago, the people of France dedicated the gift of The Statue of Liberty to New York Harbour. The Statue of Liberty, *La Liberté éclairant le monde* (Liberty Enlightening the World) is a copper statue in New York Harbour in New York City. French sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1904), and engineer Gustave Eiffel (1832-1923), who built the Eiffel Tower in Paris, constructed the statue. It was France's gift to America to commemorate its independence on 4 July 1776. Liberty holds a torch in her right hand, above her head, and carries a tablet in her left hand, with a broken chain at her feet.

A smaller bronze replica of the Statue of Liberty is in Paris in the Luxembourg Garden. Bartholdi created the first prototype of the Statue of Liberty in 1870. Bartholdi created another replica in 1900, but died in 1904. It was placed in the Luxembourg Garden 113 years ago in 1906 after it was found in Bartholdi's workshop. It was removed from the Luxembourg Garden in 2012 for repair and conservation, but it was returned to the Garden in 2018, but in a different location.





















le lion

One of the animal sculptures in the Luxembourg Garden is *Le Lion de Nubie et sa Proie*—the Lion of Nubia and its Prey—by French sculptor Auguste Cain. Auguste Nicholas Cain (1821-1894) was born in Paris. He studied under Pierre-Jules Mene, and married his daughter in 1852. Initially, he focused on small animals, but from 1868, he concentrated on monuments of large animals. One of his works, *Tigress and Peacock*, is in the Gardens of the Tuileries.











the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and humanitarian aid consultant with over 30 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international aid development projects, particularly in post-conflict environments and countries with transitional governments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Georgia, Kosovo, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, human trafficking, monitoring and evaluation, and data quality.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

Similar but Different in the Animal Kingdom (2017)
A Mongolian Lament (2015)
The Komodo Verses (2012)

Liberia's Deadeast Ends (2012)
Bardot's Comet (2011)
Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010)
The Sudan Curse (2009)

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