



Napoleon's Last Stand - Campaign Launches to Save Emperor's Remote Exile Residence

Anglo-Franco rivalry has been set aside in a bid to save Napoleon Bonaparte's residence on the remote Atlantic island of St Helena. The distant British outpost is home to Longwood House, where the exiled emperor spent his last years. The house is now the focus of an international restoration appeal, a final campaign for one of the most influential men in history.

For many, St Helena's identity is inextricably linked with Napoleonic heritage. It was here that the emperor was exiled from 1815 until his death in 1821. Located four miles outside the Island's capital, Jamestown, Longwood House is recognised as one of the most iconic Napoleonic museums in the world, owned and managed by the French Government in honour of their former leader. Visitors to the island can stroll through Napoleon's apartments where the emperor lived and died; the servants' quarters and the Generals Wing where Napoleon's entourage stayed during his exile.

Now in need of restoration, Longwood has become the focus of an international appeal to preserve this rich heritage for future generations. The campaign has received support from many quarters including Henry Bellingham, British Minister for the Overseas Territories. With sections of the house "in a perilous condition", the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has identified that the necessary works will cost an estimated €1.5 million. It is hoped that fifty per cent of this will come from public sources.

Longwood is one of three French domains on St Helena. Other estates include Napoleon's Tomb (although his remains were moved to Paris in 1840) and the Briars Pavilion, where Napoleon stayed during the first few weeks of his captivity on this spectacular 'island prison'.

The historical importance of Longwood is undisputed, as is its significant appeal for tourism to St Helena, many visitors drawn to the Island's far-flung shores by the powerful Frenchman. Longwood House and Napoleon's Tomb have been designated as two of the Island's '7 Wonders' and, despite the island's geographical isolation, receive thousands of visitors each year. Tourists visiting St Helena, still arrive as Napoleon did – by sea – currently the only means of reaching the island. Although today the voyage is much more comfortable, on board the 128-berth RMS St Helena (www.rms-st-helena.com). Part passenger ship, part cargo vessel, she is one of the world's last working Royal Mail Ships.

For more information on the appeal and to make a donation visit [**http://www.napoleon.org/en/fondation/partner/sthelena.asp**](http://www.napoleon.org/en/fondation/partner/sthelena.asp) In order to receive tax benefits, the minimum donation accepted is £250, but those wishing to donate smaller amounts (but without tax benefits) may wire the Fondation directly.