

## **OUR SCHOOL OUTING TO THE LAZARET AT " LA GRANDE CHALOUPE " 410/412**



Within the frame of our ERASMUS+ project " DIFERENT ROOTS BUT ALL EUROPEAN CITIZENS " , our 3 teachers took us to La Grande Chaloupe for a guided tour of the Lazaret.

After the abolition of slavery in 1848, the lack of labor in sugar cane fields became critical and encouraged planters to call for the arrival of new indentured laborers from India.

Located in the depths of a narrow valley, La Grande Chaloupe was chosen as the site for the construction of the Lazaret. The word , " Lazaro ladre " in Italian , means "A hospital treating contagious diseases. " .

Featured with a deck, a dormitory and a hospital , the Lazaret had a doctor as a manager .

We could discover the place of quarantine where our history was made. Indeed immigrants from India, China and Africa contributed to the diversity of the island's population. Reunion Island's population today is naturally of mixed race, bearing witness to the island's history .

Our guides on the site , Mrs Nadia and Mr Philippe, shared their knowlegde on the indentured labour period and the origin of the present vegetation our island.

All the Indian workers were hired under contracts signed in India, with a legal duration of 5 years. Then they were transported to Reunion in " coolie ships " ( "slaves ships" were replaced by " coolie ships " for the trasportation of those engaged workers )

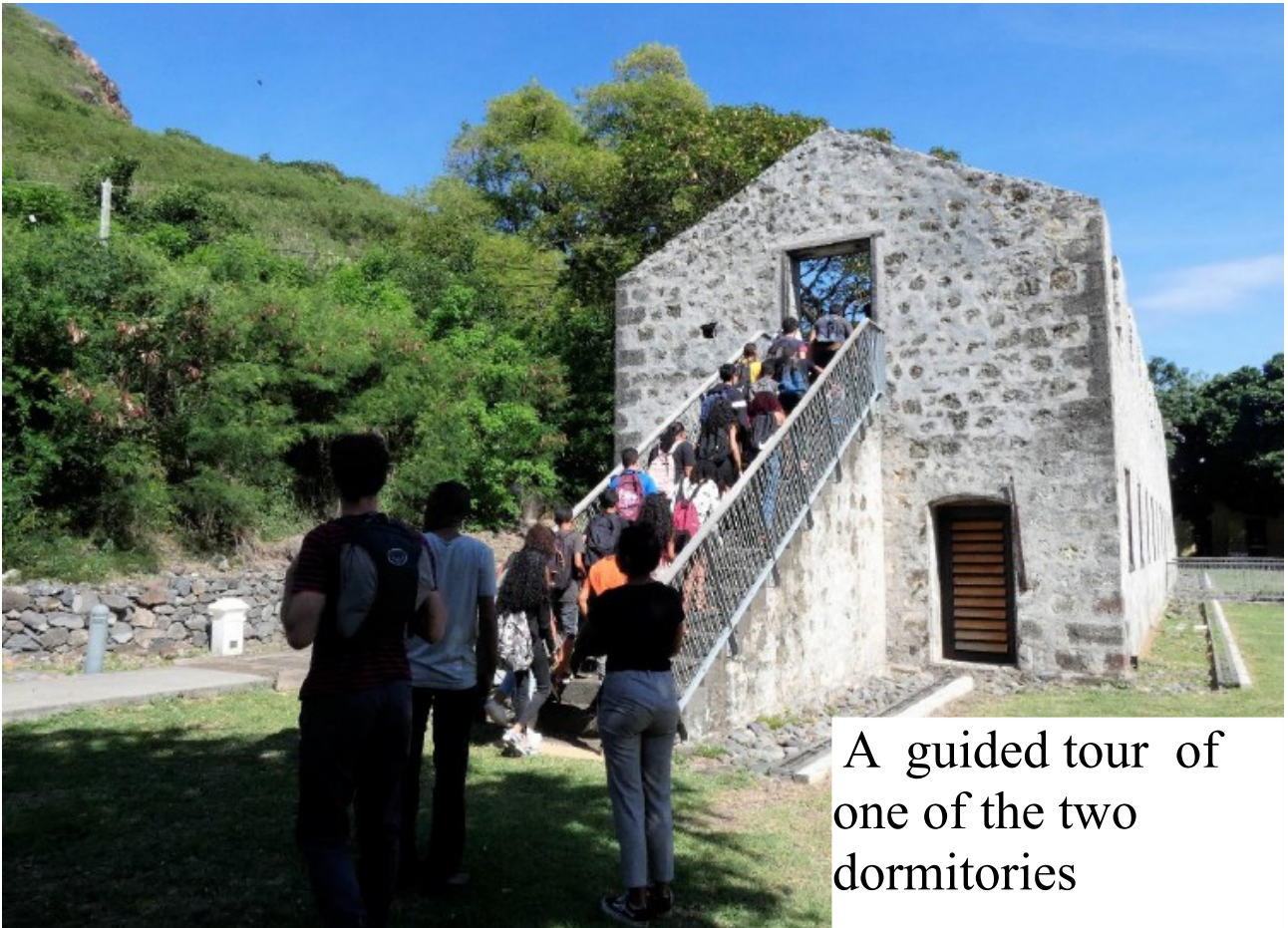
The contract stipulated that the Indians' religious freedom would be respected. We thus ended our day by the visit of the Temple at Petit Bazar in Saint- Andre. The temple was built in 1900 and it was renovated in 2003 in the *traditional* architectural styles of *India*.

It is dedicated to Muruga, the Tamil God of war and victory .

The colourful sculptures of the temple bear witness to the religious fervour of Hinduism in Reunion.

We warmly thank both Mrs Nadia and Mr Philippe from whom we learnt a lot during the visit of the Lazaret at La Grande Chaloupe.

Our warmest thanks to Mrs Rangayanaguy who took time out of her day to give us a guided tour of the temple's site.



A guided tour of one of the two dormitories

Pupils : Abdou Thalia, Adam Yamps Cassandra , Antier Britanie,Bancala Mahe, Boyer Jenny, Boyer Wylcina,Comorassamy Shanaelle,Devane Romaric, Foussane Jason,Foy Adeline, Gustavin Romain, Ivoula Danny, Leconstant Djilliann, Mander Zakary, Martial Stelly,Masson Noah, Moniteur Sarah,Morin Benoit,Narsapa Laurianne,Reame Rayan, Richard Yoann, Robert Camille,Saledy Thomas, Sinan Tarek, Soustelle Théo, Tayllamin Alex, Turpin Manon