

Thieves Force Entry, Steal Napoleon-Era Jewels

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. **thief** (noun) /θi:f/ – A person who steals something.
Example: The thieves stole valuable jewels from the museum.
2. **emerald** (noun) /'em.rəld/ – A green precious gemstone.
Example: The necklace was made of sparkling emeralds.
3. **imperial** (adjective) /ɪm'piəri.əl/ – Related to an emperor or empire.
Example: The crown belonged to an imperial family member.
4. **audacious** (adjective) /ɔ:'deɪ.ʃəs/ – Bold and daring, sometimes recklessly so.
Example: The audacious robbery shocked everyone in Paris.
5. **security** (noun) /sɪ'kjʊə.rɪ.ti/ – Measures taken to protect something from danger.
Example: Security around the museum's most valuable items is very strict.
6. **investigation** (noun) /ɪn'ves.tɪ'geɪ.ʃən/ – The process of examining facts to find out what happened.
Example: Police began an investigation after the robbery.
7. **recover** (verb) /rɪ'kʌv.ər/ – To get something back that was lost or stolen.
Example: The crown was later recovered outside the museum.



Thieves stole priceless jewels from the Louvre museum.

About 30 minutes after opening on October 19, they rode a basket lift up the side of the building. They forced open a window, smashed display cases, and escaped with valuable Napoleonic jewels. Fortunately, no one was injured during the theft. Alarms alerted museum agents, but the robbery was already completed.

Officials described the robbery as fast and professional.

French Culture Minister Rachida Dati called it a “four-minute operation.” Eight objects were

stolen, including an emerald necklace of Empress Marie-Louise, Napoleon's second wife. One object, the imperial crown of Empress Eugénie, Napoleon III's wife, was later found outside the museum, but damaged. This daylight robbery is one of the boldest in Europe in recent years.

The Louvre closed for the rest of the day.

Police began a full investigation immediately, reviewing security footage and interviewing staff. Security at the museum is usually tight, especially for famous works like the Mona Lisa. However, not all 33,000 objects have the same level of protection. Daylight thefts show that some areas remain vulnerable to bold criminals.

Recovery of the stolen jewels may be difficult.

Experts warn that professional thieves often break and re-cut valuable stones to avoid detection. Tobias Kormind, managing director of 77 Diamonds, said it is unlikely the jewels will be seen again. The stolen pieces are considered to have "inestimable" historical value. Museums face challenges protecting objects from professional crime groups. These challenges highlight the importance of strict security measures.

Investigators are still gathering information about the thieves.

Reports suggest four people were involved, two on the lift and two on scooters. Authorities are inspecting the basket lift, security cameras, and speaking with staff present during the opening. They are also checking whether the thieves had inside help. The investigation is ongoing and many details remain uncertain. Everyone hopes the stolen objects can be traced and recovered.

DISCUSSION

1. How would you feel if you visited the Louvre during this theft?
2. Why do you think thieves targeted Napoleonic jewels specifically?
3. Should museums increase security even more, or would that make visiting less enjoyable?
4. How do daylight robberies affect public trust in museums?
5. What measures could museums take to prevent similar crimes?
6. If you could recover one stolen object, which would you choose and why?
7. Do you think professional thieves should be punished differently than ordinary criminals?