

LOUVRE EMPLOYEE CHARGED IN MAJOR TICKETING FRAUD INVESTIGATION



A third Louvre worker now faces charges linked to a large-scale ticket scam, following confirmation by the Paris prosecutor. Accused of organized fraud along with both giving and accepting bribes, the staffer is under court-ordered monitoring. The case adds to growing scrutiny over internal misconduct at the museum.

Early June marked the start of a judicial probe, setting the scene for recent arrests. Come Monday, six police personnel found themselves detained - links to key figures under scrutiny forming the core concern. Following review, five walked free. The remaining individual faced questioning by a magistrate days later.

"The Louvre is marking a new stage in the operation to dismantle the ticketing fraud network," said Kim Pham, the museum's director general. "The Louvre is modernizing its tools and procedures to deal with these increasingly inventive and numerous threats."

Nine Face Charges in Ticketing Fraud Case Worth More Than 10 Million Euros

February brought a turning point, as authorities moved against nine people tied to the scam that drained over €10 million from the planet's busiest museum. Held before trial was one suspect; the remaining eight faced charges yet walked free under court oversight. Though detained separately, each person plays into a broader pattern now under legal scrutiny.

Early that month, nine people were taken into custody - among them, workers from the Louvre, multiple guides, plus someone thought to be running the operation. Officials believe these individuals may have pulled off comparable scams at Versailles around the same time.

Over €957,000 in physical money was taken by officers while active procedures unfolded. Meanwhile, funds totaling €486,000 sat across multiple financial accounts, later secured through legal channels.

Origins of the Ticketing Fraud Investigation

December 2024 marked the start of an investigation after the Louvre reported concerns to the unit handling migration violations. Focused on a pair from China employed as tour guides, authorities examined claims they allowed several tourist groups entry without proper payment. Instead of issuing fresh passes each time, identical tickets appear to have been used across separate visits. Oversight targeted repeated misuse linked to admission procedures at the museum site.

Finding support through follow-up monitoring and recorded conversations, investigators identified signs pointing to collaborators inside the museum. Evidence emerged slowly, linking certain staff to the earlier doubts raised about security breaches.

Some researchers say the system managed around 20 teams each day, possibly running close to a decade - an extended, tightly structured effort aimed at a leading French cultural body.

A surprise heist worth €88 million struck the Louvre in October 2025 - this controversy follows close

behind. While that theft stunned officials, questions now resurface amid fresh failures. Security flaws thought addressed have reemerged, casting doubt on past fixes. Given the earlier breach, trust erodes further with each new lapse. **Though responses were promised last time, results remain unclear today.**

Officials at the museum state efforts are underway to tighten safeguards, while legal inquiries proceed. Though oversight improves slowly, measures now adapt in real time. Procedures shift under close review, given ongoing court scrutiny. As investigations advance, internal protocols evolve accordingly.

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