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Immerse yourself in the works of the ‘father of modern sculptor’ at the Musée Rodin in Paris. Go World Travel is reader-supported and may earn a commission from purchases made through links in this piece. Ah, Paris! Each time I visit the City of Light, I marvel at its offerings. As the capital and largest city in France with over two million people, Paris is a cultural mecca with countless museums and galleries, architectural marvels, fashion houses, world class food and wine, and so much more. Visitors can’t get enough of this renowned destination, as they ooh and aah over its romantic bridges, the River Seine, centuries old churches, cobblestoned streets and monumental squares. Though I’ve spent considerable time in Paris, I never gotten around to visiting the Musée Rodin until my most recent visit this past spring. One of the most elegant and photogenic institutions in the city, the Rodin Museum is located in the handsome Hôtel Biron, surrounded by a lush garden dedicated to the art of the renowned and prolific French sculptor, Auguste Rodin. Considered by many as the “father of modern sculptor,” Rodin was inspired by tradition yet took a stance against its idealized forms. Over the course of a career that spanned the late 1800s and early 1900s, he introduced innovative practices that changed the way sculpture had been created and perceived. Rodin’s work echoed his belief that art should be true to nature. He focused on the human form and sought to express the essence of the human psyche, delving into what lay below the surface. In this manner, he developed a technique to render the power of such emotions as turmoil, tragedy, joy and passion. Working primarily with bronze and marble, Rodin was known for retaining the tool marks and leaving parts of his sculptures somewhat rough, deciding not to hide signs of his process. This was revolutionary at the time. The artist lived in the Hôtel Biron later in his life and in 1911, the government bought the property. In exchange for being able to stay at the hotel, Rodin agreed to donate many of his works to be housed there as a museum, which subsequently opened to the public in 1919. The collection is vast and includes thousands of sculptures, drawings, old photos and antiquities. This incredible oeuvre is on display within a series of galleries, each designed in a circular format with an open layout. High ceilings and lots of windows and mirrors augment the pieces and showcase the art, while reminding visitors that this was Rodin’s work environment. There’s a logical and chronological manner to their placement, demonstrating themes, subjects and materials that were of interest to the artist. And sculptures are presented in their successive states, allowing the viewer to understand the different stages of Rodin’s creative process.