



# NATIONAL MUSEUM OF INTERVENTIONS, FORMER CONVENT OF CHURUBUSCO

Mexico City

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The building that houses the museum is of major historical significance: in it the Battle of Churubusco was waged—on August 20, 1847—in which United States invaders defeated the military forces of general Pedro María Anaya and the Irish soldiers of the Saint Patrick's Battalion.

In the eleventh century the zone was occupied by the domain of Huitzilopochco, which occupied a strategic position during Mexica domination, mainly in trade. With the introduction of the Catholic Church in 1524, a hermitage was built and received the earliest Franciscan friars, and later a church was built in order to serve novitiates training to become missionaries who were to the Philippines and Japan.

Later the building served military and educational purposes. Several decades later, on September 13, 1981, it was inaugurated as the National Museum of Interventions, whose aim was to spread awareness of the historical collections related to foreign interventions in Mexico in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



### HOW TO GET THERE

**In public transport:** From General Anaya subway station (Line 2, Taxqueña-Cuatro Caminos) take the Calle 20 de Agosto exit and continue on that street away from the Calzada de Tlalpan; the former Convent of Churubusco will be in front of you.  
**In private transport:** Take División del Norte, turn onto Calle Xicotécatl until you reach the Museum. Take Calzada de Tlalpan southward bound, turn right on Héroes del 47 and on the fourth street (Av. Del Convento) turn right. Continue to the esplanade and you will be in front of the former Convent of Churubusco.

### SERVICES

Guided tours available with a reservation, contact the Educational Communication Department.

### ADMISSION

According to the Federal Fees Act, admission is free for students, teachers, and seniors with a valid ID; children under 13 and people with a disability.  
**Sundays:** Free admission for Mexican citizens and foreign residents.

[www.inah.gob.mx](http://www.inah.gob.mx)  
[@inah\\_mx](http://www.difusion.inah.gob.mx)  
Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia  
©INAH, México, 2019

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Non-professional photography is free of charge when you show ID. For professional photography and video recordings, prior authorization from the National Office of Legal Matters of the INAH is required.

### HOURS

**Museum:** Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.  
**Library:** Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Sunday concerts: 1:00 pm. Free admission.  
**Guided tour with historical figure:** Sundays, 12:00 and 2:00 pm.

### TEXTS

Gaspar Hernández R.  
Norma Elena Rodríguez Hernández  
Tania Arroyo Ramírez

### PRODUCTION

Head of Promotion of the National Dissemination Office, INAH

### PHOTOGRAPHY

INAH

### DESIGN

César Enríquez



GOBIERNO DE MÉXICO

CULTURA  
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

8 INAH  
1939-2019

## MAIN ATTRACTION

Painting  
“Battle of Cinco de Mayo in 1862”

In the Battle of Puebla Mexican troops under the command of general Ignacio Zaragoza defeated the French army of Emperor Napoleon III. This work is a re-creation of the Battle of May 5, 1862. Oil on canvas, anonymous, Churubusco collection: 1870, 162.0 x 203 cm. It is located in the “French Intervention and the Empire, 1862–1867” gallery.



## COLLECTIONS

Given that the museum was the setting for one of the battles against the United States intervention, the central subject—along with much of its collection—relates to the idea of illustrating the different armed interventions in Mexico, because these events produced and defined the basic principles of the country's foreign policy: non-intervention and the self-determination of peoples.

Furthermore, the museum's collection reflects a rich diversity, by including objects from monastic life; archaeological pieces and remains recovered on site; objects and paintings from the viceregal period; as well as a historical collection with religious documents and other objects from the period of Mexican Independence.



## FACTS AND NUMBERS

2.4 million

Kilometers of Mexican territory were lost, after the war waged by Mexico against the US intervention between 1846 and 1848. That amount represented more than half of the Mexican territory at the time.

10 million

Paid in dollars by the United States to the Mexican government for the purchase of the northern territory of La Mesilla [the Gadsden Purchase] in the year 1853.

8

Laws issued between 1859 and 1860 that are widely known as the Reform Laws, namely: Juárez Law; Law Lerdo; Churches Law; Law of the nationalization of ecclesiastical goods; Law on civil marriage; Organic Law of the Civil Registry; Law of exlaustration of nuns and friars; and, Law of freedom of worship.

62

Days lasted the second occupation of Puebla by the French army. The siege was motivated by the historic victory of the Mexican army over the French forces on May 5th, 1862.

# /GALLERIES

The ground floor of the National Museum of Interventions illustrates the activities that were part of monastic life, shown in two rooms: the kitchen and the refectory.

The upper floor presents the story of the military interventions that took place in Mexico between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the rooms are organized as follows:

## ● Introduction

Represented by a variety of historical objects, such as flags, paintings, weapons, and insurgent publications, the gallery refers to geopolitical aspects that awakened the interest of foreign powers in controlling the territory of Mexico as a newly founded nation.

## ● Independence

It includes painting, portraits, objects, and historical facsimiles such as the Act of Independence and the Constitution of 1824. The room explains the difficulties the country faced during the struggle for independence and reflects the importance and leading role played by certain individuals, along with the historical battles unleashed in the country.

## ● The Earliest Armed Interventions in Mexico

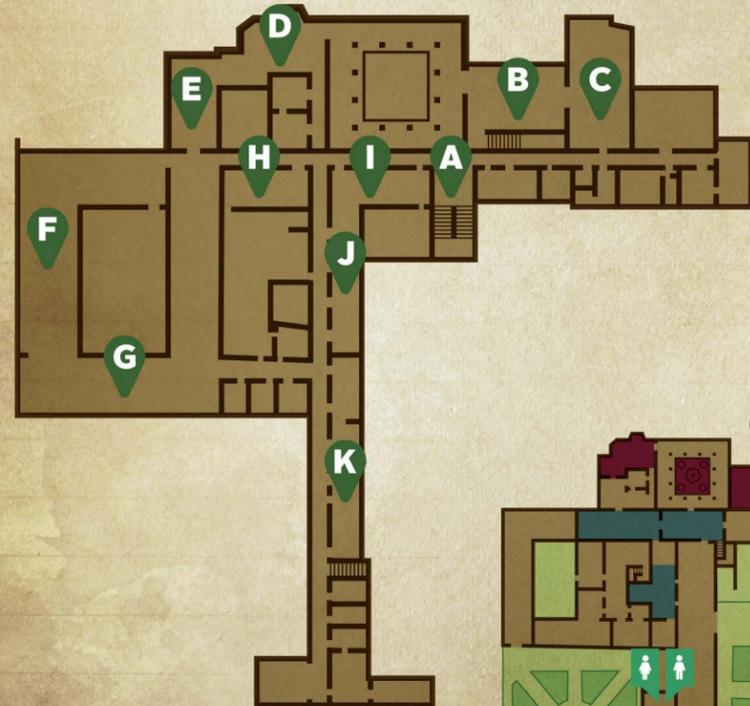
This gallery shows how Spain tried to reconquer Mexico in 1829, emphasizing the factors that prompted the Spanish expedition to Veracruz and Tampico, as well as the resistance posed by civic militias and the triumph of the Mexican army with the expulsion of the invaders.

It also addresses the French intervention of 1838–1839, describing the reasons that France maintained an armed presence on the Veracruz coast. It highlights the negotiation capacity of Mexican representatives in resolving the conflict, as well as the use of international law as a diplomatic tool.

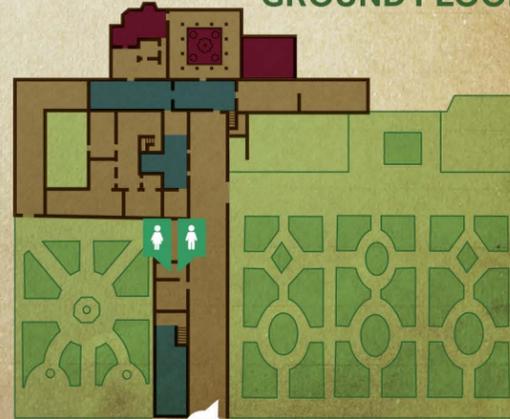
## ● U.S. Intervention of 1846–1848

It displays a series of lithographs, maps, and major documents that seek to explain how the territory of Texas was lost when it was annexed to the United States, in the context of the application of the Monroe Doctrine, “America for Americans.” Furthermore, it illustrates the military conflict and battles stemming from it, and the end of the war is described through the signing of the peace treaty in which Mexico lost more than half of its original territory; it also includes the loss in the Gadsden Purchase.

## UPPER LEVEL



## GROUND FLOOR



➔ ACCESS

## ESSENTIALS:

- A** Lobby
  - B** Introduction
  - C** Independence
  - D** *The Earliest Armed Interventions in Mexico*
  - E** *Introduction U.S. Intervention of 1846–1848*
  - F** *U.S. Intervention of 1846–1848*
  - G** *French Intervention 1862–1867*
  - H** *Ex-votos, Painted Stories*
  - I** *Age of Porfirio Díaz*
  - J** *Mexican Revolution*
  - K** *United States Intervention of 1914 and 1916*
- Temporary exhibition galleries
  - Re-creation of monastic life
  - Patios

## ● French Intervention and the Empire, 1862–1867

It illustrates the dispute between liberals and conservatives, which prompted the justification of the presence of French armed forces. The figure of Benito Juárez stands out as a symbol of the defense of national sovereignty against the hegemonic interests of French power. Finally, the gallery concludes with the explanation of the different phases of resistance movements presented by the Republicans, as well as the conditions that hindered the survival of the Second Empire and that, in turn, facilitated the triumph of the Mexican Republic.

## ● Ex-votos, Painted Stories

This gallery features a series of folk art expressions from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They are of important visual and anthropological value because they provide iconographic and written testimony on the extreme situations faced by the individuals who commissioned them to give thanks for a miracle.

## ● Age of Porfirio Díaz

Exhibiting photos, work tools, and documentary examples from the printed press, it shows the social contrasts that

characterized Mexico's entry into economic modernity in the early twentieth century.

## ● Mexican Revolution

In a streamlined display, it portrays the historical process of the Mexican Revolution, with the support of documents, uniforms, and photos of individuals who were the protagonists of this episode of Mexican history.

## ● United States Intervention of 1914 and 1916

It displays the forms of United States intervention in the framework of the Constitutionalist stage of the Mexican Revolution. In the first part it points out the hegemonic interests that led to the occupation of Veracruz in 1914 by United States armed forces, and how the Mexican counterpart had exerted pressure to put an end to this bellicose conflict. In the second part of the gallery, the display describes how the United States government took on pacifying the country in 1916, by claiming Mexico's political and social instability put its border at risk. It details the punitive expedition led by Pershing against Pancho Villa in northern Mexico.

# / BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS IN NUMBERS

**1428** Tenochtitlan conquered the domain of Huitzilopochco, subjugating it as a tribute-paying town.

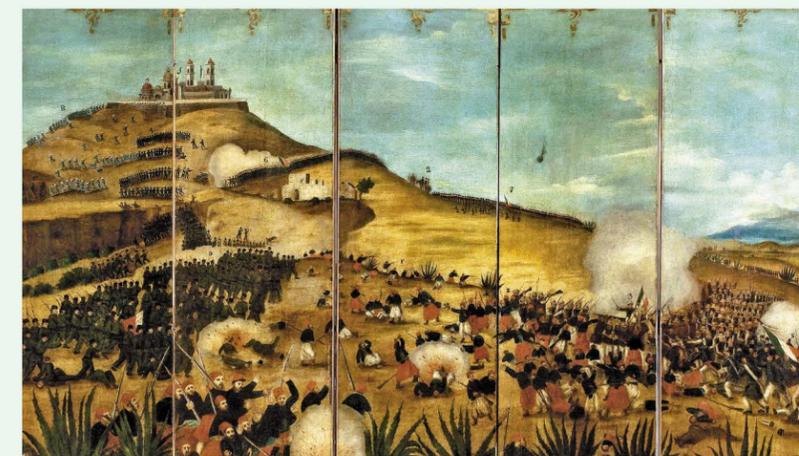
**1528** The start of the first construction stage of the Convent of Churubusco, when the Franciscan friars decided to establish a small hermitage.

**1672** Don Diego del Castillo and his wife, Doña Elena de la Cruz, wealthy hacienda-owners, granted part of their fortune for the reconstruction of the site, to expand it with architectural and aesthetic improvements.

**47-50** Number of friars who lived in the monastery.

**35** Number of soldiers from the Saint Patrick's Battalion killed in the Battle of Churubusco, fighting against the imperialist ambitions of the United States on that historical August 20, 1847.

**6** Number of interventions in Mexico after its independence (1810): 1) attempt at Spanish reconquest in 1829; 2) First French Intervention or the Pastry War in 1838; 3) War against the United States of America between 1846 to 1848; 4) the Second French Intervention, also known as the Second Mexican empire, from 1862 to 1867; 5) an attack and blockade of the port of Veracruz in 1914, by the United States stemming from its refusal to recognize the government of Victoriano Huerta; 6) the Punitive Expedition headed by the United States aimed at capturing Pancho Villa after the attack he carried out on Columbus, New Mexico, and Camp Furlong.



/“Self-determination of peoples” and “non-intervention,” two of the principles that are at the foundations of Mexican foreign policy, are the central focus of the National Museum of Interventions.