



FORT OF SAN DIEGO

Guerrero



BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

Fort of San Diego is a historical monument of the **18th century currently turned into a museum**. In its design, the most advanced concepts of military engineering by that time were applied. It was built on the remains of a **castle**, erected in 1616 by the Dutch engineer Adrian Boot, and formerly destroyed by the earthquake of April 1776.

Faced with the need to protect the port of Acapulco and provide security for the trading activities with the Philippines, a new building was commissioned in the form of a regular **pentagon** with five bastions grouped around the parade square.

During the Spanish rule, the fortress was commanded by the military and political governor of Acapulco. In the **War of Independence** it was the setting of several clashes among the insurgents led by Jose Maria Morelos against the monarchic forces quartered in the castle. In the **independent Mexico** it retained its military and prison functions. During the **Revolution of Ayutla**, the rebels led by Ignacio Comonfort were besieged in the fort by Antonio López de Santa Anna.

During the Mexican Revolution, the site was bombed, from the gunboat "Guerrero", as ordered by Venustiano Carranza. In the 20th century, its military vocation changed to a cultural one. In September 1933 the Historical Museum of Acapulco was inaugurated in one of its halls. In 1949, the property was turned over to the Ministry of National Assets and Administrative Inspection to incorporate it into INAH's estate. It was administered by INAH until 1964, when it was turned over to the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP). In 1970 it was handed over to the Federal Board of Improvements of Acapulco, and during that time, the General Directorate of Cinematography performed a Cinematographic Review on it. In 1980 it was again administered by INAH through the Morelos-Guerrero Regional Center; in April 1986, the Acapulco Historical Museum opened to the public, completely refurbished, with the purpose of rescuing and disseminating the history of this port.



GETTING THERE

It is located on Av. Costera Miguel Alemán in front of the port or Calle Hornitos and Morelos s/n, colonia Centro, Acapulco, Guerrero.

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ADMISSIONS

In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Law of Rights: Free entrance for children under 13, students and teachers with current ID cards, senior citizens, retirees and pensioners, as well as workers and researchers of INAH.

PHOTOGRAPHS

A professional license is required for professional cameras and tripods. The use of video cameras is paid in accordance with the Federal Law of Rights.

www.inah.gob.mx
www.difusion.inah.gob.mx
@inah_mx
Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia

TEXTS

INAH Center Guerrero Team

TRANSLATION

Violeta Hinojosa Navarro

PRODUCTION

Head of Communications of the National office of Broadcasting, INAH

PHOTOGRAPHS

Archivo del Museo Histórico de Acapulco Fuerte de San Diego

DESIGN

Latex / Manuel Cózar

CULTURA SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA



INAH

DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

The museum has twelve permanent exhibition halls and a temporary exhibition hall. Among them:

First settler's room

It shows the pre-Hispanic settlements in Mesoamerica and, specifically, from Acapulco, as well as the ethnic groups at the time of the Conquest.

The Fort of San Diego was considered "The most perfect among Mexican fortifications of small size in spite of its beautiful and proportional figure" by Jose Antonio Calderón Quijano, in the History of the New Spain fortifications.



Fort Chapel Room

It recreates the prayer place the fortress must have had. It exhibits paintings, sculptures and reliefs of great artistic quality performed during the vice royalty.

Room of independence

It shows a synthesis of the Independence War and the interest of Morelos to seize the Fort of San Diego.

Navigation room

It exhibits parts and an instrument used in maritime voyages and discusses the relevance of the discovery of the Manila Galleons by Fray Andrés de Urdaneta in 1565, which led to the trade between Manila and Acapulco.

Trade Room, silk, ivory, furniture and porcelain

It presents samples of the pieces - merchandise - of the Asia trade.





ARCHITECTURE

It was built for military purposes for the defense of the port and, therefore, of the Spanish Crown possessions. To fulfill its purpose, it was designed with a geometric shape, in the form of a regular pentagon, with five bastions around the parade square: to the north the one of "San Antonio", to the northwest the one of "San Luis", to the southwest the one of "Santa Bárbara", to the south the one of the "Concepción", and to the west the one of "San José". When it was concluded, in 1783, it had four vaults with galleys for supplies, food and troop barracks; eight smaller vaults to store gunpowder and weapons, as well as housing for the main guard and officers; a prison cell, galley for prisoners, kitchen and two cisterns, the latter built in the early 19th century.

WHERE TO SEE THE PENTAGONAL SHAPE?

You can't miss the sight of the Acapulco bay from the ramparts, where besides watching the strategic location of the fort, you can admire its pentagonal shape.



MUST-SEE

A The royal carriage	E First settler's room
B The model of San Pedro Ship	F Navigation room
C Silks and ivories	G Fort Chapel Room Room of
D Chinese porcelain	H Independence


- 1 Plaza de Armas
- 2 Ramparts
- 3 Small Plaza
- 4 Multimedia Cultural Forum



DID YOU KNOW...?

- Due to its commercial significance, Acapulco was granted the title of "City of Kings" by King Philip II in 1528, and then once again by King Charles IV in 1799.
- After concluding the uplifting of the building that currently houses the museum, in 1783, it was named as the Fort of San Carlos, after the King of Spain. However, the traditional name of San Diego prevailed (designation of the first castle, named after the saint of the devotion of the Viceroy Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, who ordered its construction).
- The construction of the current building lasted five years with a cost of over 600,000 pesos.
- As a punishment for the resistance of its population to join the insurgency, Morelos removed the "City of the Kings" category from Acapulco and named it "Congregation of the Faithful" in 1811.
- In 1815 the last shipment from the East arrived to Acapulco in the frigate Victoria.

SOME FIGURES

-  The first castle was built by the Dutch engineer Adrian Boot in 1616.
-  The current Fort of San Diego was built by Ramón Panón between 1778 and 1783.
-  In case of siege, the fort could accommodate up to 2,000 people.
-  On April 24, 1986 the Historical Museum of Acapulco was inaugurated, with its exhibition halls occupying all the Fort of San Diego.

YOU CAN'T MISS...

- **The Quebrada** that has attracted tourists from all over the world to see its fearless divers, you have to see it to believe it! Day and night they dive into the sea from the top of a cliff, with only their swimsuits for protection.
- **The beaches of Pie de la Cuesta**, with its spectacular sunsets, beaches, lagoon and various water activities.
- **Barra Vieja**, enjoy its beaches while you taste the exquisite local seafood or the typical *a la talla* fish.
- **The Island of Roqueta**. Board a small glass bottom boat on the beaches of Caleta and Caletilla and visit the Virgen de los Mares. The island is an ideal setting for resting and practicing water sports like snorkelling and diving.