



MONASTERY AND COLLEGE OF SAINT FRANCIS OF PACHUCA

Hidalgo

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Construction began on the most emblematic building of the late sixteenth-century colonial past in Pachuca after authorization was granted by Viceroy Luis de Velasco in 1596. The church was concluded in 1660.

The culminating moment of the monastic complex was in 1732, when one of the four evangelical institutes in existence in colonial times was built there. These were created to train missionaries who could Christianize the northern reaches of newly explored territories conquered by the Spanish Crown.



GET READY TO EXPLORE

The Colegio de Propaganda Fide

The missionaries of the order of Saint Francis, educated in the seminary in Pachuca, evangelized part of what today are the states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, and Coahuila. The principal sponsor of the expansion was the wealthy Spanish miner Pedro Romero de Terreros, the first count of Regla. The final stage in communal religious life came to an end in 1861 when in compliance with the Reform Laws under Juárez, the friars were permanently secularized and their properties nationalized.

Chapel of the Third Order

The chapel of the Third Order stands on the north wall halfway down the nave of the church. Two carved doors stand at the entrance and the floor is paved in granite. It is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; it has a groin vaulted ceiling with three arches and a semispherical cupola with a drum and lantern. Its high altar stands on a platform with five steps. On the altar a stained glass bears the inscription: *Panis Angélicus Fit Panis Hominium*. The chapel also has a choir with a pedal organ.

Sacristy and Antesacristy

The octagonal layout of the sacristy is particularly beautiful and is crowned by a cupola on an eight-sided drum. In this space there are four canvases on the life of Saint Francis, each framed in an exquisite shell.

Chapel of Our Lady of Light

The most beautiful section of the entire complex is this chapel that proudly displays restored paintings—including Saint Anthony of Padua receiving the patent of preacher and a Saint Francis with his earliest companions: Bernardo de Quitavalle and Pedro de Cattani—as well as an impressive Churrigueresque altarpiece with wood sculptures representing Saint Philip of Jesus, Saint Paschal Baylon, Saint Peter de Regalado, and Saint Peter of Alcantara—the founder of the Discalced Franciscans.

Room of the Arches

It exhibits a small collection of religious art, including painting, sculpture, and other objects of a religious nature.



PLACE NAME

The architectural complex bears the name of the founder of the most important missionary order: Saint Francis of Assisi



Photography Museum and National Photo Archives

Within the monastery is the National Photo Archive. It houses more than 900 thousand original photos and its holdings represent more than 2,800 photographers and 46 collections, the most important of which is the Casasola Archive. It also includes collections of Hugo Brehme, Tina Modotti, Guillermo Kahlo, Cruces and Campa, Nacho López, Carlos Jurado, and Aurelio Escobar. Part of the Photo Archives' collection is on display in the Photography Museum, on the upper floor of the former monastery.

HOW TO GET THERE

It is between Hidalgo and Casasola streets in the Plaza Bartolomé de Medina, Centro neighborhood, Pachuca, Hidalgo.

SERVICES

Free guided tours, by appointment.

PHOTOGRAPHY

For the use of any device to make videos, visitors must pay the amount set by the Secretary of Finance. Non-professional photography, without the use of tripods, is free of charge and must be done without a flash.

HOURS

From Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

ADMISSION

Tuesday to Sunday, admission free of charge.

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MAIN ATTRACTION

Church facade

The former monastery of San Francisco has many sites worth careful scrutiny. The best known is the west-facing church facade, which stands out for its magnificent Baroque style.



The former monastery of Saint Francis in Pachuca is the most important building that has the greatest historical value in the capital of the state of Hidalgo.

MARIANO ARISTA STREET



ACCESS

HIDALGO STREET

ESSENTIALS

- A** Antesacristy
- B** Sacristy
- C** Chapel of Our Lady of Light
- D** Chapel of the Third Order
- E** Altar of Saint Columba of Sens
- F** Open-air auditorium

- 1 Art Barracks
- 2 Atrium
- 3 Garden



/ TOUCHSTONES



The construction of the monastery began in the late sixteenth century and its expansion continued over the next three centuries.

1732

The monastery was built in the Apostolic College of Propaganda Fide in 1732.

1771

The school for missionaries won its autonomy from the Province of San Diego in 1771.

1860

The final expulsion of the friars began in 1860.

1976

After having been a state prison and a municipal jail, the building was intended to serve as a museum, archives, and offices as of 1976.



/ AND DO NOT MISS ...

- Within the sprawling orchards of the monastery, a cemetery was built that is now the Pasteur Garden.
- On October 4 of each year an ancient traditional feast day is celebrated in honor of Saint Francis.
- The former monastery is surrounded by four gardens. A few steps away, visitors can enter the Barracks Art Museum and the Nacho López photo gallery.

