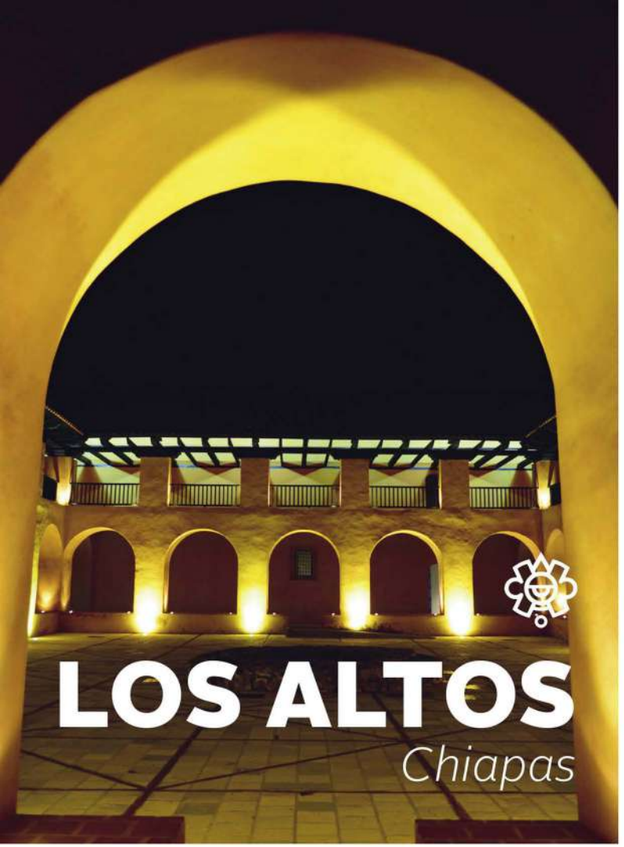


BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

The National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) restructured the Museum in Los Altos, Chiapas, and underlook a renewal of the current facilities within the site, including the updating of the curatorial and museographical captions. Thus, through the National Coordination of Museums and Exhibitions and the National Coordination of INAH centers, it manages the permanent modernization of its museum network and to offers their visitors guided tours with accurate information, thereby enabling a highly effective of knowledge dissemination.

The pieces exhibited in this site are an integral part of the local archeological, historical and artistic tradition and they belong to the collection of the Museum in Los Altos, Chiapas, to San Cristóbal de las Casas Townhall and to Chiapas' Diocese. The INAH in Chiapas expects that visits made to this site will contribute to understand the history of the Los Altos region and the relevance of San Cristóbal de las Casas as a cultural enclave in Southern Mexico from the colonial period to the present date.

It has been documented that the Santo Domingo de Guzmán Order arrived in San Cristóbal de las Casas in March 1545, so in October 1546 the already established Alderman of Ciudad Real granted the Dominican friars a six-solar parcel of approximately 10,500 square meters in order to build the temple and the convent. The first stone was placed on January 19th, 1557 by ***Guatemala's Bishop Francisco Marroquí*** during his journey to New Spain's capital. Sources claim that the grounds of the convent extended to the area currently known as El Tivoli at the northern end of the San Cristóbal de las Casas.

Originally, the former convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán was known as ***Convento de Ciudad Real*** and was the Dominican headquarters of the region. From here, a pastoral activity spread throughout the Los Altos region in Chiapas. Therefore, it is mandatory to visit it in order to understand its regional history.

The former convent was founded on 1546 (at the ***Cerro de la Cruz***, currently known as ***El Cerillo*** neighborhood) and it was the center of pastoral activities, including a novitiate and a school. The construction was led by ***fray Pedro de la Cruz***. By 1550, the temple, the school, the kitchen, the dormitory, the refectory and other spaces had already been built.

Some stone structures bear witness of the former constructions. The transformations that the original construction has endured are shown. The current building is catalogued as a historical monument dating from the 17th century. Dominicans owned the convent until 1853 and as of the 20th century it was included within the national patrimony in custody of the Institute.

GETTING THERE

From the main central square in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, walk along the North Ecclesiastic corridor to finally reach the Santo Domingo de Guzmán Temple.

www.inah.gob.mx
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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.

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

SERVICES

Locker service, restrooms (with infrastructure for disabled people), audio and video room, elevator to the first floor, temporary exhibition hall, parking lot and guided tours.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The use of any video-shooting devices must be paid in accordance with the authorized provisions of the Ministry of Finance; taking non-professional photographs, without a tripod, has no cost.

TEXTS
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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH

MAIN PIECE

Santiago Matamoros

17th Century
Unidentified Author
Carved and polychrome wood.

Santiago Matamoros is the name granted to the iconographic representation of the apostle Saint James the Elder, who miraculously intervened in favor of the Christians against the Muslims during the battle of Clavijo in the year 844.

Where is Santiago Matamoros be displayed?

This polychrome piece of sculpture is one of the most representative iconographic pieces and symbols in the Evangelization Hall.



THEMATIC COLLECTION

On the ground floor, in all three permanent exhibition halls and in each of their respective segments a scientific dialogue is emphasized recalling its construction and its recovery from the local historic memoirs in San Cristóbal. The main subjects put together an itinerary comprising from the pre-Hispanic Mayan geography of Los Altos Chiapas at the moment of the Spaniard invasion and before this period. The second theme includes the processes of the military conquest until the foundation of Villa Real, it summarizes the colonial regime that was implemented up to the moment of the indigenous resistance. The third hall summarizes a dialogue dedicated to evangelization and indigenous paganism, highlighting the establishment of the Dominican order and their main local constructive efforts. In this dialogue the formation of the Chiapan Bishopric is emphasized as well as the presence of Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas and his known *History of the Indies*.

Within this collection, the silver pertaining to His Excellence Bishop Felipe Arismendi Esquivel from the San Cristóbal de las Casas City (Chiapas) stands out, and it contains important paintings that belong to the poeple of San Cristobal.

SOME DATES

1500 a.C.	The Mokaya culture originated in the Soconusco region in Chiapas. It has been identified as the most ancient in Mesoamerica.
300	Settlement and flourishing of Mayan cities within the Lacandon Jungle during the classical period (A.D. 300-900)
1524	Spaniard arrival and conquest of zoque, tseltal and Tzotzil indigenous groups. The first convent (San Lorenzo in Zinacantán) is founded.
1545	Ten solars are granted to Dominican friars in order to build the convent.
1983	The former convent becomes part of the national patrimony guarded by the INAH.
2012-2016	A visiting of 120 thousand people is registered.

/HALLS

The Museum in Los Altos, Chiapas, exhibits the history of this region during the pre-Hispanic period by displaying the objects found during archeological excavations made by the Institute itself. Furthermore, it offers an overview of the colonization process and the evangelization of the region, the foundation of Ciudad Real and the establishment of the city from the 16th century to the end of the 18th century. At the end of the tour the role of the Santo Domingo convent in the life of San Cristóbal de las Casas from its first years to the moment of its transformation in culture center and museum it shows.

Currently, the museum has been active for 32 years with continuous presence on the dissemination activities and cultural exposure within the Los Altos region in Chiapas.

The museum is located in a former convent recently recovered and restored by the National Institute of Anthropology and History. Thus, it has become one of the most ambitious restauration projects in Chiapas sponsored by the INAH headquarters in Chiapas.

- The Western and Northern Passages

  The first one exhibits an archeological collection that allows the consolidation of the pre-Hispanic history in the Los Altos region in Chiapas and the regional connection it had with other pre-Hispanic cultures, whereas the north passage is prominent because of its sacred easel painting from the 17th century and middle of the 19th century.



/ The museum currently stands as a culture dissemination center for the people of San Cristóbal



GROUND FLOOR

- *Temporary Hall (East Passage)*
- *Dominican Hall (North Passage)*
- *Conquest Hall (West Passage)*
- *Archeology Hall (West Passage)*

1 Access Corridor
2 Weaver's Courtyard
3 Store
4 Ticket office
5 Ex-Convent Courtyard
6 Transit Warehouse
7 Access to Ground Floor
8 Garden
9 Parking lot

TOP FLOOR

- *Interactive Hall*
- *Textile Art Hall*

10 Lobby
11 Audio Visual Room
12 Corridor
13 Balcony

- Archeology Hall

  The pictographic captions located within this hall are based on the Paris, Madrid, Dresden and Golier codices that contrast with the pre-Hispanic textile attires more than a thousand-years old as well as the pre-Hispanic textile products previously recovered and currently guarded by the National Institute of Anthropology and History.

- Conquest Hall

  The different military incursions from the conquest up to the foundation of Ciudad Real by the Spaniards is shown.

- Evangelization Hall (Dominican Hall)

  Within the collection, two important polychrome Wood pieces stand out: Santiago Matamoros Dominico and San José Franciscano, besides the Dominican saints praised by the people and the liturgical silverware.

