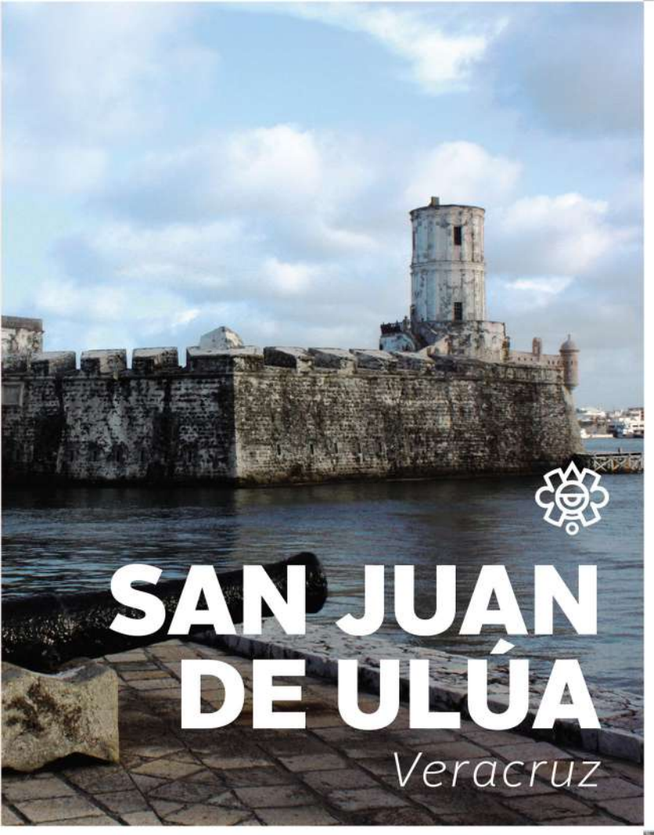


SAN JUAN DE ULÚA

Veracruz

BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

*On the islet of **Tecpan Tlayacac**, meaning "nose or protruding of the Earth Palace," existed a place of worship to the God **Tezcatlipoca** (smoking mirror), Mexica divinity, **warrior god** of the dark.*

*In 1518 the Spanish expedition commanded by Captain **Juan de Grijalva** arrived in the island on San Juan Bautista (St. John the Baptist) day in June, finding on the site a temple erected by **the settlers of Culúa**, from which he got the name of **San Juan de Ulúa**. The encounter with these settlers marked the beginning of the contact between the two cultures.*

*In 1519, **Hernán Cortés** arrived in the **coast of Veracruz**, built a camp in front of the islet and founded Villa Rica de la **Vera Cruz**, commencing the period of Spaniard conquest. In 1535, the first viceroy, **Don Antonio de Mendoza** brought the king's authorization to begin the works of a port and **defensive construction** on the islet of San Juan de Ulúa.*



*The first constructions on the islet were a wall with rings to hold the ships and protect them from the strong north winds and two defense towers. In 1568 **the pirates John Hawkins and Francis Drake** arrived in the port of Ulúa, coming from the Caribbean. By 1590 and by orders of king Felipe II (Philip II of Spain) began the design and construction of the Indian or Antillean Defensive System, of which Ulúa was part.*

These works were developed by military engineers, Italian, French, German, Dutch and Spaniard at the service of the Spanish Crown, for over three centuries.

GETTING THERE

From the north, on the Xalapa Veracruz highway, on Dr. Rafael Cuervo Avenue until the u-turn for the access to the port enclosure, entering through the Scenic Highway to San Juan de Ulúa.

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday
from 9am to 4:30pm.
Closed on Mondays.

ADMISSION

The cost of admission is the one established by the Federal Law of Rights. Free admission for children under 13 years of age, students and teachers with valid credential, senior citizens, retirees, pensioners, disabled, as well as workers and researchers of the INAH.

PHOTOGRAPHY

For the use of any recording device there is a fee authorized by the Ministry of Finance. The taking of non-professional photographs, without a tripod, has no cost.

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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH

DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

Muro de las argollas (the Wall of rings)

This wall is part of the first structures built in Ulúa, meant for the protection and mooring of the ships, which were secured by its thirty-two bronze rings against the strong winds of the north. Built in coral masonry, this defensive front overlooking the city is flanked by the **bastion of San Pedro** and its tower and by the **bastion of San Crispín** –both held artillery for port defense. It was also the place for the unloading of the goods coming from Spain and the shipment of the products from New Spain and the Philippines.
The Puerta de Mar which can be seen as part of the wall, is one of the most characteristic landmarks of the fortress.

TOPONYM	San Juan de Ulúa
CULTURE	New Spain and Mexican
PERIOD	Viceroyalty
DATE	16th to 19th centuries



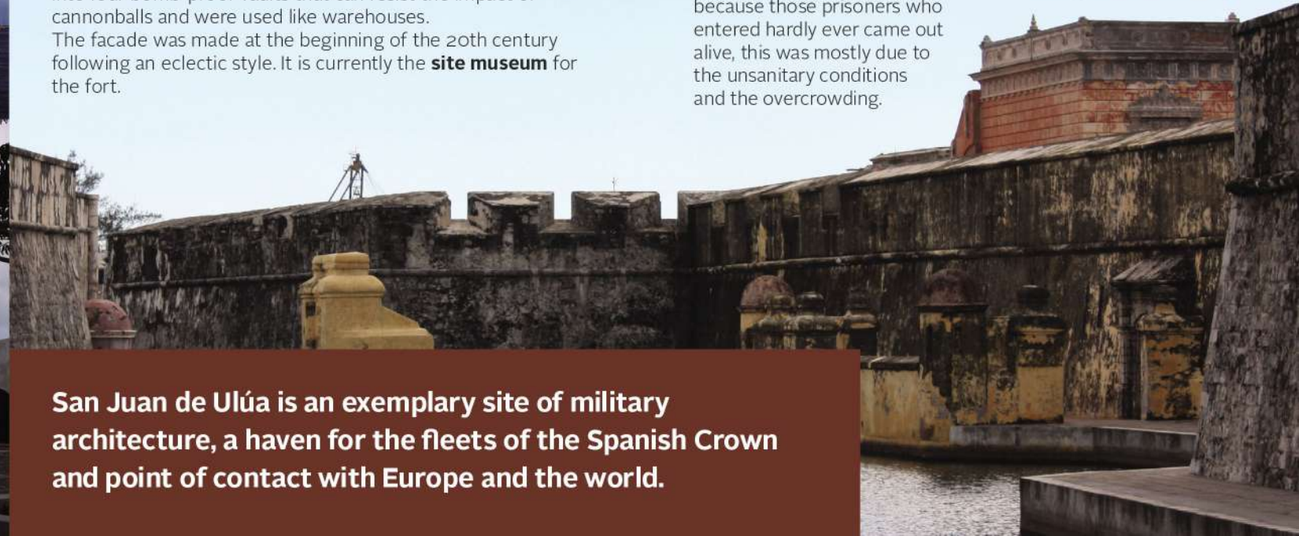


Plaza de Armas and the Governor's House

The Plaza de Armas is the central courtyard in which the troops were organized to carry out **military exercises**. During the 17th century there were stores of provisions and war supplies, a chapel and an orchard. The building known as the Governor's House was the residence of the Castilian of the square, who governed the fortress. The space on the ground floor is divided into four bomb-proof vaults that can resist the impact of cannonballs and were used like warehouses.
The facade was made at the beginning of the 20th century following an eclectic style. It is currently the **site museum** for the fort.

The Ravelin of San José

It is a defensive construction with a redoubt with three warehouses for gunpowder in its centre. Its outer perimeter is formed by vaulted spaces that were used as warehouses and lodgings for troop, and to store two cisterns; it has three cells. The cannons that defended the sea front were placed on the upper floor. During the days of President Porfirio Diaz´s administration this area was used as a **prison**. The area was reached by crossing a bridge known as **"Bridge of the Last Sigh"**, because those prisoners who entered hardly ever came out alive, this was mostly due to the unsanitary conditions and the overcrowding.



San Juan de Ulúa is an exemplary site of military architecture, a haven for the fleets of the Spanish Crown and point of contact with Europe and the world.



OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE

Bastion of San Pedro and its tower

Built in several stages, it rises on the southwest front of the fortress. Its cannons crossed fire with the cannons of the bastion of la Concepción of the walled city of Veracruz, fully protecting the navigation channel and access to the port. Inside it there are vaulted spaces that were used as warehouses and lodgings for the Ulúa garrison. A circular tower was erected on its embankment; a lighthouse was placed there –constructed in London and comprising a series of lamps and crystals operated by a clock mechanism that radiated intermittent light to guide the boats.

ARCHITECTURE

It has advanced exterior defensive constructions comprised of the Ravelin of San José and two Lunnetes: Santa Catarina and Nuestra Señora del Pilar, as well as a flooded trench to prevent the passage of the enemy. Its typology corresponds to the "Reglas del Arte de la Fortificación." (Rules for the Art of Fortifications). Its walls or curtains have a slope to resist the impact of cannonballs. Its four walls have vaulted areas, with access through the Plaza de Armas; these were used as warehouses and rooms for the lodging of troops.
In the 19th century a London, built lighthouse was placed in the tower of the Bastion of San Pedro.



WHERE CAN I SEE THE TOWER OF THE BASTION?
In the upper part of the Bastion of San Pedro you can visit the tower, climb its steps to the corridor that encloses it and enjoy the view of the port and the city of Veracruz.



MUST-SEE

- A *Puerta de Mar / The Wall of the Rings*
- B *La Casa del Gobernador (The Governor's House; site museum and temporary expositions hall)*
- C *The Ravelin of San José*
- D *The Tower of the Bastion of San Pedro*
- E *The Archs of the Cortadura de San Fernando*

1 Plaza de Armas
2 Cortadura San Fernando
3 Baluarte de Pedro (interiors)
4 Stairs
5 Hallway Cortadura San Fernando Upper level
6 Bastion of San Crispín and tower
7 Bastion of la Soledad
8 Bastion of Santiago
9 North wall stairs
10 Bridge of the Last Sigh
11 Lunnete Nuestra Señora del Pilar

DID YOU KNOW...?

- *Due to the absence of stone in the area, a coral called muca was used for the construction of the fortress of San Juan de Ulúa.*
- *Veracruz was the only port authorized to trade with Europe by the Spanish Crown.*
- *Goods from Europe were disembarked at Ulúa and from there the products of the Viceroyalty of New Spain and the Philippines were shipped to Spain.*
- *In 1914 the fort was designated presidential residence of Venustiano Carranza.*

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

1519 Hernán Cortés disembarks.

1535 The construction of a pier and defense work begins.

1838 During the Pastry War, the French bombed and blocked San Juan de Ulúa.

1858 San Juan de Ulúa is the seat of the Executive Power during the presidency of Benito Juárez.

1961 On December 7, 1961 President López Mateos granted the building to the custody of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (National Institute of Anthropology and History) –INAH, for its preservation as a Historical Monument.

YOU CAN'T MISS...

- The port of Veracruz shines on its own: its rich traditional gastronomy, with seafood such as arroz a la tumbada, prawns enchipotlados, not to mention its aromatic and delicious coffee. The party atmosphere can be enjoyed in Los Portales de Lerdo, in the zócalo of the city.
- Enjoy a visit to the Museo Naval México (Mexico Naval Museum) and the Aquarium. Only 20 kilometers to the north, visit the House of Hernán Cortés, the Ermita del Rosario, the Cabildo building and the barracks of Santa Ana, in Antigua, Ver.