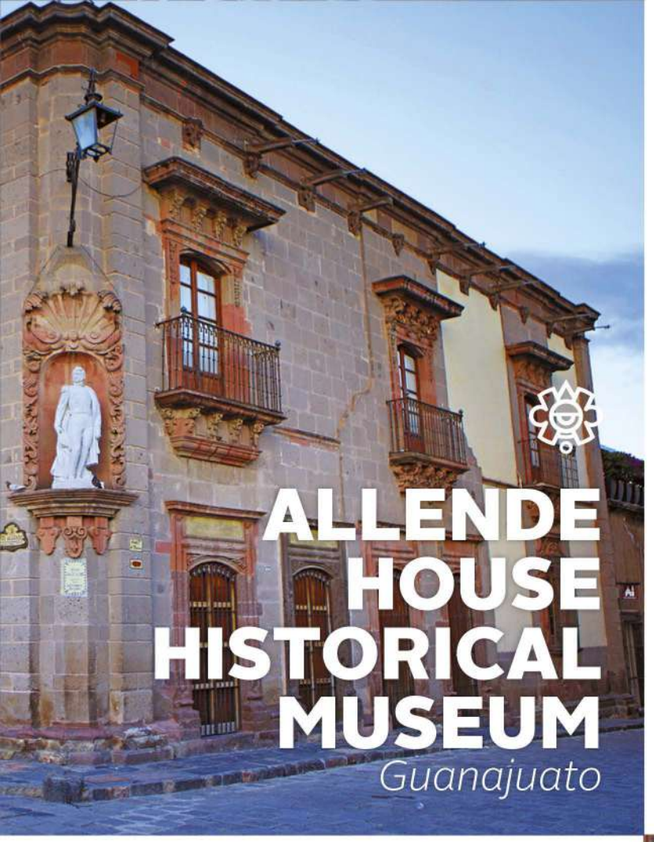


ALLENDE HOUSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Guanajuato

/ HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The Allende House Historical Museum occupies a building that was once the ancestral home of the Allende family. It is clearly a residence typical of New Spain in the second half of the eighteenth century that harmoniously blends two styles: baroque and neoclassic. A beautiful example of civil architecture, it also reflects the prosperity of New Spain.

Domingo Narciso de Allende had the home built in 1769 as a wedding gift for his wife, María Ana Unzagu, and it was probably completed in 1785. The leading promoter of Independence in Mexico, Ignacio José de Allende y Unzaga, lived in this house.

During the armed insurrection the house was confiscated by the viceregal government and at the end of the War of Independence it was returned to its owners, who in turn sold it to a private party. Early in the twentieth century José Vega's family acquired the property and kept it until 1976, when the government of the state of Guanajuato acquired it, ceding it to the INAH in 1984 through a memorandum of understanding to turn it into a historical museum. It was in February 1990 when the museum was inaugurated in San Miguel de Allende in the framework of the restoration of museums for the Bicentennial of Mexico's Independence. To turn it into a site museum, a new architectural and exhibition design project was carried out.

In the eighteenth century houses that belonged to well-to-do families had a "noble floor" in the upper part with sitting rooms, a domestic chapel, and bed chambers; it was the space where family life took place. In contrast, the ground floor of these homes was primarily the service floor. Originally these dwellings were linked by three corridors that opened onto the main patio. In the Allendes' residence, one of the corridors leads to the sitting room, the antechamber, and the drawing room, as well as a series of interconnected bed chambers; another corridor leads to the chapel and what must have been the main bed chamber; the space of the third corridor, which led to the kitchen and the baking room, was adapted as a dining room with doors and stained glass. In the nineteenth century, two narrow passageways were added to the corridors, without altering the harmony of the patio, to facilitate circulation to all the areas of the house.

Storage rooms, the office, shops and additional rooms were arranged around the patio, with doors facing onto the street. In addition to the entrance to the second patio and to the stables; there was another entrance on Umarán Street, in addition to an open carriage house to store carriages and horse-drawn carts. The shops or additional rooms were rented to artisans or else products from haciendas, ranches, factories or mills belonging to the owners of the house were sold there.

Although it is unknown what the residence of the Allendes actually looked like, as a site museum, historical settings have been re-created, based on research done by experts in domestic furnishings and everyday life in New Spain. The spaces are designed to evoke how a house from the second half of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, when the Allende family lived there, might have looked like.

/ HOW TO GET THERE

Calle Cuna de Allende no. 1, Zona Centro, San Miguel de Allende

/ SERVICES

Coat check, shop, guided tours, lectures, courses, and cultural events

/ HOURS

Monday to Sunday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

/ 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.

/ 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.

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

©INAH, México, 2018

TEXTS
Martha Patricia Guerra Vallejo y Cedulario del Museo Histórico de San Miguel de Allende, INAH

PRODUCTION
Head of Promotion of the National Dissemination Office, INAH

PHOTOS
Gliserio Castañeda G.

DESIGN
César Enríquez

TRANSLATION
Debra Emy Nagao Ogawa

CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH

/ MAIN ATTRACTION

Paper money during the War of Independence

Given the enormous mining wealth in New Spain, in the three hundred years of viceregal life, the money in circulation consisted of gold, silver, and copper coins.

The rebellion of 1810 overturned the political and social order of the viceroyalty and caused a profound economic crisis, prompted by the almost total abandonment of mines; the rise in costs of coinage production, delays and transport; the emigration of surviving fortunes; and the demand for new taxes. Paper money appeared for the first time in 1813 in San Miguel el Grande, in the form of bills issued by the insurgents. They only printed half real bills made of cardboard.

Where to see it?

Paper currency, issued during the War of Independence, is in the Profile of a Hero room on the upper floor of the house.



/ TOUCHSTONES

1785	Construction of the house is completed.
1990	It is opened to the public as the Historical Museum of San Miguel de Allende.
2009	A new exhibition installation is re-inaugurated as the Allende House Site Museum.
7	Seven electronic thematic captions distributed through the rooms reinforce the museum's discourse.

/ COLLECTIONS

The Historical Museum of San Miguel de Allende has a collection of objects on a particular moment in the annals of San Miguel de Allende and eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Mexico.
It re-creates the public and private spaces in the House to give visitors an idea of Creole social life at the time, while it also reappraises the figure of Ignacio Allende as the main precursor of the insurrection of 1810.

The museum holdings comprise 1,047 pieces, most of which were incorporated with the new restoration. They consist of original pieces and reproductions of paintings, documents, sculptures, domestic items, decorative art, silverwork, textiles, objects related to horsemanship and the shops housed there, religious items, flags, furniture, musical instruments, linens, toys, and weapons.

The display encompasses eighteen rooms and the visit begins on the ground floor of the house. It opens with a brief chronicle of the town of San Miguel el Grande, from its sixteenth-century foundation, its economic and social growth in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, to become one of the wealthiest and most important towns in New Spain. The causes and origins of the Independence movement are also explained and the participation of Ignacio Allende is highlighted, as well as the military figures in this war, and his particular role in the movement. Emphasis is placed on the Bourbon reforms, which produced widespread discontent among the population of New Spain, as a prelude to the great rebellion in the Americas.

This floor also has re-creations of the shops or storefronts and the patios of the stables. Also on display is the Apothecary of the Sacred Heart, a pharmacy that remained open on the spot until 1979. On the upper floor, there are rooms that evoke the Allende family's everyday living spaces (sitting rooms, bed chambers, chapel, and kitchen), to show how a well-to-do Creole family lived at the start of the nineteenth century. The profile of a hero is described (birth, descendants, family) and the start of the War of Independence (insurrection, plans revealed, differences between Ignacio Allende and Miguel Hidalgo, and the capture and trial of the fomrer).



/ROOMS

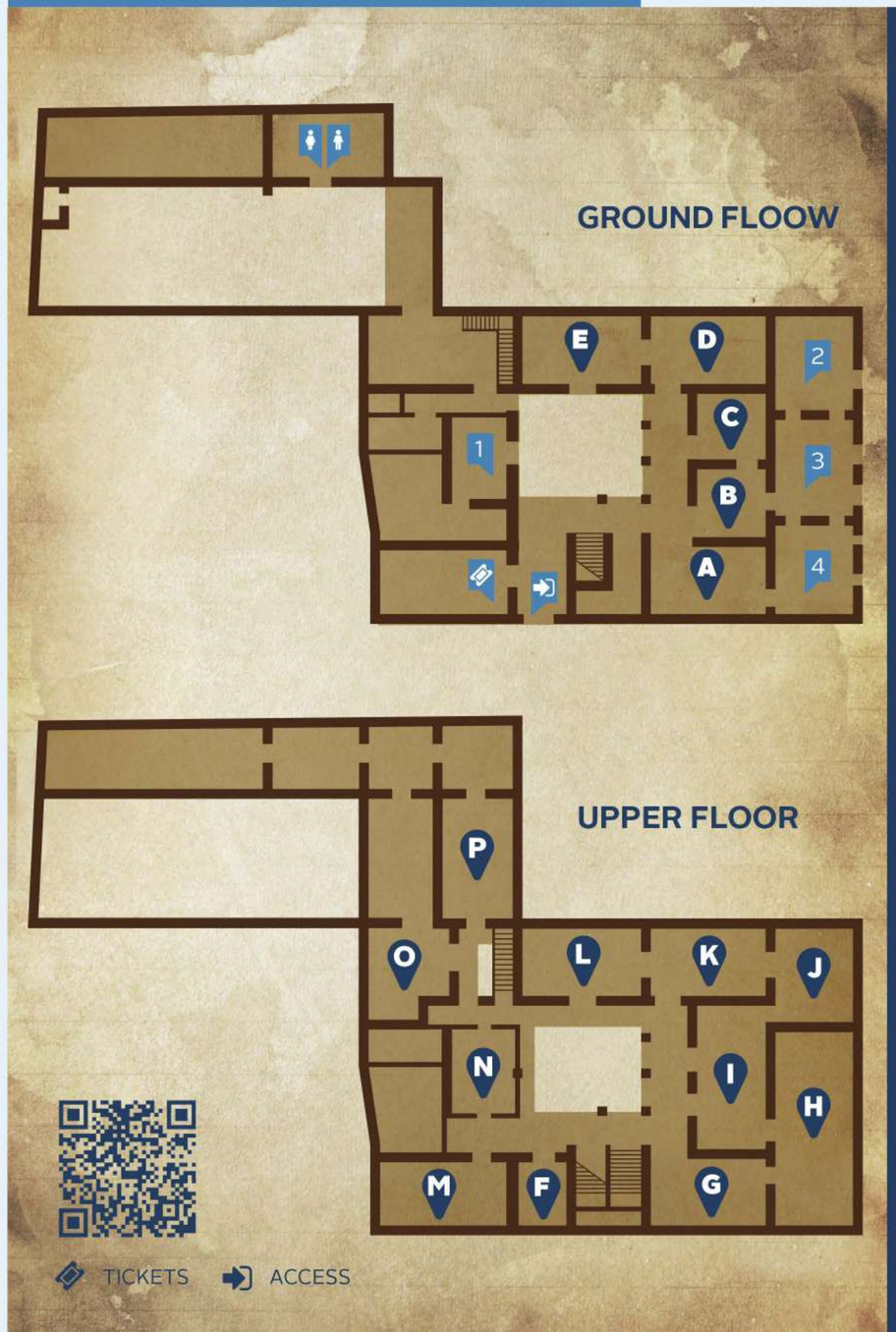
GROUND FLOOR

- Room 1: San Miguel (16th century)
  This room addresses the two foundations of the town, the first created by Franciscan Fray Juan de San Miguel as the *pueblo de indios* (indigenous town) of San Miguel de los Chichimecas in 1542, and the second by viceroy Luis de Velasco as the Spanish Town of San Miguel el Grande in 1555.
- Room 2: San Miguel (17th century)
  The collection shows how San Miguel el Grande became one of the most prosperous towns in the Bajío region at that time. Its manufactured goods brought it fame for the production of soap, candles, iron objects, saddles, sombreros, blankets and serapes, in addition to being an important site on the so-called Royal Inland Road.
- Room 3: San Miguel (18th century)
  It displays the splendor of a Creole town, resulting from the economic strength and wealth generated beginning in the sixteenth century. San Miguel el Grande underwent a boom in architecture, urbanism, and development in the arts.
- Room 4: Bourbon Reforms
  During the government of Charles IV the tensions stemming from the Bourbon reforms produced generalized discontent in New Spain as a prelude to the great rebellion in the Americas.
- Room 5: Memory
  This room exhibits the earliest flags of the rebels from the town of San Miguel el Grande that were taken by royalists in the Battle of Calderón Bridge on January 17, 1811.
- Commercial Space and Shop
  A re-creation of a typical shop, commercial establishments where products from the family's haciendas, ranches, and mills were sold or else spaces were rented out to third parties. These rooms were generally located on the ground floor of residences and faced the street.
- Apothecary
  The Apothecary of the Sacred Heart, which dates to the nineteenth century, first opened its doors in this room of the house, at the corner of the Main Plaza and Umarán Street, in 1919 and remained open until 1979. It was composed mainly of a shop to attend to the public, fill prescriptions, and to serve as a storage room and to house the pharmacy's back room.

/Allende's House is an emblematic space from the late eighteenth century and its restructuring as a site museum sought to return its original appearance to the structure and to pay tribute to Ignacio de Allende y Unzaga and his leading role in the start of the armed struggle.

UPPER FLOOR

- Room 6: Chapel
  This space was intended to be used every day around five in the afternoon, when the owners and servants prayed the rosary or held mass, to which their friends were also invited.



GROUND FLOOW

- A *Room 1: San Miguel (16th century)*
- B *Room 2: San Miguel (17th century)*
- C *Room 3: San Miguel (18th century)*
- D *Room 4: Bourbon Reforms*
- E *Room 5: Memory*

1 Introductory Hall
2 Commercial spaces
3 Shop
4 Apothecary

UPPER FLOOR

- F *Room 6: Chapel*
- G *Room 7: Sitting room*
- H *Room 8: Drawing room*
- I *Room 9: Antechamber*
- J *Room 10: Children's bed chamber*
- K *Room 11: The Lady's bed chamber*
- L *Room 12: The Master's bed chamber*
- M *Room 13: Start of the War*
- N *Room 14: Trial and Death*
- O *Room 15: The Kitchen*
- P *Profile of a Hero*

- Room 7: Sitting Room
  This room was the space where the family entertained friends and relatives on informal visits, where family life transpired in the afternoon in New Spain.
- Room 8: Drawing Room
  It was the most luxurious room in the house, where the more illustrious guests were received and entertained. Perhaps with the pretext of a ball, music, the rustling of the silk and velvet of gowns, the voices of the guests could be heard in a room such as this, or a meeting of the Secret Junta of San Miguel.
- Room 9: Antechamber
  The antechamber of the Allende House could have held the folding tables, where food would have been laid out for a meeting of the conspirators of the Secret Junta of San Miguel.
- Room 10: Children's Bed Chamber
  The children slept in a separate room as they were growing up and it is set up as it might have been used by Ignacio José de Allende y Unzaga and his siblings.
- Room 11: The Lady's Bed Chamber
  Given its location in the house, it is possible that this space might have been the bed chamber of María Josefa de Unzaga and that she might have given birth to her six children here.
- Room 12: The Master's Bed Chamber
  It is inferred from its location that it was the room of the patriarch of the family, because from this space he could see the central patio, the entrance, and the main stairway of the residence. As in the other sleeping chambers, furniture was limited to the bare essentials.
- Room 13: Start of the War
  It has a collection of weapons used by the insurgents and it explains the early years of the insurrection of the armed movement.
- Room 14: Trial and Death
  In this room, a "forgotten document" is displayed, containing Ignacio Allende's declaration and cause, which ended with his sentencing and execution on June 26, 1811.
- Room 15: The Kitchen
  A space re-created with objects and utensils from the time that shows how the kitchen of the Allende House might have once looked like.
- Profile of a Hero
  This room displays historical documents such as the baptism certificate of Ignacio Allende and the paper money printed during the Independence struggle.