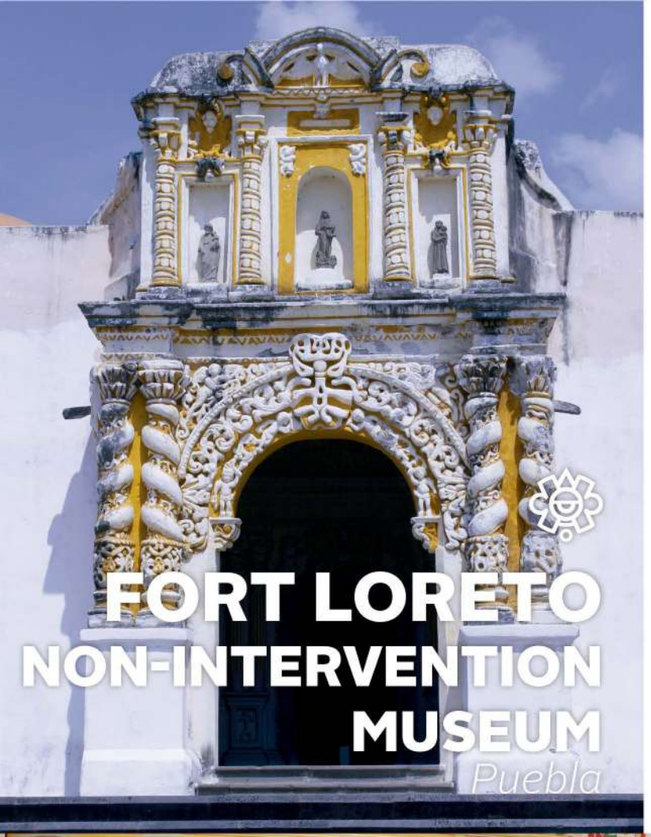


FORT LORETO NON-INTERVENTION MUSEUM

Puebla

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The Fort Loreto Non-Intervention Museum is one of the most important fortifications built in Mexico in 1815, at the height of the struggle for independence from Spain. The fortress has a quadrangular plan, with four round bastions at each corner, recalling sixteenth-century European constructions. Its interior houses the Loreto Chapel, which was built in 1778.

Fort Loreto stands on Acueyametepec Hill, southwest of the city of Puebla, which has been the setting for key historical events and social movements, such as when the Spanish oligarchy hoarded and raised the price of corn in 1692. In response, the people of Puebla gathered on the hill in protest and desperation.

Another major event took place in 1729, when quarry workers from Barrio el Alto congregated to celebrate the canonization of Bishop Palafox, but authorities feared a revolt and ordered them to disperse. Irate, they did so, but were ready to pick a fight. Government authorities sent the *alcalde ordinario* (judge) to placate them, but the situation got out of hand and the emissary was rebuffed and struck in the head with a stone.

As of1798 the church was considered a fortress and at that time the Provincial Regiment of Puebla was created. By 1803 it was used as a place to confine officers with troops from New Spain. These troops rose in importance in the viceroyalty under Bourbon reforms. Under these circumstances, Puebla was one of the cities with the largest number of regiments and campaigns, composed of different social groups led by Spaniards sent from Spain to protect the Crown's territories.

By 1812 fortification work began on the building, with a simple wall. Then in 1813 city council authorities decided to order the construction of Fort Guadalupe to defend the city from subversive groups.

In 1832 a coup erupted to overthrow President Anastasio Bustamante, in which General Antonio López de Santa Anna used the forts as a base for his military operations. Similarly, during the Reform War, the fort witnessed the face off of liberals and conservatives.

Fort Loreto militarily supported the battle line during the French attack on the glorious day of May 5, 1862. It also resisted the siege and attacks of invaders during the heroic siege of 1863 when Benito Juárez abandoned the capital, escaping northward, giving rise to a difficult period of absentee leadership during the Itinerant Republic.

That same year the city of Puebla and the forts were again the setting for another battle known as the Siege of Puebla, in which the bulk of Juárez's army had been defeated and twenty-one of his generals captured, including General

HOW TO GET THERE

Address: Av. Ejércitos de Oriente s/n, Centro Cívico 5 de Mayo, Los Fuertes, CP 27720 Puebla, Puebla

From the Central Square in the city of Puebla, take Boulevard 5 de Mayo, turn at Avenida 2 Norte onto Calzada de Los Fuertes.

Another way is to take Boulevad 5 de Mayo. Go toward the Cruz Roja and go up Calzada de los Fuertes.

Public transport:
Take route 72, 72a, From the Central de Autobuses de Puebla take bus 61, the purple bus and the Libertad-Resurrección route.

SERVICES

Guided tours, restrooms, parking, wheelchair access.

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 stipulated fee. Non-professional photography, without the use of tripods, is free of charge, and must be done without a flash.

HORARIOS

Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

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Porfirio Díaz, 300 officers, and eleven troops. On this occasion the forts were taken by the invading army, which managed to dominate much of the nation's territory, ushering in the short-lived Empire of Maximilian of Habsburg, who ruled from 1864 to 1867.

During the Mexican Revolution in 1910, Fort Loreto and Fort Guadalupe were part of the strategy of the Serdán brothers, who together with Francisco Madero tried to put into motion the Plan of San Luis Potosí. However, the strategy was uncovered and foiled.

In 1914 it was controlled by Venustiano Carranza´s forces, a year later Emiliano Zapata's men took over, but they were pushed out by Constitutionalist troops in an air attack on January 5, 1915.

In 1923 ,as the revolutionary caudillos were jockeying for power, the hill was occupied by troops participating in the coup begun by Adolfo de la Huerta against President Álvaro Obregón and his candidate Plutarco Elías Calles. A plane in Obregón's air force attacked the hill in a key episode for the defeat of the Huerta movement. And so ended the military history of the forts.

For the Cinco de Mayo celebrations in 1936, the Military History Museum of the city of Puebla was formally inaugurated. By presidential decree on May 8, 1946, it was stipulated that Fort Loreto and Fort Guadalupe in the city of Puebla be declared national historic monuments.



MAIN ATTRACTION

Chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Loreto

The church facade has two tiers: the bottom section has two pairs of Solomonic columns and a round arch with double band, all covered with plaster relief in the style typical of Puebla at that time; the second story is composed of three niches between Corinthian columns and a curvilinear element in the center. The interior facade is richer in the basket handle arch, decorated by the continuation of the jamb reliefs. Pairs of columns stand on the sides and a curvilinear entablature over the cornice, with a bas-relief of the monogram of Jesus in the hollowed out portion serving as an emblem, while that of Mary is over the door.



/GALLERIES

The museum has six permanent exhibition galleries, one temporary exhibition gallery, and another space for multiple uses. In the permanent exhibition galleries, the history of Mexico unfolds chronologically.

- Gallery 1: Chapel

  Dedicated to Our Lady of Loreto. The chronology and paintings depicting Our Lady of Loreto are on display as part of the religious identity of the period.

- Gallery 2: Military Architecture

  It showcases military uniforms from the fight for Independence, in addition to weapons and plans of Fort Loreto and Fort Guadalupe.

- Gallery 3: The Reform

  Continuing the visit, this gallery references events that gave rise to the Reform War.

- Gallery 4: French Intervention

  It is dedicated to one of the most important events for Puebla and Mexico as a whole during the French Intervention.

- Gallery 5: Siege of Puebla

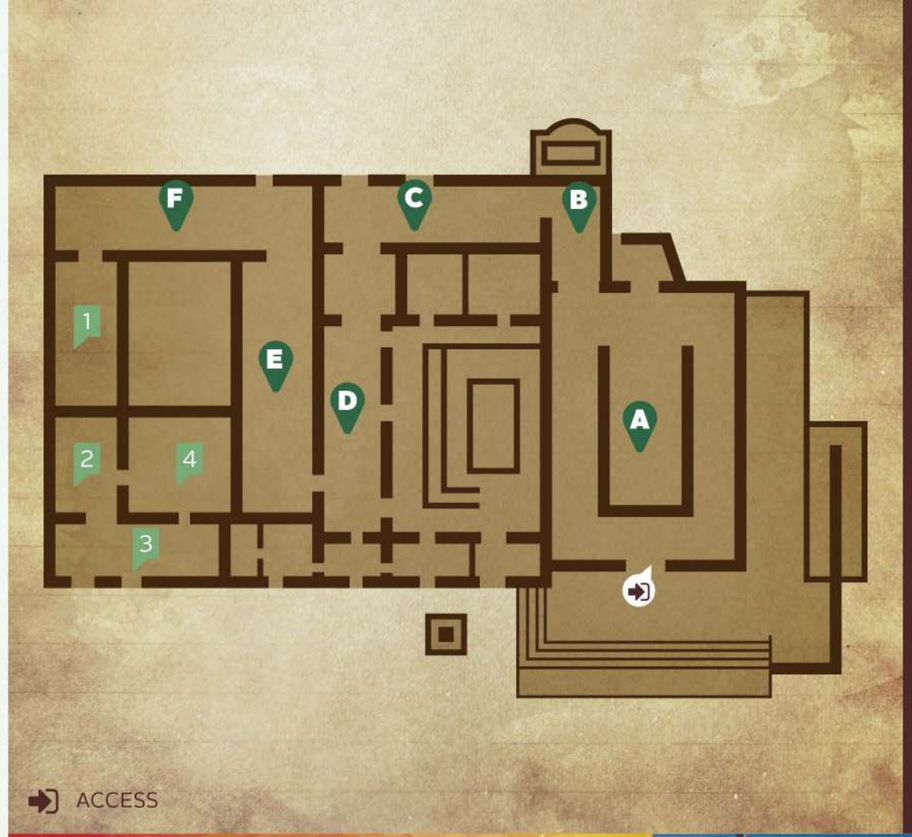
  Focusing on the Siege of Puebla of April 2, 1863, this area features objects used during this major battle.

- Gallery 6: Cinco de Mayo Civic Celebration

  On display are pieces referring to the Second Empire, and a mural on Maximilian's arrival to Puebla.

General Zaragoza informed Benito Juárez and the entire nation on May 5, 1862, at 4:15 pm of the following:

"On the battlefield at 2:30—two and a half hours we have fought. The enemy has thrown a multitude of grenades. Its columns on Loreto and Guadalupe Hill have been repelled and surely it attacked with four thousand men. Their entire attack was on the hill. At this moment their columns are withdrawing and our forces are advancing on them. It is beginning to rain heavily."



DO NOT MISS

- A *Chapel*
- B *Military Architecture*
- C *The Reform*
- D *French Intervention*
- E *Siege of Puebla*
- F *Cinco de Mayo Civic Celebration*

1 Temporary Exhibits
2 Mural
3 Hall
4 Education Services





Loreto and Its Fortress

The fortress was designed by Spanish brigadier Ciriaco del Llano who had a fort built, leaving the church in its interior. The layout of the work has a quadrangular plan, with a bastioned (fortification) layout, with four round bastions, which recall the structures used in sixteenth-century Europe, connected by other retaining walls some 6 m in length. The moat is 6.5 m wide from its scarp (slope) and counterscarp (sloped moat wall, facing scarp) cut in limestone, but in other parts the stone masonry scarp was only 1.50 m, it had an average thickness of 1.80 m and was crowned by a shooting bench, only along the retaining walls, and by a parapet of the same material, from 0.80 to 0.90 cm thick on its entire length. The entry to the fort was toward the south that was weakly defended by two interior parapets, for which a rediente (projecting angle with two sides of equal length) was built to reinforce the location; the moat was crossed by a stone masonry bridge. Eight embrasures were prepared on each bastion, so the fort could be equipped with thirty-two pieces of artillery in total.

/ TOUCHSTONES

1832	General Antonio López de Santa Anna took the forts as a base for his military operations and also to attack Puebla.
1858 1861	The forts fall into the hands of the conservatives who opposed the Constitution of 1857.
1862	Prior to the Battle of Cinco de Mayo, General Zaragoza ordered Colonel Colombres to make small modifications to Fort Loreto to be used as a support point and as artillery batteries.
1863	This fort resisted the attack of invaders during the heroic Siege of Puebla.
1936	The Military History Museum was formally inaugurated in the city of Puebla.

