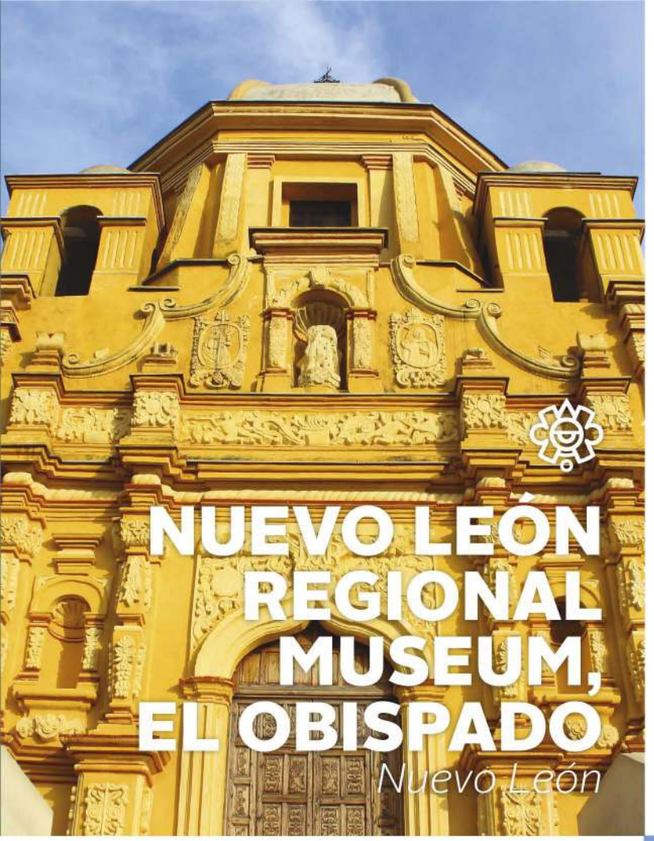


NUEVO LEÓN REGIONAL MUSEUM, EL OBISPADO

Nuevo León

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The Palace of Our Lady of Guadalupe, today hosting the Nuevo León Regional Museum, was built at the end of the viceroyalty by bishop Fray Rafael José Verger as a house of prayer and a rest home on lands donated by the town hall of the City of Monterrey in 1787.

This building, commonly known as El Obispado or The Diocese, is of historical and architectural value. The first reconstruction of the building began in 1946 and it was opened as a museum in 1956. In 1996 its exhibition design was restructured and the building restored by redoing the exterior portico of the main facade and the interior decoration of the oratory dome.

When construction of the palace was completed, Bishop Verger lived there for only two years, before his demise in 1790.

After the bishop's death and starting with Independence, the building was used as a military fort, playing a leading role in defending the city during the U.S. Invasion in 1846; the French Intervention in 1864; the Noria Revolt in 1871; and the Mexican Revolution between 1913 and 1914. It was also used as an isolation hospital during the yellow fever epidemic of 1898 to 1903 and as a cabaret in 1920.

The foundations of the Obispado are directly on the rock of the hill and as a result of the rugged terrain, the architectural complex has two floors. The administrative offices are on the ground floor, while the main upper floor houses the permanent exhibition.

The oratory is the most outstanding architectural part of the building. It has a square plan and is crowned by an octagonal dome. It is the main entrance to the museum. Its impressive entryway, framed by a Gothic ogee arch, topped by a Marian emblem, belonged to the no longer extant Franciscan church of San Andrés. The building was dedicated to the Virgin of Guadalupe. The remains of a machine-gun-ridden image of her can be seen in the main vaulted niche.



HOW TO GET THERE

Ave. Rafael Verger no number
Col. Obispado
Monterrey, N.L. C.P. 64010

HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 am to 18:00 pm.

SERVICES

For guided tours for school groups, reservation required.
Call:
83339751, 83339588
83460404, 81230644
Extension 278026
or 27 and 28
museobispado@gmail.com

ADMISSION

$55.00 (fifty-five pesos). According to the Federal Fees Act, admission is free for students, teachers, and seniors with a valid ID, children under 13 and disabled people. Sundays: free admission for Mexicans and foreign residents.

PHOTOGRAPHY

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

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Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia

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TEXTS
Regional Museum of Nuevo León

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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

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MAIN ATTRACTION

Baptismal Font

It belonged to the Franciscan convent of San Andrés; Monterrey, Nuevo León, eighteenth century.

Where to see it?

Room 4: The Conversion.

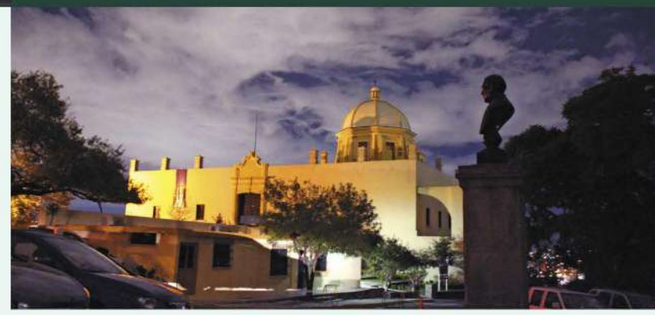




COLLECTIONS

The Museum of El Obispado has ten galleries that narrate the regional history of Nuevo León, from the earliest settlers to the boom in industry, as well as the history of the diocese and the Palace of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It has a major collection of paintings, sculpture, flags, medals, and weapons; many pieces are on display in the permanent galleries, others are on loan to local museums, and many are safeguarded in storage rooms.





HIGHLIGHTS

1787-1788	The building was constructed as a house of prayer and a rest home by Bishop Rafael José Verger.
1814-1821	The Obispado was turned into a military fort, which lodged royalist troops.
1846	The Obispado played an important role in defending Monterrey against the U.S. invasion in 1846.
XIX	In the second half of the nineteenth century, the oratory dome was built.
1956	On September 20, 1956, the Nuevo León Regional Museum, El Obispado was inaugurated.

/EXHIBITIONS

Oratory

This space, the vestibule of the Regional Museum of Nuevo León, now serves as the main entrance to the museum. There visitors can view the interior decoration of the dome and a handsome altarpiece dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, done by Francisco Vallejo in 1783 and that once belonged to Bishop Verger.

Earliest Settlers

Important pieces discovered in the state of Nuevo León by archaeologists from the local INAH Center are on display. These materials describe the indigenous peoples who occupied this territory prior to the arrival of the Spaniards. It is worth highlighting a textile fragment, the first human figure recorded in the state, and a complete burial from the municipality of Zaragoza, Nuevo León.

Viceroyalty

The Spanish conquest of the region is represented by a splendid painting of the viceroy, the duke of Linares, by Francisco Martínez, from 1723. In this gallery, the firebrand, helmet, and spur that belonged to Don Martín de Zavala, governor of the New Kingdom of León, stand out. Diverse objects illustrate the processes of colonization, livestock ranching, mining, and farming that were recorded during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and that gave the region its distinctive identity.

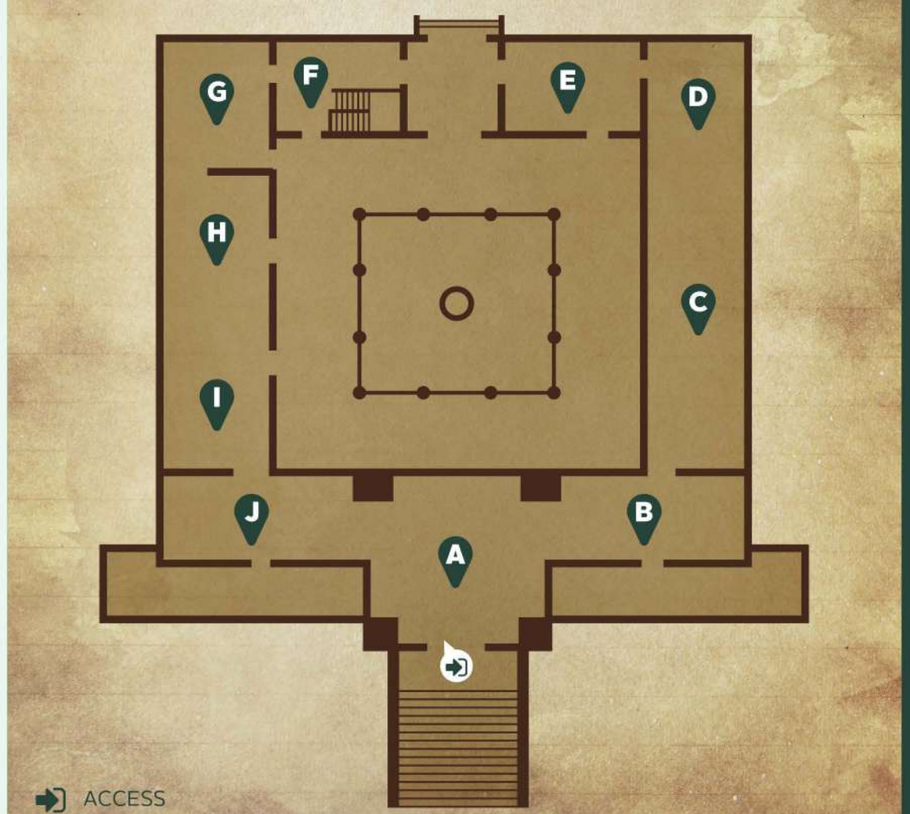
The Conversion

In the New Kingdom of León, the only missionaries who arrived to carry out the evangelization were the Franciscans, who left a profound influence. From the first Franciscan monastery of San Andrés (1602–1603), a baptismal font is on display, as well as an enormous Montezuma cypress beam bearing the date 1752, when the church was restored, and a stone carving of Saint Dominic de Guzmán. It also has a worthy collection of polychromed, gilded, and tooled sculptures and other religious objects.

Independence

This space exhibits paintings of Fray Servando Teresa de Mier, Santiago de Villarreal, and Mariano Jiménez, who played a major role in the struggle for Independence in Nuevo León. On display is the printing press brought by Fray Servando Teresa de Mier on the expedition headed by Francisco Javier Mina in 1817.





ESSENTIALS

- A *Oratory*
- B *Early Settlers*
- C *Viceroyalty*
- D *The Conversion*
- E *Independence*
- F *Defending Sovereignty*
- G *Our Leaders*
- H *Age of Porfirio Díaz*
- I *Rise of Industry*
- J *The Diocese*



/ Sixty-one years after its inauguration, the Nuevo León Regional Museum, El Obispado still enjoys enormous prestige in the state for its impressive collection, which is on permanent display in its galleries. Moreover, the building housing it is an architectural gem from the viceregal period, unique for its beauty and its meaning for Monterrey identity.





Defending Sovereignty

The defense of the nation by the Mexican army and the inhabitants of Nuevo León against U.S. invaders is represented in a graphic that reproduces coat of arms Monterrey´s. Also, on display are the rifles with bayonets used by the First Battalion of Nuevo León in the execution of Maximilian of Habsburg, Miguel Miramón, and Tomás Mejía, as well as the flag that accompanied General Mariano Escobedo on all his campaigns.

Our Leaders

Santiago Vidaurri, Gerónimo Treviño, and Francisco Naranjo played an important role in the history of Nuevo León; with their military prestige, they stood out in the state's political and commercial life; their portraits and military objects are on display in this gallery. In the mid-nineteenth century the earliest industries were established and other professional activities were developed, including the practice of law and medicine. In one of the display cases are personal objects and surgical instruments that belonged to Dr. José Eleuterio González, "Gonzalitos."

The Age of Porfirio Díaz

At this time the foremost figure was Bernardo Reyes, the governor of Nuevo León for much of Porfirio Díaz's dictatorship. Among the most interesting pieces are the general's military attire and his wife's garb, along with the carriage that President Díaz used on his visit to Monterrey in 1898.

Rise of Industry

At the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, major industries were established in Nuevo León, such as the brewery Cervecería Cuauhtémoc, foundry Fundidora de Fierro y Acero, cement producer Cementos Hidalgo, and glass company Vidriería Monterrey, triggering the country's industrial revolution.

The Diocese

In this room the imposing oil on canvas portrait of Fray Rafael José Verger by Juan de Alzíbar of 1784 are displayed, along with personal objects that belonged to Bishop Verger, and beautiful pieces of religious art. The creation of the diocese of Linares and the construction of the Palace of Our Lady of Guadalupe are explained.