

## MUSEUM COLLECTION

This consists of more than 600 objects from the pre-Hispanic age, the colonial era (the most numerous), and the 19<sup>th</sup> century, such as religious oil on canvas paintings, textiles, gold and silverware, and wood carvings.

## RESCUE

The General Inspection of Artistic and Historic Monuments decided to rescue the building in 1920, turning it into a museum in 1921. Adaptations were made over the course of time until the second level was fit to display the sculpture rescued from the floods.

Restoration of the former monastery concluded in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a task involving dredging, reconditioning, and rescue of certain areas of the ruins.

We can now enjoy the Plateresque and Gothic elements, early period murals, and imposing cloisters on a tour that shows us a place of great value in the history of the Evangelization of Mexico. Its collection includes pre-Hispanic objects, such as religious paintings and sculptures from the colonial era.

### Address

Calzada de los Agustinos s/n,  
Col. San Agustín de Acolman de Nezahualcóyotl,  
Acolman de Nezahualcóyotl

### Information

Tel. 594 957 1644

Entry fee: 65 pesos. Free admission on Sundays (Mexicans). Free admission to children under 13, students and teachers, and senior citizens.

### Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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## TUMULTUOUS HISTORY

The climatic conditions of the 17<sup>th</sup> century led to the San Juan River and Presa del Rey (King's Reservoir) bursting their banks and flooding the monastery. We have records of three occasions on which this caused the most damage: in 1629, 1645, and 1762, when the first floor was filled with water and mud. Due the building being impossible to use, it was abandoned, and then occupied by the secular clergy again in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



## LOOK OUT FOR...

Our attention is drawn to different forms of mural painting on subjects such as the Passion and Infancy of Jesus, as well as the cross in the atrium. On both floors, the Augustinian philosophy is captured in calligraphic friezes including phrases from Saint Augustine that refer to the community life of the friars and their relationship with God.

## WALLS OF ART & DISCOURSE

The Augustinians who built this beautiful monastery complex used a pictorial program of murals that included Christological discourse, meaning they bring us closer to a religious vision that revolves around the life of Jesus Christ. This painting assumes different intentions depending upon which audience it is aimed at. Parts of it are about communal living and aim to strengthen the vows of each friar, but they also guide and catechize neophytes on Christianity.

The mural painting was executed by means of the fresco technique and the use of grisaille with shades of color in ochre and blue in certain areas. This painting shows us the reason for their evangelical mission, which was to convert and catechize.

## ACOLMAN COLONIAL ERA MUSEUM FORMER MONASTERY OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

MINIGUIDES



State of Mexico

- UNIQUE MURALS
- SPACES THAT SPEAK TO US
- MARVEL OF THE COLONIAL ERA



# YOUR MUSEUM MINI GUIDE

## Impressive Spaces

Visitors can tour the first floor of the building, which includes the pilgrim's gate, gatehouse, kitchen, refectory, anterefectory, sala de profundis, and large and small cloisters. On the upper floor, you can visit spaces such as the cells, west gallery, large and small cloisters, chapter hall, and open chapel.

It is an architectural marvel of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



### Orange Tree Cloister

Decorated in a renaissance style, it has a set of anagrams in high relief with a sculptural quality.



### Church

The facade is topped by a large belfry with three antique bells. Its Plateresque entrance is formed of a Roman arch with a double archivolt.



### Vault

This is covered with fresco painting executed by indigenous people under the instruction of the friars. Organic and mineral pigments were used in the mural painting.



### Refectory

This is a space that the friars used for eating while listening to holy lectures from the pulpit located on the north wall. The vault is richly adorned with false fresco mural painting depicting details such as coffers, the Augustinian belt, and the anagram of Jesus.



### Nursing Madonna

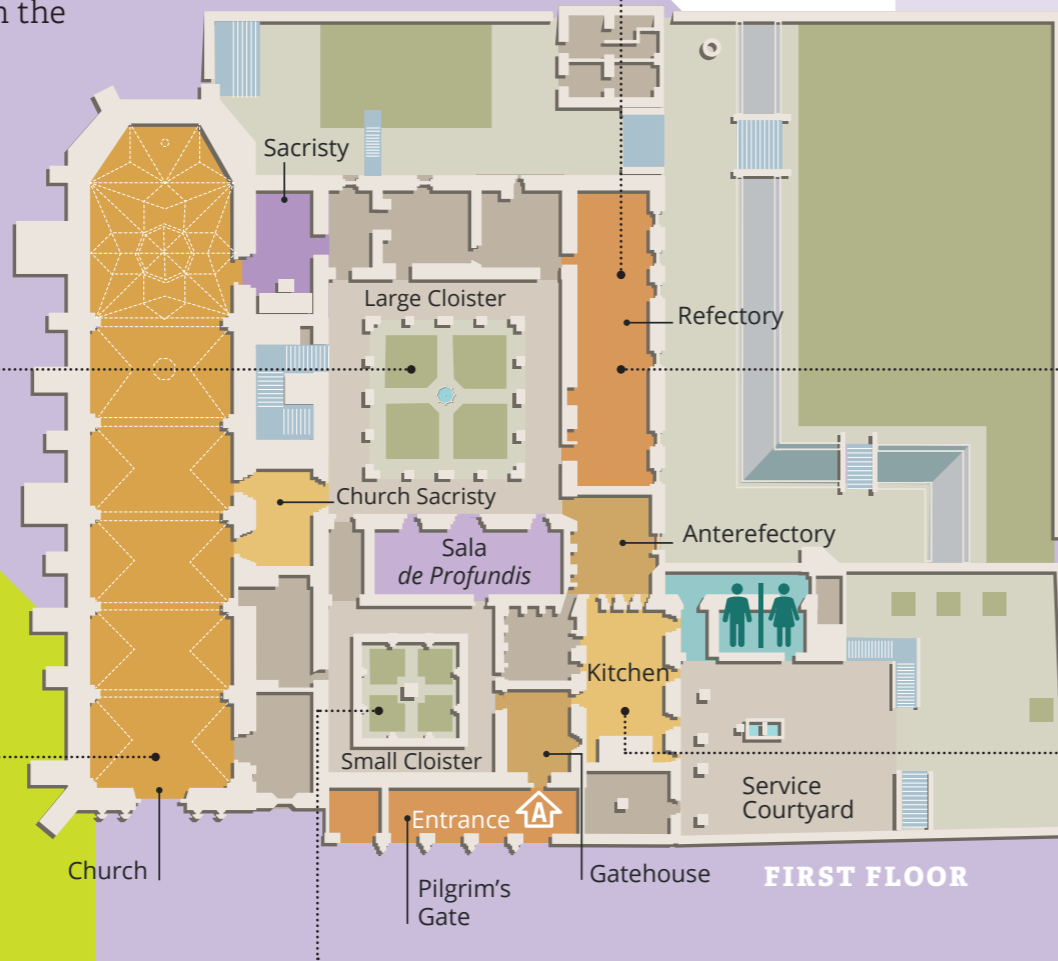
A depiction of the Virgin Mary breastfeeding the infant Jesus.

### Large Cloister Second Floor

This place preserves many scenes about the Passion and resurrection of Jesus that were executed in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century.



## SECOND FLOOR



### Kitchen

This was the place where food consumed by the Augustinian friars was processed. A fireplace and a pantry complete the space.



### Open Chapel or "Chapel of the Indians"

Used to hold mass for indigenous people who had recently been converted or were unbaptized.

### Mural painting

with arabesque motifs in the open chapel or "chapel of the Indians" and the refectory.



### Small or "Cross" Cloister

A construction executed very simply under the Augustinian order. It preserves most of its original decoration, whose walls depict the infancy of Jesus.



### Portable wooden altar

Oil on wood painting from the Museum collection



## MOMENTS OF GREATNESS

1539

Construction of the monastery began near what is now the archeological zone of Teotihuacan.



1921

The monastery complex was turned into a museum while the restoration continued.



1992

An exhibition was installed to explain the history and pieces of artistic importance in certain areas of the monastery.



2000

Museum design was added to set the scene in one cell and the gallery of noteworthy Augustinians.

2012

More than 50 years after its rescue, a phase of maintenance and deep restoration began.



## NOT TO BE MISSED

- 1 Cell number 13 displays a representation of a room for Augustinian friars.
- 2 16<sup>th</sup> century mural paintings can be seen in the large cloister, the open chapel or "chapel of the Indians," and the refectory.