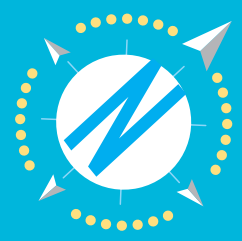


# CARTAGENA DE INDIAS



1. Cruise Terminal
2. La Popa Hill
3. San Felipe de Barajas Fortress
4. Pastelillo Fort
5. India Catalina
6. Las Bovedas / The Vaults
7. Torre del Reloj / Clock Tower
8. Centenario Park
9. Cartagena de Indias Convention Center
10. La Marina Park
11. Pierino Gallo Mall
12. Rafael Nuñez International Airport
13. Nautical Club
14. Caribe Plaza Mall
15. Cartagena de Indias Tourism Board Office
16. Portal de San Felipe Mall
17. Mall Plaza El Castillo
18. Nao Fun Shopping Mall
19. Plaza Bocagrande Mall

## TORRE DEL RELOJ - CLOCK TOWER

Originally called "Boca del Puente", was built as the main entrance to the walled city and its closure ended in 1631. In 1704 this entrance had three vaults bomb-proof, but only the one in the middle was used for pedestrian transit and the ones in two sides were closed and used as gun factories. Currently, all three vaults are open and allow the pedestrian access. The tower that has the clock was built in 1874, and since then has become one of the main symbols of the city.

## LAS BOVEDAS - THE VAULTS

This structure has 47 arches, 23 vaults, and was one of the last constructions of Cartagena's defensive system during the Colonial times. They are located between Santa Clara and Santa Catalina Forts, were built between 1793 and 1796 and were used as a gun and supplies deposit. Afterwards, during the republican times, the vaults were used as a jail. Currently, the vaults are handicrafts stores and one of the most visited places around the city.

## SANTA CLARA CONVENT

It is located in front of San Diego Square. During the history it has been a Convent, Military garrison, hospital and nowadays is a luxury hotel. The Colombian Nobel Prize Winner, Mr. Gabriel Garcia Marquez, took this place to inspire its novel "Love and other demons".

## NAVAL MUSEUM

Located in Santa Teresa Square is the Naval Museum, founded in 1992 during the 500-year celebrations of America's discovery. This building used to be a Jesuit university and a hospital. In this museum you can find objects and exhibitions related to Colombian navy history and about the fortifications system in Cartagena de Indias.

## SAN DIEGO SQUARE

As well as Santo Domingo Square, it has a lot of visitors and a vibrant life especially at nights. It is surrounded by restaurants of different specialties, and has a bohemian and romantic atmosphere good for people in love.

This Square has in one of its sides the Old San Diego Convent (Today Fine Arts Academy). For this reason it was called "Convent Square" and once the construction of the vaults was finished this was changed to "The Vaults Square". Finally, the inhabitants of this neighborhood named it "San Diego Square", and this names remains until the present.

## CHURCH OF SAN PEDRO CLAVER AND AFROCARIBBEAN MUSEUM

The Church and Cloister of San Pedro Claver were built during the XVII and XVIII Centuries. It was built by religious men from the Company of Jesus and still has below its major altar, the remains of San Pedro Claver, missionary and Jesuit priest who became important thanks to the protection of slaves that Spaniards brought to Cartagena from Africa. This is the reason why he is known as "the slave of the slaves" or "The apostle of black people".

Currently, this Cloister functions as the Afrocaribbean Museum and has valorous pre-Columbian pieces of religious art, San Pedro Claver's life and afrocaribbean culture.

In front of the church there is San Pedro Square, one of the most beautiful places in the city.

## SAN PEDRO CLAVER SQUARE

It receives its name in honor to the saint known as "the slave of the slaves", who lived and died in the Convent in front of it. His mission when arriving to Cartagena was evangelize black people and teach them catholic beliefs.

This is familiar and social meeting square, which major attractive are afternoons with pigeons gathering around to be feed with corn by visitors.

## SANTA CATALINA DE ALEJANDRIA CATHEDRAL

As well as many other cathedrals in the World, this is a basilica formed by three naves or large spaces separated by columns towards the altar. It's the main work of Mr. Simon Gonzalez, who designed it based on other basilicas in the Canaries. Its construction began in 1577 and was finished 84 years later, overpassing incredible adversities.

Once built it surpassed Cartagena's urban profile above other surrounding edifications. It had the appearance of an impregnable building to scare pirates who were interested in attacking Cartagena, that was defenseless at that moment due the absence of the walls.

On august 7th, 1600, the central nave knocked down as well as almost all the sides. The bang made all the citizens to wake up between a dense clouds of dust. In a meeting the next day, the town Council accused Mr. Simon Gonzalez, who was also the constructor of all the public buildings, to be guilty for this collapse. The trial lasted over two years without reaching any conclusion about the causes of the incident. Simon Gonzalez was absolved, the Cathedral was restored and finally finished in 1661.

## HEREDIA / ADOLFO MEJÍA THEATER

If you like scenic arts don't miss this charmingly beautiful theater located in La Plaza de la Merced. The theater was officially inaugurated in 1911 to commemorate the first one hundred years of the independence of Cartagena and was constructed within a 16th-century monastery de la Merced.

It features balconies of Portuguese wood, Italian marble statues and a ceiling decorated by Colombian master Enrique Grau.

If there are any dance companies or theater groups performing during your time in Cartagena, enjoy their performances within this delightful piece of architecture. The second week of January it hosts the traditional Classical Music Festival of Cartagena. In 1970 was completely restored and named TEATRO HEREDIA ADOLFO MEJIA.

## SANTO TORIBIO CHURCH

A visit to the church of Santo Toribio de Mangrovejo, with the remembrance left by Admiral Veron; a cannonball embedded in one of its central pillars is a different experience.

This church is an authentic sample of the religious Spanish architecture from the sixteen hundreds.

Its altar features a black lacquer with gold trim and alabaster pieces.

## INQUISITION PALACE - CARTAGENA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

In September, 1610, the inquisition was instituted in Cartagena de Indias to judge the felonies against Christian faith. Years later, the Tribunal of the Holy Office of the Inquisition adopted this big house as their headquarters, which was also one of the finest constructions of the colonial times in Cartagena.

This is one of the must-see places in Cartagena de Indias, whose important façade highlights in front of the former Major Square, today Bolivar Square, one of the symbols that identifies Cartagena. In its interior, can be found the Historical Archive & Museum, which contain important information about the city's history, as well as, one of the most important cultural centers of the Colombian Caribbean.

## COCHES SQUARE

In this square you will always find a horse-drawn carriage for a fascinating stroll around the Old Town. One of its names was "Slaves Square", because it was the place where slaves brought from Africa by Spaniards were traded. Afterwards, it was called "Merchants square", because it was an important place for commerce in the city. Its official name is "Ecuador Square" in honor to the "Limit Treaty" between this Country and Colombia in 1916.

## FERNANDEZ DE MADRID SQUARE

The Plaza is located in the San Diego district cross from Santo Toribio Church. It's dedicated to the memory of Dr. Jose Fernandez de Madrid witness of the Independence Act of Cartagena signed on November 11, 1811. A poet, a writer, Dr. Fernandez de Madrid created El Argos, a periodical newspaper that continued in Havana, Cuba.

## ADUANA SQUARE

Its first name was "Accounts Department Square", due to the location of the royal workers' offices in front of it during the colonial times. Afterwards, in this place were installed the Customs offices (Aduana in Spanish) and received the name "Aduana Square", for which is mostly know. After that, it was called "Colon Square" in honor to America's discoverer. Nevertheless, its official name is "Rafael Nuñez Square", as an homage to this President of Colombia on XIX Century, who was born in Cartagena.

## CANDELARIA CONVENT - LA POPA HILL

Located on the top of La Popa Hill, this is city's highest point of view, where Cartagena de Indias and all its majesty can be appreciated. Currently, this is one of the most visited sites.

This Cloister and church were built in the beginning of XVII Century by the religious Discalced (barefoot) community of Saint Augustine's Order. Due its strategic position, it became a military headquarter during independence and civil wars of XIX Century.

## SAN DIEGO CONVENT

It has 400 years of history and was founded by Fray Sebastian de Humilias in year 1608. After the expropriation of Catholic Church's goods established by the President Tomas Cipriano de Mosquera, it was a jail and a power station. Nowadays it was restored and is the headquarter of Cartagena's University of Fine Arts. It still preserves its exterior walls, with exception of the façade, which were replaced by the artist born in Cartagena, Don Luis Felipe Jaspe, in a Neo-gothic style.

## CLOISTER OF SAN AGUSTÍN

This cloister was founded in 1828 and has and interior backyard with a beautiful garden, highlighting the cupola with a Florentine style. It was the house of barefoot-Augustine's priests.

Currently, is the main headquarter of the University of Cartagena, one of the oldest academic institutions of the Country.



## BOLIVAR SQUARE

It was the main square of the city. Firstly, it was called "Church Square", afterwards, "Major Square", and then "Cathedral Square", due to its closeness to the Cathedral. After the installation of the Tribunal of the Holy Office of the Inquisition in 1610

## ZENÚ GOLD MUSEUM

It was opened by the Central Bank of Colombia in 1982. The exposition were totally renovated in 2007 and relocated in a big colonial house in front of Bolivar Park, inside the Walled City. It has a collection made of gold and ceramic pieces, characteristic of the main pre-Columbian cultures, mainly Zenú (aboriginal culture located in Colombian departments of Bolivar, Sucre and Norte de Santander).

## SANTO DOMINGO TEMPLE

It is the oldest and revered temple of the City. Its interior has the "Holy Christ of Expiration" a beautiful sculpture made of wood, which according to one legend, was carved by an angel at the beginning of XVII Century. Together with the Cloister next to it, formed the Preachers Friars' Convent, also known as the Black Friars or Dominican monks, which mission was the protection of aborigines against conquerors' abuses.

The temple and its cloister, began to be built by the middle of XVI Century, close to the Caribbean Sea, in a beach that in that moment was far from the city's life. The temple has suffered several knocked downs and reconstructions. To prevent it from future collapses, reinforcements were added both to the interior and the exterior parts, so noticeable that changed the name of its neighbor alley (De los Estribos or Buttress). It is a temple full of legends as the one that says that the arch of the choir area will fall a Good Friday over the impious parishioners; and other that says that the Devil, under the form of an eminent engineer, tried to convince Brother Francis to build a more impressive bell tower for the temple. Once the Brother discovered the trick, made the devil disappear by saying "Vade Retro!", and as a revenge, it intended to knock down the tower, only achieving to twist it a little before disappearing. (In fact the tower looks slightly twisted). It is also said that the demon fell down to a well located in the square in front of the church and stays there as a prisoner.

## SAN FELIPE DE BARAJAS FORTRESS

This is without a doubt the biggest fortification built by Spaniards in their colonies. Originally was built between 1639 and 1657, over San Lazaro Hill. The strategic importance of San Felipe Fortress as defense of the city was shown after the Baron de Pointis attack, who took the fort and then plundered the city in 1697. For this reason, in the XVIII Century the priority was its reconstruction and expansion. In 1741, this fortress was the scenario of an historical defeat made by Cartagena to the British Admiral Vernon at the beginning of the hill. After besiege the city and its bay for more than a month, and make Bocachica's Fortresses and other in the inner bay to surrender, he decide to attack San Felipe Fortress. This was a big strategic mistake, which combined with the fortress defense, avoided its occupation by several enemy forces. San Felipe Fortress' victory, stopped the takeover of the city and with that, guaranteed the Hispanic heritage in South America and the Caribbean.

