

CAMPECHE

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Its imposing walls that in some moment of its history helped the city to be protected from the pirates as well as its systems of defense represented in its fortresses and bastions compose the main attraction of this magnificent place. This military architecture represents an exceptional universal value recognized by UNESCO. The city has been rescued receiving new life in its walled enclosure and its traditional quarters, framing a culture fulfilled in traditions, color, holidays and in its people.

The city of Campeche was inscribed in the List of the World Patrimony, on December 4, 1999.

City Heritage

Along with 1,600 facades of houses and buildings, streets, sidewalks, parks and urban heart of the city, the city has been rescued taking new life in its walled city and its traditional neighborhoods, framing a culture full of traditions, color, festivals and people.

EXPLORE THE CITY

Handicrafts

The main handicrafts that we can acquire are the hats called "jipijapa" or "panamás" made of palm; with this material the weavers also make shoes, cigarette cases and other articles. Another important contribution is the jewelry made of black coral, as well as its pottery in porous clay chants, decorated with brown flowers. The hand-embroidered huipiles, guayaberas, embroidered handkerchiefs and handkerchiefs, hammocks, combs, earrings, tortoiseshell necklaces, are other remarkable handicrafts of the state of Campeche.

Campechana Gastronomy

Although the culinary specialties of Campeche have many ingredients in common with others from the Yucatan area, those of Campeche are distinguished by their seasoning and presentation. Many of the recipes are prepared with two ingredients: sour orange, which is used to marinate meats, and achiote, a typical regional condiment that gives dishes their characteristic orange color. The habanero chili also plays an important role as a condiment in country food, so it can be quite spicy for palates not used to strong flavors. Most of the most exquisite dishes in this state come from the cuisine based on fish and seafood, such as bread, tamales and tacos de cazón; pompanos in green sauce, fried oysters and stuffed crabs; seafood soup and octopus in its ink or garlic, among others. Other delicacies include x'catic chiles stuffed with dogfish, coconut shrimp, shrimp and fish ceviches and excellent octopus, shrimp, oyster or snail cocktails.

Campeche also offers a wide variety in its cuisine and some of the typical dishes not coming from the sea are: chocolate, bean stew with pork, beef pipián (beef in pumpkin seed sauce),

stuffed cheese, bacon, piglet or chicken pibil (prepared with achiote, sour orange and roasted with banana leaf) and poc chuc (pork loin marinated in sour orange and achiote).

For dessert, try sweets in syrup of ciricote, papaya, coconut, redcurrant, nance and tamarind. These same fruits are prepared with alcohol resulting in mild-flavored liqueurs. He also enjoys the "air" fritters bathed in honey, pumpkin seed marzipan and marrow (fried pasta bathed in piloncillo honey), sweet potato sweets, pudding, rice with coconut, coconut white, sighs, turrets, coconuts, friars, meringues.

Breads: corn bread, cream bread, ham and cheese puff pastry, tuti, cocotazo, braided bread, French egg yolk bread.

Drinks: pozol, coconut horchata, rice horchata, cashew water, pitaya water, Jamaican water, pineapple chaya water, sour orange water, new corn atole, iced tea.

The popularity of traditional country food has filtered its prestige and taste beyond state borders. The European species and articles combined with regional products, has originated delicious dishes that today are usually tasted in homes and food shops in the municipality of Campeche.

Our Lady of Solitude

Its name comes from Our Lady of Solitude, patron saint of seafarers, is the largest of all the built. In its gola or inner courtyard you can see the rim of the cistern, the bays and the ramp that takes you to the roofs from where you can walk over the walkway of the wall that leads from one end to the dirt door and from the other brings you closer to a beautiful view of our cathedral. Today it houses the museum "Román Piña Chan" where monolithic carved pieces from different archaeological sites of our State are exhibited.

Sea door

It was the first of the accesses built and the first to be demolished at the end of the 19th century. For two centuries it was the entrance and exit for those who used the only means of communication at that time: navigation. It had no moat and ravelin, and in front of it there was a stake of soap. In the 1800s, two bays and a portal were annexed to it to house the sentries who guarded it, similar to the guard force in the powder magazine. In 1957 it was rebuilt, but it was not until 1997 that it was again joined by a wall canvas to the bastion of solitude.

Independence Square

Once the Constitution of Cadiz was sworn in, one of the first agreements of the new town hall was the destruction of the pillory established in the middle and to call it Plaza de la Constitución. The Town Hall on December 18, 1826, agreed to place a plaque that reads: "Plaza de la Independencia. 1821". From the disappearance of the original parish church and the roll

for the sentenced, the square was a simple plain until the city became the capital of a new state of the republic when a garden with three turns and eight radial streets was built in 1869. A fountain known as "The Three Graces" was placed in the central roundabout. At the turn of the 19th century the park retained its perimeter fences and eight gates, although they were removed at the end of 1924. Previously, in 1914, a kiosk was built in the center of the town, which popular saying called "La Lata de Pan" (The Bread Tin), because of its similarity to the containers that are still used for the distribution and sale of bakery products. Years later, in the 1940s, a new design was implemented, replacing the kiosk with another fountain. Around 1965 another total intervention reshapes the space and radically changes its appearance. Finally, in the eighties, retaining the last line made, it was redefined with a railing similar to the original, demolishing the central platform to raise a recreation of the kiosk of time ago.

The portals of San Francisco

At the edge of the old Camino Real, a crossroads of streets transformed into a square, its image evokes the eclecticism of the 19th century with its 18th century gallery remodelled to the bourgeois taste of the porphyry and its neo-Romanesque tower that marks the hours. Once a bustling market centre, today it is a typical corner for a regional snack.

Fort of San Miguel

It was built on the hill of "Buena Vista" to the leeward side of the city, with an area of 3,858 square meters, towards the end of the eighteenth century when England having occupied the Florida and what is now Belize, aroused the fear of occupying peninsular land. The attack never happened; however, it was not tested until fifty years later when General Santa Ana installed his headquarters in Campeche in 1842. Its construction, together with that of San José, made the fortification of Campeche the best defense in all of Latin America. It currently houses the Museum of Mayan Art with pieces as prominent as the Jade masks of Calakmul; two staggered ramps today take us to the roofs from where we have a beautiful view of the city and the bay. On the shore you can see the Battery of San Luis.

Fort of San José "El Alto"

On the upper part of the entrance aperture is inscribed the date of its completion on the stone "9 August 1792". It was built on the windward hill, has a moat and drawbridge, in its center a cistern is noted for its rim and a stepped ramp, leads to the top. Like San Miguel, it offers a unique view of the city, the bay and the extensive Petenes Reserve. Its surface area is 1,828 square meters. Its rooms house beautiful artillery works, coats of arms and artillery from different periods, as well as scale models of ships.

Santiago" bulwark

This bastion was the last of the eight to be completed, its current form differs greatly from the original that was similar to that of San Carlos, currently reads 1704 at the top of its entrance, although it does not exactly correspond to the date of completion of the entire walled enclosure. It was completed shortly before 1710. The present modest construction houses a Botanical Garden called X'much haltún with an interesting list of plants from the region.

Ground Gate

The Earthen Door is a construction that allowed defending the access to the city from any angle. The wall is bounded by a moat and has pockets from which firearms were fired. It has adjoining rooms which were occupied by the guard and the troops on duty. At the top of the gate is a defense system where the enemy was attacked in case of gaining access.

Francisco de Paula Toro Theater

The first lyric theatre to be built in the republic. It is due to the initiative of Colonel Francisco de Paula Toro, whose name it bears since 1879. It was the creation of Teodoro Journot, a French engineer who was serving a sentence in the local prison. It opened its doors on September 15, 1834 and its architecture corresponds to the clean lines of the neoclassical, although on two occasions it has been the object of reconstruction: 1914 and 1990.

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Purest Conception

In 1605 the town council went to the bishop of Yucatan, Don Diego Vázquez de Mercado, to tell him that the parish church, besides being in poor condition, was small. A few years later, the governor and the bishop agreed to build a new one. For this purpose, the plots that formed the north block of the square were purchased and the work began, which included an open chapel with its atrium on the sea side, and a cemetery on the opposite side; in the middle, the temple with three naves. At the end of 1610 the factory was suspended for lack of resources. Although the date on which the original project was modified and the construction periods have not been determined, it was not until 1705 that the bishop in turn blessed the church. In 1760, the extension was completed to its current size, including the west tower known as "La Española". The other tower, "La Campechana" was erected in 1850. The main façade, with two sections, is covered with carved quarry and framed by two pilasters. The façade has a semicircular arch, while the choir window is a three-lobed arch, both of which are flanked by two pairs of grooved pilasters in the middle of which are ornamented niches that house sculptures of the church's male saints. On the windowsill is the image of "La Concepción", the patron saint of the city to whose title the parish church is dedicated. Two ox eyes complement the lighting of the inner choir. The curvilinear top of the façade is characteristic of the Baroque period, but its towers are the most significant elements of the complex. These, with smooth walls in their first three bodies, are extended by others with two semicircular arches on each side. Grooved pilasters seem to support the last octagonal-shaped

bodies, open on four of their faces to accommodate the bells. The motif of the pilasters is repeated, reaching stylized bulbs crowned with crucifixes. The nave of the temple is a simple barrel vault running in a Latin cross. At the transept, an eight-part dome on a drum with stained glass windows in the middle of each of its eight faces. Outside, four pairs of buttresses level the thrust of the structure.