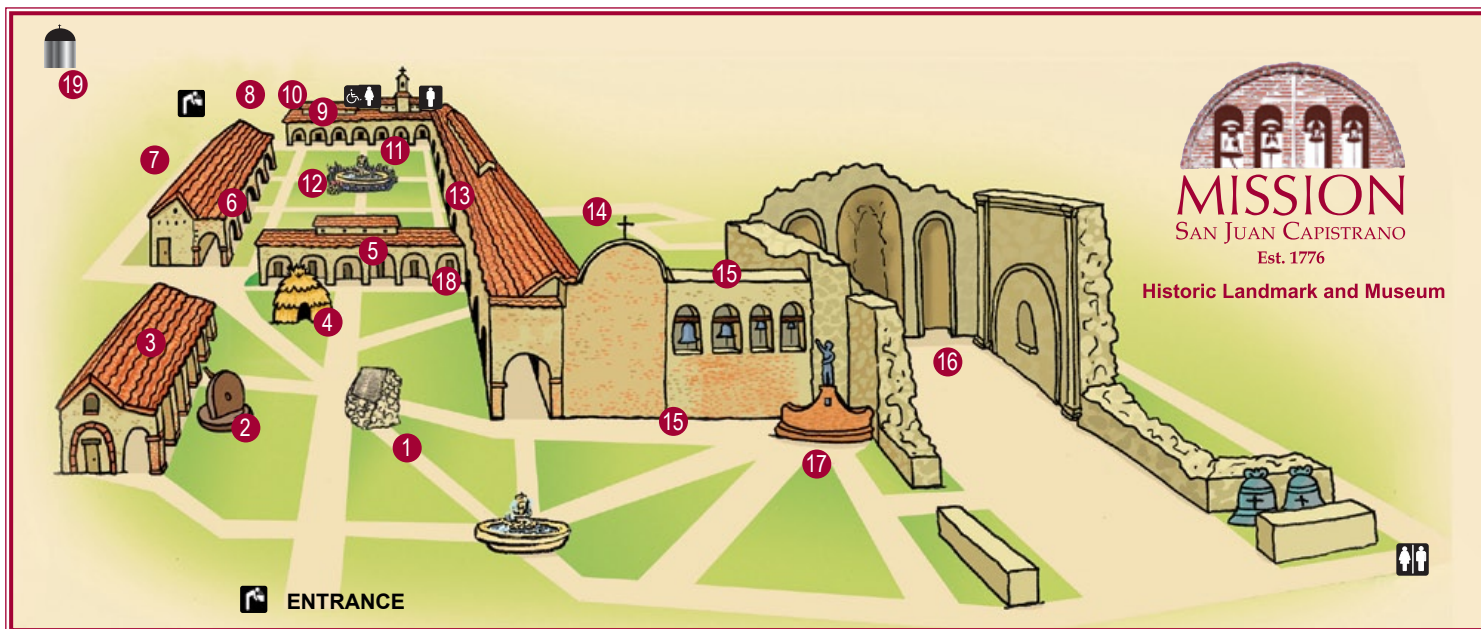


HISTORIC MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO



1 Founding Document

Mission San Juan Capistrano, the seventh mission in a chain of twenty-one, was founded November 1, 1776 by Father Junipero Serra. The bronze replica shows the items needed for the founding of the Mission. Please note Father Serra's ornate and unique signature.

2 Olive Millstone

A stone powered by a boy of the Mission or by a donkey, used for crushing olives for oil. Olive oil had many uses at the Mission including cooking and traded for other goods. This dated replica is in need of preservation.

3 Soldiers Barracks

Built in 1791, the Barracks housed the four to six Spanish soldiers stationed at the Mission. The barracks later housed blacksmiths and the stables during the Rancho period, 1845-1865.

Features welcome video and overview of Mission San Juan Capistrano.

4 Native American History

This shelter, made of willow branches and tule leaves, is called a kiicha and was the traditional housing for Juaneño Indians before the Spanish arrived. The large stone with holes in it was used by native women to grind acorns.

5 South Wing Museum Rooms

Living and House Quarters of the Mission's founding period (viewing from west to east end)

- (a) Dormitory
- (b) Kitchen
- (c) Pantry
- (d) "Resurgum" or entry to Central Courtyard
- (e) Padres living room
- (f) Guest bedroom
- (g) Padres dining room
- (h) Exhibits from the Rancho Period 1845-1865.

6A West Wing Museum Rooms

6B California Missions Resource Studio

Free information on all 21 California missions.

6C Exciting New Exhibit

7 Mission Industrial Center

An excavation in the 1930's revealed the tallow vats where Indians made soap, candles, grease and ointments from animal fat. Below the tallow vats are dyeing vats, where Mission inhabitants dyed wool. To the south of the dyeing vats are the Catalan furnaces, the oldest metal furnaces in California. South of the forge area is the kitchen where Juaneños cooked their food. Use caution on steep stairs.

8 Picnic Area

9 Administrative Offices

10 The Leon René Music Room

Features original sheet music signed by Leon René and the piano he used in 1939 to compose "When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano."

11 North Corridor

The original location of the "Bodega," or warehouse in which tallow, grains, woolsens and hides were stored. Reconstructed by Fr. O'Sullivan in the late 1920's, the building served as the first Mission school and convent for the teaching sisters.

12 Central Courtyard

Also known as the Plaza, was a work area and the heart of Mission life. Three zanjas (water channels) ran through Mission grounds and under the west wing into the Industrial area. Fr. O'Sullivan built the Moorish-style fountain, dedicated to the Four Evangelists, and planted most of the trees in the 1920's. Most of the Mission's concerts and special events take place here.

13 The Serra Chapel

Completed in 1788, this is the only original Mission church in California still standing in which Father Serra is known to have celebrated the sacraments. In the early 1920's, Father St. John O'Sullivan, pastor of the Mission from 1910-1933 restored the chapel. The beautiful baroque altar is from Barcelona, Spain, and is made of hand-carved wood with a gold leaf overlay. It is estimated to be over 400 years old. The side chapel is dedicated to S. Peregrine, patron saint of sufferers. Near the entry is the original baptismal font that once stood in the Great Stone Church. Candles available for purchase in the Gift Shop.

The Chapel was conserved from 2005-2008 at a cost of \$1.8 million. This stop on the audio tour is highly recommended.

14 Mission Cemetery

Up to 2,000 Catholics, and mostly Juaneño Native American Indians were laid to rest in this area of unmarked graves. The monument, topped with a Celtic cross, was installed by Father O'Sullivan as a memorial to those who originally built the Mission. The tomb of Father O'Sullivan is at the foot of the monument.

15 Sacred Garden and Bell Wall

The bells originally hung in the bell tower of the Great Stone Church until the earthquake of 1812. The two large bells are recast of the original that date back to 1796. The small bells date back to 1804. Bells were important to early Mission life, and called the community to meals, religious services, work, funerals, the sighting of a supply ship or a returning padre and for recreation purposes.

16 Great Stone Church

Begun in 1797, the Church took nine years to build. On the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1812, an earthquake struck during morning Mass. The walls crumbled and the domes caved in, killing 42 Indian worshippers. The church was never rebuilt. A stabilization project was completed in 2004.

17 Statue of Father Serra and Indian Boy

This statue was commissioned by Fr. St. John O'Sullivan in 1914. Fr. St. John O'Sullivan was the model for Fr. Serra and a local resident, Clarence Mendelson, was the model for the boy. The statue symbolizes the meeting of the two cultures, the old and the New Worlds. The cross was added in 2009 after it was discovered that the original location of the statue also included a cross which disappeared in the mid 1900's.

18 Gift Shop

One of the first buildings to be built and used intermittently as the Mission's chapel both prior to the construction of the Serra Chapel and later when the Chapel was in disrepair. The Gift store hosts Mission-themed gifts, books, cards, jewelry, pottery and educational materials.

19 Mission Basilica (Access off site)

Home to the Grand Retablo, installed in 2007. 15 ton, 45 foot tall gilded altarpiece adorns the beautiful Basilica. Enter from Camino Capistrano, separated from the historic Mission. *No admission charge. Access from the Mission by walking up Camino Capistrano sidewalk.* This is the Church that most of the Mission parish community attend.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily
Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas
Closed at noon on Good Friday and Christmas Eve

Admission:
Adults: \$9 Seniors 60+: \$8 Children 4-11: \$5
Children under 3 are FREE