

Antigua Religious Tour (Part 1), Antigua





Image Courtesy of Flickr and Mario_Pleitez

1) Saint Augustine Church

The Saint Augustine Church is a wonderful architectural and religious piece of Antigua's history. The church is located a few blocks west of the central park in the heart of the city. The front of the church decorates the image of San Agustín, which blends nicely with the magnificent architectonic design. The painting of the church was done by Antonio Ramírez de Montúfar in the colonial...



2) Saint Joseph el Veijo

Saint Jose el Veijo was built in 1740 and serves as an excellent example of baroque architecture. The church glorifies the image of San Jose and presents a famous sculpture of the saint by Alonzo de la Paz. The church was nearly demolished when the San Jose sculpture was temporarily transferred to San Lucia, but was preserved and thankfully exists to this...

Image Courtesy of Flickr and zongo69



3) San Francisco Cathedral

San Francsico el Grande is a church in Antigua and one of the most frequented sanctuaries by the local population because of the shrine of Peter of Saint Joseph Betancur.

This chapel was severely damaged in 1565 and during the next ten years donations were collected to build a new sanctuary located two blocks away in 1579. The chapel and cloister were expanded during the 17th century. In 1684 the structure was reinforced and withstood the earthquake of 1691.



4) Santa Clara Church

Saint Clara Church was founded in 1699 by the nuns of the Saint Claire Order. Throughout time, more and more buildings as well as courtyards were added to the premise. Due to the effort of complex management, the huge monastery a terrific attraction due to its impressive ruins, well-preserved courtyard walks, and religious...



5) San Hermano Pedro Cathedral

The church is named in the memory of the most beloved of sons in Guatemala - Hermano Pedro. The building first opened its doors as a hospital in 1663, but eventually transformed into a church. Today, the temple is being used as a social work center and continues to host religious services for the catholic...



6) Cathedral of Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph Cathedral is a Roman Catholic church in Antigua. The original church was built around 1541, but suffered several earthquakes throughout its history, and the first church building was demolished in 1669. The cathedral was rebuilt and consecrated in 1680. By 1743 the cathedral was one of the largest in Central America. However, the devastating 1773 Guatemala earthquake seriously damaged much of the building, though the two towers at the front remained largely intact.



7) Capuchins Monastery

The Temple of Our Lady of the Pilar of Zaragoza, popularly known as Capuchins, was built in 1725. Nuns of the Roman Catholic order, famous for their brown garments, lived here in severe conditions that demonstrated sacrifice for their religious beliefs. Today, the monastery's well preserved cells, gardens, and courtyards are open for public...



8) La Merced Church

La Merced Church is a church in Antigua. The Mercedarians were the first to establish a male monastery at the former Santiago de Guatemala. In 1749 Juan de Dios Estrada was commissioned with the construction of the luxurious sanctuary and cloister. He erected a building of low height designed to withstand earthquakes based on the experiences of the tremor of 1751. Arches and columns are wider to cope with the quakes. It was opened in 1767. The cross in stone at the atrium and the rooms...