

Historical Museum

National University of Córdoba



Universidad
Nacional
de Córdoba



Reforma
1918-2018



Paseo
Trejo

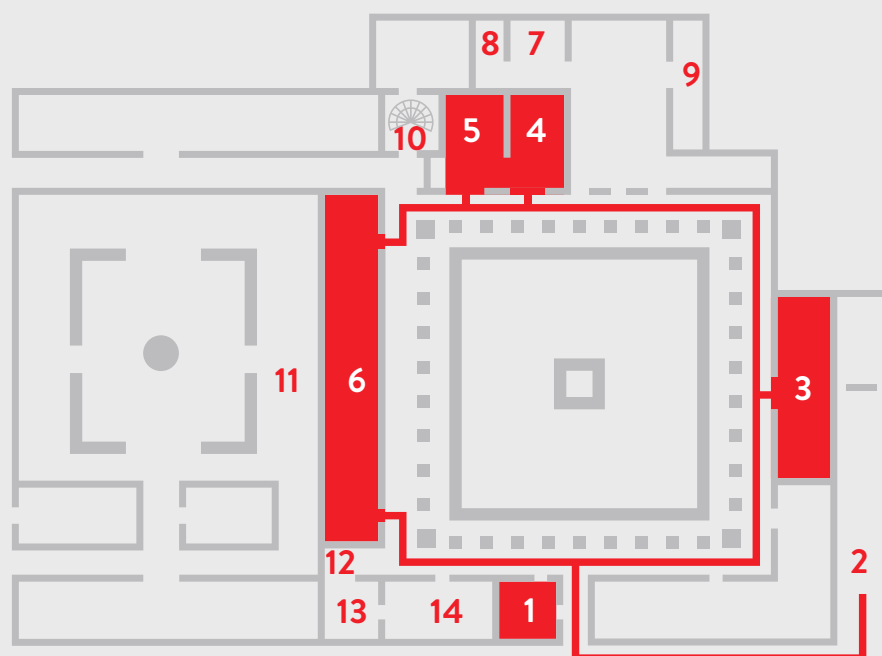


Museo
Histórico

**WELCOME TO THE
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
OF THE NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF CORDOBA!**

During this tour, you will visit the Jesuit Block - World Heritage (UNESCO) and get to know the first building of the University as well.

Please, use this floor plan as a reference to locate in the building and enter the halls.



1 Museum front desk - **2** Church of the Society of Jesus (access through Obispo Trejo street) - **3** Hall of Graduation **4** Cartography, engravings and books (C. and H. Juri Donation) - **5** Elzevir, incunabula and prints (Ferrer Vieyra Donation) - **6** Jesuit Collection - **7** Museum head office - **8** Montenegro Room - **9** Restrooms - **10** Access to first floor (Biblioteca Mayor, Archivo General e Histórico UNC, Biblioteca J.M. Aricó) - **11** Monserrat Museum (access through Obispo Trejo street) **12** Access to first floor (Biblioteca de Derecho, Salón Vélez Sarsfield) - **13** Chancellor's office - **14** Former University Council's room



JESUIT BLOCK

The ensemble includes the church and residence of the Society of Jesus, the first building of the National University of Cordoba and the National School of Monserrat. The building became an educational, religious and economical center during the colonial period.

The Society of Jesus started a system of "Estancias" (rural farming and manufacturing establishments) in the surroundings of Córdoba city, in order to support the activities that took place in the Block. This system became an innovative example for the time and region.





THE SOCIETY OF JESUS IN CÓRDOBA

The Jesuit priests arrived in Córdoba some decades after the foundation of the city. The Order pursued two goals: education and evangelization. In 1604, Córdoba was designated the head of the Jesuit Province of Paraguay, which included the territories of South of Brazil, Uruguay, South of Bolivia, Argentina and Chile.

The Jesuit order generated its educational and missionary strategies from the Block towards the rest of the province. In 1767, King Charles III of Spain expelled the Society of Jesus from all Spanish territories. During their exile in Italy and some central European principalities, the Jesuit Order was dissolved by Pope Clement XIV in 1773. The Society of Jesus was restored in 1814 and returned to Córdoba some years later.

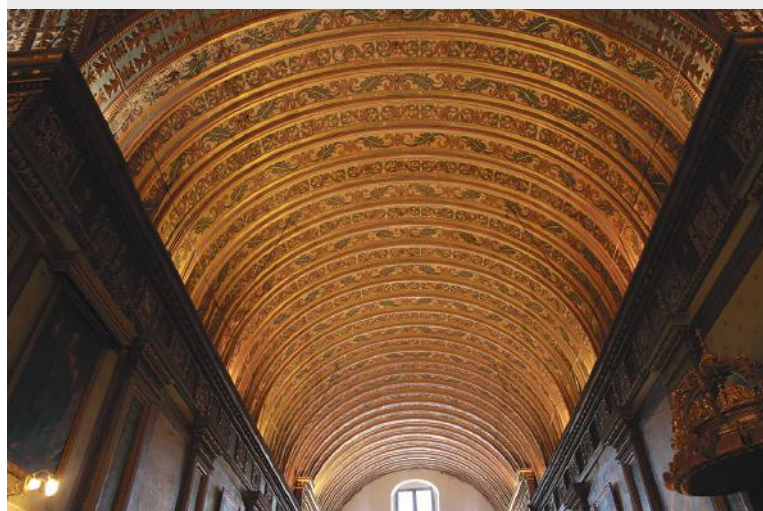
CHURCH

It was built between 1640 and 1671. The European, native argentinian and African peoples participated in building this church.

The floor plan of the church presents a latin-cross shape. It is formed by a main nave and a transept. In the intersection, rise the dome and the pendentives. The original floor plan included two side chapels: to the South, the Spaniards' Chapel (nowadays, this is de Hall of Graduation of the University) and to the North, the Natives' Chapel. Today, the latter is known as Lourdes' Chapel. It was designed by an Italian Jesuit priest, Cayetano Carlucci, in neo-renaissance in the late 19th Century).

VAULT

This structure was designed by a Flemish Jesuit, Philippe Lemaire. It is completely made from timber. It is composed by gilt wooden arches and painted wooden boards representing foliage. For its construction wood was brought from the forests located in the northeastern territories (Iguazú, Misiones). Timber was transported by the Paraná River down to Santa Fe, and then with oxen wagons to Córdoba.





FRIEZE

We can observe the frieze under the cornice in the base of the vault. It consists of a series of portraits of Jesuits martyrs with sacred emblems in between. These sacred emblems represent theological virtues and psalms. They were carved out of wood, painted and gilt.

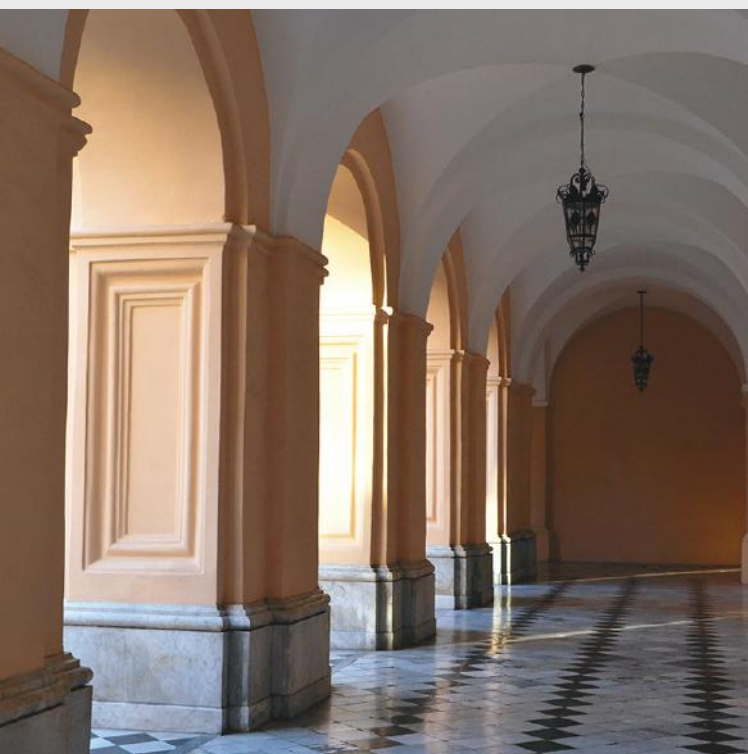
PULPIT

It is an elevated and enclosed platform from which sermon was delivered during a service. It is erected against the pillar, on the left side of the nave and it was executed in wood and gilt, representing rich foliage. The pulpit is reached by a short flight of steps and it is decorated with phytomorphic carvings. Above it, a tester or canopy in the shape of a crown, serves as a decorative sounding board.



ALTARPIECE

The main altarpiece was made by an Italian Jesuit in the Guarani Missions. His name was Giuseppe Brasanelli. The altarpiece consists of three levels and three streets, in an architectural disposition. On the ground level at each side we can see two of the founders of the Society of Jesus: Saint Ignatius of Loyola (left) and Saint Francis Xavier (right). This piece was completely made from wood and it was also transported from the missions located in the northeastern territories.



COLLEGIUM MAXIMUM

In 1610, the Society of Jesus founded the Collegium Maximum, where the last stage of studies took place. Due to economic problems, the Jesuits had decided to move some of their studies to Chile. In 1613, Bishop Trejo y Sanabria granted a donation with two conditions: first, he wanted the Collegium Maximum to remain in Córdoba, and second, he wanted it to be open to the non-Jesuit community. Up to this date, the National University of Córdoba takes this donation as its foundation date. Therefore, it is considered the oldest University in Argentina.

UNIVERSITY'S FOUNDATIONAL YEARS

During the Jesuits' time, students learned Grammar (Latin), Arts (Philosophy) and Theology. After the expulsion the Society of Jesus, the University became under the administration of the Franciscan Order, who incorporated Law Studies.

In 1808, King Charles IV of Spain founded the "Real Universidad Mayor de San Carlos y Nuestra Señora de Monserrat". During this stage, the University was under the administration of the Secular clergy. Deán Gregorio Funes was designated as chancellor, becoming the first American-born chancellor in the University's history.



COURTYARD

The Collegium Maximum's building is known for its old cloisters surrounding the courtyard. Argentina's first botanical garden was founded here by Georg Hieronymus in the 19th century. The statue of Bishop Trejo y Sanabria was added in 1903. It was made by the sculptor De Pol.

The first coat of arms of the University stands on the North cloister. It was carved in soapstone and placed around the 1740's. This is the coat of arms used by the National University of Córdoba up to this date.



HALL OF GRADUATION

During the jesuit period, the Presentation of Conclusions (oral exams) took place in the main nave of the Church. After the expulsion, refurbished this side chapel and transformed it into the Hall of Graduation. This hall represents the European influence in Argentina during the 19th Century with silk wallcovering, boiseries and falling chandeliers. The two coat of arms located on each end are the only example left of the first decoration of the vault. In the center, the allegory represents the muses carrying the University's coat of arms.





JESUIT COLLECTION

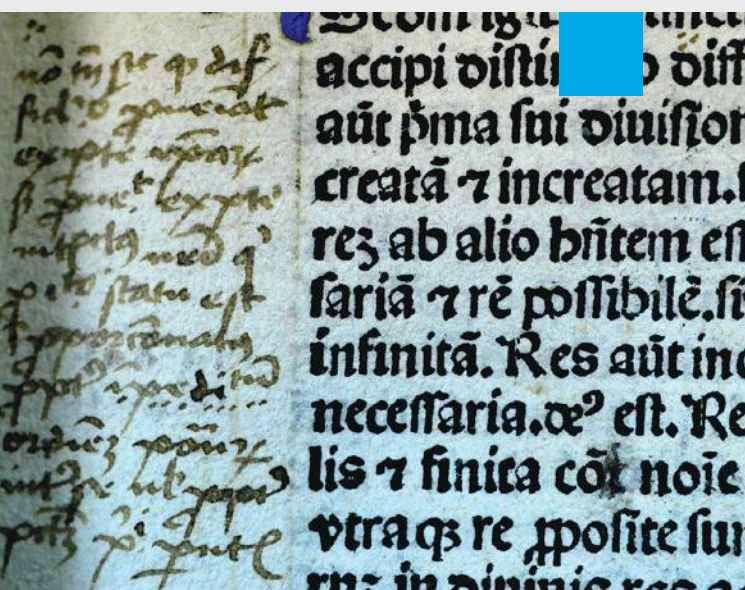


This Collection is conformed by the books the Jesuit Order gathered. This is the first library of the University. Physics, Medicine, Algebra, Geometry, Botany, Zoology, Geography, History, Philosophy, Linguistics and Theology are just some examples of the different branches of knowledge represented in this collection. Most of these books were brought from Europe, since there were no printing-presses in Córdoba. Some others were printed in Perú.

This Collection included approximately 6000 volumes in the jesuit period. After the expulsion, many books were lost. Nowadays, the University preserves around 2500 volumes.

The Jesuit Collection is open to public for research. In order to preserve the books and to promote accessibility, the University started a digitizing process which includes 500 of them. They will be hosted on a free-access web site.

It has been included on the Memory of the World Register for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO).



ELZEVIR, INCUNABULA AND PRINTS (Ferrer Vieyra Donation)



This collection was granted by a former student of the University. It includes incunabula and second period incunabula editions; and books printed by the main European Publishing Houses: Elzevir, Plantin, Estienne, Manunzio, etc.

This collection represents the period ambiance in which the book as an object became significant. Through these editions, we can grasp the History of the Book, and the changes that each of these printers incorporated.



CARTOGRAPHY, ENGRAVINGS AND BOOKS (C. and H. Juri Donation)



The C. and H. Juri Collection presents the topic of American Cartography. These maps were produced since the 16th century all around the world. Each of the stages (16th to 20th Century) is

complemented with documents, letters, engravings, post-cards and books from the same period.

Cartography is presented as a reflection of the general knowledge transmitted through educational policies. Two main topics are here represented: the settlement of international border-lines, and the demographic and ethnic population constitution.

THE UNIVERSITY REFORM

During the first 300 years, accessibility to higher education was reserved for a small group of people. In 1918, a group of students of this house gave birth to the University Reform. That new model spread to the other National Universities in Argentina and Latin America. Students took the University and advocated for: secular education, self-government, autonomy and establishment of solid linkages with the community (extension), selection of faculty through open and competitive examinations; promotion of new ideas, innovative methods of teaching, change in exam systems, optional classroom attendance and original research, among other principles.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF CÓRDOBA TODAY

Our University counts with a population of 120.000 students, distributed in 15 faculties and 2 high schools. Its buildings are located both in the center of Cordoba city and a University Campus, called "University City". It also includes more than 100 research centers and institutes; 25 libraries; 18 museums; 1 biopharmaceutical lab (blood-derived biological medicines); 2 hospitals; a blood bank; 2 astronomical observatories; a natural reservation; and a media group that includes 2 TV channels, 2 stations (AM and FM) and a news portal. The University also owns an area of 12ha dedicated to the practice of 25 sport disciplines. These are open for students, professors, staff of the University and general public.





Historical Museum - National University of Cordoba **Jesuit Block**

Obispo Trejo 242, ✉ 5000, Córdoba

From Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 6.30am

Opening Hours Summer (December 21st - March 21st)

9 am to 1 pm and from 4 pm to 7 pm

Guided Tours

Morning

10 am English | 11am Spanish

Evening

3 pm Spanish - 5 pm English

Summer (December 21st - March 21st)

5 pm Spanish - 6 pm English

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Facebook: Museo Histórico UNC – Manzana Jesuítica



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