

The California Missions



1. SAN DIEGO DE ALCALÁ



2. SAN CARLOS BORROMÉO de CARMELO



11. LA PURÍSIMA CONCEPCIÓN



12. SANTA CRUZ



3. SAN ANTONIO de PADUA



4. SAN GABRIEL ARCÁNGEL



13. NUESTRA SEÑORA de la SOLEDAD



14. SAN JOSÉ



5. SAN LUÍS OBISPO de TOLOSA



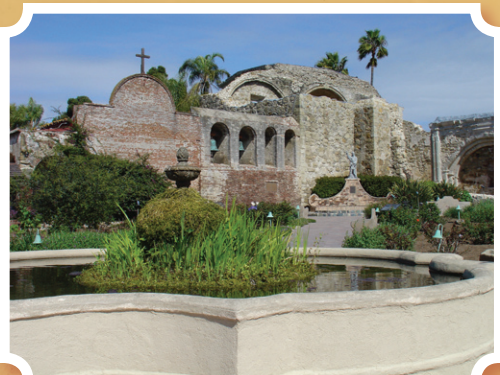
6. SAN FRANCISCO de ASÍS



15. SAN JUAN BAUTISTA



16. SAN MIGUEL ARCÁNGEL



7. SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO



8. SANTA CLARA de ASÍS



17. SAN FERNANDO REY de ESPAÑA



18. SAN LUÍS REY de FRANCIA

Name	Founding Date
San Diego de Alcalá	July 16, 1769
San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo	June 3, 1770
San Antonio de Padua	July 14, 1771
San Gabriel Arcángel	September 8, 1771
San Luís Obispo de Tolosa	September 1, 1772
San Francisco de Asís (Dolores)	October 9, 1776
San Juan Capistrano	November 1, 1776
Santa Clara de Asís	January 12, 1777
San Buenaventura	March 31, 1782
Santa Bárbara	December 4, 1786
La Purísima Concepción	December 8, 1787
Santa Cruz	August 28, 1791
Nuestra Señora de la Soledad	October 9, 1791
San José	June 11, 1797
San Juan Bautista	June 24, 1797
San Miguel Arcángel	July 25, 1797
San Fernando Rey de España	September 8, 1797
San Luís Rey de Francia	June 13, 1798
Santa Inés	September 17, 1804
San Rafael Arcángel	December 14, 1817
San Francisco Solano de Sonoma	July 4, 1823



9. SAN BUENAVENTURA



18a. ASISTENCIA SAN ANTONIO de PALA



19. SANTA INÉS



10. SANTA BÁRBARA



20. SAN RAFAEL ARCÁNGEL



21. SAN FRANCISCO de SOLANO de SONOMA

1. SAN DIEGO DE ALCALÁ

This first mission in California was founded in 1769 by Fr. Junípero Serra and named for St. Didacus of Alcalá. Originally located on Presidio Hill in San Diego, it was moved to its present site in 1774. Burned by Indians in 1775 and destroyed by earthquake in 1803, the mission was restored and rededicated in 1931.

2. SAN CARLOS BORROMÉO de CARMELO

This mission was founded by Fr. Serra at the Presidio of Monterey and moved to Carmel in 1771. The church is one of the most authentic restorations in the mission chain. Fr. Serra was buried here in 1784.

3. SAN ANTONIO de PADUA

This remote mission was restored in 1948 with a grant from the Hearst Foundation. The old building was cleared from the site and completely rebuilt. San Antonio once housed 1,300 Indians who produced bountiful crops and herded thousands of cattle.

4. SAN GABRIEL ARCÁNGEL

San Gabriel was founded by Frs. Pedro Cambón and Angel Somera. This distinctive mission is located approximately nine miles east of downtown Los Angeles and was once known for its fine wines.

5. SAN LUÍS OBISPO de TOLOSA

Founded in a valley that was known for its dense population of California grizzly bears—now extinct—San Luís Obispo was named after St. Louis, Bishop of Toulouse in France. One tradition holds that this mission was the first in California to install tile on the roof of its buildings.

6. SAN FRANCISCO de ASÍS

Mission Dolores, as it is widely known, is the oldest building in San Francisco, having survived the earthquake of 1906. Surrounding buildings were shaken to the ground and burned in the fire that followed. Within the cemetery lie the remains of more than 5,000 American Indians, many of whom died of diseases introduced by Europeans.

7. SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

The legendary swallows of Capistrano arrive each spring on St. Joseph's Day, March 19, from their wintering grounds 2,000 miles to the south. Although sometimes delayed by storms, most of the birds land at Capistrano on the traditional day. The swallows' mud nests can be seen among the ruined arches.

8. SANTA CLARA de ASÍS

Many outstanding padres served at Santa Clara. Among them was Fr. Magín de Catalá, known for his remarkable prophecies. In 1830, he said, "At the place now called Yuerba Buena (San Francisco) there shall one day rise a great city. The city will flourish and its inhabitants will become rich and powerful, and when at the height of its prosperity, it will perish by earthquake and fire."

9. SAN BUENAVENTURA

Now located on the main street in Ventura, the old church was once surrounded by rich fields, orchards and vineyards. The museum contains two bells carved from two-foot blocks of wood. These wooden bells were used during Holy Week when the metal bells were silenced.

10. SANTA BÁRBARA

This is the only mission in the chain under the continuous control of Franciscans since its founding. The present church is the fourth to stand on the site. The façade and some of the interior detailing were patterned after an ancient Roman temple.

11. LA PURÍSIMA CONCEPCIÓN

All the missions except La Purísima were built in the form of a quadrangle. But at La Purísima, the padres laid out the buildings in a line, possibly to facilitate evacuation in case of earthquake. La Purísima was restored by the National Park Service and the C.C.C. and is now a State Historical Monument.

12. SANTA CRUZ

A series of misfortunes fell on Santa Cruz over the years, and now nothing is left of the original mission except a one-story structure that once housed Indian families that worked at the mission. A replica of the church, about half the size of the original, was erected in 1931.

13. NUESTRA SEÑORA de la SOLEDAD

Dedicated to Our Lady of Solitude, Mission Soledad was a crumbled ruin until the Native Daughters of the Golden West began restoration in 1954. This mission was not as successful as the others, due in part to the extremes of the weather.

14. SAN JOSÉ

One of the most prosperous of the 21 missions, San José ministered to the Ohlone Indians who lived throughout the bay area. The present church, built between 1982 and 1985, is a faithful replica of the church completed in 1809 and destroyed in the earthquake of 1868.

15. SAN JUAN BAUTISTA

Sitting almost directly on the San Andreas Fault, the mission has been damaged by earthquakes more than once. The most recent and thorough restoration from earthquake damage was completed in 1976. Fr. Estévan Tápis introduced a method of using colored musical notes that helped San Juan Bautista develop an Indian choir that became famous among the missions.

16. SAN MIGUEL ARCÁNGEL

The church at San Miguel is the only one in the chain to retain its original paintings and decorations unretouched. They were executed by the Spanish artist Estevan Munras and his Indian helpers in 1820. The church has been closed since the Paso Robles earthquake in 2003, but other mission buildings are open to the public.

17. SAN FERNANDO REY de ESPAÑA

After gold was discovered on one of the mission ranchos, the army of opportunists who descended on the mission exhausted the small lode within four years. The first gold shipment from San Fernando to the mint in Philadelphia was valued at \$344.75, or \$19 per ounce.

18. SAN LUÍS REY de FRANCIA

When the mission's prosperity began to decline because of secularization, Fr. Peyri decided to retire from San Luís Rey and return to Spain. To avoid emotional farewells, he left secretly in the night. When the Indians discovered his departure, they rushed to San Diego to beg him to remain. He was already on his way out of the harbor however, and for years the Indians offered prayers for his return.

18a. ASISTENCIA SAN ANTONIO de PALA

This sub-mission of San Luís Rey still provides ministry for four local Indian Tribes.

19. SANTA INÉS

Santa Inés, called "Hidden Gem of the Missions," was damaged severely in the earthquake of 1912, but the church still retains its original ceiling beams and floor tiles. Designs on the wall behind the altar were painted by the Indians and have not been retouched.

20. SAN RAFAEL ARCÁNGEL

San Rafael was founded in 1817 as a hospital *asistencia* (sub-mission) for Mission Dolores and was elevated to full mission status in 1823. None of the original buildings now exists, but a replica of the church has been built.

21. SAN FRANCISCO de SOLANO de SONOMA

This was the last mission to be established in California, and the only one founded under Mexican rule. In part, the mission was founded to contain Russian influence in Northern California. It was purchased by the State in 1910 and is now part of Sonoma State Historic Park.

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