

Montañés House

The construction started in the XVIII century. It is an example of Canary civil architecture house. It has three storeys, big windows, and a beautiful garden with a fountain in the middle. Wood from the Canary islands was used to build it. The grain was kept at the top floor, "the alhóndiga".



Salazar House

The Counts of Valle de Salazar used to live here. The facade is the work of Juan González de Castro, built in 1681. This Baroque facade is one of the finest examples of civil architecture in Islands. It was acquired by the Bishopric in the nineteenth century. Before then, it was a Casino. Unfortunately, this building burnt down on a fire in 2006. Many works of art have disappeared for ever.



Lercaro House

This XVI century building originally belonged to Francisco Lercaro de León. It was a very important family from Genoese origin who settled on the islands.

The renaissance style frontage is the most representative and conserved in the Canary Islands. It is decorated with beautiful paintings, characteristic of the Genoese palaces.

Nowadays, it houses the Tenerife History Museum, and you can visit a library, and numerous rooms with information panels on Tenerife's History. It offers a general vision of the period from the XV to the XX century: institutions, social, economic and cultural activities.

Many members of this family hold important positions on the island. The eldest son inherited his parent's estate. The rest of the sons and daughters usually married other important families, so that their power and properties could increase. It is said that Catalina Lercaro killed herself on her wedding day because she refused to have an arranged marriage.



The Augustinian's Convent

It was originally the Convent of the Augustinian Order. This building has always been used for education. Today, the Canarias Cabrera Pinto High School.

Many important students have graduated here, the first High School in the

Canary Islands: the writer Benito Pérez Galdós, the president of the Republic Juan Negrín; the surrealist painter Óscar Domínguez also was a student here.

Inside the building you can visit the Cloister, one of the most beautiful renaissance cloisters in the Canary Islands, The Aula Magna, with interesting paintings, and different Showrooms which contain interesting collections used for teaching. The Blas Cabrera Felipe Show Room (meteorology, optics, electricity, electromagnetism, sound, mechanical energy, heat), The Cabinet of Anthropology, and The Agustín Cabrera Natural History Museum (showing a variety of animals worldwide).



Christ's Square

The Christ or Saint Francis square, in the northern part of the city. It used to be a big area of land where animals were

kept, and people gathered for celebrations; wine yards and other crops covered all the surroundings. Water was abundant.



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San Cristóbal de La Laguna



A Historical Heritage Site Town

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Bowling Square or Junta Suprema

San Cristóbal de la Laguna, also known as **Aguere**, was founded in 1496 by D. Alonso Fernández de Lugo. It was a sacred place for pilgrimage, with a big lagoon, and people from all parts of the island gathered there. Our tour starts at this square. There is a plaque on the floor showing the old town. The original lagoon started just there. Vegetation, cattle and birds were abundant. When it rained, the water from the mountains raised the level, flooding some areas. It was definitely dried in 1837, so that the town could grow.



Our Lady of The Conception Church

It was the first church in the town. Its location was established by D. Alonso Fernández de Lugo, after the celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi in 1496. The town was originally set up in this place, the old town.



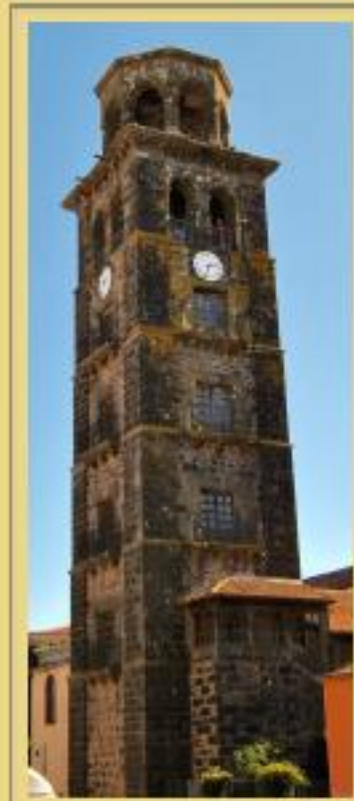
The church was founded in 1511. It has suffered different rehabilitations. The Tower, about 28 m. high, is one of the most interesting parts. It was built at the end of the XVII century.

The church is divided in three naves, and the wooden roof is impressive. There are important religious images inside, and a ceramic baptismal font from the XV century.

As you go out, don't miss Doctor Olivera Square with many cosy cafeterias to sit down and enjoy.

Doctor Olivera was the director of the hospital of Dolores, and he died in 1918 of the Spanish flu. He got the disease after having helped many infected people.

This square is also known as The Dry Font Square.



La Laguna Cathedral, Our Lady of The Remedies

The construction of the church started in 1515. It was the second church in the town. This



one was situated in the center, where the wealthiest people lived, and it became a cathedral in 1819. Its neoclassical facade dates from 1820. The structure of the building, neogothic style, was finished by 1815. It is the only cathedral in Spain built in concrete and polypropylene fibers. However, the technology used wasn't good enough, so a lot of repair work has been necessary. There was a major reconstruction in 2009 when a new Dome was built.

Inside, you can find treasures of different centuries. Our Lady of the Light is one of them.

The Captains' House

Tenerife General Captain, Don Diego de Alvarado Bracamonte built this house between 1624 and 1631. Later it became the residence of the General Captains of the Islands. Red volcanic rock was used to build it. The beautiful



stone entrance is one of the oldest constructions in the town. Inside you can see a two storey construction, with a big patio, and a fountain in the middle.

The blue building next to it was the place to store grains during the winter months, it is called "**alhóndiga**". The royal coat of arms is at the entrance. It features a volcano representing the island; a castle and a lion representing Castile; and Saint Michael christianizing the guanches.



Saint Catherine of Siena Convent

Opposite the Captain's House, you can see **Santa Catalina de Siena's Convent**. It was founded in 1606 by Juan de Cabrejas, governor of La Palma and his wife.

Cloistered nuns lived in this rich convent. There are some mudéjar influences in this building, for example the top part called "ajimez", and all the wooden work inside as well. The church is worth visiting. The uncorrupted body of María de León Bello y Delgado is kept there. It is known as "La Siervita". It can be visited on the anniversary of her death, on 15th February. Many people queue every year to see the tomb. She was one of the nuns who lived there, and many prodigies are told about her life.



The Adelantado Square

The town was designed following philosophical principle: a head, and then long streets forming a grid structure. This square was the "nucleus". The Town Hall, San Michael's Hermit, The Court of Justice, The Adelantado's House. In the past, important acts took place in this square. It was the market place, and, public executions were also held here. The marble fountain at the center was brought from France in 1869.



Nava and Grimón Palace

It belonged to a very rich family. It is a beautiful building which combines baroque, neoclassical and mannerist elements.

