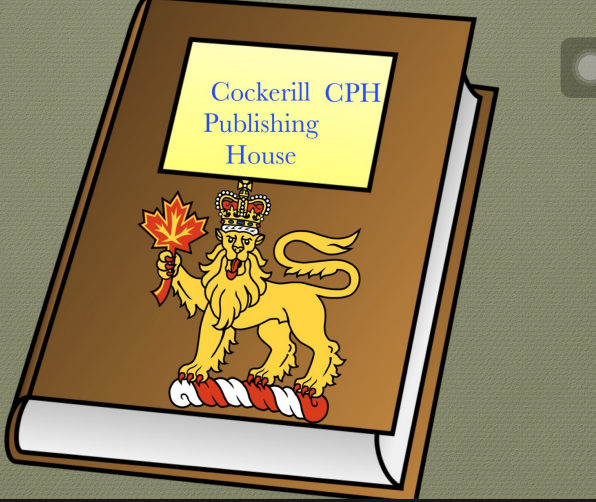


# CALIFORNIA MISSIONS

5 MISSIONS ARE COVERED



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# INTRODUCTION

The first California Mission was founded in 1769 in order to colonize Alta (Upper) California. Spain had discovered this land over 200 years before the founding of the first mission. Many people had proposed to do something with this land, but it took a long time before they decided on anything because of how difficult it was to get there from Spain. They finally took action because the Russian fur trappers were moving farther and farther down the Coast, and were spotted in what is now San Francisco. Spain eventually sent missionaries, and so the first mission, San Diego de Alcalá, was founded by Father Junipero Serra.

# **CALIFORNIA MISSIONS**

# MISSION SAN DIEGO DE ALCALA



San Diego de Alcalá was founded July 16, 1769. The mission was originally located on Presidio Hill overlooking the bay, at a location called Cosoy by the natives. The mission was relocated about five and a half miles inland at the village of Nipaguay in 1774. They got water from a dam that was constructed six miles upstream from the mission, on the San Diego River. Water was brought to the foot of Mission Hill via an aqueduct or zanja and then by way of a noria or waterwheel, into the mission.



# DID YOU KNOW?

In 1818 a sub-mission, or asistencia, Santa Ysabel, was established in the mountains some 60 miles east of San Diego. Santa Ysabel fell into ruin after secularization but a new chapel was built in 1924 by a Canadian-born priest, Fr. Edmond La Pointe, who served the area for 29 years.

# MISSION SAN CARLOS BORROROMEO



This mission was founded on June 3, 1770, and originally located at the presidio in Monterey but relocated in 1771 to the Carmel Valley on a hillside that was "two gunshots" from the ocean. One of the most popular attractions is the elaborate Serra Memorial Cenotaph sculpted in 1924 by Jo Mora. This is made of travertine marble and bronze and shows life-sized figures of Fr. Serra and three other missionaries, all of whom are buried under the church sanctuary.

# DID YOU KNOW?

The Carmel mission Orchard House of circa 1774 is the oldest residential dwelling in California.

Carmel was headquarters of the mission chain from 1770-1803

# MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA



This mission was founded July 14, 1771. It is located in the Santa Lucia Mountains in an oak studded valley southeast of Monterey, on a what is presently a military reservation. The setting of this mission is much as a traveler would have seen two centuries ago.

This mission was shaped like a traditional quadrangle, largely restored by W.R. Hearst and the Franciscans between 1948 and 1952,. Signs mark the location of important buildings and features, such as the water-powered gristmill, throughout the mission grounds.

# DID YOU KNOW?

San Antonio de Padua was known for the excellence of its music. Displays in the museum show musical notations on the walls and a large diagram of hand signals used to teach the neophytes.

The first Catholic wedding to take place in California occurred here in 1773 between a Salinan Indian woman named Margareta de Cortona and Spanish soldier Juan Maria Ruiz.

# SAN GABRIEL DE ARCANGEL



San Gabriel, the fourth mission, was found September 8, 1771. This mission is known for its very different appearance than the others, with capped buttresses and narrow windows. This design (according to the California Missions Resource Center) “Can be traced to the Cathedral of Cordova Spain. One of the priests who served at San Gabriel, Fr. Antonio Cruzado was in charge of the building of the original church, and he was born and brought up in Cordova.”

The mission was originally located on Montebello Hills at the native site of Shevaanga, overlooking the San Gabriel Valley. In 1775 the mission was relocated to the native site of Lisanchanga "about a league" (3 miles) to the northwest. This mission is 9 miles east of downtown Los Angeles .

This mission was very successful, partly due to its insane amount of livestock, containing (As of December 1832) 16,500 cattle, 8,500 sheep, 40 goats, 60 pigs, 1,200 horses and 42 mules.

That's a total of 26,342 animals. Wow.

# DID YOU KNOW?

The main entrance to the church is quite plain. In the mission era the prominent door in the side wall of the church opened directly onto El Camino Real, ("Royal Road") connecting the missions, pueblos and presidios.

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# MISSION SAN LUIS OBISPO DE TOLOSA



This mission was founded September 1, 1772. It is located in a valley along the central coast which the Spanish named "La Cañada de los Osos" (Valley of the Bears) when they discovered many grizzlies there. Unlike many of the missions which we re-situated over time, San Luis Obispo stands on its original site.

The main attraction of this mission is an excellent museum with a special room that focuses on the Chumash Indians. The adjacent plaza is a popular site for community events. A stream runs through the area.



# DID YOU KNOW?

In 1776 a pagan Indian fired an arrow, with a burning wick attached, into one of the dry thatched roofs of San Luis Obispo, starting a fire that nearly destroyed several buildings. This disaster led to experimentation to make tile locally. By 1790 most of the missions had tile roofs that were not as vulnerable to attack.

The mission had an active life of sixty-three years.

# SOURCES

**CALIFORNIA MISSIONS RESOURCE CENTER (WEBSITE)**

**CALIFORNIA HISTORY SOCIAL SCIENCE GRADE 4 (TEXTBOOK)**





