



## THE ORIGINAL DOORWAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

This doorway is the most important discovery within San Francisco's Convent and the Region of Murcia in the last few years. Carved in travertine stone from the local quarry of Los Baños de Mula, the doorway was discovered in the cloister after initial archaeological digs on the first floor. Composed of a semi-circular arch with pilasters, it was hidden under the cement and vaults of the cloister. The keystone of the arch with its vase of Madonna lilies, emblem of Saint Mary, stands out, along with an epigraph using Gothic writing telling us that the Bishop Esteban de Almeida laid the foundation stone on October 13, 1547. Above the doorway, the remains of a wooden roof were found.



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**Opening hours:** Monday to Sunday  
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays closed.



### PMEF-MY "El Castillo"

Local tourism promotion and visitor information.



Región de Murcia  
Consejería de Presidencia y Empleo



THE CITY OF MULA MUSEUM





# SAN FRANCISCO'S CONVENT

# MUSEUM

## A BIT OF HISTORY

In the last third of the 15th century, at the eastern edge of the town of Mula, in the middle of the huerta, San Pedro's Hospital was built away from the urban centre to avoid contagions. In the middle of the 16th century, after its refurbishment, it became known as the Hospital of the Purísima Concepción. Furthermore, a church was built annexed to it with the same name. Its construction began in 1547 and concluded in 1577.

Around 1574, the Franciscans decided to found a convent in Mula. At first, the friars were given a plot with the purpose of building their own monastery where the Archives and Local Library now stand. Meanwhile, they settled temporarily in the Hospital of the Purísima Concepción. However, the delay in the works led the friars to make a request to the Bishopric of Cartagena in order to keep the church and the hospital which were handed over to the order in 1581, transforming the hospital as part of the convent. That same year, the building work of the convent began with the help of the 4th Marquis of Los Vélez and the Council.

The convent, which had the capacity to house thirty friars, took the name of the Purísima Concepción and the hospital was built where the Council had previously given the Franciscans a plot. As a result of the building works of the new convent, a new entry to the church had to be made, which was Renaissance in style, leaving the original door of entry for the exclusive use of the friars.

The 18th century was the convent's moment of glory, when work was carried out, the result of which is the building that can be seen today, with its central courtyard and its two water cisterns, an upper and lower cloister, several garrets, a large refectory and wide stairs.

During the disentailment policies of Mendizábal in 1836, the friars were expelled and the convent was sold off in a public auction and divided up into individual dwellings, a type of a tavern or inn, a theatre, a prison and a wheat storehouse.

At the end of the 20th century, the Town Hall authorities began to acquire the various properties with the aim of restoring the whole building and listing it as a cultural zone of regional importance.



The **Museum The City of Mula Museum** opened its doors to the public in April of 2015 with the aim of being the vertebral axis and invigorating centre of culture, history, archaeology, art and traditions of the city.

The centre holds a permanent exhibition, 'The Legacy of Mula through History', located on the first floor. Through a display cabinet which contains fourteen showcases distributed along seven thematic areas, the visitor takes a linear and chronological journey from prehistoric times to the recent history of the city, starting with an audiovisual about the cultural and touristic heritage of the municipality.

The selected pieces only come from Mula's archaeological sites, whose collections were kept in the archaeological museum's resources of Murcia. Some of them stand out for their singularity, due to the fact that there is no parallel with other digs. The exposure is supplemented by architectural elements, archival documentation, engravings and contemporary photographs, donations from neighbours, etc.

Furthermore, the cloisters are used for housing temporary exhibitions and other cultural activities.

Nowadays, **Mula's Tourist Office** is located in San Francisco's Convent.