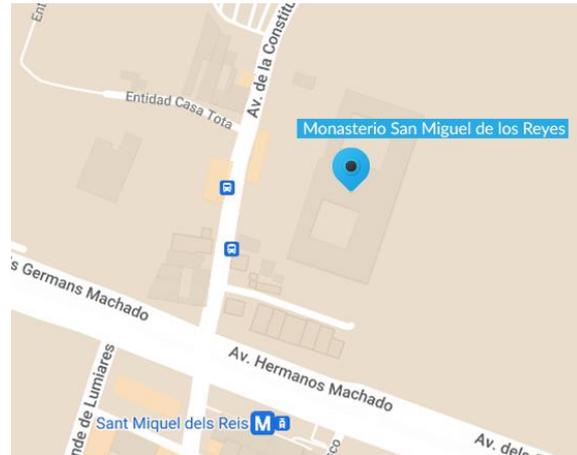


6. San Miguel de los Reyes monastery



It is among the most important works of Valencian Renaissance architecture. It was founded in 1545 on the site of the old medieval Cistercian monastery of Sant Bernat de Rascanya, in the middle of the orchard, which was built on the site of an 11th century Muslim farmhouse called “Rascanya”.

Fernando of Aragon, the Duke of Calabria and Viceroy of València, obtained a bull from Pope Paul III that dissolved the Cistercian order and established the Hieronymite order for the new San Miguel de los Reyes monastery devoted to St Michael.

The design of the complex was commissioned from the architects Alonso de Covarrubias and Juan de Vidaña, and included an ambitious cultural and religious programme with a school of art and theology around the library, as well as a family pantheon where the founders, the Duke of Calabria and his wife, the vicereine Germana de Foix, are buried.

The works that were begun in the southern cloister. They were stopped due to the death of the Duke of Calabria and by economic problems. They resumed twenty years later with clear influence of the cloister of the Evangelists of El Escorial.

The church was built in the 17th century. Its façade is considered one of the first to have an altarpiece in the Kingdom of València and it has three sections with images of Saint Jeronimo and Saint Paula in the lower part, Saint Mguel fighting the devil in the middle, and the three Wise Men in the upper part.

Construction of the northern cloister began in the late 18th century.

Today, in this cloister one can observe the architectural ruins of the Islamic farmhouse of Rascanya and the Cistercian monastery of Sant Bernat, as well as an unfinished wing of the second Jerónimo cloister and the prison wings.

The monastery endured the invasion of Napoleon's troops and after the confiscation of the religious orders in the 19th century, the building was used as an asylum and prison thus being adapted to operate as a prison which lasted until the 20th century.

Between 1997 and 2000, refurbishment work was undertaken on the complex to turn it into the headquarters of the Valencian Library (Biblioteca Valenciana Nicolau Primitiu since 2010).

The archaeological ruins of the original Cistercian convent, the predominant configuration of the jeronimo convent and the typological adaptation made to turn it into a prison were integrated.

How to get there on foot?

In Avenida de la Constitución head north for about 300 m towards Santiago Rusiñol street and cross Avenida de los Hermanos Machado, then continue along Avenida de la Constitución until you reach the San Miguel de los Reyes Monastery.

Accessibility

General information

Address: Sant Miquel dels Reis, Avinguda de la Constitució, 284, 46019 València

Telephone: 963 87 40 00

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 20.00 h.

Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 11.00 to 14.00 h.

In August, the monastery is not open in the afternoon. Guided tours for groups with advanced booking on Tuesdays at 10.00 h, 11.00 h and 12.00 h.

Saturdays, Sundays and holidays: unreserved visits at 12.00 h and 13.00 h.

Free entry.

Guided tours are available in Spanish and Valencian. Other languages can be requested when you book.

Adaptable activities are run for people with disabilities.

It is in a flat area free of obstacles and with homogeneous flooring.

A wheelchair is available for visitors.

Parking

A public place of at least 200 x 400 cm is reserved, with vertical and horizontal signage at Santiago Rusiñol street No. 16. There is an accessible route, with dips on the pavements as far as the monastery.

There is a parking area 100 m from the entrance, with non homogeneous paving of compacted earth, with no spaces reserved for PRM. There is an accessible route to the monastery.

Access is via the gate by taxi, where you will be dropped off inside the building, with advance notice.

Access

Slope-free access from the slope, with a door that is more than 120 cm wide, always open. Access to the interior of the enclosure is via a ramp that is more than 500 cm long, more than 120 cm wide and with a 1.2% incline.

No handrails.

Beyond the courtyard, there is a door leading to the interior of the monastery, preceded by a ramp that is 46 cm wide and 40 cm long with a 10.7% incline. With non-slip flooring.

Mobility indoors

The visitable part of the building has two floors and a mezzanine in the tower area. All connected by stairs and a lift.

In the Mirador area, it is glazed with a full view of the area where the ruins are. There is a railing at a height of 102 cm.

There are 73 cm-high display cabinets, without no clearance at the bottom.

There are corridors with a free passage width of more than 200 cm and homogeneous, non-slip flooring.

The Mirador Area has a free side without marked protection.

On each floor, there is a slope-free route except for access to the church, which has a ramp that is 135 cm wide, 40 cm long and has a 17% incline.

There is a door with more than 120 cm of free passage width.

Access to the crypt is only possible through a thirteen-step staircase, which has a 19 cm riser and a 36 cm tread. There are handrails on either side at a height of 93 cm.

Outside, there is a garden area with a gravel pavement. It has furniture to rest.

It has several access around the perimeter of the area; to go down it has a single-flight staircase with three steps with a 27 cm tread and a 15 cm riser.

They have nosing but no protective skirting board. No tactile and visual signs and no handrails.

One of the entrances has a ramp with a 4.6% incline, more than 150 cm of free passage width and is more than 300 cm long. No protective skirting board on either side.

No handrails and no tactile visual signage. Non slip flooring.

Church

Morning visiting hours from Monday to Friday from 10.30 h, 11.30 h and 12.30 h. Weekends with guided tour at 12 h in Valencian and at 13 h in Spanish. Reservation required.

Main access: via a 7 cm step cleared by a 9% incline ramp, which is 40 cm long and 202 cm wide.

No handrails, no protective skirting board on either side. Non slip flooring. A door with permanent opening with more than 200 cm of free passage width.

A route with non-homogeneous, irregular tile paving with defects in the joints. Non-slip.

A secondary door giving access to events with a 13 cm step, which is cleared by two ramps with an 8.4% incline, which are 100 cm long and 81 cm wide, with no handrail and no protective skirting on both sides. With non-slip flooring.

The other ramp has a 3.8% incline and is 101 cm long and 81 cm wide. No handrails and no protective skirting board. With non slip flooring.

Route with corridors and passage areas with more than 200 cm of free passage width. There is space reserved in the front for PRM that is more than 400 cm.

43 cm-high movable pews, 110 cm apart from each other. Footrest at a height of 13.5 cm.

The distance between the pews on either side of the church has a free passage width of more than 200 cm.

The altar area can be accessed via a two-level staircase, one with 11 steps and the other with 3 steps.

Before the staircase, there is a stage obstructing the path that is approximately 55 cm from the beginning of the staircase.

Staircase with nosing, 38-40 cm tread and 16 cm riser. No protective skirting board on either side. No tactile and visual signs and no handrails.

Non slip flooring.

The altar area has inhomogeneous flooring.

Toilet

There are two toilet modules on the ground floor. Each has an adapted unisex toilet, each with the same features. Slope-free access.

Door signage with approved symbol. Non-slip flooring

Slope-free toilet area door, a hinged opening with handle, with 72 cm of free width for passage in each leaf. It has a return spring. A 150 cm diameter circle can be described in front of the door.

Slope-free toilet door; it opens outwards with a handle, with 70 cm of free passage width. No return spring. A 150 cm-diameter circle can be described in front of the door.

In case of emergency, the lock can be opened from the outside.

A 150 cm-diameter circle can be described within the cabin.

There is an 86 cm-high washbasin without a pedestal. Lower clear height of 72 cm and 53 cm deep. It is not possible to use it from the toilet. Mixer tap.

Non-tilted mirror whose lower edge is 108 cm from the floor.

Lift

There are three lift modules: one in the south west tower, another in the south east tower and another, with two units, is in the central area.

Doors with a free passage width of 100 cm. There are call buttons at a height of 120 cm and inner buttons at a height of 150-121 cm. No handrails. There is a mirror.

In the lifts in the central area, there is a 190 x 162 cm cabin. In the tower lifts, there is a 125 x 145 cm cabin.

Stairs

Imperial staircase, between the ground and first floors, with three flights of thirteen, twelve and sixteen homogeneous steps, with a 18 cm riser and a 39 cm tread.

There is a single handrail on either side of the first flight of stairs at a height of 95 cm, which is not extended at intermediate landings or in embarkation-disembarkation areas.

Non-slip and homogeneous flooring.

Cloister staircase, between the ground and second floors, with three flights per floor of a maximum of fourteen homogeneous steps each, 17 cm riser and 36 cm tread.

There is a single handrail on one side of the stairway, at a height of 95 cm, not extended at intermediate landings or in embarkation-disembarkation areas.

Non-slip and homogeneous flooring.

Exhibition

There are two exhibition rooms on the ground floor: the Permanent Room and the Capitular Room.

Both rooms have a door that opens outward by means of a handle at a height of 93-120 cm. In the Permanent Room, there is a double-leaf door with a 72 cm width of passage through each leaf. In the Capitular Room, there is a door with 90 cm of free passage width.

Inside the rooms, the route is slope-free.

Corridors with a free passage width of at least 120 cm.

Display cabinets with heights of 77-96 cm. Some have a clearance at the bottom that is 55-76 cm high.

Panels and explanatory texts located at a height of 110-200 cm.

The rooms have no benches or ischiatic supports.

It has an audiovisual projection area, with moveable seats and a space with more than 200 cm of free passage for PRM on its sides.

Cafeteria

Cafeteria located next to the entrance to the monastery. Ramp access with a 7.4% incline, 80 cm wide and 105 cm long. No protective skirting board on either side.

Doors open to the outside using a longitudinal handle, with 80 cm of free passage width through each leaf.

It has a terrace in the outdoor patio.

Cafeteria bar at a height of 110 cm. Corridors and passage areas with more than 100 cm of free passage width with no occasional narrowings.

The cafeteria has a locking toilet adapted for PRM.

Slope free toilet door, opening outward with a handle at a height of 103 cm high with 70 cm of free passage width. No return spring. A 150 cm-diameter circle can be described in front of the door.

In case of emergency, the lock can be opened from the outside.

A 150 cm-diameter circle can be described within the cabin.

There is an 86 cm-high washbasin without a pedestal. Lower clear height of 72 cm and 53 cm deep. It is not possible to use it from the toilet. Mixer tap.

Non-tilted mirror whose lower edge is 108 cm from the floor.

There is a toilet access space of 25 cm on the right, more than 100 cm on the left and more than 120 cm of frontal access. The toilet seat is at a height of 40 cm.

There is a hinged support bar on one side at a height of 79-95 cm and a fixed one on the other at a height of 80 cm. 73 cm spacing between bars.

There is no alarm system inside the cabin.

Lighting without a timer.

Access

Slope-free access from the street, with a door that is always open. Access to the interior of the enclosure is via a ramp that is more than 500 cm long, more than 120 cm wide and with a 1.2% incline.

There is no tactile visual signage at the beginning and at the end.

On weekdays, access to the inside of the site is via the metal detector arch and counter next to the entrance. Slope-free access.

There is an exit door with a 15 cm step on the outside, with no tactile visual signage.

Beyond the courtyard, there is a door leading to the interior of the monastery, preceded by a ramp that is 96 cm wide and 40 cm long with a 10.7% incline. With non-slip flooring.

Mobility indoors

The visitable part of the building has two floors and a mezzanine in the tower area. All connected by stairs and a lift.

Throughout the building, there is an obstacle-free route with no unmarked projecting elements.

On each floor, there is a slope free route except for access to the church, which has a ramp that is 135 cm wide, 40 cm long and has a 17% incline. There is no tactile visual signage. Door with a 15 cm-high dip.

In the Mirador Area, there is one side without lateral protection with high-contrast signage.

Access to the crypt is only possible through a 13 step staircase, with a 19 cm riser and a 36 cm tread. No nosing and with a protective skirting board on either side.

No tactile visual signs and with handrails located on either side at a height of 93 cm.

There are glass doors with contrasting visual signs.

Dip-free, non-slip and homogeneous flooring.

There are information signs with contrasting pictograms. There are explanatory panels about each room with medium font texts, with no high chromatic contrast.

Homogeneous lighting.

Church

Morning visiting hours from Monday to Friday from 10.30 h, 11.30 h and 12.30 h. Weekends with guided tour at 12 h in Valencian and at 13 h in Spanish. Reservation required.

Main access: via a 7 cm step cleared by a 9% incline ramp, which is 40 cm long and 202 cm wide. No handrails, no protective skirting board on either side.

Non-slip flooring. A door with permanent opening with more than 200 cm of free passage width.

A route with non-homogeneous, irregular tile paving with defects in the joints. Non-slip.

Secondary door for access to events with a 13 cm step that can be cleared with two removable ramps with a 8.4% incline, 100 cm long and 81 cm wide, no handrails, without a protective skirting board on either side. With non slip flooring.

The other ramp has a 3.8% incline and is 101 cm long and 81 cm wide. No handrails and no protective skirting board. With non slip flooring.

43 cm-high movable pews, 110 cm apart from each other. Footrest at a height of 13.5 cm.

The distance between the pews on either side of the church has a free passage width of more than 200 cm.

The altar area can be accessed via a two level staircase, one with 11 steps and the other with 3 steps.

Before the staircase, there is a stage obstructing the path that is approximately 55 cm from the beginning of the staircase.

Staircase with nosing, 38-40 cm tread and 16 cm riser. No protective skirting board on either side. No tactile and visual signs and no handrails. Non-slip flooring.

The altar area has non homogeneous, non-slip flooring.

Toilet

There are toilet modules on the ground floor, the mezzanine and the first floor. Slope free access. Ladies and gents toilets marked with non tactile approved pictograms, with chromatic contrast, at a height of 165 cm.

The toilet door contrasts with the wall.

Homogeneous lighting without a timer.

Lift

There are three lift modules: one in the south west tower, another in the south east tower and another, with two units, is in the central area. They all have similar characteristics.

There are contrasting buttons, in braille with high relief. No handrails. They lack sound signals indicating the stopping floor and the direction of movement.

The floor in front of the door is not marked with a tactile visual strip. There is a sound alarm signal and intercoms.

Stairs

Imperial staircase between the ground and first floors, with 3 sections of 13, 12 and 16 homogeneous steps, with a 18 cm riser and a 39 cm tread.

There are handrails on one side of the stairs, which do not extend to intermediate landings or to embarkation disembarkation areas.

The beginning and end of the staircase lack tactile visual signage. Steps with no nosing, no tactile visual signs and with a protective skirting board on either side. Non slip and homogeneous flooring.

Cloister staircase, between the ground and second floors, with three flights per floor of a maximum of fourteen homogeneous steps each, 17 cm riser and 36 cm tread.

There is a single handrail on one side of the stairway, at a height of 95 cm, not extended at intermediate landings or in embarkation-disembarkation areas.

The beginning and end of the staircase lack tactile visual signage.

Steps with no nosing, no tactile visual signs and with a protective skirting board on either side. Non slip and homogeneous flooring.

Exhibition

There are two exhibition rooms on the ground floor: the Permanent Chamber and the Capitular Room.

Dip-free, non slip and homogeneous flooring.

An obstacle-free route, without no unmarked projecting elements.

Non-homogenous lighting, with possible reflections on the display elements.

There are panels and signs with medium and large font and with chromatic contrast.

Cafeteria

Cafeteria next to the entrance to the monastery. Access via a 15 cm-high step without tactile visual signage; there is an alternative, slope-free entrance.

It has a terrace in the outdoor patio. It also has unadapted ladies and gents toilets with two cabins.

Mobility indoors

There is written information about each room in the building.

There are information panels with pictograms or short texts that mark spaces and itineraries.

There are no illuminated emergency warnings.

Church

There are information panels showing information about services and itineraries.

Toilet

There are toilet modules on the ground floor, the mezzanine and the first floor. There is a visual vacant/engaged system.

There is a lower clearance strip on the cabin door.

Lift

There are three lift modules: one in the south-west tower, another in the south-east tower and another, with 2 units, is in the central area. They all have similar characteristics.

There is a stop indicator and visual information in the cabin but not outside.

Exhibition

There is written information about the exhibition's items. There are computer devices to provide more information about the exhibition.

Cafeteria

Cafeteria located next to the entrance to the monastery.

It permits visual communication with the outside.

The toilet is not adapted. There is no lower clearance strip in the cabin. There is a visual vacant/engaged system.