



COMARCA MINERA
•HIDALGO•
GEOPARQUE MUNDIAL DE LA UNESCO
GEOPARQUE INFANTIL



Lúa and the ex-convents

Historical and
cultural heritage of
the UNESCO World
Geopark Comarca
Minera Hidalgo.

María Ruiz

Lúa is a cloth doll, who is getting to know the UNESCO World Geopark Comarca Minera Hidalgo, where she was born; actually, where it was sewn.



For she is now clear, that the Hidalgo Mining Region has many stone monuments.
Huge beautiful stones.



And now she is discovering that it also has very old buildings, called ex-convents, where you can see art and learn history.



The ex-convents were built between the years of 1540 and 1764, to teach the people who lived here, a new religion and different customs.



This is known as the spiritual conquest of México,
and it was done by catholic friars.



The friars came from Spain, and to get there they traveled in carriages, boats, and on foot. They believed they were doing good by teaching others their way of thinking.



In the year 1536 the first augustinian friars arrived in Atotonilco. One of them was called Juan de Sevilla, and he started the convent in 1542.



Fray Juan de Sevilla followed the teachings of Saint Augustine, who said that you could have faith in things you had thought well.



That is why the buildings of the Augustinians are so serious, and do not have many ornaments that distract from thinking.



Although the former augustinian convents invite you to think, they also have beautiful details.



The friars needed the convents to live and also to teach, so they asked the hñähñüs to build them. Hñähñü, means, he who speaks with his nose.



The hñähñüs painted what the friars asked of them, but in their own way. This is called syncretism, when two different ways of seeing the world become one.



Ex-convents are like museums, because they allow you to see the works of art that were made to teach the new tradition.



They are called ex-convents, because there are no longer friars living in them, and they are no longer used for what they were built.



The ex-convents, because they show us how people thought and lived before, are historical heritage, and because they contain sacred art, they are cultural heritage.



Later, Lúa went to the ex-convent of San Andrés in Epazoyucan. Epazoyucan means “place of much epazote”, in the nahuatl language.



Lúa took her little Jacinto, so that he could also enjoy the ride, and spent the entire trip explaining to him what they saw.



This is how they learned that the former convent of San Andrés began to be built in 1540.



Convento de San Andrés Epazoyucan

Ante la necesidad de atender a una gran población indígena se erigió este convento que se cree que comenzó a construirse por los frailes franciscanos y fue iniciado en 1540 por los agustinos.

El templo fue encomendado por los religiosos a San Andrés Apóstol. Este conjunto conventual se asienta en tres niveles distintos: terraplén, atrio e iglesia-convento. Actualmente se halla en una dependencia del convento el museo arqueológico Tomazquitla, a cargo del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, una colección conformada de distintas piezas realizadas en cerámica, obsidiana, lítica y fibras vegetales.

El convento contiene extraordinarias pinturas murales con escenas de la Última Cena, Ecce Homo y el Tránsito de la Virgen. En el interior del templo se encuentra un alfarje del siglo XVI cuyas vigas tienen 12.50 metros de luz. La frontal está labrada con representaciones de querubines y motivos florales.



At that time, mass was in a space called Open Chapels, and people were buried outside the churches.



They also placed images of saints in places they called Posas Chapels.



Due to the age of the ex-convent, has some damage, and even without a roof, it still has very beautiful details.



It was franciscan friars who began the construction of this former convent, but it was the augustinians who finished it.



The franciscans are friars who follow the teachings of Saint Francis of Assisi, who believed that one had to live just like Jesus the Christ.



At the time when the convents were built, people did not know how to read, nor were there books, so the convent itself was like a huge blackboard.



With the materials they had, they made beautiful paintings called murals, where they showed the history they wanted to teach.



In addition to how beautiful they are, it is impressive that even though they are more than 483 years old, many of them still retain their colors.



Since Lúa loves dogs, she was very happy to see that one had been painted on a mural; she thought that mural shows dogs are important.



And she was happier when discovered that in the ex-convent,
some had been adopted.



In the old sacristy, you can see murals with scenes from the life of Jesus, which are called the passion of Christ.



Works of art with religious themes are known as sacred art.



Regardless of whether you follow this religion or not, the interesting thing about ex-convents is that you can see impressive works of sacred art.



In this mural Lúa found someone who could have been her friend.



And this other one caught her attention, because it seemed like a combination between an animal and an angel.



Sadly, on some walls there is only a shadow of the spectacular painting that must have been there one day.



Since the friars needed everything they had to teach, even the very form of the convent served them for that.



The original people who built this ex-convent were mainly mexica
and painted local plants.



The former convents have spaces with their own names, this is the cloister, which is a garden or patio, surrounded by columns.



In addition to the murals painted on its walls, in this ex-convent, they also have the altarpiece room, which is a place where 3 paintings are kept and displayed.



These paintings are known as the Epazoyucan tables, and they also deal with the life of Jesus Christ.



As ex-convents were made for prayer, there are many corners where you can find your own inner silence.



In this ex-convent there is a space dedicated to the Tomazquitla museum, where pieces from the period before the arrival of the spanish friars are exhibited.



The ex-convents turned out to be a wonderful experience, in which Lúa also saw the geological material with which they were built; so she recommends that you visit them, you will have many surprises.

