

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF COSTA RICA



We welcome you to the National Museum of Costa Rica, an institution that has been committed to the study and dissemination of the country's history, archeology and natural history since 1887. The building that houses the museum is the former Bellavista Military Barracks, where the national army was abolished in 1948, declared a Historic Architectural Heritage Site of the country.

GARDENS

The Museum's gardens reflect the diversity of ecosystems in the Central Valley. During your visit you can walk through a butterfly garden and see several PRE-COLUMBIAN stone spheres in different green areas.



HISTORY OF COSTA RICA (XVI-XXI centuries)

Permanent exhibition. It shows the main economic, political, social and cultural facts of Costa Rica, from the time of Spanish contact and conquest of the national territory to the present day.



PRE-COLUMBIAN HISTORY *This room is temporarily closed for remodeling.* Currently, it is being used to host temporary exhibits.

FROM BARRACKS TO MUSEUM

This space is one of the best-preserved areas of the then Bellavista Barracks. The cells, the ammunition warehouse, the kitchen, the showers and the toilets were located here during its operation as a military barracks. A display of photographs and objects will tell you about its transformation into a museum.

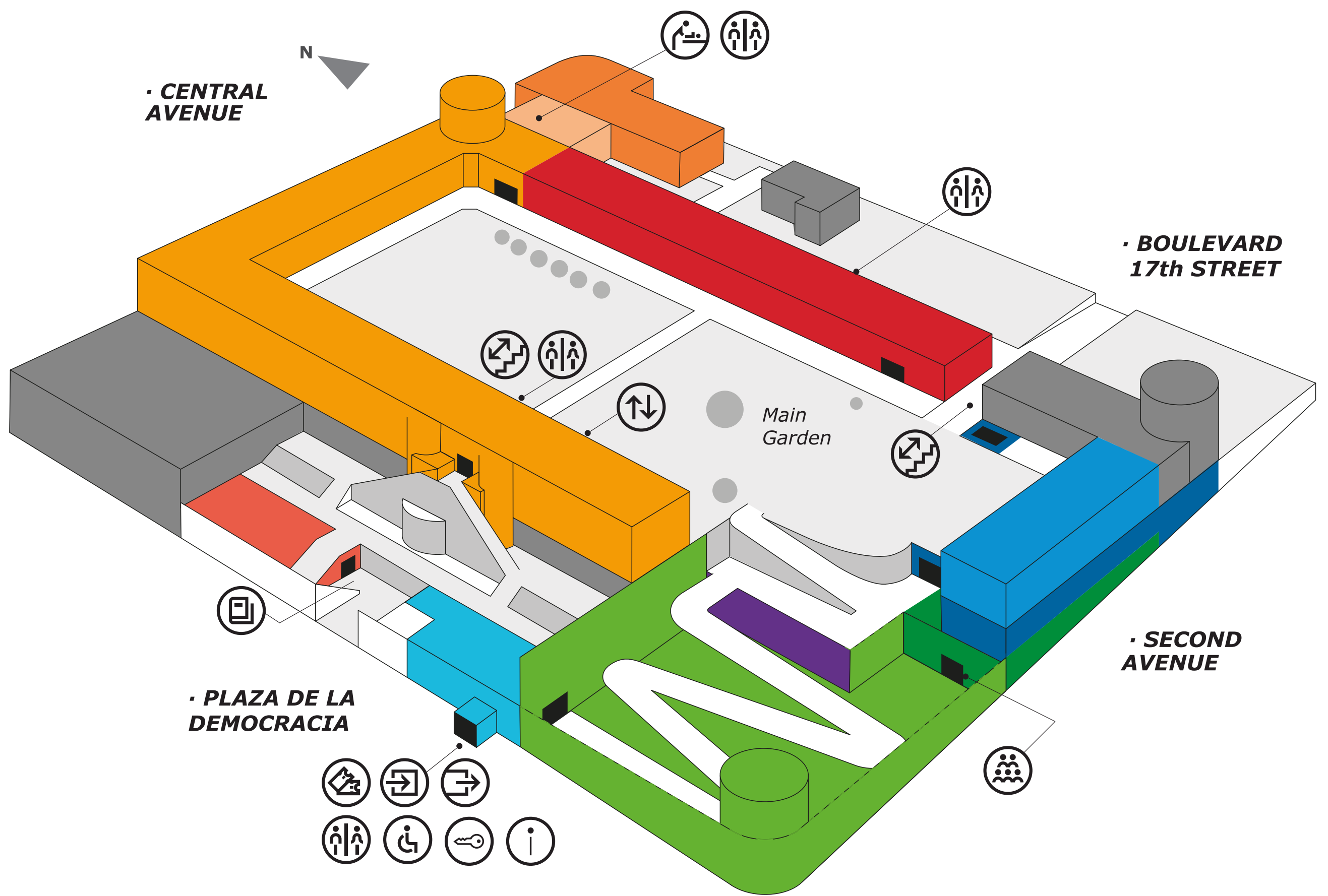


TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

The National Museum has several areas for temporary exhibitions of an artistic, documentary and historical nature, including the following:

- **Commanders' Houses:** These houses, built between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, were the residence of the first and second commanders of the Bellavista Barracks.
- **South Room:** This space housed the sleeping quarters of the sergeants of the Bellavista Barracks
- **Stone Memories:** Temporary exhibition of archeology. Monumentality in Costa Rica`s pre-Columbian sculptures.





DISTRIBUTION

- | | |
|--|--|
| ● Ticket office | ● Library |
| ● Butterfly Garden | ● Wall where the symbolic blow of the abolition of the army was struck |
| ● From Barracks to Museum | ● Auditorium |
| ● Temporary Exhibit Hall | ● Offices |
| ● Stone Memories | ● Baby changing station and restrooms |
| ● Commanders' Houses | |
| ● Costa Rican History Room (XVI-XXI centuries) | |


SIMBOLOGÍA


- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| ⊞ Entry | ⊞ Auditorium |
| ⊞ Exit | ⊞ Restrooms |
| ⊞ Ticket Office | ⊞ Baby changing station |
| ⊞ Cloakroom | ⊞ Information |
| ⊞ Elevator | ⊞ Library |
| ⊞ Stairs | |


HOUSE RULES


- ⊞ No smoking.
- ⊞ No weapons or dangerous objects allowed.
- ⊞ No flash photography.
- ⊞ No food or drinks allowed in the galleries.
- ⊞ No pets allowed.


OUR SERVICES

 **Wifi:** The building has free Internet access from the *visitors'* network.

 **Accessibility:** The building has ramps and an elevator that provides access to one of the restroom areas. In addition, a wheelchair can be

 **Audio guides:** The exhibits *The History of Costa Rica* (permanent) and *From Barracks to Museum* (temporary) offer audio guides in Spanish and English. Throughout the galleries, you will find images with QR codes labeled by language. Simply scan them with your mobile device to download and listen to short audio clips that enhance your visit.

 **Guided tours:** Visits for organized groups, students, and senior adults by prior appointment. visitas@museocostarica.go.cr

 **Library:** Information unit specialized in History, Anthropology and Natural History, with an emphasis on the Museum's research areas. Hours: *Monday to Friday, from 7 am to 12 pm and from 1 pm to 3 pm. *Virtual assistance on Mondays. <https://biblioteca.museocostarica.go.cr>

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sundays 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Address / Location

Between Central and Second Avenue, Plaza de la Democracia, San José, Costa Rica.

Telephone: +506 2211-5700

E-mail: informacion@museocostarica.go.cr



WEB SITES

www.museocostarica.go.cr

Activities, collections and news.

www.diquis.go.cr

Chieftdom sites with stone spheres.

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If you wish, you may return this pamphlet at the ticket office