



# 哥倫比亞地下鹽礦大教堂 獨一無二 神秘壯觀

2022-12-19 泉深

【美南新聞泉深】哥倫比亞首都波哥大，是一個平凡而又偉大的大都市，周圍有無數的景點供遊客觀賞。我們驅車一小時遠離大都市，到達一個小鎮錫帕基拉(Zipaquirá)，參觀聞名世界的地下鹽礦大教堂(Salt Cathedral)，這是一座地下天主教教堂，一座讓人為之震撼而驚訝的神聖之地。

鹽礦大教堂的門口有一座早期鹽礦開拓者的雕像，該男子肌肉發達，威武雄壯，雙手握着鐵鍬用力挖掘岩石，開採鹽礦，是鹽礦大教堂標誌性建築物，也是遊客來訪的留影之地。

進入這個鹽礦大教堂與其它教堂不一樣，需要購買門票。基本入場門票 6 萬哥倫比亞元，約 15 美元，在哥倫比亞算比較貴的門票了，因哥倫比亞的物價相當便宜，在高級的餐廳吃一餐高級德州牛排或紐約牛排，也只要 20 多美元，但在美國需要 60 美元。

我們進門前，在門口領取中文講解器，工作人員告訴我們，門票已經包含租

講解器的費用，要留下身份證掃描存檔，出來後歸還，不收任何費用。工作人員說輸入每個站點的編號，講解器對每個站點進行詳細的中文講解。

地下鹽礦教堂的建立，是因為這裡本來是一座鹽礦，當地人把鹽礦挖光後，便為了向他們的神靈羅莎女王祈禱，而別出心裁的建造了這個大教堂。

這座巧奪天工的地下大教堂建于 1952 年至 1954 年間，入口處設在原鹽山採鹽坑道口的山洞內，洞口周圍長滿高大的桉樹林，一片鬱鬱蔥蔥。

從入口到地下教堂，需經過 500 米左右的寬大坑



道。從長長的坑道往下行走，是一個完全不一樣的小教堂，小教堂的精緻讓每個遊客都感慨不已。順着山洞和岩壁的走向造的立體的走向造的小教堂，後面都是深不可測的山洞深處。因為礦洞一側平坦一側是洞，所以兩邊都有完全不一樣的小教堂的景色。小教堂里，有聲控，

固定。教堂正中有一祭台，是由一塊 18 噸重的鹽岩建成，上有金色十字架。台下教堂的正廳中擺着一排排座椅，以供祈禱者使用。教堂兩側還有許多側廳，廳內陳列着各種聖像雕塑，有神女、神牛等等。教堂內，特別是祭台上，懸掛了各種各樣的彩色電燈泡，祭台、甬道和一幅幅聖像，在五彩繽紛的燈光照耀下閃閃發光，而大教堂那空闊的穹頂和四周猙獰的岩壁卻仍然留在一派幽暗之中。這明暗對比，使整個教堂顯得格外深邃，無限神秘，使人不由得肅然起敬。

除了參觀地下鹽礦教堂外，這裡的工藝紀念品同樣不容錯過，非常的精緻小巧，讓人喜歡。

從鹽礦出來後，雖換了新鮮空氣，但仍然對洞內的精彩回味了很久，人類的智慧和創作能力實在驚奇！

這座地下鹽礦大教堂已成為哥倫比亞重要的旅遊熱點區之一，每天遊客排着長隊進入地下鹽礦大教堂。

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但當整個小教堂都安靜下來的時候，燈光褪去，唯有十字架閃爍着色彩。

大教堂位於 137 米深的地下，高約 23 米，長 90 米，寬 70 米，可容納 8000 人，完全用黑色鹽岩建造，整個教堂由 15 根巨大的正方形柱子支撐，柱子上部用大鋼索



## The Zipaquirá Cathedral, a mine of light and salt

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First there was the light of day, then darkness. Little by little, a multicolored phosphorescent light appeared and illuminated the walls of the Zipaquirá's Salt Cathedral, a monumental architectural masterpiece built by the miners' own hands and which became a beautiful temple.

Before entering the cathedral, the first thing you see is the plaza of flags where you will find the sculpture of the Virgen de Guasá (meaning salt and water). She is the miners' patron saint and has a miner at her feet. In the Ceremonial Plaza you will see the Cardinal Cross, the mining monument, the bell tower and the fountains.

**The mine's lighting dazzles tourists.**

This wonderful salt mine is in the town of Zipaquirá, capital of the department of Cundinamarca, only 48 kilometers from Bogotá. It is buried deep in the hill of Zipa (the name of the most important indigenous chief), at 2,652 meters above sea level with an average temperature of 14C.

**First Wonder of Colombia**

This underground attraction has received more than 13 million visitors from all around the world. Ten thousand foreign tourists and 40 thousand Colombian tourists go there every month. Its structure, a mix of precise engineering and interesting history, led it to be declared the First Wonder of

Colombia on February 4, 2007.

In 1995, the new site of the Salt Cathedral was inaugurated, as the first mine was unstable. This new construction is 180 meters underground. To build it, 250 thousand tons of rock salt had to be extracted. This mine is the largest deposit of rock salt in the world.

When entering the Cathedral you can smell the minerals and the darkness takes hold of everything. Shortly after, a set of lights uncovers the carved rock and the tunnels that house the Stations of the Cross. At the end are three naves representing Jesus' birth and baptism, his life and death and, finally, his resurrection. Each one has an altar.

Every nave has beautiful sculptures carved by miners and sculptors. Among them is La Piedad which sharply stands out. Her face has strong indigenous features, in honor of the Muisca who were the first to take advantage of and use salt. There is also the Guardian Angel carved in 1950 by Italian sculptor Ludovico Consorte and an enormous cross in the entry hall.

**The salt mine was declared Colombia's First Wonder in 2007.**

Another one of the main attractions is the mirrors of water, previously full of brine water (where the salt was saturated). The surroundings are illuminated by the reflection of the light on the water creating a fascinating optical effect of swimming in an underground cavern. The mine has bilingual guides

for foreign tourists.

**History of Zipaquirá's Salt Mine**

The use of this mine has a history going back to pre-Columbian times and continuing in colonial and republican eras to the present day. The ancient Muisca indigenous people were the first to benefit who from this enormous salt deposit, which turned them into one of the most prosperous pre-Hispanic societies of their time.

This salt deposit in the middle of the eastern Andean mountain range was formed 70 million years ago when an inland sea covered the region. As the Eastern Mountains were forming, the sea dried out and left an enormous deposit of salt buried below the earth and mud. It solidified until it became rocks of salt.

**The salt deposits were exploited by the Muisca indigenous people prior to colonial times.**

The Spanish declared the site the "City of Whites" by vice regal decree. Later, the salt was used to finance the campaigns of the liberators Naríño and Bolívar who brought independence to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela 200 years ago. Decades later, writer and Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez started his life as a writer when he lived in Zipaquirá.

The city preserves many of the buildings from colonial times and the main plaza (the great plaza or plaza of the people) is protected by the Town Hall. The architecture is notable for its balconies,

decorative colonial windows and thick walls. The exclusive El Libertador Inn was built in 1948 in a neo-colonial style with Moorish influences.

**Attractions and features inside the mine**

The tour inside the Zipaquirá Salt Cathedral lasts 60 minutes. Weddings are also held in the cathedral.

The miner's route is a guided tour during which tourists can experience life as a miner, with staff and security teams. It lasts 30 minutes.

The Brine Museum, in the old structures where salt was processed. Tour lasts 20 minutes.

3-D video taking a trip through the different geological stages to show tourists how salt developed. 15 minutes. "Guasa, treasure of a people". Food hall with capacity for 300 people.

Auditorium and convention center with capacity for between 260 to 800 people. Perfect for seminars, launches, events, corporate meetings, etc.

The Coffee Chamber has ambient music and serves delicious Colombian coffee.

Rock climbing wall: the highest in Colombia.

Opening hours and rates

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Sunday Mass at 1:00 pm.

Website:www.catedraldesal.gov.co/

It is forbidden to take in pets or food, or to smoke or consume alcohol inside.

