

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Ruins of St. Paul's Cathedral



The Ruins of St. Paul's Cathedral is the most important landmark of Macao featuring a grand stairway and a magnificently imposing structure richly adorned by elaborated sculptures and exquisite motifs. The intricacy of its history is a fascinating fact that contributes to its fame. It was a church attached to St. Paul's College, the first Western university in the Far East, which had suffered three disastrous fires. All its internal structures were burnt down leaving nothing but its facade that seemed to have the blessings of God for its survival.

Holy House of Mercy

Founded in 1569 by D. Belchior Carneiro, first Bishop of Macao, the Holy House of Mercy is a charitable organization devoted to provision of relief to the impoverished. It used to run a hospital, founding homes, a leprosarium, elderly homes and orphanages.



The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) Head Office



Located at Senado Square, currently, the building serves as the headquarters of the Municipal Affairs Bureau. At first, it was the office of the Municipal Council for administration of Macao. In addition to the general municipal

services, it also included a museum, post office, medical and health services, fire services, court and prison. Over time, they were moved out and independently operated.

After the official establishment of the Municipal Affairs Bureau on 1 January, 2019, the history-laden building with great cultural significance is renamed the IAM Building.

Included in the Historic Centre of Macao, the long-standing IAM Building (the then IACM Building) was inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO in 2005.

St. Dominic's Church

Located at Largo de São Domingos, the Church is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. It was constructed in haste by the Dominicans in 1587 simply with wooden planks and an erected cross as a small chapel for they were tight on funding and



constrained by time. When more ample funding became available, quality timber were imported to turn it into a decent church. By 1828, Spanish priests proficient in architecture helped out in the church's reconstruction to shape its present look.

A-Má Temple

Located at the southwest tip of Macao Peninsula, it is the oldest amongst the three historical temples of Macao. The four main buildings of A-Ma Temple are the Prayer Hall, the Hall of Benevolence, Hall of Kun lam (Goddess of Mercy) and Zhengjiao Chanlin (a Buddhist pavilion).



Allegedly, the temple was constructed by a merchant of Fujian who was on a boat journey to Macao. A deadly rainstorm struck on the way and Mazu made her power felt to save everyone in the boat. In gratitude to the goddess for saving his life, the merchant built this temple to venerate her presence. He also made a carving of a boat at sea on a huge rock in front of the hall to mark the construction. The flag of the boat bears the Chinese characters,“利涉

大川”, to imply smooth sailing.