

# Colonial Panama

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**Spain colonized Panama in 1520. For most of the colonial period Panama was important as a transit point for goods from Spain to Peru. The most important settlements were located on the Pacific and Caribbean coast of the Isthmus.**

**On the Pacific Coast was Panama City. The city occupied two sites during the colonial period. The ruins of the first site of the city, destroyed by the pirate Morgan in the 1680s, are still preserved as a national historic site.**



# Cathedral on Main Square





# Ruins in Panama Viejo

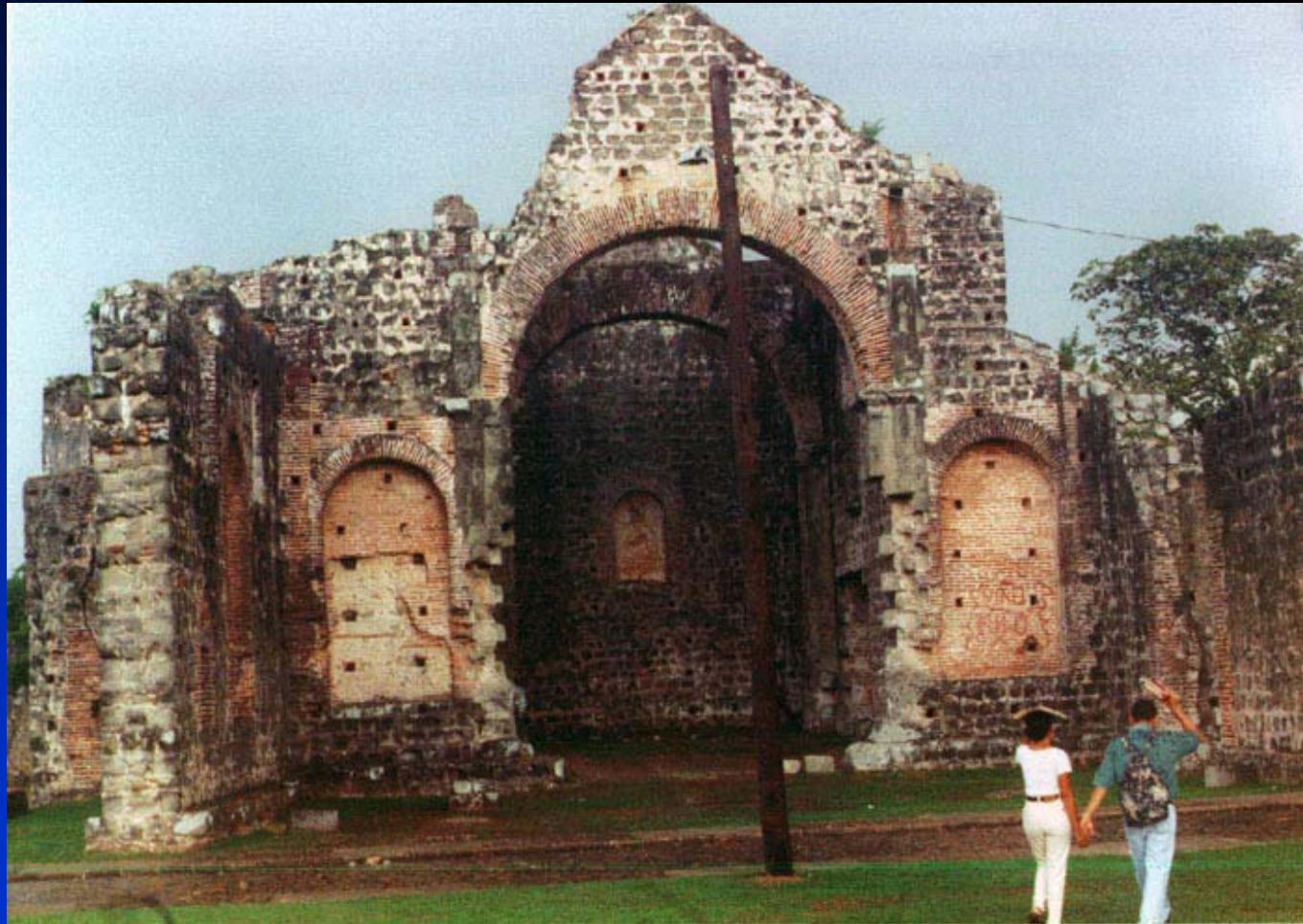


# Ruins in Panama Vlejo





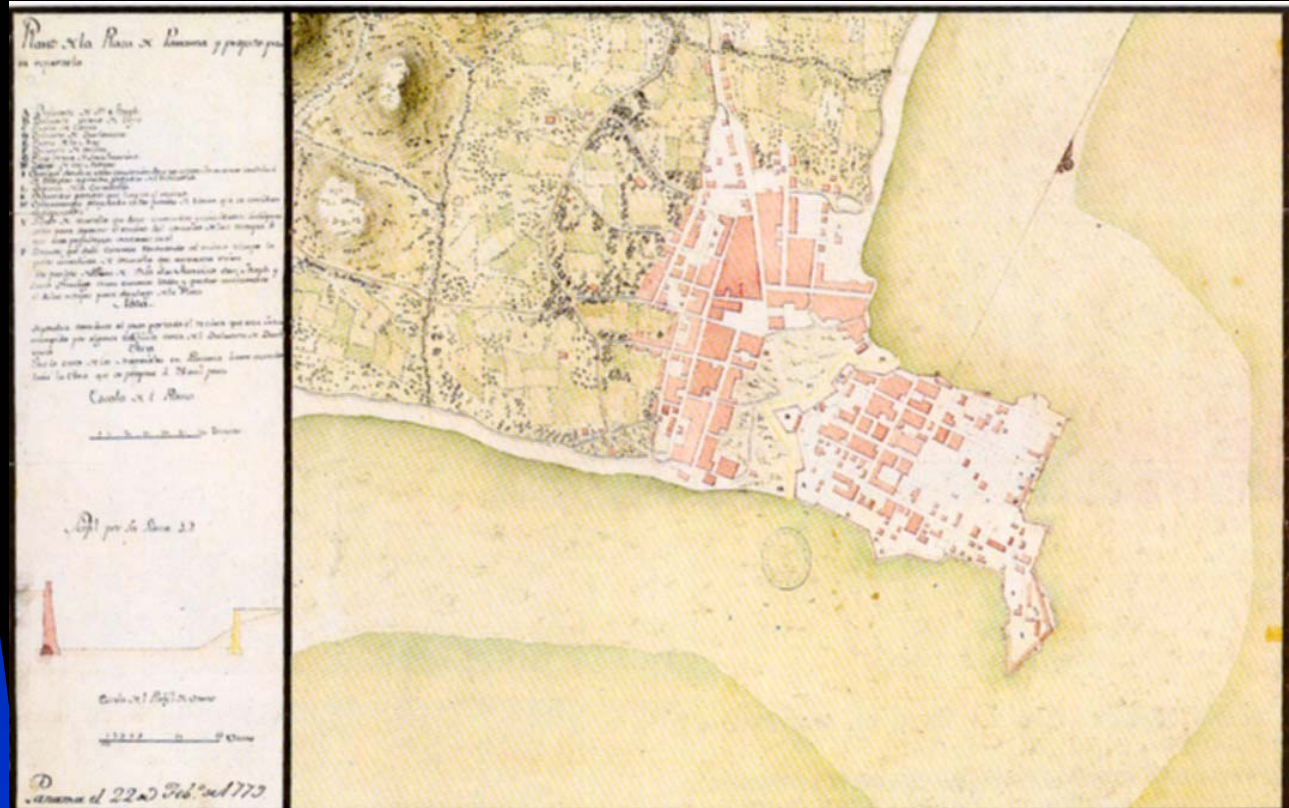
# Ruins of one of the Monasteries in Panama Viejo





**Following the destruction of the first site, the Spaniards relocated the city several miles away. The modern Panama City has grown around the Casco Viejo, but colonial structures still survive.**

# 1779 map of the new Panama City



# Defensive Wall that Once Surrounded the Colonial City



# Colonial Church: La Merced





# Cathedral



# Ruins of Dominican Monastery



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**Ruins of Dominican Monastery.  
The arch in the church ruins  
convinced early canal builders that  
Panama did not suffer strong  
earthquakes, and was thus a  
suitable location for a canal.**



# Ruins of Dominican Monastery

