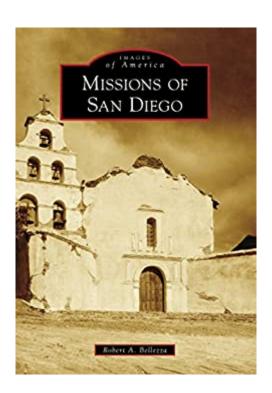


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Missions Of San Diego (Images Of America)





Synopsis

Californiaà ¿Â s first settlement began on a trail called El Camino Real, or à ¿Â The Royal Road,à ¿Â that was traveled by missionary pathfinders, soldiers, and conquistadors on a dramatic journey into a mysterious land. Monterey was discovered in 1603, leading to the quest. Explorers Don Gaspar de Portolà ¿Â and Juan Bautista de Anza, along with ambitious Franciscan missionaries, founded 21 monumental Spanish missions and several asistencias and chapels for native neophytes, travelers, and visitors to Alta California. Following the initial landing in 1769 at San Diegoà ¿Â s seaport, Fr. Junà ¿Â pero Serra founded Mission San Diego de Alcalà ¿Â , Californiaà ¿Â s first landmark, at the original presidio site. The mission stands today exactly where it was moved, rebuilt, and completed in 1813. The native populations of California witnessed years of change from a sleepy province to the status of US statehood. The Spanish missions forged the powerful underpinnings of the Golden Stateà ¿Â s earliest settlements 80 years prior to the worldà ¿Â s largest migration to California, the 1849 Gold Rush.

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