

Calle Mayor, 48. Alcalá de Henares - Madrid 28801

Train: Renfe Lines C2, C7 y C8

Miguel de Cervantes

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Henares (Madrid) in 1547. He was baptised at the now lost Church of Santa María la Mayor on 9 October that same year, as confirmed by his baptism certificate. Little is known about Cervantes's childhood and adolescence. The son of Rodrigo de Cervantes,

Miguel de Cervantes was born in Alcalá de

an apothecary surgeon, and Leonor de Cortinas, he travelled throughout his life around Spain and sought his fortune in Rome, where he worked as a manservant to Cardinal Acquaviva. In 1571, together with his brother Rodrigo, he took part in the Battle of Lepanto and was seriously wounded in the chest and arm. While returning to Spain by sea (1575), he was captured by pirates and taken to a prison in

Algiers, where he remained for five long years. Thanks to the ransom paid by the Trinitarians monks, Cervantes was able to return to Spain. After these adventurous years, he published his first great novel, La Galatea (1585). In his early

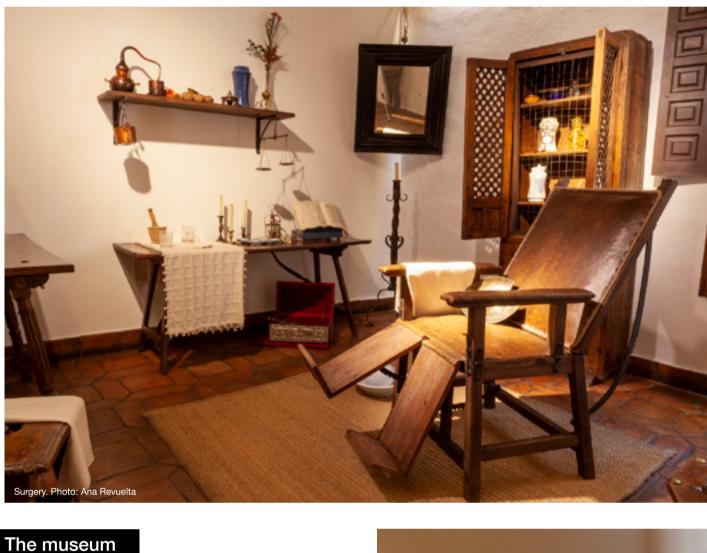
years as a literary author, he showed a keen interest in the dramatic genre and indeed some of his plays were performed on the stages of Madrid.

ter, Isabel de Saavedra, was conceived. However, despite the love they professed for each other, Cervantes ended up marrying Catalina de Palacios Salazar, who was from Esquivias. Success came towards the end of Cervantes's

At the age of 37 he met the great love of his life,

Ana Franca de Rojas, with whom his only daugh-

life, in 1605, with the publication in Madrid of the first part of his immortal work The ingenious gentleman don Quixote of la Mancha. At the time he was living in Valladolid, but he soon moved to Madrid (1606), to the district now known as the Barrio de las Letras or Literary Quarter. His neighbours were among the great literary figures of the Spanish Golden Age, such as Lope de Vega, Francisco de Quevedo and Luis de Góngora. Some of Cervantes's finest literary works flowed from his pen while he lived in this quarter: Exemplary novels (1613), Journey to Parnassus (1614) and the second part of don Quixote (1615). He had already fallen ill by the time he completed The trials of Persiles and Sigismunda, his final work, which was published posthumously in 1617. He passed away on 22 April 1616 and was buried the following day at the Convent of the Trinitarias.



debated and questioned. It was not until 1948 that Luis Astrana Marín, author of The heroic and exemplary life of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra,

First opened to the public in 1956 as a house museum, the building has undergone numerous renovations and transformations, always preserving the original parts. In this house, the everyday life of a wealthy Spanish family in the 16th and 17th centuries is recreated in de-

tail. The property is situated in the historic city

proclaimed this very building as such.

Miguel de Cervantes's birthplace has long been

of Alcalá de Henares, next to the Hospital de Antezana, where the writer's father, Rodrigo de Cervantes, may have worked. **Ground floor** The first space that visitors enter is the central courtyard, which features the original stone well

that supplied the house with water for everyday

use. The lower gallery is supported by eight col-

umns with Corinthian capitals originating from

the Episcopal Palace in Alcalá de Henares, while

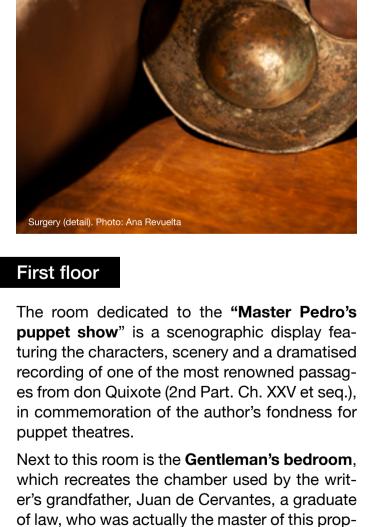
the upper gallery has wooden posts and a bal-

In the hall or drawing room, visitors can admire

the armchairs or "friar's chairs" arranged around

ustrade of the same material.

a brazier. The draped fabrics and embossed leather covering the walls helped to keep in the warmth provided by the heater.

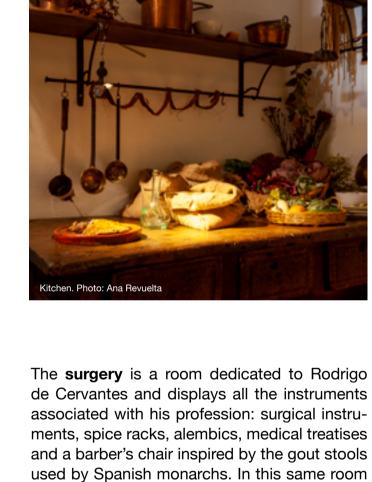


erty. An interesting collection of desks, braziers and trunks, evoking his fondness for travel, and

the portrait of a mature Miguel de Cervantes are

The women and children slept in different rooms

from the men, in ladies, duennas (widows who



wall is one of the house's original elements and confirms the theory of its existence in the mid-16th century. Adjacent to this room is the **dining room**, which is decorated with a panel of ornamental tiles like the ones found at the Escorial Monastery and features a selection of the most widely used crockery of the period: ceramics from Talavera and Puente del Arzobispo (Toledo), lustreware from Manises (Valencia) and pieces from Villafeliche (Zaragoza).

A doorway in the dining room leads to a small kitchen with a fireplace, where the household would gather. This is decorated with utensils and arrangements of fruit and vegetables, spices typ-

is a mural decorated with fresco paintings. This

ically found in Mediterranean and Islamic dishes, and large clay jars used to store water from the well and oil for cooking and lighting the rooms. The tour of the ground floor ends with a visit to the ladies' drawing room where the women would sit on cushions a la morisca, or Moorish style, to read, play music, do needlework, pray or talk. Rugs, mats and braziers are other typical features of this type of room.

This is an eminently female realm, divided into three separate spaces: the private bathing and dressing room, the women and children's chamber, and the estrado del cariño or private parlour, with the cradle evoking Cervantes' birth.

The museum has two rooms designed to display different temporary exhibitions focused on Cervantine themes. Likewise, they are also used to exhibit part of its bibliographic collection, made up of more than 200 editions of Cervantes's Works. Among the museum's bibliographic collections, it is worth mentioning the copy of don Quixote from 1605 (one of the few rare copies of this illegal printing), the first English translation of the two parts of don Quixote (1620), and the French edition of La Galatea (1611).



OPENING HOURS

GROUPS

displayed.

Tuesday to Friday: from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (last access at 5.30 p.m.)

Saturday, Sunday and local holidays: from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (last access at 6.30 p.m.) Closed on Mondays, 1 and 6 January, 1 May, 24,

25 and 31 December. Opening hours may change due to special activities taking place.

Group visits (9-20 people) please check the information

on our website www.museocasanataldecervantes.org

INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS

museocasanataldecervantes@madrid.org www.museocasanataldecervantes.org T.: 918 89 96 54

ces (no flash or tripods) for personal use only.

HOW TO GET THE MUSEUM

Train: Renfe lines C-2, C-7 y C8

Rojas. Puerta de Madrid entrance).

Photographs and video are allowed with mobile devi-

Bus: line 223 (departs from the station on Avda. de América)

Parking: Pico del Obispo (Calle Cardenal Sandoval y

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