

Fortifications Of Portobelo

Location: Panama

The Fortifications of Portobelo are a series of fortifications and military buildings located on the Caribbean coast of Panama. The fortifications were built by the Spanish Empire between the 16th and 18th centuries to protect the town and its valuable trade route to Spain from attacks by pirates and foreign powers. The town of Portobelo was a major port for the Spanish treasure fleet, which transported gold, silver, and other valuable goods from the Spanish colonies in the Americas to Spain. The first fortifications were built in 1597, but the most significant additions were made in the 17th century, including the Fort San Fernando and the Fort San Jerónimo. In 1739, the English pirate Captain Edward Vernon attacked Portobelo with a fleet of six ships and a force of 3,600 men, resulting in the destruction of much of the town and the fortifications. However, the Spanish rebuilt the fortifications and improved their defenses in the following years, adding new batteries and walls. During the 18th century, the fortifications were further improved with the addition of the Castle of Santiago de la Gloria, which was built to protect the entrance of the bay. The fortifications were

continuously used and maintained until the 19th century, when they were abandoned due to the decline of Portobelo's importance as a trade port. Today, the Fortifications of Portobelo are recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and are an important historical landmark in Panama. The ruins of the fortifications and other military buildings, including barracks and gunpowder stores, are open to visitors and offer a glimpse into the military history of the region.

