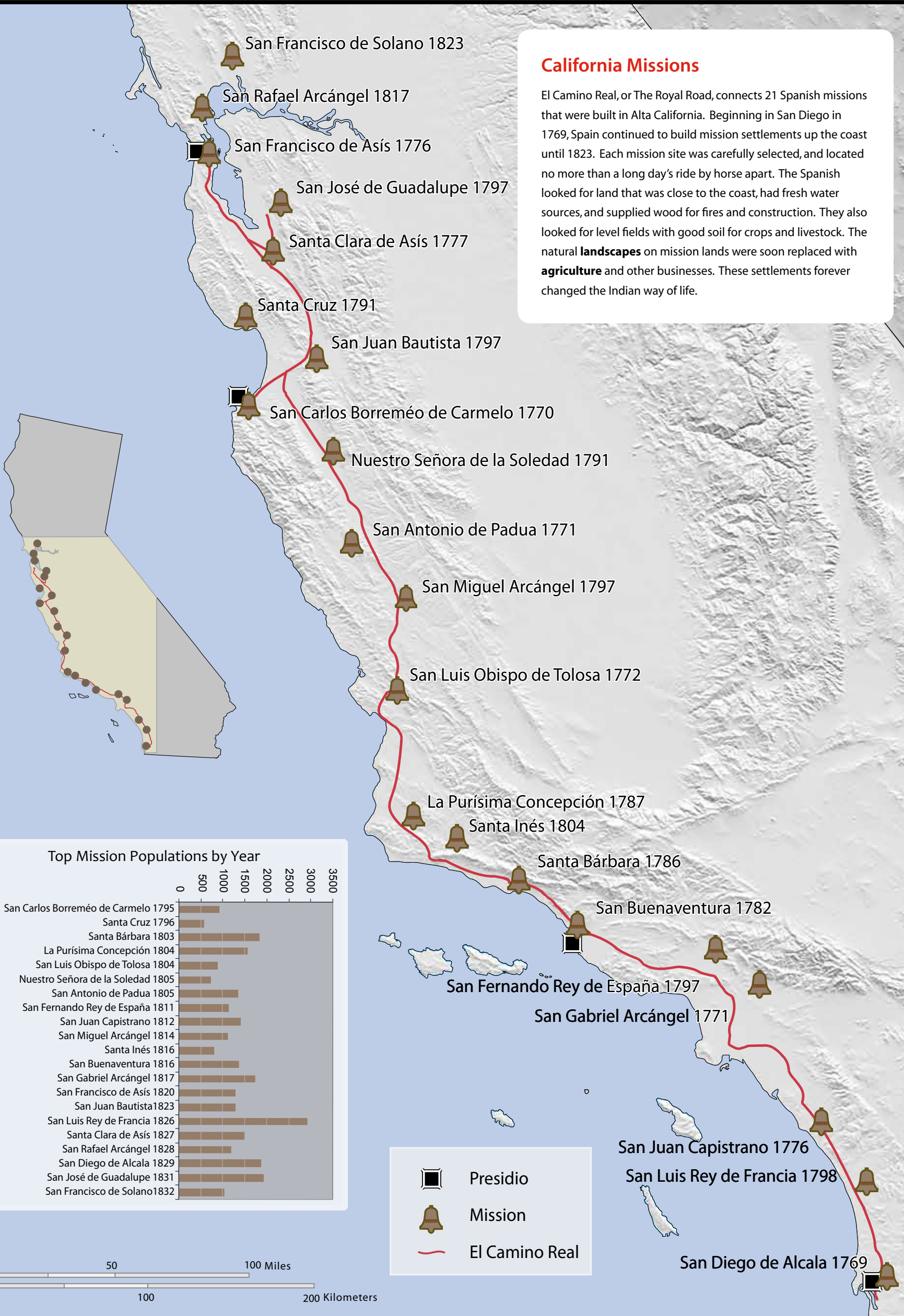
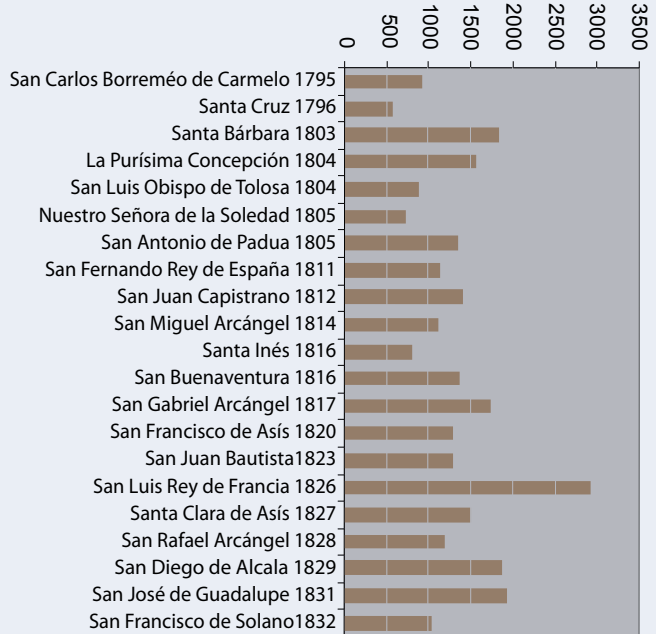





## California Missions

El Camino Real, or The Royal Road, connects 21 Spanish missions that were built in Alta California. Beginning in San Diego in 1769, Spain continued to build mission settlements up the coast until 1823. Each mission site was carefully selected, and located no more than a long day's ride by horse apart. The Spanish looked for land that was close to the coast, had fresh water sources, and supplied wood for fires and construction. They also looked for level fields with good soil for crops and livestock. The natural **landscapes** on mission lands were soon replaced with **agriculture** and other businesses. These settlements forever changed the Indian way of life.



Top Mission Populations by Year



-  Presidio
-  Mission
-  El Camino Real

