

Guadalajara Municipality

Jalisco · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Guadalajara is the capital of Jalisco and one of Mexico's largest cities. It is the home of mariachi music, tequila, charrería (Mexican rodeo) and a long tradition of art. The old centre has plazas, a large cathedral and murals by José Clemente Orozco.

It suits a stay of two to four nights, with day trips to the town of Tequila and Lake Chapala. The city has a young arts and food scene and a mild climate for most of the year.

When to visit

October to May is dry and pleasant. Summer is warmer, with afternoon storms.

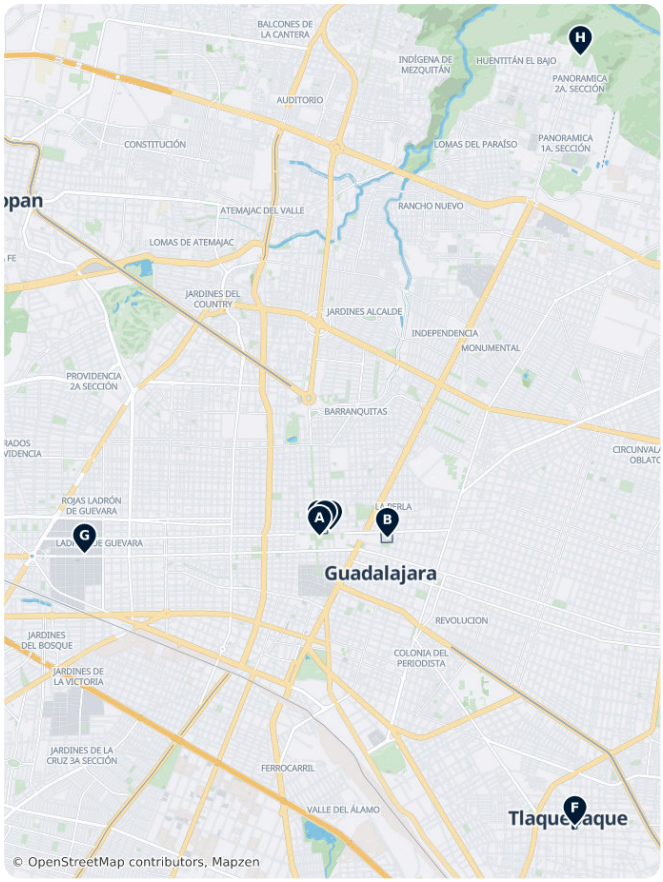
The International Book Fair in late November and early December is one of the world's largest book fairs, and rooms book up. The Mariachi and Charrería festival in late August and early September fills the plazas with music.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 28°	10° / 5°	23 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for sightseeing	28° / 31°	11° / 6°	24 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
March	Great Great for sightseeing	30° / 33° Feels like 27°	13° / 9°	28 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
April	Great Great for sightseeing	33° / 36°	15° / 12°	27 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme)
May	Fair Fair for sightseeing	34° / 37°	18° / 15°	26 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme) · Up to 9 days above 35°
June	Poor Poor for sightseeing	31° / 37°	18° / 16°	21 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
July	Poor Poor for sightseeing	27° / 31°	17° / 15°	28 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	26° / 29°	17° / 15°	28 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Fair Fair for sightseeing	26° / 29°	16° / 13°	22 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
October	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 30°	15° / 10°	Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
November	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 29°	12° / 7°	24 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 28°	10° / 6°	24 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: January, February, March, April, October, November, December

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Catedral de la Asunción de María Santísima has two tall towers and is the symbol of the city. It stands on the old main square.
- B Instituto Cultural Cabañas is a World Heritage building with large murals by Orozco in its chapel, including the dome.
- C Regional Museum of Guadalajara covers art and history of the region in a colonial building.
- D Rotonda de Los Ilustres Jalisciences is a monument garden for famous people from Jalisco.
- E Congreso del Estado Libre y Soberano de Jalisco is a state building with murals on its stairway.
- F Parián is the market courtyard in Tlaquepaque, a pottery and craft district southeast of the centre.
- G Los Arcos de Guadalajara (Mirador) is a stone arch and viewpoint on the west side of the city.
- H Parque Mirador Independencia is a park on the edge of a deep canyon, with views.

Guadalajara Municipality – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

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What to experience

- Listen to mariachi music at the Plaza de los Mariachis in the evening.
- Take the tequila train or a tour to a distillery in the countryside.
- Join the Sunday street closure and cycle along the main avenues.
- Watch a charreada, a Mexican rodeo show, at a local arena.
- Try a cooking class that focuses on Jalisco dishes.

Day trips

- Tlaquepaque and Tonalá: about 20 to 30 minutes by car. Craft towns with pottery, glass and shops.
- A Tequila: about 1 hour by car or tourist train. The town that gave tequila its name, with distilleries and blue agave fields.
- B Lake Chapala and C Ajijic: about 1 hour by car. Mexico's largest lake and a small town with many foreign residents.
- D Mazamitla: about 2 hours by car. A mountain town with wooden cabins and cool air.



Where to explore

- Tequila for the home of tequila.
- Lake Chapala for lakeside villages.
- Puerto Vallarta for the Pacific coast, about 5 to 6 hours away by road.

Getting there

- **By air**: Guadalajara airport (GDL) is about 20 km south of the centre. It has many flights from Mexico City, other Mexican cities, the US and some other countries. A taxi takes about 30 to 40 minutes.
- **By bus**: The main bus station is southeast of the centre. Coaches go to Mexico City (about 7 hours), Puerto Vallarta, Guanajuato and many other cities.

Getting around

- **Light rail and buses**: A light rail and a rapid bus network serve the centre and the main avenues. Buy a rechargeable card at the stations.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are common and cheap. Agree the fare first.
- **On foot**: The historic centre has pedestrian streets and plazas.
- **Cycling**: On Sundays, main avenues close to cars so that people can cycle and walk.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The historic centre is walkable. The city is large, so use transit or taxis for other districts.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Streets close to cars on Sundays. At other times traffic is heavy.

Food & drink

Guadalajara is famous for birria (a stew of goat or beef), tortas ahogadas (sandwiches drowned in spicy sauce), and tequila. Pozole and carne en su jugo are also local favourites.

Eat at the big covered markets near the centre, where stalls serve birria and fresh juices. Several streets around Avenida Chapultepec and the Lafayette district have modern restaurants and bars.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Cochinita Pibil
Slow-roasted, citrus- and achiote-marinated pork, a Yucatán specialty traditionally cooked in an underground pit.

DINNER

Mole
A complex sauce, often built from chiles, spices, and sometimes chocolate; mole poblano and Oaxaca's several moles are the best known versions.

Chiles en Nogada
A Puebla dish of stuffed poblano chiles topped with a walnut cream sauce and pomegranate seeds, in the colors of the Mexican flag.

Pozole
A hominy stew with pork or chicken, topped with shredded cabbage, radish, and chile, traditionally eaten on special occasions.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Tacos
Corn or flour tortillas filled with meat, fish, or vegetables, with endless regional and stall-to-stall variation.

Tamales
Corn dough filled with meat, cheese, or vegetables, wrapped in a corn husk or banana leaf and steamed.

Elote/Esquites · Elote / Esquites
Grilled or boiled corn on the cob (elote) or served off the cob in a cup (esquites), topped with mayonnaise, cheese, chile, and lime.

DRINKS

Mezcal
A smoky agave spirit from Oaxaca and several other states, distinct from tequila, traditionally sipped neat.

Tequila
An agave spirit from the region around the town of Tequila in Jalisco, Mexico's best-known export spirit.

Horchata
A sweet, cinnamon-spiced rice-based drink, popular as a non-alcoholic accompaniment to spicy food.

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Safety & health

The historic centre, Chapultepec and Tlaquepaque are safe in the day and early evening. Take normal care at night and avoid quiet areas on foot.

- Use licensed taxis or ride-hailing apps at night.
- Drink bottled or purified water.
- Keep bags and phones out of sight in crowds.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Guadalajara Essentials: The Unmissable Sights

Guadalajara's historic core centers on architectural landmarks like the twin-towered Guadalajara Cathedral and the UNESCO-listed Cabañas Cultural Institute, a former hospital complex renowned for its murals and neoclassical design. The city's cultural identity is anchored in the Degollado Theatre and the lively mariachi traditions found at Plaza de los Mariachis and El Parián Square. Beyond the colonial plazas and government halls of the Palacio Legislativo, the Regional Museum offers deep insights into western Mexico's history, while Mirador Independencia Park provides a natural contrast with sweeping views over the Barranca de Oblatos gorge.





A Cabañas Cultural Institute

The Hospicio Cabañas or Cabañas Museum in Guadalajara, Jalisco was one of the oldest and largest orphanage and hospital complexes in the...

Carlos Salazar 60, San Juan de Dios, 44360 Guadalajara, JAL, Mexico (20.67676, -103.33741)

Tu–Su 11:00–17:00

museocabanas.jalisco.gob.mx, +52 33 3668 16 45

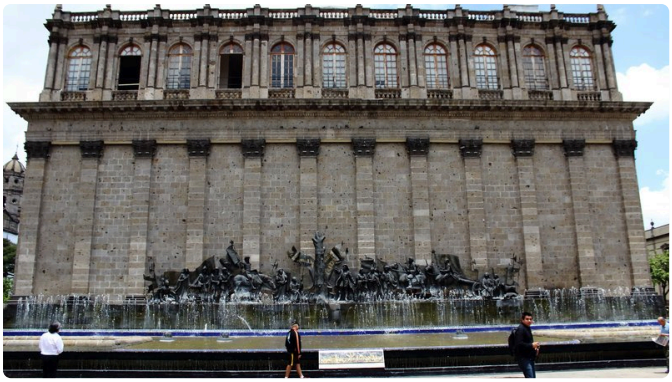


B Guadalajara Cathedral

The Guadalajara Cathedral or Cathedral of the Assumption of Our Lady, located in Centro, Guadalajara, Jalisco, is the Roman Catholic...

Av Ramón Corona, Zona Centro, 44100 Guadalajara, JAL, Mexico (20.67702, -103.34697)

01 33 3613 7168



C Degollado Theatre

Teatro Degollado is a neoclassical Mexican theater known for its diverse performances and artistic design.

Calle Degollado, 44100 Guadalajara (20.67703, -103.34453)

+ 52 33 3614 4773



D El Parián Square

Several restaurants surrounding square with a bandstand is just the right place to enjoy the music of the local mariachi.

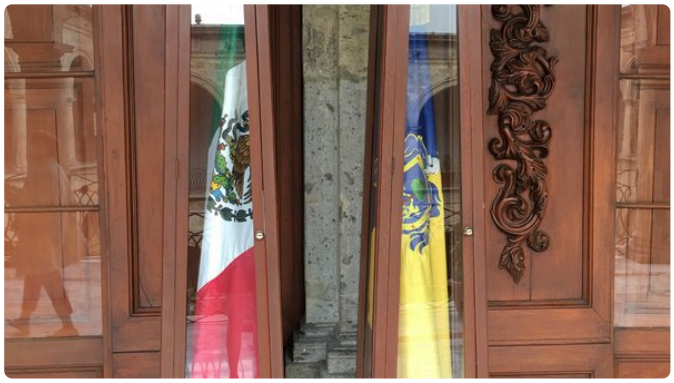
Herrera y Cairo 17, Centro, 45500 Tlaquepaque, JAL, Mexico (20.63883, -103.31106)



E Rotonda de los Jaliscenses Ilustres

The Rotonda de los Jaliscienses Ilustres is a landmark in Centro, Guadalajara, in the Mexican state of Jalisco.

Hidalgo, Zona Centro, 44100 Guadalajara, JAL, Mexico (20.67777, -103.34701)



F Palacio Legislativo

Situated right next to the Museo Regional on the north side of the Plaza de Liberación, this palace is where the state congress meets.

Hidalgo 222, Zona Centro, 44100 Guadalajara, JAL, Mexico (20.67774, -103.34540)



G Regional Museum of Guadalajara

An amazing collection of the history of western Mexico divided into multiple sections is a must visit for anyone wanting to learn.

Liceo 60, 44100 Guadalajara (20.67773, -103.34619)

Tu–Sa	10:00–17:30
Su	10:00–14:30

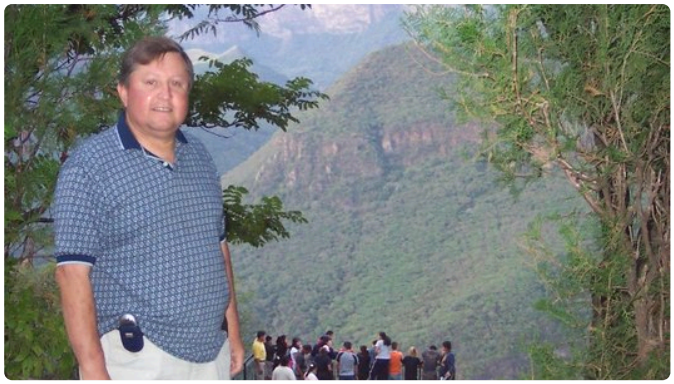
inah.gob.mx, +52 33 3613 2703

I Plaza de los Mariachis

Near the intersection of Av Juarez and Calz Indenpendencia, the square is the birthplace of the mariachi music. Do come.

De Los Mariachis 16A, San Juan de Dios, 44360 Guadalajara, JAL, Mexico (20.67488, -103.34131)

Mo–Su	Open 24/7



H Mirador Independencia Park

An amazing park offering beautiful nature and stunning scenic views of the Barranca de Oblatos gorge is not something you want to miss.

Volcán Hueytepec, Panorámica de Huentitán, 44259 Guadalajara, JAL, Mexico (20.74021, -103.31027)

Guadalajara's Hidden Gems

This collection highlights Guadalajara's diverse architectural and cultural landmarks. The Cabañas Cultural Institute, a UNESCO World Heritage site, showcases neoclassical design and renowned murals by José Clemente Orozco. In the historic center, the Palacio Legislativo serves as the seat of the Jalisco state congress. Nature enthusiasts can visit Mirador Independencia Park for panoramic views of the Barranca de Oblatos gorge. In nearby Tlaquepaque, El Parián Square offers traditional mariachi music and regional cuisine, while Gallery Rodo Padilla displays contemporary ceramic and bronze sculptures.





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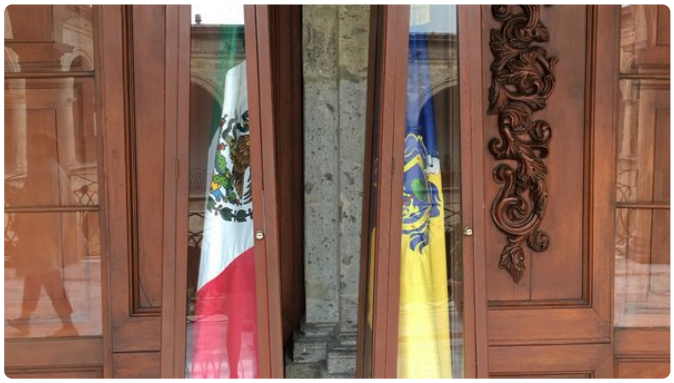

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Herrera y Cairo 17, Centro, 45500 Tlaquepaque, JAL, Mexico (20.63883, -103.31106)

E Gallery Rodó Padilla

Located in Tlaquepaque, this gallery showcases the whimsical ceramic and bronze sculptures of Mexican artist Rodo Padilla, known for his signature stylized 'gordito' characters.

San Pedro Tlaquepaque (20.63923, -103.31233)

rodopadilla.com

Guadalajara Monuments and Landmarks

Guadalajara's urban landscape is defined by its monumental architecture and public art, ranging from the neoclassical Rotonda de los Jaliscienses Ilustres to the modern Arcos del Milenio. The city features iconic bronze works like the La Minerva fountain and the dynamic horse sculpture, La Estampida. Historical figures are honored through landmarks like the Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla statue, while contemporary urban art includes whimsical animal figures and industrial designs across major avenues and public squares.





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Hidalgo, Zona Centro, 44100 Guadalajara, JAL, Mexico
(20.67777, -103.34701)



B Arcos de Guadalajara

Arcos de Guadalajara is a monument in Guadalajara, in the Mexican state of Jalisco.

36 Calle Félix Lope de Vega, Guadalajara 44650, Mexico
(20.67468, -103.37999)

C La Minerva

A statue of a Roman goddess situated on the Ignacion L. Vallarta Avenue became a gathering place after Mexican football nationals.

Guadalajara (20.67444, -103.38733)

D Escultura La Estampida

Large bronze sculpture by Jorge de la Peña depicting fourteen galloping horses, located at a major traffic junction.

(20.66626, -103.39299)

E Arcos del Milenio

The Arcos del Milenio, officially the Arcos del Tercer Milenio, is a sculpture by Sebastián, installed in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

Avenida Mariano Otero, Guadalajara 44530, Mexico (20.65945, -103.38383)

F Arcos del Milenio

The Arcos del Milenio, officially the Arcos del Tercer Milenio, is a sculpture by Sebastián, installed in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

Avenida Mariano Otero, Guadalajara 44530, Mexico (20.65938, -103.38370)

G Barco

Modern public sculpture representing a ship.

(20.69409, -103.39488)

H Escultura de la Madre Patria

Monumental sculpture representing the Mexican homeland.

Avenida México, Guadalajara (20.67912, -103.36991)

I Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla

Bronze statue of the 'Father of the Nation,' Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, located in the historic center.

230 Avenida Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, Guadalajara 44280, Mexico (20.67726, -103.34577)

J El Friso de los Fundadores

Large bronze relief sculpture behind the Teatro Degollado illustrating the city's 1542 foundation.

(20.67715, -103.34364)

K Monumento a la Madre

Traditional monument dedicated to motherhood.

(20.68906, -103.33584)

L Torre Eiffel -Escala-

Scale replica of the Parisian landmark located on the city's outskirts.

(20.69405, -103.27169)

M Plaza de las Banderas

Civic plaza featuring flagpoles and open space for public gatherings.

Guadalajara, Mexico (20.67154, -103.26820)

N Los Arcos

Neoclassical gateway built in 1942 to mark the city's 400th anniversary.

2655 Avenida Ignacio Luis Vallarta, Guadalajara 44130, Mexico (20.67444, -103.38483)

flickr.com/photos/196806602@N03/53862601520/in/date...

O Chihuahua

Whimsical, oversized sculpture of a dog located in a public park area.

(20.69594, -103.38994)

P Paloma

Contemporary public sculpture of a dove.

(20.69774, -103.38871)

Q Basset hound

Modern urban sculpture depicting a basset hound.

(20.69540, -103.39086)

R Avión

Public art piece shaped like an airplane.

(20.70541, -103.37718)

S Conejo

Contemporary stylized sculpture of a rabbit.

(20.70229, -103.38374)

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