

Guanajuato

Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Guanajuato is a colonial silver-mining city in the central highlands. It sits in a narrow valley, with colourful houses climbing the hills and streets that wind between small plazas. Many roads run through old mining tunnels under the city.

It suits a two to three day stay for history, music and student nightlife. The University of Guanajuato gives the centre a young, lively feel. The historic town and its mines are a World Heritage Site.

When to visit

The city is at about 2,000 m. Days are warm and dry from October to May. Summer brings afternoon rain, and winter nights are cold.

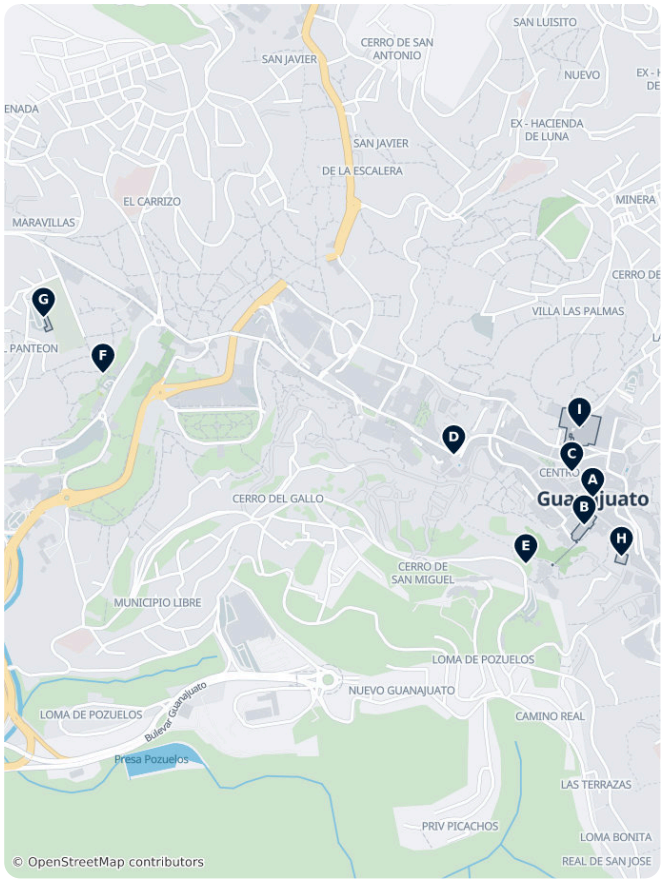
Time your trip for the Festival Internacional Cervantino in October. It is a large arts festival with concerts, theatre and dance across the city. Book rooms months ahead.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 25° Feels like 18°	6° / 1°	23 sunny days · Dry air
February	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 28° Feels like 21°	7° / 2°	23 sunny days · Dry air · UV 9 (Very high)
March	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 31° Feels like 23°	9° / 4°	28 sunny days · Dry air · UV 11 (Extreme)
April	Great Great for sightseeing	30° / 33° Feels like 26°	11° / 8°	26 sunny days · Dry air · UV 12 (Extreme)
May	Great Great for sightseeing	31° / 35°	14° / 10°	23 sunny days · Dry air · UV 12 (Extreme)
June	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 34°	14° / 12°	17 rainy days · Dry air · UV 11 (Extreme)
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	27° / 30°	14° / 11°	23 rainy days · UV 11 (Extreme)
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	26° / 29°	13° / 11°	21 rainy days · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 29°	13° / 10°	17 rainy days · UV 10 (Very high)
October	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 28°	11° / 6°	Dry air · UV 9 (Very high)
November	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 27°	8° / 3°	23 sunny days · Dry air
December	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 25° Feels like 19°	7° / 2°	24 sunny days · Dry air

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

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

Top sights



- A Jardin de la Unión is the shady main square, with cafés, musicians and the Teatro Juárez next door.
- B Teatro Juárez is a 19th-century opera house with an ornate interior. It hosts events during the Cervantino festival.
- C Basilica Colegiata Nuestra Señora de Guanajuato is a yellow baroque church on the Plaza de la Paz, the city's main church.
- D Callejon del Beso is a very narrow alley where two balconies almost touch. It is tied to a local love legend.
- E El Pípila is a statue on a hill above the centre, with the best view of the city. You can reach it by a funicular or by climbing the steps.
- F Centro de La toma de la Alhóndiga is the old granary where a key battle of the independence war took place in 1810. It is now a museum.
- G Museo de las Momias de Guanajuato displays naturally mummified bodies from the local cemetery. It is popular but not for everyone.
- H Museo Iconográfico del Quijote holds thousands of works inspired by Don Quixote.
- I Edificio Central Universidad de Guanajuato has a striking white stairway and is the main university building.

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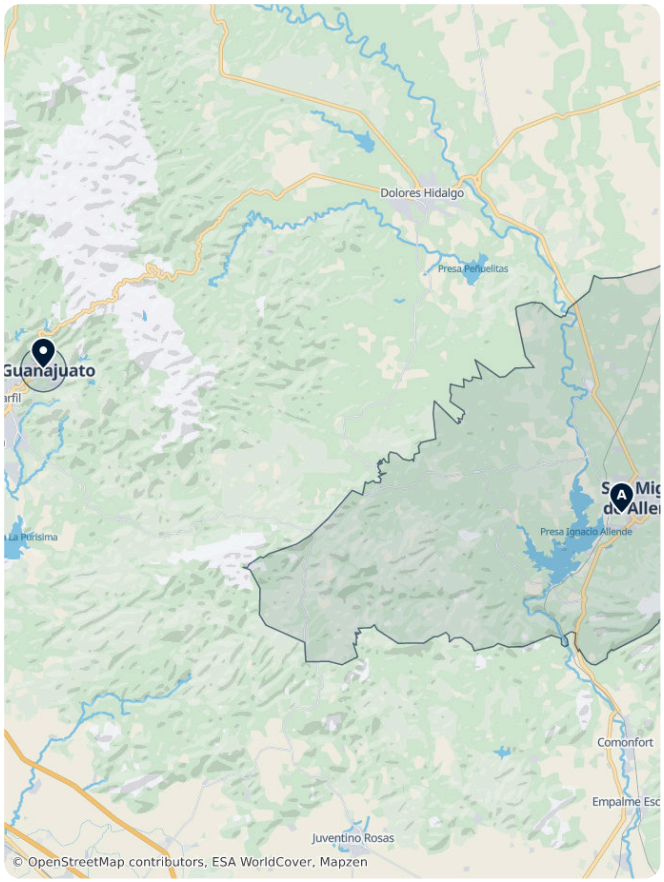
What to experience

- Join a callejoneada in the evening, when students in costume lead a group singing through the alleys.
- Watch a show or a student concert at the main square.
- Ride the funicular at sunset for the view over the roofs.
- Drive through the underground tunnels, which were once riverbeds and mine tunnels.

Day trips

- La Valenciana mine and church: about 10 minutes by bus or taxi. A silver mine and an ornate baroque church.
- Cristo Rey on Cubilete hill: about 30 minutes by car. A large statue on a mountaintop with views.
- Dolores Hidalgo: about 1 hour by bus. The town where the independence movement began in 1810. Known for ceramics and ice cream.
- A San Miguel de Allende: about 1.5 hours by bus. A colonial town with many galleries and cafés.



Where to explore

- San Miguel de Allende for a more polished colonial town nearby.
- Santiago de Querétaro for another historic city on the way to Mexico City.

Getting there

- **By air**: The closest airport is Del Bajío (BJX) near León, about 45 minutes away by road. Shuttles and taxis run to the city. Some travellers also fly into Mexico City or Querétaro.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches link Guanajuato with Mexico City (about 5 hours), León, Querétaro and San Miguel de Allende. The main bus station is outside the centre, so take a taxi or city bus.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre is small but steep, with many stairs. Wear good shoes.
- **Buses and taxis**: City buses and taxis reach sights outside the centre. Many buses use the old underground tunnels.
- **Funicular**: A funicular climbs to the viewpoint at El Pípila. Many people take it up and walk down.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The centre is compact but steep, with many stairs and narrow streets.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Hills, stairs and tunnels make cycling hard.

Food & drink

Try enchiladas mineras, a local dish with a tomato-chile sauce, potato and chicken. Fresh fruit and tamales are common in markets.

The Mercado Hidalgo has food stalls for lunch. The plazas around Jardin de la Unión and the University have many casual cafés and restaurants.

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

Guanajuato is a safe city for visitors in the centre. Take normal care with bags in crowds.

- The city is at 2,000 m. Drink water and take it easy on the first day.
- Streets are steep and uneven. Take care at night.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

Silver mines made Guanajuato one of the richest towns in the Spanish colonial world. The mines gave the city its baroque churches and large mansions.

In 1810 the independence war began nearby. Rebels attacked the grain store, now the Centro de La toma de la Alhóndiga. The city later became a centre of education and the arts.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY

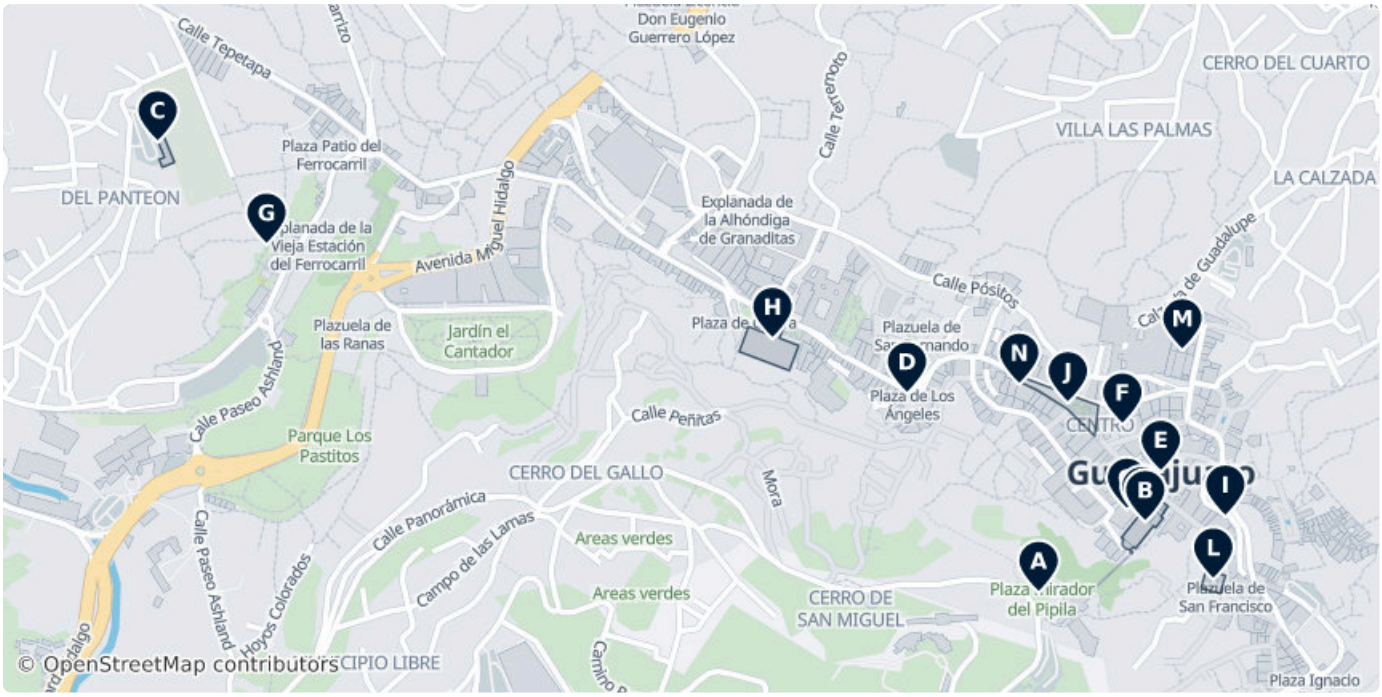
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Guanajuato City Essentials

Guanajuato City, a former silver mining hub, is defined by its unique subterranean road network and narrow, winding alleys. This collection features the neoclassical Teatro Juárez, the baroque Basilica of Our Lady of Guanajuato, and the Alhóndiga de Granaditas, a key site of the Mexican War of Independence. Visitors can explore the macabre collection at the Museum of Mummies, ride the funicular to the El Pípila monument for panoramic views, or walk through the iron-framed Hidalgo Market, originally designed as a train station.





A El Pípila Monument

El Pípila is the nickname of a local hero of the city of Guanajuato in Mexico.

10 Otro Carretera Panoramica, Guanajuato 36089, Mexico (21.01441, -101.25447)



B Teatro Juárez

A 19th-century neoclassical theater featuring a facade with twelve Doric columns and bronze statues of the Greek muses. The interior exhibits an ornate Moorish revival design.

De Sopeña 10, 36000 Guanajuato (21.01529, -101.25304)

C Museo de las Momias de Guanajuato

This museum displays over 100 naturally mummified bodies exhumed from the adjacent Santa Paula Cemetery. The mummification occurred due to the specific mineral composition and dry conditions of the local soil.

1 Calle De Rivera, Guanajuato 36000, Mexico
(21.02004, -101.26627)

We–Su 11:00–18:00

momiasdeguanajuato.gob.mx



D Kiss Alley

Narrow street (only 25 inches) famous because of the ancient legend which tells stories of lovers who kissed from the opposite balconies.

Callejon del Beso, 36000 Guanajuato, Mexico
(21.01690, -101.25623)



E Union Garden

This tiny triangular garden is a beautiful patch of greenery in the Guanajuato busy city center. Come for the live concerts.

12 Avenida de Sopeña, Guanajuato 36000, Mexico
(21.01592, -101.25283)



F Basilica of our Lady of Guanajuato

The Basílica colegiata de Nuestra Señora de Guanajuato is considered one of the most emblematic structures in the City of Guanajuato,...

Plaza de la Paz, 36000 Guanajuato, Mexico
(21.01651, -101.25335)

+52 473 732 0314



G The Storming of the Alhondiga Center

For anyone interested in learning about the Mexican independence and seeing the memorabilia, this is a must-visit place.

Antigua Estación del Ferrocarril, 36000 Guanajuato, Mexico (21.01876, -101.26482)



H Hidalgo Market

Located in a railway station hall, this enormous market sells items ranging from food, sweets, crafts, souvenirs to clothes and toys.

21B Calle Rosarito, Guanajuato 36000, Mexico (21.01758, -101.25804)

I Miguel Hidalgo Underground Street

The Guanajuato's River is a tributary of the Lerma River in the central near region of Mexico called the Bajio.

24 Avenida Cantarranas, Guanajuato 36000, Mexico (21.01536, -101.25197)

J Plaza de la Paz

The city's main triangular square is surrounded by colonial-era mansions and the yellow Basilica. It features a central bronze monument dedicated to peace, inaugurated in 1903.

40B Avenida Luis González Obregón, Guanajuato 36000, Mexico (21.01678, -101.25408)



K Guanajuato Funicular

Too tired to climb up the hill to the El Pípila monument? Then take the fancy funicular ride from behind Juárez Theater.

4 Calle Sopeña, Guanajuato 36000, Mexico (21.01534, -101.25309)



L Quijote Iconographic Museum

The exhibits of this museum focus on the Spanish fictional character Don Quixote created by Miguel de Cervantes.

Manuel Doblado 1, 36000 Guanajuato (21.01457, -101.25213)

museoiconografico.guanajuato.gob.mx, +52 473 732 3376

M Templo de la Compaía de Jesus

An 18th-century Jesuit church known for its elaborate Churrigueresque facade carved from pink stone. The building features a massive neoclassical dome added in the 19th century.

9A Callejón del Sol, Guanajuato 36003, Mexico (21.01744, -101.25254)



N Legislative Palace

The Neoclassical facade and the Art Nouveau interior epitomises the originality and grandeur of this legislative palace.

Plaza de la Paz 77, 36000 Guanajuato, Mexico (21.01701, -101.25473)

congresogto.gob.mx/palacio, +52 473 102 0000

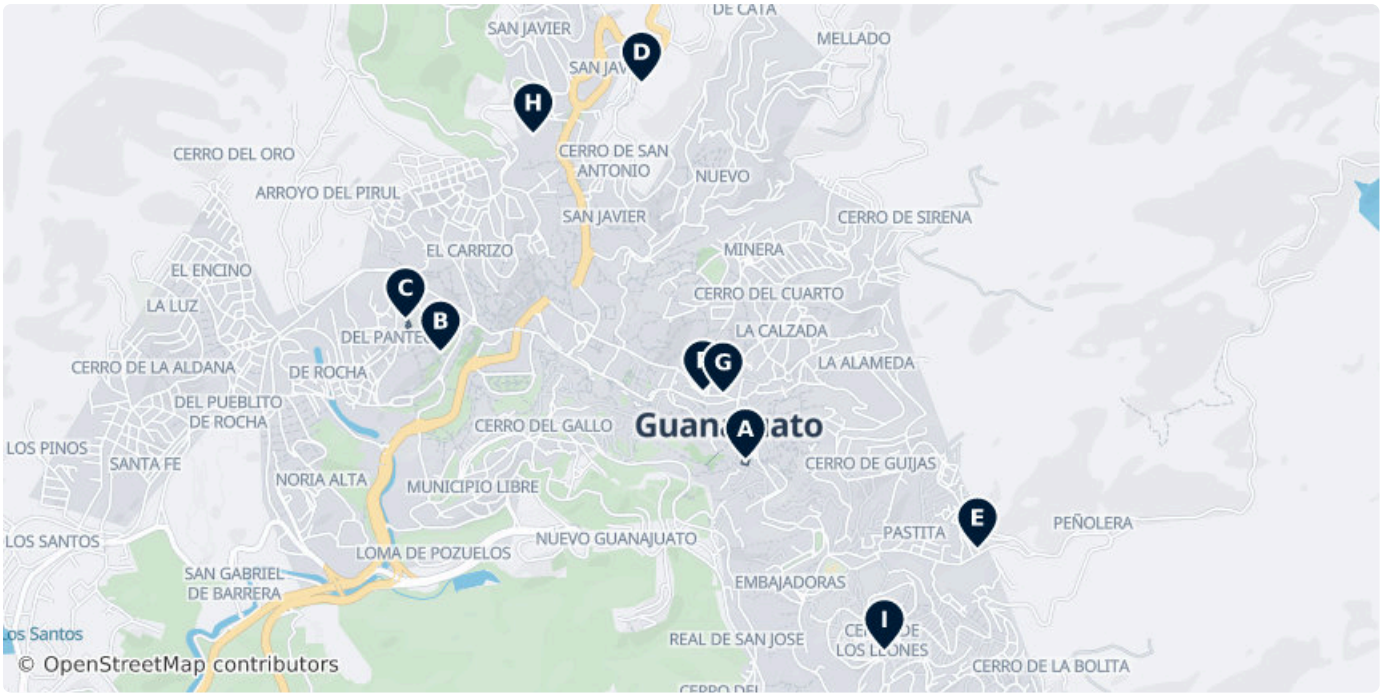
O Templo San Diego de Alcalá

This 18th-century Franciscan church features a highly decorative Churrigueresque facade. It stands on the site of the city's first monastery, which was largely destroyed by floods in the 1700s.

Calas de San Diego, Centro, 36000 Guanajuato City, GUA, Mexico (21.01545, -101.25329)

Museums and Art Galleries

Guanajuato's museums offer a specialized look into Mexican history, art, and natural science. Highlights include the iconic collection of naturally mummified remains and the Alhóndiga de Granaditas, a pivotal site of the Mexican War of Independence. Art enthusiasts can explore hundreds of works inspired by Don Quixote or visit the former home of Olga Costa and José Chávez Morado. Scientific interest is represented by the University of Guanajuato's extensive mineral collection and the Alfredo Dugès Museum of Natural History, showcasing unique local and extinct species.





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1 Calle De Rivera, Guanajuato 36000, Mexico
(21.02004, -101.26627)

We–Su 11:00–18:00

momiasdeguanajuato.gob.mx



D Inquisition Museum

Are you hard-bitten? Then come here to learn about the processes the Roman Catholic Church performed to eradicate heresy.

11 Carretera Guanajuato-Dolores Hidalgo, 36023, Mexico
(21.02920, -101.25645)

+52 473 733 4766

E Olga Costa-Jose Chavez Morado Museum of Art

An admirable display of Morado and Costa's collection consisting of 16th-18th century ceramics, furniture, glassware and paintings.

Pastita 158, Torre del Arco, 36000 Guanajuato, Mexico
(21.01112, -101.24247)

cultura.guanajuato.gob.mx/museos/ol... , +52 473 731 0977

F Museum of the Town of Guanajuato

While some are here to appreciate the artworks, others come here to attend courses in drama, history or enjoy concerts and lectures.

Positos no. 7 Centro Histórico, 36000 Guanajuato, Mexico
(21.01723, -101.25390)

Tu–Sa 10:00–19:00
Su 10:00–15:00

+52 473 732 2990

G Alfredo Duges Museum of Natural History

Come to this museum to learn about Mexican nature and its unique and extinct species. Plenty of events.

Calle Lascuráin de Retana 5, 36000 Guanajuato, Mexico
(21.01716, -101.25305)

museoduges.ugto.mx, +52 473 732 0006

H Museum of Mineralogy

Located within the University of Guanajuato, this impressive collection has about 20,000 mineral specimens from around the world.

Ex-Hacienda de San Matías s/n, 36020 Guanajuato, Mexico
(21.02723, -101.26097)

+52 473 732 3864

House of the Legends

Pay a visit to this museum which presents all kinds of legends, stories and fairy-tales from Guanajuato. Knowledge of Spanish required.

4 Callejón Leyendas, Guanajuato 36090, Mexico
(21.00716, -101.24635)

+52 473 731 0213

Historic Churches of Guanajuato

Guanajuato's religious architecture showcases a transition from 17th-century Baroque to 19th-century Neoclassical styles, often constructed using the region's distinctive pink quarry stone. This collection includes the iconic Basilica with its vibrant yellow exterior and the Templo de la Compañía de Jesus, famous for its ornate Churrigueresque facade. These structures are central to the city's UNESCO World Heritage status, representing the immense wealth generated by the historic silver mines that once funded their elaborate construction.





A Basilica of our Lady of Guanajuato

The Basílica colegiata de Nuestra Señora de Guanajuato is considered one of the most emblematic structures in the City of Guanajuato,...

Plaza de la Paz, 36000 Guanajuato, Mexico
(21.01651, -101.25335)

+52 473 732 0314

B Templo de la Compaía de Jesus

18th-century Jesuit church featuring an elaborate Churrigueresque facade of pink quarry stone. It is known for its massive dome and collection of colonial-era religious paintings.

9A Callejón del Sol, Guanajuato 36003, Mexico
(21.01744, -101.25254)

C Templo de Pardo

18th-century church showcasing a Neoclassical facade built from local pink quarry stone. It is situated on the western edge of the historic city center.

(21.01902, -101.26084)

D Templo San Diego de Alcalá

Franciscan church established in the 17th century, featuring a highly detailed 18th-century Churrigueresque facade. It stands in the heart of the city, adjacent to Jardín Unión.

Calas de San Diego, Centro, 36000 Guanajuato City, GUA, Mexico (21.01545, -101.25329)

E Templo de San Javier

18th-century Baroque church located near the historic mining districts, featuring a carved stone entrance and historical ties to the neighboring haciendas.

(21.02825, -101.25884)

F Templo de Mellado

Part of a former 18th-century Mercedarian convent, this church is located in the elevated Mellado mining district and features a traditional colonial stone facade.

(21.02954, -101.24920)

G Iglesia San Sebastián

18th-century parish church located in one of Guanajuato's oldest neighborhoods, representing simple colonial architecture and local community history.

34 Calle San Sebastian, Guanajuato 36000, Mexico (21.01005, -101.24944)

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