

## **GUANAJUATO**

Viceroyalty city of beautiful buildings that contain the elements of the two cultures, the indigenous and the Hispanic.

The city of Guanajuato was one of the most important cities in New Spain during the viceroyalty, becoming the first place in gold and silver production in the eighteenth century. Its different mines, its beautiful buildings, alleys and squares have earned this wonderful city the nomination as a World Heritage Site. Simply, one of the best experiences in Mexico.

The city of Guanajuato and Adjacent Mines was inscribed on the World Heritage List on 9 December 1988.

### **EXPLORE THE CITY**

#### **Gastronomy**

The charamuscas are a typical sweet of the city of Guanajuato, its first preparations date back to the 1950s 's José Luis Castillo Díaz and Pablo Banderas have been considered pioneers in the art of working and molding candy. It is said that they brought the idea of the city of Aguascalientes, from where the name "charamuscas" also comes from, but the peculiar shape of skulls and mummies was invented in this city. Other typical dishes that we can enjoy in Guanajuato are the enchiladas mineras and the tamales guanajuatenses among others.

#### **Temple of San Cayetano**

In 1775 it began construction in an area near the Valenciana mine and was completed in 1788. In the churrigueresque style in pink quarry, its altar and altarpieces are covered with laminated gold. Also known as the Templo de la Valenciana, it is dedicated to San Cayetano, confessor and patron saint of the miners. At the beginning, it belonged to the Hospitaller Order of the Latinos, who built, next to the Temple, a convent that they did not occupy and that today houses the School of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Guanajuato.

Schedule: Monday to Sunday from 07:00 to 23:00 hrs.

Location: Guanajuato - Dolores Hidalgo Highway, km 1.5. Valencian Mineral

Contact: Tel. 01 473 732 3596

#### **Miguel Hidalgo Street**

The famous "underground street" formally known as Calle Miguel Hidalgo, was inaugurated in the late 1950s 's This road has an extension of 3 km, following the bed of the river Guanajuato that formerly crossed the city. It was built with three objectives in mind: to provide a roadway that would clear the downtown area, channel the river that served as the city's main drainage channel, and give Guanajuato a very unusual street that could be considered one of its most

interesting attractions. In 1976, work was completed on the drainage tunnels that have since prevented the constant flooding that the city suffered in the past.

Location: Miguel Hidalgo, Central Zone, 36000 Guanajuato, Gto.

### **The Pípila**

It was built in 1939. It is an enormous statue of a quarry on a base representing the miner Juan José Martínez "El Pípila" in a position to advance, carrying a torch in his right hand. At the base of the monument there is the following inscription: "...there are still other gems to burn". At the back of the monument there is an entrance that leads to the top of the monument via a staircase. The work shows adjoining columns on which rests an entablature decorated with metopes and triglyphs; higher up in relief, the coat of arms of Santa Fe de Guanajuato, wrapped in garlands and flanked by pilasters with grooves on which rests a straight pediment. Monument erected in honor of Juan Jose de los Reyes Martinez nicknamed the Pípila who performed the heroic act on September 28, 1810, in the first battle of the War of Independence burning the door of the Alhóndiga de Granaditas. The place offers a panoramic view of Guanajuato which is a unique day and night show.

Schedule: Monday to Sunday from 09:00 to 21:30 hrs.

Location: Ladera de San Miguel 55, Zona Centro, 36000 Guanajuato, Gto.

### **Cervantino International Festival**

The International Cervantino Festival is an emblematic event for the world. Each year the spirit of multidisciplinary artistic dialogue and the search for excellence define an unprecedented cultural programme.

For 45 years, the Festival has been the ideal context to welcome the main artists of the most varied art disciplines to Guanajuato.

The Cervantes adventure began in 1953, in Guanajuato, when Enrique Ruelas conducted a tribute to Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. This production of Entremeses Cervantinos was such a success that it was repeated for 20 years. The event was internationalized in 1972, when artists from other nations joined in this great recognition.

### **Baratillo Square**

The real name of this esplanade is Plaza Joaquin Gonzalez y Gonzalez or General Manuel Gonzalez, Plaza del Baratillo is a common name that was given during the viceroyalty era as here were sold and bought flowers, vegetables and fruit at affordable prices. In fact, there was a market that disappeared around 1893.

In the centre is a green quarry fountain with two carved bowls on which rests a column supporting a large shell, decorated with a dolphin on each of the four fronts. The fountain

comes from the nearby Plaza de la Paz, where it was located until it was removed from the site to place the Monument of Peace.

### **Juarez Theater**

It is located in the center of the city and was inaugurated on October 27, 1903, by the President of the Republic General Porfirio Diaz, with the representation of the opera "Aida" which was a real success. It is, without a doubt, one of the most attractive theatres in the country and recognized worldwide for its architecture and for being the setting for diverse and important international cultural events.

Construction carried out in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A preserved monument that shows the eclecticism that prevailed in the architecture of that time. Made in a Doric style that pretends to be of Roman inspiration. The façade is made up of twelve green quarry columns topped by bronze capitals, the upper part of which contains statues of eight of the nine muses. The interior of the hall is in Moorish style, with arabesques on the balconies, boxes and panels. The first stone was laid on May 5, 1873, on the site of the Temple of St. Peter, by the Diegian friars, and later the Emporio Hotel.

Location: Sopena S/N, Central Zone, 36000 Guanajuato, Gto.

Contact: Tel. 01 473 102 2700 and 01 473 732 1542

### **Collegiate Basilica of Our Lady of Guanajuato**

Its construction began in 1671 and was completed 25 years later, sponsored by the miners of the area. Elevated to the category of Basilica in 1957, the Baroque Collegiate Basilica of Our Lady of Guanajuato boasts an impressive dome that stands out from the rest of the work.

Inside, there is a virgin who has become the patron saint and queen of the city.

This image was donated by King Charles I and his son Philip II to the town of Guanajuato in recognition of its mining prosperity on August 8, 1557. The image is a wooden sculpture of the Virgin and Child, with a silver embossed base.

The sanctuary has three entrances, a three-level bell tower and another Churrigueresque style tower. Part of the church is dedicated to the patron saint of miners, St. Nicholas Tolentine.

The Basilica of Our Lady of Guanajuato is a symbol of the splendor and boom of this rich mineral of Santa Fe de Guanajuato.

Location: Calle Ponciano Aguilar 7, Centro, 36000 Guanajuato, Gto.

### **Union Garden**

Beautiful place of rest, with its large trees that provide fresh shade, surrounded by restaurants, where Mariachis and Tunas gather to brighten the atmosphere with their happy melodies, the Jardín de la Unión is right in front of the Teatro Juárez.

During the viceroyalty of this place was the "Plaza de San Diego", named after the church of the same name located next to the Teatro Juárez.

There was also a market where bullfights and other village festivals were held.

In 1836 the first trees were planted and by 1861 it had become the charming triangular square that we can enjoy today, with its benches and lanterns. The kiosk was built in the Porfirian period, giving the perfect setting to the first painting of the city.

### **University of Guanajuato**

Its history dates back to 1732, when it was created under the name of the Hospice of the Holy Trinity. On August 27, 1827, with the first constitutional government, the school changed its name to Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepción, falling under the responsibility of the state and thus creating the faculties of law, painting, sculpture and architecture. In 1867, it changed its name again to State College. During this period, there was an expansion in research, as well as in the development of new technical programs. Finally, in 1945, the school changed its name for the last time to the University of Guanajuato and in 1994 it was recognized as an autonomous university, free from the government legislature.

Location: Lascurain de Retana 5, Col. Guanajuato Centro, C.P. 36000, Guanajuato, Gto

Contact: Tel. 01 (473) 7353700 ext. 2731

### **Temple of San Diego**

Due to the multiple floods that the city suffered, the body had to be lifted several times. Nowadays, only one image of the Christ of Burgos, donated by the Count of Valenciana, and several paintings by Mexican painters from the 18th century are preserved.

The esplanade in front of the Temple of San Diego de Alcalá serves daily as a meeting point for the Tunas Guanajuatenses (estudiantinas) before leaving for their traditional musical journey through the most famous alleys of the city.

The temple of San Diego de Alcalá is located in front of the Jardín de la Unión and next to the Teatro Juárez.

### **Handicrafts**

Something that has been jealously preserved is ceramics, there are workshops of international prestige where the manufacture of authentic majolica and traditional pottery with tibores, plates, spice bowls, condes bowls and basins invite to a purchase collection.

In the city centre, you can still buy the traditional silver and gold jewellery from birds, called baroque silverware, in the handicraft shops.

## Hidalgo Market

Main market of the city. It was designed, it is said that initially as a railway station, by the architects Ernesto Brunel and Antonio Rivas market in the venue that occupied the former bullring of Gavira. The construction lasted from 1905 to September 16, 1910. It was inaugurated by President Porfirio Diaz as part of the celebrations of the centenary of independence. The building is 70 metres long by 35 metres deep and has three accesses. Most of the building is made of iron and its floor plan is in the shape of a letter T. Above the enormous vault is the tower of a clock with four faces made by José López, and in its dome a weather vane with a lightning rod. It has thirty-four large windows.

Time: N/A

Location: Av. Juarez s/n Zona Centro, Guanajuato, Gto.

Contact: Tel. 01 473 105 105 7634