

GUANAJUATO

TRAVEL GUIDE



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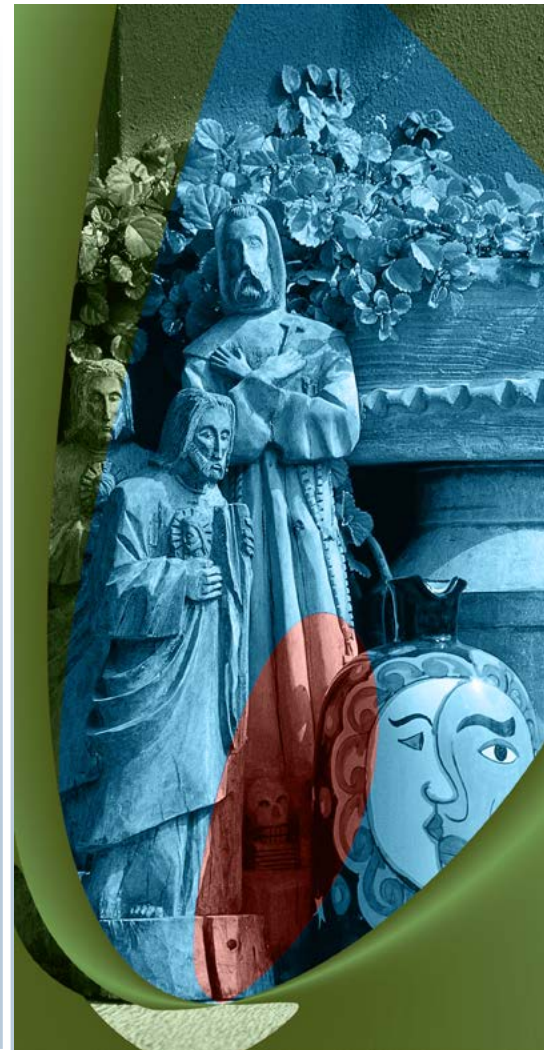


Culture and History



Travel to Guanajuato is a fascinating experience, you can discover two World Heritage sites (Guanajuato and San Miguel Allende), three important archaeological sites, two picturesque Magic Towns (Dolores Hidalgo and Mineral de Pozos), exciting tourist routes and a calendar full of events. Undoubtedly, Guanajuato is one of the most complete and interesting states of Mexico.

Guanajuato, is the heart of Mexico, it is the perfect blend of history, culture, stunning architecture and friendly local people, this is the chance to have an unforgettable experience.



World Heritage Cities

Guanajuato

5 REASONS TO VISIT GUANAJUATO

- Discover legendary places in the streets and squares.
- Walk in the footsteps of Independence.
- Celebrate theater, dance, music and art.
- Watch the city appear and disappear from the underground tunnels.
- Admire the monumental palaces and mines.

Once one of the greatest mining cities in Mexico, Guanajuato has a rich history and it is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The setting of the city is very beautiful: it stands in a narrow gorge amid wild and striking scenery. The whimsical trace of its streets, its peaceful squares, gardens, “estudiantinas” (strolling student minstrels), and the beauty of its houses and buildings give to Guanajuato a magic ambiance and an evocative and romantic touch.

Guanajuato, is the cradle of Independence, and invite us to stroll along the romantic cobblestone streets full of legends and history. The pied pipers call themselves estudiantinas. They wander the city, playing traditional music, singing old favorites, telling the city’s stories and giving this magic atmosphere of this unique place.

Theater, dance, and musical performances abound in the city, as well as museums and galleries. The first three weeks in October Guanajuato celebrates the “Festival Internacional Cervantino”, the most important festival in Latin America. It features high-level performers and artists from 36 countries, they present different expressions of art like opera, drama, and dancing. Mimes and jugglers are a common sight, and strolling minstrels guide visitors along the city’s winding, narrow streets, their joyful music carrying above high colonial walls.

Temperatures in the winter drop to about 7°C (45°F) with mild temperatures in the summer rising to 26°C (80°F).



BEST SOUVENIR BUYS

- Jewellery and baroque silverwork
- The famous Charamusca, caramel mummies with peanuts or coconuts
- Pottery

WHAT TO VISIT IN GUANAJUATO ?



Alhóndiga de Granaditas - This is a magnificent Neoclassical building constructed from 1798 to 1809. This granary was the scene of crucial events during Independence war. Today the Alhóndiga houses a museum which exhibit important collections which trace the evolution of Mexico since the pre-Hispanic period. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 to 14:00 and from 16:00 to 18:00 hrs. Sunday from 9:00 to 15:00 hrs.

Palacio Legislativo State Congress Palace) - It was built in 1903 and inaugurated by President Porfirio Diaz. Its façade is neoclassical and its interior shows Art Nouveau influence.

Calle Subterránea Miguel Hidalgo (The Underground Street Miguel Hidalgo) - This underground street has become a symbol for the city. Following the course of the old Guanajuato River, it runs nearly three kilometers beneath the city. Its lay out was adopted according to its natural configuration and the large stoned arches were kept as they were; they are today one of its main attraction.

Mansión del Conde Rul (Mansion of the Count of Rul) - Designed by the



architect Francisco Eduardo Tresguerras, this mansion is considered one of the purest examples of neoclassical architecture in Mexico.

University of Guanajuato - In 1732 was originally used as a hospice, in 1744 it acquired the school rank, and since 1945 the school was elevated to the rank of University. This beautiful neoclassic building of green quarry stone is characterized by its impressive outdoor staircase with a wonderful panoramic view of the city.

Juárez Theater - One of the most beautiful theaters in Mexico built between 1872 and 1903. The façade is Doric-Roman and it also has a hall smoker (foyer) style art nouveau.



Puente del Campanero y cuesta del Tecolote (Bell Ringer Bridge and Tecolote Slope) - It is a small colonial bridge in the downtown area with a curious history, it connects two houses by the windows. The Campanero street is surrounded by restaurants, cafes and hostels is surrounded by restaurants, cafes and hostels.

Jardín del Cantador (Park of the Singer) - A lovely 19th century park enclosed within a wrought-iron fence and pink stone columns. There are multiple entrances, all of which lead through walking paths, stone fountains and a nice gazebo.

Jardín Unión - A beautiful triangular-shaped park located in the center of the city, surrounded by cafes and restaurants.

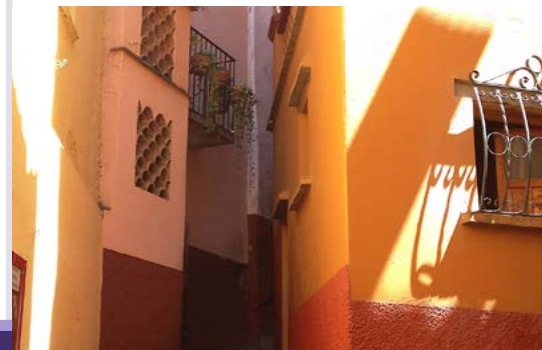
Funicular Panorámico Pípila (Panoramic Funicular) - This ride is an spectacular way to enjoy the city. The Funicular stations are just behind the Juárez Theater and at the top of the mountain where the statue of the "Pípila" is located. Open Monday to Saturday from 9:00 to 22:00 hrs. Sunday from 10:00 to 21:00 hrs.

Callejón del Beso (Alleyway of the Kiss) - A romantic alcove created by two balconies separated only by 69 centimeters (27 inches), full of legends. It is said that couples who kiss while standing on the third stair are guaranteed seven years of happiness.

Callejón de la Condesa (Alley of the Countess) - Beautiful and unique alley with an interesting legend.

Mines - There are many mines to see in Guanajuato, some of them are: The Experimental Mine El Nopal, it is dedicated to educating residents and visitors and providing guided tours. The Rayas Mine, discovered in 1550, this was the first mine and one of the richest in Guanajuato, its 1400 foot mineshaft is considered one of the longest in the world. Guadalupe de Cata Mine, this mine is the site of a lovely church built in the 17th century. Garrapata (The Tick) Mine, an old construction in the middle of mountains and hills. The Valenciana Mine, this was the most productive mine in the city, and it is still in operation.

Parque Guanajuato Bicentenario - It is located just 13 km (7 miles) from Guanajuato and combines culture, education and entertainment. This recreational space has approximately 14.5 acres and it is a magnificent venue for all kind of educational and cultural activities.





CHURCHES & TEMPLES

Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Guanajuato (Basilica of Our Lady of Guanajuato) – A baroque construction of the 17th century. In the interior there is a statue of the Patron Virgin of the city which was a gift from King Charles I of Spain in 1557. The Mariana Gallery has five different rooms filled with sacred art of the colonial period.

Iglesia de San Francisco – Located very near from the Juarez Theater, the beautiful edifice was built with pink quarry rock in 1728.

Templo de Belén – It was built in 1775 with a Churrigueresque façade. The interior has beautiful altarpieces.

Templo de la Compañía (Art Gallery of La Compañía Church) – Its construction began in 1747 and ended in November of 1765. It is the biggest temple in the city with a splendid churrigueresque façade. The sacristy houses important pictorial works with a collection from the 17th to the 19th century with painters like Miguel Cabrera.

Templo de San Cayetano o de la Valenciana - This Churrigueresque church, built of pink quarry stone in 1788, features three wooden altarpieces covered in gold leaf.

Templo de Mineral de Cata - Built in 1725 displays a wonderful Baroque facade.

Templo de San Diego – This is an important example of Churrigueresque architecture in Guanajuato. It was built between 1756 and 1784.





MUSEUMS

Iconográfico del Quijote (Quijote Iconographic Museum) – Located in a magnificent 18th-Century residence, this is one of a kind museum. It exhibits a collection of more than 800 pieces: paintings, prints, drawings, tapestries, coins, sculptures, and porcelain artwork dedicated to Don Quijote, the famous Spanish fictional character. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 9:30 to 18:45 and Sunday 12:00 to 18:45 hrs.

Museo del Pueblo de Guanajuato (Museum of the People of Guanajuato) - This museum is located in a 17th century building and exhibits art from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and a unique collection called Art in Miniature. The building has a Churrigueresque chapel decorated with murals painted by the artist José Chávez Morado and serves as an auditorium for conferences and concerts. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 to 19:00 hrs. Sunday

from 10:00 to 15:00 hrs.

Museo Casa Diego Rivera - The internationally renowned muralist Diego Rivera was born in this colonial house. A collection of near 175 original paintings are on display. You can also visit the mini stamp collection, which has works by renowned artists such as José Luis Cuevas, among others. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 to 19:00 hrs and Sunday 10:00 to 15:00 hrs.

Museo de las Momias (Mummy Museum) - On display are 119 mummified bodies and 4 heads which have been preserved in perfect condition as a result of the high mineral content of the soil. Hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00 to 18:00 hrs. Friday to Sunday from 9:00 to 18:30 hrs.



Museo de Mineralogía (Mineralogy Museum) - This museum houses one of the finest mineralogy collections. It has 20.450 different mineral samples from all over the world on display, one of the largest collections of any museum of its kind. Open Monday to Friday 8:00 to 18:00 hrs

Museo Casa de la Tía Aura The House of Aunt Aura) - A guided tour of a “haunted house”, which relives the horror stories of those who lived there, and of those who allegedly still live there. Open Monday to Sunday from 11:00 to 18:00 hrs.



Museo de la Santa Inquisición o del Purgatorio (Holy Inquisition Museum) – It exhibits instruments of torture and old torture chambers used by the Spanish inquisition, as well as representations of the dungeons and robes of religious dedicated to the “Holy Office”. Open daily from 10:00 to 19:00 hrs.

Museo Casa de la Tía Aura (The House of Aunt Aura) - Located in the ex Hacienda, a magnificent building of the 17th century. The property houses an art collection devoted to the culture and art of the Guanajuato region. There are paintings, antique furniture, handcrafted lanterns and sculptures. Today it is a cultural center. Open Monday to Saturday from 10:00 to 15:00 hrs. Enjoy the nice concerts on Sunday at 13:00 hrs.



Museo de Historia Natural Alfredo Dugès (Alfredo Dugès Natural History Museum) - An interesting exhibition of the region’s animals and plants from the 19th century, on the grounds of the University of Guanajuato. Open Monday to Saturday from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs. Sunday from 10:00 to 14:00 hrs.





Museo Ex Hacienda San Gabriel de Barrera - This museum exhibits furniture and painting from the 17th century. The beautiful hacienda also has a cafe restaurant and a handcraft store definitely worth a visit. Hours: Monday to Sunday from 9:00 to 16:00 hrs.

Museo de Cera (Wax Museum) - It is a new concept in wax museums, with figures made by Victor Hugo Yáñez that will surprise the visitor with their hyper-realism. It displays pieces that represent the history of Guanajuato, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz and John Paul II, traditions of Guanajuato and, of course, cinema and terror. Open from Monday to Sunday from 9:00 to 18:00 hrs.

Museo Dieguino (Ex-Convent Dieguino Museum) – It exhibits the history of the city during its four and a half centuries of existence, as well as the religious architecture during the 17th century. Hours: Daily from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs.

Museo Olga Acosta y José Chávez Morado (Art Museum) - Originally the home of these two internationally renowned artists, now it houses a large collection of their paintings and works of art of the 16th to 19th century. The 16th Century building exhibits a collection of furniture and some pre-Hispanic pieces, as well. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 to 18:00 hrs. Sundays from 10:00 to 15:00 hrs.



Bocamina San Ramón (Mine Entrance) – An old hacienda that takes you back in time. This entrance leads into the Valenciana, the most important mine of the viceroyalty period. You can go down up to 60 meters and see the silver mother lode, the richest in the world during the 16th century. There is an exhibit of minerals and some work tools used in mines. Open Monday to Sunday from 10:00 to 19:00 hrs.



Casa de las Leyendas (Living Museum of the Legends) - Brings to life Guanajuato’s legends with life-like animated replicas of the city’s tragic and humorous myths. The visitors could know at first hand the most famous histories and legends of Guanajuato Open Monday to Sunday from 11:00 to 18:00 hrs.

Pinacoteca del Templo de La Compañía (Art Gallery at the Church of La Compañía de Jesús) – Built from 1747 to 1765, it houses an important collection of paintings and vestments, recently restored, from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 11:00 to 18:00 hrs and Sunday from 11:00 to 15:00 hrs.

Map of Guanajuato

MAP SYMBOLS

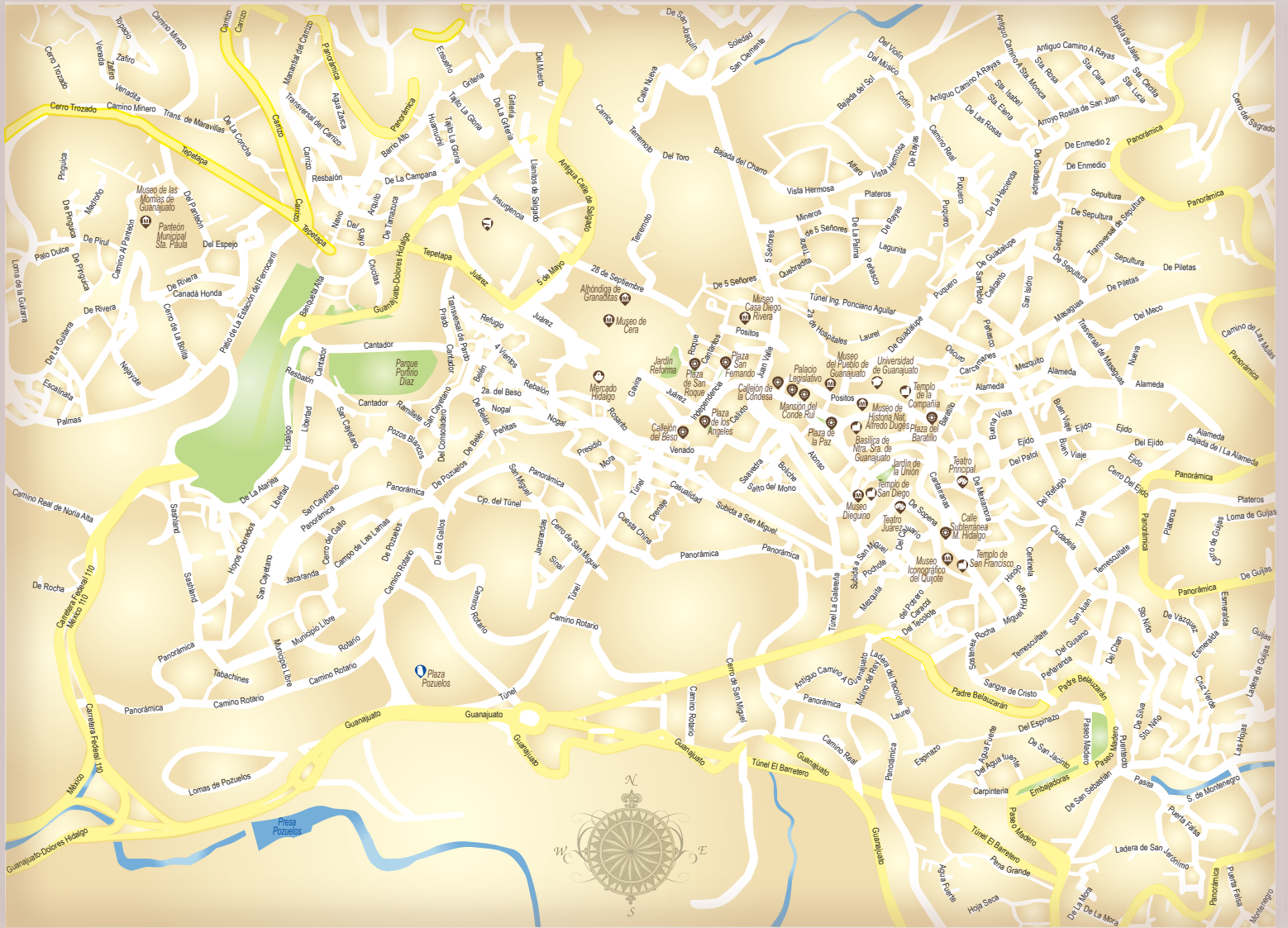
Distances from Guanajuato to:

City	Km	Miles
Acámbaro	173	103
Aeropuerto Internacional del Bajío	30	18
Agascalientes	185	114
Celaya	103	64
Ciudad de México	360	223
Colima	477	296
Cuernavaca	442	274
Dolores Hidalgo	54	33
Durango	612	380
Guadalajara	284	176
Irapuato	46	28
León	54	33
Monterrey	673	418
Morelia	178	110
Oaxaca	815	506
Pachuca	370	229
Pénjamo	99	61
Puebla	477	296
Querétaro	148	91
Salamanca	66	41
San José Iturbide	79	91
San Luis Potosí	187	116
San Miguel Allende	94	58
Tepic	485	301
Tlaxcala	463	287
Toluca	357	221
Yuriria	115	71
Zacatecas	310	192



Guanajuato

Historic Centre of Guanajuato



MAP SYMBOLS

San Miguel Allende

5 REASONS TO VISIT SAN MIGUEL ALLENDE

- Stroll through the cobbled streets of the old town.
- Buy some ornaments for your house in one of the fine stores.
- Enjoy the magical sanctuary of Atotonilco.
- Say "I do".
- Relax with a spa treatment.

The city was founded in 1542, this is one of the most beautiful colonial cities in Mexico. San Miguel has meant the careful conservation of the town's charming architecture and cobblestone streets, as well as its culture and traditions, and that is why it has become a UNESCO World Heritage site. Besides it offers the warm and friendliness of the people, the charming small cafes, bars, haute-cuisine restaurants and unique nightspots blend into the beautiful streets of this cosmopolitan town.

San Miguel boasts more "fiestas" than any other Mexican town. There are religious, cultural or sports events; some of them include international performances like the International Jazz Festival and the Chamber Music Festival; and some others are traditional celebrations like the "Sanmiguelada" (Running of the Bulls), the National Brass and Wool Fair and the Holy Week, with a solemn procession of the Holy Burial, among others.

The weather is mainly temperate and dry and its average temperature oscillates between 16°C (60.8°F) and 22°C (71.6°F), with cold winters. San Miguel has become a haven for many foreigners, specially Americans and Canadians because of the excellent weather and the distinctively, remarkably comfortable, Mexican ambiance.



BEST SOUVENIR BUYS

- Lamps, mirrors, the traditional stars and various pieces of brass embossing
- Antique and vintage collectible, as well as interesting pieces of the local art galleries
- Pottery, Vases and Dinnerware

WHAT TO VISIT IN SAN MIGUEL ALLENDE?



Jardín Principal (Main Garden) - This square is well-known by visitors and residents as the heart of San Miguel de Allende. A nice place to relax on the wrought iron benches shaded by trees, in an atmosphere enriched by the harmonies of musicians who play in the central kiosk.



Casa de las Conspiraciones (House of the Conspirators) - This 17th century manor house belonged to Ignacio Allende's brother, Domingo Allende. Here, the insurgents held secret meetings to conspire against the viceregal government. It is privately owned and not open to the public.



Casa del Conde de la Canal (House of the Count of Canal) - Neoclassic style building. Its enormous wooden carved main door has beautiful baroque details. This is a wonderful example of the 18th century architecture. This magnificent building has been turned into a Cultural Center with a number of exhibitions. Hours: Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 18:00 hrs. Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs.

Instituto Allende - It is located in a venerable mansion built in 1735. Currently, the house is used as a cultural institute, which offers Spanish and art classes. There is also a gallery with exhibits by student artists.



Fabrica la Aurora - A center of art and design with about 50 galleries, some antique shops, furniture stores, and a couple of restaurants and cafes. Hours: Daily from 11:00 to 18:00 hrs.



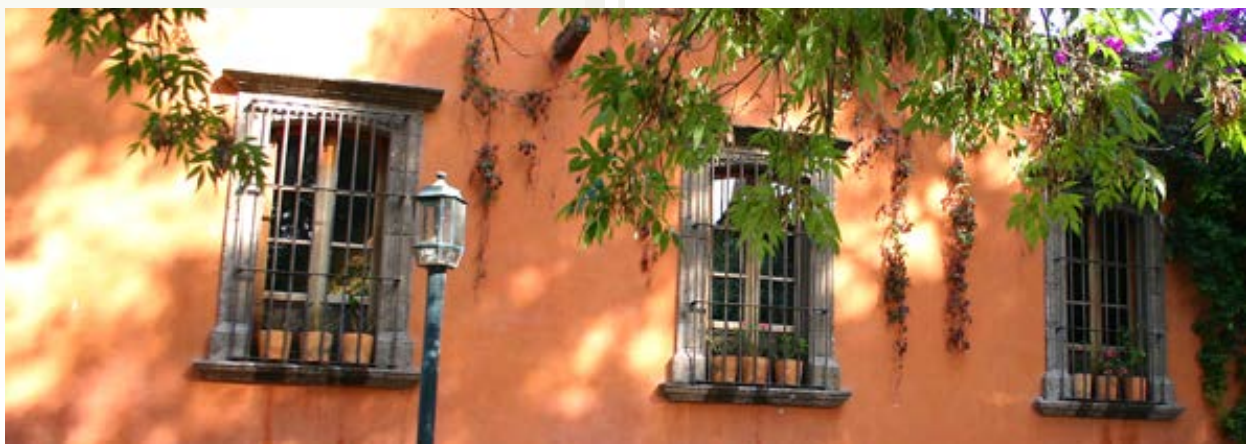
Plaza Cívica (Civic Plaza) – It was originally built in 1555 next to the Plaza de la Soledad, and the place was the hub of the town’s activity during the colonial times.

Angela Peralta Theater - This beautiful neoclassic construction dates back to the 19th century.

Mirador de San Miguel de Allende (Viewpoint) - It is surrounded by property owned by the tenor Pedro Vargas. From this point, you can admire the splendor of the city.

Parque Benito Juárez and Lavaderos del Chorro – The park was designed in French style, with fountains, ponds, wrought iron benches, old bridges and wide pathways. There is also a playground, basketball courts and picnic areas. Right next to the park is an area known as Lavaderos, a place where people previously washed their clothes in a communal way.

El Charco del Ingenio – This is a beautiful ecological reserve. Its name comes from a natural well squeezed at the bottom of a large ravine. There are scattered ruins of aqueducts and some other ancient hydraulic systems between brushes and thickets. It houses one of the most comprehensive botanical gardens in Mexico with over 1,000 different types of cacti. Hours: Daily from 9:00 to 18:00 hrs.





CHURCHES & TEMPLES

Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel (San Miguel Arcangel Parish) – This spectacular church was built at the beginning of the 18th century with a Neogothic façade. The marvelous pink granite parish with a unique style has become San Miguel’s most famous landmark. Its interior is decorated with paintings of the famous artist Juan Rodríguez Juárez and other remarkable artists of the colonial period. The back of La Parroquia on the left (east) side contains a small chapel and a crypt below the main altar design by Francisco Tresguerras, the famous artist, in 1786. The emperor Maximilian described the crypt as a place worthy of a king.

Templo de San Francisco - Located in a small plaza, this temple has the most beautiful Churrigueresque façade in the city. San Francisco houses de Tercera Orden Chapel and the convent cloister. The interior has a neoclassical style with beautiful paintings.



Templo de la Inmaculada Concepción (Las Monjas) - The majestic convent was also built in 1755, and it is best known as “Templo de las monjas” (Nuns Temple). Its main feature is the two-story dome, a replica of the cupola at Les Invalides in Paris. Its interior is decorated with some work of the famous artist Miguel Cabrera. Nowadays it houses the Centro Cultural Ignacio Ramirez “El Nigromante” (National Institute of Fine Arts), which offers classes in painting, drawing, sculpture, music and dance. Some of the stunning murals in the courtyard were painted by the famous artist David Alfaro Siqueiros.



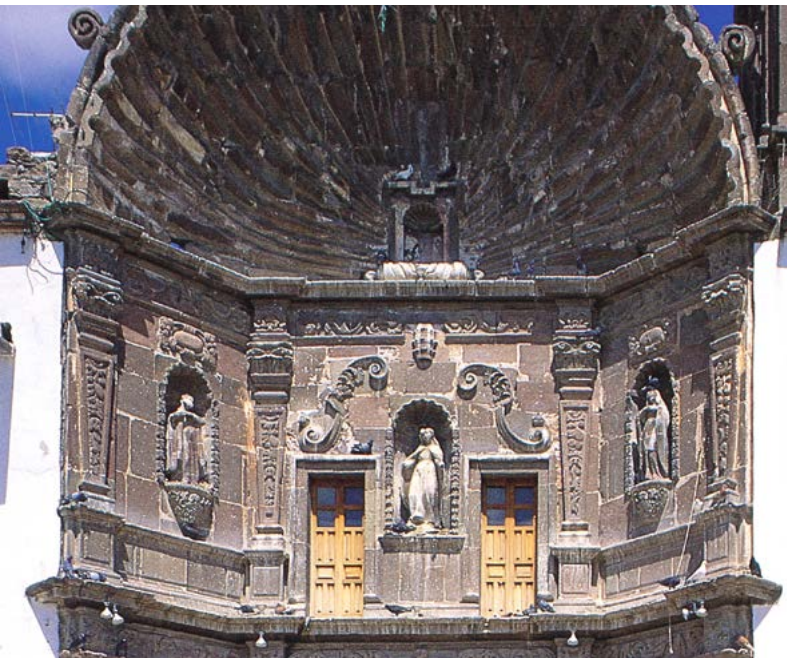


Historical place where the priest Miguel Hidalgo having given the “grito” (shout) for independence in Dolores and rushing with a group of followers toward battle, took up the banner of the Virgin of Guadalupe as the insurgency’s unifying coat or arms. The church is located just eight kilometers from San Miguel de Allende. The sanctuary built between 1740 and 1748, is an exceptional work of art in a baroque style and it has been named UNESCO World Heritage Site. The walls and ceilings of the interior are nearly entirely covered in mural

work, sculpture, inscriptions and oil paintings in a style called Mexican folk Baroque, most of the mural work was done by Miguel Antonio Martínez de Pocasangre, ver a period of thirty years. This mural work has led the complex to be called the Sistine Chapel of Mexico. On the south side there are six annexes of note, but the most important are: the Chapel of the Holy Burial (1763), Our Lady of the Rosary and its chamber (1766) and the Calvary Chapel (1774-1778). Hours: Monday to Sunday from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs.



Templo de Nuestra Señora de la Salud (Church of Our Lady of Health) – This temple dates back to the 18th century, and it has a Baroque façade with its huge shell shape carved in stone. The dome is covered with yellow and blue tiles. Inside, one can appreciate paintings and other pieces of sacred art.



Oratorio de San Felipe Neri - The enormous building was constructed in 1712. Its pink quarry façade is a beautiful and original example of baroque architecture, and its interiors contain beautiful neoclassic altars as well as works of art by Miguel Cabrera. It is a very interesting building because of its incredibly ornate décor with the walls covered with China, Valenciana and Puebla talavera tiles, along with beautiful baroque altarpieces.

Templo de San Rafael - It was built in the 18th century. The interesting architectural component is the bell that is in imitation Moorish style.



MUSEUMS



Museo Casa de Ignacio Allende (Allende's House Museum) - This baroque style colonial house dates back to the 18th century and was the birthplace of insurgent hero, Don Ignacio Allende y Unzaga. It currently houses the Historic Museum which exhibits archaeological artifacts, historical documents from the city's founding, works of contemporary art and of course a tribute to the man himself. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 to 17:00 hrs.

Museo La Esquina (The Corner Museum) - A museum of Mexican folk toy, with over 1,000 toys on display from various states such as Oaxaca, Chiapas, Guerrero, among other places. Hours: Wednesday to Saturday from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs. Sundays from 10:00 to 15:00 hrs.

Centro Cultural Ignacio Ramírez el Nigromante Aka Bellas Artes - The cultural center of the National Institute of Fine Arts has different exhibitions in the galleries on the ground floor. It is housed in a beautiful colonial building with a large central courtyard and fountain. Make sure not to miss the mural by David Alfaro Siqueiros. Hours: Monday to Saturday from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs. Sundays from 10:00 to 14:00 hrs.

The Other Face of Mexico Mask Museum - This museum has a unique display of over 500 Mexican ceremonial dance masks. The gallery has more than 300 masks on sale.

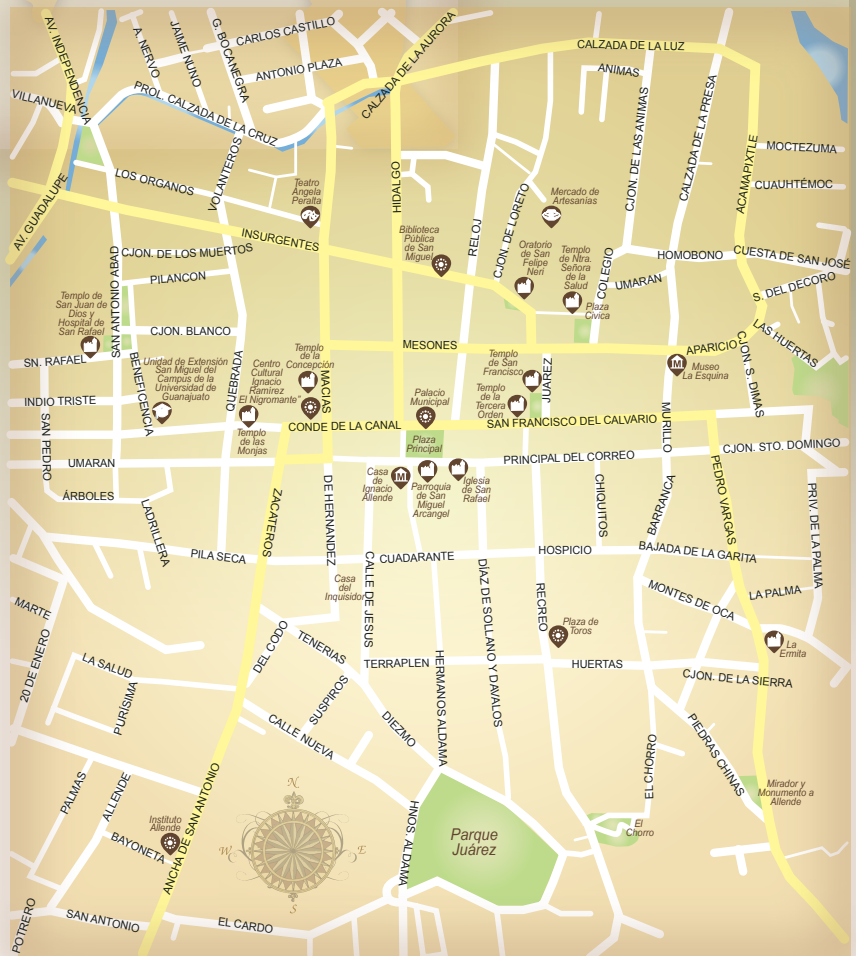
Map of San Miguel Allende

MAP SYMBOLS



Distances from San Miguel de Allende to:

City	Km	Miles
Acámbaro	135	83
Aeropuerto Internacional del Bajío	113	70
Aguascalientes	239	148
Celaya	52	32
Ciudad de México	274	170
Colima	538	334
Cuernavaca	357	221
Dolores Hidalgo	40	24
Guanajuato	94	58
Guadalajara	346	214
Irapuato	113	70
León	144	89
Monterrey	679	421
Morelia	188	116
Oaxaca	715	444
Pachuca	277	172
Pénjamo	166	103
Puebla	390	242
Querétaro	62	38
Salamanca	93	57
San José Iturbide	54	33
San Luis Potosí	186	115
Tepic	548	340
Tlaxcala	365	226
Toluca	252	156
Yuriria	72	44
Zacatecas	371	230



Magic Towns

Dolores Hidalgo



5 REASONS TO VISIT DOLORES HIDALCO

- Look at the square from the steps where father Hidalgo gave the cry of independence.
- Try all the ice-cream flavors.
- Sing your favorite song to José Alfredo Jiménez.
- Buy some beautiful majolica pottery.
- Visit dungeons that are full of history.

This colonial jewel known as the “Cradle of Independence”, was founded in 1610 and it has been named a Magic Town. The town has beautiful constructions of the 17th and 18th Century like: the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, from which Hidalgo (Independence hero), delivered the “Cry for Independence”; the City Hall, the Visitors House, the Independence Museum, the “Diezmo” House, and the House-Museum of Don Miguel Hidalgo with a display of historical objects and furniture.

Dolores Hidalgo is worldwide known for its traditional majolica tiles in the typical colonial decorated style of Mexico. It is also an important rustic furniture manufacturer.

BEST SOUVENIR BUYS

- Hand painted Talavera pottery and majolica ceramic
- Rustic wooden furniture
- Local wines
- Delicious “nieves” (ice cream) in the most exotic flavours like: mole, guacamole, tequila, shrimp, sweet corn and chili, among others

WHAT TO VISIT IN DOLORES HIDALGO ?



Templo de la Tercera Orden (Parish of the Third Order) – Built in 1755, is the oldest religious building in the city with a nice baroque façade.

Templo del Señor del Llanito - Built in 1778, features magnificent murals. Here, Miguel Hidalgo arrived to officiate several masses. It has a small museum displaying a fine collection of votive offerings, most of them from the 18th century.

Museo-Casa de Hidalgo – It was built in 1779. It displays a collection of period furniture and some objects and documents that belonged to Hidalgo, a leader in the War of Independence in Mexico. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 to 17:45 hrs. Sunday from 9:00 to 16:45 hrs

Hacienda de La Erre – Located four miles away from Dolores Hidalgo, was built in the first half of the 18th century. It is one of the oldest haciendas in the country.

Plaza Principal, Jardín del Grande Hidalgo (Main Plaza) - You can have a nice time strolling through the garden or just sitting on one of the wrought iron benches, while tasting some typical artisan ice-cream in exotic flavors such as Mole (chili and chocolate sauce), beer, rose petals, avocado, shrimp, etc. Around the square there are craft shops, restaurants, and a famous hotel where President Benito Juárez stayed.

Casa de Visitas (Guest House) – This is one of the most beautiful constructions in the town built in 1786. The facade is Plateresque and has six lobed arches on which carved stone balconies stand. The house provides accommodation to distinguished visitors.

Casa de Abasolo - Birthplace of insurgent hero Mariano Abasolo, born in 1784. It is currently being remodeled to host a museum.

Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Dolores (Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows) – It has a carved pink stone facade in the Churrigueresque style. It was the scene of a historical fact, when on the morning of Sunday September 16, 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo, rang the bells and launched the famous “Cry of Independence” and the call to sedition against the Spanish authorities in New Spain.



Museo José Alfredo Jiménez – The house was the birthplace of José Alfredo Jiménez, a famous composer. There are many artistic and cultural events. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 17:00 hrs

Museo de la Independencia Nacional (Independence Museum) - Built in the 18th century, it was originally used as a prison. It currently exhibits popular art, a portrait of Miguel Hidalgo and a tribute to José Alfredo Jiménez, a composer who was born in Dolores. Open Monday to Saturday from 9:00 to 16:45 hrs. Sunday from 9:00 to 15:00 hrs



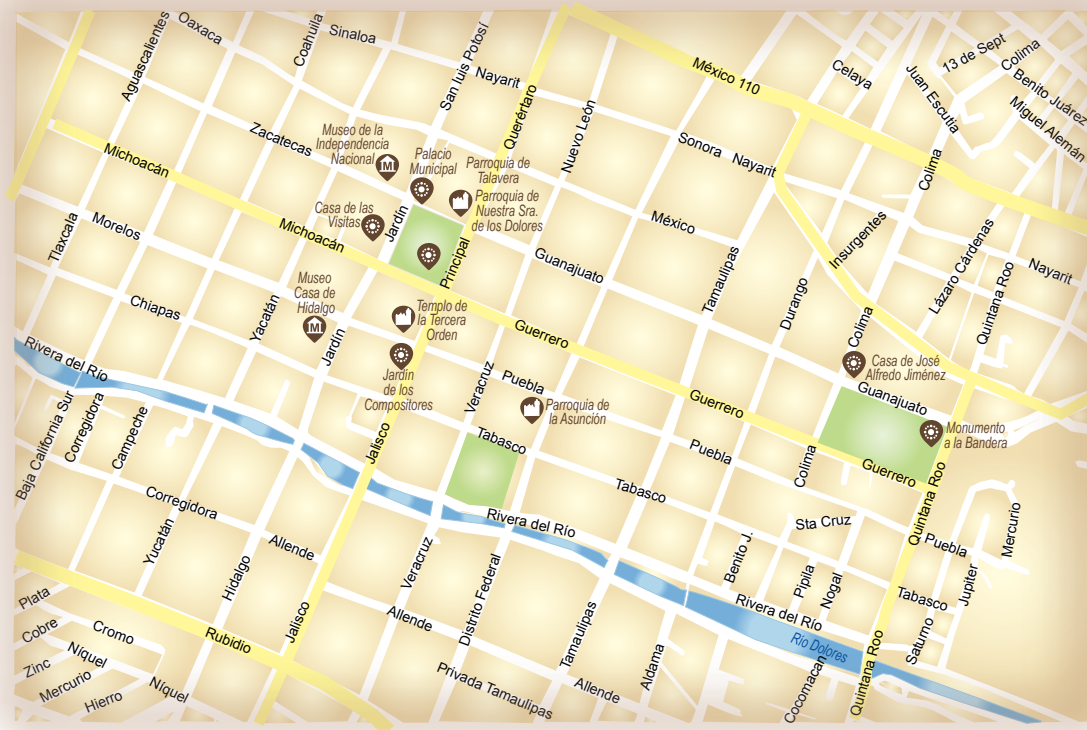
Map of Dolores Hidalgo

MAP SYMBOLS



Distances from Dolores Hidalgo to:

City	Km	Miles
Acámbaro	162	100
Aeropuerto Internacional del Bajío	83	51
Aguascalientes	201	124
Celaya	92	57
Ciudad de México	319	198
Colima	518	321
Cuernavaca	404	251
Guanajuato	54	33
Guadalajara	325	201
Irapuato	100	62
León	67	41
Monterrey	644	400
Morelia	231	143
Oaxaca	762	473
Pachuca	324	201
Pénjamo	143	88
Puebla	447	277
Querétaro	112	69
Salamanca	120	74
San José Iturbide	94	58
San Luis Potosí	151	93
San Miguel Allende	40	24
Tepec	527	327
Tlaxcala	412	256
Toluca	299	185
Yuriria	156	96
Zacatecas	316	196



Mineral de Pozos

The mysterious town of Pozos is a relic of a once booming mining town. In the late 1800's, at its economic height, there were approximately 300 mines around this town, but the most important was Santa Brígida that produced gold, silver, copper and zinc. Magic and mysticism come to life in this desolate place where it seems time has stood still allowing the visitor to wonder back in time. It is considered National Historic Patrimony and it has been named Magic Town. The semi-demolished buildings built in the 19th century and early 20th century gives this beautiful town a ghostly atmosphere.



You will have the opportunity to visit an old mine and go down at more than 200 meters below the surface. The town, however, has experienced a modest revival as a number of old adobe properties were restored or built anew. Today the town still offers travelers a combination of ancient stories, traditions and legends of its inhabitants. Around the Juarez Garden, there are some art galleries and crafts stores. The 18th century Parish of San Pedro is in front of the shaded garden.

You can practice biking or horseback riding and explore the mines, haciendas and Cerro Pelon; or you can go hiking, rappel or just enjoy the contact with nature and learn about the flora and fauna of the region.

BEST SOUVENIR BUYS

- Handmade dolls wearing traditional costumes
- Pre-Hispanic musical instruments
- Antiques and artwork from the galleries

Salvatierra

It is located in the south of the State of Guanajuato and is known as the “place of beautiful vegetation” because it is surrounded by green valleys watered by the streams of the Lerma River. Its history dates back to pre-Hispanic era when Chipícuaro and Chichimeca cultures settled in this region. This is one of Mexico’s best examples of a colonial town manifested in its civil and religious architecture. Here you can enjoy a walk between houses with arcades and courtyards, amid the scent of fresh lemon trees.

The city radiates out from its large main square where you can enjoy the homemade ice cream as well as frozen strawberries with whipped cream. Facing the square is the baroque church dedicated to the town’s patron saint, Our Lady of the Light (Nuestra Señora de la Luz), inside you will find a diminutive icon, made in the 16th century of a mixture of corn paste and orchid juice.

Another important constructions are: Templo de San Francisco, built in 1740. Next to this church is the Father Perez museum. The Temple and Convent of the Capuchin Nuns built in 1770, an impressive Baroque complex noted for its neo-classical altars and its main cloister. The Temple and Convent of Our Lady of Carmen (Nuestra Señora del Carmen), built in 1646, was the first church in the town; it is an elegant construction with an exquisite Churrigueresque ornamentation.

Nearby there are about 300 haciendas conserving historical and cultural heritage, like San José del Carmen, Santo Tomás de Guatzindeo and San Nicolás de los Agustinos. There is an old emblematic bridge built by the Carmelites in 1649, Puente Batanes, and an Eco Park called El Sabinal a nice place for recreation with playgrounds.



BEST SOUVENIR BUYS

- Rompope (a sweet, egg-based liqueur), wafers, gorditas de nata (“dotted cream biscuits”) from the Convent of the Capuchin Nuns.
- Embroidered tablecloth and napkin sets
- Façónolín and paper mache figurines

Yuriria

Located in the south part of the state, this Magical Town has a magnificent former convent, considered at one time “The most spectacular building ever imagined”. Near the Yuririapúndaro Lagoon is the 16th-Century Ex-Covento of San Agustín with a massive size and dazzling structure, that reminds a medieval construction. It houses a museum with an important exhibit of religious objects. The lagoon was the first hydraulic project of the vice royal era, being constructed for the benefit of the region’s agriculture.

The construction of the monastery and the

large artificial lake took nine years. The building is very well preserved. The fortified monastery is accessed through an elegant Renaissance facade that highlights

indigenous features and opens onto a spacious interior with cloisters, gardens and cells. In the lower part of the former monastery there is a four-roomed museum with pre-Hispanic and colonial objects, as well as religious paintings and sculptures from the 17th and 18th centuries. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 17:45 hrs.

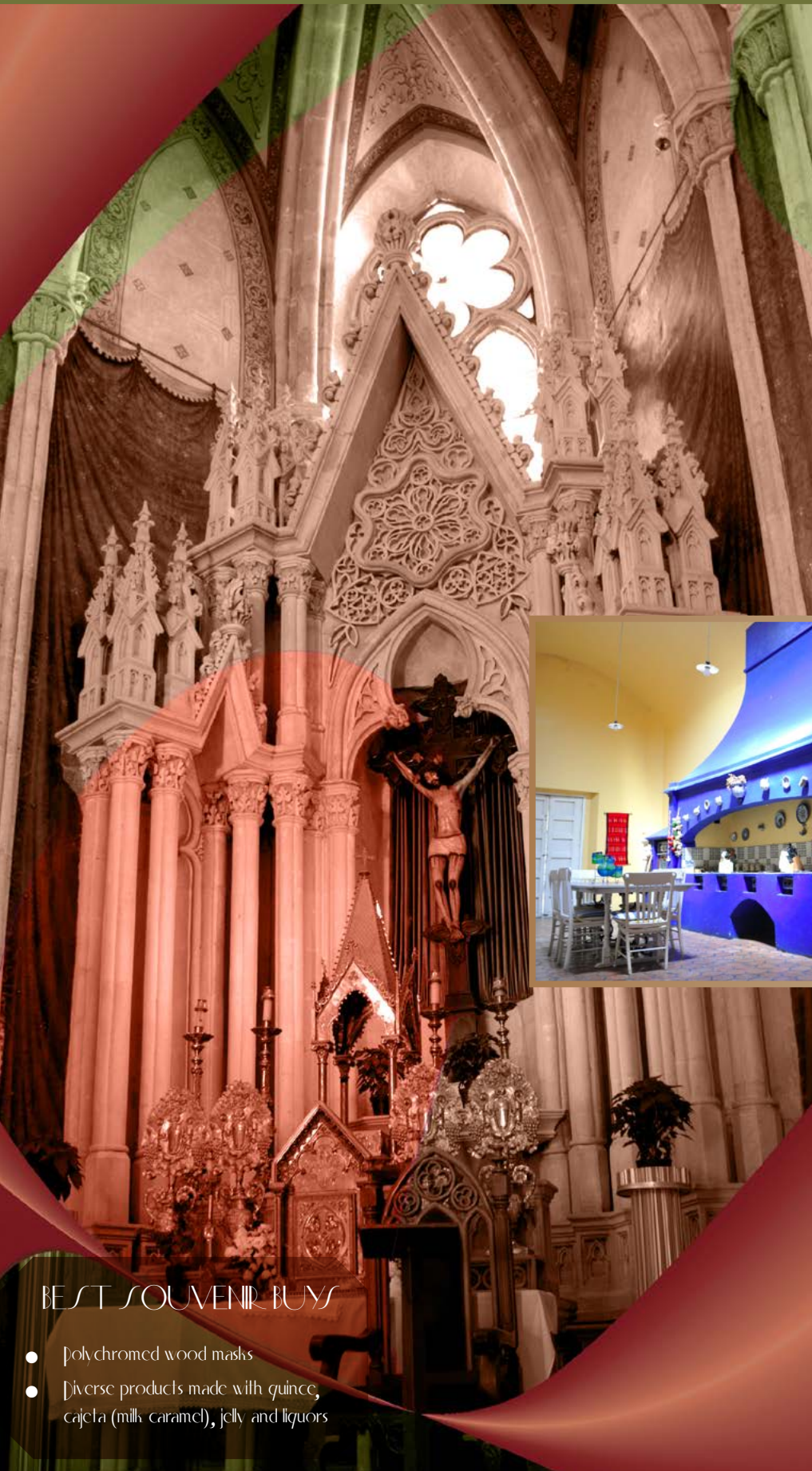
You can enjoy an unbeatable view of the convent from the lake and take a boat to visit the small islands. It is a wonderful place for bird watchers and photographers since many species of birds, migratory as well as local, visit the lake during winter season.

When you visit Yuriria you have to try the traditional “caldo de michi” a casserole of vegetables such as carrots, squash and onions with fresh catfish.



BEST SOUVENIR BUYS

- Matting (petates) and blowers
- Cross stitch, embroidery, crochet and needlework, crafts
- Fishing nets
- Natural fiber baskets



Jalpa de Cánovas

The origins of the town can be traced back to 1542 when these lands were granted to Don Juan Villasenor to found a hacienda devoted to livestock and farming. By the end of the 19th century, under the regime of Porfirio Díaz, the Hacienda de Jalpa was one of the most prosperous, had 70 thousand hectares, a dam, canal networks and a modern flour mill. Today you can visit the remains of the estate complex surrounded by walnut trees;



walk along the beautiful gardens, the grain mill, old rooms filled with history, and the old aqueduct. The buildings surrounding the plaza (central square) date from the colonial period and you can enjoy a calm and quiet atmosphere and a delicious

homemade ice cream. Across the plaza is the lovely Church of the Lord of Mercy (Señor de la Misericordia) built in 1908 by the Louis Long; the neo-gothic church has beautiful stained-glass windows and attractive murals.

Nearby attractions include the 18th century Santa Eduvigis Dam and the Presa Nueva, as well as several recreational centers.

BEST SOUVENIR BUYS

- Polychromed wood masks
- Diverse products made with guinice, cajeta (milk caramel), jelly and liquors



León



5 REASONS TO VISIT LEÓN

- Attend the theater and opera season.
- Go zip lining through a protected natural area.
- Spend all your money on shoes.
- Discover your mystical side.
- See how your children have fun learning.

In the last twenty years, this industrial city has become one of the leaders in economic growth and the highest living standard in Latin America. León has a large concentration of factories which produce high quality shoes and leather goods, it is known as the “Shoe Capital of the World”, with exports of more than 25 million pairs of shoes annually. The city offers a modern tourist infrastructure, along with sports clubs, large shopping malls, and four eighteen-hole golf clubs. Some of the interesting places to visit are: León Historical Archives, the Explora Science Center Museum, the Metropolitan Park and the León Zoo.

There is a new complex that establishes the city as the most important business center in Latin America - the POLIFORUM-, with 24,000 m2 (452,084 square feet) of meeting space and world-class services.

The modern city has an important cultural life, the Guanajuato Cultural Center is a contemporary complex with a museum and a theater. And, if you just want to have fun, León has a great nightlife with a wide variety of restaurants, discos and bars.

León is home to events like the World Rally Championship and the International Hot Air Balloon Festival, held at the Metropolitan Park during the month of November.

BEST SOUVENIR BUYS

- Shoes
- Leather goods



WHAT TO VISIT IN LEÓN ?

Arco Triunfal de la Calzada de los Héroes (Leon's Triumphal Arc) – This arc has become the symbol of the city. It was built in 1893 in a neoclassic style to celebrate the 83th Mexican Independence's anniversary. The arch is crowned by a bronze lion made by Humberto Peraza.

Casa de las Monas – It was built in 1870. It was the Government Palace, and the City Hall. Today it houses the Leon Cultural Institute for a contemporary art gallery.

Palacio Municipal (City Hall) – This building has been the City Hall since 1869. On the stairway there are beautiful murals painted by Jesús Gallardo in 1972-73.

Parque Metropolitano (Metropolitan Park) - It has a large dam, the ruins of an 18th century hacienda, a long zip line, a farm, a Children's city, train rides, boats, bikes, horseback riding, a restaurant and a camping area. You may see a lot of different birds in the park like pelicans, ducks and more than 200 species of migratory and resident birds.

El Zoológico de León (The Zoo) – Settled in a great natural area, Leon's Zoo shows about two thousand animals of 240 species. This zoo affords the animals superbly conditioned areas that recreate their natural habitat. The zoo offers a nightly safari.



CHURCHES & TEMPLES

Basilica Catedral de la Madre Santísima de la Luz (The Basilic Cathedral) – This is one of the most emblematic cathedrals in Mexico, a majestic edifice from 1765.

It has a Baroque facade, with two identical towers with three bodies that reach 67 meters in height.



Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe – The temple dates back to 1875. It has an impressive tabernacle with columns.

Templo del Inmaculado Corazón de María – This temple was built in 1901 with a Neo-Gothic style. It has a sober facade and beautiful stained glass windows.

Parroquia del Sagrario de San Sebastián – Originally built in 1589, underwent reforms in the facade during the 19th century facade and in the tower in the 18th century. The temple has amazing ornamental paintings and a beautiful pipe organ.

Templo de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles – The temple has a unique facade with a Baroque style. On the inside there is a beautiful canvas from the 18th century with



the Virgin of the Angels.

Templo Expiatorio del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús (The Expiatory Temple) - Its construction started in 1920, and it is a beautiful temple with a Neo-Gothic style where magnificent stained glass windows can be admired.





MUSEUMS

Museo de Arte e Historia de Guanajuato (Arts and History Museum of Guanajuato) - The museum is part of the Guanajuato Cultural Forum. The building has three levels with several rooms exhibiting regional culture, Mexican sculptures and temporal exhibits. The museum also features educational services, auditorium, cafeteria, library and parking lot. Open Tuesday to Friday from 10:00 to 17:00 hrs. Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 to 18:00 hrs.

Museo de Arte Sacro (Museum of Sacred Art) – Located in an annex of the Cathedral-Basilica. This museum displays paintings from different periods and artists, and liturgical objects.



Museo Arqueológico y Archivo Histórico de la Ciudad (Museum of Archeology and Historic Files) – The museum permanent exhibition includes objects from the Chupícuaro and Chichimeca cultures found in archaeological sites in the region. It also features the history of the footwear industry in the city.

Museo y Centro de Ciencias Explora (Explora Science Center) - Interactive science center is surrounded by an ecological park with palapas, a jogging track, children playground, a kiosk, a lake and an outdoor auditorium. The museum features six pavilions most of them interactive, temporal exhibits and an IMAX movie theater. Movie showtime: Tuesday to Friday 11:00, 13:00 and 17:00 hrs. Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 12:00, 14:00, 16:00 and 18:00 hrs.



Map of León



León

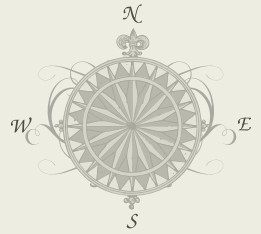
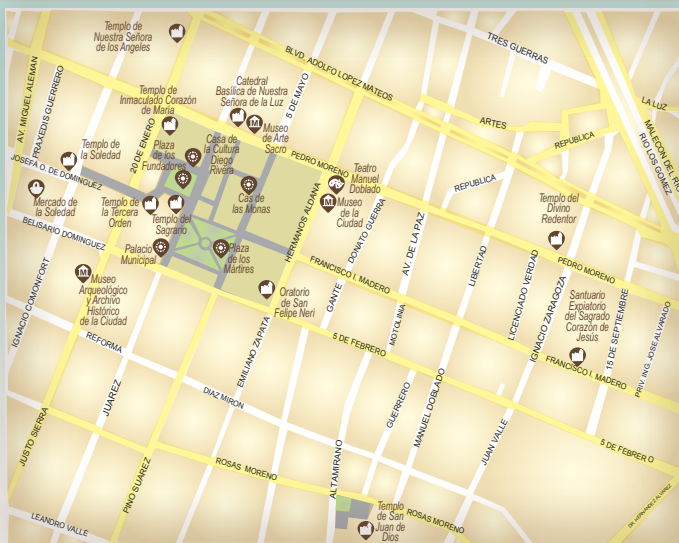
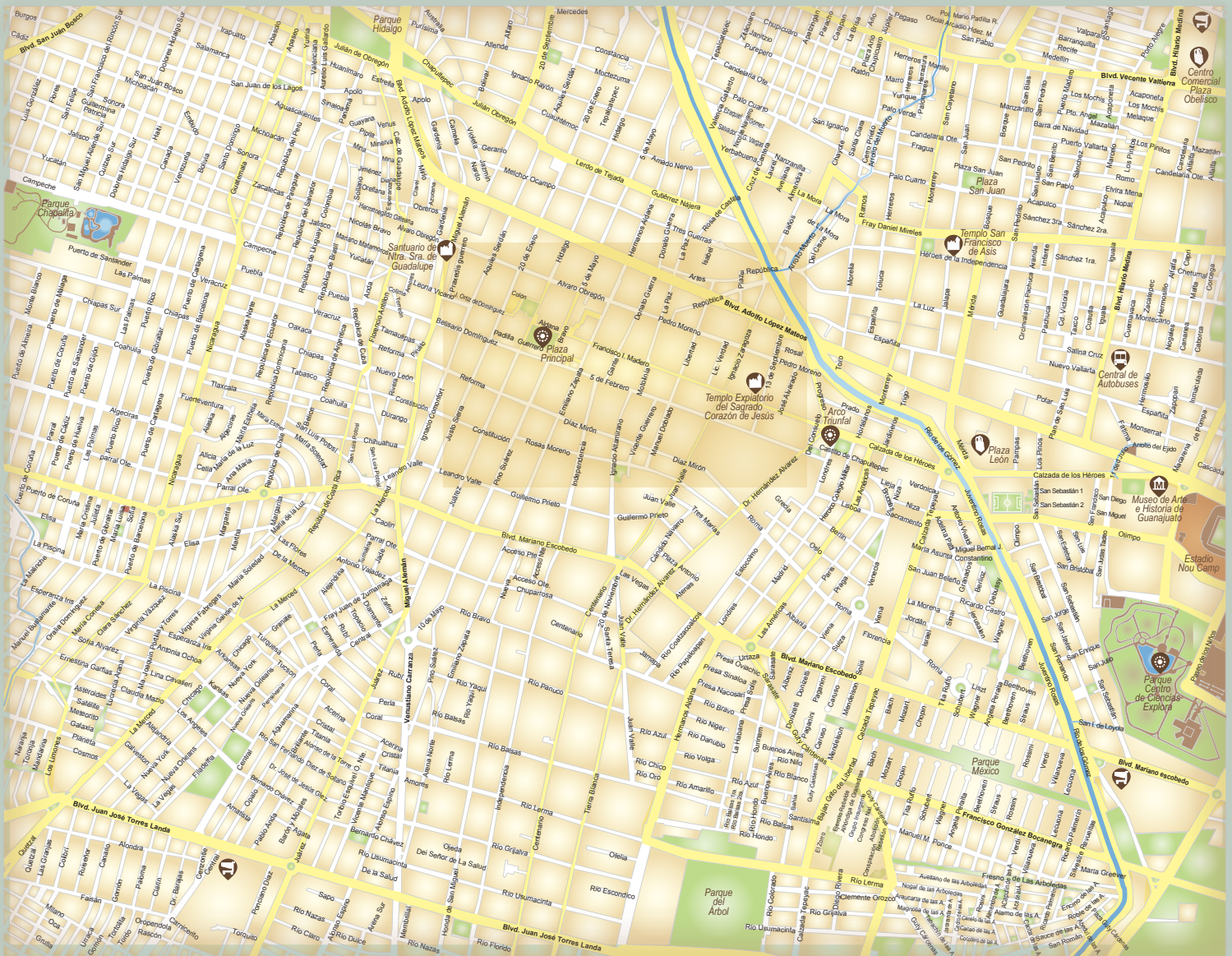


Tabla de Distancias de León a:

Ciudad	Km	Millas
Acámbaro	187	116
Aeropuerto Internacional del Bajío	28	17
Aguascalientes	124	77
Celaya	128	79
Ciudad de México	390	242
Colima	411	255
Cuernavaca	475	295
Dolores Hidalgo	110	68
Guanajuato	54	33
Guadalajara	219	136
Irapuato	67	41
Monterrey	713	443
Morelia	200	124
Oaxaca	833	517
Pachuca	395	245
Penjamo	120	74
Puebla	508	315
Querétaro	173	107
Salamanca	87	54
San José Iturbide	198	123
San Luis Potosí	181	112
San Miguel Allende	158	98
Tepec	421	261
Tlaxcala	483	300
Toluca	387	240
Turista	138	85
Zacatecas	243	150

MAP SYMBOLS

Map of Downtown León



MAP SYMBOLS



Celaya

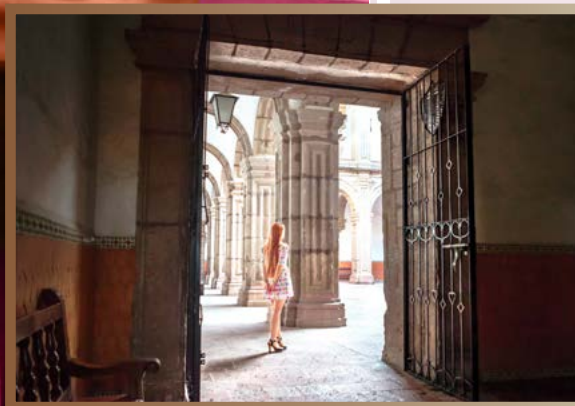
5 REASONS TO VISIT CELAYA

- Buy the typical cajeta and wafers.
- Take a photo of the famous Water ball.
- Admire Tresguerras' work.
- Have spooky experiences in the cemetery.
- Try the 'gorditas' (small, stuffed tortilla pouches) at Cañitos market.

Celaya is known as the Golden Gate of the Bajío (Low Land), and it is also famous for its high quality production of milk based sweets. Celaya has this tradition of producing wonderful sweets since the colonial period. In modern sweets stores you can learn about the production process and taste some of

these candies like: cajeta, made from boiled goat milk, brown sugar and cinnamon, chewy candy, lollipops, among other sweets.

You can walk through the fortified walls of old monasteries or dare to spend a spooky night at the cemetery that houses the Museum of Mummies.



This important business center, was the birthplace of one of the most important practitioners of neoclassical architecture, Francisco Eduardo Tresguerras. An exquisite example of his work is the Church of Carmen. This city has important buildings that are worth seeing, such as the Church of San Francisco built in the 17th century and the Augustinian cloister, also constructed in the same century.

BEST SOUVENIR BUYS

- Cajeta—a sweet made of burned milk and sugar in a variety of flavors. Quemada (burnt), envinada (wine-flavored), vanilla, walnut, strawberry, pine nut, and other original flavors.
- Different sweets like como jamoncillos (creamed candy), wafers, cocadas (coconut candies) and marinas (chewy balls covered nuts)



WHAT TO VISIT IN CELAYA ?

Plaza de Armas (Main Town Square) – A garden is surrounded by nice portals and important buildings. In the middle of the plaza there is an old and beautiful gazebo that dates back to 1906.

Presidencia Municipal (City Hall) – The building was constructed in the 18th century and it has some awe-inspiring murals painted by Octavio Ocampo, a well-known artist from Celaya depicting the Mexican history.

Catedral de Celaya (Cathedral) - Located next to the Temple of San Francisco, it was restored in the 19th century for the famous architect Tresguerras in a beautiful neoclassical style.

Templo de la Tercera Orden – It was built in 1820 with beautiful altarpieces made by Tresguerras. The interior features 18 astonishing stained glass windows.

Templo y Exconvento de San Agustín – The construction dates back to 1609. It has a Plateresque style with Moorish reminiscences. In 1863, the property was expropriated and turned into a prison until 1962, when it was opened as a school for the fine arts.



Convento y templo de San Francisco – This building dates back to 1573 and it has been renovated several times, maybe the most important was the one made by Francisco Tresguerras in 1715. It is one of the major landmarks of its type in the country. The interior features Baroque design, while the exterior is Plateresque.

Templo del Carmen – This shrine is a real jewel that surprises the visitor by its beauty and the cleverness of its proportions. Considered as the masterpiece of the distinguished architect Francisco Tresguerras. The interior has some original paintings made by Tresguerras and a German organ built in 1800.

Museo de Celaya Historia Regional (Regional History Museum) – The museum features eight rooms with the history of Celaya. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs..

Panteón y Museo de Momias de Celaya (Celaya Cemetery and Mummy Museum) – It was opened in the 19th century, today it is a place in symbols and mysticism. Next to the cemetery is the Mummy Museum.

Torre hidráulica o Bola de agua (Water Ball) – This is one of the most important landmarks in Celaya. Since 1908 is supplying water to the downtown area. It is in a 35 meter high tower and has a diameter of 12 meters, is the only one of its kind in the world.



Map of Celaya



Celaya

MAP SYMBOLS

Distances from Celaya to:

City	Km	Miles
Acámbaro	70	43
Aeropuerto Internacional del Bajío	101	62
Agascalientes	242	150
Ciudad de México	269	167
Colima	497	308
Cuernavaca	354	219
Dolores Hidalgo	92	57
Guanajuato	103	64
Guadalajara	305	189
Irapuato	61	37
León	128	79
Monterrey	750	466
Morelia	140	86
Oaxaca	712	442
Pachuca	274	170
Pénjamo	114	70
Puebla	387	240
Querétaro	52	32
Salamanca	41	25
San José Iturbide	106	65
San Luis Potosí	257	159
San Miguel Allende	52	32
Tepec	506	314
Tlaxcala	362	224
Toluca	249	154
Yuriria	64	39
Zacatecas	361	224





Irapuato



5 REASONS TO VISIT IRAPUATO

- Stroll through the bustling market.
- Take a photo at the fountain of dancing water.
- Admire the magnificent Lord of Mercy, made of corn paste.
- Enjoy the atmosphere during the Jazz Festival.
- Try the delicious strawberries.

This progressive city combines the rich history of the region with a modern infrastructure

and industrial development.

It has earned the title of

“Strawberry Capital of the World”.

The main features in

Irapuato are: The San Francisco de Paula Temple;

Our Lady of Solitude Parish,

this church dates back to 1600;

the Mercy Temple from the 16th century;

the Convent of San Francisco built in 1799;

the Hidalgo Zoo; and the City Museum, which displays a number of archaeological artifacts, historical documents and photographs depicting the history of Irapuato.



BEST SOUVENIR BUYS

- Handmade crystallized strawberries,
- Strawberries covered with dried chili or chocolate.



WHAT TO VISIT IN IRAPUATO ?



Plaza de los Fundadores (Founder's Square) – A square of splendid beauty due to its collection of sculptures that capture pre-Hispanic elements and the city of Irapuato's origin.

Presidencia Municipal (City Hall) – It was built in 1800 in the Neoclassical style. In the second floor there is an amazing mural named “The Revolutions”. It has one of the largest courtyards in the country, surrounded by an arcade.



Templo de la Misericordia o del Hospitalito (Parish of Mercy) - Its foundation has been attributed to the first bishop of Michoacán, Vasco de Quiroga, around 1550. The facade was renovated in the 18th century in a baroque style. The interior contains one of the biggest chandeliers in Mexico, a beautiful sculpture called “Señor de la Misericordia” (Lord of Mercy) made with corn cane paste, and a mysterious tunnel that divides the sacristy and extends up to the City Hall.

Templo de San Francisco – Built in 1799, the predominant style is baroque, combined with a neoclassical style used in the facade. In the interior there are some original paintings done by Tresguerras.

Templo de Nuestra Señora de la Soledad – Irapuato's cathedral was built in 1600 and then renovated in the 28th century. It has a nice baroque style.

Museo de la Ciudad (City Museum) - This museum is located in a magnificent baroque style building built during the second half of the 18th century. It displays a number of archaeological artifacts, weapons, historical documents and photographs depicting the history of Irapuato. It permanently exhibits paintings by Roberto Montenegro, 19th century carriages, murals and diverse pieces of art, a collection of weapons, military uniforms and antiques. Open Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 19:00 hrs. Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 to 16:00 hrs

Hacienda El Copal – The hacienda used to supply grain to mining areas and convents. Its characteristic façade has nine pink stone arches.



Map of Irapuato

MAP SYMBOLS



Distances from Irapuato to:

City	Km	Miles
Acámbaro	120	74
Aeropuerto Internacional del Bajío	44	27
Aguascalientes	185	114
Celaya	61	37
Ciudad de México	328	203
Colima	436	270
Cuernavaca	413	256
Dolores Hidalgo	100	62
Guanajuato	46	28
Guadalajara	244	151
León	67	41
Monterrey	702	436
Morelia	139	86
Oaxaca	771	479
Pachuca	333	206
Pénjamo	53	32
Puebla	447	277
Querétaro	111	68
Salamanca	20	12
San José Iturbide	167	103
San Luis Potosí	210	130
San Miguel Allende	113	70
Tepic	446	277
Tlaxcala	422	262
Toluca	326	202
Yuriria	71	44
Zacatecas	304	188



Destinations in Guanajuato

San José Iturbide

This is a place for nature lovers, where you can admire mountain landscapes, magnificent gorges, magnetic zones, the natural sculptures of the Hill of the Turtle, cave paintings, architecture of the 17th century and remains of old “haciendas”. The most astonishing construction in the town is the San José Iturbide Parish, whose construction began in 1866 with a beautiful neoclassical style. This is the ideal place to practice ultralight aviation and enjoy an incomparable view.



Abasolo

Located in the Southeast region of the state. Among its attractions is the church where Miguel Hidalgo, the Father of the Nation was baptized and the Hidalgo Museum, where you can find a replica of the baptism fountain, and some pre-Hispanic pieces. There are several spas recognized for its hot springs and natural beauty. Brinco del Diablo (The Devil's Leap) hill is an ideal place for mountain biking, camping and rappelling: while Ojo de Agua de Galván, is great for a picnic. Nearby is the archaeological site of Peralta, with a monumental architecture.



Pénjamo

It is known as Hidalgo Cradle and it is one of the cities with major commercial movement of the State; however, its main square has kept the essence of a peaceful village. You can visit the Parish of San Francisco built in the 18th century. The Pénjamo landscape is dominated by the blue agave. This is the door to the Highlands of Pénjamo with many stunning natural beauties, ideal for adventure tourism. Not very far from Irapuato is the Hacienda



Acámbaro

Founded in 1526, the town is a site of considerable architectural interest. You can visit the Stone Bridge, featuring nine arches with a Neoclassical style built in 1750. Besides, worth a visit Del hospital Temple from the 16th century with one of the most beautiful facades of Guanajuato in Plateresque style, Guadalupe Temple (18th century) and the impressive San Francisco Temple from the 18th Century. It is also famous the "Fuente Taurina" (Bullfighting Fountain), built for commemorating the first bullfight celebrated in the New Spain during the 16th century.

You can also visit the Fray Bernardo Padilla museum, with an exhibit that depicts the history and culture of the people of Chupícuaro. And, the three small chapels of Acámbaro, initially there were fourteen in the 17th century, they were built to stop and pray in the Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) during Holy Week. Pan de Acámbaro (Acámbaro bread), Acámbaro's most famous culinary export, is a bakery product similar to Jewish Challah



Corralejo de Hidalgo, where Miguel Hidalgo was raised, today it is in ruins. And, also very near from Pénjamo is the Hacienda Corralejo a famous tequila producer. The installation gives tours of the cellars lit in blue, learning about the manufacturing process and testing the famous drink. It also has a museum called the Museo del Vino y la Botellas (Museum of Spirits and Bottles). The museum contains a collection of about 3,000 bottles, almost all of which with their original contents. Open Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 to 16:00 hrs.

Salamanca

This primarily industrial city is the possessor of an architectural jewel: the San Agustín Church, considered one of the most important architectural works of art during the vice regal period with a beautiful baroque style. The interior contains amazing gold leaf altars of 24 carat gold. These altars are said to be the most impressive in Latin America. Salamanca is famous for its detailed wax figures. This peaceful city has many attractions like: the Hidalgo Museum located in an old hacienda of the 18th century, with an exhibition of several paintings and historic documents related with the bicentenary of independence, (open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 15:00 hrs. and from 17:00 to 20:00 hrs.). The Parroquia Antigua (Old Parish), one of the architectural treasures of Salamanca, constructed in 1690. And, the Templo del Señor del Hospital (Temple of the Hospital), built in 1888 in a neoclassical style.





Silao



Here is one of the most visited shrines of Mexico. The Shrine of Christ the King crowns the mountain Cerro del Cubilete, 2,579 meters (8,460 feet) above sea level. One of Mexico's most important religious monuments, it marks the geographical center of the country. The entire building, and the image of Christ as well, are art deco in design. From the plaza at the foot of the shrine, one can enjoy wide-open vistas of the Guanajuato plains. Enjoy the panoramic view from the mountain, and if you love excitement, dare to take to the skies and paraglide from the mountain. Silao is a small provincial town full of traditions. It is the birthplace of the Chávez Moreno brothers, and there is a beautiful museum where you can admire the work of these famous artists. In 2010 Silao hosted the Bicentennial Expo, and today this is a nice modern place for leisure and education with interesting permanent exhibits.





Tourist Routes



Archaeology Route

In this tour you can experience the past and the origins of Guanajuato.

The route starts at the archaeological site “Cañada de la Virgen” (Virgin’s ravine), near San Miguel Allende. It was at its height between 500 and 900 CE. Complex A, also called the Casa de los Trece Cielos (House of the Thirteen Heavens or Skies) consists of a large “sunken” patio like that in Peralta surrounded a pyramidal base over 25 meters high. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 9:30 to 16:00 hrs.

Then is the archaeological site of Peralta, near Abasolo. It was found in 300 CE when the Toltec-Chichimecas cultures started the construction of one of the major civic-religious center of the area. In the year 900 CE the settlement was abandoned probably due to natural disasters. The site features temples, plazas, sunken patios and an interesting space named “Recinto de los Gobernantes” (Governors’ Precinct). There is a stone that rings with a characteristic sound, when struck with another stone. This stone was used for communication with the other settlements in the valley. There is a site museum. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs.

This route ends in Plazuelas, located just west of Pénjamo. The site was constructed over three hillsides separated by two large creeks. It was occupied around 600 and 900 CE, and it is noted for the complexity of its architecture.



The beauty of the site may be appreciated in the most important construction at the site is the complex called “Casas Tapadas” which contains several large structures and one ball court. In the four corners of the court were found sculptures representing a serpents and at the center, as marker a serpent –lizard. The marker found at the eastern side of the court, depicts attributes of the ancient rain gods, reiterating their association with fertility. Surrounding the buildings are more than 1,000 rocks with petroglyphs engraved on the surface of igneous rock outgrowths. There is a site museum. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs.

Route of the Indian Chapels

The indigenous people of Guanajuato are a living heritage that is expressed in its traditions and festivals, where religious architecture and especially its inhabitants admirably have kept their ancient heritage. Only 40 minutes from San Miguel de Allende there are six communities sharing their chapels, stories, food and crafts. A tourist route with a deep respect for the customs of the people of our communities.





Tequila Circuit

In the Southwest region of the state of Guanajuato are six major tequila producers. You can travel along the majestic blue agave plantations, learn about the regional traditions and culture and enjoy the unique atmosphere of the haciendas. The tour begins in the Corralejo Hacienda, famous for its tequila in a blue bottle, recognized as a symbol of national identity. In Magallanes, very near from Pénjamo, you will find charming stone houses and a delightful cuisine, this is the place where the ancient tequila “Tres Joyas” is produced with a history of more than 200 years. Next is Churipitzeo de Pénjamo, where you can witness musical and equestrian shows. In the way to the archaeological zone “Plazuelas” there is another tequila producer, different from the others because it uses an innovative production processes. Your senses will awaken as you travel through the natural landscape with impressive canyons, mountains and hills, in the way to Cuerámara. In the Hacienda de San Gregorio you will find a museum dedicated to Francisco Xavier Mina, an army officer and a Mexican revolutionary.

Wine Circuit

The wine in Guanajuato is the result of a rich cultural and natural heritage. When you walk along the vineyards, you can experience the winemaking process and taste the magnificent wine. Most of the wine-producing farms are in the road between the Magic Town of Dolores Hidalgo and the enchanting city of San Miguel de Allende. The wine from Guanajuato is a sensitive and exquisite representation of the land, these “ranchos” produce hand-crafted wine and take great care with every detail in the wine making process, resulting in a unique wine with complex and elegant flavors.



Nature & Adventure



Peña Alta

Forest zone with rich fauna and two dams ideal for fishing. It is a great spot to practice rappel, camping, hiking, bird watching, aquatic sports and guided horse riding.

Vergel de Bernalejo

Located in the heart of the “Sierra Gorda”, this community offer wonderful natural sceneries like: The Bernalejo Caves; the “Picachos”, a very unique mountain because of its shape, a most for hiking lovers; some “sótanos” (caves) with a great diversity of fauna and flora; and the water-based attraction called the Puente de Dios (Bridge of God) a natural rock formation that looks like a bridge created through thousands of years. It is an ideal place for camping.

Sierra de Lobos (Mountain Range)

This mountain range offers a landscape of crags and ponds that makes it possible to enjoy a variety of open-air activities such as walking and camping. There is a dam where you can fish bass and carp.

Sierra de Santa Rosa (Mountain Range)

It is located very close to the city of Guanajuato. In the recreational zone of Las Palomas there are guided tours to learn about the herbs and fauna of the region. There are more than 172 bird species in this natural park. La Cuenca de la Esperanza, is an ideal spot for naturalists and birdwatchers; facilities are available for activities like mountain biking, hiking and camping.

El Salto

Impressive geological formation with two waterfalls, located in the community of Picones and El Potrero. You can explore the area on foot or horseback, it is ideal for mountain biking.

Bosque de Vergel de la Sierra (Forest)

Beautiful oak woodland located in Sierra de Lobos (Wolf’s Mountain Range). It is the natural habitat of a wide variety of flora and fauna. The perfect place to practice for nature-related activities. It has camping areas and numerous recreational activities such as horseback riding, ATV’s, kayaking, fishing and rappelling.

Los Panales

Attractive ravine with rugged rock formations distributed along more than 10 kilometers long as big columns. In its lower part runs a river called El Panal, “Honeycomb”. Best to visit during the rainy season.



Siete Luminarias (Land of the Seven Lights)

It is a Natural Reserve. An unusual landscape with a formation of seven extinct volcanoes distributed in an area of almost 90 km² of protected ecological zone. There are beautiful lakes inside most of the craters. Some of the names in the Purepecha language are: Tallacua, Membereca, Andaracua, Sicua, Sacalasschil, Liricua and Teremecua. The crater “La Alberca” – The Pool - (Tallacua), this sulfur crater lake is very deep and is a unique place for diving. La Hoya de Cintora



Tierra Blanca

There is a beautiful dam named “Cedro”, where you can have a ride or go fishing. Two kilometers far from here is “El Salto”, with perfect natural walls for rock climbing and rappel.

Preso del Conejo

A wall created by nature with black mud, and eucalyptus and mesquite trees. An excellent place for trekking and camping, or just to enjoy the nature.

Arroyo Seco

It is located in Victoria, this small community supports an ecologic reserve with 300 years-old cacti, some of them are up to two-meters tall. While in the area, you can also explore the cave paintings and the rock formations like the Cerro de Tortuga (Turtle Hill).

Cerro del Cubilete

The Cerro del Cubilete (“Tumbler Hill”) is a 2,700m (8,860 feet) tall hill. Atop the hill is a tall statue of Christ. The statue dominates the approaches to Guanajuato, Leon and Silao from its vantage point, where it is also possible to go hang gliding.



Cerro Culiacán

It is the tallest of the state of Guanajuato with 2,830 meters (30461.8 square feet) above the sea level. There are some archaeological remains of various cultures. It is ideal for: mountain biking, motocross, hiking, hang gliding, rappelling, and camping, among some others.

Cuenca de la Esperanza y Las Palomas

Esperanza Basin and Las Palomas – This area with forest landscape offers facilities for activities like mountain biking, hiking and camping. Thanks to its high level of biodiversity it is an ideal spot for naturalists and birdwatchers because it is situated on the migratory path of many neo-tropical species on their way south from Canada, Alaska and the northern American states. There is a variety of 172 species of birds in this Natural Reserve. You can rent bicycles and camping equipment. The reserve has some other facilities like restrooms, places to eat and grills.

Cerro Grande

It has several trails for hiking and some rupestrian paintings.



(Andaracua), is a salt water lake with healing properties, especially for skin; it has countless caves with cave paintings. On shore there are orchards and archaeological remains have been found. By the lake you may find fruit orchards and some archaeological remains have been found. The volcanic crater called “Alvarez o de Flores” (Membereca) is the prettiest and mysterious of all them, is also the largest of the craters and displays remains of a pre-Hispanic ceremonial center, cave paintings and springs sprout out of the rocks; inside there are hot springs and fertile soil that have helped to produce giant vegetables.

Rincón de Parangueo (Liricua), has a tunnel of 300 meters long that leads to the salty lake that is in its interior. You can also find plenty of caves with petroglyphs that have barely been explored. The Land of the Seven Lights is located in Valle de Santiago, is famous for its theories and legends about giant vegetables, and amazing phenomenon. It is ideal for recreational activities such as mountain biking, trekking and rappelling.

Gastronomy

Since pre-Hispanic times, Guanajuato has distinguished itself in the culinary arts. The aromas, textures and flavors of their dishes are full of symbols and history. The state features a wide variety of flavors, each destination has a wide range of dining facilities that will impress even the most discerning palate. Some of these restaurants are located in unique and historic buildings immersed in the typically colonial atmosphere.

The roots, of this rich culinary tradition, come from the different cultures that once populated this region, mixed with new ingredients brought by the Spanish conquerors, transforming the regional dishes into some of the best in Mexico.

In any of the restaurants, in San Miguel de Allende you will find traditional dishes such as “pellizcadas de nata” (corn cake made with cornmeal and stuffed with cream), “fiambres estilo San Miguel de Allende” (a mixture of meats, fruits and vegetables topped with olive oil vinaigrette and apple vinegar). In Dolores Hidalgo, you can enjoy a concert of flavors that melt in your mouth with their unique exotic flavors of ice-cream such as mole, tequila, avocado, chicharron, beer, shrimp, rose petals, etc. In Atotonilco you can try the delicious “gorditas de chicharron en salsa” (a thick tortilla fried with different fillings). Very traditional in Guanajuato are the traditional “Enchiladas Mineras” (Miner’s Enchiladas with tortillas, cheese, carrots, potatoes and smooth guajillo chile sauce), “tamales guanajuatenses” (stuffed with pork or cheese), and of course the “Charamuscas” (a hard, caramel candy that is yellow in the shape of mummies). Celaya, famous for its sweets, most of which include milk, but the most famous is the “cajeta” (boiled goat milk, brown sugar and cinnamon) in its different flavors like wine-flavored cajeta, vanilla, nut, raisin, almond, strawberry, etc. And, in Irapuato, the delicious strawberries prepared in many different ways.

You cannot miss the chance to try the traditional beverages, such as beetroot juice, strawberry liquor, the famous “cebadina” (a carbonated beverage made of pineapple vinegar and steamed tamarind or Jamaica flower), or the unique “agua de mesquite” (beverage made from a leguminous plant with a sweet flavor).

In order to spread the traditional and the new culinary trends, Guanajuato celebrates several food festivals in different destinations. There are festivals to celebrate the typical food with international chefs and there are also wine circuits. Guanajuato, the gastronomic heart of Mexico, is recognized for its intense and variety of flavors and offers interesting culinary exploration tours.



Festival Internacional Cervantino

It is held annually in the city of Guanajuato and lasts approximately three weeks. This famous festivity celebrates its 40th year. In 1972 the festival became an annual event since then the number of participants and spectators has grown with each passing year, and has become the most important international artistic and cultural event in Mexico and Latin America.

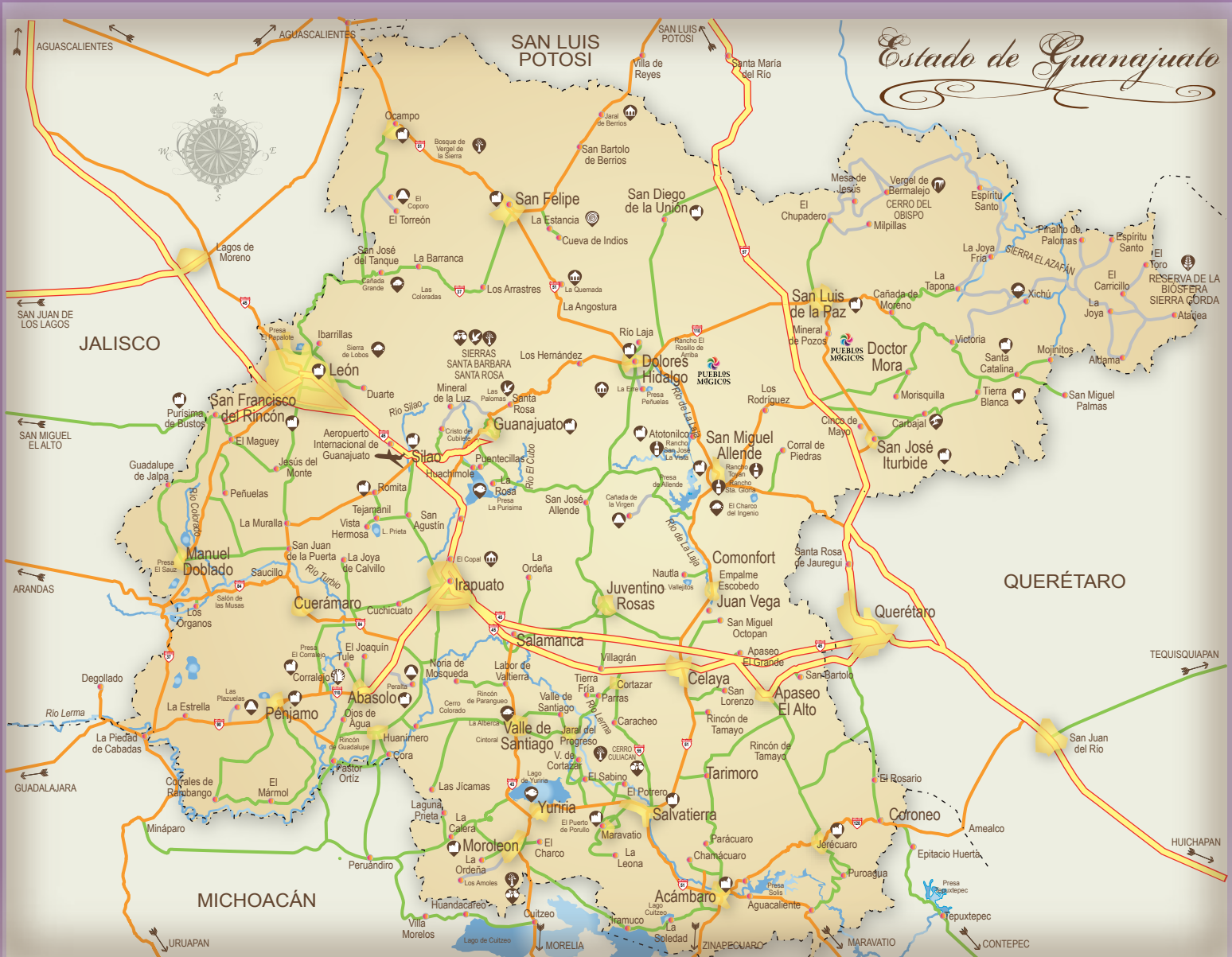
The Festival attracts thousands of visitors interested in the intense cultural agenda. The events happen in the theatres, plazas and other venues in the city. During the celebration of the International Cervantes Festival a torrent of the most outstanding works in music, opera, theatre, dance, plastic arts, cinema and literature take over all of Guanajuato, this is a unique experience in a city full of legends.

The international aspect is to create a space for discovery and exchange. The event attracts artists from all over the world each year in order to present typical aspects of culture from each country.

Today the Cervantino Festival has become an internationally acclaimed event.



Map of the State of Guanajuato



Map Symbols

- | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| | Airport | | Mine | | Tequila Producers |
| | Camping | | Market | | Tourist Attraction |
| | Handcrafts | | Colonial Architecture | | Natural Reserve |
| | Natural Wonder | | Museum | | Supermarket |
| | Golf | | Bird Watching | | Theater |
| | Shopping Mall | | Paragliding | | Bus Terminal |
| | Biking | | Industrial Park | | University |
| | Grottos | | Fishing | | Vineyard |
| | Hacienda | | Cave Painting | | Archaeological Site |



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